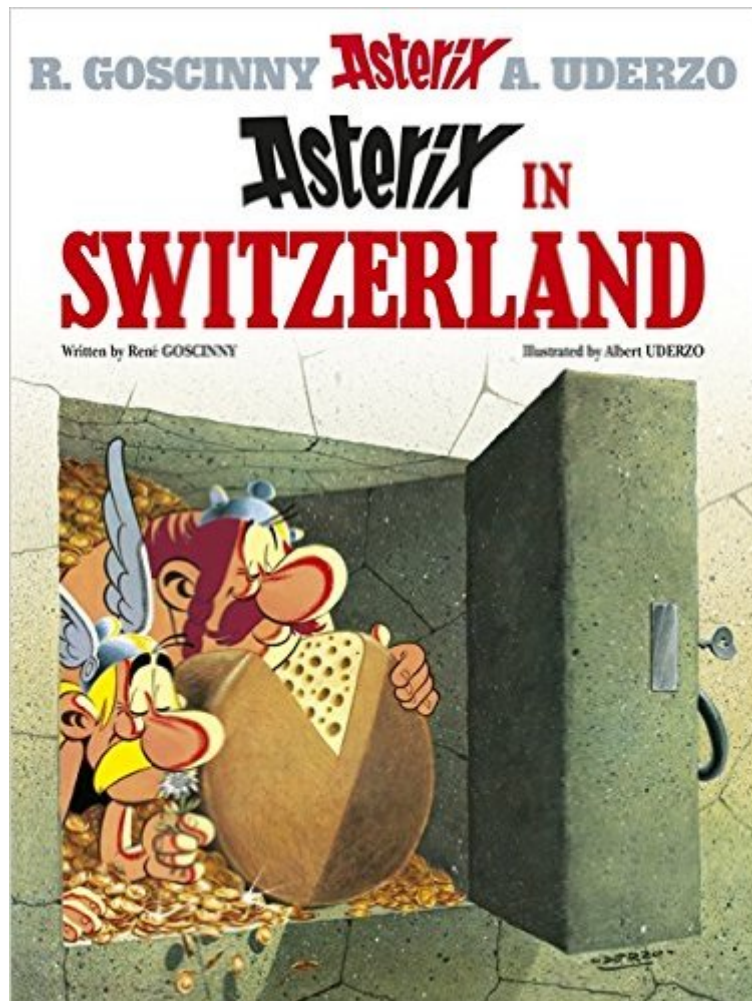


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Asterix In Switzerland: Album #16 (Asterix (Orion Paperback)) (No. 16)



Synopsis

The governor of Gaul has always been a creative accountant. Now he's under investigation by Vexatius Sinusitis or he was, until someone poisons the investigator. In order to heal Vexatius, Asterix and Obelix set off to locate a special flower that grows only in Helvetia.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

First published in French in 1970 as *Asterix chez les Helvètes*, Asterix in Switzerland was first published in English in 1973. A visitor from Rome interrupts Varius Flavus, the Roman Governor of Condatum (Rennes), from one of his depraved and revolting orgies. Quaestor Vexatius Sinusitus has been sent by Julius Caesar, as a Treasurer for the Provinces, to audit the Governor's accounts. As Flavus has been rather freely crooking the accounts, he poisons the Quaestor to get him out the way. An ill Sinusitus secretly sends for the Getafix who is a famous healer, and Getafix of course takes with Asterix and Obelix, and our two heroes are sent to Helvetia (Switzerland) to fetch the one thing that can save his charge, the Silver Star (Edelweiss). Varius Flavus is desperate to ensure that the Quaestor is not saved and sends word to his friend, the equally corrupt Governor of Genava (Geneva) that Asterix and Obelix are to be stopped at all costs. Once more the author Goscinny writes a witty and satirical adventure, poking gentle fun at the customs of Switzerland, their punctuality and clocks, fondues and Swiss Cheese, yodeling and banks. We get to observe an ancient 'International Conference of Tribal Chiefs', almost as useless and hypocritical as the

United Nations of today and even get to meet the famous Michelin man when our friends stop off at a repair station to mend a broken wheel. Once more a fantastic classic, from the famous Goscinny and Uderzo.

The Asterix books are all funny, and clever in their use of language. They are for a wide range of ages. My daughter has been enjoying reading them since she was eight years old, and I still love them.

Part of Goscinny's genius was his ability to gently mock the characteristics of different nations (in this case the Swiss)- while at the same time presenting a humour that nobody should find offensive. Hence the references to neutrality, peacekeeping roles, cuckoo clocks, banking and yodelling. He really plays upon all the stereotypes. Oddly in this story you will find Asterix and Obelix not only running from the Romans, but also Getafix actually helping the roman quaestor!

Asterix fans will enjoy the sixteenth volume in the series about the little Gaul warrior. Swissophiles will like Asterix In Switzerland that much more! It is a fun book with amazing illustrations; however, the problem is that the story's trajectory and conclusion is neither in doubt nor ever a mystery. Visiting Switzerland to pick a plant called The Silver Star Asterix and Obelix encounter lakes, mountains, spotlessness, immaculate hotels, vaults, no-questions-asked bank accounts, fastidious time-keeping, cheese and, of course, fondue! It is all here and more. Why are our heroes in Switzerland? They are in Switzerland in order to help concoct a potion that is needed to save a Roman. Wait! What? Yes, it is true. Worry not, however, for plenty of Romans get punched, crushed and pummelled. The village druid is healing a Roman tax collector, but you would have to read the story to find out why. Let me just say the answer involves corrupt Roman politicians, dues, fun n games and orgies. Wait! What? Yes, just read the book.

A wonderfully done book in which Asterix, Obelix, and Getafix, must save a roman inspector that has been poisoned by an evil roman governor. To save the inspectors life they must travel to the mountains in Switzerland to get a flower that can heal him.

Originally done as a comic in a french childrens' magazine, the Adventures of Asterix the Gaul have grown beyond that small framework and can be enjoyed by peoples around the world. The idea is that in the world of 55BC all Gaul has been conquered by the Romans, except for one small village

which holds out against the invaders. The source of their survival is a magic potion brewed by the village Druid which gives the drinker superhuman strength. The Gauls are not waging a war with the Romans, they just go about their lives and after being thumped a few times, the local Romans are more than happy to let them do it. This is one of my favorites in the Asterix series. In a rare case of helping a Roman, Gettafix is asked to aid a Roman investigator who has been poisoned by the corrupt officials he is auditing. To save his life Asterix must recover a tiny flower known only to grow in Helvita. The rest is a fun romp through Switzerland pushing all the stereotypes of banks and neutrality and above all cleanliness. This is a particular point of horror to the Romans who like dirty orgies. There are comments on cooking, medical health and depravity, just for good measure. Along the way potions are drunk, Romans are bashed and friends are made.

One of the finest Asterix books, this one has the unusual feature of having a Roman as one of the good guys. He is a tax collector (of all jobs) who is poisoned by a corrupt Governor, fond of embezzling Rome when not setting up decadent orgies. The ailing taxman, fearing for his life at the hand of the inept Roman doctors, calls our indomitable Gauls. Druid Gettafix realizes that in order to save him, he needs a particular flower that grows in the Alps for the antidote. So, Asterix and Obelix have to go to Helvetia (modern day Switzerland) in order to find said flower. As usual in Asterix books, national stereotypes as well as anachronisms abound: the Swiss are fanatical about cleanliness, they already dominate banking, they engage in yodeling, and so forth. It's a fun book, and the fact that Asterix and Obelix are willing to save a nominal enemy, highlights their noblesse.

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