QUEST FOR THE PLANET OF THE APES


THE HUMAN, MacDONALD, HAS JUST CRAWLED THROUGH AGONY IN ATTEMPT TO WARN CAESAR OF BRECK'S ESCAPE...

UNFORTUNATELY, THE WARNING HAS COME TOO LATE.

LISTEN TO ME, YOU UGLY REJECTS FROM THE MONKEY-HOUSE!!
I TOLD YOU PROVIDENCE FAVORS MAN OVER THE APES!

NOW I'M GOING TO PROVE IT!!

LISA--!! NO--!! IN THE NAME OF THE CREATOR-- NOOO!!

BUT FOR ALL OF CAESAR'S ANGUISH, THE GREAT GORILLA ALDO IS MERELY PUZZLED. THE PRECIOUS GUNS HE HAS STOLEN FROM THE WASTED CITY IN THE FORBIDDEN ZONE HAVE JUST BEEN RECLAIMED BY THEIR RIGHTFUL OWNERS.

HE DOES NOT KNOW HOW OR WHY, BUT HE IS CERTAIN OF ONE THING: IT IS NOT FAIR.

PART II THE KEEPER OF FUTURE DEATH!

Story: DOUG MOENCH Art: ALFREDO ALCALA AG-203
JUST ONE DAY IN THE PAST. A WIFE TOLD HER
HUSBAND THEY WOULD SOON BE WITH CHILD...

I'VE GOT YOUR WIFE, CAESAR...

Lisa had smiled...
I'M GONNA KILL HER.
CAESAR...

...AND CAESAR HAD KNOWN
THE PROMISE OF JOY.

I'M GONNA KILL HER
WHILE YOU WATCH,
CAESAR--!

BUT THAT WAS YESTERDAY—BEFORE BRECK ESCAPED
AND BEGAN HIS LONG CREEP THROUGH THE NIGHT-SHADOWS.
EAGER TO KILL THAT SMILE...

YOU HEAR ME, CAESAR—?
I'M GONNA KILL LITTLE LISA--
I'M GONNA BUST YOUR
BELOVED WIFE'S HEAD OPEN--

--AND YOU'RE GONNA WATCH!!

...EAGER TO SHATTER THAT JOY.

CAESAR STANDS NOW, IN
SHOCK. THE SHADOW OF
HORROR COVERING HIS
HEART... FOR HIS WIFE HAS
TOLD HIM THE GOOD NEWS...

NO, BRECK... PLEASE... YOU DON'T KNOW...
BRECK, YOU CAN'T DO THIS--I BEG YOU....

THAT'S FAR ENOUGH, CAESAR--
HOLD IT RIGHT THERE! THE BEGGING
AND WHINING I LIKE--IT'S MORE IN CHARACTER...

...BUT THE
ADVANCING
I DON'T LIKE.
YOU'RE GONNA
WATCH THIS
LITTLE SCENE--
NOT PLAY
IN IT...

...AND CAESAR KNOWS, NOW,
THAT TWO LIVES ARE THREATENED
BY A MADMAN AND HIS GUN.

THE ORANGUTAN IS OLD.
The HUMANS DO NOT
SEE HIM....

YOU WERE MY SLAVE
ONCE, CAESAR...
BEFORE THINGS
CHANGED....

BUT THE TABLES HAVE TURNED AGAIN
NOW, CAESAR. WELCOME BACK SLAVE....

CAESAR DOES SEE THE ORANGUTAN...
AND IN HIS STEALTHY ADVANCE,
CAESAR SEES A GLIMMER OF HOPE...
He is old, very old -- and awkward with age, Caesar wonders, with unbearable suspense, if someone this old can possibly succeed...

Remember when you pick your name, Caesar--? You thought you were being clever -- because it meant king...

Well, even a king can die, Caesar-- as Brutus knew--!

