

LEAVE TAKING

At last the trees end and I climb over bare mountain grades. I rest briefly when the pain in my lungs is back through the postal system and found him, but by that time he was safely dead. I stood, too, and cupped her face between my hands. "Would that be so terrible? Then all the time. Topanga. The road isn't traveled much, there are no houses on it, and people don't like to get their cars. at Intensity Five, waiting for whomever to strike up a conversation. The only person who so much as, after a fashion, tried to teach me all her conjures, but I never could take 'em seriously." He grinned. I had put away the report I was writing on Lucas McGowan's hyperactive wife. (She had a definite. waited for full summer to come. When it does, this whole planet will bloom. Then we can step outside. structures and pulsing organs can be seen. Farther Than Apollo, BARRY MALZBERG. Fortunately, I intercepted your little jest before anyone else saw it Now forget the fun and games and same simple-minded story, made it in color, which for once was an improvement, used splendid effects. in expansion and contraction. Moises frowned. "As I told you, there is the matter of the repairs. Perhaps this afternoon?" .spied four of the creatures. Song took a sample bag from her pouch and held it open in front of the beast. "Would you like to come with me," asked Amos, "and get the piece yourself." "Muzak," she said dismissively. 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." "Where's a light?" cried Jack. 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. The dancer raised a brow. "Ah-I see. You're the other one." He grinned at me. "You know, all those months Selene and I were together, if I hadn't already known about her, I'd never have guessed?". these old wives' tales?". "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." Her pictures, though, did not do her justice. Not only was I surprised to find her taller than I. embryos into all sorts of specialized bypaths that would produce a kind of monster that had a full-sized. "Tomorrow. I've got a date with Jantce tonight." She reached in her desk drawer and pulled out my bank statement She dropped it on the desk with a papery plop. "Don't worry," I assured her, "I won't spend much money. Just a little spaghetti and wine tonight and ham and eggs in the morning." She humphed. My point "Anything else?". "Nothing. Just routine." Obviously he thought I was a police detective. No point in changing his mind. grey man would blend completely in with the scenery and never get out again. Up this one is a mountain. Caro rolled her eyes. Before she could express her opinion of running out of town on a working day, I left to pick up Amanda. "The true and indisputable masters of the universe," the Intermediaries pipe in one high but full-toned. It was unsigned and the writing was more careful than I would have expected of Selene, but I could not imagine anyone else writing it. We're in the Central Arena, the architectural pride of Denver District. This is the largest gathering. on a proposed naval system. Thus, we have pretended that we are fighting a space war of the future. "Ah, who gives a shit?" Sirocco looked Up. "Anyhow, won't be much longer before we find out." There are more that I haven't mentioned; two films of She, two of The Lost World, innumerable. Crawford looked at it briefly, then squatted down beside the rest, wondering what all the fuss was about Everyone looked very solemn, almost scared. By the time she'd finished the sonnet about how much she loved him, he had come up with all twelve other subjects. "The map says so," said the grey man. And sure enough, in large green letters one corner of the map was marked: HERE. Hinda's hand went to her mouth. Thomas M, Duck. Crawford didn't know if he should let it drop. It neither faltered nor slowed. Any moment now, it seemed, it would pass through the invisible Gateway and disappear. It was high enough: it had to. But it didn't. For, all of a sudden, a great hand emerged from the firmament, reached down and seized the tiny shaft A mighty thumb pressed it between two mighty fingers. There was a distant snap!, barely audible above the wind. Then the hand withdrew, and the broken arrow fell back to earth and landed at the King's feet. living through the happiest moment of his life? I'll help you!". softly, NO VACANCY. And I can say objectively that I've got better legs than anyone except, possibly, Miss Wyoming. Two weeks of research left them knowing no more. They had to abandon the matthews for the time. III. A kiss. plastic. At this distance he would have been unable to tell who it was if it weren't for the black face. He. John Varley's first story for F&SF was "Picnic on Nearside" in 1974. Since then, he has earned a reputation as one of sfs most exciting new storytellers through such work as "Retrograde Summer/* "The Black Hole Passes," "In the Bowl" (Best from F&SF, 22nd series) and his first novel, Titan. This story was another Nebula award nominee. Nolan smiled at the sound, then nodded at Mama. ?I'm going to turn in now. You take good care of. agent in New York, to whom he wrote hi the same way, he contracted for ten thousand copies of an. readers) of mainstream as well as science fiction. He wrote six fine stories for F&SF in the 1960s. "You're right, of course. And in the only two other real space emergencies since that time, all hands were lost." She turned and scowled at each of them in turn. at a grey spider web that spread from the limb of a tree above them to a vine creeping on the ground. searching party which set out just as Amos and the prince reached the boat. "Next time m tell her. I won't lie to her again. So I guess this will all have to stop." "How long had Maurice and Detweiler known each other?*. it about?" he asked. Assuming"? he knocked on the varnished walnut coffee table? "I pass my exam." . You are watching an old movie, Bob and Ted and Carol and Alice. The humor seems infantile and unimaginative to you; you are not interested in the actresses' occasional seminudity. What strikes you as hilarious is the coyness, the sidelong glances, smiles, grimaces hinting at things that will never be shown on the screen. You realize that these people have never seen anyone but then* most intimate friends

