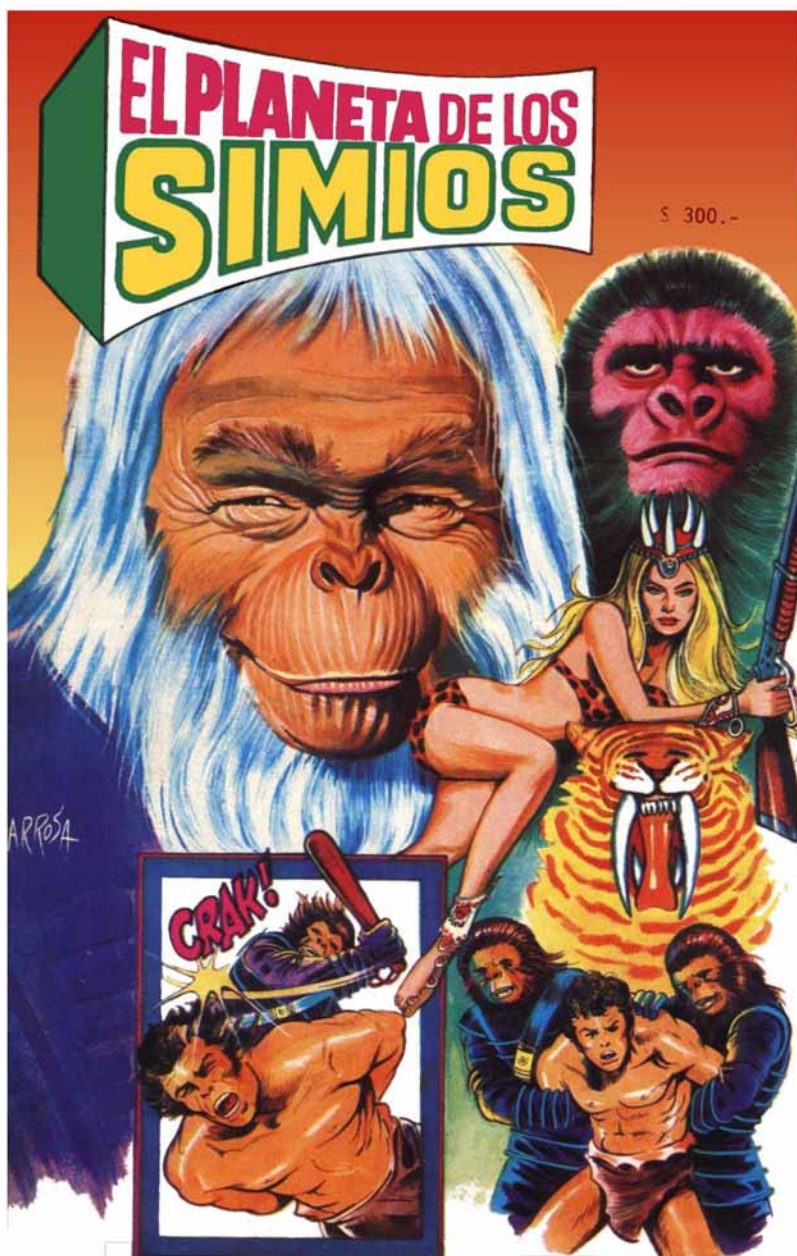


PLANET ^{OF THE} APES



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#7

PLANET OF THE APES

THE CIRCUS



ALAN VIRDON, PETE BURKE, GALEN. A STRANGE FRIENDSHIP ON A WORLD EVEN STRANGER - A PLANET OF APES.



ARE WE ALL OUT OF WATER? I'LL GO GET SOME MORE FROM THE CREEK.

THE ASTRONAUTS HAVE SEARCHED HIGH AND LOW TO FIND A MEANS TO GET OUT OF THIS ERA. TO GET BACK HOME.



WILL WE EVER MAKE IT BACK?



OUR FAMILIES, OUR FRIENDS, OUR WHOLE LIVES...EXISTED OVER A THOUSAND YEARS AGO. WILL ANYBODY EVER DISCOVER WHAT HAPPENED TO US?

IT'S ALMOST LIKE WE'VE GOTTEN USED TO THIS LIFE, CONSTANTLY ON THE RUN, LIVING WITH APES...



PETE BURKE GOES TO THE CREEK FOR WATER. SUDDENLY, A REFLECTION CATCHES HIS ATTENTION.



WHAT THE-?

BUT IT'S ALREADY TOO LATE - MUCH TOO LATE.



HEY!





YES... SO WE'LL FOLLOW THEM.

THE APES PLACE THE MEN IN A JAIL WAGON.

WITH THESE, WE HAVE ENOUGH. LET'S RETURN TO THE PALACE.

YES. I'M HUNGRY.



WHAT'S THIS PALACE THEY SPEAK OF?

I HAVE NO IDEA - I DON'T KNOW THIS REGION.



