



MARVEL
COMICS
GROUP

NO. 94

WEEK ENDING
AUG. 4, 1976

PLANET OF THE APES

9p

AND
DRACULA
LIVES

**SPECIAL
FEATURE!**
MORE ACTION AND
DRAMA FROM THE
PLANET OF THE APES
ORIGIN!

AND NOW...

"DEMONS OF THE PSYCHEDROME"

WHILE THE SAVAGE ASSISIMIANS LEAD BRUTUS AND HIS BAND IN HOT PURSUIT, ALEX, LIGHTSMITH AND FRIENDS RIDE THE WONDER WAGON INTO THE HIDDEN ADOBE CITY WITHIN THE RING OF MOUNTAINS...

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

...TOTALLY UNAWARE THEY MAY BE RIDING INTO A DEATH TRAP IN THEIR NEVER-ENDING QUEST FOR...

"...THE WAY TO THE PSYCHEDROME!"

AND AS THEY SIT FOR A COMMUNION WITH MEMBERS OF THE INTEGRATED INHABITANTS OF THE ADOBE, NIBBLING THE BUTTONS OF THE SACRED CACTUS PLANTS, THERE MUST BE AT LEAST ONE OF THE PARTY WHO ABSTAINS...

...IF THERE IS TO BE ANY HOPE AT ALL!

EDITED BY ARCHIE GOODWIN * WRITTEN BY DOUG MOENCH * ART BY MIKE PLOOG & TOM SUTTON





KINDA **DARK** IN HERE, SHAMAN...

VERY DARK, AND FOR **GOOD REASON**-- THERE IS NO **LIGHT**.

WHOA NOW, OLD BOY, BUT I BEG TO **DIFFER**-- WHEREVER LIGHTNING SMITH CHOOSES TO **VENTURE**, THERE IS ALWAYS **LIGHT**...

...AT LEAST, AS LONG AS THE BATTERIES IN MY **MAGIC TORCH** DON'T WEAR OUT.

KLIK

HOH!

YOUR MAGIC IS VERY **POWERFUL**, FRIEND LIGHTSMITH... PERHAPS **POWERFUL ENOUGH TO DEFEAT** THE MAGIC OF THE **ANCIENTS**...

...AND ALLOW US TO **ENTER** THE SACRED PLACE WHICH HAS BEEN **SEALED FOREVER**.

WELL, LIKE THE **ANCIENTS SAID**, SHAMAN-- WHERE THERE'S A **WILL**, THERE'S A **WAY**.

GROUND IS **GONE**--BUT I'M STILL **ROOTED**--IN **CORPSES**--**SKELETONS**--**UGLY BONES OF DEATH**--THE **BONES** OF THOSE KILLED BY **BRUTUS**--THEY'LL **SUCK** ME DOWN UNTIL I BECOME PART OF THE **PILE**.

THAT'S BECAUSE **BRUTUS** WANTS TO **KILL** ME--ADD MY **BONES** TO HIS **PILE**--!

GOT TO GET AWAY--I DID GET AWAY, **BONES** GONE NOW--BUT **BRUTUS**--HE'S STILL CHASING ME--AND HE'S CHANGED--!

HE'S A **BEAST** NOW, **NAKED** AND **STRONGER** AND **FASTER**--**STRONGER** SO HE CAN **TEAR** ME APART AND **FIND** MY **BONES**!

IF ONLY I COULD FIND THE PLACE--THE PLACE OF **SAFETY**...!

WHEN IN THE NAME OF **PROGRESS** ARE WE GONNA **FIND** THIS SACRED PLACE OF YOURS, SHAMAN--? WE'VE BEEN **SLITHERING** THROUGH THIS TUNNEL FOR A **MIGHTY LONG** TIME NOW...

DOESN'T IT **EVER** END--?

IT **ENDS**, FRIEND LIGHTSMITH...



YEAH, BUT WHEN--?
SEEMS LIKE WE'VE
ALREADY GONE
FAR ENOUGH TO
COME OUT THE
OTHER SIDE OF
THE MOUNTAIN...!

VERY SOON NOW,
FRIEND LIGHTSMITH
--JUST AROUND
THIS CORNER...



...THERE--RIGHT
AHEAD OF US...

...THE SACRED
PLACE OF THE
ANCIENTS.

WELL, STEP ASIDE, SHAMAN
--SO I CAN TAKE A LOOK...



CAN'T SEE. IT IS OVER--AM I SAFE--?
FEELS SO... STRANGE... MAYBE IT
IS OVER...



NO--
MY
HEAD--!!

IT'S BURNING--!!

AHEAD--A FOREST--
MAYBE SAFETY...



