

**BOOK 4**

**GOSCINNY AND UDERZO**

# Asterix

**AND**

**CLEOPATRA**

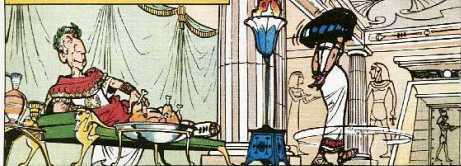


**THE GREATEST STORY EVER DRAWN**

**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...





SOON  
AFTER-  
WARDS...

OH!



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

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



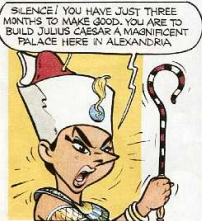
OH!

\* 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 FJIMSY! YOU CAN HEAR EVERY WORD THE NEIGHBOURS SAY! THE CELINGS 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! IF NOT YOU'LL BE THROWN TO THE CROCODILES! YOU MAY GO!



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



**GOT IT!**

I KNOW THE VERY MAN! HE CAN WORK MAGIC!



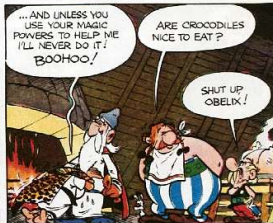
AND FAR AWAY, IN A LITTLE VILLAGE IN GAUL ...

V.I.V.I.\* AGAIN, IT'S LIKE MAGIC!

HA! HA! IT IS MAGIC!

THIS ROMAN GAME WILL NEVER CATCH ON ...

\* S SIXES

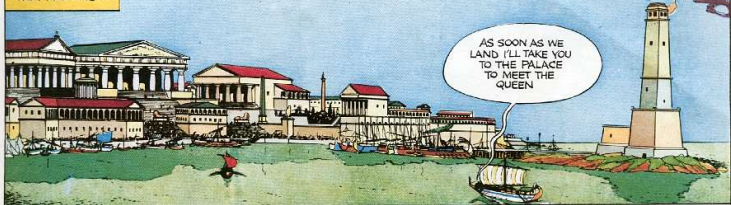








NEXT MORNING...



AS SOON AS WE LAND, I'LL TAKE YOU TO THE PALACE TO MEET THE QUEEN

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!



EDIFIS 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...

DOGMAIX!

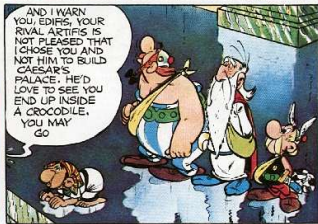
GRROARRR!

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

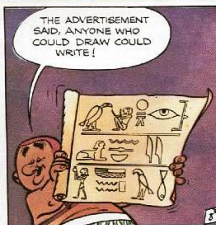
AND I WARN YOU, EDIFIS, YOUR RIVAL ARTIFIS IS NOT PLEASED THAT I CHOSE YOU AND NOT HIM TO BUILD CAESAR'S PALACE - HE'D LOVE TO SEE YOU END UP INSIDE A CROCODILE, YOU MAY GO

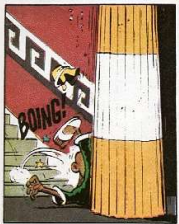
SHE LOOKS BAD TEMPERED, BUT SHE HAS A PRETTY NOSE...

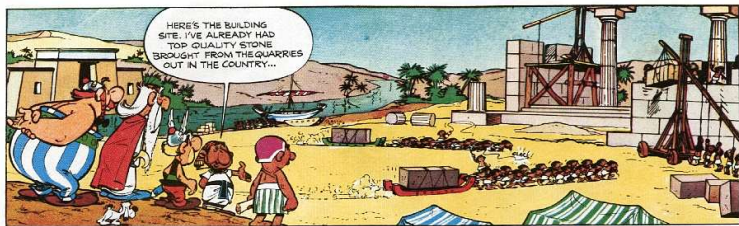
VERY PRETTY!









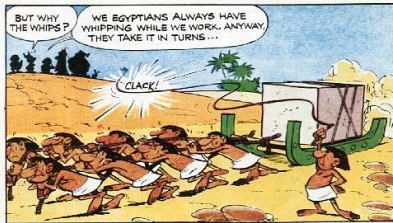


HERE'S THE BUILDING SITE. I'VE ALREADY HAD TOP QUALITY STONE BROUGHT FROM THE QUARRIES OUT IN THE COUNTRY...



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?

