

PLANET OF THE APES

"THE SURGEON"

By

Barry Oringer

FINAL  
August 14, 1974

CAST LIST

GALEN

PETE BURKE

ALAN VIRDON

URKO

ZAIUS

KIRA (CHIMP)

LEANDER (CHIMP)

HAMAN (GORILLA)

TRAVIN (HUMAN)

GIRL (HUMAN)

JORDO (HUMAN)

BRIGID (HUMAN)

LAFER (HUMAN)

ASHER (HUMAN)

CLEON (GORILLA)

CHESTER (GORILLA)

DR. STOLE (CHIMP)

Various Gorillas, Hospital Attendants, Humans

SET LIST

INTERIORS:

MEDICAL CENTER: SCRUB ROOM  
CORRIDOR  
KIRA'S OFFICE  
LEANDER'S QUARTERS  
HUMANS' QUARTERS  
LIBRARY  
LAB  
OPERATING ROOM  
MORGUE  
  
URKO'S OFFICE  
ZAIUS' STUDY

EXTERIORS:

COUNTRYSIDE (VARIOUS AREAS)  
CAMPSITE  
MEDICAL CENTER AND ENTRANCE  
COUNTRY ROAD  
COURTYARD OF HUMANS' QUARTERS  
CENTRAL CITY STREETS  
ZAIUS' HOUSE

"THE SURGEON"

ACT ONE

FADE IN

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

EXT. COUNTRYSIDE - DAY

1

A dry or nearly dry stream bed, high banks on either side with dense, hilly woods. (PRODUCTION NOTE: In this sequence and elsewhere, certain topographic features are arbitrarily indicated. These can be changed to match whatever locations are actually available.) CAMERA HOLDS for a moment on the deserted scene. Then, from the distance, the three figures of BURKE, VIRDON and GALEN come TOWARD CAMERA along the stream bed. CAMERA HOLDS for a moment on the trio...then PANS IN A WIDE SWEEP toward the far end of the stream bed, TILTS UP SLOWLY -- and ZOOMS to the top of the bank where two mounted GORILLAS wait in ambush.

ANGLE ON BURKE, VIRDON AND GALEN

2

moving on, unaware of the ambushers ahead. Burke says to Virdon:

BURKE

We've been following this stream long enough to win a merit badge. Where are we supposed to be going?

VIRDON

Galen says there's a secret hiding place somewhere along one of these gulleys. He used to hide there when he was playing hooky from school.

BURKE

That's great; except the truant officers weren't coming after him with rifles. At least if there were a taco stand along the way...

GALEN

(shakes his head)

You know, I have difficulty sometimes understanding these cultural references. Taco stand...is that some sort of emergency aid station?

## ANGLE FAVORING GORILLAS

waiting, rifles at the ready, as their quarry approaches, now less than a hundred yards away. As they wait for the targets to come into closer range, one of the horses, groping for a surer foothold at the edge of the cliff, moves slightly, unloosing some gravel.

## ANGLE ON BURKE, VIRDON AND GALEN

They move on through the stream bed, still unaware of the ambushers.

## CLOSE SHOT - GORILLA

tightening his finger on the trigger. Then:

## ANOTHER ANGLE

The gravel gives way beneath the horse's front hooves, the horse slips. The Gorilla, startled, fires prematurely, his shot going wild.

## ANGLE ON BURKE, VIRDON AND GALEN

spotting the Gorillas. Galen reacts first:

GALEN

This way!

They turn, race for a narrow, brush-covered gulley opening into the stream bed. The Gorillas try to follow on horseback, but the horses shy away from the steep drop. Burke and Galen reach the gulley first, Virdon bringing up the rear. The Gorillas fire from the bank. Virdon is hit in the back, stumbles and falls. Burke turns, sees him, rushes up to him, drags him into the narrow brush-covered gulley out of line of the Gorillas' fire. Burke helps him to his feet, but Virdon's leg buckles under him.

VIRDON

My back.

(then)

I can't move.

Burke reacts to this grim news. Seeing the Gorillas dismount to follow on foot, he lifts Virdon up in a fireman's carry. Galen, who has been searching the close terrain, points to a steep brush and rock-covered rise:

GALEN

Up there.

Galen and Burke struggle to carry Virdon up the rise. They reach the top. Galen to Burke:

Cont.

GALEN

Keep going down the path as far  
as you can. Don't worry, I'll catch  
up.

Burke carries Virdon, disappearing with him into the dense growth. Galen pokes at some boulders, using a thick branch as a lever. The next moment, the Gorillas appear in the gully below. Spotting Galen, they fire at him. Galen replies by sending the boulder toppling down toward them, creating a miniature landslide, then takes off, not waiting to see the result of his act, but satisfied from the Gorillas' panicky cries that it has been successful.

EXT. COUNTRYSIDE - CLOSE SHOT - DAY

8

of a small outdoor cooking fire. CAMERA PULLS BACK TO REVEAL Galen at the fire, lifting a tin pot of water off the fire. He stirs in some unidentified herbs. In b.g., in a sheltered spot outside a rock cave, Virdon, his back bandaged with cloth, is being tended to by Burke. Now Burke comes up to the fire, picks up some of the herbs, and says to Galen:

BURKE

This looks like Chamomile.

GALEN

(shrugs)

I don't know what it is...It grows wild all over the countryside. My mother used to give it to us when we were sick. It's very effective!

BURKE

(shakes his head)

Chamomile for a bullet wound!  
That's like prescribing chicken  
soup for death.

Galen gives Virdon the drink. Virdon takes a sip. Burke asks, anxiously:

BURKE

How's the pain?

VIRDON

Not too bad, except when I try  
to stand up. The bullet must be  
pressing on a nerve.

BURKE

We both had emergency first aid  
training in astronaut school. Maybe  
I can dig the bullet out.

GALEN

That sounds dangerous.

BURKE

(after a thoughtful beat)  
You're right.

(to Virдон)

We're going to have to get you  
to a hospital.

VIRDON

What hospital? Our Blue Cross  
expired a thousand years ago.

GALEN

There's a medical center on the  
outskirts of Central City.

VIRDON

That Chamomile must be going to  
your head. We walk into an ape  
hospital, we can forget about  
reading any more continued stories.  
The Gorillas would be all over the  
place before we filled out the  
application blank.

GALEN

I know the chief surgeon at the  
Center. She'll help us.

VIRDON

Galen, we're known to be dangerous  
enemies.

GALEN

Not to Kira. She's a physician,  
she doesn't care about politics --  
Most of the people at the Center  
probably never heard of you. And  
even if Kira knew, she wouldn't  
turn her back on someone in trouble.

VIRDON

What makes you so sure?

GALEN

(hesitantly)

We were very close once. In fact,  
we were going to be married. Things  
didn't work out. But we're still  
the best of friends.

Cont.

Burke ponders this, then says to Virdon:

BURKE  
It's worth a chance.

Before Virdon can protest:

GALEN  
I know a back route to the Center;  
I won't have any trouble traveling  
alone. Don't worry. I happen to  
be an expert in female psychology.  
I know Kira won't let me down.

He takes off.

EXT. MEDICAL CENTER - DAY

9

It is a compound of buildings on the outskirts of Central City. Over the entrance, a red and white flag with an ape head and, beneath the head, a row of three red circles symbolizing a hospital. (NOTE: The same symbol should be seen on the uniforms of the ape staff and on the ambulance carts.)

INT. SCRUB ROOM - CLOSE SHOT - DAY

10

of a pair of chimpanzee hands under a running faucet. CAMERA PULLS BACK TO REVEAL KIRA, a chimpanzee, in her thirties, in a surgical gown. In b.g., other ape medical personnel, washing after surgery.

