Asterix and Cleopatra

The greatest story ever drawn

14 litres of Indian ink, 30 brushes, 62 pencils, 1 hard pencil, 27 erasers, 1984 sheets of paper, 16 typewriter ribbons, 2 typewriters, 366 pints of beer went into its creation

Hodder Dargaud
ALEXANDRIA, CAPITAL OF EGYPT, THE PALACE
OF THE FABULOUS QUEEN CLEOPATRA. OF
WHICH IT WAS SAID THAT IF HER NOSE HAD
BEEN SHORTER IT WOULD HAVE CHANGED
THE WHOLE COURSE OF HISTORY...

THAT'S AN INFAMOUS
SUGGESTION, O CAESAR!

YOU HAVE TO FACE FACTS, O QUEEN!
YOUR'S IS A DECADENT NATION, ONLY
FIT TO LIVE IN SEMI-SLAVERY UNDER
THE ROMANS

MY PEOPLE BUILT THE
PYRAMIDS! THE TOWER
OF PHAROS! THE TEMPLES-
THE OBELISKS!

THAT'S OLD HAT!
ALL THEY CAN DO NOW
IS WAIT FOR THE ANNUAL
FLOODING OF THE
NILE!

I, CLEOPATRA, WILL PROVE TO YOU
O CAESAR, THAT MY PEOPLE ARE
AS BRILLIANT AS EVER... IN THREE
MONTHS TIME I'LL HAVE A
MAGNIFICENT PALACE BUILT
HERE FOR YOU IN ALEXANDRIA!

WELL, IF YOU CAN DO
THAT, O QUEEN, I'LL
ADMIT THAT THE
EGYPTIANS ARE STILL
A GREAT NATION...

BUT I HAVE
MY DOUBTS!

SHE'S A NICE GIRL,
ONLY HER NOSE IS SO
EASILY PUT OUT OF JOINT...

... PRETTY NOSE
TOO!

CRASH!
N.B. FOR THE CONVENIENCE OF OUR READERS, WE GIVE A DUBBED VERSION OF THE ORIGINAL DIALOGUE...

EDIPUS, I HAVE SUMMONED YOU BECAUSE YOU ARE THE BEST ARCHITECT IN ALEXANDRIA... WHICH ISN'T SAYING MUCH.

O.Y. OWING TO THE FACT THAT DUBBING TECHNIQUES HAD NOT BEEN PERFECTED AT THIS PERIOD, THE MOVEMENT OF THE LIPS DOES NOT SYNCHRONISE VERY WELL WITH THE WORDS.

DON'T ANSWER BACK! YOUR BUILDINGS ARE FUSSY! YOU CAN HEAR EVERY WORD THE NEIGHBOURS SAY! THE CEILINGS FALL IN!

IT'S THESE MODERN MATERIALS... ACTUALLY, WHAT I REALLY WANT TO DO IS BUILD PYRAMIDS AND...

SILENCE! YOU HAVE JUST THREE MONTHS TO MAKE GOOD. YOU ARE TO BUILD JULIUS CAESAR A MAGNIFICENT PALACE HERE IN ALEXANDRIA.

DID YOU SAY THREE MONTHS?

IF YOU SUCCEED I WILL COVER YOU WITH GOLD! IF NOT, YOU'LL BE THROWN TO THE CROCODILES, YOU MAY GO!

THREE MONTHS! I'D NEED SUPERNATURAL POWERS TO DO THAT! I'D NEED SOMEONE WHO CAN WORK MAGIC...

AND FAR AWAY, IN A LITTLE VILLAGE IN GAUL...

VI.VI.* AGAIN, IT IS LIKE MAGIC!

HA! HA! IT IS MAGIC! THIS ROMAN GAME WILL NEVER CATCH ON...

GOT IT!

I KNOW THE VERY MAN! HE CAN WORK MAGIC!

* 3 O'Clock
PEACE REIGNS IN THE VILLAGE OF THE INDOMITABLE GAULS, BUT IT IS SOON TO BE DISTURBED...

I'M GOING TO TRAIN THIS LITTLE DOG TO CARRY MENHIRS!

ARE YOU? MEANWHILE, WHY NOT LAY THE TABLE FOR US TO EAT THIS BIG BOAR?

BY THE ARRIVAL OF A STRANGE STRANGER...

COULD YOU TELL ME WHERE TO FIND GETAFIX, THE DRUID, PLEASE?

UP THAT TREE, PICKING MISTLETOE.

GETAFIX?

WHAT A DELIGHTFUL SURPRISE!

MY DEAR OLD GETAFIX, I HOPE I FIND YOU WELL?

AN ALEXANDRINE...

MEET MY FRIEND EDRISS FROM ALEXANDRIA! HE'S AN ARCHITECT, I GOT TO KNOW HIM ON MY TRAVELS.

GETAFIX, I'VE COME ALL THIS WAY BECAUSE I NEED YOUR HELP...

I HAVE TO BUILD CAESAR A PALACE WITHIN THREE MONTHS. IF I DON'T CLEOPATRA WILL THROW ME TO THE CROCODILES...

...AND UNLESS YOU USE YOUR MAGIC POWERS TO HELP ME I'LL NEVER DO IT! BOOHHOO!

ARE CROCODILES NICE TO EAT?

SHUT UP OBELOX!

DON'T WORRY EDRISS! IT SO HAPPENS I WANTED TO GO TO ALEXANDRIA TO LOOK A FEW THINGS UP IN THE LIBRARY THERE...

THIS IS MY CHANCE! I'LL GO BACK TO EGYPT WITH YOU.

BY OSIRIS! WILL YOU REALLY?

US TOO!

NOOOO!

WOOF!
MY SHIP IS WAITING OFFSHORE
JUST GIVE US TIME TO PACK AND SAY GOODBYE, AND WE'LL BE WITH YOU!

COME ALONG, DOUMATIN, WE'RE GOING ON A NICE SEA VOYAGE!
YOU'RE NEVER GOING TO TAKE HIM?
AND WHY NOT, MAY I ASK, MR. ASTERIX?
BECAUSE HIS TOO SMALL FOR SUCH A LONG JOURNEY, THAT'S WHY NOT, MR. OBELIX!

WHAT'S MORE, THERE ARE CATS IN EGYPT! NO, NOT ANOTHER WORD! YOU GO AND PACK!
IT'S ALWAYS THE SAME! I'M JUST AN EXTRA NO-MAKERSHIT! NO ONE EVER LISTENS TO ME!

YOU, MY FRIENDS, ARE TO REPRESENT THE SPIRIT OF GAUL ON THE BANKS OF THE NILE! SHOW YOURSELVES TRUE-BORN GAULS BY YOUR ACTIONS, AND MAY THE SKY NEVER FALL ON YOUR HEADS!

GOODBYE, THEN AND THANKS, CHEF VITALSTATISTIX!

HEY!

