

SPIN INTO SUMMER WITH A SPIDER-MAN WEB SPINNER SEE INSIDE



8P

PLANET OF THE APES



MARVEL
COMICS
GROUP

NO. 85

WEEK ENDING
JUNE 5, 1976



INSIDE:
**BEAST ON THE
PLANET OF THE APES**

BEAST

ON THE PLANET OF THE APES!

ON THE EARTH OF 1974, WITHIN THE SOCIETY CREATED AND RULED BY MEN, DEREK ZANE WAS CALLED A STARRY-EYED DREAMER-- A FOOL.



IN THE WORLD OF THE FUTURE, ON A PLANET DOMINATED BY APES, DEREK ZANE IS REVILED AS A FREAK-- AND HAILED AS A HERO.

I'M STILL STUCK HERE IN THE FUTURE, AND I'M STILL DEREK ZANE-- AND THOUGH I'M CERTAIN I'VE CHANGED, I'M STILL A DREAMER, A FOOL, A FREAK... AND A HERO.

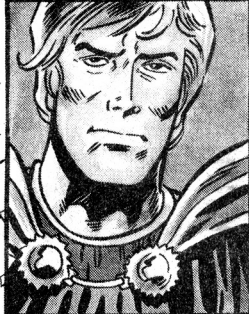
Story: DOUG MOENCH

Art: HERB TRIMPE, DAN ADKINS &
SAL TRAPANI AG-208

IT WAS FALL WHEN I LEFT THE CASTLE OF CAMELOT--A BRIGHT, CRISP MORNING IN WHICH THE SOUND OF MY STEED'S CANTERING HOoves STRUCK SHARPLY ON THE MOAT-SPANNING DRAWBRIDGE.

A GOOD DAY, JUST TO BE ALIVE.

AND UPON LEAVING, I REMEMBERED MY FIRST ARRIVAL. I'D ESCAPED THE MAINLAND (AND THE ONE-EYED GORILLA GORODON) BY BUILDING A RAFT...



--AND WHO ASKED ME TO SLAY A DRAGON, AS A GESTURE OF GOOD FAITH...



THAT LITTLE FEAT EARNED ME THE CHANCE TO FACE GAWAIN IN A JOUSTING TOURNAMENT, AND AFTER I'D DEFEATED HIM WITH A FEW CONNECTICUT YANKEE TRICKS, I WAS PLACED IN CHARGE OF DEFENSE DURING GOOD OLD GORODON'S SIEGE OF CAMELOT.



I'D FOUND THE EMBODIMENT OF MY STARRY-EYED DREAMS HERE ON THE FAIR ISLAND OF AVEDON. HERE, I COULD TOSS MY ROSE-COLORED GLASSES TO THE WIND--AND STILL GAZE UPON THE GLORIOUS DELUSIONS OF MY FANTASIES. TO ME, AVEDON WAS HEAVEN.

STILL, I HAD TO LEAVE.

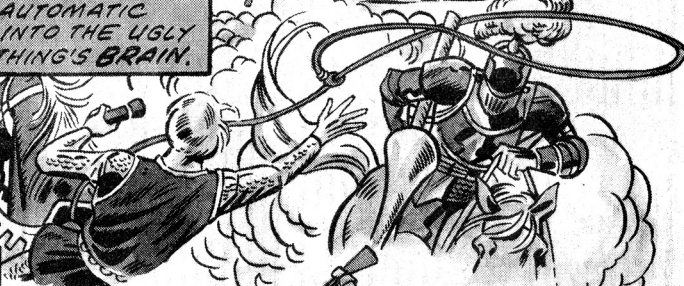
... AND BEACHED AVEDON'S SHORES ONLY TO BE CAPTURED BY A GORILLA IN SHINING ARMOR WHO SAID HE WAS SIR GAWAIN.



