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.

SNORT! ZZZ!

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

COCK-A-DOODLE-DOO

YOU'RE IN A FOWL MOOD THIS MORNING!

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

YAWN!

I HAD SUCH A FUNNY DREAM LAST NIGHT, ASTERIX!

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

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

DON'T SAY YOU STILL BELIEVE STORKS DELIVER BABIES!

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

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

I DRINK THE STICKS VISITED OUR VILLAGE, BRINGING THE PEOPLE HAD ORDERED, AND ONE OF THEM LEFT A STICK HERE BY MISTAKE!
IT... IT CAN'T BE TRUE! THIS MUST BE SOME KIND OF JOKE!

WHAT IS IT?

GUESS!!!

WAHH!

THERE! STORKS DO DELIVER BABIES, AND THEY MADE A MISTAKE!

WAHH!

OBELIX: YOU'RE GETTING ME DOWN! HELP ME CALM THIS BABY DOWN INSTEAD!

WAHH!

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

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

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

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

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

YOU FEED HIM WHILE I SUMMON THE VILLAGE COUNCIL!

HURRY UP! PSSS! PSSS!

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

YOU DON'T KNOW HOW A BABY FEEDS!

NEVER MIND. HE DOES!

HE'S WET THROUGH!

AND WHOSE FAULT IS THAT?

SOON AFTER... WAAAAAHH!

LOOKING FOR TAT, EH?
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!

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!

Hey! Hang on! Are you out of your minds?

You mustn't get upset:

That's Asterix's isst, and it looked like being such a lovely day!

Asterix! Come quick!!!

Asterix!!! Mooooooo! Ding ding ding!
THOUGH I'M NOT TO THEIR VICINITY:

DON'T WORRY! OBELIX IS LIVING PROOF OF THE FACT MAGIC POTION IS HARMLESS TO BABIES...

WON'T IT BE BAD FOR HIM? GETAFIX?

GOTTA LOTTA BOTTLE, EH? YOU WANT A SMACKED BOTTOM!

I DON'T KNOW WHAT BABIES ARE COMING TO THESE DAYS, ASTERIX!

HERE'S YOUR COW... A BIT RATTLED, BUT OK!

AND NEXT TIME SHE SEES A BABY, MIND SHE DOESN'T LOOK SO LIKE A TOY! RATTLING COWS IS BAD FOR THEM!

BY TOUTATIS, I BET YOU WENT AND MADE HIS BOTTLE OUT OF A GOURD WHICH WAS STILL HALF FULL OF MAGIC POTION!

GGA!

SPLATCH!

GEDOGING!

GGA!

GGA TEEHEE!

HMPH!

GA!

GGA!

GA!

OAMM!
AFTER TERENCE, AMI LO,G TO DO ABOUT THIS BABY?

DON'T YOU THINK YOU'VE DONE ENOUGH ALREADY?

AND DON'T TOUCH THAT CHILD WITH YOUR CLUMSY GREAT HANDS! WHAT HE NEEDS IS A MOTHER'S TENDER CARE!

DON'T YOU, MY LITTLE SWEETIE-PIE?

POC!

YOU COME HOME WITH ME!
AND IN FUTURE I DON'T WANT YOU MIXING WITH PEOPLE WHOSE EFFECT ON ALL AROUND THEM IS SO DEVASTATING!

BUT IMPEDIMENTA, DEAR....

I THINK THIS BABY HAS HIS HEAD SCREWED ON THE RIGHT WAY.

WELL, THAT SETTLES IT, ASTERIX!

HE'S DEFINITELY PICKED YOU TWO FOR HIS ADOPTIVE FATHERS!

ASTERIX AND OBEIX, THE GUARDIANSHIP OF THIS CHILD, WITH ALL ITS WEIGHTY RESPONSIBILITIES, IS NOW YOURS. TAKE GOOD CARE OF HIM!

I WILL NOW GIVE YOU AN ODE ON THE JOYS OF FAMILY LIFE!

