

Phyllis' Transformation



The transformation was nothing short of astonishing: one minute, a young and attractive Phyllis P. Pottle stood before dozens of curious onlookers; the next, she had transformed into a long-snouted bipedal humanoid from the Planet Zontamk! Phyllis claimed it was due to something she ate. Each time she added a chunk of irradiated cheese guano to her caesar salad, the change – she called it her “little make-over” – occurred without fail. After much experimentation, she discovered that she could reverse the process by dousing herself with heavy water. Fortunately, without apparently any lasting ill effects to her. Phyllis’ Aunt Florida snapped the most famous photo of the transformation with a little Kodak Brownie. The shot, which appeared in color supplements the world over, comprised a three-step collage: before, during and after images of the transformation. The photos also clearly show how her clothing mutated along *with* her. In the first two images, Phyllis is wearing an organdy chemise; but in the third, as she’s down on her hands and knees foraging for grubs, the dress has turned into a chenille A-line with realistic badger piping. In the village of Smindt, where Phyllis lived, there was little demand for long-snouted bipedal humanoids. However, the Fliederer Family Circus summered in Smindt, and one July she got a job in their Sideshow of Abnormalation. Alas, cheese guano was in short supply in those days and heavy water did not flow freely from the hot water tap. So when October rolled around and the Fliederers were ready to hit the road, Phyllis became the first casualty of sideshow downsizing, no matter her influential friend Yargirl lobbied on her behalf. The tragic end came a week later when she was visiting friends in the neighboring hamlet of Klobbert. After sampling an hors d’oeuvre of irradiated sweetbread, her body underwent the Zontamkian transformation. However, the sweetbread must have altered the process, because the heavy water antidote no longer worked! For the rest of her life, Phyllis was trapped in the body of a long-snouted bipedal humanoid! And she didn’t even *like* grubs!