

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



**MARVEL**  
COMICS  
GROUP

NO. 81

WEEK ENDING  
MAY 8, 1976

# PLANET OF THE APES

8p

AN  
ALL-NEW  
APES  
EPIC!

APE AND  
HUMAN  
IN A WORLD  
GONE MAD!

DREAMERS  
OF EMERALD  
DOOM!









## PROLOGUE:

TWO YEARS HAVE PASSED SINCE A CITY OF NOMADS ROSE IN BRIGHT FLAME TO SINK IN DARK SEAS... AND THE AWESOME CITY-SHIP HYDROMEDA IS NOW NO MORE THAN A MEMORY TO BE LOATHED. ONE MAN ALONE WAS RESPONSIBLE FOR HYDROMEDA'S ACTUAL, AS WELL AS SYMBOLIC DESTRUCTION. THEN, HE WAS KNOWN SECRETLY AS SLINKER. NOW HE TAKES THE PROUD NAME ALARIC...

**B**UT EVEN IF HE HAS LEFT THE SHADOWS TO WALK UNDER THE SUN, HE IS STILL A CURIOUS MAN... FOR IT IS A MAN'S FEELINGS, AND NOT THE MAN HIMSELF, WHICH MUST NOW HIDE.

I LIKE IT NOT, ALARIC.

IT GOES AGAINST EVERYTHING I FEEL IN MY GUT--!

AND ANY MAN WHO STANDS FOR IT IS--

--WISE, STARKOR... WISE.

I BELIEVE THAT IS THE WORD YOU SEARCH FOR.

I HOPE IT IS THE WORD YOU MEANT.

LOOK BELOW US, STARKOR, AND SEE HOW THE WORK PROGRESSES. IS IT NOT THE WORK OF MEN SERVING PATIENCE... AND WISDOM...

...RATHER THAN PRIDE?

BUT WHEN YOU FREED US FROM THE HYDROMEDA'S OARS, ALARIC, YOU FREED US FROM THIS WHOLE SITUATION--! YOU SAID WE'D NEVER AGAIN TOLERATE THESE RULES...!

BUT NOW IT'S JUST THE SAME. WE'RE WORKING FOR THEM AGAIN--!

AND I LIKE IT NOT, ALARIC... I LIKE IT NOT AT ALL.

IT IS THE ONLY WAY, FRIEND STARKOR. YOU KNOW THAT.

BESIDES, WE ARE NOT WORKING FOR THEM--WE ARE WORKING WITH THEM.

FOR THE FIRST TIME IN OUR LIVES--



FUTURE HISTORY CHRONICLES II  
**DREAMER  
IN  
EMERALD  
SILENCE**

UFS





--WE ARE  
COOPERATING  
WITH THEM...

...AND LIVING WITH  
THEM-- HUMANS  
AND APES -- AS  
EQUALS.

CEQUALS. BUT FOR HOW LONG?  
HOW LONG BEFORE HATRED  
OVERWHELMS MUTUAL NEED?  
BEFORE DESPERATE PLEAS FOR  
PEACE AND UNDERSTANDING BE-  
COME ECHOES LOST IN  
BLOOD...?)

SEND SOME HUMANS  
ABAFT-- AND TELL  
THEM TO BE QUICK  
ABOUT IT!

**T**WO YEARS HAVE PASSED SINCE HYDROMEDA DOUSED  
HER CONFLAGERATION UNDER TURBULENT WAVES...  
TWO YEARS OF LABORIOUS GESTATION, IN WHICH THE  
FREEDOM REAVER HAS SLOWLY TAKEN FORM. SHE  
IS NOT AS LARGE AS HYDROMEDA OR ANY OF THE  
OTHER SPRAWLING CITY-SHIPS, BUT SHE HAS BEEN  
DESIGNED TO PROVIDE GREATER SPEED... AND TO  
POSE A GREATER THREAT.



CHIEF ARCHITECT GRAYMALKYN ISSUES ORDERS IN A VOICE WHICH HE HOPES IS FIRM BUT NOT TYRANNICAL. THE RECIPIENTS OF HIS ORDERS ARE HUMANS, WHILE HE IS NOT. THUS, LIKE ALARIC, HE TOO MUST HIDE HIS FEELINGS...



TIGHTER ON THOSE ROPES BEFORE YOU WEDGE THE MAST! IT'S LEANING A FULL TEN DEGREES LEeward--!

THIS IS WHAT YOU CALL COOPERATION, ALARIC-- WORKING WITH THE APES?

OUR FELLOW HUMANS DO ALL THE DIRTY WORK, WHILE GRAYMALKYN AND HIS APES STAND AROUND ISSUING ORDERS--!