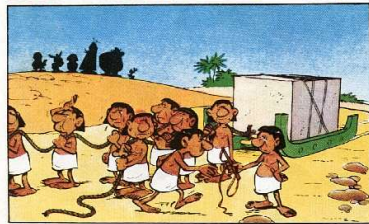
WE EGYPTIANS ALWAYS HAVE WHIPPING WHILE WE WORK. ANYWAY, THEY TAKE IT IN TURNS...

CLACK!

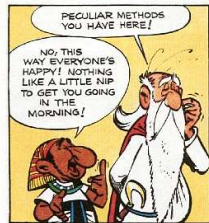


WATCH THIS...

BOUOUOUOUOU



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



AND AT THE END OF THE LENTIL BREAK...



...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!

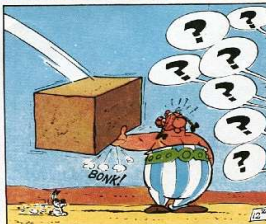
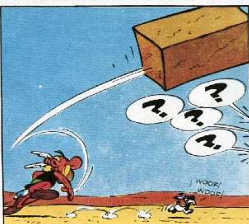
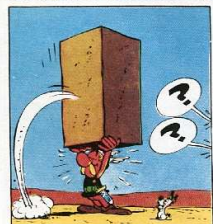
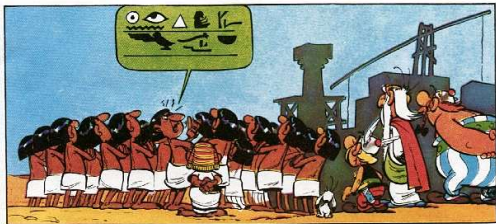


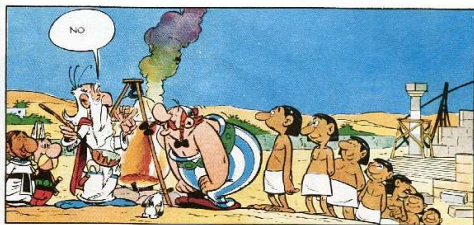
ALL THESE WORRIES ARE POSITIVELY BLOOD-CURDLING! BY THE TIME THE CROCODILES GET ME I'LL BE QUITE UNEATABLE!



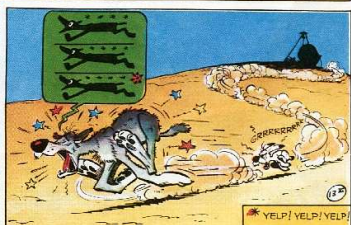
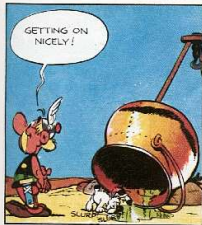
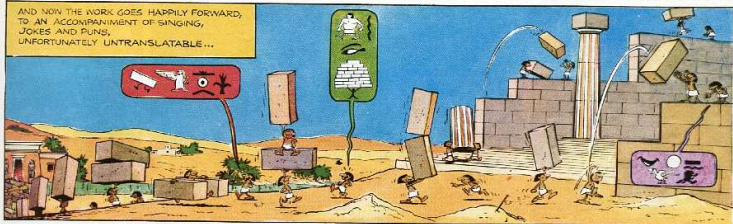
BUT THOSE ARE SACRED CROCODILES! YOU CAN'T JUST FEED THEM ANY OLD THING!

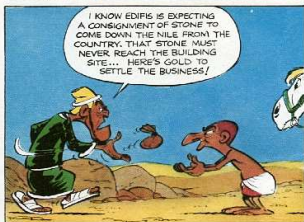
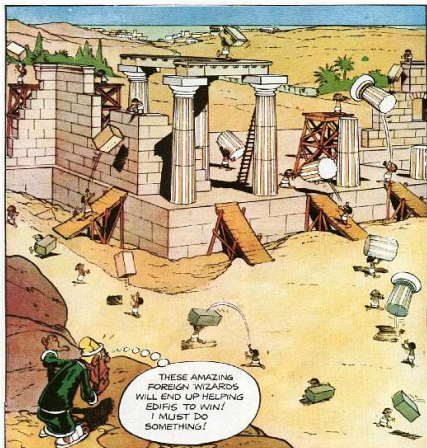


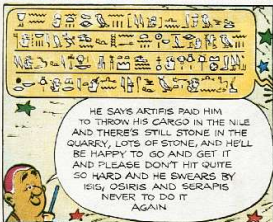
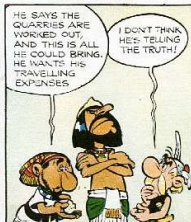




