

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...



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 OREUSKS!



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

THAT WILL DO!



I, CLEOPATRA, 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!



WELL, IF YOU CAN DO THAT, O QUEEN, I'LL ADMIT THAT THE EGYPTIANS ARE STILL A GREAT NATION...



...BUT I HAVE MY DOUBTS!

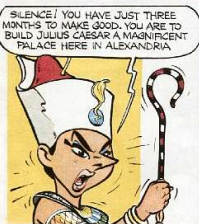
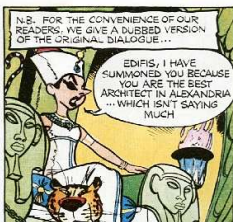


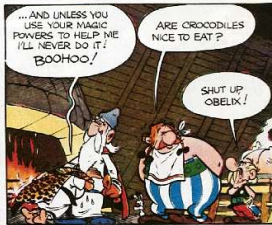
SHE'S A NICE GIRL, ONLY HER NOSE IS SO EASILY PUT OUT OF JOINT...



... PRETTY NOSE TOO!













NEXT MORNING ...



AND IN HER PALACE THE LUXURY-LOVING CLEOPATRA IS SITTING DOWN TO HER FAVOURITE SNACK - PEARLS DISSOLVED IN VINEGAR



HERE, TASTER! GET ON WITH YOUR JOB!



UGH! I DO HATE TOO MUCH PEARL IN MY VINEGAR!



EDFIS THE ARCHITECT CRAVES THE HONOUR OF AN AUDIENCE!



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, EDFIS, 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

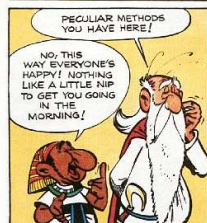


SHE LOOKS BAD TEMPERED, BUT SHE HAS A PRETTY NOSE...









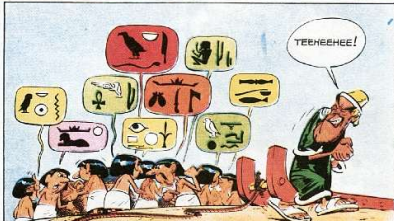
DURING THE LENTIL BREAK THE LABOURERS HAVE AN UNEXPECTED VISITOR...



IS 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!



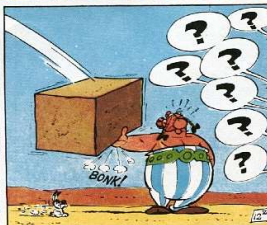
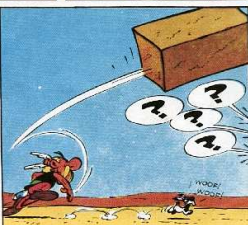
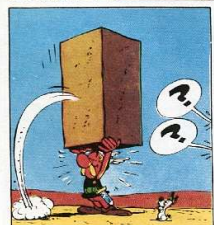
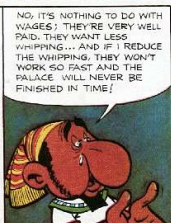
ALL THESE WORRIES ARE POSITIVELY BLOOD-CURDLING! BY THE TIME THE CROCODILES GET ME I'LL BE QUITE UNEATABLE!

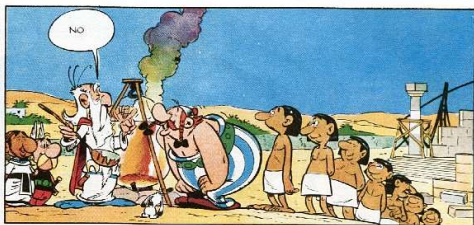


ALL THE BETTER! ARE YOU SO KEEN TO MAKE THEM A GOOD MEAL?

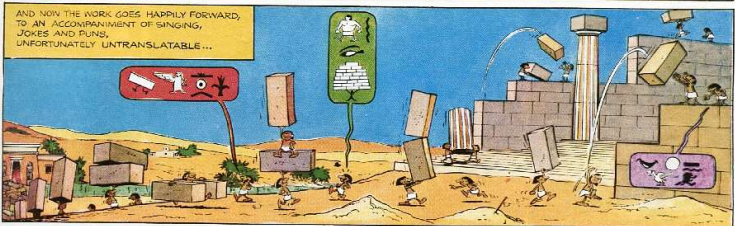
BUT THOSE ARE SACRED CROCODILES! YOU CAN'T JUST FEED THEM ANY OLD THING!

