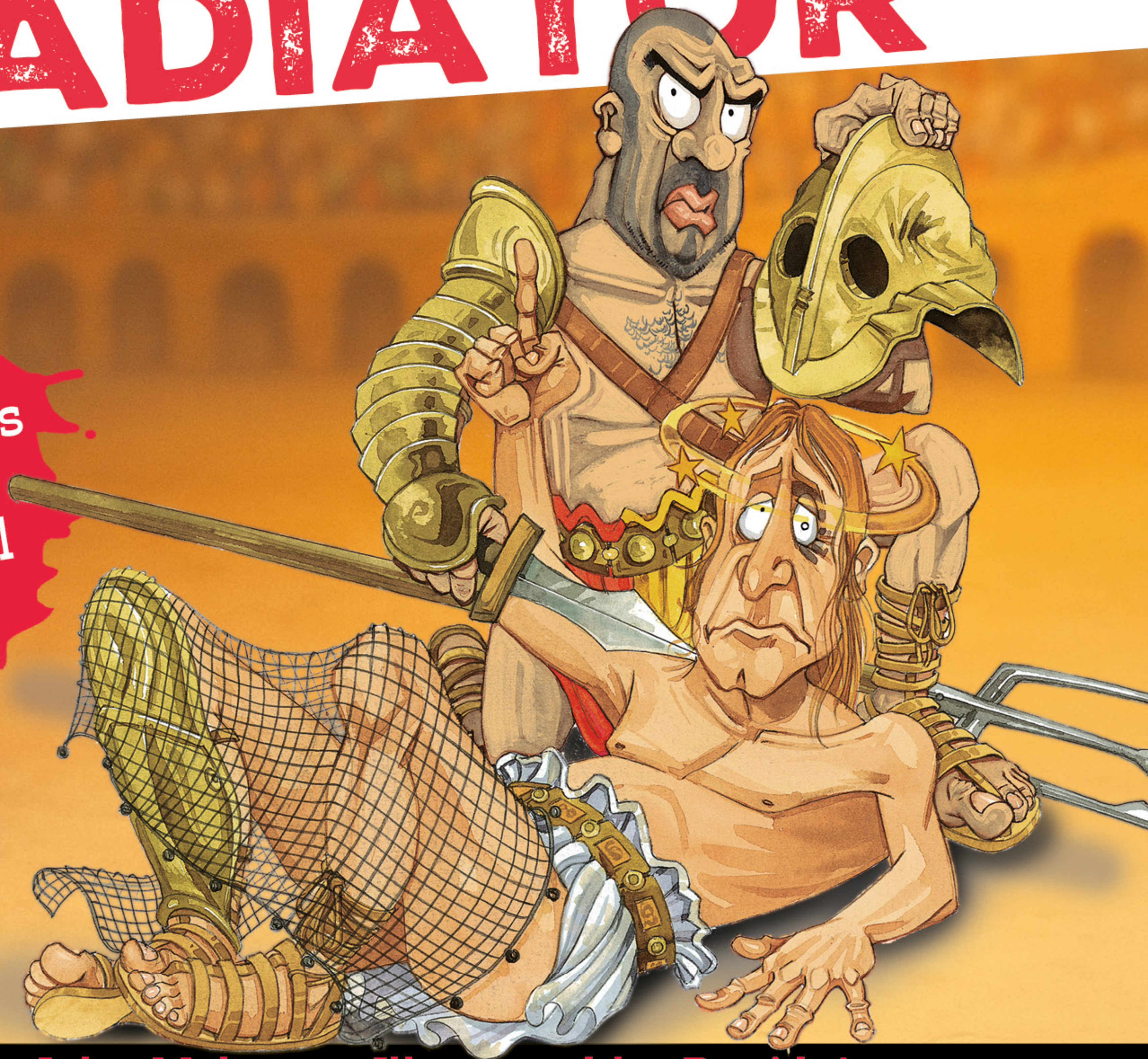


You
Wouldn't
Want to...

BE A

ROMAN GLADIATOR

Treacherous
training
and brutal
battles!



Written by John Malam • Illustrated by David Antram

Sold! A Roman Slave Market

It's a Hard Life for a Slave:



DOWN IN THE MINES

Some slaves are sent to work in the mines. They may never see daylight again.



QUARRYING

Slaves also work in the heat and dust of quarries, breaking rock for buildings and sculptures.



GALLEY SLAVES

Some men will become galley slaves, rowing the Roman navy's fighting ships and being whipped if they stop.



FARMING

Slaves on farms work in all kinds of weather to grow food for the Romans.

