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CHANGE
TITLE

He was too busy worrying about something else

it is a very good idea. I will meet with him and discuss it.

PLANET OF THE APES #

"~~RETURN~~ TO THE PLANET OF THE APES"

New Series to Replace Movie Adaptations

Plot for 18 Pages

VAL: Since this is our effort to "continue" the adaptations with an original "adaptation" of our own...the series should bear a stamp similar to the previous movie adaptations -- emphasis on movie-type schticks & settings -- episodic cliffhanger chapters -- a feeling of broad sweep & scope -- greater reliance on dialogue, etc. etc. In fact, this new series should seem more like the movie stuff than like the previous appearances of its major character (DEREK ZANE) in APES #9, 10, & 21.

Set in verdant woodsy area; *NIGHT*
SPLASH:/ Dramatic action shot of movie-type gorillas (wearing leather gear, riding horses, & bearing rifles) chasing down a lone CHIMPANZEE fugitive, who is fleeing them on foot -- frantically. Sooner or later the mounted gorillas will ride him down to the ground & kill him -- or so it seems. CHIMP is FARON -- the new second-lead character for this series -- Roddy McDowall/CORNELIUS type, but hopefully with a little more characterization. Since series is narrated first-person by Zane, intro caption will be something like: I didn't know it at the time, but the chimp's name was Faron -- and he would ~~IMM~~ lead me into the most stunning situation of my life. A neat trick, since my life ~~recently~~ *had lately* ~~become~~ *become* ~~has been~~ nothing but one long series of stunning situations, etc.

Gorillas firing rifles +

PAGE TWO: The chase continues with ~~Chimp~~ Faron pulling some amazing

monkey-agility evasive tactics.

Example: Dashes into copse of woods, leaps up like Tarzan & swings into branches; gorillas ride past below; he drops down when they're past & doubles back on his own trail. But lead gorilla (tracker) halts, noticing there are no more tracks. Suspicious, he turns & sees Faron's back flitting away into brush.

PAGE THREE: Gorillas gallop back after Faron, again firing at him. Faron emerges from brush, heaving & ~~MM~~ panting with exertion...to find himself on precipice. Down below, waterfall spewing into pool or river. Gunshot whizzing past his ear makes the decision for him. He jumps... splashes...swims underwater...

Shot of gorillas up on precipice looking around befuddled & mystified, shrugging their shoulders, etc.

Faron surfaces on far side of pool or stream -- in front of darkened cave entrance on shore of water. Eyes peering from darkness of ~~MM~~ cave. Faron gasps, exhausted: H-help...me...p-please...help...

And shadowy hands reach out to grasp Faron & pull him into darkness of cave as -- up in background -- the mounted gorillas ride away from precipice, giving up for the time being.

PAGE FOUR: Cut to exterior shot of an impressive official building at the NASA complex. The time is now -- 1976. Balloon to building: Now, as the old saw goes, you're probably wondering why we've summoned you all here -- and why this has been billed as a Top Priority Meeting, open to the ladies & gentlemen of the press.

Cut inside; a NASA official speaking from a stage & podium to a gathered audience of reporters & Nasa workers. Up on stage with the official is DR. KRIGSTEIN (from POTA #9), several other important-lookin

you hit him with rifle, you could... maybe him over to the drink water until he die maybe

now, did you know of this? I later learned

back in good old being dream 1977

2

3

officials & a large display-easel now covered by blank sheet of paper. The speaker is saying: As some of you may remember, a certain Mr. Derek Zane mysteriously disappeared from his New York residence on _____, 1974 and has now been missing for _____ months.

4 Official now indicates DR. KRIGSTEIN, who is starting to rise. Official saying: Dr. Krigstein here, one of Nasa's top-level administrators, has recently come forward with some rather startling information concerning the possible reasons for Mr. Zane's disappearance. If you will continue from here, Dr. Krigstein...?

5 Krigstein now speaking from podium as the official who introduced him seats himself. Krigstein says: Derek Zane was a rather accomplished -- if eccentric -- inventor, it turns out. I was not aware of that fact when he came to me with his proposal and detailed plans for the construction of a functioning...

6 Closeup Krigstein's face as he lays the bomb: ...TIME MACHINE.

1 Pull back for longshot; hubbub in crowd -- astonished murmurs -- outright scorn, etc. as reporter blurts: TIME MACHINE--? BUT THAT'S PURE BULLSHIT!! Up on podium, Krigstein has turned to peel back the blank sheet from display-easel as he replies: (3) Indeed, that is precisely what I said when I so rudely ejected Mr. Zane from my office. But now, however, after a thorough examination of certain papers discovered in Zane's abandoned apartment, it appears that scoffers like ~~me~~ ^{you + TV} you are the ones fulla bullshit. *who are... "nuts."*

2 "DIMENSIONAL "MIRACLES" "INFINITE REGRESSION"

PAGE FIVE: Krigstein speaking & pointing out stuff on display-easel -- eight lotsa physical equations & a diagram of ~~with~~ interlocking MOEBIUS STRIPS. Krigstein says: Closing following Dr. Hasslein's theories of "curved time" and ^{has developed} "infinite alternative time-tracks" Zane succeeded in developing some revolutionary physical equations -- indeed, equations which might

very well turn Einstein green with envy.

Closeup Krigstein: "Moreover, his engineering blueprints intrigued us ~~sufficiently~~ to explore the possibility of whether ~~there~~ a working "Temporal Displacement Module," as he called it -- or Time Machine -- might actually be constructed. Zane ~~XXXX~~ X proposed to use his time machine to search for the missing astronauts Taylor, Stewart, Dodge, & Landon, incidentally -- on the surmise that they had actually journeyed thru time rather than space...

