Asterix and Cleopatra

The greatest story ever drawn

14 litres of Indian ink, 30 brushes, 62 pencils, 1 hard pencil, 27 erasers, 1984 sheets of paper, 16 typewriter ribbons, 2 typewriters, 366 pints of beer went into its creation!

Hodder Dargaud
ALEXANDRIA, CAPITAL OF EGYPT, THE PALACE OF THE FABULOUS QUEEN CLEOPATRA, OF WHOM IT WAS SAID THAT IF HER NOSE HAD BEEN SHORTER IT WOULD HAVE CHANGED THE WHOLE COURSE OF HISTORY.

THAT'S AN INFAMOUS SUGGESTION, O CAESAR!

YOU HAVE TO FACE FACTS, O QUEEN! YOURS IS A DECADENT NATION, ONLY FIT TO LIVE IN SEMI-SLAVERY UNDER THE ROMANS.

MY PEOPLE BUILT THE PYRAMIDS! THE TOWER OF PHAROS! THE TEMPLES! THE OBELISKS!

THAT'S OLD HAT! ALL THEY CAN DO NOW IS WAIT FOR THE ANNUAL FLOODING OF THE NILE!

CLEOPATRA, WILL PROVE TO YOU O CAESAR THAT MY PEOPLE ARE AS BRILLIANT AS EVER! IN THREE MONTHS' TIME I'LL HAVE A MAGNIFICENT PALACE BUILT HERE FOR YOU IN ALEXANDRIA!

THAT WILL DO!

CRASH!

BUT I HAVE MY DOUBTS!

SHE'S A NICE GIRL. ONLY HER NOSE IS SO EASILY PUT OUT OF JOINT...

PRETTY NOSE TOO!

CRASH!
N.B. FOR THE CONVENIENCE OF OUR READERS, WE GIVE A DUBBED VERSION OF THE ORIGINAL DIALOGUE...

EDIPUS, I HAVE SUMMONED YOU BECAUSE YOU ARE THE BEST ARCHITECT IN ALEXANDRIA... WHICH ISN'T SAYING MUCH.

* Owing to the fact that dubbing techniques had not been perfected at this period, the movement of the lips does not synchronize very well with the words.

DON'T ANSWER BACK! YOUR BUILDINGS ARE FUMIG! YOU CAN HEAR EVERY WORD THE NEIGHBOURS SAY! THE CEILINGS FALL IN!

IT'S THESE MODERN MATERIALS... ACTUALLY, WHAT I REALLY WANT TO DO IS BUILD PYRAMIDS AND...

SILENCE! YOU HAVE JUST THREE MONTHS TO MAKE GOOD. YOU ARE TO BUILD JULIUS CAESAR A MAGNIFICENT PALACE HERE IN ALEXANDRIA.

DID YOU SAY THREE MONTHS?

IF YOU SUCCEED, I WILL COVER YOU WITH GOLD! FIND YOU'LL BE THROWN TO THE CROCODILES! YOU MAY GO!

THREE MONTHS! I'VE TO USE SUPERNATURAL POWERS TO DO THAT! I'LL NEED SOMEONE WHO CAN WORK MAGIC...

AND FAR AWAY, IN A LITTLE VILLAGE IN GAUL...

VI. VI. VI.* AGAIN, IT'S LIKE MAGIC!

HA! HA! IT IS MAGIC!

THIS ROMAN GAME WILL NEVER CATCH ON...

GOT IT!

I KNOW THE VERY MAN! HE CAN WORK MAGIC!
PEACE REIGNS IN THE VILLAGE OF THE INNOCENT GUAWS, BUT IT IS SOON TO BE DISTURBED...

I'M GOING TO TRAIN THIS LITTLE DOG TO CARRY MENHIRS!

ARE YOU MEANWHILE, WHY NOT LAY THE TABLE FOR US TO EAT THIS BIG BOAR?

BY THE ARRIVAL OF A STRANGE STRANGER.

COULD YOU TELL ME WHERE TO FIND GETAFIX THE DRUID, PLEASE?

UP THAT TREE, PICKING MISTLETOE

GETAFIX?

WHAT A DELIGHTFUL SURPRISE!

MY DEAR OLD GETAFIX, I HOPE I FIND YOU WELL?

AN ALEXANDRINE . . .

MEET MY FRIEND EDIPS FROM ALEXANDRIA! HE'S AN ARCHITECT, I WANTED TO KNOW HIM ON MY TRAVELS.

GETAFIX, I'VE COME ALL THIS WAY BECAUSE I NEED YOUR HELP...

I HAVE TO BUILD CAESAR A PALACE WITHIN THREE MONTHS. IF I DON'T CLEOPATRA WILL THROW ME TO THE CROCODILES . . .

...AND UNLESS YOU USE YOUR MAGIC POWERS TO HELP ME, I'LL NEVER DO IT!

BOO-HOO!

ARE CROCODILES NICE TO EAT?

SHUT UP OBELEX!

DON'T WORRY EDIPS! IT HAPPENS I WANTED TO GO TO ALEXANDRIA TO LOOK A FEW THINGS UP IN THE LIBRARY THERE...

THIS IS MY CHANCE! I'LL GO BACK TO EGYPT WITH YOU.

US TOO!

BY OSIRIS! WILL YOU REALLY?

WOOF! WOOF!
MY SHIP IS WAITING OFFSHORE
JUST GIVE US TIME TO PACK AND SAY GOODBYE, AND WE'LL BE WITH YOU!