HE TOOK ME TO KING ARTHUR, WHO JUST HAPPENED TO BE AN ORANGUTAN--



... WHICH I PROMPTLY DID, PUMPING FOUR SLUGS FROM MY AUTOMATIC INTO THE UGLY THING'S BRAIN.



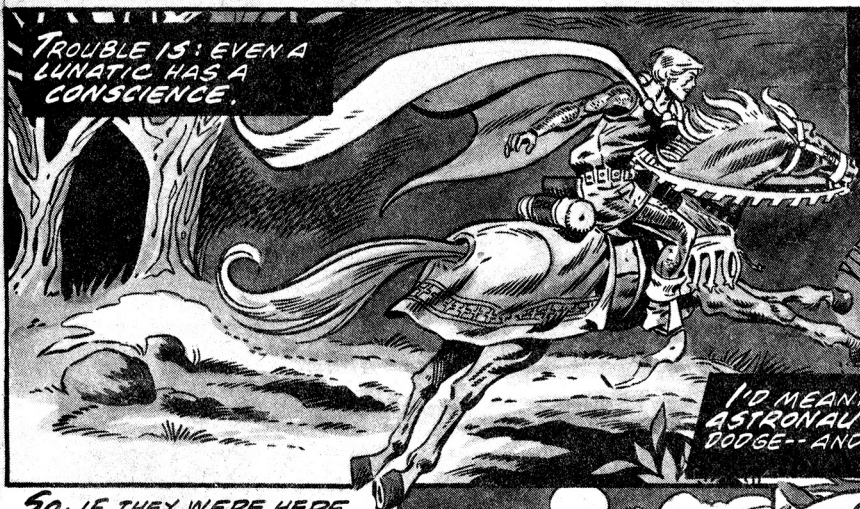
WE WON THE BATTLE, AND AS A REWARD--



SO YOU SEE, IT WAS LUNACY TO RIDE AWAY FROM ALL THIS...

--I WAS PRIVILEGED TO TAKE THE HAND OF LADY ANDREA IN MARRIAGE... AND TRULY, SHE IS THE FAIREST MAIDEN IN ALL THE WONDERFULLY COCKEYED





TROUBLE IS: EVEN A LUNATIC HAS A CONSCIENCE.

**ANDEVEN AS I BASKED AND VEGE-
TATED IN THE LUXURIOUS COMPANY
OF LADY ANDREA AND MY FULFILL-
ED FANTASIES, I COULDN'T SHAKE
THE MEMORY OF WHY I'D COME TO
THIS CRAZY YEAR OF 3975 IN THE
FIRST PLACE.**

**I'D MEANT TO FIND THE FOUR MISSING
ASTRONAUTS -- TAYLOR, STEWART, LANDON &
BOUGE-- AND BY NOW, I KNEW THEY WEREN'T
ON AVEDON.**

**SO, IF THEY WERE HERE
AT ALL, THEY HAD TO BE
SOMEWHERE ON THE MAIN-
LAND-- AND I CERTAINLY
WOULDN'T FIND THEM IN
MY FANTASIES.**



