

FIRST DRAFT

PLANET OF THE APES

THE GOOD SEEDS

TWENTIETH CENTURY-FOX TELEVISION

PLANET OF THE APES

"THE GOOD SEEDS"

Written by

Robert W. Lenski

FIRST DRAFT

PLANET OF THE APES

"The Good Seeds"

ACT ONE

FADE IN:

EXT. OPEN FIELD - LONG SHOT OF THREE RUNNING FIGURES - NIGHT

The field stretches like a wide, silent meadow on the moonless night. It is surrounded by forest. The three running figures appear to be heading toward the sanctuary of the even darker trees.

CLOSE ON THE RUNNING FIGURES

As they come running THROUGH SHOT, we can identify the two fleeing astronauts, ALAN VIRDON and STAN KOVAK, together with their companion from the ape world, GALEN, the chimpanzee. Virdon in the lead, Kovak behind him, Galen bringing up a close rear. PANNING with them in a run-by, we see them stop some distance away at Kovak's almost pleading, breathy...

KOVAK'S VOICE

(distant)

Hey...

SHOT - CLOSE ON THE THREE

Standing in the deep grass of the meadow, Kovak, the toughest looking of the three, breathing the hardest...

VIRDON

What's the matter...come on...

Galen, full of bristle, giving Kovak an inquisitive look.

KOVAK

Ah...Galen can't keep up this pace...

GALEN

I'm not tired. Not a bit.

Kovak gives Galen a disbelieving look...panting...

KOVAK

You're not tired...not a bit.

Virdon, eager to be going, chastises Kovak...

VIRDON

Michigan's greatest running back of all time...

KOVAK

Two thousand years ago...

VIRDON

Prime of life. Let's move it.
We don't know how far behind
Ursus' men are...come on!

Virdon and the energetic Galen take off on the run...Kovak reluctantly joining them...

EXT. FOREST - A SMALL CLEARING - NIGHT

THUNDERING HOOVES crash into the pitch darkness of the clearing which is suddenly lighted by blazing oil torches carried by THREE GORILLA POLICE on horseback. (A large fallen tree identifies the location for our later look.) The Police rein their horses to a stomping halt, but the lathered animals wheel and prance, their energies hard to control. FIRST GORILLA leaps from mount, torch in hand and scans the earth of the clearing. The other two charge back and forth, awaiting his verdict...as he spots what are obviously tracks...

FIRST GORILLA

Through here...they've been
this way...!

He leaps back aboard his horse and the three go charging into the night, their torches and horses creating an eerie sense of thunder and lightning through the thick forest ahead...

EXT. FOREST - THICK GROWTH - VIRDON, KOVAK, GALEN - NIGHT

The three have stopped momentarily, kneeling near Virdon who is studying something he is resting on his knee.

ON KOVAK

Thankful for the rest...wanting more of the same...

KOVAK

(to Virdon)

Hey, Al, this is Hansel and
Gretel time...let's bivouac
here. They're not going to
follow our trail of breadcrumbs
on a night like this...

ON VIRDON AND GALEN

Galen looking eagerly at what Virdon is so intent on...

VIRDON

That's just the point...

INSERT - COMPASS ON VIRDON'S KNEE

A crude, hand-made compass that Virdon has put together from a piece of magnetic material taken from the space ship... the needle floating to magnetic north...

VIRDON'S VOICE

We know what direction we're going in. They don't.

THE SCENE

KOVAK

When there's nothing in any direction...what difference does it make?

GALEN

You can tell direction from that? Without the stars?

VIRDON

It's a compass, Galen. It always points north.
(looking overhead)
With this cloud cover...Ursus' men don't know what direction they're going in. They'll go around in circles...we can go straight ahead.

GALEN

A compass.
(staring at compass)
If that's true...it's amazing.
Is it...witchcraft...?

VIRDON

No...just handicraft.

Virdon...pointing...standing.

VIRDON (CONT.)

We go that way...

Kovak stands too, with effort...

KOVAK

Next handicraft class...make me a trail bike...twin jet...

Virdon leading, they start off into the darkness once more.

EXT. FOREST - THE PREVIOUS SMALL CLEARING - NIGHT

The three Gorilla Police on horseback come galloping into the same clearing, identifiable by the fallen tree...and rein up... holding their torches up...recognizing the location...with

(CONT.)

(CONT.) exasperation. The First Gorilla leaps down again... angrily this time...

FIRST GORILLA
(looking skyward)
Clouds! Blasted clouds!

GORILLA TWO AND GORILLA THREE slide from their mounts...

GORILLA TWO
It's taboo to travel without the stars.

FIRST GORILLA
Nothing's taboo when you ride for Ursus...

GORILLA THREE
Then how come the taboo has pulled our horses tails in a circle?

A beat. The First Gorilla realizes the futility of going further. In frustration...

FIRST GORILLA
All right! all right! We'll camp here the night. Make a fire...
(looking up)
and stand watch to see if it chases the clouds.
(to Gorilla Two)
If not...first sight of where the sun rises...you ride back to Ursus...report we are going on...until we catch those three!

EXT. FOREST - MOVING SHOT OF VIRDON, KOVAK, GALEN - NIGHT

Walking through the dense, now quite hilly terrain in what appears to be pitch dark. Kovak glances back...sees something...calls out...

KOVAK
Hey, Alan...look!

They stop, turn in the direction Kovak is pointing.

THEIR POV - A FAR HILLTOP

Just visible through a break in the tall trees...we can see a campfire glowing on a far hilltop.

ANGLE ON THE THREE

Virdon smiles, Galen following his cue.

VIRDON
Ursus' men...probably tired of
riding past the same trees...

KOVAK
Since you mention tired...

VIRDON
Let's go...we can gain a whole
night on them.

ON KOVAK

KOVAK
If I'd known the hours were going
to be this rough in the interstellar
space program...I'd have bought
a bar in Galveston...

Virdon starts off once more after a glance at his crude
compass...Galen encouraging Kovak to keep up...excited...

GALEN
Come on...we're following the
'handicraft'...

KOVAK
(wearily)
Oh boy...follow the yellow brick
handicraft. I've got so much to
teach you, I don't know where to
begin...

Galen runs to catch up with Virdon as Kovak starts away also...

SHOT - CLOSE ON GALEN - NEAR A SHARP PRECIPICE

Cavorting around a tree to catch up and ahead of Virdon...
to display his enthusiasm...he slips...

HIGH ANGLE - DOWN THE PRECIPICE - GALEN FALLING

A sheer drop among ragged rocks below as we hear the descending
YELL of the terrified and surprised chimp. Kovak and Virdon
ENTER FRAME, looking down...a quick glance at each other...
then they are rushing to his rescue.

SHOT - GALEN - BOTTOM OF THE PRECIPICE

We can see Virdon and Kovak, b.g., just making their way down,
as Galen, still conscious, MOANS in extreme pain, holding his
leg. They reach the bottom, picking their way...and rush to
Galen's side.

KOVAK
Just take it easy there...
don't move, Galen...

Virdon kneels quickly at the injured chimp...examining his leg with an instant look of shock at the extent of the wound... the leg torn on a jagged rock.

VIRDON

Lie still...

(to Kovak)

Need a tourniquet...hurry!

Kovak quickly starts tearing a swath of cloth off the bottom of his shirt, rolling it to make a pliable ropelike tourniquet...

GALEN

Ohhhh! I'm sorry...

KOVAK

(anxiously)

Hey...quiet...I'm giving you the shirt off my back, Buddy... just quiet there...

He hands the prepared tourniquet to Virdon who wraps it hastily around the leg and starts twisting...as Kovak searches quickly for a broken stick...thrusting it to Virdon to use for leverage...

VIRDON

Rest easy...we've got to stop the bleeding first.

GALEN

It was dark...I fell...

KOVAK

(trying levity)

Not your fault...that old magic compass is great for back and forth...but it ain't worth a hoot for up and down.

VIRDON

(to Kovak)

Start building a litter...we'll carry him out of here.

GALEN

No...you can't...Stan is tired...

KOVAK

Me...tired? You got to be kidding...I just got up.

ANGLE - CLOSE ON GALEN'S FACE

A pained smile in appreciation at his friend's sudden renewal of energy...

MATCH DISSOLVE TO:

CLOSE SHOT - GALEN'S FACE

Lying on a crudely made litter and WIDEN to show Virdon and Kovak carrying their chimp companion through the forest. The trees are thinning...Kovak chanting a remembered piece of nonsense in rhythm with their walk...to ease the labor...

KOVAK

Once when I was young and spry...
pretty maidens caught my eye...
Now that I am old and gray...

VIRDON

(interrupting)
Hey...he's hurting bad enough...
you want to make him sick, too?

KOVAK

Well, I like that...if I didn't
have my hands full...

But Virdon, in the lead, spots something first, stops suddenly.

VIRDON

Hey...look!

KOVAK

(looking ahead)
Huh?

VIRDON

Do you see what I see?

THEIR POV - A DISTANT SMALL FARM COMPOUND - NIGHT

In a clearing ahead through the trees, they can see tiny lights glowing from what appears to be a log cabin type farmhouse, surrounded by a couple of shadowy silhouettes of outbuildings. The distant, mournful MOO of a cow sounds out, and fades away.

