Asterix and the Roman agent

by GOSCINNY and UDERZO
ASTERIX AND THE ROMAN AGENT

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The year is 50 BC. Gaul is entirely occupied by the Romans. Well, not entirely... One small village of indomitable Gaurs 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...
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...

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...

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.’
ALL IS PEACEFUL IN THE LITTLE GALLOSH VILLAGE WE KNOW SO WELL, AND, AS USUAL, EVERYONE IS CHEERFUL AND FRIENDLY....

GOOD MORNING, CEBILX, GOOD MORNING, DOGMATIX!

GOOD MORNING, ASTERIX!

GOOD MORNING, MENAGIENIX!

GOOD MORNING, IMPEDIMENTA!

GOOD MORNING, GERIATRIX!

GOOD MORNING, MY BOY!

GOOD MORNING, CAROFONIX!

STILL LOST YOUR VOICE?

AND IN THE ROMAN SENATE, OLD SENATOR STRADIVARUS IS GETTING ALL STRUNG UP IN HIS WELL-MODULATED TONES, CALCULATED TO RAISE A CROWD TO FEVER PITCH. HE IS SETTING AN OLD SCORE WITH CAESAR....

CAESAR STILL ASKS US FOR MONEY AND MEN TO WAGE WAR, AND YET HE'S NOT EVEN CAPABLE OF KEEPING THE PAX ROMANA IN THE COUNTRIES HE'S ALREADY CONQUERED!...

...THERE'S A LITTLE VILLAGE UP THERE IN GALI... IT DEFIES OUR OCCUPYING FORCES AND REFUSES TO OBEY OUR LAWS!

LET CAESAR ENFORCE THE POWER OF ROME IN THE OCCUPIED TERRITORIES BEFORE HE THINKS OF NEW CAMPAIGNS!

YES!

FOR JUPITER'S SAKE, GET THAT PLEB A SEAT!

A PLEBISCITE! GOOD IDEA!

SO THE NEXT DAY CAESAR HAS A MEETING OF HIS FRIENDS AND COLLEAGUES AT HIS LUXURIOUS VILLA OUTSIDE ROME.

MON REPOS

MEO REQUIES

BEWARE OF THE DOG
Ah, there you are at last, Brutus! Sit down. Now we can begin.

The roads are so busy after the calends...

The Senate wants to take its revenge on me for cutting its power. I must show them who's the boss, and to do that I'll have to wipe out this wretched Gaulish village...

Let's have your ideas... speak up.

Et tu, Brutus?

I suggest brute force!

They have a magic potion which makes them invincible. And do put that dagger away, you idiot, you'll do yourself an injury!

Stop me if I'm on the wrong track, but what about buying them off?

These barbarians are not interested in money, if they were, the magic potion would have been on the market long ago!

This is only a suggestion, but...

... their strength springs from their solidarity. If we could sow a bit of discord in the village, they would split up and the potion wouldn't matter any more...

I know the Gauls are famous for their intransigent arguments, but this lot stick together through thick and thin.

J.C.! I've got the very man! He'll split them up for you!

He used to have a flat in Anfinsella's town. He made so much trouble in the building that the other tenants managed to get him thrown into prison to be eaten by the lions!

Where is this troublemaker of yours?

He's still in prison. When they put him in the arena, the lions ate one another!

Have him brought to me! Now for some food, et tu, Brutus!

These classical allusions are beginning to get on my nerves! One of these days I'll...
WHAT'S HIS NAVIE, YOUR TROUBLEMAKER?

TORTUOUS CONVOLVULUS. YOU'LL SEE, J.C. HE'S A BIT OF A WEED, BUT VERY EFFECTIVE. THE GREEN-EYED MONSTER FOLLOWS HIM WHEREVER HE GOES - IT'S LIKE MAGIC!

WE NEED MAGIC TO GET RID OF THOSE GAULS...

YOU'RE A ROTTEN SNEAK, BY JUPITER!

SAY THAT AGAIN!

WHAT'S HAPPENING OUT THERE?!!

YOU HEARD A ROTTEN SNEAK!

I'LL TEACH YOU TO GO ROUND SAYING I'M THE CENTURION'S PET!

IS THAT SO? AND WHO WAS IT TOLD HIM I CAME BACK TO CAMP OVER THE VIII LAST NIGHT?

NOW THEN, WHAT'S ALL THIS ABOUT?

IT WASN'T ME WHO...

AYE CAESAR! IN ACCORDANCE WITH OUR ORDERS WE HAVE BROUGHT YOU THE PRISONER, TORTUOUS CONVOLVULUS.

GOOD. JINDO HIM, THEN FALL OUT!

COME ALONG, TORTUOUS CONVOLVULUS!

SNEAK!

DRUNKARD!
OH, YES, THAT'S RIGHT! WHEN IT'S NOT BRUTUS'S IDEA, BRUTUS IS JEALOUS!

JEALOUS? MAYBE I AM JEALOUS, BUT I DIDN'T BETRAY CAESAR! I WAS NEVER IN THE PAY OF POMPEY!

ME IN POMPEY'S PAY? HE MAY HAVE BEEN, NOT TO MENTION ANY NAMES, AND HIM, AND HIM! BUT I NEVER BETRAYED J.C.!

IF YOU DON'T MIND! HE WAS A TRAITOR, NOT ME! YOU OFF YOUR HEAD?

LIAR!!! FANCY SUSPECTING ME! ME, WHEN I DENOUNCED EVERYONE ELSE!

HOW INTERESTING!

HEE, HEE, HEE!

TRAITOR!

BARBARIAN!

DIRTY SPY!

GENTLEMEN, PLEASE!
I SHOULDN'T LIKE TO BE THE CAUSE OF ANY DISAGREEMENT. IF, IN THE PAST, YOU HAVE TAKEN ADVANTAGE OF CAESAR'S GULLIBILITY...

