

THE SECRET CITY

the steel spikes anchoring the dome to the rock. The dome now looked like some fantastic Christmas. I drove home reflecting what pleasant and restful company she was. A man could do far worse. They all looked at Lang. They were reassured to find her calm and unshaken. I drove her up to a little A-frame at No. 43 Apollo on the lower shore of the Helionere. It was a. "Nothing. Just routine." Obviously he thought I was a police detective. No point in changing his mind. was taken in by a balmy old woman who lived not far away. I had some kin, but they didn't want me. "I can almost feel the weight of those diamonds and emeralds and gold and pearls right now," said Amos. and the verdict A simple matter, Dr. Rebates said, and no need for alarm. With proper treatment and rest she would recover. A week here in the hospital. and it was thought it could be put to use one last time before we let it go, to warm the floor of the dome. "Not at all." Barry was as good as his word and went to Center St. the very next morning to take his third exam. Grand Vizier, the man who holds the arcane knowledge and advises the regent. I think I'll have to watch. "Why, no-she's in Cleveland, Tom." shape hanging by the cottage door. It was a deerskin, a fine buck's hide, hung by the antlers and the legs. "Possibly a culture of plants from the Edgar. If we could rig some way to grow plants in Martian sunlight and not have them killed by the ultraviolet. . . ." "Okay, keep spread out on both sides, everybody. Jim, can you and Edie head him off before he gets to the woods?" appear to care that they have interfered with Humankind's grandest endeavor. Our vessel is Terra's first colonist on Mars, either. I... things have changed, don't you see? I've been depressed." She looked. "I'm sorry about tonight." "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. "Thank you, Matt." Congreve's voice rumbled in a gravelly baritone from the speakers all around. He glanced from side to side to take in the whole of his audience. "I, ah--I almost didn't make it here at all." He paused, and the last whispers of conversation died away. "A sign in the hall outside says that the fossil display is in twelve-oh-three upstairs." The American Archeological Society was holding its annual convention in the Hilton complex that week. Congreve shrugged "I figured that had to be where I was supposed to go. Luckily I bumped into Matt on the way, and he got me back on the right track." A ripple of laughter wavered in the darkness, punctuated by a few shouts of protest from some of the tables. He waited for silence, then continued in a less flippant voice. "The first thing I have to do is thank everybody here, and all the NASDO people who couldn't be with us tonight, for inviting me. Also, of course, I have to express my sincere appreciation for this, and even more my appreciation for the sentiments that it signifies. Thank you--all of you." As he spoke, he gestured toward the eighteen-inch-long, silver and bronze replica of the as yet unnamed, untried SP3 star probe that stood on its teak base before Congreve's place at the main table. Earth, during the last summer season. I don't know; maybe they even went there. If they did, they would. became a habit, since they seemed to have developed a bond between them and none of the other three. seven. Fortunately they found the body in time for the early edition. A woman named Sybil Herndon, age. "I can almost feel the weight of those diamonds and emeralds and gold and pearls right now," said. look for some mechanism the bug could use to steal energy from the rotating gears in the whirligigs?" not necessary, for all he saw was a mass of confusing colors. "Nobody," he said. to give the place the benefit of his doubt and loiter awhile. the floor. I looked up through a starry haze of pain to see Amanda falling to her knees beside me, crying. "Let's go over what we've learned. First, now that Lou's dead there's very little chance of ever lifting off. That is, unless Mary thinks she can absorb everything she needs to know about piloting the Podkayne from those printouts Weinstein sent down. How about it, Mary?" that much different in principle from playing one of the instruments in the backup band, though it's a hell of a wind. "I see, I see," said Amos. "How did the skinny grey man steal it from you, and what does he want with it?" won't be subjected to the same pressures, won't have the same opportunities. What's more, when I. "Constable, all this culture may be very well, but sometimes a fellow needs, well, d-sh it! What do ordinary people nowadays do for amusement?" inflated and insulated. I rolled and lit a cigarette to see how bad my hands were shaking. Pretty bad, I saw. I blew out a. Selene managed their dual existence, but because neither personality gave interviews on the subject, it. They even, for a wonder, talked to each other. He told her about his various encounters in pursuit of his. him a boy; how old is he?" lock dangling down over her temple. "There's no need. The courts won't recognize us as separate. water in the pipes was frozen. Though she would not commit herself in the matter, she felt they were. "Where is the third mirror hidden?" asked Amos. He snuffed his cigarette out on pure-white alabaster and sat so prim and pristine I would have bet his. He grinned and blitzed me. "Yeah, I guess. Most of the things you read about it are pretty nearly true. "That" exactly what I said," Amos told her, and they were both very happy, for they were both clever enough to know that when a husband and wife agree, it means a long and happy marriage is ahead. "Cause if they didn't visit us, they must have prepared other spores. Spores that would analyze new proteins and be able to duplicate them. Further than that, some of the plants might have been able to copy certain genetic material if they encountered any. Take a look at that pipe behind you." Singh turned and saw a pipe about as thick as his arm. It was flexible, and had a swelling in it that continuously pulsed in expansion and contraction. superb release from Deutsche Grammophon. She was at her best in Schumann, her Wolf was comme ci. HENDERSON'S The Different People: No Flesh. "Good-by," Barry shouted after him, but Ed was already either comatose or out of earshot. "And thanks again!" 221. "You know ... I wish ... Of course, I know it's not permis- laid-off aerospace engineer out of Seattle." "What staple?" she countered, becoming in an instant rigid with suspicion, like a hare that scents a predator. "Si, senor. I take good care. Par favor, I sleep in his room." "Ah," said Jack, "the second question is

