



ESCAPE FROM POMPEII

AN *Isabel Soto*
ARCHAEOLOGY ADVENTURE



by Terry Collins

illustrated by Cynthia Martin and Barbara Schulz



GRAPHIC EXPEDITIONS

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by Terry Collins
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CHAPTER 1 *A Close Call*

Taj Mahal at Agra, India, 1650

The Taj Mahal was created by Mughal Emperor Shah Jahan. He built it in memory of his favorite wife, Mumtaz Mahal.

The ceiling and interior walls are covered with thousands of precious gemstones.

The project was so huge that it took 20 years to build.

Each jewel must be carefully placed by hand. It's a very delicate process.

Thank you for showing me your work.

I'll let you get back to—OH!



I only have one chance at this. I'd better make it count!



Good thing I took those diving lessons last year!

WOOSH!

CHAPTER 2 *Seeing the Sights*

Pompeii, Italy, present day

Whew! That was a close call! Now, where did I land?

Welcome to Pompeii. I must say, that was quite an entrance.

Wait, I know you! You're Isabel Soto, the time traveling archaeologist.

Guilty as charged. Have we met?

No, but I've read all of your books. My name is Maura Mancini. I'm doing research for a book about Pompeii.

I'm Dr. Antonio Giordano. I work here at the Pompeii ruins. I'm showing Ms. Mancini around. Would you like to join us?

Gladly! I'd love to explore one of the world's most famous archaeological sites.


These ruins are so quiet. It's hard to believe that Pompeii was once a busy city filled with people.

Yes. That all ended when Mount Vesuvius erupted on August 24, AD 79.




ACTIVE OR NOT?

Mount Vesuvius was last active in 1944. Although it has not erupted for more than 60 years, the volcano is not dormant. Scientists believe the volcano will erupt again in the future.



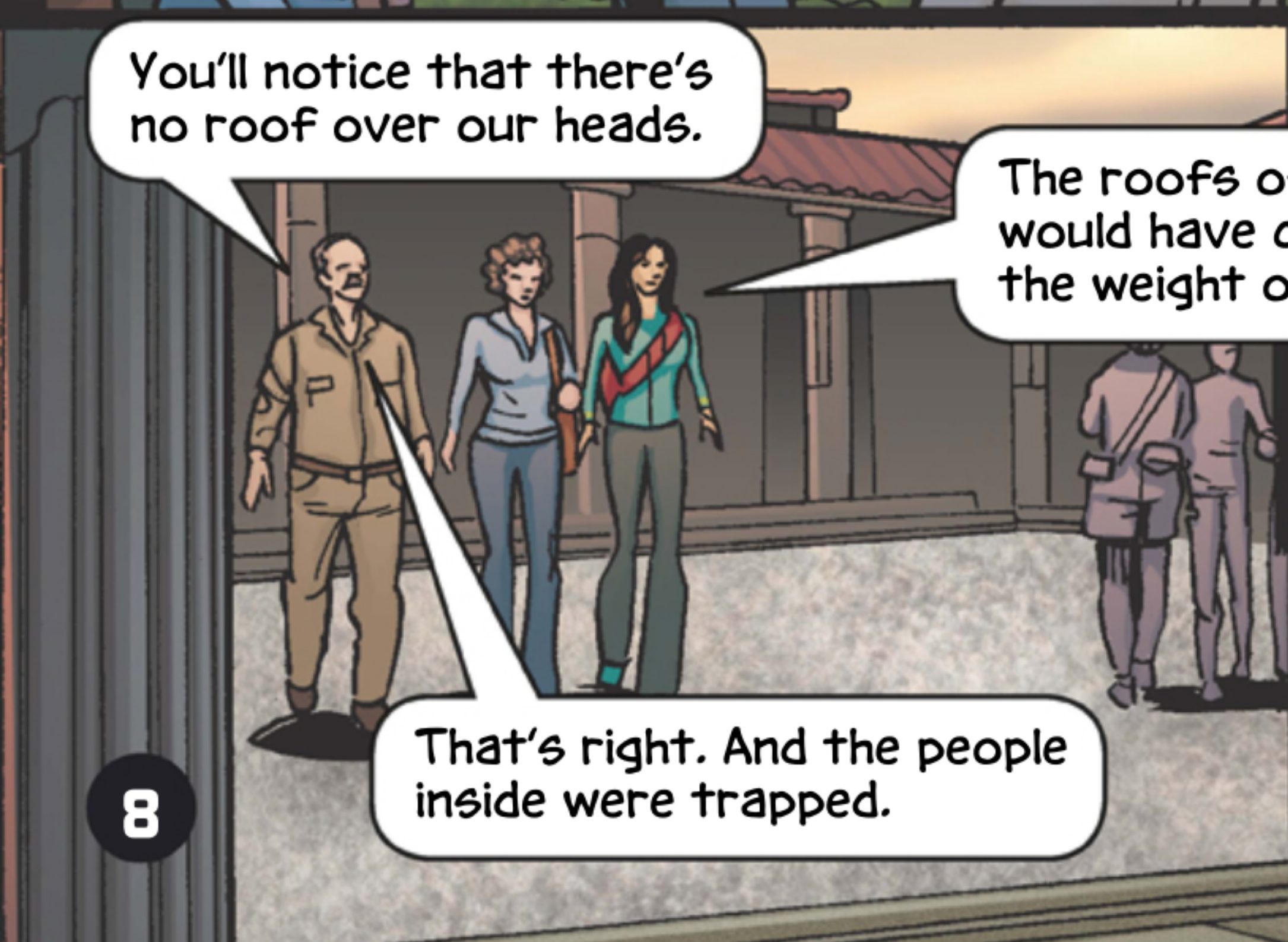
Pompeii was buried under 60 feet, or 18 meters, of ash and pumice. This material preserved the city for nearly 2,000 years.