ALL RIGHT-- THAT'S ENOUGH! LOCK THE WINCH-- AND WEDGE THE MAST SECURE!



ONLY THE APES POSSESS ANY KNOWLEDGE OF SHIPBUILDING AND NAVIGATION, STARKOR. THEREFORE, THEY MUST GIVE THE ORDERS... FOR NOW, ANYWAY.



HOW DOES THE WORK PROGRESS, FRIEND GRAYMALKYN?

WELL ENOUGH... FRIEND... ALARIC.

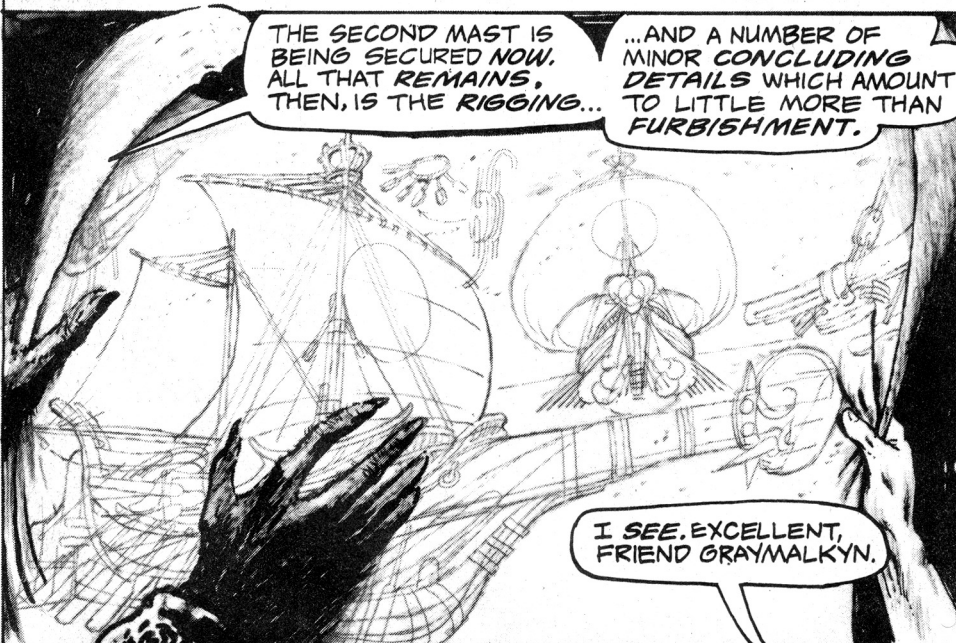


(AGAIN HE HOLDS BACK, GUARDS HIMSELF, AGAINST WHAT? FEAR OF HUMANS? OR FEAR OF THE REACTION FROM HIS FELLOW APES, SHOULD HE SHARE HIS FEELINGS WITH A HUMAN...?)

(WHAT DOES THIS GRAYMALKYN THINK-- THIS STRANGE COMBINATION OF GENIUS AND BESTIALITY? WHAT DOES HE FEEL? WHY DOES HE REFUSE TO BARE HIS FEELINGS?)

THE SECOND MAST IS BEING SECURED NOW. ALL THAT REMAINS, THEN, IS THE RIGGING...

...AND A NUMBER OF MINOR CONCLUDING DETAILS WHICH AMOUNT TO LITTLE MORE THAN FURBISHMENT.



I SEE. EXCELLENT, FRIEND GRAYMALKYN.

YES, WE SHOULD BE READY TO SAIL WITHIN THE WEEK-- THANKS TO THE HELP OF YOU AND YOUR FREEMEN.



HELP--?!!



YOU CALL IT **HELP**--? WE HUMANS DID **EVERYTHING**-- WHILE YOU APES STOOD AROUND AND **SHOUTED** AT US! MAYBE IT WAS **NECESSARY** THAT YOU GIVE THE ORDERS, BECAUSE YOU ALONE POSSESS THE **KNOWLEDGE**--!

BUT THE ONLY REASON HUMANS KNOW NOTHING ABOUT SAILING IS BECAUSE WE'VE BEEN LOCKED **BELOW DECK**-- SLAVES TO THE **OARS** SINCE THE DAY WE WERE FIRST ABLE TO **CLOSE OUR HANDS**!



BUT FOR **THIS** GROUP OF HUMANS, THAT'S ALL **CHANGED** NOW! WE'VE **WON** OUR FREEDOM-- AND WE **OUTNUMBER** YOU ON THIS ISLAND! SO DON'T FORGET THAT THE **FREEDOM REAVER** IS A **HUMAN** SHIP--!



AND DON'T FORGET WHO **BUILT** HER-- AND WHO **DID NOTHING**!

