

A Journalist's Firsthand Experience

By

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Andrea loved seeing Dr Phil Gendricks in his office at the university. The man had been close to her after her father and remaining parent had passed away not too long ago. Plus visiting where he worked brought back recent memories of when she had been a student.

Climbing the steps to the third floor, she casually walked along the hallway past numerous offices. Each had a tack board bestrewn with notices. Finally she arrived outside his office and knocked.

"Come in," the man called out from behind his door.

When Andrea entered, she was greeted by the smiling face of her old friend. "Andrea, how long has it been since we last saw each other?" He got up from his desk and instead of shaking hands, the two hugged. Then he gestured for her to sit down before he did.

"I think it's been a couple months?"

"That long huh? Time flies when you're busy I guess."

"You bet."

"Now if I remember right, you work for the Star Harold writing what?"

"Oh, it was local news. But I guess you didn't hear," Andrea casually responded.

"No what?"

"That the paper had been bought out by a media conglomerate. The new owners came in and laid off over half the staff including me."

"Oh, I'm sorry to hear that. It sounded like you were having fun there."

"I was."

"So then where're you working now?"

"Well that's what I wanted to talk to you about."

"You need a job?"

"No not quite. I've always fancied becoming an investigational journalist and writing books. I figured with the layoff, well, I guess that was a good boot to the ass to do it." Andrea casually admitted as she pondered his reaction.

"So what are you doing for money then?"

"Oh, I got hooked up with a free lance writing gig. Nothing fancy or hard. Brings in just enough to cover my bills."

"Alright, then tell me, what you plan on investigating then," Phil warmly invited her.

"Well that's the main reason I came to see you."

"And I thought you just wanted to gossip!"

"Almost! But anyway, I came across some old rumors about strange monster sightings. At first I was going to dismiss the tales and do something else. Yet I found one small conspiracy web site that had ideas how those monsters were related to nanotechnology."

"Monster's and nanotechnology?"

"Yea, well, I wanted to ask you what you know about that stuff before I drive up north to investigate the rumors."

"Ah well, sure, what would you like to know?"

"Well what is it and why haven't I heard of it before?"

"Nanotechnology has been around for a long time now. But it's not surprising that you've not heard of it. That bit of science had been discarded a long time ago."

"Why's that," Andrea asked while taking out her notebook to write something.

"Over fifty years ago scientists created the technology to help repair cell damage. Before long they were also repairing amputated limbs and fixing birth defects. At the time it all seem promising. Yet a few scientists realized the danger of those machines. Before long people were being killed or hurt in horrible ways."

"What do you mean?"

"The best way to say it is that those machines had a tendency to run amok. No matter what the researchers tried, they never could fix that problem. In a way the nanobots seemed to have a mind of their own when it came to working within a human body. Finally it was outlawed around the world," Phil concluded.

"So you're saying that if someone tried to use those nanobots to repair something, they could change them into a monster?"

"Yes that's possible. Though I do remember hearing of one country, I forget which, that tried to harness that tendency for

their own purposes. But I forgot what happened to that." Phil's face suggested he was trying to remember something.

Before long the conversation devolved into the nuts and bolts of the technology. Then it turned to Andrea and what she planned on doing. Finally before leaving, she promised she would keep in touch.

A month and a half after her conversation with Phil found Andrea returning home. In her trip up north to Washington she heard the tales from the locals. At one point she had even gone in the woods and saw some evidence that suggested those monsters were real.

One tale was of a strange lizard like monster that roamed the unmapped Washington forests. The stories each mentioned they could eat a human being in one gulp and were highly intelligent. Andrea even heard of a woman who claimed she met one who told her he had been a scientist.

Then Andrea moved on to Oregon. There she heard from a man that claimed there were huge insects in their forests. Like the last place, these insects were man eaters. Most of the tales she listened to suggested gigantic spiders. One person even swore he saw a nude woman riding atop one of them. Though Andrea doubted his tale as the guy had been quite drunk at the time.

The third area of research had been some really strange rumors in Vegas that were tied to the mob. What little Andrea could find suggested that one criminal had changed himself into a monster. Yet no one knew who the reclusive criminal was as he never ventured outside of his gigantic compound.

