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

PLANET OF THE APES

MARVEL COMICS GROUP

NO. 86
WEEK ENDING JUNE 9, 1976

FEATURED: MAN- BEAST ON THE PLANET OF THE APES!

BY MY AUTHORITY AS CAESAR, THE SENTENCE IS DEATH!

PLUS: MORE THRILLS AND ACTION WITH KA-ZAR AND CAPTAIN MARVEL!
I WAS A MAN FROM THE 1970's -- A SCIENTIST WHO'D DEVELOPED A TIME MACHINE. MY NAME IS DEREK ZANE, AND TO THE FAR FUTURE I TRAVELLED TO RESCUE FOUR ASTRONAUTS TRAPPED THERE ON AN APE-CONTROLLED EARTH! IN MY QUEST, I WAS JOINED BY AN APE ROBIN HOOD WHO -- IN ORDER TO FOOL THE SIMIAN SOLDIERS -- PRETENDED TO BE TAKING ME AS A HUMAN SPECIMEN TO AN APE-CONTROLLED LABORATORY.

Stan Lee PRESENTS: PLANET OF THE APES!

...AND SHALL ONE SURVIVE?

I HOPE THIS WORKS! THOSE GUARDS BACK THERE WERE AWFULLY SUSPICIOUS!

 storytelling: DOUG MOENCH    art: HERB TRIMPE, DAN ADKINS, SAL TRAPANI
The city was just as bizarre as I'd remembered -- a flowing, free-form sculpture of cozing rock...

...basic, primitive, functional, squishy, full with dirt and loved it.

On the other hand, I hated it... and more, feared it.

Robin said nothing as we entered this weirdsville, though he must have been awed -- this being his first trip to the mainland...

Though he did believe a little emotion when the gorilla thundered toward us...

Where are you going with that human, scum?...

To the pen for target practice?

No -- I'm taking this animal to the vivisection lab.

What-- again?!

Those lousy chimp surgeons have all the specimens they need.

I don't care what they say -- I say this human is going to be used for my soldiers' target practice.

On your guard, sir Derek!

Man, was he ugly!

And he looked more than a little mean...

You say -- and who are you?

I almost groaned...
...because Saucy Robin really blew it that time.

Who am I...?!!

Where have you been hiding, fool...? I'm General Zaynor... and I've been the General ever since that idiot Gorordon disappeared with two hundred gorillas on his folly of vengeance!

You see, I've been studying a city to the east for some time now. But in any case, I'm afraid this human must go to the labs... by authority of Dr. Cassius.

Zaynor clobbered me in the chops.

--Zaynor clobbered me in the chops.

WOK!

Ooh... it hurt like hell...

--and it was my turn to blow it...!

Oh, I doubt that very much, General Zaynor, sir... probably just a growl. However, there is some slight reason to believe the human might be capable of speech...

What?!! You hear that--

Why you dir--

This human spoke!!

...and in view of that, I'm sure you'll understand Dr. Cassius' desire to study him.

Robinson's bluff worked. Cassius was still around, as I'd hoped, but out of spite and a sadist's disappointment.

Cassius again, eh...? very well--take the beast away...
I'd learned the location of the labs during my first visit today, and after I'd whispered directions to Robin...

I'm Dr. Cassius...

...But I ordered no delivery...

Good morning, guard—delivery for Dr. Cassius here...

You see, Dr. Herkimer from the city to the east asked me to bring this particular specimen to you...

Harumph! Well, yes—of course.

Well, bring the beast inside, then.

He has reason to believe the human may be intelligent—and thought you might wish to study him.

Dr. Herkimer, funny I don't recall any doctor by that name—never heard of a Herkimer.

Oh, but Herkimer has heard of you, Dr. Cassius. And who hasn't? Indeed, you're the most renowned animal surgeon in the world!

Of course I am—but I want the animal restrained while I do so. Now don't question my orders any further.

I could tell Robin was worried...

Well, see you around...

Operating table? But, uh... aren't you even going to, uh, test his intelligence first?...

My assistant plexiglass will help you, should the beast put up a struggle.

...Doctor.

He should've known how I felt.
Well, what do you think, Dr. Cassius—shall we use this one for a lobotomy experiment?

