GOSCINNY AND UDERZO
PRESENT
An Asterix Adventure

ASTERIX
AND THE
SECRET WEAPON

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ORION
GO AWAY! GIRLTH CAN'T PLAY!

OH, AND JUST WHY CAN'T I PLAY?

EVER THEN A GIRL'S FIGHTING THAESTHAR'S LEGIONTH?

ANYWAY, GIRLS CRY ALL THE TIME!

NO THEY DON'T! BOO-HOO!

MUMMMYYY!

WHAT'S THE IDEA, UPSETTING LITTLE GIRLS?

OH YETH, I THUNPOTE THE IT'TH ALL MY FAULT?

LIKE FATHER, LIKE SON!
YOUR DAD UPSETS THE WHOLE VILLAGE WITH HIS ROTTEN FISH!

LOOK HERE, MISSUS!
IF I WAS YOUR HUSBAND I'D...

YOU'D WHAT?

OH, ALL RIGHT, YOU CAN COME AND PLAY W'N 4UTH!

NO!
IT'S TOO LATE NOW!

I ATHK YOU!
LITTLE GIRLTH ARE PETHTH!

TCHAC!
PAP!
PIF!

BANG!
BING!

DONG!
DONG!
DONG!
COME ALONG, CHILDREN! BREAK'S OVER!

WE'VE DECIDED TO REMOVE OUR CHILDREN FROM THIS SCHOOL! IT HAS A POOR REPUTATION!

WHAT'S MORE, WE'VE APPOINTED A NEW TEACHER FROM LUTETIA! SHE'S GOING TO SEE TO THEIR EDUCATION!

SPECIALL Y THEIR MUSICAL EDUCATION!

ALLOW ME TO REMIND YOU THAT ONLY DRUIDS AND BARDS ARE QUALIFIED TO TEACH SCHOOL CHILDREN!

OH, SO A WOMAN CAN'T BE A BARD?

NO, MA'AM! SHE'S BARRED FROM BEING A BARD!!!

THAT'S JUST TOO BARD!

TAKE THAT!

KEEP YOUR HANDS TO YOURSELF, MA'AM!

PAFF!

NOT ONLY DO THEY THUMP ME AT THE DROP OF A LYRE, THEY'RE BRINGING IN A FOREIGN FEMALE TO REPLACE ME! WELL, THAT'S IT! I'M LEAVING THE VILLAGE!

POOR OLD CACOFONIX! HE REALLY SEEMS TO MEAN IT! I'D BETTER GO AND TELL CHIEF VITALSTATISTIX!

IT'S NO SKIN OFF MY NOSE! NO WOMAN COULD EVER REPLACE ME! CARVING WENKIRS IS FAR TOO DELICATE A JOB!
MEANWHILE WE MUST PERSUADE CACOFONIX TO STAY, HE'S EXCELLENT COMPANY WHEN HE DOESN'T SING!

THE WHOLE VILLAGE ASKS YOU NOT TO LEAVE, CACOFONIX!

FAREWELL, YOU UN-GRATEFUL LOT! QUAL'S ARTIFEX PERSO?*

LOOK... JUST TO SHOW HOW FOND WE ARE OF YOU, WE'RE EVEN WILLING TO... TO LET YOU SING!

OH NO, YOU WON'T GET ME TO SING! OH NO, YOU WON'T GET ME TO SING!!!

WHERE ARE YOU GOING, CACOFONIX?

I AM RETIRING TO MY LITTLE PIED-Â-LAIR* IN THE HEART OF THE FOREST TO MEDITATE ON MAN'S INGREDIENT!

* A BARD'S SECOND HOME.

IT'S SAD TO SEE OUR BARD LEAVE THE VILLAGE!

YES, THOUGH IT'S NOT ALWAYS THE BEST WHO ARE TAKEN!

IS THIS THE VILLAGE OF LOONIES?

!?
Looks like it's not always the best who replace them, either!

Peefeff!

Ssssh!

Madam, I am the chief of this village. Kindly moderate your language!

Sorry, but that's how they've been describing your oppidum in every manual I've seen. Where I asked the way since Lutetia?

A kind of motel on the Roman roads.

Peefeehhee!

So you're the... what do we call you? Bardess? Bardette?

Just Bard! My name is Balam, and tell your historical friend to stop that silly gigling or I shall lose my temper!

Hohoho! Haha!

Er... please forgive my friend! He's never seen a woman wearing the breeches before!

You ignorant Rustics! Oriental clothes! Leggings like these are all the rage in Lutetia!

It isn't that... teeheehee! Everyone knows it's vertical stripes that are slimming... ho! ho! ho!

Right, fatso, let's see if you're as strong on mathematics as aesthetics! Say your III times table!

Easy! One times three is asterix. Dogmatix and me, but three times boards makes a lot more on the table, of course!

Right. I want to see you and your stripes in my class tomorrow. Get it?

?!?

Bons! Bons! Bons!

But I can't! Not tomorrow! I've got menhir's to deliver!

Obelix, please! Don't complicate matters!

Sssshheehee!
WE'VE BEEN LOOKING FORWARD TO SEEING YOU, MA'AM! I'M IMPEDIMENTA, THE CHIEF'S WIFE. MEET MRS. UNHYGIENIX, MRS. FÜLLAUTOMATIC AND MRS. SERIATRIX.

JUST CALL ME BRAVURA!

WE'RE HAVING A LITTLE PARTY IN YOUR HONOUR THIS EVENING, TO INTRODUCE OUR NEW BARD TO THE VILLAGERS.

YOU MAY FIND THEM A BIT RUSTIC, BUT THEY'RE FULL OF FUN!

