

PLANET OF THE APES

"THE GOOD SEEDS"

Written by

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FIRST DRAFT

PLANET OF THE APES

"The Good Seeds"

ACT ONE

FADE IN:

EXT. OPEN FIELD - LONG SHOT OF THREE RUNNING FIGURES - NIGHT

The field stretches like a wide, silent meadow on the moonless night. It is surrounded by forest. The three running figures appear to be heading toward the sanctuary of the even darker trees.

CLOSE ON THE RUNNING FIGURES

As they come running THROUGH SHOT, we can identify the two fleeing astronauts, ALAN VIRDON and STAN KOVAK, together with their companion from the ape world, GALEN, the chimpanzee. Virdon in the lead, Kovak behind him, Galen bringing up a close rear. PANNING with them in a run-by, we see them stop some distance away at Kovak's almost pleading, breathy...

KOVAK'S VOICE

(distant)

Hey...

SHOT - CLOSE ON THE THREE

Standing in the deep grass of the meadow, Kovak, the toughest looking of the three, breathing the hardest...

VIRDON

What's the matter...come on...

Galen, full of bristle, giving Kovak an inquisitive look.

KOVAK

Ah...Galen can't keep up this pace...

GALEN

I'm not tired. Not a bit.

Kovak gives Galen a disbelieving look...panting...

KOVAK

You're not tired...not a bit.

Virdon, eager to be going, chastises Kovak...

VIRDON

Michigan's greatest running back of all time...

KOVAK

Two thousand years ago...

VIRDON

Prime of life. Let's move it.  
We don't know how far behind  
Ursus' men are...come on!

Viridon and the energetic Galen take off on the run...Kovak reluctantly joining them...

EXT. FOREST - A SMALL CLEARING - NIGHT

THUNDERING HOOVES crash into the pitch darkness of the clearing which is suddenly lighted by blazing oil torches carried by THREE GORILLA POLICE on horseback. (A large fallen tree identifies the location for our later look.) The Police rein their horses to a stomping halt, but the lathered animals wheel and prance, their energies hard to control. FIRST GORILLA leaps from mount, torch in hand and scans the earth of the clearing. The other two charge back and forth, awaiting his verdict...as he spots what are obviously tracks...

FIRST GORILLA

Through here...they've been  
this way...!

He leaps back aboard his horse and the three go charging into the night, their torches and horses creating an eerie sense of thunder and lightning through the thick forest ahead...

EXT. FOREST - THICK GROWTH - VIRDON, KOVAK, GALEN - NIGHT

The three have stopped momentarily, kneeling near Viridon who is studying something he is resting on his knee.

ON KOVAK

Thankful for the rest...wanting more of the same...

KOVAK

(to Viridon)

Hey, Al, this is Hansel and  
Gretel time...let's bivouac  
here. They're not going to  
follow our trail of breadcrumbs  
on a night like this...

ON VIRDON AND GALEN

Galen looking eagerly at what Viridon is so intent on...

VIRDON

That's just the point...

INSERT - COMPASS ON VIRDON'S KNEE

A crude, hand-made compass that Virdon has put together from a piece of magnetic material taken from the space ship... the needle floating to magnetic north...

VIRDON'S VOICE

We know what direction we're going in. They don't.

THE SCENE

KOVAK

When there's nothing in any direction...what difference does it make?

GALEN

You can tell direction from that? Without the stars?

VIRDON

It's a compass, Galen. It always points north.

(looking overhead)

With this cloud cover...Ursus' men don't know what direction they're going in. They'll go around in circles...we can go straight ahead.

GALEN

A compass.

(staring at compass)

If that's true...it's amazing. Is it...witchcraft...?

VIRDON

No...just handicraft.

Virdon...pointing...standing.

VIRDON (CONT.)

We go that way...

Kovak stands too, with effort...

KOVAK

Next handicraft class...make me a trail bike...twin jet...

Virdon leading, they start off into the darkness once more.

EXT. FOREST - THE PREVIOUS SMALL CLEARING - NIGHT

The three Gorilla Police on horseback come galloping into the same clearing, identifiable by the fallen tree...and rein up... holding their torches up...recognizing the location...with

(CONT.)

(CONT.) exasperation. The First Gorilla leaps down again... angrily this time...

FIRST GORILLA  
(looking skyward)  
Clouds! Blasted clouds!

GORILLA TWO AND GORILLA THREE slide from their mounts...

GORILLA TWO  
It's taboo to travel without the stars.

FIRST GORILLA  
Nothing's taboo when you ride for Ursus...

GORILLA THREE  
Then how come the taboo has pulled our horses tails in a circle?

A beat. The First Gorilla realizes the futility of going further. In frustration...

FIRST GORILLA  
All right! all right! We'll camp here the night. Make a fire...  
(looking up)  
and stand watch to see if it chases the clouds.  
(to Gorilla Two)  
If not...first sight of where the sun rises...you ride back to Ursus...report we are going on...until we catch those three!

EXT. FOREST - MOVING SHOT OF VIRDON, KOVAK, GALEN - NIGHT

Walking through the dense, now quite hilly terrain in what appears to be pitch dark. Kovak glances back...sees something... calls out...

KOVAK  
Hey, Alan...look!

They stop, turn in the direction Kovak is pointing.

THEIR POV - A FAR HILLTOP

Just visible through a break in the tall trees...we can see a campfire glowing on a far hilltop.

ANGLE ON THE THREE

Viridon smiles, Galen following his cue.

VIRDON

Ursus' men...probably tired of riding past the same trees...

KOVAK

Since you mention tired...

VIRDON

Let's go...we can gain a whole night on them.

ON KOVAK

KOVAK

If I'd known the hours were going to be this rough in the interstellar space program...I'd have bought a bar in Galveston...

Virдон starts off once more after a glance at his crude compass...Galen encouraging Kovak to keep up...excited...

GALEN

Come on...we're following the 'handicraft'...

KOVAK

(wearily)

Oh boy...follow the yellow brick handicraft. I've got so much to teach you, I don't know where to begin...

Galen runs to catch up with Virдон as Kovak starts away also...

SHOT - CLOSE ON GALEN - NEAR A SHARP PRECIPICE

Cavorting around a tree to catch up and ahead of Virдон... to display his enthusiasm...he slips...

HIGH ANGLE - DOWN THE PRECIPICE - GALEN FALLING

A sheer drop among ragged rocks below as we hear the descending YELL of the terrified and surprised chimp. Kovak and Virдон ENTER FRAME, looking down...a quick glance at each other... then they are rushing to his rescue.

SHOT - GALEN - BOTTOM OF THE PRECIPICE

We can see Virдон and Kovak, b.g., just making their way down, as Galen, still conscious, MOANS in extreme pain, holding his leg. They reach the bottom, picking their way...and rush to Galen's side.

KOVAK

Just take it easy there... don't move, Galen...

Viridon kneels quickly at the injured chimp...examining his leg with an instant look of shock at the extent of the wound... the leg torn on a jagged rock.

VIRDON

Lie still...

(to Kovak)

Need a tourniquet...hurry!

Kovak quickly starts tearing a swath of cloth off the bottom of his shirt, rolling it to make a pliable ropelike tourniquet...

GALEN

Ohhhh! I'm sorry...

KOVAK

(anxiously)

Hey...quiet...I'm giving you the shirt off my back, Buddy... just quiet there...

He hands the prepared tourniquet to Viridon who wraps it hastily around the leg and starts twisting...as Kovak searches quickly for a broken stick...thrusting it to Viridon to use for leverage...

VIRDON

Rest easy...we've got to stop the bleeding first.

GALEN

It was dark...I fell...

KOVAK

(trying levity)

Not your fault...that old magic compass is great for back and forth...but it ain't worth a hoot for up and down.

VIRDON

(to Kovak)

Start building a litter...we'll carry him out of here.

GALEN

No...you can't...Stan is tired...

KOVAK

Me...tired? You got to be kidding...I just got up.

ANGLE - CLOSE ON GALEN'S FACE

A pained smile in appreciation at his friend's sudden renewal of energy...

MATCH DISSOLVE TO:

CLOSE SHOT - GALEN'S FACE

Lying on a crudely made litter and WIDEN to show Virdon and Kovak carrying their chimp companion through the forest. The trees are thinning...Kovak chanting a remembered piece of nonsense in rhythm with their walk...to ease the labor...

KOVAK

Once when I was young and spry...  
pretty maidens caught my eye...  
Now that I am old and gray...

VIRDON

(interrupting)  
Hey...he's hurting bad enough...  
you want to make him sick, too?

KOVAK

Well, I like that...if I didn't  
have my hands full...

But Virdon, in the lead, spots something first, stops suddenly.

VIRDON

Hey...look!

KOVAK

(looking ahead)  
Huh?

VIRDON

Do you see what I see?

THEIR POV - A DISTANT SMALL FARM COMPOUND - NIGHT

In a clearing ahead through the trees, they can see tiny lights glowing from what appears to be a log cabin type farmhouse, surrounded by a couple of shadowy silhouettes of outbuildings. The distant, mournful MOO of a cow sounds out, and fades away.

ANGLE ON THE THREE

Kovak and Virdon looking toward the farmhouse...Kovak almost able to "taste" the sight...

