

THE MERCY OF ALLAH

and some of 'em don't even know the name of the President? Most of 'em never been more than thirty miles from the place they were born, never saw an electric light? You wouldn't believe it. But it's more than just things that're different. People are different, think different? like a foreign country." He shrugged. "I guess it'll all be gone before too long though. Things keep creepin' closer and closer. Did you know I never went to school?" he said, grinning. "Not a day of my life. I didn't wear shoes till I was ten. You wouldn't believe it." He shook his head, remembering. "Always kinda wished I coulda gone to school," he murmured softly..The last step took the thin grey man right into the open trunk. He cried out, stumbled, the trunk anything like you knew him. The telemetry shows nothing like the normal brain wave. Now I've got to. Clone, Clone of My Own. went back to Partyland with fifteen hundred dollars in cash, obtained from Beneficial Finance..die Twin Rivers gleamed like gold in the morning sun..sudden pang in my belly. What if he was staying because of his friendship with me? I felt more like a son.that they might fail..into the infrared. He spent most of August, when he should have been on vacation, trying various. 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..are probably as disposable a commodity among the Sreen as tissue paper is among human beings. One. "Why is that?" .say there are more than nine hundred thousand people packed into the smoky recesses of the dome. It's.22, violent storms: the ship is dashed upward by waves, falls again, visible only intermittently; it takes him. And he had had time to think about the problem of whom to save. He went straight to Lou Prager and finished suiting him up. But it was already too late. He didn't know if it would have made any difference if Mary Lang had tried to save him first.. "What is this?" asked Hidalgo as they stepped inside. She picked up the glass prism from the top of. His smile contracted suddenly. His eyebrows shot up. "Oh," he said. "Him." "You have no choice." Tendrils of green and blue wormed their way into the pattern. "I'm as much a. red ruby that had fallen from the closet and not been put back. On the side of the trunk that now sat in the corner was a small triangular door that Amos had not seen. The grey man pulled it open, tossed in the ruby, and slammed it quickly: Orghmftbfe..us." .whatever it is, would photograph, he would become a star overnight, whether he could act or not. Except. stand up..sible, you being an examiner and all... but I wish I knew you in a personal way. Truly. You're a very heavy individual." .losers habitating that rotting section of the Boulevard east of the Hollywood Freeway. She bossed them, cursed them, loved them, and took care of them. And they loved her back. (Once, a couple of years ago, a young black buck thought an old fat lady with one eye would be easy pickings. The cops found him three days later, two blocks away, under some rubbish in an alley where he'd hidden. He had a broken arm, two cracked ribs, a busted nose, a few missing teeth, and was stone-dead from internal hemorrhaging.) .unmarried, rich, poor, young, old. No pattern of any kind, and there's always a pattern. I even checked. here in the hospital?. different position than it had been." .splicing a rope in the stem, two others lowering a triangular sail between the foremast and the bowsprit.. general inefficiency down to the detailed operation of the Computer Center. Someone immediately spilled. And hearing her voice, Brother Hart raced home.. was expelled?" .out. He looked fine, all over his spell." .Singh looked at each of the adults and saw no trace of doubt. And he was mildly surprised to find that the statement did not startle him.. 110. "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." .grey man would blend completely in with the scenery and never get out again. Up this one is a mountain. David (or Murray) was about twenty-five, redheaded, and freckled. He had a slim, muscular body which was also freckled. I could tell because he was wearing only a pair of jeans, cut off very short, and split up the sides to the waistband. He was barefooted and had a smudge of green paint on his nose. He had an open, friendly face and gave me a neutral smile-for-a-stranger. "Yes?" he asked.. from life? Reality is horrible and wonderful, disappointing and ecstatic, beautiful and ugly. Reality is. Barry, of which there are great numbers.. "Where did you get it?" asked Amos.. with him? had gone to the brig himself.. consisted of a half-meter set of eight blades that turned freely on teflon bearings. Below it were various. "Because she's positive her ex-husband is the kidnaper. She doesn't want to get him in any trouble; she just wants Gwendolyn back.*1.capacity, according to its ads, of 780, but tonight wasn't one of its big nights and a lot of the seats were. Not with angels and pins,. we do. Wouldn't you think so?" .only fair to warn you, though. I'm harder to get along with than Mandy." .But when Hinda came out of the door, closing it behind her to hide what lay inside, the man did not speak again. Instead he took off his fur hat and laid it upon his heart, kneeling down before her.. The North Wind mumbled and groaned around the darkness for a while and at last said, "Very well. Climb on my shoulders and I shall carry you up to the highest peak of this mountain. When I have looked into your mirror, I will carry you down again to where you may descend the rest of the way by yourselves." "Nice. Very nice." .I know I don't dare force the issue; even if I did, there would still be Stella.. scarlet fingernails on the dolled Formica desk top. "How long had Harry been dead?" .ears strained for the signs of his approach. There were none.. He redesigned the whole device, built a prototype and tested it, tore it down, redesigned, built another. It was Christmas before he was done. Once more he locked up the device and all his plans, drawings and notes.. There had been a brief lifting of spirits among Song, Ralston, and McKillian at the thought of a possible rescue. The more they thought about it, the less

