Asterix and the laurel wreath

by GOSCINNY and UDERZO
Another sunny day has just dawned upon the greatest city in the universe—Rome.

Although, by Caesar’s decree, traffic is not allowed on the streets in the daytime, the city is incredibly noisy, crowded with shopkeepers and street sellers crying their wares—fructarii, pecunarii, olitores, piscatores, vinarii, silicinai, pastilliarii...

Eat more fruit!

Ripe juicy melons!

Try my vegetables! Nice wholesome veg!

Fish! Good fresh fish!

Cakes!

Sweets!

The passers-by are beset by beggars and flag sellers...

Have pity on a poor gladiator in reduced circumstances!

Don’t you want to support a good cause then?

Tourists from all over the world—Thracians, Gauls, Britons, Egyptians, Scambyres, Ethiopians, Hambrians, all add to the local colour...

And here we have the Circus Maximus and here we have the Circus Maximus...

And here we have the Circus Maximus...

In fact, everything leads us to believe that we may see even stranger sights around the next corner...
Asterix, do you think coming here may have been a mistake?

Zigackly! Obedia, you're perfectly right! And do you by any chance remember just how we come to be here?

Zigackly! You know perfectly well!

They may know, but we are still in the dark as to how and why our friends come to be in Rome. Let us therefore call a halt...

...and put the clock back...

...back to the beginning of this story, which will take us to Lutetia, the greatest city in the universe...
IN SPITE OF THE FACT THAT TRAFFIC IS FORBIDDEN, THE STREETS OF LUTETIA ARE NOISY, NOISY BUT CHEERFUL. THANKS TO THE INSPIRED REPARTEE SO TYPICAL OF THE LUTETIAN SENSE OF HUMOUR...

I'VE GOT A JOB TO DO. I HAVE!

FOOL!

IDIO!

YOUNG HOOLIGAN!

HALF-WIT!

I'M TELLING YOU I CAN!

DO YOU REALLY THINK SO?

THERE. WHAT DID I TELL YOU?

GO ON. YOU CAN GET THROUGH!

NO, I CAN'T!

HOMEOPATHIX HAS GOT TO THE TOP, HE HAS! HIS WIFE DOESN'T LIVE IN A VILLAGE OF MADMEN, SURROUNDED BY ROMANS.

LOOK HERE, IMPEDIMENTA, COMING TO LUTETIA TO DO YOUR SHOPPING IS ONE THING, BUT GOING TO SEE HOMEOPATHIX IS ANOTHER! DO WE REALLY HAVE TO?

WELL, I CAN HARDLY VISIT LUTETIA WITHOUT CALLING ON MY BROTHER, CAN I? ANYWAY HE'S INVITED US TO DINNER.

YES, OF COURSE WHEN IT'S A MEMBER OF MY FAMILY...

YOU KNOW VERY WELL HOMEOPATHIX AND I DON'T GET ON!

AND DID YOU HAVE TO ASK THOSE TWO TO COME ALONG?

I SAY NOT HAVE GOT TO THE TOP BUT I AM A CHIEF! AND A CHIEF NEEDS HIS ESCORT... ASTERIX AND OBELIX ARE MY BEST MEN! MY GUARD OF HONOUR!"
HE'S BUSINESS, HOMEOPATHIKINS? STILL GOOD?

EXCELLENT! I'M ABOUT TO OPEN BRANCHES AT UREGNUM AND MASSILIA...

HOW FASCINATING! AND WILL YOU BE DOING MUCH TRAVELLING?

NOT IF I CAN HELP IT. WHEN A MAN IS TIRED OF LUGGAGE, HE IS TIRED OF LIFE. THE REST OF CAUL IS ONLY FIT FOR BODIES...

LET'S HAVE SOME MORE OR THE $5 B.C., OBVIOUSLY. AT LEAST THAT'S MODERATELY UNPRETENTIOUS.

OH, HOW LOVELY IT IS HERE!

YES, I'VE REDECORATED THE WHOLE PLACE. I WAS GETTING TIRED OF COUNTRY STUFF... TAPIoca, LET'S HAVE A DRINK.

TRY SOME OF THE $5 B.C. FROM OUR OWN VINEYARD. IT'S A MODERATELY UNPRETENTIOUS LITTLE WINE, BUT I HOPE YOU LIKE IT.

WHAT'S YOUR NAME? WHAT DO YOU MEAN, WHAT'S YOUR NAME?

I'VE BROUGHT YOU ONE OF OUR SEASIDE SHELLS... VITALSTATIX WANTED TO BRING YOU A MENHIR, THE SAME AS USUAL.

BUT MY DEAR CHAP, WHERE AM I GOING TO PUT THESE MENHIRS OF YOURS?

YOU REALLY WANT ME TO TELL YOU VITALSTATIX!
HONOUR AND GLORY IS WORTH A LOT MORE THAN PIG'S NOOD... I MEAN HOW'S NOOD... I MEAN ALL THIS ROTT!

