PLANET OF THE APES

"HOSTAGE"

by

Stephen Kandel
"HOSTAGE"

ACT ONE

FADE IN

EXT. SMALL RURAL VILLAGE - CAMERA PANNING OVER FIELDS, RUSTIC HOUSES - DAY

an isolated backwater. A cluster of women doing laundry at a stone tank, children helping. A blacksmith. One nearby field has men working it. They all move slowly.

CAMERA PANS OVER VILLAGE -- MOVES IN ON GROVE OF TREES -- PUSHES THROUGH SCREEN OF HIGH GRASS.

ALAN VIRDON moves aside some of the grass, looking out cautiously. STAN KOVAK is next to him. GALEN is a nearby shadow; an outline obscured by the grass.

VIRDON

Peaceful place.

KOVAK

Peaceful? They're all sitting there, half-asleep.

GALEN'S VOICE

(o.s.)
Remember the new Human Control Laws, Stan. They can't even leave the village without a pass.

ANGLE ON GALEN - PAST VIRDON AND KOVAK

GALEN

But I can go in. I used to come here when I was in school, on picnics. The people know me; I'm sure we can get some food.

(starts forward)
You two wait here...

VIRDON

Galen! There must be a military detachment here -- they'll spot you...

Galen chuckles; he's enjoying the sense of adventure.

Cont.
GALEN
They won't bother me; the
Control Laws only apply to
humans...

He starts forward through the high grass -- then freezes,
stares. The others react, all three look out.

THEIR P.O.V. - KATRIN

KATRIN is a human female, in her late twenties; a strong,
strikingly handsome woman. She's trotting soundlessly on
bare feet, along the edge of a hedge, heading for an area
of dense growth. She's clearly surreptitious as she vanishes
into the growth.

ANGLE ON KOVAK, VIRDON AND GALEN

GALEN
She's taking a considerable
risk, breaking the Controls...

KOVAK
(locking out)
Ohmigosh, soldiers!

The others whirl, stare.

THEIR P.O.V. - ARO AND MANUS

ARO and MANUS are two young adult chimpanzees, moving
surreptitiously toward the same overgrown area.

GALEN'S VOICE
(o.s.)
Those aren't soldiers.

ANGLE ON GALEN AND KOVAK

KOVAK
But they're after the woman...

Before they can stop him, Kovak rises and he's off. Virdon
and Galen register exasperation, but follow him.

ANGLE ALONG LINE OF TREES, HEDGE - ON OVERGROWN AREA

as they move cautiously toward the patch of rank growth.
Then, a PAINT, O.S. TUNELESS HUMMING. They react.
CLOSER SHOT - TRIO

They find cover, Kovak barely dropping out of sight as CAMERA ANGLES to show a GORILLA SOLDIER, riding by on a sentry-go, HUMMING SOFTLY. He pats his horse, continues on, toward the village, out of sight. A moment, Virdon, Kovak and Galen rise, move on.

CLOSER ANGLE - OVERGROWN AREA

It's heavy, tangled, rank. They move into it cautiously, CAMERA TRACKING THEM as they push through the underbrush, through tall, heavy grass. Virdon points.

THEIR P.O.V. - CRUSHED GRASS, LINE OF PASSAGE

Clearly, somebody has passed here recently; some stems are still straightening, slowly.

ANGLE ON GROUP

KOVAK

I don't hear anybody, anything...

Virdon stops him with a gesture, then moves forward, looking intently; the others stare.

TIGHT SHOT - EDGE OF ENTRANCE TRAP

A camouflaged trapdoor has shut down on a plant stem, the stalk visibly crushed, marking the entrance.

WIDER ANGLE

They move forward, start to fumble around the entrance, Kovak moves to one side -- and a burly MAN rises out of the brush, grabs him, poising a knife at his throat.
Simultaneously, another man, GRAYSON, appears, holding a gun on Virdon and Galen. Kovak gasps, startled. Grayson looks at them coldly; clearly a leader.

GRAYSON

No noise.

Holding the gun aimed at them, he bends cautiously, fumbles in the grass, grabs an invisible handle -- and pulls up. A SOFT RUMBLE, and an entire section of the apparent ground cover lifts; it's camouflage on a trapdoor. Light is dimly visible, steps leading down. Grayson gestures. The Man with the knife marches Kovak down, the others follow. Grayson is last, and as he walks down, he grabs a line depending from underside of the door, tugs. It shuts with a HEAVY, SOFT SOUND, and all traces of the entrance have vanished. 'As it does, 0.5 HOOFBEATS -- CAMERA ADJUSTS to show the Soldier, yawning, as he loops back, bored with his uneventful duty.
INT. UNDERGROUND SHELTER CORRIDOR - DAY

Grayson moves past Virdon, Kovak, Galen, the guarding Man, opens a door.

INT. SHELTER - ANGLE ON DOOR

as it opens, and Grayson enters, stands to one side.

GRAYSON
You were right, Katrin.
(nods at trio)
I found them outside.

Virdon, Galen, Kovak are staring.

ANGLE PAST VIRDON, KOVAK, GALEN - ON GROUP

Katrin is rising, from a table at which are seated Aro, Manus, two humans: BLACK, short and powerful, a slow-moving, conservative man; and DECKER, thin, tense, a theorist. Finally, there is LORA, a strikingly attractive young chimpanzee female; ardent and intense.

BLACK
I don't know 'em; not from our village.

KATRIN
No...
(coldly)
What are you doing here?

LORA
(excited)
But they're a mixed group, too.
Maybe they came to join us!

Galen lights up, takes a step forward. Grayson reacts, Galen ignores him, concentrating on Lora.

GALEN
I know you! Lora, isn't it?
Senator Sallus' daughter?

(beat)
I'm Galen, we met at school...

A moment, then Lora nods, smiles, excited.

LORA
Yes! I took your course on
Ethics, when I was a freshman!
(to Aro, Manus)
You remember Galen?

Cont.
ARO
I think so...
(to Galen)
Weren't you in the
Free Speech Movement?

GALEN
That's right.

GRAYSON
Fine. But d'you know them.

He nods at Virdon and Kovak.

LORA
The humans...
(stops, abashed)
The other people? No...

GALEN
(quickly)
They're my friends; we're
working together, for racial
equality.

KATRIN
(disbelieving)
Out here?

VIRDON
We're on a research project;
how people feel about the new
Control Laws.
(to group)
Who are you?

LORA
(proudly)
We're a chapter of the UFF;
the United Freedom Force; Humans
and Simians together.
(laughs)
The Police banned us. Ursus
issued the order personally.
(nods to Katrin,
Black, Decker, Man)
This is Katrin; she and her people
live here.
(to Grayson)
And Grayson is a leader in the
UFF...

Cont.
GRAYSON
(cutting her short)
Lora. Don't mention names.

She bristles at this; despite her avowed liberalism, she doesn't take kindly to being corrected by a human. Grayson looks at Virdon, Kovak and Galen.

GRAYSON
The UFF is an illegal organization. And we've had trouble with spies before.

KATRIN
(coldly)
I agree.

KOVAK
Hey, look, we're just traveling through...

GRAYSON
(flatly)
I think you'd better stay here. (to group) Until Kemmer arrives. Then we can decide about them.

GALEN
(bristling)
You're holding me a prisoner!

VIRDON
(quietly)
Us.

GALEN
(to Grayson)
Who is this -- 'Kemmer'?

There is no answer. He turns to Lora, Aro and Manus.

GALEN
We're a mixed group, you can see we're not -- spies!

LORA
(troubled)
I know, Galén, but we have to be careful...

Cont.
GALEN
(acidly)
You're a lot prettier -- but
you sound like Ursus!

Lora reacts angrily, Grayson nods at a bench.

GRAYSON
Sit down, all of you.

KATRIN
We don't mean you any harm. But
Kemmer is a fugitive and we have
to be careful.
(smiles)
He should be here very soon.

VIRDON
Thanks...

He smiles back as the trio moves to the bench. Grayson looks
at them, then back to the others.

GRAYSON
Now... about your group sending
representatives to UFF Headquarters...

KATRIN
There'd be trouble here, Ursus
would have patrols after us.

GRAYSON
Don't worry. UFF Headquarters
is... (glances at trio)
...beyond the Blasted Zone. It's
an old building, since before the
Destruction.