easy to answer, but the first is not so simple. I am a prisoner.38. Jeremy Hole.sake."her hairpins..Fiction which isn't openly polemical or didactic is nonetheless chock-full of politics. If beauty in fiction.opinion is that they are good, interesting, minor authors. And so on. [Or oddities that entered the.Samuel R. Delaty.I didn't want to die. We had to have blood. He always did it so there was lots of blood, so no one would."If we don't make it home from this," I say at length, "if they never hear from us back on Earth, never.wearing the same shoes."He surmounted the second stage. The third. Ike and I stayed right behind him. The fourth. The fifth. We were high now. Looking down over my left shoulder, I could see the diminutive dwellings of the city and the minuscule mud huts of the suburbs. Looking down over my right, I could see the Plain, with its myriad fields of millet and barley and its sparkling irrigation ditches. In the distance the easternmost of.on her stern is lettered: Mary Celeste. Smith advances the time control. A flicker of darkness, light again,.Couldn't you guess what she might do? We'll call my psychiatrist friend and have her help bring Amanda.I got back in bed and pulled the sheet up to my waist, leaning beside her against the headboard. "I.It's gonna be a hell of a concert tonight I know it" Jain had said mat and smiled at me when she came through here about ten. She'd swept down the center aisle in a flurry of feathers and shimmering red strips, leaving all the civilians stunned and quivering..way. "Why, there's nothing in ..." he began. But then something caught his eye at the very bottom of the.to bed. Just before he fell asleep, he thought: I could call them and tell them what I thought..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..Well, the genes are contained in the nucleus of the cell, which makes up a small portion of the total.7. A poem for a Get Well card to someone who has sciatica.."There is my closet full of jewels," said the grey man. "Wear as many as you want."."Uh. . .Barry."."The same way we do," said Lea. "When we are gone, look into the mirror and you will see your.specialized functions, that they can no longer divide and differentiate as the original egg cells did. [This is.And what about this, Mallory? What if someone died nearby tonight while you were with Detweiler;.Nolan turned hi the frozen silence, his eyes searching the shadows at the far side of the room..A For Whatever, DAMON KNIGHT.Advent, Chicago, 1964, p. 83.).But not quite. He still had to get one more endorsement But now it seemed possible, likely, even."Selene!".yellow veil, obscures the curved neck of Thoth-Nepenthes; then he is beyond it, drifting down to the.The thing's eyes focused for a moment on Detweiler. It looked at him, beseeching, held out one hand, pleading. Its screams continued, that one monotonous, hopeless note repeated over and over. It lowered its arm and kept crawling about mindlessly, growing weaker..fine; what if nothing is going on, you son of a bitch?.Q: What's the shortest distance between two heinpoints?.got around to inventing the wheel. I've sometimes wondered why not There are limitations, of course, but."And well use it. You just speak up, I*11 be listening." She started to say something, then thought of something else. "Say, what are your ideas on a woman bossing this project? I've had to fight that all the way from my Air Force days. So if you have any objections you might as well tell me up front".They grabbed the ring and pulled the door back. Through the opening there was only the green.80."Good evening," said Amos. "I'm exploring the ship and I have very little time. I have to be up at four.Selene sent it out of reach with a swift kick of her left foot "You'll have to learn."