PLANET OF THE APES
AND DRACULA LIVES

IN A WAR-RAVAGED WORLD, CAN MAN
SURVIVE...
THE EYES OF THE MONSTER?!
GUIDED BY THE HANDS OF THE MYSTERIOUS KEEPER AT THREAT OF HIS VERY LIFE, THE SHUTTLE-CRAFT HURTES AT FRIGHTENING SPEEDS THROUGH LIFELESS CORRIDORS WHILE ITS PASSENGERS, JASON, ALEX, AND BRAINWASHED LIGHTFOOT DESPERATELY SEARCH FOR A WAY OUT, KNOWING FULL-Well THAT TO SURVIVE, THEY MUST...

I THINK LIGHTSMITH'S IN A STATE OF SHOCK, JAS!

HE JUST KEEPS UP WITH THIS INCOHERENT BABBLING! WOULD YOU LISTEN TO HIM??

I CAN HEAR HIM, BUT THERE'S NO TIME TO WORRY ABOUT IT NOW!

RIGHT NOW, WE HAVE TO KEEP THIS ESCAPE GOING!

A GOOD PERSON NEVER STOPS ANYTHING!

A GOOD PERSON NEVER SAYS NO!

Hey! Just ahead... It must be the Snaker-railer eyeballs here at the controls has been talkin' about...

And if it is... It oughtta be good for a ticket outta this hell-hole!

ESCAPE FROM THE PSYCHEDROME!
A GOOD PERSON NEVER SAYS NO.

I THINK HE'S IN A STATE OF SHOCK, JASE!

WE'LL WORRY ABOUT THAT LATER.

A GOOD PERSON NEVER STOPS ANYTHING.

NEVER STOPS...?

WHAT THE...?

YOU SAID IT, JASE... BUT I WISH SOME GOOD PERSON WOULD STOP THOSE MONKEY-DEMOLS FROM CHASING US...

A GOOD PERSON LIKES EVERYTHING THAT HAPPENS.

RIGHT NOW I JUST WANT TO KEEP THIS ESCAPE GOING-- AND THIS BETTER BE THE WAY OUT, EYEBALLS!

FORGET ABOUT HIM FOR NOW, JAX. WE'VE GOT OTHER WORRIES.

THEN, I'M NOT MUCH OF A "GOOD PERSON," LIGHTSMITH, BECAUSE I SURE DON'T--

HEY! WE'RE HERE--!

THAT MUST BE THE SNAKE-RAILER EYEBALLS HAS BEEN TALKING ABOUT.

IT IS.

UNFORTUNATELY, IT'S SURROUNDED BY WINGED MONKEY-DEMONS.
Locked into hovering position, the shuttlecraft loses its passengers...

All right, we're taking the snakelike alien thing right out of here.

You get in front, eyeballs--

--and hurry up before the monkey-demons!

Hey!!

They're faster than we thought, Jase--coming from everywhere!!

Maybe so--but they're gonna stop right here!

Call off your monkey-demons, keeper--

—or I squeeze until you stop moving!

Ugh-k!!

A mouth.

Until now, most of the keeper's face has been hidden within the shadows of his cowl...

...but the abrupt and lightning-swift move which breaks Jason's grasp--also throws the keeper's cowl back, revealing that which lies at the center of his tentacle-stalked eyes.

Ah-haah!

Break free, Jase--you've got to!!

Hit him, Jase--kick him--do anything--but break free!!

Shh

It is good to be a good person.

JASON--!!

A hideously gaping, razor-sharp, blood-lusting mouth.
LET GO OF ME--THE PAIN!!

A GOOD PERSON LIKES EVERYTHING THAT HAPPENS!

GET AWAY FROM ME, MONSTER!!

JASON!!

GRAB LIGHTSMITH, JASON--GET HIM INSIDE THE RAIL-CAR!!

I'LL HOLD OFF THE MONKEY-DEMONS AS LONG AS I CAN!!

STOP THEM!! THEY MUST NOT TAKE THE HARBRINGER!