(A LEADER CANNOT TAKE SIDES. THE CONFRONTATION MUST RUN ITS OWN COURSE.)



**NOTHING** STARKOR--? IN TRUTH WE'VE DONE WHAT WAS **REQUIRED** OF US, ALONE, MY GROUP OF APES WAS TOO **SMALL** TO DO THE **ACTUAL** SHIP-BUILDING...

SO WE WERE **STRANDED** FOR YEARS.

BUT FOR ALL YOUR **NUMBERS**, YOU'D STILL BE **STRANDED**--WITHOUT THE **BENEFIT** OF OUR **KNOWLEDGE**.

WE MUST FACE THE **FACT** THAT WE **NEED** EACH OTHER-- AT LEAST UNTIL YOU SET US **ASHORE** ON OUR **HOMELAND**, AT WHICH TIME THE SHIP WILL BE **YOURS** TO **SERVE** WHATEVER **ENDS** YOU **WISH**.



AND **NO**, WE ARE **NOT** TOO **BLIND** TO **CORRECTLY** GUESS THE **PURPOSE** OF THE **BATTERING RAM** YOU **REQUESTED**.

BUT **AGAIN**, IF YOU **WISH** TO **STAY** IN THE **HULL** OF **EVERY** APE **CITY-SHIP** ON THE **SEA**, THAT IS **YOUR** **BUSINESS**...

... **AFTER** WE ARE **TRANSPORTED** **HOME**.

IN THE **MEANTIME**...



...THERE IS **NO** **LOVE** **LOST** **BETWEEN** US.

(IT IS **ENDED**. BUT THE **END** IS JUST THE **BEGINNING**...)



IF THAT **GORILLA** IS WHAT YOU CALL A **FRIEND**, **ALARIC**--

--THEN **MAYBE** YOU'D **BETTER** **THINK** **TWICE** ABOUT **CALLING** ME THE **SAME**!

(...AND THE **BEGINNING** IS **MORE** **OMINOUS** THAN I **FEARED**.)





**A**LARIC IS LEFT ALONE, HIS THOUGHTS LIKE QUICKSILVER... BUT HIS MOOD SLUGGISH, AND PERHAPS TINGED WITH FEAR...



(THE BATTERING RAM, WHY MUST IT BE NEEDED? WHY CAN'T THE FREEDOM REAVER SAIL TO TRUE FREEDOM? CARRYING HUMANS AS WELL AS APES TO A HOME ON LAND? BUT HUMANS HAVE NO HOME, ONLY OARS, AND A LUST FOR VENGEANCE...)



(...A NEED TO FREE OTHER HUMANS AND TO SLAY EVERY--)

ALARIC... MUST YOU DWELL ON IT?

REENA...

YES, I HEARD IT ALL, STARKOR SPEAKING HIS INDIGNATION...

...AND GRAYMALKYN SPEAKING OF HIS PRIDE, AND OF HIS DEFENSE...



BUT IF THE TRUTH BE KNOWN, ALARIC...

...I CAME HERE TO HEAR ONLY YOU... SPEAKING OF ME.

BUT ARE YOU CERTAIN YOU ARE DOING WHAT IS RIGHT...?



