

FOR OUR WINDUP, WE'VE COOKED UP A STARTLING WEIRDIE WHICH WE **DEFY** YOU TO FIGURE OUT **BEFORE** THE END! YOU'VE HEARD OF THE LITTLE MAN WHO WASN'T THERE? WELL, STEP UP AND MEET...

THE MAN WHO WAS **NOBODY**



MR. GARLAN TAKES THE FORMS HOME, STARTS FILLING THEM OUT AND THEN GOES TO HIS OLD PUBLIC SCHOOL TO HAVE THE APPLICATION COMPLETED...



THAT'S VERY PECULIAR! HERE ARE THEIR CLASS ROSTERS OF THE TIME YOU SAY YOU ATTENDED THIS SCHOOL! THEY TAUGHT HERE... BUT YOU'RE **NOT** ON THEIR ATTENDANCE SHEETS!



I CAN'T EXPLAIN THAT, MR. GARLAN! BUT WHEN I BECAME PRINCIPAL, THE RECORDS WERE ALL IN PERFECT ORDER! THERE MIGHT BE TEACHERS WITH THOSE NAMES AT SOME OTHER SCHOOL NEARBY! TRY RS. 15!

BUT I WENT HERE! OH, WELL, I'LL GET MY EMPLOYMENT RECORDS FILLED OUT FIRST!

BUT AT THE LAKE AUTO WORKS, THE STORY IS STRANGELY THE SAME!

I'M AFRAID I CAN'T SIGN YOUR EMPLOYMENT RECORD SHEET, MR. GARLAN! WE'VE SEARCHED OLD PAYROLL SHEETS, BUT WE HAVE NO RECORD OF YOUR WORKING HERE!

B-BUT THAT CAN'T BE! IT WAS ONLY FIVE YEARS AGO! I WORKED UNDER **CLAREN CASEY!**

UNFORTUNATELY, CASEY DIED LAST MONTH! BUT HE KEPT PERFECT RECORDS...AND YOUR NAME IS NOT ON THEM!

I...I'VE NEVER HEARD OF SUCH INEFFICIENCY! A MAN WORKS AND GETS PAID AT THIS COMPANY FOR THREE YEARS, AND YOU PRETEND YOU NEVER HEARD OF HIM!

QUICKLY, THE DISTRAUGHT GARLAN EXPLAINS THE UNUSUAL HAPPENINGS TO THE PASSPORT CLERK.

IT SOMETIMES HAPPENS THAT WAY, MR. GARLAN! PEOPLE ARE CARELESS WITH RECORDS! OF COURSE, THE BUREAU OF HEALTH IS DIFFERENT! THEY'LL HAVE YOUR **BIRTH CERTIFICATE**, AND THAT'S THE MAIN THING WE REQUIRE!

I'LL GET THAT AT ONCE!

BUT FOR HOURS THE CLERKS SEARCH IN VAIN FOR THE CERTIFICATE!

HOW DO YOU SPELL YOUR LAST NAME, SIR?

FOR THE THIRD TIME, G-A-R-L-A-N! AND I WAS BORN IN NEW YORK CITY ON OCTOBER 28 TH, 1920!

IF THAT'S HOW YOU'VE ALWAYS SPELLED YOUR NAME, YOU WEREN'T HERE!

NEXT YOU'LL BE TELLING ME I DON'T EXIST! WELL, I'M QUITE ALIVE AND CAPABLE OF FINDING MY OWN BIRTH CERTIFICATE, YOU BUMBLING BUREAUCRATS!

WITH DESPERATE FINGERS, GARLAN CLAWS THROUGH THE RECORDS OVER AND OVER AGAIN...

WELL?

Y-YOU WERE RIGHT! THERE'S NO RECORD OF MY BIRTH HERE!

IT CAN'T BE! I'M REAL! I EXIST! I HAVE MEMORIES AND THEY'VE BEEN RIGHT! THE TEACHERS I NAMED TAUGHT AT THE SCHOOL! THERE MUST BE A RECORD SOMEWHERE... MAYBE IN THE NEWSPAPERS!



IN THE NEWSPAPER MORGUE, GARLAN FEELS A SENSE OF RELIEF...



HERE ARE THE BACK ISSUES FROM 1920 ON!

FINE! THEN I'M CERTAIN TO FIND WHAT I'M LOOKING FOR!

BUT NERVOUSLY, HE TURNS PAGE AFTER PAGE OF THE PAPERS, IN HIS WILD SEARCH...



NOTHING IN THE BIRTH COLUMNS, NOTHING IN THE GRADUATION COLUMNS, NOTHING IN ANY COLUMN THAT MENTIONS HIS NAME!



CLOSING TIME, SIR! I'M AFRAID YOU'LL HAVE TO LEAVE NOW!

NO! NOT NOW! I'M ALMOST ON THE POINT OF FINDING WHAT I'VE BEEN LOOKING FOR! JUST HALF AN HOUR... PLEASE!



SENSING THE DESPERATION IN THE MAN'S VOICE, THE CLERK LETS HIM STAY ON! BUT FINALLY GARLAN TURNS THE LAST PAGE...



DID YOU FIND THE ITEM?

N-NO... OF COURSE, NOT EVERYTHING IS PRINTED IN THE PAPERS! AND TO ANYONE ELSE, WHAT I WAS LOOKING FOR MIGHT NOT EVEN RATE BEING CALLED NEWS!

