

PLANET OF THE APES

"UP ABOVE THE WORLD SO HIGH"

Written By  
Arthur Browne, Jr.

REVISED FINAL  
October 31, 1974

CAST LIST

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)

ROBAR (GORILLA - S.B.)

Troopers, Guards, Humans, etc.

SET LIST

INTERIORS:

KONAG'S HEADQUARTERS  
LEURIC'S BARN  
COUNCIL CHAMBER  
TEMPLE (RUINED)  
COUNCIL CHAMBER ENTRY  
JAIL CORRIDOR  
LEURIC'S CELL  
GARRISON OUTER OFFICE  
CARSIA'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 1  
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 2

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 3

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 4

turning away, winging over the valley again.

BACK TO GALEN 5

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 6

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

VIRDON

(yells back)

What's the matter?

2

MED. CLOSE SHOT - GALEN 7

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

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

MED. TWO SHOT - VIRDON AND BURKE 8

BURKE  
A...what?

OUT 9

THEIR P.O.V. - THE GLIDER 10

appearing momentarily, disappearing.

OUT 11

LOW ANGLE - GLIDER 12

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

GALEN  
I think it sees us!

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

THEIR P.O.V. - THE GLIDER 13

pitching and yawing, turning and winging away.

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

MED. SHOT - VIRDON AND BURKE - GALEN IN B.G. 14

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  
(reacts)  
A man? Then...it's not a...a  
reptile?

BURKE  
No...it's some sort of homemade  
glider contraption.

GALEN  
Thank heavens. For a moment there,  
I...  
(reacts)  
Humans can't fly! I mean not our  
humans.

BURKE  
(reacts)  
Oh-oh!

THEIR P.O.V. - THE GLIDER 15

Something has happened as it yaws and pitches wildly.

EXT. BEACH - LONG SHOT - TWO GORILLA TROOPERS A-15  
approaching, suddenly reining in. Looking up, o.s.

CLOSE SHOT - GALEN, VIRDON AND BURKE AT RUINED B-15  
WALL

as they spot the Gorillas, flatten themselves against the  
wall. Then they look back at the sky.

ANGLE ON THE GLIDER C-15

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

ANGLE ON THE TROOPERS D-15

They lash their horses back to the road leading up from  
the beach.

ANGLE ON GROUP AT WALL 16

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

A-16

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

B-16

as they spur up the winding road.

EXT. TREES - MED. LONG SHOT - GALEN AND BURKE - 17  
DAY

running toward CAMERA. Galen suddenly points o.s.

GALEN

Wait!

REVERSE LONG SHOT - TWO TROOPERS 18

crossing a meadow, below them, riding upward. Beyond, in the b.g., the sea.

BACK TO GALEN AND BURKE 19

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 20

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 LEURIC, 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 21

coming loose from the wreckage.

ANGLE ON LEURIC 22

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 23

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. What went wrong? Blasted  
wind coming from every direction  
all at once!

(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 made one little mistake. I'll  
correct it and --. 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 almost  
flew. That's something no other  
man or Ape has ever done. I  
will fly. 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 24

ANGLE THROUGH TREES - THE TROOPERS 25

urging their mounts forward, one FIRING.

PANNING SHOT - VIRDON, BURKE, GALEN AND LEURIC 26

running, as a BULLET WHINES OFF. They dive into a ravine.

ANGLE ON TROOPERS 27

in pursuit.

ANGLE IN RAVINE 28

Burke, Virdon, Galen and Leuric approach, quickly hiding themselves in the shrubbery as ONCOMING HOOFBEATS are HEARD.

LOW ANGLE - TROOPERS 29

approaching, reining in, looking about.

FOUR SHOT - VIRDON, LEURIC, BURKE AND GALEN 30

concealed in the shrubbery, barely breathing.

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

MED. TWO SHOT - TROOPERS 31

looking about, then one indicates and they ride o.s.

## ANGLE INTO RAVINE

32

as the o.s. HOOFBEATS FADE. Gradually, Virdon, Burke, Galen and Leuric appear.

Galen helps Leuric up and out of the ravine, Leuric giving him the once-over, removing his helping hand from his arm.

LEURIC

Thank you...

GALEN

You're quite welcome.

Leuric accepts this familiarity in a skeptical manner, turning his attention to Virdon and Burke.

LEURIC

Thank you, too.

He turns and starts to head back.

