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PLANES OF THE APES

25c

PLANET OF THE APES™



Will Pete and
Alan finally
make it home
with Galen?

PLANET OF THE APES

RETURN TO YESTERDAY

PART
1

"We were friends! No, more than that - Pete Burke and Alan Virdon were my brothers, kin in the life of danger and excitement that we led! But it couldn't last forever... This then is the tale of our last adventure together! It's a tale I never wanted to tell, and one I nearly never lived to..."

AL, AL!
TAKE IT
EASY!

LET GALEN
AND I HELP
YOU!

YES, ALAN!
LOOK, YOU'RE
BLOODYING
YOUR
HANDS!

UGHH!
YOU WANT
THIS FIELD
PLOUGHED
DON'T YOU?

PUFF!

WELL, YOU
CAN'T WITH
THIS DAMNED
ROCK IN
THE WAY!

PANT!

SO JUST
LEAVE ME
ALONE AND
LET ME
SHIFT IT,
OKAY?!

"Yes, we were farmers now, and had been for half a decade! It was hard work, and for Pete and I fulfilling, but it wasn't enough for Alan..."



"I'd never seen Alan so angry, or Pete..."

"I didn't even understand the insult, but I knew what he meant when he turned his back on us and stormed off!"



"We turned and followed Alan back to the house!"



"Later, we all sat round the fire,
and tried to reason things out..."



YOU KNOW ALAN,
I HAD A LIFE
BEFORE THIS TOO—
FRIENDS...FAMILY...
I MIGHT NEVER
SEE THEM AGAIN
EITHER!

IF YOU THINK
BY CALLING ME
NAMES—

I'M SORRY
GALEN! I
DIDN'T
MEAN TO!

I JUST FEEL SO...
LOST! I'M LIKE A
GHOST, HAUNTING
THIS PLACE! MY LIFE...
IS SOMEWHERE ELSE,
WITH MY WIFE... MY
SON! I MISS THEM SO
MUCH... I MISS
MY WORLD!



HEY PAL, IT'S
MY WORLD TOO
YOU KNOW, AND
I MISS IT
JUST AS
MUCH AS
YOU!

I MEAN,
THERE
WERE STILL
A FEW GIRLS
I HADN'T
DATED...



"I was glad to see Alan smile for
the first time in days!"



A FEW!
I THINK
I COULD
COUNT
THEM ON
ONE
HAND!

THERE'S MRS. PHELPS,
OUR HIGH SCHOOL
ENGLISH TEACHER,
DORIS IN THE A.N.S.A.
CANTEEN...

...MY MOTHER...

NO, NO! I
TOOK YOUR
MOTHER OUT,
HAD A GREAT
TIME—REAL
GOOD KISSER!

YOU...YOU
DIDN'T REALLY
KISS HIS
MOTHER? OH,
HOW COULD
YOU?!!

HA, HA
HA!

HELLO
IN
THERE!



"We all ran out happily to see who'd come calling..."



HELLO,
NEIGHBOURS!

HOW'S THE
FARMING
BUSINESS?

SALO!
YOU'RE
BACK!

HOW ARE
THINGS IN
APE CITY?

DON'T
ASK!

JUST LET ME
SAY THAT I'VE
NEVER BEEN SO
GLAD TO LEAVE
A PLACE IN
MY LIFE!



"We all wondered what Salo meant, but we knew he would tell us in his own time..."

"Pete was happier than any of us to see Salo, or rather his companion..."



"Teorema didn't answer, and even Salo seemed reluctant to speak..."



"Alan pressed the point..."



"We all knew Salo was hiding something, but we let it go for now..."

ALAN SEEMS VERY AGGRESSIVE TONIGHT, GALEN...

I'M WARY OF SAYING TOO MUCH TO HIM!



I took Alan into the kitchen with me and we prepared a sumptuous meal of vegetables, roots and spices! Then, when we'd finished eating...



SALO, TELL US MORE ABOUT THESE COLONIES THAT THE HUMANS ARE ESTABLISHING!

WELL, I... I... CAN'T BEGIN TO—

THAT IS—

IT'S OKAY SALO—TEOREMA TOLD ME!