NO, CACOFONIX, YOU ARE NOT, REPEAT NOT, GOING TO SING!!!

HEE!

BUT I WASN'T GOING TO SING! I ONLY WANTED TO TELL HIM HE WAS TREADING ON MY TOE!

SOON AFTERWARDS...
WOOF!

JUST ME BARKING! I CAN BARK, CAN'T I, EVEN IF I'M NOT ALLOWED TO TALK?
ALL RIGHT, YOU WIN, YOU PIGHEADED GREAT IDIOT. LET HIM OUT!

THAT'S MY SHIP, THE NASTUPSET..
WE CAN CAST OFF NOW, SETTIESBACKUP.

HONESTLY, ASTERIX, I SWEAR I DON'T KNOW HOW HE GOT INTO MY BAG!

NO, NO, OF COURSE NOT! HURRY UP OR WE'LL MISS THE TIDE.

IN EGYPT WE SHALL HAVE TO CONTENT WITH LABOUR TROUBLES, THE TIME FACTOR, THE ROMANS, WHO WON’T WAIT UP TO WELCOME CLEOPATRA'S RET.

AND ABOVE ALL WITH ARTES, A RIVAL ARCHITECT. HE'S ALWAYS GOT IT IN FOR ME. HE HAS A LOT OF TALENTS...

Clever, is he?

NO, RICH, HE HAS A LOT OF GOLD TALENTS—THAT'S THE MONEY WE USE IN EGYPT.

AND THEN THERE'S ALWAYS THE DANGER OF PIRATES ON THE WAY.

SURE ENOUGH, NOT FAR AWAY.

RIGHT, BOYS! WE'RE STEERING CLEAR OF ALL GAULS THIS TIME. AVOID ROMAN AND PHOENICIAN VESSELS TOO—THEY SOMETIMES USE THOSE. I'M PLAYING SAFE... I HAD TO LEAVE MY SON ERIK ON DEPOSIT TO BUY THIS SHIP.

NEXT INSTALMENT COMING UP, SIR! EGYPTIAN SHIP TO STARBOARD.

SPLENDID! WE'LL MAKE OUR FORTUNES! WE'LL DO IT YET! GET READY TO BOARD HER!
HE SAYS THERE'S A PIRATE SHIP TO PORT
HONEST? YOU'RE NOT JOKING?
IT'S THEM, ASTERIX, IT'S THEM! YOOHOO! YOOHOO! COMING!

WHAT'S THE LOOKOUT SAYING?

IT ISN'T TRUE!
CAN'T BE TRUE!
IT'S THEM! GET OUT OF HERE, FAST! QUICK, SCUTTLE!

TOO LATE, CAP'N! THEY'RE SCUTTLING FASTER!

SCELLE THE SHIP, I MEAN.
SAVES US A FEW KNOCKS, AND COMES TO THE SAME
THING IN THE END

SOON AFTERWARDS
WELL, YOU SAID WE'D DO IT, AND HERE WE ARE, DONE!
ALEA JACTA EST!

ONE MORE CLASSICAL REMARK FROM YOU AND I'LL MAKE YOU EAT YOUR WOODEN LEG!

OFFSIDE!
FOUL!
UNSPORTING!

AMAZING! THOSE PIRATES TOOK ONE LOOK AT YOU AND SANK THEIR OWN SHIP RATHER THAN FIGHT!

OH, WE'RE OLD FRIENDS... WE OFTEN GO SAILING TOGETHER

ONE NIGHT, AFTER A LONG, PEACEFUL VOYAGE...
WHAT'S THAT LIGHT ON THE HORIZON, EDIFIS?

IT'S THE TOWER OF PHAROS, ASTERIX. IT'S LIGHT GUIDES SHIPS INTO THE HARBOUR...

WE'LL REACH ALEXANDRIA TOMORROW
A TOWER TO GUIDE SHIPS? THESE EGYPTIANS ARE CRAZY!

THIS, MY DEAR ORELIX, IS ONE OF THE SEVEN WONDERS OF THE WORLD!
AND IN HER PALACE
THE LUXURY-LOVING
CLEOPATRA IS SITTING
DOWN TO HER FAVOURITE
SNACK—PEARLS
DISSOLVED IN VINEGAR

WHERE ARE
THE PEARL
TONGS, FOR
OSIRIS'S SAKE?

HERE, TASTER!
GET ON WITH
YOUR JOB!

VERY WELL,
O QUEEN!

THE GREEDY
PIG! SHE'S
TAKEN FOUR
PEARLS
AGAIN!

UGH! I DO HATE
TOO MUCH PEARL IN
MY VINEGAR!

EDRIS THE
ARCHITECT CRAVES
THE HONOUR OF
AN AUDIENCE!

MEET MY
FRIENDS FROM
GAUL. O QUEEN—
A POWERFUL MAGICIAN
AND TWO BRAVE
WARRIORS WHO HAVE
COME TO HELP ME...

SHOW HIM IN...

VERY WELL, BUT GET ON WITH IT!
THERE ISN'T MUCH TIME LEFT,
AND CAESAR KEEPS NEEDLING
ME. IF YOU SUCCEED, THERE'LL
BE GOLD ALL ROUND, IF NOT—
THE CROCODILES!

AND I WARN
YOU, EDRIS. YOUR
RIVAL ARTISTS IS
NOT PLEASED THAT
I CHOSE YOU AND
NOT HIM TO BUILD
CAESAR'S
PALACE. HE'D
LOVE TO SEE YOU
END UP INSIDE
A CROCODILE.
YOU MAY
GO

SHE LOOKS
BAD TEMPERED,
BUT SHE HAS
A PRETTY
NOSE...

VERY
PRETTY!
THE DOOR'S JAMMED AGAIN...
I MUST HAVE MADE A MISTAKE IN MY PLANS SOMEWHERE
I'LL GIVE YOU A HAND

CRASH! OBELEX, NO!

NO, REALLY, IT'S QUITE ALL RIGHT! IT'S MORE USE THIS WAY!

ER... WATCH OUT FOR THE STEPS!

GET THE IMPRESSION YOU REALLY DID NEED OUR HELP, EDIPUS

THIS IS WHERE I WORK...
MEET MY FAITHFUL SCRIBE, EXLIBRIS. HE SPEAKS YOUR LANGUAGE FLUENTLY. HE SPEAKS ALL MODERN LANGUAGES—LATIN, GREEK, CELTIC, ETC...

IS IT A GOOD POSITION BEING A SCRIBE?
OH, IT'S VERY COMFORTABLE! I'M SITTING PRETTY—SQUATTING, RATHER!

HOW DOES ONE BECOME A SCRIBE?
I TOOK A CORRESPONDENCE COURSE... A VERY GOOD COLLEGE...

THE ADVERTISEMENT SAID, ANYONE WHO COULD DRAW COULD WRITE!
REFUSE! I DON'T LIKE YOUR PROFESSIONAL METHODS. YOU WORK YOUR SLAVES TO DEATH, YOU'RE A CRUEL, TWO-FACED TWISTER! GET OUT OF MY HOUSE!