YOU COME TO MY VILLAGE, YOU AND SQUOQUA... TAPICOCA! I'LL GIVE YOU A MEAL AND WHAT A MEAL! ONE YOUR MONEY COULD NEVER BUY! HIC!

AND WHAT EXACTLY WILL THIS GOURMET MEAL CONSIST OF?

AHM A STEM... OUT-OF-THIS-WORLD... SEASONED WITH...

CAESONED WITH CAESAR'S LAUREL WREATH!

HIC!

TAKE NO NOTICE. HE'S HAD A DROP TOO MUCH.

THAT'S ALL RIGHT, IMPERBOMINTA, HE'S VERY AMUSING.

AMUSING, EH? HIC! ALL RIGHT THEN, YOU WAIT AND SEE! I'M SENDING MY MEN TO ROME TO BRING ME CAESAR'S LAUREL WREATH, TO SEASON THE STEM I SHALL GIVE YOU WHEN YOU VISIT MY VILLAGE!

ZIGACKLY! WHAT'S THIS NAME ISH FAIRLY RIGHT! HIC!

COME TO MY ARMS, OBERLIX!

NO! SINCE THIS BIGHEDDED WARRIOR OF YOURS IS SO CLEVER, I'LL ACCEPT HIS INVITATION!

BUT I HAVE HIS WORD OF HONOUR THAT IT REALLY WILL BE CAESAR'S LAUREL WREATH IN THE STEM, DON'T!

THIGH! FAIRLY RIGHT!

LET GO OF ME, ASTERIX! WE'RE GOING TO ROME TO BRING BACK CHAESSHAR'S LAUREL WREATH!

ZIGACKLY!
Impedimenta is quite right. It was a ridiculous thing to...

There you see? Even your best men think you're a great fool of a boorish old...

Oh, I never said I thought...

All right then, if you didn't, you can set off for Rome straight away and bring me back Caesar's laurel wreath!

Come to my arms!

Do you know what time it is? Take your girl friend somewhere else, you decadent lot!

And now that we know now why Asterix and Obelix landed up in Rome, let us go on with our story...

It's all your fault! And all we got is a goblet of magic potion that Cæcilius the drunk gave me... it's not much on this kind of expedition!

You're right, I did have a drop too much to drink... still it won't be all that difficult. We march into Cæsar's palace, we pick up the laurel wreath, and we go back home. Simple, really.

Oh, Perfect!
SEE THAT? THAT'S JULIUS CAESAR'S PALACE.

SO WE JUST MASSACRE THE GUARD, AND ONCE INSIDE THE PALACE WE ASK OUR WAY TO CAESAR'S LAUREL WREATH, WHICH WE NEED TO SEASON A STEW...

AND HAVING GOT OUR HANDS ON THE LAUREL WREATH WE SIMPLY BASH OUR WAY OUT AND GO HOME. RIGHT?

RIGHT! COMING?

OBELIX, THOSE LEGIONARIES IN CAESAR'S PALACE ARE A TOUGHER PROPOSITION THAN THE SORT WE GET AT HOME. AND THE MAGIC POTION DOESN'T MAKE US INVULNERABLE. WE MUST THINK OF SOMETHING ELSE.

THAT MAN JUST CAME OUT OF THE PALACE. HE MIGHT BE ABLE TO TELL US HOW TO GET IN. LET'S FOLLOW HIM.

BUT... HE KNOWS THE WAY OUT. BUT THAT DOESN'T MEAN HE KNOWS THE WAY IN.

EXCUSE ME! WE'RE STRANGERS HERE AND WE'D LIKE TO ASK YOU A FEW QUESTIONS.

I'M A BUSY MAN GAL...
What do you think we ought to see in Rome?

Oh, there are some interesting places to visit! Rome, you know, is the greatest city in the universe.

Caesar's Palace, for instance. Could we see over Caesar's Palace?

Dear me, no! Quite out of the question!

Oh, that's different! I am one of Caesar's slaves. My name is Rumakros. I work in the palace kitchens.

But you just came out of...

You know all about the steins then!

Obelix! Drink up and shut up!

Steins? Never mind him... how does one rise to be Caesar's slave?

Well, Caesar usually gets his slaves from the house of Typhus. Typhus is a luxury slave merchant. He sells nothing but the best imports only.

Take me! I'm from Greece, top quality, but I cost a pretty septerius. I can tell you...

The house of Typhus...

Well, I wouldn't like you to think you were boring me, but I really do have to work like a slave! I hope you have a nice time in Rome, aye.

I think I have an idea to get us into Caesar's Palace... where, with a bit of luck, we'll be able to lay hands on his laurel wreath...

Zigackly!
Look! That man should be able to direct us.
What makes you think so?

Slaves! Slaves! Fine upstanding slaves!
Who'll buy my goths? Nice fresh goths!

Nuuumidians

Heavy-duty nimble hoplites!

Belgians!

You'll never want to get shot of my parthians!