THEY AREN'T COLONIES, AL— THEY'RE CAMPS, CONCENTRATION CAMPS!

IT'S NAZI GERMANY ALL OVER AGAIN!

NAZI GERMANY?

YEAH, GALEN—A THOUSAND-YEAR-OLD ECHO FROM HELL!

THERE YOU WERE ROUNDED UP IF THEY DIDN'T LIKE YOUR RELIGION, OR YOUR LIFESTYLE, OR IF YOU WERE DISABLED...

...THEY MURDERED MILLIONS...

YES, YES! IT'S ABSOLUTELY TRUE! EVER SINCE URKO BECAME GENERAL, IT'S BEEN OPEN SEASON ON HUMANS!

URKO?! BUT I THOUGHT HE WAS IN CENTRAL CITY!

NOW THEY'RE DOING IT BY SPECIES, RIGHT?

LUCKILY, HIS POISON HASN'T SPREAD TO OUR MORE REMOTE VILLAGES...

...BUT IN ALL HONESTY, I THINK IT'S JUST A MATTER OF TIME...

"NOT ANY MORE! AFTER HIS TRIUMPH OVER JEMAN'S REBELS, AND WITH NO ZAIUS TO OPPOSE IT THE HIGH COUNCIL MADE HIM HEAD OF ALL THE APE ARMIES! URKO'S FIRST ACT AS GENERAL WAS TO DECLARE WAR ON ALL HUMANS... AND THE BLOOD HASN'T STOPPED FLOWING SINCE!"



"IT WOULD MAKE THE LAWGIVER WEEP!"

WAIT! DO YOU GUYS HEAR SOMETHING MOVING OUT THERE?



"We ran outside, terrified we'd be confronted by hordes of charging gorillas!"



"There was no answer, just snorting and grunting!"



"No one knew what to do! Should we chase it, or...?"



"Salo lifted the gun to his shoulder, aimed and..."



"Everyone froze for the field, anxious to see what Salo had bagged..."



"When we saw Alon stop short, we knew something was terribly, terribly wrong..."



"She was young, eighteen or twenty maybe! She wasn't dressed like other humans, rather she wore an animal skin slung loosely around her body! She was dirty and unkempt, and covered in blood from the bullet hole in her belly..."



"It was Salo who finally spoke..."

THERE'S MORE AND MORE LIKE THAT EVERY DAY!

WHERE... WHERE DID SHE COME FROM?



THE FORBIDDEN ZONE, I'D SAY! THERE ARE HERDSES OF THEM AROUND THERE!

SHE WAS PROBABLY SPOOKED BY THAT SHOOTING STAR THAT CAME DOWN THERE THE OTHER NIGHT!



A SHOOTING STAR?!

OH, YES! SCARED QUITE A FEW OF THE APES IN THE CITY TOO!

THOUGHT IT WAS THE END OF THE WORLD AND ALL THAT ROT!



"Alan and Pete went very quiet then..."

BUT SHE'S NOT LIKE A NORMAL HUMAN, SHE'S LIKE A... A...

AN ANIMAL! YES, NOW THAT URKO'S HOUNDED THEM FROM THE CITIES THEY'VE HAD TO BECOME LIKE BEASTS TO SURVIVE!



BUT WHY DIDN'T SHE ANSWER WHEN ALAN CALLED?

MAYBE SHE COULDN'T-SOME OF THEM ARE LIKE THAT!

MAYBE SHE JUST THOUGHT HE WAS A GORILLA!



"I don't know why, but Alan took that very hard..."

AL!



"Our evening ended then! Solo went home, and Pete and I followed Alan into the house..."



ALAN!
WHAT
ARE YOU
DOING?

I'M GETTING
OUT OF THIS
MADHOUSE-
FOR GOOD!

WHERE
WILL
YOU GO,
HUH?
COME
ON!

I DON'T
KNOW-THE
FORBIDDEN
ZONE-
ANYWHERE!



