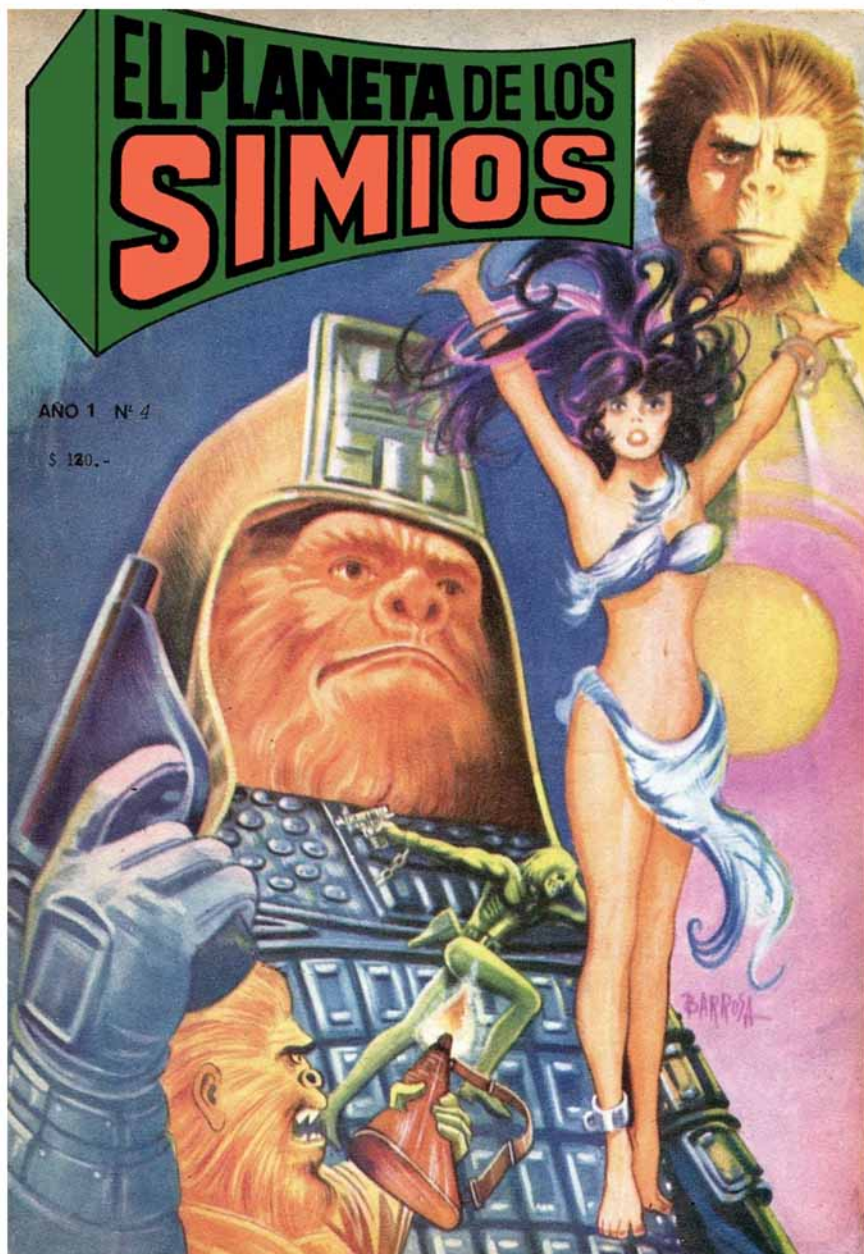


# PLANET <sup>OF THE</sup> APES




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#4

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# ULTRA- SONIC



IT BEGINS WITH A REPEATED TAPPING, AS IF AN ENORMOUS WOODPECKER DRILLS THROUGH THE ENTIRE CITY... OR JUST THE CORPSE OF A CITY. THEN ALL AT ONCE, A GREAT SOUND, LIKE A GIANT TREE CRASHING TO THE GROUND. AN EARTHQUAKE FOLLOWS AS FIFTEEN TO TWENTY SLABS OF ROCK FALL TO THE GROUND.



