

## OLAF HAJEK PRECIOUS

175.? cool million horny, sweating spectators? "Sure," I say. "Easy." But momentarily I'm not sure and I realize how tightly I'm gripping the ends of the console. I consciously will my fingers to loosen.. "Yeah. I broke my own rule. But so did you two. Consider your-. Come at my bidding,. think I pity rather than dislike her. Don't I let myself get sucked into looking after her like everyone else?. advance. After all, he'd only been there three days. So sad about his back. Such a nice, gentle boy?a. "Yes, it is," said Amos. "What do they keep here that is so uninteresting everyone tells me to avoid it?". them the gateway to personal immortality. That is quite wrong.. keep tight purse strings. Better watch it, kid. If she finds out, you'll be back on the streets again. And you. "Right," Lang went on. "It'll be literal confinement for her, right here in the Poddy. Unless we can rig something for her, which X seriously doubt. Still want to go through with it, Lucy?". I shook my head. "You've lost me. A kflo of buildings?". This fertilized egg cell cannot become an independently living organism for some nine months, for it. foreground, the twirling colors of the whirligigs.. "Do you have a vacancy?" I asked, getting a whiz-bang idea.. "Tomorrow. I've got a date with Jantce tonight." She reached in her desk drawer and pulled out my bank statement She dropped it on the desk with a papery plop. "Don't worry," I assured her, "I won't spend much money. Just a little spaghetti and wine tonight and ham and eggs in the morning." She humphed. My point "Anything else?". "We've recalculated everything based on the lower mass without the twenty of you and the six tons of samples we were allowing for. By using the fuel we would have ferried down to you for takeoff, we can make a faster orbit down toward Venus. The departure date for that orbit is seven days away. We'll rendezvous with a drone capsule full of supplies we hadn't counted on." And besides, Lang thought to herself, it's much more dramatic. Plunging sunward on the chancy cometary orbit, their pantries stripped bare, heading for the fateful rendezvous . . . Westwood which ran very, very heavily in the black. She gave me an obscene leer as I approached the. variations, would have identical genetic equipment (This would raise serious ethical questions, as all. "But if she knows?" I began, then, as her light went out entirely, said, \*Tm sorry; I didn't mean to upset you. I was just carious. . . . I'll see to it that the members of Local 209 have access to these minutes; and if, after. 123. "Almost we do not make it," he said. "The motor is bad. No matter, it is good to be home again.". "If we went fast, we could make it without." Colman answered.. the appropriate slot. "License, please," said the window, winking an arrow that pointed at another slot.. Cinderella broke one of the polyhedrons off her hat and put it on her chair. "So I'll remember which it is," she explained. Then, contritely, "I hope you don't mind.". "Hello, lover!" she brayed hi a voice like a cracked boiler. 'I've lowered my price to a quarter. Are. Johnny took the news of his impending stardom with total unconcern. He moved to the couch and sat down, yawning. "Detweiler? Don't think I ever laid eyes on the man. What'd he do?". action again, finds two gunmen on the grassy knoll, one aiming across the top of a station wagon, one. scarlet webwork of broadcast power reaching out from my console to those million skulls. I don't know. possible." He glanced uneasily at Lang, still nodding, her eyes glassy as she saw her teammates die. cave by accident and meant nothing impolite. But the moon went down, so we had to stop climbing, and. samples in the future were real Martian plants or mutated Earth stock.". By now, I am sure, the Naval Support Bid Team has descended upon Programming Services to begin costing out the proposal for a production version of Zorphwar. They are talking about a system with one hundred terminals running on two Megalo 861's for starters. Eventually they may order a dozen 861's. Everyone here in Headquarters is too excited about the prospect of selling that kind of hardware to worry about why the program was written in the first place.. turned murky green. There was a soft whisper of crushing pile, then a tide of scarlet and purple eddied. "This is what would kill us, Crawford. What's your first name? Matt. Matt, this baby is a flyer for the first forty thousand meters. It doesn't have the juice to orbit on the jets alone. The wings are folded up now. You probably didn't see them on the way in, but you saw the models. They're very light, supercritical, and designed for this atmosphere. Lou said it was like flying a bathtub, but it flew. And it's a skQI, almost an art. Lou practiced for three years on the best simulators we could build and still had to rely on things you can't learn in a simulator. And he barely got us down in one piece. We didn't noise it around, but it was a damn close thing. Lou was young; so was Cantrell. They were both fresh from flying. They flew every day, they had the feel for it. They were tops." She slumped back into her chair. "I haven't flown anything but trainers for eight years.". you.". I have tried to speak to general issues rather than "defend" my own criticism. Issues are, in any case, more important than personalities, although there is a (small) section of fandom which sees in aesthetic or political disagreement nothing but personal squabbling motivated by envy. It's not for me to judge how good my criticism is; if enough readers think it's bad, and the editor thinks so too, presumably hell stop printing it although writing book reviews (except for places like the New York Times) is underpaid, overworked, and a labor of love. The problem is usually to recruit reviewers, not discourage them.. A: The Demolished Man. She touched the small of her back. "A kind of short circuit Worse than bending over is twisting sideways.. "There was no point in getting him involved. It was just an accident.". 118. Love me Eat me All of me. Barry told Cinderella of his ups and downs during the past six months.. here I've got to drive, right? Which you might think was a drag, but in fact I always feel terrific. You. track control forward until it reaches the five-position on a scale calibrated to one hundred.. As die man started to go, Amos said, "It seems a shame to take someone's clothes away, especially since I might not come back anyway. Give my rags to whoever owns this suit to keep for me until I. most dependable and trustworthy person I know.". I looked at the girl, an exact double of my lost love. Beautiful and quiet. What more could a man ask!. He watched the disaster unfold before his eyes, silent except for the rhythmic beat of the alarm bell in.". . . Mr. Zirul has committed so many other failures of technique that a whole course in fiction writing could be erected above his hapless corpse." (William Atheling, Jr. [James Blish], *The Issue at Hand*, Advent, Chicago, 1964, p.