ANGLE ON THE THREE

Kovak and Virdon looking toward the farmhouse...Kovak almost able to "taste" the sight...

KOVAK

Oh man, would you look at that.
Chicken and dumplings...mashed
potatoes and gravy...honey cured
ham...and beef for breakfast...
you hear that Galen...

GALEN
(the vegetarian)

Ugh!

As he rolls his head aside at the thought...as though the pain were'nt enough...

VIRDON
This may be it, Stan. Show me
a couple of nice, smelly diesel
burning tractors...and it's home
sweet home all over again...come
on.

They move off.

EXT. THE FARMHOUSE - LONG ON THE FRONT - NIGHT

At closer look, the hope of a modern farm vanishes as we see the windows of the farmhouse apparently glowing from flame lights inside as Virdon, Kovak ENTER FRAME, approaching the house, carrying Galen.

CLOSER ANGLE ON FRONT OF FARMHOUSE

As Virdon and Kovak carefully put the litter down, Galen able to raise on one arm as Virdon approaches the door.

CLOSE ON THE DOOR

A beat of hesitation...then filled with expectancy...Virdon knocks on the door...no reply. PULL BACK on scene and we see the lights being extinguished inside. Stillness. And ZOOM IN ON VIRDON once more...knocking. A beat...and the door is opened slowly, just wide enough to reveal the face of a large ape, POLAR, his features lighted by the flame from the crude flickering candle in the candlestick he is holding. He has to study the disappointed Virdon only a moment...

POLAR
Get away from here! Now!
(when Virdon
doesn't flinch)
I'm warning you...we have clubs
and corn knives...

VIRDON
We need help. Our friend has
been hurt.

Polar, the big farmer and head of the farm family, opens the door wider and holds the candle to look beyond Virdon...seeing the other twofigures...

POLAR
(to inside)
Stay back...

THE SCENE

As Polar steps from the house, walking the few steps to Galen and Kovak with caution...as though he expected to be pounced upon...stopping at the litter...holding the candle for a look at Galen.

ANGLE TOWARD THE FARMHOUSE

Four other figures move hesitantly from the door toward the scene, ignoring Polar's barked order to stay inside...curiosity calling them irresistibly...ZANTES, Polar's wife, ANTO, the older son, large framed and carrying a machette-shaped corn knife...REMUS, half grown, the younger ape son...and JILLIA... a daughter between Anto and Remus. They come to stand near the litter, Polar noticing...

POLAR

Jillia...Zantes...get back
in the house...

Jillia retreats slightly but Zantes kneels quickly at the litter when she sees the wounded Galen...

ZANTES

Oh dear! That's terrible...
(to her daughter)
Jillia...add water to the hot
kettle...

POLAR

Just a minute...who are you!

GALEN

(weakly)
My name is Galen...these are
my friends...

Anto brandishes the machette...

ANTO

Are you their prisoner...have
they captured you...?

GALEN

(weaker)
No...no...please...help us...

REMUS

Are you rich...they're your
bonded humans...am I right?

GALEN

No...no...

And Galen sinks back, unconscious now from loss of blood. Kovak reacts to this serious sign of Galen's worsening condition. Angrily...

KOVAK

(to Anto)

Look...put that salami slicer away and help him...

(to the others)

will you!? We're no danger to you...do something for him.

ZANTES

(to Polar, Anto)

Take him inside...I'll do what I can.

They do not move and Zantes becomes slightly angry at her husband's stubbornness.

ZANTES

(to Polar)

Ask all your questions in the morning...he needs help or he'll die.

Polar appears agreeable, if reluctant...

POLAR

Don't direct me, wife... I'd already made up my mind to that...

Viridon and Kovak go to start helping with the litter...Polar shoves them away...

POLAR

Not you two...Anto and I will carry him in.

He motions to another building, away from the house.

POLAR (CONT.)

You two can sleep in the barn. Don't touch anything or steal anything...or I'll put the Patrol on you!

VIRDON

Just take care of him...

REMUS

What'd you do to him...?

ZANTES

You're as bad as your father. Go inside...

Polar and Anto lift the litter and start carrying it to the house where Jillia has now re-lighted the wicks and candles that were extinguished in fear.

ANGLE ON VIRDON AND KOVAK

As they watch their friend being carried to at least tentative safety and comfort. They exchange looks.

VIRDON

The barn. Over there, I guess.

MOVING SHOT - THE PAIR

Walking toward the barn...

KOVAK

(low singing)

'Can I sleep in your barn
tonight mister...it is cold
lying out on the ground...'

(beat)

Diesel tractors...hah! If
Columbus had landed near here,
he wouldn't have even gotten
off the boat.

VIRDON

If you're so tired...try closing
your mouth and see if the rest
of you'll go to sleep...

CUT TO:

INT. BARN - A STALL - CLOSE ON SLEEPING KOVAK - DAY

He's snoring contentedly, lightly as the morning sun jabs through the open barn door nearby, across his face. A crude three-tined pitchfork ENTERS FRAME...prodding him dangerously close to the neck. He stirs, opens his eyes...sits up with a start.

WIDEN - THE SCENE AT THE STALL

Anto is waking Kovak and Virdon who are nestled in the straw of a stall next to one occupied by a big, kind-eyes cow that is with calf...

ANTO

Get up!

Virdon stirs quickly now, awakening...

KOVAK

(to the fork)

Okay, Sarge...I didn't hear
revellie...

VIRDON
(trying pleasantry)
Good morning...

As Kovak and Virdon stand, Anto still holding the pitchfork at a half ready position...we hear the cow MOOOO...loudly... next to them.

ANTO
Why did you sleep so close to the cow!?

KOVAK
Well, it was kind of late when we checked in...

VIRDON
(interrupting)
We meant your cow no harm...

ANTO
Ha! Humans are a hex to cows! Everyone knows that!

The cow MOOS again...they turn to it. Anto increasingly angry now...

ANTO
Five years I've waited for the bull calf! My own ox...to start my own farm! And nothing but heifers which go to the landlord!

KOVAK
Well look...put the stabber down, eh? Maybe this'll be your lucky year...

VIRDON
I don't understand...

ANTO
(distrust)
Hah...you understand. Poor farmers can keep only one heifer in four. And only a bull calf can be used to start a new farm.
(beat)
You are a bad omen.

The cow MOOOS again...almost anxiously...

ANTO (CONT.)
You hear? Now she may die in birth. If she does, I may kill you...

VIRDON
Hey...wait a minute.

ANTO
Remove the hex...move on...
today!

ANGLE ON DOOR - REMUS

Running in to them, bubbling with curiosity...and information...
and authority...

REMUS
Hey...you two!

KOVAK
(to Virdon)
Chees! The lieutenant...

VIRDON
Cool it...

REMUS
Galen is asking to see you.
He's awake now...

Kovak and Virdon start for the door...but Anto stops them
momentarily with the fork...

ANTO
Wait! Wash first. Bad enough
having humans in the house...
but wash first. There's a smell
about you...

On Virdon and Kovak's exchanged looks of surprise...

CUT TO:

INT. FARMHOUSE BEDROOM - DAY

This is probably Remus' room. Galen lies on a crude bunk,
awake and pleased to be alive. Zantes is just finishing a
new dressing. Polar stands, watching.

GALEN
That's very good. You've
done this before.

ZANTES
I once trained to be a nurse.
Until I met Polar...

POLAR
(a break for her)
Humph! City...no place to
raise a family...

ZANTES
(old argument)
Or even visit...?

POLAR
Some day.

ZANTES
Every time, the same answer.

POLAR
(reasons)
Anto needs his bull calf...
Remus hardly out of rompers...

Jillia enters, carrying a freshly fluffed new pillow of corn husks, probably, to stuff under Galen's head...doing it coyly, pleased at the presence of this young chimp...

POLAR (CONT.)
Jillia hasn't even sought out
a husband...

JILLIA
Daddy...!

She steps back, embarrassed.

ZANTES
(to Galen)
You won't be able to stand on
that for some time.

POLAR
How long?

ZANTES
Why...several days at least.

POLAR
I can't have those humans
hanging around. It's dangerous.
They've been known to kill
cows...just for the meat!

GALEN
Virdon and Kovak won't kill your
cows.

JILLIA
Where are they from...those
humans?

GALEN
From...another time period,
they say.

POLAR
Never heard of it...where's that?

ZANTES
Not now..he needs rest.

GALEN
You must let them stay. They'll
work for their keep.

POLAR
Work? Of course they'll work.
That's what they're for!

ZANTES
Well?

POLAR
I'll see.

He strides from the room.

ZANTES
(to Galen)
He means well. You'll see.

GALEN
Did you send for my friends?

ON JILLIA

A look of mild revulsion...

JILLIA
How can you keep calling them...
friends?

EXT. OUTDOOR SHOWER - NEAR BARN - DAY

Virdon is already drying himself as Kovak stands beneath the crude shower erected beneath a large wooden water tank mounted on a crude scaffold. A rough sheet of homespun cloth is strung across to hide the lower part of the bather...

