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PLANET OF THE APES #\_\_

TERROR ON THE PLANET OF THE APES

Double-Length Special

Plot for 38 (?) Pages

"TOO MEET THE MAKERS"

SPLASH: Vast overview of destroyed adobe-mound City, aftermath of Brutus' assault from last issue; inset closeup shot(s) of Jason & Alex, viewing the scene rather glumly. (They are seen full-figure in main longshot.) Brutus' abandoned War Machines resting amid the debris. CAP: Jason & Alex have just come home. The City has changed...

Malaguena joins Jason & Alex & all three walk through partial ruins -- seeing apes only (and mostly gorillas, few chimps, but no Orangs) beginning reconstruction work on adobe structures of City proper.

They then come upon GUNPOWDER JULIUS & STEELY DAN, who are inspecting one of the mangled bionic GORILLOID bodies & making comments on it. The three pause for talk with Julius & Dan, who mention that they're gonna stick around for a while before heading back upriver in the SIMIAN (their riverboat).

The five then split into three groups, Alex deciding to go see his parents...Julius & Dan deciding to do some patchup work on the Simian's keel...and Jason & Malaguena deciding to go off for a walk in the "suburbs" -- the log-cabin-type section of city in wooded outskirts, where the human population dwells (segregated from apes who inhabit the adobe structures in City proper).





wearily battered Gilbert (whose tux-with-tails is now badly torn).

Cut to ~~MAKERS~~ exterior shot of crumbled public library in wasted FORBIDDEN ZONE; Makers' balloons to library indicate that they have just monitored Thad's dangerously revealing mumbles...

...as well as Lightsmith's gosh-wow DUM DA DUM DEM reaction-comment. We've now cut to basement under library -- the Makers' mad lab where bionic GORILLOIDS are made. But we do not see any Gorilloids yet -- just a close shot of two weirdo Makers. One sez: Holy Moley -- they know we're gonna attack-attack! No matter, sez the other...

Pull back for longshot of lab to show array of Gorilloids lined up & ready. Maker continues: ...we made enough hairy-hairy ones to smash 'em whether they expect us or not. These alone would turn the trick-trick.

...not to mention this guy -- SMASHORE, super-super Gorilloid & our crowning achievement. He's now standing before their special creation; SMASHORE is a fearsome ALBINO GORILLA (white fur) who is about eight or nine feet tall & incredible. Although bionic like other Gorilloids, Smashore has got some extra added features jazz -- a belt with buttons on it for activating his various "walking-death-machine" features. Hole in his forehead (from which mini-bombs are propelled over long distances); death-rays from his bionic eyeballs; the usual laser-shooters in his fingertips & whatever else you come up with, Herb.

The Makers now put him thru a three-panel demonstration of his abilities -- he presses button in his belt (on Maker's instruction) and rays shoot from his eyes to hit a target dead-center across the underground lab, etc...

And as demonstration winds down, we pull back to show a furtive MUTANT-DRONE spying on all this...

Mutant Drone had heard enough; he sneaks away...

...and out on library steps, radios a report--

--to other Mutant-Drones in the monitor room deep within the CAVERNS OF THE INHERITORS.

At conclusion of report, the monitoring drones decide they better relay the info to the INHERITORS.

Cut to the INHERITORS -- the giant brains floating in nutrient fluids within the glass globes. Mutant-Drone relaying report.

Inheritors discuss situation amongst themselves. They decide they'd better strike sooner than planned -- meet the Makers at the CITY where they'll have a better chance of defeating them, since the citizens of the City will also be fighting the Makers. Strange allies, but necessary -- besides, if we meet them there, our nifty Caverns won't get messed up in the fight.

Main brain sees to MK patiently waiting drone: Did you get all that?

Drone says Yes, Gestalt Commander Be-One.

Then hop to it! Get the War Machines ready to move out!

Cut to Jason & Malaguena in the "suburbs" of city -- the wooded "log-cabin" sector.

As they stroll along, unsuspecting what lies ahead, we have the start of a romantic interlude between them -- discussing mutual future commitments -- Jason breaking down & admitting he finally needs someone else -- now that Brutus has finally been brought to bay, he doesn't seem to have any purpose in life -- he's been alone for so long...