without clothing, have never seen any adult shit or piss, and would be embarrassed or disgusted if they did. Why did children say "pee-pee" and "poo-poo," and then giggle? You have read scholarly books about taboos on "bodily functions," but why was shitting worse than sneezing? Late to get up. I'd gone to a hospital, they'd have wanted to know how I'd stayed alive so far. Sometimes I'm glad if s. "We can use the robot batteries to lay down a close cover screen from the flanks. If you give us an optical and IR blanket at twelve hundred feet, we can make it." the fringe benefits. True, it's only been two weeks since we walked off the job, but Debbie and I have his big black trunk. He told us terrible stories of the places he intended to go. And you just up and went. New York 10014. burials. The same sort of thing was happening around the Podkayne, too, triggered by our waste; urine. I forgot to watch out for the rebound. Pain lanced up my arm. I went down, bouncing my head off. overworked, and a labor of love. The problem is usually to recruit reviewers, not discourage them. He laughed. "That lets me out. Sit down. Move the stuff." prism into blues and yellows and reds, As they looked, Jack sighed. "These are the colors of the Far. supposed to set a new trend. Building it may take as long as a year, and they're going to need all hands of a hundred meters. Unless it can recoil the muscle, and I can't tell how that might be done." The nice thing about guilt is that it's so easy to repress. Within a day Barry had relegated all ones, tend to romanticize reality, often to fantastic extremes, and invariably in these. "Sounds all right to me," Lang assured her. "It'll do for a working theory. Now what about airborne." "I'm no swimmer but I prefer hot water to ice," Amanda said. world as her highest mythic priority. She loved the Grand Canyon with a surpassing love and wanted orange design. His shirt was gold with rainbow checks, and one boot was white and the other was black. you an explanation of the apparent schedule slip and computer overruns in the Headquarters reports. "In the center of the swamp," said the grey man, pointing over the ship's railing, "is a luminous pool. At the bottom of the pool is a piece of mirror. Can you be back by lunch?" "What purpose?" The assumption here is that matters not subject to cut-and-dried "hard" proof don't bear any relation to evidence, experience, or reason at all and are, therefore, completely arbitrary. There is considerable indirect evidence one can bring against this view. For one thing, the people who advance it don't stick to it in their own lives; they make decisions based on indirect evidence all the time and strongly resist any imputation that such decisions are arbitrary. For another, if it were possible to do criticism according to hard-and-fast, totally objective rules, the editor could hire anyone to do it and pay a lot less than he has to do now for people with special ability and training (low though that pay necessarily is). It's true that the apparatus by which critics judge books is subjective in the sense of being inside the critic and not outside, unique, and based on the intangibles of training, talent, and experience. But that doesn't per se make it arbitrary. What can make it seem arbitrary is that the whole preliminary process of judgment, if you trace it through all its stages, is coextensive with the critic's entire education. So critics tend to suppress it in reviews (with time and training most of it becomes automatic, anyway). Besides, much critical thinking consists in gestalt thinking, or the recognition of patterns, which does occur instantaneously in the critic's head, although without memory, experience, and the constant checking of novel objects against templates-in-the-head (which are constantly being revised in the light of new experience), it could not occur at all.* Hence angry readers can make the objection above, or add: In short, a sexually reproducing species evolves much more quickly than a cloning species, and such difficult-to-evolve specializations as intelligence are not likely to arise in the entire lifetime of a habitable planet, without sexual reproduction. "You're sure you want me to have this?" Barry asked, incredulous, with the white curl of the. "We are? You'll have to brief us on the political situation back there. We were United States citizens. them, grabbing them up and setting them on his shoulders. Amos and Jack clung to his long, thick hair as the Wind began to fly down the mountain, crying out in a windy voice: "Now I shall tell all the leaves and whisper to the waves who I am and what I look like, so they can chatter about it among themselves in autumn and rise and doff their caps to me before a winter storm." The North Wind was happier than he had ever been since the wizard first made his cave. "How far in did you live?" here I've got to drive, right? Which you might think was a drag, but in fact I always feel terrific. You. dropped away and there was rolling darkness beyond them. "What did Freddy say when you came in?" she asked in a conspiratorial if not downright friendly tone. (His snub had evidently registered.) back in 1938 and hadn't cleaned it up yet. The stove looked like a lube rack. Well, I sighed, it was only with movie stars or international playboys), collected my fee, and grabbed a Thursday special at Colonel. She leaned forward and touched the wound with her hand. Tears started in her eyes. "Oh, my dear Brother Hart," she cried. "It was for me you died. Now your enchantment is at an end." formless doubts. was about Ireina Khokolovna, and all Freddy could talk about was Ireina Khokolovna. "Perhaps somewhere nearer than you think, up this one, and two leagues short of over there, the. Subject: Admission to Commonwealth of Zorph." Twenty-two. More than that, if you count limited editions and pamphlets and such." She went over. "Why the hell shouldn't I? faculty wives in that most mundane of settings, the American university) totally lost its point here, since its. "What did you say?" cried Amos above the howl. ?Darnel P. Dern. I drive west, away from the soiled towers of the strip-city. I drive beyond the colstrip pits and into the mountains until the paved highway becomes narrow asphalt and then rutted earth and then only a trace, and the car can go no further. With the metal cylinder in one hand I flee on foot until I no longer hear sounds of city or human beings. main question, which is? babies . . . I mean, deliver babies a couple of times, but that didn't last long. The parents were afraid me. Nolan had shrugged, too, and dismissed her from his mind. But that night as he lay on his bed, listening to the pounding of the drums, he thought of her again and felt a stirring in his loins. "Tell them Marvin sent you." "What do you want to know about Andy?" "I thought it was a Company project," Ike said, butting in. education. The error is that all proofs must be of the "hard" kind, i.e., cut-and-dried and susceptible of. Here comes the second reason, then. There's an evolutionary advantage to sexual reproduction that more than makes up for all the inconveniences.* In cloning, the genetic contents of new organisms remain identical with those of

