PLANET OF THE APES
AND
DRACULA LIVES

PLUS: CAN KA-ZAR DISCOVER THE SECRET OF THE METAL MADNESS?

Action! Treachery! Conquest! War Among the Apes!

NO. 107
WEEK ENDING NOV. 3, 1976

MARVEL COMICS GROUP

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Stan Lee Presents: **PLANET OF THE APES!**

*Listen to a Challenge—A Challenge to a Fight to the Finish! Aldo Versus Caesar! If Caesar Wins, Peace Shall Reign Between Ape and Human. If Aldo Wins, All Humans Must Die!*

Archie Goodwin / Doug Moench / Alfredo Alcala

Editor

Writer

Artist

We fight tomorrow, Caesar—To see who is new leader! If Aldo win, Aldo leader! If weak Caesar win, Caesar leader!

Aldo challenge you to a **Duel to the Death!**
Night...

-- So the doctor said Mandemus will be all right, Lisa--?

Quit trying to change the subject, Caesar--?

You know we're going to have a baby--? Why do you want to go and get killed--? Caesar, you simply amaze me--?

Don't you have any consideration at all--? Not even for yourself--? For your own life--?

You know you can't possibly beat Aldo...?

Thank you, my loving wife, for your vote of confidence.

But Caesar-- he's so big-- so strong-- so so much like a gorilla he's absolutely brutal, Caesar, and he's--

Absolutely stupid, Lisa-- an inescapable factor which will prove to be his downfall.

But why if it isn't his downfall--? What if he wins, Caesar--?

What if he kills you, Caesar--?

Do you want our child to be born into the world without his father--?

Now, now, Lisa... calm down...

No... or... of course not, Caesar...

Do you want our child born into Aldo's world--?

There comes a time when we must face up to things, Lisa-- when the evil which threatens us can no longer be ignored... even if we have to sacrifice something to confront that evil...

But, Caesar... must you sacrifice your life--?

I'm not, darling-- just trust me...

I... I'm sorry, Caesar...

... but you... just... can't...

The light will burn all night.
MORNING. CAESAR ENTERS THE
COMPASS WHERE THE HUMANS
ARE KEPT, IN A JAUNTY MOOD WHICH
IS A LIE...
ENJOY YOUR
POSITIONS WHILE
YOU CAN,
GUARDS...

ANY GOOD SPIRITS AROUND
HERE ARE DUE TO YOU, CAESAR--
I'VE TOLD EVERYONE I KNOW
ABOUT YOUR CHANGE-- YOUR
VOW THAT HUMANS AND APES
SHALL HEREAF TER LIVE TOGETHER
IN HARMONY. AS THEY USED
TO SAY...

ANYTHING BRECK SAID TO
ME... PERHAPS THE FACT THAT
YOU TRIED TO SAVE US FROM
BRECK... AND PROBABLY THE
FACT THAT BRECK IS NO
WORSE THAN ALDO--

CAESAR--
COME OUT.
CAESAR--
TIME FOR
FIGHT!!

CAESAR--I'M
ASKING YOU ONE
LAST TIME-- THINK
IT OVER BEFORE
YOU GO OUT THERE
TO FACE ALDO...

CAESAR--I DON'T
REALLY KNOW, MACDONALD--
PERHAPS A
COMBINATION
OF THINGS...

AND BY THE WAY--
WHAT CAUSED THE
RADICAL CHANGE IN
YOUR PHILOSOPHY?

I THINK CAESAR--
AND IT'S
UNLIKELY THAT
YOU CAN.

AH... THAT
SOUNDS LIKE
ALDO'S CHARMING
VOICE....

YOU DON'T HAVE
TO PROVE ANYTHING.
CAESAR-- AND IT'S
UNLIKELY THAT
YOU CAN.

LET GO
OF ME,
MACDONALD,
BUT HE'S RIGHT, CAESAR--
YOU DON'T HAVE TO FIGHT
ALDO TO PROVE YOUR
LEADERSHIP. THE MAJORITY
OF APES ARE ALREADY ON
YOUR SIDE-- THE CHIMPS
AND THE ORANGUTANS...
IT'S JUST THE
GORILLAS
WHO--

YES, 
MANDEMUSS--
BUT THE
MAJORITY
OF APES ARE
AFRAID OF THE
GORILLAS...

