QUEST FOR THE PLANET OF THE APES


MUCH HAS HAPPENED IN THOSE TWO YEARS. CONSTRUCTION OF A NEW CITY HAS BEGUN, AND NOW YEARS COMPLETION...

...BUT THAT CONSTRUCTION IS PERFORMED BY SLAVES WHO ONCE RULED AS MASTERS... AND THOSE WHO ONCE FELT THE STING OF THE LASH NOW HOLD THE WHIP IN THEIR OWN HANDS....

PART I: SEEDS OF FUTURE DEATHS

Story: DOUG MOENCH    Art: RICO RIVAL    AQ-200
Perhaps no one is more aware of the changes wrought by these past two years than he has caused the changes.

...he who now stands in the window of his new home, gazing down upon the bustling scene of construction...now reflectively...brooding...

IT'S NOTHING, LISA...perhaps I've just been tired...

...but it is something, CAESAR...I know you!

CAESAR, are you happy with...with the way we are? I mean, are you having doubts about us getting married so quickly...?

LISA, it's not that at all! I love you, LISA--and I couldn't be happier with anyone else...

You should know that by now, dear...

...but I guess I am having doubts...about the way things are going out there...The way we're treating the humans...

"Using them like...like slaves."

HUMAN WORK--WOR--WOR... Faster!!
NO! I WON'T WORK-- I'M TIRED-- AND OLD-- OLD ENOUGH TO REMEMBER WHEN YOUR KIND SWARMED AROUND IN THE TREES--!

STUPID, NAKED BEASTS RIDDEN WITH LIES AND DISEASE-- FIT FOR NOTHING BUT CIRCUSES AND ZOOS--!!

YOU... DARE... SPEAK LIKE THAT-- TO ME-- TO APE--!!

YOU STUPID HUMAN-- STUPID TO SPEAK LIKE THAT TO APE, AND APE SHOW YOU WHAT HAPPENS WHEN YOU SPEAK LIKE THAT--!!

CAESAR... NOO...!!

NO, ALDO-- STOP IT!!

CAESAR...? WHY YOU DO THAT? WHY YOU STOP ALDO--?

I TOLD YOU TO SUPERVISE THESE HUMANS, ALDO-- NOT TO TORTURE THEM!!

NOW GO-- GET OUT OF HERE, ALDO! GET BACK TO WORK SOMEWHERE ELSE!!

ALDO GO... BUT ALDO NOT LIKE IT... PREVENTING CRUELTY TO POOR ANIMALS, CAESAR-- CAESAR...?

OR DO YOU SIMPLY ENJOY THROWING YOUR WEIGHT AROUND... Lording it over a bunch of gorillas who are too stupid to resist? YOU...?
I'VE TOLD YOU BEFORE, BRECK--MY MOTIVATIONS AND WHAT I DO WITH THEM ARE NONE OF YOUR BUSINESS.

NOW GET BACK TO THE WORK WHICH IS YOUR BUSINESS!

IF THE TABLES HAVE TURNED ONCE--THEY CAN TURN AGAIN!

JUST REMEMBER THAT, CAESAR, BECAUSE I WON'T FORGET.

AND AS BRECK SWAGGERS AWAY HIS FORMER ASSISTANT STUDIES CAESAR'S FACE FOR A SIGN OF DOUBT OR REGRET...

...AND APPARENTLY FINDS IT.

DON'T BE TOO HARSH ON HIM, CAESAR! BRECK WAS ONCE GOVERNOR OF THE WHOLE STATE--HE RULED ALL OF US. IT MUST BE A PRETTY BIG SHOCK TO FIND HIMSELF JUST ANOTHER MEMBER OF THE HERD NOW GOVERNED BY HIS FORMER SLAVE!

ARE YOU SYMPATHIZING WITH BRECK BECAUSE HE WAS ONCE YOUR 'SUPERIOR'? MACDONALD?

PERHAPS I AM, CAESAR! OH, I DIDN'T MUCH CARE FOR THE WAY HE SAID IT, BUT I DO AGREE WITH WHAT HE SAID! THE GORILLAS DO TREAT US LIKE ANIMALS--THEY MUST LEARN TO TREAT US WITH SOME...

SOME "HUMANITY," MACDONALD? BUT I THOUGHT YOU WERE DAPPEL-TO-US KEEPING A MEMORY AS HUMANS KEPT APES!

