

This is the real story...

Return To The PLANET of the APES

Written by
Adam Rifkin

From a story by
Cassian Elwes
& Adam Rifkin

**(1 ST)
REVISION**

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BLACK...

A distant lonely wind blows, as we

ROLL OPENING CREDITS EXCEPT THE FILM'S TITLE

FADE IN

ON A SANDSWEPT DESERT the midday sun bakes down on the hot dunes. As far as the eye can see there is nothingness. The blistering wind carries wisps of sand across the desert floor.

FROM OVER THE HORIZON comes a figure. The rising heat distorts its image. We can barely make out what it is. It rides closer and closer...IT IS A LONE HORSEMAN, however he is still too far to see anything but that...A WOMAN'S VOICE begins to narrate as he rides.

NARRATOR (VO)

And so the legend began...From the dust of another time, another era...they rose.

As the horseman trots closer, his face is shrouded in a scarf as protection from the sand and sun. Still, we cannot see who it is.

Out of the sand they built an Empire...Their civilization grew fast and strong.

The lone horseman draws nearer. He dons a military uniform. A machine gun is slung across his back.

For themselves they rewrote history and created time itself. They were powerful. They were unstoppable. They were...the Planet of the Apes!

The lone horseman comes to an abrupt stop. He pulls the scarf from his face. It is GENERAL IZAN, the blackest of the black gorillas.

THE FILM'S TITLE BURNS ONTO THE SCREEN:

RETURN TO THE PLANET OF THE APES

With snarling teeth and an intense glare General Izan puts a ram's horn to his lips and blows with all the force of his powerhouse lungs. The ECHOING BLARE rings throughout the desert.

WE CRANE UP over Izan's head. From the horizon an imposing ARMY OF GORILLAS on horseback make their way across the sandy dunes. Rudimentary military vehicles accompany the troops. They are an angry looking lot.

AT THE SAME MOMENT from the opposite horizon, an ARMY OF CHIMPANZEES, as mighty as the gorillas, charges forward.

The gorilla and chimpanzee armies COLLIDE like two brick walls.

There is an EXPLOSION OF THUNDER, and the sun disappears from sight...SUDDENLY a giant billowing cloud of blood envelopes the sky like a tidal wave of red cast over the fighting...Apes slaying apes. The blood-red sky soaking all the color from the picture except red itself. We watch the war sear on in SLOW MOTION. The only colors...black and red.

NARRATOR (CONT'D)

There was a day long ago when all apes lived in peace.

FROM AN AERIAL VIEW we look down on the embittered battle.

But for years a brutal civil war between the gorillas and the chimpanzees tore the very soul of the Planet of the Apes apart....
...until now!

FADE TO BLACK

...as we hear festive music and cheering crowds.

FADE IN

EXT. APE SQUARE - DAY

Bright, brilliant sunshine...Ape Square is the nerve center of the entire Ape Empire...the blood and brain of this unique civilization. It is the focal point of activity for occasions of social and governmental importance. The mighty Square is lined with great stone pillars that reach skyward. Today it is alive with the excitement and emotions of peace. The gorillas and the chimpanzees are about to end their savage, bloody civil war. The MASSES cheer. Patriotic anthems fill the air played by the APE COMMUNITY SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA all decked in their tuxedos.

On public display are representatives of the two opposing sides, the GORILLA ARMY and the CHIMPANZEE ARMY. At the front of the gorilla army stands GENERAL IZAN. He's military through and through...All the spirit and passion of this celebration is focused on...

THE REVIEWING STAND...An open-air, bleacher-type stone structure. Banners and flags decorate the site. Seated side by side are MINISTER ELIZAR TAFARA, the leader of the entire gorilla population, and SECRETARY NEBB GURIO, his chimpanzee counterpart. They are flanked by invited GUESTS and MILITARY AIDS, all spit-and-polished in their dress uniforms. Amongst the dignitaries sit the three highest court JUDGES...they are the eldest members of the ape community, and the only three orangutans left in existence. The CHIEF JUDGE, DR. ZANTHEUS, impressive in his long black judicial robe, approaches the giant ramshorn-like megaphone. He holds out his long arms to silence the crowd.

DR. ZANTHEUS

Fellow anthropoids...I stand before you today with a most inflated sense of pride.

DR ZANTHEUS (CONT'D)

This day is truly a shining monument that will go down in our history for all of ape and apekind.

Applause rolls like thunder.

DR ZANTHEUS (CONT'D)

Countless lives have been senselessly sacrificed to the thundering storms of civil war. For too long the rain has been red. But now I can see the sun shining through the clouds. Once again gorillas and chimpanzees will live in harmony...

The ape population EXPLODES INTO PANDEMONIOUS CHEERS. Gurio and Tafara step to the megaphone. Tafara is an imposing gorilla. His chest is decorated with a legion of military ornaments. Gurio, though smaller, still presents a confident posture. He wears a patch over one eye. Dr Zanthaus holds up a scroll. It is the long awaited peace treaty.

DR. ZANTHEUS (CONT)

I present to you Minister Elizar Tafara and Secretary Nebb Gurio, two apes of peace.

TAFARA

(bellowing out)

Thank you, Dr. Zanthaus, Secretary Gurio...As Commander of the Gorilla forces I speak for all the brave gorillas who have fought so valiantly under the brilliant military leadership of our General Izan. Today we extend the hand of friendship to our brother apes, the chimpanzees.

Tafara salutes Gurio. They wave to the cheering masses.

GURIO

Chimpanzees have always been advocates of peace, and so I sign this treaty with great hope, and vow that never again shall any ape fight against his brother.

Embracing the moment the symphony strikes up a rousing political tune. Ceremoniously Dr. Zanthaus unravels the scroll. Two DIGNITARIES step up to the lecturn and each hand Gurio and Tafara a special pen. Simultaneously Gurio and Tafara sign the treaty. Enthusiastically Dr. Zanthaus holds the signed document above his head. The music swells with patriotism. Everyone on the reviewing stand is on their feet applauding vigorously. Gurio and Tafara extend their hairy hands to each other. In a final

gesture of peace, this historic handshake will solidify a future of hope, when, SUDDENLY...

BANG! BANG!! BANG!!! BANG!!! GUNFIRE RIPS THROUGH THE REVIEWING STAND LIKE A BOLT OF LIGHTENING. Tafara's face explodes off his skull as bullets riddle his flesh. Gasps and screams of terror echo from the crowd.

A BULLET SHATTERS GURIO'S SHOULDER. Three chimpanzee BODYGUARDS throw him to the ground behind the podium. They shroud his body. Bullets tear into their backs.

GENERAL IZAN AND HIS RENEGADE GORILLAS SHOOT VICIOUSLY INTO THE REVIEWING STAND KILLING GORILLAS AND CHIMPANZEES LIKE FLIES. The bursts from Izan's machine guns flash like strobe lights.

DR. ZANTHEUS FALLS TO THE GROUND CLUTCHING HIS BLOODY CHEST. Shock and horror bulge his eyeballs. His nervous system explodes into one final convulsion before death. Mass confusion abounds. There is no escape from Izan's unexpected rampage. Apes scatter in all directions. A stream of bullets riddles through the symphony. Instruments and musicians fly helter-skelter. TAFARA'S CORPSE hangs over the podium. Blood pouring from his head.

Chimpanzee soldiers grab Gurio from underneath the pile of dead bodyguards. They wisk him off the reviewing stand, disappearing into the confusion.

Izan, in a bravado display of hulkish strength and ego, leaps onto the reviewing stand. He reaches under Tafara's bloody corpse, and yanks out the peace treaty. Holding it skyward, it drips with Tafara's blood. With a heart stopping roar, he screams into the megaphone.

IZAN

There will be no peace until the gorillas rule this planet!

Izan then tears the peace treaty apart and shoots into the air. Any hope for an end to the civil war has now been single handedly destroyed by Izan.

I will own this planet!!

TIME LAPSE DISSOLVE TO

APE SQUARE...All the crowds are gone. The burned and bullet-shredded flags flap silently. The distant rumble of cannon fire can be heard, a grim reminder that deep in the desert the war rages on. A clean-up crew of HUMAN SLAVES sweeps the debris left from the massacre. Human beings in the ape community are regarded as animals. They do not speak and are seemingly mindless. Each slave's ankles are bound in chains. Military GORILLAS keep a watchful cruel eye on the labor force. The crack of a whip across a slave's back is the main deterrent to sluffing off.

DISSOLVE TO

LIFE IN THE APE CITY

For the first time we see life as it evolves on a daily basis. The ape civilization is almost reminiscent of ancient Rome. Busy narrow streets lined with stone buildings wind and weave throughout. The streets are frenzied with bazaars and VENDORS. GORILLA TROOPS can be seen on almost every corner. The gorillas have the city occupied and take pleasure in intimidating the civilian apes. Occasionally motorized military wagons make their way down the crowded claustrophobic streets. All slave labor is done by the HUMANS under the watchful eye and cracking whip of the gorillas.

From the middle of a city street we CRANE UP above the roof tops looking far into the desert which surrounds the city. There we see a distant battle being waged. The mortar fire and explosions ring louder and louder...

BATTLE THUNDER AUDIO BRIDGES AS WE CUT TO

A motorized military wagon sitting ominously on the desert sand. It lies in wait in the blazing noonday sun like a spider ready to snag a fly, when all of a sudden...A GIANT BLACK HAIRY HAND reaches into the picture and picks up the vehicle off the ground. The sounds of battle fade out as we...

PULL BACK to reveal we are not actually in the desert, but at IZAN'S STRATEGY TABLE, which sits in the middle of...

INT. GORILLA TACTICAL PLANNING ROOM - DAY

The gorilla war room is a mess. Broken chairs and documents are strewn about. Giant maps line the walls. On one side there is a massive stone desk. The nameplate atop it reads: GENERAL IZAN. Standing at the strategy table are Izan with several of his battle COMMANDERS and war ADVISORS.

The table is a miniature battlefield. There is no doubt Izan is in control. Everyape waits patiently as Izan amuses himself. He throws his toy vehicle onto the table, making explosion noises with his big gorilla lips.

IZAN

Okay, now where were we?

COMMANDER #1

Well sir, with a fully equipped attack force taking the hill we probably won't face any substantial casualties, which should more than compensate for the losses suffered in the southeastern zone last weekend.

As the Commander babbles on, Izan's brow furrows. He slowly begins to pace behind Commander #1.

COMMANDER #1 (CONT'D)

Unfortunately we were caught with our pants down, sir as the chimps mounted a surprise attack on us before most of the company had awakened, sir. It was only lucky that we...

IZAN

We suffered losses in the southeastern zone and nobody told me?

COMMANDER #1

Well sir, in a manner of speaking. However...

Izan takes his machine gun and unexpectedly, WHACK, he strikes the Commander in the back of the head like a baseball player. The Commander falls to the ground.

IZAN

Caught with our pants down?

Izan beats him with the butt of his gun.

IZAN

I'm trying to win a war here and I don't have time for incompetence! I hate suffering losses! I HATE SUFFERING LOSSES!!

AT THAT MOMENT there is a commotion in the hall. The door bursts open. A Chimpanzee comes rushing in followed by two brutish gorilla PRIVATES chasing after him. The Privates seize the intruder and tackle him to the ground.

IZAN

What the hell's going on here?

As the Privates yank the chimp to his feet, we see he is CORNELIUS.

CORNELIUS

Unhand me! Unhand me at once!

PRIVATE #1

Sorry General Izan, sir. This little chimp got away from us for a second. We'll take him out back and shoot him right away.

As the Privates drag Cornelius across the floor...

CORNELIUS

General Izan, please, I beg a moment of your time! My name is Cornelius. I'm the head of the Simiantarian Peace Organization, and what I have to say concerns

CORNELIUS (CONT'D)
the destiny of all simian life as
we know it.

IZAN

Wait!

The Privates stop in their tracks.

I know who you are. You all
remember Cornelius, the chimp who
was laughed out of his psychology
and archeology positions for his
absurd theories on anthropoid
history?

The gorillas laugh at Cornelius.

CORNELIUS

That is I, sir.

Izan has sport with Cornelius.

IZAN

Not on some street corner today
making those ridiculous speeches
about rights for humans or equality
for all apes?

CORNELIUS

No General, sir. I don't mean to be
disrespectful, but it seems to me
you're leading this Empire on a
road to self-destruction. Please
hear me out. Please.

IZAN

Come here.

Cornelius, scared but determined, approaches Izan.

You have a lot of guts, you little
chimp. Either that or you're just
very stupid.

(laughing)

What say we hear this chimp's last
words? We could all use a good
laugh.

All the gorillas laugh with Izan.

CORNELIUS

Thank you. General Izan, if you
continue with this bloody civil
war...if you do not put down your
weapons now and come to some
peaceful agreement with the
chimpanzees, and with
yourselves...you are going to

CORNELIUS (CONT'D)
annihilate all life as we know it,
just as was done before, when
humans ruled the Planet!

IZAN
Humans ruled the planet? That's the
funniest thing I've ever heard!
They're animals.

CORNELIUS
They didn't used to be. They buried
their entire race by fighting each
other, just like the apes are
doing, General.
(pleading)
Don't you see, if it happened once
it can happen again. If you do not
open your eyes to the truth now,
it'll be too late. And then my son
and all the other children won't be
given a chance to grow up, because
we didn't give ourselves a chance
to get along.

The room goes dead-still. Izan thinks pensively, then...

IZAN
Kill him!

They all laugh as the Privates pull Cornelius towards the door.

CORNELIUS
General, you're making a grave
mistake. Why do you think the
Forbidden Zone is forbidden to
apes? It offers proof of what I
say. I can prove the human
civilization existed. I can prove
that humans destroyed themselves.
(desperately)
I can bring you proof!

Still entertained by this absurdity, Izan calls out.

IZAN
Hold it! Hold it! What kind of
proof?

CORNELIUS
Proof of a human race that
destroyed itself before us. Proof
that will open your eyes. Proof
that ape evolved from man!

Hysterical laughter explodes.

IZAN
This I gotta see!

The Privates let go of Cornelius' shoulders. With trepidation he continues.

CORNELIUS
General Izan, if I go to the
Forbidden Zone and bring you this
proof, will you consider the
consequences of what I say?

IZAN
(with no
sincerity)
Yeah, yeah, yeah! Bring me your
proof.

CORNELIUS
Thank you, General. Oh, thank you.

As Cornelius nears the door, Izan shouts to him.

IZAN
Cornelius?

CORNELIUS
Yes.

Izan picks up the limp corpse of Commander #1 from the floor and heaves it over his head at Cornelius. THUD. The dead gorilla lands at Cornelius' feet. Cornelius is mortified.

IZAN
Good luck.

All the gorillas belly laugh with vigor. Cornelius runs from the war room as fast as he can. The laughter grows and echoes, as we

AUDIO BRIDGE TO

EXT. IZAN'S GORILLA WAR BUILDING - SAME TIME

Cornelius burst out of the doors and into the street. The laughing still echoes in his head. He stops in the middle of the road. Clutching his hands over his ears, he attempts to muffle the demonic laughter, which drowns out the city sounds around him

DISSOLVE TO

EXT. DESERT - DAYBREAK

Cornelius rides along the desert dunes to the backdrop of a vast expanse. His 3 year old son, PAX, shares the saddle with him. To his left faint gunfire can be heard in the distance.

DISSOLVE TO

THE HEAT OF DAY. Cornelius and Pax cross the hot sands searching, hoping. The white sun bakes down on these determined travelers.

DISSOLVE TO

NIGHT HAS FALLEN as Cornelius and Pax warm themselves at a small campfire he has built.

PAX

Father?

CORNELIUS

Yes Pax.

PAX

Why are some apes good and some apes mean?

CORNELIUS

I don't know. Maybe someday we can figure that out together.

DISSOLVE TO

THE SUN SITS HIGH IN THE SKY. Cornelius and Pax search on. Dismounting they look around. A glimmer of something catches Pax's eye. Pax picks it up and hands it to his father. It is an arrowhead. Cornelius looks around for other signs of life, but sees nothing. No one. He sighs with disappointment. Have they come all this way for naught? It looks like it. He lifts Pax onto the saddle.

CORNELIUS

Well Pax, it appears as if we've no place else to look. Shall we go home?...I do hope I don't hang for this.

Cornelius is just about to remount his horse, when SUDDENLY...A sack is thrust over Cornelius' head from behind. TWO HUMANS drag a kicking and screaming Cornelius across the desert sand as a third grabs Pax. They all disappear into a hole in the desert floor. One of the humans pulls a boulder in over the hole to conceal the opening. The five are gone without a trace. A soft wind wisps across the sand. Cornelius' horse stands alone.

UNDERGROUND TUNNEL - SAME TIME

At a frenzied speed the humans drag Cornelius and Pax through a seemingly endless, claustrophobic, subterranean labyrinth. Their muffled screams are undiscernable. The artery winds like an underground corkscrew. One of the humans carries a torch which casts weird shadows along the cramped wet walls. Fast. They move through the passage like blood through a vein. FINALLY...they emerge in what appears to be...

