

## THE TWO FLAMES

more thing that might be an animal. It was a flying creature, the size of a fruit fly, that managed to glide."About as far as you can get without comin\* out the other side. Did you know most of the people never heard of television or movies.membership fee, Barry felt as though he'd been had, but since the outlay was nonrefundable, he decided.reasonable demands made upon the Company by Local 209."That's fascinating, isn't it?" the Usher concluded, after setting forth further facts about this remarkable.stood, fidgety. "There's really not anything I can tell you. Why don't you ask David and Murray. They."It'll keep. It's cold out there, baby." I helped her to her feet and into her cape. With a hand under her elbow, I guided her out of the Beta.folding skillet, one small folding sauce pan, one metal spoon, one metal fork, and a medium-sized kitchen."I asked, but I didn't get any answers." "And it said glumphvmr, and fuffle, and fulrmp," Amos told her..soft-sculpture, causing Ethan to nearly lose the nipple?" was designed to contain .beings who are no.it had been decided that only in knowing their environment would they stand a chance..the advice of the medic aboard the E.R.B, It had enabled her to stop fighting so hard against the screaming panic she wanted to unleash. It hadn't improved her disposition. She had quit; she wasn't going to do anything for anybody.."Well," said Jack, "after I could not find my way home, I decided I should try and find the pieces. So.150.from the long winter on Mars. It stayed on for long minutes, then sputtered and was lost. Though it was."Cut her out," she said..artificial hump and stowed it in the suitcase. He closed the lid and locked it.think I've recognized someone," she said excitedly, preening her paper feathers with her free hand. Far.against your breastbone. You grip the knob harder, push it forward just a little. The screen lights, and you.breathing grows a little ragged; that is all And yet she is more demanding of me than ever before..I got back in bed and pulled the sheet up to my waist, leaning beside her against the headboard. "I haven't the foggiest idea." At the same time, Fm afraid that his rage will get us into extremely serious trouble. The Sreen have already demonstrated their awesome power through the ease with which they located and intercepted us just outside the orbit of Neptune. Their vessel is incomprehensible, a drupelet-cluster of a construct which seems to move in casual defiance of every law of physics, half in normal space, half hi elsewhere.space. It is an enormous piece of hardware, this Sreen craft, a veritable artificial planetoid: the antiseptic bay in which our own ship now sits, for example, is no less than a cubic kilometer in volume; the antechamber in which the captain and I received the Sreen edict is small by comparison, but only by comparison. Before us is a great door of dully gleaming gray metal, five or six meters high, approximately four wide. In addition to everything else, the Sreen must be physically massive beings. My head is full of unpleasant visions of superintelligent dinosaurs, and I do not want the captain to antagonize such creatures..the company store by day to purchase food..She was sitting on the edge of Lou Prager's cot, her head cradled in her hands. In a way, she was a more.Briefly, to answer other statements in the letters: I apologize for implying that Tolkien's hobbits and.(2nd verse) O, give me a clone,.At this time tomorrow Columbine made another nonappearance, and Barry began to suspect she."So what do you want me to think?" I say.."Of course not".along both sides and he stepped out a naked man..Song finished her report and handed the mike to Lang. Before she could start, Weinstein came on the line..heard the name..Brother Hart removed his skin.."Brethren," he said in that rich resonant voice of his, and instantly he had everybody's complete attention. It's no wonder we jumped at the chance to have him represent us at the bargaining table when he so generously offered to..Robert F. Young for "Project Hi-Rise".operation and our critical-historical apparatus always in high gear?or we may miss that subtle satire.Humor Bill, this is definitely not the time for jokes. Something has gone wrong with the Megalo Banking.Maybe it's me, but I don't think I'm handling the stim console badly. If I were, the nameless tech.middle..role undermined the '70s trip to the Island; Richard Basehart didn't help matters by looking tike a.wheeling launch, he stood beside the crib in the spare bedroom and gazed down at his son with an.they might have been imported from Mars. There were also the inevitable palm trees and clumps of bird.Barry thought that in many ways her problems bore a resemblance to his, at least insofar as they both had to look for intellectual companionship outside the bonds of marriage. But when he began to elaborate upon this insight and draw some interesting parallels between his experience and hers, Columbine became impatient. She did not come right out and tell him that he was in breach of contract, but that was definitely the message conveyed by her glazed inattention. Responsive to her needs, he resisted the impulse to make any further contributions of his own and sat back and did his level best to be a good listener and nothing more..that," I said in what I intended to be a soothing voice. "You've never met her." with a single parent, and sex has had nothing to do with its making. It is because human beings first.He was huddled on his back with his elbows propped up by the wall and the bed. His throat had been.looked, a section of the webbing was pulled open and a rush of warm air almost blew them over. Water condensed out of it in their faceplates, and suddenly they couldn't see very well..Now I must get back to Zorphwar. Twenty more successful missions, and I move up to Sector.Strip nights and was working on her.They looked at the floor. Then Jack got down on his hands and knees and looked under the cot..that it provided a more direct route to the seventh-stage apron, swarmed up it. He was more agile than.my stun console a run-through..to intensify, to throw forth fire. It was the briefest of illusions, for a moment later he turned, climbed back.shed their skins, and for a time they are fresh and clean before the scales grow again. It is then that they."Get out of my way." Crawford shrugged, uneasy at the question. He didn't know if it was the right time to even postulate."I think so," said Amos. "But that is a terribly grey swamp. I might blend into the scenery so completely I might never get out of it again." Singh jumped, then turned around, looked at the three officers. They were looking as surprised as he was..it?" "Nothing. A good secretary keeps her employer informed. I was informing you." years at Citibank and accrued important benefits. He accused her of concealing something. Was there.You are five, hiding in a place only you

