

FINAL

PLANET OF THE APES

THE CURE

MAY 23, 1974

TWENTIETH CENTURY-FOX TELEVISION

PLANET OF THE APES

"THE CURE"

Written By
Edward J. Lakso

FINAL
May 23, 1974

CAST LIST

STAN KOVAK

ALAN VIRDON

GALEN (CHIMP)

URSUS (GORILLA LEADER)

ZAIUS (ORANGUTAN)

ZORAN (CHIMP DOCTOR)

AMY (MINOR, HUMAN)

TALBERT (HUMAN)

ORANGUTAN (COUNCIL MEMBER)

MASON (HUMAN)

INTA (CHIMP)

NEESA (GORILLA, STUNT)

KAVA (GORILLA SOLDIER)

DYING MAN (HUMAN)

GORILLA GUARD

SET LIST

INTERIORS:

COUNCIL CHAMBERS

COMMAND TENT

TALBERT'S HUT

HOSPITAL HUT

EXTERIORS:

TALBERT'S HUT AND OTHER HUT

HOSPITAL HUT

TRION

STAGNANT POOL AREA

SECOND VILLAGE AND STREAM

EDGE OF WOODED AREA

CINCHONA TREE GROVE

WILDERNESS AREA

HILL AREA

INT./EXT. WINDOW P.O.V. (HOSPITAL HUT)

"THE CURE"

ACT ONE

FADE IN

EXT. TRION - ESTABLISHING SHOT - DAY

1

Trion is a small village in the rural zone, set near a heavily vegetated marsh and forest area. There are about fifteen huts, constructed of mud brick, thatched roofs, etc. Torches flank the main road which leads to sort of a central gathering place around which the huts are located. Fields of crops are irrigated by a crude water ditch system. Men, women and children live in this pleasant place. The men can be seen working the fields, the women and children tend to domestic chores around the huts. There are a couple storage sheds set away from the main part of town. CAMERA ESTABLISHES, then PANS up a slight hill to see a more sophisticated "barracks" where four gorillas live. One of them can be seen walking along the edge of the fields, carrying a rifle, sort of overseeing the humans as they work. Another walks the perimeter on the other side of town. Two gorillas can be seen outside the barracks, tending to their arsenal of weapons and foodstuffs, etc.

ANGLE ON VIRDON AND AMY

2

VIRDON and AMY, a pretty, bright, imaginative girl of fourteen, walk back toward the village from the edge of the forest-marsh area. Amy pauses by CAMERA, studies the village, her pretty face etched with sadness. Then she faces Virdon, reflects:

AMY

I almost wish you hadn't come here...

VIRDON

(gently)

I'm sorry we have to go, Amy.

AMY

Why did you tell me who you are?
Why me and no one else?

VIRDON

I don't know. Maybe because you're special -- because I look at you and I see how it was when I was young -- and I wanted you to know -- life wasn't always like this.

Cont.

AMY

But if I'd never known --
then I...

(petulant)

You shouldn't have told me.

VIRDON

(gently)

Amy -- knowledge -- is a lot
like love. You get some pleasure --
you get some pain -- like taking
a trip to an unknown place. Once
you arrive -- it's too late to wish
you'd never started.

She manages a smile. They continue on, CAMERA PANNING.

ANGLE ON TALBERT HUT

3

GALEN and KOVAK finish putting on their backpacks with help
from Amy's father, TALBERT, a big, gentle, work-weary man
in his forties. Virdon reaches them, picks up his backpack,
puts it on while Amy stands a few yards away.

KOVAK

Thanks for putting us up...

TALBERT

Why don't you stay, make your
home here?

KOVAK

Good question. I guess the answer
is --

(of Virdon)

-- he's got an itch in his feet,
and I've got rocks in my head.

Puzzlement from Talbert.

KOVAK

We're taking a survey of the far
side of every hill on the horizon.

Said wryly, ruefully, but with good humored resignation.
Talbert doesn't understand but accepts Kovak's smile in
lieu of clarity. Kovak and Galen shake Talbert's hand.

GALEN

(to Talbert)

I'd try to give you a better answer
but I don't know it myself. Thank
you for everything.

Cont.

KOVAK
(to Virdon)
Ready?

Virdon nods, shakes Talbert's hand, nods to Amy.

VIRDON
She's very special. Take
care of her...

Talbert nods. Galen, Kovak and Virdon, backpacks secure,
move off toward Amy.

ANGLE ON AMY

4

She glances at her father, then speaks in a low voice as they
pause by her.

AMY
Will you ever pass this way
again?

VIRDON
(gently)
Anything's possible.

AMY
I'll keep your secret -- even
from my father.

KOVAK
(overhearing)
I may come back just to witness
that miracle.

AMY
Miracle?

KOVAK
A woman keeping a secret.

She manages a smile finally. Virdon kisses her forehead.

VIRDON
Good-bye, Amy...

She can only nod. They move off. She stands watching them,
fighting back tears.

4

ANGLE ON TALBERT

5

watching them go. Then, he feels a little faint, uncertain. He wipes his face, blinks, then tries to brush away the feeling, as he waves to --

P.O.V. SHOT

6

-- the departing Galen, Kovak and Virdon.

ANGLE ON EDGE OF TRION

7

NEESA, a big gorilla perimeter guard, pauses to watch Galen, Kovak and Virdon approaching. Seeing him, they stop, uncertain. Neesa raises his rifle.

GALEN

(stepping forward)

I am transferring these two to
the work force in the next village.

Neesa studies Kovak and Virdon, then reluctantly lowers his rifle. Galen smiles, nods. Kovak and Virdon follow Galen past the scowling Neesa, CAMERA PANNING them away.

EXT. SERIES OF LONG SHOTS - DAY

8

Galen, Kovak and Virdon move through wilderness areas.

INT. TALBERT HUT - DAY

9

Talbert is lying on his cot, fear has invaded his eyes. His body convulses slightly. His face is streaked with sweat. CAMERA PANS to the door. Amy enters carrying a basket of fresh vegetables. She stops short, moves to him, studies him, puzzled.

AMY

Daddy -- what's wrong?

Talbert forces a smile to disarm her.

TALBERT

It's nothing -- I'm just a
little tired. Little tired...

AMY

(uncertain)

I'll get you some water...

She moves to do so.

EXT. CLEARING - ESTABLISHING SHOT - DAY

10

Near a stream.

ANGLE ON GALEN, VIRDON AND KOVAK

11

as they reach this area. Kovak puts his backpack aside, kneels by the stream, douses the sweat from his face.

Galen stays slightly apart, deliberately excluding himself.

KOVAK

When we were in training a mere two thousand years ago, I used to hate most the hours running on that treadmill. Upward and onward to nowhere! Nothing's changed.

VIRDON

Except the world.

KOVAK

It was the nicest world I knew. Still is, was, whatever...

VIRDON

I wish you could have seen the way it was, Galen...

GALEN

Obviously I can't..

VIRDON

Maybe you'll get a chance. I still hope somewhere, somehow, we'll find a way back.

KOVAK

(of Virdon)

I'd be ready to certify the guy's bananas but I'm going along with him so what does that make me?

VIRDON

(grinning)

An optimist. What're you complaining about? When you were a kid, didn't you dream of camping out, roughing it? This is your chance.

He's preparing to make camp for the night.

Cont.

KOVAK
(to nobody)
He's okay; everybody else
is crazy.

He assists in campsite preparation.

Galen has moved to the periphery of the clearing and is listening intently. Virдон notices and shows instant concern.

VIRDON
Do you hear something?

GALEN
Not yet.

Kovak reacts to the strange reply and moves to join Virдон and Galen.

