The year is 50 B.C. Gaul is entirely occupied by the Romans. Well, not entirely... One small village of indomitable Gauls still holds out against the invaders. And life is not easy for the Roman legionaries who garrison the fortified camps of Totorum, Aquarium, Laudanum and Compendium...
a few of the Gauls

Asterix, the hero of these adventures. A shrewd, cunning little warrior; all perilous missions are immediately entrusted to him. Asterix gets his superhuman strength from the magic potion brewed by the druid Getafix...

Obelix, Asterix's inseparable friend. A menhir delivery-man by trade; addicted to wild boar. Obelix is always ready to drop everything and go off on a new adventure with Asterix - so long as there's wild boar to eat, and plenty of fighting.

Getafix, the venerable village druid. Gathers mistletoe and brews magic potions. His speciality is the potion which gives the drinker superhuman strength. But Getafix also has other recipes up his sleeve...

Finally, Vitalstatistix, the chief of the tribe. Majestic, brave and hot-tempered, the old warrior is respected by his men and feared by his enemies. Vitalstatistix himself has only one fear: he is afraid the sky may fall on his head tomorrow. But as he always says, 'Tomorrow never comes.'

Cacofonix, the bard. Opinion is divided as to his musical gifts. Cacofonix thinks he's a genius. Everyone else thinks he's unspeakable. But so long as he doesn't speak, let alone sing, everybody likes him...
THE ROMAN CAMP OF CONPENDIUM IS IN A FERVENT.
THE PREFECT OF GAUL, JOYUS ASPARAGUS, IS PAYING A
CALL ON CENTURION GRACCHUS ARMSPLUS.
THE PREFECT ARRIVES FROM THE NEARBY COAST
WHERE HIS GALLEY HAS PUT IN...

PRESENT...
PILUM!...

AVE PREFERE!
THIS IS A GREAT
HONOUR FOR
ME!

AVE, CENTURION!
YOU'RE TELLING
ME!

AND NOW FOR THE
PURPOSE OF MY VISIT, CENTURION!
I'M GOING TO ROME ON LEAVE
AND, JUST AS I TAKE
CAESAR A HANDSOME PRESENT...
SOMETHING UNUSUAL AND
VERY VALUABLE...

.. I DID THINK OF TAKING
HIM A PRESENT FROM
LUTIA, MAY BE A MARBLE
MEMO TABLET FOR HIM TO
CARVE DOWN HIS
APPOINTMENTS, BUT THAT'S
TOO ORDINARY...!

THEN I HAD A BRILLIANT IDEA!
WHY NOT TAKE CAESAR ONE OF THE
INVINCIBLE GAULS FROM HEREABOUTS?

WHAT?!

BUT, PREFERE, ABOUT
THOSE INVINCIBLE GAULS...
HERE'S JUST ONE
SNAG!

WELL, WHAT IS IT?

THEY HAPPEN TO BE
INVINCIBLE!

THAT'S WHAT MAKES THEM
SO VALUABLE! SET ME ONE OF
THOSE GAULS, AND YOU
WON'T REGRET IT!

THERE'S CERTAINLY ONE
WHO'S A BIT MORE HARMLESS
THAN THE OTHERS... CACOFONIX
THE BARD. HE OFTEN GOES FOR
WALKS IN THE FOREST BY HIMSELF
LOOKING FOR INSPIRATION.

EXCELLENT!
I MUST HAVE THIS
BARD—AND FAST!

AND IN THE GAULISH
VILLAGE...

GOODBYE, ASTERIX, I'M GOING
FOR A WALK IN THE FOREST!

GOODBYE, CACOFONIX!
NO CACOPHONY! DON'T GO TO THE FOREST!

AM TOUCHED BY YOUR SOLITUDE OBELIX!

IT'S NOT THAT. ONLY WHEN YOU SING IN THE FOREST YOU SCARE THE WILD BOARS AWAY!

BOOR! THE BOARS APPRECIATE MY MUSIC BETTER THAN YOU!

THAT'S ONLY NATURAL. YOU SING LIKE A PIG!

HAHAHA! HOHOOO!

BARRIANS! PHILISTINES! SAVAGES!

IN THE FOREST...

GO AND CAPTURE A BARD, GO AND CAPTURE A BARD...IT'S EASY TO SAY THAT!

IF I'M ALWAYS PICKED ON TO VOLUNTEER FOR DANGEROUS MISSIONS! IT'S NOT FAIR!!!!

QUIET! I HEARD A NOISE! TAKE COVER!

THIS WILL BE A GOOD PLACE TO SING...

maybe it's because I'm ARMoricAN

that I love Armorica so...

THESE GAULISH SECRET WEAPONS OUGHT TO BE BANNED BY THE HELVETIA CONVENTION!
RIGHT! I'VE THOUGHT OF A WAY TO COUNTER THE BARD'S SECRET WEAPON... WE ALL STUFF OUR EARS
WHAT WITH?

PARSLEY, THERE'S PLENTY OF IT AROUND. PARSLEY IN MY EARS? I DON'T FANCY THAT, I'LL FEEL LIKE SOMETHING OUT OF A BUTCHER'S SHOP.

NOW BACK INTO ANBUSH! WHEN I GIVE THE SIGNAL WE ALL ATTACK THE BARD! NOT UP YOUR NOSE, IDIOT!

COME ON, BOYS!

SOON AFTERWARDS...

NOW... WHAT SHALL I SING NEXT?

??? THE... THE OTHERS DIDN'T FOLLOW ME!

A FAN... AT LAST. SOMEONE WHO APPRECIATES GOOD MUSIC! STOP RIGHT THERE FRIEND. I WILL NOW GIVE YOU A REVELATION!

??? WHAT DID HE...

I'm only a bard in a gilded cage...

STOP! STOP! I CAN'T BEAR IT! SHUT UP! SHUT UP!

WELL? COULDN'T YOU HEAR ME SHOUTING, YOU COWARDLY LOT?

PARDON?
A MISSION ACCOMPLISHED: WE CAPTURED THE GAULISH BARD AT THE RISK OF OUR LIVES, ESPECIALLY MINE!

EXCELLENT! EXCELLENT!

THERE, IT WASN'T ALL THAT DIFFICULT...