THE
FORBIDDEN
ZONE?!
WHAT YOU
THINK THAT
SHOOTING
STAR
MIGHT'VE
BEEN A-

YOU
THOUGHT IT
TOO, PETE!
WHATEVER
IT IS, IT'S
THE BEST
LEAD WE'VE
HAD IN
AGES!



"Pete and Alan were shouting at each other - it was horrible..."

"As they argued, I saw Alan reach for something on the shelf..."



LEAD?! LEAD TO
WHAT?! A WORLD
THAT DOESN'T
EXIST ANYMORE,
OR PEOPLE WHO
GAVE US UP FOR
DEAD YEARS AGO?!

NO, A LEAD BACK
TO A PLACE WHERE
HUMANS CAN BE
FREE, WHERE WE
AREN'T SHOT DEAD
IN FIELDS, LIKE
VERMIN! IT'S A
LEAD HOME!



THIS IS HOME
AL! WHERE WE'VE
LIVED FOR
ELEVEN YEARS,
AND MADE
FRIENDS, GOOD
FRIENDS!

UH, UH,
NOT FRIENDS-
MASTERS!

AND NOT A
HOME, BUT A
CORNER TO
HIDE IN!



WELL, I'M
NOT HIDING
ANY MORE!

"We watched him walk out the door, and we looked at each other, trying desperately to think of something to do..."



"...But in the end, there was only one thing we could do..."



END OF PART ONE

"If we thought Alan had been restless, we could be thankful he wasn't as volatile as the dissatisfied Gorilla who brooded in Ape City..."

I'M
BORED!

BORED,
BORED,
BORED,
BORED,
BORED!

I'M
FINALLY
IN A
POSITION
WORTHY
OF ME,
AND I'VE
DAMN ALL
TO DO!

RETURN TO YESTERDAY PART 2

OH, EXCEPT
PAPERWORK,
OF COURSE!
THERE'S ALWAYS
ENOUGH
OF THAT!

IT'S NO
WONDER THOSE
ORANG-OUTANGS
ARE SO PUNY,
SITTING BEHIND
DESKS WRITING
ALL DAY!

NOT ME!
I'D RATHER
BE OUT ON
MY HORSE,
HUNTING
HUMANS!

BUT IT
WOULDN'T
DO FOR AN
APE OF MY
POSITION TO
BE RUNNING
AROUND
LIKE A
DRAGON!

I SWEAR THOUGH,
IF SOMETHING
DOESN'T HAPPEN
SOON I WILL GO ON
A RAMPAGE ...

... AND I
MIGHT EVEN
GET ME AN
ORANG-OUTANG
WHILE I'M
AT IT!

HEY,
DAD!

"Urko's son had been a mere boy when we'd known him! Now here he was fully grown and in his father's army!"



...BUT IN HERE I AM ALWAYS, ALWAYS GENERAL URKO, SIR!!!



"Meanwhile, we had finally reached the Forbidden Zone! It was a bizarre and haunting place..."



"I always made them laugh, but I was never really sure why!"



"Talking as we were, we quite forgot the nightmare landscape through which we walked!"



"That was a big mistake..."



"We carried on up what I took to be a cliff face, but as Alan explained..."



NO, NO IT'S TRUE! WE CALLED THEM 'SKYSCRAPERS' AND THEY WERE FILLED WITH HUNDREDS OF PEOPLE!

MY GOODNESS! THEY MUST'VE BEEN LIKE ANT-HILLS!

YEAH, ONLY-AMY GOD, AL! LOOK! LOOK!!



"It was nestled in the valley below us, a huge silver spearhead shining in the sun! It did look like a star, but I know what it was! I'd seen one all those years ago outside Chalo, when I'd first met Alan and Pete..."



"Alan scrambled down that valley like a man possessed, with Pete not too far behind and I struggling to keep up as usual!"

"God? Was it possible that Alan actually worshipped this ship? I didn't question it!"

"If only it had been that simple!"



AFTER ALL THIS TIME, AFTER ALL THE PRAYERS:



"We were surrounded by humans, but they weren't like ours!
These were dressed completely in black, and they were armed!
There was something about their faces too..."