KOVAK
What are you expecting?

GALEN
Trouble.

KOVAK
What's this, crystal ball time?

VIRDON
(to Galen)
What's bothering you, Galen?

GALEN
You.

VIRDON
Say it...

GALEN
When I joined you two, I knew I'd be facing the same danger you face. In fact, Ursus may even have told his gorillas that I'm the first priority on his death list. I'm a renegade to my people. I accept that. But I did think we'd try to protect each other.

Cont.

KOVAK

Who isn't protecting what or did
I miss something?

VIRDON

Hold it, Stan. I've done something
you object to, Galen. I don't know
what it is. If you tell me, I'll
apologize or try to correct it...

GALEN

You can't pour water back into a
broken bottle. You've said, so many
times, how careful we must be, how
we must never tell anyone about
ourselves.

VIRDON

Amy...

GALEN

A child. You trust her not only
with your life but with mine.

VIRDON

I'm sure she would never talk...

GALEN

As sure as if you had not told her?

KOVAK

Knock it off. Maybe the bottle's
broken but arguing won't paste it
together. Anyway, nobody's come
after us, yet...

Virdon gestures Kovak to silence.

VIRDON

(to Galen)

You're right. I'm wrong. I
should not have told her. She --
well, I have a couple children of
my own. My daughter was...is about
Amy's age. That's not an excuse,
it's only an explanation. I'm
sorry, Galen.

Galen is moved by Virdon's emotion and candor.

Cont.

GALEN

(puzzled)

I didn't think you meant any harm but why did you take the risk?

VIRDON

A need to talk, to confide, to relate to someone who brought back the past. I can't really tell you why. Chalk it up to the fact that I'm only a human.

GALEN

(genuine sympathy)

Yes, I forget now and then that you can't help some of the weaknesses you have...

KOVAK

Oh, brother!

He turns away, shaking his head.

EXT. TALBERT HUT - MED. SHOT - DAY

12

Amy moves to the door of the hut carrying some water pails, then stops short, hurries inside.

INT. TALBERT HUT

13

Talbert is semiconscious. His body is convulsing, his face is bathed with sweat. He is gasping for breath. Amy, terrified, kneels by him.

AMY

Daddy.

No response.

AMY

Daddy!

Amy hurries out of the hut.

EXT. HUT

14

Amy stumbles toward a nearby hut.

AMY

Help me -- please! My father!

ANGLE ON ANOTHER HUT

15

Amy runs around the corner of this hut, then stops short, stunned. CAMERA PANS DOWN to REVEAL an elderly COUPLE -- lying on the ground, their faces pallid and sweating.

ANOTHER ANGLE

16

Amy shrinks back, then uncertain, runs back to her hut.

INT. TALBERT HUT

17

Amy enters, stops, looks at her father, then moves slowly to him. She kneels by him, speaks softly.

AMY

Daddy...

No response.

AMY

Oh, please...

ESTABLISHING SHOT - CAPITOL CITY - DAY (STOCK) A-17

The Ape Capitol is the scene of normal activity.

INT. COUNCIL CHAMBERS - DAY

18

CLOSE ON A GAVEL SLAMMING ON THE TABLE. It brings a sudden halt to the mutter of angry voices. CAMERA WIDENS to REVEAL ZAIUS wielding the gavel. URSUS and the council members are in session.

ZAIUS

Please -- order, please. You babble on like frightened humans.

AN ORANGUTAN

(agitated)

There is much at stake here, Zaius. Our historians have brought this to my attention.

(reads from a
crude book)

'In the early part of the Ornan period several hundred humans were found in a section of the rural zone -- dead from a fever of this description. The entire sector became barren for years afterward...'

Cont.

ZAIUS

I am aware of the potential loss of goods and labor. That is why I have ordered Trion quarantined -- pending investigation.

URSUS

Quarantined? Burn it!

ZAIUS

Before we consider such measures, Ursus -- our Chief Medical Officer, Zoran, has a few words.

Zaius defers to a large chimp, ZORAN, intelligent, very self-assured, seated with his assistant, a retiring chimp, named INTA. Zoran rises, paces.

ZORAN

I have done considerable research with diseases of the lower species -- and I have developed certain -- theories of treatment -- including afflictions of the fever...

URSUS

Theories? An excuse for you to waste time and resources on intellectual games and guesses.

ZORAN

I intend to test my theories in Trion.

This sets them all to murmuring again.

URSUS

(annoyed)

The entire labor force of a sector is threatened -- and he wants to test theories?!

ZAIUS

Trion is quite isolated. And with the quarantine -- the risk is reduced greatly.

ZORAN

(quickly)

If I can save Trion -- we need never fear the fever again -- ever! Zero loss of labor -- or goods in the future...

Cont.

ZAIUS

Vote. Those for allowing Zoran
to proceed to Trion...

The council exchanges a few words. Then each nods -- except
Ursus.

ZAIUS

So be it...

Ursus pulls to his feet, starts out, pausing by Zoran to
offer:

URSUS

I'll be there at Trion to enforce
the quarantine, Zoran. And if you
fail...

The threat remains unspoken. Ursus walks out leaving Zoran
to contemplate his words. Then Zoran turns to the council,
confidently assures:

ZORAN

You will not regret your faith
in me.

Zoran turns and exits. Inta follows.

EXT. CLEARING - MORNING

19

Virdon and Kovak are putting on backpacks; Galen is lifting
water in his cupped hand, from the stream to his mouth.
MASON, an itinerant human with a cart full of rough utensils
pulls into SCENE, barely heeds Virdon and Kovak and is not
immediately aware of Galen behind them. Mason is clearly
frightened of something. He's been hurrying, he's panting,
his face is sweaty. He brushes past Virdon, about to wash
his face in the stream when he sees Galen and defers.

MASON

Your permission -- ?

Galen nods.

MASON

Thank you.

He slops water on his face. Galen steps out of the stream.

GALEN

(to Virdon)

Ready?

Cont.

MASON

You're not going to Trion?!

VIRDON

No. Shouldn't we?

MASON

It's quarantined. A plague. I was told many are dead and more will die. Many more.

KOVAK

Were you there?

MASON

Not in the village, thank the Spirits. Guards let no one in -- and no one out. A man was shot trying to run...

VIRDON

Do you know any more? The names of any who died?

MASON

(head shake)

Nothing, nothing. I was spared. Even a name might carry the fever. Who knows?

(to Galen)

Your permission -- ?

Galen nods and Mason hurriedly pulls his cart away.

KOVAK

(to Virdon)

A guy doesn't have to be a mind reader to know what you're thinking.

VIRDON

Maybe we can help...

KOVAK

(to Galen)

Will you tell this guy it makes zero sense to try to bust into a plague village?

GALEN

If we could get in, what good would it do?

Cont.

VIRDON

I don't know. What if we were the ones who started it, carrying some virus harmless to us; murderous to them?

GALEN

Isn't it just as possible you'd catch the fever if you went back.

KOVAK

Of course it is -- that is, if somebody doesn't shoot us for trying to get in. Of all the goofed-up ideas, this one takes the fur-lined cake slicer.

VIRDON

Stan, don't you think we should at least try to help?

KOVAK

Did I say I didn't think that? Come on.

He takes a step.

GALEN

Just a minute.

Kovak stops.

GALEN

Were you planning to include me in this trip back to Trion?

Kovak looks to Virdon, avoiding any reply.

VIRDON

I assumed we'd stay together.

GALEN

We went through this only last night. Just because the girl reminds you of your daughter is no reason I should run the risk of going back.

VIRDON

No. No reason.

Cont.

GALEN

Or, for you two to go...

VIRDON

No.

