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

PLANET OF THE APES

THE MOST ASTONISHING APES EPIC OF ALL!

GRAVEYARD OF LOST CITIES!
Two human seamen, drunken and rash, decide to destroy an ape city-ship! A desperate act of racial hate, it is, and one sure to destroy any good will between apes and humans—that is, if it succeeds. For, you see, one ape has heard them plotting and hurries to tell what he knows!

Stan Lee Presents: PLANET OF THE APES!

To save the city-ship!

Story: Doug Moench  Art: Tom Sutton
THE CABIN DOOR BANGS OPEN. AN EXTENSION OF PANIC WHICH CAN NO LONGER BE CONTAINED...

WHAT'S THE MEANING OF BARGING IN HERE LIKE THIS?? WHAT DO YOU WANT??

-FORGIVE ME, LADY REENA, BUT--

-BUT YOUR MAN'S LIFE IS IN DANGER! TWO HUMANS HAVE GONE TO SINK THE FEDERATION CITIES!

WHAT--?!!

YES, LADY REENA. NATURALLY, MY CONCERN IS FOR MY OWN LEADER—FOR GRAYMAILYN—BUT I THOUGHT IF YOU KNEW ABOUT ALARIC—

IS IT TOO LATE TO STOP THEM?? HAVE THEY ALREADY GONE??

Y-YES, LADY REENA--

AND THERE'S NO WAY TO FIND ALARIC IN TIME—NOT AMONG ALL THOSE MILES OF CITIES--

BUT BY GOD, THOSE FOOLS WILL PAY FOR THIS--WITH THEIR BLOOD!

(DECAY, PATIENCE, WORSE THAN ANYWHERE ELSE, NO WONDER HE WANTS TO LEAVE--)

DON'T BLAME YOURSELF, GARSHAN—WE UNDERSTAND.

AYE, AND PROBABLY TOO WELL—BUT I'LL NOT MAKE EXCUSES:

I'LL JUST SAY FAREWELL.

BUT NO SOONER HAS GARSHAN Merged back INTO THE SHADOWS-- THAN--

LOOK--!

WELL, BUT HOW DID THEY GET THERE?? THEY WERE BEHIND US!!

(THAT SETTLES IT, THEN--)

(BEHIND NO LONGER, THEY BLOCK EVERY PATH TO THE TOWER NOW--)

GO BACK OR DIE, HUMANS... AND KNOW THAT WE MEAN IT--

WHAT DO YOU WANT WITH THE CRAZY ONE? COME TO HELP HIM WITH HIS WITCHERY HAVE YOU?--

WITH HIS SCIENCE—HIS DEMON-MAGIC??

GET OUT OF OUR WAY.

NOW.

THEN YOU'VE ONLY COME TO DIE.
I said now.

I heard nothing but a lone, frail voice. You will fight and die alone, human — no ape will help you kill other apes.

Damn it, Graymalkyn — help him! Give me your sword if you won’t help him, you lousy ape —!

But... I...

(He hesitates, torn by the same conflict the same doubt and uncertainty can he consider the dilemma? Will he raise his blade against fellow apes...?)

Rah!

Step aside and let us pass — before your ugly heads roll in the gutters!

Given time to think, to prepare themselves, perhaps the things would fight but for now, they are not yet ready to suffer harm... and so they part, disgruntled, bluffing... Go on back to your filthy holes, scum!

There’s not a true ape among you!!

Alaric... perhaps he’s not so bad...

... for an ape...
(Much higher than it looks from a distance--the climb will take hours...)

But inside the tower...

Look, Alaric--an elevator! I haven't seen one of these since I was just a child...

...and now that I think about it, I wonder why they've passed out of use--why they've been forgotten. They're much better than stairs...

But that's what I'm trying to tell you--these cables lead all the way up to a pulley at the top, and beyond the pulley there's a weight attached to the other end of the cables.

When the weight is dropped, the elevator case goes up--!

I think I'd rather die down here...

