Today, March 17th, 45 BC
(Later, of course, St. Patrick's Day.)
All is peaceful in the little Gaulish village we know so well. This tranquility is about to be disturbed, however, by events far away in Lower Hispania...

FRESH FISH - IT'S LUVERLY!

WHO'LL BUY MY FINE FISH?

How about some, for a change?

A change from what? I've only eaten two boars so far today!

One year after his victory over the supporters of Pompey at Thapsus, Caesar has just mopped up the survivors at Munda, bringing the whole of Hispania under the Roman yoke...

Legionaries, Caesar is pleased with you!

Before going back to Rome, where a great triumph awaits him, Julius Caesar inspects his old guard, the glorious Xth Legion.

Montilla

This charming gesture astonishes some Iberians who happen to be watching.

¡Ay, hombre! Why are they mopping him their ears?

I think he has their ears because he fought so well.

And the Iberians, being a proud and noble race, are always ready to admire brave warriors.

¡Olé!
WELL, WELL! MY OLD LAURELS, ALL CRUMPLED UP! I MUST HAVE RESTED ON THEM ONE NIGHT, BY MISTAKE!

AIVE, CAESAR!

AIE, AIE, MY DEAR FELLOW! SO IT'S VENI, VIDICI, VICES ONCE AGAIN! WHAT, BY JUPITER!

NOT QUITE VICI! YET, I'M AFRAID, NOT QUITE VICI...

THERE'S A LITTLE VILLAGE, NOT FAR FROM MUNDA, WHOSE INHABITANTS ARE REFUSING TO INTEGRATE WITH THE ROMAN WORLD. THEY STILL HOLD OUT...

I KNOW, I KNOW... THEY STILL HOLD OUT AGAINST THE INVADERS. I'VE SEEN THAT SOMewhere BEFORE!

SOON AFTERWARDS...

AND YET THE NATIVES SEEMED QUITE INDIFFERENT TO OUR SQUABBLES

THERE'S A LITTLE VILLAGE, NOT FAR FROM MUNDA, WHOSE INHABITANTS ARE REFUSING TO INTEGRATE WITH THE ROMAN WORLD. THEY STILL HOLD OUT...

I SHALL LOOK INTO THE MATTER PERSONALLY. I MUST HAVE PEACE IN THE PROVINCES. TAKE ME TO THEIR LEADER!

I HALT, ROMANS!
YOU SHALL NOT PASS!
AND HOW AM I TO ADDRESS MY YOUNG AND REDOUTABLE ENEMY?

I AM THE SON OF HUEVOS Y BACON, THE CHIEF OF THAT VILLAGE OVER THERE!

GET HIM!

OW! OOOOH!

OUCH!
His sling! For heaven's sake, confiscate his sling!

RIGHT! ON WE GO!

OUCH!
HE PINCHED MY EAR!

You can see that child has noble blood in him!

We're coming to the village, O Caesar!

CAESAR WISHES TO SPEAK TO THE CHIEF OF THIS VILLAGE!

I SPEAK! HUEVOS Y BACON IS LISTENING.

AVE!
¡OLE!
Well now, it appears that you want to hold out against us?

¡That's right! As long as we are here you won't have a moment's peace!

¡Ole!

You'll do nothing of the sort. We're holding your son as a hostage. As long as you and your people behave yourselves, nothing will happen to him. Otherwise...

OUCH!

If I had you here, Roman, I'd have you fried in olive oil!

Now, now! Keep your hair on...

... Or you'll soon be hereless. As long as you give us no trouble, your son will be quite safe.

¡Ay, what bad luck, chief!

¡Ay, hombre! My only consolation is that they'll have their work cut out with that boy.

Later...

What shall we do with the hostage, O Caesar? It would be dangerous to keep him here.

Quite so. We must send him away from Hispania... there are a few garrisons in Gaul with very little to do, Delrium, for example.

You mean Totorium, O Caesar?

That's it. Have him sent there straight away, and see that he's well looked after, if anything happens to him, those responsible will answer for it with their heads.
DOGMATIX AND I ARE OFF BOAR HUNTING! ARE YOU COMING, ASTERIX?

COMING, OSELIUS!

THE ROMANS ARE KEEPING VERY QUIET!

OH WELL, THEY'VE BEEN BEATEN UP SO MANY TIMES THEY'RE PEOLED!

THAT'S RIGHT, WE'VE FINISHED OFF OUR OWN LOT... DO YOU THINK WE COULD WRITE TO JULIUS CAESAR AND ASK HIM TO SEND US SOME NEW ONES?

MEANWHILE, IN ANOTHER PART OF THE FOREST...

NO, NO AND FOR THE THIRD TIME NO! YOU'VE RUINED THE WHOLE JOURNEY WITH YOUR WHINS! YOU'VE BITTEN US, YOU'VE GOT US DOWN, YOU'VE WORN OUR JERSEYS TO SHEEDS...

AND NOW, WE'RE ALMOST AT TOTORUM! YOU WANT TO STOP AND PLAY!

NO!

DONT FORGET, O SPURLUS BRONTOSAURUS, IF ANYTHING HAPPENS TO ME YOU'LL ANSWER FOR IT WITH YOUR HEAD!

SO?

SO I'M GOING TO HOLD MY BREATH UNTIL SOMETHING DOES HAPPEN TO ME.

HEY!

STOP! ALL RIGHT, WE'LL PLAY IT YOUR WAY!