THE ARCHITECT ARTIUS TO SEE ME? SHOW HIM IN!

EDGAR, I'LL COME STRAIGHT TO THE POINT! LET US BUILD CAESAR'S PALACE TOGETHER. IF WE SUCCEED BEFORE THE DEADLINE WE'LL DIVIDE THE GOLD...

IF NOT, YOU CAN GO TO THE CROCODILES ON YOUR OWN! NO NEED TO GIVE THEM TWO WHERE ONE WILL DO!

YOU'LL BE SORRY FOR THIS! I SHALL SEE TO IT THAT CLARAFIRA LOSES HER BET. YOU AND YOUR FRIENDS WILL BE THROWN TO THE CROCODILES AND I HOPE THEY LIKE THE TASTE OF YOU...

?!?!!

BOING!

CLONK!

DONT USE THAT SORT OF LANGUAGE.

A BITING WIT, EH?

POSITIVELY EATEN UP BY HATE!

HE REALLY SHOWED HIS TEETH!

YOU KEEP REMINDING ME OF THE CROCODILES!

DOGMATIX!!!

COME AND VISIT THE BUILDING SITE INSTEAD. IT'S JUST OUTSIDE THE CITY GATES. I'LL SHOW YOU THE WAY WE BUILD THINGS HERE...

BRAPABOOM!!
HERE'S THE BUILDING SITE. I'VE ALREADY HAD TOP QUALITY STONE BROUGHT FROM THE QUARRIES OUT IN THE COUNTRY...

ARE THOSE SLAVES?

NO, THERE'S A SLAVE SHORTAGE. THEY'RE SO EMANCIPATED YOU JUST CAN'T GET HOLD OF THEM. THOSE ARE FREE LABOURERS.

BUT WHY THE WHIPS?

WE EGYPTIANS ALWAYS HAVE WHIPPING WHILE WE WORK. ANYWAY, THEY TAKE IT IN TURNS....

WATCH THIS...

BOUOUOUOU!

PECULIAR METHODS YOU HAVE HERE!

NO, THIS WAY EVERYONE'S HAPPY! NOTHING LIKE A LITTLE NIP TO GET YOU GOING IN THE MORNING!

THAT'S THE LUNCH BREAK... COME OVER TO MY TENT AND SEE THE PLANS FOR THE PALACE...

BUT WHY AREN'T THOSE TWO STOPPING?

THEY'RE DOING OVERTIME...
DURING THE LENTIL BREAK, THE LABOURERS HAVE AN UNEXPECTED VISITOR...

...WHOSE REMARKS ARE EVIDENTLY OF ABSORBING INTEREST

AND AT THE END OF THE LENTIL BREAK...

...THE LABOURERS MAKE IT PERFECTLY CLEAR...

...THAT THEY ARE NOT GOING BACK TO WORK

MASTER! THE LABOURERS WON'T GO ON WITH THE JOB! I THINK SOMEONE'S BEEN STIRRING THEM UP AGAINST YOU!

ALL THESE WORRIES ARE POSITIVELY BLOOD-CURDLING! BY THE TIME THE CROCODILES GET ME, I'LL BE QUITE UNEATABLE!

ALL THE BETTER! ARE YOU SO KEEN TO MAKE THEM A GOOD MEAL?

BUT THOSE ARE SACRED CROCODILES! YOU CAN'T JUST FEED THEM ANY OLD THING!

THESE EGYPTIANS ARE CRAZY!

A VERY POPULAR ANCIENT EGYPTIAN DISH
LET'S SEE WHAT'S UP!

JUST AS I THOUGHT! THEY'RE ASKING FOR LESS AGAIN.

YOU MEAN THEY'RE ASKING FOR MORE.

NO, IT'S NOTHING TO DO WITH WAGES; THEY'RE VERY WELL PAID. THEY WANT LESS WHIPPING... AND IF I REDUCE THE WHIPPING, THEY WON'T WORK SO FAST AND THE PALACE WILL NEVER BE FINISHED IN TIME!

YOU AND YOUR WHIPPING! IT'S GETTING ME DOWN. THIS IS NO WAY TO TREAT PEOPLE! ASTERIX, LIGHT A GOOD FIRE UNDER THAT CAULDRON!

I'LL SHOW YOU HOW TO MAKE MEN WORK!

NO, NOT YOU!

OH, ALL RIGHT!

GIVE THEM A LITTLE DEMONSTRATION, ASTERIX!


3.

IT WORKS LIKE MAGIC!
THAT'S RIGHT, I TELL YOUR MEN TO QUEUE UP AND I'LL GIVE EVERYONE A DOSE OF MY MAGIC POTION.
NO.

OH, ALL RIGHT.

NO!

HOWEVER DID HE MANAGE TO PENETRATE MY DISGUISE?

AND NOW THE WORK GOES HAPPILY FORWARD, TO AN ACCOMPANIMENT OF SINGING, JOKES AND FUNS, UNFORTUNATELY UNTTRANSLATABLE...

GETTING ON NICELY!

GRRRRRRRR

??
KRUKHUT! WHAT IS IT, ARTIFICE? MY MASTER?

I KNOW ENEFIS IS EXPECTING A CONSIGNMENT OF STONE TO COME DOWN THE NILE FROM THE COUNTRY. THAT STONE MUST NEVER REACH THE BUILDING SITE... HERE'S GOLD TO SETTLE THE BUSINESS!

THESE AMAZING FOREIGN WIZARDS WILL END UP HELPING ENEFIS TO WIN! I MUST DO SOMETHING!

KRUKHUT MEETS THE FLEETbring stone for the palace, and his gold quickly overcomes the captain's scruples...

*UNLOAD THOSE STONES!*

*NOT ON THE BANK! THE OTHER SIDE!*

THE LABOURERS, NATIVES OF THE RURAL DISTRICTS OF EGYPT, OBEY WITHOUT QUESTION.

*BAIN'T NO USE ARGUFING WITH ME!*

*OI, RECKON GAFFER BE CRAZY!*
WHY HAVE THE LABOURERS STOPPED WORKING?

THERE'S NO MORE STONE, AND I'M WORRIED. THE FLEET THAT'S SUPPOSED TO BE BRINGING IT FROM THE QUARRIES IN THE SOUTH IS LATE.

O' EDIBIS, HERE COMES THE CAPTAIN OF THE FLEET, WITH THE STONE FOR THE BUILDING!

AT LAST!

HE SAYS THE QUARRIES ARE WORKED OUT, AND THIS IS ALL HE COULD BRING. HE WANTS HIS TRAVELLING EXPENSES.

I DON'T THINK HE'S TELLING THE TRUTH!

CAN I MAKE HIM TALK? CH, DO LET ME MAKE HIM TALK!

