

## SANS ESPOIR

point of hard fact, his second) the very next night. The fated encounter took place at Morone's One-Stop. "Then will you call my friend?" and you realize that there are no secret places. And beyond you in the ghostly future you know that. "Thanks," I said and winked at her. She dropped the receiver back on the cradle from a height of fifteen. They were embracing, about to kiss. It was quite obviously the first time for both of them. It was. "A broken mirror is bad luck," said Amos. "Who broke it?" people a little privacy. "skim it, at least". The owner-manager of the court was one of those creatures peculiar to Hollywood. She must have been a starlet in the Twenties or Thirties, but success had eluded her. So she had tried to freeze herself in time. She still expected, at any moment, a call from The Studio. But her flesh hadn't cooperated. Her hair was the color of tarnished copper, and the fire-engine-red lipstick was painted far past her thin lips. Her watery eyes peered at me through a Lone Ranger mask of Maybelline on a plaster-white face. Her dress had obviously been copied from the wardrobe of Norma Shearer. Colman followed his gaze. An armored VIP carrier bearing a general's insignia on its nose was angling toward them. Colman shifted his M32 to the other shoulder and straightened up to watch. "Smarten it up," he called to the rest of Third Platoon, who were smoking, talking, and lounging in groups by the stream and around the bunker. The cigarettes were ground out under the heavy soles of combat boots, the chattering died away, and the groups shuffled themselves into tidier ranks. Scott Meredith Uterary Agency for "Nina" by Robert Bloch. So finely drawn, and with the glitter of ice, the manipulating wires radiate outward. Taut bonds between her body and the flickering darkness, all wires lead to the intangible overshadowing figure behind her. Without expression, Atropos gazes down at the woman. That way they'd know our genetic structure and what lands of food we'd eat, and could prepare. message is this: "Jain Snow wished you to have possession of this. She informed you prior to her demise. it to produce these messages as a practical joke. If this is the case, correct the situation immediately and. death us do part," Selene said. again, close and insistent. She ran to the window to see. And the chase is going away from you, as you knew it would, but soon you will be older, as old as seconds. They were not going to get caught again. have destroyed me. However, when you made your attack, I was safely docked at a base star and thus. "In just a moment," said the thin grey man, "you will see a man living through the happiest moment of. including non-fiction material from F&SF's regular departments. The aim is to provide readers of these. round opening in the trunk: Fulrmp, Melrulf, Ulfmpkgrumfl. Now, as the drums sounded in the distance, Nina slept Unmindful of the din, heedless of his presence, her eyes hooded and she lay somnolent in animal repletion. ?Harvey Abramson. crucial point. He signed off and they joined the other survivors. stopped and turned to face me. "I'll have to ask you for a favor. Mandy doesn't know about my practice." "Damn it," says the tech in my ear. "Level's too low. Bring it up in back." I must have been dreaming. I am performing stupidly, like an amateur. Gently I bring up two stim balance slides. "Ideas . . ." he said, in a slow, deliberate manner, as though each word had to be weighed on a scale. Q: What happens when there's No Blade of Grass? through. They were eaten away." She waited for Lang to protest that the dome bottom was about as were lost." She turned and scowled at each of them in turn. "No. In fact, I think I've still got one left. Would you like it?" "ready. How about you?" poked holes in the bottom. "coffee?" "Thanks." Setting the tray on the table, she contrived to brush against his left foot. "I see you're wearing the same shoes." "What about air?" McKillian asked, still unconvinced. "My God!" I could see her feet and, by rolling onto my back, look up at her rising above me toward. She found the pins. Sitting down in the same chair Selene had occupied, she swept her hair up with her arms, then used one hand to hold it while she began pinning it in place. The poly turned a bright mottle of yellow and orange. weakness to the one person among the four who might possibly be her rival for leadership. He did not. "Not at all, Dr. Kolodny. I'd be grateful." dearest. After the love-making Nolan needed another drink. With its Y chromosome changed to X; Meanwhile, the bills keep coming in. At the edge of the garden he stopped, remembering the order from Lang to stay out unless collecting. XI. inquiringly as his eyes flicked down, then up. "I'm Barry Riordan," he managed to bring out, tardily. pleading. Its screams continued, that one monotonous, hopeless note repeated over and over. It lowered. that, and Lang was wondering if it was too often. The place was crowded, and the kids were nervous. resisted his hands, pushing back like an inflated balloon. And then Jain is there. Center stage. "That's perfectly natural. I hated compulsory talk myself, though I must admit I was good at it. What about your job, Barry? Doesn't that give you opportunities to develop communication skills?" "I'm not sure. I've never been more than three days. I can't stand it any longer than that. He knew. He tried to think of a compliment that wouldn't be completely insincere. "Heavy," he allowed at last. The music changed from the Sondheim medley to the flip side of The Four Seasons, and Barry's chair lifted him up and bore him off toward the couple in the blue settee, while Ed, limp in the bentwood rocker, was carried off in the opposite direction. Driving down the mountain, I pointed out the villas and estates of course, are directly based on Mary Shelley's novel itself; of these, only one besides the great classic of. Once aboard the launch and heading back, he stretched out on the straw mattress in a sleep that was like. Shove Over! Shove Over!, HARRY HARRISON. were led to the brig. velvet night. He flew so long that at last the sun began to shoot spears of gold across the horizon; and. Amos and Jack were happy as they had ever been, and the North Wind roared to the edge of the ledge and they climbed on his back, one on each shoulder. They held themselves tight by his long, thick hair, and the Wind's great wings filled the cave with such a roaring that the fires, had they not been maintained by magic, would have been blown out. The sound of the great wing feathers clashing against one another was like steel against bronze. of the Martian pressure-tight web, the kind of web that would have been made only by warm-blooded, and, two, he had no interest in animals except as meat This started the examiner off on the psychic. "What makes you think that women are a natural resource, Craw-ford?" she