GALEN

But, you stubbornly insist upon
returning.

Viridon and Kovak take a beat, then nod.

GALEN

(to the heavens)
I'm getting to be no better than
a human! All right, let's go.

Viridon and Kovak grin at each other. The three start off.

EXT. TRION - LONG SHOT - DAY

20

Ursus and his armed gorillas have surrounded the village in full force. Ursus rides along the perimeter giving orders. He has set up crude headquarters well away from the town -- a crude "tent command post."

EXT. VILLAGE - ANGLE ON MEN, WOMEN AND CHILDREN

21

huddled near their huts, terrified.

ANGLE ON AMY

22

tending to a dying old woman, putting wet cloths on her face and arms. Quiet hysteria has touched her.

EXT. EDGE OF TRION

23

Neesa, looking very tired, agitated, stands guard, reacts to the approach of Galen, Viridon and Kovak, who step before him.

NEESA

What are you doing back here?!
Haven't you heard -- there's fever.

GALEN

We are somewhat familiar with the
problem. We would like to go in
and help.

NEESA

The council has sent the
Chief Physician -- so turn
around and go back where you
came from.

VIRDON

Look -- we just want to --

NEESA

(lifts rifle)

I have orders to kill anyone
who tries to cross the quarantine
line.

Galen, Virдон and Kovak have no choice but to retreat.

ANOTHER ANGLE

24

They move through an area of marshy vegetation. Then Kovak stops, looks back.

P.O.V. SHOT

25

Neesa has turned, is continuing on his rounds.

BACK TO SCENE

26

Kovak moves off toward the village through this marshy area. Galen and Virдон follow.

ANOTHER ANGLE

27

They come upon a series of stagnant pools rife with mosquitoes. Kovak stops, studies the area, suddenly slaps at mosquitoes buzzing nearby, then turns to Virдон, pulling him and Galen back.

KOVAK

Stagnant water and mosquitoes --
what does that make you think of?

They move quickly away. Galen follows, throwing a puzzled glance back over his shoulder.

EXT. VILLAGE - ANGLE ON GALEN, VIRDON AND KOVAK

28

as they reach the hut area, stop short, stunned.

PANNING P.O.V. SHOT

29

of the area, the frightened, the weak and the ill.

BACK TO SCENE

30

They walk forward, CAMERA TRUCKING, into the center of the village.

NEW ANGLE

31

A sick MAN sees them, reaches out toward them with a pained cry, his arms in an attitude of desperate supplication. They stop, kneel by the Man, examine him.

MAN

Help -- me...

Viridon looks up from examining the Man.

VIRDON

(to Kovak)

You read it like I do?

KOVAK

Malaria...

VIRDON

(looking around)

God -- God, what do we do?

ANGLE ON AMY

32

exiting a hut. Now Amy reacts o.s., pulls up.

AMY

Viridon!

ANGLE ON GALEN, VIRDON AND KOVAK

33

They turn as Amy stumbles toward them, then stops, exhausted. Viridon moves quickly to her, holds her shoulders, studies her face.

AMY

My father -- my father is
dead...

VIRDON

(gently)

Amy, I'm so sorry.

KOVAK

Amy -- how do you feel?

AMY

I'm -- tired -- but I'm not
sick...

ANGLE ON VIRDON

34

He moves to the center of the village.

VIRDON

Listen to me -- all of you.
Come here and listen.

17
ANOTHER ANGLE 35
A cluster of frightened people stare at him, uncertain.
ANOTHER ANGLE 36
Another group hangs back by their hut.
ANGLE ON VIRDON 37

VIRDON
Please -- time is against us --
we've got to move quickly.

ANGLE ON SOME OF THEM 38
moving toward Virdon.
ANGLE ON MORE OF THEM 39
moving toward Virdon.
WIDER ANGLE 40
as they gather around Virdon.

VIRDON
We must bury the dead --
immediately. If we don't
we'll be fighting fever -- and
dysentery -- and worse.

The SOUND OF HOOFBEATS IS HEARD APPROACHING.

VIRDON
A treatment center must be
set up.

ANGLE ON ZORAN AND INTA 41
as they ride into the area, stop, dismount, then move toward
Virdon and the others, CAMERA PANNING.

VIRDON
Work teams must be organized...

ZORAN
Silence!

Virdon stops. All eyes shift to Zoran and Inta as they step
to Virdon, study him.

Cont.

ZORAN

Who are you?

VIRDON

Just a -- man trying to help
his fellow man.

ZORAN

I am Zoran -- Chief Medical Officer
of the Supreme Council -- this is
my assistant, Inta. I will assume
full authority here now.

Kovak, Amy and Galen move forward, uneasy. Zoran moves to
study one of the sick men in the street, CAMERA TRUCKING with
him. Virdon follows Zoran, playing the passive role for the
moment.

VIRDON

We're very glad to see you.
Perhaps we can work together.

Zoran gives Virdon a dubious look, then studies the sick man,
nods confidently.

ZORAN

A pit will be dug at once. It
will be filled with water. I
will add certain medications --
you will all disrobe and immerse
yourselves. Then each of you will
be bled -- the amount depending
on your size and age. There will
be no sexual contact until I have
the disease under control.

(to Virdon)

You seem to have a talent for
organizing. You will supervise
digging of the pit.

Virdon is momentarily speechless with disbelief. Kovak steps
forward, angering.

KOVAK

Look, Doc -- you're whistling
Dixie!

Zoran looks at Kovak in stunned disbelief.

Cont.

ZORAN

(bewildered,
then annoyed)

I'm whistling? -- I -- will --
speak -- clearly. Do you still
hear whistling? Is there something
wrong with your ears?

Galen, sensing trouble, steps forward to assuage Zoran.

GALEN

What he is -- suggesting -- sir --
is that this -- particular disease
-- with which he is familiar, demands
special treatment...

ZORAN

Who are you? Why are you here
in this village?

GALEN

I was taking these two humans to
another farm. Listen to them.
They are more intelligent than
most.

Zoran studies Galen with some puzzlement, then turns to Kovak,
assumes a condescending attitude of contempt.

ZORAN

So -- you -- are familiar with
this disease...

KOVAK

It's malaria...

ZORAN

(to Inta)

How clever. He's even given it
a name. Call the guards, Inta.
I haven't time for this fool.

Inta nods, mounts, rides off.

GALEN

(alarmed)

Sir -- the guards won't be
necessary.

Cont.

VIRDON

Malaria means 'foul air' -- like the kind you find around stagnant pools -- such as those we saw on our way in here. You see -- sir -- the mosquitoes around this stagnant water -- carry the disease -- and it's communicated by their sting.

ZORAN

(exploding)

That is enough!! I don't know whether to have you shot for stupidity or hanged for insolence. Germs flying through the air on the back of insects!! Diseases of the lower species are communicated by bodily contact!

KOVAK

This one isn't.

ZORAN

(furious)

You are challenging my word!

Galen jumps in.

GALEN

Believe me, sir, he does not mean to be insolent. Like with all humans, fear puts foolish words in his mouth.

The SOUND of hoofbeats returning.

ZORAN

I have a cure for that disease.

GALEN

He does know something of medicine.

ZORAN

Impossible.

Neesa rides in, roughly knocking several people aside with his horse. With him is Inta and another gorilla guard, KAVA.

CLOSE ON NEESA

42

He is sweating profusely -- exhaustion hangs on his body.

BACK TO SCENE

43

Zoran points to Virdon and Kovak.

ZORAN

(to Neesa)

Arrest these two!

CLOSE ON NEESA

44

He fights off dizziness as he tries to control his horse.

