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Booklist Review

Books For Youth - Fiction - Historical Fiction

I Survived the Destruction of Pompeii, AD 79.

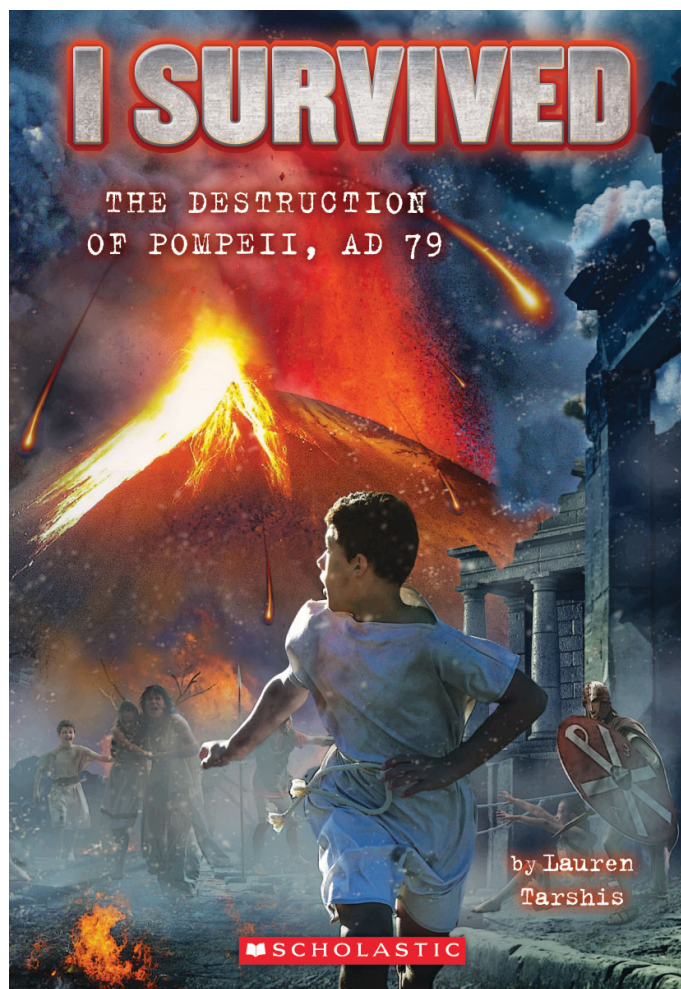
Tarshis, Lauren (author).

Illustrated by Scott Dawson.

July 2014. 112p. Scholastic, paperback, \$4.99 (9780545459396). Grades 2-4.

First published September 29, 2014 (Booklist Online).

Marcus is an 11-year-old slave in AD 79 who finds himself in Pompeii the day before Mount Vesuvius erupts. Although he has noticed the mini earthquakes that frequently disrupt the city's activities, he is more concerned with his miserable life with his cruel owner. A chance encounter on the street reunites Marcus with his father, who has been sold to gladiators. Marcus braves a daring rescue of his father, and the two race up Vesuvius to escape their captors only to return to warn the unbelieving citizens of the impending disaster. Tarshis serves up another gripping adventure in the I Survived series, with the light-speed pacing and death-defying maneuvering fans have come to expect. The relationship between Marcus and his father softens the terror of the horrific eruption and the ensuing chaos and panic. The insights into Roman civilization



and society will please readers with an interest in the time period. Back matter includes suggestions for further research and answers to frequently asked questions about Pompeii.

— MAGAN SZWAREK