

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

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MARVEL
COMICS
GROUP

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WEEK ENDING
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8P

PLANET OF THE APEES

THE MOST
ASTONISHING
APES EPIC
OF ALL!



**GRAVEYARD OF
LOST CITIES!**

TWO HUMAN SEAMEN, DRUNKEN AND RASH, DECIDE TO DESTROY AN APE CITY-SHIP!
A DESPERATE ACT OF RACIAL HATE, IT IS, AND ONE SURE TO DESTROY ANY GOOD
WILL BETWEEN APES AND HUMANS --- THAT IS, IF IT SUCCEEDS. FOR, YOU SEE, ONE APE
HAS HEARD THEM PLOTTING AND HURRIES TO TELL WHAT HE KNOWS!

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



STORY: DOUG MOENCH ART: TOM SUTTON

THE CABIN DOOR BANGS OPEN, AN EXTENSION OF PANIC WHICH CAN NO LONGER BE CONTAINED...

WHAT'S THE MEANING OF BARGING IN HERE LIKE THIS?! WHAT DO YOU WANT---

FORGIVE ME, LADY REENA, BUT---

--BUT YOUR MAN'S LIFE IS IN DANGER! TWO HUMANS HAVE GONE TO SINK THE FEDERATION CITY-SHIPS!

WHAT--?!!

YES, LADY REENA. NATURALLY, MY CONCERN IS FOR MY OWN LEADER-- FOR GRAYMALKYN-- BUT I THOUGHT IF YOU KNEW ABOUT ALARIC--

IS IT TOO LATE TO STOP THEM--? HAVE THEY ALREADY GONE--?

Y-YES, LADY REENA...

AND THERE'S NO WAY TO FIND ALARIC IN TIME-- NOT AMONG ALL THOSE MILES OF CITIES...

BUT BY GOD, THOSE FOOLS WILL PAY FOR THIS-- WITH THEIR BLOOD!

(DECAY, PESTILENCE, WORSE HERE THAN ANYWHERE ELSE. NO WONDER HE WANTS TO LEAVE...)

AYE, AND PROBABLY TOO WELL-- BUT I'LL NOT MAKE EXCUSES.

DON'T BLAME YOURSELF GARSHAN-- WE UNDERSTAND.

I'LL JUST SAY FAREWELL.

BUT NO SOONER HAS GARSHAN MERGED BACK INTO THE SHADOWS THAN--

LOOK--!

BUT HOW DID THEY GET THERE--? THEY WERE BEHIND US!

(BEHIND NO LONGER. THEY BLOCK EVERY PATH TO THE TOWER NOW...)

GO BACK OR DIE, HUMANS--!

AND KNOW THAT WE MEAN IT!

(THAT SETTLES IT, THEN.)

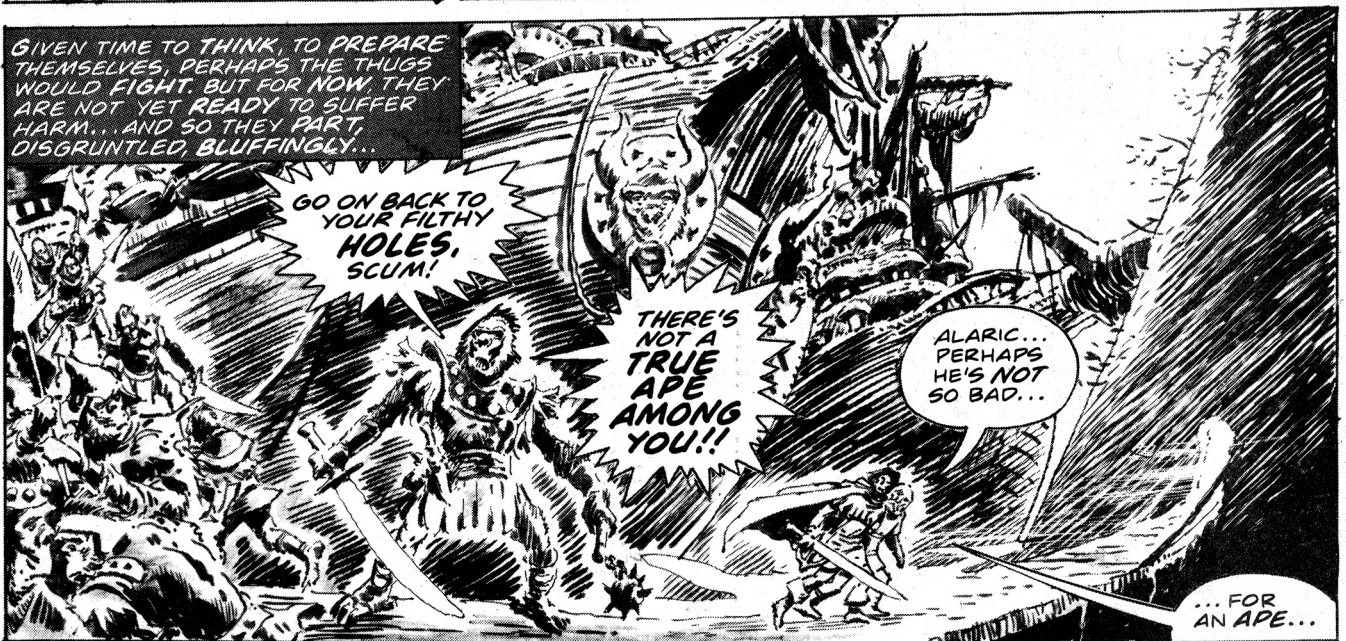
WHAT DO YOU WANT WITH THE CRAZY ONE? COME TO HELP HIM WITH HIS WITCHERY HAVE YOU--?

