

ALAN VIRDON, PETE BURKE AND GALEN HAVE SEEN MANY STRANGE THINGS IN THEIR TRAVELS THROUGH THE WEIRD WORLD OF THE APES. BUT NOTHING, PERHAPS, LIKE THIS...

THAT BALL OF FIRE!
WHAT IS IT?

A SPACESHIP!
COMING DOWN FAST... ALMOST TOO FAST!
THE HEAT SHIELD'S GLOWING LIKE CRAZY!

FROM OUT OF THE SKY

IT'S LANDING!
COMING DOWN BEHIND THOSE MOUNTAINS...!

IF THAT'S ONE OF OUR SHIPS, COME THROUGH THE TIME-WARP LIKE WE DID, THEN IT MAY BE OUR TICKET OUT OF HERE.

RIGHT! BUT YOU CAN BET THE APES WILL HAVE SPOTTED IT TOO! WE'D BETTER GET THERE BEFORE A PARTY OF GORILLAS FIND IT.

AFTER A WEARYING NIGHT-LONG MARCH, DAWN FINDS THE TRIO HIGH IN THE HILLS...

NO SIGN OF IT... BUT IT MUST HAVE COME DOWN HERE SOMEWHERE.

COULD BE IN ONE OF THOSE VALLEYS I GUESS. WE'LL JUST HAVE TO START SEARCHING...!

AN HOUR LATER...

O-OH... THE GORILLAS ARE HERE ALREADY! AND HERE COME TWO PRIME SPECIMENS NOW.

DOWN, GALEN! WE'LL HAVE TO TAKE THEM, PETE! WE CAN USE THOSE HORSES.



AND SO...

WHAT THE... HUMANS!

UUUGH!



WE'VE GOT THEM! GALEN... GO GET THE HORSES!



MEANWHILE, NOT FAR AWAY...

I'LL ASK YOU AGAIN! WHERE DO YOU COME FROM? AND WHY ARE YOU HERE?



I TOLD YOU! IT WAS AN ACCIDENT! WE HAD A MALFUNCTION AND HAD TO PUT DOWN HERE!



THEN, SUDDENLY...

WE'RE BEING SHOT AT! TAKE COVER!

AAAARGH!

AND, RIDING TOWARD THEM...

WE'VE GOT THEM PANICKED! KEEP SHOOTING!

KA-BLAM!



LET'S GET OUT OF HERE! I'M NOT STAYING ROUND TO BE KILLED!

AAARGH!



HOLD YOUR FIRE... THEY WON'T TROUBLE US ANY MORE...!

IT IS ONE OF OUR SHIPS... AND THERE'S AT LEAST ONE GOOD-LOOKING SURVIVOR!



THEN A NEW SURPRISE...

VERINA! SO YOU FINALLY MADE IT OUT OF SPACE ACADEMY!

PETE! I THOUGHT... I THOUGHT YOU WERE DEAD!



A FRIENDSHIP FROM LONG AGO IS RENEWED... FROM VERY LONG AGO...

WHERE ARE WE, PETE? ALL THE INSTRUMENTS WENT HAYWIRE...

WE'RE ON EARTH, BABY... BUT 2000 YEARS AHEAD. YOU MUST HAVE HIT THE SAME TIME-WARP AS WE DID!



THEN, A TOUCHING REUNION IS INTERRUPTED

THE OTHER TWO ARE DEAD... BUT THE SHIP ITSELF DOESN'T SEEM TOO BADLY DAMAGED...





SUDDENLY, THERE IS HOPE...

YOU MEAN... THIS THING MIGHT BE ABLE TO GET US HOME?

COULD BE... IF WE CAN HIT THE SAME TIME-WARP FROM THE OTHER SIDE... IT MIGHT CARRY US BACK...



YOU GET TO WORK THEN... AND I'LL KEEP WATCH IN CASE THOSE GORILLAS COME BACK...



BUT SOON, THE SHIP'S COMPUTER GIVES BAD NEWS...

THERE'S BEEN A FUEL LEAK... BUT IF WE STRIP THE SHIP RIGHT DOWN...

DON'T KID YOURSELF, PAL! EVEN IF WE DO THAT, IT'LL STILL ONLY TAKE ONE PERSON...

OVER THE NEXT FEW HOURS, EVERY NON-ESSENTIAL OBJECT IS REMOVED...



IF ONE OF US CAN GET BACK, AND LET THE BOYS BACK THERE KNOW WHAT'S GOING ON...

THEY MIGHT GET A SPECIALLY REINFORCED SHIP THROUGH TO RESCUE THE REST OF US...

FINALLY, THE WORK IS FINISHED. BUT THEN, THE AGONISING DECISION... WHO GOES?



ALAN SHOULD GO... HE'S THE MOST EXPERIENCED PILOT. I'LL STAY HERE WITH PETE UNTIL YOU GET BACK...

NO, IT'S GOT TO BE YOU, VERINA. WEIGHT MATTERS MORE THAN SKILL NOW... AND WE'RE REAL HEAVY-WEIGHTS COMPARED TO YOU...

THEN, BEFORE THERE IS TIME FOR MORE ARGUMENT...



A GROUP OF GORILLAS! RIDING THIS WAY!



BUT...!

THIS ISN'T THE TIME FOR LONG GOODBYES, BABY... I'LL BUY YOU DINNER IN 1990...

GET EVERYTHING SET... BUT DON'T BLAST OFF UNTIL I GIVE YOU THE SIGNAL...



OVER TO THOSE ROCKS...



WE'VE GOT TO DRAW THOSE GORILLAS TO US, NOT THE SHIP...



THEY'RE OVER THERE, IN THOSE ROCKS! WE'VE GOT THEM PINNED DOWN!



THEY'RE JUST ABOUT IN POSITION! LET'S HOPE THIS WORKS!

IT BETTER... I'M DOWN TO MY LAST BULLET...



I HATE TO LEAVE THEM... BUT I'VE NO CHOICE!

AND, WITH A MIGHTY ROAR, THE SHIP'S ENGINES COME TO LIFE...



KR-RR-RROOOOM!

AAAH! EEEEE!

THEN, SLOWLY AT FIRST, BUT WITH GATHERING SPEED, THE SHIP CLIMBS INTO THE SKY, LEAVING BEHIND A SILENT VALLEY...



SILENT BUT FOR THE ONLY THREE SURVIVORS OF ITS DEPARTURE...

I WONDER IF SHE'LL MAKE IT BACK THROUGH THE TIME-WARP... EVEN IF SHE DOES, THERE'S NO GUARANTEE A RESCUE SHIP'LL BE ABLE TO MAKE IT. WE'LL JUST HAVE TO WAIT AND SEE!



SHE'LL GET BACK SOMEHOW... AFTER ALL, NO GIRL'S EVER STOOD ME UP FOR DINNER!