SO I'VE SEEN WELL, WHERE’S MY OFFICIAL RESIDENCE?

YOUR OFFICIAL RES... OH, YES, OF COURSE!

WHY NOT USE CACOPONTIX’S HUT? HE LEFT... HE DIDN'T KNOW THE SCORE.

YES, HE GOT THE WIND UP!

SO IT’S 120 HOURS!

NO STRINGS ATTACHED? COME ALONG... YOU MUST BE WORN OUT, WALKING ALL THIS WAY!

I DON'T HITCH LIFTS, YOU NEVER KNOW WHAT MALE CHAUVINIST WIZARD YOU MAY MEET!

OINK?

SOON AFTERWARDS

YOU KNOW ME, ASTERIX: I'M NOT A MISCHIEVOUS WIZARD; I'M NOT NERVOUS, BUT I DON'T LIKE THAT FOREIGN WOMAN. SOMETHING TELLS ME SHE'S GOING TO BRING THE SKY DOWN ON OUR HEADS!

THERE! RATHER HIGH UP, BUT THE AIR IS VERY PURE!

HUMPH! NOT BAD!

WHAT DID I TELL YOU?

WHAT DID CACOPONTIX DIT? COMPOSE LIGHT MUSIC, BUT I HAD NO IDEA HE WAS A MAN OF SO MUCH NOTE!
A PARTY IN HONOUR OF THAT... THAT BARD! HUMPH! HONESTLY!

OH, I SEE! JUST FOR ONCE WE WELCOME A PERSON OF QUALITY AND EDUCATION TO THE VILLAGE, AND MISTER VITALSTATIX DOESN'T LIKE IT!

I DARE SAY HE'D PREFER THE BORING COMPANY OF THOSE COARSE, INCULTIVATED BURRS WHO CHOSE HIM AS CHIEF!

LISTEN, PEDIMENTA DEAR...

AND STOP CALLING ME ‘PEDIMENTA’ IT'S COMMON AND RIDICULOUS!

WHERE'S YOUR SHIELD OFFICE?

ONE OF MY SHIELD-BEARERS HAS LET ME DOWN, TIRED OUT AND THE OTHER FALTY REFUSES TO CARRY ME ALONE!

I THINK I NEED A SPARE SHIELD-BEARER!

YOU DO, THAT SHIELD IS ALWAYS BREAKING DOWN AT THE CRUCIAL MOMENT.

I DIDN'T THINK THERE COULD BE WOMEN BARDS!

WE ARE ENTERING THE MODERN ERA OF THE ANCIENT WORLD, ASTERIX. WHEN ANYTHING MAY HAPPEN.

SO IT'S ONLY RIGHT FOR A WOMAN TO BE CONSIDERED THE EQUAL OF A MAN, WITH ALL THE ASPIRATIONS AND AMBITIONS HITHERTO DENIED HER!

YOU MEAN THERE COULD BE WOMEN DRUIDS TOO?

OH, COME ON, ASTERIX. BE SERIOUS!

DO TELL US ABOUT GAIUS VITUS, DEAR BRAGAD! I HEAR IT'S BECOMING A GREAT CITY!

YES, IT'S REALLY CAPITAL!

WHAT ARE THE SUMMER FASHIONS THIS YEAR?

DO YOU THINK ORIENTAL DREAMS OR LEGGINGS WOULD FLATTER MY FIGURE?

WELCOME TO OUR NEW...
A SONG! A SONG!

Bravura dear, do sing us one of your odes!

Er... well... I'm not in great voice this evening!

I never saw a bard shy about singing before!

Well, if you insist, I'll get the instrument I use for accompaniment!

AAAAAH!

Soon afterwards...

The harp and the cymbals are just for early music fans now. Only percussion can drum modern lyric poetry into an audience! Listen to this!

Armorica! Armorica!

Toutatis shed his grace on thee!

Bong!

Bong!

Armorica the beauuuootiful...

Bong!

Bong!

Philistines! Rustic boors!

Take no notice of them. It was... er... well, it was very nice, you know!

I know! What I don't know is how you can put up with these retarded barbarians!

They do like a coke, but they mean well!

You can all come and see me tomorrow after the children have finished school, and I'll tell you about woman's place in Gaulish society today!
NIGHT BRINGS THE VILLAGE PEACE AND CALM.

BROKEN ONLY BY THE SNORING OF THE VILLAGE COCKEREL, WHOSE ADENOIDs ARE STILL GIVING HIM TROUBLE.

ARRRRR! ZZZZ!

BOOM!
BOOM!

IN LUTETIA'S FAIR CITY WHERE GIRLS ARE SO PRETTY...

AND YOU CALL THAT A PERSON OF QUALITY AND EDUCATION?!

SO? BARDs DON'T CLOCK-WATCH!

I FIRST SET MY EYES...

AS SHE WHEELED HER WHEELBARROW...

ON SWEET MOLLIA MALONUS...

BOOM!
BOOM!

THROUGH STREETS BROAD AND NARROW...

MUCH THE SAME AS CASAFONTIX, EXCEPT IT ISN'T RAINING!

CRIyING CARDIA AND MYTILI...

ovoOOh!

ALIVE-ALIVE!

CRAASH!

SHE WAS REALLY GETTING ME DOWN!

MALE CHAUVINIST BOAR!

GETTING YOU DOWN?

WOOAAA!

DON'T CRY, DOGMATIX! I'LL ASK GETAFIX TO MAKE THE TREE GROW AGAIN TOMORROW!
NEXT DAY...

OUR NEW BARD LOOKS CROUCHETH THIS MORNING!

