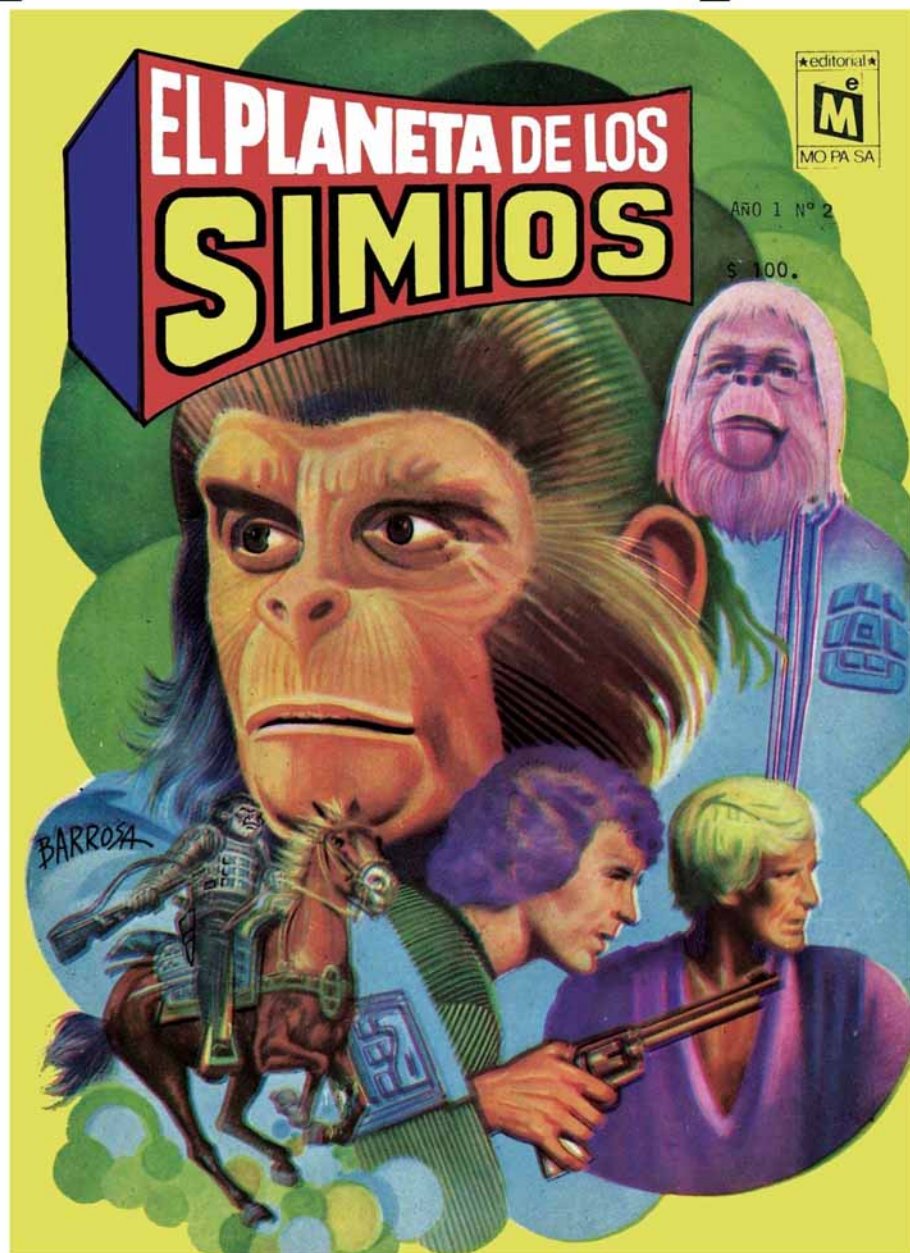
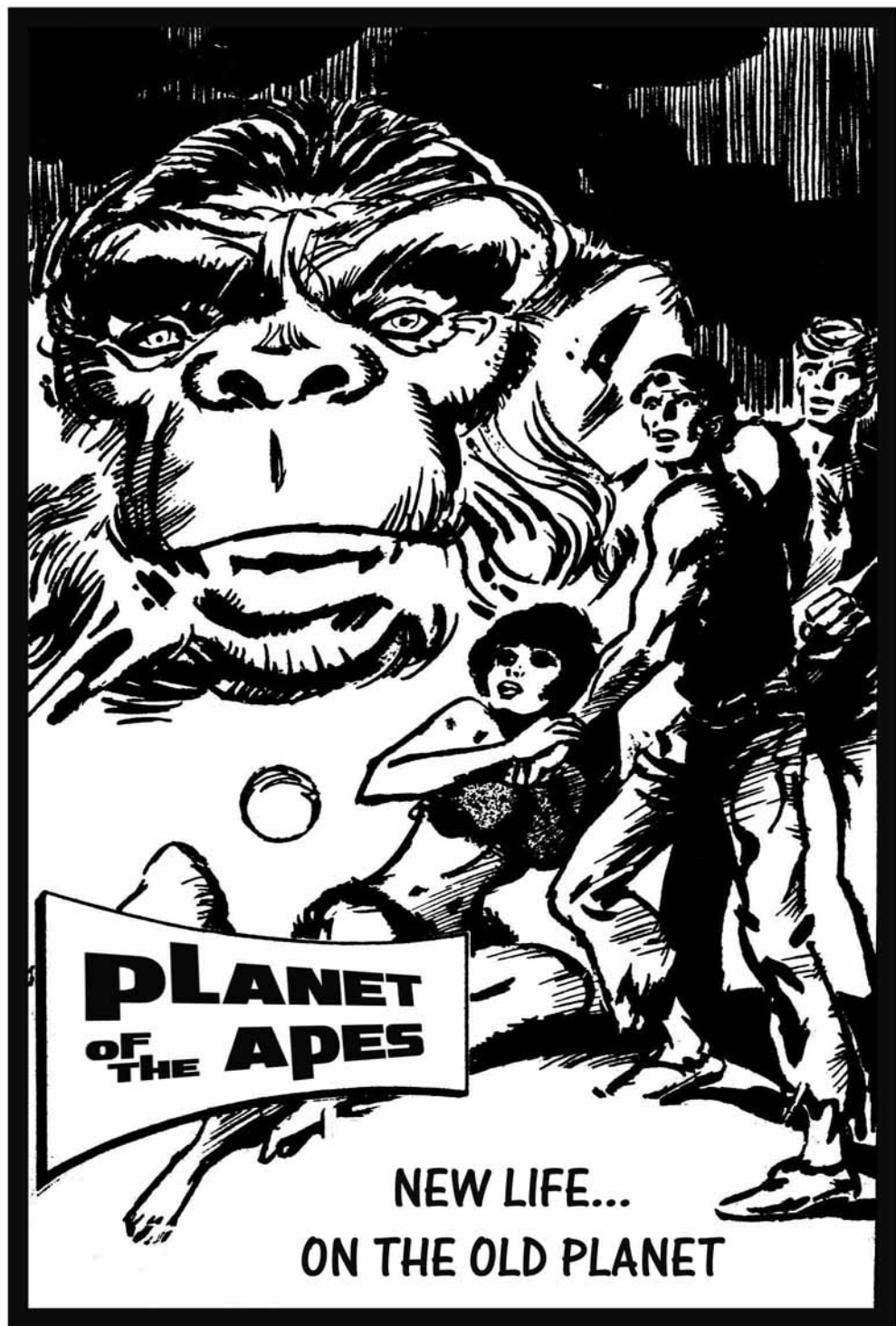


