

The Time Key



Take an exciting
journey back in
time to Ancient
Rome!

DIARY OF A
ROMAN
CHALLENGE

The Time Key

DIARY OF A ROMAN CHALLENGE



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DIARY OF A ROMAN CHALLENGE


Dear Reader,
Can you imagine what it would be like to watch
an ACTUAL volcano erupting? Knowing that
your LIFE was in real danger?? TERRIFYING,
that's what!!!

This really happened to us, but we weren't
really that scared — well, not while it was going
on ... That's because we were in a place called
Pompeii during ancient Roman times and
everything was SO COOL and different and
REALLY exciting that we hadn't time to stop to
think about it!

Yes ... THAT Pompeii!!! You see, we went on this
AMAZING journey back through time. We know
you'll find that difficult to believe, but after
you've read this diary, you'll DEFINITELY
change your mind. And maybe you'll discover for
yourself what it was like to watch gladiators
fight and be chased by REAL Roman soldiers!

Josh and Maisie



 Orpheus

"Wouldn't it have been so COOL to be a gladiator!", my brother Josh said excitedly. We were in our Granddad's study one rainy afternoon, reading one of his big books about life in ancient Roman times. "Are you sure?" I asked.



"Look at this", said Josh. "It talks about a slave who disguised himself with a mask and was hired to MURDER people. They say he once tried to kill a famous actor on stage, while the performance was actually going on. Scary, huh?"



"Did you know that some of them were forced to fight animals without ANY protection AT ALL?" Josh gulped and quickly moved on to another page. A few moments later, we heard a book fall off the shelf behind us. That's funny, we thought. We hadn't touched it. It was a very old book about discoveries made at a place called Pompeii, a Roman town. A page had come loose in the fall. On it there was a picture of an ugly mask ...



As he read, I could feel a draught coming from the gap on the shelf. We pulled out some more books. There at the back of the case was a small door with a key in the lock. I turned it, pushed it open and climbed through.

Behind the door was a small room with a cold tiled floor. All around were pots and sacks. "Look what you're wearing, Josh!", I giggled as I saw him poke his head through. But my clothes had changed too.

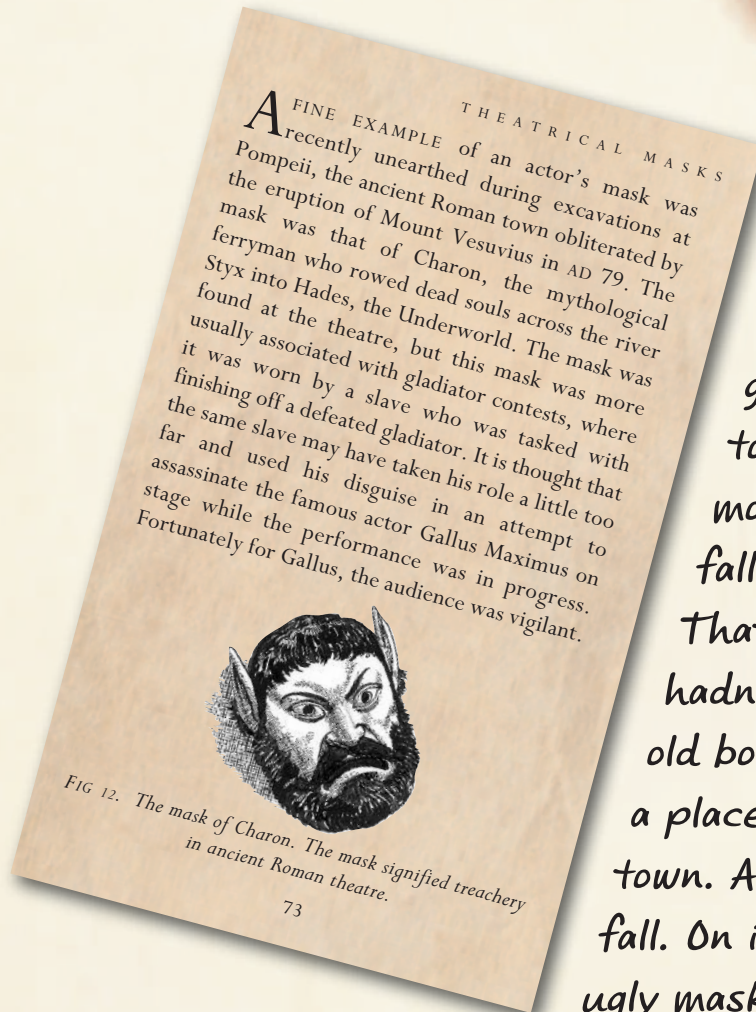


FIG 12. The mask of Charon. The mask signified treachery in ancient Roman theatre.

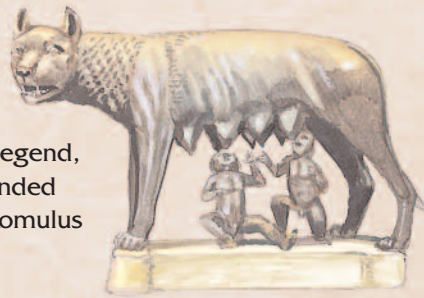
We crept out of the little room into a much larger one with columns and painted walls. The ceiling was open and sunlight shone through. There was a pool with a statue in the middle of it. People walked by wearing clothes like those in the book we had been just been reading. Could this really be a ROMAN house?! A girl called to us: "This way, you two!"



THE STORY OF ROME

About 3000 years ago, a tribe of people, who spoke the Latin language, settled on the banks of the River Tiber in Italy. This settlement became a town called Rome. Early Rome was ruled by kings, but the people decided in 510 BC to establish a republic.

According to legend, Rome was founded by the twins Romulus and Remus.



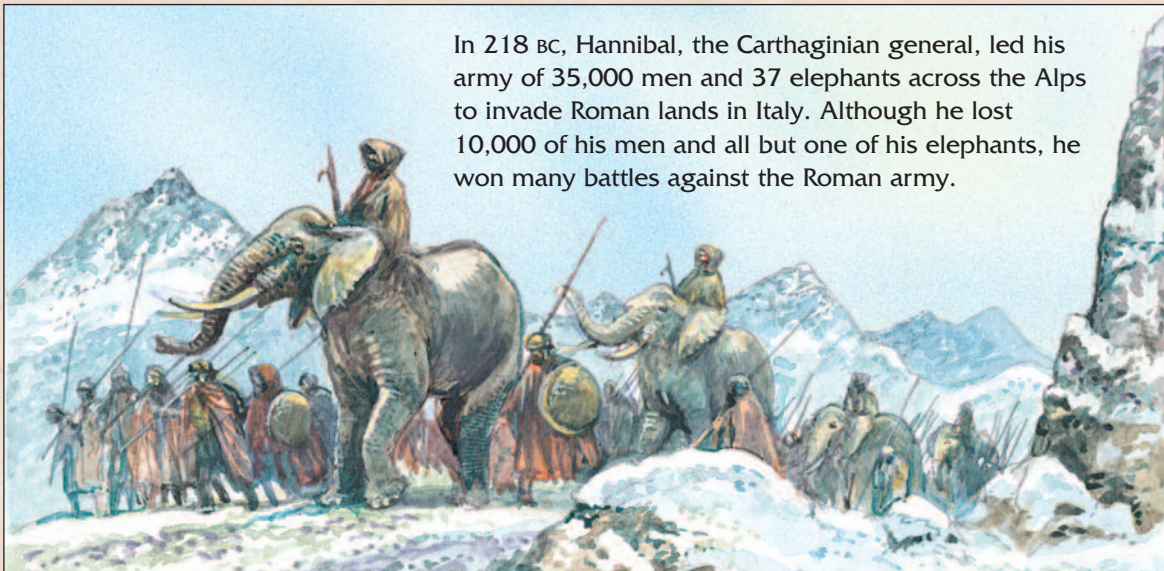
Rome was now governed by a group of citizens called senators. Gradually, Rome became more and more powerful, taking over surrounding territories.

By 264 BC, it controlled most of Italy. The Romans started to look further afield, and fought the Carthaginians to win control of the lands around the Mediterranean Sea. A brilliant general, Julius Caesar, conquered many new lands for Rome after 59 BC. He became very powerful and ruled the republic as a dictator. Eventually, Caesar was assassinated by other senators, jealous of his power, in 44 BC. Soon afterwards, Rome was ruled by emperors.



Julius Caesar

In 218 BC, Hannibal, the Carthaginian general, led his army of 35,000 men and 37 elephants across the Alps to invade Roman lands in Italy. Although he lost 10,000 of his men and all but one of his elephants, he won many battles against the Roman army.



In AD 64 a great fire devastated the city of Rome. Emperor Nero was falsely accused of starting it.

Following Caesar's death, two men battled for power. One was Octavian, Caesar's adopted son, the other Mark Anthony, the lover of Cleopatra, Queen of Egypt.

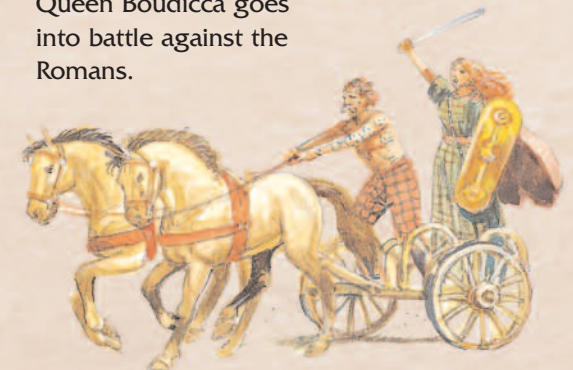
Emperor Augustus



Octavian defeated Anthony at the Battle of Actium in 31 BC, and later became the first *imperator*, or Emperor, of Rome, under the name of Augustus, which means "deeply respected one". Augustus brought peace to Rome, but not all its later emperors ruled as wisely.

Nevertheless, over the next 150 years, the Roman Empire grew even larger, bringing Rome wealth and slaves from other parts of Europe, Africa and Asia. Violent rebellion broke out in some places, including Britain, under Boudicca, Queen of the Iceni tribe, in about AD 60, and Judaea, when thousands of Jews rebelled in AD 66. But for two centuries from the start of Augustus's rule in 27 BC—a period known as *Pax Romana*—there were no major wars in the empire.

Queen Boudicca goes into battle against the Romans.