COME ALONG, DOMMATIN! WE'RE GOING ON A NICE SEA VOYAGE!
YOU'RE NEVER GOING TO TAKE HIM?
AND WHY NOT, MAY I ASK, MR. ASTERIX?
BECAUSE HE'S TOO SMALL FOR SUCH A LONG JOURNEY, THAT'S WHY NOT, MR. JUBELIX!

WHAT'S MORE, THERE ARE CATS IN EGYPT! NO, NOT ANOTHER WORD! YOU GO AND PACK
IT'S ALWAYS THE SAME! I'M JUST AN EXTRA, A MAKEAWAY! NO ONE EVER LISTENS TO ME!

SOON AFTERWARDS
YOU, MY FRIENDS, ARE TO REPRESENT THE SPIRIT OF GAULS ON THE BANKS OF THE NILE! SHOW YOURSELVES TRUE-BORN GAULS, BY TOUATAP! AND MAY THE SKY NEVER FALL ON YOUR HEADS!
GOODBYE, THEN, AND THANKS, CHEF VITALSTATISTIX!

HEY!
EH?

NO, CACOFONIX, YOU ARE NOT, REPEAT NOT, GOING TO SING!!!
BOING! BOING! BOING!

HEY!

SOON AFTERWARDS...

JUST ME BARKING! CAN BARK, CAN'T I! EVEN IF I'M NOT ALLOWED TO TALK?
ALL RIGHT, YOU WIN; YOU PIGHEADED GREAT IDIOT! LET HIM OUT!

WOOF!

THERE'S MY SHIP! THE NASTIUPSET
WE CAN CAST OFF NOW, SETHISBACKUP

HONESTLY, ASTERIX, I SWEAR I DON'T KNOW HOW HE GOT INTO MY BAG!

NO, NO, OF COURSE NOT! HURRY UP OR WE'LL MISS THE TIDE

IN EGYPT WE SHALL HAVE TO CONTENT WITH LABOUR TROUWIES, THE TIME FACTOR, THE ROMANS, WHO WON'T WANT US TO WIN CLEOPATRA'S BET...

AND ABOVE ALL WITH AKTIRS, A RIVAL ARCHITECT. HE'S ALWAYS GOT IT IN FOR ME. HE HAS A LOT OF TALENTS...

NO, RICH, HE HAS A LOT OF GOLD TALENTS - THAT'S THE MONEY WE USE IN EGYPT

AND THEN THERE'S ALWAYS THE DANGER OF PIRATES ON THE WAY.

OH, WE'LL TAKE CARE OF THAT! RIGHT, OBELIX?

SURE ENOUGH, NOT FAR AWAY...

RIGHT, BOYS! I HAD TO LEAVE MY SON ERIC AS A DEPOSIT TO PAY FOR THIS SHIP NOW. LISTEN, WE WERE NOT ATTACKING THOSE GAULS AGAIN. STEER CLEAR OF ALL GAULISH, ROMAN AND PHOENICIAN SHIPS - THAT'S WHAT THEY GENERALLY USE.

EGYPTIAN SHIP ON DE STARBO'D BOW, SAH!

SPLENDID! WE'LL MAKE OUR FORTUNES! WE'LL DO IT YET! GET READY TO BOARD HER!
What's the lookout saying?

It isn't true! It can't be true!

It's them! Let's get out of here, fast!

Too late Cap'n Dey fastern us. What do we do now, Sah?

Scuttle the ship! Comes to the same thing in the end and we'll save ourselves a few knocks.

Soon afterwards

Well you said we'd do it, and here we are done! Aea jacta est!

One more classical remark from you and I'll make you eat your wooden leg!

Offside! Foul! Unsporting!

Amazing! Those pirates took one look at you and sank their own ship rather than fight!

Oh, we're old friends. We often go sailing together.

One night, after a long, peaceful voyage.

What's that light on the horizon, Edris?

It's the Tower of Pharos, Asterix. Its light guides ships into the harbour...

We'll reach Alexandria tomorrow.

A tower to guide ships? These Egyptians are crazy!

This, my dear Obelix, is one of the seven wonders of the world!
AND IN HER PALACE THE LUXURY-LOVING CLEOPATRA IS SITTING DOWN TO HER FAVOURITE SNACK - PEARLS DISSOLVED IN VINEGAR.

WHERE ARE THE PEARL TONGS, FOR OSIRIS'S SAKE?

HERE, TASTER! GET ON WITH YOUR JOB!

VERY WELL, O QUEEN!

THE GREEDY PIG! SHE'S TAKEN FOUR PEARLS AGAIN!

UGH! I DO HATE TOO MUCH PEARL IN MY VINEGAR!

EDIES THE ARCHITECT CRAVES THE HONOUR OF AN AUDIENCE!

SHOW HIM IN...

MEET MY FRIENDS FROM GAUL, O QUEEN - A POWERFUL MAGICIAN AND TWO BRAVE WARRIORS WHO HAVE COME TO HELP ME...

GRRRROARR!

VERY WELL, BUT GET ON WITH IT! THERE ISN'T MUCH TIME LEFT, AND CAESAR KEEPS NEEDLING ME. IF YOU SUCCEED THERE, I WILL BE GOLD ALL ROUND. NOT THE CROCODILES!

AND I WARN YOU, EDIES, YOUR RIVAL ARTIST IS NOT PLEASED THAT I CHOSE YOU AND NOT HIM TO BUILD CAESAR'S PALACE. HE'D LOVE TO SEE YOU END UP INSIDE A CROCODILE. YOU MAY GO.

