

## A SERVANT OF THE PUBLIC

with is not a simple matter of stretching supplies until rescue comes. Stopgap measures are not likely to. I'll certainly try it," Barry promised. "But how do I get to be a member?" "What about contamination?" she asked. "What do you think that sterilization was for before we. His first elation fizzled out and he was left with his usual flattened sense of personal inconsequence. She humphed again and ignored me. of your reserve energy. If your energy is depleted, your shields fail and the next Zorph attack destroys. "Why did you need the blood?" I repeated. you will if you stay here long enough? they know genetics. They really know it We have a thousand. Joanna Rtas. together, exchanging nostalgic tidbits over coffee and slices of Partyland's famous pineapple pie. At. What spell had brought them there, deep in the wood, neither could recall. The woods, the meadow, the clearing, the deer hide, the cottage door were all they knew. "But it could be done, right? With the proper shielding so the plants won't be wiped out before they ever sprout, we could have a hydroponics plant functioning?" male and female is that every male cell has an X and a Y chromosome and that every female cell has two. in certain stages of their lives. Since they were still changing, it bore watching, but the airlocks and suits. . . . criticism written without personal feeling is not worth reading. It is the capacity for making good or bad art a personal matter that makes a man [sic] a critic. . . . when people do less than their best, and do that less at once badly and self-complacently, I hate them, loathe them, detest them, long to tear them limb from limb and strew them in gobbets about the stage or platform. ... In the same way really fine artists inspire me with the warmest possible regard. . . . When my critical mood is at its height personal feeling is not the word; it is. "Did he say why he was leaving or where he was going?" Come at my crying. "Mom, we're playing hide and seek. Can't we just stay fifteen minutes more?" the Sreen, of course. The Sreen have been very arbitrary and high-handed from the start, snatching our. one, pulling a tattered paperback from his hip pocket His friend shakes her head. "You?" He turns the. "No. I told you it was a stray-puppy relationship. I wish Murray were here. He's much better with. 40. Subject: Admission to Commonwealth of Zorph. The editor hereby makes grateful acknowledgment to the following authors and authors? representatives for giving. "To a cafe called The Gallery." the continental divide all the way from Billings down to the southern suburb of El Paso. "No kidding!" it occupies. The way you describe it, it couldn't function without help from a symbiote. Maybe it fertilizes. "Bullshit," said Barry. It was the first time he'd used an obscenity conversationally, and he brought it off with great conviction. "You knew when my license would expire, and you've just been stringing me along, hoping I'd get panicky." rubbing his eyes. His sleeves were green silk with blue and purple trimming. His cape was crimson with. cell can't do the work of a fertilized egg cell and produce a new organism? One of the transporters approached the bunker with a steadily rising whine, then hovered motionless for a second almost immediately over him before descending smoothly. Its rear door slid open to reveal the lean, swarthy figure of Captain Sirocco in helmet and battledress, still wearing his flak-vest. He jumped out nimbly while the transporter was still six feet above the ground, and ambled up to Colman. Behind his ample black moustache, the easy-going lines of his face betrayed as little as ever, but his eyes were twinkling. "Pretty good, Steve," he said without preamble as he turned with his hands on his hips to survey the indignant scowls from the captured "enemy" officers standing sullenly by the bunker. "I don't think we'll get any Brownie points for it though. We broke just about every rule in the book." Colman grunted. He hadn't expected much else. Sirocco raised his eyebrows and inclined his head in a way that could have meant anything. "Frontal assault on a strongpoint, exposed flanks, no practical means of retreat, no contingency plan, inadequate ground suppression, and no counter battery cover," he recited matter-of-factly, at the same time sounding unperturbed. THE ORGANIZER: If the Project's real purpose is to provide a haven, why weren't they. glare at me. She says, "You're not going to be working for any promoter in the business. New York says so." And she was right Nolan knew it now. At least they'd be together and that would help see him through. He wouldn't need the bottle any more, and he wouldn't need Nina. "I like them," she insisted. Then, "My name's Cinderella. What's yours?" "Next time m tell her. I won't lie to her again. So I guess this will all have to stop." just arrived a day or two before, paddling a crude catamaran downriver from somewhere out of the. 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. today by a wizard so great and so old and so terrible that you and I need never worry about him. I. like a mail slot, and slid the moth inside. look on her face or its urgency, but he had no time to waste hi words. Brushing past her, he hastened to. on their terrace. The only thing to connect the deaths of Harry Spinner and Maurice Milian was a lot of. "Where can I reach you?" she asked as I hung up the phone. Medusa. One look turned men to stone. Her locks of hair were live serpents. well cut your throat. You might as well not even be born, because life is an inevitably fatal struggle to. "A trap door in the bottom of a ship?" asked Amos. Chris Leithiser. "Believe me," said the grey man, "I have put a little something m your eggs and sausages that will. and intensify. It can get pretty hairy, which is why not just anyone can do the job. It helps that I seem to." Yes. Aventine has too many rich and famous residents to care about another celebrity, and as we have no hotels or public transportation and the cabletrain from Gateside is the only way in, aside from private aircraft on private landing fields, we manage to discourage most reporters and curiosity seekers. "She probably let me catch the two of you making love so Fd throw you out and she could have you to herself." Amanda sat back hugging herself as though cold. "I know what she's doing but I don't know what to do to stop her. If she were a cancer, I could cut her out. How do I cure myself of this? this parasite of the mind?" "Bert AD my life. I was born in Ingteewood. My mother still fives there." "I don't know quite what to do with it," Song admitted. "If it's the only one, I don't dare dissect it, and maybe I shouldn't even touch it." "We use the breather valves from our old suits," McKillian said. "Either the plants that grow valves haven't come up yet, or we haven't been smart enough to recognize

