

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

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PLANET OF THE APES AND DRACULA LIVES

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IT'S ALL-OUT WAR WHEN
SIMIAN BATTLES MUTANT--
BENEATH THE PLANET
OF THE APES!



ALSO:
MORE FAR-OUT
FANTASY WITH...
CONAN!
MAN-THING!
KA-ZAR!

BATTLE FOR THE PLANET OF THE APES

PART
III

THIS WAS ONCE A THRIVING CITY... A BUSTLING METROPOLIS... A HECTIC TESTAMENT TO THE PROGRESS OF HUMAN CIVILIZATION... A CENTRE OF BUSINESS, COMMERCE, ENTERTAINMENT, AND CRIME... A WAY OF LIFE FOR MILLIONS...

BUT CALL IT WHAT YOU WILL. NO ONE WILL HEAR YOU NOW, FOR IT IS OVER.

THE TOWERING SKYSCRAPERS MELTED ONE DAY, FLOWED DOWNWARD FROM THEIR TV TRANSMITTER SPIRES, AND THERE FUSED WITH THE BUBBLING MIRE OF STREETS TURNED TO LAVA. THAT DAY WAS DOOMSDAY, HUMANITY'S GREAT ARMAGEDDON... WHEN ALL THE LARGE CITIES OF THE EARTH WERE BLASTED IN A SINGLE INSTANT OF IMPOSSIBLY HELLISH WHITE HEAT BURSTING FROM THE HEART OF NUCLEAR HOLOCAUST.

THE QUAGMIRE OF LIQUID STEEL AND CONCRETE AND GLASS AND PLASTIC HAS LONG SINCE COOLED, HOWEVER, AND NOW THE CITY RESEMBLES NOTHING SO MUCH AS A GLACIER OF DEVASTATION... SHEATHED IN A GREEN GLOW OF LINGERING RADIATION.

THUS, THE CIVILIZATION OF MAN IS SHATTERED... AND THOSE HUMANS WHO SURVIVE ARE FACED WITH A NEW CIVILIZATION ON THE RISE. IT IS A CIVILIZATION, INCREDIBLY, OF APES.

AND YET, IS THE MELTED CITY COMPLETELY DESERTED? IS IT NOT POSSIBLE THAT SOME SURVIVED THE MULTI-MEGATON PAY OF DOOM... SOME WHO HAVE BEEN CHANGED BY THE ADVENT OF RADIATION AND INTELLIGENT APES... BUT WHO DESPERATELY CLING TO THE OLD WAYS WHICH CAUSED THEIR CHANGE...?

YES, IT IS POSSIBLE, AND THEY LIVE HERE, DEEP WITHIN THE TWISTING LABYRINTHES OF THE MELTED CITY... IF THEIR EXISTENCE MAY BE CALLED LIFE.

PART III

A TASTE OF MUTANT HATE

THIS WAS ONCE THE **COMMAND POST** OF THE CITY'S GOVERNOR, NAMED **BRECK**. NOW IT IS PERHAPS THE ONLY STRUCTURE WHICH HAS SURVIVED THE **BOMB**... AND IT IS **STILL** GOVERNED BY THE MAN NAMED **BRECK**...

...THOUGH FEW WOULD **RECOGNIZE** HIM, LURKING DEEP WITHIN HIS SUBTERRANEAN BASTION OF **ALTERED HUMANITY**...

...A BASTION WHICH HAS BEEN **INVADED** BY THREE FROM THE **NEW WAY** OF LIFE...

COME ON, CAESAR--WE'VE GOT TO GET OUT OF HERE! IF WE SUBJECT OURSELVES TO THE RADIATION MUCH LONGER--

WAIT A MINUTE, MACDONALD...

DO YOU SMELL IT, VIRGIL...?

YES... BUT IT'S NOT THE SAME...

HUMAN... BUT NOT LIKE MACDONALD...

I DON'T KNOW WHAT'S HOLDING YOU TWO UP, BUT IF YOU WON'T LISTEN TO REASON AND COME WITH ME, THEN YOU'LL JUST HAVE TO FIND YOUR OWN WAY OUT--

MACDONALD, WAIT--!