WITH HIS "SCIENCE"--HIS DEMON-MAGIC...?

THEN YOU'VE ONLY COME TO DIE.

GET OUT OF OUR WAY.

NOW.



GIVEN TIME TO THINK, TO PREPARE THEMSELVES, PERHAPS THE THUGS WOULD FIGHT. BUT FOR NOW, THEY ARE NOT YET READY TO SUFFER HARM... AND SO THEY PART, DISGRUNTLED, BLUFFINGLY...

GO ON BACK TO YOUR FILTHY HOLES, SCUM!

THERE'S NOT A TRUE APE AMONG YOU!!

ALARIC... PERHAPS HE'S NOT SO BAD...

... FOR AN APE...

(MUCH HIGHER THAN IT LOOKS FROM A DISTANCE--THE CLIMB WILL TAKE HOURS...)

BUT INSIDE THE TOWER--

LOOK, ALARIC-- AN ELEVATOR! I HAVEN'T SEEN ONE OF THESE SINCE I WAS JUST A CHILD...

...AND NOW THAT I THINK ABOUT IT, I WONDER WHY THEY'VE PASSED OUT OF USE-- WHY THEY'VE BEEN FORGOTTEN. THEY'RE MUCH BETTER THAN STAIRS...

QUIT WASTING TIME, GRAYMALKYN. WE'VE GOT TO REACH THE TOP OF THIS TOWER BEFORE--

BUT THAT'S WHAT I'M TRYING TO TELL YOU-- THESE CABLES LEAD ALL THE WAY UP TO A PULLEY AT THE TOP, AND BEYOND THE PULLEY, THERE'S A WEIGHT ATTACHED TO THE OTHER END OF THE CABLES...

WHEN THE WEIGHT IS DROPPED, THE ELEVATOR CAGE GOES UP--!

I... I THINK I'D RATHER DIE... DOWN HERE...

COME ON, ALARIC. PERHAPS IF I PULL THIS LINE...

YES! IT'S RISING--!

HURRY, ALARIC. JUMP!

(...HOURS IN WHICH STARKOR MAY VERY WELL DIE.)

IT'S RISING, ALL RIGHT... BUT I'M STILL NOT CERTAIN I LIKE THIS "ELEVATOR" OF YOURS...

IT'S NOT THE ELEVATOR WHICH WORRIES ME, ALARIC...

THAT MEANS SOMEONE'S UP THERE-- MOST LIKELY GRIMSTARK...

AND VERY SOON WE'LL LEARN WHETHER HE'S THE WISE MUSE OF LEGEND...

...OR THE DEMON OF LOCAL SUPERSTITION...

SOMEONE HEARD THE SIGNAL WHEN I PULLED THE LINE... AND DROPPED THE WEIGHT...

YES...

MEANWHILE, ALONG THE HULL OF THE CENTRAL CITY-SHIP, TWO DRUNKS LEARN TWO THINGS...

ONE: INFLATED FISH BLADDERS WORK WELL AS FLOTATION DEVICES.