YOU TRY IT!
NO BIGGER THAN A WILD BOAR, PIGLET; AND HE’S AS MUCH TROUBLE AS MAKING FIFTY MENHIRS!

WHY ON EARTH CAN HAVE BEEN BOLD ENOUGH TO ABANDON THIS BABY?

I TOLD YOU. IT MUST HAVE BEEN A STORK WHO...

SHUT UP ABOUT STORKS, OR I SHALL DO YOU AN INJURY!

SSSHH! YOU’LL WAKE HIM UP, AND THEN HE’LL WANT A COW TO RATTLE!

THAT’S WHAT COMES OF BEING FOOL ENOUGH TO GIVE HIM A BOTTLE OF MILK WITH MAGIC POTION IN IT!

HARK AT MISTER ASTERIX: FULL OF THE MILK OF HUMAN Kindness; AREN’T YOU? WHO’S A MILKSOPI, THEN?

MILKSOPI YOURSELF: IT’S YOUR SOPPY FAULT!

OH, REALLY? YOU DON’T BELIEVE IN BOTTLING UP A GRIEVANCE DO YOU?

YOU’RE ENOUGH TO MAKE ME TAKE TO THE BOTTLE MYSELF!

WAAAAA!

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YOU’RE ENOUGH TO MAKE ME TAKE TO THE BOTTLE MYSELF!

WAAAAA!
I AM CRISMUS CACTUS, PREFECT OF GAUL, AND I HAVE COME TO INVESTIGATE THE WHOLE OF THIS CONQUERED TERRITORY AND TAKE A CENSUS OF THE GAULISH VILLAGES!

Ave, Gauls!

You've got one thing wrong, Roman! This village still holds out against the invaders!

And we're the ones doing the investigating!

We'll see about that.

Ready men? At the word...

This is a great start to our investigations, Asterix...

Patchac!

Signa inferre: praegae, concursus ad gladios, infestis pilis.*

 forwarding! March! Charge! To arms! Take aim!

Dismount!

Bonk!

Since we're making investigations, do you happen to know of any Romans who abandoned their baby outside Asterix's hut?

Don't bother, Obelix. Anyone can see they're new to these parts! Let's go to Compendium!

Well, now I know enough to go back to Condatum.*
THAT’S DOMMATTIX BARKING.
I HOPE THE BABY’S ALL RIGHT!

WOOF! WOOF! WOOF!

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!

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

THERE’S THE 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!

SEE HOW HE MADE STRAIGHT FOR ME WHEN HE FELT LONELY?
YES, I EXPECT HE WANTED TO CHEW THE FAT!

HE WANTS TO CHEW THE FAT!

HE’S HOT CHEW ME, AND ANYWAY, WHAT DO YOU MEAN, FAT?
I DO LIKE YOUR TACT AND DELICACY, ASTERIX!

I TRY NOT TO BE A CRASHING BORE MYSELF WHEN I PAY CALLS!

I’VE RECOGNIZED FOURTEEN BABIES WAITING FOR ME BACK IN ROME, BUT I’M ALMOST CERTAIN THAT’S NOT ONE OF MINE!

LET’S TRY THE CAMP OF LAUDANUM...

BUT IN THE CAMPS OF LAUDANUM...

... AND TOTORUM, THE INVESTIGATIONS GET NOWHERE.

SO THAT’S WHAT THEY CALL AN OPINION POLL?
WE'RE TRYING TO FIND OUT WHO ABANDONED THIS BABY AND MAKING SOME INVESTIGATIONS!

YOUR METHODS ARE CERTAINLY STRIKING!

WE HAD A VISIT FROM A PREFECT THIS MORNING. HE'S GOING AROUND TAKING A CENSUS OF ALL THE LOCAL GAULS!

WE KNOW THAT! SO?

SO THAT'S JUST A PRETEXT! THE PREFECT TOLD ME HIS REAL JOB WAS TO LOOK FOR A BABY, IT MIGHT WELL BE THIS ONE!