Dancing-girls! Dancing girls! This way for the dancing girls!

Ah! This must be it.

The house of Typhus

Are you interested in our wares? Would you like to see the catalogue?

Are you Typhus?

No, that's me.

What can I do for you? We've just had a delivery of really top quality Britons...
WE DON'T WANT TO BUY, WE WANT TO SELL.

SELL! OH, THAT'S DIFFERENT...

IF YOU'RE IN THE TRADE I CAN ONLY SEE YOU FIRST THING IN THE MORNING... WELL, AND WHO DID YOU HAVE TO OFFER ME?

US.

YOU? I DON'T GO BUYING ANY OLD THING!

WE'RE NOT ANY OLD THING!

THIS ONE SMELLS OF WINE.

WELL, YES... BUT HE ONLY INDULGES ONCE IN A WHILE... AND HE'S VERY STRONG.

YES YES... BUT I SPECIALIZE IN ELEGANT STUFF I'M EXPECTING THE PALACE MAJOR-DOMO ANY MINUTE LET ME TELL YOU, HE'S COMING TO BUY SOME SLAVES...

RIGHT. I'LL TAKE YOU, BUT ONLY ON SALE OR RETURN. IF I DON'T SELL YOU TODAY, YOU CAN GO AND GET SOLD SOMEWHERE ELSE.

NO! NO! DON'T BOTHER, MAJOR, I'M SURE THEY WON'T RUIN THE DISPLAY...
COME ON! UP ON THE PLATFORM! LET'S SEE A BIT OF CLASS! WE'RE NOT FLOGGING ANY CHEAP MASS-PRODUCED SLAVES HERE, YOU KNOW!

WHERE?

WHERE?

YOU ARE, YOU SECOND-HAND PIECE OF GOODS!

FLANED, AT THAT.

YOU'LL BE FLOOURED TOO IF YOU'RE NOT CAREFUL!

SHUT UP, YOU FREE GIFT!

PAY NO ATTENTION, MY DEAR. IT MUST BE REMNANT DAY... ONLY AN ADVERTISING GIMMICK... JUST JUNK!

JUNK? WHO'S JUNK?

SHUT UP, OBELIX!

WHERE DO YOU THINK YOU ARE? DON'T DISTURB THE DISPLAY!

YOU SAW THAT? MY FRIEND HERE IS STRONG TOO!

I SAY, SO HE IS, OLD BOY! JOLLY GOOD SHOW!

YOU SHUT UP, BRITON, OR I'LL SELL YOU AT A DISCOUNT!

AND YOU GET OUT, GAULS!

YOU MAY FIND A DEPARTMENT STORE OR SUPERMARKET TO TAKE YOU. YOU'RE FREE!

OH NO, WE'RE NOT! AND IF NECESSARY WE'LL FIGHT TO LOSE OUR FREEDOM!

GET THESE GOODS OUT OF HERE! I'M EXPECTING CAESAR'S MAJOR-DOMO ANY MINUTE.
SUCH GONCE-ON ARE MOST DEGRADING! PROTEST, IN THE NAME OF THE ENTIRE STOCK!

THAC!

HOW MUCH FOR THOSE TWO GAUS?

YOU... YOU WANT TO BUY THEM?
I THINK THEY'RE QUITE AMUSING.

OF COURSE HE WANTS TO SELL US! AND HE'LL BE MAKING A GOOD DEAL, WON'T HE, OBERIX?

QUIT RIGHT! WERE A GOOD DEAL OF A GOOD DEAL, TOO!

THAT DEPENDS HOW MUCH DO YOU COST?

NAME YOUR PRICE. HE'LL TAKE IT.

NO GO ON, DO YOU NAME A PRICE.
FIVE SESTERTI! THE PAIR, ALL RIGHT?
OH, COME NOW! WAIT A MINUTE...

OH, SAY! THIS IS RIDICULOUS, EH. WHAT? SELLING AT A PRICE LIKE THAT WILL DEVALUE THE WHOLE STOCK!

How About Six Then?

MAY I GET A WORD IN Edgeways?

DONE!

HERE YOU ARE!

OH, NO! ALLOW ME!

Well, if you insist, I'll do as much for you one of these days
FIBULA! TIBIA! NITWIT! COME AND LOOK AT THIS!

I THOUGHT IT WOULD BE A NICE SURPRISE. THEY'RE RATHER AMUSING.

OH WELL, I'M GOING BACK TO MY CUBICUM TO GET A BIT OF SLEEP.

YOU'VE BEEN OUT DRINKING ALL NIGHT WITH YOUR FRIENDS AGAIN! YOU'LL FIND YOURSELF IN MY LIBRINI GRIFFI; IF YOU DON'T WATCH OUT!

I SAY... ISN'T THIS CAESAR'S PALACE?

CAESAR'S PALACE?

YOU'RE RIGHT, THEY ARE AMUSING!

SEE THESE GAULS? I GOT THEM FROM THE HOUSE OF TYFUS.