THE TROUBLE IS WE CAN NOW EXPECT REPRISALS FROM THE OTHERS...

OH... ER... WELL, YES... WELL, I REALLY MUST BE GOING! FETCH MY UTTER! THE PRISONER AND I WILL LEAVE AT ONCE TO GO ON BOARD THE GALLEY FOR ROME...

MEANWHILE... THAT'S GOOD NEWS BUT I DON'T SUPPOSE HE'LL BE LONG

OBELIX, OUR BARD CACOFONIX HASN'T COME BACK YET

ASTERIX! ASTERIX! I SAW SOME ROMANS CAPTURING CACOFONIX!

ARE YOU SURE PIGANMIX?

I WAS OUT HUNTING WILD DIGLETS IN THE FOREST, AND I SAW IT ALL!

WHAT A FUNNY IDEA OF THE ROMANS! WHY EVER SHOULD THEY WANT TO LUMBER THEMSELVES WITH CACOFONIX?

ANYWAY, WE MUST AVENGE THIS INSULT! I'M OFF TO TELL OUR CHIEF VITALSTATISTIX THE NEWS!
O Vitalstatistix, our bard Calofonix has disappeared.
You're just saying that to please me...

The Romans have captured him.

What?

By Toutatis! Even if it is a funny idea of the Romans, that's not playing fair! We can't have this sort of thing!

A Gaul must know how to make his enemy respect him! We shall organize a punitive expedition! Let the druid prepare the magic potion!

Soon afterwards the Gaulish warriors are drinking the magic potion which gives them invincible strength...

No, not you! I've already told you you don't need any potion! You're strong enough as you are!

What, me strong? Not a bit of it! I'm as weak as anything!

Go on! I'll give you this nice menhir!

No no and for the third time no!

Silence! Our chief Vitalstatistix is going to make a speech!

Friends, Gauls, countrymen! We must give these Romans a good lesson. By Toutatis!

And remember, we have nothing to fear but the sky falling on our heads!

In the Roman camp of Compendium the troops have been alerted...

And remember, Romans, we have nothing to fear but the Gauls!
This is the first time Cacofonix has ever given us any entertainment. I say Asterix, how about a bet? The one who knocks out most legionaries wins, and we have to collect their helmets as proof.

At this very moment, at compendium... put your helmets on!!!

The Gauls! Sound the alarm!

Help! They're coming!

And inside the camp we observe the impressive spectacle of legionaries manoeuvring in accordance with the famous precision of the Roman army... cohorts into three lines... form!

Sound the horns, trumpets and bucinas!

Pilum at the ready!

Manoeuvre, by Jupiter!!!

We can't! The Gauls are in the way!

Whoa...
I can't find Cacofonix anywhere... ah, there's the Roman commander!

I shall fight to the death!

Want me to thump you?

Oh all right! All is lost! I surrender! Alea iacta est!

And let it be a lesson to you! Now, give us back our bard, and don't do it again!

The fact is... your bard isn't here any more. At this moment he's on board a galley, sailing for Rome to be given to Caesar as a present...

We're wasting our time...

A present? That's a really funny idea!

Look at this Asterix! I'm sure I've won our bet! And one legionary was fighting bare-headed too. It's against all the rules of warfare to go into battle improperly dressed! I've a good mind to report him!

The Gauls withdraw, leaving behind them the aftermath of battle...

They really let us have it, eh, sir?

In the first place, get this camp back into order!!! What's all this untidiness in aid of? And don't anyone ever mention this battle to me again!!!
You come with me, Asterix, and I'll make you a gourd of magic potion...

I'll just go and find someone to deliver my menhirs while I'm away...

I don't know that I'm cut out for this sort of work...

I'm relying on you, you needn't deliver more than one at a time to start with.

Come on, Obelix, it's time to leave.

Come, Asterix!

Take care!

Don't worry! If the Romans aren't nice to us we'll leave their city full of ruins.

Asterix, what's the Latin for wild boar?

Singularis Porcus. But I don't know if they have them in Rome.

Let's have a bet while we wait. We see how many dozen oysters we can eat, and the one who eats most wins a Singularis Porcus.

Look! A ship! We're in luck!

Ah! Don't we wait for the next one? Then we could have our bet.
We're from Tyre in Phoenicia. My name is Ekonomikrisis. Would you like to buy any glass, jewels, textiles, purple, furniture?

No, we want to go to Rome.

Are those slaves?

Oh no, they're partners... When we floated the company, I drew up the contract and they failed to read it carefully before signing. I'm chairman and managing director.

It sank?

No, he sold it. He was a better salesman than a sailman.

Now to stop this ship sailing along the coast!

Asterix and Obelix make the ancient Gaulish sign indicating a wish to be taken on board... Note the four clenched fingers and the thumb jerked in the desired direction. If you wish to go to Rome, the direction of the thumb is immaterial, since all roads lead there.

N.B. This gesture is still employed today, though not often to stop ships.

It's a Phoenician galley. The Phoenicians are famous sailors and merchants.

What's the Phoenician for singularis porcus?
A SAIL ON THE HORIZON, MR. CHAIRMAN!

IT MUST BE PIRATES: THEY MAY TAKE US PRISONER, KILL US OR EVEN WORSE STEAL OUR MERCHANDISE.

SURE ENOUGH ON BOARD THE PIRATE GALLEY...
SHIVER ME TIMBERS, WE'VE GOT 'EM, HEARTIES, PULL AWAY! THAT HEAVY PHOENICIAN SHIP WITH ALL ITS CARGO WILL NEVER ESCAPE US!

LETS PUSH THE BOAT OUT!

MY DEAR FELLOW DIRECTORS, I THINK WE SHALL BE OBLIGED TO FIGHT...
NO NO, MR. CHAIRMAN, OUR CONTRACT SAYS WE HAVE TO ROW, BUT THERE'S NOTHING IN THE SMALL PRINT ABOUT FIGHTING!

NOW I SUGGEST WE CHANGE THE CONTRACT, I HAVE AN IMPORTANT MODIFICATION TO MAKE
WE TOO!
ME TOO!
ME TOO!
ME TOO!
ME TOO!

