

MARVEL COMICS PRESENTS

BATTLE FOR THE PLANET OF THE APE

Story by DOUG MOENCH

Adapted from THE

20th CENTURY FOX MOTION PICTURE

Produced by ARTHUR P. JACOBS

Directed by J. LEE THOMPSON

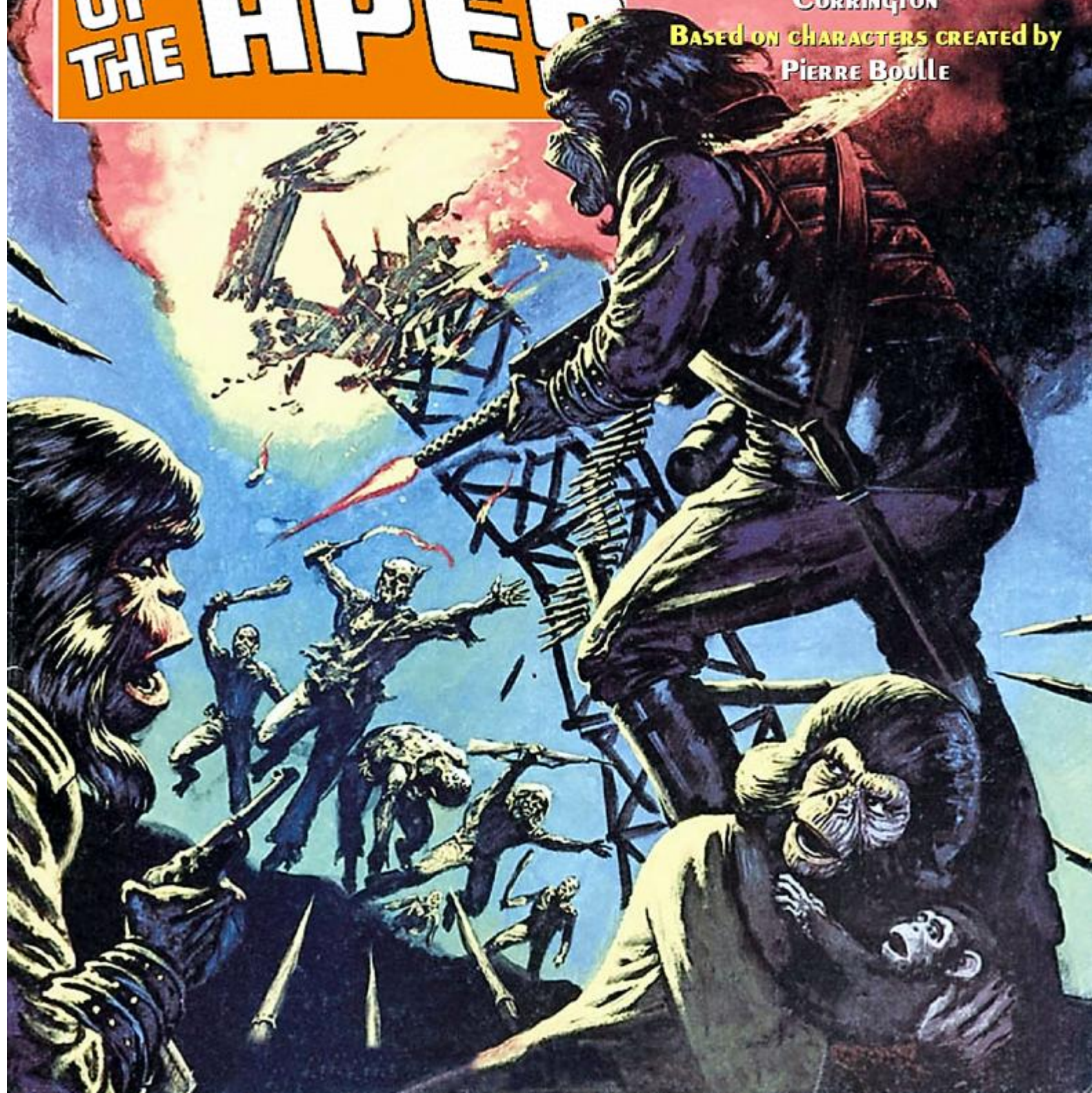
Screenplay by JOHN WILLIAM

CORRINGTON & JOYCE HOOPER

CORRINGTON

Based on CHARACTERS CREATED by

PIERRE BOULLE



NORTH AMERICA 2670 A.D.



IN THE
BEGINNING
GOD CREATED
ALL THAT
LIVES.



HIS
BREATH
STIRRED
THE DUST
OF THE
FIELDS.



HIS HAND
MOVED THE
WATERS OF
THE SEAS.


HE MADE
CREATURES TO
DIG IN THE EARTH,
TO SWIM BELOW
THE WATERS, TO
WING THROUGH
THE BROAD
SKIES.

HE MADE
WORLDS TO
PUT THEM
IN.



HE MADE
MAN.

BATTLE FOR THE **PLANET** OF THE **APES!**



AND IN THE
FULLNESS OF
TIME, MAN MADE
GREAT CITIES AND
RULED ALL
THINGS.

EVEN THE BOUNDS
OF TIME AND SPACE
GAVE WAY BEFORE
HIM.

AND FROM THAT PAST,
ONE CALLED TAYLOR
TRAVELLED FAR INTO THE
FUTURE, EVEN BEYOND
THESE PRESENT DAYS, TO
A WORLD IN WHICH...

...THE GREAT
APES HELD
DOMINION.

THOUGH HAVING
THEMSELVES BEEN
SLAVES, THEY KNEW
NO MORE THAN TO
MAKE OTHERS
SLAVES...

AND IN THAT
FUTURE, THE MADNESS
OF APES AND MEN
BROUGHT ABOUT THE
DESTRUCTION OF
THE WORLD.

FROM THAT
DOOMED FUTURE
TWO ONLY DID
ESCAPE...

CORNELIUS AND
ZIRA THEY WERE, BEST
AND WISEST OF THE APES,
WHO TRAVELLED BACKWARD
IN TIME TO GIVE WARNING
OF THE DOOM WHICH
AWAITED.

BUT THEY WERE
KILLED BY HUMANS
IN THE PAST... EVEN AS
APES WOULD KILL
HUMANS IN THE
FUTURE.

STILL, THEIR
CHILD WAS
SPARED--CEASAR
BY NAME...

"...AND HE TO WHOM WE
OWE THE FREEDOM
OF ALL APES..."

"AS HE LED APES TO REVOLT,
ALL THINGS HUMAN WERE ALREADY
REACHING THEIR APPOINTED END..."



"...AND THE NATIONS OF
THE EARTH CLASHED
IN THE FINAL
WAR..."

"...BRINGING
THAT GREAT
CIVILIZATION
DOWN TO
DUST."

"...THERE TO
FOUND THE
CITY OF
THE APES."

"ONLY A REMNANT OF
APES AND HUMANS
SURVIVED UNHARMED,
LED BY CEASAR FROM
THE RUINED CITY
INTO THE
WILDERNESS..."

THE HISTORY
OF THOSE EARLY
DAYS UP TO THE
PRESENT TIME IN
WHICH WE LIVE IS
A COMPLEX AND
TROUBLING STORY...



THIS, THEN, SHALL BE
A NARRATIVE OF THAT
HISTORY...

...A TELLING OF
THAT STORY...

HIS NAME IS ALDO. COULD HE BUT
PERCEIVE THAT THE NAME IS A
SYMBOL OF HIS FORMER SUBTUG-
GATION BY HUMAN MASTERS,
DOUBTLESS HE WOULD CHANGE IT.
BUT SUCH THINGS DO NOT CONCERN HIM.

FOR, TO HIM, IT IS
MERELY GOOD TO
BE A GORILLA...

...GOOD TO BE
FREE TO RANGE
THE CONTRASTING
COUNTRYSIDE FAR
AND WIDE, FEELING
THE STRONG POWER
OF HIS MOUNT...
MASTER OF HIS
OWN COURSE.

PART I: THE WEAPONS SHOP OF
PARADISE!

BUT HOWEVER GRATIFYING HE MAY FIND HIS SOLITARY PURSUITS, ALDO KNOWS THAT SATISFACTION MAY ALSO BE FOUND IN THE COMPANY OF OTHERS...



... OTHERS OF HIS OWN KIND, WHO SHARE HIS PRESENT VIEW OF THE WORLD...



... WHO RESPECT HIM AS A LEADER OF GREAT STRENGTH...



... AND AS THEIR UNQUESTIONED SUPERIOR.

YES, THERE IS SATISFACTION HERE AMONG HIS OWN KIND. IT IS A FEELING HE WOULD LIKE TO PROLONG...



BUT AS MUCH AS HE IS LOATHE TO ADMIT IT, ALDO MUST RIDE ON...



... TO WHERE A FAR DIFFERENT PURSUIT AWAITS HIM.

STILL, AS HE REACHES A FAMILIAR POINT ON THE RIDGE, HE FINDS TIME TO PAUSE AND REFLECT FOR A MOMENT...

... TIME TO CONTEMPLATE THE TWO CONTRASTING VISTAS SEPERATED BY THE RIDGE, AND BY HIMSELF...



ON THE ONE SIDE, HE GAZES WITH CURIOUS LONGING OVER A VAST PANO-
RAMA OF BLEAK
DESERT AND DESO-
LATE ROCK... AN
EERIE, RAW PLAIN
OF NATURE LAID
BARE...



WHAT MYSTERIES
LIE HIDDEN THERE...?
WHAT SECRETS AND
DANGERS LURK BE-
YOND THAT VAST AND
STARK HORIZON...?
MORE, WHAT ADVEN-
TURES AWAIT HE
WHO BRAVES SUCH
TERRAIN...?

THE ANSWERS
MAY ONLY BE
GUESSED...
ENHANCED
FAR BEYOND
THEIR REALITY
BY THE WAN-
DERLUST OF
IMAGINATION...



BREATHING A SIGH
OF RASPY SORTS,
ALDO TURNS UPON
HIS MOUNT, NOW TO
SURVEY THE VIEW
ON THE OTHER SIDE
OF THE RIDGE... A
LUSH VALLEY DAP-
PLED IN GREENS
AND BROWNS, WHERE
TREES AND FLOWERS
JOIN IN UNION WITH
A... CITY...



...A CITY SEEM-
INGLY CARVED
FROM THE WON-
DERS OF PEACE
AND PARADISE.

BUT TO ALDO, THE SCENE
HOLDS TOO MUCH SER-
ENITY... TOO MUCH PEACE
AND COMPLACENCY...

HE SNEERS, AND THEN
GRUNTS... SEEMINGLY
PUSHED TO RELENTLESS-
NESS BY THE SIGHT OF SO
MUCH CLUTTERED BEAUTY
AND SO LITTLE CHALLENGE...



THEN, WITH A TOO-FORCEFUL KICK TO
HIS MOUNT'S FLANK'S, HE RIDES
DOWNWARD... INTO THE TABLEAU
WHICH INSPIRES SO MUCH CONTEMPT
WITHIN HIS FIERCE BREAST...

...DOWNWARD, ON THE WRONG SIDE TO
THE HATED CITY WHICH IS HIS HOME...



...AND WHICH IS ALSO HOME TO OTHERS
NOT OF HIS OWN KIND.

COME ON--
HARDER, PUT
OUR BACKS
INTO IT--!

WE ARE--
BUT WE'RE
STILL NOT
GOING TO
LIFT THIS
WAGON WITH-
OUT SOME
HELP...!



SMALL WONDER THAT ONE SUCH AS ALDO SHOULD RESENT THIS CITY, SHOULD BECOME ANNOYED BY ITS TRIVIAL PROBLEMS...



...BY THE HAIRLESS CREATURES WHICH INHABIT IT, MASQUERADING AS NEAR EQUALS TO ALDO AND HIS KIND...

... WHEN EVERYONE KNOWS THEY ARE MERELY WEAKLINGS TO BE SCORNED AND DESPISED.



NOW.



THANKS, ALDO. WE COULDN'T LIFT THIS WAGON TO SAVE OUR LIVES.

GOOD THING YOU CAME ALONG-- YOU'RE PLENTY STRONG.



ALDO... STRONG.

BUT MAN... WEAK-- WEAK!

WELL, MAN'S SMART...



HAH!

THEN BE SMART...



BUT DO WHAT WE SAY--!

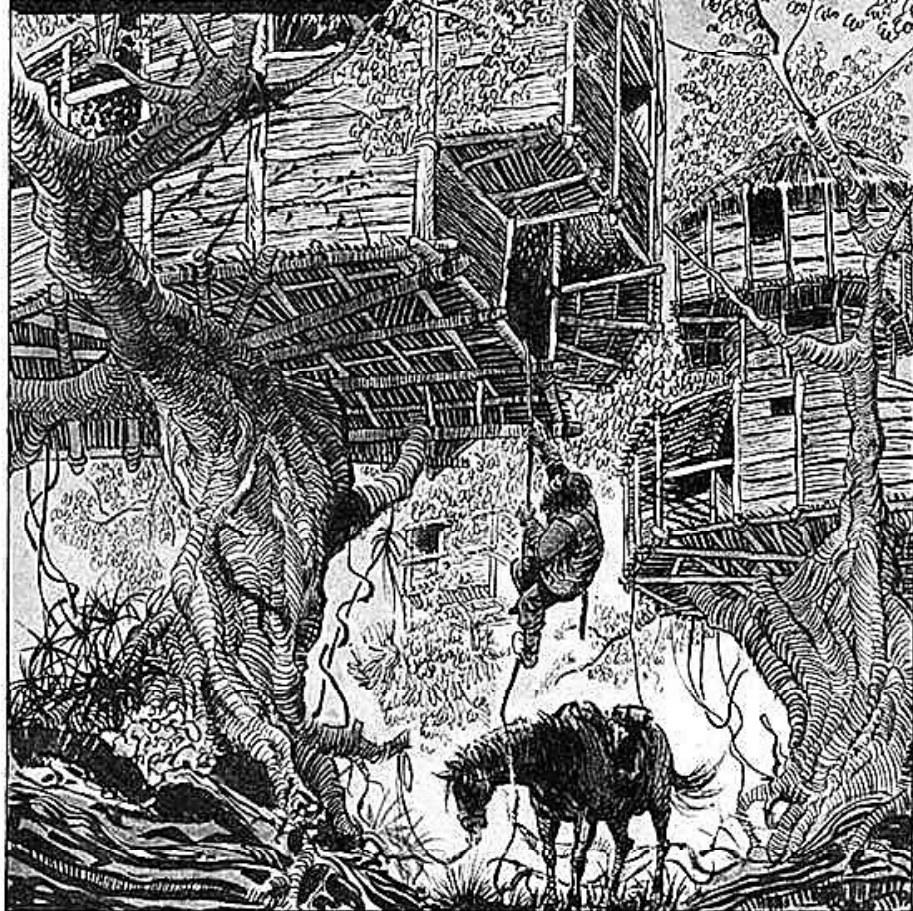


MAC DONALD, I'M GETTING AWFUL SICK OF THAT BIG APE...

I KNOW, JAKE. A LOT OF US ARE. I'LL SPEAK TO CEASAR ABOUT HIM.



WHY MUST HE COME TO THIS PLACE EVERY DAY?
WHY IS SO MUCH IMPORTANCE PLACED ON THE
MEANINGLESS RITUAL?



WHAT IS THE VALUE OF
THIS ROUTINE-- OF
LEARNING TO BECOME--



-- SMART...?

YOU'RE
LATE AGAIN,
GENERAL
ALDO.



PLEASE
TAKE YOUR
PLACE IN
THE CLASS.

BUT, AS USUAL,
ALDO IGNORES
THE INSTRUCTION,
AND SEATS HIMSELF
ALONG WITH OTHERS
OF HIS OWN KIND.
SIGNIFICANTLY,
THE TEACHER DOES
NOT OBJECT...

NOW SHALL WE
RESUME OUR
LESSON. CORNE-
LIUS, REPEAT AFTER
ME: APE SHALL
NEVER KILL--
APE.



APE
SHALL
NEVER
KILL--



EXCUSE ME,
CORNELIUS,
WE CANNOT
PROCEED UNTIL
WE HAVE THE
ATTENTION OF
THE ENTIRE
CLASS.

ALL RIGHT,
YOU GORILLAS.

YOU
MUST BE
QUIET AND
PAY
ATTENTION.
YOU KNOW
CEASAR'S
ORDERS--
YOU ARE
TO LEARN
TO TALK
AND READ
AND
WRITE.



ALDO KNOWS THAT
THE MENTION OF
CEASAR'S NAME WILL
QUIET HIS FELLOW
GORILLAS... AND FORCE
HIM TO FOLLOW THEIR
EXAMPLE. IT DOES
NOT PLEASE HIM...

NOR IS HE PLEASED BY THE CONSTANT INSULTS HE MUST BEAR FROM CAESAR'S SON...



JUST THINK-- IF MY DADDY WERE A GORILLA, WE'D ALL BE LEARNING RIDING INSTEAD OF WRITING.

AS USUAL, THE YOUNG ONES BURST INTO LAUGHTER... AND ALDO'S ANGER BUILDS TO A NEAR RAGE...



