

PLANET OF THE APES

"THE DECEPTION"

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CAST LIST

ALAN VIRDON

PETE BURKE

GALEN

SESTUS (CHIMP)

FAUNA (FEMALE CHIMP)

PERDIX (GORILLA)

ZON (GORILLA)

CHILOT (CHIMP)

MACOR (GORILLA)

KRONO (GORILLA)

JASKO (HUMAN)

MAN (HUMAN)

WOMAN (HUMAN)

CHILD (HUMAN)

FARMER (APE)

Ape Villagers, Mourners, Dragoons

SET LIST

INTERIORS:

JASKO'S HOUSE

SESTUS' FARMHOUSE

CAVE

BACK ROOM MEETING PLACE

GARRISON (JAIL)

EXTERIORS:

GRAVE ON HILL

HILLY AREA NEAR OCEAN

COUNTRYSIDE AND ROAD (VARIOUS)

JASKO'S HOUSE AND APPROACH ROAD

POND

HUMAN FARMHOUSE

CROSSROAD

CAVE

SEACLIFFS, SHORELINE, BEACH, OCEAN

SESTUS' FARMHOUSE AND APPROACH ROAD

WOODED AREA AND PATH (VARIOUS)

CLEARING IN WOODED AREA (DRAGOON MEETING PLACE)

ROCKY OUTCROPPING

TREE

APE VILLAGE

GARRISON

"THE DECEPTION"

ACT ONE

FADE IN

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

EXT. A HILL - TIGHT ANGLE - SIMPLE GRAVE MARKER - 1
DAY

The words inscribed, carved rudely into the smooth surface of the stone: "LUCIAN, FATHER OF FAUNA." CAMERA PANS SLOWLY UP along the raised dirt mound of the grave as we can HEAR the VOICE of Sestus reciting a funeral scripture reading. The SOUND of ocean waves breaking against the shore is HEARD faintly in the distance.

SESTUS

(o.s.)

...as for the ape, his days are
like grass...like a flower of the
field he flourishes...

CAMERA MOVES UP to SESTUS, a brooding Ape who is reading from a small manual, and FAUNA, a young female chimpanzee who holds a kerchief to her face, sobbing intermittently in her apparent grief. A Gorilla police chief, PERDIX, stands close by, grimly watching the proceeding. Next to him, ZON, his Gorilla deputy, a rifle in his hands. Behind them, a dozen or so Ape villagers, a mixture of chimps and Gorillas, look on with grim solemnity. (NOTE: Sestus should have streaks of grey in his hair and grey eyebrows for future identification.) (EXTRA NOTE: Fauna's blindness must not be revealed until Scene 43.)

SESTUS

(continues reading)

...for the wind passes over the
field and is gone...and the place
knows it no more...rest forever,
O Lucian, father of Fauna...

NEW ANGLE - SESTUS

2

Behind him the gentle grassy slope abruptly ceases at the edge of an ocean cliff, and behind that is the sprawling expanse of the blue Pacific. Sestus slowly closes the book and puts his arm around Fauna comfortingly as she breaks down into sobs.

FAUNA

Why? Why? How could they do
it?

Cont.

SESTUS

Savages, child. They're just savages. They don't know any better.

FAUNA

But he said he trusted them...

SESTUS

You can't trust humans, Fauna. I warned him.

FAUNA

(bitterly)

I hate them. I hate them!

Perdix, the Gorilla, moves to them with:

PERDIX

We will capture them, Fauna. I make this promise to you on the grave of your father. The humans will be caught and punished for what they have done.

Fauna nods gratefully.

ANGLE ON THE CROWD

3

CHILOT (a chimp), MACOR (a Gorilla) and KRONO (a Gorilla) take a step forward. Their mood, as is the rest of the crowd, is ugly with hatred of the Humans.

CHILOT

How Perdix? Are you and Zon going to arrest every human in this district?

PERDIX

If necessary.

MACOR

A hundred humans for every ape! They will hide their killers! They will lie for their killers!

KRONO

And now that they have tasted Ape blood, they will kill again!

Frenzied Ape GRUNTS of alarm, concern and anger.

Cont.

PERDIX
You don't know that!

CHILOT
And you...do you know that?

Perdix cannot give an answer.

CHILOT
The time has come, Perdix,
for Apes to unite...drive the
humans out!

SOUNDS of approval from the crowd.

PERDIX
(silencing them)
No! This matter will be handled
within the law. And I am the
law!

A beat. Zon raises his weapon, not as a threat, but as a
symbol of authority.

ZON
You heard. All of you return
to your homes. Now!

A beat. The angry crowd of Apes starts to move back. Krono
looks back threateningly.

KRONO
We will drive them out!

More SOUNDS of approval from the departing Apes.

ANGLE ON PERDIX, ZON, SESTUS AND FAUNA

4

Perdix stares coldly at the departing group. Sestus moves
closer to Fauna and puts his arm around her.

EXT. HILLY AREA - LOW ANGLE - DAY

5

We are CLOSE on human feet moving along through a grassy
slope. Another pair of human feet are close behind, and we're
not yet certain as to the owners. But as a third pair of
feet, larger and obviously Ape feet, move INTO VIEW we become
aware that this is our trio...VIRDON, BURKE and GALEN.

ANGLE AT TOP OF A GRASSY KNOLL

6

Virдон, Burke and Galen come over the top and start down.
All are weary, but Galen is faring the worst. He slows down
to a stop, Virдон and Burke likewise as they take note.

GALEN

How much further? I'm about to collapse from this dreadful heat.

VIRDON

Not far. Another mile maybe.

Galen GROANS, settles to the ground, rubs his aching feet. Burke gives him a reassuring pat on the back as he hands him their canteen.

BURKE

Cheer up. Once we get to Jasko's you can take a nice cool swim. I hear he's got a lake in his back yard.

GALEN

Swim? Very funny. You know Apes can't swim.

Burke is all set with a comeback, but Virdon halts him, noticing Galen suddenly alert -- he's heard something off in the distance, looks in the direction.

GALEN

Listen!
(and after
a beat)
Horses!

P.O.V. SHOT

7

A tree-shrouded road in the distance. The SOUND of horses' hooves grows louder, their movement obscured by the trees.

EXT. ROAD - LOW ANGLE - DAY

8

The CAMERA is CLOSE on the pounding hooves of six horses. Whoever is riding these horses is in determined haste. The ANGLE WIDENS and we see that the riders are Apes... a mixture of four Gorillas and two Chimpanzees. Each Ape carrying a blazing torch. Each Ape's identity hidden behind a fearful leather mask that covers his eyes and nose! These Apes are the DRAGOONS!

ANGLE ON VIRDON, BURKE AND GALEN

9

Virdon indicates to move back over the hilltop, and quickly -- they're sitting ducks in this position. Galen scampers briefly on all fours as he rises to his feet, and is in the lead as they dash for the top of the knoll.

5

ANGLE ON THE DRAGOONS 10

pounding down the road, exiting the cover of trees and coming into the open. One of them looks off to see:

P.O.V. SHOT 11

Viridon and Burke almost cresting the top of the knoll, Galen having just gone out of sight.

CLOSE ON A DRAGON 12

DRAGON

Humans!

ANOTHER ANGLE 13

He turns his mount away from the group and charges off towards the grassy knoll. The rest rein up, regroup and follow.

ANGLE ON VIRDON AND BURKE 14

at the top of the knoll. They look back to see the one Dragoon coming, the rest not far behind. They move o.s., down the back side of the knoll.

REVERSE ANGLE 15

Viridon, Burke and Galen race madly for the cover of the underbrush and boulders ahead.

ANGLE ON THE DRAGON 16

He crests the knoll and spurs his horse down the back side.

ANGLE ON VIRDON, BURKE AND GALEN 17

Burke and Galen have just ducked into the underbrush. Viridon looks back at:

ANGLE ON THE DRAGON 18

charging Viridon -- his torch at the ready like a flaming mace! Viridon stands his ground. The Dragoon thunders head on. At the last split second, Viridon sidesteps, grabs the shaft of the swinging torch and pulls the Ape from his horse. The Ape lands hard...the fall rendering him unconscious. Viridon hurries to the underbrush, joins Burke and Galen, and the three disappear from view as the rest of the Dragons gallop into the SCENE. One Dragoon dismounts, tends to his fallen compatriot. The others fan out, search for any signs of the humans.

CLOSE SHOT - VIRDON, BURKE AND GALEN 19

peering out from the hiding place, well concealed by the heavy underbrush. A Dragoon horse passes close by.

ANGLE ON DRAGOON LEADER

20

Unmistakably a Gorilla, though his face partially hidden by his frightening mask.

DRAGOON LEADER

(snarls)

Forget those two humans! There are plenty more.

He spurs his horse on, the others following. And they disappear toward the direction they came.

ANGLE ON VIRDON, BURKE AND GALEN

21

GALEN

Did you see that? They were wearing masks!

BURKE

Bandits?

