PART TWO - FATEFUL ENCOUNTER!

Before vanishing into a three-dimensional hallucination, astronaut Taylor orders his mute companion, Nova, to go to the chimpanzee quarter and somehow warn Zira about the inexplicable phenomena. As she rides toward the ape city, she cannot suspect that she will soon be meeting astronaut Brent, sole survivor of a second wayward voyage to the planet of the apes!
WHO--?!

Who are you?

Can you understand me?

You needn’t be frightened of me. Just tell me where I am.
LOOK, MY NAME'S BRENT. WHERE ARE YOU FROM? WHERE ARE YOUR PEOPLE?

CAN YOU TALK??

YOU CAN'T TALK.

WHAT'S THAT...? ...HANGING AROUND YOUR NECK...?

YOU HAVE A NAME...?

TAYLOR...??
TAYLOR'S I.D. TAG...??

IS HE ALIVE? IS HE HURT...?!
ALL RIGHT--
TAKE ME
THERE.

TAKE ME
TO TAYLOR--
NOW.

THE HORSE SURGES INTO FULL GALLOP, AND
ALTHOUGH THE PRIMITIVE HUMAN NOVA
SEEMS EAGER TO OBEY THE WISHES OF HER
NEW ACQUAINTANCE...

... SHE
GUIDES
THE MOUNT
ACROSS THE
FORBIDDEN
ZONE NOT
TOWARD
TAYLOR...

... BUT
INTO THE
LUCKY
FOREST
AND
SAVANNAS
WHICH
SURROUND--

MY GOD!
A CITY OF
APES--?

GET IN THERE--
IN THE CAGE
YOU STUPID
ANIMALS!

THAT
GORILLA
SPOKE--!

WHAT ARE
THEY DOING
TO THOSE
PEOPLE DOWN
THERE--??

THIS ISN'T
REAL-- IT
CAN'T BE...
WHAT'S GOING ON DOWN THERE?

GREETINGS, MEMBERS OF THE CITIZEN'S COUNCIL...

I AM A SIMPLE SOLDIER.

AS A SIMPLE SOLDIER, I SEE THINGS SIMPLY...

THIS IS LUNACY. I KNOW WHAT HAPPENED--OUR RE-ENTRY TO THE FORCES IS IN A THOUSAND MILES AN HOUR. IT MADE SKIPPERS BLIND... AND DROVE ME MAD. EVERYTHING HERE IS A DELUSION...

... EVEN YOU. WHICH IS TOO BAD BECAUSE...

WHAT I SAW--WHEN I BECAME YOUR ARMY COMMANDER--BROKE MY HEART.

I SAW OUR COUNTRY IMPRISONED BY THE SEA AND BY NAKED DESERT. AND INSIDE OUR COUNTRY I SAW US BECOME INFECTED BY THOSE ENORMOUS PARASITES CALLED HUMANS... PARASITES WHICH DEVOURED THE FRUITS WE HAD PLANTED IN A LAND RIGHTLY OURS.
A RUSH OF APPLAUSE FOLLOWS THE FIERY ORATOR'S WORDS, AND AFTERTHE HE HAS RAISED HIS HANDS TO STILL THAT APPLAUSE...

I DO NOT SAY THAT ALL HUMANS ARE EVIL SIMPLY BECAUSE THEIR SKIN IS HAIRLESS, BUT OUR LAVINER TELLS US THAT NEVER WOULD THEY HAVE THE APE'S DIVINE FACULTY FOR DISTINGUISHING BETWEEN EVIL AND GOOD...

THEIR EYES ARE ANIMAL, THEIR SMELL IS THE SMELL OF THE DEAD FLESH THEY EAT, HAD THEY BEEN ALLOWED TO LIVE AND BREATHE UNCHECKED, THEY WOULD HAVE OVERWHELMED US... AND THE CONCEPT OF APE POWER WOULD HAVE BEEN RAVAGED ALONG WITH OUR SPLENDID CULTURE!

-- BECAUSE THE ONLY GOOD HUMAN IS A DEAD HUMAN!!

... AND WHEN IT FINALLY DIES...

