

PLANET OF THE APES

"HOSTAGE"

by

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FINAL
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"HOSTAGE"

ACT ONE

FADE IN

EXT. SMALL RURAL VILLAGE - CAMERA PANNING OVER 1
FIELDS, RUSTIC HOUSES - DAY

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

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

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

VIRDON

Peaceful place.

KOVAK

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

GALEN'S VOICE

(o.s.)

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

ANGLE ON GALEN - PAST VIRDON AND KOVAK

2

GALEN

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

(starts forward)

You two wait here...

VIRDON

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

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

Cont.

GALEN

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

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

THEIR P.O.V. - KATRIN

3

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

ANGLE ON KOVAK, VIRDON AND GALEN

4

GALEN

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

KOVAK

(looking out)
Ohmigosh, soldiers!

The others whirl, stare.

THEIR P.O.V. - ARO AND MANUS

5

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

GALEN'S VOICE

(o.s.)
Those aren't soldiers.

ANGLE ON GALEN AND KOVAK

6

KOVAK

But they're after the woman...

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

ANGLE ALONG LINE OF TREES, HEDGE - ON OVERGROWN
AREA

7

as they move cautiously toward the patch of rank growth.
Then, a FAINT, O.S. TUNELESS HUMMING. They react.

3

CLOSER SHOT - TRIO

8

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

CLOSER ANGLE - OVERGROWN AREA

9

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

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

10

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

ANGLE ON GROUP

11

KOVAK

I don't hear anybody, anything...

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

TIGHT SHOT - EDGE OF ENTRANCE TRAP

12

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

WIDER ANGLE

13

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

GRAYSON

No noise.

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

INT. UNDERGROUND SHELTER CORRIDOR - DAY

14

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

INT. SHELTER - ANGLE ON DOOR

15

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

GRAYSON

You were right, Katrin.

(nods at trio)

I found them outside.

Virdon, Galen, Kovak are staring.

ANGLE PAST VIRDON, KOVAK, GALEN - ON GROUP

16

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

BLACK

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

KATRIN

No...

(coldly)

What are you doing here?

LORA

(excited)

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

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

GALEN

I know you! Lora, isn't it?

Senator Sallus' daughter?

(beat)

I'm Galen, we met at school...

A moment, then Lora nods, smiles, excited.

LORA

Yes! I took your course on Ethics, when I was a freshman!

(to Aro, Manus)

You remember Galen?

Cont.

ARO

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

GALEN

That's right.

GRAYSON

Fine. But d'you know them.

He nods at Virdon and Kovak.

LORA

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

GALEN

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

KATRIN

(disbelieving)
Out here?

VIRDON

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

LORA

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

Cont.

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

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

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

KATRIN
(coldly)
I agree.

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

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

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

VIRDON
(quietly)
Us.

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

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

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

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

Cont.

GALEN

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

Lora reacts angrily, Grayson nods at a bench.

GRAYSON

Sit down, all of you.

KATRIN

We don't mean you any harm. But
Kemmer is a fugitive and we have
to be careful.

(smiles)

He should be here very soon.

VIRDON

Thanks...

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

GRAYSON

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

KATRIN

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

GRAYSON

Don't worry. UFF Headquarters
is...

(glances at trio)

...beyond the Blasted Zone. It's
an old building, since before the
Destruction.

LORA

Some kind of ruin?

GRAYSON

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

TIGHT SHOT - VIRDON, KOVAK

17

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

GRAYSON'S VOICE

(O.S.)

...and a lot of it is underground...

EXT. VILLAGE PERIMETER - DAY

18

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

SOLDIER

Yeah. That's the way I feel.

(grumbling)

Ursus gets a flea in his fur
about this character Kemmer --
and we get to run extra patrols!

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

TIGHTER SHOT - SOLDIER

19

looking o.s., tensely.

HIS P.O.V. - KEMMER

20

A large, shadowy figure, moving through heavy growth.

WIDER ANGLE

21

SOLDIER

Hey -- halt!

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

TIGHT SHOT - KEMMER

22

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

ANGLE ON SECOND SOLDIER

23

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

ANGLE ON KEMMER

24

He vanishes into cover.

ANGLE ON SOLDIERS

25

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

He leaps up, produces a whistle, BLOWS TWICE. Then another TWO BLASTS.

INT. UFF HIDEOUT - DAY

9
26

They react at the O.S. WHISTLE BLASTS.

EXT. HIDEOUT - ANGLE ON SOLDIERS

27

Several more SOLDIERS ride up, then a few more.

