

Delcourt  
réédition

# Asterix and the SOOTHSAYER

by GOSCINNY and UDERZO



THE ONLY THING THAT THE GAULS ARE AFRAID OF IS THE SKY FALLING ON THEIR HEADS AN EVENT WHICH SEEMS IMMINENT AS A TERRIBLE STORM BATTERS THE LITTLE VILLAGE WE KNOW SO WELL.

# BRRAOM!



ALL THE TOP PEOPLE IN THE VILLAGE HAVE GATHERED TOGETHER IN THE HOUSE OF CHIEF VITALSTATISTIX...

IF ONLY GETAFIX WASN'T AWAY AT THE DRUIDS' ANNUAL CONFERENCE IN THE FOREST OF THE CARNUTES HE'D LOOK AFTER US...

THERE'S NOTHING TO BE AFRAID OF! WE'VE HAD STORMS BEFORE. THIS IS QUITE A BAD ONE, I AGREE, BUT...

SUPPOSE I SING SOMETHING TO BOOST OUR MORALE?

TARANIS IS THE GOD OF THUNDER DOESN'T THINK MUCH OF THAT SUGGESTION!

THAT'S ONE GOD WITH HIS HEAD SCREWED ON RIGHT!

HUH! OUR DRUID MAY BE AWAY, BUT TOUTATIS, THE GOD OF THE TRIBE, IS PROTECTING US.

MAYBE, BUT TARANIS, MIGHT WAKE UP SUCCELLUS, THE GOD OF THE DEAD!

BELENOS, THE GOD OF HEALING, KEEPS SUCCELLUS UNDER CONTROL.

AND DON'T FORGET THAT ESUS, THE GOD OF LIFE, WORKS HAND IN GLOVE WITH SUCCELLUS!

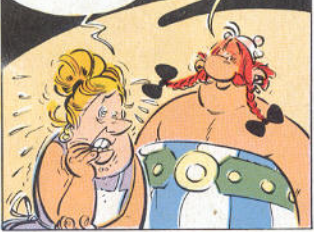
WHAT IF EPONA, THE GODDESS OF WAR, HAS MADE TROUBLE AMONG THEM?



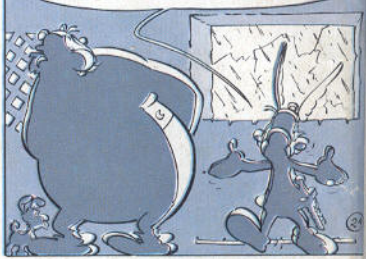
AS YOU CAN SEE, THE GAULS ARE CERTAINLY NOT SHORT OF GODS; MORE THAN FOUR HUNDRED RUB SHOULDERS IN THEIR PATRIOTISM. THERE ARE GODS FOR EVERYTHING: TREES, Ponds, RIVERS, IN FACT, THERE ARE SO MANY THAT WORSHIPPERS SOMETIMES ADDRESS THEM BY CODE NUMBERS TO FACILITATE DELIVERY OF THEIR PRAYERS. FOR INSTANCE INTELLENTISIA, A GODDESS WHOSE SERVICES WERE OFTEN HELD IN SECRET, MAY BE FOUND UNDER M15.

WHAT ARE WE GOING TO DO? WHAT ARE WE GOING TO DO?

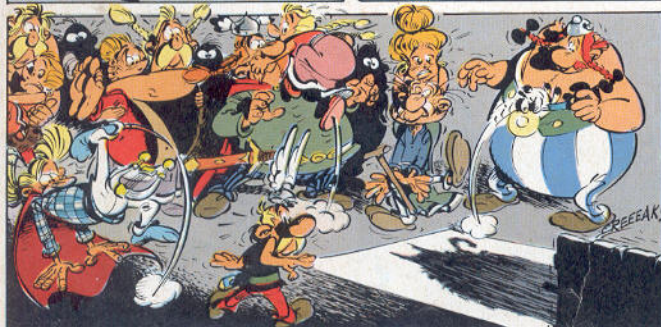
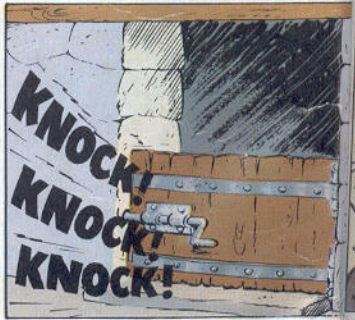
HOW ABOUT HAVING SOMETHING TO EAT?

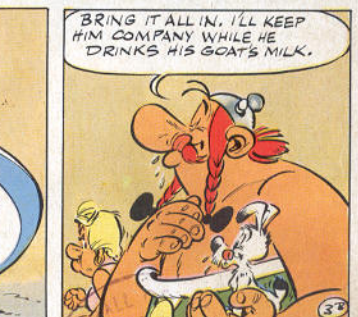
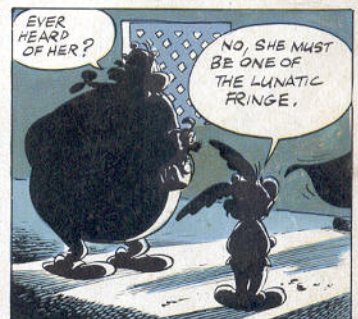
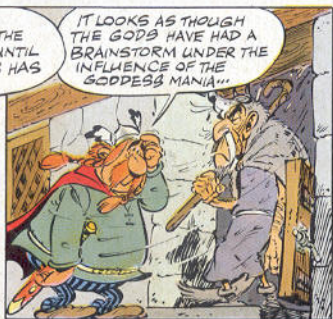
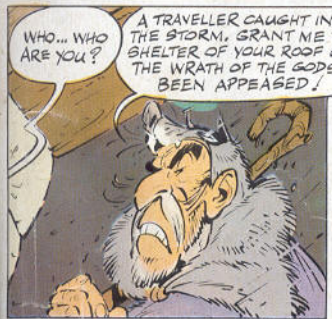
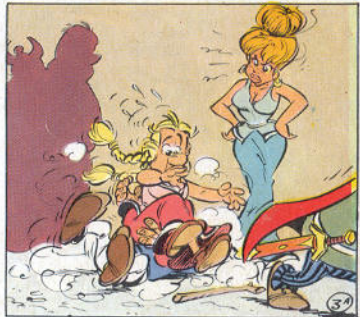


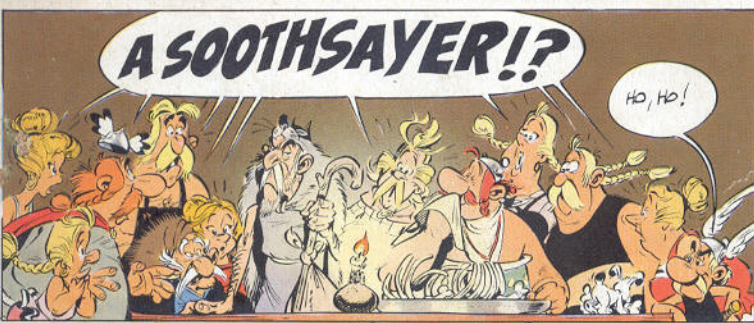
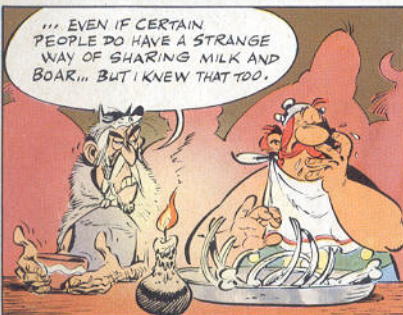
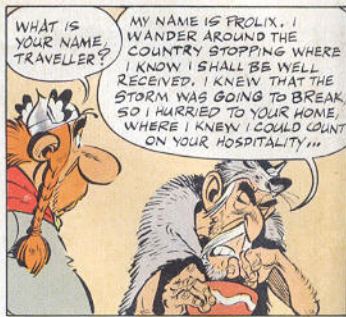
OBELIX IS RIGHT. STOP WITTERING ON AND LET'S FIND SOMETHING TO DO WHILE WE WAIT FOR THE STORM TO PASS OVER



I COULD SING YOU SOMETHING JOLLY...







ASTERIX'S SCEPTICISM HAS NO EFFECT SUBJECTED TO THE INFLUENCE OF SO MANY GODS, WHO BOTH PROTECT AND THREATEN THEM, THE NATIONS OF ANTIQUITY WOULD LIKE TO HAVE ADVANCE NOTICE OF THEIR WHIMS. HERE WE MUST INSERT A PARENTHESIS...

A PARENTHESIS WHICH IS NECESSARY FOR A BRIEF EXPLANATION OF SOOTHSAVERS, ORACLES, PROPHETS, AUGURERS, HARUSPICES AND OTHER INTERPRETERS OF THE SIBYLLINE BOOKS.

O SOOTHSAVER, WILL THE GODS LOOK KINDLY ON THE HARVEST?



SOOTHSAVERS READ THE FUTURE IN THE WAY BIRDS FLY...

YES, FARMER, THE GODS WILL SEND RAIN FOR YOUR FIELDS!



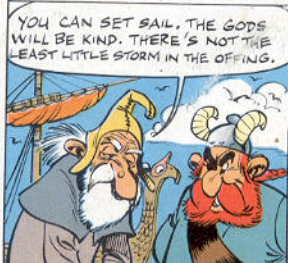
... IN THE APPETITE OF THE SACRED GEESE...

THE GOOSE LIVER PATE WILL BE GOOD THIS YEAR! THE GODS HAVE SPOKEN!



... AND ABOVE ALL IN THE ENTRAILS OF SACRIFICIAL ANIMALS.

YOU CAN SET SAIL, THE GODS WILL BE KIND. THERE'S NOT THE LEAST LITTLE STORM IN THE OFFING.



THE PREDICTIONS OF THE ENTRAILS ARE NOT ALWAYS CORRECT...

I THOUGHT IT WAS JUST A LOAD OF TRIPE!

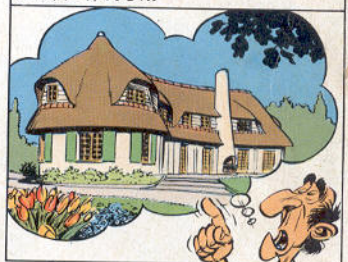


EVEN THE GREATEST CONSULT THE AUGURIES...

... AND AS LONG AS BRUTUS IS NEAR YOU, O CAESAR, YOU WILL HAVE NOTHING TO FEAR!



IF CERTAIN VISIONARIES HAVE A REASONABLE IDEA OF WHAT THE FUTURE HOLDS...



... GENERALLY THEY SAY ANY OLD THING!



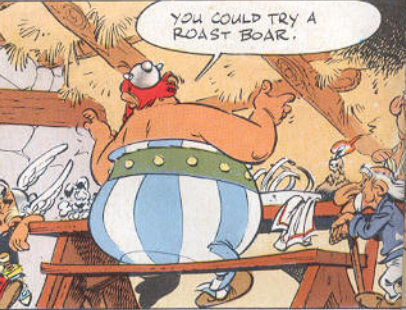
IN SHORT, THEY ARE CHARLATANS WHO THRIVE ON CREDULITY, FEAR AND HUMAN SUPERSTITION. HERE WE CLOSE THE PARENTHESIS.

PATEL MALL OF RESIDENCE  
LIBRARY  
BOOKS



SOOTHSAYER,  
SOOTHSAYER! IS  
THE SKY ABOUT  
TO FALL ON OUR  
HEADS?

I SHOULD NEED  
TO READ THE  
ENTRAILS OF AN  
ANIMAL.

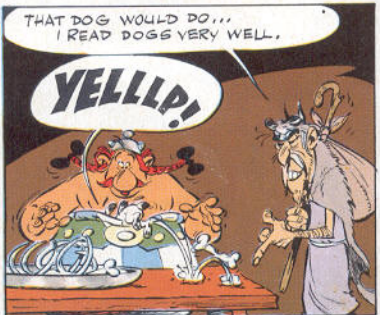


YOU COULD TRY A  
ROAST BOAR.



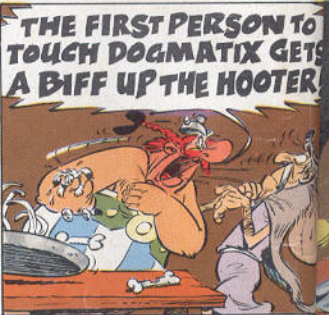
OBELX,  
THERE'S  
NO MORE  
BOAR!

AND NOT MUCH  
READING MATTER  
LEFT IN THAT ONE  
EITHER.



THAT DOG WOULD DO...  
I READ DOGS VERY WELL.

**YELL!**

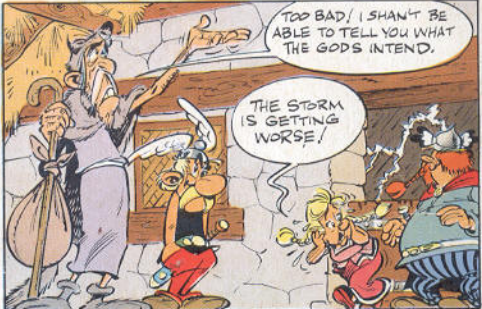


**THE FIRST PERSON TO  
TOUCH DOGMATIX GETS  
A BIFF UP THE HOOTER!**



WATCH IT! OBELX'S  
PREDICTIONS OFTEN WORK OUT!

BONK!



TOO BAD! I SHAN'T BE  
ABLE TO TELL YOU WHAT  
THE GODS INTEND.

THE STORM  
IS GETTING  
WORSE!



I COULD BRING  
YOU A FISH.  
I SELL THEM.



YES, THAT WOULD DO.  
WE SOOTHSAYERS OFTEN  
GO TO THE FISHMONGER  
TO GET SOMETHING  
TO READ. \*

A TRADITION THAT SURVIVES  
TO THIS DAY, MODERN FISH-  
MONGERS WRAP THEIR  
GOODS IN NEWSPAPERS  
SO THAT CUSTOMERS CAN  
HAVE SOME READING  
MATTER.



SOON AFTERWARDS..

BY BORVO, GOD OF SPRINGS, AND BY DAMONA THE HEIFER, AND NO MATTER WHAT THE SCEPTICS THINK, I SEE THAT THE SKY WILL NOT FALL ON YOUR HEADS, AND THAT WHEN THE STORM IS OVER THE WEATHER WILL IMPROVE...