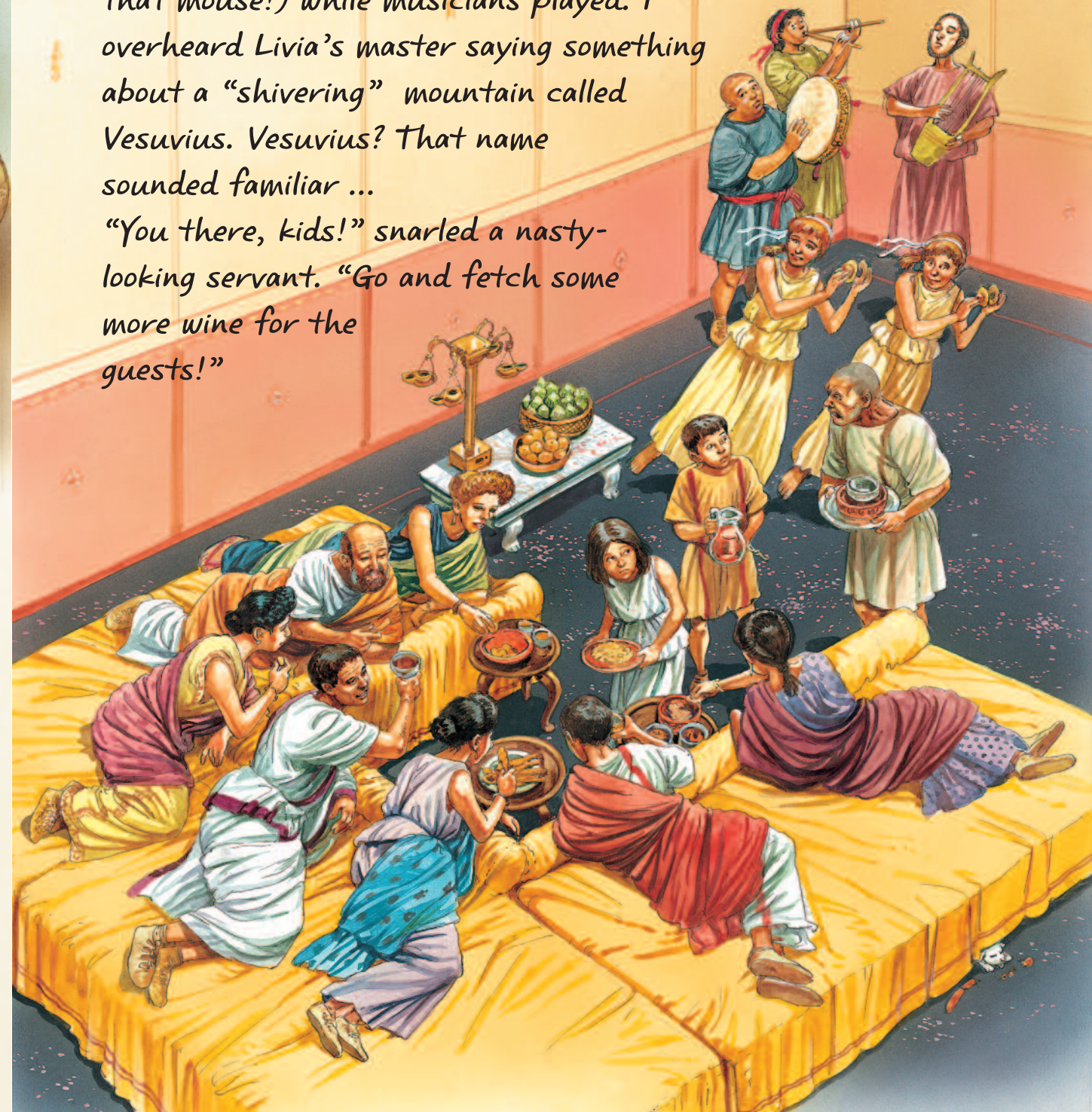


She took us into the kitchen. "Take this," she said, handing me a dead mouse. "I'm Livia. We're all going to be in BIG trouble if we don't get this meal ready on time". As we helped her, Livia explained that she and her brother Marcus were slaves, brought here from Britain. Marcus was a gladiator. She said he would become a free man if he won tomorrow's contest.



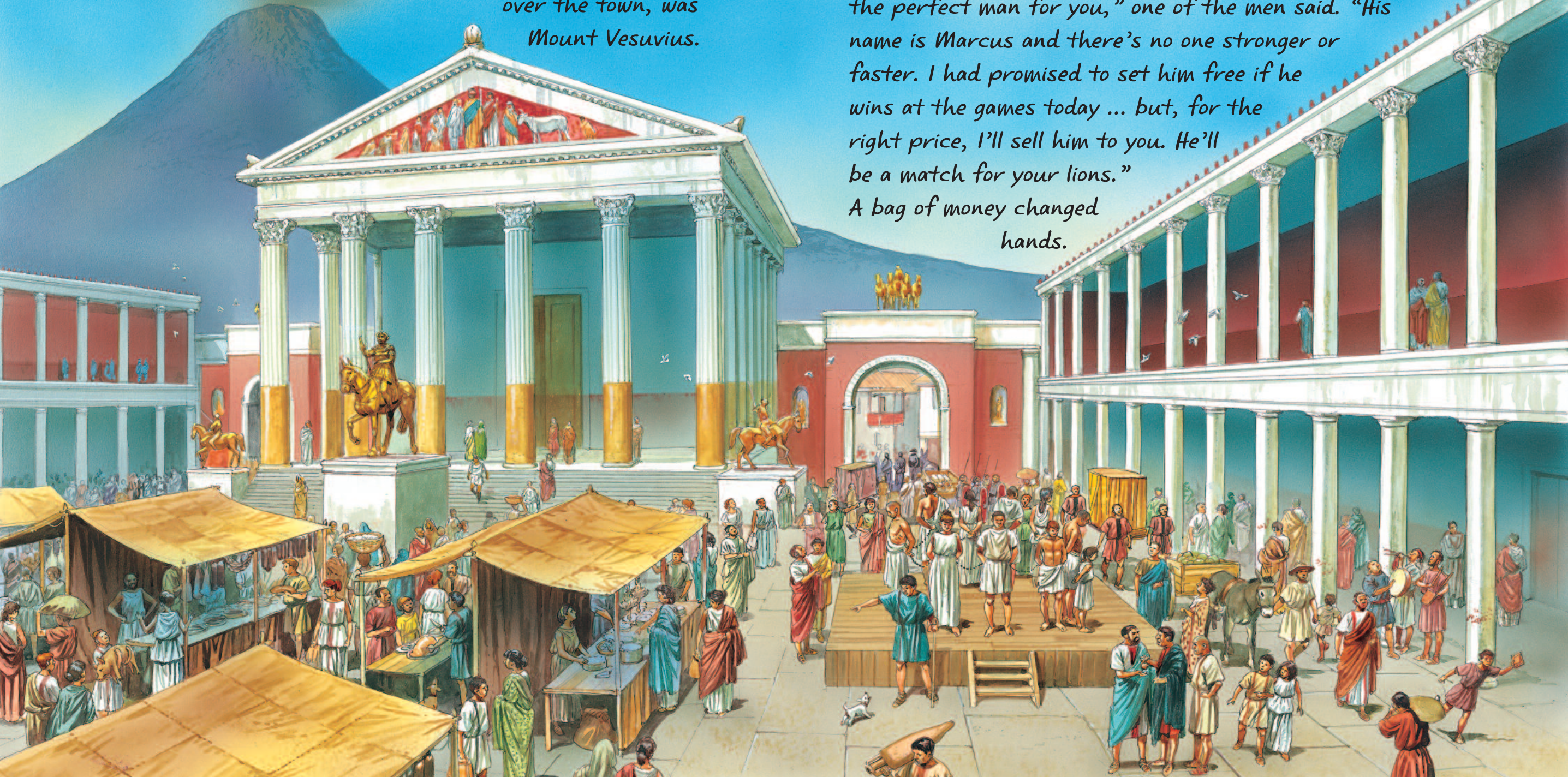
The banquet was AMAZING. Josh, Livia and I waited on the guests as they lay on couches eating strange dishes (yes, even that mouse!) while musicians played. I overheard Livia's master saying something about a "shivering" mountain called Vesuvius. Vesuvius? That name sounded familiar ...

"You there, kids!" snarled a nasty-looking servant. "Go and fetch some more wine for the guests!"



The next day we went exploring. So THIS was Pompeii. The main square was called the forum. It had a market with all sorts of things for sale — including slaves. And there, looming over the town, was Mount Vesuvius.

While we were in the market, we saw that nasty servant again. He was standing next to two men talking about a new attraction at the gladiator games: **FIGHTING LIONS!** “I have the perfect man for you,” one of the men said. “His name is Marcus and there’s no one stronger or faster. I had promised to set him free if he wins at the games today ... but, for the right price, I’ll sell him to you. He’ll be a match for your lions.” A bag of money changed hands.



THE ROMAN EMPIRE

The Roman Empire reached its greatest extent during the rule of Emperor Trajan. He led a series of military operations, capturing lands in the east: Armenia, Assyria and Mesopotamia. By AD 117, the Roman Empire stretched from the borders of Scotland to the deserts of Egypt, from the Atlantic Ocean to the Red Sea, a region of some 6.5 million square kilometres. It included all the lands surrounding the Mediterranean Sea

Nearly 90 million people lived under Roman rule. In AD 212, every free inhabitant (those that were not slaves) living in the Empire was granted citizenship.

A Roman cavalryman



Roman rule was forceful, but also respectful of local customs, language and religion. The language of Rome, Latin, was gradually introduced in the west, and eventually became the language of much of the empire, although Greek remained widespread in the east.



This panorama of ancient Rome shows the Temple of Venus and Rome (1), the Emperor's palace on Palatine Hill (2), the Colosseum (3), the greatest amphitheatre of all, and the *Circus Maximus* (4), where chariot races were held.



For efficient government, the conquered territories were divided into provinces. Each province was ruled by a governor. Some vital provinces, including Aegyptus (present-day Egypt), the major food-producer of the Empire, were ruled by a senior official called a legate, appointed by the Emperor himself. All the provinces were linked by a network of new roads. They were used by the army, traders and messengers.

Rome itself was the capital of the Roman Empire and the home of its Emperor. Goods, such as grain, olive oil, wine, ivory, spices and silks, poured into the city from all corners of Empire. Famed for its magnificent buildings, Rome had more than one million inhabitants. Its wealthy citizens lived in great luxury, while the poor, the vast majority of its residents, were crammed into overcrowded apartment blocks that lined the squalid, stinking narrow streets.

Few apartments had running water. Fires broke out frequently. At night the city was plunged into darkness and the streets became the domain of thieves and murderers.