WE CAN'T COUNT ON THESE CHATTER-BOXES TO FIGHT, WE'LL HAVE TO DEAL WITH THIS ON OUR OWN
GOODY: THERE'LL BE MORE ROOM! LOOK, HERE COME THE PIRATES, POOR THINGS!

THEY'RE WEARING HELMETS! WE CAN HAVE ANOTHER BET LIKE IVE DID WITH THE LEGIONARIES!

GIDDY GOAT'S HORN WILL MAKE JUST ONE MOUTHFUL OF THEM!

VANITAS VANITATUM ET OMINA VANITAS.

WE MIGHT ON THE ONE HAND HOLD AN EXTRAORDINARY GENERAL MEETING TO DISCUSS TERMS OF CONTRACT, WHILE ALTERNATIVELY, ON THE OTHER HAND...

WELL, I THINK THIS WOULD BE A VERY GOOD MOMENT TO...
AT 'EM HEARTIES!

BOING!

COME ON, OBELIX!

OO, YES!

WHAM!

HEEY! THAT'S AGAINST THE RULES. JUMPING INTO THE SEA IS AGAINST THE RULES!

NO! NO!

HI, NO!

I THINK THIS IS THE FIRST TIME I'VE Fought ON A BOAT... MAKES A NICE CHANGE...

I SAY, WOULD YOU LEND ME THAT ONE TO FINISH OFF?

CRISH!

CREEAAK!

AND WHEN OUR FRIENDS HAVE LEFT THE GALLEY...

THOSE GAULS NEVER MISS THE BOAT.

THERE, THAT'S THAT. WE'D BETTER GET BACK TO THE PHOENICIANS

I THOUGHT THEY HAD A BIGGER CREW ON THESE GALLEYS
YOU HAVE SAVED WHAT IS DEAREST TO OUR HEARTS - OUR CARGO! NOW WE'RE BOSOM FRIENDS!

ORIGINALLY INTENDED TO SELL YOU AS SLAVES WHEN WE CALLED AT THE NEXT PORT, BUT NOW I'LL TAKE YOU TO ROME AS AGREED.

YOU CERTAINLY DO HAVE BUSINESS ACUMEN.

WHAT CAN YOU EXPECT? AS I WAS SAYING TO MY PARTNERS, WE'RE ALL IN THE SAME BOAT, AND WE VESTED MOST OF OUR CASH, IF OUR OVERHEADS ARE NOT TO MAKE US GO UNDER!

MEANWHILE IN ROME...

AEE, CAESAR.

AVE ODUS ASPARAGUS.
PREFECT OF GAUL.

HERE'S MY PRESENT. O CAESAR, A JUVENAL BARD FROM THE TRIBE OF NOOMITABLE GAULS IN THE CONDENSATION AREA.

I'VE BEEN BROUGHT HERE AS A SOUVENIR... JUST AS IF I WAS A VICTIM PAINTED SHE...

A BARD? HOW INTERESTING!

THANKS FOR THIS ORIGINAL LITTLE PRESENT, PREFECT. YOU MAY GO!

YOU CAN WAIT TILL THE COWS COME HOME BEFORE I'LL SING FOR YOU... AND YOU DON'T KNOW WHAT YOU'RE MISSING!

SEND FOR CAUS FATTUS, THE JANISTA.

CAUS FATTUS, CAN YOU MAKE A GLADIATOR OF THIS BARD?

DEAR ME, NO. O CAESAR! HE'S TOO WEAK... NOT ENOUGH MEAT ON HIM.

IF I WISHT RESTRAINING MYSELF...

VERY WELL THEN, THROW HIM TO THE LIONS AT THE NEXT GAMES. TAKE HIM AWAY!
WE'RE NEARING THE END OF OUR VOYAGE. ROME IS A FEW HOURS WALK FROM THE PLACE WHERE WE'RE GOING TO LAND....

WE'LL BE STAYING HERE FOR A WHILE TO BUY AND SELL GOODS. IF YOU FINISH YOUR BUSINESS IN TIME WE'LL TAKE YOU BACK TO GAUL....

THANKS, EKONOMI-KRISIS!

HOIST THE FLAG!

SALE
FINAL CLEARANCE

JUST LOOK AT THIS, OBELIX! IF THE ROADS ARE SO WIDE AND STRAIGHT HERE, WHAT MUST IT BE LIKE IN ROME?

WE'RE THERE!

HOW ABOUT THAT HELMET GAME AGAIN? WE COULD HAVE A LOVELY FIGHT WITH ALL THESE ROMANS!

WE MUST START MAKING INQUIRIES... AND I THINK I SEE WHAT WE NEED!
WE SHALL FIND SOME OF OUR FELLOW COUNTRYMEN IN THERE!

AND WILD BOAR!

RECLINE AT THIS TABLE. I'LL BE WITH YOU IN A MINUTE.

WE'RE GALANG! NELL-FANCY THAT. FELLOW COUNTRYMEN! MY NAME'S INSTANTIA. I'VE BEEN LIVING IN ROMIE SOME TIME...

I'M TRYING TO SAVE UP AND THEN I SHALL OPEN A ROMAN RESTAURANT IN LUTETIA.

WE'RE LOOKING FOR A FRIEND, A BARD WHO WAS GIVEN TO JULIUS CAESAR AS A PRESENT.

?!?

HE WENT OFF WITHOUT A WORD!

YES, HE NEVER TOOK OUR ORDER!

COME AND SEE ME THIS EVENING... I SLAPPED MY ADDRESS INTO ONE OF THE BOARS...

OH, THAT MUST HAVE BEEN THE BIT THAT WAS DIFFICULT TO SWALLOW... BRING US YOUR ADDRESS AGAIN INSIDE ANOTHER BOAR!
WELL SO WE'VE GOT A DATE AT INSTANT MIX'S PLACE THIS EVENING. WHAT DO WE DO TILL THEN?

THE BATHS! I'VE OFTEN HEARD ABOUT THE ROMAN BATHS. LET'S GO AND HAVE A BATH!

GO AND GET UNDRESSED IN THE APODYTERIA.

THIS WAY, NOBLE LORDS.

WHAT MUST MEAN THE CHANGING ROOM...

IS IT US HE MEANS?

WE HAVEN'T GOT MUCH ON. I HOPE WE DON'T CATCH COLD!

IT'S NOT IN HERE!

