

SUNBELT
MAGAZINES



WEIRD FANTASY

VOLUME

1

ISSUES 13-17
AND 6

THE EC ARCHIVES

INTRODUCING A NEW TREND IN MAGAZINES...

**FANTASTIC
SUSPENSE STORIES**
WE DARE YOU TO READ!



IN THIS ISSUE:

THE INCREDIBLE EVENTS LEADING UP TO THE
**COSMIC RAY BOMB
EXPLOSION!**

ELDSTEIN

SUSPENSTORY FANS!



HERE'S ANOTHER MAGAZINE SPECIFICALLY DESIGNED TO *TERRORIZE* YOU... TO MAKE THE BLOOD FREEZE IN YOUR VEINS! FOR *SPINE-TINGLING* TALES AT THEIR ILLUSTRATED BEST... *READ*:



**ON SALE NOW
AT ALL NEWSSTANDS!
ANOTHER  SURE-FIRE WINNER!**

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AM I MAN OR MACHINE?

A
WEIRD-SCIENCE
SUSPENSE STORY!



THIS WAS THE HOUSE! FOR *TWO YEARS* I HAD DREAMED ABOUT THIS MOMENT... FOR *TWO LONG YEARS*... AND NOW, AS I WAITED FOR DIANE TO ANSWER MY RING, I WONDERED WHETHER WHAT I WAS DOING WAS *RIGHT*... WHETHER WHAT I WAS ABOUT TO DO TO DIANE WOULD BE *FAIR TO HER*! BUT, BEFORE I COULD CHANGE MY MIND, SHE WAS THERE... AT THE DOOR...

YES?

HELLO... DIANE!

SHE LOOKED AT ME CURIOUSLY! I WONDERED WHETHER SHE COULD TELL!

I...I'M SORRY! I DON'T KNOW YOU!

OH, BUT YOU DO, DIANE! I'M... I'M ROGER!

A CLOUD CAME OVER HER FACE! SHE LOOKED HURT... PAINED...

DON'T JOKE WITH ME, PLEASE! ROGER WAS BURIED TWO YEARS AGO! KILLED IN AN AUTO ACCIDENT!

LET ME COME IN! I...I WANT TO TALK TO YOU...

BUT...I DON'T EVEN KNOW YOU! HOW CAN I...

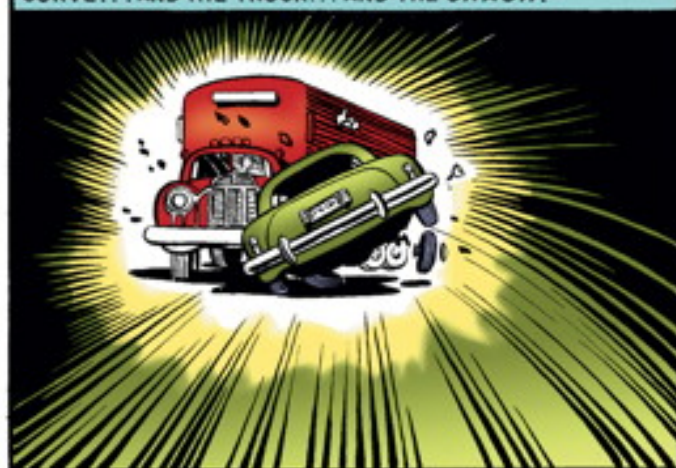
PLEASE! TRUST ME... BUTTERFLY!

I COULD SEE THE LOOK OF HORROR IN HER EYES AS SHE STEPPED ASIDE! ONLY ROGER HAD EVER CALLED DIANE "BUTTERFLY"!

HOW...HOW DID YOU KNOW ABOUT THAT?

BECAUSE... I AM ROGER HARVEY! SIT DOWN AND LET ME TELL YOU ALL ABOUT IT!

