Terror on the Planet of the Apes, Chapter Two

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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 One

**THE FORBIDDEN ZONE OF FORGOTTEN HORRORS!**

And two friends flee for their lives; one because he is human... and has just escaped from jail...

...and the other because he is a chimp, and has engineered his friend's escape.

You head east... and rouse the police barricades on your way!

Move it, Jason--we've got to reach that alley before they spot us!

The night slips into a terror of breath-taking silence. Then the swelling rise of insidious voices. The encroachment of amber light skimming the ground... and--

Jam your spine into the wall, Alexander...

That one's got his eyes on this alley... and he definitely looks--

"Suspicious."

**DOUG MOENCH WRITER MIKE PLOOG ARTIST JOHN COSTANZA LETTERER**
A CHIMP?! WHAT ARE YOU DOING HIDING BACK HERE?
WE'RE LOOKING FOR THE ESCAPED HUMAN CALLED--
JASON...
YOUR TIMING COULDN'T BE ANY BETTER IF YOU'D REHEarsed IT.

WAK!

AND IT'S NOT GOING TO GET ANY BETTER IF WE DON'T MOVE NOW.
WE'VE GOT TO FIND THE LAWYER AND GET THE WHOLE THING STRAIGHTENED OUT!
I DON'T KNOW, JASE... WE DON'T EVEN KNOW FOR CERTAIN WHERE THE LAWYER IS, WE'RE JUST GUESSING THAT HE WENT INTO THE FORBIDDEN ZONE...
XAVIER...?! THAT INEPT BUMBLER IS NOTHING BUT A PUPPET IN BRUTUS' HANDS!
OR HAVE YOU FORGOTTEN IT WAS BRUTUS WHO MURDERED HIS WIFE AND PINNED THE BLAME ON ME?!

MAYBE WE SHOULD STICK AROUND HERE AND TRY TO CONVINCE XAVIER OF YOUR INNOCENCE...

WHAT'S ALL THAT SHOUTING DOWN THERE?
WHO'S THERE?!
IT'S THE ESCAPED HUMAN--GET HIM!!

UNH...!!

NOW YOU'VE DONE IT.

COME ON, JASE--HE'LL HAVE THE WHOLE VILLAGE SWARMING AFTER US IN NO TIME!
Scurrying with the desperate speed of panic, the two unlikely fugitives skirt a leave and dodge amongst thick, jungle foliage...—And splash into a thick perimeter of fringing jungle...

I can climb by myself, Alex...

Curling tendrils of smoke slither into Jason's eyes. He feels the urge to cough...

They're right behind us and gaining all the time!

Here they come...

Don't even so much as breathe on a single leaf.

What do we do now?

Comb every blade of grass in the whole jungle?

But his back chaffed by rough bark, he manages to stifle it...

We might as well head back to the village...pick up the search in the morning...

You're right, Tyrinius...

They could be anywhere and we'd never even know it.

We'd never find them in all this darkness and jungle.
That was close— but by morning we'll be deep into the forbidden zone!

The more we run, the more guilty we look.

Will we, Jase...?

We've got to live by the laws—and appeal to Xavier...

Are you crazy, Alex?! Any appeal to Xavier is an appeal for death!

Look, Jase— the Legislator delegated Xavier to govern in his absence. He must have known what he was doing.

All we have to do is get to Xavier in private and explain the situation...

Before or after he takes one look at us and screams for Brutus?

You know... you're pretty sarcastic for a human...

...but have you considered the possibility of leading Xavier to Brutus' secret encampment—and crushing it before his renegade movement gathers any more power?

All right, Alex— we'll try it your way first. But if it doesn't work...

Good, no sense in biting off a chunk of the forbidden zone we can't chew.

Now let's get some sleep.

That's easy for you to say... your ancestors were born in trees.
Morning spills cheerful sunlight on ape and human alike. But two such specimens, furtively enter the bustling, above village... wishing, perhaps, for a cover of clouds...

Looks like we're in luck, Alex...

At least there's a sizable crowd for us to get lost in...