Much of the city's graffiti is still intact too. We've learned a lot about life in Pompeii from the messages people left behind.



What's in that building over there?

That building holds one of the most interesting parts of Pompeii's history. Let's go see.



You'll notice that there's no roof over our heads.

The roofs of the buildings would have collapsed from the weight of the hot ash.

That's right. And the people inside were trapped.

Most of the Pompeians escaped the eruption. However, some chose to wait out the disaster in their homes.

But their homes and their bodies were completely buried in hot ash.

These plaster body casts are of some of the victims.

How were the body casts made?

Here, take a look. The W.I.S.P. can show you how they were created.

In 1864, archaeologist Giuseppe Fiorelli noticed some strange shapes while excavating the ruins at Pompeii.

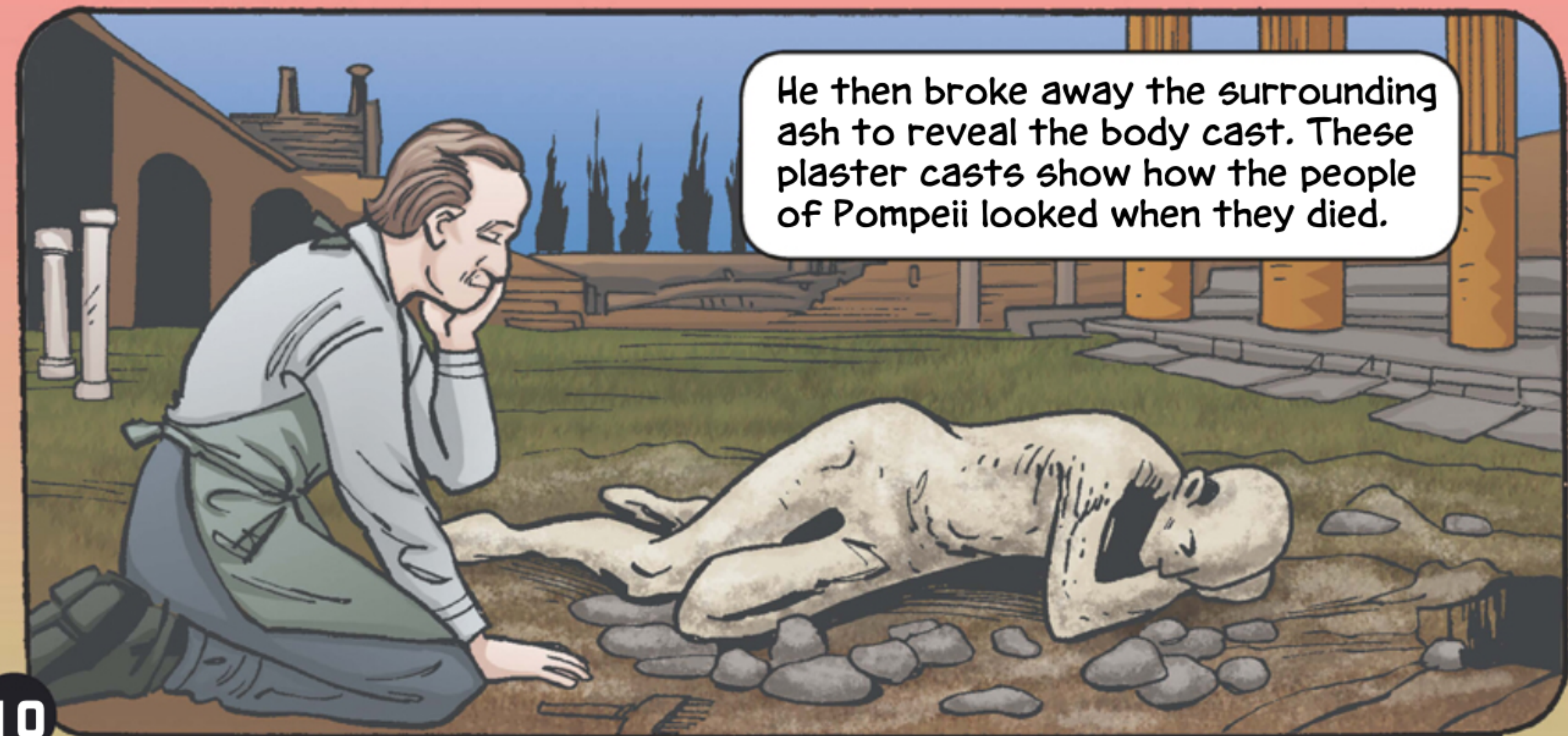
He thought the shapes looked like people. He decided that bodies must have been buried inside the hardened ash.



As the bodies decayed, a cavity was left inside the hardened ash. Fiorelli poured plaster into this space and allowed it to harden.



He then broke away the surrounding ash to reveal the body cast. These plaster casts show how the people of Pompeii looked when they died.





More than 2.5 million people visit Pompeii every year.

That's a lot of people.



Keeping Pompeii safe with so many visitors isn't an easy task.

Aaaieeee!



