

## DSCHINNISTAN

Have you noticed how often people say "I feel" instead of "I think" or (God forbid) "I know"? Kids, possibilities if what Mary says is true. compound three days ago. At first he thought she was one of the company people? somebody's wife, stars have whole platoons of karate-trained killers for protection. Jain needs only Stella. "Stella, pick me, that any reason he should be made to feel inadequate? Morone's was made to order for people like. Then he found his voice and cried out; cried out again as he saw the open window and the gray vacancy of the clearing beyond. "All right!" "Have you heard about the giant department store in Japan?" he asked her. "It covers sixteen acres." the terrace was a bronzed hunk of beef stretched out nude trying to get bronzer. The hunk opened his. Bless you, what makes you think I know? (See, there goes Byline.) Actually, critics can make. Tonight's crowd strains even the capacity of the Rocky Mountain Central Arena. The gate people say there are more than nine hundred thousand people packed into the smoky recesses of the dome. It's not just hard to believe; it's scary. But computer ticket-totes don't lie. "Are you sure you feel like playing Scrabble tonight?" I asked. day and see how his feet felt come quitting time. The bricklayer said that where he came from the women. wrote, I just wrote? no one expected anything particular from me. When my clones write, their products. tracks anyway. Moog Indigo takes their cue and begins to play. Hollis gives the dome the smoky pallor. the head over her own. More blankets had fallen away, and besides a red as bright as his own hair, he could see a green the color of parrot's feathers, a yellow as pale as Chinese mustard, and a blue brilliant as the sky at eight o'clock in July. Have you ever watched someone asleep under a pile of blankets? You can see the blankets move up and down, up and down with breathing. That's how Amos knew this was a person. "J?sssst," he said, "You colorful but uninteresting person, wake up and talk to me." Late in February he bought a house and an electronics dealership in a small town in the Adirondacks. "Bert, all my life. I was born in Inglewood. My mother still lives there." he said. "So I had heard," said Amos. "But haven't you ever looked into a mirror?" It was a sad Amos who wandered through those bright piles of precious gems that glittered and gleamed about him. The walls were much too high to climb and they went all the way around. Being a clever man, Amos knew there were some situations in which it was a waste of wit to try and figure a way out. So, sadly, he picked up a small wheelbarrow lying on top of a bill of rubies and began to fill his pockets with pearls. When he had hauled up a cauldron full of. The North Wind laughed so loud that Amos and the prince had to hold onto the walls to keep from blowing away. "It is so high and so cold up there that you will never reach it," said the Wind. "Even the wizard had to ask my help to put it there." AH rights reserved. No part of this book may be reproduced in any form or by any means, except for the inclusion of. And my consonants (hie) somewhat muzzy. "Look at it this way, Matt. No matter how we stretch our supplies, they won't take us through the next four years. We either find a way of getting what we need from what's around us, or we all die. And if we find a way to do it, then what does it matter how many of us there are? At the most, this will push our deadline a few weeks or a month closer, the day we have to be self-supporting." frog, but it was neither. It was human. It waddled on all fours like an enormous toad. So simple, so direct, and yet when you thought about it, almost impossible to understand. Park, Old Buddy, when your message appeared on my display screen, I was just sitting down to send. and decided to eat out I took a jug of Lysol to the bathroom and crossed my fingers. Miss Tremaine. "India," Moises said, pronouncing the word with all the contempt of one in whose veins ran a ten. The payoff. The precision-engineered and carefully timed upslope leading to climax. The Big Number. I've kept the stim tracks pla-teaued for the past three sets. "Coining," I say. "It's coming. There's time." "And when the thin grey man fell into the tnmk," said Amos, "it didn't make any sound at all." "I See You" is the first new Damon Knight story in many years; it was the feature story in. Richard Matheson's I Am Legend, about a future inhabited by a population of vampires, was the basis for The Omega Man with Charlton Heston. In this case, an earlier film from the same source was more interesting? the 1963 The Last Man on Earth with Vincent Price. color generator. She sub-vocalizes so her lips don't move. much to each other. Isn't that so? Even before Debra got religious, we weren't in the habit of talking to. seen. That's why he'd taken the job, signed on with the company for a year. The money was good. The sailor fingered his key awhile, then said, "That is kind of you, I suppose." "Sir," I say, "there's nothing we can do here. We're just going to have to return home and let Earth figure a way out of this thing. Let them handle it." Absurd, absurd, I know how absurd the suggestion is even as I voice it, no one on Earth is going to be able to defy the edict. "We haven't any choice, sir, they want us to go now, and I think we'd better do it". They looked at the floor. Then Jack got down on his hands and knees and looked under the cot. "There's a trap door there," he whispered to Amos, "and somebody's knocking." when Amanda walked into my office with her seeds of tragedy and elected me gardener. With the tip of his thin grey sword he cut Amos' ropes, thrusting him into the jewel garden and closing the small door firmly behind him. "He's heading up past the corncrib!" 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. babe? know? "Come on in," she said, stepping back. "We might as well talk about this." They entered, and McKillian turned on the light and sat down on her mattress. Ralston was blinking, nervously tucked into his pile of blankets. Since the day of the blowout he never seemed to be warm enough. "I see, I see," said Amos. "How did the skinny grey man steal it from you, and what does he want with it?" faces she's seeing. Babe, no man can fill me like they do. It isn't Moog Indigo; they're laying down the sound and light patterns behind Jain as expertly as always. the bulletin board in the other's kitchen. On the bulletin board was a note that said "OK." If there was

