

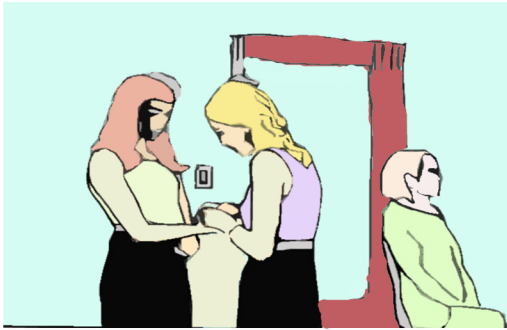
Unready to Wear 1953

Interpreted by Maddie Taylor

The only thing a house is good for now is keeping the mice from getting pneumonia. Sometimes Madge, my wife, and I like to visit the old place.



Whenever I get into a body and work, I realize how much tougher it is for women to get used to being amphibious.

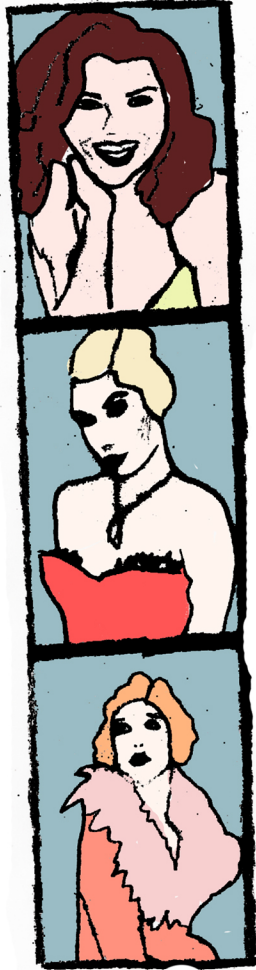


It's been a fine thing for my wife Madge, though. Her old body wasn't anything to get excited about.



Madge and I had good reason for wanting to become amphibious. Madge's body was sick. I couldn't see much point in sticking around after she was gone, so we started to read Dr. Koningswasser's book. We just barely finished it six weeks before Madge's body went all to pieces. .





After we'd learned to be amphibious, and built the storage centers full of body supplies, Madge went hog wild, borrowing bodies.

"Trouble with the world," said Dr. Koningswasser, "isn't too many people; it's too many bodies." He didn't have great hopes people would actually evolve out of their bodies.



When Koningswasser first discovered this evolution, witnesses said he had walked right into the water without changing his expression until he'd disappeared. He then started for home again and was almost there before he realized it was his own body lying back there. He went back to reoccupy the body more as a favor to the city than anything else.

He did a book on how to get out of his own body which was rejected by twenty three publishers. The twentyfourth sold 2 million copies. Now that I'm amphibious, I'm not crazy about the bodies and think they bring out the worst in humanity.



During the Pioneers Day Parade, when 5,000 of the first amphibians meet and march in bodies, one thing led to another, and the Parade Marshal offered to beat the lights out of me. I told him to soak his fat head. He swung, and I ditched my body right there. He had to drag it back himself.

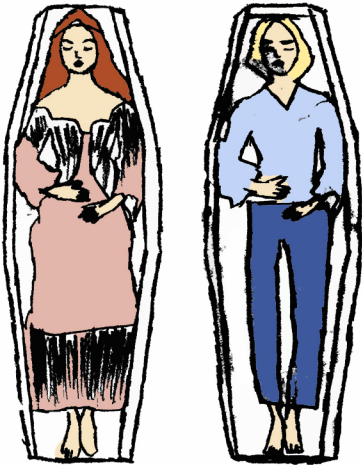
You see, this is why I can't stay sore at the enemy, the people who hate amphibians. They never get out of their bodies. We never do anything to hold up our part of the war, except stay hidden. That just makes the enemy more mad, because all those bombs costs money.





But the enemy is pretty smart, which is why I was weary when I spotted a storage center in the middle of one of their fields. Madge was optimistic though. "I'm just looking at them," Madge said. "No harm in looking." Then she saw the most striking woman's body I had ever seen beside a blond male giant.

All of a sudden, I noticed Madge wasn't next to me anymore. "Madge, come back!" I said. Suddenly, a siren screamed, and soldiers rushed to the case. The center was a trap! The body Madge was in had its ankles tied, so I got into the only other body, but it was trapped too. The cocky young major was the first man to ever capture an amphibian.



The soldiers dragged me after Madge. People were leaning out windows and waving flags. It turned out we were going to be on a big trial. Madge and I were worn to frazzles because neither one of us had been in a body that long in forever.

The charge against us was capital desertion. We didn't have a hope of being acquitted. The courtroom was jammed with people, all angry.



During the trial the prosecutor said, "If you amphibians had your way, everybody would run out on their responsibilities and let life as we know disappear completely!". "Oh, I don't know about that," I said. "We've got some pretty great people on our side;". When the confusion died down, the judge said the trial was over, and Madge and I were guilty of desertion. The soldiers grabbed us.



"This means war!" I shouted. The place stopped, and everyone got quiet. "We're already at war," the judge said uneasily. "Well, we're not," I said. "But we will be, unless you untie us right now. If you don't amphibians will occupy everybody in this room!". This was hogwash, of course. Amphibians couldn't do that. "Cut them loose," the judge said weakly.



"And what's more," said Madge, "for all the trouble you caused us, you can send that body to me in New York, in good condition, delivered no later than Monday." When we got back, the parade was just breaking up. The Parade Marshal got out and apologized to me. "Heck Herb, you don't have to apologize. You were in a body!"