**I DREW GANDALF TO HALT
(YEAH, I'D BEEN A TOLKIEN
BUG) AND LOOKED DOWN
UPON THE SITE OF MY
ARRIVAL...**



**THE RAFT WAS
STILL THERE, AS
I'D HOPED.**

**NOW I COULD USE
IT TO--**

**--LEAVE, LADY
ANDREA, THOUGH
IT GRIEVES ME
SORELY TO DEPRIVE
MY EYES OF THEE.**

**THERE'S NO
NEED FOR THE
FORMAL SPEECH
OF THE COURT,
DEREK-- NOT AT A
TIME LIKE THIS.**



**IN YOUR OWN
WORDS, TELL
ME WHY YOU
MUST LEAVE.
EVERYTHING
YOU NEED IS
RIGHT HERE.**

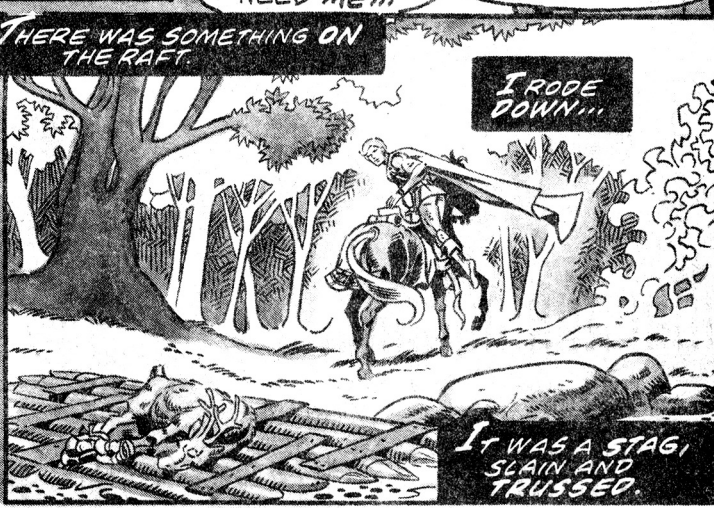
**TRUE, ANDREA--
BUT THERE ARE
OTHERS WHO MAY
NEED ME...**

**... AND I CAN'T
HIDE FROM THAT
FACT ANY LONGER**



**MY LAST
MEMORY OF
ANDREA-- OF
MY WIFE--
FADED...**

**... AND MY FINE
FINALLY REGISTERED
WHAT MY EYES HAD
ALREADY SEEN.**

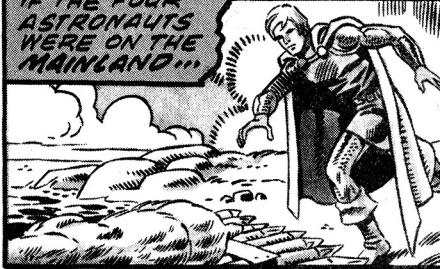


**THERE WAS SOMETHING ON
THE RAFT.**

**I RODE
DOWN...**

**IT WAS A STAG,
SLAIN AND
TRUSSED.**

AS AN ISLAND, AVEDON WAS ISOLATED. APES AND HUMANS LIVED IN PEACE. BUT ON THE MAINLAND, APES HUNTED AND KILLED HUMANS. SO, IF THE FOUR ASTRONAUTS WERE ON THE MAINLAND...



I COULDN'T LET A DEAD DEER STOP MY SEARCHING FOR THEM.



WHOOOPS!

MAYBE A DEAD STAG WOULDN'T STOP ME...

STOK! BUT AN ARROW...



THE STAG BELONGS TO ROBIN HOOD, VARLET--AND I AM ROBIN.

HE WAS ALSO A CHIMP-ANZEE.

NO DOUBT, FRIEND ROBIN...



"BUT I AM DEREK ZANE-- AND THE RAFT BELONGS TO ME.

NOT SO, MASTER DEREK-- YOU SEE I FOUND IT FIRST.

AH... BUT I BUILT IT FIRST.



I INTEND TO USE THE RAFT TO TRANSPORT ME TO THE MAINLAND. WHAT WERE YOUR INTENTIONS?



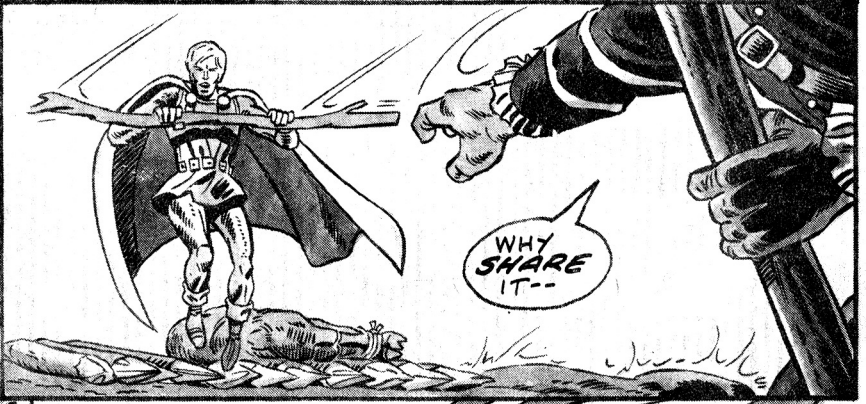
THE VERY SAME, MY FOPPISH KNIGHT OF THE ROUND TABLE.

