

BOOK 28

GOSCINNY AND UDERZO

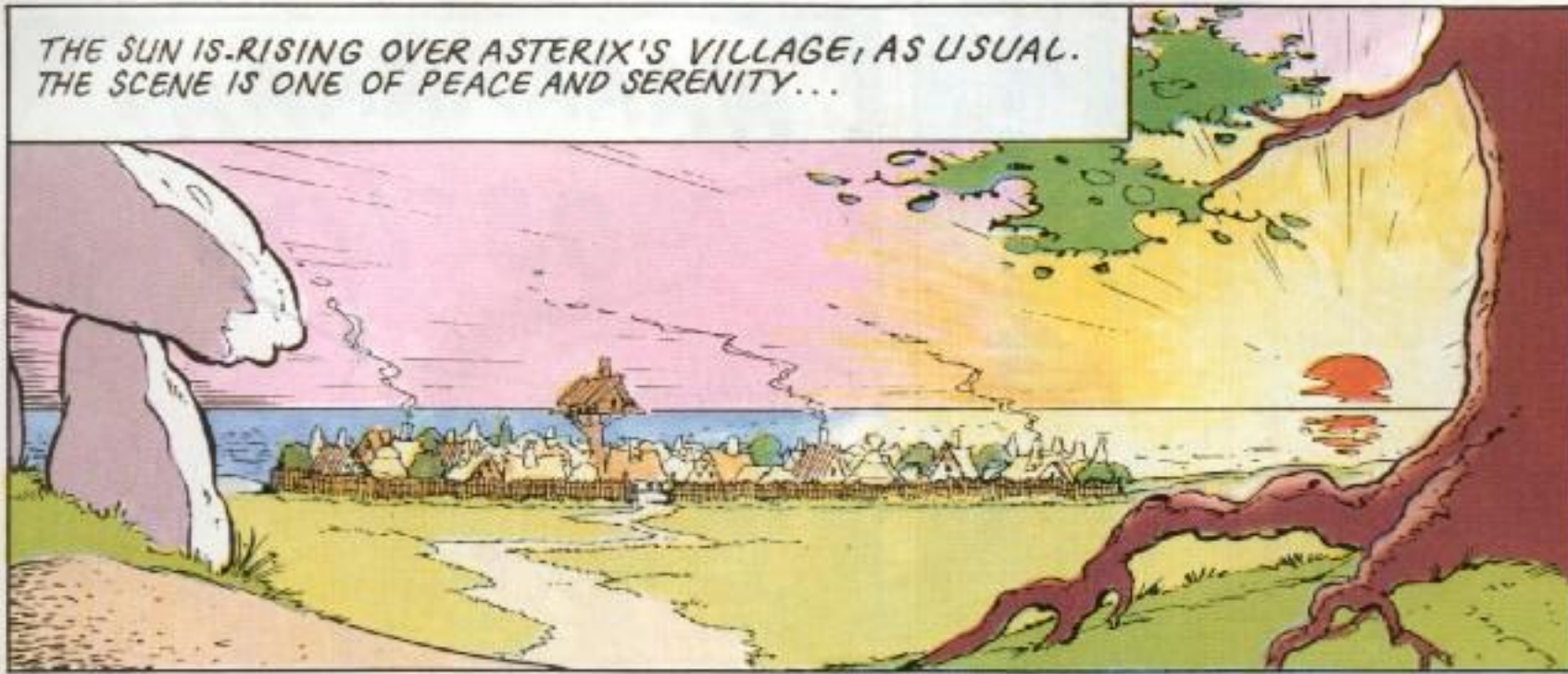
Asterix

and SON

ASTRIX



THE SUN IS RISING OVER ASTERIX'S VILLAGE, AS USUAL. THE SCENE IS ONE OF PEACE AND SERENITY...



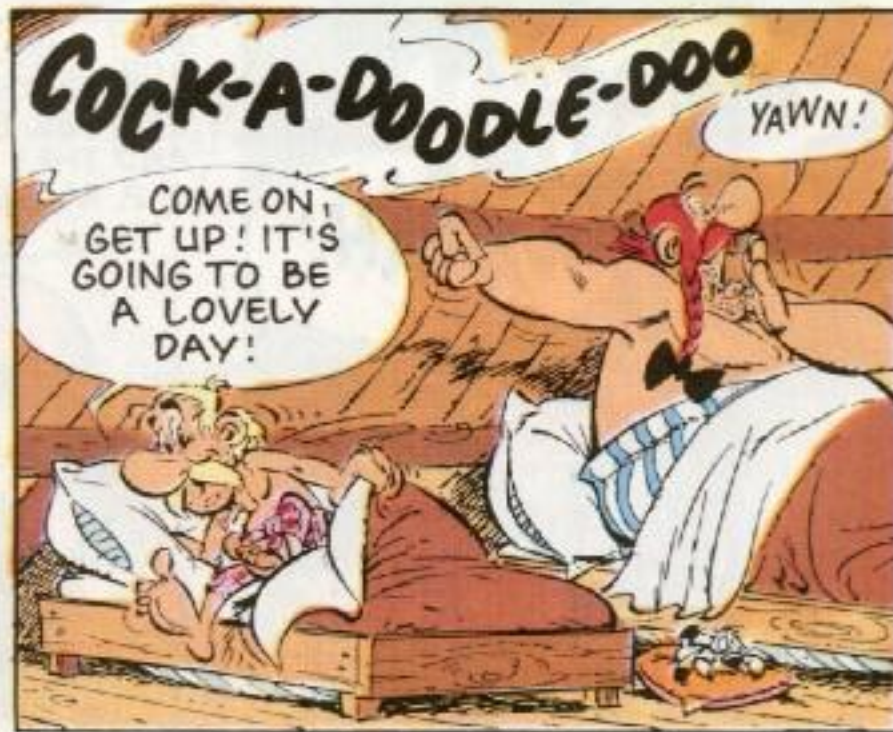
...DISTURBED, DESPITE THE FACT THAT DAY IS DAWNING, BY THE SNORES OF THE ONLY GAULISH ROOSTER WHO HAS ADENOIDS.



IT'S COCKCROW, YOU GOOSE! TIME TO TALK TURKEY.

YOU'RE IN A FOWL MOOD THIS MORNING!

TAP! TAP! TAP!



COCK-A-DOODLE-DOO

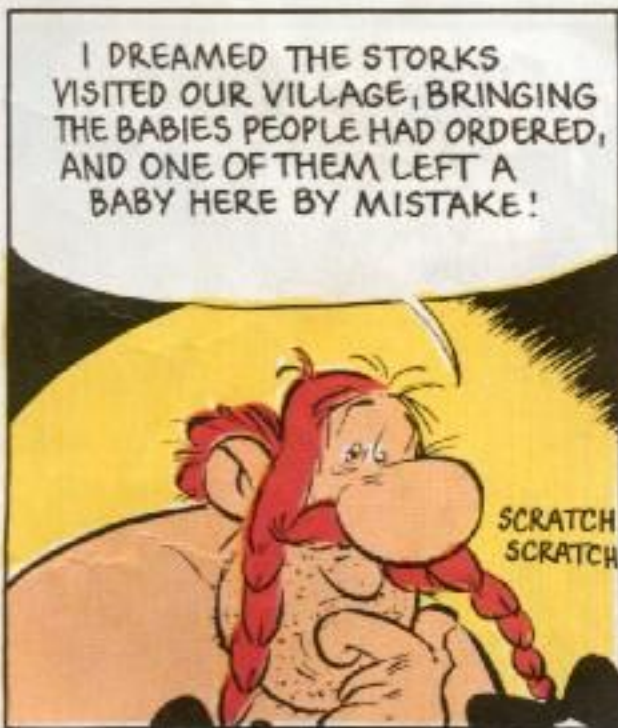
YAWN!

COME ON, GET UP! IT'S GOING TO BE A LOVELY DAY!



I HAD SUCH A FUNNY DREAM LAST NIGHT, ASTERIX!

SCRATCH! SCRATCH!



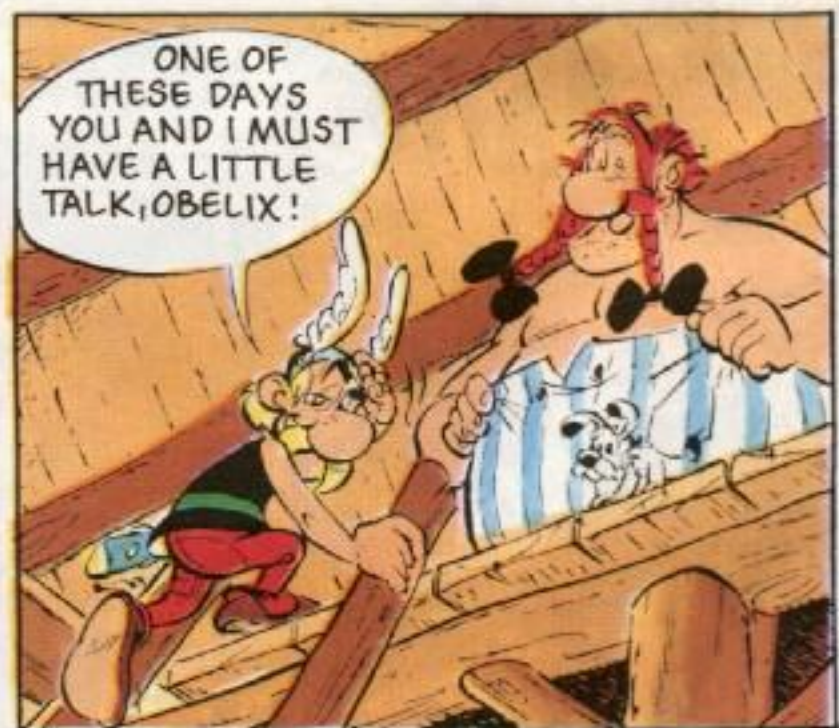
I DREAMED THE STORKS VISITED OUR VILLAGE, BRINGING THE BABIES PEOPLE HAD ORDERED, AND ONE OF THEM LEFT A BABY HERE BY MISTAKE!

SCRATCH SCRATCH



DON'T SAY YOU STILL BELIEVE STORKS DELIVER BABIES!

WHY NOT? I DELIVER MENCHIRS, DON'T I?



ONE OF THESE DAYS YOU AND I MUST HAVE A LITTLE TALK, OBELIX!



CREEEAK

GA! GA!

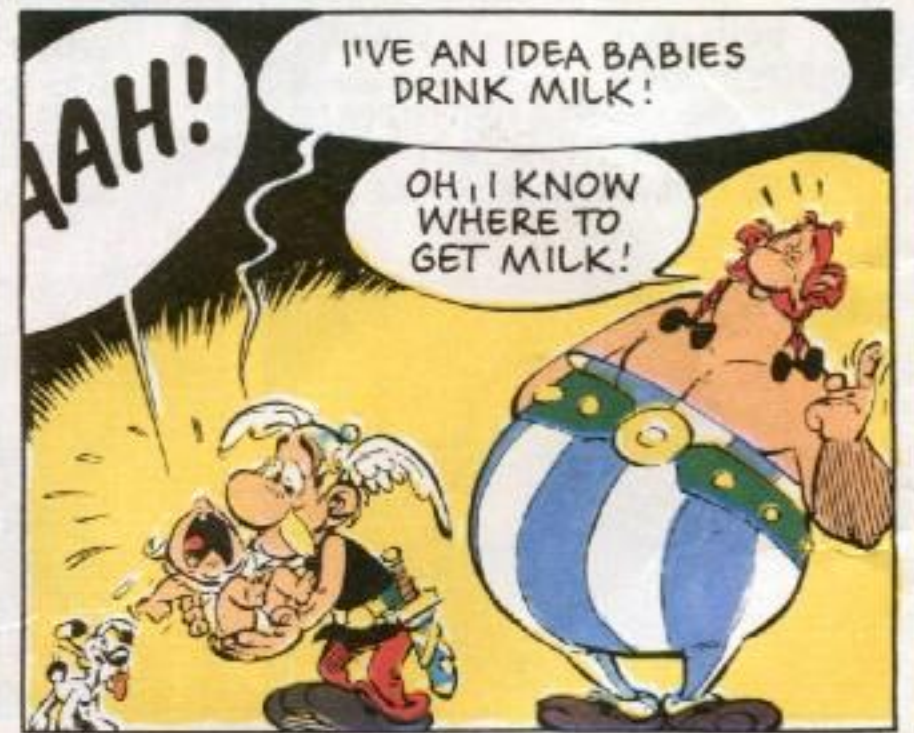


?

GOO! GOO!



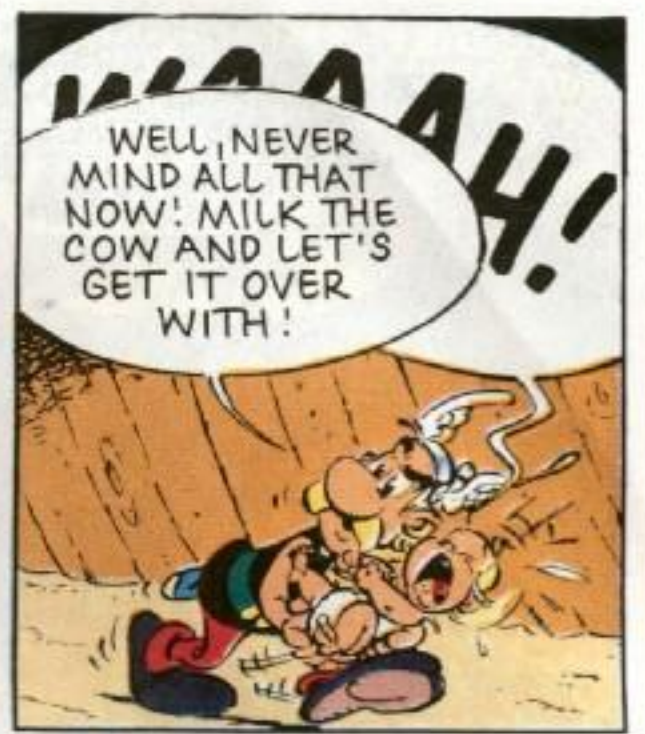
GURGLE!





I BORROWED BUCOLIX'S COW IN EXCHANGE FOR A MENHIR, ASTERIX!

WAAAHH!



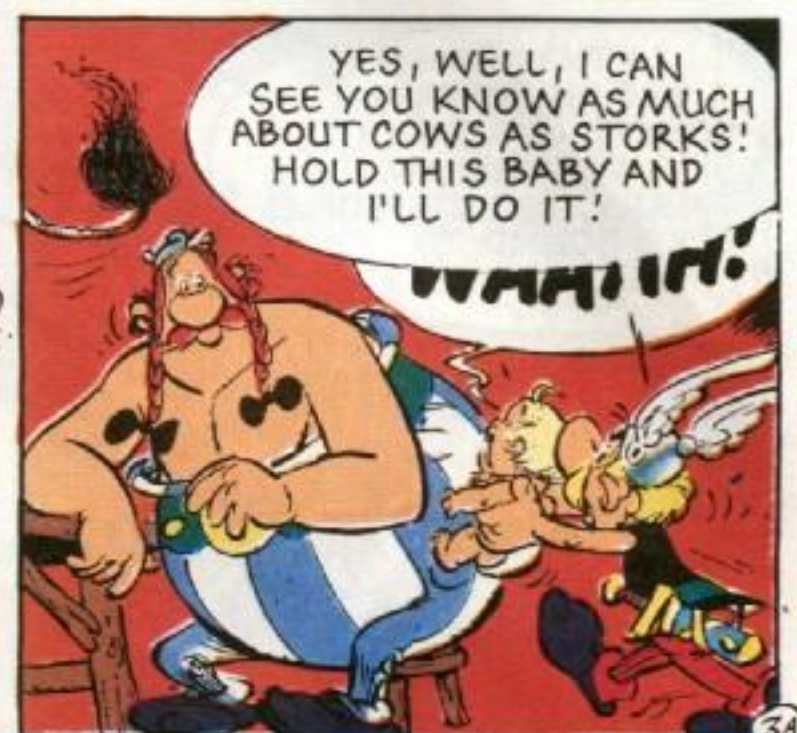
WAAAHH!
WELL, NEVER MIND ALL THAT NOW! MILK THE COW AND LET'S GET IT OVER WITH!



MOOOOOO!

PSSS! PSSS! COME ON, HURRY UP! PSSS! PSSS!

WAAAHH!



WAAAHH!
YES, WELL, I CAN SEE YOU KNOW AS MUCH ABOUT COWS AS STORKS! HOLD THIS BABY AND I'LL DO IT!



HE... HE'S WET THROUGH!

AND WHOSE FAULT IS THAT?

WAAAHH!



SOON AFTER...

WAAAHH!

I'VE MILKED THE COW. NOW FIND SOMETHING TO USE AS A BOTTLE WHILE I CHANGE HIM!



GOO!
LOOK, I SWOPPED A SHOP-SOILED MENHIR FOR A GOURD WITH A TEAT!

TEAT FOR TAT, EH?



HUH!

YOU FEED HIM WHILE I SUMMON THE VILLAGE COUNCIL!



BUT I DON'T KNOW HOW A BABY FEEDS!

NEVER MIND. HE DOES!

GA! GA!



GLUG! GLUG! GLUG!
I FEEL AS IF THE WHOLE WORLD WAS WATCHING ME AND LAUGHING!

HARF! HARF! HARF!



I SEE YOUR PROBLEM, ASTERIX! WE MUST FIND OUT WHERE THE BABY COMES FROM AND WHOSE HE IS. IT'S URGENT!



I MUST JUST POINT OUT THAT FOUNDLINGS ARE USUALLY DUMPED ON TEMPLE DOORSTEPS OR IN PUBLIC PLACES...

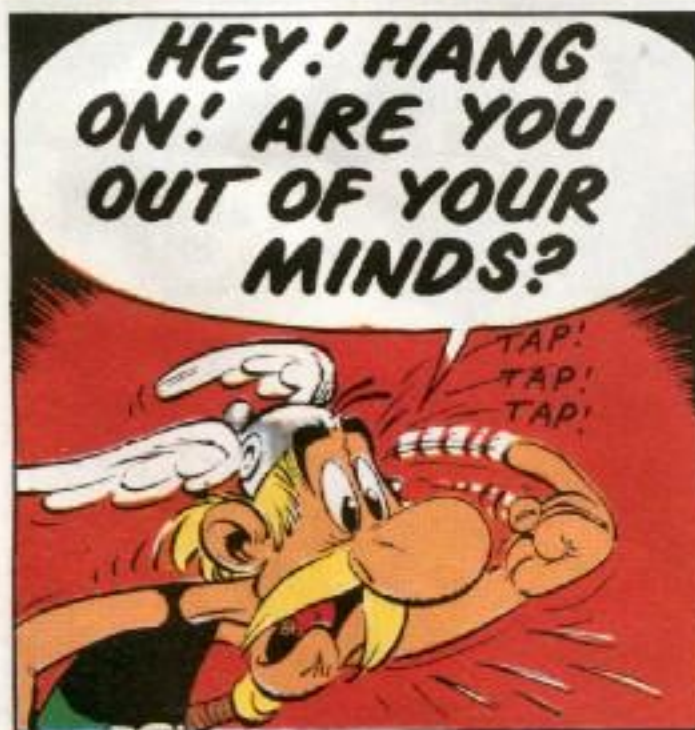


... SO THAT WHEN A BABY IS RATHER POINTEDLY LEFT OUTSIDE A BACHELOR WARRIOR'S HUT, PEOPLE ARE BOUND TO THINK THINGS!

THINGS? WHAT THINGS?



4A



HEY! HANG ON! ARE YOU OUT OF YOUR MINDS?

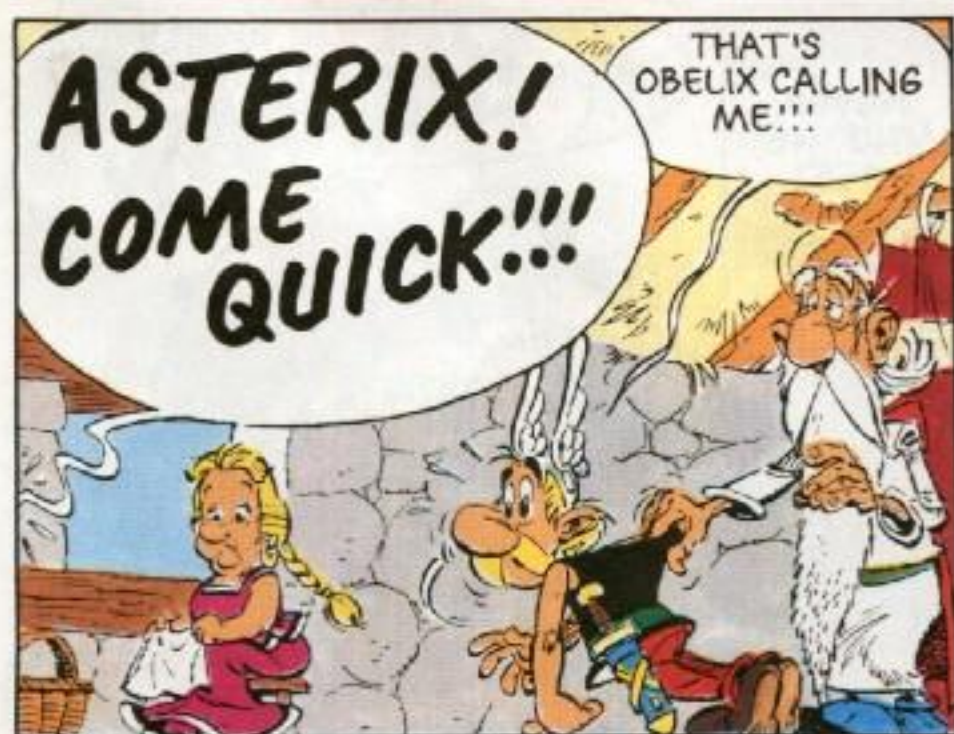
TAP! TAP! TAP!



ONE MIGHT EVEN THINK MISTER ASTERIX WOULD HAVE NO TROUBLE IN FINDING THAT BABY'S MOTHER!

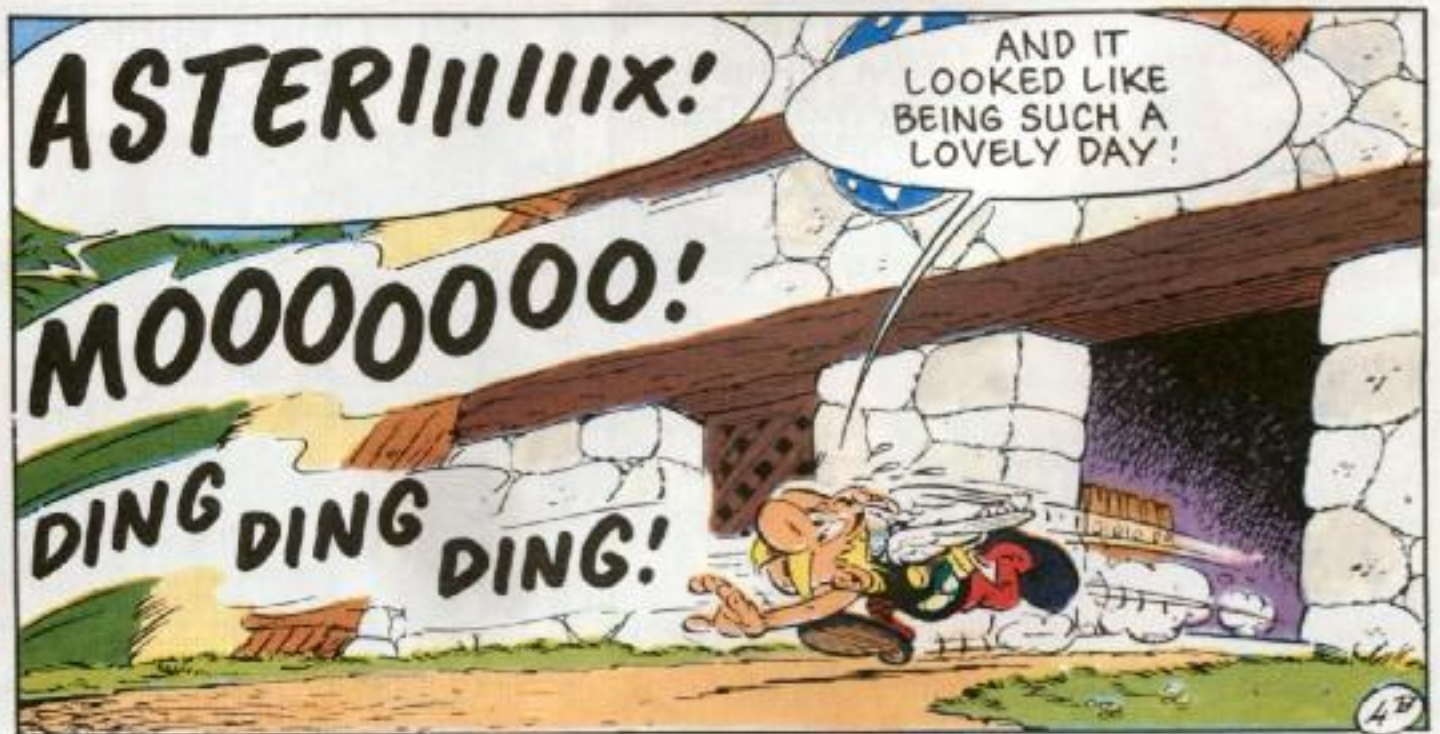
YOU DON'T MINCE YOUR WORDS, DO YOU? SHUT UP, OR I'LL MAKE MINCEMEAT OF YOU!

CALM DOWN! WE MUSTN'T GET UPSET!



ASTERIX! COME QUICK!!!