As Krigstein now peels back the sheet with equations & moebius strips, he says: We, however, after nine months of concentrated effort utilizing the best minds in the country today, are now ready to announce that we plan to search for Derek Zane himself--

Krigstein pointing to dramatic & precise drawing of a time machine on the display easel, saying: --using this -- the CHRONOS I -- now in the final stages of completion. Our destination will be 3976 ~~XXXX~~ A.D., where (or when, actually) it is hoped we will find--

--DEREK ZANE. Yep, we've cut to 3976 & Zane (in his loincloth but with knapsack of vital stuff) strolling along thru woods. He's left the gravesite of the murdered girl from POTA #21 & is now on his exodus -- in search of Charlton Heston.

But instead he steps into a clearing to find -- a party of mounted & mean GORILLAS!! Uh, ch...

PAGE SIX: Now Zane is chased by the gorillas, much as Faron was, but it's a shorter chase...

...ending in the tall grass (nine feet tall), where he blunders into a group of bestial/primitive non-speaking HUMAN SAVAGES. He decides to take refuge with them & tries communicating, asking them to hide him.

*If wasn't the first time
a piece of paper with
had come*

Upon hearing Zane speak, the primitive humans become awed & excited. No other humans can speak in this time, remember.

They grab his wrists & pull him off urgently thru high grass...

PAGE SEVEN: ...and lead him to the cave on the shore of the water. Zane can't figure out what's going on, but he's glad for this aid in giving the slip to pursuing gorillas.

Inside cave, the primitive humans abruptly shove Zane back into the deepest & darkest recess of ~~the~~ cave...

...where ~~he~~ he falls at ~~the~~ fugitive Faron's feet. Befuddled, Faron says: What is it? Why are you throwing him at my feet?

Zane looks up at Faron, grinning, & sez: That's just what I was about to ask.

Faron, of course, is ~~stunned~~ consummately shocked to hear this stupid human speaking perfect English. YOU CAN SPEAK--!! A HUMAN WHO CAN SPEAK--!! Zane sardonically says: Only when I want to -- and that isn't often these days, considering the ~~XX~~ world situation -- and never to remark that I'll be a monkey's uncle.

Faron, still mystified, is nevertheless elated. At last -- someone intelligent -- someone who can help me. You see, I'm a fugitive -- they've been hunting me for months now, ever since I took refuge with these beasts. There are dozens of gorillas combing this area. Zane says: I noticed -- ~~XXXX~~ just made acquaintance with a party of the brutes myself. And by the way, where I come from...you'd be the beast & they'd be the name-caller!

Faron says: What do you mean--? What are you talking about? And how is it you're able to talk in the first place?! Zane says: It's a long story, King Kong, and one you wouldn't believe anyway. So tell me why you're a fugitive...

since no other humans could speak on their topsy-turvy
Darwinian-backfired world, they were awed by my oratory

and appears all somewhat with me

PAGE EIGHT: Faron explains he's wanted for supreme heresy. Zane: What kind of supreme heresy? Boycotting bananas or what?

Faron, sniffing quizzically, says: You are a strange...animal...but the nature of my heresy is even stranger. You see, I dared to speak of a place where apes live...in precisely the same manner as I believe the ancient humans lived.

Zane's speechless reaction. *caption*
DUM DA DUM DUM...

Cut to closeup of a newspaper dated NOVEMBER 29, 1976. Headline reads: TIME TRIP SET FOR TOMORROW Then there are two "photographs" -- one of a beautiful chick (who'll be a good "guy" supporting character in this series) and one of a dubious looking male (who'll turn out to be a bad guy in the future). They are the two "tempunauts" -- time-travellers. I haven't decided on their names yet, but when I do, they'll appear as captions under the two "photos" -- and there's a sub-headline: TEMPUNAUTS IN GOOD SPIRITS, SAY NASA.

Next panel, we've cut to a real shot of the two of them inside an official-looking room, getting briefed by a NASA official who is explaining: We've located our departure point here on Long Island to be nearer the original site of Zane's disappearance. Now, since you've already familiarized yourselves with the contents of your survival kits...

Full back for full shot of room, with the gleamingly fantastic TIME "CHRONOS I" stencilled on side somewhere MACHINE/set in the center of room & surrounded by banks of machinery & controls, etc. Official is pointing to time machine & the two tempunauts (good girl & bad guy, tho we don't know he's gonna be bad yet) are stepping toward it. Official saying: ...you may as well climb into the *CHRONOS I* & run thru another systems check. And remember, since we haven't yet licked the problem of broadcasting radio signals through time, you'll be completely on your own once you leave this...uh, moment.

PAGE NINE: Cut back to Zane & Faron in the cave; they've been talking for a while now & are acquainted & on good terms. Faron saying: Then you agree to help me--? Zane saying: I'd be a fool not to. I told you what happened to my...uh, time machine -- and if you've got a line on the past, even if it's a past taken over by apes, there's a chance I'll be accepted there -- and there's also a chance I'll have access to the necessary tools & materials for constructing another time mach--

Words cut off by flurry of activity outside. *the cave*

Faron & Zane ~~XX~~ turn to look out of cave mouth; see the primitive ⁱⁿ humans & pandemonium -- fleeing. Hear the crack of a rifle shot. Zane says: Come on -- we're trapped like rats in here...

They dash outside -- smack into six mounted gorillas pointing rifles at them. Gorillas say ~~FREEZE!!~~ ^{STOP!!} They both freeze. *we stopped*

Two gorillas dismount to put chains on Faron's wrists.

Then the two gorillas turn to their still-mounted leader & say: What about ~~EXXXXXXX~~ him (meaning Zane)? Tense -- Zane pissing his loincloth.

