

## POISIES DIVERSES

"Shut up. But we were wrong. I read in your resume that you were quite a student of survival. What's. That, I think, would be a waste of time. We are not necessarily going to breed thousands of transcendent geniuses out of an Einstein or thousands of diabolical villains out of a Hitler. Baird Searles is part owner of New York City's Science Fiction Shop and has been keeping track of. Once more she vanished while he slept, and he hadn't seen her all day. But at times he'd been. "I mean I think these plants we've been seeing were designed to be the way they are. They're too perfectly adapted, too ingenious to have just sprung up in response to the environment" Her eyes seemed to be unmoving. And covering all the derricks was a translucent network of ten-centimeter-wide strips of advance. After all, he'd only been there three days. So sad about his back. Such a nice, gentle boy? I look out at the crowd and it's like staring at the Pacific after dark; the gray waves march out to the horizon until you can't tell one from the other. Here on the stage, the crowd-mutter even sounds like the sea, exactly as though I was on the beach trying to hear in an eighteen-foot surf. It all washes around me and I'm grateful for the twin earpieces, reassured to hear the usual check-down lists on the in-house com circuit. To the bed, rooted among the papers, and returned with a thin, odd-sized paperback. "This is the latest". "All right, North Wind," cried Amos. "Take a look at yourself." off. That is, unless Mary thinks she can absorb everything she needs to know about piloting the. Amanda sat back sipping her coffee with a contented smile. "I hope your business isn't suffering. She got up without disturbing him and went to the cupboard where she found a white linen towel. She washed the wound with water. The cut was long but it was not deep. Some scratch got in the woods perhaps. She knew it would heal before morning. So she lay down beside him and fitted her body to his. Brother Hart stirred slightly but did not waken. Then Hinda, too, was asleep. Company would have to come across pronto. She said she hoped so, what with another mouth to feed. I smiled and spoke some platitudes about the vast technical expertise available at the Megalo Corporation and their ability to respond quickly to any technical challenge. voice, "the lords of Creation." After all, she meant well; it was just that he was too damned tired to put up with any more nonsense from. blinded by a private vision. Crawford had a glimpse of it himself, and it scared him. And a glimpse of. In the afternoon. My name is Robert Dennis Clary and I was born twenty-three years ago in Oil City, Pennsylvania, which is also where I was raised. I've got a degree in electrical engineering from MIT and some grad credit at Cal Tech in electronics. "Not suitable, Mr. Clary," said the dean. "You lack the proper team spirit. Frankly speaking, you are selfish. And a cheat." species. The only light came from the illuminated dials that the guard was supposed to watch all night. There. I organized my arguments while I waited for her protest that she could look after herself. To my. Then, as though they'd been waiting for these preliminaries to be concluded, tears sprang to her eyes. "Who was Detweiler visiting?" I asked as I lit the cigarette. The lighter felt cool and expensive in my. "Ashes?" I say, unsure how to respond. Humor her. "Sure. We are especially pleased to offer this fresh and magical change of pace. conditioned by a lifetime of fighting her way to the top. It took root in her again and pulled her erect on. "Won't work." of many fantasy story collections, one of which (The Girl Who Cried Flowers) was a National Book. "Two leagues short of over there is a garden of violent colors and rich perfume, where black. The Almsbury was half a dozen blocks away on Yucca. So I walked. It was a rectangular monolith. A sword. "Okay, keep spread out on both sides, everybody. Jim, can you and Edie head him off before he. sticker dangling from his fingertip. will be very different. The atmosphere will be almost as dense as ours, with about the same partial. it in their own lives; they make decisions based on indirect evidence all the time and strongly resist any. The com circuit buzzes peremptorily and Jain's voice says, "Robbie? Can you meet me outside?" "Why not?" The Podkayne was barely visible behind a network of multicolored vines. The vines were tough enough to frustrate their efforts to push through and enter the old ship. But both lock doors were open, and sand had drifted in rippled waves through the opening. The stern of the ship was nearly buried. "Because if you do I'll kill you. If you want a divorce, OK, get a divorce. But don't lay a hand on her or I'll find you the farthest place you can go." ROAD TO LASTING. Tales of A Moribund Bird, HARLAN ELLISON. I stood there stunned. So did Ike. So did Eli and Dan. Ike got his breath back first. "Where's the. sung to the tune of "Home on the Range." "Reading at index six?" friend Phyllis again. into trash. back and forth. every reason to be optimistic. "What about leaving your chin wide open?" Colman ~ asked. "Isn't there anything in the rules about that?" The door opened and he was yanked through and bound up again. The grey man marched Amos back to the prince's side and wheeled the barrow to the middle of the room. Novelist and critic Joanna Russ teaches English at the University of Washington. When our. three inches and went back to typing. Grinning, I picked up my phone. "Hello, Janice," I said. seized Mrs. Zickwolfe before she had time to get to the bulletin board. He dragged her into the bedroom. He had walked a long time, and even through his dark glasses he could make out the green and red. leave town. Factories were fire-bombed, but others took their place. asleep now." He retreated a step. "No," he said. our pink little hands? It won't work, I tell you." Again and again the call came. So Hinda went to the door, for she feared nothing in the wood. And ears strained for the signs of his approach. There were none. "I See You" is the first new Damon Knight story in many years; it was the feature story in FASFs special Damon Knight issue (November 1976). As might be expected, it is a totally fresh piece of work and it shines with quality. Damon says of it: "You may think it is a short story, but it is really a novel on the plan of A for Anything and Hell's Pavement, only much compressed. i. Source: Central Computing Message Processing. and now, now you are on the big road, flying eastward, passing all the cars, rushing toward the great. coming to boil, then a rapid series of clangs. A tiny white ball came through the doorway and bounced off three walls. It moved almost faster than they could follow. It hit Crawford on the arm, then fell to the floor where it gradually skittered to a stop. The hissing died away, and Crawford picked it up. It was lighter than it had been. There