THE CITY LIES IN RUINS. FOR SOME REASON, THE CEMENT CRUMBLES, THE IRON DECAYS AND THE BUILDINGS COLLAPSE.



I NEVER THOUGHT I'D WITNESS THE DEATH OF NEW YORK.



NEW YORK? WAS THAT THE NAME OF THE CITY?

YES. AT ONE TIME, IT WAS THE BIGGEST CITY ON THE PLANET.

THE OLD APE, HARIMON, FROWNS. HE HAS TROUBLE BELIEVING WHAT HE HEARS FROM THESE TWO HUMANS... SO STRANGE, SO INDEPENDENT.

I GUESS THAT'S POSSIBLE... NO ONE CAN REFUTE IT ANYWAY...



MY FRIENDS KNOW MANY THINGS, HARIMON, AND HAVING SEEN THEM FALL FROM THE SKY, I BELIEVE THEM.

IF YOU BELIEVE SOMEONE CAN FALL FROM THE SKY, YOU'LL BELIEVE ANYTHING.



HARIMON, NOT ONLY DID THEY FALL FROM THE SKY, THEY TRAVELED AMONG THE STARS.

LET'S END THIS USELESS DISCUSSION. IT WON'T BE LONG BEFORE URKO FINDS US.



I THOUGHT IT WOULD BE EASIER TO HIDE OURSELVES IN THE CITY THAN IN THE SUBURBS, BUT NOW I'M STARTING TO DOUBT IT.



THE CITY IS FALLING PART. IT'S FULL OF THINGS THAT MIGHT GET US KILLED... CRUMBLING BUILDINGS, POISONOUS GASES, WILD ANIMALS, WHO KNOWS WHAT.





THE DOGS ARE GETTING MORE AND MORE ANXIOUS, URKO! DO YOU THINK THE HUMANS WILL BE ABLE TO AVOID THEIR ATTACK?

GRRR! RRUUFFF!



YOU KNOW DOGS ARE MORE DOCILE WITH HUMANS THAN WITH APES. THEY'RE BOTH ANIMALS, SO THEY UNDERSTAND EACH OTHER BETTER.

IN THAT CASE, THEY CAN HIDE INDEFINITELY.

THOSE TWO HUMANS, PERHAPS... BUT NOT THE TRAITORS, GALEN OR THE SORCERER HARIMON.



LET'S GO... WE HAVE TO KEEP SEARCHING.



THE ELEVATOR SHAFTS ARE FULL OF WATER—  
RAINWATER'S OVERFLOWING THEM.

THIS SHAFT... IT HAS A  
METAL COVERING.

THE CITY: A MUTE WITNESS  
TO THE FINAL CATAclysm  
THAT DESTROYED  
MANKIND'S CIVILIZATION.  
MUTE... JUST LIKE ALL THE  
DEAD WITHIN IT.

IT WAS A SHOPPING  
CENTER, MOST LIKELY -  
THERE'S NO TELLING WHAT  
WE MIGHT FIND HERE.

A SHOPPING CENTER? WHAT WAS  
THAT? SOME KIND OF TEMPLE?

WELL, YOU COULD CALL IT THAT... YEAH, GALEN,  
IT WAS SOME KIND OF TEMPLE.

THE APES, ONCE INFERIOR  
ANIMALS, BY SOME SECRET  
DESIGN OF NATURE HAVE  
EVOLVED INTO THE MASTERS,  
RULING AS SUPERIORS OVER  
MAN.

STRANGE CLOTHES...  
WOOLS... WHAT KIND OF  
FIBERS ARE THESE?

THE SHOP WINDOWS ARE  
ALL BROKEN. POSSIBLY  
SOME KIND OF SOUND WAVE  
DAMAGED THEM.