SOLDIER

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

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

INT. UFF HIDEOUT - DAY

28

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

ARO

What's happening?

KATRIN

(tightly)
The Soldiers.

She starts for the door; Grayson checks her.

KATRIN

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

LORA

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

BLACK

She's right...

GRAYSON

No! If the Soldiers find this
place...

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

EXT. VILLAGE - DAY

29

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

Cont.

SOLDIER

He was running this way...

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

ANGLE ON SOLDIERS, UFF HIDEOUT ENTRANCE TRAPDOOR 30

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

INT. UFF HIDEOUT - DAY

31

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

GRAYSON

There's an emergency exit...

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

GRAYSON

Kemmer!

KEMMER

(heavy, harsh
voice)

The whole place is surrounded
by Soldiers, come on!

Katrin nods to Viridon, Kovak as she starts for the exit.

KATRIN

Humans can mix with us, in
the village.

MANUS

(with unconscious
assurance)

And we won't be bothered...

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

MANUS

I'll scout ahead...

Cont.

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

LORA
Come on Aro, Galen...

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

LORA
Humans are so clumsy.
(abashed)
I'm sorry...

EXT. UFF HIDEOUT ENTRANCE - DAY

32

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

INT. UFF HIDEOUT - DAY

33

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

As Man vanishes:

Next. KEMMER

GRAYSON
(turns)
They're coming down.

BLACK
We can't all get out in time!

GRAYSON
(looks at Kemmer)
We'll make some time.

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

TIGHT SHOT ON VIRDON, KOVAK, GALEN

34

reacting, concerned.

ANGLE ON GRAYSON, KEMMER, LORA, ARO

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

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

INT. UFF HIDEOUT CORRIDOR - DAY

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

INT. UFF HIDEOUT - DAY

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

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

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

KEMMER
(flatly)
I already killed one. Outside.

A shocked reaction. Galen WHISTLES SOFTLY.

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

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

GRAYSON
But I would.
(grips Lora's arm)
And if you were with us, he
might be willing to listen.

Cont.

LORA

(icily)
Let go of me.

GRAYSON

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

LORA

No.

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

GRAYSON

Get her out.

Kemmer starts for the exit. Lora screams, struggles. Galen leaps forward, outraged. Aro hesitates uncertainly.

GALEN

Take your hands off her!

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

GRAYSON

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

ANGLE ON VIRTON, KOVAK, GALEN, ARO, BLACK

38

Galen's moving forward, angrily.

REVERSE ANGLE

39

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

ANGLE ON GROUP, DOOR

40

Galen, still slightly dazed, starts forward -- and then the door is BURST open; Soldiers pour in, seize them.

INT. SIMIAN COUNCIL CHAMBER - TIGHT SHOT ON
URSUS - NIGHT

URSUS

Yes...

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

URSUS

Kovak. Viridon. Galen. Two
fugitive humans and a renegade.

GALEN

I object --

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

URSUS

And a renegade.

(beat)

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

ZAIUS

(quietly)

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

URSUS

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

BLACK

Your curfew was unfair...

As Ursus gives him a minatory glance:

BLACK

...Sir...

URSUS

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

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

Cont.

VIRDON

We had nothing to do with
it, Ursus.

KOVAK

They were holding us!

URSUS

Why? Who were they?

(leans forward)

Better cooperate. You're
all accessories to murder.

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

SALLUS

Zaius, Ursus -- I've just
received a message from the
UFF!

(desperately)

They're holding my daughter
prisoner!

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

GALEN

Senator Sallus...

URSUS

(interrupting, looking
up, angrily)

A 'communique' from the Operational
Wing of the UFF!

(crumples the
paper)

Filthy terrorists!

SALLUS

Did you read it! Lora isn't
being held by people -- they're...
animals! And if there are
any anti-human reprisals, any --
they'll...

(swallows)

they won't let her go...

Cont.

ZAIUS
(concerned)
Sallus -- I'm sorry...

URSUS
But we have five of their people!
He gestures; Sallus whirls.

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

SALLUS
You were there!?

KOVAK
They captured us.

SALLUS
Where is she?

GALEN
We don't know!

He stops, looks at Aro, Black.

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

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

Cont.

URSUS

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

(beat)

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

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

URSUS

We'll tear the truth out of them.

TIGHT SHOT - VIRDON, KOVAK, GALEN

42

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

VIRDON

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

Galen and Kovak control their reaction.

WIDER ANGLE

43

VIRDON

And I think we can help you.

SALLUS

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

VIRDON

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

URSUS

(flatly, to Guards)

If it says one more word, club it down.

