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PLUS: THE MACABRE MAN-THING AT THE MERCY OF THE MENACING MIST!



MARVEL
COMICS
GROUP

No. 105
WEEK ENDING
OCT. 20, 1976

PLANET OF THE APES AND DRACULA LIVES

9P



THERE'S NO END TO THE
THRILLS, ACTION AND DRAMA
WHEN MAN BATTLES BEAST IN...
DEATH-STRIKE!

QUEST FOR THE PLANET OF THE APES

THE SEARING **CONCLUSION** OF MARVEL'S SPECIAL **TWO-PART INTERIM SAGA**, BRIDGING THE EVENTS CHRONICLED IN THE **20th-CENTURY FOX** MOVIES, **CONQUEST OF THE PLANET OF THE APES AND BATTLE 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!

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 BLAST 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...!



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

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...



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...

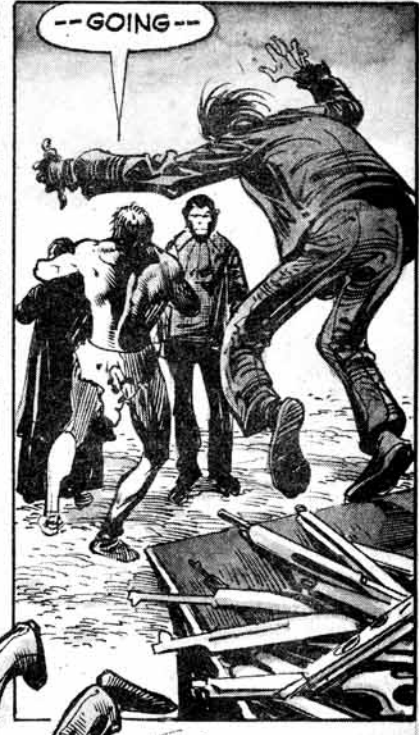
HE IS OLD, VERY OLD -- AND AWKWARD WITH AGE. CAESAR WONDERS, WITH UNBEARABLE SUSPENSE, IF SOMEONE THIS OLD CAN POSSIBLY SUCCEED...

AND, TOO, CAESAR WONDERS IF SOMEONE AS STUPID AS ALDO CAN POSSIBLY WATCH THE OLD ORANGUTANS SUCCEED... WITHOUT SPOILING IT WITH AN INDISCREET MOTION OR WORD...

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 WELL KNEW--!

AND YOU, CAESAR-- KING-- SLAVE-- APE-- YOU ARE--



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--!!



MOST OF THE APES OBEY, FOLLOWING CAESAR'S DESPERATELY FRENZIED EXAMPLE-- AND HOPING THE HUMANS WILL BE TOO SHOCKED TO EMPLOY THEIR WEAPONS...

TRAGICALLY, SUCH IS NOT THE CASE...

FIRE-- SHOOT THEM--!! SHOOT!!



... 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...



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...



... AND ELUCIDATES HIS PREVIOUSLY UNKNOWN REASON FOR HOLDING BACK...

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



ALDO HATES CAESAR-- AND WISHES TO USURP 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 ...



--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...



IN SHORT, HE REACHES FOR A GUN.

AND HE AIMS THAT GUN AT CAESAR'S BACK.

CAESAR-- NO-- LOOK OUT!!



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--



BLAM

--FIRE.

AGHK-KOO!!

WHAT?!!



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...

...WHILE BRECK, FINDING HIS BELOVED "TABLES" TURNED YET AGAIN, SEIZES THE OPPORTUNITY TO FLEE...

OLD ONE--CAN YOU HEAR ME?!
ARE YOU--

NO, CAESAR... I AM NOT DEAD... YET...

WHAT IS YOUR NAME, OLD ONE...?

M-MAN... MAN...

MAN--?!

MAN... DEMUS... MANDEMUS, CAESAR...

