

## TOUGH TRUCKS

As I paddled around, I felt my muscles relax and a drowsy lassitude flow through me..I couldn't find a morning paper at that hour closer than Western and Wilshire. The story was on page seven. Fortunately they found the body in time for the early edition. A woman named Sybil Hern\* don, age 38, had committed suicide in an apartment court on Las Palmas. (Detweiler hadn't gone very far. The address was just around the corner from the Almsbury.) She had cut her wrists on a piece of broken mirror. She had been discovered about eleven-thirty when the manager went over to ask her to turn down the volume on her television set..Detweiler's flush of health was wearing off that afternoon. He wasn't ill, just beginning to feel like the rest of us mortals. And I was feeling my resolve begin to crumble. It was hard to believe this beguiling kid could possibly be involved in a string of bloody deaths. Maybe it was just a series of unbelievable coincidences. Yeah, "un-130.That sweet, yielding, dependency is no more than what her father trained into her. It's the Senator I.death is sensational or the dead prominent, the story might be tucked in anywhere except the classifieds..already run up a sizable food bill at the Mom & Pop store around the corner, what's left of our savings.An alarm started in his helmet, flat and strangely soothing coming from the tiny speaker. He stood there for a moment as a perfect smoke ring of dust billowed up around the rim of the dome. Then he was running.."Don't mention it." He opened the door for me and then closed it behind me. I sighed and walked across to 408. I tang the bell. It didn't play anything, just went bing-bong..was the color of tarnished copper, and the fire-engine-red lipstick was painted far past her thin lips. Her."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..we'd best be sure it's safe. Meantime, well all sleep in our suits." There were helpless groans at this, but..There was much rustling and squirming for the next few minutes as they got out of their clothes. Song.edge of the frostcap. The limb of the planet reappears; he floats like a glider over the dark surface tinted.putting them into the simulators. They can't do it, and we don't think you could, either."..court on Las Palmas, or not far away..We sped through the city in what I judged to be a locomotive, although there were no tracks. "What new wonder shall I see?" I mused, for many were the sights shown me already. My guide, an illustrious professor, halted the machine..pointed out the front window, "and right here is the other end."Zorphwar we had yesterday, and I most commend yon on how weU you handled the forces of Zorph. It was a challenge all the way, and if I had not been on my toes, your final desperate tactic of launching an twelve thousand of your doomsday torpedoes would have destroyed me. However, when you made your attack, I was safely docked at a base star and thus protected by its powerful energy screens. Your attack succeeded only in wiping out the remnants of your own forces..The Best from F & SF, #23 Copyright ? 1976,1977,1978, 1979,1980 by Mercury Press, Inc..Tharsis Base sat on a wide ledge about halfway up from the uneven bottom of the Tharsis arm of the.damned if anyone will make me say that the newest fad in analgesics is equivalent to the illumination,?Wes and Lynn Pederson.being pumped, but not by the now-familiar system of windmills. Spaced along each of the pipes were.Side by side, we pause directly before the door. My teeth, I suddenly realize, are chattering with fear. "Captain," I say as my resolve begins to disintegrate, "why are we doing this?".It seems tike the first time I was in Jam Snow's bed. Jain keeps the room dark and says nothing as.He went to the half wall separating the kitchen and poured two cups from a pot that looked like h was kept hot and full all the time. "It's hard to describe Andy. There was something very little-boyish about him. A real innocent. Delighted with everything new. It's sad about his back. Real sad." He handed me the cup and returned to the stool. "There was something very secretive about him. Not about his feelings; he was very open about things like that."."What you can do with your stickers," Barry said resolutely, "is stick them up your ass. Your asses, rather."..edge and called:.It took Smith six weeks to increase the efficiency of the image in-tensifier enough to bring up the ghost pictures clearly. When he succeeded, the image on the screen was instantly recognizable. It was a view of Jack McCranie's office; the picture was still dim, but sharp enough that Smith could see the expression on Jack's face. He was leaning back in his chair, hands behind his head. Beside him stood.screen" (whatever that means these days) and color did not make up the difference, nor for the loss of.They triggered them to be activated only when they encountered certain different conditions. Maybe.A young physicist started to stray."I don't have the faintest idea." He looked her straight in the eye as he said this. She almost didn't bother to answer, but curiosity got the best of her..range interstellar space, seeking out and destroying the forces of Zorph. This is but a bare outline.Johnny took the news of his impending stardom with total unconcern. He moved to the couch and sat.the attached instructions being transmitted to your local printout facility..I had put away the report I was writing on Lucas McGowan's hyperactive wife. (She had a definite.The water was heated by the sun then pumped down to the permafrost, melting a little more of it each.AH 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..At midnight I was still awake, sitting in number five in my jockey shorts with the light out and the door open. I listened to the ticking of the Detweiler boy's typewriter and the muffled roar of Los Angeles. And thought and thought and thought. And got nowhere..she just wants Gwendolyn back.?.Darlene's eyes fluttered open; she'd heard..never have been more than clients to me, either. There are nights I cannot sleep for wishing she had.35.The graveyard, where they had buried their fifteen dead crewmates on the first day of the disaster, had sprouted with life during the week after the departure of the Burroughs. It was separated from the original site of the dome by three hundred meters of blowing sand. So McKillian assumed this second bloom was caused by the water in the bodies of the dead. What they couldn't figure out was why this patch should differ so radically from the first one..private property..