PAGE TEN: Mounted leader gives the verdict: No beasts today -- just bring the heretic. I.e. they figure Zane is just another one of the primitive humans.

Extremely relieved & glad he didn't open his fat trap, Zane slinks off toward the high grass -- trying to be inconspicuous about it, hoping one of the gorillas doesn't shoot him for the hell/sport of it -- as Faron is loaded onto a horse, in chains.

In the high grass, Zane peers out to see trussed-up Faron glaring at him -- he can see contempt & despisement in Faron's face -- Faron obviously feels it was a cowardly act of betrayal for Zane to act like a savage to avoid capture. But Zane has his own feelings on the matter.

Cut back to the Time Machine in the Long Island launching spot. This

*yes... well I guess
there's nothing
further to say... skip good*

is the big day. Girl & Guy in their Tempunaut outfits are climbing into Time Machine as the launching team watches. Official saying: Okay, we've got the Chronos positioned at absolute ground level...just in case this building has been levelled to make room for a park site in 3976. In other words, we've reduced the spatial risks of a fall to the absolute minimum possible. Now good luck, etc.

With the two in the Time Machine...the countdown begins...

PAGE ELEVEN: ...and concludes to ZERO!

"Psychedelic" Time Trip -- warped reality, etc.

Ending with a fall of about twenty feet down onto a hard desert-like terrain. KRASH! Time Machine damaged only slightly.

They climb out & chick says: So much for reducing spatial risks to the absolute minimum possible. Obviously, "ground level" has changed in the last 2000 years...and speaking of the ground, it ain't much -- in fact, there's nothing "futuristic" about it. Looks like a wasteland.

PAGE TWELVE: The guy, now also looking around at the endless nothingness except rocks & scrub, grows dismayed -- alarmed. He says: This is wrong -- we've got to go back a little -- maybe to only ~~XXXXXX~~ one thousand years in the future -- to 2976.

Girl looks at him likes he's crazy. What are you talking about? Derel Zane went to 3976 -- to right here & now. Maybe he's not here...but there's no reason to believe he's in 2976 instead.

Guy shows his true colors now, starts raving. Zane! Who cares about Zane--? I didn't apply for this -- volunteer for possible suicide -- to find that idiot Zane! Don't you understand--? I risked ~~XX~~ my life on that trip because there's something in it for me -- something that no one else can possibly hope for! I have an opportunity to rape time!!

the future of all its secrets!!

To girl's growing dismay, bad guy keeps raving: I can learn the future of the commodities exchange -- which bonds & stocks will pay off -- what forms energy will take -- what kind of political climate will prevail -- new inventions & technological advances -- innovative undustrial techniques -- even the trend of future clothing fashions--! There's a fortune to be made in any one of those areas, etc. etc!

Girl says: You're mad, bozo. *Break -- completely broken up & mad.*

He pulls a gun, saying: Maybe -- but I'm gonna ~~be~~ be a rich bozo. I'm going back -- whether you accompany me or not. Now...are you getting into the Chronos with me?

She says no, she won't have anything to do with it -- she's staying here to search for Zane & so is he if he knows what's good for him. Furthermore, she's gonna snitch on him to the Commission once they get back!

He sez No, you ain't & fires the gun as she dives to side. Grazes her shoulder only.

But he doesn't bother to shoot again -- instead, jumps into the CHRONOS. *I'm better off out of here!*

PAGE THIRTEEN: She holds her wounded shoulder & watches as--

--guy in time machine throws the controls...

...and Time Machine blows up! -- throwing him twenty yards in the air.

((Time Machine was far more damaged than either of them suspected -- by the fall.))

She rushes forward to see how injured he is & we see what she sees: The explosion has badly scarred his face & put out one eye (so he'll have to wear a distinctive bad-guy eye-patch in the future). She gasps: Oh my God...!

That's why I'd arranged my home-made firecrackers -- stopper gunpowder wrapped in bits of parchment -- in a circle around

Cut to blindfolded Faron standing against a wall in a movie-like ~~the~~ adobe-mound free-form sculpted ape city with flowing causeways & arches, etc. etc. An ORANGUTAN SCRIBE is reading the charges against Faron from a scroll while a squad of gorillas stand with rifles at their sides. ^{firing} ~~squad~~ ^{and} They are the firing squad & as soon as the Orang finishes reading the charges & the sentence, the gorillas are gonna shoot him down, south-of-the-border style. Zane's caption: It'd taken me the whole day to trash the gorillas.

Pull back for longer shot to show Zane in foreground, furtively peering down from roof of one of the adobe buildings -- at firing squad & poor Faron in background. Caption: ...and I'd spent the whole night sneak-thieving and rigging things up. I was dog-tired & wanted nothing but a soft sack, but time was running out for poor Faron -- so I figured I'd better see if my crazy scheme would work.

all right that's fine
PAGE FOURTEEN, FIFTEEN, & SIXTEEN: Three pages of rescue, action, & escape...like so: *Hi. Zane? yes, get that*

As scribe continues to read from his scroll, Zane creeps around in a circle, using his cigarette lighter to ignite a series of home-made ^{I'd never} firecrackers. ((Last night he stole a batch of gunpowder & some scrolls; rolled the gunpowder in "tubes" of scroll-papyrus.)) Each successive ^{get} fuse is a little shorter than the one before -- so they'll all go off at roughly the same time. Show Zane lighting at least three of them, altho there are many more, each fuse considerably shorter than the one before -- the first one being maybe six feet long. ^{ten}

Then, Zane creeping away from last lit firecracker toward the back of a waiting gorilla guard (NOT one of the firing squad) who has a rifle. Zane pulls his flashlight from his knapsack & taps gorilla on the shoulder from behind.

with started lighting the fuses, each one a little longer than the previous one -- so they'd

Cut back to Zane snapping on flashlight ~~FIX~~ full in gorilla's eyes as he spins around in response to tap on his shoulder. Gorilla being blinded.

