

COMMON ENEMY

He Has a Hole in His Head and His Teeth Glow in the Dark, ROGER ZELAZNY. She stopped moving. "I heard, Gordy." had the press, I believe." She spun once more and finished in a deep curtsy, then straightened and began. The knife turned toward her own chest. Selene's hand leaped to Intercept, closing on Amanda's wrist. His hands. He stood up agonizingly, like a slow motion movie, arching his spine backward, his face strangely different from the rest of the garden. There were tall whirligig derricks but they were frozen. "Oh, ultimate depression!" shrieked the thin grey man, and stepped back again, for the dress beneath. "No, honestly. Whatever is playing I usually like it. What are they playing here? I like that." An aeon went by. There was no sound except the whistling of the wind in the scaffolding. Then a stand up, he wasn't interested in the Burroughs. He forced his mind away from her. The computers had pronounced two men of Third Platoon killed and five wounded seriously enough to have been incapacitated. Colman was thinking to himself how nice it would be if real wars could be fought like that, when brilliant lights far overhead transformed the scene instantly into artificial day. He squinted against the sudden brightness for a few seconds, pushed his helmet to the back of his head, and looked around. The dead men and the seriously wounded who had been hit higher up on the slopes were walking down the trail in a small knot, while above them and to the sides, the other three platoons of D Company were emerging from cover. More activity was evident farther away along the gorge in both directions as other defending and attacking units came out into the open. Staff transporters, personnel carriers, and other types of flying vehicles were buzzing up from behind the more distant ridges where the sky ended. Colman hadn't realized fully how many troops had been involved in the exercise. An uncomfortable feeling began creeping into his mind - he had just brought to a premature end an elaborate game that staff people had been looking forward to for some time; these people probably wouldn't be too happy about it. They might even decide they didn't want him in the Army, he reflected philosophically. Breathing grows a little ragged; that is all. And yet she is more demanding of me than ever before. Asada. I live right across the street from Paramount, right across from the door people go in to see them. He laughed and almost dropped his coffee cup. "I don't think Roy can talk." "He has a hump. He's a hunchback." The door starts to swing back on noiseless hinges, and a breath of cold, unbelievably cold air touches our faces. The door swings open. The door swings open. The door swings open forever before we finally see into the next chamber. At least a thousand hired kids are there setting up chairs in the arena this morning, but it's still hard to. Instructions for its use. One sentence read cryptically: "Keep Time Control set at zero." It was like "Wet. Is it simply that I'm screwing up on my own hook, or is it because we're exploring a place no performance has ever been? I don't have." "It would be all right for a while," she recalled. "But the pressure would build until I had to go out and the map. Cinderella broke one of the polyhedrons off her hat and put it on her chair. "So I'll remember which it is," she explained. Then, contritely, "I hope you don't mind." The Best from F & SF, #23 Copyright ? 1976, 1977, 1978, 1979, 1980 by Mercury Press, Inc. the lid. He didn't see anything, so he lifted it further. When he still didn't see anything, he opened it all the. Copy certain genetic material if they encountered any. Take a look at that pipe behind you." Singh turned. and you realize that there are no secret places. And beyond you in the ghostly future you know that. He always knew when I had to have it And he got it for me. I never helped him." "Are you in command today, then?" I asked. If, after the first cell division, the two offspring cells, for any reason, should happen to fall apart, each. not necessary, for all he saw was a mass of confusing colors. "Nobody," he said. "Yeah. I broke my own rule. But so did you two. Consider yourselves on report." She laughed and. Expedition had not had any chance in the first place. There had been no time for luxuries like space travel. Aren't you part of the U. S. Government yourself?" confusion exists among the populace as to the true nature of the Project's purpose, and. So they pushed the jewels back and leaned against the closet door till it closed. Then they returned to. "Sorry. Go to your right about ten meters, where you see the steam coming from the web. There, see. been chosen as a compromise. What it meant was that the exploring parties had to either climb up or go. 82. "Though, truly," said Amos, glancing at the ceiling, "I had a friend once named Billy Belay, an old sailor with a wooden leg, I used to play jackstraws with. When he would go upstairs to his room. And for six months, nothing really new cropped up among the whirligigs. Song was not surprised. She said it supported her theory that these plants were there only as caretakers to prepare the way for the less hardy, air-breathing varieties to come. They would warm the soil and bring the water closer to the surface, then disappear when their function was over. But she can. I watched Stella outside Bradley Arena in LA when some overanxious bikers wanted to get a little too close to Jain. "Back off, creeps." "So who's teUin' us?" She had to hold the Python with both hands, but the muzzle didn't waver. Stella fired once; the slug tore the guts out of a parked Harley-Wankel. The bikers backed off very quickly. argyle sock with a hole in it The sock, long bereft of any elasticity, was crumpled around his thin rusty. friends. "What's the use of all this talk?" n. darkness. on their terrace. The only thing to connect the deaths of Harry Spinner and Maurice Milian was a lot of. "It is safer," Michelle said, "to work through a professional introduction service than to try and peddle them on your own. Even though everyone breaks it, the law is still the law. Individuals operating on their own are liable to get caught, since they don't have an arrangement with the authorities. We do. That's why, for instance, it would do you no good to report us to the Communications Control Office. Others have done so in the past, and it did them no good." problem. He didn't have to write the poem, only propose it. pied-a-terre of some has-been somebody. It was a plain, pleasant 10-room apartment that anyone could. 212. about him. A real innocent. Delighted with everything new. It's sad about his back. Real sad." He handed. "Sure, when I was really young." I repeat by long-remembered rote: "Rock breaks scissors, scissors. climbed onto his back, huddling between his shoulder blades, its hand on his shoulders. Detweiler stood. "How do you know?" variations, would have identical genetic equipment

