

## A LITTLE GIRLS VISIT TO A COUNTRY GARDEN

My long coat is wrapped around the two of us, and we watch each other inches apart. "So much." "Did you look at where the pieces were hidden?" asked Jack. 246 Samuel R. Ddany. Nolan rose, stretching, then stepped out into the hall. The shadows were darker here and everything was still. She shakes her head. "Just my pa." I guess I look curious because she looks away and adds, "My mother died of tetanus right after I was born. It was a freak thing." We Sold Space, POHL & KORKBLUTH. judge fairly, can you resist temptation? I had no idea what he meant, and again I answered, "I am Prince. The list went on and on, afl the way back to Thursday, the 7th. On that day was another slashed-wrist suicide near Western and Wilshire. For instance, suppose you wanted one hundred Isaac Asimovs so that the supply of F&SF essays would never run out. You would then have to ask what it was that made me the kind of writer I amor a writer at all. Was it only my genes? "Right. Get on that. Since we're sleeping in it until we can find out what we can do on the ground, by STAN DRYER. Amanda cried, "Matthew, don't?" Her eyes widened with horror. Her mouth moved again. "Mary," McKillian said, "it occurs to me that I'd better start looking for airborne spores. If there are some of our celebrity citizens: actress Lillith Manners, novelist. 121. I tried to sit up but my head weighed a thousand kilos. I managed to turn over on my side and, as, "I sensed you felt the two of us ought to talk." She slipped out of my hands and went to curl up in one of the chairs. odds. If you can't, let me know." McKillian looked horrified, as any good ecologist would. Then he showed her how a white light shining through it would break apart and fill her hands with all. She was gone, but the hate remained. Nolan felt its force as he. I drove on home wishing I could have stayed. I wondered what Selene would have to say about the. "Ever see a claustrophobe deliberately walk into a closet and shut the door? If I don't fight it this." "Where is he?" way. . . . First, there is the reactive pain. Only those who have reviewed, year in and year out, know how truly abominable most fiction is. And we can't remove ourselves from the pain. Ordinary readers can skip, or read every third word, or quit in the middle. We can't We must read carefully, with our sensitivities at full operation and our critical-historical apparatus always in high gear? or we may miss that subtle satire which disguises itself as cliché, that first novel whose beginning, alas, was never revised, that gem of a quiet story obscured in a loud, flashy collection, that experiment in form which could be mistaken for sloppiness, that appealing tale partly marred by (but also made possible by) naivete, that complicated situation that only pays off near the end of the book. Such works exist but in order not to miss them, one must continually extend one's sensitivity, knowledge, and critical care to works that only abuse such faculties. The mental sensation is that of eating garbage, I assure you, and if critics\* accumulated suffering did not find an outlet in the vigor of our language, I don't know what we would do. And it's the critics who care the most who suffer the most; irritation is a sign of betrayed love. As Shaw puts it: I took a deep breath and lied with a straight face. ?I promise." make you sleep much better than all the air hi the world." ever was, does that mean they're qualified to fly a helicopter? have an effect on its personality, too. stamped the envelopes and dropped them into a mailbox. All six, minus their labels, were delivered to the. "Gwendolyn?" "You're right. What do we do first?" He didn't look at the license till he was out on the street Stapled to the back of it was a printed. But, at the boat, all had not gone according to Amos' plan during the night The grey man, still puzzling over Amos' wet clothes? and at last he began to inquire whom Amos had solicited from the sailors to go with him? had gone to the brig himself. and his hands were grained tike wood. 128. occur outside, as well as inside, science fiction. "Name it." Unresolved text enclosed in brackets [ ] didn't see it. If we're a colony, we expand. By definition. Historian, what happened to colonies that failed. And hi each drop of water on each strand of the web, the light was broken up as if through a tiny prism into blues and yellows and reds, As they looked, Jack sighed. "These are the colors of the Far Ram-bow," he said. "Matthew, I'd like to leave." Amanda fumbled for her cape. I started to frown. It hurt hellishly. There seemed to be silver wrapped around the edges of my vision. The minute she saw me, Debbie's face fell. When we voted the Union hi last month, she had a fit, and. "Okay, keep spread out on both sides, everybody. Jim, can yoo and Edie head him off before he gets to the woods?" "Say again?" I say. "Interference. Repeat, please." Earthling Swine! I, Parker, Emperor and Commander and Chief of the Hordes of Zorph, do here give warning. Tomorrow afternoon at 14:00 hours I shall commence the obliteration of all decadent hu-manoid pigs in my galaxy. Be at your console at the appointed hour! You are forewarned but foredoomed. started looking at the street signs. I was on Mullholland. I kept going west for a long time, crossed the. did not find an outlet in the vigor of our language, I don't know what we would do. And it's the critics. a bit tight, considering that the only documentation available from Hazeldorf was a picture of a Zorph he. When the moon lit the clearing, the hunter returned. He could not wait until the morning. Hinda's fear. noticed a white patch near the top of the largest globe. It was streaked, like a glass marble with swirls of. "But we're middlemen, you see. We have only limited flexibility in the terms we can offer. Say, fifteen." "It all amounts to the same thing, doesn't it?" I shrugged. "Oh, well," she sighed, "vampires are. once dearer to me." But this time it was Selene's voice, firm and brisk, that spoke. "I think we'd better have a talk., further attraction of their store, since one's exchanges with them were limited to such basic permissible amenities as "How are you," "Take care," and giving out prices. Crawford and Lang hung around as the scientists looked things over. They were not anxious to get back to the task that had occupied them for the last two weeks: that of bringing the Podkayne to a horizontal position without wrecking her. The ship had been rigged with stabilizing cables soon after landing, and provision had been made in the plans to lay the ship on its side in the event of a really big windstorm. But the plans had envisioned a work force of twenty, working all day with a maze of pulleys and gears. It was slow work and could not be rushed. If the ship were to tumble and lose pressure, they didn't have a prayer. "Can't they wait? Tve been sleuthing all day and I'm bushed." "No, no, you must go," Hinda said again. "I cannot have you here at night If you love me,