INT. ANCIENT NEW YORK SUBWAY STATION - SAME TIME

The three humans pull Cornelius and Pax through this fossil that was once a part of the great New York City. Torches line the cracked tile walls. They race...Past an old overturned subway car. Through the decrepit turnstiles. Along the smashed and broken platform. They vanish into the darkness.

THE BURLAP HOOD IS PULLED FROM CORNELIUS' HEAD. He struggles but cannot move. The humans have tied him to a chair with Pax on his lap.

CORNELIUS

Untie us! What is the meaning of this? Untie us!

IN A SMALL DARK ROOM OFF TO ONE SIDE OF THE SUBWAY TRACKS, Cornelius struggles to free himself. The humans run from the room.

CORNELIUS (CONT'D)

Wait! Wait! Where are you going?

Cornelius looks around nervously. His emotions are a mixture of curiosity and fear. Pax hugs him tightly around the neck.

CORNELIUS (CONT'D)

Oh dear...Don't be frightened Pax.

He stares out the doorway at the subway tracks. He's never seen anything like this before, then...Cornelius' eyes widen as he hears a noise. Outside the doorway the silhouette of a small human CHILD runs by. The child giggles.

SUDDENLY...the silhouette of a large human MAN steps into the doorway. He carries a rifle. Although Cornelius cannot see his face, he knows the man is staring directly at him. The silhouettes of two human CHILDREN play at the man's ankles. Slowly the man walks forward... Cornelius' heart pounds in his throat. Sweat beads on his brow. The man steps into a shaft of light. His face becomes illuminated. Cornelius grins with relief. He can't believe his eyes.

IT IS TAYLOR.

CORNELIUS

(overcome)

Taylor!

Taylor is stunned.

TAYLOR

Cornelius? Cornelius is that you?

Taylor runs to untie them..

CORNELIUS

Taylor, thank goodness you're alive.

The two embrace like the old friends that they are.

TAYLOR

I thought I would never see you again.

CORNELIUS
I can't tell you how happy I am to
find you after all these years.

TAYLOR
Well, you sure are a sight for sore
eyes.

CORNELIUS
I've missed you, my friend.

TAYLOR
I'm so sorry about the welcome. I
just had no idea it was you.
(looking to
Pax)
Is this your son?

CORNELIUS
Yes, this is Pax.

The three children all eye each other skeptically. The little boy
tugs at Taylor's leg. It is his 3 year old son, DUKE.

CORNELIUS
And who do we have here?

Taylor scoops Duke up into his arms.

TAYLOR
Cornelius, I'd like you to meet my
son, Duke. I named him after John
Wayne.

CORNELIUS
Who?

TAYLOR
(chuckles)
Never mind. Duke this is my old
friend, Cornelius.

CORNELIUS
Well, hello.

DUKE
Hi.

CORNELIUS
Oh, he speaks.

TAYLOR
Of course.

Cornelius looks down at the little girl .

CORNELIUS
And hello down there to you too.

TAYLOR
Cornelius, Pax, this is Duke's
little friend, Ariel.

ARIEL
You look funny.

Cornelius and Taylor look at each other and laugh.

INT. SUBWAY COFFEE SHOP - LATER

The remnants of a once bustling commuter breakfast spot is now an ancient ruin. The formica counters are warped. The walls are chipped. And, the cushions on the chairs have faded to dust. Taylor has fashioned it into his dining room. Cornelius and Taylor sit in a booth feasting vegetarian-style. Duke, Ariel, and Pax play on the tracks.

CORNELIUS
...I look around and see what has
become of your civilization, and
know this is what's in store for
ours if something is not done. I
beg you, Taylor, you are our only
hope.

TAYLOR
But I don't understand what I can
do. I am only one. And a human to
boot. Why would he listen to me?

CORNELIUS
Because you are proof that it has
happened before. Living proof of a
culture that was completely
destroyed by fighting itself.

TAYLOR
Look, my civilization fought a
thousand wars before one of them
finally blew everything up.

CORNELIUS
But Taylor how can you suggest the
apes take the same path as the
humans? You better than anyone
knows the grizzly consequences.

Playfully, Duke and Ariel run to Taylor. He takes them in his arms and places one on each knee. Pax runs to Cornelius.

TAYLOR
Cornelius, listen, I understand why
you're scared, but I have a
responsibility here. Duke has
already lost his mother. What if
he were to lose me too?

CORNELIUS

We have a lot in common, my friend.
More than a first glance might
tell.

Cornelius looks at Duke and as a father himself he feels deeply for Taylor's circumstance. He suddenly realizes he has put Taylor in a compromising position.

CORNELIUS (CONT'D)

Say no more. I understand... Now
show me around this...what you call
a subway.

Taylor obliges his old friend. Duke, Ariel, and Pax run off to play. Taylor walks behind the archaic counter. Next to what was once a cash register, Taylor picks up an object.

TAYLOR

Let me teach you a little something
about the twentieth century.

Taylor tosses the object to Cornelius. He's a good catch.

CORNELIUS

What's this?

TAYLOR

It's a package of Twinkies. A very
integral part of human existence.

Cornelius examines it curiously.

Go ahead. Eat it. It has a shelf
life of over three thousand years.

Cornelius rips open the cellophane. He takes a bite. It's still fresh. He likes it.

TAYLOR

Come with me Cornelius. I think you
might find this interesting.

IN A SMALL ROOM off to one side Taylor shows Cornelius an unexpected sight...a classroom in progress. A TEACHER is teaching a group of about 5 HUMANS how to speak.

TAYLOR

Since I've been living in the
Forbidden Zone I've taught a group
of people some basics, speaking,
reading, thinking for themselves.
They're all very fast learners.

CORNELIUS

How positively wonderful.

TAYLOR

There's more.

INT. TAYLOR'S MAKESHIFT OFFICE - SAME TIME

Old decrepit chairs and vinyl couches line the filthy walls. There is a rotted desk that Taylor obviously uses for his own. From out of a desk drawer Taylor takes three large handbound, handwritten books. History books.

CORNELIUS

Books?

TAYLOR

History books. A chronicle of the human existence as I can recall it.

Cornelius thumbs through one of the books.

CORNELIUS

This is fascinating.

TAYLOR

Every night I write a few pages. Things I was taught in school, from TV, movies...I really miss movies. My favorite was "Ben Hur".

(seriously)

I've been racking my brains trying to remember history as it occurred. I can't let it be forgotten.

CORNELIUS

You've written so much. I had no idea the humans had this much history to tell.

TAYLOR

Cornelius, I've only scratched the surface. Our great libraries were stacked from floor to ceiling with thousands of volumes of books, and even they weren't able to tell it all. I'm amazed at myself for having remembered this much already.

CORNELIUS

Your son is lucky to have such a father.

TAYLOR

He's why I started writing these. So the history of the humans won't be forgotten. So my child and all the children can read about it for generations to come...

Taylor stops. He thinks about what he has just said.

...generations to come.

DISSOLVE TO

INT. LEAGUE OF ANTHROPOID NATIONS BUILDING - DAY

The General Assembly Room of the League of Anthropoid Nations is a hot-bed of confrontation. The room is circular. Seated by rank on multi-leveled risers are both warring factions. The CHIMPANZEES occupy one side of the room. The GORILLAS the other side. Nebb Gurio, leader of the chimpanzee forces, sits in a position of control mid-way up the wall of his SOLDIERS. Izan is at the other side of the room opposite Gurio. Seated in a booth high atop everyone, the two remaining orangutan judges spectate. Words fire back and forth like gunfire.

GURIO

You're mad! You're utterly mad!
There's no reasoning with a
barbarian!

IZAN

The time for reasoning has long
been over! If you want a single
chimpanzee to ever walk the Planet
again, you'll surrender now.

CHIMPANZEE COMMANDER

We'll never surrender!

IZAN

Then you're committing suicide!

GURIO

You're committing genocide!

IZAN

I fight to win!

GURIO

Democracy will win out. Oppression
can never sustain itself.

Izan laughs.

GORILLA COMMANDER

Democracy is for the weak!

CHIMPANZEE GENERAL

Power to the chimpanzees!!

GURIO

Why can't you be more like Tafara?
He understood what it meant to want
peace and equality.

GORILLA GENERAL

You chimpanzees are doomed! Doomed!

IZAN

I spit on Tafara!

He spits. Suddenly Izan's eyes dart to the center of the room.

A veil of silence falls over the apes as they stare with Izan... There stands Cornelius. He holds Pax in one arm and Taylor's hand-written history books under his other arm.

CORNELIUS

We are all doomed!!

IZAN

(snidely)

Well, well, well...What have we here? The little chimp from last week.

GURIO

Cornelius, you don't belong here. Take Pax and leave at once before you get hurt.

Two GORILLA GUARDS close in on Cornelius.

CORNELIUS

(cries out)

Wait! Wait! I have the proof I promised you General Izan.

(holds up the books)

I have your proof!

Izan howls. This is some fun! The guards make a grab for Cornelius. He shields Pax. Izan waves off his apes.

IZAN

Oh yeah! Oh yeah, my proof.

(to everyone)

Now get this...Cornelius here promised me he could prove that thousands of years ago humans ruled this planet. Humans no less!

For once the warring gorillas and chimpanzees have something to laugh at together.

Not even lizards or dogs. Something we could almost believe...But humans!

Cornelius puts Pax down. He raises the books high above his head.

CORNELIUS

I bring you books. Hand-written books. These books chronicle the history of man as it is remembered.

IZAN

What kind of proof is that? Books?

CORNELIUS

If you read them you will see. They tell all about life before...

IZAN

I don't care what they tell! How do I know you didn't write them? How do I know they're not the ramblings of some crazed chimpanzee imagination.

An ugly murmur starts to build in the room.

GURIO

Cornelius you have gone too far this time.

IZAN

This bores me. You had your chance Cornelius...Guards! Kill him!

The gorillas cheer. Panic seizes the chimps. The guards move towards Cornelius. Pax clings to his father, fear on his little face.

CORNELIUS

If you won't believe the books, perhaps you'll believe the human who wrote them!

All at once the entire League room GASPS. Confident and proud Taylor enters the chamber. The guards freeze. Silence.

IZAN

You dare to bring a human into the League of Anthropoid Nations Building?!!

TAYLOR

Cornelius didn't bring me. I wanted to come.

Shock bounces off the walls. Every ape's jaw drops.

CORNELIUS

Fellow apes, this is my friend Taylor.

TAYLOR

It's been a long time since I've been amongst apes. How do you all do?

IZAN

This is a hoax! Get this ventriloquist and his dummy out of here!

The guards are too spooked to move.

TAYLOR

You must be General Izan. I've heard a lot about you General.

IZAN

GUARDS!!

Cornelius steps forward...The guards are hesitant.

CORNELIUS

Please General, you've never heard
a human speak before. Why don't you
listen to what he has to say?

GURIO

I want to hear what he has to say!

Izan sits motionless. He peers down at Taylor with an evil eye.

IZAN

Amuse me!!

Taylor takes a deep breath. All ape eyes are on him.

TAYLOR

I'm not a hoax General. I'm not a
trick. I haven't been trained to
mock language like a parrot. I am a
human being, and as much as you
apes want to hide from the truth,
there was a day when humans ruled
this entire planet.

There are some snickers bouncing about the room.

Sure, it's funny, I know. But why
don't you ask the orangutans? They
know it's true. They wrote your
sacred scrolls and have been
keeping the human existence secret
from the moment apes stood upright.

Taylor points to the orangutans sitting up in the booth. One
hides his face in his hands.

What were you afraid of? Didn't you
realize by turning your heads from
the past and ignoring history,
you're doomed to repeat it?

A uneasy calm envelopes the room. Taylor continues.

There was a time when man had the
knowledge and power to clean the
oceans, cure the sick, feed the
hungry, and fly to the stars.
That's how I got here. I was an
astronaut. I flew through space and
time in a machine that humans
built. I know this must seem hard
to believe. You may very well be
asking yourselves, if such a great
civilization did exist, where is it

TAYLOR (CONT'D)

now? Well, I am all that is left. You see, with all the wonderous things that humans could do, we had one fatal flaw. The inability to share. The unwillingness to cooperate. The refusal to look upon each other as equals. Man's great downfall can be defined as simply as petty greed. And it was that greed, that insidious thirst for power that led us to war after war after war. And each war was the war to end all wars...Until finally one war ended everything!..... I beg you, for the sake of your race, don't make the same mistake we made. Learn from our stupidity. Learn from our selfishness. And rise higher than man ever dreamt possible. It's not too late. It can never be too late.

You can hear a pin drop. Izan slowly stands. He removes his hat. His expression is introspective and absorbing. SUDDENLY...Izan pulls a pistol from his side. He points it at Gurio. BLAM! A single bullet blows Gurio's forehead apart. His limp body flails back. An arc of red follows. The warlords are shocked. Taylor is mortified.

IZAN

Here's your peace and cooperation,
right here!!

Izan grabs his crotch. In one vicious assault, the guards grab Taylor and Cornelius. A third guard yanks Pax out of Cornelius' hands. The baby screams.

CORNELIUS

(frantic)

Pax! Pax! No-o-o-o!!!

IZAN

(shouting)

The human parrot is right. There can be no more war. That's why I am declaring it over! I win! The gorillas win! The gorillas are in charge, for now and always!

The gorillas explode with joy. The chimpanzees are in utter chaos. They have been completely startled by Izan's violent coup d'etat. An enraged chimpanzee GENERAL shrieks out to Izan.

CHIMPANZEE GENERAL

The Chimpanzees will never succumb to the ways of the gorillas! Chimpanzees will never yield. We will never...

Izan cuts him off in mid-sentence by shooting him. The chimpanzee General falls forward. His corpse tumbles all the way down the multi-leveled platforms and hits the ground with a sick THUD. Pandemonium races through the League Room. Cornelius and Taylor struggle to break free from the guard's grasp, but can't. Pax cries. Izan leaps to his feet, over the desk, and all the way down to the floor. He shouts at the top of his lungs, riddling the ceiling with his machine gun bullets. Bits of stone and smoke shower down.

IZAN

Silence! Silence! There is no power greater than me!

A CHIMPANZEE VOICE

All the power in the world can't change a single chimpanzee into a monster like you.

IZAN

We'll see about that.

Izan's eyes dart around the room. He spots the guard holding young Pax. Like a vulture Izan grabs Pax by the skin on the back of his neck.

CORNELIUS

No-o-o-o-o-o-o-o-o-o!!!!!!!

WHACK! The guard slams his fist against Cornelius' face! Taylor battles to free himself, but cannot escape the vice-grip of the guard. Izan holds Pax over his head displaying him to everyone.

IZAN

Here this! I will raise this chimpanzee as my son! I will train him to be as mighty as any gorilla you have ever known! Be forewarned that one day the successor to my throne will be this chimpanzee! And this chimpanzee will be just like me! Behold! The son of Izan!

CORNELIUS

No, please, no! Pax...Pax! No-o-o!

TAYLOR

Let him go, you maniac! Maniac!

IZAN

Hang that human scum!

A raucous cheer races through the gorillas. Taylor's panicked eyes widen. He is hoisted over the heads of the blood-thirsty gorillas like a football hero.

IZAN (CONT'D)

To the gallows!

Hooting and hollering the gorillas charge out of the League Room led by Izan, who still holds Pax. Taylor, helplessly suspended on the shoulders of the mob, disappears out the door like a twig being washed away in a flood.

EXT. LEAGUE OF ANTHROPOID NATIONS BUILDING - SAME TIME/DAY

The apes pour out into the street. Izan leads the rabid crowd to the gallows. The group swells with curious BYSTANDER APES, who follow the soldiers.

AT THE GALLOWS... A permanent eyesore that sits in the middle of town. Hordes of wild-eyed APES gather around the often used execution spot. Izan catapults onto the gallow platform. A hooded HENCHAPE stands next to him. The rope dangles...A disraught Cornelius struggles helplessly in the arms of two neanderthal-like guards. As Taylor is being carried by, he reaches out and grabs Cornelius' outstretched hand.

CORNELIUS

I'm sorry Taylor. I'm sorry. I'm so sorry.

TAYLOR

Raise my son. Raise him as if he were your own.

Their hands are yanked apart by the current of the moving crowd. The henchape secures the noose around Taylor's neck!

IZAN

Fellow apes...in my first official act as Supreme Ruler of the Empire of the Apes, I declare the death of this freak of nature! Any final words human?

With resolve Taylor looks steely-eyed at Izan.

TAYLOR

YOU BASTARDS!

Taylor's voice echoes out through space. Izan grabs the lever from the henchape. YANK. The trap door drops. CRACK. Taylor's neck snaps. For a moment the only sound we hear is the creaking of the rope. Cornelius closes his eyes and drops his head, then...JUBILANCE EXPLODES. All the gorillas start to chant...

ALL THE GORILLAS

Hang Cornelius/Cornelius next/
Cornelius, Cornelius...

IZAN

No! Not Cornelius! Cornelius won't die! Death would be too easy for him. I want Cornelius to live a

IZAN (CONT'D)
 long, long life...And everyday I
 want him to remember that this
 child...
 (holds up Pax)
 this son of mine is now a
 gorilla!...Cornelius, I banish you
 to the Forbidden Zone never to
 return! And if you ever come back,
 I'll kill Pax. Guards! Escort
 Cornelius out of the city.

