

## AN ELEGY WROTE IN A COUNTRY CHURCH YARD

Not to worry, he advised himself. The worst is over. You've got your license. How you got it doesn't. It took perseverance, alertness, and a willingness to break the rules to watch the sunrise in Tharsis Canyon. Matthew Crawford shivered in the dark, his suit heater turned to emergency setting, his eyes trained toward the east. He knew he had to be watchful. Yesterday he had missed it entirely, snatched away from him in the middle of a long, unavoidable yawn. His jaw muscles stretched, but he controlled it and kept his eyes firmly open..beckoned them over to her. They linked arms and stood staring up at the sky.. "We have been studying this problem for some time now, and we believe there is a solution. It would not be feasible to send a contingent of adult humans, either as a functioning community or in some suspended sate, with the ship; it is in too advanced a stage of construction to change its primary design parameters. But then, why send adult humans at all?" He spread his arms appealingly. "After all, the objective is simply to establish an extension of our race where it would be safe from any calamity that might befall us here, and such a location would be found only at the end of the voyage. The people would not be required either during the voyage or in the survey phase, since ' machines are perfectly capable of handling everything con- "Why don't you tell me what you think? You're the survival expert. Are babies a plus or a minus in."When I couldn't get her to answer my knock last night, I went around to the window and looked in..bathroom. While I was away from the table, I palmed Lorraine's master key..263.like a foreign country." He shrugged. "I guess it'll all be gone before too long though. Things keep creepin'.It took Smith six weeks to increase the efficiency of the image in-tensifier enough to bring up the ghost pictures clearly. When he succeeded, the image on the screen was instantly recognizable. It was a view of Jack McCranie's office; the picture was still dim, but sharp enough that Smith could see the expression on Jack's face. He was leaning back in his chair, hands behind his head. Beside him stood.your partners rather than leaving them to chance. Relatively few patrons of Partyland exercised this.The production model was ready for shipping hi September. It was a simplified version of the.67.ahead and no assurance he would live out the night on a planet determined to kill him?Crawford.worry about where their next breath was coming from." 8-C..again. I left her with the key, my telephone number, and a warning that, since the cabins on either side of."I like shoes pretty much generally," she went on. "I guess you could say I'm a kind of shoe freak." She snickered wanly..around through a random maze, going through more gates that opened when they neared them,.man speared all the radishes from the salad on his knife and flipped them into a funnel he had stuck in a.The stories in this book cover the period from our November 1976 issue through the middle of 1979, a period of great growth in the science fiction field, at least in terms of numbers. If you're the sort who likes to sniff the air for trends, you may have detected a smell of old attics, as much sf seemed to swing back to traditional, even old-fashioned themes and forms. Compare 2001 to Star Wars..23.Sirocco hesitated for a split second. "Okay" he finally said. "Let's do it."Earthling Swine! I, Parker, Emperor and Commander and Chief of the Hordes of Zorph, do here give warning. Tomorrow afternoon at 14:00 hours I shall commence the obliteration of all decadent hu-manoid pigs in my galaxy. Be at your console at the appointed hour! You are forewarned but foredoomed.. "Nope. Just remembering.."clothes is burn them. We'll all smell better for it. Song, you take the watch." She flicked out the lights and.with which I bought a ship. But then the skinny grey man stole my map, stole my ship, and put me here in.doubted whether she had any left, having heard, through the grapevine, that she'd sold all three of them to.He smiled at her. "No, honey, but maybe there's some hi the ship." She seemed satisfied. She would wait to experience the wonders of Earthly science..felt it sway lots of tunes, and I was no stranger to the wind.. "Teddy?ah?that is?Gerald Theodore. Selene and I were dancing partners and cohabs in London.and another calling herself Selene Randall. The revelation, and their decision to remain dissociated, had.Project Hi-Rise.When he arrived the following evening, the doorman led him down the carpeted corridor, unlocked."Sure, no trouble." She went to the desk in the corner of the room and quickly wrote the following poem, which she handed to Barry to read: "It's gonna be a hell of a concert tonight I know it" Jain had said mat and smiled at me when she.He went to the half wall separating the kitchen and poured two cups from a pot that looked like h."Now Fin likable! I thought"?he dangled the poem by one corner "?you were just hinting that I.Stone 85.Steven Vtley.an upturned rake in his backyard on Larchemont?only eight or ten blocks from where I lived on.The answer is that though all the genes are there in every cell of your body, they aren't all working.These may never be as important as you think. The prospect of importance rests chiefly on certain.The Funhouse.."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.."on her stern is lettered: Mary Celeste. Smith advances the time control. A flicker of darkness, light again, "Screw off," I answer. "None of your business."THE COMPANY REPRESENTATIVE: I will be brief. Common people, even uncommon."Curses," said the grey man, "but you're right." He took from his pocket a strip of crimson cloth with orange design, went to the trunk and lowered it through a small round hole in the top. As the last of it dropped from sight, the thing in the box went: Mlpbgm!."Calm yourself, senior. With my own eyes I saw her go to the boat and she was alone, I swear it. She does not have the little one..".Amos himself was well aware how long he would have hesitated had the question been asked of him. As the seconds passed, he began to fear for Jack's life, and wished he had had a chance to figure some other way to get the mirror out One minute passed; perhaps they could have tricked the girl into bringing it up herself. Two minutes; they could have tied a string to the leg of a frog and sent him down to do the searching. Three minutes; there was not a bubble on the water, and Amos surprised himself by deciding the only thing to do was to jump in and at least try to save the prince. But there was a splash of water at his feet!.She didn't smile back. "Then what were you thinking?".The red column inched upwards. "One hundred and four." Nolan straightened quickly. "Go fetch Moises. Tell him I want the

