CAST LIST

PLANET OF THE APES

GALEN
PETE BURKE
ALAN VIRDON
URKO
ZAIUS

CARSIA (FEMALE CHIMP)
LEURIC (HUMAN)
KONAG (GORILLA)
COUNCIL ORANG (ORANGUTAN)

1ST TROOPER (GORILLA)
2ND TROOPER (GORILLA)
DRIVER (HUMAN)

Troopers, Guards, Humans, etc.
INTERIORS:
KONAG'S HEADQUARTERS
LEURIC'S BARN
COUNCIL CHAMBER
TEMPLE (RUINED)
JAIL CORRIDOR
LEURIC'S CELL
GARRISON OUTER OFFICE
CARSAIA'S WORKSHOP
VARIOUS GARRISON CORRIDORS

EXTERIORS:
BEACH HILLSIDE BY RUINED WALL
TREES NEAR BEACH
RAVINE
CHATKA GARRISON
RUINED TEMPLE
COUNTRYSIDE
FARM
WOODS
BEACH AND CLIFFS
OCEAN PLATEAU
VILLAGE HUT
"UP ABOVE THE WORLD SO HIGH"

ACT ONE

FADE IN

(NOTE TO DIRECTOR: PLEASE ALLOW 45 FEET OF SILENT ACTION FOR SUPERIMPOSITION OF TITLES.)

EXT. BEACH HILLSIDE BY RUINED WALL - MED. CLOSE SHOT - BERRY BUSH - DAY

ripe with odd-looking fruit. GALEN, carrying a small sack, plucks a berry, tastes it, is pleased and starts filling the sack. A SHADOW FLITS BY. Galen pauses, not sure he saw anything. He returns his attention to the berries. The SHADOW FLITS by again. He turns and looks o.s., gasping in surprise, then fear.

GALEN'S P.O.V. - LONG SHOT - GLIDER

pitching and yawing, virtually out of control. Its design is similar to a hang glider but constructed of crude wooden struts, animal hide wings tied together with thongs, etc. The pilot is indistinguishable except for his legs hanging down and thrashing about wildly, fighting for control. The glider wings over TOWARD CAMERA (Galen).

BACK TO GALEN

gasping in terror, CAMERA ANGLING with him as he dives for the shelter of the ruined wall. After a moment, he peers out.

GALEN'S P.O.V. - THE GLIDER

turning away, winging over the valley again.

BACK TO GALEN

looking down o.s., CAMERA ANGLING with him as he moves out a few paces, waving, yelling.

GALEN

Alan! Pete!

REVERSE ANGLE - DOWN TO TREES

as VIRDON and BURKE emerge, each finishing an odd-looking fruit.

VIRDON

(yells back)

What's the matter?
MID. CLOSE SHOT - GALEN

GALEN
(pointing o.s.)
A...a flying reptile!

He glances o.s., reacts and dives behind the boulder.

MID. TWO SHOT - VIRDON AND BURKE

BURKE
A...what?

OUT

THEIR P.O.V. - THE GLIDER

appearing momentarily, disappearing.

OUT

LOW ANGLE - GLIDER

soaring along, CAMERA LOWERING to include Virdon and Burke as they almost reach Galen.

GALEN
I think it sees us!

Viridon and Burke pause and look back, reacting to what they see.

THEIR P.O.V. - THE GLIDER

pitching and yawing, turning and winging away.

BURKE'S VOICE
(o.s.; awed)
Well...whadda y'know...

MID. SHOT - VIRDON AND BURKE - GALEN IN B.G.

VIRDON
I don't believe it...

Galen hesitantly moves to them, noting their reactions.

GALEN
Aren't you frightened?

VIRDON
Of what? Seeing a man fly?

Cont.
GALEN  
(relieved)  
For a moment there, I...  
(reacts)  
Humans can't fly!

BURKE  
(reacts)  
Oh-oh!

THEIR P.O.V. - THE GLIDER  
Something has happened as it yaws and pitches wildly.

EXT. BEACH - LONG SHOT - TWO GORILLA TROOPERS  
approaching, suddenly reining in. Looking up, o.s.

CLOSE SHOT - GALEN, VIRDON AND BURKE AT RUINED WALL  
as they spot the Gorillas, flatten themselves against the wall. Then they look back at the sky.

ANGLE ON THE GLIDER  
seemingly out of control, vanishes behind the crest of a hill, apparently crashing into a stand of trees.

ANGLE ON THE TROOPERS  
They lash their horses back to the road leading up from the beach.

ANGLE ON GROUP AT WALL  
VIRDON  
Let's get out of here.

Crouching low, they duck across the open stretch of ground to the shrub cover of the hillside.
LOW ANGLE - GORILLAS

as they gallop up the beach past the ruined wall, swing their horses up toward the crash scene; CAMERA PUSHES IN to Galen, Virdon and Burke, crouching in the bushes, as the Gorillas gallop past. Then Virdon, in the lead, Galen and Burke take a short cut up the hill.

ANGLE ON TROOPERS

as they spur up the winding road.

EXT. TREES - MED. LONG SHOT - GALEN AND BURKE - DAY

running toward CAMERA. Galen suddenly points o.s.

GALEN

Wait!

REVERSE LONG SHOT - TWO TROOPERS
crossing a meadow, below them, riding upward. Beyond, in the b.g., the sea.

BACK TO GALEN AND BURKE

GALEN

We'd better get there first.
A flying human? They'll kill him.

They hurry off, CAMERA PANNING them o.s. through the trees.

EXT. TREES' - LOW ANGLE - GLIDER WRECKAGE - DAY

scattered about, hanging from tree branches. An o.s. THRASHING SOUND is HEARD as CAMERA PANS the scene to HOLD on the upside-down figure of Leuristic, fiftyish, hanging by his foot entangled in a piece of wreckage. He "curses" under his breath as he tries to extricate himself.

CLOSE SHOT - HIS FOOT

coming loose from the wreckage.

ANGLE ON LEURIC

flailing out with a YELL, grasping the leaves of a branch, CAMERA LOWERING with him as he falls, pulling the branch down with him, allowing him to land with a thump but unhurt.

ANGLE THROUGH TREES

as Virdon appears. He sees Leuric o.s. and yells back.

Cont.
VIRDON
Pete! Galen! This way. I found him!

CAMERA PANS him quickly to Leuric as the latter sits up, brushing himself off.

VIRDON
Are you hurt?

Leuric allows him to assist him to his feet through the following. Leuric is preoccupied with the glider and pays little attention to Virdon.

LEURIC
No. --
    (works back muscle)
Ow...Ah! -- Better. (relaxes)
Let's see. Gust of wind from there -- should have put my weight that side...

VIRDON
(breaking in)
It's not that simple. The design is wrong.

LEURIC
I'll correct --. Never mind. You wouldn't understand. (surveying wreck) I can save most of this. Reinforce the wings. Yes. That'll do it.

VIRDON
Keep trying and you'll kill yourself.

LEURIC
It would be worth it. I'll fly. That's something no other man or Ape has ever done. I --

He breaks off as ONCOMING HOOFBEATS are HEARD; turning, alarmed, he becomes aware of Galen for the first time.

Cont.
LEURIC
An ape!

VIRDON
(stops him)
Hold it! We're friends.

LEURIC
(indicates Galen)
Him?

Before Virdon can answer:

BURKE
Those Troopers spotted you!

Virdon takes Leuric by the arm and they all head o.s.

OUT

ANGLE THROUGH TREES - THE TROOPERS
urging their mounts forward.

OUT

LOW ANGLE - TROOPERS
approaching, reining in at tree where Leuric crashed.
CAMERA PANS UP to wreckage.

