"PLANET OF THE APES"

"THE GOOD SEEDS"

Written by
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CAST LIST

STAN KOVAK
ALAN VIRDON
GALEN (CHIMP)
URSUS (GORILLA LEADER)

POLAR (CHIMP FATHER)
ZANTES (CHIMP MOTHER)
ANTO (CHIMP SON)
REMUSS (CHIMP SON)
JILLIA (CHIMP DAUGHTER)
FIRST POLICE GORILLA
SECOND POLICE GORILLA
PATROL GORILLA
PATROL RIDER
GORILLA OFFICER

SILENT BIT:
THIRD POLICE GORILLA
SET LIST

INTERIORS:
BARN AND COW STALL
FARMHOUSE BEDROOM
LIVING ROOM
URSUS' OFFICE

EXTERIORS:
OPEN FIELD
FOREST CLEARING (FALLEN TREE)
FOREST (THICK GROWTH)
FARMHOUSE
BADLY-ERODED HILLSIDE CROP LAND
SMALL PASTURE LOT AT FENCE
DITCH NEAR A LOW FIELD
COVERED WORK AREA
SHOWER AND FAR HILL
HIGHER FIELD (WINDMILL)
RURAL ROAD
GORILLA PATROL HEADQUARTERS
POLAR'S BARN
POLAR'S HOUSE
OUTBUILDINGS
"THE GOOD SEEDS"

ACT ONE

FADE IN

EXT. OPEN FIELD - DAY

The field is not too large and is surrounded by rolling hills. No movement for a moment but the swelling SOUND of THUNDERING HORSES' HOOVES. Three mounted GORILLA POLICE ride in at a gallop and, at their Leader's signal pull to a halt. As Leader (FIRST GORILLA) peers into the distance, SECOND GORILLA swings off his horse to study the ground. He spots something, kneels, rises triumphantly.

SECOND GORILLA
They were here, and the track is fresh!

He mounts, points in the direction to be taken. First Gorilla signals advance and the three pound out.

EXT. BRUSH-COVERED HILL - DAY

VIRDON, KOVAK and GALEN laboring up the hill, panting, fighting weariness. They reach the crest and Kovak stops, looking back.

KOVAK
I don't see them.

VIRDON
If you could, it'd be too late. Come on.

KOVAK
Galen can't keep up. His butt is dragging.

GALEN
I'm all right.

KOVAK
Sure you are! Iron man -- excuse me. Iron ape...

VIRDON
(needling Kovak)
Michigan's great running back...

KOVAK
When I was a kid, two thousand years ago, give or take a century.

Cont.
VIRDON
Let's move it. No telling how close Ursus' men are. We'll try for that forest by dark...

KOVAK
Coming, Mother...

All trot off.

OUT 2-3

DISSOLVE TO:

EXT. FOREST CLEARING - NIGHT A-3

Virdon, Kovak and Galen trot in. All stop while Virdon studies the surroundings.

KOVAK
Sack time? Let's check in here. I'm ready!

VIRDON
No way. Now's our chance to get clear.

He removes something from his pocket and studies it.

INSERT - COMPASS IN VIRDON'S HAND B-3

small, utilitarian, crudely made.

VIRDON'S VOICE
(o.s.)
We know what direction we're going in. They don't.

BACK TO SCENE C-3

KOVAK
There's nothing in any direction, what difference does it make?

GALEN
(to Virdon)
You can tell direction from that? Without the stars?

VIRDON
It's a compass, Galen. It always points north.

Cont.
VIRDON (Cont.)

(looking up)
This cloud cover is a break. Ursus' men won't know what direction they're going in. They'll go in circles... we can go straight ahead.

GALEN
A 'compass.' Is it witchcraft?

VIRDON
Handicraft. I made it.

He turns to lead the way. Kovak takes a step after him -- with an effort.

KOVAK
Next handicraft class, make me X a trail bike -- twin jet.

Galen is bewildered but makes no comment. All three disappear in the thickness of the forest.

(NOTE: Some characteristic bit of terrain -- a rock or a gnarled tree -- should make this clearing readily identifiable.)