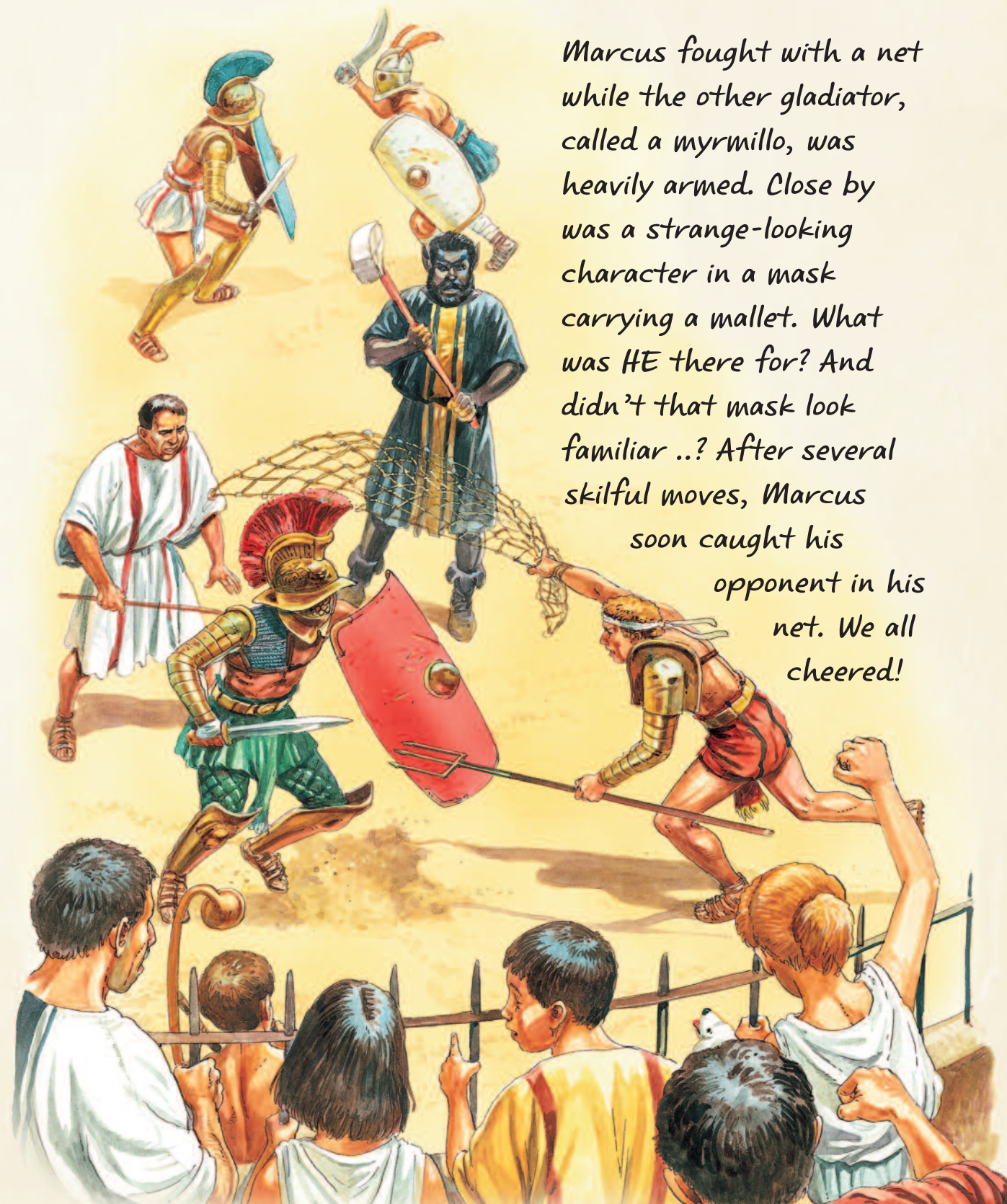


A Roman provincial governor receives tax, a proportion of earnings, from a leader of one of the local tribes. Some of the money was used to pay for the army and local building projects.

We raced back to tell Livia. "Marcus is in BIG trouble! We overheard his master in the forum. He's sold him to another trainer to fight LIONS!!! He will NOT earn his freedom, not even if he wins the contest today. We must warn him!" We dashed off to the amphitheatre where the gladiators' contest was about to begin. It was a huge stadium with a flat, sandy, oval-shaped area in the middle. Rising steeply all round were loads and loads of steps where people sat to watch.



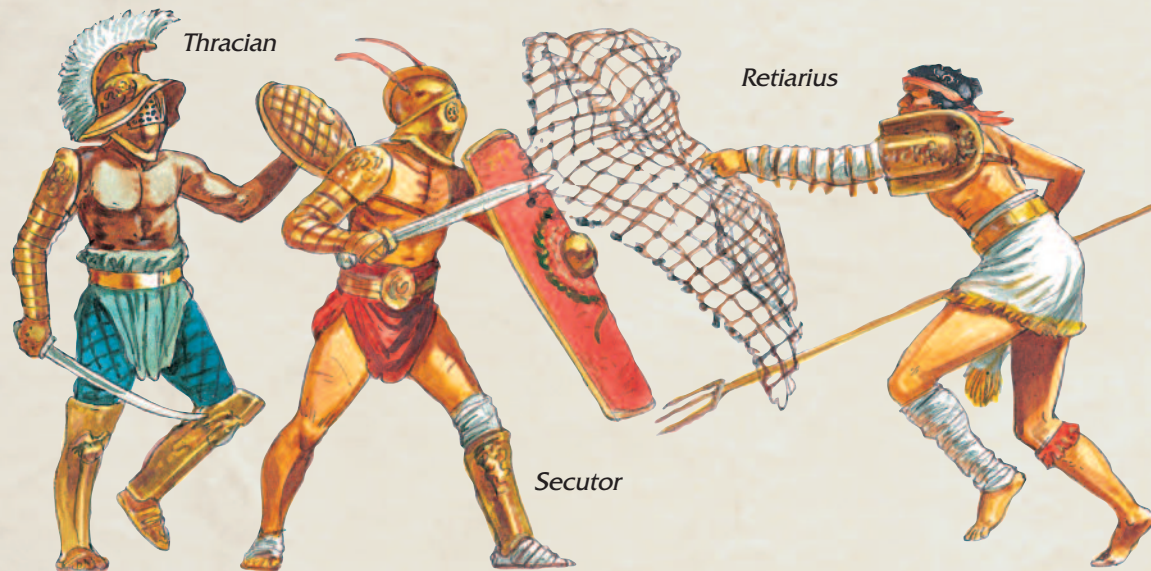
Marcus fought with a net while the other gladiator, called a myrmillo, was heavily armed. Close by was a strange-looking character in a mask carrying a mallet. What was HE there for? And didn't that mask look familiar ..? After several skilful moves, Marcus soon caught his opponent in his net. We all cheered!



GLADIATORS OF ROME

Gladiators were slaves or criminals who were trained to fight one another—often to the death—as the crowds looked on. Gladiatorial contests, called *munerae*, were held in stadiums known as amphitheatres. An oval-shaped area covered in sand, the arena (from the Latin *barena*) was surrounded by rows of seats rising around it. Gladiators fought with swords and shields, or with tridents and nets. Different types were distinguished by the type of armour or weapons they had.

The *Thracian* and *Samnite* were dressed up as barbarians, peoples the Romans had defeated. The *Hoplomachus*, in the uniform of a Greek soldier, also represented a defeated people. The *Myrmillo*, with his crested helmet, was a mythical “fish-man”. The *Secutor* wore a smooth, rounded helmet that protected him from the blow of the trident, but made it difficult for him to keep his opponent in his line of vision. The *Dimachaerius* fought with two swords, but no shield, while the *Retiarius*, helmetless and almost without any defensive armour, had a trident and a net for weapons. The *Essadarius* went into battle on a chariot.

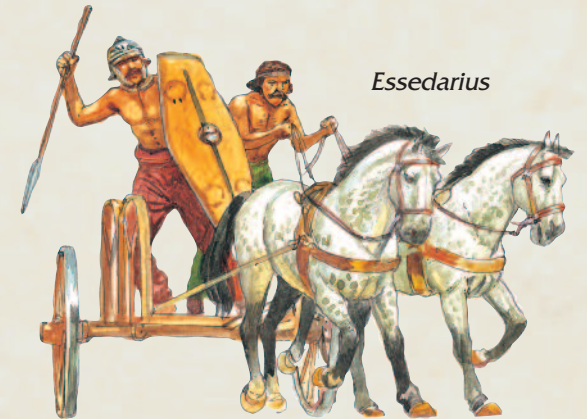


Gladiatorial games began with a procession (*pompa*) of the gladiators. It was led by the sponsor of the games, known as the *editor*. In Rome, this was usually the Emperor himself. Mock fights were followed by animal hunts in which the animals, such as tigers, leopards, lions, elephants and rhinoceroses, were pitted against one other, or were killed by a *Bestiarius*.

After the morning's events came the execution of criminals. These, according to the Romans, included Christians. Sometimes, they were forced to perform in mock mythological plays which ended in the real death of the leading “actor”. Other times, in a particularly cruel act, the condemned were thrown into the arena along with dangerous animals without any means of defending themselves. On occasions, the arena was flooded and a full-scale naval battle, known as a *naumachia*, complete with ships, was staged.

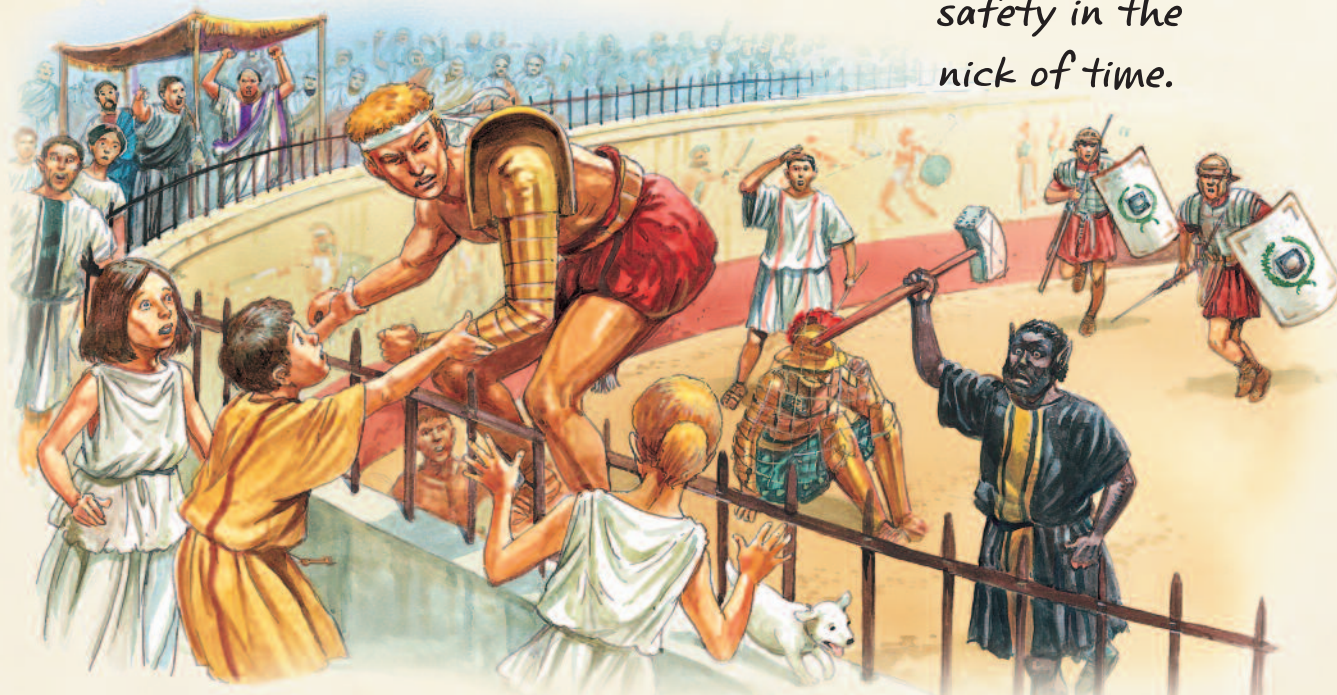
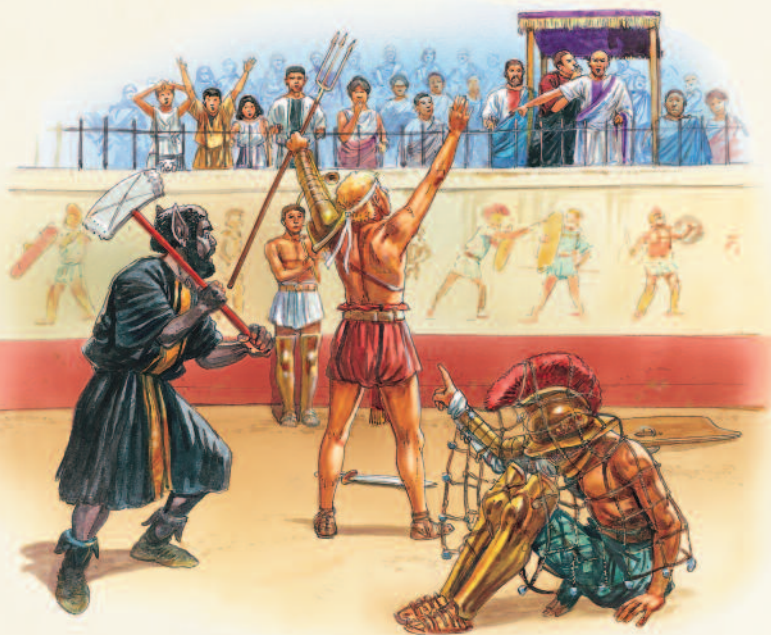


The high point of the games came in the afternoon: combats (*paria*) between individual gladiators. These were usually fights between different types of gladiators, refereed by a *lanista*, the manager of a gladiatorial school. When a gladiator was wounded and conceded defeat, he would hold up an index finger. According to popular belief, the crowd would indicate with a “thumbs up” whether they wished the defeated gladiator to be spared, or with a “thumbs down” if he was to be killed. It was the decision of the sponsor of the games whether or not the defeated gladiator would be given a reprieve (*missio*). A gladiator condemned was not to plead for mercy, but to die with dignity. If a gladiator was killed, a man dressed as Charon, the ferryman of Hades, would strike his head with a mallet to make sure he was dead before a slave dragged the body away with a hook.



