

OVERLAPPING LIVES A COLLECTION OF SHORT STORIES

"Do you mean it?" Barry asked, marveling over Marvin's tattoo as they shook hands. He managed to scarlet fingernails on the dolled Formica desk top. "How long had Harry been dead?" happened. Pauline Kael's *Movie Loon* is another such fiction; these little creatures we send scurrying. "You liked him, didn't you?" Plain for the likes of us. We spread out all over. North and south and east and west. I went south. Right. The Isaac Asimov clones, once they grow up, simply won't live in the same social environment I did, won't be subjected to the same pressures, won't have the same opportunities. What's more, when I wrote, I just wrote? no one expected anything particular from me. When my clones write, their products will always be compared to the Grand Original and that would discourage and wipe out anyone. Lang sat back down and patted the ground around her, ground that was covered in a multiple layer of the Martian pressure-tight web, the kind of web that would have been made only by warmblooded, oxygen-breathing, water-economy beings who needed protection for their bodies until the full bloom of summer. (1st verse). "I'm going to cut her out, Matthew," Amanda's voice said from above me. It was low but trembling. The back of his shirt was churning. The scream continued, hurting my ears. Rips appeared in the shirt. "No kidding!" A similar case is that of H. G. Wells's *The Island of Dr. Moreau*, filmed with superbly demonic atmosphere as *Island of Lost Souls* in 1932. Charles Laughton, maybe the best actor yet to appear on film, gives an extraordinary performance as Dr. M., and Bela Lugosi captures the spirit of the beast men as the Speaker of the Law with the abhuman quality that characterized his *Dracula*. Now Burt Lancaster is one of film's most underrated actors, but his straightforward non-intellectual approach to the doctor role undermined the '70s trip to the Island; Richard Basehart didn't help matters by looking like a beneficent Old Testament prophet in the Lugosi role. But even Laughton and Lugosi would have been hard put to come across, with the later film's completely uninteresting script and camerawork. too much like one of those nightmares of running knee-deep in quicksand. She had to fight for every dearest. "In this mill, fine white flour is made. All unwholesome parts of the grain are removed and certain substances poisonous to insects and rodents are introduced." I followed in as he continued: "Only women are employed here, though they don't stay long." She was nothing if not honest. In the succeeding mornings, if I ran too slowly, she simply left me behind. She was blunt about what she thought and not at all hesitant about disagreeing with me. Still, there was no verbal swordplay and no pretense about her, which was as attractive in its way as Amanda's charming acquiescence. And I never ceased to be fascinated by the difference between Amanda's serenity and Selene's coiled-spring energy. She was nothing if not honest. In the succeeding mornings, if I ran too slowly, she simply left me. "He was here with us all evening. We had dinner and played Scrabble. I think he was real sick, but he tried to pretend he wasn't. Even if he hadn't been here, I would not think so." Thomas Disch is one of the handful of writers whose work is as much admired by critics (and readers) of mainstream as well as science fiction. He wrote six fine stories for *F&SF* in the 1960s. Since then he has published poetry (*The Right Way to Figure Plumbing*), an anthology, *Bad Moon Rising*, and three remarkable novels, *The Genocides* (1964), *Camp Concentration* (1968) and *334*. He has just completed a new sf novel, *On Wings of Song*. "Smart thinking," said Venerate. "Now how do I get this game started?" "Can you really?" asked the grey man. He pulled a piece of green silk from his pocket, went to the. "Originality has always been my Waterloo," Barry admitted. "I just don't seem to be able to come up. hasn't missed it before, and if I'm careful not to let her catch me out again, she'll never miss it" I shook my. "Do you mean it?" Barry asked, marveling over Marvin's tattoo as they shook hands. He managed to ask the question without in the least seeming to challenge Marvin Kolodny's authority. He smiled at her. "No, thanks. But what you said is right I have no hankering to take charge of. reached out to settle thousands of planets scattered across the galaxy. Then, suddenly, the galaxy is." Across the hall. The one who looks like he smells something bad." chosen another realty agent or come some other season. I was alone, though, in the boredom of autumn. "Neither one of those facts is so incredible compared to some of the strange things in this world," said Amos. "Why are you the Prince of the Far Rainbow, and why are you a prisoner?" "Hi," said Barry, with masterful deference. "I'm Barry Riordan." The crib was empty. career men and women we set out to be. Like it or not, and I suggest we start liking it, we're pioneers. his face. It was just about the way Lorraine Nesbitt had described it. If you called central casting and asked for a male angel, you'd get Andrew Detweiler in a blond wig. His body was slim and well-formed? from where I was standing I couldn't see the hump and you'd never know there was one. I had a glimpse of his bare chest as he buttoned the shirt. It wasn't muscular but it was very well made. He was very healthy-looking? pink and flushed with health, though slightly pale as if he didn't get out in the sun much. His dark eyes were astounding. If you blocked out the rest of the face, leaving nothing but the eyes, you'd swear he was no more than four years old. You've seen little kids with those big, guileless, unguarded, inquiring eyes, haven't you? Al Sarrantonio. "Okay, Rob, I'm up in the booth above the east aisle. Give me just a tickle." My nipples were sensitized to her tongue, rough as a cat's. The crowd roars back. The filling begins. I cut in four more low-level tracks. here in the hospital? "No, just said he was restless and wanted to be movin' on. Sure hated to see bun leave. A real nice." "How did they get along? Did they quarrel or fight?" cabin. I could take a brief look to make sure everything was all right, then come back for her at noon as. cut the tough material, they had constructed a much smaller dome. They erected it on an outcropping of. been a starlet in the Twenties or Thirties, but success had eluded her. So she had tried to freeze herself in. "I've met her friends." "I have a plan," said Amos. Well, Local 209 pulled out, just like the Company did. We knew there'd be no more jobs on the. "Fever." Nolan gestured to Mama Dolores, and the old woman held Darlene still while he forced the thermometer between her lips. "It was a very . . . short argument." Her voice began to catch. "And I find the . . . conclusion rather . . . inconsistent" Her control was cracking. Tears spilled out of her eyes. Her hand was white on the handle of the tool

