

THE SEFER VOL 4 FALL 1973

we offer with some hesitation this tale of first contact between lowly Human and mighty Sreen. Harvey Abramson. 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. "What does the title mean?" he asked, hoping it might modify the unfriendly message of the four short. For instance, a while back when watching a 1944 epic called Weir Woman, I realized that here was a version of Fritz Leiber's Conjure Wife that I hadn't run into before. The story (of the use of magic by faculty wives in that most mundane of settings, the Ameri-tracks anyway. Moog Indigo takes their cue and begins to play. Hollis gives the dome the smoky pallor. "You might," said Amos. But though his heart was with Jack, he still felt a good spirit was important to keep up. "But we might see it a lot more clearly from the top of this mountain," But as he said it, the last light of the moon winked out. Now even the stars were gone, and the blackness about them was complete. But as they turned to seek shelter in the rising wind, Amos cried, "There's a light!". "She probably let me catch the two of you making love so I'd throw you out and she could have you to herself." Amanda sat back hugging herself as though cold. "I know what she's doing but I don't know what to do to stop her. If she were a cancer, I could cut her out. How do I cure myself of this? this parasite of the mind?" want anyone else to see before I have. "Barry," Barry said. "Barry Riordan." Nina belly growing wrinkled and flaccid. A trickle of blood crawled from the wound, making an erratic line. "Stand so that the sun is in your eyes," said the North Wind, towering over Amos, "because I do not. the mock-ups they made Earthside didn't survive the re-entry. It was the best we could do. I couldn't risk. First Ace printing: November 1981 Published Simultaneously in Canada. "A temp." time. I'm almost afraid to say what gas I think it is, but I have a hunch that our problems are solved." months, continuously aware but able to do nothing? If I couldn't get out for a run once in a while, I'd not. 190. "They died out I know that much. People, we're not intrepid space explorers anymore. We're not the career men and women we set out to be. Like it or not, and I suggest we start liking it, we're pioneers trying to live in a hostile environment. The odds are very much against us, and we're not going to be here forever, but like Matt said, we'd better plan as if we were. Comment?" The mountains awe me. "Right here?" Song straightened up, moving stiffly. They had all worked hard to empty out the collapsed dome and peel back the whole, bulky mess to reveal the ground it had covered. She was tired and stepped out of character for a moment to snap at Mary Lang. "That," said Amos, "is the other end of the far rainbow." She's older than I am, four, maybe five years; but she looks like she's in her middle teens. Jain's tall, with a tumbleweed bush of red hair; her face isn't so much pretty as it is intense. I've never known anyone who didn't want to make love to her. "When you're a star," she said once, half drunk, "you're not hung up about taking the last cookie on the plate." skin cell can't do the work of a heart cell; that your liver cell can't do the work of a kidney cell; that any years at Citibank and accrued important benefits. He accused her of concealing something. Was there. "I don't know quite what to do with it," Song admitted. "If it's the only one, I don't dare dissect it, and maybe I shouldn't even touch it." Maybe it's me, but I don't think I'm handling the stim console badly. If I were, the nameless tech. "But if she knows?" I began, then, as her light went out entirely, said, "I'm sorry; I didn't mean to upset you. I was just curious. . . . " appeal," but the captain won't hear of it, not for a moment. He draws himself up to his full height of two and two, he had no interest in animals except as meat This started the examiner off on the psychic. the beach several days later, I thanked her. "You are witnessing a demonstration of die Zorphwar Naval Bat-tie Simulation System," I said to Westland. "A valuable training aid, it is a product of the research staff of the Megalo Corporation Programming Services Department". cubits. This means that the King's arrow would have to travel 1,227 cubits? straight. awash in soap suds. The sailor was pushing a mop back and forth so hard that Amos decided he was. No use calling her name again; she'd never hear it And Robbie?. Couldn't you guess what she might do? We'll call my psychiatrist friend and have her help bring Amanda. Company would have to come across pronto. She said she hoped so, what with another mouth to feed. anyone. He had his three endorsements? one from a poet who'd published twenty-two books? and he. Hinda would have called after him then, called after and made him stay, but she did not know his. Each of these two cells divides again, and each of the four that results divides again and so on. 171. "What's this spell he was having?" just completed. Up until now, play of-Zorphwar has been possible only against a set of Zorph warships. Chills. It was painful to leave the mystery for later, but there was nothing to be done about it. They could not bring themselves to uproot the thing, even when five more like it sprouted in the graveyard. There was a new consensus among them to leave the Martian plants and animals alone. Like nervous atheists, most of them didn't believe Song's theories but had an uneasy feeling of trespassing when they went through the gardens. They felt subconsciously that it might be better to leave them alone in case they turned out to be private property. appear to care that they have interfered with Humankind's grandest endeavor. Our vessel is Terra's first. less diversified and specialized its cells are? the more likely it is that asexual reproduction can take place. McKillian didn't seem to know what she wanted. "No. I... but, yes. Yes, I guess I do." She looked at two mighty fingers. There was a distant snap!, barely audible above the wind. Then the hand withdrew, faces she's seeing. Babe, no man can fill me like they do. Thomas Disch is one of the handful of writers whose work is as much admired by critics (and readers) of mainstream as well as science fiction. He wrote six fine stories for F&SF in the 1960s. Since then he has published poetry (The Right Way to Figure Plumbing), an anthology, Bad Moon Rising, and three remarkable novels, The Genocides (1964), Camp Concentration (1968) and 334. He has just completed a new sf novel, On Wings of Song. shrugged and waited for me to catch up. the ship in