While Marcus raised his arms in triumph, the defeated myrmillo weakly pointed his finger weakly upwards. A man wearing a purple and white toga, known as the "editor", was in charge of the games. He decided to let the myrmillo live. But when Marcus demanded to be set free, the editor ordered him to the dungeons instead. "You promised me!" Marcus shouted angrily to his master, but no one listened. Just then, the masked man came up behind Marcus with his mallet ready to strike ...

"LOOK OUT!" we cried. Marcus saw the danger and leapt to safety in the nick of time.

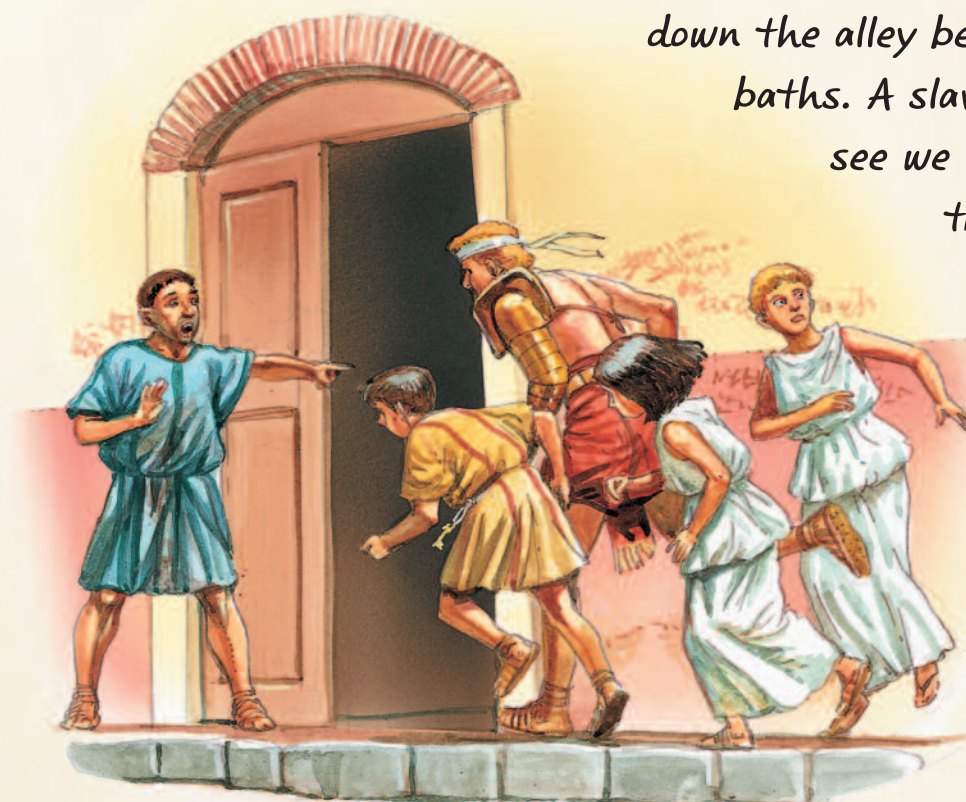


All four of us made a dash for the exit and out into the streets of Pompeii. We could hear soldiers roaring at us to stop as they chased us through the streets. "Haven't we seen that guy in the mask before?" I shouted to Josh

as we ran, but

he was too out of breath to answer.

We rounded a corner and tore down the alley behind the baths. A slave, who could see we were in trouble, showed us the way in through the back door.



THE ROMAN ARMY

The Roman Empire could not have been created without its mighty army.

At the height of the empire's success, the soldiers were highly-trained and well-equipped professionals.

In the early days of the republic, only citizens who owned land were allowed to join the army. Very few were full-time soldiers. Once Rome began to fight wars overseas, a bigger and better army was needed. Now any citizen, whether a



landowner or not, could enlist.

Each was given weapons, food and training, and paid a wage.

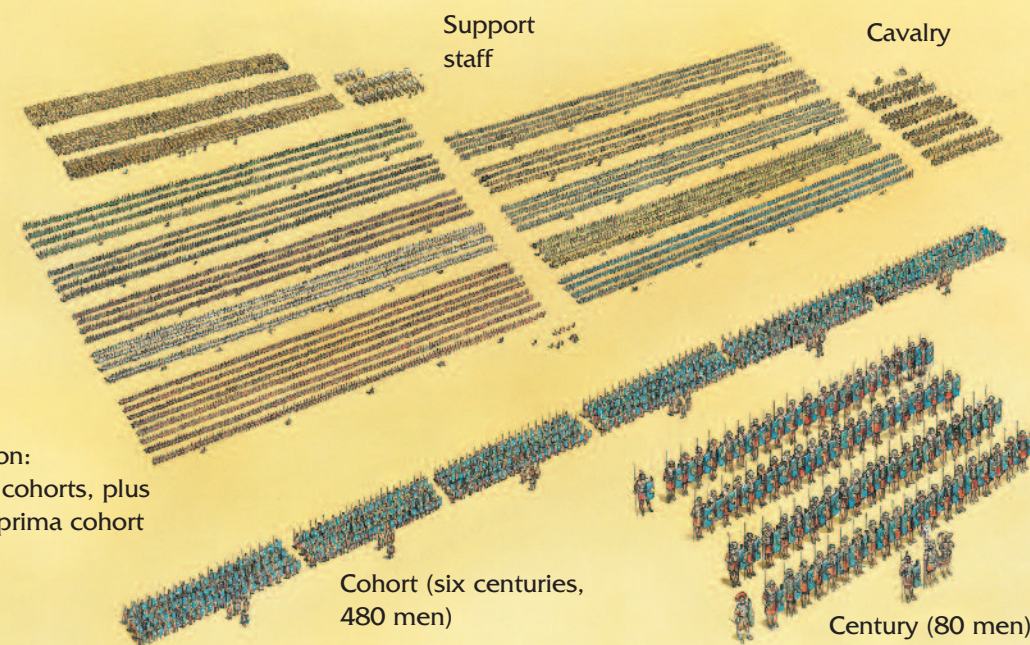
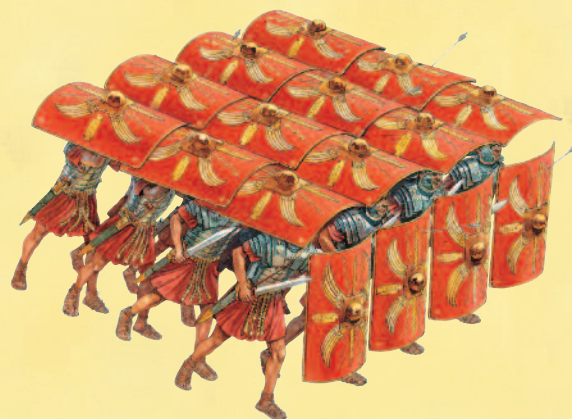
Roman footsoldiers (above and left) were known as legionaries. They had to be at least 1.75 metres tall. A legionary wore an iron helmet and armour over a woollen tunic and leather kilt. In times

of war, he had to march up to 30 km a day to reach the battlefield, carrying his weapons, shield, bedroll, cooking pans and provisions.

The centurion (right) was in charge of a century, a group of 100 (later 80) legionaries. He wore silvered armour and a plumed helmet to show his higher rank. He carried a crooked vine stick used to beat disobedient soldiers with. The *primus pilus* was the senior centurion in a legion.



The Romans fought battles with spears or swords. Their ranks were added to by auxiliaries, foreign warriors. Roman soldiers used a clever fighting formation called the *testudo*, or tortoise (below). The men overlapped their shields over their heads and in front of them as they advanced.



This created a very effective barrier against spears and arrows, and allowed the men to get close to the enemy. To capture cities, the Roman army would mount a siege, surrounding the city walls so that nobody could escape, nor any food or equipment be brought in. Soldiers then used catapults to launch rocks at the walls, or battering rams to break down gates.

The Roman army was divided into groups of about 6000 men, known as legions. The *contubernium* was the army's basic unit: it consisted of eight soldiers who lived, trained and fought together. Ten *contubernia* (80 men) made up a century, and six centuries made up a standard cohort. Each legion had nine standard cohorts, together with one special cohort, called the prima cohort, which consisted of 10 centuries, or 800 men. Every century had its own commander (centurion) and standard bearer, the signifer (right). The bearer of the legion's standard, a gold or silver eagle, was called the aquilifer. A legion was commanded by a legate, who had the assistance of six tribunes.