LORA
Some kind of ruin?

GRAYSON
No, it's perfect. It may have
been a temple, it's shaped like
a pyramid, smaller round domes
next to it...

TIGHT SHOT - VIRDON, KOVAK

Virdon reacts, startled, darts a glance at Kovak, who blinks,
then nods, once, covertly.

GRAYSON'S VOICE
(o.s.)
...and a lot of it is underground...
EXT. VILLAGE PERIMETER - DAY

The Soldier we saw patrolling earlier rides along the perimeter, reins in as he meets ANOTHER SOLDIER, who yawns.

SOLDIER
Yeah. That's the way I feel.
(grumbling)
Ursus gets a flea in his fur
about this character Kemmer --
and we get to run extra patrols!

He gestures in disgust, boots his horse, starts to move on, then reins in sharply.

TIGHTER SHOT - SOLDIER
looking o.s., tensely.

HIS P.O.V. - KEMMER

A large, shadowy figure, moving through heavy growth.

WIDER ANGLE

SOLDIER
Hey -- halt!

He rides forward, waves at the other Soldier who yells, races at KEMMER from another angle. A moment, and Kemmer runs, into view, heading for the UFF hideout. Kemmer is a burly Gorilla.

TIGHT SHOT - KEMMER

He whirls, whipping out a pistol. ANGLE ADJUSTS PAST KEMMER -- ON SOLDIERS, riding at him. Kemmer FIRES.

ANGLE ON SECOND SOLDIER

Hit, he goes off his horse, blocking the first Soldier. He shouts, reins in sharply, starts to dismount.

ANGLE ON KEMMER

He vanishes into cover.

ANGLE ON SOLDIERS

The Soldier is by his fellow sentry, who is dead.

He leaps up, produces a whistle, BLOWS TWICE. Then another TWO BLASTS.
INT. UFF HIDEOUT - DAY

They react at the O.S. WHISTLE BLASTS.

EXT. HIDEOUT - ANGLE ON SOLDIERS

Several more SOLDIERS ride up, then a few more.

SOLDIER
Zar's been shot! Get every human out, search the houses!

Instantly, they wheel, thunder o.s., into the village. Soldier starts to remount.

INT. UFF HIDEOUT - DAY

O.S., HOOFBEATS, a SCREAM, SHOUTS.

ARO
What's happening?

KATRIN
(tightly)
The Soldiers.

She starts for the door; Grayson checks her.

KATRIN
(pulling free)
It's my village, they're my people!

LORA
I'll go out, Katrin, they won't do anything to me...

BLACK
She's right...

GRAYSON
No! If the Soldiers find this place...

He breaks off at a SCREAM, SHOUTS O.S.

EXT. VILLAGE - DAY

A house is burning. A group of HUMANS are huddled, terrified in the village street, under the baleful regard of several soldiers. Houses are being searched, belongings tossed out, smashed. Children are crying. CAMERA PANS TO FIELD, HIDEOUT ENTRANCE, SOLDIERS, searching on foot and on horseback.

Cont.
SOLDIER

He was running this way...

Another soldier rides through the brushy area -- and suddenly his horse's HOOFBEATS ECHO HOLLOWLY; he's ridden on the trapdoor. He reins in. Soldier reacts, races to the spot.

ANGLE ON SOLDIERS, UFF HIDEOUT ENTRANCE TRAPDOOR

They examine it, POUND on the trapdoor, and one produces a huge machete; CHOPS, then finds the door edge, shouts, begins to pry it up. Others join him. CAMERA PANS TO NEARBY HEDGE, Kemmer, watching them, then moving o.s., covertly.

INT. UFF HIDEOUT - DAY

The O.S. SOUNDS of forced entry are very audible. Grayson whirls to a rear wall, a trapdoor in the low ceiling. He and Black start to drag over a table, beneath the trap.

GRAYSON

There's an emergency exit...

He breaks off, Lora screams as the trap's opened, and Kemmer drops down to the floor. A moment's shock, then:

GRAYSON

Kemmer!

KEMMER

(heavy, harsh voice)

The whole place is surrounded by Soldiers, come on!

Kattrin nods to Virdon, Kovak as she starts for the exit.

KATRIN

Humans can mix with us, in the village.

MANUS

(with unconscious assurance)

And we won't be bothered...

He bounces onto the table, and starts through the trapdoor.

MANUS

I'll scout ahead...
And he's gone. Katrin leaps onto the table, Decker behind her. Lora laughs, in excited reaction.

LORA

Come on Aro, Galen...

She looks at Katrin, struggling into the trapdoor, laughs again.

LORA

Humans are so clumsy.

(abashed)

I'm sorry...

EXT. UFF HIDEOUT ENTRANCE - DAY

The trapdoor is open, and the Soldiers, starting down, hold their weapons ready, cautiously.

INT. UFF HIDEOUT - DAY

Katrin and Decker have gone. Kemmer is giving the knife wielding man a powerful helping shove; up and through the emergency exit. Virdon, Kovak, Galen are at one side, with a visibly worried Black. Aro and Lora are still pleasurably excited, near Grayson, listening at the door.

As Man vanishes:

KEMMER

Next.

GRAYSON

(turns)

They're coming down.

BLACK

We can't all get out in time!

GRAYSON

(looks at Kemmer)

We'll make some time.

A moment, Kemmer nods, crosses to Grayson, drawing his pistol as he moves. He grips the door latch, Grayson produces a hand grenade, arms it.

TIGHT SHOT ON VIRDON, KOVAK, GALEN

reacting, concerned.
LORA
No violence! We're sworn against the use of force, Grayson!

Grayson ignores her, nods to Kemmer -- who braces himself, yanks the heavy door open suddenly -- as Grayson releases the grenade safety latch and tosses it out. Kemmer instantly SLAMS the door.

INT. UFF HIDEOUT CORRIDOR - DAY

The Soldiers are edging down the stairs cautiously, as the grenade RATTLES, rolling toward the foot of the stairs. They halt -- and it BLOWS, chunks of stressed concrete falling, the stairs RIPPED AWAY, the passage blocked.

INT. UFF HIDEOUT - DAY

The O.S. ROAR of falling concrete; SHOUTS from the Soldiers. Lora's horrified.

LORA
You're crazy! I could have spoken to them, used my father's name...

GALEN
(concerned, to Grayson)
You may have hurt somebody. Ursus would never forgive that.

KEMMER
(Flatly)
I already killed one. Outside.

A shocked reaction. Galen WHISTLES SOFTLY.

GALEN
If a Soldier's dead -- then even Senator Sallus can't help you...

LORA
I wouldn't even ask my father for help!

GRAYSON
But I would; (grips Lora's arm) And if you were with us, he might be willing to listen.
LORA  
(icily)  
Let go of me.

GRAYSON  
(to Lora)  
You'll be safe in UFF Headquarters.  
Ursus won't find us there.

LORA  
No.

She starts to yank free, and Kemmer bounds over, clamps a huge arm about her, pinning her helplessly. Grayson takes Kemmer's pistol, nods at the emergency exit.

GRAYSON  
Get her out.


GALEN  
Take your hands off her!

He grabs at Kemmer, who blocks him off -- hard -- and Grayson levels the gun at the others as they move forward. They stop; Virdon and Kovak help Galen, who's off-balance.

GRAYSON  
Tell Senator Sallus that the United Freedom Force will be contacting him!

ANGLE ON VIRDON, KOVAK, GALEN, ARO, BLACK  
Galen's moving forward, angrily.

REVERSE ANGLE  
Kemmer's through the exit, with Lora. He reaches out a huge hand, helps Grayson scramble through -- then the trapdoor SLAMS shut; Lora's FAINT, O.S. CRY is cut off abruptly.

ANGLE ON GROUP, DOOR  
Galen, still slightly dazed, starts forward -- and then the door is BURST open; Soldiers pour in, seize them.
INT. SIMIAN COUNCIL CHAMBER - TIGHT SHOT ON
URSUS - NIGHT

URSUS

Yes...

CAMERA PULLS BACK to reveal the chamber: a large room, high windows. URSUS and ZAIUS are behind a long, heavy table, looking down at Virdon, Kovak, Galen, Aro, Black, dwarfed by the size of the empty space in which they stand. Soldiers are spotted around the chamber's perimeter. Ursus is regarding them with a mixture of satisfaction and hostility.