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..AH rights reserved. No part of this book may be reproduced in any form or by any means, except for the inclusion of."I see him; he's in the brook, going upstream.".Amos himself was well aware how long he would have hesitated had the question been asked of him. As the seconds passed, he began to fear for Jack's life, and wished he had had a chance to figure some other way to get the mirror out One minute passed; perhaps they could have tricked the girl into bringing it up herself. Two minutes; they could have tied a string to the leg of a frog and sent him down to do the searching. Three minutes; there was not a bubble on the water, and Amos surprised himself by deciding the only thing to do was to jump in and at least try to save the prince. But there was a splash of water at his feet!.You turn the viewer, racing forward through dappled shade, a brilliance of leaves: there is the glen,."That's fascinating, isn't it?" the Usher concluded, after setting forth further facts about this remarkable department store..I did not like that idea, either, but ... "What else can we do? Shall I lie to Amanda and hate you for.Two weeks of research left them knowing no more. They had to abandon the matthews for the time, as another enigma had cropped up which demanded their attention..195.?Tomorrow I'm going back to Center St. and take the exam again.".From Competition 14: SF "What's the question" jokes."Two leagues short of over there is a garden of violent colors and rich perfume, where black.I tried to extend the day by inviting her out for dinner as I was driving her back to her cabin..Yon are forty, a respected scholar, taking a few days out to review your life, as many people do at.reached him and said in a lower voice, "Matt, she's pretty broken up. You'd better take over for now.".He had walked a long time, and even through his dark glasses he could make out the green and red blossoms, the purple fruit on the.I picked up Janice at her apartment in Westwood early Saturday morning. She was waiting for me and came striding out to the car all tegs and healthy golden flesh. She was wearing white shorts, sneakers, and that damned Dallas Cowboys jersey. It was authentic. The name and number on it were quite well-known?even to non-football fans. She wouldn't tell me how she got it, just smirked and looked smug. She tossed her suitcase in the back seat and slid up against me. She smelled like sunshine..guess we should start on that.".address was just around the corner from the Almsbury.) She had cut her wrists on a piece of broken.Her place turned out to be four street numbers away from his and nothing like what he'd been.sector. You may fire off laser probes to determine the location of Zorph warships. You have a number of.stealing bricks. The gate's pretty wide, of course, but four pickets can guard it easily, and the wall's high.Her pictures, though, did not do her justice. Not only was I surprised to find her taller than I expected, fully as tall as I was, but no media camera had ever captured the glow that shone out through her.took from his pocket an envelope, and from the envelope he took a large, fluttering moth. "This flew in.Naturally, the ordinary "somatic cells" of an adult human body, with their genetic equipment working."Very well," said Amos a third time..63.would have pulled me down and I would have never come up. Thank you, Amos.". "I have an idea on that," McKillian said. "I've had it in mind to do some studies around the dome to see if the altered moisture content we've been creating here had any effect on the spores hi the soil. See, we've been here nine days, spouting out water vapor, carbon.The stories in this book cover the period from our November 1976 issue through the middle of.rest of us mortals. And I was feeling my resolve begin to crumble. It was hard to believe this beguiling kid.command. We'll do all we can to minimize social competition among the women for the men. That's the."Did he have a doctor? ".with my own ideas. I did have one, though, just this morning on my way here, and I was going to try and.Sirocco had endorsed the request, it was true, but Colman wasn't sure it would count for very much since Sirocco ran D Company, and anything he said was probably inverted somewhere along the chain as a matter of course. Perhaps he should have persuaded Sirocco not to endorse the request. On the other hand, if anything recommended by Sirocco was inverted to start with, and if Pendrey was crazy but normal by the Army's standards, and if the premises that Pendrey was working with were also crazy, then the decision might come out in Colman's favor after all. Or would it? His attempt to think the tortuous logic of the situation once again was interrupted by Swyley at last leaning back and turning his face away from the screen..THE ORGANIZER: The purpose of the Project has no bearing whatsoever upon the.was beginning to get the idea he was trying to play Doctor Watson to my Sherlock Holmes.. "We've had a change in plan up here," he said, with no preface. "I hope this doesn't come as a shock..see him from the front, you can't even tell.".But it wasn't his handsomeness that attracted me." She smiled. "I've seen many handsome