THEN WHY DON'T WE SHARE THE RAFT, GOOD ROBIN--?



FAUGH!

WHY SHARE IT--

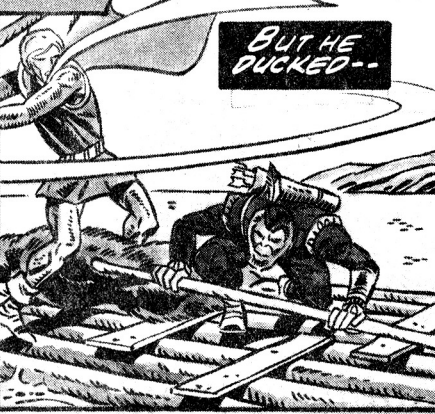


-- WHEN WE CAN FIGHT FOR IT?!



HE LUNGED AT ME, ONTO THE RAFT...

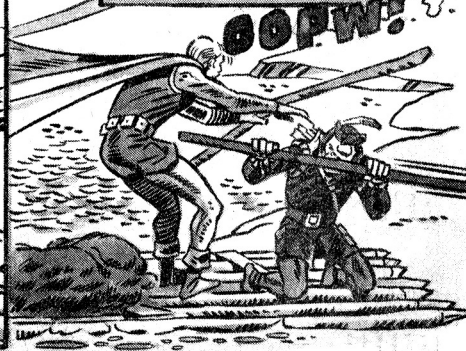
I SWUNG MY DRIFTWOOD STAFF, WANTING TO KNOCK THE RAKISH SMIRK RIGHT OFF HIS FACE.



