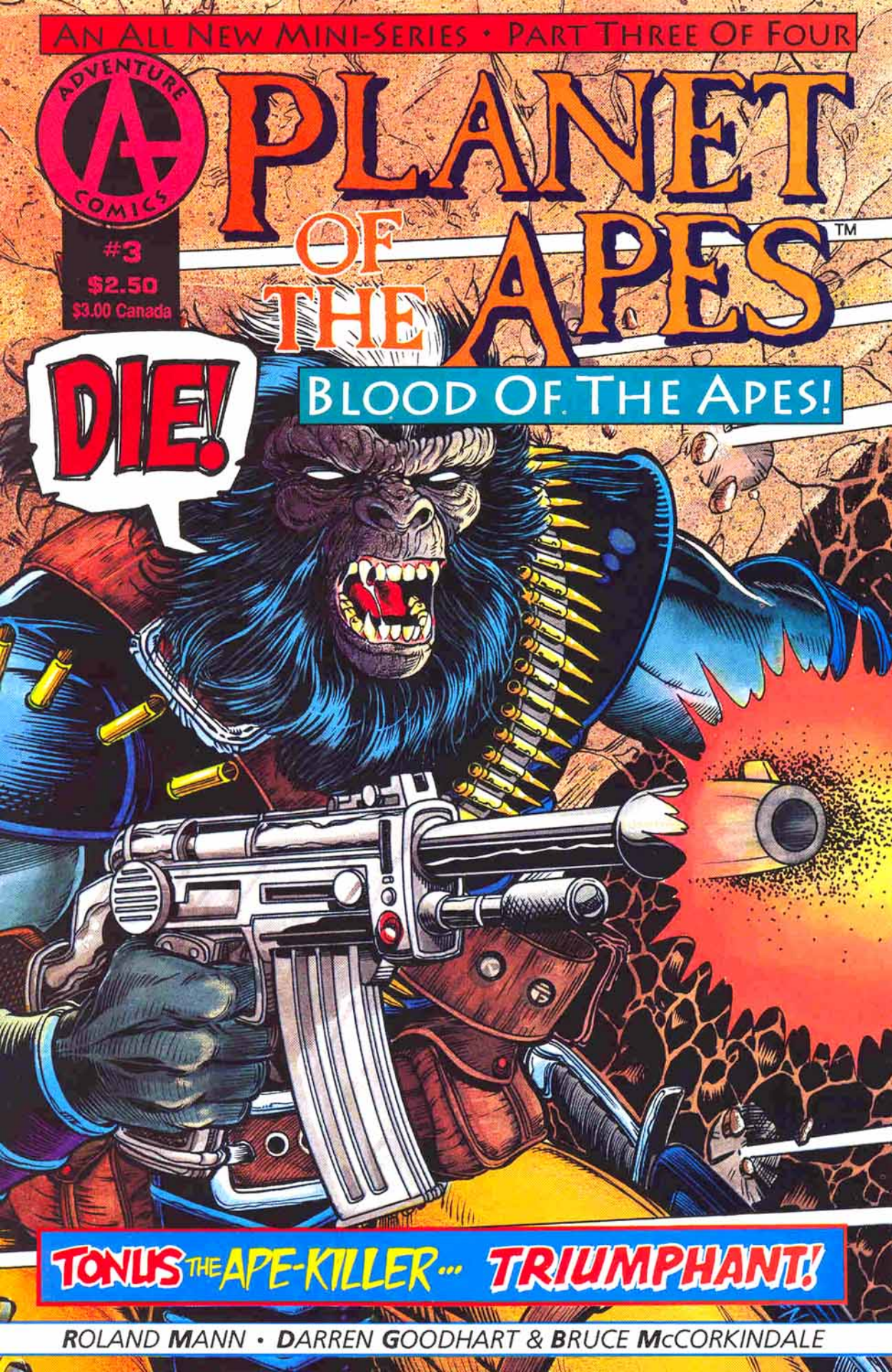
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PLANET OF THE APES™
DIE!
BLOOD OF THE APES!
TONUS THE APE-KILLER... TRIUMPHANT!
ROLAND MANN • DARREN GOODHART & BRUCE McCORKINDALE

PLANET OF THE APES: BLOOD OF THE APES

Based On Characters And Situations Created By Pierre Boulle, Rod Serling and Michael Wilson.