I WONDER IF WE COULD OPEN A WINDOW.

LOOK, CHUS FATUOUS! YOU'RE ALWAYS ON THE LOOKOUT FOR GLADIATORS - WHAT DO YOU THINK OF THOSE TWO MEN?

INTERESTING, ESPECIALLY THE FAT ONE.

LET'S TRY IN HERE... IT MAY BE COOLER.

THIS WAS A FUNNY IDEA OF YOURS ASTERIX, BY TOUTATIS!

HE SAID, BY TOUTATIS... THEY'RE GAULES...

WE MAY BE HARD-BOILED, BUT THIS IS OVERDOING IT!

YOU SEEM TO BE STRANGERS HERE. I'LL GUIDE YOU AROUND THE BATHS. I COME HERE REGULARLY FOR MY HEALTH, THOUGH IT IS A BIT OF A SWEAT...

YOU SHOULD GO TO THE FRIGIDARIUM AND DIVE INTO THE POOL OF ICY WATER.

ICY WATER? I'M ON MY WAY!

WATCH ME DIVE, ASTERIX! WATCH ME DIVE!
AND NOW IT IS CUSTOMARY TO HAVE SOME MASSAGE

MASSAGE?

YOU HAVE NO RIGHT TO BEAT UP MY MASSEURS! THEY'RE HORRIBLY EXPENSIVE THIS SEASON!

HE STARTED IT!

THAT'S RIGHT, I SAW HIM!

WHAT STRENGTH...

...AND GO AND HAVE A BATH SOMEWHERE ELSE!

I THINK IT'S TIME FOR OUR DATE NOW...

THIS IS WHERE INDIANNA LOVES - IT'S CALLED AN INSULA. THAT'S A PLACE WHERE PEOPLE LIVE ON TOP OF EACH OTHER...

THESE ROMANS ARE CRAZY.

I MUST HAVE THESE TWO MEN. I'M GOING TO GET HELP.

INSTANTMIX LIVES ON THE THIRD FLOOR...
I SAID KNOCK! I DIDN'T SAY SMASH IT IN!

DON'T SHOUT AT ME! YOU KNOW KNOCKING AND SMASHING COME TO THE SAME THING WITH ME!

ER... DOES INSTANTIN LIVE HERE?

NO! HE LIVES OPPOSITE!

WHAT'S ALL THIS?

I'LL JUST KNOCK...

I SAID KNOCK! I DIDN'T SAY SMASH IT IN!

DON'T SHOUT AT ME! YOU KNOW KNOCKING AND SMASHING COME TO THE SAME THING WITH ME!

ER... DOES INSTANTIN LIVE HERE?

NO! HE LIVES OPPOSITE!

WHAT'S ALL THIS?

I'LL JUST KNOCK...

YOU KEEP ON SHOUTING! I DIDN'T SHOUT AT YOU WHEN YOU GOT US INTO HOT WATER JUST NOW DID I?

WHAT ABOUT MY DOOR? YOU THINK YOU CAN GET AWAY WITH THIS?

LET'S HAVE A BIT OF PEACE! WE'RE TRYING TO SLEEP, BY JUPITER!

COME ALONG IN...

YOU'VE GOT A NERVE, BY MERCURY! PRACTISING THE LYRE EVERY NIGHT

OH, AND HOW ABOUT YOU, BY VULCAN? HOLDING ORGIES EVERY CALENDS!

NICE PLACE YOU'VE GOT HERE...

OH, IT'S JUST A SMALL FLAT - CUBICULUM, KITCHEN, TRICLINIUM, AND YOU HAVE TO GO DOWN TO THE AQUEDUCT FOR WATER...

AND WHAT DO YOU CALL THIS SORT OF PLACE?

OH, THESE ARE GLC FLATS - GREATER LATN COUNCIL...
YES, I DID HEAR ABOUT THE BARD THAT THE PREFECT OF GAUL GAVE CAESAR AS A PRESENT...

WE'LL RESCUE HIM!

YOU CAN'T, THE BARD'S BEEN SHUT UP IN A CELL IN THE CIRCUS... AND IT'S A MAXIMUM SECURITY CIRCUS.

IT SEEMS THAT THIS BARD IS TO BE THROWN TO THE LIONS AT THE NEXT GAMES IN THE CIRCUS MANNIUS IN A FEW DAYS TIME...

YOU CAN'T, THE BARD'S BEEN SHUT UP IN A CELL IN THE CIRCUS... AND IT'S A MAXIMUM SECURITY CIRCUS.

CANSUS FAVICUS, WHO TRAINS THE GLADIATORS, IS LOOKING FOR MEN FOR THE GAMES... AND INDOMITABLE GAULS ARE IN GREAT DEMAND!

WE'LL RESCUE OUR BARD!

YOU ACT THE FINE LADY AND YOU CAN'T EVEN AFFORD A SLAVE TO DO THE HOUSEWORK!

SO I AM A FINE LADY! SO YOU KNOW WHAT THE FINE LADY HAS TO SAY TO YOU?

BY JUNO, IF YOU DON'T SHUT UP I'M CALLING THE WATCH!

WE'RE BEING ATTACKED!

GOODY!

LOOK, ASTERIX! I'VE THOUGHT OF SOMETHING NEW. LOOK, I DON'T EVEN TOUCH THEM, I SHAKE THEM. IT LASTS LONGER THAT WAY!

WILL YOU BE QUIET OUT THERE IN THE ROAD! WE CAN'T HEAR OURSELVES SHOUT IN HERE!

ALL RIGHT ORELIUS, PUT HIM DOWN NOW!
I MUST HAVE THOSE TWO MEN! JUMP TO IT, EVERYONE!

AND NEXT MORNING...

SLEEP WELL, ASTERIX?

YES, THANK YOU, OBELIX. LET'S GO AND HAVE BREAKFAST NOW.

WE MUST TRY TO GET INTO CONVERSATION WITH ONE OF THE CIRCUS GUARDS AND FIND OUT EXACTLY WHERE CACOFONIX IS IMPRISONED.

WAITER! HAVE YOU BY ANY CHANCE GOT SOME PARSLEY?

PARSLEY? WHAT FOR?

FOR PUTTING IN MY EARS! I'VE GOT A PRISONER WHO keeps ON SINGING SOMETHING HORRIBLE!