PLANET ^{OF THE} APES



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#2





TWO ASTRONAUTS, EXPLORERS, IN A FLIGHT ACROSS THE VAST, BLACK GALAXY, MAROONED AFTER THEIR MISSION TAKES AN UNPLANNED DETOUR... QUICKLY DISCOVER THEY ARE NOW LIVING SEVERAL CENTURIES IN THE FUTURE... THE EARTH'S FUTURE

A FUTURE THAT SHOWS HOW HUMAN GREED HURT, DAMAGED AND KILLED THE SPIRIT OF MANKIND. THE HUMAN RACE HAS DEVASTATED THE PLANET. THE FEW SURVIVORS ARE SIMPLE HUMANS WITH LITTLE INTELLIGENCE, DOMINATED BY THE NEW MASTERS OF THIS WORLD...

THE APES.



THE BEST ROUTE IS THROUGH THE FOREST. IT'S A GOOD PLACE TO FIND FOOD



I'D RATHER RETURN TO THE SHIP. WE SHOULD GO BACK

IT WON'T COST US ANYTHING TO TRY IT. SHE SHOULD BE JUST BEHIND THOSE ROCKS

THEN LET'S GO TO HER.

TO WHAT PURPOSE? IT'S DANGEROUS!



TWO ASTRONAUTS, SHOCKED TO FIND THEMSELVES LIVING CENTURIES IN THE FUTURE OF THEIR WORLD, CANNOT EASILY GROW ACCUSTOMED TO THE REALITY



THERE SHE IS... ARE YOU READY?



THE SHIP - A SILENT WITNESS TO
THEIR SUFFERINGS...



I DON'T SEE ANYONE... WE SHOULD BE OKAY.



ALAN, WAIT. YOU MUST BE CAREFUL. APES
ARE NOT STUPID, YOU KNOW. I GUARANTEE
THEY'LL BE WATCHING THE SHIP



WE'LL BE CAREFUL.
YOU WAIT HERE.



ALAN AND PETE DECIDE TO FIGHT FOR THEIR SHIP.







HERE COMES THE CAPTAIN.

SHOW HIM THE NEW HUMANS WE CAUGHT.

HMMM, THESE HUMANS WEAR VERY STRANGE CLOTHING. IF THEY CAME IN THAT SHIP, WE MUST DESTROY IT.