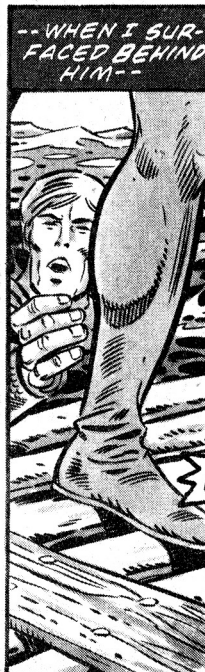
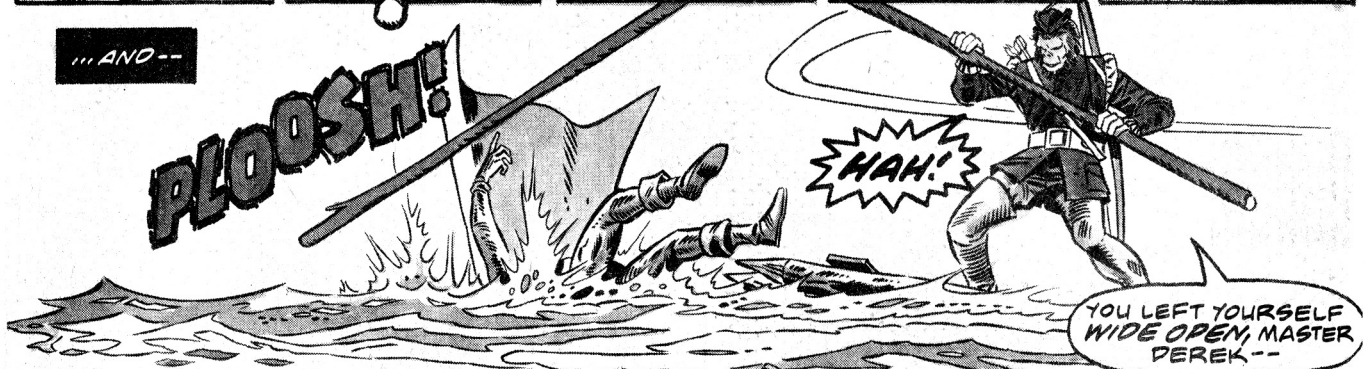
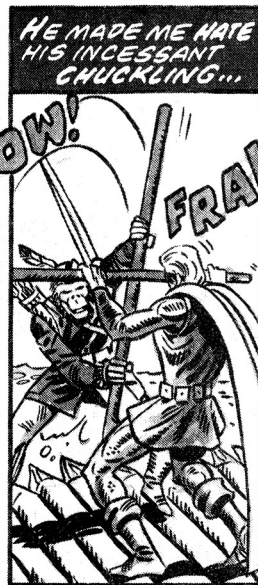
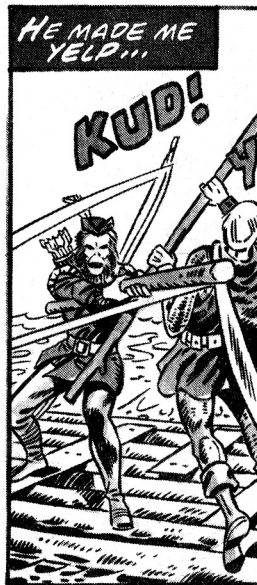
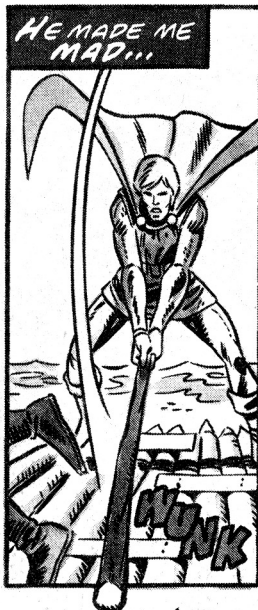
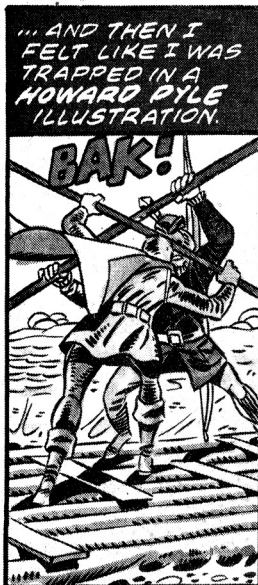
BUT HE DUCKED--

--AND VABBED ME RIGHT IN THE BREADBASKET.

IT HURT, BUT I MANAGED TO HOLD ONTO MY COOKIES, AT LEAST...



GOPW!



I USED THE REST OF THE JOURNEY TO DELIVER MY DITCH...

YOU SAY TALKING HUMANS ARE RARE ON THE MAINLAND?

EXTREMELY RARE.

I COULD TELL I WAS GETTING TO HIM...

SO IT SHOULD NOT BE DIFFICULT TO FIND FOUR TALKING HUMANS...

AND BY THE TIME WE CLAMBERED ASHORE...

WE HIT THE DUSTY PATH, GETTING THINGS STRAIGHT AS WE STROLLED...

VERY WELL, SIR DEREK-- I SHALL AID YOU IN YOUR QUEST.

--AND THEN YOU WILL--

CORRECT-- UNLESS THEY'VE MET WITH DEATH... OR WE MEET THE SAME...

BINGO... SLY DEVIL THAT I WAS.

YES, SIR DEREK! I SEE YOUR MEANING-- AND A GOOD PLAN IT IS.

BUT LOOK!

ROBIN'S EYES HAD BEEN HONED TO SPOT A BROWN STAG AGAINST TREE TRUNKS AT A THOUSAND YARDS.

