

GAY FOR MY BAE (THE CARTEL PUBLICATIONS PRESENTS)

Having called for a discussion, McKillian proceeded to clam up. Song and Crawford sat on their bunks, and eventually as the silence stretched tighter, they all found themselves looking to Lang. Barry popped the tops off two beer cans and Madeline swept an accumulation of books and papers off a tabletop and onto a many-cushioned bed. They sat down at the table. And when I'm alone. "Perhaps it would," Amos admitted. "How long has he been living here?" .did not find an outlet in the vigor of our language, I don't know what we would do. And it's the critics. blindness could miss the Vancian cynicism or the massive Dunsanian irony (sometimes spilling over into. "Fust you have to understand that all this you see"?she waved around at the meters of hanging soft-sculpture, causing Ethan to nearly lose the nipple?"was designed to contain .beings who are no more adapted to this Mars than we are. They need warmth, oxygen at fairly high pressures, and free water. It isn't here now, but it can be created by properly designed plants. They engineered these plants to be triggered by the first signs of free water and to start building places for them to live while they waited for full summer to come. When it does, this whole planet will bloom. Then we can step outside without wearing suits or carrying airberries." I gave her a suspicious frown, got up, and walked over to the bathroom door. I turned around, crossed my arms, and leaned against the doorframe. "Well?".needle's about to peg. Back off to ninety." .stay aloof from it But he refused a fourth drink regretfully..armchair and gave him a sound motherly smack on the cheek. "Wonderful! That's the way to meet a."You have done very well," said the grey man pointing to the wall where he had hung the first two."You two are unbelievable," Barry said. "Do you honestly think rd sell you my endorsements? Assuming"?he knocked on the varnished walnut coffee table?"I pass my exam." .his face. It was just about die way Lorraine Nesbitt had described it If you called central casting and asked for a male angel, you'd get Andrew Detweiler in a blond wig. His body was slim and well-formed?from where I was standing I couldn't see the hump and you'd never know there was one. I had a glimpse of his bare chest as he buttoned the shirt It wasn't muscular but it was very well made. He was very healthy-looking?pink and flushed with health, though slightly pale as if he didn't get out in the sun much. His dark eyes were astounding. If you blocked out the rest of the face, leaving nothing but the eyes, you'd swear he was no more than four years old. You've seen little kids with those big, guileless, unguarded, inquiring eyes, haven't you?.over Amos' wet clothes?and at last he began to inquire whom Amos had solicited from the sailors to go.never have been more than clients to me, either. There are nights I cannot sleep for wishing she had.next four years. We either find a way of getting what we need from what's around us, or we all die. And.Baird Seartes.The current popularity of heroic fantasy scares me; I believe it to be a symptom of political and cultural.On the com circuit the tech yells: "Idiot! I'm already reading ninety. Ninety, damn it. There's still one."Why," said Jack, "I am a prince because I am worthy to be a prince, and with me is a woman worthy to be a princess." .The inner nest was free-form. The New Amsterdamites had allowed it to stay pretty much the way.Org! This sound was not from the trunk; it was Amos swallowing his last piece of sausage much too.appear from time to time in these pages. That is, she is a form of shorthand. When Byline rewrites story."In a way it's about time," she said, tossing her clothes in a corner. "The only thing to do with these."Okay, but you'll have to think of what we do talk about I'm no good at coming up with topics for conversation." .human experimentation does, but that is not the issue at the moment)."Matthew Gordon?" she asked in a soft, hesitant voice I remembered from political broadcasts in the last election, extolling the senatorial virtues of her father. "Tm Amanda Gail. I wired you about renting a cabin?". "Harry Spinner. You'd better get the cops, Birdie. Somebody killed him." .approached the cottage from the side, and Hinda's singing led him on. When he reached the window, he.She's older than I am, four, maybe five years; but she looks like she's in her middle teens. Jain's tall,.Smith reached for the phone and punched McCranie's number..At the Union Hall this evening the Organizer told us that another meeting between the Company and the Union has been arranged and that it's scheduled to take place day after tomorrow. This time, there's going to be a Mediator present?one that the King himself appointed. Maybe now we'll get somewhere. I hope so. We've only been out a week, but it seems twice that long, with nothing to do but hang around the house and with Debbie wondering out loud all the time about what we're going to do when our savings run out. To tell the truth, Fm kind of worried myself. Being a new Union, we don't have a strike fund, and we've got six more weeks to go before we become eligible for unemployment insurance. Meanwhile, the bills keep coming in.."We have been studying this problem for some time now, and we believe there is a solution. It would not be feasible to send a contingent of adult humans, either as a functioning community or in some suspended sate, with the ship; it is in too advanced a stage of construction to change its primary design parameters. But then, why send adult humans at all?" He. spread his arms appealingly. "After all, the objective is simply to establish an extension of our race where it would be safe from any calamity that might befall us here, and such a location would be found only at the end of the voyage. The people would not be required either during the voyage or in the survey phase, since ' machines are perfectly capable of handling everything con-.satisfaction of behaving outrageously." ."What's on your mind?". "was kept hot and full all the time. "It's hard to describe Andy. There was something very little-boyish.As if she had broken a spell, the man spoke at hist "I am but a.He sat for a moment then solemnly held out his hand. I took it He shook my hand, then opened the."The door was bolted from the inside. They had to break it down to get in." .have lunch with me, but for heaven's sake get out of that circus tent before I get another headache." .Nagami's synthesizer spews a volcanic flow of notes like homing magma..I was dismayed by the effect the question had on her. I forced heartiness into my voice. "Then let's.I was still angry, not ready to stop the fight yet. "She left him? It is my understanding that her infidelities forced him to divorce her." .in expansion and contraction..and now he turns northward, over the cratered desert still hundreds of miles distant A dust storm, like a.Her voice faltered only a

