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The Vesuvius Mosaic

Joyce Hannam

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The Vesuvius Mosaic

Three

DOMINOES

COMPACT
disc
DIGITAL AUDIO

Windows® and Mac® compatible

Minimum specification: PC: Pentium® III, 700 MHz; Windows® (2000, XP, Vista); Mac®: 700MHz, Mac® 10.2 or above; 128 MB RAM; 24x CD-ROM drive speed; 1024x768 screen resolution displaying 32-bit colour; compatible sound card; headphones or speakers; mouse. We recommend you set your keyboard to English.

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MultiROM

- Interactive activities
- Audio recording of complete dramatized story text

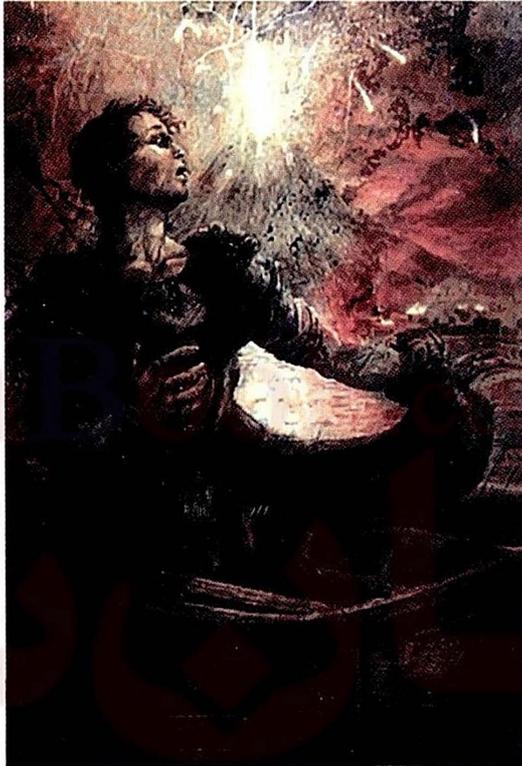
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The Vesuvius Mosaic