URSUS

Kovak, Virdon, Galen. Two fugitive humans and a renegade.

GALEN

I object --

Ursus cuts him off by SLAMMING a hand on the table.

URSUS

And a renegade.

(beat)

All three fugitives. And now, found linked to an illegal, underground terrorist group.

ZAIUS

(quietly)

Until now, Ursus, the United Freedom Force hasn't caused us serious trouble...

URSUS

They stir up the humans; they defied the law...

BLACK

Your curfew was unfair...

As Ursus gives him a minatory glance:

BLACK

...Sir...

URSUS

And now, three troopers wounded in a terrorist attack. And a fourth -- murdered.

A reaction runs around the poker-faced Soldiers on guard.

Cont.
VIRDON
We had nothing to do with it, Ursus.

KOVAK
They were holding us!

URSUS
Why? Who were they?
(leans forward)
Better cooperate. You're all accessories to murder.

Zaius starts to interrupt -- and a door opens suddenly, two Guards whirl, then jump back as SENATOR SALLUS enters in some haste. Sallus is a middle-aged Chimpanzee; overweight, intense, now close to a panic, holding a small piece of paper.

SALLUS
Zaius, Ursus -- I've just received a message from the UFF!
(desperately)
They're holding my daughter prisoner!

He SLAPS the paper down before Zaius and Ursus, who look at it.

GALEN
Senator Sallus...

URSUS
(interrupting, looking up, angrily)
A 'communique' from the Operational Wing of the UFF!
(crumpled paper)
Filthy terrorists!

SALLUS
Did you read it? Lora isn't being held by people -- they're... animals! And if there are any anti-human reprisals, any -- they'll...
(swallows)
they won't let her go...

Cont.
ZAIUS
(concerned)
Sallis -- I'm sorry...

URSUS
But we have five of their people!

He gestures; Sallis whirls.

GALEN
No!
(to Sallis)
Sir, I'm Galen. We met several years ago at the University.
Believe me, my friends here --
(gestures at Virdon, Kovak)
-- and I have nothing to do with the UFF. We tried to help Lora!

SALLUS
You were there!?

KOVAK
They captured us.

Where is she?

SALLUS
We don't know!

He stops, looks at Aro, Black.

ARO
They took Lora to Headquarters; only the leadership knows where it is!
(eagerly)
Zaius, the UFF isn't violent; we abhor the use of force! Lora will be safe; it was a couple of extremists...

BLACK
And Galen's telling the truth.
Him and his human friends -- they weren't with us, in the UFF.

Cont.
URSUS
They're fugitives, wanted by the law. Now they're mixed up with the UFF.

(beat)
Sallus, don't worry. They won't hurt your daughter. The odds are with us; five to one.

He looks at the prisoners grimly, gestures to the Guards.

URSUS
We'll tear the truth out of them.

TIGHT SHOT - VIRDON, KOVAK, GALEN

Virdon throws a quick, warning glance at the others, steps forward.

VIRDON
You're right, Ursus. We're part of the UFF. And if you let us go we can reach our comrades.

Galen and Kovak control their reaction.

WIDER ANGLE

VIRDON
And I think we can help you.

SALLUS
Don't be insolent, human! I'm a reasonable person, but you animals are threatening my daughter's life!

VIRDON
Zaius, I appeal to you! Let us talk to the UFF leadership -- maybe we can work something out -- before there's a tragedy.

URSUS
(flatter, to Guards)
If it says one more word, club it down.

The Guards move toward Virdon, halt as Zaius gestures.

Cont.
ZAIUS
No. We must keep open minds.

URSUS
With murdering humans?

GALEN
D'you want Lora killed?

SALLUS
No! Listen to them...

KOVAK
Yeah. Maybe we can do something.

VIRDON
The two of us and Galen, we can reason with them...

He stops as Ursus glares, starts to cut him off — but then catches himself, leans back, thoughtfully.

ZAIUS
Ursus. We have to explore every possibility.

SALLUS
With Lora's life at stake!

URSUS
(mildly)
I'm responsible for maintaining Law and Order. Are you ordering me to do this, Zaius?

ZAIUS
I can't speak for the entire council, Ursus. I can only suggest...

URSUS
I'll accept the suggestion.

A startled reaction from the group. Ursus smiles slightly, leans forward, nods at Virdon, Galen.

URSUS
You two can go out and talk to your murdering friends.
KOVAK
What about me?

URSUS'
You'll be held with the other prisoners. And if Lora isn't returned, safe, in forty-eight hours, we will execute these terrorists. One by one. Publicly.

He looks at hostages.

CAMERA FOCUSES ON KOVAK, ARO, BLACK, ZOOMS IN TIGHT as they digest this.

TIGHT TWO SHOT - GALEN, VIRDON

hit by the mortal responsibility.

FADE OUT

END OF ACT ONE
ACT TWO

FADE IN

EXT. SIMIAN CITY - FULL SHOT - DAY

ANGLE ON BOUNDARY OF CITY - DAY

as Virdon and Galen, mounted and supplied, are released. A
squad of unfriendly soldiers watches them ride o.s.

CLOSER SHOT - VIRDON AND GALEN

GALEN
Too bad, Alan. It was a clever
idea.
(sighs)
Except it didn't work.

VIRDON

We have a chance.

GALEN
With Stan a prisoner? Besides,
to tell the truth...
(hesitates)
I didn't like to lie, to pretend
we're UFF just to get away, not
with Lora's life in the balance.
(some emotion)
Poor kid...

VIRDON

I wasn't lying!

GALEN
Alan: we don't have any idea
where the UFF headquarters might
be! Ursus has been hunting for
it the last eight months --
without luck.

VIRDON
Ursus wasn't an astronaut in
NASA.

GALEN

What in the Name does that mean?

VIRDON
I recognized Grayson's description,
Galen: the pyramid, the domes...
there couldn't be two groups of
buildings like that. It has to
be our main NASA Research Center;
still standing. And I know where it is!

A long moment, and then Galen smiles, boots his horse, CAMERA
HOLDS as they break into a rapid trot, riding away.
INT. PRISON WING - ANGLE ON CELLS, SIMIAN PRISONERS - DAY

all glaring, SHOUTING angrily:

PRISONERS
What's a lousy human doing here!
Put him in the animal cages!
We've got some rights! Get him out of here!

ANGLE PAST SIMIANS - ON KOVAK

in a solitary cell, alone. Then the wing door opens, a burly WARDER enters, CRACKS a club against the wall.

WARDER
Quiet!
(turns)
Right this way, sir, ma'am.

The prisoners stare as the Warder ushers Sallus and his wife, CLIA in, over to Kovak's cell. She's a matronly Chimpanzee; clearly a pleasant, civilized person -- now fighting desperately to hold herself together and sane.

ANGLE ON KOVAK

watching, warily.

ANGLE PAST KOVAK - ON CLIA, SALLUS, WARDER

as they come up to the cell door.

WARDER
Kovak: this is Senator Sallus and his wife. You will speak to them respectfully, understand.

KOVAK
I'll do my best.

CLIA
(startled)
It -- he sounds educated.

WARDER
They're great mimics, ma'am.

KOVAK
Mimic! I'm a human being!

WARDER
That's what I said, now quiet.
(politely to Sallus and Clia)
You can ask him your questions now.
Clia and Sallus look at Kovak -- and he turns away deliberately.

**KOVAK**

Sorry. This is my time for meditation.

The Warder reacts in anger, lifts his club to slam it against the cell door -- but Clia stops him.

**CLIA**

No. He seems to have...feelings.

(to Kovak)

Human, ah...Kovak? Could we talk to you if we came inside?

**SALLUS**

Clia! This is a dangerous creature!

**KOVAK**

(turns, politely, to Clia)

Look, I'm sorry, you're worried about your daughter. You can ask me questions, ma'am -- but I don't have a lot of answers.

A moment of surprised consideration from Clia, Sallus -- then Clia turns to the Warder, firmly.

**CLIA**

I want to go inside.

The Warder and Sallus exchange a resigned look: "women!" and Sallus nods; the Warder opens the cell door.

