

The Day the World Exploded: The Earthshaking Catastrophe at Krakatoa

Simon Winchester

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The epic tale of the volcano of Krakatoa is recounted in this informational picture book. Krakatoa is an ancient volcanic island south of Malaysia that exploded, affecting the entire planet. A chapter is then dedicated to ancient myths and legends of volcanoes, which eventually leads up to discussing present day visitors and scientists studying the remains of the island of Krakatoa. Every step of the scientific aspects of the volcano is gone through in comprehensible details. To lead up to the devastating explosion of Krakatoa, a historical timeline is written to provide a substantial background and telling of the events following. *The Day the World Exploded: The Earthshaking Catastrophe at Krakatoa* is an exceptionally well-written, historical book of one of the greatest natural disasters in history.

As one whose forte was never science, I was rather surprised to find myself enjoying this book. It was easy to understand and follow. Each fact was relevant and captivating. All the pictures were very appropriately chosen. The book was a very rewarding read. The overall layout of the book is very cleverly done; it draws attention to every part of the pages. There wasn't anything I disliked about this book. It's definitely one I would suggest to middle school students interested in historical science books or in need of a good reference book for a project on volcanoes.