THE POST OFFICE DEPARTMENT HAS SEEN A LOT OF STRANGE THINGS GOING THROUGH THE MAILS, BUT NEVER BEFORE HAD THEY COME ACROSS A CONTAINER WITH THE STARTLING NOTATION...

CONTENTS: ONE HUMAN!

HUH? SOMETHING IN THAT BOX MOANED!

GUESS THERE'S SOME KIND OF A SMALL ANIMAL IN IT... MAYBE A TURTLE OR BABY ALLIGATOR!

THEN SAM SHORE'S EYES WIDEN, AS HE READS THE NOTICE ON THE PACKAGE...

IT JUST CAN'T BE!

HANDLE WITH CARE CONTENTS: ONE HUMAN

TURNING OVER HIS MAIL TO ANOTHER CHIEF WITH HIS ASTONISHING PACKAGE...

MUST BE SOME SORT OF A GAG! I'LL OPEN IT UP SO WE CAN SEE WHAT *REALLY* IS IN THIS SMALL BOX!

(COUGH!) (COUGH!) THERE'S SOME KIND OF GAS IN HERE!

CHIEF, HE LOOKS HUMAN... BUT NO MIDGET WAS EVER JUST *FIVE INCHES TALL!*

THEN SUDDENLY, THE TINY MAN MAN BEGINS TO GROW WITH AMAZING SPEED...

HE KEEPS GETTING *BIGGER!*

MUST BE SOME KIND OF SELF-INFLATING TRICK TOY!

THAT'S IT! IT CAN'T BE REAL!

THEN THE MAN REACHES LIFE SIZE AND NEITHER OBSERVER CAN ANY LONGER DOUBT THIS INCREDIBLE REALITY...

IS THIS WALLA WALLA?

NO, THIS IS NEW YORK!

OF ALL THE INEFFICIENCY! I WAS SUPPOSED TO REACH WALLA WALLA, BUT I'M BACK WHERE I STARTED FROM!

BEFORE THE POSTMEN CAN GATHER THEIR WITS, THE STRANGE MAN-FROM-THE-BOX STRIDES FROM THE OFFICE AND VANISHES.

DISAPPEARED BEFORE WE COULD ASK 'IM! HOW HE GOT THAT SIX-INCH CONTAINER?

SAM, KEEP A LOOKOUT FOR MORE OF THOSE SMALL PACKAGES MARKED "CONTENTS: ONE HUMAN!"

WITHIN THE NEXT WEEK, SAM SHORE TURNS UP SEVERAL MORE OF THE STRANGE PACKAGES! THEY ALL HAVE ONE THING IN COMMON. THEIR DESTINATION IS FOR SOME STRANGE REASON, ALMOST ALWAYS CLEAR ACROSS THE COUNTRY.

THEN SAM'S CHIEF DECIDES TO SEE WHAT'S AT THE OTHER END OF THE BAFFLING MAIL SYSTEM...

FOLLOW THIS ONE TO SAN FRANCISCO! SEE WHO RECEIVES IT THERE, AND WHO GETS OUT OF THIS PACKAGE!

OKAY, BUT I STILL CAN'T BELIEVE A REAL LIVE PERSON IS INSIDE IT NOW!

AT SAN FRANCISCO, SAM SHORE HEADS FOR THE ADDRESS AND DELIVERS THE UNUSUAL PACKAGE...

Mrs. R. Cutler

YOU... MISS CUTLER?

YES, THANK YOU! I WASN'T EXPECTING HIM... ER... I MEAN IT!

THEN SAM SHORE DOUBLES BACK AND PEERS THROUGH A SIDE WINDOW, AS THE LADY OPENS THE PACKAGE...

THERE'S THAT PUFF OF GAS AGAIN!

SAM SHORE WATCHES AS A TINY MAN SWIFTLY EXPANDS INTO A REGULAR-SIZED HUMAN!

WELCOME TO THE COAST, FRED! BUT WAIT 'TOOK YOU SO LONG, DARLING.

