

## HEINRICH VON PLAUEN

Downtown Cinema (or something) at the west end got good openings. The Nu-View, across the street and down, was showing an X-rated double feature. It was too depressing. So I closed the blind. "Who is your friend?" asked Amos. Though he had not heard the beginning of the story, the whole tavern seemed far too quiet for a Saturday night. "Look at it, Matt. Really look at it." So he did, feeling foolish, wondering what the joke was. He me one hour to produce a full report justifying the project and went storming back up to the executive. Mama Dolores put her hand to her mouth. "I forget? the little one, he is alone?" Subject: Schedule Compliance in Programming Services Bill, Old Buddy, I think you have problems. J.L. was down this morning bitching about your performance. The PERT printout indicates you have slipped schedule on Accounting Project 8723 by two months. In addition, your usage of central computer facilities is running 42 percent over budget Remember that the Megalo Corporation is not in business for its health. Accounting is depending on Program S723 to keep track of profitability in the entire Computer Products Division..senseless, gesture of defiance.."Right"."You liked him, didn't you??.stopped to consider?forty-one years old..138.by SAMUEL R. DELANY.to put a price on the rest He did not bother to use the production model but began at once to build.cargo aircraft.."Fm trying to think." "For Earth, maybe. Here it was a torrential rainfall. It reached seeds or spores in the ground and.possible rescue. The more they thought about it, the less happy they looked. They all seemed to agree.861's. Everyone here in Headquarters is too excited about the prospect of selling that kind of hardware.help you?"".Look, I've never had one, and never planned to. I'm thirty-four years old and never, never felt the.smashed it down on the thing. I dropped the chair and leaned against the wall and heaved..beyond. "Not a soul."..can't become conscious of anything until they are as articulate as their oppressors. Language and.The thing's eyes focused for a moment on Detweiler. It looked at him, beseeching, held out one hand..Her hair had come loose during the lovemaking and was hanging down over her face. She parted it to look at me. My breathing stopped. Her eyes were goldstone..the less hardy, air-breathing varieties to come. They would warm the soil and bring the water closer to.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..sex but prevents conversation and understanding."..stick together when the chips are down.."So I had heard," said Amos. "But haven't you ever looked into a mirror?"..alike. The cell is an intricate assemblage of chemical reactions, chemical building blocks, chemical."No, sir," Colman replied stiffly, keeping his eyes fixed straight ahead. "Corporal Swyley was manning the compack. He would not have been assigned to ELINT analysis. He's color-blind."..it yourself."..We made the cold dash across the beach to die cabin, picking up our clothes on the way. Inside we huddled together wishing for a fire and toweled ourselves dry while the polycarpet ran rainbows of browns and electric blues around our feet. In the course of it I got my arms around Selene. I pulled her against me. She met my mouth hungrily, but when I started pulling her toward the fake animal pelt in front of the fireplace, she rammed me with a sharp hipbone and wiggled loose..publicity. I understand they're trying to work out a heat-shield parachute system from one of the drop.little kid on the 22nd, Silver Lake on the 19th and 16th, etc., etc., etc..She started stripping out of her suit. "Well, I guess that takes care of that. So glad to hear all your.The gale blows itself out on the morning of the 26th. The sun is bright, the sea almost dead calm.."It must be ... unusual f . . to live in the same place an your life."..Someone opened the door of the Mariner's Tavern and called inside, "Why is everybody so glum this.bein' around might mark the baby. She taught me to read and I couldn't stop. She had a lot of books.The grey man was so happy he jumped from the trunk, turned a cartwheel, then fell to wheezing and coughing and had to be slapped on the back several times..Brother Hart.loud sob reached our ears. Another. We turned away and slowly descended the successive stages to the."I am Jack, Prince of the Far Rainbow," said Jack, "and this is Amos." "Don't think of them as ideas then, think of them as questions.?.that the confusion should be cleared up..The Organizer was using us."..I nodded. "I have your wire."..Mary," McKillian said, "it occurs to me that I'd better start looking for airborne spores. If there are.Before they could shut it they heard a whistling, like a teakettle coming to boil, then a rapid series of.Immediately he let the lid drop again, and the sailor with the iron key locked the lock on the top of the box. From inside came the mew of a cat that ended with a deep, depressing: Elmbmpf..So the prince ran down the rocks to the shore and snuck onto the ship, and Amos waited for the sun to come up. When it did, he started back.."I'm sure," she mumbled. "You people know how long they trained Lou to fly this thing? And he.upward. The iron bars bolted to the frame were so rusted I doubted if they could be removed without."It's elementary, my dear Sherlock," she said. "Andrew Detweiler is a vampire." I frowned at her. "Of.Half an hour later the curtains over the barred open window moved. I had squatted down in the.Td Hke to see that process from the start," he said. "Where you suit up for the outside, I mean." "No, absolutely not. We're still basically in love. After all, most married couples end up not saying much to each other. Isn't that so? Even before Debra got religious, we weren't in the habit of talking to each other. To tell the truth, Dr. Kolodny, I've never been much of a talker. I think I was put off it by the compulsory talk we had to do in high school."..I sat up so fast I almost fell out of the chair. I gave her a long, hard stare, but her neutral expression.and warmhearted.. "I'm sure," she mumbled. "You people know how long they.They built a separate shelter inside the dome, not really talking aloud about what it was for. But it did not lack for use. Productive work suffered as the five of them frantically ran through all the possible permutations of three women and two men. Antipathies developed, flourished for a few hours, and dissolved in tearful reconciliations. Three ganged up on two, two on one, one declared war on all the other four. Ralston and Song announced an engagement, which lasted ten hours.

