



MARVEL
COMICS
GROUP

NO. 233
WEEK ENDING
MAR. 16, 1977

THE MIGHTY WORLD OF
MARVEL

9P

FEATURING
THE INCREDIBLE HULK AND **PLANET OF THE APES**

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

ALSO:
SPECTACULAR
SUPER-ACTION WITH
CAPTAIN MARVEL
AND
DAREDEVIL!

SLAY THE
MUTANTS!
LET NONE
ESCAPE!



Stan Lee PRESENTS: **PLANET OF THE APES!**™

IT IS NEARING **SUNSET**. NOW, AS THE CHAOS OF BATTLE DWINDLES TO **NUMB SHOCK**, THE MUTANTS HAVE BEEN **ROUTED**; THE APES ARE **TRIUMPHANT**.

STILL, THERE IS **ONE** APE WHO IS RELUCTANT TO SETTLE FOR MERE **VICTORY**. HIS NAME IS **ALDO**. HE IS A GORILLA... AND HE IS **SAVAGE**.

**KILL !!
KILL ALL !
NONE LEFT TO
GET AWAY--!!**

**NO, ALDO--
THERE'S BEEN
ENOUGH
KILLING !**

**THEY'RE
RUNNING
AWAY--
LET THEM
GO-- !**

TREMOR^{of} DOOM!

SCRIPT: DOUGLAS MOENCH ART: VIRGIL REDONDO



BUT, AS THE JUBILANT APES RIDE BACK TOWARD THE FOREST AND THE TREEHOUSE CITY THEREIN --



WHAT THAT--?

WHO THERE--?!!



BRECK -- FORMER GOVERNOR OF A THRIVING HUMAN METROPOLIS, RECENTLY THE MAD LEADER OF AN ENCLAVE OF CORRUPT MUTANTS...

...BUT NOW, NOTHING MORE THAN A BURNED, EXHAUSTED, UTTERLY BEATEN HUSK OF FLESH-- A PITIFUL SURVIVOR OF HIS EARLIER BATTLE WITH CAESAR.



BRECK...?



P-PLEASE...



HA HA HA WAH HA HA



HAHA HA HA HA HAH WAH HA



BRAK AK-AK-AK-AK

ALDO HAS STOPPED LAUGHING...





CAESAR, IN THE COMPANY OF VIRGIL, HAS RETURNED TO HIS CITY. PREDICTABLY, HIS FELLOW APES *WISELY* CHEER HIM...

CAESAR!
CAESAR!
CAESAR!



AND AMID THE CHEERS, CAESAR WALKS TOWARD A VERY *LOVELY* PLACE AT THE END OF THIS DUSTY, BLOOD-SPATTERED STREET...



...THE CORRAL...



...WHERE *HUMAN BEINGS* ARE KEPT PENNED LIKE... *ANIMALS*.



CAESAR...

LET THEM GO, VIRGIL...

...ALL OF THEM...



NO!! THEY STAY!!

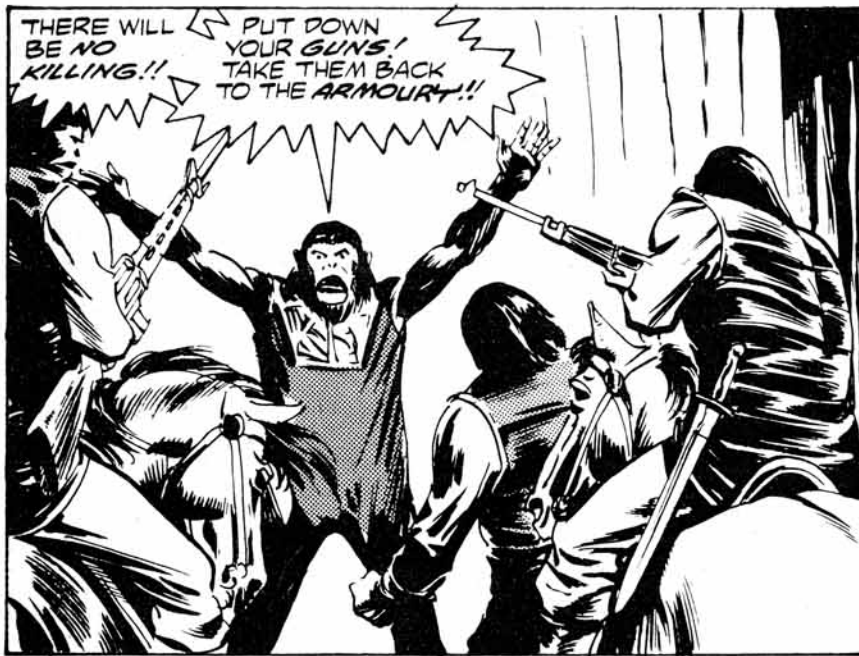


ALDO--! IT LOOKS AS IF YOU WERE RIGHT.