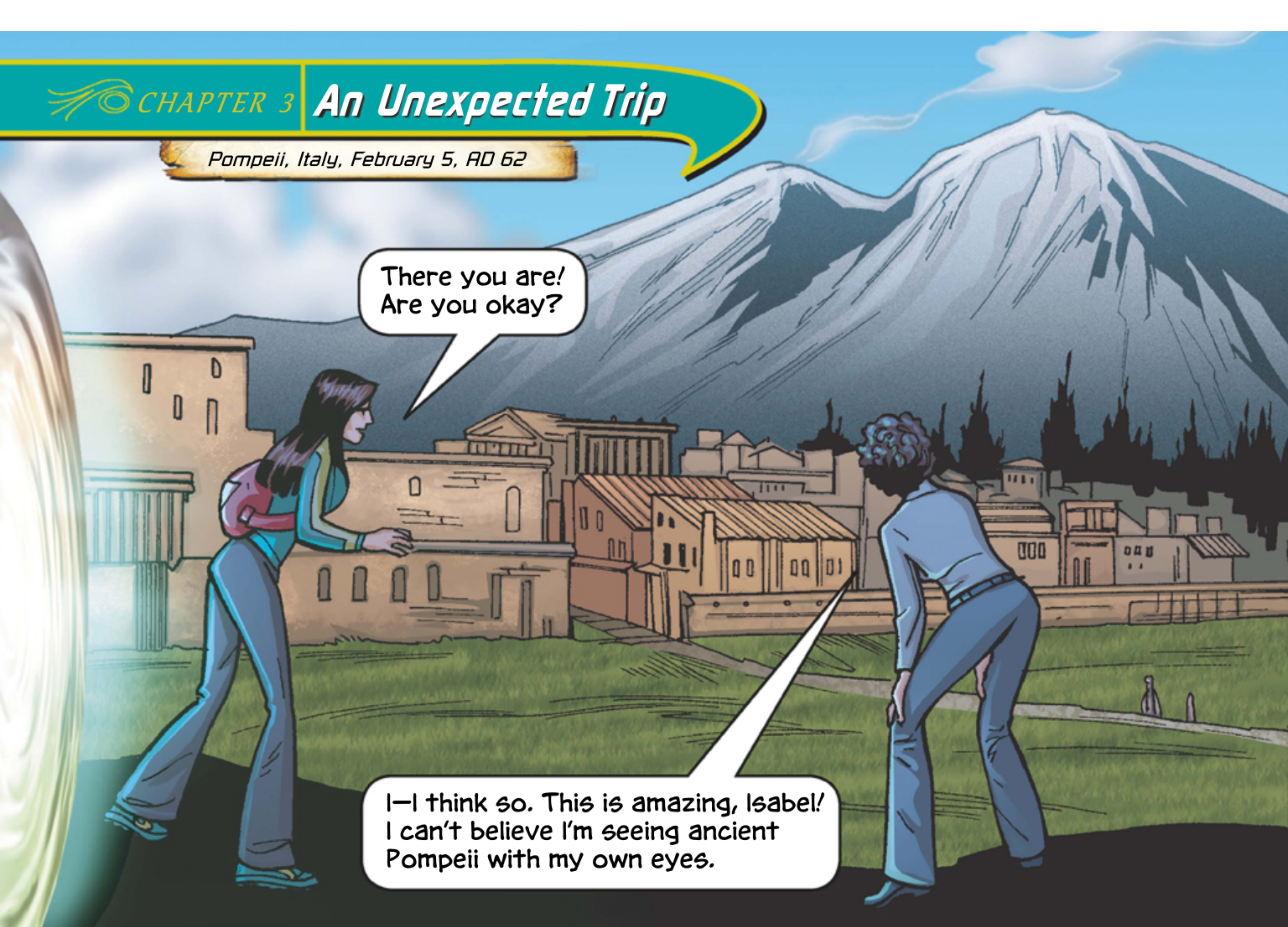
What happened?

She must have opened a portal by accident! She can't have gone far. We'll be back before you know it.

HEELLLPP!