As the guards take Cornelius away, tears stream down his face...

CORNELIUS
 P-a-a-ax...Remember me. Always
 remember I'm your real father...I'm
 your real father!

Pax waves good-bye to Cornelius as Izan gloats.

DISSOLVE TO

A MONTAGE ENCAPSULATING THE NEXT TWENTY YEARS

The familiar voice of the female narrator from the beginning
 carries us through time. It is the voice of Ariel.

DUKE, 5, runs happily across the desert. He giggles playfully.

ARIEL (VO)
 ...And so Duke grew to love
 Cornelius like he would his own
 father. He raised him well.

Duke runs into Cornelius' loving arms. Ariel, 5, runs up to
 Duke. They romp together with Cornelius looking on.

DISSOLVE TO

THE SUN IS HALF-WAY SET ON THE HORIZON. A brilliant hue of
 lavender colors the sky. Cornelius, Ariel, Duke, and four other
 young children, 3 BOYS and a GIRL, are silhouetted against the
 sunset. They walk gingerly. The children do kid things, throw
 rocks into the air, shuffle sand with their feet.

ARIEL (VO) (CONT'D)
 As far back as we can remember
 Cornelius fired our imaginations
 with art, and stories, and songs.
 He told us what it meant to be
 human...He filled us with images of
 the time from which Duke's father
 came...And every night he would
 read to us from the books Taylor
 wrote about the history of man.

DISSOLVE TO

UNDER A BIG DESERT TREE Cornelius reads from the history books Taylor hand wrote. Ariel and Duke listen eagerly. They are now nine years old. Seated under the tree with them are their friends DARA, CHARLIE, ALBERT, JONAS, and a few ADULT HUMANS.

CORNELIUS

...And so the ship they claimed was unsinkable slipped under the icy water. Some say the band continued to play all the way to the bottom of the ocean...

Everyone sits mesmerized.

DISSOLVE TO

THE UNDERGROUND SUBWAY

An archeologist's dream. It is evident Cornelius has been excavating artifacts from the past out of the subway ruins. Lining the subway floor are many everyday items from twentieth century life. Eyeglasses. Dishes. A container of liquid paper. A phonograph record. False teeth...Too many things to list. Ariel and Duke and a group of HUMANS are busy digging up yesterday with him.

ARIEL (VO) (CONT'D)

We also learned about the past through archeology. This was Cornelius' favorite thing to do, and we always found lots of neat things.

Duke and Ariel run to Cornelius with an oddity. An old toilet seat with it's attached cover. None of these humans has ever seen one before. The toilets they use are merely holes dug in the ground.

DUKE AT 9

Cornelius, Cornelius, look what we found.

ARIEL AT 9

What was it?

Cornelius curiously examines the object. He puts the toilet seat around his neck. The seat cover rests upright against the back of his head.

CORNELIUS

It appears to have been some sort of ceremonial headdress.

DISSOLVE TO

A SHACK being constructed near a clump of trees. Cornelius, Duke, Ariel, Charlie, Dara, Albert, Jonas, George the teacher, and other HUMANS work together to build the dwelling. Other simple shacks can be seen in the b.g. dotting the desert landscape.

ARIEL (VO) (CONT'D)

We learned hate is a disease that corrupts the mind and rots the soul. He told us about a weird and evil concept called war, and shared that violence was no way of expressing one's point of view.

As they hammer away Ariel glances to her side. She catches the eye of Duke, who smiles and quickly turns his head. She smiles, coyly. They continue working. Young Albert comes up behind Duke and teases him.

ALBERT AT 9

Du-u-ke's in love. Du-u-ke's in love.

Duke swings around embarrassed and angry.

DUKE AT 9

I am not!

ALBERT

Yes you are. Yes you are. Yes you are.

Duke tackles Albert to the ground and the two fight like alley cats. The other kids edging them on. Cornelius rushes over and breaks up the fight and scolds them both.

DISSOLVE TO

NIGHT BLANKETS THE DESERT...Cornelius once again reads from the wonderful books of history. A campfire illuminates his face as he speaks. Listening intently are Ariel, Duke, and a handful of other HUMANS. Ariel sits close to Duke. They tease each other with things that teens do like.

CORNELIUS

...People fainted left and right and had to be carried off by police. Nobody had ever seen anything like it before. They changed the world forever...
...The Beatles were the most exciting group to ever hit music and culture...

DISSOLVE TO

A TARGET PAINTED ON THE SIDE OF A TREE...A bullet pierces the bullseye. Dead center. Duke, still a teen-ager, smiles at his perfect aim. He cocks the rifle again. Just as he takes aim, the gun is yanked out of his hand. Cornelius throws the gun to the ground. Duke and Cornelius obviously disagree on this concept.

ARIEL (VO) (CONT'D)

Duke had a will of his own and often argued with Cornelius about the guns. Although Duke heard Cornelius' mind-over-muscle speech a million times, he still wanted to learn how to defend himself.

DISSOLVE TO

CORNELIUS SITS ON A SEAT IN A SUBWAY CAR. He weeps into his hands. Unbeknownst to him, Duke and Ariel peer into one of the subway car windows. They quietly watch Cornelius.

ARIEL (VO) (CONT'D)

We learned about Cornelius' home, the Empire of the Apes. And we knew how he yearned to go back to see his own son, Pax.

DISSOLVE TO

THE DESERT AT GOLDEN HOUR...

Duke and Ariel are horseracing with each other. They move in SLOW MOTION. The muscles of the horses ripple. For the first time we see them as young adults. They ride bareback. Gracefully galloping through space.

Duke takes the lead. Ariel gains fast. Looking over his shoulder, Ariel laughs as she passes him up. She wins. The SLOW MOTION resumes to normal speed as they jump from their horses. Duke kicks a rock. He is visibly upset. Yet again Ariel outdoes him.

ARIEL

(laughing)

What's the matter Duke? You getting too old?

DUKE

That's it!

Duke takes out after Ariel. A playful chase ensues. She giggles as dust kicks up from their heels. He lunges at her, tackling her to the ground. As they wrestle around they laugh. Duke pins Ariel down. They're out of breath and stare into each other's eyes. Then their smiles fade almost as if they are seeing each other for the first time. They stare for a long moment. Suddenly the spell is broken by a voice. It is Duke's best friend CHARLIE, young and roughly handsome.

CHARLIE

Duke, Ariel, come quickly.

Duke and Ariel jump to their feet ignoring that their "moment" occurred. Charlie stands in the sand calling to them.

CHARLIE (CONT'D)

Duke, Ariel, it's ready. It's ready. Come on.

Duke and Ariel catch up with Charlie as the three of them run off together.

ON THE OTHER SIDE OF THE RIDGE the humans gather to watch the birth of their new irrigation system. Although it looks very primitive it will do the trick in watering their small but valuable crops.

Cornelius, now white haired, stands at a rudimentary looking pump that sticks out of the sand. Next to him stands GEORGE. We recognize George as the teacher from 20 years ago. Now older and wiser.

CORNELIUS

My friends, no longer will we have to hope for rain to keep our crops alive. With this...

Duke, Ariel, and Charlie come running over the ridge.

DUKE, ARIEL, CHARLIE

Wait. Wait for us.

CORNELIUS

Well, it's about time.

The three join the group. Charlie runs to stand with his girlfriend, DARA. They kiss. Duke and Ariel watch the affection. They glance at each other, then quickly look away.

CORNELIUS

With this amazing invention it will rain on our crops when we want it to. Since George here invented this wonder, I feel it only natural that George, you, should do the honors.

GEORGE

Thank you Cornelius.

George starts to pump. Everyone stares with anticipation. George pumps vigorously but no water comes out. Suddenly sand pours from the spout. George seems dumbfounded.

DUKE

Do it harder George.

George is already out of breath. Everybody looks very disappointed.

GEORGE

I don't understand what went wrong.

DUKE

Come on Charlie.

Duke and Charlie step forward to volunteer their services. They both take hold of the lever and pump with all their might. Then, an ever-so-small drop of water trickles from the opening followed by...SPLASH, a stream of water rushes out of the spout.

Everyone applauds and cheers. Several of the excited humans follow the water. They run along the wooden troughs as the water flows to the garden. Furrows in the ground along side the newly planted seeds fill with water.

Charlie and Dara embrace. Duke grabs Ariel and spins her around. They are basking in an emotional moment of friendship, a friendship that is evolving. All the humans are hugging each other and rejoicing.

INT. UNDERGROUND SUBWAY - DAY

Time has expanded the archeological wonder. Handmade shelves with a countless array of artifacts line the main room of the subway station. They are all labeled and categorized. Years of excavation have resulted in elaborately dug tunnels. Work CREWS are assigned to various positions: The EXCAVATORS dig tunnels and find artifacts in the soil and rock. The artifact CLEANING AND RESTORING CREW carefully brush the dirt from every nook and cranny of an artifact. They use hand-made brushes of horsehair tied to the ends of sticks and spoon, etc. The LABELING AND CATEGORIZING TEAM, led by Cornelius, try to figure out what the artifacts are and how they were used.

ALBERT and JONAS, two friends of Duke, come running to Cornelius with a newly found item. We recognize it as a barber shop pole. They don't know what the hell it is.

JONAS

Cornelius quickly.

ALBERT

It's heavy.

CORNELIUS

(rushing to
help)

Heavens, that's fascinating. Put it
down gently now.

(pondering)

Most unusual. For what purpose
could this item have possibly
served man?

ALBERT
Could be an old weird kinda tree.

JONAS
A tree? Maybe you hit a ball with it?

CORNELIUS
I wonder.

A WHOLE CREW OF YOUNG HUMANS are digging through a wall. On the team are Duke, Charlie, and Ariel. Ariel is at one end while Charlie and Duke dig at the other end. Every few seconds Duke stops digging and stares at Ariel. Everytime Ariel looks in Duke's direction he quickly starts to excavate. Charlie watches him for a while then starts to chuckle.

CHARLIE
I know that look.

DUKE
What look?

CHARLIE
That look you're always looking at Ariel with.

DUKE
I don't know what you're talking about. I'm not giving her any look.

CHARLIE
Why fight it. You're falling in love. Dara and I are in love. It's great.

DUKE
Falling in love with Ariel? She's like my sister.

CHARLIE
Brothers don't look at sisters the way you look at Ariel.

At that moment they break through a portion of the wall behind which is an open space.

DUKE
Charlie, look at this.

Duke and Charlie feverishly dig the rest of the dirt away from the opening with their hands. Duke pushes his way through it and stumbles. He falls forward landing flat on the ground. Duke looks up and finds himself face to face with a skeleton. Duke screams. Everybody runs to see what has happened. They are all concerned, except Charlie, who is laughing. Ariel smiles at Duke's baffoonery. Duke starts to laugh as well. Cornelius comes running over to see what has happened.

CORNELIUS

What's wrong? What's wrong? I heard
a scream.

ARIEL

It's nothing Cornelius. Duke just
made a new friend, that's all.

Cornelius grabs a lantern and walks through the opening. He lifts
it above his head. The darkness illuminates to reveal...a cave-
like cavity in which rests a perfectly preserved portion of...

A NEW YORK CITY STREET...

Cornelius and Duke gasp, their eyes wide as saucers. This little,
vacuum-packed, underground air bubble has frozen in time. Covered
with stalagmites and stalagmites, but still intact are the
bottoms of some buildings. There are cars, streetlamps, and an
old corner newsstand.

Everyone walks through the opening to see. Amazing.

ARIEL

What is it?

CORNELIUS

(overcome)

History.

They all walk onto the street and breathe 2000 year old air.

CEREMONIAL MUSIC AUDIO BRIDGES

THE CROPS are beginning to grow. It is springtime in the
Forbidden Zone. The music fills the air. It is coming from a
short distance away where a wedding is in progress. Everyone is
in attendance.

IT IS THE GOLDEN HOUR

A SMALL BAND OF THREE HUMANS play the music with very rudimentary
instruments they fashioned out of other objects from underground.
Cornelius is conducting the ceremonious union of Charlie and
Dara. She wears a wreath of flowers in her hair. Duke and Ariel
have a hard time keeping their eyes off of each other as this
occasion is stirring up feelings inside of them.

CORNELIUS

And so you go forth living and
loving as one. May you have many
children. May you always be happy.
You may now embrace your mate as a
symbol of your togetherness
forever.

Charlie and Dara hug and kiss as everybody cheers.

CUT TO

DANCING, MUSIC, MERRIMENT. This small section of desert is alive with happiness and joy. Everyone dances in a big circle holding hands. The bride and groom dance in the center. The custom is for only one couple to be in the middle at a time. Cornelius jumps into the center and cuts in. Charlie joins the circle as Cornelius dances with Dara. Then Albert breaks in and dances with Cornelius as Dara joins the circle. Ariel enters to dance with Cornelius.

Then it's Duke's turn. Cornelius rejoins the circle as Duke and Ariel spin in each other's arms.

Duke and Ariel gaze into each other's eyes as the music grows distant. The dancers around them become a blur. Like two magnets their lips are drawn together. They kiss. Wind blows their hair as they swirl round and round.

The wind grows stronger in force and blows sand in their faces. Their trance is broken when they hear the others start to shout.

GEORGE

Sandstorm! Sandstorm! Everybody underground.

Duke and Ariel look around nervously. Everyone is running in all directions. Huge spirals of sand are whipping across the desert.

CORNELIUS

(balancing
against the
wind)

Oh dear. Oh dear. Don't panic.
Don't panic. Everyone knows what to
do.

The adornments of the wedding swirl like toothpicks in the wind. Confusion abounds as shacks the humans built are being blown away as if they were made of paper. The current of sand is blinding. It is hard to keep one's footing. Struggling against the torrents, the humans try to help each other toward shelter. A small CHILD blows uncontrollably in the wind past Duke and Ariel. Duke runs off to grab her. He swoops the child up in his arms. When he turns in the blinding storm to see if Ariel is with him, she is gone.

DUKE

(screaming over
the panic)

Ariel! Ariel!

Albert runs past Duke and grabs a hold of him, the wind and sand beating mercilessly at them.

ALBERT

Come on! We must get underground.

DUKE
Where's Ariel?

ALBERT
(as he swims
against the
wind)
What?

Duke hands the child to Albert.

DUKE
I must find Ariel.

ALBERT
Duke, don't be crazy. Get
underground.

Albert grabs a hold of Duke and pulls on him with all his strength.

DUKE
(calls out in
panic)
Ariel. Ariel.

Albert drags the screaming Duke through the blankets of sand.

INT. UNDERGROUND SUBWAY - SAME TIME

Most of the humans are crowded underground as a few still scramble into safety. There is alot of confusion. Everyone is dissheveled from the storm. Duke struggles to get back outside. He is so frantic he doesn't listen to what anyone has to say.

DUKE
I have to find Ariel.

Albert and Cornelius are holding him back.

CORNELIUS
Duke, she's...

DUKE
I have to. Ariel is out there.
Let go of me.

CHARLIE
Calm down Duke...

DUKE
(frantic)
Ariel is still out there.

ALBERT
Duke, Duke listen...

Out of sheer anguish and panic Duke spins around and slugs Albert in the jaw. As Albert hits the ground, Duke sees Ariel standing behind Albert. She smirks and goes up to him. She puts her arms around him. They hug and kiss passionately. Albert manages to get to his feet. He brushes himself off and stands next to Cornelius, who is smiling at the sight of Duke and Ariel.

ALBERT

(flabbergasted)

Well, what do you think of that?

CORNELIUS

(warmed by the
lovers)

I think it's wonderful.

DISSOLVE TO

EXT. - MORNING

Led by Cornelius everybody slowly emerges from the hole leading to the underground.

The bright sun bakes down on their sorrowful faces as they survey the damage. All the shacks and dwellings that the humans have built are leveled. The crops are gone. The water pump is unearthed and mangled.

Duke and Ariel hold hands tightly as they walk through the debris. One by one they all begin to pick things up and make some sense out of the destruction. It is human nature to rebuild.

DISSOLVE TO

INT. UNDERGROUND NEW YORK STREET

This newly discovered city street is a prime spot for excavation. Cornelius is in his glory examining items out of the broken window of a toy shop. Humans are everywhere dusting and digging. They already have uncovered artifacts strewn across the sidewalk. Albert and Jonas are curiously examining a corner hot dog vending cart. Charlie, Dara, and George are fascinated with the automobiles. Even the horns still work. Duke and Ariel are particularly interested in the newsstand as they thumb through the magazines.

ARIEL

What kind of books are these?

He picks up a magazine and it nearly crumbles in his hands.

DUKE

I don't know. They're not very strong.

ARIEL
And they're so skinny.

Very carefully Duke and Ariel look through the periodicals of the day...Time, Newsweek, Playboy, the New York Times, the Wall street Journal, etc. The photographs on the covers are fascinating to them.

ARIEL (CONT'D)
Look how elaborate life was. It's hard to imagine.

DUKE
(reflective)
Humans from the past.

Ariel points to a photograph of someone wearing a tie.

