PLANET OF THE APES

"The Race"

Teleplay

by

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&

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"THE RACE"

"ACT ONE"

FADE IN

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

EXT. COUNTRY ROAD - ESTABLISHING SHOT - DAY

The peaceful, rustic road winds along a ditch, beyond which is a scrim of thick, green foliage. On a fairly straight stretch of the road we see BURKE, VIRDON and GALEN approaching. Burke and Virdon have found a chunk of wood that is somewhat in the shape of a football and they are chunking it at one another, running forward and back, around and past Galen, sometimes almost hitting him with it and causing him to duck. Galen gestures annoyance and continues slogging on.

GALEN
(disgusted)
Cut it out! You act like a couple of humans!

BURKE
You think we should act like apes?

GALEN
When I joined you I thought you had possibilities. But the longer I'm with you the more I doubt my own good judgment.

VIRDON
(heaving ball)
Twenty-three! Eighteen! Hup!

GALEN
(ducking)
Now stop it!

The ball gets past Burke and he tumbles into the ditch after it.

GALEN (cont'd.)
Football! Bah!

VIRDON
Football, Galen! Football!

Cont.
Burke, coming out of the ditch with the chunk of wood, stops suddenly as he hears something. He looks off.

CLOSE SHOT - GALEN

GALEN
(alert)
Something?

CLOSE SHOT - VIRDON LISTENING, LOOKING OFF

BACK TO BURKE

BURKE

Listen!

We hear SOUND OF HORSES HOOVES, OFF, cantering toward us. As soon as this is established, Burke gestures silently, drops the chunk of wood and turns toward the shrubbery.

ANGLE ON DITCH

as the trio moves off the road, across the ditch and disappears behind the scrim of foliage.

PAN HIGHWAY

Four mounted gorillas are approaching, leading a small herd of horses at a canter. The two apes in front hold rifles, while the others hold the reins and lead-lines of the other horses. In charge is an Urko lieutenant, ZANDAR, and beside him is his second in command, ZILO. They come into FULL FRAME and pass. We then PAN to the place where the Astronauts and Galen disappeared.

ANGLE BEHIND FOLIAGE

Burke, Virdon and Galen crouch low, not moving.

BACK TO ROAD

The apes are disappearing around a curve.
BEHIND THE SCRIM

Burke, Virdon and Galen peer cautiously over the grass in which they are hiding as they hear the SOUND of hooves receding. Then they rise, relaxing - it's all in a day's work. Burke points the way - away from the road.

BURKE
Let's cut across and stay out of their way. They're Urko's gorillas.

Cont.
PAN as they start away from the road and HOLD as they come to the moss-and-vine-covered ruins of a residence chimney. Galen stops to examine it. The others stop, too.

GALEN
What's this?

VIRDON
It's a chimney. A fireplace.

He reacts as he looks around and sees:

ANGLE DOWN, VIRDON'S POV

showing outlines of foundations of a house, growth-covered.

VIRDON (o. s.)
Pete! It's one of ours!

BACK TO SCENE

BURKE
You sure?

VIRDON
Look around you, man! It's the way they built houses back in our time!

Excited, he begins clawing at the growth around the chimney and Burke joins him. Galen watches, amused.

GALEN
I guess your people didn't know much about building houses. Putting a fireplace in the middle of a room so it would burn the place down.

ANGLE ON VIRDON AND BURKE, GALLEN IN BACKGROUND

They are too excited to pay any attention to Galen. Burke plunges his hands into the recess of the fireplace and brings out a package wrapped in foil Christmas paper.

BURKE
Santa Claus!

GALEN
Santa who?
Burke busily unwraps the package

BURKE
He was a jolly old elf who rode through the sky in a sleigh pulled by eight reindeer and came down the chimney at Christmastime and left presents for the children.

ANGLE ON GALEN

GALEN
(laughing)
Rode through the sky...? Came down the chimney...?

He doubles up with laughter.

ANGLE ON BURKE

He gets the package open and reveals a pair of roller skates.

BURKE
All right, funny boy, take a look at these.

BACK TO GALEN

He stops laughing and stares in amazement.

GALEN
An ancient machine?

ANGLE ON VIRDON AND BURKE WITH THE SKATES

Burke sits on the floor and starts putting on the skates. Galen comes into the picture and stoops to watch.

BURKE
Clear away some of the moss, Alan, and I'll give our friend here a little demonstration.

Alan rises and kicks at some of the brush on the floor slab. As Burke gets the skates on, Galen doubles up all over again.

GALEN
Now I've seen everything! Wheels on your feet!
Galen walks away, laughing. Burke gets to his feet. 
CAMERA PULLS BACK to cover the cleared area as Burke 
tries to skate on the not very smooth slab.

BURKE 
What do you think, Galen?

ANGLE ON GALEN

as the edge of the slab, as he laughs, turns his back 
and sits on old concrete steps leading down.

GALEN 
I think you humans have got a 
long way to go!

ANGLE ON VIRDON AND BURKE

VIRDON 
If it's any consolation, Pete, 
I thought you were pretty good.

Burke almost falls in the rough terrain and Virdon holds 
him up. They both react as they hear, off, a SCREAM. 
They look off and see:

ANGLE ON GALEN

He is crawling toward Virdon and Burke, registering terror, 
looking back at something.

INTERCUT SCORPION

crawling away from the steps where Galen sat.

ANGLE ON SCENE

as Virdon and Burke hurry to Galen.

BURKE 
What happened?

Galen points, then collapses. Virdon goes past him and 
looks down, then whirls and looks at Burke, alarmed.

VIRDON 
Galen! What is it?
GALEN
It's the tiger scorpion.
(gasping)
I moved. If I had stayed still, it wouldn't have stung me.

Burke has ripped off the skates. He and Virdon kneel by Galen and begin giving him first aid. Virdon whips out a knife, to cut open the wound, as for a snakebite. Burke wraps a jacket or tunic around Galen's shoulders to ward against shock.

GALEN
(fainting)
No use. Need serum. Without serum - tiger scorpion - is fatal!

He collapses prone on the building slab.
EXT. CLOSEUP OF BLACKSMITH'S ANVIL - DAY

Man's hands are fashioning a horseshoe from white-hot iron.

WIDEN to reveal MARTIN, a blacksmith, making the horseshoe. Beyond him we see GREGER, his young son, firing an outdoor forge. In the background there is a kind of corral with a couple of horses in it. Not far away there is a farmer's hut and a shed near it.

Martin finishes shaping the horseshoe and plunges it into a can of water. It hisses and makes a cloud of steam. Then Martin holds the horseshoe up, gray and smoking. He plops it on the bench beside him and turns to the forge. He is about to start on another horseshoe when both he and Greger react, looking off as they hear SOUND of hoofbeats.

ANGLE ON ROAD LEADING TO MARTIN'S PLACE, MARTIN'S POV

Zandar and his party approaching, riding hard.

ANGLE ON MARTIN AND GREGER

as they move forward, showing fear, to meet the apes. Zandar and his men ride past CAMERA and surround the humans.

CLOSEUP OF ZANDAR

looking down on Martin. Zandar is as cruel as Urko, but not as fearful in appearance.

CLOSEUP OF MARTIN

He is all but bowing in his effort to appear humble.

CLOSEUP OF GREGER

He stares levelly at Zandar, chin up and firm.

BACK TO ZANDAR

He tilts his head, indicating the horses.

ZANDAR
Urko's horses.
MARTIN
(nodding)
Yes.

ZANDAR
You have to finish the job in
two days, in time for the race.

MARTIN
We will. I've already started
on the shoes.

ZANDAR
Make sure you don't disappoint Urko.

MARTIN
No, of course not.

Zandar stares at Martin a moment, then rides his horse in
a small circle and stops in front of Greger.

ANGLE ON ZANDAR, STARING GRIMLY

CLOSEUP OF GREGER, UNFLINCHING

BACK TO SCENE

ZANDAR
A human has been seen near here,
riding one of our horses.

Martin shoots a glance of alarm at his son.

GREGER
(evenly)
A human, riding a horse? He
must be crazy.

ZANDAR
Yes - considering the penalty.
If he's caught he will be put
to death. That is the law.

CLOSEUP OF GREGER AS BEFORE

GREGER
I wouldn't be caught dead
on a horse.
He senses Greger is guilty, but he can’t do anything about it.

ZANDAR
(a beat)
If you ever are, you will be.
You can be sure of that.

He turns away, riding to Martin.

ZANDAR
Urko wants the gray horse first.
We have to train him for the big race.

BACK TO SCENE

MARTIN
Yes, of course.

ZANDAR
(a shout)
Yo!

The four gorillas spur their horses and lunge away, leaving the rest of the herd. Stoically, Greger opens the corral and shoes the horses in. Martin calls to him, concerned.