OH! WHAT A RELIEF...

I ALSO SEE THAT THERE'S GOING TO BE A FIGHT.



IF GETAFIX WAS HERE HE'D TELL YOU NOT TO BELIEVE THIS IMPOSTOR! YOU SHOULD BE ASHAMED OF YOURSELF!

BUT ASTERIX, THE FISH HAS SPOKEN...



THE ONLY THING YOU CAN PREDICT FROM EXAMINING THAT FISH IS THAT ANYONE WHO EATS IT WILL BE ILL!



AND WHY DO YOU THINK THAT MAY I ASK?

BECAUSE YOUR FISH IS NOT VERY FRESH!



PERHAPS IT WAS A BIT STALE... BUT I'M CERTAIN THAT IF I READ THIS DOG WE SHOULD GET CONFIRMATION OF...

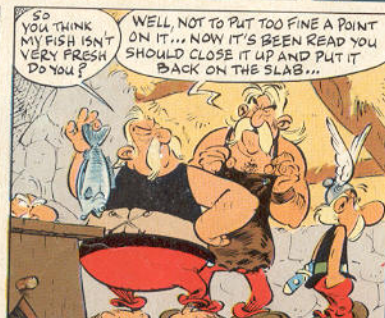


**NO ONE HAS EVER READ US, AND NO ONE IS EVER GOING TO!!!**



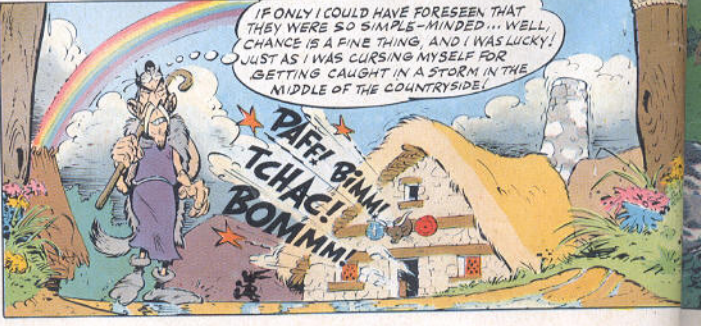
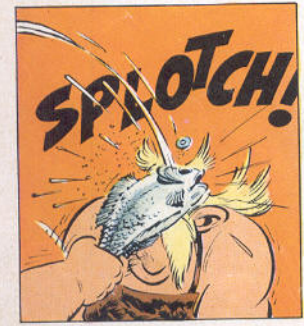
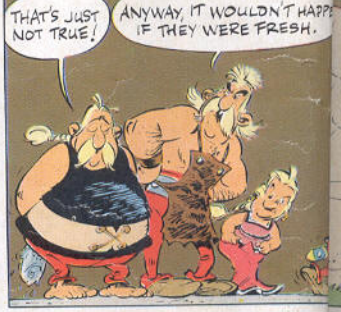
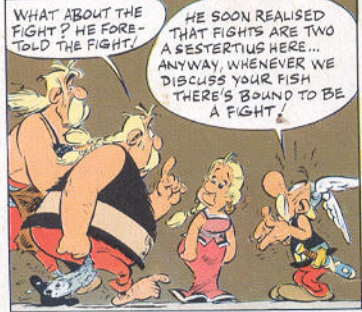
SO YOU THINK MY FISH ISN'T VERY FRESH DO YOU?

WELL, NOT TO PUT TOO FINE A POINT ON IT... NOW IT'S BEEN READ YOU SHOULD CLOSE IT UP AND PUT IT BACK ON THE SLAB...



**SPLATCH!**





**GET OUT!  
EVERYBODY OUT!**

**I SAID:  
EVERYBODY OUT!**

BUT,  
DEAREST,  
THIS IS MY  
HOME...

**OUT!**

PHEN! SHE'S  
HANDY WITH  
HER BROOM!

ARE WE  
OUT OF THE  
DOOR?

YES  
CHIEF!

**TOWING!**

SOOTHSAYER!  
SOOTHSAYER!  
JUST WAIT A  
MINUTE!

I MUST PLAY THIS CAREFULLY.  
IN THE LAST VILLAGE, THEY  
LITERALLY KICKED ME OUT...  
I MUST ADMIT, THAT LOT  
WEREN'T STUPID!

SOOTHSAYER, DON'T LEAVE! I WANT TO CONSULT YOU ABOUT MY FUTURE.

NO, NO, NO. THERE ARE SCEPTICS IN YOUR VILLAGE!

THAT LITTLE MAN WITH THE YELLOW Moustache, AND THE FAT MONSTER WHO WON'T LET ANYONE READ HIS DOG!...

THEY'RE JUST BARBARIANS... YOU MUSTN'T TAKE ANY NOTICE OF THEM. PLEASE STAY!

I FORESEE DIFFICULTIES WITH YOUR BARBARIANS IF I GO BACK TO THE VILLAGE. CAN'T YOU GET THOSE TWO THROWN OUT?

THROW OUT ASTERIX AND OBELIX? WE COULDN'T DO THAT!

OF COURSE, I COULD ALWAYS CAMP IN THIS CLEARING FOR THE TIME BEING...

OH, YES! AND I'LL MAKE SURE ASTERIX AND OBELIX DON'T COME INTO THE FOREST ANY MORE.

I'LL BRING EVERYTHING YOU NEED... THINGS TO EAT...

OH, NO! WE SOOTHSAYERS LEAP A LIFE OF MEDITATION...

JUST BRING ME SOMETHING TO READ: BOARS, DUCKS, CHICKENS, CAKES, BEER...

CAN YOU READ BEER TOO?

IF IT'S WELL KEPT, IT BECOMES VERY LEGIBLE.

YOU CAN HAVE ALL THAT, BUT JUST TELL ME WHAT THE GODS HAVE IN STORE FOR ME...

HMMM...

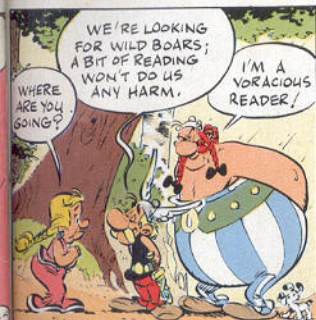
THE FLIGHT OF THOSE SWALLOWS TELLS ME THAT YOU WILL NOT SPEND ALL YOUR LIFE IN THIS WRETCHED VILLAGE.

BUT MY HUSBAND IS THE CHIEF!

HE WILL BE CALLED TO HIGHER THINGS... I SHALL NEED CUSHIONS AS WELL...

WILL MY RICH BROTHER HOMEOPATHIX TAKE HIM ON AS A BUSINESS PARTNER IN LUTETIA?

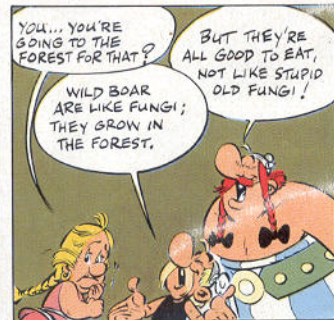
I WAS JUST GOING TO SAY SO! NOW LEAVE ME. I MUST MEDITATE! I'M GETTING GIGGY.



WHERE ARE YOU GOING?

WE'RE LOOKING FOR WILD BOARS; A BIT OF READING WON'T DO US ANY HARM.

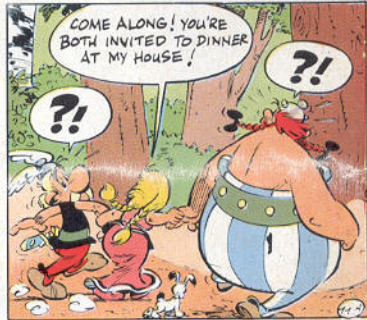
I'M A VORACIOUS READER!



YOU... YOU'RE GOING TO THE FOREST FOR THAT?

BUT THEY'RE ALL GOOD TO EAT, NOT LIKE STUPID OLD FUNGI!

WILD BOAR ARE LIKE FUNGI; THEY GROW IN THE FOREST.

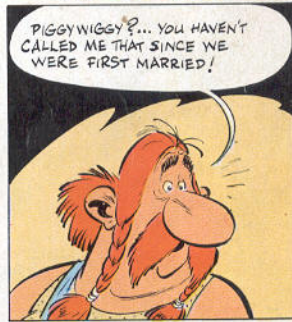


COME ALONG! YOU'RE BOTH INVITED TO DINNER AT MY HOUSE!

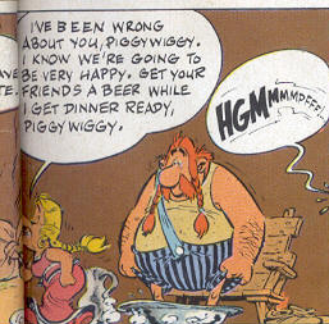
?! ?!



I'VE BROUGHT SOME GUESTS HOME, PIGGY WIGGY!



PIGGY WIGGY?... YOU HAVEN'T CALLED ME THAT SINCE WE WERE FIRST MARRIED!



I'VE BEEN WRONG ABOUT YOU, PIGGY WIGGY. I KNOW WE'RE GOING TO BE VERY HAPPY. GET YOUR FRIENDS A BEER WHILE I GET DINNER READY, PIGGY WIGGY.

HGM... HMM... WHEEE!



WHAT'S THE MATTER WITH YOU TWO?

HAHAHAHA  
HiHiHiHOHO!

PLEASE FORGIVE US...  
HEEENEEHEENHO!  
PIGGY WIGGY, OUR CH...  
HAHAHA!



HGMPPFFFF!

HAVE YOU QUITE FINISHED?

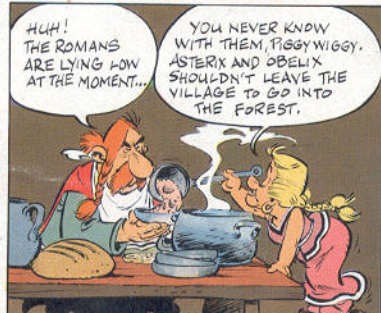


MAY I ASK YOU WHY YOU INVITED THESE TWO CLOWNS?

BECAUSE THEY'RE THE BEST WARRIORS IN THE VILLAGE PIGGYWIGGY!

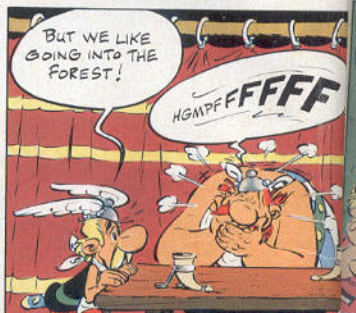


SINCE OUR DRUID, WHO MAKES THE MAGIC POTION, IS AWAY, WE MUST LOOK AFTER THEM... THE ROMANS COULD ATTACK THE VILLAGE ANY TIME, PIGGYWIGGY...



HUH! THE ROMANS ARE LYING LOW AT THE MOMENT...

YOU NEVER KNOW WITH THEM, PIGGYWIGGY. ASTERIX AND OBELIX SHOULDN'T LEAVE THE VILLAGE TO GO INTO THE FOREST.



BUT WE LIKE GOING INTO THE FOREST!

HGMPPFFFFF



HAHAHA HOHOHO  
HIHIHI!

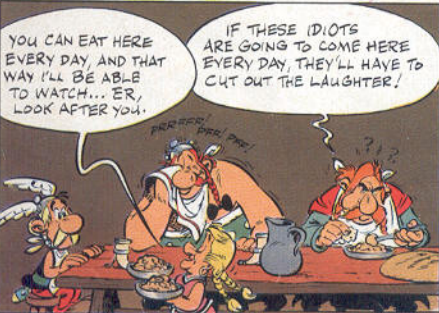


OH, SO YOU LIKE GOING INTO THE FOREST, DO YOU? WELL, YOU CAN JUST STAY AND GUARD THE VILLAGE! THAT'S AN ORDER!

HOUHOHO!

THAT'S RIGHT, PIGGYWIGGY!

BANG!

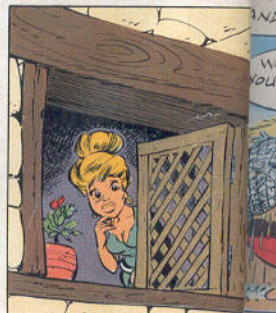


YOU CAN EAT HERE EVERY DAY, AND THAT WAY I'LL BE ABLE TO WATCH... ER, LOOK AFTER YOU.

IF THESE IDIOTS ARE GOING TO COME HERE EVERY DAY, THEY'LL HAVE TO CUT OUT THE LAUGHTER!



LATER...



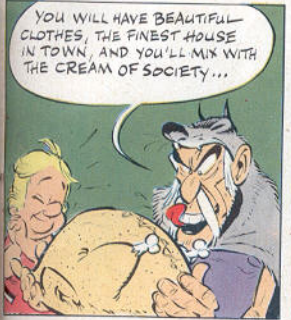


O SOOTHSAYER, I'VE BROUGHT YOU SOMETHING TO READ ABOUT MY FUTURE IN LUTETIA...



HOW SILLY OF ME! THIS GOOSE IS STUFFED! IT HASN'T GOT ANY ENTRAILS!

IT DOESN'T MATTER; I'VE GET Tired OF READING TRIPE...



YOU WILL HAVE BEAUTIFUL CLOTHES, THE FINEST HOUSE IN TOWN, AND YOU'LL MIX WITH THE CREAM OF SOCIETY...



SOME TIME LATER...

TRA LA LA LA! TRA LA LA LA!



WHATEVER ARE YOU DOING HERE, IMPEDIMENTA?

ER...UM... I WAS PICKING MUSHROOMS.



YOU DON'T SEEM TO HAVE HAD MUCH LUCK... WOULD YOU LIKE ME TO HELP YOU?



OH, MY OP! I'VE JUST BEEN CONSULTING THE SOOTHSAYER WHO IS CAMPING IN THE FOREST OVER THERE. BUT PLEASE DON'T TELL ANYONE!

\* INVOCATION TO GAULISH ADDRESS, ACKNOWLEDGING SHORT SIGHTEDNESS



LATER STILL...