WE SHOULD LEAVE NOTHING OF THIS DEVICE. IF THEY RETURNED TO THE PLACE THEY CAME FROM, THEY COULD BRING BACK MORE HUMANS TO ENDANGER OUR WORLD.

THEY HAD ONE HOPE LEFT... ONE SLIGHT, REMOTE HOPE, BUT THE PLANET'S NEW RULERS HAVE CLOSED THE DOOR ON THE POSSIBILITY OF RETURNING HOME.

WE WILL TAKE THEM TO OUR LEADER, HE WILL DECIDE THE FATE OF THESE ANIMALS

PETE... WE HAVE TO FIND A WAY OUT OF THIS!

IF YOU SEE A WAY OUT, I'M WITH YOU



HOURS LATER, AFTER A VERY LONG WALK, THEY ARRIVE AT A POPULATED VILLAGE.



I AM PINGOR, CAPTAIN OF THIS SQUAD. I NEED FOOD FOR MY MEN AND A PLACE TO WATCH THE PRISONERS



PETE, A GIRL -- THERE ARE OTHER HUMANS HERE!



ALAN, IF WE MAKE OUR MOVE NOW, MAYBE WE'LL FIND SOMEONE TO HELP US!



MAYBE, BUT I CAN'T GET THE TERROR IN THE FACES OF THESE PEOPLE OUT OF MY MIND



COME ON... LET'S GET TO WORK ON THESE ROPES.



WITH ONE EYE ON THE THE DOOR, ALAN AND PETE TRY TO UNTIE EACH OTHER.



THERE! THAT'S ONE FREE!





OKAY, WE'RE FREE. LOOK
AROUND FOR A WAY OUT



PETE... CHECK IT OUT.



IT LOOKS CLEAR



WAIT... I SEE TWO GORILLAS GUARDING THE
HUT, AND TWO MORE, OVER BY THE HORSES.



THE ONLY WAY TO SAVE THEMSELVES
IS TO MAKE A BREAK FOR THE
FOREST



HEY, OVER THERE, THE TWO
HUMANS ARE ESCAPING!



DAMMIT, THEY SAW US, ALAN -
WE NEED TO FIND COVER, FAST!



THEY MUST BE ON THIS SIDE...

NO... OVER HERE I SEE BROKEN BRANCHES AND LEAVES -- THEY WENT THIS WAY.



THEY'VE SEEN US, PETE! QUICK! THIS WAY!



DON'T BREATHE, PETE... DON'T BREATHE...

DEATH BY SUFFOCATION OR DEATH BY APES

FUNNY PETE, VERY FUNNY.



SO CLOSE...



LET'S GO. THEY'VE ESCAPED

...AND YET, SO FAR.



LUCK WAS ON OUR SIDE FOR ONCE!

WELL IT'S ABOUT TIME

BUT THEY'LL SOON CATCH US IF WE DON'T KEEP MOVING. WHICH WAY- ANY IDEAS?



BETTER WE GET LOST THAN TO DIE OF HUNGER AND THIRST!

BESIDES, WHAT HAVE YOU TO LOSE?

WHO ARE YOU?



MY NAME IS GOLLI, AND I LIVE IN THE JUNGLE WHERE YOU WERE TAKEN. WHY WERE YOU PRISONERS OF THE APES?



IT'S A LONG STORY, BUT... ARE THERE MANY OTHER HUMANS IN THAT VILLAGE?

GOLLI TELLS THEM ABOUT HERSELF, HER LIFE SERVING THE APES, AND HOW HER FAMILY IS ENSLAVED AND TREATED LIKE ANIMALS, TO PLANT AND TO HARVEST FOR THE BENEFIT OF THEIR MASTERS.



THAT'S HOW OUR LIFE IS... I WAS BORN THIS WAY AND IT IS HOW I WILL DIE



THERE THEY ARE, WITH A HUMAN FROM THE VILLAGE.

KILL THEM!





AND SO - THE CONFRONTATION THEY HOPED TO
AVOID... BEGINS.







THEY ARE COMING! THEY
HEARD THE GUNSHOTS!



AND ONCE AGAIN A DESPERATE
FLIGHT THROUGH THE DENSE
FOREST BEGINS...

YOU'LL HAVE TO CROSS THE
RIVER. AT THE END, YOU'LL FIND
AN OLD FARM. FRIENDLY PEOPLE
LIVE THERE... THEY WILL HELP
YOU



WHAT? YOU MEAN YOU'RE
NOT COMING WITH US?



NO, MY FAMILY LIVES IN THE
VILLAGE, AND MY PLACE IS
WITH THEM... GOODBYE!

GOODBYE...



THIS ISN'T VERY
DEEP -- WE'LL
CROSS ON
FOOT

AS THE GIRL INDICATED, THEY
CROSSED THE RIVER...

