HODDER DARGAUD PRESENTS

BOOK 11

TEXT: Goscinny
DRAWINGS: Uderzo

Asterix

The Mansions of the Gods
HIDDEN IN THE GREAT ARMORICAN FOREST SWARMING WITH JUICY WILD BOAR, THE LITTLE VILLAGE THAT WE KNOW SO WELL IS BASKING HAPPILY IN THE WARM SPRING SUNSHINE. YES, THE LITTLE VILLAGE IS QUIETLY CONFIDENT ABOUT THE FUTURE...

...AND IT IS MAKING A BIG MISTAKE, BECAUSE THE FUTURE MIGHT BE THIS!

WILL YOU EXPLAIN THE MEANING OF THIS TO US, O CAESAR?
I WILL NOW GIVE YOU A BRIEF COMMENTARY.
THE GALLS HAVING BEEN DEFEATED, THEIR CHIEF VERCINGETORIX LAID HIS ARMS AT THE FEET OF THE GLORIOUS GENERAL...

WHO OCCUPIED ALL GALL, ALL? NO! ONE SMALL VILLAGE INHABITED BY INDOMITABLE BARBARIANS DARED, AND STILL DARES, TO RESIST HIM!

WHO'S HE TALKING ABOUT?

HIMSELF. HE ALWAYS TALKS ABOUT HIMSELF IN THE THIRD PERSON.

HE'S GREAT!

ER...YOU!

OH, HIM!

THESE GALLS, WITH THE AID OF A MAGIC POTION WHICH GIVES THEM SUPERHUMAN STRENGTH, AND PROTECTED BY A FOREST WHICH PROVIDES THEM WITH FOOD, REJECT THE ADVANTAGES OF ROMAN CIVILIZATION...

WHICH I HAVE DECIDED TO FORCE THEM TO ACCEPT! THE FOREST WILL BE DESTROYED TO MAKE WAY FOR A NATURAL PARK!

AND THEN BLOCKS OF FLATS FULL OF ROMAN TENANTS WILL SURROUND THE VILLAGE, WHICH WILL BECOME A MERE NATURAL RESERVATION. THESE GALLS MAY BE CRAZY, BUT THEY'LL HAVE TO ADAPT TO OUR WAYS THEN!

* HENCE THE OLD GALLISH EXPRESSION, "A NIENTAL RESERVATION."
SO I HAVE CALLED IN ONE OF OUR MOST TALENTED YOUNG ARCHITECTS TO STUDY THIS PROJECT. I REFER TO SQUARONTHEYPOTENUS...

NOT ONLY HAS SQUARONTHEYPOTENUS BUILT MANY INSULAE* SOME OF WHICH HAVE NOT FALLEN DOWN...

* BLOCKS OF FLATS

...HE IS ALSO THE INVENTOR OF THE DRIVE-IN AMPHITHEATRE...

...OR POTION-TABERNAE* WHERE YOU CAN BUY ANYTHING...

SLAVES
STATUES
GLADIATORS

BALM~QINTMENTS

* TABERNAE: STORES

...AND OF THE LATEST THING IN BATHS

AND WHAT ARE YOU GOING TO CALL THIS NEW DEVELOPMENT WHICH IS TO CIVILIZE THE GAULS?

SQUARONTHEYPOTENUS WANTED TO CALL IT ROME NEw TOWN, BUT THERE IS ONLY ONE ROME...

SO I HAVE DECIDED TO CALL IT THE MANSIONS OF THE GODS'. THAT WILL HELP TO PULL IN THE CUSTOMERS
AT THE MOMENT PEACE REIGNS ON THE FUTURE SITE OF THE MANSIONS OF THE GODS. AND ONLY THE BOARS SEEM TO HAVE ANY REASON TO WORRY.

WELL, I THINK THEY OUGHT TO DO THE HIDING. IT'S OUR FOREST, AFTER ALL!

... AND TEN FEET. THAT MAKES SIX HUNDRED AND TWO FEET, THREE HANDS...

WE'LL START THE NEXT SET OF MEASUREMENTS FROM THIS TREE.

DOGMATIX!

HEEL!

OUCH!

CALL YOUR DOG OFF!

ALL RIGHT, BUT DON'T GO INTERFERING WITH TREES IN FRONT OF DOGMATIX. HE DOESN'T LIKE IT.

COME ALONG, DOGMATIX, YOU'LL SPOIL YOUR APPETITE.

YOU KNOW, YOU SHOULDN'T VENTURE INTO THIS FOREST. IF ANYONE MET YOU, YOU MIGHT HAVE AN UNFORTUNATE EXPERIENCE.
THE BOARS ARE RATHER RETIRING TODAY!
THEY GO INTO HIDING WHEN THEY SEE A CROWD.

THESE FORESTS AREN'T PROPERLY KEPT UP. WE OUGHT TO BE SNIFFING OUT ROMANS!

WE'RE HERE TO SNIFF OUT BOARS, OBEIX!

LOOK, ASTERIX! DOGMATIX IS COMING ON! THERE'S SOMETHING MOVING IN THAT THICKET!

LEAVE IT TO ME!

EEEEEEK!

CAN'T YOU LET ME GO ABOUT MY BUSINESS IN PEACE?
YOU HAVEN'T ANY BUSINESS HERE!

WHAT'S MORE, YOU'RE FRIGHTENING THE BOARS AWAY!

BIFF!

WELL, IT'S QUITE TRUE! I DON'T LIKE PEOPLE TO FRIGHTEN THE BOARS!
POOR THINGS, THEY'RE SCARED OF STRANGERS... WE'RE DIFFERENT; THEY'RE USED TO US.

I'LL HAVE TO HAVE A WORD WITH OUR CHIEF. IT'S NOT NORMAL FOR ROMANS TO BRAVE THE DANGERS OF THE FOREST, ESPECIALLY WHEN THE DANGERS ARE US!

