

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

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8^p

PLANET OF THE APEES

IS THIS
THE **END**
FOR **APE**
AND
MAN?!



DOOMSDAY
IN THE
FORBIDDEN
ZONE!!

YOUNG JASON, THE BEAUTIFUL MALAGUENA, ALEXANDER, GUNPOWDER JULIUS AND STEELY DAN PREPARE TO EMBARK ON A DARING RIVER VOYAGE WHEN...

Stan Lee PRESENTS: **PLANET OF THE APES!**™



WAIT! I SHOULD LIKE TO ACCOMPANY YOU ON YOUR JOURNEY, MY FRIENDS.

MY FRIEND, IF IT IS ADVENTURE YOU SEEK, THEN TRULY WE MUST FOLLOW THE SAME PATH...

... AND WHY NOT TOGETHER? NO?

NOW WHY DO YUH FIGGER THAT TUH BE THE CASE, SARABAND?

DARK WATERS
and **DEATH CAVES**

story by: DOUG MOENCH
art by: MIKE PLOOG



CLIMB ABOARD THEN, SARABAND.

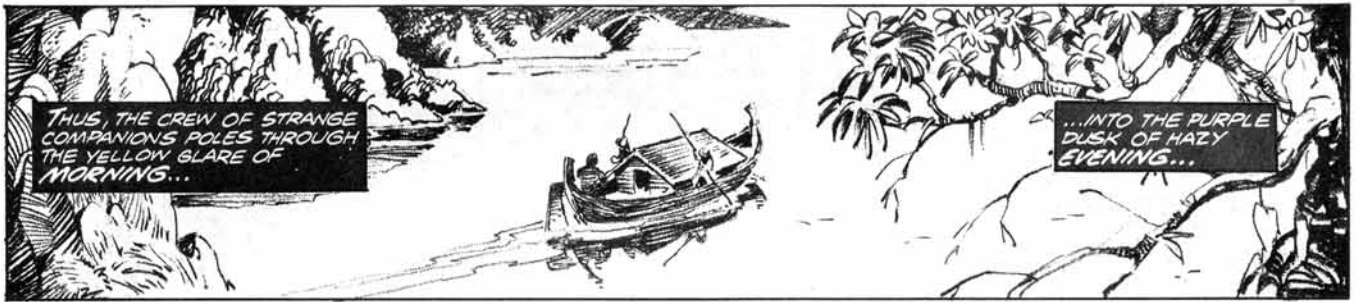
THANK YOU, MY FRIEND. I CONSIDER IT A GREAT PRIVILEGE TO--

WHOA NOW... WHAR DOES THE LITTLE FELLER THINK HE'S A-GOIN'?

WITH ME, TRIPPO ALWAYS ACCOMPANIES ME-- WHEREVER I GO, EVEN SHOULD IT BE INTO DEATH.

TRUE! TRUE! TRIPPO GO ALWAYS!

GRAB A POLE THEN-- CUZ THE SIMIAN'S JUST ITCH-IN' TUH DUNK HER KEEL.



THUS, THE CREW OF STRANGE COMPANION'S POLES THROUGH THE YELLOW GLARE OF MORNING...

...INTO THE PURPLE DUSK OF HAZY EVENING...

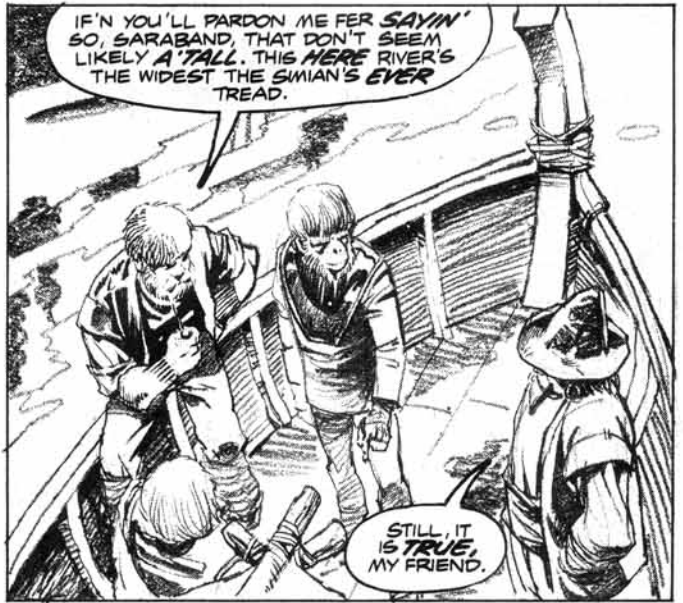


SO YUH SAY YORE PEOPLE COME FROM A DIFFERENT LAND, SARABAND?

