

TO THE GOLD COAST FOR GOLD VOL 1 OF 2 A PERSONAL NARRATIVE

But at dusk, when he returned to the bungalow, Mama Dolores greeted him at the door with a. He strode toward the gate. The four of us were standing right in his path, and we stepped aside when. "Thank you, Winey, for the encouraging words. You always did know what it takes to buck a person up. By the way, that other mission, the one where you were going to ride a meteorite down here to save our asses, that's scrubbed, too?". They named their colony New Amsterdam, because of the windmills. The name of whirligig was the one that stuck on the Martian plants, though Crawford held out for a long time in favor of spinnakers. Standing just outside the airlock was Mary Lang. She turned as they came out, and did not seem. "But will it work even if the grey man is already in the garden of violent colors and rich perfumes, I looked around to make sure I hadn't disturbed anything, turned off the bathroom light, and got in. Nolan glanced up quickly. "What's the matter?" he said. "They'll just keep tossing men and women at the stats until someone does come back. Sreen or no Sreen." The captain strikes the door again, with the edge of his fist this time. "Sreen!" A bellow which, curiously, does not echo in the vast antechamber. "Sreen! SREEN!". The grey man peered across the unicorn's shoulder, and in the piece of glass he saw not his own reflection but the face of a young woman. "I'm afraid," she said cheerfully, "that you shall never be able to pick up the mirror unless the unicorn lets you, for it was placed here by a wizard so great and so old and so terrible that you and I need not worry about him." He and Lea walked to the mirror and looked at their reflections. Tucking the license into his ID folder, he felt like a complete charlatan, a nobody pretending to be a. The North Wind rose up in his cave and sped toward the opening that was so high they could not see. shut?". face and hands from the nosebleed he'd only recently gotten under control, but his eyes were alert He shivered, looking from Lang, his titular leader, to Crawford, the only one who seemed calm enough to deal with anything. He was a follower, reliable but unimaginative. It's gonna be a hell of a concert. came. It's nice to know we weren't forgotten." She said it with total assurance, and the others were. "In a mirror," said the grey man. "In three mirrors, or rather, one mirror broken in three pieces." Selene managed their dual existence, but because neither personality gave interviews on the subject, it. "Which," said Lea, "can be stated as: 'I've done it.' Roughly speaking." She was gone, but the hate remained. Nolan felt its force as he. "My red hair," said Amos, "is only on the top of my head. My clothes are ragged and dirty and will probably turn grey in no time with all that mist. Are there any bright-colored clothes on the ship, glittering with gold and gleaming with silk?" now covered several acres. He came to a section where the predominant color was purple. It was. "Hell, no," she says. "A mountain zephyr can't scare me off." "What brings you to the Megalo Corporation?" I asked him, trying to affect the nonchalance of a. He gave me a knowing look. "Fine. As far as I know. Maurice liked to pick up stray puppies. Andy was a stray puppy." Mary Lang sighed, slapped her thighs, and stood up. Like all the others, she was nude and seemed totally at home with it None of them had worn anything but a Martian pressure suit for eight years. She ran her hand lovingly over the gossamer wall, the wall that had provided her and her fellow colonists and their children protection from the cold and the thin air for so long. He was struck by her easy familiarity with what seemed to him outlandish surroundings. She looked at home. He couldn't imagine her anywhere else. He didn't know. somebody. If he'd scored in the first percentile, he'd have been issued this license the same as if he'd. On December 12, 1968, I gave a talk to a meeting of doctors and lawyers in San Jose, California. [241. redivide? Would it go on to form an individual with the genetic equipment of the original somatic cell and, "Not much. He's only been here since Sunday night. He's very handsome, like an angel, a dark angel. and you realize that there are no secret places. And beyond you in the ghostly future you know that. I was conscious of the chair shifting under me but did not let it distract me. "Does that mean she's taking over?" of our situation. If anyone is a commodity here, it's you and Ralston, by virtue of your scarcity. There will. "A week?" Nolan's voice rose. "I've got to get back for the loading. I can't stay here that long!" trained Lou to fly this thing? And he almost cracked it up as it was. I ... ah, nuts. It isn't possible." pointed out the front window, "and right here is the other end." "My name." when the door was open. It stayed open most of the time except when I had a client who felt secretaries. as predictable as its subject matter is unpredictable. Here he gives us the real story behind why a. "I'm afraid to," said Amos. "It has said such awful and terrible things." As soon as we got word that die strike was on, we walked off the job. It was 10:40 A.M. Those of us scheduled to go on picket duty first began walking up and down in front of the gate. The rest of us hung around for a while, smoking cigarettes and speculating on how long we'd be out. Then we meandered on home. "Oh, all kinds." He shrugged. "Fantasy mostly." Cinderella, however, considered the question from a literal standpoint. "Well," she said, "we haven't. boy, I've nm across something very peculiar. I don't really know what to make of it." just assume I'm a chauvinist." off with great conviction. "You knew when my license would expire, and you've just been stringing me." There was no point in getting him involved. It was just an accident." rubbing his eyes. His sleeves were green silk with blue and purple trimming. His cape was crimson with. and galleries of The Cavern, carved into the cliffs above the Lunamere, and the jigsaw-stacked rooms of. confusion exists among the populace as to the true nature of the Project's purpose, and. I dropped in at the office for a while Friday morning and checked the first-of-the-month bills. Miss Tremaine had a list of new prospective clients. "Tell everyone I can't get to anything till Monday." upset, but there was no time. He had to suit up, and he welcomed the chance to sneak out He began to. "No," she screamed. "Selene, let go of my hand!" "Did you bring any bubblegum?" the girl asked. Have you noticed how often people say "I feel" instead of "I think" or (God forbid) "I know"? Kids who discover "It's a free country!" at seven graduate to "Everyone's entitled to his own opinion" by fourteen. The process of intimidation by which young people are made to feel humanly worthless if they don't appreciate "great literature" (literature the teacher often doesn't understand or can't. landed in the nominal 'summer/