FIRST TROOPER'S VOICE
(o.s.)
We have the thing that flies.

OUT
INT. LEURIC'S BARN - CLOSE ON GLIDER MODEL - DAY

The model swings and swoops, giving the impression, if possible, that it is a full scale glider. CAMERA PULLS BACK TO REVEAL the size of the model and the energy source which initiates its movement -- a large bellows energetically operated by Leuric. Galen watches in fascination, Virdon and Burke in sympathy and appreciation of the effort and intelligence represented by this crude device.

LEARIC

You see, it will work.

The barn is a workshop with primitive tools, glue pots, stretch frames for skins, bamboo poles, etc. On one of the tables, a six-inch hunk of molten glass has been placed carelessly. Leuric, having delivered himself of his pronunciamento to his "guests," now concerns himself with the glider model and speaks essentially to himself.

VIRDON

You got your glider off the ground but you were lucky you weren't killed.

LEARIC

You have a superstitious fear of a man flying.

BURKE

I've got plenty of fears but that's not one of them. I guarantee you'll kill yourself.

LEARIC

How would you know?

GALEN

Believe me, they know.

Cont.
LEURIC
(a beat)
Really? -- No, it's impossible.
No one has flown. I'm the first.
They can't know anything about it.

Burke and Virdon exchange looks of frustration which are
intercepted by Galen as Leuric continues fiddling with his
model.

GALEN
(taking Leuric's
arm)
Why would an Ape bother to lie
to humans? When I tell you that
these two know about flying,
listen and believe.

Leuric is semi-convinced. He'll listen.

BURKE
I don't know how you got as far
as you did but now you need to
know aerodynamics, the characteristics
of lift bodies, turbulence, wind
eddies, a dozen other things.

LEURIC
(impressed)
I don't know what all those
words mean.

VIRDON
You've invented a sort of glider.
That's a remarkable achievement,
but it's a dead end. Where do
you go with it?

LEURIC
Into the sky.

VIRDON
For what? Put the same thought
and energy into something that will
be useful for yourself, for others...

BURKE
Invent a new kind of plow or
something.

Cont.
LEURIC
(driven)
I will fly! I tell you I will
be the first being to --
(stopping himself)
You're trying to steal my idea,
to take the credit.

Virdon and Burke are reluctant to destroy Leuric's dream.

VIRDON
We're not competing with you.
We're trying to help.

BURKE
Listen to me, Leuric. If we
worked on your glider, taught you
safety techniques, got you soaring
like an eagle, we'd only be setting
you up as a target. You'd be
spotted by some Gorilla and pow!

He mimes a shot and the crash of the glider.

LEURIC
I don't care.

GALEN
Why is it so important?

LEURIC
You rule the world. You've
never been forced to bow and
scrape. You've never been denied
the chance to convince --
yourself, to prove what you are,
to do some one thing that will
say Leuric is -- Leuric, special,
with ability, imagination --

Our trio is moved by Leuric's need to prove himself.

LEURIC
(ending the
discussion)
I've already thanked you. Now
I must get back to work.

His stubbornness is frustrating.
GALEN
How long until the Apes find you? Now they know a human has tried to fly, they won't stop until they find that human.

LEURIC
I won't stop my work.

BURKE
A bullet may stop it for you. Isn't there any place you can work where you won't be spotted?

LEURIC
(a beat)
There is one -- No. To transport all my tools, my materials, it would take too much time.

VIRDON
We'll help you move.

Leuric is given pause.

BURKE
Yeah, sure. Now, how about lugging this junk to wherever?

LEURIC
You're very good to me. I will show you. Several trips will be necessary.

VIRDON
That's all right.

As all begin to load themselves with the impedimenta of the barn, Galen picks up the hunk of glass and examines it curiously.

GALEN
Is this something to do with flying?

LEURIC
(headshake)
I found it on the beach. A strange rock appeared after lightning struck...

Cont.
BURKE
The sand must have melted and a hunk of glass formed. I'll polish it, Galen, and show you what can be done with it...If you don't mind, Leuric...

Leuric gestures assent. They continue to load up. CAMERA MOVES IN on a wing section.

OUT  40

INT. COUNCIL CHAMBER - CLOSE ON WING OF GLIDER - 41 DAY

This is a wing from the crashed glider. As will be seen on CAMERA PULLBACK, it is being displayed to the full Council by Konag.

COUNCIL ORANG'S VOICE
(o.s.)
You expect us to believe a human --
(CAMERA pulling back)
-- a human flew -- something even Apes can't do?

Much incredulity from Council. Also present, CARSIA, an intellectual Chimp female -- very bright, with much drive and a subtle Machiavellian mind. She has perfected the device of self-effacement as a lulling weapon. Konag is momentarily left speechless by the attack on his credibility.

URKO
I expect you to believe Konag.
My garrison commanders don't ask to address the Council for the purpose of lying.

ZAIUS
This is interesting but nothing more than a toy. Is there any objection to having the human found, killed, and any other such toys destroyed?

CARSIA
If I might have permission -- ?

Zaius nods.

Cont.
CARSIA
I'm just a simple scientist who has none of your wisdom in dealing with humans. I merely wonder if this idea -- even though stumbled upon by a human -- might not serve us.

URKO
Ridiculous. How could a human idea serve us?

CARSIA
I don't know. But this is new, unexplored. What would be lost in a closer examination?

Some signs of thoughtful consideration from Council members, bar Urko -- and resentment from Konag.

ZAIUS
Go on...

CARSIA
It's not widely known, but there is reason to believe our ancestors were able to fly.

This is a bombshell. AD-LIB expressions of amazement from all but Zaius.

CARSIA
I have seen references, vague but strongly suggestive, in remnants of books from the old days before the world was almost destroyed.

ZAIUS
Perhaps this human learned from some book he found.

URKO
If he has such a book, it's punishable by death. He can infect other humans. In any case why bother to develop a worthless toy?

CARSIA
I'm sure you're absolutely right, Urko.

He preens.
CARSIA
And yet, I wonder...if flying
was worthless, would our ancestors
have engaged in it?

Urko has egg on his face.

EXT. RUINED TEMPLE - CLOSE SHOT - VIRDON - DAY

carrying an armload of glider parts, etc., CAMERA PANNING
him into the remains of the building.

INT. TEMPLE - ANGLE ON VIRDON - DAY

ENTERING, to INCLUDE Burke setting up other tools and
equipment from Leuric's barn. Virdon dumps his armload
on a makeshift table.

BURKE
How much more?

VIRDON
Galen and Leuric should be
bringing the last of it.

Burke nods, picks up the hunk of glass.

BURKE
I'll work on this. I want to
see Galen's face when he first
looks through a magnifying glass.

Burke polishes the glass, Virdon fiddles with wing parts
as Galen rushes in breathlessly.

GALEN
Leuric was captured!

Cont.
On their reaction:

GALEN
I watched from hiding. There was nothing I could do. They took him away.

VIRDON
Why didn't they kill him?

GALEN
Good question...
(beat)
About the only thing I can think of...they just might want to make a spectacle of him.

BURKE
How?

GALEN
A public execution.

Their eyes lock.

OUT 49-
56

FADE OUT

END OF ACT ONE
ACT TWO

FADE IN

EXT. CHATKA GARRISON - DAY

A carriage, driven by a nondescript HUMAN DRIVER, pulls up. A number of boxes are stacked on the top of the carriage. (The boxes, of course, are crude -- packages wrapped in skins or cloth can augment one or two boxes.) One box, which is only partially visible, is a relic from the twentieth century. It's green, Army issue metal, and will later be seen to have stamped upon it, FRAGMENTATION-COSMOLINE PACK. Carsia EMERGES from the carriage.