YAًH, SHE FELL FLAT!

SET IN LINE, AND NO TALKING, PLEASE!

I'M OFF TO HUNT WILD BOAR! I'LL LEAVE YOU TO YOUR LESSONS, OBELIX!

ANIMALS ARE FORBIDDEN IN SCHOOL!

BUT DOGMATIX ISN'T TOO OLD A DOG TO LEARN A FEW NEW TRICKS!

I SAID ANIMALS ARE FORBIDDEN IN SCHOOL.

THERE, NOW YOU'VE GONE AND UPSET HIM!

NEVER MIND, DOGMATIX WAIT FOR ME HERE, I'LL TELL YOU ALL ABOUT IT!

AND WHAT, MAY I ASK, IS THAT?

MY LUNCH-BUNDLE? THAT'S NOT FORBIDDEN, I HOPE?

SOON AFTERWARDS...

RIGHT, WE'RE GOING TO SAY OUR TIMES TABLE! ALL TOGETHER NOW!

I TIMES V IS V.

II TIMES V IS X.

III TIMES...

MISS! PLEASE, MISS, OBELIX IS TRYING TO GET AT MY LUNCH-BUNDLE!

I WAS ONLY GOING TO HAVE A TASTE, THAT'S ALL!

RIGHT, YOU WILL CARVE OUT 100 TIMES. I MUST NOT GET AT SOMEONE ELSE'S LUNCH-BUNDLE!
At this very moment in Rome...

Well, Manlius Claphamonnibus, how are you doing with that very special century you were going to recruit?

It's ready to go, O Caesar! Your new secret weapon merely awaits your orders to embark!

I don't want any witnesses to this business, understand? NO WITNESSES!

Every precaution shall be taken, O Caesar, I swear it!

If the existence of our century became known, I should be vulnerable to my enemies in the Senate and the laughing-stock of Rome! So watch it, Claphamonnibus!

And thus a Roman ship carrying Caesar's mysterious secret weapon sets sail in the direction of Gaul!

Poor Obelix! What a pity he couldn't come on this hunt...

...he'd have had such fun!

A little later in the fortified camp of Aquarius...

By Jupiter! Anyone would think all Gaul had been trampling over you!

It feels like it, Fenturion!

We bumped into a boar... and that little stinker from the village of Indomitable Gauls!

Gloria Victis!

Bear up, boys! Rome has promised to send our relief soon!
FRIENDS, SISTERS, COUNTRYWOMEN! THROW OFF YOUR CHAINS!

FREE YOURSELVES FROM SLAVERY! SWELL THE RANKS OF THOSE WHO REFUSE TO ACCEPT...

...MASCULINE TYRAN...

HELLO, ARE YOU STILL HERE?

OF COURSE, YOU TOLD ME TO CARVE OUT THAT YOU MUSTN'T GO A BUNDLE ON SOMEONE ELSE'S LUNCH 100 TIMES, DIDN'T YOU?

ALL RIGHT, YOU CAN GIVE SCHOOL A MISS THIS TIME!

YOU'RE JUST IN TIME, OBELIX! DINNER'S READY! GUESS WHAT - IT'S BOAR!

WHAT'S IN A NAME? THAT WHICH WE CALL A BOAR BY ANY OTHER NAME WOULD SMELL AS SWEET.

BLANK VERSE NOW, EH? SCHOOL MUST AGREE WITH YOU.

SCRUNCH! THAT'S ALL OVER! SHE TOLD ME TO GIVE SCHOOL A MISS... SCRUNCH! SCRUNCH!

SO I GAVE HER TO THE VILLAGE LADIES FOR THEIR EVENING CLASSES!

SCRUNCH! GLOP!

EVENING CLASSES? WHAT EVENING CLASSES?

NO IDEA. IT WAS SOMETHING ABOUT THROWING UP CHAMPAGNE AND FREEING THE SLAVE TO QUELL THE PRANKS OF THOSE WHO PRODUCE EXCEPT I FORGET WHAT...
AND FROM NOW ON YOU CAN SELL YOUR ROTTEN FISH BY YOURSELF!

I FEAR VITALSTATISTIX MAY BE RIGHT. I'M AFRAID THIS BRANUI WILL SOW DISCORD AMONG US!

NOW, NOW, LET'S NOT JUDGE HASTILY, ASTERIX!

WAAAH! DON'T WANT TO LOOK LIKE THE NASTY BOYS!!!

LISTEN, BACTERIA...

BUT WHAT AM I GOING TO DO WITHOUT MY BREECHES?

THE DISHES, GERIATRIX DEAR! THE DISHES!

HAH! FALCO SAVING HIM FROM HIS MEASLES WHEN HE WAS A BOY...

YOU'RE AS REACTIONARY AS YOUR FATHER!

WHAT DID I SAY JUST NOW?

LET'S GO AND DISCUSS THIS WITH VITALSTATISTIX!

NO, 'PEE'. IMPERIMENTA! NOT MY SHIELD!

YOUR SHIELD IS MY SHIELD!

SO THIS IS WOMAN'S PLACE IN GALLI SH,SOCIETY TODAY!

YOU MAY BE WEARING THE BREECHES, BUT YOU NEEDN'T THINK YOU CAN EMULATE OUR PROUD MASCULINE BEARING!
We must go and tell that bard she's redundant before things get any worse. She must leave the village.

I can think of only one warrior proud and brave enough to break that news:

Who?

Oh no! Why does it have to be me?

I'm no prouder or braver than the next man and I'm really not cut out for this sort of...

Asterix, please! Don't complicate matters!

...mission!

...mission!

Be firm and unyielding, Asterix!