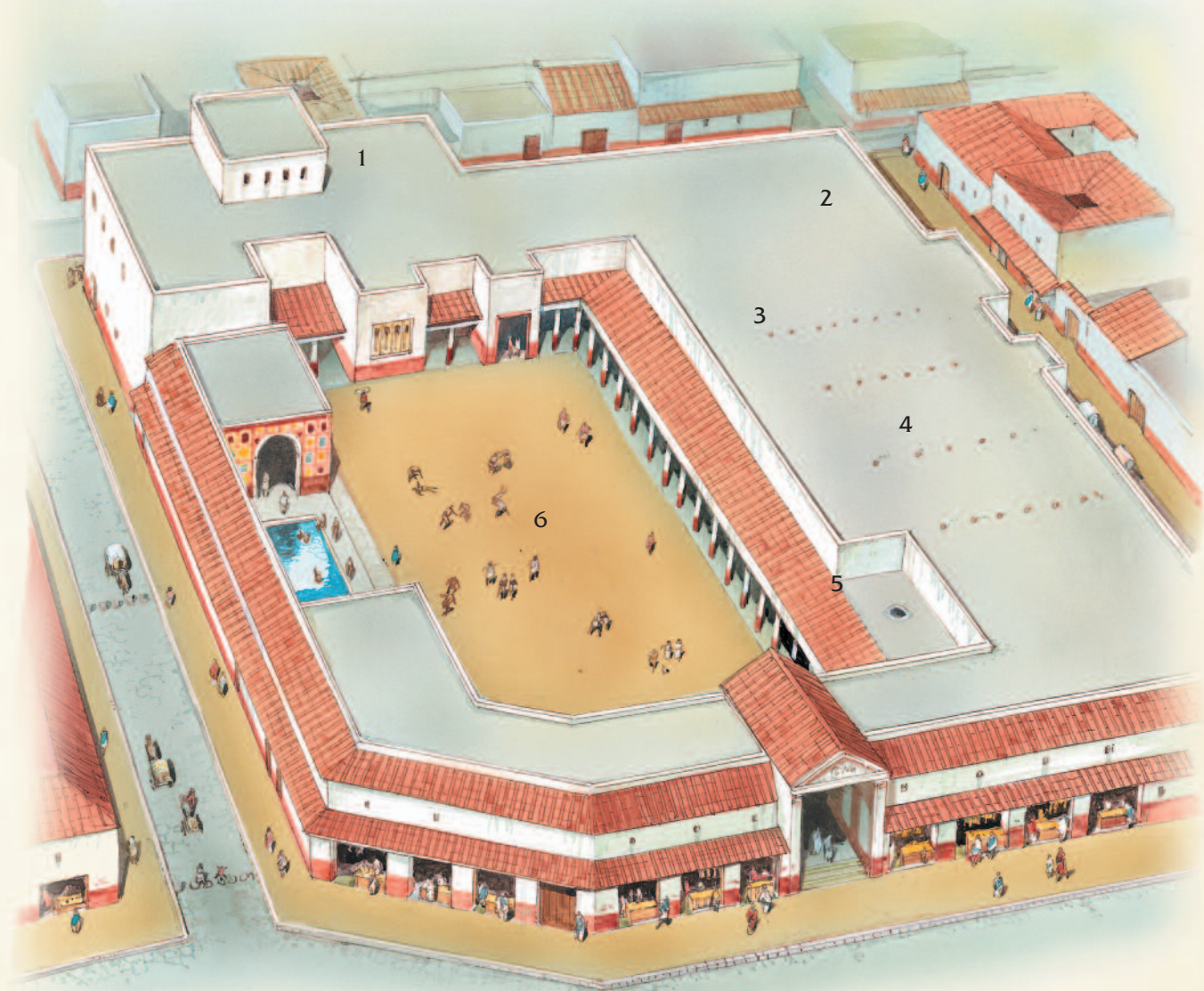
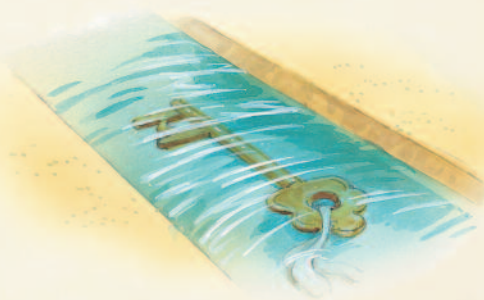


“You can hide here in the boiler room”, the slave said. It was SO hot in there. The hot air stung the back of my throat as I gasped for breath. We hoped we wouldn’t have to be here for too long. Marcus looked bewildered.

“Could someone PLEASE tell me what’s going on?” “It’s your master, Marcus”, Livia began. “He’s sold you to the lion-keeper because you are great gladiator. We tried to warn you ...”

Suddenly,

the door burst open and the guards rushed in. They seized Marcus, but they couldn’t catch us.



- KEY
- 1 Toilets
 - 2 Women’s frigidarium
 - 3 Women’s caldarium
 - 4 Men’s caldarium
 - 5 Men’s frigidarium
 - 6 Palaestra (exercise yard)

We raced through long hallways and out into what looked like a large exercise yard. After we had reached the front entrance, we realised the guards had given up chasing us. Livia had to return to the house, but we agreed to meet up later to try to rescue Marcus.

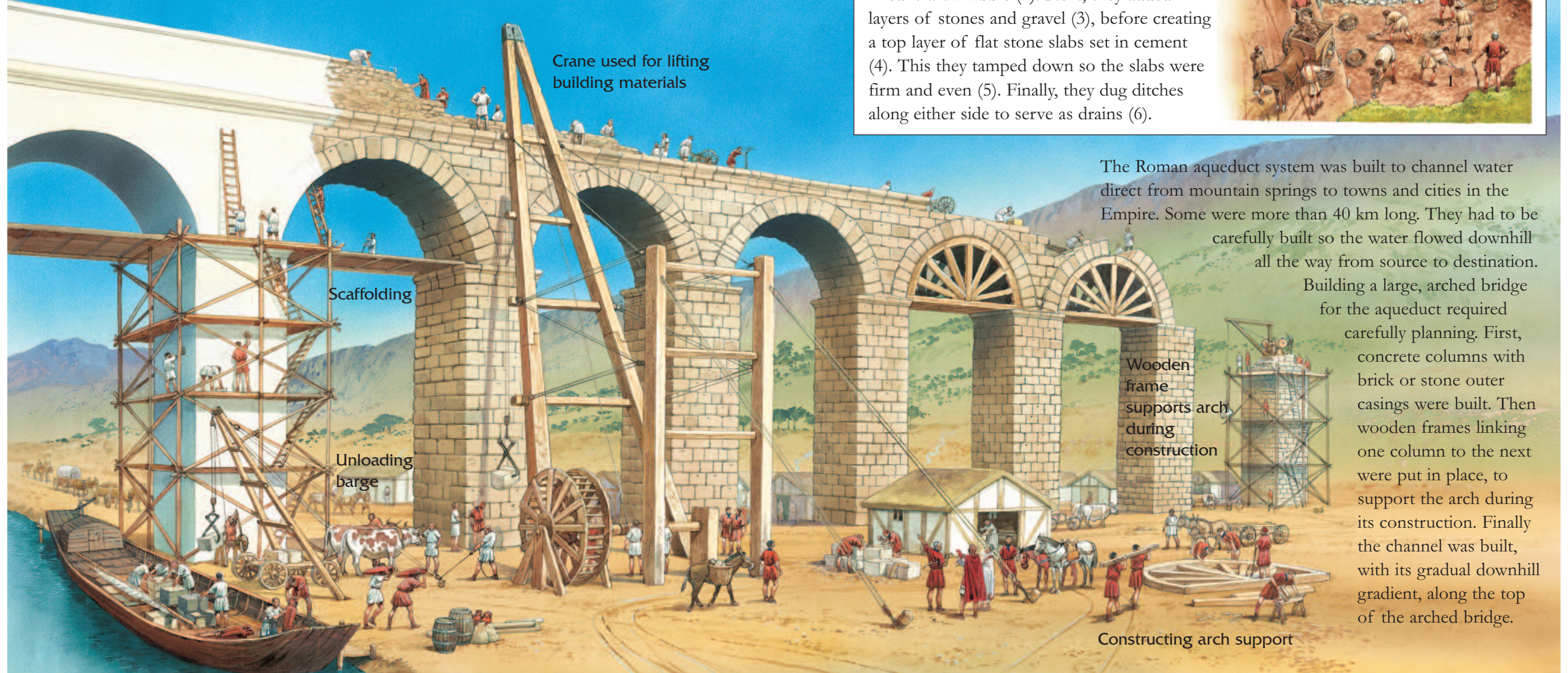
ROMAN ENGINEERING

Roman architects and engineers built many amazing structures that still stand today. Their invention of concrete, a mixture of quicklime, volcanic ash, stones and water, gave them a building material that was both strong and light. Many Roman buildings and structures have concrete cores, faced with marble, stone or brick.

Rounded arches were much used by the Roman engineers. The architectural strength of this shape allowed the construction of bridges and aqueducts across wide valleys.

ROAD BUILDING

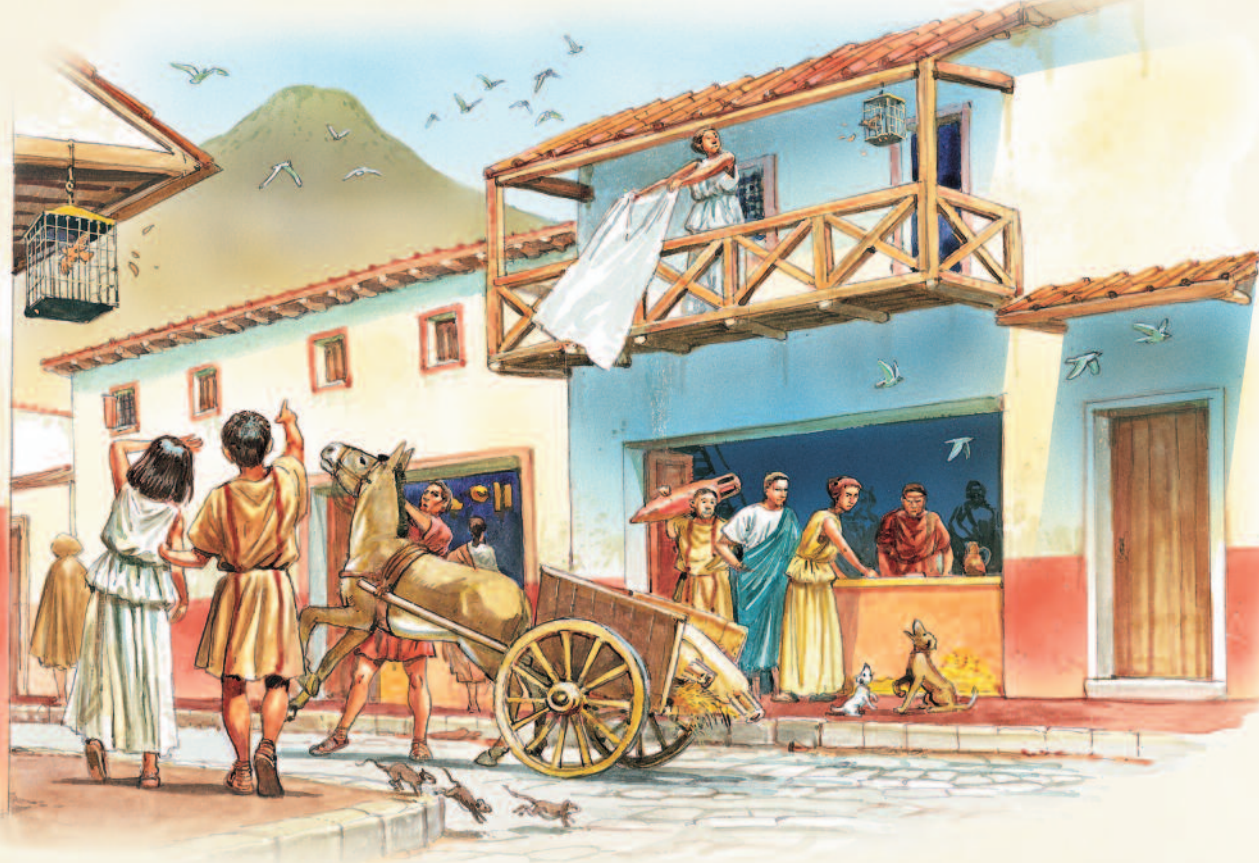
Roads were vital to the effective rule of the Roman Empire. They allowed troops and goods to be moved from place to place. The Romans used their engineering expertise to build long-lasting, straight roads. First, the workers dug out a trench (1) then partially filled it with rubble (2). Next, they added layers of stones and gravel (3), before creating a top layer of flat stone slabs set in cement (4). This they tamped down so the slabs were firm and even (5). Finally, they dug ditches along either side to serve as drains (6).