CARSIA
(to Driver)
Bring my things in.

Driver begins unloading as Carsia moves into the garrison.

INT. KONAG'S QUARTERS - DAY

Konag, none too happy, has not risen to face Carsia who is cool and pleasant.

CARSIA
Congratulations on capturing the human. Where is he?

KONAG
In a cell. He's been handled roughly but he can answer your questions.

CARSIA
I'm sure he'll be more cooperative thanks to your handling.

As she speaks, Driver begins bringing in her gear. Konag rises, suspicious, resentful.

KONAG
What is all this?

CARSIA
Some things for use with the human, X the rest for my comfort since I'll be staying awhile.

KONAG
The Council gave you authority to deal with the human for a short while.
CARSIA
Tell me, Konag. How long is a short time? A day, three, seven, nine -- ?

KONAG
We have no guest facilities. This is a troop garrison.

CARSIA
(looking around)
I don't mind inconvenience. This will be perfectly adequate.
(to Driver)
Put those there.

KONAG
These are my quarters!

CARSIA
It's most generous of you to offer them. I'll tell Urko and the Council how very helpful you are.

Konag is speechless. Carsia assumes agreement and begins checking the gear which has been brought in.

CARSIA
I shall also need a large room, a workroom, well guarded. I'm sure you could manage two or three sturdy tables, and beyond that, you'll hardly know I'm here.
(sorting gear)
I do thank you, Konag. My servant will carry out your personal effects. I'll question the human shortly.

With which, Konag finds himself dismissed. He hesitates, chomps on his anger, then EXITS.

INT. JAIL CORRIDOR - DAY

First Trooper is on duty. He's eating, but quickly hides the food upon hearing FOOTSTEPS. Carsia sweeps IN.

CARSIA
Ah, Trooper. I'm Carsia. You were told to expect me?

FIRST TROOPER
Yes.

Cont.
CARSIA
Take me to the human, Leuric...

FIRST TROOPER
He's being punished. He doesn't show respect.

SOUND of SLAP and subdued CRY.

CARSIA
I'll wait...

ANOTHER SLAP is heard. Carsia is unmoved.

INT. LEURIC'S CELL - DAY

He's been shoved into a corner by Second Trooper and he shows marks of the treatment he's had. Leuric is in bad shape, unable to pull himself up but glaring nonetheless at his tormentor and displaying no contrition.

SECOND TROOPER
Stand up!

Leuric tries, but can't. He's defiant even in weakness. Second Trooper shrugs.

SECOND TROOPER
Next time, eat what's given to you without complaining.

He turns and opens cell door.

ANGLE FROM CORRIDOR INTO CELL

as door opens. Carsia steps INTO doorway, blocking Second Trooper, looking at Leuric with compassion, shaking her head.

CARSIA
(to Second Trooper)
You're worse than these lower animals!

SECOND TROOPER
Who are you?

First Trooper APPEARS behind Carsia to wave Second Trooper to silence.

CARSIA
There's nothing worse than strength and authority without intelligence -- get out!

In total bewilderment, Second Trooper EXITS.
INT. LEURIC'S CELL - DAY

Leuric has watched Carsia's performance with wonderment. She moves to stand over him, not pretending to be at his level -- which he would find suspicious, but sympathetic and understanding.

CARSIA
I'm very sorry.

LEURIC
Apes aren't sorry for humans.

CARSIA
I'm different from some Apes. I think you're different from most humans. That's why I'm here.
(calling)
Guard.

First Trooper ENTERS.

CARSIA
When this man has rested, and had his hurts attended, please bring him to me. I needn't warn you there is to be no repetition of the brutality I just witnessed.

First Trooper nods dumbly. Carsia EXITS.

EXT. GARRISON - DAY

ANGLE AWAY from front of garrison. Carsia's carriage is parked, the horse unhitched and Driver currying the animal. Burke is standing next to him, admiring the horse, envying Driver.

BURKE
You drove all the way from Central City?

DRIVER
I drive Carsia to towns even farther than this one. She is a very important ape.

BURKE
And you get to ride. You're lucky.

DRIVER
(nodding)
Oh, yes.

Cont.
BURKE
If I was an important Ape like Carsia
-- is that her name? -- I could think
of better places to visit than this

DRIVER
Something happened.

BURKE
What?

DRIVER
I don't know but Carsia wouldn't
come all this way to talk to a human
unless something unusual was going on...

INT. KONAG'S QUARTERS - DAY

Now occupied by Carsia who is facing a somewhat recovered
but wary Leuric.

LEURIC
Why did you tell that Guard not
to beat me?

CARSIA
Because beatings accomplish nothing
which cannot be achieved in a more
civilized way.

LEURIC
What do you want?

CARSIA
I will not undergo questioning
by a human for whom I've requested
decent treatment.

LEURIC
I'm sorry.

CARSIA
That's the first reasonable thing
you've said.

LEURIC
And I appreciate what you did.

CARSIA
The second. Good.
LEURIC
But why did you do it?

CARSIA
Questioning again. Well, never mind. I suppose I'd be suspicious, too. Leuric, I want to help you.

LEURIC
Why?

CARSIA
(flare of impatience)
Stop questioning and accept the favors you're offered!

He doesn't reply. She controls her temper.

CARSIA
I am a scientist. I'm interested in truth and knowledge. I've been told you know the secret of flying. Is it true?

LEURIC
Yes.

CARSIA
Can you prove to me that a man -- or an Ape could fly?

LEURIC
I could prove that I can fly.

CARSIA
How?

LEURIC
By flying.

CARSIA
So you say...

LEURIC
I have flown -- almost. If my materials and tools had not been taken from me --
(stops himself)
If they don't kill me, if I ever get out of here, I'll fly.

Carsia studies him silently.
INT. GARRISON OUTER OFFICE - CLOSE ON SECOND TROOPER - DAY

Second Trooper is sitting at the desk staring up at someone o.s., bewilderment written large on his face.

GALEN'S VOICE

(o.s.)
A flying reptile was actually seen near here, or so I was told.

CAMERA PULLS BACK to reveal Galen who is squinting at Second Trooper.

SECOND TROOPER
I don't know anything about flying reptiles but if I hear of any --

GALEN
(interrupting)
You're not interested. I'm wasting time. Who is your superior? Where is he?

SECOND TROOPER
Konag is inspecting the outposts. He'll be back tonight.

GALEN
There must be someone -- is anyone else here besides yourself?

SECOND TROOPER
She's busy.

GALEN
She? In a garrison?

SECOND TROOPER
Visiting from Central City.

GALEN
From civilization! I'll wait for her.

He sits on a convenient chair. Second Trooper is not pleased, but raises no objection.
INT. CARSIA'S WORKSHOP - DAY

The "large, well-guarded room" which Carsia requested from Konag. Tables have been supplied and they are loaded with materials identical with those used by Leuric in making his glider. An assortment of tools indigenous to the time as well as some from the twentieth century are on display. Leuric wanders in awe, touching various items as if to insure the reality. Carsia watches.

LEURIC
This must be the finest collection of tools in the world.

CARSIA
I should think so. I borrowed them from our best museums and workshops.

LEURIC
For me to use?

She nods.

LEURIC
So that I can fly?

CARSIA
Is there anything else you'll need?

LEURIC
Is there anything else to need?

CARSIA
I'm not familiar with tools, and some of these were developed by our ancestors. We've since lost the knack of using them -- perhaps because we have humans to do our labor.

