



The Pirates of Pompeii

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It is AD 79. The Roman world is reeling from the eruption of Mount Vesuvius. Hundreds of refugees are living in a makeshift camp, trying to come to terms with what has happened. Then even more tragedy strikes: the camp's children begin to disappear. Flavia Gemina and her friends Jonathan, Nubia, and Lupus are determined to find out more and start to investigate a powerful and charismatic man known as the Patron. A dangerous trail leads them to the caves and grottoes of Sorrento, where they encounter pirates, slave dealers?and possible death.

The Pirates of Pompeii Details

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From Reader Review The Pirates of Pompeii for online ebook

Mark says

I really enjoyed Nubia in this book and I just wished she was zoomed in a little bit more.

Tales Untangled says

I was surprised at the bits of brutality shown with the slavery in this book written for children. I was talking to my eleven year old, and he said that it's part of history and so it should be in the book - and he is right. It's a good opening for a dialogue with a class or your own children.

Here are some of the facts mentioned:

Eruption of Mount Vesuvius.

Pompeii and the surrounding area were covered in thick ash, in places up to 20' deep.

Titus was the commander who burned the temple in Jerusalem in about 70 A.D.

The Romans worshipped the pantheon of gods originally instituted by the Greeks.

Slavery was a ...

To read the full review go to www.talesuntangled.wordpress.com

Karina Dulin says

A little predictable but will definitely do as an easy read during our return to the ancients.

Johnny Bennett says

This book falls into a weird category where it is topically advanced, without being graphic, for those who would normally be interested in reading it. While lacking the complexity of most Young Adult novels, slavery, beatings, politics, and more await the reader. This generally elevates it above a children's or youth book.

Being book three in a series, without consuming books one or two, this book stands on its own. One expects that there is good character development from book to book.

Paula says

Again, as with the other books in this series, I felt there were some adult issues inappropriate in a book for children. Also, the author hopped around a lot from viewpoint to viewpoint--it was unsettling, especially in

the beginning of the book.

However, the setting was beautifully described, and the aftermath of the eruption of Vesuvius was sensitively handled.

Teddy says

I thought this was an appropriate read for yesterday - being talk like a pirate day and all. This was enjoyable and very quick. A bit juvenile and it had several inconsistencies, but overall a pretty good tale.

sabisteb aka callisto says

Ich habe dieses Buch in einem Zug verschlungen. Auch diese Buch schließt direkt an Band 2 an und sollte nicht separat gelesen werden.

Man lernt, dass das Alpenveilchen wohl als Heilpflanze verwendet wurde und auch etwas über das Patron - Klienten System des alten Roms.

Noch besser als Band 1 und genausogut wie Band 2. Absolut empfehlenswert.

Dieser Teil wurde, anders als Teil 1 verfilmt. Dabei hat man sich die zwei Welpen (den von Jonathan und Nubia) gespart und Flavias Lehrer Aristo komplett gespart.

Neues über die Protagonisten:

Lupus Vater wurde ermordet und er hat es mit angesehen. Lupus hasst aus irgendeinem Grund Vanalitius. Nubias wirklicher Name ist: Shepenwepet, daughter of Nastasen of the leopard clan.

Sie hatte einen älteren Bruder namens Taharqo, eine Kusine namens Kashta, eine kleine Säuglinsschwester namens Seyala und einen Hund namens Nipur. Nur ihr älterer Bruder lebt möglicherweise noch. Nubioa wird freigelassen.

Jonathan kommt Titus, dem Eroberer Jerusalems, bekannt vor.

Anachronismen:

Auf einer Fahrt und auch später noch einmal singen die Kinder ein populäres Lied: Volare! Cantare! To fly in the painted blue sky, to fly so happy and high... :rofl: :D

Nubia singt ein Lied, dass sie in ihrer Heimat gelernt über verschiedenfarbige Länder. Unter anderem auch über ein weißes Land "full of snow and ice and frost, and so cold that people dress in white animal fur." Sie konnte die Inuit definitiv noch nicht kennen und ob sie jemals Schnee gesehen hat, sei mal dahingestellt.

Mein Liebslingssatz:

What good are riches if you can't give them away? Friends are far more important than possessions. (S. 108)

Thomsen Lord says

This book was very good but the slavery parts were very sad.

Jane Hargrave Montaigu says

This is the third novel in Caroline Lawrence's highly successful Roman Mysteries series which recount the adventures of four young friends in Roman times. The setting for this historical novel is the refugee camp just near Pompeii in the few days after the eruption of the volcano Vesuvius in AD 79.

The leader of the group of friends is Flavia Germina, a determined and resourceful girl, the daughter of a sea captain. The novel opens with Flavia, accompanied by her slave girl Nubia, scouring the hillside above the Bay of Naples, searching for an amulet, a particular flower needed to aid the healing of their friend Jonathan who has been in a coma since the eruption. With the help of the healing powers of this flower and through the strong lure of music, eventually Jonathan is roused from his coma and is at last able to join in his friends' adventures. When the four friends discover that children are being kidnapped in the chaos following the eruption, they decide to find out who is responsible, despite the danger this exposes them to.