"I'LL GO BACK TWO YEARS... TO THE DAY OF THE ACCIDENT! I REMEMBER I HAD DRIVEN TO CENTER-TOWN ON BUSINESS! WE HAD A DATE FOR THAT NIGHT AND I WAS SPEEDING... TO MAKE TIME! THEN... THE CURVE... AND THE TRUCK... AND THE CRASH!"



"EVERYTHING WENT BLACK! I KNEW I WAS UNCONSCIOUS. AND I STRUGGLED TO COME TO! IT WAS NO USE! SUDDENLY, I FELT A WAVE OF FEAR COME OVER ME! PERHAPS... PERHAPS I WAS DEAD! I COULD THINK CLEARLY... BUT I COULD HEAR NOTHING! I COULD SEE NOTHING... I FELT NOTHING! IN TRUTH... I WAS IN AN EMPTY VOID! I COULD ONLY THINK!"

"TIME CREEPT BY! I HAD NO IDEA HOW LONG... BUT IT FELT LIKE AN ETERNITY! WAS THIS DEATH? WOULD I SPEND ETERNITY LIKE THIS? ALONE! ALONE WITH ONLY MY THOUGHTS! I WOULD GO MAD! I KNEW IT! I HAD TO HAVE SOMETHING TO DO! I BEGAN TO THINK ABOUT YOU... WHAT YOU LOOKED LIKE... WHAT YOU WERE DOING! I FELT A LITTLE SAD! IF I WERE DEAD... YOU WOULD BE UNHAPPY! WE HAD BEEN ENGAGED... TO BE MARRIED!"



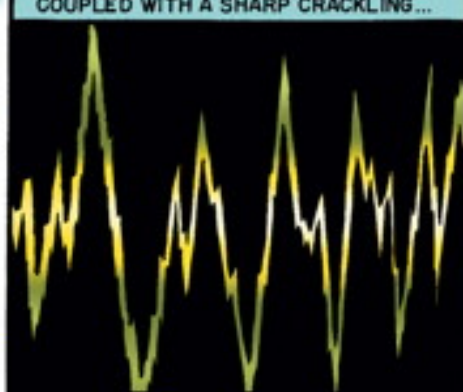
"TIME MOVED ON, AND STILL I REMAINED IN THAT *EMPTY VOID*! I THOUGHT OUT COMPLICATED MATHEMATICAL PROBLEMS... TRIED TO BUSY MY MIND WITH ADOZEN SUBJECTS... ANYTHING TO KEEP MYSELF FROM GOING CRAZY! THEN... AFTER WHAT SEEMED *YEARS*, IT HAPPENED! I FELT A SHARP, CLEAR SHOCK! A... VIBRATION!"



"I CONCENTRATED... BUT FOR A LONG TIME AFTER THAT NOTHING HAPPENED! I BEGAN TO SENSE, IN THE PERIOD AFTER RECEIVING THAT VIBRATION, THAT I WAS SUSPENDED IN SPACE... THAT I WAS FLOATING... BUOYANT... LIKE A BUBBLE IN A TANK OF WATER... MIDWAY BETWEEN BOTTOM AND TOP..."



"AFTER, WHAT I WOULD HAVE ESTIMATED TO BE OVER A YEAR, BUT WHAT WAS ACTUALLY ONLY A FEW MONTHS, I FELT A SECOND VIBRATION! THIS ONE MORE PAINFUL THAN THE LAST! THEN, I THOUGHT I'D GO MAD! I *HEARD* SOMETHING... ACTUALLY HEARD A *NOISE*! IT WAS A LOW HUM... COUPLED WITH A SHARP CRACKLING..."



"AND THEN *IT HAPPENED*! I WANTED TO *CRY*... BUT I COULDN'T! A *VOICE*! THIN... RASPY... ALMOST UNBEARABLE... BUT YET, A *VOICE*..."

ROGER HARVEY! I DON'T KNOW IF YOU CAN *HEAR* ME OR *NOT*! I AM ASSUMING THAT OUR CALCULATIONS ARE CORRECT, AND THAT YOU *CAN*! LET ME INTRODUCE MYSELF! I AM PROFESSOR HUGO NELSON!"