A GOOD PERSON NEVER STOPS ANYTHING.

SHUT UP, LIGHTSMITH!!

HURRY, JASE--I CAN'T HOLD THEM BACK FOREVER!!

IN DESPERATION--AGONIZED JASON RIPS AT THE KEEPER'S OCULAR TENDRILS--

--AND THE DISGUSTING MOUTH WRENCHES FREE TRAILING RED-SLIME GOGGLES OF FLESH.
THEN YOU TAKE LIGHTSMITH, ALEX
-- I'D RATHER BUST SOME MORE
OF THEIR FACES ANYWAY!

NEVER MIND
THAT--

JUST JUMP
ABOARD THE
CAR-- WE'VE
GOTTA GET
OUT OF HERE!

ALL RIGHT-- SHUT THE DOOR!

I DON'T KNOW
NOW-- BUT HERE'S
A SWORD.

YOU DON'T
KNOW NOW--?!

NO!

A GOOD
PERSON
NEVER
SAYS
NO...

WELL, IF YOU DON'T KNOW HOW TO
SHUT THE DOOR, THEN AT LEAST
GET THIS CRAZY THING MOVING--!

-- BUT I'M WARNING YOU
-- THERE ARE AN AWFUL
LOT OF LEVERS HERE, AND
I DON'T KNOW WHICH
ONE DOES WHAT! SO
I'LL JUST HAVE TO--

A GOOD PERSON
ALWAYS SAYS
YES...

I'LL TRY
JAS...

IT IS GOOD
TO BE A GOOD
PERSON.

AND NOT ONLY THAT
-- BUT I MADE THE THING
MOVE, TOO-- AND IT'S
MOVING AWFUL FAST...

YOU CAN
SAY THAT
AGAIN!

Wheeling and swooping, like tumbling pieces of
nightmare, the winged monkey-demons pursue.
LESS THEN A MILE AWAY...

YOU'LL BE RIGHT ABOUT THIS TUNNEL, DRONE-ESS...

I AM ONLY FOLLOWING THE MAP CONTAINED IN THE DOCUMENTS, COMMANDER, BRUTUS.

BUT THIS MUST BE CORRECT... YOU CAN SEE THAT THE TUNNEL HAS BEEN ARTIFICIALLY CONSTRUCTED.

...AND GALLOPS STRAIGHT INTO THE CHAMBER OF HIS DREAMS.

A MADNESS TERRIBLE TO SEE FICKERS ACROSS HIS FACE...

YES, DRONE-ESS, THIS IS IT... I KNOW IT IS...

THESE ARE THE THINGS WHICH WILL DESTROY EVERY LAST HUMAN ON EARTH.

I DON'T KNOW NOW OR WHY... BUT I'LL LEARN, ESS... I'LL LEARN...

GILBERT... THOSE THINGS THEY FRIGHTEN ME SOMEHOW... WHAT ARE THEY...

EGGS, DO YOU HEAR SOMETHING?

BEING MUTE, GILBERT CANNOT ANSWER MALAGUSTA'S QUESTION, BUT EVEN IF HE COULD SPEAK...

UNDOUBTEDLY COMMANDER BRUTUS.

HE WOULD HAVE NOTHING TO SAY.

I AM NOT CERTAIN COMMANDER BRUTUS, BUT THERE SEEMS TO BE A SLIGHT HUM... THESE TRACKS WERE OBVIOUSLY THEY ARE PART OF A RAILCAR SYSTEM...

SUCH AS THE ONE IN THE CavernS OF THE INHABITANTS.
AND WHILE BRUTUS STRAINS TO HEAR, HE NEVER SEES THE MONKEY-DEMONS LOOKING HIGH ABOVE.

THERE—I'M SURE I HEAR SOMETHING NOW...

A ROAR... DOWN THE TUNNEL...

...AND IT'S GETTING LOUDER...

...AND NOW THERE ARE LIGHTS DOWN THERE... SOMETHING'S COMING!