IT SEEMS THE FIRST STAGE OF OUR PLAN IS APPROACHING.

... AND WAITED AS HE HAILED THE CHIMP RIDER.

WHAT HO, FELLOW APE, AND ALL THAT JOLLY ROT--!

HUH--?

WHY, YES-- THERE ARE RUMORS OF A SPEAKING ANIMAL. THEY SAY HE'S QUARTERED IN THE VIVESECTION LAB OF A CITY TO THE SOUTH...

HAST THOU HEARD NEWS OF ANY TALKING HUMANS IN THIS REGION?

BUT WHY DO YOU ASK? AND WHY ARE YOU ATTIRED SO STRANGELY...?



BECAUSE HE HASN'T HAD A CHANCE--

OH NO.



UH!NE!

I HIGH-DIVED FROM THE TREE LIMB--



--AND SLUGGED WHILE ROBIN CHEERED FROM THE SIDELINES.

TIS WORKING, SIR DEREK--

OUR PLAN IS WORKING!!

AND AFTER ROBIN HAD AVALIRED HIMSELF OF THE UNCONSCIOUS CHIMP'S CLOTHING...



JUST LET ME STUFF MY SHERWOOD GREENS INTO THIS SADDLEBAG--AND WE'LL SET TO WORK ON YOU.

WH-WHAT DO YOU MEAN...?

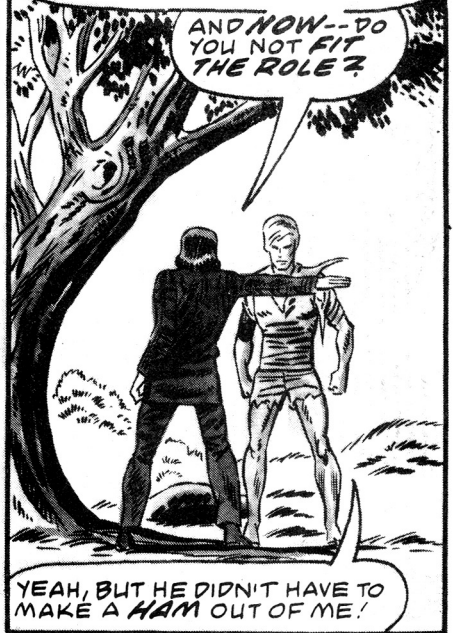
I MEAN, SIR DEREK, TIS TIME TO RID YOU OF THESE FOPPISH GARMENTS!



IF WE WANT THIS CHARADE TO BE CONVINCING, YOU CAN'T VERY WELL MARCH INTO THEIR CITY LOOKING LIKE A ROYAL KNIGHT OF KING ARTHUR'S COURT-- CAN YOU?

MAYBE NOT-- BUT YOU DON'T HAVE TO RIP THE STUFF OFF...!

AH, BUT YOU SAID THE HUMANS HERE ON THE MAINLAND DRESS THEMSELVES IN RAGS...



AND NOW-- DO YOU NOT FIT THE ROLE?

YEAH, BUT HE DIDN'T HAVE TO MAKE A HAM OUT OF ME!



COME ALONG, BEAST-- BUT HAVE A CARE NOT TO BRING YOUR VERMIN AND RABIES TOO CLOSE TO MY CIVILIZED SENSIBILITIES.

YOU DON'T MISS A TRICK, DO YOU?

NO, SIR DEREK...

... I DO NOT.

SPOKEN LIKE A TRUE ROGUE.

FROM RICHES TO RAGS IN TWENTY CENTURIES FLAT. MY MIND DIPPED INTO THE PAST AGAIN, FURTHER BACK THIS TIME-- TO THE ERA IN WHICH I WAS BORN...



...THE DREAMLESS TIME I DESPISED...

THEN THE MEETING AT NASA, WITH MR. HIGH AND MIGHTY KRINGSTIEN...

