YOU'RE ABSOLUTELY USELESS! THE PAIR OF YOU! I NEVER WANT TO SET EYES ON YOU AGAIN!!!

HEY, AREN'T THOSE CHIEF VITALSTATIX'S SHIELD-BEARERS?

YES. HE'S GIVEN US THE SACK. HE WAS IN A GOOD MOOD THIS MORNING TOO; HE EVEN SAID IT WAS A NICE DAY...

SO WE LEANT OVER BACKWARDS TO HAVE A LOOK AT THE SKY...

...AND WHEN WE STRAIGHTENED UP THE CHIEF WASN'T ON HIS SHIELD.

HE'S BECOMING QUITE UNBEARABLE. HE'LL LOSE HIS STANDING IN THE TRIBE IF HE THROWS HIS WEIGHT ABOUT LIKE THAT.

ASTERIX! OBEIX! I AM GOING TO CONFER AN HONOUR ON YOU. I APPONT YOU MY SHIELD-BEARERS!

WHAT, US?
But, Chief Vitalstatistix... no arguing! To work!

Teeheehee! You'd do better if you were walking along a slope!

It shows the Chief is bent on getting a good angle on things!

Proves what you can do if you've got the inclination!

Put me down, boys. I have a suspicion that people are laughing at us.

It would work better if Obelix carried you on his own, O Chief.

On his own? In his full capacity, a Chief must be served by two warriors. I'd feel like a half-pint Chief if...

Anyway, I've got some menhirs to polish.

Soon afterwards...

What on Earth is Obelix doing?

He's just serving a half-pint of mild and bitter.

By Toutatis! Are you refusing to serve me? I'm a mild man, but this makes me feel very bitter!
THE GOOD HUMOUR PREVALENT IN THE GAULISH VILLAGE IS CONSPICUOUSLY ABSENT FROM THE PALACE OF VARUS FLAVUS, THE POWERFUL ROMAN GOVERNOR OF CONDATUM. THOUGH HIS GUESTS ARE DOING THEIR BEST TO HAVE A GOOD TIME...

B.Y. JUPITER, O SUBURNE FLAVUS, YOUR ORGIES ARE BEAUTIFULLY DEcadent. THEY MAKE US QUITE FORGET HOW FAR WE ARE FROM ROME!

GOOD TASTE, THAT'S THE WHOLE SECRET... I GET THE ROMAN IMPRESARIO FELLINIUS TO LAY ON MY ORGIES.

BRING ON THE DANCING GIRLS!

WINE! MORE WINE!

MASTER... THE PERSON YOU WERE EXPECTING IS IN YOUR ROOMS!

COMING... BRING ON THE BEER'S TRIPPE FORD IN Aurochs DRIPPING!

YOU REALLY ARE SPOILING US, DIVINE FLAVUS!

HAVE FUN, FRIENDS! I'LL BE BACK IN A MINUITE!

HAVEN'T YOU GOT YOUR GREEN BLUSHER? I WANT TO MAKE MYSELF LOOK WORSE!

Hi! Slave! This DISH IS CLEAN! IT'S DISGRACEFUL!

THAT'S RIGHT! WHY NOT FINGER-BOWS, WHILE YOU'RE ABOUT IT?
Ave, Caecilius Eumalpus! Are the takings good?

Very good, O Varillus Flavius! Here's the gold from the taxes, fines, chariot parking meters, Roman road tax, and licences to listen to the 'town criers'!

Excellent! Now to share it out...

That's for you...

That's for me...

And that's for Rome...

Don't you think you may be going a bit far? Sooner or later Rome's going to realise how little money comes from this province.

Clink! Clink! Clink!

My appointment here is for a year! I have one year to get rich! I'll be far away by the time Rome can act! Far away and rich!

My life will be one long orgy!

Yes, but what if Rome sends out an inspector - a quaestor?

By Juno, I'll know how to deal with him! Either I'll make him decadent, and fast, or I'll get rid of him!

That's enough work for one day! Come on! Do you like boar's tripe fried in auroush dripping?

With honey?
HIC!
GET YOUR HEAD OUT OF THAT AMPHORA!

...GLUG GLUG... CAN'T...
SHUT THAT WINDOW. YOU'RE LETTING IN THE FRESH AIR!

NO ADMITTANCE!
DON'T TALK Such Rubbish. ANNOUNCE ME TO YOUR MASTER.

QUAEST... QUAESTOR VEXATIUS SINUSITUS!

WH... WHAT A DELIGHTFUL SURPRISE!

AVE, GOVERNOR, JULIUS CAESAR HAS SENT ME FROM ROME. AS TREASURER FOR THE PROVINCES, I'M HERE TO AUDIT YOUR ACCOUNTS, NOT TO TAKE PART IN ORGIES. TELL THESE PEOPLE TO GO AWAY.

OF COURSE, OF COURSE... NOW THEN, FRIENDS, THOSE OF YOU WHO CAN STILL WALK TAKE THE REST AWAY!

AND OPEN THE WINDOWS, BY THE GODS!

WHERE ARE WE GOING?

SOMEBODY ELSE TO CARRY ON WITH THE PARTY.
IT'S LATE, AND YOU MUST BE TIRED. WE CAN START WORK TOMORROW... WOULDN'T YOU LIKE JUST A BITE TO EAT? I THINK WE STILL HAVE SOME BOAR'S TRIPES FRIED IN...

YES, I AM TIRED. IT WAS A LONG JOURNEY, AND WE WERE EVEN ATTACKED BY PIRATES ON THE CROSSING. LUCKILY THEY STARTED ARGUING WITH EACH OTHER AND SCUTTLED THEIR OWN SHIP.

GET YOUR SERVANTS TO TAKE ME TO MY ROOMS AND SEND ME UP SOME VEGETABLE SOUP.

CERTAINLY, CERTAINLY... I'LL SEE TO IT MYSELF.

SOON AFTERWARDS...

O MASTER, AM I TO SERVE UP THE BEAR BLACK PUDDING AND THE STUFFED GIRAFFES' NECKS NOW?

NO! I WANT YOU TO MAKE A SMALL BOWL OF VEGETABLE SOUP.

WHATEVER WILL THEY THINK UP NEXT FOR THEIR ORGIES?

