WHERE MAN ONCE STOOD SUPREME--NOW RULE THE APES!

PLANT
OF THE
APES
AND
DRACULA LIVES

FOOL! IT'S FUTILE TO FLEE! THERE IS NO ESCAPE FROM THE RULE OF THE APES!

NO! NO!

AT LAST!
THE HUMANS STRIKE BACK IN: FIGHT FOR FREEDOM
Stan Lee PRESENTS: PLANET OF THE APES!

In the early days following the great war, man and ape shared the planet earth. But while retaining his intelligence, man was by far in the minority. So very much resenting the intellectual superiority of his hairless brothers, the ape began to plot and scheme against man. And one of the leaders was named Aldo.

Feeling more than hostile toward the men who mock him and hurl abuse for his ignorance, Aldo rides toward a much treasured daily rendezvous.

"And man shall perish!"

-A rendezvous which he knows, somehow, when this day be different from all of the others.

Story by Doug Moench
Art by Vincente Alcazar and Sonny Trinidad
Edited by Archie Goodwin
Why must he come to this place every day? Why is so much importance placed on the meaningless ritual?

What is the value of this routine... of learning to become--

---SMART...?

You're late again, General Aldo.

But as usual, Aldo ignores the instruction and sits himself along with others of his own kind. Significantly, the teacher does not object...

Now shall we resume our lesson, Cornelius. Repeat after me: Ape shall never kill--ape.

Please take your place in the class.

---ALL RIGHT, YOU GORILLAS.

You must be quiet and pay attention. You know Caesar's orders--you are to learn to talk and read and write.

---EXCUSE ME, CORNELIUS, WE CANNOT PROCEED UNTIL WE HAVE THE ATTENTION OF THE ENTIRE CLASS.

Aldo knows that the mention of Caesar's name will quiet his fellow gorillas... and force him to follow their example.
NOR IS HE PLEASED BY THE CONSTANT INSULTS HE MUST BARE FROM CEASAR'S SON...

JUST THINK--IF MY DADDY WERE A GORILLA, WE'D ALL BE LEARNING RIDING INSTEAD OF WRITING.

AS USUAL, THE YOUNG ONES BURST INTO LAUGHTER... AND ALDO'S ANGER BUILDS TO A NEAR RAGE...

QUIET, CORNELIUS.

HA HA HA

QUIET, CLASS--!

NOW LET'S GET BACK TO WORK. WE HAVE A LOT TO COVER TODAY.

TAKE OUT YOUR PENCILS AND WRITE THE GREAT RULE: APE SHALL NEVER KILL APE.

SOME OF THE PUPILS SEEM QUITE ADEPT IN THE ASSIGNMENT...

...AS DO MOST OF THE ORANGUTAN STUDENTS...

BUT THERE ARE OTHERS WHO ARE SOMewhat LACKING IN APTITUDE...

CORNELIUS, ESPECIALLY, EXHIBITS A FACILE SKILL IN PENMANSHIP...

...AS WELL AS BASIC SKILL.
ALDO -- NOW THAT'S ENOUGH TEMPER. VIOLENCE DOESN'T SOLVE EVERYTHING YOU KNOW. GO JUST SETTLE DOWN.

I SAID BE QUIET, YOU GORILLAS...! DO I HAVE TO SPEAK TO CESAR ABOUT YOU--?

THIS TIME, THE EXHORTATION OF CESAR'S NAME INDUCES ANYTHING BUT SULLEN SILENCE...

... AND NOW ENFORCED BY THE GROWING DIN OF MASS DEFiance, ALDO RISES... HIS ANGER NO LONGER SUPPRESSED... YOU NOT SPEAK!

ALDO SPEAK--!

YOU LISTEN--!!
Unable to back away any farther, the frightened teacher forgets himself and blurts out three simple words...

The reaction is abrupt silence... instantaneous shock...

Even young Cornelius is astounded.

But it is his classmate Virgil who breaks the awful silence...

You... did what is... forbidden...

I... I'm sorry... I forgot... I... I didn't mean to...

And once broken, Aldo destroys it.

POARR

Nooo...!!

Help...!!

HELP ME!!
ALDO HAS NOPED FOR A MOMENT SUCH AS THIS... WAITED FOR IT...

HE HAS LONG HATED THIS HAIRLESS SPINY TEACHER -- WISHED HE COULD CROW THE LIFE FROM HIS BONY BODY WITH HIS RODONING FISTS...

