HIDDEN IN THE GREAT ARMORICAN FOREST SWARMING WITH JUICY WILD BOAR, THE LITTLE VILLAGE THAT WE KNOW SO WELL IS BASKING HAPPILY IN THE WARM SPRING SUNSHINE. YES, THE LITTLE VILLAGE IS QUIETLY CONFIDENT ABOUT THE FUTURE...

AND IT IS MAKING A BIG MISTAKE, BECAUSE THE FUTURE MIGHT BE THIS!

WILL YOU EXPLAIN THE MEANING OF THIS TO US, O CAESAR?
I will now give you a brief commentary.
The Gauls having been defeated, their chief Vercingetorix laid his arms at the feet of the glorious general...

Who occupied all Gaul, all? No!
One small village inhabited by indomitable barbarians dared, and still dares, to resist him!

Whos he talking about?

Himself, he always talks about himself in the third person.

He's great!

Er... you!

Oh, him!

These Gauls, with the aid of a magic potion which gives them superhuman strength, and protected by a forest which provides them with food, reject the advantages of Roman civilization.

Which I have decided to force them to accept! The forest will be destroyed to make way for a natural park!

And then blocks of flats, full of Roman tenants will surround the village which will become a mere native reservation. These Gauls may be crazy, but they'll have to adapt to our ways then!
...He is also the inventor of the drive-in amphitheatre...

Not only has Squaronthehypotenuse built many insulae, some of which have not fallen down...

Blocks of flats

...or potion-tabernae where you can buy anything...

Slaves, statues, gladiators

Balm-ointments

Tabernae: stores

...And of the latest thing in baths

Bathtique

And what are you going to call this new development which is to civilize the Gauls?

Squaronthehypotenuse wanted to call it Rome, new town, but there is only one Rome...

So, I have decided to call it 'the mansions of the gods'... that will help to pull in the customers...
At the moment, peace reigns on the future site of the mansions of the gods. And only the boars seem to have any reason to worry.

Well, I think they ought to do the hiding! It's our forest, after all!

...and ten feet, that makes six hundred and two feet, three hands...

We'll start the next set of measurements from this tree.

Dogmatix! Heel!

Call your dog off!

All right, but don't go interfering with trees in front of Dogmatix. He doesn't like it.

Come along, Dogmatix. You'll spoil your appetite.

You know, you shouldn't venture into this forest. If anyone met you you might have an unfortunate experience.
THE BOARS ARE RATHER RETIRING TODAY!

THEY GO INTO HIDING WHEN THEY SEE A CROWD

THOSE FOREST AREN'T PROPERLY KEPT UP. WE OUGHT TO BE SNMPING OUT ROMANS

WE'RE HERE TO SNMPING OUT BOARS, OBELEIX

LOOK, ASTERIX! DOGMATIX IS COMING ON! THERE'S SOMETHING MOVING IN THAT THICKET!

LEAVE IT TO ME!

EEEEEK!

CAN'T YOU LET ME GO ABOUT MY BUSINESS IN PEACE?

YOU HAVEN'T ANY BUSINESS HERE!

WHAT'S MORE, YOU'RE FRIGHTENING THE BOARS AWAY!

BIFFF!

SOON AFTERWARDS...

WELL, IT'S QUITE TRUE! I DON'T LIKE PEOPLE TO FRIGHTEN THE BOARS! POOR THINGS, THEY'RE SCARED OF STRANGERS... WE'RE DIFFERENT; THEY'RE USED TO US

I'LL HAVE TO HAVE A WORD WITH OUR CHIEF. IT'S NOT NORMAL FOR ROMANS TO BRAVE THE DANGERS OF THE FOREST, ESPECIALLY WHEN THE DANGERS ARE US!

ROMANS IN THE FOREST?!?
WE'LL HAVE TO KEEP AN EYE ON THOSE ROMANS! AFTER ALL, THEY CAN'T GO TAKING LIBERTIES WITH OUR FOREST, BY TUTTATIS!

AND AS SOON AS WE SEE THEM UP TO ANYTHING AGAIN, WE'LL DEAL WITH IT!

WE'LL KEEP AN EYE ON THEM, O DRUID GÉTAFIX!

IT'S NOT THEIR FOREST, CENTURION SIMPERUS! IT'S THE FUTURE SITE OF THE MANSIONS OF THE GODS! BARBARIANS AND FORESTS ARE OUT! FINISHED! DONE WITH!

THEY'RE MEASURING... THEY'RE NOT GOING TO MEASURING BITS OF THE FOREST JUST FOR FUN... WHAT ARE THEY UP TO?

MEASURING... THEY WERE MEASURING... YOU DON'T GO MEASURING BITS OF THE FOREST JUST FOR FUN... WHAT ARE THEY UP TO?

I WARNED YOU, SQUARONTHYH-POTENUS! THOSE GAULS ARE BARBARIANS, AND THEY DON'T LIKE PEOPLE WANDERING AROUND THEIR FOREST.

IN THE SICK-BAY OF THE FORTIFIED CAMP OF AQUARIUM...

I'M COUNTING ON YOU FOR THAT! CAESAR'S ORDERS! YOUR TROOPS ARE TO GUARD THE BUILDING SITE!

CIVILIZATION IS IN! WE'RE ABOUT TO START THE WORK OF DEFORESTATION!

YOU'LL HAVE TO DO SOME DEACIDIZATION FIRST.

DO KEEP STILL, PLEASE!

ALL RIGHT, ALL RIGHT, BUT WE'LL WORK AT NIGHT, UNOBSERVABLY. THERE'S LESS CHANCE OF MEETING GAULS IN THE FOREST AT NIGHT.

JUST AS YOU LIKE, BUT SPEAKING FOR MYSELF, I'M NOT SCARED OF GAULS!

HAVE YOU FINISHED, DOCTOR? I AM VERY MUCH AFRAID THAT I'VE ONLY JUST BEGUN...