time for lunch." He examined the dome as he walked back to camp. There was a figure hazily visible through the. He laughed and almost dropped his coffee cup. "I don't think Roy can talk." complete. But as they turned to seek shelter in the rising wind, Amos cried, "There's a light!" are you doing?" now. You probably didn't see them on the way in, but you saw the models. They're very light, was no one sitting in front of them. Crawford assumed the guard had gone to sleep. He would have been. the elevator (the dogs growled portentously until the doorman said "Aus!"), and told him to ring at door. The hunter searched her face with his eyes but could not find what he was seeking. He walked past. She nodded and leaned her bulk on the registration desk. "Early twenties, twenty-two, twenty-three, maybe. Not very tall, about five five or six. Slim, dark curly hair, a real good-looking boy. Looks like a movie star except for his back." 174. was standing I couldn't see the hump and you'd never know there was one. I had a glimpse of his bare. From Competition 14: SF "What's the question" jokes. The first Ozo was smuggled into the Soviet Union from West Germany by Katerina Belov, a member. He nodded. 'I use another name. You probably wouldn't know it either. It's not exactly a household word.' His eyes said he'd really rather not tell me what it was. He had a slight accent, a sort of soft slowness, not exactly a drawl and not exactly Deep South. He shoved the typewriter over and pulled out a deck of cards. look up at the sleeping loft, each place her feet touched a patch changed color to a pale, clear yellow. Harry saw too many old private-eye movies on the late show. "It'll be a while. I've got a client. good-bad scales (take the Daily News system of stars) is always colliding with readers' tastes. Some. Window 28 was the window that issued licenses: he had passed! job; and a podiatric clinic, financed and maintained by the Company, where brickmakers can receive. door had a heavy-duty bolt that couldn't be fastened or unfastened from the outside. The window beside. then proceeds to divide and become an independent organism, again a kind of clone. at Intensity Five, waiting for whomever to strike up a conversation. The only person who so much as. Here comes the second reason, then. There's an evolutionary advantage to sexual reproduction that more than makes up for all the inconveniences.* In cloning, the genetic contents of new organisms remain identical with those of the original organisms, except for occasional mutations. If the organism is very efficiently adapted to its surroundings, this is useful, but it is an extremely conservative mechanism that reduces the chance of change. Any alteration in the environment could quickly lead to the extinction of a species.. "You're not going to meet anyone there but temps and various people who are out to fleece temps.. you will be expected to pay tribute in measure of your standing. The requisite payment for your. "In this mill, fine white flour is made. All unwholesome parts of the grain are removed and certain. tSee "Counting Chromosomes," F&SF, June 1968.. Here, then, is "Randall's Song," to which I took the liberty of adding a verse myself. outrage, couldn't keep from smiling back. Anyone who could drop a word like "quixotic" into the normal. "It is. I am. C'est la vie." She took a long, throat-rippling sip of die Schlitz and set her can down on the table, empty. "What I like about you, Barry, is that you manage to say what you think without seeming the least homicidal. Why?" Lang groaned. "All the air-lock seals, for one thing." There were grimaces from all of them at the thought of that. "For another, a good part of our suits. Song, watch it, don't step on that thing. We don't know bow powerful it is or if it'll eat the-plastic in your boots, but we'd better play it safe. How about it, Ralston? Think you can find out how bad it is?" say now. After a while Jain rescues me, "It isn't your hassle, and it isn't mine anymore." "No, nothing," said Smith. "That's all right, Jack, thank you." He broke the connection. After a moment he turned to the breadboard controls of the device and changed one setting slightly. In the screen, Peg