YES, MY FRIEND-- A STRANGE LAND OF CLINGING MISTS AND PERPETUAL CLOUDS-- A LAND BEAUTIFUL IN ITS MYSTERY, BUT A LAND FROM WHICH THE SUN HAS BEEN **STOLEN** BY THE TERRIBLE EXPLOSIONS AND GREAT DEATH.

OH, OVER ON TH' OTHER SIDE O' THE MOUNTAINS, IS IT?

OH NO, MY FRIEND, MUCH FARTHER AWAY THAN THAT-- ACROSS A VAST BODY OF WATER, HUNDREDS OF THOUSANDS OF TIMES AS WIDE AS THIS RIVER.



IF N' YOU'LL PARDON ME FER SAYIN' SO, SARABAND, THAT DON'T SEEM LIKELY A TALL. THIS HERE RIVER'S THE WIDEST THE SIMIAN'S EVER TREAD.

STILL, IT IS TRUE, MY FRIEND.



I HAVE BEEN TRAVELING WITH THE CARAVAN EVER SINCE I WAS BORN...

MY EARLIEST MEMORIES-- AS A SMALL CHILD BEFORE MY MOTHER DIED OF THE PLAGUE-- ARE OF THE VOYAGE ACROSS THE GREAT WATERS, THE VOYAGE WHICH BROUGHT US TO THIS LAND.

I'VE HEARD LEGENDS OF THIS VAST BODY OF WATER, SARABAND. I BELIEVE IT WAS CALLED THE ALL-ANTIK-- IN THE DAYS BEFORE THE GREAT DEATH.

YOUR TALE INTRIGUES ME. I SHOULD LIKE TO VISIT THIS ALL-ANTIK SOME DAY... EXPLORE IT, PERHAPS, AS WELL AS THE MANY STRANGE LANDS SAID TO LIE BEYOND IT...



SOUNDS INTRISTIN' TUH ME TOO, LAW-GIVER. **THAT** MUCH WATER'D BÉ A DOWNRIGHT **CHALLENGE** FER ME AN' DAN AN' THE **SIMIAN** HERE, Y' COULD POLE ALL NIGHT TUH SUNRISE AN' **BACK** AGAIN-- AFORE REACHIN' TH' OTHER **END**.

A DRINK, MALAGUENA...?

YES, THANK YOU, JASON. THE MORNING HAS GOTTEN WARM...



UH... TELL ME, MALAGUENA... DID YOU **MEAN** IT WHEN YOU SAID YOU NEVER REALLY... **LOVED**... GRIMALDI...?

MMMM...



THE WATER'S SWEET, AND COOL.

YES, JASON, I MEANT IT. GRIMALDI NEVER **ASKED** IF HE COULD LOVE ME. HE SIMPLY **TOOK** LOVE.

OH.



WELL THEN... UH, I'D LIKE TO ASK YOU... IF YOU'D **MIND** IF I... UH...

NO, JASON. I DON'T M--



LOOKY THAR--!!

THEM MUST BE THE **MOUNTAINS** WHERE THOSE INHERITOR-FELLERS HIDE THEIR **CAVES**--! BITHER **THAT**, OR THE MIDDLE O' THE **BLAMED** MOUNTAINS ON **FIRE**...

HUH--?!

BRUTUS, BLAST YER DANG RING-TAILED **HIDE**-- IS THET **SMOKE** THE DOIN' O' THE **INHERITORS** OR AIN'T IT--?!



THE **REPLY**, OF COURSE, IS **SURELY**...

IT IS.

AN' WHAT'S THE **SMOKE** FROM--? TOO MUCH OF IT FER **FEAST-COOKIN'**...

IT'S FROM THE **PITS** WHERE THEY BUILD THEIR **GREAT** WAR **MACHINES**.