LATER...

HERE YOU ARE, MASTER. IT'S READY.

PUT IT DOWN HERE AND GO AWAY.

HEE! HEE! HEE!

EMPTY, BY JUPITER!

THIS ONE'S EMPTY TOO...

AH, AT LAST! I MUST REMEMBER TO GET REFILLS.
HERE'S THE SOUP!

YOU MAKE YOURSELF PRETTY COMFORTABLE HERE... ODD, FOR THE GOVERNOR OF A PROVINCE SO POOR THAT IT CONTRIBUTES ONLY A FEW PIECES OF GOLD TO THE ROMAN TREASURY.

GOOD TASTE, THAT'S THE SECRET. IT'S SURPRISING WHAT A LOT YOU CAN DO ON VERY LITTLE...

WELL, WE'LL SEE ABOUT THAT TOMORROW.

GOOD NIGHT, QUAESTOR.

THE HEHEHE!

AND THAT NIGHT...

MASTER! MASTER! THE QUAESTOR'S BEEN TAKEN ILL.

WHAT, ALREADY?

OOOOGH! I FEEL TERRIBLE! I DON'T THINK I'LL LIVE, BY JUPITER!

IT MUST HAVE BEEN THE VEGETABLE SOUP. VERY INDIGESTIBLE. I'LL HAVE THE COOK WHIPPED.

LEAVE THE COOK ALONE! SEND FOR DOCTORS INSTEAD!

GOOD IDEA! I'LL CALL IN ALL THE DOCTORS IN THE GARRISON.

AREN'T YOU AFRAID THE DOCTORS MAY SPOIL YOUR PLAN O VARIUS FLAVIUS?

I KNOW THE DOCTORS IN THIS GARRISON...

WHEN THEY GET TOGETHER, THEY'RE MORE MURDEROUS THAN A LEGION ARMED TO THE TEETH!
LATER THAT NIGHT...

THE DOCTORS ARE HERE, GUESS... CAN THEY COME IN?

WHERE'S THE PATIENT?

IS HE THE ONE IN BED?

DON'T PUSH!

LEAVE HIM TO ME!

YES... OUCH!

LET'S FEEL HIS PULSE!

HE'S IN CONCLUSIONS

MY DEAR COLLEAGUE, I SHOULD SAY, MYSELF THAT HE HAD PINS AND NEEDLES YOU MUST BE JOKING, MY DEAR FELLOW! HE'S FEVERISH!

MAY I REMIND YOU THAT I WAS IN CHARGE OF THE VALETUDINARIUM AT VINDONISSA?*

WELL, I STUDIED AT THE FAMOUS MEDICAL SCHOOL IN MASSILIA!

CONSIDERING YOUR UGLY MUG, YOU OUGHT TO CONCLUDE YOUR ATTENTIONS TO STUDENT ORGIES!

MAYBE, BUT THE CASUALTIES IN THE VALETUDINARIUM AT VINDONISSA ARE A LOT HIGHER THAN IN ANY OF CAESAR'S CAMPAIGNS!

* MILITARY HOSPITAL AT VINDONISSA (SWITZERLAND)

* CLIPPING GLASSES

OHHHHHH!

WE MUST BLEED HIM!

HIS ARTERIES NEED AIR! WE'D BETTER BLOW SOME INTO HIM!

WHERE ARE THE CUCURBITULAE?**

YOU DON'T KNOW A THING! MIX UP SOME GROUND INCREDIBLE WITH TORTURE AND POTION BLOOD IF THE PATIENT LIVES...

BY ASCULAPIUS, THIS IS RIDICULOUS! A MAN WOULD REALLY HAVE TO BE AT DEATH'S DOOR BEFORE HED CONSULT A DOCTOR LIKE YOU!

WANT A SMACK IN THE AMPHORA THEN?

PEACE AND QUIET, THAT'S WHAT YOU NEED, PEACE AND QUIET!

LET ME SPEAK!
I SHOULD LIKE YOU TO SACRIFICE TO APOLLO, THE GOD OF HEALING, ON MY BEHALF...

A SPLENDID IDEA! WE WILL OFFER APOLLO OUR CHOICIEST DISHES. THAT'S SURE TO CURE THE PATIENT...

ALL THE SAME, I THINK...

AS IT HAPPENS, MY COOK HAS BEEN MAKING BEAR BLACK PUDDING AND STUFFED GIRAFFE'S NECKS... I THINK THERE'S SOME BOAR'S TRICE FRIED IN AURICHS DRIPING LEFT TOO

WITH HONEY?

O QUAESTOR! SULIUSITUS, DO YOU THINK THE SACRIFICE WILL BE ENOUGH TO CURE YOU?

THAT WAS JUST A PRETEXT TO GET RID OF THOSE IDIOTS. NOW, LISTEN...

IN HIS EPILEPTIC FITS, JULIUS CAESAR OFTEN MENTIONS A LITTLE GALLISH VILLAGE NOT FAR FROM HERE... THERE'S A DRUID IN THIS VILLAGE... I THINK HIS NAME IS GEOMETRIX...

GETAFIX...

THAT'S RIGHT, GO AND LOOK FOR HIM, QUICK! AND DON'T LET ANYONE SEE YOU!

NEVER FEAR, QUAESTOR! THEY'RE FAR TOO BUSY TO STOP ME LEAVING!

SURE ENOUGH...

ALL THE SAME, WE MUSTN'T FORGET TO LEAVE A LITTLE SOMETHING FOR APOLLO

HUUH! THERE'LL BE PLENTY TO GO ROUND!

THAT'S RIGHT! WHO DO THESE GODS THINK THEY ARE, WITH THEIR HOLIER-THAN-ThOU ATTITUDE?
YOUR MASTER'S ILL? HE NEEDS ME? I'M ON MY WAY!

ASTERIX! OBELIX! WE'RE OFF TO CONDATUM, AT ONCE! DROP EVERYTHING!

I AM ALWAYS BOUND TO HELP SICK PEOPLE, EVEN ROMANS.

I DON'T LIKE ROMANS TO BE ILL. IT MAKES THEM SOFTER THAN LISUAN.

YOU MAY HAVE DIFFICULTY GETTING TO SEE MY MASTER.