(picking up plane)
I suppose you'll know what to do with them. This does seem an awkward instrument for driving nails.

She makes the attempt to drive a nail.

LEURIC
It has another use...

He shows her. The wood shavings will be used later.

CARSIA
Very good. You are clever with your hands. Just be equally clever with your head and design a device which will take you high into the sky.
She nods, smiles.

INT. GARRISON OUTER OFFICE - DAY

Second Trooper leaning back in his chair, half asleep; Galen seated, tapping his toe impatiently, nervously examining his fingernails.

GALEN
How much longer must I wait for this female?

CARSIA
(entering)
No longer...Hello. I'm Carsia.

GALEN
(rising)
Hello, indeed. My name is Portus. I'm on an archeological expedition, but why on earth would you be in this forsaken village?

CARSIA
On another kind of expedition. How can I help you?

GALEN
You have already -- by reviving my confidence that I am not the only Ape in the world with interests extending beyond eating and sleeping.

He looks pointedly at Second Trooper who is plainly bewildered. Carsia is amused.

CARSIA
I've not found the company terribly stimulating, either. Do come in...

She invites him to follow her and he does after a triumphant look at Second Trooper.

INT. KONAG'S QUARTERS - NIGHT

Carsia and Galen seated at the table, tete-a-tete, sipping wine. CAMERA ESTABLISHES unobtrusively the "fragmentation" box.

GALEN
So you see, I had to follow up the rumor about flying reptiles...

Cont.
CARSIA
I'm glad you did.

GALEN
Actually, a flying human is even more of a curiosity.

CARSIA
We'll know in a few days.

GALEN
I'd love to see such a sight...

CARSIA
Stay. I'd be delighted to have you present at the demonstration.

GALEN
You are kind.

CARSIA
I don't know if that's the right word to describe me...

Cont.
Charming -- ?

CARSIA (smiling)
Thank you.

GALEN
Very attractive...

CARSIA
I wasn't asking for compliments although I like to hear them...

GALEN
But you don't think you're kind.

CARSIA
Let's say -- I'm not sure. I have other qualities. They're more important.

GALEN
Such as -- ?

CARSIA
Surely it's more interesting if you discover them for yourself...

GALEN
I mean to try but I don't expect to find you unkind. That, I can't believe.

CARSIA
I suppose I could take credit for saving the life of the human who says he can fly. His name is Leuric.

GALEN
Was he to have been killed?

CARSIA
He still will be if he's lied. He's promised to be ready for the demonstration in five days. If he fails --

She gestures that it will all be over for Leuric.
GALEN
I do hope he succeeds...
(cheks himself)
Just so I can see a flying human.

CARSIA
(raising her glass)
I'm eager, too. That's why I
was determined he'd live.

INT. TEMPLE - NIGHT
Burke still fiddling with the glass which is now well on
its way to becoming a magnifying glass. He and Virdon are
listening to a report from Galen.

VIRDON
It'll be a short life.

BURKE
Unless he can get his kite off
the ground...

VIRDON
Which he can't. Galen, couldn't
Carsia save Leuric even if his
slider is a failure?

GALEN
I can only go on what she told
me. I know she's sympathetic,
she'd certainly want to protect
him. She's that kind of person...

BURKE
Hey, you getting hung up on her?

GALEN
If you mean what I think you
mean, I think you're jumping to
very premature conclusions --
(indignation dissolves --
interest replaces it)
-- which could be correct.

VIRDON
Have a happy love life, but in
the meantime, what do we do about
Leuric?

Cont.
BURKE
See that he flies -- if we can figure a way. Why did that guy have to pick on flying to prove himself? Couldn't he have a shot at something easy, like tackling tigers bare-handed.

VIRDON
He can't make a functioning glider. We've got to make it for him.

BURKE
I'm not sure we know enough to build one out of the junk we can get our hands on...

MOONTAGE SEQUENCE

A. EXT. WOODS - ANGLE ON VIRDON - DAY

hand in to grasp at tree, hacking down a slender tree branch, stripping it, bending it to his satisfaction.

1-A. INT. CARSIA'S WORKSHOP - NIGHT

Leuric working feverishly on his clumsy contraption.

B. EXT. TEMPLE - ANGLE ON BURKE - DAY

inspecting a hide, holding it up to the sunlight. In b.g., Galen is braiding thongs into a rope.

Cont.
1-B. INT. CARSIA'S WORKSHOP - DAY

Leuric using one of the more efficient tools supplied by Carsia and thus achieving more speedily some task also in progress (at the different location) by our trio.

C. INT. TEMPLE - ANGLE ON VIRDON - NIGHT

using a stone, smoothing a piece of wooden framework.

1-C. INT. CARSIA'S WORKSHOP - NIGHT

Leuric still working madly and far along in the construction of his glider. He is well ahead of our trio, thanks to his sloppy workmanship and the efficiency of the tools.

D. INT. TEMPLE - ANGLE ON THE THREE - DAY

fitting a section of framework to another, Burke lashing it in place.

E. EXT. TEMPLE - ANGLE ON GALEN - DAY

removing a pot from a fire, heading into the hut.

INT. TEMPLE - ANGLE ON VIRDON AND BURKE - DAY

fitting a piece of hide to the framework, CAMERA PULLING BACK to INCLUDE Galen standing by holding the pot which contains a primitive feather brush. Burke reaches for the brush, applying the liquid to the forward edge of the hide.

VIRDON

Pull it tight so it'll hold.

Burke tosses the brush back into the pot and assists Virdon. Galen stares at the pot.

GALEN

Amazing. Boiled tree sap, and corn flour.

He runs his fingers around the edge of the pot.

BURKE

Best we could do.

(beat)

It's called glue.

Cont.
They work for a moment, then:

**VIRDON**

Galen, lend a hand here.

**GALEN**

I can't.

They react and look up.

**GALEN**

My fingers are stuck together.

He brings up his hand in a helpless gesture.

**EXT. BEACH CLIFF - DAY**

Our trio approaches cautiously, watching out for any possible enemy. They are carrying the completed glider. As they pause:

**BURKE**

What do you think?

**VIRDON**

Could fly -- with luck.

**GALEN**

I do hope so. It's very exciting!

**VIRDON**

If you think the prospect of flying is exciting, wait till you take off.

**GALEN**

I will, I mean, I wouldn't miss seeing --

(reacts)

I take off?

Solemn nods.

**GALEN**

It's been a fascinating experience.

He starts off but is grabbed by Virdon and Burke.

**GALEN**

If you roped me to that thing kicking and screaming, I'd still find a way to stay right here on the ground.

Cont.
VIRDON
Galen, listen. This must be tested before we take it apart and try to get it into Leuric.

GALEN
I intend to watch one of you test it and applaud enthusiastically if you are successful.

BURKE
What would happen if some ape looked up and saw a human flying?

GALEN
The ape would try to shoot him...

VIRDON
And up there, hanging on a glider, there's no way to duck.

BURKE
If an ape saw another ape flying, he'd be shook up but he wouldn't shoot.

GALEN
He won't be shook up because he's not going to see an ape flying.

VIRDON
Galen, you've got to!

Galen shakes his head with intractable determination.

BURKE
It's you fly or it's 'Alas, poor Leuric!'

Virdon gives him a dirty look.

GALEN
Save your breath. It's out of the question. I refuse. I absolutely put my foot down.

He glares at them in defiance.

EXT. HILLSIDE - CLOSE SHOT - GALEN'S FOOT - DAY

bracing on the lower bar of the glider.

VIRDON'S VOICE
(o.s.)
That's it...just brace it right there...
CAMERA PULLS BACK to REVEAL Galen as the "pilot" with Virdon demonstrating. Burke holds the glider wing level.