SYNTHETIC FIBER. HARIMON.  
- YOU'D BE AMAZED TO  
LEARN HOW IT'S  
MANUFACTURED.

BUT FIRST,  
WE'D HAVE TO  
EXPLAIN PETRO-  
LEUM TO YOU.

WE CAN'T CHECK HOUSE BY HOUSE, URKO!  
THAT WOULD TAKE YEARS!

NOT IF WE PREVENT  
THEM FROM HIDING!  
LET'S GO!



I WONDER IF SOMETHING WE DID  
CAUSED THE DESTRUCTION TO  
HAPPEN SO SWIFTLY.

IF WE ALTER THE  
STRUCTURAL HARMONIC  
COMPLEX OF THE BLASTS  
AND —

I THOUGHT YOU WERE  
JUST A MAGICIAN,  
HARIMON.

I AM A STUDENT OF ALL  
BEINGS AND THINGS, AND I  
HAVE SPECIALIZED IN SOUND.  
IN THE LOWER FREQUENCIES,  
YOU CAN DEMOLISH A HOUSE  
WITH A SINGLE CHORD.



BUT THAT'S NOT WHAT A SORCERER DOES - YOU'RE A SCIENTIST!

IN THE MIDDLE AGES, GALEN, A WISE PERSON WAS CALLED A MAGICIAN, A WIZARD, AN ALCHEMIST.

AND TO TOP IT ALL OFF, WE HAVE URKO TREADING ON OUR HEELS.

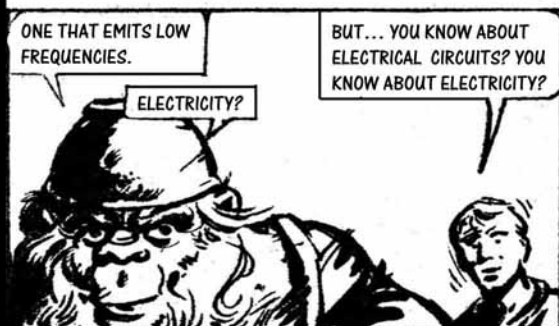


OH, OH! LOOK AT THIS! LOOK AT THIS!

WHAT IS IT?

IN THE MALL, THEY FIND THE REMAINS FROM VARIOUS SHOPS: BUG-INFESTED BOOKS, ROTTING TOYS, FRAYED CLOTHES AND MORE.

AN AMPLIFIER WITH EXTRA-HEAVY SPEAKERS...



ONE THAT EMITS LOW FREQUENCIES.

ELECTRICITY?

BUT... YOU KNOW ABOUT ELECTRICAL CIRCUITS? YOU KNOW ABOUT ELECTRICITY?

THE ANXIOUS FINGERS OF THE OLD APE GRIP THE SONAR EQUIPMENT.

I DON'T KNOW WHAT ELECTRICITY OR CIRCUITS ARE...

BUT I RECOGNIZE A LOW-FREQUENCY EMITTER WHEN I SEE ONE. I HAVE FOUND MANY IN THE RUINS AND ANALYZED THEIR FUNCTION... AND FOR THAT, I HAVE BEEN PERSECUTED.

BUT HOW DO THEY WORK WITHOUT ELECTRICITY?



USING BATTERIES, ALAN, RECHARGED BY SOLAR POWER. THEY WERE EXPERIMENTING WITH THEM WHEN WE LEFT FOR SPACE.



SUCH OVER-REACTION! HARIMON, YOU ACT LIKE A HUMAN- YOU GET SO EXCITED ABOUT EVERYTHING!



THE FACT IS, GALEN, THAT THIS EQUIPMENT, WITH ONLY A SINGLE NOTE, MIGHT BE ALL IT TAKES TO DEMOLISH THIS BUILDING!



BAHI I THINK WE MADE A MISTAKE IN PROTECTING A MAGICIAN.

THIS PLACE, TO THE SIDE OF THE SHOPPING CENTER, WOULD MAKE A GOOD REFUGE.