YES, VIRGIL... I KNOW.







THERE WILL BE NO KILLING!!

PUT DOWN YOUR GUNS! TAKE THEM BACK TO THE ARMOURY!!



ALDO'S RAGE FLARES DEEP WITHIN HIM. HE KNOWS THAT EVEN HIS MOST LOYAL GORILLAS WILL HESITATE TO KILL CAESAR. BUT HE ALSO KNOWS THAT HE MUST BLUFF IT THROUGH...

NO! WE KEEP GUNS!



MOVE, CAESAR-- NOW...



...OR WE KILL YOU.

SPOKEN SOFTLY, THE WORDS ARE STILL LIKE THUNDER.. FOLLOWED BY COMPLETE, INSTANT SILENCE...



...SILENCE WHICH FINALLY NURTURES A SOFT, AND STUNNED, VOICE OF DISBELIEF...

KILL... CAESAR...?



BUT APE... HAS... NEVER... KILLED APE...

IT IS VIRGIL, FINALLY, WHO PLACES THE UNSPEAKABLE BLASPHEMY WITHIN THE CONTEXT OF WORDS-- WORDS WHICH ARE ALMOST HOLY IN THEIR TRUTH...



...WORDS WHOSE TRUTH MUST NEVER BE SHATTERED...



...AND WORDS WHICH NOW REMIND A SINGLE GORILLA THAT THEIR HOLY TRUTH HAS ALREADY BEEN SHATTERED...

LIKE A NIGHTMARE, IT RETURNS TO HIM-- A MEMORY WHOSE FULL IMPORT HE HAS NOT HERETOFORE REALIZED...



THE MEMORY-IMAGE IS CLEAR NOW, STARK AND TERRIBLE-- AS HE REMEMBERS THE NIGHT WHEN APE DID KILL APE... WHEN ALDO KILLED CAESAR'S SON...

HE REMEMBERS THE SOUND OF ALDO'S SWORD CHOPPING THE BRANCH-- THE SOUND OF THE BRANCH SNAPPING-- THE SOUND OF LITTLE CORNELIUS' SCREAM AS HE FELL-- AND THE SOUND OF THE BODY'S IMPACT.

AND THOUGH HE DOES NOT LUCIDLY COMPREHEND THAT, BECAUSE OF ALDO'S DARK DEED THAT DARK NIGHT, ONE OF THE CHIEF MORAL SUPERIORITIES APES HAVE ALWAYS CLAIMED OVER HUMANITY IS NOW NO MORE THAN A LIE...



...HE NEVERTHELESS KNOWS-- FOR THE FIRST TIME-- THAT ALDO HAS COMMITTED THE WORST POSSIBLE WRONG.

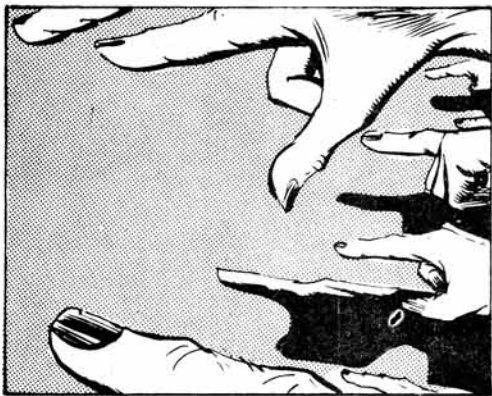
THE REALIZATION SHOCKS HIM...



...AND FORCES HIM TO EXORCISE HIS SHOCK, AND TO MAKE HIS REALIZATION PUBLIC...

ALDO... ALDO... ALDO...!

HE ACCUSES HIS FORMER LEADER-- THE ONE WHO HE HAS, ON NUMEROUS OCCASIONS, STUPIDLY CHEERED.





GREETINGS!

Congrats, you guys! It was only last March when you caught my eye, but since then that eye has been arrested on reams of Marvel mania. But what, compliments aside, has compelled me to write? Ah, well...

I allude to G. Bell's letter in MWOM 215; the goodie/baddie controversy.

Distinguishing between Super-hero and super-villain is a matter of personal choice. People have varied ideas about evil — we must not forget the 'baddies' themselves! Let me explain, using my villain classification. There are two classes.