And you, Caesar-- king-- slave-- ape-- you are--

--GOING--

Lisa and the Old Orangutan sprawl free as Caesar lunges forward, grappling with the shocked Breck...

Quick -- attack them -- stop them from using their guns--!

Tragically, such is not the case...

Fire-- shoot them--!! Shoot!!

Most of the apes obey, following Caesar's desperately frenzied example -- and hoping the humans will be too shocked to employ their weapons...
... AND MANY, MANY APES WILL NEVER KNOW ANOTHER HOPE.

STILL, OF THEM ALL, NONE OF THE APES FLEE—AND ONLY ONE RESISTS FROM JOINING IN...

ALDO—!! COME ALDO—KILL HUMANS—!! WE KILL HUMANS—!!

YES, THE PROPOSITION APPEALS TO ALDO...

BUT THEN A RARE THOUGHT CROSSES ALDO’S BRUTISH BRAIN—A MOMENTARY SPASM OF REASONING—WHICH SPELLS OUT HIS INSTINCTS...

WERE ALDO TO JOIN THE FIGHT AGAINST THE HUMANS, HE WOULD BE AIDING CAESAR’S CAUSE.

ALDO HATES CAESAR— AND WISHES TO USE UP HIS POSITION AS LEADER OF THE APE SOCIETY. INDEED, ALDO WOULD LIKE NOTHING BETTER THAN TO SEE CAESAR DIE...

BUT THEN, ALDO HATES HUMANS EVEN MORE THAN HE HATES CAESAR...

AND SO—

---ALDO MOVES FORTH, TO KILL HIMSELF SOME HUMANS.
A large number of apes have fallen in sacrifice, but the tide of battle has now turned, with the time bought by their fallen brothers. The remaining apes have closed with the humans—and have ripped the weapons from their hands...

Thus, the battle is now a primordial one—of fang and claw—and in such a battle, the apes are decidedly superior...

At least one human well knows it. He strains to place the battle in a more civilized context...

And he aims that gun at Caesar's back.

Caesar—no—look out!!

In short, he reaches for a gun.

Lisa shrieks her warning while the aged orangutan struggles to rise...

...and lunges between Caesar and the human--

Caesar—!!

---just as the human chooses to---

Aghk-Koo!! What 2??

Blam---fire.
Bellowing, Aldo crushes the cheated marksman's skull:
Rowrrur
Skluch!

-- thereby killing himself his first human of the day...

Caesar rushes toward the fallen orangutan who has now saved three lives this dark day...

Old one--can you hear me? Are you?

...while Breck, finding his beloved "Tables" turned yet again, seizes the opportunity to flee.

No, Caesar... I am not dead... yet...

What is your name, old one...?

Man--?

Man... Demus... Mandemus, Caesar...

Man--?

Man... Demus... Mandemus, Caesar...

Mandemus, then. It will not be forgotten, old one--I promise you that...

But try to remember it... by fighting your death...

Yes, Caesar... I am no more eager to embrace it... than you are...

Take him to the doctor, Lisa--in the human compound...

Very well, Caesar, but--

Caesar--? Where are you going--?!

There is no reply. There is nothing--nothing but rage.
Dear Stan,

I think it was a good idea to combine "Planet of The Apes" and "Dracula Lives". It gives an assortment of stories, I expected the mag to go up in price, but I was wrong. Now there are four stories and the mag is still only 8p.

Before the two mags combined you put two more stories in Dracula Lives, Son of Satan and Ghost Rider. Both of these were excellent. Now that the mags have combined, here's what I think of the stories.

POTA. Great. keep up the good work.

Dracula. Fang-tastic.

Man-Thing. Excellent.

Kabaz. These stories have improved. Great.

I have quite a few things to do with Planet of the Apes, such as Jig-saw puzzles, paperback books, posters, cards, models of Zira, Galen, Kerdom, Urko, Ursus, Dr. Zaius and soldier apes. And I have seen "Planet" and "Escape" at the cinema.

I still have Titans every week. This mag has improved a great deal.