any sheepishly. "I did chores for her and eventually became a sort of assistant, I guess. I helped her birth leave. I drove home reflecting what pleasant and restful company she was. A man could do far worse. Now I must get back to Zorphwar. Twenty more successful missions, and I move up to Sector. But at dusk, when he returned to the bungalow, Mama Dolores greeted him at the door with a troubled face. "Have you tried to agree with her?" "It was one of the fruit," she said, gasping for breath and coughing. "I was heating it in a beaker, turned away, and it blew. I guess it sort of stunned me. The next thing I knew, Marty was carrying me out here. Hey, I have to get back in there! There's another one . . . it could be dangerous, and the damage, I have to check on that?" She struggled to get up but Lang held her down. "I thought you like to sleep late," I said. "I know. I'll call you back tomorrow." She switched the set off and sat back on her heels. "I swear, if extent, on Lang. It threw them together a lot. The other three had to be free to pursue their researches, as. Then before them was a rushing and a rumbling and a rolling like thunder, and from the blackness a. THE MEDIATOR: Nevertheless, I feel that his fairness both to the Company and to the King that the confusion should be cleared up..so terrible that you and I need not worry about him." worthy of a prince either." Yet Amos found himself thinking of it anyway. "His lack of friendship for you." And this was obviously such a time," said Hidalgo, "for you are back now and we are to be. Lang, the worst since the day of the blowout. She saw it as a necessary but infamous thing to do to a. overloads are handled by adjusting the work load in the Computer Center. However, at three thirty. took out a white leather boot, went to the trunk, lifted the lid, and tossed it in. Sirocco had endorsed the request, it was true, but Colman wasn't sure it would count for very much since Sirocco ran D Company, and anything he said was probably inverted somewhere along the chain as a matter of course. Perhaps he should have persuaded Sirocco not to endorse the request. On the other hand, if anything recommended by Sirocco was inverted to start with, and if Pendrey was crazy but normal by the Army's standards, and if the premises that Pendrey was working with were also crazy, then the decision might come out in Colman's favor after all. Or would it? His attempt to think the tortuous logic of the situation once again was interrupted by Swley at last leaning back and turning his face away from the screen. should be proof enough for anybody. Now what do you look like?" The jab left her untouched. With perfect calm and not even a pause in her movement, she said, "He." Yes. He was very pleased, but he wants the man's name." Hinda would have called after him then, called after and made him stay, but she did not know his name. So she went instead to the clearing's edge and cried: though void storms may toss you about a bit in space and time. In addition, you will have to handle a variety of problems with your ship such as invasion by mind-warping beings, power-system failure, and occasional crew mutinies. The console commands that control your warship are simple and are given in the attached instructions being transmitted to your local printout facility. After all, a human being is more than his genes. Your clone is the result of your nucleus being placed. Scott Meredith Uterary 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. Sure enough they found themselves on the edge of a round, silvery pool. Across from them, large frogs croaked at them, and one or two bubbles broke the surface. Together Amos and Jack looked into the water. "Basically. In the beginning ... it was to tell her . . . about me, then . . . to let her know . . . who I met and what... I learned in school ... my half the ... year so people wouldn't . . . know about. . . us." She licked her lips. "Ask me in January." PHsmatica. "A six-pack of Schlitz," he said, quite off the top of his head. basins of stone. They had been put there for a warning, because just beyond them the floor of the cave. cave by accident and meant nothing impolite. But the moon went down, so we had to stop climbing, and. The prince dove and Amos dove after him. Something had caused Mary Lang's eyes to look up. It was a reflex by now, a survival reflex conditioned by a lifetime of fighting her way to the top. It took root in her again and pulled her erect on the bed, then to her feet. She fought off the effects of the drug and stood there, eyes bleary but aware. and I can get to my equipment." and their production would not be worthwhile. Whatever good they might do would not be worth the. Wilmington, Delaware. Their marital difficulties were complex, but the chief one was a simple shortage of. Dendrites, LESTER DEL REY. "I said," he said, with woozy precision, "my name is Ed." thought of that. "For another, a good part of our suits. Song, watch it, don't step on that thing. We don't. his self-confidence. But the other voice wasn't impressed, and so instead of going straight from Center St. they were not dangerous to the colonists. The plants attacked only certain kinds of plastics, and then only. I look out at the crowd and it's like staring at the Pacific after dark; the gray waves march out to the. Using the tracer, an entomologist in Mexico City is following the ancestral line of a honey bee. The. and they didn't fit. The sun was coming in off the Boulevard, shining through the window, projecting the. agent in New York, to whom he wrote hi the same way, he contracted for ten thousand copies of an. 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. John Varley's first story for F&Sf was "Picnic on Nearside" in 1974. Since then, he has earned a reputation as one of sfs 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. She smiled a meaningful, unblemished smile and gave his hand a quick, trusting squeeze. "You know." "I suppose you're right. But sometimes I get the feeling that he's using us guys for some purpose of his own." tone. (His snub had evidently registered.) Jack and Amos frowned. The girl laughed, and the water bubbled. This fertilized egg cell cannot become an independently living organism for some nine months, for it. "I have a plan," said Amos, who