GULLIBLE, ME ???

YOU'RE GREAT!
I'M SENDING YOU ON A MISSION TO GALL. IF YOU SUCCEED YOU'LL GET YOUR FREEDOM AND A FORTUNE

CROOK! PROFITEER!

SCOUNDREL! TRAITOR!
Meanwhile, things are much the same in the little Gaulish village...

Life's good, o' Druid!

Too good, Asterix! The Romans are behaving themselves, we haven't got any worries, our bard has lost his voice — it can't last... I feel there's trouble brewing.

However, the Druid's premonition is not without foundation. Danger is ploughing its way towards Gaul on board a Roman galley where everyone is arriving, from the captain...

Well, Gaiantortus did say that it was you who said I was nothing but an old amphora of wine!

And I say that if Gaiantortus said that, Gaiantortus is a liar!

Pirate ship to port!

Did you hear that, Captain?

No! No one's to listen to him! He's been sent to Coventrium!

If that's the way the land lies, I shan't say another word!!

He dared to say that while we were at sea our wives were all out at orgies!

Huh! They're the sort of people who'd say I only got into the Navy because my wife is a close friend of Julius Caesar's second cousin twice removed!
HAVE YOU LOT DOWN THERE NEARLY FINISHED? WUDUIMT T YOUR WIVES BE CROUP IF THEY COULD SEE YOU NOW!

THE PIRATES ARE GOING TO BOARD US, CAPTAIN! WHAT CAN WE DO?

ARE YOU EXPECTING A DECISION FROM AN OLD AMPHORA OF WINE, GAIANTORTUS?

THAT'S SLANDER! ABERDEEN ANGUS SPENDS HIS TIME SLANDERING EVERYONE!

I'VE JUST ABOUT HAD ENOUGH...

HAVE YOU LOT DOWN THERE NEARLY FINISHED? WOULDN'T YOUR WIVES BE PROUD IF THEY COULD SEE YOU NOW!

THAT'S DONE IT! COME DOWN HERE AND JUMP TO IT!

NO! I PREFER TO REMAIN ALOOF, ALOFT!

CUT THAT MAST DOWN!!!

HEY! WHAT ABOUT US, THEN?
WHAT THE... WE'RE SINKING!

SHIVER ME TIMBERS! YOU CAN GET READY TO RECEIVE BOARDERS, THAT'S WHAT YOU CAN DO!

A TRAITOR IN OUR MIDST!

AND WHERE'S THE GOLD? WE NEVER SAW ANY OF IT!

HOW DARE YOU BLACKEN MY NAME!

A TRAITOR, ME?

NOW YOU'RE SCUPPERED!

I'VE HOLED US IN THE HOLD!

BOOM!

CRACK!

CHAC!

TCHONK!

BONK!

PAFF!

WHAT THE... WE'RE SINKING!!!

As for you, you distinguished classical scholar, you're beginning to get on my...

But that's not on! When I saw him in Rome, I gave him a bag of gold and he promised not to attack us!

This is great, boys! We don't need the Gauls any more. We can make fools of ourselves without them!
IN THE LITTLE GALLISH VILLAGE, IN CONTRAST TO THESE VIOLENT EVENTS...

WE'RE GOING TO GET THINGS READY FOR CHIEF VITALSTATISTIX'S BIRTHDAY PARTY

IT WILL BE AN OCCASION OF GENERAL GOODWILL!

THERE'LL BE HEAPS OF BOAR, FULL OF BONES, DUGMATIX!

I'M GOING TO GIVE THE CHIEF A MENHIR, WHAT ABOUT YOU?

A SHIELD FOR HIS COLLECTION!

I'M GOING TO GIVE HIM A SWORD!

I'M GOING TO GIVE HIM A FISH, HE CAN STUFF IT!

DON'T LET ON! REMEMBER, WE WANT TO GIVE VITALSTATISTIX A NICE SURPRISE...

WHAT A WONDERFUL SURPRISE! MY DEAR FRIENDS...

... I AM AT A LOSS FOR WORDS, BUT LET ME TRY TO EXPRESS ALL THE JOY I FEEL...

YOU COULD HELP ME PLUCK THIS CHICKEN, INSTEAD OF SPOILING SUCH RUBBISH!

IMPEDEMNTA, IN MY POSITION AS CHIEF, AS THE MOST IMPORTANT MAN IN THE VILLAGE, I DO HAVE CERTAIN OBLIGATIONS...

YES, WHEN IT COMES TO STUFFING YOURSELF WITH FOOD AND DRINK ANY EXCUSE WILL DO, BUT WHEN IT COMES TO WORKING...

WELL, YOU'RE PROUD OF BEING THE CHIEF'S WIFE, AREN'T YOU? FIRST LADY OF THE VILLAGE! SOME OF MY GLORY RUBS OFF ON TO YOU!

YOU CAN SAY THAT AGAIN! WE'RE GOING TO BE LAID WITH A LOT OF STUPID PRESENTS. WE COULD NEVER EXPECT YOUR FRIENDS TO GIVE YOU ANYTHING WORTHWHILE, OH NO! NO ARTISTIC SENSE! JUST SAVAGES...
IN THE TENT OF THE CENTURION IN COMMAND OF THE ROMAN CAMP OF AQUARIUM...

... AND THAT POTION OF THEIRS MUST BE STRONG STUFF - THEY'RE FULL OF TEAM SPIRIT!

I KNOW ALL THAT, FELIX PLATYPUS, BUT YOU KNOW WHAT CAESAR SAID: YOU MUST TAKE YOUR ORDERS FROM ME!