Uh, Jase... I've been thinking...

Maybe it's not such a good idea to show our faces here...

At least not in broad daylight.

What?! This was your idea, Alex-- and you can just go climb another tree if you think I'm going to back out now.

So come on if you're coming! I'm going to slip into this crowd-- it's looks like it's moving in the general direction of Xavier's quarters.

Just relax and act inconspicuous.

Maybe so, Jase... but I wouldn't want to...

No one in this crowd even knows who we are.

Betch on it.

They're certainly not big on wasting time, are they...?
WONDER HOW LONG IT'LL BE BEFORE THEY GET AROUND TO DOING ME JUSTICE IN A PORTRAIT LIKE THAT....

TAKE IT EASY. THAT DRAWING'S SO CRUDE. IT COULD RAISE FOR ALMOST ANY HUMAN.

NOW COME ON BEFORE THE CROWD LEAVES US BEHIND....

SAY, JASE...IT SEEMS THIS ISN'T SO MUCH A CROWD AS IT IS A PROCESSION....

YEAH...AND THE PROCESSION SURE LOOK INTERESTING, BUT WE'D BETTER FIND A DIFFERENT PLACE TO WATCH....

...UNLESS WE WANT TO BE SPOTTED BY...

—BUTUL’S AND HIS FUNERAL GUARDIANS.—

THANK YOU, MINISTER OF THE SECOND LIFE. WITH A HEART THAT I PLACE THIS SINGLE SPRIG—THIS SYMBOL OF LOVE—UPON THE BIER OF MY BELOVED ZENA.

...BUT IT IS STILL YOUR KIND WORDS HAVE EASED THE BURDEN OF MY GRIEF....

SHE WAS A KIND AND GENTLE RPE... BELOVED WIFE OF OUR NOBLE PEACE OFFICER, BUTULS....

A CONSTANT SOURCE OF COMFORT AND SOACE TO HER HUSBAND....

HER MEMORY SHALL BE CHERISHED FOREVER....

I SHALL MOURN HER DEATH THROUGHOUT ETERNITY....

...MY DROUND SORROW INCREASING WITH THE PASSAGE OF EACH ENDLESS DAY....
THAT LOUSY FAKER...!
HE'S ABOUT AS BELIEVED
AS A MONKEY IN A
BANANA TREE!

QUIET, JASE--
OR THEY'LL HEAR
YOU...

--AND IT'S A CINCH BRUTUS
WON'T MAKE A PRETTY
SPEECHES OVER OUR
CORPSES.

--AND THAT IS WHY
I SAY TO YOU, FELLOW
CITIZENS OF PEACE...

FURTHERMORE I PLEDGE TO
YOU THAT THE CRIMINAL HUMAN
RESPONSIBLE FOR THIS
ATROCITY SHALL BE BROUGHT
TO IMMEDIATE JUSTICE...

AND SUMMARILY
EXECUTED TO
PREVENT A
RECURRANCE OF THIS HEINOUS
INCIDENT!

AND AS YOUR PEACE
OFFICER, I PLEDGE
TO YOU THAT IT WILL
NOT HAPPEN AGAIN.

--HAVE ALL WITNESSED
AN ALARMING TENDENCY
TOWARD INCREASED
VIOLENCE AMONG THE
HUMAN POPULACE...

THAT DIRTY
HYPOCRITE!
HE CALLS
THAT A
EULOGY?!?

HE'S USING HIS WIFE'S
FUNERAL AS A PLATFORM
FOR HIS OWN PERSONAL
HATRED...!

AND I SWEAR TO YOU
TODAY THAT I SHALL
CURE THIS TENDENCY--
JUST AS SURELY AS
THE FACT THAT MY WIFE
LIES DEAD...SLAIN
BY A HUMAN!!

NOT SO
CUT,
JASON...
YOU'RE A DIRTY FILTHY LIAR AND YOU KNOW IT!!

YOU'RE THE ONE WHO MURDERED YOUR WIFE IN COLD BLOOD--AND YOU WANT TO GET ME BECAUSE I SAW IT!!