The Guards move toward Virdon, halt as Zaius gestures.

Cont.

ZAIUS

No. We must keep open minds.

URSUS

With murdering humans?

GALEN

D'you want Lora killed?

SALLUS

No! Listen to them...

KOVAK

Yeah. Maybe we can do something.

VIRDON

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

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

ZAIUS

Ursus. We have to explore every possibility.

SALLUS

With Lora's life at stake!

URSUS

(mildly)

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

ZAIUS

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

URSUS

I'll accept the suggestion.

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

URSUS

You two can go out and talk
to your murdering friends.

Cont.

KOVAK

What about me?

URSUS

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

He looks at hostages.

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

TIGHT TWO SHOT - GALEN, VIRDON

44

hit by the mortal responsibility.

FADE OUT

END OF ACT ONE

ACT TWO

FADE IN

EXT. SIMIAN CITY - FULL SHOT - DAY

45

ANGLE ON BOUNDARY OF CITY - DAY

46

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

CLOSER SHOT - VIRDON AND GALEN

47

GALEN

Too bad, Alan. It was a clever idea.

(sighs)

Except it didn't work.

VIRDON

We have a chance.

GALEN

With Stan a prisoner? Besides, to tell the truth...

(hesitates)

I didn't like to lie, to pretend we're UFF just to get away, not with Lora's life in the balance.

(some emotion)

Poor kid...

VIRDON

I wasn't lying!

GALEN

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

VIRDON

Ursus wasn't an astronaut in NASA.

GALEN

What in the Name does that mean?

VIRDON

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

6563

A long moment, and then Galen smiles, boots his horse, CAMERA HOLDS as they break into a rapid trot, riding away.

INT. PRISON WING - ANGLE ON CELLS, SIMIAN
PRISONERS - DAY

all glaring, SHOUTING angrily:

PRISONERS

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

ANGLE PAST SIMIANS - ON KOVAK

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

WARDER

Quiet!

(turns)

Right this way, sir, ma'am.

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

ANGLE ON KOVAK

watching, warily.

ANGLE PAST KOVAK - ON CLIA, SALLUS, WARDER

as they come up to the cell door.

WARDER

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

KOVAK

I'll do my best.

CLIA

(startled)

It -- he sounds educated.

WARDER

They're great mimics, ma'am.

KOVAK

Mimic! I'm a human being!

WARDER

That's what I said, now quiet.

(politely to

Sallus and Clia)

You can ask him your questions now.

Clia and Sallus look at Kovak -- and he turns away deliberately.

KOVAK

Sorry. This is my time for meditation.

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

CLIA

No. He seems to have...feelings.

(to Kovak)

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

SALLUS

Clia! This is a dangerous creature!

KOVAK

(turns, politely,
to Clia)

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

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

CLIA

I want to go inside.

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

INT. CELL

52

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

WARDER

I'll be right down there.

(nods o.s.)

In case you need me.

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

CLIA

What do you people want with my daughter!

Cont.

KOVAK

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

SALLUS

That's a lie!

KOVAK

What d'you think she was doing
there?

SALLUS

They -- you kidnapped her!

KOVAK

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

CLIA

(drearily)

That's right. She was always
very involved in causes.

(fighting tears)

We raised her to care about
injustice...equality...and now
she's the victim of this --
savagery!

KOVAK

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

CLIA

How do you know!? She's a child;
they might do anything -- they
might...

(forces the words out)

...force her.

SALLUS

(shocked)

Clia!

CLIA

(turns on him)

We have to face it! One of those
humans might attack her, sexually!

TIGHT ON KOVAK

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

KOVAK

I don't think so.

THREE SHOT

KOVAK

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

(to Sallus)

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

CLIA

(whirls, to Sallus)

Sallus...

SALLUS

No. We can't do that.

(to Clia)

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

CLIA

We have to try!

(desperately)

Please.

SALLUS

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

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

TIGHT ON SIGN, WOODEN WARNING FIGURE - DAY

GALEN'S VOICE

(o.s.)

That marks the boundary of the Blasted Zone...

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

Cont.

VIRDON
Is the radiation still heavy?

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

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

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

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

ANGLE ON RISE, VIRDON, AND GALEN 56

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

VIRDON
That's it.

THEIR P.O.V. - UFF HEADQUARTERS 57

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

ANGLE ON VIRDON AND GALEN 58

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

TIGHT ON VIRDON AND GALEN 59

GALEN
(dryly)
You were quite right.

