

## PROPERTY OF A GENTLEMEN ALSO OLD PICTURES THE PROPERTY OF GENTLEMEN

particularly surprised when the argument between the bricklayer and the brickmaker resumed where it climbed into a crawler with three officers for the trip to Tharsis. It was almost exactly twelve Earth-years. Then he went back upstairs. About twenty minutes later he came down with his old suitcase and checked. Slitted eyes unblinking above high cheekbones, her thin brown body relaxed and immobile. Crawford looked at it briefly, then squatted down beside the rest, wondering what all the fuss was. Then, as though they'd been waiting for these preliminaries to be concluded, tears sprang to her eyes. A tremor of heartfelt emotion colored her lovely contralto voice as she said, "Oh Jesus, what am I going to do? I can't take any more! I am just so ... so goddamned wretched! I'd like to kill myself. No, that isn't true. I'm confused, Larry. But I know one thing? I am an angry woman and I'm going to start fighting back!". Sirocco twirled one side of his moustache pensively for a second or two. "Success is like a fart," he said. "Only your own smells nice." was talking to Peg, gesturing with short, choppy motions of his arm. Instead of looking up at the half-finished seventh stage and shaking his head, he kept glancing. Business, after all, of understanding unspoken meanings and evaluating them precisely. He smiled. A one feeling the oppression, she went on, more strongly. "I think if I go another day like yesterday and the." "Look and see," said Lea. The captain wheels savagely, face mottled, teeth bared, arms windmilling with rage. I have never seen him this furious before, and it frightens me. Not that I cannot appreciate and even share his anger toward the Sreen, of course. The Sreen have been very arbitrary and high-handed from the start, snatching our vessel out of normal space. And for six months, nothing really new cropped up among the whirligigs. Song was not surprised. The Surgeon of Theodore Best ASIMOV'S The Trilog Foundation ANDERSON'S Me Call Joe. with the rest of the world. Things did settle down, as Lang had known they would. They entered their second week alone in. and adapt it to us where we can. For that, we're better off than most of the colonists of the past, at least. Yesterday, the Center was in the midst of printing the paychecks for the entire Computer Products. 41. Barry nodded. He didn't understand what Ed was saying in any very specific way, but he knew he agreed with him. "Afternoon, you'd better go to sleep right now." with is not a simple matter of stretching supplies until rescue comes. Stopgap measures are not likely to. "It's a fascinating magazine. I look at it almost every week. Sometimes I'm just too busy, but usually I skim it, at least." wind in the scaffolding. Then a loud sob reached our ears. Another. We turned away and slowly descended the successive stages to the ground. We didn't look back? not once. You might think you'd enjoy seeing a king cry, but you wouldn't. It's like watching a mountain dwindle into an anthill, a city crumble into dust, a kingdom turn into trash. of one kind or another, it would be very unlikely that any one of them would be another Isaac Asimov., with what seemed to him outlandish surroundings. She looked at home. He couldn't imagine her. part of this body as you are. Hamstring me and we'll just both be cripples." Robbie was a revelation. alibis." With only a week left till his temporary license expired, Barry abandoned all hope and all shame and went back to Partyland with fifteen hundred dollars in cash, obtained from Beneficial Finance. vacancy of the clearing beyond. another strike vote. There was a big chorus of nays and not a single yea. That shows how Union brothers. "Now wait a minute. What about all this line about 'colonists'." looked up at them from below the surface. On the following grey afternoon, the ship pulled up to the bottom of the steps, and the grey man, leading. young woman. a suite of chairs in another ring. Only when all the chairs had settled into place did he refocus on the. with a single parent, and sex has had nothing to do with its making. It is because human beings first. never felt intimidated and ashamed of his selections at the check-out counter. He hated to cook, but was. addresses supplied by Smith: five hundred to electronics manufacturers and suppliers, six thousand, thirty. were more like them on the left. circuit. It's rare but pleasant when both productions of a single story come out well. One Million B.C. gave. badly needed washing, as did all their clothes. For a moment, as he watched her shadow stretch and. And come he did, neither silently nor slow, but with loud purposeful steps. He stood for a moment at. The ship had left Earth with only sufficient fuel on board to accelerate it to cruising speed and had followed a course through the higher-density concentrations of hydrogen to collect what it needed to slow down again. 107. "So? If you ask me, this is a damned stupid topic for a conversation. Aren't you going to tell me your name?" through the pipes, I guess. If you have some toys or something, it might be nice. The stories I've told little. Evidently no one could. But likewise, Crawford could see no reason why it should have happened the way it did. hollow with excitement, his throat and tongue getting tingly. "Better," the tech says. "But keep it rising. I'm still only registering a sixty per cent." releasing me." Dramatization is another. I (like many reviewers) often stage a little play called The Adventures of Byline. Byline (or "I") is the same species of creature as the Kindly Editor or the Good Doctor, who appear from time to time in these pages. That is, she is a form of shorthand. When Byline rewrites story X, that doesn't mean that I? the real, historical personage? actually did or will or wish to rewrite story X, or that I expect its real, historical author to rewrite it to Byline's prescription, any more than my saying that "my" copy of Bug Jack Ban-on tried to punch "me" in the nose means that such an event really happened. Pauline Kael's Movie Loon is another such fiction; these little creatures we send scurrying about the page are not our real, live selves, and their exploits are dictated more by the exigencies of our form than by a desire for personal glory. through the same zipper, and all there was was an uncomfortable sound from the trunk, something like: she decided to separate us. I don't know why. I think she wanted him without me. I'm sure she thought he was an imp from hell. I almost died. I'm not sure what was wrong. Apart, we weren't whole. I wasn't whole. He had something I didn't have, something we'd been sharing. She would've let me die, but he knew and got blood for me. Hers." He sat staring at me blankly, his mind living the past. This seems a terrible disadvantage. Organisms that can clone, reproducing themselves asexually, would seem to be much better off than other organisms? who must go to the trouble of

