

WHERE MAN ONCE STOOD SUPREME--NOW RULE THE APES!

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# PLANET OF THE APES

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8p

WHEN THE  
LAWGIVER  
RETURNS!

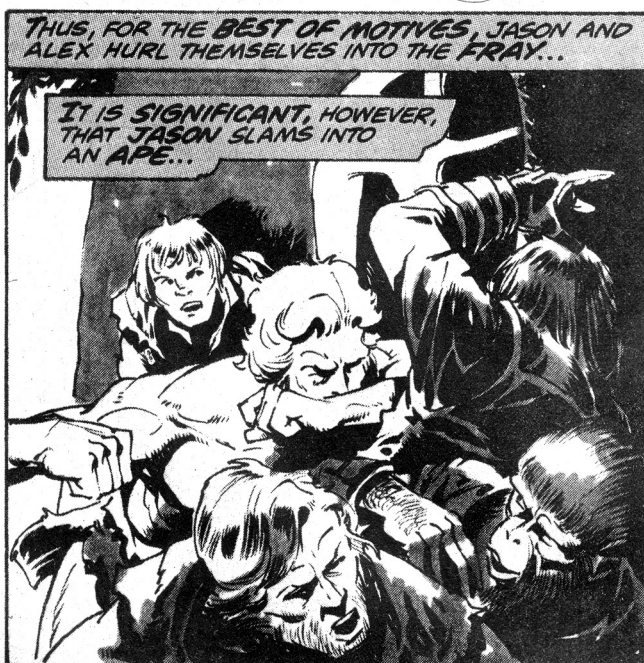
DEATH  
STRIKES THE  
LEADER OF  
THE APES!



THE CITY IN **TURMOIL**--ON THE PUBLIC STREETS, VIOLENCE SPASMODICALLY ERUPTS BETWEEN GROUPS OF HUMANS AND APES. SEEING ONE SUCH FIGHT, JASON AND ALEX HURL THEMSELVES INTO THE **FRAY** TO STOP IT!

## Stan Lee PRESENTS: **PLANET OF THE APES!**™









ALEX IS RIGHT, HUH--? WELL, IF HE WAS SO RIGHT WHEN HE PUNCHED THAT HUMAN, WHY DOESN'T HE TAKE A PUNCH AT ME?!

STOP IT, JASE-- YOU KNOW I DON'T WANT TO FIGHT WITH YOU...!



YEAH, I GUESS NOT. YOU'D RATHER HIDE BEHIND MALAGUENA'S DRESS.

JASON--!

LET HIM GO, MALAGUENA. GIVE HIM A CHANCE TO COOL OFF BEFORE HE TEARS ALL THREE OF US APART.



DUSK: AT THE TREEHOUSE BIVOUAC OF THE RENEGADE GORILLAS...

MESSAGE FOR BRUTUS--!

IF IT'S IMPORTANT, GO ON UP.



WHAT IS IT, WARKO?

THE LAWGIVER HAS RETURNED TO THE CITY, LEADER BRUTUS. HE PLANS TO MAKE A SPEECH TONIGHT-- APPEALING FOR A RETURN TO PEACE BETWEEN HUMAN AND APE.

THEN GET MY HORSE, FOOL!



BUT, LEADER BRUTUS, YOU CAN'T GO INTO THE CITY NOW...

WHY NOT? I'M STILL THE CITY'S PEACE OFFICER-- AND IN VIEW OF CURRENT SENTIMENT, THE APE CITIZENRY WILL SUPPORT ME BEFORE THEY'LL SUPPORT THE LAWGIVER.

BUT THE LAWGIVER KNOWS YOU'RE NOT JUST THE PEACE OFFICER. HE'LL TELL THEM YOU'RE ALSO THE LEADER OF OUR TERRORIST MOVEMENT.