THAT'S RIGHT
APE LOVER! YOU'RE
ALL LUCKY TO
STILL BE
ALIVE!

HEY GUYS! WERE
ON YOUR SIDE!
ALL HUMANS
TOGETHER,
RIGHT?

PETE!
WHAT
ABOUT
ME?!

DON'T WORRY
GALEN! THEY
AREN'T EXTENDING
THE HAND OF
FRIENDSHIP TO
ANYONE!

AND ONCE
MENDEZ IS
THROUGH WITH
YOU I WOULDN'T
EVEN COUNT
ON THAT!

"If we
thought
things
couldn't
get any
worse,
we were
sadly
mistaken..."

I WAS
RIGHT!
I WAS
RIGHT!

WHAT
IS IT
DAD?

OH!!!

THERE, IN
THE VALLEY!
IT'S A SHIP
JUST LIKE
THE LAST
TIME, AND
THE TIME
BEFORE
THAT!

AND YOU
THINK IT
BELONGS TO
YOUR TWO
ASTRO...
ASTRA...

HUMANS?

IT
COULD,
AND EVEN
IF IT
DOESN'T
IT'S SURE
TO DRAW
THEM
HERE!

AT LAST
I'LL HAVE
A PREY
WORTHY
OF ME AGAIN!

BUT DAD,
THERE ARE
HUNDREDS
OF HUMANS
DOWN THERE,
AND I THINK
THEY'RE
ARMED!

DOLT!
IT'D BE
NO FUN
IF THEY
WEREN'T!

I WANT
YOU TO RIDE
BACK TO APE
CITY AND GET
ME A BATTALION
OF GORILLAS!

AND IF
ANYONE
QUESTIONS
YOU, TELL
THEM WE'RE
GOING TO WAR!

"Meanwhile, we were taken beneath the rubble into a grotesque subterranean city..."

"Did these people worship Alan's spaceship too, I wondered?"

HEY, YOU GUYS DON'T ACTUALLY LIVE DOWN HERE, DO YOU? MAN, YOU SERIOUSLY NEED TO REDECORATE...

THERE'S NOTHING FOR US ABOVE THE GROUND! WE BELONG HERE IN THE BELLY OF THE EARTH, WITH OUR GOD!

AL, THESE GUYS ARE NUTS! AND HAVE YOU NOTICED, THEIR MOUTHS DON'T MOVE WHEN THEY SPEAK? DO YOU THINK THEY'RE TELEPATHIC?

NOTHING SO FANTASTIC PETE! I THINK THEY'RE WEARING MASKS!

MASKS?

OF COURSE! WE DON'T SHOW OUR 'TRUE SELVES' TO EVERYONE!

HOWEVER, THERE ARE SOME AMONG US WITH THE ABILITY TO SPEAK WITH THE MIND!

FAR OUT!

"Suddenly, as we came to a fork in the tunnel..."

"Alan and Pete tried desperately to come to my aid, but the humans held them securely! It was hopeless..."

"I could only watch as they carried my friends to who knew where, and led me to who knew what..."

TAKE THOSE TWO TO THE CELLS - MENDEZ WANTS TO INTERROGATE THE TALKING MONKEY!

NO!!!

LET HIM GO, YOU--

GALEN! GALEN!!



"And so..."



GOOD, GOOD! AND WHAT ABOUT THE TWO MEN? DID YOU PUT THEM IN WITH THE GIRL?

YES, SIR, BUT I DON'T SEE-



WHY HAS YOUR MASK SLIPPED?

DEAR ME, KEEP UP!

WHEN THE GIRL SEES TWO OF HER OWN KIND, SHE'LL TELL THEM WHAT SHE'S SO FAR DENIED ME!

NAMELY, HOW TO FLY THAT MACHINE OUT THERE AND BECOME ONE WITH GOD!



AS YOU CAN SEE FROM THIS SACRED SCROLL I FOUND, THAT CRAFT IS AN ANGEL, AND BY FLYING IT I CAN BECOME AN ANGEL TOO, AND COMMUNE WITH THE BLESSED BOMB!