**INT. CELL**

Sallus and Clia enter. The Warder shuts, but doesn't lock the door, starts off, gives Kovak a hard look.

**WARDER**

I'll be right down there.

(nods o.s.)

In case you need me.

He moves o.s. A moment, and then Clia bursts out:

**CLIA**

What do you people want with my daughter!

Cont.
KOVAK
They're not my people, ma'am.
And look -- your daughter Lora,
she's a member of the UFF.

SALLUS
That's a lie!

KOVAK
What d'you think she was doing
there?

SALLUS
They -- you kidnapped her!

KOVAK
They, I'm no member, but she got
herself into it; she and her
friends were working for --
better Simian-Human relations.

CLIA
(drearly)
That's right. She was always
very involved in causes.
(fighting tears)
We raised her to care about
injustice...equality...and now
she's the victim of this --
savagey!

KOVAK
Look, ma'am: your daughter's a
member of the UFF. Even if a couple
of crazies are trying to use her
-- they won't risk hurting her.

CLIA
How do you know!? She's a child;
they might do anything -- they
might...
(forces the words out)
...force her.

SALLUS
(shocked)
Clia!

CLIA
(turns on him)
We have to face it! One of those
humans might attack her, sexually!
TIGHT ON KOVAK

It's almost funny; but the anguish is very real. He adjusts
to it, tries to be reassuring.

KOVAK

I don't think so.

THREE SHOT

KOVAK

Not if they think they're getting
results, anyway.

(to Sallus)

I mean, if Ursus and the Council
relaxed the new curfew, the
anti-Human regulations.

CLIA

(whirls, to Sallus)

Sallus...

SALLUS

No. We can't do that.

(to Clia)

Darling, I'm as worried about
Lora as you are, you know that.
But if we give in to these radicals
-- there's no end to it! And no
guarantee Lora would benefit!

CLIA

We have to try!

(desperately)

Please.

SALLUS

I can't! There isn't any way!

Clia stares at him, then begins to weep. Sallus tries to
comfort her, awkwardly. Kovak looks on, unhappily. CAMERA
MOVES IN TIGHT ON Clia, Sallus.

TIGHT ON SIGN, WOODEN WARNING FIGURE - DAY

GALEN'S VOICE

(o.s.)

That marks the boundary of
the Blasted Zone...

CAMERA PULLS BACK TO FULL SHOT as Galen, Virdon rides past
the sign. The countryside is barren, desolate. They
carefully avoid entering the Zone.

Cont.
VIRDON

Is the radiation still heavy?

GALEN

(puzzled)

'Radiation?' There's a poison in
the earth here; there has been for
centuries. Some scientists
experimented, trying to analyze it...
(shivers)
After a few weeks, they fell sick;
their fur began falling out --
two of them died...
(beat)
Do you know what causes it?

VIRDON

(grimly)

I'm afraid so. But I don't know
what'd cure it. Except, maybe
sanity...

GALEN

It was one of the weapons they
used in the Destruction, then.

Virdon nods, looks at the sign again, boots his horse. They
ride on past, toward a rise.

ANGLE ON RISE, VIRDON, AND GALEN

as they ride up the rise -- and stop, react.

VIRDON

That's it.

THEIR P.O.V. - UFF HEADQUARTERS

It is a vast concrete ziggurat, isolated in the middle of
nowhere. Empty. Silent.

ANGLE ON VIRDON AND GALEN

They ride down the slope of the land -- and then there's the
SOUND of hoofbeats, and two small groups of UFF humans
appear, flanking them in grim silence.

TIGHT ON VIRDON AND GALEN

(dryly)

GALEN

You were quite right.
INT. UFF HEADQUARTERS CONFERENCE ROOM - CLOSE ON GRAYSON - DAY

GRAYSON
How did you find us?

TIGHT ON VIRDON

VIRDON
You described it.

TIGHT ON KEMMER

KEMMER
But you knew it! How?

FULL SHOT

They're in a large, concrete room; a few items of crude furniture contrasting with the stark structure. Virdon and Galen are facing Kemmer, Grayson, Katrin, a few others. Armed guards are stationed at a few points.

A number of other people are standing around.

VIRDON
I'd heard about this place. It used to be a research center.
(looks at Grayson, Kemmer)
Now, it's military headquarters.

A moment, then Grayson smiles, shrugs.

GRAYSON
Nobody ever got freedom by asking politely.

KATRIN
We have weapons, but only for defending ourselves.
(looks at Grayson)
Most of us agree that open fighting between Humans and Simians would be -- another Destruction!

KEMMER
That won't happen; we just want to have our own government. Free.

GALEN
Like Lora?
(sharply)
She's the reason we came here! And I want to see her!
A moment; Grayson, Kemmer and Katrin exchange a glance. Katrin turns, toward a doorway.

**KATRIN**

(quietly)

Lora.

Virdon and Galen turn -- and Lora walks in; clearly unharmed, not a prisoner. She takes a place beside Katrin.

**LORA**

Hello, Galen.

**GALEN**

You're...not a prisoner.

(angrily)

Then why all the -- cheap acting!

(to Grayson)

Why were five people sacrificed as prisoners, to Ursus!

**LORA**

I wasn't acting! Believe me...

(looks at Katrin, Grayson)

But after we came here, and I learned more about our plans, about the necessity for raising the consciousness of the people!

(shrugs)

I understand, now.

**GALEN**

And Ursus' prisoners? Do they understand?

**KATRIN**

That wasn't supposed to happen!

**VIRDON**

(dryly)

But it did.

**LORA**

The Council, Zaïus and Ursus, they had to believe it!

**GALEN**

They do. So does your father. And your mother.
TIGHT ON LORA

This disturbs her; but she lifts her head, angrily.

LORA
Sometimes, individual feelings must
be sacrificed for a great movement!

WIDER ANGLE

VIRDON
More than feelings. Ursus has
three hostages: Black, Arc, and
my friend, Stan Kovak.

(beat)
In about a day and a half --
he's going to start executing
them. Unless you're returned
safely.

This is a shock, especially to Katrin.

LORA
That won't happen! We're only
asking the Council for justice!

GRAYSON
And we'll get it.

(beat)
You two should be with us. That
story you told: about a
scientific project...

(laughs)
We've got intelligence; we know
you're fugitives from Ursus. Why
not join the UFF? You'll have
to stay here anyway, until we
get what we want.

KATRIN
(smiles, to Virdon)
We need people like you.

Virdon hesitates, looks at Galen. Grayson rises.

GRAYSON
Come on, I'll show you the place.

He looks at Virdon and Galen.

GALEN
I'd like to talk to Lora.

Grayson shrugs, turns, walks out with Virdon and Katrin.
Kemmer looks at Galen and Lora, nods to the guards, who move
o.s., as he exits.
CLOSE SHOT - GALEN, LORA

GALEN
Lora: your parents are really frantic. It's not fair...

LORA
I know! But this is our chance to force Ursus to back down!
(beat)
I've talked to my father a thousand times; he just doesn't listen! But now, he'll have to do something!

GALEN
What if he can't? What if Ursus starts killing people? Beginning with Kovak?

LORA
The Human?

My friend!

GALEN
You're really a very loyal person, Galen.

She smiles. A moment, he smiles in response.

LORA
(softly)
You could be wonderfully effective in the UFF, with us.

GALEN
Lora, I don't know...

LORA
Galen: we're not going to let anybody get killed.

GALEN
(dryly)
What about the soldier Kemmer?

LORA
Accidents can happen in the midst of a conflict! People like Kemmer are necessary now, during the struggle. But after we win -- we'll need thinkers...people like you...
GALEN

(hesitates)
you're very convincing...

LORA

I hope so. Because I think we could...work together very well...

She smiles, moves slightly closer. Galen responds, almost touching her.

GRAYSON'S VOICE

(o.s.)

Lora.

WIDER ANGLE

Lora and Galen react, straighten apart as Grayson walks in, distracted.

GRAYSON

I think maybe we'd better put some more pressure on them. Send another message -- a tougher one...

INT. COUNCIL CHAMBER - DAY

Zaius and Sallus are seated, watching Ursus, who's pacing up and down, furious with energy.

URSUS

I've already laid out an entire operational program.

(ticks off points)

Agents to stir things up, bring the conspirators to the surface.