KOVAK

Oh man, would you look at that.  
Chicken and dumplings...mashed  
potatoes and gravy...honey cured  
ham...and beef for breakfast...  
you hear that Galen...

GALEN  
(the vegetarian)

Ugh!

As he rolls his head aside at the thought...as though the pain were'nt enough...

VIRDON

This may be it, Stan. Show me a couple of nice, smelly diesel burning tractors...and it's home sweet home all over again...come on.

They move off.

EXT. THE FARMHOUSE - LONG ON THE FRONT - NIGHT

At closer look, the hope of a modern farm vanishes as we see the windows of the farmhouse apparently glowing from flame lights inside as Virdon, Kovak ENTER FRAME, approaching the house, carrying Galen.

CLOSER ANGLE ON FRONT OF FARMHOUSE

As Virdon and Kovak carefully put the litter down, Galen able to raise on one arm as Virdon approaches the door.

CLOSE ON THE DOOR

A beat of hesitation...then filled with expectancy...Virdon knocks on the door...no reply. PULL BACK on scene and we see the lights being extinguished inside. Stillness. And ZOOM IN ON VIRDON once more...knocking. A beat...and the door is opened slowly, just wide enough to reveal the face of a large ape, POLAR, his features lighted by the flame from the crude flickering candle in the candlestick he is holding. He has to study the disappointed Virdon only a moment...

POLAR

Get away from here! Now!  
(when Virdon  
doesn't flinch)  
I'm warning you...we have clubs  
and corn knives...

VIRDON

We need help. Our friend has  
been hurt.

Polar, the big farmer and head of the farm family, opens the door wider and holds the candle to look beyond Virdon... seeing the other twofigures...

POLAR

(to inside)  
Stay back...

## THE SCENE

As Polar steps from the house, walking the few steps to Galen and Kovak with caution...as though he expected to be pounced upon...stopping at the litter...holding the candle for a look at Galen.

## ANGLE TOWARD THE FARMHOUSE

Four other figures move hesitantly from the door toward the scene, ignoring Polar's barked order to stay inside...curiosity calling them irresistably...ZANTES, Polar's wife, ANTO, the older son, large framed and carrying a machette-shaped corn knife...REMUS, half grown, the younger ape son...and JILLIA... a daughter between Anto and Remus. They come to stand near the litter, Polar noticing...

POLAR

Jillia...Zantes...get back  
in the house...

Jillia retreats slightly but Zantes kneels quickly at the litter when she sees the wounded Galen...

ZANTES

Oh dear! That's terrible...  
(to her daughter)  
Jillia...add water to the hot  
kettle...

POLAR

Just a minute...who are you!

GALEN

(weakly)  
My name is Galen...these are  
my friends...

Anto brandishes the machette...

ANTO

Are you their prisoner...have  
they captured you...?

GALEN

(weaker)  
No...no...please...help us...

REMUS

Are you rich...they're your  
bonded humans...am I right?

GALEN

No...no...

And Galen sinks back, unconscious now from loss of blood. Kovak reacts to this serious sign of Galen's worsening condition. Angrily...

KOVAK

(to Anto)

Look...put that salami slicer away and help him...

(to the others)

will you!? We're no danger to you...do something for him.

ZANTES

(to Polar, Anto)

Take him inside...I'll do what I can.

They do not move and Zantes becomes slightly angry at her husband's stubbornness.

ZANTES

(to Polar)

Ask all your questions in the morning...he needs help or he'll die.

Polar appears agreeable, if reluctant...

POLAR

Don't direct me, wife. I'd already made up my mind to that...

Viridon and Kovak go to start helping with the litter...Polar shoves them away...

POLAR

Not you two...Anto and I will carry him in.

He motions to another building, away from the house.

POLAR (CONT.)

You two can sleep in the barn. Don't touch anything or steal anything...or I'll put the Patrol on you!

VIRDON

Just take care of him...

REMUS

What'd you do to him...?

ZANTES

You're as bad as your father. Go inside...

Polar and Anto lift the litter and start carrying it to the house where Jillia has now re-lighted the wicks and candles that were extinguished in fear.

ANGLE ON VIRDON AND KOVAK

As they watch their friend being carried to at least tentative safety and comfort. They exchange looks.

VIRDON

The barn. Over there, I guess.

MOVING SHOT - THE PAIR

Walking toward the barn...

KOVAK

(low singing)

'Can I sleep in your barn tonight mister...it is cold lying out on the ground...'

(beat)

Diesel tractors...hah! If Columbus had landed near here, he wouldn't have even gotten off the boat.

VIRDON

If you're so tired...try closing your mouth and see if the rest of you'll go to sleep...

CUT TO:

INT. BARN - A STALL - CLOSE ON SLEEPING KOVAK - DAY

He's snoring contentedly, lightly as the morning sun jabs through the open barn door nearby, across his face. A crude three-tined pitchfork ENTERS FRAME...prodding him dangerously close to the neck. He stirs, opens his eyes...sits up with a start.

WIDEN - THE SCENE AT THE STALL

Anto is waking Kovak and Virdon who are nestled in the straw of a stall next to one occupied by a big, kind-eyes cow that is with calf...

ANTO

Get up!

Virdon stirs quickly now, awakening...

KOVAK

(to the fork)

Okay, Sarge...I didn't hear revellie...

VIRDON  
 (trying pleasantries)  
 Good morning...

As Kovak and Virdon stand, Anto still holding the pitchfork at a half ready position...we hear the cow MOOOO...loudly... next to them.

ANTO  
 Why did you sleep so close to the cow!?

KOVAK  
 Well, it was kind of late when we checked in...

VIRDON  
 (interrupting)  
 We meant your cow no harm...

ANTO  
 Ha! Humans are a hex to cows! Everyone knows that!

The cow MOOS again...they turn to it. Anto increasingly angry now...

ANTO  
 Five years I've waited for the bull calf! My own ox...to start my own farm! And nothing but heifers which go to the landlord!

KOVAK  
 Well look...put the stabber down, eh? Maybe this'll be your lucky year...

VIRDON  
 I don't understand...

ANTO  
 (distrust)  
 Hah...you understand. Poor farmers can keep only one heifer in four. And only a bull calf can be used to start a new farm.  
 (beat)  
 You are a bad omen.

The cow MOOOS again...almost anxiously...

ANTO (CONT.)  
 You hear? Now she may die in birth. If she does, I may kill you...

VIRDON  
Hey...wait a minute.

ANTO  
Remove the hex...move on...  
today!

ANGLE ON DOOR - REMUS

Running in to them, bubbling with curiosity...and information...  
and authority...

REMUS  
Hey...you two!

KOVAK  
(to Virdon)  
Chees! The lieutenant...

VIRDON  
Cool it...

REMUS  
Galen is asking to see you.  
He's awake now...

Kovak and Virdon start for the door...but Anto stops them  
momentarily with the fork...

ANTO  
Wait! Wash first. Bad enough  
having humans in the house...  
but wash first. There's a smell  
about you...

On Virdon and Kovak's exchanged looks of surprise...

CUT TO:

INT. FARMHOUSE BEDROOM - DAY

This is probably Remus' room. Galen lies on a crude bunk,  
awake and pleased to be alive. Zantes is just finishing a  
new dressing. Polar stands, watching.

GALEN  
That's very good. You've  
done this before.

ZANTES  
I once trained to be a nurse.  
Until I met Polar...

POLAR  
(a break for her)  
Humph! City...no place to  
raise a family...

ZANTES  
 (old argument)  
 Or even visit...?

POLAR  
 Some day.

ZANTES  
 Every time, the same answer.

POLAR  
 (reasons)  
 Anto needs his bull calf...  
 Remus hardly out of rompers...

Jillia enters, carrying a freshly fluffed new pillow of corn husks, probably, to stuff under Galen's head...doing it coyly, pleased at the presence of this young chimp...

POLAR (CONT.)  
 Jillia hasn't even sought out  
 a husband...

JILLIA  
 Daddy...!

She steps back, embarrassed.

ZANTES  
 (to Galen)  
 You won't be able to stand on  
 that for some time.

POLAR  
 How long?

ZANTES  
 Why...several days at least.

POLAR  
 I can't have those humans  
 hanging around. It's dangerous.  
 They've been known to kill  
 cows...just for the meat!

GALEN  
 Virdon and Kovak won't kill your  
 cows.

JILLIA  
 Where are they from...those  
 humans?

GALEN  
 From...another time period,  
 they say.

POLAR  
Never heard of it...where's that?

ZANTES  
Not now..he needs rest.

GALEN  
You must let them stay. They'll  
work for their keep.

POLAR  
Work? Of course they'll work.  
That's what they're for!

ZANTES  
Well?

POLAR  
I'll see.

He strides from the room.

ZANTES  
(to Galen)  
He means well. You'll see.

GALEN  
Did you send for my friends?

ON JILLIA

A look of mild revulsion...

JILLIA  
How can you keep calling them...  
friends?

EXT. OUTDOOR SHOWER - NEAR BARN - DAY

Viridon is already drying himself as Kovak stands beneath the crude shower erected beneath a large wooden water tank mounted on a crude scaffold. A rough sheet of homespun cloth is strung across to hide the lower part of the bather...

VIRDON  
Pretty good...maybe tomorrow  
you can put in the hot water.

KOVAK  
(enjoying)  
Just like downtown. At least  
they'll know the missionaries  
have been through here...