caddy..There's one sure gauge for judging a part of town: the movie theaters. It never fails. For instance, a new picture hadn't opened in downtown L.A. in a long, long time. The action ten years ago was on the Boulevard. Now it's hi Westwood. The grand old Pantages, east of Vine and too near the freeway, used to be the site of the most glittering premieres. They even had the Oscar ceremonies there for 8 while. Now it shows exploitation and double-feature horror films. Only Grauman's Chinese and the once Paramount once Loew*s, now.don't like to think of ourselves as ferry-boat pilots. I think we demonstrated during Apollo that we could.marked. Anyway, the old woman took me in. She was a midwife, but she fancied herself a witch or.West Coast That is the reason your paycheck was not delivered to you today. Regrettably, it is also the.leaving any conspicuous trace. He made up another batch of these, typed his home address on six of.Dame Fortune had become so well-disposed to him that he got his third endorsement (though in."Hello, hello, hello? No good on this one, Mary. Want me to try another channel?".The adults were standing separately around the space while tiny helicopters flew around them, wrapping them from head to toe in strips of webbing like human maypoles..Sirocco came through on the compact a few moments later, and Colman summarized the situation. The audacity of the idea appealed to Sirocco immediately. "We'd have to handle it ourselves. There isn't enough time to involve Brigade, but we could pin down those guys on the other side while you went in, and roll a barrage in front of you to clear obstacles." He was referring to the Company controlled robot batteries set up to the rear, below the crest line of the ridge. "It would mean going in without any counter battery suppression when you break though. What do you think?".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..What was marvelous was the afternoon with Amanda clinging to my arm and greeting each new offering with a sigh of pleasure or gasp of delicious dismay. In the course of it she stopped calling me Mr. Gordon, too, and began saying Matthew. I would have preferred Matt, but when I brought that up she dropped her eyes and said:.Don't drink I am thank?.He wrote down the coordinates for the plane crash in which his daughter and her husband had died,.Fill me like the mountains.funny and libelous. Detweiler proved quickly to be the best player, but Johnny, to my surprise, was no.It's rare but pleasant when both productions of a single story come out well. One Million B.C. gave us Tumac of the Rock People and Luana of the Shell People in the persons of Victor Mature and Carole Landis, not to mention enraged giant lizards and a volcanic eruption. One Million Years B.C. took the same simple-minded story, made it in color, which for once was an improvement, used.At four o'clock the next morning when the dawn was foggy and the sun was hidden and the air was."Good for you," he said when Amos had climbed onto the deck and given him the glass. "Now come have lunch with me, but for heaven's sake get out of that circus tent before I get another headache.".shock. I traveled to California and back by train. -Yea, they still run.].And we wait.understand why -certain other citizens have put their personal interests above the common interests of the."Because some people don't. They think it's affected. But I cant help the name I was born with, can.that the confusion should be cleared up..Song Sue Lee was on her knees, examining one of the hundreds of short, stiff spikes extruding from.252.The Man Who Had No Idea by Thomas M. Disch 197.you. You can replenish your energy reserve by returning to a friendly base. You can hop sectors using.Miss Ohio, who can't do any-tiling but play a damn jew's-harp, if you'll excuse my language, or Miss.sure you have things under control. J.L. is, by the way, interested in access to Zorphwar on his own.Q: What did it take nine million heavy-duty cranes and sixteen billion gallons of Visine to remove?.loved them, and took care of them. And they loved her back. (Once, a couple of years ago, a young."Oh, ultimate depression!" shrieked the thin grey man, and stepped back again, for the dress beneath the veil was silver with trimmings of gold, and her bodice was blue silk set with pearls..wing. I'm afraid that your ass and mine would have been in the sling but for a stroke of incredible luck..Barry nodded. "You too?". "Why the hell shouldn't If."That's really sick," Stella says.. "The pain," she explained calmly to the ice cream section of the freezer, "only comes on when I do this.".Halfway down the cobbled street the grey man cried, "Halt!".Amanda's serenity and Selene's coiled-spring energy..invariably turned out, like the MacKinnons, to have already disposed of their allotted endorsements. Or.glint of the noon sun on the mica mixed into the paving blocks of the sidewalk, the various shapes and.A: Simak, Pohl, Spinrad and Sturgeon."Tin sorry about tonight".wrong man for me. And now it's too late. Would you like to hear a long story, Larry? A long and very."How did you get here?" asked Jack..you really have something?".accustomed to command, and about as emotional as a weather report."Let's go over what we've learned. First, now that Lou's dead there's very little chance of ever lifting."But why this thing?" Crawford asked, pointing to the impossible artifact-plant. "Why a model of the Earth and Moon? And why right here, in the graveyard?".It was not unexpected; Lang had been waiting for it to happen since the night the Burroughs left. But she had not worried about it Now she must decide what to do..was probably good for him. You can't expect to like everyone you meet, as the Communications.The room had been cleaned with pine-oH disinfectant and smeHed like a public toilet. Harry Spinner was on the floor behind the bed, scrunched down between it and the wall. The ahnost colorless chenille bedspread had been pulled askew exposing part of the clean, but dingy, sheet. All I could see of Harry was one leg poking over the edge of the bed. He wasn't wearing a shoe, only a faded brown-and-tan argyle sock with a hole in it The sock, long bereft of any elasticity, was crumpled around his thin rusty ankle.. "Exactly," said the grey man. "Look, we are here.".rather grey themselves.. "Who are you?" asked Amos.. "You take it easy. What's this about another one?".YOU?".There was only a short line, and in a moment he was standing in front of the box office window..Standing just outside the airlock was Mary Lang. She turned as they came out, and did not seem surprised..pictures clearly. When he succeeded, the image on the screen was instantly recognizable. It was a view.262."When do I go after the next piece?" Amos asked when they had finished eating..expansion-contraction pumps with valves very like those in a human heart.flooding has occurred since the Inundation; in the second, it's highly unlikely that.hair style..her heart..Barry looked down at his shoes. "Thanks.".Nolan lay back and waited for

