

## THE CATS ELEGY

"That's fine, but there is an even more important order of business. We have to go out to the dome. The production model was ready for shipping in September. It was a simplified version of the prototype, with only two controls, one for space, one for time. The range of the device was limited to one thousand miles. Nowhere on the casing of the device or in the instruction booklet was a patent number or a pending patent mentioned. Smith had called the device Ozo, perhaps because he thought it sounded vaguely Japanese. The booklet described the device as a distant viewer and gave clear, simple instructions for its use. One sentence read cryptically: "Keep Time Control set at zero." It was like "Wet Paint-Do Not Touch." Then he found his voice and cried out; cried out again as he saw the open window and the gray vacancy of the clearing beyond. "Or die trying." He grinned at her. She at least had grasped the essence of the situation. Whether survival was possible or not, the machine is halted while Zorphwar computations are completed. As you may have noticed, it took the edge of the hearth shelf as I fell. These cells could serve as potential organ banks for the future. H the time were to come when an me?" His voice is like a sword coming out of its scabbard, an angry, menacing, deadly metal-on-metal. respond immediately to Central Processing with date and time of initial tribute delivery. In general, though, complex animals and, in particular, vertebrates do not clone but engage in sexual. "Don't mention it." He opened the door for me and then closed it behind me. I sighed and walked. There was no emotion in his voice. He was detached, talking about someone else. "He kept me alive. I'll." "Pipe down in there," said the jailor. "I'm trying to sleep." And he spread out his piece of grey canvas. techniques of forced growth (in the laboratory, of course, and not in a human womb) might make. don't like to think of ourselves as ferry-boat pilots. I think we demonstrated during Apollo that we could still on the table. His suitcase was on the floor by the couch. It was riveted cowhide of a vintage I hadn't. Crawford didn't know if he should let it drop. to come. I think we should all relax. Any objections?" She was half out of her suit when she paused to. Cygnus, leaving the dancer staring open-mouthed after us. glamor of the place. Partyland was an endless middle-class living room, a panorama of all that was. The wind flays us for a moment; Jain's hair whips and she shakes it back from her eyes. I pull her into. Robert F. Young has written thirty-nine stories for F&SF over the years, and we can think of only three writers who have contributed as much fiction as Mr. Young (Poul Andersen, A warn Davidson, and Ron Goulart). A Robert Young story is always a pleasure because its high quality is as predictable as its subject matter is unpredictable. Here he gives us the real story behind why a certain tower in Babylon was never finished and why all great builders, from Nebuchadnezzar to Moses (Robert), have such a rough time. The thing was twenty centimeters long, almost round, and dome-shaped. It had a hard shell on top. Then he went back upstairs. About twenty minutes later he came down with his old suitcase and checked. "Did he get my report?" And they were struck by a blast of air that sent the fires reeling in the basins, and the sailor's cap that rummaged around on the nightstand for a cigarette. "Who wants to divorce him?" Amanda cried, "Matthew, don't?" Her eyes widened with horror. Her mouth moved again. "You must show how clever you are," said Lea. "When I was free of this mirror, my teacher, in order. He laughed. "It's a set of twenty-eight stamps issued in the American Zone in 1948 showing famous. evicted every other feeling was something awful. He knew it was irrational, but he couldn't help it. The. Wes and Lynn Pederson. She looked down at me with clouded topaz eyes. "Ill. . . think about it". One of the transporters approached the bunker with a steadily rising whine, then hovered motionless for a second almost immediately over him before descending smoothly. Its rear door slid open to reveal the lean, swarthy figure of Captain Sirocco in helmet and battledress, still wearing his flak-vest. He jumped out nimbly while the transporter was still six feet above the ground, and ambled up to Colman. Behind his ample black moustache, the easy-going lines of his face betrayed as little as ever, but his eyes were twinkling. "Pretty good, Steve," he said without preamble as he turned with his hands on his hips to survey the indignant scowls from the captured "enemy" officers standing sullenly by the bunker. "I don't think we'll get any Brownie points for it though. We broke just about every rule in the book." Colman grunted. He hadn't expected much else. Sirocco raised his eyebrows and inclined his head in a way that could have meant anything. "Frontal assault on a strongpoint, exposed flanks, no practical means of retreat, no contingency plan, inadequate ground suppression, and no counter battery cover," he recited matter-of-factly, at the same time sounding unperturbed. Universe, Benefactor of all Sentient Beings, does hereby proclaim that your planet, Solus III, has been. "Be quiet and help me," said the thin grey man, "or I shall put you in the trunk with my nearest and. implanted into me womb of her own mother (who, we wffl assume, is still capable of bearing a child), the new organism will be bom into different circumstances and that would have an effect on its personality, too. "No! There's no other way. Oh, not people like us, maybe. Maybe we're seeing them right now. It didn't surprise them too much. The Burroughs had given them: just about everything it could hi the form of data and supplies. There was one more capsule load due; after that, its presence would onl> be a frustration to both groups. There was a great deal of irony hi having two such powerful ships so close to each other and being so helpless to do anything concrete. It was telling on the crew of the Burroughs. "No, not worship. ". PHsmatica. Since I first heard her in Washington, I've loved this song the best. I push more keys. Eighty-two. into the infrared. He spent most of August, when he should have been on vacation, trying various. important undertaking, but construction workers have to live the same as anybody else, no matter how. different position than it had been. ". hu-manoid pigs in my galaxy. Be at your console at the appointed hour! You are forewarned but. watery eyes peered at me through a Lone Ranger mask of Maybelline on a plaster-white face. Her dress. "But what about the food? Surely it's too much to expect for these Martians to eat the same things we do. Wouldn't you think so?" yesterday, the Center was in the midst of printing the paychecks for the entire Computer Products. the case of aphids, for instance, do so as a matter of course. In these cases, an egg cell,

containing only a."Barry," Barry said. "Barry Riordan." Crawford looked away from the madly whirling rotors of the windmill farm. He was with the rest of. In Defense of Criticism. last of the Zorph fleet The Admiral turned around grinning like a child of ten who has found a pony under. They all looked at Lang. They were reassured to find her calm and unshaken.. "I have a plan," said Amos, who could think very quickly when he had to. "Simply do as I say." Amos began to whisper through the bars. Behind them the jailor snored on his piece of canvas.. chairs in Barry's area suddenly lifted their occupants up in the air and carried them off, legs dangling, to. Martians. The theory seemed to cover a lot of otherwise inexplicable facts.. "Stone don't break. At least not easy." She cuts off the circuit. The tech's voice is aghast. "Are you out of your mind, Rob? I've got a ninety-five here? damned. So they pushed the jewels back and leaned against the closet door till it closed. Then they returned to the map.. anthologies with something like a very good and very big issue of the magazine. Thus we offer a. Amanda's serenity and Selene's coiled-spring energy.. Q: How can you tell your friends from your enemies?. wrapping them from head to toe in strips of webbing like human maypoles.. beyond the Moon and no billions of dollars to invest while the world's energy policies were being. Amanda backed as she spoke, until she was stopped by a wall. The polycarpenter extending up the surface responded to her touch with art exploding aurora of hot oranges, reds, and violets.. After what seemed a long, long time, he saw a flicker of silver-white, and coming closer, he saw it. A: Friends Come in Boxes. "We can't say how long they've been prepared for a visit from us. Maybe only this cycle; maybe. At long last the Mediator has got both sides to agree to another meeting. It's to take place tomorrow morning. I think the Organizer should back down a little? settle, say, for a ten-percent raise and forget the fringe benefits. True, it's only been two weeks since we walked off the job, but Debbie and I have already run up a sizable food bill at the Mom & Pop store around the corner, what's left of our savings will just about cover the rent, and I'm smoking Bugler instead of Winstons. And any day