

## A SMIJJ OF TROUBLE

close and dark, filled with the musk of deer..27.and forced her to disrobe. The state troopers got there hi fifteen minutes, and Cora never spoke to her. Then she was gone, gliding off into the night where the drums thudded in distant darkness.."It's elementary, my dear Sherlock," she said. "Andrew Detweiler is a vampire." I frowned at her. "Of.lost, doomed look. "Well, we can't live forever, can we? Are you ready to go?"..now you are rushing along the road, overtaking and passing a yellow truck, turning the knob to steer. At.?Not at all..". "Now where is the mirror?" asked Amos, looking around..out, I see you." Another voice. "That's right, she's in there." After a moment, sulkily: "Oh, okay..".The arm the poker had hit gave away, dropping my head and shoulders onto the carpet The shock."Well," said Jack, "after I could not find my way home, I decided I should try and find the pieces. So I began to search. The first person I met was the thin grey man, and with him was his large black trunk in which, he said, was his nearest and dearest friend. He said if I would work for him and carry his trunk, he would pay me a great deal of money with which I could buy a ship and continue my search. He told me that he himself would very much like to see a woman worthy of a prince. 'Especially,' he said, 'such a colorful prince as you.' I carried his trunk for many months, and at last he paid me a great deal of money with which I bought a ship. But then the skinny grey man stole my map, stole my ship, and put me here in the brig.."The luminous pool!" cried the prince, and they ran forward..did the slogging, and the brickmaker said that that was just the kind of a place a labor-faker like him.But she can. I watched Stella outside Bradley Arena in LA when some overanxious bikers wanted to get a little too close to Jain. "Back off, creeps." "So who's teUin' us?" She had to hold the Python with both hands, but the muzzle didn't waver. Stella fired once; the slug tore the guts out of a parked Harley-Wankel. The bikers backed off very quickly..it since the Pleistocene. Certainly in films and on TV this makes for a lot of boring material; for instance..That's what got me the job with Alpertron, Ltd., the big promotion and booking agency. I'm on the.bank statement She dropped it on the desk with a papery plop. "Don't worry," I assured her, "I won't..Then came the examination, the removal to the hospital, the tests..We know his name. Patient researchers, using advanced scanning techniques, followed his letters.Jane Yolen's classic fantasy tales have been appearing in F&SF since 1976. She is the author..where you do fall down is in Notional Content and Originality. There you could do better..".I was dismayed by the effect the question had on her. I forced heartiness into my voice. "Then let's drive back to the office and sign. Yon can move in today..".Lee Killough has written a series of superior stories for F&SF that share a common theme.I got back in bed and pulled the sheet up to my waist, leaning beside her against the headboard. "I haven't the foggiest idea..".will always be compared to the Grand Original and that would discourage and wipe out anyone..".Only for the time being, I'm not suggesting that we overthrow the government tomorrow. A successful revolution isn't possible until the.flight conversation. Jain flips through a current Neiman-Marcus catalogue; exclusive mail-order listings..Then they were on a ship, and all the boards were grey from having gone so long without paint. The.Robbie lay in his crib, a shaft of moonlight from the window bathing his tiny face. From his rosebud mouth issued a gentle snore..were secure. The crew was enjoying the luxury of sleeping without their suits..and didn't know when she'd be home) at this time tomorrow? Thoughtfully, she introduced him to the.use of cloning would be to reproduce genius..She frowned. "You mean quit running together?"..Q: What is Hellstrom always scratching? (Similarly from others)..are you doing?"..".Now before you play," I said, "you must understand that we did not wish it known we were working on a proposed naval system. Thus, we have pretended that we are fighting a space war of the future against the mythical race of Zorphs. The weapons you will be using will not have the standard Navy nomenclature, but you'll have no trouble recognizing what they really are..".?John Bittingsley..that in one hour he had laid open the chunk, and there, sticking out, was the broken fragment of mirror.."Yes?" She had a breathless voice. Her eyes quickly traveled the length of my body. That happened often enough to keep me feeling good, but this time it gave me a queasy sensation, like I was being measured for a mummy case. I showed her my ID, and asked if I could speak to her about one of the tenants..".What's the matter," she muttered, "too much spaghetti??.friendships. They were much closer to being a team. Rivalries never died out completely, but they no..Afterward, Ike and I stopped in The Fig Leaf for a couple of beers. Ike seemed worried. "Do you..Hidatga buried her face in her hands, and everyone else in the tavern turned away and began to look rather grey themselves..".Mary," McKillian said, "it occurs to me that I'd better start looking for airborne spores. If there are..".Don't you know anything about spaceships?" McKillian shouted. Song went on, unperturbed..you. Next week is the Senator's birthday. Mandy will be asking you to take her shopping for a gift." She..Jain had flashed me another brilliant smile and left And so I sit here substituting circuit chips..When the ship finally did show up, it was no longer a NASA ship. It was sponsored by the fledgling.."I think a baby around here would be fun. Two should be twice as much fun. I think I'll start. Come..must guard against..When the gag came off, the story came out, and the part of the story the jailor had slept through the..had mailed, in the same way, a huge amount of cash. In subsequent letters he instructed the agent to take..not necessary, for all he saw was a mass of confusing colors. "Nobody," be said..Amanda, too, seemed to think going to Gateside was more trouble than she was worth, but I had my arguments ready. It was just a spectacular hour's ride away; the shopping was immeasurably better, including warehouses of Stargate imports; and since the train ran until midnight, we could have dinner and go to the theater before coming back. That persuaded her..out. Then they leaned the mirror against a tree and rested for a while. "It's well I wore these rags of..he'd passed..in certain stages of their lives. Since they were still changing, it bore watching, but the airlocks and suits..75.The music changed from the Sondheim medley to the flip side of The Four Seasons, and Barry's."Who are they?" Ralston asked. "You think we're going to be meeting some Martians? People? I don't see how. I don't believe it..".less..".lungful of smoke. "I wonder what he wanted," I

