

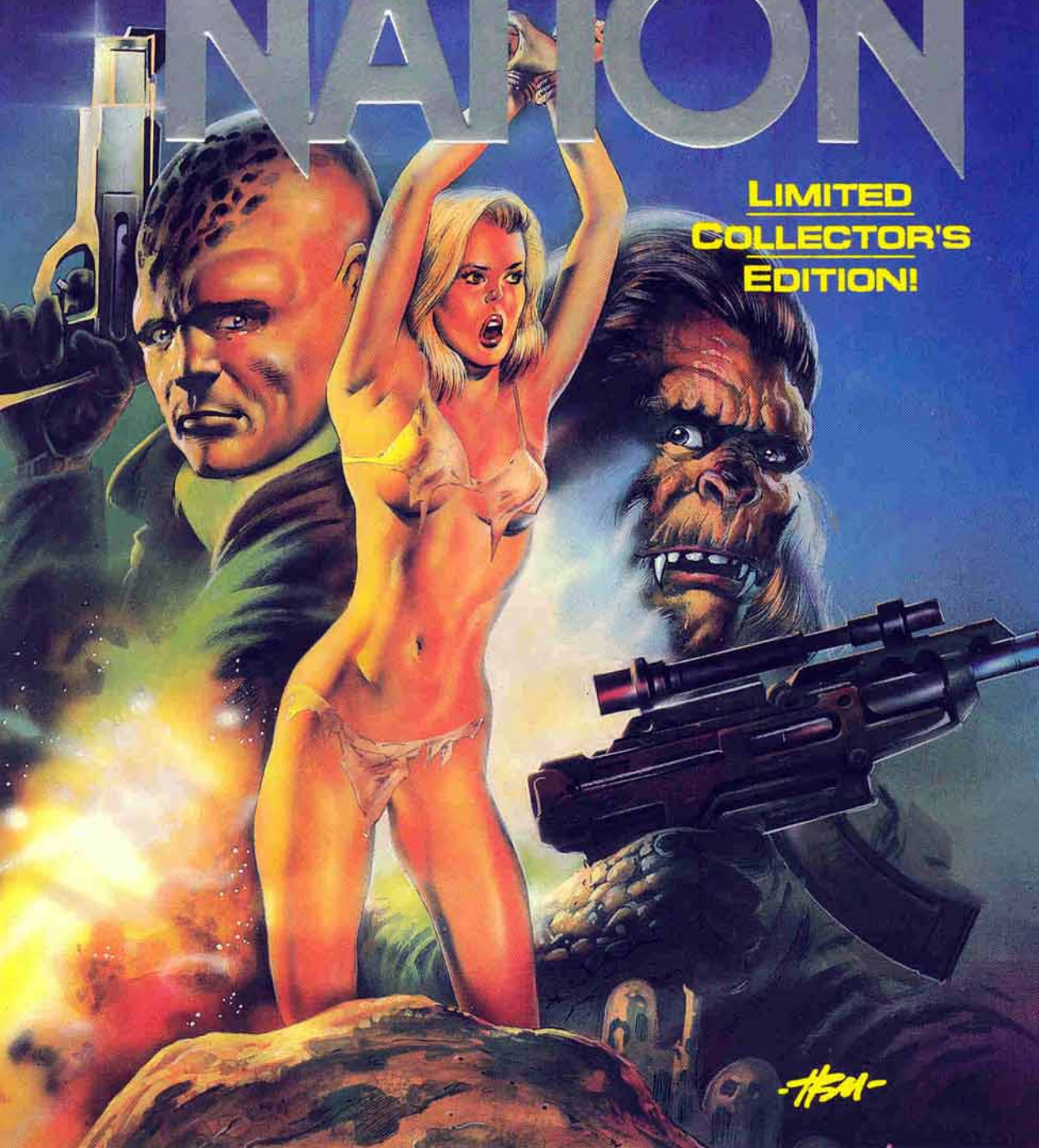
THE FIRST FULL COLOR SERIES FROM ADVENTURE COMICS!

The Worlds Of  
PLANET OF THE APES &  
ALIEN NATION Are  
Combined Into One  
Deadly Title!

Nº 3351

# APE NATION

LIMITED  
COLLECTOR'S  
EDITION!



NUMBER ONE • \$5.95 / \$7.25 In Canada • ADVENTURE COMICS



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Ready Title!

# APE NATION



#1 (of 4) • \$2.50/\$3.00 in Canada

ADVENTURE Comics



Based On  
Characters And  
Situations Created  
By Pierre Boulle,

Rod Serling,  
Michael Wilson

and  
Rockne S.  
O'Bannon

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**Tom Mason**  
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# APES, ALIENS AND HUMANS

## *A Lesson In Ape Management*

It's basically our own damn fault. It's a lesson in what can happen when an inter-office joke gets out of hand.

It began with a project called *Planet Of The Apes*. The Malibu Graphics staff, Publisher Dave Olbrich, Editor-In-Chief Chris Ulm and yours truly were all fans of the original 1968 film and when ideas for new projects were being tossed around in one of our staff meetings, "Apes! We need Apes!" was one of the first phrases to shoot out of our collective mouths. (This was quite embarrassing to the other patrons of the restaurant and confusing to the waitress who was unable to find it on the menu).

*Planet Of The Apes* was the seminal movie for its generation. Loosely derived from the novel *Monkey Planet* by Pierre Boulle (*Bridge On The River Kwai*), it told of a society where Apes ruled and humans were enslaved, mute and unintelligent. In the movie, a group of astronauts headed by a cynical Charlton Heston land on the planet, whip the local Ape City residents—particularly an all-knowing orangutan named Dr. Zaius—into a frantic furor only to discover by movie's end that the monkey planet is actually Earth in the not-too-distant future.

The movie spawned four successful sequels, a Saturday morning animated series and a short-lived television show. Marvel Comics had a go at a comic book version of the series back in the 1970s focusing on adapting the movies and several new adventures based on the concept itself.

But all good things come to an end eventually, and so it was with the *Planet Of The Apes* phenomena. John Chambers, the make-up genius generally credited with the "Ape look" had died, as had Paul Dehn, the writer most associated with the movie's sequels, and producer Arthur P. Jacobs,