MARTIN
You see, my son? I tried to warn you. Now you have been seen!

GREGER
(smugly)
Being seen and getting caught are two different things.

MARTIN
Why can’t you just obey the law?

GREGER
(with spirit)
Because it’s their law, not ours!
We shoe their horses and clean up after them, but we can’t ride them!
What kind of "law" is that? Why should we be second-class beings?

Cont.
Martin goes back to his forge, grumbling.

MARTIN
Listen to your father, Greger. Obey the law, like the rest of us. The apes know what's best.

Greger speaks as he closes the corral gates on the horses.

GREGER
Oh, Father! If I listened to you I'd never do anything!

VIRDON (o. s.)
Hello!

Martin and Greger react, turning to see:

ANGLE PAST SHED

Virdon and Burke, supporting Galen between them, come forward. PAN to include SEELAH, Martin's wife, who appears in the door of the hut in the background.

BURKE
May we come in?

ANGLE ON MARTIN AND GREGER

MARTIN
What do you want?

Virdon, Burke and Galen move into the picture.

VIRDON
Our friend's been hurt. We need help.

GREGER
(warily)
An ape is your friend?

SEELAH (off)
What is it, Martin?

All turn to look at Seelah.
as she moves quickly toward the Astronauts and Galen, showing maternal concern for all beings. PAN as she joins the trio.

BURKE
It's our friend, here, Ma'am.
He's been bitten by a scorpion.

SEELAH
Oh, my goodness! Bring him inside, quickly! Get him into bed!

She moves to assist Galen.

ANGLE ON MARTIN AND GREGER

Both are uncertain about the situation - Martin because of his distrust of all strangers, Greger because of his dislike of apes. But, after a moment, Greger's sense of decency takes over and he moves forward.

FULL SCENE

Burke and Virdon are carrying Galen into the hut, with Seelah supervising. Greger is moving to join them. After another moment, Martin, too, follows toward the hut.

INT. THE MARTIN HUT - TWILIGHT

Galen lies on a rude cot covered with a rough blanket. He moans and tosses. Seelah is mopping his brow with a cloth while Virdon and Burke pace. Greger sits on a stool, staring at Galen. Martin stands in the shadows in a corner.

SEELAH
(shakes her head)
It's bad. There's nothing more I can do.

VIRDON
We have to do something.

SEELAH
He needs serum to fight the poison.

Cont.
BURKE
Then let's get it!

SEELAH
It isn't that easy. The village is five miles from here. By the time you walk there and back...
(sha[ks her head again)

ANGLE ON BURKE AND VIRDON
as they exchange glances. Then:

BURKE
I'll take one of the horses.

ANGLE ON GREGER AND MARTIN

GREGER
(a beat, then with irony) Humans aren't allowed to ride horses. You'd be shot.

ANGLE ON BURKE AND VIRDON

BURKE
I'll take a chance.

He starts toward the door. PAN with him. As he crosses the room, Greger rises and stops him.

GREGER
(briefly) I'll go.

VIRDON
(entering scene) Why should you? It's our problem.

GREGER
You don't know the way. I know how to get through without being seen. I've done it before.

Cont.
Greger starts for the door, Martin following.

MARTIN
(loudly)
The village is full of apes who
have come for the races! They'll
catch you this time for sure!

ANGLE ON DOOR

as Martin catches up with Greger and stops him.

MARTIN
Listen to me, son! They'll shoot
you on sight!

GREGER
(audaciously)
Only if I get caught.

He breaks away and goes out, with Martin following.

BACK TO SCENE

Virdon and Burke look at Seelah, uncomfortably. She
resumes bathing Galen's forehead. After a moment:

ANGLE ON DOOR

as Martin reenters. He stares balefully at the Astronauts.

MARTIN
Why did you come here? You've
brought us nothing but trouble.

ANGLE ON SEELAH

She looks disapprovingly at her husband, then registers
at the SOUND of hooves, off, indicating Greger is on his
way. She looks at the Astronauts and says, with meaning:

SEELAH
My son is very brave.

DISSOLVE TO:

EXT. A FIELD

Greger rides a horse, bareback, through the field.
EXT. VILLAGE STREET, IN TOWN OF VENTA

Since the area is horse country, there are a feed and grain store, a saddlery and other related stores in view. Some human workers are carrying sacks of grain from a cart into the feed store, and outside the saddlery two apes are engaged in horse-trading. Other apes and humans come and go, indicating abnormal activity for the village.

EXT. EDGE OF VILLAGE

Greger rides to the end of the street and looks into the village. Then he makes a wide detour.

EXT. AN ARROYO

Greger rides into a deep cut, dismounts and tethers his horse to a tree in a dark place, then hurries away.

EXT. THE STREET AS BEFORE

Greger enters and walks down the street, hurrying but not being obvious about it. As he comes to the grain store the ape MERCHANT, overseeing the unloading of grain, calls to him.

MERCHANT
Boy! Give us a hand here!

ANGLE ON GREGER

He realizes he must handle this very carefully. He stops.

GREGER
(politely)
I am on an errand.

TWO SHOT FAVORING MERCHANT

MERCHANT
You're a strong, healthy young man. How would you like to work for me?

GREGER
I will ask my master.

He bows and moves away tactfully.
EXT. THE CLINIC

A whitewashed building. A bandaged ape is led from the entrance by an ape nurse.

ANGLE ON GREGER

Approaching, he stops and steps aside, waiting for the apes to get away. Then he goes to the side of the building.

WINDOW OF CLINIC

Greger approaches and peers in the window.

INT. ROOM IN CLINIC, GREGER'S POV

It is much like a military first-aid station, unoccupied.

ANGLE ON WINDOW FROM INSIDE CLINIC

Greger surveys the room, then climbs in. He moves to a medicine cabinet. PAN. He opens the cabinet.

CLOSEUP OF OPEN MEDICINE CABINET

Greger's hand reaches for a bottle of serum.

BACK TO GREGER

Furtively he pockets the serum and closes the cabinet.

      NURSE (o. s.)
      What are you doing here, human?

ANGLE ON NURSE FROM BEHIND GREGER

She stands glowering. She's larger and obviously stronger than Greger. He stands frozen for a moment, then dives out the window. The nurse rushes to the window and looks out.

      NURSE
      Stop! Come back here!

Then she turns and races toward the door.
EXT. OUTSIDE THE CLINIC, NURSE'S POV

Greger is high-tailing it down a side street.

EXT. THE ARROYO

At the mouth of the arroyo, Zandar and his three companions rein their mounts and get off, tiredly.

ZANDAR
We'll make camp here. We could stay in the village, but - too many loud-mouthed humans, here for the races.

They are unloading some gear and do not see Greger as he appears above them on a ledge overlooking the arroyo's mouth. Greger freezes.

ANGLE ON GREGER

as he stares in dismay at gorillas.

REVERSE ANGLE, GREGER'S POV

looking down on the apes as the prepare to make camp. PAN down the arroyo to Greger's horse at a closed end of the cut. PAN back to Zandar and company.

ANGLE ON GREGER

He makes a decision and moves away. Follow. The cut to:

END OF ARROYO

as Greger comes to the edge above his horse. He looks down guardedly, then slips into the arroyo. Some gravel falls with him, making a noise. His horse whinnies.

ANGLE ON GORILLAS

as they react to the noise they have heard. Zandar and Zilo move toward the sounds, curiously.
from behind the gorillas as they move into the arroyo. Then, abruptly, Greger rides wildly out of the arroyo, right through the apes, scattering them, at the same time letting out a kind of war whoop as he goes past the CAMERA.

ZANDAR
It's a human! On a horse!
Did you see his face?

ZILO
He came too fast! I couldn't see!

One of the other apes now has his rifle up and fires.

ZANDAR
After him! Shoot to kill!

The apes scramble onto their horses and ride away.

INT. MARTIN'S HUT

Galen lies on the cot, moaning deliriously. Burke sits by him, holding his hand. Virdon paces the floor. Seelah is at a table, preparing something. Martin stands at the window, staring out, depressed.

MARTIN
Something's wrong. It's taking him too long.

SEELAH
It depends on what route he took.

VIRDON
I should have gone.

MARTIN
(angrily)
You both should have gone! And the ape, too! Get out of here! Now!

ANGLE ON SEELAH

as she turns from her work and stares at Martin.

SEELAH
Martin! It's my house, too!
ANGLE ON MARTIN

as he turns away and goes back to the window.

