



FORBIDDEN  
ZONE

#1 • \$2.50

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# THE PLANET OF THE APES: FORBIDDEN ZONE™



McKENNA '91 (AFTER BULLAND)  
SMITH '91 (AFTER MCKENNA)





When I was growing up there were two pieces of science fiction which fascinated me and everyone I knew. One was *Star Trek*. The other was *Planet Of The Apes*.

My friends and I were a bit young to understand the social and political commentary present in both shows, but we were nonetheless seized by their very concepts and the possibilities presented to us. Some days our school playground would be an alien planet for us to beam down to, other days the climbing bars became holding pens for the prisoners of talking apes (whether we chose to be the humans or the apes was a matter of whim).

Is there some point to this bit of nostalgia? Not really, but it gives me the chance to let you know that I enjoyed working on this project. Hope you enjoy reading it.



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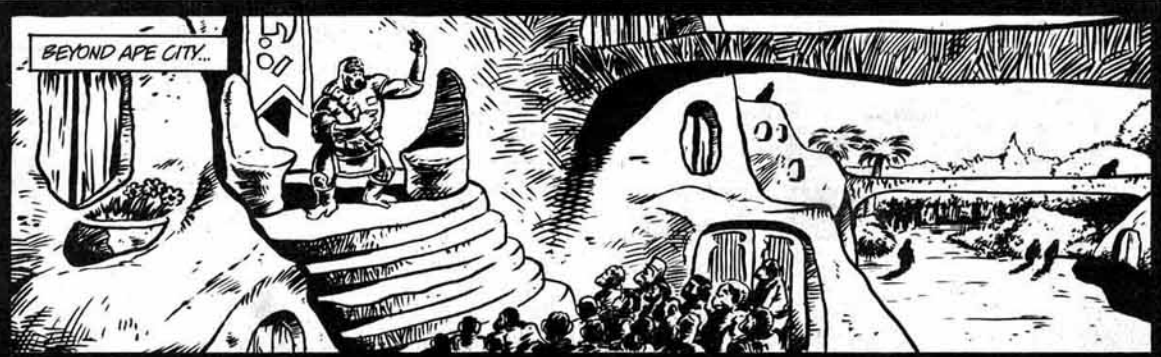
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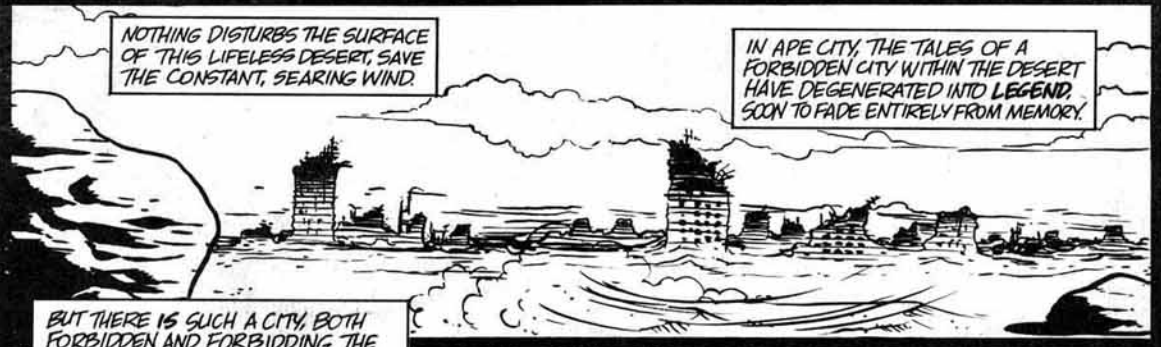
BEYOND APE CITY...



BEYOND THE GREAT FOREST...



LIES THE FORBIDDEN ZONE.




NOTHING DISTURBS THE SURFACE OF THIS LIFELESS DESERT, SAVE THE CONSTANT, SEARING WIND.

IN APE CITY, THE TALES OF A FORBIDDEN CITY WITHIN THE DESERT HAVE DEGENERATED INTO LEGEND, SOON TO FADE ENTIRELY FROM MEMORY.



BUT THERE IS SUCH A CITY, BOTH FORBIDDEN AND FORBIDDING, THE MOANING WIND HIDING THE SOUNDS OF LIFE AND PAIN WITHIN THE EARTH.