WHAT THE...?!!

IT'S HIM--IT'S THE HUMAN FUGITIVE!

JASON--GET DOWN! DON'T BE A FOOL--!

YOU'RE NOTHING BUT SCUM, BRUTUS! AS PEACE OFFICER, YOU KNOW LAW AND ORDER--BUT AS THE SECRET LEADER OF THE RENEGADE SORILLAS, YOU MURDER YOUR OWN WIFE!!

WHY DON'T YOU ARREST YOURSELF?!!

GUARDS!! GUARDS!!

APPREHEND THE FUGITIVE HUMAN AT ONCE!! AND SHOOT TO KILL!!

THERE HE IS--ON THE ROOF!!
CLAUDDUS -- WHERE ARE YOU? HELP ME, I'M AFRAID!!

AND YOU, XAVIER -- YOU PITIFUL Moron, CAN'T YOU SEE WHAT BRUTUS IS DOING? CAN'T YOU SEE THE HATRED HE'S STIRRING UP? CAN'T YOU SEE HE WANTS TO EXTERMINATE THE ENTIRE HUMAN RACE?!

WHY WHAT IS HAPPENING... what shall I do?...

FOLLOW ME, XAVIER -- BEFORE THIS MOB GETS OUT OF CONTROL!

THAT'S RIGHT, XAVIER. SNEAK AWAY AND HIDE!! YOU'RE JUST AS GUILTY AS BRUTUS!!

WHAT'S THE MATTER WITH YOU FOOLS? HE'S JUST STANDING THERE!!

HIT HIM!!

BRING HIM DOWN!!

JASON -- GET DOWN BEFORE YOU GET YOURSELF KILLED!!

...AND THIS ONE WON'T--

"MISS."

THUTCH!

?!!
I TOLD YOU.
I TOLD YOU--!

YOU'RE LUCKY THIS THING didn't skewer your heart to your spine!

DIDN'T KNOW... WHAT CAME OVER ME, ALEX... EVERYTHING JUST WENT... RED...

DON'T KNOW... WHAT... I WAS... DOING...

YEAH? WELL I KNOW WHAT WE'RE GOING TO DO NOW...

...WE'RE GONNA SLIDE OUR LITTLE TAILS OUT OF HERE--!

HOPE YOU'RE RIGHT, ALEX... BUT I'VE GOT A FEELING IT'S ALREADY--

--TOO LATE!

SPEAK FOR YOURSELF!

COME ON-- YOU CAN CRY OVER SPILT BLOOD LATER--!

THEY'RE RIGHT BEHIND US!!

AND IN FRONT OF US, ALEX... THIS WAY-- HURRY!

YEAH... GUESS IT DOES LOOK LIKE WE'RE TRAPPED... AND GUESS WHAT? IT'S YOUR TURN TO COME UP WITH A BRIGHT IDEA.

HALT-- IN THE NAME OF PEACE OFFICER BRUTUS!!

I'VE ONLY GOT ONE, ALEX-- AND WHILE IT MIGHT NOT BE BRIGHT, AT LEAST IT'S DIRECT...
CHARGE THEM!!

LOOK OUT REIN YOUR HORSE..!!
THEY'RE RUSHING US!!

AND ASSUMING CONTROL OF THEIR MOUNTS.
I'VE GOT TO ADMIT...

IT CERTAINLY WAS DIRECT!
WHICH MEANS IT'S MY TURN FOR THE NEXT BRIGHT IDEA...

BUT THE WARNING COMES TOO LATE-- AS TASON AND ALEXANDER LAUNCH THEMSELVES FORWARD, SMAMMING INTO THE STUNNED POLICE OFFICERS...

WHEE-EE

YOU REMEMBER MY IDEA TO LEAD XAVIER TO BRUTUS' HIDDEN CAMP...?

YOU CAN GET THE POLICE TO CHASE US... AND LEAD THEM TO THE CAMP...

HOW'S THAT?

CHUCK!