*Continued On Page 29*

## APE NATION #1 (OF 4) • February 1991

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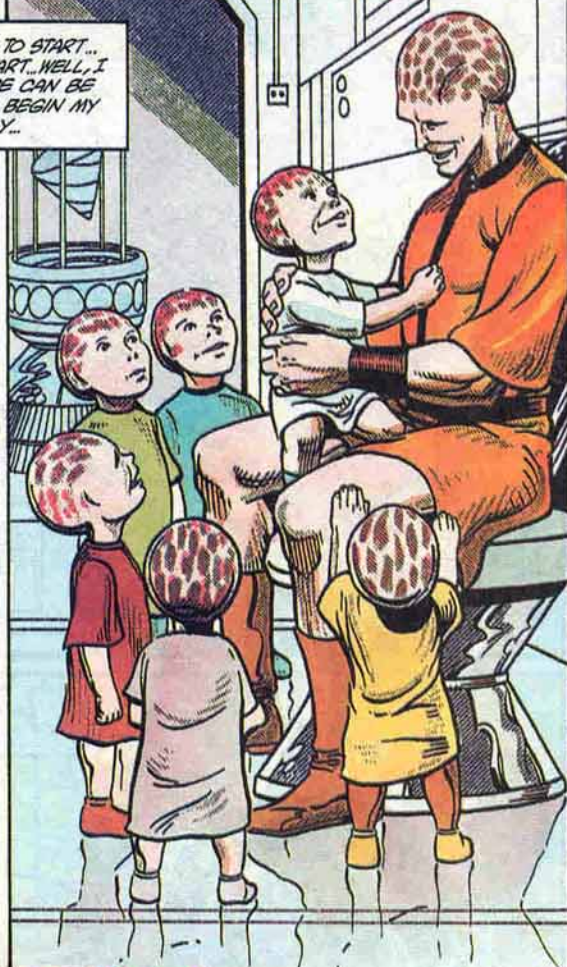
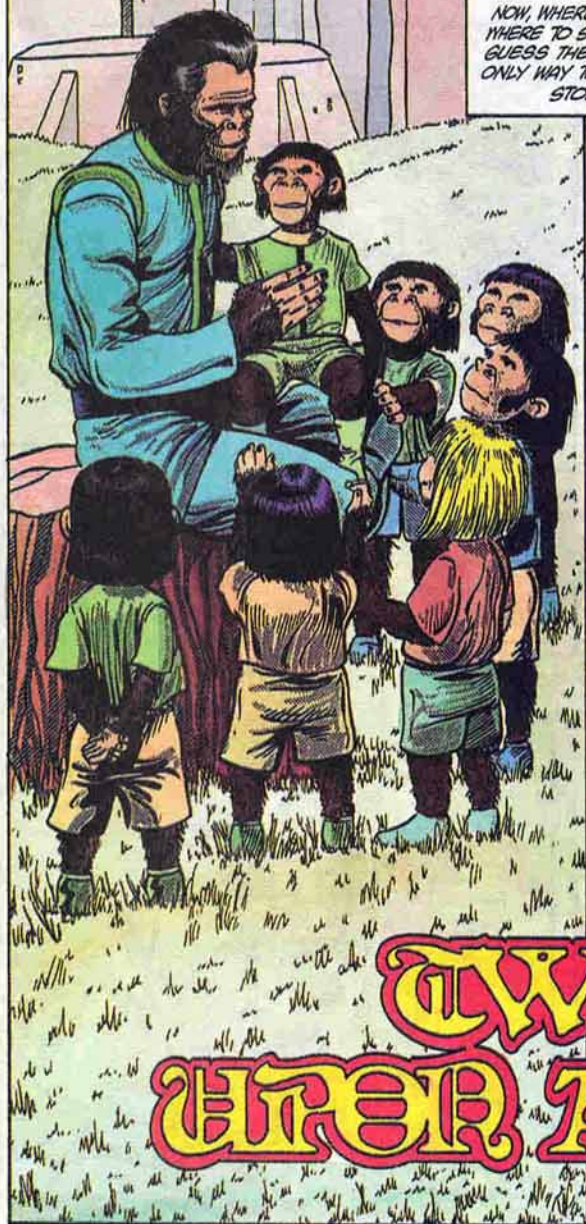
LISTEN, CHILDREN.  
LISTEN TO MY TALE.

DURING THE COURSE  
OF YOUR LIVES, YOU  
WILL FIND THAT THERE  
ARE MOMENTS THAT  
DEFINE ONE'S CHARACTER.

FLEET TWINKLINGS  
THAT MAKE OR BREAK  
THE SPIRIT.

I TELL YOU MY TALE BECAUSE  
ONE DAY YOU YOURSELF MAY  
FACE A SIMILAR CHALLENGE,  
AND I WANT YOU TO BE READY.

NOW, WHERE TO START...  
WHERE TO START... WELL, I  
GUESS THERE CAN BE  
ONLY WAY TO BEGIN MY  
STORY...



**TWICE  
UNDER A TIME**

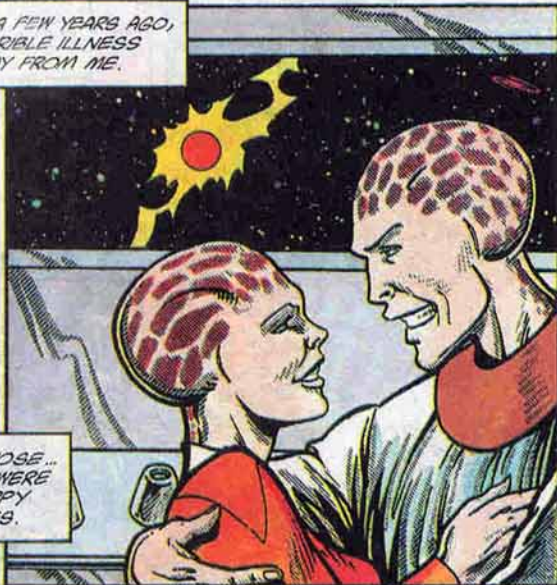




I WAS ENJOYING AN EXCURSION WITH MY MATE. TIME ALONE WITH HER WAS A PRECIOUS COMMODITY.



THIS WAS BACK A FEW YEARS AGO, BEFORE A TERRIBLE ILLNESS BORE HER AWAY FROM ME.



BUT THOSE... THOSE WERE THE HAPPY TIMES.



I SHOULD HAVE KNOWN THAT THEY WOULD NOT LAST.







I TURNED AND SAW A SIGHT  
THAT TOOK MY BREATH AWAY.

MY PEOPLE HAVE  
ALWAYS LIVED  
WITH THE SPECTRE  
OF FEAR HANGING  
OVER OUR HEADS.

WE FEAR  
STARVATION  
AND WAR  
AND DISEASE.

BUT MOST OF ALL, WE  
FEAR THE UNEXPECTED.  
WE CAN FEND OFF  
HUNGER, WE CAN WORK  
TO PREVENT WAR AND  
WE CAN EVEN  
COMBAT SICKNESS.

BUT THE UNKNOWN...  
AH, THAT FRIGHTENS  
US MORE THAN YOU  
CAN EVER KNOW.

I GAZED BEFORE ME  
AND SAW A SIGHT THAT  
FROZE MY HEART WITH  
TERROR.

I SAW THE EYES OF  
DEATH, AND THEY  
WERE LOOKING  
RIGHT AT ME.





HOW WILL YOU REACT  
WHEN FACED WITH GREAT  
HARDSHIP? I PRAY THAT  
YOU NEVER HAVE TO FIND  
OUT, CHILDREN.



BUT IF YOU DO, I HOPE YOU  
WILL BELIEVE IN YOURSELF,  
AS I BELIEVE IN YOU, AND  
FIGHT AS HARD AS YOU CAN,  
AS BEST AS YOU CAN.




AND REMEMBER THIS: YOU MAY  
FAIL. YOU MIGHT TRY WITH ALL  
YOUR MIGHT, FIGHT WITH ALL YOUR  
HEART... AND STILL YOU MAY FALTER.



THAT IS THE WAY  
OF THE WORLD.





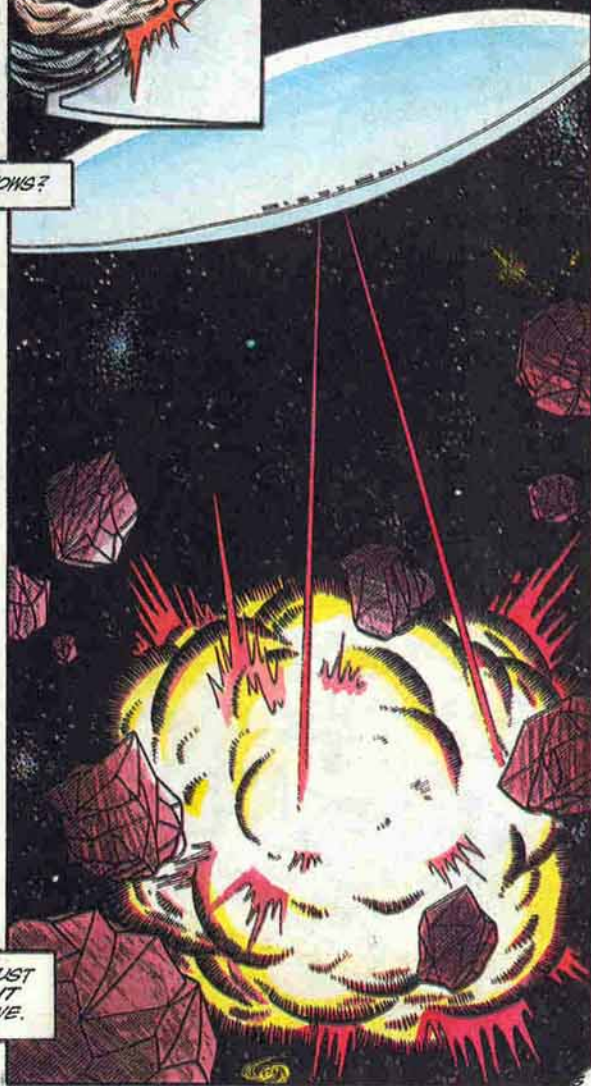
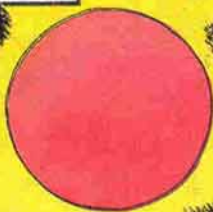


BUT IF YOU DRAW UP ALL YOUR  
ENERGY INTO ONE CLEAR SHOT...

