GIVE UP, HULK - OR THE GIRL DIES!

MEN VS. APES
ATTACK OF THE TERROR-TOADS!
BY GRIMSTARK'S GORY BEARD!! WHAT IS... THAT--?!?

AND YOU.. STARKOR--THE RUDGER!! TURN THIS THING AROUND!!

GET BACK, REENA!!

(A MONSTER NO--TWO... THREE OF THEM! EACH ONE TEN TIMES LARGER THAN THIS BALLOON... BUT ARE THEY MONSTERS? ARE THEY... LIVING?)

(NO... THEY'RE MACHINES! GIGANTIC BALLOONS? AIRSHIPS?? FLOATING.. SKYT... THINGS? IT DOESN'T MATTER--WHATEVER THEIR NATURE, THEY ARE DAUNTOUS... AND TERRIFYING...)

DOUG MOENCH, WRITER
TOM SUTTON, ARTIST
(STARKOR GRUNTS, PANTING, HIS VOICE A GASping THING WRAPPED IN FEAR AND PANIC...)

IT'S NO USE, ALARIC -- THEY'RE TOO FAST! I CAN'T TURN IN TIME!!

GRAYMALKYW -- TRY TO CHANGE OUR COURSE WITH THE SAIL -- EVEN IF YOU HAVE TO RIP IT FROM ITS RIGGING!!

AYE, ALARIC -- I'LL TRY.

IT'S AFTER US - COMING CLOSER AND CLOSER!! IT WANTS TO DEVOUR US!!

DO SOMETHING -- WE'VE GOT TO DO SOMETHING!

(BUT THERE IS LITTLE WHICH CAN BE DONE...NOW...)

(AND WITHIN MOMENTS...) WE'RE GOING TO COLLIDE WITH IT, ALARIC!!

(THE SKY-LEVIATHAN LOOMS CLOSER...)

(THERE'S NO WAY TO EVADE IT?)

NOOO!!

WE CAN KILL IT-- WE'VE GOT TO!!

KLANG!

METAL--! IT'S MADE OF METAL!!

(YES-- AND METAL TO WHICH A MURLED AXE IS NO MORE FATAL THAN A NOISOME INSECT...)

(....BUT NO LESS ANNOYING.)
THE GAS--RELEASE THE VALVES!! OUR ONLY CHANCE IS TO DESCEND!!!

Fwoosh!!

A good plan, mutant...

...but how do you expect us to reach the valve without getting burned to ashes?

Fo0mm!

All three of the things are converging on us!!

The other two are coming now!!

All we can do is hang on for our lives!!

Aye, Starkor--and hope the flames don't hit the balloon itself!!

No--!! The bag is burning--it'll explode!!

When mutant? When will it explode??

(So much for hope)

Don't know--a matter of moments!
(Then there's still a chance of reaching the water before...)

Aye, and the rope won't last much---

Hold on, Graymalkyn---you've got to hold on to the basket!!

We'll need it---you can't let it fall!!

The rigging's been burned through, Alaric--the gondola's hanging by a single rope now!!

---Try, Alaric.

Well, I knew these are feet had to be good for something other than---

Boom!

Alaric--what do we do now?

...And we hope this basket floats...

---Sea!!

Spraft

(We fall. Reena...)

So we can use it as a boat once we hit the... (This isn't the sea.)
LAND! WE'RE ON LAND, ALARIC, AND... HAVEN'T THE MUTANTS--ESCAPING!!

WE'VE GOT TO DO THE SAME--WITHOUT WORRYING ABOUT THEM...

AND WE'VE GOT TO DO IT BEFORE THAT FIRE CUTS US OFF!

WHAT LAND DO YOU SUPPOSE THIS IS, ALARIC--?

"AND WHO DO YOU SUPPOSE LIVES ON IT?"

THERE IS THE CONFLAGRATION, BY Jove, JUST AS SURVEIL-
LANCE REPORTED--AND IT IS APPARENTLY RAGING OUT
OF CONTROL, I'LL WAGER THE INDUSTRIALISTS ARE RE-
Sponsible FOR THIS ONE, THE BLOODY FIENDS.

