

A Spoonful of Honey



They say a spoonful of honey helps the medicine go down. Dora would agree, no question. In her case, the medicine was the lightning that struck her house during a raging storm last August that toasted her mom and dad and sent her to hospital with chronic achondroplasia. Small in stature to begin with, Dora now had no hope of ever topping three and a half feet. But the accompanying honey – well now, that was something else again. The powerful electric shock did something to her brain that neuroscientists may never understand. Suddenly, her intellect registered at the top of the genius range. Suddenly, she could outthink computers more than *twice* her size! Without knowing how, or why, she hooked herself up to a brainwave augmentator of her own design. Then, merely by thinking of things, they happened! She thought of how much she liked her Uncle Ogdad's weasel farm, and abruptly the land was teeming with stoats and ermines. She recalled how much she hated going to the dentist, and immediately mobs of irate townspeople stormed every mouth clinic in sight, grabbing their owner-operators, and binding them to gingko trees with long strands of dental floss. Dora involuntarily yawned, and everyone in town did likewise, after which they fell into a deep, stertorous slumber. While they were asleep, Dora thought about pudding (the harbor promptly filled with tapioca), Christmas presents (pulling a sleigh laden with fruitcakes, Rudolph landed on and soiled the town hall rooftop), and Weyl transformations (a previously expurgated chapter in "Particle Physics for Dummies" reappeared in print, causing much discussion in the Fermilab cafeteria followed by a prolonged food fight). Enjoying her newfound omnipotence, Dora decided it would be fun to have a new name, something like, um, Flegdora, the All-Powerful. And abruptly, it was so. She didn't even have to go down to City Hall and fill out a form. She merely thought about it, and just like that, it happened! What happened *next*, however ... well, that's *really* another story.