

PLUS: KA-ZAR AND THE TYRANT OF THE SWAMP TRIBE!

PLANET OF THE APES AND DRACULA LIVES

9P

**MARVEL
COMICS
GROUP**

No. 101
WEEK ENDING
SEPT. 22, 1976



HUMANS ALONE,
OUTNUMBERED, AND
...TRAPPED ON THE
PLANET OF
THE APES!

STAN LEE PRESENTS PLANET OF THE APES!™

CHANCES OF ESCAPE ARE TWO, SLIM AND NONE, AS DEREK AND THE HUMAN-GIRL WHO SAVED HIM FROM DR. CASSIUS FLEE THE VIVISECTION LABORATORY FOR THEIR VERY LIVES! BUT THEIR FREEDOM IS DOOMED TO LAST FOR ONLY MOMENTS AS THE FORCES OF GENERAL ZAYNOR DRAW THE NOOSE OF APE-SOLDIERS EVER TIGHTER AROUND THEM, ASSURING THEY WILL REMAIN...

"PRISONERS OF THE APES!"



STORY BY
DOUG MOENCH
ART BY
HERB TRIMPE,
DAN ADKINS,
AND
SALTARPANI



MY LAST GLIMPSE OF HER, AS THEY HAULED ME OFF IN THE NET, WAS AT LEAST RE-ASSURING.



SHE WAS SCURRYING DOWN THE DUSTY ALLEYWAYS LIKE A TERRIFIED JACKRABBIT.

I LOST SIGHT OF HER, THEN, BUT I HOPED AND PRAYED THAT SHE'D MAKE IT...



...THAT SHE WOULDN'T GET-

--CAUGHT.



MMRPHH--!!

QUIET, WENCH-- THIS IS NO MANGY MAINLAND APE SPEAKIN' AT YO!

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!



DO YOU UNDER-
STAND?

MMMFFF!!

TALK ABOUT DEJA VU-- I WAS GETTING JUST A LITTLE TIRED OF ROPES AROUND MY NECK...



THIS TRIBUNAL WILL NOW COME TO ORDER!

I, HASTUS-- MAGISTRATE OF THIS CITY-- SHALL PRE-SIDE OVER THE TRIAL...

TRIAL--? THIS IS NO TRIAL-- IT'S A FARCE!!



AS IF THEY DIDN'T ALREADY KNOW IT.

STILL, I GUESS I'M JUST
DIG-HEADED!!!

YOU'VE CONVENED TO DECIDE
MY FATE-- AND YOU'VE AL-
READY GOT THE NOOSE
AROUND MY NECK!!



SHUT UP,
BEAST!

WAK!

ANIMALS CAN'T
TALK AND YOU
KNOW IT!!

SO WHO COULD ARGUE
WITH LOGIC LIKE THAT.

HASTUS OBVIOUSLY WASN'T A
TIME-WASTER. HE STOOD TO
READ THE SENTENCE!!!

FOR CRIMES AGAINST THE NAT-
URAL LAW, HERESY, AND IM-
POSING UPON THE EXCLUSIVE
RIGHTS OF
APES!



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

ZAYNOR'S HAND
SLAPPED THE
LEVER--



THERE WAS A
SUDDEN DRAFT
BETWEEN MY
TOES.



THE ROPE
WENT TAUT--



--AND--



HUH?



FREP

WHEW!!

I SPLIT.



HEY!!

STOP
HIM!!

WHAT'S
GOING ON--?!

I SPUN AROUND A CORNER AND THERE WAS ROBIN. HE'D CHANGED HIS CLOTHES FOR THE OCCASSION...



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

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--



--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!!!

WELL, WHADDAYA KNOW--? YOUR PAL AND MINE...

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



I GAVE HIM MY SUNDAY-BEST, RIGHT IN THE SNOUT--

-- AND HE DIDN'T FEEL A THING.

YOU'LL DIE FOR THAT, HUMAN!



HACKNEYED, MAYBE, BUT HE WAS SURE PULPING MY WRIST!

