\textbf{SYNOPSIS:} TRAPPED IN LIGTHSMITH'S BLACK HILLS HIDEOUT, JASON, MALAGEUNA AND ALEX FACE CERTAIN DEATH AT THE HANDS OF AN UNEXPECTED ASSISIANN ATTACK LED BY THE MALEVOLENT MAGUANUS. AND THEY TURN IN QUIET DESPERATION TO THEIR HOST, THE ONLY MAN WHO CAN HOPE TO HELP THEM...

\textbf{"\ldots ESCAPE FROM MT. RUSHMORE!!"}

THE HUMANS HAVE NO WAY OUT... NOW KILL THEM... KILL THEM!!

THE ASSISIANNS-- THEY'VE TRACKED US DOWN FOR REVENGE!

THEY'LL BE HOWLING FOR BLOOD ANY MOMENT...

ALEX! HURRY UP WITH THAT CRATE! IT'S OUR ONLY CHANCE!

\textbf{WRITTEN BY} DOUG MOENCH
\textbf{DRAWN BY} MIKE FLOOD
\textbf{EDITED BY} ARCHIE GOODWIN
THREE MORE FALL DOWNWARD, AND THE GRAVEN VISAGE IS SET IN SUCH A WAY THAT, SOMEHOW--

—THEY LOOK LIKE TEARS.

WELL, COME ON--THE BERRY BOMBS AREN'T STOPPING THEM, AND WE CAN'T ABANDON THE WONDER WAGON!! BUT WHAT ARE THOSE BUNDLES FOR? ME SHOW MAGUANUS!

HAVING REACHED THE RELATIVE SAFETY OF THE WONDER WAGON, GILBERT WATCHES AS THE THREE EXPLODE OUTSIDE...

HIS TREMBLING IS A STRUGGLE BETWEEN HOPE AND FEAR.

ME, KILL WAGON QUICK--ONE THROW! NO MORE!
IN FACT, IF THE FLAMES BURSTING FROM ITS ROOF ARE NOT SOON EXTINGUISHED--

ITS SAFETY WILL BE EQUIVALENT TO THAT OF A LOCKED CAGE IN HELL.

NOW...PULL ON THIS CORD HERE AND HARD--RIGHT AFTER YOU JUMP OUT THE NOSE-TUBE.

JUMP-??!
FROM HERE-!!

I'M AFRAID THERE'S NO TIME ARGUE...

HEY-!!

JUST PULL THE CORD!

--AND START TOSING BERRY BOMBS!

I GUESS YOU'RE RIGHT, ALEX.

BUT IF THIS IS WHAT YOU CALL PROGRESS--

"--AND STUFF IT UP HIS CRAZY NOSE WHERE IT BELONGS!"

YOU SEE, MALAGUENA? IT'S ALL QUITE FOOLPROOF.
YOU'RE NOT AFRAID, ARE YOU?

WELL, I... G-GUESS NOT...

BETTER DO AS HE SAYS, JASE...

EITHER WAY, THE GROUND'S GONNA BE MIGHTY HARD.

--THEN LIGHTSMITH CAN JUST KEEP IT--

GOOD--BECAUSE THERE'S ONLY ONE CHUTE LEFT...
AND THAT MEANS
WE'RE GONNA FALL A
LITTLE FASTER--SO
JUST HANG ON TIGHT
AND REMEMBER TO
BREATHE!!

INDEED--AND WHEN
THEY HIT THE GROUND, THE
SAVAGE BATTLE BURTS
INTO FRENZY...

PLUCK OUT
THOSE ARROWS,
MALAGUENA--
STAMP OUT THE
FIRE--AND IN
THE HOLY NAME
OF ENLIGHTEN-
MENT...

...I HOPE GILBERT HAS SENSE ENOUGH TO STOKE UP
THE FURNACE FOR A FAST ESCAPE!!

JASE, I JUST
THOUGHT OF
SOMETHING...

PULLING ON THOSE
CORKS WORKED--!!

YEAH--I
NOTICED.
STEAM! GLORIOUS STEAM--!
GOOD OLD GILBERT HASN'T LET US DOWN--!
NOW GET BACK, YOU IGNORANT SAVAGES, BEFORE I STOP FIRING OVER YOUR HEADS AND START AIMING A LITTLE LOWER--!!

HURRY, JASON, BEFORE ONE OF THOSE ARROWS--

I'M COMING, I'M COMING!

SWAK

THE WONDER WAGON'S BELCHING STEAM AND READY TO ROLL!!

AND AS THE BIZARRE CONVEYENCE LURCHES AND RUMBLING FORWARD--

JASON!

WAIT--WE'VE LEFT JASON BEHIND--!!

OH, TERRIFIC.

URG--!!

THE WEIRDLING STREED REARS IN TERROR, READY TO ROLL INTO FLIGHT THE INSTANT ITS TETHER IS BROKEN...

...AND JASON KNOWS IT.

REEL--!!

STOP HUMAN--KILL HIM--TRICKS ALL GONE NOW!

WHO NEEDS TRICKS TO GET AWAY FROM YOU, YOU FAT OGLAIVY APE--??!!

AS A RULE, JASON DOES NOT PARTICULARLY CARE FOR APES.
...IT OFTEN SHOWS IN HIS ATTITUDE. MAGUANUS...FALSE MAGIC NOT SO FALSE. FALSE MAGIC WORK...FALSE MAGIC HURT MANY ASSASSINS...