Quit wasting time, Graymalkyn. We've got to reach the top of this tower before... come on, Alaric. Perhaps if I pull this line... yes! It's rising!

Hurry, Alaric! Jump!

It's rising, all right... but I'm still not certain I like this "elevator" of yours...

It's not the elevator which worries me, Alaric...

That means someone's up there--most likely Grimstark...

...or the demon of local superstition...

Someone heard the signal when I pulled the line... and dropped the weight...

And very soon we'll learn whether he's the wise muse of legend... yes...
MEANWHILE, ALONG THE HULL OF THE CENTRAL CITY-SHIP, TWO DRUNKS LEARN TWO THINGS...

ONE: INFLATED FISH BLADDERS WORK WELL AS FLotation DEVICES.

AND TWO: THE STEEL KILLER WORKS EVEN BETTER ON ROTTED WOOD.

IT'S STOPPED, ALARIC--AND THIS MUST BE THE PLACE...

BETTER GET OUT...

YES, BUT WHERE IS THIS... GRIM STARK... I WONDER...

ALARIC UNDERSTANDS NONE OF IT.

THEY STEP FORWARD, AND EVEN TO THEIR UNtutored EYES THE CIRCULAR CHAMBER IS FABULOUS, FILLED WITH A PLETHORA OF ARCANe INVENTIONS - TELESCOPES, WATERLOCKS, PULLEYS AND WHEELS, AND OLD BOOKS AND PARCHMENTS EVERYWHERE...

BUT AT THE FAR SIDE OF THE CHAMBER...

I'VE BEEN EXPECTING YOU, THROUGH THE AID OF ONE OF MY TELESCOPES, I OBSERVED YOUR ALTERCATION WITH THE SUPERSTITION SOUNDS DOWN BELOW. YOU HANDLED THE SITUATION MOST ADIMIRABLY - WITH YOUR WITS RATHER THAN VIOLENCE.

NOW WHAT CAN I DO FOR YOU?

OBVIOUSLY MY QUESTION IS ANSWERED, YOUR COMPANION EXHIBITS SYMPTOMS OF ONE SERIOUSLY WEAKENED BY LOSS OF BLOOD.

BUT THAT WE SHALL REMEDY... BY SUPPRESSING THE BLEEDING AND STITCHING UP HIS WOUND.

THUD

(A DEMON KNOCKS ON THE DOOR, BUT IT'S NOT.)

IT'S DONE...

THE WATER WILL DO THE REST OF OUR WORK FOR US.

AND INDEED, INSIDE THE DARK HOLD, ROTTEN PLANKS SUCCEED TO THE CRUSH OF OVERWHELMING WATER PRESSURE...

THE CITY-SHIP IS BOUND FOR THE BOTTOM.
WHAT IS THIS CURIOUS THING, GRIMSTARK...

A Flier--based on my observations of birds in flight.

THERE--THAT SHOULD SERVE, STARKOR. YOU'VE LOST A GREAT DEAL OF BLOOD, BUT NO ARTERIES WERE SEVERED.

...AND I'M PROUD TO SAY THAT I'VE MASTERED IT. AS THIS PROTOTYPE Flier SHALL DEMONSTRATE

THERE--YOU SEE? IT RIDES THE AIR PERFECTLY...

...UNTIL THE FOOLS BELOW LOOSE THEIR INFERNAL ARROWS ANYWAY...

THEY DO THAT QUITE OFTEN--WHENEVER THEY CATCH SIGHT OF ONE OF MY Fliers, IN FACT.

I DO IT BECAUSE I MUST--TO ESCAPE THE PITIFUL MESS DOWN BELOW. THE MESS I CREATED YOU SEE. IT WAS MY IDEA TO MERGE ALL THE SEPARATE CITIES INTO THIS ONE HUGE FEDERATION.

AND YOU, GRIMSTARK? WHY DO YOU DO WHAT YOU DO--EXPERIMENTING WITH STRANGE DEVICES OF FLIGHT...