VIRDON
Pretty good...maybe tomorrow
you can put in the hot water.

KOVAK
(enjoying)
Just like downtown. At least
they'll know the missionaries
have been through here...

ANOTHER ANGLE - TOWARD POLAR, ANTO, REMUS

approaching now from the house area. Viridon notices them. We can see Anto and Remus haranguing the father about something... and his gestures of understanding...and the fact that he's made a decision...

VIRDON

I think we've got to stand
inspection. Are you ready?

Kovak shuts off the water stream...wraps himself in a big absorbent cloth of crude weave...steps from the shower as the two astronauts await the arrival of the "inspection team".

THE SCENE

As Polar approaches with Remus. Anto, still angry, stands a few feet back.

POLAR

I have decided. You can stay
until your...friend...is well.
Or able to walk...

ANTO

(advancing)
No...!

POLAR

(a command)
Enough! I have said what my word
on this is! I do not change my
word!

ANTO

(still angry)
The cow is my say...they stay
away from the cow!

Anto strides angrily away and disappears behind the barn.

POLAR

He's right about that. The cow
is his say until the calf is born.

Viridon and Kovak exchange looks...a strange setup to them...

VIRDON

Anything you say.

POLAR

But you will work. Every day!
Just as though I could afford you.

KOVAK

Sure. We come cheap.

POLAR

Just as though I owned you!

Remus looks up at his father, delighted at the prospect of having a "slave" just like the rich folks...of his very own...

REMUS

I get one of them...one of them's mine.

POLAR

We'll see...

SHOOTING PAST THE GROUP TO A FAR ROAD - APPROACHING HORSEMAN
In the distance, we can see dust rising from the path of a man on horseback, riding toward the farm fast.

VIRDON

(pointing)

Who's that?

Polar turns, shields his eyes to see...doesn't like it.
Turns back, a worried look...

POLAR

Mounted Patrol.

(beat)

Are you sure you are not
escaped bonded slaves....?

VIRDON

No, Sir. I pledge you that.
We are free humans...

POLAR

(uncertain)

Never heard of such a thing.

(beat)

All right...hide back there.
I'll talk to him.

Kovak and Virdon hurry for a hiding place back toward the other barn buildings...as Polar and Remus start walking back toward the front of the house.

SHOT - THE SCENE IN FRONT OF THE HOUSE

Polar and Remus walking toward it as the horseman, an official looking, uniformed MOUNTED PATROLMAN, comes thundering up to them on horseback, stopping. He does not dismount. A gorilla with a surly attitude.

PATROL GORILLA

Who's farm is this?

POLAR

This is Polar's farm. I am
Polar.

ANGLE ON HOUSE

As Zantes emerges at the sound, coming toward them.

PATROL GORILLA
(derisive snort)
Listen well, Polar. I'm from
the patrol post...looking for
escaped bonded slaves...two of
them. Have you seen them?

ANOTHER ANGLE- TOWARD ANTO

Just walking up to hear this...an interested look...he appears
about to say something...but his mother interrupts.

ZANTES
Humans?

PATROL GORILLA
Of course, humans. What else?

ZANTES
We are just poor tenant
farmers. What would we be
doing with bonded humans?

PATROL GORILLA
(glance around)
If you see them...report
immediately. You know the
penalty.

POLAR
We know the penalty.

ANTO
Is there a reward?

All eyes on Anto now.

PATROL GORILLA
Well, now...you know something?

An uneasy beat...as Anto catches the stern warning glance
of his father.

ANTO
No. I just thought I might
look...if there was a reward.

PATROL GORILLA
(glancing around)
Oh? You wouldn't have a horse
around here, would you?

POLAR
(nervously)
No, no...no one here has ever
touched a horse...never gone
near one.

PATROL GORILLA
(gloating on his
mount)
You leave the patrolling to us.
If you see a stray human...
report at once!

Polar nods...as the Patrol Gorilla spurs his mount ahead and gallops away.

INT. BARN - SHOOTING PAST VIRDON AND KOVAK TOWARD HOUSE

As they peer out the door to see the horseman leaving.

KOVAK
Doesn't look like one of
Ursus' men.

VIRDON
Don't kid yourself. He's some
kind of local patrol. But
they're all Ursus' men.

On their exchanged looks of deep concern, we hear the uncomfortable MOOO of the cow nearby...and see Kovak turn to her...

KOVAK
Don't tell me your troubles,
baby...we've got our own
problems...

FADE OUT.

END OF ACT ONE

ACT TWO

FADE IN:

EXT. BADLY ERODED HILLSIDE CROPLAND - WIDE SHOT - DAY

A scene of heavy farmwork under way. Anto, with an ox hitched to a crude plow, is making one of several vertical furrows, coming down the sloping hill now toward Polar and Virdon who are carrying unearthed boulders from the rugged field to a fencerow of boulders which have been plow-breakers over the years.

ANGLE ON VIRDON AND POLAR

As they throw their rocks onto the growing pile. Polar looking with satisfaction at Virdon as good help...much needed.

VIRDON

Rocks. No end to them. The earth keeps breathing them up, the plow keeps banging into a fresh stock every year.

POLAR

How do you know?

VIRDON

Oh, I know. I lifted half the rocks in Jackson County when I was a boy.

POLAR

You keep talking strange. There is no such place.

VIRDON

There was.

Polar shakes his head...looks back to the field Anto is plowing.

POLAR

It's a bad field. But we need it. Every foot we need.

SHOOTING PAST THEM TO THE HILLSIDE

Showing eroded gullies cutting deeply into it.

VIRDON

It's going to get worse every year if you keep plowing it like that.

POLAR

What?

Virdon steps to the rock pile and picks up a large earthen jug of water they have brought to the field.

VIRDON
Come on...I'll show you.

LONG ON THE SCENE

Virdon leads Polar to the plowed area at which Anto is just arriving with the ox and plow...laboring.

SHOT - THE NEAR AREA OF THE PLOWED GROUND

Virdon stops at the freshly turned earth. Anto notices... lays the reins on the plow and walks over to see what's going on, inquisitively...

CLOSE ON THE THREE

Virdon kneels, smoothing out a piece of the fresh earth... then making vertical lines in it...

VIRDON
Look...when you plow up and down
that hill like you're doing now...
(pouring water
from jug onto
earth)
Every time it rains...it washes
more of your topsoil off...
(pointing)
Look...see...you start getting
gullies...
(glancing up at
eroded hill)
They get so deep...they steal
your land...you have to work
around them.

ANTO
Playing in mud!

Virdon moves over slightly...smoothes out another small patch...

VIRDON
Now...if you'd plow around the
hill instead...like this...
(making small
horizontal furrows)
every time it rained...
(pouring water)
the furrows would hold the
water...it wouldn't run off
with the rich soil on top...
and no gullies. See?

Polar kneels for a close look, amazed at the simple experiment.

POLAR
(to Anto)
Look...see...it's true!

ANTO
It's foolishness. Everyone
knows plowing down the hill
is the oxen's rest from plowing
up it. Foolishness.

Polar stands, pleased with this discovery despite Anto.

POLAR
You learned this where?

VIRDON
My family owned a farm...when
I was a youngster.

A quizzical look of disbelief from Polar. But then
determination...to Anto...

POLAR
We'll plow around...like he says.

Anto is enraged at this.

ANTO
Then he'll plow around...I'll
have no part in it!

Anto storms away from them in anger, Virdon giving him a
disappointed look.

POLAR
Don't mind him. He is worried
about the bull calf. It's much
on his mind.
(to the field)
Show me...I'll try.

VIRDON
Easy.

POLAR
(slyly)
But you lie, don't you?

VIRDON
(puzzled)
Lie? No...you'll see.

POLAR
About your family owning a farm.
Only apes ever own farms...then

(MORE)

POLAR (CONT.)
 only the rich ones who have
 friends in the government.

On Virdon's resigned look...at what's come to pass...

CUT TO:

EXT. SMALL PASTURE LOT - CLOSE ON RAIL FENCE UNDER CONSTRUCTION -
 DAY

Kovak carrying another rail from a pile he's split to insert
 on top of the third interlocking section he's constructing.
 Remus (his boss) has now had enough of this and is prancing
 around vehemently behind Kovak...protesting...

REMUS
 No...no...no! Stop! I
 order you to stop!

Kovak carries the rail to position, sets it on, and turns
 to the tirading Remus...

KOVAK
 Look...lieutenant...I can't
 work with you shouting at me
 all the time...savvy?

REMUS
 That's the wrong kind of fence!

KOVAK
 Show me a bale of barbed wire
 and I'll build you a proper one.
 Right now...this is the best I
 can do.

REMUS
 Poles! Set up and down...stuck
 in the ground...like that!

He points and we PAN to a fence on the near far side...half
 fallen, made from sapling poles poked upright in the ground
 like a miniature, flimsy fort.

KOVAK'S VOICE
 Come on, Remus...you work a month
 of Sundays to put up a stick
 fence like that and the first
 time old Bessie rubs against it,
 it falls in.