THE GOD OF THE FORBIDDEN CITY IS A JEALOUS GOD, NEITHER WELCOMING INTRUDERS, NOR SUFFERING THE UN-FAITHFUL. A COLD, HARD GOD WHOSE TERRIBLE GIFTS BRING DEATH AND LIFE TO THOSE BENEATH THE SURFACE.

CONFESS YOUR SIN, MENDEZ! SUPPLICATE YOURSELF BEFORE THE MOST HOLY BOMB!

NOOOO! ARGHHH!

GIFTS OF THE MIND: TELEPATHY, ILLUSION, AND MENTAL DOMINATION. GIFTS WHICH SET THESE BEINGS APART FROM EVERY OTHER CREATURE ON EARTH. ALL THAT IS REQUIRED IN RETURN IS LOYALTY. TOTAL, UNSWERVING LOYALTY.

FORBIDDEN KNOWLEDGE







YOU SEE  
EVIDENCE OF THE  
BOMB'S DIVINITY ALL  
AROUND YOU, YET YOU  
PERSIST IN YOUR  
HERESY!



IT'S  
KILLING US,  
KOLP! CAN'T YOU  
SEE? IT'S KIL-  
LING US!



SILENCE!  
ENOUGH OF YOUR  
SACRILEGE!

YOU SHAMELESSLY  
EXPOSE YOUR TRUE SELF  
TO THE WORLD, YOU  
PROFANE THE LORD OUR  
BOMB, AND NOW YOU  
INCITE OTHERS TO  
DISSENT!



YOU MUST FACE  
THE JUDGMENT OF  
THIS TRIBUNAL, AND  
THE JUDGMENT  
IS... DEATH!



NO!



Nooooo!

WHAT--

FWOOSH!









AS THE GUARDS BRING THEIR WEAPONS TO BEAR, THEY FEEL A POWERFUL MIND SEIZE CONTROL OF THEIR ACTIONS



FORCING THEIR BODIES TO ACT AGAINST THEIR WILL, FORCING THEM TO AIM THEIR RIFLES AWAY FROM THEIR INTENDED TARGET...



AND TOWARD EACH OTHER.



CLICKS!



BUDA

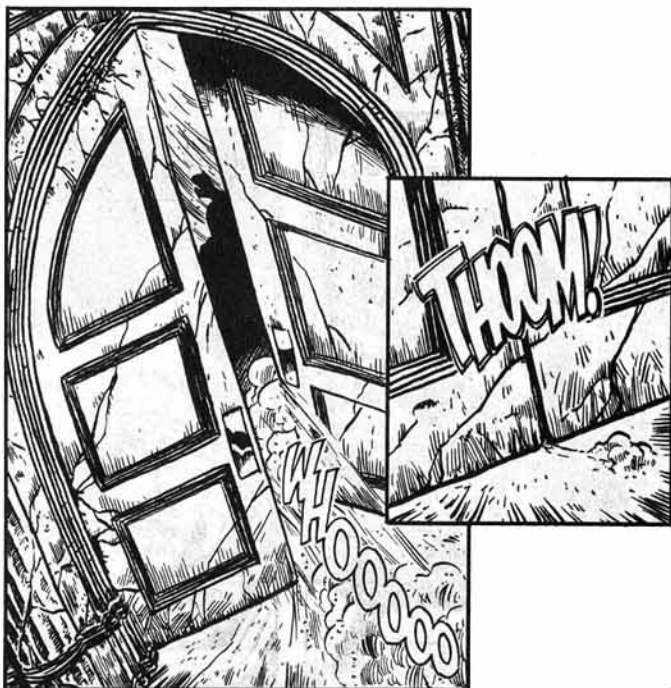
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FWUMP!





MENDEZ TRUDGED ONWARD, AWAY FROM HIS HOME, AWAY FROM THE CITY OF THE APES, AWAY FROM A LIFE OF LIES.



DAY CYCLED INTO NIGHT ONCE, THEN TWICE, YET MENDEZ CONTINUED MARCHING. TO STOP, EVEN FOR A MOMENT, WAS CERTAIN DEATH.