BURKE
Just kick off like he showed you.
Ready?

GALEN
No.

VIRDON
Go!

Galen kicks off with his free foot as Virdon and Burke haul the glider forward by the wing tips.

OUT 83

LOW FULL SHOT - GLIDER 84
soaring off from the hillside. Burke and Virdon holding up, watching.

ANGLE ON GALEN (PROCESS) 85
trying to control the glider, petrified, gasping.

FULL SHOT - GLIDER 86
winging around, wobbling.

VIRDON'S VOICE (o.s.; yells)
Easy! Let the wind do it!

ANGLE ON GALEN (PROCESS) 87
gaining courage, getting the hang of it.

TWO SHOT - VIRDON AND BURKE 88
watching.

ANGLE ON GALEN (PROCESS) 89
settling down, almost smiling. He releases a hand to wave and just as quickly grabs the support again.

FULL SHOT - GLIDER 90
soaring along.

BURKE'S VOICE (o.s.)
He likes it!
INT. CARSIA'S WORKSHOP - DAY

CAMERA ANGLING on Leuric's virtually finished glider.

CARSIA'S VOICE
(o.s.)
Well, Protus, what do you think?

CAMERA PULLS BACK to REVEAL Leuric, the proud inventor, Carsia and Galen.

GALEN
Absolutely marvellous. It's hard to believe one could actually fly. What a thrilling experience that would be...

LEURIC
I'll be the first to know when I fly tomorrow.

Galen reacts, but covers.

GALEN
Tomorrow? That's two days earlier than Carsia said...

CARSIA
Leuric has worked enormously hard. He's ready before we expected.

GALEN
(weakly)
How nice...

CARSIA
Come, Protus. I've had a new book delivered from Central City. You'll be interested.

She turns and moves to the door, KNOCKING so it is opened by GORILLA GUARD who is outside workshop. Galen is torn. He desperately wants to speak to Leuric who has returned to putting finishing touches on his glider, but Galen can't speak in Carsia's presence. He hurries after her. She EXITS; he stops and calls after her.

GALEN
Carsia, I'll be with you in a minute. I just want to have one last look at this marvellous bird...

He signals to Guard to close the door, which is done, and Galen dashes back to Leuric.

Cont.
LEURIC
Protus -- ?!!!

GALEN
Never mind! Your glider won't fly!

LEURIC
(angrily)
It will!

GALEN
We've built another which does fly. It's being taken apart so it can be smuggled to you.

LEURIC
This will fly, and I will fly it.

GALEN
You'll break every bone in your thick head!

Leuric turns away to work.

GALEN
Stall for two days. We can't get the new glider delivered to you and reassembled in less time.

LEURIC
You want time to steal my idea and be the first to fly!

Door opens and Carsia pops her head in.

CARSIA
Protus -- ?

GALEN
Coming.

CARSIA
Everything all right, Leuric?

LEURIC
Everything is fine. I'll fly tomorrow...

Galen slowly makes his way to the door as Leuric goes back to work on the glider.

FADE OUT

END OF ACT TWO
FADE IN

INT. TEMPLE - NIGHT

Our trio is working feverishly to take their glider apart and divide it into the smallest possible pieces.

GALEN
This is hopeless. Even if we get this in shape by morning, we can't possibly deliver and assemble it in time.

BURKE
That Leuric is a rockhead! He's as stubborn as an Ape!

Cont.
GALEN
Apes are stubborn? Leuric isn't an Ape, you're not an Ape, Alan isn't an Ape! You two are determined to risk all of us by trying to save a man even you call a rockhead!

VIRDON
You know, we're going about this wrong. The first order of business is not to deliver a glider that will fly -- the first thing is to stop a glider that won't fly.

GALEN
Very clever, only Leuric doesn't agree with you.

BURKE
(slowly)
Even he could be convinced...

Virdon reads Burke's thought.

VIRDON
If there were circumstances beyond his control...

INT. CARSIA'S WORKSHOP - DAY

Leuric has completed work on his glider and is moving it into position to be taken out for its maiden flight. Door opens to ADMIT Carsia and Galen.

CARSIA
All ready, Leuric?

He's a man transported by the anticipation of achieving his life's dream.

LEURIC
Yes, yes!
(defiantly to Galen)
I am ready.

Carsia hears an undertone and looks to Galen curiously.

GALEN
I'm afraid Leuric is somewhat single-minded, a characteristic of humans. I mentioned to him yesterday that there were other areas of interest in science --
He whips out the polished hunk of glass and displays it with great pride.

CARSIA
What is it?

GALEN
This -- made from a natural substance -- is an unnatural device. I call it an expander.

He looks around, finds a bug crawling in the window, grabs it and places it on the wing of the glider, after touching it to the edge of a glue pot. He now holds the glass in position and gestures for Carsia to look through it. She does.

INSERT - MAGNIFIED BUG
as seen through the glass.

CARSIA’S VOICE
(o.s.)
Fascinating, Protus.

BACK TO SCENE
Galen is pleased.

GALEN
Now you, Leuric...

Leuric looks and is impressed. Galen sets the magnifying glass down in such a position that the sun’s rays, coming through the window, are focused on the glider wing by the magnifying glass.

GALEN
It can expand anything you look at. Now, what I was wondering...

He looks around and gestures for Carsia and Leuric to follow him to the far end of the workshop. The magnifying glass is left to do its work.

ANGLE AT FAR END OF WORKSHOP
Galen, followed by Carsia and Leuric, pauses at a workbench. He spots a crude tongue and groove joint in a couple of hunks of wood. He lifts them for inspection, making sure Carsia and Leuric have their backs to the glider, o.s.

Cont.
GALEN
Look at this closely...

As they do, Galen quickly looks over their shoulders in direction of glider, o.s.

P.O.V. SHOT - GLIDER

A small hole has been burned by sun's rays. It's smoking slightly and beginning to spread.

ANGLE ON GALEN, CARSIA AND LEURIC

Galen uses the tongue and groove bit to hold attention.

GALEN
A well-made joint, you'd say, but can we be sure? How many mechanical failures might be caused by poorly fitting joints, weakened by small flaws which could be exposed by my expander.

LEURIC
(impressed)
I suppose that could help...

CARSIA
(also impressed)
I take a certain, perhaps conceited, pleasure in the way your mind works, Protus.

GALEN
Conceited -- ?

CARSIA
It is uniquely, penetratingly, the mind of a Chimpanzee. Don't be modest. Are Gorillas or Orangutans capable of subtle ideas?

GALEN
I'd never thought of a Gorilla as subtle...

CARSIA
They hold high authority -- by brute force since they lack intelligence...

LEURIC
(yowling)
No! Help!

He points o.s. Galen and Carsia look.
FULL SHOT

The last of the flames are licking at what was the glider. It's a total loss. Door is thrown open by Guard attracted by Leuric's yell. Leuric rushes over to engage in the essentially pointless act of stamping out the flames. Carsia snaps at Guard:

CARSIA
Don't stand there! Help him.

GALEN
What do you suppose caused it?

He has moved with Carsia to a point near the ashes. Leuric is distraught.

LEURIC
It's gone, destroyed. Why? Why?

GALEN
Pity...

Carsia is taking note of the rays being focused by the glass. Curious, she puts her hand at the focal point and pulls it back quickly as she feels the heat.

CARSIA
Your expander may have uses you're unaware of, Protus...

She picks up a shaving, holds it under the rays and smoke curls up in a moment. Leuric glares at Galen but manages not to voice his convictions.

