

THE SPOOK

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JONATHAN CARROLL

LIFE IN VIENNA,
THREE-LEGGED DOGS
AND THE WOODEN SEA

NEW FICTION BY

POPPY Z. BRITE

RAMSEY CAMPBELL

DOMINICK CANCELLA

STEPHEN MARK RAINEY

SANTINO ZEPHANYA

APHRODITE IX

Interviews with creator
David Finch and sculptor
Clayburn Moore

A LOOK BEHIND
THE CURTAIN WITH

ALEX SHOUMATOFF

A SPOOK EXCLUSIVE WITH
NEIL GAIMAN

LINDA BLAIR

URNS HEADS AS
SHE SPEAKS TO
US ABOUT THE
ENVIRONMENT

PLUS:

SABRINA DAVENPORT *revisits* THE PLANET OF THE APES
plus VINNY VACARRO'S VIDEO FESTIVAL
and MICHAEL HARTMAN *on* ROSEMARY'S BABY



A FAMILIAR PLANET

BY SABRINA DAVENPORT



**"GET YOUR STINKING PAWS OFF
ME, YOU DAMNED DIRTY APE!"**

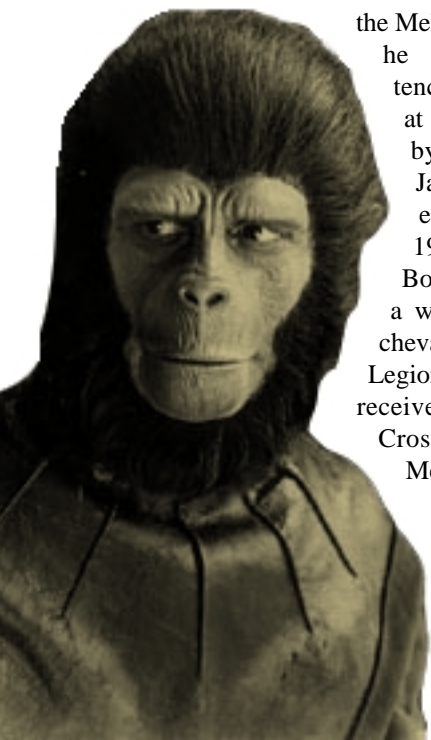
In December 1965, *National Geographic* introduced the world to the remarkable Jane Goodall. She lived with and studied the chimpanzees of the jungles of the Gombe Game Reserve in Africa. Goodall's first-hand observations revealed a great deal about what humans and apes have in common. Her films, articles, paper, and books began a scientific revolution in the field of human evolution and brought a new perspective of ape society to the world.

Goodall's discoveries revealed a great deal about what humans and apes have in common. We watched and marveled at how these animals interacted, bonded, and peacefully co-existed. To our astonishment, we saw them use tools—which they crafted from nature—to obtain food.

Three years later, one of the most profound science fiction films of our time was released. Adapted from Pierre Boulle's novel, *La Planète des Singes* (The Monkey Planet), *The Planet of the Apes* mirrored the religious, racial and political conflicts of the 60s and 70s. Conflicts that, of course, have yet to be resolved.

During World War II, Pierre Boulle (1912-1994) served France and the allies as secret agent helping the resistance movement in China, Burma and Indochina.

Captured by the Vichy French loyalists on the Mekong River, he was sentenced to life at hard labor by the Japanese. He escaped in 1944. Pierre Boulle was awarded chevalier of the Legion of Honor, received a War Cross, and a Medal of the Resistance.



Boulle turned his experiences in Southeast Asia into (among other works) *The Bridge on the River Kwai*, which became a major film. Boulle received the 1957 Oscar for best screenplay even though most of Hollywood knew the real screenwriters were the blacklisted Carl Foreman and Michael Wilson.

Boulle then wrote *La Planète des Singes* in 1963. The ironic novel concerns the relationship between humans and apes -- a situation paralleled by the stronger Japanese soldiers' repression of the weaker Allied prisoners. By placing his story in the far future, he could comment on the moral effect of such a relationship on both sides. He showed a world where humans are no longer dominant and apes rule over human savages.