...BUT MUH STUMMICK'S FIXIN' TUH SHRVEL UP AN' LEAVE ME--!

NOT MUCH 'KOFF! FURTHER STEELY DAN...



AND WHEN THEY FINALLY REACH THE END OF THE VERTICAL TUNNEL...

GOOD THING THAT HOLE WAS JUST A CEILING VENTILATION TUBE, RATHER THAN AN ACTUAL CHIMNEY-- OR IT WOULD'VE DROPPED US STRAIGHT INTO THAT TANK OF BOILING STUFF... INSTEAD OF LETTING US OUT UP HERE...

AIN'T NO TIME T'BE JAWIN' ABOUT HOT BATHS, JASON. JULIUS AN' THE OTHERS ARE STILL STUCK UP IN THE TUNNEL BEHIND US-- AN' CAIN'T GET OUT NOWH LESS'N WE MOVE OUTTA THE WAY. Y' WANT ME T' GO DOWN FIRST...?

NO WAY, DAN-- I WANT THAT PRIVILEGE.



HEY, MUSH-FACE--!

WHO--?!



TIME TO HAVE YOUR MUSH REARRANGED--

GUMHG--!

OK!

--NOT THAT ANYONE WILL NOTICE.



PURTY GOOD, JASON-- 'CEPT YUH DID LET 'IM YELP A WORD OUT. IF 'N THERE'D BEEN ANYBODY TUH HEAR IT...

EASY, DAN--THE LAD DID THE BEST HE COULD. NOW LET'S GIT MOVIN'...



WHAT'S THE MATTER WITH THESE HYBRIDS? WHY ARE THEY STAYING HERE--?

GO ON--LEAVE. YOU'RE FREE TO GO NOW--! AND HURRY UP BEFORE YOUR MUSH-FACED MASTER WAKES UP AGAIN.

THEY LOOK SO CONFUSED-- AND YET LIKE THEY'RE TRYING SO HARD TO UNDERSTAND... LIKE SHAGGY DID...



WHICH REMINDS ME, BRUTUS--IT WAS YOUR WEAPON AND YOUR HATE THAT KILLED SHAGGY, AND IF ANYONE EVER HAD MORE RIGHT TO LIVE THAN YOU DO...

I OUGHT TO TAKE THAT SILLY HELMET AND CRAM IT RIGHT DOWN YOUR...



HOLD ON, JASE...

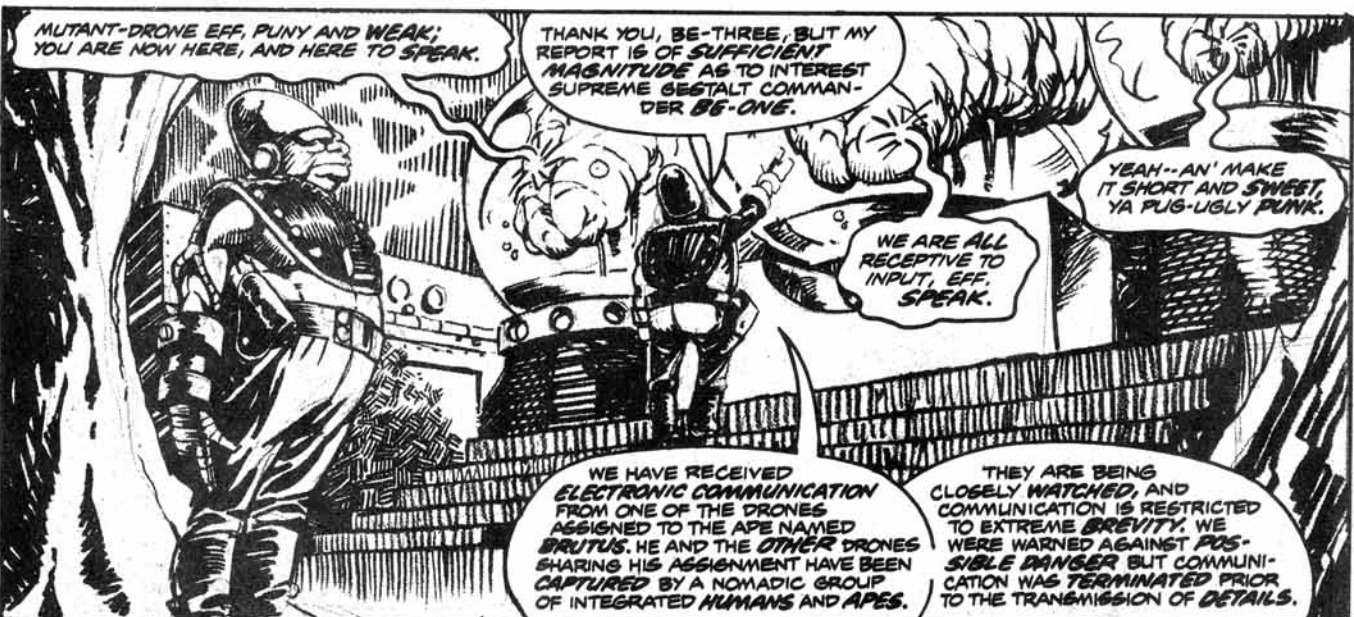
HOLD ON NOTHING, ALEX! I'M GETTING AWFUL SICK OF YOU...

