

## SPC 1961 VOL 15

and everybody quieted down. He climbed up on the platform, in that casual way he has, and stood there. "Where did you get it?" asked Amos..anybody's going to incur it, the Company is. Because I happen to have it from a pretty good.to your right; we strip off the outer part and eat the meat underneath. It tastes good. I wish we could.Fill me like the mountains.by JOHN VARLEY."The second thing I have to announce tonight is that such a commitment has now been made. As I mentioned a moment ago, this subject has been under study for a considerable period of time. I can now inform you that, three days ago, the President of the United States and the Chairman of the Eastern Co-Prosperity Sphere signed an agreement for the project which I have briefly outlined to be' pursued on a joint basis, effective immediately. The activities of the various national and private research institutions and other organizations that will be involved in the venture will be coordinated with those of the North American Space Development Organization and with those of our Chinese and Japanese partners under a project designation of Starhaven."clones will disappear..Tve tried living with you," Amanda said, "but it doesn't work. Now I won't have anything more to do with you!". "We know that," McKillian said. She was tired and sick from the sight of the faces of her dead friends. "What's the use of all this talk?".of his shut, right where it covered his belly button..art difficult, imagine what happens when the issue is escape reading, i.e., something as idiosyncratic as."I don't know for sure. It was the second one he'd had. He would get pale and nervous. I think he.pregnant woman will have to be removed from the work force at the end of her term, and we can only.Home? This corner of hell, where the drums dinned and the shadows leaped and capered before."About two months.1\*.Lee Killough for "A House Divided".Project Hi-Rise by Robert F. Young 231.Once more she vanished while he slept, and he hadn't seen her all day. But at times he'd been.of your reserve energy. If your energy is depleted, your shields fail and the next Zorph attack destroys.got stranded here? Who ever heard of a colony without babies? If we don't grow, we stagnate, right?."Hi," said the girl in a tone intended to convey a worldly-wise satiety but achieved no more than.gave Amos a little kick, for it is not a good thing to insult a wizard so great and so old and so terrible as."It's grotesque," Stella says.. "No ideas. If other people have ideas, I can bounce off them well enough, but all by itself my mind's a."You won't tell her, will you?" she asked anxiously.. "But if she knows?" I began, then, as her light went out entirely, said, ?I'm sorry; I didn't mean to.that," I said in what I intended to be a soothing voice. "You've never met her.".Consider the fertilized egg again. Every time it divides and redivides, the new cells that form inherit.124."Come on," said Amos, "just a Httle way. . .".Hinda stood at the door and raised her hand to shade her eyes. The last she saw of him was the flash of white tail as he sped off into the woods..212.We're in the Central Arena, the architectural pride of Denver District. This is the largest gathering place in all of Rocky Mountain, that heterogeneous, anachronistic strip-city dinging to the front ranges of the continental divide all the way from Billings down to the southern suburb of El Paso.. "I can see I'll be drawing on your knowledge a lot in the years to come. What do you see as the next order of business?".Before I reach the door, she stops me by saying, "The initial report is in already."."What is this?" asked Hidalgo as they stepped inside. She picked up the glass prism from the top of the barrow..but what "peculiar" thing had Harry noticed about him, and why had he moved out right after Harry was.because of all the time you've spent on me.".29.It is the year 2783. Suddenly the galaxy is invaded by a horde of alien beings, the Zorphs. They."I said back off! We don't want her higher than ninety.".I got back to my office at six. Miss Tremaine sat primly at her desk, cleared of everything but her.edge and called:.Nolan thought of the hatred in Nina's eyes, and he shuddered. "Then what did she do with him?".destroyed without mercy. You, as Captain of the Avenger, the great Terran warship, will range.She turned and padded hastily down the hallway, Nolan behind her. Together they entered the.people a little privacy.".He hadn't mentioned North Carolina except that once the day before, and I was extremely interested in all subjects he wanted to avoid. "What's it like in the Blue Ridge? Coon huntin\* and moonshine?".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..Topanga. The road isn't traveled much, there are no houses on it, and people don't like to get their cars.stars have whole platoons of karate-trained killers for protection. Jain needs only Stella. "Stella, pick me.about him. A real innocent. Delighted with everything new. It's sad about his back. Real sad." He handed.A sponge, or a freshwater hydra, or a flatworm, or a starfish can, any of them, be torn into parts and.She came forward, smiling.. "Why didn't you go to a hospital or something?" I asked, feeling enormous pity for the wretched boy..Then he showed her how a white light shining through it would break apart and fill her hands with all the colors she could think of..home. There, at the lintel over the cottage door, he would rub between his antlers till the hide on his.colors of the pigeons, the very pigeons, perhaps, that had inspired his so-called idea earlier that day. But.he, as our representative, had informed them they could shove it and that despite the Mediator's pleas.letting in the muffled roar of traffic on the Boulevard. I stuck my head out and looked, but it was three.I was disturbed by her vehemence and the implied criticism of Selene. "You don't know Selene is like that," I said in what I intended to be a soothing voice. "You've never met her.".You are thirteen, chasing a fox with the big kids for the first time. They have put you in the north field, the worst place, but you know better than to leave it.Why do we do it?.Lots of luck..we do. Wouldn't you think so?". "To a cafe called The Gallery.".The only man speaking was tall, thin, and grey. He wore a grey cape, grey gloves, grey boots, and his hair was grey. His voice sounded to Amos like wind over mouse fur, or sand ground into old velvet The only thing about him not grey was a large black trunk beside him, high as his shoulder. Several rough and grimy sailors with cutlasses sat at his table?they were so dirty they were no color at all!.spirit. Frankly speaking, you are selfish. And a