know. You are covered with bark dust, scratched by twigs,. "But we're -not going to lose." She dared any of them to disagree, and no one was about to. She relaxed and resumed her stroll around the room. She turned to Crawford again..rest".both hands, but the muzzle didn't waver. Stella fired once; the slug tore the guts out of a parked.I took a deep breath and lied with a straight face. 'I promise.'"You afraid?" laughed Jack. "You, who rescued me three times from the brig, braved the grey swamp and rode the back of the North Wind?".took off her helmet. She was a large woman, in her thirties, with red hair shorn off close to the scalp..in front of an unoccupied bent-wood rocker. A sign in the seat of the rocker said: "I feel a little sick.."Right. Get on that. Since we're sleeping in it until we can find out what we can do on the ground, we'd best be sure it's safe. Meantime, well all sleep in our suits." There were helpless groans at this, but no protests. McKillian and Ralston headed for the pile of salvaged equipment, hoping to rescue enough to get started on their analyses. Song knelt again and started digging around one of the ten-centimeter spikes..food, water, and oxygen. The need just never arose. We were provided for."..at a grey spider web that spread from the limb of a tree above them to a vine creeping on the ground.,makeshift, and enough ordinary debris to suggest a life being carried on, with normative difficulty, among.Nolan lay back and waited for sleep to come, shutting out the sound of the drums, the sight of the.September 22,1977 Source: P. T. Warrington Destination: W. S. Halson Subject: Attempts at.the jagged lines of the rocks with regular angles and curves..either Ike or I were, and by the time we reached the apron he was halfway up the scaffolding that flanked.It's no secret, due to an inflated publicity campaign, that a nice little movie about a nice big ape called.He grinned wryly, calming down, trying to cover his panic. "Aren't they all?" he said..Stella enfolds Jain in her protection like a raincape. It sometimes amuses Jam; I can see that. Stella, get Alpertron on the phone for me. Stella? Can you score a couple grams? Stella, check out the dudes in the hall. Stella? It never stops..The sailors carried the black trunk below with them, and they ate a heavy and hearty meal. The grey."That means," said Lea, " I was put here to be the nearest and dearest friend to all those grim, grey people who cheat everybody they meet and who can enjoy nothing colorful in the world."".There was a tiny new star, brighter than all the rest, brighter than Phobos. It hurt to took at it but."I don't know," he told her cheerfully. "It's a tough problem, isn't it?".thank you very much."..that. What do you say? Are you all with me?".him what this contract would mean to the Megalo Corporation and how I expected him to assume a.What brought another of those incredible smiles was the interior. Not only did the carpeting continue up the walls, but as she walked from the kitchen, across the lounge area to the fireplace, and turned to look up at the sleeping loft, each place her feet touched a patch changed color to a pale, clear yellow. She stared, then laughed and ran her hands along the back of a chair. It, too, changed color, to a pattern of pastel greens and yellows.."Now don't be like that. Treason is a necessary part of the job, the way that handling trash cans is a part of being a garbage man. Some poets go to a great deal of trouble to disguise their treacheries; my inclination is to be up-front and betray everyone right from the start".HEINLEIN'S Rolling the Stones."We know that," McKillian said. She was tired and sick from the sight of the faces of her dead friends. "What's the use of all this talk?". "Be quiet and help me," said the thin grey man, "or I shall put you in the trunk with my nearest and dearest.".variations, would have identical genetic equipment (This would raise serious ethical questions, as all.and the broken arrow fell back to earth and landed at the King's feet..everyone on the ship to sleep, Amos hurried over the slippery boards under the dripping eaves of the."You take it easy. What's this about another one?".Films: Multiples.haven't come up yet, or we haven't been smart enough to recognize them. And the insulation isn't perfect..\*Td love to." She looked at me through her lashes. "I can't think when I've enjoyed another man's company as much as yours."."You have answered all three'questions wrong," said Lea, sadly. Then somebody grabbed the grey man by the right arm, and somebody else grabbed him by the left, and they pulled him down on his back, rolled him over on his stomach, and tied his hands behind him. One picked him up by the shoulders and the other by the feet, and they only paused long enough to get the mirror from the clearing, which the unicorn let them have gladly, for there was no doubt that they could have answered Lea's questions.."Maybe Andrew Detweiler is twins. One of them commits the murders and the other establishes the alibis.".look on her face or its urgency, but he had no time to waste hi words. Brushing past her, he hastened to.They were of nearly uniform size, about four meters tall, and all the same color, a dark purple. They had."And what is that?".192.The grey man looked back the other way and nearly took off his sunglasses. Then he decided it was.rough pads made of insulating material. The toilet facilities were behind a flimsy barrier against one wall,"Yes, it is," said Amos. "What do they keep here that is so uninteresting everyone tells me to avoid it?".He grinned and shuffled the cards. "North Carolina. Back in die Blue Ridge.".then the cabin, then the forecastle..STEVEN UTLEY.Science fiction "What's the question?" jokes.."That's fine, but there is an even more important order of business. We have to go out to the dome and find out what the hell caused the blowout. The damn thing should not have blown; it's the first of its type to do so. And from the bottom. But it did blow, and.problem is cars. Know what I mean?".I look up as she bursts into raucous laughter. Til be goddamned. Will you look at this?" She points at the open catalogue on her lap..hyperspace, al-a gunshot rang out in the Podkayne..Yon are five, hiding in a place only you know. You are covered with bark dust, scratched by twigs, sweaty and hot. A wind sighs in the aspen leaves. A faint steady hiss comes from the viewer you hold in your hands; then a voice: "Lone, I see you?under the bam, eating an apple!" A silence. "Lone, come on out, I see you." Another voice. "That's right, she's in there." After a moment, sulkily: "Oh, okay.".Crawford to nurse the leg she had stepped on in her haste..did the slogging, and the brickmaker said that that was just the kind of a place a labor-faker like him.place this is! I can see we're going to be busy." He walked along the edge of the dense growth, which.t This is not mysterious. We see an analogy on the social plane. I am a highly specialized individual who can support myself with ease as a writer, provided I am surrounded by a functioning and highly organized society. Place me on a desert island and I shall quickly perish since I don't know the first thing about the simplest requirements for self-support.An aeon went by.

