Terror on the Planet of the Apes, Chapter One

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The legacy of the Planet of the Apes is a dual one... for it transpires on a world which is also a planet of humans.

A planet called... Earth.
A planet which for long centuries has served as a lush backdrop to conflict and strife... whose world-sweeping dramas and events fill the annals of history in bloody screeches of sorrow and pain.
The planet itself has undergone massive changes, in geography, in topography, reshaping itself to conform with the implacable passage of time and events... but, always, the evidence of this perpetual restructuring is traced more to the scarred and pitted aftermath of war than to a process of natural evolution.
For, on a planet of incessant and interminable change, the only constant is war...
War between human and animal.
Between human and human.
Family and family.
Tribe and tribe.
Enclave and enclave.
Race and race.
Nation and nation.
Continent and continent...

Until, finally, the awesome scope of organized destruction becomes an intolerable straw pressing down on the stress-weary back of a charred and wasted world... and the cycle unwinds. Evolution reverses itself in a twisted skein of irony...
Man becomes savage; animal becomes intelligent.
And war rages again, this time on equal terms, between human and animal.

Man and ape.
Each hating the other with a frenzy mirrored in glaring eyes.
And then a voice cries out, a voice of strength and authority yet carrying a plea for sanity. A voice of peace. The voice of the Lawgiver.
And there is peace, and coexistence.
But can it last on a world of war?
... on a planet of apes—
—which is also a planet of humans...?
Or will there be:

Terror On The Planet Of The Apes
A rugged terrain remains, from that which 
was once a city. This is a planet that 
knows little of its original form, some 
three thousand years before. A planet 
once known as Earth. 
For this is the upside-down world after 
the holocaust. The holocaust that 
brought about such unimaginable change, 
not only geographically, but evolutionary! 
For where man once reigned supreme, 
now rule . . . the APES! 
The Apes have survived the radioactive 
wind of change and re-shaped the planet 
earth to their own simian way of life. 
They have tamed the beast they call 
man. He was once mute, but now he has 
been allowed the power of speech. 
But man is still a servant of the Ape. 
He is terrorised by the Gorillas, and lives 
in constant fear of this simian culture! 
The only ally of man, is the pacifist 
Chimpanzee. Among them, a voice 
cries out . . . a voice of strength and 
authority, yet carrying a plea of 
sanity. A voice of peace. 
The voice of the Lawgiver . . . 
And there is peace, and co-existence. 
But can it last in a world of war? 
. . . on a planet of Apes—which is 
also a planet of humans? 
Or will there be . . .

TERROR
on the
PLANET
of the
APES
PROLOGUE:

JASON-- WHERE ARE YOU GOING?
YOU KNOW THE ONLY REASON WE GOT OUT OF SCHOOL TODAY WAS SO WE COULD GO TO THE VILLAGE SQUARE.
I'M TIRED OF GOING TO THE SQUARE, ALEXANDER.
YOU KNOW AS WELL AS I DO THAT NOTHING'S EVER ACCOMPLISHED THERE.

Yeah, but this time is different, Jason.

WHAT'S SO DIFFERENT ABOUT ANOTHER SPEECH?
PROBABLY JUST BRUTUS AGAIN-- LECTURING US ON PEACE AND HARMONY BETWEEN THE SPECIES.

WE'RE FRIENDS, AREN'T WE...?
AND AS MY FRIEND, YOU'RE GOING TO HONOR ME... AREE...?

All right-- I'll go with you, but I want you to notice I'm grumbling about it.

SO WHAT'S SO BAD ABOUT THAT?

WELL, SWALLOW YOUR GRUMBLIES, JASE--
-- AND JUST TRY TO TELL ME IT WASN'T WORTH COMING HERE TO SEE--
WELCOME CITIZENS OF PEACE.

I HAVE REQUESTED THIS CONGREGATION FOR A NUMBER OF REASONS -- ALL OF THEM EQUALLY IMPORTANT FIRST I WISH TO THANK YOU FOR PLACING FAITH IN MY JUDGEMENT --

-- AND FOR ADHERING TO MY DOCTRINES OF COEXISTENCE BETWEEN THE SPECIES.

SECONDLY, I WISH TO REAFFIRM MY OWN FAITH IN THOSE DOCTRINES.

