

Last days of Pompeii

Cerini, Investigator, 30s

Matt, Suspect, 20s

Matt and Cerini sit in front
of a take-away pizza.

Cerini opens the lid.

CERINI

It's fresh.

MATT

Can you actually believe this bullshit.

Matt rises, walks around
the room.

Cerini tucks in.

CERINI

Pretty good effort for the country. At least they deliver.
Guess they must've reopened the roads.

MATT

Pompeii pizzas. Give me a break. That's just so typical
of round here.

CERINI

I'm thinking they wanted something Italian. With the letter
P. I'd have gone for Pisa, as in leaning tower. Pisa
pizzas. Has a ring don't you think? You're missing out
here.

MATT

Pompeii isn't Italian. It's Roman.

CERINI

Pepperoni's pretty authentic. Really, you should try
some of this.

MATT

That just sums up this whole place. Too dumb or too stupid
to know what happened to Pompeii.

Matt sits down, tucks in.

CERINI

Must have been scary, those last few days.

MATT

Give me a break. Vesuvius had erupted before. And it smoked for days beforehand.

CERINI

You're saying they got what they deserved.

MATT

You build a city on the edge of a volcano, one day the earth will have its vengeance.

They both eat.

CERINI

Just one more thing.

MATT

I know what you're going to ask. Wouldn't have a Hawaiian in the house.

CERINI

Wasn't going to ask about pineapple and ham on your-

MATT

Messing with you. Give me a break. Course I'd have a Hawaiian. But she'd have to be cute.

Carini stands up, goes to the window and looks out.

MATT

See what I did there?

CERINI

Something is still bugging me about all this.

MATT

Nothing so bothersome as a bad bug. Bedbugs. Bugs on your phone. Any kind of bug you can name, you can bet it's bad. So be my guest. Mi case es su casa. That's Spanish. But you know all that. Quicker than the other coppers you are. They sent over their best. I should be flattered. And I am.

CERINI

You never once look at this view.

MATT

You know you're absolutely right. This pepperoni is the real deal. But the mozzarella. Mama Mia. Like soap squeezed out of someone's smelly sock.

CERINI

Most folks prefer a good old-fashioned lawn. Some have to see the sea. Not me. For me, your truly great view has three dimensions. Up here you got everything laid out, just the way you want it. Must feel like the king of the castle. An emperor. Like Nero.

MATT

My talents don't stretch to the fiddle.