

PLANET OF THE APES

"THE TYRANT"

Written
by
Walter Black

2ND REVISED FINAL
October 23, 1974

CAST LIST

GALEN

PETE BURKE

ALAN VIRDON

URKO

JANOR (HUMAN)

MIKAL (HUMAN)

ABORO (GORILLA)

DAKU (GORILLA)

PREFECT AUGUSTUS (CHIMP)

SERGEANT (GORILLA)

GOLA (HUMAN)

SAM (HUMAN)

DRIVER (GORILLA)

FEENA (GORILLA)

Troopers, Gorilla Guards, etc.

SET LIST

INTERIORS:

BARN
ABORO'S HEADQUARTERS
PREFECT'S OUTER OFFICE
PREFECT'S INNER OFFICE
URKO'S TENT

EXTERIORS:

BARN
VARIOUS FOREST CLEARINGS
COUNTRYSIDE (VARIOUS AREAS)
FOREST AND GRASSY LANE
MAIN ROAD AREA
URKO'S CAMPSITE AND TENT
ASTRONAUTS' CAMPSITE
GRAVESITE
VILLAGE OF HATHOR
PREFECT'S BUILDING (IN VILLAGE)
COUNTRY ROAD

"THE TYRANT"

ACT ONE

FADE IN

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

EXT. COUNTRYSIDE #1 - DAY 1

Down the rutted road first appears a horseman -- CAMERA ZOOMING IN to reveal LIEUTENANT DAKU, Gorilla Aide-de-Camp to District Chief Aboro. He wears the same leather uniform worn by all Troopers, save for the insignia of his rank. He reins in his horse, turns around, waves -- ANGLE WIDENING QUICKLY as an open wagon (buckboard style), pulled by one horse, appears from around the curve in the road. The wagon is driven by a GORILLA TROOPER with a Second Trooper sitting beside him.

ANOTHER ANGLE 2

showing the fork in the rutted road ahead. Daku takes the right fork and the wagon follows him. CAMERA HOLDS, showing us the back of the open wagon over half-full of plump sacks of what appears to be grain.

EXT. MIKAL'S BARN - DAY 3

In front of the barn, VIRDON, BURKE and GALEN are all helping their human friends, MIKAL and JANOR. While Janor and Mikal are shoveling grain from a large pile into gunnysacks, our trio is closing and tying the filled sacks and stacking them onto a growing pile.

Janor, the older brother, is large and extremely muscular, but like so many large men, is not easily roused and is usually quiet and -- to those who don't know him -- docile appearing. Janor walks with a slight limp -- the results of an injury sustained years before.

On the other hand, his younger brother Mikal, is smaller (but no less fit), more fiery -- in outward appearance the direct antithesis of Janor.

Galen, looking o.s., reacts to something.

GALEN

(sensing)

Pete -- Alan...

They look o.s. to:

LONG P.O.V. SHOT - DAKU

4

riding ahead of wagon with two Gorillas on the seat.

ANOTHER ANGLE - TO INCLUDE JANOR, MIKAL AND
GALEN

5

JANOR

(turning to our trio)

The barn!

Our trio makes for the barn's interior and DISAPPEARS inside. Mikal and Janor make no further pretense of working, turning to face the oncoming wagon, ANGLE WIDENING as Daku rides up, stopping his horse only inches away from the brothers, sitting above them, regarding them with scant favor. He consults a list in his hands.

DAKU

The farm of Janor and Mikal.

He checks off the name and turns to the Gorilla who has alighted from the wagon behind him.

DAKU

Load the grain.

DRIVER

Yes, Daku!

MIKAL

Our grain tax was paid last month!

The Trooper pushes him roughly out of the way and throws sacks of grain into the wagon.

DAKU

The tax has been raised!

JANOR

You'll leave us with nothing.

DAKU

(indicating)

Sweep up what's left on the ground.
You can use it as seed for next
year's crop.

Daku turns his horse so Janor is forced to move away but otherwise ignores him.

DAKU

(to Trooper)

We don't have all day. I'm meeting
the caravan at Hather at sundown.

ANGLE SHOOTING PAST VIRDON, BURKE AND GALEN

CAMERA ANGLES DOWN to where they are lying full length on the flooring of the barn loft, peering out a partially boarded up window onto the scene below. They watch Mikal step forward to attempt to wrest a filled sack from the grasp of the Gorilla Driver. At this, Daku -- from his place on his horse, simply takes his rifle butt and slams it into Mikal's side, knocking him down. Janor makes a move forward but freezes as both Gorilla Troopers' rifles come up. Burke half rises from his place of concealment, only to be restrained by Galen.

GALEN

(whisper)

This is no time to be a hero, Pete!

EXT. BARN

Mikal has struggled to his feet. No great point is made of it, but the back of Mikal's shirt has been ripped. This can be seen by Daku.

DAKU

(to Mikal)

I could have you both shot for attacking a Trooper.

(to his Troopers)

Hurry it up!

DRIVER

All finished!

He tosses the last of the sacks into the wagon, leaving behind only a scattering of loose grain. He leaps onto the wagon seat, picking up the reins. Daku checks a list.

DAKU

Next is the Darog farm. Move out.

He wheels his horse, cantering o.s.

ANOTHER ANGLE

As Virdon, Burke and Galen hurry from the barn to join Mikal and Janor in eyeing the scattered bits of grain which remain strewn upon the ground. Mikal and Janor are stunned by their loss; the trio is empathetic.

VIRDON

I'm sorry, Janor. I wish we could have helped.

Cont.

MIKAL

No one can help.

BURKE

Has that Gorilla got a grudge
against you in particular?

JANOR

No. It's the same throughout
the District.

MIKAL

Aboro takes what he wants from
everyone.

GALEN

Aboro -- the Gorilla on horseback?

JANOR

That was Daku, his Lieutenant.
Aboro is District Chief.

Janor has begun to gather up the bits of grain.

VIRDON

If that grain wagon was hi-jacked
somewhere out in the boondocks,
no one would connect it with
Janor or Mikal...

BURKE

And we know where they're heading.
That Gorilla said he was meeting
a caravan at sundown in Hathor.

MIKAL

You're going to steal back the
grain!

GALEN

The less you know, the better.
For you.

JANOR

It is too dangerous.

GALEN

Of course it is. I agree with you
completely. And I'll be overruled,
completely.

Cont.

MIKAL

I know where you can do it. Not when they meet the caravan. That's too well guarded. It brings gold from the mine. But there is a forest between here and Darog's farm...

BURKE

Which direction?

MIKAL

I will take you.

VIRDON

Stay out of this. If a human is involved, there'll be reprisals.

MIKAL

It's our fight.

BURKE

Look, Mikal, there's no shortage of fights. If you miss this one, you'll have a shot at the next one. We just want to get the grain back without suspicion landing on you.

JANOR

But you may be recognized.

VIRDON

We want to be recognized. We want the Gorillas to know who did it. That way they'll be searching for strangers with a stolen wagon.

BURKE

And we're leaving the district anyway. So we'll be gone before they can do anything. Now that makes sense, doesn't it?

GALEN

You might as well say yes. They are very stubborn.

MIKAL

If you're going, then I --

JANOR

(overrides)

He says yes.

Cont.

MIKAL

I'll show you the short cut to the forest.

BURKE

No...Just tell us which way to go.

MIKAL

Over that hill, then swing right. There's a path...

Viridon pats Mikal on the back, there are silent farewells and the trio sets out.

EXT. FOREST - DAY

9

Viridon stands, a coiled rope in his hand, alongside the grassy lane winding its way through the forest. He is looking o.s. -- as are Burke and Galen, half-hidden by a big tree. Suddenly Galen stiffens, as he hears SOMETHING RUNNING o.s.