IT DOESN'T TAKE LONG FOR ALAN TO DISCOVER THE APES' SO-CALLED PALACE.

HOLY-I IT'S INCREDIBLE!



HE DOESN'T RECOGNIZE IT AT FIRST - IT'S THE OLD METROPOLITAN OPERA HOUSE... BUT HALF DESTROYED, INVADDED BY DEBRIS AND VEGETATION.

THROUGH CRACKS IN THE WALL, THEY SEE THAT THE PLACE IS FILLED WITH APES.

PAINTINGS BY CHAGALL ... AN ENTIRE WALL COVERED WITH PAINTINGS BY CHAGALL...



APPARENTLY, THIS IS THE PALACE. THEY MUST BRING THEIR SLAVES HERE.

YEAH - IT'S THE ONLY BUILDING STILL STANDING IN THESE PARTS... IF YOU CAN CALL THE STATE IT'S IN "STANDING"...



BUT NONE OF THAT MATTERS NOW - WE HAVE TO GET PETE OUT OF THERE.



I THINK THAT FOR NOW, IT'S BEST I DO THIS ALONE. I SHOULD BE ABLE TO GET INTO THE BUILDING WITHOUT RAISING SUSPICIONS. LATER, YOU MIGHT HAVE TO COME IN AFTER ME.

ALL RIGHT... I DON'T SEE ANY OTHER EXITS.



GALEN DRAWS CLOSE TO THE IMMENSE BUILDING. THE APES GO BY ONE AFTER THE OTHER, EACH OCCUPIED WITH HIS OWN THOUGHTS. NONE OF THEM NOTICE ANYTHING UNUSUAL.



GALEN ENTERS THE MET. THE INTERIOR LOOKS LIKE A STRANGE CAVE MADE UP OF ENDLESS CUBICLES.

I'LL TRY TO FIND WHERE THEY HOLD THEIR NEW SLAVES. I DON'T THINK IT WILL BE TOO DIFFICULT.



ALAN HIDES HIMSELF IN THE BUSHES NEAR THE PALACE.

I'VE GOT THE ADVANTAGE HERE. THEY'RE NOT EXPECTING AN ATTACK. WE MIGHT BE ABLE TO FREE PETE TONIGHT.



BUT, AT THAT SAME MOMENT...

WE'VE NEVER BEEN IN THIS PLACE BEFORE. WE'LL HAVE TO DO AN INSPECTION OF THE LOCAL POLICE.



WELCOME TO THE PALACE, URKO! YOUR MESSENGERS INFORMED ME OF YOUR ARRIVAL.

HMMPH. HELLO, PREFECT KOBAL.

AT THAT MOMENT, PETE BURKE IS BEING BEATEN AND HUMILIATED IN THE HUMAN PEN.



YOU! TAKE THIS STAFF!
TAKE IT!



PETE IS FORCED TO TAKE
THE ROUGH POLE.



THE HUMAN GRASPS THE
WEAPON ... THEN RUSHES
AT THE APE.



BUT THIS HAS BEEN FORESEEN...

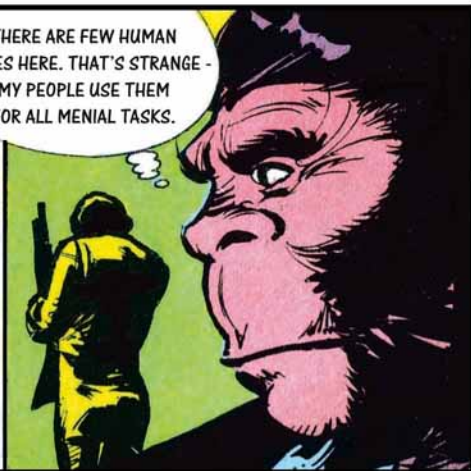


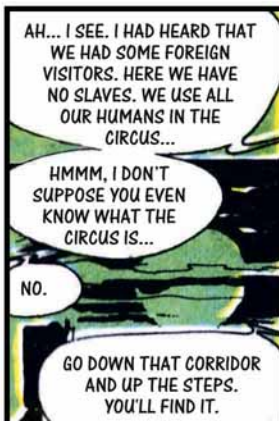
FIGHT... I SAID FIGHT!



MEANWHILE, GALEN HAS INFILTRATED THE PALACE.

THERE ARE FEW HUMAN
SLAVES HERE. THAT'S STRANGE -
MY PEOPLE USE THEM
FOR ALL MENIAL TASKS.





GALEN ARRIVES AT THE CIRCUS, IN THE ENORMOUS LOUNGE OF THE METROPOLITAN OPERA HOUSE, NOW A CAVERN FILLED WITH STALAGMITES.



THE BOY REACTS VIOLENTLY, NOW THAT HE KNOWS WHAT HIS REWARD IS AND HOW TO EARN IT. PETE SEES THAT HE'S IN A PREDICAMENT.