GALEN
Amazing! Carsia, I refuse to take credit for this. You will be known as the Ape who demonstrated that fire can be made with an expander.

She hesitates, wondering if Galen is playing a double game. The idea is dismissed.

CARSIA
Thank you.

LEURIC
My flight --

CARSIA
It's merely delayed. You'll be given all the materials you need and you can begin again.

Cont.
GALEN
Since I caused this unfortunate accident, I'll make amends. I have two servants, rascals both of them, but very clever with their hands. I'll have them here, along with whatever materials they can provide to be of help.

Carsia nods her approval.

EXT. GARRISON - DAY

Virdon and Burke pulling a cart to the garrison. FIRST TROOPER, EXITING garrison, spots and halts them.

FIRST TROOPER
What do you want?

VIRDON
We're Protus' servants, sir...

FIRST TROOPER
Yes. More foolishness for that human to make into wings. All right. Take it in.

BURKE
Thank you, sir.

They have the cart at the door and start to off-load.

INT. KONAG'S QUARTERS - DAY

Carsia is attired in a seductive dressing gown. She pours a glass of wine for Galen who is reading a scroll. Of the wine...

GALEN
Thank you...

CARSIA
I like doing things for you...
(of the book)
Interesting?

He looks at her, intrigued, nods, then turns back to reading as she puts the bottle on a nearby table.
INT. CARSIA'S WORKSHOP - DAY

Guard holding the door open as Virdon and Burke carry in disassembled pieces of their glider. Leuric is silently steaming. He waits until Guard closes the door leaving the three humans alone.

LEURIC
Galen burnt the wings! He did it deliberately, didn't he?

BURKE
Would you like an engraved apology?
Dear Leuric, we only ruined your stupid glider because you'd have broken your stupid neck!

Virdon and Burke are beginning the assembling process.

LEURIC
It would have flown.

VIRDON
It would have flopped. This one will fly and you'll be flying it.

LEURIC
I don't believe you.

BURKE
Do you hear this guy? Alan, what are we doing here?

VIRDON
Gritting our teeth. Leuric, we could have left you to be found by the Troopers when you first crashed.

LEURIC
You were too clever. You wanted to learn all I knew about flight, first.

BURKE
Sure. We stuck our necks out just so we could take lessons from Wobbling Willie and his wonderful, wiggling wings!

Virdon and Burke go on working, ignoring Leuric who stares at them, his anger dissipating and a great longing taking its place.

Cont.
LEURIC
You're making it for me?
So I will fly?

Both nod.

LEURIC
I believe you. -- I don't know
why you're helping me. I don't
know why Carsia is. I don't care.
If I get up there once -- just
once, then what happens won't
matter.

Virdon and Burke look at Leuric, touched by his need,
impressed by his intensity.

INT. KONAG'S QUARTERS - DAY

Carsia watching Galen sipping wine and reading. She's
curled in a chair. He finishes the scroll, speaks of it.

GALEN
This is certainly flattering.

CARSIA
Not flattery -- truth.
(taking the scroll)
Every word.

GALEN
I'm delighted to believe that
chimpanzees are superior to other
apes, since I'm a chimp.
Agreement might not come so
easy from say a gorilla...

CARSIA
Of course not. They haven't
the brains to recognize what is
obvious.

Cont.
GALEN
I suppose patting oneself on the back is harmless and good exercise.

CARSIA
I wanted you to read that book to understand how we feel...

GALEN
We -- ?

CARSIA
(ignoring the question) Who's the head of the Council?

GALEN
Zaius, of course...

CARSIA
An orangutan. And who is commander of all security forces?

GALEN
Urko.

CARSIA
A Gorilla. Do you know of any Chimp who occupies a top position?

GALEN
(studies her for a beat) Why not tell me what you're hinting at?

Before she can reply, there is a loud KNOCK at the door.

CARSIA
Yes -- ?

Door opens to ADMIT Konag. He glances at Galen, then ignores him.

KONAG
I've advised Urko of the delay in the flight test.

CARSIA
I was sure you would. Protus, this is Konag, garrison commander.

Nods exchanged.
KONAG
Urko believes the human won't fly.

CARSIA
I know Urko's views.

KONAG
He's authorized me to execute the human if the test is delayed beyond tomorrow. You might want to arrange for your things to be moved out by then.

Without waiting for a reply, he EXITS. Carsia turns to Galen.

CARSIA
A garrison commander -- in a position to give orders to you, to me, to Chimps who are far above him in intelligence.

GALEN
He gives orders to Chimps but he shoots humans. What about Leuric?

CARSIA
The test is rescheduled for tomorrow. There should be no problem.

Another KNOCK on the door -- less forceful.

CARSIA
Come in...

Door opens to ADMIT properly deferential Virdon and Burke.

BURKE
Sir, the Guard told us to report to you when we finished.

CARSIA
A precaution...

GALEN
Of course. (to Astronauts) Well, have you finished?

VIRDON
Yes, sir.
GALEN
Everything is ready for the flight?

VIRDON
Yes, sir.

As Virdon is replying, Burke's eyes stray to fall upon the "fragmentation" box. With difficulty, he controls his reaction.

INSERT - FRAGMENTATION BOX

GALEN'S VOICE
(o.s.)
Very good.

BACK TO SCENE

Burke manages to surreptitiously direct Virdon's attention to the box. He's also shocked.

GALEN
(to Astronauts)
All right. You can go.

BURKE
Sir, could we talk to you?

GALEN
I'm busy. What is it?

VIRDON
Well, -- I'm trying to remember what we wanted to say, sir.

He's trying desperately to signal Galen to come out, in such a fashion that Carsia won't spot the signal.

CARSIA
Your servants don't seem very bright, Protus.

GALEN
They're not. Go. You can speak to me later if you remember what you wanted.

BURKE
Well, sir, I just remembered. It was that last load we brought in. We wanted to show you what it did to the cart bed -- sir...

Cont.
CARSIA
Do you permit them to bother
you with such nonsense?

Galen reads the urgency on the faces of Virdon and Burke.
To Carsia:

GALEN
I should say not! The two of
you, out! Right now! At once!

He has them by the arm and practically "throws" them out
the door. Over his shoulder to Carsia:

GALEN
I'll teach them manners. Back
in a minute.

He's OUT and the door is closed.

INT. CORRIDOR - DAY

Presumably, near Carsia's door. Virdon, Burke and Galen
in a tight group. Hushed voices.

BURKE
Do you know what's in that box
in your girl friend's room?

GALEN
What box?

VIRDON
Green. Labeled FRAGMENTATION --
COSMOLINE PACK.

GALEN
No. I wondered but I didn't
want to pry...

BURKE
Fragmentation bombs. Lovely, little
mama bombs with lots of baby bombs
inside so when they blow, they really
blow. All over the place. They were
customarily dropped from airplanes.

VIRDON
Now, what's this nice female Chimp
you've been romancing, doing with a
case of sudden, widespread death?

Galen looks from Virdon to Burke, considers for the briefest
moment, then turns on his heel and heads back.
INT. KONAG'S QUARTERS - DAY

Carsia putting the scroll away in a box. Door opens and Galen ENTERS.

GALEN
(forceful)
They'll mind their manners now.

He takes his glass and strides about the room, very much the strutting, dominant male.

GALEN
What were we saying?

CARSIA
Why Chimps, the most intelligent and best equipped Apes, are not in control of the Council and the Government.

Galen has halted in his strut as he has, as if by accident, come upon the "fragmentation" box. He looks down at it -- a distraction which he will eliminate by inquiry.

GALEN
I've been meaning to ask you.
What is this?

CARSIA
The answer to some questions I've been asking.