I REASONED THAT EACH CITYSHIP HAD SOMETHING DIFFERENT TO OFFER--AND THAT BY JOINING TOGETHER THEY COULD SHARE AND TRADE KNOWLEDGE, CULTURES, COMMERCE, EXPERIENCE, AND SO ON.

I THOUGHT I WOULD CREATE A SOCIETY GREATER THAN THE SUM OF ITS PARTS. I EVEN BECAME THE RULER OF THE SOCIETY AT FIRST... AND THE IDEA WORKED...AT FIRST.
NO ONE WAS MORE INSPIRED BY THE IDEA THAN I MYSELF. I CREATED ALL THESE DEVICES FOR THE NEW ENLIGHTENMENT SOCIETY AND THEY ACCEPTED MY KNOWLEDGE AT FIRST. BUT NOW...NOW THEY REJECT MY IDEAS -- REJECT ME.

I SUPPOSE I'VE ALWAYS TRIED TO RISE ABOVE THE OTHERS. THAT'S WHY I HAD THIS TOWER BUILT...BUT EVEN THIS IS NOT HIGH ENOUGH. IT'S ONLY A MATTER OF TIME BEFORE THEY COME UP HERE AND DESTROY ME...

THEY HATE ANYTHING WHICH RISES ABOVE THEIR OWN PITiful EXISTENCES, SO I MUST GO HIGHER -- MUST LEARN WHAT LIES BEYOND THOSE CLIFFS...OVER THE MOUNTAINS...EVEN BEYOND THE NEXT SEA...

PERHAPS THERE ARE NEW DREAMS WAITING OUT THERE...AND BESIDES, I'VE STAGNATED TOO LONG UP HERE, ALL ALONE WITH MY LONELY IDEAS AND INVENTIONS.

THE DREAM HAS SHATTERED...SUNK INTO IGNORANCE AND DECAY.

BUT WON'T THEY KILL YOU IF YOU TRY TO LEAVE THE TOWER? PROBABLY...BUT AT LEAST I HAVE A CHANCE IF I LEAVE WITHOUT EVER TOUCHING THE DECK.

YOU'RE GOING TO TRY TO FLY IN THAT THING --? BUT YOU'LL KILL YOURSELF!

HAH! WE SHOWED THAT COWARD ALARIC --!

YOU SEE --? AS SOON AS THOSE THREE ENTERED THE TOWER, THE WITCHERY STARTED AGAIN --.

ANOTHER OF THE FLYING DEMONS --

SO YOU'VE COME TO ME FOR ANSWERS -- TO LEARN IF THERE'S A PLACE WHERE HUMANS AND APES CAN LIVE IN PEACE AND LOVE...

WELL, THIS FEDERATION WAS INTENDED TO BE SUCH A PLACE...YOU'VE SEEN WHAT HAPPENED HERE...

BUT, THE WORLD IS WAST...AND VARIED, WITH PLACES WHERE HUMANS RULE...OTHERS WHERE APES DO.

WHEN LAST I SAW THE WORLD, HATRED WAS ON THE RISE. DOUBTLESS, IT STILL IS. SO YOU SEE, THE WORLD IS NOT MUCH BETTER THAN THIS FEDERATION.

BUT AS FOR ME, I MUST AT LEAST TRY TO FIND A BETTER PLACE...OR LIFE IS NOT WORTH THE LIVING.

...YAAAAIEEEEE!

TIDAL WAVE--!!!
The long boat has returned to its mother ship. Two drunken men chortle with foul glees...

I'll wager no one even noticed we were gone!

Aye, and once we...

The water has reached mid-thigh now... and has driven the ignorant denizens to a frenzy...

To the tower! The crazy one created this disaster... Grimstark--seeking to drown us in a deluge--!

I know it will work--the theory is sound--proven.

But if we must die... then let us... kill him first!!

I'll... I don't... know...

I've proven the theory...

Grimstark--you're not really going to do it--?

...but I've yet to test my courage...

...I... I don't know if I'm desperate enough to--

...kill them--kill them all!!

My sword, Alaric--I'll wield it the best I can--!
KILL THEM--KILL THEM AND GET THE CRAZY ONE!!