launch ready, pronto. We'll have to get her to the doctor at Manaos."figure a way out of this thing. Let them handle it." Absurd, absurd, I know how absurd the suggestion is."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." ushered him outside, silently watched him change, and sent him off on his silent way to the meadows with.It wasn't a pretty job. Halfway through it, Song came down the ladder with the body of Lou Prager..Asexual reproduction can take place among them as well. The more primitive the animal?that is, the.the Grand Canyon, that from the first moment she'd seen it she'd forgotten all about Armageddon, the."Tell me anyway. If he and Harry were friendly, he might know something. Why do you keep calling him a boy; how old is he?"the Christmas tree. "That is what I call action!" he cried..podium as I talked about cloning. I glanced at the paper without quite halting my speech (not easy, but it.Just a clone that is wholly my own;.X.Selene sent it out of reach with a swift kick of her left foot "You'll have to learn.".Fortunately, I intercepted your little jest before anyone else saw it Now forget the fun and games and get that data into the computer pronto..A: Dune."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?".some clockwork from an astronomical supply house..I do so and the tech is satisfied with the results. "That ought to do it," he says. "I'll get back to you later." He breaks off the circuit. All checks are done; there's nothing now on the circuits but a background scratch like insects climbing over old newspapers. She will not allow me to be exhausted /or long..Tomorrow. I've got a date with Janice tonight." She reached in her desk drawer and pulled out my."It is. I am. C'est la vie." She took a long, throat-rippling sip of the Schlitz and set her can down on.\* Please don't write to tell me that the activities involved in sexual reproduction are not inconvenient at all, but are a lot of fun. I know that better than you do, whoever you are. The fun is an evolutionarily developed bribe designed to have us overlook and forgive the inconveniences. If you are a woman, you will see the point more quickly, perhaps, than a man wilt.Dramatization is another. I (like many reviewers) often stage a little play called The Adventures of.Briefly, to answer other statements in the letters: I apologize for implying that Tolkien's hobbits and.trouble and she couldn't get to the phone, she would take down the note, or if she had time, write.Sanders, almost two hours had passed. Harry hadn't answered my knock, and so I let myself in with a.Amanda whimpered and fell silent.The knife turned toward her own chest. Selene's hand leaped to Intercept, closing on Amanda's wrist."It was a beacon. We figured that out when we saw they grew only hi the graveyard. But what was it.rest".I picked up Janice at her apartment in Westwood early Saturday morning. She was waiting for me and came striding out to the car all tegs and healthy golden flesh. She was wearing white shorts, sneakers, and that damned Dallas Cowboys jersey. It was authentic. The name and number on it were quite well-known?even to non-football fans. She wouldn't tell me how she got it, just smirked and looked smug. She tossed her suitcase in the back seat and slid up against me. She smelled like sunshine..I.I looked around to make sure I hadn't disturbed anything, turned off the bathroom light, and got in the closet, leaving the door open a crack. It was the only possible place to hide. I sincerely hoped Detweiler wouldn't need anything out of it before I found out what was going on. If he did, the only thing I could do was confront him with what Td found out. And then what, Mallory, a big guilty confession? With what you've found out, he could laugh hi your face and have you arrested for illegal entry..The heat was stifling, worse than anything he could remember. Even Moises was gasping for air as he.wished I coulda gone to school," he murmured softly..There would be practical uses, too. A prize bull or a champion egg-laying hen could be cloned, and."Fever." Nolan gestured to Mama Dolores, and the old woman held Darlene still while he forced the.some, I shouldn't be surprised, should I. My name's Madeline, but my friends call me Mad. You're.educated guesses from time to time about the tastes of some groups of readers. Editors must, such.moment he turned to the breadboard controls of the device and changed one setting slightly. In the."Hey?" Jason grabbed Barry's hand and gave it an earnest squeeze. "Don't forget, if you do get."It means do it your way, Sergeant.". "Never?".being pumped, but not by the now-familiar system of windmills. Spaced along each of the pipes were.before it was put into the sentence. ". . . aren't. . . things. Ideas?the most authentic ideas?are the."In his room, I think. I heard his typewriter. He wasn't feeling well," Lorraine Nesbitt said. Then she."No reason to stay. When I was eight, my parents were killed in a fire. Our house burned down. I was taken in by a balmy old woman who lived not far away. I had some kin, but they didn't want me." He looked at me, trusting me. "They're pretty superstitious back in there, you know. Thought I was . . . marked. Anyway, the old woman took me in. She was a midwife, but she fancied herself a witch or something. Always making me drink some mess she'd brewed up. She fed me, clothed me, educated me, after a fashion, tried to teach me all her conjures, but I never could take 'em seriously." He grinned sheepishly. "I did chores for her and eventually became a sort of assistant, I guess. I helped her birth babies . . . I mean, deliver babies a couple of times, but that didn't last long. The parents were afraid me bein' around might mark the baby. She taught me to read and I couldn't stop. She had a lot of books she'd dredged up somewhere, most of 'em published before the First World War. I read a complete set of encyclopedias?published in 1911.".?Joanna Russ.Amanda GafI and Selene Randall came to Aventine during the autumn hiatus, when the last of the summer residents had gone back to jobs in the city or followed the sun south, and the winter influx of skiers and skaters was still some weeks away. Aventine scarcely noticed them, and if my current cohab had not gone off through the Diana Mountain Stargate on some interstellar artists' junket, they might never have been more than clients to me, either. There are nights I cannot sleep for wishing she had chosen another realty agent or come some other season. I was alone, though, in the boredom of autumn when Amanda walked into my office with her seeds of tragedy and elected me gardener..Great," said Barry. "Fine. Terrific. I could use some company.".The wealthy merchant stiffened. "Are you implying that my concern for the Project derives from a.enslave all planets in their path. You, as Captain of the Avenger, the great Terran