BUT THE FOREST IS AN ISLAND...

DOESN'T
MATTER--
I'LL RUN
OVER THE
WATER AND
REACH--



--MALAGUENA!!

MALAGUENA,
YOU'RE THE ONLY
ONE WHO CAN
HELP ME!

YOU'RE MY
ONLY HOPE--
THE ONLY ONE
I CAN TRUST!



HELP ME, MALAGUENA--SAVE
ME, PLEASE SAVE ME!

DON'T LEAVE
ME, MALAGUENA--!

DON'T BETRAY ME! YOU CAN'T BETRAY ME,
MALAGUENA--PLEASE DON'T BETRAY--



IN THE NAME OF EVERY
PROGRESS LEADER WHO
EVER PROGRESSED FROM
DARKNESS TO LIGHT...!

IT'S...



...INCREDIBLE.

AS I SAID,
FRIEND LIGHT-
SMITH.



AND IT'S...
HUMMING.

AS ALWAYS,
FRIEND
LIGHTSMITH.

HMM

YOU KNOW, IT JUST
MIGHT BE THE PSYCHE-
DROME AT THAT...



...AND IF IT *IS*,
IT'S GONNA TAKE
A HUGE **HEAP** OF
BOOM-STICKS
JUST TO MAKE
A **DENT** IN IT...

BUT BOOM-STICKS OR *NOT*, I DON'T THINK I WANT
TO TRY ANYTHING UNTIL MORNING...



COME ON, SHAMAN
--I NEED TO SLEEP
ON THIS.



NIGHTMARE'S ALMOST OVER...JUST AS
SOON AS I REACH MALAGUENA...

BUT WHY IS SHE REACHING INTO THE
FOREST? WHAT IS SHE...HOLDING?



ALEX--?!!

SHE'S
HOLDING
ALEX!!

KISSING HIM!!

NOOO--!!

WAIT...IT WAS ONLY A DREAM
--A NIGHTMARE--NONE OF IT
REALLY HAPPENED...

MALAGUENA
WASN'T
KISSING
ALEX...



SHE WASN'T--

WHAT--?!!



IT'S TRUE!!

YOU LIED TO ME, ALEX--YOU LIED TO ME, YOU DIRTY STINKING APE!!

HUH?



I'LL KILL YOU FOR THAT, APE!!

YOU SAID IT WAS ONLY A DREAM-- ONLY A NIGHT-MARE!!

SWOK

I SAID... WHAT?



BUT I'M GONNA KILL YOU FOR KISSING HER!!

YOU LIED TO ME!!



I'M GONNA--

WHOA NOW, JASE-BOY--THIS IS NO TIME TO START THE LAST WORLD WAR.



NOW: BY ALL THAT'S HOLY AND KNOWLEDGEABLE...

...WHAT IN BLAZES IS GOING ON--?!

MALAGUEÑA LOVES ME, BUT HE WAS KISSING HER!!

KISSING MALAGUEÑA...? KISSING...A HUMAN?

ME--? BUT I'M AN APE...AREN'T I...?

CONTINUED NEXT WEEK!



It's APES FANG- MAIL time!

Dear Stan, Roy,

Without doubt, POTA ish 80 was the worst of its kind. No pics, no Marvel ads, no Apes Forum, nothing. I did, however, enjoy Mike Ploog's artwork. But this isn't enough. The horrible, good-for-nothing, useless, paper wasted, money wasted (on your part) labour wasted, time wasted Black Panther and the same for the idiotic Ka-Zar was still carried on. It seems that POTA is being slowly taken over by these two badly-drawn comic strips. WHEN WILL THEY END? If you like them why not put them into a comic of their own. When are we going to have "Starlord" and "The Sword

in the Star", as these would be better than the rubbish I mentioned just now.

I think Howard Harcourt (ish 75) should look on the bright side of things. Of course "Planet . . ." will make its 100th issue . . . but will it make its 500th issue?

I must congratulate Alfredo Alcalá for his artwork in "Conquest . . ." not to mention Doug Moench's writing, also Mike Ploog, for his artwork, and Doug again in "Malaguena in a Zone Forbidden."

Stan, would it be possible for you to have an LP slip disc (two-sided) of the sound track of either a film or TV series? This could be in your 100th issue as a gift, or would this be entirely impossible? If so, would there be other ways of acquiring one, like buying one through the post.

Gregory Dunne QNS,KOF.
Limavady, Co. Derry, N. Ireland.