(This would raise serious ethical questions, as all she'd taken toward the ice cream. "I was laughing at myself. Obviously, I was asking for pity. So if I should get some, I shouldn't be surprised, should I. My name's Madeline, but my friends call me Mad. You're supposed to laugh." 181. cut just a little, but he never was able to race again." The suitcase, still beside the couch, hadn't been unpacked except for the clothes hanging in the closet and the kitchen utensils. There was underwear, socks, an extra pair of shoes, an unopened ream of paper, a bunch of other stuff necessary for his writing, and a dozen or so paperbacks. The books were rubber-stamped with the name of a used-book store on Santa Monica Boulevard. They were a mixture: science fiction, mysteries, biographies, philosophy, several by Colin Wilson..Subject: Schedule Compliance in Programming Services Bill, Old Buddy, I think you have problems. J.L. was down this morning bitching about your performance. The PERT printout indicates you have slipped schedule on Accounting Project 8723 by two months. In addition, your usage of central computer facilities is running 42 percent over budget Remember that the Megalo Corporation is not in business for its health. Accounting is depending on Program S723 to keep track of profitability in the entire Computer Products Division..I frowned. "If you know I'm taking her to lunch, how is it she doesn't know what you're doing?"..that," I said in what I intended to be a soothing voice. "You've never met her."..allowed it..looked up at them from below the surface..He had been born almost at the end of the Lean Years following the war, so he didn't remember about that period, but his father had told him about the times when fifty million people lived amid shantytown squalor around the blackened and twisted skeletons of their cities and huddled in lines in the snow for their ration of soup and bread at government field-kitchens; about his mother laboring fifteen hours a day cutting boards for prefabricated houses to put two skimpy meals of beef broth and rice from the Chinese food ships on the table each day and to buy one pair of utility-brand pressed-paper shoes per person every six months; about his older brother killed in the fighting with the hordes that had come plundering from the Caribbean and from the south.."No kidding!"..Hinda stood at the door and raised her hand to shade her eyes. The last she saw of him was the flash of white tail as he sped off into the woods..wing. I'm afraid that your ass and mine would have been in the sling but for a stroke of incredible luck..In the afternoon..The meeting started out with everybody shouting and talking at once; then the Organizer showed up, and everybody quieted down. He climbed up on the platform, in that casual way he has, and stood there looking down at us with his big golden eyes, his face glowing as it always does at such times, as though there's a light inside him shining through his pores..Asexual reproduction is a matter of course among one-celled organisms (though sexual reproduction..cleaning brushes. When he sat, the split in his shorts opened and exposed half his butt, which was also.."What's that supposed to mean?"..green, and yellow..gray. "She's trying to take over, Matthew."..occasional crew mutinies. The console commands that control your warship are simple and are given in..us. With rationing, maybe a year and a half. That's assuming all the supply capsules reach us all right. In..members of Local 209 stand to benefit from the Project as much as the rest of the.."Jake. Well, Jake, I happen to be a wealthy merchant, as you may have guessed. In Frankincense and Myrrh. But I'm here just as an ordinary citizen? a citizen who is doing his level best to try to understand why certain other citizens have put their personal interests above the common interests of the community-as-a-whole and aborted a community project" ..further attraction of their store, since one's exchanges with them were limited to such basic permissible amenities as "How are you," "Take care," and giving out prices..92..living? or I would inherit the candy store, which I desperately didn't want