LET THEM!

ALARIC...

I'M FRIGHTENED, ALARIC-- THIS IS THE FIRST TIME WE'VE BEEN ON LAND SINCE WE BUILT THE FREEDOM REAPER. IT'S TOO BIG... THERE'S TOO MUCH OF IT TO...

WHAT IS IT, REENA? WE'VE GOT TO NIGHTS?

I DO NOT PRESUME TO UNDERSTAND WHAT HUMANS LIKE YOU ARE DOING HERE, BUT I DO PRESUME YOU ARE RE-
Sponsible FOR THE DISTANT BLAZE...

AND, THUS, FOR FURTHER IRREPARABLE AND CALLOUS DAMAGE TO THE LOCAL ECOLOGY-- DAMAGE TO A NATURE PREVIOUSLY PERPETRATED ONLY BY THE RECKLESS INDUSTRIALISTS!

HOLD IT... INDEED, SIR, UPON PENALTY OF YOUR LIFE.

...I THINK WE'D BETTER RUN!!

NAH! RUN ALL YOU WISH, YOU BLOODY PITIFUL IDIOT--

--BUT YOU CANNOT FLEE HER MAJESTY'S CANNIBAL CORPS.

PERHAPS NOT-- BUT IF WE CAN'T FLEE, THEN WE CAN AT LEAST FIGHT!!

I HAD RATHER EXPECTED YOU TO REACH SUCH A DROLL CONCLUSION...
AND I ASSURE YOU, SIR, IF IT IS A GOOD BRAWL, YOU SEEK, YOU SHALL NOT BE DISAPPOINTED...

WELL, ALARIC... IT APPEARS TO BE THAT TIME AGAIN...

(THAT TIME! IT'S ALWAYS THAT TIME! FOR A GROUP OF BEINGS WHO HAVE SEARCHED THE WORLD FOR NOTHING BUT A SINGLE PLACE OF PEACE.)

(-- WE SEEM TO FIND ENTIRELY TOO MUCH VIOLENCE!!)

ARRGH!!

HOW DARE YOU, MADAM? YOU HAVE MURDERED ONE OF MY ASSOCIATES!

AND FOR THAT BRAZEN ACT OF AUDACITY, I SHALL BE FORCED TO...

FRAK!

YOU'LL BE FORCED, MY FRIEND, TO DO NOTHING...

THE NETS!! WHAT'S THE MATTER? ARE YOU UP THERE?!

...BUT FALL!!

CAN YOU NOT SEE IT IS TIME TO DROP THE NETS?!!
WELL, NOW... THIS IS A
DENOUEMENT CONSIDERABLY
MORE TO MY LIKING.

GRAYMALKYN--!

WHERE ARE YOU?!

COMING, ALARIC! I'M OVER H--

ALL RIGHT, CANNIBAL CORPS.
HOP TO IT! HIDE!

DO WITH THE HUMAN PRIS-
ONERS AND ALL THAT ROT...

-WOW!

-UHN!

...BUT YOU, MY FRIEND, ARE
AN APE, SORRY! I HAD TO
BASH YOUR PLATE LIKE THAT
BUT YOU WERE RATHER
TROUBLE-SOME, HOWEVER,
YOU ARE NOW FREE TO GO
DO SEE THAT YOU TAKE
ADVANTAGE OF THIS
OPPORTUNITY. WILL
YOU?

NOW MUCH
TIME. I
WONDER HAS
PASSED...?!

SO NOT, ALARIC -- MY FACE IS
STARTING TO BURN...

HE WAS AN
APE MUTANT.

WE'RE SORRY--

-I AM A
HUMAN MUTANT.

SILENCE, IF YOU PLEASE.
I SUPPOSE YOU ARE AWARE
OF THE UNFORGIVABLE CRIME
YOU HAVE COMMITTED?
THE FIRE WILL NOT ABATE
UNTIL IT REACHES THE RIVER
AND BY THAT TIME A LOT
OF PRECIOUS GREEDY
WILL HAVE GONE UP
IN SMOKE.