•

ROLAND MANN
Writer

•

DARREN GOODHART
Penciller

•

BRUCE McCORKINDALE
Inker

•

MARK MOORE
Letterer

•

STEVEN BUTLER
Cover Illustration

•

TOM O'CONNOR
Cover Coloring

•

Dave Olbrich
Publisher

•

Kim Scholter
Publishing Coordinator

•

Chris Ulm
Editor-In-Chief

•

Tom Mason
Creative Director

•

Dan Danko
Editor

•

Mickie Villa
Art Director

In trying to decide where on the *Planet of the Apes* this story should occur, I tried to look at the others and pick somewhere away from them. I looked around and noticed none of the stories (at that time, anyway) were set in the south.

Well, that was my cue. So here we are in the Memphis, Tennessee of the future. (It's only slightly coincidental that Memphis is the city of my birth.) How did we choose Memphis? Thanks for asking...

Darren and I both wanted to set the story somewhere familiar to both of us. I live in Mississippi (which, for those of you who don't know geography, is south of Tennessee), and Darren lives in the St. Louis, Missouri area, north and west of Memphis. It just so happened that Memphis is in between where the two of us live.

I sent Darren some photos I had of the area, and he received some brochures and such from the Memphis Chamber of Commerce. Anyway, it was fun throwing in things from today into the story. You'll really see some of it in this issue.

So, what are you waiting for? Go read the book so you can write us a letter and tell us what you think! (Think I was gonna let you off the hook for writing letters? No way!)

Enjoy!
–Roland

Roland is also the writer of Miss Fury *and* Rocket Ranger, *both full color mini-series from Adventure.*

Back in July of 1990, Roland and I didn't dream we'd have this much fun working on a book together. We met for the first time at the Chicago Comicon in 1990. I was trying to wrangle a cover assignment for *Cat & Mouse* from Roland and as luck would have it we hit it off pretty well. Pretty soon the conversation led to Malibu's fantastic success with *Planet of the Apes,* and we both came to the conclusion that would be a pretty keen assignment.

Roland asks me, "Well, what kind of *Ape* story do you want to draw?" (or words to that effect). I shoot back at him, "I'd like to do something with a *Road Warrior* type of intensity to it." And from there we have our little story here.

I just finished pencilling the last page to #4 last night, October 16 for you kids keeping score out there. Usually there's a little bit of joyous relief for an artist when he gets to that last page, but this time was a little different. I had a lot of fun drawing this book, more fun than usual. Roland and I have become very good friends over the last five months and our collaboration process was like a dream for me. And dammit, the book was coming to an end! Now granted this book is not a cure for cancer, but it was indeed kind of special.

My thanks to Roland for bringing out the best in me and my thanks to Tom Mason for letting me play on the *Planet of the Apes.* The sappy intro is now finished. Go and read the book, kids.

Take it easy,
–Darren

#3 (of 4) January 1992

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IN A WORLD WHERE APES ARE THE MASTER OF MAN, APES ARE ALMOST NEVER BOUND OR IMPRISONED.
NORMALLY IT IS MAN WHO FINDS HIMSELF IN A CAGE.
BUT THIS TIME, VALIA, AN AVID ANIMAL RIGHTS ACTIVIST CHAMPIONING A PEACEFUL CO-EXISTENCE WITH MAN, FINDS HERSELF BOUND AND GAGGED.
NORMALLY, IF HER CAPTORS WERE MAN, SHE MIGHT WORRY FOR HER SAFETY.
BUT SHE KNOWS IT IS NOT MAN WHO HAVE TIED HER SO.
I DON'T SEE HIM.
IT IS AN APE. AND SHE WORRIES FOR HER LIFE. SHE KNOWS THE APE RESPONSIBLE HAS NO RESPECT FOR THE MOST SACRED OF ALL APE LAWS: APE SHALL NEVER KILL APE.
I'VE GOT TO GET FREE.
SHE KNOWS THIS BECAUSE...
1

