



Unveiling the Prophet: The Misadventure of a Reluctant Debutante

By Lucy Ferriss

University of Missouri Press. Paperback. Book Condition: new. BRAND NEW, Unveiling the Prophet: The Misadventure of a Reluctant Debutante, Lucy Ferriss, In the autumn of 1972, Lucy Ferriss, then a young coed from a prominent St Louis family, was preparing for the Veiled Prophet Ball at which she was to be presented to society. Once the largest cotillion in the country, the invitation-only ball was unique among society events not only for the legend and mystery surrounding its namesake but also for its setting in a public, taxpayer-funded arena and for its accompanying parade. In the late sixties and early seventies, with racial tensions at a boiling point and urban renewal failing, the exclusively white male Christian membership of the Veiled Prophet Society and the Veiled Prophet's costume - eerily reminiscent of a Klansman's - attracted the ire of ACTION, a militant civil rights group. Before the 1972 ball, ACTION founder Percy Green, himself a native St Louisan, sent letters inviting all of the debutantes to join in the protest: "ACTION understands that you hate being part of this upcoming white racist Veiled Prophet Ball as we hate you being forced to participate by your parents." The letter didn't persuade...

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