VIRDON

Maybe. But why the torches?

Galen and Burke can offer no explanation. They exchange puzzled glances with Virdon.

EXT. JASKO'S HOUSE - ESTABLISHING SHOT - DAY

22

The structure is crude, cabin-like. A small open shed to one side stores feed and grain. Several chickens and a small goat meander about. In the b.g. (if possible) is the lake that Burke had mentioned.

INT. JASKO'S HOUSE - TIGHT SHOT - KETTLE

23

A vegetable stew bubbles in the small kettle over an open hearth fire. JASKO removes the kettle from the fire, sets it on a nearby table where Virdon, Galen and Burke sit. As he ladles a dishful for each, the ANGLE WIDENS to REVEAL Jasko... a human in his fifties, strong features, stocky build... a man of the soil.

JASKO

You're lucky to have escaped.
The Dragoons have driven off
Humans. Burned their homes.
Several have died. The past weeks
have been bad. Very bad.

And while Virdon and Burke sample the stew:

Cont.

BURKE

Nice friendly little community
you've got here, Jasko.

VIRDON

All this over the killing of one
Ape.

JASKO

The killing caused the kettle to
boil over. The Apes here hate
the Humans. Too many of us. It's
understandable.

During this, Jasko takes a seat, helps himself to the stew.
Galen hasn't taken a bite of stew. He listens, but stares at
the dish.

VIRDON

Same old story -- somebody gets
hot under the collar and decides
to take the law into his own hands
and a lot of innocent people suffer.

GALEN

(re the dish,
answering Virdon)
Simply terrifying.

Burke nudges Galen.

BURKE

Chow down Galen. It's good.

Galen glances at Burke then stares back at the dish, noodling
with his spoon.

BURKE

...and meatless.

Welcome news to Galen! He smiles, digs in, tastes the Human
creation.

GALEN

Mmmm...it is good!

He tastes another spoonful, then:

GALEN

These 'Dragoons' as you call
them. Surely they're illegal.
I mean, even Ape law forbids
such actions against the humans.

JASKO

We are far from forceful authority. The village where you met my brother has enough police to deal with such things. But here...

(a despondent sigh)

Perdix and Zon try, but they cannot be everywhere. No my friends. Humans are in grave jeopardy. Especially strangers like yourselves. Take my advice. Move on as soon as you're rested.

BURKE

No need to convince me. I've grown fond of living.

VIRDON

(re Jasko)

Will you come with us?

JASKO

I've lived here most of my life. To start over again? No. I will take my chances. This terror -- it cannot last forever.

Viridon and Burke exchange looks of concern.

EXT. COUNTRYSIDE - EXTREME TIGHT SHOT -
DRAGOON LEADER - DAY

24

His eyes are ablaze with raging lust for blood -- the sense of hatred seems to penetrate through his fearful mask. SOUNDS of horses' hooves, and human yells of fright emanate from o.s.

DRAGOON LEADER

Drive them out!

The CAMERA ZOOMS BACK as the Dragoon Leader spurs his horse on -- the action revealing the terror which is taking place -- A Human man and his wife running for their lives into the countryside -- the man scooping up his small frightened child -- Dragoons wreaking havoc on the Humans' small hut.

EXT. POND - WIDE ANGLE - DAY

25

Viridon and Burke swim in the pond, thoroughly enjoying and refreshing themselves. Burke kicks over on his back, spews water. Galen sits at the shore, draws water with a bucket. He immerses a cloth in the water. Wipes off his face.

Cont.

VIRDON
Haven't done this since I was a
boy back in Jackson County.

BURKE
Like I said before...nothing
like a lake in your own back yard.

GALEN
Back yard!?
(and looking off)
Jasko's house must be a half
mile away.

P.O.V. SHOT - JASKO'S HOUSE 26

CAMERA HOLDS to ESTABLISH the distance from the lake.

ANGLE ON BURKE 27

BURKE
(smiles)
So he's got a big back yard!

ANOTHER ANGLE 28

VIRDON
You know...you should let us
teach you to swim sometime,
Galen.

BURKE
Yeah. Who knows -- you might
even learn to like it.

GALEN
No thank you. I get all the
water I want out of a bucket.

Galen smiles. Virdon and Burke exchange grins. Galen then
reacts to something o.s. toward Jasko's house.

GALEN
Look!

Virdon and Burke look that way.

P.O.V. SHOT - THE ROAD 29

A group of Ape horsemen move down the road toward Jasko's
house. Though barely distinguishable at this distance
we can sense that they are the dreaded Dragons!

BACK TO SCENE

30

VIRDON

Dragoons.

Viridon and Burke move quickly toward the shore. Galen edges behind a bush, keeping his eyes riveted on the Dragoons.

ANGLE ON THE DRAGOONS

31

steadfastly approaching. Their fierce-looking masks in place, their torches held high.

ANGLE ON JASKO'S HOUSE

32

The CAMERA SHOOTING PAST the house toward the approaching Dragoons. The SOUND of the horses brings Jasko to the door. He looks off to the horsemen, reaches for a wooden pitchfork leaning against the house.

ANGLE ON THE DRAGOONS

33

They gallop on in all their menace.

ANGLE ON JASKO

34

taking a step forward to meet them, pitchfork held defiantly. He shows no sign of cowering.

ANGLE ON VIRDON, BURKE AND GALEN

35

at the lake edge. Viridon and Burke, wet and having hurriedly dressed (in pants only), dash madly for the house, Galen following.

WIDE SHOT - JASKO'S HOUSE

36

The Dragoons thunder in -- scattering the animals, knocking aside the small shed. The Dragoon Leader reins up to face the defiant Jasko.

DRAGOON LEADER

You have one minute to clear out,
Human!

JASKO

No! I will not leave. This is
my home!

DRAGOON LEADER

Then watch it burn!

The Dragoon Leader signals with his hand. A Dragoon spurs his horse to the house to set his torch to the roof!

Cont.

JASKO

No!

Jasko charges the Dragoon, knocks him aside and his torch to the ground. The Dragoon Leader whirls a rope, lassoing Jasko. Then spurring his horse, he drags Jasko across the ground...the action causing a flurry of terror! A torch is tossed on the roof, another inside the house. A cart is pulled over. Flames erupt -- consuming the entire structure. Jasko is dragged back and forth through the melee.

ANGLE ON VIRDON, BURKE AND GALEN

37

continuing to race for the house. The horror of it all registers quickly.

VIRDON

Jasko!

Viridon's cry goes unheard, drowned out by the terror which is taking place.

BACK TO SCENE

38

The totality of the Dragoons' terror has been wrought. The Dragoon Leader reins up with Jasko still in tow...Jasko lying still.

DRAGOON LEADER

This is a lesson for all humans!

With a laugh, the Dragoon Leader tosses aside the rope. He spurs his horse and gallops off, all following but A CHIMP DRAGOON...who momentarily glances about with mixed emotions...then he too gallops off.

ANOTHER ANGLE

39

The dust of the departing Dragoons is seen as Viridon, Burke and Galen race into the SCENE. They stop short at the sight of Jasko's lifeless form a few feet away. Viridon hurries the last few steps to Jasko, kneels beside him as Burke and Galen come up. Viridon looks up at their searching faces. There is no need to say anything. Jasko is dead.

VIRDON

(grim)

We've got to put a stop to this killing...

Cont.

BURKE

(nods...a beat)

This whole thing started when that Ape girl's father was murdered. Alan, I don't know -- It's a long shot -- but suppose we found the killers? I mean, that could do it.

VIRDON

It's a chance, Pete.

GALEN

But where? -- How?

VIRDON

The girl -- maybe she could be of help to us.

EXT. COUNTRYSIDE - HIGH ANGLE - DAY

40

In the distance we can see Galen talking to an Ape farmer in an open field a short way from the farmer's house. It is apparent Galen has interrupted the farmer's plowing -- an ox and crude plowing device at hand. The farmer points off in a direction. Galen thanks him, exits -- moving quickly towards us. The farmer watches Galen for a moment, then goes back to his work. The CAMERA ANGLES DOWN revealing Virдон and Burke crouching in hiding behind the cover of large boulders. They rise as Galen enters.

BURKE

(to Galen)

Any luck?

GALEN

(nods)

He told me where we can find her.

They move off, Galen leading the way up a path.

EXT. THE HILL - OBLIQUE ANGLE - DAY

41

The lone grave is in the f.g. The Ape female, Fauna, kneels at the gravesite -- some flowers in her hand. Virдон, Burke and Galen crest the hill in the b.g. -- stop upon seeing her.

CLOSER SHOT

42

as Virдон and Burke duck down.

GALEN

Wait here. I'll talk to her.

Galen takes a step forward. His foot snaps a twig.

ANGLE TO INCLUDE FAUNA

reacting to the SOUND. Her head is tilted slightly, alarm also in her face, her eyes not looking directly at the group. It is only now that we begin to sense that she is blind.

FAUNA

(hesitant, wary)

Who is it...? Who's there?