JUST AS YOU LIKE, BUT SPEAKING FOR MYSELF, I'M NOT SCARED OF GAULS!
RIGHT! HERE WE ARE! START ROOTING UP THE TREES!
WE...

AYYAAAYYY YAAAAAYY

WHO WAS THAT?
THAT'S THE IBERIAN SLAVES.
THEY CAN'T WORK WITHOUT SINGING.

AYYAAAYYY YAAAAAYY

ALL RIGHT! THE IBERIANS MUST LET OFF WORK.

SHHHH! FOR THE GODS' SAKE, NO NOISE.
WE MUST GET THE WORK DONE IN SILENCE.
I DON'T WANT A SQUEAK OUT OF YOU.
I DON'T WANT TO HEAR THE ORANGE OF A SINGLE WARP. WE MUSTN'T PUT THE GALLS ON THEIR GUARD.

OLE!

BELGIAN NEVER, NEVER, NEVER WILL BE SLAVES...

THAT'S THE BELGIAN
WE'LL DO WITHOUT THE BELGIAN

‘SCUSE ME... I'M IBERIAN

WELL, WHAT ABOUT IT?

I DON'T KNOW ANY SONGS, BUT I COULD GIVE
YOU A RECITATION IF YOU LIKE

*PORTUGUESE
SILENT NIGHT, HOLY NIGHT, ALL IS CALM...

MAKE THEM SHUT UP!

WHAT WITH? YOU DON'T WANT TO HEAR THE CRACK OF A SINGLE WHIP!

EXCUSE ME, HOMOGRAS, BUT US AND THE BELGIANNS, WE'RE TRYING TO GET TO SLEEP OVER THERE. WOULD YOU MIND MAKING A LITTLE LESS NOISE?

EVERYBODY QUITE FINISHED? ALL OF YOU GET DOWN TO WORK! YOU WORK UNTIL DAWN OR YOU'LL BE SKINNED ALIVE!

COCK-A-DOODLE-DOO!

Dawn! We're off! What do you mean, dawn?

Cock-a-doodle-doo? Goodness me, I had no idea it was so late.

This is it! We might have known it! The sky's fallen on our heads!

And in the Gaulish village...
FRESH FISH!
IT'S LUVERLY!

WHAT ARE THESE STRANGE GoINGS ON, O DRUID? THE COCK'S CROWING AND THE SUN HASN'T RISEN YET!

NO IDEA ASTERIX... WHEN THE DAWN COMES YOU GO AND SCOUT AROUND IN THE FOREST. THERE MUST BE SOMETHING GOING ON!

YOU GO TO BED, OBELIX. WE'LL HAVE WORK TO DO WHEN DAWN COMES.

BUT I'VE GOT A MENHIR TO DELIVER BEFORE BREAKFAST...

AND WHEN THE SUN FINALLY CONDESCENDS TO RISE...

WHAT ARE WE LOOKING FOR, ASTERIX?
I DON'T KNOW YET, OBELIX

HOWWWWW!

POOR LITTLE DOGMATIX! THE SIGHT OF THAT FALLEN TREE MADE HIM COME OVER ALL QUEER!

YOU WAIT! I'LL FIX THAT!

THERE, THERE DOGMATIX. NOTHING HAPPENED. YOU CAN SEE FOR YOURSELF!

LET'S GO AND WARN THE DRUID. WE SEEM TO BE GETTING BROKEN NIGHTS IN THESE PARTS.
YOU BET I AM! WE'RE GOING TO DEVILISH THIS FOREST, AND THEN THE MANSIONS OF THE GODS WILL BECOME A REALITY! BECAUSE, THE GAULS AREN'T DANGEROUS. THEY DIDN'T TURN A HAIR AT ALL THE WAY WE WERE KICKING UP!

THAT VERY NIGHT...
I WARN YOU, I'M NOT PUTTING UP WITH ANY FUNNY BUSINESS. START ROOTING UP THE TREES ROUND THE ONE WE ROOTED UP YESTERDAY.

SQUAARONTHIEPYTOPUS, THE TREE WE ROOTED UP YESTERDAY HAS TAKEN ROOT AGAIN!

CO... CO...
COME AGAIN?

CO... CO...
COCK-A-DOODLE-DOD!

FRESH FISH!
IT'S LUVERLY!

GET BACK TO BED, YOU IDIOT!

FULLAUTOMATIX

YOU'LL SEE WHO'S AN IDIOT!
IN THE CAMP OF AQUARIUS

MY LEGIONARIES CAN'T FIGHT MAGIC! I REFUSE TO HELP YOU!

ALL RIGHT, THEN, I'LL DO WITHOUT YOUR LEGIONARIES!

THAT NIGHT...

WE'RE GOING TO DRAG THE TREES AWAY TO STOP THEM TAKING ROOT AGAIN ONCE THEY'RE DOWN

CRACK!

SEE THAT, O DRUID? THEY'RE DRAGGING THE TREES AWAY

YES, I SEE. WE WERE GOING TO HAVE SOME FUN TOMORROW. LET'S GET BACK

AND FOR THE FIRST TIME FOR SEVERAL NIGHTS, THE VILLAGE IS ABLE TO SLEEP IN PEACE
IT'S DAYLIGHT, SOMNIFERUS! COME AND SEE THE WORK WE GOT THROUGH DURING THE NIGHT!

HAN?

SOON WE'LL BE ABLE TO BUILD THE FIRST BLOCK OF FLATS IN THE MANSIONS OF THE GODS

THIS IS ALL TOO EASY. DON'T COUNT YOUR CHICKENS BEFORE THEY'RE HATCHED... GROTHE SEALTON!

AND WHAT MIGHT THAT MEAN?

NO IDEA; IT'S GREEK TO ME

MEANWHILE...

WHAT ARE WE GOING TO DO, O DRUID?

YOU'RE GOING TO DROP AN ACORN INTO EACH OF THOSE HOLES...

THEY'RE COMMON OR GARDEN ACORNS TREATED WITH ONE OF MY LITTLE POTIONS!

