

Synopsis for "Planet of the Apes"

90,000 Words

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Planet of the Apes begins with a wealthy couple space-cruising on a spacey day trip in their space-yacht. They see a message in a bottle floating outside their space-yacht and bring the bottle inside to investigate. The guy tells his lady that he recognizes the language of the bottle's message from his time as a student on Earth. This guy's reading of his translation of the message to his lady becomes the frame for the Astronaut's narration.

The Astronaut is part of a team sent to the Betelgeuse system to check on radio signals detected in that area. He lands on this new planet in the Betelgeuse system, which he names Soror, in a jungle-like area. While bathing, the Earth men see a beautiful, young, naked woman who is also intent on bathing. The explorers meet her whole "tribe," that rips off the clothes of these new aliens. The now-nakey astronauts bunk with the native humans, but get attacked by hunters during the night. The humans are hunted by apes. Soror is dominated by gorillas, orangutans and chimps. Actual gorillas, orangutans and chimps. These apes look no more human than contemporary, non-fictional apes look. They are not ape-men, but gorillas, orangutans and chimps who can talk and wear clothes.

Only two of the Earth men survive the hunters' attack: the Astronaut who wrote the message in the bottle, and his aged mentor-type friend. The Old Guy gets sent to a zoo, while the young, fit Astronaut is stuck in a lab with the young naked woman. The Astronaut convinces a Researcher that he's smart, by showing-off his math and outer-space cartography skills.

The Researcher teaches the Astronaut the ape planet's native language (some of which the Astronaut has already picked up), as well as other useful information about the ape planet and its ape ways. At first, everyone thinks the Researcher is being silly, but the

Astronaut convinces the apes that he's smart and all. The Astronaut becomes a celebrity du jour, and is even allowed to take the Old Guy out of the zoo. The Old Guy's feeble brain couldn't handle all that time amongst the animalistic humans of the ape planet, though. He has become one of them, which the Astronaut finds quite distasteful.

At an archeological dig, a human baby doll is found. The Astronaut then deduces that humans used to rule over Soror, but got lazy. The Soror humans began to use their planet's apes to do everything they were too lazy to do. The Soror humans devolved, and the Soror apes took dominance of the globe.

The Astronaut goes home to try to prevent any such thing from happening on his beloved Earth. Unfortunately, by the time he reaches Earth, it has already become . . . an ape planet! The Astronaut, of course, is very distressed at the way humanity has let down his intelligent, academically-minded self.

The narration complete, the reader returns to the space-yacht couple frame. These two find the whole tale of the Astronaut quite shocking and unbelievable. At the very end of the story we learn that these space-yacht travelers are, themselves, . . . apes!