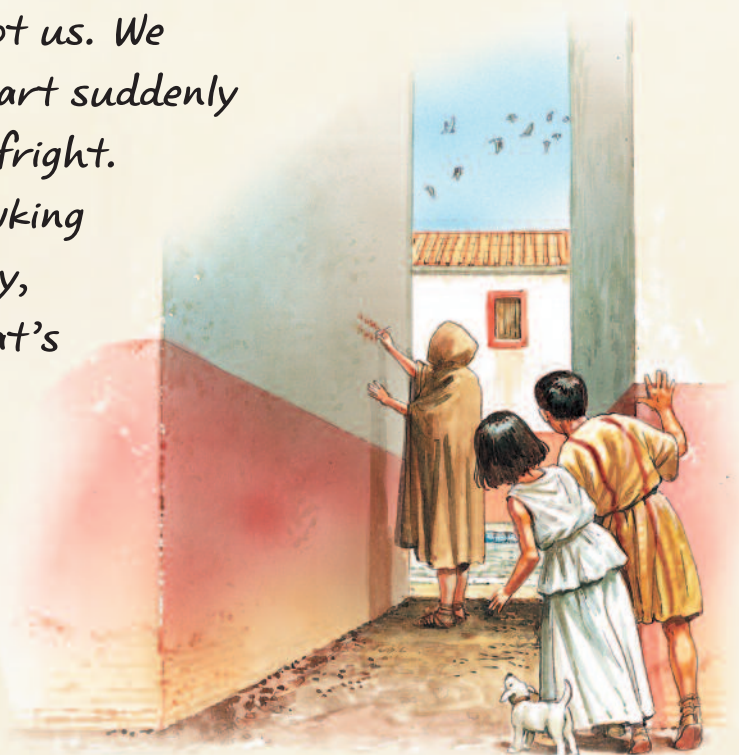
The Roman aqueduct system was built to channel water direct from mountain springs to towns and cities in the Empire. Some were more than 40 km long. They had to be carefully built so the water flowed downhill all the way from source to destination.

Building a large, arched bridge for the aqueduct required carefully planning. First, concrete columns with brick or stone outer casings were built. Then wooden frames linking one column to the next were put in place, to support the arch during its construction. Finally the channel was built, with its gradual downhill gradient, along the top of the arched bridge.

Constructing arch support



We wandered through the streets of Pompeii hoping none of the soldiers would spot us. We watched as a mule pulling a cart suddenly reared up on its back legs in fright. Birds were going crazy, squawking and flapping their wings wildly, while dogs were howling. "What's up with the animals round here?" asked Josh. Then we caught sight of a man in a hooded cloak scribbling on a wall just off the main street.



We couldn't quite see his face. When he'd finished, he scurried off, pointing at the wall and croaking: "Read it!" We looked at the Latin words. Hmm. We're going to need a bit of help with this, I thought.

AMICI, UT GLADIATOREM
SERVETIS. PRIMUM AUXILIUM
IN THEATRUM HISTRIONIBUS
PETENDUM EST. CAVE
PERSONAM. AGITE CELERITER
OPPIDUM MAGNO
IN PERICULO EST.

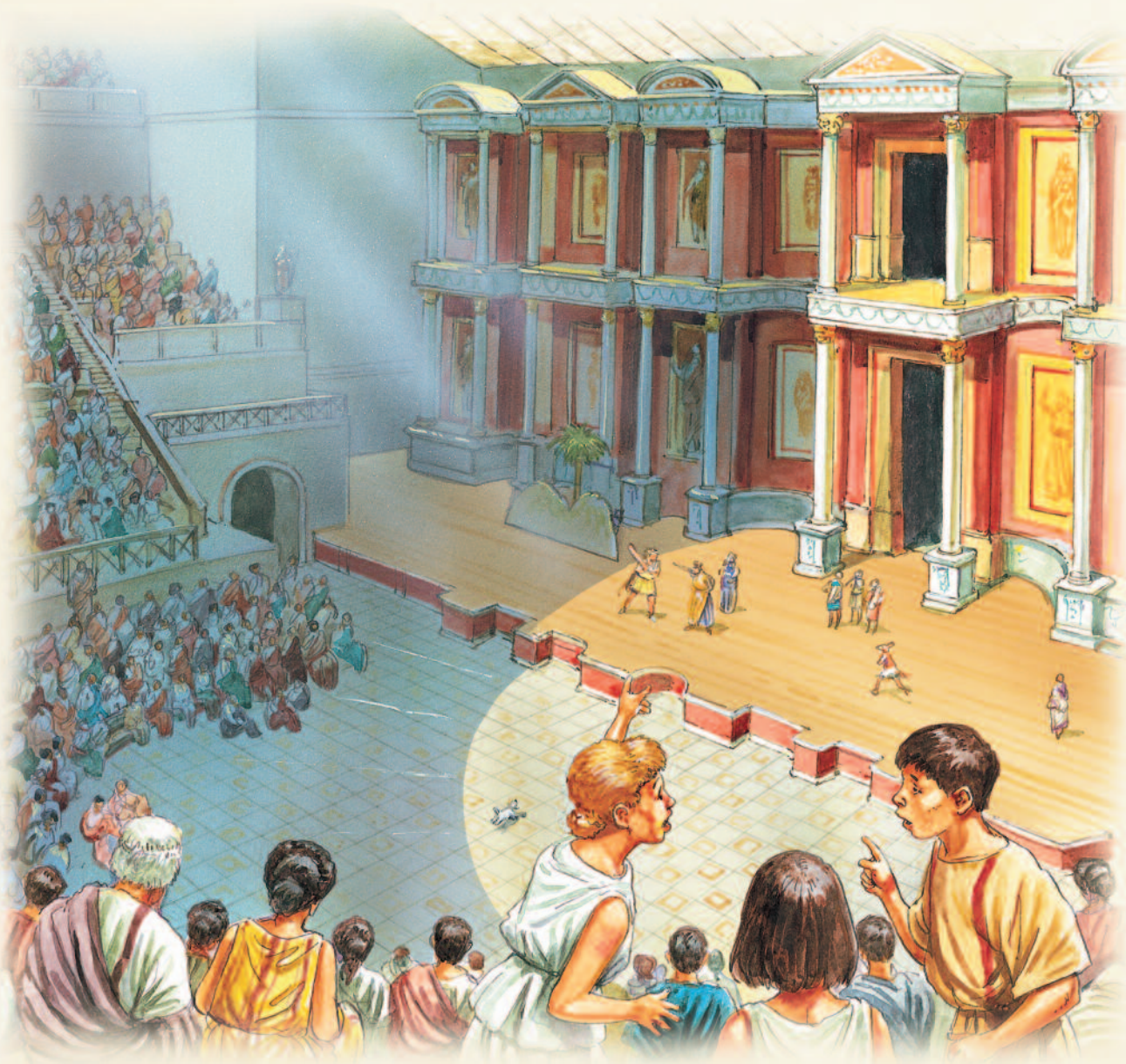
* Use the phrasebook on the last page of this book to solve the clue.

Luckily, we had a COOL phrasebook with us. Only one word, "IN", was familiar. Josh pointed at "GLADIATOREM". "That must mean 'gladiator'. Look up the word after it, Maisie".

"Ah, here it is: SERVETIS means 'you help'. You help the gladiator? It must be about Marcus! That man is telling us how we can help him." We quickly translated the whole message, then rushed to find Livia. We asked her master if we could go to the theatre later that day.



We arrived at the theatre just as the play was beginning. Each actor wore a different mask. Livia said we should be closer to the stage so we could get the actors' attention when the play ended. As we hurried down the steps, the music began and the lead actor, Gallus, started to speak.



As soon as we reached the stage we spotted one of the actors creeping up behind Gallus holding a dagger. He had the **SAME MASK** as the man who tried to club Marcus at the games! Now I knew where we had seen him before. "Josh,

that's the **MURDERER** from Granddad's book", I gasped. "LOOK OUT!" we both screamed. Gallus stopped and looked at us. The other actors, quickly realising there was no part for a murderer in this play, grabbed the attacker. In the struggle, his mask fell off. It was the



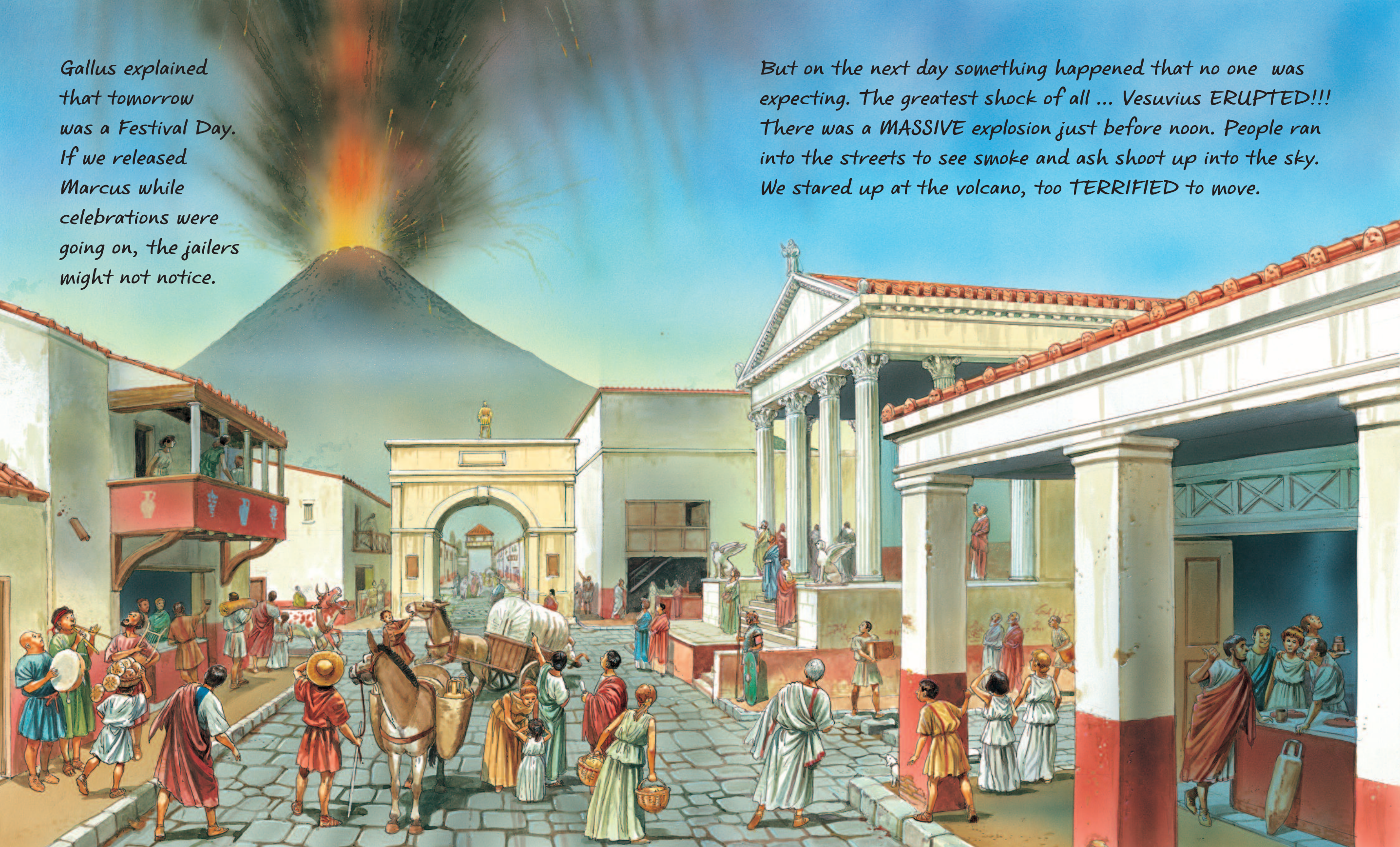
nasty-looking servant! Afterwards, in the actors' dressing-room, we explained why we had come.