The men and the Ape glance at each other, realizing with some relief that she has not actually seen them, that she can see nothing. They move slightly toward her with:

GALEN

We are strangers here, but we mean you no harm.

FAUNA

(uncertain)

You are...Apes...?

GALEN

(beat, probes)

Of course. You are frightened of humans?

FAUNA

(indicates grave bitterly)

They killed my father.

GALEN

I'm sorry to hear that. I did not think they killed Apes.

FAUNA

They're savages -- and I hate them -- I shall always hate them for what they did --

GALEN

(a beat)

My name is...uh...Phoebus -- and these are my two friends, Alar and Pago --

FAUNA

I am Fauna.

(to the others)

Where are you?

BURKE

(a beat, hesitant)

We're right here.

Cont.

Fauna reacts distinctly to the sound of Burke's voice.

FAUNA

Your voice -- is familiar --
which one are you?

BURKE

Pago. I don't think you know
me. I'm from a very distant
section.

VIRDON

Yes. We've been traveling a
long way.

FAUNA

You must be tired and hungry.
Will you come to my house and
rest? I have food and drink.

VIRDON

(warily)
You live alone?

FAUNA

With my Uncle Sestus. He has
gone to the village for supplies.
But he will be back by nightfall.

The trio glance at each other.

BURKE

Well, we haven't much time to
spare, but we are hungry --

FAUNA

(delighted)
Good. Then follow me.

Fauna moves toward the grave with the flowers, the two men
backing away from her quickly to avoid discovery by her
touching their bare skins. She places the flowers on the
grave, feeling it with her sensitive hands. Then, she rises
and moves off with easy, sure steps, using only a stick to
feel ahead of her. The trio react appreciatively, then move
to follow her.

FAUNA

I hope you will stay to meet
Uncle Sestus...you will like
him.

EXT. COUNTRY ROAD - DAY

The Dragoons gallop down the road TOWARD THE CAMERA, reining up at a crossroad -- the Dragoon Chimp seen earlier pulling over to a wagon parked off the road.

DRAGOON LEADER

You will be notified when we
raid again.

The Dragoon Chimp nods, starts to dismount, the rest gallop off -- the last Dragoon in the party waving.

DRAGOON APE

See you, Sestus!

ANGLE ON DRAGOON CHIMP

Watching them leave, he removes his mask -- and we see that it is Sestus...Fauna's uncle! As he turns to hitch the horse to the wagon, we:

FADE OUT

END OF ACT ONE

ACT TWO

FADE IN

EXT. FARMHOUSE - ESTABLISHING SHOT - DAY 46

It is a simple frame house of wood and rock with a barn toward the rear. Fauna leads them to the front porch and into the house. The men and the Ape look cautiously around for some sign of the uncle, but he is nowhere to be seen.

INT. FARMHOUSE - DAY 47

The men and the Ape follow Fauna into the simple, spartan house.

FAUNA

Please sit down and be comfortable.

GALEN

Can we help you with something?

FAUNA

(light)

Because I am blind? Don't be silly...I manage quite well.

She moves surely about getting food and drink for them, putting it on a table. Burke and Virdon make sure that they stay out of her way.

FAUNA

(soft, poignant)

Being unable to see has really changed very little. I know the farm and most of the area for some distance around so well that I don't really need my eyes.

She sets food for them. They sit at the table and hungrily dive in.

FAUNA

Of course, there are some things that I miss...the sun setting... the color of the flowers...and reading most of all...My father collected many books and, though I read them all when I was quite young, he would read them to me over and over. Every night, by the fire, my father...:

She breaks off, tears coming to her eyes.

TIGHT SHOT - BURKE

He regards her sympathetically. CAMERA PANS from his face to Galen, eating, then ON to Virдон, eyes on Fauna.

VIRDON

(gentle)

You must have loved your father
very much.

ANOTHER ANGLE

FAUNA

(nods)

Yes.

VIRDON

These humans who...

(avoids saying it)

Do you know who they were?

FAUNA

No, but my uncle, Sestus, saw
it happen. He was there. He
told me everything.

BURKE

How did it happen?

FAUNA

(soft, aching)

There were two of them. They came
here asking for food, and my father
gave it to them. He tried to make
friends with them. Uncle Sestus
warned him that humans were
treacherous, but he wouldn't
listen. Then, down by the river,
the humans attacked my father
and killed him.

BURKE

But there must have been a
reason why they did it --

FAUNA

(bitterly)

They're savages! They don't
need reasons to kill!

A long beat.

Cont.

VIRDON

Fauna -- Did your uncle get a description of them? How tall, their hair, what they were wearing, anything?

FAUNA

No. It was dark. He saw very little. Besides, who can tell one human from another. When I could see they all looked alike to me.

GALEN

(smiles, re Virdon and Burke)

I have the same problem.

GROUP SHOT

50

Fauna brings some milk to the table, pausing as she pours, tilting her head.

FAUNA

Pago, where are you...?

BURKE

Here.

She pours him a glass and moves very close to him. She puts the milk down and, as she draws back, she makes a slight attempt to touch his hand. He snaps it away quickly, knocking over the milk which spills across the table. This moment gives him a chance to move away from Fauna's touch.

BURKE

I'm sorry, Fauna. I'm afraid I spilled the milk.

FAUNA

It's all right. I'll clean it up. Pour yourself some more.

She starts to get a cloth, but stops as she reacts to a sound her acute ears pick up.

FAUNA

I think I hear Uncle Sestus' wagon. He must be coming back early.

The trio reacts in alarm. Galen, who is near a window, glances out and reacts to:

P.O.V. SHOT

In the distance, a wagon drawn by a horse can be seen approaching. A lone ape, Sestus, is driving. The wagon is filled with supplies.

BACK TO SCENE

The men react, realizing they cannot stay here and be seen by Fauna's uncle. Burke quickly addresses Fauna.

BURKE

Fauna, there's something I think we'd better tell you --

Viridon and Galen react to this with alarm, but Burke indicates for them to remain silent. Fauna turns toward Burke curiously. Burke speaks quickly, confidently to Fauna.

FAUNA

What is it?

BURKE

(winks at his friends,
hurried intent)

You said you miss reading most of all. Well, the love of books is something that we share with you. But unfortunately it's gotten us into trouble with the Ministry of Knowledge...

FAUNA

Trouble? What kind of trouble?

BURKE

There were certain books which we didn't know had been banned. The police found those books in our house. Rather than be tossed into prison just because we like to read, we chose to run.

FAUNA

(astonished)

You mean, they were going to punish you for reading?

VIRDON

(picking it up)

Well, it's a matter of those ideas in books which some people find threatening to their way of life.

Cont.

FAUNA

But surely it can't be against
the law to think?

BURKE

Your uncle might not be as
understanding as you are. We
better leave now before he comes.

FAUNA

(disturbed, considering it)
Yes, I'm afraid Uncle Sestus
doesn't feel quite the same way
I do about books. He used to
quarrel about them with my father.
(beat)
I have an idea -- a place where
you can hide safely and rest --
it's not far from here --

GALEN

(uncertain)
I don't think that's a very --

FAUNA

Oh, please, let me do this for
you. It would give me great
pleasure --

The two men and the ape glance at each other for a beat.

EXT. FARMHOUSE - DAY

53

Sestus moves his wagon to the barn at the rear of the
house. Fauna leads the two men and the ape out of the house
and towards the sea cliffs beyond. Galen is carrying a
basket of food and drink.

ANGLE ON SESTUS

54

getting down from the wagon and unhitching the horse. He
is not aware of the group leaving.

EXT. SEA CLIFFS - OBLIQUE ANGLE - DAY

55

Fauna leads the others cautiously along the cliffs.
Reaching a path, she starts down toward the sea.

EXT. THE CAVE - ESTABLISHING SHOT - DAY

56

It is cut into the side of the cliffs above the ocean, the
entrance somewhat obscured by foliage. Fauna moves forward
with her stick, touching it to trees and rocks, making her
way quite surely, with obvious familiarity to each thing

Cont.

she touches. Now, she moves to the cave entrance, the others following. She sweeps back the foliage and leads them inside the cave. Virдон and Burke pause, look out toward the ocean.

VIRDON

Look familiar to you?

BURKE

Uh-huh...Pebble Beach. We spent a couple of days here just before blast-off.

VIRDON

You had a date with that redhead?

BURKE

(nods)

Jan Adams. Carved our initials in this same cave.

VIRDON

Wonder if they're still there?

BURKE

Wish she was still there!

They enter the cave.

INT. THE CAVE - CLOSE ANGLE - DAY

57

There are some small pieces of candle on a shelf which Fauna takes down, together with some ape-type matches.

FAUNA

Ah...they're still here. I haven't needed these for a long time --

She holds out the candles and matches. Galen quickly takes them, lights them, the yellowish glow illuminating the interior of the generous cave. There are rock chairs and a table, a clutter of various articles which Fauna has made use of since childhood, plates, cups, bowls, etc. Galen puts the basket of food on the rock table as the others glance around.