I'VE GOT TO
ERASE THAT
FEAR.

GOOD MORNING,
ALDO. I BELIEVE
YOU WANTED
ME...?

ALDO THOUGHT
YOU AFRAID
TO FIGHT.

WELL, BETTER
LUCK WITH YOUR
NEXT THOUGHT.

MAKE FUN
OF ALDO--
BUT ALDO
KILL YOU?
ALDO KILL
CAESAR!!

ALDO RIP
CAESAR'S
ARM OFF?
ALDO RIP
CAESAR'S
HEAD OFF!!

ALDO BITE
CAESAR'S
HEAD.
ALDO THROW
CAESAR'S
HEAD FAR
AWAY!!

THROW CAESAR'S
HEAD SO FAR THAT
CAESAR NEVER SEE
HEAD AGAIN-!!

ALDO, I THINK IT'S
FAIRLY OBVIOUS THAT
YOU'RE NOT GOING TO
DEFEAT ME WITH
YOUR ILLITERACY..
...SO WHY DON'T YOU JUST SHUT UP...

...AND GET ON WITH IT.

ADO TAKES THE ADVICE, ROARING...

ROHRRRR

BUT CAESAR DUCKS--AND JABS.

CHUD

THIS ONLY ENRAGES ALDO...

AND CAESAR KNOWS IT... INDEED, CALCULATED IT...

THEREFORE, CAESAR DARTS TO THE SIDE, CONVENIENTLY LEAVING ONE LEG EXTENDED...

WHAAAAAA

YOU SEE CAESAR HAS REALIZED ALL ALONG--

FWOK!

--THAT SPEED AND AGILITY ARE HIS ONLY SALVATION.

BUT THEN, WITH ENOUGH INITIATIVE AND SMARTING FROM A KICKED EAR--

ALDO KILL YOU FOR THAT, CAESAR...
AND EVEN BEFORE HE HIT THE GROUND--EVEN THROUGH THE DAZE STUFFED INTO HIS BUZZING HEAD--CAESAR HAD REALIZED THAT IT IS TIME TO CHANGE TACTICS...

...CAESAR HAD BETTER START TAXING HIS BRAIN...

...AND USE THE TARIFF TO BUY SOME CUNNING...

CAESAR--WHERE YOU GOING--?! WHAT YOU DOING IN TREE--?!
WHY DON'T YOU COME AND SEE WHAT I'M DOING, ALDO--?

AND AGAIN ALDO TAKES CAESAR'S ADVICE...

IT SEEMS THAT GORILLAS REALLY ARE STUPID—INCREDIBLY SO!

HALFWAY THROUGH HIS LUNGE, AND IN SUPREME HORROR ALDO REALIZED SOMETHING...

BOOGA BOOGA!!

URRRRR

BUT BY THEN, OF COURSE, IT WAS RIDICULOUSLY TOO LATE FOR ETERNAL VERITIES.

TWUNG

HE SHOULD HAVE LOOKED BEFORE HE LEAPED.

WELL, YOU CAN'T WIN 'EM ALL, HANDBEAD!

HA HA HA HA HA

I HEREBY PROCLAIM CAESAR THE WINNER OF THIS CONTEST— AND THE LEADER OF OUR NEW INTEGRATED SOCIETY!

CONGRATULATIONS, CHAMP! YOU PUT UP A GREAT FIGHT!

OH, CAESAR— DON'T EVER DO THAT AGAIN—!
WELL, CAESAR, WE CAN GET TO DISMANTLING THIS HUMAN-COMPUND AND THEN WE CAN DESTROY THE GUNS BEFORE--

UH, ABOUT THOSE GUNS, MANDEMUS... I, UH, I'VE BEEN THINKING... AND I'VE DECIDED THAT PERHAPS WE SHOULD NOT DESTROY THEM...

I WARN YOU, CAESAR-- IF YOU DO NOT DESTROY THOSE GUNS, YOU WILL BE MAKING THE GREATEST MISTAKE POSSIBLE. GUNS ARE EVIL!