EXT. CHASE SEQUENCE

Depending on terrain of location. Greger rides by, then Zandar and his apes. At another spot, Greger plunges into foliage with his horse and hides. The apes pull up, looking around. Zilo rides into the foliage. Greger, flushed out, dashes across the trail at right angles to the apes. One of the gorillas fires. As Greger plunges into the foliage on the other side of the road we see that his horse has been hit and is limping but still running. Fortunately, there is a stream here and Greger rides his horse across it. The apes come to the stream, hesitate, then splash into it in pursuit of Greger. They fire at Greger but he is going at an angle and they miss. He disappears in the dark.

EXT. THE MARTIN BARNYARD

Greger, his horse limping, rides into the yard. Martin and the Astronauts pile out of the hus. Seelah comes to the door.

BURKE
(jubilant)
You made it!

VIRDON
Good work, Greger!

Greger, breathing hard, slides off the horse and hands the serum to Burke, who dashes toward the house. Virdon stays just long enough to put his hand on Greger's shoulder and say:

VIRDON
Thanks! For Galen.

Then he turns and races to the house. Martin comes to Greger and looks at him, registering gratitude that he's back. But he reacts differently as he sees:

ANGLE ON HORSE'S SHOULDER

showing the bullet wound.

BACK TO SCENE

MARTIN
The horse! What happened?

Cont.
Greger is a little shaken by his narrow escape.

GREGER
(lightly)
It's only a flesh wound.

MARTIN
Wounded? Now you are in trouble!

GREGER
(impatient)
It's not serious, Father! The bullet was stopped by the shoulder blade. He'll be all right.
(a bit of a grin)
Just be thankful they missed me.

He begins to work on the horse's wound.

INT. THE HUT

CU on Seelah, pouring serum from the bottle into a large spoon. WIDEN to reveal Burke holding Galen's shoulders and head up from the cot, to receive the medicine, while Virdon holds Galen's hand. The Astronauts watch intently as Seelah sets the bottle down and brings the spoonful of serum to Galen's lips, deftly slipping the dose into his mouth. Galen reacts, swallows and then seems to stop his writhing and go to sleep. Burke lets him lie back.

SEELAH
They say it works very fast.
(a beat)
If it works at all.

Burke and Virdon register big at this. They look at one another, then at Galen. Burke sits by Galen, struggling to control his emotions, watching the chimp's face. Virdon paces the room a moment. Then:

VIRDON
I'll go see if I can help with the horse.

He goes out of the room, leaving Burke watching Galen.
EXT. THE BARNYARD

Virdon comes out of the house and stops as he sees:

ANGLE ON GREGER

working on the horse's shoulder, with Martin looking on, nervous and fidgety.

ANGLE ON VIRDON

as he moves decisively toward Greger and the horse.

VIRDON

Let me at that, Greger. I'm an old hand with horses.

ANGLE ON GREGER AND HORSE AS BEFORE

as Greger and Martin look toward Virdon. Virdon walks into the picture and Greger steps aside as Virdon takes over.
as Virdon looks at the horse's wound - a bullet in the shoulder, stopped by the shoulder blade. As Virdon explores the wound the horse flinches and rears.

**VIRDON**

Let's get him in the stable. I'll sterilize my knife and dig it out.

Virdon goes to the horse's head and takes the reins to lead the horse away. PAN with the group as they go.

**VIRDON**

You ought to get some rest, Greger, You must be tired.

**GREGER**

I'm all right.

The CAMERA is now looking toward the barn as Virdon leads the horse there with Greger and Martin near. Then all of them stop and freeze as from four different directions - Zandar and his companions ride silently into the yard. Nobody says a word. Zandar gets off his mount. He walks to Virdon who stands holding the horse's reins.

**ZANDAR**

So you're the one! Riding a horse. Do you deny it?

**ANGLE ON VIRDON**

He remains calm, thinking of bluffing it through.

**VIRDON**

I don't deny anything. But this horse has been wounded and I think it should be taken care of.

He moves as if to proceed, but Zandar stops him.

**ZANDAR**

Never mind the horse! We have plenty of horses! (to Zilo)

Arrest this man! Take him to the village! Hold him for Urko!

Cont.
Zilo and the other gorillas pile off their horses and seize Virdon. But as they start to drag him away, Greger steps forward, holding up a hand.

GREGER
Hold it! I'm the one.

ANGLE ON ZANDAR

ZANDAR
(a cruel smile)
So it was you, after all!

ANGLE ON VIRDON AND MARTIN

VIRDON
Look, Greger, you don't have
to do this, just to save my neck.

MARTIN
(a wail)
My son! I warned you!

ANGLE ON ZANDAR

as he realizes that Martin has given the game away. He nods to his apes, indicating Greger.

ZANDAR
His own father confirms it.
Take him away.

GROUP SHOT

Zilo and one of the gorillas drag Greger and throw him on a horse. Zandar mounts and leads the group away, pausing only for one parting shot at Martin.

ZANDAR
Thank you, Old Man. You will be invited to see the execution.

ANGLE ON VIRDON AND MARTIN

as they stare disconsolately after the departing group.

FADE OUT

END OF ACT ONE
ACT TWO

FADE IN

EXT. STREET IN VILLAGE - DAY

It is the following morning and the day's activities have begun. Zandar, followed by Zilo and the other gorillas, swaggers down the street, lording it over all. As they come to the grain market a human carries a huge sack of grain out of the shop and attempts to put it on a cart. He sees Zandar and, unnerved, drops the sack virtually at Zandar's feet. Zandar reacts first with a show of irritation and then with supreme arrogance he picks up the sack and heaves it on the cart as if it were a box of shredded wheat. He looks around at his followers for applause. He gets it.

ZILO
That's good, Zandar! You are very strong.

Zandar walks on, arrogantly, as he says:

ZANDAR
There isn't anybody stronger.
(an afterthought)
Except Urko himself.

We PAN with him as he goes on. He comes to a kind of tiger cage in which a human lies, curled up and still. Zandar stops, grinning, looking into the cage. After a moment, he rattles the bars and the human rouses. It is Greger. He is dirty and tired but not defeated.

ZANDAR
Did you sleep well, human?

GREGER
Did you expect me to, in this? Why can't I be put in the jail with the other criminals?

ZANDAR
Because we want everyone to know what happens when a human is caught riding a horse. Even those who are not here when you are executed will be taught a lesson.

Cont.
GREGER
How many humans have you shot
for riding horses? But they
still go on doing it! What good
does it do to kill them?

ZANDAR
As much good as it does you to
break the law.

GREGER
Sure! You'll enjoy
seeing me die, won't you?

ZANDAR
(gloating)
My boy, I intend to ask Urko for
the privilege of pulling the
trigger myself!

He walks arrogantly away. We hold on grim, defiant Greger.

EXT. MARTIN'S BARNYARD

Martin is working at his anvil, making horseshoes. Burke
and Virdon come out of the hut, ready to go to the village.

BURKE
Will you go with us, Martin?

Martin stops hammering and looks sullenly in the distance.

MARTIN
It won't do any good. The apes
never listen to humans.

VIRDON
We can try. Greger risked his
life for Galen, and Galen is an
ape. Maybe they'll consider that.

MARTIN
You'll only cause more trouble.
(then, grudgingly)
But if you see the prefect, Barlow,
he might have a warm spot for my
son. We keep his horses well shod.
as they look at one another, registering.

BURKE
Barlow? Is he the ape who
used to be prefect at Alar?

MARTIN
Yes.

The Astronatus punch one another jubilantly.

VIRDON
Hey, we know him! He's a reasonable
kind of ape. Maybe he'll listen to us.

MARTIN
Maybe. But what can he do with Urko?

BURKE
He can get to Zaius. That's
what's important.

Now they all react as they hear:

SEELAH (o. s.)
Come and see your friend!

ANGLE ON SEELAH IN DOOR OF HUT, SMILING

SEELAH
He's sitting up in bed!

Virdon and Burke rush to join Seelah and enter the hut.

INT. MARTIN'S HUT

Galen is sitting up in bed, eating from a bowl of porridge. He grins as the Astronauts enter, with Seelah behind them.

GALEN
If it was up to you guys I would
have starved to death in my sleep.
(to Seelah)
Thank you, Seelah. It's delicious.

Virdon and Burke go to Galen and pummel him.

Cont.
VIRDON
You're just goofing off, man!
You don't even look sick!

GALEN
(feeling bandaged arm)
I am, though. Like you say -
Wow, what that scorpion did to me!

BURKE
Yeah, but what you did to that
scorpion.
(mock seriousness)
Do you know, he took one bite of
you and just keeled over and died!

Galen breaks up and the others join in. Then, seriously:

VIRDON
Take it easy the rest of the day.
We've got to go see the prefect and
try to save the guy that saved you.

GALEN
(serious)
Yes, of course.

He glances at Seelah and she turns away, moved.

BURKE
And guess who the prefect is!
Your old friend, Barlow!