ARIEL
What is that ridiculous thing he's got around his neck?

Suddenly Duke's eyes glaze over. His jaw drops.

Duke, what is it? What's the matter?

Duke picks up an old "Time" Magazine. On the cover it reads: BON VOYAGE TAYLOR: The picture is of Taylor waving good-by from the doorway of his spaceship.

DUKE
It's him.

They both stare at the cover in amazement. A feeling deep inside of Duke is stirred as he gazes at the face of his father. Ariel puts her arm around his shoulder and rests her head against his.

DISSOLVE TO

INT. CONDUCTOR'S LOUNGE - LATER

Duke and Cornelius are sitting at the desk where Taylor wrote his history books. Duke is fascinated and touched by this newly found discovery and attaches his father's face to his father's handwriting in the books. It is a link that brings Duke closer to Taylor.

CORNELIUS
(to the photo
of Taylor)
Taylor, my friend. It's good to see your face again.

CORNELIUS (CONT'D)

(to Duke)
Your father was a hero. The bravest
of the brave.

DUKE

Do you think I look kind of like
him?

CORNELIUS

You have all his best qualities.

DUKE

I wish he were still alive. I wish
I could know him.

CORNELIUS

I do too.

DUKE

Cornelius, seeing him here, his
face. I have to know. You always
said someday you'd tell me
everything. I have to know the
whole story. Cornelius, how did my
father die?

Cornelius is uneasy. He has dreaded this moment. As he is about
to speak Ariel steps into the room. She has been listening
unnoticed from the doorway.

ARIEL

In an accident. Taylor died in an
accident. You knew that Duke. Isn't
that right Cornelius?

Duke and Cornelius are surprised by her presence.

ARIEL (CONT'D)

Oh, I'm sorry. I shouldn't have
interrupted.

Ariel turns to leave them alone.

DUKE

That's okay. Come and sit with us.

Duke holds out his hand and Ariel takes it. She sits with them.
Cornelius is nervous. He doesn't know where to begin.

DUKE (CONT'D)

But that's what I need to know.
What kind of accident, Cornelius?

Cornelius sighs heavily.

CORNELIUS

I've kept this from you Duke
because I wanted to spare you the
pain. However I knew this day would
eventually have to come.

DUKE

I'm ready. I'm ready to know,
Cornelius.

CUT TO

EXT. DESERT - TWILIGHT

Duke bursts out of the opening to the underground, a rifle
clutched in his hands. Angrily, he runs toward his horse.
Cornelius and Ariel jump out of the opening and chase after him.

Duke looks irate and determined. As he leaps onto his horse Ariel
grabs his leg, tackling him to the ground. She grabs his rifle
and throws it off to one side.

ARIEL

(screaming)
What the hell's the matter with
you? Are you crazy?

An out of breath Cornelius catches up to them.

DUKE

He lied to me!
(upset,
pointing to
Cornelius)
You lied to me!

CORNELIUS

(shouts back)
I was only trying to protect you.

DUKE

Protect me? Then why didn't you
tell me my father was hung by an
ape? You covered up the truth!
All these years some stupid story
about an accident. You should have
told me.

CORNELIUS

Perhaps I should have. I apologize.
How I apologize.

DUKE

(wrathful)
You were just trying to protect
your own kind.

ARIEL

Duke!

CORNELIUS

The last ape I would ever protect
is Izan!

DUKE

What other reason could there be?
Didn't you think I had a right to
know?

ARIEL

Of course he did! That's why he
just told you.

(taking his
arm)

What difference does it make now?
It's been so many years.

Duke snatches his gun off the ground.

DUKE

This Izan is going to pay!

ARIEL

Quit talking stupid!

CORNELIUS

I'm sorry, Duke. I just never knew
how to tell you before. I wasn't
proud of what apes did to your
father. But revenge is not the
answer.

ARIEL

Yeah, what are you trying to do,
get yourself killed? I don't want
to lose you.

(pause)

I love you.

Hearing those words stops Duke in his tracks. He looks at Ariel.
They hug.

DUKE

I love you too.

(pained)

But...But...How could they just
hang him like that?

Cornelius puts his wooly arm around Duke's shoulder.

CORNELIUS

Izan was a monster. Please Duke,
don't judge all apes by the insane
actions of only one. Besides, Izan
is probably dead and gone by now.

CORNELIUS (CONT'D)
When all is said and done, evil
can never win out.

Duke puts his arm around Cornelius' shoulder. Duke knows this has been hard for him. They all walk back towards home.

DISSOLVE TO

INT. SHACK - NIGHT

A shaft of blue moonlight cascades across Duke and Ariel as they clutch together lost in each other's passion. In Ariel's arms Duke feels the love and sense of belonging he needs. They kiss and touch with all the emotions of young love. The night air is warm on their skin as we...

DISSOLVE TO

EXT. LONESOME DESERT/DUKE'S DREAM - DAY

The picture is bright and the colors are pale and washed out. A lonely wind carries sand across the dunes. For as far as the eye can see there is nothingness. Suddenly in SLOW MOTION a horse breaks through a cloud of dust. Atop the stallion rides Taylor. Around his neck dangles a noose. Taylor rides up to Duke who is standing in the desert. Taylor looks down at Duke and smiles. He holds out his hand.

TAYLOR

My son.

Duke looks up and smiles like a child.

DUKE

Father.

Duke takes Taylor's hand and Taylor hoists Duke onto the back of the horse. Duke moves to hug his father but he realizes he is on the horse alone. Taylor is gone. Duke looks around. Nothingness.

WE PULL BACK to reveal Duke sitting on the horse in the middle of miles of nowhere.

DUKE

(screaming out)

Father! Fa-a-a-t-h-e-e-e-er!

His voice echoes as we...

CUT TO

INT. SHACK - NIGHT

Duke bolts up from his dream in a cold sweat. He cries out uncontrollably.

DUKE

Father...

Ariel awakens to see what happened.

ARIEL

What is it?

Duke stares at her for a moment as if to shake the dream from his mind.

DUKE

I dreamt about my father. He reached out to me. It was so real.

Duke and Ariel hug. Duke's eyes well up with tears.

DUKE (CONT'D)

If I could get my hands on the ape that killed him...

ARIEL

Don't torture yourself. I'm sure Cornelius is right. The ape civilization is probably dead and gone by now.

They embrace harder.

CUT TO

EXT. IZAN SQUARE - DAY

Monstrous throngs of cheering APES span as far as the eye can see. An ocean of waving flags. Of hairy faces. Heavy, pounding, marching anthems pulsate explosively. The IZAN NATIONAL MILITARY ORCHESTRA hammers endlessly.

Twenty years under the iron fist of a maniacal dictator has changed the look of Ape Square dramatically. Not only has it been renamed Izan Square, but all the immense marble pillars from the past are gone and replaced with giant black marble sculptures of Izan, himself.

A PARADE...

...grander and with more spectacle than has ever been seen is in progress.

Thousands of tramping boots march in perfect cadence. The gorilla ARMY is a marvel to behold. With their distinctive military posture they advance through the center of Izan Square. Devil's eyes and snarling teeth. With a sharp glance to the right, the soldiers hail their leader, who glares from the...

REVIEWING STAND...

Still a place of honor. Draped with banners and flags bearing Izan's likeness, it looms over the parade like a storm cloud. The stand is packed with GUARDS, ADVISORS, COMMANDERS, and other GORILLAS of political importance. Rifles everywhere. Directly in the center, larger-than-life, stands the ominous...

IZAN...

Older. More menacing. The vastness of this parade is a testimony to his intimidation over the Empire. He waves to the passing display. At his side stands the now-grown PAX, eyes as cold as ice and a heart as black as coal. Pax is cool calculating evil. It is obvious at first glance that Pax's gorilla upbringing has molded him into the image of Izan, but even worse. Like his stepfather, he is ruthless. Like a chimpanzee, he is intelligent. A deadly combination!

This father-son duo has the Empire of the Apes in a vice-grip choke hold that smothers its populace into submission at a whim!

THE PARADE ROLLS ON. Everything is larger than life! A caricature of a power parade that rivals the grandure of Russia's Red Square milleniums ago. The foot soldiers are followed by...

A FORMATION OF THE GOVERNMENTS FLEET OF MOTORIZED VEHICLES. Issued by the government, for the government. These rolling menaces, quite simplicitic by our standards, are threatening to the ape population. Twenty years of rennovation have created a spectacle of mobile oppression. The storm of their motors sounds like grinding bones.

GORILLA GUARDS ON HORSEBACK patrol the cheering masses. Any ape not waving a flag and cheering is jabbed with a sharp poker. This crowd cheers out of fear rather than loyalty.

GIANT FLAGS...

...One hundred feet high bearing the ferocious likeness of Izan slap in the wind. The gorilla FLAG CORPS is never out of synchronization as they guide the enormous symbols along the parade route.

NOW THE BOMBS...

Countless human SLAVES sweat and struggle to pull giant rolling wooden catapults carrying huge bombs. It is apparent that most of the money from the society is spent on the bombs themselves, as the catapults that launch them are still quite primitive in design and look.

Izan especially loves this part. These bombs represent the superior war power Izan has brought upon the civilization. Gorilla guards on massive black horses ride along side the slaves whipping them mercilessly.

GORILLA GUARD ON HORSEBACK

Heave! Heave! Move along! Move
along! Heave!!

The exertion exhausts some slaves to death. A SLAVE drops. Thousands of feet trample his body. His corpse finally crushed by a gigantic wheel from a catapult cart.

ANOTHER GUARD ON HORSEBACK

(whipping
slaves)

Heave you sons o' bitches!! Heave!!

The awe of the parade is mindboggling.

Cornelius was wrong. Izan and his evil Ape Empire are stronger than ever.

MEANWHILE...

IN ANOTHER PART OF THE APE CITY - SAME TIME

The streets are deserted. Everyape is at the parade. The music and hoopla from Izan Square reverberates through all corners of the city.

Everywhere one looks, pictures and posters of Izan can be seen. His fearsome likeness snarls down at the public warnings its citizens that, "IZAN CAN HEAR YOU!" No ape who loves breathing dares to wag a loose tongue.

A GROUP OF HUMAN SLAVES wait quietly in their cage. Most sleep. Some sit and stare. A lone gorilla GUARD paces back and forth, bored. He sure wishes he was at the parade. Suddenly...

WHACK! A club comes down on the back of his head, knocking him unconscious. The guard falls backward into the arms of a chimpanzee named LIAM. As Liam ties, gags, and blindfolds the guard, two other chimpanzees appear. They are ORPHEUS and WYNORA.

Wynora has long silky hair and is quite beautiful for a chimp. She is the leader of the Simiantarian Liberation Movement, a small underground group of chimps against oppression.

Wynora busts open the lock on the cage of human slaves. They all jump to their feet and cower in a huddle at the rear of the bars. Through Wynora's convincing gestures the slaves eventually follow her out of the pen.

WYNORA

(whispering
firmly)

Hurry up! Hurry up! Come on!

Wynora, Liam, and Orpheus are constantly on the look-out. Liam and Orpheus throw the gorilla guard into the cage and lock it.

LIAM
(to unconscious
gorilla)
Sweet dreams goon.

The three chimps herd the humans down an alleyway and over to a open manhole cover. One by one they all jump in. Orpheus jumps in last. He pulls the cover over the hole, leaving the street as it was.

In the cage the guard moans.

The carnival from the parade clamors through the streets.

INT. UNDERGROUND APE SEWER SYSTEM - SAME TIME

Humans and chimps race through ankle deep dirty water. Pounding from the parade echoes through the narrow cave-like walls. Wynora leads.

Faster and faster they run. Street level grids and manholes are their only light. The frenzied sounds reverberating from the parade grow louder and louder. Adrenalin pumps. Their pace quickens.

The cheering and music reach a deafening decible. Wynora stops momentarily and peers up through a grid. The parade is passing directly overhead. Dirt from the sewer walls showers them as the massiveness of the event shakes the ground.

EXT. IZAN SQUARE - SAME TIME

The power parade is endless as it barrels through Izan Square. Amongst such a spectacle it is hard to detect Wynora as she peers out from under the curb. However, a gorilla GUARD'S attention is caught by movement from the grid. He steps to the curb and suspiciously looks in.

INT. SEWER SYSTEM - SAME TIME

Like lightening Wynora and her group take off before the gorilla can get a clear picture. Being the fiend that he is, the gorilla pokes his machine gun through the grating. He randomly fires. Bullets ricochet off the stone walls like ping pong balls.

EXT. IZAN SQUARE - SAME TIME

The guard continues to casually riddle bullets into the sewer. You can barely hear the gunshots for the thundering parade sounds.

Content, he walks back into the crowd.

INT. SEWER SYSTEM - SAME TIME

Scrambling through the tunnel system, Wynora's group races towards freedom. One UNLUCKY SLAVE floats dead from the gorilla's bullet.

EXT. MOUNTAINSIDE - SAME TIME

One by one the freed slaves jump from the huge circular drain pipe that jets out of the rock. Wynora, Liam, and Orpheus help them as they leap to the ground.

WYNORA
(gesturing with
a wave)
Hurry. Run. Run. You're free.
You're free!

The humans race toward the desert never looking back. Wynora, Liam, and Orpheus smile. A job well done.

CUT TO

A CHIMP FIST KNOCKING ON A BLACK WOODEN DOOR

A voice from the other side quips...

VOICE (OS)
You here on business?

WYNORA
Monkey business.

A secret code. It is safe. The door unbolts and opens. There stands MILES, another Simiantarian. Wynora, Liam, and Orpheus all enter the dark room. We are in...

INT. SIMIANTARIAN HIDEOUT - DAY

A disgusting, little, black room reminiscent of a war torn bunker. Being a Simiantarian is very dangerous under Izanian rule. They are forced into hiding, fighting their righteous causes in secret. Anyone caught acting or speaking out against Izan or his government is publicly executed.

Crowded into the scanty room are Wynora, Liam, Orpheus, Miles, WINGDING, a teen-age militant female, and PROFESSOR, an old chimp and former college professor from Cornelius' time. In fact he remembers Cornelius well.

WINGDING

How'd it go? How'd it go?

ORPHEUS

It went good. Almost perfect.

WINGDING

Almost? What do you mean, almost?
Did they make it?

WYNORA

We lost one.

MILES

How? Nobody saw you, did they?
Were you followed?

WYNORA

No. Nobody saw.

They all sit around a small wooden table. The only light in the dark room is from a lantern.

WINGDING

(excited)

Did you kill the guard?

LIAM

No Wingding, we just knocked him out.

WINGDING

Too bad.

WYNORA

(to Miles)

Did you get the dynamite?

MILES

No problem.

Miles picks up a bunch of bananas. Or at least they look like bananas. Actually, they are dynamite sticks painted yellow.

WYNORA

(laughs)

I love it!

The white haired professor breaks in.

PROFESSOR

I fail to see the need for this senseless violence. Years ago when Cornelius and I started this Simiantarian Organization we vowed to protest in a non-violent peaceful manner. Wynora, Cornelius would never approve of such...

WYNORA

(angry)
I'm sick and tired of hearing about this Cornelius. He's all you ever talk about. Him and Taylor, the wonderous speaking human.

MILES

Maybe we believed that story when we were young, Professor, but we don't buy it anymore. Humans can't speak.

Professor just shakes his head.

WYNORA

Besides I don't know what he has to do with anything around here anyway. And as for your peaceful non-violent protesting, all I have to do is think of my own parents. Shot in the street for handing out flyers in a peaceful non-violent manner. Times are different Professor. Besides, we're not the Simiantarian Peace Organization anymore. We're the Simiantarian Liberation Movement now. And the only way we're ever going to get Izan to listen to what we have to say...

(holding up the dynamite)
...is in a language he understands!

MILES

Boom.

ORPHEUS

Under the Izanian government there is no such thing as non-violent protest!

PROFESSOR

I'm glad Cornelius isn't around to see this.

WYNORA

Cornelius again!

PROFESSOR

He would not approve of your methods. And I certainly do not either.

WYNORA

Then why do you stick around?...We just risked our lives to free a handful of humans. They're free now! Free! Do you understand what that means? If it wasn't for us they would have been worked to death inside of a month. If you ask me, that's a good thing we did!

PROFESSOR

(insulted)

Whatever happened to respect for your elders?

WYNORA

You have my respect. Now I want yours.

CUT TO

EXT. DESERT - DAY

Ariel gallops her horse along the desert plain at top speed. An expression of alarm blankets her face. As she nears Cornelius she WHOAS her horse to an abrupt stop.

CORNELIUS

(worried)

Did you find him? Where is he?

ARIEL

I couldn't find him anywhere!
His horse is gone too.

CORNELIUS

His gun as well I'm afraid.

At that moment Jonas and Albert ride up.

ALBERT

We covered the whole zone over the ridge.

JONAS

Nothing.

ARIEL

Damn him! You don't think...?

CORNELIUS

I pray not.

Their faces tell a tale of worry.