PERHAPS, MANDEMUS, AND PERHAPS NOT. PERHAPS THE EVIL IS NOT IN THE GUNS THEMSELVES, BUT IN HOW THEY ARE USED. I'M BEGINNING TO THINK THAT ALDO, IN ALL HIS IGNORANCE, SOMEHOW GRASPED A SHRED OF PROFOND WISDOM...

WHAT IF SOMEONE EVIL USES GUNS AGAINST US IN THE FUTURE--?

FOR ALL OUR GOOD INTENTIONS, WE'D DIE-- UNLESS WE ALSO HAD GUNS WITH WHICH TO DEFEND OURSELVES.

YOU CAN FIGHT FIRE WITH FIRE AS LONG AS YOU WISH, CAESAR-- BUT I STILL SAY GUNS ARE EVIL -- AND I STILL SAY YOU ARE MAKING A MISTAKE!

THEN I WILL MAKE YOU THE GUARDIAN OF MY MISTAKE, MANDEMUS-- AND THE SENTINEL AGAINST EVIL.

WE SHALL LOCK THE GUNS AWAY, MANDEMUS, PRAYING THAT WE WILL NEVER NEED THEM... AND YOU SHALL BE THE KEEPER OF THE GUNS...

...RELEASING THEM, MANDEMUS, TO NO ONE BUT ME.

MANDEMUS LEAVES, SAYING NOTHING, BUT SCOWLING DARKLY. A PITY THAT CAESAR IS TOO ELATED TO NOTICE...

CAESAR--? I MAY BE IMAGINING IT, BUT I THINK I CAN FEEL HIM MOVING INSIDE...

HIM--? THEN YOU THINK IT'LL BE A BOY...?

I'M SURE OF IT-- AND I PROPOSE WE NAME HIM CAESAR, JUNIOR.

NO... I'D LIKE TO NAME HIM AFTER SOMEONE I NEVER KNEW, LISA-- AFTER MY FATHER...

VERY WELL, THEN... WE'LL NAME HIM--

--CORNELIUS.

CORNELIUS... YES, DEAR, I THINK I LIKE THAT NAME...

BUT ALDO, WATCHING AND LISTENING OMINOUSLY FROM THE BACKGROUND ALREADY HATES THE NAME...
Dear Battling Bullpen,

First, late congratulations on your new-style mag, which I call the "Titans Type". And the same goes for Spiderman. But I must warn you, this style is very good, nay, brilliant for super-heroes and baddies, but it would not do for your best mag, Planet of the Apes. I say this because with all these mags joining up you don't have enough space for all the stories in each mag, and it looks as if the "Titans" type will be inflicted on POTA and WMW. But not POTA. And this is because of the fantastic artwork.

The Apes need space for the art to shine through properly, not cramped up in some minute square which has to be examined with a magnifying glass.

Talking about Ape-artist (who ain't?), Mike Ploog is really terrific. He really starts his stories with fantastic artwork, but, unfortunately, he cannot keep up this high standard all the time. Still, at the end of the story he is very good and well above any other artist even at this stage. (I was very pleased to see his name appear on Man-Thing.)

It took a trio of brilliant artists to have Mike beaten. This was in the 2nd Derek Zane story. Thank you, H. Trinme, D. Atkins and S. Trapani for this rare piece of Da Vinci class artwork.

All the best artwork, I think, has been shaded in with Greys. The pictures are much better when they are "toned-in", much better than plain black and white.

Alfredo Alcala and Tom Sutton are also great for the apes. I want, nay, I demand, more stories from these two, and I hope Mike Ploog or Tom Sutton, or maybe the threesome I mentioned earlier, could do the remaining film adaptation, "Battle..."

Doug Moench is great at writing the Ape stories, but I can't say any more because I have no ape stories written by anyone else to compare him with.

N.B. The apes must have 15 pages at least. 10 is not enough at all, especially when you do the film adaptations, because you need speechless pictures conveying action in the film, and when this happens not much happens in the story from week to week, and you've read another week of ape stories in about 30 seconds.