I DON'T OBJECT TO THAT AT ALL, CONVOLVULUS. I JUST DON'T THINK THAT YOU'LL MANAGE TO SPLIT THEM UP...

YOU HAVE GIVEN ME THE NAME AND DESCRIPTION OF EVERY ONE OF THOSE NUT CASES. NOW, I NEED THAT!

THAT?

IT'S JUST THAT THIS VASE IS PART OF THE SPOILS FROM ONE OF MY CAMPAIGNS...

YES, YOUR JUNIOR OFFICERS TOLD ME YOU HAD SOME INDIVIDUAL IDEAS ABOUT SHARING OUT THE BOOTY

GET ALL MY JUNIOR OFFICERS FALLEN IN!

SOON AFTERWARDS...

WHAT'D YOU WANT, ROMAN?

I HAVE BROUGHT A PRESENT TO THE MOST IMPORTANT MAN IN THE VILLAGE!

... AND HE'S BROUGHT A VALUABLE VASE!

AH?

PORTERS!

CLICK!

HERE HE COMES! RIGHT, BOYS! SHOW A BIT OF DIGNITY! WE DON'T WANT TO LOOK AS IF WE'RE EXPECTING HIM!
THE MOST IMPORTANT MAN IN THE VILLAGE?

HAVING ARRIVED LATELY IN GAIL, AND DESIRING OF STRENGTHENING THE TIES OF FRIENDSHIP BETWEEN ROMANS AND GAULS, I BRING THIS GIFT FOR YOU, THE MOST IMPORTANT MAN IN THE VILLAGE.

BACK HOME! JUMP TO IT!

AND HOW MANY TIMES DO I HAVE TO TELL YOU? BEND DOWN WHEN YOU GO THROUGH DOORWAYS!!!

IMPRESSIVE, EH? THE MOST IMPORTANT MAN IN THE VILLAGE, EH? THE ROMANS HAVE GOT THE PICTURE ALL RIGHT! AND THEY DON'T GIVE MENHIRS AND OTHER TRASH TO ASTERIX....

... REALLY IMPORTANT PEOPLE GET GIVEN VALUABLE WORKS OF ART!

I TELL YOU I'M THE MOST IMPORTANT!

OH YES? WELL, LET ME TELL YOU THAT IF ANYONE SHOULD EVER BE FOOL ENOUGH TO WRITE THE STORY OF OUR VILLAGE, THEY WON'T BE CALLING IT THE ADVENTURES OF VITALSTATISTIX, THE GAUL!!!
... a valuable vase, studded with jewels!

... and full of precious stones, I saw them!

Did you see Vitalstatistix's face?

Watch out! Here's impedimenta!

Good morning

Hey! There's a queue here, you know!

What? But I'm the Chief's wife! The first lady of the village!

That's not what the Romans think!

That's right! If Asterix was married, Mrs. Asterix would be it!

Oh, would she! Yes, she would!

Ladies! Ladies! Take it easy!

Biff!
WHAT HAVE YOU BROUGHT FOR LUNCH, IMPEDIMENTA, MY LOVE?

Ah!

THAT!

SPLAT!

BooHoo! My parents warned me you were no good! I've given the best years of my life to a great fat boar! A barbarian! A failure! Everyone looks down on me!

You'll never get a valuable vase, not you! Nobody ever gives anything like that to you!

I'm just about fed up to the back teeth with this vase!

And coarse with it! BooHoo! BooHoo!

Watch it! Here's the boss!

I didn't ring for you! I'm going out on foot! Incognito!!!

I did not ring for you! I'm going out on foot! Incognito!!

What do you want, Roman?

Nothing. I was just passing, so I popped in to say ave.

Right, ave. Now take your vase and off you go!

Wouldn't hear of it! I won't keep you any longer.

That boar was excellent! Thanks for everything, Asterix!
HE DIDN'T TOUCH IT! COME AND SEE, O CHIEF, WE HAVE TWO BOARS AND THEY HAVEN'T BEEN STARTED!

DON'T YOU EVER LET GO OF THAT VASE?

GLURP!

WHAT THE...??!

YOU'RE FREE TO CHOOSE YOUR OWN FRIENDS, ASTERIX, EVEN IN THE ENEMY CAMP, EVEN ROMANS!

YOU'RE FREE TO CHOOSE YOUR OWN FRIENDS, ASTERIX, EVEN IN THE ENEMY CAMP, EVEN ROMANS!

COULDN'T YOU WAIT BEFORE GOBBLING UP THOSE BOARS, YOU GREEDY PIG?

THEY WERE GETTING COLD, AND WHEN YOU WENT OUT AFTER YOUR FRIEND...

HE IS NOT MY FRIEND!

I GET THE MESSAGE, COME ALONG, DOGMATIX, WE'RE IN THE WAY HERE

AVE, ASTERIX!
Right, that's it. He's gone too far this time. Grooomgrooomgrooom...

Grooomgrooomgrooom...

Grooomgrooomgrooom...

They could indeed... Vitalstatix has just given his own account of recent events, stressing the bonds of friendship between Asterix and the mysterious Roman!

I'm worried, Obelix. Everyone in the village is so jumpy. Things could take a turn for the worse...

I should have called you a greedy pig!

Come on, let's have a beer!

Smashing!

Hmm! They're celebrating something in there!

I don't go chasing after honours; I don't invite all and sundry home, not even Romans! I could be a Roman senator if I wanted to, but you know me, my love...

Just wait till my friends hear about this! It so happens I've invited them for a cup of goat's milk to talk about this business!

Boo hoo! Boo hoo! I shouldn't have said what I said!

I shouldn't have called you a greedy pig!

Howww!
I hope I'm not late?

Of course not.

Oh, it's only milk, sugar, eggs, flour, and boar fat—not at all fattening.

Not too much, just a little!