MANDEMUS, THEN, IT WILL NOT BE FORGOTTEN, OLD ONE-- I PROMISE YOU THAT...

BUT TRY TO HELP ME 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.

Ka-Zar. 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, Gerdon, 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 Beardsmore,
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 Quiney 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 Gerber. (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 — there are some 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!)

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 remarked 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 nasty 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 because it says so on the Marvel advertising letters to advertisers! Wriggle 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, PMM.FOOMER,
38 Rutland Road, Chelmsford, Essex.

Strange you should mention sending unmentionables through the post to Ivor Davies, because only an hour or so ago we were reading a missive 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. So-o-o-o... the moral is this... anyone seriously thinking of communicating anonymously with Ivor, be warned!



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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 ish 85, I would have sworn that was Alcalá'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 Bullpen. 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.

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

APES'FANG MAIL

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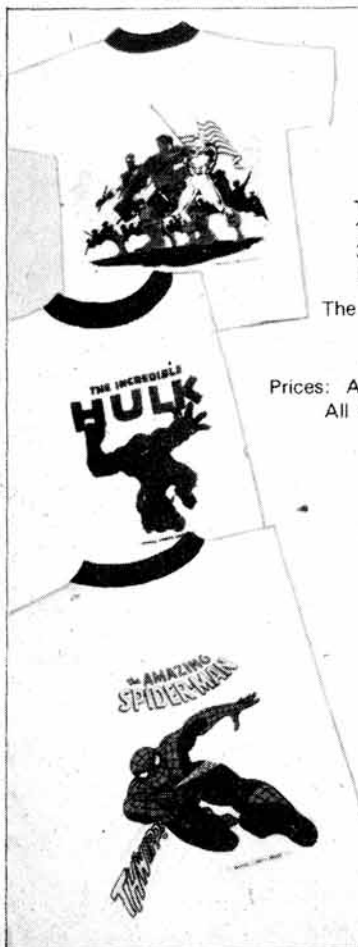
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"DEATH SENTENCE!"



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









THE HUMAN YOU ORDERED DR. ZAIUS.

VERY GOOD. WAIT OUTSIDE.



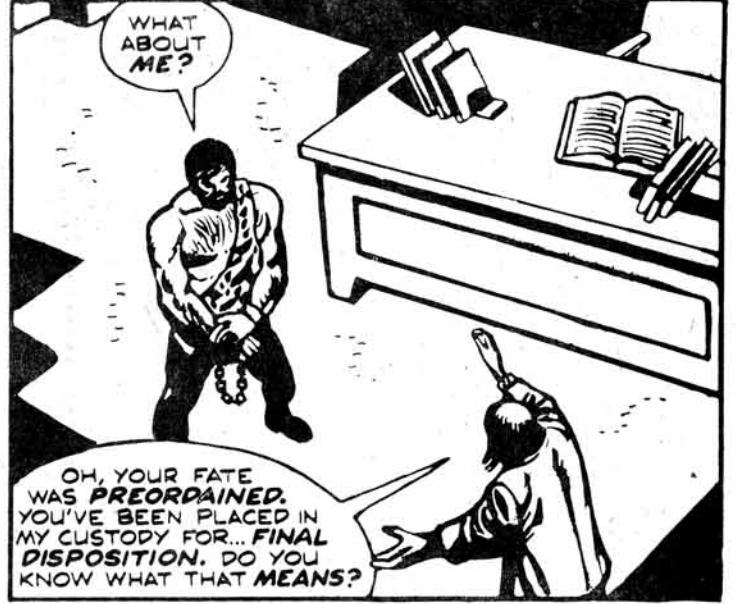
THE VERDICT IS IN. AT THE MOMENT YOUR SIMIAN FRIENDS--AND SPONSORS--ARE FREE ON BAIL...

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.

ULTIMATELY, A KIND OF LIVING DEATH.



HOWEVER... IT IS WITHIN MY POWER TO GRANT YOU A REPRIEVE. 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.