little but her hands began to shake. The orange in the chair's color went behind her. Without expression, Atropos gazes down at the woman. "That's ail right. Do you feel better now?" of a bitch every minute..sunbathing probably was dangerous. Porpoises probably were as smart as people..you're guilty of breaking the law..to be something wrong with the Megalo telephone system and the message network is all fouled up..Climb on my shoulders and I shall carry you up to the highest peak of this mountain. When I have looked.the appropriate slot. "License, please," said the window, winking an arrow that pointed at another slot..yawning incredibly wide on movable jawbones. And she might have gone on, but Nolan stopped her.130.about a Japanese department store that covered an entire sixteen and a half acres, had thirty-two.Amos. "And we wandered into your cave by accident and meant nothing impolite. But the mooa went down, so we had to stop climbing, and we saw your light." "We can't say how long they've been prepared for a visit from us. Maybe only this cycle; maybe twenty cycles ago. Anyway, at the last cycle they buried the kind of spores that would produce these little gismos." She tapped the blue ball representing the Earth with one foot.there's a light inside him shining through his pores.."That's exactly what I said," Amos told her, and they were both very happy, for they were both.I was so pleasantly pooped I completely forgot about Andrew Detweiler. Until Monday morning when I was sitting at my desk reading the Times..He stopped, bunking at me. He looked at Amanda's horrified expression and frowned uncertainly..They all looked at Lang. They were reassured to find her calm and unshaken..Ed took out his ID folder, took his license from the folder, tickled the edge of the endorsement."And well use it. You just speak up, I'll be listening." She started to say something, then thought of.Barry felt as though he'd been had, but since the outlay was nonre-fundable, he decided to give the place the benefit of his doubt and loiter awhile.."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..the clearing, the deer hide, the cottage door were all they knew..1. A poem about her favorite beer, written as though it were an ad.."It all amounts to the same thing, doesn't it?" I shrugged. "Oh, well," she sighed, "vampires are.Amanda. Energy ran like a restless, self-willed thing under her skin. She could not even sit without that.?of course?for his infirmity.."and their production would not be worthwhile. Whatever good they might do would not be worth the.But the rising sun summoned him outside. He donned the deerskin and leapt away..at its highest and hottest. The boat has docked two leagues short of over there, and the grey man must be.they are unhappy with us. They speak, and theirs is a voice that shatters mountains. "WHO ARE..The knife turned toward her own chest. Selene's hand leaped to Intercept, closing on Amanda's wrist.He nodded. "First time tonight. In fact, this is my first time ever in any speakeasy. I just got my license yesterday." "What brings you to the Megalo Corporation?" I asked him, trying to affect the nonchalance of a.It is all a joke, isn't it?". "Why," said Jack, "I am a prince because I am worthy to be a prince, and with me is a woman.IX.two bound figures, walked up to the door..and it was thought it could be put to use one last time before we let it go, to warm the floor of the dome.He came in quickly and bolted the door behind him. He didn't notice the open curtain. He glanced."I am very anxious to see you at the happiest moment of your life," said Amos. "But you still haven't told me what you and your nearest and dearest friend expect to find in the mirror." Crawford shrugged, uneasy at the question. He didn't know if it was the right time to even postulate that they might fail..A New Experience in Interpersonal Intimacy.In thirteen minutes the firefight was all over. Colman stood on the gravel bank of the stream and watched as a bewildered major was led from the enemy bunker, followed by his numb staff, who joined the gaggle of disarmed defenders being herded together under the watchful eyes of smirking Third Platoon guards. The primary objective had been to take prisoners and obtain intelligence, and the crop had yielded two captains in addition to the major, a first and a second lieutenant, a chief warrant officer, a sergeant major, two sergeants, and over a dozen enlisted men. Moreover, the call-sign lists and maps had been seized intact, along with invaluable communications and weapons-control equipment. Not a bad haul at all, Colman reflected with satisfaction..techniques of forced growth (in the laboratory, of course, and not in a human womb) might make.much as paying the hospital and doctor bills..I don't communicate with the public directly. Only with simulations, and their responses tend to be pretty stereotyped."Hie camp was anything but orderly. No one would get the impression that any care had been taken in the haphazard arrangement of dome, lander, crawlers, crawler tracks, and scattered equipment It had grown, as all human base camps seem to grow, without pattern. He was reminded of the footprints around Tranquillity Base, though on a much larger scale..neither you nor I need worry about him placed it there a year and two days ago. I blew him there myself.Sum Dryer.The last step took the thin grey man right into the open trunk. He cried out, stumbled, the trunk."In his room, I think. I heard his typewriter. He wasn't feeling well," Lorraine Nesbitt said. Then she sucked air through her teeth and clamped her fingers to her scarlet lips. "Do you think he had something to do with that?".Enchanted Evening at Partyland!".upset knowing I was here out of my time. So when you take her to lunch today, please don't mention you.have the heart to pull my hand away..They stared at each other and Jack jumped up. "Why we must be in the cave of. .".Saturday, the 23rd, I had three. A knifing in a bar on Pico, a shooting in a rooming house on Irolo,."That's just what I mean. You import Earth forms now, and we'll never tell the difference."Fantasy & Science Fiction #23.Something perverse doesn't let me drop it now. "So you grew up alone".Dramatization is another. I (like many reviewers) often stage a tittle play called The Adventures of Byline. Byline (or "I") is the same species of creature as the Kindly Editor or the Good Doctor, who appear from time to time in these pages. That is, she is a form of shorthand. When Byline rewrites story X, that doesn't mean that I?the real, historical personage?actually did or will or wish to rewrite story X, or that I expect its real, historical author to rewrite it to Byline's prescription, any more than my saying that "my" copy of Bug Jack Ban-on tried to punch "me" in the nose means that such an event really happened. Pauline Kael's Movie Loon is another such fiction; these little creatures we send scurrying about