"I COULD *HEAR* HIM, BUT THAT WAS *ALL*! I WANTED TO TOUCH HIM... TO SEE HIM... TO SCREAM OUT TO HIM! BUT I COULD ONLY *LISTEN*..."

I REALIZE THAT, FOR YOU, THE LAST FIVE MONTHS HAVE BEEN AN EMPTY, SILENT, NOTHINGNESS... A COMPLETE BLANK! LET ME EXPLAIN! YOU... *ROGER HARVEY*... ARE *DEAD*! THAT IS... EVERYTHING *BUT* YOUR *BRAIN*! FOR THE PAST FIVE MONTHS WE HAVE KEPT YOUR BRAIN *ALIVE*!"



WE TOOK IT FROM YOUR BODY, *IMMEDIATELY* AFTER YOU *DIED* IN A FATAL AUTOMOBILE ACCIDENT! WE WERE LUCKY OUR LABORATORY WAS SO NEAR THE SCENE! DR. WALKER AND I WORKED FAST THAT NIGHT! NO ONE *EVER KNEW*! WE RETURNED YOUR BODY TO THE SPOT! OH... I FORGOT! THIS IS MY ASSOCIATE, DR. CARL WALKER!"

HOW DO YOU DO, ROGER HARVEY!"



"*ANOTHER VOICE*! THIS ONE HAD THE SAME QUALITY AS THE OTHER... I COULD HARDLY TELL THEM APART!"

AFTER *FIVE MONTHS* OF CAREFUL EXPERIMENTS AND PLANNING, WE BUILT THIS SOUND EQUIPMENT WHICH EXACTLY *DUPLICATES* THE WORK OF THE *HUMAN EAR*! BY A SERIES OF TESTS, WE WERE ABLE TO CALCULATE THE ELECTRONIC IMPULSE NECESSARY TO STIMULATE YOUR AUDITORY NERVE ENDINGS, ENABLING YOU TO *HEAR* US!"



IN A MONTH OR SO, WE HOPE TO PERFECT THE EQUIPMENT NECESSARY TO ENABLE YOU TO *SEE*! AND ULTIMATELY, WE HOPE TO GIVE YOU AN ELECTRONIC-MECHANICAL BODY, CAPABLE OF CARRYING ON *ALL* THE FUNCTIONS OF A *HUMAN BODY*!



"I WAS OVERJOYED! MY *LONELINESS*... MY *EMPTY VOID* WAS *GONE*! I COULD *HEAR* THEM, DR WALKER AND PROFESSOR NELSON, PUTTERING AROUND THE LABORATORY! THEY EVEN PLAYED A RADIO FOR ME, AND I HEARD MUSIC AGAIN! THEN ONE DAY..."

WE ARE *READY* ROGER!



IN A FEW MINUTES, WE WILL CONNECT TO YOUR *OPTIC NERVE* ENDING, AN INSTRUMENT CLOSLEY RESEMBLING IN FUNCTION THE *HUMAN EYE*!



BUT YOU MUST PREPARE YOURSELF FOR A *SHOCK*! WHAT YOU SEE MAY SEEM TO YOU *WEIRD* AND *DISTORTED*! THINGS MAY APPEAR *FAR* DIFFERENT THAN YOU REMEMBER THEM! THAT IS DUE TO THE DIFFERENCE BETWEEN *THIS* INSTRUMENT, AND WHAT ONCE WAS YOUR *OWN EYE*!



"I WAITED PATIENTLY IN MY NOW FAMILIAR DARKNESS! I COULD HEAR THEM CONNECTING WIRES, TAPPING, MAKING LAST MINUTE ADJUSTMENTS... AND THEN... SUDDENLY... THERE WAS A BRILLIANT *FLASH OF LIGHT*! A SHARP PAIN PIERCED ME! THEN, AS I BECAME ACCUSTOMED TO THE LIGHT... I COULD DISCERN VAGUE SHADOWS MOVING IN FRONT OF ME!"