FINALLY, NEAR COLLAPSE, HE SAW SIGNS OF LIFE. SQUAT, SCRAGGLY PLANTS BARELY ABLE TO EKE OUT AN EXISTENCE IN THE HARSH DESERT CLIMATE.



A FEW MILES FURTHER, AND MENDEZ DISCOVERED THE FIRST ANIMALS OF THIS NEW WORLD. TINY, TERRITORIAL CREATURES WHICH BARKED THEIR DISPLEASURE AS HE FORCED HIMSELF TO STAGGER ON.



HIS LAST STEPS TOOK MENDEZ TO THE EDGE OF A LIVING FOREST, MORE BEAUTIFUL THAN HE HAD EVER IMAGINED.



HE LOOKED AT IT WITH AWE FOR A MOMENT.

THEN HE COLLAPSED, WAITING FOR DEATH TO FIND HIM.





SOME DISTANCE AWAY, NEAR THE SEACOAST, ANOTHER DISCOVERY WAS ABOUT TO TAKE PLACE.

YOU KNOW, JULIUS, I WISH YOU'D QUIT TRYING TO TURN THIS INTO SOME SORT OF ARCHAEOLOGY EXPEDITION.

WHY, MARTIN?

WE WERE SENT TO FIND NEW FARMLANDS, NOT TO DELVE INTO SOME ANCIENT PAST THAT'S BETTER OFF FORGOTTEN.

HMPH! I'VE HEARD THAT BEFORE!

YOU CHIMPS ARE SUPPOSED TO LIKE LEARNING THINGS. DON'T YOU WANT TO KNOW WHAT HAPPENED TO OUR ANCESTORS?

I DO KNOW!

THEY FELL FROM GRACE AND WERE PUNISHED! PRYING INTO THE PAST IS JUST INVITING ANOTHER DISASTER!

YOU SOUND LIKE MY FATHER, MARTIN.

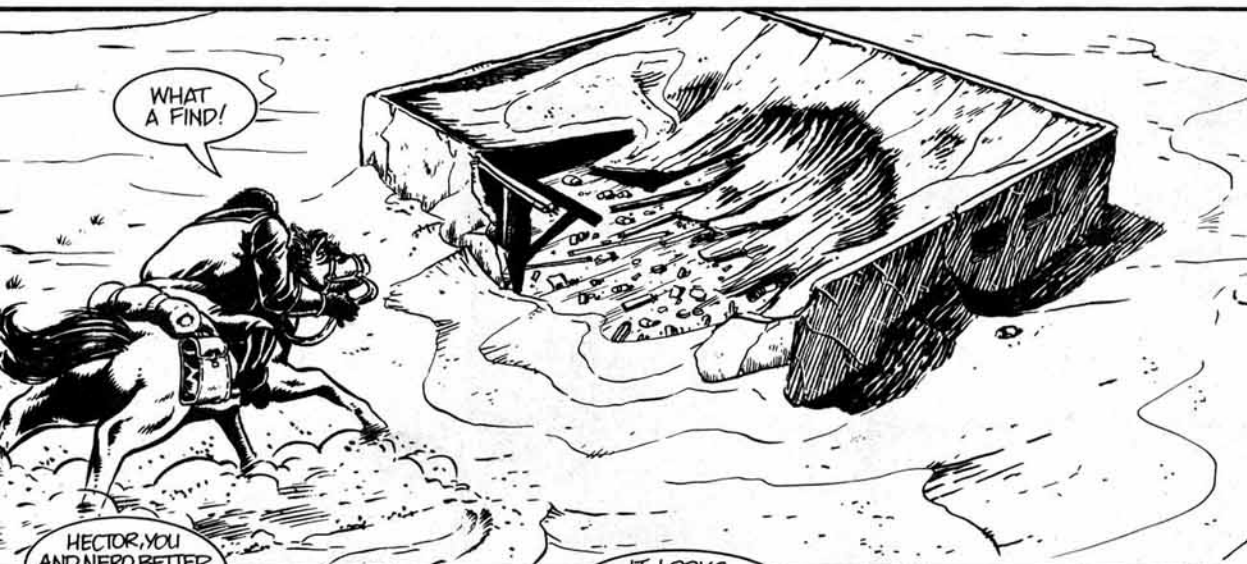
I SAY WE SHOULD LEARN FROM THE PAST. MAYBE WE WON'T MAKE THE SAME MISTAKES TWICE.