ANGLE ON VIRDON, KOVAK AND GALEN IN FOREST - NIGHT

as they force weary bodies to cover ground.

EXT. FOREST 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. 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.

ANGLE ON VIRDON, KOVAK AND GALEN - NIGHT
running silently through the forest.
EXT. FOREST - THE PREVIOUS SMALL CLEARING - NIGHT

The three Gorilla Police on horseback come galloping into the same clearing, and rein up...holding their torches up...recognizing the location...with 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 forbidden to travel without the stars.

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

GORILLA TWO
Then how come the spirits have 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. Make a fire...
(looking up)
...and stand watch to see if it chases the clouds.
(to Second Gorilla)
If not...first sight of where the sun rises...you ride back to Ursus...
...report we are going on...until we catch them.

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

walking through the dense, now quite hilly terrain in what appears to be pitch-dark. Kovak has temporarily taken the lead, stops, leans against a tree...

KOVAK
(breathing hard)
Why didn't I buy that nice little bar in Passaic...?

Cont.
Virdon marches quickly past him, then Galen, trying to keep up...

**GALEN**

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

Galen runs to catch up with Virdon as Kovak warns him...

**KOVAK**

Heads up Galen...It's rough in here.

**CLOSE SHOT - 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.

**ANGLE ON 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**

Take it easy...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)
Tourniquet...hurry!

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

**GALEN**

Ohhhh! I'm sorry...

Cont.
COVAK
Forget it. I always make
tourniquets for my friends.

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
Easy...we've got to stop the
bleeding first.

GALEN
It was dark...I fell...

COVAK
(trying levity)
No kidding. Next time wait for
the lights to change.

DISSOLVE TO:

CLOSE SHOT - GALEN'S FACE - DAWN

He is lying on a crudely made litter and CAMERA ANGLE WIDENS
to show Virdon and Kovak carrying their chimp companion
through the forest.

The burden coupled with the strain of the night's efforts
has brought the Astronauts to the point of exhaustion.

VIRDON
Sun's been -- up for -- half hour.

COVAK
Feels like -- I've been up -- X
half a year.

VIRDON
Got to -- keep moving. Sitting
ducks.

COVAK
Sitting? -- What's that?

VIRDON
Need a hideout -- or -- HEY!

He's spotted something, o.s. He stops, Kovak does and looks
in direction indicated.
GALEN
What?

KOVAK
What is it?

P.O.V. SHOT - DISTANT SMALL FARM COMPOUND - DAY

In a clearing through the trees can be seen a cabin, hints of outbuildings, tilled fields.

VIRDON'S VOICE
(o.s.)
A farm...looks isolated.

Distant, mournful MOO of a cow.

ANGLE ON THE THREE

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

KOVAK
Oh man, look at that! Shangri-la Country Style! Chicken with mashed potatoes and gravy...and steak and eggs for breakfast...
How about that Galen...?

GALEN
(the vegetarian)
Meat -- Ugh!

And he rolls his head aside at the thought...as though the pain weren't enough.

VIRDON
This could be it, Stan. Show me a couple of nice, smelly tractors...and it's home sweet home all over again...Saddle up -- let's move.

They move o.s.

EXT. THE FARMHOUSE - LONG SHOT - THE FRONT - DAY

At closer look, the hope of a modern farm vanishes as we see the primitive farmhouse. Virdon and Kovak ENTER FRAME, approaching the house, carrying Galen.
as Virdon and Kovak carefully put the litter down, Galen able to raise on one arm as Virdon approaches the door. The litter is to one side not visible from inside the doorway.

KOVAK
I'm beat. I don't care if this farmer doesn't have a daughter.

CLOSE SHOT — THE DOOR

A beat of hesitation...then filled with expectancy...Virdon knocks on the door...no reply. CAMERA PULLS BACK. Stillness. Virdon once more...knocking. A beat...and the door is opened slowly, just wide enough to reveal the face of a large ape, POLAR. He has to study the disappointed Virdon only a moment...

POLAR
Get away from here! Now!

Virdon doesn't flinch.

POLAR
I'm warning you...we have clubs and corn knives...

VIRDON
We need help. Our friend has been hurt.