Cut to shot of three or four firecrackers; fuses of different lengths -- but the distance from firecracker to point of burning is roughly the same for all.

Cut to firing squad aiming rifles. ...AIM...

Cut to Zane, still holding flashlight shining into blinded gorilla's eyes, but now kicking him in the gut & using free hand to snatch his falling rifle. ((He's gotta do all this with precise timing & hope the firecrackers do their thing with equally precise firing.))

Cut to firecrackers -- burning fuses now almost reaching the firecrackers.

Cut to poor blindfolded Faron -- teeth gritted -- waiting for the end.

Cut to ~~XXXXXX~~ aiming firing squad as leader shouts: ...FIRE!!

BLAM BLAM BLAM BLAM There's lots of firing all right -- but it ain't the firing squad -- it's the firecrackers -- going off in a circle around the site of the firing squad.

Firing squad gorillas hit the dirt, thinking they're being shot at...

...as Zane, holding & firing his stolen rifle, leaps down from nearby roof...

...to cut Faron's wrists free (with his knife; firing at gorillas with one hand). Tells Faron to run to the left!!

Faron does so, ripping off his blindfold, as Zane follows, still firing at the confused gorillas. Firecrackers still going off.

Leader gorilla realizes what's happened -- it's only one human!!

AFTER THEM!!

Chase is on; Faron & Zane dash thru streets of adobe city with gorillas

in howling pursuit. They're approaching a causeway/archway ahead.

Cut to opposite view of causeway/archway; we see that a net is rigged up -- suspended (bunched together) along the top of the archway; a securing rope is coming down from net & tied to a stake in the ground.

As Faron & Zane pass through archway, Zane slashes out with his knife & cuts the securing rope--

--net is thus released, flaps down to form a curtain/screen across the archway -- into which the ~~PM~~ pursuing gorillas blunder.

As gorillas get all tangled in the net, Zane tells Faron to dash down a side-alley...

...at the end of which are two horses. "The waiting horses were still where I'd left them...thank God."

They vault onto horses...

...and gallop off out of the city into woods, Zane firing back behind him at the few pursuing gorillas who evaded the net.

As they continue galloping to make good their escape, Faron says: I thought you...that you... Zane says: I know what you thought -- and if we escape this, you're gonna pay me back by showing me this place where apes like the way ancient humans used to live.

PAGE SEVENTEEN: Days later; girl has rigged a crude shelter from what little scrub was available; wreckage of time machine in distance. Girl's shoulder is bandaged & using stuff from her opened survival kit, she's nursing the bad guy -- who now has bandage over his vacant eye-socket. He's finally coming to & mumbles Wha happened? She says: You nearly killed yourself, that's what happened -- it's a miracle you're still alive -- I've been nursing you for three days. And something else happened, you ~~asshole~~ ^{stupid fuck} -- you wrecked the Chronos...

Overhead longshot; we see ~~MANX~~ a closing ring of menacing shadows

around the crude shelter & wreckage of time machine. Girl saying: We're stuck here now -- marooned in time -- maybe just like Derek Z--

3 SNAP! A twig is broken.

4 Girl spins: What was that--?! ~~Who is it--?~~ *Who is it--?*

5 Cut to Zane & Faron, riding toward the edge of a cliff/^{night;}-- CANNOT yet see what lies below. Zane is complaining: We been riding for three days now. When are we-- Faron saying: It's right below this cliff...right down--

6 From slightly below the cliff, looking up at them; they've reached the edge; Faron is triumphantly pointing straight down at us & Zane is shocked beyond belief -- eyes bulging, etc. Faron saying: --THERE! Zane saying: Holy...shit...!

7 Cut back to close shot of girl, saying: Who is...OH MY GOD!!!
8 Pull back for full shot; girl & bad guy freaking out as a party of gorillas in leather gear with rifles, etc. step out of shadows & say: Humans who can speak -- then it was true! Girl is saying: HUMANS who can speak--???? What about GORILLAS who can speak??!!

PAGE EIGHTEEN: A full-page shot with two inset panels -- see diagram.

Inset shot ONE: Close shot of Zane holding binoculars (from his knapsack) up to his eyes & looking down at us, saying: Well, I'll be...

Main scene of full-pager: Looking down at mounted Faron & Zane (looking through binocs) on edge of cliff -- down below them is AN ENTIRE CONTEMPORARY NEW YORK-LIKE CITY (BUT NOT ACTUALLY NEW YORK); HOWEVER, THE ENTIRE CITY IS ENCASED IN A HUGE TRANSPARENT BUBBLE-SHIELD (which protected it from atomic wars, etc.); THERE IS A HUGE JAGGEDLY GAPING HOLE, HOWEVER, AT ~~TREXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXX~~ ONE POINT ALONG THE BASE OF THE BUBBLE-DOME.

Inset shot TWO: The view through Zane's binoculars: a closeup of a

typical scene on one of the city's streets -- everything absolutely normal, a typical everyday routine scene in, say, Manhattan...EXCEPT EVERYONE IN THE SCENE IS AN APE: APES IN BUSINESS SUITS, CARRYING BRIEFCASES, WEARING HATS, PIPES IN THEIR MOUTHS -- ONE APE IN A TWEED SUIT HAILING A TAXI DRIVEN BY A CHIMP WEARING A SNAP-BRIM CAP, ETC ETC.