PHEN! I BREATHE AGAIN!
I, II, III, IV...

WELL, YOU BE THE BADDIES WHO WANT TO CAPTURE ME AND I'LL BE THE GOODIE WHO IS TRYING TO ESCAPE.

RIGHT, WHAT DO YOU WANT TO PLAY?

I COUNT UP TO A HUNDRED BEFORE COMING AFTER ME, OTHERWISE IT DOESN'T COUNT!

THE LADS AT TOTORUM WILL SOON BE HAVING TO CHASE YOU AROUND AFTER HIM.

REMEMBER THE TIME HE WANTED OYSTERS RIGHT UP IN THE MOUNTAINS?

AND THE TIME AT LUGDUNUM WHEN HE MADE US PLAY HORSES AND WE CALLED IT A PATROL?

I HAVEN'T COUNTED TO C YET, I'M ONLY UP TO LXVII!

GET A MOVE ON, IDIOT!

BUT HE SAID IT DIDN'T COUNT!

THIS IS NO WILD BOAR!

HARDBY EVEN A WILD PIGLET!
¡LET ME GO!
¡THERE ARE SOME BADIES AFTER ME!

DON'T YOU WORRY. WE'LL TAKE CARE OF THEM.

THERE HE IS!

GAULS!

ROMANS!

BRAND NEW ONES!

ER... KINDLY HAND OVER THAT CHILD.
COME AND GET HIM!

CHAAAR...

Baff!
Bomm!
Tchac!
Glang!

¡olé!

Molesting a child! I've a good wind to straighten them out. Some more!
Well take you to our village. What's your name?

¡Huevos y Bacon! I come from Hispania.

GROUUCH!

He bit me!

I am the son of a chief, people ought to show me respect. Daddy said so.

Very well, son of a chief, we'll take you to the top man in our village.

GROANNNNN, respect, huh!

Soon afterwards...

And why were the Romans after you, my little one?

What a big nose you have!

Grumph! Take him away! We'll go on with this conversation after my afternoon nap!

Meanwhile, in the tent of Centurion Gaulius Halley, Vicus, Officer in Command of the Fortified Camp of Titorum...

Hard luck, Brontosaurus! When Caesar hears that the Gauls have got hold of your hostage, you'll be for the circus!

Is that so? And suppose I tell Caesar that you didn't help me to recapture the hostage, we'd make a fine double act in the circus then!

You're revolting!

A good thing too! It's my only chance with the lions!
NOW, BE CAREFUL! ONE WORD OUT OF PLACE AND WE'LL BE FOR IT!

A FEW MINUTES LATER...

TERribly SORry to disturb you, chief, but we'd like to pick up a little boy who...

NOTHING DOING! COME ON BOYS, LET'S GO BACK TO SLEEP WITHOUT WAKING THE OTHERS...

CHARGE!

BY TOUTATIS!

BY BELENOS!

LEAVE THEM TO ME!

WHO'S HE ON ABOUT?

MIND YOUR OWN BUSINESS!

Splat!
THE BATTLE IS SHORT, Owing to the clever manoeuvres carried out by the legionaries, notably a skilful withdrawal towards previously prepared positions...

FOR A FEW OF THEM, HOWEVER, THERE WAS NOT ENOUGH TIME TO MANOEUVRE...

WHAT WAS THAT?

THAT WAS A WORD OUT OF PLACE!

MEANWHILE...

THE ROMANS REALLY WANT THIS CHILD! I WISH I KNEW WHY!

YOU'D LIKE TO KNOW THE REASON WHY WE'RE FIGHTING TOO, WOULD YOU, CHIEF?

WELL, SONNY? TELL US WHAT BROUGHT YOU FROM HISPANIA TO GALL!

MY DADDY IS THE STRONGEST DADDY IN THE WORLD AND SILLY OLD JULIUS CAESAR IS FRIGHTENED OF MY DADDY AND SILLY OLD JULIUS CAESAR HAD ME BROUGHT TO GALL TO FRIGHTEN MY DADDY BUT THAT WON'T STOP MY DADDY BASHING SILLY OLD JULIUS CAESAR!

¡OLÉ!

¡OLÉ!

A HOSTAGE! HE'S A HOSTAGE! WE MUST PROTECT HIM FROM THE ROMANS, HE MUST NOT LEAVE THE VILLAGE!

OBELIX, I'M HANDING THIS LITTLE TERROR OVER TO YOU AND DON'T FORGET THAT AS YOUR GUEST, HE'S SACRED!

YOU MEAN HE'S A HOLY TERROR?

WHAT'S YOUR FIRST NAME, SON OF A CHIEF?

PERICLES, WE'VE GOT SOME GREEK ANCESTORS AT HOME THEY CALL ME PEPE
YOU DON'T OFTEN COME BUYING FISH!

WELL, I WANT SOME NOW, AND FAST! MY BOAR'S GETTING COLD!

I'LL TAKE THIS ONE

THREE SESTERTI!

BUT I DON'T HAVE ANY MONEY!

THEN YOU DON'T HAVE ANY FISH EITHER!

? FISH!

UNHYGIENIX FISHMONGER

ALL RIGHT, ALL RIGHT! YOU CAN PAY ME WITH A MENHIR. WE CAN ALWAYS DO WITH A MENHIR ABOUT THE PLACE.

OH, YOU NEEDN'T BOTHER ABOUT THE FISH ANY MORE, OBELIX. PEPE TRIED SOME BOAR. HE LIKED IT....