Galen is electrified. He swings his feet off the bed and
prepares to rise.

GALEN
Barlow! From Alar?
(rising)
I'm going with you.

Seelah moves to Galen and tries to push him back into bed.

SEELAH
No, you mustn't! You need
more rest.

Cont.
GALEN
How much rest would I get now?
Barlow and I got along together.
I've got some influence with him.
(taking Seelah by the
shoulders and speaking
very sincerely:)
For your son's sake, Seelah -
I've got to go.

VIRDON
You might as well give up, Seelah.
He's as stubborn as a mule.

Seelah nods and Galen turns to the Astronauts, ready to go.

BURKE
It's a long walk, Galen.

GALEN
(with humor)
Ah! I'll ride! That's where I
have it over you. I can ride a
horse and not be stopped. You
guys can walk behind me and
pretend to be my slaves.

VIRDON
(sour face)
We sure pay one heck of a price
for being human.

GALEN
(thoughtfully)
Yes - I suppose you do.

He marches out ahead of them, and the Astronauts follow humbly.

DISSOLVE TO:

EXT. VILLAGE STREET AS IN 88

Galen rides into the village on a horse with Virdon and
Burke following meekly on foot, as slaves. PAN with them.
Virdon registers as he looks off and then nudges Burke.
OUT 26
Pg 27

ANGLE ON CAGE, VIRDON'S POV
Greger sees the trio and reacts, seizing the cage bars.

ANGLE ON VIRDON AND BURKE, GREGER'S POV
Virdon makes a "cool it" gesture, surreptitiously, as they go on.

INT. BARLOW'S OFFICE - DAY
Barlow stands looking out the window. He seems unhappy.
At the SOUND of door opening, he turns and sees:

ANGLE ON DOOR, BARLOW'S POV
A human aide, DAMON, enters, carrying a saddle.

DAMON
Here's your new saddle, Prefect Barlow. It just came in.

ANGLE TOWARD BARLOW
as he comes to his desk and meets Damon there.

BARLOW
It's no use. We have no chance of winning the race. Urko's horse will win as usual - and this year he has chosen me to be the one who gets beaten.

DAMON
It doesn't seem fair.

BARLOW
(bitterly)
Fair? When has Urko ever been fair? Look at the way he had me transferred here from my native village! Urko is never fair.
(a beat, then, brooding:)
And the stakes in the race! Half my horses, and half my lands, if I lose! And of course I'll lose!

He sits at his desk, wearily. Cont.
DAMON
(discreetly)
There is someone to see you.

BARLOW
(about to say "no")
I'm not in the mood to -

DAMON
A chimpanzee with two slaves
to sell.
(pause)
He says you know him.

BARLOW
(wearily)
I can't buy any more slaves.
But show him in.

Damon goes out.

ANGLE ON DOOR

as Damon goes out. We see Galen and the Astronauts being
told by Damon to enter. They start in, all deadpan.

ANGLE ON BARLOW

He registers recognition and rises. He starts toward the
trio, enthusiastically, then restrain himself.

ANGLE ON DOOR

as the trio enters. Damon closes the door after them,
staying in the outer office. PAN as they cross to Barlow.

BARLOW
Galen! What are you doing
here? You must be mad!

GALEN
Of course! But I had to see you!
He registers his sense that no one loves him for himself alone. He moves to go behind his desk.

**BARLOW**
I 'take it you're in trouble again.

**ANGLE ON TRIO**

**GALEN**
No. We're not -

**VIRDON**
But a friend of ours is.

**BURKE**
A human. For riding a horse.

**ANGLE ON BARLOW**
He sits behind his desk, wearily.

**BARLOW**
Oh, that one. Young Greger. He's your friend?
(shakes his head)
There's nothing I can do.

**ANGLE ON GALLEN**

**GALEN**
But he saved my life!
ANGLE ON VIRDON AND BURKE

BURKE
Galen was bitten by a scorpion.
He would have died if Greger hadn't
come into town for the serum.

VIRDON
He did it for one of your own!
If you told Zaius that...

ANGLE ON BARLOW

BARLOW
Do you want me to appeal to
Zaius on the grounds that Greger
saved the life of an outlaw?

ANGLE ON BURKE AND GALEN

BURKE
You wouldn't have to tell
him that.

GALEN
Of course not! Barlow,
be reasonable!

ANGLE ON BARLOW

He rises and goes to the window, looking out.

BARLOW
There was a time when I tried to
be reasonable. In my native village,
I helped you. It cost me my job, and
Urko got me transferred to Venta. Now
I'm less reasonable - and more safe.
(tURNS TO THEM)
I hate it here. I want to go home.
There's a chance that I can - if I
keep my record clean.

ANGLE ON TRIO

GALEN
(quietly)
Then you place your ambitions
above the life of that boy.

Cont.
Barlow goes back to his desk, joining the scene.

BARLOW
He's only a human. And a foolish one at that. It's a wonder the horse didn't kill him. Only the apes know how to handle horses.

ANGLE ON VIRDON

VIRDON
(aroused)
Are you joking? I'm a human and I've been an expert horseman since I was ten years old!

ANGLE ON BARLOW

He studies the men, thinking, "Perhaps I can use these humans." Then he looks at Galen.

BARLOW
Is he telling the truth?

ANGLE ON GROUP

GALEN
My friends don't lie.

Barlow thinks some more. Then:

BARLOW
The proof lies in the riding - not the telling of it, my friend.

He motions with his head, indicating, "Let's go."

BARLOW
Come. I have one horse in my herd I would like to see you ride.

ANGLE ON ASTRONAUTS AND GALEN

Virdon stands still, studying Barlow. Then:

VIRDON
What about Greger?
ANGELE ON BARLOW

BARLOW
(a beat)
First, ride my horse. Then we'll talk.

EXT. A CORRAL - DAY

CLOSEUP of horse, WODA, with restraining lines on it. WIDEN to reveal ape and human HANDLERS working with the horse. It is high-strung and all but unmanageable. The handlers move cautiously in putting a bridle on it.

ANGELE ON GROUP AT CORRAL FENCE

Virdon, Burke, Galen and Barlow are watching the handlers and the horse. Virdon is evaluating it. Burke looks at Virdon, then at the horse, worried.

VIRDON
(to Barlow)
You didn't tell me he was wild.
He's never been ridden, has he?

BARLOW
(blandly)
No. He's a killer. None of my apes can ride him.

Virdon takes a long count, then turns away.

VIRDON
Forget it.

ANGELE ON BARLOW

BARLOW
(sparring)
Then you aren't the great rider you say you are.

ANGELE ON VIRDON

VIRDON
I'm an excellent rider. But give me one good reason why I should risk my neck on a wild horse.
He still spars for time, hedging on making a commitment.

**BARLOW**

If you can ride him - and break him -
I can be very helpful to you.

**INTERCUT BURKE AND GALLEN, REACTIONS**

**BACK TO VIRDON**

There's an understanding between him and his friends -
a "Let's find out what he's up to." He turns to Barlow.
PAN to include the prefect.

**VIRDON**

Okay, let's go.

Barlow smiles, pleased, then calls to the handlers:

**BARLOW**

Saddle him up!

**ANGLE ON HANDLERS WITH HORSE**

as they quickly saddle Woda and bring it to the fence.
PAN to group scene. Virdon climbs the fence. He touches
the horse's face, then the top of its head, letting the
animal nuzzle his armpit and get used to his smell. Then
he works down its neck, getting ready to mount.

**BARLOW**

Its name is Woda, but that
won't help you any.

Virdon starts to mount. The horse rears but as it comes down
Virdon mounts. He's halfway on but he makes it. The handlers
back away.

**VIRDON**

(to handlers)
Let him go!

The handlers back away and the ride is on!

**RIDING SEQUENCE**

Bronco-busting scene. When the horse discovers it cannot
dislodge the rider it takes off in a dead run across fields.
INTERCUT CLOSEUPS

Those watching express astonishment and elation. Virdon, on Woda, is too busy to express anything.

BACK TO SCENE

as Virdon rides the vanquished Woda to the group and dismounts. The handlers take the hard-breathing horse. Barlow, now inside the corral, embraces it.

BARLOW
What a beautiful animal!
(to Virdon, slyly)
Good riding - for a human.

ANGLE ON VIRDON

VIRDON
(wryly)
Thank you.

BARLOW
I never saw a horse go so fast!

PAN with Virdon as he joins his friends.

BURKE
Maybe that's because you never saw a human jockey before.

Barlow comes into the picture with the others.

BARLOW
All right - I have a proposition for you. I want you to ride Woda in the big race this week.

INTERCUT REACTIONS OF TRIO, ENDING ON GALEN

GALEN
(to Barlow)
How can he? He's a human.