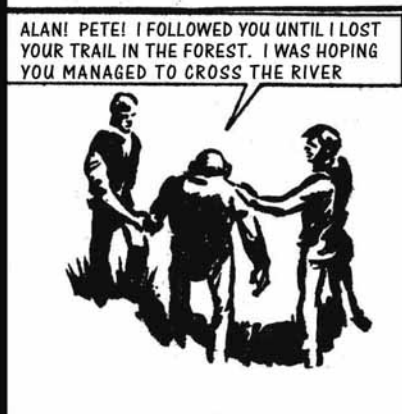
LET'S GO THAT WAY. MAYBE WE
CAN AVOID THE APES.



QUIET, PETE -- LOOK
OVER THERE!



IT'S ONE OF THEM!



THEY HATE HUMANS, PETE. MOST OF THEM - OF US - ARE TERRIFIED THAT YOU MIGHT STILL REPEAT YOUR HISTORY OF SELF-DESTRUCTION, AND...



THAT IF YOU WERE EVER TO REGAIN POWER OVER THIS PLANET... YOU WOULD ONLY DESTROY IT... TOTALLY.



BUT YOU SEE, I BELIEVE THAT HUMANS, LIKE APES, ARE CAPABLE OF BOTH GOOD AND BAD. I BELIEVE IN YOU... MY FRIENDS.



A PLANET DOMINATED BY APES... A RACE OF HUMANS THAT STILL MIGHT SOMEDAY REGAIN THEIR POTENTIAL... TWO SPECIES, SO FAR APART, THAT MUST SOMEHOW LEARN TO BELIEVE IN EACH OTHER.





PLANET OF THE APES

DEPTH

THE ROUGH HOWL OF A CONCH OVERPOWERS THE BLUE SKY AND THE BEIGE WHEAT FIELDS. DOWN BELOW, IN THE VALLEY, TWO SMALL FIGURES CONTINUE TO RUN. THEY KNOW THAT THE HOWL OF THE CONCH ONLY OFFERS TWO OPTIONS...



... ENSLAVEMENT -- OR DEATH.

SOMETIMES, IT WARNS THEM TO ESCAPE... BUT NOT THIS TIME.



UNGHHH!

THIS TIME, THE APES HAVE THEM SURROUNDED

WE CAN'T JUST STAND BY WHILE THEY TAKE THEM -- WE HAVE TO HELP!



I AM GOING TO HELP THEM

ALAN! NO!

WE TOOK REFUGE IN THIS TOWER BECAUSE IT'S TABOO FOR APES -- BUT IF YOU SHOOT AT THEM, THEY'LL IGNORE ANY TABOOS!



BUT WE CAN'T LET THE APES ENSLAVE THEM... OR WORSE!

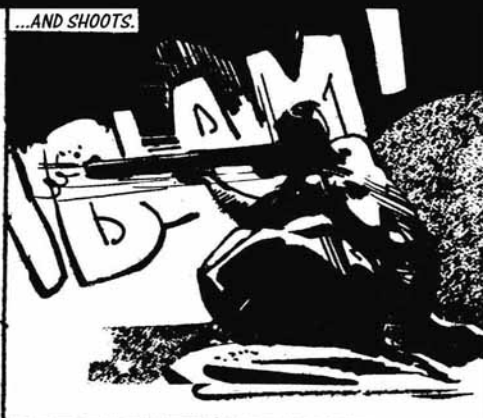
NOW YOU JUST WAIT A MINUTE... I AM ALSO AN APE. AND VERY PROUD OF IT



GALEN IS RIGHT, BUT WE CAN STILL FOLLOW MY PLAN



ALAN LOOKS
DOWN FROM
THE TOWER...



...AND SHOOTS.



AN APE DRAGGING A CHAIN-
GANG OF HUMANS IS
THROWN FROM HIS HORSE.



SOMEONE IS SHOOT-
ING AT US!

FROM THE
TOWER!

IT'S AN ARMED HUMAN!
LET'S MOVE!



WAIT! THE TOWER IS **TABOO!** IT
IS FORBIDDEN TO APPROACH IT!

TORMO THE LEADER IS QUITE LARGE. HIS
CLOTHING IS WELL ADORNED AND HIS
HORSE WELL-CARED FOR.



BUT... CAPTAIN TORMO...THEY'RE SHOOTING
AT US!

THE TOWER IS **TABOO!**
TAKE A LOOK... BUT
DO NOT GO IN!



THEY'RE RETREATING, GALEN! WE MANAGED
TO SAVE THE HUMANS!

NO, NO, NO - YOU'VE
ONLY COMPLICATED
THINGS!

ARE YOU THINKING LIKE HUMANS, OR LIKE ANIMALS? THE GORILLAS WON'T ALLOW US SUCH AN EASY VICTORY. THEY WILL FOLLOW - AND THEY WON'T STOP UNTIL THEY FIND US

LIKE ANIMALS, EH? GALEN, IT SOUNDS TO ME LIKE YOU MIGHT BE JUST A LITTLE AFRAID?



ALAN VIRDON AND PETE BURKE. TWO ASTRONAUTS... TRAPPED IN THE YEAR 3085, ON A WORLD WHERE MANKIND HAS DEGENERATED AND APES HAVE EVOLVED BECOMING THE RULERS OF THE PLANET...