FANTASTIC!

WHY? IT'S ONLY AN OAK TREE LIKE THE REST

LIKE THIS?

WELL, YOU MIGHT HAVE DONE IT IN A MORE DISINFECTED MANNER, BUT THAT'S THE IDEA

BUT DIDN'T YOU SEE HOW FAST IT GREW?

WELL, I'VE NEVER SEEN AN OAK TREE GROWING BEFORE, SO I DON'T KNOW HOW FAST THEY DO USUALLY GROW
The trees have all grown again. The Romans aren't going to be too pleased!

Come and have dinner with me to celebrate!

Woof! Woof!

Sit down. I'll soon be ready.

Goody! Wild boar!

Oh, look, I've still got one of those acorns left!

No! Obelix, don't throw it away!

Next night, in the forest...

Right, make the clearing bigger, and you'll get double rations of...

There isn't any clearing left!
WHAT DO YOU MEAN, THERE ISN'T ANY CLEARING LEFT?

NEXT MORNING...

I MUST ADMIT, THE WORK'S GOING WELL, SQUARONTHEHYPOTENUS.

I'M SURPRISED THE GAULS ARE BEING SO PATIENT... I CAN ONLY SUPPOSE THEY REALIZE THEY'VE MET THEIR MATCH IN YOU... THOUGH JUST TO LOOK AT YOU...

BUT THE WORK DONE OVERNIGHT IS UNDONE AGAIN DURING THE DAY.

JUST WATCH THIS DOGMATX! YOU'LL ENJOY IT.

AND NEXT NIGHT...

I CAN'T LOOK. IS... IS THE CLEARING STILL THERE?

I KNEW IT! WELL, NEVER MIND. PRESS ON!

HOMBRE, I GET THE FEELING WE'RE NOT DOING ANYTHING VERY USEFUL... NOT THAT WE'RE BEING PAID FOR IT, MIND YOU!
AFTER SEVERAL NIGHTS’ STRENUIUS WORK...

IN THE FACE OF THE EVIDENCE, I HAVE TO ADMIT YOU WERE RIGHT. YOU’VE DONE IT! LET'S BURY THE HATCHET, I’LL HELP YOU...

THE BUILDING SITE. THERE MUST BE A VAST CLEARING BY NOW

BUT... AREN'T YOU AFRAID OF THE GAULS, IN BROAD DAYLIGHT?

HUUH! YOU GET PLENTY OF TIME TO SEE THEM COMING, IN OPEN COUNTRY

YOU’LL BE ABLE TO TELL CAESAR HOW USEFUL I WAS... LET'S GO AND HAVE A LOOK!

HAVE A LOOK AT WHAT?

WELL? WHERE IS THIS CLEARING?

THERE ISN'T ANY CLEARING!

NO CLEARING? BUT THE TREE TRUNKS? WHERE DID THEY COME FROM?

HEEEEEERE! EVEN IF I HAVE TO WORK THE SLAVES TO DEATH, I'M GOING ON!

BUT I'M GOING ON!

DID YOU HEAR THAT? WE CAN’T HAVE THE SLAVES PAYING FOR THE STUPIDITY OF THESE ROYANS! I HAVE AN IDEA!

AREN'T YOU EVER AFRAID YOU MAY RUN OUT OF IDEAS?
WHY DID OUR DRUID GIVE YOU AN AMPHORA FULL OF MAGIC POTION?

YOU'LL SOON SEE, AND NO, YOU CAN'T HAVE ANY.

THE SLAVES ARE SHUT UP IN THIS PART OF THE CAMP. IT'S SURROUNDED BY GUARDS.

IT'll TAKE TOO LONG TO GO AFTER THEM ONE BY ONE. LEAVE THIS TO ME!

CALL YOUR MATES

B-GUARDS! HELP ME!

NO, NO, NOT LIKE THAT!

GUARDS!
HELP HIM!

SOON AFTERWARDS...

WHICH OF YOU IS THE LEADER, SLAVE?

FLATURTHA, THE NUMIDIAN

ARE YOU HAPPY IN YOUR WORK, O FLATURTHA?

WELL, THERE'S NOT MUCH FUTURE IN SLAVERY.

THE ROMANS ARE GOING TO WORK YOU TO DEATH. YOU MUST REBEL!

IT'S EASY TO SAY THAT, BUT THERE ARE THE LEGIONARIES, THE OVERSEERS... THEY HAVE WHIPS AND WEAPONS. THEY'RE STRONGER THAN US.

THIS IS WHAT YOU NEED?
THAT'S IT.
THEY'VE GONE
RIGHT. LET'S GET BACK TO OUR POSTS. NO POINT IN MAKING THIS LITTLE INCIDENT KNOWN. NOTHING HAPPENED ANYWAY!

OF COURSE IT DIDN'T!

LATER...
SOUPS UP, SLAVES!

NOW THEN, SLAVES, OFF TO WORK!

NO, WE'RE GOING ON STRIKE. WE'RE TIRED OF UPROOTING TREES THAT KEEP GROWING AGAIN

WHAT WAS THAT? WANT A TASTE OF MY WHIP?

POOR CHAP... HOW WAS HE TO KNOW A NUMIDIAN WOULDN'T NECESSARILY BE A BLACKLEG?

LET'S GET THEM TO WORK!

SOON AFTERWARDS...

GUARDS! HELP ME!

OH NO! I'M NOT FALLING FOR THAT ONE AGAIN!

BONG!
PAP! BING! PLONNG!
THE SLAVES ARE RISING!

THAT WAS ALL WE NEEDED!

AH, YES, BUT I KNOW ALL ABOUT THIS SORT OF THING! I'LL BRING THEM TO HEEL, BY JUPITER!

RAISE THE ALARM!

THE SLAVES ARE REVOLTING!

PAFF! BON! ICHAC!

AND REVOLTING IS THE WORD!

WELL, ARE YOU BRINGING THEM TO HEEL OR AREN'T YOU?