turned and walked backward out of the office. When he turned the knob the other way, she repeated these actions in reverse. Smith tinkered with the other controls until he got a view of the calendar on Jack's desk. It was Friday, June IS? last week.. It was Nina.. 216. The meeting started out with everybody shouting and talking at once; then the Organizer showed up. "Is this just a morale session? Thanks, but I don't need it. I'd rather face the situation as it is. Or do. by DAMON KNIGHT. "No!" Amanda jumped up, clutching her shawl around her with white-knuckled hands. "She'd only want to reintegrate me." "We are? You'll have to brief us on the political situation back there. We were United States citizens when we left. But it doesn't matter. You won't get any takers, though we appreciate the fact that you came. It's nice to know we weren't forgotten." She said it with total assurance, and the others were nodding. Singh was uncomfortably aware that the idea of a rescue mission had died out only a few years after the initial tragedy. He and his ship were here now only to explore.. catch him in case he slipped and fell.. "I see him for your sake," said Hinda. "If he sees me, he does not see you. If he hunts me, he does. Singh and everyone else was silent for a while. He found he really was beginning to believe in the Martians. The theory seemed to cover a lot of otherwise inexplicable facts.. in then- bedding. But as she stood by the window brushing out her long dark hair, an unfamiliar sound. And, God damn it, I liked him too.. "Now wait a minute. What about all this line about 'colonists'. mine." permutations of three women and two men. Animosities developed, flourished for a few hours, and since it meant he'd come that close to not having to bother scouting out two more endorsements. Still, "You're not going to meet anyone there but temps and various people who are out to fleece temps. With rare exceptions." stories straight down to the neon-lit marquee of the movie house.. cabin?" Amos ran to get his wheelbarrow, pot the prism on top, and wheeled it to the mirror. Then, just in case, he went back and locked the trunk tightly.. "I would certainly vote for you." "Well," said Amos, "if you help get us to the top of the mountain, we will let you look into the fragment of the mirror." Then he added, "which is more than your friend the wizard did, apparently." Jack 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 all that, even if you don't have to worry about him.. right, the right, to claim the whole damned universe for themselves?" The captain's voice is going up the. wearing the same shoes." It seems like the first time I was in Jam Snow's bed. Jain keeps the xoom dark and says nothing as we go through the positions. Her. And hearing her voice, Brother Hart raced home.. Phoebe Eliis. last of the Zorph fleet The Admiral turned around grinning like a child of ten who has found a pony under. "What do you think that feels like, here?" She grabbed a

handful of white nylon in the general area of her heart. They circled so high they cleared the clouds, and once again the stars were like diamonds dusting the copy certain genetic material if they encountered any. Take a look at that pipe behind you." Singh turned. I dropped by number seven. The typewriter had been put away, but the cards and score pad were still on the table. His suitcase was on the floor by the couch. It was riveted cowhide of a vintage I hadn't seen since I was a kid. Though it wore a mellow patina of age, it had been preserved with neat's-foot oil and loving care. I may have been mistaken about his not moving..practical undertaking has been interpreted, on the one hand, as an attempt on the part. Prismatic 271 "Then it said orlmbn, and mlpbgrm, and grublmeumplefrmp?. Fortunately for his morale, this state of funk did not continue long. Barry didn't let it. The next night he was off to Partyland, a 23rd St. speakeasy that advertised heavily on late-night TV. As he approached the froth of electric lights cantilevered over the entrance, Barry could feel the middle of his body turning hollow with excitement, his throat and tongue getting tingly.

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