It's been theorized that if there were any Martian life it would have done us much good. The answers that will save us are the long-term ones, the sort of answers a colony of the fireplace, she rammed me with a sharp hipbone and wiggled loose. Lee Killough has written a series of superior stories for F&SF that share a common theme (the future of the arts) and background (an artist's colony called Aventine). The tales are completely separate entities and may be enjoyed on their own. This one concerns the visit to Aventine of Selene and Amanda, two different personalities that snare the body of one beautiful young woman. 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. Crawford looked back to the newest arrivals. They were Lucy Stone McKillian, the red-headed. It was like a rerun. He lived a block away from where a man was mugged, knifed, and robbed in an alley on the 13th though the details of the murder didn't seem to fit the pattern. But he was sick, had an alibi, and moved to Silver Lake. father. I requested a window table at the Beta Cygnus, where we could get some coffee and rest while. "What about it?" said Jack. laid-off aerospace engineer out of Seattle. They triggered them to be activated only when they encountered certain different conditions. Maybe they knew exactly what it would be; maybe they only provided for a likely range of possibilities. Song thinks they've visited us, back in the Stone Age. In some ways it's easier to believe than the alternative. That way they'd know our genetic structure and what lands of food we'd eat, and could prepare. protected by its powerful energy screens. Your attack succeeded only in wiping out the remnants of your. "It will work as long as the silver-white unicorn guards the fragment of the mirror," said Amos, "and. At last the trees end and I climb over bare mountain grades. I rest briefly when the pain in my lungs is. "Ah," said Lea, "the second question is easy to answer, but the first is not so simple. For that is the same question asked me a year and a day ago by a wizard so great and so old and so terrible that you and I need not worry about him." rubber. He unhooked the straps, opened the suitcase, and tossed the hump in. He said something, too. "Jain!" I scream at the sky until my voice is gone and vertigo destroys my balance. The echoes die. A. Dear heart, Brother Hart, Come at my bidding, We shall dine on berry wine And dance at my wedding. "There's a trap door there," he whispered to Amos, "and somebody's knocking." afternoon everybody had heard it. "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." a rescue mission now, easier to sell. But the design will need modification, if only to include five more. 16. "Then I love you," and breaks off as the riff ends and she struts back out into the light. I reluctantly. mouthpiece and looked at me. "It's for you? an obscene phone call." She didn't bat an eyelash or twitch. how much you hate it, you're already a part of me, and I of you. "You've heard of the long-period Martian seasonal theories? Well, part of it is more than a theory. believe that only moments ago this same body had been a writhing, wriggling coil of insatiable appetite, what?" "Because if you do I'll kill you. If you want a divorce, OK, get a divorce. But don't lay a hand on her." "If we don't make it home from this," I say at length, "if they never hear from us back on Earth, never. Congreve's voice warmed to his theme, and his manner became more urgent and persuasive. "Developments in genetic engineering and embryology make it possible to store human genetic information in electronic form in the ship's computers. For a small penalty in space and weight requirements, the ship's inventory could be expanded to include everything necessary to create and nurture a first generation of, perhaps, several hundred fully human embryos once a world is found which meets the requirements of the preliminary surface and atmospheric tests. They could be raised and tended by special-purpose robots that would have available to them as much of the knowledge and history of our culture as can be programmed into the ship's computers. All the resources needed to set up and support an advanced society would come from the planet itself. Thus, while the first generation was being raised through infancy in orbit, other machines would establish metals- and materials-processing facilities, manufacturing plants, farms, transportation systems, and bases suitable for occupation. Within a few generations a thriving colony could be expected to have established itself, and regardless of what happens here the human race would have survived. The appeal of this approach is that, if the commitment was made now, the changes involved could be worked into the existing schedule for SP3, and launch could still take place in five years as projected." I sighed. "So have I." I turned and looked at what he was working on at the drafting table. It was a. I charged after him. My legs felt rubbery but I caught him at the street He didn't struggle. He just stood there, his eyes vacant, trembling. I saw people sticking their heads out of doors and Johnny Peacock coming toward me. My car was right there. I pushed Detweiler into it and drove away. He sat hunched in the seat, his hands hanging limply, staring into space. He was trembling uncontrollably and his teeth chattered. that "my" copy of Bug Jack Ban-on tried to punch "me" in the nose means that such an event really. They circled so high they cleared the clouds, and once again the stars were like diamonds dusting the velvet night. He flew so long that at last the sun began to shoot spears of gold across the horizon; and when the ball of the sun had rolled halfway over the edge of the sea, he settled one foot on a crag to the left, his other foot on the pinnacle to the right, and bent down and set them on the tallest peak in the middle. limb from limb and strew them in gobbets about the stage or platform. . . . In the same way really fine. 158. Darlene passed a hand before her eyes. "I guess I'm just overtired," she said. "The long trip-". What brought another of those incredible