WAIT A MINUTE... I'M JUST WONDERING WHETHER...

SOON AFTERWARDS...

YOU LOT WERE ON GUARD OUTSIDE THE SLAVES' CAMP TODAY... YOU DIDN'T HAPPEN TO SEE ANYONE GO IN, DID YOU?

ER... NO...

ABSOLUTELY POSITIVE? NOW I COME TO THINK OF IT... THERE WAS THIS BIG FAT BROKE...

THINK HE HAD A LITTLE BROKE WITH HIM... BUT SO SMALL THAT...

BESIDES, WE HARDLY EXCHANGED A WORD

COULDN'T YOU HAVE TOLD ME THAT ASTERIX AND OBELIX HAD BEEN IN OUR CAMP!??

COULDN'T YOU HAVE TOLD ME THAT ASTERIX AND OBELIX HAD BEEN IN OUR CAMP!??

SO THAT'S IT! I KNEW I'D SEEN THEM SOMEWHERE BEFORE...
THOSE GAULS HAVE BEEN PUMPING MAGIC POTION INTO OUR SLAVES. NOW THEY'RE INVINCIBLE!

WHAT DO YOU MEAN, INVINCIBLE?

IT'S YOUR LEGIONARIES WHO ARE FEEBLE! I'M GOING TO HAVE A WORD WITH THOSE SLAVES! I AM! I'LL SOON SEE IF THEY'RE INVINCIBLE!

BUFF!

SEE?

YES, I SEE!

WE'VE DECIDED IT'S TIME FOR A LITTLE COLLECTIVE BARGAINING: WE WANT TO BE PAID, AND SET FREE AS SOON AS THE FIRST BLOCK IS FINISHED...

AND OF COURSE WE ALSO WANT PAID HOLIDAYS, OVERTIME, THE GRADUAL PHASING OUT OF THE WHIP, A BAN ON CHAINS, AND DECENT ACCOMMODATION

WHAT IF I REFUSE?

WE CARRY ON HITTING YOU

WE BROUGHT THEM TO HEEL ALL RIGHT!

HEY, THEY'RE SAYING THAT THE SLAVES ARE GETTING FIVE SESTERTIUS AN HOUR. WE DON'T GET THAT MUCH! IT'S NOT FAIR

TO YOUR POSTS!!!

LET'S COME TO SOME AGREEMENT FIRST

BOOHOOGOO!
While Obadiah is dealing with his own little problems, work has begun again on the building site. Now that the agreement and the magic potion have proved effective...

Allez...

I don't understand, Asterix! I thought they were going to rebel against the Romans and stop work...

Eeek! This tree's moving!

Crack!

Ooop!

It's unheard-of! The slaves have been working better since we started paying them!

Yes, it means more initial outlay, but bigger profits!

And think of the saving on whips!

Craaack!

Floosh!

Flatulatha! Why are you pulling up these trees?

No visitors on the building site. Push off!

Look here, Numidian...

Overseers! No slacking! I feel tired and hungry. I'd like a quick whip!
These slaves are crazy! Huh! Let's leave them to wear themselves out. Tomorrow we'll make the trees grow again as usual.

What a bore, moving nest all the time!

Before I pay you I want to make sure the work's done done to my satisfaction. How about that, then?

I'm not paying you to bring me trees! I'm paying you to clear the forest and build flats. Let's go and have a look at the building site.

Soon afterwards...

Well, the forest is still here!

But you know the trees we pulled up came from here.

There isn't any proof. And remember that you won't be freed until the work's finished. It's not coming along very well, is it?

Your trouble is you can't see the wood for the trees.

The problem's clearing.
CENTURION! YOUR MEN ARE NOT DOING THEIR DUTY! THEY'LL HAVE TO GUARD THE SITE BY DAY, TO STOP PEOPLE MAKING THE TREES GROW AGAIN AFTER WE PULL THEM UP BY NIGHT!

MY MEN ARE ON STRIKE, BUT NEGOTIATIONS HAVE NOT BROKEN DOWN. TODAY WE TACKLE THE QUESTION OF EVENING PASSES. THE DELEGATES WANT THEM EXTENDED BY AN HOUR.

MEANWHILE...

I WANT TO SEE YOUR CHIEF, GAUL.

HE'S IN HIS HUT.

NUMIDIAN

YOU'RE KEEPING US FROM BEING FREED BY NOT ALLOWING US TO FINISH THE WORK.

BUT WHEN YOU GO UPSTANDING TREES YOU HURT DOGMATIX AND THE BOARS...

...AND THE BIRDS...

YES, WE CAN'T HAVE FOWL. PLAY, IT'S THE ROMANS WE WANT TO GET THE BIRD.

THE BIRDS ARE FREE AS AIR, AND SO ARE THE BOARS AND YOUR DOG!

YOU'RE RIGHT, NUMIDIAN

NOT ONLY WILL WE STOP KEEPING YOU FROM FINISHING THE WORK, BUT I'LL GIVE YOU SOME MAGIC POTION TO HELP YOU GET IT DONE FASTER. COME ON!

DON'T WORRY; WE'RE GOING TO HAVE A BIT OF FUN WITH THE ROMANS. WE'LL TEACH THEM ANOTHER LESSON AND HELP THESE POOR SLAVES AT THE SAME TIME.
SQUARE THE HYPOotenUS, THE ARCHITECT, HAS EVERY REASON TO BE PLEASED. THE WORK GETS DONE AT SPECTACULAR SPEED... NOW THEY'RE PAYING OVERTIME...

OH, COME ON, OBELIX! GETAFIX KNOWS WHAT HE'S DOING.

THE SUPPLY OF BOARS IS DRYING UP!

ON THE OTHER HAND, WE'RE GOING TO HAVE TONS OF NEW ROMANS!

I HOPE YOU'RE RIGHT, ASTERIX, I JUST HOPE TO TOUT THAT YOU'RE RIGHT!