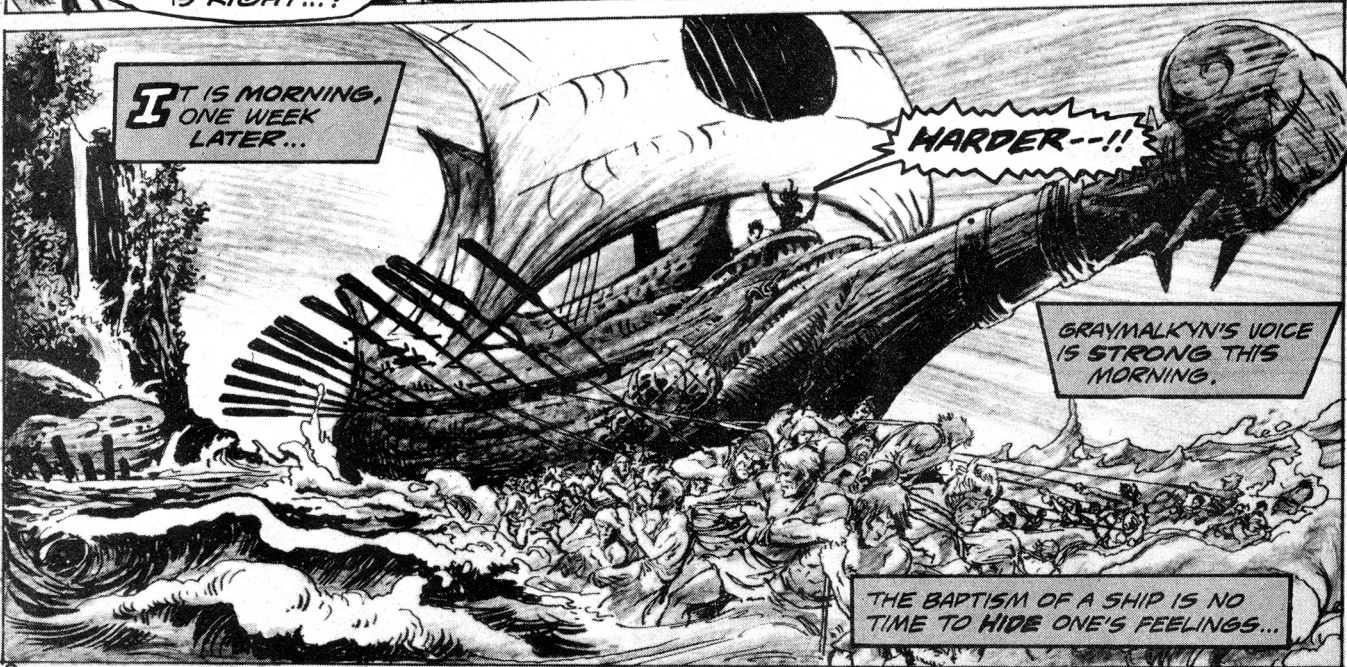
I AM DOING WHAT I CAN, REENA...



(HOPING IT IS RIGHT.)

(HOPING FOR PEACE.)

(OF A CERTAIN KIND...)



**I**T IS MORNING, ONE WEEK LATER...

**HARDER--!!**

GRAYMALKYN'S VOICE IS STRONG THIS MORNING.

THE BAPTISM OF A SHIP IS NO TIME TO HIDE ONE'S FEELINGS...







**T**HREE NIGHTS LATER, PLYING A WESTERLY COURSE, THE FREEDOM REAVER IS SEEN AS MOONLIGHT CAUGHT IN CANVAS SAILS... SURROUNDED BY DARKNESS...

... SAVE FOR THE RHYTHMIC SUSURRUS OF OARS TREADING WATER, ALL IS STILL. THERE ARE TWO PEOPLE AT THE PROW...

IT IS CHILL.

WILL YOU ROVE THE SEAS FOREVER, ALARIC, TAKING REVENGE ON EVERY APE CITY-SHIP YOU FIND...?

OR WILL WE SETTLE ON LAND SOMEDAY... IN A HOME WHICH DOES NOT SWELL WITH THE OCEAN'S EVERY BREATH...?

YES... BUT WHEN?

THINK OF IT... IN TIME, WE MIGHT EVEN BE ABLE TO HAVE A--

WE WILL SETTLE ON LAND, REENA... SOMEDAY.

SHIP AHEAD, ALARIC--!!

WHAT IN THE...?!

IT'S BIGGER THAN THE HYDROMEDA, ALARIC--! THERE MUST BE AT LEAST TWO HUNDRED THOUSAND APES LIVING ON THAT CITY...!

AND PROBABLY FIVE-THOUSAND HUMAN SLAVES !!

(HE'S RIGHT. BUT WHY NOW--? NOW, OF ALL TIMES--!)





**FASTER ON THE OARS! WE CAN OVERTAKE IT BY DAWN!**

**BUT YOU WON'T OVERTAKE IT BY DAWN--NOR AT ANY TIME AT ALL WHILE WE'RE STILL ABOARD THIS SHIP!**



**YOU STINKING GORILLA.**

**WAIT, STARKOR. HE IS RIGHT-- WE MADE AN AGREEMENT WITH THE APES. WE SHALL KEEP THAT AGREEMENT.**

**YOU'RE INSANE, ALARIC! THAT SHIP MIGHT BE THE DYMATION--THE ONES WHO CAPTURED US IN THE FIRST PLACE AND SOLD US TO HYDROMEDA!**