(beat)

Spot-checks on all Human papers, especially travel permits.

(beat)

Reliable Human agents to infiltrate the UFF.

(final point)

And haul in every relative of every UFF member.

SALLUS

(outraged)

What d'you want us to do, Ursus, suspend the law?!
URSUS
This is an emergency; a national crisis!
(looks at Sallus)
And a personal one, Sallus. Do you want Lora back? Or a handful of obsolete laws protected to the point of stupidity?

ZAIUS
(dryly)
Don't make a political speech, Ursus. Let's deal with facts...

He breaks off at a KNOCK. A door opens, a military MESSENGER, clearly nervous, enters with a packet, brings it to the table.

MESSENGER
Left at the door, sir; we didn't see whoever delivered it...

Sallus is already opening the packet -- revealing a note, and a striking silver bracelet. He grabs up the bracelet. Ursus is reading the note.

SALLUS
That's Lora's!
(to others)
I gave it to her myself, on her last birthday...

He fights tears, holding the bracelet -- then Ursus SLAMS an angry hand on the table.

URSUS
Listen to this!
(reads)
"...to keep Lora safe..."
(breaks off, to Sallus)
They says she's fine.
(resumes reading)
"...safe, we shall require two dozen rifles, enough supplies for five hundred people for two weeks, and safe passage out of your territory!"
(angrier)
Plus: abolition of the anti-Human laws!"
(slams down letter)
Weapons!

Cont.
ZAIUS
And if we refuse?

Sallus has picked up the letter, answers, ashen-faced.

SALLUS
They'll...kill Lora...
(desperately)
Zaius: we can't let that happen!

URSUS
We can't give them weapons!

SALLUS
We can't just refuse! We have to find some middle-ground...

URSUS
No! Give in once, one inch and there'll be kidnappings from the east border to the mountains!
(grimly)
We have to let them know we won't give in. We have to execute one of our hostages!

SALLUS
They'll kill Lora!

URSUS
They won't! They'd be afraid to!
(to Zaius)
Zaius, you know how the Council feels about fomenting radicalism among the Humans.
(beat)
One Human execution and they'll quiet down.

A long moment, and then Zaius shrugs.

ZAIUS
The Council is in agreement.
(beat)
Very well. You can have one of them killed.

FADE OUT

END OF ACT TWO
ACT THREE

FADE IN

EXT. CITY - GOVERNMENT SQUARE - DAY

A large square, walled off on two sides by the Government Building and the Prison. A number of Simians, bustling through on business; a few nervous Humans. CAMERA PANS TO PRISON WALL, TILTS UP, as:

CLIA'S VOICE
(c.s., tense, terrified)
You don't understand -- if we give in to these animals they'll simply do it again!

INT. KOVAK'S CELL -- ANGLE ON KOVAK AND CLIA - DAY

CLIA
Kidnap somebody else's child!
(twisting a handkerchief)
My husband explained -- that we have to stand firm.

KOVAK
That's Ursus talking!

CLIA
Ursus is the head of the Police, he should know!

KOVAK
Know what? How to turn a crisis into a disaster? He's practically daring the UFF to -- (stops himself) -- to do something wild.

CLIA
I suppose you're in favor of them?

KOVAK
Not much. It's because of them that I'm here.
(beat)
And if my friends can't find some rational answers -- I'm going to be killed.

CLIA
Oh...Kovak, I'm sorry! I didn't mean to --

Cont.
KOVAK
(cutting in)
Remind me?
(laughs)
I'm not about to forget it.

CLIA
It's horrible.
(beat)
When Lora used to play on school teams, I worried about her. And
now...
(looks at him)
And you, too. I never really
thought much about Humans. I
knew them mostly as house servants,
always a little unreliable.
(beat)
You're a real person to me.

KOVAK
Hey, I like you, too.

CLIA
Did you have a family?

KOVAK
Sure, the usual: mom, dad,
two sisters and a dog. I really
wanted two dogs and a sister, but...

He shrugs, grins. Clia tries to smile, but it breaks down.

CLIA
And they're going to kill you
because somebody else is going
to...kill...

She stops.

KOVAK
Hey, come on. Maybe Alan and Galen
will get through.

CLIA
I wish I could help.

KOVAK
You can.

She reacts, startled.
KOVAK
You can talk your husband into
getting them more time. By not
starting the killing!

CLIA
I've talked to him...

KOVAK
Talk harder.
(takes her hand)
Clia: long as we're all still
talking, there's hope. As soon
as somebody is killed -- it's all
over.

Clia starts to nod -- then jumps as the cell door CLANGS
open. ANGLE WIDENS as the warder enters, with a guard.

CLIA
What...

WARDER
Sorry to disturb you, ma'am.
But we just got orders.
(nods to Kovak)
He's to be moved, with the others.

KOVAK
Where?

WARDER
Isolation, human. In the
execution cell.

He nods at the guard, they hustle Kovak out. CAMERA MOVES
IN TIGHT ON CLIA.

EXT. GOVERNMENT SQUARE - DAY

The normal business of the Square is polarized as the CRIER,
a massive, dignified Orangutan, accompanied by a Gorilla
carrying two heavy sticks, moves through the crowd toward a
platform. The Crier mounts the platform, the Gorilla
assistant CRACKS the sticks together sharply. Everybody in
the Square: Human and Simian stop, listen.

CRIER
(stentorian voice)
A Human terrorist and murderer will
be executed tomorrow morning. In
Government Square.
The Gorilla executes another CRACK.

**CRIER**

*All Humans in the City are ordered to be present, to watch.*

*All Humans.*

The crowd is tense, silent. A long moment, and then the Gorilla CRACKS the sticks a third time, and there's an instant BUZZ of comment. The Crier starts to descend, the Gorilla lifts the sticks, CAMERA MOVES IN TIGHT as they CRACK together a last time.

**INT. UPP HEADQUARTERS - STORAGE ROOM - TIGHT ON WEAPON HOUSING - DAY**

A gunmetal-gray plastic housing encasing a weapon. Virdon is carefully prying the housing apart with a thin screwdriver. A sharp CRACK, the halves of the housing fall apart, revealing a formed interior holding a futuristic weapon: a flare-mouthed pistol.

**GRAYSON'S VOICE**

(o.s.)

*It's a weapon!*

**WIDER ANGLE**

The room is filled with junk: corroded machinery, pieces of equipment, heaps of dust. Grayson is watching, excited as Virdon carefully removes the weapon.

**GRAYSON**

(looks around)

*Are there any others? I had everything that even looked possible brought down here!*

**VIRDON**

*I don't know; this was preserved for -- I don't know how long...*

**GRAYSON**

*How does it work?*

**VIRDON**

*I'm not sure; this was developed after my time... (examining it) Possibly a form of laser, but I'll have to study it...*
GRAYSON
But a weapon. And from before
the Destruction...
(tense)
Can you make it work again, Virdon?

VIRDON
Maybe...

GRAYSON
Virdon: I want you in the UFF.
As a leader.

VIRDON
(dryly)
Because I might be able to get
this thing into operative condition?

GRAYSON
Because you seem to know technology!
And yes, because we need weapons!
(gestures)
This place is full of machines we
don't understand, but if we can
use them...!

VIRDON
For what? A new Destruction?

GRAYSON
No! Freedom. Our own state,
human...Simians, like Kemmer, with
us, not over us! Liberation!

VIRDON
With you in control.

Grayson looks at him sharply, then laughs.

GRAYSON
Yes, I won't lie to you; I'm a
leader. And I've proved it --
I created this.

He gestures at the entire UFF Headquarters structure,
grandly.

GRAYSON
And I've made the UFF strong.
Every time Ursus clamps down a
new law -- we get a hundred new
recruits.

(laughs)
You might say Ursus and I are
building the UFF together.
VIRDON

For war.

GRAYSON

If necessary! Everything new is born the same way: in blood and pain!

(beat)

You're a realist, Virdon. Join us; we're making the future.

VIRDON

I'm a -- cautious realist. Let me think about it.

Grayson looks at him, laughs.

GRAYSON

Of course. Think -- while you work on that weapon. When it's ready, I hope you are.

(beat)

But there isn't much time. We sent the Council another message, from Lora. They'll talk to us -- or start cracking down. Either way, we move closer to -- liberation...