THE HOUSE OF TYFUS? YOU MUST BE MAD. OSIBUS! HE'S TERREMELY EXPENSIVE.

AND WHEN I THINK OF THE FOSS THEY KICK UP IN THIS DOMUS WHEN I WANT TO BUY A NEW YOGA!

IS THAT WHAT ALL THE SHOUTING WAS ABOUT?

SOON AFTERWARDS...

HERE WE ARE.

HEY, ASTERIX... THIS ISN'T CAESAR'S PALACE, IS IT?

PERHAPS HE HAS SEVERAL...

ONCE INSIDE CAESAR'S PALACE, WELL SET ABOUT LOOKING FOR HIS LAURELS!

SO LONG AS HE ISN'T RESTING WITH THEM!
WHY, NO, GAUL! THIS ISN'T CAESAR'S PALACE! THIS HOUSE BELONGS TO ME, OSSEUS HUMERUS.

AND THIS IS MY WIFE FIBULA, MY DAUGHTER TIBIA, AND MY NITWIT OF A SON, METATARSUS.

BUT WHAT ARE WE GOING TO DO WITH THEM? WE HAVE ALL THE SLAVES WE NEED.

THEY COULD WORK IN THE KITCHEN. GAULISH CUISINE IS GOOD... ANYWAY, IT CAN'T BE ANY WORSE THAN WHAT OUR BRITISH SLAVE AUTOIDAX GIVES US.

GO WITH OUR MAJOR-DOMO, GOLDENDELICIOUS.

LOOK HERE. AND TAKE CARE OF THEM, THEY'RE FROM THE HOUSE OF TYPHUS!

AND DON'T YOU TRY GOING TO EDGE ME OUT OF IT!

WORKS OF ART! I'M NOT A WORK OF ART FROM THE HOUSE OF TYPHUS, NOT ME! I'M NOT FRAGILE LIKE YOU, BUT THIS IS A GOOD JOB I'VE GOT HERE, EVEN IF IT IS IN A MADHOUSE...

THAT ROMAN IS CRAZY! THIS IS THE FIRST TIME ANYONE EVER TOLD ME I WAS FRAGILE!

GOLDENDELICIOUS, TAKE THESE TWO GAULISH SLAVES TO THE KITCHEN. THEY ARE TO PREPARE OUR MEALS.

YES, MASTER?

WELL, THIS IS ALL YOURS, YOU TWO PRECIOUS WORKS OF ART!

SLAM!
Metatarsus! Get out of your cubiculum and come into the triclinium! Cena is served!

The fact that you have managed to decapitate yourself gives you no right to behave like a baby, lie down to the table properly.

It does smell funny...

Not for me, thanks.

This meal was cooked by my tw gauls from the house of typhus you'll eat it and like it!!!

etc...

Where are they? Where are they?"
COME TO MY ARMS!

THANKS TO YOU TWO, I'LL BE ABLE TO SPEND THE NIGHT DRINKING AND MAKING MERRY WITH MY FRIENDS, HAPPY IN THE KNOWLEDGE THAT NEXT DAY YOU WILL COOK UP THIS EXCELLENT CONCOCTION TO MAKE A NEW MAN OF ME!

COME ON! COME ON! THE FAMILY WANTS TO CONGRATULATE YOU!

YOUR MIRACULOUS DISH HAS CURED ME LIKE A SHOT!

HEH PATER PATER! WE DON'T OFTEN SEE OCULUS TO OCULUS, BUT YOU REALLY WERE INSPIRED WHEN YOU BOUGHT THESE TWO THEY'RE MARVELS!

WHAT A WONDERFUL RECIPE!

GOOD YOU LIKED IT, MY BOY... YES, EXCELLENT, BUT IT IS A BIT STRONG... WE WON'T ASK THE GAULS TO DO ANY MORE COOKING EXCEPT ON SPECIAL OCCASIONS, AND NOW LET'S GO TO BED...

I DON'T UNDERSTAND... HOW CAN THEY HAVE LIKED IT?

YOU'RE RIGHT...

IT WAS A BIT INSIPID... ?!
You may have got away uncrucified, but I'll have you thrown to the lions yet... They don't often taste choice titbits from the house of Typhus. Poor things!

Asterix, do you think we'll end up as choice titbits fed to the lions?

I don't know about that, Obelix. But I have an idea that will make the Romans fed up with us!

We'll keep them awake all night... and since the Romans rise at dawn, they won't like that.

Meanwhile, sleep tight, my works of... we rise at dawn in house, and I shall burn your noses to the condiments.

We'll be sold back first thing tomorrow.

It's time!

We need something to make a loud noise. Let's try the kitchen.

Couldn't we make a loud noise by snoring?
COME ON, YOU LOT! BRING OUT YOUR MAPPÆE AND SCOPÆE!*

CLEAN THE PLACE UP! I'M GOING TO WAKE THE MASTER.

MASTER, THE SUN IS ALREADY HIGH IN THE SKY. AM I TO SEND FOR THE TENSOR TO SHAVE YOU?