ANOTHER ANGLE - TOWARD POLAR, ANTO, REMUS

approaching now from the house area. Virdon notices them. We can see Anto and Remus haranguing the father about something... and his gestures of understanding...and the fact that he's made a decision...

VIRDON

I think we've got to stand inspection. Are you ready?

Kovak shuts off the water stream...wraps himself in a big absorbent cloth of crude weave...steps from the shower as the two astronauts await the arrival of the "inspection team".

THE SCENE

As Polar approaches with Remus. Anto, still angry, stands a few feet back.

POLAR

I have decided. You can stay until your...friend...is well. Or able to walk...

ANTO

(advancing)  
No...!

POLAR

(a command)  
Enough! I have said what my word on this is! I do not change my word!

ANTO

(still angry)  
The cow is my say...they stay away from the cow!

Anto strides angrily away and disappears behind the barn.

POLAR

He's right about that. The cow is his say until the calf is born.

Virdon and Kovak exchange looks...a strange setup to them...

VIRDON

Anything you say.

POLAR

But you will work. Every day! Just as though I could afford you.

KOVAK

Sure. We come cheap.

POLAR

Just as though I owned you!

Remus looks up at his father, delighted at the prospect of having a "slave" just like the rich folks...of his very own...

REMUS  
I get one of them...one of them's mine.

POLAR  
We'll see...

SHOOTING PAST THE GROUP TO A FAR ROAD - APPROACHING HORSEMAN  
In the distance, we can see dust rising from the path of a man on horseback, riding toward the farm fast.

VIRDON  
(pointing)  
Who's that?

Polar turns, shields his eyes to see...doesn't like it.  
Turns back, a worried look...

POLAR  
Mounted Patrol.  
(beat)  
Are you sure you are not escaped bonded slaves....?

VIRDON  
No, Sir. I pledge you that.  
We are free humans...

POLAR  
(uncertain)  
Never heard of such a thing.  
(beat)  
All right...hide back there.  
I'll talk to him.

Kovak and Virдон hurry for a hiding place back toward the other barn buildings...as Polar and Remus start walking back toward the front of the house.

SHOT - THE SCENE IN FRONT OF THE HOUSE

Polar and Remus walking toward it as the horseman, an official looking, uniformed MOUNTED PATROLMAN, comes thundering up to them on horseback, stopping. He does not dismount. A gorilla with a surly attitude.

PATROL GORILLA  
Who's farm is this?

POLAR  
This is Polar's farm. I am Polar.

ANGLE ON HOUSE

As Zantes emerges at the sound, coming toward them.

PATROL GORILLA  
 (derisive snort)  
 Listen well, Polar. I'm from  
 the patrol post...looking for  
 escaped bonded slaves...two of  
 them. Have you seen them?

ANOTHER ANGLE- TOWARD ANTO

Just walking up to hear this...an interested look...he appears  
 about to say something...but his mother interrupts.

ZANTES  
 Humans?

PATROL GORILLA  
 Of course, humans. What else?

ZANTES  
 We are just poor tenant  
 farmers. What would we be  
 doing with bonded humans?

PATROL GORILLA  
 (glance around)  
 If you see them...report  
 immediately. You know the  
 penalty.

POLAR  
 We know the penalty.

ANTO  
 Is there a reward?

All eyes on Anto now.

PATROL GORILLA  
 Well, now...you know something?

An uneasy beat...as Anto catches the stern warning glance  
 of his father.

ANTO  
 No. I just thought I might  
 look...if there was a reward.

PATROL GORILLA  
 (glancing around)  
 Oh? You wouldn't have a horse  
 around here, would you?

POLAR  
 (nervously)  
 No, no...no one here has ever  
 touched a horse...never gone  
 near one.

PATROL GORILLA  
(gloating on his  
mount)

You leave the patrolling to us.  
If you see a stray human...  
report at once!

Polar nods...as the Patrol Gorilla spurs his mount ahead and gallops away.

INT. BARN - SHOOTING PAST VIRDON AND KOVAK TOWARD HOUSE

As they peer out the door to see the horseman leaving.

KOVAK  
Doesn't look like one of  
Ursus' men.

VIRDON  
Don't kid yourself. He's some  
kind of local patrol. But  
they're all Ursus' men.

On their exchanged looks of deep concern, we hear the uncomfortable MOOO of the cow nearby...and see Kovak turn to her...

KOVAK  
Don't tell me your troubles,  
baby...we've got our own  
problems...

FADE OUT.

END OF ACT ONE

ACT TWO

FADE IN:

EXT. BADLY ERODED HILLSIDE CROPLAND - WIDE SHOT - DAY

A scene of heavy farmwork under way. Anto, with an ox hitched to a crude plow, is making one of several vertical furrows, coming down the sloping hill now toward Polar and Virдон who are carrying unearthed boulders from the rugged field to a fencerow of boulders which have been plow-breakers over the years.

ANGLE ON VIRDON AND POLAR

As they throw their rocks onto the growing pile. Polar looking with satisfaction at Virдон as good help...much needed.

VIRDON

Rocks. No end to them. The earth keeps breathing them up, the plow keeps banging into a fresh stock every year.

POLAR

How do you know?

VIRDON

Oh, I know. I lifted half the rocks in Jackson County when I was a boy.

POLAR

You keep talking strange. There is no such place.

VIRDON

There was.

Polar shakes his head...looks back to the field Anto is plowing.

POLAR

It's a bad field. But we need it. Every foot we need.

SHOOTING PAST THEM TO THE HILLSIDE

Showing eroded gullies cutting deeply into it.

VIRDON

It's going to get worse every year if you keep plowing it like that.

POLAR

What?

Viridon steps to the rock pile and picks up a large earthen jug of water they have brought to the field.

VIRDON

Come on...I'll show you.

LONG ON THE SCENE

Viridon leads Polar to the plowed area at which Anto is just arriving with the ox and plow...laboring.

SHOT - THE NEAR AREA OF THE PLOWED GROUND

Viridon stops at the freshly turned earth. Anto notices... lays the reins on the plow and walks over to see what's going on, inquisitively...

CLOSE ON THE THREE

Viridon kneels, smoothing out a piece of the fresh earth... then making vertical lines in it...

VIRDON

Look...when you plow up and down that hill like you're doing now...

(pouring water  
from jug onto  
earth)

Every time it rains...it washes more of your topsoil off...

(pointing)

Look...see...you start getting gullies...

(glancing up at  
eroded hill)

They get so deep...they steal your land...you have to work around them.

ANTO

Playing in mud!

Viridon moves over slightly...smoothes out another small patch...

VIRDON

Now...if you'd plow around the hill instead...like this...

(making small  
horizontal furrows)

every time it rained...

(pouring water)

the furrows would hold the water...it wouldn't run off with the rich soil on top... and no gullies. See?

Polar kneels for a close look, amazed at the simple experiment.

POLAR  
(to Anto)  
Look...see...it's true!

ANTO  
It's foolishness. Everyone  
knows plowing down the hill  
is the oxen's rest from plowing  
up it. Foolishness.

Polar stands, pleased with this discovery despite Anto.

POLAR  
You learned this where?

VIRDON  
My family owned a farm...when  
I was a youngster.

A quizzical look of disbelief from Polar. But then  
determination...to Anto...

POLAR  
We'll plow around...like he says.

Anto is enraged at this.

ANTO  
Then he'll plow around...I'll  
have no part in it!

Anto storms away from them in anger, Virdon giving him a  
disappointed look.

POLAR  
Don't mind him. He is worried  
about the bull calf. It's much  
on his mind.  
(to the field)  
Show me...I'll try.

VIRDON  
Easy.

POLAR  
(slyly)  
But you lie, don't you?

VIRDON  
(puzzled)  
Lie? No...you'll see.

POLAR  
About your family owning a farm.  
Only apes ever own farms...then

(MORE)

POLAR (CONT.)  
 only the rich ones who have  
 friends in the government.

On Virdon's resigned look...at what's come to pass...

CUT TO:

EXT. SMALL PASTURE LOT - CLOSE ON RAIL FENCE UNDER CONSTRUCTION -  
 DAY

Kovak carrying another rail from a pile he's split to insert  
 on top of the third interlocking section he's constructing.  
 Remus (his boss) has now had enough of this and is prancing  
 around vehemently behind Kovak...protesting...

REMUS  
 No...no...no! Stop! I  
 order you to stop!

Kovak carries the rail to position, sets it on, and turns  
 to the tirading Remus...

KOVAK  
 Look...lieutenant...I can't  
 work with you shouting at me  
 all the time...savvy?

REMUS  
 That's the wrong kind of fence!

KOVAK  
 Show me a bale of barbed wire  
 and I'll build you a proper one.  
 Right now...this is the best I  
 can do.

REMUS  
 Poles! Set up and down...stuck  
 in the ground...like that!

He points and we PAN to a fence on the near far side...half  
 fallen, made from sapling poles poked upright in the ground  
 like a miniature, flimsy fort.

KOVAK'S VOICE  
 Come on, Remus...you work a month  
 of Sundays to put up a stick  
 fence like that and the first  
 time old Bessie rubs against it,  
 it falls in.

BACK TO KOVAK AND REMUS

As Kovak points out the "advantages" of the rail fence he's  
 building. Grabbing a lower rail...