CENTURION SOMNIFERUS IS SATISFIED AS WELL. A PERMANENT COUNCIL HAS BEEN SET UP AND THE POSSIBILITY OF THE TWO SIDES REACHING AN AGREEMENT AT SOME FUTURE DATE CANNOT BE RULED OUT.

SOMNIFERUS, I'M OFF TO ROME TO TELL CAESAR HOW WELL THE PROJECT IS GETTING ON.

AS SOON AS THE FIRST BLOCK OF FLATS IS FINISHED AND THE ROMANS HAVE MOVED IN, WE SHALL BE ABLE TO SAY THAT THE MANSIONS OF THE GODS HAVE DEFEATED THE BARBARIANS!

MeanWhile THEY'VE CHANGED A GREAT MANY THINGS ALREADY...

LISTEN TO THE NEW COOKHOUSE CALL, IT'S THE RESULT OF A NEW AGREEMENT BETWEEN THE OFFICERS AND THE MEN...
IF WE SUCCEED IN GETTING ROMANS TO LIVE IN THE VIGNA OF THOSE GAULS, I CAN SAY NOT ONLY VENI AND VIDI, BUT REALLY VICI AS WELL!

I'VE PREPARED A PUBLICITY CAMPAIGN TO FIND TENANTS FOR THE MANSIONS OF THE GODS

THE CAMPAIGN IN QUESTION IS WELL THOUGHT OUT AND BEGINS WITH A GALA PERFORMANCE AT ROME'S CIRCUS MAXIMUS...

GALA PERFORMANCE
A GRAND RAFFLE WILL BE HELD AT THE END OF THE GLADIATORS' FIGHTS
THE WINNER WILL RECEIVE A FLAT IN THE MANSIONS OF THE GODS

RETAIN THE NUMBERED TICKET YOU RECEIVED AT THE TURNSTILE

FOR THOSE WHO HAVE HAD THEIR FILL OF THE POLLUTED ATMOSPHERE OF THE VRBS, THE PRESSURES OF THE RAT RACE, PURE AND SWEET AIR AWAIT THEM IN A VAST, SUPERB NATURAL PARK...

LESS THAN THREE WEEKS AWAY FROM THE CENTRE OF ROME AND JUST ONE WEEK FROM THE CENTRE OF LUTETIA (GAVL)

A HEALTHY AND HAPPY LIFE,


OF THE GODS ARE FOR YOU!

GENERAL PLAN OF THE MANSIONS OF THE GODS
ARCHITECT: SCARON ON THE HYPOTENUS

SHOPPING PRECINCT TO BE CONSTRUCTED

BATHS AND SPORTS HALL TO BE CONSTRUCTED

CAVULISEUM TO BE CONSTRUCTED

PLAN OF CENACULUM TYPE I
ATRIVM
CYCLICULUM

WORTHY OF A GOD!

ONCE HER HUSBAND AND CHILDREN HAVE GONE, THE MATRON VISITS HER FRIENDS FOR XISES. AFTERWARDS SHE MAY GO TO THE SHOPPING PRECINCT (TO BE CONSTRUCTED) WHERE SHE CAN FIND ALL SHE NEEDS, FROM FOOD AND CLOTHES TO JEWELLERY AND SLAVES. SHE IS HAVING A DINNER PARTY, AND SHE'S ONE SLAVE SHORT? SHE GOES STRAIGHT TO THE SELF-SERVICE SLAVE MARKET! SOON THE FAMILY WILL BE HOME. IT IS TIME TO PREPARE THE CENA.

WHEN THE HUSBAND COMES HOME FROM WORK HE CAN VISIT THE BATHS AND THE SPORTS HALL WITH HIS FRIENDS, OR GO FOR A ROMANTIC STROLL WITH HIS WIFE ALONG THE SHADY FOOTPATHS OF THE PARK (WHERE THE WILD BOARS FROLIC). IN THE EVENING, HE CAN GO TO THE CAVULISEUM (TO BE CONSTRUCTED), OR SIMPLY HAVE A FEW FRIENDS IN FOR AN ORGY. ALL HE HAS TO DO THEN IS GO TO BED AND WAIT THE DAWNING OF A MAGNIFICENT NEW DAY. THE SORT OF DAY YOU CAN FIND ONLY IN THE MANSIONS OF THE GODS!
THAT’S ALL VERY WELL, BUT I SEEM TO REMEMBER THAT THERE ARE PARTS OF GAUL WHICH ARE NOT VERY RESTFUL...

OH, IT’S IN GAUL, IS IT?

THE LAST PAIR OF GLADIATORS HAVE FINISHED MASSACRING EACH OTHER, AND SHOWN US THE FAMOUS MASTER OF CEREMONIES, COMES TO THE CENTRE OF THE ARENA.

AND NOW THE GREAT MOMENT HAS ARRIVED! YOU’RE ALL WONDERFUL, AND AFTER THESE WONDERFUL GLADIATORS WHO HAVE KILLED ONE ANOTHER FOR YOU... GIVE THEM A BIG HAND, FOLKS; THE SURVIVORS AS WELL AS THE OTHER ONES...

THANK YOU... WE’RE GOING TO PICK THE FORTUNATE WINNER OF ONE OF THE CENACULARI IN THE MANSIONS OF THE GODS... WE HAVE HERE A WONDERFUL VESTAL VIRGIN—GIVE HER A BIG HAND, FOLKS! SHE WILL DRAW THE WINNING NUMBER.

CIV! WHO HAS GOT CIV?

IT’S YOU!

HERE HE IS! OVER HERE!

WHAT IF I REFUSE TO GO TO THE ARENA?

YOU’LL STAY IN THE ARENA AND WELL LET IN THE LIONS.

IN THAT CASE, I ACCEPT.

DID YOU HEAR THAT?

AH! I SEE WE HAVE A WONDERFUL WINNER! COME DOWN INTO THE ARENA, PLEASE!

GIVE HIM A BIG HAND, FOLKS!

HE ACCEPTS! GIVE THIS WONDERFUL WINNER A BIG HAND, FOLKS!!!
I've heard the first tenants are arriving from Rome today.