IF YOU CAN REMAIN  
FOCUSED AND TRUE  
TO YOURSELF...

WHO KNOWS?

YOU JUST  
MIGHT  
SURVIVE.





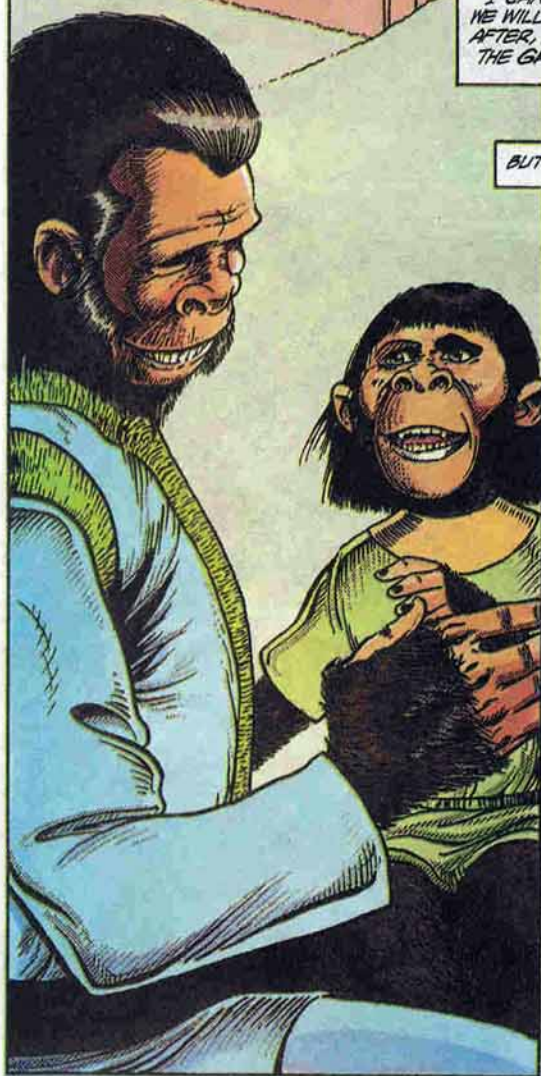
THERE ARE TIMES IN YOUR  
LIVES WHEN YOU WILL  
SUFFER GREAT PAIN.

THERE ARE TIMES  
WHEN YOU MUST  
FACE GREAT  
CHALLENGES.

STAND TALL, CHILDREN,  
AND FACE UP TO YOUR  
PAINS AND  
YOUR CHALLENGES.

I CANNOT SAY THAT  
WE WILL LIVE HAPPILY EVER  
AFTER, AS THEY SAY IN  
THE GREAT TALES.

BUT WE WILL LIVE.

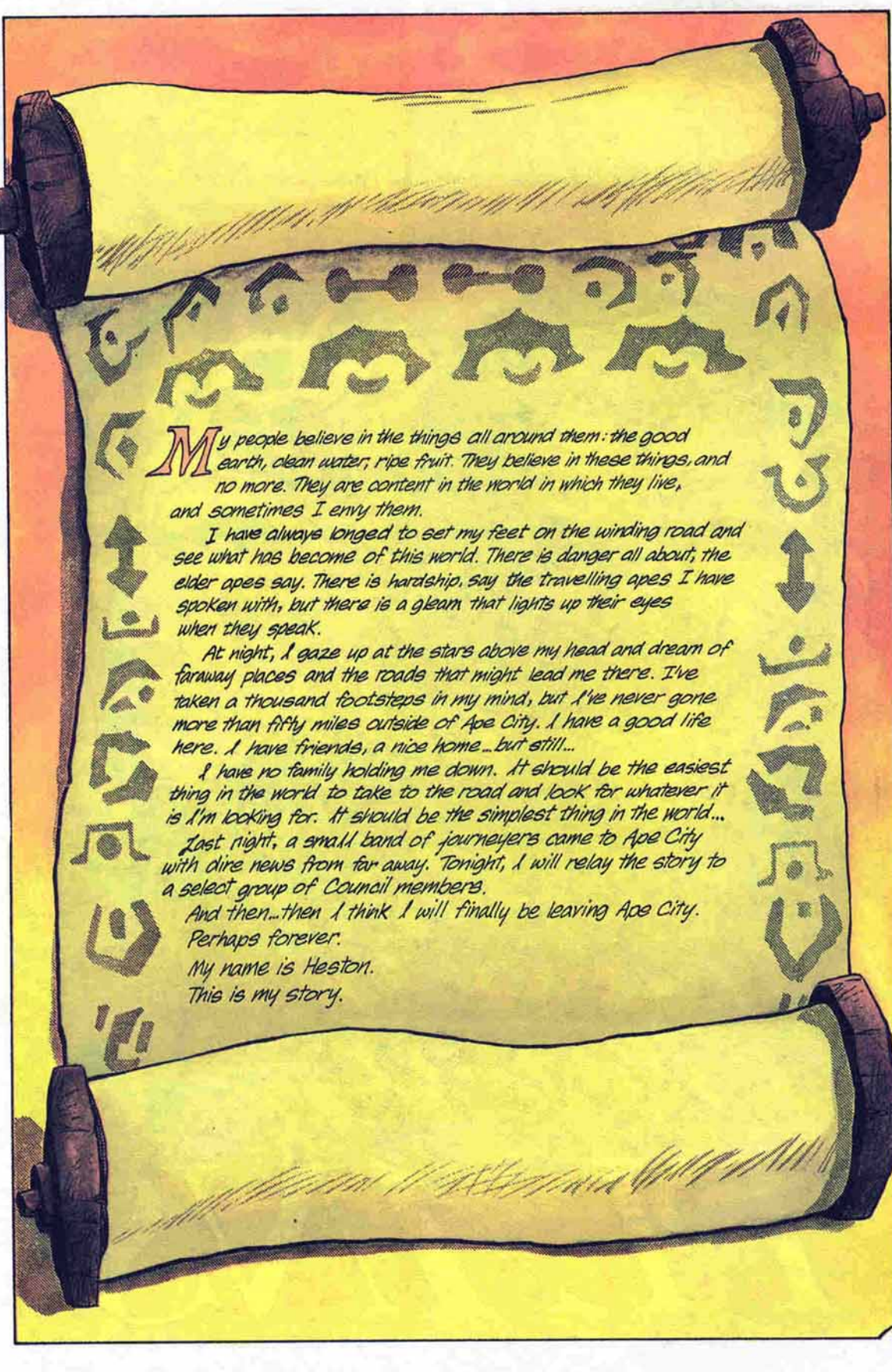






# PLANS





**M**y people believe in the things all around them: the good earth, clean water, ripe fruit. They believe in these things, and no more. They are content in the world in which they live, and sometimes I envy them.

I have always longed to set my feet on the winding road and see what has become of this world. There is danger all about, the elder apes say. There is hardship, say the travelling apes I have spoken with, but there is a gleam that lights up their eyes when they speak.

At night, I gaze up at the stars above my head and dream of faraway places and the roads that might lead me there. I've taken a thousand footsteps in my mind, but I've never gone more than fifty miles outside of Ape City. I have a good life here. I have friends, a nice home...but still...