The first comprises those who desire to act the way they believe is just. Remember that what they do is right in THEIR minds. All these people have pride and a certain idealism. Take Doc Doom. Tyrannical? Corruptive? — irrelevant. Doom wants to rule the world because he feels democracy must crumble. He will pursue his idea inexorably. From his point of view he is the 'super-hero', and the FF, say, are the 'super-villains'. Another, somewhat wilder example, is Kraven. Here we have a hunter full of self-pride; he must be able to defeat any living thing with his bare hands (well, almost!) Kraven, again, has a definitive aim. His reasons are valid — to him anyway, and isn't that what matters most? Now because some of us are not in accord with these people's feelings, ideas and morals, they are termed 'villains'. I say SOME of us. It would be over-generalising to draw the dividing line between 'super-hero' and 'super-villain'. I repeat, it's up to us as individuals.

Next the second class. Here we have a line-up of guys with no ulterior motive. They do not set out to modify our lives, but to plague us. Tarantula is a contemporary example. In Super Spidey 196 one reads: "I have no shame, Spiderman. I have power... and that is all I need." A power similar to Doom's? The Mole-Man's? No. This time a pseudo-power, one possessed by the intumescent cloud of criminals, murders etc., around us today — a power easily obtained by killing and

looting. Names flood out: Scorpion, Diamondback, Sandman, Stiltman. They all abuse their power for a grudge, self-satisfaction or petty vengeance. But don't get the idea that I think Marvel should cease churning out these swell guys. After all, Spidey, DD and Powerman would soon be out of business. I am, however, glad that the stereotyped 'baddies' like The Enforcers have been deadened. They served as indispensable punch-bags for our gallanterie. You see, while our stories become more sophisticated as Marvel marches on, so must our 'villains'.

P. Ruthven-Murray,
6 Tetawn Gardens,
Mill Hill, London NW7.

'Compliments aside' you said in your opening paragraph. We beg to disagree with you, hero, because in our collective opinion we reckon the remainder of your letter added up to one of the nicest compliments we've ever been paid. What you're saying is that you're aware and appreciate the fact that Marvel 'super-villains' come in all sorts of shades of grey. And why do we feel so flattered? Because that's the way we've always intended 'em to be. The way we see 'em ourselves. And you can rest assured that as Marvel goes a-marching on it's merry way Marvel will inevitably change, and Marvel's 'super-villains' will be right in step, all the way.

GAMMA RAYS

Curse you, curse you, gamma rays.
Your curse forever haunts me.

I look back
To where and how it first began.
That terrible blast,
And, as in the past, I feel the pain,
The terrible pain.

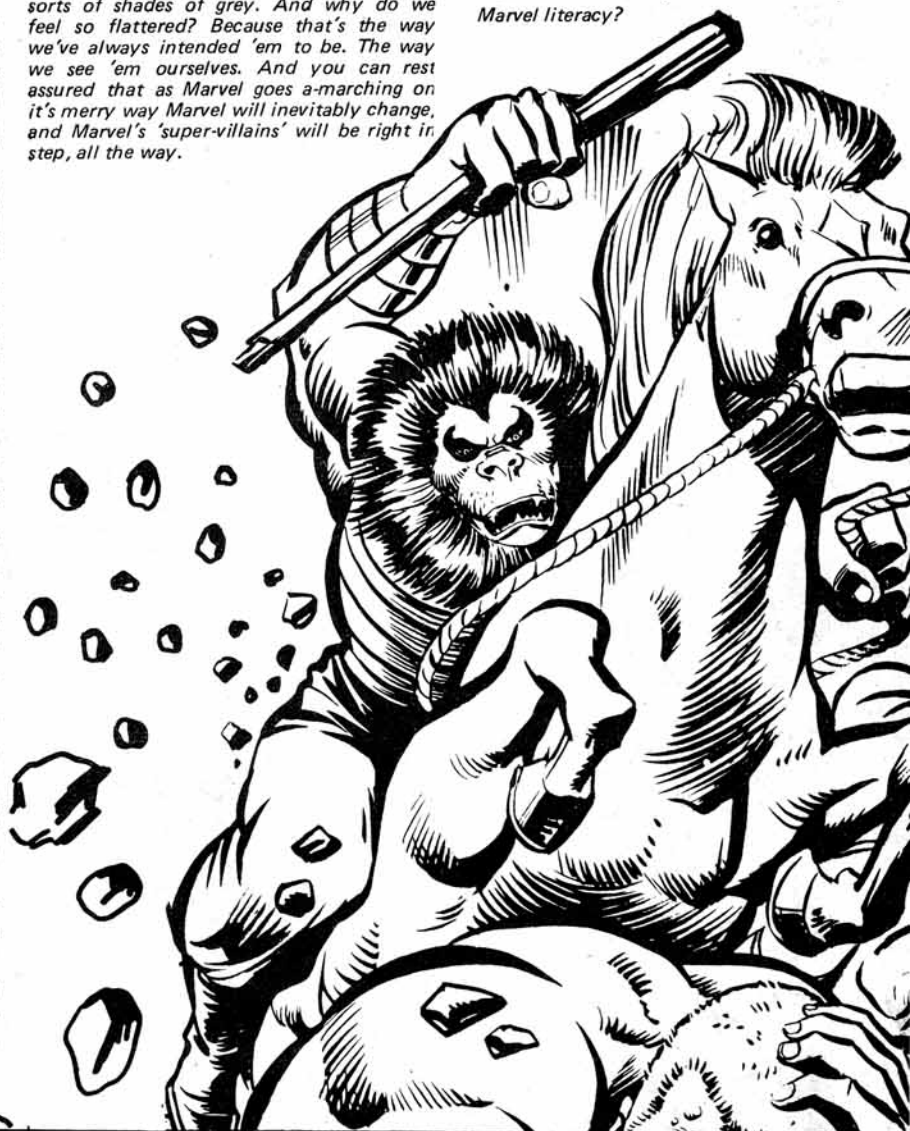
Try to resist.
I always try to resist, but it is hopeless,

