

# STORIES OF SPACE AGE **HORROR**, PART TWO

By Tom Ball

**WHY WE LIKE IT:** First off, by ‘We’ we’re not including Tom. We (again) published Part One of this quirky speculation into the future lives of those who will follow us and we got several (really) readers asking us if we were going to publish the second installment. After pleading, begging and finally coercing Tom (yeah, right), he finally relented. Now aren’t you glad? It’s a fascinating cluster of stark vignettes, some horrifying, others just perplexing, all written in Tom’s masterful dry prose, full of subtext and subliminals that both facilitate and enhance the narrative as well as our pleasure.

## **QUALITY QUOTABLES** (*for the love of language...*)

Finally, I decided to kill my lesbian lover. She was just using me for sex.

The male spirit finally took control of me and I loved him. He said, “He was a reincarnation of Casanova and he loved me hard.” But I was upset at his philandering and so finally I poisoned him.

My worst fear was to be alone and now in the Martian orbiter there were just two of us as the other two of our crew had opened the escape hatch and died in empty space.

It was just me and the girl of my dreams left. If she died, I would die too. But she was depressed, and I couldn’t seem to cheer her up. Earth radioed us and told us to hang in there, they were sending 20 colonists in a month’s time.

## A Bloodthirsty Woman

She lived in a tomb in a graveyard in Taipei.

Over the past three years she'd murdered 55 people alone in the night. She would appear to them and ask them if they wanted to "get lucky?" Then while they debated her request, she'd stab them in the heart.

She was a true heartbreaker...

"She was the night, she was a lovely sight." She said.

In time she became known for her "Death Poetry." She wrote eloquently about death in many ways.

Sometimes she scared people by drinking her victims' blood before killing them. She chose to bite them in the neck, getting the artery.

And she would talk to her dead grandmother at her grave and would get answers to all her questions. Her grandmother would urge her to kill as many people as possible and burn their bodies. She would then deposit the burnt bones in one of the many tombs around Taipei.

## The Ghastly Woman

Finally, I decided to kill my lesbian lover. She was just using me for sex. And I hated her and her sunflower paintings which were a vexation to my spirit.

I was told I had a ghastly face and voice, but some women lesbians were attracted to me. In a morbid kind of way.

After the murder there were many suspects as the victim was hated by many. And they read the minds of the suspects but couldn't find the guilty party. So, they deduced that the killer had the crime erased from their memory by the one who ordered the killing in the first place. So, they hypnotised them all and finally sussed out both the killer and the woman who ordered it. And I was the one who ordered it.

## Vengeance of a Victim

She'd had half her brain blown off by a gun at close range but by the miracles of modern science they reconstructed her brain and she lived again. But she didn't want to attract any attention lest the killer came for her again. And filed her obituary saying she'd died where she'd been shot, a thousand miles away. Now was the time for revenge. She chased the killer to Virtual Reality and killed him there and then killed others in the organization after seducing them.

Some people said the only way to get away with murder these days was to be a total stranger to the deceased.

## Hallucinations Speak

She was hallucinating. So, she went to a shrink. The shrink told her to ignore the “visions.” One day in a restaurant she shouted out to the people, “I’m not gay. And stop talking about me.”

And that’s how it went with her. Aural hallucinations in particular. People in her head kept calling her gay and asshole and ugly. “It was all a smear campaign,” she told others. And she said, “She may seem insane but actually was totally sane, despite everything.”

## Hacker’s Paradise

I had a bone to pick with Mr. Green. Mr. Green was a man who had swindled me while acting as my financial advisor. And I found myself homeless and dependent on charity. But the charity workers were quite impressed with my life and said things like, “My seeds had fallen on barren ground.” And finally, they put me in charge of a local charity, and I found purpose. And I applied to UNICEF and got a high position there. And finally, I was in charge of CARE USA. I wanted to change the World and have everyone be honest with one another so we sold neo lie detectors which were foolproof, and anyone could afford one. And with honesty came kindness. And set in motion a new World.

“But then I got swindled again with a man hacking into my accounts. And I couldn’t pay my bills and my charity abandoned me as a wastrel and a madman, they had been poisoned mentally with the hackers’ spiel. There was no end to people screwing you. And I wondered when could they stop the hackers? There were so many hackers, it was beleaguering.

The Internet turned into a place to swindle and cheat people and many people gave it up altogether.

Some argued, we had to return to pre-Internet times. And end the infamy.

Others said, the Internet had to be reformed. Still others said the Internet was golden and sacred even.