cheat." "When I couldn't get her to answer my knock last night, I went around to the window and looked in..expansion-contraction pumps with valves very like those in a human heart.Amos and Jack climbed long and hard through the evening. When darkness fell, at first they thought.Selene sent it out of reach with a swift kick of her left foot "You'll have to learn." combination of arena and spectators turns the dome into one sustaining organism. At first I misread it as.I am fortunate in that, unlike Hollywood, F&SF seems to be largely immune from trends. The magazine has a reputation for offering variety, and to uphold that image, it seems to me that it must carefully avoid trends and formulas in an effort to publish a balance of different types of fantasy and sf. And so we continue to look for good writing and fresh ideas and entertaining narratives, and once those general criteria are satisfied, we take on whatever seems to be pleasing our writers at the time. That's the best way I know of pleasing our leaders.. "Fever." Nolan gestured to Mama Dolores, and the old woman held Darlene still while he forced the..reappeared. He turned the other way; they whirled back..John Varley's first story for F&Sf was "Picnic on Nearside" in 1974. Since then, he has earned a reputation as one of sfs most exciting new storytellers through such work as "Retrograde Summer/\* "The Black Hole Passes," "In the Bowl" (Best from F&SF, 22nd series) and his first novel, Titan. This story was another Nebula award nominee..something moved inside it, and they saw it was the form of a lovely girl. It was Lea, who had appeared to.266.a zero. A few anaerobic bacteria, a patch of lichen, both barely distinguishable from Earth forms?" It's true. Critics tend to be an irritable lot Here are some examples..Martian exploration where the first expedition had left off and, incidentally, to recover the remains of the..somewhere between five-ten, when he called me, and six. It looked like Andrew Detweiler was innocent..This time Crawford was the last to know. He was called on the radio and found the group all.type (a football player now) and Dyan Cannon shrieked to great effect a couple of times..anything anyone said. The skit had been both essentially truthful and unjustifiably cruel. Too much..perfectly adapted, too ingenious to have just sprung up hi response to the environment" Her eyes seemed..hair, is so tall, with such eyes, and she will tell you, 'It is her own darling Amos.' And Hidalgo's word."Sure. Can you?".subscription for you; then I insist you have your meals with me, either out or cooked by me, until your..These people?they are snakes..".sake?hers and little Robbie's. Robert Emmett Nolan II, nine weeks old now, his son, whom he'd never..once. Except me."..Mission Commander, Mary Lang, the black woman he had seen inside the dome just before the blowout."Hi," said Barry, with masterful deference. \*Tm Barry Riordan." "Okay." I hold out my right hand..Science: Clone, Clone of My Own by Isaac Asimov..Rainbow..".enjoyed them so much I'd bought my own wetsuit But I didn't enjoy it nearly as much as I did Saturday..Columbine bit her lip, furrowed her brow, and evidenced, in general, a sudden change of heart. "God, Larry?you're right! Fve been kidding myself: the pageant isn't my problem?it's my excuse. My problem"?"her voice dropped, her eyes avoided his?"is timeless and well-known. I fell in love with the wrong man for me. And now it's too late. Would you like to hear a long story, Larry? A long and very unhappy story?".Baird Seartes..Nolan gestured quickly. "Get that engine started?we're going after her."..and who need not resemble each other any more than siblings usually do..of the ghastly facts of American education. Some defenses against this experience take the form of..She's shorter than I am, tiny and dark with curly chestnut hair. She's also proficient in any martial art I." I would certainly vote for you."..savings run out. To tell the truth, Fm kind of worried myself. Being a new Union, we don't have a strike..sung to the tune of "Home on the Range."..awake empty.."Right. And the little one keeps one face turned to the big one. The big one rotates once in."Oh my God," I whisper to the captain, "oh, oh my God."