AND TWO: THE STEEL AUGER WORKS EVEN BETTER ON ROTTED WOOD.



IT'S STOPPED, ALARIC-- AND THIS MUST BE THE PLACE...

BETTER GET OUT...

YES, BUT WHERE IS THIS... GRIM-STARK... I WONDER...?



THEY STEP FORWARD, AND EVEN TO THEIR UNTUTORED EYES THE CIRCULAR CHAMBER IS FABULOUS, FILLED WITH A PLETHORA OF ARCAINE INVENTIONS-- TELESCOPES, WATER-CLOCKS, PROTOTYPE WINDMILLS, COMPLEX SYSTEMS OF PULLEYS AND WHEELS, AND OLD BOOKS AND PARCHMENTS EVERYWHERE...



ALARIC UNDERSTANDS NONE OF IT.

BUT AT THE FAR SIDE OF THE CHAMBER...



COME IN...

I'VE BEEN EXPECTING YOU. THROUGH THE AID OF ONE OF MY TELESCOPES, I OBSERVED YOUR ALTERCATION WITH THE SUPERSTITIOUS SCOUNDRELS DOWN BELOW.

YOU HANDLED THE SITUATION MOST ADMIRABLY-- WITH YOUR WITS RATHER THAN VIOLENCE.



NOW WHAT CAN I DO FOR YOU?

UHHHNNN...

OBVIOUSLY MY QUESTION IS ANSWERED. YOUR COMPANION EXHIBITS SYMPTOMS OF ONE SERIOUSLY WEAKENED BY LOSS OF BLOOD.

BUT THAT WE SHALL REMEDY... BY SUPPRESSING THE BLEEDING AND STITCHING UP HIS WOUND.



THUD

(A DEMON HE IS NOT.)

IT'S DONE...

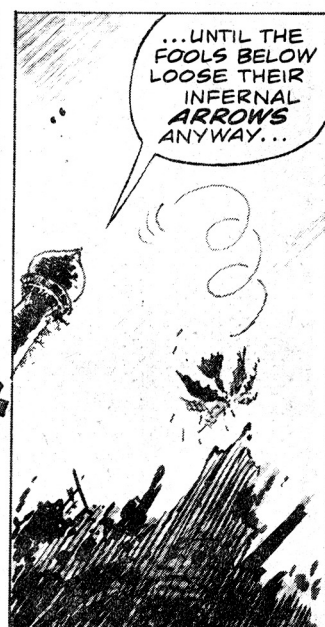
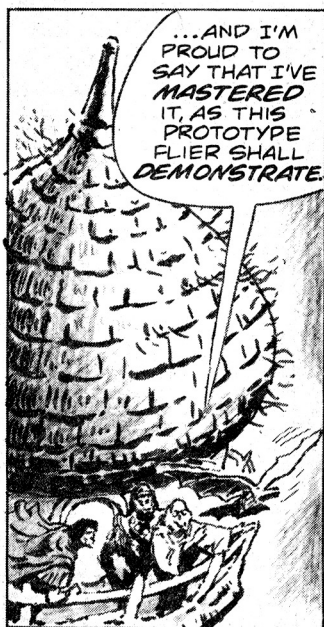
THE WATER WILL DO THE REST OF OUR WORK FOR US.



AND INDEED, INSIDE THE DARK HOLD ROTTEN PLANKS SUCCUMB TO THE CRUSH OF OVERWHELMING WATER PRESSURE...



THE CITY-SHIP IS BOUND FOR THE BOTTOM.



NO ONE WAS MORE INSPIRED BY THE IDEA THAN I MYSELF. I CREATED ALL THESE DEVICES FOR THE **NEW ENLIGHTENED SOCIETY**, AND THEY ACCEPTED MY KNOWLEDGE AT FIRST. BUT **NOW...** NOW THEY **REJECT** MY IDEAS-- REJECT ME.



THE DREAM HAS SHATTERED... SUNK INTO IGNORANCE AND DECAY.

I SUPPOSE I'VE ALWAYS TRIED TO RISE ABOVE THE OTHERS. THAT'S WHY I HAD THIS TOWER BUILT-- BUT EVEN **THIS** IS NOT HIGH ENOUGH. IT'S ONLY A MATTER OF TIME BEFORE THEY COME UP HERE AND **DESTROY** ME...