I... I SEE! BUT WHERE DOES THE MONKEY FIT IN?



DON'T YOU REMEMBER THE LEGEND OF THE ANTI-HUMAN, CAESAR? HE'S RETURNED TO US IN THE FORM OF THIS SILLY CHIMP! MY LAST ACT AS A MAN WILL BE TO UNLOCK HIS SECRETS!



NOW GO TO THE INTERROGATION ROOM AND WAIT FOR ME - I FEEL ANOTHER SACRED SCROLL COMING ON!

WHERE ARE MY CRAYONS?

MY GOD, HE'S GONE MAD! IN THIS STATE HE MIGHT EVEN DETONATE THE BOMB!



"At that moment in his cell, Alan was sleeping fitfully..."



"Something caught Alan's eye in the corner of the cell..."



"They went over and gently shook the sleeping form, but neither could've guessed who it was..."



RETURN TO YESTERDAY PART 3

VERINA: *
AFTER ALL
THESE YEARS
YOU'VE COME
BACK!

PETE! ALAN!
I THOUGHT I'D
NEVER SEE
YOU AGAIN! BUT
WHAT'S ALL
THIS YEARS'?

I'VE
ONLY BEEN
GONE SIX
MONTHS!

MY GOD!
OF COURSE!
WE ASSUMED
BECAUSE ELEVEN
YEARS HAD
PASSED HERE IT
WAS THE SAME
BACK ON EARTH!
BUT A HASSLEIN
CURVE DOESN'T
WORK THAT
WAY!

THAT MEANS
WHEN WE
GET BACK
IT MIGHT
ONLY BE
DAYS OR
WEEKS SINCE
WE LEFT!
EVERYTHING'LL
BE AS IT
WAS!

* VERINA FIRST
APPEARED IN
THE 1977
P.O.T.A. ANNUAL!

YEAH,
YEAH! SURE!
SO WHEN
DO THE RE-
ENFORCEMENTS
GET HERE, YOU
KNOW, THE
CAVALRY, THE
FLEET...

THERE
ARE NO
RE-ENFORCE-
MENTS! I'M
ON MY OWN,
AND YOU
WERE
LUCKY TO
GET ME!

WHAT?!
DIDN'T YOU
TELL THEM
ABOUT US,
ABOUT THIS
PLACE
AND THE
APES?

OF COURSE I DID
BUT THEY ALREADY
KNEW ANYWAY -
THEY'D HEARD IT
ALL BACK IN '73
FROM THOSE
TALKING APES!

THEY JUST
WEREN'T
PREPARED
TO SEND UP
ANY MORE
ASTRONAUTS -
THEY'D LOST
TOO MANY
ALREADY -
TAYLOR,
BRENT...
HUDSON AND
FRANKLIN!

AS
FAR AS
A.N.S.A. IS
CONCERNED,
YOU'RE ALL
M.I.A.,
PRESUMED
DEAD!



"Alan was stunned!"

THAT CAN'T BE!
THEN WHY'D
THEY SEND
YOU?

THEY DIDN'T!
I HAD TO
'COMMANDEER'
A SHIP
MYSELF!

"Veria started
to cry..."

NO...NO
IT WON'T!
WHEN THEY
CAPTURED ME
THEY TOOK
MY FLIGHT
RECORDER OFF
ME! THERE'S
NO WAY WE
CAN NAVIGATE
HOME WITHOUT
IT (SOB)!

WELL,
YOU
KNOW...

SO HOW
MANY DO WE
NEED? ONE'LL
GET US OUT
OF HERE!

...THERE'S
MORE THAN
ONE FLIGHT
RECORDER
IN THE
WORLD!

SON
OF A
GUN!

I CAN'T
BELIEVE
YOU KEPT
OUR OLD
DISC ALL
THESE
YEARS!

WELL, YOU'D
HAVE SEEN
IT ON THE
SHELF IF
YOU'D EVER
HELPED CLEAN
THE FARM-
HOUSE!

I ALWAYS
KNEW IT'D BE
OUR TICKET
HOME! NOW IF
WE COULD
ONLY BREAK
OUT OF
THIS
CELL...