THAT'S CACOFONIX!

THE DESCRIPTION FITS ANYWAY!
LET'S TRY A FEW CRAFTY QUESTIONS ON THIS GUARD. WE MUSTN'T AROUSE HIS SUSPICIONS...

NO...

HEY, YOU. WHERE'S CALCOFONIX IMPRISONED?

!?!

CELL XVIII.
FIRST BASEMENT
DOWN BUT IT'S
A SECRET!

THERE!

SOON
AFTERWARDS...

AND NOW FOR THE
CIRCUS. I'LL DRINK A
LITTLE MAGIC POTION

HERE'S MY PLAN—
WE KNOCK DOWN
EVERYTHING UNTIL
WE FIND CALCOFONIX AND
THEN WE MAKE OFF WITH HIM.

THAT'S
A
CLEVER PLAN!

HALT!
NO...

ENTRY!

CELL XV...
CELL XVI...
CELL XVIII...
WERE GETTING NERVOUS!

OUR BET
ABOUT THE
HELMTS IS STILL ON, ISN'T IT?

CELL XVIII
IS EMPTY!

HEY! WHAT ARE YOU TWO DOING HERE?
WHERE'S THE BARD GUARD?

SOUND THE ALARM!

COME ON, THEN!

NO! WE MUST GET OUT OF HERE!

Biff! Biff!

... EAT!

LET'S GO AND ASK OUR FRIEND INSTANTMIX'S ADVICE...

WELL, WHAT WERE THOSE TWO AFTER ANYWAY?

SOON AFTERWARDS...

I WARNED YOU! ONLY CONDEMNED MEN, LIONS, AND GLADIATORS GET INTO THAT CIRCUS!

MEANWHILE, IN THE HOUSE OF CAUS PATUOS...

TWO GAULS TRYING TO RESCUE THE BARD? THOSE MUST CERTAINLY BE MY MEN, AND THEY MUST CERTAINLY BE INDOMITABLE GAULS!

I WANT THE WHOLE STAFF TO COMB THE CITY IN GROUPS OF THREE! I MUST HAVE THOSE TWO GAULS! BRING THEM TO ME!

AND IF THAT DOESN'T WORK, PUT UP Notices EVERYWHERE! I'M OFFERING 10,000 SESTERTI! TO ANYONE WHO CAPTURES THESE TWO INDOMITABLE GAULS!

YES, BOSS!

SOON AFTERWARDS...

THERE THEY ARE!
LET'S GET THEM!

IT'S A NUISANCE, WHAT INSTANTMIX TOLD US...

SPLAT!

YEAH, HEARING THINGS LIKE THAT MAKES ME COME OVER ALL FAINT...

CLONK!

HE SAID ONLY CONDEMNED MEN, LIONS AND GLADIATORS GET INTO THE CIRCUS...

SUPPOSE WE DRESS UP AS LIONS?

HERE THEY COME!

YOU'RE TOO FAT FOR A LION!

IF ONLY I'D KNOWN...

ALL THE SAME, WE MUST SAVE OUR BARD.

OF COURSE!

LET'S BEAT IT! HERE COME THE COPS!

NOW NOW NOW WHAT'S ALL THIS 'ERE? YOU COME ALONG QUIETLY TO THE STATION AND NO FUNNY BUSINESS—WE'RE SEVEN TO TWO!

LET'S GET BACK TO OUR INN!

FORWARD, MEN... OUFF!

I SAY ASTERIX, DON'T YOU THINK IT'S FUNNY ALL THESE PEOPLE ATTACKING US?

PEOPLE? WHAT PEOPLE?
AND HOW DO WE GET TO BE GLADIATORS?

WE'LL ASK A ROMAN... THE ONLY ONE WE KNOW IS THAT ONE WHO HAS A LOT OF BATHS. LET'S GO TO THE BATHS!

AND OUTSIDE THE BATHS...

10,000 SESTERTII... THAT'S A LOT OF MONEY!

I COULD JUST DO WITH THAT!

THOSE ROMANS ARE CRAZY!

HERE, LET US BY! WE'RE IN A HURRY!

SPLISH!

OH! TAKE YOUR SANDALS OFF IF YOU WANT TO COME IN THE BATH!

I SAW THEM FIRST!

NO, ME!

IT'S A LIE! THE 10,000 SESTERTII ARE MINE!

OH, SO IT'S YOU TWO BACK AGAIN. I THOUGHT I TOLD YOU BEFORE...
I HOPE THAT ROMAN'S HERE... HE SAID HE CAME REGULARLY, AND THE ROMANS HAVE A BATH EVERY DAY...

WE WERE LOOKING FOR YOU!

LISTEN, I CAN EXPLAIN EVERYTHING...

COMEBACK HOME WITH ME!

BUT I TELL YOU I DIDN'T MEAN TO FALL INTO THIS POOL!

OH, THEY WANTED TO STOP US GETTING INTO THE BATHS...

THE GAULS!! THEY HAVEN'T BEEN CAPTURED AND THEY'RE COMING TO GET EVEN! THEY'RE GOTT IN THE HOT SEAT... HAVE TO THROW THE CLOWN A NOW!

IT'S STILL JUST AS WARM IN HERE... WHY ON EARTH DON'T THEY OPEN THE WINDOW?

WHAT A BIT OF LUCK! TELL US HOW WE GET TO BE ROMAN GLADIATORS?

GLAD...GLAD... GLADIATORS!

YOU'VE COME TO THE RIGHT MAN! I AM GAULS FAVOULUS, THE BIGGEST GLADIATOR TRAINER IN ROME!

RIGHT, TRAIN US, THEN!

THAT'S NO EXCUSE! IT'S DISGUSTING TO KEEP YOUR SANDALS ON!!!

HEY! WHAT'S BEEN GOING ON HERE?

WHAT FIRST-CLASS RECRUTS FOR THE GAMES! JULIUS CAESAR WILL BE PLEASED. HE'LL COVER ME WITH SESTERTII!!
I must first win their confidence so that they'll sign the contract which will get them into my hot little hands...

Come along, we'll have a light meal.

Could we have a heavy meal instead?

How nice of you, you've got here.