Where are you going, Asterix?

Guess!

Why did it have to be me? I mean, I'm a bachelor! None of this has anything to do with me!

Sometimes I really envy Cacofonix, living in the depths of the forest!

Sshh!

Ma'am... er... I've been sent to tell you that...

Ah, you're the little fellow who isn't afraid of the big boys?

You know, I like you! I wanted a word with you myself!
THE THING IS... I HAVE TO TELL YOU...

THEY SAY YOU'RE A BACHELOR? SO YOU LIVE ALONE?

YES... THOUGH I SOMETIMES SHARE MY HUT WITH OBELIX WHEN HE'S AT A LOOSE END! WHY DO YOU ASK?

WELL, WHILE I'M WAITING FOR MY HUT TO BE REBUILT...

YOU COULD LEND ME YOURS AND GO TO STAY WITH YOUR FRIEND OBELIX FOR A WHILE, RIGHT? WHAT DO YOU SAY?

NEVER!
GET THE IDEA?
NEVER!

WHY, WHAT A PROUD, ANGRY LITTLE GAUL HE IS!

LOOK HERE... PUT ME DOWN!

THAT'S SETTLED, THEN! THANKS FOR YOUR UNSOLICITED HOSPITALITY!

GNNNNNN--THAT WAS A WILD BOAR CHASE IF YOU LIKE! I'VE BEEN CONNED! NOT ONH WON'T THAT "BOO" & LEAVE, SHE'S GOING TO MOVE INTO MY HUT!

WELL, IS SHE LEAVING?

TCHAC!

!? BUT I NEVER SAID A WORD!

I'M TAKING NO FURTHER PART IN THIS! WASH YOUR OWN DIRTY LINEN!

I SECOND THAT!
MEANWHILE, IN THE PEACE AND QUIET OF THE ARMORICAN FOREST...

I'M SERGEANT PEPPUS' LONELY HEARTS CLUB BAND...

CRAAASH!

BARBARIAN!

...AND ON THE CALM SURFACE OF THE ARMORICAN SEA...

WE'RE SAILING IN WATERS FREQUENTED BY THOSE CRAZY GALLS, SO WATCH OUT FOR THEIR CRAFT!

ROMAN CRAFT RIGHT AHEAD!

ROMANS! GOODBYE! GOODBYE! LET'S BE CRAFTY TOO AND PLACE OURSELVES UNDER THEIR PROTECTION! NO NO...

CAESAR SAID NO WITNESSES, SO NO QUARTER!!!

CRAAASH!

HE SAID NO QUARTER! HE DIDN'T SAY CHOP US IN HALF EITHER!

BARBARIANS!!!

DESINIT IN PIGEON MULLER FORMOSA SUPERNE!

ONE MORE LATIN TAG AND I'LL DROWN YOU!!!
Well, Bravura, do you like it here?

Yes and no!

Oht, what don't you like?

Well, look at yourself! You're the first lady of this village, and you sit there doing embroidery instead of taking the destiny of your people in hand!

But... but Vitalstatistix is...

Fiddlesticks! Who but you knows what the Gaulish woman really wants? Not that superannuated bore!

What's that? Supper? Marinated boar?

Huh! I'm off!

Wait a minute, Bravura...

Now I wonder who's cooked a great big boar for her dear little piggywiggly!

I am not your slave!!!

Come indoors! I have something to say to you.

Help! What have I gone and done this time?

So that's it! From now I shall sit on the village council too. I'm the chief's wife, right?

Right! And I'm the chief around here!

Oh yes?

Oh yes?

Okay then, I'm leaving the village!!

Looks like impedimenta hit the roof!

And that's not all she hit!
WHAT ARE YOU DOING, VITALSTATIX?! IM THE VICTIM OF A COUP D'ETAT LED BY THAT DARNED LITETRIAN WOMAN! IM GOING INTO POLITICAL EXILE!
WHERE?
IN THE FOREST, WITH CACOFONIX!

QUICK! WE MUST WARN GETAFIX THE DRUID!

LONG LIVE CHIEF IMPEDIMENTA!

HEY! YOU WITH THE WIDE STRIPES! FATSO!

WHAT FATSO? WHAT WIDE STRIPES?

EVERYONE'S TALENTS MUST BE FULLY UTILIZED! IN FUTURE YOU WILL GO HUNTING AND COOK OUR NEW CHIEF'S MEALS!

ASTERIX, I HAVE THIS TERRIBLE URGE TO THUMP SOMEONE!

KEEP CALM, OBELIX! LET'S GO AND SEE GETAFIX!

VITALSTATIX IS LEAVING TOO. THIS BRAHMA IS REALLY DANGEROUS, GETAFIX!

TRUE, BUT THE VILLAGERS ARE FREE TO CHOOSE, ASTERIX! IF THEY'VE DECIDED THEY WANT IMPEDIMENTA AS THEIR CHIEF, WE MUST ACCEPT IT!

MY STRIPES AIN'T THAT WIDE, ANYWAY!

I'M SURE IT WAS ONLY A MINORITY DECISION! WE MUST ORGANIZE A REFERENDUM!
We're going to take a free vote on whether impedimenta or vitalstatistix is to be our chief.

Each in turn, we shall enter my hut and place a pebble in this cask to indicate our choice: white pebbles for impedimenta, yellow pebbles for vitalstatistix.

Oh, why make it so complicated when a simple show of hands would do?

She's right! Let's have a show of hands!

Huh! Why not a show of feet while we're about it?

Oh yes, you'd get a big kick out of that!

Not exactly unanimous, are they?

It's perfectly simple! Let's vote by a show of hands to show if we want to vote by a show of hands!