... AND DON'T TELL ANYONE, BUT HE TOLD ME THAT GERIATRIX WOULD BECOME VERY RICH, AND I'D HAVE HEAPS OF JEWELS...



AND STILL LATER...

WHERE ARE YOU OFF TO?

ER... FOR A WALK IN THE FOREST.



WITH THOSE FISH?

OF COURSE. THE POOR CREATURES HAVE A RIGHT TO FRESH AIR, DON'T THEY? YOU MUST ADMIT THEY DON'T OFTEN GO TO THE FOREST.



THE NEXT DAY...

APPARENTLY YOU READ MY FISH AND TOLD MY WIFE IT WOULD HAVE A WIDE CIRCULATION. SHALL I HAVE A CHAIN OF FISHMONGERS SHOPS?

THAT'S RIGHT, FOR MORE DETAILS, I SHALL HAVE TO READ GOLD.

WOULD SESTERTII DO?

YES, BUT DON'T FORGET THE OFFICIAL RATE OF EXCHANGE: ONE HUNDRED SESTERTII TO THE AURUS!

GOLD COIN.

HALLO! TAKING YOUR CHICKENS FOR A WALK?

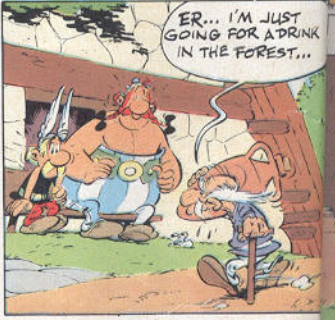
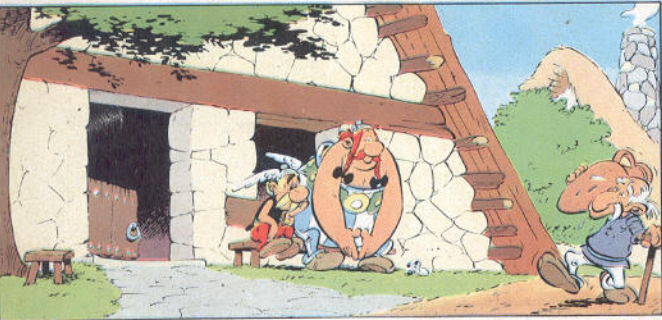
YES ...

CLUCK!

WELL, YOUR WIFE TAKES HER FISHES FOR A WALK.

IDIOT!

CLUCK!



ER... I'M JUST GOING FOR A DRINK IN THE FOREST...



THERE ARE SOME FUNNY GOINGS-ON HERE...

WHAT'S GOING ON IS THEY'RE ALL MAKING FOR THE FOREST, AND THEY'RE HAPPY, AND HERE'S ME BORED TO TEARS WITH NOTHING TO DO!

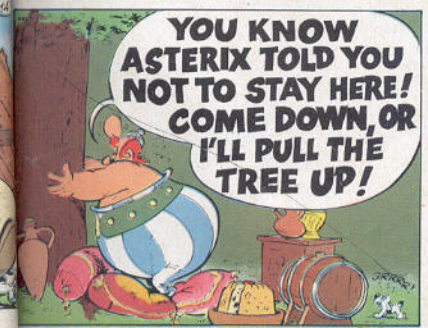
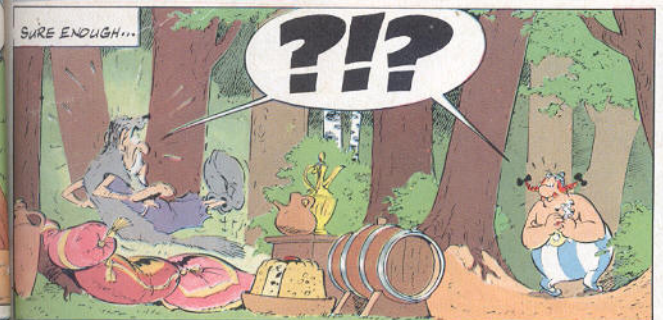
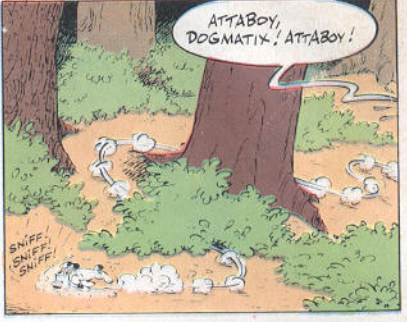
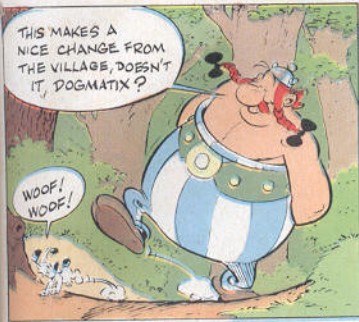


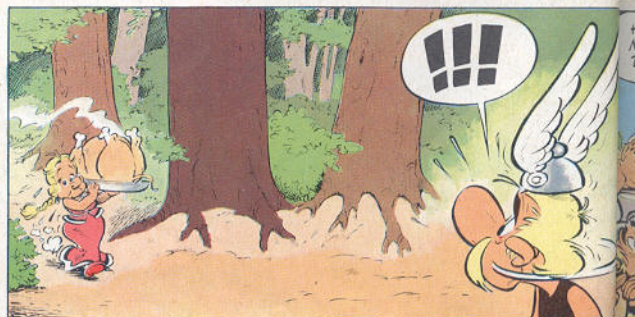
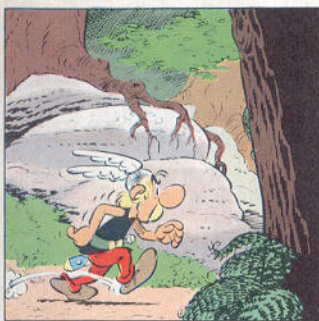
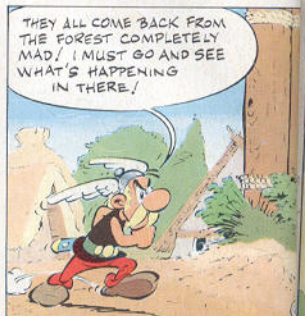
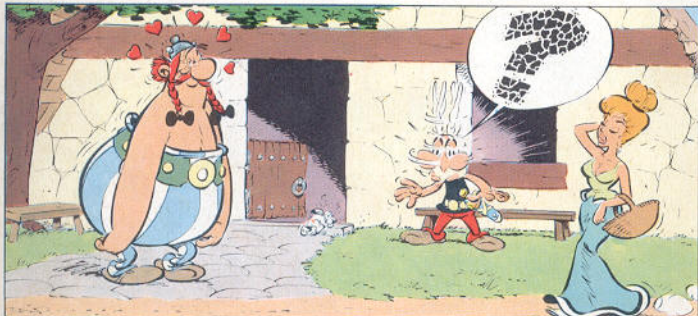
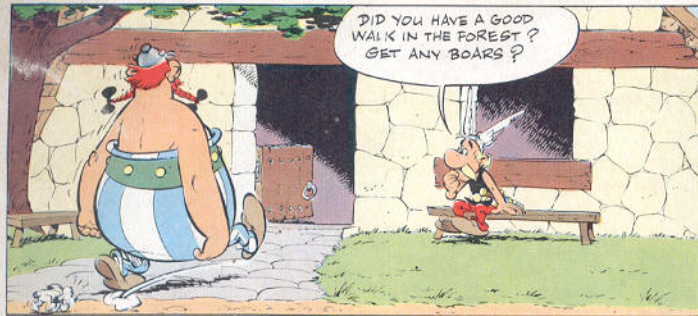
IT'S THE CLOSE SEASON FOR MENHIRS, AND DOGMATIX IS PINING FOR SOME TREES!...

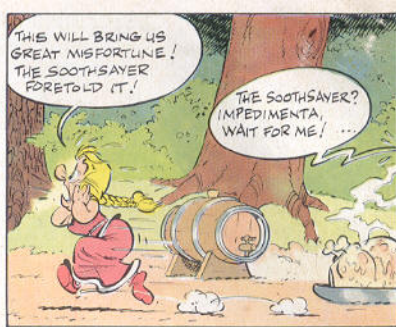
WHERE ARE YOU GOING?



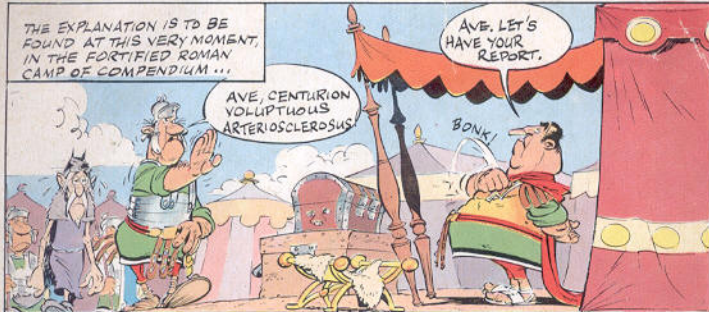
SOME PEOPLE TAKE THEIR FISHES OR THEIR CHICKENS FOR A WALK, I TAKE MY DOG, SO SUCKS TO PIGGYWIGGY!







THE EXPLANATION IS TO BE FOUND AT THIS VERY MOMENT, IN THE FORTIFIED ROMAN CAMP OF COMPENDIUM...

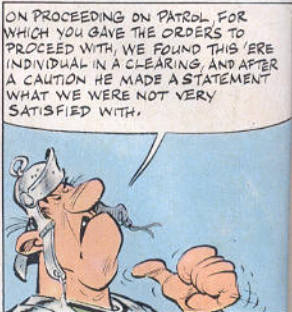


AVE, CENTURION VOLUPTUOUS ARTERIOSCLEROSUS!

AVE, LET'S HAVE YOUR REPORT.

BONK!

ON PROCEEDING ON PATROL, FOR WHICH YOU GAVE THE ORDERS TO PROCEED WITH, WE FOUND THIS 'ERE INDIVIDUAL IN A CLEARING, AND AFTER A CAUTION HE MADE A STATEMENT WHAT WE WERE NOT VERY SATISFIED WITH.



ARE YOU ONE OF THOSE CRAZY GAULS WHO STILL HOLD OUT AGAINST THE INVADERS?



ME? OH, NO, NO! I DON'T HOLD OUT AGAINST ANYONE!

I'M JUST A SOOTHSAYER.

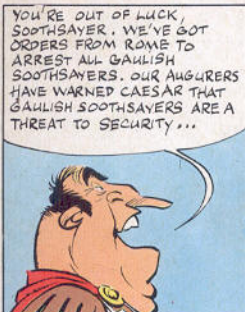


A SOOTHSAYER? ARE YOU A REAL GAULISH SOOTHSAYER?

OF COURSE... WAIT... I FORESEE THAT YOU WILL BE PROMOTED.



YOU'RE OUT OF LUCK, SOOTHSAYER. WE'VE GOT ORDERS FROM ROME TO ARREST ALL GAULISH SOOTHSAYERS. OUR AUGURERS HAVE WARNED CAESAR THAT GAULISH SOOTHSAYERS ARE A THREAT TO SECURITY...



SO YOU'LL BE SHIPPED OFF TO A MINE IN...



NO, NO, NO! I WAS ONLY JOKING. I'M NOT A REAL SOOTHSAYER, I'M A FAKE.

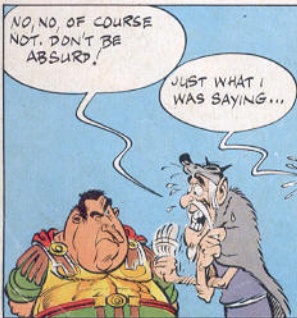
I TAKE ADVANTAGE OF PEOPLE'S CREDULITY TO LIVE WITHOUT WORKING...

BUT YOU JUST FORETOLD THAT I WOULD BE PROMOTED, ALL THE SAME...



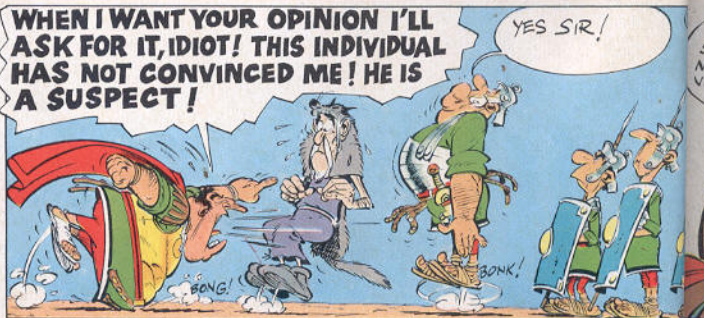
NO, NO, OF COURSE NOT. DON'T BE ABSURD!

JUST WHAT I WAS SAYING...



**WHEN I WANT YOUR OPINION I'LL ASK FOR IT, IDIOT! THIS INDIVIDUAL HAS NOT CONVINCED ME! HE IS A SUSPECT!**

YES SIR!





I'M GOING TO TRY YOU OUT TO SEE IF YOU ARE A REAL SOOTHSAYER ...

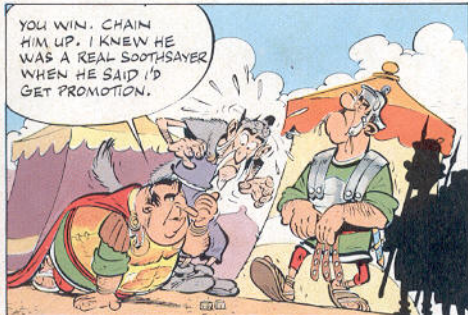


SAY A NUMBER BETWEEN I AND XIII

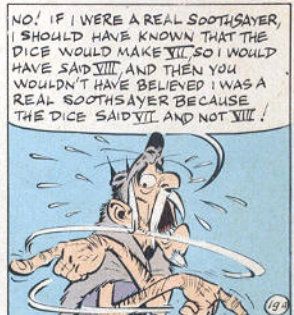
ER... VII



PHEW! I'M QUITE SAFE. I'VE NEVER BEEN LUCKY AT GAMBLING.



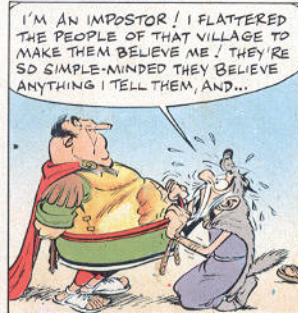
YOU WIN. CHAIN HIM UP. I KNEW HE WAS A REAL SOOTHSAYER WHEN HE SAID I'D GET PROMOTION.