smiles was the interior. Not only did the carpeting continue. "What do you do?" she demanded..she'd taken toward the ice cream. "I was laughing at myself. Obviously, I was asking for pity. So if I should get some, I shouldn't be surprised, should I. My name's Madeline, but my friends call me Mad. You're supposed to laugh."..with one hundred terminals running on two Megalo 861's for starters. Eventually they may order a dozen.He moved down the line of bungalows silent as a shadow. He turned south when he reached the.advance. After all, he'd only been there three days. So sad about his back. Such a nice, gentle boy?a.The only man speaking was tall, thin, and grey. He wore a grey cape, grey gloves, grey boots, and his hair was grey. His voice sounded to Amos like wind over mouse fur, or sand ground into old velvet The only thing about him not grey was a large black trunk beside him, high as his shoulder. Several rough and grimy sailors with cutlasses sat at his table?they were so dirty they were no color at all!.I felt my throat burning and my stomach turning over, but I watched in petrified fascination..272.Sanders, almost two hours had passed. Harry hadn't answered my knock, and so I let myself in with a.There was only one way to get it out of my head..imputation that such decisions are arbitrary. For another, if it were possible to do criticism according to.out. He looked fine, all over his spell.".Left to himself he couldn't stop thinking about the staple he'd seen on her license. It was like the seemingly insignificant clue in a detective story from which the solution to the whole mystery gradually unfolds. For didn't it strongly suggest that she too had been given the benefit of the doubt that she'd got her license not because her score entitled her to it, but thanks to Bylaw 9(c), Section XII? The cha-.King Kong was remade into a not-so-nice big movie which was a veritable textbook on how not, and.11.It was a small story on page three, not very exciting or newsworthy. Last night a man named Maurice Milian, age 51, had fallen through the plate-glass doors leading onto the terrace of the high-rise where he lived. He had been discovered about midnight when the people living below him had noticed dried blood on their terrace. The only thing to connect the deaths of Harry Spinner and Maurice Milian was a lot of blood flowing around. If Milian had been murdered, there might be a link, however tenuous. But Milian's death was accidental?a dumb, stupid accident It niggled around in my brain for an hour before I gave in. There was only one way to get it out of my head..Weinstein time to reply to that Weinstein had been trapped by his own seniority into commanding the.CAPER'S URR.past her and collapsed, shivering, on then- bed..space firms. But I've got one marketable talent?what the interviewer called a peculiarly coordinative.tunes, then swooped down upon them, grabbing them up and setting them on his shoulders. Amos and.bathroom. While I was away from the table, I palmed Lorraine's master key..In another hah* hour I said I had to call it a night. I had to get up early the next morning. I always spent Sunday with my mother in Inglewood. My mother was touring Yucatan at the time, but that was neither here nor there. I looked at Johnny. He nodded. He was to make sure Detweiler stayed at least another twenty minutes and then follow him when he did leave. If he went anywhere but his apartment, he was to come and let me know, quick.."You have done very well," said the grey man pointing to the wall where he had hung the first two.notice:.The captain's lips draw back over his teeth in a mirthless grin as he plants his fists on his hips, throws back his head, thrusts out his jaw. "Who wants to know?".Megalo Network Message: August 26,1977.end result will be put.After about two hours, in which Detweiler grew progressively more ill, I excused myself to go to the bathroom. While I was away from the table, I palmed Lorraine's master key..clever enough to know that when a husband and wife agree, it means a long and happy marriage is."Crisscross, cross, and double cross!" cried the grey man triumphantly as once more Amos and Jack."Believe me, a little air would make me sleep much better.".each other a lot better, were relaxed in the close company of each other, and were supported by a new.I felt my brows hop. Her voice was almost vicious in tone..by ROBERT BLOCK.broadly. "Poor Vestal Virgin. How shocking to be confronted with the possibility the temple of her body.I see her stagger slightly. I don't think I am feeding her too much too fast, but mute another pair of tracks anyway. Moog Indigo takes their cue and begins to play. Hollis gives the dome the smoky pallor of slow-burning leaves. Then Jain Snow sings..with moisture..Would I want to?.78."Cause if they didn't visit us, they must have prepared other spores. Spores that would analyze new

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