AND NOW THAT THE TEACHER HAS TRENCH HIM JUSTIFIED CAUSE TO DO SO...

...THERE IS NO POWER IN THE WORLD WHICH CAN FORCE HIM TO...

STOP!

I SAID STOP, ALDO!

NO, NOT NOW -- OF ALL TIMES, WHY NOW -- ?!
THE OLD WAYS ARE FORBIDDEN!

I... I KNOW THAT CAESAR! PLEASE FORGIVE ME.

I... I DIDN'T MEAN TO FORGET... BUT...

NO MORE SCHOOL TODAY FOR US.

THAT ALDO IS A TROUBLEMAKER. CAESAR! I'VE BEEN MEANING TO SPEAK TO YOU ABOUT HIM...

GORILLAS ARE... SIMPLE, MACDONALD... AND MUST BE TREATED THE SAME WAY...
NO, MACDONALD... WE HAVE TO GO FORWARD. NOT BACK!

BUT WHAT PATH WILL YOU FOLLOW, CAESAR...?

HAVE YOU GIVEN THOUGHT TO WHERE ALDO COULD LEAD YOU IF HE IS GIVEN THE CHANCE?

I...

EEEAPPLICATION!!

LOOK OUT, CAESAR...!!

Perhaps you're right, Macdonald...

I think Alpo may be riding for a Fall!
In a cave deep within the
Forbidden Zone, Doctor
Zira and Cornelius have
produced archeological
evidence of an advanced
human culture predating
history, but their hopes
for exoneration from
charges of heresy seem
premature...

SURELY, DR. ZAIUS, YOU
REALIZE THE SIGNIFICANCE
OF...

NO I DON'T, DR.
ZIRA-- AND I'LL THANK
YOU TO REFRAIN FROM
ATTRIBUTING YOUR
SPECIOUS DEDUCTIONS
TO ME. THE DOLL
PROVES NOTHING.

MY GRAND-
DAUGHTER
PLAYS WITH
HUMAN DOLLS.

I AGREE THAT A
DOLL ALONE
PROVES NOTHING,
SIR.

BUT THE DOLL
WAS FOUND
BESIDE THE JAW-
BONE OF A MAN...
AND NO TRACE
OF SIMIAN
FOSSILS HAS
TURNED UP IN
THIS DEPOSIT
AT ALL.

KEEP DIGGING,
CORNELIUS, AND YOU'LL
FIND EVIDENCE OF
THE REAL MASTER
OF THIS HOUSE--
AN APE.

TAYLOR--
ARE YOU GOING
TO LET THAT
PASS WITHOUT
AN ANSWER?

I'D HAVE TO AGREE WITH ZAIUS.
FROM ALL YOU'VE FOUND SO
FAR, HIS POSITION'S AS GOOD
AS YOURS.
WHAT ARE YOU DOING THERE, TAYLOR?

RECONSTRUCTING A LIFE... FROM ARTIFACTS...

CARE TO HAVE A LOOK?

THOSE OBJECTS FOUND NEAR THE DOLL... WHOEVER OWNED THEM WAS IN PRETTY BAD SHAPE...

DEFECTIVE EYESIGHT, ROTTEN TEETH, HE SUFFERED A HERNIA... AND THESE LITTLE RINGS OF STAINLESS STEEL ENCLOSED A PREFABRICATED VALVE IN HIS FAILING HEART...

I DON'T SAY HE WAS A MAN LIKE AN EARTHMAN, BUT I'D CALL HIM A CLOSE RELATIVE... FOR HE WAS PLAAGUED WITH MOST OF MAN'S ILLS.

YES, ZAIUS, FRAGILE AS HE WAS, HE CAME BEFORE YOU--AND WAS SUPERIOR TO YOU.

THAT'S LUNACY! I COULD GIVE YOU AN ALTERNATE DESCRIPTION FOR EVERY ONE OF THESE OBJECTS THAT'S EQUALLY AS INVENTIVE AS YOURS.

BUT IT WOULD BE CONJECTURE--NOT PROOF. SO I SUGGEST THAT YOU--

MAMA! MAMA!

DR. ZAIUS--WILL AN APE MAKE A HUMAN DOLL THAT TALKS?!
YOU DIRTY LOUSE--!

I SHOULD'VE KNOWN BETTER THAN TO LET YOU WHISPER THOSE "RETRIEVE" ORDERS TO YOUR THUGS.

* LAST ISSUE. --MARY.