THE NEXT MORNING, HAGGARD AND SHAKEN, GARLAN RETURNS TO THE PASSPORT BUREAU...



EVERYTHING IS FILLED OUT RIGHT, BUT I CAN'T FORWARD IT TO WASHINGTON! THERE'S NO VERIFICATION YOU WENT TO RS. 13 AND THERE'S NO BIRTH CERTIFICATE!

I-I CAN'T EXPLAIN IT OTHER THAN BY SAYING IT'S A TERRIBLE COINCIDENCE... ALL THE RECORDS HAVE VANISHED! BUT THE FACTS ARE TRUE!

OF COURSE THEY'RE TRUE! YOU AND I KNOW THAT... BUT THE OFFICIALS IN WASHINGTON NEED POSITIVE PROOF!

BUT, I TELL YOU, BECAUSE OF STUPID BLUNDERING I CAN'T GET IT!



LOOK, WHY DON'T YOU GO HOME AND FORGET ALL ABOUT TAKING A TRIP? IT'S A BAD YEAR FOR TRAVELING!

YOU THINK I'M CRAZY, DON'T YOU?



GO ON! SAY IT! I'M LYING! I'M NUTS!

LET G-GO!



WHAT'S BOTHERIN' YOU, BUSTER?

HE'S INSANE! HE KEEPS MAKING UP STORIES ABOUT HIMSELF AND CALLING EVERYONE WHO DENIES THEM, CRAZY!



I'M NOT INSANE! I WENT TO P.S. 13! I WAS BORN IN THIS CITY! I WORKED AT THE LAKE AUTO COMPANY! TAKE ME, TO ANY PSYCHIATRIST... HE'LL TELL YOU I'M **SAFE!**

THAT'S EXACTLY WHO YOU'RE GOING TO SEE... THE BUG MAN AT BELLEVUE!



EAGERLY, GARLAN CONFRONTS THE PSYCHIATRIST, AFFIRMING ALL HE SAID IS THE TRUTH AND POSITIVE THE DOCTOR WILL REALIZE HE IS NORMAL...

AS THE DOCTOR FINISHES READING THE PASSPORT APPLICATION QUESTIONS, GARLAN'S LIPS TREMBLE AND HE MURMURS FAINTLY...

PULSE IS SLOWING DOWN... THE TRUTH SERUM IS TAKING EFFECT! IN A MINUTE OR TWO I'LL BE ABLE TO ASK HIM WHO HE REALLY IS AND LEARN HIS ACTUAL BACKGROUND!



GREG GARLAN... BORN OCTOBER 28, 1920... WENT TO P.S. 13... MISS THOMAS AND MISS JAMES TAUGHT ME... WORKED UNDER CASEY AT LAKE AUTO WORKS COMPANY...



DOCTOR, HE'S UNDER THE TRUTH SERUM, BUT HE'S GIVEN THE SAME ANSWERS!

THERE'S ONLY ONE EXPLANATION, SINCE THERE ARE NO RECORDS TO VERIFY HIS STATEMENTS, HIS DELUSION SEEMS SO REAL TO HIM, IT HAS AFFECTED HIS SUBCONSCIOUS MIND! HE'S HOPELESSLY INSANE!



WHEN GARLAN COMES TO, TWO GUARDS ESCORT HIM OUT OF THE OFFICE...

I TELL YOU, I WENT TO RS-13. SURE! SURE! AND I'M NAPOLEON!



HIS BELT, SHOELACES, AND POCKETKNIFE REMOVED, GREG GARLAN IS PLACED IN A PADDED CELL! AS THE BARRED DOOR SWINGS SHUT...

YOU'RE MAKING A MISTAKE! I DON'T BELONG HERE!

THAT'S WHAT THEY ALL SAY!



AND WHEN THE GUARDS RETURN WITH HIS DINNER, A FANTASTIC SIGHT GREETS THEIR TERRIFIED GAZE!



H-HE'S EXPLODING!



H-HE'S GONE! COMPLETELY VANISHED! BUT HOW?

WHO WAS HE!

AND MILLIONS OF MILES AWAY ACROSS THE SPACE VOID, ON THE PLANET MARS...

AGENT BETA-1 HAS JUST BEEN DISINTEGRATED! IT WAS A SHAME, BUT HE LOST HIS USEFULNESS! PLASTIC SURGERY MODELLED HIM TO LOOK LIKE AN EARTHMAN, AND WE THOROUGHLY INDUCTRIATED HIS MIND! EVEN HIS SUBCONSCIOUS MIND KNEW WHERE HE WENT TO SCHOOL, WHO HIS TEACHERS WERE AND WHERE HE WORKED! WHAT COULD HAVE GONE WRONG? WHY DID THEY IMPRISON HIM?

I DON'T KNOW! NOW SOMEONE ELSE WILL HAVE TO SCOUT THE EARTH FOR OUR POSSIBLE INVASION!



WHAT ARE YOU DOING WITH HIS FILE?

I'M DESTROYING IT! IF EARTH AND MARS EVER BECOME FRIENDS, THEY'LL NEVER LEARN THAT BETA-1 OR GREG GARLAN CAME FROM HERE! THERE'LL BE NO RECORD OF HIS EXISTENCE!



THE END

WE'LL BE LOOKING FOR YOU WHEN WE TAKE OUR NEXT JOURNEY INTO MYSTERY! IT'LL BE A THRILLING TRIP YOU WON'T WANT TO MISS! BE SEEN! YOU!