SO YOU SERIOUSLY WANT TO FIGHT?



PETE IS TRAINED IN KENDO, A JAPANESE MARTIAL ART USING CANES.



THE YOUNG MAN FALLS DOWN. THE BLOW WAS TOO MUCH.

I'M SORRY, KID. I DIDN'T MEAN TO HIT YOU SO HARD.



PETE BENDS DOWN TO HELP HIS OPPONENT. THE BOY IS NOT MUCH OF A FIGHTER.

BUT THE APE GUARD DOES NOT FEEL THE SAME WAY.

DO NOT HELP HIM! FIGHT WELL, AND YOU WILL GET TO EAT!

I WON'T FIGHT HIM!



PETE!

EH? DO YOU KNOW THIS HUMAN?



HUH? UH, NO! I MISTOOK HIM FOR ANOTHER HUMAN I ONCE KNEW.

HMM...THIS IS ALL VERY ODD...

MAKE WAY FOR URKO, ENVOY OF THE COUNCIL!



URKO! HE FOLLOWED US HERE!

URKO! THEN PETE IS DOOMED!





THANKS TO PETE'S STRATEGY, URKO DOESN'T SEE HIM.

HE DIDN'T NOTICE ME - NOW'S MY CHANCE TO SNEAK OUT OF HERE, TOO.

HEY, YOU! WHERE ARE YOU GOING?

VERY WELL... PROCEED.

THEY ASKED ME TO HELP FEED THIS HUMAN!

GALEN APPROACHES THE CELL. IN A CORNER, THE HUMANS FEED. GALEN WALKS CLOSER TO PETE AND SPEAKS IN A LOW VOICE.

THAT WAS URKO, PETE.

YEAH, I KNOW.

WE'LL HAVE TO HIDE OURSELVES UNTIL HE GOES AWAY.

I DON'T THINK THERE'S TIME. TOMORROW IS THE GREAT TOURNAMENT. HE'LL DISCOVER YOU.

BESIDES, ALAN DOESN'T KNOW URKO IS HERE. I HAVE TO WARN HIM.

BUT A NEW OBSTACLE STANDS IN GALEN'S WAY.

WHERE ARE YOU GOING? ARE YOU ONE OF URKO'S SERVANTS?

NO, I AM GOING OUTSIDE THE PALACE.

OUTSIDE THE PALACE? DON'T YOU KNOW THAT'S PROHIBITED WHEN THE SUN GOES DOWN?

THE SUN HAS ALREADY GONE DOWN? OH MY, I HADN'T REALIZED THAT.

BY THE LAWGIVER, I HOPE ALAN DOESN'T TRY ANYTHING, OR ALL WILL BE LOST.

BUT ALAN IS ALREADY TRYING SOMETHING.

THE APES HAVE RETIRED FOR THE NIGHT. THIS IS PROBABLY A GOOD OPPORTUNITY TO ENTER. I DON'T KNOW IF THAT'S WHERE GALEN IS, BUT THAT'S WHERE I'M GOING.

ALAN VIRDON SLIPS BETWEEN BUSHES AND DEBRIS TOWARD THE FORMER METROPOLITAN OPERA HOUSE.

THERE MUST BE SOME WAY OF ENTERING WITHOUT BEING SEEN.

HORSES! THEY USE HORSES FOR CONSTRUCTION. I KNOW JUST WHAT TO DO.

HOW IRONIC! THE BUILDING THAT ONCE PROVIDED ENTERTAINMENT, SPECTACLE, AND SPORT FOR THE MASSES AGAIN HAS THE SAME FUNCTION A THOUSAND YEARS LATER! THE ENORMOUS LOUNGE HAS BEEN TURNED INTO THE CIRCUS.

THE TOURNAMENT IS ABOUT TO BEGIN, PETE. WE HAVE TO ESCAPE NOW, OR URKO WILL SPOT US. BUT HOW CAN WE GET AWAY? THIS BUILDING IS A FORTRESS.

WELL, YOU'RE THE ONE ON THE OTHER SIDE OF THE BARS. TRY AND FIND A WEAPON AND GET US OUT OF HERE.

I'LL TRY.



AN ENORMOUS GONG SOUNDS...









CAPTURE THEM!



AN ENORMOUS SOUND
RESONATES IN THE
ROOM.



THE VIBRATION CAUSES
PIECES OF MASONRY TO
BECOME DETACHED. THE APES
FLEE.

BELLS! BUT
WHO COULD MAKE
BELLS SOUND IN
THIS PLACE?

ALAN!