IN FACT, HE ATE YOURS TOO!

ODDOOUCH!

HE WAS GOING TO HIT ME WITH THAT FISH!

HE BIT ME!
AND DON'T FORGET THAT AS YOUR GUEST THIS CHILD IS SACRED, OBEUX, SO CALM DOWN!

I WANT TO PLAY! PLAY WITH DOGMATIX! I HAVE TO SEE A MAN ABOUT A FISH

RETURNING YOUR FISH? YOU MUST BE MAD! I DON'T WANT MY FISH OUT!

FISHMONGER

DING DONG DING DONG

YOU FORGOT YOUR FISH!

I'M GOING TO SMACK YOUR BOTTOM, TOLITATIS!

I DON'T FORGET THAT AS YOUR GUEST I'M SACRED, SO CALM DOWN!

OBEUX! YOOHOO!

THAT'S WHAT I THINK OF YOUR FISH!

YOU CAN THINK WHAT YOU LIKE, SEEING AS YOU BOUGHT IT
WHOSE IS THIS FISH THAT LANDED IN MY FACE?

IT'S HIS. HE HIRED IT OUT TO ME!

LOOK HERE...

PLAF!

MISSED! YOU MISSED!

SLAP! SLAP! SLAP!

THAT'LL TEACH YOU TO THROW FISH AT PEOPLE'S HEADS!

? BONK!

YOU KEEP OUT OF THIS!

¡OLÉ! WOOF!

HEY, BOYS, A FIGHT!

COME ON! IT'LL BE A CHANGE TO FIGHT EACH OTHER!
O CHEF, VITALSTATIEEX, COME QUICK! "THERE'S A FIGHT IN THE VILLAGE!"

WHAT?

FORWARD, BOYS! AT THE DOUBLE!

WAIT FOR ME! HOW MANY TIMES DO I HAVE TO TELL YOU TO BEND DOWN WHEN WE GO OUT OF THE HOUSE?

STOP IT, BY BELOPOS! YOU OUGHT TO BE ASHAMED OF YOURSELVES, TREATING OUR YOUNG GUEST TO THIS DISGRACEFUL EXHIBITION!

EVEYONE GO HOME! IN A QUIET AND DIGNIFIED MANNER!

HEY! YOU FORGOT YOUR FISH!

I'M SICK OF THIS FISH!

WHO DID THAT?
O BARD CACOFONIX, WOULD YOU LIKE TO LOOK AFTER PEPE AT YOUR PLACE?

IF HE'D LIKE TO COME, IT WOULD BE A PLEASURE!

SURE ENOUGH....

I'M DREAMING OF A WHITE SOLSTICE....

I'LL REMIND ME OF "ROCKABYE, PEPE, ON THE TREE TOP...."

WONDERFUL, WONDERFUL DUROVERNUM.... I CAN'T STAND IT ANY LONGER! BACTERIA! BRING ME A FISH...A BIG ONE!

THE ONE THE CHIEF HIT YOU WITH....

WE USED TO GET ON WELL TOGETHER, ME AND DOGMATIX, AND NOW....

WAIT A MINUTE! I THINK I'VE GOT IT....

YOU KNOW, ASTERIX, I'M BEGINNING TO THINK IT IS OUR MORAL DUTY TO RESTORE THAT CHILD TO ITS PARENTS.

YES, IT'S A QUESTION OF MORALE....
WHERE IS YOUR VILLAGE, PEPE?

I DON'T KNOW WHERE IT IS, BUT IT'S THE BEST VILLAGE IN THE WORLD AND MY HOUSE IS THE BEST HOUSE IN THE VILLAGE AND YOU STILL HAVE A BIG NOSE!

THE ROMANS KNOW WHERE HE LIVES. WE ONLY HAVE TO ASK THEM.

GOOD IDEA! THEY'VE STATIONED LOOK-OUTS ALL AROUND OUR VILLAGE, SO WE WON'T HAVE FAR TO GO.

SOON AFTERWARDS...

WE MUST CHOOSE TREES WITH PLENTY OF FOLIAGE AND A GOOD VIEW OF THE VILLAGE. THEY'LL PROVIDE THE BEST PICKINGS.

LET'S TRY THIS ONE!

AHA! THIS LOOKS LIKE THE RIGHT TREE! WHERE EXACTLY DOES THE HOSTAGE COME FROM?

HIS VILLAGE IS A LITTLE WAY TO THE SOUTH OF HIS PALS. CAN I GET BACK UP MY TREE NOW?

HEY! ASTERIX!

THEY'RE NOT SO BIG HERE, BUT THERE ARE MORE OF THEM! SHALL WE TRY ANOTHER TREE?

NO, OBELOX. I'VE GOT ALL I NEED TO KNOW. COME ON!
IT DOESN'T TAKE MUCH TO GET YOU DOWN.

I FEEL READY TO DROP....

OBVIOUSLY THE GAULS HAVE DECIDED TO TAKE THE HOSTAGE BACK HOME.

AND SOMETHING WE SAID MUST HAVE TOLD THEM WHERE HE LIVES....

SO WE'D BETTER NOT MENTION IT TO OUR COMMANDING OFFICER....

THAT'S RIGHT! LET'S GET BACK UP OUR TREES!

AND WHILE EVERYONE AT TOTORUM SEEMS HAPPY...

I SHALL SOON BE REJOINING MY GARRISON IN HISPANIA. I'M NOT NEEDED HERE ANY LONGER. THE GAULS KNOW THEY'RE BEING WATCHED—THEY WON'T MAKE ANY MOVE.