FAUNA

(soft, reflective)

I used to come here with someone I grew up with...and cared for very much...it was our 'secret place'... where we could hide and play and shut out the grown-up world.

FAUNA (Cont.)

(beat, sadly)

He left here long ago...when
I became blind...

(beat, searching)

Pago...?

Burke is noodling the initials "P.B. and J.A." carved in the side of the cave.

BURKE

I'm here, Fauna.

She turns to the sound of his voice and moves closer to him. He backs instinctively to avoid close contact, but finds himself against a wall.

FAUNA

Your voice reminded me..it's
so much like his...

CLOSER TWO SHOT

58

Fauna moves closer to Burke, the man sinking back against the wall.

FAUNA

(awkward, but imperative)

I wonder...if I might...touch
your face...

ANGLE ON VIRDON AND GALEN

59

reacting with alarm.

BACK TO BURKE AND FAUNA

60

FAUNA

...It would help me to know
what you look like...

Slowly, she lifts her hand, moving it toward him. Burke is shaken, knowing he can't allow her to touch him without giving away the fact that he is a human and has deceived her. He is at the point of guiltily revealing his deception when Galen moves INTO FRAME and takes Fauna's hand in his own hairy hand. He is standing very close to Burke and he guides the female's hand up to his own ape face, giving her the impression she is actually touching Burke. Fauna touches the features of Galen's face as Burke moves slightly out of the way, the female appearing to be very happy with the impression she gets.

FAUNA

It's...very much as I thought...
a strong, handsome face...

EXTREME TIGHT SHOT - GALEN

Her fingers touching his coarse simian features.

BACK TO SCENE

She turns and moves to leave with:

FAUNA

Please stay. You'll be safe here. I'll come back in the morning with more food. After Uncle Sestus leaves for the village.

Now, she turns and goes out of the cave. There is a long beat, Burke turning to Galen.

BURKE

That was close. All she had to do is find out I'm a Human.

Galen nods, he's somewhat upset by his actions.

GALEN

I didn't like doing that. It wasn't right to deceive her.

BURKE

(understanding)

Yeah.

A long beat, then:

BURKE

Well. Where do we go from here? From what Fauna said, our chances of finding the killers are next to zip.

VIRDON

So we do the next best thing -- Go after the Dragoons.

Burke shoots a look to Virdon, then back to Galen.

GALEN

(to Virdon)

But how on earth do you intend to accomplish that?

Cont.

VIRDON

An old human proverb -- cut
off the head of a snake and
the body dies.

BURKE

All purpose proverb -- works
for anything.

GALEN

You're both confusing me!

VIRDON

Look, Galen, if we can expose
the Dragoon Leader...maybe
capture him...Perdix will be
forced to arrest him.

BURKE

(on Galen's puzzled
look)

No leader -- no Dragons.

VIRDON

They will fall apart and this
senseless killing will stop.

GALEN

Hmm. Sounds reasonable. But
how do you plan to expose him?

VIRDON

From the inside. Somebody will
join the Dragons and find out
who he is.

GALEN

Somebody? Who is somebody?

Galen has answered his own question.

GALEN

Me?!

And on Galen's look of astonishment...

EXT. FAUNA'S FARMHOUSE - DAY

It is morning. Sestus and Fauna are by the wagon. Sestus gives Fauna a kiss on the cheek, boards the wagon, and drives on out -- Fauna returning to the house. ZOOM BACK to reveal Galen waiting nervously behind a tree at the roadside, watching the approaching wagon with great apprehension. He shoots a look up and off to...

ANGLE ON VIRDON AND BURKE

Up on the hillside behind a growth of low bushes. They wave for Galen to get out into the road.

ANGLE ON GALEN

Looking away from Virdon and Burke, then back to the approaching wagon.

TRAVELING SHOT - SESTUS

SHOOTING FROM BEHIND the wagon to the road ahead. Galen quickly moves out into the road, frantically waves down the wagon.

GALEN

Stop! Stop!...Stop!

ANOTHER ANGLE

Sestus reins the wagon up abruptly.

SESTUS

What is it? What's the matter?

GALEN

Two Humans -- they attacked me!
Took my horse!

SESTUS

Where?

GALEN

Uh...over that way -- that way!

He points off in a direction.

GALEN

Is there a village where I can
report this to the police?

SESTUS

Climb up. I will take you there!

Galen climbs up on the wagon and it rumbles off down the road.

ANGLE ON VIRDON AND BURKE

Watching him go.

BURKE

Never knew there was so much
ham in an Ape.

VIRDON

(nods)

Let's hope it works.

They turn, moving quickly along the hillside, keeping
low to avoid detection.

ANOTHER ANGLE

Virдон and Burke moving towards us. Suddenly Virдон
reacts to something ahead, drops to his stomach with:

VIRDON

Down, Pete!

Burke drops before the words leave Virдон's mouth.

P.O.V. SHOT

A Gorilla (Krono) on horseback moves at a steady
pace along a trail leading towards the woods.

CLOSE SHOT - VIRDON AND BURKE

BURKE

A Dragoon?

VIRDON

Who knows? --- Possibly.

BURKE

We could follow him -- maybe
find out something. Got nothing
to lose.

VIRDON

Not we...me! I saw him first.
You keep an eye on the store.
Can't let Fauna get suspicious.

BURKE

Don't be gone long.

Burke gives Virдон a pat on the cheek, smiles. Moves
out -- heading for the cave. Virдон watches him a beat,
then out up the hill following the Ape...keeping low
to avoid discovery.

EXT. COUNTRY ROAD - TRAVELING SHOT - CLOSE ON
GALEN AND SESTUS - DAY

As the wagon continues on toward the village, the mixture of horse hooves and wheel rumbles necessitating a fairly vocal conversation.

SESTUS

You say you were thinking of settling here, Phoebus?

GALEN

I was. But, as if you say, the area is overrun with...

(and in great
disdain)

...Humans, I will definitely have to reconsider. I mean, just the smell of so many Humans about must be overwhelming!

SESTUS

(grunting his
acknowledgement)

What can you expect. They're nothing but animals!

GALEN

I take it you have no liking for Humans either, Sestus?

SESTUS

I would rather keep company with a rattlesnake! They're not half as treacherous and at least rattle before they strike.

GALEN

(amused)

I know what you mean.

SESTUS

Only a few weeks past my brother was murdered by Humans.

GALEN

Oh, I'm terribly sorry to hear that. I take it the Humans responsible were dealt with unmercifully?

SESTUS

Haven't been caught yet. Doubt if they ever will.

Galen sees an opening, decides to take a chance.

GALEN

What an amazing coincidence! You know, where I come from we had a similar killing. And the only way we dealt with it was by...No. No, I'm sorry. I swore secrecy never to reveal --

SESTUS

(his interest
aroused)

Go on. You can trust me.

GALEN

(initial
reluctance)

Well --

(and then
enthusiasm)

A group of us Apes got together and ran about fifty Humans off and burned their homes, even killed a few!

SESTUS

(elated)

Ah! Good, good! You know the Simian World would be much better off if it were without Humans at all!

GALEN

My sentiment exactly. In fact, if I had my way, we'd drive them all out and ship them back to the Forbidden Zone where they supposedly came from!

They share a laugh. Galen has totally won over Sestus's admiration and confidence.

SESTUS

You know Phoebus -- I think you will enjoy meeting some special friends of mine.

GALEN

'Special' friends?

SESTUS

(nods)

Have you ever heard of the 'Dragoons'?

GALEN
(searching)
Dragoons? Why no.

And on Galen's sincerest look of interest...

EXT. WOODED AREA - DAY 73

Krono prods his horse on, moving at a walk up a steep trail towards us. In the b.g., we pick up Virdon, half running stealthily following. As Krono nears CAMERA he stops and looks back. Virdon quickly ducks from sight. Confident no one is following, Krono continues on -- as does Virdon.

INT. THE CAVE - CLOSE ON BURKE - DAY 74

He is waiting restlessly for Virdon to come back. He starts to go toward the entrance to the cave when he hears something, calls out:

BURKE
Alan -- ?

ANGLE TO INCLUDE FAUNA 75

She moves into the cave toward Burke. He reacts as he sees her, retreating slightly to avoid contact, disturbed at being alone with her. Fauna carries a basket of food.

FAUNA
It's Fauna, Pago. Alar is
not here? I brought food.

BURKE
He and Phoebus -- went to get
some water.

Fauna brushes on past, Burke careful to avoid contact with her.

FAUNA
(smiles)
I'm glad. I like talking with
you.

BURKE
Same here.

Fauna settles to the ground, uncovers the basket and lays out some fruit on a cloth napkin.

FAUNA
Pago?

BURKE

Yeah?

FAUNA

Can you tell me about the books
you've read -- could you tell
me some of the stories?

BURKE

I guess.

Burke sits across from her.