All who want to vote by a show of hands show their hands!

Right, all who don't want to vote by a show of hands show their hands!

Asterix, I don't quite understand this show of hands business!

I do! I call it a poor show, and I'm throwing 'in my hand!"
Now then, my proud little Gaul, don't be cross! I'm sure we can settle this amicably!

You leave me alone!

Listen, did you ever think of settling down?

Mind your own business!

Because if so, I wouldn't mind settling down with you myself!

WH... WHAT?

We could do great things together! For instance, we could become chiefs of this village!

So that's your little game! You have designs on the chieftain's shield!!!

Why, my proud little Gaul looks even more handsome when he's angry!

Stop this crazy talk, or I'll...

Smack!

Tchac!

Oh, by all the gods! What have I done? I've struck a woman! I can't believe it... It's not like me at all!

I'm... er... I'm terribly sorry! I didn't mean to...

I do apologize! It's the first time I ever...

In future I'm steering clear of unscrupulous and shameless midgets!
Bravura gave me a black look.

This is terrible, Obelix! I struck a woman.

That certainly can't be as much fun as thumping a Roman.

I'm so ashamed! Whatever came over me?

Hm... between us, it wouldn't have come over you with the lovely Panacea, eh? Tehehehe!

Obelix, you're being stupid.

Impedimenta has summoned you to appear before the village council this very day to answer charges brought by Bravura!

I've a feeling I shall soon have to leave the village myself!

I will personally undertake your defence against this dangerous and unprincipled new Bard! Trust me, Asterix!

Asterix, you have broken our laws by maltreating our guest! You have brought Gallish gallantry into disrepute! We therefore sentence you to temporary exile from the village, to meditate on the consequences of your action!

Oh, marvelous! So the person who destroyed the harmony of our village is on the council, while the hero who has done so much to safeguard our liberties is banished! Brilliant!

Who needs heroes? It would be more sensible to extend the hand of friendship to the legions who so generously offer us the benefits of the Pan Romana!

So who needs your advice, you viper???

And who needs your cauldron, you decrepit old owl?

Very well! In the circumstances... I'm leaving the village!!!
Meanwhile, on the coast near the fortified camp of Aquarium...

STAND BY TO DISEMBARK!

CREEEEEK!

OH FOR SOME NICE SEA AIR!

AND IN THE FORTIFIED CAMP OF AQUARIUM...

SNFFF! THE GAULS HAS GOT A FORBIDABLE AND DANGEROUS WEAPON...

...THEIR WRETCHED BARBS WHO CAN OH! SING SO BADLY...

...THAT HE BRINGS DOWN THE CURSE OF THE GODS WHEREVER HE SINGS!

QUOIS ERAT DEMONSTRANBAAA... TISHOOO!

ARES... ARE YOU THE RELIEF?

SO TO SPEAK! MY ORDERS FROM CAESAR ARE TO TELL YOU TO LEAVE CAMP BEFORE THE RELIEF RELIEVES YOU!

AND SUPPOSE I REFUSE TO LEAVE CAMP BEFORE THE RELIEF RELIEVES US?

THEN YOU'LL BE RELIEVED OF YOUR DUTIES AND GO TO RELIEVE THE MONOTONY OF THE DIST OF THE LIONS IN THE CIRCUS!

WE'RE LEAVING CAMP!

WE'RE NOT TOO BADLY OFF HERE WHILE WE WAIT FOR OUR GOOD LADIES TO SEE SENSE!

BUT WE MUST BE ON OUR GUARD; IN CASE THE ROMANS TAKE THEIR CHANCE TO SEIZE THE VILLAGE!

OBELIX AND I WILL GO AND KEEP WATCH ON THEM!
RIGHT! DISEMBARK IN AN ORDERLY AND DISCIPLINED MANNER!!!

I SAID IN AN ORDERLY AND...

HALT!
WHAT KIND OF A JOKE IS THIS?
WE'VE COME TO RELIEVE YOU JOKERS, THAT'S WHAT!

HO, HO, HO! TALK ABOUT RAISING THE MORALE OF THE TROOPS! DRESSED TO KILL, TOO!

HA, HA, HA! OH, DO STOP IT! THIS IS KILLING ME!

HA! HA! HA!
HO! HO!

HEE, HEE! HA, HA! HO, HO!

?!?

BONG!

By Toutatis! Do you see what I see, Obelix?

You bet! The Romans are thumping each other! That's not fair!

BONG!

OOF!
STOP IT! STOP IT AT ONCE!

A FINE PERFORMANCE BY THE ROMAN ARMY, EH? YOU DON'T EVEN NEED GAULS TO FIGHT NOW! HOW THEY'D LAUGH IF THEY COULD SEE YOU!

I DON'T SEE ANYTHING TO LAUGH ABOUT!

I THOUGHT I TOLD YOU TO LEAVE CAMP, CENTURION!

LISTEN, WHAT EXACTLY IS THE IDEA?

COME HERE A MINUTE! I HAVE SOMETHING TO TELL YOU!

I GOT THE IDEA OF RECRUITING THIS CENTURY OF WOMEN TO CONQUER THE GAULS AND OCCUPY THEIR VILLAGE AT LONG LAST!

YOU THINK YOUR SECRET WEAPON WILL SUCCEED WHERE WE'VE FAILED, DO YOU?

THEIR FAMOUS GAULISH GALLANTRY WILL PREVENT THE INDOMITABLE VILLAGERS FROM FIGHTING WOMEN, EVEN WOMEN IN UNIFORM!

OH NO, YOU WON'T! NOW YOU KNOW THE SECRET: YOU'RE ALL CONFINED TO BARRACKS!

