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

PLANET OF THE APES and DRACULA LIVES

IT'S ALL-OUT WAR WHEN SIMIAN BATTLES MUTANT--BENEATH THE PLANET OF THE APES!

ALSO: MORE FAR-OUT FANTASY WITH... CONAN! MAN-THING! KA-ZAR!
THIS WAS ONCE A THRIVING CITY... A BUSTLING MEGACITY... A HECTIC TESTAMENT TO THE PROGRESSIVE HUMAN CIVILIZATION, A CENTRE OF BUSINESS, COMMERCE, ENTERTAINMENT AND CRIME... A WAY OF LIFE FOR MILLIONS...

BUT CALL IT WHAT YOU WILL, NO ONE WILL HEAR YOU NOW FOR IT IS OVER.

THE TOWERING SKYSCRAPERS MELTED ONE DAY FLOWING DOWNWARD FROM THEIR TV TRANSMITTER SPIRES AND THERE FUSED WITH THE BURNING RIVER OF STREETS TURNED TO LAVA. THAT RAY WAS SOMETHING LIKE GREAT ARMAGEDDON...

WHEN ALL THE LARGE CITIES OF THE EARTH WERE BUSTED IN A SINGLE INSTANT OF IMPROVIDE, A BLACKENED WHITE HEART BURSTING FROM THE HEART OF ANNUAL HOLOCAUST.

THE QUASSIRE OF LIQUID STEEL AND CONCRETE AND GLASS AND PLASTIC HAS LONG SINCE COOLED, HOWEVER AND NOW THE CITY RESEMBLES NOTHING AS MUCH AS A GLACIER OF DEVASTATION... SHEATHED IN A GREEN BLOOD OF LINGERING RADIATION.

AND YET IS THE MELTED CITY A COMPLETELY DESERTED IS IT NOT POSSIBLE THAT SOME SURVIVED THE MULTI-MEGATON DAY OF DOOM... SOME WHO HAVE BEEN CHANGED BY THE SHRINE OF RADIATION AND INTELLIGENT APES... BUT WHO DESPERATELY CLING TO THE OLD WAYS WHICH CAUSED THEIR CHANCE...

YES, IT IS POSSIBLE AND THEY LIVE HERE DEEP WITHIN THE TWISTING LABYRINTHS OF THE MELTED CITY... IF THEIR EXISTENCE MAY BE CALLED LIKE...

PART III

A TASTE OF MUTANT HATE
This was once the command post of the city's governor, named Breck. Now it is perhaps the only structure which has survived the bomb... and it is still governed by the man named Breck...

...a bastion which has been invaded by three from the new way of life...

Come on Caesar—we've got to get out of here! If we subject ourselves to the radiation much longer...

Wait a minute, Macdonald...

Do you smell it, Virgil...

Though few would recognize him, lurking deep within his subterranean bastion is altered... humanity...

Yes... but it's not the same... human... but not like Macdonald...

I don't know what's holding you two up, but if you won't listen to reason and come with me, then you'll just have to find your own way out...

Macdonald, wait... there may be danger...

You're damn right there may be danger...

And I'm walking away from it just as fast as I can.
They prop as one. hideously mutated attackers lunging from shadows... and as Macdonald whirls to the sound of their assault...

What the...?!!

In the name of the Creator, Caesar! What are they... not apes... or humans what are they...?

I don't know... but they're not firing! They must want to take us alive...

Macdonald... you've got to break free!!

We can't help until you get away from them...!!

Break free, huh...?

Well, there's only one way to do that... and it's to...

---BLAST FREE!!---

BAKEAKAKEAKAKEAK...
TO DIE!

WE CAN'T STAY HERE FOREVER. ONE OF THOSE BULLETS IS BOUND TO RICOCHET OFF THE WALL AND HIT US... SOONER OR LATER.

WHERE IS CAESAR...? WHAT'S KEEPING HIM...

I DON'T KNOW, VIRGIL...

BEEOW

...BUT I HOPE HE SHOWS UP SOON.

HE DOES... GLOWING GREEN.

