

## More About the *I SURVIVED* Series

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*I SURVIVED* is an historical fiction series that tells the stories of iconic historical events—from the Revolutionary War to the sinking of the Titanic to the September 11 terrorist attacks—through the eyes of a fictional child whom young readers can relate to.

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“Informative and breathlessly paced.”  
—**Kirkus, on *I Survived: The Battle of Gettysburg, 1863***

“Parents need to know that Lauren Tarshis's *I Survived* series is captivating, emotional, and historically accurate.”  
—**Common Sense Media**

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A runaway success with over 30 million copies in print

**A uniquely qualified author:** an editor, author, and mother, Lauren Tarshis adapts the most complicated and controversial topics—like the September 11 attacks or the Holocaust—and expertly turns them into comprehensible lessons appropriate for kids and the classroom.

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“Lauren Tarshis has become a master of the high-interest book and she’s set an entirely new bar for what writing for an audience of reluctant readers can look like.”  
—**Mike Lewis, Fourth-grade teacher**

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Over 30 million copies in print

**Academic and immersive research:** Tarshis dives deep into research for each installment of *I SURVIVED*. She spent an entire year researching *I SURVIVED: The American Revolution*.

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“...I run a young men’s reading group called ‘Real Men Read’ for students that are at-risk of falling into the criminal justice system... Books like [these] will help foster their interest in reading and provide them an imaginative outlet that is sincerely needed.”  
—**Hunter Taylor, Deputy District Attorney, Riverside County DA**

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**Personal connections:** Tarshis’ own son, who was a reluctant reader, provided key inspiration for her to write the *I SURVIVED* series

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“Expressive illustrations capture the drama of the storm and its aftermath, but the book’s real power comes from its exploration of what it means to be a hero.”  
—**Booklist, on *I Survived: Hurricane Katrina, 2005***

## Q&A with Lauren Tarshis, author of the *I SURVIVED* series

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### What inspired you to write the *I SURVIVED* series?

I've been writing nonfiction and historical fiction for *Storyworks*, a classroom magazine I edit that's read by 400,000 kids in upper elementary school. Stories about disasters, war, and other dramatic events have always been the most popular among *Storyworks* readers. When kids reached out to me, I noticed something striking: **it wasn't the lava or the earthquake or the bombs that fascinated them most. It was the kid in the story: the boy who helped his father escape a huge storm during the Dust Bowl; the girl who watched over her little sister during the Hurricane of 1938.** The kids didn't just want to know what happened, they wanted to know what it was like to be in the midst of it. That's how *I SURVIVED*, a series about historical events, seen through the eyes of a child experiencing them, came to be.

### Can you give us a sense of your research process?

The *I SURVIVED* books are only about a hundred pages long, but each requires a huge amount of research. Typically, I'll read **at least twenty nonfiction books on each topic, any important novels set during that period, plus narratives, oral histories, and articles in historical journals.**

When I'm researching an historical topic, like the Titanic or the shark attacks of 1916 or Gettysburg, I try to submerge myself in details of the time. **I want to know more than just the timeline of the event. I want to know the mindsets of the people living in the period:** what they were reading, what worried them, what was in the news. It's these little details that make the stories seem real.

### How do you overcome the challenge of writing books for a younger audience centered on frightening topics like war, natural disaster, and terrorism?

Each book is realistic in terms of the fear the characters feel, the insecurities they face, and their feelings of loss and uncertainty. At the same time, **I try to convey a sense of each character's resilience and hopefulness.**

In books that deal with really complex and sensitive events, like Pearl Harbor or 9/11, I try to encapsulate the story so that only issues my readers can comprehend are addressed. For example, in my book about 9/11, there are no details about the hijackers, religion, or what happened to the people in the Twin Towers.

**I also try to give a sense of closure, whenever possible.** In the "Afterwards" of my 9/11 book, I informed readers that the main planner of the attacks, Osama Bin Laden, was killed by members of U.S. Special Forces. In other words, the main villain was vanquished. **On the other hand, I try not to paint on a falsely happy ending.** I was clear at the end of my book about Hurricane Katrina that better planning by government officials could have prevented much of the destruction and suffering.

### What are some of your favorite responses to the series?

I receive dozens of emails a week about the series, many from adults telling me how the books have opened doors for kids who never liked to read before. As a child who was a struggling reader, this is incredibly gratifying for me. **I was also surprised to learn that the series appeals to a wide age range,** from kids as young as seven years old up through middle schoolers, where struggling readers gravitate towards the topics and can still relate to the characters and themes.

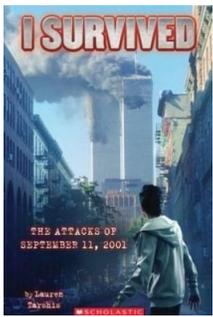
# I SURVIVED

The New York Times Bestselling Series

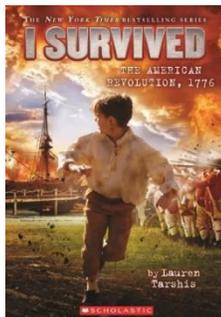
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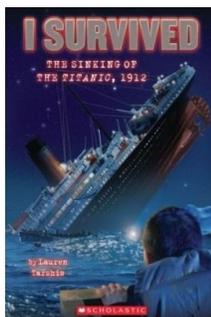
*I SURVIVED: The Battle of D-Day, 1944*



The Attacks of September 11, 2001



The American Revolution, 1776



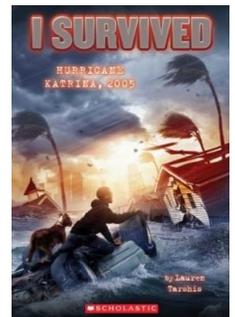
The Sinking of the Titanic, 1912



The San Francisco Earthquake, 1906



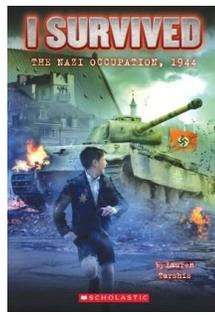
The Destruction of Pompeii, 79 A.D.