QUICK, OBERIX! WE MUST FIND THAT PREFECT AGAIN!

ROMAN CAMPS ARE LIKE POCKETS... YOU NEVER FIND WHAT YOU'RE LOOKING FOR TILL YOU GET TO THE LAST ONE!

IF SO MANY RESOURCES ARE BEING DEPLOYED TO FIND HIM, THAT BABY MUST BELONG TO A POWERFUL FAMILY!

THAT'S WHAT MAKES HIM SO STRONG! NOTHING TO DO WITH THE POTION,

AND THE PREFECT SAID NOT TO WORRY, TAKING A CENSUS IS EASY AND SAFE, HE SAID!

YEAH... COUNT YOUR BRUISES?

WELL, HE CAN'T COUNT ON ME ANY MORE!

QUOD ERAT DEMONSTRANDUM!

SHUT UP AND KEEP LIMPING!

I HEAR VOICES!!!
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?

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

OHO! THIS MUST BE THE BABY CRISIMUS 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.'TEHEHE!

HELP! HELP!

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

HEEEEEEEEEPP:

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!

YOU KNOW, WE TWO HAVE A LOT IN COMMON!

GA!
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!

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?
I'VE GOT TO DELIVER A MENHIR TO BUCOLIX FIRST!

WELL, THE DOOR'S REPAIRED, THE BABY'S ASLEEP, AND DOGMATIX IS ON GUARD. SO LET'S GO AND DISCUSS THE SITUATION WITH CHIEF VITALSTATISTIX!

MENHIRS HAVE A LONG SHELF LIFE... CAN'T IT WAIT?

NO, IT CAN'T. I ALWAYS MAKE SURE MY MENHIRS ARE SHIFTED BEFORE THE "SELL BY" DATE!

SO THE ROMANS KNOW THE BABY IS HERE, AND THIS FAKE CENSUS OF THEIRS SUGGESTS THAT THEIR INTENTIONS AREN'T ENTIRELY HONOURABLE!

BUT WE STILL DON'T KNOW WHY SOMEONE CHOSE OUR VILLAGE AS THE PLACE TO LEAVE THE BABY.

I THINK I KNOW WHY!

THE BABY MUST NEED PROTECTION FROM THE ROMANS... AND OUR VILLAGE IS THE ONE SAFE PLACE WHERE ROMANS WOULD NEVER DARE TO COME!

THE EASY MUST NEED PROTECTION FROM THE ROMANS...

OBEIX, MY BOY, I WISH TO GOODNESS YOU'D TAKE YOUR MENHIR OFF WHEN YOU COME INDOORS!

BUT, CHIEF, MENHIRS ARE HIGH FASHION INDOORS AS WELL AS OUT!

ASTERIX, SINCE I'M GOING TO SEE BUCOLIX ANYWAY, WOULD YOU LIKE ME TO PICK UP ANOTHER COW FOR THE LITTLE LAD?

TOO HIGH FOR MY DOOR BY HALF, YOU IDIOT!
HE GETS FUNNY MOODS, DOES VITALSTATISTIX! IT'S NOT MY FAULT IF HIS POOR ISN'T UP TO MY MENHIRS!

I'VE BROUGHT YOU THIS MENHIR TO PAY FOR THE HIRE OF YOUR COW, BUCOLIX!

OH, ARR! THERE BE SUMMAT OI WANTS TO ASK YOU, OBELEX... WHAT WERE YOU A-DOIN' O' WITH SHE? SHE BE PROPER COWED! SHE'VE NOBBUT TO SEE A BABBY NOW AND SHE DO BE CLIMBIN' TREES!

LOOK, HOW ABOUT A REGULAR MILK RUN? YOU DELIVER MILK BY THE BUCKET, UNPACKAGED, SAME AS I DELIVER MENHIRS, WHERE SHALL I PUT THIS ONE?

OH! I'LL AVE IT IN THAT THERE FIELD, ALONG OF T'OTHERS!