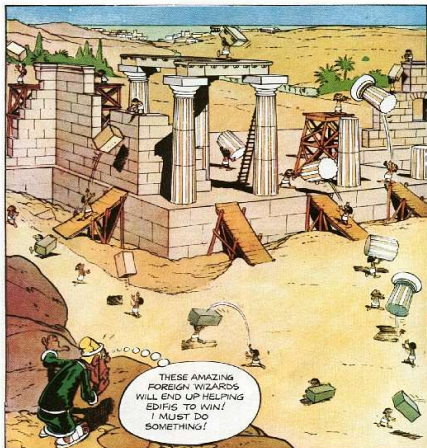


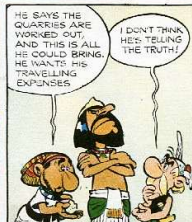


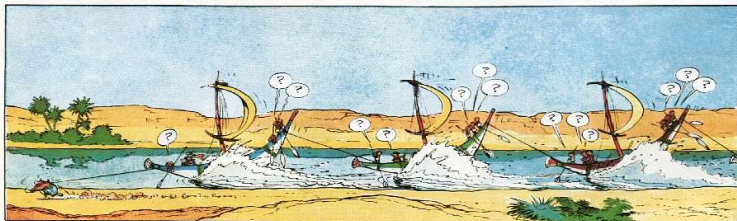


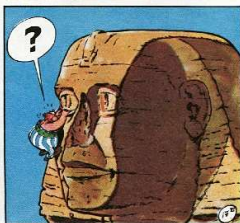
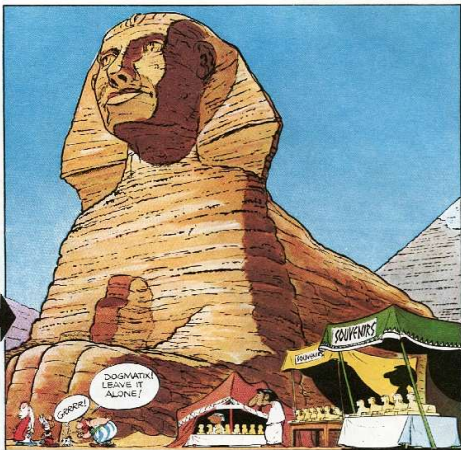
AND NOW THE WORK GOES HAPPILY FORWARD, TO AN ACCOMPANIMENT OF SINGING, JOKES AND PUNS, UNFORTUNATELY UNTRANSLATABLE...







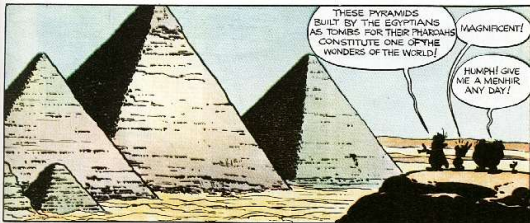






SO NOW YOU KNOW WHY THE SPHINX HAS NO NOSE. WHICH IS A PITY, FOR THE SPHINX'S NOSE, LOST TO THIS DAY, WAS A VERY FINE SPECIMEN OF A NOSE, IF NOT SO BEAUTIFUL AS CLEOPATRA'S, WHICH, AS WE BELIEVE WE MENTIONED BEFORE, WAS A VERY PRETTY NOSE INDEED

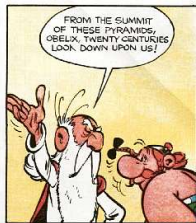




THESE PYRAMIDS
BUILT BY THE EGYPTIANS
AS TOMBS FOR THEIR PHARAOHS
CONSTITUTE ONE OF THE
WONDERS OF THE WORLD!

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!