But this issue was a highly divisive issue. Some said the World was a Utopia, others said it was profoundly Dystopian. But in fact, there was no going back. All progress was good.

But all I cared about was vengeance against Mr. Green. And I used my newly learned hacker abilities to take away all his money. But then he came for me and roasted me over hot coals...

## Kowtowing to the New Queen

She said, "If she was Queen, she would force all women to wear lots of make-up and get plastic surgery on their faces and bodies. All women should try their best to be attractive, she said. And all women should work as prostitutes, at least part time. All sex diseases were cured and so why not?"

She ran for mayor of Detroit. And was white but got elected all the same. And she instituted a new by-law requiring women to be presentable. As for the men they had to be proud of their women, while dominating them. Some women complained, saying it shouldn't all be about pleasing men. But she said, "The trend was sweeping the World and women had to kowtow to it."

## Forced into Prostitution

The male spirit finally took control of me and I loved him. He said, "He was a reincarnation of Casanova and he loved me hard." But I was upset at his philandering and so finally I poisoned him. Then I was on the run and lived in my car, but finally they shut down all my bank accounts, so I had to turn myself into a prostitute for money. It wasn't so bad, and they got me hooked on pleasurable drugs like heroin. In fact, life was lovely. And I often had sex with my pimp who was a swell guy.

## Horror During Covid

I was on a cruise ship of the Caribbean in April of 2020. We couldn't get a port to take us in. And the Corona virus spread rapidly. We were trapped on this death ship. Quarantined in our cabins. Finally, we docked at Bermuda and were free. My wife and I were not sick and after 14 days in a hotel were free to go. We were both elderly and thought we had dodged a bullet. But then we both got Covid-19 and were on ventilators and we struggled to breathe, and it was horror. But we survived. And then we both caught lung cancer (we were both smokers) and died horrible deaths.

## Future Femicide/Lovicide in Cold Blood

And I took courses in, "Future Violence."

My death was predicted soon, but I fought it.

The girl said, "You are selfish and greedy."

Mind Reading Technology only drove her away from me.

So, I self-flagellated myself and resolved to be a monk and forget her.

But she still pursued me. I told her, "She wasn't welcome in my life!" But she said, "She'd never leave me no matter what!" Finally, I couldn't stand her anymore and killed her in cold blood. And I knew I would be executed for this. But strangely the jury found me innocent and so I lived on.

## Horror at Sea

In a distant day, I tried sailing in a catamaran. But I was chased by mechanical giant squids who wanted to sink our boat. It was all hands stabbing a giant squid. And then we were followed by mechanical sharks which scared us.

Then the engine failed and left us at the mercy of the winds.

It was rough seas, and we were all seasick.

It was a trip from Hell...

But our boat was equipped with multi-loading harpoons to defend ourselves and some of us even had lasers. But finally, a group of Pteranodons, swooped down and devoured us.

## Risking Death in Virtual Reality

I told the girl, "I was looking for horror." She said, "I'd come to the right place." She said, "Let me introduce my Virtual Reality of horrors!" And she said, "I had two choices: risk death and possibly become King or just be a tourist who would disappear from VR when death was near." I elected for the former. "But I quickly found out I was a valuable slave who was designing more Worlds of horror for my master the King and worked all day and all night (anti-sleep pills made sleep unnecessary). And if I didn't do well, I'd be punished in oh so many ways. And there was no escape."

## Slave on Mercury

I'd lost my sister. And I toiled all day in the mines of Mercury. I spent my meager earnings on comfort for my mind. I had a poor education and so had no options. I wanted to be part of Space, but my job was total slavery. The rulers of Mercury told us to be glad they didn't use robots and take away our jobs.

We were all miserable and the suicide rate amongst the workers was 20% per annum. Finally, I too succumbed to death by my own hand. Nobody cared.

## Changing into an Orc

I remember seeing an Arab orc. He was a monster, but was rich.

He had seized my wife and I went to tell the authorities all about it, but finally I realized they were orcs too. And orcs were everywhere. The whole of Earth's life had been usurped overnight by orcs.

How did they do it, I wondered? It was just like the film, "Invasion of the Body Snatchers."

And then the orcs turned into apes, just like, "Monkey Planet," by Pierre Boulle. And why was I a survivor? Then I looked at myself in the mirror and found I too, was an orc and was changing into an ape and then who knew what was next?