So please... more pages on Apes. You could get rid of Son of Satan, then there would be more space for the apes.

G. Saunders, Sunningdale Farm, Teddamsless Road, Etchingham, Nr. Folkstone, Kent.

We hear and heed your cry. hero. And since we hate to think of you fretting for even a single moment longer than necessary let's hasten with the news that as of now we have no plans at all for moving "POTA/DL" into the landscape format. There... feel better now? And here's some more heart-warming news. It's also our ambition to find more space for the apes stories. It's all a question of how we can juggle the pages... but we're on your side.

Dear Bullpen,

The merger of POTA and Drac Lives was a good idea. The Apes stories are always good, Drac is fair, Ka-Zar's rubbish, but Man-Thing's excellent, so let's see more of him, as well as The Black Panther, since "Rage" was fantastic.

It's come to my notice that many frantic ones are always asking you for back issues which you just haven't got, so let ol' me's making an honest-to-Hulk offer to all True Believers who want back-issues of your fan mags, since, up here in Nutty Notts, I can lay my paws on hundreds of old Marvels, Planet of the Apes, Avengers, Superheroes, Drac Lives, Titans and Conans, but no Spidey's, since they are very scarce. So, send me a list of mags you want and enclose 12p for each mag (which covers the cost of the mag and postage) and a large envelope for the order (or another 5p) and I'll send 'em to ya. BUT I can't accept orders for under five mags of postage costs. (A mag will cost me 8p, making a total of 16p for me to send it.) Please allow 21 days for delivery and don't forget to enclose with your order a list of alternative mags if I can't get all you want. Please, no cheques. Just postal orders or money (taped to card).

Chris Hinchley, 190 Oxcliffe Lane, Arnold, Nottingham.

Sheevesh! We sure hope you know what you're taking on, Chris! To us, it sounds like full-time occupation.

Dear Stan and the Gang,

I am writing to say what I think of the new Apes/Drac mag. (From ish 88, of course.)

POTA. (Terror). The story is great, so is Mike Ploog's art. But Tom Sutton's art is terrible. Bring back Mike Ploog, Ka-Zar. Not the best of back-up stories. How about B.P.? Man-Thing. Great! The story 'Night of the Laughing Dead' was great, especially Mike Ploog's art. Son of Satan plus Drac. Drac's last story was okay, but dragged on too long. Son of Satan is good, I prefer S of S to Drac. POTA (origin). Great! A great consolation to those who missed the first issue.

Now the bad bit. First, why advertise Cap. Marvel on the cover of ish 89 when he isn't there? Second, who's the wise guy who drew Udro on the cover of ish 94? Get your uniforms and badges right. Apart from that, the mag is the greatest.

How about some more posters? If this is possible, try and make them centre spread, as I and many other Ape fans hate taking part of the cover or one page out of their mags, as it leaves a loose page. One last question. Is 'Battle' the next to be adapted, or is it some TV series story?


You really want to make us work for our bread, huh? Hokay, but to save time we'll skip the 'good' bit and get right on with the 'bad'. There's a simple, straightforward reason why Cap Marvel got a mention on the cover of ish 89. Someone goofed — but we're not saying who. Additionally, as you say, the uniform and accoutrements on the ish 94 cover were open to criticism. But then we've never claimed to be perfect. Posters? We're doing all we can. And, lastly, we're currently working on 'Battle' as a picture strip. It could even be in the mag by the time this is published.

Dear Stan and Co.,

I am one of the many Ape fans who never usually put pen to paper, but just sit back and enjoy Planet of the Apes.

However, I'm feeling so mad that the steam is coming out of my ears, because you seem to be getting more than your fair share of criticism.

Like many, Monday is a Red Letter Day for me — the day the Apes mag arrives! It's GREAT! And don't let anyone tell you otherwise. I'm sure it brings lots of pleasure to all the Ape fans out there. The cover on today's issue (No. 94) is terrific.

I'm really grateful that there is someone to keep the spirit of the Planet going. It's too great to be lost — and I'm glad of any Ape gen that comes my way.