I found this was a gripping historical novel with rounded central characters that children will find likeable and will be able to identify with, given their age and interests. The story moves ahead at a good pace and there is plenty of humour and suspense. The setting is clearly described with realistic historical and cultural detail bringing this period of history alive. Maps are provided and there is a very useful glossary (Aristo's Scroll) of Roman words and proper nouns at the back of the book. As a 200 page chapter book without illustrations this novel would be suitable to have in the school library or classroom bookshelf for children of 8 years old onwards for personal reading. It could also be used for guided reading sessions with small groups or the whole class. The series would be an inspiring way in to a Roman topic and this particular adventure would link well with a unit on volcanoes. If the Roman Mysteries series had been around when I was a child I would certainly have devoured them all with relish.

Leila Anani says

This 3rd adventure set in the aftermath of Vesuvius is a vast improvement on the previous book. Our four heroes helping out in a refugee camp get embroiled in a plot where pirates, taking advantage of the chaos kidnap children and sell them into slavery for profit. This one's fast paced and quite exciting, particularly the climax aboard the pirate's ship. The characters are rich and this does an excellent job of bringing the ancient world to life.

I like how these books don't sanitise the brutality of the Ancient world either, it's not all blood and guts but slaves get beaten, Jews get crucified and life isn't all roses. This series is a great way to introduce youngsters to Ancient History.

Suzannah Seerden says

I really enjoyed this book , its a must read.

Kat says

I enjoyed this book, but not as much as the two previous in the series. This seems to be a differing opinion when compared to the majority viewpoint, based on the other reviews. I personally thought the mystery element wasn't as good as *The Secrets of Vesuvius* and the major red herring was confusing for its inclusion and point it was trying to make. At times felt the books was a very strange mix between a children's and young adult book that didn't quite work like the others had. The book explores the theme of slavery and is handled sensitively, however I thought some of the impact was lost by the end (view spoiler). There was also felt very unrealistic; for example if you were trying to save multiple lives your p[riority] would not be to feed and water a dog.

Nevertheless, I did really enjoy the book and there was again more character development and we found out more about Nubia's past. I liked the fact that Nubia plays a much more central role in this book. I also liked how one of the minor characters from the first novel makes an appearance which helps to develop this as a series. The depiction of Roman life, as always, feels very authentic. Fans of the series should enjoy this book and like me, want to read the next in the series.

Susan says

Listed to this on the way to Salt Lake and back.

Grace says

This book, as many have noted, was an improvement on the previous book, mostly because it showed such a depth of character development as opposed to the previous ones in the series.

In this book, Flavia and her friends are still around Pompeii when they meet the incredibly charismatic Felix Publius. Other people have noted the main plot points of the book, so mostly I'll concentrate on what I thought were the noteworthy character developments.

Essentially what happens is that the young Flavia meets Felix Publius, as do her three friends, and the man is a very influential, wealthy, and highly charismatic man, and each are affected in turn. There is great depth of detail as to how he is able to work his charisma in different ways with each of them. For young fearless Lupus who has quite a sad backstory, he lets him hold the reins of the horse cart and even inducts him into his meetings with his "soldiers." For Flavia the bookworm, he tests and acknowledges her learning and presents her with a priceless gift of a painted cup in careless disregard of its monetary value. His charisma is very well-done and one of the best features of this book, as I think it does serve to let young readers understand this aspect of dangerous people. Only Nubia does not like him and thinks he is splitting apart the friends. Meanwhile, Nubia is befriended by an African ex-slave and wooed into wondering whether she should run away or not.

Felix also has three daughters, the oldest of which is a massively spoiled and carelessly cruel beautiful girl who beats her slave-girl with regularity and locks her in a chest for misdoings. Her actions towards her slave

and Flavia's growing infatuation with Felix leads Flavia to start mistreating Nubia, which in turn causes her to consider seriously about running away. At the same time, Polla, the beautiful daughter, is enamored of Jonathan and treats him with fawning adoration while she ignores the rest of the group.

It is a situation ripe with different character dynamics and very different from the earlier books and even the later books, many of which are taken over with Jonathan's pessimism. It is also an interesting take on Flavia's infatuation with a much older charismatic man, who may or may not be the villain. This infatuation has a later follow-up in the book, "The Sirens of Surrentum," which was a book with the same emotional vein as this one, with Flavia being a strong protagonist instead of fading out to Nubia's introspection.

The only quibble I would have with this book would be Nubia's inner voice which condemns one character and praises another, both judgments which are proven wrong by the end of the book. This is strange because by the end of the series, Nubia has developed a superpower of her own, being that she can communicate with animals and instantly suss out the good and bad guys. It seemed like it was a red herring in this book and thus was a strange setup for her later "prophecies." It also doesn't seem in line with where the book started, with the strangely charismatic Felix to be completely harmless, as the initial message seemed to warn children away from such people.

Matthew Briggs says

Der erste deutsche Roman, dass ich beendet habe! Dieses Buch ist sehr gut für Erwachsene, die Deutsch lernen. Es ist ein Kinderbuch, ja...aber die Handlung ist noch interessant und die Figuren sind gutentwickelt. Die Schriftstellerei war ideal für mich, weil ich noch nicht fließend auf Deutsch bin. Es war natürlich sehr gute Übung. Es gab nicht so viele neue Wörter, und die waren gleichmäßig benutzt, also man sie einfacher lernen kann. Es war eine sehr interessante Geschichte und ich empfehle dieses Buch für andere Erwachsene, die Deutsch lernen!