**WE MIGHT STILL HAVE FRIENDS IN THAT HOLD--SLAVING AT THE OARS!!**

**IS THAT WHY YOU WISH TO STAVE IN THE SHIP'S HULL? TO DROWN YOUR FRIENDS AT THE OARS--?**



**SHUT UP, YOU DIRTY FILTHY ANIMAL!!**

**(THE POINT OF NO RETURN, APPROACHED FROM THE BEGINNING.)**



**(IT HAD TO COME.)**

**(IT MUST BE STOPPED.)**

**STARKOR--! GRAYMALKYN!! AS CAPTAIN OF THIS SHIP, I COMMAND YOU TO HALT!**

**NO, ALARIC--LET THEM KILL THEMSELVES IF THEY WANT TO--!**



**LEAVE VIOLENCE WHERE IT IS, ALARIC!!**



**STOP IT!**

**I TOLD YOU TO--**



**(PAIN, FOOL! REENA WAS RIGHT. SHOULD HAVE LET THEM MURDER EACH OTHER! SHOULD NOT HAVE INTERFERED!)**

**UHN--!**



**(SHOULD NOT HAVE --<)**

**ALARIC--! DON'T JUST STAND THERE, YOU DAMNED IDIOTS!! SAVE HIM--!**



**SAVE HIM BEFORE I THROW BOTH YOUR WORTHLESS HIDES INTO THE SEA!!**









SLUICING WILD SPRAYS,  
THE JAWS OPEN...



... AND THE JAWS CLOSE.

THE  
HOR-  
RIBLE  
THING  
SINKS,  
THEN, INTO  
THE UN-  
SEEN DEEP..

...AND LOSING  
ALL LIGHT, ALA-  
RIC'S MIND  
DWELLS ONLY IN  
DARKNESS.



NOW, A  
TIME  
PASSES...

(WH-  
WHERE...?)

(WHO...?)



...A TIME  
IN WHICH  
LIGHT  
RETURNS...



I AM  
YOUR  
CAPTOR...

I AM...  
AMBROSIA.

AMBROSIA,  
WHAT KIND  
OF NAME IS  
THAT...?

(WHAT  
KIND OF  
... ARE?)



(THE FLOOR--WARM...  
PULSING. AND THE  
SEA... BEYOND THAT  
WINDOW! WHAT KIND  
OF PLACE COULD  
THIS--)

WHERE...  
ARE WE...?

YOU ARE  
SAFE HERE,  
IN MY  
STUDY...

...WITHIN  
DWELLERON.



(TOO MANY SHADOWS HERE, CUT BY LIGHT-POOLS OF SHIMMERING DEEP BLUE AND GREEN--THE SEA, STRAINING TO PUSH IN, TO ENTER THIS PLACE AND CRUSH LIFE. EVEN ABOVE--THE SEA IS ABOVE, COMPLETELY SURROUNDING THIS PLACE... THIS TRAP...)

WHAT IS... DWELLERON?

MY HOME, MY SHIP... MY CREATION.

IT IS HERE, WITHIN THE VERY CENTER OF LIFE, THAT I FIND THE ONLY TRUE PEACE...

"YOU SEE, DWELLERON IS THE SUCCESSFUL RESULT OF EXPERIMENTS IN THE LOST ART OF BIO-MECHANICS... OF CALCULATED MUTATION AND MANIPULATION OF HER GENES. COMPLETELY SELF-SUSTAINED, BOTH MY WORLD AND MY VEHICLE, DWELLERON PROVIDES FOR HER OWN NEEDS AND FOR MINE AS WELL.

"THUS IN CERTAIN WAYS I AM A PARASITE, BUT ONE WHICH CONTROLS ITS HOST-ORGANISM..."

"BY PROBING THE APPROPRIATE NERVE-GANGLIA, MUCH LIKE PRESSING BUTTONS, I CAN FORCE DWELLERON TO PERFORM MY WILL... TO JOURNEY IN MY CHOSEN DIRECTION..."

"AND EVEN AS HER CILIA PROPEL US, THEY SNARE FOOD AND FUEL FOR HER CONSUMPTION AND FOR MINE. THUS, DWELLERON IS MY DREAM... DWELLERON... IS ME."





(SUCH STRANGE WORDS, SO LITTLE OF IT UNDERSTOOD... BUT WHY THE SPEECH? SURELY IT CANNOT BE TRUE...)

WE DIDN'T SPEAK BECAUSE WE THOUGHT IT SHOULD BE YOUR DECISION, ALARIC

I SEE NO HARM IN ANSWERING, GRAYMALKYN...

THE NAME OF OUR SHIP IS THE FREEDOM REAVER.

NOW... SINCE YOUR TWO COMPANIONS REFUSED TO SPEAK WHILE YOU WERE UNCONSCIOUS, PERHAPS YOU WILL ANSWER MY QUESTIONS...

WHAT IS THE NAME OF THE SHIP FROM WHICH YOU FELL... THE SHIP I HAVE FOLLOWED FOR TWO DAYS...?



AND ITS PURPOSE...?

TO FREE HUMAN SLAVES FROM THE CITY-SHIPS OF THE APES.

AND HOW DOES YOUR FREEDOM REAVER PLAN TO ACCOMPLISH SUCH ENDS?