MAKE PEACE WITH YOUR MIND, GRIMSTARK--BUT DECIDE QUICKLY!
WE'LL HOLD THEM BACK AS LONG AS WE CAN--!

I CAN DO IT--I KNOW I CAN DO IT--

I MUST TRY--!

I MUST--!!

HE'S GONE OFF ALARIC HE'S RIDING THE AIR!!

RIGHT NOW, I ALMOST WISH I'D GONE WITH HIM!

THERE ARE TOO MANY OF THESE THUGS FOR THREE OF US--!

I DID IT! I'M FLYING--!

I'M FLYING!!

THE CLIFFS-- I CAN MAKE IT TO THE CLIFFS EASILY!!

I KNOW I CAN MAKE--

GRIMSTARK'S FLIGHT ENDS AS THE FALLS FAR SHORT OF THE CLIFFS...

...BUT FILLED TO THE LAST, WITH DREAMS.
Damn the fools--Grimstark has fallen! They've killed him--!

And us as well, Alaric!

There's no way we can hope to--

Wait! The water's rising fast down there--it may be deep enough for us to jump--

And even if it isn't...

But it is, for the entire city has flooded and submerged...

Even the tallest of structures now lies far below the surface...

.....and only Grimstark's fluer, sits over the waves.

We've made it, Alaric--but we're still stuck in the middle of the remaining city-ships.

....and with Starkor unable to swim any great distance, it looks like--

Grimstark's fluer--! It's made of wood!

Then his experiments will provide escape after all!

(but sadly, not for him-- now that he's taken the darkest and final escape.)
Ahoy, Freedom Reaver!!
Cast down a line--!

(After...)
The tower, sinking...

(Joining its master in a common grave...)

Alaric--Graymalyn--! We were afraid you'd died.

Two of the crew tried to kill you by sinking the Federation.

The whole Federation--? And how did they think to do that?

They reasoned that if the central ship were sunk, it would pull all the others down with it.

Then they were greater fools than those dwelling in the Federation; they did not realize that the connecting bridges would merely snap as the central city sank? What became of them?

So Reena, you thought me dead, eh? Far from it--I've never been more alive, or so filled with knowledge.

And I've also learned that it is folly to attempt to control the destiny of others, lest that destiny, decay... and end in tragedy.

You see, I've learned much this night--I've learned we must always dream, and constantly strive for a better life...

But most of all, I've learned that we must have the courage to follow our dreams... wherever they may lead.

Dawn: A flock of gulls rises from the far cliffs to gather round the departing Freedom Reaver...

They are beautiful, these gulls, glorious in their whirring, swooping flight...
Dear Stan and Gang,

Thanks, thank-you and thanks again! What for? Why, for all six of your fantastic mags, (it was seven until SMWC joined with Superheroes, a very good idea as well!) and I manage to buy them all.

Right. Down to business, reviews,


WMW. Hulk - great! Daredevil - one of your best characters! Fantastic Four - very good!

SMWC. A good magazine on the rare occasions I buy it.

AVENGERS. Conan - I enjoy it, but it's sometimes boring. The Avengers - highlight of the week. Iron Fist - hard going.

DRACULA LIVES. Your best mag, and I like all the characters.

SUPERHEROES. The Thing - Fantastic! Giant-Man - very good, Black Knight - OK.

TITANS. I find it a long but good magazine.

Phew! That took too long! Oh well, I'll carry on. I thought the readers might be interested to hear about a relatively new book called "The Comic Book of Comics" by George Perry and Alan Aldridge. It costs £3.00 and if you have a genuine interest in all comics it's well worth it. I bought it because it had Marvel characters on the front cover (the thing that caught my eye!) and it has a chapter on Marvel as well as chapters on the history of comics since Greek times.

I'm very interested in art and English and have drawn and illustrated several of my own super-hero stories. I'm hoping to make a cartoon out of one of your characters, but I'm waiting till I can afford the right equipment. I hope that I may, one day, be a writer or artist or both for Marvel, but I expect you've got loads of budding writers and artists already.