QUIET, CORNELIUS.

QUIET, CLASS--!

HA HA HA HA



NOW LET'S GET BACK TO WORK. WE HAVE A LOT TO COVER TODAY.

TAKE OUT YOUR PENCILS AND WRITE THE GREAT RULE: APE SHALL NEVER KILL APE.



SOME OF THE PUPILS SEEM QUITE ADEPT IN THE ASSIGNMENT...

CORNELIUS, ESPECIALLY, EXHIBITS A FACILE SKILL IN PENMANSHIP...



...AS DO MOST OF THE ORANGUTAN STUDENTS...



BUT THERE ARE OTHERS WHO ARE SOMEWHAT LACKING IN APTITUDE...



...AS WELL AS BASIC SKILL.



SNACKT



IT
ENRAGES
HIM.

NO!

**NO
I WRITE--!!**



ALDO -- NOW THAT'S
ENOUGH TEMPER.
VIOLENCE DOESN'T
SOLVE EVERYTHING
YOU KNOW.

SO JUST
SETTLE
DOWN.



I SAID BE QUIET,
YOU GORILLAS...!

DO I HAVE TO
SPEAK TO **CEASAR**
ABOUT YOU--?

THIS TIME, THE EXHORTATION OF **CEASAR'S** NAME
INDUCES ANYTHING BUT SULLEN SILENCE...



... AND NOW ENFORCED BY THE GROWING
DIN OF MASS DEFIANCE, ALDO RISES...
HIS ANGER NO LONGER SUPPRESSED...

YOU
NOT
SPEAK!

ALDO
SPEAK--!



YOU
LISTEN--!!

UNABLE TO BACK AWAY ANY FARTHER, THE FRIGHTENED TEACHER FORGETS HIMSELF...AND BLURTS OUT THREE SIMPLE WORDS...



THE REACTION IS ABRUPT SILENCE--INSTANTANEOUS SHOCK...

EVEN YOUNG CORNELIUS IS AGHAST.



BUT IT IS HIS CLASSMATE VIRGIL WHO BREAKS THE AWFUL SILENCE...

YOU... DID WHAT IS... FORBIDDEN...

I... I'M SORRY--! I FORGOT! I... I DIDN'T MEAN TO...





ALDO HAS HOPED
FOR A MOMENT
SUCH AS THIS --
WAITED FOR IT...



HE HAS LONG
HATED THIS
HAIRLESS, SPINDLY
TEACHER --
WISHED HE COULD
CRUSH THE LIFE
FROM HIS BONY
BODY WITH HIS
POUNDING
FISTS...



AND NOW THAT
THE TEACHER
HAS GIVEN HIM
JUSTIFIED
CAUSE TO
DO SO...

UFFFFF!



...THERE IS NO
POWER IN THE
WORLD WHICH
CAN FORCE HIM
TO--



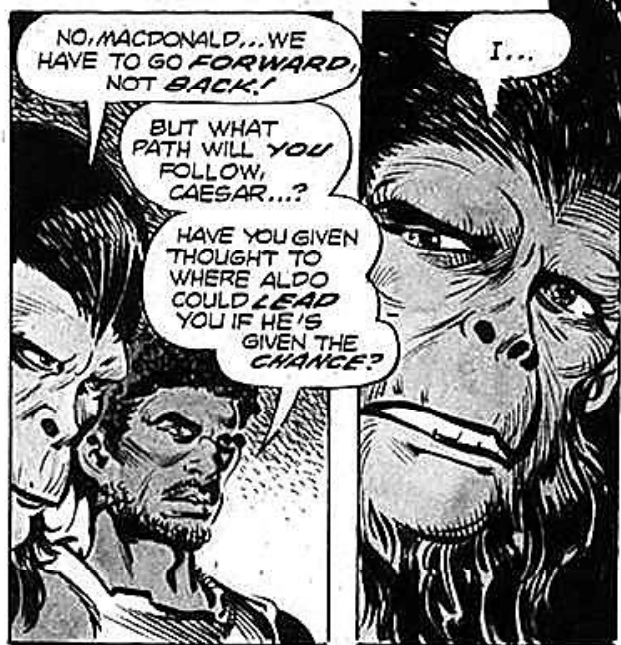
STOP!



I SAID STOP,
ALDO!

NO. NOT NOW--! OF ALL
TIMES, WHY NOW--?!















YOU EXPECT
APE HISTORY TO BE
ANY *DIFFERENT*?

YES -- IT *WILL* BE
DIFFERENT! YOU *SEE* WHAT
WE'VE BUILT HERE! WHILE
MANKIND WAS BUSY *DES-*
TROYING ITSELF, APES
SURVIVED AND
PROSPERED!

NOW WE LIVE IN
A *PARADISE*--
NO *CRIME*...NO
HUNGER...



NO
SLAVERY?



HUMANS *BEGAN*
SLAVERY--!

AND APES WILL
END IT!

THAT, AND
EVERYTHING
ELSE!

BAMP



EVERYTHING....?

THE *WORLD*
ITSELF, AND
EVERYTHING *ON*
THE *WORLD!*

YOU *SOUND*
LIKE A *PROPHET*
...BUT I SUSPECT
YOU'RE MORE LIKE
A DOOM-WAILING
POET OF
FANTASY!



WOULD YOU BELIEVE ME IF
YOUR *PARENTS* -- IF
CORNELIUS AND *ZIRA* --
WERE TO TELL YOU *SO*?!
MY *PARENTS*....?

MY *PARENTS*....?

BUT HOW
COULD
THEY....?



IN THE *CITY*, IN THE ARCHIVES, NEAR
THE OLD *COMMAND POST*, I KNOW
THERE ARE *TAPES*--TAPES OF *ZIRA*
AND *CORNELIUS* BEING EXAMINED BY
THE *GOVERNMENTAL OFFICIALS!*

I VIEWED THEM
MYSELF--MORE THAN
ONCE--WHEN I WAS
GOVERNOR BRECK'S
ASSISTANT!



BUT THE *CITY* IS
DESTROYED--*INCINERATED!* THE WAR LEFT
NOTHING...





YOU'D BETTER TAKE
A **GEIGER COUNTER!**
THE **RADIATION** MUST
BE **FIERCE!** GOD KNOWS
WHAT THEY **USED** IN
THOSE **BOMBS!**

WHATEVER
IT WAS... WAS
CERTAINLY
EFFECTIVE!



SOMETIMES AT NIGHT--
IF THE **CLOUD COVER** IS
LOW-- YOU CAN SEE THE
CITY'S **REFLECTION,**
PULSING... **SHIMMERING**
...AS IF IT WERE
BURNING...



BE **CAREFUL,**
BRUCE! IT'S **HELL**
IN THERE-- EVEN
WITHOUT THE
RADIATION...

AND WHAT'S
THE **USE?** YOU
CAN'T MAKE AN
APE UNDERSTAND
ANYTHING!



I USED TO
HEAR THAT **SAME**
THING... ONLY NOT
ABOUT **APES!**

BUT **CAESAR CAN**
UNDERSTAND ANYTHING--
ANYTHING HE'S TAKEN **PART**
IN! IT'S JUST THAT **OUR**
PAST ISN'T **THIS!**



WHAT CAN HE
DO, THOUGH...
ABOUT THE
GORILLAS?

I DON'T KNOW!
WHAT I **DO** KNOW IS
THAT WE'RE ON A SET
OF **RAILS,** HEADED
STRAIGHT FOR THE
TOTAL DESTRUCTION
OF WHATEVER'S
LEFT...

...UNLESS
CAESAR CAN
BEGIN TO TURN
THINGS **AROUND!**



DO YOU
THINK...?

YES! WHEN HE HEARS HIS
MOTHER AND FATHER TELL
WHERE THIS **EDEN** IS **HEADED,**
HE'LL **ACT!** HE MAY **FEEL**
LIKE AN APE... BUT HE
THINKS LIKE A **MAN!**

AND I'M GOING TO
GIVE HIM **KNOWLEDGE**
MAN'S KNOWLEDGE...







WHO ARE YOU?

I AM CAESAR



WHAT DO YOU WANT?

I COME FOR WEAPONS!

WHAT WILL YOU DO WITH THEM?



ONLY WHAT IS LAWFUL...

...AND SWEAR TO KEEP THE GREAT COMMANDMENT...?



YES, SO LONG AS I LIVE...

APE SHALL NEVER KILL APE!



FOR NINE YEARS I HAVE DREADED THIS MOMENT, CAESAR!

I HATE TO SEE YOU COME...

I APOLOGIZE FOR THE UNGODLY HOUR, MANDEMUS...



THE HOUR MATTERS LITTLE! OLD APES DO NOT SLEEP VERY MUCH, YOU KNOW...

IT'S JUST THAT I'D HOPED NEVER TO BE ASKED TO DO MY DUTY...



NEXT ISSUE: **THE DOOMSDAY SPAWN!**

THE BATTLE FOR THE PLANET OF THE APES

A VIEW FROM ABOVE, AS NIGHT DISSOLVES TO DAWN...

PART
II

THE RIDGE SPLITS THE LAND, DIVIDING IT INTO SEPARATE DOMAINS OF THE LIVING AND THE DEAD. TO ONE SIDE, THE EARTH IS MANTLED IN LUSH TEXTURES OF GREEN, WHERE RICH SWARDS OF SWAYING GRASS RIPPLE INTO HUDDLING COPSES OF GNARLED TREES, AND WHERE AN ARBOREAL CITY OF TREEHOUSES AWAITS THE COMING OF DAY...

BUT ON THE HARSH SIDE OF THE RIDGE, THE EARTH IS BLEAK AND BARREN, WHERE ALL LIFE HAS BEEN SEARED FROM THE SCORCHED PLAIN... AND WHERE DESOLATION EXTENDS UNBROKEN TO THE HORIZON...

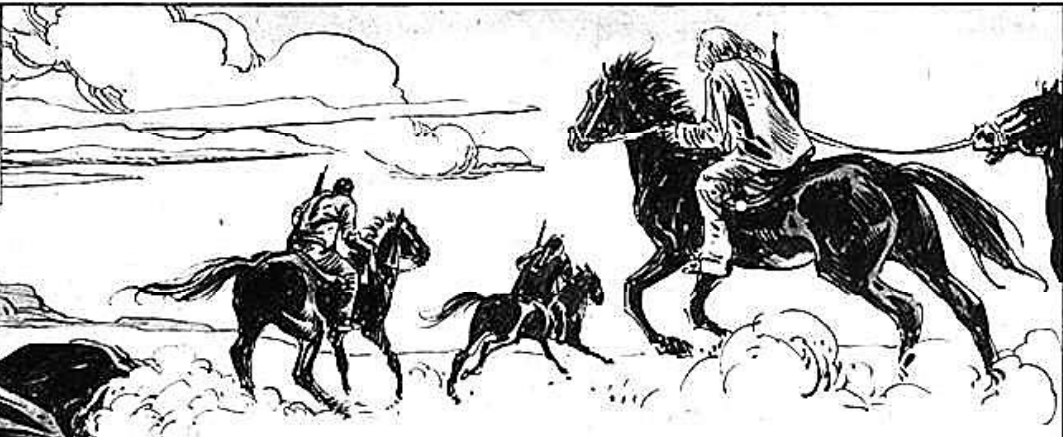
ON THE CREST OF THE RIDGE, DIVIDING THE LAND OF THE LIVING FROM THE LAND OF THE DEAD, THERE IS AN OUTPOST... STAFFED BY A CONTINGENT OF GORILLA SOLDIERS. IT IS THEIR DUTY TO GUARD THE TREEHOUSE CITY FROM ATTACK... BUT AS SENTRIES, THEY HAVE GROWN INDOLENT AND COMPLACENT... FOR WHO WOULD FEAR ATTACK FROM DEATH?

THUS, THEY DO NOT NOTICE THE THREE SMALL FORMS WHO NOW DEPART FROM THE DOMAIN OF LIFE... AND SLOWLY PICK THEIR WAY DOWN TOWARD THE VALLEY OF DEATH.

THE DOOMSDAY SPAWN

IT IS A **SMALL** EXPEDITION, BUT NONETHELESS A **COMPLEX** AND **MOMENTOUS** ONE. THESE THREE ARE THE FIRST TO ATTEMPT A **CROSSING** OF THIS PLAIN SINCE THE **WHITE HEAT** AND THE **GREAT DESTRUCTION** BLASTED ALL LIFE FROM ITS **FACE**.

THEIR INDIVIDUAL **MOTIVATIONS**, PERHAPS, ARE **DIFFERENT**-- BUT EACH HOLDS HIS **MOTIVATION** WITHIN HIS **SOUL**...



FIRST THERE IS **CAESAR**, THE **FOUNDER** AND **LEADER** OF THE **COMFORTABLE CITY** THEY NOW LEAVE **BEHIND**. AS HE **BEGINS** THIS LONG JOURNEY, DOES HE THINK OF THE **CITY** AND ITS **FUTURE**... OR OF HIS WIFE **LISA**, AND THE POSSIBILITY OF A **FUTURE WITHOUT HER**...



CAESAR, WHY MUST YOU GO TO THE HUMAN CITY--? IT IS DEAD! WE LEFT IT TO COME HERE -- TO FIND LIFE AND PEACE AND SAFETY! AND WE HAVE FOUND IT!

WHY CAN'T YOU LET IT BE CAESAR?

BECAUSE OUR PEACE AND OUR SAFETY MAY BE THREATENED. LISA, I CANNOT LET THAT BE... IF THERE IS ANY WAY TO STOP IT!



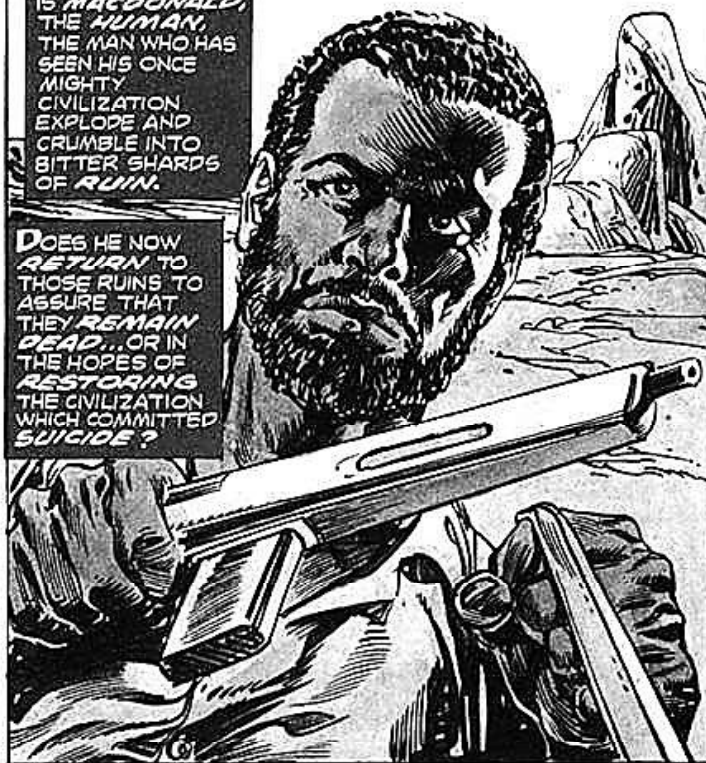
THUS, **CAESAR LEADS** THIS **OMINOUS TREK** INTO THE **UNKNOWN**, THINKING OF HIS **CITY**...

...THINKING OF **LISA**... AND THE **LOSS OF BOTH**.



AND THEN THERE IS **MACDONALD**, THE **HUMAN**, THE MAN WHO HAS SEEN HIS ONCE **MIGHTY CIVILIZATION** **EXPLODE** AND **CRUMBLE** INTO **BITTER SHARDS OF RUIN**.

DOES HE NOW **RETURN** TO THOSE **RUINS** TO **ASSURE** THAT THEY **REMAIN DEAD**... OR IN THE **HOPES OF RESTORING** THE **CIVILIZATION** WHICH COMMITTED **SUICIDE**?



BETTER BE CAREFUL, MACDONALD! IT MUST BE HELL IN THAT CITY-- EVEN WITHOUT THE RADIATION...

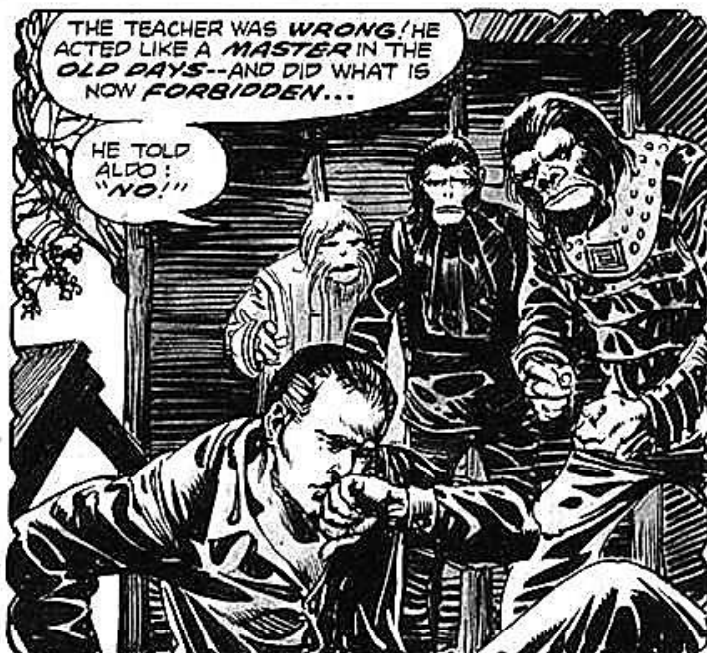
MAYBE IT IS HELL, ED, AND MAYBE I'M PLAYING THE SERPENT IN PARADISE... BUT WE'RE ALWAYS BEGINNING AGAIN...