The door opens and LEANDER ENTERS, the director of the Center, a chimpanzee, middle-aged, with an easy, confident, almost arrogant manner, a man sure of his authority and the validity of his own vision of the world. Kira does not see him as he ENTERS -- she seems depressed, self-absorbed, as he calls:

LEANDER  
(o.s.)  
Kira.

She stops, turns -- then reacts, obviously gratified, despite her depression, to see Leander.

LEANDER  
I watched the operation. You did  
a brilliant job.

KIRA  
Unfortunately, the patient died.

He smiles indulgently, puts his arm around her.

Cont.

LEANDER

But the operation was a success.  
The surgical knowledge we learn from  
these failures will someday help  
other patients...and surgeons.

KIRA

That's not a particularly satisfying  
philosophy.

LEANDER

(smiles)

You think I'm cruel? You can  
tell me the truth.

KIRA

Tell the truth to my employer?  
I could be fired for such recklessness.

LEANDER

Only a fool would fire his best and  
most beautiful surgeon.

(then)

I'll see you at the conference  
tonight, won't I?

KIRA

What conference?

LEANDER

A private lecture I'm giving, on  
the therapeutic virtues of vegetable  
casserole and apricot wine. I'm  
holding it in my apartment, at eight.

KIRA

Is attendance mandatory?

LEANDER

Only for you.

KIRA

In that case, I'll be there.

She touches his arm in a gesture of affection, and EXITS. He  
watches her go with a look of even greater emotion, mingled  
with satisfaction over what a cool and sophisticated fellow  
he is.

INT. MEDICAL CENTER CORRIDOR - DAY

11

Kira heads down the corridor, past various hospital personnel;  
the ape staff in white uniforms, a human or two doing menial  
chores as sweepers and orderlies. At the end of the corridor,  
she reaches a door, opens it, and steps into:

INT. KIRA'S OFFICE - DAY

The room is dark when she ENTERS. She crosses to the windows, opens the curtains to let in the light, so that we get a look at some of the items in the office: desk, table, chairs and cabinets containing primitive medical instruments. Kira takes off her surgical gown, turns toward CAMERA -- and reacts with shock to see Galen standing there.

GALEN

Hello, Kira.

KIRA

(stunned)

Galen...! What are you doing here?

GALEN

I thought it's time I had my annual checkup.

KIRA

Are you insane? You're a criminal -- a traitor!

GALEN

(shaken)

I didn't expect to hear that from you.

KIRA

What did you expect?

GALEN

I need help.

(beat)

One of my friends is hurt.

KIRA

Your friends! Don't you think I know who your friends are? The only friends you have are renegade humans!

GALEN

They're as good as we are, Kira.

KIRA

(shocked)

Is that what you've come to? Putting us on the same level as animals? I shouldn't even be listening to you. I should be calling the police.

GALEN

They'd kill me.

Cont.

KIRA

They'd be doing justice.

A long silence as the hatred in her words hangs heavy in the air. Then Galen says, in a quiet voice:

GALEN

I loved you once. To hear these words from you now...I'm sorry I came.

He turns to exit through the window. She calls him:

KIRA

Galen.

He turns, waits. She continues, in a turmoil of conflict:

KIRA

You were a decent, law-abiding ape once. What happened to you?

GALEN

I had a terrible accident. I collided with the truth: that apes and humans are meant to be equals, not masters and slaves.

KIRA

You really believe that?

GALEN

Yes.

KIRA

And to help you, I must help them?

GALEN

They are my brothers now.

Long silence. Then, in a voice filled with anguish and despair:

KIRA

I thought I had forgotten you, that I had a chance to find a new happiness. I should have known you'd come back to destroy me.

CAMERA HOLDS on Galen's reaction to her bitter words.

EXT. COUNTRYSIDE - CAMPSITE - NIGHT

13

Burke on guard, tending the embers of the fire. Virdon is awake, resting on a bed of leaves and pine needles. Then a NOISE. Burke whirls, reaches for his weapon. The next moment Galen ENTERS THE SCENE, carrying a sack over his back. Burke relaxes.

BURKE

What took so long?

GALEN

I had to pick up a medical degree.

(takes a uniform  
from sack)

This is for the renowned specialist,  
Dr. Adrian.

(takes out a human's  
orderly uniform)

And this is for his faithful  
servant. Under the circumstances,  
it was the best position available.

BURKE

As long as I have a chance to grow  
on the job.

VIRDON

Even if this crazy masquerade works,  
the hospital is miles away. I  
can't even stand, much less walk  
that distance.

GALEN

My dear Alan, a patient of your  
eminence should not have to walk  
at all.

EXT. COUNTRY ROAD - NIGHT

14

A horse-drawn food cart comes down the road, driven by a man in his forties named ASHER. A Gorilla named HAMAN rides shotgun alongside the human, a torch in one hand, a rifle in another. Suddenly, they see a figure appear coming down the road toward them. It is Burke. The Gorilla motions for the driver to stop the cart, raises his rifle and calls:

HAMAN

Stop.

(beat)

What are you doing out after curfew?

BURKE

My cart broke down. I'm going to  
the village to get some help.

Cont.

The Gorilla puts the torch in a holder on the cart, dismounts, goes up to Burke.

HAMAN

Let me see your identity card.

Burke reaches into a pocket. As he does so, he looks past the Gorilla to:

P.O.V. SHOT 15

Galen is sneaking out of the bushes behind the driver.

BACK TO SCENE 16

Burke points o.s. in sudden alarm:

BURKE

That comet -- it's headed right for us!

The Gorilla whirls; Burke knocks the rifle out of his hand, then picks it up and clobbers him with it as Galen jumps the human, knocks him off the cart and pins him to the ground. Burke checks the Gorilla. He is unconscious. Burke empties the Gorilla's rifle, throws the gun into the bushes, then races up to the terrified driver:

BURKE

Good-bye and good luck.

Galen lets the driver go. The driver runs off down the road back in the direction he came from. Burke and Galen rush behind the bushes, where Virdon is lying. They lift him onto the cart, and pull the tarpaulin over him. Galen takes the Gorilla's seat. Burke takes the reins and the cart moves off down the road.

INT. LEANDER'S QUARTERS - CLOSE SHOT - NIGHT 17

of lighted candles on a table. CAMERA PULLS BACK TO REVEAL Leander and Kira, at opposite ends of the table having dinner. Leander looks at Kira, who is distracted, lost in thought:

LEANDER

You don't seem very excited about my vegetable casserole. Did I put in too much honey?

KIRA

It's delicious. Really. I'm just not very hungry tonight.

Cont.

LEANDER  
Something worrying you?

KIRA  
(hesitant)  
I was thinking about that orderly  
we sent to disciplinary camp for  
not obeying orders. I wonder...  
was it really necessary to treat  
him so harshly?

LEANDER  
He behaved like an unruly beast.  
Like an unruly beast, he needed  
punishment. Where is the harshness?

KIRA  
But are humans nothing but beasts?

LEANDER  
At their best, they're useful  
animals; at their worst, carriers  
of hatred and destruction.

KIRA  
Whom we must then stamp out?

LEANDER  
Like the plague.

Before she can reply, a KNOCK at the door.

LEANDER  
Come in.

The door opens. An intern, DR. STOLE, ENTERS.

STOLE  
I'm sorry for interrupting,  
Director. There's a new arrival,  
a Dr. Adrian. He says Dr. Kira  
is expecting him.

KIRA  
(to Leander)  
That's the new visiting physician.  
I'd better show him to his quarters.  
Thank you for a lovely evening.

She gets up and EXITS. The CAMERA MOVES IN CLOSE on Leander,  
brooding, pensive.

EXT. MEDICAL CENTER ENTRANCE - NIGHT

Kira emerges from the hospital building and goes up to the gates, where the cart with Burke and Galen waits. A human, a man of forty-five named TRAVIN, is also present. Seeing Kira, Galen calls:

GALEN

Ah, Dr. Kira. Sorry I'm late.  
We had an accident. One of my  
orderlies was injured.