AND THOSE HUMANS LUCKY ENOUGH TO REMAIN ALIVE WILL HAVE THE PRIVILEGE OF BEING... USED...

THUNDEROUS APPLAUSE EXPLODES FROM THE CONGREGATED APE AUDIENCE...
ZAIUS--OUR ONLY HOPE FOR SANITY IN THE MIDST OF MILITARY MADNESS...

ZIRA--STOP IT! URSUS, POLICE ARE MOVING IN--YOU'RE IN DANGER...

SO IS THE FUTURE OF SCIENCE, CORNELIUS--IF THAT RABBLE-ROUSER CONTINUES TO FOMENT A SENSELESS MILITARY ADVENTURE.

WHAT'S THE MATTER...? YOU'RE POINTING AT TAYLOR'S IDENTITY TAG--AND THAT THAT CHIMPANZEE...?

THERE'S CONNECTED SOMEHOW...?

I MUST APOLOGISE FOR THAT UNSEEMLY OUTBURST FROM A DEFANT IN THE CONGREGATION. I BELIEVE IT IS NOW UNDER CONTROL...

THAT SMUG, SMIRKING DEMAGOGUE...

...AND I REITERATE TO YOU: WE WILL NEVER LOSE OUR SENSE OF PURPOSE! WE WILL NEVER DEGENERATE!

WE WILL NEVER BECOME WEAK AND HAIRLESS...

BECAUSE WE KNOW HOW TO PUT OUR OWN PEOPLE WITH BLOOD!

HAIL URSUS--URSUS OUR LEADER! HAIL URSUS!
THE FORBIDDEN ZONE HAS BEEN CLOSED FOR CENTURIES -- AND RIGHTLY SO. BUT WE NOW HAVE EVIDENCE THAT IT'S VAST, BARREN AREA IS INHABITED, BY WHOM OR BY WHAT, WE DO NOT KNOW...

BUT IF THEY LIVE, THEN THEY MUST EAT, AND WE MUST REPLENISH THE LAND THAT WAS RAVAGED BY THE HUMANS... REPLENISH IT WITH NEW PRODUCTIVE FEEDING GROUNDS.

AND THESE NEW GROUPS WE CAN OBTAIN IN THAT ONCE-FORBIDDEN ZONE! SO, NOW IT IS OUR HOLY DUTY TO ENTER IT... AND PUT THE MARK OF OUR FEET AND WHEELS AND GUNS AND FLAGS UPON IT!!

-- TO EXPAND THE BOUNDARIES OF OUR INVIOABLE POWER!!

-- TO KILL OUR ENEMIES, KNOWN AND UNKNOWN, LIKE SO MANY LICE...!!

-- AND TO INVADE-- INVADE-- INVADE!!

I DON'T KNOW WHERE YOU'RE LEADING ME... BUT I'LL BET MY TICKET BACK TO EARTH THAT IT HAS SOMETHING TO DO WITH THAT CHIMP YOU WERE SO EXCITED TO SEE...

... AND THANK GOD WE WON'T BE HEARD ABOVE ALL THAT HOWLING AND CLAPPING!!!

BUT THERE IS ONE WHO DOES NOT JOIN THE WILDLY HOWLING AND CLAPPING THROGS...)

HAIL, URSUS! URSUS OUR LEADER!!

ZIRA--!

ZIRA, AS YOUR HUSBAND, I BEG YOU TO STAND UP!!

ONLY FOR MY PRINCIPLES, CORNELIUS...

ALL RIGHT! FOR YOUR PRINCIPLES, THEN -- AND MINE. ONLY STAND -- BEFORE YOU GET YOUR HEAD CRACKED OPEN!!
ZIRA... YOU'LL GIVE ME GRAY HAIR BEFORE MY TIME...
GRAY HAIRS OR NOT, ONE OF THESE DAYS I WON'T BE COERCED INTO COMPROMISING MY PRINCIPLES...
WHAT IS THAT THE HOUSE WHERE THE CHIMP LIVES...?

GUESS SO. BECAUSE IF WE DON'T FIND FRIENDS HERE... DON'T EVEN BOTHER TETHERING THE HORSE...