YES, BRUTUS...

BUT...

A GOOD PERSON LIKES EVERYTHING THAT HAPPENS.

CHEER UP, ALEX—IF THE KEEPER WAS TELLING THE TRUTH AND THIS IS THE WAY OUT... THEN WE'RE FREE.

YEAH, TAGE... EXCEPT I DON'T KNOW HOW TO STOP THIS THING...

...BUT WHAT?

...AND THERE'S NO TELLING WHAT'S WAITING UP AHEAD!

NEXT: ARMAGEDDON THREAT!
Dear Marvel,

Thank you for mentioning my name and address in "Planet of the Apes". I have had quite a good response, but further letters are more than welcome!

Could you please ask all further applicants to enclose a stamped addressed envelope when writing as this saves much time and guarantees a reply.

Mike Burgess,
Secretary Simeon Centre,
45 Wykeham Road, Hastings, Sussex.

Glad to know that it's all happening down in Happy Hastings, Mike. Stand by for a further deluge of mail!

Sir,

Can you help as regards to where I can buy food for the Sea Monkeys? I have from your offer of a few weeks ago. The eggs are hatching okay, but they must need food later on.

Dominic English
6 Brookside, Hawkwell, Hockley, Essex.

The Sea Monkeys population of Great Britain is growing rapidly, according to our mailbags. The question that Dominic poses has been put to us by many Sea Monkey reapers. The Sea Monkey food supplied with the kit should last for a very long time, but if you find you DO need more supplies then we suggest you write to the U.S.A. address given in your Sea Monkey Instruction Leaflet. You'll need an international money order, but it'll all be a long, long time in the future.

Dear Stan,

In having a Cap-Bicentennial treasury you have fulfilled two of my dearest wishes — to have a Cap Treasury and to have more non-reprint original Treasuries. I am eagerly awaiting my copy. Thanks.

This week's Cap. Marvel story in POTA was the best for a long time, although Conan is a very close second. Jim Starlin's art was magnificent, and Uma's reappearance — FABULOUS. And then, to top it all, Mar-Vell battling his destructive self. Tremendous stuff again.

You have brought out an original Cap Treasury. What I want now is for you to give The Guardians of the Galaxy a strip in one of your British mags.

James McIntyre,
55 Whitchurch Ave., Edgeware, Middx.

You'll never know how appreciate we are when we learn from one of our editors (and that means ALL OF YOU) that we're on the right track. Thanks for taking the trouble to inform us, Jim. And when we can squeeze the Guardians into one of the mags then we'll surely squeeze 'em!

Dear Bullpen,

Nos. 62 and 79 were landmarks in British Marvel. Why? Man-Thing first graced our pages in ish 62 of DL, and I hope it will continue to do so for years to come. I can't fault this story, no matter which way I look at it, both the artwork and scripts have been immaculate. Steve really brings out the creature's tragic life and its emotions. Keep it up, Steve.

Now onto ish 79. This came as quite a surprise to me as I though WBN would continue for quite some time. Secondly I thought you had Son of Satan planned for these pages. Anyway I'm glad you didn't, for I think Ghost Rider is terrific, he's quite a new character to me, so I welcomed him with open arms. Gary Friedrich is doing a great job on the story, and Mike Ploog's pencilling is superb.

Dracula has always been a good character and always will be if Gene and Marv keep up the high standard of work they are showing at this time, with the story involving Dr. Sun. This story had brought out the true vampire, with him using more violence and killing more often, and San's assistant — Wow, what a meal! I can't wait for the Grand Finale. Take a bow, fella's, and keep up the good work.

Colin Wood
Blackburn, Lancs.

If only you could be here to witness the smiles your letter has brought to the faces in the Bullpen! It's made some of 'em look so DIFFERENT!

Dear Marvel,

Over the past year or so POTA has gone from good to bad to good, and from good to excellent.