WHY DIDN'T YOU TELL ME IT WAS THE LAWGIVER?

IF YOU'D PAID ATTENTION IN CLASS...

FOR IT IS ONLY BY FOLLOWING A ROAD OF PEACE THAT WE MAY AVOID ANOTHER CATAclySM.

SO LET US REMEMBER THAT HATE IS THE POISON OF THE SOUL -- AND LET US DRINK THE WINE OF LOVE INSTEAD.

-- SO TOO DO THE QUALITIES WITHIN ALL OF US REMAIN SEPARATE FROM OUR PHYSICAL SHELLS...

FOR, JUST AS THE QUALITY OF A WINE CANNOT BE GOVERNED BY THE NATURE OF ITS FLASK --

...MEANING THAT WE ARE ALL THE SAME -- REGARDLESS OF OUR DIFFERING APPEARANCES.
NOW I MUST APPRISSE YOU OF THE FINAL REASON FOR THIS GATHERING...

...A MATTER OF GRAVE IMPORTANCE WHICH I HAVE ALREADY NEGLECTED FOR TOO LONG.

I CANNOT REVEAL THE NATURE OF THIS MATTER... ONLY THAT IT REQUIRE MY IMMEDIATE ATTENTION.

AND SO I MUST LEAVE YOU FOR A TIME...

...A TIME WHOSE LENGTH I CANNOT ESTIMATE.

HE CAN'T LEAVE US...-

AND SINCE I CANNOT SAY WHEN I WILL RETURN, I HAVE DELEGATED THE RESPONSIBILITIES OF MY OFFICE TO ANOTHER.

XAVIER--7! THE MOST INEPT BUMBLER IN HIS WHOLE CABINET!

YOU SAID IT, JASE--

PRESIDING OVER THE VILLAGE IN MY ABSENCE WILL BE BROTHER XAVIER.

--XAVIER CAN'T EVEN MAKE A DECISION ABOUT THE WEATHER.

I AM CONFIDENT YOU WILL PLACE AS MUCH FAITH IN BROTHER XAVIER'S CAPABILITIES AS I HAVE...

...AND OBEY WHATSOEVER MANDATES HE FEELS NECESSARY TO LEGISLATE.

AND NOW I LEAVE YOU IN HIS CARE... AND IN PEACE.

ER... AHM... I SUPPOSE I SHOULD SAY A FEW WORDS ABOUT--

FAREWELL.

HEY-- THERE HE IS ALEX, WHERE COULD HE BE GOING--?

LET'S GET OUT OF HERE, JASE.

LET'S WAIT HERE A FEW MINUTES AND FOLLOW HIM...
I THINK WE WAITED TOO LONG, JABE -- HE'S OUT OF SIGHT ALREADY.

YEAH -- HE MUST BE IN SOME HURRY.

WONDER WHAT COULD BE SO IMPORTANT THAT HE'D LEAVE SO SUDDENLY...?

CAN YOU SEE HIM, JASON?

NOPE, HE'S GONE ALL RIGHT -- JUST AS MYSTERIOUSLY AS HIS REASONS FOR LEAVING.

BUT I STILL DON'T UNDERSTAND WHY HE'D LEAVE NOW -- JUST WHEN THINGS STARTED LOOKING GOING MOUNTAINS OUT 'VE MOLESTED AGAIN.

AW, THERE YOU GO MAKING THAT BUSINESS UP!

HEY -- DO YOU SUPPOSE THE LAVAGIVER WENT DOWN THERE?

INTO THE FORBIDDEN ZONE? NOW WHY WOULD HE DO THAT?

EVERYONE KNOWS THERE'S NOTHING DOWN THERE BUT ASHES AND RUINS.

THAT'S EASY FOR YOU TO SAY! YOU HAVEN'T FELT THE TENSIONS GROWING.

YOU'RE A CHIMP. AND THAT'S IT...

DON'T BE SO SURE ABOUT THAT! THERE ARE Rumors OF MONSTERS LURKING DOWN THERE, YOU KNOW...

... JUST AS YOU SHOULD BE PROUD TO BE A HUMAN.
...MONSTERS LEFT OVER FROM THE HOLOCAUST--TO REMIND US OF WHAT COULD HAPPEN IF WE EVER START HATING EACH OTHER AGAIN.

IS THAT THE ONLY REASON YOU DON'T HATE ME, ALEX--?