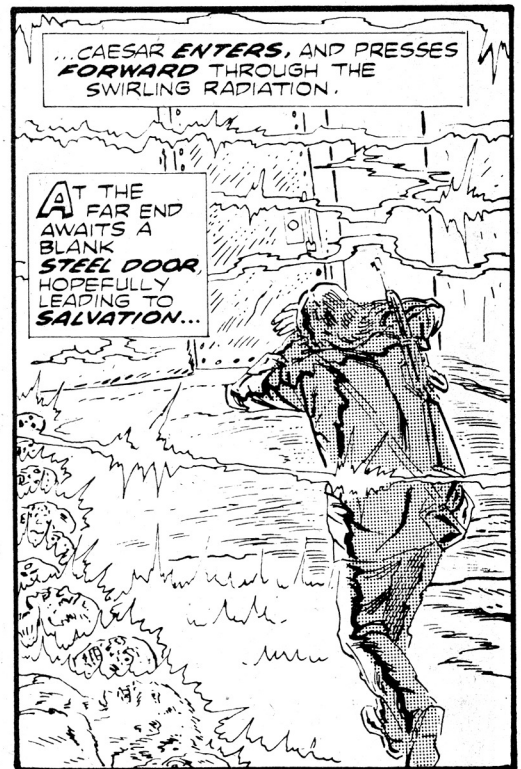
THERE MAY BE DANGER--!

YOU'RE DAMN RIGHT THERE MAY BE DANGER...

AND I'M WALKING AWAY FROM IT JUST AS FAST AS I CAN!



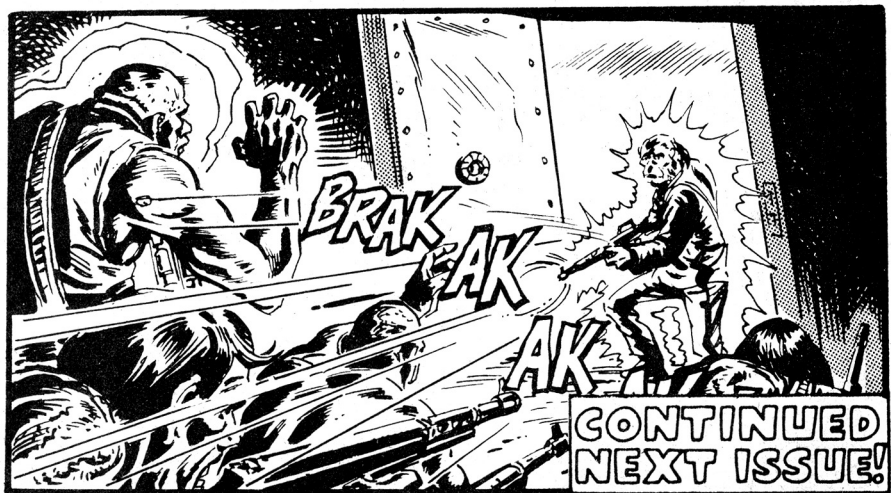












STAN LEE PRESENTS PLANET OF THE APES!

ENSLAVED!

STILL UNABLE TO ACCEPT THE REALITY OF A WORLD IN WHICH **BEASTS** RULE OVER **MAN**, THE ASTRONAUT **BRENT** HAS PLACED HIMSELF UNDER THE DUBIOUS LEADERSHIP OF A **PRIMITIVE FEMALE**...

FOR SOME REASON, SHE HAS LED HIM TO THIS **ADOBEMOUND VILLAGE**... AND NOW, ALTHOUGH SHE IS **INCAPABLE OF SPEECH**, SHE PROVES FULLY AWARE OF **BRENT'S CAPABILITIES**--

--BY URGENTLY, ATTEMPTING TO **STIFLE HIS VOICE**... FOR SHE HAS **LEARNED** THAT ON A **PLANET OF APES**--

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--THE SLIGHTEST SOUND FROM A **HUMAN**--

KRATCH

-- MEANS INSTANT **DEATH**.

HALT--

--OR I'LL SHOOT TO KILL!!

