

## THE BLINDNESS OF VIRTUE

"You're prejudiced" Nolan grinned, but he was flattered. And when the tiny pink starshell of a hand. What the woman was saying was of a character to suggest that she had just that minute gone crazy. "The pain," she explained calmly to the ice cream section of the freezer, "only comes on when I do this." She stooped closer to the ice cream and winced. "But then it's pure hell. I want to cut my leg off, have a lobotomy, anything to make it stop. Yet I know the problem isn't in my leg at all. It's in my back. Here." She touched the small of her back. "A kind of short circuit Worse than bending over is twisting sideways. Even turning my head can set it off. Sometimes, when I'm alone, I'll start crying just at the thought of it, at knowing I've become so damned superannuated." She sighed. "Well, it happens to everyone, and I suppose it could be worse. There's no use complaining. Life goes on, as they say." She sat down close to him and whispered into his ear, "If anyone, such as Freddy, for instance, should happen to ask what we were talking about, say it was the New Woolly Look, okay?" incident. "Almost we do not make it," he said. "The motor is bad. No matter, it is good to be home again." "Never once," she went on fiercely, ignoring his supportiveness. "It's always Miss Massachusetts, or I came out of the post-coital lassitude to realize my nerves were not cauterized after all. They recognized that the room was chilling. you to take her shopping for a gift." She blew me a theatrical kiss and disappeared inside. get" Jain had said in New Orleans when we found out Denver "was booked. 861's. Everyone here in Headquarters is too excited about the prospect of selling that kind of hardware. We played gin the rest of the afternoon and talked-talked a lot Detweiler seemed eager to talk or, at A: Simak, Sohl, Spinrad and Sturgeon. These people? they are snakes." always survived: by staying warm, by eating, by drinking. To that list we have to add 'by breathing. ? Lucius McGonaghal Sloe," which begins: I tell her, "Repeat, please." And for six months, nothing really new cropped up among the whirligigs. Song was not surprised. She said it supported her theory that these plants were there only as caretakers to prepare the way for the less hardy, air-breathing varieties to come. They would warm the soil and bring the water closer to the surface, then disappear when their function was over. "Thank you, Dr. Kolodny," Barry said, lingering in the doorway of the cubicle. "Thanks terrifically." "The verdict will probably end up accidental death. Everybody's bonded. Jain was insured for." No need to sugar-coat it I know it as well as anyone. But even a billion to one shot is better than nothing. I take it they think Crawford is right, that survival is at least theoretically possible?" "No ideas. If other people have ideas, I can bounce off them well enough, but all by itself my mind's a blank. I envy people like you who are able to start talking out of the blue." female line, then the male ... a teacher of biology in Boston, a suffragette, a corn merchant, a singer, a. "That's what I want to do in the morning," Song said. "Unless Mary will let us take a look tonight?" Miss Ohio, who can't do any-tiling but play a damn jew's-harp, if you'll excuse my language, or Miss. afternoon, you'd better go to sleep right now." "Oh, yes." She sighed. "It's so unfair for such a beautiful young man to have a physical impairment." Subject: Zorphwar Contract. center of the screen: a thing like a hairy beetle, its body covered with thick black hairs or spines; it stands. attend the Union meeting tonight Ike told me to listen real good so I could tell him all about it, and I said I. "Don't I get a chance to rest?" asked Amos. "I have been climbing up and down mountains all night." under the proper circumstances. below, Dr. Asimov takes up the subject with his customary energy and intelligence. Imagine, if had come and they were once again at anchor beside the dock. Moises grinned at him in weary triumph. grape-sized white balls, very hard and fairly heavy. The second discovery was made by Lucy McKillian. essentially neutral area. But if "politics" means the relations of power that obtain between groups of oscillating from bell to fade-out." "We were suiting up when you got here. It takes about half an hour; so we couldn't get out hi time to meet you." standing in his underwear. Then he climbed over the edge of the boat into the swamp. He was so bright. an old wound, crusted but clean. The slash on the right was new, and from it blood still dripped. their next conversational destination. Barry found himself sitting next to a girl in a red velvet evening dress. Nolan stood by the window watching as Nina moved away across the clearing. For a moment she turned hi a path of moonlight and looked back at him? only a moment, but long enough for Nolan to see the livid fury blazing in her eyes. He fell again, forward onto the couch, blacking out from pain. "Are you really the North Wind?" Amos asked. And the hate was in his head, too. God, that ugly face! Like the thing in mythology? what was it?? the. Nolan blinked as he recognized her standing there and staring up at him. There was no mistaking the look on her face or its urgency, but he had no time to waste hi words. Brushing past her, he hastened to the doorway and she melted back into the night. frustration to both groups. There was a great deal of irony hi having two such powerful ships so close to. With only a week left till his temporary license expired, Barry abandoned all hope and all shame and went back to Partyland with fifteen hundred dollars in cash, obtained from Beneficial Finance. "Most of 'em." Brother Hart by Jane Yolen 185. piece is on the top of a windy mountain so high the North Wind lives in a cave there." "He's heading up past the corncrib!" Now Jack said, "To the top of the mountain where there is a piece of a mirror." the water. But for those with conventional pets we should mention, together and secured with rubber bands. He opened the stacks and bundles and examined them at. "We'll see, won't we?" For instance, suppose you wanted one hundred Isaac Asimovs so that the supply of F&SF essays. I gave her a suspicious frown, got up, and walked over to the bathroom door. I turned around, He stayed all the day with her and taught her words she had never known. He drew pictures in the. she had the mumps? I started to frown. It hurt hellishly. There seemed to be silver wrapped around the edges of my vision. Next year I'm supposed to start full-time." So the grey man turned to one of his sailors and said, "You know where you can get him such a suit." "You've got to name it after me," he said as they hurried back to the garden. "That's my right, isn't it, as the discoverer?" nearest and dearest friend and me. It will be well worth someone's while." "Don't think of them as ideas then, think of them as questions. ? Beagle's case) the nostalgic wistfulness which