I GET THE IDEA, ALEX. BRIGHT. VERY BRIGHT.
AND SO THEY RIDE... FOR LONG, GRUELING HOURS...

HOLD UP FOR A MINUTE, ALEX. WE'RE WELL OUT OF RANGE OF THEIR CROSSBOWS...

...AND WE DON'T WANT TO loose THEM.

ALL RIGHT--LET'S GO!

THE HUMAN MUST BE BADLY INJURED FOR THEM TO KEEP RESTING LIKE THAT...

THUNDERING AT FULL SPEED TOWARD THE RENEGADE ENCAMPMENT, JASON AND ALEXANDER PASS BELOW AN UNSEEN SENTRY...

WHAT THE...

WHO EMITS A SHRILL BIRD-CALL JUST AS THE PURSUING POLICE OFFICERS APPROACH...

SHREE-EE!

BUTfortunately FOR THE TWO RUNAWAYS, THE POSITIONING OF THE RENEGADE SENTRY SYSTEM HAS NOT ANTICIPATED THE APPROACH OF INTRUDERS GALLOPING AT Full SPEED...

COME ON, ALEX--GALLOP LIKE THE THUNDER AND MOVE LIKE THE LIGHTNING!

...AND CONSEQUENTLY, THE GORILLA INSURRECTIONISTS ARE SCARCELY Roused FROM THEIR TREEHOUSE BARRACKS BEFORE JASON AND ALEXANDER HAVE ALREADY FLOWN THROUGH THE CLEARING...
The pursuing peace officers, however, are not quite so fortunate...

It is a grimly ironic scene of bloodshed and debauchery which explodes through this late afternoon glade. As the lawn's unpredicted peace officer, Brutus had commanded three police guards...

And as the secret leader of the ape insurrectionist movement, Brutus similarly commands these hooded gorilla terrorists.

Aaaaiiiieeee!

It backfired. Alex--our plan backfired!!

They killed them!

Duck, Jase--that's Brutus entering the clearing now!

Two factions sharing a common leader--one mercilessly butchered by the other...

--unfortunate, but of course quite necessary. The location of our headquarters must be kept secret if we are to continue advancing the cause of ape dominance.

You did well. In fact, this incident may be turned to our benefit. Once the citizens of the village learn that it was the fugitives who led these gorillas to the slaughter!

Hail Brutus!!

Hail Brutus!!

End Chapter One
CHATCH

THERE I HEARD IT AGAIN!

AND THAT SMELL...

FIRE!

FIRE!

GET BLANKETS... I BEAT IT OUT-!!

STINKING MURDERERS! I WATCHED MY PARENTS' HOUSE BURN TO THE GROUND!

NOW WE'LL SEE HOW BRUTUS LIKES A TASTE OF HIS OWN MEDICINE!

C'MON, JASON-- THEY'RE HOLLERING BLOODY MURDER ALREADY!

IT'S THAT HUMAN JASON-- IT'S GOT TO BE. I WANT HALF THE FORCE TO STAY HERE AND DEAL WITH THE FIRES...

THE REST WILL COME WITH ME!
ALL RIGHT--THAT WAS THE LAST ARROW ANYWAY.
WHERE TO NOW?
WHERE DO YOU THINK?
I WAS AFRAID YOU'D SAY THAT!

THE FORBIDDEN ZONE: A SPRAWLING LANDSCAPE OF CHAOS, TWISTED RUBBLE AND RUIN...SMOTHERED BY AN OMENOUS BLANKET OF CLINGING PURPLE MIST...

THE OLD MARKERS ARE STILL STANDING, JASON... WARNING OF MONSTERS AND WORSE HORDERS...

I DON'T LIKE IT, JASON...

IF THE LAWGIVER MADE IT, WE CAN MAKE IT...

...BUT IT'S A CINCH THE HORSES WON'T BE ANY GOOD ON THIS TERRAIN.

ANY LUNGS ARE ALREADY KILLING ME.

YOU LIKE BRUTUS' BRAND OF JUSTICE ANY BETTER, ALEX?