The first POTA saga was good, to say the least. The frustration Taylor went through trying to make the apes understand he was intelligent was sheer genius on the part of the writer and artist. Also, the way Taylor was left in his cage, regarded as a freak. I liked especially. Leaving this particular story at the Statue of Liberty was an excellent idea, for when this picture was shown again on the cover of issue 35 in "Beneath..." all the memories came back.

I think the best artist for the apes is Alfredo Alcala. The end of issue 38 was a masterpiece, with Brent realising he was looking at a 1980s subway station.

I must comment on Nova's death. Here again Alfredo shows the sorrow of the heartbroken Taylor fully and effectively. Issue 46 was possibly the greatest apes comic ever, with the cover and the determination of Taylor to blow up the world.

After the first ape saga in ish 12 came "The Lawgiver", with Jason and Alexander. Jason is not unlike Taylor. First there is his frustration when his parents are killed, and secondly when no-one will believe Brutus killed them.

The mutant drones were different, but I cannot say their appearance was more than interesting. The piece that really moved me was Shaggy’s death and the words on his gravestone. It was a pity Jason could not live in peace with Alex and the Lawgiver, but his leaving added even more reality to the situation. Issues 20-30 were the only bad issues in this comic ever, so I will not comment on them. However, I thoroughly enjoyed issues 31-34, "Kingdom on an Island of the Apes", which is now continuing in issue 85.

"City of Nomads" was all right to fill in space, but otherwise not good. All I have said on the first saga goes for escape too, though the artwork has improved since the first saga. The last panel of issue 62 was good and amusing. "Conquest" was beautifully done, every bit of it. Making the apes into the heroes was also very well done.

I had hoped to do a review of the back-up features, but have sadly run out of space.

Digby Russell.
33 Carlton Road, Caversham, Reading, Berks.

Your letter adds up to a personal look at "Planet" ever since its inception. And we'd be the last to complain about that!
Dear Marvel,

I’m writing to tell you how good your mags are. I’ve got them all, and now, after experimenting with them, I buy three, and I think they’re great.

The best is Titans. Switching the Inhumans with the X-Men was a mistake, but changing them with the FF was a great move. Capt. America is great, and so is Ghost Rider. Sub-Mariner is also good, but how about changing S.H.I.E.L.D. with Iron-Man or Blade?

Putting Dracula Lives with POTA was a great move, and Dracula fighting with Blade against Doctor Sun was great. The Man-Thing is good and so is — Planet...” Kax-Zar is okay, but is the worst feature in this mag.

Spiderman and the Superheroes is great reading, and, of course, Spidey is the best feature in this mag. The Thing is next, then Iron-Man. Next is Thor, and last of all Doctor Strange.

Andrew Sheldon,
19 Banksfield Ave., Fulwood, Preston.

So you’ve narrowed your personal weekly investment down to three mags, eh? Well, that still gives you an R.F.O. entitlement — so grab one!

Heroes.

What is God? This is a question that has puzzled generations of folk. There is undoubtedly (a) God to my mind and the aim of this letter is to try and explain my beliefs.

Friendship, happiness, love, enjoyment, kindness, peace and so on. in fact everything that is good, is God. I find, and I’m sure many other Marvel fans do too, that Marvel fulfills the role of God. To my way of thinking it is ‘almost’ God (nothing is perfect) — I wish it was though.


I’m sorry, Mr. Evengestia, but Marvel is definitely NOT just a comic-book story. It is, for me, a way of life, a religion, and one that I try to follow. I classify Marvel way up the list of religious books. I would call it the modern-day equivalent of the Bible. I hope I have made myself clear, the purpose of my letter was really to cause you to be ‘moved, to sit down and meditate’. Is Marvel working for you? Do you understand the sophisticated morals undergirded the wonderfully written and dynamically drawn epsics? I sincerely hope so.

Murray Bailey,
11 Anson Avenue, Lichfield, Staffs.

Here’s one letter that demanded a great deal of careful consideration from us. It made us feel very humble, and it reminded us of the deep responsibilities that go along with publishing comic-books in the Marvel manner. But when the discussion was over we decided that there was only one comment we should make. And that comes down to something like this. We like to think that in Marvel there is something for most of the people, we ask no more than that they find it.