--BECAUSE THE LAWGIVER SAYS A MONSTER WILL COME AND BITE YOUR HAIRY HEAD OFF?

IS THAT THE ONLY REASON YOU TOUGHER ME...

HEY, BUDDY. YOU'D BETTER EASE THAT CHEW OFF YOUR SHOULDER BEFORE IT TAKES PERMANENT ROOT.

I KNOW I CLOWN AROUND A LOT ABOUT YOU BEING HUMAN, BUT GIVE ME CREDIT FOR THE JOKE, HUH?

WELL SAID, ALEX... AND FORGET WHAT I SAID, OKAY?

I DON'T KNOW WHAT GETS INTO ME SOMETIMES.

IT'S ALREADY FORGOTTEN, BUDDY.

YEAH, WELL... YOU'VE GOT YOUR HOME, AND MINNIE'S ON THE OTHER SIDE OF THE STREAM!

SEE YOU TOMORROW.

DON'T SEE WHY JASON'S SO UPTIGHT LATELY...

...WHEN THERE'S REALLY NOTHING TO WORRY ABOUT AT--

OH NO--!!!
MOTHER--WHAT HAPPENED--?!?

GORILLAS, ALEX... GORILLAS IN WOODS...

THEY BURST IN AND BEAT YOUR FATHER...

...CALLED HIM A TRAITOR TO THE APE CAUSE... A HUMAN-LOVER...

BUT... BUT WHY--?!?

I DON'T KNOW, ALEX-- THEY JUST KEPT SAYING THAT ALL HUMANS MUST BE SUBJUGATED... OR KILLED...

KILLED--?!

I'VE GOT TO WARN JASON--

I'LL STAY WITH HIM, ALEX-- THERE'S NOTHING YOU CAN DO.

SO NOW-- SO AND WARN YOUR HUMAN FRIEND...

BEFORE IT'S TOO LATE.

BUT FATHER...

JASON'S AWFUL LATE TONIGHT, BETH, AND I DIDN'T SEE HIM IN THE SQUARE THIS AFTERNOON...

HOW COULD YOU SEE ANYONE IN THAT CROWD? IT'S A WONDER WE EVEN SAW--

WAIT!

DO YOU HEAR THAT...?
HOOFBEATS...

PERHAPS WE SHOULD SEE...

OH MY GOD, DAVID -- THEY'RE TERRIFYING.

STAY BEHIND ME, BETH. I DON'T LIKE THE LOOKS OF THIS.

WHO ARE YOU?! WHAT BUSINESS HAVE YOU COMING HERE AT NIGHT CARRYING TORCHES?!

OUR BUSINESS, HUMAN --

...IS DEATH!

WHOOF

INSIDE, BETH -- QUICKLY!
DAVID, THIS IS INSANE! WHY ARE THEY DOING THIS?

QUIET, BETH-- AND GET A BUCKET.

WREESH!

-- BEFORE THIS FIRE SPREADS!

DOUSE IT, BETH-- WHILE I HOLD THE DOOR SH--

FWOOM!

KRATCH!

DEATH TO ALL HUMANS--!

GET THE FEMALE!

TWUNG

THUTCH

NO--OH MY GOD, NO--!

DAVID-- DAVID, PLEASE DON'T DIE--!
A woman who loves her man this much--

David... Oh, please, David...

-- should follow him--

-- wherever he goes.

Let's go-- there aren't any others hiding in here.

Son.

Probably too late for dinner already...

Then our source must have been mistaken when he said these two had a--

... and with no school today, I don't even have an excuse for being so--

It can't be-- it just can't be--!

It's not... I know it's not--

-- true.
NUMB WITH BRUTAL SHOCK, JASON'S MIND FLOODS WITH A CRIMSON SEA OF LIVING FURY...

AND, BERSERK, HE BOLTS FROM THE CRACKLING PYRE HE ONCE CALLED HOME...

THEY'RE DEAD--

AND THOSE BEASTS KILLED THEM!

BUT THEY WON'T GET AWAY WITH IT--

HE PLUNGES INTO THE FOREST'S MURKY SHADOWS, BENT ON RECKLESS PURSUIT OF THE SWIFTLY RECEIVING SILHOUETTES...

