

Franks faced Taylor and Moss and continued: "The lift will bring down a leady from the surface, one of the A-class leadys. There's an examination chamber in the next room, with a lead wall in the center, so the interviewing officers won't be exposed to radiation. We find this easier than bathing the leady. It is going right back up; it has a job to get back to. "Two days ago, an A-class leady was brought down and interrogated. I conducted the session myself. We were interested in a new weapon the Soviets have been using, an automatic mine that pursues anything that moves. Military had sent instructions up that the mine be observed and reported in detail. "This A-class leady was brought down with information. We learned a few facts from it, obtained the usual roll of film and reports, and then sent it back up. It was going out of the chamber, back to the lift, when a curious thing

happened. At the time, I thought—" Franks broke off. A red light was flashing. "That down lift is coming." He nodded to some soldiers. "Let's enter the chamber. The leady will be along in a moment.""An A-class leady," Taylor said. "I've seen them on the showscreens, making their reports." "It's quite an experience," Moss said. "They're almost human."

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