DO ME A FAVOR, HARIMON - DON'T DEMOLISH THIS BUILDING.



DO YOU BELIEVE THAT OLD MONKEY, ALAN?



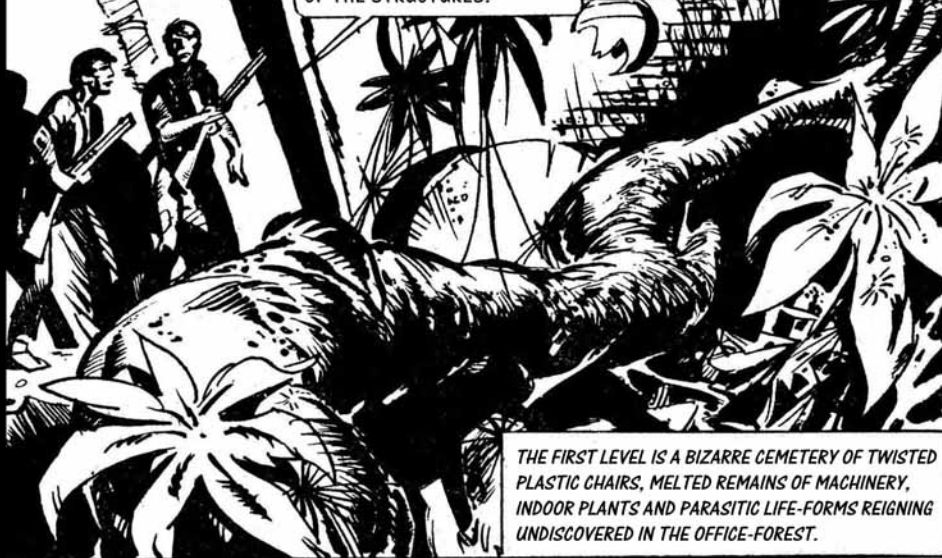
DESPITE THE LITTLE HE KNOWS, WE CAN CONSIDER HIM A SCIENTIST.

BUT THE IDEA THAT THE BUILDING COULD FALL DOWN... FROM A COMMON AMPLIFIER... IF THAT WERE TRUE, THE CITIES WOULD NEVER HAVE SURVIVED THE THOUSANDS OF RECORD PLAYERS PEOPLE USED!



THIS IS DIFFERENT, PETE.

THE CITIES WERE ONCE FULL OF NOISE, AND THE STRUCTURES WERE ABLE TO SUPPORT IT, BUT... NOW, AFTER YEARS OF SILENCE, WHO CAN PREDICT THE REMAINING STRENGTH OF THE STRUCTURES?



THE FIRST LEVEL IS A BIZARRE CEMETERY OF TWISTED PLASTIC CHAIRS, MELTED REMAINS OF MACHINERY, INDOOR PLANTS AND PARASITIC LIFE-FORMS REIGNING UNDISCOVERED IN THE OFFICE-FOREST.

SO MUCH SO THAT TO LOOK IN THE WINDOW, THEY MUST FIRST PUSH ASIDE SEVERAL LAYERS OF PLANT-LIFE

I DON'T THINK THEY'LL FIND US, ALAN. THERE ARE HUNDREDS OF BUILDINGS WE CAN HIDE IN.

BUT NOT ON THIS AVENUE. URKO KNOWS THE ROAD WE TOOK.



DON'T SEPARATE DOWN THE SIDE STREETS! CONTINUE ON THIS ROUTE!

IT'S FULL OF DEBRIS!

SURROUND THEM, DAMMIT!



IF ONLY I COULD DESTROY ALL OF THE CITY AT ONCE... IT'S GOOD FOR NOTHING BUT FUGITIVE HUMANS TO HIDE THEMSELVES... AND NOW, REBELLIOUS APES LIKE GALEN AND HARIMON, AS WELL...