Impedimenta, about this morning... it was only a bit of fun... a joke.

Of course! Let's talk about more important things...

My husband, the Chief-Julius Caesar nominated him a senator, but he refused, of course—well, he's giving a great deal of thought to Asterix and his friendship with that Roman.

Yes, my husband Fullautomatix told me they were having a good time. He heard laughter and singing. They seemed to have been drinking!

How dreadful! You know, I've always had my doubts about Asterix. A man of his age, and still a bachelor...

How old is he exactly?

Goodness knows! My husband Geriatrix says he's not so young as he looks!

Mmmm... and his friend Obelix? Do you think he's a good influence? All that greedy pig thinks of is his food!

The trouble is that Asterix is our Druid. Getarix's favourite, and he knows a lot of secrets...

The secret of the magic potion, for example?

My lips are sealed.

And soon afterwards...

... so Asterix has sold the secret of the magic potion to the Romans? These young people! I ask you!
DO YOU THINK IT'S NORMAL FOR THAT ROMAN TO BE GIVING ASTERIX PRESENTS?

WELL, NO...

OH, TAKE NO NOTICE OF HIM! LUTHYGIENIX IS A SHOPKEEPER, SO SELLING FISH OR POTIONS, IT'S ALL THE SAME TO HIM!

SAY THAT AGAIN?

YOU HEARD!

PAFF!

ASTERIX IS A TRAITOR!

NO, HE ISN'T!

YES, HE IS!

LOOK OUT! HERE HE COMES! ACT NORMAL! LET'S MAKE OUT WE'RE DOING NOTHING!
I'm worried about the villagers' attitude... surely they don't suspect me just because of that Roman's visit!

HM... slander can be dangerous. Toutatis alone knows what ideas they're dreaming up!

But none of that matters! The chief's birthday banquet is this very evening. That will bring everybody together again.

But the druid Getafix is unduly optimistic... in the village, everyone suspects everyone else...

The only one who is unaware of this sad state of affairs is the bard Cacophonix, with his head in the clouds...

And that evening, during the banquet, no one is speaking to anybody else...

... in fact, the bard has the strange impression of being alone at the table. You might almost think it was the end...

... the end of the village!
NEXT DAY, A ROMAN PATROL IS SCOUTING AROUND IN THE FOREST, TAKING NO CHANCES…

FOOTSTEPS!

LET’S HIDE IN THAT TREE OVER THERE!

OUCH! LET’S USE A DIFFERENT TREE!

THERE’S NO TIME! SSSH!

IT’S VERY KIND OF YOU TO COME AND HELP ME CHECK MY SHOES, FULLIAUTOMATIX!

I WANTED A QUIET WORD WITH YOU, AWAY FROM THE OTHERS…

OUCH! OOH! OOH!

YOU’RE AN EXPERIENCED CHAP, GERIATRIX… IF THE ROMANS DO HAVE THE MAGIC POTION, IT’S VERY SERIOUS… MY WIFE THINKS THE TIME HAS COME TO LEAVE THE DISTRICT

HUUH! THE ROMANS DON’T SCARE ME WITH THEIR MAGIC POTION. I’M READY TO FIGHT AGAIN, AS WE DID AT GERGONIA!

HAVE WE GOT THE MAGIC POTION?

SURELY WE’D KNOW!

BY THE WAY, BOYS, NOW THE GAULS HAVE GONE, SHALL WE GET DOWN FROM THIS TREE?

YES, BECAUSE OF THE WASPS!

BACK AT AQUARIUM…

WE’VE GOT THE MAGIC POTION!

WE’VE GOT THE MAGIC POTION!!
What's going on here, by Jupiter?

We've found out we've got the secret of the magic potion.

All the lads are asking why you don't give us any, instead of letting us get bashed about by those Gallish nutts!

Teehee! Your magic potion is me!

A cauldron. Quick! Get him stewed!

No thanks! I'm not eating that! Never touch it!

Simmer down! Everything is going according to plan!

We'll spread it about that we do have the magic potion, and I promise you the Gallus will soon split up and go away.

We are soldiers! We don't like the devilish ways of civil servants! We prefer honourable battles, the clash of arms, the clarion call of Bucinhas...

... Blood, toll, tears and...

Right, what do we do, convolvulus?

?!?

Come with me. I'll tell you my plans.
I've chosen you for this mission, Magnusorus, because you have all the necessary qualities for participating in psychological warfare.

The patrol's intelligence is correct—a snare! Excellent! Let's hide behind this tree.

When I give the signal, do what I told you, Magnusorus.

He's alone! Everything's going to plan!

What a pity... nothing!

Now!

Excellent! Now, take your helmet off!

Duh! I likes psychological warfare, I does!

Off we go!
Alesia! It's Alesia all over again!

The Romans attacked me! They've got superhuman strength! I wasn't beaten easily, and I managed to snatch this trophy. Only the magic potion could have made them strong enough to overcome me!

That proves it! They've got the potion!

Out of the question! Only our Druid knows its secret!

He's not the only one now!

Have you all gone mad, by Tultatis? You don't need magic potion to knock Geriatrix out!

What's that?

All the same, a Roman would have to be pretty sure of himself to attack even this old relic!

Look here...

And look at that tiny little helmet! The legionary who wore it must have been a proper cutie! We always knew Geriatrix had small Latin...

...but surely even Geriatrix could have mastered any Latin that small!

And you know what Geriatrix says to you?!

We must find out for sure whether the Romans have the magic potion.

I'll go and ask them if you like.

No, not you, Unhygienix and Pullulautomatix, you go!
TRY NOT TO SMELL:

F

BY TOUTATIS!

THEM HAVE GOT IT!

LET'S HAVE A LOOK!

FUNNY THING... SNIF!