POLAR
We don't help humans.

Virdon hesitates briefly, then steps back to gesture toward Galen, o.s. Polar, the big farmer and head of the farm family, opens the door wider and cautiously looks beyond Virdon...seeing the other two figures...

POLAR
(to inside)
Stay back...

ANOTHER ANGLE

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...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 machete-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 Polar)
He needs help.

POLAR
Wait... who are you!

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

KOVAK
His tired friends.

Anto brandishes the machete...

ANTO
Are you their prisoner... they capture you...?

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

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

GALEN
No... no...

And Galen sinks back. Kovak reacts to this serious sign of Galen's worsening condition. Angrily...

KOVAK
(to Anto)
Hey... put that thing away and help him... will you!
(to the others)
We're no danger to you...
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 later...
Can't you see he needs help.

Polar appears agreeable, if reluctant...

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

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

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

He motions to another building, away from the house.

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

KOVAK
Don't call anybody 'til we get some sleep.

VIRDON
Just take care of him...

REMUS
What'd you do to him...?

X

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

Virdon and Kovak start o.s. Polar and Anto lift the litter and start carrying it to the house.

OUT 23-24
A simple structure. A cow is in a stall. Nearby, a pile of straw. Indication of a loft. Door opens to admit Virdon and Kovak. They look around quickly and Kovak makes for the pile of straw.

**KOVAK**
Man, I could sleep standing up.
(collapsing to straw)
Leave a wake-up call for February.

**VIRDON**
(flopping down)
What year?

**CUT TO:**

**INT. BARN - CLOSE SHOT - ANTO - DAY**
approaching with a pitchfork in his hands. He's menacing.

**WIDER ANGLE**
Anto moves toward Virdon and Kovak who are sound asleep. Anto jabs Kovak.

**KOVAK**
Ouch! Hey!

Virdon is awake.

**ANTO**
Get up!

**KOVAK**
Okay, Sarge. Take it easy. I didn't hear reveille...

Virdon is scrambling to his feet, as is Kovak. The former nods a pleasant greeting to Anto who holds the pitchfork in a threatening posture.

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

**KOVAK**
If she doesn't object, why should we?

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

Cont.
ANTO

Ha! Humans are a curse to cows!
Everyone knows that!

KOVAK

Live and learn.

The cow MOOOS again...they turn to it. Anto increasingly angry...

ANTO

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

KOVAK

Look...put the stabber down,
pal...Maybe this'll be your
lucky year...

VIRDON

I don't understand.

ANTO

(distrust)

Hah...you understand. When a
son becomes of age...he must
wait for a bull calf to be born
before he can start his own farm.
Five years I've waited. And the
signs were against me...nothing
but female calves. This year
I knew the signs were right...
until you came.

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

ANTO

You hear? You're a bad omen.
If you've put a curse on her...
I may kill you...

VIRDON

Hey...wait a minute.

ANTO

Remove the curse...go away...today!

ANGLE ON DOOR - FAVORING REMUS

running in to them, bubbling with curiosity...and information
...and authority...
REMUS
Hey...you two! Galen is asking to see you. He's awake...

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

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

He leaves. Virdon and Kovak exchange looks.

KOVAK
Well, nobody's perfect.

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! The 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
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 around here. 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?

An uneasy beat, Galen hesitating, unwilling to answer this...

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?

ANGLE ON JILLIA
A look of mild revulsion...

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

EXT. BARN - DAY
At the side of the barn, a tub of water is on a bench. Kovak has his shirt off and is washing; Virdon is drying his face and hands on a rough towel and puts on his shirt. As he does, he looks o.s.

VIRDON
I think we've got to stand inspection. Ready?

He tosses the towel to Kovak who dries himself and will put on his shirt over following SCENE.

OUT

ANOTHER ANGLE
as Polar approaches with Remus. Anto, still angry, stands a few feet back.

POLAR
I've made up my mind. You can stay until your...friend... is well. Or able to walk...

ANTO
(advancing)
No...!

POLAR
(a command)
Enough! You've heard my decision.

Cont.
ANTO
(still angry)
All right. But 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.

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

VIRDON
Anything you say.