I have no family holding me down. It should be the easiest thing in the world to take to the road and look for whatever it is I'm looking for. It should be the simplest thing in the world...

Last night, a small band of journeyers came to Ape City with dire news from far away. Tonight, I will relay the story to a select group of Council members.

And then...then I think I will finally be leaving Ape City. Perhaps forever.

My name is Heston.

This is my story.



"AFTER PLEASANTRIES WERE EXCHANGED, ALEXANDER SPOKE--HIS VOICE FILLED WITH THE COOL, CALM ASSURANCE OF A BORN LEADER."

WE MUST DECIDE IF WE CONSIDER THIS A VALID THREAT TO APE CITY.



AND THEN WE MUST DECIDE UPON OUR COURSE OF ACTION.



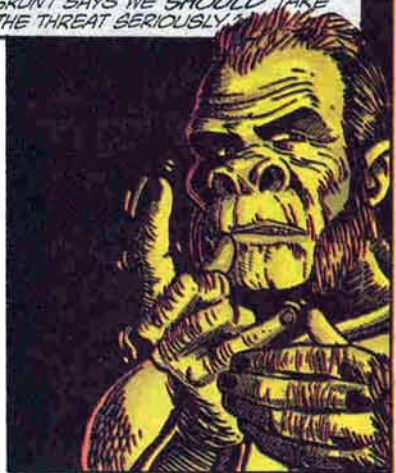
THIS IS PREPOSTEROUS, ALEXANDER! IT SOUNDS LIKE A STORY I MIGHT TELL SMALL APES TO FRIGHTEN THEM.



I MUST CONCUR WITH JACOB. IT'S TOO FAR-FETCHED TO BE BELIEVED. WHAT'S THAT GRUNT'S SIGNALLING, COURE?



"IT'S SIGN LANGUAGE, DR. MOTO. GRUNT SAYS WE SHOULD TAKE THE THREAT SERIOUSLY."



AND I AGREE. BUT PERHAPS WE SHOULD HEAR THE STORY FROM THE ONE WHO HEARD IT FIRST...



"HESTON."

THANK YOU, COUNCIL MEMBERS.







I WAS ON  
GUARD AT THE  
CITY'S BORDERS  
WHEN THE  
THREESOME OF  
APE TRAVELLERS,  
TIRED AND WORN,  
MADE THEIR WAY  
HOME.



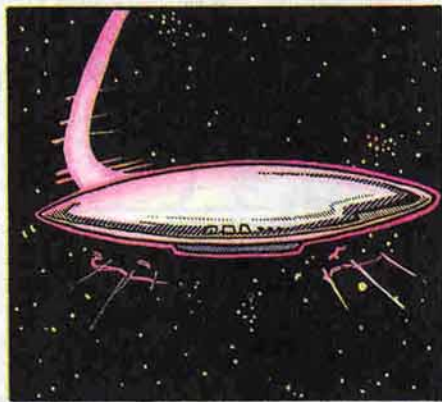
"THEY HAD JOURNEYED FAR  
PAST THE FORBIDDEN  
ZONE, SEARCHING FOR  
SIMON THE SLAUGHTERER,  
THE BUTCHER WHO HAD  
KILLED ONE OF THEIR  
GROUP.



"THEY HAD TRACKED THE  
HUMAN HIGH INTO THE  
MOUNTAINS AND WERE  
STILL LOOKING WHEN A  
BRIGHT LIGHT FLASHED  
ABOVE THEIR HEADS.



"THEY THOUGHT IT WAS  
A RETURN OF THE  
MISSILES OUR FORE-  
FATHERS SPOKE OF,  
THE CARRIERS OF THE  
WHITE HEAT, THE  
TOTAL DESTRUCTION.



"BUT THEN, THEY SAW THE LIGHT  
TURN AND SLOWLY DRIFT TO THE  
GROUND LESS THAN A MILE FROM  
WHERE THEY STOOD. THEY FOLLOWED.





"...AND IN THE PALE MOONLIGHT, SAW A  
SIGHT THAT SHOOK THEIR HEARTS WITH FEAR."





THEY STOPPED TO WARN THE OTHER TOWNS BETWEEN THERE AND APE CITY, AND THEN THEY CAME BACK HOME.



I STILL SAY THAT THIS ALL SOUNDS LIKE A STORYBOOK TALE. I WILL HAVE NONE OF IT.

WE CAN'T TAKE THAT CHANCE, JACOB. WE *MUST* INVESTIGATE.

BUT WHO WILL GO? ALEXANDER?



NO. I WILL.



IT'S SETTLED THEN. HESTON--CHOOSE A SMALL PARTY TO ACCOMPANY YOU AND LEAVE AS SOON AS POSSIBLE.

MY THOUGHTS AND PRAYERS WILL GO OUT WITH YOU.







THE NEXT MORNING...

DO YOU  
THINK YOU'RE  
CARRYING  
ENOUGH  
SUPPLIES,  
PACKER?

YOU CAN  
NEVER TAKE  
TOO MUCH ON THE  
ROAD, THAT'S  
WHAT I ALWAYS  
SAY.



ARE YOU REALLY  
GOING TO ASK ONE OF  
THE *LIGHTFEET* TO  
TRAVEL WITH US?

COME ON,  
PACKER. EVERYONE  
KNOWS THAT THEY  
ARE THE BEST  
TRACKERS.

BESIDES, I MET  
THIS ONE NOT THAT LONG  
AGO IN THE WOODS  
AND HE...



THERE  
HE IS!

WHO?



"WINNIPEG."



"HE LOOKS DEAD, HESTON."



NO. I'VE HEARD ABOUT THIS.

IT'S A LIGHTFOOT TRADITION. THEY GO INTO A DEEP TRANCE; SOME SAY IT HELPS THEM SEE INTO THE FUTURE.



HEY, LOOK AT THIS. WOW!



HESTON, TAKE A LOOK!



MAYBE WE CAN... WHOAAAA!

I KNOW OF YOUR QUEST, CITY APE.

THAP!



I HAVE SEEN THE FACE OF THE NEWCOMERS IN MY DREAMS.



THOUGH I FEAR IT WILL BRING PAIN AND DEATH...

I WILL LEAD YOU TO THEM.



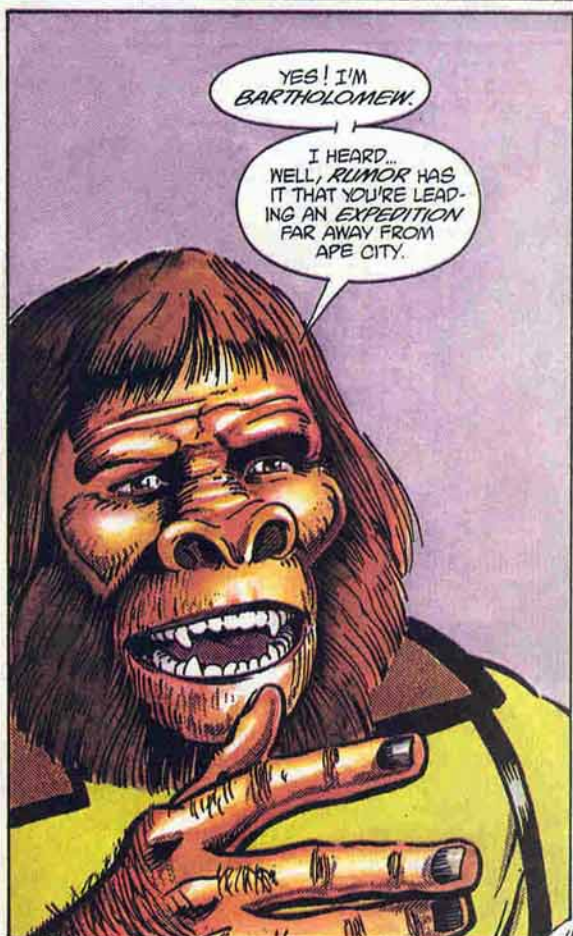
















THAT'S RIGHT,  
BUT IT *COULD*  
BE VERY  
DANGEROUS.