BACK TO KOVAK AND REMUS

As Kovak points out the "advantages" of the rail fence he's
 building. Grabbing a lower rail...

KOVAK

Now you take a rail fence like
this...locked tight...bull
strong...last a lifetime...and
pleasing on the eye.

Remus eyes the fence suspiciously...

REMUS

Fences never last long...they're
not supposed to.

KOVAK

That's where you're wrong,
lieutenant.

REMUS

I'm not wrong. I'm the boss.
You can't talk to me like that.

KOVAK

Sorry, Boss...I just think this
kind of fence will grow on you.
(a thought)
For instance...you ever want to
move it...if Polar wants it over
there, say...you just take it
apart...and put it together again.

Remus finds this idea instantly interesting...

REMUS

Hey...is that right?

KOVAK

Would I lie to you?

Remus steps to the fence, kicks a solid lower rail...testing...
then easily lifts the top rail...portability. Kovak watching,
interested at this young ape's reaction to this "modern fence".
Pleased with the fence...but still asserting his authority...
Remus steps back from the fence.

REMUS

I've decided. It's a good job.

KOVAK

Thank you, boss.

REMUS

Get back at it.

Kovak starts wearily back for the pile of rails...Remus
tagging along...

REMUS

Who taught you to build a
fence like that?

AT THE PILE OF RAILS

Kovak lifting another one, deciding to take two...heavily.

KOVAK
Abraham Lincoln.

REMUS
I'd like to meet this Abraham
Lincoln.

CLOSE ON KOVAK'S FACE

straining under the load, his eyes turn heavenward...

KOVAK
So would I, Massa...so would I.

CUT TO:

INT. URSUS' OFFICE - CENTRAL APE COMMUNITY - DAY

Gorilla Two, from the original pursuit group, is reporting to URSUS, head of the ape military and police forces, who is pacing with authoritarian anger, barking at his subordinate.

URSUS
The point is...you let them
get away!

GORILLA TWO
It became cloudy...we could
not follow them at night.

URSUS
Virdon...Kovak...and that traitor
Galen...they can see through the
clouds to the stars at night, I
suppose.

GORILLA TWO
It's like their eyes had arrows,
Sir.

URSUS
Cabbage Cores! Ignorant, hairless
savages!

GORILLA TWO
Yes, Sir.

Ursus walks to a big colored map on a wall, studying it.

URSUS
How long?

GORILLA TWO
Four days hard ride, Sir.

Ursus points to a location...

URSUS
That's all agrarian country.
Tenant farms...a few big
plantations.

GORILLA TWO
Yes, Sir.

URSUS
Some horses in that area.
They could steal horses.

GORILLA TWO
It's death for a peasant or a
human to ride a horse there, Sir.

Ursus turns to the Gorilla, smiling, sinister.

URSUS
Yes. I know.
(beat)
You know the way back?

GORILLA TWO
Yes...but it will be slow. The
weather is covering the stars
again. Many nights in a row.

URSUS
Then the gods will guide us.
These humans are dangerous!

CUT TO:

EXT. POLAR BARN - NEAR A HAY WAGON - DAY

Anto and Polar, both with pitchforks, stand near the hay-filled wagon, a crude wooden-wheeled vehicle, not too large...as Virdon is completing a mysterious task of rigging a sling around the entire load.

ANTO
Enough of this...trickery!
If he's too lazy to pitch the
hay into the barn...I'll do it.

Anto starts for the wagon but Polar restrains him.

POLAR
Wait...if it's a trick...I
want to see the trick.

ANTO

Make an ox pitch hay into the barn? Isn't that enough to convince you he's not right in the mind?

ANGLE ON VIRDON

At the wagon, tightening a rope of the sling he has arranged beneath the entire small load of hay. He looks up at the other rope hanging from a specially rigged roller pulley he has fastened at the peak of the barn over the big open door to the mow.

SHOOTING TOWARD OX

Standing away from the load a few feet, one end of the lift rope already fastened to its yoke.

ON VIRDON

As he climbs the wagon to secure the other end of the lift rope to the top of the gathered sling. He ties a quick knot... jumps down...and comes to Polar and Anto.

THE SCENE

VIRDON

(pleased)

Ready?

POLAR

Anto says it's a trick.

VIRDON

Well it is, in a way.

(pointing up,
explaining)

You see...one small wheel drives another wheel four times its size...giving your ox there the strength of four...enough strength to pull many times the weight of this load of hay up into the barn in a single stroke!

ANTO

You have been playing with rope tricks to get out of work...

(to Polar)

You'll see.

VIRDON

(to Anto)

Not true, Anto. I'm only trying to show you how you can do more work with less time and effort.

ANTO

Work is meant to be work!
Hay is meant to be pitched!
By the forkful.

VIRDON

Drive the ox ahead.

ANTO

No...I'll not have a hand in
killing my father's ox.

A beat, Polar studies the face of Virdon for any trace of
deceit. Seeing none...

POLAR

I'll do it.

Polar walks to the ox, picking up a stick switch, then looks
back a questioning beat at the load. Then he taps the ox
slightly on the flank...

POLAR

Giddap there....giddap there...

The ox moves slowly ahead and the entire load of hay is lifted
smoothly up into the opening and pulled into the mow of the
barn! Polar looks at the feat as though it were magic...
hurries back to congratulate Virdon...slapping him on the back...

POLAR

Very good...hah! Very, very
good! Show me how to make
thetrick work.

VIRDON

Easy...I'll show you.

POLAR

(to Anto)

You saw! Isn't that better
than forking a whole load of
hay one fork at a time? Heh?
Come on Anto...agree?

Anto continues to look at the mow opening and we see he is on
the verge of agreeing...a big success for Virdon...but the
possibility is short lived...as we hear a loud and PAINFUL
MOOING coming from the barn. Anto races for the barn, fearful
of the sound from the prize cow...Virdon and Polar following...

INT. BARN - THE COW STALL

As Anto arrives to see the cow lying down, not chewing its cud...
its head hanging as though ill. It now lets out a low MOO as
though hurting. Virdon and Polar arrive at the stall on the
heels of Anto who is now kneeling, holding the head of the cow
which can be the fountain of his independence...if only...

ANTO
 (angrily to Polar)
 You see...she must have already
 eaten some hay that fell in here
 from that...evil device! You
 see? She's dying...I know it.
 They are a hex...I told you!

Polar looks to Virdon for some "explanation" of why this is
 not so...he's heard humans are dangerous to cattle, too.

POLAR
 Anto makes a strong argument...

Virdon, with understanding, steps by Polar and into the stall....
 and we see him make a quick, quite professional examination...
 gently pushing the cow's extended belly with his closed fist...
 back and forth...then standing. He turns to Polar.

VIRDON
 How soon is she expected to
 calf?

POLAR
 Three weeks...three weeks, I
 think.

Virdon gives Polar a reassuring smile.

VIRDON
 I think your calendar is a little
 off. More like two or three days.
 She'll be off her feed for awhile...
 that's all.

POLAR
 Are you sure?

ANTO
 It's a lie! Throw them all out
 now...or she will die!

VIRDON
 The cow is not going to die, Anto.

ANTO
 You carry evil omens...in that
 thing around your neck. I know
 it.

Virdon fingers the micro-tape reel in the locket sized
 container on a chain around his neck. Polar glances at it.

POLAR
 Is that true?

VIRDON

No. We can't leave until Galen can walk. By that time...your cow here will be a happy mother... and we will be just as happy to be on our way. You must believe me. Have I shown you anything evil yet?

POLAR

It's a big risk.

(beat thinking)

But Anto is the eldest son and the cow is in his charge until she gives birth. You may stay... but if anything happens to the cow...your fate will be up to Anto.

CUT TO:

INT. FARM LIVING ROOM - NIGHT

Around the glowing fireside of the crude but warm room. Kovak sits near the hearth, sketching something on a rough board, like a design for a windmill. Zantes is helping Jillia make a garment of cloth, sitting in a chair near the fire. Across from her, Polar is mending a harness rope, weaving the loose ends. Remus sits near his mother's side, shelling corn from small corn ears he's taking from a bag, into a clay pot. Virдон returns from the cot on the far side of the room where Galen is lying...to sit on the floor near Remus, watching...

VIRDON

Remus...I thought you said you were shelling corn for seed!

REMUS

I am...

(talking to Kovak)

Kovak should be doing it.

KOVAK

Hey, have a heart...time off for good behavior, eh?

POLAR

(not looking up)

Remus will shell the corn. The youngest son prepares the seed.

Virдон reaches into the bag, probes around a second and brings out an ear of dried corn twice the size Remus is holding. To Remus...

VIRDON

Here...you should always use
seed from the best ears...not
the smallest.

Remus laughs...glances around to see if his family has heard
this absurdity.

REMUS

Did you hear that?

The others smile tolerantly at Virdon's "ignorance".

REMUS (CONT.)

(to Virdon)

The best ears are for feed
and flour. The little ears
are for seed.

VIRDON

Oh, I see.

(fishing)

Then it's the...bad spirits who
have been making the stalks in
the field smaller and smaller
every year?

Remus exchanges a look with his father...Virdon hit the
truth. Virdon detects it.