POLAR
But you'll work. Every day! Just as though I could afford you.

KOVAK
You got a deal.

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 - ANGLE ON APPROACHING HORSEMAN

In the distance, we can see dust rising from the path of a man on horseback, riding toward the farm fast.

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

POLAR
Mounted Patrol.
(beat)
Are you sure you're not escaped bonded slaves...?

Cont.
VIRDON

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

Polar is not sure if Virdon is telling the truth. But the chance to have two "slaves" work his farm is worth a risk.

POLAR

(a reminder)
You will work for me!

VIRDON

Yes.

POLAR

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.

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.

POLAR

Yes.

PATROL GORILLA

(derisive snort)
I'm looking for escaped bonded slaves. Have you seen any?

OUT

ANOTHER ANGLE - TOWARD ANTO AND ZANTES

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

ZANTES

Humans?

PATROL GORILLA

Of course, humans. What else?

POLAR

We know nothing of bonded humans.
We are just poor tenant farmers.

ZANTES

Yes. We can't help you.
PATROL GORILLA
(glance around)
If you see any...report immediately.
Failure to do so carries a severe penalty.

POLAR
We understand.

PATROL GORILLA
(to Anto)
Are you dumb? Do you understand?

ANTO
Yes...I understand.

PATROL GORILLA
(gloating on his mount)
If you see a stray human...report at once!

They nod...the Patrol Gorilla starts to ride away, then stops.

PATROL GORILLA
Oh yes. Your name?

POLAR
Polar.

He spurs his mount ahead and gallops away.

ANTO
(watching the ride)
I wonder if there's a reward...

He glances at his father who gives him a stern look...turns 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.

Cont.
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...
we've got our own problems...

FADE OUT

END OF ACT ONE
ACT TWO

FADE IN

EXT. BADLY ERODED HILLSIDE CROP LAND - WIDE SHOT - 38
DAY

A scene of heavy farm work 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.

POLAR
How do you know?

VIRDON
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.

ANGLE 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.

Cont.
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 SHOT - THE SCENE

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

ANOTHER ANGLE - 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 arou... 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...and no gullies. See?
Polar kneels for a close look, amazed at the simple experiment.

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

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

Polar stands, pleased with this discovery despite Anto.

POLAR
Where'd you learn this?

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

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's worried about the bull calf. Nothing else on his mind.
(to the field)
Show me...I'll try.

VIRDON
Easy.

POLAR
(slyly)
But you lied, didn't you?

VIRDON
(puzzled)
Lied? No...you'll see.
POLAR
About your family owning a farm.
Only apes ever own farms...then 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 is 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
What's the problem, Boss?

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 CAMERA PANS 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
(o.s.)
Come on, Remus...you knock yourself out putting up a stick fence like that and the first time old Bessie rubs against it, it falls in.
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 in charge. X

**KOVAK**
Sorry, Boss...This kind of fence
grows on you.
(a thought)
And...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**
Is that right?

**KOVAK**
Would I lie to a nice ape like 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. X

Cont.
REMUS
Now back to work.
Kovak starts wearily back for the pile of rails...Remus tagging along...

REMUS
Who taught you to build a fence like that?

ANGLE AT THE PILE OF RAILS
Kovak lifting another one, deciding to take two...heavily.

KOVAK
Abraham Lincoln.

REMUS
I'd like to meet him.

CLOSE ON KOVAK'S FACE
Straining under the load, his eyes turn heavenward...

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

CUT TO:

EXT. APE VILLAGE - DAY (STOCK)

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
We could not follow them at night. The clouds...

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

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

Cont.
How long?

Four days hard ride, Sir.

Ursus points to a location.

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

Yes, Sir.

They could steal horses.

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

Ursus turns to the Gorilla, smiling, sinister.

Yes. I know.

You know the way back?

Yes...but it will be slow. The weather is covering the stars again.

Then the gods will guide us. These humans are dangerous! They think they are as good as we are. They stir up trouble.

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 starts impatiently for the wagon with his fork but Polar restrains him.

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

Wait...watch...
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.

ANGLE SHOOTING TOWARD OX

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

ANGLE 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.