Dear Neil,

He is as powerful and as misunderstood as the Hulk; as enigmatic and silent as Black Bolt; and yet he is as harmless and naive as a child. He is the MAN-THING.

Despite public reaction similarities with The Hulk, and physical similarities with the Glob, The Man-Thing stands out as being powerfully different. He reacts not to the stimuli of food, temperature or chemical environment, but simply the stimulus of other peoples’ emotions. He is empathic. He identifies with the emotions of others. He has a one-way communication system which relies on his being able to cruelly sum up a situation on the emotive information he senses. Affection makes him docile, but fear is the emotion which the Man-Thing loathes, for fear breeds fear, and fear often brings violence in its wake. AND WHOEVER KNOWS FEAR BURNS AT THE MAN-THING’S TOUCH!

It is a chilling thought that he is an indestructible being; a slimy mass of animated swamp, and that somewhere trapped beneath the ooze and slime there is a man, Ted Sallis. It is in keeping with the uniqueness of the concept that we know very little of what Sallis is like. Most comic-book heroes have alter-egos, whose lives are documented in an intertwining parallel storyline with the Superhero. Of Sallis there is little or no mention. His character is completely absorbed, and dominated by the Man-Thing; the stories are all the more disturbing for this.

Steve Gerber is the man behind the Man-Thing. He is a highly capable writer, ever ready to try something new (as witness U.S. Omega - a lovely new twist of the “Shazam” syndrome). He is also an adept writer of satire. His “Howard the Duck” magazine is as clever, witty and pithy as anything in “Mad”, and indeed, he writes for Marvel’s “Crazy” magazine. This love of satire has cropped up many times in The Man-Thing, injecting a nice sense of tongue-in-cheek to well-contrived horror.

Adam Cainer,
30 Henconner Ave., Leeds 7, Yorks.

We-ell, thank you, Adam. Anytime Man-Thing needs a character witness we’ll know where to call.

Progress Report.

BEYOND ANTARES

Due to your publishing my letter in POTA 79 the Beyond Antares Science Fiction Club has had a fairly large influx of new members, both male and female. The first issue of the club’s periodical “A for Antares” has been published successfully and I shall be sending you a copy of one of the future issues. The idea of the newsletter is, apart from imparting information, to encourage readers to contribute written works concerning science-fiction, such as articles, poetry, short-stories, etc. There also seems to be a considerable amount of enthusiasm among members concerning this and a large submission of material may mean an increase in the size of the periodical.

Meantime, however, new members are always welcome and anyone wishing to join need only write to me at the above address enclosing a stamped addressed envelope.

I shall keep you posted of any further developments.

Ian Garbutt,
Brenachilli Lodge, Lock Katrine,
By Aberfoyle, Scotland.

The whole Batty Bullpen’s glad to know that you’re already building a bit of muzzle onto BEYOND ANTARES. But why, why, why didn’t you let us see a copy of the first issue of “A for A”?

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23
PITY POOR TAYLOR. HE EXITED A WORLD WHERE MAN WAS KING, AND HAS NOW ENTERED ONE WHERE APES RULE--AND HUMANS ARE CONSIDERED BEASTS! HE HAS FOUND HIMSELF A

CAPTIVE OF HATE!

BACK, HUMAN!

SEE WHAT I MEAN, DOCTOR ZIRA? HE WAS TRYING TO ATTACK YOU! THESE CREATURES JUST CAN'T BE TRUSTED!

I WOULDN'T BE SO SURE OF THAT IF I WERE YOU, JULIUS.

GOD! THE PAIN! IF ONLY MY NECK WEREN'T WOUNDED! THEN I COULD HAVE JUST SPOKEN TO HER, INSTEAD OF TRYING TO SNATCH HER NOTE- PAD.

HOW WILL I BE ABLE TO TELL THEM I CAN THINK?--THAT I'M A MAN?

