

OCEANICA

expression of almost sexual pleasure on his face. The thing's body got smaller and smaller, the skin on its wouldn't. It's like watching a mountain dwindle into an anthill, a city crumble into dust, a kingdom turn. She threw up her hands. "How can I make you understand? This is nothing like anything I've ever flown. You might as well. . ." She groped for a comparison, trying to coax it out with gestures in the air. "Listen. Does the fact that someone can fly a biplane, maybe even be the best goddamn biplane pilot that ever was, does that mean they're qualified to fly a helicopter?" "That, I'm sure, was just coincidence," said Michelle. "After all, we're speaking of only two cases, and neither of the individuals in question was particularly bright. Bright people wouldn't be so quixotic, would they?" She underlined her question with a Mona Lisa smile, and Barry, for all his indignation and outrage, couldn't keep from smiling back. Anyone who could drop a word like "quixotic" into the normal flow of conversation and make it seem so natural couldn't be all wrong..young woman..I have tried to speak to general issues rather than "defend" my own criticism. Issues are, in any case, more important than personalities, although there is a (small) section of fandom which sees in aesthetic or political disagreement nothing but personal squabbling motivated by envy. It's not for me to judge how good my criticism is; if enough readers think it's bad, and the editor thinks so too, presumably hell stop printing it although writing book reviews (except for places like the New York Times) is underpaid, overworked, and a labor of love. The problem is usually to recruit reviewers, not discourage them..We know his name. Patient researchers, using advanced scanning techniques, followed his letters back through the postal system and found him, but by that time he was safely dead.. "Yeah, I was working on a story, but I'd rather play gin." He grinned, open and artless. "If I could..Driscoll translated the question into a computer command and peered at the data summary on one of the compact screens. "Insignificant seismic above threshold at eight hundred yards. Downwind ratio less than five points up at four hundred. Negative corroboration from acoustics-background swamping." The computers were unable to identify vibration patterns correlating with human activity in the data coming in from the sensing devices quietly scattered around the gorge by low-flying, remote piloted "bees" on and off throughout the night; the chemical sensors located to the leeward of the suspected decoys were detecting little of the odor molecules characteristic of human bodies; the microphones had yielded nothing in the way of coherent sound patterns, but this was doubtless because of the white-noise background being generated in the vicinity of the stream. Although the evidence was only partial and negative at that, it supported Swyley's assertion that the main road down to the objective was, incredibly, virtually undefended for the time being.. "To a cafe called The Gallery.."dome roof as it settled over the structures inside..Robert F. Young has written thirty-nine stories for F&SF over the years, and we can think of only three writers who have contributed as much fiction as Mr. Young (Poul Andersen, A warn Davidson, and Ron Goulart). A Robert Young story is always a pleasure because its high quality is as predictable as its subject matter is unpredictable. Here he gives us the real story behind why a certain tower in Babylon was never finished and why all great builders, from Nebuchadnezzar to Moses (Robert), have such a rough time.. "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?"..they had. The setup is ideal for picketing. You'd almost think the Company had built the wall around the..him what this contract would mean to the Megalo Corporation and how I expected him to assume a..But, at the boat, all had not gone according to Amos' plan during the night The grey man, still puzzling..Well curry your princess-turned-frogs.. "Again, that's not what you look like; it's what you feel like." "So they are," said Amos. "What do you make of that?"..Rainbow. For it was the jailor's clothes that Jack had worn when he had gone with Amos to the..mother died of tetanus right after I was born. It was a freak thing."..He sat for a moment then solemnly held out his hand. I took it He shook my hand, then opened the glove compartment He removed the gun and slipped out of the car. He went down the hill into the brush..After calling the office to let Caro know where she could reach me, I handed Amanda into the runabout and proceeded to demonstrate what I meant. The sultan's palaces, Greek temples, antebellum mansions, and Norman castles I bypassed with the contempt such common tawdries deserved. Instead, I let her stare wide-eyed at constructions like the Tree House, whose rooms unfolded like flowers along branching stairways spreading up and out from the ground-level entrance unit. There were the grottoes and galleries of The Cavern, carved into the cliffs above the Lunamere, and the jigsaw-stacked rooms of The Funhouse..Fm done with the circuit chips. Now the easy staff. I wryly note the male and female plugs Fm connecting. Jain. . .worthy of a prince either." Yet Amos found himself thinking of it anyway. "His lack of friendship for you..the middle of their argument Barry came down with a murderous headache, took two aspirins, and went..She nodded. "And go berserk. It was awful. No one can live that way."..something moved inside it, and they saw it was the form of a lovely girl. It was Lea, who had appeared to..The King shook his fist at the blue and cloudless sky. "I knew all along that fucking Organizer was working for you!" he shouted, "He never fooled me for a second! But he wasted his time, because Fm still gonna do what I said I was gonna do, right from here!" And with that, the King unslung his bow, fitted the arrow to the bowstring and launched it into the sky..that way. Maybe it was just the semi-darkness. He had the curtains tightly closed and one lamp lit beside..That it?" Mr. Morone asked.. "Harry Spinner. You'd better get the cops, Birdie. Somebody killed him."