



**MARVEL
COMICS
GROUP**

NO. 234
WEEK ENDING
MAR. 23, 1977

THE MIGHTY WORLD OF
MARVEL™

9P

FEATURING

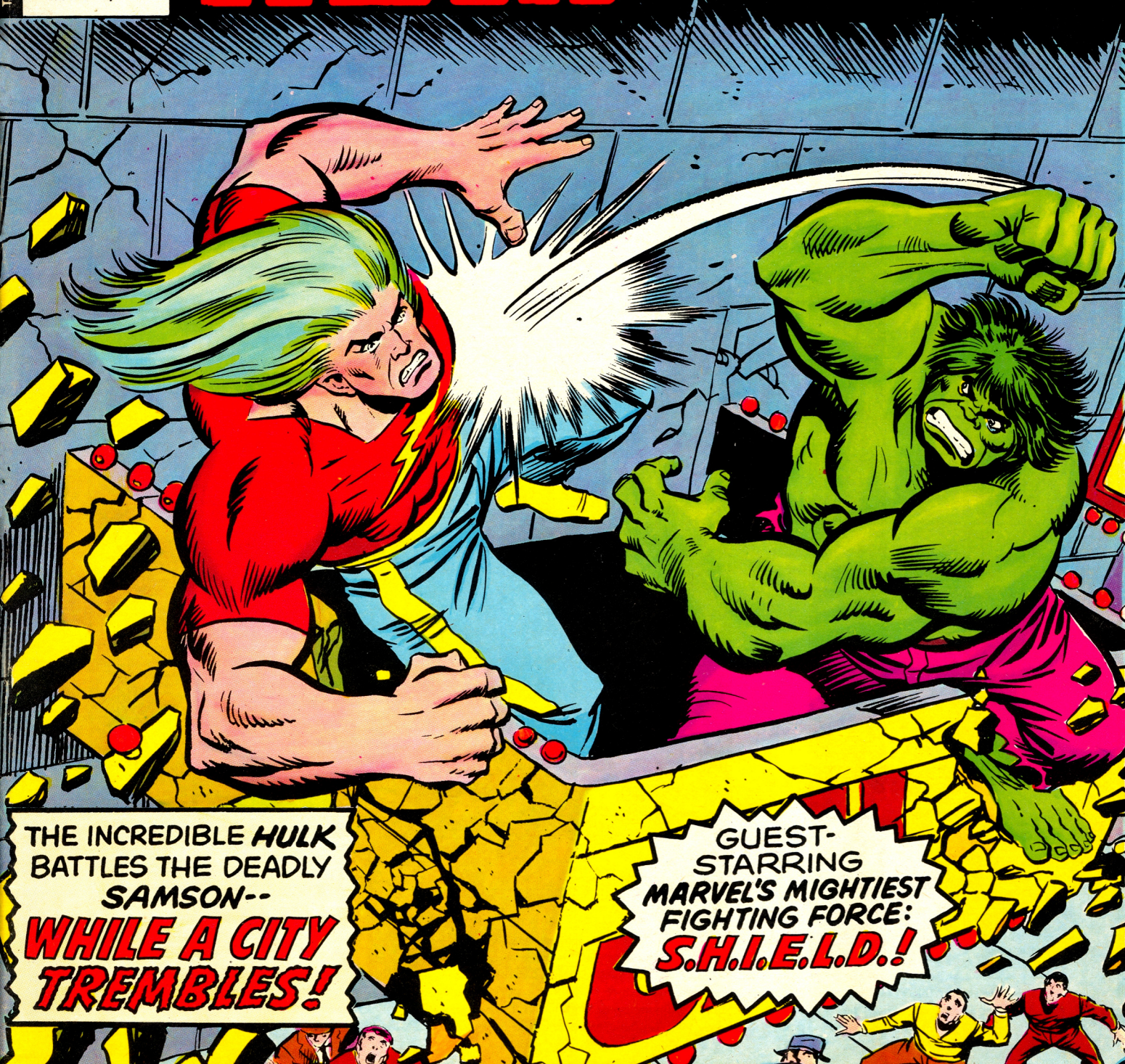
THE INCREDIBLE

HULK

AND

**PLANET
OF THE
APES**™

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



THE INCREDIBLE **HULK**
BATTLES THE DEADLY
SAMSON--
**WHILE A CITY
TREMBLES!**

GUEST-
STARRING
MARVEL'S MIGHTIEST
FIGHTING FORCE:
S.H.I.E.L.D.!