NO! AND TELL ALL THOSE OTHER IDIOTS THAT IF THEY GO ON MAKING THAT NOISE I'LL SELL THEM OFF AS A JOB LOT, WITH YOU AND THE TENSOR THROWN IN!

Oooh! My head... Er... MASTER... May I remind you that you have an important engagement at the palace this morning? Am I to go and say you're ill?

Hmm? No... I'll send my calls from the house of Typhus, that will look more elegant. Now leave me alone, I feel a bit off-colour, clear off.

Oh, so they've supplanted me! So they're going to the palace instead, eh? Right! I have an idea...
There's only one way out of this! We'll have to buy ourselves back from Publius. Then we'll think of a plan to get into Caesar's palace. Give me all the money you've got.

There you are... do you think that will be enough?

We're from the house of Typhius after all... perhaps we're beyond our means. We'll beat him down.

Hey you Gauls! the master wants to see you in his tablinium.

He's timed that well!

Ah, my dear Gauls... we really did have a good time with you last night.

...but I'm feeling a little tired today. I've got an important appointment. Will you go to the palace for me and tell them I'm indisposed.

To Julius Caesar's palace?

Yes ask for Locus Classicus, one of Caesar's secretaries.

Wait a moment. We were going to beat you down.

No, no, no!

And hurry back, so we can try your fantastic recipe again!

What a stroke of luck by Toutatis!

What a stroke of luck by Mercury!
HALT! QUO VADIS?

WE HAVE COME ON BEHALF OF OUR MASTER, OSSEOUS HUMERUS WITH A MESSAGE FOR.... FOR LUCUS CLASSICUS, CAESAR'S SECRETARY, COME IN! YOU'RE EXPECTED.

HE LET US VADERE QUO WE WANTED TO GO VERY READILY... THIS IS EASY!

TOO EASY... HOW DOES HE KNOW WE'RE EXPECTED?

WHAT A PITY! I SHOULD HAVE LIKED TO BUY US... WE WOULD HAVE MADE A NICE SOUVENIR TO TAKE HOME FROM OUR TRIP.

NOW WHAT HAVE WE GIVEN UP THE IDEA OF BUYING Ourselves Back? WE DON'T NEED TO! WE'VE GOT A GOOD EXCUSE TO GET INTO CAESAR'S PALACE NOW!
RIGHT! SHALL WE GET THEM?

NO, LET'S FIND OUT WHAT THEY WANT ANYWAY. THEY COULD HACK US TO PIECES WITH THEIR WEAPONS.

HUH! WERE OUR OWN MASTERS, AREN'T WE?...

SO YOU WANT TO ASSASSINATE JULIUS CAESAR, DO YOU?

AN HONEST SLAVE, WHO WILL BE REWARDED FOR HIS SERVICES, HAS REVEALED YOU. HE DISCOVERED YOUR PLOT.

... YOU USED A TRICK TO INFILTRATE THE HOUSE OF OSSEL'S HUMERUS. IN ORDER TO FIND A PRETENS TO GET INTO CAESAR'S PALACE AND KILL HIM!

THE PALACE PRISON...

DO YOU DENY YOU HAVE DESIGNS ON OUR HEAD OF STATE?

WHAT'S THE GOOD OF PROTESTING, OBEIX? WE'RE DONE FOR.

ONLY WHAT'S ON IT.

TAKE THEM AWAY!

TAKE THEM AWAY TO THE PALACE PRISON!
I DON'T UNDERSTAND, ASTERIX! WHY ARE WE LETTING THEM TREAT US LIKE THIS? THEY'RE ONLY ROMANS, AFTER ALL!

BUT THIS IS WONDERFUL, CEBELIX! WE'RE IN THE PALACE! TONIGHT WE CAN GET OUT OF OUR CELL AND LOOK AROUND FOR CAESAR'S LAUREL WREATH AT OUR LEISURE!

WHAT! WE DON'T GET ANY SLEEP TONIGHT EITHER?

AND SO, THAT NIGHT...

OPEN THE DOOR AS QUIETLY AS POSSIBLE.

THEY MAKE MORE NOISE COMING DOWN THAN GOING UP

LET'S GO!
WELL SEARCH EVERYWHERE, AS QUITE AS POSSIBLE.

His Quinn! A Big One.

I'LL JUST DUMP THESE HERE... WE SEEM TO BE GETTING ON TOP OF ONE ANOTHER, THEN WE CAN GO ON.

No No! It's nearly daylight. Let's get back to our cell. We'll carry on tomorrow night.

Still No Sign of it. The Palace is enormous and a Laurel Wreath isn't very Big.

When are we going to get some sleep? They won't let us Lie in, I bet!
A sunny day has just dawned upon the greatest city in the universe: Rome!

Sound the alarm!

The prisoners have escaped!

They knocked out all the guards on night duty. This is really getting on top of me!

Look, centurion! The lock is broken!

By Jupiter!