I HAVE TO KILL THEM BEFORE EVERY IDIOTIC APE WHO HEARS THEM BEGINS TO SUPPORT THEM!



SUDDENLY, OUT OF NOWHERE, A SOUND WAVE ROCKS THE HOLLOW SKYSCRAPERS. THE SIGNAL RESONATES IN THE EMPTINESS.

OH, NO! THE AMPLIFIER! IT LET OUT A PULSE!

MY GOD! YOU CAN FEEL IT IN THE WALLS, ALAN!



IT'S MOVING! IT'S TREMBLING!



WE'RE IN FOR IT! THAT SOUND CAN BE HEARD ALL THE WAY TO CENTRAL CITY!

HARIMON, WHAT THE HELL HAPPENED TO YOU?

I JUST... WANTED TO KNOW IF IT WAS WORKING.

LISTEN! HORSES! URKO HEARD THE SIGNAL!

SURROUND THE BLOCK! THAT SOUND WAS EITHER MADE BY THE HUMANS OR THE SORCERER! THERE'S NO DOUBT THEY ARE HERE!

WE HAVE TO HIDE! -THEY'LL BE HERE ANY MINUTE!

NO!

JUST LET ME EXAMINE IT! IT'S THE BEST EQUIPMENT I'VE EVER SEEN!

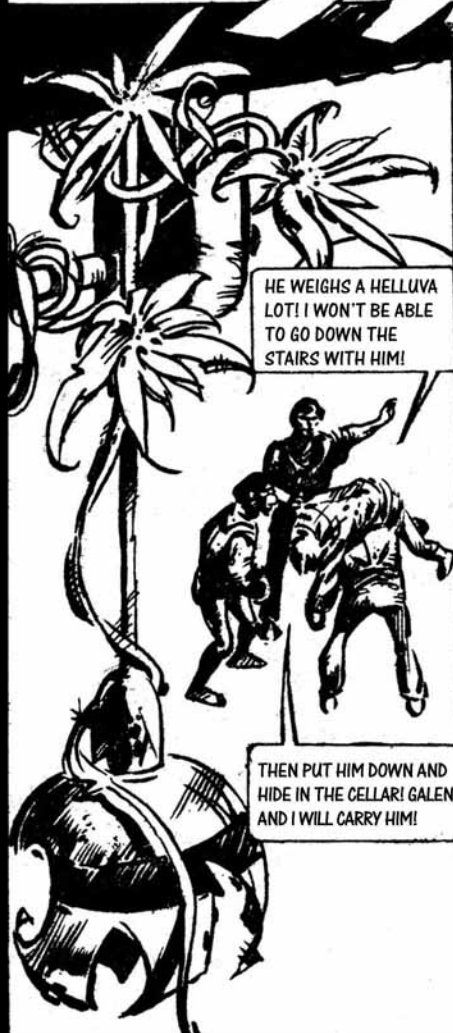
LET'S GO, ALREADY! URKO IS GOING TO ATTACK US!

FOR CRYING OUT LOUD...

NO! I MUST EXAMINE THIS MACHINE!



SORRY, BUT...!



HE WEIGHS A HELLUVA LOT! I WON'T BE ABLE TO GO DOWN THE STAIRS WITH HIM!

THEN PUT HIM DOWN AND HIDE IN THE CELLAR! GALEN AND I WILL CARRY HIM!

IT'S IMPORTANT THAT WE NOT SEPARATE!

HEY, LOOK! THERE ARE PORTABLE RADIOS HERE! TRANSCEIVERS!



IF THE AMPLIFIER WORKS, IT'S POSSIBLE THAT THE TRANSCEIVERS MIGHT ALSO WORK!



THEY WORK!