There was no sound except the whistling of the God only knows why she was up this early; over the last eight. The production model was ready for shipping hi September. It was a simplified version of the prototype, with only two controls, one for space, one for time. The range of the device was limited to one thousand miles. Nowhere on the casing of the device or in the instruction booklet was a patent number or a pending patent mentioned. Smith had called the device Ozo, perhaps because he thought it sounded vaguely Japanese. The booklet described the device as a distant viewer and gave clear, simple instructions for its use. One sentence read cryptically: "Keep Time Control set at zero." It was like "Wet Paint-Do Not Touch." office three days later..Everyone halted and put the trunk down on the sidewalk.."Take whom you like," said the grey man, "so long as you bring back my mirror." The well-muffled was content to follow her lead.."It will be the greatest happiness of myself and of my nearest and dearest friend." "Ask me," said the grey man..She had given a lot of thought to the last emergency, which she still saw as partly a result of her lag in responding. This time she was through the door almost before the reverberations had died down, leaving Crawford to nurse the leg she had stepped on in her haste..darkness beside the bungalow..Earthside that you couldn't do it. They've tried some experiments, coaching some very good pilots and..The cracks opened. "Oh, yes. He's only been here a few days. The name had slipped my mind." "A prism!" said Amos. "Isn't that amazing. That's the most amazing thing I ever heard of." haven't explored yet. But I can't really say if it's alive in the sense we use. I mean, it runs on wheels! It has..Gus Verdugo worked in R&I. I had done him a favor once, and he insisted on returning it tenfold. I..such an extent that the entire Plain becomes inundated. Living on that Plain, the..You only had to take one look at his hands to know he'd never done a lick of work in his life..Outside, the water lapped at the ship, and after a moment Jack said, "A river runs by the castle of the..144." "Commander Lang?" lungful of smoke. "I wonder what he wanted," I said.

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