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

PLANET
OF THE
APES
AND
DRACULA LIVES

FOR BETRAYING
YOUR FELLOW APES
TO THE HUMANS
YOU SHALL
DIE!

APE AGAINST APE IN A
TALE OF TREACHERY--
MY BROTHER
MY ENEMY!
AN EXPEDITIONARY FORCE LED BY CAESAR HAS FOUND THEIR DESTINATION--THE CITY! BUT IT IS A CITY NO LONGER. IT IS A CITY SO RAVAGED BY NUCLEAR HOLOCAUST THAT THE APES HAVE THEIR OWN NAME FOR IT--THE FORBIDDEN ZONE!

AND THERE CAESAR FINDS DEATH AWAITS! FIRST IN THE FORM OF HATE-CRAZED MUTANTS--THEN AS LETHAL RADIATION! IT IS A WONDER THAT HE AND HIS BAND HAVE ESCAPED BOTH OF THESE PERILS--ALIVE!

I THINK THAT ROUND OF GUNFIRE WILL KEEP THEM OCCUPIED FOR A LITTLE WHILE...

OF COURSE! IT WOULDN'T DO TO HAVE THEM KNOW THE DIRECTION WE TOOK...

THIS WILL BE THE END OF PEACE FOR APE CITY!

PEACE, VIRGIL? I HADN'T NOTICED ALL THAT MUCH PEACE IN APE CITY...

BUT THEN, I WAS LOOKING AT IT FROM A HUMAN VIEWPOINT!

YOU HAD A HUNDRED ARMED MEN AND YOU KNOW THE CORRIDORS DOWN TO EVERY LAST BOLT AND NUT--!

THEY WERE FAST... AND SMART, GOVERNOR...

THE APE SURPRISED US...

THE APE SURPRISED YOU...
YES... I SUPPOSE HE WOULD...

HE SURPRISED ME ONCE...

ANIMAL... NOTHING BUT AN ANIMAL...

BUT HE'S AN ANIMAL... NOTHING BUT A STINKING ANIMAL!

MAYBE WE CAN FIND THEM...

MENDEZ--I WANT YOU TO ORGANIZE SCOUT PARTIES AND SUPPLY THEM WITH EQUIPMENT THAT I'LL WORK. WE'RE GOING TO FIND THESE ANIMALS ONCE AND FOR ALL.

MENDEZ--I WANT YOU TO ORGANIZE SCOUT PARTIES AND SUPPLY THEM WITH EQUIPMENT THAT I'LL WORK. WE'RE GOING TO FIND THESE ANIMALS ONCE AND FOR ALL.

YOU'RE DISMISSED. MENDEZ--GET TO WORK ON IT!

BRECK TURNS AWAY PREASSUMING HIS ORDERS WILL BE COMPLETED BUT MENDEZ DOES NOT MOVE AND THERE IS A TRACE OF CONFUSION. WITHIN THE SCOUT'S TWISTING HIS NOSE AT THE HORROR HE HAS NOW CAUSING HIM TO THINK TWICE ABOUT CERTAIN ACTIONS...

TWO DAYS BUT NOT FAR...

THEY WERE ON HORSEBACK; GOVERNOR BRECK; DOESN'T THAT MEAN...?

YES, THEY CAN'T BE TOO FAR AWAY...

WHY--? SO WE CAN EXTERMINATE THEM O F COURSE... WHY ELSE?!

...EXTERMINATE THEM...

STILL CONFUSED, MENDEZ! "BUT HERELESS" SHAPES OFF TO OBEY THE ORDER... AS IF HIS QUESTION HAD BEEN ANSWERED WITH JUST REASON INSTEAD OF SHOUTED DOWN WITH ANGER.
The ridge, dividing bleak desert from lush valley where an outpost of gorilla sentries guard the treehouse ape city from attack...

The speaker is Aloo, he who commands the loyalty of every gorilla in the city... and the enmity of most humans...

Look... there!

Well, it sure will be good to see the grass on the other side of this ridge again! I never realized how bleak and barren...

Hey... what the...?

Stop you fools!!
IT'S US-- IT'S CAESAR--!

WELL, IF THAT WASN'T A NICE WELCOME HOME!

I IMAGINE ALDO WAS RATHER HOPING WE WOULD!

WHY YOU OUT THERE? FORBIDDEN!

I HAD TO GO TO THE CITY, ALDO TO LOOK FOR SOMETHING?

WHAT?

I WENT LOOKING FOR MY PAST...

BUT I FOUND OUR FUTURE!

ALDO GRUNTS AND FROWNS

AND THESE MISTIFYING

HUMANS ARE SENSITIVE TO

THE FACT THAT CAESAR IS

SMARTER THAN HE IS... AND

SUSPECTS INSULTS IN

CAESAR'S EVERY WORD...
AND SO THE GREAT GORILLA DEMANDS...