...and we have a kaleidoscopic flashback montage of vicious action shots from past stories (including all past foes & villains, but with cruel-faced BRUTUS of course dominating the montage. "...all alone with nothing but hate for company -- can't go on this way, etc..."

Back to present as Mal assures him he ain't alone -- she's with him. And they almost kiss, but it's broken by an off-panel balloon filled

with hate-mongering rhetoric.

They turn, the spell of romance broken, to see a visually distinctive HUMAN RABBLE-ROUSER on a "soapbox" podium delivering inflammatory anti-ape speech to a gathered exclusively human crowd -- this is near a cluster of log-cabin-type human dwellings.

Jason & Mal go closer & listen for a while as the human rabble-rouser rails against apes -- brought nothing but trouble to us humans -- always trying to kill us -- and now the apes have almost destroyed the CITY -- even if it was apes who were part metal -- they were still apes, etc! This has gotta stop!!

Human crowd responds with ugly enthusiasm & many raised fists, etc.

Malaguena is frightened by it all. "Jason, he...frightens me..."

But Jason's old anger is rising again -- he, too, has been infected by the rabble-rouser's zeal. "Why--? He's only telling the truth. You know what Brutus & his gorillas have done!!

MAL: Yes...but that's no reason to adopt Brutus' ways! That human is preaching hate, Jason, can't you see that?! And they're all responding with the same hate -- they're just as bad as Brutus!

Argument between Mal & Jason continues as speech ends & crowd breaks up to drift away.

Argument is then interrupted (and terminated) by a grizzled old human who passes & says: Say...you're Jason, aren't you...?

Jason, dubiously & suspiciously: Yes...?

All three start strolling as old geezer continues: I thought so -- after all, I used to bounce you on my knee...but you wouldn't remember that. It was a long time ago & you were no bigger than a tree-stump at the time. I knew your parents real well, son -- used to care for you when your folks were first building their home...

Old guy points off to a clearing now partially overgrown with scrub &



weeds. He sez: ...right back there, it was, if I recollect properly...

Jason's eyes follow the pointing finger & remain fastened there, on the clearing, as old geezer walks off, saying farewell. But Jase does not reply; he's in a trance.

Mal senses this & asks Jason if something's wrong.

He says nothing, stepping forward tentatively, walking toward the clearing as if mesmerized -- as if afraid of what he'll find there, of the memories the site will hold for him -- but unable to resist.

Mal follows him in silent trepidation, apprehension, & concern...until he drops numbly to his knees in front of the site in the clearing. The charred remnants (foundation) of his parents' former home can still be seen protruding above the ground.

Closeup Jason's face, remembering.

Single flashb ack shot of Jason bursting from the woods to see the cabin in flames, roof collapsing -- entire place is obviously gonna burn to the ground. He's calling out, in hysteria, for his mother & father -- and, in far background, the dark forms of Brutus' hooded gorilla terrorists are riding off on horseback.

Back to present; Jason's face a mask of rage, but tears sliding from his eyes as he looks at the ashes that were once his home -- now, all that remains of his dead parents.

Mal tries to comfort him, deducing what these ashes represent -- but he's had a dangerous relapse of his old condition -- his hate-fixation & revenge-lust. Ignoring Mal -- almost as if he doesn't know she's there...

...he stands, saying: Brutus...he did it...

Mal watches in helpless alarm as Jason stalks off, back to the City, saying: Brutus killed my--

"Mom and Pop, this is just great -- best meal I've ever tasted," sez stuffed ALEX to his beaming chimp mother & father as he pushes his plate away, having just finished a huge feast of home-cooked roots, nuts, and berries. ((We've cut to interior of adobe home of Alex's parents, within the limits of the City proper.))

Alex goes on to discuss the business of rebuilding the City with his mother & father as father lights up his pipe for after-dinner smoke & mother clears dishes from table.

Alex sighs & says I guess it's gonna be pretty rough in the City for awhile...

And scene ends with his mom hugging Alex from behind (he's still seated at table) and saying: Don't worry, A son, we'll make it...now that we're together again...

Lightsmith's urgent voice from outside calls Alex!! Where are you--?!

Alex & his folks go out onto street to find Lightsmith & Gilbert carrying unconscious bionic Thaddeus out've the Wonder Wagon. Lightsmith sez Glad we finally found you, at least -- been looking all over for Jason and Malaguena.

