Man is the smartest animal in the world. Or is he? Or will he always be? What if another animal took over?

A series of three movies takes a look at such a situation. The first one, Planet of the Apes, begins with three astronauts taking off from Earth. They are going to explore a distant planet. Months later, their spaceships land.

The planet turns out to look a lot like Earth. And there are human beings who look like Earth people. But something is wrong. The human beings don't know how to talk. They live and act like wild animals.

Slowly, the astronauts learn that on this planet, human beings are the beasts. Apes are the ones who talk, wear fine clothes, and live in houses. They hunt human beings for sport (as we hunt animals). And they perform medical experiments on human beings (as we do on animals).
Taylor, one of the astronauts, is caught by some apes. He is taken to a laboratory and put in a cage. The apes are amazed that he can talk. This is no ordinary man.

Some of the apes, like Dr. Zaius, think Taylor should be killed. Others, like Zira and her husband Cornelius, want to save Taylor. But Zaius knows something no one else knows. At one time, human beings were smarter than apes!

If Taylor lives, he might marry and have children. He would probably teach his children how to talk. His children would teach their children how to talk, and so on. Someday, man might rule the world again.

But Zira and Cornelius help Taylor escape. They tell him to go to the Forbidden Zone. They have heard that other intelligent human beings live there.

In the Forbidden Zone, Taylor finds a buried city. It is what used to be New York City! Now Taylor knows the secret of this planet. It is really Earth — as it will be in 2,000 years. Somehow Taylor has traveled into the future!

In the second movie, *Beneath the Planet of the Apes*, another astronaut is sent to find Taylor. His name is Brent. With the help of Zira and Cornelius, he finds the Forbidden Zone. He also finds the people who live in the buried city. They are intelligent, as he has been told.

In the middle of their city, Brent sees a church. Inside is an atom bomb. These people worship the bomb. Yet they are peaceful people — until they are attacked by gorillas, who live outside the zone.

In the war that follows, the bomb goes off. The planet is destroyed. Everyone is killed. Well, not quite everyone. And this is where the third movie comes in. For that story, turn to the next page.
ESCAPE FROM THE PLANET OF THE APES

CHARACTERS
Narrator
Cornelius (Astronaut 1)
Milo (Astronaut 2)
Zira (Astronaut 3)
Colonel
Assistant
Stephanie (Stevie) Branton
Lewis Dixon
President of the U.S.
Hasslein
Chairman
TV Reporter
Examiner
Guard
Armando
Baby Chimp

Narrator: This story begins in the future — in the year 3955. A spaceship has just blasted off from a planet. Inside are three astronauts in spacesuits and helmets. Two are male. The other is female.

Astronaut 1 (male): We made it.
Astronaut 2 (male): So far. But no matter who wins the war, there will be no place back there for us.
Astronaut 3 (female): Where are we going?
Astronaut 2: I’m not sure.
Narrator: Suddenly a huge cloud of fire and smoke rises from the planet’s rim. The astronauts watch through the spaceship window.
Astronaut 2: The fools! They have destroyed themselves.
Astronaut 3: And we’ve escaped.
Astronaut 2: If we live through the shock wave.
Narrator: The spaceship is hit by a great shock wave. The ship is shaken and whirled into a new orbit. The date meter begins racing backward from the year 3955.
Astronaut 1: The date meter is going crazy.
Astronaut 2: We’ve been forced out of orbit.
Astronaut 1: We’re going down.
Astronaut 3: But where?
Narrator: The spaceship is out of control. It is on fire as it falls through space. It passes through clouds. The date meter has stopped spinning. It reads 1973. Then the spaceship crashes into a sea, and all is still. Nearby, a Marine Colonel gets word that a spacecraft has landed off the coast of California.
Colonel (on telephone): A spacecraft? I didn’t know we had anything up. I’ll call Washington. Meanwhile, send out two choppers to
nauts take off their helmets. The Marines are shocked.

Colonel: It can’t be! They’re chimpanzees!