ISN'T THAT BEAUTIFUL! ER... WHAT DO YOU USE YOUR MENHIR COLLECTION FOR?

OH! DON'T USE THAT FOR NOWT... THEY DO SAY AS THE LAND HEREABOUTS BAIN'T NO GOOD FOR GROWIN' NOW'T BUT STONES, SO DI MOIGHT AS WELL SEE IF THAT BE AN OLD WOLVESTALE?

* A SIMILAR EXPERIMENT WAS THEN GOING ON AT STONEHENGE...

I THINK IT MIGHT BE WISER FOR ONE OF US TO STAY AT HOME AND BABY-SIT WHEN WE HAVE TO GO OUT IN FUTURE, OBELEX!

OH YES? WHICH ONE?

WELL, IN A WORD, YOU!

WORDS FAIL ME! WHY NOT YOU?

...BECUSE MY TACT AND DELICACY ARE BETTER THAN YOURS WHEN IT COMES TO LOOKING FOR THAT BABY'S PARENTS, AND THAT'S MY LAST WORD!

OH, MY WORD! ???!!
Quick! We must go and look for them!

Call it disgraceful!

Naughty little boys like that ought to be kept indoors!!!

Well, the fact is: we did...

I've spotted him! He's at Getafix's door!

Come in!

Woof!

Waaaaah!

Is something up, Asterix?

Yes... the effect of the magic potion! It's worn off the baby at last. Now for some peace and quiet.

Waaaaah!
YOU ALSO 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?

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

BETRAY YOU? DO I LOOK LIKE A TRAITOR?

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!

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!

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

HEH... HE’S LEFT ME HOLDING THE BABY!

OH, VERY CLEVER, MISTER OBELEX!

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

WAAAAAH!

WAAAAAH!
WAAAH!

COME ON, OBELIX, DON'T BE SILLY! WHERE ARE YOU GOING?

HOME! AREN'T WE, DOGMATIX?

BUT YOU KNOW MY HOME IS YOURS!

NO, NO, IT'S YOUR HOME AND I KNOW WHEN I'M NOT WANTED, SO LET'S FORGET IT!

THAT'S ALL RIGHT, IT WAS MY FAULT, ER:

LISTEN, ASTERIX...

"SORRY, OBEUX!
I WASN'T THINKING WHAT I WAS SAYING!"

AREN'T YOU ASHAMED OF YOURSELVES, QUARRELLING LIKE THAT? TWO FRIENDS... BROTHERS... IN ARMS?

OH, I SEE! I GET THE IDEA! ALL YOU WANT IS AN EXCUSE TO WRIGGLE OUT OF IT! YOU KNOW WHAT YOU ARE...?

HUH!

A BIG FAT COWARD!

SAY THAT AGAIN IF YOU DARE!

YOU BET YOUR LIFE I WILL!!

NOW, NOW, CHILDREN!

SORRY, OBELIX! I WASN'T THINKING WHAT I WAS SAYING!

THAT'S ALL RIGHT... IT WAS MY FAULT! ER... LISTEN, ASTERIX...

AM I REALLY FAT?"

NO, OF COURSE NOT! JUST WELL COVERED, THAT'S ALL, YOU FATHEAD... I MEAN YOU BIG SILLY!
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?

Anyway, he's stopped crying. The worst is over.

It's worth a try!

Oh, by Tootatis! I thought so! He's gone again.

Or yet to come! I have a nasty kind of feeling...

He might get into trouble... we must find him!

We only have to follow Dogmatix!

Luckily Dogmatix is brighter than those storks!

It looks as if the baby's in your house. Getafix!

Asterix! The baby's fallen into the caldron 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!

Burrp!

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!

...The woodcutters go to chop down trees... 

...For the carpenters to build the vallum (fence).

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).

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...

What's that?

My tent! I can't stand the way the others snore in bed!
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!

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

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

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

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?

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

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

PAC!

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

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

PAC!