It all gave her some great fodder to keep on researching the technology. Andrea decided she wanted to touch base with Phil. To see how he was doing and maybe to pick his brain a bit more. First she called his office. However the department secretary informed her that he had gone on a sabbatical.

She was a bit puzzled because Phil had never told her of taking the time off during their regular email communications. Andrea learned he had left about a week after her last face to face conversation with him. She sent him an email asking where he was. Quickly he replied back mentioning he had an idea he wanted to investigate on his own. Before long Phil offered to have a video chat with her.

Sitting at her kitchen table, Andrea looked down at Phil's face on her laptop. He looked healthy and rather excited. Though she could not make out where he was as the space he was in seemed rather dark and shady.

"I'm sorry I wasn't there to answer your phone call," he apologized.

"Why hadn't you mention that you were going on a sabbatical in an email?"

"Oh, well, um, I did not want to alarm you?"

"Alarm me? Why would temporarily leaving your job alarm me?"

"I don't know, though it's not going to be temporarily anymore. I just sent them my letter of resignation," he admitted.

"What! I thought you loved working there," Andrea quickly replied. She was shocked to hear him admit he had quit his job.

"I did, but what I'm doing now is so much more enjoyable." When he said that, a pleased grin crossed his face.

"What're you working on?"

"I haven't told you yet have I? I guess it relates to our last face to face conversation. I did some research into the old nanotech projects. I had to pull some strings to get it, but I found everything," he eagerly informed her.

"Well spill it," Andrea excitedly responded. She hoped what he found would break her investigation wide open.

"I will, but not over the computer. I think it's best to do it in person."

"Sure, where are you?"

"I'm in my new lab." With that he gave her his address. When she searched the address, she saw that it was a warehouse off a country road. To her it seemed like a strange place for a lab.

Andrea left her apartment, hopped into her jeep, and drove thirty minutes to Phil's new place. The building looked like an old factory that had been converted into some sort of warehouse. It's sides were made out of cinderblocks and rusted corrugated metal. Andrea even saw an old sign proclaiming the structure to be the "Armco Furniture Manufacturer."

Coming closer, Andrea saw a bunch of cars neatly parked alongside the building and wondered how many people were working for Phil? She parked her jeep in the row and crossed the

distance to the front door. There she saw the door was locked with a modern looking video screen and a call button beside it.

Not knowing what else to do, she pressed the button and waited. Within moments Phil's smiling face appeared on the monitor. "Great you came! Come on in," he bade her. She could hear the door's lock electronically snap open.

Andrea opened the door and let herself into the relatively dark interior. To her it seemed like the entire space was one gigantic open room. On top of that, with the exception of a few beeping machines far off in the distance, the place was eerily quiet. With all the cars outside, she half expected to see a busy scene, but it was rather empty.

Then out of nowhere she heard something heavy being dragged across the concrete floor to her right. It startled her enough to cause Andrea to jump back a bit. "Sorry to startle you," Phil suddenly apologized. He seemed to materialize from the direction of the sound.

"Man you scared me," breathed Andrea as she came over and gave him a warm hug. "I've got so many questions to ask."

"And I'm quite willing to answer them," he responded with a grin.

Andrea was about to say something when she noticed something was not quite right. While he was wearing a simple shirt under a white lab coat, for some reason she did not see his legs or pants. On top of that it almost seemed as if he was floating as he slightly bobbed off the floor.

"Um, Phil, what's going on here?"

"What do you mean?"

"Well, um, how shall I put this, but it looks like you've got no legs? You're in a dark warehouse and there are all those cars outside but no one here but you?"

Phil chuckled a bit. "You were always astute," he complimented her. Yet the strange thing was that while he had laughed in front of her, his voice came from somewhere to his left. "When I discovered the research, I had the urge to try it out. To see if it truly worked. And guess what, it did!"

When Phil said that, somehow he had turned on the space's overhead lights dispelling all the gloom. Yet what she saw standing before her had nearly caused Andrea to pass out in fright. Her mind grasped that Phil had used the nanobots to turn himself into a rather huge monster!

