

Earth



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Earth



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Book Catalog

The Strange Disappearance of Uncle Dudley

A Child's Story of Los Alamos

By Inez Ross

Our Price: **\$6.98**

Our Item Code: **dudley**

Postage Code: [book1](#)

Large print photo book

36 Pages, towi Crossing Press

Related listings: [Atomic History](#)

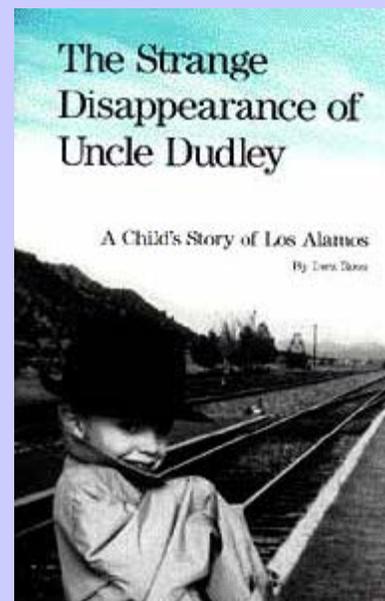
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Opinion of the webmaster, subject to debate

Our Review

This is an odd children's book that jumped out at us from the atomic history section of the Otowi Bookstore in Los Alamos. We said, "Really wierd. We have to carry it." We can't think of any child who would want to read this book, which to us is part of its charm. In a few dozen manipulated photographs and a handful of words (36 pages in very large print - seriously overpriced), it is supposed to explain to young children of our post-Disney generation what it was like to live in a "secret city" during WWII. Like today's Area 51, Los Alamos did not officially exist during the war, but wives and children also lived there. Imagine the problems of housing children at Groom Lake: You could keep the workers quiet, but what about a 14-year-old? How does a family explain its "disappearance" to friends and relatives? This book tells the story of "Uncle Dudley", an atomic worker. During the war, he disappeared and went to live in "PO Box 1553, Santa Fe, NM" - the same address where his son was born a little later. That some adult is now trying to explain this oddity to disinterested children suggests that the "secret city" still haunts the author. -- *Glenn Campbell*

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From the Book Cover

The year is 1943 and the major nations of the world are embroiled in global warfare. Many of the top scientists of the world are being spirited off to a secret place to work on a project that will help end the war and change the world forever. The story of the wartime absence of loved ones is told here from a family perspective in a Read-It-To-Me book for children. It features archival and modern photos of Los Alamos.

Author Inez Ross began telling stories as a child to her friends on the school bus in Michigan. After teaching high school English for 26 years in Los Alamos, she began writing essays for professional journals and newspapers. She lives in Los Alamos, where she jogs, watches meteor showers, collects teddy bears, and reads books about Jane Austen. This is her first book for the very young.

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