SOON AFTERWARDS...

ROMANS IN THE FOREST?!?
WE'LL HAVE TO KEEP AN EYE ON THOSE ROMANS! AFTER ALL, THEY CAN'T GO TAKING LIBERTIES WITH OUR FOREST, BY TOUTATIS!

AND AS SOON AS WE SEE THEM UP TO ANYTHING AGAIN, WE'LL DEAL WITH IT!

IT'S NOT THEIR FOREST, CENTURION UNNERUS! IT'S THE FUTURE SITE OF THE MANSIONS OF THE GODS! BARBARIANS AND FORESTS ARE OUT! FINISHED! DONE WITH!

CIVILIZATION IS IN! WE'RE ABOUT TO START THE WORK OF DEFORESTATION!

YOU'LL HAVE TO DO SOME DEGALIZATION FIRST!

I'M COUNTING ON YOU FOR THAT, CAESAR'S ORDERS! YOUR TROOPS ARE TO GUARD THE BUILDING SITE!

ALL RIGHT, ALL RIGHT, BUT WE'LL WORK AT NIGHT, UNOBTRUSIVELY. THERE'S LESS CHANCE OF MEETING GAULS IN THE FOREST AT NIGHT!

JUST AS YOU LIKE, BUT SPEAKING FOR MYSELF, I'M NOT SCARED OF GAULS!

HAVE YOU FINISHED, DOCTOR?

I AM VERY MUCH AFRAID THAT I'VE ONLY JUST BEGUN...

MEASURING... THEY WERE MEASURING... YOU DON'T GO MEASURING BITS OF THE FOREST JUST FOR FUN... WHAT ARE THEY UP TO?
That very night, together with their overseers and an escort of legionaries, a column of Iberian, Lusitanian, Numidian, Belgian and Gothic slaves is making its way towards the forest...

Right! Here we are! Start rooting up the trees! We...

Who was that? That's the Iberian slave. They can't work without singing.

All right! The Iberians are let off work. But...

I don't know any songs, but I could give you a recitation if you like.

Belgians never, never, never will be slaves...

That's the Belgians. We'll do without the Belgians.

'Scuse me... I'm Lusitanian K.

Well, what about it?

Portuguese
Silent night, holy night, all is calm...

MAKE THEM SHUT UP!
WHAT WITH?
YOU DON'T WANT TO HEAR THE CRACK OF A SINGLE WHIP!

EVERYBODY QUITE FINISHED? ALL OF YOU GET DOWN TO WORK! YOU WORK UNTIL DAWN OR YOU'LL BE SKINNED ALIVE!

COCK-A-DOODLE
Dawn! We're off!
What do you mean, dawn?

COCK-A-DOODLE-DOO
Cock-a-doodle-doo?
Goodness me, I had no idea it was so late.

COCK-A-DOODLE-DOO
What, already?

AND IN THE GAULISH VILLAGE...

COCK-A-DOODLE-DOO
This is it! We might have known it! The sky's fallen on our heads!
What are these strange goings-on, O Druid? The cock's crowing and the sun hasn't risen yet!

No idea, Asterix... when the dawn comes, you go and scout around in the forest. There must be something going on!

You go to bed, Obelix. We'll have work to do when dawn comes.

But I've got a menhir to deliver before breakfast...

And when the sun finally descends to rise...

What are we looking for, Asterix? I don't know yet, Obelix.

Howwuuu!

Poor little Dogmatix! The sight of that fallen tree made him come over all queer!

You wait! I'll fix that!

There, there, Dogmatix. Nothing happened, you can see for yourself!

Let's go and warn the Druid. We seem to be getting broken nights in these parts.
**Are you absolutely set on going back tonight?**

**You bet I am! We're going to demolish this forest and then the mansions of the gods will become a reality! Besides, the Gauls aren't dangerous. They didn't turn a hair at all the row we were kicking up!**

**They have magical powers. The trees of the forest are in league with them.**

**Beati pauperes spiritu!**

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**That very night...**

**I warn you, I'm not putting up with any funny business. Start rooting up the trees round the one we rooted up yesterday.**

**Squaronthepotenti, the tree we rooted up yesterday has taken root again!**

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**CO... CO... COME AGAIN?**

**CO... CO... COCK-A-DODGSAH!**

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**Fresh fish! It's luveryly!**

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**Get back to bed, you idiot!**

**You'll see who's an idiot!**
WHO STARTED THIS FIGHT?

THE COCK!

THESE SLEEPLESS NIGHTS ARE GETTING RATHER-TIRRING

FULLI AUTO

ASTERIX, WE'RE GOING TO THE FOREST TOMORROW NIGHT

IN THE CAMP OF AQUARIUM

MY LEGIONARIES CAN'T FIGHT MAGIC! I REFUSE TO HELP YOU!

ALL RIGHT, THEN, I'LL DO WITHOUT YOUR LEGIONARIES!

FULLI AUTO

THAT NIGHT...

WE'RE GOING TO DRAG THE TREES AWAY TO STOP THEM TAKING ROOT AGAIN ONCE THEY'RE DOWN

CRAAACK!

IT'S A GOOD THING WE DIDN'T BRING DOGMATIX: HE WOULDN'T HAVE LIKED THIS

SEE THAT, O DRUID? THEY'RE DRAGGING THE TREES AWAY

YES, I SEE. WE'RE GOING TO HAVE SOME FUN TOMORROW. LET'S GET BACK

AND FOR THE FIRST TIME FOR SEVERAL NIGHTS, THE VILLAGE IS ABLE TO SLEEP IN PEACE
IT'S DAYLIGHT, SOWANIFERUS! COME AND SEE THE WORK WE GOT THROUGH DURING THE NIGHT!

HMM?

SOON WE'LL BE ABLE TO BUILD THE FIRST BLOCK OF FLATS IN THE MANSIONS OF THE GODS

THIS IS ALL TOO EASY. DON'T COUNT YOUR CHICKENS BEFORE THEY'RE HATCHED... GNO 'THE SEALOTON!