KOVAK

Now you take a rail fence like  
this...locked tight...bull  
strong...last a lifetime...and  
pleasing on the eye.

Remus eyes the fence suspiciously...

REMUS

Fences never last long...they're  
not supposed to.

KOVAK

That's where you're wrong,  
lieutenant.

REMUS

I'm not wrong. I'm the boss.  
You can't talk to me like that.

KOVAK

Sorry, Boss...I just think this  
kind of fence will grow on you.  
(a thought)  
For instance...you ever want to  
move it...if Polar wants it over  
there, say...you just take it  
apart...and put it together again.

Remus finds this idea instantly interesting...

REMUS

Hey...is that right?

KOVAK

Would I lie to you?

Remus steps to the fence, kicks a solid lower rail...testing...  
then easily lifts the top rail...portability. Kovak watching,  
interested at this young ape's reaction to this "modern fence".  
Pleased with the fence...but still asserting his authority...  
Remus steps back from the fence.

REMUS

I've decided. It's a good job.

KOVAK

Thank you, boss.

REMUS

Get back at it.

Kovak starts wearily back for the pile of rails...Remus  
tagging along...

REMUS

Who taught you to build a  
fence like that?

AT THE PILE OF RAILS

Kovak lifting another one, deciding to take two...heavily.

KOVAK  
Abraham Lincoln.

REMUS  
I'd like to meet this Abraham  
Lincoln.

CLOSE ON KOVAK'S FACE

straining under the load, his eyes turn heavenward...

KOVAK  
So would I, Massa...so would I.

CUT TO:

INT. URSUS' OFFICE - CENTRAL APE COMMUNITY - DAY

Gorilla Two, from the original pursuit group, is reporting to URSUS, head of the ape military and police forces, who is pacing with authoritarian anger, barking at his subordinate.

URSUS  
The point is...you let them  
get away!

GORILLA TWO  
It became cloudy...we could  
not follow them at night.

URSUS  
Viridon...Kovak...and that traitor  
Galen...they can see through the  
clouds to the stars at night, I  
suppose.

GORILLA TWO  
It's like their eyes had arrows,  
Sir.

URSUS  
Cabbage Cores! Ignorant, hairless  
savages!

GORILLA TWO  
Yes, Sir.

Ursus walks to a big colored map on a wall, studying it.

URSUS  
How long?

GORILLA TWO  
Four days hard ride, Sir.

Ursus points to a location...

URSUS  
That's all agrarian country.  
Tenant farms...a few big  
plantations.

GORILLA TWO  
Yes, Sir.

URSUS  
Some horses in that area.  
They could steal horses.

GORILLA TWO  
It's death for a peasant or a  
human to ride a horse there, Sir.

Ursus turns to the Gorilla, smiling, sinister.

URSUS  
Yes. I know.  
(beat)  
You know the way back?

GORILLA TWO  
Yes...but it will be slow. The  
weather is covering the stars  
again. Many nights in a row.

URSUS  
Then the gods will guide us.  
These humans are dangerous!

CUT TO:

EXT. POLAR BARN - NEAR A HAY WAGON - DAY

Anto and Polar, both with pitchforks, stand near the hay-filled wagon, a crude wooden-wheeled vehicle, not too large...as Virdon is completing a mysterious task of rigging a sling around the entire load.

ANTO  
Enough of this...trickery!  
If he's too lazy to pitch the  
hay into the barn...I'll do it.

Anto starts for the wagon but Polar restrains him.

POLAR  
Wait...if it's a trick...I  
want to see the trick.

ANTO

Make an ox pitch hay into the barn? Isn't that enough to convince you he's not right in the mind?

ANGLE ON VIRDON

At the wagon, tightening a rope of the sling he has arranged beneath the entire small load of hay. He looks up at the other rope hanging from a specially rigged roller pulley he has fastened at the peak of the barn over the big open door to the mow.

SHOOTING TOWARD OX

Standing away from the load a few feet, one end of the lift rope already fastened to its yoke.

ON VIRDON

As he climbs the wagon to secure the other end of the lift rope to the top of the gathered sling. He ties a quick know... jumps down...and comes to Polar and Anto.

THE SCENE

VIRDON

(pleased)

Ready?

POLAR

Anto says it's a trick.

VIRDON

Well it is, in a way.

(pointing up,  
explaining)

You see...one small wheel drives another wheel four times its size...giving your ox there the strength of four...enough strength to pull many times the weight of this load of hay up into the barn in a single stroke!

ANTO

You have been playing with rope tricks to get out of work...

(to Polar)

You'll see.

VIRDON

(to Anto)

Not true, Anto. I'm only trying to show you how you can do more work with less time and effort.

ANTO

Work is meant to be work!  
Hay is meant to be pitched!  
By the forkful.

VIRDON

Drive the ox ahead.

ANTO

No...I'll not have a hand in  
killing my father's ox.

A beat, Polar studies the face of Virdon for any trace of deceit. Seeing none...

POLAR

I'll do it.

Polar walks to the ox, picking up a stick switch, then looks back a questioning beat at the load. Then he taps the ox slightly on the flank...

POLAR

Giddap there....giddap there...

The ox moves slowly ahead and the entire load of hay is lifted smoothly up into the opening and pulled into the mow of the barn! Polar looks at the feat as though it were magic... hurries back to congratulate Virdon...slapping him on the back...

POLAR

Very good...hah! Very, very good! Show me how to make thetrick work.

VIRDON

Easy...I'll show you.

POLAR

(to Anto)

You saw! Isn't that better than forking a whole load of hay one fork at a time? Heh? Come on Anto...agree?

Anto continues to look at the mow opening and we see he is on the verge of agreeing...a big success for Virdon...but the possibility is short lived...as we hear a loud and PAINFUL MOOING coming from the barn. Anto races for the barn, fearful of the sound from the prize cow...Virdon and Polar following...

INT. BARN - THE COW STALL

As Anto arrives to see the cow lying down, not chewing its cud... its head hanging as though ill. It now lets out a low MOO as though hurting. Virdon and Polar arrive at the stall on the heels of Anto who is now kneeling, holding the head of the cow which can be the fountain of his independence...if only...

ANTO  
 (angrily to Polar)  
 You see...she must have already  
 eaten some hay that fell in here  
 from that...evil device! You  
 see? She's dying...I know it.  
 They are a hex...I told you!

Polar looks to Virdon for some "explanation" of why this is  
 not so...he's heard humans are dangerous to cattle, too.

POLAR  
 Anto makes a strong argument...

Virdon, with understanding, steps by Polar and into the stall....  
 and we see him make a quick, quite professional examination...  
 gently pushing the cow's extended belly with his closed fist...  
 back and forth...then standing. He turns to Polar.

VIRDON  
 How soon is she expected to  
 calf?

POLAR  
 Three weeks...three weeks, I  
 think.

Virdon gives Polar a reassuring smile.

VIRDON  
 I think your calendar is a little  
 off. More like two or three days.  
 She'll be off her feed for awhile...  
 that's all.

POLAR  
 Are you sure?

ANTO  
 It's a lie! Throw them all out  
 now...or she will die!

VIRDON  
 The cow is not going to die, Anto.

ANTO  
 You carry evil omens...in that  
 thing around your neck. I know  
 it.

Virdon fingers the micro-tape reel in the locket sized  
 container on a chain around his neck. Polar glances at it.

POLAR  
 Is that true?

VIRDON

No. We can't leave until Galen can walk. By that time...your cow here will be a happy mother... and we will be just as happy to be on our way. You must believe me. Have I shown you anything evil yet?

POLAR

It's a big risk.

(beat thinking)

But Anto is the eldest son and the cow is in his charge until she gives birth. You may stay... but if anything happens to the cow...your fate will be up to Anto.

CUT TO:

INT. FARM LIVING ROOM - NIGHT

Around the glowing fireside of the crude but warm room. Kovak sits near the hearth, sketching something on a rough board, like a design for a windmill. Zantes is helping Jillia make a garment of cloth, sitting in a chair near the fire. Across from her, Polar is mending a harness rope, weaving the loose ends. Remus sits near his mother's side, shelling corn from small corn ears he's taking from a bag, into a clay pot. Virдон returns from the cot on the far side of the room where Galen is lying...to sit on the floor near Remus, watching...

VIRDON

Remus...I thought you said you were shelling corn for seed!

REMUS

I am...

(talking to Kovak)

Kovak should be doing it.

KOVAK

Hey, have a heart...time off for good behavior, eh?

POLAR

(not looking up)

Remus will shell the corn. The youngest son prepares the seed.

Virдон reaches into the bag, probes around a second and brings out an ear of dried corn twice the size Remus is holding. To Remus...

VIRDON

Here...you should always use  
seed from the best ears...not  
the smallest.

Remus laughs...glances around to see if his family has heard  
this absurdity.

REMUS

Did you hear that?

The others smile tolerantly at Virdon's "ignorance".

REMUS (CONT.)

(to Virdon)

The best ears are for feed  
and flour. The little ears  
are for seed.

VIRDON

Oh, I see.

(fishing)

Then it's the...bad spirits who  
have been making the stalks in  
the field smaller and smaller  
every year?

Remus exchanges a look with his father...Virdon hit the  
truth. Virdon detects it.