I'VE NEVER  
BEEN MORE THAN  
A FEW MILES OUT-  
SIDE OF APE CITY. I  
WANT TO LEARN  
ABOUT THE WORLD  
AROUND ME.



I DON'T KNOW...I'M  
JUST NOT SURE I COULD  
TRAVEL WITH A  
"BARTHOLOMEW."



BUT I  
COULD  
TRAVEL  
WITH A  
"BART."

WHAT DO  
YOU SAY, BART?  
WANT TO TAG  
ALONG?

SURE. LET  
ME CLEAR  
IT WITH MY  
PARENTS.



JACOB'S  
GOING TO BE  
FURIOUS. YOU  
KNOW THAT,  
DON'T YOU?

WELL,  
PACER, YOU  
ONLY LIVE  
ONCE.

AND  
SOMETIMES  
EVEN *THAT'S*  
CUT  
SHORT.



"LITTLE DID WE KNOW, AT THAT TIME, THAT AN UNHOLY ALLIANCE WAS FORMING FAR, FAR FROM APE CITY."

"IT BEGAN WITH GENERAL OLLO, LOYAL FOLLOWER OF THE WAYS OF ALDO, KILLER OF APES."



"OLLO HAS SWORN TO DESTROY APE CITY."



"OH, GENERAL, PLEASE FORGIVE..."



"IT'S SO TOUGH TO GET GOOD HELP, ISN'T IT, GENERAL OLLO?"



"YOU!"





"THE SECOND OF THE GROUP WAS THE HUMAN TRAITOR SIMON. ONE OF ONLY A HANDFUL OF HUMANS WHO CAN SPEAK, HE HAS GARNERED A REPUTATION AS A SLAYER OF APES."

ARE YOU  
READY TO TELL  
ME WHY YOU  
CALLED THIS  
MEETING?



WE'RE  
AWAITING  
ONE  
OTHER...

WHERE DID YOU COME  
ACROSS THE WOLF? I  
THOUGHT THEY ALL DIED  
IN THE FIRST PLAGUE.

THIS IS DINGO. HE AND  
I REPRESENT THE COME-  
BACK OF CANINES AND  
INTELLIGENT HUMANS TO THIS  
PLANET'S CIVILIZATION.



HMMM...  
I SERIOUSLY  
DOUBT  
THAT.

BUT HE IS A FINE SPECIMEN,  
NONETHELESS. A BEAUTIFUL  
ANIMAL.



WE'RE  
ALL  
ANIMALS,  
OLLO.

HAVEN'T  
YOU FIGURED  
THAT OUT  
YET?

PERHAPS WE CAN  
ARGUE THAT POINT  
ANOTHER DAY. BUT  
OUR LAST GUEST  
HAS FINALLY  
ARRIVED...





"THE THIRD MEMBER OF THIS  
TRIO WAS...WELL, I'M NOT SURE  
THAT YOU WILL BELIEVE THIS, BUT..."

WELCOME,  
MY FRIENDS.

WITH YOUR HELP,  
I SHALL MAKE THIS  
WORLD A PARADISE  
FOR ALL OUR  
PEOPLES.

I DON'T  
BELIEVE  
IT!

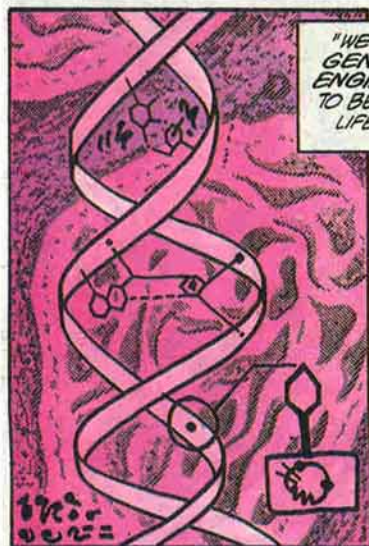
DANADA!

"...I THINK HE CAME FROM  
ANOTHER PLANET."

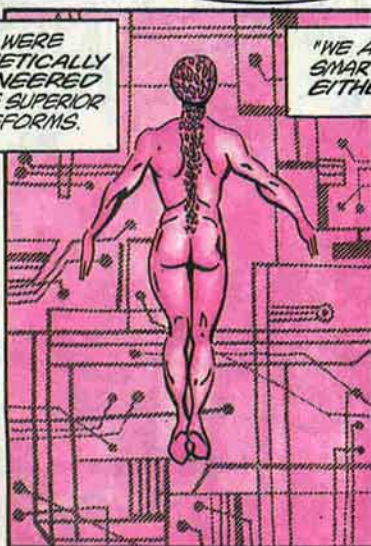




VERY WELL. LISTEN CLOSELY, HUMAN. WE ARE CALLED THE TENCTONESE.



"WE WERE GENETICALLY ENGINEERED TO BE SUPERIOR LIFEFORMS.



"WE ARE STRONGER, FASTER, SMARTER, BETTER THAN EITHER OF YOUR SPECIES.



"OUR MAKERS, NOW LONG FORGOTTEN, BUILT US FOR HARD LABOR.



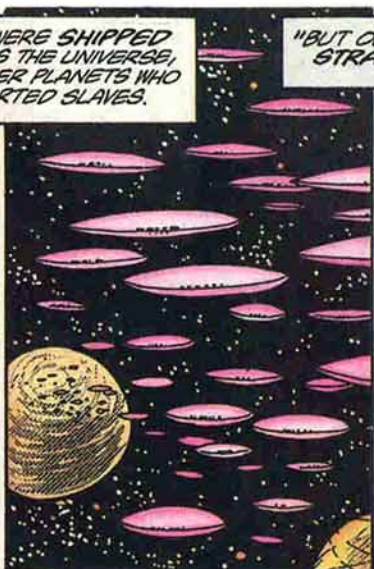
"WE WERE SLAVES, MUCH LIKE THE APES WERE ONCE SLAVES HERE, IF THE TALES I HAVE HEARD ARE TRUE.



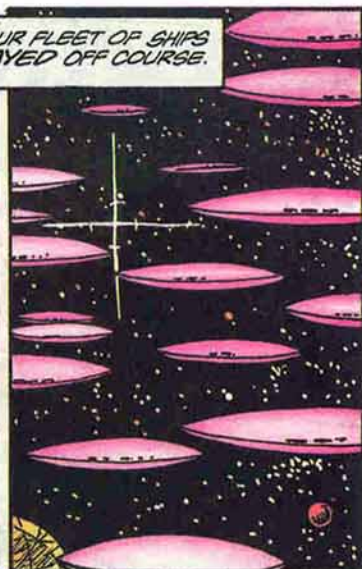




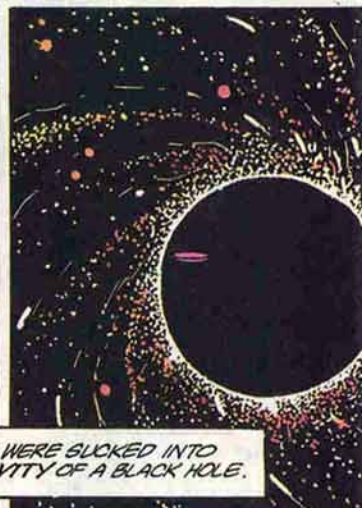
"WE WERE SHIPPED  
ACROSS THE UNIVERSE,  
TO OTHER PLANETS WHO  
IMPORTED SLAVES.



"BUT OUR FLEET OF SHIPS  
STRAYED OFF COURSE.



"DUE TO EQUIPMENT FAILURE, WE  
DRIFTED AWAY FROM THE OTHERS.



"SOON, WE WERE SUCKED INTO  
THE GRAVITY OF A BLACK HOLE.



"OUR CAPTAIN--CAAN--RISKED THE SHIP AND  
OUR LIVES ON A PERILOUS GAMBIT.

