WHERE MAN ONCE STOOD SUPREME--NOW RULE THE APES!

MARVEL COMICS GROUP
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PLANET OF THE APES

APES FACE DESTRUCTION AT THE HANDS OF THEIR OWN KIND! YOU MUST NOT MISS:
CITY OF NOMADS!
He still remembers the long ago day of great bloodshed when the vast city was split and divided in two. The memory AN OBSESSION now, has transformed his routine gait into one of austere indignation.

And well he should be outraged, for where he and the others of his ruling class - all orangutans, of course - once governed the whole of Indromeda, their power has now been confined to but half the city into intolerable 

But no, what's the use at least there are still the chimps to do the work, and in its own way the split has been a blessing, sifting out the undesirables, containing the inferior rabble where they belong.

Why, they'd never again dare enter this elite section of the city... and now Indromeda is better off without them.

(Damn Argol and his tension-ridden policies of coexistence. And now to attend this council meeting--to even discuss bargaining with the filthy rebels...)

Ahh, pan... He notes the city magistrate... he'd cross over into the rebels' ghetto to strong-hold and...
SERVANTS ARE
Seldom allowed
to disrupt the
city council. But
then, chimp,
seldom carry
messages as
urgent as this...

(Told you, Argol.
Sir... told you!!)

In the name of
the creator--
it is Lornus--
Councilor
Lornus--murdered
within the
Halls of the
very palace...!

A leader... right
here... dead--
dead!
Indeed, Magistrate Arsul, the circumstances of Councilor Lornus's murder would suggest an interregnum plot brought on by court intrigue, an inner power-struggle within our own hierarchy... or some other nefarious machination of internal politics.

And were it not for the crossbow quarrel flung from his back, I would support such speculation.

But the murder weapon is far too primitive to have been wielded by an orangutan...

Yes, I suppose an orangutan would have used a firearm... a pistol, at the least.

I do.

Yes, I... I suppose you are quite right, Sage...

In fact, ever since the day of great bloodshed, when fire and death created desolation... I have felt uneasy in this palace...

It's central location is no longer central. Sage... no longer a point of security...

But somehow, even with more chimp guards posted along the border, I do not think I shall ever again feel safe here...

But now... a source of temptation, we are the bait. I fear, and dangling perilously close to the border which divides us from them.

Perhaps we should never have trapped ourselves... in leaving this land behind.

The words are ripe with significance. It has taken hard work and fear to accomplish it, but Arsul remembers... remembers that which most others have long forgotten...
He remembers that rebellion is merely another word for mutiny...

...that the divided city of Hydromeda is merely an island without root... that the administrators of a city were once the navigators of a ship, and that the city's workers were once the ship's crew.
But the day of great blood segregated administrator from worker, captain from crew... and wrought changes for both, the ruling class is now forced to perform its own work... and the workers are free to make their own decisions.

Between the two palaces and snags, lies demolition row... that which divides them, and that which holds the charred memory of their division...

Around the two lies the bleak fact none wish to face: there is nowhere to escape from each other... nowhere at all...

Future History Chronicles: I
CHIMP--GATHER SOME OF YOUR FELLOWS TO HELP YOU REMOVE LOENUS' BODY, AFTER THAT YOU WILL ALERT THE DEFENSES-- ESPECIALLY THOSE STATIONED ALONG OUR SIDE OF DEMOLITION ROW.

THAT IS ALL.

YES, ARGOL-SIR, REMOVE AND ALERT.

REMOVE AND ALERT WILL BE DONE-- FAST.

NOW, SAGE, ERECTING BARRICADES IS ALL WELL AND GOOD. BUT WHAT ABOUT A MORE COMMITTED ACTION...??

SAY, A REPRISAL, FOR INSTANCE.

AN INCURSION INTO THE REBEL STRONGHOLD IS A POSSIBILITY. MAGISTRATE ARGOL... BUT IT IS ALSO DANGEROUS.

I SHOULD THINK IT WOULD BE WISE TO RE-CONVENE THE COUNCIL AND DE-CIDE THE PROPOSITION THERE...

(HOPEFUL THEN, IF NOT CONCLUSIVE. BUT THE SEEDS OF SUCCESS ARE BETTER THAN DARKEN EOL-- NO PLANKS, DAMMIT! NO SOIL HERE.)

(WORTH THE WAIT THEN. IN FRIENDLY SHADOWS...)

