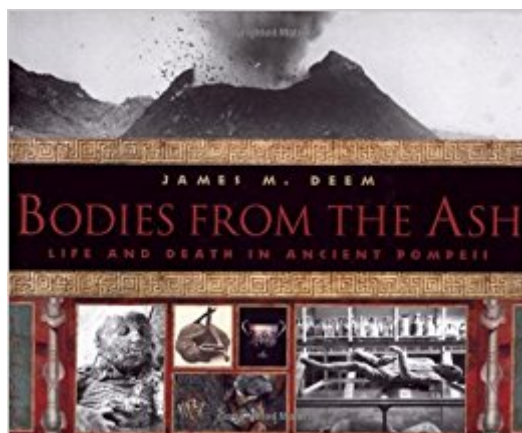


The book was found

# Bodies From The Ash: Life And Death In Ancient Pompeii



## Synopsis

In ancient times, Pompeii was one of the largest cities in the Roman Empire. Its 20,000 inhabitants lived in the shadow of Vesuvius, which they believed was nothing more than a mountain. But Vesuvius was a volcano. And on the morning of August 24, A.D. 79, Vesuvius began to erupt. Within twenty-four hours, the entire city of Pompeii—and many of its citizens—had been utterly annihilated. It was not until hundreds of years later that Pompeii saw daylight again, as archaeological excavations began to unearth what had been buried under layers of volcanic rubble. Digging crews expected to find buildings and jewelry and other treasures, but they found something unexpected, too: the imprints of lost Pompeians, their deaths captured as if by photographic images in volcanic ash.

## Book Information

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Age Range: 10 - 12 years

Grade Level: 5 - 7

## Customer Reviews

Starred Review. Grade 4-8 In A.D. 79, Mount Vesuvius erupted and within 24 hours, ash, pumice, and volcanic rubble had covered, and annihilated, the city of Pompeii. It was not until the 18th century that workers began to uncover the remains of this nearly forgotten, except in legend, city and its inhabitants. In this well-researched account, Deem retells the story of this devastating eruption, combining a lively text with photographs of the bones and artifacts that have been

unearthed through the years. In 1863, an excavator discovered a fascinating way to study human remains. As bodies covered in hot ash and enveloped by volcanic material decayed, spaces were left around the skeletons. After the hollow areas were filled with plaster, the surrounding debris was chipped away, resulting in detailed plaster casts that preserved imprints of the people's dying moments, showing their facial expressions and body positions as well as their clothing and possessions. Deem explains how scientists have used these molds and other evidence to piece together the life styles and final moments of some of the victims, and conveys these heart-wrenching tales. Dramatic photographs of the casts capture the horror of this event and help readers to envision day-to-day life in this civilization. With incredibly engrossing images and narrative, this is a powerful and poignant piece of nonfiction. — Jodi Kearns, University of Akron, OH Copyright © Reed Business Information, a division of Reed Elsevier Inc. All rights reserved.

Gr. 5-8. On August 24, 79 C.E., the long-silent Mt. Vesuvius erupted, and volcanic ash rained down on the 20,000 residents of Pompeii. This photo-essay explains what happened when the volcano exploded--and how the results of this disaster were discovered hundreds of years later. A tragedy this dramatic demands an affecting text, but this one begins rather ploddingly with the events of August 24 and 25, and moves through the rediscovery of the city and the surrounding areas, with progressively more being learned. What the text lacks in excitement is made up for by the enormous amount of information Deem offers, some of which was acquired in on-site research. The excavations and body preservation techniques are explained in detail; everyday life in the city and the later tourist activity centered in Pompeii are also highlighted. But the jewels here are the numerous black-and-white (and some color) photographs, especially those featuring the plaster casts and skeletons of people in their death throes. The horizontal format, with pages looking as though they were partially bordered in marble, makes an attractive setting for the art. Excellent for browsers as well as researchers. Ilene Cooper Copyright © American Library Association. All rights reserved

Last summer we spent a couple of weeks in Italy and included a private tour of Pompeii. It was wonderful but many of the interesting artifacts are no longer on site. We were extremely disappointed. I had bought some of the tourist guide books but they didn't totally satisfy my needs. I took a chance on this book and it absolutely lived up to my expectations. It was filled with the most interesting photos of artifacts that are housed in areas that are no open to the public. The book is

absolutely fascinating.

After visiting Pompeii I developed a great fascination with finding out all about it. Books that tell/show you anything new or interesting are not always easy to find. I avoided this book for a long time because it was listed for "ages 9 and up". I shouldn't have been so fussy. It was a very good book. Is it a deep introspection of life and death in Pompeii? No. But it WAS interesting and it did include photos. I wish the author would write one for adults now so I'd have something to read for longer than an hour or two. And I don't think there can ever be enough photos from Pompeii. MORE, please.

This book provides a brief but very well illustrated summary of what has been discovered at Pompeii and the surrounding area. Equally importantly, it gives the history of how the discoveries were made, what has been lost, and what is being done to preserve that which remains.

Wonderful book on Pompei, after seeing firsthand! Loved the interesting stories and the great photos. It will keep you and children alike entranced with the details of the volcanic destruction and preservation of so much history! It is breath taking!

An interesting book with lots of photos of artifacts found during the excavation of Pompeii and Herculaneum. The author also provides stories of what might have happened to some of the people during the eruption as deduced from the situations in which they were found.

I am a home-schooling parent and also own a business offering classes for home-schooled students. I purchased this book for a class on Ancient Greece and Rome aimed at K-2nd grade students. It is an excellent resource for this time period. The text of the book is simple enough to read out loud to younger children, but is not dumbed down or simplified, so don't be afraid to purchase for an adult or older child. Older students will enjoy reading the book independently. However, don't expect to use it as a read-aloud in a class situation for younger students, as the book is about 50 pages and the text is dense on each page. It's more useful as a reference text to show students photos, or would be a great addition to a school library for the children to read at home. I thought the text was interesting and well written, with lots of details and good explanations of more difficult concepts (such as making of the plaster casts of the victims.) The book is laid out gorgeously and is filled with full page photographs of Pompeii, artifacts and especially the casts and

skeletons. I don't think the photos selected are particularly disturbing, unless you have an extremely sensitive child who wouldn't like ANY skeleton photos. The book has six chapters. Chapter 1 focuses on what we know of the actual eruption on Aug 24 and 35, AD 79. The text explains how historians use physical evidence and primary sources to create a timeline of events. Chapter 2 tells the history of excavations. Chapter 3 tells about the history of making the plaster casts of the victims, while chapter 4 tells about individual casts and how historians can tell about the actual people from these casts. Chapter 5 tells of neighboring Herculaneum, and 6 is a final wrap up of Pompeii today and issues the site faces. It can be difficult to find non-fiction for this time period suitable for younger students, so I was thrilled with this find. It was enjoyed by both my 5 yr old and my 10 yr old. This is an excellent choice for anyone interested in Pompeii, and worth the purchase.

Lots of photos so an enjoyable book.

Great Book and & DVD

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