I'M AFRAID BECAUSE I HAVE MORE SENSE!

THIS TOWER ONCE CONTAINED A RESTAURANT - BUT THAT NO LONGER EXISTS. NOW, IT'S JUST A WALL THAT CUTS OFF THE SKY.



IT'S BEST THAT WE LEAVE. THIS PLACE IS STARTING TO LOOK BAD FOR OUR HEALTH.

INCREDIBLY, IN PLACES WHERE THE PLANTS HAVE MANAGED TO GROW BETWEEN THE CEMENT, ON THE GIRDERS AND BEAMS, THE TOWER LOOKS LIKE A STRANGE AND TWISTED TREE.



YOU TWO ARE ALWAYS READY TO RUIN THE BEST HIDING PLACES, THE BEST THOUGHT-OUT PLANS

WE'RE TROUBLE-MAKERS, BUDDY -- AND SO ARE YOU, OR YOU WOULDN'T BE TRAVELING WITH US.



HIMMPH!

THEY DESCEND THE TOWER.

WHOLE SECTIONS OF THE ANCIENT STAIRS HAVE CRUMBLLED AWAY OR ARE COMPLETELY MISSING - IT IS A DIFFICULT, DANGEROUS CLIMB TO THE BOTTOM.



THE APES COULD SET FIRE TO THE TOWER, PETE, AND BURN US ALIVE.

THEY GET DOWN SAFELY, BUT THE SOUNDS THEY HEAR PROMISE NEW PROBLEMS.

WHAT THE HELL?



HUMANS CIRCLE THE TOWER,
INTONING A STRANGE CHANT

WHAT ARE THEY DOING? IT LOOKS
LIKE THEY'RE WORSHIPPING
THE TOWER!

THEY ARE! A TYPICAL RESPONSE
FROM SUPERSTITIOUS
HUMANS

SUPERSTITIOUS HUMANS?

I TOLD YOU THE TOWER WAS
TABOO. NOBODY EVER
APPROACHES IT -- AT LEAST,
NOT UNTIL YOU DRAGGED ME
HERE. AND NOW THE TOWER
HAS HELPED
THEM DEFEAT
THE SLAVE
HUNTERS, SO
THEY
WORSHIP
YOU.

ALL THAT REMAINS OF THE CIVILIZATION
IN THIS VALLEY IS WHAT'S LEFT OF THE
TOWER. IT WITHSTOOD THE ATOMIC
BOMBS AND SO THE PLACE IS NOW
CONSIDERED SACRED.

A LITTLE LIKE THE SHATTERED
REMAINS OF HIROSHIMA, FROM OUR
TIME

WELL? WE CAN'T LET THESE PEOPLE WORSHIP
US. WE ARE NOT GODS.

YOU WOULDN'T BE ABLE TO
STOP THEM, ALAN. THEY ARE
HUMAN FANATICS OF THE
WORST KIND.

SOMETIMES, GALEN, I ASK MYSELF
WHICH SIDE YOU'RE TRULY ON, AND
IF YOU ONLY FOLLOW US TO
STUDY THE PSYCHOLOGY OF OUR
'INFERIORITY'.

HA! THAT COULD
WELL BE IT.

THE HUMANS CROWD AROUND... AND ADVANCE.

THE APES
RETURN!

THE ROUGH HOWL OF THE CONCH CUTS THROUGH
THE SINGING AND RHYTHMIC DANCING

DAMN! THE PEOPLE ARE HEADING INTO THE TOWER! THEY CAN'T ALL FIT IN THERE!

IS THERE NO OTHER EXIT?
WE'VE GOT TO TRY AND
FIND ONE!



URKO HAS AUTHORIZED US TO IGNORE THE TABOO! SHOOT OVER THEIR HEADS AS A WARNING!



THE SHOTS RESONATE THROUGH THE WALLS LIKE BLOWS FROM A MACE. THE STRUCTURE SHAKES, BUT STANDS. AFTER ALL, IT WITHSTOOD AN ATOMIC WAR.

THE GORILLAS HAVE BROKEN THE TABOO! WE'RE FINISHED!



WAIT! HERE'S A DOOR - IT LOOKS LIKE IT LEADS DOWNWARDS

TO A TUNNEL?



IT TAKES LITTLE EFFORT TO BREAK METAL DECAYED BY RUST. IT SWINGS OPEN ... TO A DARKNESS LEADING DOWN THE DUSTY STAIRS BEFORE THE ADVANCING HUMANS

BUT WHERE DOES THE TUNNEL GO?

IT CONNECTS TO A SUBWAY STATION, PETE. THE SURFACE WAS DEVASTATED, BUT THE TUNNELS SEEM INTACT



OVER THERE -- IT'S THE GODS!

SAVE US, OH GODS OF THE TOWER!



STOP! LISTEN! WE'RE NOT YOUR GODS, BUT NOW IS NOT THE TIME!

WE CAN LEAD YOU TO A PLACE OF SAFETY - BUT YOU MUST DO AS WE SAY!