BUT CAESAR IS TIRED OF BEING INTERROGATED...

YOU WOULDN'T UNDERSTAND!

...AND ALDO'S SUSPICIONS ARE CONFIRMED.

...WITH MY SON CORNELIUS, AND HIS HUMAN FRIEND...

...WITH THIS!!

...AND ALL THE OTHERS LIKE THEM, TOO YOUNG TO UNDERSTAND HATE!
SILENCE, THEN AS CAESAR MOUNTS HIS HORSE...

AND Rides AWAY FROM A CONFRONTATION...

SILENCE, IN WHICH ALDO BROADS...

...AND UNTIL ALDO SPEAKS...

ALDO CAN STOP THAT FUTURE!

MOTHER HAS BEEN WAITING FOR YOU THE WHOLE TIME, FATHER!

I KNOW, CORNELIUS...

...AND I HAVE BEEN WAITING TO RETURN!

ALDO WILL STOP THAT FUTURE!
THREE DAYS LATER, AT THE COUNCIL CHAMBER OF THE TREEHOUSE CITY...

...WHERE REPRESENTATIVES OF EACH OF THE THREE APE SPECIES GATHER FOR A MEETING TO DISCUSS THE FUTURE...

...IT IS A WEARY AND PERHAPS ILL CAESAR WHO MAKES HIS FIRST PUBLIC APPEARANCE FOLLOWING HIS RETURN FROM THE DESTROYED HUMAN CITY.

WITH HIM ARE HIS WIFE LISA...

...WHO JOINS THE AUDIENCE OF CHIMPANZEE REPRESENTATIVES...

...AND HIS SON CORNELIUS, WHO REMAINS AT HIS SIDE BEHIND THE PRESIDING DAIL.

WOK WOK WOK

BUT EVEN WITH SUCH SUPPORT THERE IS A CERTAIN WEAKNESS IN CAESAR'S AUTHORITY THIS DAY...

Perhaps the change is attributable to the very subject of this day's meeting... and his prolonged exposure to the city's lingering radiation, whose effects already manifest themselves in a considerable loss of facial hair...

My friends, I have asked you to come to this special meeting of the council so that I could report on my recent scouting expedition to the city...

CONTINUED NEXT ISSUE!
MERGE OPINIONS

Dear Neil, Alan and Co.,

I'll never understand why Planet of the Apes had to merge with Dracula Lives. Yes, I can see that only Drac Lives COULD adapt Apes, but did it really need to? Was it poor sales, or was it 'clearing the stage' for a British mag? At any rate, we now have FIVE features in an 'un-Titanised' mag. Apes space is okay, but Man-Thing has THREE pages, Ka-zar has 6, the second Apes story has seven and there's a 'terrifying tale' to bring 'spasms of uncontrollable fear' which only lowers the tone further. One (or two) strip(s) has got to go, and I suggest Man-Thing, which is too short to enjoy, even if the stories to come ARE near-classics.

Another point. "Apes" was Britain's only decent S-F comic. Look back on the August-October stories like "War-Toy", "Light of Other Days", "Adam and No Eve", and others like "Arena" and "Black Destroyer" which we shall probably never see again.

You are also in the ridiculous situation of calling the mag PLANET OF THE APES AND DRACULA LIVES, when Dracula's strip isn't even in it. The only surviving strip from "Drac" is Man-Thing, and "Apes" have the cover every issue. (Not that I mind!)

Advice? Call the mag POTA again, with the Apes strip, and an S-F short story, and alternating back-up stories like Dracula, Black Panther, Captain Marvel and Ka-zar, all of whom are catching up with their American counterparts anyway. Keep these Larkin covers coming and restore "Apes" to its former glory.

Don't worry, this letter isn't all complaints! Your latest "Psychedrome" saga is out of this world, and the Ploog/Sutton work rivals City of Nomads and Mike Ploog's charcoalled work for excellence. It's stories like that made (and can make again) POTA the greatest.

Paul Donnachie QNS,
Blair House, Edderton, By Tain,
Ross-shire, Scotland.

That's hard-hitting talk, Paul. Okay—let's see what we can do in the way of providing the answers. First off we'll not deny that the decision to merge POTA with Drac was partly one of economic necessity. Whether we like it or not (and by "we" we mean you, the readers, as well as us) we're in a commercial world. So, having accepted that fact, can we really be criticised for striving to keep both POTA and DRAC LIVES a part of the Marvel scene? And when two mags merge of COURSE there's gonna be difficulty in providing the amount of space that all the features deserve.

FOOM

Dear Stan,

I have always wanted to join "FOOM". Could you tell me when the next comic will be issued, so I can join?

Simon Watkins,
The Willows, Froge Hill, Peldon,
Colchester, Essex.