OBELIX AND I WILL SEE TO THAT. NO ROMAN EVER STOPPED US GETTING ANYWHERE YET!

DELIIGHTED TO HEAR IT!

WELL, THAT'S THE FIRST TIME I EVER MET ONE OF YOU WHO WAS!

SOON AFTERWARDS, IN THE PALACE OF GOVERNOR VARUS FLAVUS...

SPLOSH!

SENTRY! WHY HAVE YOU LEFT YOUR POST AND WHAT ARE YOU DOING IN MY GOLD BOWL'S TRIPLE FRIED IN GALEGS Drippings?

I... BLOOD... I CAME TO WARN YOU! THREE GAULS HAVE BROKEN INTO THE PALACE. ONE OF THEM'S A DRUID!

A DRUID? HAS ANYONE GOT A SPOT OF HONEY?
GUARDS!!!

GUARDS!!!

WHAT'S UP?

I THINK IT'S SHUSH HE WANTSH...

JOIN UP THEY SHAD... SHERE THE WORLD, THEY SHAD...

A FEW MOMENTS LATER...

WELL, WE HAD A LITTLE ORGY IN THE GUARDROOM, AND WE...

Hic!

BIF BIM M!
BOOM!

STOP!
MERCY!

STOP!
PLEASE STOP!

WHAT ARE YOU DOING HERE GAULS?

I INVITED THEM, SO SHUT UP!

I'M THE GOVERNOR IN THESE PARTS! I'LL HAVE YOU HOUNDED OUT OF THIS PALACE!

BUT THEY'RE ENEMY ALIENS... BETTER LEAVE IT TO APOLLO! WE OFFERED HIM A BIG SLICE OF BEAR BLACK PUDDING...

DID YOU HEAR, ROMAN? HE TOLD YOU TO SHUT UP!

THERE ARE A SIGHT TOO MANY ORGIES IN THIS PALACE!!! THROW THESE GAULS OUT OF HERE!

COULD YOU JUST EXAMINE MINE WHEN YOU'VE FINISHED WITH YOURS, GETAFIX? THEY DON'T SEEM AT ALL WELL. ALL RIGHT, ALL RIGHT, BUT PLEASE DON'T SHOUT!
YOU'RE ILL...VERY ILL. THE ONLY THING THAT MIGHT SAVE YOU IS A POTION OF WHICH I HAPPEN TO KNOW THE SECRET.

MAKE IT, O DRUID! YOU WILL NOT FIND ME UNGRATEFUL.

A SMALL FLOWER WHICH GROWS ONLY ON THE HIGHEST MOUNTAINS... IT'S VERY DIFFICULT TO GET HOLD OF.

GOOD, GOOD! I'LL SEND SOME OF MY MEN TO LOOK FOR IT!

UNFORTUNATELY, AN ESSENTIAL INGREDIENT OF THIS POTION IS THE SILVER STAR.

SILVER STAR?

*EDELWEISS

BUT THEY'RE NOT WELL!

EXACTLY! THE MOUNTAIN AIR WILL DO THEM GOOD!

WHERE DO YOU HAVE TO GO TO FIND THIS WONDERFUL FLOWER?

HELVETIA, FOR PREFERENCE. THE BEST SPECIMENS FOR MY POTION GROW IN HELVETIA.

DRUID, I HAVE COMPLETE CONFIDENCE IN YOU! SEND YOUR MEN IN SEARCH OF THIS SILVER STAR!

BUT WHY BRING FOREIGNERS INTO IT? LET'S KEEP THIS ROMAN!

ASTERIX, OBELIX, WOULD YOU MIND GOING TO HELVETIA?

NOT AT ALL. IT'S SOME TIME SINCE WE TOOK A TRIP ABROAD.

AND YOU NEVER KNOW, WE MAY FIND ROMANS IN BETTER SHAPE ON THE MOUNTAINS THERE... I'M REALLY WORRIED ABOUT THE ONES WE HAVE HERE.

WILL SOMEONE PLEASE LISTEN TO ME?

I MAKE JUST ONE CONDITION: YOU MUST STAY IN OUR VILLAGE AS A HOSTAGE UNTIL MY FRIENDS RETURN.

NO, NO! NEVER!

VERY WELL, DRUID.
AND I WARN YOU, IF MY FRIENDS DON'T COME BACK, THE HOSTAGE WILL BE EXECUTED!

But I can't keep him alive very long! You must leave at once, and hurry! I'll say goodbye to the others for you.

Look after little Dogmatix!

Since I have no alternative, I will give orders for your departure!

But we don't usually take hostages. Getafix...

Meanwhile...

Eucalyptus, there are two reasons why I don't want those Gauls to come back from Helvetia. First, so they won't bring back the flower to cure the Quaestor. Second, if they don't come back, the Gauls will execute Snujitus!...

Set out for Genava! You will give this message to Governor Curius Odus. He's an old friend of mine. Don't stop on the way! I'll get them to give you a packed orgy.

And so, that same night, a chariot leaves Condatum for the little Gaulish village...

...a messenger leaves for Genava...

...and a Gaulish warrior, accompanied by a menhir delivery-man, goes in search of a little flower over the hills and far away.

This man Snujitus has been poisoned. If he stays here, I wouldn't give two Denarii for his chances of surviving. I'll be safe from his would-be murderers in our village.
The new chariotways built by the Romans allow our friends to travel fast.

What do you mean, you're hungry? We've only just left!

I always feel hungry when I'm travelling!

I've got an empty hole inside me, just here.

Look, Obelix! We can stop to eat there.

Yes, it's very nice. With luck, you'll see some accidents on the chariotway while you eat...

Meanwhile...

I shouldn't have had that gold bear black pudding... It could be indigestible... Anyway, an orgy's no fun on your own.
While Governor Varus, Flavius's messenger rides desperately on, our friends are spending the night in a new kind of inn which has a stable to every room...

Bringing on the cauldron of melted cheese!

Everyone got it? If you lose your piece of bread in the fondue, you pay a roberf! The first time it's five of the best with a stick; the second time you get twenty lashes with a whip; the third time you get thrown into the lake with weights tied to your feet!

What amusing notions you do have, o divine Odysseus!