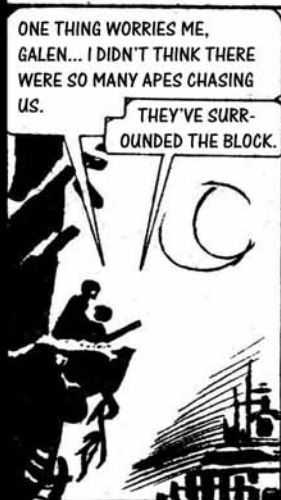


BREAK THAT FENCE AT ONCE! SEARCH FOR THEM FLOOR BY FLOOR!



DON'T STOP LOOKING FOR THEM! IF YOU SEE ANY OF THEM... SHOOT THEM!

CAREFUL, URKO!



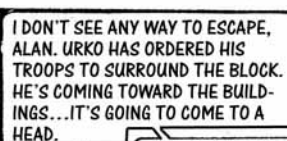
ONE THING WORRIES ME, GALEN... I DIDN'T THINK THERE WERE SO MANY APES CHASING US.

THEY'VE SURROUNDED THE BLOCK.



CAN YOU HEAR ME, ALAN?

I HEAR YOU... OVER.



I DON'T SEE ANY WAY TO ESCAPE, ALAN. URKO HAS ORDERED HIS TROOPS TO SURROUND THE BLOCK. HE'S COMING TOWARD THE BUILDINGS... IT'S GOING TO COME TO A HEAD.

CAN'T YOU JUMP TO ANOTHER BUILDING?

WE'LL GO LOOK FROM THE PATIO. OVER...



IF WE CAN MAKE IT UP TO THE PATIO, THAT IS... OVER AND OUT.

THAT DEVICE...  
IS IT AN  
AMPLIFIER?



AN AMPLIFIER IS A PART OF IT, YES. IT'S... A RADIO -UM, HOW DO I EXPLAIN THIS... IT'S A DEVICE THAT ALLOWS YOU TO HEAR AT A GREAT DISTANCE...WHAT ANOTHER PERSON SAYS INTO A SIMILAR DEVICE.



MAGIC! PURE MAGIC!



WHAT HAS HAPPENED?  
WHERE ARE WE?

ON THE SECOND SUB-LEVEL... THAT IS, THE SUB-CELLAR OF THE BUILDING.

UNDERGROUND?

YES, HARIMON. WE ARE APPROXIMATELY SIX METERS UNDER GROUND. IN MY ERA, THEY BUILT UP TO SIX SUB-LEVELS... SOMETIMES MORE - ALL UNDER-GROUND.

PURE MAGIC!



ALAN, WE'RE ON THE PATIO, BUT WE CAN'T JUMP TO ANOTHER BUILDING. THERE'S A FIVE-METER GAP.

I MIGHT BE ABLE TO...  
I AM AN APE...



I HEAR YOU, BUT IT MIGHT BE YOUR ONLY WAY TO ESCAPE.

GALEN SAYS HE MIGHT BE ABLE TO JUMP. AT LEAST HE MIGHT BE ABLE TO SAVE HIMSELF.



NEITHER YOU NOR I CAN DO IT, AND HARIMON IS VERY OLD. BESIDES, WE MIGHT NOT EVEN BE ABLE TO GET OUT OF THE CELLAR...

GREAT! WHAT DO WE DO NOW?



IF YOU CAN'T JUMP TO THE OTHER BUILDINGS ON THE BLOCK, THEN YOU'LL HAVE TO FIND SOME OTHER WAY.



I'LL TRY, BUT I THINK—





GIVE UP! YOU HAVE  
NO WAY OUT!

DO YOU THINK YOU CAN  
DO IT, GALEN?

WELL... AS YOU HUMANS  
SAY... WE'RE ALL GOING TO  
DIE SOME DAY. RIGHT, PETE?



YOUR FRIENDS? ARE  
THEY TRAPPED UP  
ABOVE?

YES, DAMMIT! IT'S THE END FOR THEM... AND SOON IT  
WILL BE FOR US, TOO!

IF ONLY WE COULD DEMOLISH THIS BUILDING  
WITH THE AMPLIFIER...  
BUT THAT'S NO  
SOLUTION. WE WOULD  
ALL DIE... URKO, YOUR  
FRIENDS, US...