INT. TOPMOST EYRIE OF UFF HEADQUARTERS - P.O.V. SHOT OUT WINDOW SLIT - ON COUNTRYSIDE - DAY

GALEN'S VOICE

(o.s.)

D'you really think your father can turn the whole Government around?

LORA'S VOICE

(o.s.)

He can start it...

CAMERA PULLS BACK TO WIDER ANGLE TO INCLUDE LORA AND GALEN.

LORA

...and once they just start talking to the UFF, to us, they'll see that Simians and Humans can work together! As equals!

She's eager, excited and Galen smiles, bemused.

GALEN

Lora...you're a political romantic.

Cont.
LORA
(angrily)
Don't condescend to me, Galen!
(moves away)
You're so -- full of liberal
middle-class prejudices!

GALEN
(irritated).
Yes, I am! You're putting your
parents through hell, just to make
an ideological point!

LORA
To make some -- real changes in
the world!

GALEN
By hurting people? Nothing
justifies hurting people! The
ends don't excuse the means, Lora --
the ends are the means!

LORA
You're hopeless!

She starts to storm away, and Galen grabs one arm, holds her.
Lora glares angrily, on the verge of hitting him -- then
stops, shaken, her feelings surfacing.

LORA
I don't want to hurt them, Galen!

CAMERA MOVES IN CLOSER as Lora moves closer to Galen.

LORA
But I promised Grayson and Kemmer
...I don't know how to stop it!

Galen starts to comfort her -- and there's an instant,
strong sensual current between them. They both react to it --
to each other.

INT. EXECUTION CELL - ANGLE ON KOVAK - DAY

The cell is a blank-walled box, except for one small window
in a wall. Kovak is pacing -- whirls at a SHARP, O.S.
CRACKING SOUND.

INT. PRISON - ANGLE ON CELLS AND SIMIAN PRISONERS

clearly upset, moving to the rear windows of their cells at
ANOTHER O.S. CRACKING SOUND.
INT. EXECUTION CELL - ANGLE ON KOVAK

looking out the small window. He winces at a THIRD CRACKING SOUND, o.s.

KOVAK

(softly)

Oh, my God...

EXT. GOVERNMENT SQUARE - TIGHT ON BLACK - DAY

He is walking slowly, flanked by two Gorilla soldiers. At another o.s. CRACKING SOUND he jerks slightly.

FULL SHOT - SQUARE

crowded with sullen Humans, ringed by a line of soldiery. It's the moment of execution, and Black, hands bound behind him, is being walked to the platform, where a huge wooden block stands, its top hollowed, for a head to lie. Beside it, an immense Gorilla, holding a polished wood and metal club. Zaius, Ursus, Sallus, several other middle-aged dignitaries are in a row, watching. Behind Black a Gorilla walks, CRACKING the two sticks together in steady rhythm.

ANGLE ON URSUS, ZAIUS AND SALLUS

SALLUS

It's barbaric!

URSUS

It's necessary.

ANGLE ON HUMAN CROWD

sullen, hate-filled, shifting, stirring. The CRACKS CONTINUE.

ANONYMOUS VOICE

(o.s., shouts)

Freedom now!

The mob movement increases; a ragged chorus shouts:

VOICES

(o.s.)

Freedom now!

ANGLE ON URSUS, ZAIUS AND SALLUS

Ursus leaps up, BLOWS a whistle.

ANGLE ON SOLDIERS

With trained precision, they produce weapons, take a step forward. The CRACKS CONTINUE.
ANGLE ON HUMAN CROWD
subsidings.

INT. EXECUTION CELL - ANGLE ON KOVAK - DAY
straining to see, face wracked. The CRACKS CONTINUE.

EXT. SQUARE - TIGHT ON BLACK - DAY
terrified, held and moved by the Gorillas. The CRACKS CONTINUE. He's walked OUT OF SHOT, and the Gorilla with the sticks WALKS INTO SHOT, CRACKS them together.

TIGHT SHOT - ZAIUS AND SALLUS

SALLUS
We can't, Zaius!

ZAIUS
(face tortured)
The Council voted.

Sallus closes his eyes in pain, then bows his head.

ANGLE ON EXECUTION PLATFORM
Black is walked up, knelt, his face pressed into the hollow on top of the block. The CRACKS CONTINUE. The executioner steps forward, lifts the huge club.

ANGLE ON CROWD
seething, held by fear.

ANGLE ON SALLUS, URSUS, ZAIUS AND OTHERS
Ursus' face is stone; the others contain revulsion.

ANGLE ON EXECUTION PLATFORM
Black is bound, the flankers step back. The executioner braces himself, heaves up the club.

INT. EXECUTION CELL - TIGHT ON KOVAK - AT WINDOW - DAY

KOVAK
(hastily)
Holy Mary Mother of God protect his soul...

INT. UFF HEADQUARTERS WORKROOM - TIGHT ON KATRIN - NIGHT
She's laughing, full-throated, gustily.
WIDER ANGLE

She's laughing with Virdon, who is working on the weapon, cautiously fitting two wires to contact points. Now, he's laughing as he makes the contact, twists the wire end with an awl -- then sets the awl on a stool...

VIRDON

...then I put the needle carefully on the bench...and then sat down to finish the job...

He pantomimes sitting on the awl, doing a take, leaping up, and Katrin laughs again, then subsides, smiling.

VIRDON

And that's how I passed electronics lab one...

(scowls at awl)

Wish there was a soldering iron on this planet...

KATRIN

You're good for me, Alan. And funny...even while you're working on -- that...

She sobers, shivers slightly, looking at the weapon.

KATRIN

What will it do?

VIRDON

It's an advanced laser -- with all the power in a fuel cell...

(demonstrates on weapon)

...emitted in measured intervals of monochromatic light...

(beat)

Although right now, with half the circuitry fused the power would just feed back...and I don't have the tools to repair it...

He stops; she clearly doesn't understand.

KATRIN

I don't understand -- but I do understand that it'll kill.

(shivers)

Don't repair it, Alan! Wreck it -- now!

Virdon's startled, sets down the weapon, crosses to Katrin.
CLOSER ON VIRDON AND KATRIN

VIRDON
I thought you were with Grayson, all the way...

KATRIN
I have my hatreds, my husband was killed by Ursus' soldiers, two years ago...

(hesitates)
...but -- he died trying to find a peaceful answer for us. His death won't be honored by this bloody violence we're planning!

Virdon picks up the weapon, hefts it.

VIRDON
(quietly)
If I push the firing stud... (touches it)
It'll destroy itself.

KATRIN
(looks at him)
Would you?

VIRDON
Say the word.

A moment, she moves closer to him --

KATRIN
Alan...yes...

And he kisses her; they move into a fierce embrace.

ENTRANCE TO AREA - ANGLE ON GALEN AND LORA - NIGHT .

coming in, hand in hand -- they stop, startled. Lora stifles laughter, nudges Galen.

LORA
(whispering)
It's -- touching...but they look so grotesque...

GALEN
(quietly)
They can't help it!

He deliberately COUGHS.
They pull apart hastily. Virdon looks at the weapon; Katrin shakes her head; a swift, negative gesture.

**KATRIN**
(sotto voce)
No. We can't trust Lora.

**GALEN**
Uh...sorry...but if you want to go ahead...

**VIRDON**
Galen: sometimes you have the sensitivity of a Gorilla!

Galen looks outraged, Lora giggles, Katrin smiles.

**VIRDON**
Why don't you and Lora go ahead and make love in public!

Lora reacts in shock; Galen is outraged.

**GALEN**
That's in very bad taste!
(stops, shrugs, wryly)
I feel like an idiot.
(beat)
All this surface liberalism; brothers under the fur and all that... we still suffer our prejudices...
(dryly)
Or make others suffer them...

He breaks off at a NOISE, o.s.: FOOTSTEPS, VOICES, SHOUTS. The group turns --

**WIDER ANGLE**

as Grayson, Kemmer, another Gorilla, a group of burly humans enter, in a rush. Grayson looks at Lora and Galen in a glaring fury.

**GRAYSON**
Have you heard?

**KATRIN**
What?

Cont.
GRAYSON
They murdered Black. Formal, bloody murder; in Government Square.

A horrified reaction; Katrin is deeply shaken.

