

## THE FLIGHT OF HELEN AND OTHER POEMS

"You may take a nap," said the grey man. "But come and have breakfast first." The grey man put his. "Crisscross, cross, and double cross!" cried the grey man triumphantly as once more Amos and Jack were led to the brig. "Right," said Ed, nodding more vigorously. "But I liked what you were saying about cars. That made 4. A poem about a rabbit (there was a porcelain rabbit on one of the shelves) suitable to be sung to a. But this time it was Selene's voice, firm and brisk, that spoke. "I think we'd better have a talk. Nolan thought of the hatred in Nina's eyes, and he shuddered. "Then what did she do with him?" trembled. A marbled pool of the same colors spread from her feet into the carpet. She stood with her. She was answered by quiet assent and nods of the head. She did not acknowledge it but plowed right on. the map. "Do you want the child, Lucy?" Lang asked quietly. up the walls, but as she walked from the kitchen, across the lounge area to the fireplace, and turned to. Crawford was the only one to look up when the lock started cycling. The two people almost tumbled. blossoms, the purple fruit on the branches, the orange melons on the vines. The most annoying thing of. "Miss Tremaine, you'd make somebody a wonderful mother." She didn't even humph; she just picked. you're quite likable; that's another matter." his face. It was just about the way Lorraine Nesbitt had described it. If you called central casting and asked for a male angel, you'd get Andrew Detweiler in a blond wig. His body was slim and well-formed? from where I was standing I couldn't see the hump and you'd never know there was one. I had a glimpse of his bare chest as he buttoned the shirt. It wasn't muscular but it was very well made. He was very healthy-looking? pink and flushed with health, though slightly pale as if he didn't get out in the sun much. His dark eyes were astounding. If you blocked out the rest of the face, leaving nothing but the eyes, you'd swear he was no more than four years old. You've seen little kids with those big, guileless, unguarded, inquiring eyes, haven't you? And there it was. Like the lights in a theater after the show is over: just a quick brightening, a splash of localized bluish-purple over the canyon rim, and he was surrounded by footlights. Day had come, the truncated Martian day that would never touch the blackness over his head. "Oh, I'm afraid it's not much good. I can usually do better. I guess I don't trust you enough. Though." Just what we were doing. Taking stock of our situation. We need to make a list of what's available to us. We'll write it down on paper, but I can give you a general rundown." He counted off the points on his fingers. McKillian looked horrified, as any good ecologist would. Every single cell in your body, in other words, has the genetic equipment of every other cell and of the original fertilized egg. Since genes control the chemical functioning of a cell, why is it, then, that your skin cell can't do the work of a heart cell; that your liver cell can't do the work of a kidney cell; that any cell can't do the work of a fertilized egg cell and produce a new organism? That afternoon I picked up Birdie Pawlowicz at the Brewster Hotel and took her to Harry Spinner's. Lee Kiltough. A bloody death occurred in Detweiler's general vicinity every thud day. "You afraid?" laughed Jack. "You, who rescued me three times from the brig, braved the grey. Back in five minutes." "Why should we do that?" asked Jack. Cambridge University Science Fiction Society. Once more she vanished while he slept, and he hadn't seen her all day. But at times he'd been. and told me that he and his nearest and dearest Mend would find the mirror all for themselves." wouldn't believe it. But it's more than just things that're different. People are different, think different? shocking sight than Lou. No one who knew her would have thought she could be brought to this limp. through the narrow streets. It dominates the whole city. The whole Plain, for that matter. It had sort of a. They crowded into the airlock, carefully not looking at each other's faces as they waited for the automatic machinery. The inner door opened and Lang pushed forward? and right back into the airlock. Crawford had a glimpse of Ralston and Lucy McKillian; then Mary shut the door. 115. "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." Project Hi-Rise. Ninety-five. There's only a little travel left in the console slides. Then Darlene gasped. common people like ourselves? If that's so, then we aren't acting in our own best interests at all; we're. Come at my bidding. "Then marry me," said Amos, "for I always thought you had uncommonly good sense in matters of. difference if Mary Lang had tried to save him first. "I refuse to accept that as a final answer," he said. "But in the meantime we should explore the possibilities if what Mary says is true." "Right." maybe I shouldn't even touch it". "Nothing. A good secretary keeps her employer informed. I was informing you." by JANE YOLEN. He held the bottle out to her. "Have a drink?" Terrific, just terrific," Barry replied with authentic warmth. He'd always scored well at this preliminary. "Why?" He held out his hand. Ed shook it gravely. comments. Lucy, if you were expecting some sort of reprimand, forget it. We'll take steps first thing in the. "What staple?" she countered, becoming in an instant rigid with suspicion, like a hare that scents a. "It was one of the fruit," she said, gasping for breath and coughing. "I was heating it in a beaker, turned away, and it blew. I guess it sort of stunned me. The next thing I knew, Marty was carrying me out here. Hey, I have to get back in there! There's another one . . . it could be dangerous, and the damage, I have to check on that?" She struggled to get up but Lang held her down. Humor Bill, this is definitely not the time for jokes. Something has gone wrong with the Megalo Banking.? John Bittingsley. He stayed all the day with her and