26
INT. UFF HEADQUARTERS CONFERENCE ROOM - CLOSE ON GRAYSON - DAY 60

GRAYSON
How did you find us?

TIGHT ON VIRDON 61

VIRDON
You described it.

TIGHT ON KEMMER 62

KEMMER
But you knew it! How?

FULL SHOT 63

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

A number of other people are standing around.

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

A moment, then Grayson smiles, shrugs.

GRAYSON
Nobody ever got freedom by asking politely.

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

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

GALEN
Like Lora?
(sharply)
She's the reason we came here!
And I want to see her!

A moment; Grayson, Kemmer and Katrin exchange a glance.
Katrin turns, toward a doorway.

KATRIN

(quietly)
Lora.

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

LORA

Hello, Galen.

GALEN

You're...not a prisoner.

(angrily)
Then why all the -- cheap
acting!

(to Grayson)
Why were five people sacrificed
as prisoners, to Ursus!

LORA

I wasn't acting! Believe me...
(looks at Katrin,
Grayson)

But after we came here, and I
learned more about our plans,
about the necessity for raising
the consciousness of the people!
(shrugs)
I understand, now.

GALEN

And Ursus' prisoners? Do they
understand?

KATRIN

That wasn't supposed to happen!

VIRDON

(dryly)
But it did.

LORA

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

GALEN

They do. So does your father.
And your mother.

TIGHT ON LORA

64

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

LORA

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

WIDER ANGLE

65

VIRDON

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

(beat)

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

This is a shock, especially to Katrin.

LORA

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

GRAYSON

And we'll get it.

(beat)

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

(laughs)

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

KATRIN

(smiles, to Virdon)

We need people like you.

Virdon hesitates, looks at Galen. Grayson rises.

GRAYSON

Come on, I'll show you the place.

He looks at Virdon and Galen.

GALEN

I'd like to talk to Lora.

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

CLOSE SHOT - GALEN, LORA

GALEN

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

LORA

I know! But this is our chance
to force Ursus to back down!

(beat)

I've talked to my father a
thousand times; he just doesn't
listen! But now, he'll have to
do something!

GALEN

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

LORA

The Human?

GALEN

My friend!

LORA

You're really a very loyal
person, Galen.

She smiles. A moment, he smiles in response.

LORA

(softly)

You could be wonderfully effective
in the UFF, with us.

GALEN

Lora, I don't know...

LORA

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

GALEN

(dryly)

What about the soldier Kemmer?

LORA

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

Cont.

GALEN
(hesitates)
You're very convincing...

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

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

GRAYSON'S VOICE
(o.s.)
Lora.

WIDER ANGLE

67

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

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

INT. COUNCIL CHAMBER - DAY

68

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

URSUS
I've already laid out an entire
operational program.
(ticks off points)
Agents to stir things up, bring
the conspirators to the surface.
(beat)
Spot-checks on all Human papers,
especially travel permits.
(beat)
Reliable Human agents to infiltrate
the UFF.
(final point)
And haul in every relative of
every UFF member.

SALLUS
(outraged)
What d'you want us to do, Ursus,
suspend the law?!

Cont.

URSUS

This is an emergency; a national crisis!

(looks at Sallus)

And a personal one, Sallus. Do you want Lora back? Or a handful of obsolete laws protected to the point of stupidity!

ZAIUS

(dryly)

Don't make a political speech, Ursus. Let's deal with facts...

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

MESSENGER

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

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

SALLUS

That's Lora's!

(to others)

I gave it to her myself, on her last birthday...

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

URSUS

Listen to this!

(reads)

'...to keep Lora safe...'

(breaks off, to Sallus)

They says she's fine.

(resumes reading)

'...safe, we shall require two dozen rifles, enough supplies for five hundred people for two weeks, and safe passage out of your territory!

(angrier)

Plus: abolition of the anti-Human laws!

(slams down letter)

Weapons!

Cont.

ZAIUS

And if we refuse?

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

SALLUS

They'll...kill Lora...

(desperately)

Zaius: we can't let that happen!

URSUS

We can't give them weapons!

SALLUS

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

URSUS

No! Give in once, one inch and
there'll be kidnappings from the
east border to the mountains!

(grimly)

We have to let them know we won't
give in. We have to execute
one of our hostages!

SALLUS

They'll kill Lora!

URSUS

They won't! They'd be afraid to!

(to Zaius)

Zaius, you know how the Council
feels about fomenting radicalism
among the Humans.

(beat)

One Human execution and they'll
quiet down.

A long moment, and then Zaius shrugs.

ZAIUS

The Council is in agreement.

(beat)

Very well. You can have one
of them killed.