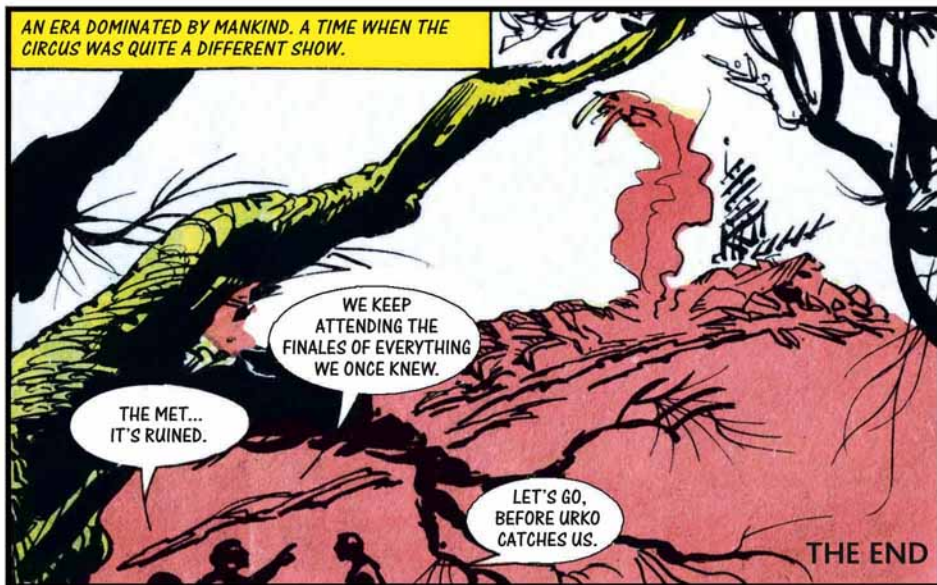
FROM A SIDE ENTRANCE, ALAN APPEARS.

PETE, GALEN, LET'S GET OUT OF HERE!
I FOUND BELLS IN THE REMAINS OF THE
METROPOLITAN'S SOUND ROOM! LET'S GO
BEFORE EVERYTHING IS
DESTROYED!

CONFUSION REIGNS.
MOST OF THE
HUMANS, THOUGH
TIRED FROM BATTLE,
ESCAPE WITH THE
APES. TWO OF THEM
ARE DIFFERENT
KINDS OF HUMANS...
THEY ARE
ASTRONAUTS, BORN
IN ANOTHER ERA.



AN ERA DOMINATED BY MANKIND. A TIME WHEN THE
CIRCUS WAS QUITE A DIFFERENT SHOW.



WE KEEP
ATTENDING THE
FINALES OF EVERYTHING
WE ONCE KNEW.

THE MET...
IT'S RUINED.

LET'S GO,
BEFORE URKO
CATCHES US.

THE END

PLANET OF THE APES

FIRST THERE IS A DEAFENING RUMBLE, COMING FROM THE BOWELS OF THE EARTH. SOME OF THE MORE PRECARIOUS HUMAN HUTS ARE DESTROYED IN THE TREMOR.



I DON'T KNOW. IT SOUNDED LIKE AN EARTHQUAKE... BUT THERE WAS ALSO A NOISE LIKE MACHINERY.

MACHINE NOISES?



LATER, IN AN AREA OF THE HUMAN VILLAGE, THE GROUND OPENS.



FROM THE DEPTHS, A COLUMN OF FIRE SURGES.
A METALLIC CLAMOR FILLS THE AIR.



DID... DID YOU SEE
THAT, PETE?

YEAH... BUT I
CAN'T BELIEVE IT!



WAS THAT...
A ROCKET?



LET'S GO! GET TO WORK!
WORK, YOU IDLERS!
COME ON!

BUT - !



KEEP WORKING, IDIOTS!
THAT WAS NOT A GOD!
IT WAS JUST AN
EXPLOSION!

THESE HUMANS
ARE BRUTES. THEY
HEAR A LOUD NOISE,
AND THEY PROSTRATE
THEMSELVES BEFORE
IT IN ADORATION!





LOWER YOUR EYES, PETE!

WHAT?

LOOK DOWN BEFORE THEY GET SUSPICIOUS!



THE WHIP COMES DOWN ON THE ASTRONAUTS.

ENOUGH! GET BACK TO WORK!

YES, SIR!

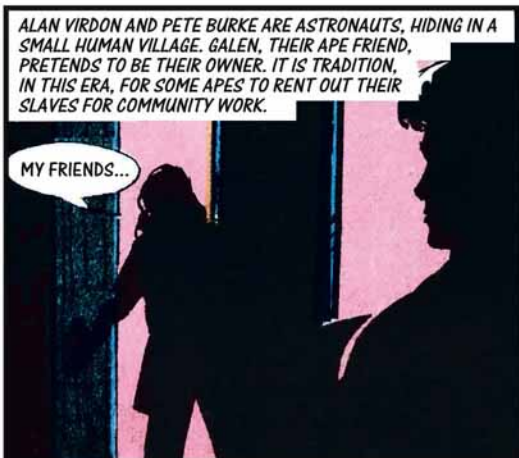


ALL OF THE HUMANS KNELT BEFORE THE ROCKET... IF YOU'D REMAINED STANDING, YOU'D HAVE ATTRACTED ATTENTION TO US.