VIRDON

Where're you going?

LEURIC

Months of work. I must salvage what I can. So I can fly again.

VIRDON

You won't fly far if those Troopers get you.

LEURIC

I'll find some way.

He starts off but Virdon stops him as Galen eyes this strange, driven man in wonderment.

BURKE

Galen says the Apes would kill any human seen flying...

LEURIC

I suppose they would. I'll take the chance.

GALEN

Why? It's not as if food, or shelter, or life depended on your flying.

LEURIC

You wouldn't understand.

Cont.

BURKE

Your chances of rebuilding that glider aren't going to be very bright if you're dead.

Leuric hesitates, considers, then shrugs.

EXT. CHATKA GARRISON - ESTABLISHING SHOT - DAY 33

GUARDS standing duty. HUMANS move by in routine fashion.

LOW ANGLE - TWO TROOPERS 34

riding up, carrying portions of Leuric's wrecked glider, reining in, starting to dismount.

INT. COMMANDER KONAG'S QUARTERS - CLOSE SHOT - 35  
KONAG - DAY

KONAG rises from behind his desk, a disbelieving expression on his face. CAMERA PULLING BACK to include the Troopers holding a portion of the glider wreckage.

KONAG

You lie. I refuse to believe such a thing!

FIRST TROOPER

But it's true, sir.  
(waves hand)

He was flying...

KONAG

And you saw it...with your own eyes?

SECOND TROOPER

We swear to it.

KONAG

No human would be -- unless an Ape learned and is experimenting with a human using this. You saw no one else?

FIRST TROOPER

No.

KONAG

Someone has been collecting these skins. Ask in every village in the district, check every farm. I want results by the time I get back from Central City. -- A human flying!

OUT

36-  
38

INT. LEURIC'S BARN - CLOSE ON GLIDER MODEL - DAY 39

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.

LEURIC

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.

LEURIC

It tilted so in the wind.  
Maybe an extra weight on this  
tip...

GALEN

Amazing!

BURKE

Add weight and the thing'll soar  
like a lead balloon.

LEURIC

What is a lead balloon?

VIRDON

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

LEURIC

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.

LEURIC

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.

Viridon 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.

Cont.

GALEN

Leuric is special, all right.  
Specially stubborn! 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

(shrugging)

Perhaps...

GALEN

Positively. They'll ask, search,  
dig. I know.

VIRDON

You've got an isolated farm here,  
but somebody must have stopped by  
at some time, seen you working...

LEURIC

A few farmers...

GALEN

Who will see no reason why they  
shouldn't answer the Apes' questions.

LEURIC

I won't stop my work.

BURKE

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

LEURIC

(a beat)

There is a -- No. To transport  
all my tools, my materials, it  
would take too much time.

BURKE

He wants to commit suicide!

VIRDON

We'll help you move.

Leuric is given pause.

LEURIC

You're very good to me. It is  
not that I'm not grateful, you  
understand.

BURKE

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

LEURIC

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...

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?

Cont.



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.

(a beat)

Mind you, I don't think we need  
waste too much time with this.  
Some human has ideas above his  
station. He'll be found and killed.

KONAG

Of course. I merely wanted the  
Council to know of this device.

URKO

Quite right, Konag. The Council  
must be made aware of the actions  
of any humans who are unusual.

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.

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?

Cont.

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.

COUNCIL ORANG

We do know, Urko, that there were skills in the old days we have yet to match...

ZAIUS

And possibly uses for those skills we know nothing about.

Cont.

URKO

The human is a danger.

CARSIA

Perhaps the Council would allow me to explore the matter before the human is eliminated.

(to Konag)

He should be found and jailed, of course.

MURMURS of approval.

KONAG

I'm responsible for policing a large territory. If humans with new, dangerous ideas aren't punished swiftly and severely, control will be impossible.

URKO

Konag is right.

CARSIA

I agree completely. I just assumed that Konag, with all his troops, could control one human for the short time necessary to investigate.

Konag doesn't reply. Zaius looks to Urko who shrugs in irritation, but offers no argument.

ZAIUS

You have our authority, Carsia.

CARSIA

I am honored by your trust.

ZAIUS

Be careful. It's all very well for us to hear dangerous new ideas, we are immune.

CARSIA

Only this Council will be the beneficiary of what I may learn...

More MURMURS of approval and assent as Carsia starts to EXIT. Urko signals surreptitiously to Konag for a private meeting.