...SICK OF YOU AND THE LAW-GIVER--ALWAYS TRYING TO MAKE ME FEEL LIKE THE ONE WHO'S WRONG. IF YOU'LL REMEMBER, IT'S BRUTUS WHO'S THE MURDERER...



...AND IT'S BRUTUS WHO'S GONNA PAY-- HIM AND THE REST OF HIS MANGY BAND OF APE TERRORISTS-- ONCE WE GET BACK TO THE CITY.

AND EVERY SECOND WE DELAY GETTING BACK MAKES ME CRAWL-- SO LET'S HURRY UP AND SPILL THOSE BRAINS...



MUTANT-DRONE EFF, PUNY AND WEAK; YOU ARE NOW HERE, AND HERE TO SPEAK.

THANK YOU, BE-THREE, BUT MY REPORT IS OF SUFFICIENT MAGNITUDE AS TO INTEREST SUPREME GESTALT COMMANDER BE-ONE.

YEAH--AN' MAKE IT SHORT AND SWEET, YA PUG-UGLY PUNK.

WE ARE ALL RECEPTIVE TO INPUT, EFF, SPEAK.

WE HAVE RECEIVED ELECTRONIC COMMUNICATION FROM ONE OF THE DRONES ASSIGNED TO THE APE NAMED BRUTUS. HE AND THE OTHER DRONES SHARING HIS ASSIGNMENT HAVE BEEN CAPTURED BY A NOMADIC GROUP OF INTEGRATED HUMANS AND APES.

THEY ARE BEING CLOSELY WATCHED, AND COMMUNICATION IS RESTRICTED TO EXTREME BREVITY. WE WERE WARNED AGAINST POSSIBLE DANGER BUT COMMUNICATION WAS TERMINATED PRIOR TO THE TRANSMISSION OF DETAILS.



VERY WELL, DRONE EFF. PLACE ALL AVAILABLE DRONES ON IMMEDIATE ALERT-STATUS.

SHH! DO YOU "HEAR" THAT SILENT VOICE IN YOUR HEAD...?

THIS DOOR IS JUST WHAT WE'VE BEEN LOOKING FOR.



IT IS DONE, BE-ONE.

ALL DRONES ARE NOW ON STAND-BY ALERT.

COME ON-- CRAWL ALONG THIS LEDGE...

...AND SEE WHAT WE CAN EAVESDROP..



JASE, DO YOU REMEMBER THE LAWGIVER SAYING THAT EACH OF THESE INHERITORS CONTROLS A CERTAIN NUMBER OF THE DRONE POPULATION??

ANUDDER TING, EFF-- KEEP YER INPUTS OPEN FOR ANY MORE YAK FROM DEM STUPID SLUSS WHO GOT NABBED BY DAT BAND O' GYPSIES.

RIGHT, ALEX-- SO IF WE DESTROY THE BRAINS, WE ALSO STOP THE MUSH-FACES. BUT WE'D BETTER LISTEN SOME MORE TO MAKE SURE.