Sheeesh! You've clearly never been privileged to see a copy of FOOM, Simon, or you'd never refer to it as a comic! But don't hang your head, 'cos you're forgiven. But how to become a FOOMER? Well, there's only one way. Wait until we open the lists by publishing a joining form in one of the British weeklies, fill it in and rush it to us by the very first post.

LATE STARTER

Dear Bulpen,

Although I'm a newcomer to your super comics, I make sure I get three of 'em every week (POTA, Super-Spidey and The Titans).

I think POTA is the best, although it's let down by "Dracula Lives". The story of the psychodrome shows how good artwork can make the story enjoyable. I never read Ka-zar. The Man Thing is okay, but the artwork—Oh dear! It's far too cluttered. The POTA story is just too good to be criticised.

The Titans is just great. Congratulations! The Howard the Duck centre-spread has done a lot to improve my bedroom walls. I find the stories about "The Thing" are the best "Thing" about this magazine.

Super Spidey is far better without Dr. Strange. Spiderman is the best thing in it, closely followed by The Mighty Thor.

Simon Fox,
The Laurels, Wroxton, Banbury, Oxon.

Welcome, newcomer! You didn't state what kindly fate it was that brought you and us together, but what matter? It happened! And although your late start means that you'll have missed a lot of what went on in the past, think what fun you'll have tracking down back issues!
JOY . . . AND SORROW

Dear Stan,

I don’t know how to put my great joy and bitter sorrow into writing, but I’ll have a go. Firstly my joy.

The combination of POTA and Dracula Lives was the greatest idea since Marvel.

POTA. The art done by Mike and the story done by Doug make a combination which can only be excellent!! Keep it up, you two!

MAN-THING. Once again, nice one, Mike, but I’m not too keen on the way that Steve has put the Man-Thing back into recent history.

SFX. Nothing to say except “Great!” Tell me more.

KA-ZAR. I don’t normally like this kind of thing, but you’ve made me think again. Ten out of ten for effort.

Now my great sorrow! Where is the Prince of Darkness? What has happened to the noble Count? Where is the master? What’s up with the Lords of the Vampires? I AM DISGUSTED!!

It is a full moon as I write this letter, and if you do not print it, and if I’m not awarded with a QNS, and, most of all, if the Count is not returned to us then you may not live to see the next full moon.

Timothy O’Donnell QNS
20 Horbury Gardens, Ellesmere Port.

Didja notice the crafty way we softened you up with that ONS? You did? Good. Well, now that you’re in a sweeter mood let’s talk about Drac. It’s a question of supply, Tim, nothing more complicated than that. There’s a limit to the available Drac material, and until such time as we build up a new stock-pile then the Count will be off-stage. There’s nothing unusual about that. Haven’t you noticed how many of our characters have a “rest” from time to time?

COMIC BOOKS NOT BIBLES

Dear Guys,

I couldn’t put off this letter any longer; I just had to write.

Even if I had not been mentioned in Murray Bailey’s letter (POTA 98) I would have written.

Firstly, his conception of God. (A lot of people could argue here.) There is no true definition of GOOD (what is good—what is not good) and therefore no true definition of God. However, any arguments on that topic have been and will be argued properly and in the proper place. So on to point number 2.

I wouldn’t classify Marvel, DC, Warren (or any other comic for that matter) with any religious books at all. (And with ANY I mean Bible, Geeta, Sanskrits etc.) I would, though, classify some Marvel, DC, Warren etc., to go down in history, and maybe even alongside the classics and masterpieces (both literary and art-form) ever produced.

So with all its morals, I still think of Marvel as a comic book/mag. But don’t get me wrong, Murray. Think! If that latter statement had been said not all that many years ago, I would have deserved to have been told off; but as a comic book stands today, a recognised art-form, then I don’t think that’s wrong.

Mykel Evangelista,
137 Hatthersage Rd.,
Chorlton-on-Medlock, Manchester 13

Unerringly we can always recognise an occasion when the safest and wisest thing for us to do is to remain on the sidelines. And this is one of those occasions! It’s all yours, fella!

APES MAILBAG, Marvel Comics, Tubs Hill House, Sevenoaks, Kent.

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STAMP COMPETITION

CAN YOU TELL US?

1 What country issued ‘The Penny Black’ in 1840?

2 What country NEVER puts its name on its stamps?

3 Have writers or poets ever appeared on British stamps?

4 Has TUTANKHAMUN ever appeared on British stamps?

FREE!

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The lawyer believes that someone—or some thing—is threatening the peace and innocence of the ape civilization. He has decided to venture into the unexplored regions of the planet to find out what may be threatening them. In the meantime, he is leaving Cornelius and Zira in charge.