"This man knows Marcus is my friend," said Gallus. "That's why he wanted to kill me. He knew I'd help rescue him."



Gallus explained that tomorrow was a Festival Day. If we released Marcus while celebrations were going on, the jailers might not notice.

But on the next day something happened that no one was expecting. The greatest shock of all ... Vesuvius ERUPTED!!! There was a MASSIVE explosion just before noon. People ran into the streets to see smoke and ash shoot up into the sky. We stared up at the volcano, too TERRIFIED to move.

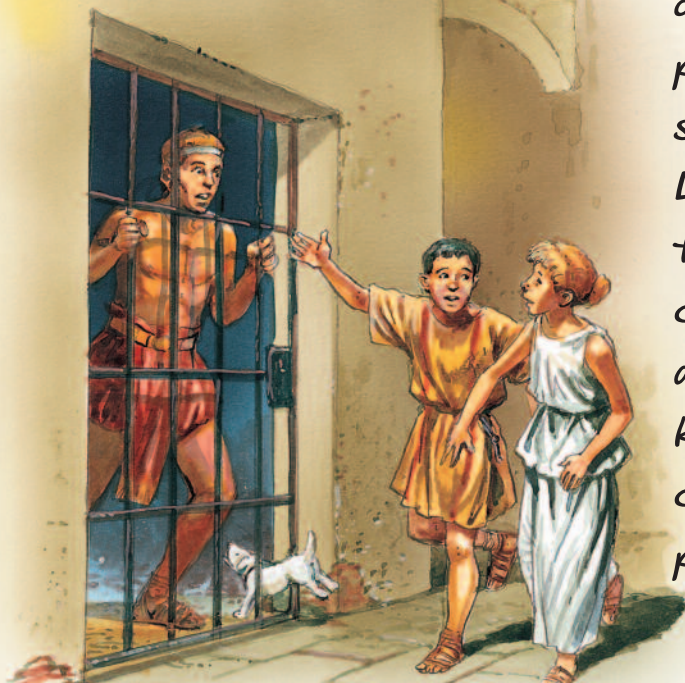


It grew dark and lightning flashed across the sky. Small flakes of ash began to fall. Panic set in: everyone started screaming and running for cover. There was no time to lose. "Livia, Josh," I said. "You go to the prison and find Marcus. I'll go and get the actors. We need to work FAST!"

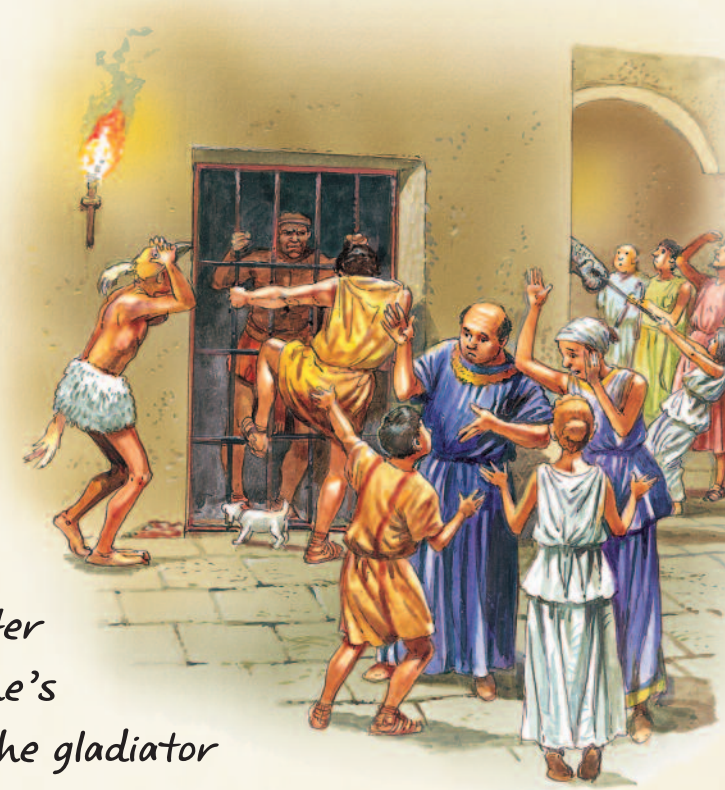


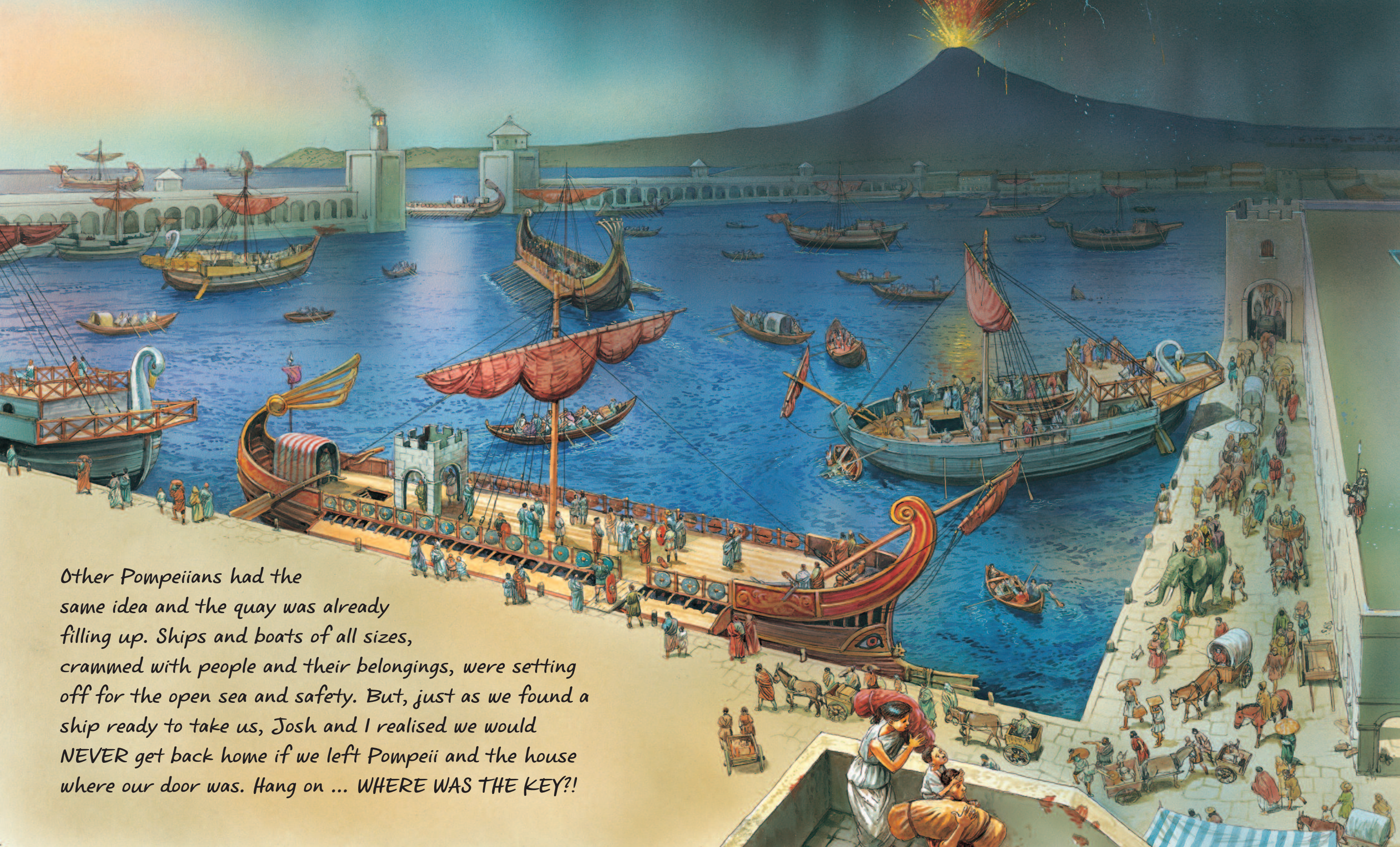
Josh and Livia ran off. As I turned to go, I spotted these Roman coins

someone must have dropped. I couldn't resist pocketing a few as souvenirs! When Josh and Livia reached the prison, they found Marcus in his cell alone. The guards had already fled, taking the keys with them. How could those thick bars be pulled down?



Luckily the actors knew EXACTLY how we could help Marcus escape — just as the mysterious message had told us they would. "Maisie! Are you nuts!?", Josh and Livia shrieked, when they saw who we had found to do the job: a huge ELEPHANT! "Her name is Festina," I replied. "She's part of the warm-up act for the gladiator show". "Hurry!" said Gallus. "Tie these straps to the bars." Festina ripped the bars out of the wall with ease and Marcus walked free. "Now we have to get out of Pompeii immediately" cried Gallus. "The gods are warning us a great calamity is about to strike. We have to find a ship to take us out to sea. The actors shouted together: "TO THE HARBOUR!!!"