YOU MIND NOW, BRUTUS-- ONE WRONG TWITCH AN' TH' ONLY BRAINS AROUND HERE AIN'T GONNA BE INSIDE THOSE GLOBES...

...CUZ YORE BRAINS'LL BE DECORATIN' TH' OUT-SIDE.



OBVIOUSLY YOU ARE AWARE, DRONE EFF, THAT WE CANNOT TOLERATE ANY DISRUPTION AT THIS JUNCTURE OF OUR POGROM.

DAT'S RIGHT, GOONY-PUSS. THE WAR MACHINES ARE ALMOST ALL BUILT AND READY TA ROLL...

...RIGHT OVER EVERY POOR SAP WHO GETS IN THEIR WAY. HEH HEH!



YOU THINK OUT OF TURN, BE-TWO. REMAIN VOID.

NOW THEN, DRONE EFF, AS I WAS THINKING... BY INCITING HATRED BETWEEN THE HUMAN AND APE POPULATIONS, THE GORILLA NAMED BRUTUS HAS CREATED A DIVISIVENESS WITHIN THE CITY WHICH SHALL RENDER IT SUSCEPTIBLE TO OUR IMPENDING CONQUEST AND ANNIHILATION.



HOWEVER, DESPITE THIS USEFUL FLUNCTION WHICH HAS BEEN SERVED BY BRUTUS, YOU AND ALL OTHER DRONES ARE HEREBY NOTIFIED TO GRANT HIM THE SAME FATE ALL HUMANS AND APES WILL SOON RECEIVE...

DEATH ON SIGHT.



YOU TRICKED ME--!!

YOU SAID ONLY THE HUMANS WOULD DIE--!!



SHUT YER DANGED MOUTH, YUH STUPID FLEA-BITTEN MOTHERLESS SON OF A RIVER-RAT!

NOW YUH'VE DONE IT--! THEY MUSTA HEERD YUH CLEAR 'CROSS TH' WHOLE BLAMED FOR-BIDDEN ZONE--



--AN' HERE THEY COME, WITH THEIR UGLY GREEN FACES HANGIN' OUT AN' ALL!!



UP THERE-- ON THE LEDGE ABOVE THE INHERITORS--!



SLAY THEM, AND MAKE IT SNAPPY, YA GOOFY DINGBATS!



SHRINK SHRINK

BACK UP-- HURRY!

HEAD FOR THE DOOR-- BEFORE ONE OF THEIR SCORCH-WEAPONS TURNING US INTO PUDDLES--!



WE CAN'T, JASE-- THEY'VE GOT THE DOOR BLOCKED!

AND THEY'RE RUSHING US--!



DON'T LOOK NOW, FELLERS-- BUT THEY'S MORE OF 'EM COMIN' FROM TH' OTHER SIDE...

BACK HOME, WE CALL THIS SURROUNDED-- WITH NARY A PRAYER UPWARDS...

GREAT, JUST GREAT.

THERE IS NOTHING TO DO, MY FRIENDS, BUT ENGAGE THEM IN CLOSE COMBAT-- AND HOPE WE MAY PREVENT THEM FROM USING THEIR FIRE-WEAPONS.



THUS, UP ON A NARROW STONE CATWALK IN THE GLOOMY CAVERN OF THE INHERITORS, TWO BIZZARRE FORCES OF MUTATED GROTESQUE CONVERGE...

... AND FOR THOSE IN THE CENTER OF THE SAVAGE FRAY, ALL HOPE SEEMS DROWNED IN THE BERSERK ONSLAUGHT OF DEATH.

GIT BACK, YUH SLIMY STUMP-MUGGER--!



YES, PERHAPS HOPE...

... BUT NEVER COURAGE.

AGHHK-K!!

SO-- YOU HAVE WOUNDED SARABAND--!



SUCH A DEED DESERVES REPAYMENT.

SO EVEN THOUGH I AM SWIFTLY DYING, MY FRIENDS--



--SARABAND SHALL NOT FALL ALONE!!

NOOOOO--!!



THE MASSIVE GLOBE SHATTERS INTO A THOUSAND SHARDS OF RUIN...

...THE OBSCENE BRAIN LURCHES, SPILLS FORTH...



...AND--

THEY'RE FALLING, JASE! THE LAWGIVER WAS RIGHT-- WITHOUT THE BRAIN TO SUPPORT THEM, THEY'RE JUST... DYING--!