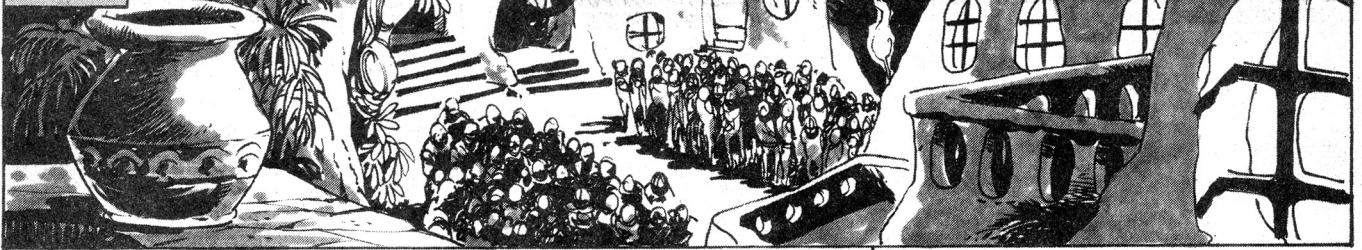


I TOLD YOU--PUBLIC OPINION NOW WEIGHS IN MY FAVOR, REGARDLESS OF MY SECRET ROLE. IT'S MY WORD AGAINST HIS.

STILL, ON THE SLIGHT CHANCE OF MAJORITY SHOULD REMAIN LOYAL TO THAT SPINELESS WEAKLING, SEVERAL OF YOU WILL BE WAITING JUST OUTSIDE THE SQUARE...

...TO KILL THE LAWGIVER ON MY COMMAND.

THE CITY SQUARE: WHERE A CROWD OF SHADOWS GATHERS UNDER TORCH-LIGHT...



IT IS A DIVIDED CROWD...

...WITH HUMANS COMPRISING ONE GROUP...



...AND APES FORMING ANOTHER, SEPARATE THROG.

NEITHER SIDE WOULD HAVE IT DIFFERENTLY...



...ALTHOUGH TWO INDIVIDUALS REFUSE TO SHARE IN THE MUTUAL FEELING WHICH DIVIDES THE OTHERS.

LOOK AT THOSE TWO, BROTHER...STANDING ALL ALONE BETWEEN US AND THEM. WHAT DO THEY THINK THEY ARE-- A SELF-PROCLAIMED PEACE PARTY..?



JASON DOES NOT REPLY, BUT THE SPARKS NEVERTHELESS FLASH IN HIS EYES. HE LOOKS AT MALAGUENA... THEN AT ALEX... AND HIS BLOOD SEETHES WITH A SWELLING SENSE OF BETRAYAL.

BUT THEN THE LAWSGIVER APPEARS, IMBUING THE BALCONY WITH AN ALMOST TANGIBLE AUTHORITY...

...AND ALL EYES LIFT UPWARD, TO GAZE UPON THE DRAMATIC FIGURE OF HE WHO EMBODIES THE LAW AND THE LIFE OF THEIR CITY...



WELCOME, FELLOW CITIZENS OF PEACE!

WELCOME TO THE FIRST LIE I HAVE EVER SPOKEN TO YOU--!

YOU MURMUR. YOU WHISPER, AND YOU SHIFT YOUR WEIGHT. YOU COUGH TO HIDE YOUR UNSETTLED NERVES. AND YOU ASK YOURSELVES: "WHAT DID HE SAY-- A LIE-- WHAT DID HE MEAN BY THAT?" AND EVERY ONE OF YOU KNOWS WHAT I MEAN!

I HAVE ADDRESSED YOU AS FELLOW CITIZENS OF PEACE...

...AND IN SO DOING, I HAVE LIED TO YOU.

YOU SEE, I HAVE LOOKED OUT AMONG YOU... AND I HAVE SEEN HUMANS AND I HAVE SEEN APES. BUT TRY AS THEY MIGHT, THESE POOR OLD EYES CANNOT SEE HUMANS AND APES.

WHY DO I SEE TWO, WHEN WE ARE ACTUALLY ONE...? THERE IS A REASON-- A TERRIBLE REASON-- AND A CHILLINGLY PATHETIC ONE. THE OLD BOOKS TELL OF A FOREST WHICH HAS BEEN COVERED IN EVIL SORCERY, AND WHOSE BEAUTY HAS BEEN DISGUISED BY ITSELF...