We need them in this strait-laced country. I've tried holding circuses, but the wild beasts were so well fed they wouldn't even take a bite of the prisoners!

And as for their mania for cleanliness... an orgy is supposed to be dirty!... stop mopping that floor, by Jupiter!

Oh dear! I've lost my piece of bread!

The stick! The stick!
OUR FRIENDS HAVE A FEW SETBACKS ON THEIR WAY, IN PARTICULAR A BROKEN WHEEL.

IT'S READY
GOOD

CALL ME FAT! DID YOU SEE HIS SPARE TIRE?
WE'RE GETTING NEAR HELVETIA ... LUCKILY. WE'VE LOST A LOT OF TIME

TOO MUCH TIME IN FACT FOR IN GENAVA ...

MASTER, A VERY DIRTY MESSENGER HAS COME FROM VARIOUS PLACES, ABOUT TO SEE YOU, AND THERES A SPOT ON YOUR TUNIC JUST THERE.

NEVER MIND ABOUT MY SPOT. SEND HIM IN!

AHE!

HOW NICE TO SEE SOMEONE REALLY DIRTY! DRAW YOUR SWORD AND JOIN OUR ORGY!

LATER, GOVERNOR CURIOUS GULUS. I HAVE AN IMPORTANT MESSAGE FOR YOU!

CARRY ON WITHOUT ME, FRIENDS! HAVE FUN!

OH DEAR! I'VE LOST MY PIECE OF BREAD AGAIN!

THE WHIP!
THE WHIP!

BUT IT ISN'T DRY YET!
I can refuse nothing to that old fruit flavus, and what's more, disposing of a quaestor will be a positive pleasure! I'll give orders to have these Gauls stopped at the border. Now let's get back to the orgy.

Oh dear! I've lost my third piece of bread!

What barbarians! Yes, the water of the lake is all muddy at this time of year!

Meanwhile...

Halt! This is a checkpoint! You are now leaving Gaul!

What do we do, Asterix?

These are just the formalities, Obelix. We have to go through them.

What is the reason for your visit to Helvetia?

We've come in search of...

Decurion! A messenger from governor Curius Odis. He wants a word with you. It's urgent.

No, no, Asterix, that's not what we've come to...

Shut up, Obelix!

Psst...psst...psst...psst...

Aha!

All right, Gauls! You can pass!
Halt!

But you said we could pass!

I authorized you to leave Gaul, but administrative decisions taken on the other side of the border are none of my business...

You are now entering Helvetia! This is a checkpoint! Get out of your chariot.

Anything to declare?

I'm hungry.

What have you got there?

An empty hole.

Right! Search them. Then you can search the chariot and after that you can search the horses.

Where did you get your clothes and weapons?

From our village in Gaul.

You ought to have declared them. Smuggling! You'll be for it! Now then...

...what's in that gourd at your belt?

A potion. Want to see how it works?

Ooh yes!
This is a magic potion, brewed by our Druid, which gives us superhuman strength...

Biff!

Well, where did the others go?

I don't have to take any because I fell into the cauldron when I was a baby.

See?

I think they've got problems back there in Helvetia.

Let's not waste time here, Obelix! I think the Druid was right; it won't be all that simple to get him: the Silver Star!

Well, it's about their turn.

Get across that border, by Jupiter, and jump to it! After those men! We must get them dead or alive! Our own lives depend on it!

Don't turn round yet, but I think things are quietening down in Helvetia.

Helvetia is not what it used to be.

Maior e Longinquio Reverentia.

You can say that again.
I SAY, ASTERIX, WHERE ARE THE MOUNTAINS?

SSH, OBELIX! WE LOOK LIKE HAVING ALL THE ROMAN GARRISONS ON OUR HEELS PRETTY SOON.

WELL, THEN, LET'S CLIMB A MOUNTAIN, PICK THE SILVER STAR, AND GO HOME TO CALL.

IT'S NOT AS SIMPLE AS ALL THAT, WE HAVE TO KNOW WHERE THE FLOWER GROVE IS.

THERE'S A TOWN ON THE OTHER SIDE OF THE LAKE, WE'LL SET OFF AFTER DARK, YOU'LL FIND HELP THERE.

OH, DO THEY HAVE A LAKE HERE?

LATER...

LET'S SWIM ACROSS THE LAKE... WE'LL GET INTO THE TOWN MORE EASILY THAT WAY. THE GATES ARE SURE TO BE GUARDED.

I CAN'T SEE A THING, ASTERIX.

GOOD, OBELIX! THAT MEANS THE ROMANS WON'T BE ABLE TO STOP US.

ALL RIGHT?

I'M GLAD I MET YOU. I MANAGED TO GET RID OF THE WEIGHTS ON MY FEET, BUT I'M ABSOLUTELY CHEESED OFF WITH THIS LAKE. HELP ME BACK TO THE BANK, PLEASE.

IS IT THAT WAY? WE'RE STRANGERS HERE OURSELVES.

YES, DID YOU LOSE YOUR PIECES OF BREAD IN THE FONDUE TOO? LACUS LEMANUS IS FULL OF BUTTERFINGERS.

MAYBE THE AIR IS HEALTHY, BUT IT DOESN'T SEEM TO SUIT THE ROMANS.

WHO ARE YOU, THEN?

OBELIX

MALODORUS CASEUS

MALODORUS CASEUS

OBELIX
AND WHAT ARE YOU GOING TO DO?

GET SOME DRY CLOTHES ON AND GO BACK TO THE ORGY, WHAT FUN!

COULD YOU TELL US THE WAY TO A HOTEL? ROMAN?

THERE ARE HOTELS ALL AROUND THE LAKE. LOOK, THERE'S ONE RIGHT OPPOSITE.

SENSE, WHAT SHOULD I DO?

WE EXPECT A FONDUE, ASTERIX?

WHAT'S A FONDUE?

I EXPECT IT'S SOME KIND OF LOCAL ORGY.

...YES, I HAVE GOT A ROOM FREE, EVEN THOUGH THEY'RE HOLDING THE IOTC-

THE INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE OF TRIBAL CHIEFTAINS - IN GENOA JUST NOW.

THERE WAS A BARBARIAN DELEGATION WHICH DON'T WANT THEIR ROOM. THEY SAID IT WAS TOO CLEAN.