He uncovers the tarpaulin to reveal Viridon lying in the back of the cart. Kira looks at him, trying to conceal her fear, then turns to Travin:

KIRA

Travin, find room for these  
two in the humans' quarters.  
(to Galen)  
I'll show you to your room,  
Doctor.

Travin helps Burke carry Viridon toward the humans' quarters, a low building at the edge of the compound. Galen goes o.s. toward the main hospital building with Kira.

INT. LEANDER'S QUARTERS - NIGHT

Leander, at the window, staring down at the scene below, his expression unreadable.

INT. HUMANS' QUARTERS - MAIN ROOM - NIGHT

A large central room, little more than a hovel, that serves as entrance hall, dining room, and, for those humans of lowliest status, sleeping place. Several humans are about; one of them, a plain-looking, timid, withdrawn girl of eighteen, is cleaning up after dinner; we will refer to her simply as GIRL, for reasons we will learn shortly. Now she just stares as Travin, Burke and Viridon ENTER. Travin, with Burke's help, sets Viridon down on one of the straw pallets lining the room, then starts to go o.s. Seeing this, Burke says:

BURKE

Not here. He'll need his own room.

TRAVIN

I have my own room. All the other  
humans sleep here.

Cont.

BURKE

He's sick; he needs special care.

TRAVIN

We don't provide special care for sick humans. If a man is sick, he rests. If he lives, he returns to work.

BURKE

That's a very progressive system, but it doesn't apply to us.

TRAVIN

It applies to everyone.

BURKE

Sorry, Max. We work exclusively for Dr. Adrian. And he gets very nervous when his servants get pushed around. So whatever passes for the luxury accommodations around here, that's where my friend goes.

And without waiting for an answer, he turns to Virdon and starts to help him to his feet, saying:

BURKE

Come on, pal. I've just arranged for the presidential suite.

VIRDON

Maybe I ought to stay put. We shouldn't cause trouble.

BURKE

No problem; he won't tangle with Galen.

(turns to Travin)

Give me a hand.

Travin reacts, frustrated, angry, but Burke's invoking of a chimpanzee doctor's authority stops him. He helps Burke lift Virdon and carry him toward the interior of the house.

INT. HUMAN QUARTERS - CLOSE SHOT - NIGHT

21

of Burke, at the table, gamely digging into a plate of something resembling food. CAMERA PULLS BACK TO THE SCENE: Burke at the table, the Girl at the fire in b.g., Travin next to him, eating his own meal in glowering silence; half a dozen other humans, all men, at the table, nobody making any conversation. Burke takes a bite of food, chews it several times, says:

BURKE  
This is terrific. What is it,  
dried mule hooves?

There is no answer.

BURKE  
(to Travin)  
You wouldn't happen to have  
some chili sauce for a taste-  
killer?

TRAVIN  
We have what we have.

BURKE  
Well, that's okay. They probably  
didn't have great food at King Arthur's  
Round Table either.

The Girl comes up to the table, sets some bread down before  
each man. Nobody comments, until she sets a piece of bread  
before Burke, who says:

BURKE  
Thanks. What's your name?

At that, Travin reacts with sudden explosive anger:

TRAVIN  
Don't talk to her!

BURKE  
I just asked her name.

TRAVIN  
She has no name!

BURKE  
Everybody has a name.

TRAVIN  
Her name has been taken from her.  
She is no one.

BURKE  
What did she do, run a red  
light?

Travin glowers at him, then gets up and leaves the table in  
anger. One of the other humans, a man named JORDO, says to  
Burke:

Cont.

JORDO

The girl is his daughter.

And Jordo returns to his eating bowl in silence. CAMERA  
HOLDS on Burke, puzzled.

EXT. MEDICAL CENTER - NIGHT 22

to indicate time bridge.

INT. HUMANS' QUARTERS - NIGHT 23

The men are asleep on the floor of the main room, which is dimly illuminated by the light of a lantern in the adjacent kitchen area. A figure ENTERS -- it is Travin. He checks the sleeping men, makes sure that Burke is among them, then goes on through the interior of the house to:

INT. VIRDON'S ROOM - NIGHT 24

Virдон is asleep in a corner of the small room. Travin ENTERS, sets his lantern down, sits and stares for a long moment at the sleeping man. (NOTE: Virдон is sleeping on one side, so that his pocket is exposed, but his knife remains hidden.) Then when he is sure Virдон is asleep, he starts to search his pocket.

ANGLE FAVORING VIRDON 25

Suddenly coming awake, he makes a painful effort and grabs Travin's arm.

VIRDON

What are you doing?

TRAVIN

They told me to look in on you.  
I wanted to make sure you were  
all right.

VIRDON

I'm all right. Thank you.

He closes his eyes again. Travin gets up, goes outside to:

EXT. HUMANS' QUARTERS - NIGHT 26

Alone in the compound, Travin opens his fist to reveal:

16

INSERT - THE OBJECT IN TRAVIN'S HAND

27

A small compass, the needle holding its direction as Travin turns the compass around in his hand.

BACK TO SCENE

28

Travin looks off toward the north, toward which the compass needle is pointing; then stares at the strange object in awe and terror -- what is it? Who are these strangers? CAMERA HOLDS for a long beat, and:

FADE OUT

END OF ACT ONE

ACT TWO

FADE IN

INT. KIRA'S OFFICE - CLOSE SHOT - KIRA - DAY 29

a frown on her face as she pores over a large book. Then she looks up, tense, frowning.

KIRA

It's no good.

CAMERA PULLS BACK to INCLUDE Galen, whom she is addressing:

KIRA

All the medical texts deal with apes. There's nothing on humans.

GALEN

But you know where the bullet is.

KIRA

(impatiently)

We know the bullet is lying near a nerve. We don't know what that nerve looks like or where it runs. And there could be major blood vessels in the area. If we go in blindly, we could kill him.

GALEN

(surprised)

Which means you care what happens to him.

KIRA

I'm a surgeon. I'm not a butcher who goes blundering in with a knife just to see what will happen. And to operate in ignorance is butchery.

Galen thinks for a moment, then says hopefully, reaching for straws:

GALEN

Kira, if I found a book on human anatomy, would that help you?

KIRA

There are no books on human anatomy. What ape would have wanted to write one?

GALEN

I was thinking of a human book.

KIRA

What are you talking about?  
Humans don't write medical books.

GALEN

They once did. A long time ago.  
When they ruled the earth.

KIRA

(shaken)  
You're really mad.

GALEN

No.  
(beat)  
I've seen such books.

KIRA

In the fantasies of your deranged  
mind?

GALEN

In the house of Zaius.

This is said with such powerful certitude that Kira cannot help but stare at him in shock, her vision of the world suddenly turned upside down. She cannot accept the concept -- yet, looking at Galen, she cannot completely deny its possibility. Before she can find a response, the door opens and Leander ENTERS.

LEANDER

Kira. I thought you were scheduled  
to give a lecture to the staff  
this morning.

KIRA

(shakily)  
I postponed it till tomorrow.  
I wanted to show Dr. Adrian our  
facilities.

LEANDER

(to Galen)  
And what's your impression,  
Doctor?

Cont.

GALEN

Fantastic! Certainly far beyond anything I've seen. Of course, I'm not sure I would agree with all your procedures.

Kira reacts with fear. Is Galen crazy? Leander takes up Galen's challenge:

LEANDER

Oh? And what quarrel do you have with our procedures, Doctor?

GALEN

I don't wish to cause any offense...

LEANDER

Come, come, Doctor. I'd be glad to hear your learned opinions. Wouldn't you, Kira?

KIRA

(who is ready  
to faint)

Yes. Yes, of course. Dr. Adrian is quite renowned in his field.