SEEING AS HOW I WAS RIDING WITH ROBIN HOOD--

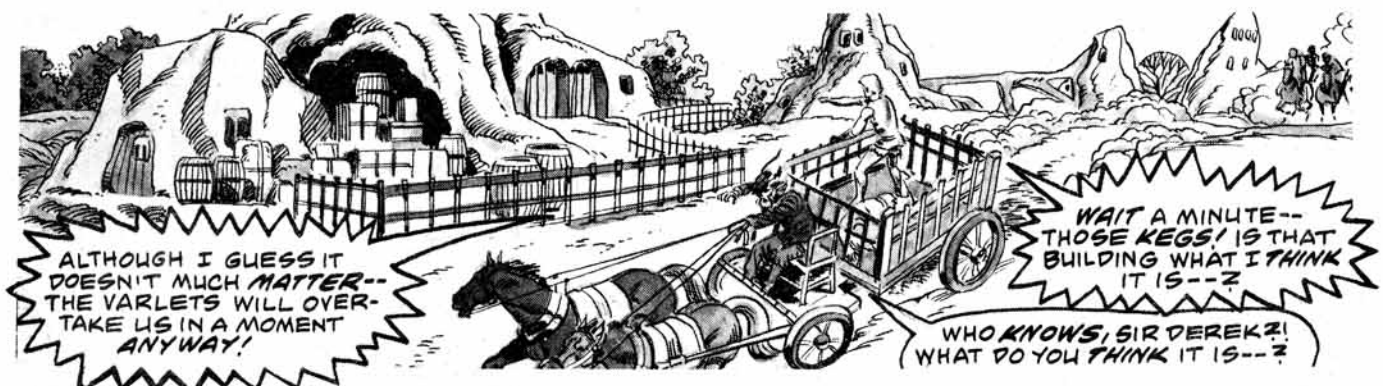


--THERE WAS ONLY ONE THING TO DO!!!



... SO I DID IT.

I WAS REMINDED OF KONG TOPPLING OFF THE SUMMIT OF THE EMPIRE STATE...

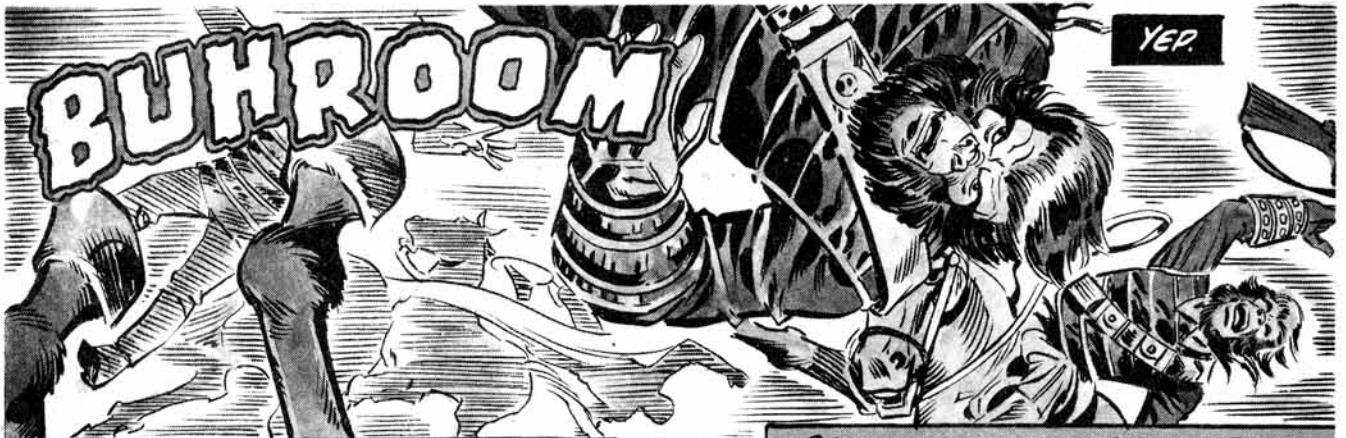


I RIPPED A TATTER FROM MY RAGS--

-- WRAPPED IT AROUND THE POINT--

-- FLICKED MY CIGARETTE LIGHTER --

-- AND STOLE ROBIN HOOD'S THUNDER.



YEP.

IT WAS THEIR ARMORY, ALL RIGHT-- THEIR AMMO DUMP -- AND THE KEGS HAD BEEN FILLED WITH GUNPOWDER.

OBTUSLY, THEY'D HAD TO MOVE THE ARMORY TO A NEW LOCATION, SINCE I'D BURNED THEIR OLD ONE DOWN. SOME APES NEVER LEARN...

WE BURIED THE GIRL, SEVERAL HOURS LATER, BY THE BEACH. SHE HAD DIED CALLING MY NAME, SO I GAVE HER A NAME...



... 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...

COME, SIR DEREK-- LET US HIE BACK TO FAIR AVEDON, WHERE 'TIS PEACEFUL AND SAFE.

NO, ROBIN, I CAN'T GO BACK. AVEDON IS THE FANTASY-LAND I'VE ALWAYS WANTED-- THE WORLD MADE OF THE DREAMS I'VE DREAMED A THOUSAND TIMES!

"BUT I CAN'T GO BACK. I CAN'T RUN AWAY ANY LONGER.