to do. Furthermore, I lived in a..Samuel R. Delaity..THE ORGANIZER: The purpose of the Project has no bearing..I monitor crossflow conversations through plugs inserted hi both ears as set-up people check out the..Sure, bastard. It isn't your brain burning with the output of these million strangers. My violence surprises me. But I push the stim up to seventy. Then Nagami goes into a synthesizer riff, and Jam sags back against a vertical rank of amps..She looked back without stopping. "If you like. I'd like having..The Thing, grumbling about the musical remake of 2007: A Space Odyssey, and commenting on the new..She smiled a meaningful, unblemished smile and gave his hand a quick, trusting squeeze. "You know, Larry-you're an all-right guy.".."Here's what we know for sure. The E.R.B. is useless to us. Oh, they'll help us out with plenty of..I dropped in at the office for a while Friday morning and checked the first-of-the-month bills. Miss..younger people who got their endorsements by putting out.."He's still here?".."I suppose not. It's just so... unusual."..indeed walking through the violent colors and rich perfumes, past the pink marble fountains where the.."I'm fine, and how is yourself, and what are you doing down here?"..alone. The acrimonious divorce of former Olympic runner Margot Randall and Senator Charles..environment much like ours. And that's when we'll see the makers, when the stage is properly set." She..with..first you blunder into the dark trees on either side, and once the earth surges up over you in a chaos of..Song straightened up, moving stiffly. They had all worked hard to empty out the collapsed dome and peel back the whole, bulky mess to reveal the ground it had covered. She was tired and stepped out of character for a moment to snap at Mary Lang..Sure enough, Amanda called shortly before noon and asked if I had time to help her today. Caro..stripping off her exercise suit. "I'm going to swim. Will you come with me?"..back against a vertical rank of amps..could be imagined: red and yellow and brown rock outcroppings and tumbled boulders. And in the..An Ace Book by Arrangement with Doubleday, Inc..played yesterday afternoon. Please send along whatever certificate you have to indicate my Fleet Captain..Number. I've kept the stim tracks plateaued for the past three sets. "Coining," I say. "It's coming. There's..There was only a short line, and in a moment he was standing in front of the box office window. "Ring?" the window asked. He looked at the price list "Second," he said, and slid his Master Charge into the appropriate slot. "License, please," said the window, winking an arrow that pointed at another slot. He inserted his license into the other slot, a bell went ding, and miraJ He was inside Party-land, ascending the big blue escalator up to his first first-hand experience of direct, interactive personal communication. Not a classroom exercise, not a therapy session, not a job briefing, not an ecumenical agape, but an honest-to-god conversation, spontaneous, unstructured, and all his own..78..ever

was, does that mean they're qualified to fly a helicopter?" .Prisatatica.It's really a different world back in there, with almost no contact with the outside." .count on for my own. I don't know what to do, Matthew. How can I fight her?" .man speared all the radishes from the salad on his knife and flipped them into a funnel he had stuck in a .experiments that can be conducted with the hope of more useful results if the question of genetic variation .swivel chair groaned a protest .Outside, the water lapped at the ship, and after a moment Jack said, "A river runs by the castle of the Far Rainbow, and when you go down into the garden, you can hear the water against the wall just like that" .recorded. The most important of these was the power system created by focusing the Ozo at a narrow .doorman so he wouldn't have to wait out in the cold .nando Valley was spread like a carpet of lights below us. The ocean was on the other side of the mountains .his money, but she gave him an alibi for the knifing of an old man in the park on the 16th and the suicide

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