TIME MACHINES! HASSLEIN'S THEORIES OF DIMENSIONAL MATRICES AND INFINITE REGRESSION! DO YOU TAKE ME FOR AN IDIOT, MR. ZANE?



BUT I CAN FIND THE FOUR MISSING--

OUT--GET OUT!

THEN MY INITIATION TO THIS BRAVE NEW WORLD OF 3975...



BLAM

HUNTED-- LIKE AN ANIMAL-- BY GORDON AND HIS GORILLA THUGS.

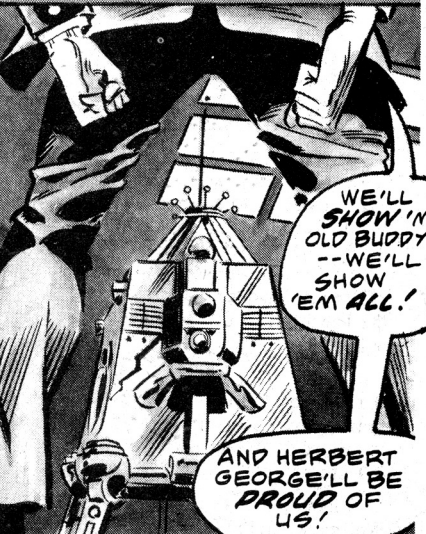
THERE WAS MY LAST MEETING WITH MICHELE, IN THE OUTDOOR CAFE...



--REALIZE NOW THAT YOU'LL NEVER BUCKLE DOWN, DEREK...

...NEVER LEAVE YOUR PERSONAL CLOUD NINE LONG ENOUGH TO COPE WITH REALITY...

THE LAST MOMENTS IN THE SLEAZY APARTMENT, WITH MY TIME MACHINE...



WE'LL SHOW 'M OLD BUDDY --WE'LL SHOW 'EM ALL!

AND HERBERT GEORGE'LL BE PROUD OF US!

THE FINAL MEMORY IS THE ONE WHICH SIZZLES THE MOST--THE ONE I'LL NEVER FORGET. GORDON BRUTALLY MURDERING A FELLOW APE, MERELY TO FURTHER HIS OWN POWER.



THEY WERE JUST LIKE US...

WE LIVE IN SEPARATE WORLDS, DEREK-- I NEED A MAN I CAN RESPECT, A MAN WITH A FUTURE. I NEED SECURITY, DEREK, AND THAT'S WHY WE MUST...



... SAY GOODBYE.

YEAH, MISH... GUESS YOU'RE RIGHT.



THEN THE TRIP ITSELF--HORRIFYING, AND YET THE ONLY SALVATION...

THE ONLY WAY TO SAVE TAYLOR AND THE OTHERS--AS WELL AS MY OWN SANITY.

...JUST LIKE THE PEOPLE OF THE COLD, HEARTLESS WORLD I'D LEFT BEHIND. EXCEPT THEY WERE STRONGER, AND PERHAPS EVEN MORE BRUTAL.



AND NOW, I WAS LETTING MYSELF BE DRAGGED RIGHT INTO THEIR MIDST--ALL TO HELP FOUR STRANGERS FROM THE TIME WHICH ABUSED AND REJECTED ME.

continued next week!!



APES FORUM

Dear Stan,

I get five mags a week, POTA, Dracula Lives, Avengers and The Titans, favourite of which is POTA, because of the excellent stories of the film adaptations. After reading Mark Farrel's letter in POTA 68 I completely agree with him. Please, please give the apes more space, they deserve it. 10 pages out of 36 is just not good enough.

Rajko Smiljanic, RFO,KOF,FOOMER.
33 Speedwell Road, Edgbaston, B'ham.

Pax! Yep — we've heard your voice and we've heard the voice of Marveldom assembled on the subject. So we're working right now on a formula that could solve the problem and bring contentment to Apes love everywhere.

