

The Missing Disclaimer

By Sam Sackett

Holderness' editorial error cost him his job—but it also created a serious problem for K-17. As an invader had he walked into a trap?

The Missing Disclaimer

Mr. Young came bounding into the office of *Atomic Science Stories*, waving a copy of the first issue in his hand. He stopped at the desk of the editor, Art Holderness.

"Holderness," he roared, his chins quivering, "you're fired!"

Holderness looked up in surprise. "Why?" he asked.

"Look at this contents page!"

Holderness looked at it. "What's the matter with it?"

"Don't you see anything wrong?"

"No. What shouldn't be there?"

"There isn't anything shouldn't be there, you idiot. There's something missing!"

"What?"

"Our announcement that the characters and situations in these stories bear no resemblance to actual persons living or dead."

"Oh."

"Is that all you have to say? Think of the libel suits! We'll be ruined. I don't know why I let myself be talked into adding a science fiction book anyway. Holderness, you're fired."

"But Mr. Young—"

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