
PETS
TELL TALES
ANCIENT
ROME

FOR BETH AND FREYA.
- R.W.

TO ADA AND FRANKLIN, AND THE STAFF AND TRAINEES OF CRAFTED CAFE, BRISTOL, WHERE MANY OF THESE PAGES WERE DRAWN.
- J.C.

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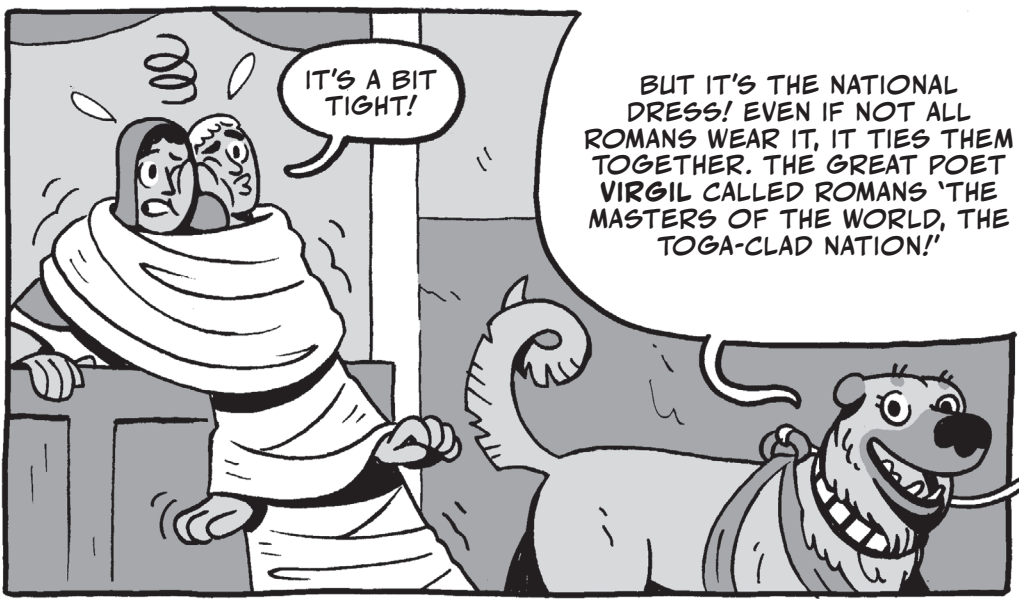
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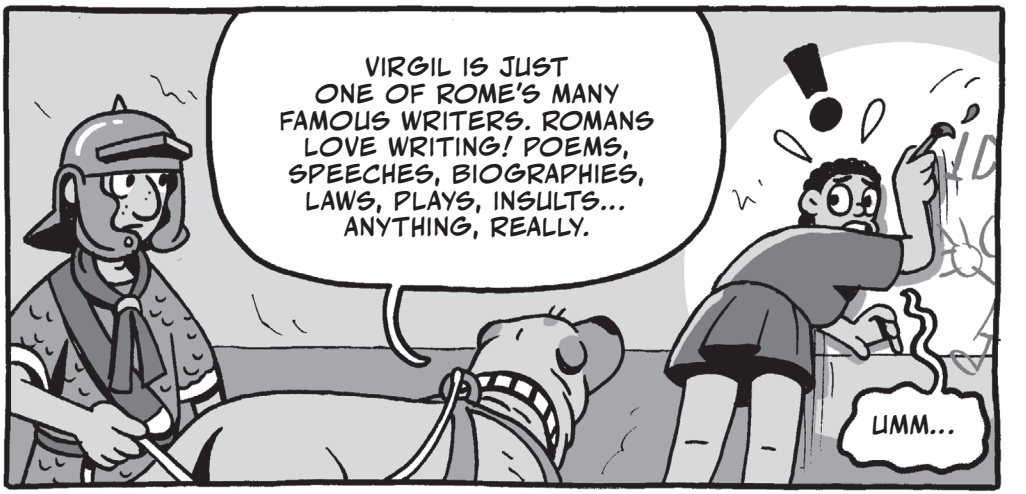

I'M READY FOR ANOTHER FANTASTIC DAY IN THE GREATEST CITY ON EARTH!
I'M NOT KIDDING. ROME IS THE BIGGEST CITY ON EARTH. SOME PEOPLE SAY OVER A MILLION PEOPLE LIVE HERE!
THE NAME'S MOLLY, BY THE WAY...
I'M A GUARD DOG HERE IN THE CITY. IT'S MY JOB TO PROTECT DOG'S BEST FRIEND...HUMANS.
C'MON, GIRL.