BUT WHAT OF LADY ANDREA--?

I'LL GO BACK TO HER SOMEDAY... BUT NOT JUST YET, ROBIN...

SHE'D UNDERSTAND. IN TIME...

FAREWELL THEN, SIR DEREK!

(AYE, ROBIN -- FARE... WELL.)



... AND IF SHE DIDN'T, WELL... I FINALLY DID!



Dear Gang,

I am writing this letter to you in a moment of inspiration, and my intentions are (I think) original. The purpose of this letter is to set up a regional 'club' for fans of American (and, to an extent) British comics. This would not be just for fans of Marvel Comics, but it would bring the DL etc., out of the cold. Its chief purpose would be to enable people in my area (Southend and Chelmsford) to obtain, from other collectors, back issues which they require. Also, we could have occasional meetings to perhaps swap and have a chat about the current scene in comics. I should be grateful if you would print this and include my address and phone number, which is Maldon (Essex) 772048. I would like readers of this to write or phone (preferably phone) stating details of their collection (how many, what is needed etc.). Phone calls should be made only after 4.15 on weekdays, and any civilised time on Sunday.

Colin Strawbridge,
43 Queenborough Road, Southminster,
Essex CM0 7AD.

And our view is that what you're volunteering to do could prove to be a useful service to local collectors of Marvelism. "Local" did we say? You may find those desperate for certain issues contacting you from far and wide. In fact, you could find yourself with a busy, busy line.

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 Avenue, 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 Marvel,

Quality does not sell.

A magazine with good art and a storyline that makes you think will not sell.

Take a look at the Silver Surfer, the (British) Savage Sword of Conan, and, more recently, Man-Thing. All were excellent books and all were cancelled.

Now Killraven? If what I read is true, Killraven will be cancelled with ish No. 39. Don't. Killraven is the total embodiment of Science Fiction writing/graphics, and to cancel the strip would be to deprive fandom of another worthwhile book.

If you read a Man-Thing, Surfer, Killraven (and Panther) without thinking, you will miss something. Indeed, you will miss the entire implications of the strips.

So, to read quality comics, you have to think about WHAT you are reading. Sadly, too few people do. That is the reason why quality never sells.

Peter Mottram,
293 Barham Road, Bilton Grange,
Hull, N. Humberside.

It just HAS to be admitted, Pete. Sad though it may be to contemplate, there's a whole mountain of common-sense contained in your letter. Someone (and we can't remember who it was) once made the statement that "Popularity is the hallmark of mediocrity". And if anyone cares to ponder upon that they'll find the proof of it in almost every field. But nevertheless, there IS a responsibility upon creative people to keep trying, to keep opening people's minds, no matter how slow a process it is. So thanks for being aware of our efforts, hero.

Dear Bullpen,

Isn't it time you ran the British Marvel mags on the same lines as you run the American mags, based on a monthly and bi-monthly distribution, and one character to one comic? I think they ought to be cut down to the same size, so enabling Marvelites to fill up their unfinished collections of US Marvels with proper-sized British editions.

Mike Birk,
18 Simpson Street, Glasgow.

The short answer, Mike, is, "No, we don't agree that we should run the British Marvel mags on EXACTLY the same lines as the US mags." We like to feel that the British mags should have a character of their own, and, rightly or wrongly, we think the majority of British fans would go

along with us on that. There's a technical problem, too. The British trade channels are geared to a weekly distribution rhythm, and switching to a monthly and bi-monthly cycle could easily lead to ragged distribution, which, in turn, would mean that many Marvelites would be exposed to the risk of missing their coveted copies.

Dear All,

Planet of the Apes is the best British comic out. I haven't missed an issue yet and don't intend to. But (alas), as many have said before me, the covers are poor. The artwork is excellent, with one or two exceptions. Up to now Apeslayer is the best story, and please could you do another story on him, but not as Apeslayer, as Killraven.

Why did you drop the Superheroes? It was a great comic and I hope, in the near future, you will return it to its rightful place. One out of five stories in Spiderman with the Superheroes comes from Superheroes. It doesn't really share the comic.

Finally, I will swap the British 'Titans' numbers 1-10 for the American comic 'Amazing Adventures' (War of the World, and Killraven, Warrior of the Worlds) Nos. 21-26 inclusive and numbers 30-33 inclusive.

J. Bicherier,
15 Manorway, Woodford Green, Essex.

The odds that we'll be staging a Killraven saga in one of the British mags are very good indeed. And you can stay relaxed in the certain knowledge that you'll know all about it in good time.