I'm surprised they didn't hear me gulp.

—or Zaynor takes her away from us and we get nothing.

No, Plexides—this is another supposedly "intelligent" human...

Oh, that reminds me, doctor—Zaynor says if we don't finish up with our other "talking human, he's going to get custody orders from Ambassador Hastus.

Another talking human? That was Bingo number three!

But I'm not ready to finish up with the beast—I want to do more testing!

Nevertheless, either we finish today and get some use out of the animal--

A woman—2 then it couldn't be one of the—

But then I remembered—there was a woman among the few astronauts. Stewart. I remembered right.

For a moment, I flashed on the Sickwell again. Out then, as I watched the girl's frightened, animal-like attitude...

No—hurt! No hurt!!

A pity—she does seem to possess rudimentary intelligence...

They were blunt, jagged, and rusty.

Hastus would never listen to our appeals. He's gone over to the gorillas' side. He's afraid of the gorillas, but us—2 who'd be afraid of peaceful chimpanzees?

...at least the ability to mimic our speech. Here, Dr. Hastus, better strap her in while I get the scalpels...

No—hurt.

And compare it to the throats of non-mimicking humans.

He moved the rusty thing toward her throat...
I couldn't stand it.

NOOO!!

They can't do it... it's murder! It's cold-blooded murder!!

You spoke... coherently... formed entire sentences... and you've got to listen to me!

Humans are not beasts... we're just as intelligent as you! At one time, we were far more intelligent than apes.

You've got to help me, Dr. Cassius--you showed a spark of pity for the girl! Now have pity on our whole race!

Their jaws dropped in astonishment and they forgot about the girl... as they moved toward me...

--and teach the ape to stop killing humans!

This is amazing, Plekides--quite a novelty...

I don't know who you are, why you're here, or how it is you can reason and speak... but no, I will not "help" you. The girl is a beast, and I have no pity for beasts.

I was concerned only with my experiments...

To help you or her would constitute heresy, and I'll have no part of it. In fact, I'm tempted to kill you right...

-aghkk-!!

Dr. Cassius had lived by the scalpel...

She was moving closer, a jagged piece of rust in her hand...

...and now he died by the scalpel.

But his assistant was still alive...

Free--free you!

But thank God Plekides was too stunned to move for a moment... it saved the girl. The girl cut one of the ankle straps...
...AND BY THE TIME HE COULD MOVE, AND LUNGED AT US--

--HEARD HIM WITH MY OWN EARS, HASTUS--THE HUMAN SPOKE--

I AND CASSIUS IS HARBOURING HIM UNDER FALSE PRETENCES...

FREE-- YOU MUST...

MY NAME IS IANE, TOOTS--IANE-- AND REMEMBER THAT, HONEY.

DON'T SUPPOSE YOU HAVE A NAME, THOUGH...

NEVER MIND-- OUR FIRST CONCERN IS MAKING IT TO THE--

I USED TO PLAY FOOTBALL.

SORRY TO BARGE THROUGH, FELLAS...

...BUT US ANIMALS ARE KINDA SHORT ON MANNERS!

WE'LL SOON SEE ABOUT THAT GENERAL ZAYNOR...

--DOOR--

THAT'S HIM!!

--OH--

THEN I REMEMBERED...

GUARDS!!-- SOLDIERS!!

ZAYNOR!

SOMEBODY-- CAPTURE THEM! CAPTURE THE ESCAPING HUMANS--!!

WHAT A BIG-MOUTH-- GUESS HE DIDN'T LIKE GETTING DUMPED ON HIS BUTT...
He belatedly even louder when he climbed to his monkey splashed feet... It occurred to me that I'd been thru this movie before...

And the gorillas--the damn, stupid gorillas--were more than eager to obey. Lord knows where I found the flippancy...

Get them!!

Hurry, money!

We scrambled over the rock causeway, thinking ourselves clever for picking a route their horses couldn't follow. How were we supposed to know there was a couple of brutes lurking in ambush--2 or that Zaynor was one of them--2.

Or that they had a net--2?

Okay, babe, it looks like we lost them. Famous last words...