..skim it, at least"..people are not always fully conscious of them..].His first elation fizzled out and he was left with his usual flattened sense of personal inconsequence. Tucking the license into his ID folder, he felt like a complete charlatan, a nobody pretending to be a somebody. If-he'd scored in the first percentile, he'd have been issued this license the same as if he'd scored in the tenth. And he knew with a priori certainty that he hadn't done that well. The most he'd hoped for was another seven points, just enough to top him over the edge, into the sixth percentile. Instead he'd had dumb luck..The grey man was so happy he jumped from the trunk, turned a cartwheel, then fell to wheezing and coughing and had to be slapped on the back several times.."Smart thinking," said Venerate. "Now how do I get this game started?". "We'll never catch her then!" Nolan gripped Moises? shoulder. "Don't you understand? She's taken..label detached itself in transit; the letter was delivered. When the agent replied, Smith was watching and..tangles, pasted them onto letter envelopes, some of which he stacked loose; others he bundled together and secured with rubber bands. He opened the stacks and bundles and examined them at regular intervals. Some of the labels curled up and detached themselves after twenty-six hours without leaving any conspicuous trace. He made up another batch of these, typed his home address on six of them. On each of six envelopes he typed his office address, then covered it with one of the labels. He stamped the envelopes and dropped them into a mailbox. All six, minus their labels, were delivered to the office three days later..and Myrrh. But I'm here just as an ordinary citizen?a citizen who is doing his level best to try to..space firms. But I've got one marketable talent?what the interviewer called a peculiarly coordinative."And it said glumphvmr, and fuffle, and fulrmp," Amos told her..lived. He had been discovered about midnight when the people living below him had noticed dried blood..off. I know I'm a fine one to talk; I won't be cooped up in here. But the colony needs it We've all felt it..81.on Jack's face. He was leaning back in his chair, hands behind his head. Beside him stood Peg Spatola in..drawings and notes..loud sob reached our ears. Another. We turned away and slowly descended the successive stages to the..There was a silence, then it was ripped apart by Lang?s huge laugh. She was joined by the others..,He grinned and shuffled the cards. "North Carolina. Back in the Blue Ridge."..By the end of July he had refined and miniaturized the device and had extended its sensitivity range into the infrared. He spent most of August, when he should have been on vacation, trying various methods of detecting sound through the device. By focusing on the interior of a speaker's larynx and using infrared, he was able to convert the visible vibrations of the vocal cords into sound of fair quality, but that did not satisfy

him. He worked for a while on vibrations picked up from panes of glass in windows and on framed pictures, and he experimented briefly with the diaphragms in speaker systems, intercoms and telephones. He kept on into October without stopping and finally achieved a system that would give tinny but recognizable sound from any vibrating surface—a wall, a floor, even the speaker's own cheek or forehead.. "Right. Get on that. Since we're sleeping in it until we can find out what we can do on the ground, we'd best be sure it's safe. Meantime, well all sleep in our suits." There were helpless groans at this, but no protests. McKillian and Ralston headed for the pile of salvaged equipment, hoping to rescue enough to get started on their analyses. Song knelt again and started digging around one of the ten-centimeter spikes..both hands, but the muzzle didn't waver. Stella fired once; the slug tore the guts out of a parked."Yes. It's all over.".Call him Smith. He was the president of a company that bore his name and which held more than a here. And since it is so dull, I thought I would keep you company.".Now, months later, I remember it and my skin again goes warm. "Get out of here," I say to the lads. "I'm trying to concentrate." They look irritated, but they leave.."Help me push them back in the closet," said the grey man. "They're so bright that if I look at them

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