QUICK! WE MUST GO AND WARN OUR CHIEF!

ASTERIX, WHAT'S GAULISH GALLANTRY?
A volunteer to go to the village!

We're the victims of our own reputation!

Toutatis! We must warn our good ladies of the danger threatening them!

By Toutatis! We shall be dishonoured, and if we don't they'll occupy our village!

Okay, I get the idea! Come on, Obelix!

Me, go back to the village? Never!

My wife might think I've been looking for some excuse to go back!

I can just see all those dishes waiting for me!

Not me! Nothing doing!

One has one's pride!

You don't look happy, Obelix.

I'm bored, Asterix! Cacofonix is putting all the forest boars to flight...

...and we aren't even allowed to thump Romans now they're Roman matrons! These matrons are crazy!

By Toutatis! The village looks deserted!

It's the Cacofonix effect! Brinjula's putting everyone to flight! These bards are crazy!
BY TOUTATTH, THE ROMAN TH ARE CRATHY!

HERE, SONNY! WHERE ARE ALL THE VILLAGE WOMEN?

THEY'RE ALL AT THE COOL! THEY AREN'T HAVING A LEUTHMOTH ANY MORE! IT'S GREAT!

LET'S TAKE A LOOK, OBELIX!

AND STILL IN THE Diorix COLLECTION, AFTER THE MENHIR ROSE OUTFIT, WE PRESENT THE DREAMY DOLMEN EVENING DRESSES!

This is really weird!

SNIFF! SNIFF! SNIFF! YOU'RE RIGHT... I CAN'T SMELL LHIGATEENIX'S UNFRESH FISH ANY MORE!

Bravura has brought some famous fashion designers from Lutetia to present their SPRING COLLECTIONS!

It's... it's ASTERIX!
WHERE ARE OUR HUSBANDS?
WHAT ARE THEY DOING?
HOW ARE THEY?
WHEN ARE THEY COMING HOME?

Huh! Slaves you were and slaves you will remain!

QUIET, PLEASE!
Move back! Asterix may have something to tell us.

I'm sorry to interrupt the show, but Vitalstatistix has sent me to tell you that...

The council will meet in my hut to hear what that great boor has to tell us!

So Caesar covered the weakness of the Gauls!
Facing those Roman matrons, we men are helpless!
I know some one who wasn't always so scrupulous!
Then we'll fight them ourselves!
And beat them with the aid of the magic potion...

...even if it is fattening!

We don't need any magic potion! I shall go and see those Roman matrons. It will be easy enough to agree on a peace formula woman to woman.

All the same, I'd like you to go and warn the other village women. Forwarned is forearmed!

Wait a moment, you two! I've got something to say to you.
The century of women has pitched temporary camp near the fortified camp of Aquedon in line with the regulations...

...slightly modified here and there.

**JUST WHAT IS THIS?**

**THIS PRINT!**

**IT'S A FAST DYE! GUARANTEED NOT TO RUN IN THE WASH!**

**SOME OF THE DISGRUNTLED MEN CONFINED TO BARRACKS NEXT DOOR RELIEVE THEIR FEELINGS ABOUT THEIR RELIEF.**

**IF WOMEN CAN JOIN THE LEGIONS NOW, WHAT USE ARE WE GOING TO BET?**

**I COULD TELL YOU! I WOULDN'T EVEN MIND BEING A DOMESTICUS** OVER IN THAT CAMP!

**MEANWHILE...**

**BRAMBA! SHE MUST BE GOING TO THE ROMAN CAMP! LET'S FOLLOW HER DISCREETLY!**

**HALT, GAUL!**

**YOU'RE A WOMAN TOO! THAT MAKES US SISTERS, SO LET'S SHAKE HANDS, ROMAN!**

**TCHAC!**
That Roman sister isn't very gallant!

You said it!

What brings you here, Gallish woman?

I've come to offer peace between Rome and the village of Indomitable Gauls, and this is the welcome I get!

Teeheehee! So the Indomitable Gauls are surrendering! I wouldn't have thought it would be so quick and easy!

It's not the Indomitable Gauls surrendering. It's their women who want peace!

Oh yes?

I want no truck with your peace proposals, woman! The village will be destroyed, and its people will end their days in chains in the Tullianum!

I prison in Rome where Verгиngerdix among others was incarcerated.

Smack!

You're nothing but a lot of barbarians!

All of a sudden I like our new bard better!

I want a word with Bravura. See you later, Obelix!

Oh right!

Congratulations on your courage, Bravura!

Huh! Just a set of oafs! They're beneath our contempt!

You know your way round Lutetia, right?

I do. Why do you ask?

Because this time it's my turn to make you a proposition!
WE'RE AGREED, THEN, BRAVURA?

ABSOLUTELY AGREED, ASTERIX!

DONE IT! I'VE MADE MY PEACE WITH BRAVURA!

Teehee! So I hear!

Teehee!

There goes another bachelor!

It was bound to happen some day!

Ah, the joys of love!

WHAT ARE ALL THESE SNIDE REMARKS IN AID OF?

HEEHEE!

NO, NO!

YOU'VE BEEN TELLING THEM A LOAD OF NONSENSE, RIGHT?

WELL... ER... NO! YES, WELL...

I MEAN, IT'S NOTHING TO BE ASHAMED OF, ASTERIX...

Oh, really! You're all idiots! I'm not going to tell you the plan I've cooked up with Bravura, so there!

MEANWHILE, IN THE WOMEN LEGIONARIES' CAMP.

EASH!

Well, centurion, what's your plan for occupying the village?