CAESAR MAY FEEL AS AN APE FEELS-- BUT HE THINKS LIKE A MAN! I'M GOING TO TAKE HIM BACK TO THE CITY-- AND GIVE HIM MAN'S KNOWLEDGE... BEFORE IT'S TOO LATE!



AND THE THIRD, *VIRGIL*--THE YOUNG ORANGUTAN WHOSE INTELLIGENCE IS OFTEN OVERRULED BY SHARP EMOTION. DOES HE SHARE *CAESAR'S* MOTIVATIONS...OR *MACDONALD'S*...

OR DOES HE LOOK *BEYOND* THE PAST AND THE PRESENT... TO A FUTURE DIFFERENT FROM *BOTH*...?



THE TEACHER WAS *WRONG*! HE ACTED LIKE A *MASTER* IN THE OLD DAYS--AND DID WHAT IS NOW *FORBIDDEN*...

HE TOLD ALDO: "*NO!*"

AND THE *LAST* MEMBERS OF THE EXPEDITION, SILENT, *WITHOUT* MOTIVATION... PAWNS TO BE *USED* OR *ABUSED* IN THE DEADLY GAME OF *FATE*...



WEAPONS.

I'VE WATCHED THESE THINGS SIT AND GATHER *DUST* SINCE WE BROUGHT THEM OUT FROM THE RUINS OF THE *HUMAN CITY*! AND THROUGH ALL THOSE YEARS, I HAVE *DREADED* THE ARRIVAL OF *THIS* MOMENT...

...WHEN AT LAST I WOULD BE *CALLED UPON* TO WIPE THE DUST FROM THEM, AND TO *ISSUE* THEM FOR *USE*!



IN SILENCE, AND EACH IN *PRIVATE* THOUGHT, THEY RIDE THE DESOLATION TO *NOON*, WATCHING THE LAND GROW EVEN *MORE* WITHERED WITH EACH PASSING MOMENT...



...UNTIL THEY ENTER *TWILIGHT*...

...AND BEGIN TO MOUNT A COLLAPSED SUMMIT OF *RUBBLE*...

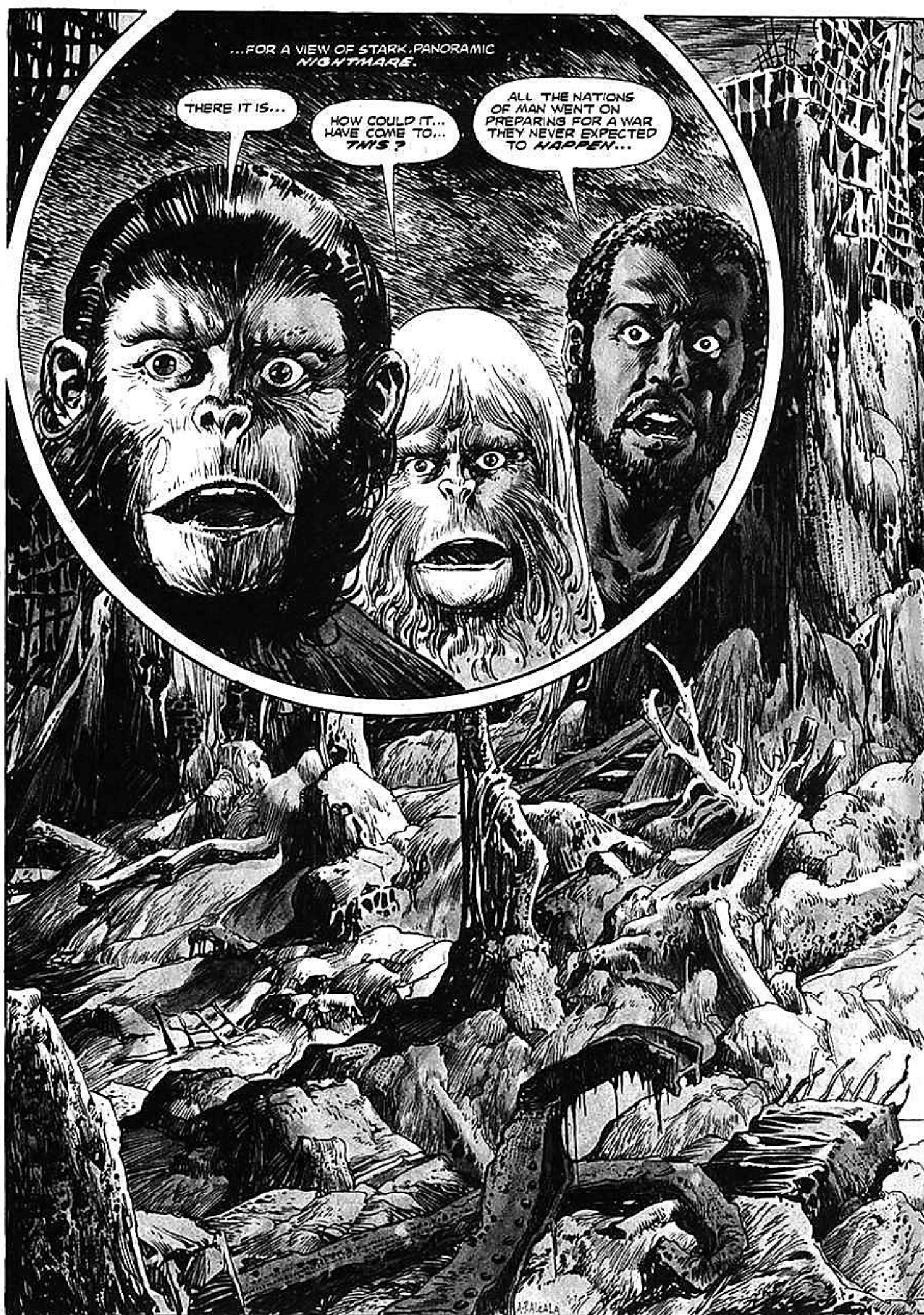


...FOR A VIEW OF STARK, PANORAMIC
NIGHTMARE.

THERE IT IS...

HOW COULD IT...
HAVE COME TO...
THIS?

ALL THE NATIONS
OF MAN WENT ON
PREPARING FOR A WAR
THEY NEVER EXPECTED
TO HAPPEN...





... AND THE
VERY *PLANNING*
FOR THAT IMPOSSIBLE
WAR BECAME...

AN
ITCH!

YES... AND WHEN
THE APE REVOLUTION
STARTED... IN *RAGE*,
AND IN *CONFUSION*,
MAN *SCRATCHED*
THAT *ITCH*...



I'LL SAY HE
SCRATCHED...

...RIGHT
DOWN TO THE
BONE!

THE APPROACH IS A *SLOW* ONE,
WITH CAREFUL STRIDES
MEASURED IN *AWE*...



...AND AS THEY
ENTER THE
LURID EMANA-
TIONS OF THE
RADIATION
SHROUD--A
SICKLY *GREEN*
GLOW
ENVELOPING
THE ENTIRE
FIELD OF
DESTRUCTION--
EVEN THEIR
VOICES SHOW
AWE, AND FALL
TO HOARSE
WHISPERS.

THE WHOLE CITY...
MELTED...FUSED
TOGETHER INTO A
SINGLE MASS OF
WASTE...

AND IT MUST
BE THE *SAME*
ALL OVER THE
WORLD...LONDON,
ROME, RIO,
MOSCOW... ALL
REDUCED TO
SLAGHEAPS...



AND ALL OF IT
CAUSED BY *HUMANS*,
MACDONALD...



I WONDER
WHAT *APES*
WILL *LEARN*
FROM IT!



EVERYWHERE IT IS
THE *SAME*.
STREETS STUFFED
WITH THE LEGACY OF
BRIGHT HORROR
BURNING DEEP INTO
THE MINDS OF
THREE WHO
WITNESS IT, WHO
MOVE *THROUGH*
IT, AND WHO ARE
TERRIFIED BY
ITS IMMENSITY...



CRUMPLED BUILDINGS FLOWING INTO THE PETRIFIED OOZE OF
OTHER BUILDINGS ROOTED IN THE MIRE OF SOLID CONCRETE
FLASH--SEARED IN A SINGLE BLINDING MOMENT OF *NUCLEAR*
DOOM NOW SWEEP BY SWIRLING DUST-DEVILS GREEN AND
INCANDESCENT GLOWING AS THEY SHIMMER AND LAUGHING AS
THEY *GLOW*...HAUNTING THE DEAD NOW BURIED IN MOLTEN
OFFICES AND SUBWAYS AND CARS AND *STREETS*.

EVERYWHERE IT
IS THE *SAME*
BUT MORE IN A
DOOMSDAY VISION
HATCHED
SOMEWHERE NEAR
THE *END*.

A COLD INFERNO SEETHING WITH THE
EDDIES AND SWIRLS ALL GHASTLY
GREEN LIGHT SNOWFALLS RIPPED
FROM THE GUTS OF A BLASTED BOMB
BIGGER THAN NEVER AND BLACKER
THAN THE CHAMBERS OF ETERNITY
WELCOMING ALL AT ONCE WITH A SLY
GRIN PAINTED WET RED.



MACDONALD
LOOKS IT.
HE WANTS TO
RUN, OR
GET SICK.
BUT INSTEAD
HE SAYS:

THIS...IS THE HELL
THEY USED TO PREACH
ABOUT... WARNED US
ABOUT...AND THEY
CREATED IT
THEMSELVES...

THEY...
WERE ALL...
INSANE...



AND WE'RE JUST
AS INSANE FOR
COMING HERE...



THIS
BACKGROUND
RADIATION ALONE
WILL SUBJECT US TO
THREE-HUNDRED
ROENTGENS AN
HOUR!

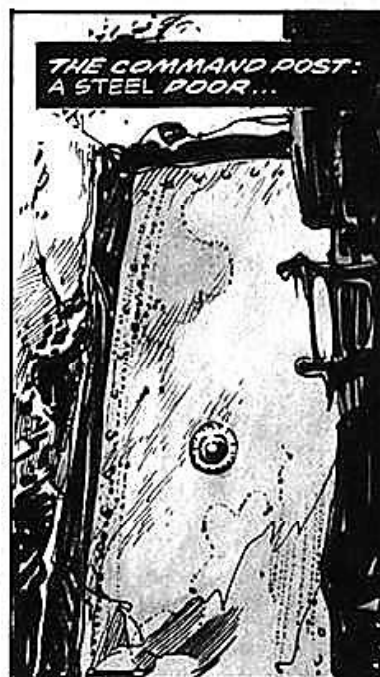
WHICH
MEANS...?



THAT IF
WE'RE NOT
OUT OF HERE
WITHIN TWO
HOURS, WE
MIGHT AS WELL
STAY
FOREVER!

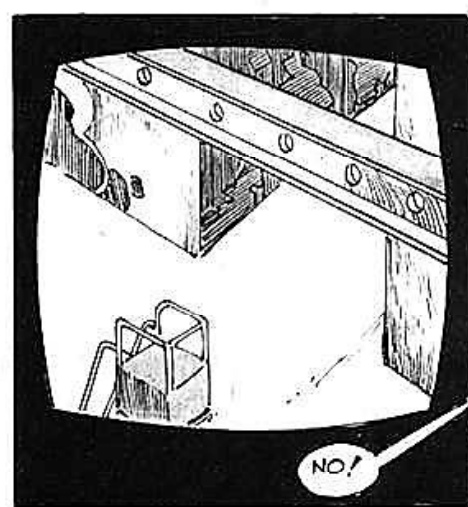
COME ON,
THEN! WHY
ARE WE
WASTING
TIME...?









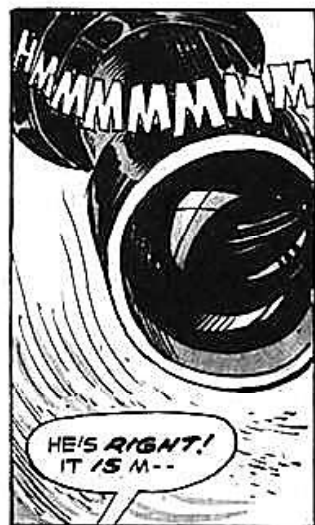
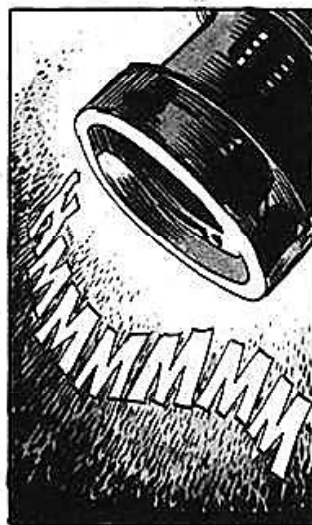






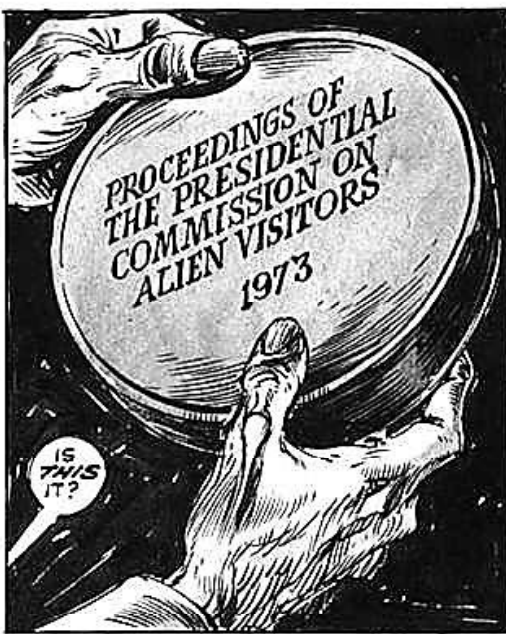


















NEXT ISSUE: A TASTE OF MUTANT HATE

BATTLE FOR THE PLANET OF THE APES

THIS WAS ONCE A THRIVING CITY... A BUSTLING METROPOLIS... A HECTIC TESTAMENT TO THE PROGRESS OF HUMAN CIVILIZATION...



...A CENTER OF BUSINESS, COMMERCE, ENTERTAINMENT AND CRIME... A WAY OF LIFE FOR MILLIONS...

BUT CALL IT WHAT YOU WILL. NO ONE WILL HEAR YOU. WHAT WAS HAS NOW PASSED AWAY.

B-129

THE TOWERING SKYSCRAPERS MELTED ONE DAY. THAT DAY WAS DOOMSDAY. HUMANITY'S GREAT ARMAGEDDON... WHEN ALL THE LARGE CITIES OF THE EARTH WERE BLASTED IN A SINGLE INSTANT OF HELLISH WHITE HEAT BURSTING FROM THE HEART OF NUCLEAR HOLOCAUST.

YET, IS THE MELTED CITY COMPLETELY DESERTED? IS IT NOT POSSIBLE THAT SOME SURVIVED, SOME WHO HAVE BEEN CHANGED BY THE ADVENT OF RADIATION AND INTELLIGENT APES? YES. THEY ARE CALLED MUTANTS AND, INDEED, THEY DO LIVE HERE... IF THEIR EXISTENCE MAY BE CALLED LIFE!

THE QUAGMIRE OF LIQUID STEEL AND CONCRETE AND GLASS AND PLASTIC HAS LONG SINCE COOLED. NOW THE CITY RESEMBLES NOTHING SO MUCH AS A GLACIER OF DESTRUCTION... SHEATHED IN A GREEN GLOW OF LINGERING RADIATION. THE CIVILIZATION OF MAN IS SHATTERED... A NEW CIVILIZATION RISES UP--ONE COMPRISED, INCREDIBLY, OF APES!

PART
III

A
TASTE OF
MUTANT HATE

THEY DROP AS ONE, HIDEOUSLY
MUTATED ATTACKERS LUNGING
FROM *SHADOWS*...AND AS
MACDONALD WHIRLS TO THE SOUND
OF THEIR *ASSAULT*--

WHAT
THE--?!!

A black and white comic book panel depicting a chaotic battle scene. In the foreground, a man with a large, feathered headdress is being attacked by several men. One man is holding a knife. Speech bubbles contain the text: "HELP!!", "CAESAR-- VIRGIL!! HELP ME--!!". The scene is filled with action and conflict.

CAESAR--
VIRGIL!!
HELP ME--!!