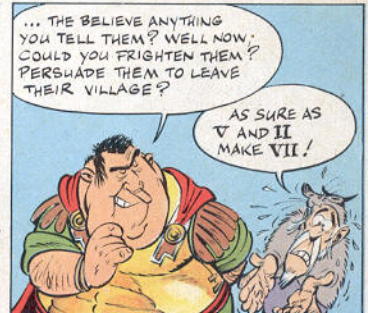
NO! IF I WERE A REAL SOOTHSAYER, I SHOULD HAVE KNOWN THAT THE DICE WOULD MAKE VII, SO I WOULD HAVE SAID VIII AND THEN YOU WOULDN'T HAVE BELIEVED I WAS A REAL SOOTHSAYER BECAUSE THE DICE SAID VII AND NOT VIII!



O CENTURION, I DIDN'T UNDERSTAND A WORD HE JUST SAID. DO WE LOCK HIM UP?

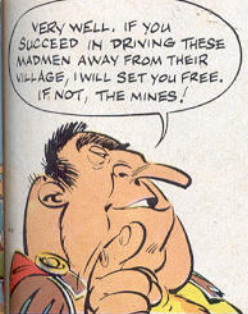


I'M AN IMPOSTOR! I FLATTERED THE PEOPLE OF THAT VILLAGE TO MAKE THEM BELIEVE ME! THEY'RE SO SIMPLE-MINDED THEY BELIEVE ANYTHING! TELL THEM, AND...

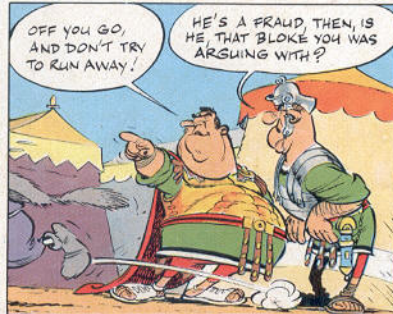


... THE BELIEVE ANYTHING YOU TELL THEM? WELL NOW, COULD YOU FRIGHTEN THEM? PERSUADE THEM TO LEAVE THEIR VILLAGE?

AS SURE AS V AND II MAKE VII!



VERY WELL. IF YOU SUCCEED IN DRIVING THESE MADMEN AWAY FROM THEIR VILLAGE, I WILL SET YOU FREE. IF NOT, THE MINES!

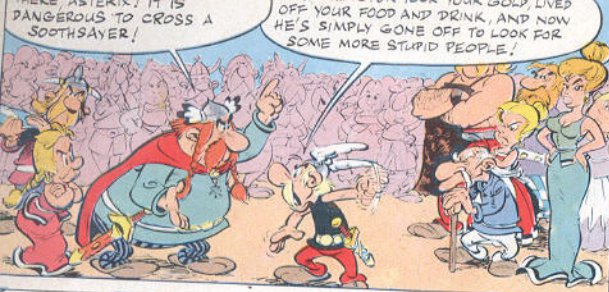


OFF YOU GO, AND DON'T TRY TO RUN AWAY!

HE'S A FRAUD, THEN, IS HE, THAT BLOKE YOU WAS ARGUING WITH?

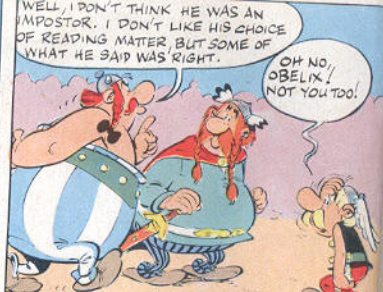


NO, NO! HE'S A REAL SOOTHSAYER, BUT HE'S GOING TO WORK FOR US!



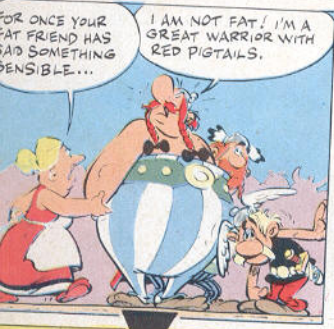
AS ASTERIX! IT IS DANGEROUS TO CROSS A SOOTHSAYER!

GOLD LIVED OFF YOUR FOOD AND DRINK, AND NOW HE'S SIMPLY GONE OFF TO LOOK FOR SOME MORE STUPID PEOPLE!



WELL, I DON'T THINK HE WAS AN IMPOSTOR. I DON'T LIKE HIS CHOICE OF READING MATTER, BUT SOME OF WHAT HE SAID WAS RIGHT.

OH NO, OBELIX! NOT YOU TOO!

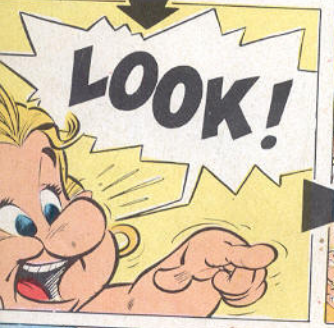


FOR ONCE YOUR FAT FRIEND HAS SAID SOMETHING PENSIBLE...

I AM NOT FAT! I'M A GREAT WARRIOR WITH RED PIGTAILS.



THE SOOTHSAYER! THE SOOTHSAYER IS BACK!



LOOK!



YES, I AM BACK TO TELL YOU THAT MISFORTUNE IS UPON YOU, GAULS! YOUR VILLAGE IS CURSED BY THE GODS!



THE VERY AIR YOU BREATHE WILL COME FROM THE DEPTHS OF HELL! IT WILL BE FOUL, POISONED AND YOUR FACES WILL TURN A GHASTLY HUE...



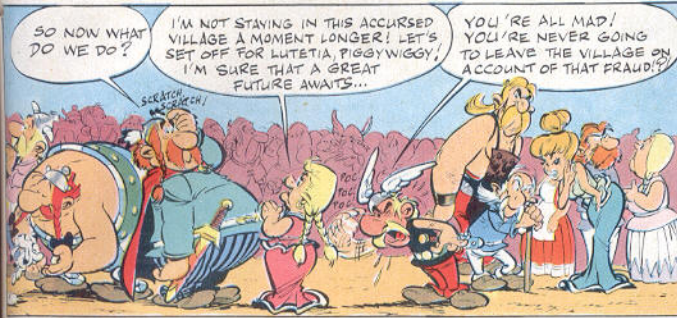
FLEE! FLEE, RASH PEOPLE! IT IS YOUR ONLY CHANCE OF SURVIVAL! DON'T SAY I DIDN'T WARN YOU!



YES, YOUNG EYES!

THEN, WHEN ANGER COMES, IS APPEARANCE COME BACK TO VILLAGE AGREE

ARE YOU GO... WEL...



SO NOW WHAT DO WE DO?

I'M NOT STAYING IN THIS ACCURSED VILLAGE A MOMENT LONGER! LET'S SET OFF FOR LUTETIA, PIGGYWIGGY! I'M SURE THAT A GREAT FUTURE AWAITS...

YOU'RE ALL MAD! YOU'RE NEVER GOING TO LEAVE THE VILLAGE ON ACCOUNT OF THAT FRAUD!



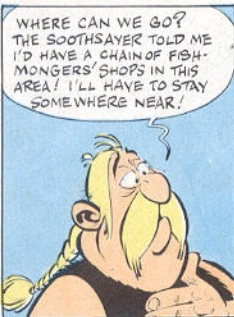
HE IS NOT A FRAUD! I AM THE LIVING PROOF OF IT!

DID YOU SAY LIVING...?

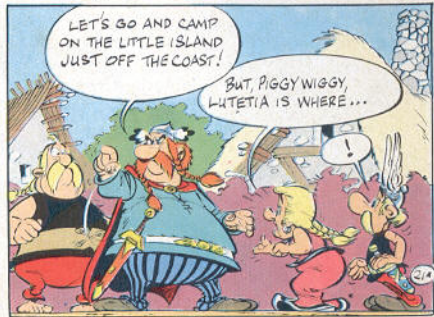


YES, SIR! I'M GETTING YOUNGER AND STRONGER EVERY DAY!

WE CAN FIGHT AGAINST THE ROMANS, BUT NOT AGAINST THE WILL OF THE GODS!



WHERE CAN WE GO? THE SOOTHSAYER TOLD ME I'D HAVE A CHAIN OF FISH-MONGERS' SHOPS IN THIS AREA! I'LL HAVE TO STAY SOMEWHERE NEAR!



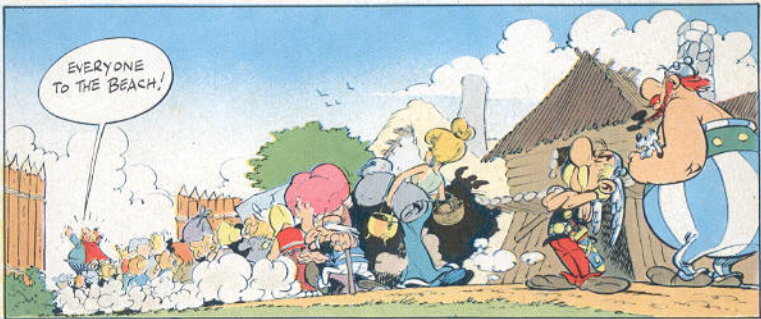
LET'S GO AND CAMP ON THE LITTLE ISLAND JUST OFF THE COAST!

BUT PIGGYWIGGY, LUTETIA IS WHERE...



THEN, WHEN THE ANGER OF THE GODS APPEASED, WE CAN COME BACK TO THE VILLAGE... AGREED?

I'M STAYING!

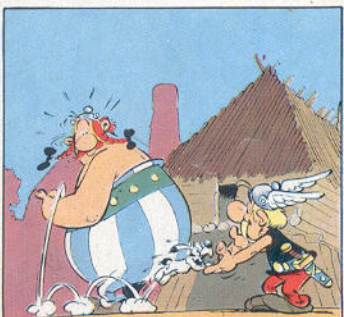


EVERYONE TO THE BEACH!

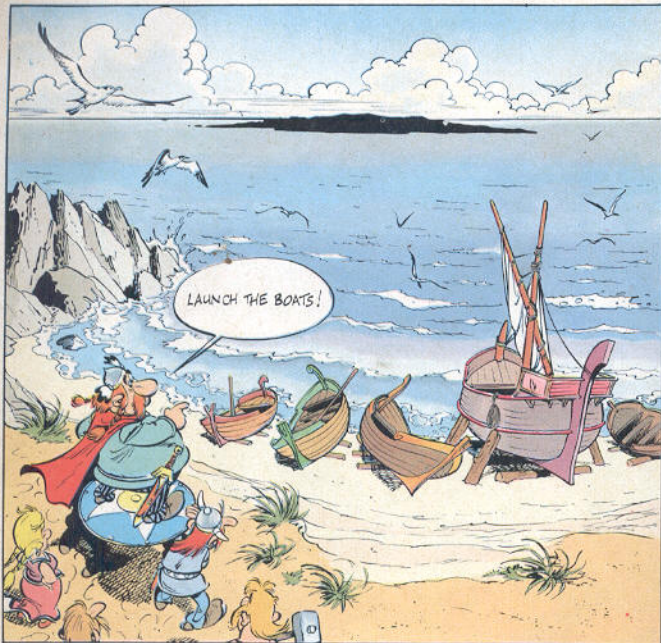


ARE YOU GOING TOO, OBELIX?

WELL...ER...



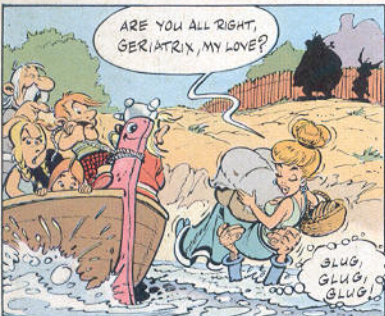
OH, VERY WELL, I'LL STAY!



LAUNCH THE BOATS!



COME ON, BOYS! WE'RE GOING ON BOARD!



ARE YOU ALL RIGHT, GERIATRIX, MY LOVE?

GLUG, GLUG, GLUG!



DO YOU REALLY THINK THE SOOTHSAYER IS HAVING US ON?

I'M SURE OF IT! I DON'T KNOW WHAT HE TOLD YOU, BUT THE BEST THING TO DO WOULD BE TO LAUGH IT OFF.



I DON'T FEEL MUCH LIKE LAUGHING.

LET'S GO AND HIDE IN THE FOREST AND SEE WHAT HAPPENS NEXT.

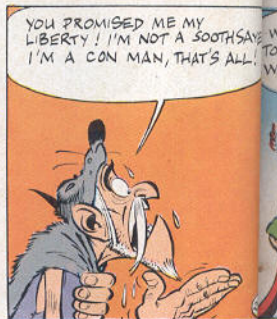


MEANWHILE ...

THERE YOU ARE! THEY'VE LEFT, JUST LIKE I TOLD YOU THEY WOULD.

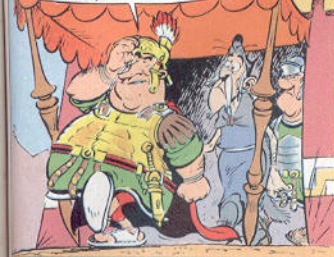
I NEVER DOUBTED IT. YOU SOOTHSAYERS HAVE GREAT POWERS.

RIGHT. DO WE LOCK HIM UP?



YOU PROMISED ME MY LIBERTY! I'M NOT A SOOTHSAYER. I'M A CON MAN, THAT'S ALL!

LET'S GO OFF TO THE VILLAGE AND CHECK UP ON THESE STATEMENTS OF YOURS.



...SO THEN I GOT THE IDEA OF GOING ON ABOUT THE FOUL AIR, BECAUSE, YOU SEE, I LIVE NEAR A TANNERY IN LUTETIA, SO...

OH, SO IT WASN'T A GENUINE PREDICTION?



I CAN'T MAKE ANY GENUINE PREDICTIONS! IF I COULD HAVE FORESEEN HOW THIS WAS GOING TO TURN OUT I'D HAVE STAYED AT HOME NEXT DOOR TO THAT TANNERY!