THEY HATE ANYTHING WHICH RISES ABOVE THEIR OWN PITIFUL EXISTENCES. SO I **MUST** GO HIGHER-- MUST LEARN WHAT LIES BEYOND THOSE CLIFFS... OVER THE MOUNTAINS... EVEN BEYOND THE NEXT SEA...

PERHAPS THERE ARE NEW DREAMS WAITING OUT THERE... AND BESIDES, I'VE STAGNATED TOO LONG UP HERE, ALL ALONE WITH MY LONELY IDEAS AND INVENTIONS.



BUT WON'T THEY KILL YOU IF YOU TRY TO LEAVE THE TOWER?

PROBABLY... BUT AT LEAST I HAVE A CHANCE IF I LEAVE WITHOUT EVER TOUCHING THE DECK.

YOU'RE GOING TO TRY TO FLY IN THAT THING--? BUT YOU'LL KILL YOURSELF!



BETTER THAN LETTING THEM KILL ME.

HAH! WE SHOWED THAT COWARD ALARIC--!



AYE-- WONDER HOW MUCH IT'S SUNK SO FAR...?

YOU SEE--? AS SOON AS THOSE THREE ENTERED THE TOWER, THE WITCHERY STARTED ANEW--!

ANOTHER OF THE FLYING DEMONS--



ACTUALLY, THE PORT RAIL HAS JUST DIPPED BELOW THE WATER LINE.

SO YOU'VE COME TO ME FOR ANSWERS-- TO LEARN IF THERE'S A PLACE WHERE HUMANS AND APES CAN LIVE IN PEACE AND LOVE...

WELL, THIS FEDERATION WAS INTENDED TO BE SUCH A PLACE... YOU'VE SEEN WHAT HAPPENED HERE.

BUT, THE WORLD IS VAST... AND VARIED, WITH PLACES WHERE HUMANS RULE... OTHERS WHERE APES DO.



WHEN LAST I SAW THE WORLD, HATRED WAS ON THE RISE. DOUBTLESS, IT STILL IS. SO YOU SEE, THE WORLD IS NOT MUCH BETTER THAN THIS FEDERATION.

BUT AS FOR ME, I MUST AT LEAST TRY TO FIND A BETTER PLACE... OR LIFE IS NOT WORTH THE LIVING.

THE LONG BOAT HAS RETURNED TO ITS MOTHER SHIP. TWO DRUNKEN MEN CHORTLE WITH FOUL GLEE...



I'LL WAGER NO ONE EVEN NOTICED WE WERE GONE!

AYE, AND ONCE WE--



ULP.

L-LADY... REENA...?

YES...

...A VERY REMORSELESS LADY REENA.



THE WATER HAS REACHED MID-THIGH NOW... AND HAS DRIVEN THE IGNORANT DENIZENS TO A FRENZY...

TO THE TOWER! THE CRAZY ONE CREATED THIS DISASTER--! GRIMSTARK-- SEEKING TO DROWN US IN A DELUGE--!

BUT IF WE MUST DIE-- THEN LET US KILL HIM FIRST!!



I KNOW IT WILL WORK-- THE THEORY IS SOUND-- PROVEN.

NO, GRIMSTARK--!

LET HIM BE, ALARIC...



IT'S HIS DREAM... NOT OURS.

(BUT IF HE SHOULD DIE -- WHEN HE SEEKS NOTHING BUT A BETTER LIFE --!)

GRIMSTARK-- YOU'RE NOT REALLY GOING TO DO IT--?!

I... I DON'T... KNOW...

I'VE PROVEN THE THEORY...



... BUT I'VE YET TO TEST MY COURAGE...

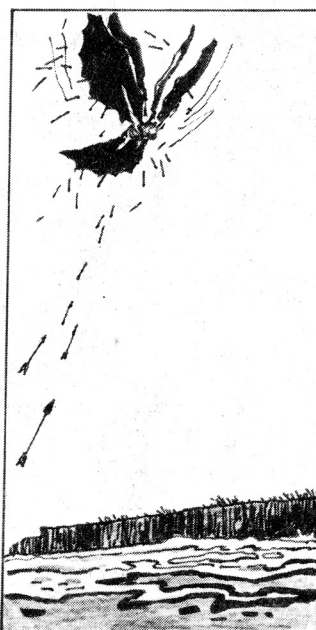
I... I DON'T KNOW IF I'M DESPERATE ENOUGH TO--



KILL THEM-- KILL THEM ALL!!