Galen waits.

CARSIA
Would I waste my time saving a human's life? Leuric means nothing, but if he can teach us to fly -- !

GALEN
I don't understand.

CARSIA
The Council Chamber is guarded when the Council is in session. No one could approach. The same is true of Urko's headquarters. Think Protus -- if Urko, his troops and the Council were eliminated, who would control the world? -- Those are bombs in that box...

Cont.
GALEN
To eliminate -- ?

CARSIA
With Leuric's wings, we can swoop in at night from the dark sky, unheard, unseen...That's why I've fought to keep Leuric alive until we learn to use wings. You do see, don't you, Protus?

GALEN
(fighting nausea)
Yes. Absolutely. It's quite, quite clear...

And he's quite, quite sick at her viciousness, the prospect of mass murder and the certain death of Leuric.

FADE OUT

END OF ACT THREE
FADE IN

INT. TEMPLE - NIGHT

Virdon, Burke and Galen -- very gloomy.

GALEN
I admit it. I was wrong about Carsia. Terribly wrong.

VIRDON
And we were probably wrong to build a functioning glider for Leuric.

BURKE
We'd better see to it that it won't function.

GALEN
I wondered why you two were so set against helping a human to fly...

VIRDON
It was an ego trip for Leuric and of no possible use to anybody on this planet -- a waste of time and effort, for what?

BURKE
As it turned out, for Lady Macbeth.

Galen reacts.

BURKE
Carsia.

GALEN
I can try to burn the new glider...

VIRDON
Leuric might be able to duplicate it. If he can't, it's his neck...

GALEN
You're not suggesting we let Carsia murder the Council and all those troops -- ?

Cont.
BURKE
I guess not. Lady Macbeth dropping bombs at random on apes or humans isn't a very appealing notion.

VIRDON
And we should try to bail out Leuric.

He signals to Galen as he and Virdon rise in unspoken agreement. All EXIT.
INT. WORKSHOP - NIGHT

Leuric resting on a pallet. He reacts as the SOUND of the door OPENING is HEARD.

ANGLE ON VIRDON AND BURKE

ENTERING, seeing Leuric, CAMERA ANGLING Burke to him. Virdon stays in doorway for a beat, guarding.

LEURIC
What are you doing here?

BURKE
Getting you out.

Cont.
Virdon has produced a knife and is about to carve up the glider. Leuric reacts, appalled.

LEURIC

No!

ANOTHER ANGLE

Leuric dashes to stop Virdon, grabs him.

LEURIC

Stop!

Burke pulls him away. Virdon faces him.

VIRDON
(talking fast)
Carsia's using you.

LEURIC
I don't care!

BURKE
That dame'll blow up everything if she gets her hands on a glider. She's poison!

Virdon turns back, about to carve the glider. Burke holds Leuric's arm. Galen APPEARS in doorway.

GALEN
(hissing)
Hurry! The Guards will be back.

Burke starts to pull Leuric toward door as Virdon makes his first slash in the wing fabric. Leuric exerts undreamed of strength to pull away from Burke and dive at Virdon.

LEURIC
You won't destroy it! Help!

Burke pulls Leuric off Virdon.

GALEN
Hurry!

VIRDON
I'll bring him.

LEURIC
Help! Stop them!
Virdon tries to cope with Leuric with one hand while he attempts to destroy the glider with the other. He underestimates the strength lent Leuric by desperation. Burke is at the doorway.

INT. CORRIDOR

Galen and Burke guarding, casting nervous glances into workshop. Burke looks o.s. as First Trooper APPEARS, entering from a door or corridor. Before First Trooper can orient himself, Burke has charged, hurled himself at the Gorilla, knocked him down, his rifle skittering away. A hard punch as First Trooper tries to rise and he's out to the world. Burke hurries back toward workshop as:

GALEN

Alan! Now!

INT. CARSIA'S WORKSHOP - NIGHT

The glider is essentially unharmed. Virdon is dragging the protesting Leuric toward the door.

VIRDON

They're going to kill you!

LEURIC

I will fly!

INT. CORRIDOR

Virdon joins Burke and Galen and has the struggling Leuric in tow.

LEURIC

Help!

A couple of Gorillas APPEAR from a room down the corridor.

VIRDON

(to Galen)

Take him!

Galen grabs Leuric who is struggling less as his confusion has mounted at the turn of events. Burke and Virdon, acting in unison, without needing to express intentions, charge along the corridor like a brace of pulling guards in pro football. They throw rolling blocks to clear the way for Galen who is dragging Leuric along. Virdon and Burke are now beyond the Gorillas who have been left scrambling on the floor. Galen is close to the fallen Gorillas. A door opens and Carsia APPEARS to step in front of Galen.

Cont.
She instantly sizes up the situation, stares at Galen with intense hatred. He looks at her, halted for a moment by her appearance. PICK UP CLOSEUPS OF Galen AND Carsia as they stare at one another. The moment's pause is enough to permit First Trooper to retrieve his rifle, snap shot. Leuric is hit, drops. Galen stoops to help him as two more Gorillas EMERGE to block the corridor.

INT. CORRIDOR - ANGLE ON VIRDON AND BURKE

stopping, looking back for Galen after the shot has rung out.

BURKE'S P.O.V. - VIRDON

Gorillas blocking the path, raising rifles. Sure death to advance on them.

ANGLE ON VIRDON AND BURKE

A very brief hesitation.

VIRDON

No chance. Run!

They do. A COUPLE OF SHOTS SPAT NEAR THEM.

INT. CORRIDOR - ANGLE NEAR WORKSHOP DOOR

Galen is on one knee, helping Leuric who is holding his wounded hand. Carsia stands over Galen. First Trooper is aiming rifle at Galen who slowly raises his hands in surrender. Carsia glares in scorn, contempt and resentment.

CARSIA

You've chosen a human in preference to me?

GALEN

In preference to what you're planning...

CARSIA

(to First Trooper)
Take them away.

She turns and EXITS as First Trooper signals for Galen and Leuric to rise.

OUT
Konag facing a tight-lipped Carsia. Konag is very self-satisfied.

KONAG
The test is cancelled.

CARSIA
The flight will proceed as scheduled.

KONAG
I've arranged for the execution of Leuric and that renegade Ape first thing in the morning.

CARSIA
I'll look forward to witnessing Protus' execution after the test flight.

KONAG
Leuric is to be shot, too, so there'll be no test. A dead man can't operate those wings.

CARSIA
One of your Troopers can take the human's place.

KONAG
Risk the life of a Gorilla in a pointless experiment? Absolutely not!

They glare at each other. Impasse.

INT. LEURIC'S CELL - DAY

Galen and Leuric -- with Galen dressing Leuric's hand.

LEURIC
It's my fault...

GALEN
Of course it is. Some humans are more human than others but you're the most human --!

LEURIC
I'm sorry.

GALEN
That's a big help. How's the hand feel?
LEURIC

Numb.

SOUND of HAMMERING, o.s. No note is taken at first. Leuric looks at his hand, shakes his head.

LEURIC

Even if I got free, I wouldn't be able to fly now because of this...

GALEN

We have a date with a firing squad, and you --

(stops suddenly, listening)

That sounds strange...

LEURIC

What?

Galen moves to look out window.

EXT. VILLAGE HUT - CLOSE ON BURKE - DAY

His head is down to avoid notice of recognition. He's pretending to repair a wheel by hammering the spokes in rhythmically. CAMERA PULLS BACK to reveal Virdon next to him drawing back on a slingshot. He lets fly.