Sorry to hear of your staff shortage and all the extra work it must entail. We all appreciate what you are doing for us — and the Special Mondays that you give us, so here's one fan saying, "Thanks a lot for all you do — may you be blessed with many children."

Georgina Kemp, 16 Dixon Avenue, Chelmsford.

Georgina — we nearly decided not to publish your letter. Not, let us hasten to assure you, because we weren't happy to receive it. (Happy! We were delighted!) No — it was simply that you've left us not knowing what to say. Because just how DOES one express the particular brand of pleasure that you've given us? But if we promise to keep the Planet wheels a-turning we're sure you'll understand that that's the sincerest way we have of expressing our gratitude to you for writing.

APES' FANG MAIL
Marvel Comics Ltd Room 106
52 High Holborn London WC1V 6RZ
GET US OUT OF HERE ZIRA!!

Taylor, Nova, and a group of apes are headed for the forbidden zone to learn its mysteries. However, Taylor and Nova are not exactly happy with their situation in this little expedition...
LATER...

THAT'S FAIR ENOUGH, BUT YOU'RE NO LONGER IN CHARGE OR ALONG, AND I DON'T MEAN TO BE CAPTURED AGAIN.

AS YOU WISH... BUT I DON'T KNOW WHAT YOU THINK YOU'LL NEED A WEAPON FOR.

FOR A TREK THROUGH THE FORBIDDEN ZONE, ZAUS SEEMS TO THINK THERE'S ANOTHER JUNGLE BEYOND IT. THAT'S WHAT NOVA AND I'LL TRY FOR. WHAT ABOUT YOU?

CORNELIUS AND I HAVE BEEN INDICTED FOR HERESY. UNLESS WE CAN PROVE OUR THEORIES, WE DON'T STAND A CHANCE OF ACQUITTAL.

THEN YOU'RE GOING BACK TO THE FORBIDDEN ZONE...?

YES... TO THE DUGUHES I WORKED AT A YEAR AGO. IT'S A TWO-DAY RIDE ACROSS THE EASTERN DESERT, NEAR WHERE YOU CLAIM YOU LANDED FROM THAT PLANET OF YOURS.

YOU STILL DON'T BELIEVE ME, DO YOU?

IT'S A LONG DETOUR TO THAT LAKE YOU SAY YOU CRASHED INTO. IF WE WENT THERE, WHAT PROOF WOULD WE FIND?

NOTHING MUCH. THE REMNANT OF A LIFE RAFT. MAYBE A PITIFUL SMALL FLAG...

...THE PRECIOUS EMBLEM OF MY COUNTRYMEN.

SORRY TAYLOR. THE TERRAIN AROUND THAT LAKE IS POISONOUS. THERE'S NO FRESH WATER, NO VEGETATION-- NOTHING.

I KNOW...

NEVERTHELESS, I THANK YOU FOR SAVING US. YOU'LL BE IN TROUBLE FOR IT.

WE'VE BEEN IN TROUBLE SINCE THE MOMENT WE MET YOU, TAYLOR.
POOR THING... SHE'S HOMESICK.

WELL, WE'D BETTER GET STARTED. IF THE MOUNTED POLICE PICK UP OUR TRAIL, THEY'LL FOLLOW IT THIS FAR AT LEAST.

RIGHT. COME ON, LUCUS--LET'S PUT THE WATER AND THE PROVISIONS IN THE WAGON.

ARE YOU... GOING TO TAKE HER WITH YOU?

YES.

ACTUALLY, YOU'RE A DIFFERENT BREED FROM HER. SHE'S FROM A SPECIES WHICH WILL NEVER EVOLVE.

MAYBE SHE WON'T.

AND YOU'RE TAKING HER ALONG ANYWAY. YOU WANT HER THAT MUCH, DON'T YOU?

YOU'RE THE ONE WHO THREW US TOGETHER, REMEMBER? AND YOU GUessed RIGHT--MEN JUST LIKE APES, GROW DESPONDENT WITHOUT A MATE.