Lightsmith then explains about finding Thad & that it appears City is due to be attacked yet again...by a group called the "Makers"...and this time, with City already weakened by Brutus' assault, well...

Alex's folks recognize Thad: Why, that's young Thaddeus -- but...but what's happened to him--?

Alex sez: Obviously he's been turned into one of those metal apes somehow... Alex then helps Lightsmith carry unconscious Thad into his parents' home, asking his parents to take care of Thad for time being...

Alex then says: Better get over to the new temporary Council Bldg --

that's where Peace Officer MORAVIUS & all the Scribes are -- they're the ones who'll have to decide what we're gonna do. I was meaning to get over there & see how the LAWGIVER is doing anyway...

Lightsmith, aboard his Wonder Wagon, beckons to Alex, telling him to climb aboard. Come on, Alex -- I'll take you over there in the Wonder Wagon -- ~~MAN~~ ~~MY~~ I was going over there myself -- think I may've found something to cure your Lawgiver.

Wonder Wagon trundles off & through partially destroyed dirt streets of City; away from Alex's worried mother & father, watching from doorway of their adobe home.

## PART II

Cut to awesome FORBIDDEN ZONE. The whacko mutant MAKERS and their small army of bionic GORILLOIDS (the giant albino SMASHORE prominent among them) are emerging from the crumbling public library.

Makers climb into bizarre makeshift "rickshaws" -- made from "convertible" Volkswagons (i.e. VWs with tops out off); VWs have no engines, just "harness-rigs" similar to those on Asian rickshaws. Gorilloids stand in harnesses, ready to pull.

Leader of the Makers stands in his rickshaw & signals/shouts: Forward-forward! Time to kill all in City-City!!

Gorilloids peel off -- running & pulling volkswagon rickshaws at top bionic speed.

Cut to entrances of CAVERNS OF THE INHERITORS, located deeper in the dread Forbidden Zone, where there are more mountains & desert-terrain than ruined 20th Century buildings, tho some bldgs are seen.

Bizarre WAR MACHINES rolling & clanking outta the cavern mouths;



Mutant-Drones directing them: Onward -- to the human-ape City! Gotta annihilate the Makors & their bionic cyborgs or the Inheritors'll have our pug-ugly heads!!

Cut to Jason, alone, stalking down a dirt alley in the City, grimly determined...

...till he reaches the back barred-window of the adobe free-form sculpted jail building.

He calls thru bars for BRUTUS...who appears at barred window, surly & arrogant even tho a helpless prisoner.

Jason then goes into a tirade, saying he just saw his parents' ashes & he hasn't forgotten that it was Brutus who burned them, etc! Full page of this, Jason going berserk, ranting at cruelly sleepy-eyed Brutus...

...who, near end of page, abruptly & surprisingly comes alive, darting his massive hand through bars to grasp Jason's throat. ARRGH!

Jason chokes for a panel, trying to pry the huge gorilla-fingers off his throat--

--but then resorts to jabbing his fingers into Brutus' eyes, forcing Brutus to release him with ~~HOWLING~~ howls of pain.

Jason then spits thru bars into Brutus' face, telling him to rot behind those bars forever & even that's too good for him!

Jason then stalks off, still livid with fury, back down the dirt alley.

Cut to exterior shot of the Wonder Wagon parked outside an official-looking adobe free-form building. Balloon pointing to Wonder Wagon: Hmmm... now let me see here...

Cut inside WW; Lightsmith is holding a musty old medical textbook & reading from it as Gilbert raptly watches. "Yes. here it is -- 'silverin

has proven effective in cases of minor heart ailments'..."

Lightsmith emphatically shuts the book & excitedly says XIX to Gilbert: Seems to me we got some of that "glycerin" stuff here in the fabulous Wonder Wagon, don't we, Gilbert?

Silent Gilbert jumps up & starts rooting thru the whacky "junk," tossing hubcaps, sparkplugs, pencil sharpeners, WWI German helmets, Jimmy Carter buttons, rosary beads, hashish pipes, sheafs of hundred-dollar bills, alarm clocks, divining rods, waffle irons, Academy Award "Oscar" statues, egg-timers, canteens, weather-vanes, monkey-wrenches, etc. etc. over his shoulders...

