

JAN EN FLORENCE

ever since then she's been dreading a walkout. How were we going to manage now, she asked me when. There are such things as identical triplets and quadruplets, but I doubt that any higher number of mean, ordering us to go home and stay there because they own the universe?". "Like most of us these days, I would say you're probably a little of each. Are you married, uh . . .". And hearing her voice, Brother Hart raced home. "Hey, do you mind if I sit down on your couch a minute? I am frazzled. It's a tremendous opportunity, working here, but it does take it out of you." In the Hall of the Martian Kings by John Varley. "Listen, what's your name?". Destination: P. T. Warrington Tribute Station 756. of use only to those uptight jokers hi Accounting. "I'm not Selene," Amanda whispered. mirror. She had been discovered about eleven-thirty when the manager went over to ask her to turn. The eggs of reptiles and birds, however, are enclosed in shells, which adds to the technical difficulty. shouted. "Not if I have anything to say about it!" He pointed successively at Eli and Zeke and me. "And. Hidalgo, the woman who owned the tavern and took no man's jabbering seriously, was leaning her. was off to Partyland, a 23rd St. speakeasy that advertised heavily on late-night TV. As he approached. "I won't take that as your final decision," he said. "As you know, we'll be here six months. If at the. each twin is a clone of the other. environment much like ours. And that's when we'll see the makers, when the stage is properly set." She. his device was sharp and bright When he varied the inputs to the components in a certain way, the bright. Yet cloning would not be totally useless, either. There would be the purely theoretical advantage of studying the development of embryos with known variations in their genes which, except for those variations, would have identical genetic equipment (This would raise serious ethical questions, as all human experimentation does, but that is not the issue at the moment). Then they were on a ship, and all the boards were grey from having gone so long without paint. The. everyone on the ship to sleep, Amos hurried over the slippery boards under the dripping eaves of the. embrace. Instead he said, "You did not call me to the clearing. You did not say my name. Only when I." At least it's no worse," says the tech. He pauses. "Can you manage the payoff?". VII. In April 1992, about the time her husband usually got home, an intruder broke into the house and. "A temp.". of the tool caddy. So there we are? a nice symbolic obtuse triangle. And yet? We're all just one happy show-biz family. "Calm yourself, senior. With my own eyes I saw her go to the boat and she was alone, I swear it. She." No, this is Crawford again. Commander Lang is . . . indisposed. She's busy with Lou, trying to do something. "Something in Barry's manner finally conveyed the nature of his distress. The light dawned: "You have got your license, haven't you?". But not quite. He still had to get one more endorsement But now it seemed possible, likely, even. that he himself would very much like to see a woman worthy of a prince. 'Especially,' he said, 'such a. I'm not used to this much open space; it scares me a little, though I'm not going to admit that to Jain. Robbie!'. "Two leagues short of over there is a garden of violent colors and rich perfume, where black. me to see. It's extremely odd.". of teaching?" said the school voc counselor. "No," I said. "I want the action." "Now," said Jack, rubbing his wrists, "I can look at myself again and see why I am Prince of the Far Rainbow." "You're in bad trouble with New York if there isn't," says the tech. "I want to register a jag. Now.". sounded almost religious when she said it. I lie down unpeacefully? exhausted? and sleep, and my dreams are of weathered stone. And I. of the chairs. 159. Once there was a poor man named Amos. He had nothing but his bright red hair, fast fingers, quick. are employed here, though they don't stay long. "Searles. went on as if I hadn't noticed. "I'm inquiring about a man named Andrew Detweiler." The terror trickled. More reasonably, it could be argued that the clone of a great human being would retain his genetic. Amanda Gaf and Selene Randall came to Aventine during the autumn hiatus, when the last of the summer residents had gone back to jobs in the city or followed the sun south, and the winter influx of skiers and skaters was still some weeks away. Aventine scarcely noticed them, and if my current cohab had not gone off through the Diana Mountain Stargate on some interstellar artists' junket, they might never have been more than clients to me, either. There are nights I cannot sleep for wishing she had chosen another realty agent or come some other season. I was alone, though, in the boredom of autumn when Amanda walked into my office with her seeds of tragedy and elected me gardener. "Terrific!" Hollis says. "You could leave an album of greatest hits. You know, for posterity. Free concerts on the grass every Sunday." through the narrow streets. It dominates the whole city. The whole Plain, for that matter. It had sort of a. "What does the title mean?" he asked, hoping it might modify the unfriendly message of the four short lines that followed. you get the last one, you will have done very well indeed. ". darkness. of their way and showed an orange belly. ? Wes and Lynn Pederson. "Hey, he hears me! Uh, that is, this is Song Sue Lee, and I'm right in front of you. If you look real. lungful of smoke. "I wonder what he wanted," I said. A: Three Hearts and Three Lions. Advent, Chicago, 1964, p. 83.). his big black trunk. He told us terrible stories of the places he intended to go. And you just up and went. "Thank you very much," said Amos and walked on till he came to another sailor whose feet were. "In a cage! Like a freak! I don't want to be a freak anymore. It's over. I want it to be over. Please." "Why didn't you stop her?". and another calling herself Selene Randall. The revelation, and their decision to remain dissociated, had. fast. He and the grey man looked at one another, and neither said anything. The only sound was from the. But he was alone in the castle hall. Jack and Lea had already left. Amos ran to the mirror just in time to see them walking away across the green and yellow meadows to the golden castle. Lea leaned her head on Jack's shoulder, and the prince turned to kiss her raven hair, and Amos thought: "Now there are two people Jiving through the happiest moment of their lives." She threw herself into the Helimere without looking back. After a bit I undressed and followed her. Compared to the chill of the air, the water felt boiling hot. The heat drew out the last of my anger. "Yes. What do I tell Amanda when she asks how I always know when something is broken? You." "Sure," Song said, peering along his pointed finger. "Just show me the damn thing and I'll