LOOK, DON'T COMPARE ME TO ARYO! I--

BY THE LAWGIVER! WHAT'S THAT ???















SO THAT'S HOW YOU FEEL, IS IT, ARVO?

YES.



YOU KNOW, ARVO, YOU'VE ALWAYS BEEN ONE OF MY **FINEST** OFFICERS, DESPITE YOUR DOMESTIC PROBLEMS, SO I'VE BEEN INCLINED TO OVERLOOK YOUR MANY **MINOR** INFRACTIONS...



BUT INSUBORDINATION IS THE **ONE** OFFENSE I WILL **NOT** TOLERATE!



KER RACK!

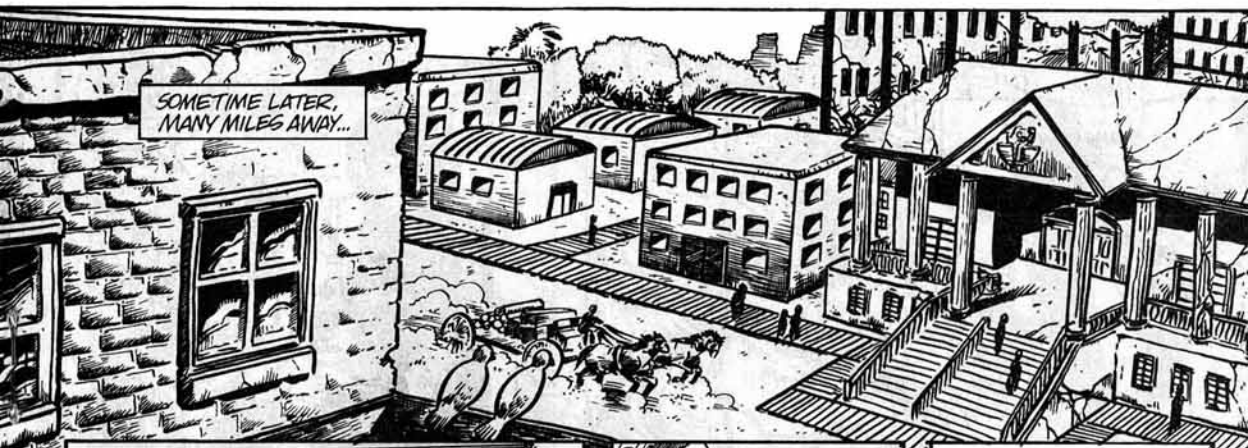


CONSIDER YOURSELF ON REPORT.



GUARD, GET THIS SOLDIER OUT OF HERE.











NOW, BILLY, YOU AND YOUR FRIENDS MUST LISTEN, BECAUSE I HAVE A VERY IMPORTANT STORY TO TELL. IT'S ALL ABOUT HOW OUR PEOPLE CAME TO LIVE HERE IN **PRIMACY**.



"LONG, LONG AGO, BEFORE YOUR PARENTS' GRANDPARENTS WERE BORN, THE **HUMAN RACE** RULED THE PLANET. EVERYONE LIVED IN HUGE CITIES MADE OF GLASS AND STONE.



"THE HUMANS BROUGHT APES INTO THE CITIES, FIRST AS PETS-- THEN AS SLAVES.



"SOME HUMANS WERE TRULY EVIL, BUT OTHERS JUST DIDN'T REALIZE THE PAIN THEY CAUSED THEIR FELLOW PRIMATES.



"AFTER MANY YEARS OF SUFFERING, THERE CAME A **CHAMPION**. A GREAT WARRIOR WHO CHALLENGED THE HUMANS AND LEAD ALL APES TO FREEDOM."



DOES ANYONE KNOW WHAT HIS NAME WAS?

I DO!  
I DO!

IT WAS **CAESAR**! HE WAS A CHIMP! LIKE ME!



THAT'S RIGHT. **CAESAR** WAS A CHIMPANZEE, BUT SOON GORILLAS AND ORANGUTANS JOINED HIM AS WELL.