ALL RIGHT, BUT NOT TOO HARD.

BIFF! BIFF! BIFF! BIFF! BIFF! BIFF!

HE SAYS ARTIFIS PAID HIM TO THROW HIS CARGO IN THE NILE AND THERE'S STILL STONE IN THE QUARRY. LOTS OF STONE, AND HE'LL BE HAPPY TO GO AND GET IT AND PLEASE DON'T HIT QUITE SO HARD AND HE SWEARS BY HESI, OSIRIS AND SERAPIS NEVER TO DO IT AGAIN.

WELL, GO TO FETCH THE STONE TOO, JUST TO BE ON THE SAFE SIDE.

YES, BUT HURRY! TIMES GETTING SHORT!

19
Soon afterwards, we shall be joining the Nile and then following the river south.

Meanwhile, in the house of the infamous Arius...

We learnt that those miracle-working foreigners have gone off to get more stones, Krooieh. They must not return, this is what you have to do...

The fleet glides slowly down the majestic and sacred river Nile...

This is slow!

Very slow!

Too slow!

All, move to the bank. Fasten the boats firmly together with ropes!

A bit of exercise at last!

By Toutatis, that boy never ceases to surprise me, even though I do know he fell into a cauldron full of magic potion when he was a baby!

At nightfall they camp on the river bank...

Lentils again! Not a single slice of beef! But then they’ll wonder why I’ve come over weak!

Tomorrow we’ll visit the Sphinx and the Pyramids. It’s not far away, and they’re worth seeing!

But under cover of darkness a cunning spy is watching and waiting.

Tee hee! Hee!
COME ON, LAZYBONES! THE SUN'S UP! WE'RE OFF TO SEE THE SPHINX AND THE PYRAMIDS!

MMPH... JUST A BIT LONGER...

SOURCES!

SOON AFTERWARDS

WELL, WHAT DO YOU SAY NOW? WASN'T IT WORTH COMING?

STUPENDOUS, BY BELIGAMA!

DOGMATIK! LEAVE IT ALONE!

WELL HAVE A LOOK AROUND

THAT'S RIGHT

KINDLY PRESENT YOUR PROFILE, SHOULDERS FACING FORWARDS, AND PLEASE DON'T MOVE

THERE MUST BE A GOOD VIEW UP THERE

NO, DRELIX, I'M SURE YOU'RE NOT SUPPOSED TO

O NOBLE TOURIST, HOW WOULD YOU LIKE A SOUVENIR PORTRAIT OF YOURSELF WITH THE SPHINX?

WHY NOT? IT WILL LOOK GOOD IN MY HUT

OH, BUTTER ASTERIX, HE'S ALWAYS BOSSES ME ABOUT!

CRICK!

?

?
WELL DONE, OBEIX! OH, VERY WELL DONE!

PERHAPS WE COULD STICK IT ON AGAIN?

YOU'RE ALWAYS BREAKING THINGS! IT'S LUCKY NO ONE SAW US. THE ONLY THING TO DO IS BURY THAT NOSE IN THE SAND.

SOON AFTERWARDS

DOGMATIX!

GONE ON, GETANA, WE MUSTN'T STOP HERE! I'LL EXPLAIN!

EXPLAIN? WHAT FOR?

BUT MY PORTRAIT'S NOT FINISHED!

PITY... IT WAS A GOOD LIFELIKE SUFFICIENTLY THE SPHINX...

...THE SPHINX!

So now you know why the Sphinx has no nose, which is a pity, for the Sphinx's nose, lost to this day, was a very fine specimen of a nose, if not so beautiful as Cleopatra's, which, as we believe we mentioned before, was a very pretty nose indeed.
**Asterix and Obelix**

**Would you care to see round inside the pyramids?**

Oh, I thought it was impossible to get into the tombs...

Thebes have already broken in...though very few got out again...

There Egyptians are crazy!

That's no place for little dogs... you wait here for us! If you're good, you'll get a nice bone!

Inside the pyramid

Don't lose sight of me. You'd never get out of this labyrinth alive.

---

**From the summit of these pyramids, Obelix, twenty centuries look down upon us!**

Magnificent!

Humph! Give me a mummy any day!

But of course such noble visitors can trust me!

Well then, we'll be happy to accept...

---

**Slam!**

??

You will never get out of here alive, foreign devils! This tomb will be yours!
IF THEY GET OUT OF THAT, BY ISIS, I SWEAR, NEVER TO SHAVE MY HEAD AGAIN!

RIGHT! FOR A START WE HAVE TO OPEN THIS DOOR.

THIS WOULD NEVER HAVE HAPPENED INSIDE A PYRAMID!

TAKING EVERYTHING INTO CONSIDERATION, OBELIX, I AM NOW GOING TO GIVE YOU SOME MAGIC POTION FOR THE FIRST TIME EVER.

HONEST?

YOU HEARD WHAT HE SAID!

ONE DROP TWO DROPS THREE DROPS THAT SHOULD DO THE TRICK!

NOW, OPEN THAT DOOR!

I SAY, I AM GLAD I CAME INSIDE THIS PYRAMID!

NOT THAT IT SEE MUCH DIFFERENCE BETWEEN BEFORE AND AFTER THE POTION....

WHAM!

SWOOSH!

WE MUST NOW FIND OUR WAY BACK ALONG THE NETWORK OF CORRIDORS...

THAT'LL BE THE TRICKY PART...

SURE ENOUGH, SEVERAL HOURS LATER....

THIS IS THE TENTH TIME WE'VE FETCHED UP IN THE SAME SPOT... THOSE PHAROAHS HAD SOME GOOD ARCHITECTS

THIS IS A SERIOUS SITUATION!

VERY SERIOUS!

I'M BEGINNING TO FEEL HUNGRY.
INSIDE THE PYRAMID...
MY POWERS ARE NOT STRONG ENOUGH TO GET US OUT OF HERE... AND I'M VERY MUCH AFRAID THIS MAY BE THE END OF OUR ADVENTURES, BY BELENDS!

I'M ONLY SORRY FOR EDIFS... WITHOUT OUR HELP, HE'LL END UP INSIDE A CROCODILE.

WELL, I'M SORRY FOR MY POOR LITTLE DOGMATIX... AREN'T I DOGMATIX?

DOGMATIX?!

YES, DOGMATIX! WHAT ABOUT IT? YOU'RE NOT GOING TO BE CROSS WITH ME FOR BRINGING HIM? ANYWAY, I DIDN'T BRING HIM, HE CAME ALL BY HIMSELF!

EXACTLY! HE'S FOUND US THANKS TO HIS NOSE... IN WHICH CASE HE CAN FIND HIS WAY BACK AGAIN AND SHOW US THE WAY OUT!

BY BELENDS, YOU'RE RIGHT!

DOGMATIX, IF YOU HELP US OUT OF HERE YOU'LL GET A VERY BIG BONE OUTSIDE!

