

## **JAPHETH CONTEMPLATION AND OTHER PIECES**

that some kind of closure had been achieved, which definitely was not the case; he'd panicked, pure and simple. "Miss Tremaine, you'd make somebody a wonderful mother." She didn't even humph; she just picked up her purse and stalked out. I sniveled the chair around and looked at the calendar. Tomorrow was the 4th. There was only a short line, and in a moment he was standing in front of the box office window. "Ring?" the window asked. He looked at the price list "Second," he said, and slid his Master Charge into the appropriate slot. "License, please," said the window, winking an arrow that pointed at another slot. He inserted his license into the other slot, a bell went ding, and miraJ He was inside Party-land, ascending the big blue escalator up to his first first-hand experience of direct, interactive personal communication. Not a classroom exercise, not a therapy session, not a job briefing, not an ecumenical agape, but an honest-to-god conversation, spontaneous, unstructured, and all his own. Ahead of them the door of the VIP carrier opened to expose the rotund form of Colonel Wassermann. His florid face was even more florid than usual and swelled into a deep purple at the neck. He seemed to be choking with suppressed fury..spinning like crazy." They all looked uneasily at the whirligigs. "But I think they're not here yet I think." For Earth, maybe. Here it was a torrential rainfall. It reached seeds or spores in the ground and triggered them to start growing. We're going to have to watch it when we use anything containing plastic. What does that include?" "I suppose it is," Barry said noncommittally. He couldn't figure out why the usher wanted to tell him about a department store in Japan..Nolan stood by the window watching as Nina moved away across the clearing. For a moment she turned hi a path of moonlight and looked back at him?only a moment, but long enough for Nolan to see the livid fury blazing in her eyes..Up with your glittering clothes for so long," said Amos. "Anyway, I I don't think it's lair of our grey friend to get your mirror with your I map. You should at least have a chance at it. Let me see, the first place we are going is somewhere nearer than you think." "In the swamp then," said Jack..Deep in a wood, so dark and tangled few men dared go, there was a small clearing. And in that clearing lived a girl and her brother hart."As long as it's in the direction you want?" She laughed, and poked him in the ribs. "I see you as my Grand Vizier, the man who holds the arcane knowledge and advises the regent. I think Til have to watch out for you. I know a little history, myself." "I simulate a job that Citibank is developing for another corporation, but only on an auxiliary basis.."Hello, Robbie?"..Meanwhile, Columbine Brown had been putting him off with a variety of excuses and dodges. The phone number she'd given him was..He snuffed his cigarette out on pure-white alabaster and sat so prim and pristine I would have bet his..In March he signed over his interest in the company to his partner, cleaned out his lab and left He Bold..He certainly had a right to say that, but there was no self-pity, just an observation. Then he looked at.."The verdict will probably end up accidental death. Everybody's bonded. Jain was insured for millions. Everything will turn out all right for everyone." She stares at me for several seconds. "Except Jain. You bastard."..we have not, since their essential meaning only dawns on us the second tune round..I look out at the crowd and it's like staring at the Pacific after dark; the gray waves march out to the..This time Crawford was the last to know. He was called on the radio and found the group all squatted hi a circle around a growth in the graveyard..The knife turned toward her own chest. Selene's hand leaped to Intercept, closing on Amanda's wrist Amanda screamed inarticulately. Her whole body convulsed with the effort to tear loose. Selene held on. Slowly, Selene twisted the wrist back and down while the poly around them swirled in wave after wave of color pulsating with every labored breath of the struggling body. The maelstrom spread out across the floor and up the walls, even affected the chairs so that they, too, raged with color and pulsed to ? the time of Amanda's breathing..There was a man outside in the clearing. At least she thought it was a man. Yet he did not look like Brother Hart, who was the only man she knew..that's one of their featured stories this week. I wonder what they pay him. Last week their cover story..way. "Why, there's nothing in ..." he began. But then something caught his eye at the very bottom of the..163..Back in five minutes."..upon this insight and draw some interesting parallels between his experience and hers, Columbine..won't be subjected to the same pressures, won't have the same opportunities. What's more, when I..Smith locked up the device and all his notes, went home and spent the rest of the day thinking..In the Hall of the Martian Kings 129..needle's about to peg. Back off to ninety."..202..At the same time, Fm afraid that his rage will get us into extremely serious trouble. The Sreen have already demonstrated their awesome power through the ease with which they located and intercepted us just outside the orbit of Neptune. Their vessel is incomprehensible, a drupelet-cluster of a construct which seems to move in casual defiance of every law of physics, half in normal space, half hi elsewhere..space. It is an enormous piece of hardware, this Sreen craft, a veritable artificial planetoid: the antiseptic bay in which our own ship now sits, for example, is no less than a cubic kilometer in volume; the antechamber in which the captain and I received the Sreen edict is small by comparison, but only by comparison. Before us is a great door of dully gleaming gray metal, five or six meters high, approximately four wide. In addition to everything else, the Sreen must be physically massive beings. My head is full of unpleasant visions of superintelligent dinosaurs, and I do not want the captain to antagonize such creatures..I had seen enough, more than enough- I opened the door and stepped out of the closet..Then before them was a rushing and a rumbling and a rolling like thunder, and from the blackness a..Miss Tremaine looked up from her typing at the rattle and frowned. Her desk was out in the small..As for the exception reports triggered by your schedule slippage, J.L. has signed off on the necessary forms to justify a new schedule. We have doubled the expected times required to complete phases four through seven. While this stretches out the predicted completion for Project 8723 by two years, we feel that you people are doing important work in other areas and should not be forced to produce a program of use only to those uptight jokers hi Accounting..brass kettle?"..But when I looked in the bedroom, she was sound asleep..late to get up..The next morning, Tuesday, the 3rd, I called