What Andrea saw before her seemed like a huge combination of numerous beasts. His body was the size of a massive elephant. Yet it's shape suggested that it was more feline. However instead of being covered by fur, he had thick dark flexible scales over slabs of muscle. Phil had not four, but six large limbs tipped with clawed paws, two hind legs and four fore limbs. She could even see a long flexible snake tail lazily moving about behind him. Where his main chest was, was a large fanged mouth that had a dinosaur quality to it. The maw was huge enough to swallow a person whole. Yet the most striking thing was what was coming out of where a head normally would be. At that spot emerged two long snake like necks. Each one was topped by a human torso that looked like Phil. The one before her was wearing a shirt and lab coat. While the other one was unclothed and showed a rather toned manly chest.

"What do you think," spoke the clothed torso as it lifted itself away from her while holding its arms wide. "Don't I look magnificent," asked the other torso.

"Um, ah, what have you done to yourself?"

"I'm better and stronger now. It's so marvelous!"

"But you've turned yourself into a monster!"

"Not a monster, but an evolved being," he gloated. "Now I know what happened to the other's who used this technology. You haven't been chasing rumors or mythical beasts. You were looking for the other scientists who have evolved!"

"But, but, you can't even go out into society like that. Plus, what do your employee's say about that?"

"My employees?"

"I saw all those cars out there. Aren't they your workers?"

That caused both torsos to laugh. "No, they're not my employee's autos. Um, how should I put it? They were my meal's vehicles?"

"Meals, as in you ate them?"

"Yep, they were tasty!"

That revelation caused Andrea to back towards the door. She was certain he was going to eat her too. "How could you do that? The man I used to know turned himself into a gigantic thing and now eats people?"

"Andrea, you have no idea how powerful I feel, how enlightened, and evolved. I'm not a human anymore nor do I want

to go back. All humans are food to me now. I wasn't going to eat you, but I guess the best way is to show you," he softly informed her.

Before Andrea could respond, his massive body darted forward and his two torsos pinned her against a wall. He then used one of his lower forelimbs to reach out and grasp her.

"Hey what are you doing," she struggled in his strong grasp.

"I'm going to show you how great this feels," one of Phil's torsos spoke. He carried her across the space towards a large work area. His lower limb held Andrea next to his huge maw allowing his hot fetid breath to wash over her. She had to fight to keep from throwing up.

Coming closer, Andrea saw that the place had numerous machines, computers, and tables. Once there, Phil snaked one of his torsos out to a computer and began typing. While he did that, he used the other torso to pick up a syringe. He brought it to Andrea's neck and plunged it in before she could protest. She immediately felt fire erupt all over her as whatever he injected her with spread through her body.

"I've given you a large dose of nanobots," explained Phil.

"Please no, please don't do it!"

Phil turned one of his torsos to face her and peered into her eyes. "I know you're scared and don't want this. But trust me, you will be thanking me later. I only want what's best for you honey," that torso pleaded with her. "Unlike the older strains of nanobots, this latest strain I found is rather customizable and controllable. Sure I can do very specific things to you. Say give you an extra eye. But what's more enjoyable is giving the nanobots vague parameters and let them decide."

"So let's see, I want you to have enhanced strength, speed, sight, oh and don't forget more intelligence," murmured the one typing. "Don't get me wrong, I think you're quite intelligent, but everyone always could use a bit more," apologized the other torso.

"Please no," she pleaded again.

"Sorry but it's already done," replied the typing torso as he hit the enter key. Once he did that, a deep never ending burning fire erupted throughout her body. She began to squirm

painfully in his strong grasp. Quickly Phil put her down and backed away to watch her transform.

Andrea did not know what was going on. The pain felt like she had been dipped into a molten vat of metal. While she squirmed on the floor, both of Phil's torsos descended upon her. Quickly they used their human sized fingers to remove all her clothes before she began expanding. After all her garments were removed, he could see the changes were already happening.

Her arms and legs were becoming more muscled. Plus her feet seemed to be reshaping into a cross between hands and feet. Something seen with monkeys and apes. After that her body began to bulk up and grow. As she got larger, her overall frame began to take on the shape of a gorilla.

Before long her changes slowed down and her grunting got less as she looked up from the floor. Her face showed a frenzied hunger. "Food, I need to eat," she urgently informed him.

"Don't worry, I got some stuff here for you." Phil moved his large body over and angled a torso down to a cooler sitting on the floor. Then he dragged it closer to the pleading Andrea. Flipping open the top revealed large slabs of raw meat inside.