IT ONLY LOOKS LIKE DEATH DOWN THERE... GOING BACK TO THE VILLAGE IS DEATH...

I'M WONDERING IF OUR LEGS WILL BE ANY GOOD ON THIS TERRAIN.
Y'know... something just occurred to me...

The way we rode those horses, we must've left some mighty deep tracks...

While, at the crest of the palisade...

It's them, all right... and they've abandoned their horses.

Don't worry about it, Brutus would never follow us here!

Follow them--while I return to the village to organize a group of police!

--A lot of junk around here.

Pre-cataclysm artifacts, Alex, the scientists might learn a great deal about our past if they weren't so afraid of this place...

Hail Brutus!

Hey, where are you going?

I don't know...

But it's the only building we've come across that isn't completely demolished. Looks interesting...
SURE IS CREEPY, HUH, JASE?

YEAH, TOO QUIET.

HEYYYY--TAKE A LOOK AT THAT OVER THERE.

MUST BE THE WAY THE FORBIDDEN ZONE LOOKED BEFORE THE CATACLYSM...

SURE IS UGLY WITH ALL THOSE SHARP ANGLES ON THE BUILDINGS.

SILENCE

WELL, THE LAWGIVER CERTAINLY WASN'T IN THERE. BUT WHERE DO WE FIND--

I DON'T KNOW. SOMETHING WEIRD--IT FLITTED BEHIND THAT BUILDING BEFORE I COULD GET A GOOD LOOK. BUT I SAW IT--!

ARE YOU... SURE?

HEYYYY... DID YOU SEE THAT?

WHAT?

OF COURSE. I'M SURE!

THEN WE'RE... NOT ALONE...?

GUESS NOT.

INSIDE...

WHAT'S THIS STUFF?

COME ON-- IT WAS OVER THIS WAY...

Y'GOT ME, ALEX...
...but this thing obviously fits into this slot...

AND...

JASON... DO YOU SUPPOSE THIS COULD BE THE PLACE THE LANGIVER HAS LECTURED ABOUT...?

...THE PLACE CALLED "HELL"--WHERE EVIL INSTRUMENTS CAUSE GREAT EXPLOSIONS AND DEATH...

NAH, WE'RE STILL ALIVE, AIN'T WE? GUESS YOU'RE RIGHT!

SAYY...

WELL... I'LL... BE...

THEN, EXITING THE MUSTY, ARCHAIC BUILDING...

WHAT THE--?! LOOKS LIKE YOUR EYES WEREN'T KIDDING YOU, JASE... WE'RE NOT ALONE...!

... THESE JUST MIGHT COME IN HANDY... ONCE WE SHAKE THE COBWEBS OFF.
EASY, JASON—
YOU CAN PUT
YOUR SWORD
DOWN...

THEY DON’T
LOOK LIKE
THEY’RE ABOUT
TO ATTACK...

IN FACT, THEY
SEEM TO BE
AFRAID OF US.

URG URG

YEAH, THEY ARE
TIMID. MUST’VE
BEEN CURIOUS
ABOUT US...

WHAT DO YOU
THINK THEY
ARE?

I DON’T KNOW.
THEY’VE GOT THE
FEATURES OF BOTH
APESS AND
HUMANS...

SAY, YOU DON’T
SUPPOSE...

URG URMU

NO.
COULDN’T
BE.

THEY SURE SCATTERED
FAST ENOUGH. LET’S
FOLLOW THIS LAST
ONE BEFORE HE
SLIPS AWAY...

YEAH, IT’S A
LONG SHOT—BUT
MAYBE HE’LL LEAD
US TO THE LAW-
GIVER...

WAIT A MINUTE.
DO YOU HEAR
THAT?

URG

WHRR-ANK...
TELL ME, JASE--TELL ME I DON'T SEE IT--!!

LURCHING, GRINDING, CRUNCHING RUBBLE AND ROCK, THE THING JERKS FORWARD... LIKE A LEGLESS CRAB SCRAMBLING IN PURSUIT OF FOOD...

WHRR-ANK

THE SHAGGY BIPED FREEZES IN SHOCK...