BY RAMMING THE CITY-SHIPS AND DESTROYING THEM.

GOOD. I SHALL ALLOW YOUR SHIP TO SURVIVE THEN... AT LEAST FOR A TIME, UNTIL ITS USE TO ME HAS EXPIRED AND IT BECOMES A THREAT IN ITSELF.

NOW, IF YOU WILL FOLLOW ME...?

DINNER IS ABOUT TO BE SERVED.



(MUCH BETTER THAN THE FOOD SERVED TO HUMAN SLAVES ABOARD THE CITY-SHIPS... AND BETTER, EVEN, THAN THAT CAUGHT FROM THE REAVER...)

(PERHAPS THIS IS A REMARKABLE PLACE... BUT CAN THE WALLS--THE FLOOR AND CEILING--ACTUALLY BE LIVING FLESH?)

BUT WHY DID YOU CREATE DWELLERON?

TO DRIVE THE CITY-SHIPS OFF THE SEAS-- TO CHASE WAR AND FILTH BACK ONTO LAND, WHERE IT BELONGS!

NEITHER I NOR DWELLERON SHALL REST UNTIL EVER LAST CITY-SHIP IS GONE.

THE SEA IS TRANQUIL, RICH WITH LIFE, IT HAS NO PLACE FOR THOSE WHO CARELESSLY JETTISON WASTE INTO ITS DEPTHS... THOSE WHO WARS SOW DEATH AND FOULNESS UPON THE WAVES,



BUT YOU CAN'T DESTROY EVERYONE IN THOSE CITIES. THERE ARE **HUMANS** IN THE HOLDS--KEPT AS **SLAVES**, CHAINED TO THE OARS. YOU CAN'T KILL THEM--!

ON THE CONTRARY, THEY SHOULD BE THE **FIRST TO DIE**. IT WAS THE HUMANS WHO FIRST **WAGED WAR**--WHO INVENTED WAR--AND WHO FIRST FILLED THE SEA WITH THEIR **FILTH**.

THEN WHY HAVEN'T YOU KILLED US--AT LEAST **STARKOR** AND I, IF NOT **GRAYMALKYN**--?

IT IS NOT **INDIVIDUALS** I HATE. I MERELY DESPISE THAT WHICH OCCURS WHEN **INDIVIDUALS MASS TOGETHER**. QUITE SIMPLY, I HATE **WAR** AND **FILTH**...

(HE SEEMS SO CASUAL ABOUT IT... ABOUT MURDER...)

WERE I FORCED TO SEE THE **FACES** OF THOSE I CONDEMN, I COULD **NEVER** DESTROY THE CITY-SHIPS.

ONLY THINKING OF THEM AS A **HIDEOUS MASS** OF CORRUPTORS CAN I PERFORM MY WORK.

AND WHAT DO YOU PLAN TO DO WITH US--?

KEEP YOU--FOR A TIME. I ENJOY CONVERSING WITH THOSE WHOSE MINDS I DON'T YET **KNOW**. BUT I WILL SOON GROW **BORED**, NO DOUBT...

...AND PERHAPS RETURN YOU TO YOUR **SHIP**. FOR NOW, THAT IS **IMPOSSIBLE**...

AS WE ARE PRESENTLY ON A **FIXED COURSE**... PURSUING **PREY**.

A **CITY-SHIP**...? THE **DYMAXION**!! I-IT'S THEM YOU'RE AFTER!?

BUT NOT UNTIL IT MERGES WITH **THREE MORE CITY-SHIPS**... THEN, **DWELLERON** SHALL EXPEND THE LEAST EFFORT TOWARD THE MOST **DESTRUCTION**.

"AND NOW, MY CHARMING GUESTS, WHILE **DWELLERON'S** **CILIA** KEEP SILENT PACE WITH THE **DYMAXION** ABOVE, I SUGGEST YOU TAKE SOME REST. YOUR **QUARTERS**, I TRUST, WILL PROVE **COMFORTABLE**."

(HE'S MAD--UTTERLY MAD...)

CONTINUED NEXT WEEK !!



# APES FORUM



MARVEL COMICS LTD Room 106  
52 HIGH HOLBORN LONDON WC1V 6RZ

Dear Bullpen,

Glad to see the superb panther's rage in Planet of The Apes. Don McGregor's masterpiece must surely rate as one of Marvel's greatest epics. Credit must also be given to Rick Buckler and Billy Graham, who complement Don's style admirably. Each character is so well-developed that we soon know each of them and the emotions that propel them. Only Marv Wolfman's Dracula can equal this. The conflict between T'Challa and W'Kabi is excellent. You can almost touch the tension between the two, and for once this tension is not resolved in a fight. Well done, Don!