GALEN

(from his cot)

Virdon used to be a farmer when  
he was young.

REMUS

Not much of a farmer. Wasting  
big corn on seed.

VIRDON

Do you expect to be big and strong  
like your father some day?

REMUS

Of course.

VIRDON

Ah...that's because Polar is good  
seed. If your father were small  
and puny...you probably wouldn't  
grow big enough to wrestle a calf...  
let alone an ox.

(hands the big ear  
to Remus)

Each year...if you use the  
biggest, best ears for seed...the  
crop will get bigger and bigger.  
You'll see.

As Virdon looks at the young Remus studying the ear, his mind travels back to similar nights around the fire with his own son. Tears well...and he goes to stand at the fire...

ZANTES

Is something the matter?

Virdon brushes a tear away, not to be seen. But Remus now notices, bewildered.

VIRDON

I...I was just remembering how I once...sat around a fire something like this...telling my own son almost the same thing.

(swallowing)

Chris...I wonder whatever became... of the little guy...

CLOSE ON REMUS AND ZANTES

He tugs at his mother's sleeve, she leans to him.

REMUS

(whisper)

Is he crying....?

ZANTES

(whisper)

Well...they have feelings, too... just like us. Now hush.

Remus glances at the big astronaut, then back at his ear of corn.

CUT TO:

EXT. MOUNTED PATROL HEADQUARTERS - CORRAL - NIGHT

A gorilla PATROL RIDER, just coming off duty, is giving his mount a WHACK, urging him into the corral which he now closes. The uniformed Gorilla now turns to someone...

PATROL RIDER

Why are you so interested in runaway bonded humans? You couldn't afford to buy one...

WIDEN ON SCENE

We see a nearly exhausted Anto standing there, having run most of the night...

ANTO

Oh no...I just wondered if there was a...reward for helping you find one...or two.

PATROL RIDER

Reward? Of course not. Why?  
Do you know where some are?

ANTO

I thought maybe you could tell  
me what they...look like.

PATROL RIDER

All humans look alike, you  
know that.

ANTO

Maybe...I would go hunting for  
them...if it would pay enough  
to...buy a new bull calf.

PATROL RIDER

You peasants are all the same.  
You want to get paid for doing  
your duty. You'll get paid  
it you don't...with death!

SHOOTING PAST THEM TOWARD HEADQUARTERS BUILDING - AN APPROACHING  
PATROL GORILLA

As the Patrol Rider turns away from Anto and heads toward  
the building.

PATROL RIDER

Now move on...unless you want  
to be arrested for loitering  
around horses.

MOVING WITH THE GORILLA

as he meets his comrade on the path, stops. The comrade is  
the Patrol Gorilla we saw earlier at the Polar farm...he looks  
inquisitively toward Anto.

REVERSE ANGLE - TOWARD ANTO

PATROL GORILLA

Who is that?

PATROL RIDER

(a snort)

Some back country farmer.  
Thinks we ought to be giving  
a bounty on bonded humans this  
year.

PATROL GORILLA

He looks familiar. I've seen  
him in the last few days.

Anto moves off into the dark.

PATROL RIDER  
Some distance, I'd say. He  
looked like he'd been running  
half the night.

ON THE PATROL GORILLA

He gets a sinister look...of suspicion...

PATROL GORILLA  
Hmmm. Looking for bounty, you  
say?

PATROL RIDER'S VOICE  
Reward he said.

PATROL GORILLA  
Uh-huh. I think it will pay to  
have him followed.

FADE OUT.

END OF ACT TWO

ACT THREE

FADE IN:

EXT. POLAR BARN - LONG SHOT

To ESTABLISH

INT. BARN - THE COW STALL - POLAR AND ANTO - DAY

The cow is still lying down, making low grunting sounds of pain. Anto is extremely worried...and Polar is concerned.

ANTO

She'll die! Then what will I do...wait for another heifer to freshen...another three years... four years...

POLAR

Virдон says she'll be all right.

ANTO

Sure...who's helped you plow the fields and harvest the crops all these years...Virдон?

POLAR

He seems to know about these things.

ANTO

He's turned your mind...with clever talk and tricks learned from some...human...demon doctor.  
(beat)

This cow is dying from their hex. She started dying the day they walked in here...carrying that human lover...Galen!

The coincidence is strong for Polar.

POLAR

I'll have a talk with them.

ANTO

Galen can stand...I've seen him.

Polar looks surprised.

ANTO

They're staying so the cow will die, I tell you. Humans burn the flesh and eat it...you've heard tell of that!

POLAR  
You say Galen can stand?

CUT TO:

INT. FARMHOUSE BEDROOM - DAY

Galen is standing, weakly, with the aid of a crutch, experimenting a few moments at a time. As Jillia enters the room, carrying a water jug.

JILLIA  
Not too much at one time.  
You'll break open the wound,  
mother says.

Galen eases himself back on his cot, pleased.

GALEN  
It's feeling better. The pain  
has turned to itching. A good  
sign. Virdon and Kovak will be  
surprised...when I walk right  
out to them...

JILLIA  
Not quite yet.  
(beat)  
I don't understand you anyway.  
You must have come from a good  
family. And now you're running  
with...humans...who have filled  
your mind with some la-de-da.

GALEN  
It's not la-de-da, Jillia. I've  
studied some of the taboo scrolls  
...forbidden knowledge. I think  
there might be truth in their  
story...about coming from another  
age...evidence has been found...

JILLIA  
I don't want to hear it!

GALEN  
All right.

JILLIA  
What other age?

Galen laughs at her female inquisitiveness.

GALEN  
Never mind. It's dangerous to  
know. Even I can't go back.

JILLIA  
Ever?

GALEN  
Afraid not.

JILLIA  
(pleased)  
Then you'll just have to stay  
until you're well enough to  
go on.

CUT TO:

EXT. A DITCH NEAR A LOW FIELD - CLOSE ON KOVAK - DAY

Watching water start to pour from a tube that is draining the low marshy ground adjacent, into the ditch. A pleased look as we WIDEN ON SCENE to show Remus applauding the sight... and Polar approaching with Anto. Kovak stands...proud of his engineering feat...

POLAR  
Kovak...I must talk with you  
and Virdon...  
(noticing pouring  
water)  
What is this!?

REMUS  
(excited)  
See...a whole new field, we'll  
have...a whole new field.

POLAR  
Silence! What's going on here?

KOVAK  
Well, it ain't exactly the Panama  
Canal...but I'm draining the  
water off that low marshy field  
for you.

Polar looks back at the marshy field.

ANTO  
That field is no good but a  
hiding place for snakes.

KOVAK  
It will be. Probably the best  
field on your farm as soon as  
it's drained...dry enough to  
plow and plant. Good rich soil  
you've never been able to use  
before.

Polar kneels near the flowing water tube...touches the water coming from it...amazed.

POLAR  
Some new...magic...

REMUS  
(knowing something else)  
Wait'll you see...wait'll you see!

POLAR  
Be still.

KOVAK  
Just a little...engineering...  
I once learned...

ANTO  
You see...he admits it!  
Engineering...

REMUS  
No...no...

Remus begins tugging excitedly at his father's arm...to follow...

REMUS  
Wait'll you see the rest...  
father...come on...come on!

Polar, bewildered, is tugged away by his son toward an area on the other side of the ditch toward high ground, behind trees. A glance back at the mysterious water flow...a proud Kovak and an angry Anto following.

CUT TO:

EXT. THE HIGHER FIELD - CLOSE ON VIRDON - DAY

He's just fastening the last slat in a windmill wheel, sitting beside the base of a windmill tower constructed of bound saplings. He looks up as he hears the VOICES coming.

THE SCENE

Remus tugging his father toward Virdon, the others close behind.

REMUS  
Tell them Virdon...tell them  
what you're making...a windymill...

VIRDON  
Windmill.

REMUS  
I said...windmill.

KOVAK  
This will be the other half of  
your irrigation system, Polar.

POLAR

Speak plain.

KOVAK

Well, when Virdon's through  
with that wheel...it goes  
up there.

(looking up)

The wind will make it turn...

(pointing back  
to ditch)

and we'll pump that water out  
of the ditch...and onto the  
dry ground up here where you  
need it when it doesn't rain.

This is too much for an enraged Anto...

ANTO

You see! Making oxen lift hay  
that should be pitched...now...  
conjuring up the wind to...make  
water pour where it shouldn't.  
It's unnatural! No wonder the  
cow is dying! Tell them!

Polar is utterly confused.

POLAR

Anto says he has seen your  
friend...Galen stand.

Virdon and Kovak exchange looks...news to them.

POLAR

If this is so...you must go.

ANTO

Yes! It's true! He stands.

Remus begins a loud protest...

REMUS

They can't go now...not until  
they finish...so I can see it  
work...no...no...

POLAR

It's not for you to say...the  
youngest has no say.

REMUS

I do have a say...I have a say.  
Anto is only worrying about a  
bull calf.

ANTO

Wait till your time comes to  
worry...

REMUS

I want to learn bigger things...  
like this. They can't leave  
now...not until I see it work.  
Please...please?

Polar looks at the wierd structure of the windmill, strange  
to his eyes...the mystery of his youngest "rebellling"...the  
pressure of Anto...too much for him..as he throws up his  
hands in defeat and leaves...