You Romans must be crazy! Is there no way of getting any sleep round here???

You... you haven't escaped?

No! Shut the door and get that lock repaired!

Huh! We can't get peace and quiet anywhere!

They're wizards!

Gaulish druids, perhaps...

The Gauls have strange and terrible gods!

We must get rid of them, and quickly! I was waiting for Caesar to return, however, it can't be helped... Meanwhile, double the guard, spread yourselves out! Don't get on top of one another!
I don't like big towns; I never sleep well there. I feel hemmed in... shut up...

What we must do is find Caesar. He's generally to be found just underneath his laurel wreath.

Ah! So these are my clients!

Your clients? Yes, I'm your lawyer, Titus Nisiprius.

You are going to be tried this very day and I've been assigned to you as legal aid. It's a good brief for me. Two Gaulish wizards—that'll attract a large crowd!

I have a very fine speech prepared. It begins like this. Delenda Carthago, said the great Cato...

Are you going to get us set free?

You must be joking! Lots of wild animals have arrived in the circus, and they've had nothing substantial to get their teeth into... so you see, two Gaulish wizards. Just think! What a show!

Does Julius Caesar go to these shows?

Usualy, yes... Delenda Carthago I shall say to them...

And when he goes to the circus, does he wear his laurel wreath?

I've never seen him in a straw hat, my friend... why don't you listen to my plea for the defence? Delenda Carthago said the great Cato...

Bring the Gaulish wizards before the court!
THE DELATOR'S WILL SPEAK FIRST.

DON'T WORRY.

COUNSEL FOR THE PROSECUTION

DELENDA CARTHAGO, AS THE GREAT CATO SAID...

WH... WHAT THE...? DELENDA CARTHAGO? BUT I WAS GOING TO...

SILENCE! YOUR TURN WILL COME; YOU CAN SPEAK AFTERWARDS.

MAY I NOW CONTINUE?
You may speak, delator.

So it is, Cato, you hear, speaking through me, deleada Carthago, as I was saying, and...

I would request an adjournment in order to reconsider my defence.

Silence in court! Delator. Have you any objections to the defence counsel's request?

None. What's hecker.

Bang! Bang! Bang!

Well, I have by Toutatis!

Rhubarb! Rhubarb! Rhubarb! Rhubarb! Rhubarb! Rhubarb! Rhubarb!

Silence! Silence, or I'll have the court cleared!

And what about the wild animals? The poor things must be fed. Unhappy creatures, they know nothing of the course of human justice!

Will you allow this? You see before you two foreigners of doubtful reputation...

...who have abused the good faith of an honest and reputable slave dealer...
TWO FOREIGNERS WHO HAVE DECEITFULLY INFILTRATED A FAMILY HIGHLY RESPECTED IN THE CITY, WITH THE SOLE AIM OF FINDING A PRETEXT FOR A COWARDLY ATTEMPT ON THE LIFE OF THE ILLUSTRIOUS PERSON OF JULIUS CAESAR...

...AND YOU WASTE YOUR TIME IN FUTILE ARGUMENTS? IN ENDLESS SPEECHES?

I SAY I’M GONNA! JUDGES, I SAY NO! THROW THEM TO THE LIONS! TO THE LIONS. I SAY!

AND MAY CAESAR HIMSELF, WEARING THE LAUREL WREATH HE SO RICHLY DESERVES, WITNESS THE FEASTING OF THESE HARMLESS ANIMALS...

...WHOSE FANGS WILL THUS BECOME THE MIGHTY SWORD OF IMPERIAL JUSTICE... THAT IS THE CASE FOR THE PROSECUTION.

SNIFF! SNIFF! SNIFF! SNIFF! SNIFF! SNIFF! SNIFF! SNIFF! SNIFF! SNIFF!

I FIND THE ACCUSED GUILTY. I SENTENCE THEM TO BE THROWN TO THE LIONS IN THE CIRCUS MAXIMUS!

 BRAVO! HEAR, HEAR!

NOT EXACTLY A CLASSIC SUMMING-UP BUT SO MOVING!

THOSE WILD ANIMALS ARE LUCKY! VERY, VERY LUCKY!

CLEAR THE COURT! LEGIONARIES, CLEAR THE COURT!

LONG LIVE THE PRISONERS! BRAVO!
Typhus has sent you this amphora of wine, and these delicacies are from the Humerus family...

That roast boar was good. That's the advantage of being thrown to the lions. You always get tasty gourmet dishes...

There's a fantastic line-up on the programme: Lions, Panthers, Leopards, Tigers! All fine specimens! They've eaten nothing but lettuce for a whole week now!

Whereas those thrown from the Tarpeian Rock get solid, heavy food.

So you have no cause for complaint? You really are spoilt!

Oh, I'm not worried about the animals, it's the public! All those people!

You'll be all right in the arena...

I'm sure that once the show begins other prisoners forget their rage fright too and think of nothing but the animals.

I'm afraid of letting the audience down. It looks good.