Always hopeless.
The change has begun again,
Will it never end?

But wait,
The change is nearly past,
The pain has nearly gone.
Yet, as my intellect begins to recede
I know the curse has won
And once again I am The Hulk.
Curse you, curse you, gamma rays.

L. O'Malloran,
25 Bodmin Rd., Luton, BEDS.

*Now who dares say this isn't the age of
Marvel literacy?*



CALLING ALL "NOVA" FANS

Dear Marvel,

This is a message to all NOVA fans.

I am producing and starting the only NOVA FAN CLUB I believe to be in existence. My magazine, "The Nova Fanzine", is published bi-monthly and sent to all members—cost 4p plus 6½p stamp. The first issue is free except for the S.A.E.

Members will also receive a NOVA NEWS and FACT sheet every month. No. 1 contains the origin of Nova, the only-ever Nova checklist and three black and white Nova reproductions.

To join you must send me a self-addressed and stamped envelope to this address: 9 Teignmouth Drive, Rayleigh, Essex. Full details and subscription form will be sent with No. 1.

Remember, the S.A.E. must be 8" x 6" to contain your fanzine. Please allow 4 weeks for delivery.

Andrew Taylor PMM.

9 Teignmouth Drive, Rayleigh, Essex.

Well, there you have it, Nova fans. It's all yours to enjoy. There's just one point we have to make—this is NOT a Marvel enterprise, so PLEASE, no letters on the subject to us. And, having said that, let's also say have a lot of Nova fun!

REMEMBER "POW!"?

Dear Marvel,

Thank you for putting the "Howling Commandoes" into MWOM. I have read a few Howler stories in old "POW!" annuals and enjoyed them. So it will be nice to read the whole series as it was first published.

The formats of your mags are now changing so fast that it is hard to keep up with all the changes. Now that you have combined Titans and Super Spiderman please don't bring out any more mags with the lengthways layout. I think the best layout you have is that of MWOM.

Having four stories in a normal-shaped comic with less pages to each story is better than having five or six stories in a comic with each story having a lot of small stories.

Paul Watson PMM, FFF.
19 Madginford Rd., Bearsted,
Maidstone, Kent.

Nick Fury's a busy man these days—but that's the way he likes to be. So you're an 'anti-landscape' man, huh? Okay, we've duly slipped your vote into the red-coloured box.

HARD WORDS

Dear Stan,

Why waste all that valuable space, printing all those corny letters from ungrateful jerks? This valuable space could be used to lengthen the Brilliant Captain Britain stories.

Neil Austin,

80 Harmsworth Cres., Hove, Sussex.

Neil—ANYONE who takes the trouble to write to us deserves our attention. And if some oddball is ever REALLY nasty, well, we just send him a 'get-well-soon' card.

MARVEL MAILBAG
MARVEL COMICS, TUBS HILL HOUSE,
SEVENOAKS, KENT



STAMP QUIZ



DO YOU KNOW:

- What country has SUOMI on its stamps?
- What country has EIRE on its stamps?
- What country has MAGYAR on its stamps?
- What country has NORGE on its stamps?

Prizes: 25 diff. choice stamps sent free for each correct answer. If all 4 answers correct we will send you a specially imported collection of 100 diff. world-wide stamps (catalogue value £5.00) plus the famous 90-year-old British 'PENNY LILAC' stamp, as illustrated. Please enclose a 6½p stamp for postage. Our Special Approvals will also be sent to all entrants. (Please tell your parents you are writing.)

THE STAMP CLUB

(Dept. M22), Eastington, Goole, North Humberside DN14 7QG