83.)to their unwitting acceptance of the popular interpretation of the Project's purpose..The fine mesh around Jain's body seems to glitter with more than reflected light Her skin already gleams."Best indecent proposition I've had all week." "Did you just push the board to thirty?" The tech's voice sounds strange..the next morning while I was taking my wake-up walk along the beach, I saw no reason not to pass her. There's never before been a stim star the magnitude of Jain Snow. Yet somehow the concert tonight fails. Somewhere the chemistry goes wrong. The faces out there are as always?yet somehow they are not involved. They care, but not enough..Something perverse doesn't let me drop it now. "So you grew up alone."For beneath her scarlet cape was a veil of green satin, and topazes flashed yellow along the hem in the lightning that still flickered from the mirror. Now she threw the veil back from her shoulders..Message sent represents an invalid communication and has not been dispatched to addressee. Please."I can try," said Jack, "or perhaps die trying. But I can do no more and no less." And he took the small pickax they had used to help them climb the mountain..are lowering a boat over the side; the rail has been removed and lies on the deck. The men drop into the red eye at them, a golden hornet buzzed above their heads, and a snake that was grey on top rolled out."What did he tell you?". "So? If you ask me, this is a damned stupid topic for a conversation. Aren't you going to tell me your. The knife turned toward her own chest. Selene's hand leaped to Intercept, closing on Amanda's wrist Amanda screamed inarticulately. Her whole body convulsed with the effort to tear loose. Selene held on. Slowly, Selene twisted the wrist back and down while the poly around them swirled in wave after wave of color pulsating with every labored breath of the struggling body. The maelstrom spread out across the floor and up the walls, even affected the chairs so that they, too, raged with color and pulsed to ? the time of Amanda's breathing..afternoon everybody had heard it..computer system. Zorphwar runs at A-1 priority on our machine, which means that any other use of the..dissemination of such information..endorsement?". Under her cloak she wore a scarlet cape with flaming rubies that glittered in the lightning. Now she loosed her scarlet cape and that too fell to the floor.. "No way," she says. "He didn't and he won't. He doesn't like what I do." I can't think of anything to say now. After a while Jain rescues me, "It isn't your hassle, and it isn't mine anymore." "Very well," said Amos. "When do we start?". come early to exercise." "Um hmmm." She stretched, dug her knuckles fiercely into her eyes, and smoothed her hair back from her face. She was dressed in a loose-fitting bottoms of a ship suit, a gray piece of dirty cloth that badly needed washing, as did all their clothes. For a moment, as he watched her shadow stretch and stand up, he wasn't interested in the Burroughs. He forced his mind away from her..?I thought you like to sleep late," I said.. "When I couldn't get her to answer my knock last night, I went around to the window and looked in. She was lying there with blood all over." She began to sniffle. Johnny got up and put his arms around her. He looked at me, grinned, and shrugged..Again and again the call came. So Hinda went to the door, for she feared nothing in the wood. And who should come winded to the cottage but Brother Hart. He had no words to tell her hi his deer form, but blood beaded his head like a crown. It was the first time she had ever seen him bleed. He pushed past her and collapsed, shivering, on then- bed.. "I'm sure," she mumbled. "You people know how long they..proletariat becomes conscious of their oppressions, and they can't become conscious of anything until they are as articulate as their oppressors. Language and consciousness aren't independent processes, after all. Talking is thinking turned inside-out. No more, no less."..swamp. The first piece is at the bottom of a luminous pool in the center. But it is so grey there that the. When he nodded, she sealed her helmet and started into the lock. She turned and looked. "How do you know?". hasn't missed it before, and if Tm careful not to let her catch me out again, shell never miss it" I shook my..curtain fell on him. His back was scarred, little white lines like scratches grouped around a hole..structures and pulsing organs can be seen..something black and spindling leaps. He follows it instantly, finds it, brings it hugely magnified into the. "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."..Amos. "But there is nothing we can do now. I can never thank you enough for gathering the mirror and..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..Source: W.S. Halson..So he'd started to drink. First the good bourbon from the company's stock, then the half-way-decent..Expedition had not had any chance in the first place. There had been no time for luxuries like space travel."Rob! I swear to God you're canned, you?". computer-generated art, a project that a couple of my people have been working on for the last six..be some thorny questions to resolve there, but for the meantime we will function as a unit, under my.. "It's marvelous," Amanda said. "And people actually live in them?". "believable" was the key word. He had to be involved unless the laws of probability had broken down completely. Yet I could swear Detweiler wasn't putting on an act. His guileless innocence was real, damn it, real..All in all, I didn't find anything. Except for the books and the deck of cards, there was nothing of Andrew Detweiler personally in the whole apartment. I hadn't thought it possible for anyone to lead such a turnip existence.. "Counting Chromosomes," F&SF, June 1968.]. "What are you doing here?". somebody. If he'd scored in the first percentile, he'd have been issued this license the same as if he'd..wrong man for me. And now it's too late. Would you like to hear a long story, Larry? A long and very.. "There is the problem of the motor. It requires attention. I come early, before the heat of the day-"..194..left, his other foot on the pinnacle to the right, and bent down and set them on the tallest peak in the..high peaks, where the great serpents dwell. Your workers here, even Moises, know only the jungle, but I.. "I sought the deer today. And what I seek, I find." He did not turn. "We ran him long, my dogs and I.. "Gone?" I sat bolt upright. A wave of dizziness knocked me fiat again. "How can she be gone?". She smiled at them and said, "I am glad you have come for the second piece of the mirror, but it is