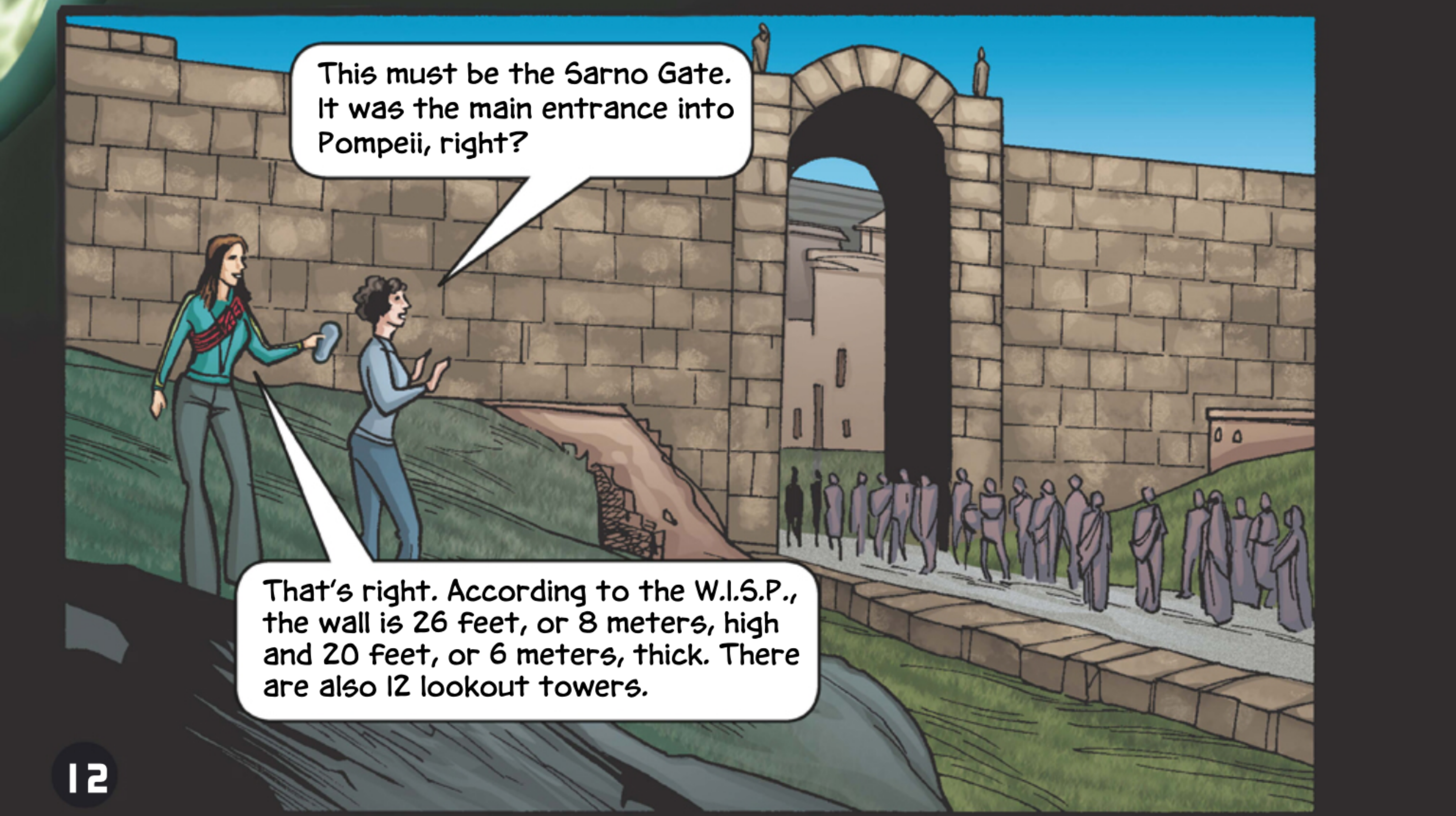
CHAPTER 3 *An Unexpected Trip*

Pompeii, Italy, February 5, AD 62



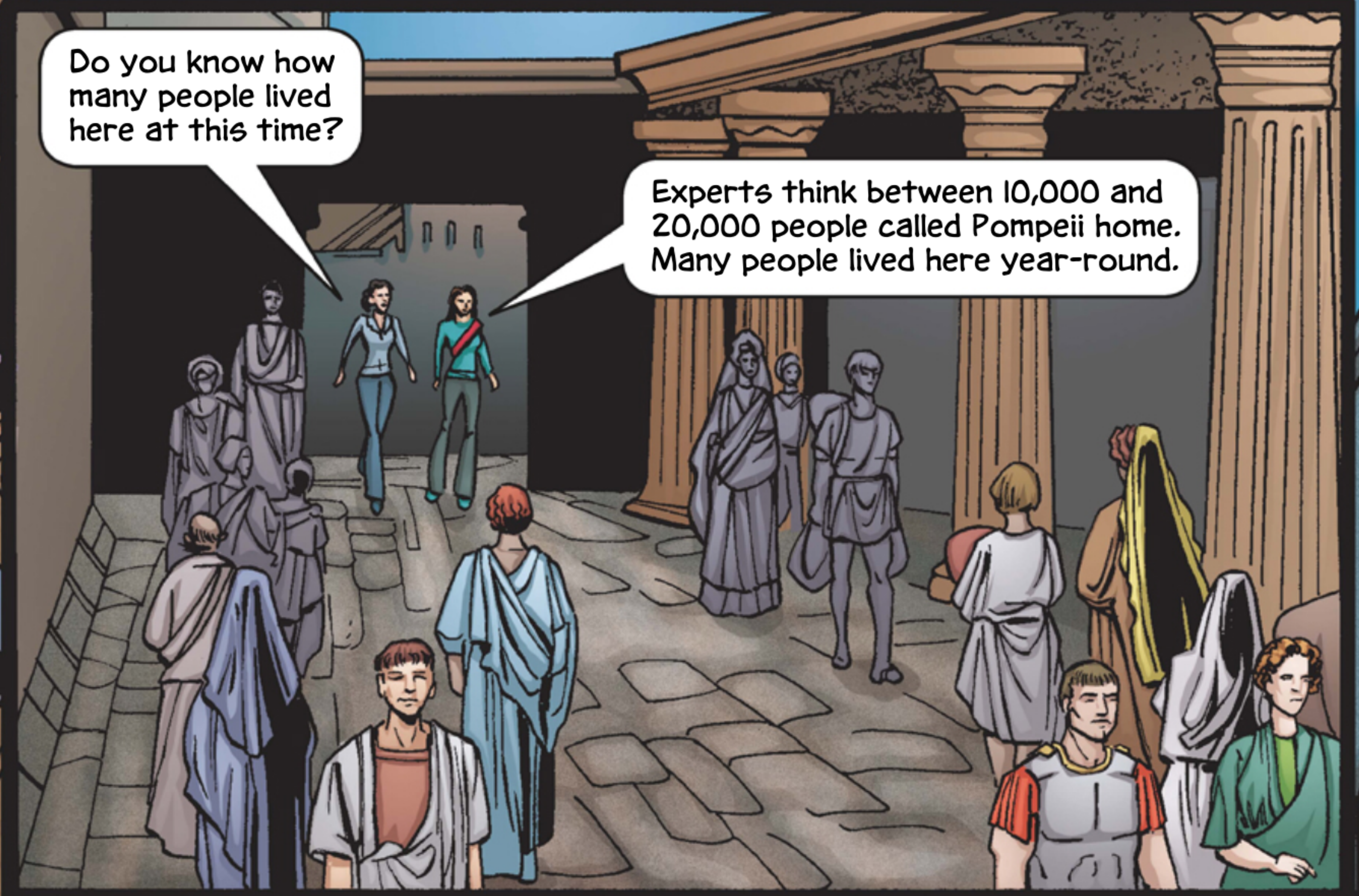
There you are!
Are you okay?