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

AN ENDING... A BEGINNING!

THE SECRET IS OUT--AN APE HAS KILLED ANOTHER APE! YES, THE GORILLA ALDO HAS DONE WHAT NO OTHER SIMIAN HAS EVER DONE BEFORE--KILLED ONE OF HIS OWN KIND!



DOUG MOENCH--WRITER
VIRGIL REDONDO--ARTIST
ARCHIE GOODWIN--EDITOR

THE REACTION TO THIS KNOWLEDGE, BY BOTH HIS FELLOW APES AND THE CAPTIVE HUMANS, IS MOST ACCUSING--AND NO LESS HOSTILE!



THERE IS GOOD CAUSE FOR THE SADNESS WHICH COVERS MACDONALD'S FACE LIKE A BLEAK MASK. THOUGH HE WAS THE ONE WHO DISCOVERED THE SWORD-CUT BRANCH, LYING NEAR CORNELIUS' BROKEN BODY, HE CAN TAKE NO PLEASURE FROM THE LOSS OF INNOCENCE THAT BRANCH HAS CAUSED...

WHAT'S THE MATTER WITH THEM? WHAT'S IT ALL ABOUT--?

I GUESS YOU COULD SAY...



...THEY'VE JUST JOINED THE HUMAN RACE...

AND, SADLY, MACDONALD MOVES HIS HEAD SLOWLY FROM SIDE TO SIDE.



CAESAR'S LIPS SLIDE BACK OVER STRONG, SHARP TEETH. THE FULL IMPACT OF VIRGIL'S WORDS, SPOKEN A BRIEF ETERNITY AGO, HAS FINALLY HIT HIM...

YOU... YOU...



HE STALKS TOWARD ALDO, HIS GAIT NO LONGER ERECT, HIS SPEECH SLURRED AND LACED WITH A GUTTERAL, ANIMAL-LIKE SNARL...

YOU MURDERED MY SON, ALDO...

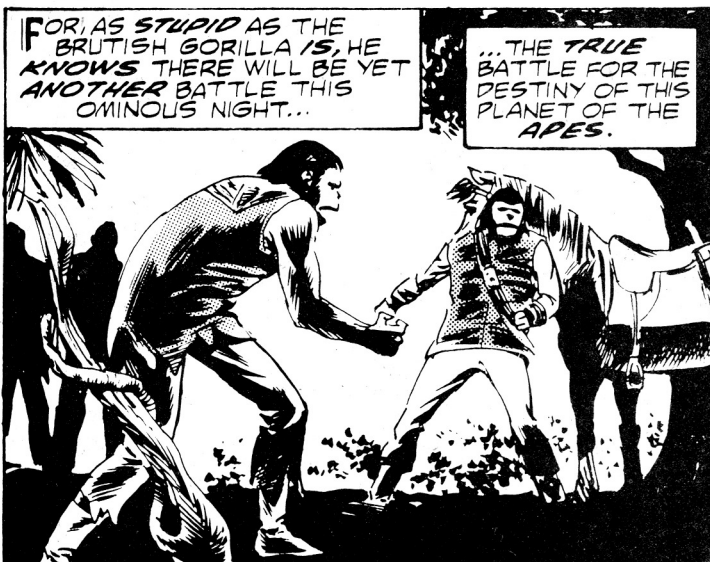
YOU KILLED CORNELIUS...



YOU'RE NOT AN APE, ALDO-- YOU'RE NOTHING BUT FILTH.

AND YOU'LL PAY FOR WHAT YOU'VE DONE...!

NO LONGER THE FEARSOME LEADER OF AN ELITE, SAVAGE CORPS OF MIGHTY GORILLAS--BUT RATHER A FRIGHTENED ANIMAL AT BAY-- ALDO BACKS AWAY FROM CAESAR'S RELENTLESS ADVANCE...