FADE OUT

END OF ACT TWO

ACT THREE

FADE IN

EXT. CITY - GOVERNMENT SQUARE - DAY

69

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

CLIA'S VOICE

(o.s., tense,
terrified)

You don't understand -- if we
give in to these animals they'll
simply do it again!

INT. KOVAK'S CELL -- ANGLE ON KOVAK AND CLIA - DAY 70

CLIA

Kidnap somebody else's child!

(twisting a
handkerchief)

My husband explained -- that we
have to stand firm.

KOVAK

That's Ursus talking!

CLIA

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

KOVAK

Know what? How to turn a crisis
into a disaster? He's practically
daring the UFF to --

(stops himself)

-- to do something wild.

CLIA

I suppose you're in favor of them?

KOVAK

Not much. It's because of them
that I'm here.

(beat)

And if my friends can't find some
rational answers -- I'm going to
be killed.

CLIA

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

Cont.

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

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

KOVAK
Hey, I like you, too.

CLIA
Did you have a family?

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

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

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

She stops.

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

CLIA
I wish I could help.

KOVAK
You can.

She reacts, startled.

Cont.

KOVAK

You can talk your husband into getting them more time. By not starting the killing!

CLIA

I've talked to him...

KOVAK

Talk harder.

(takes her hand)

Clia: long as we're all still talking, there's hope. As soon as somebody is killed -- it's all over.

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

CLIA

What...

WARDER

Sorry to disturb you, ma'am. But we just got orders.

(nods to Kovak)

He's to be moved, with the others.

KOVAK

Where?

WARDER

Isolation, human. In the execution cell.

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

EXT. GOVERNMENT SQUARE - DAY

71

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

CRIER

(stentorian voice)

A Human terrorist and murderer will be executed tomorrow morning. In Government Square.

Cont.

The Gorilla executes another CRACK.

CRIER

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

All Humans.

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

INT. UFF HEADQUARTERS - STORAGE ROOM - TIGHT
ON WEAPON HOUSING - DAY

72

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

GRAYSON'S VOICE

(o.s.)
It's a weapon!

WIDER ANGLE

73

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

GRAYSON

(looks around)
Are there any others? I had
everything that even looked
possible brought down here!

VIRDON

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

GRAYSON

How does it work?

VIRDON

I'm not sure; this was developed
after my time...

(examining it)
Possibly a form of laser, but
I'll have to study it...

Cont.

GRAYSON

But a weapon. And from before
the Destruction...

(tense)

Can you make it work again, Virdon?

VIRDON

Maybe...

GRAYSON

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

VIRDON

(dryly)

Because I might be able to get
this thing into operative condition?

GRAYSON

Because you seem to know technology!
And yes, because we need weapons!

(gestures)

This place is full of machines we
don't understand, but if we can
use them...!

VIRDON

For what? A new Destruction?

GRAYSON

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

VIRDON

With you in control.

Grayson looks at him sharply, then laughs.

GRAYSON

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

He gestures at the entire UFF Headquarters structure,
grandly.

GRAYSON

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

(laughs)

You might say Ursus and I are
building the UFF together.

VIRDON

For war.

GRAYSON

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

(beat)

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

VIRDON

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

Grayson looks at him, laughs.

GRAYSON

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

(beat)

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

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

74

GALEN'S VOICE

(o.s.)

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

LORA'S VOICE

(o.s.)

He can start it...

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

LORA

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

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

GALEN

Lora...you're a political romantic.

Cont.

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

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

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

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

LORA
 You're hopeless!

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

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

CAMERA MOVES IN CLOSER as Lora moves closer to Galen.

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

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

INT. EXECUTION CELL - ANGLE ON KOVAK - DAY

75

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

INT. PRISON - ANGLE ON CELLS AND SIMIAN PRISONERS

76

clearly upset, moving to the rear windows of their cells at
 ANOTHER o.s. CRACKING SOUND.

INT. EXECUTION CELL - ANGLE ON KOVAK

77

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

KOVAK

(softly)

Oh, my God...

EXT. GOVERNMENT SQUARE - TIGHT ON BLACK - DAY

78

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

FULL SHOT - SQUARE

79

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

ANGLE ON URSUS, ZAIUS AND SALLUS

80

SALLUS

It's barbaric!

URSUS

It's necessary.

ANGLE ON HUMAN CROWD

81

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

ANONYMOUS VOICE

(o.s., shouts)

Freedom now!

The mob movement increases; a ragged chorus shouts:

VOICES

(o.s.)

Freedom now!