sleep to come, shutting out the sound of the drums, the sight of the shadowy shape beside him. Only a few hours until morning, he told himself. And in the morning, the nightmare would be over..body seems to glitter with more than reflected light Her skin already gleams with moisture..red and blue lines. The only source of illumination was a single ten-watt bulb hung behind the shadow.focus near enough to see and hear them. One calls, "My God, who's at the helm?" Another, a bearded.Why bother? There has never been any difficulty hi finding cannon fodder anywhere in the world,.spit her rage, then snatched her garment and clambered over the sill into the darkness beyond..minority group. Aventine is really a village with a large population." The grey man looked back over his shoulder, but all he saw were the bright colors of the garden. "Nobody," he said..Copyright ? 1976,1977,1978, 1979,1980 by Mercury Press, Inc..There was a silence, then it was ripped apart by Lang?s huge laugh. She was joined by the others,."It all amounts to the same thing, doesn't it?" I shrugged. "Oh, well," she sighed, "vampires are stupid." She reached over and plucked at the hair on my chest. "I haven't had an indecent proposition in hours," she grinned.."What do you think that feels like, here?" She grabbed a handful of white nylon in the general area of her heart.."Maybe so. But just because we're colonists doesn't mean we have to behave like rabbits. A television channel, had shielded the device against radio frequencies, and the ghosts remained. Increasing.She sat down close to him and whispered into his ear, "If anyone, such as Freddy, for instance,

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