CHAPTER SEVEN
...HER CAPTOR IS TONUS, KNOWN ALSO AS THE APE-HUNTER, THE APE-KILLER AND...
...THE BUTCHER!
MMMPPPHHH

NO USE STRUGGLING WITH YOUR BONDS, I'M RIGHT HERE.
DID YOU THINK I'D LEAVE YOU ALONE TO TRY TO ESCAPE?
I KNEW ALL ALONG THAT YOU AND THOSE STINKING ANIMAL RIGHTS ACTIVISTS HAD TO HAVE A HAND IN THE SMUGGLING RING.
NOW I'VE CAUGHT YOU!

IF I TAKE OUT THE GAG DO YOU AGREE NOT TO YELL?
MMM-HMMM
DON'T KNOW IF I SHOULD TRUST YOU OR NOT. ANYONE WHO HAS A LOVE FOR MAN--
I OUGHT TO YELL ANYWAY, YOU--YOU BUTCHER!
HAHA. GO RIGHT AHEAD. YELL YOUR LUNGS OUT. THERE'S NO ONE OUT HERE THAT WILL HEAR YOU.
EXCEPT FOR STINKING MAN.
THEY'D PROBABLY BE MORE COMPASSIONATE.
THAT'S RIGHT, I FORGOT. YOU'RE ON THEIR SIDE.
IF YOU'D ONLY GIVE THEM A CHANCE, YOU'D SEE THAT I AM RIGHT.
4

BUT EVEN IF YOU DID YOU WOULDN'T ADMIT YOU WERE WRONG.
YOU'RE TOO BULL-HEADED.
ENOUGH ALREADY!
PUT ME DOWN! WHAT ARE YOU DOING?
WE'RE GOING FOR A RIDE.
I CAN WALK.
SAY, YOU'RE AWFULLY LIGHT FOR YOUR SIZE.
I DON'T EAT MUCH. BUT WHAT ABOUT THE MAN WHO COULD TALK? HOW DO YOU EXPLAIN HIM?
YOU CAN RUN, TOO. AND I DON'T WANT TO HAVE TO CHASE YOU AGAIN.
A FREAK OF NATURE.
A FREAK OF--! YOU WON'T EVEN TRY! IF MAN COULD BE TAUGHT TO SPEAK, THINK AND REASON--
WHEN MAN LEARNS TO REASON, IT WILL BE THE END OF APE-KIND AS WE KNOW IT.

BLAM! BLAM!
WHAT'CHA THINK ABOUT THAT SHOOTING? MORE THAN SEVENTY-FIVE YARDS AND THEY WERE EACH BROUGHT DOWN WITH ONE SHOT.
OH, NOW THAT'S SOMETHING TO BE PROUD OF.
WH-WHAT ARE YOU-- YOU'RE NOT GOING TO--
DON'T BLAME THIS PRACTICE ON ME. I DIDN'T START THIS ONE. I BROUGHT IT WITH ME FROM APE CITY. IT MAKES IT MUCH EASIER TO CARRY IN QUANTITIES.
6

SOON...
I'M SURPRISED YOU HAVEN'T SAID ANYTHING ABOUT THE FOOD. MOST AREN'T USED TO FRESH FRUIT, BUT THE MARKET STUFF.
YOU THINK THIS IS THE FIRST TIME I'VE BEEN IN THE FOREST?
YOU DO HAVE A LOT TO LEARN. EVEN YOU COULD LEARN A THING OR TWO FROM MAN.
SO MUCH SPUNK. SO INDEPENDENT. SO MUCH LIKE DEETRA. SHE BELIEVES IN WHAT SHE DOES, ALL THE WAY.
WHY DO YOU HATE MAN SO?
THEY EXIST. IT'S A LONG STORY, ONE I DON'T FEEL LIKE TELLING.
IT'S THAT ATTITUDE THAT WILL ALWAYS PIT MAN AND APE AGAINST EACH OTHER.
IF ONLY WE WOULD TALK INSTEAD OF FIGHT, WE COULD LEARN A LOT FROM EACH OTHER.
THERE IS MUCH MORE TO YOU THAN MEETS THE EYES. -sigh- YOU ARE LIKE MY DEETRA IN MANY WAYS.