STORY-- DOUG MOENCH / ART-- GEORGE TUSKA and MIKE ESPOSITO / EDITOR-- ROY THOMAS
IN FACT, I'm
CONVINCED
OF JUST THE--

G-GOOD MORNING,
YOUR EXCELLENCY!

WHAT'S
THAT--?

OH--
DR. ZAIUS!
I'M SO
GLAD YOU
COULD
COME!

BRIGHT
EYES, SHOW
HIM! GO AHEAD--
DO YOUR TRICK
FOR DR.
ZAIUS!

I'M
WAITING,
ZIRA!

SPEAK!
GO ON--
SPEAK
AGAIN--!

HE'S
OVER
HERE!

THERE! CAN YOU
BELIEVE IT? IT DOESN'T
LOOK AS THOUGH
HE'S TALKING?!

YES--
AMUSING!
A MAN WHO
ACTS LIKE
AN APE!
DR. ZAIUS--I COULD SWEAR HE'S TRYING TO ANSWER YOU...

YES, HE DOES SHOW A CERTAIN GIFT FOR MIMICRY!

I WONDER HOW HE'D SCORE ON A HOPKINS MANUAL DEXTERITY TEST--?

AN ANIMAL?

HE'S MOVING HIS FINGERS!

OF COURSE! HE SAW ZIRA MOVING HERS!

BUT Perhaps HE UNDERSTOOD--

MAN HAS NO UNDERSTANDING, DR. ZIRA! He CAN BE TAUGHT A FEW SIMPLE TRICKS--NOTHING MORE!

I BEG TO DISAGREE! ACCORDING TO MY EXPERIMENTS--

A WORD TO THE WISE, DR. ZIRA--EXPERIMENTAL BRAIN SURGERY ON THESE CREATURES IS ONE THING--

I'M ALL FOR IT!

BUT YOUR BEHAVIOURAL STUDIES ARE ANOTHER MATTER--ENTIRELY!
TO SUGGEST THAT WE CAN LEARN SOMETHING ABOUT SIMIAN NATURE FROM A STUDY OF MAN IS NONSENSE! BESIDES, MEN ARE A NUISANCE!

THEY OUTGROW THEIR OWN FOOD SUPPLY IN THE FOREST AND MIGRATE TO THE GREEN BELTS TO RAVAGE OUR CROPS!

THE SOONER THEY'RE EXTERMINATED -- THE BETTER!

IT'S A QUESTION OF SIMIAN SURVIVAL!

DON'T FORGET IT, DR. ZIRA!

YES, SIR!

IS THIS THE ONE YOU WANTED, DOCTOR?

YES, THANK YOU!

BRIGHT EYES -- I'VE GOT A PRESENT FOR YOU --
PUT HER IN WITH HIM, GUARD!

NOW, BRIGHT EYES... YOUR CAGE WON'T SEEM SO...

--LONELY!

HAVE FUN, BRIGHT EYES...

UNLESS YOU PREFER TO TAKE ALL YOUR EXERCISE IN THE...

"--COMPOUND!"

DO YOU HAVE TO WORK TONIGHT?

NO!

NEITHER DO I!
SOMETHING’S BOTHERING HIM! HE’S BEEN PRYING AROUND THE LAB FOR THE PAST TWO DAYS--

HELLO, DR. ZIRA!

GOOD MORNING, DR. ZAIUS! YOU KNOW DR. CORNELIUS, MY FIANCÉ--

OH, YES-- THE YOUNG APE WITH A SHOVEL! I UNDERSTAND YOU’RE PLANNING ANOTHER ARCHEOLOGICAL EXPEDITION!

YES, SIR-- IF THE ACADEMY APPROVES--

YOU UNDERSTAND THE PROJECT WILL REQUIRE MY SUPPORT, OF COURSE!

I HOPE I CAN COUNT ON IT, SIR!

A FRIENDLY WARNING, CORNELIUS--

CONTINUED NEXT ISSUE!