...until, at last, he starts jumping up & down in mute excitement as he discovers his objective.

With a triumphant flourish, he holds up his prize to Lightsmith's scrutiny.

Closeup of container marked: NITRO-GLYCERIN (!!) held in Gilbert's hand. Lightsmith's off-panel balloon: Yeah, that's the stuff -- good work, Gilbert!

Cut to another exterior shot of Wonder Wagon parked in front of Council Building. Balloon to Wonder Wagon: Now all we gotta do is hope it is the Lawgiver's heart...and not some other ailment... Balloon pointing to Council Building: And you're certain of this, young Alex?

Cut to interior of Council Building where Alex is speaking to MORAVIUS (the new gorilla PEACE OFFICER) and 2 or 3 Orangutan SCRIBES; in background, several Orang physicians are hovering over the Lawgiver's prone bed -- he's still in his coma. Alex is saying: Yeah, I'm sure & we gotta prepare for the attack! One of the Orang scribes is musing: So that's what became of young Thaddeus...

Moravius says: Well, those War Machines Brutus brought are still here

in the City, and they killed those other metal apes...so maybe if we can learn how to operate them...

As Lightsmith and Gilbert enter unnoticed from the background, Alex says: I know someone who's smart enough to figure them out -- to figure anything out. Moravius sez: Yeah? Who--? And Lightsmith is ostentatiously saying: Ahem!

All turn to see beamingly confident Lightsmith, holding up his container of nitro-glycerin. Alex blurts: Lightsmith! Lightsmith says: ~~NB~~ None other, Alex, and with the Lawgiver's salvation right here in my enlightened hand, no less -- thanks to the glorious wonders of Progress and advanced ancient medical elixirs...

Lightsmith then steps forward, intending to pour the stuff down Lawgiver's unconscious throat.

The horrified Orangutan physicians protest. What if it's poison--? How can we trust this human with the beloved Lawgiver's life--? Even if he means well, how can we be sure he knows what he's doing--?

With patronizing pride, Alex vouches for Lightsmith, staking his own life on Lightsmith's reputation & past "miracles."

Dubious & scowling ~~X~~ Orang physicians finally relent, grumpily -- Lawgiver's ~~IX~~ probably gonna die anyway...

Then, just as beamingly smug "wonder-worker" Lightsmith is about to pour a fatal dose of the volatile NITRO-GLYCERIN down unconscious Lawgiver's throat--

--BOOM!--

--the whole structure shakes from an explosion outside & the attention of all is immediately diverted. ((Lightsmith does NOT have a chance to administer the fatal nitro-glycerin.))

All rush to doorway -- to see advancing line of GORILLOIDS in far distance on ridge. "THE ATTACKS ALREADY STARTED!! YOW!!"



balloon weakly says: Wh-what...attack...?

All spin to see: LAWGIVER FINALLY REVIVED!! -- trying to sit up & mumbling: Wh-where...am...I...? (He's probably been shocked to consciousness as a result of the outside explosion.)

All are awed & now look at Lightsmith with reverence, regarding him as if he were a god. Alex says: You did it, Lightsmith! YOU CURED THE LAWGIVER!!

Bewildered, Lightsmith starts to say: But I didn't have a chance to...

Then he has second thoughts, deciding to cover his tracks & take the unearned credit, the rascal. He quickly hides the unused nitro-glycerin container behind his back; and behind him, mute Gilbert knowingly gazes at the container surreptitiously held by ~~LIGHTSMITH~~ now-puffed Lightsmith. (Gilbert alone knows what has really happened.) Lightsmith now pompously saying: Er...uh, I mean...of course I cured him! Didn't I say I would--? Wasn't I armed with the prodigious knowledge of the enlightened & illuminated past--?

Orang physicians are now gently pushing the revived Lawgiver back down to prone position, saying: Easy, LG -- mustn't strain yourself so soon after your miraculous recovery.

Moravius heads for the door. "Yes, & now that it appears the Lawgiver will live, let's make certain he lives -- along with all the rest of us. Gotta get to Brutus' War Machines & repel those invaders!