POLAR

Stay...leave...stay...go...  
my mistake was being a father...  
do what you want...I just live  
here from now on...

As he walk~~s~~ away, Anto joining him...in fading AD LIB protests  
from Anto and non-commital refusals to listen from Polar...  
Remus jumping up and down in delight now with...

REMUS

Yea...yea...stay...stay...

ON VIRDON AND KOVAK

KOVAK

I think we've got ourselves  
in the middle of a family  
brawl, Buddy.

VIRDON

Anto could be trouble. That  
mounted patrol was looking for  
escaped laborers...but he didn't  
look fussy who he turned in...  
as long as they were human.

KOVAK

Sitting in some hick country  
ape jail ain't my idea of a  
good way to spend my old age.

VIRDON

I think we'd better have a talk  
with Galen. So he can stand,  
can he?

CUT TO:

INT. FARMHOUSE BEDROOM - VIRDON, KOVAK  
AND GALEN - DAY

Viridon and Kovak giving Galen a friendly, accusing look  
as they see him standing now on his crude crutch...

GALEN

I stood for several minutes today...

KOVAK

(to Virdon)

Several minutes...how do you like that...and we're supposed to be friends...

GALEN

I wanted to surprise you.

VIRDON

Anto is chomping at the bit to get us out of here...

GALEN

Apes don't chomp at bits!

VIRDON

Sorry...he's anxious that we leave. And I think we'd better accomodate him...or he may get some idea of turning us in... just to get rid of us.

KOVAK

Maybe we should have a few words with that cussed cow! Give her a dose of epsom salts and get this whole business cleared up.

VIRDON

If the calf isn't a bull...we'll still be blamed.

GALEN

If the cow dies, Anto is entitled to kill you.

KOVAK

I'm sure glad he knows his rights.

GALEN

If you could just give me two, three more days...I'm healing fast now.

VIRDON

We could carry you. But as soon as we leave here....Ursus or that mounted patrol is going to pick up our trail. We'll be chased. If we could only get to some horses...I take it this isn't horse country.

GALEN

Only landed apes and police  
can ride horses here. Farmers  
must walk...or ride cows or oxen.

KOVAK

Keep 'em poor and barefoot.

Virdon sits on a chair, perplexed.

VIRDON

We'll just have to sit it out,  
I guess. See whether that cow...  
or Galen here...makes it first.

CUT TO:

EXT. FARMHOUSE - A COVERED WORK AREA - POLAR AND ZANTES - DAY

Zantes is just pulling two loaves of bread from a brick oven,  
sitting them on a table where a brooding Polar sits...poking  
his finger into some strange yellow stuff in an earthen crock...

POLAR

I'll be glad when they're  
all grown up and gone.

ZANTES

No way for a father to talk.  
Shame.

Polar looks at the yellow stuff on his finger.

POLAR

What's this?

ZANTES

Virdon calls it...butter. You  
put milk in a barrel...and churn  
it...and churn it..and it comes  
out like that.

POLAR

Milk is to drink...not to eat.

Zantes pulls a heel off a loaf of warm bread, scoops it  
across the top of the butter crock...

ZANTES

Taste. Then tell me if you're  
so smart...

He takes a bite...liking it...as Zantes watches...

POLAR

Mmmmmmm.

ZANTES

See?

Polar becomes glum, even at this new discovery.

POLAR

Since they came...I don't know anything anymore. Now I suppose they're turning your head...by making milk turn the color of those necklaces the rich farmers wives wear...

ZANTES

Don't be silly. My head doesn't turn so easily. Besides...there must be some good in them...to work so hard in exchange for the care of Galen.

POLAR

Galen...that's what happens when you grow up in the center city. Start running with humans.

ZANTES

These humans are not a bad sort. Not like some I've heard about.

POLAR

Maybe not. But I don't want Jillia around them. Do you hear?

ZANTES

Well, of course...what do you take me for?

CUT TO:

EXT. SHOWER - KOVAK - DAY

Drenched, sudsing himself and singing off key...the top of his bare body visible...

KOVAK

Maiden girls...with golden curls...set my foolish mind  
awhirl...la, la, la...

REVERSE ANGLE - LONG FROM A FAR HILL - THE PATROL GORILLA

Squinting into the sun, his hand shielding his eyes...and we can see in his POV, Kovak, faintly, in the shower near the barn.

ON PATROL GORILLA

As he stands, confident he has seen what he came for...hurries to his horse...and gallops off in a direction away from the Farm.

CUT TO:

EXT. BARN - LONG SHOT - DAY

In an ESTABLISHING SHOT, we hear Anto's loud yell....

ANTO

No...no...no...

And the start of a LOW, HOLLOW BELL being rung.

INT. BARN - THE COW STALL

Anto on his knees near the stall now, filled with grief... striking a ceramic bell with a wooden mallet. The cow is lying on her side, hardly moving. Anto weaves to and fro... moaning.

ANGLE ON DOOR

Viridon and Kovak rush in...followed by Polar, Remus...Zantes and Jillia...

POLAR

It's her time...the tolling of the bell...

ANTO

She's dying...she's dying...

THE SCENE

As the others hold back, Viridon rushes into the stall, somewhat alarmed at the condition of the cow.

ANGLE ON VIRDON

Making a quick diagnosis of the cow's predicament. Stands... a very worried look. Kovak comes to him.

KOVAK

(low to Viridon)  
Trouble, Doc?

VIRDON

If I remember what the vet used to do...

KOVAK

Try hard. I've got a feeling we don't want to lose this patient.

Polar and Zantes move to comfort their son...but he pushes them away...continuing to toll the bell...with a sad futility we can see by his parents' faces...

ANTO

Dying...dying...she's dying...

Viridon kneels down by Anto...

VIRDON

Look...Anto...listen to me.

ANTO

Dying...dying...

VIRDON

The cow is giving premature birth...and she's suffering because the calf is turned. Do you hear me...?

CLOSE ON THEIR FACES

As Anto looks into the face of Viridon...he explodes with rage...shoving Viridon backwards...springing to his feet...dropping the bell and leaping for a pitchfork...which he now turns with on Viridon...

ZANTES

Anto...stop...

THE SCENE

Polar holds her back...Remus and Jillia step back in fright. Kovak is waved back by Viridon as Anto advances on him slowly, threateningly with the pitchfork...

ANTO

You...you have done this...

POLAR

Wait! The cow is not dead... you cannot claim a life yet...

Anto remembers the "rule" restraining his impulse to kill Viridon immediately...but holding the pitchfork menacingly close to his neck...

VIRDON

The cow needn't die. I can help. The calf must be turned around...

ANTO

No! You've worked your last trick of demon magic here! When she dies...you will die...

ANGLE ON DOOR - GALEN

Entering, with effort, hobbling on his single crutch.

GALEN

Anto...stop.

WIDE ON SCENE

Anto doesn't even look back...

ANTO

Come in...you human lover...  
and see what you've done.

Galen hobbles forward a few steps...

GALEN

Blame me, then. It was my wound  
that brought them here. We'll  
leave...now. We'll all leave...

POLAR

You hear, Anto...they'll leave.

ANTO

No one will leave...until this  
is all over...one way or another.  
Toll the bell, Remus...it is  
probably too late...but toll  
the bell.

Remus cautiously walks over and picks up the ceramic bell...  
and starts to toll it slowly, strangely, as Anto still holds  
Virdon pinned with the pitchfork.

CUT TO:

EXT. GORILLA PATROL HEADQUARTERS - DAY

The returned Patrol Gorilla is talking his OFFICER GORILLA.

OFFICER GORILLA

If you saw one...why didn't  
you bring him in.

PATROL GORILLA

I thought there might be more...

OFFICER GORILLA

Since when are a few humans too  
much for a single Mounted Patrol?

PATROL GORILLA

(to save face)

Many more...a good catch maybe.

OFFICER GORILLA  
Standing beneath a stream of  
water, you say...are you sure  
you haven't been sipping too  
much of the fermented apple  
juice?

PATROL GORILLA  
Not a drop. It's as I say.

OFFICER GORILLA  
All right...I'll return with  
you...how far?

PATROL GORILLA  
Two hours ride. The Polar farm.  
But shouldn't we wait until  
dark? If they try to run, humans  
are easier to see in the dark.

OFFICER GORILLA  
If you're too tired...

PATROL GORILLA  
No, Sir...

OFFICER GORILLA  
Prepare the mounts. If farmer...  
Polar...has been hiding humans...  
I'd like to hang him while it's  
still daylight!

FADE OUT.

END OF ACT THREE

ACT FOUR

FADE IN:

EXT. BARN - LONG SHOT - DAY

ESTABLISHING SHOT and the TOLLING of the ceramic bell by Remus says the tense vigil is still going on inside.

INT. BARN - THE SCENE

Remus kneels in the open area of the barn floor, gently ringing the dull bell. Galen has hobbled closer to the cow's stall near where Anto still holds Virdon uncomfortably pinned by the menacing pitchfork. Polar and his wife and daughter stand back, mute witnesses to a scene of fear, tradition, superstition...

VIRDON

Polar...talk sense to him...

Kovak speaks a familiar kind of "code" to Virdon...

KOVAK

Say the word...and I'll commit a clipping penalty that'll just about get us the fifteen yards through the door...

VIRDON

No...what about Galen?

KOVAK

Between us...in a five legged face...