YOU CAN TRUST MY MEN! THEY DON'T GO BARKING UP THE WRONG TREE!

...BACK AT ROME, CAESAR'S TRIUMPH IS A HUGE SUCCESS, AND EVEN HIS CAPTIVE AUDIENCE CAN SCARCE FORBEAR TO CHEER.....

We're not nuts!

Capitol! Capitol!

AND CAESAR, DELIGHTED BY THE APPLAUSE OF THE CROWD, MAGNANIMOUSLY SETS THE BARBARIAN CHIEFTAIN FREE.

Capitol! Capitol!

I SUPPOSE IT'S BECAUSE HE'S CLAMPED IN CHAINS.

YES, IT WAS A CHAIN REACTION.
OF COURSE, YOU TWO WILL BE TAKING PEPE HOME. YOU MUST BE CAREFUL NOT TO LET HIM RUN ANY RISKS!

THE BEST WAY TO GET TO THE HISPANIAN FRONTIER WOULD BE BY BOAT. IF WE WENT BY ROAD, THE ROMANS COULD GIVE US A BIT OF BOther.

BUT WHERE CAN WE GET A BOAT?

UNHYGIENIX HAS A FISHING-BOAT. HE CAN TAKE US.

HM...IT'S JUST THAT HE'S BEEN IN RATHER A BAD MOOD LATELY...

Hüh! LET'S GO AND SEE HIM. A FISHING-BOAT IS JUST WHAT WE WANT. NOBODY TAKES ANY NOTICE OF IT.

NO, NO! WE HAVEN'T COME TO HIRE ANY FISH THIS TIME.

WE'VE COME TO HIRE YOUR BOAT.

I-DON'T HIRE-OUT-FISH!!!

YOU'RE QUITE RIGHT! THERE'S MORE FUTURE IN HIRING OUT BOATS.

HE'S RIGHT, YOU KNOW. PEOPLE ARE SO CARELESS! THE STATE THEY RETURN THEIR FISH IN...

LET ME EXPLAIN WHAT WE WANT.

VERY WELL, BUT I'D LIKE TO BE PAID IN MEHURS, IT SO HAPPENS I'VE JUST INHERITED SOME PROPERTY IN BRITAIN, AND I WANT TO DEVELOP IT.

* THE FACT THAT UNHYGIENIX'S PROPERTY WAS LOCATED ON SALISBURY PLAIN SUGGESTS A SOLUTION TO THE ARCHAEOLOGICAL PROBLEMS THAT HAVE MYSTIFIED SO MANY SCHOLARS.
GET READY, PEPE. WE'RE TAKING YOU HOME.

NO! HE'S TOO LITTLE FOR THIS VOYAGE.

SO YOU'RE BEING SENSIBLE AT LAST, OBELIX!

ANYWAY, THEY LOOK AT ME TOGETHER AND THEY GIGGLE!

SOON AFTERWARDS... HERE'S YOUR GOURD OF MAGIC POTION, ASTERIX.

THANKS, O DRUID GETAFIX.

BUT OF COURSE I DON'T DRY ANY BEERCAKE YUGASH ONE.

PEPE, GIVE YOUR FATHER MY REGARDS, AND TELL HIM I HOPE HE SUCCEEDS IN HIS STRUGGLE AGAINST THE ROMANS.

"HOMBRE! YOU REALLY DO HAVE A BIG NOSE!"

I THINK THE TIME HAS NOW COME FOR ME TO GIVE YOU A...

"SMACK! I HAVE NO REGRETS ABOUT HIRING THIS ONE!"

GOODBYE AND GOOD LUCK, BOYS!

"SSH, HOMBRE!

WOOOF!"
LOOK, ASTERIX! HE'S BROUGHT DOGMATIX! WE MUST TURN BACK!

WE CAN'T DO THAT, OBELIX; WE HAVE A FOLLOWING WIND; WE MUST MAKE THE MOST OF IT.

SEE WHAT I MEAN? THEY'RE AT IT AGAIN!

A FEW MINUTES LATER...

WHAT DO WE EAT ON THIS VOYAGE, UNHYGIENIX?

FISH, OBELIX, WE'LL CATCH IT AS WE NEED IT.

WE ALWAYS SEEM TO BE ON ABOUT FISH THESE DAYS!

I WANT BOAR!

YOU'LL EAT WHAT'S PUT IN FRONT OF YOU!

HEY! A SAIL!

WE COULD ASK THEM FOR PROVISIONS...

OBELIX, DON'T BE SO PIG-HEADED!

IF WE DON'T, I'M GONNA HOLD MY BREATH, HOMBRE!

?!

ALL RIGHT, ALL RIGHT! AFTER ALL, WE REALLY SHOULD HAVE BROUGHT SOMETHING TO EAT... COME ON, UNHYGIENIX, LET'S GO!

ONLY A FISHING BOAT... JUST SMALL FRY, BUT THERE MAY BE A CATCH IN IT.

CAN'T YOU SEE ANYONE WE COULD ATTACK?

HUH! IT'S NOT WORTH BOTHERING WITH; WE'VE JUST TAKEN ON STORES AND WE'RE FULL OF SALT MILK BOAR!

THAT FISHING-BOAT'S ALTERED COURSE! SHE'S BEARING DOWN ON US!!!
WHAT'S THAT? BEARING DOWN ON US?