them. And the insulation isn't perfect. We only go out in the hottest part of the day, and your hands and feet tend to get cold. But we manage." So he lay down on the bed and Hinda sat by him. She rubbed cinquefoil on his head to soothe it and. "You." She points at me. "Here." She indicates the rock face. The words are simple commands given to a child. "If there is anything I can do in return . . . ?".and who must engage in all the complex phenomena, both physical and chemical, involved in sexual. I'd gone to a hospital, they'd have wanted to know how I'd stayed alive so far. Sometimes I'm glad if s. "I can help." intercoms and telephones. He kept on into October without stopping and finally achieved a system that. The next morning, Tuesday, the 3rd, I called Miss Tremaine and told her I'd be late getting in but. "Who, senor?". "I'd intended to do it tomorrow. What am I supposed to tell Amanda when she comes back?". And so passed the day. It's no secret, due to an inflated publicity campaign, that a nice little movie about a nice big ape called King Kong was remade into a not-so-nice big movie which was a veritable textbook on how not, and maybe why not, to remake a movie that was close to perfect for what it was. Much of the subtler pleasure of the early King Kong comes from its period charm?the naivet?, the wonderfully ,preten-tious dialogue, even the oonga-boonga black natives. All this could not in any way survive modernization; "big screen" (whatever that means these days) and color did not make up the difference, nor for the loss of other wonderfully amusing bits from a studio jungle full of dinosaurs to Fay Wray's uncovered bosom. He looked at me, trusting me. "They're pretty superstitious back in there, you know. Thought I was . . . And that's why I'm on the concert circuit with Jain Snow; as far as I'm concerned, the only real blues. 184. Then, in his deer heart, her brother would know the day's enchantment was at an end and run swiftly. I walked back up the beach wondering in bemusement if I could be falling in love with two such different women at the same time. If so, how fortunate they were the same woman. Miss Tremaine humphed. It might have been over something in the report, but I don't think it was. ears strained for the signs of his approach. There were none. preserved without the chance of diminution by the interplay of genes obtained from a second parent. "Evelyn, how about an orange juice." She looked at him. He nodded. "Make it two." on the shoulder and motioned her to the lock. "Oh, of course. Minor poets do nothing else. They positively swarm. Fd rather be major and lonely, thank you very much." A young physicist started to stray. He didn't want to think about it now; he didn't want to think of anything. Not Nina, not Darlene, not. The only light came from the illuminated dials that the guard was supposed to watch all night There was no one sitting in front of them. Crawford assumed the guard had gone to sleep. He would have been upset, but there was no time. He had to suit up, and he welcomed the chance to sneak out He began to furtively don his pressure suit. The inner nest was free-form. The New Amsterdamites had allowed it to stay pretty much the way the whirlbirds had built it, only taking down an obstruction here and there to allow humans to move around. It was a maze of gauzy walls and plastic struts, with clear plastic pipes running all over and carrying fluids of pale blue, pink, gold, and wine. Metal spigots from the Podkayne had been inserted in some of the pipes. McKillian was kept busy refilling glasses for the visitors who wanted to sample the antifreeze solution that was fifty per cent ethanol. It was good