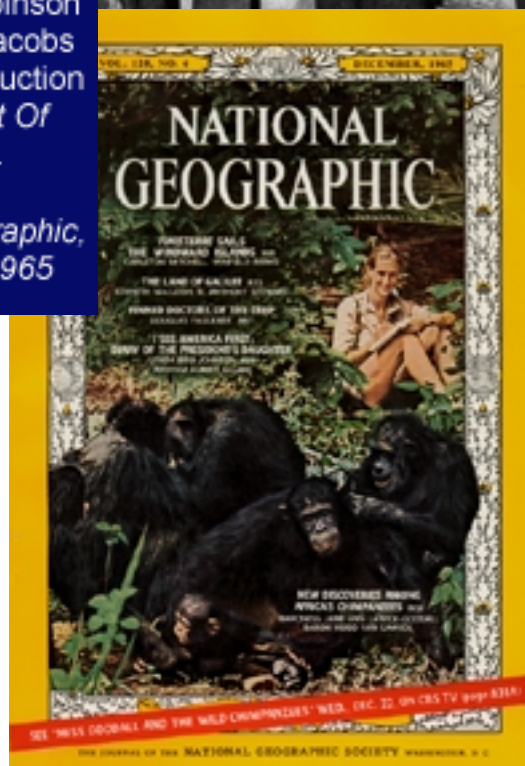
The successful 1968 movie spawned four sequels, a television series and a record breaking merchandising empire. Thirty-three years after the first film, Tim Burton's "re-imagination" of the ape-planet concept is set to open on July 27. Do we need another "apes" movie? *The Spook* says, "Yes."

In *Planet of the Apes*, astronaut George Taylor (Charlton Heston) and his crew of four crash land on an unknown planet. Taylor, along with two of the surviving crew members, set out to explore the planet. They encounter a group of mute human beings and marvel at how primitive they are. Soon after, gorillas on horseback attack them and bad times begin.

The hierarchy and political atmosphere of this planet ruled by apes bears a close likeness to our world. The apes are divided into three separate social groups: the gorillas, the orangutans and the chimpanzees. The Gorillas, with their brash, violent behavior and supposed lack of refinement, are the lower class. Chimpanzees have a



Associate producer
Mort Abrahams,
with Charlton Heston,
Edward G. Robinson
and Arthur P. Jacobs
during pre-production
of *The Planet Of
The Apes*.
Inset:
National Geographic,
December, 1965





Ape riot,
1972

L.A. Watts
riot, 1965



Wahlberg--to shake off their chains.

In the last decade or so, James Cameron, Oliver Stone, Chris Columbus, the Hughes brothers and Arnold Schwarzenegger all considered remakes of POTA.. One can only imagine what directions this diverse lot would

middle class or "blue-collar," perhaps a "worker" status. Orangutans are the politicians and the decision makers. Oppressed humans survive as slaves or manage a brutal subsistence living.

The original POTA raised fairly obvious questions of ethics, religion and man's ability for self-destruction. It was a cinematic parable of the 60s and 70s. The aftermath of the Watts riots, the assassinations of John F. Kennedy, Robert Kennedy and Martin Luther King, Jr., war protests spurred by the young--both revolution and social idealism were in the air. The film was a mirror of its era and demanded that society look at its reflection.

Humankind certainly still needs such reflection, but what parable will result for 21st century? No one knows yet. Details of Tim Burton's film are meager, but Burton (*Beetlejuice*, *Batman*, *Edward Scissorhands*, *Pee Wee's Big Adventure*, *Mars Attacks!*) has a well-known tendency toward a sort of cheerful Goth worldview. Rumors abound that his humans are an angry lot needing only the spark of an outsider who has never known the yoke of slavery--like the astronaut played by Mark

have taken the film in. The directing job finally fell to Tim Burton because he was seen by Twentieth Century Fox as an "iconoclastic, auteuristic visionary."

If Burton succeeds with his new vision while still satisfying those who are fans of the old, the result will be more than sociological rhetoric—it will be a highly lucrative franchise that should also tell us more about ourselves. Δ

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the **WOODEN SEA**
JONATHAN CARROLL
"Jonathan Carroll is a real master of the form."
Phil Kessel

"Jonathan Carroll is as scary as Hitchcock, when he isn't being as funny as Jim Carrey. If you've never read this wonderful fantasist, buy this book. You'll stay up all night and thank me in the morning."
~Stephen King

"Jonathan Carroll is a true original, possessing both a distinctive vision and the talent to make that vision come fully to life."
~San Francisco Chronicle

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