WE WONDERED IF BY ANY CHANCE YOU COULD...

NOW THEN. OREIX, WE'RE HERE TO GET SOME STORIES. WE MUSTN'T BREAK ANYTHING.

I KNOW HOW TO BEHAVE!

THIS IS A BIT LIKE GOING SHOPPING.

THAT'S HOW IT'LL BE SOME DAY... SHOPS WHERE YOU SERVE YOURSELF. YOU WON'T HAVE TO KEEP BEATING THE SHOPKSWERS DOWN...

SOON AFTERWARDS...

AND THE FIRST ONE TO MAKE ANY FUNNY REMARKS WILL BE BAIT!!!
AFTER A PLEASANT VOYAGE...

THANKS! HAVE A NICE JOURNEY HOME, UNHYGIENIX.

GOOD LUCK!

AT LAST...

THE PATH MUST BE OVER THERE, BEHIND THOSE DUNES. YOU CAN EASILY GET INTO HISPANIA THAT WAY.

LOOK AT THAT, OBELIX!

Hey, you! This is a queue, you know! You chaps in sports cars think you own the road!

WHAT ARE YOU DOING HERE?

YOU'RE A BIT WET BEHIND THE EARS, AREN'T YOU, BY TUTTIES? WE'RE ON OUR WAY TO HISPANIA!

WHAT FOR?

FOR OUR HOLIDAY, OF COURSE! THE EXCHANGE RATE IS VERY FAVOURABLE FOR SESTERTIUS, AND YOU'RE SURE TO FIND THE SUN... I MUST SAY PRICES HAVE RISEN SINCE LAST YEAR. THE NATIVES ARE KITCHENING ON...

IT'S SPAINFUL!
**Asterix and Obelix**

**WHAT?!!! YOU CAN JUST GET IN THE QUEUE LIKE THE REST OF US! WE'VE BEEN CRAWLING ALONG LIKE THIS ALL THE WAY FROM *BURDIGALA!***

**COME ON! CAN'T YOU SEE WE'RE MOVING?**

**BELT UP! YOU'RE NOT INVASING US NOW!**

**COME ON!**

**THE LEGIONARIES WILL HAVE BEEN WARNED ABOUT US... WE'LL HAVE TO SLIP OVER THE BORDER SURREPTITIOUSLY.**

**BASQUE INN**

**HOT AND COLD**

**IN ALL ROOMS**

**WE MIGHT GET SOME INFORMATION THERE...**

**AND WE'RE SURE TO GET SOME FOOD!**

**GOOD MORNING... IS THERE ANY WAY WE CAN GET INTO HISPANIA WITHOUT GOING BY ROAD?**

**AND WITHOUT MEETING ANY LEGIONARIES, EH?**

**I'LL FIND YOU SOMEONE... MEANWHILE, WHAT WOULD YOU LIKE TO EAT? GOAT? HAM? BEAR? CHICKEN IN THE BASQUET?**

**FISH!**

**SOON AFTERWARDS I'VE GOT JUST THE MAN FOR YOU. HE BELONGS TO THE TRIBE OF THE VACCEIANS. HE KNOWS HIS WAY AROUND THE MOUNTAINS. HE CAN GUIDE YOU. I NEVER KNEW YOU NEEDED TO BE VACCINEATED TO GET INTO HISPANIA.**
Here's your man! Five Sesterces per person per trip. Right! Let's start at once.

Well then, that'll be ten Sesterces each, double fare in daytime. It's more dangerous by day; there are patrols out in the mountains.

Soon afterwards.....

Not a sound!

A patrol! Five men!

Hide! Keep quiet!

Look, a little dog!

Grrrr! Dogmatix!

I let go of him! Don't you dare touch him!

Excuse me! I'll be back in a minute.
WAIT FOR ME! HEY, WAIT FOR ME!

LATER, ON TOP OF THE MOUNTAIN...

COME ON, THEN! WE'RE WAITING!

IT'S JUST THAT... PUFF! PUFF!... YOU DIDN'T GO THE LIBERAL WAY. I'M LOST.

ANYWAY, YOU'RE IN HISPANIA! ALL YOU HAVE TO DO IS GO STRAIGHT ON DOWN, AND YOU'LL BE IN PAMPLONA. HERE'S YOUR MONEY.

NO, YOU DON'T OWE ME ANYTHING! I'VE JUST DECIDED TO RETIRE. AFTER TODAY, I'LL HAVE PLENTY OF STORIES TO TELL MY GRANDCHILDREN IN THE LONG WINTER EVENINGS!

WELL, HERE WE ARE IN YOUR NATIVE LAND, PEPE! ARE YOU HAPPY? I'VE ASTERIX! EVEN THE ROMANS TASTE BETTER HERE! J'OLÉ!
NIGHTS FALLING: WE SHAN’T REACH POMPABLO BEFORE TOMORROW... LET’S CAMP BY THIS RIVER.

GOOD NIGHT! GOOD ZZZZ...

NEXT MORNING...

IF YOU DON’T GO AND FETCH SOME WATER I’LL GIVE YOU A CLIP OVER THE EARHOLE, BY TOUTATIS!

WAKE UP, EVERYONE!

I DON’T KNOW HOW IT HAPPENED, BUT THE TOWN HAS COME TO US!

WHY, IT’S MY HITCH-HIKING FRIENDS! IT’S NICE TO MEET OTHER GAUSIS WHEN YOU'RE ABROAD!

