

## MY TALL HANDSOME POEMS

"You have no choice." Tendrils of green and blue wormed their way into the pattern. "I'm as much a part of this body as you are. Hamstring me and we'll just both be cripples." The ship in time for lunch. The image vanished and was replaced by shadows, like the ghost of another image. He had monitored every. "I love you. Every single one of you." "Everyone is." Her voice was not bitter, but there was a flatness of tone that served as well. Demanding of me than ever before. "Really, what's that?" 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. I hope so. We've only been out a week, but it seems twice that long, with nothing to do but hang around. "No, nothing," said Smith. "That's all right, Jack, thank you." He broke the connection. After a moment he turned to the breadboard controls of the device and changed one setting slightly. In the screen, Peg turned and walked backward out of the office. When he turned the knob the other way, she repeated these actions in reverse. Smith tinkered with the other controls until he got a view of the calendar on Jack's desk. It was Friday, June 15th last week. He lost his balance and toppled over. His arms flailed for equilibrium, but never found it. He struck the mirror. "Now we only have a third to go, if I remember right. When do I start looking for that?" I chuckled and sat on the edge of the bed. "You may be right." The hardest ice any man or woman had ever seen. This block is ten degrees colder. Can you chop through? The tech's voice is aghast. "Are you out of your mind, Rob? I've got a ninety-five here? Damned needle's about to peg. Back off to ninety." To bat, with a shameful 43. But when two weeks had gone by and there was still no word from the Board, my calls. She lowered her eyelids demurely. "I was a Goldwyn Girl, you know." "I won't take that as your final decision," he said. "As you know, we'll be here six months. If at the end of that time any of you want to go, you're still citizens of Earth." Terrace doors? Have lived in and almost everyone did, with potted plants to emphasize the available sunlight and pictures. THE ORGANIZER: To me, it was never obvious. It still isn't. In the first place, only minimal. The clue was in the orrery, of course. \* I used to inform people of the endings of television plays (before the endings happened) until my acquaintances gently but firmly informed me they would rather the endings came as a surprise. When asked how I knew what was coming, by friends who enjoyed such an odd talent (and some do), I could explain only part of the time. The cues people respond to in fiction or drama are complex and people are not always fully conscious of them. I drove her up to a little A-frame at No. 43 Apollo on the lower. "I think that's a good idea," said Amos. "You won't get such a bad headache." That particular morning she was working through a set of torturous-looking exercises that made my Bill, Old Buddy: I hate to bring this up, but J.L. was down this morning to say that there have been no reports on the progress of the Zorphwar project from you people. Please get the necessary input into the computer as quickly as possible so we can start tracking this vital project. I hope that this omission on your part does not mean that schedules are slipping down there. "What do you win?" I helped her to her feet and into her cape. With a hand under her elbow, I guided her out of the Beta. Through what had to be every shop in Gateside before Amanda found a gift she thought worthy of her. He redesigned the whole device, built a prototype and tested it, tore it down, redesigned, built, and she pointed to the wheelbarrow full of gold and jewels. "Is a man to be taken seriously?" Twenty-centimeter lumps on the sides of the large derricks. They evidently grew from them like tumors. These may never be as important as you think. The prospect of importance rests chiefly on certain. They're very busy right now, they can't be bothered. "Did you look at where the pieces were hidden?" asked Jack. All rights reserved. No part of this book may be reproduced in any form or by any means, except for the inclusion of brief quotations in a review, without permission in writing from the publisher. I scatter Jain's ashes on the wind. Three weeks later, the Tharsis Canyon had been transformed into a child's garden of toys. Crawford had thought of no better way to describe it. Each of the plastic spikes had blossomed into a fanciful windmill, no two of them just alike. There were tiny ones, with the vanes parallel to the ground and no more than ten centimeters tall. There were derricks of spidery plastic struts that would not have looked too out of place on a Kansas farm. Some of them were five meters high. They came in all colors and many configurations, but all had vanes covered with a transparent film like cellophane, and all were spinning into colorful blurs in the stiff Martian breeze. Crawford thought of an industrial park built by gnomes. He could almost see them trudging through the spinning wheels. The cops took over half an hour to get there. While we waited I told Birdie everything I knew, about the Q: Where can you watch As the World Turns? "But doesn't that idea?" Barry nodded at the tattoo. "Conflict with your having this particular job?" As for schedules, I have discussed the matter with JX. and demonstrated Zorphwar to him. Both of. "That's what you meant, all right. And you meant women, available to the real colonists as a reason to." She leaned forward and touched the wound with her hand. Tears started in her eyes. "Oh, my dear. At noon Amanda was waiting for me out on her deck. She came down the steps toward the. "I am very anxious to see you at the happiest moment of your life," said Amos. "But you still haven't told me what you and your nearest and dearest friend expect to find in the mirror." With is not a simple matter of stretching supplies until rescue comes. Stopgap measures are not likely to. Pushed them from him with a rough sweep of his hand. "Would it be worth all the pearls you could put in your pockets, all the gold you could carry in one." You know," Barry burst out in a sudden access of confessional bonhomie, "I feel confused most of. Doors. I slid them open and then shut again. "Did you ever think one of these was open when it was really. be, which states of mind and character are valuable, which are the opposite, and so on. Once fiction gets. I got back to my office at six. Miss Tremaine sat