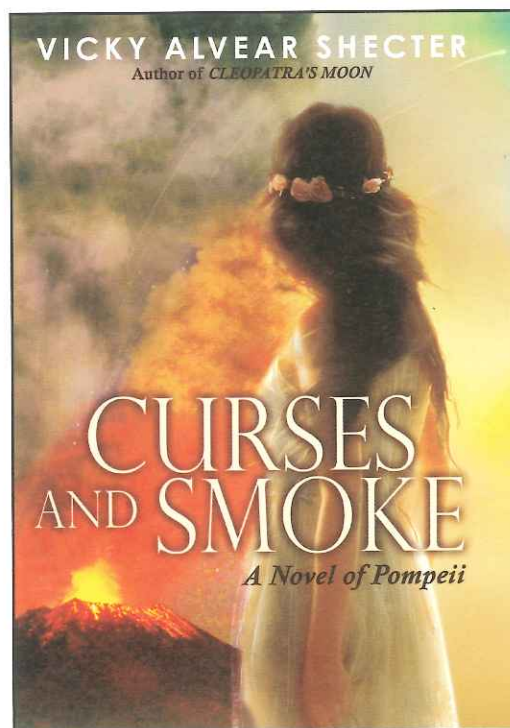


Booktalk!

Curses and Smoke: A Novel of Pompeii by Vicky Alvear Shecter

Booktalk!

The residents of the small city of Pompeii can see it but have no power to stop it or avoid it. The future is barreling toward them, and for Lucia and Tag, it is bleak. Lucia is being forced to marry a much older man to bring her father wealth and status. Tag, a slave boy, can no longer care for his aging father. United by their unhappy fates, Lucia and Tag, childhood friends, find each other once more and fall in love. Then, the city begins to shake and tremble. Is it a sign from the Gods? What could it possibly mean?



Best for Grades 7-9

 **SCHOLASTIC**
open a world of possible