DO YOU THINK HE CAN *SEE* US, CARL?

WE'VE GOT TO ESTABLISH *CONTACT* WITH HIM, HUGO! WE'VE GOT TO *SPEAK* WITH HIM!



YES! YES! PLEASE FIGURE OUT A WAY! THERE'S SO MUCH I WANT TO TELL YOU! SO MUCH I WANT TO ASK YOU...

I HAVE A *THEORY*, CARL!



"THE TWO SCIENTISTS BEGAN TO DISCUSS A METHOD WHICH WOULD ENABLE ME TO CONTACT THEM! MUCH OF THEIR CONVERSATION WAS TOO TECHNICAL FOR ME TO UNDERSTAND! I CONCENTRATED ON MY NEW-FOUND SENSE...THE ABILITY TO SEE!"

THEN, IF YOUR THEORY IS CORRECT...WE COULD CONSTRUCT A SIMPLE VOICE-BOX...

...CONTROLLED BY ELECTRIC IMPULSES FROM HIS MEDULLA OBLONGATA!



"HOW STRANGE THEY APPEARED! NOT LIKE THE HUMAN FORM AS I REMEMBERED IT, BUT NEW AND DIFFERENT! WAS THIS THE WAY THEY ACTUALLY LOOKED...OR WAS THE WAY I REMEMBERED A MAN LOOKED THE CORRECT WAY? WAS THEIR MECHANICAL EYE MORE ACCURATE THAN THE HUMAN EYE? I WONDERED!"

WE WILL START WORK ON IT IMMEDIATELY!

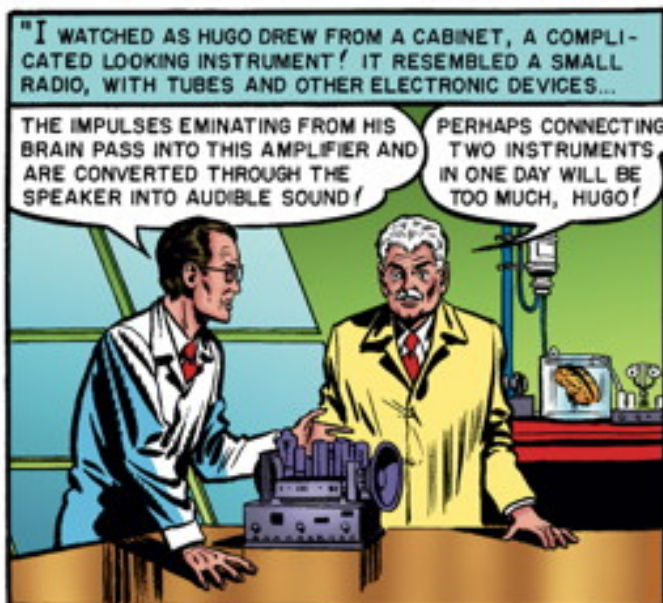
I HAVE A SURPRISE, CARL! I HAVE BEEN WORKING ON IT FOR SOME WEEKS, NOW!



"I WATCHED AS HUGO DREW FROM A CABINET, A COMPLICATED LOOKING INSTRUMENT! IT RESEMBLED A SMALL RADIO, WITH TUBES AND OTHER ELECTRONIC DEVICES..."

THE IMPULSES EMANATING FROM HIS BRAIN PASS INTO THIS AMPLIFIER AND ARE CONVERTED THROUGH THE SPEAKER INTO AUDIBLE SOUND!

PERHAPS CONNECTING TWO INSTRUMENTS IN ONE DAY WILL BE TOO MUCH, HUGO!



"NO! NO! I WANTED TO SHOUT TO THEM! PLEASE! I PLEADED...BUT, OF COURSE, THEY HEARD NOTHING..."

I DON'T THINK SO, CARL! HERE, CONNECT THIS ANODE TO A CRANIAL-MOTOR NERVE!