Just taste these pasties! They're a new recipe - they cost a fortune! Nightingales' tongues imported from the north of Gaul, sturgeons' eggs from the farthest barbarian lands, jujubes, jujubes, jujubes from Monkoua...

Well, what do you think of them?

Gulp!

Salty

Right! The fun's over, by Jupiter! Make your marks on these contracts!

Excellent! Up you get! Insalubrius!

Insalubrius, here are the two new gladiators! Train them for the circus - and jump to it!

They'll jump to it all right, Lanista, they'll jump to it!

I say, Asterix, do you think the light meals over?

Salty: Nuh! These Barbarians don't appreciate good food, bring me the giblet jam!
Here are the gladiators' quarters. We'll start your training straight away.

That's good. We're in a hurry.

I'll make you into fighting machines. You'll be capable of any feat of arms when I'm finished with you.

I've got cold feet already – that's a good start.

Stop it, Asterix! You'll give me the giggles again!

You fatty! Try and punch me!

Can I? Can I really?

Ha, ha!

Ho, ho!

Asterix, tell him to stand still!

Thud!

?!?!?!

See? I don't keep ducking about!

Right! Your turn, Titch. Try to...

BIFF!

You just have to move a bit faster, Obelix. It's all those baths you made me take. They've sapped my strength.
Watch out, Gauls, I've got you marked down.

Nervalius is furious! I wouldn't give much for your chances.

You wouldn't have to if we were marked down.

Stop it! You'll make me laugh again.

You, I'm going to train you as a retarius!

What's that?

You have a trident—We use a stick in training—and a net. You have to catch your opponent in the net like a fish.

But what about you? Don't you have a stick?

I'm not training!

Far enough!

Off we go!

Here... what are you doing?

Now, you! Stay still, can't you!!!

There, see how annoying it is?

He really is a great trainer!

Get me out of here!
All right! I get the message!

YOU'RE OUT!

NO.

YOU'RE OUT AGAIN.

It's not fair. I'm going to sulk!

HA! HA! HA!

Meanwhile...

I want my wages. I'm packing it in. Those Gauls are too much for me. I'm going back to my father's lace factory!

Ho, ho! Let's have a look at these amazing recruits who managed to get the terrible Insubrius down!

WHAT THE...
WHAT ARE YOU DOING?

We're playing a game. It's great fun. Want to join in?

NO!

I don't pay you for games like that!!!
AND YOU, GLADIATORS, GET BACK TO YOUR TRAINING. I HAVE SOJOO AND SEE CAESAR.

I SAY, OBELIX, SUPPOSE WE TOOK A LITTLE STROLL ROUND TOWN TOO?

NOT A BAD IDEA.

HALT GLADIATORS! YOU AREN'T ALLOWED OUT OF YOUR QUARTERS.

PUT THAT HELMET DOWN, OBELIX! YOU'LL HAVE TO GET OUT OF THAT SULK HABIT!

WHAT FOR? IT DOESN'T HURT ANYONE.

THESE MODERN CITIES ARE ALL VERY WELL, BUT THEY'RE NOT WHAT TO CALL FREE.

LET'S GO AND SEE WHAT'S HAPPENING OVER THERE WHERE ALL THOSE PEOPLE ARE READING THAT NOTICE.

MEANWHILE...

HERE'S THE PROGRAMME FOR THE GAMES, CAESAR. I'VE HAD THESE TABLETS PUT UP ALL OVER ROME.

IF THE PEOPLE LIKE THE GAMES, I SHALL TREAT YOU GENEROUSLY. IF NOT, THE LIONS GET THE TREAT.

NOT BAD... BUT YOU'D BETTER NOT LET THE GAULS ESCAPE. THEY'RE THE STAR ATTRACTION.

DON'T WORRY, CAESAR, THEY'RE SAFELY LOCKED AWAY.

AT LAST I'LL BE ABLE TO BUY THAT LITTLE FARM AT ALBUM IN THE PROVINCE OF STERNUM.

LOOK! IF IT ISN'T GOOD OLD SATIUS!

SO IT IS: THERE'S A BIT OF LUCK!
WH... WHAT'S THIS?
YOU'VE GOT OUT??

NOT A BAD PROGRAMME, BUT WE...
WANT TO MAKE A FEW ALTERATIONS...

HE DOES SEEM SURPRISED TO SEE US...
AND PLEASED.

YOU TURNED UP JUST AT THE RIGHT
MOMENT! WE WERE LOOKING FOR A
GUIDE TO SHOW US THE TOWN.

SLAP.

A GUI... A GUI...
A GUIDE!

KEEP A STIFF
UPPER UP... THE
MAN THING IS
NOT TO LOSE
SIGHT OF
THEM...!

ALL RIGHT

PITY WE CAN'T
TAKE PICTURES OF
ALL THIS BACK TO
GAUL WITH US...

...AND THIS
IS THE FORUM

YOU SEEM VERY SURE
YOU'LL GET OUT OF THE
CIRCUS ALIVE!

WELL OF
COURSE!

DON'T YOU WORRY
ABOUT US!

SUPPOSE I WENT
CARVING MY
NAME ON YOUR
PYRAMIDS, EH?

NOW LET'S GO
BACK TO YOUR
PLACE FOR
DINNER!

AND NO BOXING
LITTLE PASTIES THIS
TIME - JUST
BOARS!

DINNER IS MUCH ENJOYED
BY EVERYONE - WELL...
NEARLY EVERYONE...

I'LL SAY ONE THING FOR
THE ROMANS, THEY KNOW
HOW TO ENTERTAIN, ISN'T
THAT RIGHT, OBELIX?

YUM! GULP!
SRIGHT!
S CRUNCH!

PATIENCE, PATIENCE;
THEY'LL BE LAUGHING AT
THE OTHER SIDE OF THEIR
FACES IN THE ARENA.

COME ALONG, IT'S TIME TO
GO BACK TO OUR QUARTERS!
I HOPE WE HAVEN'T OVERSTAYED
OUR WELCOME?

I SHOULD HAVE HAD
A BOAR FOR THE
ROAD...
THE GAMES ARE FIXED FOR TOMORROW. THIS WILL BE YOUR LAST NIGHT IN THE CIRCUS, YOU USELESS LOT!

WE DON’T REALLY WANT TO FIGHT ANY MORE, ASTERIX.