LEVEL THREE

1000 HEADWORDS

DOMINOES

Series Editors: Bill Bowler and Sue Parminter



The Vesuvius Mosaic

By Joyce Hannam

Illustrated by

Levi Pinfold

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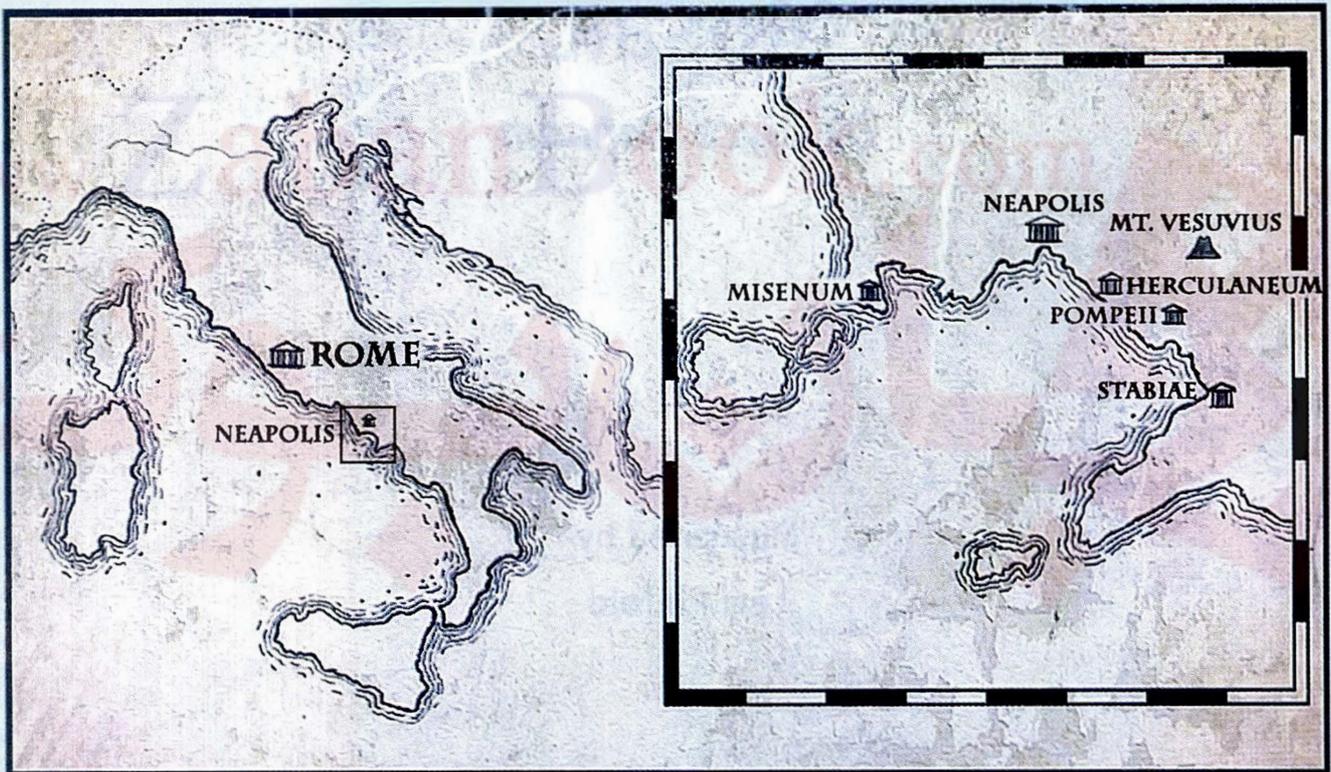
Joyce Hannam has taught English in several European countries including Greece, Spain, Turkey and the Czech Republic. She now lives in York, in the north of England, and works for the University of York providing language support for all nationalities. She has written a number of other stories for students of English, including *Ariadne's Story*, *The Curse of the Mummy*, and the retelling of *The Teacher's Secret* and *Other Folk Tales* in the Dominoes series, and *The Death of Karen Silkwood* in the Oxford Bookworms Library.

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BEFORE READING

1 Mount Vesuvius erupted in 79 AD during the time of the Roman Empire. Tick the Roman things. Use a dictionary to help you.

- | | | | |
|----------------------------|--------------------------|--------------------------|--------------------------|
| a gladiator fights | <input type="checkbox"/> | e public baths | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| b mosaics | <input type="checkbox"/> | f democracy | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| c the Olympic Games | <input type="checkbox"/> | g statues of Zeus | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| d chariot races | <input type="checkbox"/> | h slaves | <input type="checkbox"/> |



2 What do you know about the Roman Empire? Are the sentences true or false?

- | | True | False |
|--|--------------------------|--------------------------|
| a Many rich Romans owned slaves. | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| b The Roman Empire in 79 AD covered most of Europe. | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| c The philosophers Aristotle and Plato lived in Ancient Rome. | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| d Pompeii and Herculaneum were covered by ash after the eruption of Mount Vesuvius. | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| e The most important person in Ancient Rome was the king. | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| f The Ancient Romans thought that there was only one god – Jupiter. | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| g Ancient Romans invented paper and bicycles. | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |

CHAPTER 1 ~ A FREED MAN

'Hurry, Felix,' shouted Spurius. 'Let's finish this job and get home. Some visitors are coming from Pompeii tomorrow. Cassia says they may have some work for us.'

'It's nearly ready, **master**,' answered Felix, 'but I want to cut some **tiles** again. They don't fit as well as they should.'

'They look fine,' said Spurius.

Felix said nothing. He knew Spurius was careless. He didn't understand that every tile is important to the final **design** of a **mosaic**. But Spurius didn't design the mosaics. Felix did.

Soon they heard voices in the hall. Their customer was back home. Quickly Felix finished the last tiles.

'Where's my mosaic? Is it finished?'

'Come and see, Caius Calvinus Lepidus,' shouted Spurius.

Caius Calvinus Lepidus was an important man in Rome, a **senator**. He walked into the room to see the mosaic. Felix watched the customer's face carefully. Would he like it?

'It's more beautiful than I thought possible,' said Lepidus.