NEESA

Arrest them?! I'll shoot them.
They've crossed the quarantine
line against my orders.

CLOSE ON ZORAN

45

He considers this, then shrugs.

ZORAN

As you please...

ANGLE ON VIRDON AND KOVAK

46

helpless. Galen steps in front of them.

GALEN

Sir -- I must protest...

ANGLE ON NEESA

47

As he brings the rifle up, his strength fails. He drops his rifle, falls from his horse. Startled, Kava grabs the reins of Neesa's horse, works to control the animal.

BACK TO SCENE

48

Zoran turns to study Neesa as his body begins convulsing. Virdon and Kovak kneel, examine Neesa. Then Kovak rises, addresses Zoran.

KOVAK

Shove this up your theory.
Has he had 'bodily contact'
with the lower species? -- He
has malaria!

Cont.

CLOSE ON KAVA

Fear touches him. He explodes with indignant rage, turns to Zoran.

KAVA

What is he saying!! How could
this be? Explain!

CLOSE ON ZORAN

studying the writhing, dying Neesa. He shakes his head in disbelief, all logic crumbling around him.

ZORAN

I -- I can't explain...

WIDER ANGLE

Kava glares at Zoran who is beside himself with fear.

KAVA

Will you dare tell that to
Ursus?

Zoran has no answer.

FADE OUT

END OF ACT ONE

ACT TWO

FADE IN

EXT. COMMAND TENT - LONG SHOT - DAY

51

Several horses tethered outside the tent. The SOUND of angry voices from within.

INT. COMMAND TENT - ANGLE ON URSUS - DAY

52

URSUS

Fire! Purification by fire!
It is the only course left
to pursue!

CLOSE ON ORANGUTAN

53

ORANGUTAN

The situation is different now,
Zaius. Apes are being threatened!

CLOSE ON ZAIUS

54

ZAIUS

Please. We must calm ourselves
and think rationally.

CLOSE ON ORANGUTAN

55

ORANGUTAN

But an ape has died, Zaius.
An ape! It's no longer a
minor problem.

BACK TO SCENE

56

The council is gathered here in Ursus' command tent. Zcran sits there also, still shaken.

URSUS

(turns to Zoran)
You and your -- 'theories.'
(to the council)
He should be burned with the
others!

ZAIUS

Ursus -- you are out of order!!
(to council)
I suggest we hear Zoran's
appraisal of the situation.

Cont.

ORANGUTAN

I agree.

(a challenge)

He promises us success.

All eyes shift to Zoran. He rises, his mind racing. All go silent.

ZORAN

Upon -- my arrival in Trion --
I discovered that the fever --
was of a different nature than I
had assumed. It is of a -- rare
variety -- called -- Malaria --
obviously fatal to apes as well
as humans. It is -- obviously --
not transmitted by bodily contact...

ZAIUS

Then how, Zoran?

ZORAN

I have reason to believe -- the
disease grows in -- stagnant pools
of water -- and is carried into
the bloodstream by the sting of
-- of -- mosquitoes...

They stare at him in amazement.

ORANGUTAN

You can't be serious.

URSUS

He's got the fever himself.

Much muttering from the council. Zaius raps his gavel for order.

ZAIUS

Zoran -- you are aware of what
you are asking us to believe?

ZORAN

There are such stagnant pools --
in Trion. Both the humans --
(to Ursus)
-- and your soldiers have been
exposed to this area.

ZAIUS

And what action do you propose
we take now?

ZORAN

I will need a few hours to --
further appraise the situation.

URSUS

I'll be damned if I'll back
down to a mosquito!

ZORAN

Ursus -- since the disease is
fatal to our people -- we should
use this -- this situation to
develop a cure...

ZAIUS

Yes -- perhaps there's a positive
side to this. We can experiment
with the humans. Even if we lost
the entire village -- if an ape
cure was developed -- it would be
worth it. Historically, medicine
has progressed because of such
experimentation. Yes -- I believe
we should seize this opportunity.

One by one the council nods agreement.

ZAIUS

So be it...
(to Zoran)
You'll report to us...

ZORAN

Yes, sir.

Ursus pushes past him, goes outside.

EXT. COMMAND TENT - MED. SHOT - DAY

57

Ursus mounts and rides angrily away. Zoran comes out of the
tent, shaken, feeling trapped.

EXT. TRION - LONG SHOT - DAY

58

Work groups have been organized. Men are burying the dead.
The sick are being carried into one of the largest huts.
Water is being carried from the village well into this hut.

ANOTHER ANGLE

58

The women and children are working to fashion crude gloves,
cloth headpieces with narrow eyeslits. Virdon comes in,
kneels to inspect their work.

VIRDON

Very good...

INT. LARGEST HUT

60

Kovak directs the placement of the sick on cots placed in rows. Amy and Galen are bathing the fevered with the well water being carried in. At the SOUND of hoofbeats, Kovak looks out the hut window, then goes outside.

ANGLE ON VIRDON

61

He pauses and Kovak joins him from the hut as Zoran rides in, dismounts, studies the activity, the gloves and masks the women are making.

ZORAN

What are they doing?

KOVAK

Protective masks and gloves.
We've got to send a work crew --
to drain off the stagnant water.

ZORAN

(nods, reflects)

I am in a most -- difficult
position with the council. I have
related your -- mosquito theory.

(beat)

Of course -- in order to save you
from punishment -- should we fail
-- I told them it was my own...

Virdon and Kovak exchange a wondering glance.

VIRDON

You're very generous...

CLOSE ON ZORAN

62

He studies them wonderingly, baiting them.

ZORAN

Not entirely.

(beat)

If I'd told them I heard it from you,
they would have asked questions: Who
you were -- how you came by this
information. Ursus, particularly,
would have been curious about
humans who know more than they
should. I hope you do know
about this disease.

Cont.

Viridon and Kovak exchange glances upon hearing of Ursus' presence. Clearly, Zoran grows more suspicious. Galen comes out of the hut to join them.

KOVAK

Have we been wrong up to now?

ZORAN

You've provided a theory, a name for the disease, a diagnosis. Right or wrong, it adds up to very little. What about treatment?

VIRDON

There's one known treatment for malaria -- quinine. It's extracted from the bark of a semi-tropical tree called the Cinchona.

ZORAN

I've never heard of such a tree.

KOVAK

Just beyond the marsh there's a heavily wooded area -- fairly tropical growth. -- If we're lucky -- you'll get to see one.

Viridon picks up a mask, pair of gloves, offers them to Zoran. Zoran nods, takes them. Viridon, Kovak and Galen exchange wondering looks.

EXT. STAGNANT POOL AREA - MED. SHOT - DAY

63

Viridon and Kovak lead Galen, Zoran and several men from Trion to the edge of the pool. All of them wear the crude gloves and headpieces. Some of the men carry crude shovels, digging tools, etc.

VIRDON

Remember -- no part of your body exposed.

(to Galen)

Good luck, my friend.

Galen nods. Kovak, Viridon and Zoran move off, followed by half of the men. Galen and his men begin digging.

ANGLE ON VIRDON, KOVAK, ZORAN AND OTHERS

64

as they move toward the edge of the heavily wooded area. They have all pulled up their headpieces so they can see better. At the SOUND of hoofbeats, they pause, see:

P.O.V. SHOT

65

Ursus and several of his armed soldiers riding toward them.

ANGLE ON KOVAK AND VIRDON

66

Alarmed, they lower their headpieces to cover their faces.

BACK TO SCENE

67

Ursus and his soldiers pull to a halt -- blocking their path.

URSUS

(to Zoran)

Running away, doctor?

ZORAN

The cure is in the bark of a certain tree -- we believe such a tree can be found in the woods.