DON’T WORRY! I PROMISE YOU WON’T HAVE TO RISK YOUR LIVES IN THE ARENA!

AND A VERY RELAXED GROUP OF GLADIATORS ARRIVES AT THE CIRCUS...

STOP PUSHING, WILL YOU!

PORRUS IS A BEAST! PASS IT ON!

HA-HA.

NO, NO.

WHAT’S THE MATTER WITH THEM?

NO IDEA. LOOK THEM UP DOWN BELOW.

STOP, LEAVE THE FIXTURES ALONE!

AH, ABOUT TIME TOO! WHAT SERVICE!

PLINNNK!

PLONNNK!

PLINNNK!
I'm responsible for the fixtures, I am.

Open up, Sendervictorius, it's me, Appianiorus!

That's funny. There's no answer...

Let me have a go...

No! Our door!

What's going on here? Why don't you answer when we knock?

Pardon?

Love is a menhir splendid thing...

I can't bear it! I can't bear it! Sobs!

Cacofonix!

Asterix! Obelix! What brings you here?

We've come to rescue you!

Oh, I'm not afraid of these miserable Romans! But it's nice to see you!

We promised to get our gladiator friends out of a spot. We'll be leaving for Gaul straight after the games!

That's fine. I'd like to see the games. I've heard so much about them since I got here...

Just one more thing... Wait till we've gone before you start singing again.

What... What?

Philistines! Brutes! Barbarians!

Soon afterwards...

Roman in the gloamin...

Mercy! Mercy! I'll do anything you like, but stop that awful noise!
A huge crowd is forming outside the circus...

Wash your togas in Super Persic! Super Persic washes even purpler!

Score card! Score card!

Cushions! Cushions!

Chipolatae! Canes calidi! Chipolatae!

And inside the imposing arena, the trumpets announce the arrival of Caesar in the imperial box...

Tantan TARA!!!!

Long Live Caesar!

Caesar for ever!

Everyone applauds the dictator...

Clap, clap, clap, clap, clap, clap, clap!

Et tu, Brute!

You too, Brutus!

That Brutus... I can see I'm going to have trouble with him.

This will be a great show, O Caesar!

I hope so, Calus Fatuous. If not, you'll be in on the act.

Let the games begin!

An examination of Act III, Scene 1 of Julius Caesar by William Shakespeare will indicate the prophetic nature of this remark.
I wonder if the public really likes these commercial breaks?

Maybe not, but they pay for the sand in the arena.

Now you're going to see something... the chariot races are beginning!

But there is an emergency backstage...

Why isn't he in his chariot?

He's ill. He dranka jara wine before coming.

Oooooooh!

Don't worry. We'll help you out!

???

The Gauls!

You should be locked up with the other gladiators! It's against the rules!

We wanted to see the show... so you're short of a chariot driver? We're not on yet - we'll step in!

Come on, Obelix!

Gooey! Gooody!

I'll drive. You shove off anyone who comes too close. Right?

Right!

Two men on a two-wheeler? It's disgraceful! I don't care for these flights of fancy, Caius Fatuous!
THE CHARIOTS ARE OFF...
THAT ONE IN FRONT WON'T LET US OVERTAKE!

AAAAARGH!
IF THOSE TWO COME NEAR ME, BY MERCURY, THEY'LL GET A TASTE OF MY WHIP!

LET GO, WILL YOU! LET GO THIS MINUTE!

YOU GO ON--LEAVE THIS TO ME! WE'LL HAVE SOME FUN!

YOU CAN LET GO NOW, OBELIX. I'VE WON!

NOOOOO!

HURRAH! BY JUPITER! PLAUDITE CIVES!
THE PEOPLE ARE PLEASED... AND THAT REASSES ME!
ER... THAT'S IT... I GOT UP A LITTLE COMIC TURN!
I THOUGHT THE PEOPLE WOULD LIKE IT!

BUT WE DON'T WANT THE GAMES TO BE ALL COMIC TURNS!
NO, NO! AND NOW WE PRESENT A MAN BEING EATEN ALIVE BY THE LIONS!

CRUNCH!

AVE CAESAR!
WELL, WAIT HERE, READY TO STEP IN: I'M GOING TO TAKE A LITTLE MAGIC POTION JUST IN CASE.

DON'T WORRY, IT'S ALWAYS ALL RIGHT ON THE NIGHT. I'VE GOT A TOUCH OF STAGE FRIGHT, THAT'S ALL.

HI, JULIUS.

THEN... OH... THEY'RE NOT VERY POLITE!

RELEASE THE LIONS!

RRROAAOO!

GRRRRAOR!

THEY'RE RAVENOUS, AS YOU MAY WELL IMAGINE... ALL THEY'VE HAD SINCE WE CAPTURED THEM IS A YOGHOURT A DAY!

GOODBYE TO THE FORUM, FAREWELL COLOSSEUM.

RUN FOR YOUR LIFE!

WILL YOU SHUT UP, GAUL?

I WILL SING, YOU IGNORANT LOT! THIS IS THE FIRST TIME I'VE EVER SUNG IN FRONT OF SUCH A VAST AUDIENCE AND I'M GOING TO MAKE THE MOST OF IT!

FOR GAUL- AUL!

LANG SYNE,

MY DEARS...

LET ME GO,

I SAY! LET ME GO!!!

TAKE HIM AWAY, BY JUNO!

HA! HA! HA! HO!

HO! HO!
I CAN'T BELIEVE MY EYES! IS IT GOING ON LIKE THIS? IF SO I'LL EAT YOU MYSELF IF THE LIONS HAVEN'T GOTTEN OVER THEIR FRIGHT!

OH, THE SERIOUS PART'S COMING NEXT... AND NOW WE PRESENT THE GLADIATORS! BLOOD, MORTAL COMBAT, SAVAGERY, THE LOT...

LET'S HOPE SO, FOR YOUR SAKE... OR ELSE...

EE-AI-ADDIO!

THAT'S SETTLED, THEN? YOU LET ME DO THE TALKING AND I'LL FIX EVERYTHING.

AVE CAESAR! MORITURI TE SALUTANT!

HI, JULIUS, OLD BOY!

OH NO! THEY REALLY ARE NOT VERY POLITE!