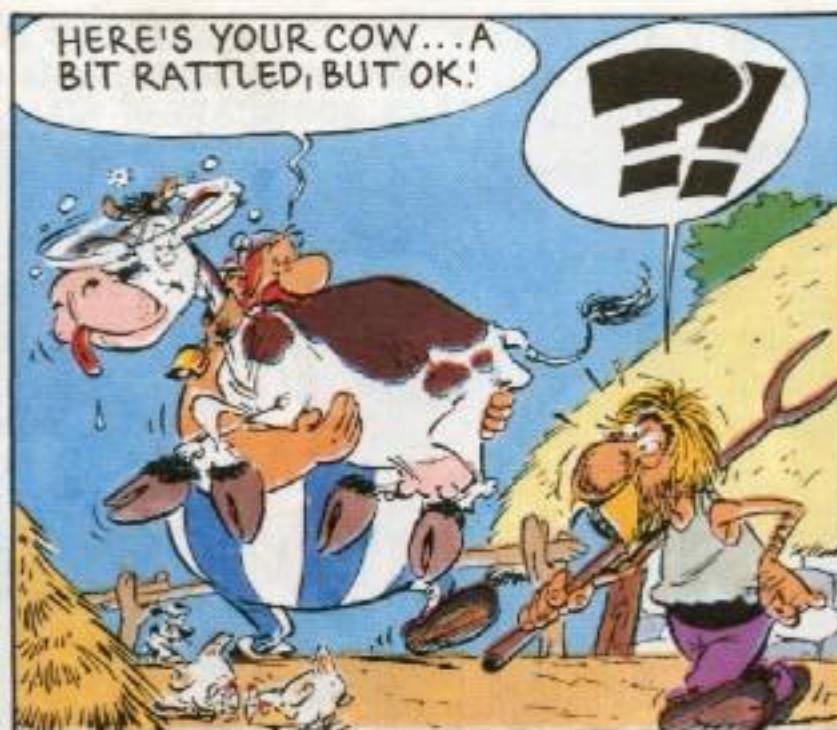
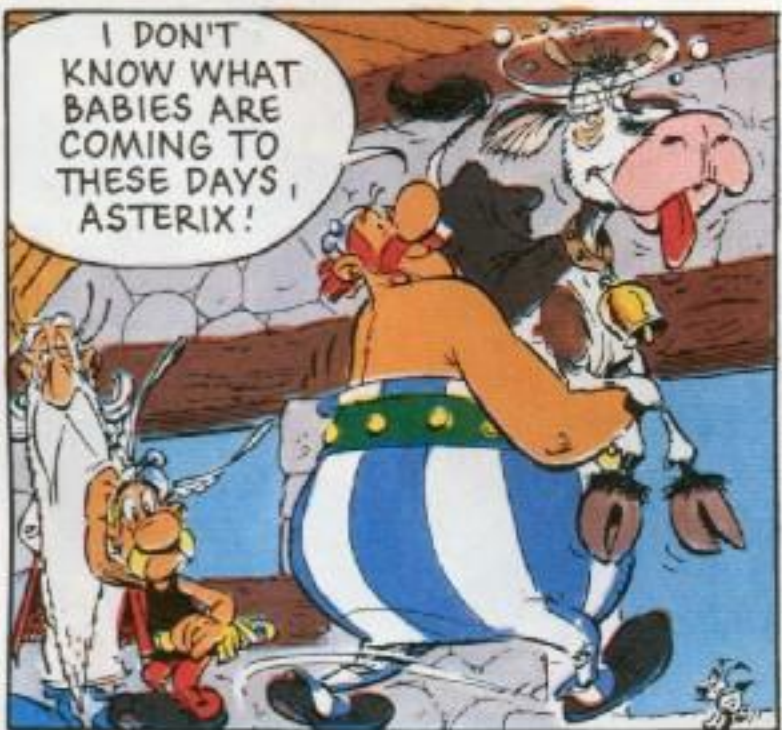
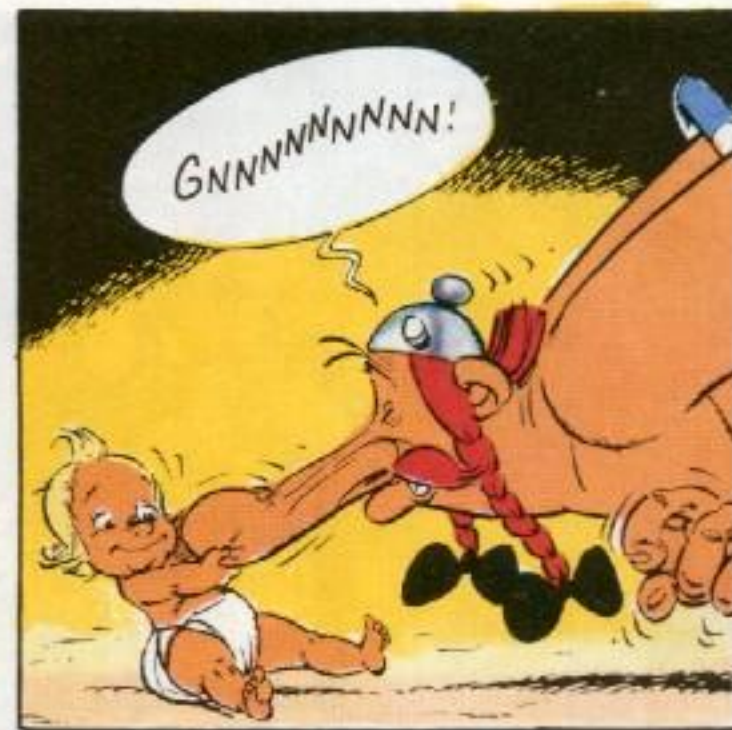
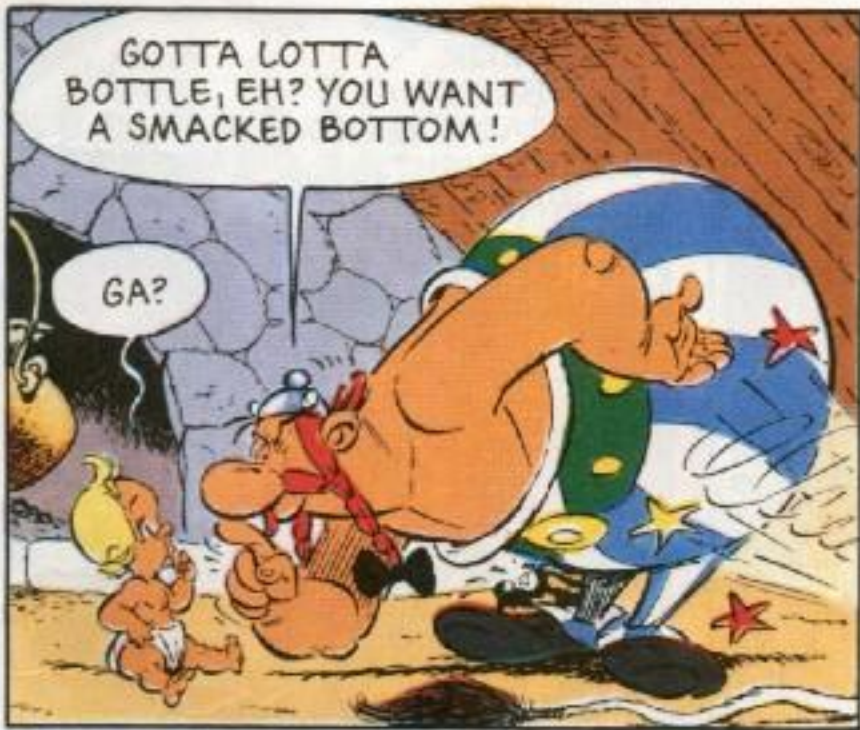
THAT'S OBELIX CALLING ME!!!

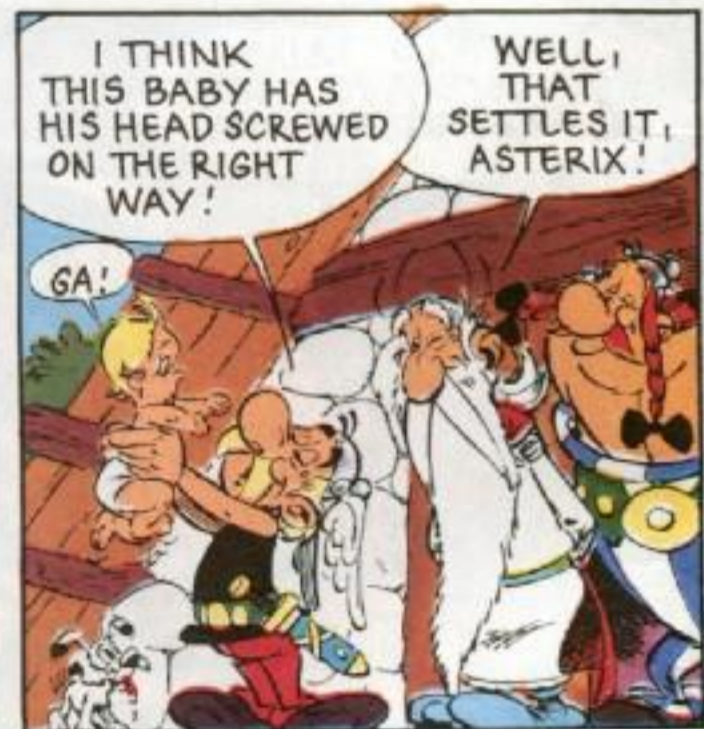


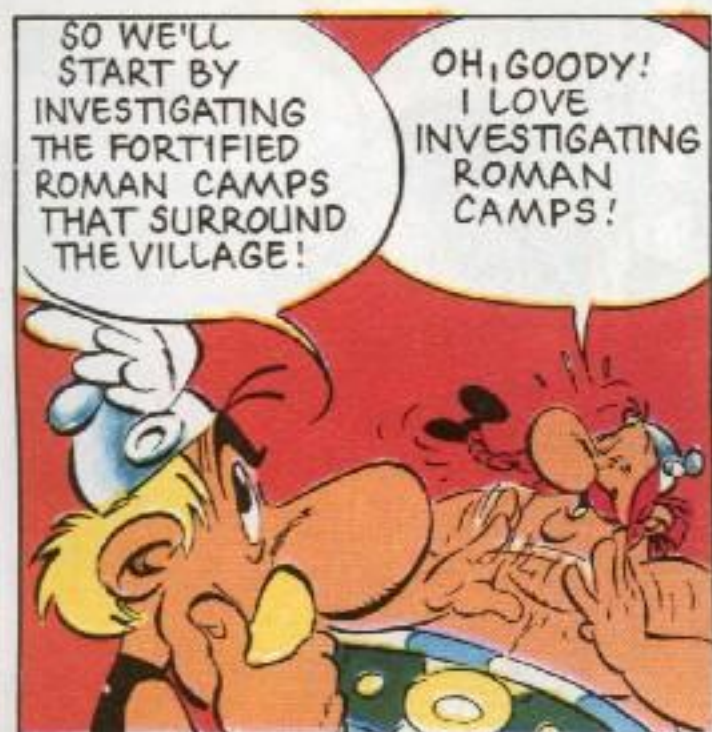
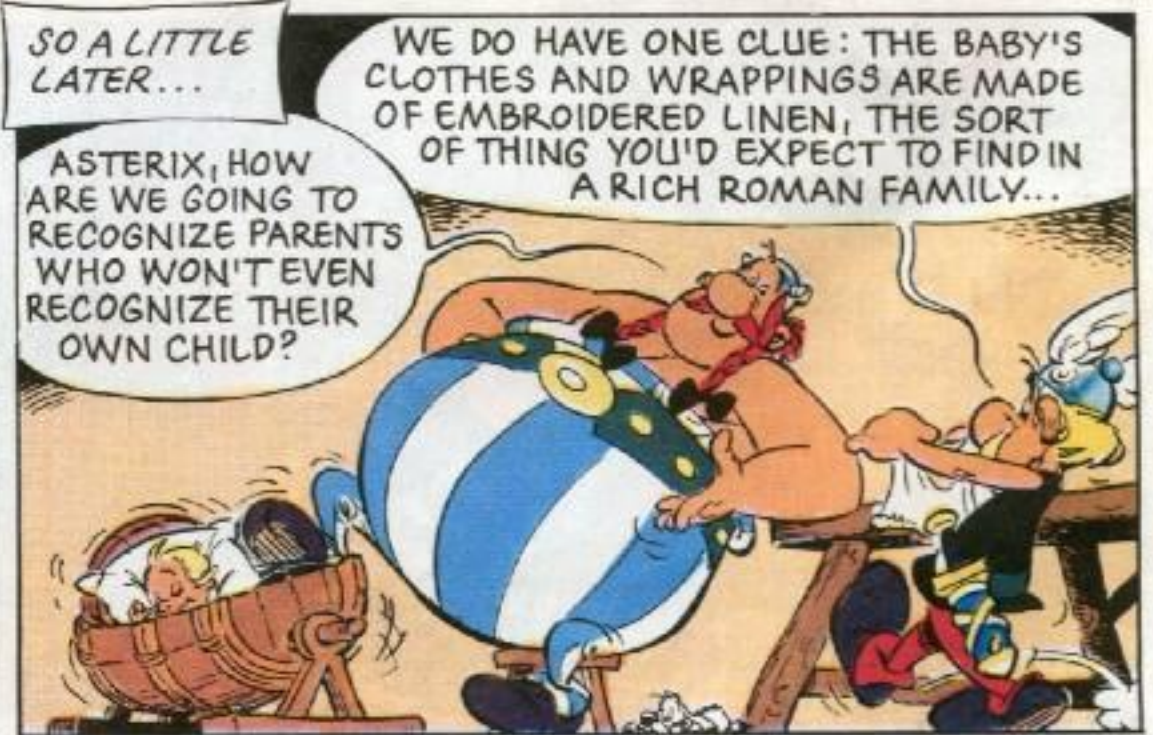
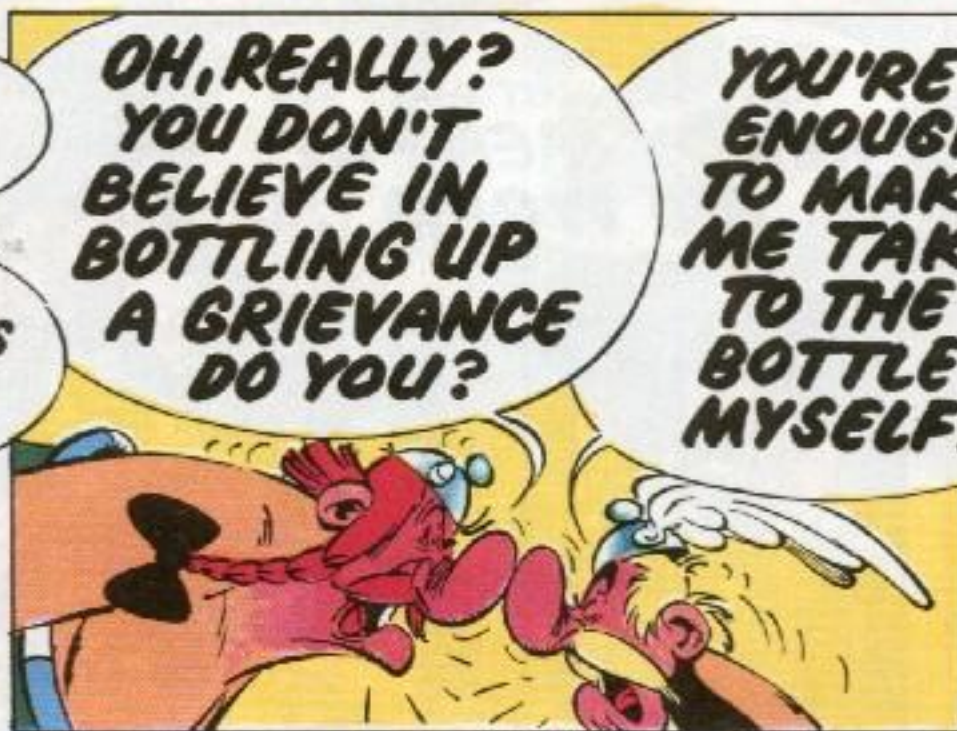
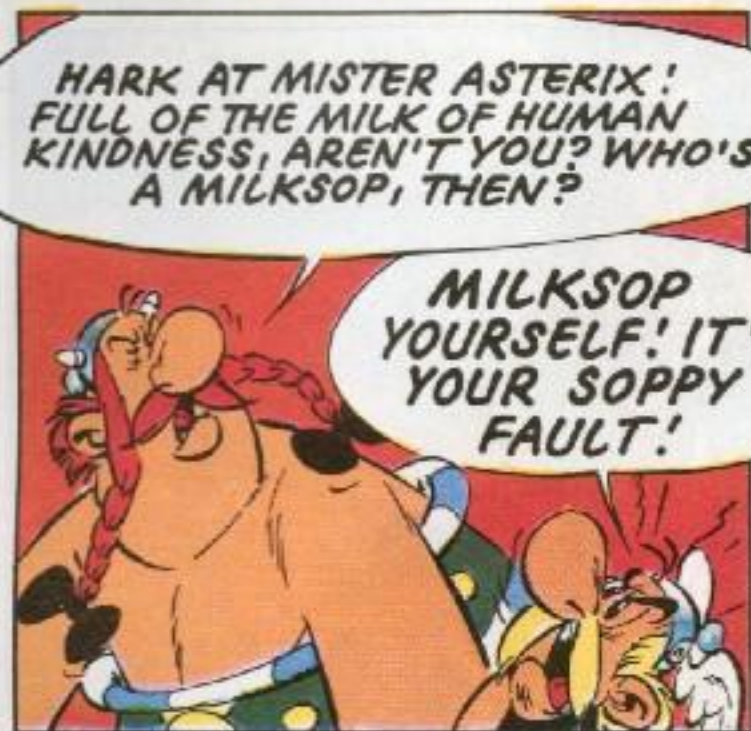
**ASTERIIIIIX!
MOOOOOOOO!
DING DING DING!**

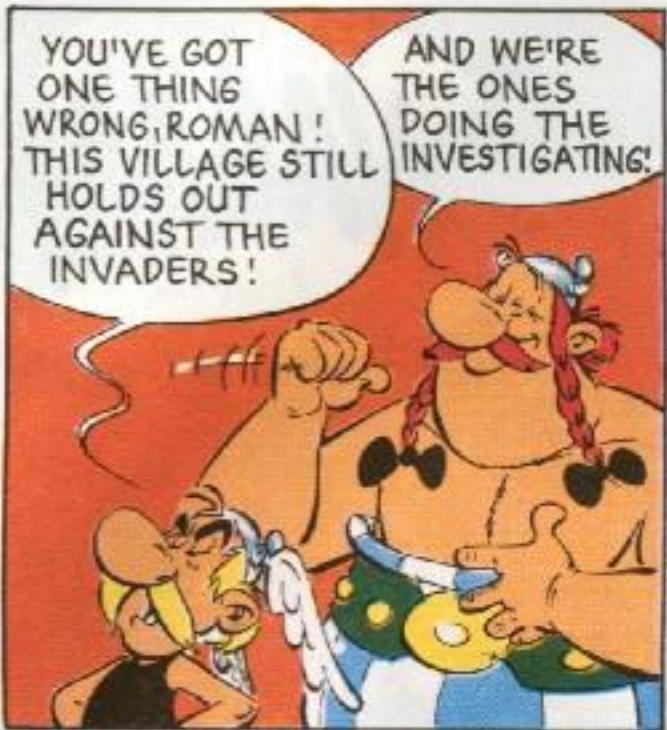
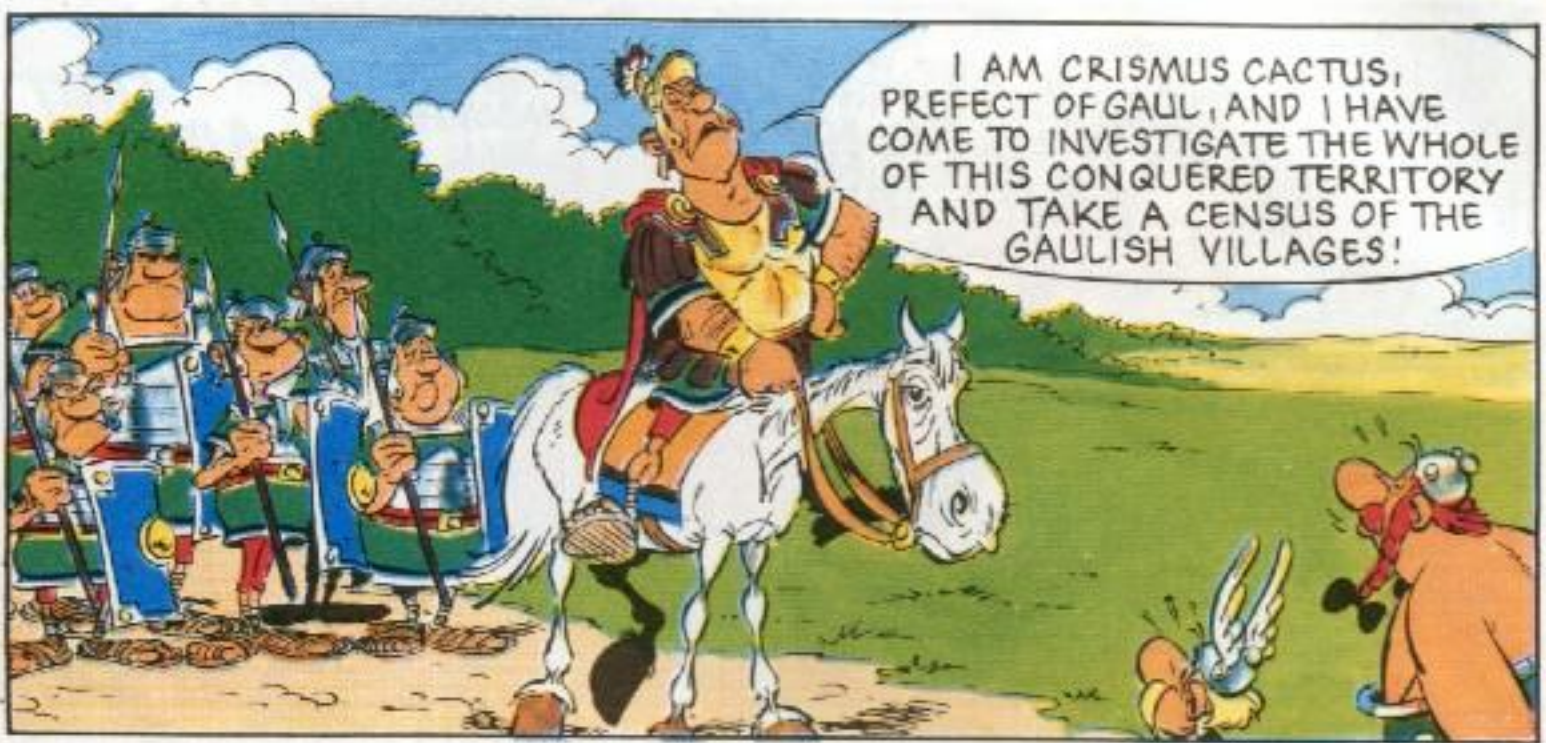
AND IT LOOKED LIKE BEING SUCH A LOVELY DAY!

4B









*FORWARD! MARCH! CHARGE! TO ARMS! TAKE AIM!



*RENNES



SOME NEW ROMAN REINFORCEMENTS AT LAST! WHAT FUN!



THAT'S DOGMATIX BARKING!

I HOPE THE BABY'S ALL RIGHT!

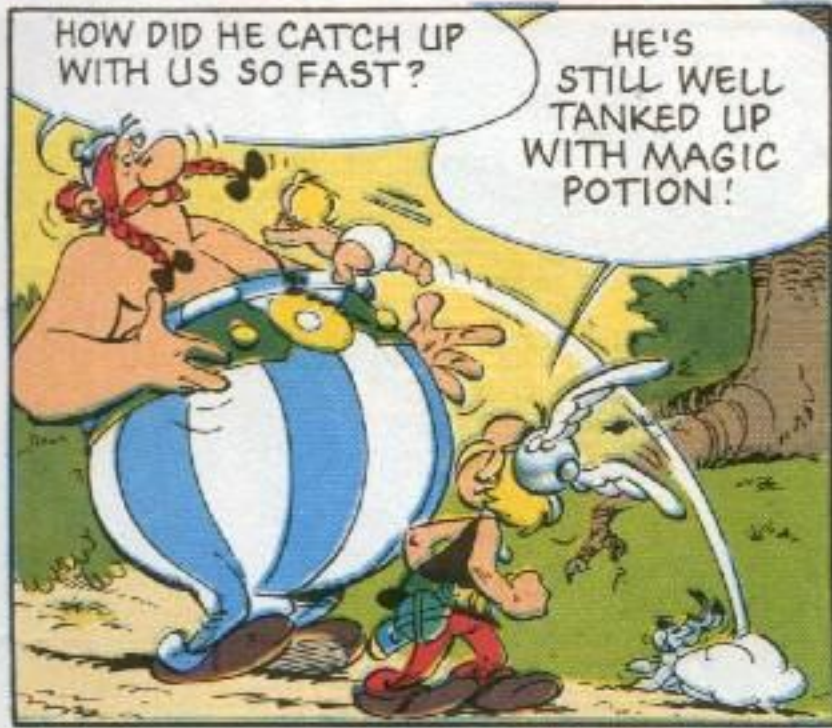
WOOF!
WOOF!
WOOF!
WOOF!



?!

GRRRRR WOOF!

GA!



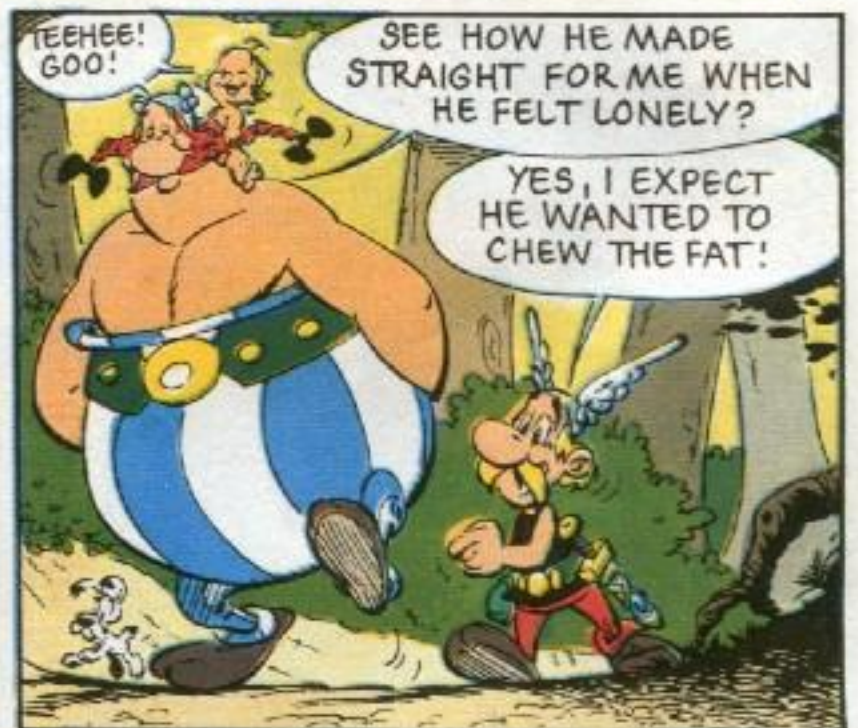
HOW DID HE CATCH UP WITH US SO FAST?

HE'S STILL WELL TANKED UP WITH MAGIC POTION!



NOW WHAT DO WE DO, ASTERIX?

OH, TAKE HIM WITH US... IT'LL SIMPLIFY OUR INVESTIGATIONS!



TEEHEE! GOO!

SEE HOW HE MADE STRAIGHT FOR ME WHEN HE FELT LONELY?

YES, I EXPECT HE WANTED TO CHEW THE FAT!

