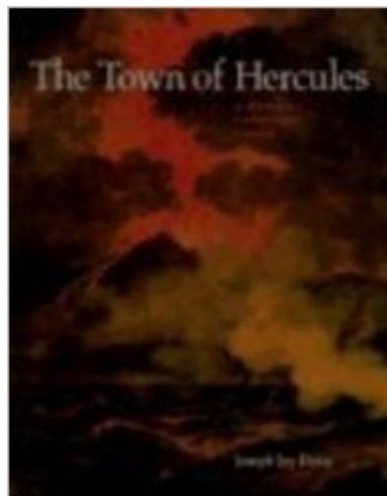




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The Town Of Hercules: A Buried Treasure Trove (Getty Trust Publications : J. Paul Getty Museum)



Synopsis

In A.D. 79, Herculaneum, a small resort town on Italy's western coast, was buried, along with its larger neighbor Pompeii, under an avalanche of lava and ash by Mount Vesuvius. So deep were the towns buried that over the centuries even the memory of them faded. It was not until early in the eighteenth century that evidence of the towns was accidentally discovered. For the next fifty years, haphazard excavations and looting began to hint at the extent of what still lay buried. Only in the middle of the nineteenth century were systematic excavations begun, revealing the astonishing remains of the two Roman towns. Written especially for young adults, *The Town of Hercules* tells the tragic story of the eruption of Vesuvius and explains, through the example of the town itself, how life was lived in the Roman Empire during the first century A.D.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

Pompeii receives all the popular attention as a buried city after a volcano's eruption, but Herculaneum, a small Italian resort town, was also consumed by lava. Numerous photos of the towns' restored villas and interiors are included in Deiss' recreation of daily life in the town.

College-level students of archaeology, architecture and history will relish this account. -- Midwest Book Review

Joseph Jay Deiss was vice-director of the American Academy in Rome and has written several

historical novels and biographies. He is the author of *Herculaneum: Italy's Buried Treasure*, also published by the Getty Museum.

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