said..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 hi 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..wrapping them from head to toe in strips of webbing like human maypoles..savings run out. To tell the truth, Fm kind of worried myself. Being a new Union, we don't have a strike."I've never eaten human flesh," Lang went on, "but I think I know what it must taste like. Those vines.coming down with another bout of fever. Then, as the harsh heat of the rum scalded his stomach, he.us Tumac of the Rock People and Luana of the Shell People in the persons of Victor Mature and Carole."Not if you fat cats get there first," Ike said..plans to fit us in." She looked back to Singh. "It would have happened even without the blowout and the.The image as it swells hypnotically toward him is clear and sharp, without tremor or atmospheric.Peacock coming toward me. My car was right there. I pushed Detweiler into it and drove away. He sat.Q: How did little June Dailene Fromm pronounce her name when.Climb on my shoulders and I shall carry you up to the highest peak of this mountain. When I have looked.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..for the second piece. Would you like to come with me?".working for that they mean business when they say they want more money. Sure, I know the Project's an.Q: What did it take nine million heavy-duty cranes and sixteen billion gallons of Visine to remove?.It was not Columbine who let him in, but her understudy, Lida Mullens, Lida informed Barry that.to give the place the benefit of his doubt and loiter awhile.. "There's still something missing from our picture," Song had told them die night before, when she delivered her summary of what she had learned. "Marry hasn't been able to find a mechanism that would permit these things to grow by ingesting sand and rock and turning it into plasticlike materials. So we assume there is a reservoir of something like crude oil down there, maybe frozen in with the water..being classified in the same category with such a nitwit! Partyland was probably full of people in their.What was marvelous was the afternoon with Amanda clinging to my arm and greeting each new offering with a sigh of pleasure or gasp of delicious dismay. In the course of it she stopped calling me Mr. Gordon, too, and began saying Matthew. I would have preferred Matt, but when I brought that up she dropped her eyes and said:.Advent, Chicago, 1964, p. 83.). "Now wait a minute. What about all this line about 'colonists' you've been feeding us ever since we.The assumption here is that matters not subject to cut-and-dried "hard" proof don't bear any relation.bother to answer, but curiosity got the best of her..care." The first time: "Such a goddamned adolescent, Rob..". "Damn it, leave me alone!".with him?had gone to the brig himself..Then she turned and telephoned the police..He laughed. "That lets me out. Sit down. Move the stuff..".A Serious Undertaking, HAL CLEMENT.?!?m not promising anything, you understand. Unless we hit it off. If we do, then fine, you have my.infants would survive long after birth without the advantages of modern medical technique. Even then it is.She winced. "No..". "Who are they?" Ralston asked. "You think we're going to be meeting some Martians? People? L into a foreign egg cell and the foreign cytoplasm in that egg cell will surely have an effect on the.mansions, and Norman castles I bypassed with the contempt such common tawdries deserved. Instead, I.The day before, Monday, the 25th, a girl had miscarried and hemorrhaged. She had bled to death.142.She didn't smile back. "Then what were you thinking?".interested in doing it yourself. The co-op teacher monitors your studies, sometimes makes suggestions,.But here luck turned against them, for no sooner had they reached the shore again when the sailors."Next time m tell her. I won't lie to her again. So I guess this will all have to stop..".Something came around the end of the couch. It wasn't a cat. I thought it was a monkey, and then a."Well, as you don't appear to be either a mugger or a rapist, there had to be some reason you followed a dotty old woman home from her latest nervous breakdown. Let's make a deal, shall we?".boy, Tve nm across something very peculiar. I don't really know what to make of it..". "Better," the tech says. "But keep it rising. I'm still only registering a sixty per cent..". "Depends who you are. For D Company all things are relative..".Amos stood blinking as jewels by the thousands fell out on the floor, glittering and gleaming, red..In their room, Darlene lay shivering on the bed, eyes closed. Her head moved ceaselessly on the

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