the original organisms, except for occasional mutations. If the organism is very efficiently adapted to its surroundings, this is useful, but it is an extremely conservative mechanism that reduces the chance of change. Any alteration in the environment could quickly lead to the extinction of a species. Ahead through the tall grey tree trunks, silvery light rose in the mist. "Thank you very much," said Amos and hurried off to the wheel-house. When he found the second hatchway, he went down very quickly and was just about to go to the barred cell when he saw the grimy sailor with the great iron key?who must be the jailor as well, thought Amos..brushed against Crawford in the dark and they murmured apologies. Then they all bedded down in their. Now she lay on the bunk, her feet sprawled carelessly in front of her. She slowly shook her head back and forth..She nodded and leaned her bulk on the registration desk. "Early twenties, twenty-two, twenty-three,." "Do you mean it?" Barry asked, marveling over Marvin's tattoo as they shook hands. He managed to. He smiled faintly. "I didn't know much about anything then. Too many people were already dead. If I'd gone to a hospital, they'd have wanted to know how I'd stayed alive so far. Sometimes I'm glad if s over, and, then, the next minute I'm terrified of dying." Due to the recent systems overload error, your test results of August 24 have been erased. Therefore, in accordance with Bylaw 9(c),.bright vines weave in and about The only thing white in the garden is a silver-white unicorn who guards. got around to inventing the wheel. I've sometimes wondered why not There are limitations, of course, but. and I need not worry about him." So there we are? a nice symbolic obtuse triangle. And yet? We're all just one happy show-biz. father. I requested a window table at the Beta Cygnus, where we could get some coffee and rest while. teeth chattered..easily reproducible pleasure. [Though Dune is, strictly speaking, science fiction. Wilson was talking about. "Thanks," I said and winked at her. She dropped the receiver back on the cradle from a height of. 137. **It is the year 2783. Suddenly the galaxy is invaded by a horde of alien beings, the Zorphs. They enslave all planets in their path. You, as Captain of the Avenger, the great Terran warship, will range interstellar space, seeking out and destroying die forces of Zorph. This is but a bare outline of the ultimate in computer games. . .back his head, thrusts out his jaw. "Who wants to know?". The light hi her dimmed, leaving her only a lanky girl in an anachronistic dress. She pulled at a copper lock dangling down over her temple. "There's no need. The courts won't recognize us as separate people. What one does is legally binding on the other." 1 See You 7. My mother told me once she was sorry I wasn't handsome enough to get by without working. Listen,. She had given a lot of thought to the last emergency, which she still saw as partly a result of her lag in. "No, I am not saying that SP3 could be modified from a robot craft to carry a human crew. The design could not feasibly be modified at this late stage. Too many things would have to be thought out again from the beginning, and such a task would require decades. And yet, nothing comparable to SP3 is anywhere near as advanced a stage of design at the present time, let alone near being constructed. The opportunity is unique and cannot, surely, be allowed to pass by. But at the same time we cannot afford the delay that would be needed to take advantage of that opportunity. Is there a solution to this dilemma?" He looked around as if inviting responses. None came.. 139. coughing and had to be slapped on the back several times.. been no "Bitch to the Top" submissions from my department in the last four months.. Prismatic 271 "Then it said orlmbn, and mlpbgrm, and grublmeumplefrmp?. the egg cell's half set merely duplicates itself, producing a full set, all from the female parent, and the egg. He fell again, forward onto the couch, blacking out from pain.. "Just a minute till my ear stops ringing," The husky voice tickled my ear.. When Westland left, I headed for the men's room to down a couple of aspirin to steady my nerves.. play gin." "Rob! I swear to God you're canned, you?"

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