And Getafix told us not to bang them about...

I'm very worried about these Romans, Getafix.

They may be wonderful...

I know what line I'm taking: I shall ignore them!

So shall I!

Can't think what's stopping me knocking their blasted flats down!

Take it easy! At least the slaves have been freed. That's one good thing!

Sure enough...

What are we going to do now we're free?

Now our ship's come home, we'll float a company. Me hearty's!

Welcome to the mansions of the gods!
THE SHOPPING PRESENT IS NOT QUITE FINISHED, YOU CAN BUY FOOD IN THE NEARBY MILITARY CAMPS. WE'VE MADE ALL THE NECESSARY ARRANGEMENTS.

WHY SHOULD WE GO TO THOSE CAMPS WHEN THERE'S A CHARMING NATIVE VILLAGE CLOSE BY?

SO THERE IS! WHAT A GOOD IDEA! WE'LL GO TOMORROW.

FRESH FISH! IT'S LUVERLY!

WHAT DO YOU MEAN? YOU DIDN'T EXPECT ME NOT TO SERVE THEM JUST BECAUSE THEY'RE ROMANS!

DO YOU REALIZE THAT IF YOU WERE IN ROME YOU WOULD HAVE CHARGED FIVE SESTERTII EACH FOR THOSE FISH?!!

SOON AFTERWARDS...

... AND I BOUGHT THIS SWORD AT A CHARMING LITTLE SHOP BELONGING TO FULLAUTOMATIX-A GENUINE ANTIQUE. HE MADE IT HIMSELF!
NEXT DAY

AUTOMATIX
ANTIOCH

FULLIAUTOMATIX
ANTIOCH

YOUR PRECIOUS FISH MONGER

YESTERDAY IT WAS ONLY ONE SESTERTIUM!!

I'M GOING SHOPPING. THERE AIN'T MANY BOARS LEFT IN THE FOREST

I'LL HAVE THAT FISH

THAT'S FOUR SESTERTIUM!

WAIT, MY DEAR...

I CAN NOT SELL YOU THIS SHIELD!

I'M ASKING FOR IT?

HOW MUCH IS THAT IN FISH?

ER... TWO WILD BOARS

HOW MUCH ARE YOU ASKING FOR IT?

WOW!

COULD YOU DELIVER ONE OF THOSE TO US?

WE LIVE IN THE MANSIONS OF THE GODS

I'D HEARD ASTRÉA?

THOSE ROMANS ARE COMPLETELY...

YES, I KNOW

PROCESSES ARE GOING UP.

MY DEAR LADY, BUT IT'S STILL LESS EXPENSIVE THAN IN ROME... FOR THE MOMENT

OH, LOOK, DEAR! THAT WOULD LOOK NICE IN THE ATRIUM!

NO, I CAN NOT SELL YOU THIS SHIELD!
THAT'S DAYLIGHT ROBBERY!
ROBBERY? GO TO ROME
AND SEE HOW MUCH
FISH COSTS THERE!

I'M SORRY, ASTERIX.
PRICES ARE GOING UP

I DON'T KNOW
THE WILD BOAR
EXCHANGE RATE.

ALL RIGHT,
THERE YOU ARE.

I DON'T WANT TO
POKE MY NOSE INTO
SOMETHING WHICH
DOESN'T CONCERN ME,
ASTERIX, BUT YOU WERE UNWISE TO...

SPLATCH!

ILL TAKE
YOUR FISH, BUT
YOUR ATTITUDE
AMAZES ME!

OHH, WE CAN DO
WITHOUT GAUS, WE CAN!
The ROMAN TRADE
IS ENOUGH FOR US!

YOUR ATTITUDE
AMAZES ME,
FULL AUTOMATIX!

I DON'T LIKE
THE WAY THINGS
ARE GOING GETAFIK,
YOU DIDN'T FORESEE
ALL THIS, DID YOU?

NO, I DIDN'T
EXPECT THIS.

THE ROMANS HAVE GONE HOME
NOW LET'S TAKE ADVANTAGE OF
IT TO HAVE A MEETING
AND DECIDE WHAT TO DO.

SCHPLONK!

P.A.F.

I DON'T WANT TO
POKE MY NOSE INTO SOMETHING
WHICH DOESN'T CONCERN ME
ASTERIX, BUT YOU WERE UNWISE TO...

THE ROMANS HAVE GONE HOME
NOW LET'S TAKE ADVANTAGE
OF IT TO HAVE A MEETING
AND DECIDE WHAT TO DO.
Friends! The Romans have destroyed the forest, and in the end they will destroy us. I'm just wondering whether we shouldn't get rid of them!

From the point of view of the fish trade, Romans mean progress.

I was a blacksmith, and thanks to them, I'm now an antique dealer!

You are the oldest member of the village, Geriatrix. How do you feel about having Romans in our forest?

Well... er... he thinks it's a good thing that they're here! They will help us to emerge from the barbarian age.

You must admit it's more elegant than our usual tatters!

My little Geriatrix and I have decided to change our lifestyle. We're going to open shops.

Shops? What shops?

Shall have an antique shop, and dear Geriatrix a fishmonger's.

Antiques, all right, but a fishmonger? Are you out of your mind?

Antiques? If Geriatrix is going to sell antiques you won't be able to make out which is which.

How about my stick? Can you make out my stick?

There are going to be too many fishmongers round here. I'm opening mine tomorrow!

Take no notice of them, Geriatrix, my love!

That's what you think!

I don't want any fishmongers near my antique shop!
NEXT MORNING

GETAFIX, LOOK HOW OUR VILLAGE HAS CHANGED! AND THAT'S NOT ALL...

...THE WONDERFUL SPIRIT OF CO-OPERATION WE USED TO HAVE HAS DISAPPEARED.

NOW I'M SURE, ASTERIX, ALL THIS PART OF JULIUS CAESAR'S PLAN TO GET RID OF US!