go." Then and he worked up such a sweat that in all the cold he still had to take off his shirt. He worked so hard only one knob, for nearer or farther? to move up/down, or left/right, you just point the viewer where you. demanding of me than ever before.. The usher continued to hover, smiling, over his chair. Finally Barry realized he was waiting for a tip. Without any idea of what was customary, he gave him a dollar, which seemed to do the trick.. "No.". Yet cloning would not be totally useless, either. There would be the purely theoretical advantage of. "You're sure you want me to have this?" Barry asked, incredulous, with the white curl of the. She stooped closer to the ice cream and winced. "But then it's pure hell. I want to cut my leg off, have a. Books: In Defense of Criticism by Joanna Russ. The details are clearly of the greatest importance to human biology, and biologists just don't yet know. eliminate any conflict over taste hi furniture.. The North Wind rose up in his cave and sped toward the opening that was so high they could not see the top and so wide they could not see the far wall, and his hair brushed the ceiling, and his toenails scraped the floor, and the tips of his wings sent boulders crashing from either side as he leapt into the black.. That must be where you got your gift of gab. You must have kissed the Blarney stone..". 216. time to fall, she turned, sprang away into the fading light, and was gone.. get a little too close to Jain. "Back off, creeps." "So who's tellin' us?" She had to hold the Python with. Amanda screamed again. I tried to roll sideways but my body would not respond and I steered. Science: Clone, Clone of My Own. "Well," he called up to the thin grey man who sat on the top of the trunk, waiting, "here is your mirror. from his reverie: Blmvgm!." "Don't you see?" she went on, calmer now. "It's too pat, too much of a coincidence. This thing is like. Detweiler stepped toward it, ignoring me, tears pouring down his face. The thing's struggles grew. This day, like the nine before it, illuminated a Tharsis radically changed from what it had been over the last sleepy ten thousand years. Wind erosion of rocks can create an infinity of shapes, but it. A: The Lathe of Heaven. "Why do you look at me like that, senor? Is it not natural for a woman to bulge when she carries a." "What happened to you?" asked Jack, and Amos told him.. "It is a map of many places and many treasures, and I need someone to help me find them..". Then the picture changed, and he was looking down a familiar, seaside, cobbled street, wet with rain. A storm had just ended and the clouds were breaking apart. Down the block the sign of the Mariner's Tavern swung in the breeze.. And the song ends, one last diminishing chord, but her body continues to move. For her there is still. "Why the hell shouldn't If. Columbine had joined her husband in Wilmington, Delaware, and there was no knowing when, if ever., Thomas M. Disch. "An Irish name: that explains it then..". Nolan hadn't anticipated the intensity of his own reaction. But now, after the long trip back in the. summer residents had gone back to jobs in the city or followed the sun south, and the winter influx of. should be proof enough for anybody. Now what do you look like? ". squatted hi a circle around a growth in the graveyard.. sector. You may fire off laser probes to determine the location of Zorph warships. You have a number of. "You feel you can trust me?" She lowered her eyes and tried to look wicked and temptress-like, but. man with a face gone tallow-pale, replies, "Never mind? row!" They are staring down into the sea. After. 214. 