ANGLE ON THE SCENE

VIRDON

Okay...ready.

ANTO

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

VIRDON

(smiles)

Drive the ox ahead. Go on.

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

Ho there...ho 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!

VIRDON

(to Anto)

Not bad for a guy who doesn't have all his marbles -- right?
POLAR
Show me how to make the trick work.

VIRDON
Easy...I'll show you.

POLAR
(to Anto)
You saw! Isn't that better than forking a whole load of hay? 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 he hears 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 - ANGLE ON 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 curse...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
Your calendar is a little off.
More like two or three days.
She'll be off her feed for awhile...that's all.

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

VIRDON
The cow is not going to die, Anto.
(beat)
Look, Anto...we can't leave until Galen can walk. By that time...
your cow here will be a happy mother...and we'll be on our way.

ANTO
(to Polar)
No! I'm the eldest, the cow is in my charge!

VIRDON
(to Polar)
Have we shown you anything evil yet? Tell me, Polar. If we have...
send us away.

Polar hesitates...a big decision. Then:

POLAR
(to Anto)
The farm seems to profit from them.
(to Virdon)
You can stay...but if anything happens to the cow...as Anto fears...
your fate will be up to him.

Anto is beside himself with this verdict...

ANTO
What good will that do...?

POLAR
Enough!

Cont.
And Polar walks away, having said his final word on this. Anto, in complete frustration now, gives Virdon a threatening look.

ANTO

Then it will be too late!
(pause)
Maybe not...

He goes stomping off in another direction.

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. Virdon returns from the cot on the far side of the room where Galen is lying...to sit on the floor near Remus, watching...

ZANTES
(to Polar)
Where's Anto?

POLAR
(back)
I think he has some things to work out of his mind.

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...We didn't discuss coffee breaks, but they're part of the deal.

POLAR
(not looking up)
Remus'll shell the corn. It's the job of the youngest son to prepare the seed.

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

VIRDON
(to Remus)
Here...always use seed from the best ears...not the smallest.

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

Cont.
KOVAK
(re Virdon)
Listen to Mother Earth, he knows.

REMUS
Did you hear that?

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

REMUS
(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.

VIRDON
I once...sat around a fire
something like this...telling
my own son almost the same thing.
(swallowing)
Chris...I wonder where he is...
what he is...

Virdon breaks off...goes to stand by the fire.

CLOSE ON REMUS AND ZANTES

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

REMUS
(whisper)
Is something the matter?

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...

WIDER ANGLE

We see Anto standing there.

ANTO
I just wondered if there was a...
reward for helping you find one...
or two.

Cont.
PATROL RIDER
Reward? 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'd 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. There is no reward.

ANGLE 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.

ANTO
(angrily)
The returning of slaves should be worth something!

Frustrated and angry, Anto turns and storms off.

MOVING SHOT - 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 humans this year.
PATROL GORILLA
He looks familiar. I've seen him before...in the last few days.
(and recalling)
Yes. Polar's farm.

Anto moves off into the dark.

ANGLE ON THE PATROL GORILLA
He gets a sinister look...of suspicion...

PATROL GORILLA
Hmmmm. Looking for bounty, you say?

PATROL RIDER'S VOICE
(o.s.)
Reward he said.

PATROL GORILLA
Perhaps Polar's farm needs watching more closely.

FADE OUT

END OF ACT TWO
ACT THREE

FADE IN

EXT. POLAR BARN - LONG SHOT

to ESTABLISH:

INT. BARN - THE COW STALL - ANGLE ON 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.
(beat)
This cow is dying from their curse. 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
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 mad ideas.

GALEN
It's not mad, Jillia. Now I just can't tell you any more...
So stop asking.

JILLIA
Why don't you just let them go on?

GALEN
I can't...you keep asking the same question different ways!
Just like a female!

JILLIA
(wryly)
I thought you might never notice...

CUT TO:

OUT
EXT. HIGHER FIELD - ANGLE FAVORING VIRDON AND KOVAK - DAY

who are fastening the last slat in a windmill wheel and tying the saplings from which the base of the windmill tower is constructed.