YOU'LL GET TWO BIG BONES!

HEADS OF BIG BONES!

OBEIX, I APOLOGIZE! YOU WERE QUITE RIGHT TO BRING YOUR DOGGE!

SOMETIMES I FEEL HE UNDERSTANDS EVERYTHING I SAY!
IT'S MAGIC! YOU'RE WIZARDS! ONLY A SUPERMAN COULD EVER FIND HIS WAY OUT OF...

THE BOATS SET OFF AGAIN AND SAIL PEACEFULLY ON UP THE NILE...

...STOPPING OFF TO SEE THE SIGHTS AT INTERESTING SPOTS SUCH AS LUNOR...

NO, NO, AND FOR THE THIRD TIME NO, CRELUX! THAT THING IN THE MIDDLE OF THE VILLAGE? IT WOULD JUST LOOK SILLY. WE SHALL NEVER BE IN CONCORD OVER THIS!

MEANWHILE, BACK AT ALEXANDRIA...

O ARTIFS, MY MASTER... THEY'RE WIZARDS! THEY HAVE SUPERHUMAN POWERS!

THEY'VE MANAGED TO GET OUT OF THE LABYRINTH OF THE GREAT PYRAMID!

FANTASTIC! THEY'RE JUST FANTASTIC!

ALL THE MORE REASON TO FIND SOME WAY OF STOPPING THEM! ELLIS MUST NOT BUILD THAT PALACE, KRUNKHUT!
AFTER A VOYAGE OF MANY STADIA...

AND WE'VE BROUGHT YOU ENOUGH STONE TO FINISH THE PALACE!

SURE ENOUGH...

SURE ENOUGH...

SODIUM! ROMAN MEASURE OF ABOUT 120-130 FEET, AS THERE ARE 30-36 CENTIMETRES IN A POULAND 8 FEET. IN AN ALEXANDRINIAN, IT IS EASY TO WORK OUT THAT THERE ARE ABOUT 500 ALEXANDRINES IN ONE STADIUM.

THE LABOURERS, WELL Dosed WITH MAGIC POTION, WORK SNIFTLY.

I'VE JUST HEARD THAT CLEOPATRA'S COMING TO VISIT THE BUILDING SITE!

OH, DON'T STOP! I'M JUST PAYING A QUIET VISIT, INCognito, DOOO GO ON!

THERE'S NO DENYING IT, SHE DOES HAVE A PRETTY NOSE!

AD You SEE HER NOSE, DOGMATIX?

A VERY PRETTY NOSE!

MEANWHILE, IN ARTHUR'S HOUSE...

AN IDEA! I NEED AN IDEA!

HELP ME! AND FOR THE LAST TIME GO AND SHAVE YOUR HEAD!

I CAN'T, MASTER. I MADE A VOW...

I'VE GOT IT! IT'S A PIECE OF CAKE!

SLAP!
TAKE THIS PARCEL TO QUEEN CLEOPATRA!
YES, MASTER

SOON AFTERWARDS

A PRESENT?
BRING IT HERE!

A CAKE! AND THERE'S A NOTE WITH IT!

IN HOMAGE TO THE QUEEN OF QUEENS FROM THE THREE GAULS

HOW SWEET OF THEM! YOU MAY GO!

SHE REALLY DOES HAVE A PRETTY NOSE!
CHAMBERLAIN!

I'LL HAVE THIS CAKE FOR PUDDING TONIGHT...

A QUIET LITTLE SUPPER... I'LL BE ON MY OWN JUST 80 DANCERS AND DANCING GIRLS, 80 MUSICIANS AND 300 SIMPLE DISHES...

AND THAT EVENING, ON EGYPT'S BUILDING SITE...
SUPPER'S READY! THERE'S WILD BOAR! IT'S JUST ARRIVED BY GALLEY!

WE'VE COME TO ARREST THE THREE GAULS, BY ORDER OF THE QUEEN!

?!
WHAT DO WE DO NOW? SHALL WE BASH THEM?

DONT DO ANYTHING! IF YOU RESIST CLEOPATRA YOU'LL BE HEADING FOR DISASTER!

SOON AFTERWARDS...

HA, GAULS! YOU TRIED TO POISON ME WITH THIS CAKE! YOU'LL PAY FOR THIS WITH YOUR LIVES!

BRING IN MY TASTER!

CAKE? WHAT CAKE?

SNAP!

HE TASTED A BIT OF THAT CAKE AND NOW LOOK AT HIM!

IT'S ALL A MISTAKE, BY TOUTATES WE'RE INNOCENT!

I DONT WANT TO HEAR ANOTHER WORD!

BUT...

IF THE QUEEN DIES I WANT TO HEAR ANOTHER WORD IT'S NO GOOD SAYING ANOTHER WORD, ASTERIX... FOR NOW!

OHH, OOH, OOH!

TAKE THEM AWAY! AND GIVE THE SACRED CROCODILES THEIR APERTIF!

BUT WHY WOULDN'T YOU LET US EXPLAIN?

I HAVE AN IDEA...

BESIDES, YOU CAN'T ARGUE WITH CLEOPATRA... SHE'S GOT A FURRY TEMPER. BUT SUCH A PRETTY NOSE!
TO THINK THAT THERE WAS WILD BOAR FOR SUPPER...

ASTERIX, HAND ME THAT JUG OF WATER...

WHAT ARE YOU MAKING, SETAPX?

AN ANTIDOTE, LUCKILY I ALWAYS CARRY THIS LITTLE BAG WITH ME...

DRINK THIS!

WHAT IS AN ANTIDOTE?

OBELIX, OPEN THE DUNGEON DOOR

STAND BACK! WE'RE COMING OUT!

NO! NO! NO! NO!

CRASH!

THESE EGYPTIANS ARE CRAZY! YOU TELL THEM TO GET OUT OF THE WAY, AND THEY JUST...

AND NOW TO VISIT CLEOPATRA!

NOT BAD... BUT I'M TIRED OF SEEING MYSELF IN PROFILE. COULDN'T YOU DO ME THREE-QUARTER FACE FOR ONCE?

OH, WELL, YOU KNOW WHAT I THINK OF MODERN ART...

EXCUSE ME!

Paf!

Pof!

??!
BY OSIRIS, GAULS,
SINCE YOU HAVE SWORN
TO DESTROY ME, I SHALL
SHOW YOU HOW A QUEEN
CAN DIE!

NO, NO, BY TUTANY,
JUST LISTEN TO WHAT
WE HAVE TO SAY
FOR ONCE!

I'M SURE THAT
CAKE'S NOT POISONED
I THOUGHT IT
LOOKED A VERY
NICE CAKE!

OH, DID YOU?
VERY WELL THEN, YOU
CAN EAT IT! ISN'T
IN THE CAKE?

JUST WHAT WE WERE
GOING TO SUGGEST,
O QUEEN...