SSH... WE'RE NEAR THE VILLAGE... ALL SEEMS QUIET, BUT YOU NEVER KNOW WITH THOSE GAULS!



WE NEED A SCOUT TO GO ON AHEAD. I WANT A VOLUNTEER.

SIR!



AND YOU CAN TAKE THE SOOTHSAYER WITH YOU.

I KNEW IT.



I KNOW.

**NO, YOU DON'T! NO YOU DON'T!**

DO WE LOCK HIM UP, THEN?



LOOK, ASTERIX! TWO OF THEM HAVE GONE IN. WE'RE NOT GOING TO LET ANY ROMANS TAKE OVER OUR VILLAGE, ARE WE?

THEY'RE ONLY PASSING THROUGH. THAT'S A PROMISE OBELIX!

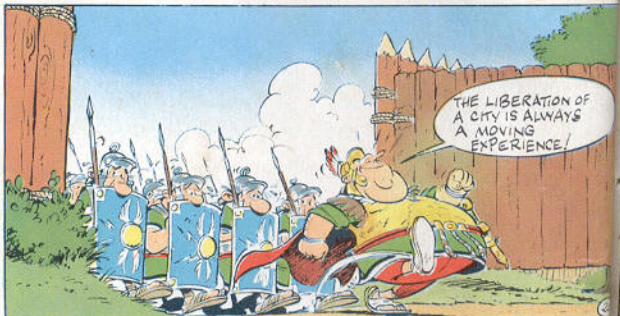


ER... CENTURION... DO YOU THINK THIS IS REALLY WISE? IT COULD BE AN AMBUSH... YOU KNOW WHAT THESE GAULS ARE LIKE...

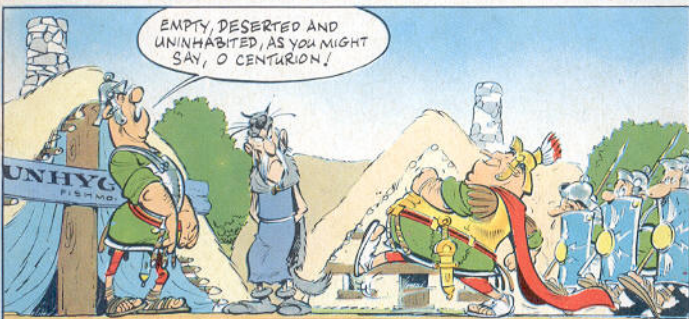
NO, NO, MY GOOD FELLOW! SOOTHSAYERS ARE NEVER WRONG, YOU KNOW! RIGHT, FORWARD MARCH, IX ABREAST!



THE LIBERATION OF A CITY IS ALWAYS A MOVING EXPERIENCE!



EMPTY, DESERTED AND UNINHABITED, AS YOU MIGHT SAY, O CENTURION!



YOU ARE TO START FOR ROME BEARING A MESSAGE FOR CAESAR. YOU WILL TELL HIM: "ALL GAUL IS OCCUPIED." HE WILL ASK "ALL?" YOU WILL REPLY: "ALL!" HE WILL UNDERSTAND.



YOU'LL BE SURE TO GET PROMOTION, SIR, SAME AS THIS ERE SOOTHSAYER WAS SOOTHSAYING!

OF COURSE

NO! NEVER! I NEVER SAID ANY SUCH THING!



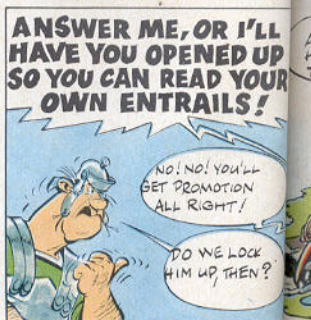
OH? AND WHY NOT? HAVE THE GODS SHOWN YOU SOMETHING NASTY IN MY FUTURE THEN?



ANSWER ME, OR I'LL HAVE YOU OPENED UP SO YOU CAN READ YOUR OWN ENTRAILS!

NO! NO! YOU'LL GET PROMOTION ALL RIGHT!

DO WE LOCK HIM UP, THEN?



WE CAN'T LEAVE THEM IN OUR VILLAGE, ASTERIX. LET'S SET 'EM THERE, ALL THREE OF US, AND THROW THEM OUT!

NO! WE ARE GOING TO TEACH THEM ALL A LESSON: THE ROMANS, THE SOOTHSAYER, AND EVEN OUR OWN PEOPLE!

DON'T YOU WORRY, OBELIX. THERE'LL BE ANOTHER BANQUET IN OUR VILLAGE YET! YOU MARK MY WORDS!

HULLO, BOYS! HUNTING BOARS?

## OUR DRUID, GETAFIX!

LOOK AT THAT, BOYS! I WON THE GOLDEN CAULDRON FOR THE DRUID OF THE YEAR AT OUR ANNUAL CONFERENCE IN THE FOREST OF THE CARNUTES!

AND A VERY INTERESTING CONFERENCE IT WAS. THE DRUID STATISTIC HAS BEEN FIGURING OUT SOME FUTURE TRENDS IN OUR PROFESSION...

IS SOMETHING WRONG, BOYS?

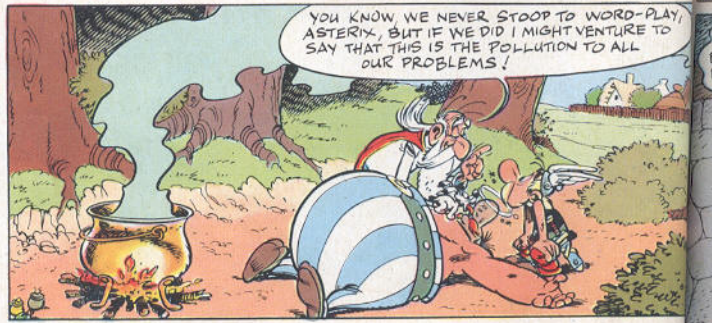
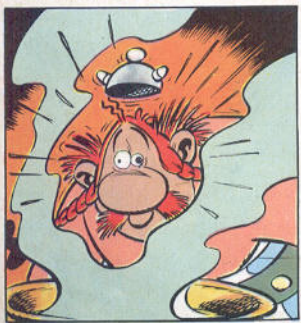
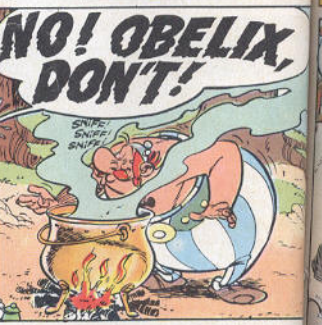
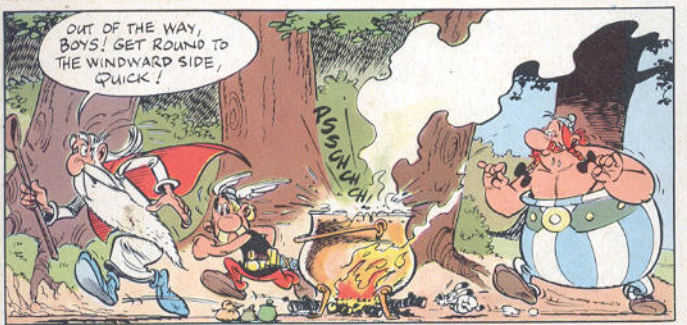
I'LL TELL YOU ALL ABOUT IT, O DRUID...

SOON AFTERWARDS...

HMM... FOUL AIR, EH? A GHASTLY HUE, EH?

I BROUGHT A FEW RATHER UNUSUAL LITTLE INGREDIENTS COME WITH ME... PASS THEM DOWN THAT BEAUTIFUL CAULDRON...

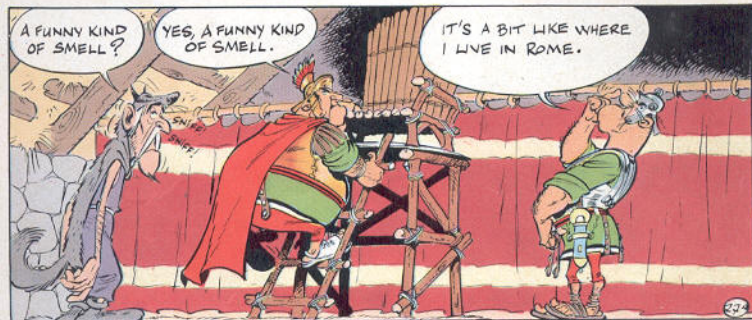
SPLENDID, SPLENDID... THE WIND'S JUST ABOUT TO CHANGE. THERE IS NOT A MOMENT TO LOSE.



TARANIS, THE GOD OF STORMS AND THUNDER IS IN MELLOW MOOD, AND SENDS A GENTLE BREEZE, WAFTING THROUGH THE AIR A SMELL WHICH WAS STILL UNFAMILIAR IN THE YEAR 50 BC...



SAY DO YOU SMELL A FUNNY KIND OF SMELL, ALL OF A SUDDEN?



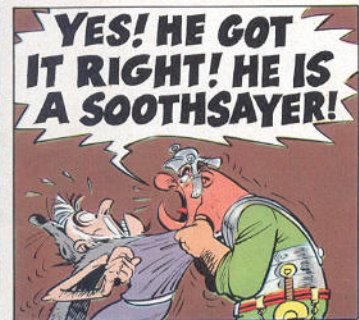
A FUNNY KIND OF SMELL?

YES A FUNNY KIND OF SMELL.

IT'S A BIT LIKE WHERE I LIVE IN ROME.



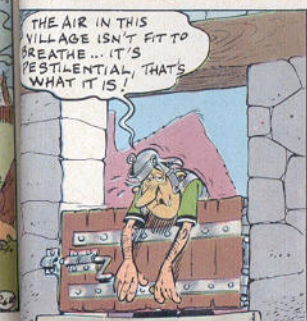
YOU LIVE NEAR A TANNERY, I SUPPOSE?



**YES! HE GOT IT RIGHT! HE IS A SOOTHSAYER!**



OooooH... CENTURION!



THE AIR IN THIS VILLAGE ISN'T FIT TO BREATHE... IT'S PESTILENTIAL, THAT'S WHAT IT IS!



PES... PESTILENTIAL?

YOU TAKE MY WORD FOR IT. I'M A VETERAN, I AM. I'VE KNOWN PLENTY OF CAMPS AND BARRACKS, BUT I NEVER SMELT ANYTHING LIKE THIS BEFORE!

?!?



AMAZING!  
IT'S LIKE MAGIC!  
EVEN THE GODS  
OBEY YOU!

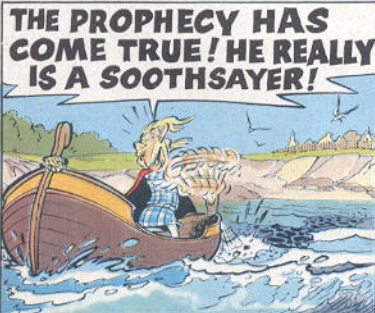
BUT IT'S NOT  
POSSIBLE!! IT  
JUST ISN'T  
POSSIBLE!



TRUMPETER! SOUND  
THE ASSEMBLY! WE'RE  
GOING TO EVACUATE THIS  
DAMNED VILLAGE, THE  
GODS HAVE CURSED IT!



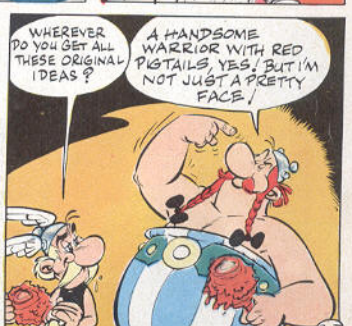
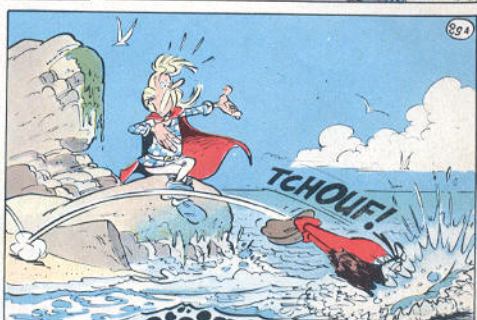
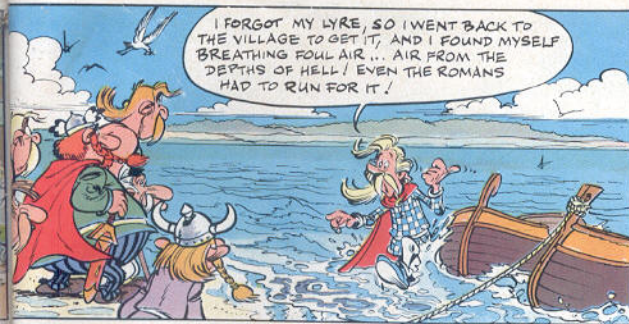
OH NO! IF I GO  
BLOWING THIS SOME-  
THING HORRIBLE  
MIGHT HAPPEN!



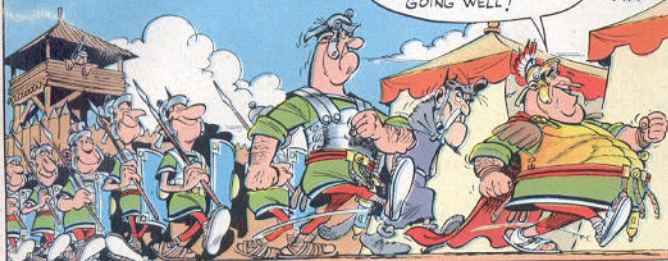
**THE PROPHECY HAS  
COME TRUE! HE REALLY  
IS A SOOTHSAYER!**



THERE!  
WHAT DID I TELL YOU?



MEANWHILE...



PHEW! THAT'S BETTER...  
IN FACT, I'D SAY ALL WAS  
GOING WELL!

NOTWITHSTANDING WHICH, WE'VE HAD TO  
CLEAR OUT OF THE VILLAGE WHAT WE  
OCCUPIED.

HUH! THANKS TO THE  
SOOTHSAYER, WE HAVE PUT  
THE REBEL GAULS TO  
FLIGHT, AND THAT'S THE  
MAIN THING.