Narrator: The chimpanzees are Zira, her husband Cornelius, and their friend Dr. Milo. They say nothing. First, they are taken to the Marine guardhouse. As they are changing their clothes, the Colonel and his Assistant come to their room.

Colonel (as Zira quickly puts on a robe): Excuse me. I didn’t mean to disturb you.

Assistant: Look, they’re pretending to dress.

Colonel: Pretending? They are dressing. Where did they get those clothes?

Assistant: They brought a suitcase with them, sir.

Colonel: A suitcase? (Trying to act calm) Give them the oranges you brought. I guess that’s what chimpanzees eat.

Narrator: They watch amazed as Zira takes plates, knives, and forks from a shelf. Then she, Cornelius, and Milo sit at the table and cut up their oranges. The Colonel decides to send them to a zoo to be studied. At the zoo, they are put into a large cage. Next to them is a gorilla. When the keeper leaves, they talk quietly.

Zira: This place stinks of gorilla.

Cornelius (taking her hand): Zira, please control yourself. I think they’re trying to be kind.

Zira: Cornelius, where are we?

Cornelius: I have no idea. It’s all so strange.

Milo: I know what’s happened. Somehow we have traveled from Earth’s future into Earth’s past.

Cornelius: But we saw Earth destroyed.

Milo: And Earth will be destroyed, just as we saw it.

We left Earth in the year 3955. But the date meter on the spaceship said 1973 when we landed. So we are now on Earth almost 2,000 years before its destruction. That is another reason for keeping quiet. The human beings would not like to know that one day an ape war will destroy Earth.

Narrator: The gorilla in the next cage grunts.

Milo: At this point in time, apes cannot talk. We’d better follow their example.

Narrator: The next day the three chimpanzees are visited by Lewis Dixon and his female assistant, Stevie. They are animal doctors. They have all kinds of tests to check animal intelligence. They begin with Zira. She winks at Milo and Cornelius as the tests begin. She goes through the first test quickly and perfectly. The doctors make it harder. Still, she makes no mistakes. Then the doctors lower a banana from the top of the cage. It stops out of Zira’s reach. She sees some boxes in the cage, builds a staircase, and climbs up to the banana. She just stares at the banana.

Stevie: Why doesn’t she take it?

Zira: Because I hate bananas.

Cornelius: Zira!

Narrator: This is too much for Stevie. She faints. Lewis and the keeper carry her out.

Milo: Zira, are you crazy?

Cornelius: Dr. Milo, please don’t call my wife crazy.

Milo: I did not. I just asked if she was.

Zira: I hate this phony act.

Milo: There is a time for truth and a time for silence. Until we know who our

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friends and enemies are—

Zira: How are we to know that unless we speak? We can speak. So I did.

Milo: We can also listen.

Cornelius: To a lot of silly talk.

Milo: And we can watch.

Zira: A lot of simple-minded equipment. (She kicks at the test equipment.)

Cornelius: Zira, calm yourself.

Zira: I am calm. (She kicks another piece of equipment.)

Milo (his back against the gorilla cage): Stop arguing. It's too late for that. Use your heads and start thinking. Now that they know we can speak, how much shall we tell them? How—

Zira (screaming): Milo!

Narrator: The gorilla reaches through the bars of the cage. He grabs Milo around the throat and kills him. Zira and Cornelius scream for help, but it is too late. Milo's body is taken away. Lewis Dixon sees how upset Zira and Cornelius are.

Lewis: We mean you no harm. We've given the gorilla drugs to keep him quiet, and we've put chains on him. Do you understand?

Zira: I should. I've been doing it half my life to humans.

Lewis: Humans?

Zira: I'm a psychiatrist.

Lewis: So am I. I mean you no harm. But nobody's going to believe it.

Cornelius: Believe what?

Lewis: That primitive apes can talk.

Zira (angry): Primitive?

Lewis: I meant that in our world, apes don't talk. So I think it's important that the first time you say something in public, you should talk to some experts.

Narrator: The President of the United States has been told about Zira and Cornelius. But he does not know they can talk. He calls in his scientific advisor, and gives him the news.