GET OUT! NO PEDLARS OR CIRCULARS IN THIS VILLAGE!
LOOK, MATE! I DON'T LIKE WANT TO SORT OF BOTHER ANYONE, Y'KNOW. I'M ONLY SELLING BABY'S RATTLEs!

THAT'S DIFFERENT! GO ON IN AND SEE ASTERIX! HE'LL BE GLAD TO BUY AT LEAST ONE!

YOU'LL FIND HIS HOUSE EASILY... IT'S THE ONE WITH THE DOOR BASHED IN!

LOOK, GAU... I MEAN... I DON'T WANT TO SORT OF BOTHER ANYONE, Y'KNOW. I'M ONLY SELLING BABY'S RATTLEs!

DID YOU SAY RATTLEs?

IS THIS ASTERIX'S HOUSE?

NO, IT'S SIMPLER.

IS THIS ASTERIX'S HOUSE?

NO, IT'S FARTHER ON!

IS ASTERIX'S HOUSE FARThER ON?

NO, THIS IS IT!

WHO ARE YOU AND WHAT DO YOU WANT, STRANGER?

MY NAME IS AROMATIX AND I'M LIKE, SORT OF A PEDLAR, Y'KNOW. I WAS TOLD YOU COULD DO WITH A RATTLE!

IF IT'LL KEEP HIM QUIET I'LL BUY YOUR WHOLE STOCK!

WAAAH!

WAAAH!

WHO'D LIKE ONE OF UNCLE AROMATIX'S NICE RATTLEs, THEN?

RATTLE RATTLE RATTLE

SAVE ME!

RATTLE

SO WHAT? HE JUST PREFERENCES THE PEDLAR OF THE RATTLEs TO THE RATTLEs OF THE PEDLAR, THAT'S ALL!

HELP!

Teehee! Goo! Ga!
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 YOU 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!

IT THINKS THAT PEDLAR'S A RATTING GOOD SORT TO AMUSE THE BABY, DON'T YOU, ASTERIX?

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 THE LIONS IN THE CIRCUS MIGHT HAVE A SORT OF BEEN A BETTER BET!

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

LATER...
OH NO!!!
NOT AGAIN!!

THAT
DOES IT! I
GIVE UP!

HELP... HE'S
AFTER ME!!!

MUMMY! MUMMY!

HELP! HELP!

YAWN!

HALT!
WHO GOES THERE?
I TOLD YOU:
NO PEDDLARS OR
CIRCULARS...

...IN THIS
CAMP!

PAF!
I hardly had time to spot your little friend... but he was after the pedlar, and the pedlar was in such a state his hair, beard and moustache had all dropped out!

Quick, Obelix! We must find that baby!

Dogmatix is already on his scent!

That pedlar was no more a Gaul than I'm a Roman. He came to kidnap the baby!

It's a funny thing, the Romans being so keen to get hold of that child!

Yes, it's as I always thought.

What is? These Romans are crazy!

For the last time, Odoriferus, come down or I'll chop the tent pole down instead!

Promise me that little monster isn't in the camp!

I knew that man was up the pole!
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...

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!

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 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!

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!

I'M LIKE A 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...

I'M LIKE A 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...

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!

BY JUPITER! THAT'S GOING A BIT TOO FAR!

IT WORKS! EVEN THE SENTRY WAS TAKEN IN!

YES, WE HAVE... YOU!

WHAT DO YOU MEAN, ME?

LATER...

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

NO! I WOULD NOT! HOW ABOUT YOUR SISTER, THEN?

RATHER CRUDE, BUT WHAT A VOICE, BY BELENOS!

WHAT'S SHE AFTER HERE?

(WALSH) EXCUSE ME, LADIES! COULD YOU TELL ME WHERE TO FIND THE WARRIOR ASTERIX?

HE'S REPAIRING THE DOOR OF HIS HUT OVER THERE... YOU CAN'T MISS HIM!

A SMALL MAN WITH A YELLOW MOUSTACHE... BUT PERHAPS YOU TWO HAVE MET ALREADY?