BURKE

(a beat, hesitant,
then)

Well, there was one I always
liked. It was about a...an
Ape...an Ape who became
stranded on an island in the
middle of a great ocean. His
name was 'Robinson Crusoe.'

FAUNA

'Robinson Crusoe'? What a
strange name --

BURKE

It was long ago when apes had
two names.

FAUNA

What happened to him?

BURKE

One day he was walking on the
beach when he saw a footprint in
the sand...it was the footprint
of a human...

TIGHT SHOT - FAUNA

76

She listens, fascinated despite her feelings about
humans.

EXT. THE APE VILLAGE - DAY

77

Sestus and Galen enter the village, their wagon passing
a moderate amount of activity. Ape villagers going about
their daily routines. Galen takes note that the village
is devoid of humans -- a rare exception, but plausible
here considering the general mood of the apes.

Cont.

Perdix and Zon, on their way out of the village on horses, rein up close by the wagon. Sestus pulls the wagon to a halt.

SESTUS

Good morning Perdix -- Zon.

PERDIX

(a greeting)

Sestus.

SESTUS

(introducing)

My friend, Phoebus. Two Humans attacked him -- took his horse.

PERDIX

Two Humans you say.

GALEN

Yes. About five miles down the road. You will get my horse back?

PERDIX

(nods -- turns to Zon)

Perhaps the two Humans are the killers we are looking for.

ZON

(nods -- regards Galen)

Rest assured Phoebus -- these Human criminals will be hunted down.

PERDIX

(making a point)

Within the law. We will find them and bring them in.

GALEN

That is reassuring.

Perdix and Zon ride out.

INT. THE CAVE - CLOSE TWO SHOT - BURKE AND FAUNA - 78
DAY

Burke is still telling Fauna the story of Robinson Crusoe.

BURKE

And so, after thirty-five years, Crusoe and his human friend, Friday, were rescued and taken to Crusoe's home to live.

A beat, Burke glances toward the cave entrance.

BURKE

Alar and Phoebus haven't come back. I'm getting a little concerned.

FAUNA

I'm sure they'll be all right. I love the story of Robinson Crusoe... even though the human frightens me...I don't trust him...

Fauna gets up from where she was sitting and moves toward a shelf where some loose rocks are covering a small opening.

FAUNA

I want to show you something, Page...

She feels with her hands, manages to remove the rocks and takes a dusty journal from the hiding place. She wipes it off and hands it to Burke. He regards it curiously.

BURKE

What is it?

FAUNA

It is something I would like you to read to me. It's something my father left me. He told me I should never show it to Sestus, that he would not understand.

CLOSER ANGLE

79

Burke opens the journal and begins to read:

BURKE

(reads)

'I came into the woods because I wanted to live only with the essential facts of life...'

TIGHT SHOT - FAUNA

Listening, rapt.

TIGHT SHOT - BURKE

Impressed by what he is reading.

BURKE

(continues
reading)'...you see, nearest the
bone is where life is
sweetest...'

INT. A BACKROOM - TIGHT SHOT - MUGS - DAY

As they join together in a toast -- each mug held
by the hairy hand of an ape.

SESTUS' VOICE

(o.s.)

A toast to our Dragoon to
be...Phoebus!ANGLE WIDENS to reveal Galen standing in the midst of
four Dragoons...Macor, Chilot, two other apes and
Sestus. Galen pretends his pleasure, but is really
shaking in his boots. The room itself is semi-dark,
luminated by blazing torches framing a symbolic ape
banner.

DRAGOONS

To Phoebus!

They raise their mugs, then drink to Galen...and Galen
joins them.

DRAGOONS

To all apes!

They drink again.

DRAGOONS

To the Dragoons!

They drink again. And this concludes the ceremony.

ANOTHER ANGLE - SESTUS AND GALEN

SESTUS

Congratulations, Phoebus.
You are soon to be one of
us.

GALEN

Words cannot describe my
feelings, Sestus.

SESTUS

And at the meeting later
you will get our leaders'
final approval.

GALEN

I do hope he accepts me.

SESTUS

(nods --
reassures)

Nothing to worry about. After-
wards you will ride with us on
a raid on the Humans!

And on Galen's worried look and weak smile...

EXT. WOODED AREA - DAY

Krono walks his horse through the woods and into a clearing. The clearing is well hidden...protected by the woods and rock-studded hills on two sides. The clearing is well marked with hoof prints and sawed stumps serve as places to sit around a fire pit. Clearly it is some kind of secret meeting place. Krono reins up, slowly scans the surrounding area.

SLIGHT UP ANGLE - ROCKY OUTCROPPING

Viridon appears from behind the rocks and looks down at the o.s. Krono.

P.O.V. SHOT

Krono dismounts. Removes a canteen of water and sits at a stump.

ANGLE ON VIRDON

Taking note of the clearing and Krono. He then moves away, but in so doing knocks lose a rock that clatters down the rocky mountain face. Viridon reacts, takes off running.

	35
ANGLE ON KRONO	88
Reacting to the SOUND of the rock - looks up and off to:	
P.O.V. SHOT	89
Catching a glimpse of Virdon moving off.	
ANGLE ON KRONO	90
Bolting to his horse and mounting. He spurs his horse on in pursuit of Virdon.	
ANGLE ON VIRDON	91
Running madly down a rutted trail.	
ANGLE ON KRONO	92
In pursuit. His horse at a full gallop.	
ANGLE ON VIRDON	93
Half stumbling to a halt - he has reached an impass - the trail ends - nothing before him but a sheer rocky slope, and behind him Krono, the SOUND of him approaching ever near. Virdon searches for cover - bolts o.s.	
ANGLE ON KRONO	94
Galloping up and into the impass - slowing and easing forward cautiously, his rifle at the ready. His eyes scan the surroundings -- and up the sheer slope.	
ANOTHER ANGLE - KRONO	95
He looks over to a tree, and the CAMERA PANS UP the tree and to...Virdon, crouching on a limb, half hidden in the foliage. Virdon is a sitting duck!	
DOWN ANGLE - KRONO	96
As he starts to reach for his sheathed rifle...	

FADE OUT

END OF ACT TWO

ACT THREE

FADE IN

EXT. WOODED AREA - DAY

97

Krono raising his rifle to take aim at Virdon, crouched in the tree limb. Virdon acts quickly -- springs from the tree and lands squarely on Krono just as he fires! The SOUND of the stray shot reverberates through the canyon as Virdon and Krono fall heavily to the ground. A brief bitter struggle ensues. Virdon has his hands full with the powerfully built Gorilla. Krono gets the advantage, lands on top of Virdon, his huge hands in a death lock around Virdon's throat. Virdon kicks him off. Krono staggers to his feet, grabs a thick piece of tree limb. Virdon finds a similar weapon. They circle briefly -- then Krono charges, takes a roundhouse swing at Virdon. Virdon ducks under the swing, and drives his weapon into Krono's mid-section with a two-handed swing. Krono doubles over -- wind knocked from him. Virdon's next blow, an uppercut to the chin, drops Krono. Virdon, gasping for breath, stands over the unconscious Ape, then tosses aside his wooden weapon.

ANGLE ON KRONO'S HORSE

98

Still winded, Virdon staggers to the Horse. He opens a saddle pack, rummages inside. He pulls out a Dragoon mask, glances at it a beat, then tosses it aside and moves off.

INT. THE CAVE - CLOSE ANGLE - BURKE AND FAUNA - DAY

99

Burke is reading from the journal, but silently now, to himself, his face reflecting great interest in what he sees. Fauna reacts curiously.

FAUNA

Why do you stop?

BURKE

Your father wrote very beautifully,
Fauna...

FAUNA

Yes, I had no idea. He was very secretive about his work in the book. I think he was afraid to let anyone know what was in it... even me. But there isn't anything to be ashamed of, is there?
It's lovely.

Cont.

BURKE

Yes, but I'm going to have to put it back. Better see what's keeping Alar and Phoebus. I'm worried about them.

FAUNA

You'll read more to me later?

BURKE

I promise.

Burke rustles the rocks where the journal had been kept in order to give the impression that he has returned it. But we can see him put it inside his shirt. Now he turns and moves out of the cave.

TIGHT SHOT - FAUNA

100

She turns her head toward the entrance of the cave, tilts it slightly as she listens to him go. She then moves out of the cave.

EXT. COUNTRYSIDE - DAY

101

Burke moves away from the shore cliffs towards the wooded area up ahead. He glances back to see Fauna in the far b.g. returning toward the farm. He continues on.

ANOTHER PART OF THE COUNTRYSIDE

102

Burke moves towards the woods just ahead in search of Virdon. Suddenly Virdon appears ahead.

BURKE

(sees him)

Alan!

VIRDON

Pete!

And as they meet:

BURKE

I was just about to track you down. You okay?

VIRDON

(nods)

Except for almost getting myself killed...

Cont.

And on Burke's look:

VIRDON

That Ape led me to the Dragoons' meeting place -- about a mile from here.