AND WHAT MIGHT THAT MEAN?

NO IDEA; IT'S GREEK TO ME

MEANWHILE...

WHAT ARE WE GOING TO DO, O DRUID?

YOU'RE GOING TO DROP AN ACORN INTO EACH OF THOSE HOLES...

THEY'RE COMMON OR GARDEN ACORNS TREATED WITH ONE OF MY LITTLE POTIONS

LIKE THIS?

WELL, YOU MIGHT HAVE DONE IT IN A MORE DECENT MANNER, BUT THAT'S THE IDEA

FANTASTIC!

WHY? IT'S ONLY AN OAK TREE LIKE THE REST

BUT DIDN'T YOU SEE HOW FAST IT GREW?

WELL, I'VE NEVER SEEN AN OAK TREE GROWING BEFORE, SO I DON'T KNOW HOW FAST THEY DO USUALLY GROW
THE ROMANS AREN'T GOING TO BE TOO PLEASED!
COME AND HAVE DINNER WITH ME TO CELEBRATE!

THE TREES HAVE ALL GROWN AGAIN

WOOF! WOOF!

SIT DOWN... IT'LL SOON BE READY
GOODY! WILD BOAR!

OH, LOOK, I'VE STILL GOT ONE OF THOSE ACORNS LEFT!

NO! OBELEX, DON'T THROW IT AWAY!

AND NOW YOU CAN UPROOT THIS ONE FOR ME!

DOGMAN'S WOULDN'T LIKE THAT... WE'D BETTER MOVE HOUSE. I SAY, YOU'RE RIGHT, OAK TREES DO GROW FAST!

NEXT NIGHT, IN THE FOREST...

RIGHT, MAKE THE CLEARING BIGGER, AND YOU'LL GET DOUBLE RATIONS OF...

THERE ISN'T ANY CLEARING LEFT!
WHAT DO YOU MEAN, THERE ISN'T ANY CLEARING LEFT?

I MUST ADMIT, THE WORK'S GOING WELL, SQUAREDTHETPOTENUS.

I'M SURPRISED THE GAULS ARE BEING SO PATIENT... I CAN ONLY SUPPOSE THEY REALIZE THEY'VE HIT THEIR MATCH IN YOU...THOUGH JUST TO LOOK AT YOU...

BUT THE WORK DONE OVERNIGHT IS UNDONE AGAIN DURING THE DAY. JUST WATCH THIS DOCMATIX! YOU'LL ENJOY IT!

AND NEXT NIGHT...

I CAN'T LOOK, IS... IS THE CLEARING STILL THERE?

I KNEW IT! WELL, NEVER MIND. PRESS ON!

HOMBRE, I GET THE FEELING WE'RE NOT DOING ANYTHING VERY USEFUL... NOT THAT WE'RE BEING PAID FOR IT, MIND YOU!
In the face of the evidence, I have to admit you were right, you've done it! Let's bury the hatchet, I'll help you...

You'll be able to tell Caesar how useful I was... Let's go and have a look!

Well? Where is this clearing?

The building site. There must be a vast clearing by now.

But... aren't you afraid of the Gauls, in broad daylight?

Huh! You get plenty of time to see them coming, in open country.

No clearing? But the tree trunks? Where did they come from?

DID YOU HEAR THAT? WE CAN'T HAVE THE SLAVES PAYING FOR THE STUPIDITY OF THESE ROMANS... I HAVE AN IDEA!

AREN'T YOU EVER AFRAID YOU MAY RUN OUT OF IDEAS?

But I'm going on! Even if I have to work the slaves to death, I'm going on!
Why did our druid give you an amphora full of magic potion?
You'll soon see, and no, you can't have any.

Call your mates.
Guards! Help me!
No, no, not like that!

The slaves are shut up in this part of the camp. It's surrounded by guards.
I'll take too long to go after them one by one. Leave this to me!

Guards! Help him!

Which of you is the leader, slave?
Flaturtha, the Numidian.

Are you happy in your work, O Flaturtha?
Well, there's not much future in slavery.

The Romans are going to work you to death. You must rebel!
It's easy to say that, but there are the legionaries, the overseers... they have whips and weapons, they're stronger than us.

This is what you need?
THAT'S IT. THEY'VE GONE.
RIGHT. LET'S GET BACK TO OUR POSTS. NO POINT IN MAKING THIS LITTLE INCIDENT KNOWN; NOTHING HAPPENED ANYWAY!

OF COURSE IT DIDN'T!

LATER...
SOUPS UP, SLAVES!

NOW THEN, SLAVES, OFF TO WORK!

NO, WE'RE GOING ON STRIKE. WE'RE TIRED OF UPROOTING TREES THAT KEEP GROWING AGAIN.

WHAT WAS THAT? WANT A TASTE OF MY WHIP?

COME ALONG, YOU LOT! THIS SOUP WILL GIVE YOU STRENGTH... PLENTY OF STRENGTH!

POOR CHAP... HOW WAS HE TO KNOW A NUMIDIAN WOULDN'T NECESSARILY BE A BLACKLEG?

LET'S GET THEM TO WORK!

SOON AFTERWARDS...

GUARDS! HELP ME!

OH NO! I'M NOT FALLING FOR THAT ONE AGAIN!

BING!

PAF!

PLAOUNG!
THE SLAVES ARE RISING!

That was all we needed!

Ah, yes, but I know all about this sort of thing! I'll bring them to heel, by Jupiter!

RAISE THE ALARM!

The slaves are revolting!

Paff! Bon! Tchac!

AND REVOLTING IS THE WORD!

Well, are you bringing them to heel or aren't you?

Wait a minute... I'm just wondering whether...

Soon afterwards...

You lot were on guard outside the slaves' camp today... You didn't happen to see anyone go in, did you?