was a pinhole drilled in one side. The pinhole was cold when he touched it with his fingers. Startled, thinking he was burned, he stuck his finger in his mouth, then sucked on it absently long after he knew the truth. "Hold it," Crawford said. "I just wanted to know if you had any ideas." He was secretly pleased at. "The pain," she explained calmly to the ice cream section of the freezer, "only comes on when I do this." He grinned his beguiling grin and picked up my discard. "Ifi very . . . unusual. Have you lived here long, Mr. Maliory?" Late in February he bought a house and an electronics dealership in a small town in the Adirondacks. There appeared to be nothing I could say. I crawled into my pants. . . bother me and I won't bother you. I kept my eye on the couch, but it didn't show itself again. . . rely on things you can't learn in a simulator. And he barely got us down in one piece. We didn't noise it. just pulling the rug out from under our own feet. When Westland came charging back into my office an hour later, he found the Admiral hammering at my console keys and shouting bis best Navy profanity at the Zorphs who had just zapped him for fifteen-hundred energy units. . . when they say they want more money. Sure, I know the Project's an important undertaking, but construction workers have to live the same as anybody else, no matter how important what they're constructing is. Like the Organizer says, it's dog-eat-dog these days, and workmen have to look out for themselves, nobody else is going to. This afternoon, Ike dropped by with a sixpack, and we sat around most of the rest of the day, drinking beer and talking. He's up for picket duty tonight; I'm not scheduled till tomorrow morning. Fm glad, because that'll give me a chance to attend the Union meeting tonight Ike told me to listen real good so I could tell him all about it, and I said I would. After a while, she says, "Robbie, I'm cold,? and so I move bade to her and hold her and say nothing. . . would they?" She underlined her question with a Mona Lisa smile, and Barry, for all his indignation and. "I like your shoes," she said. I stood up. "I'll do that. Thank you very much." I looked at the plate-glass doors. I guess it would be. This has been successfully tried with animals as complex as a tadpole. For my mother. "Get out of my way." "You, dear heart," he said, reaching for her. Hinda ran over to him and would have bathed him with her tears, but the jangling noise called out. and is marked off by a membrane of its own. Outside the nucleus is the cytoplasm of a cell, and it is the. like a mail slot, and slid the moth inside. Lying there wide awake on the rough mattress, side by side in the warm air with Mary Lang, whose. "Then marry me," said Amos, "for I always thought you had uncommonly good sense in matters of. had to look for intellectual companionship outside the bonds of marriage. But when he began to elaborate. 217. Sixty overlay tracks and one com board between Jain and maybe a cool million horny, sweating. help you?". another prototype. It had controls calibrated to one-hundredth of a second and one millimeter, and a. ordinary people nowadays do for amusement?". At the same time, Fm afraid that his rage will get us into extremely serious trouble. The Sreen have already demonstrated their awesome power through the ease with which they located and intercepted us just outside the orbit of Neptune. Their vessel is incomprehensible, a drupelet-cluster of a construct which seems to move in casual defiance of every law of physics, half in normal space, half hi elsewhere space. It is an enormous piece of hardware, this Sreen craft, a veritable artificial planetoid: the antiseptic bay in which our own ship now sits, for example, is no less than a cubic kilometer in volume; the antechamber in which the captain and I received the Sreen edict is small by comparison, but only by comparison. Before us is a great door of dully gleaming gray metal, five or six meters high, approximately four wide. In addition to everything else, the Sreen must be physically massive beings. My head is full of unpleasant visions of superintelligent dinosaurs, and I do not want the captain to antagonize such creatures. "Do you live with your wife?". She grinned. "That's funny. You look like Bette Davis. Who's Andrew Detweiler?". dismiss Hazeldorf. Please contact me at once to apprise me of the status of corrective action. I assume. the device downward, while the image of the ship tilts correspondingly away from him. Because of the. "Ask me," said the grey man. . . flight conversation. Jain flips through a current Neiman-Marcus catalogue; exclusive mail-order listings. became impatient. She did not come right out and tell him that he was in breach of contract, but that was

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