...AND BLASTING DEATH INTO THE RANKS OF SHOCKED MUTANTS. MOST FALL IMMEDIATELY. BUT AT LEAST ONE VANISHES AROUND THE CORNER.

THAT MUST BE CAESAR CAUSING ALL THE RUCKUS--

THIS CORRIDOR MUST DOUBLE AROUND AND LEAP BACK TO THE MUTANTS, WHICH MEANS CAESAR MAY BE IN BIG TROUBLE....
WHOKT!

...UNTIL...

UNFORTUNATELY, CAESAR IS UNAWARE OF THAT TROUBLE...

BRAK

...IT IS ELIMINATED.

ARGH--!

THANKS, MACDONALD. THIS ISN'T THE FIRST TIME YOU'VE --

FORGET IT, CAESAR! THERE'S NO TIME FOR THAT NOW...

...BECAUSE IF WE DON'T HURRY WE'VE HAD IT!

IF THE RADIATION DOESN'T GET US, MORE OF THOSE MUTANTS WILL --!

ALL FORCES INTO EXIT LEVEL THREE!

THEY'RE GETTING AWAY --!

...NOW...
KILL THEM! NEVER MIND ANYTHING ELSE—ALL PREVIOUS ORDERS ARE NOW INOPERATIVE!

LIFE INOPERATIVE!

NEVER MIND LIFE!

JUST KILL THEM!

WAIT... I HEAR SOMETHING... RUNNING... AND IT'S NOT OUR ECHOES...

YOU'RE RIGHT...

FROM THAT WAY...

NO-- FROM DOWN THERE....

FROM BOTH DIRECTIONS-- AND EVERY OTHER CORRIDOR AS WELL-- THEY'RE CONVERGING ON US FROM ALL DIRECTIONS...

CAN WE MAKE IT, MACDONALD?

THE EXITS NOT FAR NOW-- WE'LL MAKE AS LONG AS WE DON'T RUN INTO ANY MORE OF THOSE--
DAMN! ME AND MY BIG MOUTH...!

FIRE!!

ERAK-AK-AK-AK-AK-AK

COME ON... BLAST RIGHT THROUGH THEM! THE DOOR IS JUST AHEAD...

COME ON... CAESAR... COME ON...

NOT YET!

ERAK-AEAK-AK

CONTINUED NEXT ISSUE!
Stuck in the reality of a world in which beasts rule over man, the astronaut Brent has placed himself under the dubious leadership of a primitive female...

For some reason, she has led him to the adobe-mound village...and now, although she is supposedly of speech, she proves fully aware of Brent's capabilities...

...by urgently attempting to stifle his voice...for she has learned that on a planet of apes...

...the slightest sound from a human...

---means instant death---

HALT...or I'll shoot to kill!!
A BIRD--!
I'M GETTING TOO JUMPY FOR THIS KIND OF WORK. PRETTY SOON WE'LL ALL BE SEEING ENEMIES AROUND EVERY CORNER IF WE KEEP LISTENING TO COLONEL URSUS!

I DON'T KNOW ANYTHING ANYMORE. APES THAT TALK AND FIRE GUNS... HUMANS CAN'T TALK AND ACT LIKE APES--
WHAT ARE YOU POINTING AT NOW?

THAT Adobe DWELLING. I SUPPOSE YOU KNOW THE PEOPLE WHO LIVE THERE? OR... GOD HELP ME--!

"THE APES WHO..."
IF I HAD ANY PROPER SENSE OF SCIENTIFIC PURPOSE, CORNELIUS, I SHOULDN'T BE CUTTING UP THE HEALTHY HEADS OF HUMANS... I SHOULD BE DISSECTING THE DISEASED BRAINS OF SORILLAS TO FIND OUT WHAT WENT WRONG.

AND HOW WOULD YOU PUT IT RIGHT, DEAR ZIRA?
WET-NURSE THEIR BABIES ON THE MILK OF CHIMPANZEE'S--THE MILK OF KINDNESS.

AT LEAST WHEN OUR BABY IS BORN, IT WON'T BE BREAST-FED ON BILE.

THE TROUBLE WITH US NEWLY-WED INTELLECTUALS, MY DEAR, IS THAT WE HAVE RESPONSIBILITY--

--BUT NO POWER.