ER... NO...

Absolutely positive?

Now I come to think of it... There was this big fat bloke...

I think he had a little bloke with him... But so small that... Besides, we hardly exchanged a word.

COULDN'T YOU HAVE TOLD ME THAT ASTERIX AND OBELIX HAD BEEN IN OUR CAMP?!!

So that's it! I knew I'd seen them somewhere before...
THOSE GAULS HAVE BEEN PUMPING MAGIC POTION INTO OUR SLAVES. NOW THEY'RE INVINCIBLE!

WHAT DO YOU MEAN, INVINCIBLE?

IT'S YOUR LEGIONARIES WHO ARE FEEBLE! I'M GOING TO HAVE A WORD WITH THOSE SLAVES, I AM! WE'LL SOON SEE IF THEY'RE INVINCIBLE!

SEE?

YES, I SEE!

WE'VE DECIDED IT'S TIME FOR A LITTLE COLLECTIVE BARGAINING: WE WANT TO BE PAID, AND SET FREE AS SOON AS THE FIRST BLOCK IS FINISHED...

AND OF COURSE WE ALSO WANT PAID HOLIDAYS, OVERTIME, THE GRADUAL PHASING OUT OF THE WHIP, A BAN ON CHAINS, AND DECENT ACCOMMODATION.

WHAT IF I REFUSE?

WE CARRY ON HITTING YOU.

WE BROUGHT THEM TO HEEL ALL RIGHT!

HEY, THEY'RE SAYING THAT THE SLAVES ARE GETTING FIVE SESTERTIUS AN HOUR. WE DON'T GET THAT MUCH! IT'S NOT FAIR.

TO YOUR POSTS!!!

BOOHOOHHO!
While Obelix is dealing with his own little problems, work is begun again on the building site, now that the agreement and the magic potion have proved effective...

**OOP!**

**CRACK!**

*It's unheard-of! The slaves have been working better since we started paying them!*

*Yes, it means more initial outlay, but bigger profits! And think of the saving on whips!*

I don't understand, Asterix! I thought they were going to rebel against the Romans and stop work...

*Eek! This tree's moving!*

Flaturtha! Why are you pulling up these trees?

No visitors on the building site. Push off!

Look here, Numidian... Overseers! No slacking! I feel tired and hungry. I'd like a quick whip!
THESE SLAVES ARE CRAZY!

HUR! LET'S LEAVE THEM TO WEAR THEMSELVES OUT. TOMORROW WE'LL MAKE THE TREES GROW AGAIN AS USUAL.

WHAT A BORE, MOVING NEST ALL THE TIME!

BEFORE I PAY YOU, I WANT TO MAKE SURE THE WORK'S BEEN DONE TO MY SATISFACTION. HOW ABOUT THAT, THEN?

I'M NOT PAYING YOU TO BRING ME TREES; I'M PAYING YOU TO CLEAR THE FOREST AND BUILD FLATS. LET'S GO AND HAVE A LOOK AT THE BUILDING SITE.

SOON AFTERWARDS... WELL, THE FOREST IS STILL HERE!

BUT YOU KNOW THE TREES WE PULLED UP CAME FROM HERE.

THERE ISN'T ANY PROOF, AND REMEMBER THAT YOU WON'T BE FREED UNTIL THE WORK'S FINISHED. IT'S NOT COMING ALONG VERY WELL, IS IT?

YOUR TROUBLE IS YOU CAN'T SEE THE WOOD FOR THE TREES.

THE PROBLEM'S CLEARING.
CENTURION! YOUR MEN ARE NOT DOING THEIR DUTY! THEY’LL HAVE TO GUARD THE SITE BY DAY, TO STOP PEOPLE MAKING THE TREES GROW AGAIN AFTER WE PULL THEM UP BY NIGHT!

MY MEN ARE ON STRIKE, BUT NEGOTIATIONS HAVE NOT BROKEN DOWN. TODAY WE TACKLE THE QUESTION OF EVENING PASSES. THE DELEGATES WANT THEM EXTENDED BY AN HOUR.

MEANWHILE...

I WANT TO SEE YOUR CHIEF, GAUL.

HE’S IN HIS HUT.

NUMIDIAN

YOU’RE KEEPING US FROM BEING PAID BY NOT ALLOWING US TO Finish THE WORK.

BUT WHEN YOU GO UPROOTING TREES YOU HURT DOGMATIX AND THE BOARS...

... AND THE BIRDS...

YES, WE CAN’T HAVE FOWL PLAY. IT’S THE ROMANS WE WANT TO GET THE BIRD.

THE BIRDS ARE FREE AS AIR, AND SO ARE THE BOARS AND YOUR DOG!

YOU’RE RIGHT, NUMIDIAN.

NOT ONLY WILL WE STOP KEEPING YOU FROM FINISHING THE WORK, BUT I’LL GIVE YOU SOME MAGIC POTION TO HELP YOU GET IT DONE FASTER. COME ON!

DON’T WORRY, WE’RE GOING To HAVE A BIT OF FUN WITH THE ROMANS. WE’LL TEACH THEM ANOTHER LESSON AND HELP THESE POOR SLAVES AT THE SAME TIME.
SQUARON THE HYPOTENUSE, THE
ARCHITECT, HAS EVERY REASON TO
BE PLEASED. THE WORK GETS DONE
AT SPECTACULAR SPEED... NOW
THEY'RE PAYING OVERTIME...

CENTURION SOMNIFERUS IS SATISFIED AS WELL. A PERMANENT COUNCIL HAS
BEEN SET UP AND THE POSSIBILITY OF THE TWO SIDES REACHING AN
AGREEMENT AT SOME FUTURE DATE CANNOT BE RULED OUT.

AS SOON AS THE FIRST BLOCK OF
FLATS IS FINISHED AND THE ROMANS
HAVE MOVED IN, WE SHALL BE able
tO SAY THAT THE MANSIONS OF THE
GODS HAVE DEFEATED THE BARBARIANS.