SEE? ALDO TELL YOU TRUTH? SEE YOURSELF--CAESAR SPEAKS WITH HUMAN!

CAESAR LIKE HUMANS...MORE THAN HE LIKE APES!

YOU KNOW WHAT I MEAN, CAESAR--THEY'VE GOT TO TREAT US WITH MORE RESPECT, MORE--

I DON'T THINK I'M READY TO RESPECT HUMANS, MACDONALD--OR WHAT HUMANS HAVE DONE! GOODBYE!

BUT CAESAR--YOU'VE GOT TO MAKE A CHOICE! IT CAN'T GO ON LIKE THIS... EITHER HUMANS AND APES MUST LEARN TO LIVE TOGETHER OR--

YES, ALDO... WE SEE!

CAESAR LIKE HUMANS MORE THAN OTHER APES? THAT NOT GOOD FOR OTHER APES... NOT GOOD FOR CAESAR!

OBSERVING, ALDO AND HIS FELLOW GORILLAS HAVE DRAWN THE WRONG CONCLUSION, BUT THEN, IT'S NOT SURPRISING... SINCE GORILLAS ARE NOT KNOWN FOR BEING VERY BRIGHT.
It is well into the night before the window of Caesar's treehouse dwelling is filled with a splash of light. It is at about this same time that the softest of rustlings emanates from the foliage beneath that window.

It's noise, Lisa...

I just can't sleep...

So I noticed, dear, from all your tossing and turning...but did you have to light a candle to stress the point?

This is serious, Lisa! I almost wish I'd never even led that revolt!

Oh come now, dear... it can't be all that bad. You know you did the right thing, and if your conscience is worried that you're not doing the right thing now...

...then why don't you just change things? Let the humans be our equals...

But it's not that simple, Lisa! Once we give humans something, they'll only want more... and pretty soon it'll be just like it was.

And then there's Aldo and his gorillas! What will they...

Quick, Lisa--beat it out!!

That's it! Keep it up, Lisa!!

Use the blankets to smother the flames!!
AND WHEN THE BLAZE IS NEARLY EXTINQUISHED... IT'S ALMOST OUT.
CAESAR--BUT WHO COULD HAVE--?

IN TIME TO GLIMPSE A VAGUELY DEFINED SHADOW IN FLIGHT.
WHO WAS IT CAESAR--? CAN YOU SEE ANYTHING--?

CAESAR BOLTS TO THE WINDOW--

YES, LISA... I CAN SEE SOMETHING! I CAN SEE THAT MACDONALD WAS RIGHT...

IT IS TIME TO MAKE A CHOICE!

ALDO TELL YOU HUMANS ARE BAD--NOT LIKE APES--WHO ARE GOOD!
NOW ALDO PROVE HUMANS ARE BAD--!!

ALDO PROVE HUMANS ARE BAD BECAUSE HUMANS DO BAD THINGS--!!
LAST NIGHT HUMANS TRY TO BURN HOUSE OF CAESAR--!!

THIS PROVE HUMANS ARE--
HOW DO YOU KNOW IT WAS HUMANS WHO TRIED TO BURN THE HOUSE, ALDO--??

WHO...
CAESAR--
IT'S
CAESAR!!

ALDO KNOW, CAESAR--ALDO
KNOW BECAUSE ALDO SEE
HUMAN THROW FIRE
INTO WINDOW...

YOU'RE LYING, ALDO--

--BECUSE
I SAW A
GORILLA--

A GORILLA
WHO LOOKED
LIKE YOU,
ALDO!!

A LONG MOMENT OF SILENCE--STUNNED SILENCE--
FOLLOW CAESAR'S IMPASSIONED CHALLENGE...

AND DURING THAT MOMENT OF UNEASY SILENCE,
THE CROWD SHAKES ITSSELF--VISIBLY DEMONSTRAT-
ING ITS OPPosing LOYALTIES...

YOU SAY ALDO...
NOT TELL TRUTH!!

RIGHT THE
FIRST TIME, ALDO.
I'M CALLING YOU A
LIAR TO YOUR
FACE!!

THEN YOU CALL ALDO
LIAR... TO PROTECT
HUMANS! THAT BAD
FOR APES--APES HAVE
BAD RULER IF YOU
RULE, CAESAR!

MAYBE TIME TO
DECIDE... WHO
RULE APES...

YOU OR ME.
EH, ALDO? ALL RIGHT--
HOW DO YOU
PROPOSE TO
DECIDE THE ISSUE?
HOW DO WE DETER-
MINE WHO IS
BETTER FIT TO
RULE THE CITY?