## Genetic Secrets

Gruesome murders were occurring in the year 2030. No one knew who had done them; the victims were apparently random. After 25 murders were linked to the same killer, they used new DNA testing on everyone to get their genetic code. Some said, it was too much power. And they found the killer who turned out to be female. And she was given the death penalty and duly dispatched.

But everyone was afraid now of all their genetic secrets coming to light. People would judge them based on their DNA potential. Even the supercomputers predicted what a miserable life everyone would have. They seemed to take a sick enjoyment in telling homo sapiens they were doomed and so vulnerable.

## Love at Gunpoint

I hated my boyfriend. He treated me like a chattel. But we had been together too long to back out now, I figured. I tried to change him, but all my love apparently wasn't good enough. And he was very possessive regarding me, which flattered me somewhat.

But finally, he regarded me as "An albatross around his neck." And he said to me, "To be gone." But I wouldn't take no for an answer. So, I finally loved him at gunpoint and eventually he grabbed the gun and shot me dead. Afterwards witness after witness said I, the girl had tormented him to no end and deserved to die.

## The Dead King

Here phantasms of the dead King appeared to everyone in public and in private. People demanded answers from their Supercomputers. The Supercomputers pointed to one Supercomputer in particular as being behind it. But they said no reason to worry about it. But then the dead King started talking in people's heads demanding that they clone him and bring him back to life. People said, it was an outrage. And people sensed a coup d'etat.

But finally, the people were overwhelmed by the King in their brains and granted his wish. But then he reappeared to people and demanded they give all their money to the clone who was born in an 18-year-old body with a lifetime of memories based on those of his Queen.

Most didn't want to give and instead plotted against the clone of the King, but finally the clone in question, took power and ruled like a tyrant. He blamed the people for the King's death and forced everyone to worship him as a God. So, everyone had to kowtow to him. And he ruled forever and ever.

## The Evil Baron

Billy Demon would blackout when he killed someone, he had been hypnotised to do so, so he wouldn't get caught. He killed according to his master's wish. He didn't even know who he was killing. And the master had several people like him. The master was a baron in the hierarchy and sought to rise to be King. Critics said he was a murderous thug. But he was a powerful baron and made a lot of friends amongst the aristocracy of this dull planet, Mercury.

But the powers that be, said he was an anathema and arrested him and his assassins. Finally, they announced that the baron had been wiped off the map and people would just have to get used to it.

## The Chosen One

I said, to the girl, "You must be crazy to think that you are 'the chosen one.'" She said, "Her destiny was to rule the Earth!" She said, "The first step was to win the Presidency of the USA and then take control of the UN. America is the greatest military power she said, and what America says goes." And she said, "She was a former colonel in the reserves. And knew all about America's military might. The only reason she was not a general is her ideas were controversial, and unpopular amongst the military." She wanted, "To rule as Queen of horror. And amuse the people with ghosts and scary life. And rule by her and her crazy friends."

So, she was elected Queen for a four-year term, and she brought the people horror and madness non-stop. Like they had to grovel Online when attending her speeches which everyone had to attend. And like the dark eye of Sauron, she killed off those who didn't kowtow to her and promoted those who admired her.

## Fear of the Unknown

She said to me, "There's no way I am going along with you. Your plan to keep everybody scared is moot." I said, "People have a fundamental need to fear many things. And I am just continuing the tradition only with new fears. Like fear of the future and fear of police who were an anathema. And fear the spies will get in your head and drive you mad. And fears of overdosing and dying like a dog. Fear of being enslaved. And above all fear of the unknown."

## What Madness Lies Ahead

I said, to her, "Life is overrated. We live and we die and hopefully get some kicks along the way. And the future is bunk; it just doesn't matter, and our deeds today will be forgotten in the near future." She said, "For sure the future will be totally unlike today and is impossible to predict." But she thought, "We have to try our best all the same." I said, "The future will be out

of control crazy, and will be a World in which everyone is lost!" She said, "Who knew what craziness lies ahead?"

### Failed Vengeance

I was horrified. Some madman had slaughtered my wife and family. I vowed revenge. But I had so many enemies I didn't know who had done it. I decided I'd kill all my enemies in drive by shootings with the license plates taken off my car, so I couldn't be identified. But some of them had bulletproof glass, so I planted bombs underneath their cars to explode when they started their car.

My enemies must have got wind I was reeking death upon them so finally they cornered me and cut out my liver and forced it down my throat.

### The Feud with Dr. Killem

My World was one of horror. My enemy Dr. Killem, had given me numerous diseases. "Just try and survive that!" He said.