I CAN
HELP YOU
THERE...

...BUT
WHEREVER
YOU'RE
GOING IN
THAT
THING...

...YOU
HAVE TO
TAKE ME
WITH
YOU!

"While Alan and Pete made their escape below,
above the city was deathly still!"

...33 ALL
CREATURES
GREAT AND
SMALL 33333
ALL THINGS
WISE AND
WONDERFUL 33

3 THE GOOD
BOMB MADE
US ALL 33

GOD,
THIS IS
DULL! I
WISH -

"Suddenly!"

GOOD
GOD!
WHAT'S
THAT ON
THE
HORIZON?

IT
CAN'T
BE!

"It was a legion of mounted gorillas, thundering down on the ruined city like apocalyptic riders from the sacred scrolls!"



ALPHA-1
TO CONTROL!
ALPHA-1 TO
CONTROL!

WE ARE
UNDER
ATTACK! I REPEAT-



WE
ARE-

URK!



URK-O,
HUMAN!
URK-O!

NOW, ARE
YOU GOING
TO TELL ME
WHERE THE
AS-TRO-NAUTS
ARE...



...OR WILL
WE JUST SEE
IF YOUR
SCREAMS
WILL BRING
THEM OUT,
HMM?



AAIEEEEE!!

"I thought gorillas could be cruel, but the torture those humans put me through..."



VERY
GOOD!

NOW
SEE IF
YOU CAN
MAKE HIM
SAY
'MENDEZ'!



SIR!
SIR!
WE'RE
UNDER
SIEGE!



"As Mendee and his followers ran out, they didn't notice four figures standing in the shadows!"



"Karno led us back through the ruins, and before long we again saw the light of the outside world..."



"Had we known what awaited us, we might have stayed in those caverns forever..."



"Before us battled hundreds of humans and gorillas, a vast sea of purple and black! The sound of screaming and gunfire broke in waves against the ruined building, threatening to submerge us all..."



"And on this velvet cushion, Verina's pearl ship sat waiting..."

"Suddenly, into the middle of the carnage rode Uko..."



DAMN!
I'VE FLUSHED
EVERYONE OUT
OF THEIR HOLE
AND THERE'S
STILL NO SIGN
OF VIRDON
AND BURKE!



WAIT! THOSE
FIGURES OVER
THERE BY THE
FIRE BIRD!

IT
MUST
BE
THEM!



AT
LAST.

"Soon, everyone was safely aboard the space-craft... except I..."



COME
ON,
GALEN!

HEY,
WHAT'S
WRONG?

I... I'M SCARED
PETE! THIS... THIS
IS MY HOME! CAN
I REALLY LEAVE
IT ALL BEHIND?



"I would never know..."



GALEN,
YOU DAMNED
DIRTY APE!

AFTER ALL
THESE YEARS
YOU'RE STILL
RUNNING
WITH THOSE
FILTHY
HUMANS!



WELL,
YOU
STINKING
TRAITOR...

...HERE'S
WHERE
YOU GET A
TRAITOR'S
REWARD!



NOT IN THIS
LIFETIME,
BANANA
BREATH!

POW!

"Urko's shot went wild, hitting Alan
and knocking him backwards into the spaceship!"

"Pete and Urko struggled on the ground,
baring their teeth and snarling like
animals..."

"Then, God help me, there was another
shot, and ...and Felt ...He..."



"Half-strangled, I could only lie helplessly, trying to see who had fired the shot..."



MISSED.

"It was Urko's son..."

"Urko slowly made it to his feet, and I swear...there were tears in his eyes..."



"He started beating his chest like a mad ape, when suddenly..."



"It was Mendes, dressed in a long flowing robe and holding a smoking machine gun by his side..."



"Verina's ship roared to life, answering Mendes with a tongue of fire..."



"The ship shot along that valley of death, scaled the 'cliff' from which we'd first seen it and climbed, climbed, climbed into the sky until it... disappeared!"



"Their leaders dead, both armies scattered!! I carried Pete back home to the farm and I buried him... To this day, I don't know if Alan is living or dead..."