"THE APES WON THE **BATTLE** FOR FREEDOM, BUT HUMAN LEADERS DECIDED THAT IF THEY COULDN'T **RULE** THE WORLD, THEY WOULD **RUIN** IT!"

"THEY USED **MISSILES** CARRYING GIANT BOMBS, AND THEY **DESTROYED** THE CITIES OF GLASS AND STONE."

"WHEN THE WAR WAS OVER, THE APES WERE **MORE** THAN FREE--THEY WERE NOW THE **MASTERS** AND HUMANS WERE **SLAVES**."

"THEY DID NOT KNOW, AS WE DO NOW, THAT TO KEEP **ANY** PRIMATE ENSLAVED IS **WRONG**."

"THEN OUR ANCESTORS FACED ANOTHER ENEMY: **MUTANTS** FROM THE **FORBIDDEN CITY**. THEIR MINDS AND BODIES SCARRED BY RADIATION AND FALLOUT."

"THIS TIME, THE HUMANS AND APES JOINED **TOGETHER** AGAINST A COMMON FOE. THERE **WERE** NO MASTERS OR SLAVES, JUST **EQUALS**."

"OUR PEOPLE REALIZED THEN THAT **ALL** PRIMATES HAVE THE SAME RIGHTS TO FREEDOM AND HAPPINESS. THEY SWORE TO LIVE **TOGETHER** IN PEACE FOR ALL TIME."



"FOR A TIME, ALL WAS WELL. THE EARTH BEGAN TO **RENEW** ITSELF, OUR VILLAGES WERE SPREAD FAR AND WIDE, AND NO ONE **MISSED** THE WAYS OF THE PAST.



"BUT THE EFFECTS OF THE **GREAT WAR** WERE STILL WITH US. THE **FORBIDDEN ZONE** **CONTINUED** TO GROW AND SPREAD.



"UNTIL **FINALLY** THE LAND TO THE NORTH WAS ENTIRELY CUT OFF. THAT WAS ALMOST **300 YEARS** AGO."



HERE IN PRIMACY, WE HAVE PROSPERED. NO ONE KNOWS WHAT HAPPENED TO THE PEOPLE OF THE NORTH. WE **PRAY** THAT THEY FARE WELL.

WASN'T THAT A **WONDERFUL** STORY, CHILDREN? NOW, THE **LAW-GIVER** WILL ANSWER SOME OF YOUR QUESTIONS.



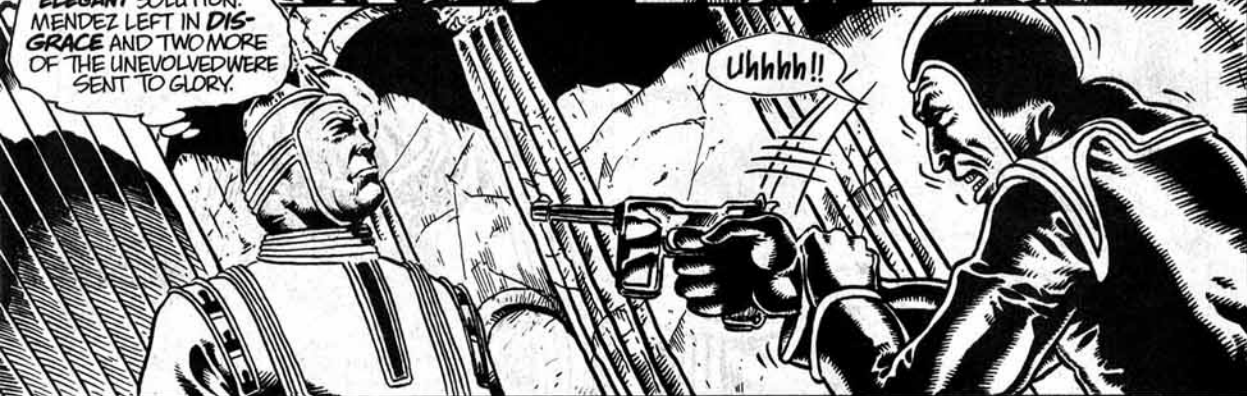
I AM TERRIBLY SORRY, CIRCE, BUT NOT TODAY. **COMMANDER SHEA** HAS INFORMED ME OF AN URGENT MATTER REQUIRING MY ATTENTION.

















Kyle '91