GALEN

(from his cot)

Virdon used to be a farmer when
he was young.

REMUS

Not much of a farmer. Wasting
big corn on seed.

VIRDON

Do you expect to be big and strong
like your father some day?

REMUS

Of course.

VIRDON

Ah...that's because Polar is good
seed. If your father were small
and puny...you probably wouldn't
grow big enough to wrestle a calf...
let alone an ox.

(hands the big ear
to Remus)

Each year...if you use the
biggest, best ears for seed...the
crop will get bigger and bigger.
You'll see.

As Virdon looks at the young Remus studying the ear, his mind travels back to similar nights around the fire with his own son. Tears well...and he goes to stand at the fire...

ZANTES

Is something the matter?

Virdon brushes a tear away, not to be seen. But Remus now notices, bewildered.

VIRDON

I...I was just remembering how
I once...sat around a fire
something like this...telling
my own son almost the same
thing.

(swallowing)

Chris...I wonder whatever became...
of the little guy...

CLOSE ON REMUS AND ZANTES

He tugs at his mother's sleeve, she leans to him.

REMUS

(whisper)

Is he crying....?

ZANTES

(whisper)

Well...they have feelings, too...
just like us. Now hush.

Remus glances at the big astronaut, then back at his ear of corn.

CUT TO:

EXT. MOUNTED PATROL HEADQUARTERS - CORRAL - NIGHT

A gorilla PATROL RIDER, just coming off duty, is giving his mount a WHACK, urging him into the corral which he now closes. The uniformed Gorilla now turns to someone...

PATROL RIDER

Why are you so interested in
runaway bonded humans? You
couldn't afford to buy one...

WIDEN ON SCENE

We see a nearly exhausted Anto standing there, having run most of the night...

ANTO

Oh no...I just wondered if there
was a...reward for helping you
find one...or two.

PATROL RIDER
 Reward? Of course not. Why?
 Do you know where some are?

ANTO
 I thought maybe you could tell
 me what they...look like.

PATROL RIDER
 All humans look alike, you
 know that.

ANTO
 Maybe...I would go hunting for
 them...if it would pay enough
 to...buy a new bull calf.

PATROL RIDER
 You peasants are all the same.
 You want to get paid for doing
 your duty. You'll get paid
 it you don't...with death!

SHOOTING PAST THEM TOWARD HEADQUARTERS BUILDING - AN APPROACHING
 PATROL GORILLA

As the Patrol Rider turns away from Anto and heads toward
 the building.

PATROL RIDER
 Now move on...unless you want
 to be arrested for loitering
 around horses.

MOVING WITH THE GORILLA

as he meets his comrade on the path, stops. The comrade is
 the Patrol Gorilla we saw earlier at the Polar farm...he looks
 inquisitively toward Anto.

REVERSE ANGLE - TOWARD ANTO

PATROL GORILLA
 Who is that?

PATROL RIDER
 (a snort)
 Some back country farmer.
 Thinks we ought to be giving
 a bounty on bonded humans this
 year.

PATROL GORILLA
 He looks familiar. I've seen
 him in the last few days.

Anto moves off into the dark.

PATROL RIDER
Some distance, I'd say. He
looked like he'd been running
half the night.

ON THE PATROL GORILLA

He gets a sinister look...of suspicion...

PATROL GORILLA
Hmmm. Looking for bounty, you
say?

PATROL RIDER'S VOICE
Reward he said.

PATROL GORILLA
Uh-huh. I think it will pay to
have him followed.

FADE OUT.

END OF ACT TWO

ACT THREE

FADE IN:

EXT. POLAR BARN - LONG SHOT

To ESTABLISH

INT. BARN - THE COW STALL - POLAR AND ANTO - DAY

The cow is still lying down, making low grunting sounds of pain. Anto is extremely worried...and Polar is concerned.

ANTO

She'll die! Then what will I
do...wait for another heifer to
freshen...another three years...
four years...

POLAR

Virdon says she'll be all right.

ANTO

Sure...who's helped you plow
the fields and harvest the crops
all these years...Virdon?

POLAR

He seems to know about these
things.

ANTO

He's turned your mind...with
clever talk and tricks learned
from some...human...demon doctor.

(beat)

This cow is dying from their hex.
She started dying the day they
walked in here...carrying that
human lover...Galen!

The coincidence is strong for Polar.

POLAR

I'll have a talk with them.

ANTO

Galen can stand...I've seen him.

Polar looks surprised.

ANTO

They're staying so the cow will
die, I tell you. Humans burn
the flesh and eat it...you've
heard tell of that!

POLAR
You say Galen can stand?

CUT TO:

INT. FARMHOUSE BEDROOM - DAY

Galen is standing, weakly, with the aid of a crutch, experimenting a few moments at a time. As Jillia enters the room, carrying a water jug.

JILLIA
Not too much at one time.
You'll break open the wound,
mother says.

Galen eases himself back on his cot, pleased.

GALEN
It's feeling better. The pain
has turned to itching. A good
sign. Virdon and Kovak will be
surprised...when I walk right
out to them...

JILLIA
Not quite yet.
(beat)
I don't understand you anyway.
You must have come from a good
family. And now you're running
with...humans...who have filled
your mind with some la-de-da.

GALEN
It's not la-de-da, Jillia. I've
studied some of the taboo scrolls
...forbidden knowledge. I think
there might be truth in their
story...about coming from another
age...evidence has been found...

JILLIA
I don't want to hear it!

GALEN
All right.

JILLIA
What other age?

Galen laughs at her female inquisitiveness.

GALEN
Never mind. It's dangerous to
know. Even I can't go back.

JILLIA
Ever?

GALEN
Afraid not.

JILLIA
(pleased)
Then you'll just have to stay
until you're well enough to
go on.

CUT TO:

EXT. A DITCH NEAR A LOW FIELD - CLOSE ON KOVAK - DAY

Watching water start to pour from a tube that is draining the low marshy ground adjacent, into the ditch. A pleased look as we WIDEN ON SCENE to show Remus applauding the sight... and Polar approaching with Anto. Kovak stands...proud of his engineering feat...

POLAR
Kovak...I must talk with you
and Virdon...
(noticing pouring
water)
What is this!?

REMUS
(excited)
See...a whole new field, we'll
have...a whole new field.

POLAR
Silence! What's going on here?

KOVAK
Well, it ain't exactly the Panama
Canal...but I'm draining the
water off that low marshy field
for you.

Polar looks back at the marshy field.

ANTO
That field is no good but a
hiding place for snakes.

KOVAK
It will be. Probably the best
field on your farm as soon as
it's drained...dry enough to
plow and plant. Good rich soil
you've never been able to use
before.

Polar kneels near the flowing water tube...touches the water coming from it...amazed.

POLAR
Some new...magic...

REMUS
(knowing something else)
Wait'll you see...wait'll you see!

POLAR
Be still.

KOVAK
Just a little...engineering...
I once learned...

ANTO
You see...he admits it!
Engineering...

REMUS
No...no...

Remus begins tugging excitedly at his father's arm...to follow...

REMUS
Wait'll you see the rest...
father...come on...come on!

Polar, bewildered, is tugged away by his son toward an area on the other side of the ditch toward high ground, behind trees. A glance back at the mysterious water flow...a proud Kovak and an angry Anto following.

CUT TO:

EXT. THE HIGHER FIELD - CLOSE ON VIRDON - DAY

He's just fastening the last slat in a windmill wheel, sitting beside the base of a windmill tower constructed of bound saplings. He looks up as he hears the VOICES coming.

THE SCENE

Remus tugging his father toward Virdon, the others close behind.

REMUS
Tell them Virdon...tell them
what you're making...a windymill...

VIRDON
Windmill.

REMUS
I said...windmill.

KOVAK
This will be the other half of
your irrigation system, Polar.

POLAR

Speak plain.

KOVAK

Well, when Virdon's through
with that wheel...it goes
up there.

(looking up)

The wind will make it turn...

(pointing back
to ditch)

and we'll pump that water out
of the ditch...and onto the
dry ground up here where you
need it when it doesn't rain.

This is too much for an enraged Anto...

ANTO

You see! Making oxen lift hay
that should be pitched...now...
conjuring up the wind to...make
water pour where it shouldn't.
It's unnatural! No wonder the
cow is dying! Tell them!

Polar is utterly confused.

POLAR

Anto says he has seen your
friend...Galen stand.

Virdon and Kovak exchange looks...news to them.

POLAR

If this is so...you must go.

ANTO

Yes! It's true! He stands.

Remus begins a loud protest...

REMUS

They can't go now...not until
they finish...so I can see it
work...no...no...

POLAR

It's not for you to say...the
youngest has no say.

REMUS

I do have a say...I have a say.
Anto is only worrying about a
bull calf.

ANTO

Wait till your time comes to
worry...

REMUS

I want to learn bigger things...
like this. They can't leave
now...not until I see it work.
Please...please?

Polar looks at the wierd structure of the windmill, strange
to his eyes...the mystery of his youngest "rebellling"...the
pressure of Anto...too much for him..as he throws up his
hands in defeat and leaves...

