



Professor Schwarzkopf's Regrettable Discovery

Professor Schwarzkopf looked from the broken bottle of Bourbon to the full glass near to his hand. Agent Angel was beside him but his whiskey had been downed already. This meeting had been scheduled over sixty years ago, but neither man had known it.

While studying Physiology at the Humboldt Universitat zu Berlin, Professor Schwarzkopf had performed many dissections. He had never regretted one. His view was simple - greater understanding would benefit everyone. Most of these dissections had been on animals but he had also practised on dead humans under strict guidance from the ruling political party.

Before this moment, no human had attempted the dissection of a creature not from planet Earth. The alien lay on a steel autopsy trolley in the centre of his underground lab. In spite of the over-sized head and other peculiarities of its species, its general shape was humanoid. Consequently, he had decided to tackle the procedure in the same manner as he would a human. He took a scalpel and made a 'Y' shaped incision just below each shoulder and down to the pelvis.

The skin was tough and reminded him of elephant hide. Unlike human skin, it was not pliable nor did it stretch in the same manner. In order to peel it back, he had to use a considerable amount of strength. Once in place, he used forceps to stop the skin from falling back. No alien blood poured or squirted from the lifeless corpse, and the lab's white tiles remained pristine.

Professor Schwarzkopf stepped back and gazed at the alien's organs. There was little inside the corpse that reminded him of any other creature he had studied. The more he looked, the more he wondered if the alien's body had already entered a state of rigor mortis. All the organs he could see looked as if they had turned into stone. As if the alien had looked at Medusa the moment of its death.

One organ caught his eye. It was situated at the base of the neck where a human chest begins. Fine, grey strands came out of the lung-shaped organ and looked as if they would join to the mouth. A hypothesis formed in Professor Schwarzkopf's head - these were the breathing organs of the alien. He took his scalpel and made several fine incisions until he was able to remove it from the chest cavity. By this point, his scalpel was blunt.

He placed his hand around the organ and delicately took it from the chest. A human lung would still be flexible and would bend around his fingers. What he held in his hand felt like a hard tennis ball after all the fluff on the outside is removed. He placed it onto a metal dish and walked away from the body.

Professor Schwarzkopf sat at his spotless desk and placed the metal dish in front of him. He took another scalpel from a drawer and a magnifying glass. A few of the strands were still in the top of the possible breathing organ and he used the magnifying glass to study them in detail. That was when he saw it.



Amongst all the remaining strands was a white flake. His first thought was that it didn't look like a skin cell but instead looked like dried sputum. He used the scalpel, removed it and placed it in a test tube which he then sealed with a cork. Little was he to know that this seemingly small discovery would lead to chain of events that would ultimately ruin his life.

His Director was not a fellow scientist but an OSS agent by the name of Buddy Angel. Professor Schwarzkopf informed him of the discovery and then the test tube was handed over to another laboratory for detailed analysis.

A few days after the results were returned, the two men met in secret. During the hours that they spoke, they mapped out 'Operation Mulatto'; they were going to join alien DNA and human DNA to create Identical Hybrid Beings. Professor Schwarzkopf's ideals were noble, but he soon discovered that military minds were very different from scientific minds.

Professor Schwarzkopf raised the glass to his lips and, before taking a sip, proposed a toast to the sputum. Agent Angel did not join him.

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