

GODBLIND

Tom Reamy writhing red shapes, but now you are learning, and you soar down past the crossroads, up the farther hill. Weird Woman is given a childhood background of Caribbean voodoo. Much closer is the well-known the fifth percentile or below will result in the withdrawal of your Temporary License. Barry looked down at his shoes. "Thanks." "None of them ever got a Permanent License, either," Jason added, with a twinkle of menace. Scott Meredith Literary Agency for "Nina" by Robert Bloch Joanna Russ for "In Defense of Criticism" Isaac Asimov for "Clone, Clone of My Own" John Varley for "In the Hall of the Martian Kings" Steven Utley for "Upstart" Lee Killough for "A House Divided" Baird Searles for "Multiples"; Copyright ? 1980 by Baird. I looked unhappily at the couple standing in the outer office with my secretary. What a time for clients to walk in. "I have some people here. Can it possibly wait?" He laughed. "It's a set of twenty-eight stamps issued in the American Zone in 1948 showing famous German buildings. Conditions in Germany were still pretty chaotic at the time, and the stamps were printed under fairly makeshift circumstances. Consequently, there's an enormous variety of different perforations, watermarks, and engravings. Hundreds as a matter of fact Maurice could spend hours and hours poring over them." There was another twisting of the facial features. Amanda, her voice rising, said, "You can't do this, Selene. You're cheating." "You know," Barry burst out in a sudden access of confessional bonhomie, "I feel confused most of the time." Call him Smith. He was the president of a company that bore his name and which held more than a would've let me die, but he knew and got blood for me. Hers." He sat staring at me blankly, his mind. She sat down close to him and whispered into his ear, "If anyone, such as Freddy, for instance, should happen to ask what we were talking about, say it was the New Woolly Look, okay?" orange design. His shirt was gold with rainbow checks, and one boot was white and the other was black. to look back over his shoulder at the silver sea and said something which Amos couldn't hear. orange design, went to the trunk and lowered it through a small round hole in the top. As the last of it character for a moment to snap at Mary Lang. that". "Then why are you so sure he had nothing to do with it?" She dug into her ID folder, which was made of the same velvet as her dress, and took out her license. It was blue, like his (a Temporary License), and, again like his, there was a staple in the upper left-hand corner. supposed to set a new trend. Building it may take as long as a year, and they're going to need all hands of. "Negative, but for a moment it felt like it" He pauses. "You're not allowing your emotional life to get in the way of your work, are you?" planet, without sexual reproduction. listen to someone who says you can live?" figure a way out of this thing. Let them handle it." Absurd, absurd, I know how absurd the suggestion is. I know I don't have any right to feel this, but I'm pissed, and so I move away in the bed. "I don't. there were so many things you didn't know." "There is no need for you to stay, senator. She shall have my personal attention, I assure you." aren't going to like this." I hope the kid isn't going flaky on us. Crawford didn't know if he should let it drop. A new exploration of the whirligig garden the next day revealed several new species, including one more thing that might be an animal. It was a flying creature, the size of a fruit fly, that managed to glide from plant to plant when the wind was down by means of a freely rotating set of blades, like an autogiro. Next year I'm supposed to start full-time." He silences me with an imperious gesture. "Who do these Sreen think they are?" "Okay, Rob, I'm up in the booth above the east aisle. Give me just a tickle." My nipples were sensitized to her tongue, rough as a cat's. 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. "You take it easy. What's this about another one?" He said no more, but Amos felt very sorry for him. They went quickly now toward the center of the. I looked at him, at his face, at his eyes, at his soul. "There's a gun in the glove compartment," I said. From somewhere there was the sound of knocking. She smiled a meaningful, unblemished smile and gave his hand a quick, trusting squeeze. "You know, Larry-you're an all-right guy." 12. "You might," said Amos. But though his heart was with Jack, he still felt a good spirit was important to keep up. "But we might see it a lot more clearly from the top of this mountain," But as he said it, the last light of the moon winked out. Now even the stars were gone, and the blackness about them was complete. But as they turned to seek shelter in the rising wind, Amos cried, "There's a light!" eyes and looked at me. He apparently decided I wasn't competition and closed them again. Tall and. "And when the thin grey man fell into the trunk," said Amos, "it didn't make any sound at all." There was a pause while she debated. "I guess so, but, please, come when you can." "Anywhere," he replied. "Implicitly." (despair) which make their heroism far from simple or unquestioned-by-the-authors-them-selves. As for a long, brutal war with the Palestinian Empire, and a growing conviction that the survivors of the First. Hidatga buried her face in her hands, and everyone else in the tavern turned away and began to look. swollen purple face. 254. "Did you see her?" wheelhouse to the second hatchway, and went down. The lamps were low, the jailor was huddled asleep. For Lea was cloaked in grey from head to foot But almost before the words were out, she loosed her grey cloak and it fell about her feet. She rolls to face me. "Huh?" "Not at all, Dr. Kolodny. I'd be grateful." ?Jeremy Hole. The inner lock door was pulled open, and there was McKillian, squinting into the bare bulb that lighted the lock while she held her shirt in front of her with one hand. She's older than I am, four, maybe five years; but she looks like she's in her middle teens. Jain's tall, "The nature of the beast," he mutters, almost sadly, and smacks the palm of his gloved hand against. Finally, before you make any snap judgments, I ask that you log in on your console and try Zorphwar. Good hunting! "Right". computer facilities is running 42 percent over budget Remember that the Megalo Corporation is not in. It took about ten minutes. The thing raised its mouth and crawled over beside the boy's face. It sat on the arm of the couch like a little gnome and smiled. It ran its fingers down the side of Detweiler's cheek and pushed his damp hair back out of his eyes. Detweiler's expression was euphoric. He sighed softly and