GALEN

Someone's coming!

He gestures and then disappears along with Burke. Viridon steps quickly behind a large tree. There is a beat -- then, into the clearing appears Mikal! Panting from his running, he stops, looking around -- whirling in near panic as Viridon reappears.

VIRDON

Mikal! What're you doing here?

MIKAL

Joining you!

BURKE

(above him, also reappearing suddenly)

No way, man! We've been through all that.

GALEN

(entering)

Does Janor know you're here?

MIKAL

(shaking his head)

I told him I was going into the village.

Cont.

GALEN

He won't like it.

MIKAL

Janor is a coward.

VIRDON

No. What he does he does to protect you.

MIKAL

I don't want that! I don't want to bow and scrape to Gorillas, I don't want just enough food to stay alive, I won't be nothing!

GALEN

Shhh!

All freeze. SOUND OF WAGON APPROACHING. Virdon pulls a piece of cloth -- a handkerchief or type of scarf -- from his bag and shoves it at Mikal.

VIRDON

Cover your face if you won't stay out of sight!

Mikal grabs the cloth, puts it over the lower half of his face. Virdon gestures for Mikal to occupy a particular position in the ambush-to-be. All four take concealed places, waiting for the wagon. The rope is strung, ready to be made taut and sweep the Troopers off their seat on the wagon, one to the ground and the other to fall against the grain in the back. Wagon rolls INTO FRAME preceded by the mounted Daku. He passes the point where Galen and Virdon are holding the rope. At the instant the wagon is in position, the rope is pulled tight with the expected result. Simultaneously, Burke drops from a limb and knocks Daku from his horse. While Daku scrambles on the ground, Mikal, wearing the mask, is grabbing Daku's rifle from the scabbard on his saddle, Virdon is grabbing the Troopers' rifles from the wagon to which he has dropped and Galen is remaining in concealment. Virdon holds a rifle on the Troopers while Mikal covers Daku. Virdon kicks the Trooper who's fallen back into the wagon, to the ground. In the course of the fight, the Gorillas are knocked out. Virdon, Burke and Mikal trot off in direction taken by Galen in the wagon. Daku comes to and manages to turn his head to look after them.

P.O.V. SHOT - VIRDON, BURKE AND MIKAL

10

running away at a trot. CAMERA ZOOMS IN to HOLD on Mikal. The rip in his shirt is very prominent and a clear identification.

ANGLE ON DAKU 11

He's made identification and he relaxes.

EXT. ANOTHER CLEARING 12

Viridon, Burke and Galen catch up with Galen on the wagon.
They hop aboard.

INT. ABORO'S HEADQUARTERS - CLOSE ON ABORO - DAY 13

He wears the epaulets of his rank.

ABORO
(deceptively soft)
So...three armed Troopers -- one of
them my own aide -- allow three humans --

It is impossible to describe the contempt he puts into
that one word.

ABORO
-- Three unarmed humans to overpower
them.

His voice is growing gradually, steadily deeper, angrier.
ANGLE WIDENS to show Daku standing in front of him at
attention. Aboro's soft-spoken contemptuous fury is awesome.
Daku is scared.

ABORO
Further, the humans are allowed to
steal a wagonload of grain I promised
would be delivered to the caravan.

DAKU
(quaking)
I explained, Aboro -- they surprised us...

ABORO
(quietly)
I'm considering another surprise for
you. I may have you taken out and shot.
(sudden rage)
Why does everything go wrong? I'll
tell you why...Because I have fools
working for me!

DAKU
Please -- nothing will be lost by what
happened. I'll go after Mikal -- he'll
tell me where the grain is. He'll tell
me who the strangers were. And when
I find them -- !

ABORO
If you find them, you'll probably let them
slip through your fingers. No. I will
deal with Mikal. There is more than grain
at stake now. Humans have attacked apes.
That's never before happened in my District.
I don't intend that it happen again...

INT. JANOR AND MIKAL'S BARN - DAY

14

Janor is transferring the bits of grain he has collected into a container, separating dirt, leaves and chaff. Mikal is with him, still breathless.

MIKAL

You don't have to save those scraps, Janor. Our grain and all the rest that Daku collected is safe in the cave by the stream.

Janor is struggling to believe that humans could actually overcome Gorillas.

JANOR

Humans attacked Gorillas, took their wagon, even their weapons?

MIKAL

I did -- with the other three, I took the grain, I -- you'll see for yourself. And you'll see the rifles. They're in the cave, too.

JANOR

I wonder if I've been wrong -- .

MIKAL

How?

JANOR

I haven't fought the Apes. I didn't think it was possible.

SOUND OF O.S. HOOFBEATS APPROACHING. Some concern from Janor and Mikal. They start o.s.

EXT. MIKAL AND JANOR'S BARN - DAY

15

The two humans move outside to be greeted by the sight of Aboro and his crew riding down on them, guns drawn. Aboro and Daku rein up; three Gorilla Troopers dismount, covering the humans with their rifles. One Gorilla goes in to search the barn.

JANOR

Your troops already have all our grain, Aboro.

ABORO

Were you with your brother and the other two humans?

No reply.

Cont.

ABORO

Someone Daku could not see drove the wagon off. Was it you?

JANOR

I don't know what you're talking about. I haven't been away from the farm today.

DAKU

Have you been on the farm all day, too, Mikal?

MIKAL

You've taken all we have. What more do you want?

Daku reaches down to grab Mikal and swing him around. The ripped shirt is revealed. Daku points it out to Aboro, who nods. Aboro has been concentrating on Janor. He signals for a Gorilla to grab Janor and go to work on him. The Gorilla twists Janor's arm behind his back.

ABORO

Who were the other two humans and where is the grain?

Janor remains silent. Mikal shrinks in empathetic pain.

DAKU

(of Mikal)

This one may be less stubborn.

ABORO

(icily)

I don't need instruction in how to make a human talk, Daku.

(to Janor)

You are the older human here. You are responsible. You'll talk. You'll tell me what I want to know.

JANOR

I told you the truth. I have not left the farm today.

Aboro signals for another Gorilla to come forward and assist the first. What they intend is not clear although it is surely some form of torture.

MIKAL

No. He was not there.

Cont.

Gorillas pause and Aboro turns his head toward Mikal.

MIKAL

The grain is in the cave by the stream.

(to Janor)

You should not pay for what I did.

JANOR

Mikal --

ABORO

(of Janor, overriding)

Kill him.

MIKAL

Why? I told you...

ABORO

For lying.

(to Gorilla)

Shoot him.

Gorilla Trooper raises rifle to level it at Janor. At this instant, Mikal leaps forward to bowl over the Gorilla holding Janor.

MIKAL

Run, Janor!

As Janor takes off towards the woods, the Second Trooper brings his rifle up to aim at Mikal. Mikal wrenches the weapon from the Gorilla's grasp -- a shot going astray, the SOUND causing Aboro and Daku's horses to rear. Mikal belts Second Trooper with the rifle stock, then flings it aside, and takes off following Janor.

ANOTHER ANGLE

16

The SOUND of the action brings the First Trooper searching the barn. He spots Mikal running, takes aim and fires. Mikal is hit, crumples, lies motionless.

ANGLE ON JANOR

17

racing for the woods. The SOUND of the shot causes him to turn about. The CAMERA ZOOMS IN as he realizes his younger brother has been shot.

JANOR

Mikal!

ANGLE ON ABORO

18

His rearing horse having steadied, Aboro raises his pistol, takes careful aim and FIRES.

ANOTHER ANGLE

19

Janor is hit -- spins and falls, obviously dead. Aboro holsters his weapon.