SHE LOOKS BAD TEMPERED, BUT SHE HAS A PRETTY NOSE...

VERY PRETTY!
COME HOME TO MY HOUSE...

IS THIS IT?

ER...YES. YES, I DESIGNED IT MYSELF

THE DOOR'S JAMMED AGAIN... I MUST HAVE MADE A MISTAKE IN MY PLANS SOMEWHERE

I'LL GIVE YOU A HAND

CRASH!

OBELIX, NO!

NO REALLY, IT'S QUITE ALL RIGHT! IT'S MORE USE THIS WAY!

THIS IS WHERE I WORK... MEET MY FAITHFUL Scribe EXLIBRIS. HE SPEAKS YOUR LANGUAGE FLUENTLY. HE SPEAKS ALL MODERN LANGUAGES—L.ATIN, GREEK, CELTIC, ETC...

ER...WATCH OUT FOR THE STEPS!

I GET THE IMPRESSION YOU REALLY DID NEED OUR HELP EDIPS

IS IT A GOOD POSITION BEING A SCRIBE?

OH, IT'S VERY COMFORTABLE! I'M SITTING PRETTY—SQUATTING, RATHER!

HOW DOES ONE BECOME A SCRIBE?

I TOOK A CORRESPONDENCE COURSE... A VERY GOOD COLLEGE...

THE ADVERTISEMENT SAID, ANYONE WHO COULD DRAW COULD WRITE!
HERE'S THE BUILDING SITE. I'VE ALREADY HAD TOP QUALITY STONE BROUGHT FROM THE QUARRIES OUT IN THE COUNTRY...

ARE THOSE SLAVES?

NO, THERE'S A SLAVE SHORTAGE. THEY'RE SO EMANCIPATED YOU JUST CAN'T GET HOLD OF THEM. THOSE ARE FREE LABOURERS.

BUT WHY THE WHIPS?

WE EGYPTIANS ALWAYS HAVE WHIPPING WHILE WE WORK. ANYWAY, THEY TAKE IT IN TURNS...

WATCH THIS...

BOOUOUOUOU!

CLACK!

CLACK!

CLACK!

PECULIAR METHODS YOU HAVE HERE!

NO, THIS WAY EVERYONE'S HAPPY! NOTHING LIKE A LITTLE NIP TO GET YOU GOING IN THE MORNING!

BOUOUOUOU!

THAT'S THE LUNCH BREAK... COME OVER TO MY TENT AND SEE THE PLANS FOR THE PALACE...

BUT WHY AREN'T THOSE TWO STOPPING?

THEY'RE DOING OVERTIME CLACK!
DURING THE LENTIL BREAK THE LABOURERS HAVE AN UNEXPECTED VISITOR...

A VERY POPULAR ANCIENT EGYPTIAN DISH

WHOSE REMARKS ARE EVIDENTLY OF ABSORBING INTEREST

TEHEHEHE!

AND AT THE END OF THE LENTIL BREAK...

BOUHOUHOUHOU

...THE LABOURERS MAKE IT PERFECTLY CLEAR...

...THAT THEY ARE NOT GOING BACK TO WORK

MASTER! THE LABOURERS WON'T GO ON WITH THE JOB! I THINK SOMEONE'S BEEN STIRRING THEM UP AGAINST YOU!

ALL THESE WORSES ARE POSITIVELY BLOOD-CURDLING! BY THE TIME THE CROCODILES GET ME I'LL BE QUITE UNEATABLE!

ALL THE BETTER! ARE YOU SO KEEN TO MAKE THEM A GOOD MEAL?

BUT THOSE ARE SACRED CROCODILES! YOU CAN'T JUST FEED THEM ANY OLD THING!

THESE EGYPTIANS ARE CRAZY!
JUST AS I THOUGHT! THEY'RE ASKING FOR LESS AGAIN.
YOU MEAN THEY'RE ASKING FOR MORE.
NO, IT'S NOTHING TO DO WITH WAGES; THEY'RE VERY WELL PAID. THEY WANT LESS WHIPPING... AND IF I REDUCE THE WHIPPING, THEY WON'T WORK SO FAST AND THE PALACE WILL NEVER BE FINISHED IN TIME!
YOU AND YOUR WHIPPING! IT'S GETTING ME DOWN. THIS IS NO WAY TO TREAT PEOPLE! ASTERIX, LIGHT A GOOD FIRE UNDER THAT CAULDRON!
I'LL SHOW YOU HOW TO MAKE MEN WORK!
NO, NOT YOU!
OH, ALL RIGHT!
GIVE THEM A LITTLE DEMONSTRATION, ASTERIX!
THAT'S RIGHT! TELL YOUR MEN TO QUEUE UP AND I'LL GIVE EVERYONE A DOSE OF MY MAGIC POTION

NO

OH! ALL RIGHT

NO!

HOWEVER DID HE MANAGE TO PENETRATE MY DISGUISE?

AND NOW THE WORK GOES HAPPILY FORWARD, TO AN ACCOMPANIMENT OF SINGING, JOKES AND PUNS, UNFORTUNATELY UNTRANSLATABLE...

GETTING ON NICELY!

GRRRRRRRR

*YELP! YELP! YELP!*
Krukhut!

What is it, Aktiris, my master?

I know Edips is expecting a consignment of stone to come down the Nile from the country. That stone must never reach the building site... here's gold to settle the business!

These amazing foreign wizards will end up helping Edips to win! I must do something!