WHY HAVE YOU COME TO HISPANIA IN YOUR MOVING HOUSES?

YOU MUST HAVE DINNER WITH US. WE’VE BROUGHT OUR OWN BOAR. YOU WANT TO BE CAREFUL: THEY DON’T KNOW HOW TO COOK BOAR IN THESE PARTS!
WE MUST BE GETTING ON! GOODBYE, AND THANKS!

LATER...

IT'S HOT!

I'M TIRED, ASTERIX!

I'LL ASK THESE TWO LOCALS IF IT'S MUCH FURTHER TO THE TOWN

NO, IT'S NOT VERY FAR. KEEP RIGHT ON, TURN LEFT AT THE WINDMILLS...

¿WINDMILLS? ¡CHARGE!

¡HEY! ¡HOMBRES! ¡HE'S AT IT AGAIN! ¡WAIT FOR ME!

Sure enough, the town is on holiday, and the people have gathered in festive mood, to watch the Druidical procession.
THE HOSTAGE! THE HOSTAGE IS HERE!

WHAT'S BITTEN YOU? YOU LOOK A BIT OFF COLOUR.

I'M ALL RIGHT... IT'S ALL THIS OLY FOOD, I'VE GONE OFF IT.

WHERE CAN WE HIRE A CART, LANDLORD?

TRY NO FELONIUS EL SODASPHON. THIRD TURNING ON THE RIGHT.

THE REPLEAT TOURIST

GOICHT SPOKED WE SPEAK ENGLISH.

THIS WII DO NICELY.

SO HERE YOU ARE. BACK AGAIN, SPURILUS BRONTOSAURUS!

DID YOU HAVE A NICE TIME IN GALL?

SPLENDID! THE HOSTAGE IS SAFE AT TOTORUM. WHEN MISSIONS ARE ENTRUSTED TO ME I ALWAYS....

OY, ALL RIGHT, ALL RIGHT! YOU CAN HAVE A LITTLE HERB WINE, BUT DON'T BLAME US IF YOU'RE SICK!

TRAVELLING WITH CHILDREN IS THE END!
I'd recommend this cart, nice little model. There's plenty of fodder... You won't find many filling stations on the way.

Nodepositon el sodasiphon

A cart! Quick, a cart!

Soon afterwards...

Hic! Hic! I don't want to hold my breath.

If Caesar finds out that the hostage is back in Spain, I'm for the high jump! Somehow I'll have to get him back to Gaul without being seen!

Yes, honest, but it's being made up! It will soon be very good.

Hey! All these tourists! Business is good this year!

This track's in a terrible state!
AFTER SEVERAL HOURS' DRIVING...

"THERE ARE SOME NOMADS! I LIKE NOMADS, THEY'RE FUNNY, THEY'RE ALWAYS SINGING AND DANCING"

"WELL THEN, LET'S STOP AND ASK THEM TO PUT US UP FOR THE NIGHT"

"HEY THERE, FRIENDS! COME AND SIT BY THE FIRE AND WE'LL ALL LAUGH AND BE MERRY!"

"AYAYAYAYYYY WOODIE IS MEEESEEE! AYAYAYAYYYY WHY DID SHEEEEVEE LEEESEEEAVE MEEESEEEE? AYAYAYAYAYAYAYAYYYYYYY!"

"OLÉ! OLÉ! OLÉ! OLÉ! OLÉ! OLÉ! OLÉ! OLÉ! OLÉ!

"LET THE MERRYMAKING CONTINUE! NOW FOR SOME DANCING!"

"OLÉ! OLÉ! OLÉ! OLÉ! CLAP! CLAP! CLAP! CLAP! CLAP! CLAP!"

"OLÉ! CLAP! CLAP! CLAP! CLAP! CLAP! CLAP! CLAP!"

"OLÉ! GORGEOUS! COME ON, STICK YOUR CHEST OUT!"

"I AM! IT'S JUST SLIPPED A BIT!"
We're going to bed now. We're tired, and we still have a long way to go.

We usually go on dancing and singing all night, but we'll let you get some rest.

Good night, gorgeous!

Jolézzzzzz zzzzzzzz!

Soon afterwards...

This is my chance! I'll grab the hostage and make off!

¡Ole!

¡Ole! ¡Ole! ¡Ole! ¡Ole!

¡Ayayayay, where is Sheeeee? ¡Ayayayyyyy!!! Shall llllllll down and dnnnnn!

¡Ole! ¡Ole! ¡Ole! ¡Ole! ¡Ole! ¡Ole! ¡Ole! ¡Ole!

Clap clap clap clap clap clap clap clap clap clap clap
Next morning, our friends continue their journey....

It's a good thing we've got more sense than those two specimens, Dogmatix!

Woof.

Eeeeeeek!

¡Olé!

Ay, ay, ay! And no spare wheel either!

There's a cart coming.

Crash!

We need help. Could you drive us to the nearest breakdown wheelwright?

The Gauls!

Dogmatix! Aren't you satisfied with Romans these days? You mustn't go biting people, too!

He may be a Roman! I've seen that face somewhere before.

I think I have too.

Where do you come from, friend?

...Er... by Jupit... oh, nowhere! I'm a nomad! A happy nomad, hombre!

¡Olé! ¡Olé! ¡Woooode is MEEEee!

Any good?

Not very, but his knees make a nice accompaniment!
Right, then. Our mistake... now, if you'd be kind enough to take one of us to the nearest breakdown... 

Fine! I'll take the little boy!