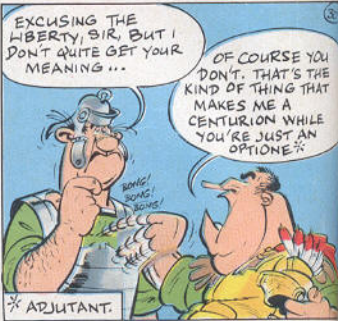
RIGHT, DO WE  
LOCK HIM UP THIS  
TIME, THEN?

NO!



BUT ORDERS  
IS...

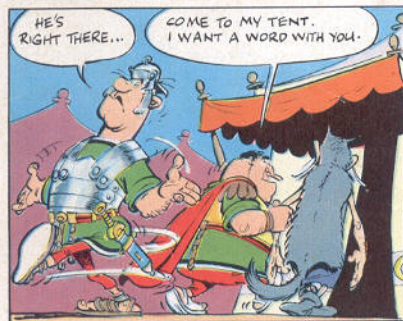
THIS MAN IS A  
FRAUD! THERE IS NO  
REASON FOR US TO  
IMPRISON HIM.



EXCUSING THE  
LIBERTY, SIR, BUT I  
DON'T QUITE GET YOUR  
MEANING...

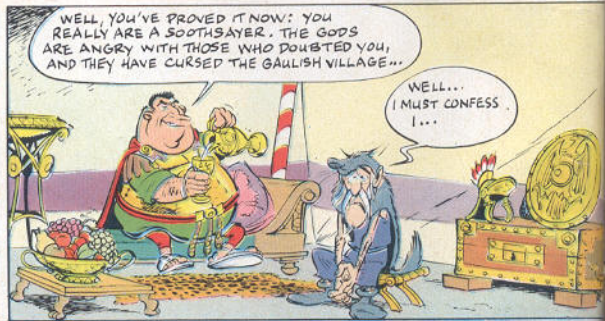
OF COURSE YOU  
DON'T. THAT'S THE  
KIND OF THING THAT  
MAKES ME A  
CENTURION WHILE  
YOU'RE JUST AN  
OPTIONE!

\* ADJUTANT.



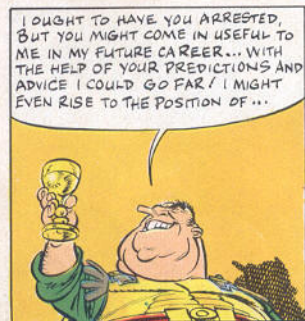
HE'S  
RIGHT THERE...

COME TO MY TENT.  
I WANT A WORD WITH YOU.



WELL, YOU'VE PROVED IT NOW! YOU  
REALLY ARE A SOOTHSAYER. THE GODS  
ARE ANGRY WITH THOSE WHO DOUBTED YOU,  
AND THEY HAVE CURSED THE GAULISH VILLAGE...

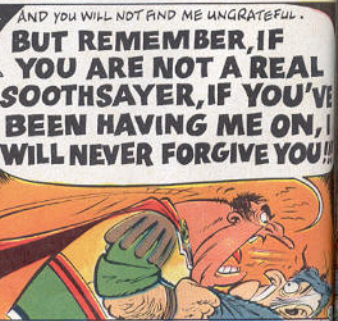
WELL...  
I MUST CONFESS...  
I...



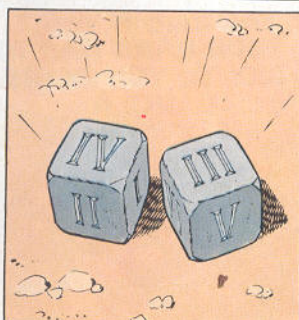
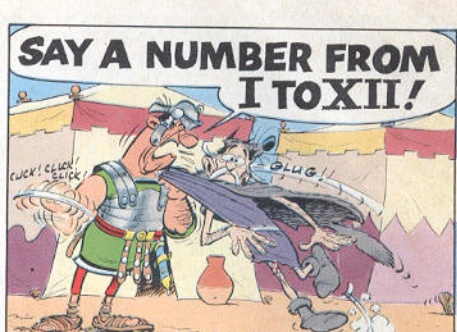
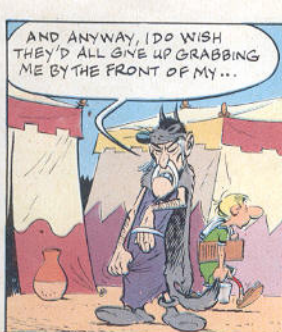
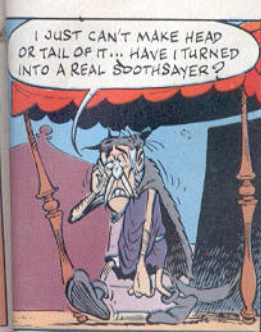
I OUGHT TO HAVE YOU ARRESTED,  
BUT YOU MIGHT COME IN USEFUL TO  
ME IN MY FUTURE CAREER... WITH  
THE HELP OF YOUR PREDICTIONS AND  
ADVICE I COULD GO FAR! I MIGHT  
EVEN RISE TO THE POSITION OF ...



**CAESAR!**



AND YOU WILL NOT FIND ME UNGRATEFUL.  
**BUT REMEMBER, IF  
YOU ARE NOT A REAL  
SOOTHSAYER, IF YOU'VE  
BEEN HAVING ME ON,  
I WILL NEVER FORGIVE YOU!**



MEAN WHILE...

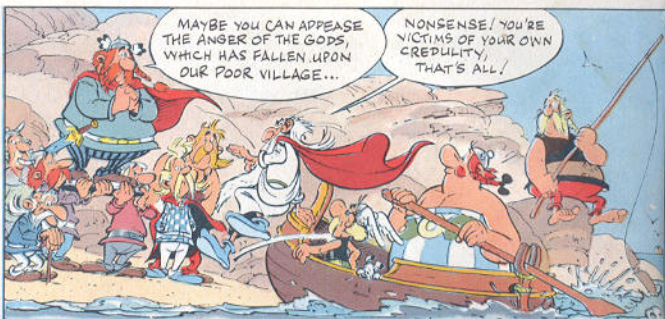


GETAFIX! YOU'RE BACK AT LAST!



MAYBE YOU CAN APPEASE THE ANGER OF THE GODS, WHICH HAS FALLEN UPON OUR POOR VILLAGE...

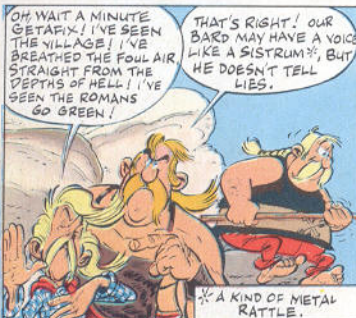
NONSENSE! YOU'RE VICTIMS OF YOUR OWN CREPULITY, THAT'S ALL!



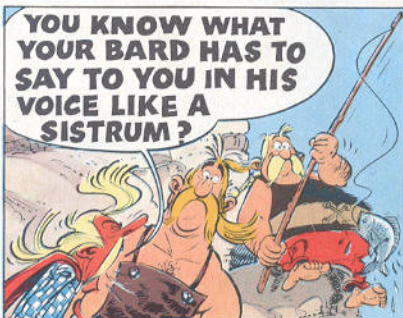
OH WAIT A MINUTE GETAFIX! I'VE SEEN THE VILLAGE! I'VE BREATHED THE FOUL AIR STRAIGHT FROM THE DEPTHS OF HELL! I'VE SEEN THE ROMANS GO GREEN!

THAT'S RIGHT! OUR BARD MAY HAVE A VOICE LIKE A SISTRUM\*, BUT HE DOESN'T TELL LIES.

\*A KIND OF METAL RATTLE.



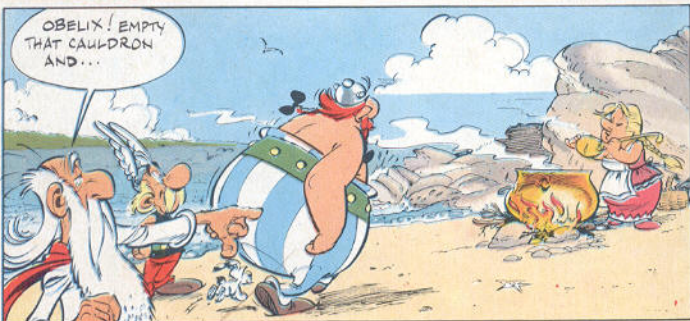
YOU KNOW WHAT YOUR BARD HAS TO SAY TO YOU IN HIS VOICE LIKE A SISTRUM?



CALM DOWN, CALM DOWN! I'LL GIVE YOU A LITTLE DEMONSTRATION OF THE ANGER OF THE GODS.



OBELIX! EMPTY THAT CAULDRON AND...



...BRING IT OVER HERE.

THERE YOU ARE!



SOON AFTERWARDS...

VERY GOOD! NOW, ALL OF YOU GO OVER THERE, THE WAY THE WINDS BLOWING.





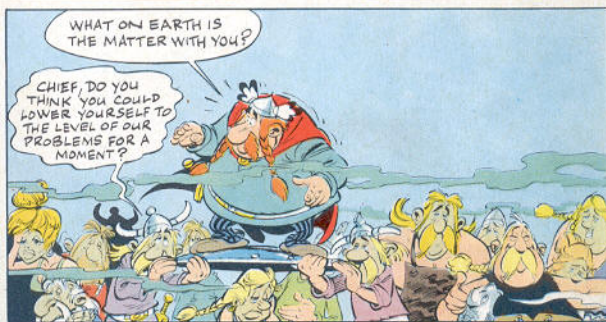
HOLD IT!



BY TOUTATIS!  
I CAN'T STAND  
THIS!

STOP IT, BY  
BELENOS!  
STOP IT!

OOOHH!

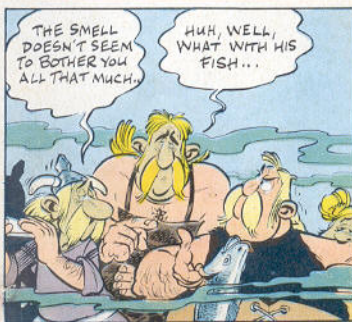


WHAT ON EARTH IS  
THE MATTER WITH YOU?

CHIEF, DO YOU  
THINK YOU COULD  
LOWER YOURSELF TO  
THE LEVEL OF OUR  
PROBLEMS FOR A  
MOMENT?



THERE YOU ARE, THAT'S  
THE ANGER OF THE GODS:  
A CONCOCTION IN A  
CAULDRON!



THE SMELL  
DOESN'T SEEM  
TO BOTHER YOU  
ALL THAT MUCH...

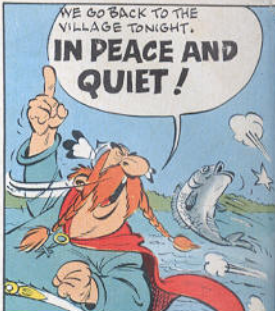
HUH, WELL,  
WHAT WITH HIS  
FISH...



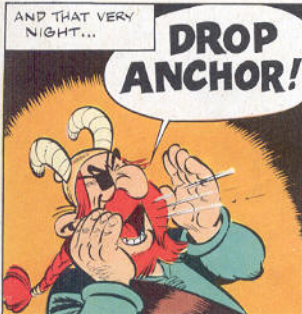


I EXPECT YOU KNOW WHAT TO DO NOW?

I THINK SO, GETAFIX...



WE GO BACK TO THE VILLAGE TONIGHT, IN PEACE AND QUIET!



AND THAT VERY NIGHT...

**DROP ANCHOR!**



DON'T YOU THINK IT'S A BIT DANGEROUS TO ANCHOR IN BETWEEN THE GAULISH COAST AND THIS UNKNOWN ISLAND, CAP'N?

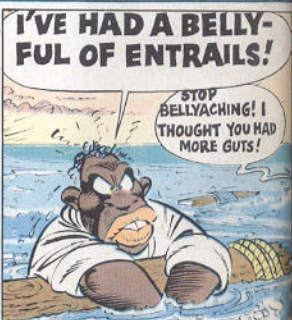
SHIVER ME TIMBERS, NO! WE CONSULTED THE ENTRAILS OF A MACKEREL, AND THE ORACLE WAS ABSOLUTELY POSITIVE: IT'S SAFE AS HOUSES TO ANCHOR HERE OVERNIGHT.

NEXT MORNING ...



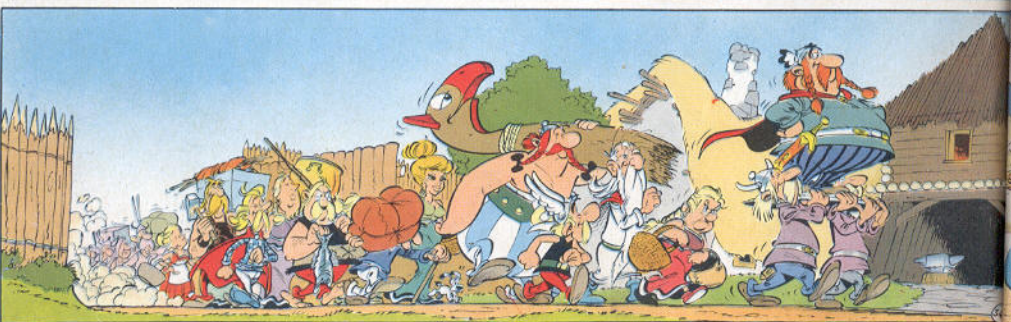
THIS IS TERRIBLE! A SHOAL OF GAULS HAS CROSSED OUR PATH!

GLUG!  
GLUG!  
GLUG!  
GLUG!



**I'VE HAD A BELLYFUL OF ENTRAILS!**

STOP BELLYPACHING! I THOUGHT YOU HAD MORE GUTS!



I MUST SAY, IT'S  
NICE TO BE HOME!

WELL, I MUST SAY  
I THINK WE'D HAVE BEEN  
BETTER OFF IN LUTETIA,  
LIKE THE SOOTHSAYER  
SAID.

BUT HE WASN'T  
REALLY A  
SOOTHSAYER!

WHAT MAKES  
YOU SO SURE?

I'VE BEEN TALKING TO  
GERIATRIX'S WIFE AND TO  
BACTERIA, AND THEY'RE NOT  
CONVINCED. THAT'S WHY I  
THOUGHT LUTETIA MIGHT  
BE THE PLACE...