BACK TO SCENE

BARLOW
(weaseling)
Mm, I have a little influence with Zaius. I can get him to make an exception. What do you say?
ANGLE ON VIRDON

VIRDON
(bargaining)
Why should I say anything? I'm not interested in racing.

ANGLE ON BARLOW

BARLOW
If you will ride Woda in the race - and if you win - I will get Zaius to pardon your friend, Greger.

ANGLE ON ASTRONAUTS AND GALEN, PAST BARLOW

They stare at Barlow - it's too good to be true.

GALEN
Do you mean that?

BARLOW
I guarantee it.

The Astronauts and Galen express jubilation. Then:

VIRDON
(sobering)
What if I lose?

ANGLE ON BARLOW

BARLOW
Then Greger will die. But with a horse like Woda, surely you don't expect to lose.

ANGLE ON BURKE

He's still looking for the joker in the deck.

BURKE
Who would he be riding against?

ANGLE ON BARLOW

BARLOW
(evasively)
An ape who owns horses. It varies from year to year.
ANGLE ON ASTRONAUTS AND GALEN

They congratulate one another. Then Virdon takes Barlow's hand.

VIRDON
All right! I'll do it. And I'll think only of winning.

ANGLE ON BARLOW

BARLOW
Good. But - a word of caution. Tell your friend not to try to escape. Humans do, sometimes. If he tries to escape, it won't make any difference whether you win or lose.

ANGLE ON TRIO

as they register: The chips are down!

DISSOLVE TO:

EXT. STREET IN VENTA - DAY

CLOSE SHOT, GREGER IN CAGE, huddled in a corner, somewhat discouraged. WIDEN as ape GUARD pushes food through the bars.

GUARD
Eat heartily. You never know which meal will be your last.

Greger does not move. The Guard, smirking, moves away a little. After a moment, Greger shoves the food out of the cage. The Guard registers - he couldn't care less. Then both look off.

ANGLE DOWN STREET, GREGER'S POV

Galen is coming forward, with Burke behind him as a slave. Burke has the roller skates around his neck.

CLOSEUP OF GREGER, REGISTERING

BACK TO SCENE

as Galen and Burk stop and talk with passersby. Then Burke sits and starts putting on the roller skates. An APE BOY stops to watch.
ANGLE ON APE BOY

watching Burke put on the skates.

APE BOY
What are those?

BURKE
Roller skates.

APE BOY
Roller - skates? What are they for?

BURKE
I'll show you.

NEW ANGLE

as Burke, skates on, gets up and does a few turns on them. Immediately a crowd gathers.

ANGLE ON BURKE

as he waits for what he expects - the gorilla Guard.

ANGLE ON GUARD

He sees Burke. Curious, he walks to him. PAN. Burke meets him half way. The Guard stoops to study the wheels on the human's feet. Burke lifts a foot to show them.

BURKE
Would you like to try them?

The Guard is too hypnotized to refuse. Burke quickly takes the skates off and kneels to fasten them on the Guard's feet. Then he steps back. WIDEN as the Guard tries to skate. Burke steps to him and gives him a steadying hand. The Guard tries again, almost falls. Burke catches him. Finally the Guard is on his own. He gets through two strides and then falls, sitting down hard. General laughter.

INTERCUT GREGER, WATCHING, FEELING OUT OF IT

BACK TO SCENE

Now Burke takes the skates off the Guard and puts them on his own feet again. He begins a fancy demonstration. As Cont.
he does so he looks off, toward Greger.

ANGLE ON GREGER

He is hurting to talk to Burke.

ANGLE ON BURKE

With seeming innocence, he skates to Greger's cage. Then he stops and pretends to be fiddling with an adjustment on the skate while talking with Greger.

BURKE
Are you all right?

GREGER
Not exactly. I've got to get out of here.

BURKE
Relax. We'll get you out.

GREGER
(doubting)
How?

BURKE
We've got a deal going with Barlow.

GREGER
A deal? With an ape?

BURKE
Alan is going to ride Barlow's horse in the big race. If he wins, Barlow has promised to ask Zaius to set you free. So sit tight. I mean - be patient.

Now realizing everyone is watching, he takes a few more turns, still close to the cage, while continuing the conversation surreptitiously.

GREGER
A human in the big race? They'll shoot him on sight.

BURKE
No they won't. Barlow already has an okay from Zaius for Alan to ride.

Cont.
GREGER
What if he loses?

BURKE
He won't. The horse is sensational. Alan has it out at your father's place now, training it.

GREGER
I don't like it. The only sure way is to escape. Listen!

He motions and Burke skates closer, doing a slow spin as he listens.

GREGER
I've worked one of the bars loose. I can get out of here tonight.

Burke is so shocked he stops skating and gestures to Greger.

BURKE
No! Don't! You do that and Barlow's hands are tied! You'll get killed!

ANGLE ON GUARD
He has been watching. Now he moves toward the cage, curious.

ANGLE ON BURKE
He sees the guard coming, registers and skates away, saying:

BURKE
Trust us!

He skates to the crowd. PAN. He finds the crowd silent, staring. He looks back to where they are looking. He sees:

ANGLE DOWN THE STREET CROWD'S POV
URKO, followed by some of his gorillas, rides into village.

ANGLE ON BURKE
as he skates into the crowd and loses himself. PAN with him as he joins Galen and looks around, apprehensively.
ANGLE ON GREGER

as he sees Urko and shrinks back in his cage.

ANGLE ON CROWD AROUND BURKE AND GALEN

One of the humans next to them speaks, awed:

HUMAN
It's Urko! Leader of the gorillas!

GALEN
What's he doing here?

HUMAN
He's come for the race. His horse is the one Barlow's horse has to run against. He's come to see his horse win.
(a beat)
He always wins, you know.

CAMERA MOVES IN ON GALEN. He registers, then looks at Burke.

ANGLE ON BURKE

It's sinking in. After a beat, he says:

BURKE
So that's it! No wonder Barlow didn't tell us who Virdon would be racing against.

TWO SHOT

GALEN
It's the same as if he lied to us.

BURKE
Sure! And we end up right in the middle. If Virdon doesn't ride, Greger gets shot. If he does ride - Urko gets us.

FADE OUT

END OF ACT TWO
EXT. STREET IN VENTA

LONG SHOT, Urko and company riding arrogantly toward us, with bystanders staring and getting out of the way.

CAMERA PULLS BACK to:

INT. BARLOW'S OFFICE

We find Barlow at his window, looking out and seeing the approaching Urko party. After a moment, Barlow turns away and comes toward us, to his desk, his face shows his concern that Urko is coming. He sits at his desk and folds his hands in front of him, waiting tensely. He hardly moves as he hears SOUND of footsteps outside.

ANGLE ON DOOR

The door is flung open and two ARMED GORILLAS plunge in, take a quick look around and step to either side of the door. Then Urko enters, followed by Zandar. Urko looks at Barlow, off screen, for a moment.

ANGLE ON BARLOW

He nods his head, almost imperceptibly.

ANGLE ON URKO

Smiling harshly, he walks arrogantly toward Barlow.

URKO

What's this I hear? You are planning to use a human jockey in the big race?

ANGLE ON BARLOW

BARLOW

It isn't a rumor. It's been approved. By Zaius.
URKO
(big laugh)
You're a bigger fool than I thought. What chance will a human have against my rider? All Zaius has done is give you enough rope to hang yourself.

BARLOW
We'll see.

URKO
(now grim)
Who is this human who's crazy enough to ride against one of Urko's apes?

ANGLE ON BARLOW

He knows he cannot give Virdon away. That would blow the game.

BARLOW
(a shrug)
What difference does it make? He's a human.

URKO
Has he ever ridden a horse before?

BARLOW
(a beat)
Yes. He's quite good.

ANGLE ON URKO

URKO
(a cruel smile)
Then you won't object if we raise the stakes a little, will you?

ANGLE ON BARLOW

He realizes he's trapped. He hesitates. Then:

BARLOW
How much?
ANGLE ON URKO

URKO
(harshly)
All your horses, if you lose.
And all your lands.

ANGLE ON BARLOW

BARLOW
(tense)
And if I win?

ANGLE ON URKO

URKO
(expansively)
What would you like?

ANGLE ON BARLOW

BARLOW
(a swallow)
Transfer me back to Alar.

ANGLE ON URKO

Promises come easy to him. He doesn't have to keep them.

URKO
(a shrug)
If that's what you want.

He turns to go but stops as Barlow speaks:

BARLOW
Is that a promise?

URKO
Yes, of course!
(cynical smile)
You have my word.

He goes out and his gorillas follow quickly.