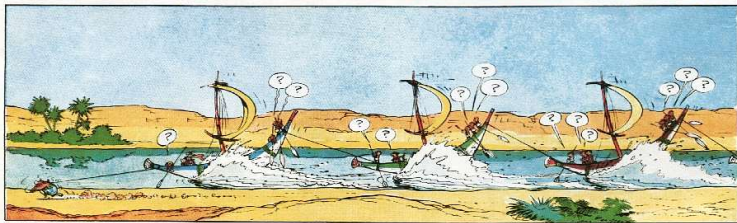
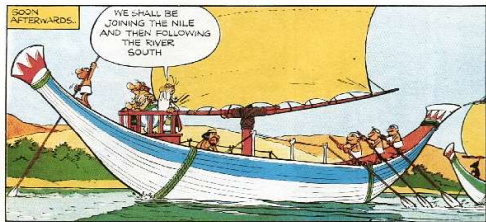
AND NOW THE WORK GOES HAPPILY FORWARD, TO AN ACCOMPANIMENT OF SINGING, JOKES AND PUNS, UNFORTUNATELY UNTRANSLATABLE...

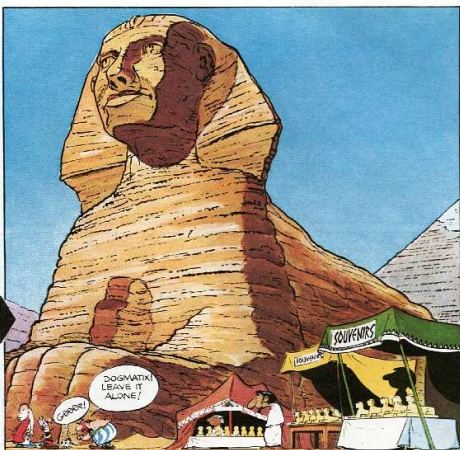


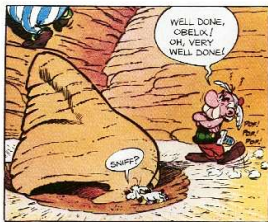






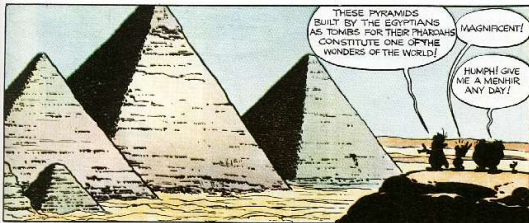






SO NOW YOU KNOW WHY THE SPHINX HAS NO NOSE. WHICH IS A PITY, FOR THE SPHINX'S NOSE, LOST TO THIS DAY, WAS A VERY FINE SPECIMEN OF A NOSE, IF NOT SO BEAUTIFUL AS CLEOPATRA'S, WHICH, AS WE BELIEVE WE MENTIONED BEFORE, WAS A VERY PRETTY NOSE INDEED





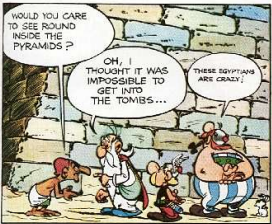
THESE PYRAMIDS BUILT BY THE EGYPTIANS AS TOMBS FOR THEIR PHARAOHS CONSTITUTE ONE OF THE WONDERS OF THE WORLD!

MAGNIFICENT!

HUMPH! GIVE ME A MENHIR ANY DAY!



FROM THE SUMMIT OF THESE PYRAMIDS, OBELIX, 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...

THESE EGYPTIANS ARE CRAZY!



THIEVES HAVE ALREADY BROKEN IN... THOUGH VERY FEW GOT OUT AGAIN...



BUT OF COURSE SUCH NOBLE VISITORS CAN TRUST ME!

WELL THEN, WE'LL BE HAPPY TO ACCEPT...



THAT'S NO PLACE FOR LITTLE DOGS... YOU WAIT HERE FOR US! IF YOU'RE GOOD YOU'LL GET A NICE BONE!

BONE



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 HIEROGLYPHS...

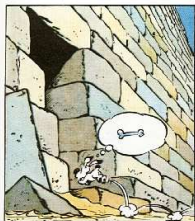


SLAM!

?!

YOU WILL NEVER GET OUT OF HERE ALIVE, FOREIGN DEVILS! THIS TOMB WILL BE YOURS!





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!