Outside (with mute Gilbert unobtrusively watching), Lightsmith straggles behind Moravius & Alex, pausing to examine the container of nitro-glycerin in his hand, still rather bewildered by it all. Mutters to himself: Quite remarkable, actually. Well, guess I won't be needing this anymore...

And he casually tosses container of nitro-glycerin over a row of shrubs into the woods...

...BOOM!, where it explodes.

Extreme closeup of Lightsmith's quietly but consummately shocked double-take face. Says in small, awed lettering: In the name of the Glorious Progress Leader...! Could a heart...withstand that--?

Up ahead, Alex has turned to shout back at straggling Lightsmith & Gilbert: Come on, Lightsmith! Didn't you see that last explosion?! It hit right next to you -- on the other side of that row of shrubs! The invaders are getting closer--!!

Lightsmith guiltily sez: Uh, er...I suppose they are at that... judging by that, uh...explosion of theirs, anyway.

Lightsmith then turns to see goofy mute Gilbert the Gibbon, the silent accuser, smiling sardonically and using one forefinger to "whittle" his other forefinger in the silent "shame on you" gesture. Embarrassed at being caught, but gruffly bluffing his way free, Lightsmith says: Oh, shut up, Gilbert. After all, I'm only human.

He then sets off after Alex and Moravius, with grinning Gilbert loping along in tow. Lightsmith: And it's a good thing you're mute, or I'd always be telling you to shut up, you little smart-aleck. Now come ~~AAA~~ on -- we've got a half-crumbled City here to protect!

Cut to the MAKERS & their GORILLOIDS (with rickshaws) now moving down the ridge toward City.

SMASHORE the albino hits a button on his belt & a mini-missile-bomb shoots out've the opening in his forehead. BOOM! down in City.

And the BATTLE starts! Alex, Lightsmith, & Moravius reach the War Machines & figure out how to use them -- start blasting at the advancing Gorilloids & Makers. ((Makers shout goofy orders to Gorilloids thruout fight.))

Jason, having heard the noise, wonders what in hell is going on NOW.

Dashing thru City streets to find out, he bumps into the similarly engaged GUNPOWDER JULIUS & STEELY DAN -- they, too, are wondering what's up. As are the milling citizens of City -- mostly apes, but some humans who are forced to labor in City proper, if not ~~XXXX~~ encouraged to live there.

Jason joins forces with Gunpowder Julius & Steely Dan -- until the three confront & FIGHT the incredible, unbeatable SMASHORE -- who promptly starts shooting death-rays from his eyes, laser-beams from fingertips, etc. Our three heroes manage to evade all fatal blasts, but are beaten & smashed all over the place by Smashore's massive fists.

And after shrugging three good guys off, Smashore stalks on, leaving our stunned heroes behind.

Back to Alex, Lightsmith & Moravius using War Machines. They manage to put up a pretty good fight in defense of the City, but it still looks pretty hopeless...

...UNTIL: The MUTANT-DRONES, with their own awesome armada of WAR MACHINES, appear on the ridge.

Okay, sez a plucky-goofy Drone, move down & blast 'em!

At first, Alex, Morav, & Lightsmith, standing up thru the hatches of their own War Machines, groan with defeatist attitudes -- thinking they now have more enemies to deal with...

...but then, they see that the new forces are firing -- not at them -- but at the MAKERS & their GORILLOIDS.

Astonished Alex sez: Wait -- it's the Inheritors' Mutant-Drones -- and they're helping us--!! But why would they...?

Gritty Moravius, firing his War Machine, says: Don't question miracles, Alex -- just keep blasting those buggers from this side while our new allies press them from the opposite side!!



Cut to the alley where the rear of the jail is located; Brutus pressing against the bars of his cell window -- What's going on out there? He desperately wants to get out...

...then spies SMASHORE the albino tromping past, indiscriminately blasting everything in his path. Brutus, inspired, gets idea.

He shouts to attract Smashore's attention. Hey, you -- over here, ugly!! Taunts Smashore -- eggs him on like the guys on those swing-seats suspended over tanks of water in amusement parks; hit the target & seat collapses -- SPLOOSH! "Come on -- try to hit me -- get me if you can!"

Smashore turns, looking very mean & ugly, and shoots beams from his bionic eyes as Brutus AI ducks away from window-bars.