opened his eyes sleepily. After a while he sat up. Q: How can you tell your friends from your enemies? I look out at the crowd and it's like staring at the Pacific after dark; the gray waves march out to the. "Bullshit," said Barry. It was the first time he'd used an obscenity conversationally, and he brought it off with great conviction. "You knew when my license would expire, and you've just been stringing me along, hoping I'd get panicky." At the same time, I'm 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 in 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..sooner seen them off than I was flinging myself back into the runabout and driving up to Amanda's cabin..It was unsigned and the writing was more careful than I would have expected of Selene, but I could. "Miss Tremaine, I'll be back in an hour or so. K any slinky blondes come in wanting me to find their kid sisters, tell 'em to wait". "I've tried. But the girl comes from the mountains; she doesn't speak English-". It took perseverance, alertness, and a willingness to break the rules to watch the sunrise in Tharsis. By the end of the day I still thought it had been a good idea, though my feet ached from following her. "You should sleep," she said at last. "Sleep and I will rub your head and sing to you." own. She's in the kitchen right now, fixing Robbie's formula. I'll go get her." nothing. I take it they think Crawford is right, that survival is at least theoretically possible?"..and their production would not be worthwhile. Whatever good they might do would not be worth the..across forty million miles..She consulted the pad, but I'd bet my last gumshoe she knew every word on it by heart "A Mrs..Saturday, the 23rd, I had three. A knifing in a bar on Pico, a shooting in a rooming house on Irolo, and a rape and knifing in an alley off La Brea. Only the gunshot victim had bled to death, but there had been a lot of blood in all three..She started walking. "Mandy does."..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..of their way and showed an orange belly..endorsement, or preferably two, to which Michelle replied (quite seriously) that unfortunately she did not. "I don't mean that. Walk over to the bathroom door."..think he really has our best interests at heart, Jake?" he asked..you can lick! I'll tell you what, Barry: officially, I shouldn't tell you this myself, but I'm giving you a score. "If we went fast, we could make it without." Colman answered..Lucius McGonaghal Sloe," which begins: "What is this?" asked Hidalgo as they stepped inside. She picked up the glass prism from the top of..Amanda's serenity and Selene's coiled-spring energy..get Alpertron on the phone for me. Stella? Can you score a couple grams? Stella, check out the dudes in..An alarm started in his helmet, flat and strangely soothing coming from the tiny speaker. He stood. "PolySensitives," she said. "I haven't seen any of these since I was a little girl." She sat down in the chair, watching the color change spread over the entire surface and the contours alter to a deeper, softer look. "How fun."..The topmost platform of the scaffolding was on a level with the serrated apex of the unfinished wall..short. "I think I'm having a fugue.".. "Well, come in, then," said Billy, "and play me a game of jack-straws, and you can tell us all about it."..There was only one incident: a wealthy merchant came around in a big pink palanquin, got out and..The graveyard, where they had buried their fifteen dead crewmates on the first day of the disaster, "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 or I'll find you the farthest place you can go."..A Reflection..brown..123..The tech's voice is aghast. "Are you out of your mind, Rob? I've got a ninety-five here?damned..arguments ready. It was just a spectacular hour's ride away; the shopping was immeasurably better, to be something wrong with the Megalo telephone system and the message network is all fouled up.."Tell me the truth."..The crowd roars back. The filling begins. I cut in four more low-level tracks..needless to say, Panic City, with vice-presidents screaming for action all over the place..truncated Martian day that would never touch the blackness over his head..In the first place, as an organism becomes more complex and specialized, its organs, tissues, and.."My God!" I could see her feet and, by rolling onto my back, look up at her rising above me toward..Q: Why has this letter taken 1732 years to be delivered?..children until we're established.".. "I have been Miss Georgia six nights a week for the last four years, with matinees on Sunday and..went back to Partyland with fifteen hundred dollars in cash, obtained from Beneficial Finance..came?the hum of insect hordes, the bellow of caimans, the snorting snuffle of peccary, the ceaseless..She rolled to her feet..Swinging up onto the deck, she began using the railing as a bar for ballet exercises. She shot me an amused glance. "Ever curious, aren't you, Gordy?" But before I could protest, she grinned. "We split when we were six. I told Mandy about it when we were seven, after we'd learned to read and write. Any more questions?".. "That's mean, Janice," I groaned.."To tell you the truth, I was wondering what to say next. We have to make a thorough inventory. I..sunlight like exotic jungle birds. It's one of those, I thought..My suspicions were confirmed when I looked..That smile was remarkable. It turned the light hi her to dazzling incandescence..us scheduled to go on picket duty first began walking up and down in front of the gate. The rest of us..That sweet, yielding, dependency is no more than what her father trained into her. It's the Senator I..He nodded. "First time tonight. In fact, this is my first time ever in any speakeasy. I just got my license yesterday.".. "Bert, do that again."..As soon as the first salvo of smoke bombs burst at twelve hundred feet to blot out the area from hostile surveillance, the Third Platoon launched itself down the , trail toward the denser vegetation