After capture by the army you are passed on to a slave dealer, who buys and sells slaves. The dealer takes you to a slave market, where you stand on a platform for everyone to see. Slaves with diseases are made to hold a sign so that people know there is something wrong with them. Chalk dust is sprinkled on your feet as a sign that you are a slave. The slave dealer asks people to call out prices, and he will sell you to the person who pays the most.

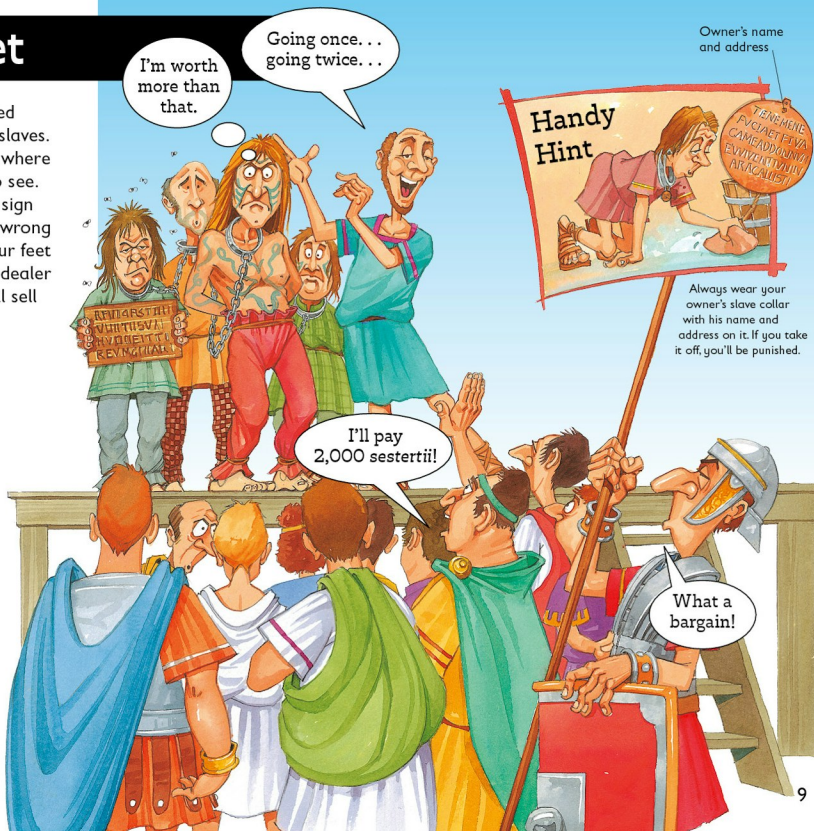
A NEW MAN

Your new owner plans to turn you from a 'Gallia comata', Latin for a 'hairy Gaul', into a civilised Roman gladiator.



Before

After



Oh, No! Gladiator School

Are You Ready?



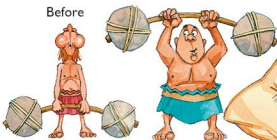
NEW ARRIVAL

Your owner will hand you over to a trainer – a tough man who will teach you how to be a gladiator.

You are now the property of a wealthy Roman citizen. He's decided you will be sent to a '*ludus gladiatorius*' – a school where slaves, criminals and other wretches are trained to fight as gladiators. Once you're in, the gates will be locked and there will be no escape. You'll be trained to fight by a '*lanista*', or 'butcher', an old gladiator whose fighting days are over.



Before



After



GET FIT

You'll exercise every day with weights to build up your body's strength.

FAKE SWORD

Until you can be trusted with a real weapon, you'll practise with a wooden sword.

HOW TO FIGHT

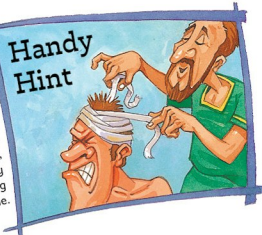
You'll learn how to fight with a sword, practising on a 'man of straw'. If you don't train hard enough, you'll feel the sting of a whip on your back.



Man of straw

Handy Hint

If you get injured, visit the school's doctor. He'll dress your wounds, and you'll be ready to continue training in no time.



Who's Who:

THE STAFF



Doctor



Trainer



Owner



Guard



Mortician



Accountant



Armourer



Cook



Slave



Condemned man



Criminal



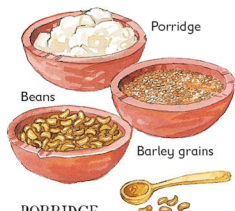
Bankrupt Roman

THE PUPILS

Get to know your place at the school. The staff members are the bossy Romans looking after you; the pupils are the dregs of society.

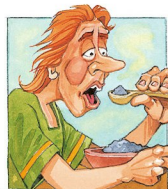
Locked In! Your New Family

Do You Have the Stomach for It?