YOU KNOW HOW SLOW THE MAIL CAN BE!

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THEN SAM SHORE RINGS THE FRONT DOORBELL...

EXCUSE ME, SIR! I KNOW THIS IS CRAZY, BUT DID YOU JUST COME HERE IN A *SIX INCH PACKAGE?*

WELL, MY CHIEF SENT ME TO INVESTIGATE!

SORRY, I'M NOT ANSWERING ANY QUESTIONS! I DON'T WANT ANYONE ASKING THINGS FOR OTHERS!

IF YOU COULD JUST TELL ME HOW YOU GOT SMALL AND...

REPORTING BACK TO HIS CHIEF, SAM TELLS OF HIS FAILURE TO *SOLVE* THE STRANGE MYSTERY...

MAYBE WE CAN LEARN SOMETHING ON *THIS* END OF THE MAIL ROUTE! MAKE A RUNDOWN ON WHAT BOX THE PACKAGES GO INTO, THEN WE'LL TRY TO PINPOINT THEIR PLACE OF *ORIGIN!*

AFTER A WEEK OF CAREFUL CHECKING, SAM SHORE LOCATES THE MAIL BOX...

THEY ALL START HERE! WE CAN PUT A WATCH ON THIS BOX!

FOUR DAYS LATER, THE VIGIL IS REWARDED! SAM FOLLOWS THE MAN WHO DEPOSITED THE BAFFLING PACKAGES INTO THE MAIL BOX...

LOOKS JUST LIKE ANY OTHER MAIL BOX! LOOK! HAVE A MAGICIAN! COME RIGHT IN, PLEASE!

MAY I HELP YOU? WHERE DO YOU WISH TO GO, SIR?

ER...LOS ANGELES! YES...I'VE GOT TO GET TO L.A.!

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THE MAN USHERS THE STILL PUZZLED SAM SHORE TO A SCALE...

Panel 1
AT YOUR REDUCED WEIGHT THE POSTAGE WILL BE TWENTY-TWO CENTS PLUS FIVE DOLLARS FOR THE USUAL SERVICE CHARGE!

FOR WHAT "SERVICE"?

Panel 2
DON'T YOU WANT TO USE OUR *SMALL-SIZE* PLAN? WE'LL GET TO LOS ANGELES FOR $5.21! BY PLANE OR TRAIN IT WOULD COST YOU AT LEAST TEN TIMES THAT PRICE!

BUT JUST *HOW* WE, I GET THERE SO CHEAPLY *YOUR* WAY?

Panel 3
BY *MAIL!* I PUT YOU UNDER THE NOZZLE, AND TURN ON A JET OF THE *REDUCTO GAS!* YOU END UP FIVE INCHES TALL! THEN I BOX YOU IN A SPECIAL CONTAINER WITH *ENLARGO GAS* INCLUDED AND DESTINATION. WHEN THE BOX IS OPENED, THE GAS EXPLODES AND YOU RETURN TO NORMAL SIZE!

Panel 4
"*REDUCTO GAS!*" "*ENLARGO GAS!*" THAT'S YOUR IDEA, *RACKET* MISTER!

Panel 5
I'M JUST HERE TO COMPETE IN A *SMALL* WAY WITH RAIL AND PLANE TRANSPORTATION! IF ONLY WE FOUND THAT THE METHOD WAS EVEN CHEAPER THAN GOING ON A NON-SCHEDULED FLYING SAUCER!

Panel 6
HERE'S THE BOX I CAME HERE IN!

FROM: CAMIL CHARG, TO: ... WORTH BUILDING ... SKY, NEW YORK, EARTH.

Panel 7
THE POST OFFICE SENT ME, SO YOU'D BETTER GIVE ME THE STRAIGHT STORY! TO BEGIN WITH, DROP THIS CRAZY ROUTINE ABOUT A REDUCTION-TYPE GAS...

Panel 8
TALK *LOUDER!* I CAN'T HEAR YOU *WAY DOWN THERE!*