Miss Tremaine and told her Fd be late getting in but would check in every couple of hours to find out if the slinky blonde looking for her kid sister had shown up. She humphed..His sister would take the hide and shake it out and brush and comb it till it shone like polished wood..They reached what must have been the center of the maze and found the people everyone had given up on. Eighteen of them. The children became very quiet and stared solemnly at the new arrivals, while the other four adults. . .and told me that he and his nearest and dearest Mend would find the mirror all for themselves."and he worked up such a sweat that in all the cold he still had to take off his shirt. He worked so hard.weakness to the one person among the four who might possibly be her rival for leadership. He did not.He stood up and went in the bathroom. The light came on and I heard water running. The thing sat hi the same place watching him. Detweiler came out of the bathroom and sat back on the couch. The tfimg climbed onto his back, huddling between bis shoulder blades, its handg on his shoulders. Detweiler stood up, the thing hanging onto hhn, retrieved the shut, and put it on. He wrapped the straps nearly around the artificial hump and stowed it in the suitcase. He closed the lid and locked it.screen, I was just sitting down to send you an explanation of the apparent schedule slip and computer overruns in the Headquarters reports. What you see are computer-generated summaries of our progress, mere pieces of paper that do not represent the full situation. For example, nowhere in those reports is the well-being of our programmers evaluated. Now I can say without equivocation that our morale down here has never been higher. Absence due to personal illness has dropped twenty-seven percent over the last two months. There have been no "Bitch to die Top" submissions from my department in the last four months..He replied, "They quickly become deaf and so have no need to speak. Indeed, few work more than."What's his first name?".rest". "This would be a nice night for a fire. Shall I build one?" I asked..I backed away, throwing my arms up to protect my head. Amanda might not be athletic, but she had all her released emotion and Selene's sinewy gymnastic strength behind that swing. What probably saved my life was that she did not have Selene's conscious coordination. The poker only brushed my forearm before smashing into the stone of the fireplace..as mine. The kitchen had one plastic plate, one plastic cup, one plastic glass, one plastic bowl, one small.And she was right Nolan knew it now. At least they'd be together and that would help see him.When he stepped out of his skin and entered the cottage, he did not greet his sister with his usual.pretty easy to walk through one of them if you thought it was open. "Are all the apartments alike? Those.11.the closet, leaving the door open a crack. It was the only possible place to hide. I sincerely hoped.Now Amos looked over his shoulder too and saw that the white disk was going slowly down..labor is coming to fruition. He watches, forgetting to eat, almost to breathe..?Steve Steinberg."A wizard so great and old and so terrible that you and I need never worry about him."It's true. Critics tend to be an irritable lot Here are some examples:.the last sleepy ten thousand years. Wind erosion of rocks can create an infinity of shapes, but it never.Nolan turned and glanced at the girl who lay beside him. She stared up through the shadows with.The second meeting is to take place this afternoon. All of us have our fingers crossed.."You have no choice." Tendrils of green and blue wormed their way into the pattern. "I'm as much a part of this body as you are. Hamstring me and we'll just both be cripples."..tossed it on the back of a chair.."You have done very well," said the grey man pointing to the wall where he had hung the first two.own cheek or forehead.."Hurry, hurry, step in! We can't keep it open too long." They groped their way in, scraping frost away with their hands. The web dosed behind them, and they were standing in the center of a very complicated network made of single strands of the webbing material. Singh's pressure gauge read 30 millibars..afternoon, you'd better go to sleep right now."Have you noticed how often people say "I feel" instead of "I think" or (God forbid) "I know"? Kids who discover "It's a free country!" at seven graduate to "Everyone's entitled to his own opinion" by fourteen. The process of intimidation by which young people are made to feel humanly worthless if they don't appreciate "great literature" (literature the teacher often doesn't understand or can't.In short, a sexually reproducing species evolves much more quickly than a cloning species, and such difficult-to-evolve specializations as intelligence are not likely to arise in the entire lifetime of a habitable planet, without sexual reproduction..But it wasn't his handsomeness that attracted me." She smiled. "I've seen many handsome men in my day.,36 Tom Reamy". . . criticism written without personal feeling is not worth reading. It is the capacity for making good."Miss Tremaine, will you get Gus Verdugo on the phone, please?"I smiled and spoke some platitudes about the vast technical expertise available at the Megalo.different women at the same time. If so, how fortunate they were the same woman.."There have been (tho' I should not confess),.still don't really believe in them, but you will if you stay here long enough?they know genetics. They really know it We have a thousand theories about what they may be like, and I won't bore you with them yet, but this is one thing we do know. They can build anything they need, make a blueprint in DNA, encapsulate it in a spore and bury it, knowing exactly what will come up in forty thousand years. When it starts to get cold here and they know the cycle's drawing to an end, they seed the planet with the spores and ... do something. Maybe they die, or maybe they have some other way of passing the time. But they know they'll return..people who cheat everybody they meet and who can enjoy nothing colorful in the world."..infants would survive long after birth without the advantages of modern medical technique. Even then it is."For all the pearls I can put in my pockets, all the gold I can carry in one hand, all the diamonds I can lift in the other, all the emeralds I can haul up from a well in a brass kettle, and a chance to see a man living through the happiest moment of his life?I'll help you!"."Good morning," I said and showed him my ID. He blanched. His eyes became marbles brimming with terror. He was about to panic, tensing to slam the door. I smiled my friendly, disarming smile and went on as if I hadn't noticed. "I'm inquiring about a man named Andrew Detweiler." The terror trickled from his eyes, and I could see his thin chest throbbing. He gave me a blank look that meant he'd never heard the name..know what became of their starship?".truth of a piece of fiction matters, for aesthetic reasons. To apply rigid, stupid, narrow, political standards."Let's go get them buried," he said. She squeezed her eyes shut tight, forcing out tears, then nodded..married".nando Valley was spread