BURKE

Nice going. Now if Galen has any luck we could be in business.

Burke reaches inside his shirt, removes the book.

VIRDON

Let's hope so --
(and re the book)
What's that, Pete?

BURKE

Fauna gave me this journal. Her father wrote it, but she never knew what was in it... I was reading it to her but I stopped when I got to a part where he mentions meeting with Humans... Humans he seems to have liked and respected.

VIRDON

Go on.

BURKE

He knew the Apes in this area feared and hated Humans, but he started to meet with them in secret...so he could share with them what knowledge he had learned.

VIRDON

Teaching Humans. Being friendly to them.

(a beat)

Then why kill him? It doesn't make any sense.

Viridon and Burke exchange puzzled looks.

EXT. COUNTRY ROAD - DAY

103

Sestus and Galen in the wagon returning from town. As the wagon nears the "driveway" leading into Sestus' farm. Sestus reins up the wagon. Galen dismounts.

SESTUS

Are you sure you won't change your mind and come with me? It'll only take an hour to inform the others of the meeting later.

GALEN

No. I really am tired -- it's been a busy day for me. I'm not used to all this excitement. I think a little nap would do me good.

SESTUS

My niece Fauna will see to you. Tell her you will be staying with us; and I'll return shortly.

GALEN

Fauna. A pretty name.

SESTUS

A gentle girl. She's blind -- and Phoebus, she knows nothing of my activities. I would like it kept that way.

GALEN

Of course.

SESTUS

When I return I'll bring a horse for you -- you'll be needing it.

Sestus drives off. Galen turns and heads for the farmhouse.

ANGLE - THE FARMHOUSE

104

Galen moving from the b.g. towards us. He glances toward the house, but continues on -- heading toward the cave. As he draws abreast of the farmhouse the ANGLE ADJUSTS to reveal Fauna gathering some wood at a small shed at the side of the house. She senses or hears Galen's presence.

FAUNA

Phoebus?

Cont.

GALEN
 (stopping in his
 tracks)
 Oh! Hello, Fauna.

He moves to her.

GALEN
 Uh...how could you tell it was me?

FAUNA
 Your feet. The blind can tell
 someone from the way he walks.

GALEN
 (genuine)
 That's very interesting. Here,
 let me help you.

He takes the wood and follows her as she walks towards
 the door.

FAUNA
 Did you get your water?

GALEN
 Water?

FAUNA
 Pago said you and Alar went to get
 some.

GALEN
 (covering quickly)
 Oh, yes! Yes.
 (a beat)
 You were with Pago?

And as they ENTER:

FAUNA
 At the cave. He told me a story
 about an Ape named Robinson Crusoe.

INT. FARMHOUSE - DAY

105

As Fauna followed by Galen ENTERS, Galen moving to a
 wood box next to the fireplace (or cooking stove).

GALEN
 (darkly)
 Pago has a way with females.

Cont.

FAUNA

(a beat)

I think I'm in love with him.

GALEN

(reacts)

Isn't that kind of sudden?

FAUNA

I know he reminds me of someone else, but it isn't just that. It's a gentleness in his voice. A warmth all his own that makes me feel more alive than I've felt in a long time.

GALEN

(disturbed)

Fauna, you must be careful. You can't trust love that happens so quickly.

FAUNA

Is time any guarantee that love will be binding? Phoebus, I know it's asking a lot for him to love someone who is blind -- but do you think it's possible?

GALEN

Do you want an honest answer?

FAUNA

Of course.

GALEN

No, I don't think it is possible.

FAUNA

(proudly)

I can do anything a female with sight can do.

GALEN

(flares, disturbed)

Except to recognize the truth, Fauna. Pago is not an Ape --

(beat)

Not an Ape you can trust --

Cont.

FAUNA

(counters, piqued)

I don't believe that. I think you're the one who can't be trusted. He's supposed to be your friend, yet you talk about him like an enemy.

GALEN

He is my friend, but I know him -- and I'm concerned about you --

FAUNA

(flares)

I don't want to hear any more from you. Leave me alone.

Angry, Fauna turns from him. Galen, disturbed and at a loss for words, EXITS.

INT. CAVE - CLOSE ANGLE - GALEN - DAY

106

as he comes INTO the SCENE. He is tight -- still disturbed by his encounter with Fauna.

GALEN

(abrupt)

You were right, Virdon...Sestus not only knew all about the Dragoons -- he's one of them.

ANGLE WIDENS to include Burke and Virdon.

BURKE

How about that!

GALEN

(as before)

I've won their confidence. They're bringing me up for membership at a meeting later today.

VIRDON

Good work, Galen.

BURKE

Yeah...we knew you could pull it off.

GALEN

(caustic)

We should all be proud of ourselves...

(and pointed)

Right, Pete?

Cont.

BURKE

(sensing)
Well, I can't take any credit --
I haven't done anything.

GALEN

Oh but you have -- you have indeed --

BURKE

Hey -- what's eating you anyway?

GALEN

(snaps at Burke)
I'll tell you what's eating me --
I think you should stay away
from Fauna!

BURKE

(puzzled)
Sorry...I don't read you, Galen.

GALEN

(resentfully)
She's in love with you!

BURKE

Love? What're you talking about?

GALEN

She told me. She wanted to know if
I thought you could love her.

BURKE

That's ridiculous --

GALEN

Ridiculous? It's tragic! Can you
imagine what it's going to do to her
if she finds out you're a Human.

BURKE

Look, you were the one who made
her think I was an Ape.

GALEN

(flaring)
I didn't think you would become
involved with her.

BURKE

(flaring)
I'm not involved with her!

Cont.

VIRDON

(interceding)

Okay...cool it, you two. What happened,
happened. Nobody planned it that way.

A long beat, then:

BURKE

(to Galen)

Look, I don't want to hurt her any
more than you do...and I'm not going
to...I'll talk to her.

Burke starts to exit.

GALEN

(soft)

Pete...Be gentle with her.

Burke nods -- then EXITS.

EXT. THE FARM - CLOSE ANGLE - DAY

107

Fauna is lifting a water bucket from the well some yards
from the front of the farmhouse. Burke approaches her.

CLOSE TWO SHOT

108

BURKE

(gently)

Fauna, it's Pago.

FAUNA

(reacts, worried)

You shouldn't be here.

BURKE

I had to talk to you.

FAUNA

About us?

Delaying - he pulls the book from his shirt.

BURKE

(hesitant)

About your father's journal.
I took it with me.

FAUNA

I know. I didn't mind.

Cont.

She senses he is disturbed, tilts her head curiously.
There is a beat, then:

FAUNA

Did Phoebus tell you what I said
to him?

BURKE

Fauna --

FAUNA

It's all right if you don't care
for me. I understand. It's too
soon. Perhaps in time --

BURKE

I think you're a...lovely...gentle
person, Fauna...but there are
things about me that you don't know...

FAUNA

Now you sound like Phoebus.

BURKE

(disturbed)

Maybe you should have listened
to him.

FAUNA

(undaunted)

You tell me. You tell me what is so
wrong about you that surpasses what
is wrong with me.

BURKE

(regards her,
a long beat)

Fauna, this makes me remember
another story...a story my mother
used to tell me when I was very small...

FAUNA

Will you tell it to me?

BURKE

It's from a book called 'The Bible.'

FAUNA

I never heard of it.

Cont.

BURKE

It's about a blind man named Isaac and his two sons, Jacob and Esau. Esau, was strong and hairy, a hunter idolized by his father. Well, Isaac was dying and, on his deathbed, he blessed Esau, something that meant a great deal in those days. The other son, Jacob, soft and smooth of skin, wanted the same blessing from his father. So he posed as his brother by covering his hand with a piece of goatskin. Old Isaac, fooled into thinking he was touching Esau, gave Jacob the same blessing.

FAUNA

(a beat, puzzled)

I am not sure I understand the meaning of the story.

BURKE

It was a deception born of desperate need, Fauna...not meant to harm anyone...

At this moment, Burke slowly reaches out his hand toward Fauna in an attempt to make contact with her so that she might feel his smooth skin and know the truth.

TIGHT SHOT

109

His hand moving closer to hers, the contrast apparent. But as his reaches close to hers, it hesitates.

FAUNA

You could not deceive anyone, Pago. I have touched you, your face. It is strong like Esau. If you were smooth and soft like Jacob, I should fear and despise you.

TIGHT SHOT - BURKE'S HAND

110

hesitating, drawing slowly back.

CLOSE TWO SHOT

111

Burke looks at her open, trusting face, realizes he cannot tell her the truth, angry with himself for being unable to, and continuing the deception.

Cont.

BURKE

Fauna, you must understand that there is nothing between us and there can never be. My friends and I are leaving here...and you will never hear my voice again.

FAUNA

(reacts, aching)

No...

BURKE

Good-bye, Fauna.

Burke places her father's journal into her hands, then turns and moves swiftly off, disturbed and angry with himself.