...BUT IT LOOKS
LIKE THEY KILLED
YOUR FRIEND.
WHY--?

WELL, MUTANT, I SEE THEY
CAUGHT YOU TOO...

-- THE FIRE WAS
STARTED ONLY
BECAUSE WE
WERE SHOT
DOWN BY--

OH, BE
SILENT!

THERE IS ONLY
PUNISHMENT METED
WITH DIGNITY AND
DISPATCH!

SPEAR-HURLERS...

-THERE IS NO
EXCUSE FOR
JUNGLE FIRES!

THUK!

THUK-

THUK--

BEGIN!!

THUK-

THUK-

THUK--

THE MUTANT -- THEY KILLED
HIM! JUST LIKE THAT...!

WHICH MEANS...
I'M NEXT!

HOLD!
GREETINGS, FELLOW APE! MAY I JOIN YOU?

WOULD YOU HAVE ME DWELL IN A STRANGE JUNGLE ALONE—WHEN I COULD BE HERE, AMONG MY OWN KIND?

PERHAPS—AND PERHAPS NOT—WE SHALL PUT THE ANSWER TO A TEST...

NOW... IF YOU ARE WILLING TO EXECUTE YOUR DEMANDING COMPANIONS, WE SHALL KNOW THAT YOU ARE WORTHY OF WELCOME TO OUR ENCLAVE. IF NOT—

OF COURSE YOU, STINKING APE! I KNEW IT ALL ALONG—YOU'D TURN ON US THE FIRST CHANCE YOU GOT!!

...ONE TO FREE THE KETTLE FLOODING THE CANNIBALS WITH THEIR OWN BOILING OIL...

...AND THE OTHER ARMED A LITTLE HIGHER...

SLICE!

SNIK-SNIK-SNIK!

TO FREE MY DOUBTFUL HUMAN FRIENDS.

RUN TO THE EDGE!!

-- AND JUMP!!! DON'T WORRY-- THE VINE IS SOFT ENOUGH!

I'VE HIDDEN OUR WEAPONS DOWN THERE!

THEY'LL BE COMING SOON--

AND THANKS TO YOU, APE--

ANY PURSUIT THEY GIVE WILL BE SLOW... IF I'M ANY JUDGE OF SKILLED FEET, ANYWAY.

YOU FORGET, HUMAN, ABOUT THE FROGS.
(Now, before she sees—)

Eeeeeee blub

Don't complain so loudly, Rena... par better to be grabbed by Alaric then by those weird cannibals...

Ahmmph

(Ee-r-r-r)

Speaking of those cannibals...

U.S.M. Graymalyn?...

Yeeees...?

I'm sorry... I guess I've been a fool.

You want to know something, human...

You're absolutely right.

Heh heh heh

(Morning... Good to have a true wife again... Good to face the new day... New discoveries...)

That Alaric begins to make me envious, Graymalyn...

Aye, Starkor, that he does.

Well, what do you suppose we'll find on this exploration?

Oh, jungle, I imagine—probably nothing but jungle for miles around...

Stop it, Alaric! This vine is getting thin, and there's a long drop ahead! If you make me slip, I'll—
IT... IT'S A LITTLE... OR A FORTRESS--ON-LAND!

WELL, NOW WE KNOW WHERE THOSE GIANTIC META AIR-SHIPS CAME FROM...

AYE--AND NOW WE KNOW WHERE TO FIND MORE ENEMIES.

PERHAPS, NOT STARKER. AFTER ALL, REENA ATTACKED THEM FIRST--WITH THAT AXE--SO PERHAPS THEY WERE MERELY APPROACHING US OUT OF CURIOSITY...

AND IF WE EXPLAIN TO THEM--PERHAPS HERE WE'LL FINALLY FIND A PLACE OF PEACE WHERE HUMANS AND APES LIVE TOGETHER--WHERE WE CAN SETTLE DOWN...

PERHAPS, ALARIC... BUT SOMEHOW...

(YES... I SUPPOSE I DO, TOO.)