APES' FANG MAIL

MARVEL COMICS LTD Room 106
52 HIGH HOLBORN LONDON WC1V 6RZ



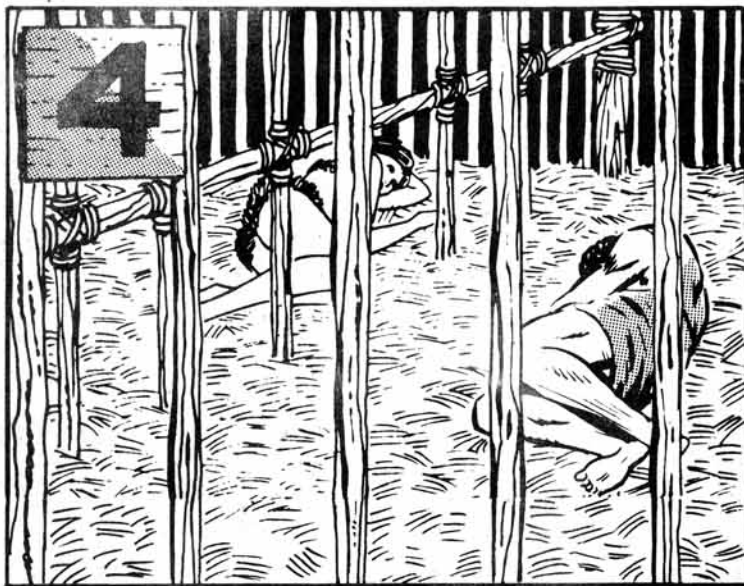
Stan Lee PRESENTS: **PLANET OF THE APES!**™

LOCKED IN A CRUDE CAGE LIKE AN ANIMAL, THE ONLY SPEAKING HUMAN ON A PLANET RULED BY APES
ASTRONAUT TAYLOR SPENDS A FITFUL NIGHT RECALLING HIS CAPTURE, AND DREAMING THAT SOMEWAY,
SOMEHOW, HE ONCE MORE WILL BE ABLE TO TASTE...

...THE SWEET BREATH OF **FREEDOM!**



DOUG MOENCH, WRITER * GEORGE TUSKA, PENCILLER
M. ESPOSITO AND T. MORTELLARO, INKERS



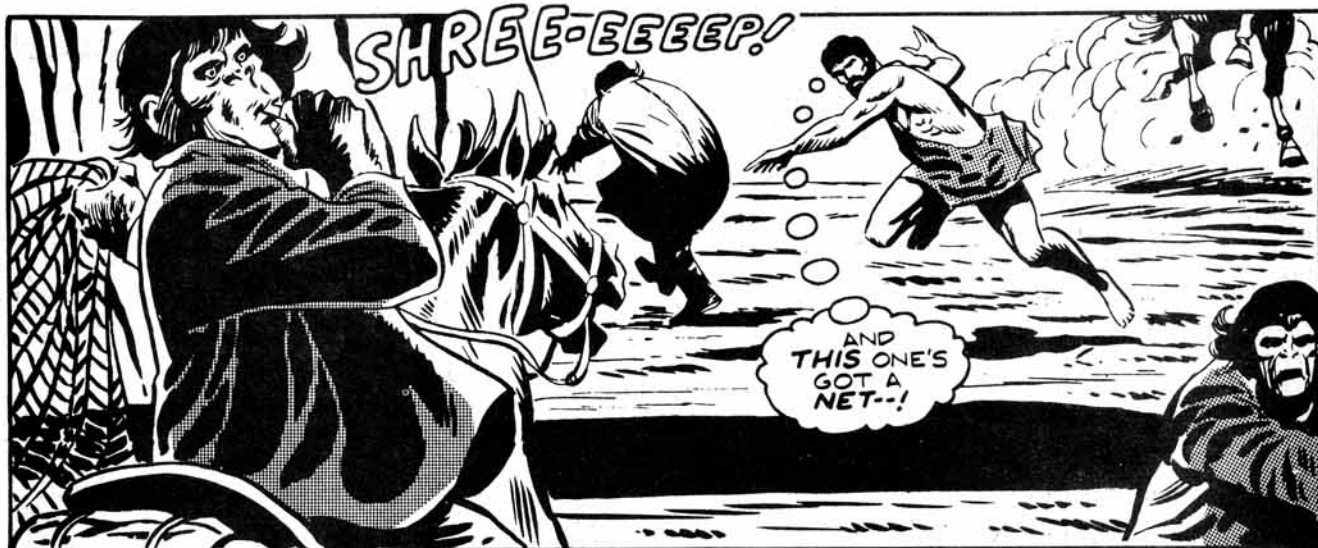












NEXT WEEK: > RUN FOR YOUR LIFE!