VIRDON

No...what good is that going to do the cow?

KOVAK

You're six inches from being skewered, Buddy, I'd let the cow worry about herself...

Polar steps forward...Remus stops tolling the bell at his father's move...

POLAR

Anto...I don't think there is a need for the fork. They will not run.

ANTO

Why won't they run?

POLAR

Because Galen can't run with them. They have a strong feeling for him. Or they would have left him to die.

GALEN

That's right...I'm their friend.

KOVAK

We're going to have a talk about that later...

Anto pulls the fork away from Virdon's throat, steps back, with a firm new intent...

ANTO

Very well. Let them run.

(to Galen)

If anything happens...you will answer for it.

Virdon breathes a bit easier...but there's still work to do...

VIRDON

Look...Anto...I can help the cow live. I've seen veterinarians do it a dozen times. If you'll only let me help...

ANTO

No!

VIRDON

Polar...do you want this cow to die?

POLAR

At birthing time, the fate of the cow is in the hands of the oldest son...I have no say now.

Zantes steps forward...a little angry...

ZANTES

Who says you have no say! Old words...of father's fathers...passed down so long we don't even know if they're right...

POLAR

Be still. You'll utter a heresy in front of the young ones!

ZANTES

I won't be still. And it's  
Remus and Jillia I'm thinking  
of.

(to Anto)

Anto...listen. You have seen  
these humans show how to keep  
hills from washing away in the  
rain. You have seen them create  
...cropland...from fields an ox  
would drown in. You want this  
calf...and the bell asks that  
it be a bull. Let Virdon help  
you...

Virdon makes a turn toward the stall but Anto is having none  
of it...he raises the fork again...

ANTO

No! They've loosened my mother's  
tongue with that yellow salve  
they make by casting a spell on  
milk. You will not touch the cow.

Kovak moves closer to Virdon as Zantes realizes her woman's  
word is useless here just now...

KOVAK

Al...what are the odds...you  
sure you can pull this off?

VIRDON

No. But I'm sure this expectant  
mother will die if she isn't  
helped.

KOVAK

I like the odds better your way.  
Get ready to operate, Doc...  
I'm taking us a hostage...

And with a whirl...Kovak spins and grabs young Remus off the  
floor in one swoop...

KOVAK (CONT.)

Come on bell-boy...

And lunges to the far side of the area with him, grabbing a  
corn knife from the wall where he saw it hanging...holding  
it to the throat of Remus. Shrieks of protest from Zantes  
and Jillia, uncertain of Kovak's intent...as Anto starts at  
Kovak with the fork...then holds back for fear of his young  
brother's life.

KOVAK

Now you just put that toad  
stabber down, Anto...or your  
baby brother is never going  
to live to see his own baby  
bull born,...

(to Virdon)

Get to work, Doc...I can't  
hold the lieutenant here all  
night...

Anto drops the fork in temporary defeat, almost dumb with  
anguish, stumbles back to the bell, falls on his knees...  
picks it up...as we see Virdon hurry into the stall with the  
cow...

ON GALEN

As he hobbles the two steps to Anto, looking down...

GALEN

You want it to be a bull...  
ring the bell...

ANTO

(looking up)  
You won't get away...when this  
is over...if I don't kill you...  
the police will...I won't lie  
to them again...

And he starts the slow ringing of the bell...

CUT TO:

EXT. RURAL ROAD - DAY

The galloping horses of the Officer Gorilla and Patrol Gorilla  
come pounding by at ominous speed...in a PASS-BY...and we see  
them covering ground fast as they ride out of frame...

CUT TO:

INT. BARN - CLOSE ON COW STALL - DAY

Virdon "discussing" the matter with the cow...

VIRDON

Okay, Sweetheart...now I'm going  
to do mybest for you...and I want  
you to do your best for me, eh...

ANGLE ON KOVAK AND REMUS

Kovak holding the young ape in a bear-hug grasp with his big arms, the corn knife handy...but not really threatening.

KOVAK

Hey...come on...forget the bedside manner...get to work.

Remus looks protestingly up at Kovak...and in a soft voice.

REMUS

Don't hold me so tight...I'm not going anywhere...I want to see!

Kovak looks down at his young captive with surprise.

KOVAK

Huh?

REMUS

I'm on your side, you dumb ox. I want to see...

Kovak senses some responsibility at the display of trust from the young ape, covering it with a bruskeness...

KOVAK

(low)  
Okay, Lieutenant...you watch.  
(turning his head)  
I get a little queasy in the operating room.

ON POLAR

As he motions for Zantes and Jillia to stay back, walking with cautious curiosity to the cow stall where Viridon is working...turns to Galen, a worried question...

POLAR

Do you know if he can do this...  
instruct a cow in the birthing  
of a calf?

A beat, even Galen is a little uncertain...but reassuring...

GALEN

He's made a needle that can see directions even on a cloudy night. I think he can...direct a calf into the world.

EXT. RURAL ROAD - URSUS AND GORILLA TWO - DAY

On their large mounts, riding at an easy walk in an OPPOSITE PASS-BY, as Gorilla Two notices something far ahead on the same road...he points...they both rein up.

## SHOOTING THEM AND THEIR POV - THE FAR ROAD

The galloping horses of Officer Gorilla and Patrol Gorilla, coming their way.

GORILLA TWO  
Mounted patrol...from some  
outpost.

He appears ready to race toward them...Ursus barks!

URSUS  
Sit erect! You're from head-  
quarters!

GORILLA TWO  
Yes, Sir.

URSUS  
(ahead)  
Field troops. Stupid sort.  
(to Gorilla Two)  
Straighten that mane. Hold  
those reins up...

GORILLA TWO  
Yes, Sir...

And Ursus starts slowly ahead, Gorilla Two following, with a certain air of a general and his aide about to strut into a front infantry area.

## INT. BARN - ON KOVAK AND REMUS

Remus is standing away a pace from Kovak now...watching the scene in the cow stall intently, craning...and he's holding the corn knife, idly, harmless.

## ANGLE ON ZANTES AND JILLIA

Noticing Remus is free...sensing he was never really in danger from this human. They smile. Glance to Anto who is unaware that his brother is no longer hostage.

## ON KOVAK

KOVAK  
(to Virdon)  
How is it?

## CLOSE ON VIRDON

His face drenched with perspiration, laboring with his task...

VIRDON  
Worse than I thought...

KOVAK'S VOICE

How bad is that?

VIRDON

About twice as bad...

ON KOVAK

Resigned...on a mid-ocean raft that's sinking...

KOVAK

(to himself)

Just a quiet little bar in  
Galveston...

(looking at Anto)

with a little bell over the  
door...

CUT TO:

EXT. RURAL ROAD - DAY

SHOOTING PAST the strutting Ursus and Gorilla Two...the  
approaching Officer Gorilla and Patrol Gorilla, arriving at  
a fast gallop.

THE SCENE

As they meet, the galloping gorillas reining up, seeing the  
uniforms of "superiors"...now behaving as subordinates...

OFFICER GORILLA

Sir!

URSUS

I am Ursus...headquarters.

Both subordinate Gorillas become almost rigid with military  
respect and surprise...

BOTH

Sir!

Gorilla Two basks in the shared respect...

URSUS

Your horses are lathered. For  
what reason?

OFFICER GORILLA

(importantly)

Escaped bonded humans, Sir.

(a nod)

Patrol here thinks he spotted  
one on a farm near here...

PATROL GORILLA

(proud)

Standing under a stream of  
water...

He quiets at a chastening glance from his superior...

URSUS

How far?

OFFICER GORILLA

We're almost there, Sir.

URSUS

We're hunting two escaped humans  
and a defector...enemies of the  
state.

OFFICER GORILLA

Well, Sir...I doubt if...

URSUS

(haughtily)

If there are doubts...I will have  
them...after we've had a look...  
lead the way!

OFFICER GORILLA

Yes, Sir...

With the regional Gorillas in the lead, the four gallop off  
in the direction of the Polar farm.

INT. BARN - CLOSE ON VIRDON - DAY

Perspiration still flowing...but a big smile now...

CLOSE ON POLAR

Eyes wide with disbelief

ON GALEN

The same...

ON KOVAK

Eyes closed in a count-down of the worst that can happen...as  
he hears...BAAAAAAA...of a baby calf...and his eyes open...  
just as he hears another BAAAAAAA, a different pitch...of a  
second calf!

THE SCENE

As all but Anto rush to the stall...in delight and wonder...

## AT THE STALL -

One lying, one just trying to stand...two baby bull calves...  
twins! Zantes and Jillia cry-giggling in relieved amazement...  
Remus with wide-eyed wonder...Polar and Galen exchanging  
pleased looks...as Virdon...exhausted...stands...wiping his  
hands on a piece of homespun.

## ANGLE - PAST ANTO TO THE SCENE

As Kovak turns from the group to Anto...

KOVAK

Anto...have a look.

Anto gets up cautiously, weary with sustained grief...and  
walks to the stall.

## ON ANTO AT THE STALL

As the others back away...this is Anto's big moment...his  
family happy for him. He looks in at the twin bull calves...  
blinks with disbelief...then...as ecstatic delight sweeps  
over him...crying with the delight of a sweepstakes winner...  
he falls on his knees near his calves...holding first one  
small head then another...crying, laughing, moaning with the  
largest single delight of his entire life...