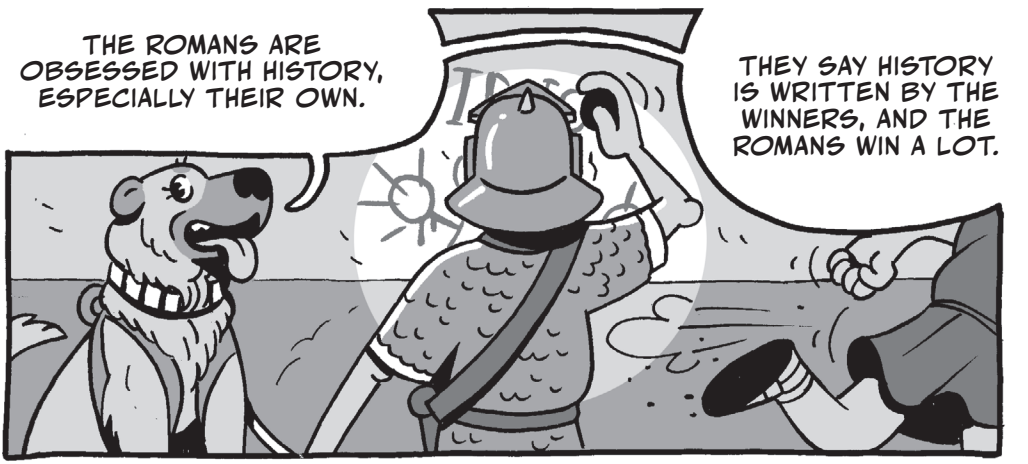

A MILLION PEOPLE IS A BIG PACK!
SOME ARE **ENSLAVED**. I THINK THEY DO AN AWFUL LOT OF THE WORK THAT KEEPS ROME RUNNING. ENSLAVED PEOPLE CAN BECOME FREE, BUT IT ISN'T EASY.
YIP!
MOST ROMANS ARE **PLEBIANS** – REGULAR WORKING PEOPLE, JUST TRYING TO GET BY.
AT THE TOP OF THE PACK IS A SMALL NUMBER OF HUMANS CALLED **PATRICIANS**. THEY RECKON THEY'RE THE ALPHA DOGS – ONLY BECAUSE THEY HAVE ALL THE MONEY!
THE EASIEST WAY TO SPOT A PATRICIAN IS BY THEIR TOGA... OR STOLA, FOR THE LADIES.
TOGA TO-GO


A TOGA IS ONE LONG PIECE OF CLOTH, SOMETIMES SIX METRES, WHICH THEY WRAP THEMSELVES IN TO STAY WARM AND LOOK FASHIONABLE!
UMMM?


IT'S NOT REALLY THAT PRACTICAL. AND IT'S EXPENSIVE, UNCOMFORTABLE AND HARD TO PUT ON.
ALLOW ME, SIR!

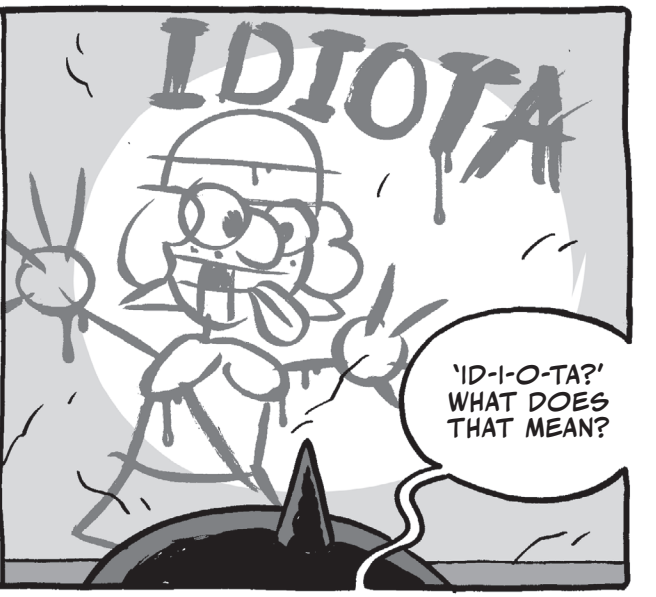

IT'S A BIT TIGHT!
BUT IT'S THE NATIONAL DRESS! EVEN IF NOT ALL ROMANS WEAR IT, IT TIES THEM TOGETHER. THE GREAT POET **VIRGIL** CALLED ROMANS 'THE MASTERS OF THE WORLD, THE TOGA-CLAD NATION!'





THEY WROTE IN GREEK AT FIRST, BUT THEY SOON MOVED ON TO THEIR OWN LANGUAGE, LATIN.