Zane finishes: ...damned.

END

VAL/JOHN WARNER: Hokay, the above-ending is not only my "second-guess" of what the next movie might be like, but it's also similar to Pierre Boulle's original novel, PLANET OF THE APES --i.e. Apes acting just like humans in a modern metropolis. But, in the future, we'll learn that there's much more than that to it...

Also in future, the girl tempunaut, after escaping her present difficulties, will of course team up with Derek Zane & Faron.

And Faron will get a chimp girlfriend from the civilized apes in modern city.

The the one-eyed bad-guy tempunaut will use his 20th-Century knowhow

& "Connecticut Yankee" tricks to gather a renegade army of gorilla followers to become one of the bad-guy factions -- there'll be many bad-guy factions, by the way...

And we may even have a subplot back on the shores of fair Avedon -- with Lady Andrea, Sir Gawain, Robin Hood, & the Orangutan King Arthar...

...all of which leads up to the long-range future plans, subject to your approval, John-David...

Rather than continuing with an endless "RETURN TO THE POTA" series, I'd like to segue into a number of successive "movie" sequels. In other words, after eight or ten chapters of "RETURN," I plan to begin anew (but continuing with most of the same characters) with "BEYOND THE POTA" in which our main characters blast off for another planet. And think about it...if 20th-Fox had continued with more movies, wouldn't such a plotline have become inevitable...? Apes in spacesuits -- up against aliens (instead of more mutants) with rayguns, etc.

Whereupon (after we conclude a JOHN CHIMPER OF MARS "movie") our characters would ~~XXXX~~ be ready for a return to earth -- but maybe a return (via Charlton Heston's original astronaut time-jump) back to 1976...rather than their intended 3976.

After that, of course, Zane would decide he's still a misfit in his own milieu, get homesick for Lady Andrea back in Avedon circa 3976, build himself yet another time machine, and...

...ad infinitum. Of course, this wouldn't happen until about issue #60 or so -- if we're all still alive by ~~XXXX~~ then...

Talk to both of you about it, Val & John.

PLANET OF THE APES #

"JOURNEY TO THE PLANET OF THE APES"

PAGE ONE-A

((FOR THE "MOVIE POSTER" PRE-SPLASH TITLE PAGE.))

BANNER-CAPTION: In the fabulous tradition of the five epoch-making
20th Century-Fox motion pictures -- PLANET OF THE APES, BENEATH THE
PLANET OF THE APES, ESCAPE FROM THE PLANET OF THE APES, CONQUEST OF
THE PLANET OF THE APES, and BATTLE FOR THE PLANET OF THE APES -- Marvel
Comics proudly extends a timeless saga of unparalleled drama and
~~EXCITEMENT~~ excitement with this first installment of the all-new--

TITLE: JOURNEY TO THE PLANET OF THE APES

Apes -- Moench -- 1-B

PAGE ONE-B

TITLE: CHAPTER ONE: THE SECRET OF THE CITY!

GORILLA 1) STOP HIM!!

GORILLA 2) Future of all apes die -- if we not stop him -- HE KILL HIM!!

CAPTION 3) I didn't know it at the time, but the chimp's name was
Faron -- and he would soon lead me into the most stunning situation
of my life...

CAPTION 4) A neat trick, since my life had lately become nothing but
one long series of stunning situations.

PAGE TWO

CAPTION 1) But at the time, Faron hadn't even met me -- and couldn't care less...

GORILLA 2) Faster -- chimp going into woods -- dark in there!

CAPTION 3) Of course, I don't blame him -- he was too ~~XXXXXXXX~~ busy trying to save his own hairy hide.

GORILLA 4) We catch him -- we gorillas and he only chimp!

GORILLA 5) And we got horses -- he only legs!

FARON 6) They're right on that count -- I can't outdistance them forever.

FARON 7) So...

FARON 8) ...here's hoping those brutes are even more stupid--

FARON 9) --than I've always suspected.

GORILLA 10) Hurry -- must kill chimp!

CAPTION 11) From what I gathered later, the ruse was effective...

CAPTION 12) ...but only partially so.

GORILLA 13) Wait! No more tracks ahead!

GORILLA 14) And no more tracks ahead mean...chimp not ahead!

PAGE THREE

FARON 1) Great time to discover some smarts.

GORILLA 2) So if chimp not ahead, then must be--

GORILLA 3) --back there!

GORILLA 4) SEE? Chimp try to fool us! But we not get fooled--!

GORILLA 5) We get chimp! We KILL CHIMP!!

CAPTION 6) According to Faron, they hounded him all night...

CAPTION 7) ...until he reached--

FARON 8) Dead end -- and a long drop...

FARON 9) Should I...?

FARON 10) Yes...

FARON 11) I suppose I should!

PAGE FOUR

GORILLA 1) You hit him with rifle, Jurando -- knock him over to drink water until he dies.

JURANDO 2) Maybe...but maybe chimp just go away. Maybe we should keep looking...

JURANDO 3) ~~XXXXXXXXXXXXXXX~~ ...some other place.

FARON 4) They seem to have...left...

FARON 5) So tired...can barely move anymore...need to rest...

FARON 6) That...cave...seem to be--

FARON 7) --eyes...peering out...hope they're...friendly eyes...

FARON 8) ((small lettering)): H-help me...p-please...

FARON 9) Huh--?

PAGE FIVE

GORILLA 1) Come -- we go.

GORILLA 2) Look other places.

CAPTION 3) Poor Faron -- he didn't know what to expect...

CAPTION 4) ...nor did a gathering of civilized drones, I later learned, at about the "same time" back in good old boring dreamless 1977...