ONE WHO LOOKS UPON THIS FOREST WILL SEE EACH DIFFERENT TREE... BUT WILL NEVER REALIZE THAT ALL OF THE TREES COMBINE TO FORM THE SAME FOREST. THE SORCERY FOCUSES OUR EYES ON THE TREES... AND THE FOREST DISAPPEARS.

SINCE I HAVE BEEN GONE YOU HAVE COME TO SEE YOURSELVES AS TREES. THIS IS BECAUSE AN EVIL SORCERY HAS COME UPON YOU... AND FORCED YOU TO NOTICE THAT SOME OF YOU BELONG TO ONE KIND OF TREE, AND THE REST OF YOU TO ANOTHER KIND. AND SO YOU HAVE DIVIDED YOURSELVES...

...FORGETTING THAT THERE IS STRENGTH AND BEAUTY IN A FOREST ONLY WHEN ITS TREES STAND TOGETHER AS A WHOLE.

THE EVIL SORCERY WHICH HAS DONE THIS IS CALLED HATE! IT IS A LINE OF HATE WHICH NOW DIVIDES YOU! YOU MUST BREAK THAT LINE! YOU MUST CROSS THAT LINE! YOU MUST COME TOGETHER-- RIGHT NOW! NOT AS TREES, BUT--

YOU MAY BE A TREE, OLD ONE--

-- BUT I AM AN APE!

AND I AM PROUD TO BE AN APE...

IT'S PEACE OFFICER BRUTUS -- LET HIM THROUGH.

TOO PROUD TO LISTEN TO WORDS WHICH CALL FOR THE DOOM OF MY KIND...

...WHILE THEY MASQUERADE AS A SERMON FOR PEACE.



BY WHAT *RIGHT* DO YOU DISRUPT THIS CONGREGATION?!

BY THE APES' RIGHT TO BE RULED BY AN APE--NOT BY A WEAK, OLD *HUMAN-LOVER* WHOSE DAYS ARE PAST.

THAT DOES IT!!

YOU'VE HAD IT, BRUTUS--!!



YOU'RE NOTHING BUT A *STINKING, LOUSY, HATE-MONGERING LIAR AND MURDERER* WHO ISN'T FIT TO RULE MAGGOTS!!

THE ONLY REASON YOU WANT TO OUST THE LAWGIVER IS SO YOU CAN SLAUGHTER EVERY HUMAN IN THE CITY!!



WHO WILL YOU LISTEN TO, FELLOW APE CITIZENS? THIS FUGITIVE *HUMAN*--WANTED FOR THE *MURDER* OF MY WIFE ZENA AND UNLAWFULLY PROTECTED BY THE OLD FOOL WHO CALLS HIMSELF *LAWGIVER*...?

OR ME--THE *PEACE OFFICER* OF THIS CITY AND THE DEFENDER OF *SIMIAN FAITH*...?



DO NOT LISTEN TO HIM, CITIZENS! HE IS THE DEFENDER OF *NOTHING BUT HATE*!! HE IS THE *LIVING AVATAR* OF THE HATE WHICH DIVIDES YOU!! I HAVE PROOF THAT HE *HIMSELF* MURDERED HIS WIFE--AS WELL AS *MANY OTHERS*!

IF MY LEADERSHIP MEANS ANYTHING TO YOU, YOU WILL *REJECT* AND *DE-NOUNCE* HIM AND HIS *POLICY OF DIVISIVENESS*!!



BUT THERE ARE SOME WHO THINK OF IT AS A *POLICY OF APE SUPREMACY*... AND SUCH A NOTION DOES HAVE CERTAIN *APPEAL*...

THEN AGAIN, THE CITY HAS BEEN A *GOOD PLACE* AS THE *LAWGIVER* HAS DEFINED IT...

SO THEY *HESITATE*, TORN BY *AMBIGUITY* AND *UNCERTAINTY*...