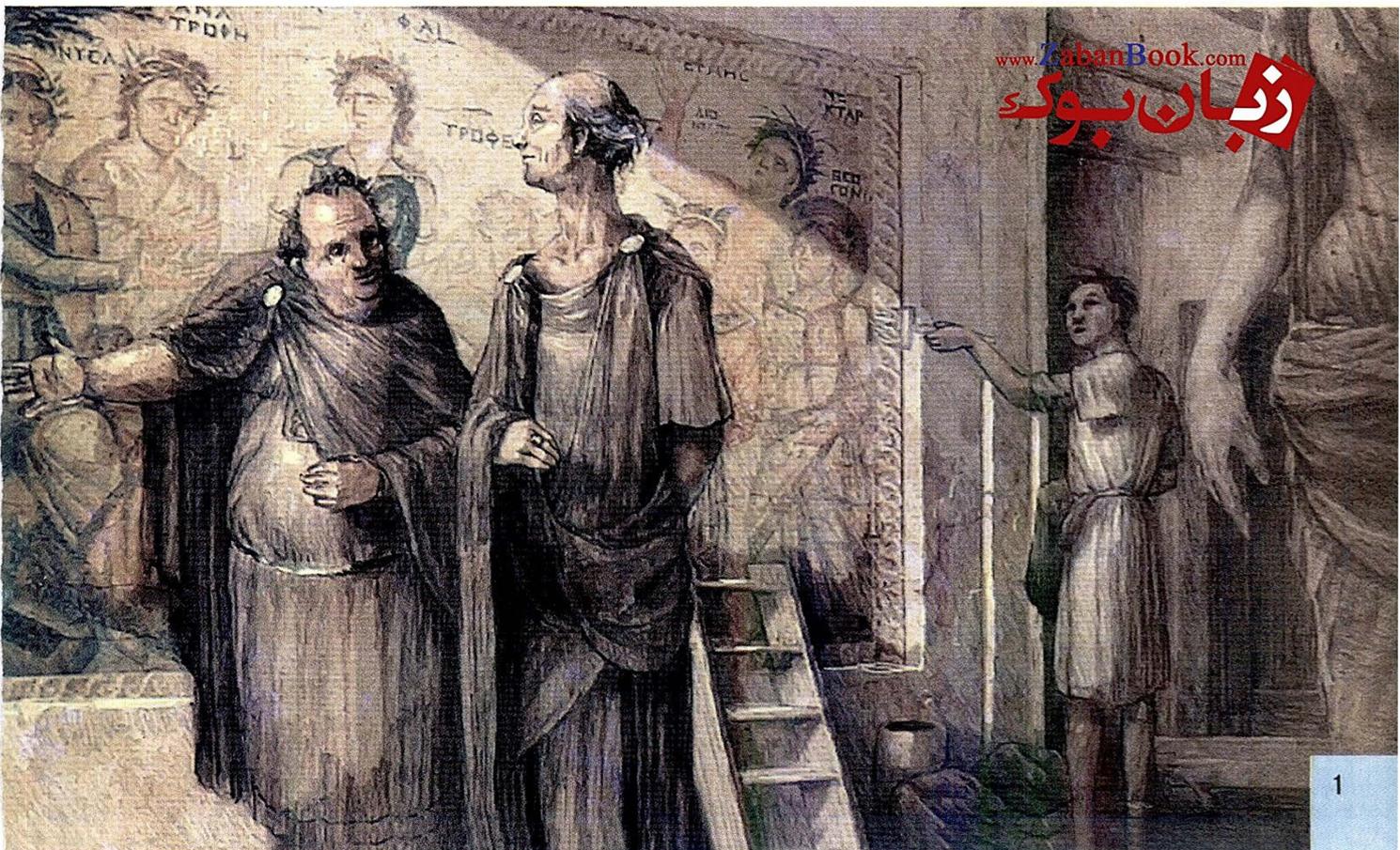
master you call the man that you work for this

