

PLUS: MORE SAVAGE ACTION AS KA-ZAR DEFIES THE DEADLY DEVIL-GOD!

PLANET OF THE APES AND DRACULA LIVES™

9P



**MARVEL
COMICS
GROUP**

No. 98
WEEK ENDING
SEPT. 1, 1976



IN A WAR-RAVAGED
WORLD, CAN MAN
SURVIVE...

THE EYES OF THE
MONSTER?!

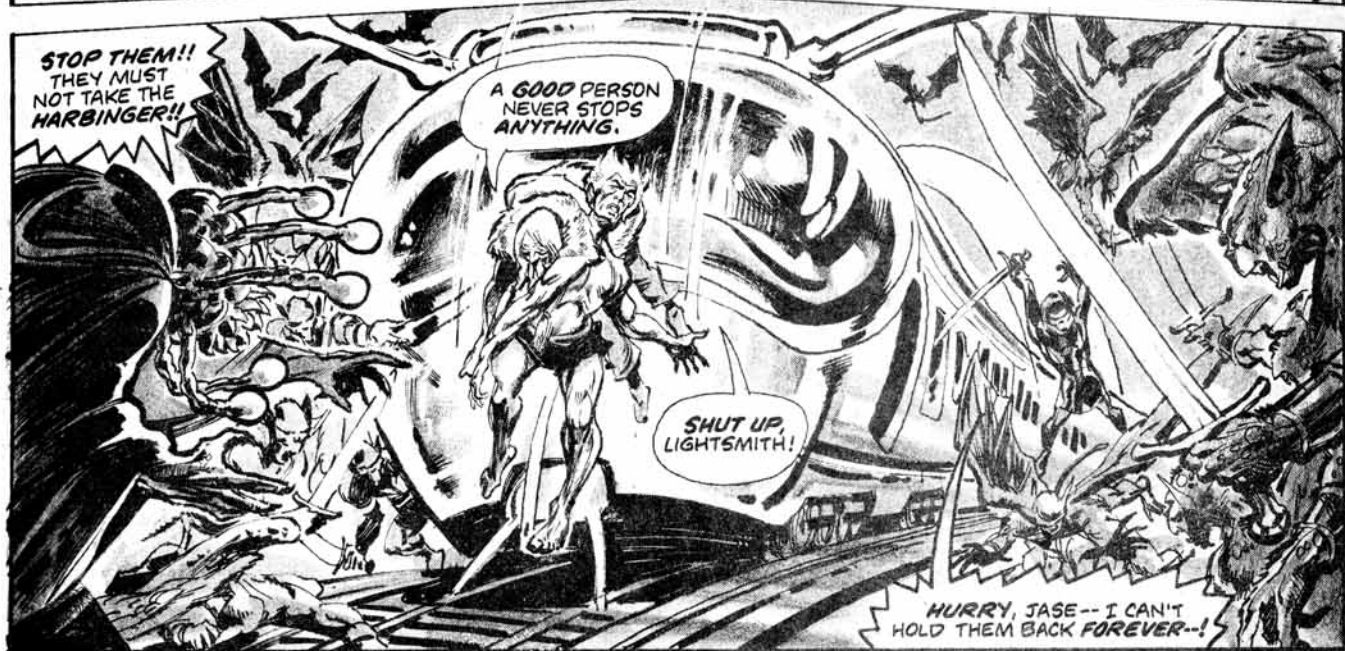
STAN LEE PRESENTS PLANET OF THE APES!™

GUIDED BY THE HANDS OF THE MYSTERIOUS **KEEPER** AT THREAT OF HIS VERY **LIFE**, THE SHUTTLE-CRAFT HURTTLES 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...