"HE HAD A THEORY ABOUT  
THE NATURE OF TIME AND  
SPACE, YOU SEE.



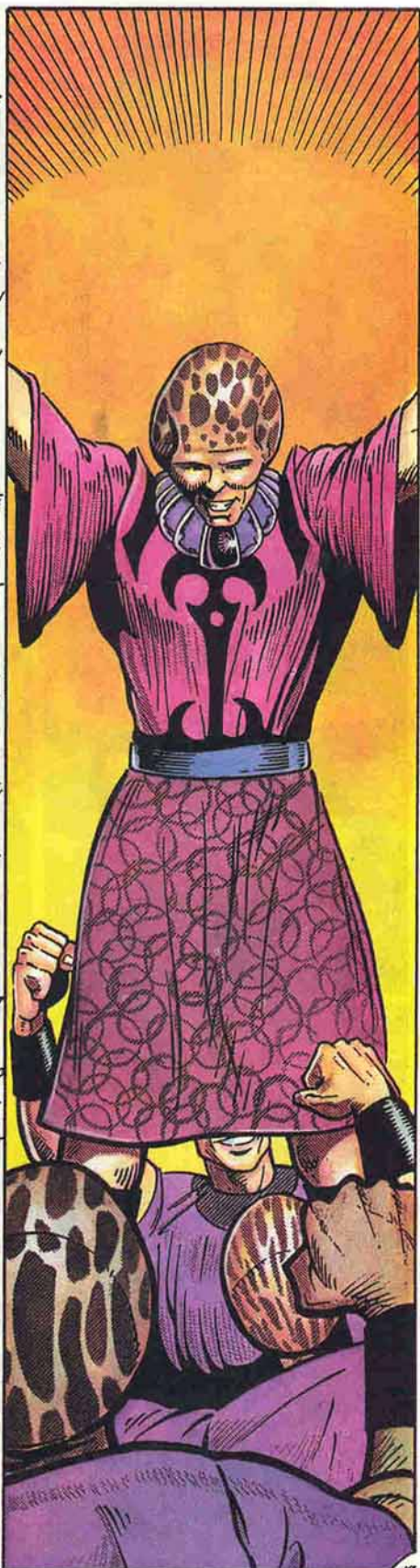
"OVER THE YEARS, I HAD HEARD SOME OF CAAN'S THEORIES ABOUT THE THEORETICAL POSSIBILITY FOR CAUSALITY VIOLATION IN THE CONTEXT OF CLASSICAL GENERAL RELATIVITY--TIME TRAVEL, IF YOU WILL.

ACCORDING TO CAAN, A BLACK HOLE'S EXPANSION CREATES A HIGH FIELD REGION OF DISTORTED SPACETIME. THE PRESENCE OF MATTER IN A REGION OF SPACETIME CAUSES NEARBY LIGHT RAYS TO BEND IN THE DIRECTION OF THE MATTER. IF THE MATTER IS ROTATING, AS OUR SHIP WAS, IT FURTHER DISTORTS SPACETIME IN ITS VICINITY, CREATING A DRAGGING EFFECT WHICH BENDS THE LIGHT IN THE DIRECTION OF THE ROTATION. IF THE MASS INVOLVED IS BIG ENOUGH, AND THE ROTATION IS FAST ENOUGH, THEN THE LIGHT IS BENT SO FAR THAT THE COORDINATE USED TO MEASURE SPACE AND THE COORDINATE USED TO MEASURE TIME BECOME INTERCHANGED. IN OTHER WORDS, THE ROLES OF SPACE AND TIME HAVE BEEN INTERCHANGED, SO THAT BY MOVING THROUGH SPACE, ONE IS ALSO MOVING THROUGH TIME. I SEE THAT THIS IS GOING BEYOND YOUR SMALLER INTELLECTS.

CAAN BROUGHT US THROUGH THE BLACK HOLE TO...WHEREVER AND WHENEVER WE ARE NOW. WE WERE ABLE TO LAND OUR CRAFT SAFELY AND START A SMALL SETTLEMENT. THIS IS WHEN I SAW THE OPPORTUNITY TO LEAD MY PEOPLE BEYOND THE LIFE OF SLAVERY THAT HAD BEEN OUR LOT. WE HAD A CHANCE TO BECOME, FOR THE FIRST TIME, CONQUERORS.

THERE WAS RESISTANCE AT FIRST, OF COURSE. CAAN LED A GROUP OF DISSENTERS, BUT MY FOLLOWERS DOWNED THEIR REVOLT EASILY. I'VE SINCE IMPRISONED CAAN, UNTIL HE REVEALS THE SECRET OF HOW WE CAN RETURN TO OUR OWN PLACE AND TIME.

BUT FOR NOW, I SHALL BRING THIS PLANET TO ITS KNEES, WITH YOUR HELP OF COURSE. WE SHALL BE THE MOST POWERFUL TROIKA THIS WORLD HAS EVER KNOWN, REPRESENTING THE BEST OF OUR THREE BREEDS:





















UP UNTIL THAT MOMENT, I HADN'T  
REALLY GIVEN TOO MUCH THOUGHT  
ABOUT THE OTHER APES' STORY  
BACK IN APE CITY.

TOO MANY MILES, TOO MUCH DRINK, TOO  
MANY DAYS BENEATH THE HOT SUN.  
I THOUGHT THEY HAD SUFFERED  
FROM DELUSIONS.

I HAD USED THEIR TALE AS AN  
EXCUSE TO PUT MY FEET ON THE ROAD.

BUT NOW...

...NOW  
I BELIEVED.

I BELIEVED THAT I WAS  
GOING TO PASS OUT!

WILSON + PALLOT



LIM,  
LIM, LIM  
LIM...



OH,  
YEAH!

THIS IS  
WHAT I SAW  
IN MY  
DREAMS...



THIS DOESN'T  
LOOK GOOD, GANG.