AND EVEN IF WE DID TAKE POWER INTO OUR HANDS, WE'D BE AS BAD--OR WORSE--THAN THEM.

RIDICULOUS: WE COULD NEVER BE AS BAD AS THE SAVAGES. THEY'RE A GENETIC ACCIDENT--A MISTAKE OF NATURE! THEY'RE CRUEL BECAUSE THEY'RE STUPID--ALL BONE AND LITTLE BRAIN.

SH-H-H! ZIRA--DON'T TALK LIKE THAT!

NOVA--AND TAYLOR!

MY NAME'S NOT TAYLOR!

YOU NEVER KNOW WHO COULD BE LISTENING.

IT'S BRENT. YOU TALKED--IMPOSSIBLE.

IN AN ENTIRE LIFETIME DEVOTED TO THE SCIENTIFIC STUDY OF HUMANS, I'VE FOUND ONLY ONE OTHER LIKE YOU WHO COULD SPEAK.

TAYLOR--AN ASTRONAUT LIKE MYSELF.

HAVE YOU SEEN HIM? IS HE ALIVE--?!

I DON'T KNOW. I'M TRYING TO FIND HIM--AND THE LONGER I'M HERE, THE LESS I'M BEGINNING TO CARE.
WE LOVED TAYLOR. HE WAS A FINE, UNIQUE SPECIMEN -- AND IF IT HAD NOT BEEN FOR ZIRA, HE'D STILL BE HERE.

STUFFED -- WITH GLASS EYES -- IN THE GREAT HALL OF THE ZAIUS MUSEUM, LIKE HIS TWO FRIENDS.

WELL, I DON'T PLAN TO STAY AS LONG AS HIS TWO FRIENDS THEN. LOOK, CAN YOU GIVE ME SOME FOOD, WATER, AND A MAP... SO I KNOW WHERE I'M GOING --?

AND YOUR SHOULDER -- IT NEEDS ATTENTION.

HERE'S THE MAP. I'LL SHOW YOU WHERE OUR CITIES -- AND WHERE ZIRA AND I LAST SAW TAYLOR.

NOW, YOU SEE THE RIVER WHICH FLOWS TO THE NORTH? IT ROUGHLY PARALLELS THE ROUTE WE TOOK WITH TAYLOR...

HOLD STILL NOW... WHILE I DRESS THIS WOUND.

OUCH! WHAT IS THAT STUFF YOU'RE USING? BURNS LIKE FIRE!

YOU WOULDN'T KNOW IF I TOLD YOU, JUST RELAX AND TRUST ME -- AMONG OTHER THINGS, I'M A TRAINED VET.

THANKS, I'LL TRY NOT TO CLAW YOU.

AS I WAS SAYING, WE LAST SAW TAYLOR WITH NOVA GOING THROUGH THE GAP BETWEEN THIS LAKE AND THE SEA.

YES, YES -- I KNOW THE FORBIDDEN ZONE.

WHO TOLD YOU THAT?

YOUR GLORIOUS LEADER -- THE BIG BRUUSER WITH ALL THE HAIR ON HIS FACE, HE LIKES MAKING SPEECHES.

THEY WERE HEADING DEEP INTO THE TERRITORY WE CALL...
YOU MEAN TO SAY YOU MANAGED TO EAVESDROP ON...

BAK BAK BAK

QUICK!

NOW JUST STAY IN THERE AND KEEP SILENT.

OPEN THE DOOR CORNELIUS.

BUT...

OPEN IT.

BAK BAK BAK
DR. ZAUS--
WE WERE JUST GOING TO BAT--
NOT BEFORE I'VE TALKED SOME SENSE INTO THAT HEADSTRONG WIFE OF YOURS.

WHERE IS SHE?

WHY, UH... WELL, SHE'S--

GOOD DAY, DR. ZAUS. WHAT HAPPENED TO YOUR FACE? HAS THERE BEEN AN ACCIDENT?

FOR MY BAD BEHAVIOUR AT THE MEETING.

I DON'T BLAME HIM. YOUR CONDUCT WAS DISGRACEFUL.