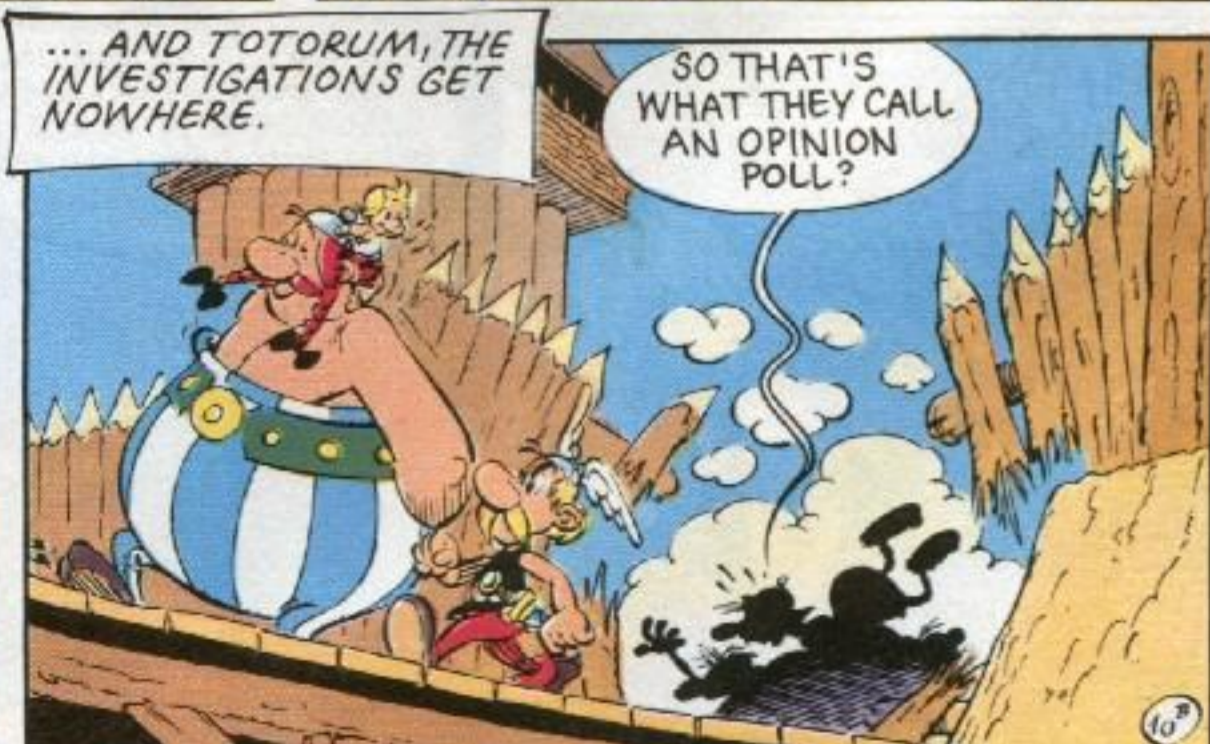
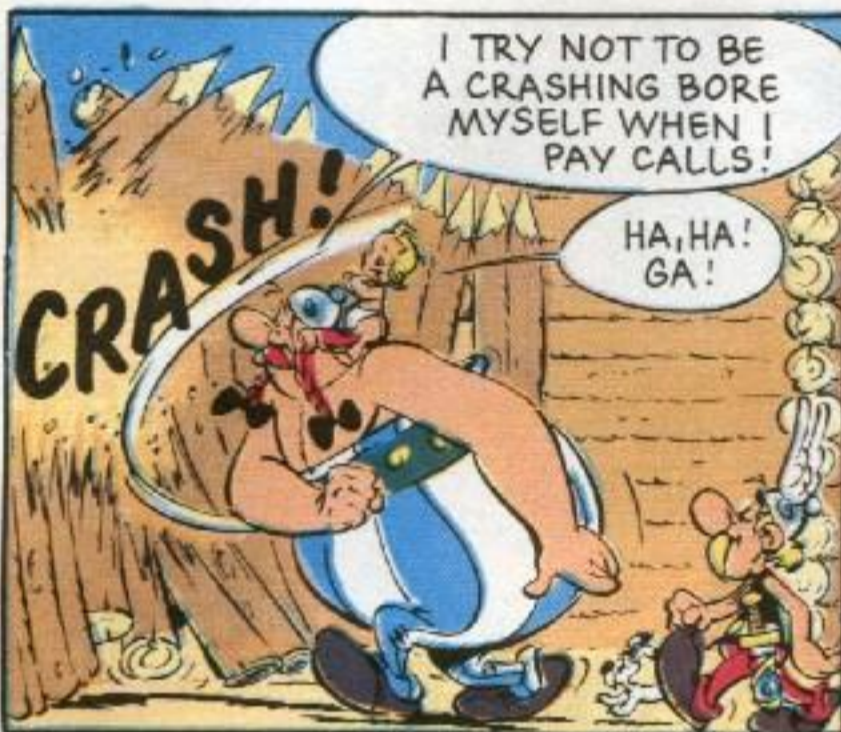


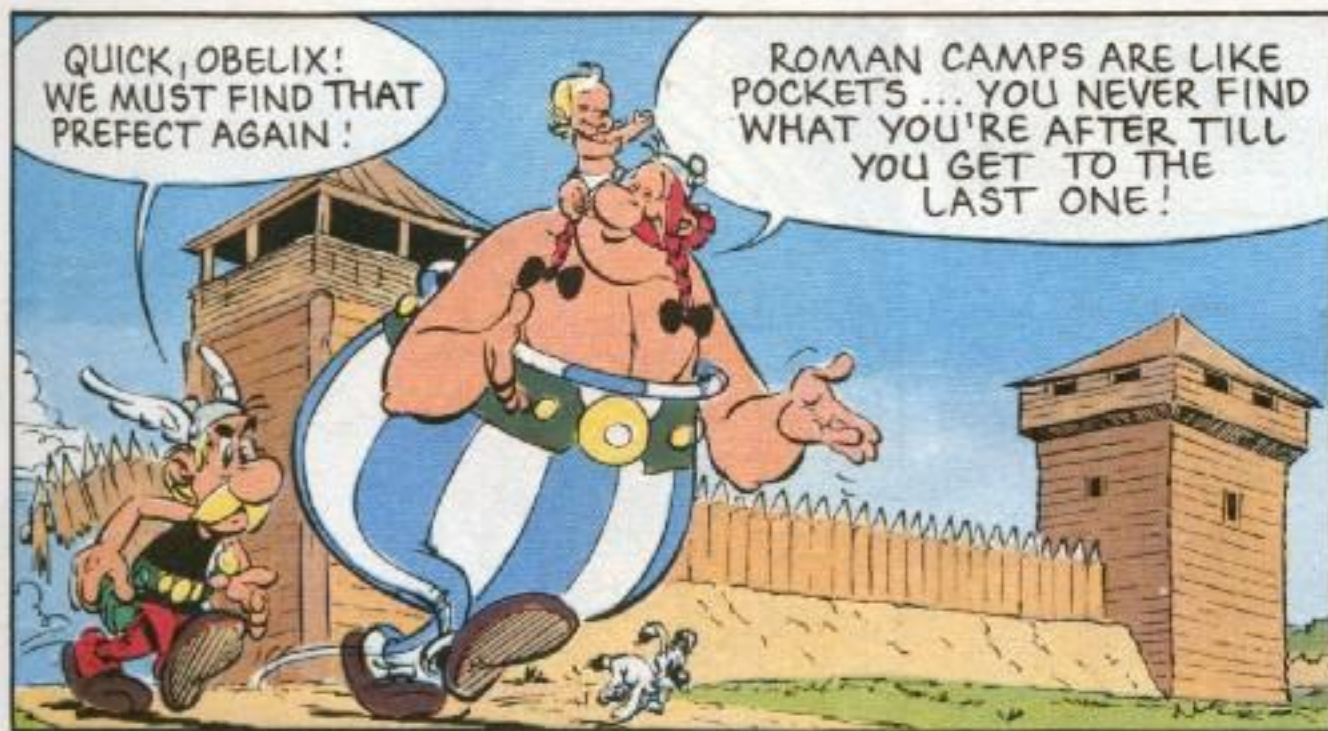
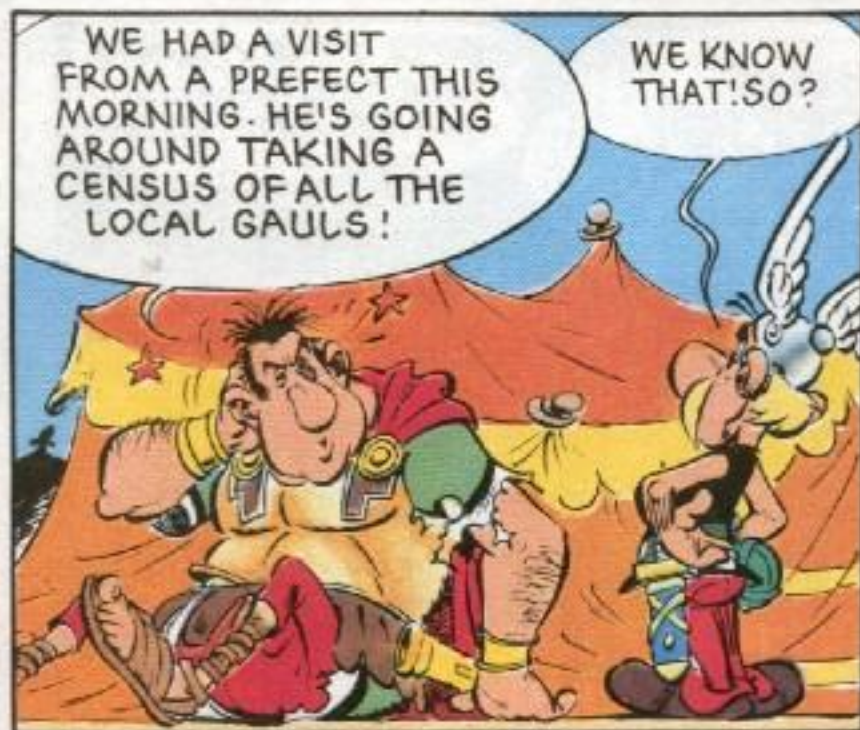
HE'S NOT CHEWING ME, AND ANYWAY, WHAT DO YOU MEAN, FAT?



THERE'S COMPENDIUM! THIS INVESTIGATION CALLS FOR TACT AND DELICACY... YOU KNOW WHAT TO DO, OBELIX?

YES. WE SMASH OUR WAY IN, ASK PEOPLE TO PUT THEIR HEADS TOGETHER, AND DO IT FOR THEM IF THEY WON'T!







THE GAULS!

CALM DOWN, ROMANS! JUST TAKE US TO YOUR LEADER, PREFECT CACTUS! WE WANT TO TALK TO HIM!

STAY HERE AND BE GOOD, OKAY?

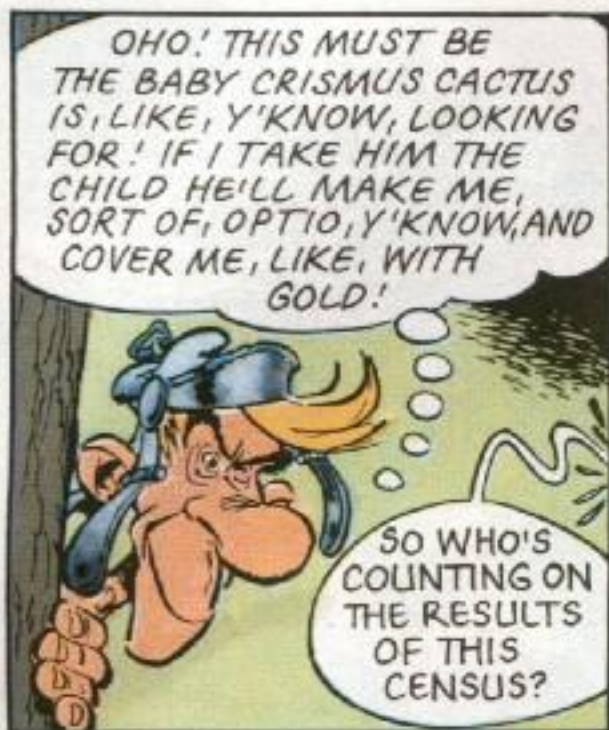
GA?

GRRRR!



HE CAST US ASIDE LIKE AN OLD DIGITABULUM* AND HE WENT OFF TO CONDATUM IN A HURRY!

*ROMAN GLOVE



OHO! THIS MUST BE THE BABY CRISMUS CACTUS IS, LIKE, Y'KNOW, LOOKING FOR! IF I TAKE HIM THE CHILD HE'LL MAKE ME, SORT OF, OPTIO, Y'KNOW, AND COVER ME, LIKE, WITH GOLD!

SO WHO'S COUNTING ON THE RESULTS OF THIS CENSUS?



NOT CAESAR, ANYWAY. HE'S BUSY WITH THE TROUBLES IN UPPER GERMANIA!

I'LL SEIZE MY CHANCE WHILE THEY'RE ALL, LIKE, TALKING! TEEHEE!



HELP! HELP!



OHO, LOOK, HE WANTS TO RATTLE A ROMAN NOW!

HEEEELLLLP!



GOO! GOO!

PAF!



YOU KNOW, WE TWO HAVE A LOT IN COMMON!

GA!



RUN FOR IT! BIG GAULS HAVE LITTLE GAULS UPON THEIR BACKS TO BITE 'EM...

OR US! AND LITTLE GAULS HAVE LESSER GAULS...

AND SO AD INFINITUM!

SHUT UP AND KEEP GOING!

MEANWHILE, AT CONDATUM, IN THE RESIDENCE OF THE PREFECT OF ARMORICA...



QUICK! SEND A MESSENGER OFF TO ROME!

DON'T BOTHER, CACTUS!

BRUTUS!?

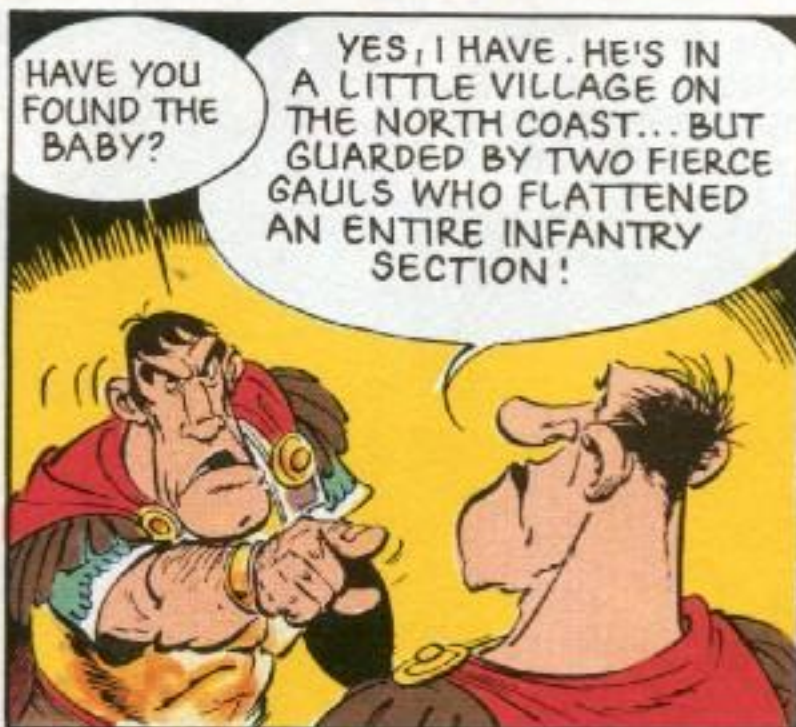


THAT'S RIGHT! I'VE COME FROM ROME SPECIALLY TO HEAR THE LATEST ABOUT OUR LITTLE AFFAIR!



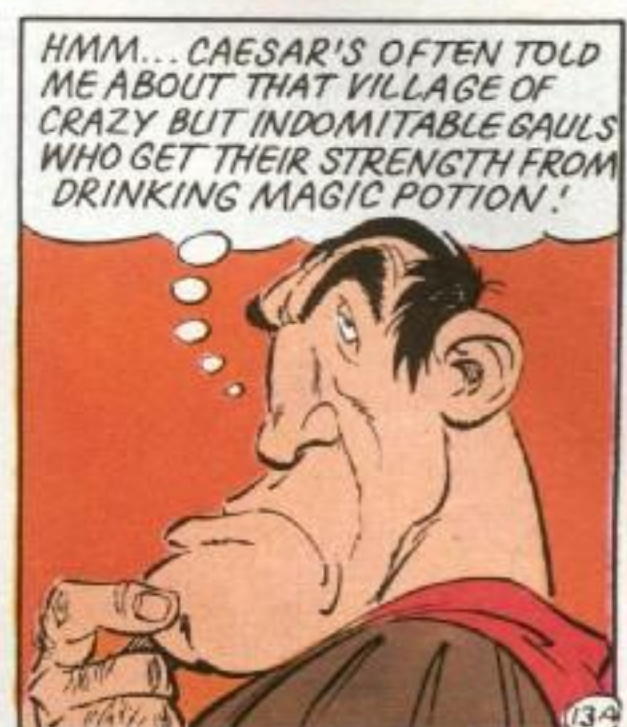
JUDGING BY YOUR SLOVENLY APPEARANCE, CONTACT WITH THE LOCAL BARBARIANS IS BAD FOR YOU!

CONTACT WITH THEIR FISTS IS! THIS INVESTIGATION YOU WANTED MADE IS A RISKY BUSINESS!



HAVE YOU FOUND THE BABY?

YES, I HAVE. HE'S IN A LITTLE VILLAGE ON THE NORTH COAST... BUT GUARDED BY TWO FIERCE GAULS WHO FLATTENED AN ENTIRE INFANTRY SECTION!



HMM... CAESAR'S OFTEN TOLD ME ABOUT THAT VILLAGE OF CRAZY BUT INDOMITABLE GAULS WHO GET THEIR STRENGTH FROM DRINKING MAGIC POTION!



BUT I'LL HAVE THAT BABY EVEN IF I HAVE TO PUT ALL GAUL TO FIRE AND THE SWORD!!!



LUCKILY, SOME WAY OFF...

COME ON, SON, TRY YOUR LEGS OUT!

GA!



LOOK, ASTERIX! HE KNOWS HIS HOME ALREADY!



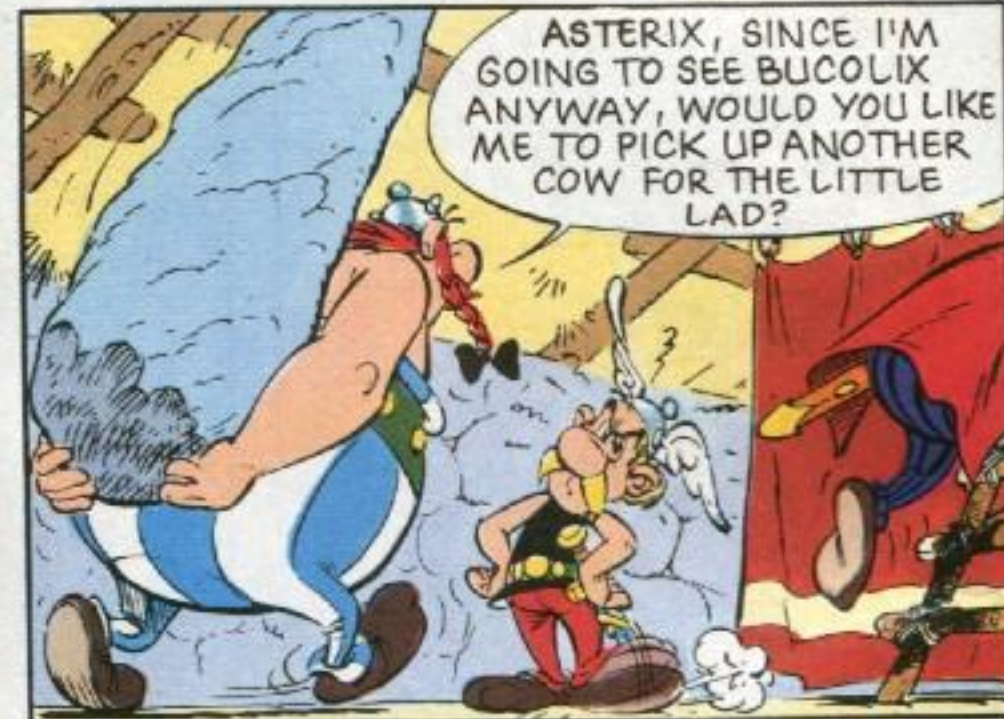
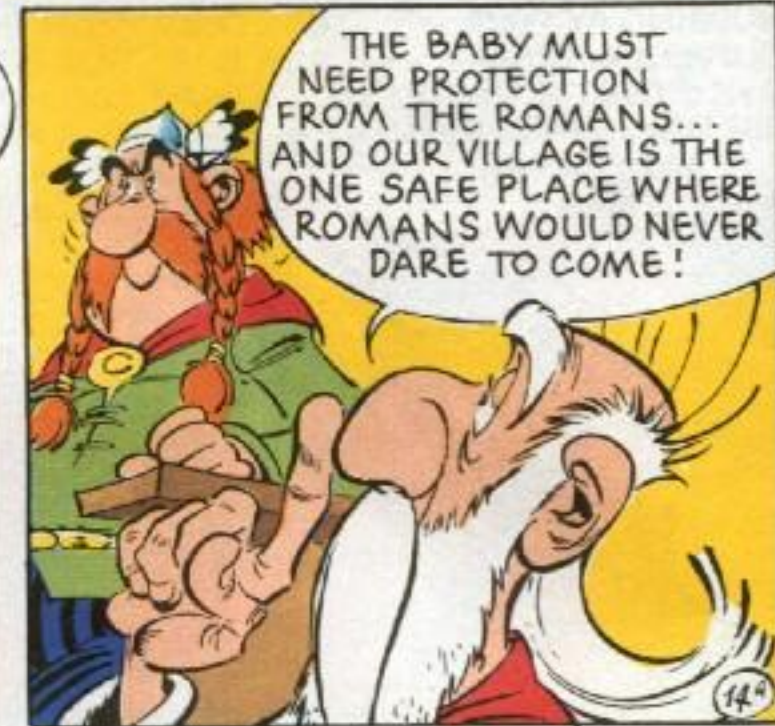
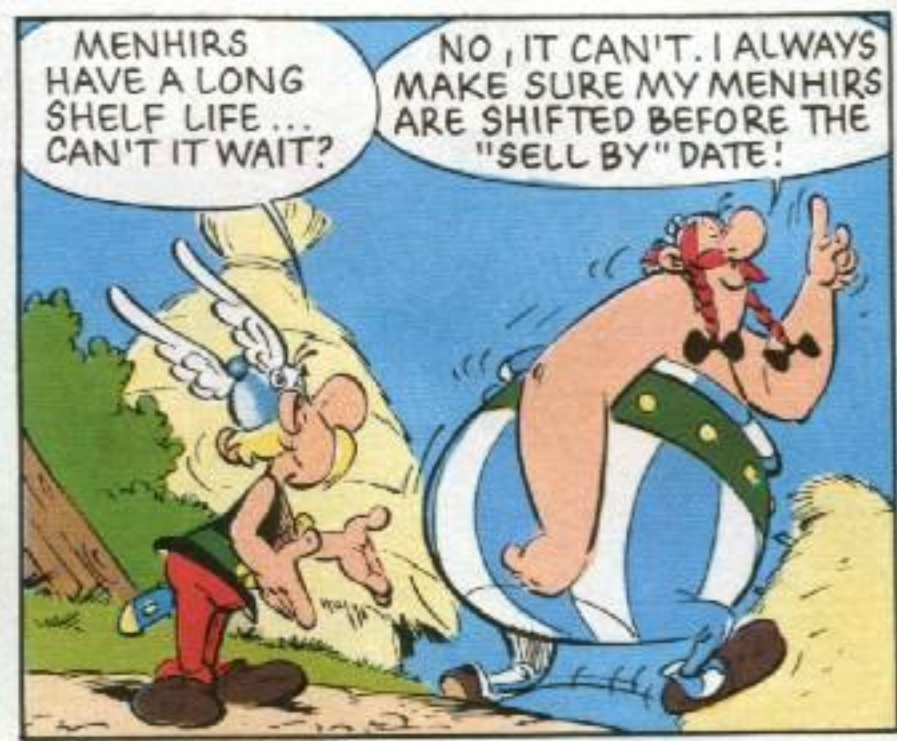
BANG!

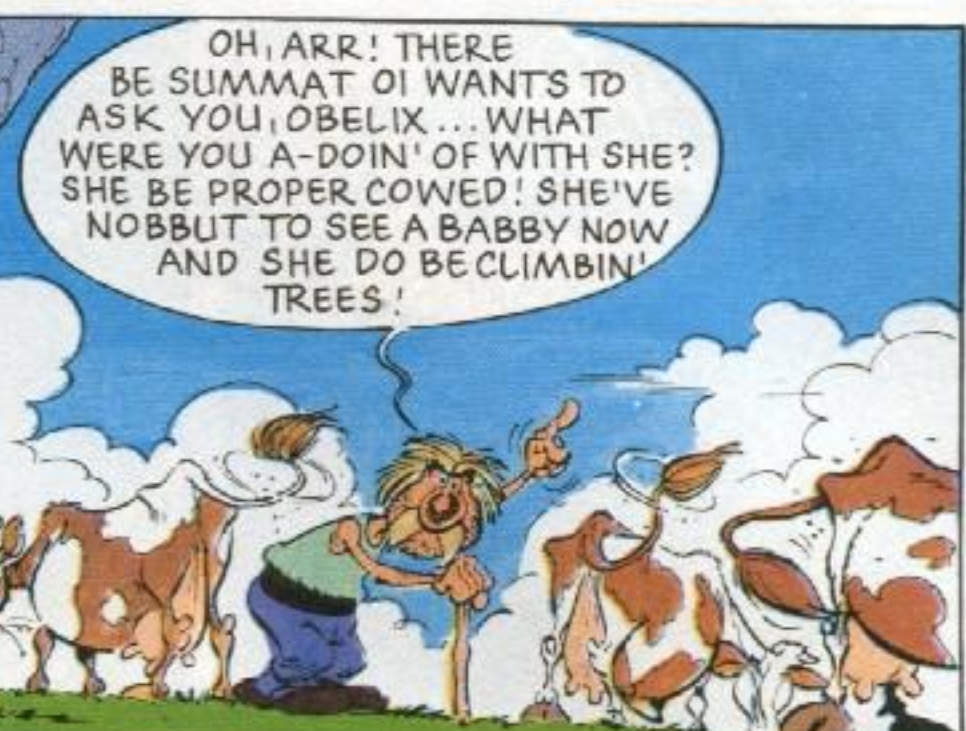
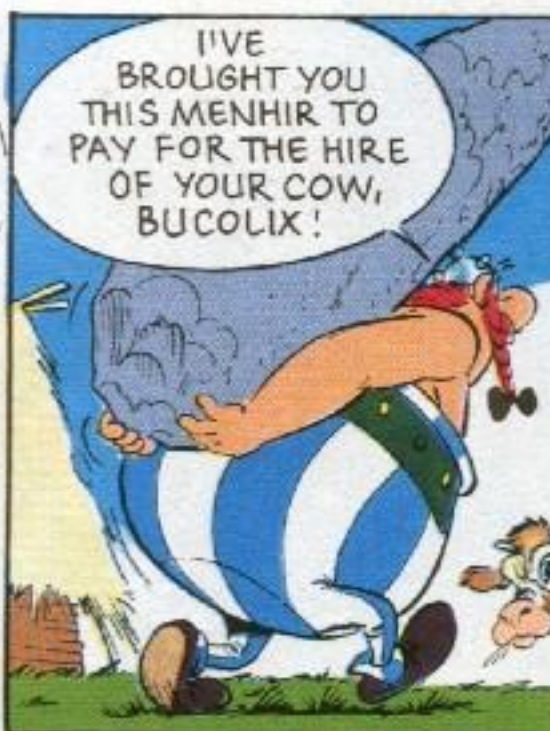


JUST LIKE ME AT HIS AGE!