Krukhut meets the fleet bringing stone for the palace, and his gold quickly overcomes the captain's scruples...

The labourers, natives of the rural districts of Egypt, obey without question.

* Not on the bank! The other side!

Bonk!
WHY HAVE THE LABOURERS STOPPED WORKING?

THERE'S NO MORE STONE, AND I'M WORRIED. THE FLEET THAT'S SUPPOSED TO BE BRINGING IT FROM THE QUARRIES IN THE SOUTH IS LATE.

O EPHIUS, HERE COMES THE CAPTAIN OF THE FLEET, WITH THE STONE FOR THE BUILDING!

AT LAST!

HE SAYS THE QUARRIES ARE WORKED OUT, AND THIS IS ALL HE COULD BRING. HE WANTS HIS TRAVELLING EXPENSES.

I DON'T THINK HE'S TELLING THE TRUTH!

CAN I MAKE HIM TALK? OH, NO! LET ME MAKE HIM TALK!

ALL RIGHT, BUT NOT TOO HARD.

HOW DO YOU SAY TALK?

BFFFF! BFFFF!

WE'LL GO TO FETCH THE STONE TOO. JUST TO BE ON THE SAFE SIDE.

YES, BUT HURRY! TIMES IS GETTING SHORT!

HE SAYS ARTIES PAID HIM TO THROW HIS CARGO IN THE NILE AND THERE'S STILL STONE IN THE QUARRY, LOTS OF STONE, AND HE'LL BE HAPPY TO GO AND GET IT AND PLEASE DON'T HIT QUITE SO HARD AND HE SWEARS BY ISIS, OSIRIS AND SERAPIS NEVER TO DO IT AGAIN.
The fleet glides slowly down the majestic and sacred River Nile...

This is slow!
Very slow!
Too slow!

Meanwhile, in the house of the infamous Artius...

I've learnt that those miracle-working foreigners have gone off to get more stone. Krucht! They must not return. This is what you have to do...

All move to the banks! Fasten the boats firmly together with ropes!

A bit of exercise at last!

By Toutatis, that boy never ceases to surprise me, even though I do know he fell into a caldron full of magic potion when he was a baby!

At nightfall they camp on the river bank...

Lentil again! Not a single slice of bear (and then they'll wonder why I've come over weak!

Tomorrow we'll visit the Sphinx and the pyramids. It's not far away, and they're worth seeing!

But under cover of darkness a cunning spy is watching and waiting.

Tee hee hee!
COME ON, LAZYBONES! THE SUN'S UP! WE'RE OFF TO SEE THE SPHINX AND THE PYRAMIDS!
MMPH... JUST A BIT LONGER... MMPH...

SOON AFTERWARDS

WELL, WHAT DO YOU SAY NOW? WASN'T IT WORTH COMING?

STUPENDOUS, BY BELISAMA!

DOGWAHA! LEAVE IT ALONE!

O NICE TOURIST, HOW WOULD YOU LIKE A SOUVENIR PORTRAIT OF YOURSELF WITH THE SPHINX?

WHY NOT? IT WILL LOOK GOOD IN MY HUT

WELL HAVE A LOOK ROUND

THAT'S RIGHT

KINDLY PRESENT YOUR PROFILE, SHOULDERS FACING FORWARDS, AND PLEASE DON'T MOVE

THERE MUST BE A GOOD VIEW UP THERE

NO, OBELIX, I'M SURE YOU'RE NOT SUPPOSED TO

OH, OTHER ASTERIX, HE'S ALWAYS BOSOMING ME ABOUT!

CRACK!

?
Well done, Obelix! Oh, very well done!

Perhaps we could stick it on again?

You're always breaking things! It's lucky no one saw us. The only thing to do is bury that nose in the sand.

Soon afterwards: There!

No one will ever think of digging here!

Dogmatix!

Come on, Getafax, we mustn't stop here! I'll explain!

Explain? What for?

But my portrait's not finished!

Pity... It was a good likeness, specially the Sphinx...

...The Sphinx!

So now you know why the Sphinx has no nose. Which is a pity, for the Sphinx's nose, lost to this day, was a very fine specimen of a nose, if not so beautiful as Cleopatra's, which, as we believe we mentioned before, was a very pretty nose indeed.
These pyramids built by the Egyptians as tombs for their pharaohs constitute one of the wonders of the world! Magnificent!

Humph! Give me a menhir any day!

From the summit of these pyramids, obelisk, twenty centuries look down upon us!

Would you care to see round inside the pyramids?

Oh, I thought it was impossible to get into the tombs...

There's no place for little dogs... You wait here for us! If you're good, you'll get a nice bone!

Theve's have already broken in... though very few got out again...

These Egyptians are crazy!

Inside the pyramid

Don't lose sight of me, you'd never get out of this labyrinth alive

Come along in... this room boasts some magnificent hieroglyphics...

You will never get out of here alive, foreign devils! This tomb will be yours!

Well then, we'll be happy to accept...

But of course, such noble visitors can trust me!
Taking everything into consideration, Obelix, I am now going to give you some magic potion for the first time ever. Honest?

You heard what he said!

One drop, two drops, three drops that should do the trick!

Now, open that door!

I say, I am glad I came inside this pyramid!

Not that see much difference between before and after potion...

We must now find our way back along this network of corridors...

That'll be the tricky part...

Sure enough, several hours later...

This is the tenth time we've fetched up in the same spot... those pharaohs had some good architects.

This is a serious situation.

Very serious. I'm beginning to feel hungry.
INSIDE THE PYRAMID...