IN THE NAME OF THE CREATOR, CAESAR...WH-WHAT ARE THEY...? NOT APES...OR HUMANS WHAT ARE THEY--?

I DON'T KNOW... BUT THEY'RE ARMED--AND YET THEY'RE NOT FIRING!

THEY MUST WANT TO TAKE US ALIVE...

THEY
MUST WANT
TO TAKE US
ALIVE...

**MACDONALD..
YOU'VE GOT TO
BREAK FREE!!**

**WE CAN'T
HELP UNTIL
YOU GET
AWAY FROM
THEM--!!**

BREAK FREE! HUH...?

WELL, THERE'S ONLY ONE WAY TO DO THAT.. AND IT'S TO--

WELL, THERE'S ONLY
ONE WAY TO DO *THAT*...
AND IT'S TO--





WOUND'S NOT
SERIOUS, MACDONALD...
BULLET WENT ALL THE
WAY THROUGH YOUR
SHOULDER...

BEZON
CHWEL

BUT WE'VE
STILL GOT
TO GET OUT
OF HERE... THE
RADIATION...



HOW?
IS THERE
ANOTHER
WAY...?

I'LL TAKE A
LOOK DOWN
THIS
CORRIDOR,
VIRGIL! THEY'VE
STOPPED
FIRING... BUT
STAY ON
GUARD...

...AND BE
READY TO
MOVE--
FAST!



PACING QUICKLY
DOWN THE GLOOMY
CORRIDOR, CAESAR
FINDS THAT IT
TURNS...



...AND
LEADS TO
A DOOR...



...WHICH OPENS
ONTO A
SEETHING
HOTBED OF
RADIATION.

SHIELDING HIS
EYES FROM
THE LURID
GREEN GLARE...



...CAESAR ENTERS, AND PRESSES
FORWARD THROUGH THE
SWIRLING RADIATION.

AT THE
FAR END
AWAITS A
BLANK
STEEL DOOR,
HOPEFULLY
LEADING TO
SALVATION...

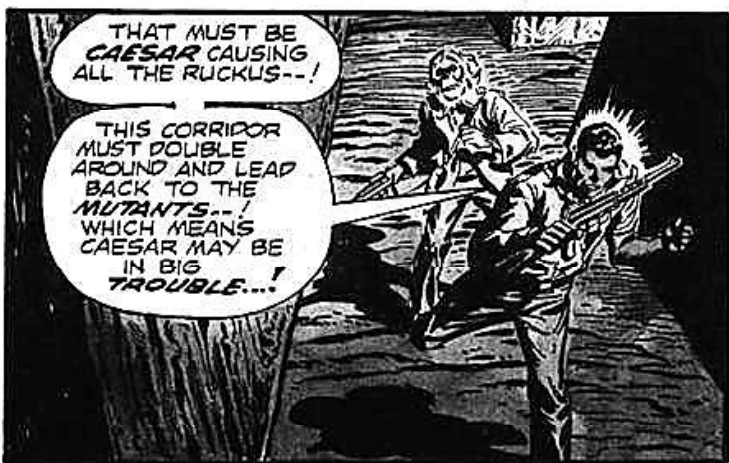


...BUT MORE
LIKELY TO
DEATH.

THEY MUST
COME OUT
SOON!

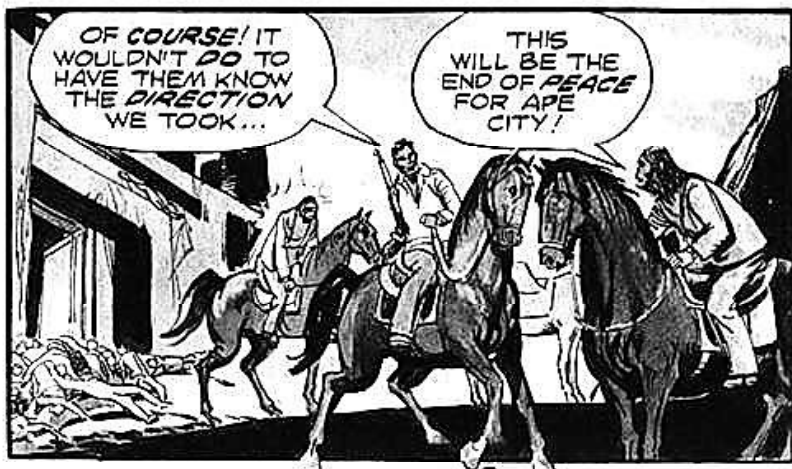
OUT TO
DIE!

TO DIE!

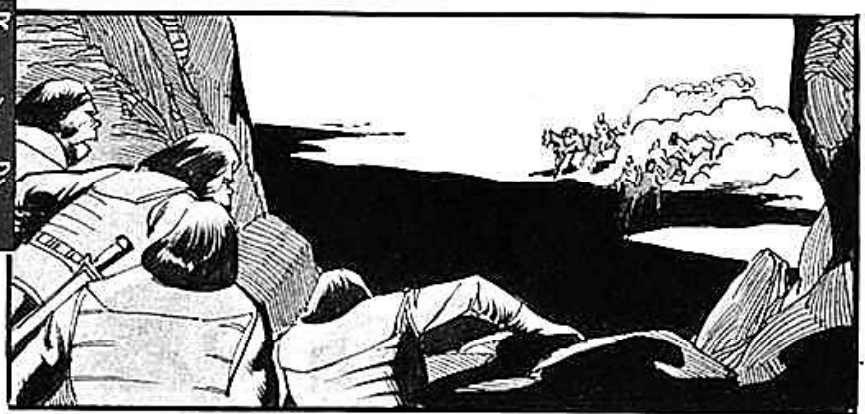














AND SO THE GREAT
GORILLA DEMANDS...

EXPLAIN!

YOU
EXPLAIN
TO ALDO!



BUT CAESAR IS
TIRED OF BEING
INTERROGATED...

YOU WOULDN'T
UNDERSTAND!

...AND ALDO'S
SUSPICIONS ARE
CONFIRMED.



THUS, EVEN IF
HIS INTELLIGENCE
IS INFERIOR TO
THAT WIELDED BY
CAESAR, ALDO
NEVER THE LESS
RECOGNIZES
THE INSULT...
AND IS
ANGERED
BY IT...

ALDO MAKE
FUTURE...



...WITH
THIS!!

CAESAR TURNS, AND FOR A
MOMENT IT SEEMS THAT
ALDO'S SHOW OF POWER MUST
LEAD TO A CONFRONTATION...



BUT THEN...

...THE SOUND
OF APPROACHING
HOOFBEATS...



AND
CAESAR
SMILES...

NO,
ALDO...



...THE FUTURE IS
WITH THEM...

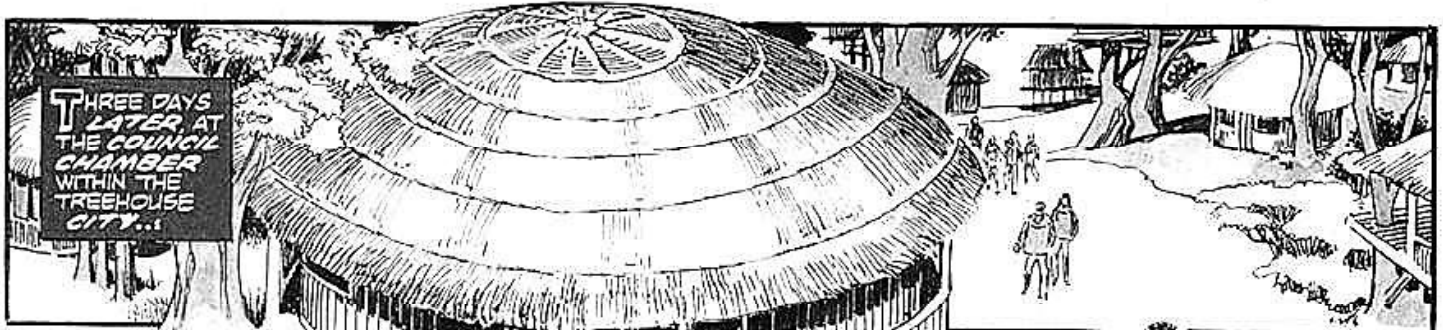


...WITH MY SON
CORNELIUS, AND
HIS HUMAN
FRIEND...

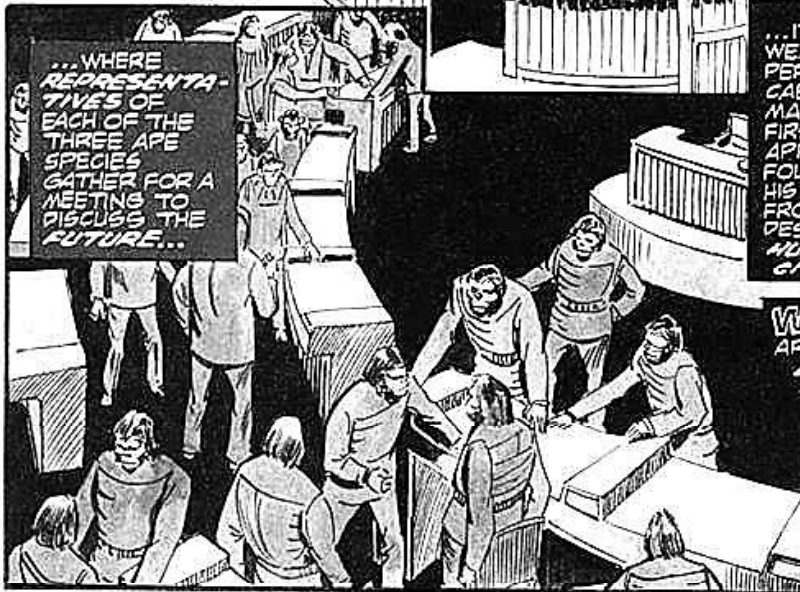
...AND ALL
THE OTHERS
LIKE THEM, TOO
YOUNG TO
UNDERSTAND
HATE!







THREE DAYS LATER AT THE COUNCIL CHAMBER WITHIN THE TREEHOUSE CITY...



...WHERE REPRESENTATIVES OF EACH OF THE THREE APE SPECIES GATHER FOR A MEETING TO DISCUSS THE FUTURE...

...IT IS A WEARY AND PERHAPS 22 CAESAR WHO MAKES HIS FIRST PUBLIC APPEARANCE FOLLOWING HIS RETURN FROM THE DESTROYED HUMAN CITY.

WITH HIM ARE HIS WIFE LISA--



--WHO JOINS THE AUDIENCE OF CHIMPANZEE REPRESENTATIVES--

--AND HIS SON CORNELIUS, WHO REMAINS AT HIS SIDE BEHIND THE PRESIDING Dais.

BUT EVEN WITH SUCH SUPPORT THERE IS A CERTAIN WEAKNESS IN CAESAR'S AUTHORITY THIS DAY...

WOK WOK WOK



PERHAPS THE CHANGE IS ATTRIBUTABLE TO THE VERY SUBJECT OF THIS DAY'S MEETING... AND HIS PROLONGED EXPOSURE TO THE CITY'S LINGERING RADIATION, WHOSE EFFECTS ALREADY MANIFEST THEMSELVES IN A CONSIDERABLE LOSS OF FACIAL HAIR...

MY FRIENDS, I HAVE ASKED YOU TO COME TO THIS SPECIAL MEETING OF THE COUNCIL SO THAT I COULD REPORT ON MY RECENT... SCOUTING EXPEDITION TO THE CITY...

VIRTUALLY ALL OF THE CONGREGATED REPRESENTATIVES EVINCE CONCERN FOR THEIR LEADER'S ALTERED ASPECT AND MIEN... BUT NOWHERE IS THAT CONCERN MORE CONCENTRATED THAN IN THE HEART OF CAESAR'S WIFE, LISA... SHE WHO HAD BEGGED HIM NOT TO GO TO THE CITY...



--AND ALL OF THAT AREA MUST STILL BE FORBIDDEN!
BUT WE...



THAT IS, VIRGIL, MACDONALD, AND I... FOUND A DANGER FAR WORSE THAN RADIATION...



INJURED, AND PERHAPS MUTATED-- CERTAINLY CRAZED-- HUMANS STILL INHABIT THE CITY!



A MURMUR OF CONSTERNATION SWEEPS THROUGH ALL THREE SECTIONS OF THE AUDIENCE... BUT IT IS FROM THE GORILLAS THAT A REPRESENTATIVE RISES TO SPEAK. HIS NAME, OF COURSE, IS ALDO...

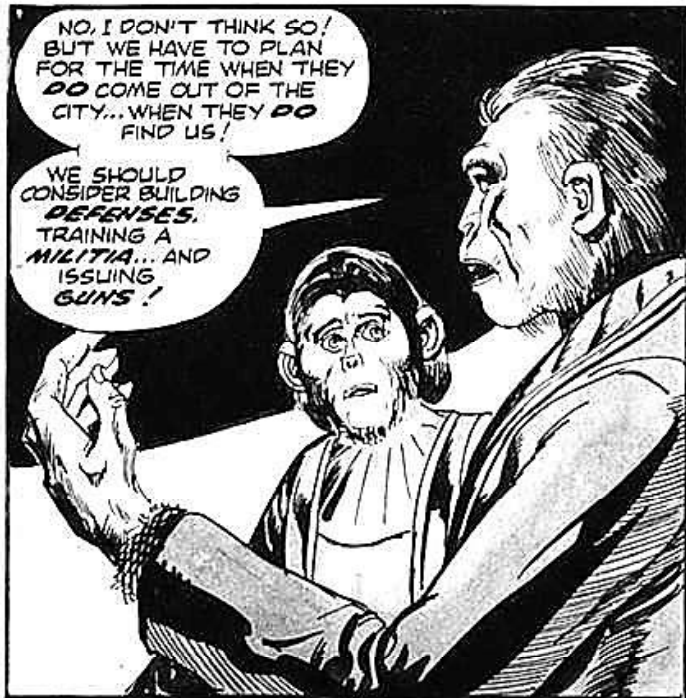
DID HUMANS FOLLOW YOU...?



HERE--?

NO, I DON'T THINK SO! BUT WE HAVE TO PLAN FOR THE TIME WHEN THEY DO COME OUT OF THE CITY... WHEN THEY DO FIND US!

WE SHOULD CONSIDER BUILDING DEFENSES. TRAINING A MILITIA... AND ISSUING GUNS!



AS HE KNEW IT WOULD CAESAR'S LAST WORD FALLS ON THE CONGREGATION WITH DISFAVOR AND SHOCK...

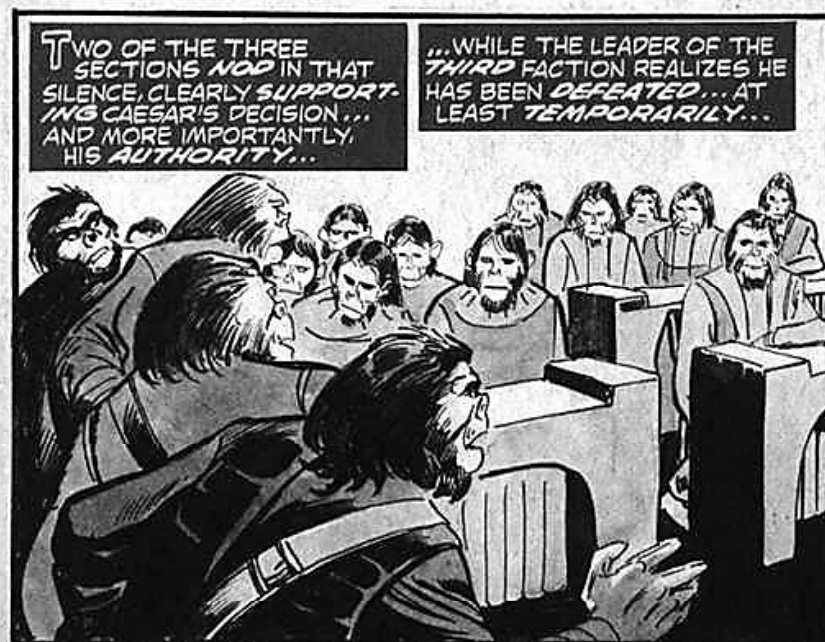
GUNS--? BUT CAESAR, WE HAVE LIVED IN PEACE FOR NINE YEARS...!





THEY ARE HERE
BECAUSE I SENT FOR
THEM, ALDO!

NOW THAT WE
KNOW THE DANGER
IN THE CITY, WE
NEED THEIR HELP...
THEIR COUNSEL!





THUS, AS ALDO AND GORILLAS LEAVE THE COUNCIL CHAMBER FOR THE LAST TIME...



...A NEW GROUP ENTERS... FOR THE FIRST TIME.



THANK YOU, CAESAR!

WELCOME, MACDONALD!