LET THE FIGHTING BEGIN... BEFORE I LOSE MY TEMPER!

JUST A MINUTE, THERE'S A CHANGE IN THE PROGRAMME. THE GLADIATORS HAVE A NEW GAME TO SHOW YOU. WE FEEL SURE IT WILL ANNOY YOU ALL!

THROW YOUR WEAPONS DOWN!

CLONK! TIME... THAT'S A GOOD START!
THE MIKELLO IN THE MIDDLE ASKS THE QUESTIONS AND THE OTHERS HAVE TO REPLY WITHOUT SAYING THE WORDS 'YES, NO, BLACK, OR WHITE.' IF THEY DO THEY'RE OUT.

YOU, THRACIAN! WHAT COLOUR IS SAND?

IT'S LIGHT!

YOU SAID WHITE!

NO, I DID NOT! I DIDN'T SAY WHITE!

YOU'VE LOST! YOU'RE OUT!

HA! HA! HA! HA!

ARE YOU TRYING TO MAKE A FOOL OF ME, BY JUPITER? THE BIGGEST CIRCUS IN ROME, 250,000 SPECTATORS, AMONG THEM JULIUS CAESAR HIMSELF—ALL THIS JUST TO WATCH HALF-WITS PLAYING SILLY ATRIUM GAMES!

GET FIGHTING!!!
Oh, so you want to make fun of me, Gauls?
Very well! Send in a cohort of my best legionaries!!

The rest of you go and play outside...

Yes, but was out or not?

So you want to see some fighting, Roman? Then you shall!
Send in some of your Gaul legionaries. My friend Obelix and I will deal with them. Leave those other poor devils alone!

I'll just finish off the magic potion...

Shall we do the helmet routine again? Shall we, Astérix?

Well are they coming or do we have to go and fetch them?

Good, here they come all with their tin hats on.

Unarmed! I want to prolong the pleasure! I want to see you flatten these two Gauls with your bare hands!

I protest! It won't be a fair fight if they're unarmed!

Boing!

Bong! Bang! Bing!

You coming? I've started already!
CLANG! CLINK! CLONK! CLANK!

CRUNCH!

WHAT HAVE YOU DONE WITH YOUR HELMET THEN? WHERE'S YOUR HELMET, EH?

I WILL NOW SING YOU A SONG TO INSPIRE YOU WITH COURAGE...

AVE! LONG LIVE THE GAULS! ENCORE! ENCORE!

THE PEOPLE SEEM HAPPY!

GAULS, YOU ARE BRAVE MEN, AND I SHOULD KNOW, I DECLARE YOU THE WINNERS, AND AS YOU HAVE MANAGED TO ENTERTAIN MY PEOPLE, I WILL GIVE YOU ANYTHING YOU ASK, SUCH IS THE GENEROSITY OF CAESAR!

LONG LIVE CAESAR! THAT'S WHAT I CALL A CIRCUS!

AVE!

WAKE UP, CACORONIX! WE'VE RESCUED YOU!

ANYWAY, I WON! YOU'LL NEVER BE ABLE TO OAP THAT!
... AND FINALLY I ASK YOU TO FREE THE GLADIATORS. THEY'RE GIVING UP THEIR BLOODBTHIRSTY JOB!

GRANTED, O GAUL!

WAPH? IS THE SHOW OVER YET?

I ASK YOU TO FREE THE BARD WE CAME TO RESCUE, AND LET US GO HOME TO GAUL BEFORE WE HAVE TO BEAT YOUR ARMY UP AGAIN....

AND I HAVE ONE LAST FAVOUR TO ASK YOU, JULIUS...

YOU SAW THAT? NOT A BAD PROGRAMME, EH?

LEND US CAUS FATUCUS THE GLADIATOR TRAINER OR OUR JOURNEY BACK TO GAUL. WE'LL SEND HIM BACK BY RETURN.

GRANTED, BY JUPITER!

BUT...

WHAT ARE YOU GOING TO DO WITH ME?

WE'RE GOING TO TEACH YOU A LITTLE LESSON, BY BELENOS!

LONG LIVE THE GAULS!

LONG LIVE THE GLADIATORS!

LONG LIVE CAESAR!

WHAT HAPPENED TO ME?

EXACTLY WHAT WILL HAPPEN AGAIN IF YOU DARE SING A NOTE BEFORE WE GET BACK TO GAUL?

NO FEAR! I'M NOT SINGING FOR ANY MORE ROMAN BARBARIANS, AND MOREOVER I'M TAKING NO FURTHER INTEREST IN THE MATTERS!

HEY! WHERE ARE THE RINGS? DON'T A HOUSE FALL ON ME?
AND AFTER A FEW HOURS
WE... O ECONOMICALLY!
PHOENICIAN MERCHANT,
WILL YOU KEEP YOUR promise AND TAKE US BACK TO
GAUL?

AN OLD FRIENDS
ME, SAILORS!!

COME ABOARD FRIENDS!
BUSINESS WAS GOOD,
I HAVE SOLD EVERYTHING,
AND NOW I HAVE TO
STOCK UP AGAIN!

WHO'S
THIS?

A LITTLE SURPRISE
FOR YOUR RAVING PARTNERS!

WHY DON'T I SING A LITTLE SOMETHING TO
EVEN HIM UP?

NOOOO!

I FEEL WE
MIGHT MAKE THIS FORSAKAN
PARTNER!

AN EXCELLENT
NOTION, MR. CHARMAN!

HE'S
GREAT!

WHAT
AN OARSMAN!

HEAR,
HEAR!

THE VOYAGE IS UNEVENTFUL, EXCEPT FOR A
SWIMMING WITH THE PIRATES...

CHEER UP,
CAP'N! WE'RE ALL IN THE
SAME BOAT!
Gaul!!!

Hurrah, by Toutatis!

Thanks for the trip, Ekonomiaris. I promise to take the Roman home safe and sound and not sell him on the way.

What sell a partner? A friend?

We're very fond of Gaul, Fatius. He keeps us all going!

Right... Off we go, partner! Let's speed our enterprise on its way!

The Gaulish village celebrates the return of its heroes with a great feast... and but for the fact that Cajotix was the involuntary victim of a technical hitch, he would certainly have given them a song...

the end