

The F—D— Episode 24: ~~THE SHRINKING SNAKE~~ ^{running away from the F—D— and his friends the Scientist & the Secret Service Man. Crafty hid}

recap Crafty C—C—, the sneaky snake, spying at Woomera, was in a secret laboratory known as Room Z. There he found an invention called 'Reducing Fluid', and when he drank some of it he felt himself getting smaller. So he tried a little more, thinking this might be a good way to escape from (sing) the F—D—.

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A Secret Service Man opened the door to Room Z and he and the Flying Doctor and the Scientist stood in the doorway and looked in. They saw tubes and flasks, ^{the} coils and wires, knobs and dials, and all sorts of other scientific things, but not Crafty Carson C—. Not a single living thing could they see.

"He's gone!" gasped the Scientist.

"Careful, he's Crafty," said the Secret Service Man. "He may be hiding," said the Doctor. "We must look everywhere."

So the three of them searched everywhere in that laboratory.

▲ * Inside Room Z, Crafty C—C— took a ^{really} big sip of the Reducing Fluid. In fact he drank all of it except a few bubbling drops at the bottom of the test tube.

Nothing happened for a moment, and then he ^{felt} the funniest, ^{finest} shrinking feeling, as if he were a balloon with a hole in it. He felt himself ^{deflating} down and down: shorter and shorter, thinner and thinner. Very soon he realised that he had shrunk to about the size of an ordinary common grass snake, and then to the size of a little baby black snake. But he didn't stop shrinking here. A few moments later he realised that he was only about the size of a big garden worm. [Crafty began to wonder if he had sipped just a bit too much of that mixture in the tube — and still he went on shrinking, but more slowly now. He was about the size of a baby worm. He felt the tingling feeling in his tail get less and less, then stop altogether, and he imagined that he would not shrink any more. By this time he was only the size of a centipede: a little black shiny centipede with a snakey expression.

3 At that moment the Secret Service etc. ↗ back to A

[The Secret Service man looked in ^{the} cupboards. The scientist looked in the packets of scientific materials. ^{But} The F-D looked at the laboratory benches where all the inventions were set out.

[He saw all sorts of strange inventions, some ^{only} half-finished, and some which ^{seemed to} have gone wrong, and some which had blown themselves up. And at last he came to the one marked 8X.

[Here he heard ^{again, but} very faintly, the strange whistling, humming sound. It was coming from a test-tube which was empty except for a little bubbling drop of green fluid at the bottom. He noticed spots of green spilt on the bench around. Then he read the notice which explained that mixture 8X was meant for reducing people to fit into satellites.

"Gentlemen," the Doctor announced. "We should not be looking for a big snake! ^{I believe that} Crafty C-C has made himself into something no bigger than a centipede!"

The others were astonished, but at that moment the Doctor saw a little black wiggling thing slipping out the crack under the door.

"There he goes!" he cried, "Quick!"

They raced out the door. Outside the air was filled with the hum of a vacuum cleaner.

^{in the passage} There was the cleaning lady, working her way along the carpet.

And the Doctor was just in time to see a little black wiggling thing go — with a long whe-e-eeing, sucking sound —

~~WHEE (SUCKING SOUND)~~

— shooting up out of sight into the bag of the vacuum cleaner.

V.O. END TITLE = Crafty Carson Carpetbag seems to have got more than he bargained for when he drank ^{reducing} that mixture. But can a dust bag hold a snake for long? See the surprising ^{answer} in the next episode of (sing) The F-D.