My powers are not strong enough to get us out of here. I am very much afraid this may be the end of our adventures, by Belenos!

Yes, Dogmatix! What about it? You're not going to be crossed with me for bringing him? Anyway, I didn't bring him, he came all by himself!

Exactly! He's found us thanks to his nose... in which case he can find his way back again and show us the way out!

By Belenos, you're right!

Dogmatix, if you help us out of here you'll get a very big bone outside!

You'll get two big bones!

Heaps of big bones!

Obelix, I apologize! You were quite right to bring your doggie!

Sometimes I feel he understands everything I say!
The foreigners have disappeared. There's no need for you to go on with your journey.

It's magic! You're wizards! Only a Superman could ever find his way out of...

The boats set off again and sail peacefully on up the Nile...

...stopping off to see the sights at interesting spots such as Luxor...

No, no, and for the third time no, Alexius! That thing in the middle of the village? It would just look silly.

Ye shall never be in concord over this!

Meanwhile, back at Alexandria...

O artsy, my master... they're wizards! They have superhuman powers!

They've managed to get out of the labyrinth of the Great Pyramid.

Fantastic! They're just fantastic!

All the more reason to find some way of stopping them! Edipus must not build that palace, Krughut!
AND WE'VE BROUGHT YOU ENOUGH STONE TO FINISH THE PALACE!

SUE ENOUGH...

SURE ENOUGH...

OH, DON'T STOP! I'M JUST PAYING A QUIET VISIT, INCognito. DO GO ON!

THERE'S NO DENYING IT; SHE DOES HAVE A PRETTY NOSE!

A VERY PRETTY NOSE! DID YOU SEE HER NOSE, DOGMATIX?

WE'VE GOT IT! IT'S A PIECE OF CAKE!

SLAP!

AN IDEA! I NEED AN IDEA!

HELP ME! AND FOR THE LAST TIME GO AND SHAVE YOUR HEAD!

I CAN'T, MASTER. I MADE A VOW!

Meanwhile, in Puffo's house...
TAKE THIS PARCEL TO QUEEN CLEOPATRA!
YES, MASTER

SOON AFTERWARDS
A PRESENT?
BRING IT HERE!

A CAKE! AND THERE'S A NOTE WITH IT!

IN HOMAGE TO THE QUEEN OF QUEENS FROM THE THREE GAULS

SHE REALLY DOES HAVE A PRETTY NOSE!
CHAMBERLAIN!

I'LL HAVE THIS CAKE FOR PUDDING TONIGHT...

A QUIET LITTLE SUPPER... I'LL BE MY OWN, JUST 30 LB AND DANCING GIRLS, WINDS AND SIMPLE DISHES

AND THAT EVENING, ON ENFIS'S BUILDING SITE...
SUPPER'S READY! THERE'S WILD BOAR! IT'S JUST ARRIVED BY GALLEY!

WE'VE COME TO ARREST THE THREE GAULS, BY ORDER OF THE QUEEN!

?!
WHAT DO WE DO NOW? SHALL WE BASH THEM?

DON'T DO ANYTHING! IF YOU REBSY CLEOPATRA, YOU'LL BE HEADING FOR DISASTER!

HA, GAULS! YOU TRIED TO POISON ME WITH THIS CAKE! YOU'LL PAY FOR THIS WITH YOUR LIVES!

CAKE? WHAT CAKE?

BRING IN MY TASTER!

SNAP!

HE TASTED A BIT OF THAT CAKE, AND NOW LOOK AT HIM!

IT'S ALL A MISTAKE, BY TOUTATYS! WE'RE INNOCENT!

I DON'T WANT TO HEAR ANOTHER WORD!

BUT... IF THE QUEEN DOESN'T WANT TO HEAR ANOTHER WORD, IT'S NO GOOD SAYING ANOTHER WORD, ASTERIX... FOR NOW!

OHH, OHH, OHH!

TAKE THEM AWAY! AND GIVE THE SACRED CROCODILES THEIR APERITIFS!

BUT WHY WOULDN'T YOU LET US EXPLAIN?

I HAVE AN IDEA...

BESIDES, YOU CAN'T ARGUE WITH CLEOPATRA... SHE'S GOT A POUL TEMPER BUT SUCH A PRETTY NOSE!
TO THINK THAT THERE WAS WILD BOAR FOR SUPPER...

ASTERIX, HAND ME THAT JUG OF WATER...

WHAT ARE YOU MAKING, GETAFIX?

AN ANTIDOTE. LUCKILY I ALWAYS CARRY THIS LITTLE BAG WITH ME...

DRINK THIS!

WHAT IS AN ANTIDOTE?

OBELIX, OPEN THE DUNGEON DOOR

STAND BACK! WE'RE COMING OUT!

CRASH!

THESE EGYPTIANS ARE CRAZY! YOU TELL THEM TO GET OUT OF THE WAY, AND THEY JUST...

AND NOW TO VISIT CLEOPATRA!

NOT BAD... BUT I'M TIRED OF SEEING MYSELF IN PROFILE. COULDN'T YOU DO ME THREE-QUARTER FACE FOR ONCE?

OH, WELL KNOWS YOU THINK OF MY ART...

EXCUSE ME!

Paf!

Poif!

??!
BY OSIRIS, RAULS. SINCE YOU HAVE SWORN TO DESTROY ME, I SHALL SHOW YOU HOW A QUEEN CAN DIE!

NO, NO, BY TOUTATIS. JUST LISTEN TO WHAT WE HAVE TO SAY FOR ONCE!