ABORO

Burn the farm. Maybe it will serve
as a lesson for other humans.

As the Troopers move toward the buildings -- CAMERA PANS to the lifeless bodies of Janor and Mikal, HOLDS, then SCREEN BLURS...finally CLEARING to:

ANOTHER ANGLE - SAME SCENE - LATER

20

The bodies lie where they were, but the buildings -- the barn and farm-hut and outbuilding, are but smoking ruins.

ANGLE ON VIRDON, BURKE AND GALEN

21

cautiously making their way to the farm. Virdon, in the lead, stops, holding out an arm to stop the others. He points.

Without a word, the three rush forward to the smoking ruins and the two bodies in the clearing.

BURKE

Oh, no --

ANOTHER ANGLE

22

as Virdon, Burke and Galen rush to the scene -- Virdon and Galen stopping by Janor, Burke moving to Mikal. Virdon kneels and examines Janor...a nasty wound creases his forehead. Janor groans, Virdon looking up at Galen:

VIRDON

He'll be all right.

ANOTHER GROAN and Janor attempts to sit up.

VIRDON

Don't try to sit up...

JANOR

(weak)
M-Mikal...

Virdon looks over to Burke beside Mikal's lifeless body. Burke, grim, shakes his head.

VIRDON

I'm sorry, Janor...

CAMERA MOVES IN for TIGHT SHOT of Janor and his reaction.

EXT. MIKAL'S GRAVESITE - ESTABLISHING SHOT - DAY 23

The grave has been dug, the body interred and the dirt and grass placed carefully back...but nothing, save the slight mound, marks the spot. Janor is on his knees at the grave's edge. Virdon, Burke and Galen stand behind him, eyes down-cast, hands folded in front of them...Janor wears a rude bandage over part of his temple. Janor speaks softly, with no apparent emotion. He's tightly controlled as he addresses the grave.

JANOR

I was wrong, Mikal...

BURKE

Don't blame yourself, Janor.

JANOR

(flat, cold)

I was wrong about not fighting Apes.

(rises)

Mikal died trying to save me. It won't end there.

GALEN

(reading Janor)

What do you mean to do?

JANOR

Kill Aboro.

VIRDON

That's suicide!

Janor doesn't reply.

BURKE

Cool off, man. You won't help Mikal by joining him.

JANOR

Not for Mikal, for me. So when I die, there'll be some meaning -- yes, some satisfaction.

VIRDON

The Apes will make an example of this district by wiping out every human.

Janor is unmoved.

GALEN

Janor, there must be another way to stop Aboro. There's a Prefect over him. Surely he doesn't approve of Aboro's actions...

No reply.

GALEN

...does he?

JANOR

I don't know what the Prefect approves. He doesn't consult me.

VIRDON

Maybe he doesn't know what Aboro is doing. Talk to him...

JANOR

I will never talk to an Ape again.

GALEN

I am an Ape...

JANOR

And I hate you for it. You're not like Aboro and the Prefect Augustus, but to me, all Apes are Mikal's murderers. I can't help how I feel.

GALEN

Augustus -- did you say Augustus? Is he the Prefect?

JANOR

Yes.

GALEN

He's my cousin! Last I heard, he was working for the Council in Central City. Janor, Augustus is honorable, decent...

JANOR

He's an Ape.

GALEN

Give me a chance. Augustus can't know about Aboro. I'm sure of it. He'll put a stop to this kind of tyranny and nobody will be killed. He believes in justice.

JANOR

But I don't...

VIRDON

It matters to the other humans
whether they live or die and
you'll be signing their death sentence.
Once Aboro's gone -- replaced, punished,
whatever -- by a Prefect and not by
assassination, there'll be an end to
starvation. You've no right to decide
what will happen to every other human
in the District.

JANOR

(given pause)

An Ape won't punish another Ape.

GALEN

You can say that after I've tried
and failed -- if I fail.

JANOR

(a beat)

I don't believe you can do anything
but it won't matter if Aboro lives
for two more days. When you've
failed, by sundown day after
tomorrow, I will kill Aboro.

Much tension.

FADE OUT

END OF ACT ONE

ACT TWO

FADE IN

EXT. VILLAGE OF HATHOR - WIDE ANGLE - DAY

24

Many humans are walking about. Two or three GORILLAS patrol the village. Galen walks into the scene, Burke and Virdon following.

GALEN
(pointing)
District headquarters.

VIRDON
How long since you've seen your
cousin?

GALEN
Three, four years.

BURKE
I don't know about Apes but men
have been known to change in
three years.

GALEN
Not Augustus...

INT. PREFECT'S BUILDING - DAY

25

Galen's cousin, PREFECT AUGUSTUS, another Chimp, is working at his cluttered desk. There is a KNOCK on the door. Without raising his head:

AUGUSTUS
Yes, yes! Come in, come in!

He sounds harried, preoccupied, quite pedantic. The door opens and Galen ENTERS.

GALEN
Prefect Augustus, sir...

AUGUSTUS
(head still
lowered)
Yes, yes? State your business...

GALEN
I wish to report a theft.

Cont.

Galen is half-grinning, enjoying this moment-to-be of surprise.

GALEN

Two apples stolen from a lovely green tree...The thieves were seen running from the scene -- a couple of Chimpanzees about nine years old...

And now Augustus looks up -- and his mouth opens in surprise as his pen falls from his fingers.

AUGUSTUS

Galen!

He rises and the two relatives meet in mid-office, clasp hands fervently. Augustus is moved and delighted.

AUGUSTUS

I've missed you...

GALEN

(nodding)

It's been so long...

AUGUSTUS

(sudden concern)

No one saw you come in?

GALEN

No one here knows me.

AUGUSTUS

What happened, Galen? How could you become a fugitive, running with humans.

GALEN

It's a long story. You wouldn't believe it -- honestly. Unless you actually got to know humans.

AUGUSTUS

(interrupting)

I do know humans. I have them around me all the time as servants, laborers --

He stops himself as he sees Galen's look.

GALEN

That's not what I meant, Augustus.

Cont.

AUGUSTUS

There are things about humans I don't know?

Galen nods. Augustus takes his hands.

AUGUSTUS

...It's good to have you here, Galen. But I'm not being very considerate. I've not offered you food or a chance to rest. You will stay with me? Would you like food, drink -- ?

GALEN

Thank you. Later.

AUGUSTUS

(perceptively)
You didn't just stumble in here...

GALEN

No.

AUGUSTUS

This isn't a social visit...

GALEN

Fugitives can't afford the luxury of social visits. I need your help -- and I think I can help you.

AUGUSTUS

I don't have any needs, but whatever I can do for you...

GALEN

You're Prefect here. You need a decent administration.

Augustus tightens in resentment.

AUGUSTUS

I'm not sure the change in you is entirely attractive. You should know me well enough to remember I take great pride in my position.

Cont.

GALEN

If I weren't sure of that I
wouldn't be here. I'm sure
you don't know what your
District Chief, Aboro is up to.

Augustus now studies Galen. A beat...

AUGUSTUS

Go on...

EXT. PREFECT'S BUILDING - DAY

26

Aboro dismounting at the hitching post.

INT. PREFECT'S OFFICE - DAY

27

SOUND OF DOOR o.s. The SOUND is hardly noticed by Galen and
Augustus as the latter shakes his head in shock and distress.

AUGUSTUS

It's hard to believe this
is true!

GALEN

It's true, Augustus -- I swear.

INT. PREFECT'S OUTER OFFICE - DAY

28

Aboro has just ENTERED and is facing a female human servant
named GOLA.

ABORO

I'm here to see Augustus.

GOLA

I think the Prefect is busy.

ABORO

He'll see me.