THERE'S ONE
OVER THERE

OBEULX, HAVE YOU
GOT A KNIFE OR A CAKE-
SNURE ABOUT YOU?

MAY I?

CUT THREE
PIECES OF THIS
CAKE

COWNS,
COMING!

HE SAID THREE
PIECES, OBEULX!

WELL, I HAVE CUT
THREE PIECES,
Haven't I?

YOU GREEDY
PIG!

I SORUNCH!
SORUNCH! SORUNCH!
I LOVE ALMONDS!

IT'S GOT ALMONDS IN
IT! SHLPUR! YUMMY!
I LOVE ALMONDS!

THERE, QUEEN!
YOU CAN SEE
THAT CAKE
ISN'T
POISONED!

THEN WHAT'S
THE MATTER
WITH MY
TASTER?

OBEULX!
THERE ARE STILL
A FEW ALMONDS
LEFT...

SEND FOR
THIS TASTER!
I'LL CURE
HIM!

WHENEVER I WANT TO DO
ANYTHING MR ASTERIX
WON'T LET ME!

BECAUSE MR OBEULX DOESN'T
KNOW HOW TO BEHAVE IN FRONT
OF A QUEEN! THAT'S WHY!!!
DRINK THIS TASTER, YOU'LL FEEL BETTER!

OH, SO THUMPING THEM IS ALL RIGHT BUT EATING ALMONDS ISN'T?

THERE'S A TIME FOR THUMPING PEOPLE AND A TIME FOR EATING ALMONDS! THAT'S GOOD MANNERS!

I FEEL BETTER... MUCH BETTER...

WHY, I FEEL FINE! I'M HUNGRY!

THAT CAKE HAD NOTHING TO DO WITH YOUR TASTER'S ILLNESS, O QUEEN. HE JUST HAS A DELICATE STOMACH FROM EATING TOO MUCH RICH FOOD.

I HAVE TREATED YOU UNJUSTLY, O GAULE! YOU SHALL GO FREE! AS FOR THIS TASTER, THOSE STOMACH HABS CAUSED ME THE QUEEN OF QUEENS TO MAKE A MISTAKE, I DISMISS HIM!

THERE WAS ENOUGH POISON IN THAT CAKE FOR A WHOLE CORPS OF LEGIONARIES. IT'S A GOOD THING WE DRANK MY ANTIDOTE...

I SAY, THANK YOU VERY MUCH! I FOUND THE JOB OF TASTER VERY DISGUSTING... IT WAS POISONING MY LIFE.

WELL, I'M OFF! IT'S TIME I HAD SOMETHING TASTY!

LET'S GET BACK TO THE BUILDING SITE. WE MUST FIND OUT WHO WAS RESPONSIBLE FOR THIS OUTRAGE!

ASTERIX, WHAT IS AN ANTIDOTE?

AND AT THE BUILDING SITE...

DOGMATIX! YOU NEARLY KNOCKED ME OVER!

THANK RA YOU'RE BACK! MY MASTER EDIP'S DISAPPEARED IMMEDIATELY AFTER YOU WERE ARRESTED!

!!!
OCELOT, WE'RE GOING TO SEE ARTIFIS. I'M SURE HE'LL KNOW WHERE IDIS IS!

OPEN UP, BY BELENOS, IF YOU VALUE YOUR DOOR!

WHAT'S ALL THIS NOISE, BY...

THE GAU... THE GAUGAUA...

YES, THE GAUS, AND WE WANT TO SEE YOUR MASTER ARTIFIS... I'LL GO AND SEE IF HE'S IN...

GOOD IDEA! WE'LL COME WITH YOU!

BOSS! SOMEONE TO SEE YOU...

YOU? Didn't Cleopatra throw you to the crocodile...

THAT'S A CONFESSION!

SO IT WAS YOU WHO SENT CLEOPATRA THE POISONED CAKE?

CAKE? WHAT CAKE? NO, NO, NO! IT'S ALL A MISTAKE! JUST A MISTAKE! OH RA!
YOU'RE GOING TO TELL US WHERE TO FIND EDIPS!

NEVER! NOTHING IN THE WORLD WILL EVER MAKE US TALK, EH, KRUHKUT?

NO, I'D RATHER TELL! EDIPS IS DOWN IN THE CELLAR HIDDEN IN A SARCOPHAGUS.

Coward!

Yes, boss!

I'll guard these two, Obelix, while you go down to find the sarcophagus.

O.K. Asterix.

Soon afterwards:

Would this be it, Asterix? It's the only big box I could find, but it's not at all heavy!

That must be it, Obelix!

All we have to do is unwrap it.

Let me have a go! It's just like passing the parcel!
I GIVE IN! I HOPED TO STOP YOU FINISHING THE PALACE. NO HARD FEELINGS?

NO HARD FEELINGS, AND TO PROVE IT WE'LL TAKE YOU TWO ALONG WITH US. WE'VE GOT A JOB FOR YOU.

SOON AFTERWARDS AT THE BUILDING SITE

THIS IS WHAT COMES OF ALL THOSE WICKED THINGS YOU MADE ME DO, BOSS!

SHUT UP AND PULL, WILL YOU?

THE BUILDING'S COMING ALONG NICELY, EDIRIS.

THANKS TO YOU THREE, GETAFIX!

MEANWHILE, IN CLEOPATRA'S PALACE...

AVE, CLEOPATRA, WELL, HOW'S THE PALACE COMING? TIME WILL SOON BE UP.

AVE, CAESAR, OH IT'S GETTING ON NICELY, THANKS, JULIUS. WE'LL SOON BE ABLE TO HAVE A LITTLE PALACE WARMING.

AVE CAESAR!

AVE LEGIONARY, GO AND FIND MINTJULEP. MY EGYPTIAN SPY.

AVE, CAESAR!

AVE, AVE, MINTJULEP. I LOOK LIKE LOSING FACE WITH CLEOPATRA...

I WAS TOLD THAT EDIRIS THE ARCHITECT WAS A NITWIT, BUT NOW IT SEEMS THE PALACE WILL BE READY IN TIME. GO TO THE BUILDING SITE AND SEE WHAT'S GOING ON, BY JUPITER!
I'VE PUT ON A WORKER'S LOINCLOTH, NO ONE WILL RECOGNIZE ME IN THIS CLEVER DISGUISE!

I'M ONLY A LIGHT LABOURER, BUT I DON'T MIND HEAVY WORK, WILL YOU TAKE ME ON?

OH YES, WE CAN ALWAYS USE WORKMEN, GET IN THAT QUEUE OVER THERE.

NO MAGIC POTION FOR ARThAS AND KUKHUH, OF COURSE.

OF COURSE NOT.

STRANGE! NO FOREMEN, NO WHIPS, AND WHAT HAVE WE HERE?

AERO CONCOCTION... AHH, THAT'S THE SIGNAL TO START WORK...

BOUHOUH!

??!

I WONDER WHETHER THAT STRANGE DRINK... LET'S HAVE A GO...

