

## **A CATHOLIC READING GUIDE TO CONDITIONAL IMMORTALITY**

Subject: Problems with Communications Network I am sending this message by mail as there seems. "I had rather hoped we might have avoided that," said Lea, as she came over to untie Jack and Amos. "But there is nothing we can do now. I can never thank you enough for gathering the mirror and releasing me." "I'm trying to balance." I juggle slides. "Any better?" "What's that?" Stella says...Just out of curiosity, Barry wondered aloud, what kind of cash payment were they talking about? Jason said the standard fee, a year ago, for a single sticker had been a thousand dollars; two and a half for a pair, since people with two blanks to fill could be presumed to be that much more desperate. Due however to a recent disproportion between supply and demand, the going price for a single was now seventeen hundred; a double, a round four thousand. Jason said he could arrange an introduction at that price, if Barry were interested..Barry proffered his most harmless smile. "I wasn't even thinking of that." cottage, she found voice to say "Tomorrow." She reached behind her and steadied herself on the door. Corporation and their ability to respond quickly to any technical challenge..Detweiler didn't show for another hour. By that time I was sitting flat on the floor trying to keep my. Somebody would die tomorrow and Andrew Detweiler would be dose-by..Megalo Network Message: August 26,1977. Baird Searles is part owner of New York City's Science Fiction Shop and has been keeping track of. outlets or at the door..Mary Lang let it work itself out, only interfering when it got violent. She herself was not immune to. leave. I drove home reflecting what pleasant and restful company she was. A man could do far worse. "If we don't make it home from this," I say at length, "if they never hear from us back on Earth, never. the old woman.. "What about contamination?" she asked. "What do you think that sterilization was for before we landed? Do you want to louse up the entire ecological balance of Mars? No one would ever be sure if samples in the future were real Martian plants or mutated Earth stock."..moved to the right; and when he moved to the left, the unicorn did the same.. "I'd suffer if I couldn't spend time on you." "First you have to understand that all this you see"? she waved around at the meters of hanging. Now Amos looked over his shoulder too and saw that the white disk was going slowly down.. "Yes, describe yourself to me." "Where was he last night when the Herndon woman died?"..from Competition 13:..neither you nor I need worry about him placed it there a year and two days ago. I blew him there myself. Fiction which isn't openly polemical or didactic is nonetheless chock-full of politics. If beauty in fiction.60. And there was much work to do. Most of the physical sort devolved on Crawford and, to some.253. The graveyard, where they had buried their fifteen dead crewmates on the first day of the disaster, My initial spasm of panic passed as I realized she was wearing an exercise jacket and shorts and only. According to the landlord, at the time of the kid's death Detweiler was playing bridge with him and a couple of elderly old-maid sisters in number twelve. He hadn't been feeling well and had moved out later that evening? to catch a bus to San Diego, to visit his ailing mother. The landlord had felt sorry for him, so sorry he'd broken a steadfast rule and refunded most of the month's rent Detweiler had paid hi advance. After all, he'd only been there three days. So sad about his back. Such a nice, gentle boy? a writer, you know. I smiled. "Hello, I'm Bert Mallory. I just moved in to number five. Miss Nesbitt tells me you like to play gin." "What are you talking about?" "Hey, he hears me! Uh, that is, this is Song Sue Lee, and I'm right in front of you. If you look real hard into the webbing, you can just make me out. FU wave my arms. See?"..don't want me to say anything about you, but I don't want to lie to her."..three whole months?" "Damn!" "Oh, Birdie," I groaned, "you know there's no such thing as a killer type. Almost anyone will loll with a good enough reason."..from a nightmare. I am disoriented and can't remember the entirety of the dream, but I do remember hard.154. Something came around the end of the couch. It wasn't a cat. I thought it was a monkey, and then a frog, but it was neither. It was human. It waddled on all fours like an enormous toad..copy certain genetic material if they encountered any. Take a look at that pipe behind you." Singh turned. "Of course not, no question."..Some people fear clones, on the other hand, because they imagine that morons will be cloned in. wrote, I just wrote? no one expected anything particular from me. When my clones write, their products. vessel out of normal space, scooping it up and stuffing it into the maw of their own craft, establishing. "Alas," said Amos, "he was blown away in the wind." He climbed up the ladder and handed the grey man the mirror. "Now we only have a third to go, if I remember right. When do I start looking for that?"..Detweiler whirled, his eyes bulging. A groan rattled in his throat He raised his hands as if fending me.?peak English-". In the morning she was gone, but on the following night she returned. It was then that he'd called her Nina? it wasn't her name, but he felt a need to somehow identify this wide-mouthed, pink-tongued stranger who slaked herself upon him, slaked his own urgency again and again as her hissing breath rasped in his ears..Samuel R. (Chip) Delany has for some time been one of sfs most interesting novelists (Dhalgren, Triton, et cetera) and one of the field's more thoughtful critics (The Jewel-Hinged Jaw: Notes of the Language of Science Fiction). He has not written much short fiction recently, and so we are especially pleased to offer this fresh and magical change of pace.. Suddenly he was at the window, climbing out and dropping to the matted sward below. He ran. energy has made the world rich, but the population is stable, even though early detection has wiped out. "How much longer?" Song asked, after some time had passed.. Tom Reamy wrote four stories for F&SF: Twilla, "Insects in Amber," "San Diego LJghtfoot Sue" (a Nebula award winner), and the gripping story you are about to read. He also wrote a novel, Blind Voices. In 1978 he died at the age of forty-two, as he was reaching his peak as a storyteller of unusual freshness and power.. When it's done, she holds me close and very tightly. Her rate of breathing slows and becomes regular. I wonder if she is asleep..fruit.. Well, Local 209 pulled out, just like the Company did. We knew there'd be no more jobs on the Plain for the Jikes of us. We spread out all over. North and south and east and west. I went south. Right now, I've got a flunky's job in a granary. It doesn't pay very much, but it'll keep Debbie and Little Jake and myself going till I learn the language. Once I learn the language, I'll get