MY SWORD, ALARIC-- I'LL WIELD IT THE BEST I CAN--!





DAMN THE FOOLS--
GRIMSTARK HAS FALLEN!
THEY'VE KILLED HIM--!!

AND
US AS
WELL,
ALARIC!

THERE'S
NO WAY WE
CAN HOPE TO--



WAIT! THE WATER'S
RISING FAST DOWN
THERE--IT MAY BE
DEEP ENOUGH FOR
US TO JUMP--!



AND
EVEN
IF IT
ISN'T...!



BUT IT IS, FOR THE
ENTIRE CITY-SHIP
HAS FLOODED AND
SUBMERGED...

EVEN THE TALLEST OF
STRUCTURES NOW LIES
FAR BELOW THE
SURFACE...

...AND ONLY
GRIMSTARK'S
TOWER JUTS
OVER THE WAVES.

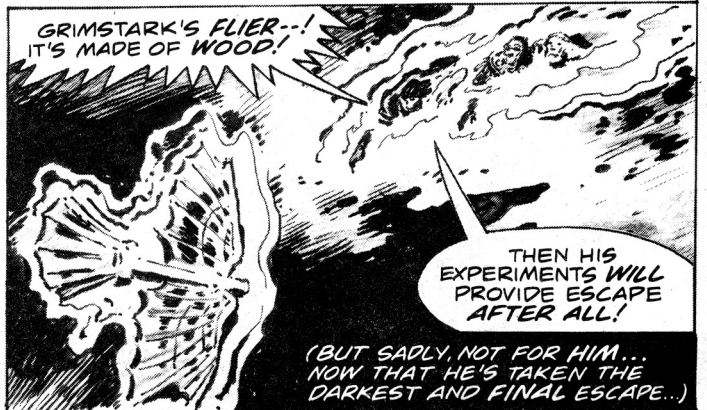


WE'VE MADE
IT, ALARIC-- BUT
WE'RE STILL STUCK
IN THE MIDDLE OF
THE REMAINING
CITY-SHIPS...

... AND
WITH STARKOR
UNABLE TO SWIM
ANY GREAT DISTANCE,
IT LOOKS LIKE--



OVER THERE--
LOOK!!



GRIMSTARK'S FLIER--!
IT'S MADE OF WOOD!

THEN HIS
EXPERIMENTS WILL
PROVIDE ESCAPE
AFTER ALL!

(BUT SADLY, NOT FOR HIM...
NOW THAT HE'S TAKEN THE
DARKEST AND FINAL ESCAPE...)



LATER...

HOY,
FREEDOM REAVER!!
CAST DOWN A LINE--!



(THERE IT GOES...
THE TOWER, SINKING...)

(JOINING ITS
MASTER IN A
COMMON
GRAVE...)

ALARIC--
GRAYMALKYN--!
WE WERE AFRAID
YOU'D DIED!

TWO OF THE CREW
TRIED TO KILL YOU
BY SINKING THE
FEDERATION.



THE **WHOLE FEDERATION**--? AND HOW
DID THEY THINK TO DO **THAT**?

THEY REASONED
THAT IF THE **CENTRAL**
SHIP WERE **SUNK**, IT WOULD
PULL ALL THE **OTHERS**
DOWN WITH IT.

THEN THEY WERE **GREATER** FOOLS
THAN THOSE DWELLING IN THE **FEDER-**
ATION. DID THEY NOT **REALIZE** THAT
THE **CONNECTING BRIDGES** WOULD
MERELY **SNAP** AS THE **CENTRAL CITY**
SANK? WHAT **BECAME** OF THEM?

LADY
REENA...
SHE, UH...
DISPOSED
OF THEM...