The twin beams blast a gaping hole in jail wall.

Brutus jumps out thru hole in wall, ducks past Smashore, & ~~HAFFX~~ dashes off to freedom.

Cut to Jason, Gunpowder Julius, & Steely Dan reviving. Julius & Dan are pissed -- never been whupped in hand-tuh-hand brawlin' before. Come on -- let's go git that ornery skunk-smellin' river-rat-bastard!!

The three go off in pursuit of albino Smashore, following obvious path of his destruction.

Back to main battle. Makers are now freaking out. They & their Gorilloids are trapped between Mutant-Drones & City-Defenders (maybe aerial shot somewhere to show them in a "vise" situation). Makers now start hiding under their overturned volkswagen rickhaws. "Oh boogers -- we're doom-doomed!!"

Back to Jase, Julius, & Dan; they've spotted Smashore (still on his

berserk rampage of destruction) up ahead ((And this is nowhere near the ruptured jail, Herb; Jason does not yet know that Brutus has escaped.)) Nearby is a 20-foot high shelf of rock with a huge boulder near the edge. Gunpowder Julius slyly says he's got an idea -- him & Dan oughtta be strong enough...if Jason is willin' tuh--

--play the bait. Jason, looking somewhat sickly & worried, is now tossing a rock at the back of Smashore's head.

KLUNK! It hits the metal plate on the back of the albino Gorilloid's skull.

He turns & blasts eye-beams at Jase.

YOW!! Jase has to frantically dodge death-rays & laser-beams while keeping ahead of the super-fast bionic Smashore. If he gets caught before he reaches the "finish line" (under the shelf of rock directly below the boulder), he's dead.

So he runs like the devil with Smashore in furious pursuit.

And as Jase passes ~~XXX~~ under shelf of rock, he hollers: JULIUS & DAN -- NOW!! NOW!!

Up above on shelf of rock, Julius & Dan ~~XXXX~~ put their backs into it, straining to shove the boulder over the edge as Jason keeps shrieking NOW!! from below.

Boulder doesn't budge & Julius is forced to concede: Welp, Dan, looks like we let ~~XXXXX~~ that chance slip plumb past us...

Then shouts down: Hey, Jason -- better let 'im chase yuh back thisaway! And yuh might have tuh run circles around the target spot down there, cuz me an' Dan are havin' a little trouble up here...

So, after Jason (always looking up) frantically runs in a circle under the boulder, screaming: WILL YOU TWO PLEASE HURRY UP!!!...

...Julius & Dan finally stop straining & concede ultimate defeat. Julius is dumbfounded. If that don't beat all -- even our mighty brawn

ain't enough tuh budge this overgrown pea-pickin' pebble! Yep, replies Dan, guess we're gonna have tuh play the bait too.

Flanking the boulder, both Julius & Dan start shouting down at Smashore (still chasing Jason around in circles) -- they even fling rocks down at Smashore.

Till Smashore finally stops (right under the shelf of rock & boulder above -- looks up at Julius & Dan flanking the boulder...and fires his eye-blasts...

The ENTIRE SHELF OF ROCK -- INCLUDING THE BOULDER -- SNAPS OFF & CRASHES DOWN, WITH JULIUS & DAN (WITH NOTHING UNDER THEIR FEET NOW) FOLLOWING.... Julius bellows: LOOK OUT--

--BELOW!! KRUMPH!! Boulder & shelf of rock land squarely on top of Smashore, squashing him to twisted metal & pulped flesh as Jason frantically dives outta the way at last possible second.

Julius & Dan land on their asses, grinning. Now I feel better, Dan -- that wuz fun! Jason, sprawled on ground nearby, rolls his eyes heavenward in exasperation. Oh, brother...!

Back at main battlefield...the fight ENDS, with defeat of Makers & death of all Gorilloids.

Mutant-Drones gather up the surviving Makers & -- to take them back to the Inheritors (brains) for final judgment.

The leader of Mutant-Drones then makes a speech to Alex, Moravius, Lightsmith, & citizens of City. We helped you this time cuz it suited us -- but next time it might be different. If it ever again suits us to kill you, be prepared for death. That is all.

Mutant-Drones split, their War Machines trundling off with captive Makers mumbling: Woe-woe...we lost-lost!