HOLD ON...



ALAN! DO YOU HEAR ME?  
WE'RE GOING TO JUMP!

JUMP? ARE  
YOU CRAZY?



I DON'T KNOW... BUT  
HERE WE GO!





STOP THEM!



AHHH!

WE MADE IT!



DAMMIT! THE RADIO  
GOT SMASHED!



PETE! CAN YOU  
HEAR ME, PETE?



RRRAAAAGGGHHHH!





LET'S GO, BUDDY! THE  
AIR JUST GOT UN-  
HEALTHY UP HERE!

URKO COULD JUMP  
EASIER WITHOUT THAT  
EXTRA WEIGHT! HA!

HARIMON PLACES HIS HAND ON ALAN'S SHOULDER... A  
WARM, SIMIAN HAND OF CONSOLATION FOR THE HUMAN  
WHO CRIES SILENTLY...

YOU CARED FOR HIM VERY  
MUCH, DIDN'T YOU...?

YOU DON'T UNDERSTAND... PETE  
WAS MY FRIEND... AND THE  
CONNECTION BETWEEN THIS  
MADHOUSE AND MY TIME...



MY FAMILY... MY  
WORLD. NOW,  
NOTHING MATTERS...  
THEY'VE GOT  
US...EVERYTHING IS  
RUINED...



IT'S ALL OVER!

TOO BAD I LOST MY SHOTGUN ON URKO'S FIRST SHOT. IF HE CALLS FOR  
MORE APES... IT'S CURTAINS!



URKO CLOSED UP THE ENTRY TO THE  
STAIRS, PETE!



IN THE HALLWAY, A DOOR OPENS SECRETLY...  
THE DOOR TO THE  
SUB-CELLAR...

NO APES IN SIGHT!



I HOPE THIS STATION HAS  
ENOUGH WIRE...



RRRAAHHHH!

DAMN!



!TPOCK!





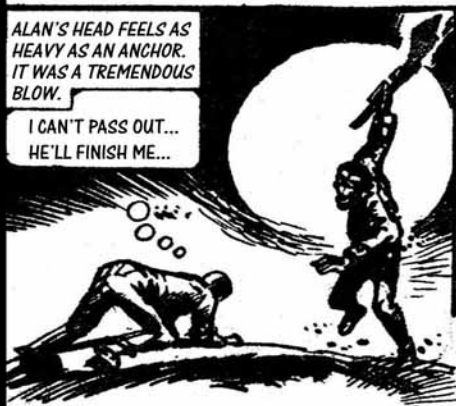
THERE'S THE FIRE  
ESCAPE!

YES, BUT URKO WILL  
KILL US EASILY IF WE  
CLIMB DOWN THAT!



YOU'RE RIGHT.  
WE'LL HAVE TO  
OVERPOWER  
URKO!

OVERPOWER URKO? AND  
THAT SEEMS SIMPLE TO  
YOU?!



ALAN'S HEAD FEELS AS  
HEAVY AS AN ANCHOR.  
IT WAS A TREMENDOUS  
BLOW.

I CAN'T PASS OUT...  
HE'LL FINISH ME...



RRAAAHHH!

JUST MISSED!

OOOOF!





HURRY, GALEN! CLIMB  
DOWN OVER HERE!

HUH? THEY'RE ESCAPING!



SLOW DOWN, URKO...  
THIS COULD BE A TRAP...  
GRRR!



QUICK, GALEN! -  
THE RIFLE!

BUT URKO IS AN ENORMOUS AND  
POWERFUL APE...



THE... THE WEAPON!

RRRRRAAARRR!