YES, HUGO!



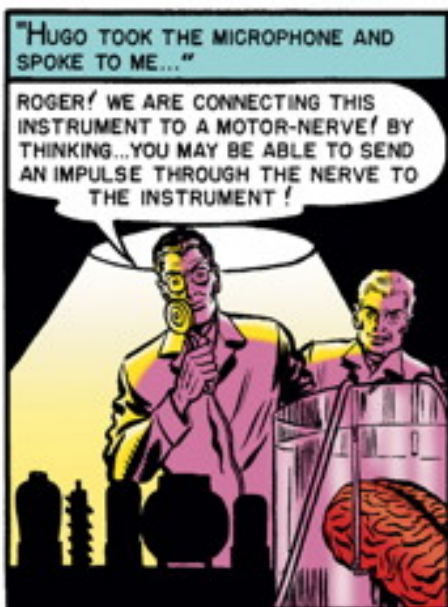
"HUGO TOOK THE MICROPHONE AND SPOKE TO ME..."

ROGER! WE ARE CONNECTING THIS INSTRUMENT TO A MOTOR-NERVE! BY THINKING...YOU MAY BE ABLE TO SEND AN IMPULSE THROUGH THE NERVE TO THE INSTRUMENT!

OF COURSE, IF YOU CAN'T HEAR ME, THEN ALL IS LOST! BUT IF YOU DO HEAR ME, WAIT UNTIL I ASK YOU SOMETHING...AND THEN, IF YOU WANT TO ANSWER "YES"...SEND ONE SHORT THOUGHT! "NO"; TWO!

"THE CONNECTION WAS MADE! I TRIED NOT TO THINK ABOUT THE INSTRUMENT THERE ON THE TABLE..."

ALL RIGHT, ROGER! CAN YOU HEAR ME?



"YES! I SHOUTED TO MYSELF! THE INSTRUMENT ON THE TABLE GAVE A SHORT, LOUD REPORT!"

HUGO!! DID YOU HEAR?

MAKE TWO SOUNDS, ROGER!



"I CONCENTRATED! YES... YES, I SAID TO MYSELF... THE AMPLIFIER GAVE TWO BLASTS!"

DO YOU SEE US TOO, ROGER?

BEEP!



"IT WAS WONDERFUL! FOR TWO HOURS THEY QUESTIONED ME! THEY MADE ADJUSTMENTS IN THE AUDIO AND VIDEO INSTRUMENTS, WITH MY DIRECTIONS, UNTIL THINGS SOUNDED AND LOOKED ALMOST NORMAL..."

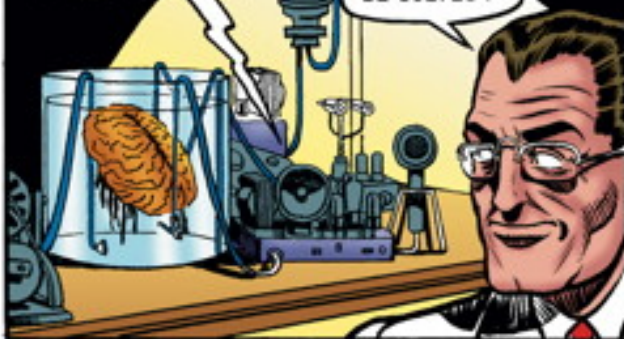
... AND WITH PRACTISE, ROGER, YOU WILL BE ABLE TO CONTROL THE AMPLIFIER... SO THAT IT WILL UTTER SOUNDS COMPARABLE TO HUMAN SPEECH!



"IN THE MONTHS THAT FOLLOWED, WHILE PROFESSOR HUGO AND DOCTOR CARL BUSIED THEMSELVES CONSTRUCTING A BODY FOR ME, I PRACTISED LEARNING TO CONTROL THE ORAL-AMPLIFIER! I WAS LIKE A LITTLE CHILD LEARNING TO TALK... BUT AT LAST, I COMPLETELY MASTERED IT!"