MEANWHILE THEY'VE
CHANGED A GREAT
MANY THINGS
ALREADY...

LISTEN TO THE NEW
COCH HOUSE CALL, IT'S
THE RESULT OF A
NEW AGREEMENT
BETWEEN THE
OFFICERS AND
THE MEN...

OH, COME ON,
OBELIX! GETAFIX
KNOWS WHAT HE'S
DOING...

THE SUPPLY OF
BOARDS IS DRYING
UP!

ON THE
OTHER HAND,
WE'RE GOING TO HAVE
HEAPS OF NEW
ROMANS...

I HOPE YOU'RE
RIGHT, ASTERIX, I
JUST HOPE TO TOUT
YOU'RE RIGHT!

SOMNIFERUS, I'M OFF TO ROME
TO TELL CAESAR HOW
WELL THE PROJECT IS
GETTING ON.
IF WE SUCCEED IN GETTING ROMANS TO LIVE IN THE VIGNETY OF THOSE GALLS, I CAN SAY NOT ONLY VENI AND VIDI, BUT REALLY VICI AS WELL!

I'VE PREPARED A PUBLICITY CAMPAIGN TO FIND TENANTS FOR THE MANSIONS OF THE GODS

THE CAMPAIGN IN QUESTION IS WELL THOUGHT OUT, AND BEGINS WITH A GALA PERFORMANCE AT ROME'S CIRCUS MAXIMUS...

GALA PERFORMANCE
A GRAND RAFFLE WILL BE HELD AT THE END OF THE GLADIATORS' FIGHTS
THE WINNER WILL RECEIVE A FLAT IN THE MANSIONS OF THE GODS
RETAIN THE NUMBERED TICKET YOU RECEIVED AT THE TURNSTILE

Perhaps we'll find out from this brochure they handed us...

THE MANSIONS OF THE GODS! WHAT IN THE NAME OF THE ELYSIAN FIELDS WERE THOSE?
WOULD YOU LIKE TO LIVE LIKE A GOD? IF SO... THE MANSIONS

FOR THOSE WHO HAVE HAD THEIR FILL OF THE POLLUTED ATMOSPHERE OF THE VRBS, THE PRESSURES OF THE RAT RACE, PURE AND SWEET AIR AWAITS THEM IN A VAST, SUPERB NATURAL PARK...

LESS THAN THREE WEEKS AWAY FROM THE CENTRE OF ROME AND JUST ONE WEEK FROM THE CENTRE OF LUTETIA (GAVL)

A HEALTHY AND HAPPY LIFE,


OF THE GODS ARE FOR YOU!

GENERAL PLAN OF THE MANSIONS OF THE GODS
ARCHITECT: SQUARONI THE HYPOGENUS

SHOPPING PRECINCT TO BE CONSTRUCTED

WORTHY OF A GOD!

WHEN THE HUSBAND COMES HOME FROM WORK HE CAN VISIT THE BATHS AND THE SPORTS HALL WITH HIS FRIENDS, OR GO FOR A ROMANTIC STROLL WITH HIS WIFE ALONG THE SHADY FOOTPATHS OF THE PARK (WHERE THE WILD BOARS FROLIC). IN THE EVENING HE CAN GO TO THE GAVLISEVM (TO BE CONSTRUCTED), OR SIMPLY HAVE A FEW FRIENDS IN FOR AN ORGY. ALL HE HAS TO DO THEN IS GO TO BED AND AVOID THE DAWNING OF A MAGNIFICENT NEW DAY, THE SORT OF DAY YOU CAN FIND ONLY IN THE MANSIONS OF THE GODS!
That's all very well, but I seem to remember that there are parts of Gaul which are not very restful...

Oh, it's in Gaul, is it?

The last pair of gladiators have finished massacring each other, and now Lucanus, the famous master of ceremonies, comes to the centre of the arena.

And now the great moment has arrived! You're all wonderful, and after these wonderful gladiators who have killed one another for you... give them a big hand, folks, the survivors as well as the other ones...

Thank you... we're going to pick the fortunate winner of one of the cenacuia in the mansions of the gods... we have here a wonderful, Vestal virgin, give her a big hand, folks! She will draw the winning number.

CIV! Who has got CIV?

It's you!

Here he is! Over here!

Ah, I see we have a wonderful winner! Come down into the arena, please!

Give him a big hand, folks!

What if I refuse to go to Gaul?

You'll stay in the arena and we'll let in the lotus.

In that case, I accept.

Did you hear that?

He accepts! Give this wonderful winner a big hand, folks!!!
IM VERY WORKED ABOUT THESE ROMANS, GETAFIX
THEY MAY BE WONDERFUL...

I KNOW WHAT LINE IM TAKING: I SHALL IGNORE THEM!
SO SHALL I!

IVE HEARD THE FIRST TENANTS ARE ARRIVING FROM ROME TODAY
AND GETAFIX TOLD US NOT TO BASH THEM ABOUT...

CAN'T THINK WHATS DIPSYING ME KNOCKING THEIR BLASTED BATS DOWN!
TAKE IT EASY! AT LEAST THE SLAVES HAVE BEEN FREED, THAT'S ONE GOOD THING!

SURE ENOUGH...

WELCOME TO THE MANSIONS OF THE GODS!

WHAT ARE WE GOING TO DO NOW WE'RE FREE?
NOW OUR SHIPS COME HOME, WE'LL FLOAT A COMPANY, ME HEARTIES!
THE SHOPPING PRECINCT IS NOT QUITE FINISHED. YOU CAN BUY FOOD IN THE NEARBY MILITARY CAMPS. WE'VE MADE ALL THE NECESSARY ARRANGEMENTS.

SO THERE'S WHAT A GOOD IDEA: WE'LL GO TOMORROW.

FRESH FISH! IT'S LUVERLY!