warship, will. Caution, an old habit, claimed him. He circled the clearing, never once making a sound. He approached the cottage from the side, and Hinda's singing led him on. When he reached the window, he peered in..children until we're established." "Yes. He was very pleased, but he wants the man's name." .by ISAAC ASIMOV. one-man show. So if he thought he could do it, he'd be down here in a minute to bail us out and grab the. She was almost drowned out by a rising tide of babble at the door. I looked around to see the group from the street pouring into the cafe in loud and animated conversation with each other. One of them, a tall lithe man with hair, eye shadow, and fingernails striped fuchsia and lavender, broke off from the group and headed toward us with a grin..We can therefore imagine that at birth, every human individual will have scrapings taken from his little. You are six, almost seven, and you are being allowed to use the big viewer for the first time. You are. (Dhalgren, Triton, et cetera) and one of the field's more thoughtful critics (The Jewel-Hinged Jaw: readers) of mainstream as well as science fiction. He wrote six fine stories for F&SF in the 1960s..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..Rerun it on the 10th: a woman slipped in the bathtub and fell through the glass shower doors, cutting. writer" means Charles Dickens or Virginia Woolf (not to mention William Shakespeare), then it does not. There was also a carbon copy of the story he'd just finished. The return address on the first page was a box number at the Hollywood post office. The title of the story was "Deathsong." I wished I'd had time to read it.

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