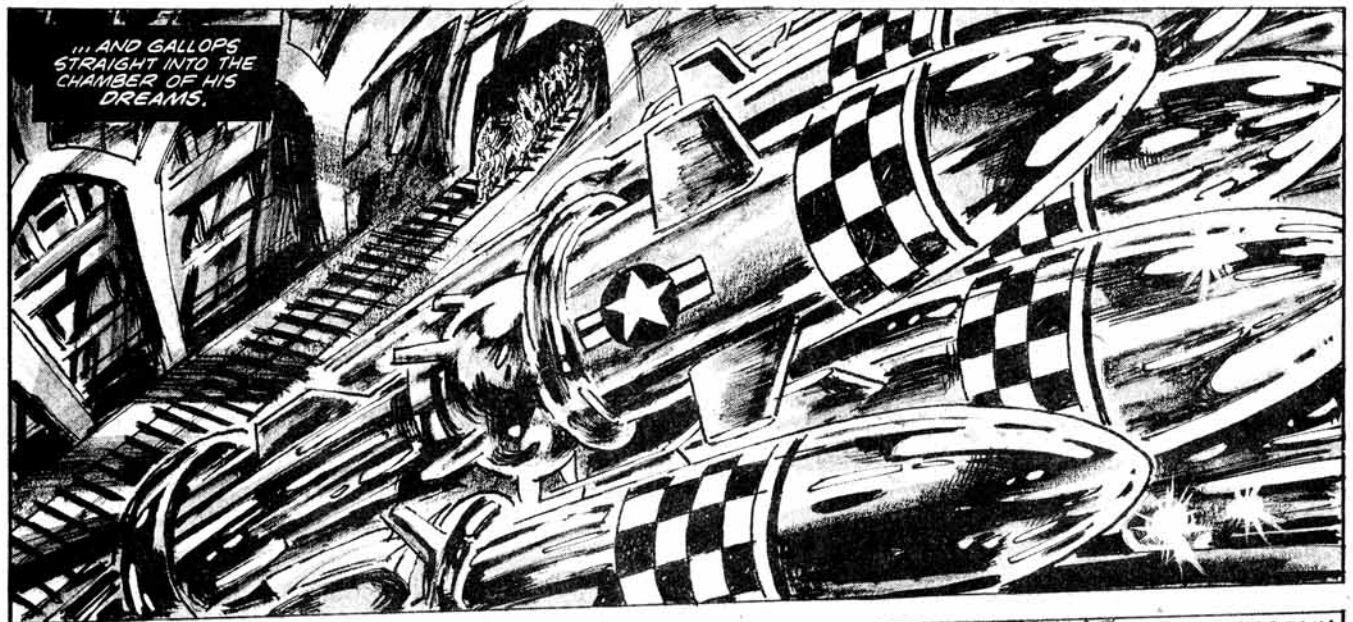














AND WHILE BRUTUS STRAINS TO HEAR, HE NEVER SEES THE MONKEY-DEMONS LURKING HIGH ABOVE.

... MONKEY-DEMONS WHO WATCH HIS EVERY MOVE, AND WHO WAIT... RESTLESSLY...

A ROAR... DOWN THE TUNNEL...

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

... 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, JASE-- EXCEPT I DON'T KNOW HOW TO STOP THIS THING...

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

... BUT WHAT?

NEXT: ARMAGEDDON THREAT!



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 1980 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 ape 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,

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 Simian 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 mail-bags. And the question that Dominic poses has been put to us by many Sea Monkey rearers. 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 Una's reappearance — FABULOUS. And then, to top it all, Mar-Vell battles 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 Whitechurch Ave., Edgware, Middx.

You'll never know how appreciative 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 thought 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 Sun's assistant — Wow, what a mess! I can't wait for the Grand Finale. Take a bow, fellas, 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,

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... Ka-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 'sane' men also do, 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 quote from a letter by Mykel Evengetista in D.L. 86: "And look at it as a comic-book story... just a comic-book story."

I'm sorry, Mr. Evengetista, 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 line 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 sometimes sophisticated morals underneath the wondrously written and dynamically drawn epics? 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 (if not all) people, and 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-e-ll, 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 already 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,
Brenachol Lodge, Lock Katrine,
By Aberfoyle, Scotland.