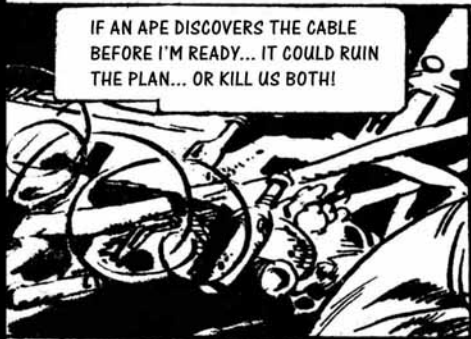


IN THE RADIO STATION, ALAN  
PREPARES HIS CONNECTION...

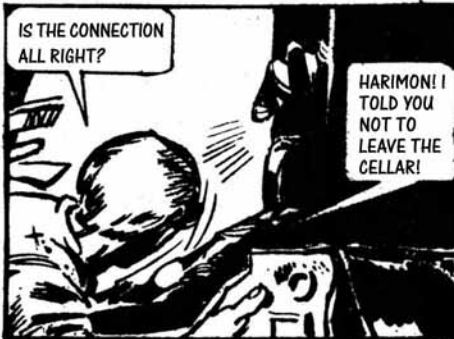
YES! THERE'S A TON OF CABLE HERE,  
AND THE CONNECTION IS EASY TO  
MAKE! NOW I HAVE TO MOVE QUICKLY  
BEFORE THEY FIND ME!



IF AN APE DISCOVERS THE CABLE  
BEFORE I'M READY... IT COULD RUIN  
THE PLAN... OR KILL US BOTH!



IS THE CONNECTION  
ALL RIGHT?



HARIMONI! I  
TOLD YOU  
NOT TO  
LEAVE THE  
CELLAR!



HANDS UP!



GIVE ME THAT! WHY'D YOU LET IT GO OFF? NOW THE APES DOWN BELOW ARE GONNA BE ON THE ALERT!

RRAARRHHH!  
YOU'RE DEAD!



YOU'RE NOT GOING TO KILL URKO?

I'M NOT A KILLER! NOW RUN FOR THE FIRE ESCAPE!



THAT SHOT! IT CAME FROM ANOTHER BUILDING!

THAT COULD BE THEM! YOU THREE, LET'S GO INVESTIGATE!



PUT ME DOWN! MAKE THE CONNECTION, ALAN!

QUIET, YOU STUBBORN OLD APE! WE'RE SAVING OURSELVES...-THERE'S NO ONE ELSE TO SAVE!

VIRDON JUMPS DOWN THE CELLAR STEPS THREE AT A TIME, CARRYING THE OLD APE, AND UNROLLING THE CABLE...



LEAVE ME!  
LEAVE ME!

HOW CAN I LEAVE YOU, HARIMON? WHO WILL COMPLETE THE CIRCUIT IF I DO?

ALAN VIRDON MAKES IT TO THE SUB-CELLAR, LEAVES THE OLD APE WITH THE CABLE AND GRABS HIS WEAPON...

CLOSE THE CIRCUIT!







I'M TRYING!

TRY HARDER!



OUT THIS WAY, GALEN! THE APES  
MUST BE HEADING UP THE INDOOR  
STAIRS!

AND URKO MUST BE  
RECOVERING!



OUT THERE, YOU IDIOTS!  
THERE THEY GO!  
GET THEM!



THE AMPLIFIER  
PRODUCES A DEEP,  
ENORMOUS, LOW-  
FREQUENCY MOAN...  
INAUDIBLE AND ULTRA-  
SONIC... A SINGLE NOTE  
CAPABLE OF SOFTENING  
CEMENT AND RUSTING  
IRON...



AND DESTROYING THE  
BUILDING!







HUMANS... ALL THEY  
KNOW HOW TO DO IS  
BOAST! BAH!

IN ANOTHER TIME, CASTAWAYS CAUGHT BETWEEN A DESTRUCTIVE  
EARTHQUAKE AND THE CORPSE OF CIVILIZATION, ALAN VIRDON AND PETER  
BURKE ARE STILL ALIVE. TWO HUMANS ON... THE PLANET OF THE APES!

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