POLAR

Stay...leave...stay...go...
my mistake was being a father...
do what you want...I just live
here from now on...

As he walks away, Anto joining him...in fading AD LIB protests
from Anto and non-commital refusals to listen from Polar...
Remus jumping up and down in delight now with...

REMUS

Yea...yea...stay...stay...

ON VIRDON AND KOVAK

KOVAK

I think we've got ourselves
in the middle of a family
brawl, Buddy.

VIRDON

Anto could be trouble. That
mounted patrol was looking for
escaped laborers...but he didn't
look fussy who he turned in...
as long as they were human.

KOVAK

Sitting in some hick country
ape jail ain't my idea of a
good way to spend my old age.

VIRDON

I think we'd better have a talk
with Galen. So he can stand,
can he?

CUT TO:

INT. FARMHOUSE BEDROOM - VIRDON, KOVAK
AND GALEN - DAY

Virdon and Kovak giving Galen a friendly, accusing look
as they see him standing now on his crude crutch...

GALEN

I stood for several minutes
today...

KOVAK

(to Virdon)

Several minutes...how do you
like that...and we're supposed
to be friends...

GALEN

I wanted to surprise you.

VIRDON

Anto is chomping at the bit to
get us out of here...

GALEN

Apes don't chomp at bits!

VIRDON

Sorry...he's anxious that we
leave. And I think we'd better
accomodate him...or he may get
some idea of turning us in...
just to get rid of us.

KOVAK

Maybe we should have a few
words with that cussed cow!
Give her a dose of epsom salts
and get this whole business
cleared up.

VIRDON

If the calf isn't a bull...we'll
still be blamed.

GALEN

If the cow dies, Anto is
entitled to kill you.

KOVAK

I'm sure glad he knows his rights.

GALEN

If you could just give me two,
three more days...I'm healing
fast now.

VIRDON

We could carry you. But as soon
as we leave here....Ursus or that
mounted patrol is going to pick
up our trail. We'll be chased.
If we could only get to some
horses...I take it this isn't
horse country.

GALEN

Only landed apes and police
can ride horses here. Farmers
must walk...or ride cows or oxen.

KOVAK

Keep 'em poor and barefoot.

Viridon sits on a chair, perplexed.

VIRDON

We'll just have to sit it out,
I guess. See whether that cow...
or Galen here...makes it first.

CUT TO:

EXT. FARMHOUSE - A COVERED WORK AREA - POLAR AND ZANTES - DAY

Zantes is just pulling two loaves of bread from a brick oven,
sitting them on a table where a brooding Polar sits...poking
his finger into some strange yellow stuff in an earthen crock...

POLAR

I'll be glad when they're
all grown up and gone.

ZANTES

No way for a father to talk.
Shame.

Polar looks at the yellow stuff on his finger.

POLAR

What's this?

ZANTES

Viridon calls it...butter. You
put milk in a barrel...and churn
it...and churn it...and it comes
out like that.

POLAR

Milk is to drink...not to eat.

Zantes pulls a heel off a loaf of warm bread, scoops it
across the top of the butter crock...

ZANTES

Taste. Then tell me if you're
so smart...

He takes a bite...liking it...as Zantes watches...

POLAR

Mmmmmmm.

ZANTES

See?

Polar becomes glum, even at this new discovery.

POLAR

Since they came...I don't know anything anymore. Now I suppose they're turning your head...by making milk turn the color of those necklaces the rich farmers wives wear...

ZANTES

Don't be silly. My head doesn't turn so easily. Besides...there must be some good in them...to work so hard in exchange for the care of Galen.

POLAR

Galen...that's what happens when you grow up in the center city. Start running with humans.

ZANTES

These humans are not a bad sort. Not like some I've heard about.

POLAR

Maybe not. But I don't want Jillia around them. Do you hear?

ZANTES

Well, of course...what do you take me for?

CUT TO:

EXT. SHOWER - KOVAK - DAY

Drenched, sudsing himself and singing off key...the top of his bare body visible...

KOVAK

Maiden girls...with golden curls...set my foolish mind
awhirl...la, la, la...

REVERSE ANGLE - LONG FROM A FAR HILL - THE PATROL GORILLA

Squinting into the sun, his hand shielding his eyes...and we can see in his POV, Kovak, faintly, in the shower near the barn.

ON PATROL GORILLA

As he stands, confident he has seen what he came for...hurries to his horse...and gallops off in a direction away from the farm.

CUT TO:

EXT. BARN - LONG SHOT - DAY

In an ESTABLISHING SHOT, we hear Anto's loud yell....

ANTO

No...no...no...

And the start of a LOW, HOLLOW BELL being rung.

INT. BARN - THE COW STALL

Anto on his knees near the stall now, filled with grief...striking a ceramic bell with a wooden mallet. The cow is lying on her side, hardly moving. Anto weaves to and fro...moaning.

ANGLE ON DOOR

Virdon and Kovak rush in...followed by Polar, Remus...Zantes and Jillia...

POLAR

It's her time...the tolling of the bell...

ANTO

She's dying...she's dying...

THE SCENE

As the others hold back, Virdon rushes into the stall, somewhat alarmed at the condition of the cow.

ANGLE ON VIRDON

Making a quick diagnosis of the cow's predicament. Stands...a very worried look. Kovak comes to him.

KOVAK

(low to Virdon)
Trouble, Doc?

VIRDON

If I remember what the vet used to do...

KOVAK

Try hard. I've got a feeling we don't want to lose this patient.

Polar and Zantes move to comfort their son...but he pushes them away...continuing to toll the bell...with a sad futility we can see by his parents' faces...

ANTO

Dying...dying...she's dying...

Viridon kneels down by Anto...

VIRDON

Look...Anto...listen to me.

ANTO

Dying...dying...

VIRDON

The cow is giving premature birth...and she's suffering because the calf is turned. Do you hear me...?

CLOSE ON THEIR FACES

As Anto looks into the face of Viridon...he explodes with rage...shoving Viridon backwards...springing to his feet...dropping the bell and leaping for a pitchfork...which he now turns with on Viridon...

ZANTES

Anto...stop...

THE SCENE

Polar holds her back...Remus and Jillia step back in fright. Kovak is waved back by Viridon as Anto advances on him slowly, threateningly with the pitchfork...

ANTO

You...you have done this...

POLAR

Wait! The cow is not dead... you cannot claim a life yet...

Anto remembers the "rule" restraining his impulse to kill Viridon immediately...but holding the pitchfork menacingly close to his neck...

VIRDON

The cow needn't die. I can help. The calf must be turned around...

ANTO

No! You've worked your last trick of demon magic here! When she dies...you will die...

ANGLE ON DOOR - GALEN

Entering, with effort, hobbling on his single crutch.

GALEN

Anto...stop.

WIDE ON SCENE

Anto doesn't even look back...

ANTO

Come in...you human lover...
and see what you've done.

Galen hobbles forward a few steps...

GALEN

Blame me, then. It was my wound
that brought them here. We'll
leave...now. We'll all leave...

POLAR

You hear, Anto...they'll leave.

ANTO

No one will leave...until this
is all over...one way or another.
Toll the bell, Remus...it is
probably too late...but toll
the bell.

Remus cautiously walks over and picks up the ceramic bell...
and starts to toll it slowly, strangely, as Anto still holds
Virdon pinned with the pitchfork.

CUT TO:

EXT. GORILLA PATROL HEADQUARTERS - DAY

The returned Patrol Gorilla is talking his OFFICER GORILLA.

OFFICER GORILLA

If you saw one...why didn't
you bring him in.

PATROL GORILLA

I thought there might be more...

OFFICER GORILLA

Since when are a few humans too
much for a single Mounted Patrol?

PATROL GORILLA

(to save face)

Many more...a good catch maybe.

OFFICER GORILLA
Standing beneath a stream of
water, you say...are you sure
you haven't been sipping too
much of the fermented apple
juice?

PATROL GORILLA
Not a drop. It's as I say.

OFFICER GORILLA
All right...I'll return with
you...how far?

PATROL GORILLA
Two hours ride. The Polar farm.
But shouldn't we wait until
dark? If they try to run, humans
are easier to see in the dark.

OFFICER GORILLA
If you're too tired...

PATROL GORILLA
No, Sir...

OFFICER GORILLA
Prepare the mounts. If farmer...
Polar...has been hiding humans...
I'd like to hang him while it's
still daylight!

FADE OUT.

END OF ACT THREE

ACT FOUR

FADE IN:

EXT. BARN - LONG SHOT - DAY

ESTABLISHING SHOT and the TOLLING of the ceramic bell by Remus says the tense vigil is still going on inside.

INT. BARN - THE SCENE

Remus kneels in the open area of the barn floor, gently ringing the dull bell. Galen has hobbled closer to the cow's stall near where Anto still holds Virdon uncomfortably pinned by the menacing pitchfork. Polar and his wife and daughter stand back, mute witnesses to a scene of fear, tradition, superstition...

VIRDON

Polar...talk sense to him...

Kovak speaks a familiar kind of "code" to Virdon...

KOVAK

Say the word...and I'll commit
a clipping penalty that'll just
about get us the fifteen yards
through the door...

