

STARTLING

stories

Vol. 32, No. 2 A THRILLING PUBLICATION

FALL, 1954

A Complete Full-Length Novel

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It was the greatest man hunt in history—and while this frantic rescue mission went on, the alien spaceships were watching and waiting, holding themselves ready to pounce

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PARALLEL

by
A. KULIK



||

**They consider other planets,
Even hot and distant stars,
Hunt for life on bright Polaris,
Venus, Jupiter, and Mars.
But perhaps the answer's closer
To their ever-questing nose,
Closer than the petals folded
Round a budding rose**

||

**What of life on the Electron?
In the Atom's tiny span?
Could a Neutron or a Proton
Imitate the world of man?
Might each be a tiny planet
Swinging round a central sun
Where much smaller speculators
Try for answers one by one?**

||

**Might a bee have bees upon it,
Copied in a minor rote?
What of a Miltonic sonnet
Duplicated in the mote?
What of folk down in the Atom?
Is there peace, or wartime throes?
Or would you rather ponder
On the rose within the rose?**