24th August AD79

Dear Diary,

I am unbelievably excited! First thing this morning, I noticed that something strange was occurring across the bay – smoke was coming from Mount Vesuvius! I had a feeling that it was beginning to erupt and my thoughts were confirmed when I received the message from my friend, Rectina. She seemed scared in her note however I am brave and want to get a closer look.

Luckily, my men were quick enough to gather together and bring me a ship to sail to Pompeii – I can’t wait to see it in action. I don’t think my nephew, Pliny the Younger, or my sister are happy with my choice to come here but I must see it with my own eyes.

As I am writing this entry in my diary, I am below-deck of the ship and I’ve just overheard that we will be approaching Pompeii in a few hours. The sound is getting louder and the water seems unusually choppy below - most people would be nervous, but not me!

When we dock in Pompeii, my first job will be to find Rectina. I need to get her on-board and get her to safety. Then, I will get myself closer to the action!

I will write again on my return.

Pliny (the Elder)