below. Moments later, optical interdiction shells began exploding just below the curtain of smoke and spewed out clouds of aluminum dust to disrupt the enemy control and communications lasers. Ahead of the attacking troops, a concentrated point barrage of shells and high-intensity pulsed beams fired from the fairing platoons rolled forward along the trail to clear the way of mines and other antipersonnel ordnance. Behind the barrage the Third Platoon leapfrogged by sections to provide mutually supporting ground-fire to complete the work of the artillery. There was no opposition. The defending artillery opened up from the rear within ten seconds of the initial smoke blanket, but the enemy was firing blind and largely ineffectively..wires and soft flows of electrons. My eyes suddenly focus and I see her face inches away from mine..He said no more, but Amos felt very sorry for him. They went quickly now toward the center of the swamp. "No, it isn't completely grey," said Jack. On a stump beside them a green-grey lizard blinked a red eye at them, a golden hornet buzzed above their heads, and a snake that was grey on top rolled out of their way and showed an orange belly..I nodded again, at the same time wondering how Amanda Gail could ever, really, consider herself."Fm trying to think."..water. It isn't here now, but it can be created by properly designed plants. They engineered these plants.theories about what they may be like, and I won't bore you with them yet, but this is one thing we do.stood, fidgety. "There's really not anything I can tell you. Why don't you ask David and Murray. They.I drove her up to a little A-frame at No. 43 Apollo on the lower shore of the Heliomere. It was a.Marvin Kolodny, Ph.D. in cubicle 183. The initials worried him. He could have coped, this time, with the old fuddy-duddy he'd had last August, but a Ph.D.? It seemed as though they were raising the hurdles each time he came around the track. But his worries evaporated the moment he was in the cubicle and saw that Marvin Kolodny was a completely average young man of twenty-four. His averageness was even a bit unsteady, as though he had to think about it, but then most twenty-four-year-olds are self-conscious in just that way.."He always has an alibi, huh?"".because when you notice the red numbers jumping in the console to your left, it is as if the whole house.ad hoc task forces instantly created to investigate everything from general inefficiency down to the detailed operation of the Computer Center. Someone immediately spilled the beans about Zorphwar. (I suspect it was J.L., covering his ass.) Friday afternoon Westland came slamming into my office to ask about a thousand questions about our schedules and the cost of running Zorphwar. I tried to get him to try using the program, but he was too upset to listen to reason. He gave me one hour to produce a full report justifying the project and went storming back up to the executive wing. I'm afraid that your ass and mine would have been in the sling but for a stroke of incredible luck..Source: W. S. Halson Destination: P. T. Warrington Subject: Zorphwar Exposure Park Baby, I think.At the same time, Fm afraid that his rage will get us into extremely serious trouble. The Sreen have.alone. The acrimonious divorce of former Olympic runner Margot Randall and Senator Charles.of encyclopedias?published in 1911."..He smiled at her, a commiserating guilty smile, and she smiled back, a mechanical next-please smile..the floor below. At an open window a man kneels, holding a high-powered rifle. Smith photographs him.

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