I BARGE IN AND I OCCUPY IT! BUT I'LL SEND A PATROL FIRST TO BE ON THE SAFE SIDE. YOU NEVER KNOW!

You're to go through the forest and approach the Gaulish village. Come back and report all you see. Dismiss!
I'm sure there are loads of creepy crawlies in this forest!

I simply can't stand snakes and spiders!

Why not a dragon while we're about it?

Heh! Cacofonix! Quick, sing me something!

What did you say??

Are you joking or do you mean it?

I really mean it!

What a lucky coincidence! I've just finished composing an entirely new kind of ode. Listen to this and tell me what you think!

Ooogg Nnaaah!

Boing! Boing!

Rrrr Ouuuuahh Ooh!

Phew! Gasp! Oh no! It's an anacritic ode transcending the verbal dimension. I'm rather proud of it.

It was frighteningly impressive. Well done! I'll be asking you for an encore, Cacofonix!
IT STARTED WITH A HORRIBLE HOWL.
FOLLOWED BY A DOWNPOUR WHICH BROUGHT OUT SNAKES AND SPIDERS.
AND EVEN WOLVES! I'M SURE THERE'S A DRAGON IN THAT FOREST!

STOP BEING SUCH DRIPS, WILL YOU?

REGULAR AS CLOCKWORK, AS PATROL FOLLOWS PATROL...

GNAAAAAT-HOOOUURRR

...DOWNPOUR FOLLOWS...

ERRRRRRRRIIIIIIIIIOOOOUUL

...AND DAY FOLLWS...

MISERABLE DAY...

I CAN'T SEE WHY A FEW DROPS OF RAIN AND A HOWL OR SO SHOULD...

NO, WELL, YOU'RE NOT THE ONE FACING THE MUSIC, CLAP-HAMMONDS!

IN BOTH CAMPS.

...THAT WAS THE LAST BOAR IN THE FOREST, AND I CAN'T EVEN COOK IT!

NOW, ASTERIX, ARE YOU GOING TO TELL US WHY THIS SUDDEN ENTHUSIASM FOR CACOPONIX'S SINGING?

IT'S GIVEN ME THE TIME I NEEDED TO SET UP MY PLAN!

BUT WHAT IS THIS PLAN OF YOURS?

YES, WHAT EXACTLY IS IT?

TRUST ME A LITTLE LONGER! ALL I ASK IS FOR YOU TO WAIT FOR ME NEAR THE VILLAGE, KEEPING UNDER COVER. WHATEVER HAPPENS, DON'T INTERVENE!

OBELIX AND I STILL HAVE A FEW THINGS TO DO. COMING, OBELIX?
HALT! YOU SHALL NOT PASS, GAULS!!

PUT ME DOWN, WILL YOU?

GUARDS! HELP!

WHAT'S ALL THIS, GAULS? DON'T FORGET, YOUR LAWS FORBID YOU TO FIGHT WOMEN!

PRECISELY! WE WANT TO WELCOME YOU LADIES TO OUR VILLAGE WITH ALL THE RESPECT DUE TO YOU... AND THEN THE SUN WILL SHINE ON YOU!

EVEN IF WE HAVE TO FACE JUPITER'S THUNDERBOLTS, WE WILL CRUSH YOUR VILLAGE!

I WANT THEM DEAD OR ALIVE!!!

THIS IS A WALKOVER, OBELIX!

OR EVEN A RUNOVER... AND I NEVER RAN AWAY FROM A ROMAN LEGION BEFORE!
AND CAESAR WILL ASK ME: "QUID NOVIT?" (1)
AND I'LL SAY: "VENI, VIDI, VICI!" (2) AND THEN HE'LL MAKE ME A SENATOR!

SHOW THESE GAULISH BARBARIANS THE TRUE STRENGTH OF THE ROMAN LEGIONS: THEIR ABILITY TO FIGHT WITH ORDER AND DISCIPLINE!

CHAAARGE!

BY JUPITER, THAT'LL SHOW 'EM!

WHY THIS SILENCE? I HOPE THE GAILS HAVE BEEN GALLANT!

?? ?? ??
WELCOME TO OUR GREAT TRADE FORTNIGHT
TOP QUALITY GOODS FROM LUTETIA

COSMETIX
LADIES' HAIRDRESSER

CENTURION! YOU WOMAN! I ORDER YOU TO...

JUST THE MAN I WANT! I CAN'T DECIDE WHETHER THIS ONE OR...

UNREPEATABLE PRICES ON ALL FABRICS!

...FIGHT!
I ORDER YOU TO...

WELL DONE, ASTERIX! WHAT A GREAT PLAN!

THANKS TO ERAWIRA AND ALL THE VILLAGE WOMEN, WE'VE GALLICIZED A WHOLE ROMAN LEGION!

WHAT'S THE MATTER, OBLIX?

I'M NO MORE USE, I'M NOT WANTED, I'M NO GOOD FOR ANYTHING!

FOLLOW ME, OBLIX! WE'RE GOING TO KEEP AN EYE ON THAT ROMAN. I'M SURE HE'S OFF TO GET HELP FROM THE FORTIFIED CAMP OF AQUARIUM. DON'T FORGET, THAT CAMP IS STILL FULL OF LEGIONARIES...

MALE LEGIONARIES!

NOT COVERED BY GAULISH GALLANTRY?

DENIAT YOUNG BY GAULISH GALLANTRY!

THEN LET'S STOP FOOLING ABOUT, ASTERIX, AND GET DOWN TO BUSINESS!

AND THE REST OF US WILL SEE TO THE OTHER CAMPS SURROUNDING THE VILLAGE! I HOPE WE WON'T RUN OUT OF MAGIC POTION?