President: You may not believe what I'm about to tell you. The spaceship which was found off the California coast is one of ours. It was lost in outer space more than two years ago. It was the one commanded by Colonel Taylor.

Hasslein: Have they identified the bodies, Mr. President?

President: Yes. All three were living. But one was killed in the Los Angeles Zoo.

Hasslein: What were astronauts doing in a zoo?

President: They were not astronauts. They were apes. Chimpanzees, actually.

Hasslein (stunned): Chimpanzees?

President: They are harmless and very intelligent. But, of course, they can't tell us how they got into the spaceship or where it came from. So I have formed a committee of experts to look into this matter. You will be part of it.

Narrator: News of the chimpanzee astronauts spreads fast. Soon the whole world is waiting to see what the President's committee can find out about them. Before Zira and
Cornelius face the committee, Lewis gives them some advice.

Lewis: When I break the news, start slowly. Give simple answers to their questions.

Zira: And if the questions are not simple?

Lewis: Just be yourself.

Narrator: Lewis, Stevie, Zira, and Cornelius go out to face the committee. There is also a large audience and many newspaper reporters. Lewis speaks first.

Lewis: My name is Lewis Dixon. I am the animal psychiatrist in charge of these two apes. My assistant, Dr. Branton, and I are ready to answer your questions. What may surprise you is that our chimpanzee friends are ready to answer questions, too. They can talk.

Narrator: The audience laughs. The Chairman of the committee thinks Lewis is kidding.

Chairman: Mr. Dixon, we have no time for jokes.

Lewis: This is no joke, Mr. Chairman. These apes have the power of speech.

Chairman: Well then, may we speak to the female?

Narrator: The audience laughs. Zira gets up from her chair.

Chairman: Have you a name?

Zira (slowly, as if speaking to a child): Zi-ra.

Chairman (surprised): Well, she can make sounds. But so can a parrot. Does the other one talk?

Cornelius: Only when she lets me.

Narrator: Zira laughs and throws her arms around Cornelius. The audience jumps up. The Chairman falls into his chair. Lewis calms the audience. Then the members of the committee ask the apes some questions.

Zira says that, where they come from, apes talk and humans cannot. In fact, humans are treated like animals. Then Dr. Hasslein takes over.

Hasslein: Where do you come from, Cornelius?

Cornelius: I'm still not sure.

Zira: Dr. Milo was sure.

Cornelius: Dr. Milo was a genius. When the spaceship first landed on our planet, he fixed it up, studied it, and understood it. Because of him, we were able to escape the war which destroyed our planet.

Hasslein: But where did you come from?

Cornelius: I told you. I'm not sure.

Zira: Well, I am sure. We came from your future.

Chairman: That doesn't make sense.

Hasslein: It's the only thing that does. Cornelius, you spoke of a war. War between whom?

Cornelius: The gorillas and whoever lives beneath the territory next to ours.

Hasslein: Did you know Colonel Taylor? He was the commander of the spaceship which Dr. Milo learned to handle.

Narrator: Zira and Cornelius look at each other. There could be trouble here. The apes’ treatment of humans, including Taylor, was not a pretty one.

Cornelius: No. Is he a soldier?

Zira: We are peaceful creatures. We are happy to be here. May we be unchained?

Narrator: After the meeting is over, Zira and Cornelius go off with Stevie and Lewis.

Stevie: You were wonderful.

Lewis: They loved you. But I thought there was a minute....

Zira: There was. We have to be honest with someone.

Cornelius: Zira, are you sure we should?

Zira: Yes. Lewis and Stevie should know our secret. Tell them, Cornelius.

Cornelius: We did know Colonel Taylor. We came to love him.

Stevie: But what harm could there be in telling that?

Cornelius: Because where we come from, apes do not love humans. They hunted them for sport, as you might hunt animals.

Zira: We used their bodies, alive and dead, for experiments and research.

Lewis: It’s true that most people wouldn’t like knowing that.

Zira: There was another reason. They would have asked us if he was alive.

