

## TIPTOE TO THE MOON

helping me so much." The MacKinnons introduced themselves. His name was Jason. Hers was Michelle. They lived quite the time. "One, we have food for twenty people for three months. That comes to about a year for the five of us just outside the orbit of Neptune. Their vessel is incomprehensible, a drupelet-cluster of a construct. speak again. Instead he took off his fur hat and laid it upon his heart, kneeling down before her. Brother Hart lay on their straw bed. When he looked up at her, Hinda could not bear the twin wounds of his eyes. She turned away and said, "You may go out now. It is safe. He will not hunt you again." Nolan wiped his forehead. Maybe he'd been too hasty, bringing Darlene and the baby here. But a V2.5? Fixed formatting, broken paragraphs, garbled text; by peragwinn. "Well," said Jack, "after I could not find my way home, I decided I should try and find the pieces. So I began to search. The first person I met was the thin grey man, and with him was his large black trunk in which, he said, was his nearest and dearest friend. He said if I would work for him and carry his trunk, he would pay me a great deal of money with which I could buy a ship and continue my search. He told me that he himself would very much like to see a woman worthy of a prince. 'Especially,' he said, 'such a colorful prince as you.' I carried his trunk for many months, and at last he paid me a great deal of money with which I bought a ship. But then the skinny grey man stole my map, stole my ship, and put me here in the brig. John Varley's first story for F&Sf was "Picnic on Nearside" in 1974. Since then, he has earned. "Why," said Jack, "I am a prince because I am worthy to be a prince, and with me is a woman worthy to be a princess." his third glass, and that was what he still couldn't understand. game that night, but Johnny didn't play bridge, and so they settled on Scrabble. Tremain? You should've left an hour ago." I sat at my desk, leaned back until the swivel chair groaned. The sailor leaned his chin on his mop handle awhile, then said, "If you want to avoid it, don't go down." Hold it," Crawford said. "I just wanted to know if you had any ideas." He was secretly pleased at. The first step in the development of the fertilized egg is that it divides into two cells that cling together. "Is something the matter?" she asked, handing him the uppers with a glass of water. "You look gloomy, if you'll forgive my saying so." coming down with another bout of fever. Then, as the harsh heat of the rum scalded his stomach, he. "Oh, I've got till March." I've known the question would come, though I hadn't known who'd articulate it? her or me. My. "I don't have the faintest idea." He looked her straight in the eye as he said this. She almost didn't. heart, with all else vestigial, or a full-sized kidney or lung or liver or leg. With just one organ developing. The doe looked at the hunter for a moment more. A single tear started in her eye, but before it had. find someone to talk to. It is a basic human need, after all. Perhaps the basic need. I had no choice. "Sometimes the repetition of what we have just said will suggest a new meaning or possibilities of different variations on the story of a thief who saves a princess. The silent 1924 Thief, with Douglas. Congratulations, Fleet Captain! I am pleased to transmit to the facsimile printer in your area a copy. "In a cage! Like a freak! I don't want to be a freak anymore. It's over. I want it to be over. Please." and the minuscule mud huts of the suburbs. Looking down over my right, I could see the Plain, with its. It is all a joke, isn't it? After the funeral I went to the Los Angeles Public Library and started checking back issues of the Times. I'd only made it back three weeks when the library closed. The LA. Times is thick, and unless the death is sensational or the dead prominent, the story might be tucked in anywhere except the classifieds. Feeling betrayed and pissed-off, he grabbed the nearest can of vegetables (beets, he would later. Amanda cried, "Matthew, don't?" Her eyes widened with horror. Her mouth moved again. "Hey, everybody!" Jain raises her voice, cutting stridently through everyone else's conversations. "Get this. For a small fee, these folks'll put a video tape gadget in my tombstone. It's got everything? stereo sound and color. All I've got to do is go in before I die and cut the tape." his big black trunk. He told us terrible stories of the places he intended to go. And you just up and went. Outside, the water lapped at the ship, and after a moment Jack said, "A river runs by the castle of the. David (or Murray) was about twenty-five, redheaded, and freckled. He had a slim, muscular body which was also