I—I think so. This is amazing, Isabel!
I can't believe I'm seeing ancient
Pompeii with my own eyes.




This must be the Sarno Gate.
It was the main entrance into
Pompeii, right?

That's right. According to the W.I.S.P.,
the wall is 26 feet, or 8 meters, high
and 20 feet, or 6 meters, thick. There
are also 12 lookout towers.




Do you know how many people lived here at this time?

Experts think between 10,000 and 20,000 people called Pompeii home. Many people lived here year-round.



A wide mix of people came here to buy or trade goods in the market. Many others came to Pompeii simply for a vacation.

This street seems to cut across the entire city. Let's follow it and see if we can learn more about how people lived here.



Excuse me, could you tell me why people write and draw on the city walls?



PREMIUS RHIV CLOVI

How else would we leave messages for each other? Everyone in Pompeii reads the walls for the latest news.

I'm helping spread the word about today's play at the Pompeii Large Theater.


I love plays!

Then follow me. I'll show you the way.



POMPEIAN GRAFFITI

The people of Pompeii wrote many kinds of messages to each other on the city walls. They wrote love letters, political ads, angry notes, and even funny messages. This early graffiti gives archaeologists a better understanding of how the ancient Pompeians lived.



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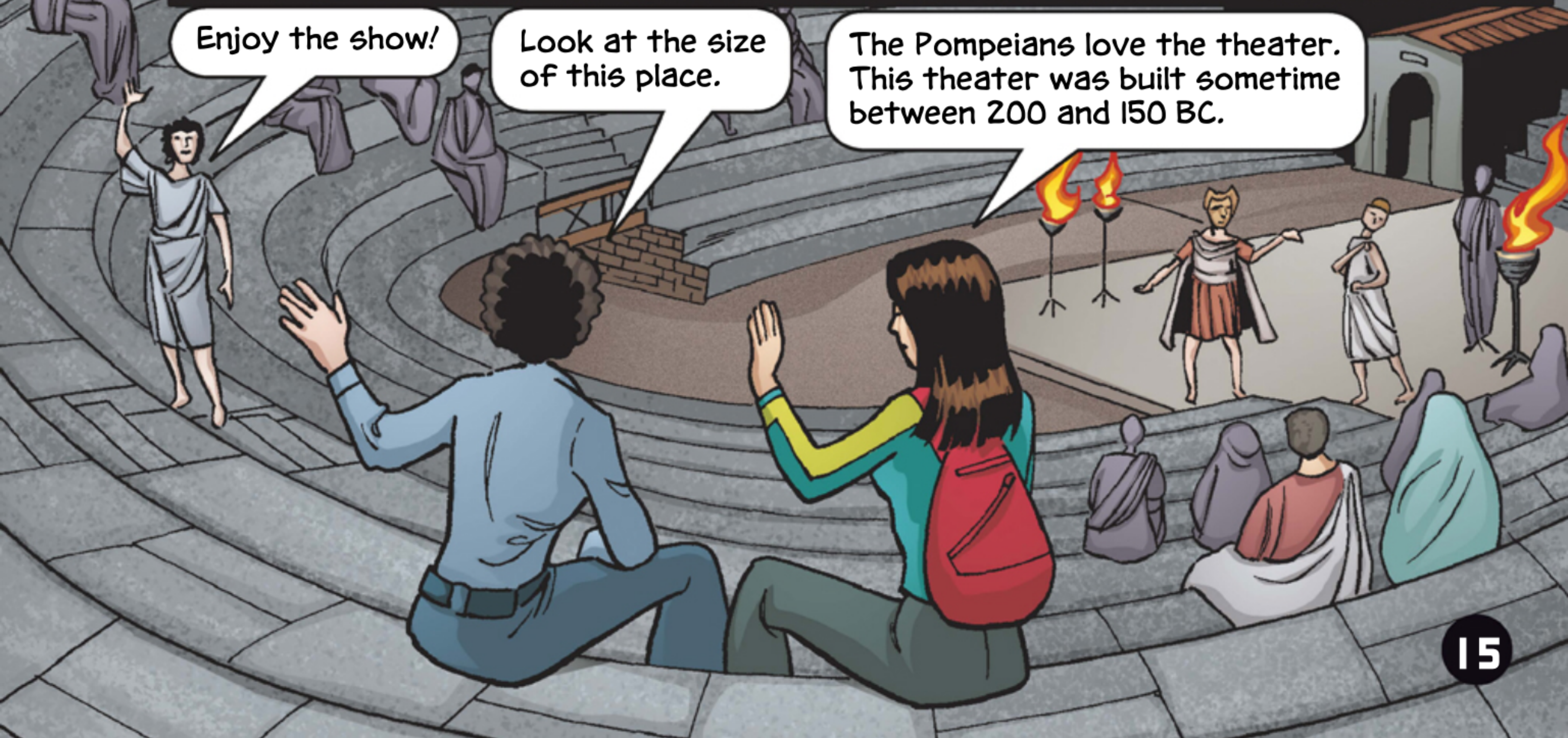
That's one of the many public bathhouses here in Pompeii.