No, we never let Pepe out of our sight! We'll all go, if it's all the same to you.

A pleasure! Jole!

Let's introduce ourselves. I'm Asterix. I'm Obeux. Woof!

¡Huevos y bacon!

Yes... er... I'm Lorooso El Fiasco.

Soon afterwards...

This is what we want.

Off you go, both of you! Pepe and I will wait.

No, we'll all three of us go with Pepe.

Oh, all right! I'll go on my own.

Listen... there are some people out there who need a cartwheel. I don't want you to give them a cartwheel if they come here, just tell them you haven't got a cartwheel.

And here's some money for the cartwheel!

/ But hombre, this won't work! I haven't got any cartwheels not to give you! I'm right out of stock! I'll have to order them, and that takes time...
AND IN THE COURSE OF A LONG AND INTERESTING JOURNEY, OUR LITTLE COMPANY PASSES THROUGH THE CITY OF CAUSA WHERE THE PEOPLE ARE ON HOLIDAY...

*CAUSA*

... AND THE CITIES OF SEGOVIA...

*SEGOVIA*

... AND CORDOBA... BUT SPUTRUS BRONTOSAURUS IS OUT OF LUCK, FORASTERIX, OBELIX AND DOGMATIX NEVER RELAX THEIR VIGILANCE FOR A MOMENT

*CORDOBA*
WE'LL BE IN HIS PAUS TOMORROW. IT'S MY LAST CHANCE. AFTER THAT, PEPE WILL BE BACK WITH HIS FATHER, AND MY MILITARY CAREER WILL BE ENDING UP ON THE BAND OF THE ARENA!

JUST A MOMENT, NOBLE FOREIGNERS. YOU ARE GOING TO HAND OVER ALL YOUR PROPERTY. WE ARE BANDITS, AND I'M SURE YOU WILL UNDERSTAND THAT WE TOO HAVE TO MAKE A PROFIT FROM THE TOURIST SEASON!

SHALL WE GET THEM?
I WANT TO GET THEM TOO!
I'M THE ONE WHO'S GETTING THEM!
WHY DON'T YOU BOTH GET THEM, AND I'LL LOOK AFTER PEPE!

COME ON, HOMBRES! WE'RE NOT ON HOLIDAY, EVEN IF YOU ARE. WE CAN'T WAIT HERE ALL DAY!

OBELIX, YOU STAY WITH PEPE. PEPE BREATHES JUST A DROP OF MAGIC POTION. AND I'LL GET THEM!

SLUG! SLUG! SLUG!

HAND IT OVER!

THERE YOU ARE!

COME ON, MEN!

WHAM!

¡OLÉ!

¡OLÉ!

AFTER A SHORT AND UNEQUAL BATTLE...

THE TOURISTS ARE FULL OF BEANS THIS YEAR!

YES, OUR COOKING MUST HAVE IMPROVED NO END

THE MAGIC POTION THAT GIVES SUPERHUMAN STRENGTH! THE FAMOUS MAGIC POTION! IT'S MY LAST CHANCE!
Night has already fallen when our friends arrive in Hispalis, the capital of Vandalusia. The magnificent city is full of gaiety. It is a holiday!

You're in luck; I've got two rooms left, next door to each other.

I'm going to sleep in Dogmatix's room.

Me too!

All right, then, we'll share the other one.

Splendid! Splendid by Jupiter, by Ole!

Dinner in this typical Vandalusian inn is a cheery occasion.

Attractive prices, but they're rising.

They've cottoned on!

The roads are improving, they're working on them.

A proud and haughty race!

Thin-skinned!

The cooking's much better these days.

Today's menu is sausage, sauerkraut and beer.

Let's go to bed... we say goodbye tomorrow, my dear Amontillado, el Amoroso!

Oloroso el Fiasco

Now for the magic potion! Then I'll be the strongest, and I can get ahead of Pepe and take him back to Gall.
FISH? YOU MUST BE OFF YOUR ROCKER! WHERE DO YOU THINK I'M GOING TO GET FISH AT THIS TIME OF NIGHT?

WHAT ARE YOU DOING WITH THE MAGIC POTION?

DOGMAPIX! BREATHE! KEEP YOUR NOSE OUT OF THIS!

STOP THIEF!

THE DOPE! THE DOPE!

ITALIAN! ARE YOU? ME, YOUR OLD CONRADER IN ARMS?

THAT GAUL! DON'T LET HIM GET THE DOPE!

HMM... THIS IS AS CLEAR AS MUD! LET'S GO AND SEE THE COMMANDER-IN-CHIEF.
SOON AFTERWARDS, 
IN THE C-IN-C'S 
OFFICE... WELL, BRONTOSAURUS? 
YOU WERE IN CHARGE OF 
A HOSTAGE, AND NOW I FIND 
YOU BACK HERE, IN CIVIES, 
KICKING UP A RON... I SUPPOSE 
THE HOSTAGE IS SAFE 
IN GALLI, EH?

HE STOLE THE HOSTAGE, 
HE DID. ALONG WITH HIS 
ACCOMPICES I IF YOU HURRY, 
YOU'LL FIND HIM ASLEEP 
IN THE 'TYPICAL VANDALISTA' 
INN WITH A BIG FAT 
GALLUS!

I HOPE YOU'RE RIGHT... 
GO AND FIND THE 
HOSTAGE, AND HAVE 
THESE TWO THROWN 
INTO PRISON!

WHAT IS 
THIS DOPÉ?