SILENTLY, NOVA LEADS BREN'T TOWARD THE Adobe STRUCTURE'S ENTRANCE...

... AND THEN FREEZES, AS THOUGH HEARING SOMETHING...
WHAT'S WRONG?
COME ON OUT WITH YOUR HANDS UP—

WHO’S THERE?

KRATCH

-- OR I’LL SHOOT TO KILL.

NEXT ISSUE: ENSLAVED!
Dear Bullpep,

After eight years of reading Marvel Comics without writing a letter to you, I think it's time to break my silence.

First off, I'd like to thank you for giving us "Super-Heroes" and "Savage Sword of Conan". They are definitely the best Marvel weeklies to come out. The stories are recent (except the X-Men) and are not spoilt by dreadful tone on the pictures. As for your other weeklies, I cannot complain as they are excellent, with the exception of "Planet of The Apes". At first it was my favourite magazine, but of late it has dropped in quality. The 'tone' used in the final chapters of "Terror on the Planet of the Apes" was awful. And "Evolution's Nightmare" I could hardly see. Another thing wrong with Planet is the back-up features. Again, you started off all right with Gullivar Jones and Ka-zar. But now you print odd horror and sci-fi stories. I was going to suggest to you the idea of putting "Captain Marvel" and "War of the World" into Planet. But "War of the Worlds" has to be dropped, because you have changed Killraven to Apeslayer and changed Martians to apes in your new Planet adventure, "Prologue: Future Imperfect". You have made a right mess in your Apeslayer saga, and because of the low quality I think the mag will have to be discontinued or else made a monthly, like its American counterpart. It's open to debate, and I hope readers will write their points of view on the subject.

Mike Gribas, RFO, KOF
Letchworth, Herts.

Dear Marvel,

I was rather jealous when I read in last week's edition of "Planet of The Apes" that a girl from Leicester had fallen in love with Galen. She's not the only one! I have too, and honestly, I thought she must have read my thoughts when she wrote you that letter. But I am rather relieved to think that I'm not the only girl to fall for any ape. I'd do, as that girl would, anything to meet my hero, and I hope so much that the TV series is put back.

Another heart-broken, devoted, mad fan of Roddy's.

No address.

There goes that Galen again! How does he DO it?

Dear Stan,

After reading a letter in "Apes Forum" in issue 25, I was horrified. It said that the TV reviews and articles on Apes films clutter up this fantastic magazine.

I took a "Planet of the Apes" to school and showed it to some of my friends, who do not get this great magazine (fools). They thought, and so did I, that the TV reviews and articles on the Apes films were very interesting. The articles make this magazine different from others, and better.

Clive Robinson,
York.

"Planet of The Apes" will have to be DROPPED? Wow! Doncha think you're comin' on a mite strong there, Mike? Confidently, the idea has never even entered our minds. Think of all the disappointed "Planet" fans there'd be. Think of all those newsagents with an empty space on their counters. Think of what we'd be doing on Saturdays and Sunday afternoons with no "Planet" to sweat on! You've gotta face it, hero. The problems are too immense! But seriously, we'll freely admit that you're not the only "Planet" fan to criticise us over the Apeslayer epic, so all your well-mean words have been taken to heart and we promise to keep the standards flying high, with more film adaptations.

Relax, Clive. That's it — get the temperature down a few degrees from boiling-point and slow your pulse-rate down to a mere 250 thumps a minute. Because what you're referring to was the expressed opinion of ONE reader. There's no commitment to bring it all about.

Marvel,

Devoted follower of Galen, Leicester, April 19th, she (unhappily for her) is not the only one to fall for the charms of Galen. Both my young daughter (eight year old) and myself are smitten, and miss the TV programme very much.

Mrs Christmas,
Guildford, Surrey.

If only we could analyse the secret of Galen's fatal charm . . . Life could take on a new meaning for us!
THE APES ON T.V.

We have no more information on the Apes T.V. re-runs, but meanwhile we are re-running some of the scenes from the T.V. series.

VIRDON, BURKE AND GALEN. FUGITIVES ON THE PLANET OF THE APES.

VIRDON RESCUES URKO IN THE T.V. EPISODE CALLED "THE TRAP"