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George langelaan the fly

George Langelaan was a French-British writer born on January 19, 1908, in Paris, France. He had a mysterious past as a spy and special agent for the Allied powers during World War II, where he worked under the SOE's F Section with the rank of lieutenant and code name "Langdon". Langelaan underwent plastic surgery to alter his appearance before being dropped into enemy territory, parachuting into occupied France on September 7, 1941. He was captured, imprisoned, and condemned to death by the Nazis but managed to escape in July 1942 and returned to England for the Normandy landings. After the war, Langelaan became a prolific writer, publishing novels, short stories, and memoirs that were adapted into films and television shows. His most famous work is the 1957 short story "The Fly", which has been adapted twice into films in 1958 and 1986, as well as an opera premiered in 2008. Langelaan passed away on February 9, 1972, at the age of 64, leaving behind a legacy as a masterful storyteller and spy. George Langelaan's bibliography includes various short stories, novels, and screenplays published between the 1950s and 1970s. His notable works include "Strange Miracle" (Argosy, 1958), "The Masks of War: From Dunkirk to D-Day—The Masquerades of a British Intelligence Agent" (1959), and the classic science fiction short story "The Fly" (Playboy, 1957). I stumbled upon "The Fly" in her collection of the best SF from 1957. The story's mostly remembered in horror anthologies. I recently rewatched the original film, so it was fresh in my mind when I read the story. It surprised me how well the film stuck to Langelaan's original tale. Back then, I discussed the movie with friends, but the original story doesn't get much recognition. "The Fly" explores science fictional ideas like matter transmitters and mad scientists. The story's well-told, but it feels a bit archaic in its style. This might be due to being a translation from French. It has an Edgar Allan Poe-like feel too. The story takes a roundabout approach, told after the action's happened. It's not about the plot, I don't want to spoil it for those who haven't read it. Matter transmitters were popularized by Star Trek and its transporter mishaps. But my favorite matter transmitter story is Rogue Moon by Algis Budrys. Some aspects were later made famous in "Think Like a Dinosaur" by James Patrick Kelly. Another variation of the idea is found in "The Four Sided Triangle" by William F. Temple, which uses a matter duplicator as an unintended side-effect. André Delambre in "The Fly" is also a great example of a mad scientist. I thought that "The Mad Scientist Megapack" was a fitting title for this anthology. However, I was disappointed with the table of contents, which didn't live up to my expectations. As someone who loves classic mad scientist stories, I would have bought a larger retrospective collection if it existed. Luckily, I found another anthology, "The Mad Scientist's Guide to World Domination", which is more expensive but has an audiobook version that might interest me. Unfortunately, neither anthology includes "The Fly" by André Delambre, who is arguably the quintessential mad scientist in science fiction. I'm hoping that most of the stories in "The Mad Scientist Megapack" will be as engaging as the one by Edmond Hamilton, which I know well.

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