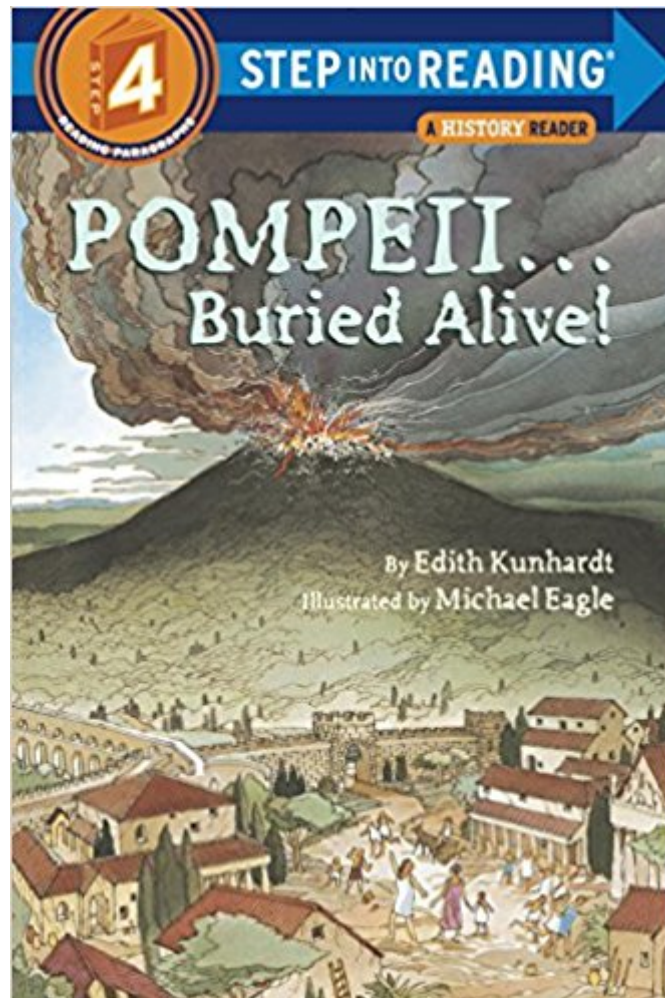




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# Pompeii -- Buried Alive! (Step Into Reading)



## Synopsis

Illus. in full color. "The drama of natural disasters provides prime material to entice young independent readers. In this volume, the account of the eruption of Mount Vesuvius describes village life 2,000 years ago, the eruption itself and its aftermath, and the excitement when the buried town is rediscovered centuries later. A lively and factual glimpse of a devastating moment in history, in an accessible, attractive package."--Publishers Weekly.Ã Â Ã Â

## Book Information

Lexile Measure: 340L (What's this?)

Series: Step into Reading

Paperback: 48 pages

Publisher: Random House Books for Young Readers (October 12, 1987)

Language: English

ISBN-10: 0394888669

ISBN-13: 978-0394888668

Product Dimensions: 6 x 0.2 x 9 inches

Shipping Weight: 3.5 ounces (View shipping rates and policies)

Average Customer Review: 4.6 out of 5 stars 72 customer reviews

Best Sellers Rank: #11,094 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #2 inÃ Â Books > Children's Books

> Geography & Cultures > Archaeology #5 inÃ Â Books > Children's Books > Education &

Reference > History > Ancient #51 inÃ Â Books > Reference > English as a Second Language

Age Range: 7 - 9 years

Grade Level: 2 - 4

## Customer Reviews

The drama and fascination of natural disasters provide prime material to entice young independent readers, particularly those who prefer stories based on true incidents. In this volume of the Step into Reading series, the account of the eruption of Mount Vesuvius describes village life 2000 years ago, including the activities of "the family who lived in one of the biggest houses. . . . The father began to dress. His slave helped him." From this noncommittal narration readers glean many facets of an ancient lifestyle, reinforced by deft pastel illustrations. Meanwhile, tension mounts; we know "something terrible is going to happen." The eruption and its aftermath are vividly described, as is the excitement when the buried town is rediscovered centuries later. A lively and factual glimpse of a devastating moment in history, in an accessible, attractive package. Ages 6-8. Copyright 1987