O GENERAL, I RATHER THINK IT'S SOMETHING 
TO DO WITH THAT MAGIC POTION—THE ONE KNOWN 
ONLY TO A LITTLE TRIBE OF GALLUS BARBARIANS...

IT IS SAID TO 
GIVE GREAT 
STRENGTH!

YOU DON'T 
SAY!

COME HERE, 
OBSEQUIUS, MY 
DEAR FELLOW

THIS IS A 
REAL HIT 
FOR OBSEQUIUS!

PAF!

EXCELLENT, 
OBSEQUIUS! 
YOU'VE 
DONE VERY 
WELL!

SHANKSH, 
O SHENERAL!
I never trusted you from the start. That's why we were always on our guard!

Huh! Obelix and Pepe will be captured, you'll be thrown to the lions, and I'll be pardoned.

Clang! Clank!

Bad news for you, Bronitosauro. The fat Gaul and the hostage have left the inn, and they're nowhere to be found...

Good for Obelix!

All we can do now is besiege the hostage's father's village. The Pax Romana in Hispania will be broken, all because of your stupidity!

But it's an ill wind... I was looking for a good turn for the games in Hispalis. Something spectacular to end the season... We have to have Panem et circenses to keep the people happy...

As for the Panem, they're improving no end, and as for the circenses you'll be a first-class turn-ave!

Cheer up, Roman! We haven't been eaten yet!

But it's nearly feeding time, and you haven't even got your magic potion!

The local inhabitants and the tourists are thrilled by the announcement that a traitor and an outlaw are to be thrown to the wild beasts, and soon seats in the arena can only be obtained at the inn, at an extortionate price...

It's a nasty, cowardly exhibition!

Not at all! The man has a sporting chance. After all, it's a good way for a fighting man to die. It's just sentimental to feel sorry for him, and then there's music, atmosphere and colour...

Sure enough, at five o'clock in the afternoon the circus of Hispalis is full of music, atmosphere and colour.

Taratariii!

Tropa!
I think you'll enjoy this, my dear Begonia.

I hope so, General. It's so hot in these provincial towns... I shouldn't have put this cloak on.

Here come the victims!

Look dignified, Brontosaurus! Show them what we're worth!

As far as I'm concerned, they've been robbed!

Let your lions loose, Roman!

We don't have lions here, Gaul...

This is what we have!

An aurochs! A wild aurochs!

Gaul! Do something, by Jupiter!!!

Aurochs! Here, aurochs, by toutatis!

¡olé! ¡olé! ¡olé! ¡olé!
MY CLOAK! MY LOVELY BRAND-NEW CLOAK!

I'LL SAVE IT FOR YOU, MA'AM!

KEEP OFF, YOU NASTY CREATURE! YOU'LL GET IT ALL DIRTY!

¡OLÉÉÉÉE!

THIS IS GETTING TO BE A HABIT BY BELENOS!

¡OLÉÉÉÉ!

THAT'S ENOUGH, NOW! SIT!

¡OLÉÉÉÉ!

HERE'S YOUR CLOAK, MA'AM. I'LL THROW IT UP!

HOW CHIVALROUS HE IS... JUST WAIT TILL I TELL MY FRIENDS IN ROME ABOUT THIS...

WATCH OUT!

PAF!

BRRRROOOOONNMM!
Send in another Aroche! Roman, this one's finished.

No! I ask pardon for this brave and chivalrous man!

Pardon this man too!

Very well, but he's dismissed from the army.

I'm going to make my career in the arena! Spuritis Brontosaurus is no more. This is El Hispanes, the Aurochero!

¡OLÉÉÉÉÉ!

Not Aurocheador, as it is often mistakenly expressed.

Thanks to the directions given by the grateful Brontosaurus, Asterix arrives at Perseus's village, which is being besieged by the Romans.

Asterix! Here I come!

Obelix!

Wash out! It looksh ash if they're going to break out!

Asterix! I've been so worried!

Come on! Let's get back to the village! They're all waiting for you!

Wash out! It looksh ash if they're going to break in again!

Sure enough... Right, lesionaresh! We'll have a change of shtratesh! We'll build fortified camps all round the village, and keep watch, and not shtrart any fights, by shJupiter!
I SAW YOU LEAVE THE INN YESTERDAY! I WAS JUST GOING OUT TO FIND SOME FISH FOR PEPE, BUT I LOST SIGHT OF YOU. SO I THOUGHT THE FIRST THING TO DO WAS GET PEPE TO SAFETY. LUCKILY HE KNEW THE WAY TO HIS VILLAGE!

SAY! HOW CAN I EVER THANK YOU, FRIENDS? IT WAS NOTHING, CHEF HUEVOS Y BACON... WE'LL BE OFF HOME NOW.

I DON'T WANT THEM TO GO!

GOODBYE, PEPE! WE'LL BE BACK! THAT'S A PROMISE!

YOU'LL HAVE PLENTY OF ROMANS TO PLAY WITH NOW. THAT'S A PROMISE, HOMBRE!

AND AFTER A LONG AND PEACEFUL JOURNEY, OUR FRIENDS RETURN TO THE LITTLE GAULISH VILLAGE, WHERE THEY RECEIVE THEIR USUAL ENTHUSIASTIC WELCOME... AND CACAOONIX THE BARD, FOR ONCE, IS HAPPY!

A FISH, A FISH, MY KINGDOM FOR A FISH!

GRMHPFHEEHEE!