I WONDER IF WE'RE SETTING THAT CHILD A GOOD EXAMPLE?

AGA!







BUT IN CONDATUM...

SO NOW YOU KNOW THE DREADFUL SECRET OF THAT CHILD'S BIRTH, CACTUS!

AND YOU ALSO KNOW THE EQUALLY DREADFUL SECRET OF MY PLAN! IF YOU BETRAY ME, IT WILL BE THE WORSE FOR YOU!

WHAT, ME, BETRAY YOU? DO I LOOK LIKE A TRAITOR?

YES! BUT I HAVE NO CHOICE. SO IF YOU SERVE ME WELL, YOU'LL GET THAT SEAT IN THE ROMAN SENATE YOU'VE BEEN WANTING SO LONG!

I'D SELL MY MOTHER AND FATHER TO SERVE YOU IF I HADN'T DONE THAT ALREADY, O BRUTUS, SON OF CAESAR!

ONLY ADOPTED SON OF CAESAR, AND ALL I'M ASKING YOU TO DO IS BRING ME THAT BABY!

I HAVE AN IDEA!

WAAAH!

ASTERIX, SUPPOSE I GAVE HIM JUST ONE TINY DROP OF MAGIC POTION, MAYBE HE'D...

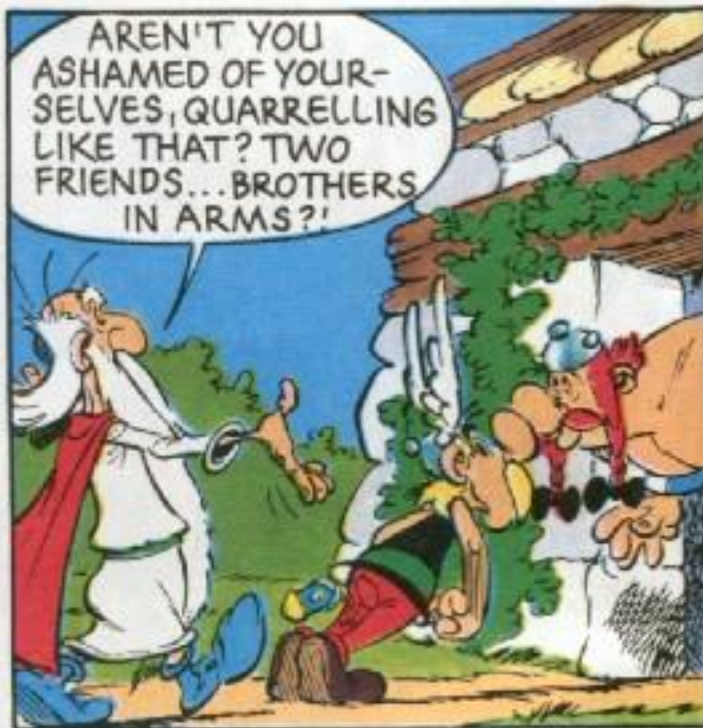
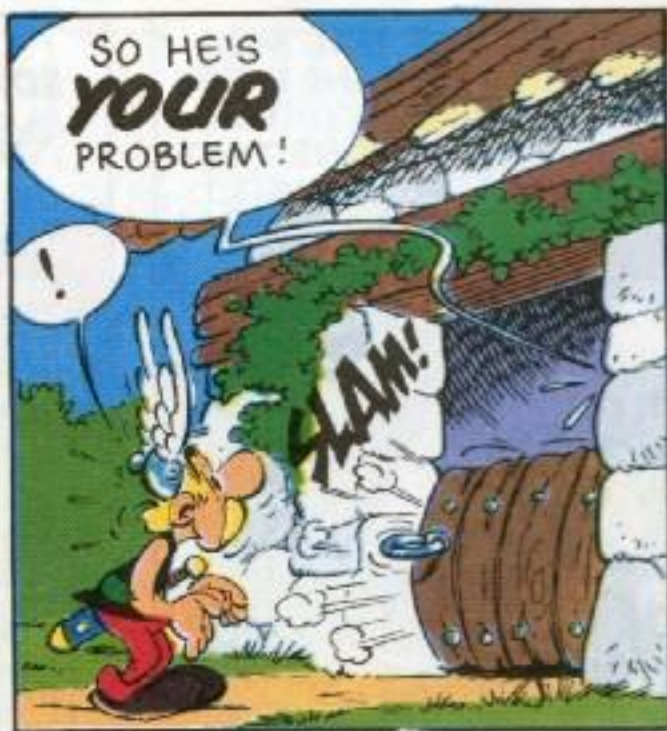
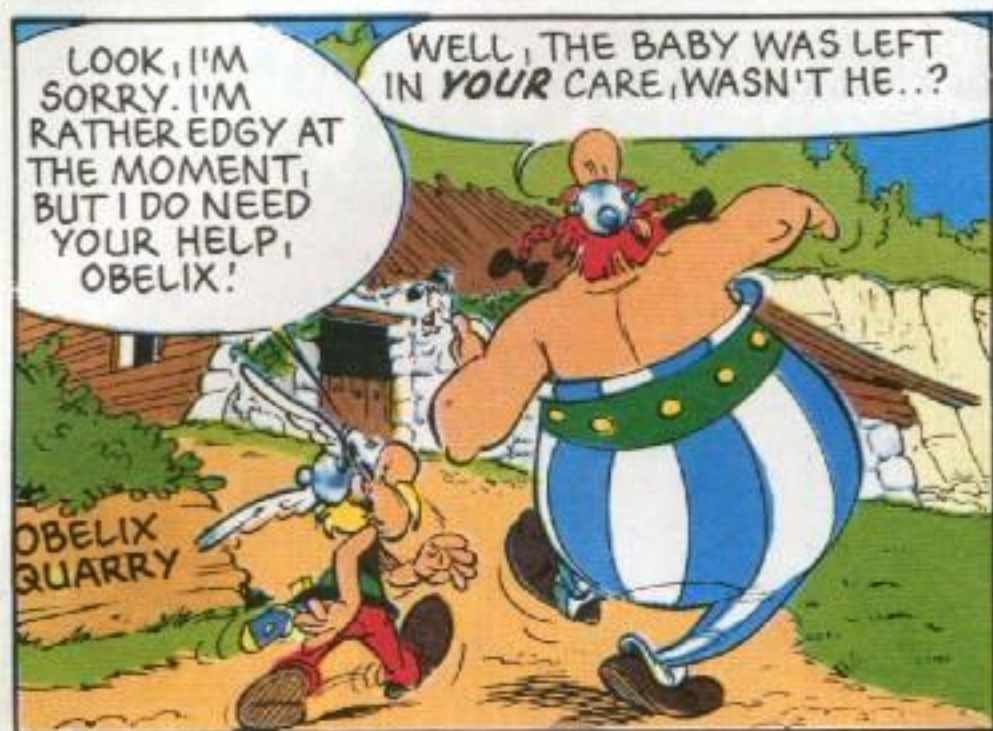
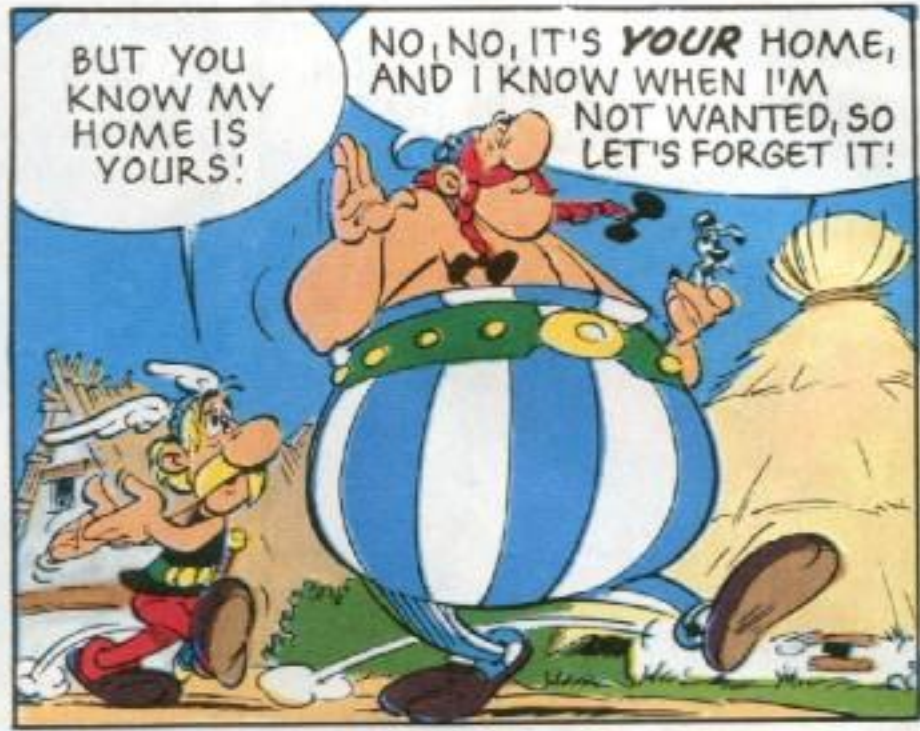
YOU'LL DO NO SUCH THING! YOU TWO HAVE CREATED ENOUGH HAVOC ALREADY!!!

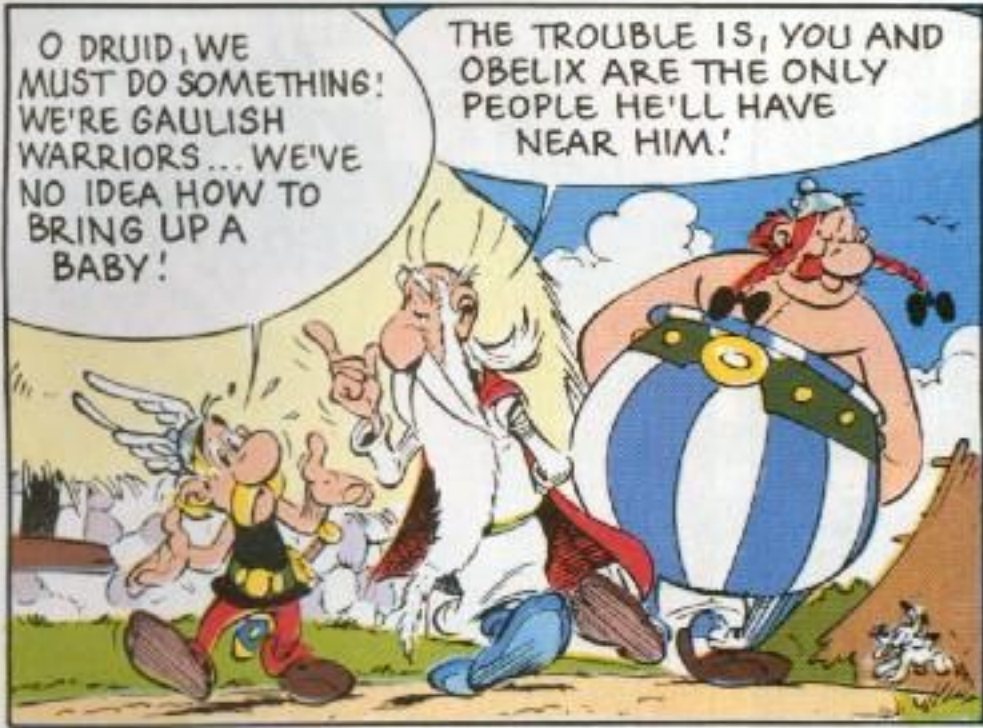
ALL RIGHT, ALL RIGHT, I GET THE IDEA! MUSTN'T TREAT THIS PLACE LIKE HOME, MUST WE, DOGMATIX?

WAAAAAH!

HEY... HE'S LEFT ME HOLDING THE BABY! OH, VERY CLEVER, MISTER OBELIX!

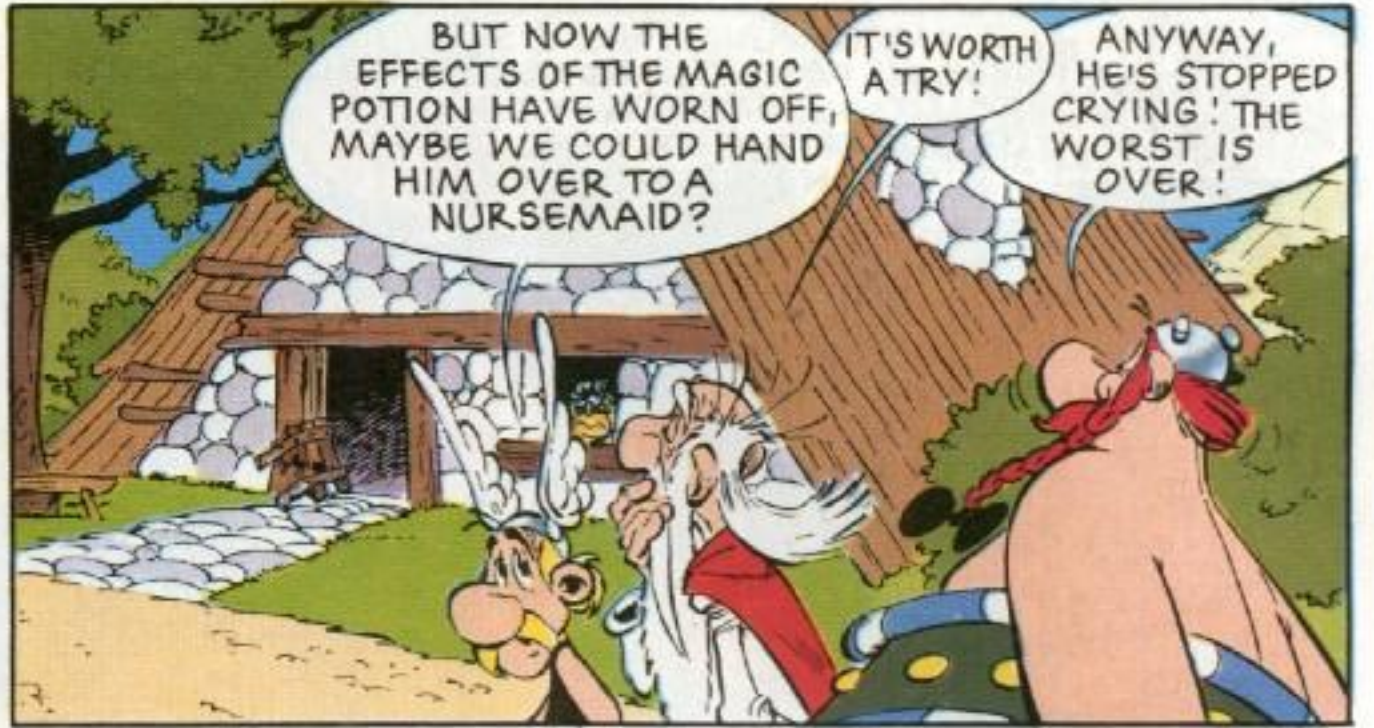
WAAAAH!





O DRUID, WE MUST DO SOMETHING! WE'RE GAULISH WARRIORS... WE'VE NO IDEA HOW TO BRING UP A BABY!

THE TROUBLE IS, YOU AND OBELIX ARE THE ONLY PEOPLE HE'LL HAVE NEAR HIM!



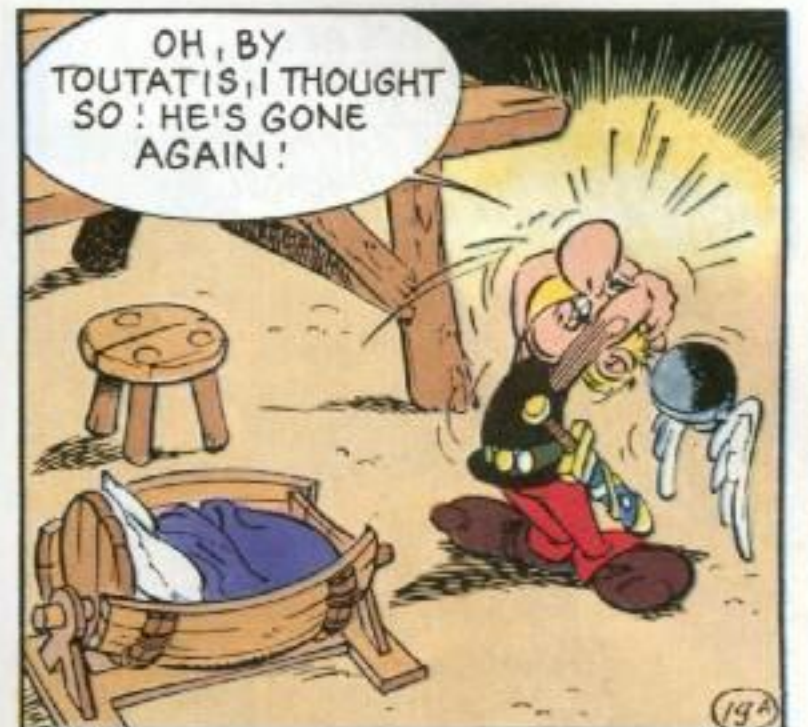
BUT NOW THE EFFECTS OF THE MAGIC POTION HAVE WORN OFF, MAYBE WE COULD HAND HIM OVER TO A NURSEMAID?

IT'S WORTH A TRY!

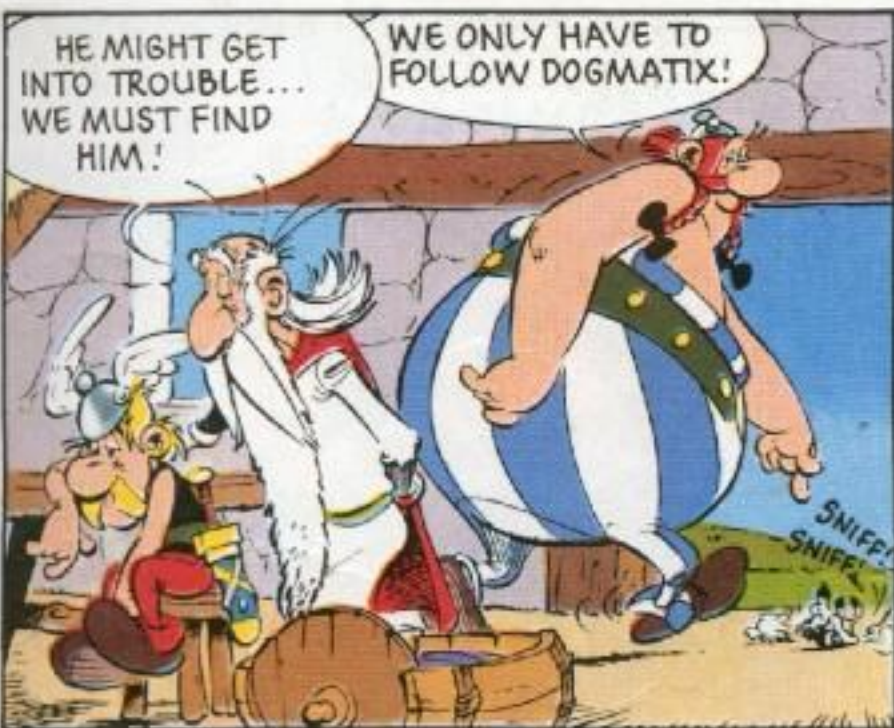
ANYWAY, HE'S STOPPED CRYING! THE WORST IS OVER!



OR YET TO COME! I HAVE A NASTY KIND OF FEELING...

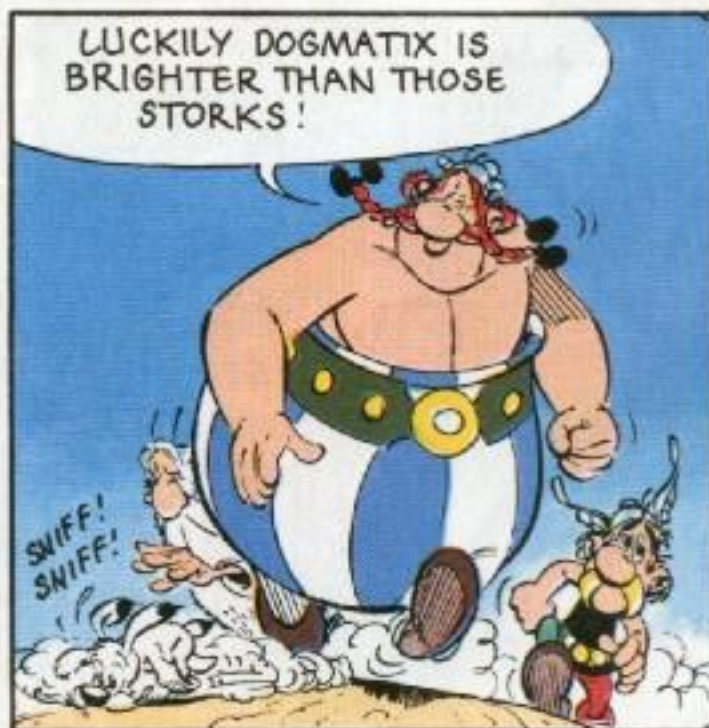


OH, BY TOUTATIS, I THOUGHT SO! HE'S GONE AGAIN!



HE MIGHT GET INTO TROUBLE... WE MUST FIND HIM!

WE ONLY HAVE TO FOLLOW DOGMATIX!



LUCKILY DOGMATIX IS BRIGHTER THAN THOSE STORKS!

SNIFF! SNIFF!



IT LOOKS AS IF THE BABY'S IN YOUR HOUSE, GETAFIX!

SNIFF! SNIFF!



ASTERIX! THE BABY'S FALLEN INTO THE CAULDRON OF MAGIC POTION!

OH NO! THAT REMINDS ME OF SOMETHING...!



THERE WASN'T MUCH POTION LEFT... BUT ENOUGH FOR THE EFFECTS TO LAST LONGER THIS TIME!

YOU KNOW, I REALLY TAKE TO YOU!

BURP!

AND TO THINK I ONLY FEARED THE WORST!

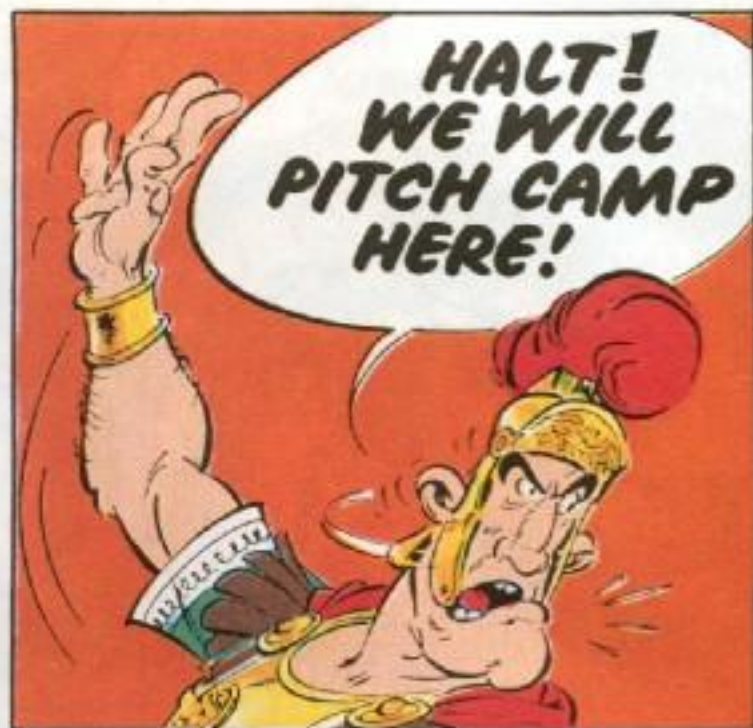
MEANWHILE,
NOT FAR
FROM THE
VILLAGE...

O MARCUS JUNIUS BRUTUS,
SINCE WE WANT OUR HQ NEAR THE
INDOMITABLE GAULS, WHY DON'T WE
USE ONE OF THE FORTIFIED CAMPS
SURROUNDING THEIR VILLAGE?

BECAUSE CAESAR MIGHT
GET TO HEAR OF IT, AND
I'M NONE TOO KEEN TO
HAVE HIM ASKING ME
WHAT I'M DOING HERE
IN ARMORICA!



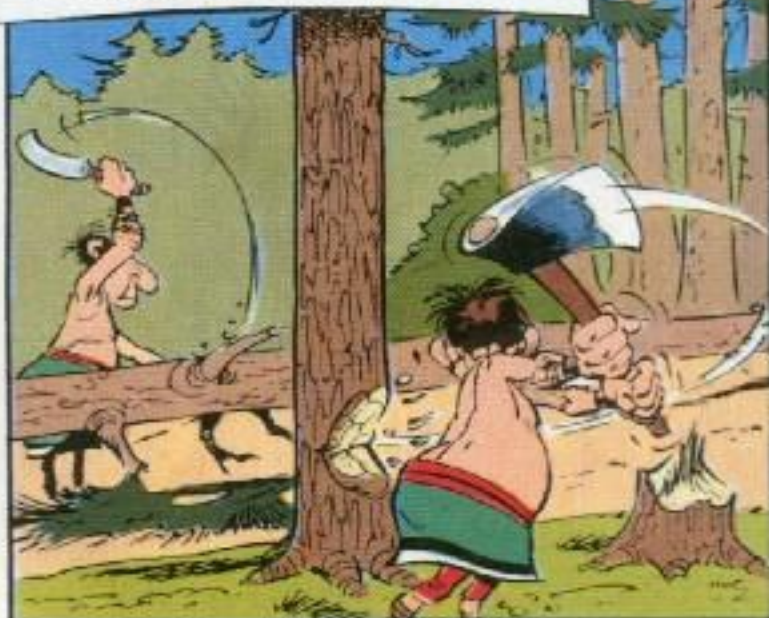
**HALT!
WE WILL
PITCH CAMP
HERE!**



AND ONCE AGAIN WE ARE
PRIVILEGED TO WATCH THE
MANOEUVRES OF THE ROMAN
ARMY. WHILE THE SAPPERS DIG A
FOSSA (DITCH) AND RAISE AN
AGGER (RAMPART)...