INT. PREFECT'S OFFICE

29

AUGUSTUS

Aboro!

Augustus indicates the green curtain drawn over the back part
of his office. Galen is no sooner behind it, the curtain
falling into place on his heels, than the door opens and
Aboro strides in.

AUGUSTUS

Aboro. I was going to send for
you. I've had reports of your
activities.

Aboro is icy cool, enjoying this moment.

ABORO

Does something displease you?

AUGUSTUS

Did you shoot a human named Mikal?

ABORO

I think that was what he was called.

AUGUSTUS

Why was he killed?

ABORO

For reasons I considered sufficient.

AUGUSTUS

That is not an answer.

ABORO

Make the most of it. It's all you'll get.

AUGUSTUS

As long as I am Prefect, Aboro, you will answer my questions.

ABORO

As long as you're Prefect.

(producing scroll)

I won't bore you with the introduction...

(reading)

Prefect Augustus is reassigned to Dorvado effective immediately. District Chief Aboro is hereby promoted to Prefect in place of Augustus.

AUGUSTUS

I don't believe it!

Aboro hands him the scroll. Augustus reads it, fighting disbelief. Silently, he returns the scroll to Aboro.

ABORO

Effective immediately.

(looking around room)

I'll move in later this afternoon...

Cont.

He EXITS. Galen APPEARS from behind the curtain. He and Augustus exchange looks of rapport and sympathy.

GALEN

Dorvado. Almost the other side of the planet...

AUGUSTUS

Not a very nice place to be assigned.

GALEN

I'm sorry.

AUGUSTUS

(bitter joke)

If you have a problem in Dorvado, I'll be glad to help you.

GALEN

Why was Aboro made Prefect? Our kind always fill administrative posts, not Gorillas...

AUGUSTUS

He must have very influential friends in Central City.

He moves to touch his desk, to examine the objects upon it, and to sit once again in his desk chair...

DISSOLVE TO:

INT. PREFECT'S OFFICE - CLOSE ON ABORO - DAY 30

sitting in the Prefect's chair, savoring the moment.
CAMERA PULLS BACK to reveal Daku watching Aboro, acting the Prefect today.

DAKU

You belong there, Aboro, not that fool, Augustus.

ABORO

I can always rely on you, can't I, Daku?

DAKU

Always...

ABORO

So long as I have gold or power!!

Cont.

DAKU

You're making a joke...

ABORO

I never joke.

SOUND OF HOOVES. Small reaction from Daku and Aboro. The former crosses to peer out the window.

P.O.V. SHOT - FRAMING ON WINDOW 31

URKO and several Troopers riding up and halting. Urko dismounts.

INT. PREFECT'S OFFICE 32

Daku turns to Aboro very nervously.

DAKU

Urko!

Aboro crosses to look out.

ABORO

Did you know he was coming?

DAKU

No. I made the usual delivery to Bulta, his assistant. But I know we weren't seen by anyone, and he certainly wouldn't say anything to Urko...

ABORO

If you've made another mistake --

DAKU

I swear --

The door opens and Urko sweeps IN. He throws his arms around Aboro, pounding him on the back. Daku EXITS discreetly.

URKO

Aboro. Look at you. Getting fat and lazy. Not the Aboro I remember from our days at the Academy.

ABORO

What about you? Stooped with age, a trembling old Gorilla, hardly stronger than a human.

Cont.

Urko LAUGHS delightedly.

URKO

It's true...

He moves to pick up a heavy, square, backed clay, brick-like paper weight.

URKO

If only I were young and strong...

He places it on the desk, slams down on it with his fist to smash it into tiny bits.

Aboro picks up a duplicate of the paper weight and follows the same procedure to smash it, thus proving himself Urko's equal.

ABORO

We all grow old and weak. What brings you to Hathor? I thought you were too busy for social visits.

URKO

You. I learned you were to be promoted and since I had to be in the District --

ABORO

I became Prefect today.

URKO

I was surprised -- and pleased.

ABORO

Thank you.

URKO

You're too good to be wasted as District Chief in a far off province. I've asked Bulta many times to push you for promotion. That incident at the Academy always got in the way...

ABORO

I know.

URKO

It was bad luck.

Aboro nods.

Cont.

URKO

Anyone could have been caught cheating.

ABORO

But it happened to me, and while my good friends Bulta and Urko moved up the ladder, I stayed a District Chief at Hathor.

URKO

Your promotion must mean that old foolishness is now forgotten.

ABORO

Only twenty years to erase the memory of 'old foolishness.'

URKO

You sound bitter.

ABORO

Sorry. Twenty-year-old habits take time to break. Can I offer you a drink?

URKO

(head shake)

I'm on an inspection tour. I'll be around for a few days. Perhaps before I leave, we'll have a chance for a real visit. Talk over times at the Academy...

ABORO

I hope so.

Urko is EXITING.

URKO

And I am happy for you, Aboro.

Urko is OUT and Daku slips IN.

DAKU

He doesn't know -- ?

ABORO

No. And a good thing. Urko never really approved of corruption...

EXT. ASTRONAUTS' CAMPSITE - NIGHT

33

Our trio around a campfire. Virdon is making a swagger stick, Burke is tacking together some bits of red cloth for a "collar." Galen watches nervously.

GALEN

This whole charade is based on your -- your hunch that Aboro's promotion was bought...Apes aren't corrupt.

BURKE

Maybe. Let's hear you put the bits together and come up with a better explanation.

GALEN

I can't but I still don't believe it.

VIRDON

It adds up. Aboro steals grain. He can't eat it all. He was going to meet a gold caravan. Why?

BURKE

(interjecting)

He trades grain for gold and buys himself your cousin's job. Simple.

Galen just shakes his head. Burke has completed the collar and puts it on.

BURKE

Would you believe you're one of the most distinguished looking Apes I've ever sewed a collar for?

GALEN

That I believe.

Virdon hands him the swagger stick.

VIRDON

Okay, got it all straight?

GALEN

Oh, I have it straight all right. I know exactly what I am supposed to do. I merely march up to Aboro, convince him that I am somebody I am not, and then talk him into believing he should frame Urko in such a way, he'll be caught red-handed. -- I listen to myself saying that and I don't believe it can be me talking. I couldn't be involved in such a ridiculous plot. -- Could I?

Virdon and Burke nod solemnly. Galen shrugs.

GALEN

I guess I could.

INT. PREFECT HEADQUARTERS BUILDING (OUTER OFFICE) 34
- DAY

AS THE DOOR OPENS AND Galen SWAGGERS IN. This is not the Galen we're used to -- but an arrogant, bullying person we've never met before. He walks with a pronounced limp.

GALEN

Inform the Prefect that Octavio is here to see him.

GORILLA TROOPER

(half-rising from
behind his desk)

Do you have an appointment?

GALEN

(swelling up)

Octavio needs no appointment to see the Prefect of a minor province. Do as you're told!

The Gorilla backs away, KNOCKING and opening the inner door and DISAPPEARING inside. A beat -- then he REAPPEARS with Daku in tow.

DAKU

Something I can do for you?

GALEN

You can start by addressing me as 'sir!'

DAKU

Yes...sir...

GALEN

Tell Aboro that Octavio, assistant to Zaius is here!

Daku nods, visibly impressed, DISAPPEARS back inside. Another beat and he REAPPEARS.

DAKU

This way, sir.

INT. PREFECT'S OFFICE - DAY

35

with Aboro risen behind his desk as Galen ENTERS, Daku bringing up the rear. Aboro gestures for Galen to sit, but the latter ignores the gesture, surveys Aboro and the room critically.

GALEN

You are Aboro...

ABORO

(nodding)

And you are Zaius' assistant...