... I SMELL SOMETHING FISHY

EXCELLENT! IT MUST BE THE GALUS SPYING ON US...

HOMUNCULUS! MAGNUMORUS!

CARRY OUT OUR PLAN!

AHA! NOW TO FIND OUT IF THIS MAGIC POTION REALLY WORKS!

THEY'VE GOT IT! THEY'VE GOT IT!

WE MUST WARN THE OTHERS!

NO, IT ISN'T: IT'S A FLYING FISH!
RIGHT. WE CAN STOP NOW. THEY SHOULD HAVE GONE.

STOP? BUT WE HAVEN'T HAD OUR MAGIC POTION YET!
IT'S NOT FAIR!
WE'VE GOT A RIGHT TO HAVE OUR MAGIC POTION!

BUT IT ISN'T MAGIC POTION! IT'S ONLY HOT WATER!

WHAT'D YOU MEAN, IT ISN'T MAGIC POTION? WHAT ABOUT HIM, THEN?

BUT I EXPLAINED IT ALL TO YOU! WE'RE JUST PRETENDING!

OH, SO IT ISN'T MAGIC POTION, EH? WHAT ABOUT THAT, THEN? I'VE KNOCKED OUT THE MAN WHO KNOCKED OUT MAGNUMOPUS!

BUT MAGNUMOPUS ISN'T REALLY KNOCKED OUT!
GET UP AND SHOW HIM, MAGNUMOPUS!

DUH! THIS PSYCHOLOGICAL WARFARE IS GOOD STUFF!

YOUR PLANS ARE TOO COMPLICATED, CONVULVULUS... I DON'T KNOW WHERE WE ARE NOW MYSELF... SO WHO HAS GOTTEN THE MAGIC POTION?

PAF!
THE ROMANS HAVE GOT THE MAGIC POTION! WE SAW THEM!

WE'VE BEEN SEEING A LOT OF ROMANS AROUND THE VILLAGE LATELY. ARE YOU ACCUSING ME OF GIVING THE ROMANS THE SECRET OF THE MAGIC POTION?

AND HOW ABOUT YOU, VITALSTATISTIX? ARE YOU ACCUSING ME OF TELLING ASTERIX THE SECRET—THE SECRET THAT MAY ONLY BE HANDED DOWN FROM DRUID TO DRUID, BY WORD OF MOUTH?

ER... WELL...

ALL RIGHT. I GET THE MESSAGE. I'M LEAVING THE VILLAGE.

ME TOO. WELL, THEN, ME TOO.

BUT DRUID... IF YOU WALK OUT ON US WE WON'T HAVE ANY MAGIC POTION!

STOP CALLING ME SENATOR, IDIOT! GET OUT OF MY SIGHT!

I FEEL VERY LOW...

I WONDER IF WE MAY JUST POSSIBLY HAVE DONE A SILLY THING, BOYS....

YOU SHOULD HAVE STOPPED THEM, SENATOR.
YOU!?

YES, US. WE'VE COME TO TELL YOU THAT YOU'VE WON!

YOU'VE SUCCEEDED IN SOWING DISCORD IN OUR VILLAGE BY SPREADING LIES AND SLANDER

WH... WHAT ARE YOU GOING TO DO TO ME?

NOTHING. WE'VE JUST COME TO TELL YOU WE DESPISE YOU. WE'RE NOT INTERESTED IN YOU OR THE VILLAGERS WHO WERE SO READY TO BELIEVE YOUR LIES.

WE'RE LEAVING THESE PARTS, ALONG WITH OBELIX AND THE MAGIC POTION!

??

I CHECKED UP ON IT. THEY HAVEN'T GOT THE MAGIC POTION. THEY'RE AS SOFT AS EVER.

LET'S GET OUT OF THIS CAMP.

DID YOU SEE THOSE DOGMATIX? NO ONE'S GOT THE MAGIC POTION NOW, AND THEY'RE LAUGHING!

WE CAN SEE EVERYTHING THAT GOES ON IN THE CAMP FROM OUR VANTAGE POINT IN THIS TREE.
I'VE DONE IT! IT WORKED! THE DRUID, THE DWARF AND THE MONSTER HAVE LEFT THE VILLAGE!

EXPLAIN YOURSELF, CONVOLULUS. YOU'RE MAKING LESS SENSE ALL THE TIME

NOW THAT THOSE THREE GAULS HAVE GONE, THE OTHERS WILL BE HARMLESS. NO MORE DRUID, NO MORE MAGIC POTION!

I GET IT!

SOUND THE BUCINAS AND TRUMPETS! TO ARMS! EVERYONE FALL IN! ALL ABLE-BODIED PERSONNEL TO REVIVE THOSE WHO WERE BRAINWASHED!

TANTANTARA TARA!

AND WHAT, MAY I ASK, IS THAT?

WELL, SINCE THERE ARE SOME WHO SAY WE HAVEN'T GOT THE MAGIC POTION, WE THOUGHT PSYCHOLOGICAL WARF...?

THAT WILL DO! YOU'RE IN THE ROMAN ARMY NOW!

STAND TO ATTENTION! NO FALLING OUT OF LINE! YOU WILL MASSACRE ACCORDING TO THE RULES! I DON'T WANT ANY FANCY NOTIONS HERE! GO AND GET YOUR WEAPONS!
RIGHT! LEGIONARIES, WE ARE ABOUT TO ATTACK THE GAULISH VILLAGE AND WIPE IT OFF THE FACE OF THE ROMAN EARTH! THE GALLS HAVEN'T GOT ANY MORE MAGIC POTION, AND... 

BUT... ER... HAVE WE GOT THE MAGIC POTION, THEN? YES, OF COURSE WE HAVE! NO, OF COURSE WE HAVEN'T!