THE CROWD FALL SILENT. THE POOR, TERRIFIED HUMANS HUDDLE AROUND HIM, SHAKING WITH FEAR - BUT THEY LISTEN.



WE'RE GOING DOWN INTO THE TUNNELS, SLOWLY, WITHOUT RUNNING! NO SHOUTING, EITHER... THE ECHO COULD BRING DOWN THESE OLD WALLS! DOES EVERYONE UNDER-
STAND?

THEY DO NOT ANSWER. FOR HOW DO YOU ANSWER A GOD?



A HAIL OF GUNFIRE ANSWERS INSTEAD.



NO! WAIT!

THEY'RE ALL GATHERED IN THE TOWER, SIR!



EXACTLY WHAT I ANTICIPATED - DISMOUNT, AND PREPARE TO FOLLOW!

THEY DISMOUNT, YES, BUT HESITANTLY. FOR THEM, THE TABOO OF THE TOWER REMAINS STRONG.



THAT TOWER HAS BEEN FORBIDDEN BY THE COUNCIL, AND THE COUNCIL IS VERY WISE. SIR, MUST WE ENTER THERE?

I ORDER IT -- AND I'LL KILL WHOEVER HESITATES!

DEEP WITHIN THE TOWER...

HOW DO YOU PLAN TO CONTROL THAT CROWD? THEY'RE ALMOST CRAZY WITH FEAR, ALAN!

IF ONLY WE KNEW WHAT'S DOWN THERE!



WELL... WE KNOW WHAT'S UP HERE! THE GORILLAS ARE ADVANCING!



LET'S GO!

TOTAL DARKNESS. DOWN BELOW, THE SOUND OF RUNNING AND SHOUTING HUMANS.



THEN, LITTLE BY LITTLE, THEIR EYES
BECOME ACCUSTOMED TO THE
GLOOM

WHERE IS THE
LIGHT COMING
FROM?

THERE APPEARS TO BE
A LUMINOUS FUNGI
COVERING THE WALLS.
MAYBE IT GREW ON ITS
OWN... OR
MAYBE IT WAS
CULTIVATED
BY MEN...

THOSE MEN... CULTIVATED
THIS FUNGI?

WATCH
OUT!

THE SHOUTS BECOME HYSTERICAL, AND THE HUMANS RUSH OUT FROM
THE DEEP, LUMINESCENT TUNNEL OVERWHELMED WITH PANIC.

STAND BACK!

TABOO, TABOO! THE GODS ARE
PUNISHING US! GET OUT, WHILE
WE CAN!

WHAT THE HELL IS AT THE END OF
THE TUNNEL?

THE GORILLAS ARE
HERE -- THEY'LL TAKE
YOU!

WE PREFER
SLAVERY - TO
WHAT LIVES
DOWN
THERE!

BUT-

I TOLD YOU! THIS PLACE IS
TABOO! SOMETHING IS
IN HERE! LET'S GO!

WHATEVER IT IS,
GALEN, THERE'S AN
EXPLANATION FOR IT

HEY! YOU, WAIT!

NO!

PLEASE, LET ME GO! THERE ARE
MONSTERS DOWN THERE!

IN THE HALL OF THE TABOO TOWER, THE APES HAVE CAPTURED THE LAST OF THE HUMANS.

THEY SAW SOMETHING IN THE CAVE, TORMO. THEY'RE FRIGHTENED -- AND THEY GAVE UP WITHOUT RESISTANCE.



I SEE.

PERHAPS WE SHOULD GO DOWN AND SEE THIS "SOMETHING" FOR OURSELVES.

TORMO, NO! IT'S TABOO AND DANGEROUS!

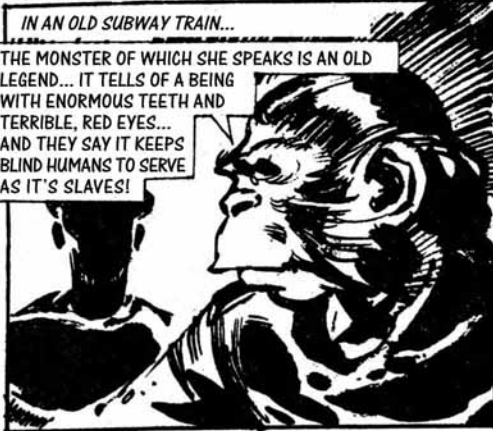


THERE IS NO TABOO THAT CAN RESIST A GOOD GUN.

BAH! STAY THEN! GUARD THE HUMANS -- BUT I'M GOING DOWN TO THE CAVE - ALONE!

IN AN OLD SUBWAY TRAIN...

THE MONSTER OF WHICH SHE SPEAKS IS AN OLD LEGEND... IT TELLS OF A BEING WITH ENORMOUS TEETH AND TERRIBLE, RED EYES... AND THEY SAY IT KEEPS BLIND HUMANS TO SERVE AS IT'S SLAVES!



THEY COME!