GALEN

(of Daku)

Get rid of him.

Daku is surprised but Aboro waves him out and he EXITS.

ABORO

Won't you sit down?

GALEN

Very well.

(sitting)

Are you satisfied with your new position as Prefect?

ABORO

Yes, thank you.

GALEN

Too bad. Being satisfied with one's position indicates a regrettable lack of ambition.

ABORO

(a bit shaken)

Is this an official visit?

GALEN

Absolutely not. Would Zaius send me on an official visit to discuss your clumsy efforts at bribery?

ABORO

(a beat)

You did say, 'bribery'...

GALEN

Yes, I did. And no denials, please.

Cont.

ABORO

Why are you here?

GALEN

Zaius has had his eye on you for a long time.

ABORO

If he believes I'm guilty of bribery, why hasn't he had me arrested?

GALEN

He's considered it.

ABORO

If you expect to trap me into an admission of guilt this way --

GALEN

Your arrest has not been ordered because you may be able to serve a more useful purpose.

ABORO

What do you want?

GALEN

What I want is unimportant. ZAIUS wants to resolve certain difficulties he has been having with Urko. You said you were satisfied with the post of Prefect. But I trust you would have no objections to a higher office.

ABORO

Go on...

GALEN

Zaius believes you have the ideal qualifications to take Urko's place. Most important, Zaius feels he can trust you...

ABORO

Why?

GALEN

Because if you prove untrustworthy, you'd go to jail for bribery. Isn't that fairly obvious?

Cont.

ABORO

If you're right about my being guilty of bribery...

GALEN

Spare me your bleats of innocence... You probably know Urko has acted independently of the Council on too many occasions. He's gone over Zaius' head, flouted Zaius' authority. This must stop. Well...?

ABORO

Urko is an old friend of mine.

GALEN

(rising)
I didn't think that would stand in your way. Apparently I was wrong. Good afternoon.

ABORO

Wait...

Galen pauses.

ABORO

How do I know this isn't a trap?

GALEN

Would Zaius need to trap a minor District Chief who just bribed his way to the post of Prefect?

Galen starts out but is stopped once again.

ABORO

Please. I may have been hasty.

GALEN

(a gracious concession)
And I may have expected more intelligence than could normally be found in someone in your position.

Aboro's eyes narrow for an instant but he covers and tries to be ingratiating.

ABORO

Of course I want Urko's job. Who wouldn't? But this has come as a surprise. Would it be possible for me to have a little time to consider it?

GALEN

(a beat)

Remarkable. I offer you power
and prestige and you ask for time
to --

(stopping himself)

Very well. I'll be back later.

He EXITS. Aboro stares after him, deep in thought.

EXT. PREFECT'S BUILDING - DAY

36

as Galen EMERGES. He leans against the outside of the closed
door, absolutely spent. He lets out a long, slow breath of
relief.

INT. PREFECT'S OFFICE - DAY

37

Aboro is staring, trying to weigh what Galen has said. He
calls sharply:

ABORO

Daku!

Door opens and Daku ENTERS.

ABORO

I assume you were listening by
the door...

DAKU

No Aboro, believe me...

ABORO

What do you think?

DAKU

I did hear just a bit, quite by
accident. You in Urko's place.
It's -- it's --

ABORO

Unbelievable?

DAKU

No! It's wonderful, great!

ABORO

If Octavio is telling the truth...

DAKU

Why wouldn't he?

Cont.

ABORO

I don't know but now that I think of it, there's a more urgent question. Who is Octavio?

DAKU

Zaius' assistant. You heard him say --

ABORO

(overriding)

One can say anything. That doesn't make it true. All I know about Octavio is what he says about himself.

DAKU

If he weren't highly placed, how would he know of the bribery?

ABORO

True, but he didn't mention my record at the Academy, why? Surely Zaius would have taken that into account. You know where Urko is camped. Ride to him. Don't raise suspicions but ask about Zaius' assistant -- his name, what he looks like...

X

DAKU

Good idea, Aboro. Very good idea.

Aboro waves him out.

EXT. PREFECT'S BUILDING - DAY

38

Daku hurries out. A GORILLA SERGEANT is lounging nearby.

DAKU

Get my horse. At once. I'm going to Urko's camp. Hurry! This is for Aboro.

SERGEANT

Yes, Daku.

Sergeant runs o.s. CAMERA PANS to pick up Virdon close enough to have overheard. He's drinking from a dipper attached to a well and seems to be paying no attention. However, as soon as the Sergeant EXITS, Virdon finishes his drink and moves o.s. with as much speed as caution allows.

FADE OUT

END OF ACT TWO

ACT THREE

FADE IN

EXT. CAMPSITE - DAY

39

Galen sitting on a log, Burke pacing in concern as Viridon reports.

VIRDON

Sure, there could be a hundred reasons why Aboro sent his flunky to Urko, but one I can think of scares the be-daylights out of me.

BURKE

Galen, how can we be sure Aboro isn't blowing the whistle on you?

GALEN

We can't.

VIRDON

So you don't go back.

GALEN

Wrong. I'll gamble that Aboro had one of those ninety-nine other reasons. Those seem fair odds, ninety-nine to one.

VIRDON

Not when your neck is riding on the bet.

GALEN

I'm not panting with eagerness to go, but a number of necks are at stake if I don't go. Just consider what will happen if Aboro continues as Prefect or worse, what will be done to the humans if Janor tries to kill Aboro.

Viridon and Burke exchange looks, then concede.

VIRDON

We'll be close by. If there's trouble, maybe we can bail you out...

GALEN

And you'll fall into the trap, too. No. I'll go alone. If I'm not back by night, well -- you'd better assume I've run into some difficulties...

Cont.

BURKE

I don't like it.

GALEN

At last we've found something
about this affair we can agree on.
See you later -- I hope...

He turns and EXITS, leaving Viridon and Burke to worry.

INT. PREFECT'S OFFICE - DAY

40

as Galen (Octavio) ENTERS to greet the waiting Aboro, with Daku behind him. Galen is nervous and very conscious of Daku at his rear.

ABORO

Octavio. Won't you have a seat?

Galen tries surreptitiously to peer for concealed threats, as he speaks with careful arrogance.

GALEN

Why is he here? Our business is private.

ABORO

Daku knows of your proposal.

GALEN

You don't impress me as being very discreet. In fact, you don't impress me at all. Now -- have you been thinking over what I mentioned to you...?

ABORO

Yes.

GALEN

And what have you decided?

ABORO

Just what you knew I'd decide after I checked with Urko.

Galen is silent.

ABORO

You didn't think I'd accept you without checking, did you?

Cont.

GALEN

Checking what?

ABORO

You!! -- Urko confirmed that Zaius' assistant is in fact the crippled Octavio.

Galen relaxes.

ABORO

I accept your offer.

GALEN

Good. A method is needed to justify the Council's removal of Urko from Office.

ABORO

Why can't the Council simply... dismiss him?

GALEN

On what grounds? Even the Council needs evidence! Zaius was hoping you could provide that.

ABORO

How?

Galen heaves a great sigh.

GALEN

Must I give you all the answers. You're to be promoted, not me. Do something to earn your promotion. Zaius expects you to provide the evidence he needs to discredit Urko.

ABORO

What kind of evidence might the Council consider suitable?

GALEN

(with a shrug)
Bribery?...

DAKU

(breaking in)
Urko's Assistant, Bulta, accepts bribes.

ABORO

(angrily)
Keep your mouth shut unless I tell you to speak!

X

GALEN

Can you prove Urko knows about that?

X

ABORO

He didn't.

GALEN

Then that's no help. But let us suppose there exists incriminating evidence in Urko's home...such as contraband gold. We have only to prove a connection between the gold and some corrupt act...