So, I went to a robotic hospital and the robots said they'd never seen anything like it. I passed out and went into a coma. Two years later I awoke feeling dizzy but otherwise good except I had no strength in my limbs and couldn't even sit up. The robot surgeons conferred with one another and decided to forget who'd done this to me and just work on my rehabilitation. But I pleaded with them not to send me home as Dr. Killem knew my address and would probably find out I had been released from hospital alive.

But finally, I was 100% and sought vengeance. I waited in the shadows outside Killem's place and finally he emerged with four bodyguards. I stepped forth into the light and killed them all with my laser rifle. Shooting for their heads. And as he lay bleeding to death from a laser to the throat I said, "Just try and survive that." And I lasered him in the head a couple of times to make sure he couldn't be revived.

But he was cloned unbeknownst to me and his clone came gunning for me. All this I heard from the grapevine. So, I booby trapped my house with bombs and waited across the street for several days. Then finally I was awoken by my bombs going off and I opened fire on the men in the street. Presently some came running from the back of the house and I gunned them down too.

I knew they'd clone him again and that this feud was not over...

## He Drove them to Commit Suicide

Talk about horrific. I had 3 ex-girlfriends commit suicide and died irrevocably. And I wondered if it was just bad luck. Finally, I came to realize I must have pushed them too far to be intellectuals. I knew they were having a hard time keeping up with me in terms of my book writing and had put pressure on them to all be writers. But after the third suicide, I decided no more long-term relationships for me, just one-night stands and high-class prostitutes.

## Blind, Deaf and Greedy

My World was one of horror. I was blind and deaf, like Helen Keller, and they couldn't get through to me. I was miserable, but then I learned to have sex and just wanted to have sex with everyone I touched. And then Mind Reading Technology (MRT) came, and they taught me to speak. I demanded, "Viagra and more and more partners, men or women it didn't matter to me. And I wanted wine and cocaine and yelled and shouted for more". People told me through MRT that I had become a monster and they didn't know if I could keep on living.

So finally, they suffocated me, and I died.

## Accursed Earth

I said there are many horrors in this World, Earth. They read my mind and found that I feared sharks above all, so they threw me in a pool filled with Great Whites. One bit off my right arm, one bit off my left foot, before I was able to get out of the pool but then one of them jumped up and grabbed me and took me back into the water. It seemed this World was everyone's worst nightmare.

The leaders of this World were sadistic and cruel. And basically, were androids with no feelings for humans. Gradually they killed all humans off and then went after one another. Finally, there was no living thing on Earth and a thousand years later there was almost no sign that humans had been here. Just some husks of skyscrapers were all that remained.

But a thousand years later, settlers from Polaris arrived on Earth and rebuilt the society and culture here especially renovating the husks of long abandoned buildings and civilization thrived again. But one man studied the history of Earth the most and determined that, "It was mankind's ultimate destiny to die out with no heirs to the various settled worlds. People just lived for kicks and now died from their addictions. The planet and all the other planets were cursed."

### European Outpost

The boy was stationed on Europa, Jupiter's Moon, to guide spacecraft to the entry points to the Moon's oceans, nearby the major settlements. The boy wasn't necessary, but tourists liked to see him as they plunged into the depths of the newly melted ocean with its abundant freak sea life.

Europa culture involved people doing things they were afraid of in keeping with the new tradition on Earth.

Some said Europa was the Moon of adventure, others said it was a morbid place in which death was inevitable.

On Earth everyone was made miserable by the new regime who pushed them to the limit of fear. And the government was insanely thoughtless and cruel and yet had managed to take over, condemning the race of humankind to disaster and woe. Including Europa.

### Reinforcements for the Lonely One

My worst fear was to be alone and now in the Martian orbiter there were just two of us as the other two of our crew had opened the escape hatch and died in empty space.

It was just me and the girl of my dreams left. If she died, I would die too. But she was depressed, and I couldn't seem to cheer her up. Earth radioed us and told us to hang in there, they were sending 20 colonists in a month's time.

I did everything I could to please her, but she told me, "She was sick and tired of me and just wanted to die in peace." Finally, she too ejected from the escape hatch and I was left alone. On Earth some said I was a victim, others said I was a murderer, but finally they read my mind and absolved me of guilt.

And then in the end, the colonists arrived, but I quickly realized they were just a bunch of egotists, who only cared about themselves. Surely Earth could do better, I told Earth station.

They said, I was the one who was defective. And said, "I drove 3 colonists to suicide." And I was reduced to a figurehead, rather than a wise old hand. So finally, I too went out the hatch to my death. And the cycle was complete.