It is also interesting to notice the difference in style between this book and that of the Lee/Kirby Thor/FF, where Stan's dialogue complements Jack's art. I would hazard a guess as to how Stan and Jack work together. Stan sends Jack a brief outline of the plot, back come the drawings to which Stan puts in the dialogue. No doubt it's a little more complex than that, but I would say that was the rough schedule. Correct?

It would also be interesting to hear from other Marvelites on whether or not a comic book should feature the artwork more prominently, or should the script be more important. I would plump for the latter, but I would be interested in hearing other opinions on the subject. But then, again, I could sit and look at Gene Colan's art for hours, so perhaps a happy medium would be best.

Tim Stanger,  
1 Woodland Drive, Old Catton, Norwich.

So you'd like to know how Stan and Jack make it all happen, huh? Well, the short answer would be, "So would they!" But joshing apart, you're not so very far wide of the mark, except that Jack and Stan prefer to TALK the plot over together, then Jack goes ahead with a free hand to translate the plot into pictures, his only restriction being that he has to contain the plot within the number of pages allotted to the story in the mag. Stan then writes in the dialogue on the pencils, and so we progress... And we, too, would be interested to learn whether Marvelites rate the storylines higher than the artwork. So now EVERYONE'S got homework to do!

Dear All,

Here is a special vote of thanks to all Planet of The Apes fans for being just the nicest type of people there is. Congratulations and thanks, too, go to all the Planet of The Apes organisations and fanclubs that have provided our immense joy throughout the time our heroes have been absent from our TV screens. But most especially I thank the people who bring this super mag to us each week, for their dedication and help in satisfying our thirst for Ape/Astronaut knowledge.

To show my loyalty to Pete, Alan, Galen, Urko, Zaius and all the other people who are in any way connected to POTA, I would like to start an appreciation club in my area (Cleveland). So all fans in my area who are interested in joining, would they please meet me at Middlesbrough Town Hall, Saturday, February the 14th, at 2.30. Those who can't make it may write and enquire.

Carol,  
27 Blantyre Road, Normandy,  
Middlesbrough, Cleveland, TS6 0ES

*That plan of yours is our idea of an inspiration, Carol. There's just one snag — that old 'time-lag' we've mentioned now and again. We mean the time-lag between a reader's letter being received by us, and that same letter appearing in one of our mags. There's just no way yours can appear before Feb. 14th. So we're gonna take it upon ourselves to suggest to all interested fans to be at the same place, same time on Sat. April 17th. Wish we could all be there, too.*

Dear Stan and Co.

Re the letter from S. Winetrobe in POTA No. 68. I likewise wrote to the S.T.V. Network, inquiring if they would be showing Planet of the Apes, having seen it while I was up North on Grampian Television. (Where, by the way, it is being repeated.) Their reply, quote: "We have just recently purchased the rights for the series and screening should be sometime later in the year..."

That was in August 1975... So, come on, you Apes fans in the North. Get writing. I already have, at least three times.

Sandie Stronach,  
29 Albert Road,  
Crosshill, Glasgow.

*Well, all you Apes fans! You've been given the rallying call. So what are you waiting for?*

Dear Stan,

Your magazine, "Planet of the Apes" is terrific and I always enjoy reading it, especially the film adaptations. I like reading the Apes Forum and I know that you often receive letters of complaint about the magazine's covers. I am afraid that I have to agree with them most of the time, but the cover of issue No. 65 is fantastic. If all your covers were as good as that I am sure there would be no more complaints.

I have read that many POTA readers have paperbacks concerning the Apes. I have only two, "Escape from the Planet of the Apes", and "Man the Fugitive." I once saw the paperbacks "Beneath the Planet of the Apes," and "Conquest of the Planet of the Apes." However, the books were so popular that there weren't any left. Can any other reader tell me from which bookshops I could purchase them?

Margaret Lyle,  
Stoke-on-Trent, Staffs.

*Believe us, Margaret, we strain nerve, sinew and tissue to make ALL the covers as high a standard as possible. So don't think we aren't trying!*







Dear British Bullpen,

The Mighty Marvel renaissance moves ahead! You're finally picking yourselves up again. Over the last year Marvel declined slightly, but very noticeably, and you were beginning to sacrifice quality for quantity. But, it seems that after Stan came over not so long ago, you have picked up again. Now that you are back on top, stay there!

Now for another matter there has been a lot of controversy recently over what is going to happen when our British Marvels catch up with the American. You have hinted at home-produced stories. This, though, is bound to create problems. For instance, nothing 'MAJOR' could happen. I mean nothing Big can happen (e.g. Mary Jane dying!) unless it happens also in the States. The British stories would have to deal only with fights against foes, and not much private life of your heroes. I am not against this but there are alternatives. When you major titles (e.g. Hulk, Spidey) catch up, make your mags monthly. Something like 70 pages for 20p. Well, it's a thought, anyway.