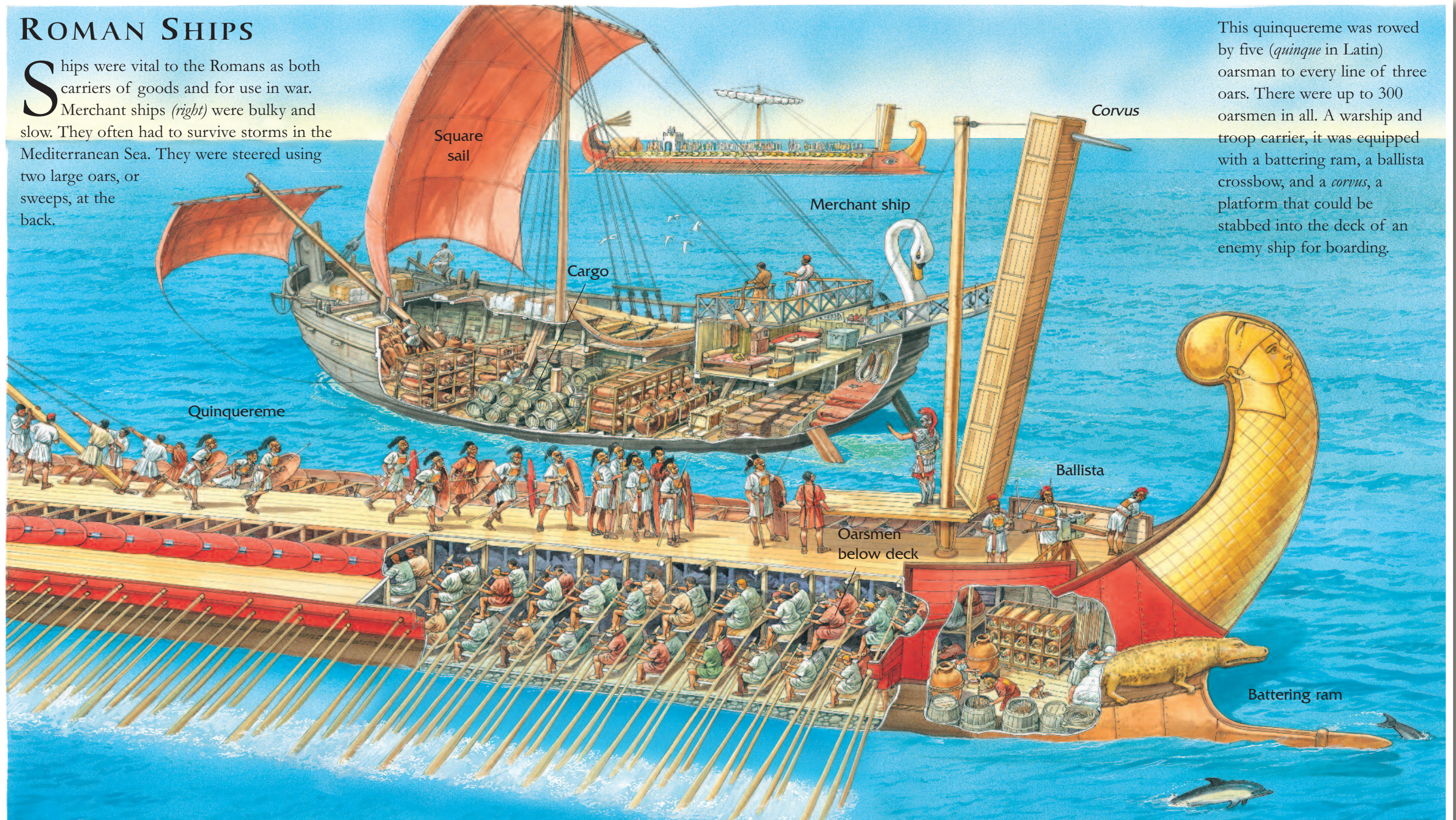




Other Pompeiians had the same idea and the quay was already filling up. Ships and boats of all sizes, crammed with people and their belongings, were setting off for the open sea and safety. But, just as we found a ship ready to take us, Josh and I realised we would NEVER get back home if we left Pompeii and the house where our door was. Hang on ... WHERE WAS THE KEY?!

ROMAN SHIPS

Ships were vital to the Romans as both carriers of goods and for use in war. Merchant ships (*right*) were bulky and slow. They often had to survive storms in the Mediterranean Sea. They were steered using two large oars, or sweeps, at the back.



This quinquereme was rowed by five (*quinque* in Latin) oarsman to every line of three oars. There were up to 300 oarsmen in all. A warship and troop carrier, it was equipped with a battering ram, a ballista crossbow, and a *corvus*, a platform that could be stabbed into the deck of an enemy ship for boarding.



We felt more hopeless than ever as the ash flakes fell heavily all around us. Just then, we heard a shout from the crowd. "Hey, you there! Remember me? I think you dropped something at the baths earlier." It was the man who helped

us hide in the boiler room. The key must have fallen off Josh's belt when we fled from the soldiers. "Oh thank you, THANK YOU!" we cried. "C'mon Josh! Let's go!" We knew we had to go back into the town — and into great danger — if we

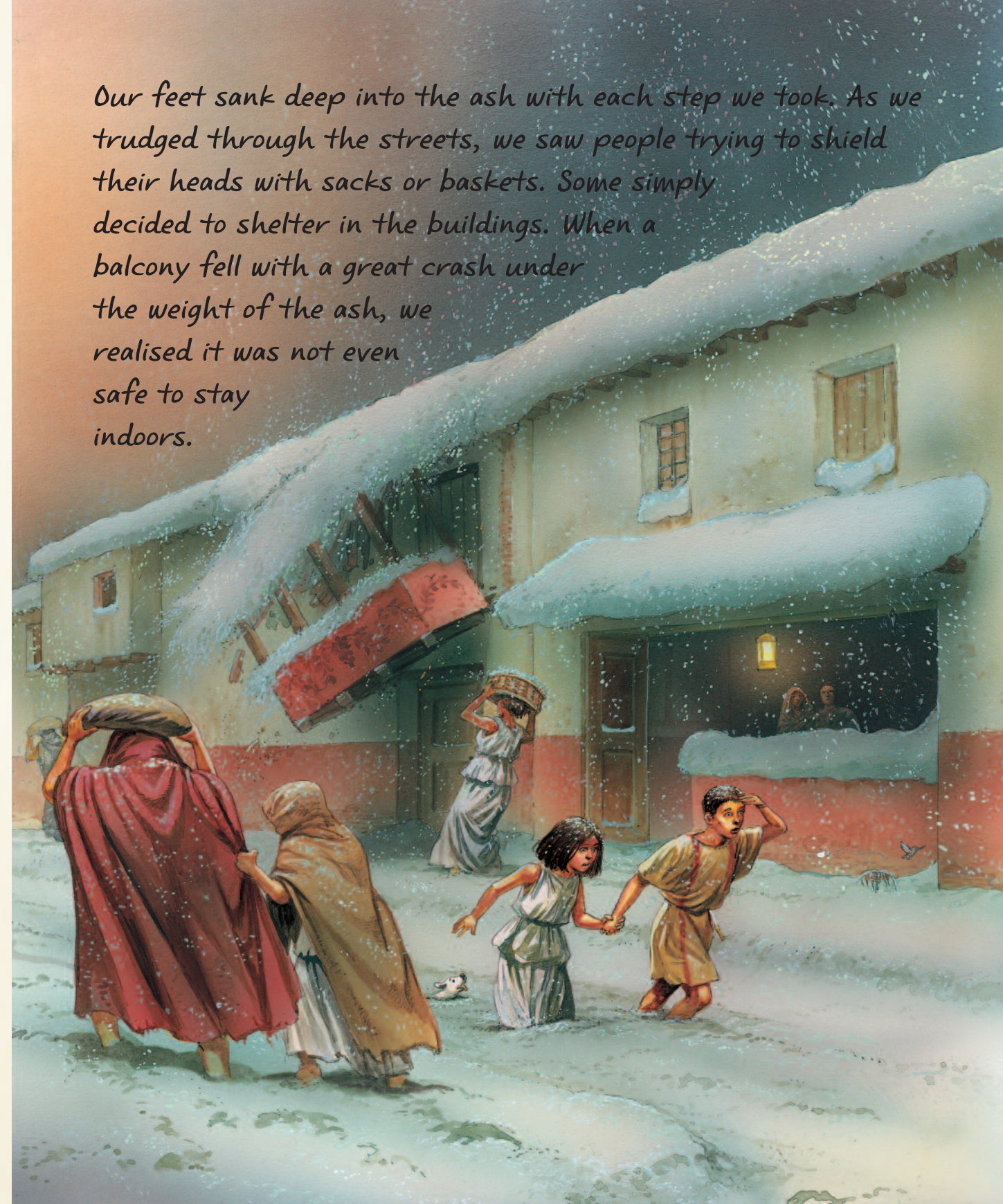


were ever going to see Granddad again.

The "snow" was falling VERY heavily now. It was almost up to our knees, making it almost impossible to run. A soldier, who still stood at his post in spite of the extreme danger, kindly pointed us in the right direction for Livia's house.



Our feet sank deep into the ash with each step we took. As we trudged through the streets, we saw people trying to shield their heads with sacks or baskets. Some simply decided to shelter in the buildings. When a balcony fell with a great crash under the weight of the ash, we realised it was not even safe to stay indoors.





At last we were at Livia's house again. Pushing the door open, we saw that ash had already piled up high in the hall. We soon found the storeroom and the small door that led to safety. "Woof!" came a tiny bark. "It's a PUPPY!" Josh cried, smiling broadly.

"He must have followed us. We can't just leave him here, can we Maisie? We'll just HAVE to take him with us!" There was a loud crash. We quickly unlocked the door and clambered through. Josh, with the puppy held tightly under his arm, pulled the door shut just in time as a mighty



blast came from the street outside. We fell on to the floor of Granddad's study. Moments later, Granddad himself peered in. "Everything OK in here?" We looked each other, and then at our new puppy. Uh-oh. We DEFINITELY had some explaining to do!



LATIN-ENGLISH PHRASEBOOK

CONVERSATION

Gratias tibi ago Thank you
 Nomen mihi est ... My name is ...
 Quid est tibi nomen? What's your name?
 Salve! / Salvete! Hello!
 Vade! / Vadite! (Let's) go!
 Vale! / Valet! Goodbye!
 Verendum Awesome; cool

USEFUL WORDS

Auxilium Help
 Cave! / Cavete! Beware!
 Ita Yes
 Magnus Great
 Parvus Small
 Non No
 Periculum Danger
 Primus First
 Ultimus Last
 Ut ... servetis In order for you to help



Jupiter

ACTIONS

Age! / Agite! Act!
 Festina / Festinate! Hurry!
 Fuge! / Fugite! Run!
 I! / Ite! Go!
 Petendum est Must be sought
 Pugna! / Pugnate! Fight!
 est is



Apollo

NOTE: When there are two versions given, e.g. Cave and Cavete, the first is used when talking to one person, the second when talking to more than one.

DESCRIBING ACTIONS

Celeriter Quickly
 Comiter Friendly
 Fortiter Bravely
 Lente Slowly
 Placide Gently
 Truculenter Fiercely

PEOPLE

Amici Friends
 Dominus Master
 Femina Woman
 Frater Brother
 Homo Man
 Histriones Actors
 Mater Mother
 Miles Soldier
 Pater Father
 Persona Masked man
 Servus Slave
 Soror Sister



Mars

NOTE: In Latin, the endings of the words change according to certain rules of grammar or according to whether the word is singular or plural.

PLACES

Balneum Bath house
 Carcer Dungeon
 Oppidum Town
 Theatrum Theatre
 Portus Harbour

ANIMALS

Bos Cow
 Canis Dog
 Feles Cat
 Elephans Elephant
 Equus Horse
 Aves Birds



Minerva

GLOSSARY

Amphitheatre A place where Romans went to watch entertainments. Usually roughly circular or semicircular with the stage in the centre.

Aqueduct A system of pipes and channels which brought clean water into towns from natural springs and rivers.

Barbarian A person who lived outside the Roman Empire.

Basilica A large public building, often built in the town's central square, where important local business was carried out.

Centurion Commanding officer of a century.

Century Army unit of 80 men

Cohort Roman infantry unit. Usually six centuries, 480 men. See prima cohort

Contubernium An army unit of eight men.

Denarius A silver coin.

Forum An open space in the middle of a town where markets were held. The forum was also a popular meeting place.



Gladiator A slave, criminal or prisoner of war trained to fight other gladiators and animals in arenas for the entertainment of the people.

Governor The ruler of a Roman province. Sometimes a high-ranking soldier would become governor of a province.

Hypocaust A central-heating system using hot air from a furnace forced through channels under floors and within walls.

Latin The official spoken and written language of the Roman Empire.

Legion The largest unit of the Roman army made up of between 5000 and 6000 men.

Prima cohort The largest cohort in a legion made up of ten centuries, or 800 men.

Republic Rome between 509 and 27 bc ruled by the Senate.

Senate A group of important men who helped govern both the Republic and the Empire.

Slave A person sold to another to work for them for free. Slaves had no rights, but could be granted their freedom by their masters.

Testudo A military formation where soldiers protected themselves with their shields.