GETAFIX, THE  
WOMEN AREN'T  
CONVINCED THAT  
HE'S A FRAUD...

OF COURSE THEY'RE NOT.  
HE ONLY FORETOLD PLEASANT  
THINGS FOR THEM, SUCH  
AS THEIR HUSBANDS  
BECOMING HANDSOME  
AND INTELLIGENT...

SUPPOSE WE GAVE  
THAT SOOTHSAYER  
A SURPRISE?

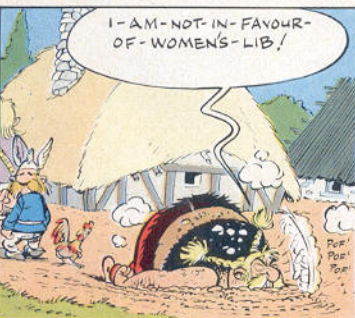
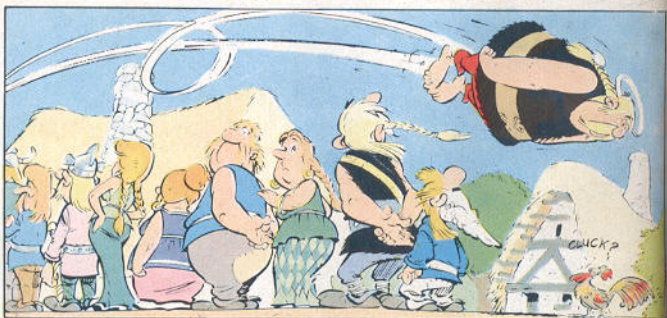
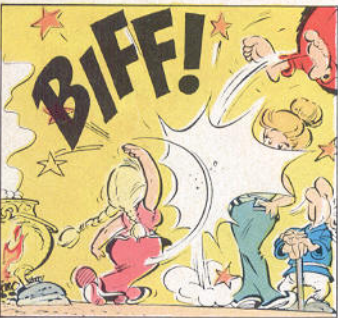
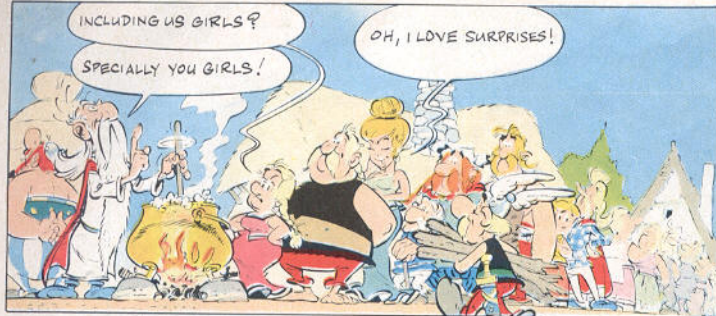
ASTERIX, I'M PROUD OF YOU! IF WE  
GIVE THE SOOTHSAYER A SURPRISE  
THAT WILL PROVE THAT HE'S NOT  
REALLY A SOOTHSAYER!

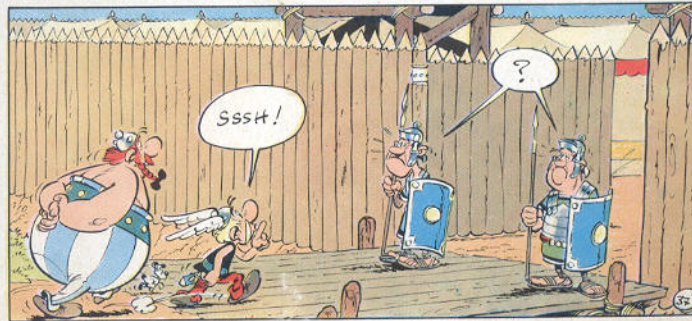
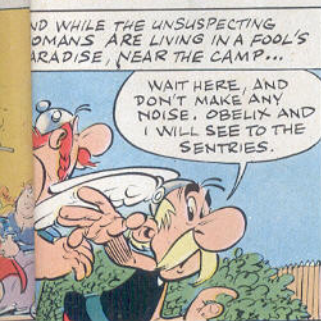
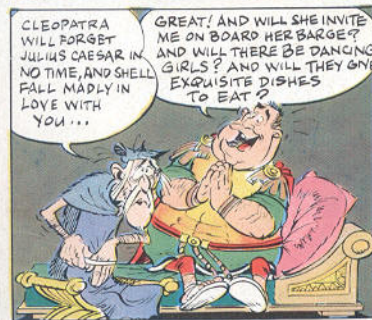
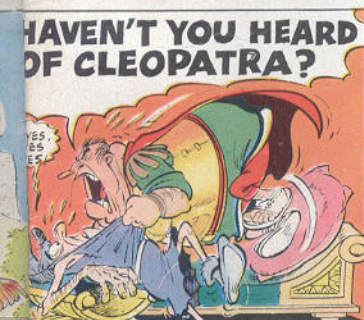
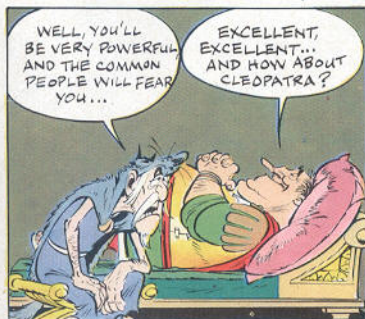
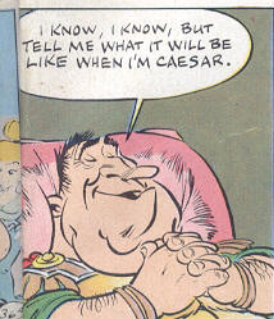
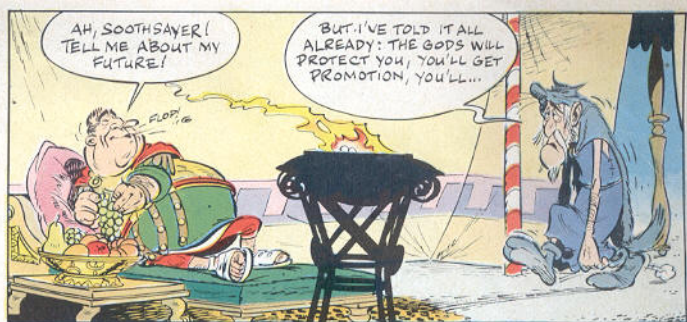
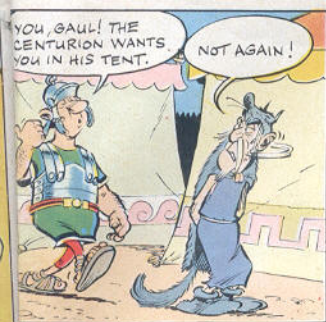
OH, SO YOU THINK I NEED  
TO BECOME HANDSOME AND  
INTELLIGENT, DO YOU?

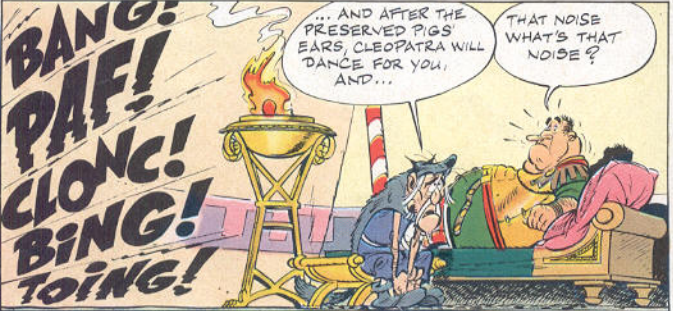
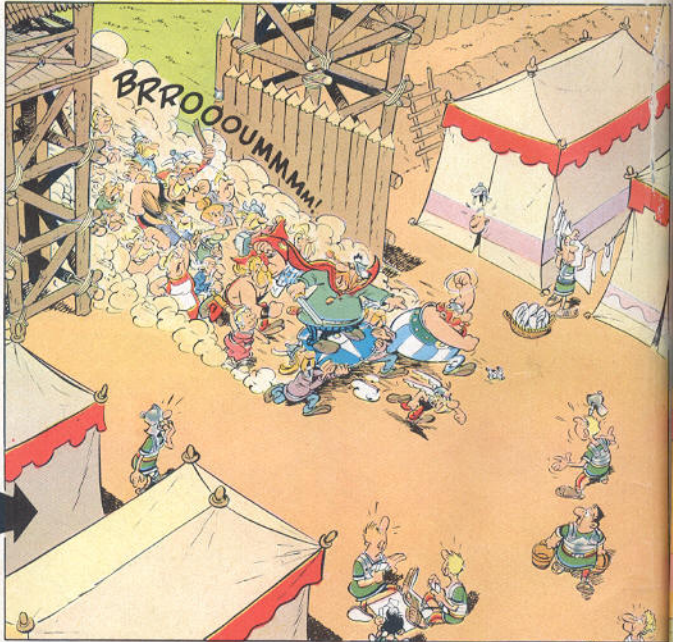
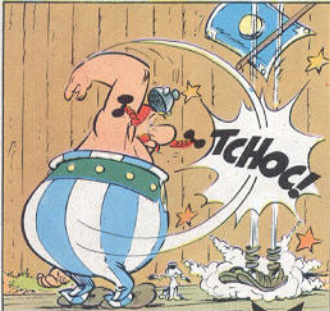
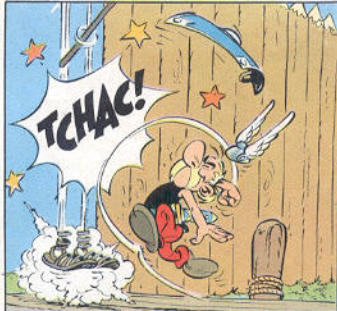
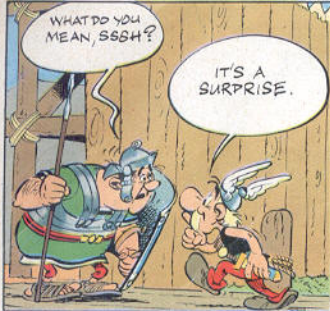
YOU ARRANGE A LITTLE  
SURPRISE, ASTERIX! I'M OFF  
TO MAKE SOME MAGIC  
POTION!

SOON AFTERWARDS...

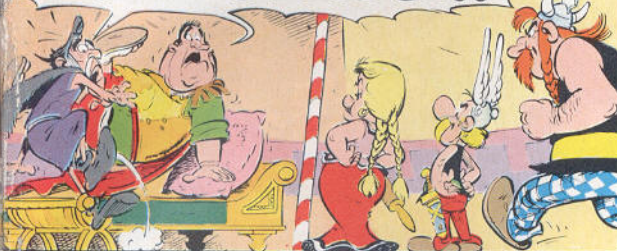
WELL, ARE WE ALL AGREED?  
IF THE SOOTHSAYER DOESN'T  
GUESS WHAT'S IN STORE FOR HIM  
WILL YOU BELIEVE THAT HE ISN'T  
A REAL SOOTHSAYER?







# THE GAULS!!!



**GAULS INSIDE  
THE CAMP, AND  
YOU DIDN'T  
WARN ME?!!**

BUT HOW  
WAS I TO  
KNOW?



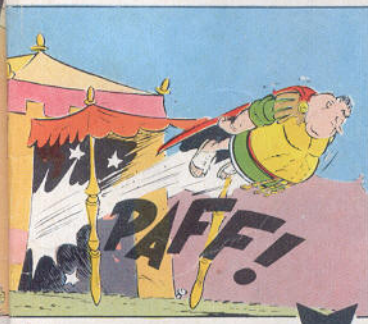
LEAVE HIM TO ME!



**HOW WERE YOU TO  
KNOW? YOU MEAN TO  
SAY YOU MADE UP ALL  
THAT ABOUT LUTETIA,  
AND PIGGYWIGGY GO-  
ING INTO PARTNERSHIP  
WITH MY BROTHER?**



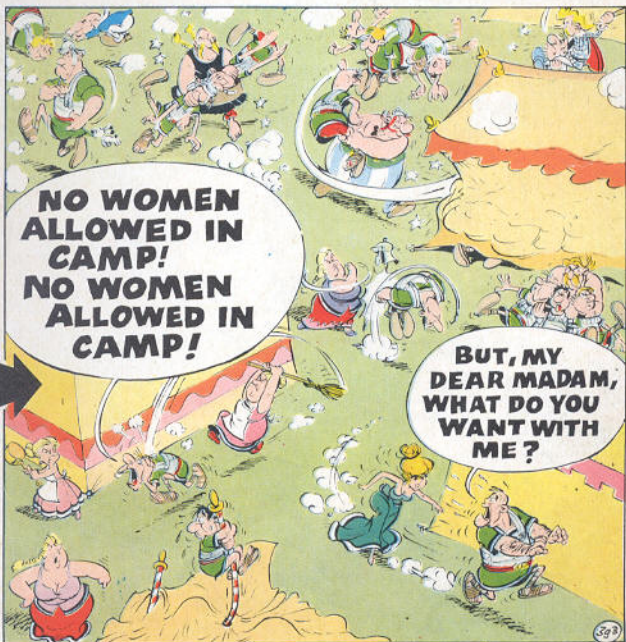
**GOOD SHOT  
MADAM!**



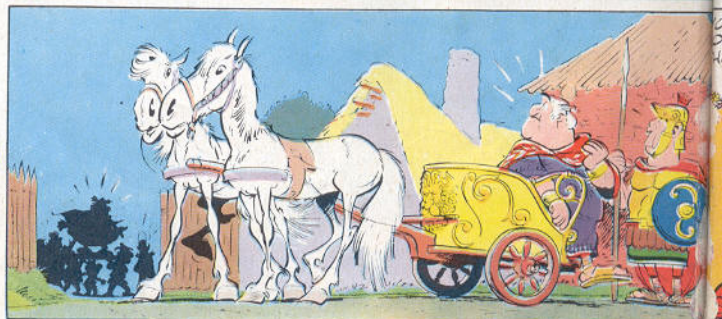
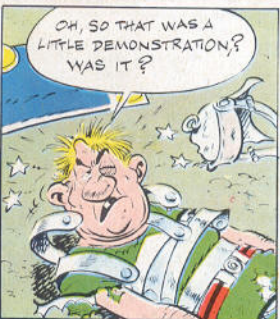
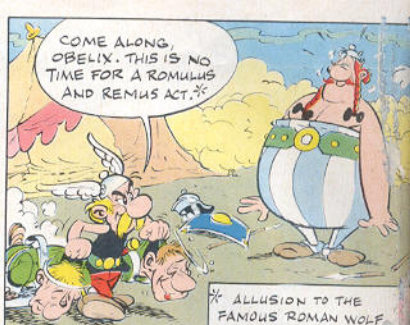
**CHARGE!**



**NO WOMEN  
ALLOWED IN  
CAMP!  
NO WOMEN  
ALLOWED IN  
CAMP!**



**BUT, MY  
DEAR MADAM,  
WHAT DO YOU  
WANT WITH  
ME?**



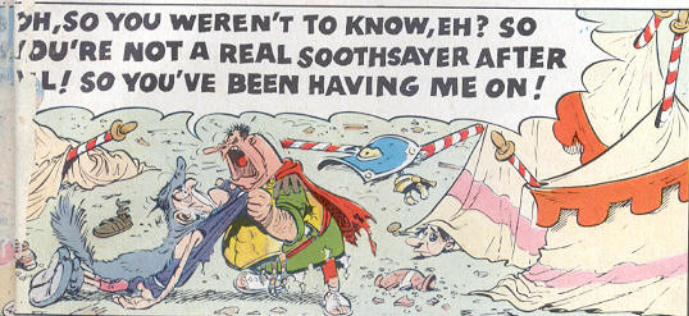


WHO ARE YOU, ROMAN?  
AND WHAT DO YOU THINK  
YOU'RE DOING IN MY  
VILLAGE?