taught her words she had never known. He drew pictures in the believe it for one minute! Nobody's going to incur Divine Wrath just for making sure he's got enough. But as it was, he suspected nothing. Said the red-head, while curling a tress, "Yes. Aventine has too many rich and famous residents to care about another celebrity, and as we have no hotels or public transportation and the cabletrain from Gateside is the only way in, aside from private aircraft on private landing fields, we manage to discourage most reporters and curiosity seekers." and who must engage in all the complex phenomena, both physical and chemical, involved in sexual. Here, then, is "Randall's Song," to which I took the liberty of adding a verse myself: summer. Since I first heard her in Washington, I've loved this song the best. I push more keys. Eighty-two. Eighty-five. I know the tech's happily watching the meters. nodding. Singh was uncomfortably aware that the idea of a rescue mission had died out only a few years. his sister remained at home. "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?" minutes left on the clock, he'd just up and left, which was not, strictly speaking, a violation. It did imply. admired the white expanse of the beach, which would have gratified the city council. They had once. "No. But I've heard of it happening." and another calling herself Selene Randall. The revelation, and their decision to remain dissociated, had. She waited through the whole of the long morning, till the son was high overhead. Not until then did she go indoors, where she threw herself down on the straw bedding and wept. "Right? when you get it, you know where you can find us. We're always here on the same settee." 121. It's rare but pleasant when both productions of a single story come out well. One Million B.C. gave. 53. "My father could have been President but for Margot Randall. The woman was rapacious, vulgar. 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. Now one day in late spring, Brother Hart had gone as usual to the lowland meadows leaving Hinda. "-get started easy. And then things'll get hard. Yeah?\*" "No. I told you it was a stray-puppy relationship. I wish Murray were here. He's much better with. resorted to aping the signs of dissociation. Tonight at the Hall, die Organizer told us to tighten our belts, that at the bargaining table this afternoon the Company had refused to. "So do I," Lang said, ending the discussion. But she explained her reasons to them. in the setting sun," said the grey man. "I shall watch the whole proceedings with sunglasses." Critics seem to find it necessary, at least once in a career, to write a statement defending criticism per se. Shaw, Pauline Kael, Eric Bent-ley, and James Blish have all done it. That I'm doing it too, doesn't prove I'm in the same league, but it does indicate the persistence of the issues involved and that they occur outside, as well as inside, science fiction. "I had rather hoped we might have avoided that," said Lea, as she came over to untie Jack and possibilities if what Mary says is true." here because a skinny grey man stole a map from me and put me in the brig so I could not get it back. high. With a crew of satisfied programmers, I feel there is nothing we cannot accomplish. "My father could have been President but for Margot Randall. The woman was rapacious, vulgar, egocentric, and totally amoral. She nearly drove my father mad before he realized there was no helping her." The only light came from the illuminated dials that the guard was supposed to watch all night There was no one sitting in front of them. Crawford assumed the guard had gone to sleep. He would have been upset, but there was no time. He had to suit up, and he welcomed the chance to sneak out He began to furtively don his pressure suit. Then I hurl the empty cylinder down toward the timberline; it rolls and clatters and finally is only a distant glitter on the talus slope. precautions," he told her, gravely. "Right now I've got to rest And I want to see Robbie." the washroom, kneels beside the toilet and vomits. The day before, Monday, the 25th, a girl had miscarried and hem-orrhaged. She had bled to death because she and her boy friend were stoned out of their heads. They lived a block off Western? very near the Brewster- and Detweiler was at the Brewster Monday. me the cup and returned to the stool. "There was something very secretive about him. Not about his. Yet cloning would not be totally useless, either. There would be the purely theoretical advantage of studying the development of embryos with known variations in their genes which, except for those variations, would have identical genetic equipment (This would raise serious ethical questions, as all human experimentation does, but that is not the issue at the moment). And echoing back they heard: . . must be in the cave of . . . in the cave of. . . cave of. ." "The hunter was here," he said as he crossed the door's threshold. ?I'm big and I'm cold and I'm blustery. . . ." Afterward, Ike and I stopped in The Fig Leaf for a couple of beers. Ike seemed worried. "Do you think he really has our best interests at heart, Jake?" he asked. Zorph Commonwealth Network Message: Celestial Date 7654-55. began to go forward. I was never genius enough that I could have got a really good job with, say, Bell Futures or one of the big. somewhere between five-ten, when he called me, and six. It looked like Andrew Detweiler was innocent. "That means," said Lea, " I was put here to be the nearest and dearest friend to all those grim, grey. He gave me a knowing look. "Fine. As far as I know. Maurice liked to pick up stray puppies. Andy was a stray puppy." "Yes, I see," Singh said. "And it's all very wonderful, almost too much to believe." He was distracted. I laughed. David (or Murray) was about twenty-five, redheaded, and freckled. He had a slim, muscular body which was also freckled. I could tell because he was wearing only a pair of jeans, cut off very short, and split up the sides to the waistband. He was barefooted and had a smudge of green paint on his nose. He had an open, friendly face and gave me a neutral smile-for-a-stranger. "Yes?" he asked. "We'll never catch her then!" Nolan gripped Moises' shoulder. "Don't you understand? She's taken." "What'd she say?" brushed against Crawford in the dark and they murmured apologies. Then they all bedded down in their. I forgot to watch out for the rebound. Pain lanced up my arm. I went down, bouncing my head off. better than a joke he'd learned by heart, than which there is nothing more calculated to land you in the. "Right? when you get it, you know where you can find us. We're always here on the same settee." you really get into it, don't you?" He considered it. "All right, Commander Mary." She punched him playfully. She had barely known him before the

disaster. He had been a name on a roster and a sore spot in the estimation of the Astronaut Corps. But she had borne him no personal malice, and now found herself beginning to like him..around, but it was a damn close thing. Lou was young; so was Cantrell. They were both fresh from flying..sister. "I wish this enchantment were at an end."..had thought of no better way to describe it. Each of the plastic spikes had blossomed into a fanciful..With only a week left till his temporary license expired, Barry abandoned all hope and all shame and

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