...and it was time for bingo number one on their side. Take him off to the tribunal--and keep searching for the female.
My last glimpse of her, as they hauled me off in the net, was at least reassuring.

She was scurrying down the dust alleyways like a terrified jackrabbit.

Quiet, wench -- this is no mangy mainland ape speakin' at ye!

This is Robin Hood -- slayer of his Majesty's stags!

I'll not harm you -- and if we're to rescue Zane, you've got to cooperate!

I, hastus -- magistrate of this city -- shall preside over the trial...

Trial -- 2! This is no trial -- it's a farce!

As if they didn't already know it.

I lost sight of her then, but I hoped and prayed that she'd make it...

--Caught.

Mmmpff!!
Still, I guess I'm just pig-headed...

You've convened to decide my fate--and you've already got the noose around my neck!!

**WAK!**

Shut up, Beast!

Hastus obviously wasn't a time-waster. He stood to read the sentence...

For crimes against the natural law, heresy, and imposing upon the exclusive rights of apes.

So who could argue with logic like that...

 Animals can't talk and you know it...

**THE HUMAN IS HEREBY SENTENCED TO DEATH BY HANGING--NOW!!**

Zaynor's hand slapped the lever--

There was a sudden draft between my toes.

--squishing abrasive into my throat--

The rope went taut--

--and--

Crep!

Whew!!

I split.

Hey!!

Stop him!!

What's going on--2!
I SPUN AROUND A CORNER AND THERE WAS ROBIN, HE'D CHANGED HIS CLOTHES FOR THE OCCASION...

WHERE'S THE GIRL, ROBIN--?

ACCORDING TO PLAN, SHE WAS TO DIVERT THEM Whilst WE ESCAPED-- AND WE WERE TO PICK HER UP OUTSIDE THE CITY.

BUT EITHER SHE DIDN'T UNDERSTAND--

MAKE HASTE, GOOD DEREK-- LEST THE ROGUE SNATCH US BOTH!

-- OR SHE GOT SCARED AND RAN OFF!

BUT THERE'S LITTLE WE CAN DO ABOUT IT NOW, SIR DEREK--

WITH THOSE BLACKGUARD KNAVES IN HOT PURSUIT!

ZAYNOR LED THE PACK, AND HE WAS GAINING...

-- THIS!!

WELL, WHADDAYA KNOW--?

MONKEY PUSS, YOU'LL NEVER KNOW HOW MUCH I'VE BEEN ITCHING TO DO--

-- AND HE DIDN'T FEEL A THING.

-- THERE WAS ONLY ONE THING TO DO...

YOU'LL DIE FOR THAT, HUMAN!

SEEING AS HOW I WAS RIDING WITH ROBIN HOOD--

I WAS REMINDED OF KONG TOPPLING OFF THE SUMMIT OF THE EMPIRE STATE...
But there was a difference...

I'd felt sorry for Kong.

Then I saw her, darting out of from an alleyway...

Zane!

Zane!!

She was calling my name -- she remembered!

Zane...

Zane...

No... you killed her...!!

You killed her, you dirty, filthy, stinking animals!!

I saw nothing but crimson, glaring...

Before they kill you as well!

Although I guess it doesn't much matter -- the varlets will overtake us in a moment anyway!

Wait a minute -- those kegs! Is that building what I think it is??

Who knows, sir Derek? (What do you think it is??)
I ripped a tatter from my rags...

--- Wrapped it around the point ---

--- Flicked my cigarette lighter ---

--- And stole Robin Hood's thunder ---

It was their armory, all right--their ammo dump--and the kegs had been filled with gunpowder.

Obviously, they'd had to move the armory to a new location, since I'd burned their old one down. Some apes never learn...

Buhroom

We buried the girl. Several hours later, by the beach, she had died, calling my name, so I gave her a name...

Come, Sir Derek--let us hie back to Avedon, where 'tis peaceful and safe.

...and I carved "Hope" on the crude marker, doing a sloppy job of it, because the tears kept blurring my vision. I wished Hope could've lived long enough to hear her name...

Sheid understand, in the... Farewell then, Sir Derek!

...but what of Lady Andrea? I'll go back to her someday... but not just yet, Robin...

Aye, Robin--fare... well...

...and if she didn't, well, I finally did.