GALEN

(pompously)

As I see it, there's altogether too much emphasis these days on surgery, for everything from a broken leg to the vapors. While surgery is necessary in some cases, I myself prefer a more conservative approach.

LEANDER

You mean a magic potion for every ailment?

GALEN

(deadpan)

Except colds of course. That misfortune still has our finest minds stumped.

Kira is ready to plotz at this brazen chutzpah. But to her surprise, Leander laughs and says to Kira:

Cont.

LEANDER

I like our visitor. I hope you'll do your best to keep him here.

GALEN

And I look forward to working with you, Doctor.

Leander smiles, EXITS. Galen turns to Kira, who is nearly hysterical.

KIRA

'I look forward to working with you!' Do you think he's a fool? This whole thing is impossible. This crazy imposture, that non-existent book in Zaius' library...

GALEN

Kira, I'll find the book. And you'll have in your hands the power to advance our medicine. That book means life!

KIRA

It means death if we're caught.

GALEN

If we're caught, I'll confess that I forced you into this by threatening your life.

KIRA

(in despair)

You think I want you to die?

GALEN

No one wants to die. Ape or human. But we can't turn back now.

She is silent, which Galen takes for at least a diminishing of her resistance. On that hopeful note, he turns and EXITS.

INT. VIRDON'S ROOM - CLOSE SHOT - VIRDON - DAY 30

lying on his pallet, feverish, semi-conscious. CAMERA PULLS BACK to INCLUDE Galen and Burke at his side. Galen says in a quiet, urgent voice:

GALEN

He's still running a fever.

Cont.

BURKE

The bullet may be causing a toxic reaction. That medicine Kira gave us should start to work soon. If it doesn't...

GALEN

Shhh.

They look up to see Travin ENTER with some ice packs, which he hands to Burke. Burke takes them, lays them on Viridon's forehead. Suddenly Viridon begins to rave, deliriously:

VIRDON

No! The instruments...This isn't earth. What is it?

(then, terrified)

They're apes! This world is run by apes!

TRAVIN

What is he saying? Everyone knows the world is run by apes. And what does he mean, 'This isn't earth?'

GALEN

(coldly)

I didn't realize the orderlies here did psychological studies of the patients.

TRAVIN

(chastened)

I only meant...

GALEN

(cutting in)

He's having a fever hallucination. It's your job to take care of him. If he dies and I have to break in a new orderly, I'll hold you responsible.

TRAVIN

(submissive)

Yes, Doctor.

He EXITS. Burke says to Galen:

Cont.

BURKE

That guy worries me.

GALEN

He won't challenge my authority.

BURKE

That's what Marie Antoinette said about her baker. You're an ape, he'll obey you as long as he thinks you're a real doctor. But if Virdon keeps on raving like this, he's bound to give us away sooner or later.

GALEN

(nods)

We'll have to get that book from Zaius' house. I'll tell Kira to prepare for surgery.

EXT. COURTYARD OF HUMANS' QUARTERS - DAY 31

Burke starts across the courtyard -- then reacts to a WOMAN'S SCREAM o.s.

FULL SHOT 32

The Girl (Travin's daughter) is being beaten with a rod by a lummoX named LAFER while other humans in the area go about their business as if nothing unusual is occurring. As Lafer gets set to give the Girl another blow, Burke rushes in, knocks his arm aside, pulls the stick out of the man's hand. The man, infuriated, turns on Burke and swings at him. Burke reciprocates. As the two men struggle:

ANGLE ON TRAVIN 33

Emerging from his quarters, he stops, seeing the fight.

CLOSE SHOT - BURKE 34

In the struggle, Burke's sheathed knife, which he has been wearing concealed beneath his tunic, is exposed.

REACTION SHOTS - TRAVIN AND OTHER HUMANS 35

reacting in seemingly disproportionate terror to the sight of the knife. One of them, a middle-aged woman named BRIGID, says, her voice trembling:

BRIGID

He has a weapon.

Cont.

Travin rushes across the courtyard just as Burke delivers a solid blow to Lafer's jaw. Before the fight can continue, Travin steps between them.

TRAVIN

Stop.

Lafer freezes in instant response to his leader's command. Travin, raging, says to both of them:

LAFER

She spilled the water.

BURKE

(incredulous)

And that's why you were beating the daylights out of her?

TRAVIN

All of us are required to discipline the girl. It's our duty, to keep us safe from her curse.

BURKE

She's your own daughter.

TRAVIN

I have no daughter.

Burke looks at Travin, who is like stone. Burke looks at the Girl. The Girl does not return his gaze. Travin turns to Lafer:

TRAVIN

She's been punished enough for now.

Lafer EXITS. Travin gives the Girl a look. She picks up her water pail and hurries o.s. The others disperse, leaving Travin alone in the courtyard with Burke. Travin says to Burke:

TRAVIN

I saw your knife.

BURKE

So?

TRAVIN

Humans are forbidden to carry weapons.

(beat)

Who are you?

BURKE

I'm Dr. Galen's servant.

The invoking of Galen's name again stops Travin from saying anything further. Burke turns and walks o.s. Travin watches him go, then reaches into his pocket and takes out the compass that had fallen out of Virdon's pocket. He looks at it, then closes his fist on it, a hard glint of suspicion in his eyes.

INT. URKO'S OFFICE - DAY

36

Asher, the driver whose cart was hijacked by Burke and Galen, is being interrogated by Urko. The Gorilla who was with him, Haman, is also present, as Urko prods Asher.

URKO

The one who attacked you:  
What did he look like?

ASHER

(frightened)  
I don't know. I couldn't tell.  
It was dark.

URKO

Was it a gorilla or a chimpanzee?  
You could tell that much!

A long silence. Then Asher, trembling with fear, says in a low voice:

ASHER

There were two of them. A  
chimpanzee...  
(beat)  
...and a human.

HAMAN

(reacting, furious)  
You're saying an ape helped a  
human commit a crime?

URKO

(coldly)  
I'm handling this, officer.

The Gorilla backs off. Urko turns to the human, says in friendly, reassuring voice:

Cont.

URKO

You could be flogged for spreading such dangerous fantasies. What you're trying to say is, you were frightened, it was dark; you couldn't tell who attacked you, isn't that so?

ASHER

(eyes averted)  
Yes, sir.

URKO

(after a beat)  
Good. You've done your duty. You can go now.

Asher, grateful, gets up and EXITS. Urko turns to Haman:

URKO

Return to your post. And on your way out, tell my aide to come in.

HAMAN

Yes, sir.

He salutes and EXITS. Urko crosses the room to a large wall map. He studies it for a moment. Then the door opens and Urko's aide, CLEON, ENTERS. Urko asks him, pointing to the map:

URKO

Cleon, that patrol that claimed to have seen the Astronauts the day before yesterday -- how sure are they of that sighting?

CLEON

The men belong to one of our best units, sir. They're absolutely certain the Astronauts were headed into the Northern Mountains, away from Central City.

URKO

Could they have reversed their route and come back toward Central City?

Cont.

CLEON

This is the most heavily patrolled  
area in the world. It isn't  
logical they'd take such a risk.

URKO

If they were logical creatures.  
But humans are often driven by  
odd impulses.

(thinks for a moment,  
then says:)

Cancel my trip to the New Territory.  
I think I'll stay here a few more  
days.

Cleon nods, salutes and EXITS. Urko turns to the map  
and studies it with deep concentration, the sense of  
a hunter closing in on his prey.

FADE OUT

END OF ACT TWO

ACT THREE

FADE IN

EXT. CENTRAL CITY STREET - DAY

37

A covered horse-drawn cart moves down the street at a brisk clip. As it passes the CAMERA we see the red and white ape head flag on its side, with the added three red circles indicating a hospital vehicle.