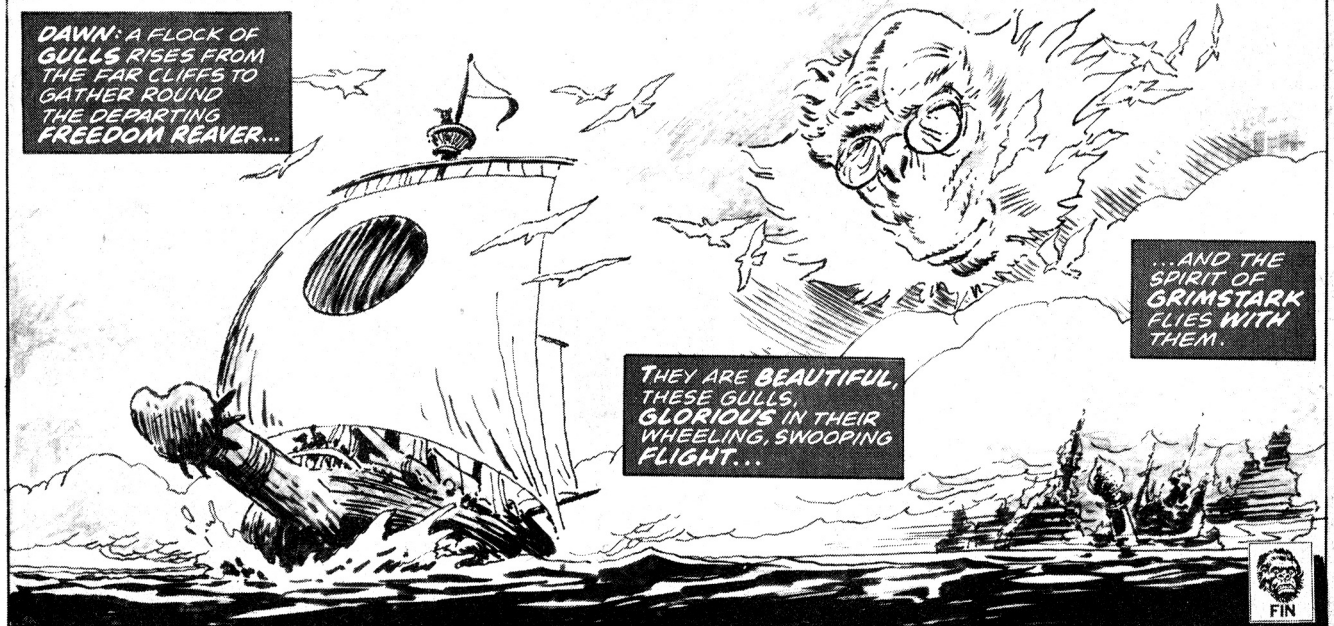


SO, REENA, YOU THOUGHT ME
DEAD, EH? FAR FROM IT-- I'VE
NEVER BEEN MORE **ALIVE**, OR
SO FILLED WITH **KNOWLEDGE**.

AND I'VE ALSO LEARNED
THAT IT IS **FOLLY** TO
ATTEMPT TO CONTROL
THE DESTINY OF **OTHERS**.
LEST THAT DESTINY
DECAY... AND END
IN **TRAGEDY**.

YOU SEE, I'VE LEARNED
MUCH THIS NIGHT-- I'VE
LEARNED WE MUST
ALWAYS DREAM, AND
CONSTANTLY STRIVE FOR
A **BETTER LIFE**...

BUT MOST OF **ALL**,
I'VE LEARNED THAT WE
MUST HAVE THE **COURAGE**
TO **FOLLOW** OUR DREAMS...
WHEREVER THEY MAY **LEAD**.



DAWN: A FLOCK OF
GULLS RISES FROM
THE FAR CLIFFS TO
GATHER ROUND
THE DEPARTING
FREEDOM REAVER...

THEY ARE **BEAUTIFUL**,
THESE GULLS,
GLORIOUS IN THEIR
WHEELING, SWOOPING
FLIGHT...

...AND THE
SPIRIT OF
GRIMSTARK
FLIES WITH
THEM.





APES MAIL

Dear Stan and Gang,

Thanks, thank-you and thanks again! What for? Why, for all six of your fantastic mags, (it was seven until SMCW joined with Superheroes, a very good idea as well!) and I manage to buy them all.

Right. Down to business, reviews.

POTA. The Apes – Brilliant! Ka-zar and Panther – hard going.

MWOM. Hulk – great! Daredevil – one of your best characters! Fantastic Four – very good!

SMCW. A good magazine on the rare occasions I buy it.

AVENGERS. Conan – I enjoy it, but it's sometimes boring. The Avengers – highlight of the week. Iron Fist – hard going.

DRACULA LIVES. Your best mag, and I like all the characters.

SUPERHEROES. The Thing – Fantastic! Giant-Man – very good. Black Knight – OK.

TITANS. I find it a long but good magazine.

