

## **I Survived the Japanese Tsunami, 2011**

**Lauren Tarshis**

**Reviewed by Adnan Mustafa, 17**

**Star Teen Book Reviewer of Be the Star You Are! Charity**

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As a kid, Ben experienced an incredibly traumatic event: his father's death. Little did he know, he would experience something just as traumatic, if not more, on his trip to Shogahama, Japan. While in Shogahama, Ben didn't expect much to occur. He was too busy thinking about his father, so when an earthquake hit, it caught him by surprise. It also didn't help that the earthquakes in Japan were a lot more powerful than back at home. Here, the ground shook dramatically, and it did so for a very long time.

Despite the severity of the earthquake, however, Ben and his family managed to remain safe & sound. Though, before anyone could let out a sigh of relief, something unusual came to their attention. A wave, large enough to extend beyond their eyesight, was moving aggressively towards them. It was clear that the earthquake wouldn't be the only natural disaster they'd face that day. As a survivor of both the earthquake and tsunami, Ben elaborates his experience through it all, including how he survived and how it impacted others.

This book has excited me to read the rest of the "I Survived" series. Reading about Ben's experience during not one, but two consecutive natural disasters was frightening. I've yet to experience an earthquake or tsunami, and after reading on Ben's experience, I pray that I don't anytime soon. Though, fear aside, I also found Ben's story very exciting. Despite the many difficult situations that he was put into, he never lost hope. I enjoyed reading about Ben's successes very much.

Those who are interested in earth's natural phenomena will find this book interesting. If not that, those who find joy in reading about thrilling yet frightening situations will enjoy this book. There aren't any content awareness factors to note for this book. I recommend this book to those ages 8 and up.

Ben's determination to save himself and others during the natural disaster(s) may encourage bravery & selflessness. You may also learn the importance of keeping connections with your loved ones. Ben had a great connection with his father and as a result was taught many important lessons, some of which helped him survive the series of natural disasters. Also, if events had unfolded differently that day, Ben or his family could've lost their life. Tragedies like such are typically unexpected; thus, it's important that you always value & respect your loved ones.

I would recommend borrowing this book. If you decide to purchase, consider purchasing the entire series. It would make a great collection.

### **Recommended Titles:**

- I Escaped the World's Deadliest Shark Attack, Ellie Crowe and Scott Peters

- Escaping the Giant Wave, Peg Kehret
- I Survived Hurricane Katrina, 2005, Lauren Tarshis