CUT TO

EXT. THE GALLOWS IN THE APE CITY - SUNSET

A line of PRISONERS, gorillas, chimps, and humans alike wait shackled together at the base of the gallows. This daily occurrence symbolizes the oppression rampant under Izanian government. A gorilla GUARD leads them one at a time to the noose. Everything is very formal. As the HENCHAPE tightens the rope around each neck, a gorilla SENTRY reads aloud the crime.

Two gorilla WORKERS take a DEAD GORILLA GUARD from the noose. They toss his carcass onto a huge cart heaping with other corpses.

A sparce crowd of ONLOOKERS is always on hand for public hangings. The curious ones and the weeping relatives.

SENTRY

Next!

A PATHETIC GORILLA is led to the rope.

SENTRY (CONT'D)

(reading from a
scroll)

The State accuses you of speaking
out against the Izanian Government.
How do you plead?

PATHETIC GORILLA

Not guilty!

SENTRY

I hearby speak for our Supreme
General Izan and declare you guilty
as charged!

With that the henchape pulls the lever. CRACK! The pathetic gorilla's neck breaks.

SENTRY

Next!

In a single move the two workers throw the corpse on the cart. The guard leads a CHIMPANZEE to the gallows.

CHIMPANZEE

(screaming for
mercy)

No please...please. I'm innocent!
Don't kill me. Please.

His neck goes in the noose.

SENTRY

The State accuses you of defacing a
public poster of our Supreme
General Izan. How do you plead?

CHIMPANZEE

I didn't do it! I didn't do it! I
swear I'm innocent! Please don't
kill me!

SENTRY

I hearby speak for our Supreme
General Izan and declare you guilty
as charged!

Yank! Crack! Dead! The Sentry looks at his watch.

SENTRY

Okay. That's it for today.

The last body is always left to hang. Everybody packs up to go home.

A gorilla guard leads tomorrow's prisoners back to their cells.

GUARD

(jabbing a
chimp)

You were lucky today, but tomorrow
you're first in line buddy.

A group of human SLAVES pulls the cart of corpses away.
The last hanging ape of the day sways back and forth. He's a
ghastly token of Izan's tyranny.

CUT TO

AN EXOTIC DANCING GORILLA APE-ETTE girates and wiggles to the
beat of weird music. A transparent veil is slung across her face.
Her finger symbols clink rhythmically. She and five other
BEAUTIES dance, tantalizing the ravenous APES who gorge
themselves at...

INT. IZAN'S BANQUET TABLE - NIGHT

The evening feast is underway in Izan's opulent banquet room. The
walls are decorated with trophies, oil paintings of Izan, and
human skin rugs.

Izan and Pax sit at the head of an enormous table heaping with
mountains of food. Jugs of wine flow like rivers.

All of Izan's GENERALS, COMMANDERS, ADVISORS, AND BODYGUARDS glut
to their heart's content.

A small group of CHIMPANZEE MINSTRELS provide the music for the
dancing ape-ettes.

Interspersed amongst the males are LADY GORILLAS-OF-THE-EVENING sitting on their laps. Feeding them grapes and bananas. And giggling in their ears.

HUMAN SLAVES run back and forth from the kitchen bringing more food and drink. This is the epitome of Izanian decadence.

The festivity is loud, however Izan's voice rings the loudest. When he is drunk he becomes one obnoxious gorilla.

IZAN

(jumping up)

A toast to my son Pax!

(slaps Pax on
the back)

One day this will all be yours!

All the gorillas raise their mugs and cheer.

IZAN (CONT'D)

I'm sure everybody here remembers
that fateful night about 20 years
ago when I found Pax in that
garbage sack.

All the gorillas acknowledge Izan's "tale" as if it were true.
All much too fearful of Izan to do anything else.

IZAN (CONT'D)

I killed that son of a bitch father
of yours on charges of cruel and
unsimian treatment of a minor.

(a boom of
laughter)

And if that's not the best damn
thing I ever did for myself and my
Empire, I don't know what is!

An uproarious hooray bellows from the apes. Pax and Izan bear hug.

PAX

(holding up his
mug)

To my father...I never get tired of
that story. Everything I am I owe
to this gorilla.

Pax grabs Izan's giant head and kisses the pointed top.

Everyape hollers and bangs the table.

A GORILLA

(lifting his
mug)

To Pax.

ANOTHER GORILLA
(toasting)
To our Supreme General Izan.

ALL GORILLAS
(mugs high)
Long live Izan.

Izan snaps his fingers at one of the female apes who sits on another gorilla's lap.

IZAN
Hey, ape-ette, get over here and
keep my son warm.

The APE-ETTE giggles and prances over to Pax. She sits on his lap and starts to feed him juicy berries one by one. She suckles his ear lobe.

Izan stands again. Without stopping he guzzles an entire jug of wine. BELCH!

IZAN (CONT'D)
Some entertainment would be
appropriate about now. I need my
goofy gorilla.
(shouts out)
Send in my fool.

GORILLA COMMANDER
(jumping to his
feet)
The General wants his fool. Where
is his fool?

The minstrels start to play a silly troubador tune.

A gorilla (FOOL) dressed in an absurd looking costume dances in. He carries a staff with a miniature sculpture of his face on the top.

IZAN
Ah, my fool. Entertain us you
idiot.

FOOL
(in a high
pitched goofy
voice)
My pleasure your ugliness.

The fool bows. Izan and all the apes explode into hysterical laughter. They love this guy.

FOOL (CONT'D)
For my first trick...

The fool then lets himself fall straight backwards like a board. The apes howl with delight. Then miraculously the fool springs back up onto his feet. He bows.

ALL APES

More...More!

The fool does a little dance, then continues.

FOOL

How do you save a human from drowning?

IZAN

(laughing)

How?

FOOL

Shoot him.

As the gorillas go ape with that punchline, the fool jumps straight up in the air and lands flat on his butt with a loud HONK.

Then the fool takes a banana out of his pocket. Slowly and methodically he peels it and takes a bite. Suddenly the fool screams.

FOOL

Ouch!

We see that inside the peel there isn't a banana at all, but the fool's thumb painted yellow. Everybody howls. It doesn't take much to make these apes laugh.

The fool takes off his hat to bow. He bends at the waist in grand style. The top of his head is shaved. On the bald dome is painted in big letters: IZAN SMELLS. This is the only guy in the entire Empire who can get away with insulting Izan. Izan holds his sides as he belly laughs.

The fool jumps onto the table and does an amusing little jig. The apes love it. He cackles wildly and holds his staff above his head. He pulls a ring at the end of the staff causing the little head to explode. Showers of confetti rain down on all the apes.

What hilarity!

DISSOLVE TO

INT. PAX'S BEDROOM - NIGHT

A big ostentatious chamber with...A monstrous oak four poster. Heavy red velvet drapes. And a huge portrait of Izan and son in prominent display.

A drunken Pax is being dragged into the room by a giggly, tipsy, female gorilla of the evening. She's all over him like syrup on a pancake. Huggy. Kissy.

FEMALE GORILLA

Come on. Come on, big boy.

PAX

(hanging on her
shoulders)

You sure do have pretty hair.

They lean up against the closed door. She slowly starts to remove his uniform.

FEMALE GORILLA

You're my little chocolate chimp
cookie, aren't you? Ooooo....

Pax fidgets a little.

FEMALE GORILLA (CONT'D)

Relax honey. No need to be nervous.

PAX

Who's nervous?

She taunts him toward the bed.

FEMALE GORILLA

(giggling)

You are.

They fall on the bed. THUMP.

FEMALE GORILLA (CONT'D)

There isn't an ape-ette in all the
Empire who wouldn't change places
with me right now. Mmmmm, me and
Izan's son.

PAX

You're a lucky gorilla, alright.

He wildly kisses her furry neck.

FEMALE GORILLA

Know what Paxy? You're the sexiest
chimpanzee I ever knew. And I've
known quite a few.

Pax pulls back annoyed.

PAX

I'm not a chimpanzee. I'm the son
of Izan. I'm a gorilla!

FEMALE GORILLA

(surprised by
his reaction)

Okay. Don't get sensitive. So
you're a gorilla. You're still
sexy.

She starts kissing his ear.

FEMALE GORILLA (CONT'D)

I love big, strong, sexy dictators.

PAX

(takes a slug
of wine)

My father's right, you know. One
day it's all going to be mine.

FEMALE GORILLA

Mmmmmmm, I know.

PAX

I have plans for this Empire.

FEMALE GORILLA

You got the cutest little ear
lobes.

PAX

Big plans. Someday I'm gonna run it
the right way. I'm gonna run it my
way!

FEMALE GORILLA

You're just like your father,
aren't you?

PAX

Not quite.

Pax stares at the painting of he and Izan as the female gorilla
kisses him teasingly, giggles and all..

EXT. DESERT - DAY

Ariel pounds on a big steel drum. The noise rings across the
dunes.

From all corners of the desert HUMANS are drawn to the sound. It
is obvious this is a well-known signal in the Forbidden Zone..

Cornelius stands with Ariel. He looks very upset.

CORNELIUS

You cannot go. I refuse to let you
go.

ARIEL

I have to go Cornelius. I have to go and find him.

CORNELIUS

But we don't even know for sure that's where he went.

ARIEL

Yes we do.

Ariel continues beating the drum. Cornelius paces nervously.

CORNELIUS

Oh dear! Oh dear! You just don't know what you're getting into. Even if he did go, what good will a group of humans on horseback and an old chimp be able to do for him?

ARIEL

I just want to find Duke and bring him home. I don't want to fight any wars.

CORNELIUS

Ariel, Duke wouldn't want you to do this.

Ariel continues to beat the drum. All the familiar faces and many unfamiliar ones from the Forbidden Zone are gathering from all sides.

CORNELIUS

I want him back as much as you do, but...

ARIEL

Then why don't you come with me?

CORNELIUS

I can't go there. I've told you.

ARIEL

Cornelius whatever you're afraid of, it's been years and years.

CORNELIUS

But you don't understand.

ARIEL

Look, Cornelius, I'm going with or without you.

CORNELIUS

I know the dangers that lurk in the Ape City. You are making a big mistake.

ARIEL

If you know the dangers, then you
can help me avoid them. Please
Cornelius, I love him.

There is a long pause.

CORNELIUS

(sighs)
Alright, I'll go, but on one
condition.

ARIEL

What?

CORNELIUS

You don't bring any guns. If you
don't want to fight any wars, then
you won't need any guns.

ARIEL

(smiles)
It's a deal.

Humans from everywhere are converging on the two of them.

DISSOLVE TO

EXT. APE CITY STREET - DAY

The street is teeming with APES. The bazaars are in full swing. The shops busy with business. The GORILLA GUARDS are hard at work hassling the citizens, as usual. But nobody smiles. No ape speaks out of turn. Even the guards are suspicious of each other. Life is lived in fear. Oppression does that, you know.

The SLAVES are doing the dirty work. A large group of SLAVES struggle to haul a giant black marble head of Izan down the narrow street. A GORILLA GUARD on horseback leads the work crew. He clears the way for the massive head.

GORILLA GUARD

Outta the way. Comin' through. Move
it. Comin' through.

In an other part of the city a GORILLA GUARD washes down an outdoor cage of HUMAN SLAVES with a fire hose. The force of the water pins the slaves against the bars.

EXT. OUTSIDE THE ARENA - DAY

This coliseum-like amphitheater is situated next to Izan Square.

Excitement is in the air as scores of happy APES, adults and children, line up for the day's sporting event.

A giant, black, marble statue of Izan dwarfs the stadium as it stands ominously outside the arena doors.

AT THE TICKET WINDOW apes buy tickets for themselves and their families.

GORILLA AT TICKET WINDOW

Three please.

TICKET SELLER

Nine moques.

The two apes exchange money for tickets.

GORILLA AT TICKET WINDOW

(disappointed)

Haven't you got anything closer than these?

TICKET SELLER

Not together.

ON DISPLAY IN OPEN AIR CAGES...

are the HUMAN SLAVES who will be "participating" in today's games. Apes pass by these cages as they enter the Arena. They taunt the humans just for the fun of it.

EXT. INSIDE THE ARENA - DAY

The gladiator-style killing field is lined with scores of cheering apes waiting to be entertained. You can sense the enthusiasm of the crowd. VENDERS walk up and down the stone bleachers hawking their snacks. After all what would a spectator sport be without its favorite food.

VENDOR

(hawking)

Bananas. Get your fresh ripe bananas here. Bananas.

SUDDENLY a musical fanfare draws everyone's attention. Every ape in the place jumps to their feet. All eyes watch as Izan and Pax are carried in atop their litter, which is steadied on the shoulders of four SLAVES.

The litter is lowered. Izan and Pax step off, wave to the throngs, and take their seats in the General's box. Izan's presence signals the start of the game.

A DOOR OPENS and 3 HUMAN SLAVES are thrown into the huge ring. A raucus explosion of "BOO'S" rises from the spectators. The humans stand scared and confused. They have nowhere to hide. Then...

ONTO THE FIELD STEPS...

THE BIGGEST, MOST FEROCIOUS, MUTANT MONSTER OF A GORILLA EVER SEEN (THE MACHINE)! The crowd goes wild. He is their hero.

The humans are in utter shock at the sight of The Machine. He takes one lumbering step forward and they start darting like rabbits.

The Machine takes off after one of the scattering slaves. His snarling teeth drip with saliva. He snorts. He roars. The tension mounts as he gains on the fleeing man. The Machine lashes out. With his mammoth hand he grabs the human by the back of his hair. With a quick jerk, he throws the slave through the air like a sack of potatoes. THUD. The human hits the ground hard. The audience screams with delight. Blood bubbling from his nose, the human curls up in pain.

APE IN CROWD

(at the top of
his lungs)

Kill him! Kill the son of a bitch!

ANOTHER APE IN CROWD

Come on! Tear him apart!!

The Machine lurches toward the wounded human. Suddenly...

One of the other slaves jumps on the Machine's back. His arms tightly around the thick hairy neck, the human bites down on his black ear. The Machine reaches to pull the pesky human off his back, but can't get a good grip.

At full speed the Machine runs backward toward the stone wall. SLAM. He crushes the human with amazing impact. The human slides off his back, hitting the ground. The Machine grabs the slave's ankles.

APE IN CROWD

(waving his
fist)

Atta way! Tear'm to shreds!

With a savage roar he picks up the battered human. WHACK. He smashes the human against the wall like a baseball bat. Blood flies. BAM. He whacks the body against the ground. Flesh splits at the rib cage.

The audience is going wild.

With one more mighty BLOW, the Machine SLAMS the carcass against the wall. The corpse breaks apart like a wet loaf of bread, and sticks. Large chunks slowly drip off the stone.

The Machine turns. The blood-thirsty crowd edging him on.

APE IN CROWD

Go, go, go, go!

The wounded human is on his feet once again. He tries to limp away from the approaching killing monster. The Machine's shadow engulfs him. His black hand grabs his white throat. The human's eyes bulge like a fish.

The gorilla lifts him into the air by his neck. He pulls back his other woolly hand, and with the force of a locomotive, he punches the human in the face sending him flying backward twenty feet.

Once is not enough.

The Machine stomps over to the mangled slave. He picks him up by his broken neck, and SLAMS another knuckle sandwich into what's left of his face. The limp body flies twenty feet farther.

The crowd is on their feet with insanity.

The Machine runs at top speed toward the bloodied slave. He leaps through the air. His big feet come hurtling down on the human's skull. It CRUSHES like a ripe melon. Izan and Pax are loving every minute.

The Machine pivots and stares directly at the third human slave. The scrawny man shakes like a leaf.

As is the custom the last remaining victim is thrown a weapon. A GUARD tosses him a long wooden stick. The human rushes for the pole. The desperate slave, like a joustier, poises the pole above his head and charges at The Machine. The Machine smirks. Just when it appears the pole will stab into his massive chest...

With lightening speed the Machine grabs the end of the pole. He hoists it over his head. The pole points straight up into the air.

Dangling on the top for dear life is the horrified slave. He should have let go of that pole.

The crowd jumps and screams.

The Machine looks up at his prey and roars. Hand over hand he slowly lowers the stick bringing the slave closer with each move. There is no escape. The ape casts the pole aside and grabs the slave into a headlock.

The spectators are delirious.

Out of respect The Machine looks up to Izan for the finale.

Izan outstretches his arm and points his big thumb to the side. Will it be thumbs up or thumbs down? Every eye in the place looks to Izan. There is a momentary silence. Izan grits his teeth. Smiles. Thumbs down!

The audience goes crazy.

The Machine digs his fingers under the fleshy part of the slave's chin. With his bare hands he TEARS the human's head clean off. Blood squirts like a fountain. Then, he takes his huge black hand and shoves it down the neck of the headless corpse. He forces his arm all the way into the twitching torso. He yanks his arm out and holds it skyward.

There, in the gorilla's palm, is the human's beating heart. He heaves the heart into the middle of his cheering fans. They scramble for it as if it were a homerun baseball.

The Machine bows to Izan and Pax. They are on their feet wildly applauding the performance.

Izan beams, when unexpectedly...

WE SEE IZAN THROUGH THE POV of a telescopic rifle lens viewfinder. The crosshairs find their way to Izan's chest.

BACK IN THE BOOTH Izan waves and cheers vigorously.

