

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

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...



THAT'S AN INFAMOUS SUGGESTION, O CAESAR!



YOU HAVE TO FACE FACTS, O QUEEN! YOURS IS A DECADENT NATION, ONLY FIT TO LIVE IN SEMI-SLAVERY UNDER THE ROMANS

MY PEOPLE BUILT THE PYRAMIDS! THE TOWER OF PHAROS! THE TEMPLES - THE OBELUSKS!

THAT'S OLD HAT! ALL THEY CAN DO NOW IS WAIT FOR THE ANNUAL FLOODING OF THE NILE!



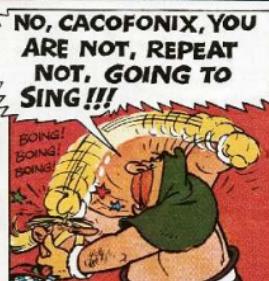
THAT WILL DO!

CLEOPATRA, I WILL PROVE TO YOU, O CAESAR, THAT MY PEOPLE ARE AS BRILLIANT AS EVER! IN THREE MONTHS' TIME I'LL HAVE A MAGNIFICENT PALACE BUILT HERE FOR YOU IN ALEXANDRIA!

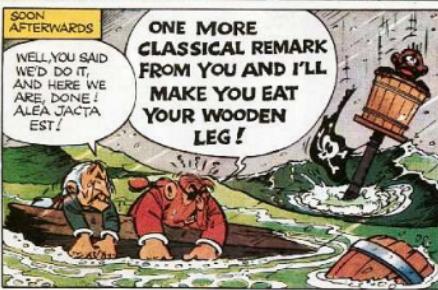




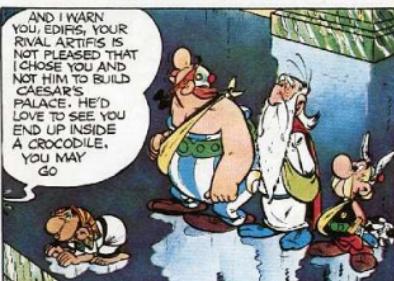
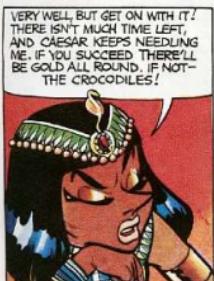


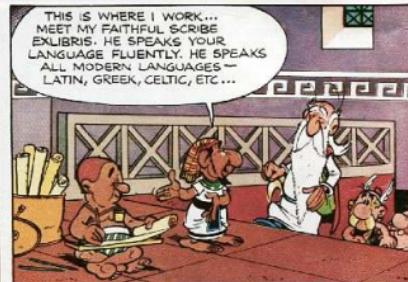






NEXT MORNING ...







DON'T MINCE HIS WORDS!

POSITIVELY EATEN UP BY HATE!

HE REALLY SHOWED HIS TEETH!

DON'T USE THAT SORT OF LANGUAGE.

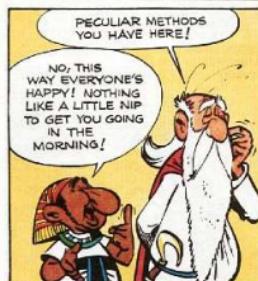


DOGMAKIT!!!



?!?





DURING THE LENTIL* BREAK THE LABOURERS HAVE AN UNEXPECTED VISITOR...



X 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!

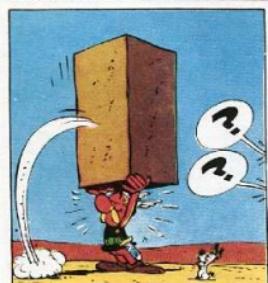


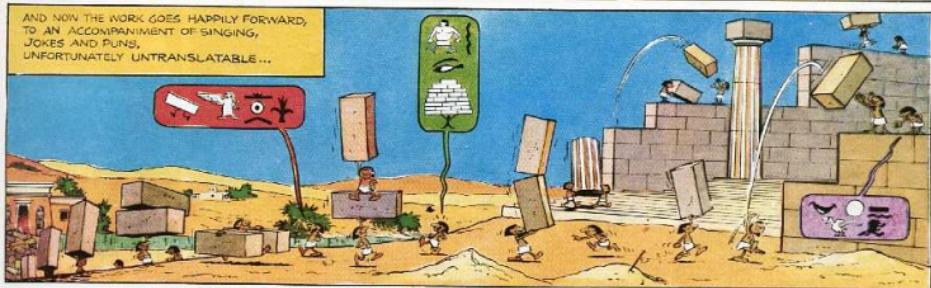
ALL THESE WORRIES ARE POSITIVELY BLOOD-CURDLING! BY THE TIME THE CROCODILES GET ME I'LL BE QUITE UNEATABLE!