A SHAMBLING NIGHTMARE APPROACHES ALAN AND PETE. IT'S HUMAN, BUT BLIND. IT'S ALBINO, HAIRY, TWISTED AND BENT.

MY GOD -- WHAT IS THAT?

YOU! STOP RIGHT THERE!



WE'RE FRIENDS!

THE HUMAN STRANGERS
COVER THEIR EARS.

THE STRANGE WORDS CONFUSE THEM... EXCITE THEM...

AND THEN THEY ATTACK

NO! WE'RE FRIENDS!

YOU'RE HUMAN TOO - YOU
HAVE TO TRY AND UNDER
STAND US!

AAAAAH!

NO - WAIT!

ALAN STRIKES THE ONE WHO APPEARS TO BE
THE LEADER.

STOP! LISTEN! LISTEN TO ME!
WE'RE FRIENDS! FRIENDS!
FRIENDS!



FR-IE-ND?

AMONG THE DEAD RUINS OF A
TECHNOLOGICAL CIVILIZATION...

I WILL FOLLOW THEM AND
KILL THE LEADER OF THESE
REBELS.

ALAN'S WORDS STIR AN ECHO IN THE MIND
OF THE OLD, BLIND ALBINO, WHO PASSES A
HAND OVER THE FACE OF THE ASTRONAUT.

FR...IE...ND

THE HUMANS ARE ORGANIZING A
REBELLION. URKO IS RIGHT -- THE
HUMANS ARE DANGEROUS, AND
WE MUST EXTERMINATE THEM...

THE HUMANOID'S CALM DOWN AND CROWD
TOGETHER.

JUST WHAT KIND OF ...MEN...
ARE THEY, ALAN?

THEY'VE
SPENT
GENERATIONS
DOWN HERE. I
DON'T KNOW...
MAYBE THEY'RE
SURVIVORS OF
AN ATOMIC ATTACK?

FR...IE...ND...

I GUESS THEY WANT US
TO FOLLOW THEM.

NO! DON'T LEAVE! THE
MONSTER WILL COME
AND THEN EAT ME!

LET US LEAVE THIS
PLACE WHILE WE CAN,
ALAN!

YOU CAN STAY HERE IF
YOU WANT, I'M GOING
ON AHEAD.

AN INTRICATE NETWORK OF
SUBWAYS BENEATH THE CITY -
A CITY THAT NO LONGER
EXISTS. A FANTASTIC
LABYRINTH, ABANDONED FOR
CENTURIES, REEKING, HUMID
AND FOUL.

A FOUL SMELL OF SOME-
THING ROTTING.

HOLY... WHAT HELLISH KIND
OF PLACE IS THIS?

IT WAS THE CENTRAL
STATION OF A METRO
RAILROAD.

THEIR EYES SLOWLY
ADJUST - THERE IS SO
LITTLE LIGHT HERE.

AND ONCE THEY'VE ADJUSTED TO
THE DARK - THEY MUST ADJUST TO
THE HORROR.

OH, NO!

GOOD GOD!

EEEEK!

IT'S THE MONSTER!



IT'S HORRIBLE! A NIGHTMARE!

YEAH, BUT ANY WORSE THAN A PLANET RULED BY APES?



THE HEAD OF THE SUB-HUMANS APPROACHES AND "TALKS" TO THE INTELLIGENT RAT WITH THE LONG WHISKERS.



WHAT'S GOING ON, ALAN? ANY IDEA?



A MUTATION? THE RADIATION?

THE RATS HAVE DEVELOPED IN INTELLIGENCE AND DOMINATE THESE HUMANS LOCKED UP IN THE DEPTHS OF THIS SUBTERRANEAN CITY.



I'LL TELL YOU THIS MUCH - I DEFINITELY PREFER A PLANET RULED BY APES TO ONE DOMINATED BY RATS.



A NEARBY MOVEMENT SURPRISES THE FOUR.

THE MONSTROUS RODENT DESCENDS. IT APPROACHES THE HUMANS.



SHOULD WE TRY AND KILL IT?

THERE MAY BE OTHERS, PETE.

I TOLD YOU... WE SHOULD HAVE LEFT



ARRR! FR...IE...ND!



THE SUPER-RAT STRETCHES A DEFORMED PAW...

...TAKES ALAN'S HAND, AND
SMELLS IT.

KEEP IT TOGETHER ALAN. JUST
KEEP CALM AND STAY IN
CONTROL...

SQUEAK!

THE SCENT SEEMS TO SATISFY THE MONSTROUS
RODENT. ITS BEADY EYES CROSS TO PETE,
AND TO THE GIRL... THEN STOP AT GALEN.

UH-OH... THERE'S
SOMETHING ABOUT
GALEN THEY
DON'T LIKE!

SQUEAK! SQUEAK!

LEAVE HIM ALONE --
HE'S A FRIEND!

SQUEAK!

THEN, UNEXPECTEDLY, THE RAT JUMPS ON ALAN LIKE A
LION. OTHER RAT-MEN APPEAR AND ADVANCE ON THE
ASTRONAUTS, GALEN AND THE GIRL.