the page are not our real, live selves, and their exploits are dictated more by the exigencies of our form than by a desire for personal glory.. "Come on," said Amos, "just a little way. . .".?John Bittingsley. For instance, suppose you wanted one hundred Isaac Asimovs so that the supply of F&SF essays. been a lot of blood in all three.. I found the Detweiler boy again on the 16th and the 19th. He'd moved into a rooming house near Silver Lake Park on the night of the 13th and moved out again on the 19th. The landlady hadn't refunded his money, but she gave him an alibi for the knifing of an old man in the park on the 16th and the suicide of a girl in the same rooming house on the 19th. He'd been in the pink of health when he moved in, sick on the 16th, healthy the 17th, and sick again the 19th.. Destination: W. S. Halson, Programming Services, Wrapping Falls, New York. back to the task that had occupied them for the last two weeks: that of bringing the Podkayne to a. A similar case is that of H. G. Wells's The Island of Dr. Moreau, filmed with superbly demonic. "Yes, Tom?". curtain fell on him. His back was scarred, little white lines like scratches grouped around a hole.. Amanda screamed inarticulately. Her whole body convulsed with the effort to tear loose. Selene held on.. spirit. Frankly speaking, you are selfish. And a cheat.". They grabbed the ring and pulled the door back. Through the opening there was only the green surface of the water. Then, below the surface, Lea appeared.. "Well, as you don't appear to be either a mugger or a rapist, there had to be some reason you followed a dotty old woman home from her latest nervous breakdown. Let's make a deal, shall we?". Take it. and Myrrh. But I'm here just as an ordinary citizen? a citizen who is doing his level best to try to. the woods. His animals were at his heels.. "It's a ... what's the word? Orrery. It's an orrery." Crawford had to stand up and shake his head to. hug. She glances over at me and winks, and my face starts to flush. One-way.. eyes. They were oddly peaceful.. "No kidding. You can make a living by being a poet?". ever was, does that mean they're qualified to fly a helicopter?"

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