INT. COUNCIL CHAMBER ENTRY - DAY

Urko and Konag -- tight and conspiratorial.

URKO

I don't trust Carsia.

KONAG

I don't trust any Chimp.

URKO

She has the authority of the Council, but you have troops and weapons. If she gives the human too much rope -- hang him. Under my orders.

Konag nods.

OUT 43-  
46

EXT. RUINED TEMPLE - CLOSE SHOT - VIRDON - DAY 47

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

INT. TEMPLE - ANGLE ON VIRDON - DAY 48

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.

EXT. COUNTRYSIDE - LOW ANGLE - PANNING SHOT - HORSES - DAY 49

CAMERA LIFTING TO INCLUDE Konag, First and Second Troopers and five other Troopers, apparently heading for Leuric's farm.

INT. LEURIC'S BARN - ANGLE ON GALEN - DAY

50

His arms loaded with materials. CAMERA PULLING BACK to  
INCLUDE Leuric as he stuffs a rolled hide under Galen's arm.

LEURIC

I'll feed the animals and catch  
up to you.

Galen nods and they EXIT the barn.

EXT. FARM - ANGLE ON GALEN - DAY

51

approaching, juggling his armload as best he can. In b.g.,  
Leuric is seen to tend the animals. Galen suddenly holds  
up, hearing something o.s. He whirls.

REVERSE LONG SHOT - TROOPERS

52

riding up to the farm.

BACK TO GALEN

53

quickly taking shelter behind some shrubbery.

ANGLE ON LEURIC

54

backing against a fence, wide-eyed as he is surrounded by  
Troopers, Konag to the fore, the First Trooper beside him.

LEURIC

What have I done?!

KONAG

(to Troopers)

Tie him. Search the barn and  
the house!

The Troopers dismount, grabbing Leuric, others heading  
for the barn.

CLOSE SHOT - GALEN

55

watching helplessly, distraught.

INT. TEMPLE - DAY

56

Burke polishing the glass, Virдон fiddling 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.

FADE OUT

END OF ACT ONE

ACT TWO

FADE IN

EXT. CHATKA GARRISON - DAY

57

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

A-57

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

Something for use with the human, a few others for my comfort since I'll be staying a while.

KONAG

The Council gave you authority to deal with the human for a short while.

Cont.

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

58

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...

INT. LEURIC'S CALL - DAY

59

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

60

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 -- .  
There's not even any point in trying  
to make you see what you are. Get out!

In total bewilderment, Second Trooper EXITS.

INT. LEURIC'S CELL - DAY

61

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

62

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 has friends in the schools everywhere. 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 village. Nothing ever happens here.

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

63

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.

Cont.

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. TEMPLE - DAY

64

Viridon, Burke and Galen gathered. Burke polishes the glass automatically during conversation -- reflex action covering his preoccupation with the matters being discussed.

VIRDON

I checked with four different people in the village. **They** didn't know Leuric, they hadn't seen any prisoners brought in.

BURKE

Why would this important lady Ape come to Chatka to see a human, and then go right into the garrison?

GALEN

I'd guess she wanted to see a prisoner.

VIRDON

You don't know who she is?

GALEN

No but that's not surprising.

VIRDON

We've got to assume she's here to see Leuric.

BURKE

If he's still alive...

GALEN

There's one way to find out. Ask.

VIRDON

Who?

GALEN

(dry scholastic tone)  
It is an event of some significance if, in fact --

INT. GARRISON OUTER OFFICE - CLOSE ON SECOND  
TROOPER - DAY

65

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

GALEN'S VOICE

(o.s.)  
-- If, as I say, in fact, a flying reptile was actually seen.

Cont.

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

SECOND TROOPER

I don't know anything about flying reptiles.

GALEN

They are thought not to exist in our time. However, I have conducted expeditions which turned up fossil evidence of many flying reptiles. I could draw a picture of one for you...

SECOND TROOPER

(disinterested)

If I hear of any --

GALEN

(interrupting)

There are rumors that such a reptile flew in an area not far from here -- 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 with a greater appreciation of -- 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

66

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.

LEURIC

I will.

CARSIA

And quickly...

LEURIC

I'll work night and day.

CARSIA

And be ready to fly -- when?

LEURIC

I think -- no, I'm sure. Five days at the most.

She nods, smiles and EXITS. Leuric begins to assemble materials and tools at a frenzied rate, driven by his eagerness and determination.