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Kindergarten-Grade 3 A flawed attempt at conveying a complex historical subject to inexperienced readers. Information about Pompeii is conveyed in one long narrative arbitrarily divided into three chapters. There is a brief description of what a volcano is and how it works, followed by a fictionalized account of what the people in Pompeii were doing on the day of the eruption and what happened to the inhabitants when Vesuvius blew up. The final chapter gives some information about the rediscovery of Pompeii and its excavation by archaeologists. In an attempt to simplify the ideas in the book, Kunhardt has oversimplified the prose. Sentences are choppy almost jolting and reminiscent of a basal reader. Pronunciation guides are given in the text in a jarring manner:

“These pictures are called mosaics. Say: mo-ZAY-iks.” The cartoonlike illustrations are colorful and attractive, but they are not clearly drawn or labeled. This book doesn’t work as a picture book or as nonfiction. Libraries would do better to wait for better quality easy history books to come along. Ellen Loughran, Brooklyn Public Lib .Copyright 1988 Reed Business Information, Inc.

Excellent short book for kids on Pompeii and the eruption of Mount Vesuvius in AD 79. Very good illustrations by Michael Eagle, who also illustrated The Trojan Horse, a childhood favorite from the same Step into Reading series. The first chapter offers a kid-friendly look at daily life in a Roman city, with attention given to home life, religion, including the often-overlooked household shrine, slaves, and typical activity in a town market. Throughout, the author and illustrator, by keeping Vesuvius, “a sleeping giant,” lurking in the background of the pictures and by repeating the refrain “No one knew that something terrible was going to happen,” build a powerful sense of foreboding. The chapter dealing with the eruption itself is vivid but not too graphic or disturbing. We see characters in varying states of panic with some escaping by sea (Pliny the Elder, unmentioned in the book, being partly responsible for evacuation operations) and many others left to their fates in the city. The stages of the eruption are well-described and illustrated, with the town suffering rains of pumice, ash, and finally the pyroclastic flow that wiped out human life down to the sea (including Pliny). Again, well done in a kid-friendly way, avoiding jargon and describing the power of the mountain in understandable terms. The final chapter, in the spirit of The Trojan Horse, is a chapter on Heinrich Schliemann, describes Pompeii after its destruction,

gradually covered over by earth and only rediscovered with the birth of modern archaeology (inspired by the eyewitness account of Pliny the Younger, who does figure in the story) and a few accidental discoveries. The story bookends with scientists monitoring "the sleeping giant" • Vesuvius. A good, well-illustrated account that could introduce kids to Roman life, archaeology, geology and seismology all at the same time. Highly recommended.

I love these books. I'm constantly looking for interesting nonfiction texts for my classroom. These are perfect for my third graders and they can not get enough of them. Kids are constantly coming up to me and telling me new facts that they have learned from the books in this series. Great for science, reading, social studies, history, vocabulary, etc. Highly recommended!

And so do adults, I bought this for my grandson's , I had actually visited Pompeii because as a young child I had heard all the stories. When we talked about volcano's and I explained what I had seen and know, the boys immediately wanted a story about it. Being a former children's librarian, I know little people like the real fact's not just stories. Even reluctant reader will listen to a book filled with facts about the subject they love. It was the right answer to many questions

Believe it or not but this has been my 6 year old's book for all times . Of the pile of books she reads out loud to me every day ,she always includes this book and understands it better every time when we discuss what she want to from the book.

My five year-old LOVES this book! I especially appreciate the simple, clear discussion of the science involved in volcanoes. I read it to my son's kindergarten class and it seemed like about 85% of the kids loved it and 15% were scared. Note: the book does detail the loss of human life, including showing depictions of dead bodies. It doesn't bother my son at all, but it might bother a sensitive kid.

This book was for my Grandson, but I looked and read it before giving it to him, I hope he enjoys it as much as I did. I had forgotten some of the story, this helped refresh an "old mind".

I have used this book with my 7th and 8th graders to complete a whole group research project. My students have language-based learning disabilities and this book was perfect for our project.

My 4 year old son really likes this book and tells all friends about it. He is interested in volcanoes and Italy now. The book does explain that people's hair burned and that they died.

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