Excuse me, you wouldn't have a drop of oil to rub me down with? Would you like the gladiators? It looks good.

Oil?

Don't you think mustard would be more appropriate.
The circus maximus is packed with the usual enthusiastic first-night, or in this case last-night, audience.

It's your turn now.
At last!
What's that?
It's to make me taste nice.
You're a real professional only the great artists think of small details like that.
Are my plaits all right?

D'you know, people come from all over the place to be eaten here, and there's never been this much excitement!

What a pity! Caesar isn't here for this performance!

What's that?

Creeeek!
WHAT DO YOU MEAN, WAIT FOR HIM?! YOU CAN'T DO THAT!

OH YES, WE CAN! AND ALL THE BEST TO YOU TOO!

HEY, ARE THEY COMING ON? THE CROWD IS GETTING IMPATIENT, AND WE CAN'T HOLD THE ANIMALS ANY LONGER. ONE OF THE LIONS HAS ALREADY EATEN A PANTHER!

OH, THAT'S NOTHING NEW... WE'RE ALWAYS DEALING WITH BEGINNERS IN THIS JOB.

COME ALONG, NOW! THE AUDIENCE WOULDN'T EAT YOU!

WE'RE NOT GOING ON. AND THE BEST OF ROMAN LUCK TO YOU TOO!

LET'S Force THEM IN, JAILER!

RIGHT! ANIMAL TAMER!

GO ON, ASTERIX!

RIGHT! GO ON, OBELIX!

WILL YOU PICK UP THE WHIP, PLEASE ASTERIX?

GUARRAARDS!
This isn't the place for that kind of thing! If you want to fight, go into the arena!

We want our money back! We want our money back!

Listen to the crowd! Just listen!

For pity's sake, go into the arena! They'll flatten the circus! The circus is my whole life!

Oh, very well. We'll go on, but only to please you.

Thank you! Thank you! You won't regret it!

Er... where are the other animals?

Inside that one! Thieves! Swindlers! We'll wreck the circus!

Burr!
GUARDS! GET EVERYBODY OUT!

EVERYBODY OUT! EVERYBODY, BY JUPITER!

OUT! EVERYBODY OUT!

NOT US! HE DOESN'T MEAN US!

OH, SHUT UP, OCELI!

THAT MIX-UP GAVE US GOOD COVER, WE'VE SEEN ENOUGH OF THIS PERFORMANCE. LET'S FIND A PEACEFUL SPOT TO SLEEP.

WHAT A GOOD IDEA!

WE SHOULD BE ALL RIGHT HERE. TOMORROW WELL THINK ABOUT OUR NEXT MOVE.

AT NIGHT THE ROMAN STREETS, INADEQUATELY PATROLLED BY THE SEBACARIA (NIGHT WATCHMEN) ARE THE HUNTING GROUND OF SCARPIE, EFFRACITORES AND RAPTORS, MURDERERS, THIEVES AND MUGGERS OF ALL KINDS.

BY ALL THAT'S UNHOLY! HERE ARE TWO FINE FELLOWS SLEPPING OFF THEIR BOOZE! LET'S LIGHTEN THEIR PURSES!

DO YOU ROMANS NEVER SLEEP?!!
Habeascorpus, Chief of the Most Fearsome Band of Cutthroats The Urb's Has Ever Known.

I Hear You Are Magicians. Your Strength Seems to Prove It. We Could Use You.

Why Not? We Don't Have Anywhere to Go.

Put Me Down Then, and Follow Me.

Yes, That's Us. And Who Are You?


Here's Our Hide-Out: The Catacombs. It's Quite Safe You'll Make Old Bones Down Here.

Tomorrow Night We'll Leave a Skeleton Staff Here, and You Can Try Your Hand at Skulduggery...

We Work at Night and Sleep by Day.

Good Day, Then! So That's How It's Done.
A Drunk, Full of Wine, and Gold! I'll Leave Him to You to See How You Perform.

RIGHT!

Come Along, Obelix!

If He Makes a Fuss... the Chop!

Weren't Really Going to Give Him the Chop Are We, Asterix?

Of Course Not! On the Contrary, We Were Going to Save Him from These Thugs! Watch Out, Here He Comes!

Our Collector's Items! Our Works of Art From the House of Typhus!

Not on Your Life! We'll Never Part Again! I'll Drink to That!

My Collector's Items! My Own Little Works of Art!

Well, How's It Going? He'll Attract the Sebaciara with All That Row!

He's a Friend, Nobody's Going to Harm Him!

We'll Soon See About That!

Long Live Julius!

Hic!

...Chaeshar!

Go Home, Quickly! You're in Great Danger!

Metatarsus! The Son of Humerus!
LONG LIVE JULIUS CAESAR!

JULIUS CAESAR?

ARE YOU SURE?

SURE I'M SURE! GOLDENDELICIOUS TOLD ME. HE'S GOTTEN HIS ARMS TO THE GROUND, HAS OLD GOLDENDENomination.