WELL... ER...  
THAT IS TO SAY...



ALL RIGHT, ALL RIGHT! I'VE HAD  
ABOUT ENOUGH ROMANS FOR ONE  
DAY. THROW THESE TWO OUT  
FOR ME!

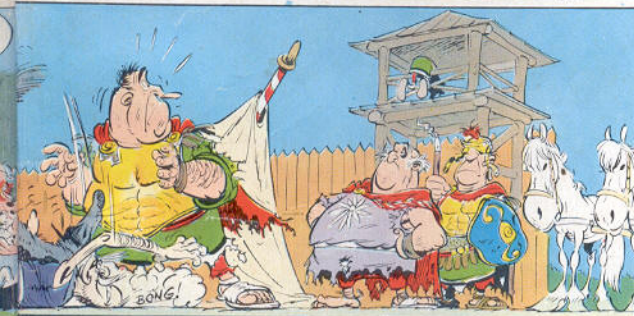


OH, SO YOU WEREN'T TO KNOW, EH? SO  
YOU'RE NOT A REAL SOOTHSAYER AFTER  
ALL! SO YOU'VE BEEN HAVING ME ON!



ARE WE  
DISTURBING YOU?

?

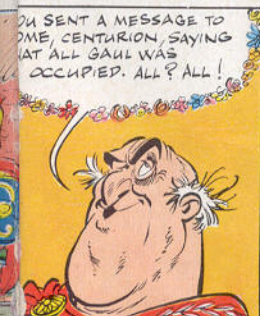


BONG!

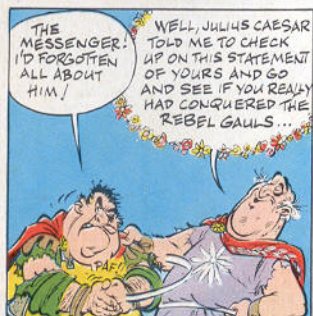


AND  
WHO ARE YOU?

SULBUS CROCUS,  
SPECIAL ENVOY FROM  
JULIUS CAESAR.  
THAT'S WHO I AM.

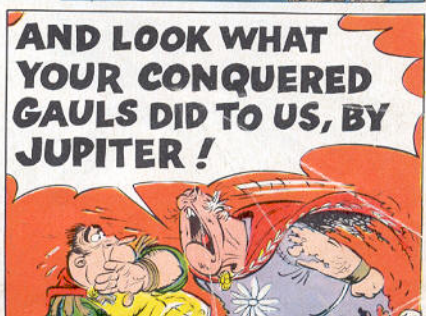


YOU SENT A MESSAGE TO  
ME, CENTURION, SAYING  
THAT ALL GAUL WAS  
OCCUPIED. ALL? ALL!

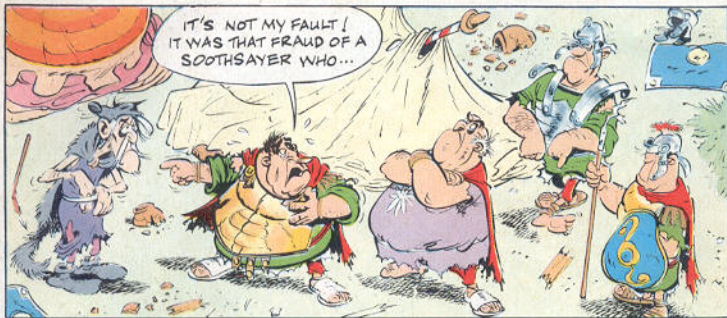


THE  
MESSENGER!  
I'D FORGOTTEN  
ALL ABOUT  
HIM!

WELL, JULIUS CAESAR  
TOLD ME TO CHECK  
UP ON THIS STATEMENT  
OF YOURS AND GO  
AND SEE IF YOU REALLY  
HAD CONQUERED THE  
REBEL GAULS...



AND LOOK WHAT  
YOUR CONQUERED  
GAULS DID TO US, BY  
JUPITER!



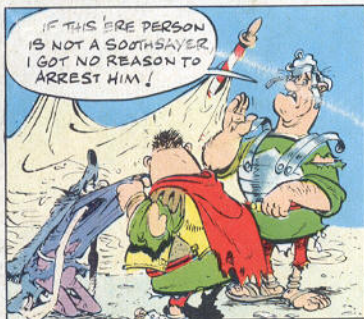
IT'S NOT MY FAULT!  
IT WAS THAT FRAUD OF A  
SOOTHSAYER WHO...

**SILENCE! YOU'RE  
DEMOTED TO  
THE RANKS!**



YOU'RE NOT A CENTURION  
ANY MORE, YOU'RE A  
COMMON LEGIONARY, AND  
EVEN THAT'S TOO GOOD  
FOR YOU!

**OH, SO I'M GOING TO  
GET PROMOTION, AM I?  
OPTIONE,  
ARREST THIS  
IMPOSTOR!**



IF THIS BERE PERSON  
IS NOT A SOOTHSAYER,  
I GOT NO REASON TO  
ARREST HIM!



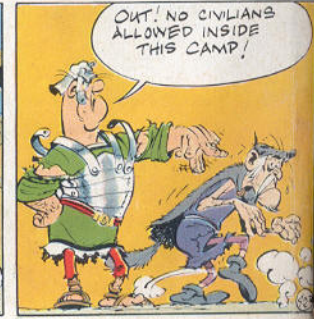
BUT OF COURSE HE'S  
A SOOTHSAYER! NO  
DOUBT ABOUT IT! A GREAT  
GAULISH SOOTHSAYER,  
PROTECTED BY THE  
GODS, AND...

**I DON'T TAKE NO  
ORDERS FROM A  
COMMON LEGIONARY!  
YOU GO AND SWEEP OUT  
THE CAMP! ON YOUR OWN!  
AND NO COMPLAINTS!**



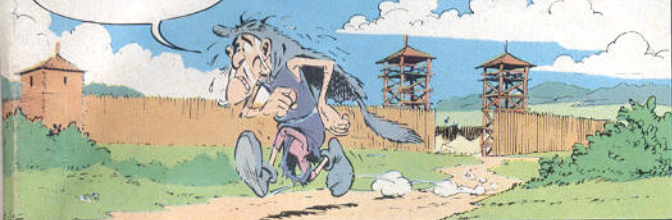
**AND JUST SPEAK PROPER  
TO A SUPERIOR OFFICER!**

ER... AND... WHAT  
ARE YOU GOING  
TO DO WITH ME?

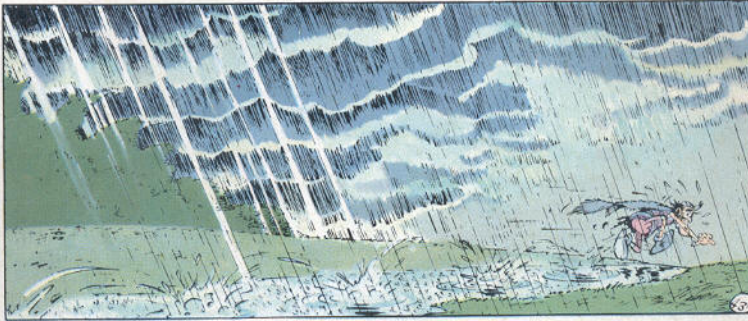


OUT! NO CIVILIANS  
ALLOWED INSIDE  
THIS CAMP!

THE GODS KNOW  
WHAT TOMORROW MAY  
BRING, BUT I'M THROUGH  
WITH SOOTHSAYING!



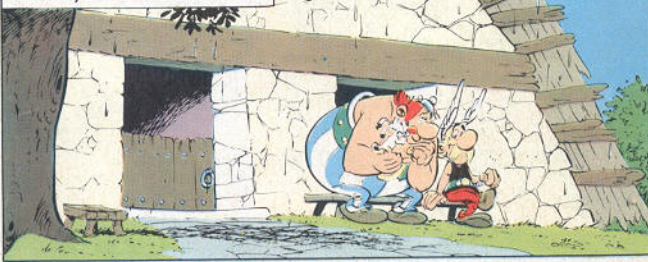
AND IF EVER I CHANGE  
MY MIND, MAY TARANIS MAKE  
THE SKY FALL ON MY HEAD!



HOWEVER, THE ANGER OF  
TARANIS IS SHORT-LIVED...



... AND SOON TOUTATIS IS MAKING  
THE SUN SHINE DOWN ON THE  
VILLAGE, AT PEACE ONCE AGAIN.



WELL, OBELIX, OLD FRIEND, I  
DON'T KNOW WHAT THE SOOTH-  
SAYER SAID TO YOU, BUT I'M  
SURE YOU'LL BE HAPPY!



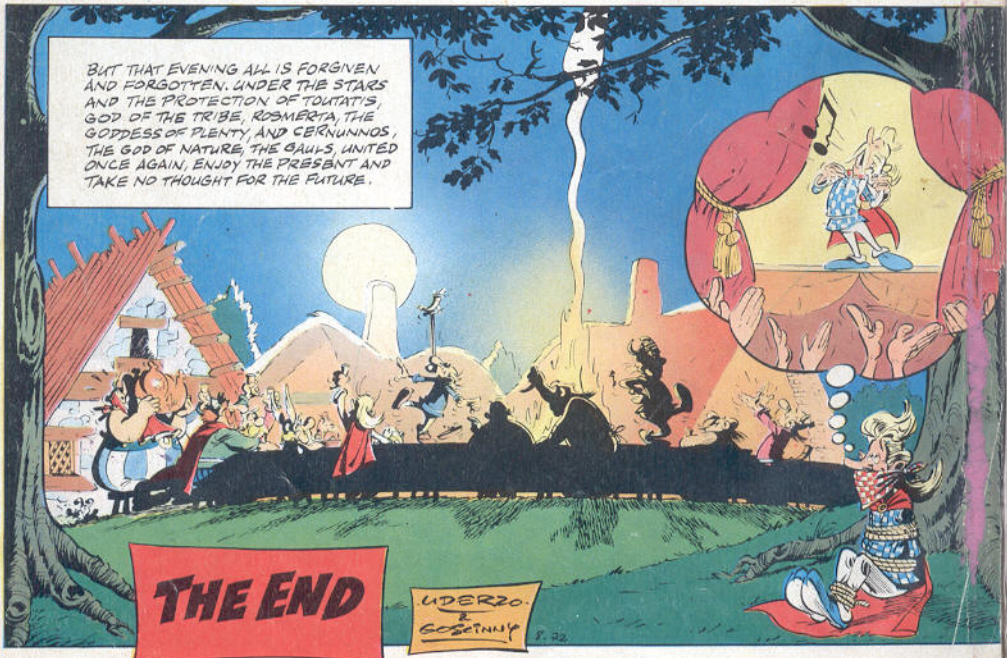
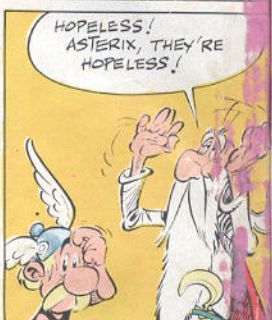
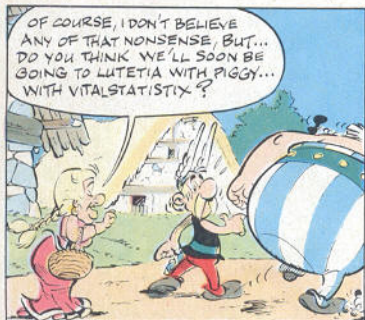
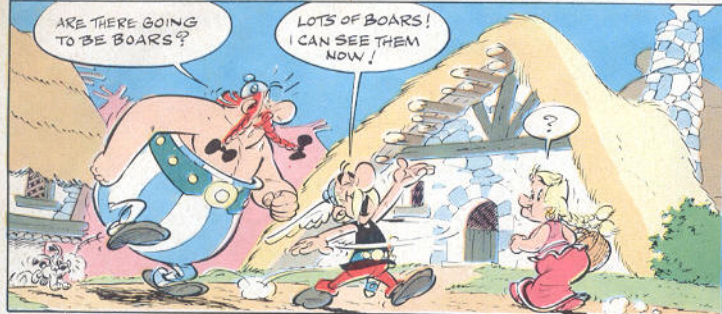
YOU'RE NOT A  
SOOTHSAYER,  
ASTERIX.

OH, AREN'T I?  
DIDN'T I TELL YOU THERE'D  
BE ANOTHER BANQUET  
IN THIS VILLAGE... WELL  
SO THERE WILL BE THIS  
VERY EVENING!



**HOW RIGHT YOU  
ARE! YOU DID  
FORETELL IT!**





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