SUDDENLY...BANG. A SHOT RINGS OUT. A bullet explodes into Izan's shoulder. He clutches his arm and doubles over. The spectators are shocked.

PAX
(horrificed)
Father!!

GUARDS rush to Izan's aid, feverishly looking for the sniper.

GUARD
(shouts to
other guards)
Where did that shot come from?

BANG. Another shot. Everybody ducks. The bullet ricochets off the stone bleachers next to Izan. Chaos takes over.

PAX
(screaming)
Do something dammit!! Do
something!!

Blood gushes through Izan's fingers.

BODYGUARD
(holding Izan,
shrieks)
Let's get him out of here!!

ANOTHER BODYGUARD
(shoving apes
out of the way)
Move it!

Other guards have their guns pointed in all different directions looking for the assassin.

ANOTHER GUARD

(shouting
loudly into
crowd)

Show your face you bastard!

Suddenly an APE from the crowd cries out and points skyward...

APE IN CROWD

There he is!!

All eyes dart to the direction the ape is pointing. High above the arena, perched on the shoulder of a statue of Izan is...

DUKE. His rifle aimed at Izan.

PAX

It's a human!!

APE IN BLEACHERS

(screams)

Get him!

Duke looks up from his gun in a panic. He's been spotted. All the apes turn their weapons up to Duke and open fire. Bullets riddle the mighty statue. Duke's rifle drops. It hits the ground far below.

A bunch of apes are racing toward him from all sides. Left with only one option...

Duke slides down the back of the sculpture at a lightening speed. He grits his teeth and clutches the smooth marble for dear life as he chutes down.

EXT. OUTSIDE THE ARENA - SAME TIME

Duke hits the ground with a THUD. Without a moment to think he jumps to his feet and takes off.

Gorilla guards pour out of the arena doors like floodwater. They spot Duke. BLAM. They shoot. He disappears around a corner. The gorillas won't let him get away.

It's a race for Duke's life!

NARROW ALLEYWAY

Duke tears down the wet cobblestones at lightening speed. The guards hot on his heels.

BANG. BANG. BANG. Bullets fly frighteningly close to his head. He knocks over garbage barrels to block their way. Trash flies everywhere. Some guards leap over the barrels. Others trip and fall. Duke panicks.

It's a dead end.

He dodges left into a doorway.

APE CAFE KITCHEN...

Duke busts into a busy ape cafe kitchen. The COOKS AND WAITERS are shocked. A human.

APE COOK

What is the meaning of this?

Without a second to spare the gorilla guards barge into the kitchen shooting.

A COOK goes tumbling.

GUARD

Outta my way!

Bullets PING off the walls. Duke jumps through the door leading to the eating room.

IN THE EATING ROOM...

The force of the door knocks a WAITER backwards. His tray of dishes flies everywhere. SMASH. CRASH.

The APE CUSTOMERS scream as Duke plays dodge 'em around the tables.

APE CUSTOMER #1

It's a human!

APE CUSTOMER #2

What the hell's going on?

Guards tear through the eating room like a tornado. Bullets ricochet. Tables overturn. Customers duck for cover.

Duke leaps out of the door just as a barrage of gunfire misses him.

BUSY CITY STREET...

The street is teeming with activity. Duke pushes his way through the mass of APES.

The street bazaar VENDORS and their carts act as an obstacle course.

Mayhem and madness take over as Duke and his pursuers wreak havoc throughout the bustling street. Carts fly left and right. Bullets meant for Duke hit innocent bystanders, killing them. He runs with all his might through the throngs.

Racing at a fevered pace Duke plows through a group of slaves who are hoisting the giant marble head of Izan into the air and onto its headless body.

Duke knocks the rope right out of their hands. They fall in all directions. The massive head plummets downward just as the guards are passing beneath it. SLAM. The statue head SMASHES DOWN on a handful of guards pulverizing them like bugs.

There's no time to stop. The surviving guards charge after Duke. Duke sprints for dear life. He hears the gunfire behind him, but he's moving too fast to look back.

SPOTTING AN OPEN AIR SLAVE TRANSPORTING VEHICLE filled with human slaves, Duke leaps into the back hoping to seek camouflage amongst the other humans.

The guards speed to catch the truck.

GUARD

(bellowing)

Stop that transport! Stop that transport!

The vehicle jerks to a halt.

Duke sits amidst the load of slaves hopeful the gorillas will not be able to tell him from the others. The guards rush to the back.

GUARD

Which one is he?

ANOTHER GUARD

I can't tell one from the next.

A THIRD GUARD

They all look alike.

With that, the gorilla guards start shooting all the slaves...One by one. It's mindless butchery.

Duke thinks fast. Just as he is about to be shot, Duke leaps away from the slaves and onto the roof of the vehicle. The bullet meant for him kills another. He jumps onto the hood. Then down onto the street. He races through the crowd.

Suddenly, Duke's eyes bulge.

Shoving their way through the crowd, heading straight for him, another group of GORILLA GUARDS. Duke turns. Runs. He leaps back onto the hood of the slave vehicle and up onto its roof.

He is trapped. Gorillas are coming at him from all angles, surrounding the vehicle. Could this be curtains?

Duke jumps straight upward. He grabs hold of a sign jutting out of a storefront. It reads: TAXIDERM Y STUFFED HUMANS AT REASONABLE RATES. With all his might he pulls himself up and springs onto the store's rooftop, just as the sign is pulverized with bullets.

Duke speeds across the rooftop. The gorillas run along the sidewalk never letting him out of their sight. They shoot up at him, but can't get a clear shot.

Duke is nearing the edge of the building. He picks up speed and leaps from one rooftop to the next. He hurdles from rooftop to rooftop across the ape skyline. Suddenly, there are no more rooftops left.

Stiff with fear he looks down over the edge. The gorilla guards are converging at the bottom of the building.

Thinking fast Duke sees a government issued garbage wagon passing the building on its way out of town. It is piled high with rubbish. This is his ticket out. He takes a running start and flies headlong for the safety of the trash. Duke hurls through space.

SUDDENLY...A NET!

The garbage wagon drives away.

Duke is left dangling in mid-air. Caught like a fish.

All the apes circle around him, guns cocked. A CROWD OF SPECTATOR APES GATHER. Among them Wynora and Wingding.

GUARD #1

(jabbing his
gun into Duke's
ribs)

Think you're mighty smart, don't
you?

GUARD #2

Look at this human's eyes. I'd
swear he's almost thinking.

GUARD #3

Let's pulverize the hell outta this
one.

GUARD #1

With pleasure.

All the gorilla guards take aim. Suddenly Izan's voice booms out.

IZAN (OS)

Wait!

The crowd makes a path for Izan's litter. Pax sits with his father. A bloody bandage is wrapped around Izan's arm. Two GUARDS on horseback escort the royal duo.

IZAN (CONT'D)

Don't kill that slave!

Izan and Pax walk over to Duke. Izan takes a dagger from his belt. He reaches through the net and grabs Duke's face. Izan digs the blade tip into Duke's neck, just short of piercing the skin. Duke struggles helplessly.

IZAN (CONT'D)

I want to cut this human's throat myself.

PAX

Father don't!

IZAN

(angrily)
Why?

PAX

You'll hurt your arm.
(coldly)
I'll do it for you!

Izan grins. He passes the dagger to Pax.

IZAN

Of course, Pax.
(with steel
cruelty)
Make sure he feels the pain.

Pax grips Duke's hair.

In the crowd Wynora closes her eyes.

Just as Pax raises the blade...

DUKE

(screams)
Get your filthy paws off me you
damn stinking ape!

Pax drops the knife. Wynora's eyes shoot open. The crowd gasps. Izan knows.

CUT TO

INT. IZAN'S THRONE ROOM - LATER

A long extravagant room. Izan sits on his massive stone chair. Next to him sits Pax on a smaller, yet impressive looking throne. A gorilla PHYSICIAN is tending to Izan's arm. GUARDS line the room standing at attention.

Two OTHER GUARDS drag a kicking and struggling Duke into the room and throw him to the floor in front of Izan and Pax. Izan waves his arm and dismisses his physician, who rushes out of the room. Izan glares down at Duke for a long moment...

IZAN

There was once another human who could speak. His name was Taylor. I killed him.

DUKE

I am Taylor's son!

IZAN

That would account for your stupidity!

DUKE

My father was a great man!

IZAN

(amused)

There's no such thing as a great man!...

DUKE

How would you know?

IZAN

Izan knows everything!

PAX

(curiously)

Who's Taylor? Father, what's going on?

IZAN

(ignoring Pax)

I'll enjoy watching you suffer.

DUKE

If you're going to kill me why don't you just get it over with?

IZAN

(laughs)

You'll die soon enough, but I want to make certain your death is a public celebration just like your father's.

DUKE
You'll fall Izan. Maybe I missed,
but someday somebody won't.

IZAN
Who? Once you're dead who will want
to kill me?

DUKE
I don't know, but you better always
keep an eye over your shoulder.

IZAN
(chuckles)
What a curious breed, talking
humans. How many more of you are
there?

DUKE
There's just me.

IZAN
Good. And so there will be none!

PAX
Father you never told me about
speaking humans.

IZAN
I didn't want to waste your time
with such nonsense.

DUKE
Did he ever tell you about
Cornelius, Pax? Your father? Your
real father?

Izan jumps to his feet.

IZAN
Shut-up!

DUKE
Why don't you tell Pax how he was
prised out of the arms of his
screaming father. How he was...

IZAN
Silence speaking human! Guards take
him out of here!

PAX
Who's Cornelius?

IZAN
Silence!

The guards seize Duke and are pulling him out of the room screaming.

DUKE
He's your blood father Pax. He's
alive. He raised me.

IZAN
Lies! All lies! Tomorrow morning
you hang, human!

Duke is dragged from the room. Izan turns to Pax, his gorilla eyes red with rage.

IZAN (CONT'D)
Never, never believe what a
speaking human says.

Pax looks confused.

CUT TO

INT. DUNGEON CELL

A tiny dark room. The two guards throw Duke into the damp hellhole.

DUKE
(struggling)
Take it easy, will you. You're
breaking my arm.

GUARD #1
Ah, shut-up.

GUARD #2
You're lucky we don't break your
head.
(surprised at
himself)
What the hell am I doing? I'm
talking to a human.

The guards laugh at the absurdity. SLAM. The heavy wooden door closes.

DUKE
Let me outta this pit you animals!
You apes!!

The little viewing window on the door slides open and the guards sneer in at Duke.

GUARD #1
You hear that Otto? A human calling
us animals.

GUARD #2

Izan sure has plans for you, human.

They both cackle as the little viewing window slides closed.

Duke is alone...He knows the door is bolted, but he tries anyhow. It's no use. Frustrated, he takes a running start and smacks his shoulder against the door. It doesn't budge. Repeatedly Duke pounds the door with his fists.

DUKE

(screaming)

Let me outta here! Damnit, let me
outta here!!

Over and over he bangs until he can't bang anymore.

He slumps against the door and slides to the dirt floor. Duke hugs his knees. Maybe this revenge wasn't such a good idea after all.

From a small barred window high above his head a thin shaft of sunlight shines across Duke's tortured face.

TIME LAPSE DISSOLVE

Duke is crouched in a corner of the cell. It is very still. The slit of sunlight has turned orange. It is now sunset.

SUDDENLY...

...A noise comes from the other side of the door. Duke perks up nervously.

A key JIGGLES in the lock. The bolt CLINKS. Duke is immobile. Then...

The door bursts open. Duke GASPS.

There in the doorway stands Pax. He steps into the cell SLAMMING the door behind him. Duke stands to face him. Duke is nervous. Pax's expression is without emotion.

PAX

You intrigue me speaking human.

DUKE

My name is Duke.

PAX

I don't care. I've never seen a
freak of nature before. What other
tricks do you do?

DUKE

You're the freak. A chimpanzee raised to act and think like a gorilla. Doesn't that go against your natural grain?

Pax slaps Duke across the face.

PAX

(angry)

Why are you here?

DUKE

Revenge. My father spoke of peace, and was slaughtered for it by Izan.

PAX

Well, it appears as though revenge will have accomplished nothing but a noose around your neck. Isn't that right Duke?

DUKE

After what Izan has done to Cornelius I don't know why you don't seek revenge against him.

(looking him in the eye)

Cornelius is your father, you know.

PAX

There is no such ape as Cornelius. You lie.

DUKE

Why would I lie? Listen to me, you're real father lives in torture to this day, wondering are you alive? Are you dead? What are you like?

PAX

If you're going to speak, you should at least know what you're talking about. This storytelling is laughable. I am the son of Izan. My real father was killed for unsimian treatment of a minor. Izan killed him and adopted me. Everything I am I owe to Izan.

DUKE

Izan is a maniac. Open your eyes to the oppression around you. Cornelius is a kind and gentle ape. You're his blood. Can't you feel his pain?

PAX
(snapping)
I don't believe a word you say.

DUKE
Then why are you here?

Pax turns to open the door and exit. He pauses. Without looking back he asks...

PAX
Supposing what you say is true?
If my real father is alive, why has
he not come for all these years?

DUKE
I don't know.

Pax leaves and closes the door.

AUDIO BRIDGE TO

A FAT GORILLA WOMAN dressed like a Viking peasant hits a high soprano note.

IT'S A NIGHT AT THE OPERA

On the grandious stage a full-blown ape opera is in progress.

The DIVA is belting out her aria. You can see her tonsils vibrate as she SHRILLS. She finishes and curtsies in operatic splendor.

The AUDIENCE applauds wildly. Scores of apes in formal wear jump to their feet in a standing ovation.

Izan and Pax clap from their boxseats high above the audience. The Diva blows a handful of kisses to her leaders.

The curtain closes. An easel supports a sign that reads ACT ONE. An APE HAND reaches from the wings with a sign reading ACT TWO.

The audience sits back down. There's more to come.

THE APE CONDUCTOR strikes up his ORCHESTRA as the curtain reopens. The set is extravagant. The CHORUS sings loudly as the main character, our HERO, makes a grand entrance. He is a dashing gorilla General loved by his entire kingdom. The hero breaks into a tenor solo. This is music to Izan's ears.

CUT TO

INT. DUKE'S DUNGEON CELL - NIGHT/SAME TIME

Duke has fallen asleep on the dirty cell floor. The door suddenly opens. The light startles him awake. He jumps.

DUKE
(frightened)
Is it morning?!

In walks...Wynora. She has a rifle slung across her back and the cell keys in her hand.

WYNORA
Don't be scared. I'm here to help you.

DUKE
Who are you?

WYNORA
No time now. Quick. Come with me.

Duke and Wynora scurry out of the cell and down the...

DUNGEON HALLWAY

They run down the narrow torch-lit corridor keeping an eye peeled for danger.

In a corner on the floor Liam and Orpheus are tying up the two unconscious gorilla guards.

WYNORA
(to Liam and Orpheus)
Good work. Now get the hell out of here as fast as you can.

ORPHEUS
You bet.

LIAM
See you back at the hideout.

Wynora and Duke take off.

LIAM (CONT'D)
Be careful.

DUKE
(as they keep moving)
Who are they?

WYNORA
Friends.

BACK AT THE OPERA

The diva and the hero are in each other's arms singing of their love for one another. Izan and Pax are engrossed.

IN THE DUNGEON CORRIDOR

Wynora and Duke round a corner and bound up a long flight of stone stairs.

DUKE
(running)
What's your name?

WYNORA
Wynora. Now shut-up.

JUST AS THEY GET TO THE TOP OF THE STAIRS we see Miles and Wingding tying up two more unconscious GUARDS.

WYNORA (CONT'D)
Hurry up you two and make yourselves scarce.

MILES
You got it.

WINGDING
Isn't this great?!

Wynora and Duke rush to the front doors. She peeks out. Her horse is right where she left it. The coast is clear.

EXT. DUNGEON - NIGHT/SAME TIME

Wynora and Duke bust out of the doors and run to the horse. She jumps on.

WYNORA
(hurried)
Come on. Get on.

Suddenly from around the corner a motorized government vehicle filled with gorilla GUARDS spots Wynora and Duke's getaway.

GUARD #1
That's the talking human!

GUARD #2
She's stealing the slave!

The vehicle accelerates.

Duke runs to leaps on the back of the horse.

WYNORA

Hold on tight!

DUKE

What?

The horse bolts away. Caught unaware the force flies Duke backward off the saddle.

BACK AT THE OPERA

Exploding into a swell of electrifying song, the cast and chorus sing out in a most riveting fashion.

THE EXCITING MUSIC AND LARGER-THAN-LIFE VOICES FROM THE OPERA ACT AS THE SCORE FOR DUKE AND WYNORA ON THEIR HAIRRAISING ESCAPE.

THE HORSE FLIES DOWN THE ROAD. The gorilla guards in hot pursuit barrel after them. Wynora yells back to Duke. She doesn't realize he isn't there.

WYNORA

Hold onto my waist so you don't fall off.

No response.

WYNORA (CONT'D)

Hey!

Wynora looks back to see nothing.

Duke's foot is caught in the stirrup. He is being dragged along the ground. Duke desperately tries to pull himself back onto the saddle, but the wind current holds him down.