I'm relying on you two. If I should fail to return, remember—the whole future of our world will be in your hands! Use reason in your actions!
COME ON, WE'VE GOT TO GET YOU OUT OF HERE.
I'D LIKE NOTHING BETTER. I'VE ALREADY SEEN THE DELICATE "HUMAN" WAY THEY TREAT HUMANS AROUND HERE.
I DON'T MUCH CARE FOR IT.

HAVE YOU A HORSE?
GOOD, BUT I'LL HAVE TO GET YOU ANOTHER SET OF CLOTHES... THE KIND SUITABLE FOR HUMANS LIKE YOURSELF. YOU'LL PASS.

UP IN THE SCRUB.

IF YOU'RE CAUGHT BY THE GORILLAS, REMEMBER ONE THING—NEVER TO SPEAK.

WHAT THE DEVIL WOULD I HAVE TO SAY TO A GORILLA?

YOU DON'T UNDERSTAND. ONLY APES CAN SPEAK. NOT HOMO... AND NOT YOU IF THEY CATCH YOU SPEAKING, THEY WILL DISSECT YOU, AND THEY WILL KILL YOU... IN THAT ORDER.

CORNELIU.S IS RIGHT. BE CAREFUL AND GET OUT OF THOSE THINGS YOU'RE WEARING AS SOON AS YOU CAN.

THANKS.
THANK US BY FINDING TAYLOR.

IF HE'S ALIVE.
Noon! Brent and his mute companion Nova begin their long journey toward the forgotten forbidden zone...

The sky is bright and clear, an azure canopy of hope...

...hope which dies to the thunder of madness...

— Gorillas... bearing rifles.

Stop him...!!
WATCH OUT FOR THE BEAST’S FANGS!
IT MIGHT BE RABID—!

BEAST PUT UP A GOOD FIGHT.
YES, BUT HE’S LIKE ALL THE OTHERS— TOO STUPID TO USE HIS BRAIN FOR ESCAPE.

WELCOME TO YOUR NEW HOME, BEASTS, AND YOU’D BETTER GET USED TO IT... BECAUSE IT’S PERMANENT.

GOD HELP ME, BROTHER...
FOR YOU ARE... MY KEEPER
MORNING:

"TWENTY REQUIRED ON NUMBER TWO RANGE FOR COMPANY TARGET PRACTICE."

JUMP TO IT!!

ALL RIGHT, YOU TWO--YOU LOOK LIKE YOU'D MAKE GOOD TARGETS.

STOP A MINUTE, GUARD. I WISH TO INSPECT THOSE HUMANS.

MMMM...

BRACHYCOEPHALIC AND PROSNATHOUS.

AND THIS ONE--INCIDENT GLAUCOMAA!

YES, WE COULD DO WITH THESE TWO. THEY'LL MAKE EXCELLENT SUBJECTS...

YOU CAN'T TAKE THOSE BEASTS--THEY'RE REQUIRED FOR TARGET PRACTICE ON NUMBER TWO RANGE. CAPTAIN ODO'S ORDERS.

I'M AFRAID YOU'RE MISTAKEN. THEY'RE REQUIRED FOR CRANIAL RESEARCH--BY ORDER OF DR. ZIAUS, MINISTER OF SCIENCE.

GUARDS--LOAD THESE TWO HUMANS UP.

INTO MY WAGON.
YOU'VE DONE VERY WELL, CORNELIUS...

DICTATION: MALE.
TYPE E CRANIUM-VERY UNUSUAL. WEAK OCCIPITAL DEVELOPMENT SUBSTANDARD LOBES.

CONCLUSION: A GENERALLY INFERIOR SPECIMEN-UNUSUALLY RETARDED MENTAL CAPACITIES...

ZIRA!
LOOK...

URUS AND ZAIUS.

IF THEY NOTICE ANYTHING UNUSUAL CORNELIUS...

I KNOW.

SO BE IT. YOU KNOW THAT MY SCRUPLES WERE DICTATED BY CAUTION- NOT CONVICTION. WHEN THE DAY COMES, I SHALL RIDE WITH YOU.

THEN REMAIN PREPARED. DR. ZAIUS-- MY ARMY IS CONDITIONING ITSELF FOR THE MARCH RIGHT NOW...

IT'S BEEN A LONG TIME SINCE WE'VE HAD THE OPPORTUNITY TO STUDY SPECIMENS OF SUCH EXTRAORDINARY CLINICAL INTEREST. CORNELIUS. WE MUST TAKE THEM TO THE LABS AND--

YOU CAN HAVE THEM--

THEY'VE BEEN RESERVED-- FOR TARGET PRACTICE--

NOW THEN, DR. ZAIUS-- I APOLOGIZE FOR THAT INTERRUPTION BUT AS IT'S SAID, MY ARMY IS CONDITIONING ITSELF.

AND TARGET PRACTICE IS A MOST ESSENTIAL FACET OF THE PROCESS.

CONTINUED NEXT WEEK!