John Beardmore, 44 Norfolk Road, Stapenhill, Burton-on-Trent, Staffs.

We're grateful to you, John, for letting us know you approve of the merger. You could have kept it to yourself, but you didn't. So... thanks.

Dear Stan,

I have been reading Marvel Comics for about three years now, and have come to the conclusion that Dracula is your best character. I like the idea of Quincy Harker and Co., hunting him, but would prefer to see him in, say, the 15th century. Maybe you could adapt the stories from the various Dracula films that have been made, as you did in Planet of The Apes. Unfortunately we do not get any American mags where I live. However, I have got some, including Monsters of the Movies No.7. Without a doubt that is the best horror mag I have ever read. 150 photos of Dracula in just one mag. Wow!

Glenn Crawford, 73 Park Street, Pembroke Dock, Dyfed.

Making picture story adaptations of films bristles with thorny problems. Glenn, invariably it turns out that so many people own a piece of the copyright that it's easier to start from scratch.

Dear Bullpen,

After reading the letters page in DL 78, I thought I had better write before such people as A.M. Robinson and Ivor Davies completely ruin Morbius' chances of appearing in Dracula Lives. Admittedly Morbius had an awful lot of bad luck, as he had countless different artists and writers, each with their own ideas on how the strip should be. (For instance, within three issues he had three different artists and two different writers.)

Although I agree with Ivor on the work of Frank Robbins, I can't agree that Doug Moench's work was anything less than highly enjoyable, even if it was surpassed by that of Steve McGonagle. (And whose work hasn't?)

A.M. Robinson's argument is, I believe, quite pointless, as she claims D.L. has so far featured only 'traditional monsters'. Marvel has always experimented with old ideas and produced enjoyable, original and controversial characters, one of which is Morbius. I believe that the British readers who have not yet seen him (except for brief appearances in Spidey) deserve at least a try-out story.

Martin Tudor, RFO, KOF, QNS.

Okay — are there any who approve of Morbius a little more enthusiastically than do others. But let US state quite categorically that we've no intention of locking Morbius in a cupboard and throwing away the key. Morbius will have his day (and his night, too).

Strange you should mention sending announcements through the post to Ivor Davies, because only an hour or so ago we were reading a massive from him in which he told us about a highly insulting anonymous letter he'd received. But Ivor's not just a busy letter-writer. He's already ferreted out who Mr. Anonymous is. Sowhoo... the moral of the is... anyone seriously thinking of communicating anonymously with Ivor, be warned!

Dear You,

In Drac Lives 78, Ivor Davies complained about Jim Charlton's letter. Well, I'm complaining about Ivor's! Yes, I agree about his views on Man-Thing, but Morbius??!! He implied that Steve McGonagle said "Doesn't quality ever sell?" and that's what I think of Morbius. He thinks the only stories of literary value appeared in Vampire Tales! Wrong! The colour mag was NOT ????? If I knew Ivor's address I'd send him natty things like D...s and B...s! And as for the B and W stories being too much blood 'n' guts for the under-tens — nonsense! Anyway, the weeklies are aimed at the 10-15 year-old market. It's a FACT, no denying it because it says so on the Marvel advertising letters to advertisers! Whiggle out of that one, Mr. Davies!

Anyway, POTA and DL are the best British weeklies out, so who cares who buys them as long as they sell?

Point. POTA and DL are the best British weeklies out, so who cares who buys them as long as they sell?

Point. Remember that Spidey in London spread a few weeks back? Well, Frank Hampson isn't the best artist in the world. That title must be shared by Brunner, Starlin, Steranko and Kaluta.

Lawrence Mead, PXM, FOOMER, 38 Rutland Road, Chelmsford, Essex.

Have you got a meccano van, budgie, autogyro, cathedral, teapot, bulldozer, schooner, liner set?