INSIDE THE PYRAMID

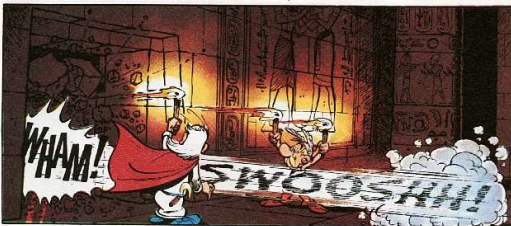
DON'T LOSE SIGHT
OF ME. YOU'D NEVER
GET OUT OF THIS
LABYRINTH ALIVE

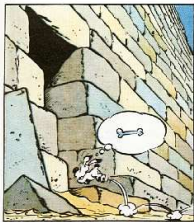


COME ALONG IN...
THIS ROOM BOASTS
SOME MAGNIFICENT
HIEROGLYPHS...



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





INSIDE THE PYRAMID...

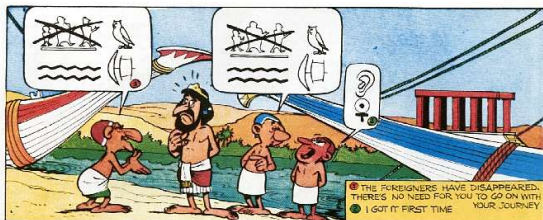
MY POWERS ARE NOT STRONG ENOUGH TO GET US OUT OF HERE... AM VERY MUCH AFRAID THIS MAY BE THE END OF OUR ADVENTURES, BY BELENOS!

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?!









CHAMBERLAIN!



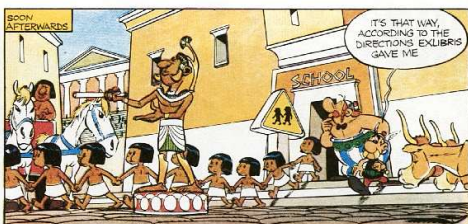


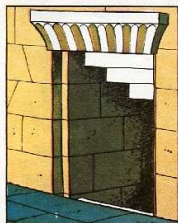
SOON
AFTERWARDS...

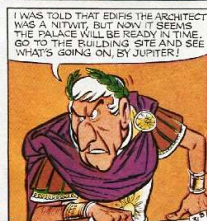


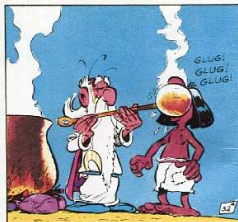


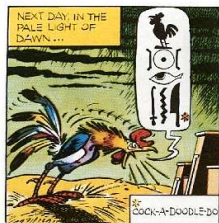


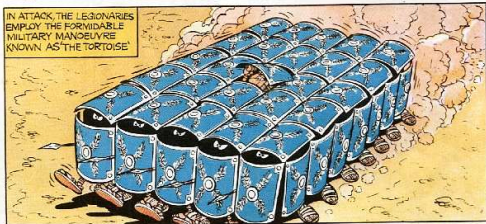
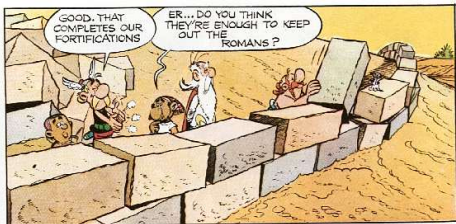
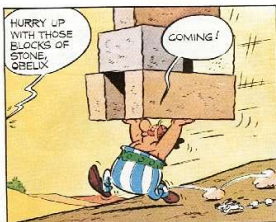




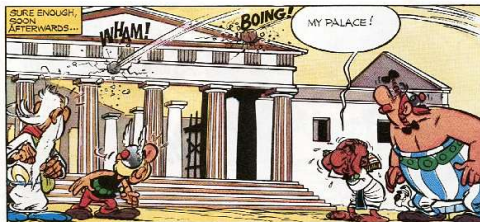




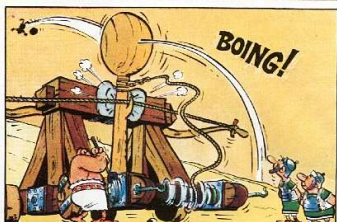








WATCH OUT! ONE OF THE
BESIEGED MEN IS
TRYING TO BREAK OUT!!



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...

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

EXCELLENT, OPERACHORUS, EXCELLENT!



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

WHO IS IT?







AT LAST, ONE FINE DAY...



NEXT DAY...