Lewis: Is he?

Cornelius: He can’t be.

Lewis: How do you know?

Zira (hating to say it):

From the spaceship we saw Earth destroyed.

Narrator: We switch to a TV studio that evening. A TV reporter is asking Dr. Hasslein if he believes the apes could come from Earth’s future.

Hasslein: Yes. It is the only explanation. Something must have “jumped” the apes from their present time into ours.

TV Reporter: Thank you, Dr. Hasslein. Now, on with our story. The apes’ intelligence and good humor have won them many friends. The President’s committee will meet in private tomorrow. So Zira and Cornelius will have the day free for sight-seeing. They have been taken to a hotel in Los Ange-

(Continued on page 16)
Hasslein pours champagne into a large glass.

Hasslein: This will make you feel better. How long have you known?

Zira (drinking champagne): Since before the war. It was another reason for escaping.

Narrator: Dr. Hasslein takes what looks like a cigarette case from his pocket. He puts it on the table while Zira is talking. It is really a tiny tape recorder.

Hasslein: Who won your war?

Zira (drinking): It wasn't our war. It was the gorillas. Chimpanzees are peaceful.

Hasslein: Which side won?

Zira: Neither.

Hasslein (pouring more champagne): How do you know that if you weren't there?

Zira (sleepy): When we were in space... we saw a blinding light. We saw the rim of Earth melt. Then there was a storm... in the sky.

Hasslein: What did the date meter in the spaceship say after Earth's destruction?


Hasslein: And before the white light and the storm?

Zira (almost asleep): 3955.

Narrator: Dr. Hasslein goes to the President. He plays the secret tape for him.

Hasslein: You have just heard it, Mr. President. In 3955, talking apes will destroy the world.

President: What do you expect me to do about it? Change what you believe will happen in the future by killing two innocent beings? Or rather three, now that Zira is pregnant? I think our visitors are harmless. And the voters love them.

(Continued from page 7)
Hasslein: Do you want these apes and their offspring to take over the world?

President: Well, not at the next election. But if the offspring turn out to be as nice as the parents, who knows? They might do a better job than we did.

Hasslein: By destroying the world?

President: I'm not saying you're wrong. But I want some proof.

Hasslein: We know that apes will have the power of speech. We know they will become the master race on Earth. We know that Zira is going to have a baby. If we let this baby be born, it could be the beginning of the new master race.

President: And you think that if we act now, we can change the future?

Hasslein: I do.

President: We have no proof that these apes are evil.

Hasslein: If we could question them under better conditions —

President: You mean give them the works, in secret?

Hasslein: The full works, Mr. President.

Narrator: Zira and Cornelius are taken to an Army base. They will be questioned by the C.I.A. and Dr. Hasslein. Lewis Dixon is worried. He is with Zira and Cornelius as they drive to the Army base.

Lewis: They may try to make you angry. Don't be, or you'll be trapped into wrong answers. Try to keep polite.

Cornelius: You hear that Zira? For the baby's sake.

Lewis: And don't tell them what you told me.

Narrator: Zira and Cornelius are taken to a small room. Bright lights shine in their eyes. Dr. Hasslein plays the tape where Zira described the destruction of Earth.

Examiner: It's your voice, isn't it?

Zira: I don't remember. Dr. Hasslein made me drunk.

Examiner: Why did you hold back this information?

Zira: I withheld nothing. Nobody asked me.

Examiner: If somebody had?

Zira: I would have said that chimpanzees had no part in the destruction of Earth. Only gorillas.

Examiner: What's the difference? You're all monkeys.

Cornelius: Please do not use the word "monkey." We find it insulting.

Hasslein: How did apes come to control the Earth?

Cornelius: It began with the sickness which killed all the dogs and cats. Afterward, humans were without pets. So they took apes as pets.

Zira: The apes were primitive, but much smarter than dogs or cats.

Cornelius: They learned to do what humans told them. In only 200 years, apes became servants for humans. They cooked, cleaned, waited on tables.