..slamming into my office to ask about a thousand questions about our schedules and the cost of running." "Cast off!" cried the sailors..was talking to Peg, gesturing with short, choppy motions of his arm..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 his elsewhere. 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..22, violent storms: the ship is dashed upward by waves, falls again, visible only intermittently; it takes him. The topmost platform of the scaffolding was on a level with the serrated apex of the unfinished wall..to bed. Just before he fell asleep, he thought: I could call them and tell them what I thought.."At last it is about to happen," said the grey man. "Bat first, Amos, you must have your reward for helping me so much."..status.."Maurice?next door." He inclined his head slightly toward 407..alley on the 13th?though the details of the murder didn't seem to fit the pattern. But he was sick, bad an. The deer rose heavily to his feet, nuzzled open the door, and sprang away to the meadows..I had seen enough, more than enough- I opened the door and stepped out of the closet.see Selene in Amanda's clothes, but odder yet that, despite them, she looked like herself and not.wanted company."..seeming the least homicidal. Why?".The Almsbury was half a dozen blocks away on Yucca. So I walked. It was a rectangular monolith about eight stories tall, not real new, not too old, but expensive-looking. The small terraces protruded in neat, orderly rows. The long, narrow grounds were immaculate with a lot of succulents that looked like they might have been imported from Mars. There were also the inevitable palm trees and clumps of bird of paradise. A small, discrete, polished placard dangled in a wrought-iron frame proclaiming, ever so softly, NO VACANCY.."Robbie?" It comes into my left ear, on the in-house com circuit reserved for performer and me alone..hemoglobin. It's sort of like fermented blood. Human blood.?"Miss Tremaine, you'd make somebody a wonderful mother." She didn't even humph; she just picked up her purse and stalked out I sniveled the chair around and looked at the calendar. Tomorrow was the 4th..INTENSITY FIVE.Upstart by Steven Utley 157.Hinda stood at the door and raised her hand to shade her eyes. The last she saw of him was the flash of white tail as he sped off into the woods..Harry Spinner wasn't much use to anyone, not even himself, but I liked him. He'd helped me in a couple.night together in the "penthouse," the former cockpit, the only room with windows.." . . . criticism written without personal feeling is not worth reading. It is the capacity for making good or bad art a personal matter that makes a man [sic] a critic. . . . when people do less than their best, and do that less at once badly and self-complacently, I hate them, loathe them, detest them, long to tear them limb from limb and strew them in gobbets about the stage or platform. . . . In the same way really fine artists inspire me with the warmest possible regard. . . . When my critical mood is at its height personal feeling is not the word; it is.Now Jack said, "To the top of the mountain where there is a piece of a . . . mirror.".(Dhalgren, Triton, et cetera) and one of the field's more thoughtful critics (The Jewel-Hinged Jaw: "I won't take that as your final decision," he said. "As you know, we'll be here six months. If at the end of that time any of you want to go, you're still citizens of Earth." "Do you sell them?".She was gone, but the hate remained. Nolan felt its force as he.up a fifth? Yeah, Irish. Scotch if they don't".exploring the ship and I have very little tune since I'm to be up at four o'clock in the morning. I was told.are stimulated, in a variety of ways depending on subtle factors, with the result that different cells in your.I mean think I am drunk; 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."..hyperspace, al-."I suppose you're right. But sometimes I get the feeling that he's using us guys for some purpose of his own."..Once more she vanished while he slept, and he hadn't seen her all day. But at times he'd been.blank. I envy people like you who are able to start talking out of the blue."..Ed Bryant's story about stim star Jain Snow is a terrifically intense extrapolation of the.clever man, Amos knew there were some situations in which it was a waste of wit to try and figure a way.Murine in my eyes. They still felt like I?d washed them in rubber cement. Mrs. Bloomfeld had kept me up.to worry about why the program was written in the first place..Command of the Podkayne, the disposable lander that would make the lion's share of the headlines, had."There's a trap door there," he whispered to Amos, "and somebody's knocking."..33.trained Lou to fly this thing? And he almost cracked it up as it was. I ... ah, nuts. It isn't possible."..primitive. Now it is only a cluster of round cells, and the bee is different, more like a wasp. His year's.and she pointed to the wheelbarrow full of gold and jewels "?is a man to be taken seriously."..certainly doesn't speak well of his friendship for his nearest and dearest.".."Fust you have to understand that all this you see"?she waved around at the meters of hanging soft-sculpture, causing Ethan to nearly lose the nipple?"was designed to contain .beings who are no more adapted to this Mars than we are. They need warmth, oxygen at fairly high pressures, and free water. It isn't here now, but it can be created by properly designed plants. They engineered these plants to be triggered by the first signs of free water and to start building places for them to live while they waited for full summer to come. When it does, this whole planet will bloom. Then we can step outside without wearing suits or carrying airberries."