In the wake of Mutant-Drone's ~~MP~~ farewell speech, a slight damper has been placed on the victory.



...but the gloom is quickly dispelled as Gunpowder Julius (approaching from background with Jason & Steely Dan) boisterously suggests a victory feast -- don't X let them squashed-pug midget-drones get yuh down -- let's whoop it up & have a good holler!!

Lightsmith joins the enthusiasm by saying: A wonderful idea! How primitively tribal in concept! For entertainment, Gilbert and I can pass around our collection of ancient artifacts! We have an exquisite series of portraits of great heroes from the past civilization, Glorious Progress Leaders all, attired in their ceremonial hats & costumes. The portraits are called "baseball cards" I believe...though, for the life of me, I don't know why...

### PART III

Out to feast at night in partial ruins of City. Master shot -- bonfire in street; Wonder Wagon prominent; Malaguana dancing with Gilbert; big cauldron of tuber-stew sauteed with banana oil, etc. VERY FEW HUMANS ARE PRESENT AT THIS FEAST...other than the obvious ones like Jason, Lightsmith, Malaguana, & Steely Dan.

Pull down for close shots: Gunpowder Julius & Steely Dan are arm-wrasslin'...

Lightsmith is proudly displaying (and erroneously pontificating on) a tarnished & battered, but "precious," PARKING METER (with the red "EXPIRED" tag standing up); he has cornered a supremely bored audience of one (an Orangutan Scribe), who obviously couldn't care less about this tacky parking meter & sits there wishing Lightsmith would just go away.

Jason, sitting alone, looking glum, moody, & out of place amidst the revelers...

...is approached by Moravius, who initiates small talk & tries to make

friends with Jason. "Several of the Lawgiver's Scribes have told me what you've gone thru & it's only natural, I suppose, that you should hate Brutus & his gorilla followers -- but I hope your hate doesn't become unreasoning & lead you to hate all gorillas -- or all apes, for that matter."

"Why not--?" sez petulant Jason. "It's the apes who're always causing trouble."

"True, we were attacked by apes today, Jason...but don't forget they were not true apes -- they were part metal -- and they were controlled by the Makers -- those mutants -- human mutants, Jason."

"Are you trying to say humans are to blame for what's happened here -- to this City--?"

"No, I'm just trying to say that perhaps it's time to stop placing blame -- and start realizing that humans & apes can live together as friends."

"Oh yeah?" Jason sez defiantly. "Well, just look around you, Moravius" -- sweeps his hand around feasting crowd of primarily apes -- "and tell me how many humans you see at this "victory feast." Almost none -- and how can you expect any humans to come into the City when you keep them all separated on the City's outskirts -- living out there almost like animals!"

Moravius starts getting pissed now. "They choose to live beyond the City proper -- they prefer to dwell where the land is wilder -- humans just aren't made to live in Cities -- it's against their species!"

Then Moravius pivots & stalks off, <sup>after</sup> saying: Oh, what's the use in talking to you?! You'll never change! But I'm warning you...as the City's new Peace Officer, I'd like to be your friend...but if you break the peace, you've taken the choice out've my hands. So just watch yourself!

Jase is left alone again...until Alex comes up & tells Jason he needs some peace & quiet -- & maybe some home-cooked food, rather than this slop they call feast-stew. Come on, I'll take you back to my folks' place...

Glumly, Jason agrees...

...and he & Alex are seen departing the feast by Malaguena...

...who calls Moravius, Gunpowder Julius, & Steely Dan -- tells them she knows it's silly, but she's got a feeling something is wrong -- that we should follow them & see that nothing happens to them...

Morav, Julius & Dan accede to her request. If'n yuh say so, lil gal, let's go...

Cut to Alex & Jason -- Alex, with growing alarm, says something's wrong -- too much light up ahead... ((Still night, remember, Herb.))

He darts forward with Jase following & sure nuff...Alex's home is ablaze -- flames mostly shooting out from windows cuz adobe doesn't burn well.

NOOO!! screams Alex & he runs into burning house, yelling for his mother & father. Jason follows, terribly awed, saying in small lettering: Not...again...

Inside, house is a shambles from signs of struggle & furniture is burning, etc. No one inside except dying Thaddeus -- severely beaten. Alex yells: My parents -- where ARE they?!!