YOU MUST BE STRANGERS HERE... I'D BETTER TELL YOU, YOU SHOULD HAVE COME OVER THE BRIDGE. JULIUS CAESAR DESTROYED IT BUT IT'S BEEN REBUILT NOW.

MEANWHILE, IN THE GOVERNOR'S PALACE...

YOU BUNGLING IDIOTS! I MUST HAVE THOSE GAULS!
I HAVEN'T GOT TIME TO LISTEN TO YOUR BURBLINGS NOW!

* AVENCHES, VINDONISSA, AUGUSTA Raurica, Oktodurum, Solodurum! * SEARCH GENAVA! GET MOVING!

I'M BACK, O DIVINE ODYS!

ALL RIGHT, ALL RIGHT

MY PIECE OF BREAD! YOU MADE ME DROP MY PIECE OF BREAD IN THE CAULDRON!

NEVER MIND YOUR PIECE OF BREAD! WHERE ARE THEY?

STILL, A FUNNY THING HAPPENED TO ME IN THE LAKE. I MET TWO MEN WHO HELPED ME OUT, AND...

OH, YOU MEAN THE TWO MEN? THEY WENT TO THE HOTEL BY THE BRIDGE

GUARDS! GUAAAARDS!

WHAT ABOUT THE STICK THEN? YOU'RE NOT PLAYING FAIR IF I DON'T GET THE STICK!

AT THAT MOMENT...

HERE'S YOUR ROOM!

THIS HOURGLASS KEEPS VERY GOOD TIME. HELVETIAN MADE! BUT YOU HAVE TO WATCH IT. WHENEVER I SHOUT 'CLOICKOOO' IT'S TIME FOR ALL THE HOTEL GUESTS TO TURN THEIR HOURGLASSES OVER

I'LL TAKE YOUR SHOES AND CLEAN THEM. SLEEP WELL.
WE'RE NOT LOOKING FOR ACCOMMODATION. HAVE YOU GOT ANY DAMP GAULS STAYING HERE?

NO. I'VE GOT SOME SIGAMBRI, AEDUI, TRIBOGLI, A CHARIOT LOAD OF IBERIANS, A FEW BRITONS AND SEQUANI, ALL QUITE DRY.

WHAT ABOUT THOSE MUDDY FOOTPRINTS?

THEM I'M MINE, I OFTEN GO FOR A STROLL AT NIGHT BY THE SIDE OF THE LAKE... THE AIR'S SO GOOD ROUND HERE.

ARE THOSE YOUR SHOES?

YES, I'VE GOT SEVERAL PAIRS... LOOK...

ALL RIGHT, ALL RIGHT, I BELIEVE YOU!

I'VE MESS'D MY OWN FLOOR! I'VE MADE MUDDY FOOTPRINTS ON MY OWN PREMISES! I MIGHT HAVE PUT MY FOOT IN IT! ALL BECAUSE OF THOSE BLASTED ROMANS!

I CERTAINLY WILL.
WAKE UP! THE ROMANS ARE AFTER YOU! FOLLOW ME! YOU MUST HIDE!

ALL CLEAR! LET'S GO!

EXCUSE ME! I'LL BE BACK IN A MINUTE!

?! CUCKOO!

WHERE ARE YOU TAKING US?

SOMEBODY SAFE, FOR THE MOMENT. AFTER THAT WE'LL SEE

THE BANK IS SHUT AT THIS TIME OF NIGHT!

ZURIX BANX KNOCK! KNOCK!

ZURIX! OPEN UP, IT'S ME, PETITSIX! DO YOU KNOW WHAT TIME IT IS?
THE ROMANS ARE AFTER THESE TWO MEN. THEY'RE SEARCHING THE WHOLE TOWN. WE MUST SAVE THEM!

YES, OF COURSE, YOU HAVE OUR SYMPATHY. WE HAVE OFTEN Fought AGAINST THE ROMANS. AND JULIUS CAESAR CONSIDERS US FORMIDABLE ENEMIES... BUT WHERE CAN WE HIDE YOU?

I HAD THOUGHT OF ONE OF YOUR SAFES, IN THE VAULT...

YOU'D HAVE TO OPEN AN ACCOUNT

WHAT YOU PUT IN THE SAFE IS NO CONCERN OF MINE. DISCRETION IS OUR WATCHWORD! YOU'LL JUST BE TWO ANONYMOUS NUMBERS TO ME. WILL YOU TAKE A SAFE EACH, OR DO YOU WANT A JOINT ACCOUNT?

IF YOU HAVE A BIG ENOUGH SAFE, WE'D RATHER BE TOGETHER

THAT'LL BE QUITE IN ORDER, SIGN PLEASE, THERE, THERE AND THERE

THIS WAY, PLEASE

HERE'S YOUR SAFE

I'LL COME BACK TOMORROW, WELL KEEP YOU IN TOUCH

WAIT A MOMENT! THERE ARE NO REGULATIONS COVERING THE OPENING OF A SAFE FROM THE INSIDE. IF YOU WANT PETITSLUH TO COME AND OPEN IT, YOU MUST GIVE HIM A POWER OF ATTORNEY!

THANKS FOR EVERYTHING, PETITSLUH!
GOOD NIGHT!
SLEEP TIGHT!

I MUST HURRY BACK TO THE HOTEL, OR I'LL BE ONE CUCKOO LATE

YAWN...! I'M GOING BACK TO BED

BOF!

ASTERIX, WE CAME HERE TO CLIMB MOUNTAINS, AND HERE WE ARE UNDERGROUND!

YOU'RE SO RIGHT, OBELIX!

WHAT'S MORE, I'M HUNGRY, ASTERIX. I DON'T LIKE BEING HOLED UP HERE WITH A HOLE INSIDE, ME!

ON THE WHOLE, I AGREE. I'M HUNGRY TOO. THEY FORGOT TO GIVE US ANYTHING TO EAT

I DON'T KNOW WHETHER WE'RE ALLOWED TO OPEN THE SAFE FROM THE INSIDE...

WHY NOT ASTERIX? IT'S OUR SAFE!

TCHONK!

ZLIRIX!

HMMM?