I'LL SELL MY FISH CHEAPER THAN YOURS!

CAN YOU SEE MY FISH? CAN YOU SEE IT?

WHO WANTS TO FEEL MY ANTIQUE?

CAESAR IS USING THE ROMANS WHO LIVE IN THE MANSIONS OF THE GODS, BUT THEY DON'T REALIZE WHAT IS HAPPENING.

WE MUST GET RID OF THEM... I'VE GOT AN IDEA.

A VACANT FLAT IN THE MANSIONS? AFRAID NOT, EVERYTHING'S TAKEN - IT'S A GREAT SUCCESS!

SOON WE'RE GOING TO CUT DOWN THE REMAINDER OF THE FOREST AND BUILD SOME NEW FLATS. WE COULD RESERVE YOU ONE OF THOSE...

NEXT MORNING

TEEEHEE! IF THE GAULS ARE STARTING TO LEAVE THE VILLAGE, THE LAST CENTRE OF RESISTANCE AGAINST THE ROMAN OCCUPATION WILL HAVE DISAPPEARED. CAESAR WILL BE DELIGHTED!

THAT SAME AFTERNOON, IN THE VILLAGE...

GRRRRRRRRR... AAAHHH!

OBELIX! CALM DOWN, OBELIX. TAKE IT EASY!

GRRRRRRR...
BY JUPITER! WHAT'S GOT INTO HIM?
TAKE NO NOTICE, HE DOESN'T LIKE THE
LOOK OF YOU, THAT'S ALL. WE BARBARIANS ARE
LIKE THAT, WE ACT ON INSTINCT.
GRRRRR!

THAT GAUL IS CRAZY!
JUST A LITTLE,
YES, BUT AS I'M HERE THERES NO
NEED TO WORRY.

LETS GET BACK HOME!
YES, LET'S!

OH, LOOK AT THE PRETTY
FLOWERS! HOLD MY BAG, I'M
GOING TO PICK A LITTLE
BLUNCH.
ALL RIGHT, BUT GET
ON WITH IT.

YOU CAN
COME DOWN.
I'M HERE!
GRRRRRR!
D-B-DON'T
LET GO OF
him!

DON'T BE AFRAID;
HE'S NOT REALLY
Vicious, YOU KNOW.
HE JUST LIKES TO
PLAY GAMES.

Play
GAMES?
A FINE
GAME THAT WAS!

HOW DO YOU
MANAGE TO SEEM
SO HEROCIOUS,
OBELIX?

I'VE BEEN
WATCHING DOGMATUX
WHEN HE'S IN A BAD
TEMPER!
I've just about had enough of living among these savages!

There, there, dear! Aren't these flowers beautiful?

They didn't mention those barbarians in the brochure!

They seemed quite nice, however. The price of fish is going down every day. Now they're offering a free gift of an antique with every fish...

...and a free gift of a fish with every antique. Come on, let's eat!

There's sardines in sugar, mackerel's eyes in jelly, and anchovy jam, just like we had in Rome.

Ah... Rome, sweet Rome...

When's someone at the door!

Every time we lie down to the table, it's the same! Go and see who it is, quick, dear. The stewed octopus will get cold.

I'm sorry to disturb you. But you haven't seen my friend, have you?

What? Isn't he with you?

He got away... He wanted to see you... If he comes, give him some raw meat, that calms him down... sometimes

Who was it?

Guess! Anyway, tomorrow we're leaving!
WHAT'S THIS? YOU'RE GOING BACK TO ROME JUST LIKE THAT?
I WON THIS FLAT IN A GAME AND NOW I'M GIVING IT BACK.
AND WHAT A GAME THAT WAS?

I'VE HEARD YOU MIGHT HAVE A FLAT VACANT?
HMM?

NEWS TRAVELS FAST! WELL, JUST SO HAPPENS WE DO.
YOU CAN HAVE IT IF YOU LIKE.

OH, IT ISN'T FOR ME.

HERE YOU ARE. IN THAT CASE, LAST Look, NUMBERS CIV-
Do YOU WANT ME TO SHOW YOU THE WAY?

DON'T RATHER; I KNOW IT.

DO YOU LIKE IT?

YES, IT'S VERY NICE... BUT WHY ARE YOU AND OBELIX TREATING ME TO THIS FLAT?

YEAH, YOU CAN SING IN PEACE. YOU HAVE OFTEN CALLED US BARBARIANS, AND YOU WERE RIGHT. HERE, IN THE MANSIONS OF THE GODS, YOU WILL HAVE CIVILIZED NEIGHBOURS.

IN THAT CASE, I ACCEPT! AT LAST I CAN PRACTICE MY ART SURROUNDED BY REFINED PEOPLE!

THAT'S WHAT WE SAID TO EACH OTHER: NOTHING BUT THE BEST FOR OUR BARD!

THESE POOR ROMANS... I'M SORRY FOR THEM.
WE REALLY ARE LAYING IT ON A BIT THICK!
Ah, how peaceful... we are far from the pleasures of Rome, but how quiet it is...

Good night

Good night

Can you hear a funny little noise?

Tzoing! Tzoing!

It's probably a wild boar frolicking on the lawn

Right. Here goes!

A wild boar in an oak tree...

The Gauls are attacking!

The building's collapsing!

Quousque tandem? Quousque tandem?

On the second day of St. Solstice, my true love sent to me, two standing stones and a wild boar in an oak tree. On the third day, the gods are angry!

On the first day of St. Solstice, my true love sent to me...

I prefer the street cries of Rome!

Start packing! Tomorrow we're off!
Sure enough. Next morning...

What? You're all leaving the flats? Just because of a Gaul who sings loud and flat?

People who sing like that are capable of anything! We've had enough of barbarians! We're going back to Rome!

The whole building has emptied itself at one go! Only one tenant is left—A Gaul...

A bard... Cacophonography, I think he's called...

Cacophonix, the bard? You've been had by the Gauls! He's a menace. You'll never see your tenants again!