CLOSER ANGLE

38

Burke, in his hospital uniform, covered by a hooded garment ostensibly to protect against the cold, is driving, Galen riding alongside. Then from o.s. the sound of HORSES' HOOVES. The next moment a patrol of two mounted Gorillas comes into view and rides up to them. The first Gorilla, an officer named CHESTER, signals them to stop:

CHESTER

This is a restricted quarter,  
what are you doing here?

GALEN

Emergency. We've been called  
to the house of Zaius.

CHESTER

Zaius?

GALEN

He's had a heart attack. Shall  
we spend the rest of the day  
discussing it?

CHESTER

Zaius...I'll give you an escort!

They ride on. Burke and Galen follow.

BURKE

We need them for an escort like  
we need a case of cholera. What  
do we do when we get there? Tell  
them Zaius changed himself into a  
medical textbook?

GALEN

Why worry about that now? This  
is a step-by-step business!

They drive on.

EXT. ZAIUS' HOUSE - DAY

39

O.s., the sound of HORSES' HOOVES and the rumble of the AMBULANCE CART. The next moment cart and escort come into view, riding TOWARD CAMERA, where they stop. Galen and Burke jump off, take out a stretcher with blanket and a medical bag and start for the front of the house. The Gorillas follow. Galen turns to them:

GALEN

Where are you going?

CHESTER

Into the house. If Zaius needs help...

GALEN

My dear fellow, Zaius has had a heart attack. That's a medical condition, not a criminal offense. You'd be more use guarding the ambulance; one of my colleagues had the wheels stolen off his cart almost within sight of the police garrison.

Galen and Burke follow the path toward the front of the house. When they are out of sight of the Gorillas, they change direction and head around toward the back of the house where Zaius' study is located. Leaving the stretcher on the ground, they climb through the window into:

INT. ZAIUS' STUDY - DAY

40

Galen and Burke enter through the window.

BURKE

Draw the curtain.

Galen does so, lights an oil lantern hanging on the wall, illuminating the now-darkened room...and recoils in shock as the first thing it shines on is the face of an orangutan. Then he relaxes, sees that the face belongs to a sculptured bust on a platform. He and Burke look around the room -- and stop as their gaze falls on a glass door cabinet filled with books. Burke tries the cabinet door. It is locked. He takes out his knife, jimmies it open, scans the books. He finds one book and takes it out.

INSERT - BOOK

41

"PRINCIPLES OF SURGERY," by Walter Mather, M.D., F.A.C.S.

BACK TO SCENE

42

Burke, excitedly, to Galen:

BURKE

This is it.

(then)

But how do we get it past those  
Gorillas?

Galen looks around. His eyes light on the ape bust. He picks it up -- it is a light clay piece with a hollow interior, enabling Galen to carry it with ease. Holding it up to Burke, he says, with mock pomposity:

GALEN

Offhand, I'd diagnose this case  
as a severe heart attack.

With that he scoops up some pillows lying on a sofa. Burke closes the cabinet, and they EXIT out the window to:

EXT. ZAIUS' HOUSE - DAY

43

Galen and Burke emerge through the window, arrange the pillows on the stretcher with the sculptured bust at its head, and pull the blanket over it, leaving just the head exposed. Then Burke goes to the medical bag, takes out a sterile mask, puts it over the mouth and nose of the sculptured bust and he and Galen carry the stretcher back out to where the ambulance wagon is parked. The Gorillas help them load the stretcher onto the back of the wagon. Then Galen turns to Chester:

GALEN

Can I talk to you in private?

Chester nods, walks off a few paces with him and says, in a confidential tone:

GALEN

When a man like Zaius falls ill,  
it's more than a medical problem.  
Affairs of state are involved.  
You follow my meaning?

CHESTER

(awed at Galen's  
tone)

Yes, I think so.

Cont.

GALEN

The Prime Minister is in there. He told me to keep this quiet, so as not to start a panic. I know we can count on your cooperation... We'll take the patient to the hospital, and you resume your normal patrol as if nothing happened.

CHESTER

(salutes)  
Yes, sir.

Galen nods. The patrol drives off. Galen joins Burke on the wagon and they drive off.

INT. KIRA'S OFFICE - CLOSE SHOT - NIGHT

44

of Kira at her desk, leafing through the pages of the book, a stunned look on her face. The CAMERA PULLS BACK TO REVEAL Galen and Burke standing in front of her desk.

KIRA

Diagrams of the circulatory system. Surgical procedures. Is this a medical text? Or a work of fiction?

GALEN

You knew the answer to that as soon as you saw it.

KIRA

I can't believe a human wrote this!

BURKE

Dr. Mather was one of our greatest surgeons.

KIRA

(to Galen,  
anguished)

If Zaius knew about this, why weren't we allowed to know?

GALEN

For political reasons: If humans could write books like this, why should they be content to be slaves? He was afraid it would mean the end of our civilization.

Cont.

KIRA  
 (fearfully)  
 What if he's right?

The question hangs heavily and ominously in the air. Before Galen can respond, an urgent KNOCK on the door. Galen, nearest the door, opens it to admit Travin, who says, excitedly:

TRAVIN  
 The stranger; he's very sick.

They react with shock, then EXIT hurriedly.

INT. VIRDON'S ROOM - CLOSE SHOT - NIGHT

45

of Virdon in the throes of a convulsion, being held down by Burke, while Kira presses a piece of cloth between Virdon's teeth. After a few moments, the convulsion subsides. Virdon opens his eyes. Burke says, trying to disguise his fear:

BURKE  
 Easy, buddy. You okay?

VIRDON  
 (dazed)  
 I'll let you know as soon as the room stops moving. What happened?

KIRA  
 (coldly)  
 You had a convulsion. The bullet must have moved closer to the nerve.

VIRDON  
 (noticing Kira)  
 You're Dr. Kira, aren't you?

KIRA  
 It's no concern of yours who I am. Take this medicine.

She takes out a small bottle, opens it, gives it to Virdon. Virdon hesitates:

KIRA  
 I'm not trying to poison you.  
 It's just a sedative.

Cont.

Viridon takes the medicine. After a moment he closes his eyes, surrendering to the effects of the drug. Burke gets up, joins Kira and Galen in a conference in a corner of the room.

BURKE

He's in bad shape. We can't delay that operation anymore.

KIRA

We may not be able to operate.

BURKE

What are you talking about?

KIRA

That seizure, I've seen it many times in gunshot cases. The bullet may have migrated into a region of dense blood vessels. If we go into that area, it's almost certain to touch off a massive internal bleeding...and in his condition, he couldn't survive a heavy loss of blood.

BURKE

We could transfuse blood during surgery. There are enough humans here to come up with some donors.

KIRA

(impatiently)

Blood transfer is impossible. We tried it once, a few years ago.

GALEN

On apes?

KIRA

On humans. We wouldn't consider trying such a radical procedure without testing it on animals first.

BURKE

What happened?

KIRA

The patient suffered a severe reaction and died within minutes of the blood transfer. Leander concluded that transferring blood from one being to another was against the laws of nature.

BURKE

You must have tried the transfusion with a mismatched donor. There's a simple blood test we can do to find a compatible donor; we're bound to find one among all the humans here.

KIRA

What will you tell them? You said yourself that Travin is getting suspicious.

BURKE

Don't worry. I'll handle Travin.

GALEN

How?

BURKE

We have something in common. We hate each other.

INT. HUMANS' QUARTERS - MAIN ROOM - CLOSE SHOT - 46  
DAY

of Travin, brooding, glowering at what he sees o.s. CAMERA HOLDS for a beat -- then PULLS BACK SLOWLY and PANS across a line of humans, the last of them holding his hand out so that Burke, under Dr. Galen's nominal supervision, can take a sample of his blood. When he is done, Burke says to Travin:

BURKE

We've got eleven samples. I was told there are twelve humans here.