But the new colonists didn't care about my death and just looked to build a brave new World on Mars. They left the orbiter and built cities for future colonists of who there were many candidates.

And the new colonists were carefully studied so as not to be victims of cabin fever or suicidal thoughts.

It was a brave new World.

## Changing into an Android

I said Gorgette, "Tell me it isn't so!" She replied, "Oh yes, I am turning into an android." I said, "It's an anathema to do so." She said, "Androids are built for Space and the Oceans of various Moons in our solar system. They can exist anywhere. And they are better lovers, communicating, as they do, through mind reading."

I said, but androids are just programmable machines. Do you really want to be programmed?" She replied, "Humans are already programmed with hypnosis and advertising and are all greedy for material possessions. Androids are superior and don't care for chattels. Especially not to make slaves out of one's lovers as humans are known to do. And they are much stronger physically and emotionally."

But I told her, "She'd ruined my life and I felt compelled to join her as an android. I didn't want to let her get away."

So, we did it, and I didn't feel comfortable from the start. And she was loving other androids and didn't care about my feelings. I'd let her turn me into a freak and now there was no turning back. So, I looked for other android conversion people (most androids were born out of a Supercomputer only), and I sought to kindle relationships with them. But they were cold and unloving. I wondered what I had got myself into. But then I found a groovy group of android conversions who were quite affable. And one of them said, "I'd had hard luck," but they were 'people' who were ameliorating the 'human condition.'" I said, "I'm awful lucky to meet you people and could they turn me back into a human?" They said, "Sorry it is irrevocable." So, I had to get used to being an android, and I found my niche as a psychiatrist. I advised new androids about how they should live. But increasingly I found myself telling them there was no hope for them. So finally, the androids told me I would be, "Shut off." And so, I remain to this day a Virtual statue of hope. And was seldom turned on, but those in the know, turned me on looking for advice. It was my *raison d'être*. And I advised most of them to find a way to get back to humanity, if they could. Some people co-existed as an android and a human, at the same time... And had the best of both Worlds.

## A Sex Slave

I said, "It's a World of horror for me." I was a female slave chef to one of the UN's bigwigs. And he treated me roughly and even sometimes banished me to my quarters for a few days with water but no food. He punished me when he didn't like the food. So, I was under a lot of pressure, to produce food spiced the way he wanted it.

But I knew that I was his favorite chef and had to be content with that.

Then one day I met a girl cook, a new cook, and she and I hit it off at first. But later I found out she had shared with our master, all my secrets, which caused him to dismiss me and I was deported from the Moon, Luna, back to Earth. So, on Earth I worked as a new spice developer. And I became somewhat famous for my patented spices.

But then I met a woman from Hell, who made me miserable and desperate and made me her sex slave. I reflected that the World was turning into a World of slavery and addiction. The woman from Hell got me addicted to neo heroin and that was the beginning of the end for me. She made me beg for my heroin and whipped me when I could not satisfy her. And she made me into a wimp. Whereas men's sexual ability declined under heroin, her desire only increased. I just couldn't satisfy her. And finally, I couldn't work and was on welfare, and lived in poverty. And so, I became a drug dealer. And in the end, I was arrested and sentenced to 10 years hard time. But I could not bear it, and so killed myself.

## Bad Ex

I was lost in the darkness. I had escaped from my abusive boyfriend but staggered and fell many times in the dark forest.

I'd stabbed my boyfriend in the stomach and left him to bleed to death. Finally, I came to a road and staggered across it until finally I saw a car, I waved it down and it was my boyfriend in the car. I guess I hadn't stabbed him deep enough. I ran for it and could hear him laboring to keep up, finally I lost him. And then I waited for daylight in the forest and then I followed the road by keeping in the forest parallel to the road.

But I knew my ex knew where I lived and where my family lived so I wasn't out of the woods yet.

## World of Pain

I said to the girl, "By all rights, you are a demon and don't care about anything except your own welfare and power." She said, "That's not true. I give to charities and treat my lovers like Kings." I said, "I don't feel like a King around you." She said, "It was a World of horror and you should be grateful for what we have."

I said, "I wanted more; I wanted to be free and happy."

She said, "These days no one is happy. We all had to make compromises to make this World, which is 'the best of all possible Worlds.'"

I told her, "She'd been brainwashed by the powers that be, that misery is happiness whilst the leaders live a life of pampered luxury and they are free to do anything they want with the people. Lots of lovers, lots of workers and such."