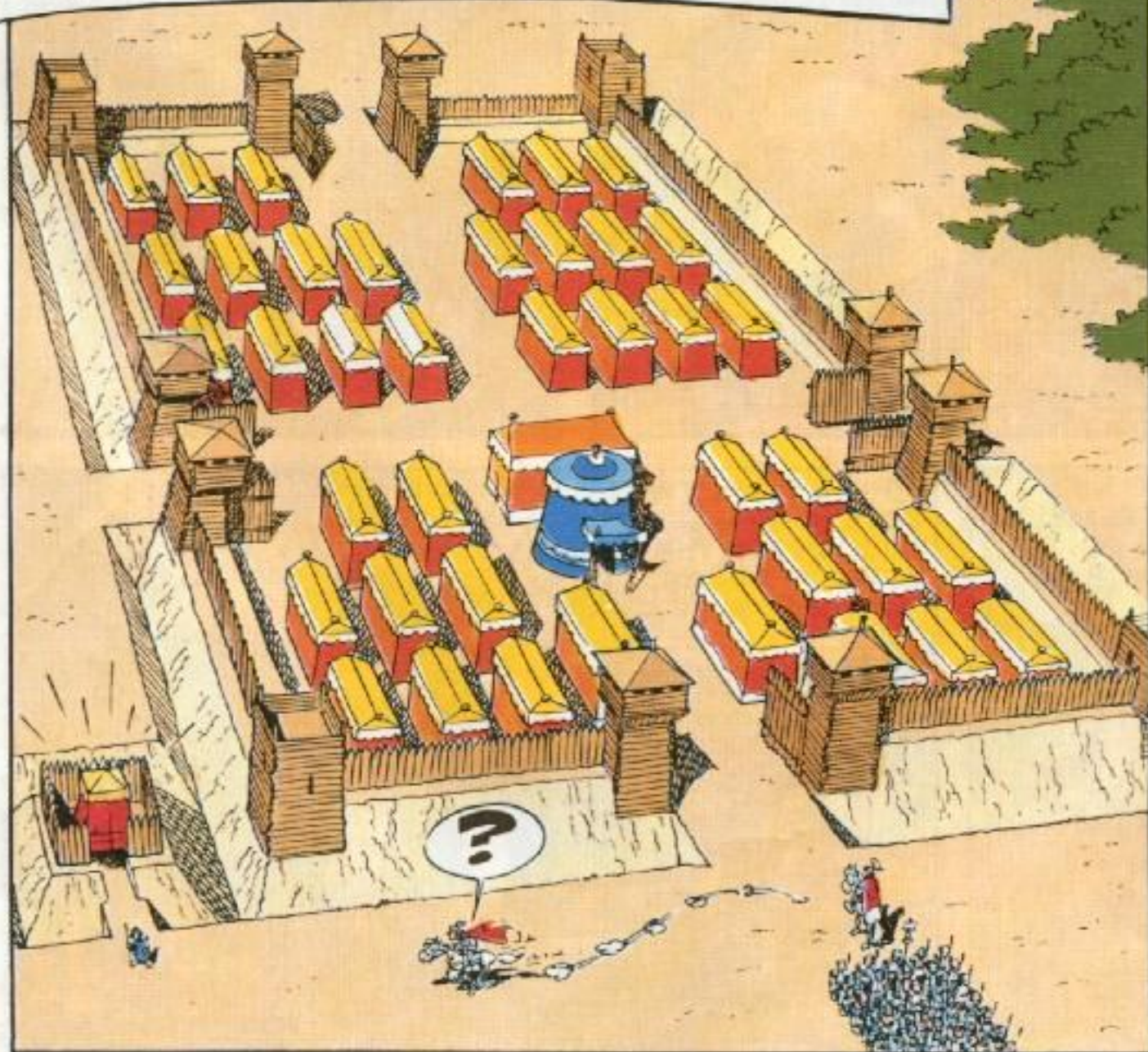
... THE WOODCUTTERS GO
TO CHOP DOWN TREES ...



... FOR THE CARPENTERS TO BUILD
THE VALLUM (FENCE).

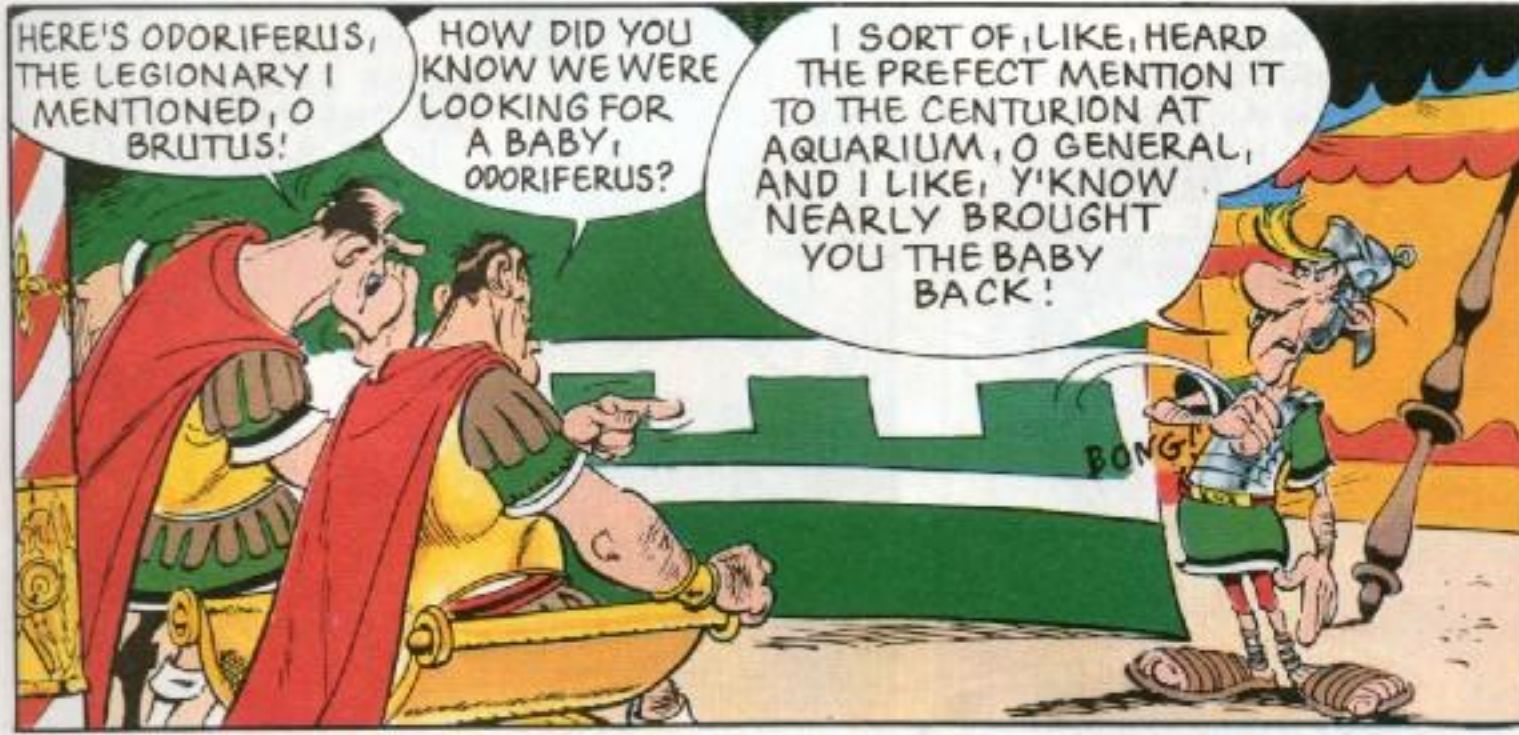


AT LAST THE CAMP IS READY. THE GENERAL AND HIS
MEN ARE ABOUT TO ENTER IN REVIEW ORDER, THUS
SYMBOLIZING THE MIGHT OF THE ROMAN ARMY, THE
BEST-DISCIPLINED FIGHTING FORCE IN THE WORLD...



... ALTHOUGH
SOMETIMES...





HERE'S ODORIFERUS, THE LEGIONARY I MENTIONED, O BRUTUS!

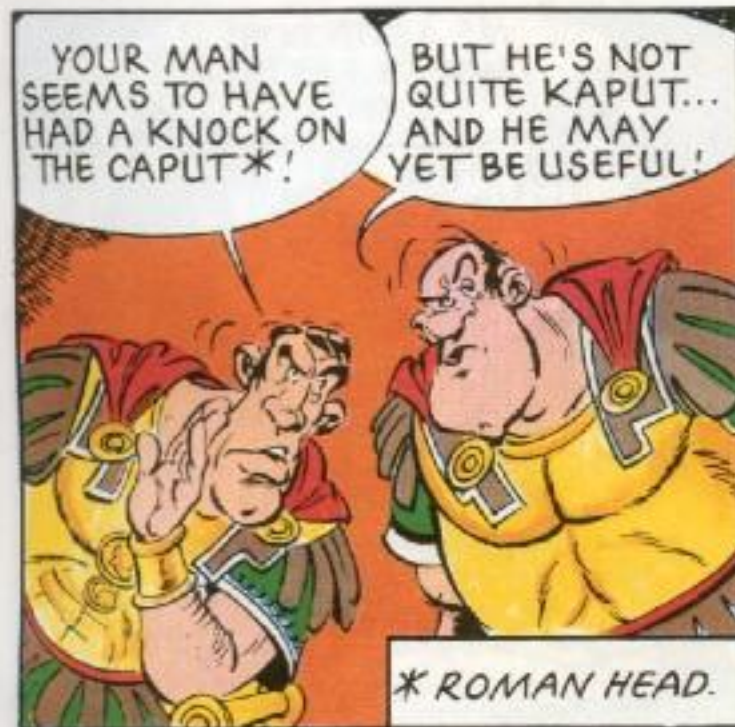
HOW DID YOU KNOW WE WERE LOOKING FOR A BABY, ODORIFERUS?

I SORT OF, LIKE, HEARD THE PREFECT MENTION IT TO THE CENTURION AT AQUARIUM, O GENERAL, AND I LIKE, Y'KNOW NEARLY BROUGHT YOU THE BABY BACK!



SO WHAT STOPPED YOU?

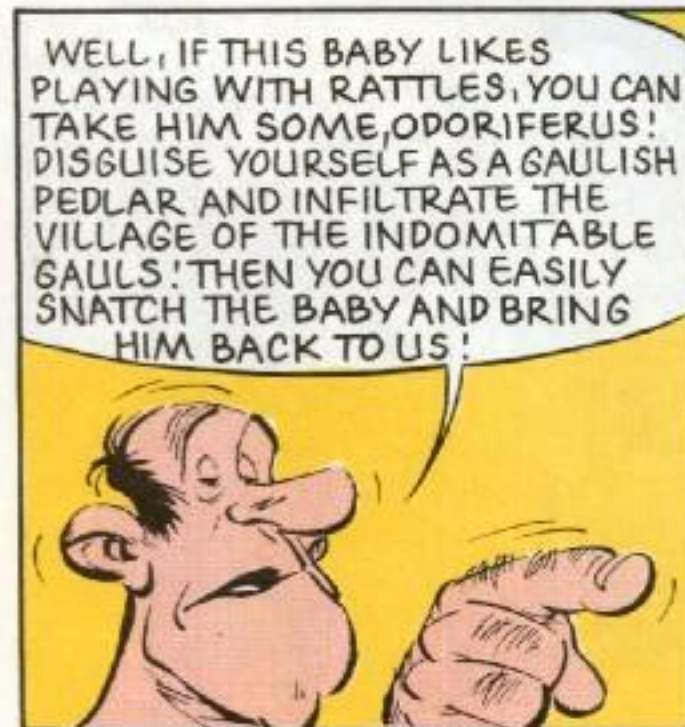
HE DID! HE SORT OF TOOK ME FOR A RATTLE, Y'KNOW, AND THEN HE, LIKE, SWUNG ME AROUND OVER HIS HEAD, O GENERAL!



YOUR MAN SEEMS TO HAVE HAD A KNOCK ON THE CAPUT*!

BUT HE'S NOT QUITE KAPUT... AND HE MAY YET BE USEFUL!

* ROMAN HEAD.

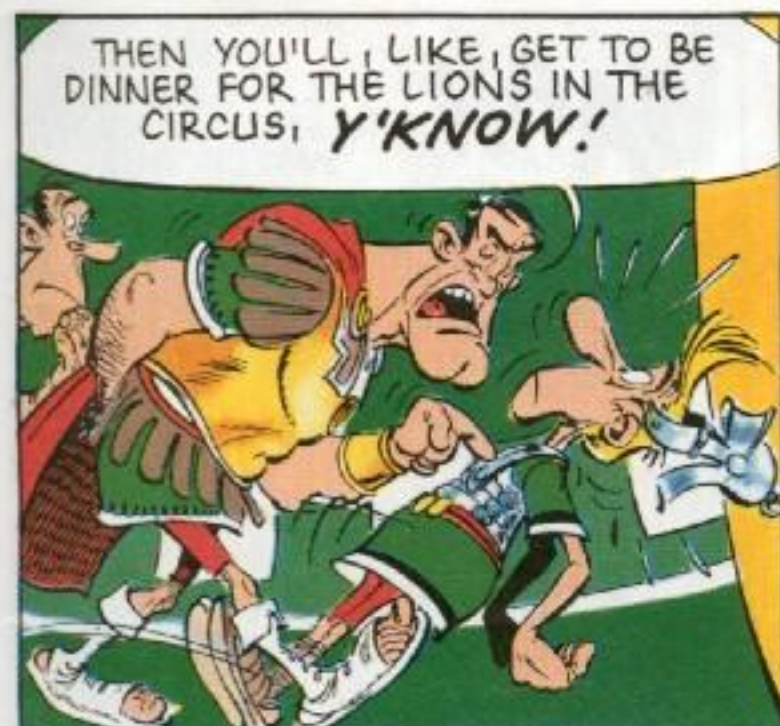


WELL, IF THIS BABY LIKES PLAYING WITH RATTLES, YOU CAN TAKE HIM SOME, ODORIFERUS! DISGUISE YOURSELF AS A GAULISH PEDLAR AND INFILTRATE THE VILLAGE OF THE INDOMITABLE GAULS! THEN YOU CAN EASILY SNATCH THE BABY AND BRING HIM BACK TO US!



IF YOU AGREE, AND SUCCEED, YOU'LL GET TO BE OPTIO!

AND IF I, LIKE, SAY NO, Y'KNOW?



THEN YOU'LL, LIKE, GET TO BE DINNER FOR THE LIONS IN THE CIRCUS, Y'KNOW!



LATER...

DIDN'T YOU READ THE NOTICE? NO PEDLARS OR CIRCULARS IN THIS CAMP!

THE DISGUISE IS PERFECT... IT'S EVEN TAKEN IN THE SENTRY!



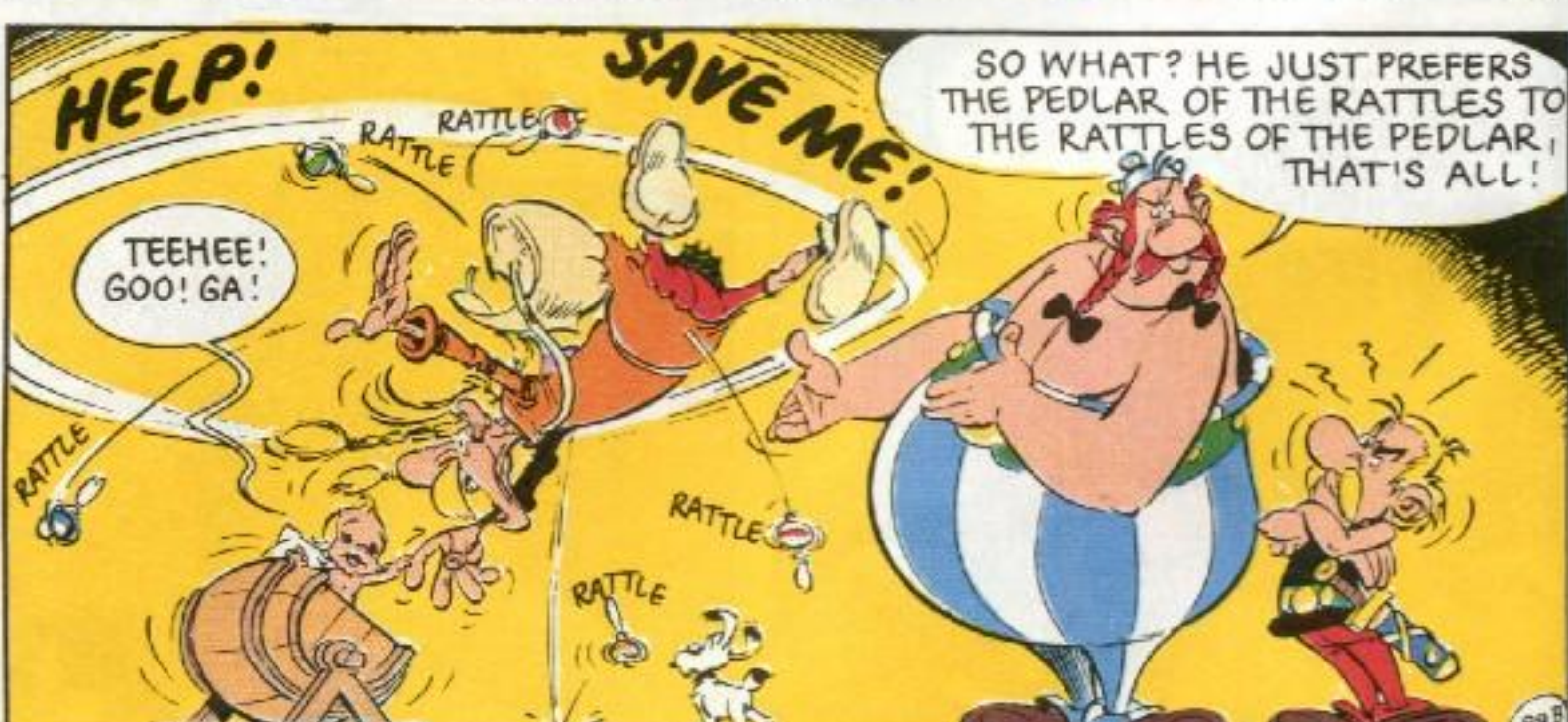
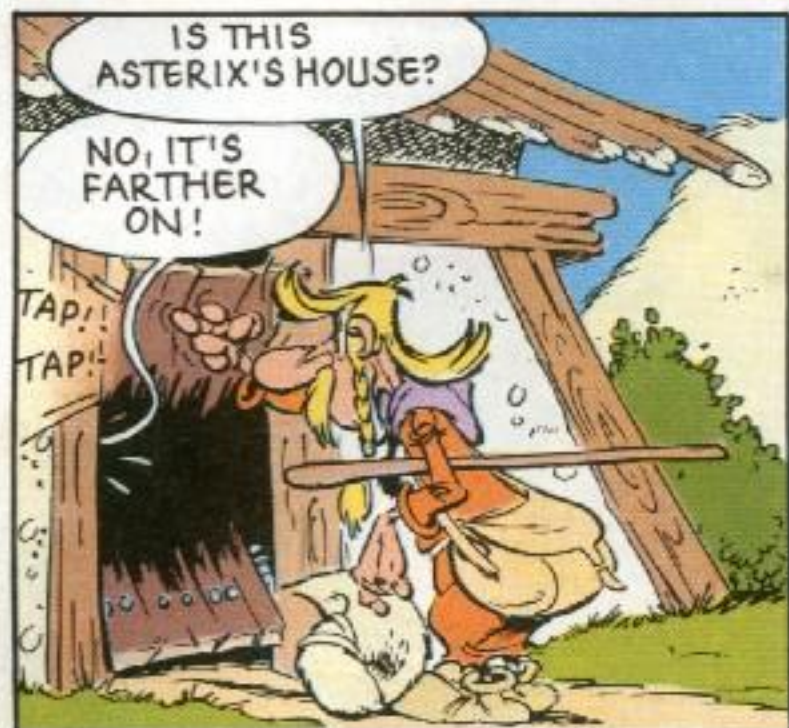
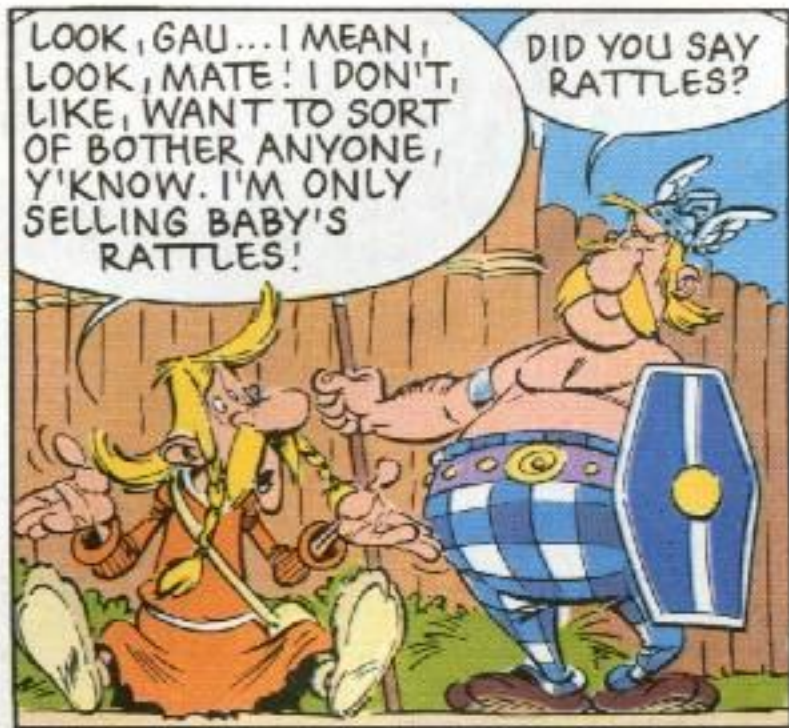
AND TO THINK I, LIKE, JOINED UP BECAUSE OF THE SMART UNIFORM!

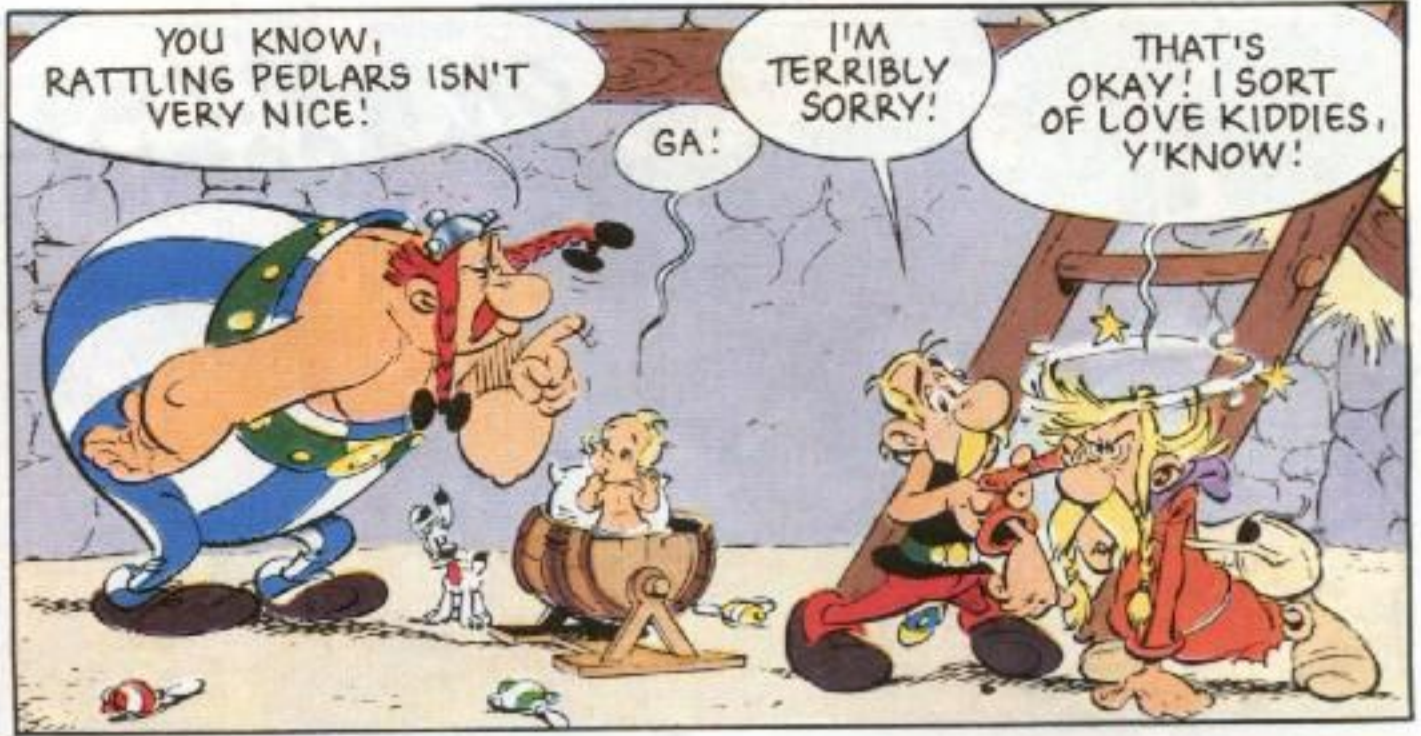


LATER STILL, JUST OUTSIDE ASTERIX'S VILLAGE...

PAF!

GET OUT! NO PEDLARS OR CIRCULARS IN THIS VILLAGE!



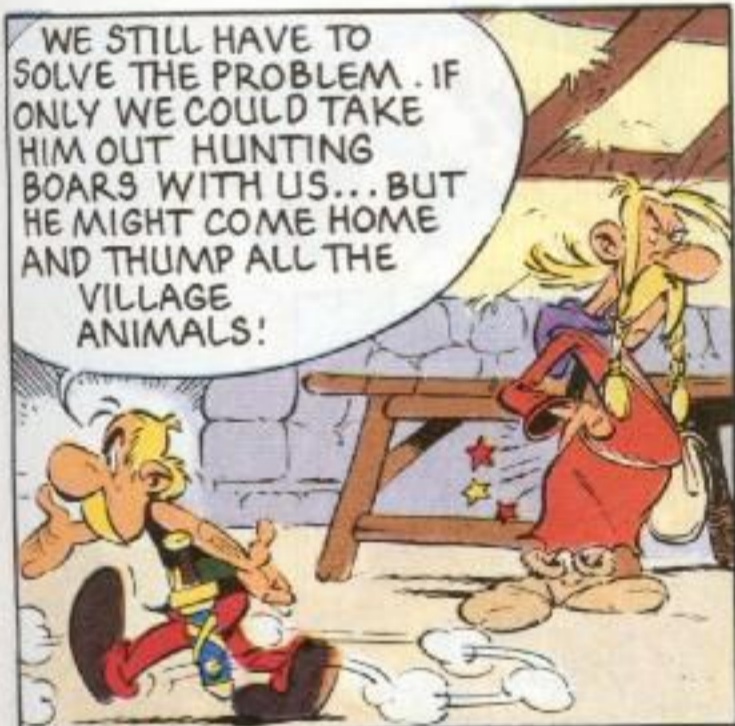


YOU KNOW, RATTLING PEDLARS ISN'T VERY NICE!

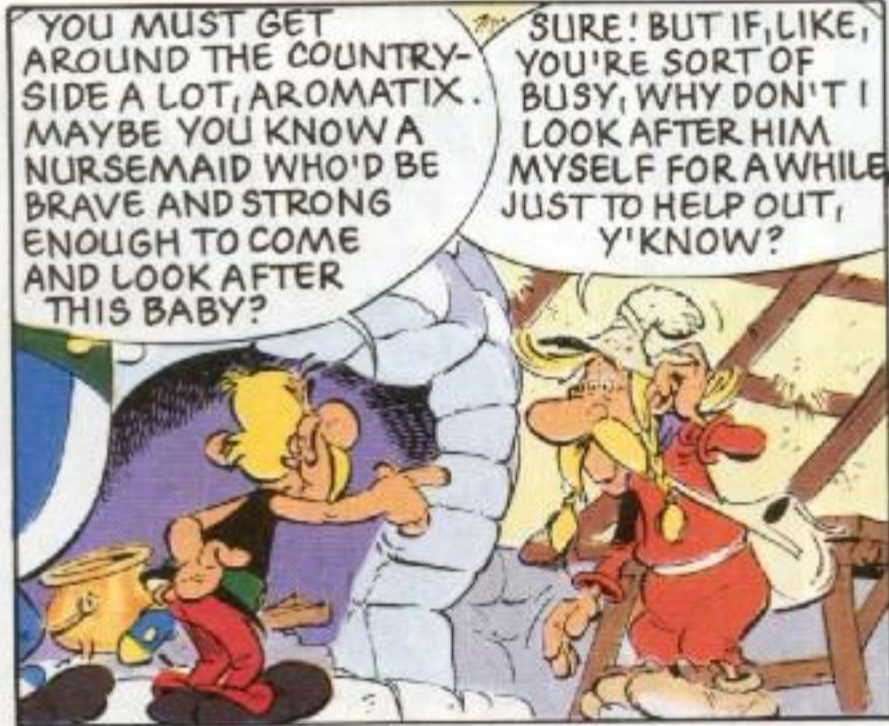
GA!