TRAVIN

(cold, hostile)  
There are only eleven.

BURKE

(remembering)  
Where's the girl?

TRAVIN

She is not a person!

BURKE

I think you'd better get her.

Cont.

Before Travin can respond, Galen says:

GALEN

One moment.

(takes Burke aside)

It could be dangerous to tamper  
with these people's taboos.  
Do we really need the girl?

BURKE

We might; Virdon's blood type  
is AB negative. Statistically,  
there's about one chance in ten  
of finding a compatible donor.

GALEN

(turns to Travin)

Where is the girl?

TRAVIN

By the well.

Galen nods to Burke, who EXITS. Travin watches him go, then asks Galen:

TRAVIN

These blood samples: is it  
permissible to ask what they're  
for?

GALEN

It is not permissible.

Travin nods, acquiescent...but when Galen turns away, we see that Travin's look of suspicion is beginning to be directed toward Galen.

EXT. COURTYARD - DAY

47

The courtyard is empty as Burke crosses it, except for the single figure of the Girl seated by the wall. Burke goes up to her. He smiles, says:

BURKE

Hello.

She looks up, startled, then reacts, turning away in reflexive fear.

BURKE

Don't be afraid. I just want to  
talk to you.

Cont.

GIRL

No one may speak to me except  
through my father.

BURKE

Your father said it's all right.  
I need you to help me.

GIRL

What kind of help can I give you?

BURKE

We're running a medical test:  
It's an experiment Dr. Adrian is  
conducting. He wants a sample  
of everyone's blood.

GIRL

(fearful)

What for?

BURKE

Just to help in some lab work.  
It's nothing to worry about.  
Please...trust me.

She looks at him, torn between her fear and her feeling for  
this one person who has been kind to her. After a long  
moment, she says:

GIRL

I trust you.

INT. LAB - CLOSE SHOT - DAY

48

of a drop of blood on a small piece of clay. A hand reaches  
INTO THE SHOT to squeeze a liquid substance on the blood;  
the blood changes to indicate a noncompatible reaction.

(NOTE: DETAILS ON BLOOD TESTING WILL BE PROVIDED.)

CAMERA PULLS BACK TO REVEAL Burke, holding the plate,  
turning to Galen:

BURKE

No good; it's O-Positive. That  
gives us just two compatible donors,  
an AB-Negative and an O-Negative.

GALEN

Who?

BURKE

(hesitant)

One of them's that guy I clobbered,  
Lafer. Let's hope his blood is in  
better shape than his brain.

INT. LAB - CLOSE SHOT - DAY

of a pale, sick-looking Lafer sitting in a chair, being examined by Kira. Burke and Galen are waiting. After a beat, Kira turns from Lafer and goes up to Burke and Galen.

KIRA

He has a fever.

BURKE

That means we can't transfuse his blood.

GALEN

You said there was another eligible donor.

Burke hesitates, then says:

BURKE

I'll get her.

EXT. COURTYARD - CLOSE SHOT - DAY

of the Girl, in a panic:

GIRL

You want me to give him my blood?

FULL SHOT

to INCLUDE Burke, pleading with her:

BURKE

The procedure is safe. And you may help save his life.

GIRL

(hysterical)

No! I'll kill him! The curse will kill me too. It'll kill all of us!

She bolts and runs to the exit of the courtyard. Burke, alarmed, runs after her.

ANOTHER ANGLE

on Lafer who has come out of the Humans' Quarters. Now Travin emerges from his quarters.

LAFER

The Girl ran away. The stranger wanted to take her blood.

CAMERA ZOOMS TO:

CLOSE SHOT

of Travin reacting with a terror that seems to go far beyond what is on the surface. In a trembling voice:

TRAVIN

No...no...it mustn't happen.

EXT. CENTRAL CITY STREET (OR: ANY AREA OUTSIDE THE CENTER, DEPENDING WHERE CENTER IS LOCATED IN RELATION TO THE CITY) - DAY 54

The Girl running. Burke comes into view in pursuit. He catches her. She struggles, cries hysterically. Burke tries to calm her down.

BURKE

Please, listen to me.

GIRL

No! My blood is evil. I'll kill him. Please, please.

(collapses,  
starts to cry)

I don't want to kill again.

BURKE

(puzzled)

Again?

Before she can respond, Travin's VOICE, from o.s.:

TRAVIN'S VOICE

(o.s.)

She's a murderer.

ANGLE WIDENS TO INCLUDE Travin, Lafer and several other men. Travin turns to the Girl:

TRAVIN

Tell him.

GIRL

No. Please.

TRAVIN

Tell him!

A long silence. Then the Girl says, sobbing, in tears, telling her story:

GIRL

My brother. I murdered him.

CLOSE SHOT - BURKE

reacting.

INT. HUMANS' QUARTERS - CLOSE SHOT - DAY

of Travin, saying in a voice filled with pain:

TRAVIN

He was sixteen. My only son.

CAMERA PULLS BACK TO INCLUDE Burke and the Girl, who is seated on the floor, in tears.

TRAVIN

There was a hunting accident. They brought him back to the Center. The doctors were doing experiments with blood transfer... it was the only time they ever tried such a thing. I told them they could use my son in the experiment.

(hastily)

I wasn't putting his life in danger. He was dying. This was a way to save him.

BURKE

What happened?

TRAVIN

My daughter gave him her blood. The boy died. The doctors said her blood was no good...no good!

(in anguish)

My only son...she killed him with her evil blood!

BURKE

Listen to me: her blood wasn't evil. The blood was incompatible, it was of a different chemical type, that's why your son died. The transfusion should never have been tried.

TRAVIN

Are you saying I killed my son? I was trying to save him! She killed him. If she gives your friend her blood, he'll die just like my son!

Cont.

BURKE

You're not worried he might die.  
You're worried he might live,  
aren't you?

Travin stares at Burke, stunned by his accusation, as Burke continues:

BURKE

Dr. Kira told me the doctors  
had their doubts about the blood  
transfer experiment. They were  
afraid to try it, even on humans.  
But Dr. Kira says you insisted.

TRAVIN

To save my son!

BURKE

Was that the only reason? Or  
were you trying to get in good  
graces with the apes -- so they'd  
reward you, promote you...

TRAVIN

(in tears)

My son was dying! There was no  
other way to save him.

BURKE

You'll never know for sure. All  
you know is, your way failed --  
and the guilt's been tearing you  
apart ever since. So you made up  
this story about a curse -- and  
came to believe it yourself.  
It was easier to believe she was  
cursed than that you had killed  
your only son.

TRAVIN

No! No!

(to the Girl)

Don't listen to him. If you give  
him your blood, you'll spread the  
curse. The people will kill you!

She looks at him, with new understanding beginning to dawn  
on her. Quietly:

GIRL

(in despair)

What would they be taking from  
me by killing me? I died long ago.

He looks at her, unable to respond to the simple truth of her words. He turns, angry, frustrated, and rushes OUT of the room. Burke takes the Girl's hand; she holds onto it tightly.

INT. OPERATING ROOM - CLOSE SHOT - DAY

57

of Virdon on the operating table. CAMERA PULLS BACK SLOWLY TO INCLUDE Kira, Galen and Burke, getting set to operate. The Girl is lying on an operating table close by, ready to transfuse blood if needed, through a simple gravity-type transfusion apparatus. The medical book is propped up where Burke can have easy access to it. Various instruments are set out on an adjacent table. Burke turns to Kira:

BURKE

Do you have any cloth masks?

KIRA

(puzzled)

Yes...we use them for going into the room of the dead. But what do we need them for?

BURKE

It's a long story...it has to do with keeping the operating room as clean as possible.

KIRA

We already scrubbed our hands with soap and alcohol, as you instructed. However, if you think it's necessary...

She goes to a cabinet, takes out some cloth masks, puts one on, gives the others to Burke and Galen. Burke puts his on, turns to Virdon.