YEAH-- BUT NOT NEARLY ENOUGH OF THEM, ALEX...



IF WE WANT TO STOP ALL THE MUSH-FACES, WE GOTTA SMASH ALL THE BRAINS.

AND NOW THAT SARABAND'S SHOWN US THE WAY-- LET'S MAKE SURE HE DIDN'T DIE FOR NOTHING.

GRAB ONE OF THE DEAD MUSH-FACES, ALEX...



JASE--! I THINK I SEE BRUTUS DOWN THERE-- HE'S GETTING AWAY--!!

NEVER MIND THAT NOW-- JUST HOIST THIS MUSH-FACE OUT OVER THE LEDGE...



...AND HEAVE!!

OOOH-- YA GOT ME... *



THEN, AS MORE OF THE MUTANT DRONES CRUMPLE IN DEATH...

SITUATION FULL RED-- ALL DRONES CONVERGE OF GESTALT HEADQUARTERS-- IMMEDIATELY. REPEAT: SITUATION FULL RED!!

IT WORKED, JASE-- THEY'RE DROPPING LIKE LEAVES--!



THINK I'LL GET IN ON THE FUN AND TOSS DOWN ONE O' MUH OWN LITTLE BRAIN-BUSTERS HERE...

NO TIME FOR THAT NOW, JULIUS--

HURRY-- THE CORRIDOR WON'T BE CLEAR MUCH LONGER--!



WHUT D'YUH MEAN-- HURRY? I WAS JEST GITTIN' STARTED--!

THEY'S A WHOLE SLEW OF 'EM ON THEIR WAY UP HERE, JULIUS.

WE'D HAVE NO MORE CHANCE THAN A FLEA TRAPPED IN A JUG O' CORKED RUM.



WAL, WHY DINT YUH SAY SO, DAN? I MIGHT LIKE TUH FIGHT-- BUT IF WE WAS TUH DIE...

...HOW WOULD WE EVER ENJOY FIGHTIN' AGAIN--?

I'LL GO ALONG WITH THAT...

...IF N IT MOVES FAST ENOUGH.



AND EMERGING FROM WHAT PROVES TO BE A CONCEALED REAR EXIT FROM THE CAVERN COMPLEX...

DO YOU BELIEVE IT--? THE RIVERBOAT'S RIGHT OVER THERE--!

DANS MUH BLASTED HIDE FER NOT NOTICIN' THIS HOLE...

COULDA LEFT ALL THET SMOKE FER TH' SKY.



BUT AIN'T THE *SIMI*AN JEST ABOUT THE *PURTIEST* SIGHT YOU EVER DID SEE? I COULD SET HERE ALL DAY JEST A' LOOKIN' AT IT...

ALMOST MAKES ME FORGET ABOUT LOSIN' MUH MUSKET.



THEN, A RELIEVED REUNION OF FRIENDS...

...MINUS ONE.

TRIPPO, THERE'S SOMETHING I MUST TELL YOU...

WHAT YOU TELL TRIPPO? WHAT?



IT'S ABOUT *SARABAND*. HE... HE'S GONE, TRIPPO...

SARABAND DEAD? TRIPPO ALONE?

HE WAS VERY BRAVE, AND HE SAVED OUR LIVES--ALL OF US...

WHY *SARABAND* DEAD? WHY TRIPPO ALONE? I KNOW. NO ANSWER.

...BUT HE... HE DIED, TRIPPO. I'M SORRY.

TRIPPO SAD.



SARABAND DIDN'T DIE IN VAIN-- BUT IT'S A CINC H WE CAN'T MOUNT ANOTHER ASSAULT LIKE THAT. THEY'LL BE WAITING FOR US WITH EVERYTHING THEY'VE GOT. AND NOW THAT BRUTUS IS FREE AGAIN, I THINK OUR ONLY CHOICE IS TO TRY AND RESTORE THE LAWGIVER TO POWER.

WILL YOU TAKE US BACK TO THE CITY, JULIUS?

SHORE, ME AN' DAN'LL HELP YUH GIT BACK...



...LEASTWAYS, AS FAR AS TH' RIVER GOES.