I don't admit defeat! If Caesar knows the building is empty, he'll abandon the plan!

But you've no more tenants...

The garrison of Aquarius! Your garrison can take up quarters in the mansions of the gods. There are the tenants!

If you succeed in winning your men over, I'll share my fees with you!

In that case, I'll try.

Soon afterwards...

I've called this meeting to tell you that I agree to all your demands... But there's one problem left...

The legionaries won't obey me any more... They're still on strike.

The problem of accommodation. You haven't yet brought it up, but I imagine you will no longer be content to sleep under canvas...
QUITE RIGHT! IT'S DISGRACEFUL! WE REFUSE TO LIVE IN A CAMP ANY LONGER!
TAKE IT OR LEAVE IT!
I AGREE, I AGREE...
I HAVE REQUISITIONED THE MANSIONS OF THE GODS. YOU CAN MOVE IN IMMEDIATELY
GOOD. THAT DID THE TRICK... BUT YOU'LL HAVE TO GET THE BARD OUT OF THE BUILDING, OTHERWISE MY LEGIONARIES WILL GO ON STRIKE AGAIN
YOU BET YOUR LIFE I'LL GET HIM OUT!

LATER...
AH, SO YOU'RE BACK.
ARE YOU? THEY SAY IT WAS YOUR FAULT THAT THE ROMANS LEFT!
LOOK WHAT YOU'VE DONE TO OUR VILLAGE!

THERE ARE BARBARIANS EVERYWHERE. I HAVE BEEN THROWN OUT OF THE BUILDING. THEY'VE REQUISITIONED IT FOR THE ARMY
WHAT?
I SAID, THERE ARE BARBARIANS EVERYWHERE, AND...

THE LEGIONARIES HAVE THROWN OUT ONE OF OUR MEN. ARE WE GOING TO STAND FOR THAT?!
NEVER!
**Ulysses and the Legions of the Chairs**

The N.C.O.'s will have the luxury flats on the lower floors... the other ranks will live on the upper floors...

I've stationed sentries on the roof... they will act as auxilia to warn us of any danger.

Meals will be served in the entry atrium. Every legionary on duty will come with his comrades to fetch his rations to eat in his private triclinium...

Of course, we shall have to have meetings of the tenants' association. I don't care very much for the decoration in the atrium...

What's the matter with the decoration? I think it's very nice...

What about letters? Will they be delivered, or shall we have to go and collect them?

And the lawn? Who'll look after that?

Some time later...

My legionaries had a good battle. They're going soft...

That's your problem, mine is just the reverse: to see there aren't any more quarrels.

Tantaraa! Tantaraa! That's the sentries on the roof!

Let's have some hush! Music isn't allowed!

What the...

We must put that on the agenda for the next meeting of the tenants' association!
STOP! STOP! THIS IS PRIVATE PROPERTY!

AND WHAT IS MORE, PLEASE KEEP OFF THE GRASS!

IN THE FIRST PLACE, I'M NOT ON THE GRASS, AND IN THE SECOND PLACE, YOU ROMANS HAVE THROWN ONE OF OUR MEN OUT, SO WE ARE GOING TO THROW YOU OUT!

CHARGE! REPULSE INTRUDERS!!

RIGHTO!

HEY? HEY! FIGHTING IN A BLOCK OF FLATS IS NOT ALLOWED!

SPLIT UP! I'LL TAKE STAIRCASE A. ASTERIX AND THE OTHERS WILL TAKE STAIRCASE B!
May we come in?
I'm in my bath!
The last three floors are mine!
Knock after going in, by Toutatis!
I've already had mine! I've already had mine!

Tell that dog to let go of me!
Dogs are not allowed in the building!

Ouch! Watch out, by Belisama!
Sorry, O Chief! The ceiling's rather low here!

I'm not here! I tell you I'm not here!

I shall have something to say at the next meeting of the tenants' association!

Listen, we don't live here. You understand... We're just visiting friends who are having a fancy dress ball, that's why we're all disguised as legionaries... Now, in the other flats... Are you listening when I speak to you?

Get them round the back, at the service entrance, by Belenos!
SOON AFTERWARDS...

YES, LIFE UNDER CANVAS IS SO MUCH HEALTHIER!

COME ON, OUT OF YOUR BATH!

NOT BEFORE WE'RE BACK HOME!

SO THERE YOU ARE! GET OUT OF HERE AND NEVER DARKEN OUR CAMP SITE AGAIN! THE MANSIONS OF THE GODS ARE DONE FOR!

YOU'RE RIGHT! I NEVER WANT TO HEAR ANOTHER WORD ABOUT THOSE BARBARIANS. LET CAESAR DEAL WITH THEM AS BEST HE CAN... ANYWAY, I'VE GOT A CONTRACT TO BUILD SOME PYRAMIDS IN EGYPT...

IT WILL BE A PLEASANT CHANGE. BUILDINGS IN THE MIDDLE OF THE DESERT, WITH NICE QUIET TENANTS...

WHAT ARE WE GOING TO DO NOW, GETAFIX?

COME ON, BOYS! BACK TO THE VILLAGE!

IT WAS INTERESTING. THAT BUILDING I TOOK THE OPPORTUNITY TO HAVE A GOOD LOOK ROUND... VERY INTERESTING.

I DON'T LIKE TO SAY SO, BUT THESE MODERN BUILDINGS ARE RATHER FLIMSY...

WE'LL GET THE TREES TO GROW AGAIN
At nightfall, the forest has fallen silent once again. Only a few Roman remains show that the mansions of the gods ever stood there...

O Druid Getafix, do you think we can always stop the course of events as we have just done?

Of course, not, Asterix.

But we still have time, plenty of time!

What do you mean, time?

We haven't got any time to waste! The wild boars are ready; we're only waiting for you!

And not far from the Roman ruins, in a natural clearing in the forest, frequented by wild boars and birds, our friends the Gauls, gathered together for one of their traditional feasts, celebrate another victory, a victory over the Romans and over the inexorable passage of time...

The End