BUT HOMUNCULUS... LOOK, JOKING APART, HAVE WE GOT IT OR HAVE WE NOT?

LISTEN! NO ONE'S GOT THE MAGIC POTION, BUT WE OUTNUMBER THE GALLS TWENTY TO ONE! WE SHALL WIN EASILY, AND CAESAR WILL REWARD US!

SO... UP, LEGIONARIES, AND AT 'EM!

AVE CAESAR!

I SEE THAT MIXING WITH US HAS MADE YOU A CUNNING STRATEGIST!

TANTANTAR TARA! BONG! BONG!

IT'S WORKING LIKE A CHARM! THEY'VE LEFT THE CAMP! OFF WE GO!
SURE ENOUGH, IN THE VILLAGE, THE DAUL-S ARE GETTING REAPED THAT THEY ARE NOT BY ANY VLEAWS OLD CROCKS WITH OR WITHOUT POTION, THEY SHOW THEM WHO WE ARE!

IS THIS MAGIC POTION?
MY DEAR OBEIX, IF YOU DRANK IT IT WOULDN'T HAVE ANY EFFECT ON YOU AT ALL.
OH, THEN IT IS MAGIC POTION. MAGIC POTION NEVER DOES HAVE ANY EFFECT ON ME AT ALL.
SOMETIMES HE MAKES ME WONDER IF I KNOW WHAT I MEAN MYSELF!
LET'S NOT WASTE TIME. WE HAVE TO REACH THE VILLAGE BEFORE THE ROMANS.

SURE ENOUGH, THE LEGIONARIES ARE PASSING THROUGH THE FOREST IN THE DIRECTION OF THE VILLAGE...
I SAY, THE LADS WANT TO KNOW HOW THE LOOT IS GOING TO BE SHARED OUT THIS TIME, BECAUSE AT MUNDA...
WELL, WHAT ABOUT MUNDA? WHAT HAPPENED AT MUNDA?
THE LOOT WAS PERFECTLY FAIRLY DISTRIBUTED... LET'S SEE, THERE WERE THOSE TWELVE VALUABLE VASES...

LET'S NOT COUNT ON VALUABLE VASES... YOU MIGHT GET A NASTY JAR!
SURE ENOUGH, IN THE VILLAGE, THE GALVS ARE GETTING READY TO PROVE THAT THEY ARE NOT BY ANY MEANS OLD CROOKS...
WE'D BETTER NOT SHOW THEM HOW MANY WE ARE, THAT'S ALL!
THERE THEY ARE!

WE MUST REACH THE VILLAGE AHEAD OF THEM. TAKE A GOOD SWIG OF MAGIC POTION, ASTERIX!

NO, NO, NOT THAT ONE, OBELIX!

OUCH! THEY'RE ATTACKING US IN THE REAR!

BUT... BUT WE'RE THE REAR!

TCHAPATRA!

OUR REAR IS BEING ATTACKED!

OUR REAR IS BEING ATTACKED! PASS IT ON!!!

THIS IS A PRETTY PASS!

BUT SOMEONE MUST HAVE SOLD IT...

THE REAR IS BEING ATTACKED!

WHAT?

CLONK!
Quick, you two! Go and open the gates!

Right, Chief!

Mind the shield, will you, Chief?

Shut the gates!

Meanwhile...

What happened?

O Centurion Platypus, I have endangered my life to bring you this report! The rear was treacherously attacked, and surrendered only after a terrible struggle!

Idiot! Owing to the failure of the rear to hold up, the order of march has been turned back to the front! Now get back to the front!

Did you by any chance fail to understand me?

Well, to be honest...

Get on with it!!!

Calm down... things aren't turning out quite as expected... the Gauls have gone back to the village with our magic potion...

But it isn't the real magic potion... or if it is, I'm dropping the whole affair on the grounds of total incomprehensibility!
GOOD OF YOU TO COME BACK... GETAFIX, I WONDER IF I COULD POSSIBLY ASK YOU TO MAKE A LITTLE MAGIC POTION...

MAGIC POTION? HERE YOU ARE! WE'VE BEEN TO THE ROMAN CAMP TO GET IT!

THE ROMAN CAMP?

THAT'S RIGHT. FULLI AUTOMATIX AND UNHYGENIX TOLD YOU IT WAS MAGIC POTION—they saw the Romans drinking it.

COME ON, THEN, HAVE SOME! WHO'S FIRST?

IT DOESN'T TASTE OF ANYTHING MUCH

IT MAY WORK... TRY UPROOTING THAT TREE

GNGNGN!

GIVE HIM A HAND, ASTERIX!

WITH PLEASURE, O DRUID!

THAT'S THE POTION WE NEED, GETAFIX

OIII! I'M NOT BOTHERING YOU, SO KINDLY LET ME COMPOSE MY BALLADS IN PEACE!!!

OH, SO YOU DON'T THINK THE ROMANS' POTION IS THE SAME AS MINE, VITALSTATISTIX?
THERE'S NOT A MOMENT TO BE LOST! THE GALLS KNOW THAT OUR POTION IS NO GOOD. THEIR DRUID IS GOING TO MAKE THEM SOME OF THE REAL STUFF! WE MUST ATTACK AT ONCE, IT'S OUR ONLY CHANCE!

WHERE'S THAT LOT GONE?

THE VANGUARD WENT TO HELP THE REAR, AND I STAYED AT THE FRONT BACK HERE, BECAUSE AFTER ALL PSYCHOLOGICAL WARFARE...

GO AND FIND ME ALL THOSE IDIOTS, IDIOT!

MEANWHILE...

ALL RIGHT, SO WE BEHAVED BADLY. WE BELIEVED THE SLANDERS THAT ROMANS SPREAD, AND WE WERE WRONG... YOU WOULDN'T LET US DOWN NOW, WOULD YOU?