DUKE

(yelling)
Give me your hand!

WYNORA

What the hell happened?!

DUKE

Just gimme your hand!

Wynora keeps an eye on the road. She holds the reins with one hand and attempts to reach back for Duke with her other.

Duke struggles to grab hold of her. The intense speed makes it hard to control the animal.

The gorilla vehicle chases after them. One of the guards reaches over the windshield and takes aim.

Duke strains with all his might and stomach muscles to lift himself off of the ground. He stretches as far as he can to grab Wynora's hand.

Just as the tips of their fingers touch...

BANG! A shot rings out and just misses Duke. Startled, Wynora grabs the reins with both hands. Duke falls back again and drags along the ground.

AT THE OPERA

The bass drum POUNDS. The chorus sings feverishly. A whirlwind of excitement.

ON THE ROAD

Bullets ZING by Wynora and Duke. Duke is straining again for Wynora's outstretched hand. Ahead Wynora sees another government guard vehicle filled with gorilla guards. It is coming straight towards them.

WYNORA

(frantic)

Hurry, grab my hand! Hurry!!

Duke reaches with all his might. Their finger tips touch.

The approaching vehicle is nearing fast. Bullets are WHIZZING from both ends.

With an explosion of every bit of strength he has, Duke grabs Wynora's hand tight. She pulls with all she can muster.

The vehicles are closing fast.

In a single, strong-armed, burst of might Duke is pulled upward and onto the saddle. And not a moment too soon. At that instant Wynora grabs the reins with both hands and jerks the horse's head up. The stallion leaps into the air and in an amazing feat jumps over the approaching vehicle.

The two vehicles SLAM on their breaks to avoid hitting head on. Both spin out of control. CRASH. They SLAM into each other side by side. A couple apes go flying onto the street.

Wynora's horse lands like a ballerina. She rears it and maneuvers the horse into a U-turn. Duke and Wynora gallop right past the disheveled guards back in the direction they came.

GUARD #1

(screaming)

What the hell were you doing coming straight for us?

GUARD IN OTHER JEEP
 (screams back)
 What the hell do you think we were
 doing?

GUARD #1
 You nearly killed us.

The gorilla vehicles will not restart. They are not meant to take such abuse.

Duke and Wynora fly like the wind. It appears as though they have made a clean getaway. Suddenly two other military vehicles emerge from a side road screaming after them. The chase is on again.

The two vehicles gain fast on Duke and Wynora. All the strength Wynora's horse can muster cannot compete with the guard transports. The two vehicles pull up on either side of Wynora's racing steed. Duke and Wynora are horrified. In a quick sweeping move a guard from one of the vehicles throws an arm around Wynora's neck and pulls her off of the speeding horse and into the vehicle.

Duke, alone on the back of the horse, makes a move to jump onto the vehicle to save Wynora. He grabs the window bar, but suddenly another guard from the opposite vehicle grabs his foot.

The riderless horse is left behind as the two vehicles zoom forward. Duke's body is a bridge between them. He is stretched to his absolute physical limit. Guards from each vehicle grab for Duke.

Duke's jaw drops in horror as the two vehicles are about to pass on either side of a tree. Out of split second desperation Duke takes his free foot and kicks the DRIVER in the eye, causing him to let go of the wheel. Duke then kicks the steering wheel veering the vehicle away.

He yanks himself onto the vehicle carrying Wynora just before the tree would have knocked him in half. The other vehicle careens out of control and crashes head on into the base of a marble statue of Izan. BOOM.

Duke pulls himself into the vehicle just as Wynora heaves a guard out of the back. The guard goes tumbling to the ground.

A hairraising fight insues as Duke and Wynora duel for their lives with the remaining two guards. The vehicle is all over the road. Strangling. Punching. Pummeling. Duke and Wynora heave another guard out of the vehicle sending him rolling down an embankment.

Duke and Wynora turn to finish off the driver, but stop cold. The GORILLA DRIVER drives with one hand and points a gun at Duke and Wynora with the other. Could this be it?

THE OPERA MUSIC HEIGHTENS...

GORILLA DRIVER

Say your prayers.

Suddenly, Wynora GASPS. The driver is not paying attention to the road as he drives head-on towards a restraining stone wall. He mistakes Duke and Wynora's expressions as fear of his gun. Duke and Wynora look at each other.

THE OPERA MUSIC REACHES ITS FRENZIED CRESCENDO...

Just before the driver pulls the trigger Duke and Wynora jump off the back of the vehicle. In the same instant the driver pulls the trigger and hits the wall full speed. The vehicle explodes.

SIMULTANEOUSLY...AT THE OPERA

The giant cymbals CRASH together. The cast and chorus bow having just finished their tumultuous finale. Uproarious applause. A standing ovation. Izan claps wildly from his box.

Amidst the hoopla two GUARDS enter Izan's box and whisper something to him. Whatever it is, it's gotten him instantly furious. The two guards, Izan, and Pax rush out.

INT. SIMIANTARIAN HIDEOUT - SAME NIGHT

All the members are in attendance...Professor, Miles, Liam, Orpheus, Wingding, and Wynora. Duke has their undivided attention.

DUKE

I just hope Cornelius will still speak to me once I get back.

PROFESSOR

Who would blame him if he didn't. What you did was foolish.

WYNORA

(tongue and cheek)

I can't believe it. Even the humans are talking about Cornelius.

WINGDING

(to Duke)

I think it's so exciting.

DUKE

What good did it do? I almost got myself and all of you killed, and for what? Izan is still walking around. I failed.

WYNORA

You didn't fail. Only by doing nothing can we fail. You took a chance and I admire that.

WINGDING

When are you gonna try again?
We'll help.

DUKE

(shakes his
head)

For now I'm going back home. But who knows, I may be back.

PROFESSOR

I think going home and staying home is a very wise idea.

DUKE

Why don't you all come back with me? This Izan is making your life here a living hell.

All the Simiantarians look at each other. There is a moment of silence.

DUKE (CONT'D)

We live a great life in the Forbidden Zone. I know you'll all be welcome.

ORPHEUS

If we go with you there will be no one left here to fight for what is right.

DUKE

It's only a matter of time til your all caught and hung.

MILES

We haven't been caught yet.

WYNORA

Besides this is our home. This is all we know. We can't run away from it.

DUKE

But all you know is oppression, and secret hideouts, and public hangings. That's no way to live life.

LIAM

That's why we're trying to change it.

DUKE

How can you change anything if speaking your mind is grounds for capital punishment?

WYNORA

(with determination)

We don't speak out with our words. There are other ways to be heard.

Professor shakes his head in disapproval.

ORPHEUS

(with a twinkle in his eyes)

An ape's gotta do what an ape's gotta do.

A stillness falls over the room. Duke gets the message.

DUKE

I understand.

(smiles)

Well, if you'll just point me in the direction of home, I'll be on my way.

LIAM

No, you can't leave tonight.

DUKE

Why not?

WYNORA

The guards will have all the exits from the city blocked off...The sewers won't even be safe. Tomorrow night will be better.

ORPHEUS

You'll be safe here.

Wingding, Miles, and Orpheus get up to leave.

WINGDING

(to Duke)

If we don't see you before you leave...good luck.

DUKE

(shaking their hands)

Thanks...Thanks for everything.

They cautiously exit the hidehout.

LIAM

(to Duke)
Are there a lot of humans living
free in the Forbidden Zone?

DUKE

Yes.

LIAM

I'm glad.

Liam and Duke shake hands.

LIAM (CONT'D)

See ya.

DUKE

Bye.

Liam leaves. Now it's just Professor and Wynora.

PROFESSOR

Well, best get these old bones to
bed.

He walks to the door, hesitates, then turns to Duke.

PROFESSOR (CONT'D)

Duke, I want to go with you. I
want to see my old friend
Cornelius.

WYNORA

Professor.

PROFESSOR

The way I think doesn't work around
here anymore.

DUKE

Of course. It'll make Cornelius
very happy.

Professor smiles and leaves.

Wynora and Duke sit alone in the dark room.

WYNORA

Sorry you have to stay here alone,
but if I don't go home it'll look
suspicious.

DUKE

That's alright. I'll be fine.

Wynora hesitates for a moment, then...

WYNORA

Professor says there was a
civilization of humans before apes.
Is that true?

DUKE

Yes. I don't remember it
personally, but...

They both chuckle.

DUKE (CONT'D)

We live in the ruins of a place
called New York City.

WYNORA

That's unbelievable. You know,
your father is legendary to we
Simiantarians.

DUKE

Oh yeah?

WYNORA

Yeah, for twenty years Professor
has been talking about Cornelius
and Taylor, the speaking human.
To tell you the truth I wasn't
certain I believed it all, but
now...

DUKE

It's true. Cornelius has a son here
in the...

WYNORA

Pax. Professor's told us
everything about Cornelius.

DUKE

How has the secret managed to be
kept from Pax for so many years?

WYNORA

It's a testimony to Izan's tyranny.
No one would dare breathe a word
for fear of being executed.

Duke is saddened. Wynora starts for the door.

WYNORA

Don't under any circumstances open
this door for anyone unless they
give the password.

DUKE

What is it?

WYNORA

This week it's "blue skies"...Only the six of us know it.

DUKE

Okay.

WYNORA

I'll be back first thing in the morning. Sorry it's not more comfortable in here.

DUKE

Don't worry about it. Just get some sleep.

Wynora opens the door.

WYNORA

Good-night.

DUKE

'Night.

Just as Wynora is closing the door he calls out to her.

Wynora...

WYNORA

(peeking back
in)

Yeah.

DUKE

Thanks for the ride.

Wynora smiles. The door shuts behind her.

Duke is alone now. He leans back in a chair and closes his eyes for some long awaited sleep.

DISSOLVE TO

EXT. APE CITY - DAYBREAK

The yellow sun lazily rises signaling a new day for the Ape Empire. Life goes on even under the iron fist of oppression.

ON A STREET a horse drawn street cleaning wagon washes the grime out of the gutters.

APE VENDORS are setting up their carts.

A TEAM OF CITY WORKERS raise the Izanian flags up the flagpoles that surround the city.

HANGINGS START EARLY in the Ape City. The henchape is testing the trap door.

A COUPLE OF GUARDS lead a line of PRISONERS, shackled at the ankles, to the gallows. We recognize one as Izan's fool. Perhaps one too many bad jokes. A small CROWD is gathering to watch the killings.

Oblivious to everything Wynora walks briskly by the gallows. She carries a small basket.

WE FOLLOW her as she makes her way through town.

INT. SIMIANTARIAN HIDEOUT - MORNING

A KNOCK on the door startles Duke awake. Instinctively he opens it. There stands an angry Wynora.

WYNORA

Oh great.

DUKE

Ooops. Blue skies, right?

Unamused she walks in and closes the door.

WYNORA

That's not funny. You could have gotten yourself killed.

(putting the
basket on the
table)

I brought you some breakfast.

Duke beams. He's famished. He starts eating, mostly fruit.

DUKE

Thanks. I'm starving.

WYNORA

We'll have to lay low for the day. Once it's dark we'll take the sewer to the end of town.

DUKE

Where are the others?

WYNORA

They're not coming, only Professor. It's too risky today.

DUKE
You sure you won't change your mind
and come with us?

WYNORA
(shakes her
head)
I can't.

DUKE
That's too bad. You would have
liked Ariel.

WYNORA
Ariel?

DUKE
The woman I love.

Wynora smiles.

SUDDENLY...

The heavy wooden door flies open with a CRASH. It breaks right
off its hinges. Duke and Wynora jump with shock.

GORILLA GUARDS pour into the hideout and swarm all over the two
frightened fugitives like wasps.

GUARD #1
Thought you'd get away, huh, you
SCUM!

Duke and Wynora put up a fight but it is no use. The guards are
too much for them.

WYNORA
Let go of me. Get your filthy
hands off me.

DUKE
(shouts)
Let go of her!

GUARD #2
Shut-up baldy.

Duke and Wynora are wisked out of the hideout with brute force.
They kick and scream the whole way.

The last gorilla in the room takes the oil lantern off the table.
He SMASHES it against the wall setting the room on fire.

EXT. STREET - SAME TIME

As Duke and Wynora are being muscled out a doorway and onto the
street, we see Professor approaching with his suitcase. Professor

stops abruptly. He is horrified but is smart enough to keep his composure. He watches through misty eyes as Duke and Wynora are thrown into the cage of an official government paddy wagon.

The wagon pulls away.

Professor drops his suitcase. A tear rolls down his cheek as the paddy wagon disappears around a corner. Black smoke pours out of the doorway to the underground hideout.

CUT TO

DUKE AND WYNORA ARE THROWN ONTO THE DIRT. Their mouths hang agape...Eyes as wide as saucers. They slowly stand up. It is deathly quiet. They are standing in the center of...

THE ARENA...

The bleachers are packed with multitudes of FANS, all sitting silent and still. Suddenly Izan's rumbling voice BELLOWS OUT from a megaphone horn..

IZAN (OS)

Welcome to the greatest show in town.

ON IZAN, who looms larger than life from the bleachers, Pax at his side.

IZAN (CONT'D)

(sarcastically)

Simians, anthropoids, and primates of all ages...Might I attract your attention to our very special guests in the Arena today. You all remember Duke, the human who tried to kill your Supreme and precious Izan in cold blood? And standing next to him is Wynora, the little chimpette, who tried to help him escape, killing twelve of my guards in the process.

Petrified, Duke and Wynora stare at Izan. He points his pistol at them, firing with great precision. The bullet hits the ground near their feet in a cloud of dust. Duke and Wynora leap back. Izan is amused.

IZAN (CONT'D)

(sardonically)

This is going to be fun!

Duke screams up to Izan at the top of his lungs.

DUKE

This is between you and me, Izan.
Let Wynora go.

A rumble races through the bleachers.

IZAN

(yells to the
audience)

Silence! Have you never heard a
speaking human before?

There is instant quiet.

IZAN (CONT'D)

(to Duke)

How typical. Another bleeding
hearted human.

DUKE

Fuck you!

The audience GASPS in shock. Izan's eyes bulge. He smiles.

IZAN

Let the games begin!!

The crowd explodes like a bomb.

A heavy door rises, opening onto the Arena floor. Out steps...

THE MACHINE

Duke and Wynora are mortified at the size of this beast.

WYNORA

Uh-oh, we're dead.

For a second Duke clenches his eyes shut...

DUKE

(to himself)

Mind over muscle. Mind over
muscle. Mind over muscle...

(opening his
eyes)

Uh oh, you're right.

The Machine lurches towards them like a steam roller.

Wynora grabs Duke's hand. They take off like bat's out of hell.
The Machine charges after them. Round and round the arena they
dash for their lives. The Machine is gaining. Just when he is
within reach...

DUKE

(yells)

Now!!

Duke and Wynora stop suddenly and reverse direction. To his surprise they speed by the Machine on either side of him. The monster comes to a SCREECHING halt. He pivots and takes out after them in the other direction, GROWLING AND SNARLING the whole way.

Duke and Wynora are racing at sonic speed. Momentarily, Duke loses his footing and falls to the ground. He tumbles like a rolling doughnut, disorienting himself. Wynora keeps running. The machine heads straight for Duke.

WYNORA

(screams)

Duke, look out!

The Machine leaps into the air. Just as his big black feet are about to crush Duke's skull...Duke blinks back to his senses and rolls to the side. THUMP. The Machine's feet hit the dirt, just missing Duke's head by a hair.

The blood-hungry crowd BOO and HISS.

Duke bounds to his feet. He's off again.

The Machine turns his back on Duke and races for Wynora. Her heart POUNDS in her throat.

Duke desperately tries to distract the Machine.

DUKE

(shouting at
the top of his
lungs)

Here I am you goddamn ugly ape!
Over here! Over here!

The Machine turns a deaf ear and charges for Wynora. He backs her against the wall. She can run no further. Duke sprints across the ring to save her. The Machine smiles at Wynora with his big black teeth.

He lunges to flatten her against the wall. Wynora DUCKS in the nick of time. SMACK. His massive torso hits the wall with full force. She DARTS OUT between his hairy legs. She joins Duke. They run.

The crowd is relishing the action-packed fury.

APES IN CROWD

Kill, kill, kill, kill....

From his box Izan signals to a GUARD. With that the guard throws the long wooden pole into the center of the ring. Duke, Wynora, and the Machine all stop. Duke and Wynora look at each other, then make a mad dash for the pole. So does the Machine. They run head-on.

Duke grabs an end of the pole. The Machine grabs the other end. The Machine swings the pole lifting Duke off his feet. With a mighty swat Duke goes flying through the air. He hits the ground with a THUD. Wynora hi-tails around and runs for Duke.

The Machine WHIPS the pole at Wynora's fleeing feet. The pole flies through the air like a wayward helicopter propeller. It SMACKS Wynora's ankles and tangles up her feet, sending her tumbling forward. Duke SCRAMBLES to her side.

They look up. The Machine is barreling toward them.

Thinking quickly, Wynora and Duke each grab an end of the pole. They jump to their feet, holding the pole like a low limbo stick.