PORRIDGE

Every day the school cook will feed you barley, porridge and boiled beans. Don't complain about boring, bland food – you'll get nothing else.



ASH

A few mouthfuls of dry, dusty ash are said to be good for building up the body. Just close your eyes and swallow.

When you hang up your sword at the end of the day, you'll go back to your barracks (a long, low wooden building). This is where you'll eat and sleep... and be locked in at night. Your trainer will come too and watch over you as you eat specially prepared 'gladiator food'. The trainer thinks of the men in the barracks as his family, so he will make sure you are taken care of.

This stuff is only fit for dogs.

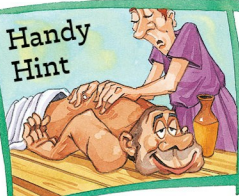
Eat your porridge – otherwise no ash for dessert!

This isn't even fit for dogs!

YOUR TRAINER

He takes great pride in seeing how weak slaves can be turned into muscly fighting men – but only if they follow a strict, nourishing diet. It's no wonder that gladiators are sometimes called 'hardarii', which means 'barley men'.

Handy Hint

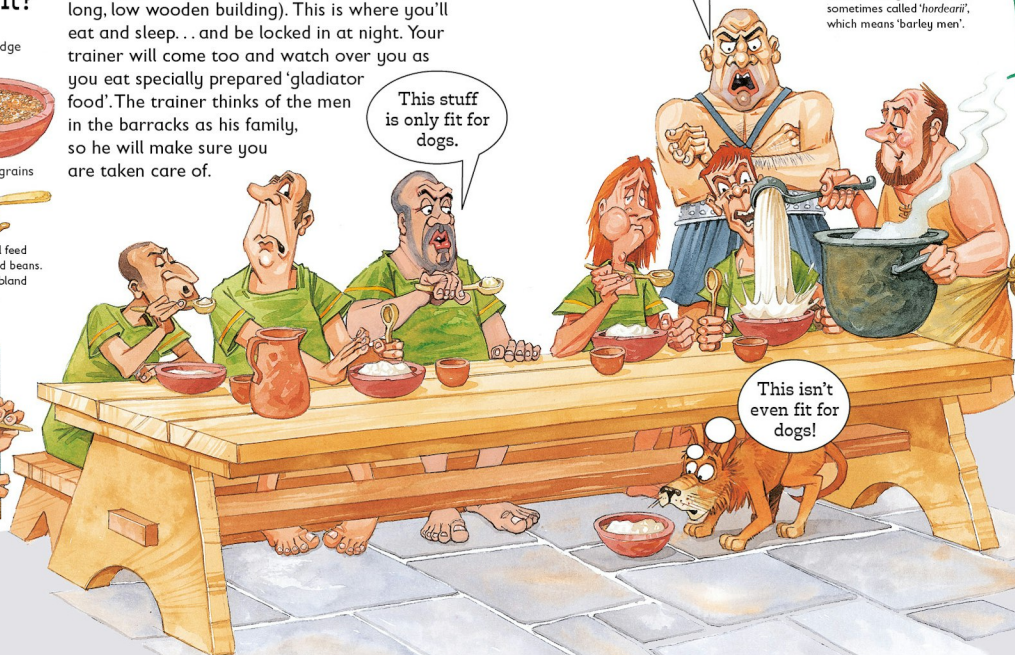


Troubled by aches and pains? Then visit the school uncere, who will massage your body.



MUSCLE MAN

Believe it or not, the school food really is good for you. All that porridge helps you to grow muscles and gain strength.



Behave or Be Punished

Punishments:



BRANDING.

A runaway will have FHE (Fugitivus Hic Est) and the initials of his owner, such as LT (for Lucius Titius), burned into his forehead. It means: 'This man is the runaway slave of Lucius Titius'.



FLOGGING

One hundred lashes of the whip will tear the skin from a runaway's back.



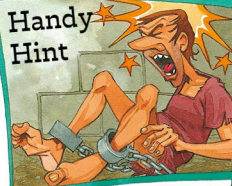
STOCKS

For a first offense, you might be locked in the stocks for a week.

It's no use trying to escape, since the school is surrounded by high walls and fences. You won't be able to climb over them without being spotted by the security guards. And if you attack a staff member, you will be punished. The school has a prison – a dark, rat-infested hole where prisoners are shackled and chained to the walls.

If you're unlucky enough to be locked inside, eat whatever the guards give you – it might be days before you get your next rotten meal. If you cause trouble too often, your owner might sell you and you could end your days working in the mines. The choice is yours!

Handy Hint



The prison has a low ceiling. There's not enough room to stand, so you have to lie or crouch on the ground.