."A broken mirror is bad luck," said Amos. "Who broke it?".eyes head-on. Their expression seemed oddly out of character with the monologue she'd just delivered..grape-sized white balls, very hard and fairly heavy. The second discovery was made by Lucy McKillian.She went on like that, whispering about creatures half-serpent and half-human, with bodies cold to."Oh, yes." She sighed. "It's so unfair for such a beautiful young man to have a physical impairment.".prove to be moneymakers, 5 properties will be dusted off, "modernized," and reproduced. I' can see the.my calls." She lowered her eyelids demurely. "I was a Goldwyn Girl, you know."."I will tell you," said Barry, "what you can do with your stickers."."Lang groaned. "All the air-lock seals, for one thing." There were grimaces from all of them at the thought of that. "For another, a good part of our suits. Song, watch it, don't step on that thing. We don't know bow powerful it is or if it'll eat the-plastic in your boots, but we'd better play it safe. How about it, Ralston? Think you can find out how bad it is?".All of us applauded. It was just what we'd wanted to hear. After the applause died away, the Organizer outlined what we were striking for, and I paid strict attention so I could tell Ike. It adds up to a pretty nice package: a fifteen-percent across-the-board hourly rate increase; full-paid hospitalization; retirement after twenty-five years service; nine paid holidays; three weeks vacation after four yeon on.wouldn't believe it. But it's more than just things that're different. People are different, think different?.I was sitting there, wondering how in hell I would find him, when the phone rang again. Miss.they reached the permafrost, they'd decompose into this organic slush we've postulated, and. . . well, it.The couple rose in unison and greeted her with cries of "Maggie!" and "Son of a gun!" It was.arises from sexual reproduction (except where self-fertilization is possible) has two parents..Slowly, Selene twisted the wrist back and down while the poly around them swirled in wave.after wave.upset you. I was just carious. . . ."The ground between the windmills was coated in shimmering plastic. This was the second part of the plants' ingenious solution to sur-."Mm," said Madeline, not unkindly. "It's odd you should put it like that; it's almost a definition of what I do for a living."."Amos and the prince began to brush the snow from a lump on the ground, and beneath the white covering was pure and glittering ice. It was a very large lump, nearly as large as the black trunk of the skinny grey man..Books: In Defense of Criticism by Joanna Russ.once. Except me."."state of apathy. She had not moved for the last hour..I have tried to speak to general issues rather than "defend" my own criticism. Issues are, in any case,.expression of almost sexual pleasure on his face. The thing's body got smaller and smaller, the skin on its.When the moon lit the clearing, the hunter returned. He could not wait until the morning. Hinda's fear had become his own. He dared not leave her alone. But he moved quietly as a beast in the dark. He left his dogs behind..planking. He stood up, and the wind set his ringleted hair to dancing about his golden crown..around, and Song and Ralston were nodding sympathetically. Relieved to see that she was not the only.soothing away the

bizarre reflections of the struggle. Gradually, the chairs and carpet softened to bright. "Yes, it is," said Amos. "What do they keep here that is so uninteresting everyone tells me to avoid." Excerpts from myopic early sf or Utopian novels.that, and Lang was wondering if it was too often. The place was crowded, and the kids were nervous..In the Hall of the Martian Kings 147."Third," said Lea, "what are they going to do to you?" "There is nobody there and they are going to do nothing," said the grey man.."Third," said Lea, "what are they going to do to you?".Saturday morning, the third day since Miss Herndon died, I had a talk with Lorraine and Johnny. If.Nina?it wasn't her name, but he felt a need to somehow identify this wide-mouthed, pink-tongued

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