I'M SURE THAT CAKE'S NOT POISONED. I THOUGHT IT LOOKED A VERY NICE CAKE!

OH, DID YOU? VERY WELL THEN, YOU CAN EAT IT! SPRING IN THE CAKE!

JUST WHAT WE WERE GOING TO SUGGEST, O QUEEN...

THERE'S ONE OVER THERE

MAY I?

CUT THREE PIECES OF THIS CAKE

COMING, COMING!

HE SAID THREE PIECES, OBELEX!

WELL, I HAVE CUT THREE PIECES, HAVEN'T I?

YOU GREEDY PIG!

I SCRUNCH! SCRUNCH! SCRUNCH! I LOVE ALMONDS!

IT'S GOT ALMONDS IN IT! SHURUPP! YUMMY! I LOVE ALMONDS!

THERE, QUEEN! YOU CAN SEE THAT CAKE ISN'T POISONED!

THEN WHAT'S THE MATTER WITH MY TASTER?

OBELEX! THERE ARE STILL A FEW ALMONDS LEFT...

SEND FOR THIS TASTER, I'LL CURE HIM!

WHENEVER I WANT TO DO ANYTHING MR. ASTERIX WON'T LET ME!

BECAUSE MR. OBELEX DOESN'T KNOW HOW TO BEHAVE IN FRONT OF A QUEEN! THAT'S WHY!!!
OH, SO THUMPING THEM IS ALL RIGHT BUT EATING ALMONDS ISN'T?

THERE'S A TIME FOR THUMPING PEOPLE AND A TIME FOR EATING ALMONDS! THAT'S GOOD MANNERS!

I FEEL BETTER... MUCH BETTER...

WHY DO I FEEL FINE? I'M HUNGRY!

THAT CAKE HAD NOTHING TO DO WITH YOUR TASTER'S ILLNESS, O QUEEN. HE JUST HAS A DELICATE STOMACH FROM EATING TOO MUCH RICH FOOD.

I HAVE TREATED YOU UNJUSTLY, O GAULOIS! YOU SHALL GO FREE! AS FOR THIS TASTER, WHOSE STOMACH HAS CAUSED ME THE QUEEN OF QUEENS, TO MAKE A MISTAKE, I DISMISS HIM!

THERE WAS ENOUGH POISON IN THAT CAKE FOR A WHOLE CORPS OF LEGIONARIES. IT'S A GOOD THING WE DRANK MY ANTIDOTE...

I SAY, THANK YOU VERY MUCH! I FOUND THE JOB OF TASTER VERY DISTASTEFUL... IT WAS POISONING MY LIFE.

WELL, I'M OFF! IT'S TIME I HAD SOMETHING TASTIER...

LET'S GET BACK TO THE BUILDING SITE... WE MUST FIND OUT WHO WAS RESPONSIBLE FOR THIS OUTRAGE!

ASTERIX, WHAT IS AN ANTIDOTE?

AND AT THE BUILDING SITE...

DOGMATIX! YOU NEARLY KNOCKED ME OVER!

THANK RA YOU'RE RACK! MY MASTER EDIAS DISAPPEARED IMMEDIATELY AFTER YOU WERE ARRESTED!!
YOU'RE GOING TO TELL US WHERE TO FIND EDIPUS!

NEVER! NOTHING IN THE WORLD WILL EVER MAKE US TALK, EH, KUHKUT?

NO, I'D RATHER TALK! EDIPUS IS DOWN IN THE CELLAR HIDDEN IN A SARCOPHAGUS

Coward!

Yes, boss!

I'll guard these two, Obelix, while you go down to find the sarcophagus.

O.K. Asterix

Asterix, what is a sarcophagus?

Soon afterwards

Would this be it, Asterix? It's the only big box I could find, but it's not at all heavy!

That must be it, Obelix!

All we have to do is unwrap it

Let me have the parcel, please!
I GIVE IN! I HOPED TO STOP YOU FINISHING THE PALACE. NO HARD FEELINGS, AND TO PROVE IT WE'LL TAKE YOU TWO ALONG WITH US. WE'VE GOT A JOB FOR YOU.

SOON AFTERWARDS AT THE BUILDING SITE.

THIS IS WHAT COMES OF ALL THOSE WICKED THINGS YOU MADE ME DO, BOSS!

SHUT UP AND PULL WILL YOU!

THE BUILDING'S COMING ALONG NICELY, EDIPS.

THANKS TO YOU THREE, GETAFIX!

MEANWHILE IN CLEOPATRA'S PALACE...

AVE, CLEOPATRA. WELL, HOW'S THE PALACE GOING? TIME WILL SOON BE UP.

AVE, CAESAR. OH IT'S GETTING ON NICELY, THANKS, JULIUS! WE'LL SOON BE ABLE TO HAVE A LITTLE PALACE WARNING.

AVE, CAESAR!

AVE, CAESAR!

AVE, CAESAR, I LOOK LIKE LOSING FACE WITH CLEOPATRA...

AVE, AVE, MINTJUDEL! I LOOK LIKE LOSING FACE WITH CLEOPATRA...

I WAS TOLD THAT EDIPS THE ARCHITECT WAS A NITWIT, BUT NOW IT SEEMS THE PALACE WILL BE READY IN TIME, GO TO THE BUILDING SITE AND SEE WHAT'S GOING ON, BY JUPITER!

AVE LEGIONARY, GO AND FIND MINTJUDEL MY EGYPTIAN SPY.
I've put on a worker's longcloth. No one will recognize me in this clever disguise.