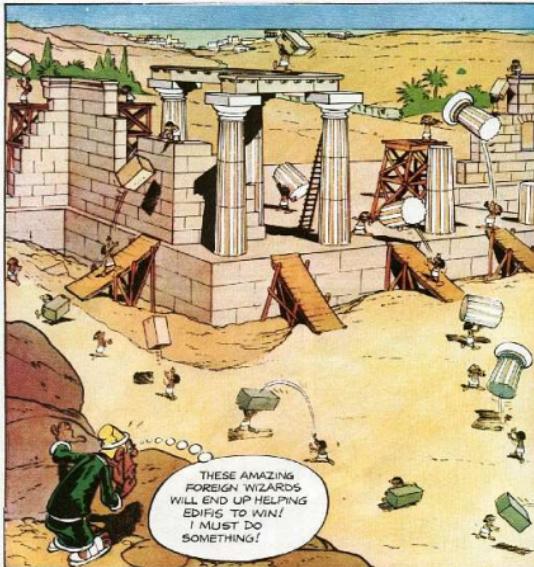


BUT THOSE ARE SACRED CROCODILES! YOU CAN'T JUST FEED THEM ANY OLD THING!









KRUKUT MEETS THE FLEET
BRINGING STONE FOR THE
PALACE, AND HIS GOLD
QUICKLY OVERCOMES THE
CAPTAIN'S SCRUPLES...





SOON
AFTERWARDS.

WE SHALL BE
JOINING THE NILE
AND THEN FOLLOWING
THE RIVER
SOUTH



MEANWHILE, IN THE HOUSE
OF THE INFAMOUS ARTIFICE...

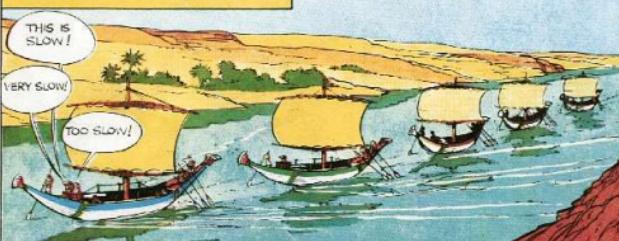
I'VE LEARNED THAT
THOSE MIRACLE-
WORKING FOREIGNERS
HAVE GONE OFF TO GET
MORE STONE. KRUKHUT,
THEY MUST NOT RETURN.
THIS IS WHAT YOU
HAVE TO DO...

THE FLEET GLIDES SLOWLY DOWN THE
MAJESTIC AND SACRED RIVER NILE...

THIS IS
SLOW!

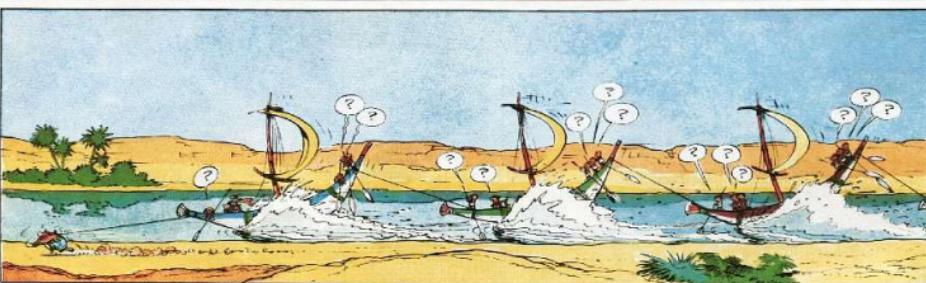
VERY SLOW!

TOO SLOW!



ALL MOVE TO THE
BANK! FASTEN THE
BOATS FIRMLY
TOGETHER WITH
ROPES!