(AND SINCE THE BOLT IS STILL PRECIOUS--)

(--HE WILL REMAIN JUST AS DEAD WITHOUT IT--)

THE SUNKER DEPARTS, HIS QUIVER FULL.

HE REMEMBERS, TOO. FAR BETTER THAN ARGOL...
The architecture is less ornate in this section of Hydromeda... more crude, as befits its inhabitants. It is the stronghold of the rebels, and a messenger from the border had just entered the cabinheadquarters of their leader...

Chimp said he came from Freedom Row... must have news for Barbarus about that bargain. The meeting with the orangutans...

About time. We'll be without water soon.

What do you mean they're setting up a line of defense--?

For what?

I... I don't know, Barbarus-sir...

I can only report what I have observed. An increase in guards and weaponry along Freedom Row...

It makes no sense! They were to decide where they would meet with Arsol... on terms of peace!

Yes, Barbarus-sir... but you know how they distrust all gorillas...!

Aye... I begin to see I should have smelled their deceit from the beginning...

And how do I know you're not one of their chi-mps bent on filling my ears with further deceit? Away with you, jabbering scum!...

Come, swarthos. I need to walk... and study this matter with you in words.

More and more, swarthos, I come to feel! We'd do better without chi-mps. Let the weakling orangutans be... all and be damned, I say.

Still, if this chimp is to be believed, we have more pressing concerns...

Aye, Barbarus-- I warned you the orangutans were not to be trusted.
YOU COUNSELLED ME, SWARTHOS--
WHICH IS YOUR DUTY AS MY
FIRST LIEUTENANT, BUT NOT
EVEN A FIRST LIEUTENANT IS IN A
POSITION TO ISSUE WARNINGS.
REMEMBER THAT IN THE
FUTURE.

NOW--WHY DO
YOU SUPPOSE THE
ORANGUTANS ARE
PREPARING A
DEFENSE?

PERHAPS TO
BACK UP AN
IMpending
ATTACK?

DON'T BE A
FOOL! WHEN HAVE
ORANGUTANS EVER
ATTACKED ORRILLAS?

TRUE, THEY HAVE GUNS...
AND WE DO NOT, BUT EVEN
AGAINST OUR CUTLASSES
ALONE, THEY'LL BE TOO
COWARDLY TO USE THEIR
GUNS.

AND AFTER THE
TASTE OF
REBELLION
WE SAVE THEM,
I DOUBT THEY'D
CHANGE PLACING
FIREARMS
IN THE HANDS OF
THEIR CHIMPS.

BEHIND, WHY SHOULD THEY
WANT TO ATTACK IN THE
FIRST PLACE? WHAT COULD
THEY HOPE TO PUNISH
FROM US--?

THEY HAVE THE
GREATER STORES
OF SUPPLIES AND
WATER...

YES, BARBARUS--WHILE
OUR WATER ALMOST
REACHES BOTTOM.

AND THE EDGE
TO YOUR VOICE
MEANS--?

THAT WE SHOULD
ATTACK THEM
FIRST--TAKE
THEIR WATER
BEFORE OURS
IS GONE...

NO, SWARTHOS...
NOT YET...

...OR CAN YOU NOT
FEEL THE STORM
BREWING--?

NOW COME, I KNOW THERE ARE MANY
LIKE YOU, SWARTHOS, WHO FEEL THE DAWN
OF GREAT BLOOD SHED FAR TOO LITTLE...
WHO WOULD PUSH THE FRUITS OF
REBELLION TO FULL CONQUEST...

...AND ABOVE, LEAVING FROM
CONCEALMENT, THE
SUNKER WEARS A SMIRK
OR A FROWN...

BUT I SAY THERE
IS STILL THINKING
TO BE DONE. AFTER
ALL, EVEN A COWARD
WILL PULL THE
TRIGGER IF
DESERVE ENOUGH.

OUR RESERVOIRS
WILL BE FILLED
BY MORNING.

THEY LEAVE...

TO BE CONTINUED
Dear Stan,

I have your apes comics every week. I enjoy them and so does my Dad! He reads them on Saturday night. Please would you send me a reply from Galen.

Darren Traynor,
Walsall, Staffs.

If we could, Darren, we'd cheerfully send you a personally signed letter from each and every ape on the planet. But we can't, because none of them (and that includes Galen) are here with us.