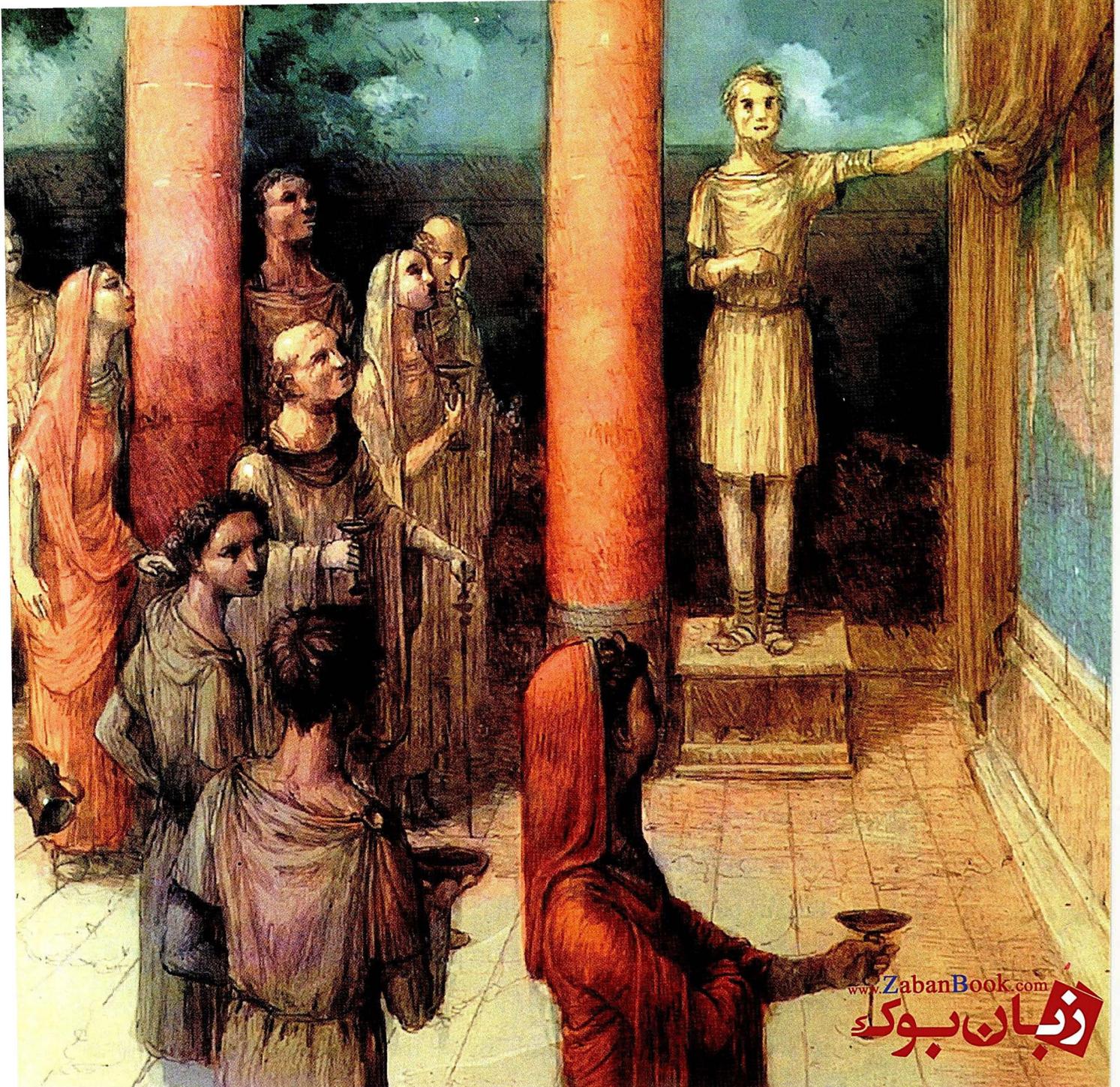
tile a small, square things that people put on floors or walls

design this shows the colours and shapes in a picture before it is made; to choose the colours and shapes in a picture before you make it

mosaic a picture that is made from small tiles

senator an important man who decides what must happen in a country





mosaic. 'Where's Felix? Pull the curtain, boy. Let's see your work.'

Felix shyly pulled back the curtain. His legs were shaking. Would all these important people like the mosaic? There was a short silence. Then everyone started speaking at once.

