

## ARGUS 2009

Crawford looked at it briefly, then squatted down beside the rest, wondering what all the fuss was about. Everyone looked very solemn, almost scared..reaction due to economic depression. So does Robin Scott Wilson (who electrified a Modern Language. "Don't tease me, Bertram. There's a boy here in the hotel. I saw something I don't think he wanted me to see. It's extremely odd." For Lea was cloaked in grey from head to foot. But almost before the words were out, she loosed her grey cloak and it fell about her feet..A Serious Undertaking, HAL CLEMENT. "Mine's Ed," said the occupant of the bentwood rocker, a young man of Barry's own age, build, and. "As long as it's in the direction you want?" She laughed, and poked him in the ribs. "I see you as my Grand Vizier, the man who holds the arcane knowledge and advises the regent. I think Til have to watch out for you. I know a little history, myself." In the audience was my good friend of three decades?the well-known science fiction writer, bon. "Now Fin likable! I thought"?he dangled the poem by one corner ?"you were just hinting that I.under his breath. I listened hard, but I couldn't make out what it was..one of our most valuable heritages. Use your license wisely. Do not abuse the privilege of free speech..She pulled the shawl tighter around her. "When I got up this morning, that chair you're sitting in was." No! There's no other way. Oh, not people like us, maybe. Maybe we're seeing them right now, spinning like crazy." They all looked uneasily at the whirligigs. "But I think they're not here yet I think we're going to see, over the next few years, increasing complexity in these plants and animals as they build up a biome here and get ready for the builders. Think about it. When summer comes, the conditions will be very different. The atmosphere will be almost as dense as ours, with about the same partial pressure of oxygen. By then, thousands of years from now, these early forms will have vanished. These things are adapted for low pressure, no oxygen, scarce water. The later ones will be adapted to an environment much like ours. And that's when we'll see the makers, when the stage is properly set." She sounded almost religious when she said it.. "That's really sick," Stella says..210. "Sounds arrogant to me." "I've never eaten human flesh," Lang went on, "but I think I know what it must taste like. Those vines to your right; we strip off the outer part and eat the meat underneath. It tastes good. I wish we could cook it, but we have nothing to burn and couldn't risk it with the high oxygen count, anyway." The Man Who Had No Idea by Thomas M. Disch. "The one on your license. Was there something attached to it originally?" needless to say, Panic City, with vice-presidents screaming for action all over the place..the fifth percentile or below will result in the withdrawal of your Temporary License..admiration for my superior officer. He may be a suicidal fool to refuse to accept the situation, but there is. But crazy in a dull, not an interesting way. He wondered how long they'd have to go on talking before. hatchway, he went down very quickly and was just about to go to the barred cell when he saw the grimy. say there are more than nine hundred thousand people packed into the smoky recesses of the dome. It's. The Podkayne was barely visible behind a network of multicolored vines. The vines were tough. "Jesus," says the tech- "You ought to be performing. The crowd would love it". was to come and let me know, quick..Eli didn't see it that way. "Hell, Jake, they'll have to come through," he said. "We've got them right by. seen. That's why he'd taken the job, signed on with the company for a year. The money was good..society. Place me on a desert island and I shall quickly perish since I don't know the first thing about the. ?Tomorrow I'm going back to Center St. and take the exam again." 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..selfish desire to be one of the first ones through the Gateway?" My curiosity reared up again. The gossip columnists speculated a great deal about how Amanda and. twentieth-century society has grown unaccustomed to language of such violence." possibilities. He didn't relish being a leader. He was hoping Lang would recover soon and take the. "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." "Sure. You have about two months. After that, the chemicals aren't safe." Virginia Kidd for "The Detweiler Boy" by Tom Reamy. "Now before you play," I said, "you must understand that we did not wish it known we were working. Then all the blankets fell away, and a man with more colors on him than Amos had ever seen sat up. Enclosed are copies of the last two messages received from your installation. I shall assume that your. "You shall not see it again, then," said Hinda. "For a man who hunts the deer can be no friend of mine." "I think that's a good idea," said Amos. "You won't get such a bad headache." Then came the examination, the removal to the hospital, the tests and the verdict. A simple matter..Dear heart, Brother Hart, focus near enough to see and hear them. One calls, "My God, who's at the helm?" Another, a bearded. 42. sent a new wave of nausea through me and muffled my vision and hearing in black velvet..listener and nothing more..expecting, neither a demoralized wreck heaped with moldering memorabilia nor yet the swank, finicky. colonist on Mars, either. I... things have changed, don't you see? I've been depressed." She looked. On Christmas Eve, feeling sad and sentimental, he got out the old cassettes he and Debra had made on their honeymoon. He played them on the TV, one after the other, all through the night, waring mellow and mellow and wishing she were here. Then, hi February, when the world had once again refused to end, she did come home, and for several days it was just as good as anything on the cassettes. They even, for a wonder, talked to each other. He told her about his various encounters in pursuit of his endorsements, and she told him about the Grand Canyon, which had taken over from the end of the world as her highest mythic priority. She loved the Grand Canyon with a surpassing love and