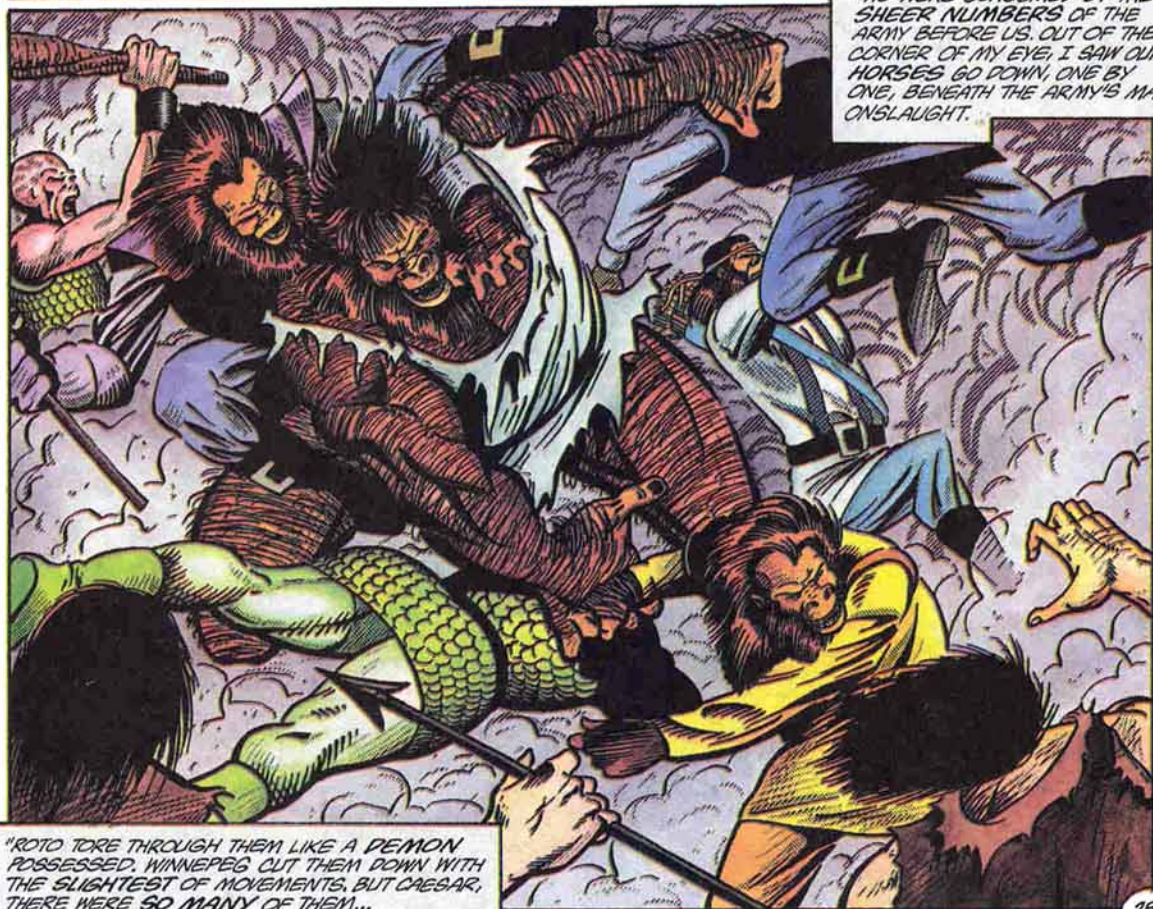


"THERE WASN'T TIME TO RUN--WASN'T TIME TO THINK--SO WE STOOD THERE AND FOUGHT, EVEN THOUGH I KNEW THEN THAT IT WAS USELESS.



"WE MIGHT AS WELL HAVE BEEN FIGHTING A TIDAL WAVE, OR A TORNADO, OR AN EARTHSHAKE.

"WE WERE CONSUMED BY THE SHEER NUMBERS OF THE ARMY BEFORE US. OUT OF THE CORNER OF MY EYE, I SAW OUR HORSES GO DOWN, ONE BY ONE, BENEATH THE ARMY'S MAD ONSLAUGHT.



"ROTO TORE THROUGH THEM LIKE A DEMON POSSESSED. WINNEPEG CUT THEM DOWN WITH THE SLIGHTEST OF MOVEMENTS, BUT CAESAR, THERE WERE SO MANY OF THEM...



"IT WAS INEVITABLE THAT WE WOULD FALL. PACKER WENT DOWN FIRST. TO HIS CREDIT, HE NEVER SCREAMED OR CRIED OUT.

"I'M NOT SURE IF HE DIED OR NOT. IF HE DID, THEN HE DIED A HERO, THOUGH TO TELL YOU THE TRUTH, I DON'T THINK HE CARED ABOUT SUCH THINGS.

"FOR A FLEETING MOMENT, I THOUGHT THAT WE WOULD DEFEAT THEM ALL, THEN AND THERE, BENEATH THE BEAUTIFUL MORNING SUN.

"I GLANCED OVER AT ROTO, AND HIS BLEEDING FACE TOLD ME A DIFFERENT STORY.

"I LOOKED DOWN AT MY SHIRT, STAINED WITH A MIX OF BOTH MY BLOOD AND THE BLOOD OF OTHERS, AND I KNEW...

"WE WOULD DIE HERE.



"ONE OF THE ALIENS ALMOST TOOK WINNIPEG'S HEAD OFF WITH A CLUB. HE WENT DOWN AND THAT WAS ALL I SAW OF HIM. IMAGINE: SEEING ONE OF THE LIGHTFEET TAKEN DOWN IN BATTLE. IT WAS UNHEARD OF...

"OF COURSE, NO OTHER LIGHTFOOT HAD EVER FACED SUCH A CHALLENGE.

"TO MY LEFT, ROTO UNLEASHED A CRY THAT SOUNDED LIKE THUNDER AS HE WAS FINALLY DRAGGED TO THE GROUND.

"IT WASN'T SO MUCH A CRY OF PAIN, I BELIEVE, AS ONE OF OUTRAGE.

"DEFEAT APPARENTLY WAS A BRAND NEW SENSATION FOR ROTO.

"THEN, HE WAS GONE AND I WAS ALONE, FACING A WALL OF MADNESS.

"ALONE.

"SOON I BLACKED OUT AND IT WAS OVER.





"I WOKE UP WITH COLD STEEL  
PRESSED AGAINST MY NECK."

"I DON'T KNOW WHAT  
HAPPENED, OR HOW I  
GOT THERE, BUT I  
BELIEVE THEY TOOK  
ME TO THE ALIEN'S  
SHIP."

"THE PAIN FROM MY  
BRUISES AND CUTS  
IS NOWHERE AS  
GREAT AS THE PAIN  
OF NOT KNOWING  
WHAT'S GOING  
TO HAPPEN NEXT."

"ARE MY FRIENDS  
DEAD? IS THAT  
ARMY HEADING  
TOWARD APE CITY?"

WELL,  
HESTON, YOU  
ALWAYS  
WANTED TO  
SEE THE  
WORLD  
AROUND  
YOU.

YOU ALWAYS  
LONGED TO  
VISIT  
FARAWAY  
PLACES AND  
SEE NEW  
SIGHTS.

OPEN  
YOUR EYES  
AND LOOK  
AROUND.

NEXT:

# PASTS



## Continued From The Inside Front Cover

considered by many the guiding hand of the *Ape* films. *Apes* popularity waned and *Planet Of The Apes* seemed destined for a sort of fond limbo, a remembrance of things past.

Until about two years ago. That's when 20th Century Fox announced—with more than the usual fanfare, that a young man, the then-22-year-old Adam Rifkin, had been signed to write and direct a new *Planet Of The Apes* movie. Depending on where you read it, it was either to be a remake of the original 1968 film (*oh, no!*) or a brand new adventure picking up sometime after the 5th movie.

It's easy (almost too easy and we're not going to let this moment pass) to speculate on the renewed *Ape* interest. At the time there was tremendous emphasis being placed in Hollywood on so-called franchise movies, i.e. a series of movies featuring basically the same cast that could come out year after year and be counted on to turn a profit. Paramount had a franchise in *Star Trek*. MGM/UA had a franchise in the James Bond films. It could be that Fox simply wanted in on the act.

Whatever the reason, *Planet Of The Apes* was poised for a comeback and Malibu Graphics, Inc. wanted to be there.

Word got around that Malibu had acquired the license from 20th Century Fox to do new stories based on the *Apes* concept and Charles Marshall was chosen as the writer.

His series proposal showed a deft balance of adventure, humor, action and the inevitable parallels to our own modern society. In keeping with its tradition of big-name adventure series, the project was assigned to the Adventure imprint of Malibu Graphics, Inc. Artists Kent Burles and Barb Kaalberg were hired to bring Charles' scripts to beautiful, lush, black-and-white life.

The series was still in the development stages—Charles was writing and Kent and Barb were pencilling and inking and the Malibu staff was frantically trying to figure out a schedule and promotional plan—when *Alien Nation* struck.

*Alien Nation* was a surprise hit for 20th Century Fox in 1988. A group of aliens, the Tenctonese, crashlanded on Earth near Los Angeles. Assigned to their own private "ghetto," they attempted to fit in to American society. The film starred James Caan and Mandy Patinkin as, respectively, a human cop and his Tenctonese (or Newcomer) partner.

Together, the two of them have to solve a series of Tenctonese related murders, and in the

process uncover a dark alien secret.

As a backdrop, the movie used the alien culture to comment on current human trends and foibles, as well as racism, culture clashes, basic human nature and the various class distinctions. In certain respects, it was not altogether unlike a certain 1968 movie. Like its film predecessor, it too spawned a short-lived television series.

As a comic book, *Alien Nation* was launched a bit differently as a series of separate mini-series.

How's that again?

Instead of a central monthly book, *Alien Nation*, the comic, was devised as a set of five different series, each four issues in length. Each book would focus on a different set of characters, a different setting and storyline. One story would be about government agents, another about cops, still another about an alien who had seen too many Humphrey Bogart films and read a little too much Raymond Chandler. Still another would focus on the infamous Roswell incident. (And if that doesn't sound familiar to you, then you haven't been keeping up in your UFO reading. So get out your library card and track down those Dewey Decimals).