Zira: And in 300 more years, they turned the tables on their owners!

Hasslein: How?

Cornelius: They began to understand slavery and how to fight it. They learned to
refuse. At first they barked their refusal. Then there came an ape called Aldo who didn’t bark. He spoke. He said “No.”

Hasslein: So that’s how it all started.

Narrator: Zira will not tell them about how apes used humans as animals for experiments. And she will not admit that she knew Colonel Taylor. So she is given a drug which makes her tell the truth. Dr. Hasslein gets his way. The President’s committee agrees that Zira should not have her baby. Intelligent apes might be a danger to man. When the truth drug wears off, Zira is taken back to the room she shares with Cornelius.

Cornelius: They’re savages! Jabbing needles into a pregnant woman.

Zira: I’ve done that, too. And worse. Taylor thought we were savages at first.

Cornelius: Did they make you tell about Taylor, too?

Zira: They made me tell everything. But I’m glad I did. We can’t live with lies.

Cornelius: I doubt they will let us live at all.

Narrator: Zira looks worried. She touches her stomach.

Cornelius: How long now?

Zira: A week, maybe more.

Narrator: A young Guard brings their supper.

Guard: Sir, Ma’am. It’s chow time.

Zira: I’m not hungry.

Guard: Come on, ma’am. You should eat for the sake of the little monkey inside —

Narrator: Cornelius loses his temper. He pushes the Guard and hits him with a tray. The Guard falls and hits his head on a corner of the table. He lies on the floor, not moving.

Zira: Cornelius, what have you done?

Cornelius: Nobody makes a fool of my wife. I’ve heard that word “monkey” once too often. Let’s get out of here, Zira.

Narrator: Cornelius and Zira escape and hide in some woods. Meanwhile, the body of the Guard is found. Word goes out that Zira and Cornelius killed him. Dr. Hasslein calls the President.

President: When the apes are found, there’s no need for a shooting match. These apes are special. The people think of them as almost human.

Hasslein: Then the people must be told that today’s killers could become tomorrow’s mass murderers.

President: Of course. But we do not shoot unarmed suspects on sight. The murder of the Guard is still unexplained. I want them taken, but taken alive.

Hasslein: Yes, Mr. President. I’m putting every policeman and soldier in the city on this case.

Narrator: Cornelius and Zira have not gotten far. Zira is having birth pains.

Cornelius: We can’t go on. I’m going back to the base to find Lewis.

Zira: No.

Cornelius: Look, I only lost my temper with the Guard and hurt him. It isn’t as if I’d killed him. But if we go on like this, it may kill you.

Zira (trying to get up): It’s better. I can walk.

Cornelius: No. They may punish us. But at least the baby will be born.

Narrator: Cornelius goes back to the Army base. He stays by the side of the road. Stevie Branton drives into the base. Cornelius hears one of the guards stop her and tell her about the murder. When the guard
leaves, Cornelius runs up to her car.

**Stevie:** Cornelius! What have you done?
**Cornelius:** Stevie, I didn't mean to kill him. He was teasing Zira and I hit him. He tripped and cracked his head on the table. Believe me.

**Stevie:** I do, Cornelius. But they won't. Where's Zira?

**Cornelius:** In the woods. She's ready to have the baby.

**Stevie:** Quick. Get in. I'm taking you to a safe place.

**Narrator:** Lewis and Stevie take Cornelius and Zira to their friend Armando. He runs a traveling circus. He agrees to hide Cornelius, Zira, and their baby when it is born. Next to their cage is a mother chimpanzee, Heloise, and her baby Salome.

**Armando:** This is the only chimp ever born in a circus.

(Heloise holds up her baby for Zira to see.)

**Zira (to Salome):** Ma-ma-ma. Say it. Ma-ma-ma.
**Cornelius:** Zira, don't waste your breath. You know that a child born of two primitive apes will never talk.

**Zira:** I'm getting into practice. (To Salome) Ma-ma-ma.

**Narrator:** Soon Zira gives birth to a son. They name him Milo. Meanwhile, Dr. Hasslein leads the search for the apes. He tells the police to check every circus in the area. Zira, Cornelius, and the baby must find a new place to hide.