KATRIN
Oh, no...

Grayson stalks over, confronts Lora.

GRAYSON
And your louse-ridden father didn't do one thing to stop it!

LORA
Then he couldn't!

GRAYSON
Because he didn't believe us! And Zaius didn't believe us! And Ursus probably broke up laughing at us!

(bitterly)
Filthy Simians! --

Kemmer reacts, Grayson turns to him quickly.

GRAYSON
Kemmer; I'm sorry.

Kemmer nods.

GALEN
Grayson, I --

KEMMER
Shut up.

GRAYSON
We told them what we'd do in our communiqué --

(looks at Lora)
Life for a life.

LORA
Yes, but... how'll we ever convince them...
GRAYSON
I'll tell you, Lora. I'll tell you!
(beat)
There's only one piece of evidence they'll believe!

Lora is staring, baffled. Galen gets the drift -- starts to react, but a pair of men grab him -- as Kemmer seizes Lora.

GRAYSON
We're going to execute you!

Lora's staggered, then she SCREAMS -- as Kemmer pulls her around. Galen struggles, CAMERA MOVES IN TIGHT ON LORA'S HORRIFIED FACE.

FADE OUT

END OF ACT THREE
ACT FOUR

FADE IN

EXT. GOVERNMENT SQUARE - ANGLE ON PLATFORM,
CRIER, ASSISTANT - DAY

as the Gorilla Assistant CRACKS the sticks together -- the
o.s. sound shreds into silence, the crack echoes.

TIGHT SHOT - SALLUS
caught in mid-step, frozen, listening.

ANGLE ON GROUP OF HUMANS
working under the direction of an orangutan. They're
listening in sullen silence, caught in every day activity.

TIGHT SHOT - URSUS
at an exit in the prison wall, face expressionless.

ANGLE ON PLATFORM, CRIER AND ASSISTANT

CRIER
Another human terrorist and
murderer will be executed
tomorrow morning.

Another CRACK.

ANGLE ON GROUP OFGORILLA SOLDIERS

CRIER'S VOICE
(o.s.)
All humans in the city are
ordered to be present, to watch...

ANGLE ON GROUP OF HUMANS
glaring in hatred.

CRIER'S VOICE
(o.s.)
All humans...

INT. UFF HEADQUARTERS - STOREROOM - DAY

A locked concrete box. Galen and Lora are clinging to each
other; he's trying to reassure her, comfort her. The
assorted junk in the b.g.

GALEN
...It's insane, and Grayson's own
people won't allow it!

Cont.
GALEN (Cont.)

(beat)
Open warfare! That's what would happen!
(gently)
Lora -- believe me...

LORA
I don't have to believe you,
Galen. I don't even have to
believe all those...brave lies...
(manages a smile)
I love you...

Galen pulls her to him, holds her, his face fierce.

GALEN
Where is Alan?

LORA
(resigned)
He's a human.

GALEN
He's my friend!

INT. UFF HEADQUARTERS - TIGHT SHOT - VIRDON - DAY

VIRDON
(desperately)
I have to keep lying to Grayson --
I can only help them as long as
I'm not a prisoner myself!

TWO SHOT - VIRDON AND KATRIN

VIRDON
I can break them out of the storeroom, but I'll need a
diversion to get them out of this concrete catacomb...

KATRIN
We can manage that.
(beat)
I was up half the night, with my people -- they're frightened. They think Grayson and Kemmer have gone crazy.

Cont.
VIRDON
No. Grayson wants a bloodbath; then all the Humans will have to turn to him -- the Maximum Leader!

(beat)
Do your people have any weapons?

KATRIN
A few. But Kemmer controls most of the UFF supplies...
(stops)
What about the -- what did you call it? Lasser?

VIRDON
Laser. I've got it almost unscrambled; maybe I can...

(grimly)
It's a horrible weapon -- on wide aperture it could burn an army into greasy smoke...but I'm willing to use it on Grayson...

CAMERA PULLS BACK sharply from Virdon and Katrin to REVEAL Kemmer, concealed, at an entrance to the area.

KATRIN
All right. I'll alert my people...

TIGHT SHOT - KEMMER

VIRDON'S VOICE
(o.s.)
I've drawn a map of the level they're on...

Kemmer turns, moves off soundlessly.

INT. GOVERNMENT COUNCIL CHAMBER - FULL SHOT - DAY

Clia and Sallus are facing Ursus, Zaius, two other council persons, across the table. Sallus SLAMS a hand onto a sheet of paper lying on the table.

SALLUS
You've all read it!

(shakes paper)
They're going to hurt my daughter!

URSUS
They won't dare.

Cont.
CLIA
You can't be sure of that!

URSUS
(heavily)
Madame...

SALLUS
(to Zaius)
I'm appealing to you personally,
Zaius! Announce that at least
we'll talk to them!

ZAIUS
I'm not a dictator, Sallus.

SALLUS
I thought you were a friend.

ZAIUS
I've known Lora since she could
fit into my hand!
(extends hand)
But I can't overrule all of our
people!
(gestures)
They're out in the streets --
they've all heard the threat; they're
in an anti-human fury!
(heavily)
If we try to -- treat with these
Uff animals...there'll be riots
that could kill hundreds of
humans. And people!
(slams down hand)
And that won't save Lora!

A long beat, then Ursus leans forward.

URSUS
Clia. Sallus.
(beat)
We sent out the human Virdon, and
Galen. They produced no answer,
nothing. Now...

I must be honest: Lora may
already be dead.
Clia reacts in horror, chokes a sob. Sallus comforts her.

**ANGLE ON GROUP**

**URSUS**
They may have told the UFF that we were bluffing.
(suddenly harsh)
We have to teach them we're not.
(to Zaius)
If Lora is dead -- we'll have
revenge, payment. If she's still
alive -- we'll give them a warning.
(flatly)
Virdon's friend. Kovak. We'll
execute him tomorrow.

**INT. EXECUTION CELL - DAY**

Kovak whirls as the door opens -- and Clia, Sallus enter.
Behind them, the Warder looks empathetic, unhappy as he
shuts the door.

**KOVAK**
I heard -- on the grapevine,
about your daughter.
(emotionally)
I'm sorry!

**CLIA**
(fighting tears)
Oh, no.
(to Sallus)
Did you hear that? He's facing
death and he has feeling for us.
(to Kovak,
emotionally)
I've been a prejudiced person
all of my life -- and I was wrong!

**SALLUS**
Clia...

**CLIA**
It's true!

**SALLUS**
(heavily)
I know.
(to Kovak)
Kovak -- I tried. They voted
me down; people are wild for blood.
(beat)
I'm sorry...
KOVAK
Thanks for trying, sir.

CLIA
Oh, God.
(hugs Kovak)
I'll mourn you as if you were mine!

Kovak returns the caress, moved, as is Sallus.

INT. UFF HEADQUARTERS - UPPER CORRIDOR - DAY
Katrin and Virdon, with a number of her followers; mostly human, but two Simians.

KATRIN
Why can't we just -- go in
and break the door open!
Take them out!

VIRDON
While Grayson applauds?

KATRIN
Grayson doesn't know! He can't,
we've only talked among ourselves.

VIRDON
(cynically)
Back in my time, we had a saying:
One secret, Two conspirators,
Three leaks.
(beat)
We need a diversion, something
to keep Grayson busy.

MAN
A couple of us could go to the
kitchens, and get a fire started.

A CHORUS of approval. Virdon nods.

VIRDON
That's good. And I think I
can use the laser to cause
a little fuss...

KATRIN
You're going to kill?

Cont.
She's concerned. Virdon shakes his head, smiles.

VIRDON
No. I hope we won't have to.

KATRIN
(fiercely)
We can't.
(to them all)
Once we get Galen and Lora free, we'll leave. We can go past the Blasted Zone -- find our own place, where we can live together, Simian and human! In peace!

A CHORUS of enthusiasm, and Virdon kisses Katrin, she smiles, he turns, moves off. She heads up the corridor with her people.

INT. STOREROOM - ANGLE ON GALEN AND LORA - DAY

He's holding her gently.

LORA
How late is it?

GALEN
(softly)
Shhh...

He caresses her, his face tortured.