WE'VE CAME BACK UP BECAUSE WE'RE HUNGRY

HOW ON EARTH...? VERY WELL! I'LL BRING YOU A LITTLE SOMETHING

YOU CAN USE THIS LAMP FOR LIGHT AND TO MELT THE CHEESE

EEEEK! HOW TERRIBLE! A SAFE WITHOUT A DOOR!
YOU CAN’T STAY IN A SAFE WITHOUT A DOOR... YOU’LL HAVE TO OPEN ANOTHER ACCOUNT!

OPEN UP, IN THE NAME OF CAESAR!

THE ROMANS!!! GET INTO THIS SAFE... QUICKLY!

WHOSE IS IT?

I DON'T KNOW AND I DON'T WANT TO KNOW. GET IN, QUICK!

I THINK I CAN GUESS YOUR CUSTOMER'S NATIONALITY...

JUMP IN, AND MAKE IT SNAPPY!!!

ARE YOU GOING TO OPEN UP, BY JUPITER !?

POP!

COMING, JUST COMING!

CUT UP THE CHEESE, OBELIX!

ASTERIX, I'VE JUST GOING TO ASK ZURIX IF HE'S GOT ANY CHEESE WITHOUT HOLES IN IT

I DON'T KNOW... WE CAME HERE LOOKING FOR MOUNTAINS AND WE END UP IN A HOLE EATING HOLES!

SHUT UP AND EAT UP, OBELIX!

SHHHH!
I know all about that, and I'd be the last one to blame you. Right, we're off.

WHAT THE...?

WHAT ABOUT THAT?

ER... Well... Thieves got in and took everything out of this one...

Er... Not that there's a lot in it, of course... Just a few souvenirs from Egypt... Sentimental value only. Anyway, I'm not here to give you my curriculum vitae...

IS THAT WHAT YOU CALL AS SAFE AS THE BANK OF BRITAIN? I'VE GOT A SAFE HERE MYSELF, YOU KNOW!

I'm busy tonight, but tomorrow morning I'm coming in to close my account. I keep a close eye on this one. What's inside is very precious to me.

BOOHOOHOO!

Hear that, Obelix? Someone really does seem to be down in the dumps.

Shut up! Silence! Discretion is our watchword!

Are you sure there are any mountains in this dump?
AND VOUN
KNOW WHAT
I SAY TO
HIM...?

CUCKOO! WAKE
UP, CHÉRI, HE SAID.
CUCKOO!

I SAY, WHAT
A FEAREFULL
BORE!

IF ONLY WE
COULD TURN THESE
HOURGLASSES OVER
SEVERAL TIMES IN
ADVANCE!

LAKESIDE HOTEL

GET THEM OUT OF
HERE! THEY'VE BROUGHT
DISHONOUR ON MY NAME!
THEY MADE ME LIE ABOUT
THE SECURITY OF MY
ESTABLISHMENT!

GOOD
MORNING,
ZURIX, I'VE
COME FOR
THE GAULS

I'VE BROUGHT
YOU DISGUISES.
WITH THESE,
YOU WON'T
BE SPOTTED
IN THE
CROWD

THAT'S
A
DISGUISE??

CALM DOWN,
ZURIX, THEY
MADE ME
DIRTY MY
HOTEL

I'VE HAD JUST
ABOUT ENOUGH OF
THese GAULS!

IT'S ENOUGH TO
MAKE YOU WANT TO
BECOME NEUTRAL

CARRYING THOSE WEAPONS,
YOU'LL LOOK LIKE HELVETIANS
GOING TO THEIR ANNUAL CAMP.
EVERY YEAR WE HAVE TO DO OUR
MILITARY SERVICE FOR A NOMES
AND A CALENS

ALONE AT LAST! HOW
GHASTLY, HAVING TO MIX
WITH ALL THOSE FOREIGNERS,
MY HORN RANNETH
OVER...
SURE ENOUGH... THERE THEY ARE!
THOSE ARE THE ONES WHO PULLED ME OUT OF THE LAKE THE OTHER NIGHT!

WELL FED! HOLES DON'T FILL IN A HOLE!

LOOK, LEGIONARIES MANNING A ROAD BLOCK!

HUH! WE'RE DISGUISED, WE'RE QUITE SAFE!

YOUR EMPTY HOLE IS VERY DISTINCTIVE, OBELIX!

HEY! DON'T FORGET YOU OWE ME FIVE OF THE BEST!

THEY WON'T GET FAR! ALL THE EXITS ARE BLOCKED!

ROMANS AHEAD!

LET'S GO AND HIDE IN THE UNITED TRIBES BUILDING!

INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE OF TRIBAL CHIEFS
CANDIDCY SESSION
... AND I MUST SAY THAT I THINK WE CAN CO-EXIST WITH THE ROMANS. ALL WE NEED IS A LITTLE GOODWILL ON BOTH SIDES, AND RESPECT FOR INDIVIDUAL LIBERTY...

LET'S SPLIT UP, SIT DOWN AND IMITATE THE OTHERS!

PAX ROMANA! THAT COULD BE THE FORMULA FOR FUTURE PEACE, AND IF WE FORGET OLD HATRED AND RESENTMENTS...

... I SEE BEFORE US A PERIOD OF UNTROUBLED CALM...

I SEE THE LITTLE TOUGH ONE!

FOLLOW ME!

COME ALONG, OBELEX!

... AND THAT IS WHY I SAY TO YOU...

OBELEX!

... THAT PEACE IS POSSIBLE...

CUCKOO!

... AND MUST BE POSSIBLE. THANK YOU FOR YOUR KIND ATTENTION.
THE DELEGATE FROM THE TRIBE OF THE CARDUCHE WILL SPEAK NEXT...

MR. CHAIRMAN,
FELLOW DELEGATES,
I SHALL BE BRIEF...

THE LAKE!
IN WE GO!

I REALLY DIDN'T THINK MOUNTAINS WOULD BE LIKE THIS!

RIGHT! TAKE A RUNNING JUMP!
WITH OUR BREASTPLATES?
OUR HELMETS?
OUR CALIGAE?

I DON'T MIND GETTING WET,
BUT I'M NOT SURE IF IT'S THREE HOURS SINCE WE FINISHED OUR DINNER...