So you don't like Black Panther of Ka-Zar — but countless Marvelites DO! So what would you have us do, deprive them of one of life's pleasures? Or maybe force 'em to buy another mag? Come on, Greg, you don't really mean it! And now we have to come on with the bad news. Sorry, but we'd never be able to make a deal to give away the Apes film or TV series sound track. And as far as we're aware, neither of those sound-tracks has been put out commercially. Which means they're unobtainable.

Dear Marvel,

Before Dracula Lives came out I had never read any of your comics. However, on a Friday night I saw an advertisement for Dracula Lives, and when I went into town the next day I bought a copy. Since then I have got every one. I think that Gene Colan and Tom Palmer are brilliant at drawing Drac and give them my congratulations. I saw Blade in your American mag "Vampire Tales" and I was glad when he came into the story in issue 20. I hope he gets the "stinking white-haired vampire" that killed his mother.

Steven Martin,
Broughton, Chester.

So THAT was the way we grabbed ya, Steve. Well, getting hoo led was the easy part. Now try getting away from us!

Dear Bullpen,

This letter is about the Apes stories that have appeared in POTA.

The first one — Planet of the Apes — was superb and still, in my mind, the best yet. George Tuska's artwork was immaculate, although after the first few issues the shading, or tint as you'd call it, was put on a bit too heavy.

Terror on the Planet of the Apes was also a good story. The art by Mike Ploog was spoiled by too much shading again. I enjoyed Evolution's Nightmare, but you never finished it. Again, too much shading on Ed Hannigan's work.

The Apeslayer (or should I say Killraven) saga was the worst story yet. Please don't do this again. Kingdom on an Island of the Apes was a pretty good story, and Rico Rival's art wasn't bad. Beneath the Planet of the Apes was easily the worst apes film, but

the adaptation was good. City of Nomads was different, and so was Tom Sutton's art, but it was pretty good. Escape from the Planet of the Apes was very good, as was Rico Rival's art, but I'd like to see more of George Tuska's art. Any chance?

Conquest of the Planet of the Apes was also good, and I look forward to your adaptation of Battle. Malaguena in a Zone Forbidden saw the return of Jason, Alex, Gunpowder Julius, Steely Dan, Brutus, the Inheritors, the Lawgiver and Mike Ploog doing the art, which was very good, as was Doug Moench's story. If I had to give points out of ten for each Apes story, this is what I'd give.

"Planet . . ."	Nine
"Terror . . ."	Eight
"Evolution's Nightmare"	Five
"Apeslayer"	Two
"Kingdom . . ."	Seven.
"Beneath . . ."	Eight
"Escape . . ."	Eight
"City of Nomads"	Seven
"Conquest . . ."	Nine
"Malaguena . . ."	Nine

All told, I make that 73 out of a possible 100. After a very good start and a poor spell you've come back to your very best.

Your friendly
neighbourhood letter-writer.

And to think, we didn't even KNOW we were sitting for an exam!

Dear Marvel Madmen,

I think you have made a grave (no pun) mistake. Ol' Doggy chops has been with us ever since the beginning of DL, but now (in ish 79) we find a two-bit-cheapskate with a sob story called Ghost-Rider. He's a really good character, but a while ago I bought an American W.B.N. and it was Belaric Marcosa and his Mansion of the Damned. It was brilliantly drawn etc. And then, after Moon-knight, right at the bottom of ish 78 page 21 panel (if you don't mind me being like a file) 7, it mentioned my old pal Belaric Marcosa. Seeing as my American W.B.N. was the last in the story, I really wanted to read yours. Let me give you a run-down on the mags I get.

D.L. Dracula — story good, art fair. Ghost Rider — story fair, art brilliant. Man-Thing — story fairish, art, see GR.

POTA. Terror — story fab, art fab. Ka-Zar — story fair, art fair. Black Panther — story better than before, art brilliant.

TITANS. F. Four — story fab, art brilliant. Cap M — story could be better, art good. Cap America — story fab, art better all the time. Namor — story good, art fair. S.H.I.E.L.D. — story brilliant, art good.

SSM. Spidey — story great, art brilliant. Dr. Strange — story good, art good. The Thing — story brilliant, art fab. Thor — story fair, art good.

MWOM. Hulk — story good, art fab. Daredevil — story good, art good. F.F. — story good, art good.

Simon Taylor.

32 Dorset Road, Maldon, Essex.

Could it be you've slipped a gear somewhere, Simon? Because ever since Ghost-Rider arrived in Britain he's been steadily forging upwards in the popularity charts. But thanks for your review of the mags.

My Dear Bullpen,

Greetings! This letter comes as an examination of some of your latest moves. By Thanos, I'm disappointed in a lot of ways, by clashes and unthinking attitudes.