AND THE HESITATION PROVIDES A PODIUM FOR FURTHER CONFRONTATION...

HE HAS GIVEN US PROOF OF NOTHING-- EXCEPT THAT HE IS NO LONGER FIT TO RULE! IT IS TIME FOR NEW LAWS--!

IT IS TIME TO REMOVE HIM FROM AUTHORITY-- TO STRIKE HIM DOWN FROM HIS PERCH ABOVE THE REST OF US!!

AND I SAY WE DO IT RIGHT NOW!!



BRUTUS STALKS FORWARD NOW, TOWARD THE LAWGIVER, AS THOUGH TO CARRY OUT HIS THREATS...

BUT THERE IS ONE WHO DEFIES THOSE THREATS...

HOLD IT, BRUTUS--YOU WANT TO REACH THE LAWGIVER, YOU'RE GONNA HAVE TO WALK RIGHT OVER ME FIRST!

AND YOU CAN ADD ME TO THE LIST TOO, BRUTUS.

...AND ANOTHER, WHOSE NAME IS ALEX...

GUESS I'M WITH YOU, BROTHERS. LAWGIVER MAY BE AN APE, BUT HE'S NEVER DONE NOTHIN' TO ME.

...AND A THIRD, WHO IS HUMAN...



THEN SEVERAL MORE APES STEP FROM THE CROWD, TO JOIN THE THREE...



AND AS BRUTUS WATCHES THE GROWING LINE FORM INTO A BARRICADE WHICH SHIELDS THE LAWGIVER, HE REALIZES THAT HE HAS COST IN THIS GAME OF WORDS...

SO HE BELLOWES ONE FINAL WORD--



NOW!!



-- AND THE SQUARE  
IS ASSAULTED BY  
THUNDERING CHAOS.

SPARKS CHIP FROM  
SURGING HOOVES LIKE  
BLUE HELLFIRE.  
TORCHLIGHT CATCHES  
TWIN GLARES FROM  
THE HOLES IN BLACK  
HOODS.

CROSSBOWS  
SNAP AND  
ARROWS WHINE.

THERE ARE HOARSE SHRIEKS  
AND PIERCING ONES. BUT THE  
WORDS ARE LOST. THE WORDS  
ARE FUTILE...



...FOR, EVEN THE LAWGIVER FINDS THAT WORDS  
MAY NOT STAY A MESSENGER OF VIOLENCE AND  
HATE.

CHUK

QUICK--  
THE LAWGIVER'S  
BEEN HIT--!



CARRY HIM AS LOW  
AS YOU CAN! USE  
THE BALCONY AS  
A SHIELD--!

RIGHT-- AND YOU OPEN  
THE DOORS SO WE CAN  
GET HIM INSIDE!

AND YET, PERHAPS WORDS  
OF RENEWED COOPERATION MAY  
YET DEFEAT THIS MONSTER  
OF HATE...

BUT THE YOUTH CALLED JASON IS NOT SO CONFIDENT IN THE POWER OF WORDS. THUS HE CROUCHS ON THE STONE BALUSTRADE, SHIELDING THE LAWGIVER'S BODY WITH HIS OWN...



... BUT ONLY UNTIL THE LAWGIVER HAS BEEN SAFELY ESCORTED INSIDE.



EXCUSE ME, YOU STINKING ROTTEN LICE-RIDDEN MURDERER--



--BUT I NEED YOUR HORSE!



IT TRULY DEGENERATES INTO CHAOS NOW... AS HOODED GORILLA BRUTALLY STRIKES HELPLESS CHIMPANZEE, FORGETTING THAT BOTH ARE APES...



... AWARE ONLY THAT ONE DOES NOT WEAR A HOOD OF TERROR...

... AND WHOSE FACE IS THEREFORE AS BARE AS THAT OF A HUMAN... AND PERHAPS EVEN MORE DESPISED.

JUST BEYOND THE SQUARE, HOWEVER, THE CONFLICT PROCEEDS IN A MORE DISCRIMINATE DIRECTION...