BACK IN PHIS...
COLONEL NOOREV!
WHAT'S THE BIG IDEA? SLOW DOWN.
OUT OF MY WAY! I CAN'T SLOW DOWN.
COLONEL NOOREV!
OH PLEASE BE HERE.
QUIT YELLING! YOU ACT LIKE YOU'VE GOT A PACK OF WILD MAN ON YOUR TAIL.
COLONEL! THANK THE LAWGIVER. HEADED FOR PHIS. HUNDREDS! YOU'VE GOT TO COME QUICK!
8

CHAPTER EIGHT
ON THIS PLANET RULED BY APES, WAR IS NOT A COMMON OCCURRENCE.
HAVING SAID THAT, IT SPELLS SERIOUS TROUBLE WHEN A FORCE OF APES COLLECTS LIKE THIS.
IT IS A SIGHT MOST OF THE INHABITANTS OF PHIS HAVE NEVER SEEN.
--MORE THAN I'VE EVER SEEN. I DON'T KNOW WHO HE IS, BUT I CAN TELL HE'S A GENERAL.
CALM DOWN. SURELY YOU MUST BE EXAG --WHAT!?!
9

HALT!
REST AT EASE.
COLONEL NOOREV, I PRESUME.
I AM. BUT WHO ARE YOU?
I AM GENERAL STEDAL. I'VE COME FROM APE CITY.
I'VE COME TO TAKE CARE OF YOUR "MAN PROBLEM."
WHAT!? NEWS SURE TRAVELS.
DON'T WORRY, COLONEL. WE WILL ONLY BE AS LONG AS NECESSARY. WE WILL DO OUR JOB AND LEAVE.
NOW, SHOW ME INSIDE AND WE'LL GO OVER THE DETAILS.

TONUS, DON'T! THOSE MEN AREN'T A THREAT TO YOU.
ANY MAN ALIVE IS A THREAT TO APE-KIND.
WOOO-- WOOO--
WOOOOD!
DO YOU HAVE TO KILL EVERY MAN YOU COME ACROSS? CAN'T I GET ANYTHING THROUGH YOUR THICK SKULL?
BE QUIET OR I'LL PUT THE GAG BACK ON YOU.
ISN'T THERE ANY COMPASSION AT ALL IN YOUR HEART?
THOSE SOUND LIKE WORDS DEETRA WOULD HAVE SAID TO ME--
11

NOT ANY MORE.
HEY YOU!
WHAT!?!
WHAK!
Louisville Slugger
THAT'S ENOUGH, RICHARD. HE'S UNARMED NOW.
SO. YOU THINK THAT'D MATTER TO HIM, LUTHER? OR DON'T YOU RECOGNIZE THE BUTCHER?
NEVER SEEN A MONKEY WITH A PONY-TAIL.
MONKEY?
I'VE NEVER SEEN SO MANY MEN WHO COULD TALK.
BUT AN APE IS NEVER UNARMED!
12

WHOOAAA!
AS YOU'RE ABOUT TO FIND OUT!
ONE OF ME, FIVE OF YOU.
GRAB 'IM!
I GOT HIM!
WHAP!
YOU DON'T STAND A CHANCE.
LUTHER, LOOK-- OUT.
SEMI
SAFE
AUTO
DAMN YOU, TONUS! STOP IT! WE'RE TRYING TO TALK TO YOU! WHY DON'T YOU LISTEN TO OUR SIDE FOR A CHANGE?
13

WHAT HAVE YOU GOT TO SAY THAT COULD POSSIBLY INTEREST ME?
THIS!
MOVE BACK, LUTHER. THIS IS HOW YOU HANDLE AN APE!
BET YOU'VE KILLED LOTS OF US "ANIMALS" WITH THIS GUN.
HOW DOES IT FEEL TO BE ON THE OTHER END?
NO!
VALIA'S RIGHT, RICHARD. KILLING HIM ISN'T THE ANSWER.
TAKE HIM OUT!
WHACK!
UUGGHHNN!