THEY DO LOOK FRESH... HOW MUCH IS THAT ONE?

ER... ONE SESTERTIUS.

TO THINK THEY'D ASK FIVE SESTERTIUS FOR THE SAME FISH IN ROME! I'LL HAVE THREE!

I'LL HAVE THREE TOO!

WELL DONE! OH, VERY WELL DONE!

WHAT DO YOU MEAN? YOU DIDN'T EXPECT ME NOT TO SERVE THEM JUST BECAUSE THEY'RE ROMANS!

DO YOU REALIZE THAT IF YOU WERE IN ROME YOU WOULD HAVE CHARGED FIVE SESTERTIUS EACH FOR THOSE FISH?!!!

SOON AFTERWARDS...

... AND I BOUGHT THIS SWORD AT A CHARMING LITTLE SHOP BELONGING TO FULLAEUMAFRIX. A GENUINE ANTIQUE, HE MADE IT HIMSELF!
NEXT DAY

AUTOMATIX

ANTIGUES

WYGENIX

FISH MONGIR

OH, LOOK, DEAR! THAT WOULD LOOK NICE IN THE ATRIUM!

FULLIAUTOMATIX

ANTIGUES

HOLD YOU DELIVER ONE OF THOSE TO US? WE LIVE IN THE SANCTIONS OF THE GODS

WAIT, MY DEAR...

HOLD MUCH ARE YOU ASKING FOR IT?

ER... TWO WILD BOARS

HOW MUCH IS THAT IN FISH?

DID YOU HEAR, ASTERIX? THOSE ROMANS ARE COMPLETELY...

YES, I KNOW

I'M GOING SHOPPING, THERE AREN'T MANY BOARS LEFT IN THE FOREST

I'LL HAVE THAT FISH THAT'S FOUR SESTERTII

LUVERLY FISH! THREE SESTERTII EACH!

YESTERDAY IT WAS ONLY ONE SESTERTII!!!
THAT'S DAYLIGHT ROBBERY!
ROBBERY? GO TO ROME
AND SEE HOW MUCH
FISH COSTS THERE!

I'll take your fish, but
your attitude amazes me!
Oh, we can do
without Gauls, we can!
The Roman trade is enough for us.

I don't want to poke
my nose into something which
doesn't concern me, Asterix.
But you were unwise to...

Schplonk!
F.A.F.

I don't like the way things are going getafix.
You didn't foresee all this, did you?
No, I didn't expect this.
Some Romans have even been in here to
buy my cauldron!

The Romans have gone home
now. Let's take advantage of it
to have a meeting
and decide what to do.
FRIENDS! THE ROMANS HAVE DESTROYED THE FOREST, AND IN THE END THEY WILL DESTROY US ALL. I'M JUST WONDERING WHETHER WE SHOULDN'T GET RID OF THEM!

FROM THE POINT OF VIEW OF THE FISH TRADE, ROMANS MEAN PROGRESS.

I WAS A BLACKSMITH, AND THANKS TO THEM, I'M NOW AN ANTIQUE DEALER!

YOU ARE THE OLDEST MEMBER OF THE VILLAGE, GERIATRIX. HOW DO YOU FEEL ABOUT HAVING ROMANS IN OUR FOREST?

WELL... ER... HE THINKS IT'S A GOOD THING THAT THEY'RE HERE! THEY WILL HELP US TO EMBRACE FROM THE BARBARIAN AGE.

YOU MUST ADMIT IT'S MORE ELEGANT THAN OUR USUAL TATTERS!

My little Geriatrix and I have decided to change our lifestyle; we're going to open shops.

I SHALL HAVE AN ANTIQUE SHOP, AND DEAR GERIATRIX A FISHMONGER'S!

ANTIQUES ALL RIGHT, BUT A FISHMONGERS? ARE YOU OUT OF YOUR MIND?

ANTIQUES? IF GERIATRIX IS GOING TO SELL ANTIQUES YOU WON'T BE ABLE TO MAKE OUT WHICH IS WHICH.

HOW ABOUT MY STICK? CAN YOU MAKE OUT MY STICK?

THERE ARE GOING TO BE TOO MANY FISHMONGERS ROUND HERE. I'M OPENING MINES TOMORROW!

AND I'M OPENING MINE!

THAT'S WHAT YOU THINK!

I DON'T WANT ANY FISHMONGERS NEAR MY ANTIQUE SHOP!
NEXT MORNING

GETAFIX, LOOK HOW OUR VILLAGE HAS CHANGED! AND THAT'S NOT ALL...

FISHMONGER

ANTIGON

FISHMONGER

ANTIGON

ANTIGON

ANTIGON

...THE WONDERFUL SPIRIT OF CO-OPERATION WE USED TO HAVE HAS DISAPPEARED.

NOW I'M CERTAIN, ASTERIX. ALL THIS IS PART OF JULIUS CAESAR'S PLAN TO GET RID OF US!

I'LL SELL MY FISH CHEAPER THAN YOURS!

CAN YOU SEE MY FISH? CAN YOU SEE IT?

WHO WANTS TO FEEL MY ANTIQUE?

CAESAR IS USING THE ROMANS WHO LIVE IN THE MANSIONS OF THE GODS, BUT THEY DON'T REALIZE WHAT IS HAPPENING.

WE MUST GET RID OF THEM...I'VE GOT AN IDEA.

NEXT MORNING

A VACANT FLAT IN THE MANSIONS? AFRAID NOT, EVERYTHING'S TAKEN—IT'S A GREAT SUCCESS!

SOON WE'RE GOING TO CUT DOWN THE REMAINDER OF THE FOREST AND BUILD SOME NEW FLATS. WE COULD RESERVE YOU ONE OF THOSE...

TEEHEE! IF THE GALLS ARE STARTING TO LEAVE THE VILLAGE, THE LAST CENTRE OF RESISTANCE AGAINST THE ROMAN OCCUPATION WILL HAVE DISAPPEARED. CAESAR WILL BE DELIGHTED!