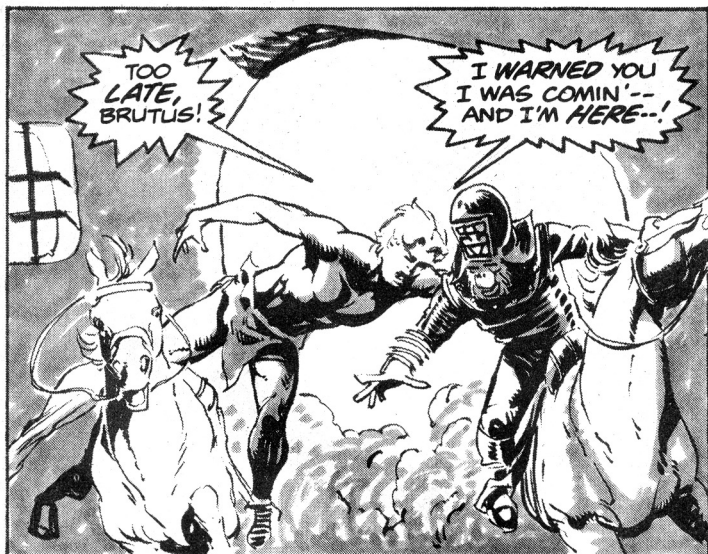
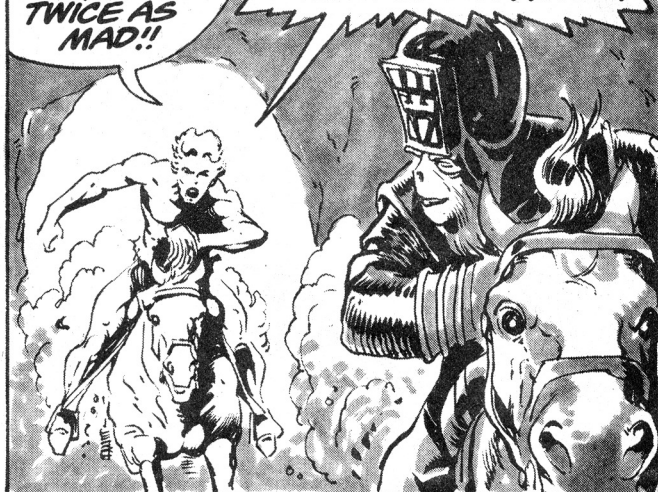
THERE YOU ARE, BRUTUS--  
RUNNING AWAY AT THE FIRST  
SIGN OF DANGER AGAIN--!



BUT THIS TIME  
YOU'D BETTER RUN  
LIKE HELL--BECAUSE  
I'M COMING AFTER  
YOU, BRUTUS--!

ME--HALF YOUR  
SIZE AND HALF  
YOUR WEIGHT,  
BUT TWICE AS  
MAD, BRUTUS--  
TWICE AS  
MAD!!

FASTER, BRUTUS-- I'M GAIN-  
ING ON THAT POOR OVER-  
WORKED HORSE OF YOURS!  
FASTER, YOU BIG FAT BALL  
OF HAIRY SCUM!! FASTER!



TOO  
LATE,  
BRUTUS!

I WARNED YOU  
I WAS COMIN'--  
AND I'M HERE--!



I'M TAKIN' YOU  
DOWN, BUSTER--  
DOWN FOR A  
FALL!!

AND YOU'RE  
GONNA FEEL  
IT--YOU'RE GONNA  
FEEL EVERYTHING  
I'VE GOT!!



I'VE WAITED FOR THIS,  
BRUTUS-- WAITED TO PAY  
YOU FOR WHAT YOU DID  
TO MY MOTHER--!

--WAITED  
TO BEAT  
YOU FOR WHAT  
YOU DID TO  
MY FATHER--!  
TO BEAT ON  
YOU SO HARD  
YOU'D RUIN  
INTO BLOODY  
PULP--!

AND NOW THAT THE TIME'S  
HERE, BRUTUS, I'M GONNA  
DO IT-- AND I AIN'T GONNA  
STOP UNTIL THERE'S  
NOTHIN' LEFT TO  
BEAT ON!!