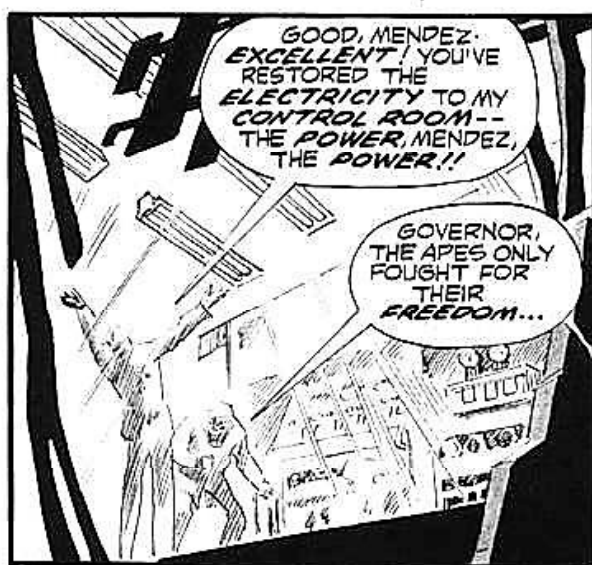
NOW THAT THE GORILLAS HAVE VACATED THEIR POSITIONS IN THE COUNCIL, YOU MAKE TAKE THEIR SEATS!



NOW, LET US REASON TOGETHER ...AND MAKE PLANS...



AMEN--AND WE CERTAINLY DON'T NEED THE GORILLAS FOR THAT!





HUNDREDS OF THEM! BIG ONES AND BABY ONES! IT'S GROWING OUT THERE, THEIR CITY!

AND THEIR GREEN THINGS, THEIR ORCHARDS AND FIELDS, ARE COVERING THE HILLS! I'M SMART, AND I KNOW...



THEY'LL BE COMING FOR US ONE DAY! YOU BET!

NO... BECAUSE WE'RE GOING FOR THEM NOW...

GET READY, CAPTAIN! INFORM YOUR MEN! BE PREPARED!



MENDEZ, YOU'LL BE IN CHARGE OF LOGISTICS! HOW MANY MEN CAN WE TRANSPORT TO--



MENDEZ... WHAT'S WRONG...?



GOVERNOR, COULDN'T WE JUST DEFEND THE CITY...? THE WAR WAS SO... TERRIBLE...

SO MANY DIED! WE CAN'T START THAT AGAIN... CAN WE...?

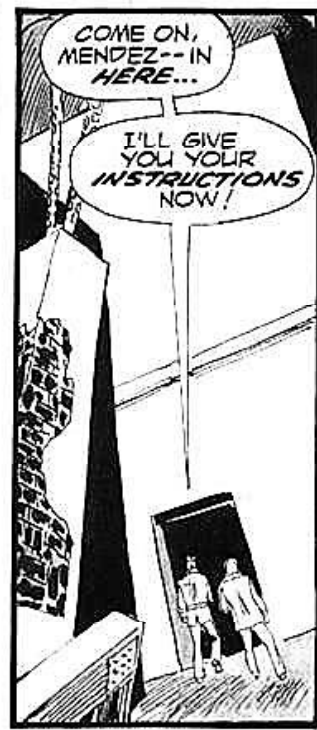
FOR A MOMENT, BRECK'S RAGE THREATENS TO EXPLODE...



...BUT THEN, SOMETHING FORCES HIM TO RECONSIDER... AND TO REACH A FATEFUL DECISION...

ALL RIGHT, MENDEZ, YOU MAY REMAIN HERE!

BUT THERE'S STILL A JOB FOR YOU HERE! FOLLOW ME!



NEXT: PART IV

THE WAR MACHINE !

BEGINNING ON PAGE 29 OF THIS ISSUE!

BATTLE FOR THE PLANET OF THE APES!

IN A FIELD BEYOND THE
TREEHOUSE CITY,
A GROUP OF APES
ENACTS A BIZARRE
SERIES OF COMBAT
MANEUVERS.

ALL OF THE APES,
SIGNIFICANTLY, ARE
GORILLAS. THEIR
LEADER IS ALDO...

WE NEED
GUNS!

PART IV: THE WAR MACHINE!



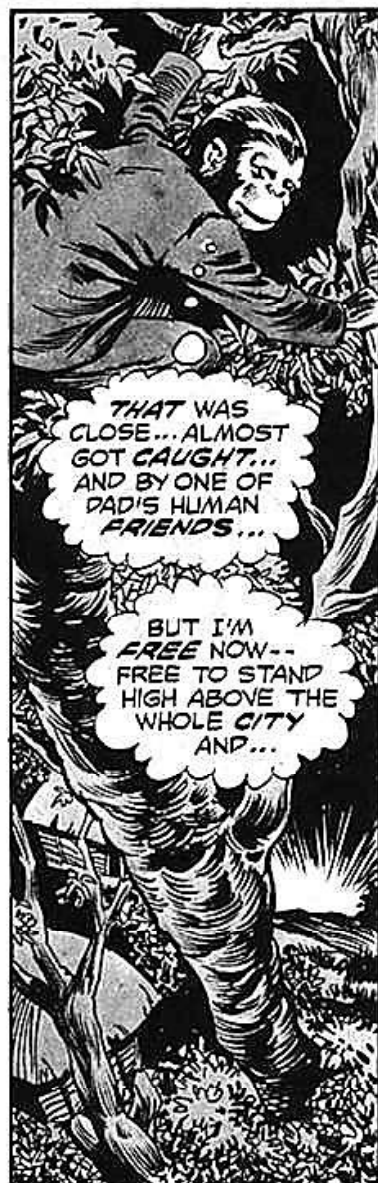












THAT WAS CLOSE... ALMOST GOT CAUGHT... AND BY ONE OF DAD'S HUMAN FRIENDS...

BUT I'M FREE NOW-- FREE TO STAND HIGH ABOVE THE WHOLE CITY AND...



WAIT A MINUTE... WHAT'S THAT...?

LOOKS LIKE A... FIRE...



BUT WHO WOULD BE BURNING A FIRE NOW...?



WE HAVE ARMY... BUT NO GUNS...

WE STRONG! STRONGEST OF APES! BUT WE NEED POWER...



GUNS! GUNS ARE POWER! WE GET THEM-- AND WE KEEP THEM...

FIRST WE SMASH HUMANS-- ALL HUMANS! THEN, WITH GUNS, WHEN HUMANS ARE FINISHED...



...WE SMASH CAESAR!



NO--!!





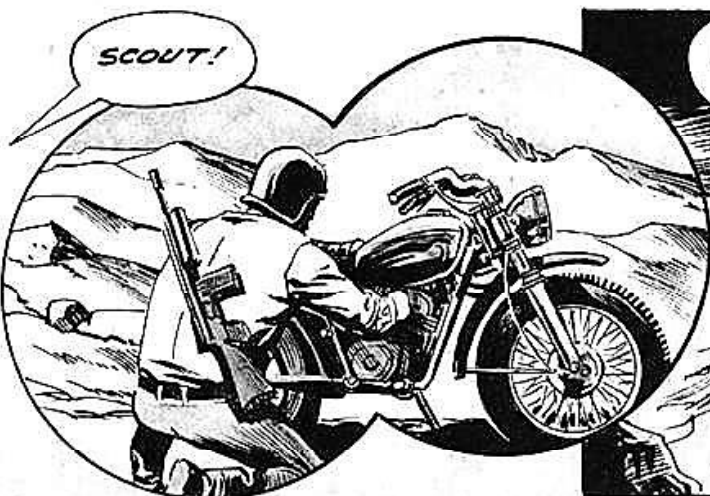
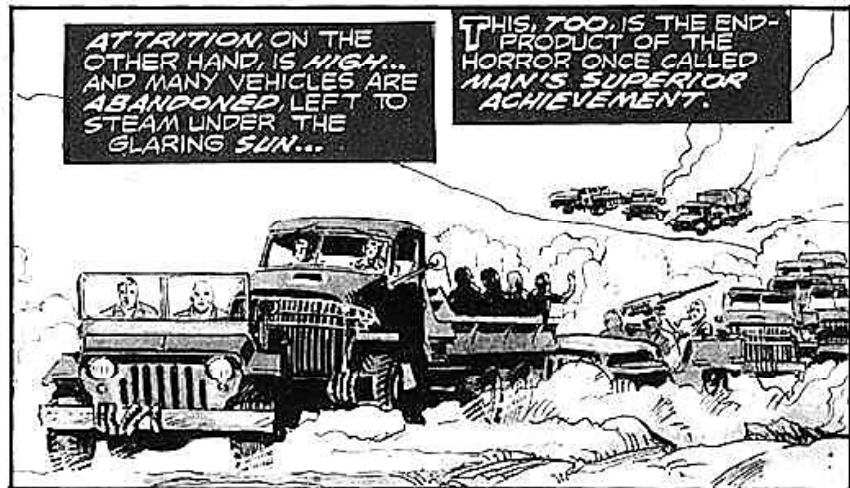




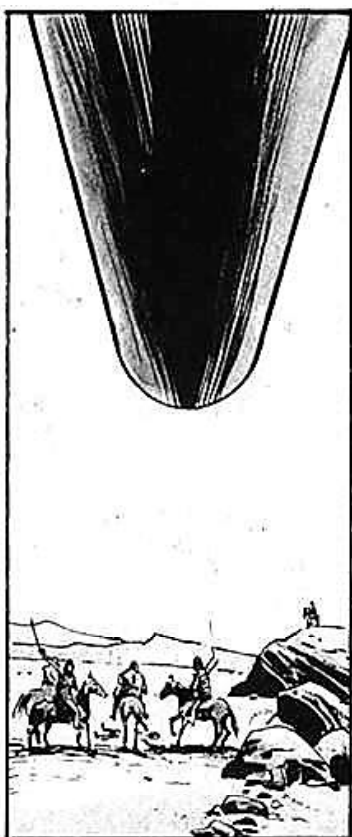


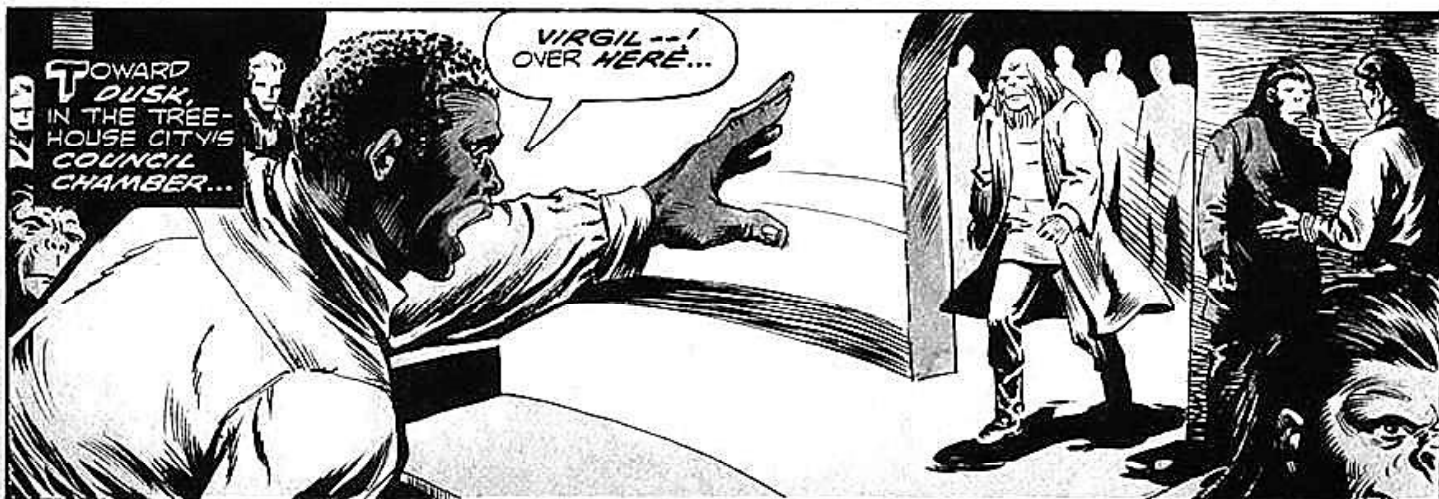
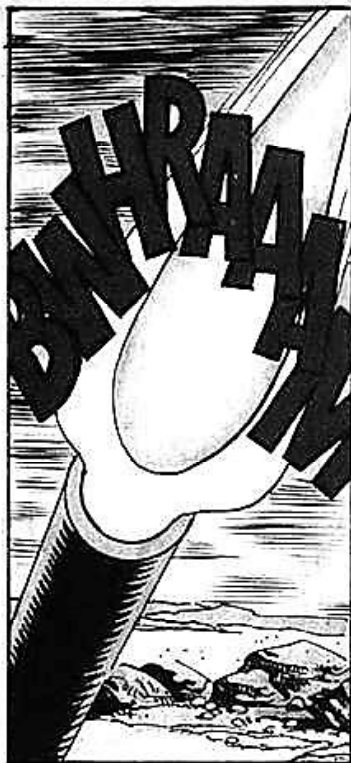
















NEXT ISSUE: **ASSAULT ON PARADISE!**

THE BATTLE FOR THE PLANET OF THE APES

THREE DAYS AGO, THE GORILLAS STORMED OUT OF THE COUNCIL CHAMBER... GRUMBLING IN DISGUST OVER CAESAR'S POLICY OF EQUALITY FOR HUMANS...

BUT NOW, LED BY ALDO, THEY RETURN TO THE GATHERED COUNCIL... AND THIS TIME, THEY ARE BENT ON FAR MORE THAN MERE GRUMBLING...



PART
V:

ASSAULT ON PARADISE

Story: Doug Moench Art: Dino Castrillo Tones: Michele Brand



VIRGIL WATCHES AS THE LAST OF THE HUMANS ARE DRAGGED FROM THE COUNCIL CHAMBER. HE SEES ALDO, A TYRANT, STANDING IN THE CENTER OF THE ROOM...IN COMPLETE CONTROL BY VIRTUE OF FORCE.



CLEARLY, THE SITUATION IS HOPELESS...

...AND SO, HE LEAVES.



FURTIVELY...

HE DOES NOT WISH TO LISTEN TO ALDO HARSH WORDS OF HATRED... TO THE PRIMITIVE POLICIES OF A TYRANT WHO ENFORCES HIS WILL BY AN IRON FIST ALONE...



BUT WHO WILL HE LISTEN TO ?



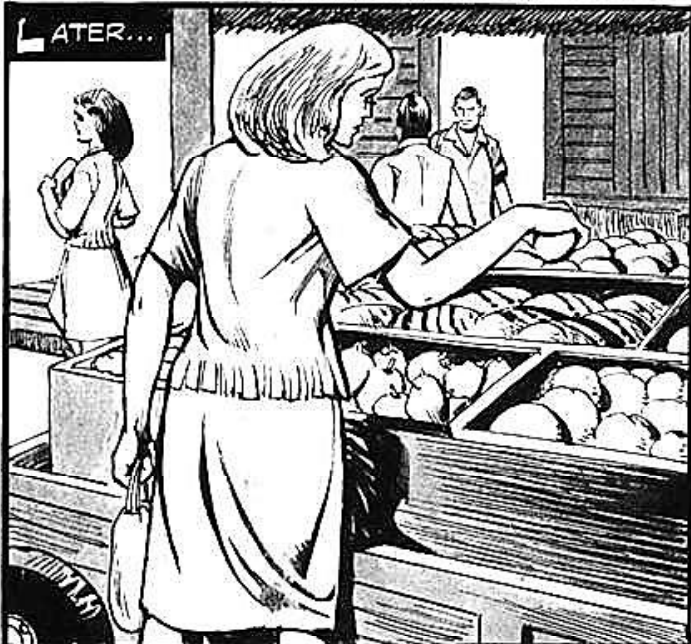
OR, MORE IMPORTANTLY, WHEN WILL CAESAR EMERGE FROM HIS GRIEF --

--AND RETURN TO POWER... RETURN TO RULE THIS CITY WHICH SO DESPERATELY NEEDS HIS WISDOM ? WHEN -- ?



VIRGIL BREATHES A HEAVY SIGH. HE DOES NOT KNOW THE ANSWER.

LATER...











MOVE!

FASTER!



...EVER CLOSER...

AND VIRGIL
REALIZES
THAT TIME IS
NOT ALWAYS
WHAT IT
SEEMS...



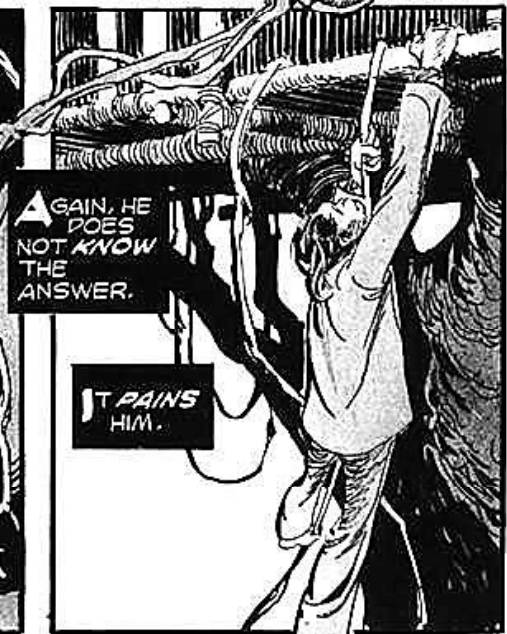
BUT HE
WONDERS
...WHY IS IT
ALWAYS
THE MOST
DECEPTIVE--
WHY DOES IT
ALWAYS
PASS THE
QUICKEST--

HYAH!!



