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Cigar City Stories: Tales of Old Ybor City (Paperback)

By Emilio Gonzalez-Llanes

iUniverse, United States, 2012. Paperback. Condition: New. Language: English . Brand New Book ***** Print on Demand *****.In 1885, Vincent Martinez Ybor, a Spanish entrepreneur, purchased forty acres east of Tampa and built a company town of tall red-brick factories and small wood-frame houses for the workers. Over the next forty years, this community of cigar-makers from Cuba, Spain, and Italy grew into a thriving industry that made Tampa the Cigar Capital of the World. The urban renewal of the 1960s, however, struck a deathblow to Ybor City; thousands of cigar-makers homes and businesses were leveled by bulldozers, and an interstate highway stormed through the dying neighborhood. The narratives, reflecting a coming-of-age in this colorful community that no longer exists, speak of a kidnapping, a hold-up, a shark attack, a deadly duel, and a murder. A teenager comes to grips with his sexual identity, an activist mother resists Jim Crow laws, and an unexpected baby changes everyone's life. In Cigar City Stories, author Emilio Gonzalez-Llanes presents a collection of short stories that provides a snapshot of this lost island in time. Julian stood on that raised platform in the middle of the factory floor, reading to the workers: Anna...



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Reviews

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