A BIT OF
EXERCISE AT
LAST!



BY TOUTATIS, THAT BOY NEVER
CEASES TO SURPRISE ME, EVEN
THOUGH I DON'T THINK HE FELL INTO
A CALDRON FULL OF MAGIC
POTION WHEN HE WAS A
BABY!

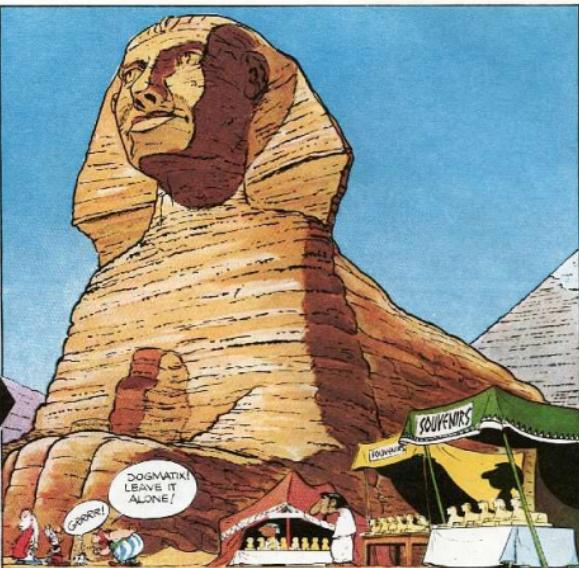
AT NIGHTFALL THEY CAMP
ON THE RIVER BANK...

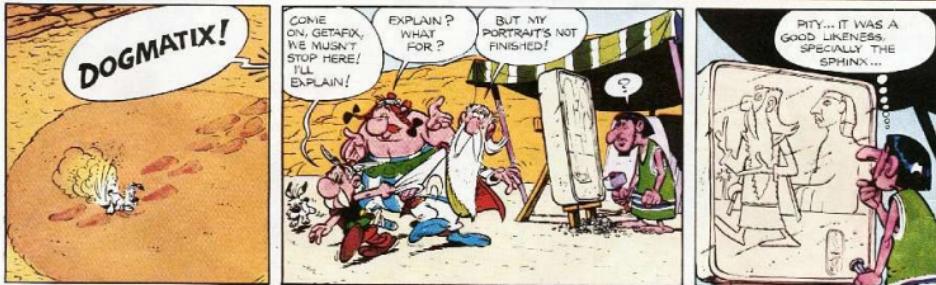
LENTILS AGAIN! NOT A
SINGLE SLICE OF BOAR! AND
THEN THEY'LL WONDER WHY
I'VE COME OVER WEAK!

TOMORROW WE'LL VISIT THE
SPHINX AND THE PYRAMIDS.
IT'S NOT FAR AWAY, AND
THEY'RE WORTH SEEING!



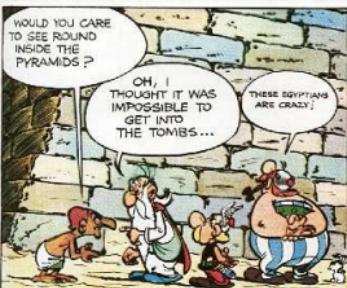
BUT UNDER COVER OF DARKNESS
A CUNNING SPY IS WATCHING
AND WAITING

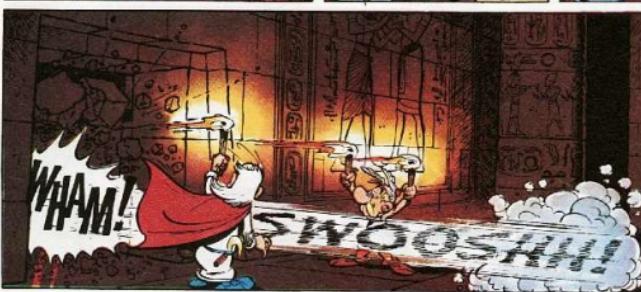
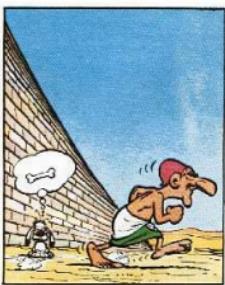