(FALSETTO) YES... ER, I MEAN NO! THANKS!

ARE YOU THINKING WHAT I'M THINKING?

RHU-BARBRHU-BARB

BLAH BLAH BLAH RHU-BARBRHU-BARB

(FALSETTO) ARE YOU ASTERIX?

YES. WHY?
My name is Aspidistra, and I heard you were looking for a nurse. I'm a very experienced nursemaid!

But you're not one of our villagers... how did you know I was looking for a nurse?

Oh, these things get around the legion... I mean the region! Specially when it's something to do with the bold and famous warrior Asterix!

But how about me? Do they know about me in the region?

However, did you guess?

And did you also hear that the child in question is er... rather a handful?

(Falsetto) I've thumped... that's to say, I've brought up worse handfuls, I'm sure.

We can always try. Go on, then, but don't say I didn't warn you!

Funny... I have a feeling I've seen her face somewhere before!

Maybe she's no more a nurse than that man was a pedlar... what do you think of her, Obelix?

A woman of taste and discernment.

Woman of taste or not, we'd better watch out!

Tchac!

I did warn you! He's impossible!

Oh, I'm not rattled. I got off to a flying start!
I THINK COMFORM. voice) no your own business: nurse's voice is breaking!

But I was only going to...

Keep out of this! Get back to your pots and pans, woman!

It's no use trying to tame that little monster, my dear!

(normal voice) mind your own business!

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!

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...
WHAT'S YOU'VE BROUGHT SOMEONE IN FROM OUTSIDE TO SING!
I CALL FOR EQUITY! CAUCOFONIX?
YOU'RE NOT A NURSE, ARE YOU!
I'M A BARD, AND ONLY BARD'S HAVE THE RIGHT TO SING!
NOW YOU'VE GONE AND WOKEN HIM UP! CAN'T YOU GO AND SHOUT SOMEWHERE ELSE?
MADAM, I DO NOT TAKE ORDERS FROM ANY STRANGE NURSEMAIDS!
AND I'LL SHOUT HERE IF I...
HELP! SAVE ME!
HE DOESN'T EVEN CARE FOR CAUCOFONIX'S SPEAKING VOICE!
"Under the Lantern Gate"...

A little later... He's dropped off again! It's all right, you can leave him to me now!

I don't think she's much better than Cacofonix!

Barbarians: you're all barbarians!

Look, you can tell the baby doesn't like you much!

Just one thing... How do you come to know these soldiers' songs?

It's all right, you can leave him to me now!

Just one thing... How do you come to know these soldiers' songs?

Well, you're needed as a childminder now!

Oh, good work! Vital statistix! Marvelous! I call it!

What? What have I gone and done now?

Oh, good work! Vital statistix! Marvelous! I call it!

What? What have I gone and done now?

Oh, oh, oh. It's a lovely Bellum...

Come on, Obelix! Let's find somewhere quieter!

Oh, Obelix! Let's find somewhere quieter!

Come on, Obelix! Let's find somewhere quieter!

Oh, Obelix! Let's find somewhere quieter!

Oh, Obelix! Let's find somewhere quieter!

Oh, Obelix! Let's find somewhere quieter!

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Oh, Obelix! Let's find somewhere quieter!

Oh, Obelix! Let's find somewhere quieter!
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.

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!

Waaah!

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?
Oh! I will have earned that seat in the Senate, and no mistake!

But for the effects of that wretched potion, I'd tuck him under my arm and make off with him now!

BURP!

Come to think of it, how do I know the potion's still working on you, eh?

GA?

CLOCK!

Every-thing okay?

Sort of... are the effects of that magic potion going to last much longer?

That depends! Judging by Obelix, they could last for ever!

And so, a little later...

Well, I'm not going to stick around in this rotten village for ever, wearing these rotten clothes and playing this rotten part!

Too bad! I'll risk it!

Where are you going, gorgeous?

Er... I'm going into the forest to pick mushrooms?