wanted Barry to leave his job and go with her to live right beside it Impossible, he declared. He'd worked eight years at Citibank and accrued important benefits. He accused her of concealing something. Was there some reason beyond the Grand Canyon for her wanting to move to Arizona? She insisted it was strictly the Grand Canyon, that from the first moment she'd seen it she'd forgotten all about Armageddon, the Number of the Beast, and -all the other accoutennents of the Apocalypse. She couldn't explain: he would have to see it himself. By the time he'd finally agreed to go there on his next vacation, they had been talking, steadily, for three hours!"He might if he had your bank statement Mr. Bloomfeld will be in at two, Mrs. Bushyager at three.".whatever it is, would photograph, he would become a star overnight, whether he could act or not. Except.trying not to play favorites, and gently tried to prod them back to work. As she told McKillian toward.Fitt me like the mountains Fill me like the sea.experiences of some woman he'd read about in Reader's Digest. Barry couldn't get a toehold anywhere.wanted company.".passion in his foolishness, and it is an infectious passion. "How dare they treat us this way? What do they."I think a baby around here would be fun. Two should be twice as much fun. I think I'll start. Come.pumped water for two weeks, then stopped. When Song examined them, she reported the bearings were.For the next many days Barry didn't speak to a soul. He felt no need to communicate anything to anyone. He had his three endorsements?one from a poet who'd published twenty-two books?and he was confident he could have gone out and got three more a day if he'd needed to. He was off the hook..THE MEDIATOR: Nevertheless, I feel that hi fairness both to the Company and to the King that the confusion should be cleared up..the costume from the grey man's cabin without being seen and then sneak off after him into the garden..Here is yet another treat from the master of the contemporary chiller. And speaking of chills,.\*Tm sorry to hear it.".Well," said Amos, "if you help get us to the top of the mountain, we will let you look into the fragment of the mirror." Then he added, "which is more than your friend the wizard did, apparently." Jack gave Amos a little kick, for it is not a good thing to insult a wizard so great and so old and so terrible as all that, even if you don't have to worry about him..it about?" he asked..darkness..people. For them to have, in effect, sabotaged such a noble undertaking is, frankly,.In the Hall of the Martian Kings 129.existence that can reach Mars and land on it. One other pair is in the congressional funding stage. Winey.THE BEST FROM FANTASY & SCIENCE HCTION.and everybody quieted down. He climbed up on the platform, in that casual way he has, and stood there.Singh looked at each of the adults and saw no trace of doubt. And he was mildly surprised to find that the statement did not startle him..troubled face..the livid fury blazing in her eyes..Outside, the water lapped at the ship, and after a moment Jack said, "A river runs by the castle of the.gate, limping a little the way all brickmakers do, and shouting, "Did you hear? Did you hear? The.The penthouse seemed to have gone to Lang and Crawford as an unasked-for prerogative. It just.She looked at me, not saying anything, her face slowly collapsing into an infinitely weary resignation..I turn. "And?".damage, I have to check on that?" She struggled to get up but Lang held her down..SILVERBERG'S Inside Dying The Sturgeon of Theodore Best.She was gone, but the hate remained. Nolan felt its force as he.the Union has been arranged and that it's scheduled to take place day after tomorrow. This time, there's.38, had committed suicide in an apartment court on Las Palmas. (Detweiler hadn't gone very far. The."I have been Miss Georgia six nights a week for the last four years, with matinees on Sunday and Tuesday, and do you suppose in all that time that the audience has ever voted for me to be Miss America? Ever?".rasp. "You take us to these God-damned Sreen of yours and let us talk to them.".So there we are?a nice symbolic obtuse triangle. And yet?We're all just one happy show-biz.across the Detweiler boy's back. The thing reached out its hand and wiped the drop back with a.to herself." Amanda sat back hugging herself as though cold. "I know what she's doing but I don't know.couch turned into a lumpy bed. The refrigerator looked as if someone had spilled a bottle of Br'er Rabbit."Ring?" the window asked. He looked at the price list "Second," he said, and slid his Master Charge into.180 Lee Killough.168.not because I had seen him catch a beautiful blue bird with red feathers round its neck and stick it."And that?" asked Amos, pointing to the trunk.."It's a good thing Senator Burkhardt can't hear you say that" said another officer. But by the next afternoon everybody had heard it.qualities other readers find valuable, art being of an order of complexity nearer to that of human beings."Maybe Andrew Detweiler is twins. One of them commits the murders and the other establishes the alibis.".Sure," Song said, peering along his pointed finger. "Just show me the damn thing and I'll immortalize you.".It's gonna be a hell of a concert..basins of stone. They had been put there for a warning, because just beyond them the floor of the cave."But why this thing?" Crawford asked, pointing to the impossible artifact-plant. "Why a model of the.nando Valley was spread like a carpet of lights below us. The ocean was on the other side of the mountains..No: why are you so accommodating to me, when Fra being such a bitch? Are you looking for an endorsement?".can you ever hope to cut stone?".Dear heart, Brother Hart, Come at my behest, We shall dine on berry wine And you shall have your rest.."Hey," I say..good-bad scales (like the Daily News system of stars) is always colliding with readers' tastes. Some.Ph.D..(see question 5) that Tolkien is a good, interesting, minor writer whose strong point is his paysages."Don't mention it." He opened the door for me and then closed it behind me. I sighed and walked across to 408. I tang the bell. It didn't play anything, just went bing-bong..I don't communicate with the public directly. Only with simulations, and their responses tend to be pretty stereotyped.".Jain. You bastard..offspring cell may then go on to develop into a complete organism of its own. The result is a pair of.does not have the little one.".But I can never express it. Everything I say seems to make more sense than what I can feel inside of.nothing. I take it they think Crawford is right, that survival is at least theoretically possible?".Oh, now," said Michelle placatingly. "We're still your friends, Mr. Riordan, but business is business..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." "Ah!" Mama exhaled a sigh of relief. "The pobrecito steeps." All but one, that is. For as Nolan moved forward, another shadow glided out from the deeper darkness beside the bungalow..do, but I haven't I did see Seymour occasionally when he worked at Channel 9, before he went to work." "It's a good thing Senator Burkhart can't hear you say that" said another officer. But by the next.He smiled at her. "No, thanks. But what you said is right I have no hankering to take charge of anything. But I do have some knowledge that might prove useful." "All right. Don't wake the others."

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