COME ON, BRUTUS  
--BEG FOR YOUR  
STINKING LIFE--  
CRAWL,







GO, BRUTUS--  
AT ONCE.

YOU'RE LETTING HIM GO--?! YOU'RE  
LETTING HIM GO FREE-- AFTER HE  
MURDERED MY PARENTS-- MUR-  
DERED HIS OWN WIFE-- AND  
TRIED TO MURDER HUNDREDS  
OF OTHERS--?!

YOU'RE MAD-- YOU'VE  
LOST YOUR SENSES--  
ALL OF YOU!!



YOU CAN'T LET HIM GO  
NOW--!! HE'LL BE BACK--!!

HE'LL BE BACK  
TO SLAUGHTER  
US ALL!!



PLEASE, JASON,  
LISTEN TO ME. WE  
MUST PUT AN END TO  
BRUTUS' WAY OF  
THINKING. WE MUST  
NOT EMULATE IT.  
WE MUST NOT  
PROLONG IT,  
MY SON...

YEAH? WELL, I'M BEGIN-  
NING TO THINK, MAYBE WE  
SHOULD. CUZ MAYBE BRUTUS  
WAS RIGHT, LAWGIVER-- MAYBE YOU'RE  
NOT FIT TO RULE ANY MORE!



I'LL TELL YOU ONE  
THING-- YOU'RE  
THROUGH RULING  
OVER ME!

MAYBE THE REST OF THESE  
BLIND FOOLS WILL LISTEN  
TO YOU-- BUT I CAN'T  
STAND THE SIGHT OF YOU  
FOR ANOTHER SECOND!

AND I AIN'T  
YOUR SON,  
LAWGIVER--!



EVERYBODY SEEMS TO  
FORGET THAT I'M  
NOBODY'S SON--  
THAT MY PARENTS  
WERE BUTCHERED  
AND BURNED!

BUT I HAVEN'T FORGOT-  
TEN. I'LL NEVER FORGET  
IT-- AND I'LL NEVER  
REST UNTIL I'VE  
BUTCHERED AND BURNED  
THE STINKING GORILLA  
WHO DID IT!



SO YOU MIGHT AS WELL BANISH ME TOO, LAWGIVER, BECAUSE I WON'T BE COMING BACK-- NOT EVEN AFTER I FIND AND KILL BRUTUS.

JASON--  
JASON  
WAIT--!



ALEX

WHO SAID YOU  
COULD TOUCH  
ME...?

I'VE HAD IT, ALEX--I'VE  
HAD IT ALL AND MORE  
WITH YOU--!



AND BELIEVE ME--I NEVER WANT TO  
SEE YOUR UGLY APE FACE AGAIN!!



JASON--  
WHAT ARE  
YOU DOING--?!

WHAT I SHOULD HAVE DONE A LONG  
TIME AGO, MALAGUENA, WHICH  
REMINDS ME...I DON'T WANT TO  
SEE YOU AGAIN EITHER.

IF YOU LOVE ALEX SO MUCH--IF YOU  
CAN LOVE A DIRTY APE...



...THEN YOU CAN JUST STAY  
WITH HIM-- CUZ I DON'T  
WANT THE DIRT RUBBIN'  
OFF ON ME.



I...I THOUGHT JASON AND  
I WERE FRIENDS, MALA-  
GUENA... EVEN IF WE  
ARE DIFFERENT...

AND I THOUGHT THAT  
FRIENDSHIP WAS SPECIAL  
... SPECIAL ENOUGH SO  
THAT THE DIFFERENCE  
DIDN'T MATTER...



BUT MAYBE WE NEVER WERE  
FRIENDS... AND CAN NEVER  
BE FRIENDS...

MAYBE WE WERE  
JUST TOO AFRAID...  
TO HATE EACH  
OTHER.

THEN JASON  
HAS CONQUERED  
THAT FEAR, ALEX.  
I HOPE YOU  
NEVER DO.