I'LL CATCH THEM-- NO MATTER HOW FAR THEY RIDE--

AND THOUGH HE RUNS--

--AND RUNS UNTIL THE BLOOD POUNDS AT HIS BRAIN--

--HE ULTIMATELY FINDS THAT THE RIDERS HAVE OUTDISTANCED HIM...

GONE-- THE STINKING BEASTS ARE GONE...

...AND THAT HE CAN RUN NO MORE.

--I'LL CATCH THEM AND I'LL RIP THEM APART WITH MY OWN HARDS!

END CHAPTER ONE!
Terror on the Planet of the Apes

When a 100-megaton nuclear bomb explodes, the temperature at the centre of the fireball is measured in millions of degrees. For a thirty-mile diameter around that fireball, everything . . . ceases to exist. Adamantium steel runs like water, human flesh vaporizes into ash in an instant. And what the bomb does not destroy, the radiation does. Once—before the bomb there had been a mighty city here. Towering skyscrapers, massive road systems, millions of people . . . life in all its myriad varieties.

Before the Bomb. Now, this place is called, simply . . . The Forbidden Zone.

To go there is to die.

But Jason and Alexander have gone there. With Jason framed for a murder he didn’t commit, they have no choice. The Law-Giver had gone to the Forbidden Zone on some mysterious mission . . . and the Law-Giver was the only one who could clear Jason of the murder charge. Because the Law-Giver was an Ape, and Jason a human . . . and this was a planet where Apes ruled Men.

The Law-Giver has gone to the Forbidden Zone. Jason and Alexander have followed. What they will find—survival or death—God only knows.
CHAPTER TWO: FUGITIVES ON THE PLANET OF THE APES

THE FLAMES WHINE AND CRACKLE, THEIR BRITTLE SOUNDS FILLING THE SANDY-LIT GLADE.

THEN ANOTHER SOUND RISES INTO THE NIGHT... A GRUFF SORROWING SOUND WHICH EMANATES FROM THE FORM OF A YOUNG MAN HUNCHING IN THE LURIDLY FLICKERING GAZE OF A GLUTTED CONFLAGRATION.

HIS THOUGHTS ARE GREY... SOMBER SHROURDS WHICH MUFFLE HIS MIND LIKE THICK GAUZE.

AND THEY FOCUS ON THE TWO PEOPLE ASSEMBLED IN THE CENTER OF THE HELLISH INFERNO BEFORE HIM...

JASON... I'M... SORRY.

THAT'S SUPPOSED TO HELP, ALEX?! YOU BEING SORRY?!
MY PARENTS ARE DEAD, ALEX! SORROW ISN'T GOING TO CHANGE THAT--GRIEF ISN'T GOING TO CHANGE IT!

NOTHING WILL CHANGE IT, ALEX--NOTHING!

BUT IF MY PARENTS HAD TO DIE, I'M GOING TO SEE TO IT THAT THEIR MURDERERS DIE, TOO--!

I COULDN'T CATCH THEM, ALEX--BUT I KNOW THE DIRECTION THEY WENT IN!

JASON, LISTEN TO ME! YOU CAN'T GO AFTER THEM--THEY'RE RUTHLESS! YOU WON'T HAVE A CHANCE--!

LET THE LAW TAKE CARE OF THEM.

THE LAW? THE LAW LAID DOWN BY THE LAW-GIVER--?

AND THEY LEFT TRACKS, ALEX--TRACKS I CAN FOLLOW TO THEIR DEATHS!

DON'T TELL ME ABOUT ANY LAWS, ALEX--YOUR FAMILY WASN'T ATTACKED TONIGHT!

THE LAW LAID DOWN BY AN APE--THE LAW WHICH PROTECTS NO ONE BUT APES--?

SO I DON'T EXPECT YOU TO UNDERSTAND WHY I HAVE TO GO AFTER THOSE LOUSY MURDERERS...

...ALONE, IF NEED BE!

JASON--WAIT UP!

MAYBE IT IS TIME FOR SOME NEW LAWS.
Deep within the inner recesses of the gloomy forest, sputtering torches pinpoint the junctures of an intricate matrix of interconnected treehouses. It is a system of aerial barracks—a gleeke camp of war...

And from one of the tree-top dwellings the strident voice of a sentry cuts through the night...

They're coming...

The initiates are returning from their mission...