Duke and Wynora charge toward him. CRACK. The Machine hits the pole with his shins. He soars forward off his feet, and CRASH. He hits his head on the stone wall knocking him unconscious.

The crowd GASPS in concerned horror. This has never happened before. JEERS ring from the angry spectators.

Duke takes Wynora's hand and runs with her to the center of the ring. They bow to all sides. Winners.

Izan clenches his teeth. He is furious, but acts cool.

Pax turns to his father.

PAX
(more visibly
upset)
Father, shoot them.

IZAN
(looking into
the ring,
grins)
Not yet.

Pax looks at Duke and Wynora.

Duke and Wynora are waving to the crowd. Smiles beam across their faces.

Suddenly, from behind them, the Machine stands up
INTO FRAME.

The crowd goes insanely wild.

Unbeknownst to Duke and Wynora the Machine walks up behind them. He puts his arms around each of their shoulders and smiles. Their expressions drop. Their hearts sink into their stomachs.

The Machine waves to his adoring fans. Izan and Pax are elated.

DUKE

(to the
Machine)

I don't suppose we could finish
this up tomorrow?

The Machine's smile slowly fades to a scowl. He knocks Wynora away with one arm. She goes sailing. The Machine takes his other massive arm and tightens it around Duke's neck in a vice-grip headlock. Duke is in agony.

Out of respect the Machine turns to Izan. Will it be thumbs up or thumbs down? The audience goes silent. Surprise! It's thumbs down.

The Machine digs his fingers into the fleshy part of Duke's neck. The beast lets out a mighty ROAR of triumph. Suddenly...

Wynora THRUSTS the wooden pole into the Machine's gaping mouth.
CHOKES.

The Machine drops Duke and REELS backward. He YANKS at the pole that is lodged in his throat.

Duke scrambles to his feet. He and Wynora run like the wind.

Izan is enraged. He grabs the megaphone and bellows to the Machine.

IZAN

(fuming)

What the hell is the matter with
you, dammit? Kill them you idiot.
Kill them or die!

With a forceful TUG the Machine pulls the pole out of his windpipe. CRACK. He breaks the pole over his knee and spits a wad of blood. Boy is he mad.

The Machine takes off after Wynora and Duke like a rocket. Duke and Wynora are running with all their might. They dash straight for the wall. The Machine is gaining fast.

With a burst of adrenelin strength Duke jumps off the ground and grabs onto the top of the restraining wall. He hoist himself into the front row of the bleachers. The shocked fans scurry.

Duke reaches down for Wynora's hand. He heaves her up the wall. Just as she is about to clear, the Machine grabs her foot. How will she escape? Her shoe comes off.

IZAN

(raging into
the megaphone)

Will you stop embarrassing me, you
moron, and get them.

Duke and Wynora storm up the bleachers through the scattering spectators.

The Machine VAULTS the wall and CHARGES through the crowd after them like a bulldozer killing and knocking apes out of his way left and right.

Izan isn't getting his money's worth. He watches the frenetic action with a scowl on his face.

Duke and Wynora speed through aisles on a mad dash for their lives. They dart in and around seats. Over scattering fans. And up to the top of the coliseum. The Machine follows close behind.

The harrowing chase continues along the upper ledge of the coliseum. Duke and Wynora do their best to balance as they run along the narrow top rim.

The panoramic view of Ape City and the desert behind them is spectacular.

The crowd is going nuts.

The Machine is hot on Duke and Wynora's tail. The pace is fast and furious. Suddenly, for lack of a shoe, Wynora loses her footing and falls over the edge.

WYNORA

(screams)

Duke!!

She grabs the ledge for dear life. Clinging by her fingertips Wynora dangles sixty feet above Izan Square. Duke rushes to her aid. He pulls with all his might, still trying to maintain his balance.

Like a Sasquatch the Machine is getting closer.

As Duke strains to save Wynora his eye catches movement in the distance. He looks out and is stunned at what he sees.

Heading toward the city from the desert Ariel and Cornelius lead an ARMY OF HUMANS on horseback. Clouds of dust rise around them.

DUKE

(sotto voce)

Oh my!

WYNORA

(screams)

DUKE! LOOK OUT!

Duke turns his head. There's the Machine.

In a single bolt of blind strength Duke heaves Wynora under his arm and leaps over the edge.

Duke and Wynora fly through space.

With his free arm Duke grabs a flagpole. The force of their bodies send them spiraling down the flagpole like a corkscrew. Down, down, down they spin.

At the top of the coliseum the Machine hesitates.

IZAN
(furiously)
After them you imbecile.

The Machine looks to Izan in disbelief.

IZAN (CONT'D)
JUMP!!!

The Machine jumps off the edge for the flagpole. Like a great terradactile he soars through the air. Grabbing the flagpole, his massive weight proves too much. SNAP. The pole breaks. The Machine tangles up in the flag of Izan as he plummets to the ground. SLAM. He hits the pavement like a slab of meat.

OUTSIDE THE ARENA...

All the armed guards and screaming fans pour out of the coliseum doors and into Izan Square.

Duke clutches his ankle. Wynora pulls at him.

WYNORA
(frantic)
Come on!!

Duke tries to right himself, but collapses again.

DUKE
(in pain)
It's my foot. Run Wynora run!

WYNORA
(tugging at him)
You can do it! Come on!

The guards charge closer.

Duke screams at Wynora with rage.

DUKE
GO!!!

Determined, Wynora grabs Duke's arm to drag him if she has to.

WYNORA

Damn you!

Duke tries as hard as he can to move with Wynora. She pivots to run...Suddenly she is face to face with a rearing horse. She SCREAMS. It is Ariel.

There in front of them on horseback stand Ariel, Cornelius, and the human army poised and ready to take off like lightening.

ARIEL

(screaming)

DUKE! QUICKLY!!

Wynora hoists Duke onto the back of Ariel's horse. Duke and Ariel kiss.

DUKE

Ariel!

ARIEL

I'm so glad you're alive.

Wynora leaps onto Cornelius' horse.

CORNELIUS

(to Duke)

Thank heavens you're safe.

WYNORA

Let's get the hell outta here!

Their horses rear to charge, but...

It's too late. They're surrounded on all sides by gorilla guards, rifles pointing at their heads.

Trapped like rats.

Suddenly Izan's evil voice BELLOWS OUT.

IZAN

CORNELIUS!

Dead-silence. Score of APES surround the action, riveted. Amongst them Wingding, Liam, Miles, Orpheus, and Professor.

Cornelius shudders. Izan steps out from the crowd.

IZAN (CONT'D)

Cornelius, Cornelius, what a pleasant surprise.

(to the crowd)

Now here before me stands an ape I truly never thought I would see again.

CORNELIUS

Hello Izan. We have not come for trouble, only for Duke. And now if you'll excuse us.

IZAN

Not so fast. Not so fast. It's been so long since we've seen each other. Let me get a good look at you.

(scopes him up
and down)

You've gotten old Cornelius.

(chuckles)

I want to introduce you to someone.

Cornelius' eyes widen.

Pax steps out from the crowd and joins Izan. Cornelius' breath is taken away by the sight of his son. He is speechless.

Duke and Ariel are concerned. This must be torture.

Pax's eyes widen but he quickly resumes a cold glare at Cornelius. Izan SMIRKS.

IZAN

Cornelius, have you ever met my son Pax?

Pax makes eye contact with Duke, then speaks in a tone to satisfy Izan.

PAX

Father, who is this old chimp?

DUKE

(screams out)

You know who he is Pax!

IZAN

Shut-up!

(to Cornelius)

Look at him, the pride of my Empire. Someday this all will be his. And he'll rule it my way!

Pax stares at Cornelius as if he wasn't there.

IZAN (CONT'D)

Look around you Cornelius. What do you see?

Cornelius sits motionless.

IZAN (CONT'D)
Wealth. Power. Fear. You were
wrong. Taylor was wrong. I was
right! Strength will always
triumph over words.

Izan LAUGHS at Cornelius and his group of humans.

IZAN (CONT'D)
Is this what you came here to
battle me with? A pathetic handful
of humans on horseback? How
typical Cornelius. How very
typical.

CORNELIUS
We didn't come here to battle. We
came for Duke.

DUKE
Cornelius is a braver ape than you
are Izan. He doesn't have to hide
behind guards and guns and power.

CORNELIUS
Duke!

Izan is getting very angry.

DUKE
I'm not afraid of him Cornelius.

IZAN
Enough of this nonsense. I'm
getting very bored with Duke.
GUARDS! Take aim.

RIFLES COCK.

IZAN
This is the last anyone will ever
hear from a talking human. Guards.
Kill the mutant.

CORNELIUS
NO!

WYNORA
NO!

Suddenly A VOICE rings out.

ARIEL
If it's mutants you want, then
you'll have to kill me too!

ALBERT

And me!

THE GUARD'S HEADS DART TO FIND WHERE THE VOICES COME FROM.

IZAN

Who said that?

CHARLIE

Who do you think Izan?

JONAS

I did Izan!

GEORGE

Us mutants!

THEN Izan, beside himself, realizes the voices are human.

DARA

If you kill Duke then kill me too.

ARIEL

What's the matter Izan, you scared?

DUKE

Izan, you look like you've seen a ghost!

The guards are spooked. Izan is in shock that all the humans can speak. Their voices ring out loudly. They all shout at once.

ALL THE HUMANS

Wake up to the truth...Let us go...
Peace on earth...Power to the
people...Power to the spoken
word...etc.

The noise level grows. It's driving Izan insane. THE HUMANS SHOUT LOUDER AND LOUDER. It is a frenzied whirlwind of confusion. Pax is smiling at this circus.

CORNELIUS

(screams over
the noise)

You cannot hide from the truth
anymore Izan. You've built a
kingdom on lies. Now let the truth
tear it down.

More crazed than ever before Izan SHOOTS his pistol into the air and SCREAMS at the top of his lungs...

IZAN

SILENCE!!!

In a desperate move of insanity Izan holds the gun against Pax's head.

Pax is horrified. What's going on?

PAX

Father!!

CORNELIUS

(panicked)
Izan don't!

IZAN

(bellowing to
Cornelius)
Nobody makes a fool of Izan! I
warned you long ago Cornelius if
you ever came back here I would
kill your son!

Pax is shocked. It's true.

CORNELIUS

Please Izan, no! I beg of you!
Spare my son! Spare Pax! Kill me
instead!!

DUKE

Cornelius, no!

Cornelius jumps off his horse and runs to Izan and Pax.

CORNELIUS

Kill me! Kill me! But let Pax
live!

Izan sneers.

IZAN

(pressing the
gun into Pax's
temple)
Kill you instead of Pax? That
wasn't the original agreement
Cornelius. You wouldn't want me to
go back on my word, would you?

PAX

Father, please.

CORNELIUS

Take me. Spare my son.

Izan takes the gun away from Pax's head.

IZAN

Okay. Pax lives. You die!

Duke and Ariel are mortified.

ARIEL
(shouts to
Cornelius)
Cornelius we need you.

Cornelius raises his hand to silence her.

IZAN
(to Pax)
Pax, prove your loyalty to me and
to the gorillas. Put a bullet
between this chimp's eyes!

Duke and Ariel look at each other, fear on their faces.
Cornelius' eyes bug.

With a glare of ice Pax raises his pistol from his holster. He
points it at Cornelius. Izan grins.

Pax stares into Cornelius' desperate eyes.

CORNELIUS
(whispers)
Always remember I am your real
father.

There is a uneasy stillness. Pax COCKS the gun.

Everyone waits.

Pax's hand begins to tremble.

Izan scowls.

IZAN
(screams)
Shoot!

Pax's hand quivers even more. Izan is becoming furious.

IZAN (CONT'D)
Shoot dammit...Shoot!!

Ferociously Izan points his own gun at Cornelius and COCKS IT.
Just as he is about to pull the trigger...

Pax swings his arm and pushes the barrel of his gun into Izan's
face.

The crowd is stunned.

Izan is livid.

PAX
Don't!

IZAN
(screams)
You wouldn't dare!

PAX
(with the evil
that Izan has
taught)
Drop your gun!

IZAN
(screams again)
You wouldn't dare!

PAX COLDLY COCKS HIS PISTOL. HE'S LEARNED FROM THE MASTER.

IZAN
(smirks)
I've taught you well, you selfish,
ungrateful, little chimp. You will
pay dearly for this. I should have
known...Once a chimp, always a
chimp.

As he speaks SUDDENLY...

From behind Izan a hulking black monolith slowly rises to his
feet and INTO FRAME...THE MACHINE!

Pax's eyes bulge. Cornelius quakes. Duke, Ariel, and Wynora are
petrified. Izan is unaware, until...

The Machine's titanic hand CLAMPS down on Izan's shoulder like a
vice.

Izan reacts with unbridled horror. The Machine whips Izan around
to face him. He clenches Izan's throat and lifts him off his
feet as if he were weightless.

BANG. BANG. BANG. BANG. Izan empties his gun into the
Machine's chest. The Machine doesn't flinch. Then...

The Machine SQUEEZES with his giant hands until...

CRACK! Izan's neck snaps. His eyes roll over black. His pistol
hits the ground.

The Machine lets go of Izan's limp body. THUD. It hits the
pavement. Izan is dead!

Blood pours from the Machine's chest and mouth. He REARS his
head and ROARS.

THE MACHINE
I always wanted to do that.

Then he falls forward...dead.

A chilling silence. All eyes turn to Pax. Pax stands for a long while over Izan's body. No one dares to move. Pax's eyes slowly survey all the staring faces. He is emotionless. Pax walks over to a huge statue of Izan which towers over all of Izan square. His footsteps are the only sound heard.

He leaps onto the base of the massive statue.

PAX
(shouting to
all)
Izan is dead! The legacy has come
to pass. The Empire of the Apes
is mine!

The crowd listens silently.

I, Pax, a chimpanzee, will rule
this Empire. Izan taught me
leadership. Izan taught me
strength. He taught me to rule
relentless and hard. To rule with
an iron fist. To rule his way.

There's a tension in the air. What is he leading to?

PAX (CONT'D)
(a dramatic
pause)
But Izan was right...Once a
chimpanzee, always a chimpanzee!
From this day forward things will
be run my way. This day has opened
my eyes to something I have been
refusing to see for too long. I'm
tired of the lies. I'm sick of the
bloodshed. And I'm weary from the
hatred.

Pax SHOUTS with a passion never heard before.

PAX (CONT'D)
Today is a good day, for Izan's
death marks the birth of a new age.
The rules have changed. The mold
has been broken. The torch has
been passed to a new generation of
primates. Let the curtain of
oppression rise. And let the sun
shine down on the Planet of the
Apes.

At that very instant...

B-O-O-O-O-M!

The head of the statue of Izan that Pax is standing under BLOWS UP in a ball of white fire. Sand, ash, and sparks shower down on the masses like confetti on New Year's Eve.

The crowd EXPLODES into raucous cheers of happiness.

Amidst the hoopla Pax reaches out his hand to Cornelius.

PAX

Father.

Cornelius takes Pax's hand. He is hoisted up onto the base of the statue. He stands with his son.

Pax waves to the jubilant throngs.

The humans jump down from their horses and rejoice with the apes. There is dancing in the streets.

Ariel and Duke hug. They never expected this.

Orpheus and Liam make their way through the bustling crowd to Wynora.

WYNORA

Which one of you planted that dynamite?

Liam and Orpheus point at each other simultaneously.

WYNORA (CONT'D)

(laughing)

Perfect timing. We couldn't have planned it better if we tried.

For a Simiantarian this is paradise. They hoot and holler together.

Cornelius and Pax are waving to the masses. They look at each other and suddenly twenty years are erased. Cornelius puts his arms around his son. They hug.

In a burst of youth, Professor dances with a guard, square-dance style.

All across the Empire the flags of Izan are being ripped down from their flagpoles. The posters of his face are being torn off the walls.

Miles and Wingding are breaking open cages of HUMAN SLAVES, setting them free to join the jubilation.

Wynora and Duke hug. Suddenly Wynora hears her name being called. She looks up to see Pax holding out his hand to her. She cautiously takes it and stands next to him.

PAX

(to Wynora)

You are a brave chimp Wynora. I
like what you stand for. I will
need your help.

Wynora and Pax stare into each others eyes. She nods and smiles.

CLOSE ON ARIEL AND DUKE as they kiss passionately.

WE SLOWLY PULL UP...UP...UP to an AERIAL VIEW of the Ape City. As
we hover above the mass celebration in the streets, Ariel's
narration is heard.

ARIEL (VO)

And so the Planet of the Apes was
given a second chance. The legend
would continue, but this time with
a new hope for tomorrow and a
valued lesson from yesterday. We
all know Taylor would be proud of
us. Perhaps from somewhere he's
even watching down and smiling.

DISSOLVE TO

EXT. BEACH - SUNDOWN

Duke and Ariel sit on a horse together. Orange light fills the
sky and glows on their faces.

The Statue of Liberty juts half way out from under the sand. Her
symbol of freedom is as powerful today as it was thousands of
years ago. Duke and Ariel smile up at "Lady Liberty" and know
they are on the dawning of a new age.

FADE TO BLACK

THE END