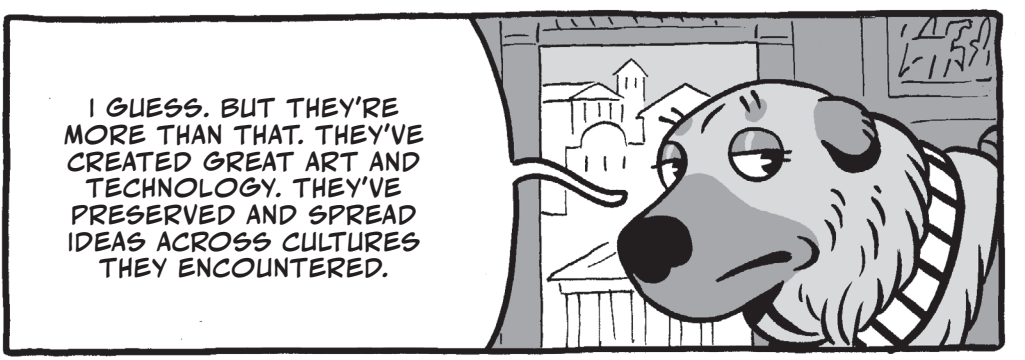
AND BECAUSE THEY SPOKE LATIN ACROSS THEIR EMPIRE, PEOPLE ACROSS THE EMPIRE LEARNED LATIN, TOO.

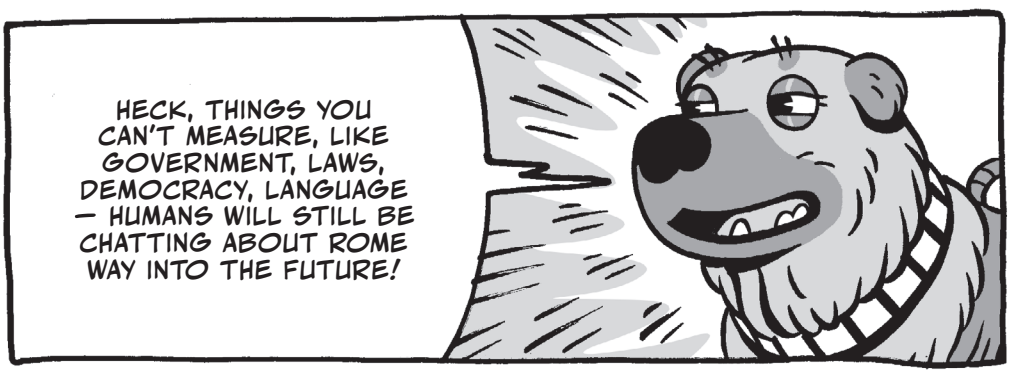



SO, THE STORY OF THE ROMANS WAS PASSED DOWN AND WE ANIMALS WERE THERE FOR THE ENTIRE...
SNIFF SNIFF
WAIT!
SMELLS LIKE TROUBLE!
A WOLF!
IN THE CITY?


I DON'T THINK YOU SHOULD BE HERE! YOU'RE...YOU'RE...
SAVAGE!
SAVAGE?
OH MY, HAVEN'T THEY GOT YOU WELL TRAINED?
PERHAPS YOU AND I SHOULD TALK, PET. LET'S FIND OUT WHO IS REALLY SAVAGE.
US...
OR THE ROMANS.


LOOK! THESE HUMANS ARE CONQUERORS! WARRIORS! KINGS!
THIS ONE HOLDS THE WORLD IN THE PALM OF HIS HAND!


I GUESS. BUT THEY'RE MORE THAN THAT. THEY'VE CREATED GREAT ART AND TECHNOLOGY. THEY'VE PRESERVED AND SPREAD IDEAS ACROSS CULTURES THEY ENCOUNTERED.


HECK, THINGS YOU CAN'T MEASURE, LIKE GOVERNMENT, LAWS, DEMOCRACY, LANGUAGE — HUMANS WILL STILL BE CHATTING ABOUT ROME WAY INTO THE FUTURE!


HOW LONG, MONGREL, WILL YOU GO ON ABUSING MY PATIENCE?
THESE HUMANS AREN'T THE HEROES YOU'RE MAKING THEM OUT TO BE.
OH NO.
THESE ROMANS ARE WOLVES!


TO UNDERSTAND THE ROMANS, YOU NEED TO UNDERSTAND HOW THEY BEGAN.
ROME WAS FOUNDED IN 753 BCE, OR SO THE MYTH GOES.
IF YOU BELIEVE THE STORIES, IT ALL STARTED WITH TWO EXTRAORDINARY HUMAN CUBS, FOUND IN THE WILDERNESS...