NASA BLDG 5) Now, as the old saw goes, you're probably wondering why we've summoned you all here--

NASA BLDG 6) --and why this has been ~~EXHIBITION~~ touted as a top priority meeting, open to the ladies and gentlemen of the press...

NASA OFFICIAL 7) First, as some of you may remember, a certain Mr. Derek Zane mysteriously disappeared from his New York residence in early 1974, and has now been missing for some 36 months...

REPORTER 8) Aw, why doesn't he get on with it?

NASA OFFICIAL 9) Now Dr. Krigstein here -- on my left -- one of NASA's top-level administrators, has recently come forward with some rather startling information regarding the possible reasons for Derek Zane's disappearance.

NASA OFFICIAL 10) If you would care to continue from here, Dr. ~~KRIGSTEIN~~ Krigstein...?

KRIGSTEIN 11) Er...ah, yes, thank you.

KRIGSTEIN 12) Good morning, ladies and gentlemen. I am not accustomed to public speaking, so rest assured I shall be brief.

KRIGSTEIN 13) Derek Zane was a rather accomplished -- if ~~HEX~~ eccentric -- inventor, it turns out. I was not aware of that fact when he came to me with his proposal and detailed plans for the construction of a functioning--

KRIGSTEIN 14) --time machine.

PAGE SIX

REPORTER 1) Time machine--?!! But that's absurd -- impossible!

REPORTER 2) Yes -- Zane musta been nuts!!

KRIGSTEIN 3) That is precisely what I said when I so rudely ejected Mr. Zane from my office. Now, however, after a thorough examination of certain papers found in Zane's abandoned apartment, it appears that scoffers like you and I are the ones who are... "nuts."

KRIGSTEIN 4) Closely following Dr. Hasslein's theories of "curved time," "dimensional matrices," "infinite regression," and "alternative time-tracks"--

KRIGSTEIN 5) --Zane has developed some revolutionary physical equations -- indeed, equations which might very well turn Einstein green with envy.

KRIGSTEIN 6) Moreover, his engineering blueprints intrigued us to explore the possibility of whether a working "Temporal Displacement Module," as he called it, might actually be constructed.

KRIGSTEIN 7) Zane proposed to use his time machine to search for the missing astronauts ~~THE~~ Taylor, Stewart, Dodge, and Landon -- on the surmise that they had actually ~~XX~~ journeyed through time rather than space.

KRIGSTEIN 8) We, however, after nine months of concentrated effort, are now ready to announce our plans to search for Derek Zane himself, using this -- the Chronos I -- now in its final stages of completion...

CAPTION 9) "Our destination will be 3977 A.D., where (or when, actually) it is hoped we will locate Derek Zane."

ZANE 10) ((musical notes in "singing" balloon)): Lu-cy in the sky-y with di-amonds...

CAPTION 11) And that's where I came into the story proper -- good old starry-eyed dreamer Derek Zane. I was feeling a little better now, a week after leaving the graveside of an innocent girl who couldn't even talk.

CAPTION 12) I'd left the shores of my adopted island home -- fair Avedon -- and the arms of my true love, the Lady Andrea, to resume my original mission -- searching for the four missing astronauts...

CAPTION 13) The prospects were pretty bleak, of course, but I still had hope, confidence, determination...

ZANE 14) Wuh-ch...

GORILLA 15) Human -- over there!

CAPTION 16) ...and wretchedly bad luck.

PAGE SEVEN

CAPTION 1) I'd stumbled out've the woods right into their laps. Not very bright...so I turned heels and ran like hell!

GORILLA 2) Stop human! Kill him!!

CAPTION 3) It wasn't the first time a passle of garrulous gorillas had come gunning for me...

GORILLA 4) We keep looking for chimp later -- kill human now!

CAPTION 5) ...but it could very well have been the last -- if I didn't reach the chlorophyl-thin false safety of the tall grass.

CAPTION 6) So maybe the green blades wouldn't stop gorilla bullets, but at least the ~~xxx~~ grass cut off their line of sight...

CAPTION 7) Now...as long as no one found me, I'd be--

CAPTION 8) Well, so much for that.

ZANE 9) ((perforated "whisper" balloons)): Hey, keep it quiet -- don't rustle around so much, huh?

CAPTION 10) Their reaction was predictable.

CAPTION 11) Since no other humans could speak on this topsy-turvy Darwinian-backfired world, they were ~~xxx~~ suitably awed by my brief oratory.

PAGE EIGHT

CAPTION 1) ...and anxious to lead their remarkable discovery off somewhere.

ZANE 2) ((perforated "whisper" balloon)): All right, I'm coming -- don't get your bowels in an uproar...

CAPTION 3) Follow the leader was fine with me -- as long as it led away from the gorillas...

CAPTION 4) It did.

CAPTION 5) In fact, it led straight to a cave on the bank of a pond...

CAPTION 6) Inside, they abruptly shoved me toward the gloomiest recesses of the cave -- toward a figure sitting in shadows...

FARON/OFF-PANEL 7) What is it--?

CAPTION 8) And that's how I met Faron.

FARON 9) Why are you throwing this human at my feet?

ZANE 10) Just what I was about to ask, Leroy.

FARON 11) YOU CAN SPEAK--!! A HUMAN WHO CAN SPEAK--!!

ZANE 12) Only when I want to -- and that isn't often these days, considering the current world situation.

ZANE 13) And when I do speak, it's never to remark that I'll be a monkey's uncle.

FARON 14) This is amazing...but...at last -- someone intelligent -- someone who can help me! You see, I'm a fugitive -- they've been hunting me for months now, ever since I took refuge with these beasts.

FARON 15) There are dozens of gorillas combing this area -- constantly.