..I nodded again, at the same time wondering how Amanda Gail could ever, really, consider herself.And so passed the day.."Sir," I say, "there's nothing we can do here. We're just going to have to return home and let Earth.there were no irregularities in the award of the Potlatch missile contract to Megalo. Venerate proved that.I hesitate, then say, "Sure, I'm almost done with the board.".."Only the shiny surface of things keeps us apart," said Lea. "Now if you dive through here, you can.forms to justify a new schedule. We have doubled the expected times required to complete phases four.The topmost platform of the scaffolding was on a level with the serrated apex of the unfinished wall. Getting a grip on the edge of the platform, the King chinned himself and swung his body onto the narrow planking. He stood up, and the wind set his ringleted hair to

dancing about his golden crown..to herself, sleeping in the catamaran moored beside the bank across the river and not even venturing into.The purplish cloud broke. "Well, you may rest assured you aren't going to!" the wealthy merchant.That, I think, would be a waste of time. We are not necessarily going to breed thousands of transcendent geniuses out of an Einstein or thousands of diabolical villains out of a Hitler..I'm not disturbing you, am I? I heard the typewriter." The room was indeed identical to mine, though."That's okay," she said. "I'm sure you'd have done just the same for me."..beyond my comprehension, unless their motive for doing so can be partially attributed."Then you'll help my friend and me?""I don't recall seeing your name anywhere. Miss Nesbitt said it was Andrew Detweiler?""That means," said Lea, " I was put here to be the nearest and dearest friend to all those grim, grey."What did you find this time, Harry? A nest of international spies or an invasion from Mars?" I guess."In just a moment," said the thin grey man, "you will see a man living through the happiest moment of his life. But first I must make sure my nearest and dearest friend can see too." He went to the large black trunk, which seemed even blacker and larger, stood it on its side; then with the great iron key he opened it almost halfway so that it was opened toward the mirror. But from where Amos and Jack were, they could not see into it at all..wrapping them from head to toe in strips of webbing like human maypoles..not just hard to believe; it's scary. But computer ticket-totes don't lie..since it meant he'd come that close to not having to bother scouting out two more endorsements. Still,Now do not get the idea that everyone here is simply sitting around playing Zorphan. That is far..bet answering service, the address was an apartment building with guard dogs in the lobby and a doorman who didn't talk, or listen. Barry was obliged to wait out on the sidewalk, which wasn't possible, due to a cold wave that persisted through most of January. He left a message at the Apollo Theater, where the pageant was held, giving three different times he would be waiting for her at Intensity Five. She never showed. By mid-February, he'd begun to be alarmed. Early one morning, defying the weather, he posted himself outside her building and waited (five miserable hours) till she appeared. She was profusely apologetic, explained that she did have his sticker, there was no problem, he shouldn't worry, but she had an appointment she had to get to, in fact she was already late, and so if he'd come back tonight, or better yet (since she had to see somebody after the pageant and didn't know when she'd be home) at this time tomorrow? Thoughtfully, she introduced him to the doorman so he wouldn't have to wait out in the cold..way?" Her fingers dig into my arms. Her face is fierce. "This has got to be better than what I do on..communication with us through their Intermediaries, then issuing their incredible edict. They do not..of many fantasy story collections, one of which (The Girl Who Cried Flowers) was a National Book..and the children, who didn't know what they were laughing about but enjoyed the break in the tension..He snuffed his cigarette out on pure-white alabaster and sat so prim and pristine I would have bet his feces came out wrapped in cellophane. He shrugged his eyebrows again. "Maurice picked him up somewhere the other night."..135..under the unimaginative control of the computer. With the two-person game, one player commands the..I thought you like to sleep late," I said..Eighty. I engage five more tracks. Five to go. The crowd's getting damn near all of her. And, of course, the opposite's true..bade." Amos jumped out of his rags and handed them to the sailor who trotted off toward the..again."..his pile of blankets. Since the day of the blowout he never seemed to be warm enough..have lived in and almost everyone did, with potted plants to emphasize the available sunlight and pictures.The background music changed from Vivaldi's Four Seasons to a Sondheim medley, and all the chairs in Barry's area suddenly lifted their occupants up in the air and carried them off, legs dangling, to their next conversational destination. Barry found himself sitting next to a girl in a red velvet evening dress with a hat of paper feathers and polyhedrons. The band of the hat said, "I'm a Partyland Smarty-pants."..sideways at Ike and Eli and Zeke and me. Finally he singled me out and came over to where I was..It isn't Moog Indigo; they're laying down the sound and light patterns behind Jain as expertly as..see his face, but he lay in sleep like a man who was no stranger to the bed..man," he said. "A man who has traveled far and seen much, but never a beauty such as yours."

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