THAT SAME AFTERNOON, IN THE VILLAGE...

GRRRRRRRRRRRRRRR, AAAAAHHHH!

OBEUX! CALM DOWN, OBEUX. TAKE IT EASY!
BY JUPITER! WHAT'S GOT INTO HIM?
TAKE NO NOTICE, HE DOESN'T LIKE THE
LOOK OF YOU, THAT'S ALL, WE BARBARIANS ARE
LIKE THAT, WE ACT ON INSTINCT

GRRRRR!

THAT GAUL IS CRAZY!
JUST A LITTLE,
YES, BUT AS LONG AS
I'M HERE THERE'S NO
NEED TO WORRY

OH, LOOK AT THE PRETTY
FLOWERS! HOLD MY BAG, I'M
GOING TO PICK A LITTLE
BUNCH
ALL RIGHT, BUT GET
ON WITH IT

LETS GET
BACK HOME!
YES,
LET'S!

YOU CAN
COME DOWN.
I'M HERE!

D-D-DON'T
LET GO OF
HIM!

DON'T BE AFRAID;
HE'S NOT REALLY
VICIOUS, YOU KNOW,
HE JUST LIKES TO
PLAY GAMES

PLAY
GAMES?

A FINE
GAME THAT WAS!

HOW DO YOU
MANAGE TO SEEM
SO FEROCIOUS,
OBELIX?

I'VE BEEN
WATCHING DOMMATUX
WHEN HE'S IN A BAD
TEMPER!
I've just about had enough of living among these savages!

There, there, dear! Aren't these flowers beautiful?

They didn't mention those barbarians in the brochure!

They seem quite nice, however. The price of fish is going down every day. Now they're offering a free gift of an antique with every fish...

...and a free gift of a fish with every antique, come on, let's eat!

There's sardines in sugar, mackerel's eyes in jelly, and anchovy jam, just like we had in Rome.

Ah... Rome, sweet Rome...

Th... there's someone at the door!

Every time we lie down to the table, it's the same! Go and see who it is, quick, dear. The stewed octopus will get cold.

I'm sorry to disturb you, but you haven't seen my friend. Have you?

What? Isn't he with you?

He got away... He wanted to see you. If he comes, give him some raw meat, that calms him down... sometimes.

Who was it?

Guess! Anyway, tomorrow we're leaving!
I WON THIS FLAT IN A GAME AND NOW I'M GIVING IT BACK... AND WHAT A GAME THAT WAS?

I'VE HEARD YOU MIGHT HAVE A FLAT VACANT?

OH, IT ISN'T FOR ME

THERE YOU ARE, MR CASE, A LAST DOOR, NUMBERS 4... DO YOU WANT ME TO SHOW YOU THE WAY?

DON'T BOTHER! I KNOW IT

DO YOU LIKE IT?

YES, IT'S VERY NICE... BUT WHY ARE YOU AND OBELIX TREATING ME TO THIS FLAT?

THOSE POOR ROMANS, I'M SORRY FOR THEM

WE REALLY ARE LAYING IT ON A BIT THICK!

IN THAT CASE, I ACCEPT! AT LAST I CAN PRACTICE MY ART SURROUNDED BY Refined PEOPLe!

THAT'S WHAT WE SAID TO EACH OTHER! NOTHING BUT THE BEST FOR OUR BARD!

NEWS TRAVELS FAST! WELL, JUST SO HAPPENS WE DO. YOU CAN HAVE IT IF YOU LIKE.
AH, HOW PEACEFUL... WE ARE FAR FROM THE PLEASURES OF ROME, BUT HOW QUIET IT IS...

Good Night

Good Night

Can you hear a funny little noise?

It's probably a wild boar frolicking on the lawn.

ON THE SECOND DAY OF SOLSTICE MY TRUE LOVE SENT TO ME, TWO STANDING STONES AND A WILD BOAR IN AN OAK TREE. ON THE THIRD DAY...

The Gauls are attacking!

The building's collapsing!

Quousque tandem?
Quousque tandem?

I prefer the street cries of Rome!

Start packing! Tomorrow we're off!

A wild boar in an oak tree...

On the first day of solstice my true love sent to me...

Right. Here goes!
SURE ENOUGH, NEXT MORNING...
WHAT? YOU'RE ALL LEAVING THE FLATS?
JUST BECAUSE OF A GAUL WHO SINGS LOUD AND FLAT?
PEOPLE WHO SING LIKE THOSE ARE CAPABLE OF ANYTHING! WE'VE HAD ENOUGH OF BARBARIANS! WE'RE GOING BACK TO ROME!

THE WHOLE BUILDING HAS EMTED ITSELF AT ONE GO! ONLY ONE TENANT IS LEFT—A GAUL....

A GAUL? WHICH GAUL?

A BARD... CACORONGRAPHE, I THINK HE'S CALLED...

CACOFONIX, THE BARD?
YOU'VE BEEN HAD BY THE GAULS! HE'S A MENACE. YOU'LL NEVER SEE YOUR TENANTS AGAIN!

I DON'T ADMIT DEFEAT! IF CAESAR KNOWS THE BUILDING IS EMPTY, HE'LL ABANDON THE PLAN!

BUT YOU'VE NO MORE TENANTS...

THE GARRISON OF AQUARIUS! YOUR GARRISON CAN TAKE UP QUARTERS IN THE MANSIONS OF THE GODS. THERE ARE THE TENANTS!

IF YOU SUCCEED IN WINNING YOUR MEN OVER, I'LL SHARE MY FEES WITH YOU!

IN THAT CASE, I'LL TRY

SOON AFTERWARDS...
I'VE CALLED THIS MEETING TO TELL YOU THAT I AGREE TO ALL YOUR DEMANDS... BUT THERE'S ONE PROBLEM LEFT...