ABORO

That's risky. It's also unsure.

GALEN

Have you a better idea?

ABORO

I have always favored direct action, Octavio.

GALEN

(hiding his concern)
Direct action? I don't understand.

Realizing Aboro's intentions:

DAKU

Of course. It will be much safer.

GALEN

(sensing)
Just what are you suggesting?

ABORO

There is a human who has been used by Daku for various -- assignments. What's his name?

DAKU

Amhar. From the village of Loban.

ABORO

Since I don't know him, I'll have to rely on your judgment, Daku. Can he do it?

DAKU

Absolutely. He'll do anything I tell him.

Cont.

GALEN

But that's unthinkable -- unthinkable dangerous.

ABORO

It's permanent which makes it the least dangerous way to remove Urko.

GALEN

I'm against the idea. This Amhar might talk afterwards.

DAKU

He won't talk. He won't be alive afterwards.

ABORO

Daku, arrange a dinner party for Urko here tonight.

DAKU

And Amhar?

As the two Gorillas are conferring, Galen looks at the desk of Aboro.

INSERT - ABORO'S GREAT SEAL

41

standing on the desk.

ANOTHER ANGLE

42

as Galen slides the seal off the desk and into his tunic without either Gorillas seeing him.

ABORO

Have him here an hour before Urko is due to arrive.

(to Galen)

I'll expect you to be my dinner guest, too. You will have an eye witness report for Zaius.

GALEN

Very thoughtful of you, but I don't consider murder a spectator sport. I prefer not to be present.

He smiles at Aboro, at Daku -- and then leaves.

EXT. SMALL CLEARING - DAY

Burke looks on as Virdon melts a piece of wax over a folded letter -- a small pool of wax dripping on the folded edges. Then he presses Aboro's seal into the wax. Galen paces -- nervous.

GALEN

Somehow, somebody always decides that killing is the way to solve a problem. It's so stupid.

BURKE

We try to stop Janor from committing a murder and wind up hustling Aboro into hiring a professional hit man to knock off Urko!

VIRDON

Aboro will be rougher than ever. He'll blame the humans for Urko's murder in order to shield himself from suspicion.

GALEN

It's my fault. I put the idea in Aboro's head.

BURKE

Come on, Galen. You didn't suggest murder. You just tried to get him caught planting gold.

GALEN

Good motives aren't enough. I'm responsible.

VIRDON

Okay. We got into this thing together and feeling guilty is no solution. We've got to find a way to get out.

All move o.s.

EXT. COUNTRY ROAD - DAY

44

Daku on horseback canters TOWARD us, CAMERA then ZOOMS BACK to reveal Virdon, Burke and Galen crouched low on rocky outcropping above the road.

Cont.

GALEN

(hoarse whisper)

Daku. On his way to Amhar...

ANOTHER ANGLE - DAKU

45

Riding on -- unsuspecting of our trio at the outcropping, he now approaches. ANGLE WIDENS as Virdon gathers himself, ready to spring. As Daku rides under the outcropping, Virdon rises to his full height and launches himself downward at Daku, knocking him from his horse! As Galen runs to the horse to gather the reins and soothe the animal, Burke is on the unconscious Daku, ready with ropes and gags to render him helpless. Virdon takes Daku's gun from his holster.

X

BURKE

Daku's pet assassin can stay on unemployment insurance.

VIRDON

Get off the road -- quick!

Virdon and Burke drag Daku off the road and in among the brush alongside the road. Galen hurries over with Daku's horse.

ANGLE IN THE BRUSH

46

A gag is fashioned around Daku's mouth and Burke finishes tying Daku's hands behind his back.

Burke begins removing the saddle once Daku is securely tied. Virdon is assisting Galen into a cape with a high collar which can be turned up to partly conceal his face. Galen has produced a pair of eyeglasses with heavy frames (or a bandage which can cover part of his face). CAMERA PANS as Burke leads horse off. A makeshift enclosed "carriage" is revealed and the horse will be harnessed thereto. The carriage can be a kind of box set upon a flatbed with a half door at the front.

EXT. COUNTRY ROAD - DAY

47

The major trail follows a fairly straight course but a secondary trail, little more than a path, branches off. At the junction, one of Urko's Guards is on duty. He hears a RUMBLING, looks o.s. to see the approach of the carriage.

Cont.

Viridon, head down and very humble, is the driver; Galen will be revealed as the passenger and he is enveloped in the cape. Burke is nowhere to be seen. ROAD GUARD raises his rifle slightly to be ready as the carriage turns off the road to take the path. Road Guard steps forward.

ROAD GUARD

Halt!

Viridon reins in, obediently.

ROAD GUARD

This road is closed.

GALEN

(leaning out)

Out of my way.

ANOTHER ANGLE

48

to reveal that Burke is concealed on the far side of the carriage. He begins edging around as Road Guard steps forward to address Galen.

ROAD GUARD

Who are you?

GALEN

Octavio -- and you will be carrying slop in a prison camp if you delay me.

ROAD GUARD

Urko gave orders that no one --

GALEN

(overriding)

I am not no one. I wish to see Urko. Move aside.

(to Viridon)

Drive on.

ROAD GUARD

I can't -- Just wait, I'll tell Urko that you are here.

GALEN

And spoil the surprise?

Cont.

And the surprise -- for the Road Guard -- is immediate. Burke, coming from the blind side, belts him with a timber. He goes down and out.

GALEN

Hardly!

Burke drags him off the road as Virdon goads the horse. Burke chases and grabs on to the carriage as it disappears down the path.

EXT. URKO'S CAMP - DAY

49

Urko's tent is set in a clearing. One TENT GUARD is on duty at the entrance; some distance off but within earshot, are several Troopers around a fire. Carriage RUMBLES in to the surprise of Tent Guard who readies his rifle. Virdon does not stop at the entrance but continues past the Tent Guard. He will stop a few paces beyond where the carriage will be out of view of the Troopers around the fire. As carriage passes Tent Guard, Galen pokes his head out, calls to Tent Guard in a conspiratorial tone...

GALEN

You. Here. Quick.

Guard moves cautiously to comply, very much on guard. He reaches the carriage just as Burke steps from the rear, shoves a rifle in Tent Guard's back.

BURKE

(hushed tone)

Drop it.

The rifle is dropped, paws raised.

BURKE

Start walking...

Tent Guard marches off with Burke, keeping him covered. Virdon jumps off the carriage to retrieve Tent Guard's rifle. Galen exits the carriage. He removes whatever facial semi-disguise he has been wearing and dons a mask (from DECEPTION). All movement quick and surreptitious.

Virdon takes cover near tent entrance, Galen draws the pistol which was taken from Daku and darts into the tent.

INT. TENT - DAY

Urko at a makeshift desk, looks up to face the masked Galen who is pointing a pistol at him. Urko is calm, says nothing, starts to rise slowly. Galen's voice is disguised.

GALEN

No! Sit where you are.
 (pointing to
 Urko's paws)
 On the table where I can see
 them.

Urko complies and waits.

GALEN

I've no wish to harm you.

URKO

I can understand that. Fire that
 pistol and you commit suicide.
 My troops would be in here before
 you could take two steps.

GALEN

I'm here to help you.

URKO

In a mask?

GALEN

I don't want my identity known.
 Others in power -- who aren't
 friendly to you -- might try for
 revenge against my family...
 (producing letter)
 Do you recognize the seal?

URKO

Aboro's...

GALEN

Read the letter...

Urko carefully opens the letter, making no sudden moves or threatening gestures. He reads quickly.

URKO

It's hard to believe. Aboro
 planning to kill me? Bribing
 my assistant, Bulta...?