...BUT FALSE MAGIC GOOD TO ONES WHO HAVE FALSE MAGIC...LET THEM WIN...

...LET THEM GET AWAY...

NO MATTER!! MAGUANUS STILL KILL THEM!! MAGUANUS KILL THEM MANY TIMES!!

ABOUT A MILE DOWN THE ROAD...

JASON, I WAS AFRAID YOU WOULDN'T--

YEAH, I KNOW--BUT I NOTICE NOBODY BOTHERED TO STOP THE WAGON FOR ME.

JASON, THAT'S NOT FAIR...

THE MIRA OF FIRE MAGI WUL

MAGUANUS KILL THEM FOREVER!!

EXACTLY MY POINT.

NOTHING MORE IS SAID ON THE MATTER...AND COME MORNING, JASON REMAINS SOMEWHAT SULLEN, AS HE WATCHES MALAGUEÑA...AND WONDERS IF HER MINISTRATIONS ARE NOT OVERLY TENDER...

IT SEEMS AS THOUGH I'M ALWAYS BANDAGING UP ONE OF YOU TWO...

IT'S A ROUGH WORLD, MALAGUEÑA, FILLED WITH HATE...AND PEOPLE WHO REACT TO HATE WITH THE SAME.

I DON'T KNOW IF THAT'S ALWAYS TRUE, ALEX...

...BUT I DO KNOW ONE THING: THAT MAGUANAS IS A PRETTY MEAN FELLOW...
JASON ALLOWS THE WORDS TO HANG IN SILENCE FOR A MOMENT... THEN, HIS MEMORIES COMPLETE, HE MURMURS...

Yeah... Maguanius is almost as bad as...

WAIT A MINUTE...

Look at that DUST!

Assisimians couldn’t be kicking all that up...

Let me have that long-distance viewer of yours, Lightsmith.

Brutus glowers at the forefront of his new army, the archetypal image of the brutally ruthless conqueror, his face an unyielding mask of hate.

Behind him marches an integrated force of ape terrorists and mutant-drones and behind them, spewing clouds of dust rubbles an armada of steel jugernauts... awesome war-machines designed only to kill.

The future looks bleak. The future looks grim.

And we’ll see more of that future when terror on the planet of the apes continues next week with...

"Demons of the psychedrome!"
Dear Stan,

Recent events in Dracula Lives and Planet of the Apes have prompted me to write this to you. I believe D.L. has had, in the main, a consistent standard of excellence. A few covers were not quite up to standard, but that is to be expected in a weekly mag, if one is realistic. Man-Thing - love him! Those peerless pages are a joy to behold. I believe the Jason/Alexander story at present running in Apes far and away makes up for the previous story, Apeslayer, of a while back. All I can say is keep up the good work, gentlemen.

Tommy McDermid, RFO, KOF.
14 Poplar Street, Greenock, Scotland.

Well, we DO try! And we've now been trying for so long that it's become a habit.

Dear Marvel,

I am a regular reader of POTA, and I must say your mag is excellent. I have been reading it since its inception. However, I am somewhat disappointed with the latest issue. I am a member of the Ape's Fan Club, and I am number 448. I have been very pleased with the quality of the artwork and the storylines. If anyone has any further information, I would be glad to share it. I look forward to future issues.

Malcolm Pearce, Roots House, Seward Road, Beckenham, Kent. BB3 4NY.

If that Planet book comes your way, number 448, you've gotta admit that MARVEL has its magnificent moments.

Graham Sykes, 33 Ansaiq Drive, Mosspark, Glasgow.

Dear Group,

I'm back, and I have some more information.

Galen pin-ups with moveable arms and legs are available. You can pose them any way you want. It's almost like having them there in person! They cost five dollars each. You either get American money from the bank, or go to a post office and get an international money order. When you have done that, send your money to: Our Way Studios, Dept J-1, Box 174, Grand Central Station, New York, N.Y. 10017, U.S.A.

I have read letters from people wanting to know where they can get binders to put their mags in. Well, I know where to get them! Each binder holds 24 magazines, comes already assembled, holds any type of Marvel mags, dazzling, full-colour wrap-around art, showcases, four exciting comic themes, sturdy double-sleeve gives double protection, identification area provided on spine, three super display binders to a set, and is guaranteed to save space! They cost only $3 dollars each! This includes postage and handling. Send to: Supergraphics, Dept SC, R.O. Box 445, Wyoming/Pa/196 10. USA.

If any readers out there have any magazines, posters, or ANYTHING whatsoever on The Bay City Rollers, I will swap for American Marvel mags!

Neil Fisher, 4 Gerards Lane, Sutton, St. Helens, Merseyside. WA9 3SS.

We ask you. How can we resist publishing Neil Fisher's letters when he's so helpful and informative?

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FREE POST THIS COUPON NOW

Graham Tarrer, QMS.
Warks.

Whatever the reason that encouraged you back to the Dracula fold we're glad it happened. Yes - we know that photos in Dracula Lives haven't been so plentiful of late. The main reason for the absence is the good horror photos are hard to come by. But we ARE trying. (If only we could persuade Irving Fostbury to forget his camera-shyness!)