NEVER MIND! THERE ARE PLENTY MORE WHERE HE CAME FROM!

BY APIS!!!
I've seen amazing things going on at the site, Caesar! The labourers drink a magic potion which gives them enormous strength and let's them pick up very heavy loads quite easily... I drank some of it!

It occurs to me, Montjulpé, that you may have drunk something else too...

So you don't believe me, Caesar? I'm a weak, puny, delicate type, but bet I can beat the strongest man in your bodyguard!

Hire, superfluous, come and put this fellow in his place.

Snap!

Hm... all right, superfluous, you may go. Thank you!

Ha! Ha! Ha!

So you weren't lying... Yet I only know one man who can brew such a potion...

And he's a long way away... A Gaulish druid?

A Gaulish druid? What? An old druid with a white beard, a cunning little one and a stupid great oaf!

That's them, Caesar. Asterix, Obelix, and Getafix, the invincible Gauls. They can perform any miracle... I must do something!
NEXT DAY IN THE PALE LIGHT OF DAWN...

SOON AFTERWARDS... AT THE BUILDING SITE...

MASTER! MASTER! COME AND TAKE A LOOK. THERE ARE SOME STRANGE GOINGS-ON!!!

WHAT’S THE MATTER, EXLIBRIS?

THE LABOURERS HAVEN’T ARRIVED ON THE SITE, THERE’S NO ONE HERE BUT OUR PRISONERS ARTIPS AND KRUKHUT!

!?!

GO AND FIND OUT WHAT’S HAPPENING!

YES, MASTER!

IMMEDIATELY AFTERWARDS... THE SITE IS SURROUNDED BY ROMAN SOLDIERS. THEY’RE NOT LETTING OUR WORKMEN THROUGH!

IN THE NAME OF CAESAR! WE HEAR SOME GAULISH TROUBLEMAKERS ARE HIDING ON THIS BUILDING SITE. WE ORDER THEM TO SURRENDER, OR WE ATTACK!

!?!

THESE ARE THE DRUIDS!!!

YOU’LL BE SORRY FOR THIS, BY JUPITER!

WHAT DO WE DO NOW, BY ISIS?

WE BUILD OUR FORTIFICATIONS, BY BELENOS!

YOU’RE RIGHT, BY BELSANA!

COULD WE GO HOME NOW BY ANY CHANCE?

NEVER! WE DON’T WANT TO FIGHT, BUT BY TOUTATIS, IF WE DO, WE’VE GOT THE STONES, WE’VE GOT THE MEN, WE’VE GOT THE DRUID TOO!
HURRY UP WITH THOSE BLOCKS OF STONE, OBELIX!

GOOD, THAT COMPLETES OUR FORTIFICATIONS.

ER... DO YOU THINK THEY'RE ENOUGH TO KEEP OUT THE ROMANS?

HERE THEY COME!

IN ATTACK, THE LEGIONARIES EMPLOY THE FORMIDABLE MILITARY MANOEUVRE KNOWN AS 'THE TORTOISE'.

BONNG! BONNG! BONNG!

OH, DO BE SERIOUS, OBELIX!

IN RETREAT, THE LEGIONARIES EMPLOY THE USEFUL MILITARY MANOEUVRE KNOWN AS 'THE HARE'.

HMM... THAT DIDN'T WORK! RIGHT, WE'LL ATTACK FROM ALL SIDES AT ONCE. ADVANCE!

BUT WE'VE ONLY JUST RETREATED!

IF WE ADVANCE, WE'LL BE DRIVEN INTO THE NILE!

ONE MORE PUN LIKE THAT AND I DESERT!!!

GOODY! HERE THEY COME AGAIN!

WOOF! WOOF!
LET GO! CAN'T YOU SEE I'VE ALREADY BEEN DRIVEN BACK?

WE'RE ON OUR WAY!

NORTH SIDE...
HERE'S ONE THAT'S GOT IN!

I'M GOING! I'M GOING! I'M GOING!

AFTER THE ONSLAUGHT...

VICTORY! TA DIS PLACUT!

WE'RE THE ONES WHO MANAGED TO GET IN, BUT THEY WERE VERY NICE, THEY LET US OUT AGAIN WITHOUT HITTING TOO HARD...

IF THAT'S THE WAY THEY WANT IT, WE'LL BOMBARD THEM. SO THERE!!!

LOOK! GUIDED MISSILES!

HMM... IF THEY MISS I'LL BE SURPRISED!
SURE ENOUGH, AFTERWARDS...

WE'LL HAVE TO LET CLEOPATRA KNOW SHE MUST HAVE ENOUGH INFLUENCE OVER CAESAR TO GET THIS ATTACK STOPPED!

GOOD IDEA! EXLIBRIS! WRITE THE QUEEN A MESSAGE!

NOW THEN... NO SPELLING MISTAKES... BEFORE EXCEPT AFTER THONK!

NOW DOGMATIX WILL CARRY THE MESSAGE TO CLEOPATRA!

BUT DOGMATIX IS ONLY A PUPPY!

MAYBE, BUT HE'S VERY INTELLIGENT!

HERE'S THE MESSAGE!

YOU'LL SEE!

SEEK, DOGMATIX! CLEOPATRA! SEEK!

I TOLD YOU HE WAS TOO YOUNG TO UNDERSTAND!

TOO YOUNG! A LITTLE DOG WHO CAN BEG SO NICELY, AND SO ON...

THERE, THERE, OBLIX, DON'T BE CROSS! I WAS ONLY TEASING. I'LL SHOW HIM THE RIGHT WAY MYSELF!

FANCY SAYING MY DOGS NO GOOD!

QUICK, GETAFIX, WHILE OBLIX ISN'T LOOKING! GIVE ME A GOOD SWIG OF MAGIC POTION!

SOON AFTERWARDS OFF WE GO, DOGMATIX!

THUMBSKIRKABAABAABAABBABAABBABA

41
WATCH OUT! ONE OF THE BESTEGED MEN IS TRYING TO BREAK OUT!!

READY?

READY!

WHOOOSH!

BOING!

HE WENT THE SAME WAY HE CAME...

JUST PASSING THROUGH...

SOON AFTERWARDS, IN CLEOPATRA'S PALACE

YOU WANTED TO SEE ME, J. BAUL?

YES, J. CLEOPATRA. MY LITTLE DOG HAS A MESSAGE FOR YOU.

ISN'T SHE SWEET! BRING A BONE FOR THIS LITTLE DOG!

THIS WILL NEVER DO! JULIUS CAESAR ISN'T PLAYING FAIR, BY ISIS! YOU MAY GO, GAUL! BY AMNION AND BY HELIOS, I'LL SEE TO THIS!

SCRUNCH!

SCRUNCH!

SCRUNCH!