I'M TERRIBLY SORRY!

THAT'S OKAY! I SORT OF LOVE KIDDIES, Y'KNOW!

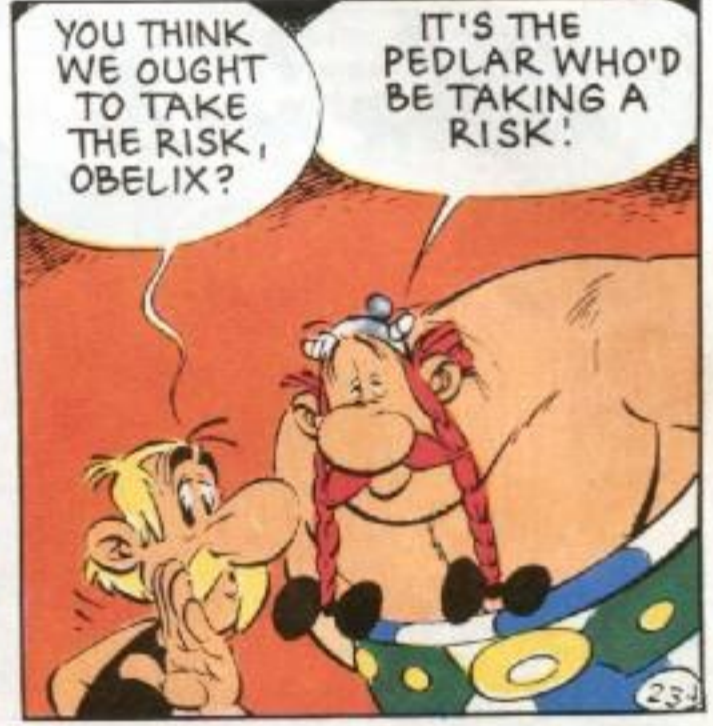


WE STILL HAVE TO SOLVE THE PROBLEM. IF ONLY WE COULD TAKE HIM OUT HUNTING BOARS WITH US... BUT HE MIGHT COME HOME AND THUMP ALL THE VILLAGE ANIMALS!



YOU MUST GET AROUND THE COUNTRY-SIDE A LOT, AROMATIX. MAYBE YOU KNOW A NURSEMAID WHO'D BE BRAVE AND STRONG ENOUGH TO COME AND LOOK AFTER THIS BABY?

SURE! BUT IF, LIKE, YOU'RE SORT OF BUSY, WHY DON'T I LOOK AFTER HIM MYSELF FOR A WHILE, JUST TO HELP OUT, Y'KNOW?



YOU THINK WE OUGHT TO TAKE THE RISK, OBELIX?

IT'S THE PEDLAR WHO'D BE TAKING A RISK!



WELL, FINE, BUT MIND HE DOESN'T GET OUT OF THE HUT! WE'LL BE BACK QUITE SOON!

WE'RE ONLY GOING TO PICK OFF TWO OR THREE BOARS IN THE FOREST FOR SUPPER THIS EVENING!



I THINK THAT PEDLAR'S A RATTLING GOOD SORT TO AMUSE THE BABY, DON'T YOU, ASTERIX?



GA?

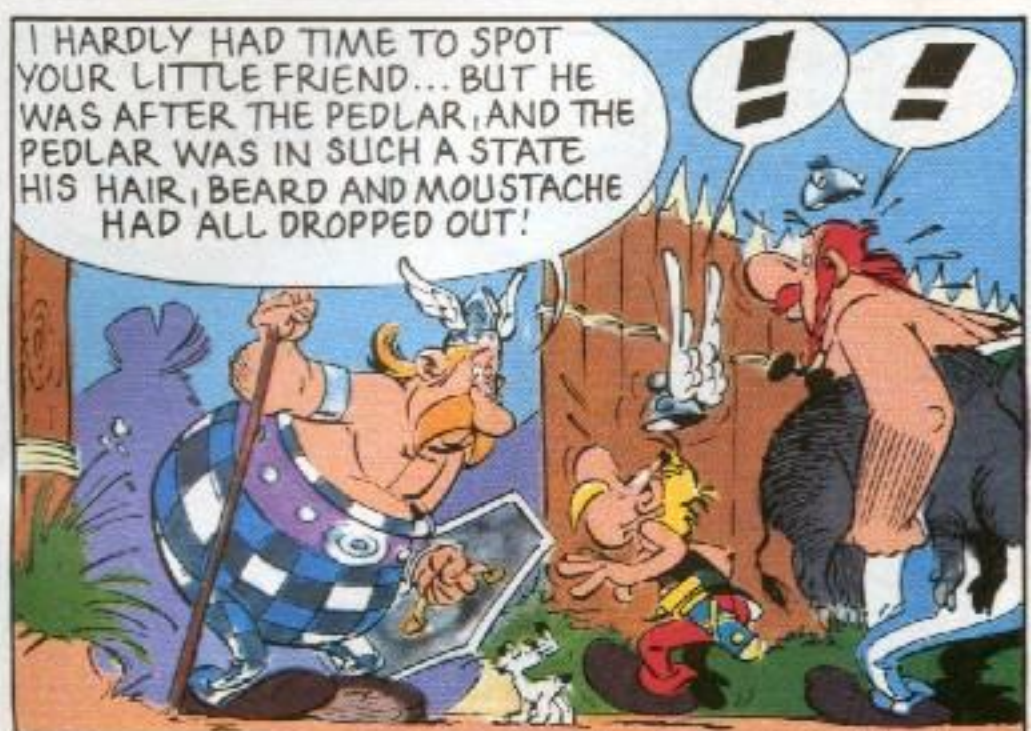
I WONDER IF, LIKE, THE LIONS IN THE CIRCUS MIGHT HAVE, SORT OF, BEEN A BETTER BET!



LATER...

HE'S ASLEEP AT LAST! NOW TO GET HIM BACK TO THE CAMP BEFORE HE WAKES UP!

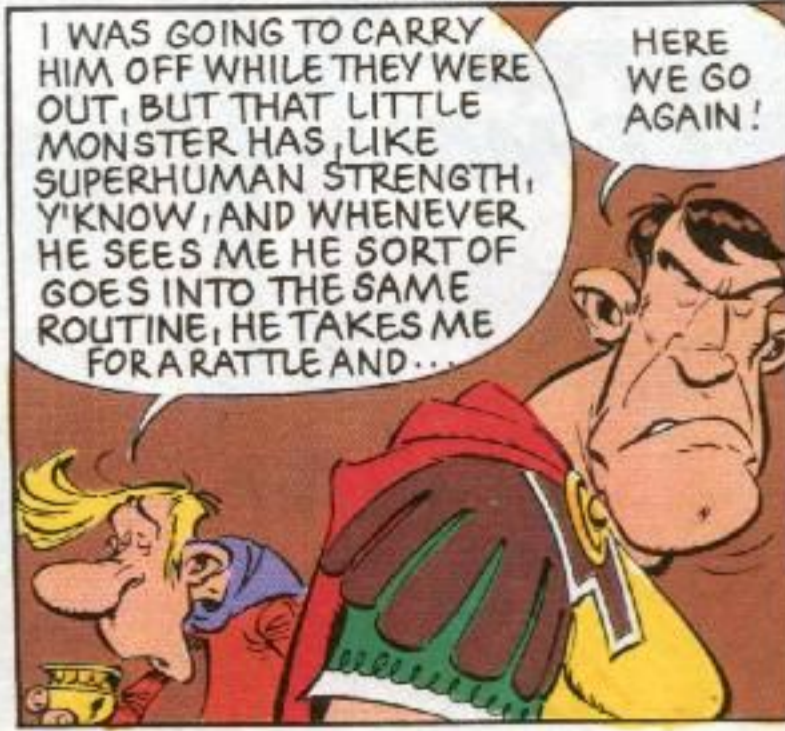






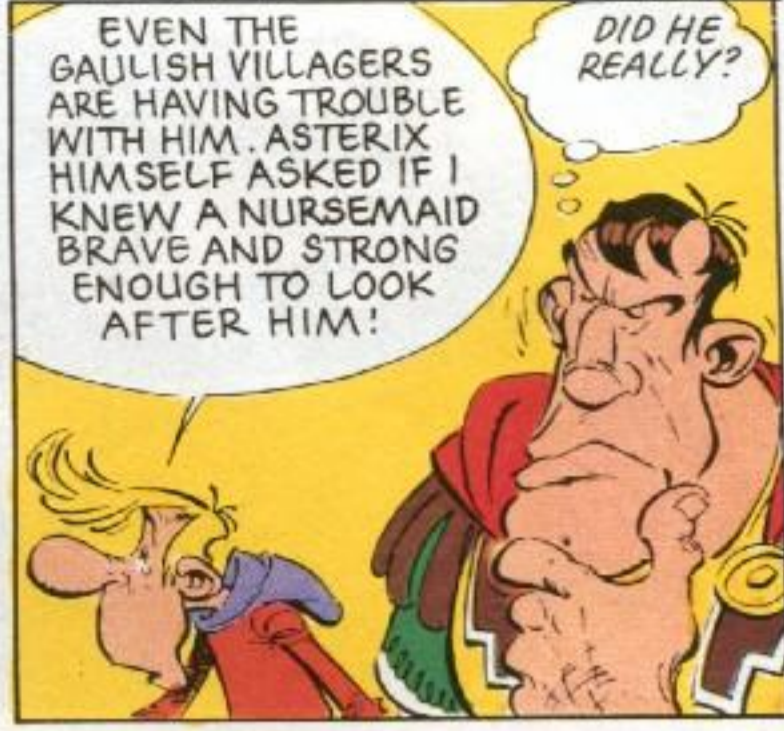
NOW, DRINK THIS PICK-ME-UP AND TELL US WHAT HAPPENED, ODORIFERUS!

I, LIKE, SORT OF WON THE GAULS' CONFIDENCE, Y'KNOW, AND THEY GAVE ME THE BABY TO LOOK AFTER...



I WAS GOING TO CARRY HIM OFF WHILE THEY WERE OUT, BUT THAT LITTLE MONSTER HAS, LIKE SUPERHUMAN STRENGTH, Y'KNOW, AND WHENEVER HE SEES ME HE SORT OF GOES INTO THE SAME ROUTINE, HE TAKES ME FOR A RATTLE AND...

HERE WE GO AGAIN!



EVEN THE GAULISH VILLAGERS ARE HAVING TROUBLE WITH HIM. ASTERIX HIMSELF ASKED IF I KNEW A NURSEMAID BRAVE AND STRONG ENOUGH TO LOOK AFTER HIM!

DID HE REALLY?



I THINK I'VE, LIKE, EARNED PROMOTION TO OPTIO!

YOU? YOU'VE FAILED IN YOUR MISSION. THINK YOURSELF LUCKY NOT TO BE SERVED UP TO THE LIONS IN THE CIRCUS MAXIMUS!



I DIDN'T, LIKE, KNOW THESE PARTS BEFORE, BUT I WON'T BE SORT OF FORGETTING THE DISCOVERY OF ARMORICA IN A HURRY!



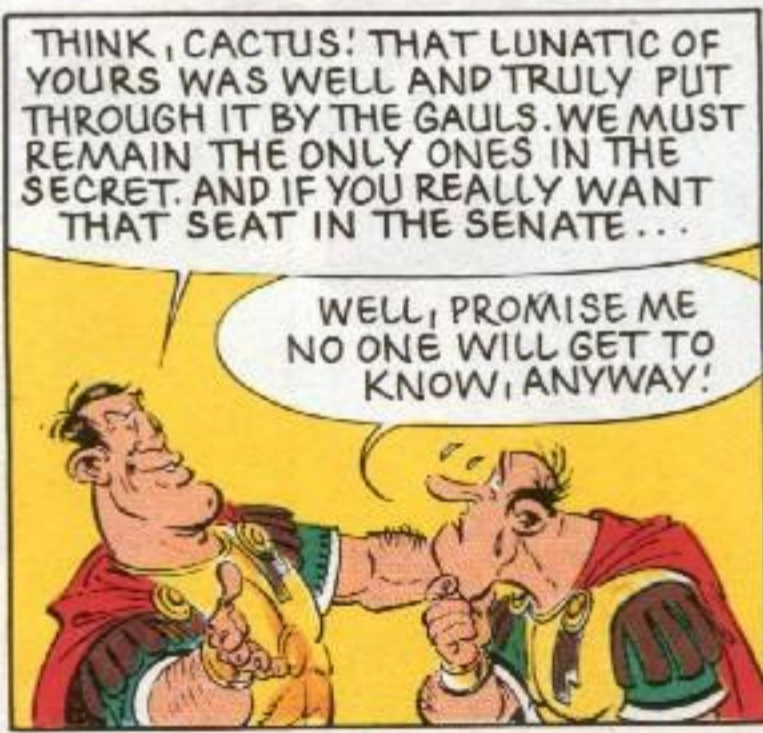
WHAT HE SAID ABOUT THE NURSEMAID GAVE ME AN IDEA! WHY DON'T WE SEND ONE TO THE VILLAGE?

BECAUSE WE HAVEN'T GOT ANY NURSEMAIDS IN THE ARMY, THAT'S WHY!



YES, WE HAVE... YOU!

WHAT DO YOU MEAN, ME?



THINK, CACTUS! THAT LUNATIC OF YOURS WAS WELL AND TRULY PUT THROUGH IT BY THE GAULS. WE MUST REMAIN THE ONLY ONES IN THE SECRET. AND IF YOU REALLY WANT THAT SEAT IN THE SENATE...

WELL, PROMISE ME NO ONE WILL GET TO KNOW, ANYWAY!



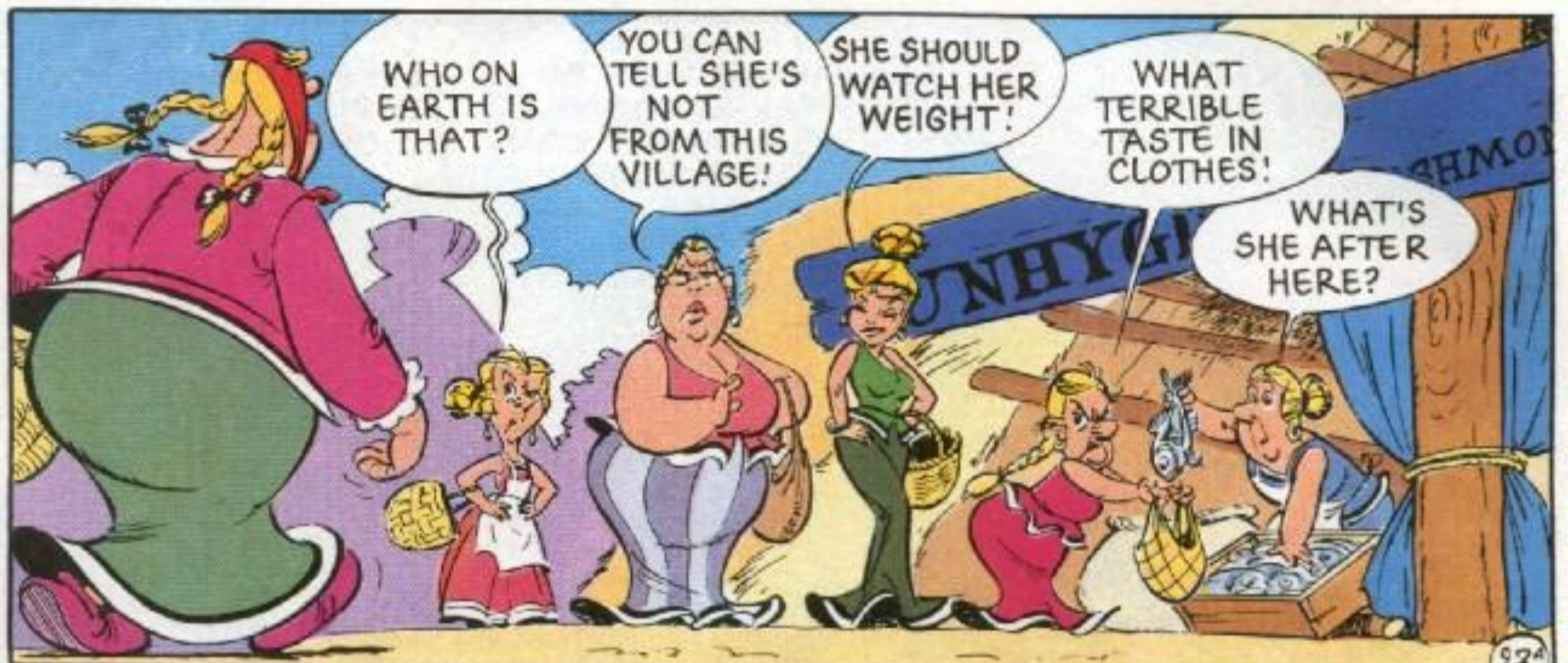
LATER...

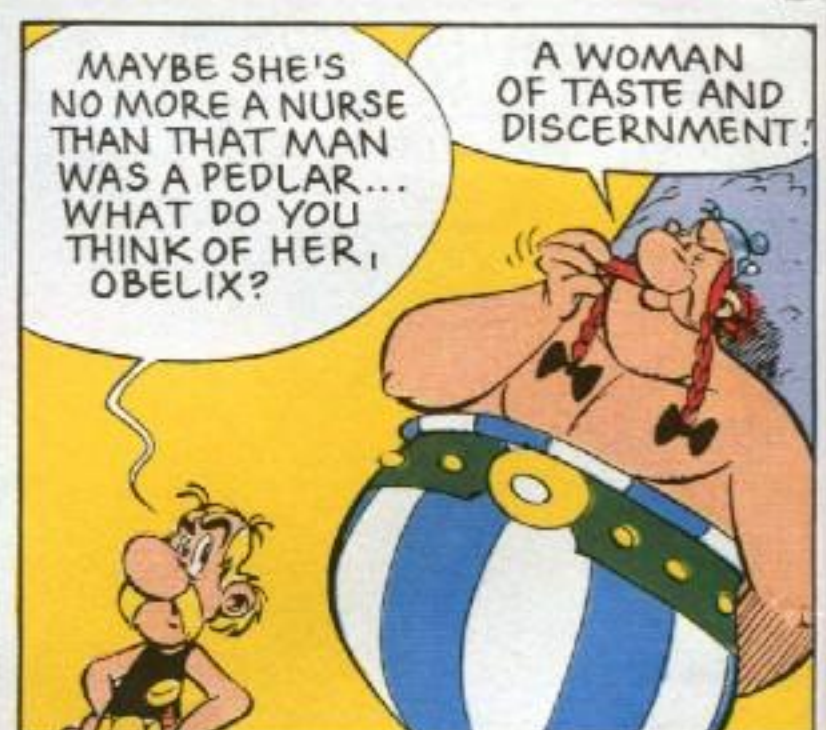
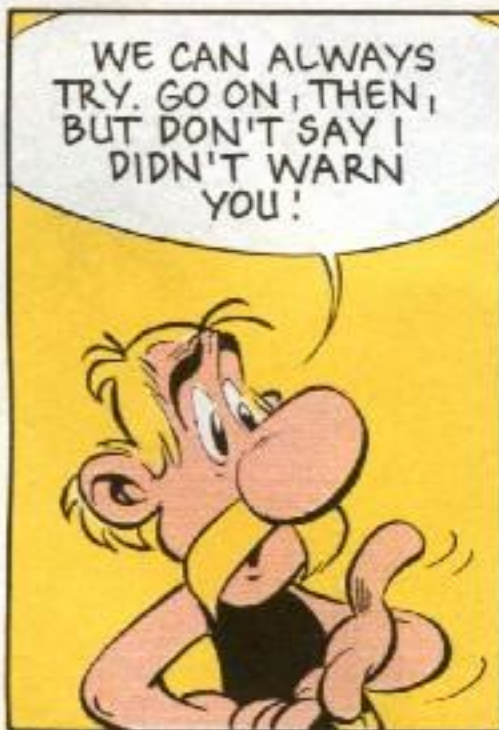
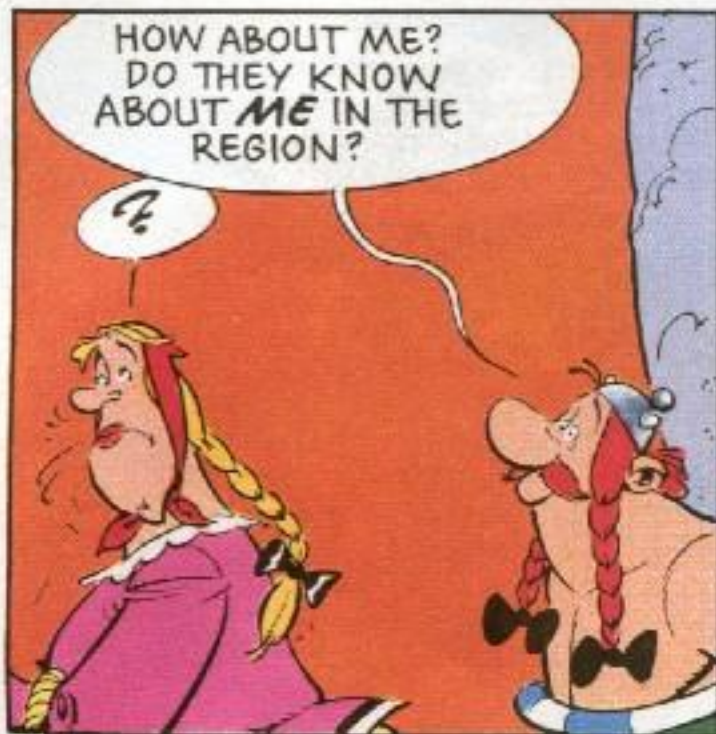
AVE, GORGEOUS! LIKE A BIT OF SLAP AND TICKLE?



BY ZHUPITER! THAT'SH GOING A BIT TOO FAR!

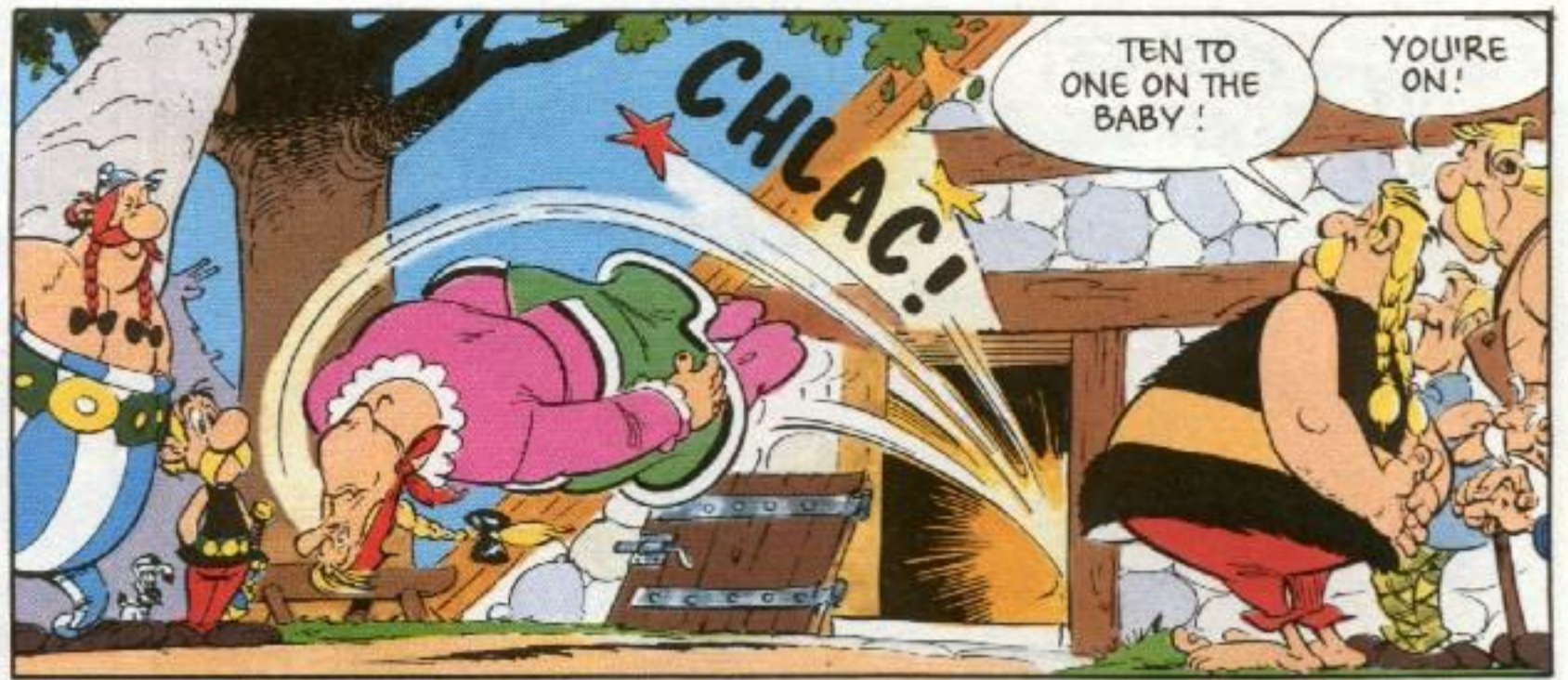
IT WORKS! EVEN THE SENTRY WAS TAKEN IN!





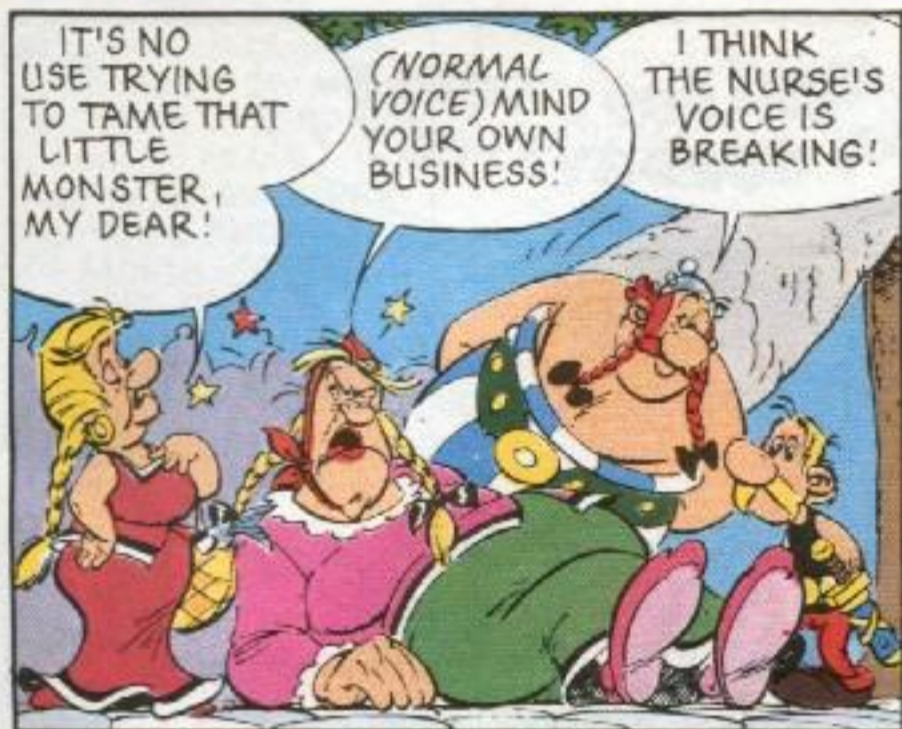


I'LL GET THE BETTER OF YOU YET, YOU *@%&* CHILD!