ZANE 16) So I noticed -- just made acquaintance with a party of the brutes myself. And by the way, where I come from...you'd be the beast and they'd be the name-callers.

FARON 17) What do you mean--? What are you talking about? And just how is it you're able to talk in the first place?!

ZANE 18) It's a long story, King Kong, and one you wouldn't believe anyway

ZANE 19) So why don't you just tell me why you're a fugitive...

PAGE NINE

FARON 1) They claim I committed supreme heresy.

ZANE 2) What kind of supreme heresy? Boycotting ~~MMMMM~~ bananas or what?

FARON 3) You are a strange...animal -- bgt the nature of my heresy is even stranger. You see, I dared to speak of a place where apes live--

FARON 4) --in precisely the same manner as I believe the ancient humans lived.

CAPTION:5) Dum da dum dum...

HEADLINES 6) TIME TRIP SET FOR TOMORROW

SUB-HEADLINE 7) TEMPUNAUTS IN GOOD SPIRITS, SAY NASA

PHOTO-CAPTION 8) Mara Winston (Left) and Jackson Brock at the Nasa Time Research Labs in ((rest cropped from panel))

KRIGSTEIN 9) --located our departure point here on Long Island to be nearer the original site of Zane's disappearance.

KRIGSTEIN 10) Now, Ms. Winston and Mr. Brock, since you've already familiarized yourselves with the contents of your survival kits--

KRIGSTEIN 11) --you may as well climb into the Chronos I and run through another systems check.

KRIGSTEIN 12) And remember, since we haven't yet licked the problem of broadcasting radio signals through time--

KRIGSTEIN 13) --you'll be completely on your own once you leave this...uh, moment.

CAPTION 14) Faron and I were pretty well acquainted by the time disaster struck...

FARON 15) Then you agree to help me, Derek Zane--?

ZANE 16) I'd be a fool not to, Faron. I told you what happened to my...uh, time machine -- and if you've got a line on the past, even if it's a past taken over by ~~apes~~ apes, there's a chance I'll be accepted there...

ZANE 17) And there's also a chance I'll have access to the necessary tools and materials for constructing another time ma--

CAPTION 18) There was a sudden flurry of activity outside the cave...

ZANE 19) Huh--?! What's that--?

CAPTION 20) A rifle shot.

PAGE TEN

ZANE 1) The gorillas--!!

CAPTION 2) On second glance, it wasn't the same bunch...not that it made much difference.

ZANE 3) Come on, Faron -- we're trapped like rats in here! We haven't got a chance!

ZANE 4) We've got to at least try to run for it!

CAPTION 5) So we dashed outside.

CAPTION 6) And then--

GORILLA 7) STOP!!

CAPTION 8) --we stopped.

CAPTION 9) These boys were mean, on top of being ugly. I was tempted to wet my loincloth, but at least I was smart enough not to whimper about it. Two of them clambered down, lickety-split, to truss up Faron...

GORILLA 10) Now we got you, chimp -- and not even have to kill you...yet.

CAPTION 11) Then their attention turned to me...

GORILLA/OFF-PANEL 12) What about this one, Jurando--?

CAPTION 13) The temptation got stronger -- till I felt like I'd bust inside...

PAGE ELEVEN

CAPTION 1) But I got off with no more than a boot.

JURANDO 2) No beasts today!

JURANDO 3) Just bring chimp -- chimp important one!

CAPTION 4) Whew. Good thing I'd kept my trap shut. They figured I was just another one of the primitive non-speaking humans...

~~CAPTION 5) ...but Faron knew better, and he figured I was a coward who'd~~

~~betrayed him on my first chance. The chimp obviously had nothing but~~
~~contempt for the way I'd avoided capture...~~

FARON 6) Thanks...for your help.

CAPTION 7) But I had my own feelings on the matter. Namely, I wouldn't do much good trussed up next to him.

KRIGSTEIN 8) Okay -- this is the big moment.

KRIGSTEIN 9) Now: We've got the Chronos positioned at absolute ground level -- just in case this building has been levelled to make room for a park site in 3977...

KRIGSTEIN 10) In other words, we've reduced the spatial risks of a fall to the absolute minimum possible.

MARA 11) Amen to that, Dr. Krigstein.

KRIGSTEIN 12) Yes...well, I guess there's nothing further to say -- except good luck.

KRIGSTEIN 13) All systems locked and ready -- commencing countdown...

KRIGSTEIN 14) 10...9...8...7...6...5...4...3...2...

KRIGSTEIN 15) ...1...and--

KRIGSTEIN/OFF-PANEL 16) --zero.

PAGE TWELVE

TIME MACHINE 1) I...I don't believe it--! This is absolutely...unreal! You all right, Brock...?

TIME MACHINE 2) Yeah, I...I think so. Just wish this would come to an...

TIME MACHINE 3) ...end.

BROCK 4) So much for reducing spatial risks to ~~MM~~ the absolute minimum possible. Obviously, the "ground level" has changed in the last two thousand years...

BROCK 5) And speaking of the ground, it sure ain't much -- in fact there's nothing "futuristic" about it. Looks like a wasteland...

BROCK 6) This is wrong, Mara -- we've got to go back a little -- maybe to only one thousand years in the future -- to 2977...

MARA 7) What are you talking about, Brock? Derek Zane went to 3977 -- to right here and now. Maybe he's not here, but there's no reason to believe he's in 2977 instead.

BROCK 8) Zane! Who cares about Zane--?

BROCK 9) I didn't apply for this trip -- volunteer for possible suicide -- just to find that idiot Zane! Don't you understand--? I risked my life only because there's something in it for me -- something that no one else can possibly hope for!