Cont.

GALEN

That letter was taken from the man he hired.

URKO

I'd never have believed it. I'm grateful to you. I'd like to show my gratitude. I can protect you.

GALEN

It's safer this way. I want nothing but justice.

URKO

You're an honorable ape --

He kicks up his desk with his knees. It slams against Galen, throwing him back. Urko is on his feet in an instant, gun in hand, with the drop on Galen. The latter recovers his balance but not his advantage. Bowing to the inevitable, he drops his pistol as Urko rounds the desk.

GALEN

In return for the favor I've done you, I ask only that you allow me to leave...

URKO

(whipping off Galen's mask)

Galen. Did you think I'd believe a forged letter delivered by a masked ape?

GALEN

That letter contains the truth, on my word.

URKO

As sworn to by Galen, renegade, criminal, wanted fugitive.

He levels his pistol. Behind him, Virdon crawls in under the rear of the tent with his rifle leveled at Urko. He is behind Urko and unseen.

VIRDON

Don't move, Urko.

Urko shoves his pistol in Galen's belly, pressing it.

Cont.

URKO
(to Galen)
No...Don't you move.

He can now look over his shoulder at Virdon, relying on the pistol to tell him if Galen makes any move.

URKO
Your bullet wouldn't stop me
from squeezing the trigger.

This is probably true even if Urko fired reflexively after being mortally wounded. Virdon and Galen both recognize the impasse. There is silence, no movement...

FADE OUT

END OF ACT THREE

ACT FOUR

FADE IN

INT. URKO'S TENT - DAY

51

As before, the impasse still holding. Urko watching Virdon.

URKO

(to Virdon)

If you don't throw away that rifle by the time I count three, I'll shoot Galen.

VIRDON

And I'll kill you.

URKO

-- and immediately be captured and executed.

VIRDON

No worse than what will happen if I throw away the rifle.

GALEN

Urko, can't you get it through your stubborn head that I could have shot you if we wanted you dead? That letter told the truth about Aboro and about Bulta.

URKO

How would you know any truth? You chose to live with humans.

(eyes never
off Virdon)

All right, Virdon. One --
two --

As he's counting, watching Virdon and holding gun on Galen, Burke silently enters tent from Urko's rear. He raises his rifle, cracks it down on Urko's wrist. The pistol is dropped and Urko is disarmed. Galen grabs the pistol while Urko is covered by Virdon and Burke. Urko grimaces in pain, grips his injured wrist, but displays no fear or lack of confidence.

URKO

Shoot and you attract my troops.

BURKE

I can't figure what makes you tick. Don't you want to go on living?

Cont.

URKO

Not if it means your getting away.

GALEN

Urko, Urko, think! We walked in here knowing the risks. Why?

URKO

I don't know, I don't care...You tried to be clever and you've walked into a trap. You can't afford to shoot and if you try to walk out, I'll call my troops.

Supremely confident, Urko moves back and sits in his chair. He's prepared to wait for any move by our trio, knowing they can't win. Viridon, Burke and Galen exchange looks as each seeks some solution and finds none. Impasse.

ANGLE IN THE BRUSH - DAY

52

Daku is struggling unsuccessfully to free himself. He manages only to roll a few feet closer to the road. SOUND OF HORSE'S HOOVES. Daku stiffens, then manages to draw his legs up. As SOUND indicates the horse is roughly opposite, Daku kicks out and a rock is booted into the road.

ANGLE ON ROAD

53

A Gorilla guard, FEENA, is riding slowly along. He spots the rock which seems to have been propelled from nowhere. He reins in to look off in curiosity. SOUND OF MUFFLED GRUNTS. These emanate from Daku and attract Feena's attention. More curious, he dismounts.

ANOTHER ANGLE

54

as Feena cautiously pushes through the brush to come upon Daku, GRUNTING for all he's worth. A beat of surprise, then Feena bends to free Daku.

INT. URKO'S TENT - DAY

55

The impasse has continued. Galen is pacing in frustration, Urko waiting with calm superiority.

GALEN

I don't ask you to believe me.
Will you believe your own ears
and your own eyes?

Cont.

URKO

I do. I see you, I hear you.
I know you are enemies of the
state. You'll be executed.

Galen glances at Urko in frustration, anger and impatience,
which is unrelated to any sense of personal peril.

GALEN

Execute, shoot, kill! I am so
tired of the kinds of solutions
you find for all problems.

(a beat)

Isn't it possible that Aboro is
partial to the same kinds of
solutions and is planning your death?

URKO

No. And even if he were, why
would you warn me? Out of your
deep affection for me?

BURKE

(wearily)

No, Urko. Not out of affection.

VIRDON

Urko, come with us. To Aboro's.
We'll prove to you that Aboro is
a traitor.

URKO

(calm certainty)

You can't prove it. It's not so.

VIRDON

You can have your troops ride
with us.

BURKE

While you're with Aboro, I'll
call him out. I'll pretend I'm
his hired assassin and I'll get
him to admit he planned to kill
you. You can be listening.

Urko hesitates.

GALEN

Urko, what have you got to lose?

Cont.

X

URKO

(agreeing)

I won't lose in any case.
You will be the losers.

Galen holds a pistol at Urko's back as Virton and Burke drop their rifles in a corner.

EXT. URKO'S TENT - WIDE ANGLE

56

to INCLUDE the troops by the fire. Burke EXITS first, hurries to the carriage, clambers in. He is followed by Urko with Galen close behind concealing his pistol in his cape. Urko pauses to shout to the troops.

URKO

Mount. You will follow me.
Stay a hundred feet back.

He turns and moves to carriage with Galen in attendance. Virdon EMERGES from the tent a couple of steps behind them -- a shuffling, humble servant. Urko and Galen climb into the carriage, Virdon gets aboard to drive the horse.

INT. CARRIAGE

57

Burke is crouched behind where Urko and Galen are sitting. Galen carefully passes him the pistol which he will hold on Urko.

ANGLE ON TROOPS

58

as they prepare to mount.

ANGLE ON CARRIAGE

59

being driven off.

ANGLE ON TROOPS

60

starting after carriage at a slow trot.

EXT. PREFECT'S BUILDING - NIGHT

61

Aboro's home is ablaze with light from within.

INT. PREFECT'S INNER OFFICE - NIGHT

62

A dining table has been set for two. Aboro is facing Daku who is still disheveled from his encounter with our trio.

DAKU

There was no time to go for
Amhar. Once I was freed, I came
back here.

ABORO

You don't know who attacked you?

Daku shakes his head.

ABORO

Or why?

Cont.

Daku shakes his head.

ABORO

I don't like it -- the coincidence, the timing. It's as if someone wanted to prevent my killing Urko.

DAKU

Since I didn't meet Amhar, Urko won't be killed. I didn't arrange --

ABORO

(interrupting)

Daku, you will be Amhar.

Daku reacts. Aboro crosses to a chest near his desk. He opens it and takes out a crude bomb along with a sizeable hank of fuse. The fuse is inserted in the neck of the bomb which is then placed behind the drape, and also behind a chest. The fuse is run out the window.

ABORO

Tonight at dinner, when the wine is served, light this. You'll have plenty of time to come around to the door with a message that I must come at once to settle a fight in the barracks. Understood?

Daku nods.

EXT. VILLAGE STREET - NIGHT

63

The carriage is slowly approaching Prefect's building.

EXT. PREFECT'S BUILDING - NIGHT

64

Carriage halts.

ANGLE ON TROOPS

65

They halt.

EXT. PREFECT'S BUILDING

66

Urko disembarks from carriage. Virdon is still on driver's seat. Burke is concealed inside.

Cont.