Hungrily Andrea dove in and began grabbing bloody chunks of whatever she could fit in her mouth. Over and over she slurped down bits of flesh until her stomach felt full. Finally she curled up in a ball and fell asleep.

Phil chose not to disturb her. He knew what she was going through and how she would feel afterward. Seeing that brought back fond memories of when he himself changed.

Throughout the day he saw how Andrea grew larger and more ape like. Even her head began taking on gorilla characteristics. By the time she woke back up, Andrea had nearly doubled in size and weight.

Almost mindlessly she went over to the cooler and began wolfing down more meat. Yet instead of falling asleep, more changes began anew. Strangely instead of growing gorilla hair all over her body, it all fell out. Then it was replaced with what appeared to be green and black scales. Her eyes shifted to golden reptile eyes. Her finger and toe nails reformed into hard sharp talons. Then what had started out as gorilla changes to her head became more reptile. Her blunt teeth fell out only to be replaced by sharp fangs. A tail began to form by her

tailbone. It soon pushed out and formed into a long highly flexible tapered tail.

All throughout those changes, Andrea had been snacking on the meat. Soon she had wolfed it all down. With a full stomach she fell asleep again.

Phil used that time to move more meat closer to her when she woke up. He knew she still had a ways to go based on the counter on the main computer. Each was in contact with the nanobots inside her.

While she slept, Andrea had grown significantly. Soon she was nearly the same size as Phil's main body. When she finally awoke, Andrea was actually becoming a bit amazed at how large she was. Whatever shock and horror that Phil's injection caused seemed to fade. Yet she was still hungry. When she saw all the extra meat he had pulled out, Andrea dived in and filled herself up again.

Phil sat back and began to watch the next phase of her changes. A lump began forming beside her head. While that grew, her original head was pushed to the left. Soon the lump grew into a second head identical to the first.

Andrea was amazed at the feeling of having two heads. It intrigued her how she could look at two different things at the same time. Yet before she could contemplate her newly grown head, two lumps began forming along her back near her shoulder blades. Those things pushed out and grew spines within them. Before long each growth formed into long snakes with heads. Rapidly her long flexible tail also reformed into a third snake.

If Andrea had been amazed at having a second head, when her three new heads finished growing, she was astounded. She could see out of each one and when she stuck out their tongues, she could even taste the air like normal snakes could.

However her changes were not completely done. As her body began to grow a bit more, her two main heads separated a bit. Before long there was a fair amount of space between them. Within that area grew another lump. However instead of forming into one more head, this lump began taking a more human shape. Within a short bit, Andrea had a human torso between her two larger heads. It was the same size and looked similar to her original unchanged body.

When Andrea opened the eyes of her newly grown human torso, her change was complete. As she peered at her human hands with

her human head, she marveled how she was also looking out all her other eyes at the same time. At one point she brought both of her snake heads around so she could silently peer at her human half.

"Um, wow!"

"So you like it," Phil inquired bringing both his torso's close to her.

That caused a grin to cross her face. "Like it? I love it! I feel so powerful. Now I understand why you and the others did it."

"I'm glad," Phil spoke as he came close enough so that the two could warmly hug. After that he broke the embrace and threw an arm around her human shoulders. "How about we celebrate by ordering some lunch?"

"Take out? I don't think there's enough take out to feed us?"

Chuckling, "no not that, I mean we get some people to come over and we eat them?"

If Andrea had been appalled to hear that before her change, eating humans now seemed just fine after becoming a monster.

"Sure, why not?"

"That's the spirit. Let me make a few phone calls."

For a short bit Andrea sat on the floor. Her lower half looked just like a huge gorilla with its legs crossed. She used her giant main arms to press and touch parts of her main body. While she did that, Andrea moved her snake heads close so she could examine what she touched.

Meanwhile Phil had gone over to the computer and began typing in something with one torso. Then with his other, he loaded a machine with more chemicals. Finally the machine beeped indicating it was ready.

The sound was enough to rip Andrea's attention from her newly changed body. "What'cha doing now?"

"Oh, I decided I wanted a third torso," he offhandedly replied.

"Neat," responded Andrea as she got up and walked over to where Phil worked. Just like a gorilla, she used all four of her main limbs to cross the distance before sitting back down. "Are you going to do it now?"