TEN TO ONE ON THE BABY!

YOU'RE ON!



IT'S NO USE TRYING TO TAME THAT LITTLE MONSTER, MY DEAR!

(NORMAL VOICE) MIND YOUR OWN BUSINESS!

I THINK THE NURSE'S VOICE IS BREAKING!



BUT I WAS ONLY GOING TO...

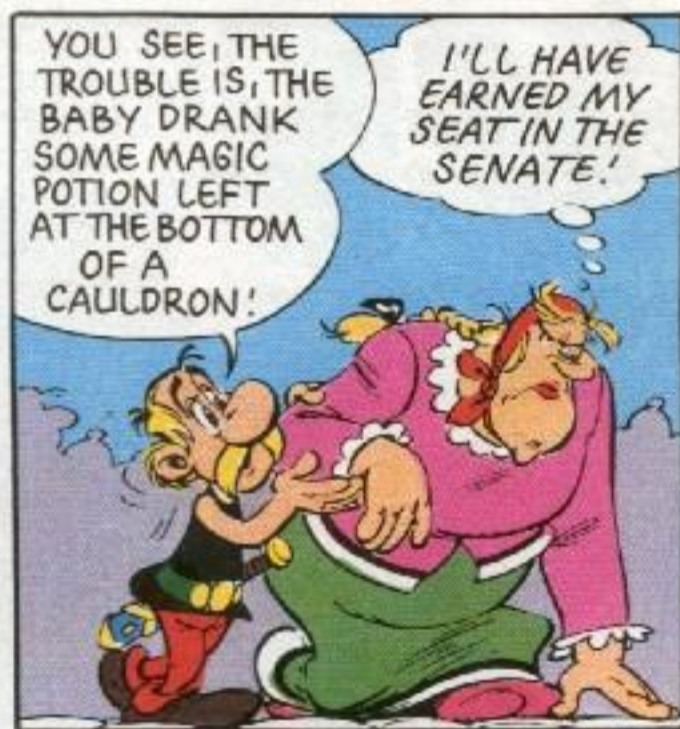
KEEP OUT OF THIS! GET BACK TO YOUR POTS AND PANS, WOMAN!



SPLATCH!



FANCY SPEAKING TO THE CHIEF'S WIFE LIKE THAT!



YOU SEE, THE TROUBLE IS, THE BABY DRANK SOME MAGIC POTION LEFT AT THE BOTTOM OF A CAULDRON!

I'LL HAVE EARNED MY SEAT IN THE SENATE!



COME ON. I'LL TRY GETTING YOU OFF TO LESS OF A FLYING START!



LOOK! THE NICEST ASPIDISTRA IN THE WORLD! MUSTN'T HIT NICE ASPIDISTRA!



WAAH!
HERE WE GO AGAIN!



GOODBYE-EE, GOODBYE-EE,
WIPE THE TEAR, BABY DEAR,
FROM YOUR EYE-EE...

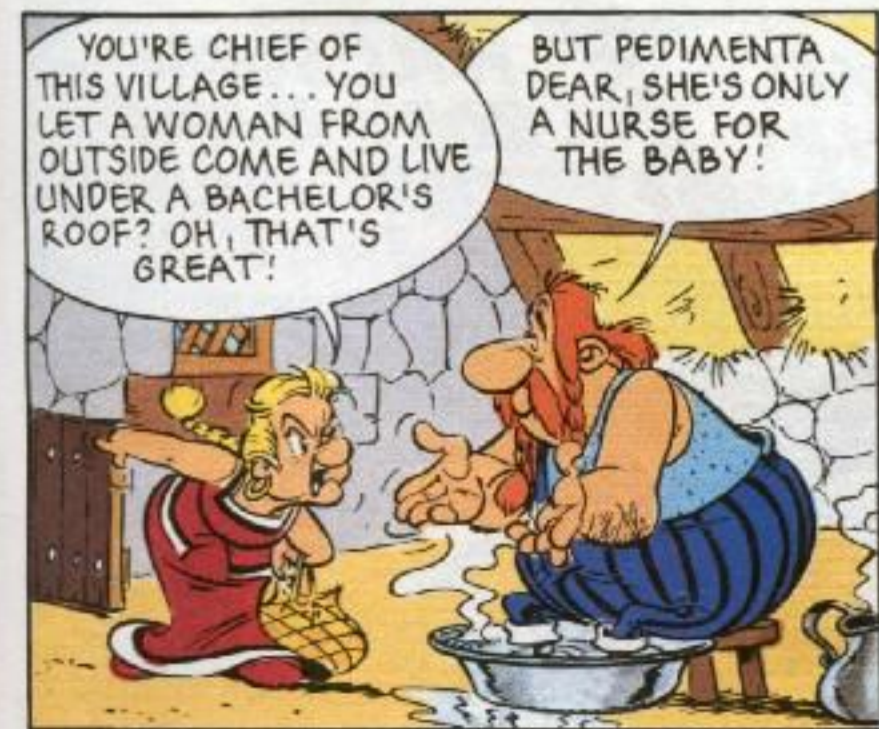
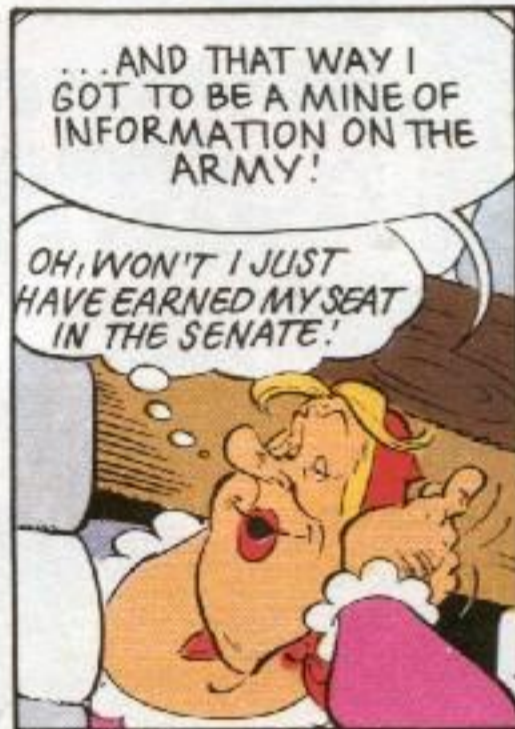
29a

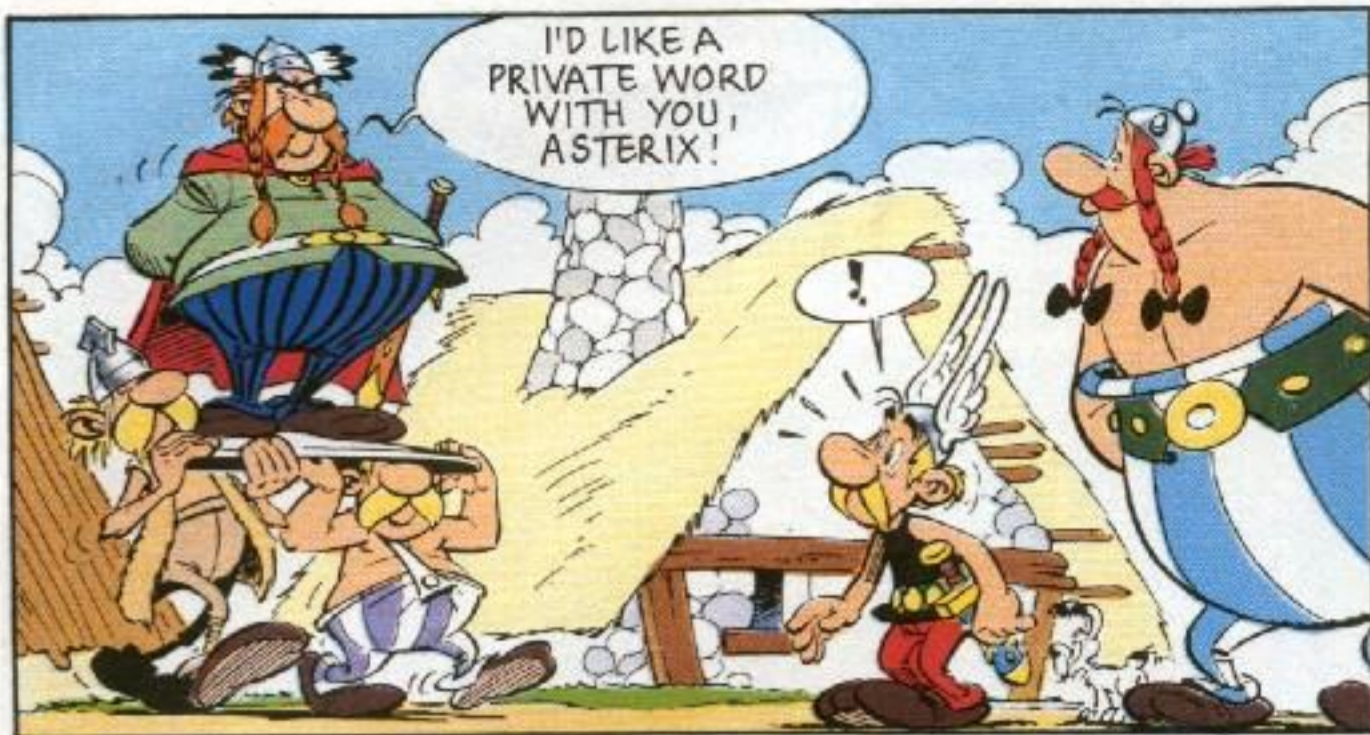
29b



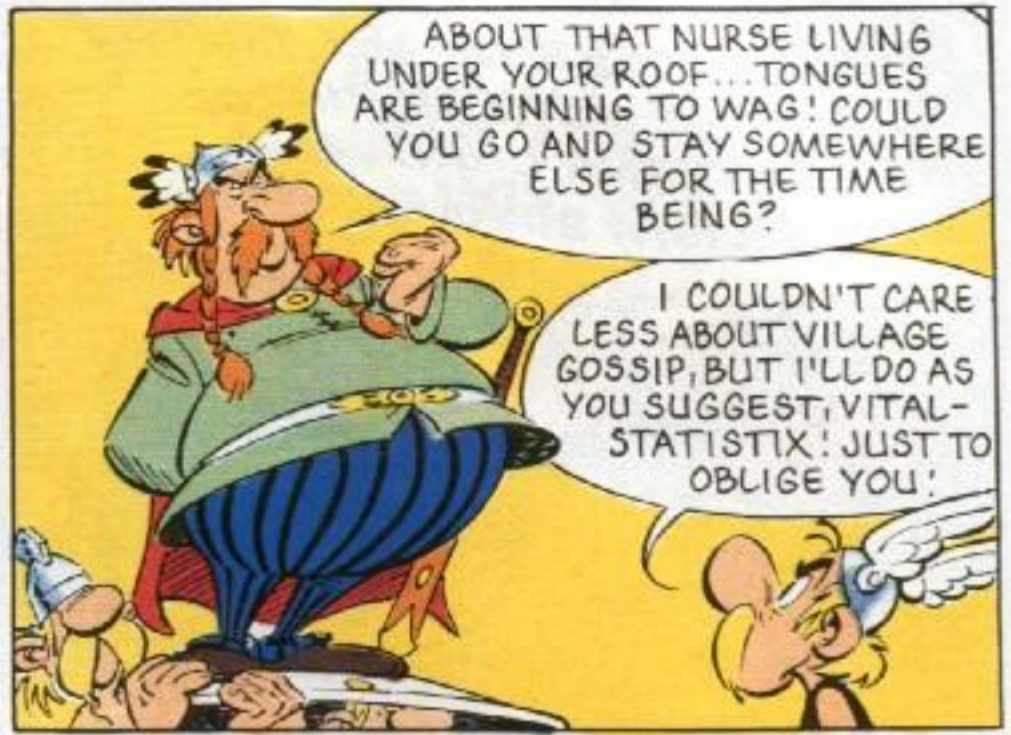


*LATIN: BARRACKS.





I'D LIKE A PRIVATE WORD WITH YOU, ASTERIX!



ABOUT THAT NURSE LIVING UNDER YOUR ROOF... TONGUES ARE BEGINNING TO WAG! COULD YOU GO AND STAY SOMEWHERE ELSE FOR THE TIME BEING?

I COULDN'T CARE LESS ABOUT VILLAGE GOSSIP, BUT I'LL DO AS YOU SUGGEST, VITAL-STATISTIX! JUST TO OBLIGE YOU!



WHAT ARE YOU DOING?

MOVING OUT! IF YOU NEED ME, I'LL BE AT OBELIX'S PLACE!

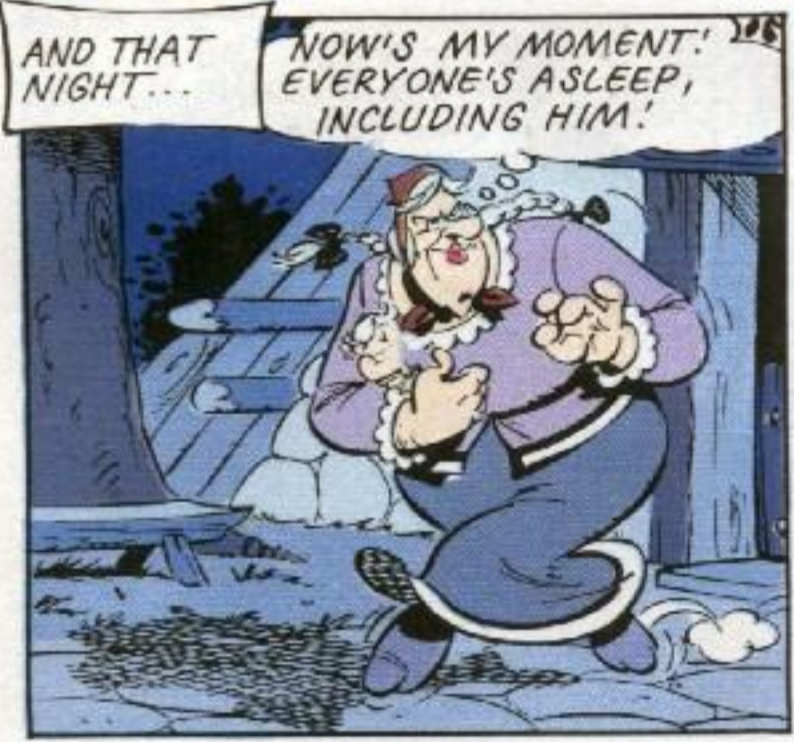


HO, HO! THE FOOL'S LEFT THE COAST CLEAR FOR ME! NOW I CAN EASILY MAKE OFF WITH THE BABY AT DEAD OF NIGHT!



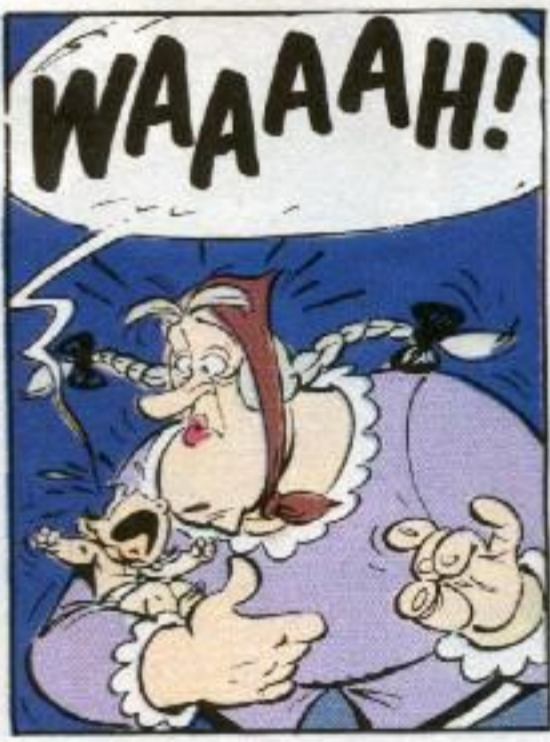
WAAH! MADEMOISELLE FROM ARMORICA, PARLEY-VOO...

TO BE HONEST, I'LL BE RATHER GLAD TO STAY WITH OBELIX JUST NOW!



AND THAT NIGHT...

NOW'S MY MOMENT! EVERYONE'S ASLEEP, INCLUDING HIM!



WAAAAAH!



WAAH!

IT WAS SOLSTICE DAY IN THE CULINA*...

* ROMAN ARMY COOKHOUSE.



AND A VERY UNHAPPY SOLSTICE TO YOU TOO!

ONLY BARDS HAVE THE RIGHT TO SING!

CALL THAT SINGING?

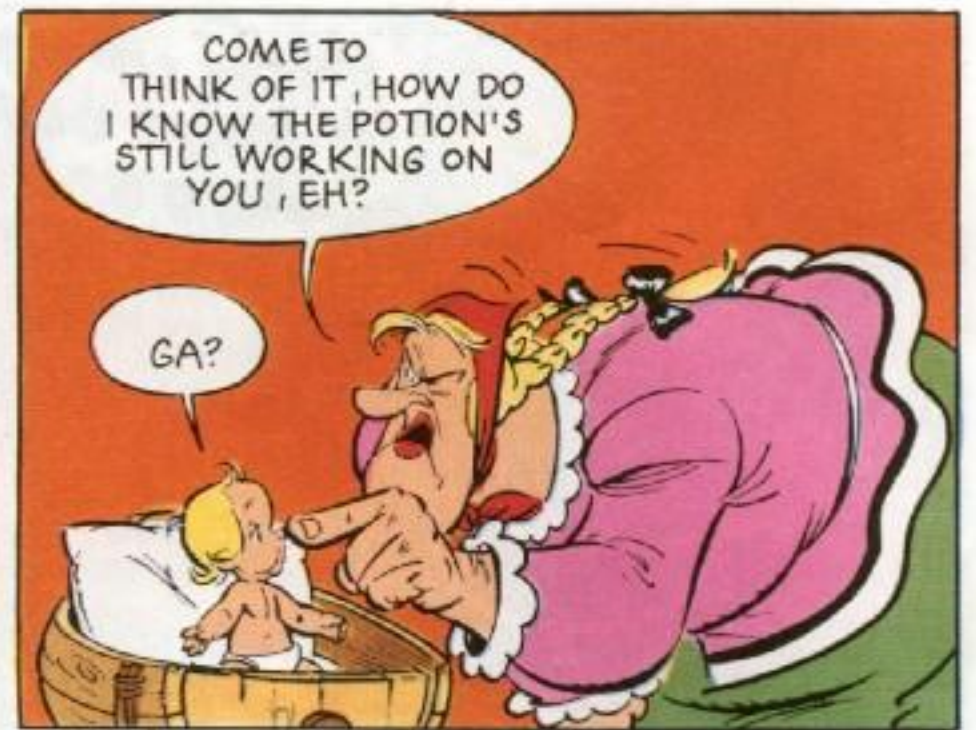
WILL SOMEBODY MAKE THAT WOMAN SHUT UP?

PUT A SOCK IN IT, WILL YOU?

FOILED!

THERE, THERE, PEDIMENTA!

COCK-A-DOODLE-DO!

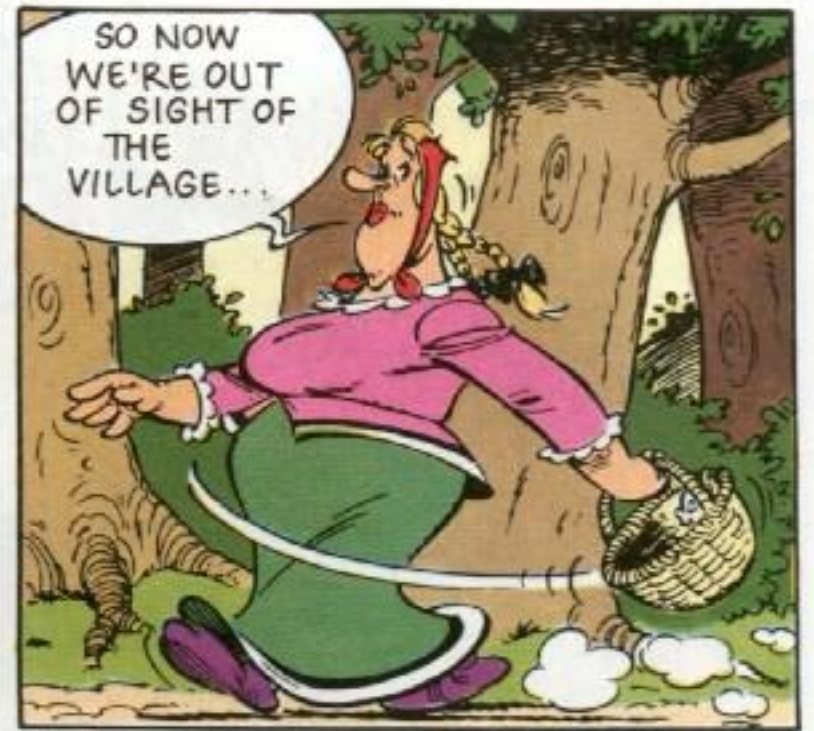




PACK UP YOUR TROUBLES IN YOUR OLD SARCINA* AND SMILE, SMILE, SMILE...

?!

*LATIN: KIT-BAG.



SO NOW WE'RE OUT OF SIGHT OF THE VILLAGE...



... I'LL MAKE STRAIGHT FOR THE CAMP!



WHERE ARE YOU GOING, OBELIX?

I'M DELIVERING A MENHIR TO BUCOLIX. THAT BABY HAS A GOOD APPETITE ... HE'S COSTING US MANY A MENHIR!



I'LL COME WITH YOU!

I THOUGHT WE'D BE BETTER OFF WITH A NURSE. THEY USUALLY PROVIDE THE MILK, BUT THIS ONE DOESN'T SEEM TO.



IF YOU'RE LOOKING FOR THE BABY AND HIS NURSE, THEY'VE GONE INTO THE FOREST TO PICK MUSHROOMS!



QUICK, OBELIX! I'VE GOT A NASTY FEELING...

KEEP MY MENHIR ON ICE, FOTOGENIX! WE SHAN'T BE VERY LONG!

OUF!



PHEW! THAT'S A WEIGHT OFF MY MIND!



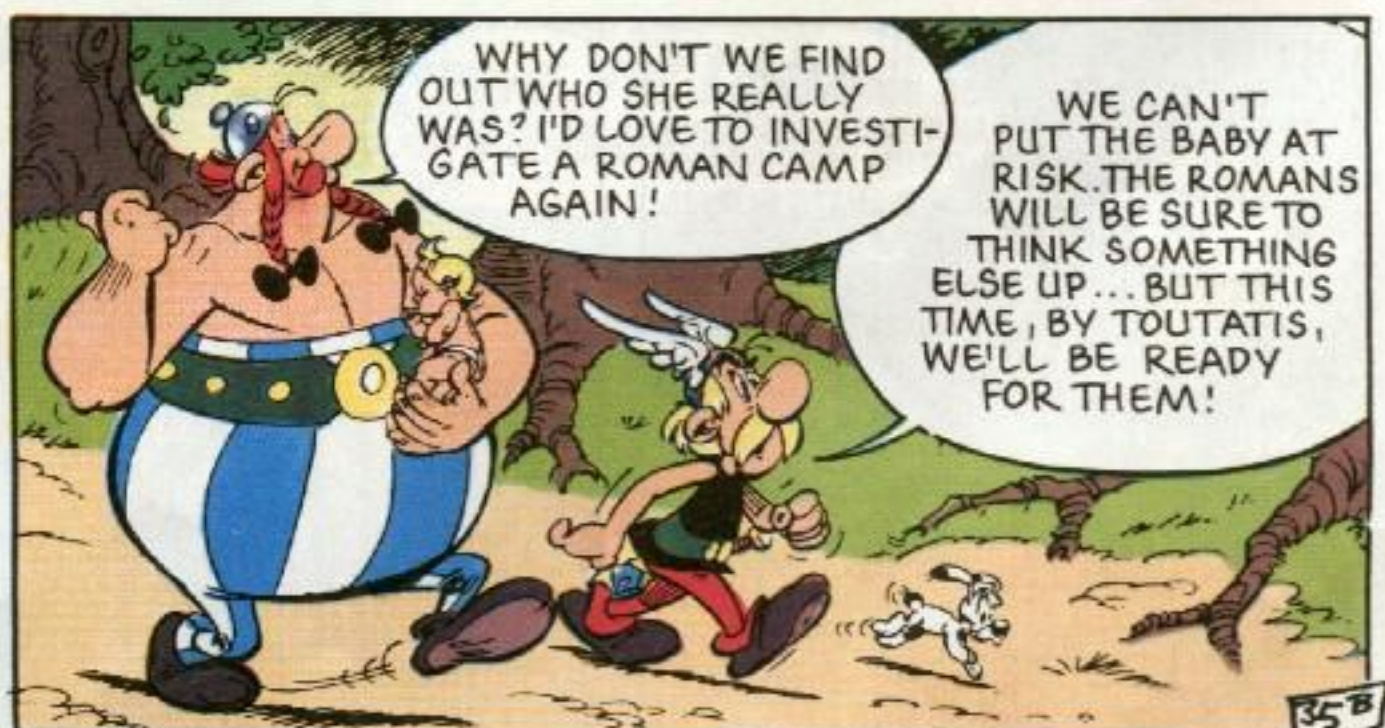
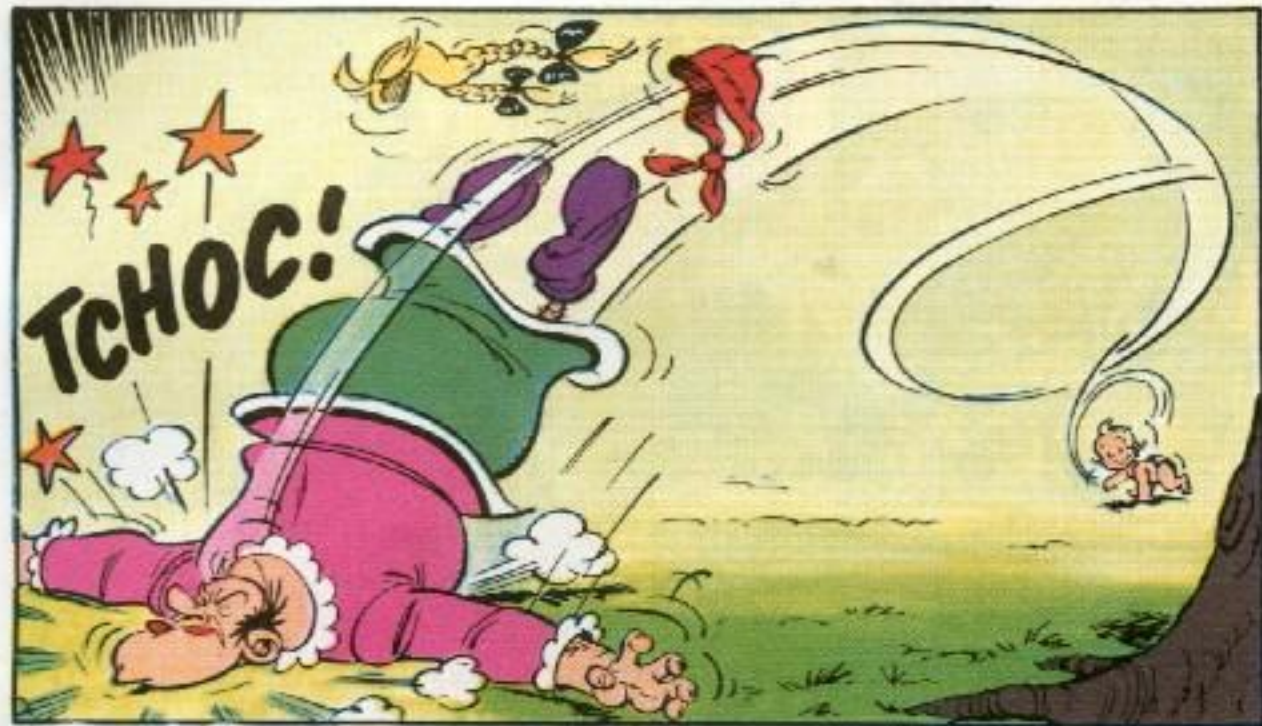
GA!