I DON'T RESENT IT.

BUT HIS NAILED CLIPPING.

ENOUGH OF THIS NONSENSE. ARE YOU SO BLIND-- YOU TWO PSYCHOLOGISTS-- THAT YOU CAN'T SEE WE'RE ON THE BRINK OF A GRAVE CRISIS? YOU HEARD URSUS' SPEECH--

MILITARISTIC TRIBE!

ZIBA! PLEASE...!

PERHAPS, BUT ELEVEN OF HIS GORILLA SCOUTS VANISHED ON RECONNAISSANCE IN THE FORBIDDEN ZONE.

Serves him right.

... AND URSUS IS DETERMINED TO HAVE HIS REVENGE-- "ALL-OUT WAR IF NEED BE..."
I KNOW. THE PRICE WE PAID FOR OUR FREEDOM WAS OUR VOW TO YOU—NEVER TO DISCLOSE OUR DISCOVERY THAT...

-- MAN Evolved FROM THE APES... BUT TO REMAIN SILENT WHILE THIS BULLY URSUS DESTROYS EVERYTHING IN HIS PATH IS NO LONGER POSSIBLE. WHERE ARE THE FORBIDDEN ZONE'S "RIVALS?"

WOULD YOU RATHER STAND TRIAL FOR HERESY AGAIN? NO, MY CHILDREN. THIS WE CAN'T BE HERE TO PLEAD FOR CLEMENCY. ANOTHER MAN-HUNT, DOCTOR? THE DISAPPEARANCE OF THOSE SCOUTS IS MORE THAN THE WORK OF A MERE MAN. SOMEONE—OR SOMETHING—HAS OUTWITTED THE INTELLIGENCE OF THE GORILLAS. THAT SHOULDN'T BE DIFFICULT. ZIRA FOR SANITY'S SAKE...

AS MINISTER OF SCIENCE I HAVE DUTY TO FIND OUT WHETHER SOME OTHER FORM OF LIFE EXISTS. SOME NEW THREAT TO OUR APE CIVILIZATION... BEFORE URSUS BORGES IN AND DESTROYS THE EVIDENCE.
BUT IF THESE CREATURES--OR WHATEVER THEY ARE--HAVE PROVEN THEMSELVES TO BE INTELLIGENT, WHY SHOULDN'T THEY BE ABLE TO LIVE WITH US IN PEACE AND HARMONY?

FOR THE SAME REASON MAN COULD NOT LIVE IN HARMONY EVEN WITH HIS OWN KIND, HE ABUSED HIS OWN INTELLIGENCE AND DESTROYED HIS OWN WORLD.

WE APES HAVE LEARNED TO LIVE IN INNOCENCE. LET NO ONE BE IGNORANT, BE MAN OR SOME OTHER CREATURE, ATTEMPT TO CORRUPT THAT INNOCENCE.

WHY ARE YOU FROWNING? IS INNOCENCE SO EVIL--?

IGNORANCE IS THERE A TIME FOR TRUTH.

AND THE TIME IS ALWAYS NOW!

BAH!

ARE YOU ASKING ME TO SURRENDER MY PRINCIPLES?

I AM ASKING YOU TO BE THE GUARDIANS OF THE HIGHER PRINCIPLES OF SCIENCE IN MY ABSENCE.

I AM ASKING FOR A TRUCE WITH YOUR PERSONAL CONVICTIONS IN AN HOUR OF PUBLIC DANGER.

AND YOU SHALL HAVE IT. DR. ZAUS-- I ASSURE YOU, OR I SHALL HIT HER AGAIN.

THANK YOU, CORNELIUS, BUT LET'S HAVE NO VIOLENCE, SHALL WE...

NOW I'M RELYING ON YOU BOTH...

AND WE'RE RELYING ON YOU, DOCTOR.

IF IT SHOULD FAIL TO RETURN FROM THE UNKNOWN, THE FUTURE OF OUR CIVILIZATION WILL BE YOURS TO PRESERVE... OR DESTROY.

SO THINK WELL BEFORE YOU ACT.

GOOD-BYE, AND GOOD LUCK.

CONTINUED NEXT ISSUE!