BURKE

Dr. Kira says we're going to use a liquid anesthetic -- just breathe naturally through the cloth. You won't feel a thing.

VIRDON

At least until I get the bill.

Burke smiles, nods to Galen, who takes the chloroform-soaked towel from an enclosed container and lays it across Virdon's face. Virdon breathes deeply several times. Then he is asleep.

INT. CORRIDOR - NIGHT

Leander comes down the corridor. Dr. Stole comes up from the opposite direction. Leander stops him.

LEANDER

Dr. Stole. Do you know where  
Dr. Kira is?

STOLE

Yes, sir. She's in surgery.

LEANDER

Surgery? We don't have any  
surgery scheduled tonight.

STOLE

It was just posted, Doctor.

LEANDER

Who's the patient?

STOLE

Dr. Adrian's orderly.

INT. OPERATING ROOM - NIGHT

The operating team grouped around the table waiting to begin. Burke checks Viridon's pulse, then says:

BURKE

Pulse and respiration normal.  
(to Kira)  
You can begin, Doctor.

KIRA

(who has been  
uptight throughout)  
What if there are complications?

BURKE

I've got the book right here.

Kira picks up a scalpel; but before she can begin, a  
VOICE o.s.:

LEANDER'S VOICE

(o.s.)  
Kira.

Kira freezes; then with the others looks up to see Leander at the door.

Cont.

LEANDER

Why didn't you tell me you were operating?

GALEN

My fault, Doctor. I was supposed to notify you.

LEANDER

What kind of operation is this?

KIRA

A bullet wound. The nerve system may be affected.

LEANDER

How did the human get a bullet wound?

GALEN

My colleagues and I were hunting. My orderly was retrieving the game, he was shot by accident. Dr. Kira is going to try a new experimental surgical technique. If it works, it can then be applied to apes.

LEANDER

(noticing the Girl  
on the table)

The Girl, why is she here?

(seeing the  
transfusion apparatus)

You're not planning a blood transfer?

KIRA

There could be extensive bleeding.

LEANDER

But we tried a blood transfer once, it didn't work.

GALEN

We're trying a new process. I've been working on it at my clinic.

Leander looks at him, torn between scientific curiosity and a sense that things are not quite right. Then, in an ironic tone:

LEANDER

In that case, Doctor, we may be on the threshold of a breakthrough in medicine. May I join you?

They freeze, at this unexpected and dangerous prospect. Then Galen says, handing him one of the masks:

GALEN

Our pleasure, Doctor. Would you mind wearing this mask? We've found it useful in protecting us from the vapors.

Leander looks at him suspiciously -- then takes the mask.

LEANDER

You practice a fascinating kind of medicine, Dr. Adrian. I'm quite eager to watch you in action.

CAMERA HOLDS ON Galen's reaction and we:

FADE OUT

END OF ACT THREE

ACT FOUR

FADE IN

INT. OPERATING ROOM - NIGHT

60

The team is grouped around the table, working under extreme pressure, not only because of the danger inherent in the surgery, but because of Leander's ominous presence. Kira, who is doing most of the work, flashes a look toward the surgery book -- but it is on Burke's side of the table, Burke blocking it with his body from Leander's view. Leander peers over, says to Galen:

LEANDER

Better put a clamp on that bleeding vessel, Doctor.

Galen freezes: how does he do that? Burke hands him the clamp: What the hell does he do with it? Then he gets a brainstorm, hands Leander the clamp.

GALEN

It's rare that a country doctor like me gets a chance to see a surgeon in action. I'd like to watch you do it.

LEANDER

It's just some minor bleeding, Doctor. However...

He takes the clamp bleeder and applies it -- Galen relaxes for a moment -- but then:

KIRA

The bullet -- I can't reach it. It's trapped between the nerve cluster and a large blood vessel.

Leander takes a look, then says, shaking his head, with cool detachment:

LEANDER

There's no way of removing that. You'd better close up.

But Burke, who has been dreading this moment, turns to the book, then says in a steady voice:

BURKE

Make a second incision, about three inches below the first. We'll try to get at the bullet from below the entry point.

Cont.

LEANDER

(shocked)  
What is he saying?  
(to Galen)  
Who is he?

GALEN

(steadily)  
My orderly.

LEANDER

An orderly giving instructions  
to Dr. Kira?

He pushes past Burke -- and sees the book. All action in the O.R. stops as Leander picks up the book. Leander stares at the book; then slowly, deliberately sets it down, and says in a calm voice:

LEANDER

It's obvious you have things  
well in hand, doctors. I think  
I can return to my other duties.

He starts to move for the door. Galen bars his way.

GALEN

You'd better stay.

Leander looks down, the CAMERA TILTING with him to the scalpel in Galen's hand. Leander stares at it, turns slowly to Kira:

LEANDER

Did he force you to do this?

Silence. Then Kira says the fateful words:

KIRA

No.

LEANDER

Why, then?

KIRA

Because I'm a doctor. And I  
have no right to reject the truth.

LEANDER

(enraged)  
The truth! That book is not truth!  
That book is treason! That book is  
madness!

Cont.

KIRA

(quietly)  
That book exists. To deny what  
exists is madness.

(turns to Burke)  
Scalpel.

Burke hands her the instrument.

INT. ZAIUS' HOUSE - CLOSE SHOT - NIGHT

61

of the opened cabinet, the CAMERA CLOSE on the bookshelf. The space where the medical book was taken has been pushed together so that no sign is apparent of a missing book. CAMERA PULLS BACK TO REVEAL Urko, studying the bookshelf... then FURTHER to REVEAL Zaius at the other end of the room, as Urko says:

URKO

So a burglar breaks into your study, ignores valuable objects of art, and makes off into the night with a piece of unfinished sculpture worth, according to you, about the price of a loaf of old bread.

ZAIUS

(shrugs)

All critics are not thieves. We may conclude that all thieves are not critics.

URKO

I admire your humor, Minister. But don't you think this is a serious matter?

ZAIUS

Not serious enough to keep us from our business. Had I been there instead of at a Council meeting, I would not have thought it necessary to call the police over a minor burglary.

URKO

In my opinion, Minister, no crime is minor. Is there a key to that cabinet?

ZAIUS

Why?

Cont.

URKO

Call it intellectual curiosity.  
Even a brutish policeman is  
entitled to expand the potential  
of his limited mind.

Zaius stares at him. Then he goes to the drawer, takes out a key, hands it to Urko. Urko opens the cabinet. He scans the row of books. Then he notices a place where the dust has been disturbed. He takes his hand, moves the books to the left and the right, exposing a place that fits the width of a full-sized book. Urko turns to Zaius.

URKO

An impressive collection. Impressive  
and dangerous. You should have burned  
them as I warned you.

ZAIUS

One day these books will serve us.

URKO

They will enslave us! And the  
process has begun. Your burglar,  
it seems, is a more clever critic  
than we supposed. One of your  
volumes is missing. What does our  
burglar have? A text on human  
politics? A manual of war?

ZAIUS

A book of surgery.

URKO

You knew it all along, didn't you?  
When will you trust me, Minister?  
We can't afford to play games when  
our civilization may be in danger.

ZAIUS

I agree about the danger. I don't  
agree on hysteria as a means of  
dealing with it. Is there anything  
else?

Urko looks at him, then says, quietly, his own plan forming  
in his mind:

URKO

No, Minister. You've given me  
all the information I need.

And on that cryptic, ominous note, he turns and EXITS.

INT. OPERATING ROOM - CLOSE SHOT - NIGHT

62

of the transfusion bottle, half-full and emptying through a tube in the direction of the surgical table: the CAMERA PANS along the tube to Virdon, receiving the transfusion. CAMERA PULLS BACK TO INCLUDE the operating team, Kira working with Burke's assistance, Galen guarding Leander, who is looking on with detached interest. After a beat:

LEANDER

Quite fascinating. The blood transfer seems to be working.