men in my day,.was the power system created by focusing the Ozo at a narrow aperture on die interior of the Sun. Others included the system of satellite slave units in stationary orbits and a computerized tracer device which would keep the Ozo focused on any subject.branch so the grey man had not been able to see him from the waist up.. "I shall surely come." He bowed, turned, and then was gone, walking swiftly, a man's stride, through the woods. His animals were at his heels..An organ replacement would be grown and since it would have precisely the same genetic equipment.He didn't want to think about it now; he didn't want to think of anything. Not Nina, not Darlene, not even Robbie. Darlene would be all right, Robbie was fine, and Nina was gone. That left him, alone here with the drums. Damned pounding. Had to stop, had to stop so he could sleep-It was the silence that awakened him. He sat up with a start, realizing he must have slept for hours, because the shadows outside the window were dappled with the grayish pink of dawn..didn't flicker. "You're kidding." Her eyebrows rose a millimeter. "Was she a slinky blonde? ".Maurice was a philatelist. He specialized in postwar Germany-locals and zones, things like that..less diversified and specialized its cells are?the more likely it is that asexual reproduction can take place.. "Does he live in the building?" I swallowed to get my heart back in place and blinked a couple of.Stone."Yeah," I say. "Good luck.".When I first met her, I thought that Stella was the coldest person I'd ever encountered. And in Des Moines I saw her crying alone in a darkened phone booth?Jain had awakened her and told her to take a walk for a couple hours while she screwed some rube she'd picked up in the hotel bar. I tapped on the glass; Stella ignored me..organism of the kind of which it was once only a twig. Or the twig can be grafted to the branch of.It neither faltered nor slowed. Any moment

now, it seemed, it would pass through the invisible Gateway and disappear. It was high enough: it had to. But it didn't. For, all of a sudden, a great hand emerged from the firmament, reached down and seized the tiny shaft. A mighty thumb pressed it between two mighty fingers. There was a distant snap!, barely audible above the wind. Then the hand withdrew, and the broken arrow fell back to earth and landed at the King's feet. "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?". Moises frowned. "As I told you, there is the matter of the repairs. Perhaps this afternoon?". I couldn't find a morning paper at that hour closer than Western and Wilshire. The story was on page. back his head, thrusts out his jaw. "Who wants to know?". He shrugged. "Oh, nothing much. Take two aspirin, drink lots of liquids, get plenty of rest, that sort of thing." He didn't want to talk about it. "It always goes away.". "It's a ... what's the word? Orrery. It's an orrery." Crawford had to stand up and shake his head to clear it. "Have you heard about the giant department store in Japan?" he asked her. "It covers sixteen acres.". Janet E. Pearson. The MacKinnons were not in their blue settee, and neither Freddy the usher nor Madge of the green. brief quotations in a review, without permission in writing from the publisher. him this furious before, and it frightens me. Not that I cannot appreciate and even share his anger toward. out. Then they leaned the mirror against a tree and rested for a while. "It's well I wore these rags of. The Detweiler Boy by Tom Reamy. stories straight down to the neon-lit marquee of the movie house. thinks they've visited us, back in the Stone Age. In some ways it's easier to believe than the alternative.. "It's a very little thing to thank me for," Amos said. "But we had better start back if we want to be at. 268. They're probably from the Blue Orion Theatre up the street Would you like to see the show there tonight?". "Then how do you explain your extraordinary conclusions?". many freestanding, brimful metal ashtrays. Having already forked out twenty-five dollars upstairs as his. Moines I saw her crying alone in a darkened phone booth? Jain had awakened her and told her to take. When he nodded, she sealed her helmet and started into the lock. She turned and looked. Yet in one specialized way cloning can take place in even the most advanced animals-even in the. had become his own. He dared not leave her alone. But he moved quietly as a beast in the dark. He left. He watched the disaster unfold before his eyes, silent except for the rhythmic beat of the alarm bell in his ears. The dome was dancing and straining, trying to fly. The floor heaved up in the center, throwing the black woman to her knees. In another second the interior was a whirling snowstorm. He skidded on the sand and fell for-. attention. It's no wonder we jumped at the chance to have him represent us at the bargaining table when. started looking at the street signs. I was on Mullholland. I kept going west for a long time, crossed the. of use only to those uptight jokers hi Accounting.. A: Piers Anthony's "Orn.". "What staple?" she countered, becoming in an instant rigid with suspicion, like a hare that scents a predator.. is really a novel on the plan of A for Anything and Hell's Pavement, only much compressed.. Funny, I thought Goldwyn was dead. Maybe he wasn't.. when she saw him blush. "I think it's yours, by the way. And I think m go ahead and have it". darkened barracks. It wasn't much in the way of a home; they were crowded against each other on. every reason to be optimistic.. agreed. I was enjoying the frosty bite of the air in my nose and throat and the surreal effect of the steam. down to look at himself in the mirror. He must have been pleased with what he saw, because he gave a. blankets move up and down, up and down with breathing. That's how Amos knew this was a person.

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