

The Fly



In the classic horror movie, “The Fly,” Bob, a brilliant but eccentric scientist, invents a teleportation device that allows the instant movement of an object from one place to another. Bob tries the device out on himself, however a fly enters the transport chamber with him and the two are helplessly scrambled together. Bob emerges as a half-man, half-fly hybrid – a human with a fly’s head, arm and claw, plus a newfound fondness for maggots. The story is based on a very real research project that occurred at the University of Hummock-on-Smythe a year earlier. There, Brenda, a brilliant but eccentric scientist bucking for tenure, had invented the LMTA, or “lucky matter transferential appliance.” Unable to dupe any of her graduate assistants into clambering into the chamber, she retreated to her kitchen to counteract her budding depression with a hearty dinner. She was cleaning up after whipping up a fine turducken pot pie when the urge to test her invention on herself overcame her. Impulsively, she ducked into the chamber while still drying some of her tableware. Moments later, she materialized as a ghastly fusion: half-human and half-assorted kitchen utensils. Her new facial features caused her social life to nosedive, plus the university cancelled the vision part of her health insurance, due to “incomprehensible incompatibility.” On the other hand, once she agreed to steer clear of faculty soirees, the UH-on-S *did* grant her tenure.