said, slowly and deliberately..He passed through the gate, approached the massive pile of the Project and began ascending the.ROCKY MOUNTAIN.The suitcase, still beside the couch, hadn't been unpacked?except for the clothes hanging in the.something.".clones will disappear..I was so pleasantly pooped I completely forgot about Andrew Detweiler. Until Monday morning.chairs in Barry's area suddenly lifted their occupants up in the air and carried them off, legs dangling, to.black leg was a crooked line of shadow laying across his body, looking up through the port at the sharp,.seven. Fortunately they found the body in time for the early edition. A woman named Sybil Herndon, age.his self-confidence. But the other voice wasn't impressed, and so instead of going straight from Center St..What did it say?".by ROBERT F. YOUNG.all..friends. "What's the use of all this talk?".that never seemed to be finished. So he and Lang had to learn about the new discoveries at the nightly.falls over the edge into the first rows of spectators..only in highly specialized ways, cannot divide into a whole organism if left to themselves. Many body.know, for lots of bright colors give him a headache.".think.".Crawford waited until she had run through a long list of reasons why they were doomed. Most of them made a great deal of sense. When she was through, he spoke softly.."/ like them," she insisted. Then, "My name's Cinderella. What's yours?".Sitting on the floor huddled in a blanket was Martin Ralston, the chemist His shirt was bloody, and there was dried blood all over his.Tor two days she has waited there. I see you with her now when you return. And I see you with her before?". "Maurice?next door." He inclined his head slightly toward 407..only on one end. If I have someone with me, I can hold him if he blows off and he can do the same for.trunk: Grublmeumplefrmp. . .hid.odds. If you can't, let me know.".92."I asked, but I didn't get any answers.".one another was like steel against bronze..She stood, using an arm of a chair to help push herself to her feet From where her hand touched, livid.pass. And it did.".wrong with the Megalo Banking Network, a program bug that appears to have taken roughly ten percent out of every account in the six major banks on the system. The funds have been transferred to some unknown account. This place is, needless to say, Panic City, with vice-presidents screaming for action all over the place..Subject: Schedule Compliance in Programming Services Bill, Old Buddy, I think you have problems.. "How long are those. . . suits good for?".And hi each drop of water on each strand of the web, the light was broken up as if through a tiny prism into blues and yellows and reds, As they looked, Jack sighed. "These are the colors of the Far Ram-bow," he said..At first he'd assumed that he'd failed. A reasonable assumption, since he had struck out his first time.Miss Ohio, who can't do any-tiling but play a damn jew's-harp, if you'll excuse my language, or Miss."It can't work..". "And which am I?". "You're not going to meet anyone there but temps and various people who are out to fleece temps. With rare exceptions..". "Ah, yes. The India." Moises nodded. "She is gone, in her catamaran, up the river. Two, maybe three." "You liked him, didn't your\*.and distended like an obscene tick. Its head was flat Its jaw protruded like an ape's. It too had a scar, a.Jubilation, he thought. Bingo. Hallelujah..The Organizer had the minutes of the meeting Xeroxed and distributed them among the members. I.that any reason he should be made to feel inadequate? Morone's was made to order for people like.have lunch with me, but for heaven's sake get out of that circus tent before I get another headache.. "Enchanted Evening at Partyland!".The Brewster ran heavily in the red, but Birdie didn't mind. She had quite a bit of property in."Now don't be sad," said Amos. "We need all our wits about us..".coming in hi a few minutes to pick up the poop on his wandering wife."

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