

DREAM GIRL!

IT WAS LATE AND THE OTHERS HAD LEFT THE LABORATORY/AS USUAL, PERRY MAXWELL KEPT WORKING FOR HE HAD NO PLACE ELSE TO GO...

GOOD! THE ATOMIC ENGINE WORKS! A FEW MORE TESTS AND IT'LL BE READY FOR THE SPACE SHIP... AND THE FIRST TRIP TO MARS!



WEARY BEYOND WORDS FROM THE ENDLESS MONTHS OF DESIGNING, TESTING, AND CHANGING THE ATOMIC ENGINE, PERRY SLUMPED INTO A CHAIR AND THOUGHT ABOUT HIS FUTURE...

ANOTHER WEEK, TWO AT THE MOST, AND IT'LL BE FINISHED! I'LL BE FAMOUS... RICH! BUT WHAT GOOD WILL IT DO ME... WITH A FACE LIKE MINE?

GUESS A MAN CAN'T HAVE EVERYTHING! I'VE GOT BRAINS... BUT I'D GIVE ANYTHING TO BE ABLE TO ATTRACT A GIRL AND TO HAVE HER LOOK AT ME AND SAY... "I LOVE YOU, PERRY MAXWELL!"



FOR AN HOUR PERRY SAT THERE AND DREAMED OF FINDING A GIRL WHO WOULD LOVE HIM AND END HIS LONELY BACHELOR EXISTENCE! THEN THE HARSH CLANG OF A TEST-TIMER BELL BROKE HIS REVERIE...

I'LL WRITE UP MY TEST REPORT TOMORROW... I NEED SOME SLEEP! NOW WHERE DID I LEAVE MY GLASSES THIS TIME?

THERE THEY ARE! SOME DAY I'M GOING TO LOSE THEM, THE WAY I KEEP TAKING THEM OFF AND LEAVING THEM AROUND!



PERRY PUT ON HIS COAT AND THOUGHT GLOOMILY ABOUT HIS DRAB LITTLE ROOM THAT HE CALLED HOME! AND THEN SUDDENLY HE HEARD IT... A GIRL'S VOICE, LIKE THE TINKLING OF A SMALL BELL...

ENDLESS QUESTIONS WHIRLED THROUGH PERRY'S BEWILDERED MIND... AND THEN THE STRANGE GIRL'S SUDDEN CLOSE EMBRACE AND WARM KISS ENVELOPED HIS DOUBTS... HIS SURPRISE... EVERYTHING...



LIKE A DROWNING MAN CLUTCHING AT A STRAY PIECE OF DRIFTWOOD, PERRY DID NOT QUESTION WHERE LARA CAME FROM OR WHY! JUST HOLDING HER WAS ENOUGH...

THAT WAS HOW PERRY MAXWELL'S FIRST AND ONLY ROMANCE BEGAN! AND FROM THAT MOMENT ON, HE WAS A CHANGED MAN! THE NEXT DAY HE COULD HARDLY WAIT TO LEAVE HIS PRECIOUS LABORATORY...



A DATE? I NEVER EVEN HEARD HIM TALK ABOUT GIRLS BEFORE!

HE MUST BE JOKING! IMAGINE ANY GIRL GOING OUT WITH A GUY WITH A FACE LIKE HIS! HE DOESN'T HAVE A DATE!

BUT PERRY DID HAVE A DATE WITH LARA... HIS FIRST WITH ANY GIRL...

TABLE, SIR? YES! FOR TWO, PLEASE! AND MAKE IT A GOOD ONE!

THE PEOPLE AREN'T WATCHING THE SHOW LARA! THEY'RE LOOKING AT YOU! I DON'T BLAME THEM... YOU'RE SO BEAUTIFUL!

YOU'RE VERY KIND, PERRY!



SEE HOW THEY STARE! I'M SO PROUD TO BE DANCING WITH YOU, LARA!

IT'S I WHO SHOULD BE PROUD TO BE DANCING WITH SUCH A HANDSOME AND INTELLIGENT MAN!

THAT NIGHT WAS THE MOST GLORIOUS NIGHT IN PERRY MAXWELL'S LIFE, AND WHEN THE TIME CAME TO SAY GOOD NIGHT...

THE DAYS ROLLED INTO WEEKS, AND ALL PERRY COULD THINK OF DAY OR NIGHT WAS HIS LOVELY LARA...



LARA, SAY YOU'LL GO OUT WITH ME AGAIN TOMORROW NIGHT!

HOW COULD I STAY AWAY? I WANT TO SEE YOU EVERY NIGHT!

YOU HAVEN'T DONE A BIT OF WORK SINCE YOU MET THAT GIRL, MAXWELL! THE ATOMIC ENGINE IS WAY BEHIND SCHEDULE!

DON'T BOTHER ME!



THEN, JUST ONE MONTH AFTER PERRY HAD FIRST MET LARA, HE TOOK HER TO A MOVIE... AND WHILE OTHERS WATCHED THE PICTURE...

LARA, WILL YOU ACCEPT THIS?

AN ENGAGEMENT RING! IT'S BEAUTIFUL! OF COURSE, DARLING!

SHUT UP, BUDDY!

SHHH! QUIET!



BUT PERRY KEPT TALKING TO LARA... AND THEN...

LET'S GO! AND DON'T MAKE A FUSS!

LET ME GO! I WAS ONLY TALKING TO MY FIANCEE! I'M NOT LEAVING THIS THEATER!



THEN, ONE HOUR LATER...

EASY NOW! YOU'LL BE ALL RIGHT!

LET ME GO! THIS IS INSANE! WHAT HAVE I DONE? LARA! LARA!



GET SOME SLEEP! TOMORROW YOU START YOUR SERIES OF ELECTRIC SHOCK TREATMENTS!

YOU CAN'T KEEP ME IN THIS MADHOUSE! I'M SANE! SANE!



LARA! YOU'VE COME TO HELP ME! TELL THEM I'M SANE! LARA, WHY DO YOU LAUGH? GET ME OUT OF THIS BEDLAM!

OH, BROTHER! STILL YELLING ABOUT THAT GIRL!

DOCTOR KLOPHEIM! YOU HERE, TOO? BUT I THOUGHT YOU WERE WORKING ON A TOP SECRET ATOMIC MISSILE!

I WAS! LARA PUT ME HERE! YOU, TOO, MAXWELL! SHE'S IN THE MARTIAN INTELLIGENCE SERVICE!

LARA... A MARTIAN? BUT SHE LOOKS LIKE AN EARTHLING!

MARTIANS AND EARTHLINGS ARE ALIKE... BUT FOR ONE THING! TELL ME, DID YOU LOSE YOUR GLASSES RIGHT BEFORE YOU FIRST SAW LARA?



YES! SO DID I! TAKING HER DANCING, DINING, TO SHOWS... NO WONDER PEOPLE THOUGHT US MAD! SHE REPLACED OUR GLASSES WITH SPECIAL GLASSES! TAKE A LOOK AT LARA WITH YOUR GLASSES OFF!

GOOD HEAVENS! WITHOUT THESE SPECIAL GLASSES, MARTIANS ARE... INVISIBLE!



FOR THE BEST IN WEIRD STORIES LOOK FOR THE ATLAS SEAL ON THE COVER