--WHEN IT IS NEEDED THE MOST...?

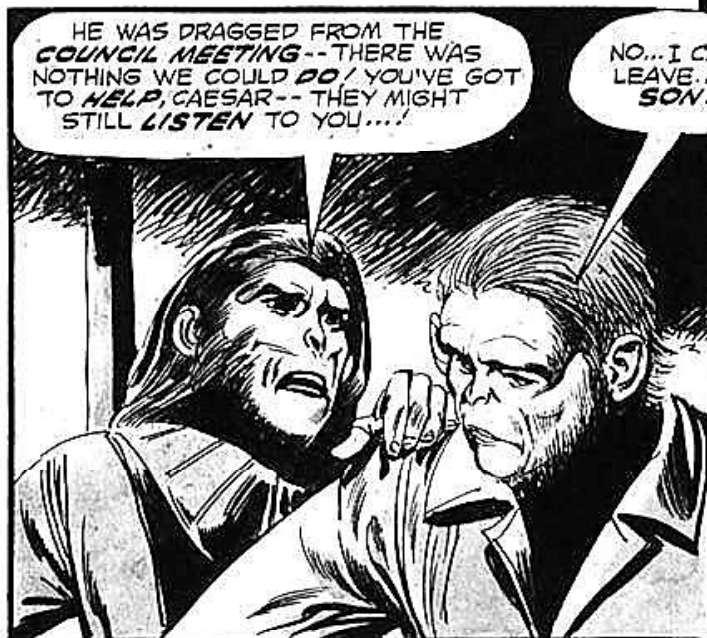
AAIEEEEE!!



AGAIN, HE
DOES
NOT KNOW
THE
ANSWER.

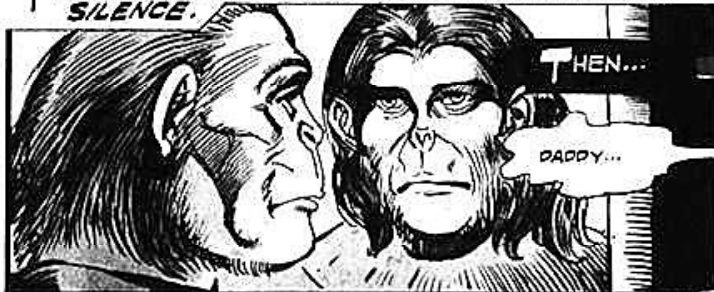
IT PAINS
HIM.



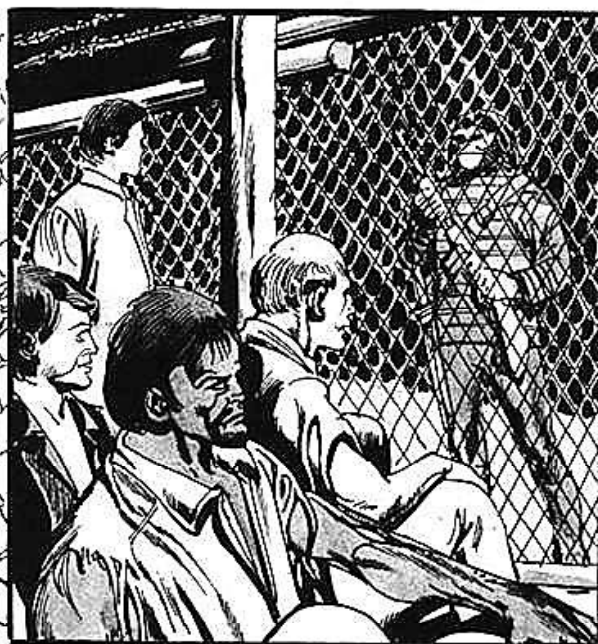




THEY STARE AT ONE ANOTHER, AT AN IMPASSE, IN SILENCE.



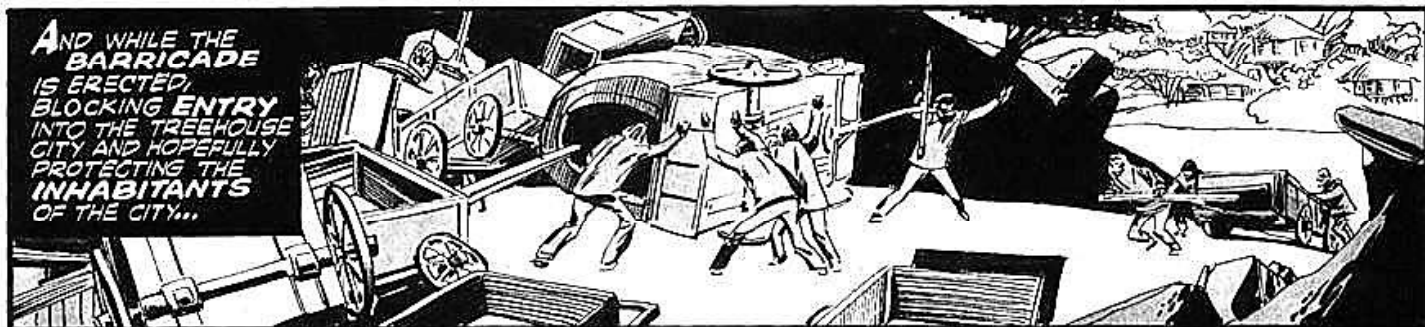
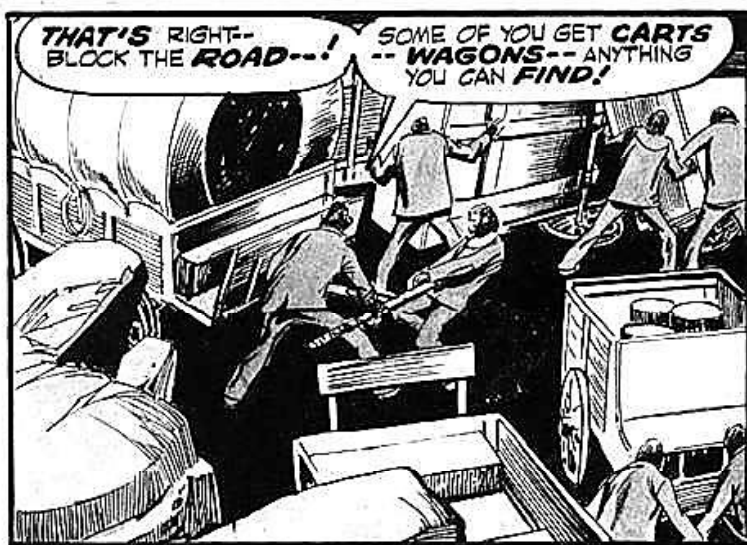






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WHILE, AT THE OUTPOST DIVIDING **BARREN DESERT** FROM **LUSH VALLEY--** **LIFE** FROM **DEATH--** THERE ARE THOSE WHO WISH THEY **COULD FORGET...**





IT IS AN AWESOME
SIGHT, THIS BATTLE,
ITS REALITY FORGED
IN THE HELLISH FIRES
OF AN EARLIER
HOLOCAUST...

HIDEOUS HUMAN MUTANTS,
THEIR MINDS WARPED BY
INCREASING INSANITY...
VERSUS FIERCE GORILLAS,
THEIR MINDS GROWING IN THE
LIGHT OF DAWNING
INTELLIGENCE.

BNHOOM

YAAARRHH
BRAM

AAAH

AAH KRAK

BOTH FACTIONS
ARE SAVAGE,
AND WHY NOT? ARE
BOTH NOT CHILDREN
OF THE SAME BOMB?



"TIME TO JOIN OUR BOYS IN BLUE UP AT THE TOP."



"DID ANYONE REMEMBER TO BRING A FLAG--?"



GORILLAS FROM
OUTPOST-- RUNNING
THIS WAY-- RUNNING
AWAY FROM FIGHT!
WHERE ALDO--?
WE NEED ALDO!!

NO WAIT FOR
ALDO, HUMANS
COME NOW--
WE GO TO THEM
--STOP THEM!!

NO--
WE WAIT--!!
WAIT FOR
ALDO--!

NO
MORE
WAIT--!!

WE
CHARGE
NOW!!

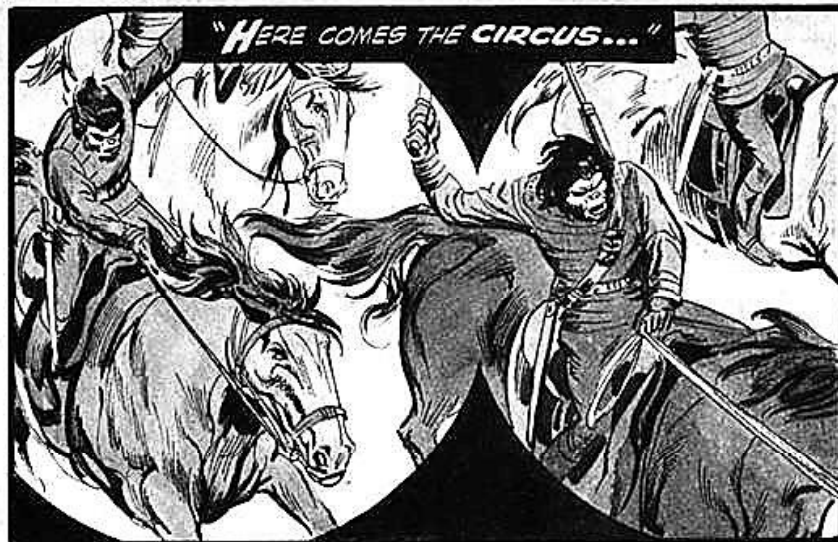
ALDO--
ALDO HERE--
WE FIGHT
NOW-- WE
WIN NOW!!



KILL!!



KILL ALL
HUMANS!!





... AND GOVERNOR BRECK KNOWS IT.

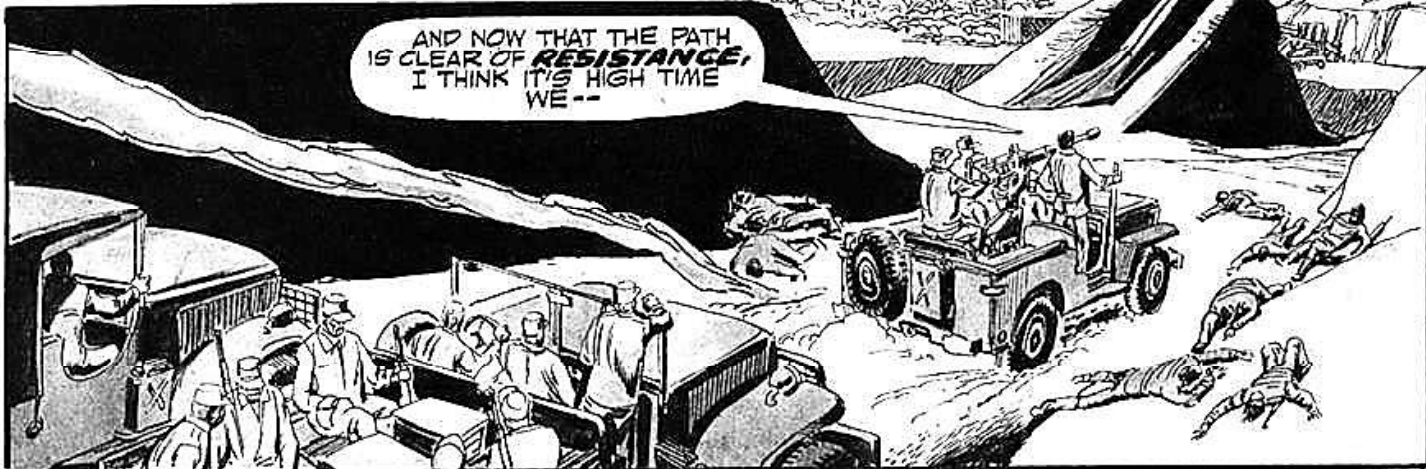
FINISH IT *UP*, CAPTAIN.
YOU'RE WASTING *TIME*.



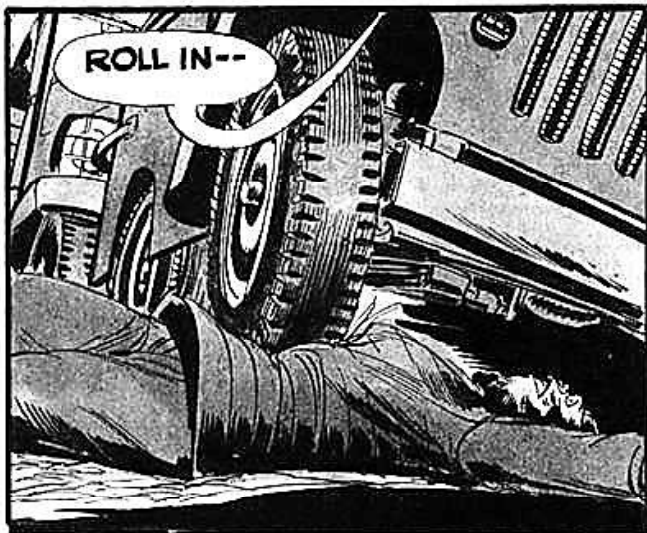
THERE'S A WHOLE
CITY OF THESE
MONKEYS WAITING
FOR US...



AND NOW THAT THE PATH
IS CLEAR OF *RESISTANCE*,
I THINK IT'S HIGH TIME
WE --



ROLL IN--



THEY'RE
COMING,
CAESAR...

THEY'VE CRUSHED
ALDO'S *CAVALRY*...



YES, VIRGIL...
I CAN *SEE*...

... THOUGH I'M
BEGINNING TO WISH
I *COULDN'T*.





ALL RIGHT-- **HOLD UP**
FOR A MINUTE!

I WANT
TO GIVE
YOU YOUR
ORDERS.



THERE IT IS--
THE CITY OF
STINKING APES!

TAKE A
GOOD LOOK
AT IT AND
LISTEN
TO ME--!



WHEN WE **LEAVE** HERE, I
WANT **NO TREE STANDING**
-- NO TWO PIECES OF WOOD
STILL **NAILED TOGETHER...**

NOTHING
LEFT
ALIVE.



DO YOU **UNDERSTAND** ?
I WANT IT TO LOOK LIKE...

... THE CITY
WE **CAME FROM,**
TWISTED... AND
DESTROYED.



NOW --
THAT **RUBBISH**
DOWN THERE THAT'S
SUPPOSED TO BE
A **BARRICADE...**

CLEAR IT
OUT OF
OUR **PATH.**



THE ASSAULT HAS
BEGUN. HELL HAS JUST
INVADED... PARADISE.

NEXT ISSUE: **PART VI:**

CONQUEST OF BLOOD

BATTLE FOR THE PLANET OF THE APES!

THE BATTLE, CONCEIVED IN INSANITY, WAGED WITH BRUTALITY, AND MEASURED IN BLOOD, HAS *BEGUN*. THE CORPSES OF GENERAL ALDO'S GORILLA SENTRIES LIE SCATTERED OVER THE RIDGE, BLEEDING INTO THE EARTH, BAKING UNDER THE SUN.

THE INVADERS FROM THE FORBIDDEN ZONE -- MUTATED MADMEN, ARMED WITH WEAPONS OF THE PAST WAR, WHICH CREATED THEM -- WAIT ON THE HILLSIDE, SURVEYING THE CITY OF THE APES BELOW THEM...

THEIR LEADER -- THE FORMER GOVERNOR BRECK -- SNARLS AN ORDER...

THE STUPID BEASTS HAVE ERECTED A BARRICADE!

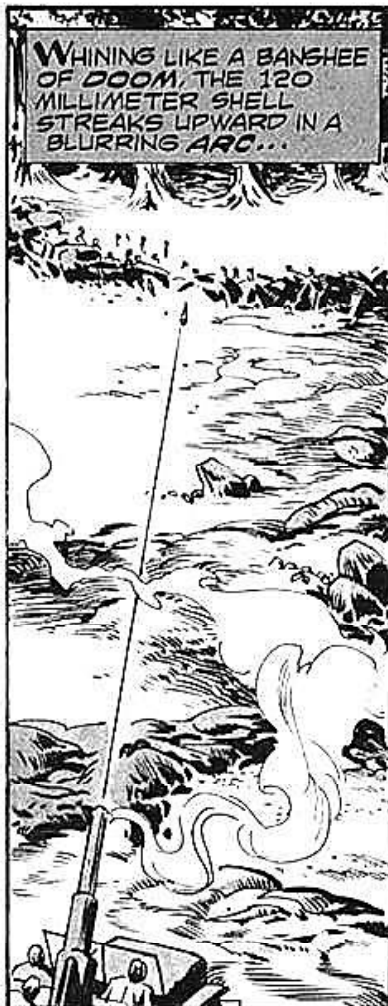
CLEAR THE RUBBISH OUT OF OUR PATH...

...NOW!!

BWOOM

CONQUEST of BLOOD!