Phew! That took too long! Oh well, I'll carry on. I thought the readers might be interested to hear about a relatively new book called "The Penguin Book of Comics" by George Perry and Alan Aldridge. It costs £3.00 and if you have a genuine interest in all comics it's well-worth it. I bought it because it had Marvel characters on the front cover (the thing that caught my eye!) and it has a chapter on Marvel as well as chapters on the history of comics since Greek times.

I'm very interested in art and English and have drawn and illustrated several of my own super-hero stories. I'm hoping to make a cartoon out of one of your characters, but I'm waiting till I can afford the right equipment. I hope that I may, one day, be a writer or artist or both for Marvel, but I expect you've got loads of budding writers and artists already.

Lastly, has anyone any spare No. 1's of any Marvel mags (American or British) which they might swap or sell with me? If anyone would write to me to send me some I would be eternally grateful. Excelsior!

Christopher Skinner,
29 Barrow Road, Burton-on-the-Wolds,
Loughborough, Leics.

We'll readily endorse your enthusiasm for "The Penguin Book of Comics", but a new book it isn't. George Perry (who wrote it) carried out his research for it way back in halcyon days of the Power Comics. And it

was over lunch at L'Escargot (a little bistro in London's Soho) that Alf Wallace, supremo of Power Comics, suggested to George that he should make the trip to New York and meet the fountain of knowledge, Smiling Stan. Which is precisely what George did. Ah – it all seems but yesterday . . .

Hail and Hello,

Six months ago I bought issues 42 and 43 of POTA and thought "YEUCH!" This was not for me. This week, however, I had a spare 8p and thought, "Might as well have a look at POTA". I looked, wondered and marvelled. Is this the same mag or is it not? "Conquest . . ." well-drawn, "Ka-Zar" and "The Black Panther" with, of all things . . . Rage. Having collected most of the "Panther's Rage" in your US editions, I immediately rushed to my favourite shop, which, luckily for me, keep some back issues of your British mags, and bought the back issues to the beginning of "Rage". Upon going over these mags I became intrigued with the story of Cornelius and Zira. Now I can hardly wait to buy the back issues to the beginning of "Escape . . ." Thus I am now forced to buy all of your mags.

Keep up the good work. If anybody has any special issues of POTA, DL, MWOM (from issue 150), Avengers (from ish 94), Conan or Superheroes which they need, my shop may well be able to supply them. Send money and postage (I'm not all that rich) with details of which issues are needed to me at my address. However, I can promise nothing. Money will be refunded for any comics which I can't obtain.

Michael Brown,
46 Coningham Road, Shepherds Bush,
London W.12.

See what you've been missing! We'll excuse you just this once, but don't let it happen again!

Dear Mr. Lee and the Bullpen,

This is my first letter, even though I've been a faithful Marvelite for six years. I'm afraid it is a letter of complaint, with a touch of the congratulations as well.

"Planet of The Apes" is good. Very good indeed. However, the two back-up stories are not. If we must have "Ka-Zar" please can we have the stories from "Savage Tales", as I think his adventures in the Hidden Land are better than those of the concrete jungle. The "Black Panther" story? Sorry! The stories are terrible. No offence meant to Mr. McGregor, whose "Killraven" stories are amply justified, but The Panther is a bit too philosophical in my opinion.

I agree with many people who believe that the back-up stories should be science-fiction ones. If not why not put in "Starlord", "Guardians", "Deathlock" or "Killraven"?

To solve the problem, why not have an opinion poll to see what should be in what magazine. It would be interesting to see what the outcome would be.

Finally, I would like to thank Marv Wolfman, Archie Goodwin, Len Wein, Doug Moench and all the "Savage Tales" team for giving us twelve issues of sheer wonderment.

Philip Bryce,
3 Landsmoor Grove, Eldwick,
Bingley, W. Yorks.

Why not a Marvel-opinion Poll indeed? We won't make it an official one, but if any Marvelites feel a driving urge to act upon Phil's suggestion and tell us what they think should be where, we'll make the necessary analysis.

apes forum

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Another message from the Apes fan club

DECODE THIS MESSAGE AND SEND YOUR ANSWER TO: APES FAN CLUB, DEPT.2F, 140 PICCADILLY, LONDON W.1. INCLUDE YOUR MEMBERSHIP NUMBER... THERE'S A PRIZE FOR THE FIRST CORRECT ANSWER OPENED!

Code Letter F

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