CLOSE SHOT - FAUNA

112

Shaken, disbelieving, poignant as she stands and listens to his fading steps, the journal held limply in her hands. Now she begins to cry softly, her body trembling, the journal dropping from her hands to the ground.

CLOSE ON THE JOURNAL

113

The wind rustles its pages.

EXT. ROAD - LONG SHOT - SESTUS - DAY

114

riding up toward the farm on a horse, leading another saddled horse. Galen waits for him at the "driveway" to the farm. Sestus reins up. Galen mounts his horse and they both move out. CAMERA FOLLOWS as they head towards the woods, HOLDING as Virdon and Burke COME INTO FRAME -- watching from a vantage point near the cave.

VIRDON

(turning to Burke)

We haven't much time...we've got to get into the village and try to get Perdix to that meeting.

ANOTHER ANGLE

115

BURKE

I hate to be a killjoy -- but I've got this terrible feeling in the pit of my stomach that he might not want to come with us.

Cont.

VIRDON

(light)

Then you'll just have to find a way
to persuade him.

BURKE

Thanks a lot.

They move off. As they do the CAMERA FOCUSES on the b.g.
and ZOOMS IN on Macor, watching the two Humans from a
distant rise. Macor spurs his horse on towards the woods.

EXT. APE VILLAGE - WIDE ANGLE - DAY

116

HOLD a beat, then SLOWLY PAN across the moderate activity
taking place and HOLD on the Garrison (jail). Perdix's
and Zon's horses are tied outside. Virdon and Burke
stealthily scramble down the hillside behind the
garrison building.

ANGLE ON REAR OF GARRISON

117

Virdon and Burke INTO the SCENE. They press against the
wall next to a rear door, catching their breath.

INT. GARRISON

118

The main "office." Perdix is standing, reading a circular.
Nearby, a GORILLA WORKER cleans a rifle. Zon starts to exit.

PERDIX

(looking up)

Leaving, Zon?

ZON

For a while. I'll be back, Perdix.

Perdix nods his approval, EXITS into an anteroom as
Zon EXITS.

EXT. GARRISON

119

Zon mounts his horse and rides off.

ANGLE ON VIRDON AND BURKE

120

BURKE

(re Zon)

We lost one.

VIRDON

(nods)

We only need one.

Cont.

Viridon reaches for the door, opens it and they both burst inside.

INT. GARRISON - MED. SHOT - WORKER 121

Reacting to the SOUND of the door, he swings TOWARDS CAMERA, the rifle held in an upraised position. Instantly, Viridon and Burke are all over the Ape and they fall to the floor.

ANGLE ON VIRDON AND BURKE 122

Burke is holding the Worker down with an armlock -- his free hand cupped over the frightened Ape's mouth. Viridon pulls the rifle from his grasp.

VIRDON

Take it easy, Perdix -- we just want to talk.

BURKE

No yelling, okay?

The Gorilla nods. Burke releases his hold on his mouth.

GORILLA

I'm...I'm not Perdix.

The words hit home like a sledgehammer. Viridon and Burke shoot a look to one another. The SOUND of a rifle bolt turns them to:

ANGLE ON PERDIX 123

stepping from the anteroom -- his rifle trained on Viridon and Burke.

PERDIX

Were you looking for me?

TIGHT SHOT - VIRDON AND BURKE 124

On their defeated reactions, we:

FADE OUT

END OF ACT THREE

ACT FOUR

FADE IN

EXT. WOODED AREA - TIGHT SHOT - DAY

125

SHOOTING THROUGH the licking flames of a blazing torch at the Dragoon Leader, standing on large boulder - the podium of the Dragoons meeting place. The MURMUR of Ape voices HEARD o.s.

DRAGOON LEADER

(booming)

As leader of the high council,
I now call The Dragoons to order.

The MURMURS subside. The ANGLE ADJUSTS to reveal the Dragoon meeting -- twelve Apes, eight Gorillas, four Chimps wearing their fierce masks, five or six holding lighted torches, others with rifles, all seated in a semi-circle before the Dragoon Leader. Galen nervously sits alongside the masked Sestus.

SLIGHT UP ANGLE - DRAGOON LEADER

126

DRAGOON LEADER

If no one objects, we will not list the grievances the humans voiced on our last raid.. It seems these humans are now dead!

ANGLE ON THE DRAGOONS

127

A ROAR of LAUGHTER mixed with ovative Ape grunts. Galen forcing a LAUGH himself.

ANGLE ON DRAGOON LEADER

128

As the SOUND of the LAUGHTER subsides, he takes on a more serious tone.

DRAGOON LEADER

I understand we have a new prospect who wishes to join our ranks. Will he please stand.

ANGLE ON GALEN

129

Sestus urges him up, and Galen stands -- apprehensive, nervous -- he scans the masked Ape audience. The Dragoon Leader's next two questions are a formality - he has foreknowledge of the answers.

DRAGOON LEADER

Your name?

Cont.

GALEN

Phoebus.

DRAGOON LEADER

And who vouches for Phoebus?

SESTUS

(rising)

I... Sestus!

DRAGOON LEADER

(pleased)

Sestus -- yes. Good.

DRAGOON LEADER

Are you, Phoebus, familiar with the goals of the Dragoons?

Galen figures he'd better make a good impression.

GALEN

(with vigor)

Yes! To drive every Human from our lands!

Applause and CHEERS from the Apes.

DRAGOON LEADER

And the Humans who refuse?

GALEN

(with greater vigor)

Death to them! Death to them all!

Wild CHEERS and GRUNTS from the Apes!

DRAGOON LEADER

It appears Sestus has brought us a worthy prospect. Let us take a vote!

ANGLE ON MACOR

130

MACOR

(rising)

Before we go any further, I would like my say.

DRAGOON LEADER

Speak, Macor.

Cont.

MACOR

It may mean nothing. But then
again -- I would like to know what
Humans are doing on Sestus's farm!

A startled MURMUR from the Apes -- reactions from Galen
and Sestus.

SESTUS

On my farm!? Humans!?
(dismissing)
Impossible.

MACOR

Two of them. One with yellow
hair. They were hiding by a cave -
not more than an hour ago!

SESTUS

I wouldn't allow it!

KRONO

(rising)
The one who attacked me -- he
was a yellow haired Human!

More MURMURS from the Apes. They are suspicious of Sestus.
He appeals to the Dragoon Leader.

SESTUS

(to leader,
bewildered)
You know my loyalty. I swear...
I know nothing of these Humans!

The Dragoon Leader nods - he is satisfied... with Sestus.

DRAGOON LEADER

And you, Phoebus -- do you know
anything of these Humans?

GALEN

(highly indignant)
Me?? What would I know of Humans
on Sestus' farm? --

DRAGOON LEADER

(chilling)
Yes. What would you.
(a command)
We will go to this cave and find
the Humans!

A frenzied CHEER from the Dragons.

DRAGOON LEADER

(overriding)

And Phoebus -- you will have the honor of killing them.

An ovation for Galen -- and on his reaction...

EXT. COUNTRYSIDE - MED. TRAVELING SHOT - DAY 131

On Virdon and Burke, trotting ahead.

VIRDON

Stop worrying -- I tell you he's convinced we're telling the truth.

BURKE

Then why is he pointing that gun at our backs?

ANGLE WIDENS to reveal Perdix on horseback a few yards behind the trotting Virdon and Burke -- Perdix's rifle at the ready.

VIRDON

He probably has a gun fetish. Look, he wants to nail those Dragoons as bad as we do. If we have a friend -- he's it.

PERDIX

If you Humans have lied to me, I will execute you personally!

BURKE

For such a good friend, he gives me a slight feeling of insecurity - but I suppose that's just me.

EXT. WOODED AREA - DAY 132

The Dragoons gallop past the CAMERA - Galen riding with them.

EXT. OCEAN - DAY 133

The CAMERA PANNING with a wave as it rolls in and crashes against the sea cliffs. Then, the CAMERA PANS UP to the top of the cliffs to reveal Fauna -- wandering along the cliffs -- aimless, lonely, poignant, uncaring where she is going.

EXT. WOODED AREA - DAY 134

The Dragoons come pounding out of the woods and gallop on towards the cave.

EXT. COUNTRYSIDE - DAY 135

Viridon and Burke trotting ahead of Perdix. They pull up abruptly and look off to:

P.O.V. SHOT 136

The Dragoons galloping down toward the cave area.

ANGLE ON VIRDON, BURKE AND PERDIX 137

VIRDON

(winded)

There's your Dragoons, Perdix.

BURKE

Now let's see if you'll do something about them.

PERDIX

(hesitates a beat)

Move!

They move on -- toward the cave and the Dragoons.

ANGLE ON THE SEA CLIFFS 138

As the Dragoons thunder IN and rein up.

MACOR

(indicating)

Down there.

The Dragoon Leader gestures - three Apes with rifles dismount and scramble down the trail to the cave.

ANGLE ON THE CAVE 139

While one Ape waits outside, the other two rush inside. A long beat - the two Apes emerge, shout up to the others.