Here's something for you to chew on. The Black Panther has received a lot of coverage of late. Not a bad thing on the surface, if you consider the beautiful scripting by Don McGregor on his own strip in the back of Planet of the Apes. Then the Panther has also taken a few choice roles of late in The Avengers, but last week was his last slated appearance in The Avengers for some time to come, as he does not participate in the Skrull-Kree war.

In effect, the Panther has taken the spotlight for several weeks, and has earned the adulation of many a Marvelite in this time, but now it's fini, and we'll see him no more for an age. With his departure from the Avengers, this would have been a good time to start Panthers Rage, not end it. I also have to protest Captain Marvel in the same way. Over these next few weeks in The Avengers both he and The Avengers will be caught up in the Skrull-Kree war, and meanwhile, in his own strip, transferred from Titans to POTA (to keep us on our toes) The Avengers are wrapped up in Mar-Vell's efforts in the Thanos war. Is there no communication between you? Mar-Vell's strip should have taken a breather while back, at the last place he was 'rested' in the American version, until after the Skrull-Kree war.

Why you didn't launch into Starlord and Sword in the Star when you announced them, instead of bunging in Ka-Zar and BP I'll never know.

I did have a second point. Will all those people who have written to complain about the Titans format spoiling the artwork try a simple test with me. It involves taking hold of an American Marvel Comic, an issue of either Titans or Super-Spiderman and one other British Marvel. Open the American, full-colour comic, and the old-style British

Marvel. Notice how the Brit Marv is not merely a Black and White version, but an enlarged version, showing a fair amount of stress in the reproduction. Now open the New improved Marvel Comic. Doesn't the compacted version seem neater and more efficient in the artwork quality? In actual fact, comparing with the American shows that the reduction in size is only very slight. Looking at it in this completely objectively, I'd say that I didn't go much on the new size at first, but now I prefer it.

Graham Day,
148 Temple Ave., Dagenham, Essex.

Graham, no matter how we shuffled the Marvel pack and played the cards the order would inevitably delight many and disappoint others. But this we know for a certainty - Panther's Rage has been one of the successes of the year!



SORRY FANS...

AS FROM NEXT WEEK, PLANET OF THE APES AND DRACULA LIVES WILL COST ONE PENNY MORE. UNFORTUNATELY, RISING COSTS (PAPER, PRINTING etc) AND THE STEADY MARCH OF INFLATION HAS FORCED US TO RAISE OUR COVER PRICE FOR THE FIRST TIME SINCE OCTOBER 1974. WE DON'T LIKE TO DO THIS, BUT BE ASSURED IT'S ABSOLUTELY UNAVOIDABLE! SO AS FROM NEXT WEEK PLANET OF THE APES WILL COST 9 PENCE.

STAN LEE PRESENTS **PLANET OF THE APES!**™

STRANGE NEW WORLD

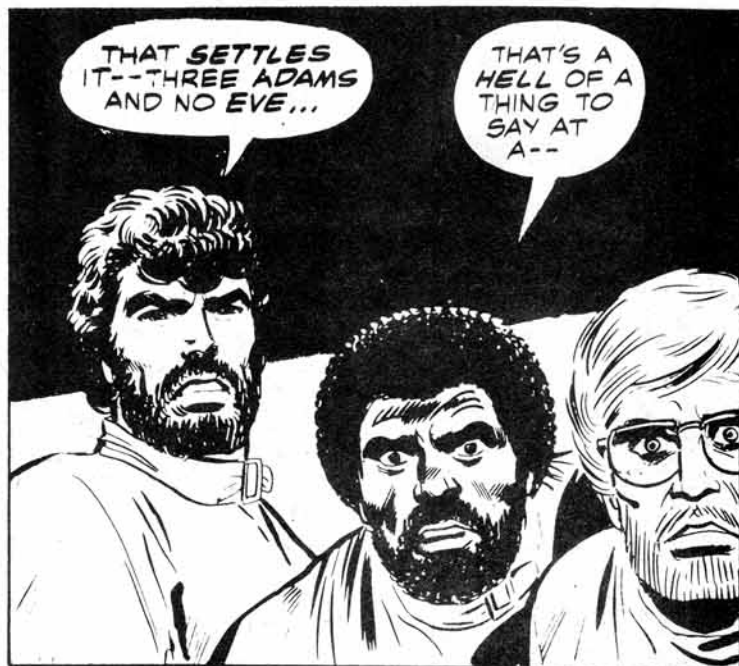
THE SHIP HAS LANDED ON
THIS STRANGE "NEW" WORLD.
THE CREW OF THE STARSHIP
HAS AWAKENED.