NEVER MIND! IT'LL BE LIKE GEROVIA! WE DON'T NEED ANY POTION! LET'S GO!

HE'S RIGHT! LET'S GO!

I'M COMING TOO!

I DON'T KNOW WHERE YOU'RE GOING, BUT I'M GOING WITH YOU!

WE'LL ALL GO!

THIS IS MORE LIKE YOU! ABSOLUTELY CRAZY, BUT LIMIT ONE AGAIN. NOW I'LL MAKE YOU SOME MAGIC POTION! REAL MAGIC POTION!

BUT THAT WILL TAKE TIME, AND THE ROMANS...

WELL, YOU AND OBELEIX HOLD THE ROMANS OFF!
DO YOU GET IT, OBEILX? WE MUST HOLD THEM OFF UNTIL OUR DRUID HAS FINISHED MAKING THE MAGIC POTION.

I DON'T REALLY GET ANYTHING, BUT I'LL GO WITH YOU ALL THE WAY!

SURRENDER GAULS!

MAY I?

BY ALL MEANS

BIFE!

CRASH!

PLONK!

KERPLONK!

BIFE!

A whole army put to flight by two barbarians. Oh, won't Caesar be pleased when I tell him about this!

There isn't anything to tell. This is a strategic withdrawal. I'm going to ask the other garrisons to bring up reinforcements and take them in the rear. We shall crush them by sheer weight of numbers!

Asterix, we must press them to stay! If they go away we can't hold them off!

No, it's a pity the Roman troops have such retreating dispositions.

Of course, there are two of them, and we were only one garrison.

Take these messages to Laudanum, tutorium and compendium. Hurry!

Sure enough, time is running out for the Romans...

Just let it simmer for a few more minutes...
ALL I NEED IS A SPRIG OF MISTLETOE!

BUT THERE ISN'T ANY MISTLETOE LEFT IN THE VILLAGE! WE'LL HAVE TO GO AND LOOK FOR SOME IN THE FOREST!

OBEIX, MY DEAR FELLOW, TAKE MY SICKLE AND GO AND FIND ME A BIT OF MISTLETOE ON THOSE TREES OVER THERE?

THEY TOLD ME I WAS GOING TO HOLD OFF THE ROMANS, AND NOW THEY SEND ME OUT FOR VEGETABLES...

THEY'RE COUNTER-ATTACKING! TO ARMS!

IT'S NOT MY JOB TO RUN ERRANDS!

YOU ROMANS ARE CRAZY! WHEN WE'RE LOOKING FOR A FIGHT...

...YOU'RE NEVER AROUND...

SBLOING!

SPLON!

OOF! I WAS AFRAID IT WAS Osolete!
The Roman garrisons are all marching on us!

Asterix! Asterix! There are masses of Romans, coming from all over the place!

Oh, so that's why they stopped attacking... they were waiting for reinforcements!

It's nearly ready. They'll get a taste of their own medicine.

Ave platypus! The garrison of Totorum...

...and the garrison of laudanum...

...and the garrison of compendium are here in response to your request!

Ave, friends! Right, then...

Attack!

Come and get it!

Soon afterwards...

Has everyone had his portion of potion?

Right, then...

Attack!
The Battle of the Village

Only a panoramic view can do justice to the complex nature of this terrible battle, in which a small village of indomitable Gaurs comes to grips with the garrisons of the fortified Roman camps of Aquarium, Totorum, Laudanum and Compendium.

1. Indomitable little Gaulish village.
2. Garrison of Aquarium (Roman camp).
3. Garrison of Roman camp of Totorum.
4. Garrison of Roman camp of Laudanum.
5. Garrison of Roman camp of Compendium.
6, 7, 8, 9. Gaurs pouring out of the village any old how, without any plan of battle.
10. Druid Getafis awaiting the outcome of the battle beside his cauldron, now empty.
11. Bard Cacofonix asking the Druid what it’s all about, and what, might he ask, is going on?
12. Pirate ship sunk by Gaurs pouting out at (B) fall of enthusiasm, discovering on arrival at the beach that there are no Romans available, and deciding not to waste their time anyway, by Toutatis.
13. Obelix, menhir delivery man, trying to keep back the Gauls while explaining to them that he got there first, he didn’t sing for anyone, he would like to be left alone with his own Romans and they don’t want to be disturbed.
15. Unhygienix, village fishmonger, friend of the afore-mentioned.
16. Point of intersection of the two roads.
17. Gaius, village elder, engaged in single combat with Magnumopus, Roman legionary.
18. Vitalstatistix, chief of the Gaulish village, badly let down by his shield-bearers, who have jumped the fence without bothering to see that he kept his balance. He feels understandably downcast for a few moments.
THE BATTLE, ALTHOUGH VIOLENT, IS OF SHORT DURATION, AND THE VICTORS ARE LEFT IN POSSESSION OF THE BATTLEFIELD, THEIR ARMS FULL OF TROPHIES...

A LITTLE FARTHER AWAY...

OH, SO THERE YOU ARE, YOU AND YOUR TROUBLEMAKING! BRAVO! OH, VERY WELL DONE! WE WERE GOING ALONG QUIETLY AS USUAL, THE GAULS WERE MINDING THEIR OWN BUSINESS, AND NOW WE'VE SUFFERED A DEFEAT, THANKS TO YOU!

I CALL THAT BATTLE A REAL SUCCESS; IT WAS A GREAT CRUSH!

YES, BUT THERE'S STILL SOMETHING WE HAVE TO DO. CALL THE OTHERS!

AS FOR ME, I DID WHAT I HAD TO DO... IT WAS YOU OTHERS WHO...

HEEY!

!!!

ALL RIGHT, I'M GOING... I'M NOT NEEDED HERE ANY MORE...