belongs to fantasy per se rather than the publisher's. The MacKinnons were not in their blue settee, and neither Freddy the usher nor Madge of the green. "Who, senor?" I became aware of the wind. It was blowing steadily up from the south. I could smell the sea in it. The Project swayed, ever so slightly. But that was all right. The engineers had allowed for the wind. I'd felt it sway lots of tunes, and I was no stranger to the wind. The Organizer had the minutes of the meeting Xeroxed and distributed them among the members. I. Hinda was sitting on a low straw bed, and beside her, his head in her lap, lay a man. The man was slim and naked and dark. His hair was long and straight and came to his shoulders. The hunter could. Detweiler moaned and came to. He rose from the couch, still groggy. He saw the thing, and a look of. back his head, thrusts out his jaw. "Who wants to know?". She picked up the pad. "I wanted to give you your calls." though. As I paddled around, I felt my muscles relax and a drowsy lassitude flow through me. "About as far as you can get without comin\* out the other side. Did you know most of the people never heard of television or movies. balloon. When the arena's full, the body heat from the audience keeps the dome aloft, and the arena crew turns off the blowers.. ran her hand lovingly over the gossamer wall, the wall that had provided her and her fellow colonists and. 2. A poem in the form of a Christmas-shopping list.. materials that were supposed to enable the poly furnishings to match their owner's personality and moods. Maurice Milian was still listed as 407. I took the elevator to four and rang the bell of 409. The bell played a few notes of Bach, or maybe Vivaldi or Telemann. All those old Baroques sound alike to. Using the tracer, an entomologist in Mexico City is following the ancestral line of a honey bee. The. Amos himself was well aware how long he would have hesitated had the question been asked of him.. Amos and Jack climbed long and hard through the evening. When darkness fell, at first they thought they would have to stop, but the clear stars made a mist over the jagged rocks, and a little later the moon rose. After that it was much easier going. Shortly the wind began. First a breeze merely tugged at their collars. Then rougher gusts began to nip their fingers. At last buffets of wind flattened them against the rock one moment, then tried to jerk them loose the next. The rope was very useful indeed, and neither one complained. They simply went on climbing, steadily through the hours. Once Jack paused a moment to look back over his shoulder at the silver sea and said something which Amos couldn't hear.. brown haunch, brown body and head. The horns shriveled and fell to the ground. Only her eyes remained the same.. poked holes in the bottom." close and dark, filled with the musk of deer.. "Brethren," he said in that rich resonant voice of his, and instantly he had everybody's complete attention. It's no wonder we jumped at the chance to have him represent us at the bargaining table when he so generously offered to.. He surmounted the second stage. The third. Ike and I stayed right behind him. The fourth. The fifth. We were high now. Looking down over my left shoulder, I could see the diminutive dwellings of the city and the minuscule mud huts of the suburbs. Looking down over my right, I could see the Plain, with its myriad fields of millet and barley and its sparkling irrigation ditches. In the distance the easternmost of. have lunch with me, but for heaven's sake get out of that circus tent before I get another headache." You should have insisted on dinner last night. Playing hostess for the Senator. "Did you see her?". for a moment, looking up to the ceiling where the airberries? white spheres about the size of bowling. "Mallory," I said out loud, "you're cracking up." The meeting started out with everybody shouting and talking at once; then the Organizer showed up, and everybody quieted down. He climbed up on the platform, in that casual way he has, and stood there looking down at us with his big golden eyes, his face glowing as it always does at such times, as though there's a light inside him shining through his pores.. ? Al Sarrantonio. Neither of them bothered to answer that. The radio hi the nose sputtered, then clanged for their attention. Crawford looked over at Lang, who made no move to go answer it. He stood up and swarmed up the ladder to sit in the copilot's chair. He switched on the receiver.. safety features. They now slept in a pressurized building inside the dome, and one of them stayed awake. more and more, that he was keeping score and the old fart was being tested, an attitude that did not bode well. Finally, with ten minutes left on the clock, he'd just up and left, which was not, strictly speaking, a violation. It did imply that some kind of closure had been achieved, which definitely was not the case; he'd panicked, pure and simple. A fiasco from which he'd naturally feared the worst in the form of a letter addressed to Dear Applicant. ("We regret to inform you, etc. . .") But possibly the old fart had been making things deliberately difficult, testing him, possibly his reactions hadn't been that entirely inappropriate. Possibly he'd passed.. "Commander Lang?". to be the site of the most glittering premieres. They even had the Oscar ceremonies there for 8 while.

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