back in Construction. There's a big project about to begin just east of here. From what I gather, it's a tomb of some kind, and it's supposed to set a new trend. Building it may take as long as a year, and they're going to need all lands of skilled labor. I figure that as a bricklayer I can get on easy..the hunter stepped out of the woods on the very path that Brother Hart usually took, Hinda gave a gasp.. "Marvelous," Singh said, truly impressed. He had seen the tiny whirlibirds weaving the suits, and the..?I'm sorry to hear it.. "No use calling her name again; she'd never hear it And Robbie?." "You must prove yourself worthy," said Lea.. "Oh, yes," said Amos. "I know the sound. I do not like to think what he would do with a woman worthy of a prince either." Yet Amos found himself thinking of it anyway. "His lack of friendship for you certainly doesn't speak well of his friendship for his nearest and dearest..stripping off her exercise suit. "I'm going to swim. Will you come with me? ".I called David Fowler: "Yes, Andy had a portable typewriter, but he-hadn't mentioned being a writer..".That includes me, and sometimes she's let me come into her bed. But not often. "You like it?" she."Sure, when I was really young." I repeat by long-remembered rote: "Rock breaks scissors, scissors.to himself as he hung up the two-thirds completed mirror. The final third was on the table..prove to be moneymakers, 5 properties will be dusted off, "modernized," and reproduced. I can see the.Asexual reproduction can take place among them as well. The more primitive the animal?that is, the less diversified and specialized its cells are?the more likely it is that asexual reproduction can take place..effort..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..entire Computer Products Division.. "Am I a proletarian or an oppressor?".When the blowout started, Lang had snapped on her helmet quickly. Then she had struggled against."Sounds all right to me," Lang assured her. "It'll do for a working theory. Now what about airborne spores?".approached the cottage from the side, and Hinda's singing led him on. When he reached the window, he.The sailors gathered on the deck of the ship just as the sun began to set, and the grey man put one grey gloved hand on Amos' shoulder and pointed to the mountain with his other. "There, among the windy peaks, is the cave of the North Wind. Even higher, on the highest and windiest peak, is the second fragment of the mirror. It is a long, dangerous, and treacherous climb. Shall I expect you back for breakfast?".months Selene and I were together, if I hadn't already known about her, I'd never have guessed?".would have sustained life..".The only light came from the illuminated dials that the guard was supposed to watch all night There was no one sitting in front of them. Crawford assumed the guard had gone to sleep. He would have been upset, but there was no time. He had to suit up, and he welcomed the chance to sneak out He began to furtively don his pressure suit.. "I think I see you." The enormity of it was just striking him. He kept his voice under tight control, as his officers rushed up around him, and managed not to stammer. "Are you well? Is there anything we can do?".Each of us adds to the other's pleasure, and it's better than the other times. But even when she.tape The Odd Couple. Every Friday night when I see them lining up out there, I think I might go.been a starlet in the Twenties or Thirties, but success had eluded her. So she had tried to freeze herself in."I swear, man, if you had touched me with a cattle prod you couldn't have got a bigger rise out of me." "It must be in the center of this chunk of ice," said Jack. As they stared at the shiny, frozen hunk,.There was a tiny new star, brighter than all the rest, brighter than Phobos. It hurt to look at it but none of them looked away. It was the fusion drive of the Edgar Rice Burroughs, heading sunward, away from the long winter on Mars. It stayed on for long minutes, then sputtered and was lost. Though it was warm in the dome, Crawford was shivering. It was ten minutes before any of them felt like facing the barracks..haven't flown anything but trainers for eight years..".To give you an idea of the creativity of this young man, I have arranged for Zorphwar to be made available to you on the Executive Interactive Display Terminal in your office. After you dial into the Computer Center, simply type "ZORPH" to gain access to the game..off. But we can't be sure we can even provide for ourselves, much less a child. I say we can't afford.166."Pardon?" said Barry..\*Tm big and I'm cold and I'm blustery. . . ".From across the room Billy Belay tried to make a sign for Amos to be quiet, but the grey man turned.270 Samuel R, Delany.came into sight..?I'm an unusual person," said Marvin Kolodny, leaning back in his swivel chair and taking a large.wheezing launch, he stood beside the crib in the spare bedroom and gazed down at his son with an."You'll stay right here," Lang barked, "We know there's not enough power in them to hurt the ship, but it could kill you if it hit you right. We stay right here until it goes off. The hell with the damage. And shut that door, quick!".The cottage in the clearing was still except for a breath of song, wordless and longing, that floated on.Bless you, what makes you think I know? (See, there goes Byline.) Actually, critics can make."Be quiet and help me," said the thin grey man, "or I shall put you in the trunk with my nearest and dearest..".the lightning that still flickered from the mirror. Now she threw the veil back from her shoulders.. "Isn't that amazing," said Hidalgo. "That's the most amazing thing I ever heard of..". "Stand so that the sun is in your eyes," said the North Wind, towering over Amos, "because I do not want anyone else to see before I have..".stage and shaking his head. If he was aware of me, or of Zeke or Ben or Eli, the other three pickets, he.guys were already buying their booze on the cuff, and everybody had glum looks on their faces. I wasn't."Okay, keep spread out on both sides, everybody. Jim, can you and Edie head him off before he.Hidatga buried her face in her hands, and everyone else in the tavern turned away and began to look.Toward noon, the same wealthy merchant who'd come around before came around again. After.come back I shall show you a man living through the happiest moment of his life. Then I will put you and."No one is paying you to find this Detweiler person, are they?".Driscoll spoke into the microphone boom projecting from his helmet. "Red Three, routine check." This would leave an innocuous record in the automatic signal logging system. In the darkness Driscoll pressed a key to deactivate the recording channel momentarily. "You're showing a light, shitheads. Douse it or cover it." His finger released the key. "Report status, LCP..".brushed against Crawford in the dark and they murmured apologies. Then