LOOK OUT!

AHH!

THEN... UNEXPECTED ASSISTANCE...

FR-IE-NDI FR-IE-NDI

VIRDON AND BURKE HAVE
SHOWN THE BLIND MEN
WHAT IT IS TO BE HUMAN -
AND HUMANS WERE NOT
BORN TO BE SLAVES

FR...IE...NDI

FR-IE-NDI FR-IE-NDI

THEY ATTACK THEIR
FORMER MASTERS

ARE YOU OKAY, ALAN?

YEAH, BUT I'VE GOT
TO DISINFECT THESE
WOUNDS

THE HUMANS -- THEY'RE
HELPING US TO FIGHT THE
RODENTS!

WE'VE AWAKENED THEIR HUMAN SPIRIT!
WE HAVE TO HELP THEM!

JUST AS WELL WE'VE NO
RIFLES -- WE'VE SEEN
HOW SOUND AFFECTS
THEM!

WE'RE OUTNUMBERED!
GALEN - CARE TO LEND A
HAND!

I'M HERE -- IT'S ABOUT TIME
I SAVED *YOUR* LIVES!

AND I WILL HELP
YOU ALSO!

AND !!

THE BATTLE DOESN'T LAST LONG.
THE ORGANIZED HUMANS ARE
MUCH BETTER SOLDIERS THAN
THE RAT-MEN, AND THE APES
PROVE THEMSELVES FORMIDABLE
ALLIES.

THEY'RE NOT MUCH OF A
THREAT AFTER ALL!

I DON'T THINK I'VE EVER
ENJOYED EXTERMINATING
RATS SO MUCH!

THE FINAL BLOW BRINGS DOWN A
FRAGILE WALL OF PILED BONES... AND
LIGHT SHINES IN.

LIGHT!

THE BONES HAD AN EXIT! THE RAT-
MEN COVERED IT UP. THEY DIDN'T
WANT THE HUMANS TO KNOW
ABOUT IT!



YEAH, WELL, MAYBE THEY
WEREN'T SO DIFFERENT
FROM HUMANS AFTER ALL...
ENSLAVING, KILLING... ALL
TO SERVE THEIR OWN ENDS.

WAIT A MINUTE - WHO ARE
YOU? AND WHY ARE YOU HELP-
ING HUMANS?



HE'S TORMO, THE
HUNTING CHIEF OF
THE APES!

YES, I'M TORMO, URKO'S TRUSTED
LIEUTENANT, BUT I WAS NEVER
HUNTING CHIEF.



I FOLLOWED YOU INTO THE DEPTHS. I SAW YOU RISK YOUR OWN
LIVES TO SAVE AN APE -- AND TO SAVE THE BLIND HUMANS... I
UNDERSTAND NOW. OUR ATTITUDES CAN BE AS BLIND AND
DANGEROUS AS THOSE OF THE RODENTS WE FOUGHT TOGETHER.



I HAVE SOME INFLUENCE WITH
THE COUNCIL. I MAY BE ABLE TO
GET THEM TO CHANGE THEIR
ATTITUDE ABOUT SOME THINGS.



WHAT THINGS? JUST
WHAT ARE YOU
TALKING ABOUT,
EXACTLY?

PUTTING AN END TO THE
HUMAN HUNTS... BUT AS
FAR AS SLAVERY GOES,
THAT WILL TAKE MUCH
LONGER. IT WILL BE VERY
DIFFICULT TO CHANGE
OUR WAYS.



AND WHAT OF THE
HUMAN SURVIVORS
OF THE DEPTHS?
THEY'RE BLIND...
HELPLESS.

THEY WILL REMAIN UNDER MY
PROTECTION, NO HARM WILL
COME TO THEM - I ASSURE
YOU.



I'VE NEVER HEARD
AN APE SPEAK
THIS WAY.

ME NEITHER.

YOU NEITHER HUH? EXCEPT WHEN
YOU'RE THE ONE SPEAKING, YOU MEAN.

HUMAN?

WELL, YES, BUT

I'M... I'M...

HAH!



I WILL LEAVE YOU
NOW... TRUST ME.
BUT URKO IS A DIFFER-
ENT MATTER. HE WILL
KILL YOU IF HE EVER
FINDS YOU.



WITH ONE FINAL GLANCE THEY DEPART THE CAVERN, PIERCING THE DEPTHS OF THE EARTH, LEAVING
BEHIND A CENTRAL TRAIN STATION, FLOODED WITH BONES, HUMAN AND GIANT RAT CORPSES... AND
THE PROMISE OF AN ENORMOUS GORILLA TO TRY TO FORCE CHANGE.
EVERYTHING IS MORE TERRIBLE THAN
A NIGHTMARE...



THE NIGHTMARE DESTINY OF HUMANITY - WITH ITS LACK OF UNDERSTANDING, ITS VIOLENCE, AND ITS MADNESS...
BUT FOR ALAN VIRDON AND PETE BURKE IT'S MORE THAN A NIGHTMARE...



IT IS REALITY...

THE END

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