VIRDON

No...what about Galen?

KOVAK

Between us...in a five legged
race...

VIRDON

No...what good is that going
to do the cow?

KOVAK

You're six inches from being
skewered, Buddy, I'd let the
cow worry about herself...

Polar steps forward...Remus stops tolling the bell at his father's move...

POLAR

Anto...I don't think there is a
need for the fork. They will
not run.

ANTO

Why won't they run?

POLAR

Because Galen can't run with them. They have a strong feeling for him. Or they would have left him to die.

GALEN

That's right...I'm their friend.

KOVAK

We're going to have a talk about that later...

Anto pulls the fork away from Virdon's throat, steps back, with a firm new intent...

ANTO

Very well. Let them run.
(to Galen)
If anything happens...you will answer for it.

Virdon breathes a bit easier...but there's still work to do...

VIRDON

Look...Anto...I can help the cow live. I've seen veterinarians do it a dozen times. If you'll only let me help...

ANTO

No!

VIRDON

Polar...do you want this cow to die?

POLAR

At birthing time, the fate of the cow is in the hands of the oldest son...I have no say now.

Zantes steps forward...a little angry...

ZANTES

Who says you have no say! Old words...of father's fathers...passed down so long we don't even know if they're right...

POLAR

Be still. You'll utter a heresy in front of the young ones!

ZANTES

I won't be still. And it's
Remus and Jillia I'm thinking
of.

(to Anto)

Anto...listen. You have seen
these humans show how to keep
hills from washing away in the
rain. You have seen them create
...cropland...from fields an ox
would drown in. You want this
calf...and the bell asks that
it be a bull. Let Virdon help
you...

Virdon makes a turn toward the stall but Anto is having none
of it...he raises the fork again...

ANTO

No! They've loosened my mother's
tongue with that yellow salve
they make by casting a spell on
milk. You will not touch the cow.

Kovak moves closer to Virdon as Zantes realizes her woman's
word is useless here just now...

KOVAK

Al...what are the odds...you
sure you can pull this off?

VIRDON

No. But I'm sure this expectant
mother will die if she isn't
helped.

KOVAK

I like the odds better your way.
Get ready to operate, Doc...
I'm taking us a hostage...

And with a whirl...Kovak spins and grabs young Remus off the
floor in one swoop...

KOVAK (CONT.)

Come on bell-boy...

And lunges to the far side of the area with him, grabbing a
corn knife from the wall where he saw it hanging...holding
it to the throat of Remus. Shriekes of protest from Zantes
and Jillia, uncertain of Kovak's intent...as Anto starts at
Kovak with the fork...then holds back for fear of his young
brother's life.

KOVAK

Now you just put that toad
stabber down, Anto...or your
baby brother is never going
to live to see his own baby
bull born...

(to Virndon)

Get to work, Doc...I can't
hold the lieutenant here all
night...

Anto drops the fork in temporary defeat, almost dumb with
anguish, stumbles back to the bell, falls on his knees...
picks it up...as we see Virndon hurry into the stall with the
cow...

ON GALEN

As he hobbles the two steps to Anto, looking down...

GALEN

You want it to be a bull...
ring the bell...

ANTO

(looking up)
You won't get away...when this
is over...if I don't kill you...
the police will...I won't lie
to them again...

And he starts the slow ringing of the bell...

CUT TO:

EXT. RURAL ROAD - DAY

The galloping horses of the Officer Gorilla and Patrol Gorilla
come pounding by at ominous speed...in a PASS-BY...and we see
them covering ground fast as they ride out of frame...

CUT TO:

INT. BARN - CLOSE ON COW STALL - DAY

Virndon "discussing" the matter with the cow...

VIRDON

Okay, Sweetheart...now I'm going
to do mybest for you...and I want
you to do your best for me, eh...

ANGLE ON KOVAK AND REMUS

Kovak holding the young ape in a bear-hug grasp with his big arms, the corn knife handy...but not really threatening.

KOVAK

Hey...come on...forget the
bedside manner...get to work.

Remus looks protestingly up at Kovak...and in a soft voice.

REMUS

Don't hold me so tight...I'm
not going anywhere...I want to
see!

Kovak looks down at his young captive with surprise.

KOVAK

Huh?

REMUS

I'm on your side, you dumb ox.
I want to see...

Kovak senses some responsibility at the display of trust from the young ape, covering it with a bruskeness...

KOVAK

(low)
Okay, Lieutenant...you watch.
(turning his head)
I get a little queasy in the
operating room.

ON POLAR

As he motions for Zantes and Jillia to stay back, walking with cautious curiosity to the cow stall where Virdon is working...turns to Galen, a worried question...

POLAR

Do you know if he can do this...
instruct a cow in the birthing
of a calf?

A beat, even Galen is a little uncertain...but reassuring...

GALEN

He's made a needle that can
see directions even on a cloudy
night. I think he can...direct
a calf into the world.

EXT. RURAL ROAD - URSUS AND GORILLA TWO - DAY

On their large mounts, riding at an easy walk in an OPPOSITE PASS-BY, as Gorilla Two notices something far ahead on the same road...he points...they both rein up.

SHOOTING THEM AND THEIR POV - THE FAR ROAD

The galloping horses of Officer Gorilla and Patrol Gorilla, coming their way.

GORILLA TWO
Mounted patrol...from some
outpost.

He appears ready to race toward them...Ursus barks!

URSUS
Sit erect! You're from head-
quarters!

GORILLA TWO
Yes, Sir.

URSUS
(ahead)
Field troops. Stupid sort.
(to Gorilla Two)
Straighten that mane. Hold
those reins up...

GORILLA TWO
Yes, Sir...

And Ursus starts slowly ahead, Gorilla Two following, with a certain air of a general and his aide about to strut into a front infantry area.

INT. BARN - ON KOVAK AND REMUS

Remus is standing away a pace from Kovak now...watching the scene in the cow stall intently, craning...and he's holding the corn knife, idly, harmless.

ANGLE ON ZANTES AND JILLIA

Noticing Remus is free...sensing he was never really in danger from this human. They smile. Glance to Anto who is unaware that his brother is no longer hostage.

ON KOVAK

KOVAK
(to Virdon)
How is it?

CLOSE ON VIRDON

His face drenched with perspiration, laboring with his task...

VIRDON
Worse than I thought...

KOVAK'S VOICE
How bad is that?

VIRDON
About twice as bad...

ON KOVAK

Resigned...on a mid-ocean raft that's sinking...

KOVAK
(to himself)
Just a quiet little bar in
Galveston...
(looking at Anto)
with a little bell over the
door...

CUT TO:

EXT. RURAL ROAD - DAY

SHOOTING PAST the strutting Ursus and Gorilla Two...the
approaching Officer Gorilla and Patrol Gorilla, arriving at
a fast gallop.

THE SCENE

As they meet, the galloping gorillas reining up, seeing the
uniforms of "superiors"...now behaving as subordinates...

OFFICER GORILLA
Sir!

URSUS
I am Ursus...headquarters.

Both subordinate Gorillas become almost rigid with military
respect and surprise...

BOTH
Sir!

Gorilla Two basks in the shared respect...

URSUS
Your horses are lathered. For
what reason?

OFFICER GORILLA
(importantly)
Escaped bonded humans, Sir.
(a nod)
Patrol here thinks he spotted
one on a farm near here...

PATROL GORILLA
 (proud)
 Standing under a stream of
 water...

He quiets at a chastening glance from his superior...

URSUS
 How far?

OFFICER GORILLA
 We're almost there, Sir.

URSUS
 We're hunting two escaped humans
 and a defector...enemies of the
 state.

OFFICER GORILLA
 Well, Sir...I doubt if...

URSUS
 (haughtily)
 If there are doubts...I will have
 them...after we've had a look...
 lead the way!

OFFICER GORILLA
 Yes, Sir...

With the regional Gorillas in the lead, the four gallop off
 in the direction of the Polar farm.

INT. BARN - CLOSE ON VIRDON - DAY

Perspiration still flowing...but a big smile now...

CLOSE ON POLAR

Eyes wide with disbelief

ON GALEN

The same...

ON KOVAK

Eyes closed in a count-down of the worst that can happen...as
 he hears...BAAAAAAA...of a baby calf...and his eyes open...
 just as he hears another BAAAAAAA, a different pitch...of a
second calf!

THE SCENE

As all but Anto rush to the stall...in delight and wonder...

AT THE STALL -

One lying, one just trying to stand...two baby bull calves...twins! Zantes and Jillia cry-giggling in relieved amazement...Remus with wide-eyed wonder...Polar and Galen exchanging pleased looks...as Virdon...exhausted...stands...wiping his hands on a piece of homespun.

ANGLE - PAST ANTO TO THE SCENE

As Kovak turns from the group to Anto...

KOVAK

Anto...have a look.

Anto gets up cautiously, weary with sustained grief...and walks to the stall.

ON ANTO AT THE STALL

As the others back away...this is Anto's big moment...his family happy for him. He looks in at the twin bull calves...blinks with disbelief...then...as ecstatic delight sweeps over him...crying with the delight of a sweepstakes winner...he falls on his knees near his calves...holding first one small head then another...crying, laughing, moaning with the largest single delight of his entire life...