DON'T WORRY! WE ONLY EVER RUN OUT OF A BIT OF COMMON SENSE!
WE'RE CONFINED TO BARRACKS!

WHAT ABOUT? THAT'S ENOUGH QUESTIONS. I ORDER YOU TO GO AND OCCUPY THE GAULISH VILLAGE!

CAN'T BE DONE! WHAT DO YOU MEAN, CAN'T BE DONE?

WHO'S THERE? MANUEL CLAPHAM, BUS. ON JULIUS CAESAR'S BUSINESS!

BANG! BANG!

LOOK HERE, CENTURION! THOSE COWARDLY GAULS HAVE ABANDONED THEIR VILLAGE! IT'S OCCUPIED ONLY BY THEIR WOMENFOLK, LARKING AROUND WITH THOSE ODIOUSLY ROMAN MATRONS. THIS IS YOUR CHANCE TO WIN GLORY, RICHES, AND FORTUNES!

YOU... YOU MEAN IT? THERE'S NO ONE IN THE VILLAGE BUT THE WOMEN?

I SWEAR IT, BY JUPITER!

GET ARMED! GET A MOVE ON! GET TO THE GAULISH VILLAGE!

THEY'RE ALL YOURS, OBELIX!

GOODY, GOODY, GOODY!

DON'T TOUCH ME, WHATEVER YOU DO! I AM AN ENOUGH OF JULIUS CAESAR AND MAYBE WE COULD DISCUSS THE SITUATION CALMLY LIKE THE CIVILIZED FOLK WE ARE WITH A VIEW TO...
GOOD OLD OBEIX! HE WAS FEELING RATHER LEFT OUT OF THIS ADVENTURE! I OWED HIM SOME FUN!

WE'VE GIVEN OUR DONATION.

THEN FOR WHAT YOU ARE ABOUT TO RECEIVE... CRACK!

PAP! OUCH! TCHAC! BANG!

I FEEL A LITTLE RUSTY! IT MUST BE ALL THAT RAIN-MAKING OF OUR BARD'S!

AND WELL SOON BE RUSTICATED!

YOU KNOW, OBEIX, I'D HAVE EXPECTED YOU TO FLATTEN THIS ROMAN CAMP COMPLETELY!

YOU GAVE UP TOO SOON!

ROMAN CAMP?

WHAT ROMAN CAMP?

BROOOOMMMMMMCRAAAAAASH... TISHOO!
I'm sorry, Cacofonix, but your voice might curdle the magic potion!

Marcos

...and children.

Yes, and the Romans will soon be seeing plenty!

The good potion guide should give today's brew several stars!

Caesar will be furious, that's for sure! Luckily I can still call on the other fortified Roman camps!

And in the camp of Toturum...

You look rather ruffled, Patrician! Like a drink?

Yef please! With a straw if possible!

Well, well! So the cowardly Gauls have abandoned their village, leaving only women and children to guard it!

Quite a feat, Paturion. Silly.

Raise the alarm! The Gauls are attacking!!!

Charge, boys!

Charge, boys!

Leave them to me! Leave them to me!

Don't be selfish, Obelix!
I feel my morale rising, Asterix!

You see, it didn't take much!

Going to be okay, centurion?

Yes! But only with a ffram!

RAISE THE ALARM! THE GAULS ARE...

Puff! Puff! If this goes on I'm dropping out! Puff! Gasp!

...and the camp of Compendium! The Gaulish attack takes the Romans entirely by surprise!

Idiot! I need a pick-me-up with a ffram!

In my view the Gauls took us entirely by surprise, centurion!
Meanwhile, at the village gates...

When I get back to Rome I'm opening a shop called High Fashion of Lutea!

I'm going to book time in the arena for fashion shows in the intervals of gladiatorial contests! It will be brilliant!

Thank you again for your kind hospitality!

Oh, don't mention it! It was nothing!

Now I'm alone at last I can polish up my postical onomatopoeical work!

Bong! Bong!

I knew there was a dragon in there somewhere!

Hey! Don't be beastly! Wait for me!
AND FINALLY, IN HAPPY CELEBRATION OF THE RETURN OF DOMESTIC PEACE AND GENERAL GOODWILL, THE TRADITIONAL BANQUET IS HELD IN THE MIDDLE OF THE VILLAGE. BRAWORA AND ALL THE GAULISH WOMEN ARE GUESTS OF HONOUR. EVEN CACOPONIX IS INVITED... ON CERTAIN CONDITIONS.

DO YOU LIKE IT IN OUR VILLAGE, BRAWORA?

YES, BUT I MUST GET BACK TO LUTETIA SOON! AND BY WAY OF APOLOGY, I’VE PROMISED TO TAKE YOUR SARD BACK WITH ME AND INTRODUCE HIM TO ZIEGFELDPOLIX, THE GREAT LUTETIAN IMPRESARIO!

I QUIT! CAN’T WAIT TO BE GROWN UP AND HAVE FUN! ME TOO! THEN I’LL BE YOUR CHIEF!
A woman bard is unheard-of in Ancient Gaul – but when the mothers in Asterix and Obelix's little village decide that besides being a terrible musician Cacofonix, the local bard and schoolteacher, is not educating their children properly, it's Bravura they call in. The men of the village are horrified at first, but Bravura proves a useful ally in countering Julius Caesar's secret weapon – the Roman leader has sent in a troop of female legionaries, relying on the chivalrous Gauls not to fight women. But Bravura has no such scruples, and together with Asterix thinks up a good idea. Even Cacofonix's music comes into its own . . .