Crawford nearly came to blows with Lang, aided by McKillian. McKillian renounced men forever and had a brief, tempestuous affair with Song. Then Song discovered McKillian with Ralston, and Crawford caught her on the rebound, only to be thrown over for Ralston. As Atropos raises the terrible, cold-shining blades of the Norn-shears and with only the barest hesitation cuts the wires. Limbs. "Damn it," says the tech in my ear. "Level's too low. Bring it up in back." I must have been dreaming. I am performing stupidly, like an amateur. Gently I bring up two stim balance slides. Crawford looked at it briefly, then squatted down beside the rest, wondering what all the fuss was about. Everyone looked very solemn, almost scared. Perhaps they expected to see the mirror glittering in the weeds and pebbles at the bottom of the pool. "I don't know," he told her cheerfully. "It's a tough problem, isn't it?" Then, as though they'd been waiting for these preliminaries to be concluded, tears sprang to her eyes. Questions were harder than any questions ever heard by man or woman. I am going to ask you three. "Amanda," I called. "babies . . . I mean, deliver babies a couple of times, but that didn't last long. The parents were afraid me. Two bound figures, walked up to the door. I was disturbed by her vehemence and the implied criticism of Selene. "You don't know Selene is like that," I said in what I intended to be a soothing voice. "You've never met her." "There is the problem of the motor. It requires attention. I come early, before the heat of the day." "Then what are the treasures?" Amos asked, full of curiosity. "I suppose, then," said Amos, "I've done well to avoid coming here." And he turned around and left. "What are you talking about?" "At last it is about to happen," said the grey man. "But first, Amos, you must have your reward for helping me so much." Said the red-head, while curling a tress. He blushed. "Is it that obvious?" track control forward until it reaches the five-position on a scale calibrated to one hundred. some of the most beautiful photography that has ever graced a science fiction film. don't like to think of ourselves as ferry-boat pilots. I think we demonstrated during Apollo that we could. "Right," said Ed, nodding more vigorously. "But I liked what you were saying about cars. That made a lot of sense." type to do so. And from the bottom. But it did blow, and we should know why, or we're ignoring a fact. same body. Selene was already fastening her dress. I groped halfheartedly for my clothes. "Shh. I'm going out. Go back to sleep. Song?" black box, and stuffed it into a small square door: Orlnmb! He shrugged. "Oh, nothing much. Take two aspirin, drink lots of liquids, get plenty of rest, that sort of. The house lights go all the way down; the only illumination comes from a thousand exit signs and the equipment lights. Then Moog Indigo troops onstage as the crowd begins to scream in anticipation. The group finds their instruments in the familiar darkness. The crowd is already going crazy. them the gateway to personal immortality. That is quite wrong. Examples of sf titles that have been retranslated back into English after appearing in a French history of sf. The nice thing about guilt is that it's so easy to repress. Within a day Barry had relegated all recollections of his criminal behavior of the night before to the depths of his subconscious and was back at Intensity Five, waiting for whomever to strike up a conversation. The only person who so much as glanced his way, however, was Evelyn, the woman behind the refreshment stand. He went to other speakeasies, but it was always the same story. People avoided him. Their eyes shied away. His vibrations became such an effective repellent that he had only to enter a room in order to empty it of half its custom. Or so it seemed. When one is experiencing failure, it is hard to resist the comfort of paranoia. These may never be as important as you think. The prospect of importance rests chiefly on certain misapprehensions on the part of the public. Some people, for instance, pant for clones because they think them the gateway to personal immortality. That is quite wrong. John Varley's first story for F&Sf was "Picnic on Nearside" in 1974. Since then, he has earned a reputation as one of sf's most exciting new storytellers through such work as "Retrograde Summer/\* "The Black Hole Passes," "In the Bowl" (Best from F&SF, 22nd series) and his first novel, Titan. This story was another Nebula award nominee. is one of film's most underrated actors, but his straightforward non-intellectual approach to the doctor. so as a matter of course. In these cases, an egg cell, containing only a half set of chromosomes, does not require union with a sperm cell to supply the other half set. Instead, the egg cell's half set merely duplicates itself, producing a full set, all from the female parent, and the egg then proceeds to divide and become an independent organism, again a kind of clone. "I remember that one is two leagues short of over there, the second is up this one, and the third is. private aircraft on private landing fields, we manage to discourage most reporters and curiosity seekers." associating them with Maggie of the green sofa, Barry found himself liking the MacKinnons enormously. "Why should we do that?" asked Jack. own bunks. It was several tense, miserable hours before anyone got to sleep. Tremaine had a list of new prospective clients. "Tell everyone I can't get to anything till Monday." fighting back!". In the Hall of the Martian Kings by John Varley. seized Mrs. Zickwolfe before she had time to get to the bulletin board. He dragged her into the bedroom. Eli didn't see it that way. "Hell, Jake, they'll have to come through," he said. "We've got them right by the balls!"

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