I'm only a light labourer, but I don't mind heavy work. Will you take me on?

Oh yes, we can always do with workmen. Get in that queue over there.

No magic potion for artisans and Krunkht, of course.

Of course not.

Strange! No foremen, no whips, and what have we here?

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Strange! No foremen, no whips, and what have we here?
I've seen amazing things going on at that site, Caesar! The labourers drink a magic potion which gives them enormous strength and lets them pick up very heavy loads quite early. I drank some of it!

Here, superfluous, come and put this fellow in his place.

Hm... All right, superfluous, you may go, thank you.

What? An old druid with a white beard, a cunning little one and a stupid great oaf!

There are some Gauls on the building site. Three of them.

That's them, Caesar. Asterix, Obelix and Getafix, the invincible Gauls. They can perform any miracle... I must do something!
Next day, in the pale light of dawn...

Soon afterwards at the building site...

Master! Master! Come and take a look. There are some strange goings-on!!!

What's the matter, exlibris?

The labourers haven't arrived on the site. There's no one here but our prisoners, artifs and krukhut!

?!

Go and find out what's happening!

Yes, master!

Immediately afterwards.

The site is surrounded by Roman soldiers. They're not letting our workmen through!

???

In the name of Caesar! We hear some Gaulish troublemakers are hiding on this building site. We order them to surrender, or we attack!

Never! We don't want to fight, but by Toutatis, if we do, we've got the stones. We've got the men, we've got the druid too!

You'll be sorry for this, by Jupiter!

What do we do now, by Isis?

We build our fortifications, by Belenos!

You're right, by Belisama!

Could we go home now, by any chance?

*Ancient Gaulish war-song*
Hurry up with those blocks of stone, Obelix!

Good, that completes our fortifications.

Er... do you think they're enough to keep out the Romans?

Here they come!

In attack, the legionaries employ the formidable military mansevices known as 'the tortoise'.

Bonng! Bonng! Bonng!

Oh, do be serious, Obelix!

In retreat, the legionaries employ the useful military mansevices known as 'the hare'.

Umm... that didn't work! Right, well attack from all sides at once. Advance!

But we've only just retreated!

If we advance, we'll be driven into the Nile!

We'll be annihilated!

One more fun like that and I desert!!!

Goody! Here they come again!

Woof! Woof!
They're attacking on two fronts! Go round the other side and drive them back, Obelix!

We're on our way!

South side...

Let go! Can't you see I've already been driven back?

North side...

Here's one that's got in!

I'm going! I'm going! I'm going!

After the onslaught...

Victory! Ia diis placuit!

They drove us off, but a few of us managed to get inside the fortifications...

We're the ones who managed to get in, but they were very nice, they let us out again without hitting too hard...

If that's the way they want it, we'll bombard them. So there!!!

Look! Guided missiles!

Hmm... if they miss I'll be surprised!
NOW THEN... NO SPELLING MISTAKES... Except after

WHAM!

BOING!

MY PALACE!

WELL HAVE TO LET CLEOPATRA KNOW! SHE MUST HAVE ENOUGH INFLUENCE OVER CAESAR TO GET THIS ATTACK STOPPED!

GOOD IDEA! EXCURSUS! WRITE THE QUEEN A MESSAGE.

DOGMATIX WILL CARRY THE MESSAGE TO CLEOPATRA!

BUT DOGMATIX IS ONLY A PUPPY!

MAYBE, BUT HE'S VERY INTELLIGENT!

HERE'S THE MESSAGE!

SEEK, DOGMATIX! CLEOPATRA! SEEK!

I TOLD YOU HE WAS TOO YOUNG TO UNDERSTAND!

TOO YOUNG! A LITTLE DOG WHO CAN BEG SO NICELY, AND SO ON...

THERE... THERE, OBELIX, DON'T BE CROSS! I WAS ONLY TEASING. I'LL SHOW HIM THE RIGHT WAY MYSELF!

FANCY SATING MY DOG'S NO GOOD!

QUICK, GETAFIX, WHILE OBELIX ISN'T LOOKING! GIVE ME A GOOD SWIG OF MAGIC POTION!

SOON AFTERWARDS OFF WE GO, DOGMATIX!
Watch out! One of the besieged men is trying to break out!!

Ready?

Ready?

Kerplonk!

He went the same way he came...

Just passing through...

Soon afterwards in Cleopatra’s palace

You wanted to see me, O Gaul?

Yes, O Cleopatra, my little dog has a message for you.

This will never do! Julius Caesar isn’t playing fair, by Jove! You may go, Gaul! By Annon and by Helios, I’ll see to this!

Scrunched! Scrunched! Scrunched!

Keep still, Dogmatix! Wait till the queen’s new taster has tasted your bone.
Watch out! One of the besieged men is trying to break in again!

Whoosh!

Here you are, Obelix! Dumbax has got back! He did his job perfectly!

There you are! You see?

Let's hope the Queen acts quickly. The Roman missiles are destroying the palace!

Sure enough, in the camp of the besieging army...

Excellent, operachorus, excellent!

Ave, Caesar... Er... someone wants to speak to you...

Who is it?

Zing! Boom!

Tantantara!!!

???
ER... QUEEN... MY DEAR QUEEN...

THAT'S ENOUGH OF THAT! WHEN I HEARD WHAT WAS HAPPENING I HURRIED OUT OF THE PALACE AT ONCE. I DIDN'T EVEN STOP TO CHANGE!