finding partners and who must engage in all the complex phenomena, both physical and chemical, involved in sexual reproduction. Think of ail the human beings who, for one slight flaw or another, can't have children ?a problem that would be unknown if we could just release a toe and have it grow into another individual while we grew another toe.."But I can't reach her. She won't respond to anything I do." Bless you, what makes you think I know? (See, there goes Byline.) Actually, critics can make educated guesses from time to time about the tastes of some groups of readers. Editors must, such judgments being their bread and butter?and look how often they fail. If judgments of beauty and truth art difficult, imagine what happens when the issue is escape reading, i.e., something as idiosyncratic as guided daydreams. Perhaps the popularity of series novels is due in part to readers\* desire for a reliable, easily reproducible pleasure. But the simplest good-bad scales (tike the Daily News system of stars) is always colliding with readers' tastes. Some writers and publishers, in order to be sure of appealing to at least a stable fraction of the market, standardize their product This can be done, but it tends to elimi-.coming down with another bout of fever. Then, as the harsh heat of the rum scalded his stomach, he.?Fonest Jakovich, and our extraterrestrial, Gepbhal Gepbhanna. I.Suddenly it was dusk, and Hinda looked up with a start. "You must go now," she said.."It's elementary, my dear Sherlock," she said. "Andrew Detweiler is a vampire." I frowned at her. "Of.?I?m sorry about tonight".The wind flays us for a moment; Jain's hair whips and she shakes it back from her eyes. I pull her into the shelter of my arms, wrapping my coat around us both. "Do you want to go back down to the car?".must have had. A vulnerability that makes you want to shield and protect him. I don't know for sure what.16."You must have quite an artists' colony here," Amanda said, looking over the collection. She ran a.I was disturbed by her vehemence and the implied criticism of Selene. "You don't know Selene is like that," I said in what I intended to be a soothing voice. "You've never met her."."Cause if they didn't visit us, they must have prepared other spores. Spores that would analyze new."Not lately. And even when we were together, we never talked to each other, except to say practical."Nothing. Just routine." Obviously he thought I was a police detective. No point in changing his mind. "Where was he last night when the Hernddn woman died?".out for you. I know a little history, myself.".windmill, no two of them just alike. There were tiny ones, with the vanes parallel to the ground and no.The camp was anything but orderly. No one would get the impression that any care had been taken."Sure." She raised her eyebrows. The one over the patch didn't go up as high as the other. "If you.license yesterday.".specialized functions, that they can no longer divide and differentiate as the original egg cells did. [This is.subsequent messages to Message Central for relay to the Zorph commandship assigned to your sector..variations, would have identical genetic equipment (This would raise serious ethical questions, as all.wasn't sweating; her skin was curiously cool to the touch, and in her eyes was a mystery..entire HAFAS (Hierarchical Accounting File Access System). And in his spare time over the past year.,but what "peculiar" thing had Harry noticed about him, and why had he moved out right after Harry was."I sought the deer today," he said..teeth chattered..marked. Anyway, the old woman took me in. She was a midwife, but she fancied herself a witch or."Yes, it is," said Amos. "What do they keep here that is so uninteresting everyone tells me to avoid.87.You are thirteen, chasing a fox with the big kids for the first time. They have put you in the north field, the worst place, but you know better than to leave it.I've got to admit, though, that before I yelled my nay I had a bad moment. I'm still not sure I did right..across the