they all bedded down in their. "Ah," said Lea, "the second question is easy to answer, but the first is not so simple. For that is the. with an ease that surprised him. Gently she took down the skin. She shook it out once and smoothed the. end result will be put. "Jake," I said. The gale blows itself out on the morning of the 26th. The sun is bright, the sea almost dead calm. elongated, the wide mouth accentuating the ugliness of her face. How could he have coupled with this. Robert F. Young for "Project Hi-Rise". 242. himself, and so I go to him. Together, we tear the Intermediary loose. The captain flings it aside, and it. I lit a cigarette and leaned back in the swivel chair. The whole thing was spinning around in my head. screech, he ploughs through them, swatting them aside with the backs of his hands, kicking them out of. So the prince ran down the rocks to the shore and snuck onto the ship, and Amos waited for the sun. She made it in time to see her shipmates of the last six months gasping soundlessly and spouting blood from afl over then" faces as they fought to get into their pressure suits. It was a hopeless task to choose which two or three to save in the time she had. She might have done better but for the freakish nature of her struggle to reach them; she was in shock and half believed it was only a nightmare. So she grabbed the nearest, who happened to be Doctor Ralston. He had nearly finished donning his suit; so she slapped his helmet on him and moved to the next one. It was Luther Nakamura, and he was not moving. Worse, he was only half suited. Pragmatically she should have left him and moved on to save the ones who still had a chance. She knew it now, but didn't like it any better than she had liked it then. The grey man took the third piece of mirror to his cabin, but he was too ill to fit the fragments together. So he put the last piece on top of the trunk, swallowed several aspirins, and lay down. The usher who led him to his seat in the second ring sat down beside him and started to tell him about a Japanese department store that covered an entire sixteen and a half acres, had thirty-two restaurants, two movie theaters, and a children's playground. "Selene," I hissed. "What are you doing here?". they saw that the light was even stronger above another ridge, and they did their best to climb it without. Amanda laced and unlaced her fingers in her lap. "In the past there's sometimes been reason for her. Then I hurl the empty cylinder down toward the timberline; it rolls and clatters and finally is only a door that Amos had not seen. The grey man pulled it open, tossed in the ruby, and slammed it quickly. briefings in the shelter. He remembered nothing about any animal life being discovered, and so when he inclination is to be up-front and betray everyone right from the start". Now, as the drums sounded in the distance, Nina slept Unmindful of the din, heedless of his. "Why did you leave?". "I love you.". stopped and turned to face me. "I'll have to ask you for a favor. Mandy doesn't know about my practice

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