INT. GARRISON OUTER OFFICE - DAY

67

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 in this part of the world on an archeological expedition. 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.

Cont.



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

68

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...

CARSIA

I'm glad you did.

GALEN

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

CARSIA

We'll know in five days if he can really fly. Humans have been known to lie.

GALEN

Oh, haven't they!

CARSIA

I think this one is telling the truth.

GALEN

Marvelous. I'd like to see him winging about...

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.

GALEN  
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.

Cont.

GALEN

I do hope he succeeds...  
(checks himself)  
I'd love to see a flying human.

CARSIA

(raising her glass)  
So would I. For many reasons...

INT. TEMPLE - NIGHT

69

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.

GALEN

She's really very nice and she has saved his life.

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 glider 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 doesn't know enough to 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...

VIRDON

Have you got a better idea?

BURKE

Let's get started with the junk. And all we've got to do is finish in five days.

GALEN

No, that's not all. We've got to deliver the glider to Leuric in such a way that the Apes will think he built it himself...

They all move to start work.

OUT 70-  
74

MONTAGE SEQUENCE

75-  
B-79

A. EXT. WOODS - ANGLE ON VIRDON - DAY

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 80

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 81

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 82

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

ACT THREE

FADE IN

INT. KONAG'S QUARTERS - NIGHT

92

Konag facing Carsia.

KONAG

Tomorrow morning?

She nods.

KONAG

I'll so advise Urko.

She shrugs.

KONAG

If the flight is successful,  
Leuric will be shot when he  
lands.

CARSIA

Restrain your impatience long  
enough for me to get the answers  
I need about the operation of his  
flying device.

KONAG

I still want to know what good  
it is.

CARSIA

(sweetly)

You may find out, Konag.

She nods graciously. He's puzzled.

INT. TEMPLE - NIGHT

A-92

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

93

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

94

as seen through the glass.

CARSIA'S VOICE

(o.s.)  
Fascinating, Protus.

BACK TO SCENE

95

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

96

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

97

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

ANGLE ON GALEN, CARSIA AND LEURIC

98

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

99

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

100

Viridon 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

101

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

102

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  
Do you promise?

VIRDON  
Yeah.

LEURIC  
(to Burke)  
And you, too?

BURKE  
Sure.

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.

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

INT. KONAG'S QUARTERS - DAY 103

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.

Cont.

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.

Cont.

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 104

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

BACK TO SCENE 105

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

106

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

107

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



ACT FOUR

FADE IN

INT. TEMPLE - NIGHT

108

Viridon, 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 -- ?

BURKE

If I was sure it'd stop with those  
creeps, I'd be tempted.

He signals to Galen as he and Viridon rise in unspoken  
agreement. All EXIT.

EXT. GARRISON - ANGLE ON GALEN - NIGHT

109

approaching, CAMERA ANGLING him as he stops by Two GUARDS on duty by the side door, indicating back.

GALEN

I'm sure those humans are up to no good.

GUARD

What humans?

GALEN

Didn't you see them? Sneaking around back?

(indicates)

You'd better investigate...both of you. There were several of them.

(a beat)

Go on. Are you afraid someone will steal your front door?

The Guards are hesitant until Galen indicates again. Hefting their rifles, they move o.s. and around a corner of the garrison.

ANOTHER ANGLE - GALEN

110

turning, beckoning. After a moment, Virdon and Burke APPEAR from some nearby bushes, running through the door. Galen glances about, then follows.

INT. GARRISON CORRIDOR - ANGLE ON GALEN, BURKE  
AND VIRDON - NIGHT

111

approaching quickly but cautiously to a corner, holding up. Galen indicates ahead. They proceed PAST CAMERA.

INT. WORKSHOP - NIGHT

112

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

ANGLE ON VIRDON AND BURKE

113

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.

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

LEURIC

No!

ANOTHER ANGLE

114

Leuric dashes to stop Viridon, grabs him.

LEURIC

Stop!

Burke pulls him away. Viridon 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!

Viridon 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 Viridon makes his first slash in the wing fabric. Leuric exerts undreamed of strength to pull away from Burke and dive at Viridon.

LEURIC

You won't destroy it! Help!

Burke pulls Leuric off Viridon.

GALEN

Hurry!

VIRDON

Run, Pete! I'll bring him.

LEURIC

Help! Stop them!