HE HAS RETURNED VICTORIOUS FROM HIS CAMPAIGN AGAINST THE PIRATES... TOMORROW THERE'S TO BE A TRIBUTE IN THE STREETS OF ROME!

AFTER HE DENOUNCED YOU, THEY MADE HIM PERSONAL SLAVE TO JULIUS CAESAR AS A REWARD!

WHERE IS GOLDENDELICIOUS NOW?

NOT YOU! YOU GO HOME!

AT LEAST GIVE ME THE RECIPE OF THAT FANTASTIC DISH! I THINK I MIGHT BE ILL TOMORROW AND THEN I WOULDN'T BE ABLE TO GO TO CAESAR'S TRIUMPH.

RIGHT. LISTEN CAREFULLY, AN UNPLUCKED CHICKEN, SOME CARBOXYLIC SOAP, KIDNEYS...

BAR AURIGARUM
RUMY! I CAN'T WAKE HIM UP. I MANAGED TO GET HIS FRIEND OUT, BUT I'LL HAVE TO GET THIS ONE SLEEP IT OFF HERE.

NO, NO! WE CAN'T SERVE ANYONE ELSE AT THIS TIME OF NIGHT.

WHAT ABOUT HIM?

OH HIM! I CAN'T WAKE HIM UP. I MANAGED TO GET HIS FRIEND OUT, BUT I'LL HAVE TO GET THIS ONE SLEEP IT OFF HERE.

WE'LL WAKE HIM UP FOR YOU.

CARRY ON! IF YOU GET RID OF HIM, I'LL BUY YOU A ROUND.

GOLDENDELICIOUS, LOOK WHO'S HERE!

WAKEY, WAKEY, GOLDENDELICIOUS!

I... I CAN EXPLAIN EVERYTHING!

THAT'S AMAZING! YOU COULDN'T POSSIBLY COME BACK EVERY NIGHT, COULD YOU? THERE ARE ALWAYS ONE OR TWO DIFFICULT CUSTOMERS TO GET RID OF.
CAESAR'S LAUREL WREATH! THAT'S WONDERFUL, BY TOUTATIS!

WHENEVER THERE'S A TRIUMPH, ONE SLAVE HAS THE JOB OF HOLDING THE LAUREL WREATH ABOVE CAESAR'S HEAD. TOMORROW, THAT SLAVE WILL BE ME!

YOU'RE TELLING ME! FOR A SLAVE IT'S THE CROWNING GLORY! NOW I'M A COLLECTOR'S ITEM TOO!

LANDLORD, DO YOU HAVE ANY BAY LEAVES?

NO, BUT I'VE GOT SOME PARSLEY.

THAT'LL DO. BRING IT HERE, QUICK!

YOU'RE NOT GOING TO TAKE MY PLACE, ARE YOU?

NO! IT'S THAT LAUREL WREATH WE WANT! WE'LL DO A SWAP!

I'M GOING TO TELL YOU WHAT TO DO TOMORROW IF YOU WANT TO SEE TOMORROW, THAT IS...

...I DON'T FEEL TOO GOOD... I'VE HAD A DROP TOO MUCH... NOW I THINK ABOUT IT, I DON'T KNOW THAT I'LL BE ABLE TO MAKE THE TRIUMPH TOMORROW...

LANDLORD, STEAK UP AN UNPLUCKED CHICKEN SOME CAROBOLIX SOAP, JAM, BLACK PEPPERCORNS, SALT, KIDNEYS, FIGS, HONEY, BLACK PUDDING, POMEGRANATE SEEDS, EGGS AND RED PEPPERS!

SHALL I PUT THE PARSLEY IN?

NO! WE'RE GOING TO MAKE WREATHS WITH THAT PARSLEY AREN'T WE OBELIX?

PERFECTLY RIGHT.
Caesar's Laurel Wreath!

Don't forget the parsley wreath!

It's a deal? I'll never hear from you again?

I promise you that, by Toutatis!

Tantantara! Parp! Tweet Tweet!

So that's what you meant when you said you'd lead us to a great triumph!

The acclamations are so deafening, and the enthusiasm so great, that no one thinks that Caesar's wreath is not made of

Long live Julius Caesar!

That's funny... I feel like a piece of fish!

No one? Well, hardly anyone... for nothing can be hidden from that great man among great men, that wolf, son of the Roman she-wolf.
Well, Homeopathix, how do you like the taste of Caesar's laurels?

True... it's a bit overcooked, and it wasn't a prime cut of meat...

You may be rich, but I bet you never eat anything like that in your house!

And so, in the Gaulish village, under a starry sky, they celebrate the success of this extraordinary dish. But the adventure of Asterix and Obelix was to have consequences as serious as they were unexpected. From now on, having the recipe for a remedy against the excesses of drinking, the Romans began to indulge in orgies of wine, which led to the decline and fall of their empire. Be warned! Alcohol, unless taken in moderation, is the father of all vices... perfectly true!