Dear Bulpen,

Thanks, I am, of course, referring to your two new masterpieces, “Savage Sword of Conan” and “Super-Heroes”.

First of all “Super-Heroes”. Your releasing of this mag should shut up all those sceptics who criticised your choice of characters with Planet of The Apes and Dracula Lives. The thing that’s so good about this mag is that it’s so adaptable. You can put anything in it, and I hope that when the Silver Surfer finishes you will. Big J. Buscema draws the slivery one better than King Kirby did, and that’s saying something. I can understand why the mag sank. Stan subscribed to that old comics taboo, formula writing. Every character was the same, except with different villains. But the eighteen he DID manage — WOW! The back-up feature, X-Men (some fans would deny that they are a back-up feature!) like many of Stan’s early stuff, brilliant in concept, but lacking in expertise. In its day they were revolutionary (they still are). The King at this stage was rather amateurish, but I know what sort of stuff is coming later, so I can stand these earlier efforts. All in all, the mag is a must.

Now onto “Savage Sword of Conan”. I’ve never been a great fan of Sword and Sorcery, and I’m afraid my present monetary situation won’t allow me to get this one on a permanent basis. But variety, after all, is the spice of life, and if there’s one thing you guys give us, it’s variety. Nothing can be bad with Roy Thomas writing it, and Barry Smith’s, doing an admirable job, though I would have preferred Gil Kane. For any Sword and Sorcery fans this mag is heaven-sent, and it’s enjoyable for any comic fans.

I am delighted with the trend that is being shown in “Planet of The Apes”. Not particularly because of the Apes (as a matter of fact I think the Apes are now at a low ebb) but because of the great back-up features. In the last few weeks we’ve seen a superb Sci-Fi epic called the Guardians of the Galaxy, a magnificent one-man effort by Gil Kane called “He Who Hath Wings”, a Thomas/Kane/Palmer horror spoof entitled “Dig Me No Grave”, and the Marvel take-offs of “The Invisible Man” and “Dr. Jekyll and Mr. Hyde”. In fact, if the Apes series ever ends (which I think it may do) you could change the title to one that suggested the mag was dedicated to science-fiction.

Kevin Hapgood, RFO, KOF, QNS
Leighton Buzzard, Beds.

Wanna know something, Kevin? Your letter had us in two minds. We didn’t know whether to publish it in “Super-Heroes” or find a place for it in “Apes Forum”. Decision, decisions! No wonder those lines around our eyes are growing ever deeper! Not that we’re blaming you for all that “character” that’s forming in our faces! No — all we’d like to say is thanks for a really nice, newsy, gossipy, honest-to-goodness friendly Marvelly letter! Any time, hero. Any time.

Dear Stan,

I used to be a great fan of Marvel magazins. Well, I still am, only it’s been eight years since I last bought a Marvel magazine. I’ll tell you just how came to buy one this week.

When I was seven, I was the proud owner of two-hundred or more American Marvel mags. Collected by my aunt and passed on to me to add to the collection. This I did for about six months. The reason I stopped was that the art-work in the mags became terrible. I hate grotty art-work! I got really mad about it. It was just not worth it, to tramp to the far-distant Marvel Mag shop, about four miles from my home, to be given a grotty magazine! Wait for it — the big crunch. I threw out all my mags! They were antique, and I threw them out — a disappointed mag reader.

Here is the nice bit about my tale. The other day I went into a shop to get a magazine for my Mum, when on the rack I saw some of your mags. In fact it was the “Planet of The Apes” one. Just out of interest I bought it.

It was really good, great art-work, exciting stories and it was British! The price has gone up but I quite understand that, but the old style is still there.

I don’t want to appear stupid, but what does KOF and RFO stand for? I can’t recall having heard of it.

This lengthy letter was my way of saying thanks. If you keep printing mags like Planet of The Apes then I’m a Marvellite for life.

John Wilkinson,
Rayners Lane,
Harrow, Middlesex.

Welcome back to the fold, John. And, as we said on a previous occasion to another Marvellite returned from the wilderness, if we had a fatted calf we’d kill it and serve it up to you! As it is, all we can do for you is reveal that KOF is short for Keeper Of The Flame — an award bestowed upon all who introduce a newcomer to the rollickin’ ranks of Marveldom. And an RFO is a Real Fanatic One — an accolade that becomes the right of all buyers of three or more Marvel mags a week.