GET UNDRESSED!
KEEP YOUR WEAPONS!
JUMP TO IT! NUNC EST BIBENDUM!

FROM AN ODE OF HORACE
YOU DON'T SAY!
IF I WAS AS WELL VERSED IN SWIMMING AS POETRY, I SHOULDN'T BE WORRIED!

WHAT ARE YOU DOING, YOU IDIOT?

I'M FLOATING, OF COURSE! THAT'S ALL I CAN DO! I TRAINED FOR THE INFANTRY, DIDN'T I?

LOOK! THERE'S A BOAT! LET'S GO ROUND THE OTHER SIDE!

THEY'RE AFTER US!!!
WHERE THEY GONE? THEY'VE DISAPPEARED!

THEY MUST REALLY BE GETTING INTO DEEP WATER!

FOLLOW THAT BOAT!

HE'S A RIGHT WET THAT ONE!

YOU'RE OBVIOUSLY NOT FROM ROUND HERE, OR YOU'D KNOW THE BRIDGE CAESAR DESTROYED HAS BEEN REBUILT.

WE KNOW THAT, THANKS FOR THE RESCUE. WE WERE ALL AT SEA IN THERE!

OLELE!!! YODEL!!10000000!

THAT'S A NATIONAL SONG. YOU'RE IN LUCK, YOU CAN HEAR OUR GLEE CLUB.

WE'VE GOT A BARD AT HOME WHO SINGS A BIT LIKE THAT.

OBERUX! COME BACK UP HERE IMMEDIATELY!
WHERE’S THAT BIG BOAT GOING, FISHERMAN?

IT’S TAKING SOME OLD SOLDIERS TO THE OTHER SIDE FOR A REGIMENTAL REUNION. THEY HAVE AN ALTAR TO THE MOUNTAINS ONCE A YEAR.

LET’S GO AND TELL GOVERNOR CURIOUS ODUS! FOLLOW ME!

WE REALLY SHALL HAVE TO PUT UP A NOTICE ABOUT THAT BRIDGE.

WE’VE GOT THEM NOW!

YES, WE’VE GOT THEM NOW!
I WANT ALL AVAILABLE TROOPS SENT TO THAT REUNION!
I WANT THOSE GALLUS DEAD OR ALIVE!

MEANWHILE... I’M SURE THESE JOLLY HELVETIANS WILL HELP US FIND THE FLOWER TO CURE THAT ROMAN HOSTAGE IN OUR VILLAGE...

HERE WE ARE. THERE ARE OUR FRIENDS.

YODELE!!!

WHAT A BEAUTIFUL COUNTRY! SO GAY AND PEACEFUL!

YES, WE ALL LIVE IN HARMONY HERE!
I MUST LEAVE YOU HERE. I'VE GOT TO GET BACK TO MY HOTEL. I'M ALREADY SEVERAL HOURS LATE. GOOD LUCK.

THANKS FOR EVERYTHING, PETITSUIX.

WE'RE LOOKING FOR A FLOWER, A SILVER STAR. COULD YOU HELP US TO FIND IT? PLEASE?

CERTAINLY! WE KNOW OUR WAY AROUND THE MOUNTAINS, BUT FIRST FOR SOME SPORTS!

YOU CAN EAT YOUR APPLE LATER, SONJUX. IT'S TIME FOR YOUR SWISS ROLE NOW. HANG UP THE TARGET!

WE MUST SPEED UP THE WORKS A BIT!

I'VE CAUGHT A GOLD FROG THAT WRETCHED LAKE!

AFTER YOU... VISITORS SHOOT FIRST.

VERY WELL! AFTERWARDS WE'LL GO AND FIND THE FLOWER!

TISHOO!

OBELIX! YOU NEARLY CAUSED AN ACCIDENT!

I KNOW, BUT IT CLEAR MY HEAD!

GOOD SHOT! A BULLSEYE!

A VERY GOOD SHOT, AND YET SOMEHOW I FEEL A BIT LET DOWN...

ME TOO. CAN'T THINK WHY...
RIGHT! SHALL WE GO AND GET THE FLOWER NOW?

FIRST WE EAT AND DRINK, THEN WE SING, THEN WE'LL GO AND PICK FLOWERS!

COME ALONG! THE CHEESE IS NEARLY MELTED!

COULDN'T THEY MELT A FEW WILD BOAR FOR A CHANGE?

LET'S GET A MOVE ON! THE SOONER WE'VE EATEN, DRUNK AND SANG, THE SOONER WE'LL GO AND LOOK FOR THE FLOWER. WE MUST MAKE THE MOST OF THE START WE HAVE ON THE ROMANS!

YOU'LL SEE HOW I'M GOING TO SPEED UP THE WORKS, BY TOUTATIS!

WHAT THE...?

HEY, STRANGER, THAT'S NOT THE WAY TO...

RIGHT! NOW LET'S DRINK!

HAVING SEEN THE WAY YOU EAT, I DON'T THINK YOU'LL NEED A GLASS.

SUITS ME!

AND NOW FOR THE SHING... HIC!! SHINGING!

OYVELELEIT.... HIC!... LILUH!

OBEIX!

THAT'S JUST LIKE YOU GALLS! YOU DO EVERYTHING TOO QUICKLY. IT TAKES US HOURS TO DO WHAT YOUR FRIEND HAS JUST DONE IN A FEW SECONDS!

OBEIX!

BROOOOM!
THERE ARE HUNDREDS OF ROMANS CROSSING THE LAKE!

I MUST GO AND FIND THE SILVER STAR BEFORE THEY GET HERE!

WE'LL HELP YOU!

SOME OF YOU WILL HAVE TO STAY HERE TO HOLD BACK THE ROMANS! GO AND FIND THE CAULDRON!

HOLD THEM BACK? THERE ARE SO MANY OF THEM!

THERE'S ENOUGH MAGIC POTION LEFT TO GIVE YOU THE STRENGTH TO STOP THEM.

MAGIC POTION?

COME ON! SHOW ME WHERE THE FLOWER IS!

IT'S JUST THAT WE HAVE A RATHER LARGE PROBLEM!

IT'S YOUR FRIEND. I DON'T KNOW WHETHER HE'S SOBER ENOUGH TO CLIMB A MOUNTAIN. YOU CAN'T LEAVE HIM THERE. IT LOOKS MESSY AND UNTIDY.