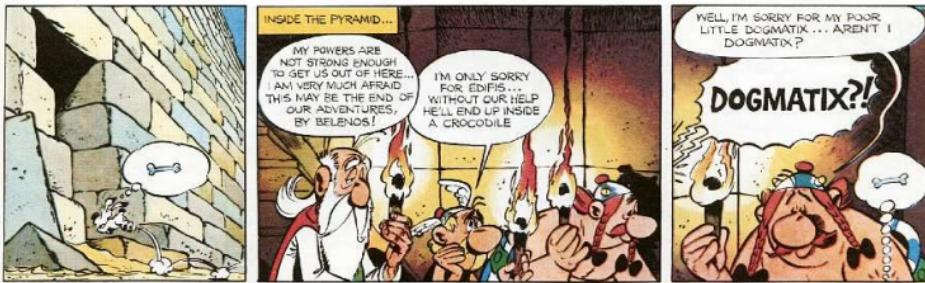


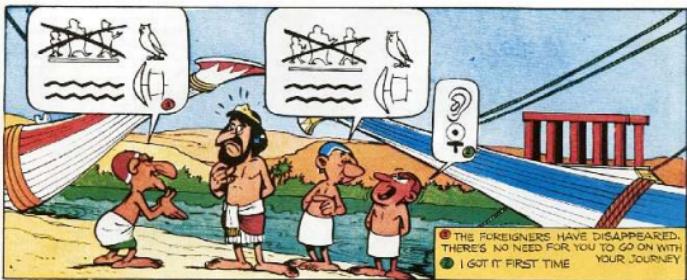
SO NOW YOU KNOW WHY THE SPHINX HAS NO NOSE, WHICH IS A PITY, FOR THE SPHINX'S NOSE, LOST TO THIS DAY, WAS A VERY FINE SPECIMEN OF A NOSE, IF NOT SO BEAUTIFUL AS CLEOPATRA'S, WHICH, AS WE BELIEVE WE MENTIONED BEFORE, WAS A VERY PRETTY NOSE INDEED