HE NEARLY RIPPED MY ARM OFF. I THOUGHT HE'D NEVER GO DOWN.
ARE YOU ALL RIGHT? DID HE--
I'M FINE. HE DIDN'T HURT ME.
ARE YOU KIDDING? HE WAS EASY!
I CAN'T BELIEVE THIS IS THE APE THAT'S BEEN CAUSING US SO MUCH TROUBLE.
TONUS THE BUTCHER? HA!
WHAT A JOKE!
SORRY WE'RE SO LATE. YOU WERE HARD TO FIND.
IT'S OKAY. HE WOULDN'T HAVE DONE ANYTHING TO ME.

JUST BECAUSE YOU'RE AN APE? DON'T KID YOURSELF. HE'S KILLED APES BEFORE. YOU'D BE JUST ANOTHER NOTCH ON HIS GUN.
THIS IS THE BUTCHER. DON'T YOU UNDERSTAND THAT?
IT'S YOU WHO DOESN'T UNDERSTAND.
WE'VE GOT TO TREAT HIM LIKE WE WANT APES TO TREAT MAN.
THEN I SAY WE KILL HIM NOW.
AREN'T YOU LISTENING? I'VE BEEN WITH HIM EVERY MOMENT SINCE HE CAPTURED ME. I THINK I WAS BEGINNING TO GET THROUGH TO HIM.
UNDERNEATH THAT TOUGH EXTERIOR, I BELIEVE THERE'S A SOFT SPOT...
...THE BUTCHER MAY JUST HAVE A HEART AFTER ALL.

CHAPTER NINE
PHIS. A CITY ON THE PLANET OF THE APES. A CITY THAT NOW PLAYS HOST TO A LARGE APE ARMY COME TO RID THE AREA OF ITS "MAN" PROBLEM.
GENERAL STEDAL, YOU'VE GOT TO WAIT! HE WAS SENT HERE BY GENERAL OLLO HIMSELF!
GENERAL OLLO IS NOT IN CHARGE HERE, I AM. AND I SAY WE CANNOT WAIT FOR TONUS TO RETURN.
COLONEL NOOREV, WHENEVER A SPEAKING MAN APPEARS, THERE IS TROUBLE... FOR ALL APES.
THEY MUST BE FOUND IMMEDIATELY. TOMORROW I WILL TAKE MY ARMY ACROSS THE MIZZIPHEE RIVER AND KILL EVERY MAN IN SIGHT.
17

AND, ON THE OPPOSITE SIDE OF THE RIVER...
OWWWW. FEELS LIKE A LARGE TRIBE OF MEN ARE STOMPING AROUND IN MY HEAD.
THIS IS GOING TO HURT FOR A WHILE.
I CAN'T BELIEVE I WAS SO CARE-LESS TO LET MYSELF GET CAUGHT BY MAN. BY STUPID ANIMALS!
I ALSO CAN'T BELIEVE, KNOWING WHO I WAS, THAT THEY DION'T KILL ME.
IT HAD TO BE VALIA. I REMEMBER HER ASKING THEM NOT TO HURT ME BEFORE THEY KNOCKED ME OUT.
18

WONDER WHY? AFTER ALL, I HAD HER TIED UP THE WHOLE TIME, EVEN GAGGED FOR A WHILE.
WE'VE BEEN AT IT EVER SINCE I KNOCKED HER DOWN COMING OUT OF THE GRACELA TAVERN.*
FOR HER TO SPARE MY LIFE, SHE MUST REALLY BE CONVINCED THAT MAN AND APE CAN CO-EXIST.
THE REST I'M NOT SO SURE. ESPECIALLY THE ONE THEY CALLED LUTHER.
THE MAN WITH THE GUN, THOUGH--HE WANTED TO KILL ME. I COULD SEE IT IN HIS EYES.
IT STILL RAISES THE HAIR ON THE BACK OF MY NECK TO HEAR A MAN SPEAK LIKE THAT.
* BLOOD OF THE APES #1 - Roland.
AHH. THIS IS THE RIGHT TREE.
GLAD I DECIDED TO MAKE A FEW WEAPONS CACHES WHEN I FIRST ARRIVED IN PHIS.
DIDN'T THINK I WOULD EVER NEED THEM, BUT I'M SURE GLAD I DIDN'T TAKE ANY CHANCES.
19