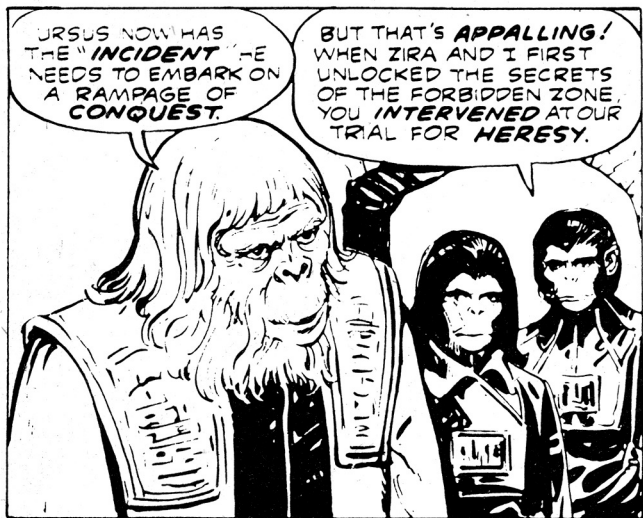


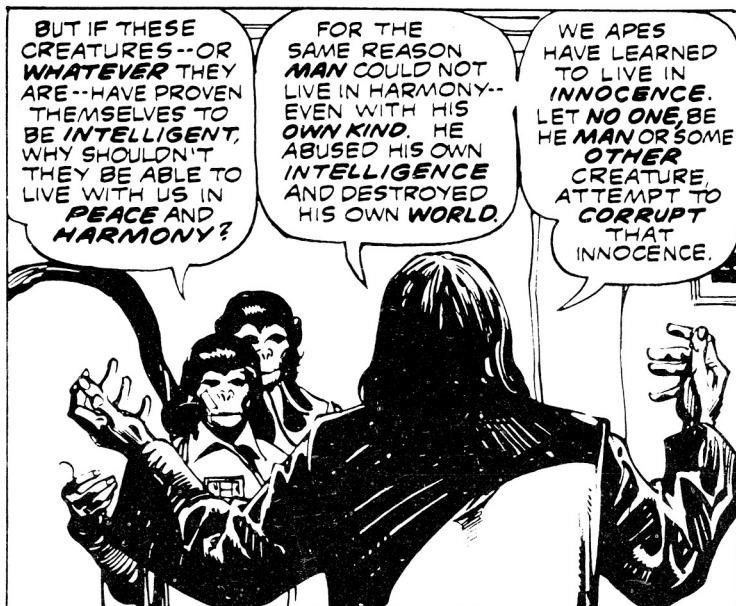












BUT IF THESE CREATURES--OR **WHATEVER** THEY ARE--HAVE PROVEN THEMSELVES TO BE **INTELLIGENT**, WHY SHOULDN'T THEY BE ABLE TO LIVE WITH US IN **PEACE AND HARMONY**?

FOR THE SAME REASON **MAN** COULD NOT LIVE IN HARMONY--EVEN WITH HIS **OWN KIND**. HE ABUSED HIS OWN **INTELLIGENCE** AND DESTROYED HIS OWN **WORLD**.

WE APES HAVE LEARNED TO LIVE IN **INNOCENCE**. LET **NO ONE**, BE HE **MAN** OR SOME **OTHER** CREATURE, ATTEMPT TO **CORRUPT** THAT **INNOCENCE**.



WHY ARE YOU **FROWNING**? IS **INNOCENCE** SO **EVIL**--?

IGNORANCE IS.

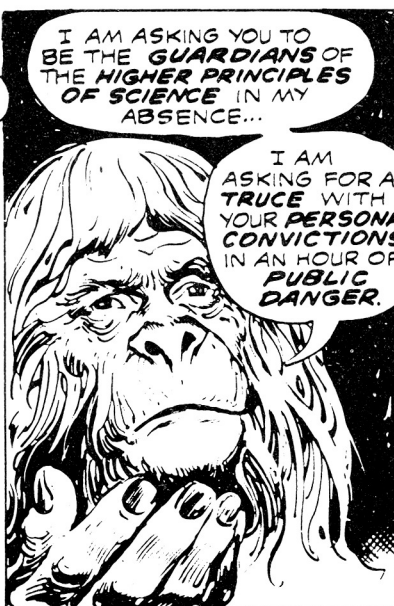
THERE IS A **TIME** FOR **TRUTH**.



AND THE **TIME** IS ALWAYS **NOW**.

BAH!

ARE YOU ASKING ME TO **SURRENDER** MY **PRINCIPLES**?



I AM ASKING YOU TO BE THE **GUARDIANS** OF THE **HIGHER PRINCIPLES** OF **SCIENCE** IN MY **ABSENCE**...

I AM ASKING FOR A **TRUCE** WITH YOUR **PERSONAL CONVICTIONS** IN AN HOUR OF **PUBLIC DANGER**.



AND YOU SHALL **HAVE IT**, OR **ZAIUS**--I **ASSURE** YOU. OR I...I SHALL **HIT HER AGAIN**.

THANK YOU, **CORNELIUS**. BUT LET'S **HAVE NO VIOLENCE**, SHALL WE...



NOW I'M **RELYING** ON YOU **BOTH**...

AND WE'RE **RELYING** ON YOU, TOO, **DOCTOR**.



IF I SHOULD FAIL TO RETURN FROM THE **UNKNOWN**, THE WHOLE **FUTURE** OF OUR **CIVILIZATION** WILL BE YOURS TO **PRESERVE**...OR **DESTROY**.

SO THINK **WELL** BEFORE YOU **ACT**.



GOOD-BYE, **DOCTOR**...AND **GOOD LUCK**.

CONTINUED NEXT ISSUE!