URSUS

We believe? What do you mean -- we? I was under the impression you had sole authority here...

ZORAN

(steady)

I have sole authority. But I have described the tree and we --

(nods to Virdon,

Kovak and the others)

-- they believe such a tree might be found --

(nods to wooded area)

-- in there.

Ursus prods his horse closer, studies Virdon, Kovak and their headpieces conspicuously still on.

URSUS

What are you two afraid of?

KOVAK

(sotto voce)

Mosquitoes...

Ursus balks, glances worriedly around, then wheels his horse, rides off -- his soldiers fast behind him, CAMERA PANNING.

CLOSE ON ZORAN

68

He turns from Ursus' exit, suspiciously studies:

HIS P.O.V. - VIRDON AND KOVAK

The only ones with headpieces on.

WIDER ANGLE

Zoran is very suspicious.

ZORAN

There are no mosquitoes here.

Kovak claps his hands at an imaginary mosquito, holding his palms closely pressed together. Zoran watches closely as Kovak slowly opens a gap between his palms so he can check on his quarry.

KOVAK

Missed!

(to Zoran)

It was an albino mosquito.

All white. Very hard to see.

Zoran does not know whether to believe Kovak, but the latter's disingenuous expression carries the day. A small residue of suspicion remains but Kovak ignores it as he and Virдон move on. Zoran and the others follow.

INT. "HOSPITAL" HUT - MED. SHOT - NIGHT

Amy carries fresh water, bathes a fever patient. As she kneels, she becomes suddenly faint. She recovers, puts the gnawing fear out of her mind, continues to wipe down the fevered patient, while, in the b.g., Inta is working.

SERIES OF SHOTS - DAY

Virдон, Kovak, Zoran and the others search the heavily vegetated, wooden area.

EXT. CINCHONA TREE GROVE - MED. SHOT - DAY

They move TOWARD CAMERA. Virдон reacts to the trees, stops, studies them, then moves forward to examine one. He pulls off a piece of bark, chews it, finds it bitter.

KOVAK

(to Virдон)

Yes -- ?

VIRDON

Looks like it could be, and it tastes bitter enough!

KOVAK

I'd feel a lot better if you were sure!

VIRDON

So would I.

ZORAN

(tasting bark)

Ugh! Terrible.

KOVAK

All good medicine tastes awful.
I learned that when I was a kid.

ZORAN

But it will cure the fever -- ?

VIRDON

Not if we just stand here.

He begins pulling off bark. The others join him.

EXT. WOODED AREA - LONG SHOT - DAY

73

Viridon, Kovak, Zoran and the men, each carrying a roped bundle of bark, move quickly back toward the village.

EXT. TRION - LONG SHOT - DAY

74

Most of the dead have been buried now. Water is still being carried from the well into the hospital. Some women are preparing food, distributing it. They pause to watch Kovak, Viridon, Zoran and the others as they walk wearily back into the village.

CLOSER ANGLE

75

They drop the bark on the ground. Inta comes out of the hospital hut. As the villagers gather around, Viridon tells them:

VIRDON

We've got to work quickly. Get stones -- flat stones -- grind the bark into powder...

As the villagers begin this, Viridon turns to Inta.

VIRDON

Any more deaths?

INTA

One -- and two more sick.

Viridon, Kovak and Zoran hurry into the hospital hut.

INT. HOSPITAL HUT

They stop, reacting to:

THEIR P.O.V. - AMY

on a cot now, convulsing with fever.

ANGLE ON KOVAK

stunned, as he moves to Amy, kneels by her, takes her hand.
She turns, studies him through her delirium.

AMY

I'm sorry...

KOVAK

(torn)

What the hell for?

Viridon moves in.

AMY

I wanted to help.

VIRDON

We got what we went for. So
you hang in -- you just hang in...

She nods. He moves off to be joined by Kovak. Dialogue in
private tones.

KOVAK

Sorry, Alan...

VIRDON

About what?

KOVAK

A few things I've said and
more I've just thought.

(of Amy)

This is rough on you.

VIRDON

Not easy on anybody.

KOVAK

When I look at her, I don't see
a little girl who used to call me,
'Daddy.' I guess I'm lucky -- no
one back there to remember, really.

Cont.

VIRDON

(smiling)

Is that lucky?

KOVAK

Absolutely -- I think. But, if we ever could make it back, I'd maybe start looking hard for someone soft, and permanent.

VIRDON

In that case, if I find a way back, I'll take you along.

They move o.s.

EXT. HOSPITAL HUT - SERIES OF SHOTS - DAY

79

Quickly, the bark is ground into fine powder, mixed with small cups of water, carried into the hospital hut.

INT. HOSPITAL HUT - SERIES OF SHOTS - DAY

80

Virdon, Zoran and Inta administer the cups of medication to the patients.

ANOTHER ANGLE

81

Kovak tends to Amy, who is delirious with fever now.

EXT. VILLAGE - LONG SHOT - DAY

82

Galen and his work force walk back into the area covered with mud and exhausted.

ANGLE ON URSUS

83

astride his horse on a nearby hill, studies the village.

HIS P.O.V. - LONG SHOT - GALEN AND THE MEN

84

returning to the village. From this distance, Galen's identity cannot be determined.

CLOSE ON URSUS

85

impatient, and inwardly filled with growing fear.

ANGLE ON CENTER OF VILLAGE

86

Virdon and Kovak come out of the hospital hut to greet Galen, who is very tired.

Cont.

VIRDON
: Are you all right?

GALEN
(nods)
It's done.
(sotto voce)
Ursus is here.

Viridon nods grimly.

INT. HOSPITAL HUT - ANGLE ON AMY

87

She cries out in her delirium -- getting Zoran's attention, who turns from the patient beside her.

AMY
Don't leave me -- tell me --
other place -- the other place...

CAMERA TIGHTENS as Zoran moves closer to her.

AMY
Tell me again...
(a smile)
How it was -- before...

ZORAN
(baiting her)
Before what?

AMY
This -- all this...

Before Zoran can continue the interrogation, he reacts to distant SHOUTING, pulls up, starts out of the hut.

EXT. HOSPITAL HUT - MED. SHOT - DAY

88

Galen, Kovak, Viridon and the others move off to look toward a nearby hill.

LONG P.O.V. SHOT

89

Several Gorilla Guards are running away from something. Though we can't hear what they are saying, there is terror in their voices. Viridon, Galen and Kovak start toward the disturbance.

ANGLE ON ZORAN

90

as he comes out of the hut, looks toward the disturbance. Now Ursus can be seen riding toward the frightened, scattering Gorilla soldiers.

34

ANGLE ON ZORAN 91

as he moves to his horse, quickly mounts, rides o.s.

ANGLE ON VIRDON, KOVAK AND GALEN 92

Kovak starts forward again. Galen grabs his arm, nods o.s.

GALEN

Ursus...

THEIR P.O.V. - URSUS 93

riding toward the area of disturbance. He rides in a direction which will intersect Zoran's approach.

BACK TO SCENE 94

Viridon, Kovak and Galen must wait there lest Ursus see them.

ANGLE ON HILL 95

Several terrified Gorillas run past Zoran as he prods his horse forward.

ANGLE ON URSUS 96

as he rides into the area with a couple of Gorilla Troopers, pulls up, sees:

HIS P.O.V. - KAVA 97

prostrate on the ground, his body convulsing -- his breath coming in pained gasps.

ANGLE ON ZORAN 98

as he rides up, halts, sees Kava.

CLOSE ON URSUS 99

He turns to Zoran, rage spilling out of him.

URSUS

Now we'll see -- doctor! Now we'll see if the council still believes in you. The village will burn -- and everyone in it. Everyone!