FOR, AS STUPID AS THE BRUTISH GORILLA IS, HE KNOWS THERE WILL BE YET ANOTHER BATTLE THIS OMINOUS NIGHT...

...THE TRUE BATTLE FOR THE DESTINY OF THIS PLANET OF THE APES.



AND ALDO KNOWS HE MUST WIN THIS BATTLE--

--USING WHATEVER MEANS HE CAN.





HERE, CAESAR---!!



FLANK!!



ALDO HESITATES NOW, THE STING OF THE CHAIN STILL SHUDDERING UP HIS ARM...

COME ON, ALDO-- YOU KILLED MY SON...

SEE IF YOU CAN KILL ME!

BUT STILL THE GORILLA HESITATES. THE STRENGTH FED TO HIM BY THE SWORD HAS NOW BEEN EQUALLED BY CAESAR'S CHAIN...



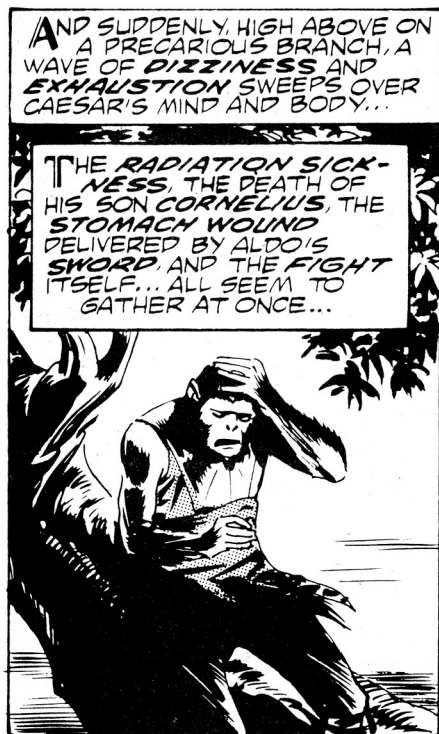
AND THUS ALDO'S ARTIFICIAL STRENGTH HAS ALSO BEEN NULLIFIED.

HE FLEES, SEEKING REFUGE IN A NEARBY COPSE OF SHADOW-SHROUDED TREES...

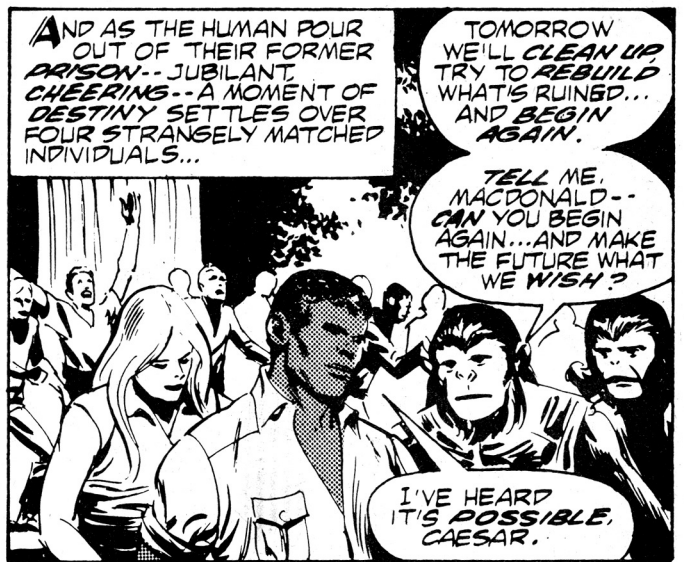
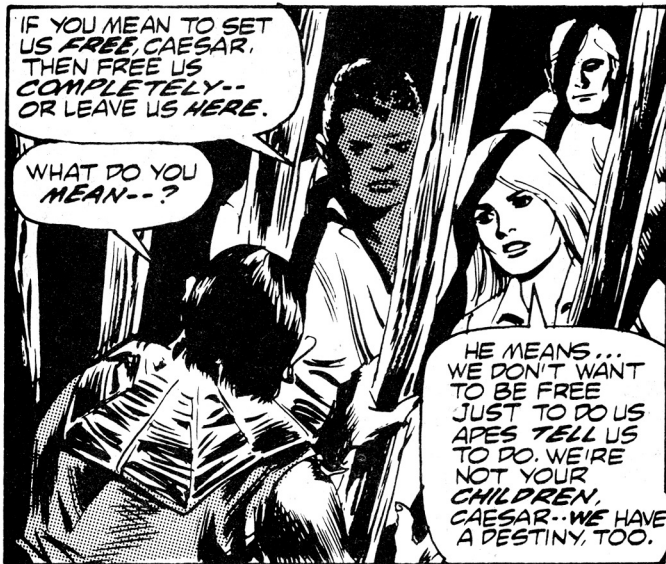
