ON KOVAK AND VIRDON

KOVAK

When you said twice as bad...

(watching Anto)

You're a genius, Virdon. I'll never knock a farm boy again. Twins.

VIRDON

And both bulls. I think the bell ringing may have had something to do with it...

EXT. BARN - WIDE ON SCENE

The four Gorilla horsemen come whomping into the area at a gallop, shaking the very ground with their arrival.

INT. BARN - THE SCENE

Jillia runs to the door to peek out a crack...as the others look up, frozen momentarily as the sound of POUNDING HOOVES, HORSES SNORTING...Jillia turns from the door...fear...

JILLIA

Police...all kinds...of police...

POLAR
 (to Kovak, Virdon)
 Hide...back there...
 (to his family)
 Come outside...quick...
 (when Anto hesitates)
 Anto...come...

Polar, Remus, Zantes, Jillia head out the door as Galen, hobbling, is helped by Kovak and Virdon into a back, hay-filled area of the barn.

EXT. BARN - THE SCENE

As Polar and his family, except Anto, now walk with the best surprise they can muster to the mounted police.

OFFICER GORILLA
 Polar...!

PATROL GORILLA
 (pointing)
 That's Polar!

Ursus and Gorilla Two sit back a pace on their mounts, stiffly, with supreme authority, as these regional Gorillas put on a display of severity...

ZANTES
 Why do you come riding through here...enough thunder to shake the turnips from the ground!

OFFICER GORILLA
 Shut up! Female!

ANGLE TOWARD BARN DOOR - ANTO

Just coming to join his family...

OFFICER GORILLA
 You are hiding escaped bonded humans, Polar!

POLAR
 No! That's a lie! He was through here before...

Polar points to the Patrol Gorilla...

OFFICER GORILLA
 Silence!

THE SCENE

PATROL GORILLA
 (pointing, sure)
 He was standing over there...
 under that...thing...

ANGLE TOWARD SHOWER

located near the barn and ZOOM IN ON SHOWER.

ON ANTO

Looking toward the shower...realizing what the spying Patrol
 must have seen...

THE SCENE

PATROL GORILLA
 One of them was standing under
 there...in a kind of rain...

And Anto CRACKS the tension with a doubling-up LAUGH! Laughing
 that now surprises not only the mounted Gorillas...but his
 own family as well...a moment when the family doesn't really
 understand Anto's unleashed feelings of glee...over the bull
 calves...or what...?

OFFICER GORILLA
 What's so funny, farmer? You won't
 laugh when Polar is hanging from
 a rope...

ANTO
 (between laughter)
 It was me! He saw me!

And he laughs again...walks to a big tub of freshly stoned
 off-white flour near the wall of a granary...

ANTO
 We are a poor farm family...
 would you deny us what little
 fun we can make for ourselves?

Anto reaches into the tub of flour for the big wooden scoop
 that's there...and starts dousing his hairy head and upper
 body with the flour...loads of it puffing over him...making
 him almost white...

ANTO
 See? See? I make the family
 laugh...white like a human, see...

Polar and his family, obliging and even somewhat genuinely...
 begin to laugh...

ANTO
 Then I walk around...like a
 straight-necked goose...like
 a human...see...

Anto starts strutting, his neck and back straight like he's
 seen humans walk...uncomfortably...and even the mounted
 Gorilla start to laugh...

ANTO
 (mimicing talk)
 I'll have a steak...and make
 it rare! Ha...ha...ha...

As the Gorilla's laugh at this imitation, along with the Polar
 family, Anto seeks to nail down the one last piece of
 "identification"

ANTO
 See...this is what he saw...my
 dressing room...where I take
 the make-up off...

And he hurries to the shower...

CLOSE ON ANTO IN SHOWER

A little uncertain how to use it...he pulls the cord...and
 is surprisingly drenched with water...standing under a
 "stream"...

ON THE GORILLAS

All have stopped laughing except the lowest ranked Patrol
 Gorilla...who continues until his superior shouts at him...

OFFICER GORILLA
 Fool!

Patrol Gorilla stops immediately. They appear ready to ride
 off as they see the now normal but wet looking Anto step
 from the shower...but Ursus is the thorough police...turning
 to Gorilla Two...

URSUS
 Search the barn! Eyes that
 deceive once...can deceive
 twice!

Gorilla Two jumps off his horse and strides officially by
 the Polar family and into the barn.

THE SCENE

Ursus, a menacing figure in his uniform and valuable horse,
 rides around the meek Polar family now in a circle, waiting...
 looking at them in a superior, threatening way...

URSUS

(to Anto)

A clown, eh? We'll see...

just as we hear two BAAAAAS from young calves...all eyes turn to the barn. A tense beat...and Gorilla Two emerges from the barn...shaking his head...announcing...

GORILLA TWO

No humans here, Sir. Two brand new calves...they would have eaten them if there were humans around.

The Gorilla Two remounts his horse...as Ursus rides up to the Officer Gorilla...

URSUS

(lowly to him)

Demote that Patrol. He has made fools of authority...

OFFICER GORILLA

Yes, Sir.

Ursus and his man ride off at a high gallop, in the lead this time...the Patrol Gorilla and his Officer following...we hear the Officer Ad-Libbing an oath at his stupid subordinate.

ANGLE ON THE POLAR FAMILY

Breathing a big sigh of relief...as Kovak, Virdon and Galen come from the barn to join them now, stray straws still clinging to them, revealing where they hid...

ON VIRDON

As Anto walks to him with head hung in shame for his actions inside earlier.

ANTO

Virdon...I...I'm sorry for how I acted to you in there. I just...couldn't believe.

(beat)

Thank you...very much.

VIRDON

I caught part of your act through a knothole there Anto. And if I hadn't seen it for myself...I wouldn't have believed that, either.

(beat)

I'd say we're about even.

WIDEN - TO INCLUDE REMUS

Just joining them...

ANTO

Will you show me...what you
did...in case I must know
some day?

REMUS

(a pro now)

Just ask me, Anto...I know...
I watched the whole thing...

Anto and Virdon glance down at the young Remus...big smiles...

CUT TO:

EXT. FARMHOUSE - NIGHT

Days later, a quite spry Galen with Virdon and Kovak are now
bidding the Polar family good-bye. Kovak carries a sack
which Zantes is now pointing to...

ZANTES

I put some bread in there...
with that solid gold milk on
it.

JILLIA

(to Galen)

Be careful of the leg...I don't
want you coming back here and...
laying around...for me to wait on.

GALEN

Oh?

She lowers her sad eyes from his smile.

ON VIRDON, POLAR AND ANTO

Standing to one side, watching as Virdon checks the compass...

POLAR

Where will you go?

VIRDON

West...used to be a good
direction. We'll try it
again.

He pockets the compass.

ANTO

(warmly)

Thank you, Virdon. I will
never forget you.

Virdon gives the big ape a friendly smile.

VIRDON
I'm not going to forget you
right away either, Anto.

He puts a hand on Anto's shoulder, pleased that the ape
doesn't shrink from this now...and we hear...from the barn...
distantly...two BAAAAA.....BAAAAAAS....

ANTO
I've named my bulls. One is
Kovak...one is Virdon...

As Kovak steps to them...

KOVAK
Just watch the heifers around
the one named Kovak...

They laugh...

VIRDON
Good-bye...good-bye...

Kovak and Galen ad-lib good-byes now...and the three fugitives
walk away from the front of the small farmhouse where they
had first come for help so many days before.

CUT TO:

EXT. FARM FIELD - CLOSE ON WINDMILL WHEEL - DAY

Turning in the wind...and PAN DOWN to see Polar and Remus
standing there...watching it...

THE SCENE BELOW

Polar and Remus are pleased by the sight of the strange device
making the wind work for them...as their attention is drawn
away by the sound of HOOVES...an approaching horse...

SHOOTING TOWARD HORSEMAN - THE PATROL GORILLA

Rides up to them, stops. No words in exchange...Polar has
won out over this Patrol once...offering no pleasantries.
The Patrol Gorilla looks up at the odd structure.

PATROL GORILLA
What's this?

POLAR
A windmill.

PATROL GORILLA
Where did it come from?

REMUS

I made it.

At the Patrol's disbelieving look...

POLAR

He's very bright.

The Patrol takes another look at it, snorts.

PATROL GORILLA

Humph! If you were bright,
old farmer...you'd keep him at
work in the fields...not building
these...toys to play in the wind.

With this admonition, feeling one-up, the Patrol rides off.

CLOSE ON POLAR AND REMUS

As Polar points to the low field that has been drained to
feed the ditch this windmill is pumping from...

POLAR

Next spring, we'll plant that
new field they made for us.
Good rich earth.

REMUS

And we'll plant the best seed...
like Virdon said...huh?

POLAR

Yes...we'll try it...the best
seed this time...

Begin SLOW PULL BACK on the scene of Polar and Remus standing
beside the windmill...a lasting reminder to them of their
experience with these strange humans...

FADE OUT.

THE END