ANOTHER ANGLE

Remus excitedly tugging his father toward the windmill. Anto follows sullenly, a few steps back. Remus babbles in his enthusiasm.

REMUS
See? What did I tell you?
It's a -- he's making a --
tell them Virdon, what you're --
No, don't. I remember.
    (proudly)
Our very own windmill.

VIRDON

Windmill.

REMUS

That's what I said. Isn't it wonderful?

POLAR

What good is it?

REMUS

(quickly)
It's absolutely -- why, it will
-- I did know, they told me, but it's kind of mixed up in my head...

KOVAK

This is the power unit of your irrigation system, Polar.

POLAR

I don't understand.

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.
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 can stand.

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 weird structure of the windmill, strange to his eyes...the mystery of his youngest "rebell ing"...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 noncommittal refusals to listen from Polar...Remus jumping up and down in delight now with...

REMUS
Yeah...yeah...stay...stay...

ANGLE ON VIRDON AND KOVAK

KOVAK
That Anto is not one of my favorite apes.

VIRDON
Yeah. He could be trouble. That mounted patrol was looking for escaped laborers...but he didn't look fussy who he picked up...as long as they were human.

CUT TO:

EXT. RURAL ROAD - DAY

This main road forms a junction with another road leading off to the right. Ursus and Gorilla Two, their large mounts heavily lathered after a bitter ride, gallop our way...Reining up at the crossing.

URSUS
You see. The gods have been with us. We've made excellent time.

GORILLA TWO
Yes sir. But the horses...they need rest.

URSUS
We ride!

Ursus jerks his reins, spurs his horses on hard, galloping off down the side road...Gorilla Two following.
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)
What's the big secret? We're supposed to be friends...

GALEN
I wanted to surprise you.

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

GALEN
Apes don't chomp at bits!

VIRDON
Sorry...he's anxious. And I think we'd better accommodate him. He could turn us in.

KOVAK
Maybe we ought to help that cow! Give her a dose of Epsom Salts and get things moving.

VIRDON
If the calf isn't a bull...we could be in bigger trouble.

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

KOVAK
Swell! I'm glad he knows his rights.

GALEN
Give me two, three more days... I'm healing fast now.

VIRDON
We could carry you again. But soon as we leave here...Ursus 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
have horses here. Farmers must
walk...or ride cows or oxen.

KOVAK
Nice arrangement -- keep 'em
poor and busy.

VIRDON
We're stuck. We sit it out. See
whether that cow...or Galen here...
makes it first.

KOVAK
I can hardly wait.

CUT TO:

EXT. HILL - DAY

The Patrol Gorilla prods his horse up the hill, reaches a
vantage point overlooking Polar's farm, and dismounts.

EXT. SHOWER - DAY

A crude shower has been constructed consisting of a tub
raised on a simple scaffold, a "modesty" screen of rough
homespun, and a pull-cord to release the water. Kovak is
reveling in the shower while Virdon is dressing, a "towel"
draped over his shoulders.

KOVAK
I don't mind being a peasant as
long as I have all the conveniences
of the rich.

Cont.
VIRDON
Even the rich don’t have showers in this world. And while you’re adding conveniences, maybe tomorrow you can put in the hot water.

KOVAK
How about a massage parlor, a sauna and a gym. Would that make you happy?

VIRDON
For openers...

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

squinting into the sun, his hand shielding his eyes...and we can see in his P.O.V., Kovak, faintly, in the shower near the barn.

ANGLE ON PATROL GORILLA

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

CUT TO:

EXT. BARN - LONG ESTABLISHING SHOT - DAY

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...
ANOTHER ANGLE
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. He 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.

Virdon kneels down by Anto.

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

ANTO
Dying...dying...

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

CLOSE SHOT ON THEIR FACES
As Anto looks into the face of Virdon...he explodes with rage, shoving Virdon backwards, springing to his feet, dropping the bell and leaping for a pitchfork...which he now turns with on Virdon.

ZANTES
Anto...stop...
ANOTHER ANGLE

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

ANTO
You...you've done this...

KOVAK
Watch it, Virdon -- he's fast with that damn thing.