I'M ONLY SORRY FOR EDIFIS... WITHOUT OUR HELP HE'LL END UP INSIDE A CROCODILE

WELL, I'M SORRY FOR MY POOR LITTLE DOGMATIX... AREN'T I DOGMATIX?

**DOGMATIX?!**



YES, DOGMATIX! WHAT ABOUT IT? YOU'RE NOT GOING TO BE CROSS 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!

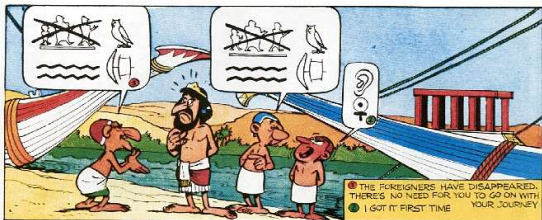


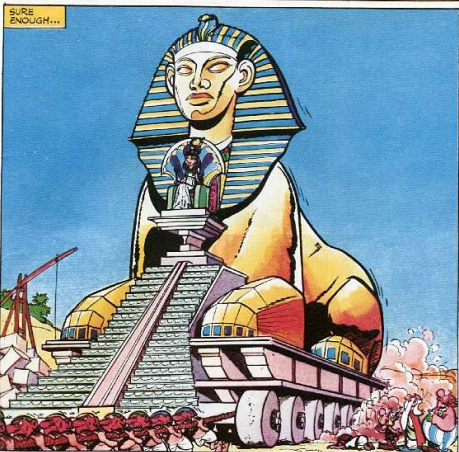
HEAPS OF BIG BONES!



OBELIX, I APOLOGIZE! YOU WERE QUITE RIGHT TO BRING YOUR DOGGIE!

SOMETIMES I FEEL HE UNDERSTANDS EVERYTHING I SAY!







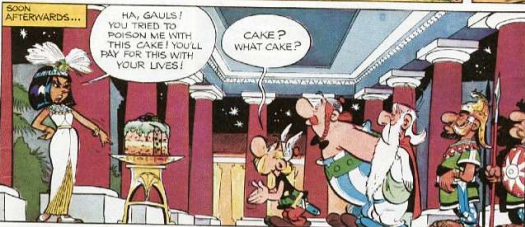


CHAMBERLAIN!





SOON AFTERWARDS...



CAKE? WHAT CAKE?



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

OOH, OOH, OOH!



BUT...

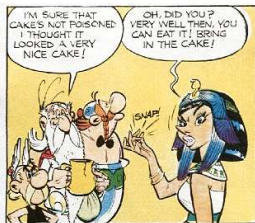
IF THE QUEEN DOESN'T WANT TO HEAR ANOTHER WORD IT'S NO GOOD SAYING ANOTHER WORD, ASTERN...FOR NOW!

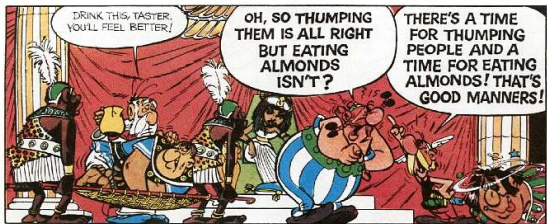


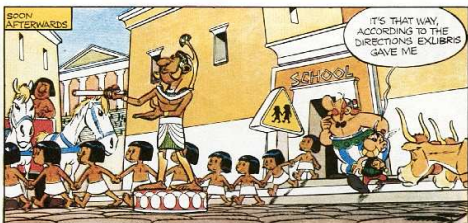
I HAVE AN IDEA...













YOU'RE GOING TO TELL US WHERE TO FIND EDIFIS!

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



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



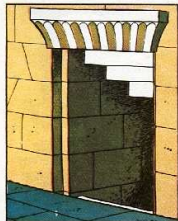
COWARD!

YES, BOSS!



I'LL GUARD THESE TWO, OBELIX, WHILE YOU GO DOWN TO FIND THE SARCOPHAGUS

O.K. ASTERIX



ASTERIX, WHAT IS A SARCOPHAGUS?



IT'S A BIG, HEAVY BOX... VERY HEAVY!

OH, THANKS



SOON AFTERWARDS

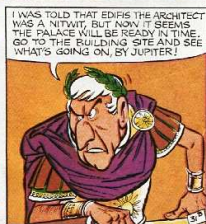
WOULD THIS BE IT, ASTERIX? IT'S THE ONLY BIG BOX I COULD FIND, BUT IT'S NOT AT ALL HEAVY!