ANGLE ON BARLOW

He swallows again. He has made a desperate gamble.
EXT. A FIELD - DAY

In the distance, Virdon is putting Woda through some jumps and stretch runs in training for the race. We PAN with the horse to find Barlow just inside the field, watching with great satisfaction. On the other side of the fence are Galen and Burke, somewhat depressed.

BARLOW
Beautiful! Beautiful! We're going to win!

BURKE
That's not quite right, Barlow. You're going to win. But as soon as Urko spots Alan on your horse he'll kill him - and us, too!

GALEN
(bitterly, to Barlow)
I don't understand you. Why didn't you tell us what we were getting into?

BARLOW
(blandly, still watching horse)
You didn't ask. Besides, I didn't know for sure Urko was coming.

BURKE
And besides that, if you'd leveled with us you might have missed out on getting a winning jockey.

BARLOW
I realize Urko's presence is a problem for you. But I'm sure you're clever enough to solve it.

BURKE
Sure!
(snaps fingers)
Nothing to it!

BARLOW
Just make sure you keep Virdon out of sight till the race is over. If you don't - Greger will die.

Cont.
Burke and Galen register at this horrible truth which Barlow treats so matter-of-factly. Galen looks at Burke.

ANGLE ON GALEN

GALEN  
Unfortunately, he's right.

TWO SHOT, BURKE AND GALEN

BURKE  
Yeah!

Then he snaps out of it, motioning Galen to follow.

BURKE  
Come on, Galen! Let's get busy!  
We've got to have a plan!

ANGLE ON BARLOW

He watches them go, then turns back to watch his horse.

LONG SHOT, VIRDON RIDING WODA

QUICK CROSS-FADE TO:

EXT. AREA NEAR GRANDSTAND AT RACE COURSE - DAY

The race course is little more than a rough lane going past the stands. We are near two poles which indicate the starting point of a race. Some distance from the poles, Burke is digging a deep hole in the ground. Galen lies on a hummock carving notches in a spool.

GALEN  
I wish I could help you. But we have to think of appearances.

BURKE  
Yeah! Sure!

GALEN  
If anybody saw me digging, they'd say, "Why are you doing that? That's what human slaves are for!" Otherwise I'd give you a hand.

Cont.
Burke stops and wipes his brow.

BURKE
Cut it out, Galen! You love it and you know you do!

Galen holds up the spool.

GALEN
Well, I'm doing all I can. Even if I don't understand it. Do you think this is going to help us save Virdon?

Burke goes back to his digging.

BURKE
You're getting warm, buddy! You're getting warm.

GALEN
(puzzled)
Warm? I'm not the least bit warm.

BURKE
That's for sure.

Galen, baffled, resumes carving notches in the spool.

EXT. MARTIN'S BARNYARD - DAY

Martin is shaping a horseshoe on his anvil. Virdon hovers close, watching.

VIRDON
Thinner, Martin! Thinner! A racehorse must have thin, light-weight shoes on his feet.

MARTIN
Urko's don't. His racehorses wear the same shoes as any other.

VIRDON
That's the point! That's where we have the advantage. In a race, every little bit helps.

Cont.
MARTIN
If it will help to save my son,
I will do anything.

He continues shaping the shoe and Virdon bends closer
to watch.

EXT. A RURAL ROAD

This is part of the race course - rugged and rocky. There
is a jump here - a kind of fence across the track, partly
covered with foliage. Several of Urko's gorillas are
making a tangle of vines just inside the jump, where the
horses will land coming over. Urko is supervising.

URKO
Tangle them up, my friends, but
leave the way open at the side.
Kagen will be told to ride my
horse across where he will be
clear of the vines. The human
will be stupid enough to jump
across the middle. I want to be
sure he falls.
(checking the work)
More vines here! Make the tangle
thicker!

One of the gorillas brings another handful of vines.

EXT. NEAR GRANDSTAND AS BEFORE.

Galen is perched on a stump, fashioning something which we
cannot see at the moment. Burke comes to the hole carrying
two large pails of water. He dumps them into the hole,
which is now about half full. He registers exhaustion.

GALEN
Sometimes I question your judgment.
First a spool with notches in it.
Now this. Am I just wasting time?

BURKE
What are you complaining about?
I'm the one who's doing all the
work. Just do what I tell you.
There's a method in my madness.
GALEN
Method in madness? How can there be method in madness? Only a human would think of a thing like that.

Burke picks up his pails and gets ready to go for more water.

BURKE
Ah, but humans do think! Give us credit for that much, anyway.

He leaves. Galen busies himself with what he is making.

CLOSEUP OF GALEN

We now see that Galen is fashioning a fake scorpion.

EXT. MARTIN'S BARNYARD - DAY

CLOSEUP of Martin applying shoe to horse's hoof. WIDEN to include Virdon watching as Martin finishes and steps back.

VIRDON
That's good, Martin. With those shoes, Woda will go like the wind and still have his hooves protected from the rocks along the race course.

He mounts the horse.

VIRDON
Now I'll take him out and get him used to his new shoes. Then -
(a gesture)
Watch out!

ANGLE ON MARTIN

He looks at Virdon with a mixture of hope and worry.

MARTIN
I still don't see how you hope to win. Urko's horses always win. And even if you do win, what's to keep him from killing you as well as Greger, for daring to ride a horse?
He rides to Martin and rumple his hair in a friendly manner, smiling gamely.

VIRDON

Look at it this way, Martin. If we don't try, Greger wouldn't have any chance at all, would he?

He rides away. Martin watches him go. Then he takes off his blacksmith's apron and goes to open the corral gate.

Seelah stands in the doorway, calling to Martin.

SEELAH

Where are you going, Martin?

MARTIN

To the village! To take Urko's horses to him! I've finished shoeing them!

He goes into the corral and begins haltering horses.

CLOSEUP of Urko eating ravenously. WIDEN to reveal Zandar and other gorillas eating. An ape, MORO, comes to Urko.

URKO

Did you fix the trap at the tree on the back road, Moro?

MORO

It's all set up. I tied the branch low enough to strike the human, but high enough so he won't notice it. Kagen will ride around it.

URKO

Good. Eat your meal. Zilo!
ANGLE ON ZILO

Zilo is a short distance away, eating. He rises and comes quickly to Urko. In the background we see Martin approaching, leading several horses.

ZILO
Yes, Urko?

URKO
(loud and arrogant)
I want you in place fifty yards from the finish line.

ANGLE ON MARTIN

He is tethering the horses nearby. He reacts as he hears:

URKO (o. s.)
If the human is leading when he passes you - kill him.

ZILO (o. s.)
Yes. I understand.

URKO (o. s.)
He must not win!

CAMERA MOVES IN on Martin's face as he registers at what this means regarding Greger. He finishes tethering the horses, then moves hypnotically toward Urko.

ANGLE ON URKO

He is still eating. Zandar, standing near, looks off and then speaks to Urko.

ZANDAR
Someone to see you.

Urko looks off, sees:

ANGLE ON MARTIN

standing before Urko, humbly.
CLOSEUP OF URKO

eyeing Martin suspiciously.

URKO
What do you want, old man?

ANGLE ON MARTIN

MARTIN
Excuse me. I am Martin, the blacksmith. I have shod your horses for many years.

ANGLE ON URKO

URKO
Have you been paid well?

MARTIN
Oh, yes! I have been well paid.

URKO
Then what have you come here for? Go back to your forge.

ANGLE ON MARTIN

MARTIN
Please - I can be of help to you. I have also shod the horse that Barlow has entered against you. (a beat) I know how to make sure you win.

ANGLE ON URKO

URKO
(suspiciously)
How?

ANGLE ON MARTIN

MARTIN
I can fix Woda's shoes, with wedges under them that will pain him and slow him down. I know right where to put them.
ANGLE ON URKO

MARTIN (cont'd)
It would slow him just enough, but
not enough to be found out until it
was too late. Then you wouldn't have
to worry about killing the rider.

URKO
(slowly)
Why do you want to help me?

ANGLE ON MARTIN

MARTIN
(a gulp)
It's for my son, Greger. He is
the one who has been sentenced to
die for riding a horse.

Now Martin all but falls to his knees in his plea.

MARTIN
Please! He's headstrong and stupid,
but he's all I have. Let him go
and I promise you he'll never ride
a horse again.
(a final entreaty)
And I will help you win.

ANGLE ON URKO

He chews on his food, thinking. Then, harshly:

URKO
If my horse wins, I will let
your son go free.

ANGLE ON MARTIN

He backs away, groveling.

MARTIN
Thank you! Thank you! Thank you!

ANGLE ON URKO

He watches Martin go, then gestures to Zandar. Zandar
comes to him.
URKO
As soon as the race gets started
let the human escape from his cage.

ZANDAR
Let him escape?

URKO
(a grin)
You know what to do when a human
tries to escape, don't you?