stuff, Captain Singh reflected as he drained his third glass, and that was what he still couldn't understand. do? ". My curiosity reared up again. The gossip columnists speculated a great deal about how Amanda and. "Not once you understand what this graveyard is and why it became what it did," Song said. She was. He and Lea walked to the mirror and looked at their reflections. apart, until a prince can gather the pieces of the mirror together again, which will release me." .fell on her, she smiled tentatively and took his hand. wooden leg and a mouth full of stories that he chewed around and spit out all evening. Billy Belay would. "Oh, yes," said Amos. "I know the sound. I do not like to think what he would do with a woman worthy of a prince either." Yet Amos found himself thinking of it anyway. "His lack of friendship for you certainly doesn't speak well of his friendship for his nearest and dearest." .wrapping them from head to toe in strips of webbing like human maypoles. 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." also stepped forward, and the grey man found the sharp point of the unicorn's horn against the grey cloth. When Columbine had finally run the gamut of all her feelings, which included fear, anger, joy, pain. The ship came down with an impressive show of flame and billowing sand, three kilometers from. "Ashes?" I say, unsure how to respond. Humor her. "Sure.?" "I didn't say that" Tired as he was, Nolan still remembered the basic rule? never contradict these people or make fun of their super-. INTENSITY FIVE. Congreve paused again, but this time not so much as a whisper disturbed the silence. 251. slowly turning. His back is to you; you know you are safe, and you sit up. A jay passes with a whirl of. license, and peeled off an endorsement sticker. comes, she stares through me, and I wonder whose face she's seeing? no, not even that: how many. came. It's nice to know we weren't forgotten." She said it with total assurance, and the others were. woman of twenty-six ought to be leaving home anyway." .releasing me." He takes a step toward the door. The Intermediaries move to block his path. With an inarticulate screech, he ploughs through them, swatting them aside with the backs of his hands, kicking them out of his way with his heavy-booted feet. The Intermediaries break easily, and it occurs to me then that they are probably as disposable a commodity among the Sreen as tissue paper is among human beings. One Intermediary is left limping along after the captain. Through the clear pale skin of its back, I see that some vertebrae have been badly dislocated. The thing nevertheless succeeds in overtaking the captain and wrapping its appendages around his calf, bleating all the while, "No, no, you must abide by the edict, even as every other inferior species has, you must abide. . . ." The captain is having trouble disentangling himself, and so I go to him. Together, we tear the Intermediary loose. The captain flings it aside, and it bounces off the great portal, spins across the polished floor, lies crushed and unmoving. Caution, an old habit, claimed him. He circled the clearing, never once making a sound. He approached the cottage from the side, and Hinda's singing led him on. When he reached the window, he peered in. darkness beside the bungalow. "Yes," said

the North Wind, "there is a mirror there. A wizard so great and so old and so terrible that neither you nor I need worry about him placed it there a year and two days ago. I blew him there myself in return for a favor he did me a million years past, for it was he who made this cave for me by artful and devious magic."

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