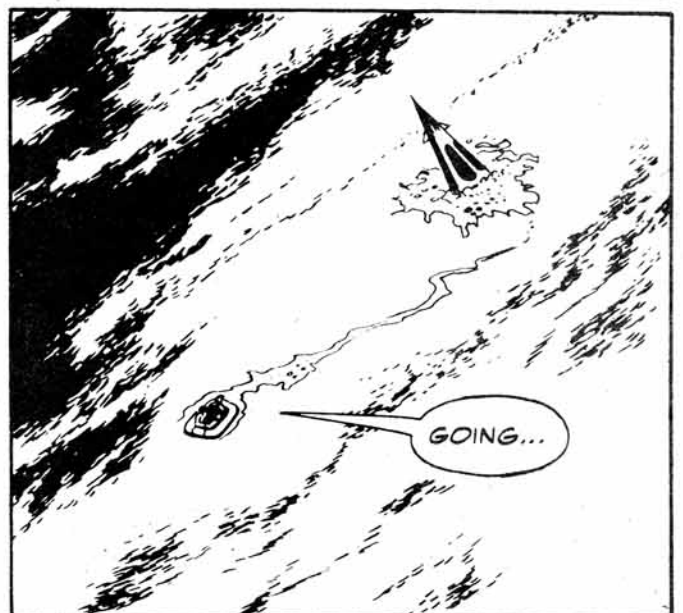
THAT IS...ALL BUT
ONE!



OH...MY...
GOD---!!

SCRIPT: DOUG MOENCH
PENCILS: GEORGE TUSKA
INKS: MIKE ESPOSITO







YEAH, BUT WHERE'S
HERE? YOU GOT
ANY NOTIONS AT
ALL, SKIPPER?

WE'RE SOME THREE-HUNDRED-
TWENTY LIGHT YEARS FROM EARTH
ON AN UNNAMED PLANET IN ORBIT
AROUND A STAR IN THE
CONSTELLATION
ORION...



THAT
COULD BE
BELLATRIX
UP THERE!

TOO
RED
FOR
BELLA-
TRIX!



YOU DIDN'T HAVE TIME TO
CHECK THE TAPES--SO YOU
DON'T REALLY KNOW WHERE
WE ARE, DO YOU?

WHAT WENT
WRONG?

WE WEREN'T
PROGRAMMED
TO LAND IN
WATER--SO
WE'RE NOT
WHERE WE'RE
SUPPOSED
TO BE.



THE QUESTION,
LANDON, IS NOT SO
MUCH WHERE WE
ARE AS WHEN WE
ARE.

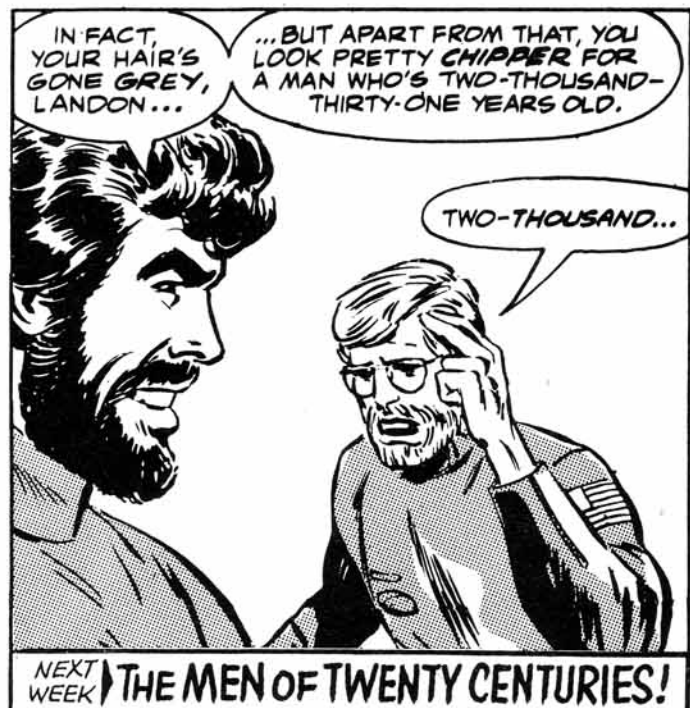
NOW WHAT'S
THAT
SUPPOSED
TO MEAN?



IT MEANS WE'VE
HAD OUR RIP
VAN WINKLE
SNOOZE...

...AND NOW IT'S TIME
TO START EARNING
OUR BACK PAY.

WHY DON'T YOU TAKE
A TIP FROM DODGE?
HE'S ALREADY BUSY
TAKING SOIL
SAMPLES.



NEXT WEEK THE MEN OF TWENTY CENTURIES!