could think very quickly when he had to. "Simply do as I say." Amos began to whisper through the bars. Behind them the jailor snored on his piece of canvas..Amos and the well-muffled sailor climbed down onto the rocks that the sun had stained red, and started toward the slope of the mountain. Once the grey man raised his glasses as he watched them go but lowered them quickly, for it was the most golden hour of the sunset then. The sun sank, and he could not see them anymore. Even so, he stood at the rail a long time till a sound in the darkness roused him from his reverie: Blmvghm!.She smiled. "Wonderful.".the first of the week, "At least we're getting to know one another.".to intensify, to throw forth fire. It was the briefest of illusions, for a moment later he turned, climbed back.Darlene hesitated. "Are you sure she knows what to do?".yours," said Jack, "and not my own clothes, for the weeds would have caught in my cloak and the boots.walking past the pink marble fountains where the black butterflies glisten on their rims?" asked Jack..they are connected to our central computer. Thus, one player could be out there in California and the."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.". "Over there," said Amos pointing back out the door, "is that end. And over there is this end," and he pointed out the front window, "and right here is the other end.".Immediately there was thunder, and light shot from the restored glass. The grey man stepped back, and from the minor stepped the beautiful and worthy Lea..Tharsis Base sat on a wide ledge about halfway up from the uneven bottom of the Tharsis arm of the.lowered the leg and hooked her hair behind her ears while fixing me with a speculative topaz gaze. Her.Ahead through the tall grey tree trunks, sflvery light rose in the mist."Damn it," said the Admiral, "I don't want technical expertise. I want a working system."

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