Lastly, has anyone any spare No. 1's of any Marvel mags (American or British) which they might swap or sell with me? If anyone would write to me to send me some I would be eternally grateful. Excelsior!

Christopher Skinner,
29 Barrow Road, Burton-on-the-Wolds,
Loughborough, Leics.

Dear Mr. Lee and the Bullpen,

This is my first letter, even though I've been a faithful Marvelite for six years. I'm afraid it is a letter of complaint, with a touch of the congratulations as well.

"Planet of The Apes" is good. Very good indeed. However, the two back-up stories are not. If we must have "Ku-Zar" please can we have the stories from "Savage Tales", as I think his adventures in the Hidden Land are better than those of the concrete jungle. The "Black Panther" story? Sorry! The stories are terrible. No offence meant to Mr. McGregor, whose "Killaven" stories are amply justified, but The Panther is a bit too philosophical in my opinion.

I agree with many people who believe that the back-up stories should be science-fiction ones. If not why not put in "Starlord"; "Guardians"; "Deathlock" or "Killaven"?

To solve the problem, why not have an opinion poll to see what should be in what magazine. It would be interesting to see what the outcome would be.

Finally, I would like to thank Mary Wolfsman, Archie Goodwin, Len Wein, Doug Moench and all the "Savage Tales" team for giving us twelve issues of sheer wonderment.

Philip Bryce,
3 Landsdown Grove, Edwicke,
Bingley, W. Yorks.

Why not a Marvel-opinion Poll indeed? We won't make it an official one, but if any Marvelites feel a driving urge to act upon Phil's suggestion and tell us what they think should be, we'll make the necessary analysis.

Michael Brown,
46 Coningham Road, Shepherds Bush,
London W.12.

See what you've been missing? We'll excuse you just this once, but don't let it happen again!

We'll readily endorse your enthusiasm for "The Penguin Book of Comics", but a new book it isn't. George Perry (who wrote it) carried out his research for it way back in halcyon days of the Power Comics, and it was over lunch at L'Espanet (a little bistro in London's Soho) that Alf Wallace, supremo of Power Comics, suggested to George that he should make the trip to New York and meet the fountain of knowledge, Smiling Stan. Which is precisely what George did, Ah - it all seems but yesterday . . .

Hail and Hello,

Six months ago I bought issues 42 and 43 of POTA and thought "YEUCH!" This was not for me. This week, however, I had a spare 8p and thought, "Might as well have a look at POTA". I looked, wondered and marvelled. Is this the same mag as it is not? "Conquest ..." well-done, "Ku-Zar" and "The Black Panther" with, of all things ... Rage. Having collected most of the "Panther's Rage" in your US editions, I immediately rushed to my favourite shop, which, luckily for me, keep some back issues of your British mag, and bought the back issues to the beginning of "Rage". Upon going over these mag's I became intrigued with the story of Cornelius and Zira. Now I can hardly wait to buy the back issues to the beginning of "Rage". Thus I am now forced to buy all of your mags.

Keep up the good work. If anybody has any special issues of POTA, DL, WMWC (from issue 150), Avengers (from ish 94), Conan or Superheroes which they need, my shop may well be able to supply them. Send money and postage (I'm not all that rich) with details of which issues are needed to me at my address. However, I can promise nothing. Money will be refunded for any comics which I can't obtain.

Another message from the Apes fans club

DECODE THIS MESSAGE AND SEND YOUR ANSWER TO APES FAN CLUB, DEPT. 2/P.
HO PICCADILLY, LONDON W1. INCLUDE YOUR MEMBERSHIP NUMBER... THERE'S A PRIZE FOR THE FIRST CORRECT ANSWER OPENED!

Code Letter F
12.6.4.19 12.4.14 4.14.19.5.17.13.4.23.19
19.4.7.26.17.5.14 1.11.5.14.19 13.4.8.18 11.13
19.6.18 20.26.4.13.18.19 17.1 19.6.18
4.20.18.14 1.11.26.8

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