Tell the leader we wish to report the results of our first mission.

Are you certain you're ready to face him?

Face him—

—and finally meet him as well.
HAIL TO YOUR LEADER--!

WE HAIL TO YOU, LEADER--

IN THE DIVINE CAUSE OF APE DOMINANCE!
AND HAVE YOU FURTHERED THE CAUSE OF APE DOMINANCE?

WE HAVE. THE HUMANS YOU CHOSE ARE DEAD. THEIR HOME REDUCED TO ASHES.

THEN YOU HAVE DONE WELL... YOUR INITIATION IS CONCLUDED.

--AND SINCE YOU HAVE NOW SUCCESSFULLY ENLISTED IN THE RANKS OF THE APE SUPREMACY... --YOU ARE NOW PRIVILEGED TO THE CONFIDENCE OF MY IDENTITY.

BRUTUS?! THE LEADER IS BRUTUS?!

YES, AND SINCE YOU RECOGNIZE ME AS THE LEADER'S APPOINTED PEACE OFFICER... --I'M SURE YOU CAN APPRECIATE THE NEED FOR ANONYMITY.

LEADER... CAMP SCOUT THREE REPORTING URGENT NEWS!
LEADER, YOUR WIFE APPROACHES THE CAMP FROM ONE DIRECTION--

ALLOW MY WIFE TO PASS...

--AND BRING THEM HERE IN CHAINS!

--AND TWO MEN, A HUMAN AND A CHIMP, APPROACH FROM THE OTHER.

...BUT SEIZE THE OTHER TWO...

SHALL WE SEIZE THEM?

WE'VE BEEN FOLLOWING THESE TRACKS ALL NIGHT, ALEXANDER.

WE'VE GOT TO GET CLOSER...

THEN, ALMOST INSTANTLY, A WHISPERY RUSTLE FROM ABOVE...

--THE TREES EXPLODE WITH SNAPPING, HOODED TERROR.

THEY MUST BE THE MURDERERS...

--AND THAT MEANS THIS IS IT, SO FIGHT, ALEX--

FIGHT--!

I'M TRYING, JASB--I'M TRYING!
But although Jason naturalizes himself into the battle with near-bestial ferocity...-- he soon finds that even raw, naked savagery--

-- is no match for superior numbers.

We tried, Jase. At least we can say that much. Shut up, you two-- unless you want to be dragged face-first--

-- back to the camp. --

Brutus... then it's true... I came across some of your papers... they alluded to a secret band of terrorists...--

... and inferred that you were the leader of the organization. I didn't believe it, Brutus -- couldn't believe it... until now--

... gave this location as the site of its headquarters...
I'm glad you finally learned my secret, Zena. Now you can join the movement...

--and sit by my side when I rule a new regime of ape supremacy.

You're mad...

--utterly insane to even suggest such a thing!

You blaspheme the very foundation of the Langner's Society!

The Langner is a spineless fool too old to rule a dog kennel. His day of power has passed...

There's a regular army here, Alex.

Yeah...but there appears to be dissension within the ranks.

And your day of power will never dawn, Brutus. The creator will see you rot in hell before he allows such a thing to be!

Shut up, Zena!

You'll regret that, Brutus--just as I regret the day you became my husband.

I'm going to the authorities to expose you as the head of this terrorist group.
NO, MY DEAR...

...I THINK NOT.

YOU KILLED HER—YOU KILLED HER IN COLD BLOOD!!

YOU FILTHY STINKING ANIMAL!!

WELL, IT SEEMS WE HAVE A COMMENTATOR HERE...

HUMAN, NO DOUBT.

YOU BET I'M HUMAN... AND GLAD I AM...

...RATHER THAN HAIRY APE-SCUM LIKE YOU!

YOU ARE IMPETUOUS, HUMAN... AS ALL HUMANS ARE.

AND YOU'RE A DISEASE-RIDDEN MURDERER—AS ALL ANIMALS ARE!
WE WILL HAVE TO DISCUSS THE MATTER AT GREATER LENGTH.

RELEASE THE CHIMPANZEE.

RELEASE...

BUT FIRST...

THAT’S RIGHT, ALEX--RUN, RUN LIKE AN ANIMAL.

GAVE YOUR OWN FLEABITEN HIDE, ALEX--AND LEAVE ME HERE TO DIE--!