HOW LONG WILL IT BE, HUGO, BEFORE MY BODY IS FINISHED?

YOU MUST BE PATIENT, ROGER! THERE ARE MANY PROBLEMS TO BE SOLVED!



YOUR BRAIN WILL BE CONNECTED TO IT, AND WITH A SYSTEM OF RELAYS, THE IMPULSES FROM YOUR MOTOR NERVES WILL ENTER HERE AND BE DISPATCHED TO THEIR PROPER ELECTRO-MAGNET! IN THAT WAY, YOU WILL BE ABLE TO WALK... HOLD THINGS... WRITE... DO ALMOST ANYTHING!



"THE BODY THEY WERE CONSTRUCTING FOR ME WAS MADE OF A SPECIAL TYPE PLASTIC... SOFT, LIKE HUMAN FLESH, YET STRONG AND DURABLE! THE SKELETON WAS MODELED AFTER THE HUMAN SKELETON, WITH ELECTRO-MAGNETS FOR MUSCLES, AND STEEL ALLOY TUBING FOR BONES..."

THIS WILL BE THE CENTRAL-CONTROL POWER-UNIT! IT WILL ACT AS A SPINAL-CORD!



IT WILL BE YOUR RESPONSIBILITY, ROGER, TO KEEP YOUR OWN BRAIN ALIVE! THAT WILL FLOAT IN THIS UNBREAKABLE CONTAINER HERE, COVERED BY WHAT WILL BE YOUR NEW FACE! THE FLUID REQUIRES OXYGEN, SUPPLIED BY THIS SMALL PUMP! ALL THESE MECHANICAL GADGETS WILL BE POWERED BY A SMALL ATOMIC-ELECTRONIC STORAGE BATTERY! THE BRAIN FLUID WILL NEED FOOD! THAT... IS YOUR ONLY WORRY!



YOUR HEARING DEVICE AND YOUR SEEING DEVICE WILL BE IN THEIR PROPER PLACES! YOUR BODY WILL BE, WHEN WE ARE FINISHED, AS *CLOSE* TO HUMAN AS WE CAN MAKE IT...



"I WAS JUBILANT! THE MONTHS CRAWLED BY, AND THEN...IT WAS FINISHED! MY BRAIN WAS MOVED TO ITS NEW HOME, AND MY FACE WAS PUT IN PLACE! THE BODY WAS HELD RIGID BY A STAND...

NOW, CONTROLLING YOUR MOVEMENTS, ROGER, WILL TAKE A GREAT DEAL OF PATIENCE AND PRACTICE!



"I STARTED WITH SIMPLE MOTIONS... SWINGING AN ARM...A LEG...BENDING A KNEE...LIFTING...SHAKING! IT WAS SLOW AND TEDIOUS WORK!

FINE, ROGER! YOU'RE DOING FINE!



"AND THEN, OVER TWO YEARS AFTER MY ACCIDENT, I WAS READY TO GO FORTH INTO THE WORLD...

TWO DAYS! THAT'S ALL, ROGER! THEN YOU MUST *COME BACK*!

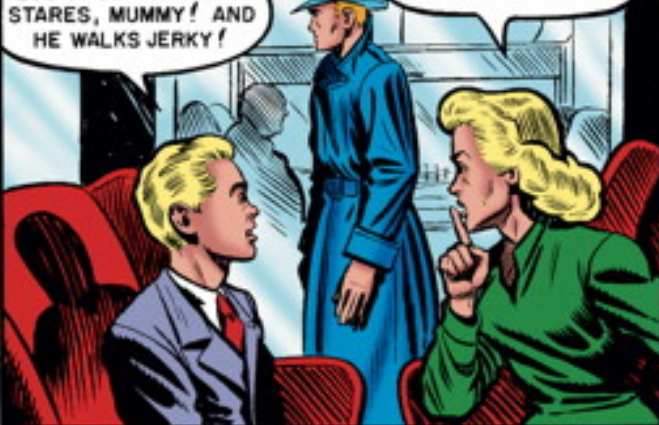
I PROMISE, HUGO!