"No, first I want to eat something then afterword I'll start the process," Phil responded injecting himself. However he did not pressed the start key to initiate the change.

"So what are we getting?"

"I've got two people coming. Both think they've got a job interview."

"Ah nice."

Before she could comment more, there was a chime from across the space. "Ah they're here," Phil happily responded. He reached over with one of his torsos and grabbed two syringes. Then he crossed the distance to the front door. There he positioned himself so that his large body was out of the way and unseen. His actions suggested he was quite practiced with that.

With a quick gesture from him, Andrea darted deeper into the space out of sight. Then once everything was ready, he answered the door. "Ah hello," he greeted the two unsuspecting people. He used the one torso that was garbed to look like a regular person.

"Um, hi, um, we're here to interview for the assistant position," unsteadily asked a geeky looking boy.

"Um yep," agreed a similar woman.

"Come on in and close the door behind you," Phil warmly spoke.

After they had closed the door, Phil darted his two torsos out at the unsuspecting people. Then before they knew it, Phil had injected a sedative into each causing them to collapse onto the floor.

"So easy," he casually commented to Andrea who came out of the shadows.

"No wonder."

Phil picked up both people and carried them into the center of the space. After that he handed one, the male, to Andrea. Then both monsters began stripping the bodies. With Phil's large center mouth, it was rather easy for him to take the girl with one forelimb and feed her whole into his mouth. The look on his two faces showed he was enjoying the sensation of swallowing the still living person.

Andrea on the other hand did not have a huge mouth. Once she had the unconscious man undressed, she simply brought it up to her two main heads. Then she began biting off huge chunks of his warm flesh. The feeling of the human gore sliding down her

two throats felt exquisite to her. The taste of the meat was like the sweetest flesh she had ever had. Soon all there was left were some slick wet torn apart bones.

Her hunger sated, Andrea lazily walked over to Phil who was digesting his meal. Then when he was satisfied, he reached a torso over and pressed a button.

At first Andrea was unsure if anything was going on. However within moments she watched the space between his two torsos begin to widen a bit. As the space grew more, a bump began to form. Soon that resolved into a new neck and torso. Finally within an hour Phil had a third torso just like his first two. Plus while he had grown in that torso, the other two gained a few feet and his main body bulked out a bit more.

"Ah much better now," he commented out of the newly grown body part. With that he leaned in and began typing a couple commands causing the nanobots to destroy themselves.

Then a thought struck Andrea, "now I fully understand what those other researchers felt."

"Wonderful isn't it?"

"Yes, especially after that meal. I had no idea how tasty humans were."

"I know. When I started this, I had hired a few quick temps to help me with a few things. In the end, they were my first meal."

"That must have been nice."

"They were," Phil responded. All three of his faces showed he was remembering that fond memory.

"But something occurred to me."

"Yes?"

"While it's great to call them here for food, won't someone notice their disappearance sooner or later? Maybe connect the dots?"

"Ya I believe you're right, sooner or later they'll find this place."

"So then if we stay here long enough we'll be found out," Andrea responded.

"True. As much as I'd love to keep changing myself, I think we need to go."

"Agreed."

"Then here's the plan, I've rigged the network here with a self destruct. That'll wipe out all the data and overload the

network. While I do that, go over to the emergency generator fuel tanks and puncture them. Once we're safely away, we'll toss flares into the spilling gasoline."

"Yep," responded Andrea as she did her part. Soon there were hundreds of gallons of fuel spilling out along the wide open concrete floor. Meanwhile Phil was furiously typing in commands into the computers causing them to begin to count down. Once at zero all sorts of sparks of electricity lanced out of every machine.

While that was enough to start a few local fires, both monsters exited out a rollup door made for trucks. Then each took a flare, lit it, and chucked them back into the space. Within a few minutes the interior of the warehouse was fully engulfed.

"Were to now," questioned Andrea as the pair made their way deep into the forest.

"I'm not sure. But either way, where we go has to have enough humans for us to feed on."

"True, but you know what, I'd like to see if we can make contact with the other monsters. If the rumors are to be believed, which by the looks of us they are, then they had set themselves up quite nicely in the north."

"Why not," agreed Phil as they worked their way northward through the forest and away from the blazing inferno that had been Phil's lab.