Cont.

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

115

First Trooper is rounding INTO VIEW. Galen calls to Virdon as Burke races in direction of First Trooper.

GALEN

Alan! Now!

Burke throws a rolling block to down First Trooper. He's making a grab for Trooper's rifle, but stops as he looks o.s., undoubtedly seeing reinforcements coming. He dashes back toward Galen.

INT. CARSIA'S WORKSHOP - NIGHT

116

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

117

Galen watching Burke run to him and glancing into workshop. He calls into door of workshop.

GALEN

This way, Alan...

With Burke, Galen runs a few steps. Suddenly, Carsia APPEARS. CAMERA PICKS UP CLOSE SHOTS OF Carsia and Galen as THEY BOTH STOP FOR A MOMENT TO FACE EACH OTHER. Galen and Burke push past Carsia as Virdon drags Leuric into corridor, starting after Burke and Galen.

CLOSE SHOT - FIRST TROOPER

118

up groggily with his retrieved rifle. He aims and FIRES.

ANGLE IN CORRIDOR

119

Carsia watching, Burke and Galen o.s., Leuric is winged, falls. Virdon bends to help him, but looks back.

ANOTHER ANGLE

120

First Trooper has been joined by three other Troopers, all with rifles raised and aimed.

CLOSE SHOT - VIRDON

121

raising his hands in surrender. He looks down, CAMERA ANGLING. Leuric is on the floor, holding his bloodied hand, staring at it in bewilderment, numbed by the turn of events.

INT. KONAG'S QUARTERS - NIGHT

122

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

KONAG

I assume the test is cancelled.

CARSIA

The flight will proceed as scheduled.

KONAG

I've arranged for the execution of Leuric and the other human first thing in the morning.

CARSIA

Fine. I hope you catch Protus and include him in your execution plans.

KONAG

I expect to. But how will a dead human operate those wings and fly?

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

123

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

LEURIC

It's my fault...

Cont.

VIRDON

You didn't know...

LEURIC

Three times you risked your life  
for me, and always I resisted...

VIRDON

Maybe if we'd been more convincing,  
you'd have believed. Anyway, it's  
too late to worry about that now.  
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...

VIRDON

(dumbfounded)

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

(stops suddenly  
listening)

Morse code!

LEURIC

What?

VIRDON

Shhh!

He listens.

EXT. VILLAGE HUT - CLOSE ON BURKE - DAY

124

His head is down to avoid notice of recognition. He's  
pretending to repair a wheel by hammering the spokes in  
rhythmic code.

INT. CELL

125

SOUND OF HAMMERING. Virdon listens intently. He moves to  
the high window when the hammering stops and WHISTLES a  
tune -- any tune. The important aspect of the whistling  
is its rhythmic dot, dash character. Virdon is sending a  
message.

EXT. OCEAN PLATEAU - DAY

126

A mounted procession of Troopers, Konag, plus Carsia in her carriage move forward and halt. Also in the procession, Viridon 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 humans. I want that flying device returned safely if it can, in fact, fly.

KONAG

If you're worried about them flying off with it --

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

KONAG

Look.

He points sweepingly. Viridon looks from edge of plateau.

EXT. OCEAN AND BEACH AND PLATEAU - PANNING P.O.V. 127

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

BACK TO GROUP

128

Viridon looks 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.

VIRDON

I'll try to fly where you say...

KONAG

You'll try? But you might fail, hoping my Troopers are poor shots...  
(calling)

Robar.

ROBAR, a non-commissioned Gorilla, steps forward.

Cont.

KONAG

Robar is my weapons instructor.  
(to Robar)

That rock.

Robar looks o.s., nods, unslings his rifle, cocking it, aiming.

LONG SHOT - SMALL ROCK - GROUP IN B.G. 129

as Robar FIRES. The rock shatters.

BACK TO SCENE 130

Konag points upward.

KONAG

(indicates)

The second branch from the top.

Robar looks o.s. and up, aims and FIRES.

LOW ANGLE - SMALL TREE BRANCH 131

some distance away, clipped and falling, CAMERA LOWERING with it to INCLUDE and HOLD ON Galen and Burke watching from the shelter of some rocks on a ridge.

BACK TO GROUP 132

Virdon seems to cringe slightly.

VIRDON

They're excellent shots, sir. I was not meaning that I'd risk flying off. I'm just not sure I can control the wings. I've never tried.