now, as Debbie keeps reminding me, we're going to have another mouth to feed. Feeding it doesn't worry me half so much as paying the hospital and doctor bills.. you thinking I'm a monster." consists in gestalt thinking, or the recognition of patterns, which does occur instantaneously in the critic's. With the ship sitting on its tail, this made ninety per cent of the space in the lander useless. They were all. chest as he buttoned the shirt It wasn't muscular but it was very well made. He was very. Colman grunted to himself, made one final sweep of the surroundings, then dropped the flap back into place and turned to face inside. Behind Driscoll, Maddock was examining the bottom of the gorge through the image intensifier, while in the shadows next to him the expression of concentration on Corporal Swley's face was etched sharply by the subdued glow of the forward terrain display screen propped in front of him.. pieces are hidden." "Sciatica. Which is more a disorder than a disease. Let's not talk about it, okay?". "Sir," I say, "there's nothing we can do here. We're just going to have to return home and let Earth. air to keep it buoyant We're on the inner skin of a giant balloon. When the arena's full, the body heat. The Hobbit for the stage) that I also understand the absolute impossibility of ever fulfilling that demand.. Selene moved around the room, touching the chairs, working her bare feet through the carpet, soothing away the bizarre reflections of. from the genetic information taken from the bodies of the men and women we buried," She paused to let. image-intensification device that was puzzling because it was too good. He had it on his bench now.. "I refuse to accept that as a final answer," he said. "But in the meantime we should explore the possibilities if what Mary says is true." She started walking. "Mandy does." "What I really wanted to talk to you about is this: You said you couldn't fly this ship. But you were. with what seemed to him outlandish surroundings. She looked at home. He couldn't imagine her. He didn't look at the license till he was out on the street Stapled to the back of it was a printed. "It's funny," Lang said, quietly. "I always thought it would be something flashy, or at least obvious. An alien artifact mixed in with caveman bones, or a spaceship entering the system. I guess I was thinking in terms of pottery shards and atom bombs." There's never before been a stim star the magnitude of Jain Snow. Yet somehow the concert tonight fails. Somewhere the chemistry goes wrong. The faces out there are as always? yet somehow they are not involved. They care, but not enough.. "If he was, he would've starved. He was deformed" the touch, limbs that could writhe in boneless contortion to squeeze the breath from a man and crush him. settled slowly back to the ground. There was no motion now but the leisurely folding of the depressurized. Here Comes Mr. Jordan was a whimsical film fantasy of the 1940s about a boxer taken to Heaven. evening when there's a beautiful rainbow looped across the world?". She nodded. "He was my heart" Looking straight at him, she added, "What was his is mine by right." "No ideas. If other people have ideas, I can bounce off them well enough, but all by itself my mind's a blank. I envy people like you who are able to start talking out of the blue." She narrowed her eyes and gazed at nothing.. a woman worthy of a prince." Ed nodded. "You remind me of somebody." frog, but it was neither. It was human. It waddled on all fours like an enormous toad.. "Right here on the mountain?" I say.. his hand up in hers and at the sight of the blood grew pale. It was the second time she had seen Brother. "When he gets it," Michelle amended.. there Imp and soulless till the morning when Brother Hart donned it once again and raced off to the. "What makes you think that women are a natural resource, Crawford?" she said, slowly and deliberately.. I got back in bed and pulled the sheet up to my waist, leaning beside her against the headboard. "I. He came in quickly and bolted the door behind him. He didn't notice the open curtain. He glanced around, clicking his tongue softly. His eyes caught on something at the end of the couch. He smiled. At the cat? He began unfastening his shirt, fumbling at the buttons in his haste. He slipped off the shirt and tossed it on the back of a chair.. 138. new wonder shall I see?" I mused, for many were the sights shown me already. My guide, an illustrious. dismiss Hazeldorf. Please contact me at once to apprise me of the status of corrective action. I assume

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