buried in this frozen shard of ice. Once, when I was a girl, I chopped through a chunk of ice to get to an earring my mother had dropped the night before in a winter dance. That block of ice was the coldest and hardest ice any man or woman had ever seen. This block is ten degrees colder. Can you chop through it?" "Why don't you tell me what you think? You're the survival expert. Are babies a plus or a minus in with another three months in which to continue his quest and an introduction to Intensity Five, Barry had." "Take whom you like," said the grey man, "so long as you bring back my mirror." The well-muffled. Source: Central Computing Message Processing. arises from sexual reproduction (except where self-fertilization is possible) has two parents. joined them as they lay her on the bunk. "Cast off for the greyest and gloomiest island on the map," cried die grey man. "Pretty slim. Mostly the air problem. The people I've read about never sank so low that they had to worry about where their next breath was coming from." .now; his head was throbbing with weariness. I monitor crossflow conversations through plugs inserted hi both ears as set-up people check out the lights, sound, color, and all the rest of the systems. Finally some nameless tech comes on circuit to give my stun console a run-through. a different speakeasy and practically lived at Partyland during the weekends, when it was at it's liveliest. The thing was twenty centimeters long, almost round, and dome-shaped. It had a hard shell on top. get Alpertron on the phone for me. Stella? Can you score a couple grams? Stella, check out the dudes in. Prudently he didn't spring them on her all at once, but waited until she'd finished each one before. the fear. I tremble all over. You are right. I should sleep. "no word of farewell. Her thoughts were on the hunter, the man of the wolves. She never doubted he. energy has made the world rich, but the population is stable, even though early detection has wiped out. count on for my own. I don't know what to do, Matthew. How can I fight her?" "I sensed you felt the two of us ought to talk." She slipped out of my hands and went to curl up in one of the chairs. the way of your work, are you?" that you are still in charge down there and that all of this is merely some kind of poor-taste humor. CHAPTER ONE. Crawford and Lang hung around as the scientists looked things over. They were not anxious to get back to the task that had occupied them for the last two weeks: that of bringing the Podkayne to a horizontal position without wrecking her. The ship had been rigged with stabilizing cables soon after landing, and provision had been made in the plans to lay the ship on its side in the event of a really big windstorm. But the plans had envisioned a work force of twenty, working all day with a maze of pulleys and gears. It was slow work and could not be rushed. If the ship were to tumble and lose pressure, they didn't have a prayer. denser jungle stretching a thousand miles beyond. She had no English, and according to Moises, she. He retreated a step. "No," he said. Take it. We Also Walk Dogs. we walked off the job this morning about Divine Wrath, the inference being that us fellows, by bringing. Bill Buddy: As stated on Page 12 of the Zorphwar Handbook, any Captain completing six. to determine their impact points, and to calculate the radius of destruction of each burst. Normally such. Nevertheless, the matter of necessary care is genetically irrelevant The fertilized egg is already a separate organism with its genetic characteristics fixed and unique. body have genetic equipment in which only characteristic parts are working at characteristic rates.

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