ANGLE ON URSUS, ZAIUS AND SALLUS

82

Ursus leaps up, BLOWS a whistle.

ANGLE ON SOLDIERS

83

With trained precision, they produce weapons, take a step forward. The CRACKS CONTINUE.

41

ANGLE ON HUMAN CROWD 84

subsiding.

INT. EXECUTION CELL - ANGLE ON KOVAK - DAY 85

straining to see, face wracked. The CRACKS CONTINUE.

EXT. SQUARE - TIGHT ON BLACK - DAY 86

terrified, held and moved by the Gorillas. The CRACKS CONTINUE. He's walked OUT OF SHOT, and the Gorilla with the sticks WALKS INTO SHOT, CRACKS them together.

TIGHT SHOT - ZAIUS AND SALLUS 87

SALLUS
We can't, Zaius!

ZAIUS
(face tortured)
The Council voted.

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

ANGLE ON EXECUTION PLATFORM 88

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

ANGLE ON CROWD 89

seething, held by fear.

ANGLE ON SALLUS, URSUS, ZAIUS AND OTHERS 90

Ursus' face is stone; the others contain revulsion.

ANGLE ON EXECUTION PLATFORM 91

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

INT. EXECUTION CELL - TIGHT ON KOVAK - 92
AT WINDOW - DAY

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

INT. UFF HEADQUARTERS WORKROOM - TIGHT ON KATRIN 93
- NIGHT

She's laughing, full-throated, gustily.

WIDER ANGLE

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

VIRDON

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

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

VIRDON

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

(scowls at awl)

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

KATRIN

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

She sobers, shivers slightly, looking at the weapon.

KATRIN

What will it do?

VIRDON

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

(demonstrates on weapon)

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

(beat)

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

He stops; she clearly doesn't understand.

KATRIN

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

(shivers)

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

Viridon's startled, sets down the weapon, crosses to Katrin.

CLOSER ON VIRDON AND KATRIN

VIRDON

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

KATRIN

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

(hesitates)

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

Virdon picks up the weapon, hefts it.

VIRDON

(quietly)

If I push the firing stud...

(touches it)

It'll destroy itself.

KATRIN

(looks at him)

Would you?

VIRDON

Say the word.

A moment, she moves closer to him --

KATRIN

Alan...yes...

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

ENTRANCE TO AREA - ANGLE ON GALEN AND LORA -
NIGHT

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

LORA

(whispering)

It's -- touching...but they look
so grotesque...

GALEN

(quietly)

They can't help it!

He deliberately COUGHS.

ANGLE PAST GALEN AND LORA - ON VIRDON AND KATRIN 97

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

KATRIN

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

GALEN

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

VIRDON

Galen: sometimes you have the
sensitivity of a Gorilla!

Galen looks outraged, Lora giggles, Katrin smiles.

VIRDON

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

Lora reacts in shock; Galen is outraged.

GALEN

That's in very bad taste!

(stops, shrugs,
wryly)

I feel like an idiot.

(beat)

All this surface liberalism;
brothers under the fur and all that...
we still suffer our prejudices...

(dryly)

Or make others suffer them...

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

WIDER ANGLE

98

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

GRAYSON

Have you heard?

KATRIN

What?

Cont.

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

A horrified reaction; Katrin is deeply shaken.

KATRIN
Oh, no...

Grayson stalks over, confronts Lora.

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

LORA
Then he couldn't!

GRAYSON
Because he didn't believe us!
And Zaius didn't believe us! And
Ursus probably broke up laughing
at us!
(bitterly)
Filthy Simians! --

Kemmer reacts, Grayson turns to him quickly.

GRAYSON
Kemmer; I'm sorry.

Kemmer nods.

GALEN
Grayson, I --

KEMMER
Shut up.

GRAYSON
We told them what we'd do in our
communique --
(looks at Lora)
Life for a life.

LORA
Yes, but...how'll we ever convince
them...

Cont.

GRAYSON

I'll tell you, Lora. I'll tell
you!

(beat)

There's only one piece of evidence
they'll believe!

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

GRAYSON

We're going to execute you!

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

FADE OUT

END OF ACT THREE

ACT FOUR

FADE IN

EXT. GOVERNMENT SQUARE - ANGLE ON PLATFORM, 99
CRIER, ASSISTANT - DAY

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

TIGHT SHOT - SALLUS 100

caught in mid-step, frozen, listening.

ANGLE ON GROUP OF HUMANS 101

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

TIGHT SHOT - URSUS 102

at an exit in the prison wall, face expressionless.