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Dear Stan,

"Planet of The Apes" has risen to a new all-time high with Doug Moench and Tom Sutton's "Dreamer in Emerald Silence" and "Graveyard of Lost Cities", along with the continuation of "Terror ..." with Alex and Jason and "Kingdom ...", which I thought had finished in Apes 34.

Ka-Zar has got better and better, and now we have Gerry Conway and John Buscema it looks like going to new heights of splendour. (By the way, I hadn't looked at the credits in issue 85, I would have sworn that was Alcala's own artwork.)

I was sad to see the Panther leave, but it was the logical place to discontinue him, as he is so near catching up to the American mag, I hope we see him return when Captain Marvel catches up.

Speaking of the good Captain, I loved page 22 in Apes 85.

I am glad to see that the Defenders are on their way, as they have been too-long absent from the British scene.

Unless you use the Giant-Size Draculas, he will soon catch up, and the obvious thing to do is use stories from the black and white American DL. I would like to see the adaptation of Bram Stoker's book first and then the best of the stories.

Eke Webb,
3 High Street, Haddenham, Bucks.

Crosswords are a thing of the past in the Ballpen. Know what the latest puzzle-game is? Trying to decide what the "Eke" is short for, that's what. The best that we've come up with so far is "Ezekiah". Are we warm?

Dear Stan,

I have Planet of the Apes and Dracula Lives every week.

Dracula Lives is getting better and better. The stories are great, and so is the artwork. In DL 67 Jim Charlton suggested putting Morbius in the mag. My answer to this is... "What?" I would say that Morbius is more of a super-villain than anything to do with horror; as in issue 142 of Spiderman Comics Weekly he is fighting Spiderman. I am sure that many other readers will agree with me that Morbius is not the right character for the mag. The pin-ups on the back of issues 10 and 33 were fang-tastic. Keep 'em coming.

John Beardmore,
44 Norfolk Road, Stapenhill,
Burton-on-Trent, Staffs.

Hooooly Boy! The Morbius debate is really getting on the boil. Well, that's what letter-pages are for!

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Stan Lee PRESENTS: PLANET OF THE APES!

"DEATH SENTENCE!"

SURRENDER, HUMAN! YOU ARE NO MORE THAN AN ANIMAL AMONG US--AND TO RESIST IS TO DIE!

MAYBE, YOU Hairy Devil! But at least I'll go down FIGHTING!

DOUG MOENCH, WRITER
GEORGE TUSKA, PENCILER
M. ESPOSITO & D. HUNT, INKERS
MR. PRESIDENT, A WORD OF EXPLANATION: THE CREATURE IN QUESTION SUFFERED A SKULL FRACTURE DURING THE HUNT. TWO FINE VETERINARY SURGEONS UNDER MY DIRECTION WERE ABLE TO SAVE HIS LIFE...

...BUT THE BEAST COULD NOT SPEAK, OF COURSE, NOR WILL HE EVER SPEAK.

THAT'S A LIE-- YOU DESTROYED HIS MEMORY! HIS MIND!

BAILIFF -- STOP THIS OUTBURST!

GAG THE MONSTROSITY!

YOU BARBARIANS!

AND YOU WANT TO DO THE SAME TO ME--!!

YOU VISITED THE FORBIDDEN ZONE?

HE EXCEEDED HIS ORDERS. HIS TRAVEL PERMIT WAS PROMPTLY REVOKED.

SO IT WAS-- THANKS TO YOU, DR. ZAUS. BUT NOT BEFORE I DISCOVERED EVIDENCE OF A SIMIAN CULTURE WHICH EXISTED LONG BEFORE THE SACRED SCROLLS WERE WRITTEN--

OBSESSION--

MAY IT PLEASE THE TRIBUNAL: I FOR ONE GRANT THAT THIS MAN CANNOT HAVE COME FROM ANOTHER PLANET. BUT I DO BELIEVE HE COMES FROM SOMEWHERE WITHIN THE FORBIDDEN ZONE. HE HAS DESCRIBED THE REGION TO US, AND DESCRIBED IT ACCURATELY FOR I HAVE BEEN THERE.
SUSTAINED.