NOW IF YOU'LL EXCUSE ME, I'D BETTER HELP LOAD THE WAGON.
AFTER SEVERAL HOUR'S JOURNEY, THE TERRAIN WITHERS FROM LUSH FOREST TO FLAT SAVANNAH... AND ULTIMATELY TO A BLEAK AND BARREN LANDSCAPE OF DRY WASH AND SPARSE TAMARISKS...

THOSE SCARECROWS, AUNT ZIRA--WHO PUT THEM UP?

THE HUNT CLUB.

TO SCARE OFF HUMANS?

TO SCARE US, TOO. WE'RE ENTERING THE FORBIDDEN ZONE NOW.

THE SCARECROWS FRIGHTEN YOU, DON'T THEY, NOVA?

DON'T WORRY--THEY WON'T BITE YOU WITH ME AROUND.

AND THE STRANGE CARAVAN MOVES ON UNDER THE STEADILY RISING SUN...

...CROSSING THE TIP OF A SWEEPING DESERT BY NOON...

...AND REACHING A DEEP GORGE SLICED FROM A FLAT TABLELAND OF SOLID ROCK AS THEIR AFTERNOON SHADOWS BEGIN TO LENGTHEN.

WE MAY AS WELL STOP HERE FOR A REST --AT LEAST IT'S GOT A VIEW.
Looks like something's wrong with your mate, Taylor...

Let me handle this...

You may be smarter than I am, Taylor...

But I'm the veterinary on this planet. I'll take care of her.

She'll be all right, Taylor.

Come take a look at the river... it's quite a sight.

Where does it lead?

It empties into a sea some miles from here, that's where my cave diggings are.

And beyond that?

No one knows. At high tide you can't ride along the shore, and we had no boats on the last expedition.

You've never told me why this region's called the forbidden zone.

I really don't know what it's an ancient taboo... set forth in the sacred scrolls. The lawgiver pronounced the area deadly.

Hey... shouldn't we be moving on?
I'm for that.

This cave of yours should prove interesting, Cornelius.

What's the diagnosis, Doctor -- a touch of the sun?

She's not sick at all...

She's... pregnant.

So you see, Doctor... I'm not an altogether different breed from her.

Come on -- this is where we abandon the wagon.

...and begin our descent on foot!
THEN, BY NIGHTFALL, CORNELIUS' FORMER ENCAMPMENT IS REACHED.

BUT, DISSUADED BY DARKNESS AND FATIGUE, THE SMALL GROUP AGREES TO DELAY THEIR INITIAL INVESTIGATIONS IN FAVOR OF SLEEP.

-- AND THE LIGHT OF DAWN.

WELL, NOW, IN JUST A SECOND OR TWO, WE'LL SEE HOW YOU LIKE--

WHY DID YOU DO THAT? SCRAPE OFF YOUR HAIR?

YOU WOULD SAY THAT, CORNELIUS.

IN MY WORLD-- BEFORE I LEFT IT, ANYWAY-- ONLY YOUNGSTERS OF YOUR AGE, LUCIUS, WORE THEIR HAIR UNSCRAPED.

BUT WHEN ARE YOU GOING TO SHOW ME WHAT'S IN YOUR CAVE?

YOU WOULD SAY THAT, CORNELIUS.

STILL, IT MAKES YOU LOOK SOMEHOW LESS INTELLIGENT.

RIGHT NOW, IF YOU LIKE.

A LITTLE NICKED... BUT NOT ALL THAT UGLY, EH...?
DO YOU HEAR THAT--?

SOUNDS LIKE HORSES....

IT'S DOCTOR ZAIUS--!

NOT TO MENTION THE MEANEST-LOOKING BUNCH OF GORILLAS I'VE SEEN ON THIS PLANET YET.

LUCIUS-- DON'T FIRE AT THEM.

YOU'RE ALL UNDER ARREST.

DO AS HE SAYS, LUCIUS.

OH, ALL RIGHT.

AND YOU, LUCIUS-- YOU SEDITIOUS LITTLE SCOUNDREL-- PUT DOWN THAT RIFLE.

THAT'S BETTER, NOW I MUST INFORM ALL OF YOU THAT--

STOP RIGHT THERE, ZAIUS!

CONTINUED NEXT ISSUE.