HO! WHAT'S THIS?
A FEMALE MAN WITH HER CUB.
COME BACK HERE YOU LITTLE RASCAL!
TELL ME WHAT YOU LEARNED TODAY.
MISS MYNDITH WASN'T THERE.
SO, CAN'T YOU LEARN ANYTHING FROM THE OTHER TEACHER?
THIS CUB COULD GROW UP TO BE A KILLER OF APES. BEST I PREVENT THAT NOW.
I LEARNED THAT ALTHOUGH WE ARE MISTREATED BY APES, WE ARE JUST AS GOOD AS THEM. BUT WE HAVE TO BE PATIENT BECAUSE THEY HAVE BEEN TAUGHT TO HATE US. WE HAVE TO SHOW THEM THAT WE AREN'T BAD...
..."AND THAT WE CAN LIVE WITH THEM."

NOT FAR AWAY...
LUTHER, I CAN'T QUIT THINKING ABOUT IT.
DO YOU THINK IT WAS RIGHT TO LET THE BUTCHER GO? I MEAN, I LOST COUNT OF HOW MANY HAVE DIED BY HIS HANDS.
THEATRICAL MAKE-UP KIT
MYNDITH, I ASSURE YOU, IT WAS THE RIGHT THING. SOMETHING IN ME WANTED TO KILL HIM TOO, BUT SOMEONE HAS TO TAKE THE FIRST STEPS TOWARD PEACE.
LETTING HIM LIVE, THE HARDEST OF ALL THE APES, WILL SHOW THEM THAT MAN IS MADE OF OKAY STOCK.
21

YOU'RE RIGHT, AS ALWAYS. SOMETIMES YOU JUST HAVE TO REMIND ME.
SO WHAT DO WE DO NEXT?
I DON'T KNOW. ANY SUGGESTIONS?
WELL, WE NEED TO KEEP AN EYE ON RICHARD.
HE'S GOT A SHORT FUSE THAT COULD BLOW AT ANY MOMENT AND RUIN ALL WE'VE WORKED FOR.
I DON'T TRUST HIM.
NOW WAIT A MINUTE! I DON'T ALWAYS AGREE WITH HIM, BUT HE'S WORKED RIGHT ALONG AND JUST AS HARD AS THE REST OF US.
ANY MORE IDEAS?

I'VE GOT IT!
WE'VE GOT TO SHOW THE APES, NOT JUST SOME APES, BUT ALL OF PHIS, THAT MAN IS OKAY. WE'LL MARCH THE WHOLE COMMUNITY INTO THE APE CITY!
WHAT!? YOU'VE GOT TO BE KIDDING. I ASKED FOR IDEAS, NOT--
I'M SERIOUS.
WE'VE GOT TO SHOW THEM IN A BIG WAY. I CAN'T THINK OF ANYTHING BIGGER.
OUR WHOLE COMMUNITY? MARCHING WITHOUT WEAPONS INTO PHIS?
IT HAS TO WORK. THE APES CAN'T POSSIBLY CAPTURE ALL OF US, THEY DON'T HAVE ENOUGH CAGES. THEY'D HAVE TO LISTEN.

WHEEEEEE
I'LL HAVE TO BE QUICK ENOUGH TO GET THE FEMALE BEFORE SHE CAN RUN AWAY.
COME ON, IT'S TIME TO GO HOME. WE SHOULDN'T BE THIS FAR AWAY FOR SO LONG.
THE BUTCHER MIGHT BE OUT HERE AND HE'D GET US.
COME ON.
TO BE CONTINUED...