LEGIONARIES! ARREST THAT PERSON!
HA! NOW I SEE IT ALL! YOU WERE ON THEIR SIDE ALL THE TIME! THAT EXPLAINS OUR DEFEAT!

I NEVER! IT'S A SLANDER! YOU CAN'T BELIEVE SUCH WICKED LIES!

STOP SHOWING YOUR OAR, CAPTAIN - WE ALL KNOW THE SORT OF PULL YOU USED TO GET YOUR JOB!

PUT HIM IN CHAINS! WE'LL BE SENDING HIM BACK TO ROME TO CAESAR, CHARGED WITH HIGH TREASON!

BUT WE NEED NOT BE UNDULY WORRIED ABOUT THE TROUBLE-MAKER, CONVOLVULUS WILL WIGGLE HIS WAY OUT OF ANYTHING, AND EVEN ON BOARD THE GALLEY WHICH IS TAKING HIM BACK TO ROME, HE DOES NOT FEEL ALONE... SLANDER, JEALOUSY AND CALLUMY HAVE EMBARKED WITH HIM!
WE'VE BEHAVED BADLY TOWARDS YOU ASTERIX; OUR FRIENDSHIP SHOULD HAVE BEEN PROOF AGAINST ANY SLANDERS. YOU AND ASTERIX AND OBELIX HAVE TAUGHT US A LESSON, AND YOU HAVE SAVED OUR VILLAGE, BY BANISHING DISCORD FROM IT...

NO, I DO THE BOWING, NOT YOU!!!!

ASTERIX, WE BOW TO YOU!

SOMETIMES HE ACTS IN THE MOST UNBALANCED WAY!

IF HE CARRIES ON LIKE THIS WE'LL LET HIM DOWN ONE OF THESE DAYS!

FORGIVE US, ASTERIX!

LET BYGONES BE BYGONES! WE'LL ORGANIZE A BIRTHDAY FEAST FOR OUR CHIEF! A REAL ONE, NOT A FLOP LIKE LAST TIME!

BRAVO, BY TOLITATIS!

I'M GOING TO GIVE HIM ANOTHER MENHIR!

I'M GOING TO GIVE HIM A SWORD!

I CAUGHT A GOOD FISH LAST WEEK. IT'LL BE JUST WHAT HE WANTED!

IT WILL BE A LOVELY SURPRISE FOR THE CHIEF!

MEANWHILE... WHAT A WONDERFUL SURPRISE! MY DEAR FRIENDS, I AM AT A LOSS FOR WORDS...

I'M GLAD WE'RE ALL FRIENDS AGAIN!

ALL THE SAME, I'D LIKE TO KNOW IF THEY REALLY ARE CURED

I MUST SAY, IT WOULD BE INTERESTING TO FIND OUT... AND IT'S ABOUT TIME YOU GOT A BIT OF YOUR OWN BACK.
NEXT MORNING . . .

UNHYGIENIX FISHMONGER

OH, LOOK AT THAT!

WHAT ARE THEY UP TO?
ONLY THE CHIEF IS ALLOWED TO TRAVEL ABOUT THAT WAY

PERHAPS HE'S GOING TO REPLACE THE CHIEF?

I EXPECT VITALSTATISTIX APPOINTED HIM HIS SUCCESSOR AFTER THE BATTLE

IF THERE'S GOING TO BE A SUCCESSOR IT OUGHT TO BE MY HUSBAND, GERATRIX. AFTER ALL, HE'S GOT MORE EXPERIENCE THAN ANYONE ELSE!

GERATRIX? THAT'S NOT EXPERIENCE, THAT'S SENILITY! NOW LOOK AT
FULLAUTOMATIX - YOUNG, STRONG AND . . .

BACTERIA! PUT AWAY THE FISH-QUICK!

FULLAUTOMATIX?
THAT GREAT CAF? NOW MY HUSBAND HAS A GOOD HEAD FOR BUSINESS,
...

GOOD MORNING!

HERE! YOU STAND IN THE QUEUE LIKE EVERYONE ELSE!

BUT I'M THE CHIEF'S WIFE!

NO, I'M THE CHIEF'S WIFE! SERVE ME, BACTERIA!

SPLATCH!
CALM DOWN, CALM DOWN! WHAT'S GOING ON NOW?

BIFF! BOFF! CLONK!

WHY?

TEH HEH HEH!

I'LL TELL YOU WHAT'S GOING ON! THESE OLD BAGS ARE SAYING YOU'RE SENILE!

OUCH!

BONG!

CHONK!

ME, AN OLD RELIC?

I'VE GOT A RIGHT TO BE BASHED! I WANT TO BE BASHED!

I'LL BASH THE LOT OF YOU IF YOU DON'T LEAVE MY FISH ALONE!

ARE WE NEVER GOING TO HAVE ANY PEACE? STOP IT! THAT'S AN ORDER FROM YOUR CHIEF!

WELL, JULIUS CAESAR NEVER MADE THIS IDIOT A SENATOR!

THAT'S RIGHT, UNHYGIENIX IS CHIEF!

THAT IDIOT?

NOW, NOW, WHAT'S ALL THIS ABOUT?
But that evening, the humans have forgotten their troubles, and under the starry sky which covers them, with no intention of falling on their heads, our friends the Gauls are reunited for one of their traditional banquets, celebrating, among other things, the end of hostilities.

What a wonderful surprise! My dear friends, I am at a loss for words...
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ASTERIX THE GLADIATOR
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ASTERIX IN SWITZERLAND
ASTERIX AND THE BIG FIGHT
ASTERIX AND THE ROMAN AGENT
THE MANSIONS OF THE GODS
ASTERIX AT THE OLYMPIC GAMES
ASTERIX AND THE LAUREL WREATH
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