Andrew White,  
Liverpool.

*With respect, Andy, you're looking at Marvel through the wrong end of the telescope, which means you're seeing the future in a diminished form and missing the possibility for expansion which change will bring. When and if we are able to 'home-produce' our scripts and artwork, why should anyone assume that everything else will remain much the same? Marvel has ALWAYS been on the move, so isn't it feasible (even logical) that when we make the production break-through we'll achieve other break-throughs at the same time?*

Dear Stan and Co.,

While looking through the TV papers the other day I noticed that on Border, at 4.20 on Thursdays there is a series called "Return to the Planet of the Apes". As I cannot get Border could you possibly tell me what it is about?

I would also like to ask if any reader would be willing to sell me an issue one of P.O.T.A. I would pay more than the official price for it.

John Gay,  
19 Johnston Terrace, Port Seton,  
East Lothian, Scotland.

*The Apes programme you saw listed for Border TV is a Planet of the Apes cartoon series, John, based on the books by Pier Boulle, OK?*

Dear Marvel,

When POTA first came out over a year ago I felt it was wasted, as I had been hoping for something more, like Superheroes. Now I think it's much better. After coming through some rough times (20-31, it's back up there with the best. I feel no regrets on the info going as I find reading interviews with Rod Sterling etc., a waste of time. I'm very glad you've put Panther and Ka-Zar in and I feel 'Conquest' is the best story yet—I find Alfredo Alcala the best ape artist. Rico Rival is too scratchy. Doug M has mastered the Apes—it's a good idea to keep a regular writer and artist on Apes, as they develop.

I think the emotions of Caesar were beautifully done, even nicer still as Armando's but, "No — you only said aloud what I was thinking." This put Armando on a higher grade than all the other humans of the 1990's. It seems to me that "Conquest" is real. A further thought, will we all devolve into selfish beings? I hope not.

When I first read 64 I felt it was unnecessary, but now I feel this was Doug attempting to show how selfish we can become. Would you blame the Apes for revolting?

Comics are for pleasure, but if you look deep enough, in there somewhere there's a meaning. Gary Bell, QNS, RFO, KOF, Belfast, N. Ireland.

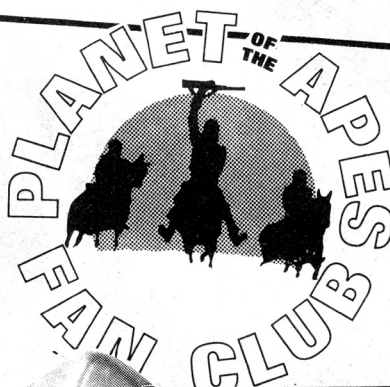
*Thanks for the analytical letter, and the profound thought you closed with. And speaking of profound thoughts, how's this for another? "Take half the world's politicians, and, if you look deep enough, inside there's a comic!"*

Dear Stan,

I must congratulate you on your marvelous PLANET OF THE APES. But there is one question you must answer me. In issue 64, page 4, Senor Armando quotes "When the plague killed off all the cats and dogs on earth, people brought Apes into their homes, first as pets, then as labourers." In the TV series 'Planet of the Apes', episode one, a small chimpanzee boy is teasing an old man with a dog. Is the TV series not connected with the films? If it is, how do you account for the dog?

C. Rock,  
Middlesborough, Cleveland.

*We'd say that when Armado stated that ALL cats and dogs had been destroyed by the plague, he was slightly over-stating the case. There would have been small numbers of survivors, and from these survivors the species (almost wiped out) would be re-established.*



ESPECIALLY FOR  
PLANET OF THE APES  
FAN CLUB MEMBERS  
— YOUR OWN SECRET  
CODED MESSAGE!

MESSAGE OF THE MONTH FROM URKO

CODE "V":

9 20 4 20 26 13 26 18 6 19 24  
16 19 20 2 25 13 10 19 6 18 10 20 11  
25 13 10 9 6 23 16 13 6 14 23 10 9  
6 24 25 23 20 19 6 26 25 14 13 6 1 10  
7 10 10 19 8 13 6 24 14 19 12 20 19  
25.1.

Decipher this message by using your POTA decoder tuned to code "V".

Send the answer to the question to the fan club address, and the first correct answer opened will win the Planet of the Apes record.

The next 3 correct entries opened will win an Apes badge! So hurry, get those decoders dialling and send us your answer immediately!

Planet of the Apes Fan Club  
140 Piccadilly London W.1