DRAGOON APE #1

No one in the cave.

DRAGOON APE #2

(holding up fruit)

But someone was here.

ANGLE ON DRAGOON LEADER

140

He looks off -- as does Sestus and another Ape.

DRAGOON LEADER

(deliberate)

They can't be far...

Their gaze picks up something o.s.

SESTUS

It's Perdix!...With the Humans!

ANGLE ADJUSTS as Perdix brings Viridon and Burke into the scene.

DRAGOON LEADER

(a sinister welcome)

Ah, Perdix! You have saved us the trouble of hunting them down.

PERDIX

(cold)

And they have saved me the trouble of hunting you down.

(demands)

All of you -- throw down your weapons!

ANOTHER ANGLE

141

The Dragoons hesitate.

PERDIX

Throw them down!

DRAGOON LEADER

No!

PERDIX

(recognizing the voice)

Don't be a fool, Zon!

The Dragoon Leader (Zon) rips the mask from his face -- a face conveying hatred and a lust for blood.

Cont.

ZON

You are the fool, Perdix. A fool
not to side with us! Turn your
back - let us kill these Humans!

PERDIX

No! This killing will stop. This
terror will stop! This hate will
stop! Now throw down your weapons!

Zon LAUGHS - almost a psychopathic laugh.

ZON

We have ten weapons to your one
-- Are you willing to die with
these Humans?

Perdix levels his rifle at Zon.

PERDIX

Are you willing to die to kill
me, Zon?

Tension prevails -- the Dragoons shuffle uneasily, looking
to Zon for leadership. Perdix holds steady. Virdon and
Burke glance from one to the other. A bloodbath seems
inevitable.

SESTUS

(a plea)

This has gone too far, Zon.

ZON

Shut up, Sestus. We set out to
do something and we're going to
finish it.

SESTUS

I'm willing to shut up where Humans
are concerned -- but not Apes!

ZON

(sharp)

I'll kill anyone... Human or
Ape... who tries to stop us!

Zon levels his rifle at Perdix -- cocks the firing pin.

EXT. THE SEA CLIFFS - OBLIQUE ANGLE - FAUNA - DAY 142

She wanders too close to the edge of the cliff, stumbling
at the brink of a cliff bordering the waters below. She
slips, grabbing at some roots as she falls, clinging to keep
from falling into the waters, crying out for help, a shrill
SCREAM.

ANGLE FAVORING BURKE AND SESTUS 143

They both react in this instant to the SOUND of Fauna's scream as it echoes in the still air.

BURKE

Fauna!

He bolts toward the sound. Zon jerks around, takes aim at Burke. Sestus knocks Zon's rifle aside as it fires.

SESTUS

No!

EXT. THE CLIFF - OBLIQUE ANGLE - DAY 144

Fauna is still clinging precariously to the roots, struggling to climb back up the sheer face of the cliff. We can see Burke in the far b.g., rushing toward the scene.

ANOTHER ANGLE 145

Fauna loses her grip on the roots, drops downward, landing in the ocean below, the raging waters threatening certain death.

NEW ANGLE INTO OCEAN 146

As Burke reaches the scene, spots Fauna in the water. He dives into the water just as Fauna is swept under by a wave.

ANGLE ON PERDIX, VIRDON, GALEN, DRAGOONS 147

Coming down toward the edge of the cliffs, watching Burke who is struggling to get to Fauna.

ANGLE ON BURKE AND FAUNA 148

Burke reaches her limp body, grabs her and begins pulling her toward the shore.

ANOTHER ANGLE 149

Burke struggles towards a sandy beach just away from the cliff where Fauna fell. Seeing Burke's destination, the group on the cliff top heads down a trail toward the beach.

ANGLE AT THE SHORE 150

Burke carries Fauna in his arms out of the water. Wearily he trudges up on the sand as the others draw up. Burke lies Fauna down on the sand. Sestus dismounts. Virdon takes a blanket from the saddle and covers her with it. She is beginning to recover consciousness and she MOANS slightly.

Cont.

BURKE

(gently)
It's all right, Fauna... it's
all right now...

TIGHT TWO SHOT

151

FAUNA

(weakly)
Pago...? Pago... is that you?

BURKE

Yes, Fauna...

She reacts to his voice, relieved and happy that he is back. Reaching out, she touches his face. There is an instant of contact with that human flesh and she reacts in shock and confusion.

FAUNA

(horrified)
No... no... you're not Pago...
you're...
(the word is
poison)
...human...

BURKE

(recalling the
Bible story,
imploring)
It... was a deception born of
desperate need, Fauna... not
meant to harm.

But the combined shock of the near-fatal accident and the revelation of Burke's true identity is almost more than Fauna can take, and she almost goes into hysteria at the thought of being so close to a hated human. Shocked, revulsed, she recoils from him in abject terror.

FAUNA

Get away from me... Get away...!

Burke, shaken, retreats from her, not wanting to upset her further. Sestus moves to try and placate her.

SESTUS

Fauna... it's your uncle, it's
Sestus... I'm here... There's
nothing to be afraid of...

Cont.

FAUNA

He's human...! Human!

SESTUS

But he isn't going to hurt you..

FAUNA

Get him away, get him away..!
He tricked me like the others
tricked my father! They're
treacherous -- like animals --
and they must be treated like
animals...

She breaks down in SOBS, her body trembling violently.

SESTUS

Fauna, listen to me -- the Human
saved your life, do you hear? It
was not I who saved you from the
ocean -- it was the Human...

FAUNA

No... I don't believe it.

SESTUS

It's true, Fauna! I saw him!
He risked his own life to save
you!

FAUNA

I hate him! A Human killed my
father; killed him..

ANOTHER ANGLE

152

Viridon kneels beside her.

VIRDON

(gentle)
Fauna -- it's Alar...
(a beat)

Fauna. I don't know if a Human
killed your father. But even if
it happened, that doesn't mean
all Humans are bad... just as
all Apes are not good.

FAUNA

That's a lie! I hate Humans!

Cont.

SESTUS

(the dam breaks)

Fauna -- this Alar speaks the truth. It was not a Human who caused your father's death...

ZON

Shut up, Sestus!

Fauna turns her head toward Sestus, stunned, confused.

PERDIX

What are you saying, Sestus?

SESTUS

(to Fauna, almost
in tears, aching)

I... hated and feared Humans as you do now... we all did... But your father -- he was different. He didn't fear the Humans. He trusted them. He believed in them.

(pause)

That night... I was with Zon...

ZON

No, Sestus!

SESTUS

(ignoring)

We warned your father not to trust them as you are telling me... But he was stubborn... Zon became angry... there was a fight... Zon hit him... he fell and hit his head on a rock! Zon said we were both responsible for his death.

(anguished,
a beat)

Fauna, I couldn't bring myself to tell you the truth... so I made an agreement with Zon... we would blame it on the Humans. Then Zon used this lie as an excuse to drive off and kill Humans... but I can't go on living this lie... not when I see how wrong I was in thinking they are all bad... this is a lie we must not let continue... I have been worse than any Human.

He holds Fauna tightly to him, the Ape girl slowly absorbing the words.

NEW ANGLE

153

ZON
 (building frenzy)
 Sestus is a coward. What difference
 does it make who killed Lucian!
 The Humans are still our enemy!
 We must drive them from our land..
 we must rid ourselves of their evil..!

And during this, the Dragoons, one by one, remove their masks and drop them to the ground -- and with looks of scorn and pity for Zon, they slowly ride off.

ZON
 Kill them! Kill the Humans!

And on the EXIT of the Dragoons:

ZON
 Listen to me .. Listen to me!

And the Dragoons are gone...

PERDIX
 (a long beat,
 to Zon)
 Let's go...

Perdix gestures with his rifle. Zon casts a long look to the others, then moves OFF -- Perdix following his prisoner.

EXT. FAUNA'S FARMHOUSE - DAY

154

Viridon, Burke and Galen are preparing to venture on. Burke helps Galen with his back pack - Sestus, his arm around Fauna, looks on.

SESTUS
 You're welcome to stay...

VIRDON
 No... we must move on. Thank you.

CLOSE TWO SHOT

155

Burke moves to Fauna, talks to her gently.

BURKE
 (gently, warmly)
 Fauna... I hope that you forgive
 me for deceiving you...

Cont.

FAUNA

(confused, sheepish,
uncertain)

I... just can't understand... how
I could have thought I loved...
a Human...

Burke smiles, understanding her feelings... then manages to overcome his own innate feelings about Fauna's "ugliness" and he kisses her lightly, gently on the cheek. She is startled at the touch of his lips, her hand coming up to touch the spot.

WIDE ANGLE - DAY

156

Viridon, Burke and Galen move OFF away from the house toward the crest of the hill.

TIGHT SHOT - FAUNA

157

Her head tilted, her ears listening to the sound of their footsteps fading, her hand gently waving to a man she cannot see. HOLD on her face for:

FADE OUT