KEEP STILL, DOGMATIX! WAIT TILL THE QUEEN'S NEW TARTEES HAS TASTED YOUR BONE!
WATCH OUT! ONE OF THE BESIEGED MEN IS TRYING TO BREAK IN AGAIN!

WHOOSH!

HERE YOU ARE, OBELIX! DOGMATIX HAS JUST GOT BACK! HE DID HIS JOB PERFECTLY!

THERE YOU ARE! YOU SEE? LET'S HOPE THE QUEEN ACTS QUICKLY, THE ROMAN MISSILES ARE DESTROYING THE PALACE!

SURE ENOUGH, IN THE CAMP OF THE BESIEGING ARMY...

EXCELLENT, OPERACHORUS, EXCELLENT!

THERE YOU ARE, CAESAR! EVEN IF WE DON'T CAPTURE THEM THE PALACE WILL BE DESTROYED JUST THE SAME!

AVE CAESAR... ER... SOMEONE WANTS TO SPEAK TO YOU...

WHO IS IT?

ZING!

BOOM!

ANTANTARA!!!

???
ER... QUEEN... MY DEAR QUEEN...

THAT'S ENOUGH OF THAT! WHEN I HEARD WHAT WAS HAPPENING I HURRIED OUT OF THE PALACE AT ONCE! I DIDN'T EVEN STOP TO CHANGE!

WHEN YOU MAKE A BET YOU MUST PLAY FAIR AND I HAD A RIGHT TO CALL IN THE GAULS AND I'LL PROVE TO YOU THAT EGYPTIANS CAN BUILD BEAUTIFUL PALACES....

...AND I ABSOLUTELY INSIST THAT THE ROMANS LEAVE THE BUILDERS IN PEACE AND REPAIR ALL THE DAMAGE THEY'VE DONE BEFORE LEAVING AND IT'S A CRYING SHAME....

ALL RIGHT! ALL RIGHT! DON'T GO ON! I'M SORRY AND I'LL DO WHAT YOU WANT....

ZING! BOOM! TANTANTARA!

WELL... ER... NOW WHAT DO WE DO?

RAISE THE SIEGE AND REPAIR THE DAMAGE YOU'VE DONE, IDIOT!

AFTER ALL, I WOULDN'T WANT CLEOPATRA TO TURN HER NOSE UP AT ME!

A VERY PRETTY NOSE, IN CASE WE DIDN'T MENTION IT BEFORE....

LOOK! THE ROMANS ARE RAISING THE SIEGE, BY BELENOS!

VICTORY, BY TOUTATIS!

AND ALL THANKS TO WHO?
AT LAST, ONE FINE DAY...

THERE, IT'S FINISHED! WE CAN GO AND TELL CLEOPATRA!

O QUEEN, THE PALACE IS FINISHED BY THE AGREED DATE!

YOU HAVE KEPT YOUR PROMISE, EDIFIS, AND BY 1515, I SHALL KEEP MINE!

*A RARE OCCURRENCE IN THE BUILDING TRADE AT THAT TIME.

COVER HIM WITH GOLD!

TOMORROW I SHALL Invite CAESAR ON BOARD MY STATE BARGE...

WE SHALL GO DOWN THE SACRED RIVER TO THE PALACE, WHICH I SHALL OFFER CAESAR AS PROOF THAT MY PEOPLE ARE NOT DECADENT!

SO THERE!
NEXT DAY...

NOT A BAD PALACE, IS IT? HERE THEY ARE! WHERE?

O LOVELIEST OF QUEENS, YOURS IS THE HONOUR OF CUTTING THE RIBBON WHICH PROVES THAT I HAVE LOST MY BET, BY JUPITER! I YIELD WITH A GOOD GRACE BEFORE SO MUCH GRACE.

THE CROWD ACCLAIM THEIR QUEEN, INVOKING THE SUN-GOD OF EGYPT...

RA! RA! RA! RA!

FOR YOU TO CUT THE RIBBON, O CAESAR!

AT A BANQUET FOR 14,000 GUESTS (IT HAD BEEN PLANNED TO INVITE 13,000, BUT EGYPTIANS ARE SUPERSTITION)... YOU'VE SAVED MY LIFE AND TAUGHT ME MY JOB... MY GOLD IS YOURS!

NO, NO. IT WAS A PLEASURE. WHAT ARE YOU PLANNING NOW?

I'M FRIENDS WITH ARTIFIS AGAIN... TOGETHER WE'LL BUILD THE FINEST PYRAMIDS WITH THE SHARPEST POINTS IN EGYPT!
LATER IN CLEOPATRA'S PALACE...
OUR WORK IS FINISHED, WE HAVE COME TO SAY GOODBYE TO QUEEN...
THAT NOSE...
YOU HAVE PERFORMED MIRACLES, GAUL, AND YOU ARE ENTITLED TO ALL THE GRATITUDE OF THE QUEEN OF QUEENS! ME!

I AM MAKING YOU A PRESENT OF THESE PRECIOUS MANUSCRIPTS FROM THE LIBRARY OF ALEXANDRIA, O DRUID...
YOUR NOSE... ER... YOUR MAJESTY IS TOO CHARming, BY BElENO'S...

WHAT A NOSE!
IT SEEMS VERY LITTLE FOR ALL THE HELP YOU HAVE GIVEN ME. I DON'T KNOW HOW TO THANK YOU...
ALWAYS AT YOUR SERVICE... AND IF YOU EVER NEED ANYTHING ELSE BUILT IN EGYPT—SAY A CANAL BETWEEN THE RED SEA AND THE MEDITERRANEAN...

SOON AFTERWARDS
NICE OF CLEOPATRA TO LEND US HER OWN BARGE TO TAKE US BACK TO GAUL...

AND THE CAPTAIN GIVES THE ORDER TO GO...

DO YOU THINK WE'LL MEET THOSE PIRATES AGAIN, ASTERIX?
I DON'T KNOW, CRELUX, BUT I GET THE FEELING THEY'RE NOT FAR AWAY!

SURE ENOUGH, DOWN IN THE HOLD...
I HAD TO TAKE THIS JOB TO PAY FOR MY LAST BOAT, BUT AS SOON AS I CAN PUT A DEPOSIT DOWN ON ANOTHER I'LL LOOK FOR THOSE CONFIRED GAULS!
A SAIL! A SAIL! ASTERIX, OBELEX AND GETAFIX ARE BACK!

I WILL NOW COMPOSE A LITTLE SONG...

AND FOR THE NEXT FEW DAYS, EVERYONE IS HAPPY... AT LEAST, NEARLY EVERYONE

NO, OBELEX NO!

I DON'T LIKE THE DESIGN OF YOUR NEW MENHIRS! LET'S KEEP IT GAULISH!

THE GAULISH VILLAGE WELCOMES HOME ITS HEROES WITH ITS USUAL ENTHUSIASM AND FEASTING...

...AND IT WAS ALL THANKS TO DOGNATIX!

A NOSE, MY DEAR FELLOW, WHAT A NOSE!