'Wonderful!' he heard. 'Really unusual work!' 'Look at the face of that Venus!' 'The blue of the sea is the best I've seen!'

Suddenly, a slave dropped a cup of wine. It was Agathe. She was staring at Venus's face. It was her own.

'Stupid child,' shouted Bassus. He lifted his hand to slap Agathe.

Suddenly, Felix came between them.

GUESS WHAT

What happens in the next chapter? Tick three sentences.

- a** Bassus discovers that he's Petrus's father.
- b** Felix and Agathe decide to get married.
- c** Alcander doesn't want his sister to marry Felix.
- d** Smoke starts to come out of the mountain near Pompeii.
- e** Rectina decides that the family must stay in the house in Pompeii.
- f** Felix and Alcander go to Rome for help.



Vesuvius and the sea near Herculaneum

CHAPTER 7 ~ FATHER AND SON

Few people noticed Bassus sitting on the ground. Most of the party guests were drunk and some had left. Petrus went over and sat down beside him.

'Open your eyes, Father,' he whispered.

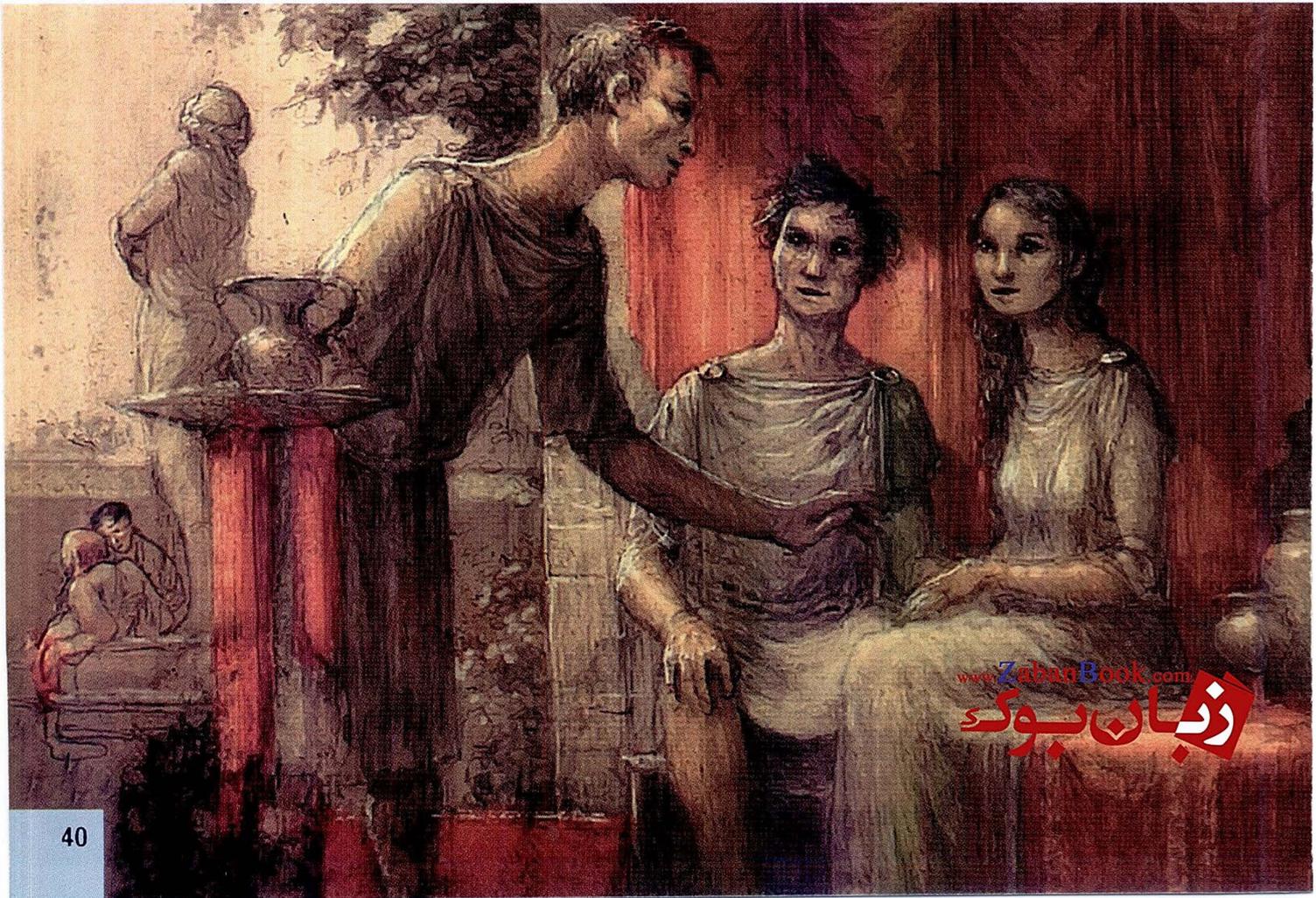
Alcander stared at him.