IRONICALLY, HIS RESISTANCE TO DO WHAT HE DOES
BEST--TO ACT WITHOUT THINKING--FORCES
ALDO TO THINK HARDER, AND TO CONCEIVE A
RELATIONLY COMPLEX PROPOSITION...

ALDO SAY WE BOTH GO
TO OLD CITY OF HUMANS--
CAESAR AND ALDO BOTH--AND
FIND WHAT BIG LIGHT LEFT
IN CITY--WE BOTH FIND
SOMETHING--BOTH BRING
SOMETHING BACK HERE...

...AND WHOEVER
BRING BEST THING
FROM CITY... BE NEW
RULER HERE!!

INDED, ALDO PROPOSES NOTHING
LESS THAN A QUEST...

A MAD QUEST TO
BE CERTAIN--AND A
DANGEROUS ONE.
BUT ONE WHICH THE
GORILLAS, AT
LEAST SEEM TO
TAKE QUITE
SERIOUSLY...

ALDO! ALDO!

NO, CAESAR--DON'T
DO IT--DON'T GIVE
IN TO HIM!!

...EVEN IF MORE INTELLIGENT
HEADS PROCLAIM OTHERWISE.
HAVING MOMENTARILY ESCAPED THE SHARP SCALPELS OF THE BUTCHER APE DOCTORS, ASTRONAUT TAYLOR FINDS HIS SHORT-LIVED FREEDOM IN GRAVE DANGER AS ARMED, MOUNTED POLICEMEN SURROUND HIM! AND IN THAT MOMENT, SINCE HE CANNOT TRY TO REASON WITH THEM DUE TO A MINOR BULLET WOUND IN HIS THROAT, A VOICE WITHIN HIM CRIES OUT THE ONLY CHOICE REMAINING...

"RUN FOR YOUR LIFE!"

IT'S NO USE! THEY'VE NEVER SEEN A HUMAN WHO CAN THINK AND REASON! I'M NO MORE THAN AN ANIMAL TO THEM!

- KILL HIM IF YOU MUST! AND KEEP THOSE WHISTLES BLOWING! THEIR SIGNAL WILL BRING EVERY POLICEMAN IN THE CITY DOWN ON HIM.

DOUG MOENCH, WRITER
GEORGE TUSKA, PENCILER
M. ESPOSITO & T. MONTELLARO, INKERS
IT'S SO LOUD I'M AMAZED IT HASN'T ROUSED EVERY STINKING APE IN THIS CITY ONTO MY--!

SHREEEEE

CAN'T GO BACK...

SO I'LL JUST HAVE TO GO UP!

STOP HIM!

STOP HIM BEFORE HE REACHES THE--.
"--RAMP!"

CLOSE, TAYLOR--CLOSE.

WOULDN'T WANT TO TRY THAT AGAIN.

HE'S UP THERE!!

CUT HIM OFF WHEN HE TRIES TO GET DOWN!!

WE'VE GOT HIM!!

SO...

GIDDYAP, SILVER--THEY'LL BE NIPPING AT OUR HEELS IN ANOTHER MINUTE!!

UNFFF!!
THOSE APPLES LOOK TASTY...

SHAME I DON'T HAVE TIME TO SAMPLE THEM.

IF I CAN JUST GET TO THE OTHER END OF THIS STREET...

GUESS AGAIN, TAYLOR.

HURRY-- BEFORE HE CLAWS HIS WAY OUT OF THE NETS!

WHUDD!
HERE

NO...

DODGE!

OH MY GOD... NO....!!

SHREEEEEP

THE WHISTLE AGAIN....

GOT TO FIND A WAY OUT OF HERE....

THERE!

STEADY NOW-- THEY SHOULD FLUSH HIM OUT THE WAY ANY SECOND...
LET ME THROUGH! I'M DR. ZIRA! I'M IN CHARGE OF THIS MAN! NOT ANY MORE, MAAM, HE IS NOW IN THE CUSTODY OF THE MINISTRY OF SCIENCE.

ALL RIGHT, HOIST HIM UP OFF THE GROUND WHERE HE CAN'T BITE US. AND BRING THAT MUZZLE IN...

TAKE YOUR STINKING PAWS OFF ME, YOU DIRTY APE!!!

HE SPOKE.

NEXT ISSUE: THE TRIAL!