SO IT REALLY WAS A ROCKET! DO YOU KNOW WHAT THIS MEANS, ALAN?



OF COURSE. IT MEANS... A WAY TO GET BACK HOME!



ALAN VIRDON AND PETE BURKE ARE ASTRONAUTS, HIDING IN A SMALL HUMAN VILLAGE. GALEN, THEIR APE FRIEND, PRETENDS TO BE THEIR OWNER. IT IS TRADITION, IN THIS ERA, FOR SOME APES TO RENT OUT THEIR SLAVES FOR COMMUNITY WORK.

MY FRIENDS...



GALEN! WHAT'S WITH THE ROCKET SHOOTING OUT OF THE GROUND? WHO CONSTRUCTED IT? WHAT ARE THEY USING IT FOR?

WAIT! ALLOW ME TO CATCH MY BREATH!



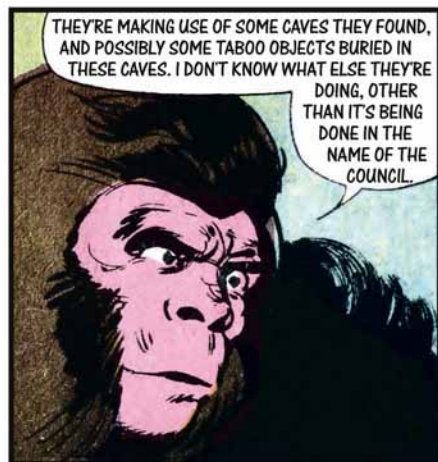
I KNEW YOU'D BE INTERESTED IN THIS. THAT'S WHY I GOT THEM TO ENTRUST ME WITH THE DETAILS. THIS VILLAGE IS BUILT OVER A HIDDEN LABORATORY.

HIDDEN?



MY PEOPLE DO NOT SPEAK OF IT MUCH. WHAT I DO KNOW CAME FROM THE MOUTH OF A HUMAN CALLED ANITRA. SHE AND A SMALL GROUP OF HUMANS PERFORM HEAVY LABOR IN DOWN BELOW.

YOU MEAN UNDERGROUND?





GUARDING THE DOOR, KENO IS NOT BUYING ANITRA'S STORY.

THE HUMAN ANITRA MAY BE SOVER'S FAVORITE, BUT ALL HUMANS ARE LIARS. I WILL SPEAK WITH THE PREFECT, USING THE TALKER-FROM-AFAR.



THE TALKER-FROM-AFAR IS NO MORE THAN A PIECE OF METAL TIED TO A LONG WIRE THAT LEADS TO THE OFFICE OF THE PREFECT OF THE UNDERGROUND BASE — A PRIMITIVE TELEPHONE.

BY THE LAWGIVER!
NOW WHO'S BOTHERING ME?



HOW DARE YOU INTERRUPT MY WORK, YOU IDIOT?

PARDON ME, PREFECT SOVER. I THOUGHT IT WAS IMPORTANT.



LITTLE BY LITTLE, ALAN AND PETE MAKE THEIR WAY THROUGH THE APES' UNDERGROUND SCIENTIFIC SECTOR.

THIS BUILDING HAD ANTI-ATOMIC PROTECTION, PETE. THAT'S WHY SO MANY MORE THINGS SURVIVED INTACT THAN IN OTHERS.

MAYBE IT BELONGED TO NASA.



WELL, IF THERE WERE EVER ANY PLACE IN THIS WORLD TO FIND A ROCKET, IT WOULD BE THIS ONE.

IT'S SURPRISING THE APES FIGURED OUT HOW TO USE IT.



NOTHING'S IN ANY CONDITION TO BE READABLE ANYMORE. MOST OF THE MATERIAL IS ON MAGNETIC TAPE AND PERFORATED CARDS. THEY'D HAVE NO WAY TO INTERPRET IT.



THE MAGNETIC TAPES, DEFINITELY NOT. BUT WHY NOT THE PERFORATED CARDS? THEIR COMPLEXITY ISN'T MUCH GREATER THAN THE ROSETTA STONE OF EGYPT, AND CHAMPOLLION FIGURED THAT ONE OUT.

YEAH, WELL, CHAMPOLLION WASN'T AN APE. DON'T FORGET THAT.



SUDDENLY, THEY FIND THEMSELVES ALONE. THEY PASS THROUGH A SMOOTH-WALLED CORRIDOR, STRANGELY 20TH CENTURY IN DESIGN, WITH FLUORESCENT LAMPS, EXTINGUISHED, BUT STILL INTACT. THEY COME TO THE LAST DOOR, THE LAST GATE.



WHAT'S GOING ON HERE? THIS PLACE IS NOT FOR HUMANS TO VISIT! STEP BACK, SLAVES!



WE OFFER THE SAME SKILLS AS ANITRA.