## ON KOVAK AND VIRDON

KOVAK

When you said twice as bad...

(watching Anto)

You're a genius, Virdon. I'll  
never knock a farm boy again.  
Twins.

VIRDON

And both bulls. I think the  
bell ringing may have had some-  
thing to do with it...

## EXT. BARN - WIDE ON SCENE

The four Gorilla horsemen come whomping into the area at a  
gallop, shaking the very ground with their arrival.

## INT. BARN - THE SCENE

Jillia runs to the door to peek out a crack...as the others  
look up, frozen momentarily as the sound of POUNDING HOOVES,  
HORSES SNORTING...Jillia turns from the door...fear...

JILLIA

Police...all kinds...of  
police...

POLAR  
 (to Kovak, Virdon)  
 Hide...back there...  
 (to his family)  
 Come outside...quick...  
 (when Anto hesitates)  
 Anto...come...

Polar, Remus, Zantes, Jillia head out the door as Galen, hobbling, is helped by Kovak and Virdon into a back, hay-filled area of the barn.

EXT. BARN - THE SCENE

As Polar and his family, except Anto, now walk with the best surprise they can muster to the mounted police.

OFFICER GORILLA  
 Polar...!

PATROL GORILLA  
 (pointing)  
 That's Polar!

Ursus and Gorilla Two sit back a pace on their mounts, stiffly, with supreme authority, as these regional Gorillas put on a display of severity...

ZANTES  
 Why do you come riding through here...enough thunder to shake the turnips from the ground!

OFFICER GORILLA  
 Shut up! Female!

ANGLE TOWARD BARN DOOR - ANTO

Just coming to join his family...

OFFICER GORILLA  
 You are hiding escaped bonded humans, Polar!

POLAR  
 No! That's a lie! He was through here before...

Polar points to the Patrol Gorilla...

OFFICER GORILLA  
 Silence!

THE SCENE

PATROL GORILLA  
 (pointing, sure)  
 He was standing over there...  
 under that...thing...

ANGLE TOWARD SHOWER

located near the barn and ZOOM IN ON SHOWER.

ON ANTO

Looking toward the shower...realizing what the spying Patrol  
 must have seen...

THE SCENE

PATROL GORILLA  
 One of them was standing under  
 there...in a kind of rain...

And Anto CRACKS the tension with a doubling-up LAUGH! Laughing  
 that now surprises not only the mounted Gorillas...but his  
 own family as well...a moment when the family doesn't really  
 understand Anto's unleashed feelings of glee...over the bull  
 calves...or what...?

OFFICER GORILLA  
 What's so funny, farmer? You won't  
 laugh when Polar is hanging from  
 a rope...

ANTO  
 (between laughter)  
 It was me! He saw me!

And he laughs again...walks to a big tub of freshly stoned  
 off-white flour near the wall of a granary...

ANTO  
 We are a poor farm family...  
 would you deny us what little  
 fun we can make for ourselves?

Anto reaches into the tub of flour for the big wooden scoop  
 that's there...and starts dousing his hairy head and upper  
 body with the flour...loads of it puffing over him...making  
 him almost white...

ANTO  
 See? See? I make the family  
 laugh...white like a human, see...

Polar and his family, obliging and even somewhat genuinely...  
 begin to laugh...

ANTO

Then I walk around...like a  
straight-necked goose...like  
a human...see...

Anto starts strutting, his neck and back straight like he's  
seen humans walk...uncomfortably...and even the mounted  
Gorilla start to laugh...

ANTO

(mimicing talk)

I'll have a steak...and make  
it rare! Ha...ha...ha...

As the Gorilla's laugh at this imitation, along with the Polar  
family, Anto seeks to nail down the one last piece of  
"identification"

ANTO

See...this is what he saw...my  
dressing room...where I take  
the make-up off...

And he hurries to the shower...

CLOSE ON ANTO IN SHOWER

A little uncertain how to use it...he pulls the cord...and  
is surprisingly drenched with water...standing under a  
"stream"...

ON THE GORILLAS

All have stopped laughing except the lowest ranked Patrol  
Gorilla...who continues until his superior shouts at him...

OFFICER GORILLA

Fool!

Patrol Gorilla stops immediately. They appear ready to ride  
off as they see the now normal but wet looking Anto step  
from the shower...but Ursus is the thorough police...turning  
to Gorilla Two...

URSUS

Search the barn! Eyes that  
deceive once...can deceive  
twice!

Gorilla Two jumps off his horse and strides officially by  
the Polar family and into the barn.

THE SCENE

Ursus, a menacing figure in his uniform and valuable horse,  
rides around the meek Polar family now in a circle, waiting...  
looking at them in a superior, threatening way...

URSUS  
 (to Anto)  
 A clown, eh? We'll see...

just as we hear two BAAAAAS from young calves...all eyes turn to the barn. A tense beat...and Gorilla Two emerges from the barn...shaking his head...announcing...

GORILLA TWO  
 No humans here, Sir. Two brand new calves...they would have eaten them if there were humans around.

The Gorilla Two remounts his horse...as Ursus rides up to the Officer Gorilla...

URSUS  
 (lowly to him)  
 Demote that Patrol. He has made fools of authority...

OFFICER GORILLA  
 Yes, Sir.

Ursus and his man ride off at a high gallop, in the lead this time...the Patrol Gorilla and his Officer following...we hear the Officer Ad-Libbing an oath at his stupid subordinate.

ANGLE ON THE POLAR FAMILY

Breathing a big sigh of relief...as Kovak, Virdon and Galen come from the barn to join them now, stray straws still clinging to them, revealing where they hid...

ON VIRDON

As Anto walks to him with head hung in shame for his actions inside earlier.

ANTO  
 Virdon...I...I'm sorry for how I acted to you in there. I just...couldn't believe.  
 (beat)  
 Thank you...very much.

VIRDON  
 I caught part of your act through a knothole there Anto. And if I hadn't seen it for myself...I wouldn't have believed that, either.  
 (beat)  
 I'd say we're about even.

WIDEN - TO INCLUDE REMUS

Just joining them...

ANTO

Will you show me...what you  
did...in case I must know  
some day?

REMUS

(a pro now)  
Just ask me, Anto...I know...  
I watched the whole thing...

Anto and Virdon glance down at the young Remus...big smiles...

CUT TO:

EXT. FARMHOUSE - NIGHT

Days later, a quite spry Galen with Virdon and Kovak are now bidding the Polar family good-bye. Kovak carries a sack which Zantes is now pointing to...

ZANTES

I put some bread in there...  
with that solid gold milk on  
it.

JILLIA

(to Galen)  
Be careful of the leg...I don't  
want you coming back here and...  
laying around...for me to wait on.

GALEN

Oh?

She lowers her sad eyes from his smile.

ON VIRDON, POLAR AND ANTO

Standing to one side, watching as Virdon checks the compass...

POLAR

Where will you go?

VIRDON

West...used to be a good  
direction. We'll try it  
again.

He pockets the compass.

ANTO

(warmly)  
Thank you, Virdon. I will  
never forget you.

Virdon gives the big ape a friendly smile.

VIRDON

I'm not going to forget you  
right away either, Anto.

He puts a hand on Anto's shoulder, pleased that the ape  
doesn't shrink from this now...and we hear...from the barn...  
distantly...two BAAAAA.....BAAAAAAS....

ANTO

I've named my bulls. One is  
Kovak...one is Virdon...

As Kovak steps to them...

KOVAK

Just watch the heifers around  
the one named Kovak...

They laugh...

VIRDON

Good-bye...good-bye...

Kovak and Galen ad-lib good-byes now...and the three fugitives  
walk away from the front of the small farmhouse where they  
had first come for help so many days before.

CUT TO:

EXT. FARM FIELD - CLOSE ON WINDMILL WHEEL - DAY

Turning in the wind...and PAN DOWN to see Polar and Remus  
standing there...watching it...

THE SCENE BELOW

Polar and Remus are pleased by the sight of the strange device  
making the wind work for them...as their attention is drawn  
away by the sound of HOOVES...an approaching horse...

SHOOTING TOWARD HORSEMAN - THE PATROL GORILLA

Rides up to them, stops. No words in exchange...Polar has  
won out over this Patrol once...offering no pleasantries.  
The Patrol Gorilla looks up at the odd structure.

PATROL GORILLA

What's this?

POLAR

A windmill.

PATROL GORILLA

Where did it come from?

REMUS

I made it.

At the Patrol's disbelieving look...

POLAR

He's very bright.

The Patrol takes another look at it, snorts.

PATROL GORILLA

Humph! If you were bright,  
old farmer...you'd keep him at  
work in the fields...not building  
these...toys to play in the wind.

With this admonition, feeling one-up, the Patrol rides off.

CLOSE ON POLAR AND REMUS

As Polar points to the low field that has been drained to  
feed the ditch this windmill is pumping from...

POLAR

Next spring, we'll plant that  
new field they made for us.  
Good rich earth.

REMUS

And we'll plant the best seed...  
like Virdon said...huh?

POLAR

Yes...we'll try it...the best  
seed this time...

Begin SLOW PULL BACK on the scene of Polar and Remus standing  
beside the windmill...a lasting reminder to them of their  
experience with these strange humans...

FADE OUT.

THE END