Now comes the tricky part.

Enter Malibu's head bean-counter, Scott Rosenberg, a smarter,



tougher version of Miles Silverberg from the television series *Murphy Brown*. Scott was comparing the height and weight of the various Malibu beans and noticed that both *Alien Nation* and *Planet Of The Apes* were 20th Century Fox properties.

"Wouldn't it be neat if we could team-up the two titles," he blurted out from his inlaid oak cubicle one lazy California afternoon.

"Yeah, they could come to Earth to find out who's stronger!" one of the bullpen cried out.

"Like in those old Muhammed Ali vs. Superman comics!" went the yell of another.

"Ha! Ha! Ha!" we all laughed.

Then we filed the idea away since nobody could think of a plausible way to bring the characters together. We needed writers and, clearly, there were none in the room at the time.

We didn't know it yet, but we needed Charles Marshall. And two weeks later, he needed us.

In a conversation about his upcoming *Planet Of The Apes* series, Marshall mentioned that he had seen that we had the *Alien Nation* license as well. I told him of our plans for the series and that all of the various projects with AN were, unfortunately, already taken.

"That's okay," he replied. "What I really had in mind was a mini-series

that could combine both ideas, a sort of *Planet Of The Apes/Alien Nation* crossover book."

There was so much silence at my end of the phone that you could have sworn it was a religious holiday. I coughed once to clear my throat and reached for the Corona perched precariously on my desk.

"You have to figure out a way to bring them together," I said between fevered gulps. "Make it sane and believable. Don't bring them together through some goofy science experiment gone horribly wrong or for something like the Interplanetary Boxing Title. If you can do that and sustain it for four issues, we've got a series."

Sure enough, several faxes later, we had a series: *Ape Nation*. What began as something of an office chuckle had now become a serious enterprise, worthy of Malibu's complete attention.

Artists M.C. Wyman and Terry Pallot were brought in, both very excited about the possibilities. I think you'll agree that it shows in the work—their best to date. Dave Dorman signed on for the first issue's cover (an assignment that led to a long-term agreement between Dave and Malibu) and Australian David de Vries became the final piece of the puzzle when, after his brilliant work on Eternity Comics'

*Puppet Master* title, he joined as colorist.

Unless you're one of those goofballs who reads these little introductions before tackling the comic—and my personal thanks to those of you out there—you've completed the first issue of *Ape Nation*. Now it's your time to join the team. Take the time to drop us a line and let us know what you think. That address again: Ape Nation, Malibu Graphics, Inc., 1355 Lawrence Drive #212, Newbury Park, CA 91320.

A final note. With issue #11 of the regular *Planet Of The Apes* title, Kent and Barb will bid a fond farewell. Taking their place, however, will be M.C. Wyman and Terry Pallot, the very same team whose work you'll see on the following pages.

But for now, let's go Ape! And, like it or not, I'll be back next issue (but in a much less verbose form, I promise).

—Tom Mason

Hollywood, 1991

PS: Diamond Comics, the comics industry's largest distributor, has sponsored this special limited edition of *Ape Nation* #1. Thanks, guys and gals, for all your hard work!



WHO'S  
WHO  
IN

# APE NATION

Compiled by  
CHARLES  
MARSHALL

*Apes, Humans, Aliens...who can tell them apart? In any series like Ape Nation where two (or more) diverse cultures meet, it gets so you can't really tell the players without a scorecard. Here's Charles Marshall's...*

## Heston

A citizen of Ape City, Heston is held in high esteem by his peers. He serves as a Special Officer of the High Council of Ape City. He is also one of the few apes who has had dealings with the mysterious tribe of Lightfoot apes who reside outside of the city.

Friendly and outgoing, Heston seems to be friends with everyone in Ape City. Those close to him, however, say that he has become much more serious-minded since an illness took the life of his mate Keysha, who was heavy with child. Both his mate and the baby died, leaving a void in Heston's heart which has never quite been filled.

## Caan

Caan served as captain of the Tenctonese ship that, due to an equipment failure, broke away from the fleet that eventually landed on the Newcomer Earth of *Alien Nation*.

Like Heston, Caan lost his wife to a strange disease. He transformed his grief into service for the Tenctonese people and quickly rose to a leadership role. It was Caan's quick thinking and

fast action that saved the Tenctonese ship from destruction and landed them on the Planet of the Apes.

Whether or not this was a smart move remains to be seen.

## Packer

One of Heston's best friends, Packer earned his name because of his propensity for carrying everything that he owns with him at all times.

Packer's philosophy is that you should be ready for anything, anytime.

## Roto

One of the biggest, meanest citizens of Ape City. No, no—the biggest, meanest citizen of Ape City. He's strong, ill-tempered and has a nasty streak a mile wide.

Long ago, he had a run-in with Grunt, leader of the Ape City militia. The two quickly become friends after the incident, however. (As chronicled in an issue of Adventure Comics' *Planet Of The Apes* montly series).

Those who know him agree about one thing: you don't want to mess with Roto.

## Winnipeg

A member of the Lightfeet, not much is known about Winnipeg. Speakers of the Ancient Tongue, the Lightfeet keep their own counsel. They



are the quiet Walkers, the Night Stalkers.

Most citizens of Ape City have never seen a Lightfoot and doubt their existence.

#### **Bart**

The young orangutan nephew of Defender of the Faith Jacob, Bart is a student in Ape City.

Though he has never left the city, he longs to see the world. He may change his opinion after getting his wish.

There is friction between Jacob and Heston. Some have speculated that Heston took Bart on his trip to irritate Jacob, though Heston has not admitted it.

#### **Elysa**

The sister of Caan and Danada, Elysa is easy-going and full of life. Apparently, her personality lies somewhere between the seriousness of Caan and the charisma of Danada.

When Danada took over the Tenctonese people after they landed, Elysa feigned allegiance to her brother and worked behind the scenes to free Caan.

#### **Danada**

The brother of Caan and Elysa, Danada usurped power after the Tenctonese craft landed. His charismatic personality and persuasive speeches allowed him to take control of the Tenctonese people.

Those who would not follow him—nearly two-thirds of the crew—were imprisoned inside the ship. Caan was included in those who were imprisoned by "Danada The Destroyer."

Danada's dream is to conquer.

#### **General Ollo**

Follower of the ways of Aldo Apekiller, General Ollo has long held a grudge against Ape City, dating back to an unsuccessful coup years ago. In the aftermath of that failed takeover, Ollo was disfigured in battle, receiving a long scar across his face. Soon after, he lost sight in one eye. (These events were chronicled in Adventure Comics' *Planet Of The Apes* monthly series, issues #1-4).

In years past, Ollo has forced his followers to inflict similar scars on their own faces.

#### **Simon**

Sometimes referred to as "Simon the Slaughterer," he is one of the few humans known to be able to speak.

Simon was once a citizen of Ape City and played an instrumental role in foiling General Ollo's coup attempt. He was also very close friends with Grunt, leader of the ape military. However, Simon was exiled after attempted to murder Ape City leader Alexander.

Since that time, Simon has wandered throughout the country. During his travels, he found a wolf pup, which he has raised. The wolf—from a species thought to be extinct—has become a constant companion to Simon.

#### **The High Council**

The High Council includes Ape City leader **Alexander**—the grandson of Caesar, his mate **Coure**, Defender of the Faith **Jacob**, Chief Scientist **Dr. Moto** and mute leader of the military **Grunt**.

Alexander, Coure, Jacob, Dr. Moto and Grunt are regulars in Adventure Comics' monthly *Planet Of The Apes* book.



# APE NATION

## Scrapbook

Bart

Danada

Winnipeg

Pencil & Ink Sketches by Artist  
M.C. Wyman



# Scrapbook

**Alien Guard**



**Roto**



**Heston**



**Packer**

*Handwritten signature*