The whole Batty Bullpen's glad to know that you're already building a bit of muscle 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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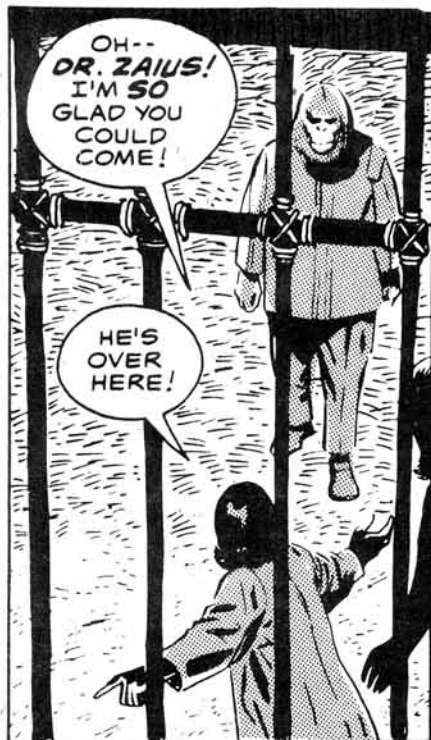
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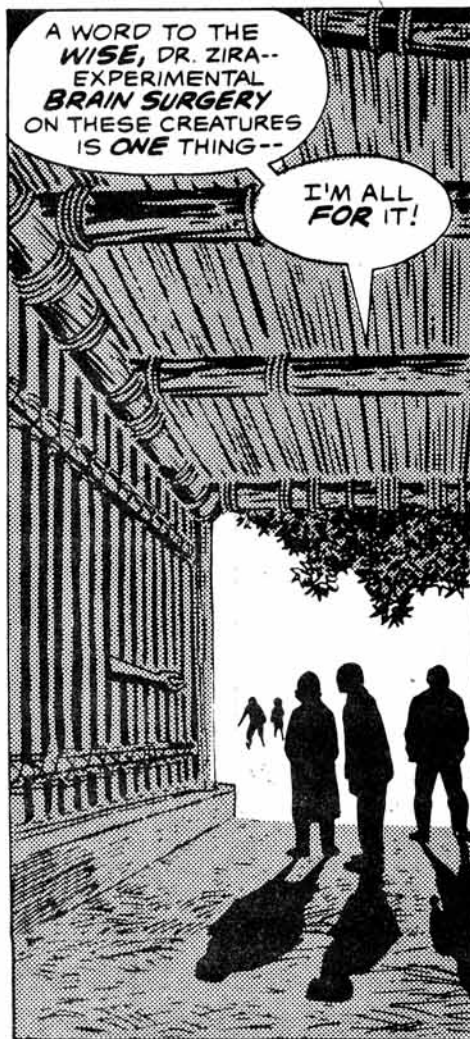
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PITY POOR TAYLOR. HE EXITED A WORLD WHERE MAN WAS KING, AND HAS NOW ENTERED ONE WHERE **APES** RULE--AND HUMANS ARE CONSIDERED **BEASTS**! HE HAS FOUND HIMSELF A













CORNELIUS--!



DO YOU HAVE TO DO THAT IN **PUBLIC?**

WHAT'S SO PUBLIC? THE ONLY THINGS AROUND ARE THE BEASTS IN THE **COMPOUND**--AND THE GORILLAS GUARDING THEM!



NEVER MIND THAT NOW! THAT'S **BRIGHT EYES**--THE ONE I WAS TELLING YOU ABOUT!

WHAT'S SO SPECIAL ABOUT HIM?



HELLO, BRIGHT EYES! HOW'S OUR **THROAT** COMING ALONG?



SO HE'S SCRATCHING IN THE **DIRT**! WHAT'S SO REMARKABLE ABOUT THAT?

LOOK AT THE **FEMALE**--SHE REMEMBERS!



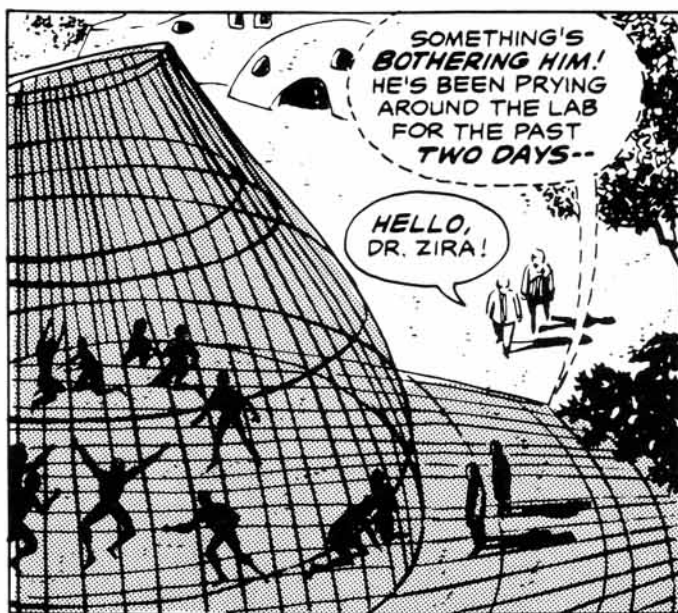
REMEMBERS WHAT?

THE **BLOOD TRANSFUSION**--SHE REMEMBERS IT!

OH COME ON, ZIRA--YOU **KNOW** THEY CAN'T--



UH-OH! HERE COMES **NUMBER ONE!**



CONTINUED
NEXT ISSUE!