"I TOOK A TRAIN HERE! MY FIRST THOUGHTS WERE OF YOU, DIANE! I WANTED SO MUCH TO *SEE* YOU AGAIN! PEOPLE DIDN'T EVEN *NOTICE* ME! THE SCIENTISTS HAD DONE SUCH A WONDERFUL JOB! ONLY ONE SMALL CHILD COMMENTED..."

LOOK HOW THAT MAN STARES, MUMMY! AND HE WALKS JERKY!

SH-H-H-H, KENNETH! HE'S...NOT WELL!



AND THAT'S MY STORY, DIANE! SITTING BEFORE YOU IS A MASS OF PLASTIC, STEEL, AND ELECTRONIC EQUIPMENT, AND THE MIND OF *ROGER HARVEY*!

I... I CAN'T BELIEVE IT! I DON'T KNOW WHAT TO SAY!



I LOVED YOU, ROGER! WITH ALL MY HEART! WHEN YOU...DIED... I THOUGHT I'D DIE TOO! BUT A YEAR LATER, I MET *BOB*!

BOB?



BOB IS MY *HUSBAND*!



MARRIED! DIANE...MARRIED! I COULDN'T BELIEVE IT! IT WAS SUCH A SHOCK!

...BUT YOU'RE *BACK* NOW, ROGER! I'LL DIVORCE BOB! I'LL SPEND THE REST OF MY LIFE WITH *YOU*!

...MARRIED! I HADN'T DREAMED...



...BUT...WHAT *WAS* SHE TO DO, I ASKED MYSELF...WASTE AWAY, PINING FOR ME? *FOOL!* I HAD BEEN A *FOOL!* TO DIANE, I *HAD* DIED! WHY *SHOULDN'T* SHE HAVE FOUND A *NEW* LIFE...

I STILL LOVE YOU, ROGER! I ALWAYS *WILL*!

I...I...



WAS IT TRUE? SHE WAS ACTUALLY TELLING ME SHE LOVED ME! SHE WAS AGREEING TO DIVORCE BOB!

NO! NO, DIANE! I'VE BEEN A *FOOL!* I *SHOULDN'T* HAVE COME HERE! I *SHOULD* HAVE *REALIZED*...

BUT YOU DID... AND NOW...WE'RE TOGETHER AGAIN!



IT WAS *NO GOOD!* WHAT COULD I *OFFER* HER...PLASTIC STEEL...ELECTRO-MAGNETS? IT WAS *WRONG!* I *KNEW* THAT, *NOW!* I COULD *NEVER* TAKE HER IN MY ARMS! A *KISS* WOULD BE *COLD*...MY TOUCH, CLAMMY! SHE WOULD COME TO *HATE* ME!

IT'S ALL BEEN A *MISTAKE*... A *TERRIBLE* MISTAKE! I *SHOULDN'T* HAVE *AGREED* TO SUCH A *CRUEL HOAX!*

W...WHAT ARE YOU *SAYING?*



THIS WAS THE *ONLY* WAY OUT... THE *RIGHT* WAY...

LOOK AT ME! I'M *REAL!* COULD *ANYONE* EVER MAKE A ROBOT SO *REAL?* IT'S A *GAG*, DIANE! I'LL GET INTO THE *FRATERNITY* BY DOING *THIS!* *ROGER'S DEAD!* I...I... I'M *SORRY!*

SOB... SOB... PLEASE... GO!



SHE'D GET OVER IT! IT WOULD COME TO BE A BAD *DREAM* FOR HER...NOTHING MORE! I CLOSED THE DOOR AND MADE MY WAY DOWN THE DARKENING STREET...BACK TO THE LABORATORY...BACK TO PROFESSOR NELSON AND DOCTOR WALKER...BACK "*HOME*"!

GOOD-BYE... *BUTTERFLY!*



THE
END

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