THAT MUST BE IT, OBELIX!

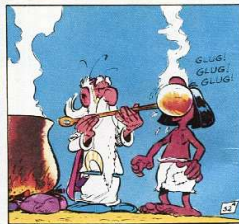


ALL WE HAVE TO DO IS UNWRAP IT

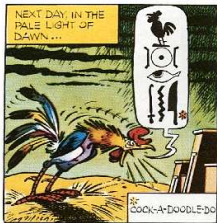
LET ME HAVE A GO! IT'S JUST LIKE PASSING THE PARCEL!

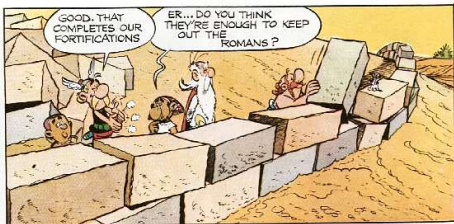
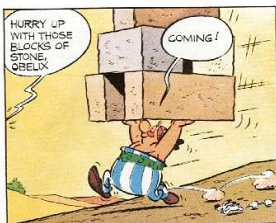








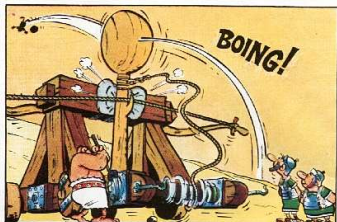
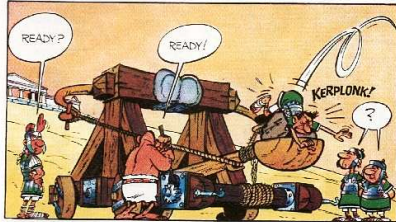








WATCH OUT! ONE OF THE BESIEGED MEN IS TRYING TO BREAK OUT!!



WATCH OUT! ONE OF THE BESIEGED MEN IS TRYING TO BREAK IN AGAIN!



HERE YOU ARE, OBELEX! DOGMATIX HAS JUST 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!

THERE YOU ARE, CAESAR! EVEN IF WE DON'T CAPTURE THEM THE PALACE WILL BE DESTROYED JUST THE SAME!



AVE, CAESAR... ER... SOMEONE WANTS TO SPEAK TO YOU...

WHO IS IT?





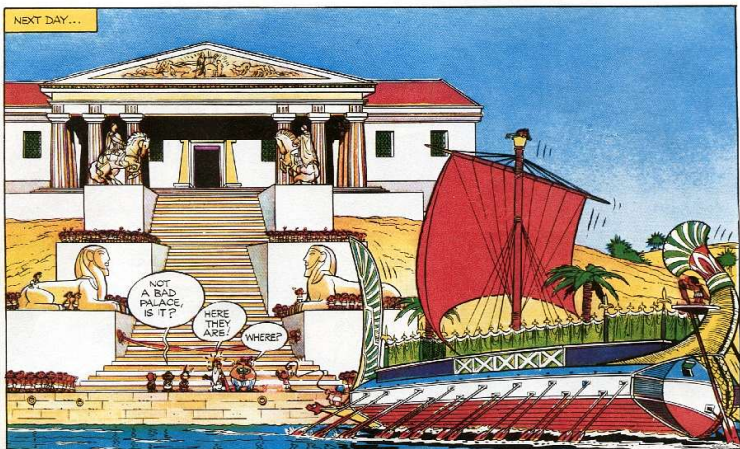




AT LAST, ONE FINE DAY...



NEXT DAY...



NOT A BAD PALACE, IS IT?

HERE THEY ARE

WHERE?



FOR YOU TO CUT THE RIBBON, O CAESAR!



O LOVELIEST 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



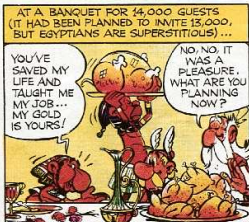
THE CROWD ACCLAIM THEIR QUEEN, INVOKING THE SUN-GOD OF EGYPT...

RA! RA! RA!  
RA! RA! RA!  
RA! RA! RA!



THAT'S A PRETTY KNOWS!

NOW WHO KNOWS BEST?



AT A BANQUET FOR 44,000 GUESTS (IT HAD BEEN PLANNED TO INVITE 13,000, 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 ARTIFIS AGAIN...

... TOGETHER WE'LL BUILD THE FINEST PYRAMIDS WITH THE SHARPEST POINTS IN EGYPT!