I'VE GOT IT! BRING A LONG ROPE, WE'LL TIE OURSELVES TOGETHER AND PULL OBELOIX ALONG. WITH YOUR HELP AND THE MAGIC POTION, WE'LL MANAGE IT.

AND SO THAT IT WAS THAT I DECIDED TO USE A ROPE WHICH IS WAS BORN WHICH IS STILL USED TO THIS DAY....

THIS IS A GOOD IDEA....

YES, BUT I'D HAVE THOUGHT THE ROPE WENT ROUND YOUR NECK...

BRING THE CHEESE! I'LL JUST HAVE TIME TO MELT BEFORE THE ROMANS ARRIVE!
HERE COME THE ROMANS!
NOT BAD, THIS MAGIC FONDUE!
LET'S TREAT THEM TO A LITTLE WAR SONG!

THEY'VE GOT ELEPHANTS!
DON'T BE AN IDIOT! THEY'RE SINGING!
WHEN I WAS POSTED TO GAUL, I KNEW A BARD WHO SANG A BIT LIKE THAT!

BY ORDER OF GOVERNOR CURIUS ODUS, REPRESENTATIVE OF JULIUS CAESAR, LET US PASS
YOUR QUARRELS ARE NO CONCERN OF OURS. WE WANT TO REMAIN NEUTRAL, BUT...

CHARGE!

YODLEEEEEE!

TCHRRRRA!
HIT US, YES, BUT YOU MIGHT LET US DO THE SHOUTING!

PLAF!

BANG!
TCHAC!

CRUMP!

AND WHILE THE BATTLE STILL RAGES...

LOOK OVER THERE! THE OUTLAWS ARE CLIMBING A MOUNTAIN! LET'S GET AFTER THEM WHILE THE OTHERS ARE BUSY HERE!

PAF!

BING!

FIRST YOU HIT ME AND THEN YOU BANDAGE ME UP!

IT'S OUR VOCATION. WE LOOK AFTER ALL COMBATANTS, WHATEVER THEIR NATIONALITY...

WE GO SWIMMING IN THE LAKE. WE GO CLIMBING MOUNTAINS...

WHAT DO YOU EXPECT? WE'RE NOT ON HOLIDAY, YOU KNOW!

I'VE DONE IT! I'VE CAUGHT ONE!
HELP ME!
QUICK!

WE'RE COMING!

I'M GOING TO PULL YOU UP!

EEEEH!

PULL HIM DOWN HERE!

I'M TRYING TO!

HOLD TIGHT!
DON'T LOSE SIGHT OF THEM! WE'LL GO ROUND THE MOUNTAIN AND CATCH THEM ON THE OTHER SIDE!

HEH!
DON'T LET ME DOWN!

HUM...

!!!

THERE, THERE! GO BACK TO SLEEP! IT'S ALL RIGHT!
THREE HOURS LATER...

GALII! LOOK TO YOUR RIGHT!

THE SILVER STAR!

I CAN'T REACH IT! I NEED ANOTHER SWORD!

ANYBODY GOT A SWORD?

ANYBODY GOT A SWORD?

ANYBODY GOT A SWORD?

I'VE GOT ONE. TAKE IT AND STOP SHOUTING. YOU COULD EASILY START SOMETHING OFF.

THANK YOU!

PASS IT UP!

I'VE GOT IT, OBELIX! WE'VE DONE IT!!

EYE, INFANTS BRINGING, PATEK'S GONE A-HUNTING...

LET'S GO ON CLIMBING! WE'RE NEAR THE SUMMIT!

SOON AFTERWARDS...

YES! A ROMAN! SO WHAT!! I'VE HELD YOUR FRIEND'S HAND ALL THE WAY UP THIS DANGEROUS CLIFF... YOU'RE NOT GOING TO MAKE TROUBLE FOR ME NOW?
HALT, GAUL! IN THE NAME OF GOVERNOR CURIUS ODUS, CAESAR'S REPRESENTATIVE, HALT!

THE DIFFICULTY IS THAT OBELEX IS STILL OUT COLD. I'LL HAVE TO TAKE HIM IN TOW.

GOODBYE, HELVETIANS! I SHALL NEVER FORGET WHAT YOU DID FOR US, AND I'LL TELL OBELEX ALL ABOUT IT!

HALT, GAUL! IN THE NAME OF GOVERNOR CURIUS ODUS, CAESAR'S REPRESENTATIVE, HALT!

WATCH OUT!
YOU ALL RIGHT, CENTURION?

I'M ALL RIGHT. I JUST KEEP WISHING I WAS BACK IN EGYPT.

THE SILVER STAR, OBEIX! WE'VE FOUND IT! LET'S GET BACK TO THE VILLAGE!

ARE WE IN THE DRINK AGAIN?

I'VE MANAGED TO KEEP HIM GOING, O GOVERNOR VARIUS FLAVUS. WHAT A PITY THAT YOUR MEN AREN'T BACK. YOU'LL HAVE TO EXECUTE HIM. AFTER ALL, HOSTAGES ARE HOSTAGES.

IT'S READY!

EXCELLENT! JUST ADD A FEW DROPS OF MAGIC POTION, AND GIVE HIM THE MIXTURE TO DRINK. WHAT'S READY?
I'M READY, THAT'S WHAT!

NOW... KEEP CALM, QUAESTOR SIMULISITUS...

WHEN YOU COME DOWN I SHALL CHECK YOUR ACCOUNTS, AND THE NEXT ORGY YOU HAVE WILL BE IN THE CIRCUS AT ROME, WITH YOUR FRIEND CURIUS ODUS!

...YES, FOR THE FIRST TIME A ROMAN IS INVITED TO ONE OF THOSE BANQUETS WHICH TRADITIONALLY CELEBRATE THE RETURN OF OUR FRIENDS, WHO ARE HAPPY AND PROUD, FOR THEY REALISE THAT EACH ADVENTURE ENRICHES THEIR KNOWLEDGE AND EXPERIENCE.

TELL US ABOUT HELVETIA, OBELEX. WHAT'S IT LIKE?

FLAT

THE END

PROOST