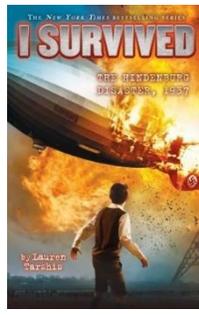
Hurricane Katrina, 2005



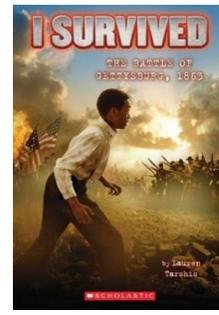
The Bombing of Pearl Harbor, 1941



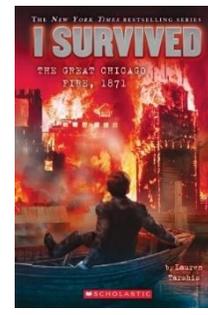
The Attacks of September 11, 2001



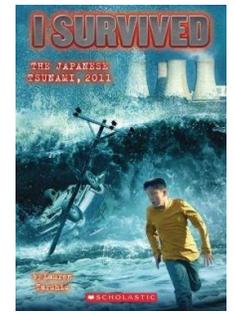
The Hindenburg Disaster, 1937



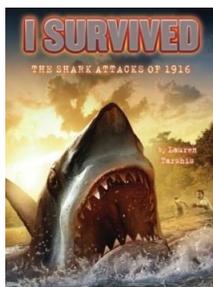
The Battle of Gettysburg, 1863



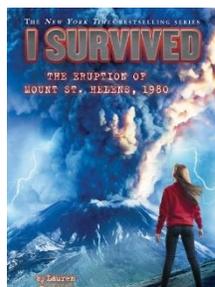
The Great Chicago Fire, 1871



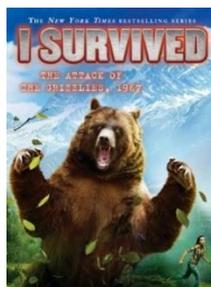
The Japanese Tsunami, 2011



The Shark Attack of 1916



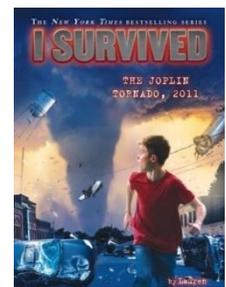
The Eruption of Mount St. Helens, 1980



The Attack of the Grizzlies, 1967



The Children's Blizzard, 1888



The Joplin Tornado, 2011

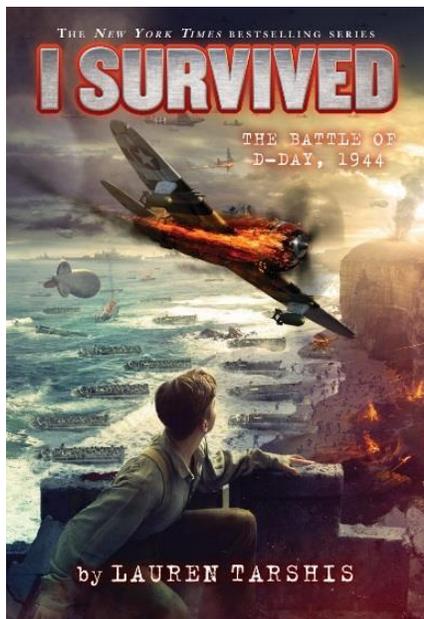
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## The *New York Times* bestselling series tackles a timely and crucial moment in history: D-Day

# I SURVIVED

## The Battle of D-Day, 1944



The year 2019 marks the 75<sup>th</sup> anniversary of one of the most pivotal moments in World War II history: D-Day. To bring the history of WWII and D-Day to a new generation of readers, *New York Times* bestselling author **Lauren Tarshis** has written *I SURVIVED: The Battle of D-Day, 1944* (on sale Jan 29, 2019).

Tarshis' wildly popular *I SURVIVED* series tells the stories of iconic historical events—from the Revolutionary War to the sinking of the Titanic to the September 11 terrorist attacks—through the eyes of a young witness. While her relatable narrators engage young readers, Tarshis' extensive research makes the *I SURVIVED* series an integral tool for classrooms, as well.

In *I SURVIVED: The Battle of D-Day, 1944*, readers meet eleven-year-old Paul, whose village in France has been under Nazi control for years. His Jewish best friend has disappeared, his father is a prisoner, food is scarce, and there doesn't seem to be anything Paul can do to help. Then, Paul finds an American soldier near his home

who tells him about the Allies' plan to crush the Nazis once and for all...and he needs Paul's help. Soon, Paul finds himself in the midst of the largest invasion in world history. Can he do his part to turn horror into hope?

### **ABOUT THE AUTHOR**

**Lauren Tarshis** is the renowned author of the *New York Times* bestselling *I Survived* historical series, which tells stories of kids and their resilience and strength in the midst of a terrifying moments and unimaginable disasters in history. In addition to being an author, Lauren is the Vice President, Group Editor, Scholastic Classroom Magazines, which includes editing *Storyworks*, an acclaimed national language arts classroom magazine for grades 4-6 and the newly-launched *Storyworks Jr.* for grade 3. She can be found online at [laurentarshis.com](http://laurentarshis.com).

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