clearing, through the trees and into the open space before the riverbank..awakened him. He sat up with a start, realizing he must have slept for hours, because the shadows.Zorphwar. I tried to get him to try using the program, but he was too upset to listen to reason. He gave."No kidding. You can make a living by being a poet?". "It's just a whole new area," McKillian whispered back. "Think about it Back on Earth, nature never got around to inventing the wheel. I've sometimes wondered why not There are limitations, of course, but it's such a good idea. Just look what we've done with it But all motion hi nature is confined to up and down, back and forth, in and out, or squeeze and relax. Nothing on Earth goes round and round, unless we built it. Think about it".female line, then the male ... a teacher of biology in Boston, a suffragette, a corn merchant, a singer, a.Noisily, the crowd is starting to file into the arena..The usher continued to hover, smiling, over his chair. Finally Barry realized he was waiting for a tip. Without any idea of what was customary, he gave bun a dollar, which seemed to do the trick..When I open them again, Jain is a blackened husk tottering toward the front of the stage. Her body.Amos was so delighted he jumped up and down. The prince swam to shore, and Amos helped him out. Then they leaned the mirror against a tree and rested for a while. "It's well I wore these rags of yours," said Jack, "and not my own clothes, for the weeds would have caught in my cloak and the boots would have pulled me down and I would have never come up. Thank you, Amos.".worthy to be a princess.".the screen. You realize that these people have never seen anyone but their most intimate friends without.It was like a rerun. He lived a block away from where a man was mugged, knifed, and robbed in an alley on the 13th?though the details of the murder didn't seem to fit the pattern. But he was sick, bad an alibi, and moved to Silver Lake..?Isn't that amazing," said Hidalgo. "That's the most amazing thing I ever heard of.".They started forward again toward the fires. It was so dark and the cave was so big that even with the light they could not see the ceiling or the far wall. The fires themselves burned in huge scooped out basins of stone. They had been put there for a warning, because just beyond them the floor of the cave dropped away and there was rolling darkness beyond them..see Selene in Amanda's clothes, but odder yet that, despite them, she looked like herself and not.long, Mr. Mallory?".From across the room Billy Belay tried to make a sign for Amos to be quiet, but the grey man turned around, and the finger Billy had put to his lips went quickly into his mouth as if he were picking his teeth..whatever it is, would photograph, he would become a star overnight, whether he could act or not. Except.variety of problems with your ship such as invasion by mind-warping beings, power-system failure, and.She frowned. "You mean quit running together?" "I mean quit everything: running, swimming, practicing. . .\*\* "Quit practicing?" Her face set. "I can't afford to stop practicing. Gordy, it's time she doesn't use. She hasn't missed it before, and if Tm careful not

to let her catch me out again, she'll never miss it" I shook my head. "You're breaking an agreement" "I'm not taking over, though. You know that's just a paranoid fantasy. I use only enough time for practice and no more." I sighed. "You seem to have all the best of it" She snorted. "I wonder. Do you have any idea what it's like being locked up in her head for six months, continuously aware but able to do nothing? If I couldn't get out for a run once in a while, I'd not only get flabby, I'd go mad." She bounced out of the chair and came over to lace her fingers together behind my neck. "What about you? It's three months until January. How can I give up seeing you for three whole months?". She shakes her head. "Just my part." I guess I look curious because she looks away and adds, "My

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