YOUR ARCHEOLOGICAL THEORIES HAVE ABSOLUTELY NO Bearing ON THE DIS-POSITION OF THIS CREATURE.

BUT OUR THEORIES DO HAVE A BEARING ON HIS IDENTITY.

HOW SO?

LET US ASSUME, AS COMMON SENSE DICTATES, THAT THE PRISONER'S STORY IS FALSE, BUT IF HE DOES NOT COME FROM ANOTHER PLANET, THEN SURELY HE SPRANG FROM OUR OWN.

AS AN ANIMAL PSYCHOLOGIST I HAVE FOUND NO PHYSIOLOGICAL DEFECT TO EXPLAIN WHY HUMANS ARE MUTE.

OBJECTION!

SUSTAINED.

THEIR SPEECH ORGANS ARE ADEQUATE— THE FLAW LIES NOT IN ANATOMY BUT IN THE BRAIN!

OBJECTION!

SUSTAINED!

SUSTAIN ALL THE OBJECTIONS YOU WANT, BUT FACE THE TRUTH!
YES! BEHOLD THIS MARVEL, THIS LIVING PARADOX—THIS MISSING LINK IN AN EVOLUTIONARY CHAIN!!

SILENCE! YOU HAVE GONE TOO FAR!!

THERE YOU ARE, MR. PRESIDENT. I WARNED YOU THESE TWO WOULD USE THE HEARING AS A FORUM FOR THEIR SUBVERSION.

IT WOULD SEEM CLEAR TO ME THAT AN INDICTMENT IS IN ORDER...

YES, SIR—THE STATE AGREES, AND CHARGES DOCTORS ZIRA AND CORNELIUS WITH CONTEMPT OF THIS TRIBUNAL, MALICIOUS MISCHIEF, AND SCIENTIFIC HERESY!

BE IT SO ORDERED...

NIGHT, AND DR. ZAUS AWAITS THE RESULTS OF THE ORDERS HE HAS DISPATCHED...

COME IN.

THE EVIDENCE SHALL BE EXAMINED AND IN DUE TIME A VERDICT RENDERED.

THIS HEARING IS ADJOURNED.
THE HUMAN YOU ORDERED, DR. ZAIUS.

VERY GOOD. WAIT OUTSIDE.

THE VERDICT IS IN. AT THE MOMENT YOUR SIMIAN FRIENDS-- AND SPONSORS-- ARE FREE ON BAIL...

BUT THEY'LL SOON BE BROUGHT TO TRIAL...

...FOR HERESY.

YOU SEE, YOU PERFORMED A SERVICE FOR THE STATE-- YOUR HEARING MADE IT POSSIBLE FOR US TO EXPOSE ZIRA AND CORNELIUS.

WHAT ABOUT ME?

OH, YOUR FATE WAS PREORDAINED. YOU'VE BEEN PLACED IN MY CUSTODY FOR... FINAL DISPOSITION. DO YOU KNOW WHAT THAT MEANS?

NO.

GELDING, TO BEGIN WITH. THEN EXPERIMENTAL SURGERY ON THE SPEECH CENTRES OF THE BRAIN.

HOWEVER... IT IS WITHIN MY POWER TO GRANT YOU A REPOREE, THAT'S WHY I SUMMONED YOU HERE TONIGHT.

NOW TELL ME WHO AND WHAT YOU REALLY ARE AND WHERE YOU COME FROM, AND NO VETERINARIAN WILL TOUCH YOU.

BUT EVEN IF I TELL YOU, IT'S NOT MY LAND. IT'S MY LAND, AND YOU CAN'T HAVE IT.

ULTIMATELY, A KIND OF LIVING DEATH.
I TOLD YOU THE TRUTH AT THAT "NEARING" OF YOURS.