immortalize you." never gets around to carving out a straight line or a perfect arc. His human encampment below him broke up the jagged lines of the rocks with regular angles and curves. It was after a Popular Concert which had included all of Bach's Suites for Unaccompanied Violoncello that I ventured to remonstrate with my Mentor. 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. There was a pause while she debated. "I guess so, but, please, come when you can." "Nor can we thank you," said Amos, "for helping us do it." "I'm pretty sure he didn't. I asked him about it. He said there was nothing to worry about, it would pass. And it did." THE MEDIATOR: Nevertheless, I feel that his fairness both to the Company and to the King, gathered on the circular bulkhead at the rear of the lifesystem, just forward of the fuel tank. "We have been studying this problem for some time now, and we believe there is a solution. It would not be feasible to send a contingent of adult humans, either as a functioning community or in some suspended state, with the ship; it is in too advanced a stage of construction to change its primary design parameters. But then, why send adult humans at all?" He spread his arms appealingly. "After all, the objective is simply to establish an extension of our race where it would be safe from any calamity that might befall us here, and such a location would be found only at the end of the voyage. The people would not be required either during the voyage or in the survey phase, since our machines are perfectly capable of handling everything con-. He had been loitering, alone and melancholy, for the better part of an hour, eavesdropping to his right on a conversation about somebody's drastic need to develop a more effective persona and to his left on a discussion of the morality of our involvement in Mexico, when a black woman in a white nylon jumpsuit and a very good imitation calf-length mink swept into the room, took a quick survey of those present, and sat down, unbelievably, by him! "Come on," said Amos, "just a little way. . .". spine obviously broken. It fell off the couch and flailed about on the floor. 1979, a period of great growth in the science fiction field, at least in terms of numbers. If you're the sort. I heard the door open. I turned and saw Detweiler run out. stories straight down to the neon-lit marquee of the movie house. He fumbled for the bottle beside the bed, gripping it with a sweaty hand. His entire body was wet. help you?". They even, for a wonder, talked to each other. He told her about his various encounters in pursuit of his. "I didn't tell you that. We pulled the dome back and found spikes. It was your inference that they. 178. responding. This time she was through the door almost before the reverberations had died down, leaving. When the blowout started, Lang had snapped on her helmet quickly. Then she had struggled against. "You two are unbelievable," Barry said. "Do you honestly think you could sell you my endorsements? Assuming?" he knocked on the varnished walnut coffee table? "I pass my exam." been chosen as a compromise. What it meant was that the exploring parties had to either climb up or go. when she saw him blush. "I think it's yours, by the way. And I think you go ahead and have it". "Two, we have enough water to last us forever if the recyclers keep going. That'll be a problem." "You're right," she said. "Your opinion doesn't mean anything." She slapped his knee delightedly. He looked at me sharply, fear creeping back. "Please. No!". "You've heard of the long-period Martian seasonal theories? Well, part of it is more than a theory. The combination of the Martian polar inclination, the precessional cycle, and the eccentricity of the orbit produces seasons that are about twelve thousand years long. We're in the middle of winter, though we landed in the nominal 'summer'. It's been theorized that if there were any Martian life it would have adapted to these longer cycles. It hibernates in spores during the cold cycle, when the water and carbon dioxide freeze out at the poles, then comes out when enough ice melts to permit biological processes. We seem to have fooled these plants; they thought summer was here when the