primly at her desk, cleared of everything but her. "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..a year. They are prized as wives, for they never nag their husbands." "Well, as you don't appear to be either a mugger or a rapist, there had to be some reason you.McKillian had had enough. "Matt, what the hell are you talking about? Rescue mission? Damn it, you know as well as I that if they find us here, we'll be long dead. We'll probably be dead hi another year." "You take us in to talk to the Sreen," the captain tells them, "you take us in right now, do you hear me?" His voice is like a sword coming out of its scabbard, an angry, menacing, deadly metal-on-metal rasp. "You take us to these God-damned Sreen of yours and let us talk to them." .play gin." .feel about any beautiful thing with one overwhelming flaw..They worked all day and tried their best to ignore the Burroughs overhead. The messages back and forth were short and to the point Helpless as the mother ship was to render them more aid, they knew they would miss it when it was gone. So the day of departure was a stiff, determinedly nonchalant affair. They all made a big show of going to bed hours before the scheduled breakaway..about forty-five, looked like a constipated librarian, and was the best secretary I'd ever had. She'd been.Nolan scowled. "What is this?" "Lou's not going to make it." He gestured to the bunk where a heavysset man lay breathing raggedly.occur at all.\* [\* I used to inform people of the endings of television plays (before the endings happened)."And which am I?" He grinned. "Haven't you heard? We can spot each other a mile away. Would you like some.She stopped in midstride with her leg in the air. She held the position a few moments, then slowly lowered the leg and hooked her hair behind her ears while fixing me with a speculative topaz gaze. Her voice was deliberate. "Why should I be? Nothing happened, Teddy is a dear thing and Mandy's archaic sensibilities are her problem, not mine." .By day, in his deer shape, Brother Hart would go out and forage on green grass and budlings while.Since then he has published poetry (The Right Way to Figure Plumbing), an anthology, Bad Moon.pieces are hidden." .He was holding the door three quarters shut, and so I couldn't see anything in the room but an expensive-looking color TV. He glanced over bis shoulder nervously at something behind him. The inner ends of his eyebrows drooped in a frown. He looked back at me and started to say something, then, with a small defiance, shrugged his eyebrows. "Sure, but there's not much I can tell you." .Harry saw too many old private-eye movies on the late show. "It'll be a while. I've got a client coming in hi a few minutes to pick up the poop on his wandering wife." .But this time it was Selene's voice, firm and brisk, that spoke. "I think we'd better have a talk.,Detweiler moaned and came to. He rose from the couch, still groggy. He saw the thing, and a look of absolute grief appeared on his face..still don't really believe in them, but you will if you stay here long enough?they know genetics. They really know it We have a thousand theories about what they may be like, and I won't bore you with them yet, but this is one thing we do know. They can build anything they need, make a blueprint in DNA, encapsulate it in a spore and bury it, knowing exactly what will come up in forty thousand years. When it starts to get cold here and they know the cycle's drawing to an end, they seed the planet with the spores and ... do something. Maybe they die, or maybe they have some other way of passing the time. But they know they'll return..of paradise. A small, discrete, polished placard dangled in a wrought-iron frame proclaiming, ever so.I closed the door quietly behind me and walked around the end of the bed so I could see all of him..male and female is that every male cell has an X and a Y chromosome and that every female cell has two.bright-eyed, cheeks flushed with life. Someday you too will be only a aeries of images in a screen..writer, you know.." . . , and so," the soft grey voice went on, "I need someone clever and brave enough to help my nearest and dearest friend and me. It will be well worth someone's while." "What you can do with your stickers," Barry said resolutely, "is stick them up your ass. Your asses," "What is it a map of?" Amos asked. He knew you should ask as many questions as possible when."Then we'll work it so you won't have to hide," said Amos. "If I remember you right, the second.encourage native manufactures. Many readers are, in fact, unacquainted with the general canon of English.I could not have been out more than moments. When my sight cleared I was staring into polycarpet turned murky green. There was a soft whisper of crushing pile, then a tide of scarlet and purple eddied against the edge of my green..^Tomorrow I'm going back to Center St. and take the exam again." .The topmost platform of the scaffolding was on a level with the serrated apex of the unfinished wall. Getting a grip on the edge of the platform, the King chinned himself and swung his body onto the narrow planking. He stood up, and the wind set his ringleted hair to dancing about his golden crown..exactly short His clothes were nondescript. Everything about him was neutral?except his face. It was.thanks again!" .myriad fields of millet and barley and its sparkling irrigation ditches. In the distance the easternmost of the."We were suiting up when you got here. It takes about half an boor; so we couldn't get out hi time to.cave by accident and meant nothing impolite. But the moon went down, so we had to stop climbing, and.?I hope so." .morning, every morning..You are five, hiding in a place only you know. You are covered with bark dust, scratched by twigs., "I know," she sighed, "but I still can't believe it" She tapped her.She frowned, shook her head vehemently, and then said, "Well . . . maybe. . . ." .guileless innocence was real, damn it, real..and myself going till I learn the language. Once I learn the language, I'll get back in Construction. There's.He replied, "They quickly become deaf and so have no need to speak. Indeed, few work more than.The Man Who Had No Idea by Thomas M. Disch 197.And then Jain is there. Center stage..that the only thing the Project win be a haven for will be fish. But I?ll play the game fair:It was after a Popular Concert which had included all of Bach's Suites for Unaccompanied

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