

# One summer night..

Mr. Smith, John Smith in fact, was an average person living in the suburbs of a large city like all the rest of the middle class families. He had a wife and also two children who were also very average.

John had one very uncommon hobby though. Over the years he loved to read science fiction and he finally got around to writing some stories, none accepted until now. Well at the beginning of the month he always got a brown paper package which included: his returned manuscript, a little note signed by the secretary to the editor regretting "the material was not suited to their present needs". Can you imagine Smith's suspense when instead of a package a check was received.

A week later Smith received a copy of the magazine [he had a subscription]. And promptly sat down and started reading his story, when there sounded a knock at the door. Not knowing who it was he answered it anyway.

For the second time in that month Smith was bowled over with surprise for standing in his front door was the most ravishing woman he had ever seen. Eventually looking past her he saw the third surprise, for parked in his driveway was one of those so-called flying saucers. Now if Mrs. Smith or the children had been there they could have pinched him to see, if he was dreaming but they had gone to Mother's and a slumber party respectively.

The woman however did the next best thing: she spoke, "Ohe Mr. Smith. I liked your story so much in Science Fiction Monthly that I had to come by and ask you if you would come to our planet and write your stories. You see on our planet nobody has equal the imagination or talent that you have."

Perceiving no response in Mr. Smith, she followed his eyes staring at her flying saucer. [for that was what it was].

"Oh I know it's not very big," she gushed, "but we will only be travelling in it for two weeks."

Taking John's hand the creature [for she said she wasn't human] encouraged him to see inside. John was now recovering enough to form a big silly grin on his face.

Stepping inside Smith saw that it was larger than it looked from outside. He also noticed the bed in the corner. Taking a second look he noticed it was not rectangular, square or padded. Instead it was round with a depression sloping towards the middle. In fact vaguely resembling a huge plate. Turning around to ask if that indeed was the bed, he found, instead of the beautiful creature with the lovely body, a six-foot round shell with six legs at the side, two huge claws and eyes on stalks looking, hungrily at him. With the creature advancing dripping saliva Smith ran for the door. It was locked.

With a ringing that jangled his ears Smith woke up in a cold sweat. Stepping out of his pyjamas into a bathrobe, he walked unsteadily towards the bathroom vowing never again to eat crab before going to bed.

By ALLAN BIGGAR

# WOULD-BE GENIUSES ARISE! TRY THIS TEST:

## APPITUDE TEST

- 1). If you went to bed at 8:00 at night and set your alarm for 9:00 in the morning, how many hours sleep would this permit you to have?
- 2). Do they have a '4th of July' in England?
- 3). Why can't a man living in Winston-Salem, N.C., be buried west of the Mississippi?
- 4). How many birth days does the average man have?
- 5). If you had only one match, and entered a dark cold room in which there was a kerosene lamp, an oil burner, and a wood stove, which would you light first?
- 6). Some months have 30 days, and some have 31. How many have 28 days?
- 7). If a doctor gave you 3 pills and told you to take one every 1/2 hour, how long would they last?
- 8). A man builds a house with 4 sides to it, it is rectangular in shape. Each side has a southern exposure. If a big bear comes wandering by, what colour is the bear?
- 9). How far can a dog run into a forest?
- 10). How many outs are there in each baseball inning?
- 11). What 2 series of 4 words appears on every denomination of U.S. coins?
- 12). A farmer had 17 sheep, and all but 9 died. How many sheep did he have left?
- 13). Divide 30 by 1/2 and add 10. Answer?
- 14). If you take 2 apples from 3 apples what do you have?
- 15). Two men play checkers. They have played 5 games and each man has won the same number of games. How is this possible assuming that there are no ties?
- 16). An archaeologist claimed that he found some gold coins dated 46 B.C. Do you think he did? Why?
- 17). A woman gives a beggar 50 cents. The woman is the beggar's sister, but the beggar is not the woman's brother. How is this possible?
- 18). How many animals of each species did Mosetake aboard the Ark with him?
- 19). Is it legal in Canada for a man to marry his widow's sister?
- 20). What word is misspelled in this test?

## ANSWERS.....

- 1). 1 hour (would ring at 9:00)
- 2). yes
- 3). he is living
- 4). 1 or 1 a year
- 5). the match
- 6). all of them
- 7). 1 hour
- 8). white - (North Pole)
- 9). 1/2 way - (then out)
- 10). 6
- 11). United States of America & In God We Trust
- 12). 9
- 13). 70
- 14). 2 apples
- 15). different opponents
- 16). No. Didn't know it was B.C. then
- 17). beggar is a woman
- 18). Moses?
- 19). He is dead if he has a widow.
- 20). Appitude (Aptitude)

review

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