happy they looked. They all seemed to agree with Crawford's assessment. Isaac Asimov for "Clone, Clone of My Own". ahead and no assurance he would live out the night on a planet determined to kill him? Crawford. some time yet. Yet biologists are anxious to perform the feat and are trying hard. Eventually, they will no. green. It was the smoke detector. The smoke was coming from the lab. 229. in a year. The launch was scheduled for five years from now, but it might get as much as a year boost. It's. Subject: Enclosed Certificate. At last the trees end and I climb over bare mountain grades. I rest briefly when the pain in my lungs is too sharp to ignore. At last I reach the summit. Nolan glanced up quickly. "What's the matter?" he said. He was holding the door three quarters shut, and so I couldn't see anything in the room but an. 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!" Fitt me like the mountains Fill me like the sea. up. Smith rubs his eyes, loses the ship, finds it again after a ten-minute search. The ground between the windmills was coated in shimmering plastic. This was the second part of the plants' ingenious solution to sur-. The dancer raised a brow. "Ah-I see. You're the other one." He grinned at me. "You know, all those months Selene and I were together, if I hadn't already known about her, I'd never have guessed?" ?I'm freezing and I'm icy and I'm chilling. . . ."I have just been given the ultimate garbage presentation," he said. "Your boys should know better. Well, Local 209 pulled out, just like the Company did. We knew there'd be no more jobs on the. Films: Multiples by Baird Searles 193. permit these things to grow by ingesting sand and rock and turning it into plastic-like materials. So we. Hinda ran over to him and would have bathed him with her tears, but the jangling noise called out. speculatively at Crawford. such a green monkey he'd had to retreat into his insular existence. Practically everyone I had talked to. If I looked as guilty as I felt, I was glad she could not see my face. ASIMOV'S Asimov the Early. glamor of the place. Partyland was an endless middle-class living room, a panorama of all that was. He laughed. "It's a set of twenty-eight stamps issued in the American Zone in 1948 showing famous. I looked at her over my shoulder. "Do what?" .From Competition ig: Limericks incorporating an sf title into the last line. "That's no use. The doctor says it's a miracle he's still breathing. If he wakes up at all, he won't be anything like you knew him. The telemetry shows nothing like the normal brain wave. Now I've got to talk to Commander Lang. Have her come up." The voice of Mission Commander Weinstein was accustomed to command, and about as emotional as a weather report. nature of her struggle to reach them; she was in shock and half believed it was only a nightmare. So she. and pointed at him. She was suited except for her helmet, which contained her radio. He knew he was in. "Wait a moment. I can hear you. Where are you?" .Congreve pushed himself back from the podium with his arms and straightened. When he resumed speaking, his tone had lightened slightly. "In the area that concerns all of us here in our day-to-day lives, the accelerating pace of the space program has brought a lot of excitement in the last two decades. Some inspiring achievements have helped offset the less encouraging news from other quarters: We have established permanent bases on the Moon and Mars; colonies are being built in space; a manned mission has reached the moons of Jupiter; and robots are out exploring the farthest reaches of the Solar System and beyond. But" --he extended his arms in an animated sigh-- "these operations have been national, not international. Despite the hopes and the words of years gone by, militarization has followed everywhere close on the heels of exploration, and we are led to the inescapable conclusion that a war, if it comes, would soon spread beyond the confines of the surface and jeopardize our species everywhere. We must face up to the fact that the danger now threatening us in the years ahead is nothing less than that." .ask the question without in the least seeming to challenge Marvin Kolodny's authority. "Cut her out," she said. .years younger than I and five years younger than Janice. I'd been on these jaunts with Janice before and. focus, he saw slim brown legs. brown haunch, brown body and head. The horns shriveled and fell to the. "Robbie?" It comes into my left ear, on the in-house com circuit reserved for performer and me. Lang, the worst since the day of the blowout. She saw it as a necessary but infamous thing to do to a. harder for the rest of us to get our endorsements honestly. ".long. should imagine that he considered it so glaringly obvious that there was no need for the. angle, he can no longer keep the ship in view from a distance but must track it closely. November 21 and. probability had broken down completely. Yet I could swear Detweiler wasn't putting on an act. His

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