WHEN YOU MAKE A BET YOU MUST PLAY FAIR AND I HAD A RIGHT TO CALL IN THE GALLS AND I'LL PROVE TO YOU THAT EGYPTIANS CAN BUILD BEAUTIFUL PALACES...

AND I ABSOLUTELY INSIST THAT THE ROMANS LEAVE THE BUILDERS IN PEACE AND REPAIR ALL THE DAMAGE THEY'VE DONE BEFORE LEAVING AND IT'S A CRYING SHAME...

ALL RIGHT! ALL RIGHT! DON'T GO ON! I'M SORRY AND I'LL DO WHAT YOU WANT...

ZING! BOOM! TANTANTARA!

WELL... ER... NOW WHAT DO WE DO?

RAISE THE SIEGE AND REPAIR THE DAMAGE YOU'VE DONE, IDIOT!

AFTER ALL, I WOULDN'T WANT CLEOPATRA TO TURN HER NOSE UP AT ME!

LOOK! THE ROMANS ARE RAISING THE SIEGE, BY BELenos!

A VERY PRETTY NOSE, IN CASE WE DIDN'T MENTION IT BEFORE...

VICTORY, BY TOUTATIS!

AND ALL THANKS TO WHO?
AT LAST, ONE FINE DAY...

THERE, IT'S FINISHED! WE CAN GO AND TELL CLEOPATRA!

O QUEEN, THE PALACE IS FINISHED BY THE AGREED DATE! *

YOU HAVE KEPT YOUR PROMISE, EDIFIS, AND BY ISIS, I SHALL KEEP NINE!

* A RARE OCCURRENCE IN THE BUILDING TRADE AT THAT TIME.

COVER HIM WITH GOLD!

THERE'S STILL A BIT STICKING OUT HERE!

I'M COMING BACK!

TOMORROW I SHALL INVITE CAESAR ON BOARD MY STATE BARGE...

WE SHALL GO DOWN THE SACRED RIVER TO THE PALACE, WHICH I SHALL OFFER CAESAR AS PROOF THAT MY PEOPLE ARE NOT DECADENT!

SO THERE!
NEXT DAY...

Not a bad palace, is it?

Here they are!

WHERE?

For you to cut the ribbon, O Caesar!

O lovelest of Queens, yours is the honour of cutting the ribbon which proves that I have lost my bet. By Jupiter! I yield with a good grace before so much grace.

The crowd acclaim their Queen invoking the sun-god of Egypt...

RA! RA! RA!

Now who knows best?

That's a pretty knows!

At a banquet for 4,000 guests (it had been planned to invite 15,000, but Egyptians are superstitious)...

You've saved my life and taught me my job... my gold is yours!

No-No. It was a pleasure. What are you planning now?

I'm friends with Artips again... together we'll build the finest pyramids with the sharpest points in Egypt!
OUR WORK IS FINISHED. WE HAVE COME TO SAY GOODBYE O QUEEN

YOU HAVE PERFORMED MIRACLES, GAULS, AND YOU ARE ENTITLED TO ALL THE GRATITUDE OF THE QUEEN OF QUEENS: ME!

THAT NOSE...

I AM MAKING YOU A PRESENT OF THESE PRECIOUS MANUSCRIPTS FROM THE LIBRARY OF ALEXANDRA O DRUID...

YOUR NOSE... ER... YOUR MAJESTY IS TOO CHARMING, BY BELENS...

WHAT A NOSE!

IT SEEMS VERY LITTLE FOR ALL THE HELP YOU HAVE GIVEN ME. I DON'T KNOW HOW TO THANK YOU...

ALWAYS AT YOUR SERVICE... AND IF YOU EVER NEED ANYTHING ELSE BUILT IN EGYPT—SAY A CANAL BETWEEN THE RED SEA AND THE MEDITERRANEAN...

WELL, CALL ON SOMEONE FROM OUR COUNTRY, BY TOUTATIS!

SOON AFTERWARDS

NICE OF CLEOPATRA TO LEND US HER OWN BARGE TO TAKE US BACK TO GAUL....

NICE OF CLEOPATRA TO LEND US HER OWN BARGE TO TAKE US BACK TO GAUL....

AND THE CAPTAIN GIVES THE ORDER TO GO....

AND THE CAPTAIN GIVES THE ORDER TO GO....

DO YOU THINK WE'LL MEET THOSE PIRATES AGAIN, ASTERIX?

SURE ENOUGH; DOWN IN THE HOLD...

I DON'T KNOW, OBELIX, BUT I GET THE FEELING THEY'RE NOT FAR AWAY!

I HAD TO TAKE THIS JOB TO PAY FOR MY LAST BOAT, BUT AS SOON AS I CAN PUT A DEPOSIT DOWN ON ANOTHER I'LL LOOK FOR THOSE CONFUNDED GAULS!

FULL SPEED AHEAD!
A SAIL! A SAIL! ASTERIX, OBELIX AND GETAFIX ARE BACK!

THE GAULISH VILLAGE WELCOMES HOME ITS HEROES WITH ITS USUAL ENTHUSIASM AND FEASTING...

AND IT WAS ALL THANKS TO DOGMATIX!

I WILL NOW COMPOSE A LITTLE SONG...

...AND FOR THE NEXT FEW DAYS, EVERYONE IS HAPPY... AT LEAST, NEARLY EVERYONE

NO, OBELIX NO!

I DON'T LIKE THE DESIGN OF YOUR NEW MENHIRE! LET'S KEEP IT GAULISH!