SOVER SENT US. WE BRING IMPORTANT INFORMATION.

IT'S URGENT.



GRRRR! WAIT HERE! I'LL CHECK WITH SOVER.



JUST A MOMENT!

ALAN'S TONE MUST SEEM VERY STRANGE TO THE APE, BECAUSE HE HESITATES FOR JUST A MOMENT... AND THAT IS ALL THE HUMANS' NEED.

NOW, PETE!



AAHHH!



I'LL TAKE HIS RIFLE. IT MIGHT BE USEFUL WHERE WE'RE GOING.

I'LL PUT HIS JACKET ON AND ENTER FIRST.



IN THE NEXT ROOM... A SURPRISE.

MY GOD... THIS IS TOO GOOD TO BE TRUE.

THERE'S AT LEAST A DOZEN ROCKETS!





HOW COULD WE HELP YOU, SOVER? WE'RE ONLY HUMAN, AFTER ALL.

NOT YOU. I KNOW THAT YOU CAME HERE IN A VEHICLE JUST LIKE THESE. I KNOW THAT ZAIUS WANTS TO GUARD THAT SECRET, AND THAT URKO WANTS TO KILL YOU. I KNOW WHAT THEY CALL YOU. AND I KNOW THAT AN APE IS HELPING YOU.



WELL THEN, I GUESS YOU KNOW EVERYTHING. SO WHAT DO YOU WANT FROM US?



I NEED TO KNOW HOW TO FIX THE ROCKETS SO THEY WILL TAKE ME TO THE STARS.

I HAVE VIOLATED MANY TABOOS OF MY PEOPLE. FOR THEM, INVESTIGATING THE SCIENCE OF PAST MILLENNIA IS PROHIBITED.

THINKING ABOUT FLIGHT IS PROHIBITED. BELIEVING IN MACHINES IS PROHIBITED. THEY SAY THAT ANYONE WHO VIOLATES THESE TABOOS WILL BRING DOWN HORRIBLE, UNSPEAKABLE DEATH UPON THE APE RACE. AND YET, I HAVE VIOLATED THEM. WHEN I DISCOVERED THIS CAVE FULL OF STRANGE THINGS, I KNEW THAT I HAD TO VIOLATE THE TABOOS, NO MATTER THE CONSEQUENCES.



NOW IT'S TOO LATE FOR ME TO TURN BACK. NOW I WILL VIOLATE THIS LAST TABOO - I WILL ASK HUMANS FOR HELP.

VERY TOUCHING, SOVER, BUT WHY WOULD WE BELIEVE YOU?



IF THE ROCKETS WORK, ONE OF THEM WILL BE FOR YOU, SO THAT YOU CAN RETURN TO THE PLACE FROM WHICH YOU CAME.



IN THE ENSUING DAYS, ALAN AND PETE REACH FOR THE SKY. EVER SINCE THEIR SPACE SHIP ENTERED A DISTORTION IN THE SPACE-TIME CONTINUUM - A TIME-WARP - TRAPPING THEM SOME ONE THOUSAND YEARS IN THE FUTURE, THEY HAVE WAITED FOR THIS MOMENT. THEY HAVE SEARCHED FOR A ROCKET THAT COULD TAKE THEM BACK TO THE SAME SPATIAL DISTORTION AND RETURN THEM TO THEIR OWN CENTURY, THEIR OWN HOME, THEIR OWN WORLD.



AND NOW, IRONICALLY, IT IS AN APE - ONE OF THOSE WHO HAVE CHASED THEM FROM THE MOMENT THEY FIRST SET FOOT ON THIS WORLD THAT NO LONGER BELONGS TO MAN - WHO IS FINALLY HELPING THEM FULFILL THEIR DREAM.



WE HAVE PREPARED THE ROCKETS, SOVER, BUT WE NEED TO DO ONE MORE TEST, JUST TO BE SURE.

WE NEED A GUINEA-PIG... AN ANIMAL THAT CAN TRAVEL IN IT TO TEST FOR SIDE EFFECTS. IN OUR TIME, WE USED -



ALAN SUDDENLY INTERRUPTS PETE. IN THEIR TIME, THEY USED MONKEYS! WHAT WOULD SOVER THINK IF HE KNEW THAT?

DON'T WORRY, PETE, WE'LL FIND AN ANIMAL FOR THE ROCKET. WHEN CAN WE LIFT OFF?

TODAY.



FIRST THERE IS A GREAT NOISE, THEN THE HILLSIDE VILLAGE TREMBLES. THE HUMANS LINE UP AND KNEEL IN ADORATION, AWED BY THE THUNDER OF THE GODS.



MOMENTS LATER, THE GROUND OPENS. THE NOSE OF A ROCKET BURSTS THROUGH, READY TO LIFT OFF.



THE ROCKET SURGES UPWARD! FAR BELOW, ALAN AND PETE CONTROL THE INSTRUMENTS.