Girl, who is lying tense and still, relaxes with a sigh of relief.

BURKE

Maybe you'll change your mind about us backward humans.

LEANDER

On the contrary: this whole exercise demonstrates the low level of your intelligence. Even if your friend lives, he can only hinder your escape. You would have done better to let him die in the forest.

BURKE

But then we would have never met you.

LEANDER

(laughs)

You show remarkable calmness under pressure. If I shut my eyes, I'd almost think you were an ape.

BURKE

(grins)

Doc, you've made my whole day!

Then suddenly:

CLOSE SHOT - THE RESPIRATORY BLADDER

63

It is an animal skin bag -- it expands, contracts -- then stops.

ANGLE FAVORING GALEN

64

who notices it first:

GALEN

Kira!

Cont.

Kira and Burke both look up, see the unmoving bladder. Burke feels for Virдон's pulse.

BURKE

I can't get any pulse.

GIRL

I killed him!

GALEN

Don't be silly!

At that, Leander speaks up:

LEANDER

The anesthesia must have affected his heart.

(pointing)

There's a stimulant in the cabinet.

Burke stares at him. Leander says, with impatient sarcasm:

LEANDER

What's the matter? Don't you trust an ape surgeon? Or are you waiting for verification from the great Dr. Mather?

Burke turns, goes to the cabinet, gets out the bottle of medicine Kira has pointed to. Leander takes the jar, pours some of the medicine onto a rag, and, forcing Virдон's mouth open, squeezes some of the medicine down his throat. A long, tense silence. Then the bladder resumes its expansion and contraction. A moment later:

BURKE

We're getting a pulse again.

Galen and Burke both relax. As Kira continues to work, Burke turns to Leander:

BURKE

Thank you, Doctor.

LEANDER

(shrugs)

I don't like patients dying in my operating room. It's bad for morale.

ANGLE FAVORING KIRA

who has been working through all this and who now says:

KIRA

There it is. The bullet.

She reaches for the bullet -- then withdraws it.

INSERT - THE BULLET

held tightly in the tweezers in Kira's hand.

BACK TO SCENE

Kira, triumphantly, to Burke:

KIRA

Let's close up.

They resume work.

CLOSE SHOT - THE TRANSFUSION BOTTLE

nearly empty, the last of it flowing into the tube.

EXT. MEDICAL CENTER GATES - NIGHT

For a moment, no sound, nobody stirring. Then, o.s., the sound of HORSES' HOOVES. Travin emerges from the lighted humans' quarters carrying a lantern to investigate. The next moment, a squad of mounted armed Gorillas, led by Urko, pulls up at the gates.

URKO

Open the gate!

Travin rushes up, opens the gate, falls back in fear as the Gorillas ENTER.

URKO

We're looking for two humans and a renegade ape. One of the humans was wounded. We think they came to one of the hospitals for help. Have any strangers come here in the last two days?

TRAVIN

(evasive)

We see many people all the time.

URKO

These people are traitors. The penalty for helping them is death.

Cont.

Travin looks at him, torn, in conflict. Then, in a quiet, tormented voice, a man whose sense of certainty and authority have both been shattered:

TRAVIN

I haven't seen them.

Then, from o.s.:

LAFER

(o.s.)  
He's lying!

ANGLE WIDENS TO INCLUDE Lafer, who rushes up to the Gorillas and says, pointing accusingly to Travin:

LAFER

They're here, in the hospital.

Lafer reaches into a pocket, takes out the compass which Travin had gotten from Virдон and shows it to Urko.

LAFER

I found this among Travin's things. He got it from the stranger. And his own daughter is helping them!

URKO

(to Travin)  
Your daughter helps them? She can die with them.

TRAVIN

No!

He grabs at the reins of Urko's horse. One of the guards knocks him aside with the butt of his gun. The Gorillas race into the courtyard.

INT. OPERATING ROOM - DAY

70

The operation is over. Kira is dismantling the transfusion apparatus as Kira is checking Virдон's condition. The Girl looks at Virдон, and asks Burke, anxiously:

GIRL

Is he dead?

BURKE

Just sleeping. He'll live, thanks to you. The curse is gone.

ANGLE ON LEANDER

71

who is standing at the window, still covered by Galen:

LEANDER

Not quite.

Burke, Galen and Kira react.

EXT. COURTYARD - P.O.V. SHOT - THROUGH WINDOW OF OPERATING ROOM - DAY 72

The Gorillas are fanning out across the compound.

INT. OPERATING ROOM - DAY 73

Leander turns to the others:

LEANDER

You came here to use our operating room. Perhaps the room of the dead would have been more appropriate.

INT. CORRIDOR - DAY 74

Urko and two other Gorillas headed down the corridor, TOWARD CAMERA, their guns drawn. Leander and Kira come around the corridor, as the Gorillas charge up to them.

URKO

We're looking for fugitives -- two humans and a chimpanzee. We understand they're here.

LEANDER

Was one of the humans wounded?

URKO

Yes. Where are they?

LEANDER

I don't know.

URKO

What do you mean?

LEANDER

They're gone. And I'd suggest you go too, as quickly as possible.

URKO

Are you giving me orders?

LEANDER

Not orders. Just a medical warning.

He turns and looks o.s. to:

P.O.V. SHOT

75

The room across the corridor, with a flag over the door, showing a white skull on a red background, with an "X" over the skull.

BACK TO SCENE

76

Leander turns to Urko:

LEANDER

The room of the dead -- our busiest room, since the coming of the plague.

URKO

(recoiling in horror)  
Plague?

LEANDER

The Black Death. Seven cases in the last few days. When the strangers learned of it, they fled. Of course, if your duty compels you to search the hospital...

Urko stares at him as if at the face of death, then turns and flees down the corridor, his aide accompanying him.

INT. MORGUE - TIGHT SHOT - DAY

77

Galen and the Girl crouched along the wall of the morgue. Viridon on the table in b.g., being tended to by Burke. Galen peeks out through the small window in the doorway; as the Gorillas retreat down the corridor, he reacts with visible relief.

INT. CORRIDOR - DAY

78

Kira takes Leander's arm, the CAMERA FOLLOWING them down the corridor:

KIRA

Why did you help them?

LEANDER

I was afraid you'd be taken in along with them -- and we have a date for tonight.

(then with a grin)

Besides, if the police had arrested them, they might have found this.

And he reaches beneath his tunic and pulls out the surgical manual. Kira breaks into a big smile. Leander tucks the book under his arm and he and Kira continue on down the corridor.

EXT. COUNTRYSIDE - DAY

Burke, Galen, Virdon, Travin, and the Girl on a mountain path, Virdon ambulatory, though still weak and limping on his injured leg. Then, they stop and Travin points off to the distance:

TRAVIN

This path will take you over the mountains.

BURKE

I still think you'd be safer coming with us.

TRAVIN

No. My people need me. You've shown me the truth. Now I must share it with them.

VIRDON

You will be in danger.

TRAVIN

The police won't be back for a long while. When they do come, Dr. Leander and Dr. Kira will protect us, thanks to you.

VIRDON

I'm the one who has to say thanks.

TRAVIN

(sadly)

Not to me. In my ignorance and cowardice, I almost killed you. My daughter was wiser and braver than any of us.

Virdon turns to the Girl and says:

VIRDON

I shouldn't leave without knowing the name of the girl who saved my life.

The Girl hesitates, looking at her father. Her father nods. The Girl smiles, says to Virdon:

GIRL

It's just an ordinary name...  
Prunella Alexandrina.

VIRDON

Now that was worth waiting for!

They shake hands all around. Then Travin and the Girl head back down the trail and our heroes go on to their next adventure.

FADE OUT

THE END