OUT 100

FADE OUT

END OF ACT TWO

ACT THREE

FADE IN

EXT. HILL AGAIN - ANGLE ON KAVA - DAY 101

No time lapse. Kava is moaning, writhing in delirium.

ZORAN'S VOICE

(o.s.)
Ursus, I promise you --

WIDER ANGLE 102

Ursus and his men looking down at Kava and at Zoran who is dismounting to examine Kava and speaking as he dismounts. He's still very concerned over Kava's illness and Ursus' rage

ZORAN

-- that I will give him every care --

URSUS

(rage, overriding)
You make empty promises while
my soldiers die!

Zoran takes a small canteen and moves back to Kava.

ZORAN

Believe me. I have the means
to cure him.(holding up canteen)
This is a new medication. It is made
from the bark of a tree I looked for
and luckily, found in time...

He opens the canteen, about to give Kava a drink. Ursus spurs forward, kicks the canteen from Zoran's hand and Ursus' horse brushes against Zoran, knocking him down.

URSUS

You will not experiment with my men!

CUT TO:

INT. COMMAND TENT - DAY 103

The full Council assembled, Zoran present, Ursus stalking back and forth in awesome fury as he addresses the group.

URSUS

Burn the village! Now -- before
we are all destroyed.

ZORAN

No. We are making progress!

ZAIUS

This medication, Zoran. Is
it effective?

Cont.

ZORAN

(uncertain)

Yes -- yes it will be -- soon --
it takes time -- a few hours.

URSUS

There is no more time!

(to council)

How many must die before you
do what must be done?!

(to Zaius)

I demand a vote!

ZAIUS

(calmly)

You will have your vote, Ursus.

URSUS

Now! No more talk!

ZAIUS

(wearily)

I wonder what you fear most, Ursus
-- death or a few words of reason.

URSUS

I fear you -- all of you --
listening to a fool!

ZAIUS

(to council)

Zoran has found a medication.
Perhaps it will cure -- perhaps
not. What Ursus says is true.
With delay -- there is risk...

The council seems uncertain.

ZORAN

We've come this far -- the
answer -- right or wrong -- is
only a few hours away.

Zaius turns to the council.

ZAIUS

Those for letting Zoran continue...

Three council members raise their hands.

ZAIUS

Those against?

Cont.

Ursus and two others raise their hands. A tie.

ZAIUS

Very well -- the decision is mine...

Zaius studies Zoran, then nods.

ZAIUS

You have till noon tomorrow.

Ursus turns to the three members who voted against him.

URSUS

Fools. In a few hours when you
are dying in your own sweat --
like him -- remember what I
told you.

Uneasy, the council members wheel their mounts, ride o.s.
Zaius turns his mount, tells Zoran:

ZAIUS

Noon, tomorrow...

Zoran nods. Zaius rides off. Ursus prods his horse closer
to Zoran, nods to Kava.

URSUS

Stay away from him. If you
touch him again, I'll kill you.

Zoran gets on to his own horse, rides o.s., CAMERA PANNING.

EXT. VILLAGE - ESTABLISHING SHOT - NIGHT

104

The street torches are lit. Some of the huts show light
also. The hospital hut is well lit.

INT. HOSPITAL HUT - TRUCKING SHOT - VIRDON -
NIGHT

105

as he walks among the beds, studying the patients, hoping
for a sign. He reaches Zoran as he finishes administering
to a patient.

VIRDON

(worriedly)

Noon, tomorrow...

(beat)

I don't know...

ZORAN

(defensively)

You said the medication worked
quickly...

VIRDON

Yes -- but there could be --
extenuating factors -- a mutation
-- a different variety of Malaria
-- so many intangibles -- so
many unknowns...

Viridon's words make Zoran more suspicious.

ZORAN

I was not in a position to --
bargain with the council.

VIRDON

(gently)
I know -- I understand.
(beat)
We'll medicate again in the
morning.
(beat)
All we can do for the moment
is -- wait...

ZORAN

You'd better sleep.

Viridon nods, moves to an empty cot, lies down. Kovak is
asleep on a nearby cot also. Zoran moves to Amy's cot,
CAMERA PANNING.

ANGLE BY AMY

106

Zoran moves in, kneels by Amy, wipes her fevered face with
a wet cloth. She half-wakens.

ZORAN

Amy...

There is no response.

ZORAN

Amy?

AMY

Yes...

ZORAN

Your friend -- from the --
'other place...'

AMY

Yes...

Cont.

ZORAN
Where is that 'other place?'
Where did he come from?

AMY
Here...

ZORAN
(puzzled)
Here?

AMY
From -- before.

ZORAN
Another time...

AMY
Yes...

ZORAN
A long time ago?

There is no response.

ZORAN
A long time ago, Amy?

AMY
Yes...

ZORAN
An 'astronaut' -- is he an
'astronaut?'

Amy drifts off again.

ZORAN
Amy -- listen to me.

Zoran tries to bring her back, without success. Frustrated,
he turns, stops short, reacting to --

HIS P.O.V. - GALEN

107

standing a few feet behind him, studying him.

CLOSE ON ZORAN

108

He pulls up, defensive, uncertain.

ZORAN
Why are you sneaking up behind
me?

Galen, keeping casual, steps forward, nods to Amy.

GALEN

I was just coming to look at the girl. Is she -- talking strangely again?

ZORAN

Strangely...

Galen kneels beside her, wipes her face.

GALEN

Yes. The fever -- it makes her say -- impossible things. She has a very good imagination.

ZORAN

Yes. I could make no sense of it.

Zoran turns, walks away.

CLOSE ON GALEN

109

worried.

EXT. VILLAGE - ESTABLISHING SHOT - NIGHT

110

an hour before dawn.

EXT. HOSPITAL HUT - NIGHT

111

Viridon comes out, studies the nearby hill. (Inta is seated by the door.)

LONG P.O.V. SHOT

112

A single torch burns on the hill.

CLOSE ON VIRDON

113

-- considering this. Reaching a decision, he goes back into the hospital hut, comes out with a small canteen. He straps it on, moves o.s. into the darkness.

EXT. HILL AREA - MED. SHOT - NIGHT

114

A single torch has been put here -- beside Kava, who lies, unattended, slowly dying. Near him, an armed Gorilla Guard stands sentry.

ANGLE ON VIRDON

115

as he cautiously approaches the area, stops, studies --

41

P.O.V. SHOT 116

-- the Armed Gorilla Guard near Kava.

ANGLE ON VIRDON 117

He picks up a large stone, shoves it down a shale-dirt incline. It sets up a rather ominous SOUND.

ANGLE ON THE GUARD 118

Alarmed, he brings his rifle up.

GORILLA GUARD

Who's there?

The Gorilla moves o.s. toward the sound.

GORILLA GUARD

Who's there?!

ANGLE ON VIRDON 119

as he sneaks over to Kava.

ANGLE BY KAVA 120

Viridon moves in, quickly gives Kava a drink from the canteen. Kava is half conscious, too weak to object.

ANGLE ON GORILLA GUARD 121

He turns back, reacts to --

P.O.V. SHOT - THROUGH UNDERBRUSH 122

Viridon leaning over Kava. From this angle Viridon is only a shadow.

ANGLE ON GORILLA GUARD 123

He stumbles forward.

GORILLA GUARD

Who goes there?

ANGLE ON VIRDON 124

He is forced to drop the canteen and run, spilling some of the liquid on Kava's face.

ANGLE ON GORILLA GUARD 125

as he fires.

42

ANGLE ON VIRDON 126

running.

ANGLE ON GORILLA GUARD 127

firing blindly into the darkness.