POLAR
Wait! The cow's not dead... you can't claim a life yet...

Anto remembers the "rule" restraining his impulse to kill Virdon immediately...but holding the pitchfork menacingly close to his neck...(NOTE: NOT DIRECTLY AGAINST NECK)

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

ANTO
No! You've worked your last trick here! When she dies... you'll die...

ANGLE ON DOOR - GALEN

entering, with effort, hobbling on his single crutch.

GALEN
Anto...stop.

WIDE ANGLE

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...

Cont.
KOVAK
I'm packed and ready -- I'll
tell you that.

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's 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.

FADE OUT

END OF ACT THREE
FADE IN

EXT. BARN - LONG ESTABLISHING SHOT - DAY

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 get us the fifteen yards.

ANTO
What are you saying?

KOVAK
We were just talking about a five-legged race with Galen.

VIRDON
No way. Our best bet is with the cow!

ANTO
Speak so I can understand.

KOVAK
We're six inches from being shish-kebab, buddy, let the cow find another doctor.

ANTO
You're up to something!

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

Cont.
POLAR
Anto...there's nothing they can do.

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

ANTO
You're right. If they try anything I will kill them. I will kill them all!

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.

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! They're old words...of our fathers' fathers...passed down so long we don't even know if they're right...

POLAR
Be still. Don't say such things 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've seen these humans show how to keep hills from washing away in the rain. You've seen them create...cropland...from fields that were dry. 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! You won't touch the cow.

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

KOVAK
Al...give me a reading on the odds...you sure you know what you're doing?

VIRDON
No. But I'm sure she'll die if she isn't helped.

KOVAK
(sotto voce)
Remus...you trust me?

Remus nods.

KOVAK
(sotto voce)
Okay...just play along.
(then aloud)
I like the odds better your way.
Get ready to operate, Doc...

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

KOVAK
Come on bell-boy...

Kovak lunges to the far side of the area, holding Remus in a single arm bear hug, Remus' body shielding Kovak's midsection from view. Kovak pulls "something" from his belt, jabs the "something" into Remus' back.

KOVAK
I've got a knife! Now put the fork down, Anto...or your baby brother is never going to live to see your baby bull born...

Over above, INTERCUT TO Remus' back. We see the "knife" is Kovak's index finger. Remus is delighted with the role he's playing.
REMUS
Ow! Ooo! He's not fooling.
Please Anto, do as he says. Ooo!

Remus is overdoing it and Kovak reacts accordingly.

KOVAK
You heard him. Drop the fork!

Anto weighs Kovak's words. He's confused, puzzled, angered.
Everyone's holding their breath, waiting for Anto to make
his move. Kovak "jabs" Remus a little harder.

KOVAK
(low -- stern)
Anto...

POLAR
Do as he says Anto.

Anto lowers the fork in defeat. Galen hobbles the two
steps to Anto, takes the fork. All silently sigh with
relief.

ANGLE ON GALEN

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

ANTO
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...

Kovak and Virdon react. Anto, almost dumb with anguish,
stumbles back to the bell, falls on his knees, picks it up,
as we see Virdon hurry into the stall with the cow. Anto
starts the slow ringing of the bell.

OUT

CUT TO:

INT. BARN - CLOSE SHOT - COW STALL - DAY

Virdon "discussing" the matter with the cow.

VIRDON
Okay, Sweetheart, now I'm going
to do my best for you...and I want
you to do your best for me, eh...
Kovak tousles the hair on the boy's head.

KOVAK
Nice going Remus. We make a heck of a team.

REMUS
(re the cow)
Come on...let's go watch.

KOVAK
You watch.
(turning his head)
I get a little queasy in the operating room. You can tell me about it later. Not too much detail.

INT. BARN - ANGLE ON POLAR
walking with curiosity to the cow stall where Virdon is working...turns to Galen, a worried question:

POLAR
Do you know if he can do it...
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 - DAY
The galloping horses of the Officer Gorilla and Patrol Gorilla come pounding by at an ominous speed...in a PASS-BY and we see them covering ground fast as they ride out of FRAME...