CARSIA

(snapping)

It can't be difficult!

VIRDON

(of Leuric)

He knows the wings. I just helped him make them. He says it can be very hard to guide.

KONAG

What difference does it make?  
If he fails, he fails.

Carsia looks angrily at Konag, then gestures Leuric over.



CARSIA

Are you sure you can't fly,  
using one hand?

LEURIC

I'm willing to try...

VIRDON

Leuric, will your wings support  
both of us?

LEURIC

I don't know.

CARSIA

It is important to me to know if  
you can carry more weight than  
just one human...

VIRDON

Leuric could hold onto me and  
tell me how to guide the wings  
while I fly it...

KONAG

(suspiciously)

I'm not sure --

CARSIA

You never are. The test will be  
flown with both humans on the wings.

Konag shrugs, calls.

KONAG

Bring the wings.

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

CARSIA

Are your Troopers ready?

KONAG

(to Carsia, nodding)

I can't guarantee they won't choose  
suicide by flying out to sea.

EXT. CLIFF - DAY

133

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

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

134

Rifle at shoulder, not aimed, but ready. He's one of Konag's Guards.

ANGLE ON GALEN AND BURKE

135

Galen pantomimes a question -- what now? Obviously, any closer approach would invite discovery by the Trooper. Burke hesitates, reaches off and picks up a baseball-sized rock. He carefully changes places with Galen 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 SOUNDTRACK, a small THUNK. Burke turns to Galen proudly, to receive silent congratulations. Sotto voce...

BURKE

More fun than the no-hitter  
I once pitched.

Both start down and out...

EXT. OCEAN PLATEAU

136

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

VIRDON

Ready?

LEURIC

(ecstatic)

I am going to fly...

Leuric has his arms around Viridon's neck.

VIRDON

Shove off!

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

LOW FULL SHOT - GLIDER

137

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

ANGLE ON VIRDON AND LEURIC

138

flying the glider.

Cont.

VIRDON

Lean to the left! Into the wind!

Leuric tightens his grip on Virdon's waist and leans as directed.

MED. TWO SHOT - KONAG AND CARSIA

139

watching, mouths agape.

CARSIA

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

Konag glowers at her, then o.s.

FULL SHOT - GLIDER

140

winging over, swooping along the side of the cliff.

LOW ANGLE - GLIDER

141

winging around.

ANGLE ON VIRDON AND LEURIC

142

getting the hang of it.

LEURIC

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

VIRDON

End of the ride. Hang on.

He swings the wing hard over.

HIGH SHOT - GLIDER

143

as it breaks free of the ridge wave, heads out to sea.

ANGLE ON CARSIA, KONAG AND TROOPERS

144

as they stare.

CARSIA

What are they doing?

KONAG

Flying out to sea!  
(to Troopers)  
FIRE! KILL THEM!

65

FULL SHOT - GLIDER 145

heading toward the sea.

ANGLE ON CARSIA AND KONAG 146

KONAG  
Shoot! Shoot them! All of them!

The Troopers begin FIRING.

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

ANGLE ON VIRDON AND LEURIC 147

A bullet rips through the wing. Another smashes a support.  
Virdon fights for control.

FULL PANNING SHOT - GLIDER 148

losing altitude, pitching and yawing, o.s. SHOTS being  
fired.

CLOSE ON CARSIA AND KONAG 149

SOUND of FIRING.

KONAG  
Hold your fire.

LOW ANGLE - GLIDER 150

It dives suddenly, smashing into the sea between two  
huge rock islands.

HIGH SHOT - ROCK ISLANDS 151

The surf froths white about the rocks. Between them, the  
pieces of glider float like dead moths.

ANGLE ON CARSIA AND KONAG 152

Carsia is crestfallen.

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

Konag shrugs in unconcern and disinterest. Both turn away.

CLOSE SHOT - GLIDER

153

as Leuric and Virdon swim out from beneath the collapsed sail. They keep low in the water, out of sight.

BURKE'S VOICE

(o.s.)  
Over here!

They look off.

VIRDON

I thought you'd never get here.

CLOSE SHOT - BURKE AND GALEN

154

at the edge of the rock, Burke in the water, Galen a look of horror on his face, perched on top of a raft. Virdon and Leuric swim to them, climb aboard.

BURKE

We almost didn't.

The raft is rocking gently, its occupants crouching.

GALEN

Go back to shore.

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

155

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