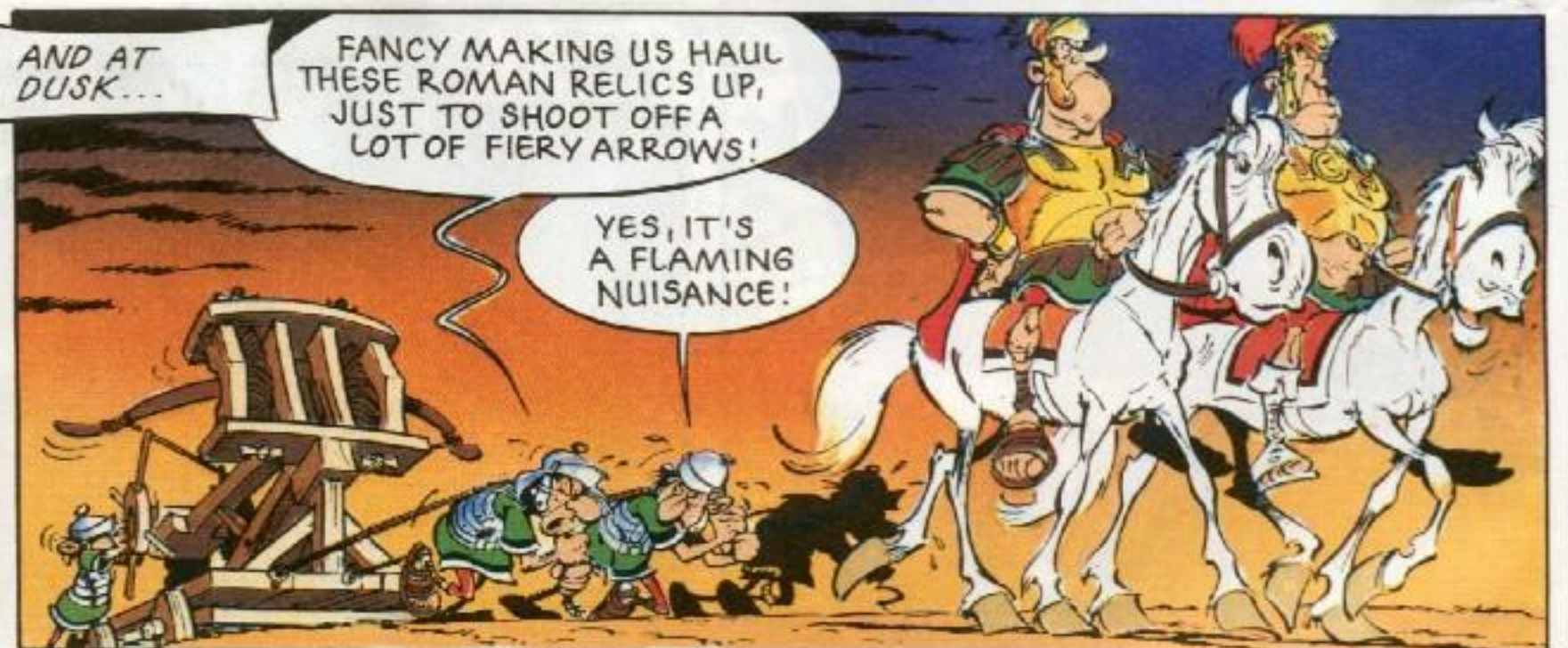
MY MIND?



THROWING YOUR WEIGHT AROUND, EH? WAIT TILL I CATCH YOU, YOU

348





THAT NIGHT,
SEVERAL MILIA
PASSUUM* FROM
THE VILLAGE...

GET IT, CACTUS? I'M
LEAVING YOU IN COMMAND!
WHEN I GIVE THE SIGNAL,
OPEN FIRE!

*MILLE PASSUS=1 ROMAN MILE.



A FIERY
ARROW! THE
SIGNAL!



ARE YOU
READY..?

37A



FIRE!



THE ROMANS
ARE
ATTACKING!!!

FIRE!

THE VILLAGE
IS BURNING!

COCK-A-DOODLE-DO!



IMPEDIMENTA, YOU TAKE THE WOMEN AND CHILDREN DOWN TO THE BEACH WHILE WE DEAL WITH THE ROMANS!

I'LL LEAVE HIM IN YOUR CARE! I'M SURE HE'LL BE GOOD!



EVERYBODY LINE UP IN SILENCE, AND DON'T PANIC!



NO?

NO!

IT SEEMS TO TASTE RATHER FUNNY THIS TIME!

I EXPECT IT GOT A BIT BURNT IN THE HEAT OF THE MOMENT.

GLUG!
GLUG!
GLUG!



THE ROMANS ARE PLAYING WITH FIRE... NOW LET'S SHOW THEM WHAT WE CAN COOK UP!

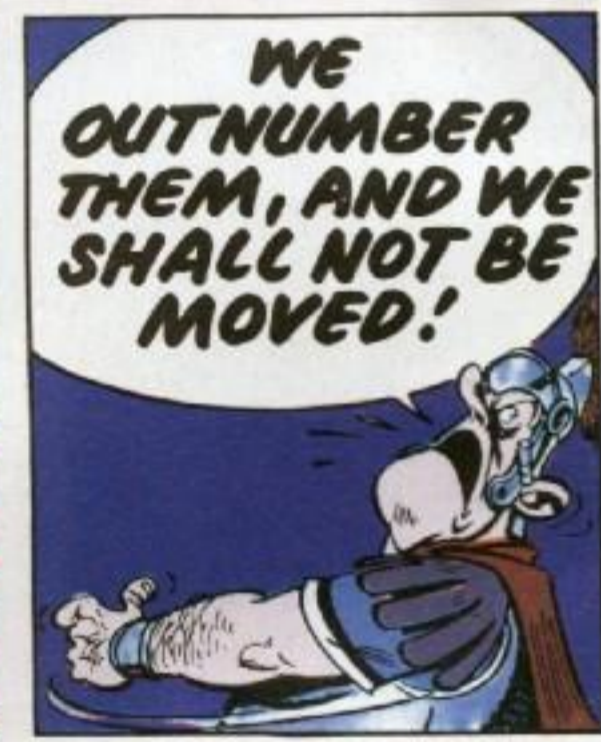
CHARGE!

38A



CHARGE!

INVESTIGATORS FIRST! ISN'T THAT RIGHT, ASTERIX?



WE OUTNUMBER THEM, AND WE SHALL NOT BE MOVED!

38B



CRAAAAAASH!

MEANWHILE...

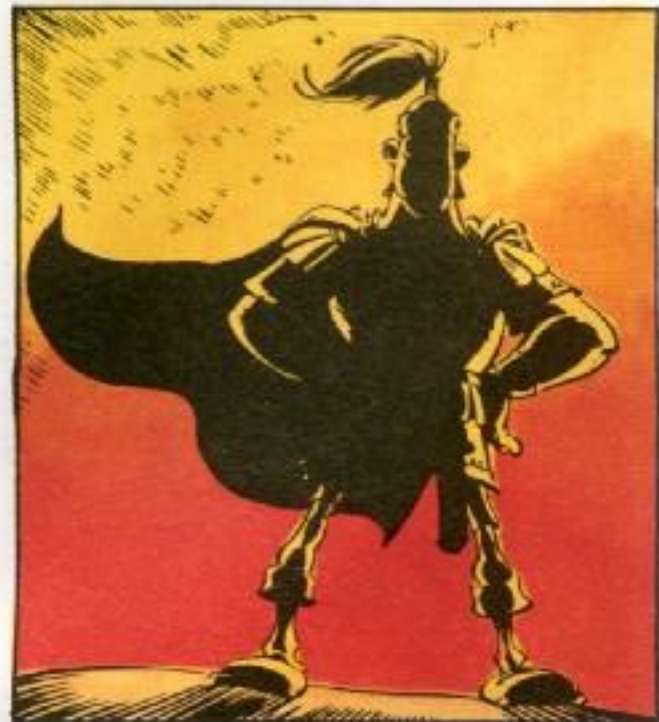


WE'LL BE QUITE SAFE HERE!



HAND ME THAT BABY, MY GOOD WOMAN!

?!



COME AND GET HIM IF YOU DARE!

YOU DON'T SCARE US, ROMAN! WE'VE HAD OUR PORTION OF MAGIC POTION!

WE HAVE? I DIDN'T GET ANY!

SSH! SHUT UP!

39A



OH NO! HE'S GETTING AWAY!



LEAVE IT TO HIM, DEAR! THAT ROMAN'S IN FOR A SURPRISE!



SO THIS IS THE TERRIBLE LITTLE MONSTER?

BY BELISAMA! THE EFFECTS OF THE POTION HAVE WORN OFF!

WAAAH!



WAAH!

OUT TO THE SHIP... FAST!



AND SOON...

DO YOU SWEAR THERE'S NO RISK OF THOSE CRAZY GAULS TURNING UP?

THEY'RE FAR TOO BUSY JUST NOW!

39B

SO THEY ARE...
AND AT DAWN...

COCK-A...
COUGH-A...
COUGH!

LOOK, ASTERIX! I'VE MET
THE PEDLAR AGAIN!

AND I'VE
MET THE
NURSE!

IT'S A GOOD THING
WE OUTNUMBER THEM,
OR WE MIGHT HAVE BEEN
MOVED!

PAF! PAF! PAF! PAF!

NOW, TELL ME WHAT REALLY
BROUGHT YOU HERE, OR YOU'LL
HAVE A FEW TROUBLES OF YOUR OWN
TO PACK UP IN YOUR OLD SARCINA!

MERCY! I WAS
ONLY OBEYING THE
ORDERS OF CAESAR'S
SON, BRUTUS!

AND
WHERE IS
BRUTUS?

ON THE BEACH!
HE KNEW YOU'D
SEND THE BABY
TO SAFETY
THERE!

QUICK, OBELIX!
FOLLOW
ME!

QUICK,
DOGMATIX!
FOLLOW US!

WOOF!
WOOF!

WHERE'S
THE
BABY?

ASTERIX, I HAVE
FAILED YOU! A ROMAN
SNATCHED HIM AND
TOOK HIM ON BOARD
A PIRATE SHIP!

I CAN STILL SEE IT
ON THE HORIZON!

DO YOU
THINK YOU
COULD SWIM
OUT THAT
FAR?

YOU REALLY DO ASK
STUPID QUESTIONS
SOMETIMES, ASTERIX!

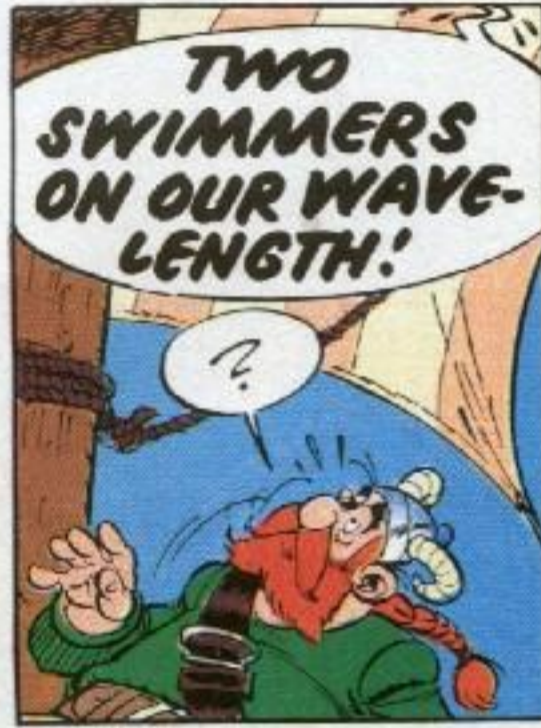
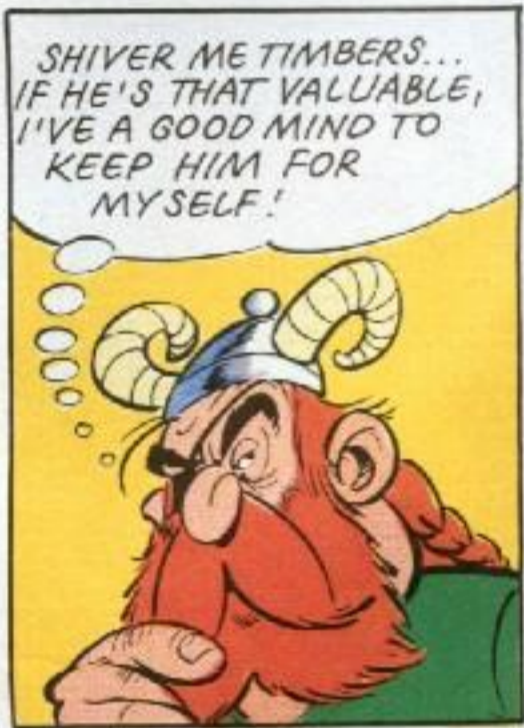
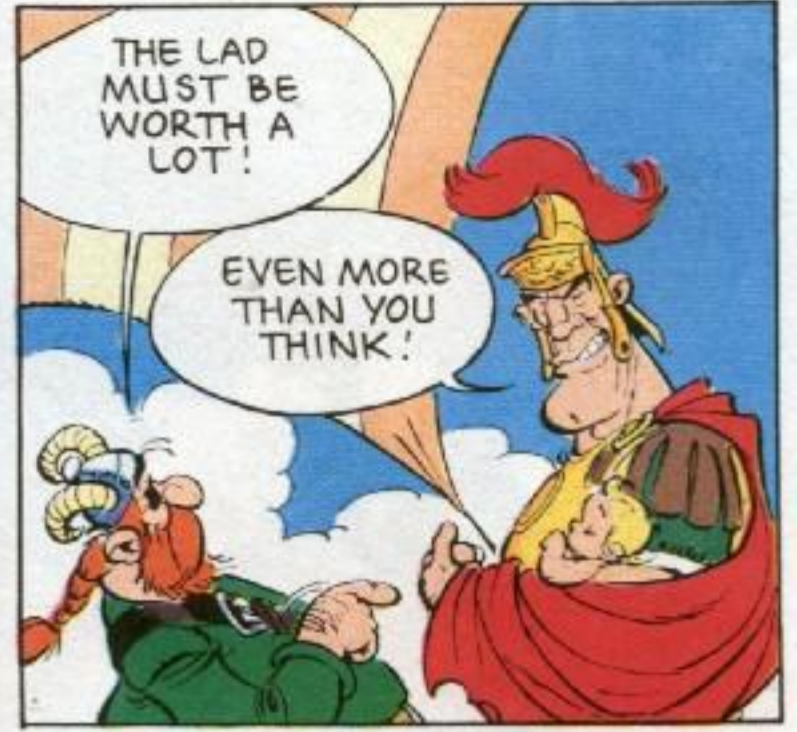
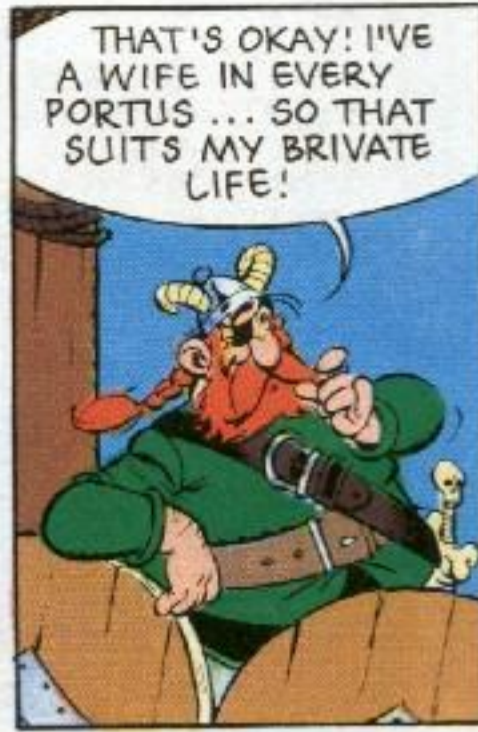
SORRY,
I WAS ONLY
THINKING...

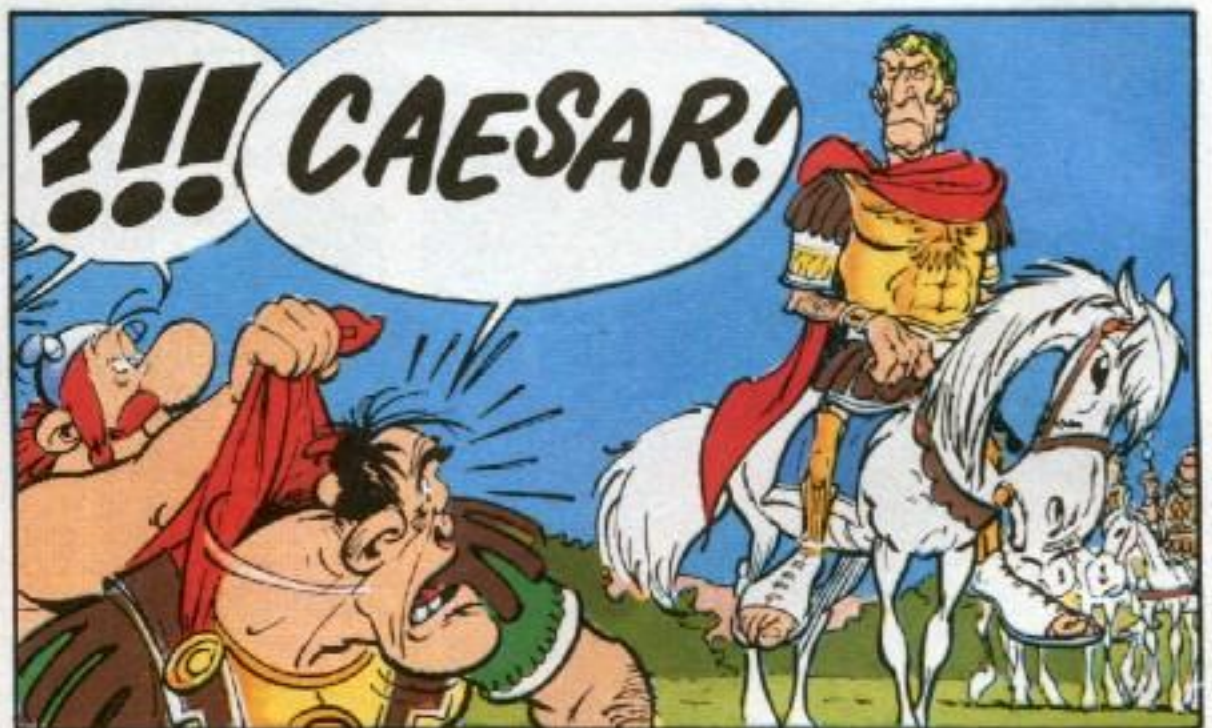
**WELL, OF COURSE
I CAN!**

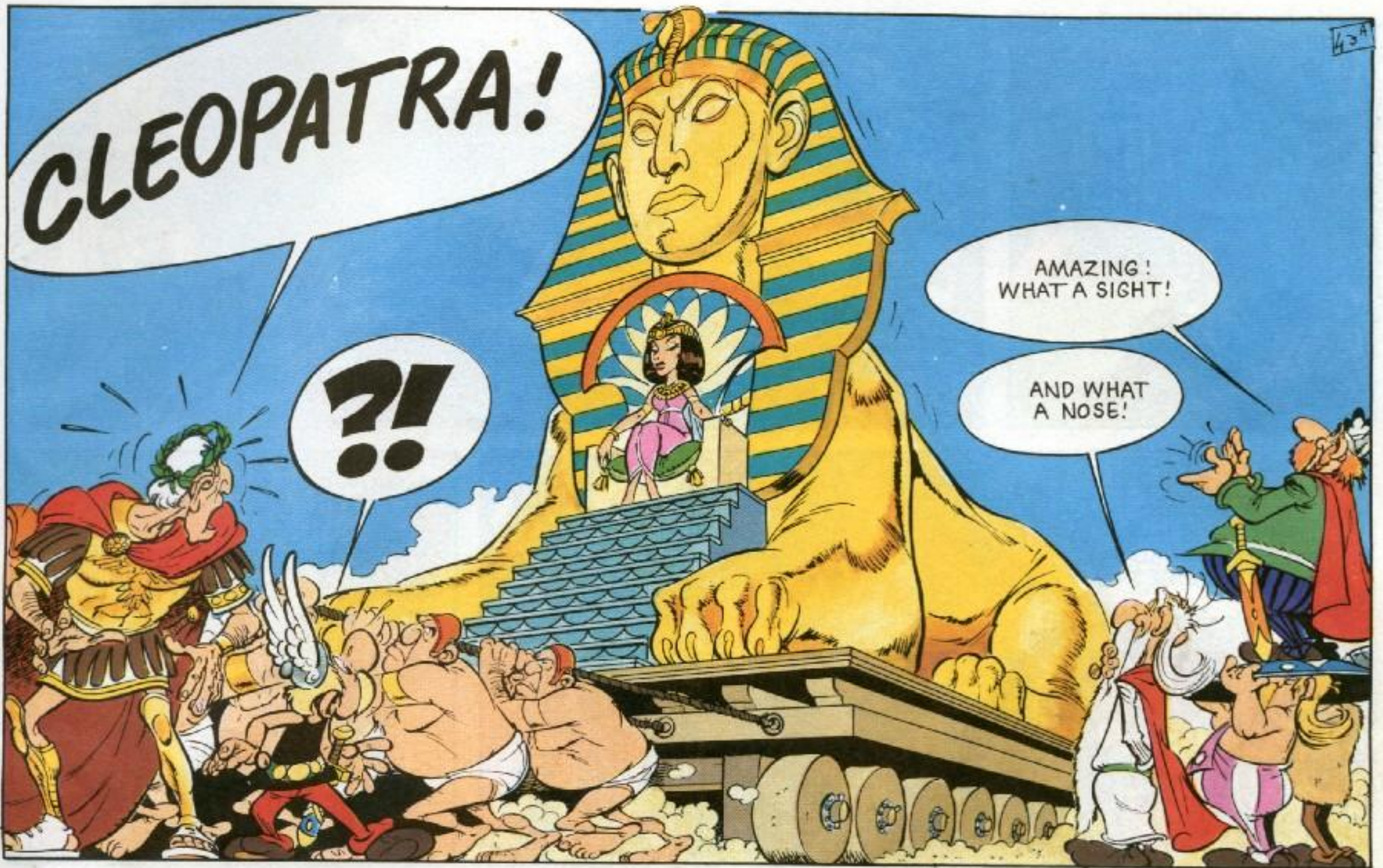
I DON'T KNOW
WHAT I'D DO WITHOUT
YOU, OBELIX!

ALL SORTS
OF SILLY
THINGS!

SPLOSH! SPLOSH! SPLOSH! SPL

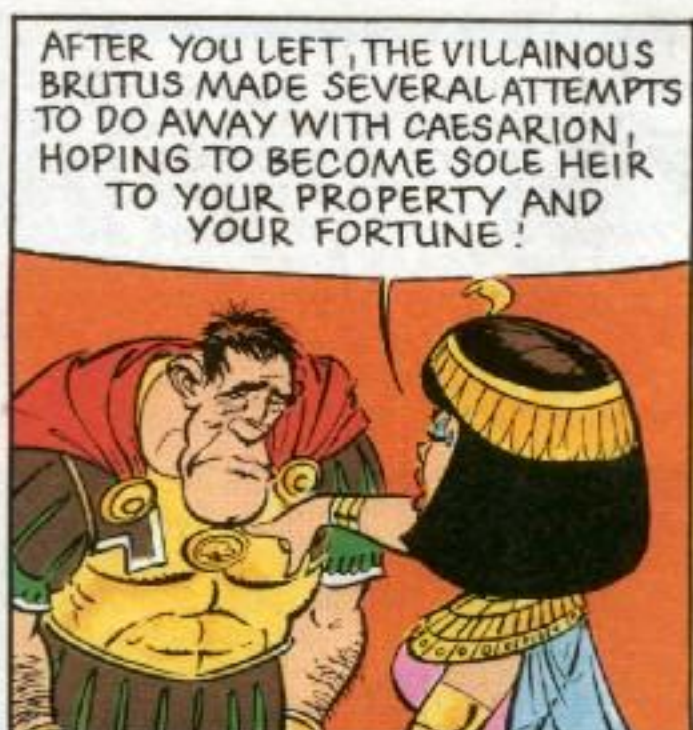






MY SON? CAESARION? BUT I THOUGHT YOU WERE BOTH SAFE IN MY PALACE IN ROME!

DID YOU SAY SAFE?



AFTER YOU LEFT, THE VILLAINOUS BRUTUS MADE SEVERAL ATTEMPTS TO DO AWAY WITH CAESARION, HOPING TO BECOME SOLE HEIR TO YOUR PROPERTY AND YOUR FORTUNE!



SO I DECIDED TO SEND OUR SON AWAY TO THE ONE PLACE WHERE I COULD BE SURE HE WOULD BE SAFE: THE VILLAGE OF INDOMITABLE GAULS WHICH STILL HOLDS OUT AGAINST THE INVADERS!

ALL RIGHT, I KNOW!



ET TU, BRUTE? * YOU WILL LEAVE IMMEDIATELY FOR UPPER GERMANIA! IT HAS A NICE BRACING CLIMATE, AND THE BARBARIANS THERE WILL TEACH YOU MANNERS!

* YOU TOO, BRUTUS? CAESAR SOMETIMES REPEATED HIMSELF.



FORGIVE ME FOR TAKING ADVANTAGE OF YOU, ALEXANDER!

OH, THAT'S ALL RIGHT! I'M HONOURED BY YOUR FAITH IN ME, QUEEN CLEOPATRA!



THE... **THE BABY'S DISAPPEARED!**