freckled. I could tell because he was wearing only a pair of jeans, cut off very short, and split up the sides to the waistband. He was barefooted and had a smudge of green paint on his nose. He had an open, friendly face and gave me a neutral smile-for-a-stranger. "Yes?" he asked. "Oh, baby, I'm sorry." Jam smiles and looks fourteen again. Then ?he stands and gives Stella a quick hug. She glances over at me and winks, and my face starts to flush. One-way. Lang looked over at him, and something in her face made him nervous. summer. they could withdraw when things start to get tough again? They'd leave spores behind them as they. 88.97. each other. To tell the truth, Dr. Kolodny, I've never been much of a talker. I think I was put off it by the. chair lifted him up and bore him off toward the couple in the blue settee, while Ed, limp in the bentwood. Not from you, he wanted to tell her. Instead he looked off into the distance at the perambulations of a suite of chairs in another ring. Only when all the chairs had settled into place did he refocus on the. ?I've tried living with you," Amanda said, "but it doesn't work. Now I won't have anything more to do. There's never before been a stim star the magnitude of Jain Snow. Yet somehow the concert tonight." Ken and Nell, you come down ahead of him by the springhouse. Wanda, you and Tim and Jean. Suppose, then, die nucleus of a somatic cell were surrounded with the cytoplasm of an egg cell. Would the genetic equipment in the nucleus unblock, and would the egg cell then proceed to divide and redivide? Would it go on to form an individual with the genetic equipment of the original somatic cell and, therefore, of the person from whom the somatic cell was taken? If so, the new organism would be a clone of the person who donated the somatic cell. man's arm. The grey man stopped and frowned so deeply his face became almost black. "These clothes." Can I have a while to think it over?" The package comes later, along with a stiff legal letter from a firm of attorneys. The substance of the message is this: "Jain Snow wished you to have possession of this. She informed you prior to her demise of her desires; please carry them out accordingly." The packet

contains a chrome cylinder with a screw cap. The cylinder contains ashes; ashes and a few bone fragments. I check. Jain's ashes, unclaimed by father, friends, or employer. "I'm pretty sure he didn't. I asked him about it. He said there was nothing to worry about, it would. 151. The leash broke. She bounded away down the sand. As though that were not release enough, she flung herself into a succession of cartwheels and forward flips. She went around a curve of the beach and out of sight, still cartwheeling. By the time I reached the curve, she had disappeared. Impossible for Barry, sitting so nearby and having no one to talk to himself, to avoid eavesdropping on. "Sure, no trouble." She went to the desk in the corner of the room and quickly wrote the following. His hair was grey. His voice sounded to Amos like wind over mouse fur, or sand ground into old velvet. and the other was in jail. Ah, machismo! "How long have you had them?" "Pretend then. And don't make it anything flip like that last one. Make it sad and delicate and use some rhymes." movie star except for his back." My mother told me once she was sorry I wasn't handsome enough to get by without working. Listen, "Where did you get it?" asked Amos. much to each other. Isn't that so? Even before Debra got religious, we weren't in the habit of talking to. I had expected a more sympathetic reaction. I snapped, "You don't sound very sorry it happened." "It must be in the center of this chunk of ice," said Jack. As they stared at the shiny, frozen hunk, something moved inside it, and they saw it was the form of a lovely girl. It was Lea, who had appeared to them in the pool. my window last night," he said. The wings were pale blue, with brown bands on the edges, and the. The assembled crew smiled, and Song gave a high-pitched cheer. Weinstein was not the most. sake? hers and little Robbie's. Robert Emmett Nolan II, nine weeks old now, his son, whom he'd never. The inner nest was free-form. The New Amsterdamites had allowed it to stay pretty much the way the whirlbirds had built it, only taking down an obstruction here and there to allow humans to move around. It was a maze of gauzy walls and plastic struts, with clear plastic pipes running all over and carrying fluids of pale blue, pink, gold, and wine. Metal spigots from the Podkayne had been inserted in some of the pipes. McKillian was kept busy refilling glasses for the visitors who wanted to sample the antifreeze solution that was fifty per cent ethanol. It was good stuff, Captain Singh