



I Survived the Eruption of Mount St. Helens, 1980

Lauren Tarshis

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It was one the most beautiful mountains in America, Mt. St. Helens, in Washington State. But what many didn't know was that this peaceful mountain had an explosive past. For more than a century, it had been quiet. But below ground, pressure had been building, and soon, *Kaboom!* Mt. St. Helens would erupt with terrifying fury.

Eleven-year-old Jessie Marlowe knew the mountain well, and like many, she never imagined that this serene wilderness could turn deadly. But on May 10th, 1980, Jessie finds herself in the middle of the deadliest volcanic eruption in U.S. history. Trapped on the mountain, she must escape clouds of poisonous gas, boiling rivers, and landslides of rock, glacial ice, and white-hot debris.

The newest book in the I Survived series will take readers into one of the most dramatic events in recent U.S. history where they will meet one of nature's most devastating forces.

I Survived the Eruption of Mount St. Helens, 1980 Details

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Author : Lauren Tarshis

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From Reader Review I Survived the Eruption of Mount St. Helens, 1980 for online ebook

Reeds says

Since this is a quick read, has action, and you learn things that aren't boring, I can see how it'd help kids who don't like to read to start enjoying reading.

Taylor says

this was a really good book i love these books too i cant wait to read some more of these!!!

Kim Hampton says

This book really hit close to home for me. I have a good friend who witnessed the eruption of Mount St Helens and she talks about seeing some of the things that are in this book.

Emily says

Loved that the main character was a girl for a change... However, my sons and I felt there wasn't quite enough action/thrill that we would normally expect from an I Survived book.

Spencer Harrigan says

I liked it and I have the whole series

Sheila says

I was so excited when I learned about this book that I pre-ordered it even before it was released, and not because I have read any of the other "I Survived" books in this series (apparently this is book #14) but because this was about the eruption of Mt. Saint Helens. I lived near Mt. Saint Helens as a child and I experienced first hand this eruption. I saw it, I witnessed the mud flows and the destruction. Friends and classmates lost their homes as parts of my town were destroyed by the mud flow. This was real. So I was thrilled to see that this eruption was now being shared with a younger generation, many of whom are not even aware of Mt. Saint Helens and her devastation.

But in the end I am disappointed in this book. While I am happy that the main character in the story is a girl (apparently the main character in these books is usually a boy, and at the end the author tells why she made

a girl the lead this time), I was disappointed at how Jess, this 11 year old girl, was able to survive the eruption, survive in the blow down area, survive the PYROCLASTIC FLOW, by jumping in a hole with her friends and letting the eruptions hurricane winds and poisonous gas and ash blow over her with trees falling all around them. No, no, no. People DIED in this event. People 10 miles (and more) away from the mountain died, suffocated, were killed, and many were never recovered. If Jess and her friends were as close as the story tells, and were in the middle of the pyroclastic flow (a dense, destructive mass of very hot ash, lava fragments, and gases ejected explosively from a volcano and typically flowing downslope at great speed) she and her friends would be dead. I feel that the three of them surviving by jumping in a hole, and letting the eruption blow over them, doesn't do justice to those who really died and to the destruction that really happened.

The story also is centered around a "legend" of a character called Skeleton Woman, a legend that apparently is completely fictional to this story, as this is something that I have never heard of. For me, this side legend also detracted from the real event.

So while I will give the book a few stars for telling the younger generations about this eruption and mountain, I just so wish it would have been factual, and not this fictionalized and unrealistic story.

MrLion626 says

In this book, *I Survived: The Eruption of Mount St. Helens, 1980*, is a book about a girl named Jessie who hears about a witch in the forest and goes with her dad's old camera to get its picture. It falls out of her hands when the ground shakes, and she runs and gets out of there. She goes back to get the camera later, and before she knows it, she is stuck in the biggest volcano eruption in history!

I really like this book because you can feel the emotion in it, like all the books. However, this one is a bit more emotional than the others. The camera was precious to her because it was her dad's, and her dad had died a while back. When she loses the camera and goes back to get it, which is emotional by itself, she is stuck in the eruption of Mt. St. Helens. All in all, this is a book that leaves you on the edge of your seat...which is what I love about this book! I highly recommend it!

Cody Becker says

Personal Response (in your own words)

I liked this book a lot because there was a lot of action in this book. It was really interesting because it was about volcanoes. I did not hate anything in this book, everything was interesting.

Plot (Events that take place)

There is a girl named Jessie, and she has a group of friends that believe in a witch. She went to the woods with her friends to look for the witch, and she loses her dad's camera. She keeps it a secret from her parents that she lost their camera. Then Jessie thought it was a good idea to go look for the camera, but the unexpected happens. There was a volcano that erupted, and some of her friends got hurt. There was a helicopter and Jessie waved it down, and it landed. They asked Jessie if she was ok, she said she was, but her

friends might not be. So they started looking for them, and when they found them, they were not in too good of shape. Jessie's parents said she should have just told them that she lost their camera, because she could have got hurt, or died.

The recommendation (age,gender,etc.) why?

I recommend this book to people 10+, because it is a chapter book. I recommend this book to boys and girls, because there is action and cool information. I rate this book a 4 out of 5, because I liked most of the book.

Barb Shang-none yo business says

Survived, yes. But now I'm so paranoid I can't even face a mound of dirt without running.

Tyler says

The book was a very interesting book . It kept me on the edge of my seat the whole time i was reading it. it had a great theme of a girl and her best friends escaping a volcanic eruption, while looking for her dad's camera. This was a great book to read.

Morgan says

What I love most about these books is how Tarshis weaves the historical facts in with these familial ties in her characters' lives. Her main characters are always battling some other emotional tragedy, in addition to the disasters, and they are constantly working to overcome them. In this installment, Jess's father had recently passed away and she was struggling with the loss, she held his camera (his most prized possession) near and dear to her, but after leaving it near Mount St. Helens she risks her life to retrieve it because she is so worried about telling her mom. I love the emotional turmoil that our MCs feel, especially Jess, you just ache for these young kids and how much they are carrying on their shoulders.

I remember learning about the eruption of Mount St. Helens in grade school, and I was always so intrigued. This book was so informative about previous volcanic eruptions and the process, not to mention warning signs. I also really liked the notes about the quakes disrupting the earth and so hundreds of snakes can usually be seen cruising down the mountains. Such a fun fact! This was book was so entertaining and I was so worried about my kiddos in it. I loved the trio and their friendship. This was a win!

Doniell says

I absolutely loved this book, but had one caveat: How did the Twins's dad survive? This unanswered and fully logical question was completely unaddressed. I have kids that read my books as they wait for piano lessons, and I can see this being asked and discussed ad nauseam.

Marika says

June: I really liked it because it was like non fiction and fiction mixed together. I was wondering about Mt St Helens because Bop Bop is from there and my science teacher Mr A gave me some ashes from Mt St Helens and I started thinking about it. I saw the book at a book fair and i brought it home and my mom read it to me and it actually was very very good for me.

jAck says

This book was okay but it had very fast transitions. Sometimes they were confusing. But the book, like all other I Survived books was full of action. So a pretty good book

Royce B says

I thought this book was awesome because it was a volcanic eruption. The reading age would probably be 4th grade and up. Jess lost her dad's camera in a earthquake which meant there is a warning sign for the Eruption of Mt. St. Helens. Will Jess survive with her friends? Read the book to find out!!!!