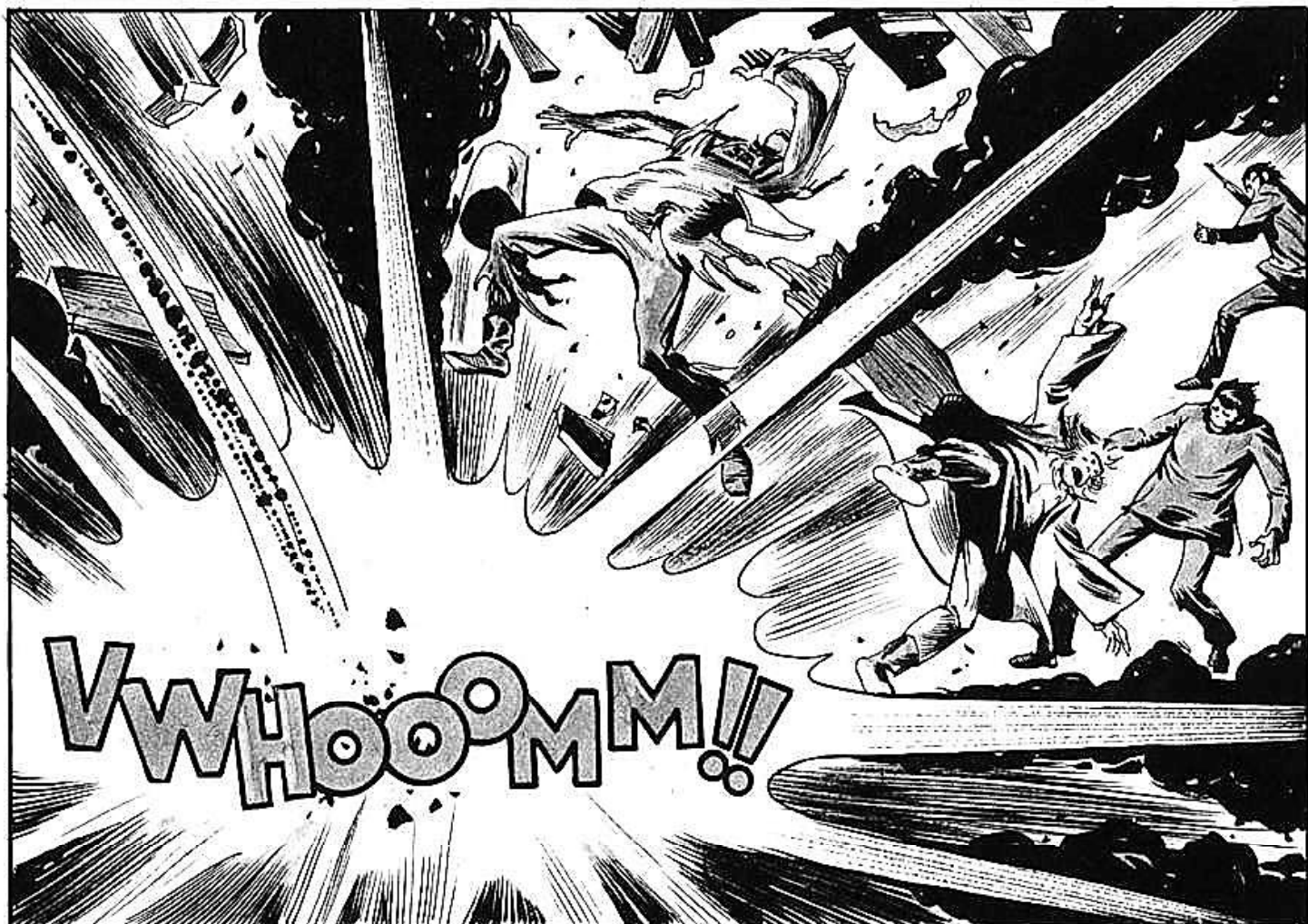


THE EXPLOSIONS ECHO STILL SEEMS TO LINGER, IF NOT IN THE SMOKE-HAZED AIR, THEN AT LEAST IN THE MINDS OF CHIMPS AND ORANGUTANS HUDDLING FOR SAFETY BEHIND THE BARRICADE...

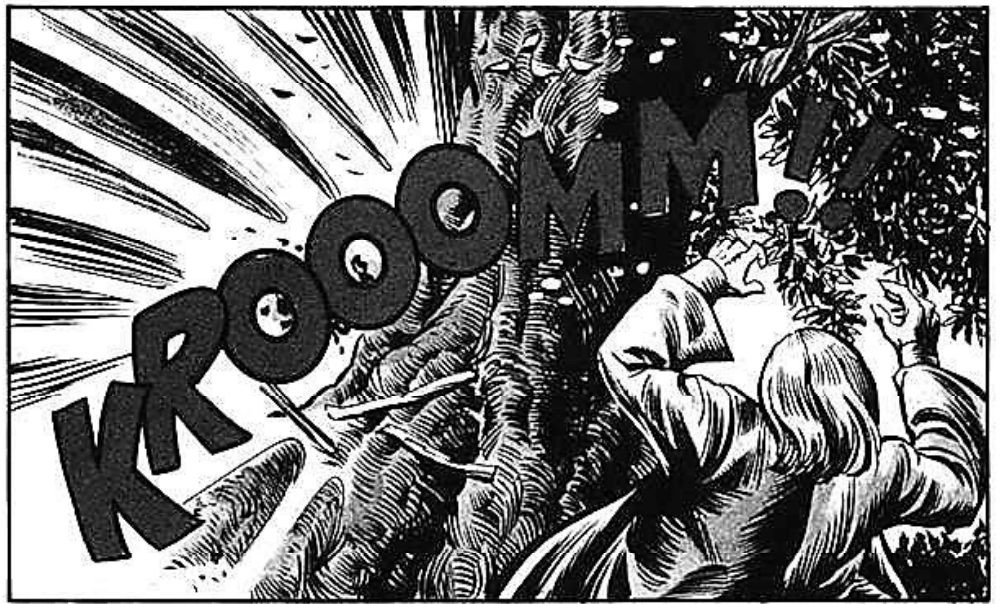
CAESAR AND VIRGIL ARE NOWHERE TO BE SEEN IN THEIR PLACES... LIES A HEAP OF DEBRIS FROM THE PARTIALLY DEMOLISHED BARRIER...













IN THIS SINGLE INSTANT, THE FULL FORCE OF THE BRUTAL BLOODY NIGHTMARE OF LIFE AND DEATH CRUSHES UPON VIRGIL'S MIND. HIS THOUGHTS FREEZE, FILLED WITH A WASH OF BLOOD AND FEAR...

HIS WORLD IS BEING TORN APART AROUND HIM, WITH THE DEATH OF HIS FRIENDS ON EVERY SIDE... MOCKING HIM... DEMONSTRATING THE FRAILTY OF HIS OWN LIFE IN VIVIDLY ETCHED SCENES OF HORROR...



VIRGIL FLEES.

BUT DON'T CONDEMN HIM... FOR HE IS NOT A COWARD. HE IS MERELY... ALONE.



ELSEWHERE, IN A REGION OF THE CITY THUS FAR UNTOUCHED BY THE CARNAGE OF RAGING BATTLE, A PIERCING SHRIEK OF ANGUISH AND REMORSE ISSUES FROM ONE MANY ARBOREAL DWELLINGS...

NOOOOO!!

THIS PARTICULAR DWELLING IS THE HOME OF CAESAR...



...AND OF HIS WIFE, LISA... FOR WHOM THE WORLD HAS JUST TURNED FILTHY AND GRAY...

WHY--?!

WHYYY!!

YOUNG CORNELIUS TOO, ONCE LIVED HERE...



...BUT THAT WAS BEFORE ALDO SENT HIM CRASHING THROUGH THE TREES, AND SNEERED AT HIS SMALL BODY LYING CRUMPLED ON THE GROUND...

EASY, LISA... THERE IS NOTHING...

...NOTHING WE CAN DO...



THAT WAS BEFORE... CORNELIUS DIED.

EARLIER IN THIS DREAD DAY OF BLOOD, GENERAL ALDO HAD ESCAPED THE MUTANT'S FIRST ASSAULT ON THE RIDGE...



HE HAD FLED, EVEN AS THE LAST OF HIS GORILLA SENTRY HAD BEEN CUT DOWN BY THE FIRST IMPLACABLE SALVO OF ANCIENT WAR-WEAPONS.

BUT IN THE INTERVAL, EVEN AS CORNELIUS WAS DYING-- AND HIS FATHER WAS BEING FLUNG FROM THE BARRICADE BY THE EXPLOSION OF A 120 MILLIMETER SHELL--



ALDO HAS RALLIED A SECOND FORCE OF HIS GORILLA SOLDIERS...

...AND NOW, AS THE REINFORCEMENTS CLUSTER AT HIS SIDE, GRUNTING AND SNARLING, ALDO IMAGINES THE TASTE OF BLOOD THICK AND HOT IN HIS THROAT.



NOW...



NOW--!!
NOW WE KILL!!

THEY THUNDER DOWN THE RIDGE, RIFLES GUTTING THE CRISP AIR, THESE GORILLAS WHO PERHAPS FIND THEIR DAWNING INTELLIGENCE TOO FOREIGN-- TOO COMPLEX-- AND WHO THEREFORE REJECT IT.



KRAK
BLAM
KRAK
K-CHOW
BLAM
BLAM

...REVERTING TO THE PRIMAL SAVAGERY THEY HAVE KNOWN FOR MILENNIA...

OR PERHAPS-- IN A SUBLIMINAL, GUT-LEVEL MANNER-- THEY SIMPLY EMBRACE THEIR HUMAN-LIKE INTELLIGENCE TOO RAPIDLY, ADOPTING THE BEHAVIOR PATTERNS OF "INTELLIGENCE"... WHILE LACKING THE HUMAN SUBTLETY OF APPLICATION...



BLAM
BLAM
KRAK
BLAM
IN ANY CASE, THEY CUT THE MUTANT CARAVAN IN HALF.

SURPRISED, THE MUTANTS WILL HAVE MORE OF A CHANCE IN HELL... THAN IN FACING THE RUTHLESS ONSLAUGHT OF ALDO'S FORCES...

INDEED, THE MUTANTS SCARCELY HAVE A CHANCE TO EMPLOY THEIR WEAPONS--



-- BEFORE THE TWO BIZARRE FACTIONS CLASH... APES BESTOWED WITH GROWING INTELLIGENCE, ON THE RISE...

...AND HUMANS RAVAGED BY RADIATION-SPAWNED INSANITY, DEFINITELY ON THE DECLINING ROAD TO EXTINCTION...



ALDO WAS THE FIRST TO CAST ASIDE HIS RIFLE AND DRAW HIS SWORD. HE PREFERS THIS CLOSE, HAND-TO-HAND COMBAT-- WHERE HE CAN FEEL THE DEATH OF HIS ENEMY SHUDDERING UP HIS ARM, AS HIS BLADE SLICES FLESH AND SHATTERS BONE...

ALL THE GORILLAS PREFER IT THIS WAY, AND MANY CONTINUE SLASHING AND HACKING LONG AFTER THEIR OPPONENTS' SCREAMS HAVE DIED.



BRECK-- THEY GOT US BACK THERE-- US DYING!

LET THE FOOLS DIE, I'M THEIR LEADER!

IF THEY CAN'T FOLLOW ME, THEY DESERVE TO DIE!



FOR SOME FIVE MINUTES, CAESAR HAS LAIN WITH HIS FACE IN THE DIRT...

...HIS BODY UNMOVING, LIFELESS.



YOU CAN STOP COUNTING NOW.

WH-WHAT...?

VIRGIL...? LISA...? IS CORNELIUS BETTER NOW...?



YOU....!





YES... ME,
CAESAR...



BRECK--
YOUR FORMER
MASTER...

... YOUR
CURRENT
TORMENTOR...
AND FUTURE
EXECUTIONER!



FOR SOME FIVE MINUTES, CAESAR HAD
LAIN UNCONSCIOUS. A LOT CAN HAPPEN
IN FIVE MINUTES...

... ESPECIALLY
WHEN MEASURED IN
DESTRUCTION.



YOU'VE DONE
BAD THINGS,
CAESAR... YOU
KNOW
THAT...

YOU'RE NOT A
DEPENDABLE UNIT...
NO LONGER A
FAITHFUL SLAVE...



WE HAVE TO
RECONDITION
YOU, CAESAR...
YOU MUST LEARN
AGAIN WHAT IT IS
TO HAVE AND
SERVE A MASTER...
POLITELY,
HUMBLY...

...WHINING AS
YOU DO SO...
FEARING THE
PAIN WHICH WILL
BURN YOU IF
YOU DISOBEY...



NO, CAESAR--
YOU CAN'T GET
UP...OR YOU'LL
BURN...

YOU MUST STAY
DOWN, CAESAR... LIKE
A GOOD LITTLE PET...
LIKE A GOOD LITTLE
SLAVE...

THE HARSH CLANGOR OF DISTANT BATTLE IS DROWNED OUT NOW, WASHED AWAY BY BRECK'S EVENLY CALM, TERRIBLY TAUNTING VOICE...

THAT'S RIGHT, CAESAR-- CRAWL-- CRAWL-- CRAWL THROUGH THE STREETS OF "YOUR CITY"...

CRAWL IN FEAR, CAESAR... CRAWL IN TERROR... WITH YOUR YELLOW BELLY DRAGGING IN THE DIRT...

WHOOF

CRAWL ON ALL FOURS... JUST LIKE THE PITIFUL MONKEY-BEAST YOU ARE AND ALWAYS WERE...

CRAWL, CAESAR-WORM... AND LISTEN TO ME THROUGH YOUR FEAR...

WHOOSH

I'M GOING TO MAKE YOU CRAWL FROM ONE END OF THIS BURNING CITY TO THE OTHER...

WHOOF

...SO ALL YOUR "PEOPLE" CAN SEE YOU THE WAY YOU REALLY ARE, CAESAR...

...BEFORE I KILL THEM, THAT IS...

AND THEN, CAESAR-- AND THEN, MONKEY-- AT THE FAR END OF YOUR TINKERTOY TREE-HOUSE VILLAGE...

WHOOOF

...I'M GOING TO BURN EVERY FILTHY, LICE-RIDDEN HAIR OFF YOUR SKINNY MONKEY BODY!

WON'T THAT BE FUN, CAESAR...?

WHOOSH



MY GOD...
OH MY GOD,
LISA...



AND AFTER
THAT, CAESAR,
I'M GOING TO SIT
DOWN TO A
SUMPTUOUS
FEAST OF
ROAST
CHIMPANZEE...



WH-WHAT...
IS...IT...?

LISA...
MAYBE
YOU'D
BETTER NOT
...LOOK...



...AND THE FEAST
WILL BE REAL FRESH,
CAESAR-- ONLY THE
FRESHEST OF MEAT
FOR GOVERNOR
BRECK...



CAESAR...
OH, CAESAR...

NO, CAESAR...
DON'T LET IT...
HAPPEN... TO
YOU...

GOVERNOR BRECK,
FORMERLY OF
CALIFORNIA-- BEFORE
POLITICS TURNED IT INTO
A RADIATION-SMOTHERED
FORGOTTEN ZONE-- IS
MAD.

AND DO YOU KNOW
WHY THIS FEAST IS
GOING TO BE SO
FRESH, CAESAR--?

WELL, I'LL TELL
YOU, BECAUSE THE
CHIMPANZEE IS
GOING TO BE
ROASTED ALIVE!

QUITE MAD.



AS IF YOU
DIDN'T KNOW.

YOU'RE LEARNING,
AREN'T YOU, CAESAR?
CLEVER APE-- YOU ALWAYS
WERE CLEVER. I REMEMBER
THE DAY YOU CHOSE YOUR
NAME... BUT THEN EVERY
CAESAR HAS HIS
BRUTUS...

STILL, BRECK DOESN'T KNOW HE'S MAD. BUT
IT DOESN'T EXCUSE HIM ONE... DAMN... BIT.







NOW LET'S
FIGHT THIS
TIME--LET'S
DEFEND
OURSELVES
AND OUR
FAMILIES--
LIKE APES!!!

LIKE
APES!!!

...AND LIKE A
BATTALION OF
SAVAGE BERSERKERS,
THEY CLASH WITH THE
SCATTERED MUTANT
FORCES...

BLAM
KRAK

BLAM

BLAM

BLAM

BRAB-AK
AK-AKAK

NOW
COME
ON--!!

BRAB-AK
AK-AK
AK-AK

THIS TIME, CAESAR'S
BREATH IS NEITHER WASTED
NOR TORN FROM HIS THROAT.
THE CHIMPS AND ORANGUTANS
RALLY BEHIND HIS ALMOST
RECKLESS LEADERSHIP...

BEYOND THE CITY, SIEGE
SWIFTLY TURNS TO ROUT.
MOST OF THE MUTANTS HAVE
LONG SINCE RETREATED TO THE
RELATIVE PROTECTION OF
THEIR ANCIENT VEHICLES,
ATTEMPTING A LAST-DITCH
DEFENSE...

BLAM

KRAK

BLAM

KRAK

BRAM

BUT ALDO HAS
JUST FOUND A
MACHINEGUN...