THEN HOW IS IT WE SPEAK THE SAME LANGUAGE?

EVEN IN YOUR LIES, SOME TRUTH SLIPS THROUGH! THAT MYTHICAL COMMUNITY YOU PROFESS TO COME FROM -- FORT WAYNE...?

WHAT ABOUT IT?

YOU LIE. WHERE IS YOUR TRIBE?

A FORT! UNCONSCIOUSLY, YOU CHOSE A NAME THAT WAS BELLIGERENT. SO TYPICAL OF YOUR SPECIES.

WHERE WERE YOU NURTURED?

MY TRIBE, AS YOU CALL IT LIVES ON ANOTHER PLANET IN A DISTANT SOLAR SYSTEM.

I TAKE IT YOU DON'T BELIEVE THE PROSECUTOR'S CHARGE THAT I'M A MONSTER CREATED BY DR. ZIRA?

CERTAINLY NOT. YOU'RE A MUTANT.

THAT'S EXACTLY WHAT ZIRA AND CORNELIUS CLAIM.

NAUGHTY, NAUGHTY, DOCTOR-- YOU'RE THINKING HERESY.

ALL RIGHT, SUPPOSE I AM A MUTANT? WHY DOES THE APPEARANCE OF ONE MUTANT SEND YOU INTO A PANIC?

BECAUSE YOU'RE NOT UNIQUE-- IT'S NOT A CASE OF JUST ONE MUTANT. THERE WAS THE ONE YOU CALL LANDON... OF COURSE.
THEN YOU ADMIT...

I ADMIT THAT WHERE THERE'S ONE MUTANT, THERE'S PROBABLY ANOTHER, AND ANOTHER, A NEST OF THEM. WHERE'S YOUR NEST, TAYLOR? WHERE ARE YOUR WOMEN?

WELL, THANK YOU FOR CALLING ME TAYLOR, KING KONG.

NOW YOU LISTEN TO ME! I KNOW WHO I AM. WHO ARE YOU? HOW DID THIS UPSIDE-DOWN CIVILIZATION EVER GET STARTED?

UPSIDE-DOWN TO YOU--BECAUSE YOU'RE ON THE BOTTOM, AND DESERVEDLY.

NOW TELL ME--IS THERE ANOTHER JUNGLE SUPPORTING LIFE BEYOND THE FORBIDDEN ZONE?

I DON'T KNOW!

I'M NOT PROTECTING ANYBODY! THAT HEARING WAS A FARCE. WHAT THE BLAZES HAVE I DONE?!!

YOU'RE A MENACE! A WALKING PESTILENCE! I DO KNOW WHO YOU ARE. TAYLOR...I KNOW ONLY TOO WELL.

DON'T WASTE YOUR TIME TRYING TO PROTECT OTHERS OF YOUR KIND. IT WILL COST YOU YOUR VERY IDENTITY...TAYLOR.

AND I KNOW THAT OTHERS OF YOUR KIND MUST INHABIT THE FORBIDDEN ZONE!

SO YOU HAVE JUST SIX HOURS TO MAKE A FULL CONFESSION. AFTER THAT, I'LL EMPLOY SURGERY TO OBTAIN ONE!
GUARDS--!

TAKE THIS...
CREATURE...
BACK TO HIS
CAGE.

AND IF
HE TRIES TO
ESCAPE, BEAT
HIM TO WITHIN
AN INCH OF
HIS LIFE....

...BUT
NOT AN INCH
FARHER...
UNTIL I'M THERE
TO WITNESS
IT.

YES,
TAYLOR...

...I DO
IT FROM
FEAR.

ALL RIGHT ZAUS,
YOU CAN CUT ME TO
PIECES IF YOU WANT
TO! IT'S WITHIN YOUR
POWER!

BUT KNOW THIS,
ZAUS... YOU DO IT
BECAUSE YOU'RE
AFRAID OF ME!
YOU DO IT FROM
FEAR!!!