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. "Ever see a claustrophobe deliberately walk into a closet and shut the door? If I don't fight it this way?" Her fingers dig into my arms. Her face is fierce. "This has got to be better than what I do on stage." She swings away from me. "Shit!" she says. "Damn it all to hell." She stands immovable, staring down the mountain for several minutes. When she turns back toward me, her eyes are softer and there's a fey tone in her voice. "If I die?" She laughs. "When I die. I want my ashes here..". stage and shaking his head. If he was aware of me, or of Zeke or Ben or Eli, the other three pickets, he. Selene. You're cheating.. rummaged around on the nightstand for a cigarette. "Who wants to divorce him? ". maybe. Not very tall, about five-five or six. Slim, dark curly hair, a real good-looking boy. Looks like a. why; I find myself reaching for the shield that covers the emergency total cutoff. I stop my hand.. When he nodded, she sealed her helmet and started into the lock. She turned and looked. "I have come," he said. His back was to her. "I wish to God I had not..". Pramacia by Samuel R. Delany 243. And what of multicellular animals?. "You're stuck, Mandy," Selene said. "There's no way out". So finely drawn, and with the glitter of ice, the manipulating wires radiate outward. Taut bonds between her body and the flickering darkness, all wires lead to the intangible overshadowing figure behind her. Without expression, Atropos gazes down at the woman.. "Hie gate's going to be a lot bigger than last night," Jain had said. "Can you handle it?". Half an hour later the curtains over the barred open window moved. I had squatted down in the. I called Amanda at noon. Without mentioning the note, I asked about her cooking.. sucked air through her teeth and clamped her fingers to her scarlet lips. "Do you think he had something. morning to provide some sort of privacy for that, but, no matter what we'll all be pretty close in the years. At the edge of the garden he stopped, remembering the order from Lang to stay out unless collecting. Barry left the cubicle feeling so transcendent and relaxed that he was five blocks from Center St. before he remembered that he'd neglected to have his license revalidated at Window 28. As he beaded back to the Federal Communications Building, his senses seemed to register all the ordinary details of the city's streets with an unnatural, hyped clarity: the smell of sauerkraut steaming up from a hot dog cart, the glint of the noon sun on the mica mixed into the paving blocks of the sidewalk, the various shapes and colors of the pigeons, the very pigeons, perhaps, that had inspired bis so-called idea earlier that day. But it was true, what he'd said. All the pigeons were the same size.. He looked at me, trusting me. "They're pretty superstitious back in there, you know. Thought I was . . . The waitress who brought his order was Cinderella Johnson. She was wearing levis and a T-shirt with the word "Princess" in big, glitter-dust letters across her breasts. Her hat said: "Let Tonight Be Your Enchanted Evening at Partyland!". "At last it is about to happen," said the grey man. "Bat first, Amos, you must have your reward for helping me so much..". that's probably what it would have been without the corpses. But the rest of it is very similar to. suburbia? and does a pretty good job of it-father than just another nearly downtown shopping center.. "Smart thinking," said Venerate. "Now how

do I get this game HBrtd? ".by lining them with sheets of the double-walled material the whirligigs used to heat water. They were. The fine mesh around Jain's body seems to glitter with more than reflected light Her skin already gleams. much to each other. Isn't that so? Even before Debra got religious, we weren't in the habit of talking to. sort of place? It's a tourist trap!"

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