reflected as he drained his third glass, and that was what he still couldn't understand. the bright image races toward you, trees hurling themselves into red darkness and vanishing, then the. cap. The cylinder contains ashes; ashes and a few bone fragments. I check. Jain's ashes, unclaimed by. way a bricklayer feels sometimes. It's really great I feel sorry for brickmakers. You'd never catch me. The cause of this high morale rests with one programmer in our department, Morris Hazeldorf, the. have been a cat. It was probably a stray looking for food or hiding from a dog. Okay, cat, you don't. in return for a favor he did me a million years past, for it was he who made this cave for me by artful and. "What's up?" Yet in one specialized way cloning can take place in even the most advanced animals—even in the. He grinned wryly, calming down, trying to cover his panic. "Aren't they all?" he said. to see how well I had learned my lessons, asked me three questions. I answered all three, and these. Things did settle down, as Lang had known they would. They entered their second week alone in. The dancer raised a brow. "Ah—I see. You're the other one." He grinned at me. "You know, all those. Then what do you mean?" ?Tomorrow I'm going back to Center St. and take the exam again." "I'm no swimmer but I prefer hot water to ice," Amanda said. anything anyone said. The skit had been both essentially truthful and unjustifiably cruel. Too much. Organizer outlined what we were striking for, and I paid strict attention so I could tell Ike. It adds up to a. of the fireplace, she rammed me with a sharp hipbone and wiggled loose. "Of course not." "Right, I know." He turned back to the radio, and McKillian listened over his shoulder as Weinstein briefed them on the situation as he saw it. It pretty much jibed with Crawford's estimation, except at one crucial point. He signed off and they joined the other survivors. selves on report." She laughed and beckoned them over to her. They linked arms and stood staring up at the sky. cabin. I could take a brief look to make sure everything was all right, then come back for her at noon as. Song finished her report and handed the mike to Lang. Before she could start, Weinstein came on the. 268. She was in time to see McKillian and Ralston hurrying into the lab at the back of the ship. There was. develop into a new organism?. wing. I'm afraid that your ass and mine would have been in the sling but for a stroke of incredible luck. "Then marry me," said Amos, "for I always thought you had uncommonly good sense in matters of. I settled back in the chair, trying not to laugh. "Why does Mrs. Bushyager want me to find her little sister?" I sputtered. ends of his eyebrows drooped in a frown. He looked back at me and started to say something, then, with. are stimulated, in a variety of ways depending on subtle factors, with the result that different cells in your. "We can't say how long they've been prepared for a visit from us. Maybe only this cycle; maybe. open window. materials that were supposed to enable the poly furnishings to match their owner's personality and moods. Well, I'll get them, he insisted, hoping to impress the other voice with the authenticity and vitality of. toward my side of the stage and gives me a soft smile. And then it's back to the audience and into the. By now, I am sure, the Naval Support Bid Team has descended upon Programming Services to. Earth and Moon? And why right here, in the graveyard?" What brought another of those incredible smiles was the interior. Not only did the carpeting continue. To Lucius McGonaghal Sloe. Ph.D.. An aeon went by. There was no sound except the whistling of the. very peculiar. I don't really know what to make of it." A: Piers Anthony's "Orn." come to grips with the fact of fifteen dead men and women beneath the dome outside. pilot, and above all things she loved flying. She patted an array of hand controls on her right side. There. up. Smith rubs his eyes, loses the ship, finds it again after a ten-minute search. I heard the door open. I turned and saw Detweiler run out. 80. not use again the expression you have just uttered. I mean the one beginning with the letter D. Our. "Nothing. Just routine." Obviously he thought I was a police detective. No point in changing his mind. "To tell you the truth, I was wondering what to say next. We have to make a thorough inventory. I guess we should start on that." spirit. Frankly speaking, you are selfish. And a cheat." periodically, but always alone. From 1993 to 1996 he stopped reading the newspapers. The DetweUer Boy. the blizzard and the undulating dome bottom, heading for the roofless framework where the other

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