ANGLE ON VIRDON 128

running back toward the village under cover of darkness.

ANGLE ON GORILLA GUARD 129

firing again. Then, at the SOUND of hoofbeats, he turns.

ANGLE - THE SCENE 130

Ursus rides up, quickly dismounts.

URSUS

What is it?

GORILLA GUARD

I heard a sound -- I went to see
-- when I came back -- there was
someone with Kava.

URSUS

Who?

GORILLA GUARD

I -- I couldn't see.

ANGLE ON KAVA 131

Ursus kneels by Kava, sees the abandoned canteen. Suddenly
alarmed, Ursus demands of Kava:

URSUS

Who was here?

There is no response.

URSUS

Who was it? Zoran?
(shakes canteen)
Did you drink this?

Kava can finally give Ursus an affirmative nod.

KAVA

Yes.

Ursus roughly lets Kava fall back to a lying position.
CAMERA TIGHTENS on Kava's face. Frustration and rage.

ANGLE - THE SCENE

132

Ursus pulls up, knocks the Gorilla Guard down with a vicious blow.

URSUS

If Kava dies, if they've poisoned him with this 'medicine,' I'll have you shot!

Ursus gets on his horse, rides o.s., leaving the Gorilla Guard stunned, bewildered.

EXT. VILLAGE - MED. SHOT - NIGHT

133

Galen, Kovak and Zoran stumble out of the hospital. They stop, seeing --

P.O.V. SHOT

134

-- Virdon, running toward them.

ANGLE - THE SCENE

135

Virdon reaches them, stops, exhausted.

GALEN

We heard shots -- what happened -- where have you been?

VIRDON

(smiling)

A small mission of mercy.

ZORAN

(guessing)

You treated Kava?

VIRDON

Yes. --

ZORAN

You risked your life -- for an Ape? --

VIRDON

I'm sure his pain hurts as much as those in there.

(nods to hut)

Unfortunately -- I left the evidence behind when I ran.

KOVAK

Could anyone identify you?

Cont.

VIRDON

It was dark -- I -- I can't
be sure.

Galen and Kovak exchange a worried glance. This does not
go unnoticed by Zoran. Then he looks o.s., reflects:

ZORAN

I wonder if it really matters...

VIRDON

What do you mean?

ZORAN

(nods o.s.)

Whether Ursus thinks it was
him -- or me -- the result
is the same.

Viridon, Kovak and Galen turn, look.

THEIR P.O.V. - COMMAND TENT AREA - NIGHT

136

Considerable activity. Campfires burning, gorilla troopers
making torches, attending to their horses, a few torches
stuck in the ground to provide light and give promise
of the fire tomorrow.

BACK TO SCENE

137

GALEN

If Zoran loses, Ursus wins --
more authority, more freedom
to run things the way he wants.
Ursus wants power -- to do
things his way, and it's not
a very nice way.

KOVAK

(quietly)

We'd better come up with some
results -- or this village will
be ashes.

They look off toward command tent...

THEIR P.O.V. - COMMAND TENT

138

as all activity is increasing, torches being lit, horses
being saddled, etc.

FADE OUT

END OF ACT THREE

ACT FOUR

FADE IN

EXT. VILLAGE - ESTABLISHING SHOT - DAWN 139

The sun is just coming up.

LONG SHOT - OUTSKIRTS OF VILLAGE 140

Ursus, astride his horse, gathers his torch-bearing Gorillas, shouts orders.

INT. HOSPITAL HUT - ANGLE ON AMY - DAY 141

Kovak is by Amy, who is still asleep, resting more quietly now. Kovak bathes her face with a wet cloth as Virdon and Zoran move in, worried, uncertain.

VIRDON

What do you think?

KOVAK

She's resting. Fever seems to be down some.

VIRDON

(hopefully)

The others, too?

KOVAK

When they wake up -- we'll give them the second medication...

(beat)

We need time...

ZORAN

Zaius gave us till noon. If he can keep control of the situation...

Even as Zoran says this, the SOUND of SHOUTING FROM OUTSIDE. They move outside.

EXT. HOSPITAL HUT - MED. SHOT - DAY 142

Galen is in front, supervising the work on the bark with Inta. Virdon, Kovak and Zoran come out, stop -- see --

VERY LONG P.O.V. SHOT 143

-- Ursus, astride his horse, leading his torch-bearing Gorillas toward the village.

BACK TO SCENE

144

KOVAK

(calmly)

Seems the 'situation' is out of hand.

ZORAN

Ursus cannot do this! He acts
independently of the council!

(to Inta)

Get my horse!

Inta moves o.s. to do so.

ZORAN

(hard)

I came here for a victory of my
own. Ursus will not take it away
from me -- not when I am this
close...

VIRDON

Maybe the council changed its mind.

ZORAN

I think not.

(beat)

This is between Ursus and myself.

Inta leads Zoran's horse to him. Zoran mounts, prods his
horse into a gallop, riding out of the village, CAMERA
PANNING.

ANGLE ON VIRDON, KOVAK AND GALEN

145

-- watching him go.

GALEN

What now, my friends? Do we
take Amy and try to get away?

Viridon nods o.s., reflects:

VIRDON

I'm afraid it's too late
for that...

P.O.V. SHOT

146

-- showing Ursus' men as they completely encircle the village.

BACK TO SCENE

147

Viridon, Galen and Kovak consider this.

Cont.

VIRDON

(quietly)

It seems our future is in the
hands of the -- Chief Medical Officer...

KOVAK

Watch closely and you may see the
future come to a very quick stop!

GALEN

We're helpless. We can't run
and -- we have no weapons...

VIRDON

We have one.

Virdon turns, strides into the hospital hut. Puzzled, Galen
and Kovak follow.

TRUCKING SHOT

148

Ursus and his Gorillas move down toward the village.

ANGLE ON KAVA

149

still lying where we saw him last night. He is calmer, but
still fevered, weak. He rolls over, studies --

HIS P.O.V.

150

-- Ursus, riding down toward the village.

CLOSE ON KAVA

151

Confusion touches him -- and regret. He tries to get up,
fails, lies back.

ANGLE ON ZORAN

152

as he rides to a halt in front of Ursus. Ursus pulls up.
Those Gorillas with him also halt.

URSUS

Stand aside.

ZORAN

It is several hours yet till
noon, Ursus...

URSUS

Stand aside or you will die
with those in the village.

Cont.

ZORAN

The council voted.

URSUS

The council be damned!

ZAIUS

(o.s.)

That is treason, Ursus.

They turn, see --

P.O.V. SHOT

153

-- Zaius, followed by the council as they prod their horses forward.

ANGLE - THE SCENE

154

URSUS

Better treason than madness!

ZAIUS

I command you to withdraw,
Ursus!

URSUS

You command?
(nods to his Gorillas)
You have words -- I have weapons.

ORANGUTAN

(wearily)

Perhaps another vote...

OTHERS

Yes -- another vote!

ZAIUS

The vote was taken -- the
decision stands!

URSUS

(lifts his weapon)

Remove yourself, old man!

ZAIUS

(quietly)

Would you kill me, Ursus?

URSUS

Before you allow him --
(nods to Zoran)
to kill my men. Yes!

A mutter of approval from the Gorillas, who level their weapons at Zaius and the council. Zoran turns to the Gorillas, addresses them:

ZORAN

Listen to me! Ursus doesn't care for you! He thinks first of himself! He would not let me help Kava. He would let Kava die to discredit me.

URSUS

(to the Gorillas)

No -- Zoran is the one who thinks only of himself! He could not help Kava -- he could help no one!

ZAIUS

(looking o.s.)