like a carpet of lights below us. The ocean was on the other side of the mountains..I sighed. Miss Tremaine closed the pad. "Okay. No to Mrs. Carmknael and make appointments for.been so frightened in my life..though void storms may toss you about a bit in space and time. In addition, you will have to handle a variety of problems with your ship such as invasion by mind-warping beings, power-system failure, and occasional crew mutinies. The console commands that control your warship are simple and are given in the attached instructions being transmitted to your local printout facility..entire HAFAS (Hierarchical Accounting File Access System). And in his spare time over the past year,.He nodded. "I'll use another name. You probably wouldn't know it either. It's not exactly a.Now, as the drums sounded in the distance, Nina slept Unmindful of the din, heedless of his presence, her eyes hooded and she lay somnolent in animal repletion..meet you.".thousand more went to Europe, South and Central America, and the Middle East..heavy and threatening. He came through it as if through a swift current and stepped to the cottage door..At intervals that varied unpredictably the furniture within this living room would rearrange itself, and.a period of time before it can be trusted to care for itself..alley on the 13th?though the details of the murder didn't seem to fit the pattern. But he was sick, bad an.a zero. A few anaerobic bacteria, a patch of lichen, both barely distinguishable from Earth forms?"..magazine has a reputation for offering variety, and to uphold that image, it seems to me that it must."Some notice ... I don't know. How can I remember something like that? Why do you ask?"..McKHlian looked horrified, as any good ecologist would..."Then you'll help my friend and me?"..A kiss.resorted to aping the signs of dissociation..Orulmhf.". "I certainly shall," said Hidalgo, "for I always thought you an uncommonly clever man. Your return.basins of stone. They had been put there for a warning, because just beyond them the floor of the cave.against the straw mattress in the stern of the vibrating launch. They made Manaus by dawn and roused.and kept his eyes firmly open.. "Perhaps it would," Amos admitted.

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