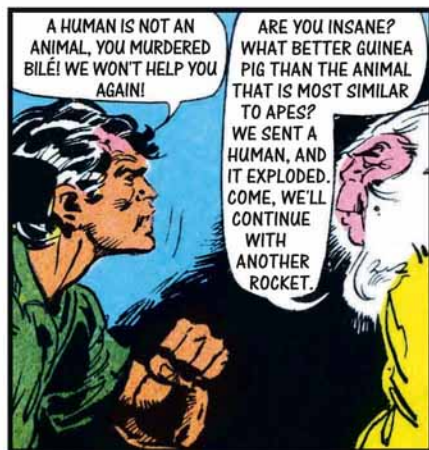
THIS IS LIKE DIRECTING A JUMBO JET WITH A SPOOL OF THREAD. IT'S MISSING A LOT OF NECESSARY INSTRUMENTS.

YEAH, BUT FOR HOW LONG?

STILL... IT IS FLYING.



AS THOUGH IN ANSWER TO ALAN'S PREDICTION, AN EXPLOSION COMES FROM HIGH ABOVE.



AT A SIGNAL FROM SOVER, FOUR APES RUSH INTO THE ROOM, GRABBING ANITRA.

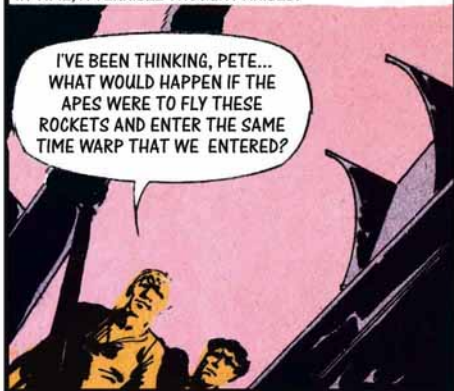
IF YOU DO NOT PREPARE THE ROCKETS, ANITRA WILL ALSO DIE. YOUR CHOICE, THOUGH I ALREADY KNOW WHAT YOU'LL CHOOSE, BEING A HUMAN.

DAMMIT.. I GUESS YOU DO.



IN THE FOLLOWING DAYS, PETE AND ALAN CONTINUE WORKING. WHAT WAS ONCE HOPE IS NOW A PUNISHMENT. IN TIME, A TERRIBLE THOUGHT ARISES.

I'VE BEEN THINKING, PETE... WHAT WOULD HAPPEN IF THE APES WERE TO FLY THESE ROCKETS AND ENTER THE SAME TIME WARP THAT WE ENTERED?



APES FROM THIS TIME... IN OUR WORLD. WHO KNOWS WHAT WOULD HAPPEN?

WE CAN'T ALLOW IT. EVEN IF IT COSTS US OUR LIVES, WE HAVE TO STOP THIS.



ENOUGH TALK, HUMANS! WORK!

WE ARE WORKING! SOME DAY I'M GONNA -



SOME DAY, YOU'LL WHAT, BOASTFUL HUMAN?

GALENI!



YES, AND IF YOU INSIST ON YELLING MY NAME LIKE THAT, THE WHOLE PLAN WILL FAIL. JUST KEEP WORKING AND I'LL CRACK THE WHIP OCCASIONALLY.

GALEN'S RIGHT, PETE. LET'S GET BACK TO WORK.



SOVER IS GOING TO KILL YOU AS SOON AS YOU HAVE THE MACHINES READY. THAT'S WHY I HAD TO COME RESCUE YOU.

VERY NICE, GALEN. BUT WE ALSO HAVE TO RESCUE ANITRA.

THAT'S IMPOSSIBLE! SOVER HAS ANITRA IN A ROOM NEXT TO HIS!

WELL, THAT MAY BE THE CASE... BUT SINCE YOU'RE HERE, YOU MIGHT AS WELL COME WITH US - WE'RE STILL GOING TO HELP HER.

AT NIGHT OR IN THE DAYTIME — IN DOWN BELOW, IT'S ALL THE SAME. BY THE LIGHT OF THE TORCHES, THREE "APES" ADVANCE TOWARD SOVER'S QUARTERS.

STOOP MORE, PETE. YOU MUST LOOK LIKE AN APE.

WHAT'S GOING ON? IT'S PROHIBITED TO ENTER THIS PLACE!

ALWAYS THE SAME STORY...

CAN YOU OPEN THE DOOR?

SURE I CAN... THESE APES DON'T KNOW ABOUT LOCKS.



SOVER IS ARMED, BUT
ANGER LENDS STRANGE
POWER TO THE HANDS OF
THE ASTRONAUT.
PETE'S MACE
STRIKES AGAIN
AND AGAIN.



PETE!
HELP ME HOLD
HIM, GALEN!

PETE...