ANGLE ON PLATFORM, CRIER AND ASSISTANT 103

CRIER

Another human terrorist and
murderer will be executed
tomorrow morning.

Another CRACK.

ANGLE ON GROUP OF GORILLA SOLDIERS 104

CRIER'S VOICE

(o.s.)

All humans in the city are
ordered to be present, to watch...

ANGLE ON GROUP OF HUMANS 105

glaring in hatred.

CRIER'S VOICE

(o.s.)

All humans...

INT. UFF HEADQUARTERS - STOREROOM - DAY 106

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

GALEN

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

Cont.

GALEN (Cont.)

(beat)
Open warfare! That's what would
happen!

(gently)
Lora -- believe me...

LORA

I don't have to believe you,
Galen. I don't even have to
believe all those...brave lies...

(manages a smile)
I love you...

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

GALEN

Where is Alan!

LORA

(resigned)
He's a human.

GALEN

He's my friend!

INT. UFF HEADQUARTERS - TIGHT SHOT - VIRDON - DAY 107

VIRDON

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

TWO SHOT - VIRDON AND KATRIN

108

VIRDON

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

KATRIN

We can manage that.

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

Cont.

VIRDON

No. Grayson wants a bloodbath;
then all the Humans will have to
turn to him -- the Maximum Leader!
(beat)
Do your people have any weapons?

KATRIN

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

VIRDON

Laser. I've got it almost
unscrambled; maybe I can...
(grimly)
It's a horrible weapon -- on
wide aperture it could burn an
army into greasy smoke...but I'm
willing to use it on Grayson...

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

KATRIN

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

TIGHT SHOT - KEMMER

109

VIRDON'S VOICE

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

Kemmer turns, moves off soundlessly.

INT. GOVERNMENT COUNCIL CHAMBER - FULL SHOT - DAY 110

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

SALLUS

You've all read it!
(shakes paper)
They're going to hurt my daughter!

URSUS

They won't dare.

Cont.

CLIA
You can't be sure of that!

URSUS
(heavily)
Madame...

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

ZAIUS
I'm not a dictator, Sallus.

SALLUS
I thought you were a friend.

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

A long beat, then Ursus leans forward.

URSUS
Clia. Sallus.
(beat)
We sent out the human Virdon, and
Galen. They produced no answer,
nothing. Now...
(beat)
I must be honest: Lora may
already be dead.

TIGHT SHOT - CLIA AND SALLUS

111

Clia reacts in horror, chokes a sob. Sallus comforts her.

ANGLE ON GROUP

112

URSUS

They may have told the UFF that
we were bluffing.

(suddenly harsh)

We have to teach them we're not.

(to Zaius)

If Lora is dead -- we'll have
revenge, payment. If she's still
alive -- we'll give them a warning.

(flatly)

Viridon's friend. Kovak. We'll
execute him tomorrow.

INT. EXECUTION CELL - DAY

113

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

KOVAK

I heard -- on the grapevine,
about your daughter.

(emotionally)

I'm sorry!

CLIA

(fighting tears)

Oh, no.

(to Sallus)

Did you hear that? He's facing
death and he has feeling for us.

(to Kovak,

emotionally)

I've been a prejudiced person
all of my life -- and I was wrong!

SALLUS

Clia...

CLIA

It's true!

SALLUS

(heavily)

I know.

(to Kovak)

Kovak -- I tried. They voted
me down; people are wild for blood.

(beat)

I'm sorry...

KOVAK
Thanks for trying, sir.

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

Kovak returns the caress, moved, as is Sallus.

INT. UFF HEADQUARTERS - UPPER CORRIDOR - DAY 114

Katrin and Virdon, with a number of her followers; mostly human, but two Simians.

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

VIRDON
While Grayson applauds?

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

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

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

A CHORUS of approval. Virdon nods.

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

KATRIN
You're going to kill?

Cont.

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

VIRDON

No. I hope we won't have to.

KATRIN

(fiercely)

We can't.

(to them all)

Once we get Galen and Lora free,
we'll leave. We can go past the
Blasted Zone -- find our own
place, where we can live together,
Simian and human! In peace!

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

INT. STOREROOM - ANGLE ON GALEN AND LORA - DAY 115

He's holding her gently.

LORA

How late is it?

GALEN

(softly)

Shhh...

He caresses her, his face tortured.

INT. UFF WORKROOM - DAY 116

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

GRAYSON'S VOICE

(o.s.)

I have it.

ANGLE PAST VIRDON - ON GRAYSON, KEMMER AND MEN 117

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

VIRDON

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

Cont.