AND YOU’RE JUST LIKE THE REST OF THEM...

IT’S THE NATURAL ANIMAL THING TO DO, ALEX--!

...AN ANIMAL.

NOW THEN... HUMAN... YOU SHOULD NOT HAVE DONE WHAT YOU DID--HERE IN FRONT OF MY MEN...

...ALL RESPONSIBLE CITIZENS, ALL RELIABLE WITNESSES.

WAIT A MINUTE--I RECOGNIZE YOU...

PHOOO!

YOU’RE BRUTUS--THE “PEACE OFFICER.” WHY, YOU SLIMY PIG--!

AS I WAS SAYING... YOU SHOULD NEVER HAVE MURDERED MY WIFE...
In front of so many reliable witnesses—

THUFF!

That's quite enough.

For he'll soon pay most dearly for his affronts to my personage.

After all, as peace officer of the Lawgiver's Cabinet, it is my oath-sworn duty to bring him before the tribunal tomorrow morning.

AND DEMAND THAT HE--

--hang until dead, Brother Xavier... for the brutal, cold-blooded murder of my wife!

The tribunal is already quite familiar with the charge, Brother Brutus.
THEN HOW CAN YOU HESITATE TO REACH A VERDICT WHEN FULLY A DOZEN GORILLAS--THE MOST RESPECTABLE CITIZENS OF THIS VILLAGE--

---HAVE ALREADY ATTESTED TO BEING EYE-WITNESSES TO THE HEINOUS CRIME?!?

IT'S A LIE--!

BRUTUS KILLED HIS WIFE HIMSELF!

IT'S ALL A PLOT--THEY'RE ALL IN IT TOGETHER!

HOPELESS PARANOIA... TYPICAL OF THE HUMAN CRIMINAL MIND.

NOW I ASK THE TRIBUNAL-- WHOSE TESTIMONY IS DEEMED MORE VALID?

--THAT OF A SINGLE HUMAN?...

--OR THAT OF A DOZEN GORILLAS?

WHAT IS YOUR VERDICT, BROTHER XAVIER?

WELL... I... UH... THIS IS ALL SO SUDDEN... WHAT WITH THE LAWSIERS LEAVING...

...AND I... UH... JUST DON'T--

PSSST, BROTHER XAVIER... BEFORE YOU PASS JUDGEMENT...

--I SUGGEST YOU TAKE A LOOK OUTSIDE.
I see. Ahem. It... uh... is the judgement of this tribunal... that in view of the... uh... preponderance of evidence... and in light of public opinion...

...we... uh... must find the accused...

...Guilty...?

No...!

This isn't a tribunal of law--

I'm innocent... innocent...

And you know it, Brutus!

It's a kangaroo court!

I'll get you for this, Brutus-- I'll get you!!

Take him to his--

It is a dank, squalid place. This dungeon... filled with sour stench and bleak despair.

--cell--

And an overwhelming darkness...

--Soon broken by--

A light!
ALEXANDER...
I... I thought you'd deserted me.

BUT HOW DID YOU GET HERE?

WELL, we APES are good at climbing, you know.

HERE, JAG... take this KNIFE.

-- AND START HOLLERING BLOODY-BLUE MURDER.

-- ONCE THIS TORCH ASHES.

HELP... FIRE!

HEEEEEEELLPP!!

WHAT THE--?

WELL, I'LL BE-- I THINK THERE REALLY IS A FIRE...

... AND IT LOOKS LIKE THE PRISONER'S ALREADY BEEN--.
Racing from his cell, Jason turns a corner to find...

How did you get out of your cage, human?

Let's just say that not all apes...

Uhn... gotta stop him... sound the alarm...

Pssst, Jason!

This way... hurry!

Not now, Jason--we've got things to do, like escaping that mob of jailers behind us--

Look, Alex, I want to apologize for the way I--

And entering the Forbidden Zone to find the Law-Giver... because if we can't clear you of that murder rap...

---Well both hang!

NEXT ISSUE: THE FORBIDDEN ZONE OF FORGOTTEN HORROR!
NEXT ISSUE:

Jason and Alexander—fugitives on the world where beasts reign supreme—are forced to go where no man or ape dares venture!

The Forbidden Zone of Forgotten Terror

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The second part of our epic adaptation of the original "Planet of the Apes" movie!

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