...AND LAST-DITCH DEFENSE
SUFFERS A SLIGHT SET-BACK.

BRAB-AK-AK-AK
AK-AK-AK-AK

AND NOW, WITH EVEN DEFENSE
DENIED THEM, SOME MUTANTS
ATTEMPT TO FLEE...



BUT--



CAESAR IS SICKENED--DISGUSTED WITH
HIMSELF FOR THE DEATH SPURTING FROM
THE DEVICE IN HIS HANDS, THE BODIES
FALLING LIKE WHEAT BEFORE HIS EYES...



IT SEEMS ALDO CAN
DO NO WRONG.



THERE IS NOTHING BUT
SOUND AND FURY...
KILLING AND DEATH...

CAESAR IS AT THE CENTER OF IT, STRANGELY CALM IN
THE MIDST OF SUCH CHAOS, LIKE THE EYE OF A BRUTAL
HURRICANE... AND YET CONTROLLING THE AWESOME
STORM, INSTIGATING IT... AND HOLDING IT TOGETHER.

HE KILLS, PERHAPS, MORE
THAN ANYONE. HE DIES,
MOST CERTAINLY, A
THOUSAND TIMES...



THEY'RE
RUNNING,
CAESAR--!!

THEY'RE
RUNNING--WE
BEAT THEM!!



YES...

WE BEAT
THEM...





NEXT: THE SENSE-SHATTERING CONCLUSION! **TREMOR OF DOOM!**

BATTLE FOR THE PLANET OF THE APES!

IT IS NEARING *SUNSET*. NOW, AS THE CHAOS OF BATTLE DWINDLES TO *NUMB SHOCK*, THE MUTANTS HAVE BEEN *ROUTED*; THE APES ARE *TRIUMPHANT*.

STILL, THERE IS *ONE* APE WHO IS RELUCTANT TO SETTLE FOR MERE *VICTORY*. HIS NAME IS *ALDO*. HE IS A *GORILLA*... AND HE IS *SAVAGE*.

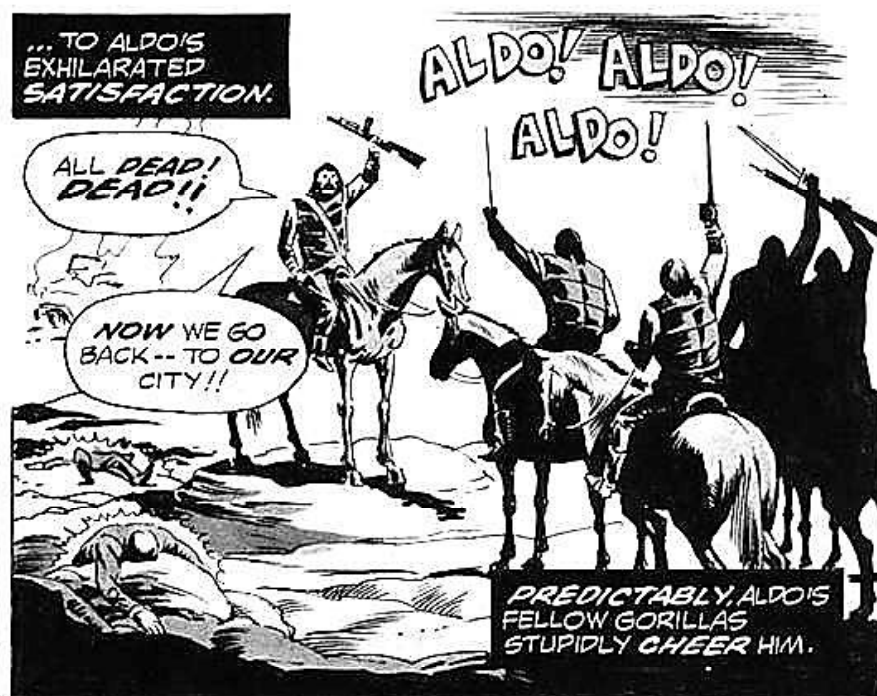
KILL !!
KILL ALL !
NONE LEFT TO
GET AWAY--!!

NO, ALDO--
THERE'S BEEN
ENOUGH
KILLING !

THEY'RE
RUNNING
AWAY--
LET THEM
GO-- !

PART
VII

TREMOR of DOOM!



BUT, AS THE JUBILANT
APES RIDE BACK
TOWARD THE FOREST
AND THE **TREEHOUSE**
CITY THEREIN --



WHAT
THAT--?

**WHO
THERE--?!!**



**BRECK -- FORMER
GOVERNOR OF A
THRIVING HUMAN METRO-
POLIS, RECENTLY THE
MAD LEADER OF AN
ENCLAVE OF CORRUPT
MUTANTS...**

**...BUT NOW,
NOTHING MORE THAN
A BURNED, EXHAUSTED,
UTTERLY BEATEN
HUSK OF FLESH--
A PITIFUL SURVIVOR
OF HIS EARLIER
BATTLE WITH CAESAR.**



BRECK...?



P-PLEASE...



**HA HA HA
HAH HA HAH**



HAHA HA HAHA HAH HAH HA



**ALDO HAS STOPPED
LAUGHING...**





CAESAR, IN THE COMPANY OF VIRGIL, HAS RETURNED TO HIS CITY. PREDICTABLY, HIS FELLOW APES WISELY CHEER HIM...



AND AMID THE CHEERS, CAESAR WALKS TOWARD A VERY LONELY PLACE AT THE END OF THIS DUSTY, BLOOD-SPATTERED STREET...



...THE CORRAL...

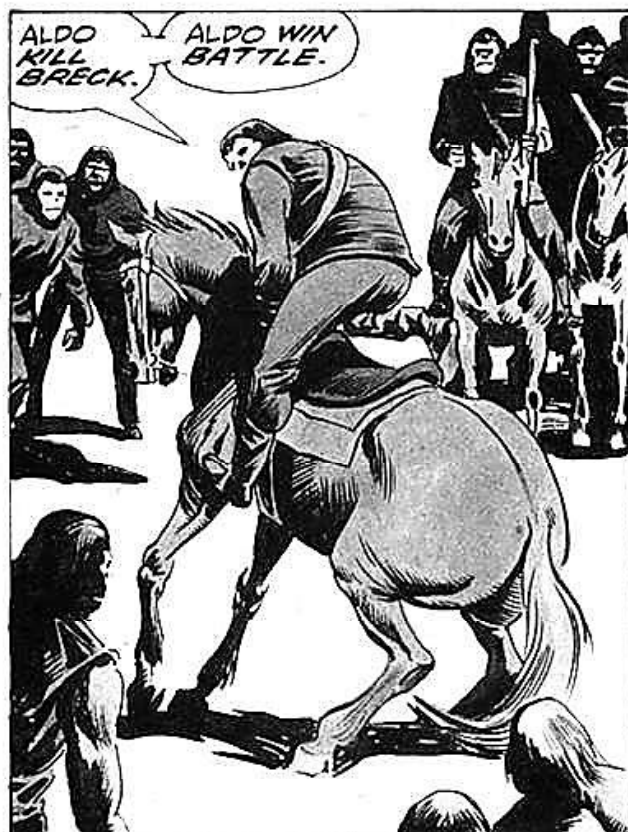


...WHERE HUMAN BEINGS ARE KEPT PENNED LIKE... ANIMALS.



CAESAR...







THERE WILL
BE NO
KILLING!!

PUT DOWN
YOUR GUNS!
TAKE THEM BACK
TO THE ARMORY--!!

ALDO'S RAGE FLARES DEEP
WITHIN HIM. HE KNOWS THAT
EVEN HIS MOST LOYAL GORILLAS
WILL HESITATE TO KILL CAESAR.
BUT HE ALSO KNOWS THAT HE
MUST BLUFF IT THROUGH...

NO! WE
KEEP
GUNS!



MOVE,
CAESAR--
NOW...



...OR WE
KILL YOU.

SPOKEN SOFTLY,
THE WORDS ARE
STILL LIKE THUNDER--
FOLLOWED BY COMPLETE,
INSTANT SILENCE...



...SILENCE WHICH FINALLY
NURTURES A SOFT AND
STUNNED VOICE OF
DISBELIEF...

KILL...
CAESAR...?



BUT APE...
HAS... NEVER...
KILLED APE...

IT IS VIRGIL, FINALLY, WHO
PLACES THE UNSPEAKABLE
BLASPHEMY WITHIN THE
CONTEXT OF WORDS--
WORDS WHICH ARE ALMOST
HOLY IN THEIR TRUTH...



...WORDS WHOSE TRUTH MUST NEVER BE SHATTERED...



...AND WORDS WHICH NOW REMIND A SINGLE GORILLA THAT THEIR HOLY TRUTH HAS ALREADY BEEN SHATTERED...

LIKE A NIGHTMARE, IT RETURNS TO HIM-- A MEMORY WHOSE FULL IMPORT HE HAS NOT HERETOFORE REALIZED...



THE MEMORY-IMAGE IS CLEAR NOW, STARK AND TERRIBLE-- AS HE REMEMBERS THE NIGHT WHEN APE DID KILL APE... WHEN ALDO KILLED CAESAR'S SON...

HE REMEMBERS THE SOUND OF ALDO'S SWORD CHOPPING THE BRANCH-- THE SOUND OF THE BRANCH SNAPPING-- THE SOUND OF LITTLE CORNELIUS' SCREAM AS HE FELL-- AND THE SOUND OF THE BODY'S IMPACT.



AND THOUGH HE DOES NOT LUCIDLY COMPREHEND THAT, BECAUSE OF ALDO'S DARK DEED THAT DARK NIGHT, ONE OF THE CHIEF MORAL SUPERIORITIES APES HAVE ALWAYS CLAIMED OVER HUMANITY IS NOW NO MORE THAN A LIE...



...HE NEVERTHELESS KNOWS-- FOR THE FIRST TIME-- THAT ALDO HAS COMMITTED THE WORST POSSIBLE WRONG.

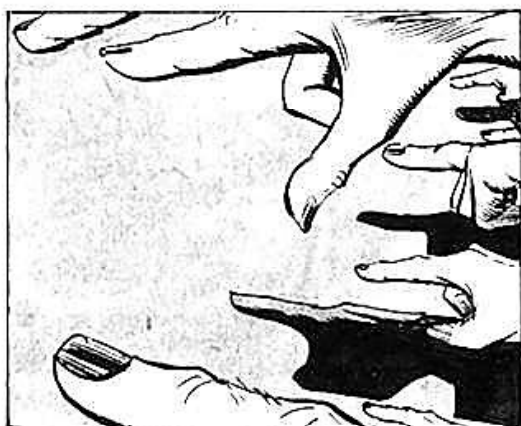
THE REALIZATION SHOCKS HIM...

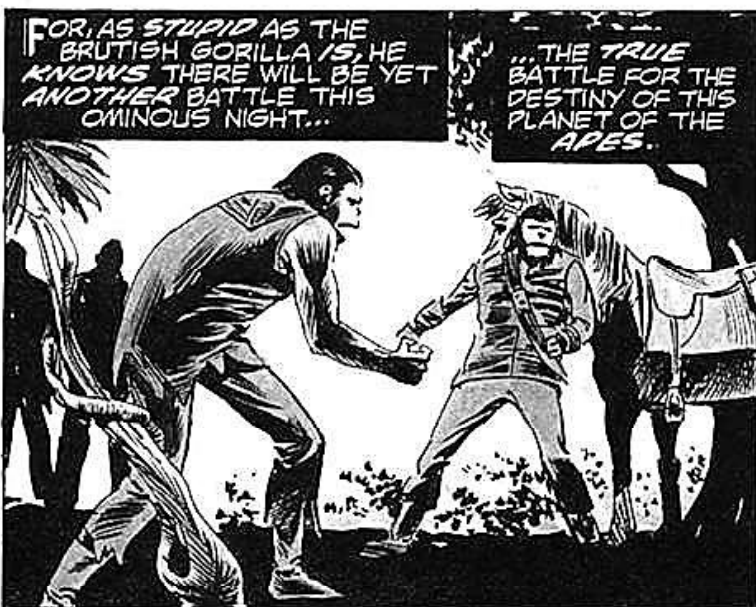


...AND FORCES HIM TO EXORCISE HIS SHOCK AND TO MAKE HIS REALIZATION PUBLIC...

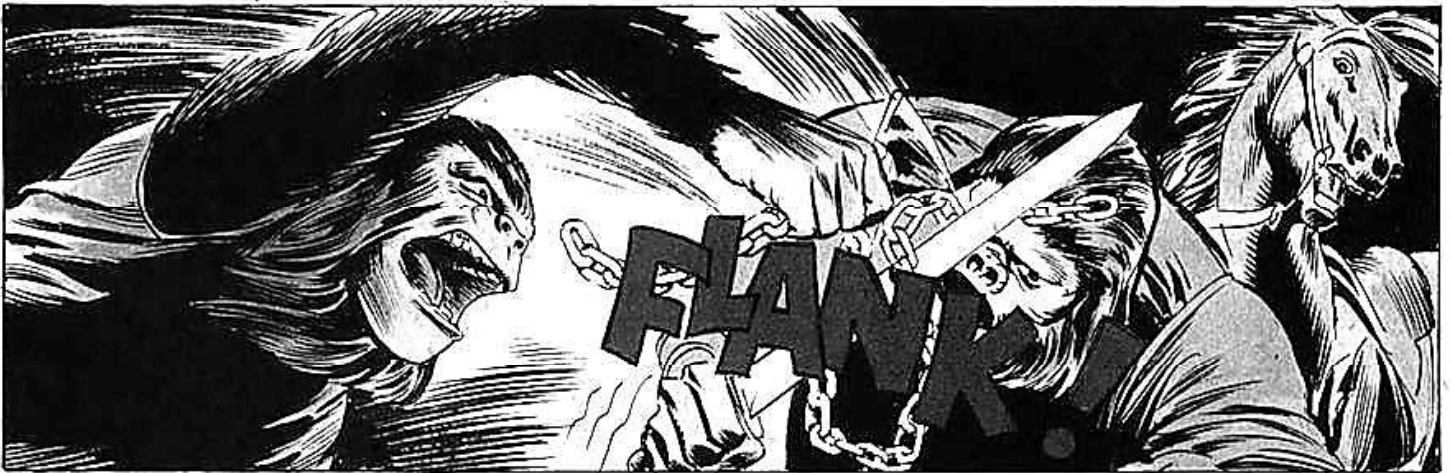
ALDO... ALDO... ALDO...!

HE ACCUSES HIS FORMER LEADER-- THE ONE WHO HE HAS, ON NUMEROUS OCCASIONS, STUPIDLY CHEERED.















ALDO'S NECK SNAPS.
HE DIES
INSTANTLY.

AND SUDDENLY, HIGH ABOVE ON A PRECARIOUS BRANCH, A WAVE OF DIZZINESS AND EXHAUSTION SWEEPS OVER CAESAR'S MIND AND BODY...

THE RADIATION SICKNESS, THE DEATH OF HIS SON CORNELIUS, THE STOMACH WOUND DELIVERED BY ALDO'S SWORD AND THE FIGHT ITSELF... ALL SEEM TO GATHER AT ONCE...



...CONVERGING ON HIM MERCILESSLY...

HE WEAVES... STAGGERS...



...AND TOPPLES.





IF YOU MEAN TO SET US FREE, CAESAR, THEN FREE US COMPLETELY-- OR LEAVE US HERE.

WHAT DO YOU MEAN--?

HE MEANS... WE DON'T WANT TO BE FREE JUST TO DO WHAT APES TELL US TO DO. WE'RE NOT YOUR CHILDREN, CAESAR--WE HAVE A DESTINY, TOO.

WE WANT TO LIVE OUR OWN WAY, A HUMAN WAY-- BUT WITH YOU, WITH THE APES. BUT OUR WAY...

THE HUMAN WAY IS VIOLENCE AND DEATH!

ALDO WASN'T HUMAN... WAS HE, CAESAR...?

VERY WELL, VIRGIL... YOU'VE MADE YOUR POINT... AND I SUPPOSE MACDONALD AND THE HUMANS ARE RIGHT...

OPEN THE GATE. IT'S LATE-- WE ALL NEED REST.

AND AS THE HUMANS POUR OUT OF THEIR FORMER PRISON-- JUBILANT, CHEERING-- A MOMENT OF DESTINY SETTLES OVER FOUR STRANGELY MATCHED INDIVIDUALS...

TOMORROW WE'LL CLEAN UP, TRY TO REBUILD WHAT'S RUINED... AND BEGIN AGAIN.

TELL ME, MACDONALD-- CAN YOU BEGIN AGAIN... AND MAKE THE FUTURE WHAT WE WISH?

I'VE HEARD IT'S POSSIBLE, CAESAR.

...AND HOW LONG IS THE JOURNEY, I WONDER...?

WE'LL JUST HAVE TO... WAIT AND SEE...

"...WAIT FOR TAYLOR, WHO-- IF WHEN HE COMES, FINDS NOT A PLANET OF LORDS AND SLAVES, APES OR HUMANS--"

--WILL BLESS US, AND LIVE AMONG US...