INT. CELL

Galen ducks back as a stone flies in. Galen quickly retrieves it and finds it wrapped in paper. He unfolds the paper and reads. Door opens and suspicious Gorilla Guard ENTERS. Galen barely has time to shove the paper in his mouth and eat it.

EXT. OCEAN PLATEAU - DAY

A mounted procession of Troopers, Konag, plus Carsia in her carriage move forward and halt. Also in the procession, Galen and Leuric under heavy guard, walking beside a flat-bed wagon upon which is the glider. Konag hand signals and Troopers ride off to take prearranged positions as Carsia steps from her carriage.

CARSIA

I don't care what happens to the human. I want that flying device returned safely if it can, in fact, fly.

Cont.
KONAG
If you're worried about him
flying off with it --

He doesn't bother to finish the sentence but signals to
First Trooper who has been assisting Galen in removing
the glider from the flatbed. In response to the signal,
First Trooper escorts Galen and Leuric to Konag and Carsia.
Konag addresses Leuric.

KCNAG

Look.

He points sweepingly.

EXT. OCEAN AND BEACH AND PLATEAU - PANNING
P.O.V. SHOT

TO ESTABLISH the Troopers who have taken positions at
every point, with rifles at the ready.

BACK TO GROUP

Galen and Leuric look back to Konag.

KONAG
You have an open area marked off
by my Troopers. If you try to
fly out of it, you'll be shot down.

Leuric seems to be paying little attention to Konag.
He has been trying to hold a control bar on the glider with
his bandaged hand and is clearly unable to do so. He
looks to Galen in seeming desperation, shaking his head.
Konag intercepts the look.

KONAG
Are you trying to signal --

GALEN
Of course he's not. The poor man
is frightened half to death and
doesn't know how to tell you.

KONAG
Tell me what?

GALEN
He can't fly with one hand.

KONAG
(to Leuric)
Is this true?
Leuric nods.

KONAG
The test is cancelled.

CARSIA
I insist the flight proceed!

KONAG
And I still refuse to risk the
life of an ape!

Konag and Carsia are glaring at each other, paying no
attention to Galen.

GALEN
Don't look at me! You couldn't
force me up on that. If I'm to
be killed, I demand a proper,
decent execution.

Carsia and Konag look slowly at Galen, the idea he's
intent upon planting is beginning to sprout...

GALEN
I tell you no! It's out of the
question! The idea is ridiculous!
Even if I were willing, I don't
know how to fly.

CARSIA
(to Leuric)
Will the wings support you and
him?

LEURIC
I don't know. They might...

GALEN
No!

CARSIA
We seem to have solved two problems,
Konag. I need to learn if those
wings can carry extra weight. You
want to spare any of your troops
the risk of flying...

GALEN
I refuse!
CARSIA
(ignoring him)
If they crash into the sea, well, they'll drown and there's no loss.

KONAG
(to Galen)
You will fly, and the human will ride with you to tell you how to guide the wings.

GALEN
Carsia, I realized you were cruel. I never knew how cruel...

KONAG
Bring the wings.

A couple of Troopers start to carry the glider to the starting line.

EXT. CLIFF - DAY

Just above the beach. Virdon and Burke are cautiously, silently making their way down a precipitous path; Virdon's in the lead. Suddenly, he stops, gestures to Burke and points o.s. Burke peers around a rocky face.

EXT. BEACH - P.O.V. SPOT - TROOPER

Rifle at shoulder, not aimed, but ready. He's one of Konag's Guards.
Burke hesitates, reaches off and picks up a baseball-sized rock. He carefully changes places with Virdon so he is closer to the Trooper who is o.s. Burke weighs the rock in his hand, takes a half wind-up for practice and is satisfied. He edges forward slightly to a point where he has a clear shot at o.s. Trooper. A fast wind-up, and the rock is hurled. Over SOUNTRACK, a small THUNK.

BURKE
(sotto voce)
More fun than the no-hitter
I pitched in high school.

Both start down and out.

EXT. OCEAN PLATEAU

The glider is in position with Troopers at each wing tip and at tail to provide a shove. Carsia and Konag watch as Galen steps forward, with Leuric.

GALEN

Ready?

LEURIC
(ecstatic)
I am going to fly...

Leuric has his arms around Galen's neck.

GALEN

Shove off!

He and Leuric each kick off with his free foot as the Troopers heft the glider forward.

LOW FULL SHOT - GLIDER

soaring away from the hillside, a bit wobbly. Leuric's knees are about Galen's waist.

ANGLE ON GALEN AND LEURIC

flying the glider.

GALEN

The wind is too strong. I don't know if I can control it.

Leuric tightens his grip.
watching, mouths agape.

CARSIA
They're flying! I knew it could be done!

Konag glowers at her, then o.s.

FULL SHOT - GLIDER
winging over, swooping along the side of the cliff.

LOW ANGLE - GLIDER
winging around.

ANGLE ON GALEN AND LEURIC
getting the hang of it.

LEURIC
I've made it happen. What no one has ever done before!

GALEN
We also may be killed the way no one's been killed before. Here we go!

He closes his eyes as he swings the wing hard over.

HIGH SHOT - GLIDER
as it breaks free of the ridge wave, heads out to sea.

ANGLE ON CARSIA, KONAG AND TROOPERS
as they stare.

CARSIA
What are they doing?

KONAG
Flying out to sea!
(to Troopers)
FIRE! KILL THEM!
FULL SHOT - GLIDER
heading toward the sea.

ANGLE ON CARSIA AND KONAG

KONAG
Shoot! Shoot them! All of them!
The Troopers begin FIRING.

CARSIA
Wait. You may not need to
waste your bullets.

ANGLE ON GALEN AND LEURIC
A bullet rips through the wing. Another smashes a
support. Galen fights for control.

FULL PANNING SHOT - GLIDER
losing altitude, pitching and yawing, o.s. SHOTS being
fired.

CLOSE ON CARSIA AND KONAG
SOUND of FIRING.

KONAG
Hold your fire.

LOW ANGLE - GLIDER
It dives suddenly, smashing into the sea between two
huge rock islands.

HIGH SHOT - ROCK ISLANDS
The surf froths white about the rocks. Between them, the
pieces of glider float like dead moths.

ANGLE ON CARSIA AND KONAG
Carsia is crestfallen.

CARSIA
They're dead. And so is the
secret of flight.

Konag shrugs in unconcern and disinterest. Both turn away.
as Leuric and Galen emerge from beneath the collapsed sail. They keep low in the water, out of sight.

GALEN
Ugh!...Ooh...Ahh...Yeech!

Hands reach out and grab them.

CLOSE SHOT - BURKE AND VIRDON

at the edge of the rock, Burke and Virdon in the water, pulling Galen and Leuric to and aboard a concealed raft.

VIRDON
We weren't sure you'd make it.

The raft is rocking gently, its occupants crouching.

GALEN
I almost wish we hadn't!

LEURIC
(ecstatic)
It worked. It flew like a bird.
I could have stayed up forever.

GALEN
Please. Back to shore. Quick.

BURKE
No way. We'd be spotted and shot on sight.

GALEN
(gasps)
I don't care. I'd rather be shot.

VIRDON
Let's go. Keep your heads down, don't splash.

They push off, moving out to sea. Galen lies on his back, looking mournfully up at the sky.

GALEN
Please, let them shoot me.

Cont.
LEURIC
What's wrong with him?

BURKE
He's caught an ancient human disease. Sea sickness.

HIGH SHOT - RAFT

as they push it silently out to sea. CAMERA ZOOMS BACK to REVEAL Troopers on the beach below, riding away. The raft is a tiny, almost invisible speck on the vast expanse of the sea.

FADE OUT

THE END