OUT

CUT TO:
INT. BARN - ANGLE ON KOVAK AND REMUS

Remus is watching the scene in the cow stall intently, craning...

ANGLE ON ZANTES AND JILLIA

watching the stall also.

ANGLE ON KOVAK

KOVAK
(to Virdon)
What's the score?

CLOSE SHOT - VIRDON

His face drenched with perspiration, laboring with his task.

VIRDON
Worse than I thought...

KOVAK'S VOICE
(o.s.)
How bad is that?

VIRDON
Almost twice as bad...

ANGLE ON KOVAK

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

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

EXT. RURAL ROAD - ANGLE ON URSUS AND GORILLA TWO

On their large mounts, riding at a fast gallop in an OPPOSITE PASS-BY as Gorilla Two notices something ahead on the same road. He points.

ANGLE ON THEM AND THEIR P.O.V. - THE ROAD AHEAD

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

GORILLA TWO
Mounted patrol...from some outpost.

The distance closes quickly between them.
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!

Cont.
OFFICER GORILLA

Yes, sir...

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

OUT 99-100

CUT TO:

INT. BARN - CLOSE ON VIRDON - DAY 101

Perspiration still flowing. He breaks into a big smile.

CLOSE ON POLAR 102

Eyes wide with disbelief.
ANGLE ON GALEN

The same.

ANGLE ON KOVAK

Eyes closed in a countdown of the worst that can happen, as he hears...Baaaaaaa...of a baby calf...and his eyes open just as he hears another Baaaaa, a different pitch...of a second calf!

THE SCENE

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

ANGLE 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. You hit a jackpot. Two bulls straight across.

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

ANGLE 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.

ANGLE 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. From now on you handle all our pregnant cow cases.

Cont.
VIRDON
Two bulls Anto. The bell ringing 
may have had something to do with 
it...

EXT. BARN - WIDE ANGLE 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 at 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:

POLAR
Anto...come on...

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...you make 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 CAMERA ZOOMS IN ON SHOWER.

ANGLE 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!

Cont.
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
Look? 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 Gorillas start to laugh.

ANTO
(mimicking talk)
I'll have some meat...and cook it good! Ha...Ha...Ha...

As the Gorillas 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 makeup 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."
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.

ANGLE ON GORILLA TWO

He marches into the barn. As he does so, CAMERA PANS UP TO THE OPENING ABOVE THE DOOR TO HOLD ON THE HAY PILED IN THE UPPER SECTION.

EXT. BARN - FEATURING URUS

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 BAAAS 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 been eaten if there were humans around.

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

Cont.
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.
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.

ANGLE 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 watched, Anto. If I hadn't seen it for myself...I wouldn't have believed that, either.
(beat)
I'd say we're about even.

WIDER ANGLE - TO INCLUDE REMUS

just joining them.

ANTO
Will you show me...what I must do...in case some day...when you're not here...?

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...

Cont.
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.

ANGLE ON VIRDON, POLAR AND ANTO
Standing to one side, watching as Virdon checks the compass.

POLAR
Where will you go?

VIRDON
We don't really know. West...used to be a good direction. We'll try it again.

He pockets the compass.

ANTO
(warmly)
Thank you, Virdon. I'll 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 BAAAA...BAAAAAAAAS.

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 126

Turning in the wind. CAMERA PANS DOWN to see Polar and Remus standing there, watching it.

THE SCENE BELOW 127

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.

ANGLE SHOOTING TOWARD HORSEMAN - THE PATROL GORILLA 128

He rides up to them, stops. No words in exchange. Polar has won out over this Patrol once...offering no pleasantry. 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...

CAMERA BEGINS SLOW PULL BACK on the last SCENE of Polar and Remus standing beside the windmill -- a lasting reminder to them of their experience with these strange humans.

EXT. FORK IN WOODLAND TRAIL - DAY

Virdon, Kovak and Galen walking down the trail, reach the fork, stop. Galen gestures to the right fork in the trail.

GALEN
If there are no objections,
I think we should go this way.

KOVAK
Does it matter. Everywhere we go there's apes.

VIRDON
Yeah. Some good, some bad.
Let's go.

They move off down the right fork.

FADE OUT

THE END