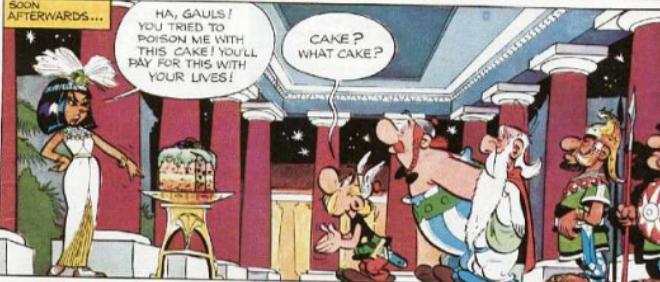


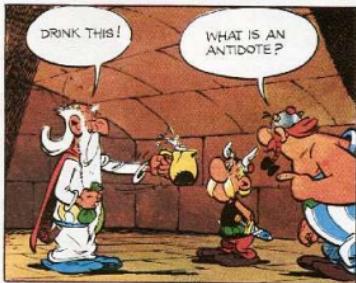


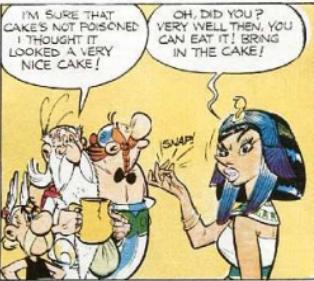




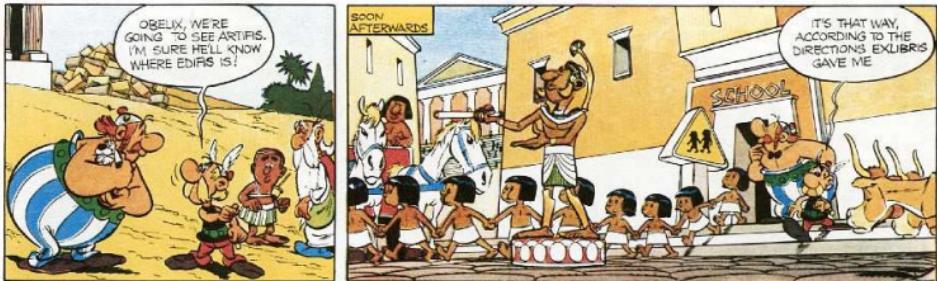






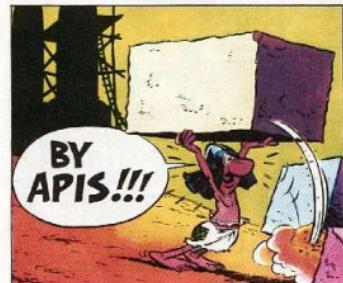




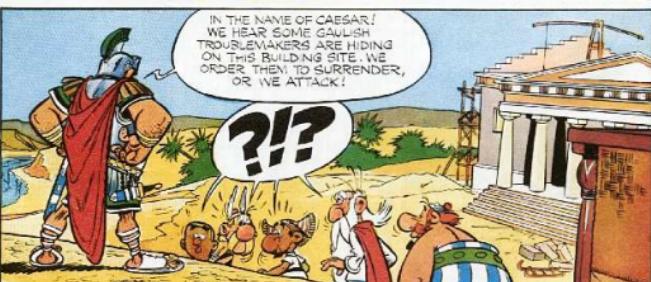


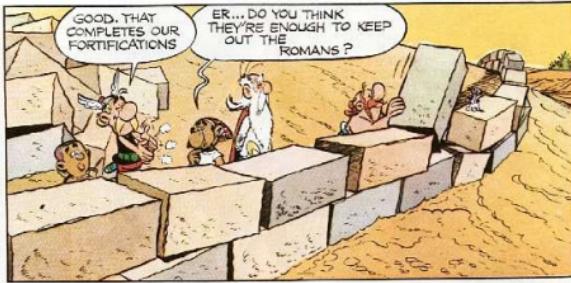


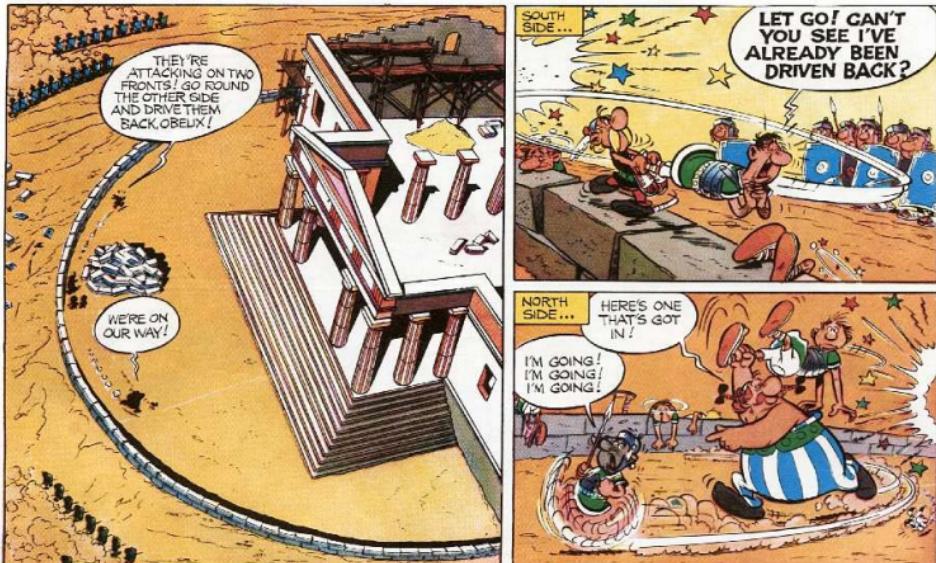




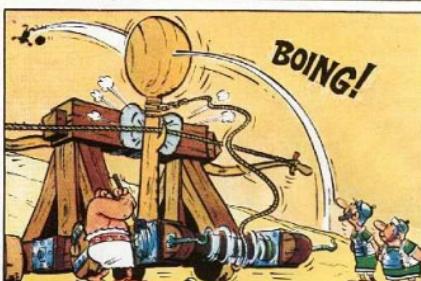












**WATCH OUT! ONE OF THE
BESIEGED MEN IS TRYING
TO BREAK IN AGAIN!**



HERE YOU ARE,
OBElix!
DOGMATIX HAS
JUST GOT BACK!
HE DID HIS JOB
PERFECTLY!