water vapor content went up around the camp." Larchmont is a middle-class neighborhood huddled in between the old wealth around the country. with Crawford's assessment. By the time the rescue expedition arrived, no one was calling it that. There had been the little matter of a long, brutal war with the Palestinian Empire, and a growing conviction that the survivors of the First Expedition had not had any chance in the first place. There had been no time for luxuries like space travel beyond the Moon and no billions of dollars to invest while the world's energy policies were being debated in the Arabian Desert with tactical nuclear weapons. with another three months in which to continue his quest and an introduction to Intensity Five, Barry had. Two willowy young men gave me appraising glances in the carpeted lobby as they exited into the sunlight like exotic jungle birds. It's one of those, I thought. My suspicions were confirmed when I looked over the tenant directory. All the names seemed to be male, but none of them was Andrew Detweiler. bade." Amos jumped out of his rags and handed them to the sailor who trotted off toward the. the Grand Canyon, that from the first moment she'd seen it she'd forgotten all about Armageddon, the. The Man Who Had No Idea. voice, "the lords of Creation." "It's good of you to say so," said Barry morosely. two mighty fingers. There was a distant snap!, barely audible above the wind. Then the hand withdrew, the appropriate slot. "License, please," said the window, winking an arrow that pointed at another slot. A: Dune. like the wings of a hawk; his lips were set like bitumen. He was wearing a maroon turtleneck with a big N. Hinda would have called after him then, called after and made him stay, but she did not know his. Why bother? There has never been any difficulty his finding cannon fodder anywhere in the world, even without cloning, and the ordinary process of supplying new soldiers for despots is infinitely cheaper than cloning. qualities other readers find valuable, art being of an order of complexity nearer to that of human beings. They're ready. I cut in another dozen tracks, then mute two. Things are building just a little too fast. Brother Hart by Jane Yolen 185. in unison, "No, no, what you request is impossible. The decision of the Sreen is final, and, anyway." "Mary, I wanted. . . is it all right if I call you Mary?" In the Hall of the Martian Kings by John Varley 113. His eyes dropped and he was silent for a moment "I want to tell you. But I don't know how without. Mama Dolores put her hand to her mouth. "I forget? the little one, he is alone?" overloads are handled by adjusting the work load in the Computer Center. However, at three thirty. He lost his balance and toppled over. His arms flailed for equilibrium, but never found it. He struck. communion between performer and audience. It received a Nebula

nomination from the Science. are probably as disposable a commodity among the Sreen as tissue paper is among human beings. One. ?I thought so at first, but I changed my mind. I've seen enough of that and it wasn't the same. Take. Q: Say, Guv, what's the author of "Chthon" ?ave in 'is car that he loves to 'onk?. flashed him a dazzling smile and patted the ground again.. He strode toward the gate. The four of us were standing right in his path, and we stepped aside when he neared us. If we hadn't, he'd have bowled us over.. younger people who got their endorsements by putting out.. to see if the names were in alphabetical order.. has fused into one huge tectonic slab of flesh.. out for you. I know a little history, myself.. "Needed to understand the verse is merely the fact that, genetically, the distinction between human male and female is that every male cell has an X and a Y chromosome and that every female cell has two X chromosomes, t Therefore, if, at the moment of conception or shortly thereafter, a Y chromosome can somehow be changed to an X chromosome, a male will ipso facto be changed into a female.. "We know that," McKillian said. She was tired and sick from the sight of the faces of her dead. "Then," called Amos, "you could help us get there too?". ?John Bittingsley

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