It would appear you are misinformed, Ursus.

All eyes turn, look toward the village.

LONG P.O.V. SHOT

155

The sick are walking out of the hospital hut, weak, but improved.

SLOW PANNING SHOT - ZORAN, URSUS, THE COUNCIL, AND THE GORILLAS

156

watching.

BACK TO LONG P.O.V. SHOT

157

The sick start toward them, followed by the healthy of the village.

CLOSE TRUCKING SHOT

158

Amy leads the weak, but definitely improved men, women and children. Inta walks alongside, relieved, smiling.

INT. HOSPITAL HUT

159

Viridon and Kovak stand by a window, watch --

THEIR P.O.V.

160

-- Amy leading the group toward Zoran and the others.

ANGLE ON URSUS AND OTHERS

161

suddenly off-guard, uncertain.

 URSUS
It's a trick! A lie!

 KAVA
 (o.s.)
No!

All eyes shift.

ANOTHER ANGLE

162

Kava, weak still, fevered, but very much improved, stumbles forward, addresses himself to Zaius.

 KAVA
Last night -- someone from the
village -- came to me -- I
was dying.

 URSUS
Silence! That is an order!

Kava meets Ursus' demand, continues.

 KAVA
They gave me something to drink
-- bitter medicine. Ursus -- you
are wrong. The -- medicine made
me better. It saved my life.

The Gorillas study Kava, then slowly turn wondering looks on Ursus.

CLOSE ON URSUS

163

Now he feels his authority -- his power being taken away.

CLOSE ON ZAIUS

164

He nods, understanding, realizing he has won.

 ZAIUS
I tell you again, Ursus. Take
your troops -- and withdraw --
while you still have them to
command.

ANGLE - THE SCENE

165

Ursus studies the Gorillas, studying him with growing insolence. Ursus says nothing, wheels his horse, rides o.s. The Gorillas hesitate, then shoulder their weapons and follow, CAMERA PANNING.

BACK TO SCENE

166

Kava turns to Zoran.

KAVA

Would you treat me -- in the
village -- with the others --
till I am better?

Zoran smiles, helps Kava up onto his horse. Then they ride back toward the village. Zaius turns his horse, studies the council members, who are looking a little embarrassed, subdued.

ZAIUS

(with disgust)

How quickly compromise
became attractive...

Zaius mounts, rides o.s. Subdued, the council members follow

EXT. TRION - ESTABLISHING SHOT - DAY

167

Things are getting back to normal. Men working the fields, women and children in the street.

INT. HOSPITAL HUT

168

CAMERA TRUCKS with Zoran as he moves down the center aisle, checking the patients, who are much improved. They are eating, smiling, relaxed. Inta is tending a child's needs. Zoran is intrigued -- and pleased. He stops, studies --

P.O.V. SHOT

169

-- Kovak, Viridon and Galen talking, laughing with Amy at the other end of the room.

CLOSE ON ZORAN

170

He becomes uneasy, disturbed. He moves toward them.

ANOTHER ANGLE

171

Amy, Kovak, Viridon and Galen are laughing as Zoran moves in, asks:

ZORAN

I would like to speak to you
two a moment...

Zoran turns, exits. Puzzled by Zoran's sober tone, Viridon, Kovak and Galen exchange a wondering glance. Then Viridon and Kovak follow Zoran out, CAMERA PANNING.

ANGLE ON AMY AND GALEN

172

AMY
Is something wrong?

GALEN
I don't know...

Galen follows them out.

EXT. HOSPITAL HUT - MED. SHOT - DAY

173

Zoran comes out, followed by Kovak and Virdon.

ZORAN
I -- suppose you'll want to
be leaving soon...

VIRDON
(nods)
Today...

ZORAN
(uneasy)
I'm afraid -- that won't be
possible.

KOVAK
(puzzled)
Why not?

ZORAN
Well -- I can't let you go...

VIRDON
But everything's under control.
You can handle it without us.

ZORAN
No -- you don't understand. I
mean -- I must tell Zaius -- and
the others about you.

Galen comes out in time to overhear this while Virdon and
Kovak exchange worried looks.

ZORAN
You see -- I know who you are...

KOVAK
I don't know what you're talking
about.

Cont.

ZORAN

Please -- . This is difficult enough. Your knowledge of medicine -- things the girl said in her fever. I know you are the two 'astronauts' -- and Galen is with you...

Kovak and Viridon exchange a look. No point in arguing.

ZORAN

Understand -- I deeply appreciate -- what you've done here -- what I have learned from you...

KOVAK

Then how the hell can you turn us in?

ZORAN

(doggedly)

Because you are fugitives. Zaius wants you -- and I am loyal to Zaius.

VIRDON

I thought what we did here -- what we shared here -- meant something.

ZORAN

(turns)

It does -- it does. But...

KOVAK

But we're a lower species...

ZORAN

Yes...

KOVAK

(dryly)

How come, if we're lower -- we're smarter?

ZORAN

I -- I can't explain that...

GALEN

How will you explain that your 'victory' here -- was really theirs?

This stops Zoran. Galen steps forward.

GALEN

Or do you intend to take full credit for yourself?

ZORAN

Well -- I -- have no choice. I have my -- my position to uphold.

KOVAK

You turn us in -- you think we won't tell Zaius?

ZORAN

He wouldn't believe you!

GALEN

(calmly)

He'd believe me...

ZORAN

Very well -- I won't turn you in -- you may leave...

GALEN

Where they go -- I go.

ZORAN

You can't be serious.

GALEN

Try me...

ZORAN

But -- they are...

GALEN

Yes. I know -- lower species...

Zoran sits down, shaken.

VIRDON

You've got a decision -- your loyalty -- or your ego.

ZORAN

Ego? I am not familiar with that word.

KOVAK

How will you feel, Doctor, when Zaius learns that you were advised by humans...every move you made... every word you said.

Cont.

Zoran considers this, then nods.

ZORAN

I would suggest you leave under
cover of darkness.

Galen, Virdon and Kovak exchange relieved looks.

EXT. VILLAGE - ESTABLISHING SHOT - NIGHT 174

Things are as usual. Lights are showing from the huts.

EXT. HOSPITAL HUT - MED. SHOT - NIGHT 175

Galen and Virdon are preparing their backpacks for departure.

INT. HOSPITAL HUT - NIGHT 176

Virdon moves to Amy's cot, sits down. She studies him,
smiles.

AMY

You know -- it's just as bad
the second time -- saying
good-bye, I mean...

VIRDON

You're going to be all right.

AMY

Sure.

An empty, pained moment, then:

VIRDON

Maybe we'll find a way to get
back -- someday, back where we
came from. Maybe -- somehow --
you could come with us...

She studies him, nods, smiles, not really believing.

AMY

Sure -- maybe...

(beat)

Meanwhile -- some of the things
you've told me -- maybe I can
use them -- to make things better
here. That's something --
isn't it?

There is a quiet hope in her voice.

Cont.

VIRDON

(torn)

Yes, that's something.

He leans over, kisses her forehead.

VIRDON

Good-bye, Amy...

AMY

Good-bye...

Viridon turns and walks quickly away.

EXT. HOSPITAL HUT - LONG SHOT - NIGHT

177

Viridon joins Galen and Kovak. They put on their backpacks and head o.s.

ANGLE NEAR HOSPITAL HUT

178

Inta and Zoran watch them go. Zoran finally waves slightly, a small gesture of friendship.

HIS P.O.V.

179

Kovak, Viridon and Galen do not see -- they are disappearing in shadows.

CLOSE ON ZORAN

180

Sadly, he lowers his hand, as we:

FADE OUT

THE END