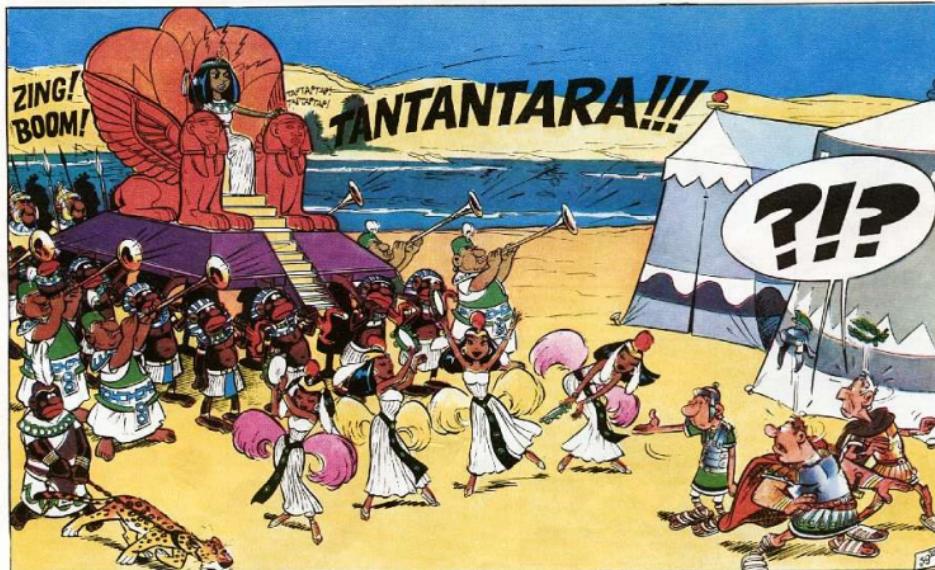
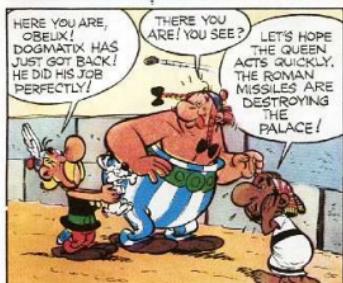
HERE
ARE YOU SEE?

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!

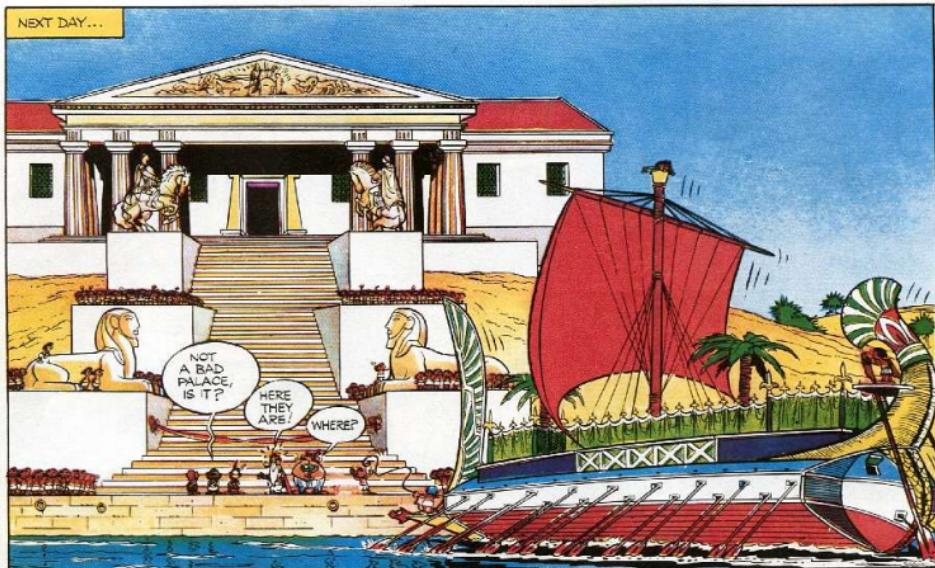
AVE, CAESAR... ER...
SOMEONE WANTS TO
SPEAK TO YOU...
WHO IS IT?







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...