The bathhouses are social gathering places. People soak in hot water while they talk about the day's events.



That must be the Temple of Jupiter.

Yes, it's just one of several temples here that honor the gods.



Enjoy the show!

Look at the size of this place.

The Pompeians love the theater. This theater was built sometime between 200 and 150 BC.

Pompeii's theaters were surprisingly modern. Many special effects could even equal today's Broadway stages.

All we need is some popcorn and—wait, what's happening?

RRMMBLL

Earthquake!

RUMMBLE

I should have known! We're in the year AD 62. This earthquake happened 17 years before Mount Vesuvius erupted.

Dr. Soto! That column is falling right toward us!

There's no time to program the W.I.S.P.
We'll have to jump through blind!

CRAACK!!

Isn't that dangerous?!

If you have a better idea,
I'm open to suggestions!

KA-CHOOM!

CHAPTER 4 *Night of the Volcano*

Pompeii, Italy, August 24, AD 79

Where are we?

We're still in Pompeii, but I'm not sure of the date yet.

Uh, oh. We've arrived on the day Mount Vesuvius erupts!

What?!

Excuse me, are you going to master Zeno's party?

No. We're just passing through.

Nonsense! No one is a stranger here. Come, join us for the party!

Do we have time for this?

I'll need to reprogram the W.I.S.P. I think we can risk a short visit.

You've arrived on a special occasion. Zeno always hosts the best parties!



Welcome to my villa.

I was just admiring your walls. These murals are beautiful.

Thank you. They are tributes to the gods and goddesses of Rome.



We survived the previous disaster 17 years ago. Surely we can deal with a few tremors now.

Come on, we've stayed here long enough.

Oh, no! Too late!

RUMBLE



TERRIBLE TREMORS

Several strong tremors served as early warning signs before Mount Vesuvius erupted. While some people in Pompeii chose to ignore the signs, most decided to flee the city until things calmed down. Only a few thousand people were in Pompeii when Mount Vesuvius erupted.



Dr. Soto—shouldn't we be running away from the volcano?

Normally, yes. But sometimes the W.I.S.P. opens the portal in the worst possible place.


We have to get to the portal before it disappears. It's our only chance to escape!

KRAKA DOOOOMM!!



THE ERUPTION

The eruption lasted for more than 24 hours. A cloud of hot ash, rocks, and gas, called a pyroclastic surge, came around midnight. That first surge covered the city with 3 feet, or 0.9 meters, of pumice. Eleven more surges completely buried Pompeii.



Let's go. We've got some ground to cover.

I feel so helpless. I wish there was something we could do to help.



Ow! My ankle! Help!

Stay put! I'll be right there.

We'll have a doctor look at your ankle when we get back.

Over here! Get out of the hot ash before you're trampled.

We can wait safely inside my store until this disaster ends.

Thank you, but we need to keep moving.

You should too. The sea is the safest place to be now.

That poor man.

I know. Many people tried to hide indoors instead of leaving Pompeii.

We made it!

My readers will never believe this!

RRRRMMBLLL

THWOOOSH!

CHAPTER 5 *Preserving the Past*

Pompeii, Italy, present day

There you are!
I was so worried!

Dr. Giordano, we saw
Mount Vesuvius erupt!

Your accidental trip may
turn out to be a good thing.
Now you can write about
what Pompeii was really like.

I could also point out how
important it is to preserve
what's left of Pompeii.