'Your father...?'

'My mother told me he was my father,' said Petrus. 'She wanted me to know before she died. Rectina doesn't know anything about me. Bassus sent me away to Rome when I was a young boy to keep me a secret. And now he's dying.'

'I don't think so,' said Alcander. 'It's just the fall and the drink. He'll wake up soon.'

Morning was coming. A soft light was growing behind the mountain and the stars were disappearing. Rectina passed Petrus and Bassus on her way to bed.







a

More than 2,500,000 million people visit Pompeii every year.

True / False

d

Pompeii was forgotten for **600 years** before it was discovered again by accident.

True / False

b

We know about what happened in Pompeii from two famous letters written by Pliny.

True / False

e

Pompeii is about **80 kilometres** away from Mount Vesuvius.

True / False

c

Mount Vesuvius is one of the most dangerous volcanoes in the world.

True / False

f

Things under the ash stayed as they were in **79 AD**, and we have learnt much about **Ancient Roman** history from them.

True / False

GRAMMAR CHECK

Direct and reported speech

In direct speech we give the words that people say.

'Neptune is angry,' said Agathe.

'The gods will punish us!' she said.

In reported speech we put the verb a step into the past and we change the pronouns and time and place references.

Agathe said (that) Neptune was angry.

She said (that) the gods would punish them.

We can use the word **that** to introduce reported speech statements, but it is not necessary. **tell** needs an indirect object – **me, her, Felix**; **say** does not need an indirect object.

Alcander told Felix (that) it was the most beautiful mosaic he had ever seen.

He said (that) it was the most beautiful mosaic he had ever seen.

We use **tell + infinitive with to** to report commands, and **ask + infinitive with to** to report requests.

'Pull back the curtain,' Bassus said to Felix. Bassus told Felix to pull back the curtain.

'Please look at it,' he said to his guests. He asked his guests to look at it.

6 Rewrite the direct speech sentences in reported speech.

a 'Please play dice with me for Agathe's freedom,' Felix said to Bassus.

Felix asked Bassus to play dice with him for Agathe's freedom...

b 'If I lose the game, I'll be your slave,' Felix explained to Bassus.

.....

c 'You can't refuse to play in front of all your guests,' Rectina told Bassus.

.....

d 'Bring me the dice,' Bassus told Alcander.

.....

e 'He's a brave boy,' said the senator's wife of Felix.

.....

f 'You have some friends in high places,' the general told Felix.

.....

g 'I've won your freedom,' Felix told Agathe.

.....

h 'Please choose a couch for dinner,' said Rectina to everybody.

.....

The Vesuvius Mosaic

'We have some wonderful mosaics in Pompeii, but I've never seen a better one than this!'

After the young Roman mosaic designer Felix starts work in Pompeii, his whole life changes. There he falls in love with the beautiful Greek slave Agathe, who can see into the future.

When the volcano Vesuvius sends hot ash over the city, Felix – and Agathe's brother Alcander – ride to the port of Misenum for help. But will they reach Admiral Gaius Plinius in time, and will they ever see Agathe alive again?

Illustrated by Levi Pinfold

 This book is supported by a MultiROM, containing a complete dramatized audio recording of the story plus interactive activities.

Series Editors: Bill Bowler and Sue Parminter

Word count 11,549

LEVEL	HEADWORDS
Three	1000
Two	700
One	400
Starter	250

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