What?
"PACK UP YOUR TROUBLES IN YOUR OLD SARCINA AND SMILE, SMILE, SMILE..."

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

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 MAKE STRAIGHT FOR THE CAMP!

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!

PHEW! THAT'S A WEIGHT OFF MY MIND!

GRA!

THROWING YOUR WEIGHT AROUND, EH? WAIT TILL I CATCH YOU, YOU S@#W!
THIS PROVES ASPIDistra's story of moonlighting in an army canteen was all moonshine! We've been fooled!

WHY DON'T WE FIND OUT WHO SHE REALLY WAS? I'D LOVE TO INVESTIGATE A ROMAN CAMP AGAIN!

WE CAN'T PUT THE BABY AT RISK. THE ROMANS WILL BE SURE TO THINK SOMETHING ELSE UP... BUT THIS TIME, BY TOUTATIS, WE'LL BE READY FOR THEM!
I told you I'd put all Gaul to fire and the sword if necessary... so now let's light the fire!!

Are you really going to put all Gaul to fire and the sword, Brutus?

Well, the village of those indomitable Gauls will do! I'm told the thatch on Gaulish huts burns fast and well.

This time the Romans have turned out more cunning and persistent than usual.

So we must take more care than usual.

And gossip less, too!

You would keep a hold of nurse and you found something worse!

Don't be ridiculous, Cactus! I order you to come down!

Promise me he isn't in the camp!

Too bad! So! I won't get to be senator... but don't anyone ever mention that monster to me again!

Now, now! We've lost a battle. We haven't lost the war.

Arms!

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

MILLE PASSUS = 1 ROMAN MILE.

ARE YOU READY...?

A FIERY ARROW! THE SIGNAL!

FIRE!

THE ROMANS ARE ATTACKING!!!

FIRE!

THE VILLAGE IS BURNING!

COCK-A-DOODLE-DO!
I'LL LEAVE HIM IN YOUR CARE! I'M SURE HE'LL BE GOOD.

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

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

NO?

IT SEEMS TO TASTE RATHER FUNNY THIS TIME!

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

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

CHARGE!

INVESTIGATORS FIRST: ISN'T THAT RIGHT, ASTERIX?

WE OUTNUMBER THEM, AND WE SHALL NOT BE MOVED!

CHARGE!

CRAAAAAAASH!
YOU DON'T SCARE US, ROMAN! WE'VE HAD OUR PORTION OF MAGIC POTION!
WE HAVE? I DIDN'T GET ANY!
SSH! SHUT UP!

COME AND GET HIM IF YOU DARE!

WE'LL BE QUITE SAFE HERE!

MEANWHILE...

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!

WAAAH!

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!
WHERE'S TASTERIX? I'VE FAILED YOU! A ROMAN SNATCHED HIM AND TOOK HIM ON BOARD A PIRATE SHIP.

AND WHERE IS BRUTUS? HE KNEW YOU'D SEND THE BABY TO SAFETY THERE!

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!

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!

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

YOU REALLY DO ASK STUPID QUESTIONS SOMETIMES, ASTERIX!

SPLISH! SPLASH! SPLISH! SPLASH!
THAT’S OKAY! I’VE A WIFE IN EVERY PORTUS... SO THAT SUITS MY PRIVATE LIFE.

THE LAD MUST BE WORTH A LOT!

EVEN MORE THAN YOU THINK!

YES, BUT YOU DON’T GET PAID UNTIL WE DISEMBARK AT PRIVATES PORTUS*

SHIVER ME TIMBERS... IF HE’S THAT VALUABLE, I’VE A GOOD MIND TO KEEP HIM FOR MYSELF!

SOMEBODY... TWO SWIMMERS ON OUR WAVE-LENGTH!

TWO SWIMMERS? WHO ARE THEY?

Gauls! They’re making waves! We’re in deep water!

SURELY YOU’RE NOT ABANDONING SHIP JUST BECAUSE OF TWO GAULS?