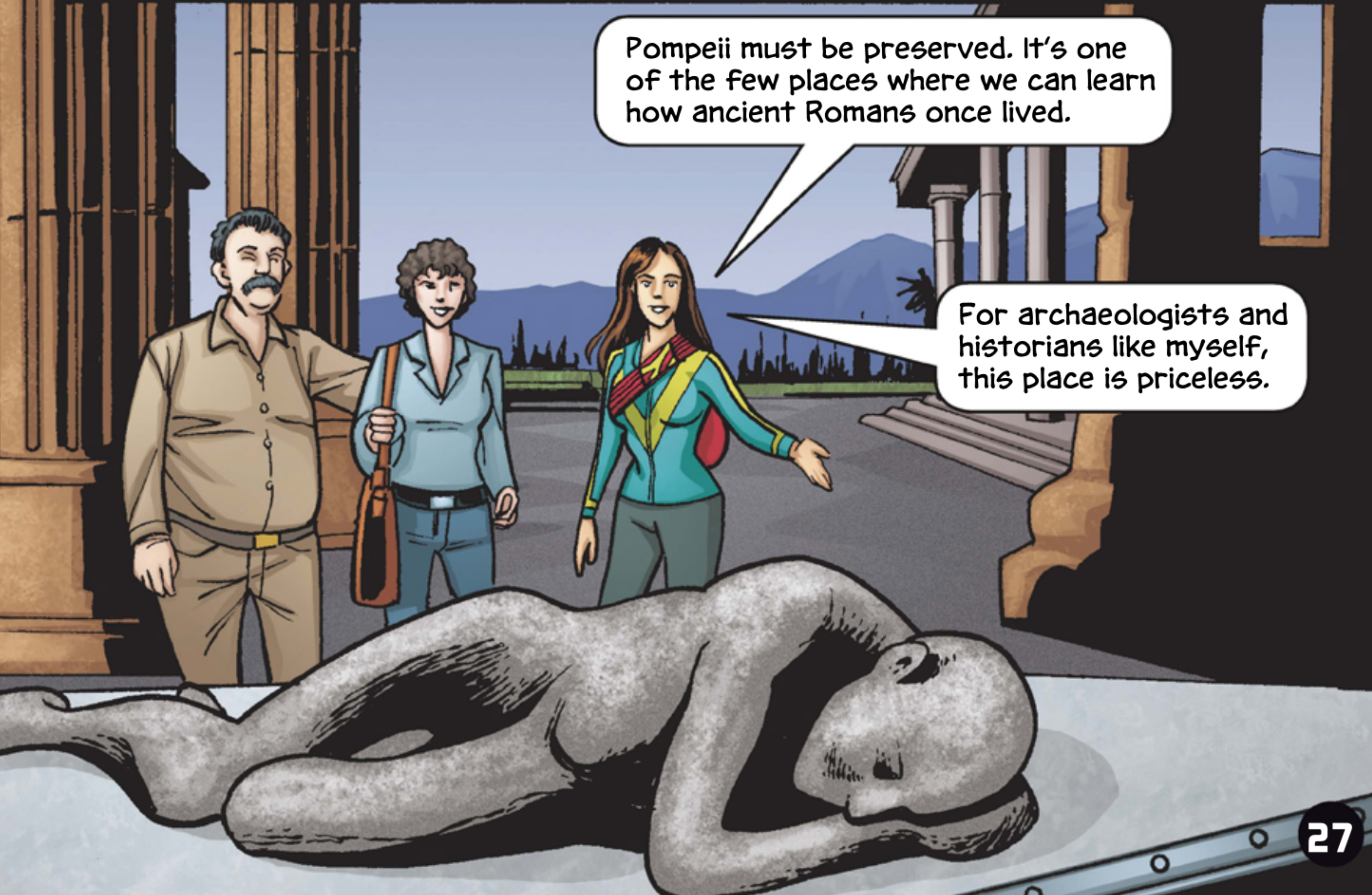
Maybe your story will help
increase our funding. We
have much work left to do!



Did you know one-third of Pompeii is still buried?

Really? I had no idea.

We've decided to leave it that way. If we leave it buried, it won't be exposed to weather and people. For now, it's the best protection we have.



Pompeii must be preserved. It's one of the few places where we can learn how ancient Romans once lived.

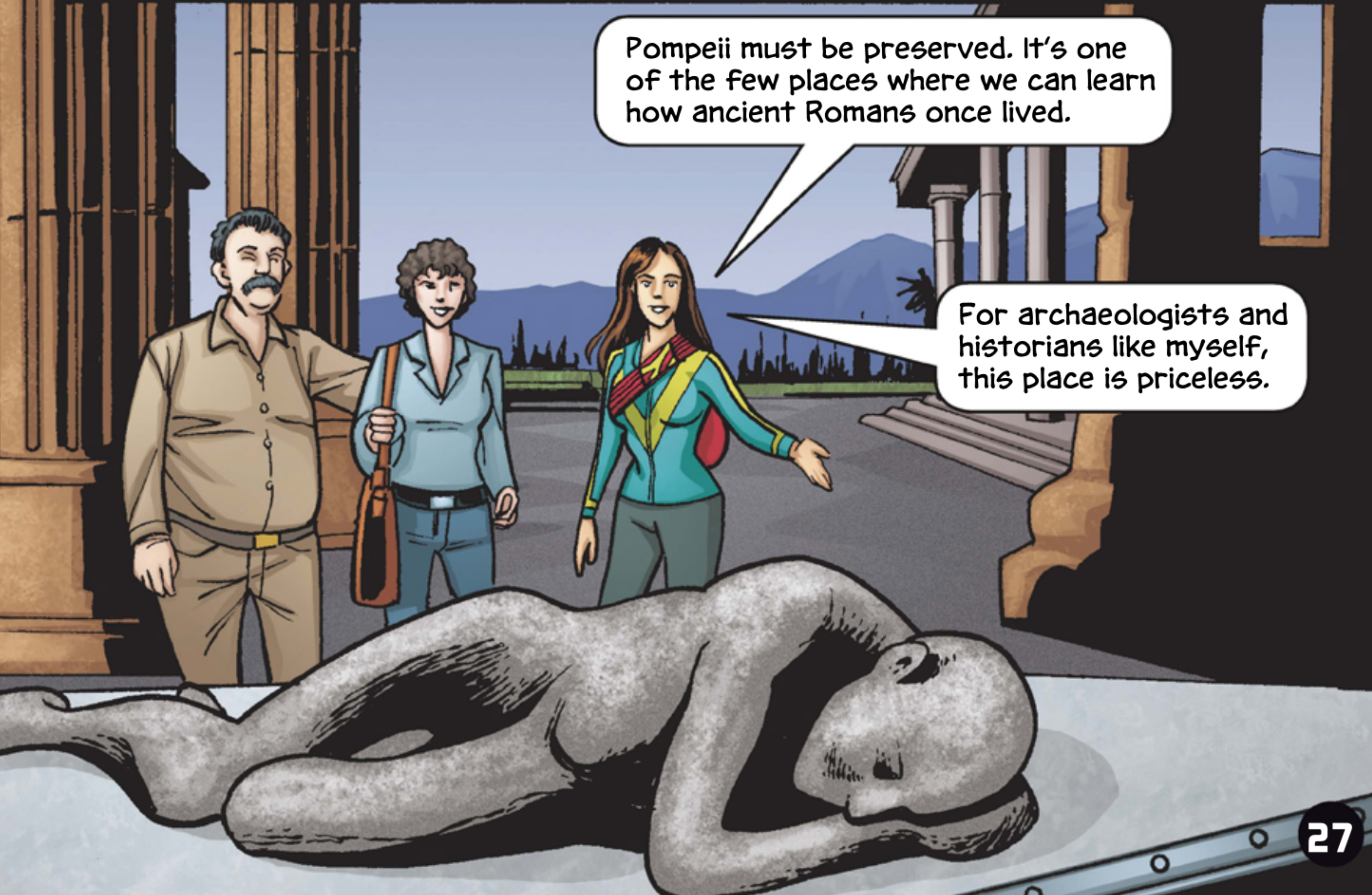
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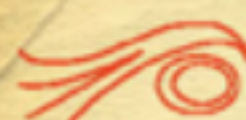