URKO
 (to Galen)
 You come inside with me. That will
 ensure that they don't run away.

As Galen and Urko move to door of Prefect's building, Virdon drives the carriage a short distance off. Urko, watching Galen closely, Hammers on the door. It is opened and Urko and Galen ENTER.

INT. PREFECT'S INNER OFFICE - NIGHT

67

Aboro, having heard the outer door, is moving to open the inner door. He does and steps back as Galen and Urko ENTER. In controlled surprise...

ABORO
 Octavio -- ?

URKO
 You've met -- Octavio...

ABORO
 Earlier today...

GALEN
 I stopped by and introduced myself.

URKO
 I insisted he join us.

Galen shrugs. Aboro signals through the open door to outer office.

ABORO
 I'm delighted.

SAM ENTERS.

ABORO
 A place for Octavio.

Sam, a human servant, hurries to set the required place at the table and pull up a chair.

URKO
 I know we were going to talk about old times at the academy, Aboro, but I felt Octavio would be a welcome guest. He tells the most incredible stories.

ABORO
 Really?

URKO
 Absolutely. You'll be fascinated.

Cont.

KNOCK AT OUTER DOOR. Sam hurries out to attend.

ABORO

Please sit down.

Urko and Galen seat themselves at the table. Aboro is about to sit when Sam reenters.

SAM

A human to see you, sir. He says it is very important.

ABORO

What could be important about a human? Well...I'll only be a moment.

He EXITS, as Sam goes OUT another door.

GALEN

(urgently)
That's Burke.

He gestures for Urko to follow him to the door. Urko does and Galen opens the door a crack so both he and Urko can see and hear.

INT. PREFECT'S OUTER OFFICE

68

Aboro is facing Burke who is standing in the doorway.

ABORO

You say your name is Amhar?

BURKE

(confidential tone)
Yes sir. I'm sorry I'm late.

ABORO

Late for what?

BURKE

Daku said you wanted me to kill an important Gorilla...

ABORO

(calling)
Guard.

A Guard named OSCAR hurries up from outside.

Cont.

BURKE

Why are you calling a Guard?

ABORO

(to Oscar)

I don't know this man, but he's
either a lunatic or an assassin.
Lock him up.

Urko APPEARS in doorway to inner office. He's holding Galen by the arm. Oscar is putting cuffs on Burke.

URKO

Very good, Aboro.

(to Oscar)

The man's name is Burke. Bring
him in here.

All move INTO inner office, Urko maintaining his hold on Galen's arm.

INT. PREFECT'S INNER OFFICE

69

As all ENTER and the door is closed:

URKO

I'll attend to Galen.

ABORO

Galen?

Urko has taken a pair of cuffs from a case to fasten Galen's hands behind his back. Oscar holds his rifle on Burke and Galen.

URKO

The fugitive, Galen. Burke is one
of the two Astronauts. The other
isn't far and we'll get him.

ABORO

I don't understand.

URKO

They took me to be a fool, telling
me you were plotting against me.
I knew better but this was the best
way of capturing them without
bloodshed. They will both be executed
immediately.

Cont.

Sam ENTERS with a bottle of wine. He pours the liquid into glasses, speaking as he does.

SAM

Wine is served, sir...

URKO

Excellent! A glass to celebrate the capture of our most wanted enemies.

(raising glass)

Aboro -- ?

Aboro has glanced toward the door but no knock is heard. He takes his wine nervously.

ABORO

To you, Urko.

Aboro's eyes swivel between the door and the curtain. He can stand the strain no longer when he notes a tiny plume of smoke rising from behind curtain.

ABORO

Excuse me, Urko. Something I forgot. A quick errand. I'll be right back.

He hurries to the door. It's locked. He tries it in growing desperation.

URKO

What's the matter?

ABORO

Nothing.

He hurries to the other door. It too is locked. He pulls at it and Urko is growing suspicious.

URKO

(grabbing his arm)
I said what's the matter?

ABORO

Let go, you fool!

He starts to run for the window but Urko stops him, throwing him back from his goal.

Cont.

GALEN

Aboro is your loyal friend,
Urko. He seems not to want
to be with you.

BURKE

Yeah, and he's in a big hurry
not to be with you, too.

Urko grabs Oscar's gun and levels it at Aboro. Neither
Galen nor Burke pose any threat since they are tied.

URKO

All right, Aboro -- explain.

ABORO

Urko, listen -- this is something
I can't talk about in front of anyone
else. I wanted to go out so we
could talk privately. It's important.
Shoot the lock off, Urko.

URKO

Why?

ABORO

Don't ask questions! Shoot the
lock off!

BURKE

Urko, you've seen men who thought
they were going to die and were
terrified. Look at your good
friend, Aboro.

ABORO

Please, please, Urko...

Urko studies him contemptuously.

URKO

Tell me why.

ABORO

A bomb! Explode any time, now!
Please, Urko...

Suddenly, Virdon drops in from the window. He reaches
behind curtain and lifts the bomb. The fuse is short and
glowing.

VIRDON

This bomb. I watched Daku light
it. Daku is tied up outside.

URKO

Put out the fuse, you fool.

Viridon has fingers poised to pinch out the fuse.

VIRDON

When you drop the gun and
release Galen and Burke.

Urko drops the gun, nods for Oscar to free the other two, which is done. Viridon is edging toward the door, holding the bomb. Burke is freed first and joins Viridon while Oscar works on Galen's handcuffs. The fuse is very short.

BURKE

(sotto voce)

You're cutting it kind of
fine...

VIRDON

(to Aboro)

I've unlocked the door but none
of you leaves until you hear the
outer door slam or I don't pinch
out the fuse.

Galen, now free, hurries to Viridon and Burke, pausing only to kick the rifle to the far side of the room. The three run out.

INT. PREFECT'S OUTER OFFICE

70

Our trio running for the door.

BURKE

That fuse is about down to nothing!

VIRDON

Doesn't matter. I disconnected it.

And they're OUT.

INT. PREFECT'S INNER OFFICE

71

Urko slowly moves to pick up the gun. He is about to level it at Aboro but sees this is unnecessary. Aboro is a broken Gorilla. Urko tosses the rifle to Oscar, speaks of Aboro.

URKO

Lock him up. I'll take him
back to Central City with me
in the morning. I want him to
join my assistant, Bulta...

EXT. CLEARING - DAY

Virдон, Burke, Janor and Galen are present.

JANOR

(softly)

Thank you, Virдон.

He looks from Virдон to Burke.

JANOR

And you, Burke. And Galen.

GALEN

The Council will have to bring Augustus back as Prefect. And this time he'll be able to appoint an honest District Chief.

Janor nods, turning back to Virдон.

JANOR

I didn't want to believe your way would work...There was such a hurt inside me...I thought the only way it could be healed was to inflict hurt.

VIRDON

We understand...

ANOTHER ANGLE

as Burke shoulders his backpack, hands Galen his.

BURKE

Well...I guess we'd better be moving on.

GALEN

(a disappointment)

Oh do we have to? I was looking forward to staying on for a while.

BURKE

Believe me -- we've got to go.

GALEN

Give me one good reason.

BURKE

(a head gesture)

Go-rillas!

Galen looks o.s. to:

HIS P.O.V. - TWO GORILLA TROOPERS

coming their way -- more or less on patrol -- no intentions on our trio.

ANGLE ON VIRDON, BURKE, GALEN AND JANOR

GALEN
(looking back
to Burke)
You are so convincing.

Galen smiles -- and our three move off -- waving to Janor --
CAMERA ANGLING UP to an OVERHEAD SHOT -- HOLDING as Virdon,
Burke and Galen move into the distance.

FADE OUT

THE END