YOU DON’T KNOW US, YOU NEVER SET EYES ON US, AND NOW WE’RE QUITS, ROMAN!

WOOWHOO!

COME ANY CLOSER, AND IT WILL BE THE WORSE FOR THIS BABY!
AND WE DIDN'T EVEN SEE THE PIRATES! DO THEY KNOW WHAT'S UP?

OH, I'M SURE THEY'RE IN THE SWIM!

WE'RE TWO DAYS' SWIM FROM BRIVATES PORTUS... IT'LL BE A LONG CRAWL, TRY DOING THE BREAST-STROKE! THOSE GAULS ARE SICKENING!

SIC! AD NAUSEAM!

I'M FEELING A BIT SEASICK (SIC) MYSELF!

SOON AFTERWARDS...

I KNEW THEY'D BRING THE BABY BACK ALL RIGHT!

HURRAH FOR ASTERIX!
HURRAH FOR OBELEX!
HURRAH FOR DOGMATIX!

HAVE YOU DISCOVERED THE SECRET OF THE CHILD'S BIRTH, ASTERIX?

NOT YET, BUT I HAVE THE KEY TO THE MYSTERY!

AND JUST WHAT IS GOING ON HERE?

??!! CAESAR!

YES, BRUTUS! I HAVE COME STRAIGHT FROM UPPER GERMANIA, WHERE MY SPIES TOLD ME WHAT YOU WERE UP TO!

DECIMATING MY LEGIONS JUST TO GET HOLD OF A BABY! AND WHO IS THIS BABY? WELL, OUT WITH IT!

JUST WHAT I WAS GOING TO ASK HIM, MYSELF, JULIUS, OLD CHAP!

THAT BABY, O CAESAR, IS YOUR SON!!
AMAZING! WHAT A SIGHT!

AND WHAT A NOSE!

FORGIVE ME FOR TAKING ADVANTAGE OF YOU, ASTERIX!

OK, THAT'S ALL RIGHT M'M HONOURED BY YOUR FAITH IN ME, QUEEN CLEOPATRA:

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:

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!

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

THE... THE BABY'S DISAPPEARED!

YOU TOO, BRUTUS? CAESAR SOMETIMES REPEATED HIMSELF.

OH, THAT'S ALL RIGHT! I'M HONOURED BY YOUR FAITH IN ME, QUEEN CLEOPATRA!
O QUEEN CLEOPATRA, AND
YOU TOO, CAESAR, WE'RE SORRY
THAT WE CAN'T INVITE YOU TO
CELEBRATE THIS HAPPY EVENT
IN OUR VILLAGE, BUT IT'S
BURNT TO ASHES!

BUT THIS
IS THE END! SO
WHAT ABOUT THE
BANQUET?

I PROMISE YOU MY
ENGINEERING CORPS WILL
REBUILD YOUR
VILLAGE!

AND I'LL
HOLD A
BANQUET FOR
YOU ON BOARD
MY GALLEY! IT'S
THE LEAST I
CAN DO!

SO THERE IS A BANQUET AFTER ALL, IF NOT QUITE
THE SORT OBELIX EXPECTS. IT IS HELD UNDER
THE SUNNY SKY OF ARMORICA, ON BOARD
QUEEN CLEOPATRA'S SUMPTUOUS GALLEY,
EVERYTHING ELSE IS THE SAME AS USUAL,
INCLUDING THE ROAST BOAR, AND JULIUS CAESAR
HIMSELF JOINS THE PARTY, FOR IS HE NOT THE
FATHER OF THE YOUNG HERO WHO LIES THERE
SOUND ASLEEP, UNAWARE THAT ONE DAY, UNDER
THE NAME OF PTOLEMY XVI, HE WILL RULE EGYPT?

...SO WHEN THE
BEE'S HAVE COLLECTED
THEIR POLLEN THE PRETTY
FLOWERS ALL GET
MARRIED, SEE?

AND HOW
ABOUT THE STORKS?
SCRUNCH! WHERE DO
THE STORKS COME
INTO IT?