Dear Stan,

Take one of Marvel's best writers, team him with the most brilliant artist of all, feature the result in a great mag, and what have you got?

In case you don't know, I'm referring to 'City of Nomads', which I consider to be Marvel's greatest story. The art was incredible (although it did start to deteriorate in issue 48) although the covers gave a false impression of the content. I don't know how Doug dreamed up such an excellent story. And Tom Sutton's art was unbelievable.

I can't say I think much of your latest Mar-vell stories, because Gil Kane's art is atrocious. Perhaps he needs a stronger inker, like Tom Sutton. Here's a round-up of Titans.

INHUMANS: Gone . . . but Neal Adams' work will never be forgotten.

X-MEN: Excellent scripts by Roy, although John Taitogliones' inks are not too good.

CAP AMERICA: Nothing special, although I did enjoy the first five or six stories which Kirby and Stone drew.

SHIELD: I liked John Serverin's 'John Wayne' portrayal of Nick Fury . . . but more could be done with this strip storywise.

NAMOR: He bores me, and is the only Marvel strip I haven't bothered to read.

CAP MARVEL: Can't wait for Starlin/Milgrom's version, so I'll have to tolerate Gil Kane for a while.

Oh, and here are a few 'awards'.

BEST WRITER: Doug Moench and Gerry Conway.

BEST ARTISTS: Tom Sutton and Jim Mooney.

BEST STORIES: 'City of Nomads' and 'Doom on Kathulos'.

Paul Donnachie, QNS.
Blair House, Edderton, By Tain,
Ross-shire, Scotland.

Well . . . a few pats on the back, a few kicks where it hurts . . . all in all, what could well be described as a typical Paul Donnachie message.

Dear Mr. Lee and the Bullpen,

This is my first letter, even though I've been a faithful Marvelite for six years. I am 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? 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 of The Galaxy", "Deathlok" or "Killraven"?

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.

We can't disguise the fact that we're saddened by those black marks you awarded to The Black Panther. But yours is a fair opinion, fairly expressed, and, as such, will receive full Bullpen consideration. But here's some good news for you. "Savage Tales"

material WILL be heading for Britain's sand and shingled shores!

People,

The long-awaited continuation of "Terror On The Planet of The Apes" (12-19, 75-?) is warmly welcomed. The first part of the saga, which appeared just over a year ago, is all but forgotten. In fact, I was little impressed by the previous epics, which, tho' drawn by Mike Ploog, parried a variety of delineators—which wasn't helped any by some of the most dreadful reproduction ever. Which put POTA at the bottom of my favourite comics list.

However, Ploog's seductive style and charcoaled embellishment of "Malaguena Beyond a Zone Forbidden" rates, in my eyes, as some of the most beauteous art ever to grace the pages of a British or American comic. The lack of colour, both here and on the original, enhances so much as to prove beyond doubt that B & W is beautiful.

With the proclaimed confrontation with The Inheritors next issue, I fear we'll learn the secrets of the mutant drones — the 'living machines', as Jason called them, and also of the Gestalt Commanders, who intrigue me no end, but whom I'd prefer to be left shrouded in their present veil of mystery. Tho' I suspect Doug'll show them to be alien invaders, rather than terra-originated mutations. Leastways, that's what their moniker, 'The Planet Inheritors', implies.

Mike Griggs, PMM,FFF.
2 Grays Fm. House, Marshside,
Nr. Chislet, Nr. Canterbury, Kent.

We're obliged to you, Mike, for confirming a few guide-lines for us. We'll get POTA to the top of your 'favourite comics list' yet!

apes forum

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

Another message from the Apes fan club

DECODE THIS MESSAGE AND SEND YOUR ANSWER TO: APES FAN CLUB, DEPT. 3J 140 PICCADILLY, LONDON W.1. INCLUDE YOUR MEMBERSHIP NUMBER... THERE'S A PRIZE FOR THE FIRST CORRECT ANSWER OPENED!

Code J

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