URRG!

--THEN BOLTS IN STARK TERROR.

URRRG!

AN OBSCENE PREHENSILE LIMB SPROUTS FROM THE ROOF OF THE THING, SWIVELS FORWARD... AND DANGLES MENACINGLY--

--UNTIL IT DROPS, ABRUPTLY, AND CLAMPS DOWN ON ITS SQUIRMLING PREY.

SNAKT!!

METALLIC TEETH BARE IN GRATING DISSONANCE...

DON'T BE RIDICULOUS. IF YOU'D PAY ATTENTION IN CLASS, YOU'D KNOW THAT IT WAS A PRE-HOLOCAUST MACHINE.

AND THE EXTRUDING PREHENSILE CLAW LIFTS ITS HELPLESS CATCH ABOVE THE GROUND...
YOU DIDN'T ACT SO SMART WHEN YOU FIRST SAW IT.

I WAS STARTLED. THAT'S ALL.

BESIDES, MACHINES CAN BE WORSE THAN MONSTERS.

THEN WHY ARE WE FOLLOWING IT?

URG! URG!

WRRAAK!

BECAUSE IT'S BOUND TO LEAD US SOMEWHERE...

LIKE INTO THAT TUNNEL, FOR INSTANCE.

WELL, I SUPPOSE IF WE'VE COME THIS FAR...

YOU SAID IT YOURSELF, JASE. IF THE LAWYER BRAVED THIS CRAZY FORBIDDEN ZONE...

...WHY SHOULD WE FIND IT SO FORBIDDING?

BECAUSE IT'S DAMN SPooky--THAT'S WHY!

CAUTIOUSLY, THEY ADVANCE DOWN THE TORTUOUS RAMP. THEY ARE AWARE OF HEAT, AND BIZARRE SOUNDS... AND THEN, Rounding A CORNER...

--THEY STOP... AND STARE, APPALLED, AT THE SIGHT BELOW THEM...
It is a sight forged in fertile hell, a scene of lurid torment and bleak despair...

Meat to parch the throat and sear the lungs with chafing grit and ashen plungency...

Sounds to pierce the ears and drown the mind in a cacophony of sluggish cadence...

You there -- quit straggling!

You heard me -- on your feet and move sharply!

Urg...?
I said get up, you stupid beast!!

--for all of a dozen paces...

...before being reduced to a smouldering head of grue!

...then spurts away to flee...

...It's madness, Alex!

What are they?!

The creator have pity on you, Jason... they're your ancestors...

Mutants

so...
TWO MORE WHO WISH TO ASSIST IN THE CONSTRUCTION OF THE GREAT WAR-MACHINE, NO DOUBT...

SLAVES TO THE INHERITORS!

DON'T BET ON IT, MUSH-FACE!

NO! WAIT!!

STOP!

HURRY, JASON-- THEY HEARD HIS SHOUTS!

AWKG-- G-G!!

SHAK!

ALL RIGHT-- LET'S GO BEFORE THEY TURN US INTO SMOKE PUDDLES.

SHUK!

WE MADE IT, THEY SEEM PRETTY SLUGGISH, JASE-- WE MIGHT HAVE A CHANCE NOW.

I HATE TO BREAK IT TO YOU THIS WAY, ALEX... BUT THE GRASS ISN'T ALL THAT GREEN OUT HERE EITHER--!

THERE THEY ARE!

IN THE NAME OF BRUTUS AND THE DIVINE CAUSE OF APE DOMINANCE--

...SLAY THEM!!

NEXT ISSUE: SPAWN OF THE MUTANT-PIT!
Next Issue: And The Mutants Cry...Death!

Trapped in the Forbidden Zone, Jason and Alexander must face peril in an arena of sudden doom. Who will kill them? The mutants or the monsters? Plus: the fearful fate of the Lawgiver!

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Astronaut Taylor makes a desperate break for freedom...while an enraged Dr. Zaius demands his execution!

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84 GORILLA-SIZED PAGES—ON SALE SEPTEMBER 23rd!