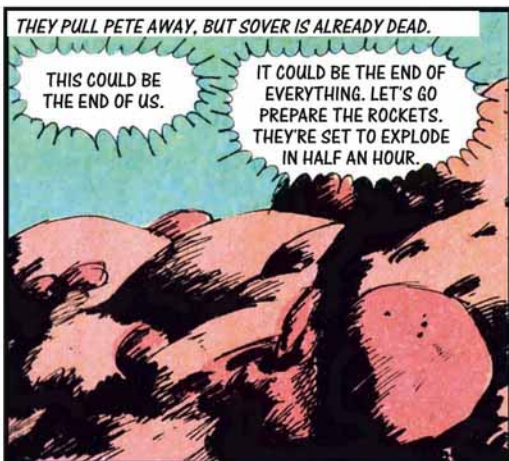
HE KILLED
HER!



THEY PULL PETE AWAY, BUT SOVER IS ALREADY DEAD.

THIS COULD BE
THE END OF US.

IT COULD BE THE END OF
EVERYTHING. LET'S GO
PREPARE THE ROCKETS.
THEY'RE SET TO EXPLODE
IN HALF AN HOUR.



A SURPRISING SIGHT IN THE
ROOF OF SOVER'S LAB...

WHAT'S THAT? IT
LOOKS LIKE... A
WINDOW!



YES, PETE, IT IS A WINDOW-
A WINDOW OF A BUILDING
THAT HAS BEEN SWALLOWED
UP BY A HILL.

IT'S AT LEAST SIXTY
FEET... BUT I THINK WE
CAN DO IT.

I'LL GO FIRST. WE
APES ARE MORE
AGILE.



A LONG DESCENT FOLLOWS, DOWN THE
WALLS OF THE HILL-COVERED BUILDING.
GALEN HELPS PETE AND ALAN, WHO
MAKE IT DOWN SAFE AND SOUND.

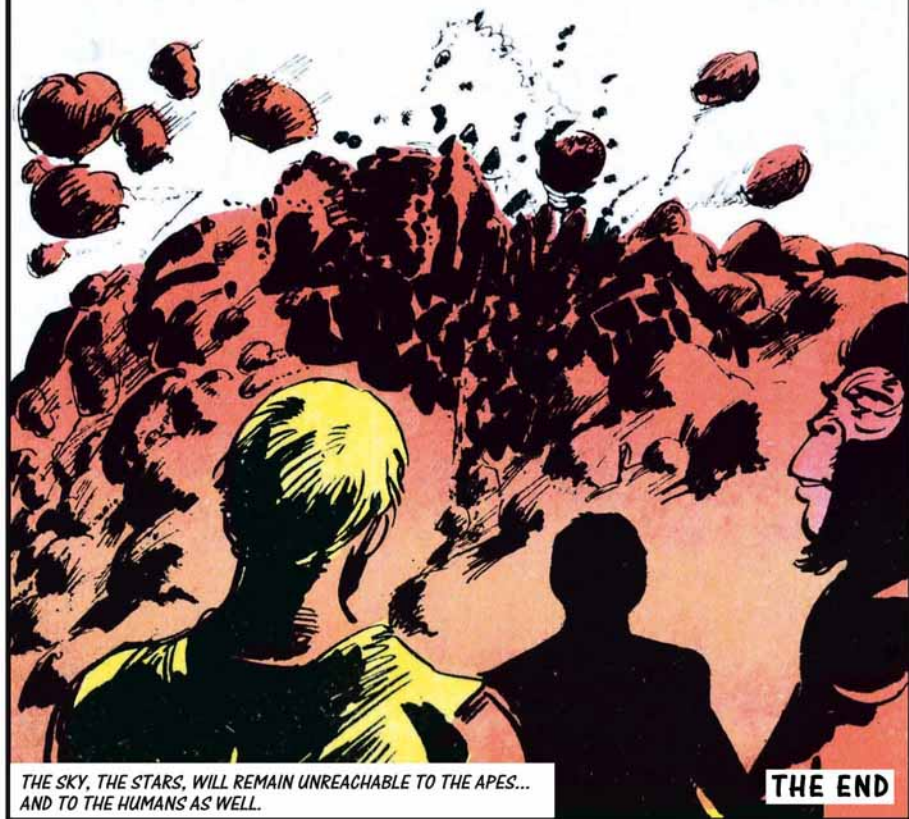
EVERYBODY
DOWN! HIT THE
DIRT!



AN EARTHQUAKE. THE VILLAGE SHAKES
AND THE WALLS COLLAPSE.



THIS TIME, HOWEVER, THE HUMANS DON'T HAVE TIME TO WORSHIP ANYBODY, FOR THE ENTIRE
HILL - THAT IS, THE HILL THAT WAS ONCE A BUILDING - FLIES APART IN A THOUSAND PIECES.



THE SKY, THE STARS, WILL REMAIN UNREACHABLE TO THE APES...
AND TO THE HUMANS AS WELL.

THE END

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