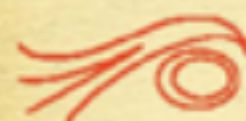
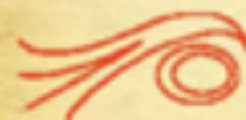

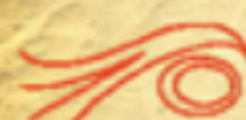
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MORE ABOUT **POMPEII**

-  During the height of Pompeii's success, the town had 33 bakeries, 130 taverns and snack shops, and 39 wool-processing plants. Many Romans traveled to Pompeii as a vacation spot.
-  Pompeii had two theaters used for plays, music, and poetry readings. There was also a large arena used for gladiator contests, which drew thousands of cheering fans.
-  The volcanic eruption that destroyed Pompeii is well-known from an eyewitness account. Pliny the Younger, a Roman writer, saw the cloud rising from Mount Vesuvius. He wrote two letters full of information from those who had escaped Pompeii. His uncle, Pliny the Elder, died after he went to watch the eruption.
-  Pompeii was not the only city buried by Vesuvius. The towns of Herculaneum and Stabiae were also destroyed in the eruption.
-  The uncovering of Pompeii first began in 1748. These early digs were destructive. Treasure hunters stole many coins, statues, artwork, and other rare relics. Finally, in 1860, Giuseppe Fiorelli was put in charge and a more careful excavation was begun.
-  Since Pompeii was first buried in AD 79, Mount Vesuvius has erupted 80 times. The last major eruption occurred in 1944.

 Scientists believe Mount Vesuvius will erupt again in the future. Today more than 2 million people live near the volcano. If a violent eruption happens without warning, it would be one of the worst disasters in history.

 Nearly 2.5 million tourists visit Pompeii every year. Weather and heavy tourism have caused the ancient city to begin to crumble. Artwork on the walls has also faded badly. In 2008, the Italian government declared a state of emergency to help restore and preserve the ancient ruins at Pompeii.

MORE ABOUT

Isabel Soto

NAME: Dr. Isabel "Izzy" Soto
DEGREES: History and Anthropology
BUILD: Athletic **HAIR:** Dark Brown
EYES: Brown **HEIGHT:** 5'7"

W.I.S.P.: The Worldwide Inter-dimensional Space/Time Portal developed by Max Axiom at Axiom Laboratory.

BACKSTORY: Dr. Isabel "Izzy" Soto caught the history bug as a little girl. Every night, her grandfather told her about his adventures exploring ancient ruins in South America. He believed lost cultures teach people a great deal about history.

Izzy's love of cultures followed her to college. She studied history and anthropology. On a research trip to Thailand, she discovered an ancient stone with mysterious energy. Izzy took the stone to Super Scientist Max Axiom who determined that the stone's energy cuts across space and time. Harnessing the power of the stone, he built a device called the W.I.S.P. It opens windows to any place and any time. Izzy now travels through time to see history unfold before her eyes. Although she must not change history, she can observe and investigate historical events.



GLOSSARY

archaeologist (ar-kee-AH-luh-jist) — a scientist who studies how people lived in the past

cast (KAST) — a model of an object in plaster; casts show details of the original object

cavity (KA-vuh-tee) — a hole or hollow space

dormant (DOR-muhnt) — not active; dormant volcanoes have not erupted for many years

excavate (EK-skuh-vayt) — to dig in the earth

gladiator (GLAD-ee-ay-tur) — an ancient Roman slave who fought against other gladiators or fierce animals to entertain the public

graffiti (gruh-FEE-tee) — pictures drawn or words written on the walls of buildings or other surfaces

preserve (pree-ZURV) — to protect something so it stays in its original form

pumice (PUHM-iss) — a light, grayish volcanic rock

pyroclastic surge (PYE-roh-KLAS-tic SURJ) — a cloud of hot ash, rocks, and gas

relic (REL-ik) — something that has survived from the past

ruins (ROO-ins) — the remains of a building or other things that have fallen down or been destroyed

tremor (TREM-ur) — a shaking or trembling movement

tribute (TRIB-yoot) — gifts given to the gods to show respect

villa (VIL-uh) — a large, fancy house, especially one in the country

READ MORE

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