BROCK 10) I have an opportunity to rape time, Mara -- to plunder the future ~~XXXX~~ of all its secrets!

MARA 11) What...are...you...?

BROCK 12) I can learn the future of the commodities exchange -- which stocks and bonds will pay off -- what forms energy will take -- what kind of political climate will prevail -- new inventions and technological advances -- innovative industrial techniques...

BROCK 13) There's a fortune to ~~MM~~ be made in any one of those areas!

MARA 14) You...you're mad, Brock -- completely out of your mind!

PAGE THIRTEEN

BROCK 1) Maybe -- but I'm gonna be a rich madman. I'm going back,

Mara -- now, are you getting into the Chronos with me or not--?

MARA 2) N-no... I won't have anything to do with it.

BROCK 3) Suit yourself, Mara.

BROCK 4) Stay here and rot, for all I care -- but I'm gonna be rich.

BROCK 5) I'm gonna climb into this damn time machine...set the
chronometer for 2977...

CAPTION 6) "...pull the lever and--"

MARA 7) NO!! The fall must've damaged the Chronos far more than we--

MARA 8) BROCK--!! Are you all r---

MARA 9) ((small lettering)): Oh...my...God...!

BROCK 10) MY EYE--!! MY EYYYYYEE!!

PAGE FOURTEEN

ORANGUTAN SCRIBE/OFF-PANEL 1) --stands accused of the crime of supreme heresy.

CAPTION 2) It'd taken me all day to track the gorillas...

CAPTION 3) ...and I'd spent the whole night sneak-thieving and rigging things up around the city. I was dog-tired and wanted nothing but a nice soft sack...

ORANGUTAN SCRIBE 4) The penalty for this crime -- against the heretic Faron -- is immediate death!

CAPTION 5) ...but time was running out for poor Faron--

CAPTION 6) --so I figured I'd better see if my crazy scheme would work.

CAPTION 7) I started lighting the fuses, each one a little shorter than the previous one...

CAPTION 8) ...so they'd all go off at the same time.

OFF-PANEL 9) READY...

CAPTION 10) Then I hotfooted it to the next phase--

OFF-PANEL 11) ~~XXXXXX~~ ...AIM...

CAPTION 12) --hoping my timing wasn't off.

PAGE FIFTEEN

GORILLA 1) ((small lettering)): ...f-fire...?

GORILLA 2) We surrounded! They shoot at us from all sides!!

CAPTION 3) Just what I hoped they'd think. That's why I arranged my home-made firecrackers -- stolen gunpowder wrapped in bits of scroll parchment -- in a circle around the firing squad area.

CAPTION 4) It bought me the confusion-time I needed.

ZANE 5) Hi, Faron.

FARON 6) ZANE--??

ZANE 7) Yep. Bet you thought I'd never get here.

ZANE 8) But I made it.

ZANE 9) Now grab one of their weapons--

ZANE 10) --and run like hell for that archway up ahead!

ZANE 11) Fast -- before the lunkhead bozos catch on!

GORILLA 12) There only one of them--?

GORILLA 13) Yes -- only one talking human -- with tricks!

GORILLA 14) Kill him! Get them both!!

PAGE SIXTEEN

ZANE 1) Okay -- take off, Faron! They'll keep coming ~~XXXX~~ now.

ZANE 2) Head down the alley to your left.

CAPTION 3) The rummies never even saw my rigged-up net...

CAPTION 4) ...until it was too late.

CAPTION 5) Chuckling with glee, I left them thrashing and howling...

CAPTION 6) ...and joined Faron in the alley.

CAPTION 7) The stolen horses were still waiting where I'd left them.

ZANE 8) Let's ride out, Tonto.

FARON 9) Zane, I...

FARON 10) ...I thought that you...

ZANE 11) I know what you thought, Faron, and I hope this teaches you a lesson.

ZANE 12) Furthermore, if we escape this, you're gonna pay me back.

FARON 13) Pay you...back, Zane?

ZANE 14) Yep -- by showing me this place where apes live like ancient humans used to live.

FARON 15) Oh.

PAGE SEVENTEEN

BROCK 1) ((small lettering)): Wha...what happened...?

MARA 2) You nearly killed yourself, Brock -- that's what happened.

MARA 3) I've been nursing you for three days now -- it's a miracle you're still alive.

MARA 4) And something else happened, you stupid fool...

MARA 5) You completely wrecked the Chronos.

MARA 6) We're stuck here now, marooned in time, maybe just like Derek Z--

MARA 7) What was that--?

MARA 8) Who's there--?!

ZANE 9) We've been riding for three days now, Faron. When are we going to--

FARON 10) Patience, Zane. It's right below this cliff...

FARON 11) ...right down--

FARON 12) --THERE!

ZANE 13) ((small lettering)): Yowza.

CAPTION 14) Faron wasn't just whistling Dixie, I'll say that for him...

MARA 15) Oh...my Lord...! What in the world--?

GORILLA 16) Then it true, Jurando -- we did hear it...humans who can speak!

MARA 17) Humans who can speak--? What about ~~EMME~~ GORILLAS who can speak--?!!

PAGE EIGHTEEN

CAPTION 1) There was a gaping hole bashed through the base of ~~XXX~~
~~XXXXX~~ it...but even so, the dome had obviously served its purpose --
shielding the city from a nuclear strike.

CAPTION 2) And while the sight of an entire city -- preserved intact --
was mind-boggling enough, it was the closeup view through my binocs that
really did it to me...

ZANE 3) Well, I'll be...

BUSINESSAPE 4) Thanks, cabbie -- keep the change.

CABBIE-APE 5) Whatever you say, Mac.

ZANE 6) ...a monkey's uncle!