**Armando:** I had it planned so well! In a month we move to Florida. I could have taken you there. But now — what can I do?
**Cornelius:** You have done enough to make us grateful to you forever.

**Armando:** Take this — for the child. It is a St. Francis medal.

**Narrator:** Cornelius looks at the medal on a chain.

**Cornelius:** Who is he?
**Armando:** He was a holy man who loved and cared for all animals. Hang it around the baby's neck. For protection.

**Zira:** I want to say goodbye to Heloise. We understand each other.

**Narrator:** Zira picks up Milo and goes into Heloise's cage. Heloise is holding her baby. Zira and Heloise look at each other for several seconds. We don't hear or see what happens next, because the scene changes. Lewis is driving Zira, Cornelius, and child to the edge of an empty oil field. Beyond is a harbor where old, unused ships are kept. Lewis shows Cornelius how to get to the ships.

**Lewis:** I used to play there when I was a kid. There's an old ship at one end where you could hide for a week.

**Zira:** A week?
Stevie: Until things have calmed down. Then we will take you back to Armando's.

Lewis: Then you could go down to Florida and live safely in the Everglades.

Cornelius: If they find us, will we be killed?

Lewis: I think so.

Cornelius: Then give us the chance to kill ourselves, if we have to.

Lewis (hands Cornelius a gun): They gave it to me for my safety. Now it's for yours.

Narrator: Zira and Cornelius start toward the old ship. It is a long way. Zira's suitcase is heavy, so they leave it behind. Finally, they reach the ship. The water around it is dirty and full of oil.

Zira: Did Lewis really play here?

Cornelius: Maybe it was cleaner then.

Zira: It stinks of man.

Cornelius: You don't like them, do you?

Zira: Who?

Cornelius: Humans.

Zira: We've met hundreds, and I trust three. (The baby begins to cry.) He wants feeding.

Cornelius: There must be a cleaner place than this. I'll go and look.

Narrator: Sometime later, a watchman finds Zira's suitcase on the oil field. Soon Dr. Hasslein and many policemen arrive. Hasslein takes some field glasses and climbs to the top of an oil tank. With the field glasses, he sees Cornelius walking around the old ship. Zira and the baby have fallen asleep inside the cabin. As Cornelius continues to explore the ship, Hasslein approaches and goes aboard. Cornelius does not see him head for the cabin. Hasslein opens a door and makes a loud noise. Zira jumps to her feet.

Hasslein: I see you've had your baby, Zira. Give it to me. The President has told me to take care of it. (He pulls out his gun.)

Narrator: Zira turns and runs. She screams for Cornelius. He runs out on the deck. Policemen surround the ship. Lewis and Stevie have just arrived. Zira sees them. She rushes toward them. Hasslein catches her.

Hasslein: I want that baby. If you won't give it to me, I'll shoot.

Narrator: Zira turns to run. Hasslein shoots her in the back. She staggers and drops the baby. Hasslein shoots it three times. It stops moving. Cornelius is up above. He has seen what happened. He takes the gun Lewis gave him and fires at Hasslein. Hasslein's body falls into the water. A soldier takes aim at Cornelius and shoots him. Cornelius falls beside Zira, who is dying. She is very weak, but she does one last thing. She pushes the body of the baby into the water. Stevie and Lewis watch, horrified.

Stevie: Why?

Lewis: Animals have no graveyards.

Narrator: Zira falls beside Cornelius. She dies with her cheek touching his.

Narrator: A few weeks later, Armando is packing up the circus to go to Florida. A baby chimpanzee is in one cage. Armando looks at it.

Armando: Smart little fellow! But then, so were your mother and father.

Narrator: Armando crosses himself, then moves on. The baby chimp looks at him.

Baby Chimp: Ma-ma-ma. Ma-ma-ma.

Narrator: The baby keeps on talking. If you look closely, you can see that around its neck is a small St. Francis medal.

The End