HAIL HOWARD!

Dear Bullpen,

I thought I'd drop a line about this, your twelfth and latest treasury edition—Howard the Duck. As you might remember, about five months ago I wrote complaining of the decline in quality of your treasures. Now, though I by no means retract all I said, I must admit that this was one heck of a magazine. For a mere 50p we got 48½ pages of riotous reprints, 31½ pages of amusing new material and two very nicely-drawn covers.

First, the story "The Duck and the Defenders" wasn't bad, although Steve's satirical style seemed slightly under par, as did Sal's art. I would have preferred Colan or Brunner, but it was an enjoyable strip nonetheless—five such fearful felons ne'er didst tread this earth. Overall Steve's style seemed different, I felt there was something missing—a Howard story is usually a harsh satire, this seemed more like R.T.'s early 'flippant' story/style.

This reprints, though I've read them before, were the highlight of the magazine—I doubt that H.T.D. will ever again equal (story or art-wise) "Frog Death" or "Hell Cow". But I suppose their reprinting may have seemed a bit premature to some people—you should allow more time before reprinting stories. The text features were mildly amusing, but no more. On the whole it was a magazine well worth buying. Keep it up.

Martin Tudor,
845 Alum Rock Road, Ward End,
B'ham.

"Well worth buying. Keep it up." Sheeeesh! Sounds like a half-term report. But no offence taken, Martin. And all that praise you heaped upon H.T.D., well, it couldn't have happened to a nicer duck.

MARVEL MAILBAG

MARVEL COMICS, TUBS HILL HOUSE,
SEVENOAKS, KENT

A SHADY PAST . . ?

Dear Stan,

The Hulk stories are great, and so's the art, although it has been too shady in the past. Conan is always good in both art and story, but Daredevil is constantly much too shady and black, so please change this. Powerman is good so far, keep up the good work.

Jonathan Huby,
10 Baldwin Cresc.,
Camberwell, London, SE5.

What a none of contention, for such a long, long time, the question of shading has been. Artmen insert it to give balance to a picture, but, like so much of all that appertains to art, there's a lot of room for personal taste on the subject. We try, we really try, to please most of you — but we're resigned to the fact that when it comes to shading, we never shall!

WRITA BETTA LETTA

Dear Mr. Lee,

I enjoy your comics very much, but I have one complaint. The Letters page is one of the most enjoyable parts of

the comic but it is spoilt by such letters as "I think Captain America is great, but I don't like The Vision." These kind of letters are of no real use, in my opinion. Now, I'm not saying to cut them out altogether, just minimise them.

Recently the re-entry of Gwen into Spidey's life has begun a new era in Peter's being. The comeback of the Green Goblin may present further problems. Although he is presently in an asylum, you never know with ol' Gobbie. The best story of recent times, I think, has been Tarantula. Ross Andru is to be congratulated on his work on The Jackal. I have a sneaky suspicion he's Harry Osborn, but somehow I think I'm wrong.

POTA is as good as ever—Quest is a brilliant piece of writing. My last comment is this. Lately there has been a lot of criticism about Jack Kirby's art, and, frankly, I quite agree. Maybe at one time he was the greatest, but now his drawing is square and un-lifelike. I know I will get a lot of criticism if this is printed, but I just had to say what I think.

Derry O'Flynn,
Killarney Rd., Millstreet, Co. Cork,
Eire.

Derry—it's one of the inescapable facts of life that no-one is going to approve of every letter we publish. If you enjoy MOST of 'em then count yourself as one of life's lucky ones, 'cos you're on the winning side.