She said, "She was perfectly content."

I said, "Maybe you ARE content, but for me it is a World of horror and pain." And I said, "She was painful to me." So, I killed her.

She Fed him Gruel

I said, "There is no doubt we live in a World of pain. Women these days are out of control crazy and abuse the men to no end. We even had to literally lick their boots. The women thought it was kinky. I felt it was just abuse."

My master told me, "Pain and adversity were good for the soul." I dared to tell her, "That this society was soulless." She said, "I was a malcontent, and had a bad attitude and that she would stop loving me altogether and put me to work in the construction industry." I said, "Nooo, don't do that, I promise to behave, I do, I do, I do..."

So, she hurt me by loving others more than me and fed me gruel and I was scrawny and weak. I dared tell her, "My life was one of horror." She just laughed and said, "I was a spoiled brat."

I said, "I could write you love poems if you give me pen and paper." And she replied, "according to law #7862, men would be prohibited from writing or any other artistic pursuit. The arts were the domain of women."

She said, "Anyway everyone knows men can't write; our history books are full of women writers only."

Finally, she was tired of my shenanigans and traded me to a notoriously cruel woman who made men sing for their supper. And my former master said, "You can show your new master how good you are at singing."

## A Future Cripple

I said, mine is a World of horror. I was crippled by a skiing accident on Jupiter's Moon, Callisto. And the leadership there refused to restore my legs, saying, "I was an entertaining jester and showed the people how far one can fall. I was a good omen for the people to see." I smuggled out my life story to Earth, and everyone on Earth laughed at my predicament. Don't be like Henry Adamson (my name) and throw your life away seeking adventure, people would tell their children.

But when the Castillo government learned of my book, they sentenced me to factory work doing a robot's job. We hope you rot in Hell, they told me. Finally, I couldn't take it anymore and offed myself.

## Mindless and Happy

I said, "There are millions and millions of possibilities for a World of horror." I was ruling a World in which everyone had been turned into a zombie except for me and 3 others, 2 females and one male. Plus, me.

Our mission was to fix the zombies and make them sentient like they had been born like. But it was a tall order, their brains were basically mush.

Still, we carried on, and used Supercomputers to restore their brains as android new people. There was no way we could do it organically, they were too messed up. So finally, we had created a World of clever androids and they shed their human body and mush of a brain.

But, surprisingly, many of them said they were unhappy now and longed for their previous existence as a zombie. We told them there was no turning back and they had to move forward. But they were all against us, the leadership, and killed all 4 of us and went back to being mindless and happy.

## Turned into a Fly

I said, "My worst enemy had turned me into a fly, just like the movie, 'The Fly.'" Only I was tiny not humanoid. But I couldn't forget my true love and tried to connect with her by buzzing around her head trying to form words in the air. She tried to swat me, and I only pissed her off.

Then I read her mind finally and told her of my predicament. She said, "You get what you deserve," she said.

I thought to her, "I was the victim of venomous fate!" But she wouldn't hear me out. I didn't exist for her.

So finally, I tried to seduce fly females, who were also former humans. but it was no good, I wasn't attracted to them.

In the end, a giant human swatted me, and I died.

### A Lousy Lover

I said to the girl, "You know nothing of horror!" She said, "She'd seen some pretty ugly things in her life, just like seeing me."

I said, "I just look ordinary; there's no horror in that." She said, "These days to look ordinary is to be ugly. And you are an anathema."

So finally, I tried plastic surgery to give me a more handsome face and gave me a six-pack abdomen and enhanced my cock.

Then I went back to the girl and she said, "You are a freak, an android machine and I don't want anything to do with you!"

It seemed I just couldn't win. But in the end some women took notice of me and expressed an interest in loving me! But they all told me I was a lousy lover. I asked them, what was wrong with me and they said things like Je ne sais quoi. They just instinctively didn't like me. So, in the end, I killed myself and I was sure no one would miss me...

**AUTHOR'S NOTE:** *Once an ugly man told me, "It is a World of Horror." And life in Space will be full of freak humans and egregious disasters and madness and violence. Some say Space will be peaceful and kind, but it is likely that ruthless types will come to Space and make war and repress people. The horror will never end. Space itself is mostly empty and will be a lonely place for pioneers. And people will get cabin fever and go mad and Space will have infinite options for horror.*

**AUTHOR BIO:** Tom Balls stories have been published widely both in print and online. He is the Cofounder and Senior Editor at Fleas on the Dog.