INT. UFF WORKROOM - DAY

Virdon hurries in, crosses to the workbench, starts to look for the weapon. He can't find it, searches -- then freezes at:

GRAYSON'S VOICE
(c.s.)
I have it.

ANGLE PAST VIRDON - ON GRAYSON, KEMMER AND MEN

Grayson steps out of concealment, holding the laser. The others are armed. Virdon moves closer to the bench, near a bin of powdered chalk.

VIRDON
Careful, Grayson. You don't realize how dangerous that is...

Cont.
GRAYSON
I hope you're right.

He smiles -- and Virdon whirls, grabs the bin of chalk, SMASHES it down on the floor. It breaks, and the powder puffs up in a silent, choking cloud. SHOUTS, as Virdon races off.

INT. CORRIDOR - ANGLE ON STOREROOM DOOR - DAY

Katrin and her people reach the door. They carry a heavy table.

KATRIN
Galen! Lora!

INT. STOREROOM - DAY

Galen and Lora react, excited.

KATRIN'S VOICE
(o.s.)
Stand clear!

They move back hastily -- as there's a SMASH at the door.

INT. CORRIDOR - DAY

Virdon races along it desperately, then up a flight of steps. CAMERA PANS back along corridor as Grayson, Kemmer, the others pursue.

INT. CORRIDOR - ANGLE ON STOREROOM DOOR - DAY

Katrin and her people smash the table into the door again.

INT. STOREROOM - DAY

as the door CRASHES in.

ANGLE TILTING DOWN STAIRCASE - DAY

Virdon races up it, o.s. CAMERA HOLDS as Grayson, Kemmer the other pursuers start up the staircase, Grayson holding the laser.

ANGLE ON CORRIDOR

Katrin whirls as Virdon comes racing toward them. Galen and Lora are coming out of the shattered doorway.

VIRDON
Grayson! And he has the laser -- we have to get out!
He gestures urgently down the corridor, takes a few steps -- but a MAN blocks him, after they've gone a few feet.

**MAN**

It's a dead end, that way!

Virdon reacts, whirls, the group with him -- and they all stop, react.

**THEIR P.O.V. - GRAYSON, KEMMER AND OTHERS**

racing toward them, Grayson carrying the laser. He sees them, smiles, stopping, near the storage room doorway.

**ANGLE ON GROUP**

horrified. Several of them raise weapons, nervously.

**ANGLE PAST GROUP - ON GRAYSON, KEMMER AND PURSUERS**

A couple of Grayson's people move into the storage room for protection. Grayson laughs, lifts the laser.

**GRAYSON**

What's the range on this, Virdon?

Virdon gestures to the people behind him -- not to fire.

**VIRDON**

I warn you...

**GRAYSON**

(gently)

Yes, I know. It's powerful...

He laughs, Kemmer joins in.

**TIGHT SHOT - GRAYSON**

as he aims the laser, shoves down the firing stud. CAMERA PULLS BACK RAPIDLY to include Virdon, Katrin, Galen, Lora and others, watching with horrified fascination as the laser begins to WHINE, then glow, the light pulsing.

**TIGHT SHOT - GRAYSON AND KEMMER**

baffled.

**ANGLE ON VIRDON AND OTHERS**

**VIRDON**

Drop! Don't look at it!

Confused, responsive, they fall flat.
TIGHT SHOT - GALEN AND LORA
He protecting her.

ANGLE ON VIRDON AND KATRIN
huddled together.

ANGLE ON GRAYSON AND KEMMER

KEMMER
Shut it off!

The laser's shrieking, vibrating. Grayson's face is frantic as he tries to hammer the firing stud back out. Kemmer grabs it free, and hurls it into the storage area.

ANGLE ON STORAGE ROOM - SHOOTING PAST GRAYSON, KEMMER AND PURSUERS.

Some of the group inside the room yell, try to shove out as the laser BLOWS.

ANGLE ON CORRIDOR - SHOOTING PAST VIRDON, KATRIN AND GROUP

as the walls buckle, the storage room explodes, obliterating the machinery inside -- not to mention Grayson, Kemmer et al.

INT. CORRIDOR - ANGLE ON VIRDON, KATRIN, GALEN, LORA AND OTHERS

huddled as debris rains down in a glaring white light. Then it is quiet; they move, turn, look, react.

THEIR P.O.V. - CORRIDOR AND STORAGE ROOM

The corridor is twisted, marred -- and the storage room is a mound of wreckage.

ANGLE ON GROUP

getting up. CAMERA PANS to Galen, Lora as he helps her up, gently. She smiles at him.

INT. GOVERNMENT COUNCIL CHAMBER - TIGHT SHOT - LORA - DAY

LORA
(quietly)
...so I owe my life not to my own -- but to humans.

Cont.
ANGLE WIDENS to include the Council, spectators, including Clia -- and Virdon, Galen and Kovak before the Council, with Lora a short distance from them.

LORA

No. That's wrong. Humans are equally my own.

She smiles at Virdon; he smiles back. A moment, and then a gathering MURMUR of approval -- which escalates into a respectable storm.

ANGLE ON URSUS, ZAIUS, SALLUS, AND OTHER COUNCIL PERSONS

Ursus' face is hard, unyielding.

ZAIUS

Ursus.

ANGLE ON OTHERS - SHOOTING PAST COUNCIL

Ursus looks at Kovak, grimly.

URSUS

There was an agreement, that if Virdon and Galen secured Lora's return, safely, they would be free to leave.

(beat)

I'm not certain this is wise...

ZAIUS

(in a fury)

No!

(rams down a hand)

We pledged ourselves!

SALLUS

Yes.

The others nod agreement. Ursus looks furious.

ZAIUS

For myself... I want to keep them as prisoners, dig every piece of information possible out of them!

(beat)

For the Council:

(to Virdon, Galen, Kovak)

You will be furnished with horses, supplies, whatever you need. And you are free to go.
VIRDON

Thank you, Zaius.

ZAIUS

(grimly)

Don't. I am honoring my pledge -- not my inclination.

He turns away.

KOVAK

Thanks, anyway!

Several of the spectators crowd forward, Sallus comes around from the table; a moment of general congratulation.

ANGLE ON VIRDON AND URSUS

Ursus comes around the end of the table, pauses, facing Virdon for a moment.

URSUS

(unemotionally)

Zaius was right; you're free to go.

VIRDON

(dryly)

Thanks.

URSUS

But once you're gone -- our pledge is kept. And done.

(voice deepens)

You're a disruptive force, Virdon!

VIRDON

We won't bother you, Ursus!

URSUS

One way or the other -- I'll see to that.

And with that flat threat, he turns, walks off. CAMERA HOLDS on Virdon, concerned.

EXT. CITY - FULL SHOT - DAY

Virdon, Kovak and Galen with their loaded horses. Lora, Clia and Sallus, breaking into smaller groupings.
ANGLE ON KOVAK AND CLIA

She's fussing, adjusting his jacket.

CLIA
It doesn't fit well...

KOVAK
I'm fine!

SALLUS
Let her fuss; there's no use fighting it.

Clia breaks off to glare at Sallus, and Kovak hugs her, swings into the saddle.

ANGLE ON VIRDON, GALEN AND LORA

LORA
(quietly, to
Virdon)
Katrin left me directions -- where she and her people are going.

(beat)
Don't tell mother -- but I might join them, later...

(smiles)
But it's really you she'd like to see.

VIRDON
(soberly)
Maybe. I don't know...

LORA
(quickly, putting a hand on his arm)
I'm sorry. I know it's just as real for you as it is for us...

She looks at Galen, and suddenly, she's fighting tears. Galen smiles at her, anxiously.

GALEN
Lora...

ANGLE ON VIRDON

as he swings onto his horse.
TWO SHOT - GALEN AND LORA

LORA
Just...good-bye?

GALEN
What can I say, Lora? We've a long journey into -- the Name knows what...

LORA
But -- you will come back?

GALEN
(quiedy, intensely)
I'll try.

A moment, and then Lora manages a laugh, kisses him swiftly.

LORA
And I'll hope...

She tries to block tears. Galen, moved, pulls her to him once, fiercely, then turns away. ANGLE WIDENS as Galen swings onto his horse. All three wave, turn their horses, start off. CAMERA HOLDs as they begin riding away.

FADE OUT

THE END