THE LEGIONARIES WON'T OBEY ME ANY MORE... THEY'RE STILL ON STRIKE

THE PROBLEM OF ACCOMMODATION. YOU HAVEN'T YET BROUGHT IT UP, BUT I IMAGINE YOU WILL NO LONGER BE CONTENT TO SLEEP UNDER CANVAS...
Quixote!
It's disgraceful! We refuse to live in a camp any longer!
Take it or leave it!
I agree, I agree... I have requisitioned the mansions of the gods. You can move in immediately.

Later...
Ah! So you're back! Are you? They say it was your fault that the Romans left! Look what you've done to our village!

There are barbarians everywhere. I have been thrown out of the building. They've requisitioned it for the army.

What?
I said, there are barbarians everywhere, and...

Never!
The N.C.O.'s will have the luxury flats on the lower floors... the other ranks will live on the upper floors...

I've stationed sentries on the roof... they will act as aerals to warn us of any danger.

Meals will be served in the entry atrium. Every legionary on duty will come with his comrades to fetch his rations to eat in his private triclinium...

Of course, we shall have to have meetings of the tenants' association. I don't care very much for the decoration in the atrium...

What's the matter with the decoration? I think it's very nice...

What about letters? Will they be delivered, or shall we have to go and collect them?

And the lawn? Who'll look after that?

Some time later...

My legionaries need a good battle. They're going soft...

That's your problem, mine is just the reverse: to see there aren't any more quarrels.

Tantaraa!

That's the sentries on the roof!

Tantan Taaaraa!

Let's have some hush! Music isn't allowed!

We must put that on the agenda for the next meeting of the tenants' association!

Look, centurion! Look!

What the...
STOP! STOP!
THIS IS PRIVATE
PROPERTY!

AND WHAT IS MORE,
PLEASE KEEP OFF
THE GRASS!

IN THE FIRST PLACE, I'M NOT ON
THE GRASS, AND IN THE SECOND
PLACE, YOU ROMANS HAVE THROWN
ONE OF OUR MEN OUT, SO WE ARE
GOING TO THROW YOU OUT!

CHARGE!
REPUULSE
INTRUDERS!!

RIGHTO!

HEY? HEY! FIGHTING
IN A BLOCK OF FLATS
IS NOT ALLOWED!!

SPLIT UP! I'LL
TAKE STAIRCASE A.
ASTERIX AND
THE OTHERS
WILL TAKE
STAIRCASE B!
MAY WE COME IN?

I'M IN MY BATH!
I'M IN MY BATH!

THE LAST THREE FLOORS ARE MINE!

SHUT UP, OBELIX!
YOU'LL HAVE WHAT'S LEFT!

WHY ARE YOU WAITING TO GO DOWN, BY JUPITER?

I'VE ALREADY HAD MINE! I'VE ALREADY HAD MINE!

TELL THAT DOG TO LET GO OF ME! DOGS ARE NOT ALLOWED IN THE BUILDING!

OUCH! WATCH OUT, BY BELISAMA!

SORRY, O CHIEF! THE CEILING'S RATHER LOW HERE!

I'M NOT HERE!
I TELL YOU I'M NOT HERE!

I SHALL HAVE SOMETHING TO SAY AT THE NEXT MEETING OF THE TENANTS' ASSOCIATION!

LISTEN, WE DON'T LIVE HERE, YOU UNDERSTAND... WE'RE JUST VISITING FRIENDS WHO ARE HAVING A FANCY DRESS BALL, THAT'S WHY WE'RE ALL DISGUISED AS LEGIONARIES... NOW, IN THE OTHER FLATS... ARE YOU LISTENING WHEN I SPEAK TO YOU?

GET THEM ROUND THE BACK, AT THE SERVICE ENTRANCE, BY BELENOS!

THE CHANGING OF THE GUARD'S IN TWO HOURS' TIME; THESE ARE OUR ORDERS.
SOON AFTERWARDS...
HOW NICE IT WILL BE
TO BE BACK IN
CAMP...

YES, LIFE UNDER
CANVAS IS
SO MUCH
HEALTHIER!

COME ON,
OUT OF YOUR
BATH!

NOT BEFORE
WE'RE BACK
HOME!

SO THERE YOU ARE!
GET OUT OF HERE AND
NEVER DARKEN OUR CAMP
SITE AGAIN! THE MANSIONS
OF THE GODS ARE DONE
FOR!

YOU'RE RIGHT! I NEVER WANT
TO HEAR ANOTHER WORD ABOUT
THOSE BARBARIANS. LET CAESAR
DEAL WITH THEM AS BEST HE
CAN... ANYWAY, I'VE GOT A
CONTRACT TO BUILD SOME
PYRAMIDS IN EGYPT...

IT WILL BE A PLEASANT
CHANGE. BUILDINGS IN THE
MIDDLE OF THE DESERT, WITH
NICE QUIET TENANTS...

WHAT ARE WE
GOING TO DO NOW,
GETAFIX?

COME ON,
BOYS! BACK
TO THE
VILLAGE!

IT WAS INTERESTING.
THAT BUILDING I TOOK THE
OPPORTUNITY TO HAVE A
GOOD LOOK ROUND...
VERY INTERESTING...

I DON'T LIKE
TO SAY SO,
BUT THESE MODERN
BUILDINGS ARE
RATHER
FLIMSY...
At nightfall, the forest has taken over once again. Only a few Roman remains show that the mansions of the gods ever stood there...

O Druid Getafix, do you think we can always stop the course of events as we have just done?

But we still have time, plenty of time!

What do you mean, time?

We haven't got any time to waste! The wild boars are ready; we're only waiting for you!

And not far from the Roman ruins, in a natural clearing in the forest, frequented by wild boars and birds, our friends the Gauls, gathered together for one of their traditional feasts, celebrate another victory, a victory over the Romans and over the inexorable passage of time...

The End