ZANDAR
(a beat)
But you promised the old man his
son would go free.

URKO
(harshly)
He can never go free! When a
human rides a horse, he must
die! Always!

ZANDAR
And the human on Barlow's horse -

URKO
(an evil grin)
He will die, too! If he should
be winning, we'll kill him before
he crosses the finish line. If
he loses - we'll kill him afterward.
It's only a question of when.

FADE OUT

END OF ACT THREE
EXT. RACE TRACK IN FRONT OF GRANDSTAND - DAY

An assortment of APE OFFICIALS and HUMAN WORKERS is on the track. Urko's horse, TUSAN, is getting a bit of a workout under its jockey, KAGEN.

As Kagen brings his horse back to where Urko stands, an ape Official speaks to him.

OFFICIAL
Well, Kagen, are you going to win?

KAGEN
Have you ever seen one of Urko's horses lose?

OFFICIAL
Good luck to you.

KAGEN
Urko and I don't put much faith in luck.

OFFICIAL
In what, then?

URKO
(interjecting)
In hard riding. And planning ahead.

OFFICIAL
Then you've planned a good race?

URKO
(smirking)
We can promise you a race you'll never forget.
EXT. STREET IN VENTA - DAY

CLOSE ON GREGER in cage. He is huddled, eyes staring straight ahead. He reacts as he hears:

GUARD (o. s.)
Sleep well, human?

WIDEN to show Greger's Guard standing by the cage but not looking at Greger as he speaks.

GREGER
Does it matter?

GUARD
I guess not. After today, you'll get plenty of sleep. They're planning to shoot you right after the race, in front of the whole crowd.

Cont.
Greger shows tension at this horrible truth.

GUARD
(too casually)
You're a young man. You're
too young to die.

GREGER
Explain that to Urko.

GUARD
That wouldn't do any good. Your
only hope is to escape.

GREGER
If Barlow's horse wins, I won't
have to escape. I'll be free.

GUARD
If it wins. Only a fool trusts
his fate to "ifs." But then,
you're only human. Apes make
things happen. That's why we
rule the planet.

Greger studies the Guard, trying to figure him out. The
Guard looks around, then speaks to Greger, confidentially:

GUARD
Listen - I am not like the others.
I am sorry for you. I don't want
to see you die.

(looks around
conspiratorially)
While the race is on, I'll be at
the track. I'll leave the cage
unlocked. The street will be
deserted and you can run away.

(a beat)
That way it won't matter how
the race comes out.

CLOSE ON GREGER

GREGER
(uncertain)
That would mean I didn't trust
my friends to win for me.
GUARD
It would also mean you were man
enough to decide your own fate.

ANGLE ON GREGER
as the Guard turns and leaves. CAMERA CLOSES IN on Greger
as he registers his grave doubts of the entire situation.

EXT. IN THE STANDS - DAY
The apes sit in the front section and the humans sit in
the back. Barlow is here, nervous and worried. Zandar
sits near with Zilo and the gorillas. Urko ENTERS.

URKO
(to Barlow)
Well, my friend, we've come to
the moment of truth.

BARLOW
(mildly)
Not quite. The moment of truth
is there - at the finish line.

ANGLE ON FINISH LINE
An Official stands with a flag, waiting to signal a winner.

BACK TO URKO
He points in another direction.

URKO
For this race, it's there -
at the starting line.

ANGLE ON STARTING LINE
It is some distance away and the figures there are obscure.

ANGLE ON URKO AND BARLOW

URKO
I see your horse. But where
is your wonderful human jockey?

Cont.
BARLOW
(nervous)
Don't worry. He'll be here.
He can't afford not to be.

EXT. THE STARTING LINE

Woda is held by Martin. Urko's horse, Tunan, stands not far away, with Kagen already mounted. Woda is nervous, prancing with high steps. Martin has difficulty holding him. PAN to Burke and Galen, huddled with Virdon nearby.

VIRDON
I don't like the way he's acting.

GALEN
It's just nerves. He's never been around so many people before.

BURKE
He'll be all right.
(intently)
Now listen, here's the plan. You know what to do first. The mudhole is right over there.

He points and Virdon looks and nods. Then:

BURKE
But keep your face turned away from the stands anyway, just in case. Then, when you come in for the finish, don't stop! The gate will be open at the end of the stands. Ride out - and keep on going. We'll meet you by the house where we found the roller skates. Remember?

VIRDON
Got it.

He gets ready to go. Burke stops him, gripping his shoulders.

BURKE
And for God's sake - win!
Virdon nods and runs off. Burke turns to Galen.

BURKE
Got your spool?

GALEN
Yes, I have it.

BURKE
All right, go! Do your number just before Virdon rides by the stands.

Galen nods and hurries away. Burke turns to see:

ANGLE ON VIRDON AND WODA

Virdon is mounting. In the background we can see Kagen laughing at "a human getting on a horse." Martin backs away, watching Woda closely. The horse begins to pivot and rear a little.

ANGLE ON VIRDON

He smiles confidently and guides Woda in a circle. Then he deliberately pulls at the reins, forcing Woda to rear.

ANOTHER ANGLE

Woda rears straight up and Virdon falls from its back. He lands in the hole that is full of thick, muddy water.

ANGLE ON BURKE

He makes a gesture of "right on."

BURKE
(to himself)
Attaboy! Perfect! Your own mother wouldn't recognize you!

ANGLE ON URKO IN STANDS, BARLOW NEAR

Urko throws his head back and laughs. Then, to Barlow:

URKO
This is the great rider who is going to beat Kagen? Ho!
ANGLE ON VIRDON IN HOLE

He crawls out. His face is masked with mud and he is unrecognizable. He grins and, without wiping off any of the mud, goes to Woda and mounts again. PAN.

Now the horse begins to misbehave badly, rearing and twisting almost as if it had never been broken.

VIRDON
What's the matter? There's something wrong! Easy, Woda!

PAN WITH HORSE AND RIDER as Woda sashays away from the starting line. Near a shed, Virdon decides to dismount. The horse rears and Virdon falls again, this time for real.

INTERCUT KAGEN, LAUGHING

BACK TO VIRDON

He gets up, still holding Woda's reins. The horse is no longer rearing but it is still nervous. Burke runs to Virdon. Martin walks to them, hypnotically.

BURKE
What's the trouble?

VIRDON
(to Martin)
Hold him.

Martin takes the reins and calms the horse. Virdon takes one of the horse's hooves and looks at it. Burke watches.

CLOSEUP, WODA'S FOOT

showing a metal wedge driven between shoe and hoof.

ANGLE ON BURKE AND VIRDON

They register at what they've seen.

VIRDON
My God!

Burke turns his head sharply and looks at:
MARTIN
holding Woda's reins, and guilty as hell.

ANGLE ON BURKE
He whirs away from Virdon and rushes to Martin. PAN. He seizes Martin, shaking him fiercely.

BURKE
You double-crosser! Your own son!

MARTIN
No! It was to save him! Urko said -

OFFICIAL (o. s.)
Get ready for the start!

ANGLE ON VIRDON

VIRDON
Give me a pair of pliers! Quick!

ANGLE ON BURKE AND MARTIN
Burke shakes Martin, to underscore Virdon's request.

MARTIN
(gasping)
I - haven't got - !

VIRDON (o. s.)
A screwdriver! A knife! Anything!

Martin shakes his head, despairingly. Burke releases him and rushes to help Virdon.

ANGLE ON VIRDON

as Burke joins him, feeling in his tunic for some kind of tool. Then he grabs up a small, wedge-shaped rock and, while Virdon holds the horse's hoof, Burke chips at the metal wedge with the rock.

ANGLE ON URKO AND BARLOW IN THE STANDS

URKO
What's holding up the race?

Cont.
BARLOW
(nervous)
Races never start on time.

Urko rises and shouts angrily down toward the Official.

URKO
Start the race! No more delays!

ANGLE ON OFFICIAL
at the starting line. He looks toward Virdon.

OFFICIAL
(shouting)
Bring your horse to the starting line!

ANGLE ON VIRDON AND BURKE
working on another hoof.

VIRDON
Last one! Almost got it!

ANGLE ON STARTING LINE
The Official stands with his hand raised. Near him a gorilla is aiming a rifle into the air. Kagen sits Tuson on the starting line, poised for the race.

OFFICIAL
Go!

He drops his hand, the gorilla fires the rifle and Kagen spurs Tuson forward with a lunge.

ANGLE ON CROWD REACTING

featuring Urko and Barlow. Behind them, we see Galen, holding something in his hand, moving surreptitiously.

ANGLE ON VIRDON AND BURKE
They register, then keep on working furiously. Virdon knocks the wedge loose and leaps on Woda, riding off to join the race.
ANGLE ON RACE

Kagen on Tusun is passing the stands on the first lap. PAN TO Virdon, on Woda - just crossing the starting line.

