

Secret Shriner Handshake



When Bud had been invited to give the keynote address at the Shriners Convention in Duckport, he decided to surprise them by showing up in his old, original Shriners From Mars uniform, the one with the fabulous warthog-tusked hats. As far as he knew, it was the only complete costume left in North America. All the others had burned up in that tragic fire at the None-Finer Shriner Diner down in Lamington back in '99. So when he walked into the lobby of the Grande Duckport Motor Lodge and came face to face with a man who could've been his identical twin and who was wearing the *same darn costume*, right down to the adobe wrist bracelets, Bud nearly fainted. No, in fact he *did* faint. And when he woke up, that same guy was kneeling next to him, extending his hand in the Secret Shriner Handshake, which was known to only the uppermost echelon of Shriner management. But before he could return the greeting, he noticed another person – a woman of fair complexion and batwing eyebrows – standing nearby in full ceremonial Shrinette regalia and striking a pose of intimidation. On closer inspection, Bud saw that it was *the* Pose of Intimidation, which a Shrinette struck *only* when she had selected a mate and was ready to prepare him for the “bonding ritual.” From the horror stories he'd heard, Bud knew that he did *not* want to be the bondee. But when he tried to sit up, his doppelgänger used the Secret Shriner Handshake to force him back down. Then the Shrinette aimed the ring on her right hand at him and unleashed a barrage of W-rays, leaving Bud feeling as empty as ... well, as the end of this story.