NIGHTBIRDS CRY IN PLAINTIVE SONG, AS A RIVERBOAT NAMED *SIMI*AN SKIMS PLACID WATERS TOWARD A SETTING SUN...

...AND A LITTLE CLOWN NAMED TRIPPO... SOFTLY SOBS.



APES FORUM

Dear Marvel,

I have been reading people's letters in POTA asking about ape fan clubs. Well, I'm a member of the "Planet of The Apes" fan club. Every two months you receive a newsletter, and in your starter kit you get a membership card, a membership badge, a date-sheet, a pen, an astronaut badge and two large colour pictures. You also receive a special offer that is for club members only. In December it was badges that were cheaper. All it costs is £1, but first of all you should write to S. A. Skinner, Planet of The Apes fan club, 140 Piccadilly, London, W1, asking for a form so that you can join.

Graham Tarver, QNS,
Warwickshire.

Thanks for the fax 'n info, Graham, about the Official Planet of the Apes Fan Club. There seems to be quite a few Apes Fan Clubs in existence but this is the official one — and that's why we printed a letter from the secretary a couple of weeks back!

Dear Stan,

I think POTA is fantastic, especially "Beneath . . ." and "Escape . . ." and "Conquest . . ." A lot of people have written in to say the comic should be fully apes. I disagree and think about 20 pages should be given to the ape saga. The back-up stories have been good up till now, except Warlock and Cap Marvel. Kazar and Black Panther are great. The best stories, though, are "Day of Triffids" and "Machine Age". I think you should adapt 2001 and Roller-Ball.

After Battle, maybe you will do Pierre

Boulle's "Planet of The Apes" and "Planet of The Men" and/or some of the TV series.

The Titans is very good up to now, especially "S.H.I.E.L.D.", "The Inhumans" and "Cap Marvel". But I think you should get rid of Sub-Mariner and put Ghost Rider in.

If you ever make another comic I hope it will be like the American mag, "Unknown Worlds of Science Fiction".

Stephen Moore,
Scarborough, Yorks.

Now . . . you may not realise it, Steve, but you've given us a problem. And this is it. What do we say to someone who's as delighted with our product as you so obviously are? If you were standing here before us we could shake your hand, extend a little hospitality and so forth. But with you up in Yorkshire and us down here in Hi-Ho Holborn . . . well . . . all we can do is state with the utmost sincerity that we're very pleased you wrote.

Dear Stan,

Planet of The Apes is the best comic I have ever read. But one problem. You only put 9 or 10 pages about the apes, and the rest is Warlock or other stories. You could put this in the Apes Forum, but I don't think you put letters of complaint in Apes Forum.

But in a way this is not really a complaint as the comic is great.

P. O'Brien,
204 Pembroke Street, Bemerton Estate,
London N1.

Believe us. We publish letters of complaint, even if they're not really letters of com-



plaint. And this is the proof of it. But, seriously, we've been into this question of the number of pages for the Apes story, more times than we can remember. And we'd like to think it's time to draw the line under that particular subject.

Dear Marvel Clan,

Whilst reading this week's Planet of The Apes, I marvelled at the section on the Roundhouse. I, unfortunately, couldn't go (sob!) like countless other Scottish Marvelites, no doubt. Stan, surely you couldn't stand in the background and see fellow Marvelites suffering? Why not come to Scotland and have the same set-up as at the Roundhouse?

Looking through my collection of American mags, I couldn't keep my eyes off the goodies for sale. Please, could you possibly get some of these offers into the British mags?

In a local mag shop the other day, I had the luck to come across your great new American comic, Howard the Duck! Without hesitating I bought it. The little feathered nut was great, I just hope I can get it every month.

Jame Reddie,
Dundee, Tayside, Scotland.

Hi there, Jamie, up there in Scotland's comic-capital. (And YOU'LL know what we mean.) Don't think we're unmindful of the suffering among those countless Marvelites who were seperated by distance alone from all the Roundhouse celebrations. We know that the only way to solve that particular problem is to find other venues around the country and organise similar occasions. But it's gonna take time. But maybe this'll make the waiting seem shorter. We're planning to make a lot more goodies available through the British mags. And some of those goodies will be the American offers you mention. Let the goodies times roll!

apes forum

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