Head cradled in tensely anguished Alex's lap, bionic Thaddeus manages to gasp out: Black hoods over their heads...carried them off...that way... into woods...

Jason, stunned, whispers: Black hoods...then it's him again...Brutus has escaped...

Thad's head slumps to side -- he's dead.

Alex, alarmed & in mortal terror, rushes ~~HE~~ out of ~~XXXXXX~~ burning house



with Jason behind him...

...to meet approaching Malaguena, Steely Dan, Gun Julius, & Moravius. Alex keeps running ahead as Jason tells the four others to follow -- gotta save Alex's mom & pop from Brutus & his gorillas!!

Cut to clearing in woods -- dozen or so black-hooded & gloved figures standing around two stakes to which are tied Alex's mom & dad -- firewood kindling/faggots at their feet.

((GLOVED & HOODED FIGURES COULD BE GORILLAS...BUT THEY AIN'T. THEY'RE HUMANS, BUT WE DON'T KNOW IT YET.))

Main hooded figure makes a menacing speech -- you could've helped us, but you didn't -- you chose to side with them & for that, you DIE!! etc.

Then main hooded one steps forward with lit torch...

...bends down to light kindling at feet of Alex's mom--

--and Alex dramatically/dynamically dives down from branch of tree above to tackle hooded one with torch.

Instantly, Jason, Mal, Moravius, Julius, & Dan burst into clearing from woods -- to join Alex in ~~KICK~~ FIGHT with hooded ones.

They win fight, of course, ~~KICK~~ and all hooded ones flee, escaping into darkness of woods...

...except the one who was first tackled by Alex -- one who seemed to be the leader & who had the torch. He's lying on ground, unconscious.

As Alex unties his greatly relieved parents from the stakes, Jason goes into a tirade against Moravius -- NOW what were you saying about living in peace with gorillas?! Brutus & his scum don't stop at humans -- they're even willing to kill chimpanzees -- other apes!! Off-panel balloon: Except for one thing, Jason...

Jason turns to see Malaguena kneeling over the felled hooded guy -- she's pulling his hood off to reveal--

--the face of the HUMAN RABBLE-ROUSER seen making volatile speech earlier in story. Mal finishes: ...they weren't gorillas.

Jason is stunned speechless by this revelation as Morav says: Then that's why there were so few humans at the feast...

Jason continues going thru heavy changes as Mal says: I tried to make you see it, Jason...see that humans are just as capable of evil as apes are...

Alex steps forward (with his parents behind him) to put hand on Jason's shoulder, saying: Don't blame yourself too much, Jase. For a time there -- an awful time -- I knew what it must be like for you...almost (meaning that at least his parents survived thru the parallel experience).

Jason turns, head down, to walk off.

Where are you going--? asks Malaguena.

In the distance, seen from behind, & without turning around, Jason says: To...apologize...to Brutus...

At first all are stunned/puzzled by this...

...but then, they begin to understand the significance of it & are extremely glad & relieved. It marks a cathartic change in Jason's character & outlook.

EPILOGUE: It's raining. Jason, with head still down, is walking down that same dirt alley again (now turned to mud by the rain) -- he's going to apologize -- and to beg forgiveness -- from his mortal enemy...

...but at the end of that alley, he finds the hole in the jail wall...

...and BRUTUS GONE!! What in the--? HOW---???

Jason, unbelievably shocked by Brutus' escape, hears far-off bestially mocking laughter...

He turns to the sound, looking off at a distant ridge or peak on

the top of which is seen Brutus' tiny figure, laughing.

Then a last series of shots -- alternating sequence: Jason, Brutus, Jason, Brutus, Jason, Brutus, etc.

Looking up at him on peak, closer & closer on Brutus...

Looking down on Jason standing in muddy alley, farther & farther away, tracking back...

...until, in Jason's last shot, he is seen very small down in the diagonal distance -- lost & lonely in the rain.

...and in Brutus' last shot (and last shot of story), he is seen in a powerful close shot up on ridge or peak, head flung back & fists shaking at the very heavens -- laughing -- roaring almost demoniacally -- an elemental figure of evil & brutality dramatically framed by flashes of jagged lightning in the background -- at one with the fury of the thunder & lightning.

END