GRAYSON
I hope you're right.

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

INT. CORRIDOR - ANGLE ON STOREROOM DOOR - DAY 118

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

KATRIN
Galen! Lora!

INT. STOREROOM - DAY 119

Galen and Lora react, excited.

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

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

INT. CORRIDOR - DAY 120

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

INT. CORRIDOR - ANGLE ON STOREROOM DOOR - DAY 121

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

INT. STOREROOM - DAY 122

as the door CRASHES in.

ANGLE TILTING DOWN STAIRCASE - DAY 123

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

ANGLE ON CORRIDOR 124

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

VIRDON
Grayson! And he has the laser --
we have to get out!

He gestures urgently down the corridor, takes a few steps -- but a MAN blocks him, after they've gone a few feet.

MAN

It's a dead end, that way!

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

THEIR P.O.V. - GRAYSON, KEMMER AND OTHERS 125

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

ANGLE ON GROUP 126

horrified. Several of them raise weapons, nervously.

ANGLE PAST GROUP - ON GRAYSON, KEMMER AND PURSUERS 127

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

GRAYSON

What's the range on this, Viridon?

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

VIRDON

I warn you...

GRAYSON

(gently)

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

He laughs, Kemmer joins in.

TIGHT SHOT - GRAYSON 128

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

TIGHT SHOT - GRAYSON AND KEMMER 129

baffled.

ANGLE ON VIRDON AND OTHERS 130

VIRDON

Drop! Don't look at it!

Confused, responsive, they fall flat.

56

TIGHT SHOT - GALEN AND LORA 131

He protecting her.

ANGLE ON VIRDON AND KATRIN 132

huddled together.

ANGLE ON GRAYSON AND KEMMER 133

KEMMER
Shut it off!

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

ANGLE ON STORAGE ROOM - SHOOTING PAST GRAYSON, 134
KEMMER AND PURSUERS.

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

ANGLE ON CORRIDOR - SHOOTING PAST VIRDON, KATRIN 135
AND GROUP

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

INT. CORRIDOR - ANGLE ON VIRDON, KATRIN, GALEN, 136
LORA AND OTHERS

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

THEIR P.O.V. - CORRIDOR AND STORAGE ROOM 137

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

ANGLE ON GROUP 138

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

INT. GOVERNMENT COUNCIL CHAMBER - TIGHT SHOT - LORA 139
- DAY

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

Cont.

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

LORA

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

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

ANGLE ON URSUS, ZAIUS, SALLUS, AND OTHER COUNCIL PERSONS 140

Ursus' face is hard, ungiving.

ZAIUS

Ursus.

ANGLE ON OTHERS - SHOOTING PAST COUNCIL 141

Ursus looks at Kovak, grimly.

URSUS

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

(beat)

I'm not certain this is wise...

ZAIUS

(in a fury)

No!

(slams down a hand)

We pledged ourselves!

SALLUS

Yes.

The others nod agreement. Ursus looks furious.

ZAIUS

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

(beat)

For the Council:

(to Virdon, Galen, Kovak)

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

VIRDON
Thank you, Zaius.

ZAIUS
(grimly)
Don't. I am honoring my
pledge -- not my inclination.

He turns away.

KOVAK
Thanks, anyway!

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

ANGLE ON VIRDON AND URSUS 142

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

URSUS
(unemotionally)
Zaius was right; you're free
to go.

VIRDON
(dryly)
Thanks.

URSUS
But once you're gone -- our pledge
is kept. And done.
(voice deepens)
You're a disruptive force, Virdon!

VIRDON
We won't bother you, Ursus!

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

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

EXT. CITY - FULL SHOT - DAY 143

Virdon, Kovak and Galen with their loaded horses. Lora, Clia and Sallus, breaking into smaller groupings.

ANGLE ON KOVAK AND CLIA

144

She's fussing, adjusting his jacket.

CLIA
It doesn't fit well...

KOVAK
I'm fine!

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

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

ANGLE ON VIRDON, GALEN AND LORA

145

LORA
(quietly, to
Viridon)
Katrin left me directions --
where she and her people are
going.
(beat)
Don't tell mother -- but I might
join them, later...
(smiles)
But it's really you she'd like
to see.

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

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

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

GALEN
Lora...

ANGLE ON VIRDON

146

as he swings onto his horse.

TWO SHOT - GALEN AND LORA

147

LORA
Just...good-bye?

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

LORA
But -- you will come back?

GALEN
(quietly, intensely)
I'll try.

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

LORA
And I'll hope...

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

FADE OUT

THE END