AND SINCE THERE AIN'T ANY TREES OR BUSHES AROUND HERE--

CAN'T HUG THIS DIRTY FOREVER--!

-- IT LOOKS LIKE THE ONLY COVER AVAILABLE IS--

TELL THEM TO PULL BACK!!

ZAIUS!
YOU HEARD ME--

CEASE, FIRE!
WITHDRAW!

I OUGHT TO KILL YOU RIGHT NOW, ZAIUS...

...AND DON'T THINK I WON'T IF YOU MAKE ONE MORE MOVE ON YOUR WAY DOWN THAT LADDER.

THEY TOOK ME BY SURPRISE, SNEAKED UP ON ME WHILE I WAS WATERING THE HORSES. WHAT'S HAPPENED TO HONOUR?

BUT AT LEAST I GOT OFF ONE ROUND TO WARN YOU.
NEVER MIND THAT. HOW DO YOU FEEL, LUCIUS?

DISILLUSIONED-- BUT VINDICATED! I WAS RIGHT ALL ALONG-- YOU JUST CAN'T TRUST THE OLDER GENERATION. IT'S A MATTER OF VALUES...

THEY'VE TAKEN EVERYTHING-- HORSES-- SUPPLIES...

NOT EVERYTHING. THEY LEFT US A HOSTAGE...

LUCIUS-- WILL YOU DO ME FAVOUR?

AS LONG AS YOU DON'T GET THE IDEA YOU'RE GIVING ME ORDERS..
NO ORDERS. I JUST WANT YOU TO GO AROUND THE BEND AND RE-CALL THOSE GORILLAS THAT THEIR LEADER IS NOW MY PRISONER.

AND TELL THEM I WANT A WEEK'S SUPPLY OF FOOD FOR THE WOMAN AND MYSELF, A HORSE, A SPODE, AND FIFTY ROUNDS OF AMMUNITION.

WHAT IF THEY WON'T AGREE TO YOUR TERMS?

THEN TELL THEM DR. ZAULUS WON'T LEAVE HERE ALIVE.

TAUOR, YOU CAN'T..!

YOU'RE WRONG, DR. ZAULUS, HE'S A BORN KILLER.

DELIVER HIS MESSAGE.

OVER TO THE TREE, ZAULUS.

SIT DOWN WITH YOUR BACK TO THE TRUNK.

NOW, MINISTER OF "SCIENCE"... LET ME EXPLAIN CERTAIN PRINCIPLES OF STRESS AND STRAIN.

IF YOU SHOULD EXERT PRESSURE TO REMOVE THESE BONDS, YOU'D ONLY SUCCEED IN CHOKING YOURSELF TO DEATH. IT'LL BE SUICIDE, YOU SEE...

TAYLOR, PLEASE-- DON'T TREAT HIM THAT WAY.

WHY NOT? WASN'T I HUMILIATED? BY ALL OF YOU.

DIDN'T YOU LEAD ME AROUND ON A LEASH?..?
AND YOU, DR. ZAIUS—you know the truth, too. Cornelius has beaten you—he's shoved the proof right under your nose.

MAN. PRECEDED YOU HERE, AND MAN WAS RESPONSIBLE FOR YOUR SCIENCE—YOUR LANGUAGE—FOR EVERY LITTLE BIT OF WHATEVER KNOWLEDGE YOU HAVE.

THEN ANSWER THIS: IF MAN WAS SUPERIOR... WHY DIDN'T HE SURVIVE?

MAYBE HE WAS WIPE OUT BY A PLAGUE—NATURAL CATACLYSM LIKE A FIERY STORM OF METEORS...

FROM THE LOOKS OF THIS PART OF YOUR PLANET, I'D SAY THAT WAS A FAIR BET.

BUT WE CAN'T BE SURE...

HE'S SURE. HE KNEW ALL THE TIME. LONG BEFORE YOUR DISCOVERY IN THAT CAVE, HE KNEW.

IS THAT TRUE, DR. ZAIUS?

WHAT I KNOW OF MAN WAS WRITTEN LONG AGO—SET DOWN BY THE WISEST APE OF ALL... OUR LAWGIVER.

ISN'T THAT RIGHT, "DEFENDER OF THE FAITH"—GUARDIAN OF THE TERRIBLE SECRET...?

OPEN MY BREAST POCKET, DR. CORNELIUS... YOU KNOW WHAT IS IN IT?

CONTINUED NEXT ISSUE!