ANGLE ON URKO AND BARLOW

Urko is pleased, Barlow stunned. Galen appears closer behind them, moving to conceal himself behind spectators.

CLOSE ON GALEN

as he prepares his spool-and-string noisemaker.

ANGLE ON TRACK

as Virdon approaches his first pass by the stands.

CLOSE ON VIRDON'S FACE

covered with mud. Some of it has come off by now.

CLOSE ON URKO

He peers intently, trying hard to recognize Barlow's rider.

WIDER SHOT, URKO, BARLOW AND GALEN

Galen makes a nerve-shattering sound with the spool. Everybody, including Urko and Barlow, looks around. At the same time, Galen drops out of sight behind spectators. Seeing no one, Urko and Barlow look back at the race.

ANGLE ON TRACK, URKO'S POV

Virdon and Woda are now going away so that Virdon's back is all Urko can see.

ANGLE ON URKO

He settles back, rubbing his chin, trying to figure out what it is about Virdon that puzzles him.

EXT. THE RACE COURSE

Along the stretch out of view of the stands. Tusun is still in the lead but Woda is beginning to close the gap. Far off, we hear SOUND of crowd cheering.
AT THE STARTING LINE

Burke overtakes Martin, who is slinking away. He grabs the old man and turns him around, shaking him.

BURKE
Martin - you fool! Why did you do it?

MARTIN
(terrified)
For Greger - !

BURKE
He's riding in this race to save your son, you half-wit!

MARTIN
But - Urko has a gorilla there -
(points)
- to kill Virdon if he's winning.
So I promised Urko -

Burke turns his head and sees:

ANGLE ON ZILO

lounging at a point a distance before the finish line, with rifle slung over one arm.

BACK TO BURKE AND MARTIN

MARTIN (continuing)
- if he would spare Greger - and he promised -

Burke sees it all. He shoves Martin away and races off.

ANGLE KAGEN AND TUSAN

They are approaching the booby-trapped jump. In the background we can see Virdon and Woda coming on fast. At the jump, Kagen veers Tusun and they come over, clearing the tangle of vines. Virdon, unsuspecting, rides Woda over the center of the jump. Woda stumbles and Virdon is thrown.
ANGLE ON VIRDON

as he scrambles to his feet. He registers anger as he looks at the tangle of vines, then scrambles back on Woda and rides on.

EXT. A PLACE NEAR THE GRANDSTANDS

Galen is keeping out of sight. Burke races to him, grabs him and, in dumb show indicates a change in plans. Galen takes the fake scorpion out of his pocket. Burke leads him off.

EXT. A PLACE NEAR ZILO

Zilo lounges as before, hefting his rifle, ready for action. Burke and Galen appear in the background, Burke pointing to Zilo and then leaving. Galen stays, watching Zilo.

EXT. ANOTHER PART OF THE RACE COURSE

Woda is closing in on Tusan.

CLOSE ON KAGEN

as he looks back and then urges Tusan on faster.

WIDER SHOT

The race course now crosses a stream. Tusan enters first, splashing water everywhere.

ON VIRDON AND WODA

As they enter the stream, water kicked up by Tusan splashes into Virdon's face, washing off the mud. He is now entirely recognizable.

NEW ANGLE

On the other side of the stream, Woda comes out of the water close on the heels of Tusan, and is closing. TRUCK long enough to show Woda passing. Kagen tries to bump and flails at Woda with his crop, but Virdon seizes the crop and throws it away. Then Woda passes Tusan.
ANGLE ON RACE TRACK

POV of Urko and Barlow. Woda comes into the stretch leading Tusun by a good length. SOUND of crowd roaring.

ANGLE ON URKO AND BARLOW

Barlow is rooting, Urko furious. He looks toward Zilo.

ANGLE ON ZILO

He registers at what is happening and raises his rifle.

CLOSE ON VIRDON, RIDING

VIRDON

(happy)
Beautiful, Woda! Beautiful!
We've got it made!

ANGLE ON ZILO

His rifle is at his shoulder. Then, at his left shoulder, Galen appears and places the fake scorpion on it, at the same time shouting:

GALEN

Scorpion! Don't move!

Zilo freezes, with only his eyes moving to see the scorpion. He holds, as the SOUND of crowd roar intensifies.

ANGLE ON FINISH LINE

Virdon is winning by three lengths.

ANGLE ON URKO

He is raging. Then he freezes, staring.

ANGLE ON VIRDON

Urko's POV, ZOMMING IN on Virdon's now recognizable face.

ANGLE ON FINISH LINE

Virdon crosses, winning.
Urko recognizes Virdon. He whirs to Barlow.

**URKO**
He's one of the fugitives! No wonder you wouldn't tell me who your jockey was!

**BARLOW**
(gloating)
That wasn't part of the bargain!
The wager is still on! I win!

Urko whirs to Zandar.

**URKO**
Zandar! Get our horse! Follow him!

He dashes off with Zandar.

**ANGLE PAST FINISH LINE**

Kagen, having lost, pulls up. Virdon, having won, keeps on going. Ahead, we see Burke pushing open a gate near the end of the stands.

**EXT. GREGER'S CAGE**

Greger hears SOUND of crowd roar. He looks around, trying to decide what to do. He tries the door of the cage. It is unfastened. He is still undecided. The Guard runs in.

**GUARD**
(excited)
Why didn't you run? I left the gate unfastened!
(as Greger hesitates)
Can't you hear the crowd? Urko's horse won! Hurry! It's your last chance!

Greger looks at the Guard, then at the Guard's rifle. He looks into the Guard's eyes. The Guard throws the rifle down at his feet and raises his hands in a gesture of faith. Greger decides. He leaps out of the cage and starts to run. The Guard immediately picks up his rifle and aims at Greger.

Cont.
GUARD

Stop!

ANGLE ON GREGER

He stops and turns. He sees:

ANGLE ON GUARD, GREGER'S POV

The Guard is aiming at Greger. Behind him Greger sees
Burke zooming toward the Guard on his roller skates and
at the same time Virdon, on Woda, is thundering toward
them all.

CLOSE ON VIRDON, RIDING

VIRDON
(shouting)
Greger! Over here!

BACK TO SCENE

The Guard is momentarily distracted and as he hesitates
Burke zooms into him and sends him spinning, his rifle
skittering across the street.

ANOTHER ANGLE

Greger, getting the message, runs to the other side of
the street and makes a flying mount onto Woda behind
Virdon. They disappear. Burke skates out of sight
behind a building. We PAN in the opposite direction to
see Urko's gorillas, mounted, riding in pursuit.

CHASE SEQUENCE

as terrain permits.

EXT. A BRIDGE

Virdon and Greger ride in on Woda, stop and dismount.
Virdon slaps Woda on the rump and it runs on. Virdon
and Greger hide under the bridge. Urko and his gorillas
ride in, stop, listen, hear SOUND of Woda's hooves in
the distance. With a signal, Urko leads his gorillas on.

DISSOLVE TO:
EXT. THE RUINS OF THE OLD HOUSE - TWILIGHT

Greger, chastened perhaps, crouches near the chimney. Virdon stands on the edge of the ruins, straining to see and hear. He is worried and impatient. He moves around, then freezes as he hears, off, a WHISTLE.

VIRDON
They're here!

He moves toward the nearby foliage as Galen and Burke break through, breathing hard.

VIRDON
Good going! You had me worried.

BURKE
We had to detour. Quick. We haven't got any time to lose. They're fanning out to the south. We'll cut north and lose them. Let's go!

Hastily, and without words, Galen and the Astronauts move to Greger. He rises and they take his hand, Virdon last.

GREGER
What can I say?

VIRDON
Say nothing. And don't be afraid. Barlow has sworn to protect you. He has promised to take you and your family with him back to Alar. You will be safe with him.

Swiftly, silent, the trio moves away. They stop as they see:

EDGE OF CLEARING

Martin and Seelah have appeared. Seelah carries a package. Martin stands back, ashamed, as Seelah comes forward.

INTERCUT REACTIONS OF ALL

BACK TO SEELAH

SEELAH
I fixed you some food. You'll need it on your journey.
NEW ANGLE

As, one by one, the Astronauts and Galen embrace Seelah and start on their way, with Burke carrying the food.

ON MARTIN

as Virdon comes to him and stops. After a moment he looks up.

MARTIN
I'm very sorry.

VIRDON
(a beat)
Take care.

He shakes the old man's hand, and goes. Burke does the same, then Galen. Martin turns to look after them as they go, single file, into the foliage.

ANGLE ON MARTIN, SEELAH AND GREGER

They wave a farewell.

FADE OUT

END