

3 LITTLE THINGS

2. A poem in the form of a Christmas-shopping list..like the coils of a giant constrictor. She spoke of forked tongues, of voices hissing forth from mouths."Would you kill for me?".nauseating. Polys were appropriate for Amanda, though. They could suit both her and her alter ego and.I laugh and pull her close..get" Jain had said in New Orleans when we found out Denver "was booked..Some people have no poetry in their souls," Mary said..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 elsewherepace. 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..51-52).writer."know?".Smith got his consignment of Ozos early in the week, took one home and left it to his store manager.over Jain's shoulder. "Which?".swamp..I'm standing here, trying to be friendly," said Amos. "I was told there was nothing of interest down here. And since it is so dull, I thought I would keep you company."..Just after New Year's, he told his partner that he wanted to sell out and retire. They discussed it in.It had been a mistake, he realized that now, but Darlene would never understand. Sitting there safe and snug in the apartment in Trenton, she couldn't begin to know what he'd gone through for her sake?hers and Utle Robbie's. Robert Emmett Nolan n, nine weeks.entreaty. Her hands reached out?.that they might fail..was to come and let me know, quick..a box number at the Hollywood post office. The title of the story was "Deathsong." I wished I'd had time.She consulted a file card. "He checked in last Friday night The 22nd. Six days."..Suddenly Amos felt his eyes grow heavy, his head grow light, and he slipped down in his chair.."No kidding. You can make a living by being a poet?".To Your Broadcast Bodies, Get Yourselves, PHILIP JOSE FARMER."I'm Barry Riordan," he managed to bring out, tardily..Ed took out his ID folder, took his license from the folder, tickled the edge of the endorsement.Nocturnal and Diurnal Animals, ROGER ZELAZNY R Is for Spaceship, RAY BRADBURY The Tin Men Go to Sleep, ISAAC ASIMOV All Animals Are Vegetables, CLIFFORD SIMAK."I didn't tell you that. We pulled the dome back and found spikes. It was your inference that they poked holes in the bottom."..recognized that the room was chilling..by DAMON KNIGHT.long," said Amos. "Anyway, I don't think it's fair of our grey friend to get your mirror with your map. You.Though he minded, he hadn't the gumption to say so. "I don't remember. Not a lot. They're really nothing special."..He smiled at her. "No, honey, but maybe there's some hi the ship." She seemed satisfied. She would wait to experience the wonders of Earthly science..VII.Westland stood there with his lower jaw down around his ankles watching Venerate polish off the last of the Zorph fleet The Admiral turned around grinning like a child of ten who has found a pony under the Christmas tree. "That is what I call action!" he cried..They triggered them to be activated only when they encountered certain different conditions. Maybe they knew exactly what it would be; maybe they only provided for a likely range of possibilities. Song thinks they've visited us, back in the Stone Age. In some ways it's easier to believe than the alternative. That way they'd know our genetic structure and what lands of food we'd eat, and could prepare..absolute grief appeared on his face..shines like a silver-gray stream. Yon press the knob down to get closer, and drop with a giddy swoop;..He turned to Westland. "How come you dunderheads didn't show me this right off?" he demanded,.."Look at it, Matt. Really look at it." So he did, feeling foolish, wondering what the joke was. He noticed a white patch near the top of the largest globe. It was streaked, like a glass marble with swirls of opaque material hi it. It looked very familiar, he realized, with the hair on the back of his neck starting to stand up.."I am a good singer. I can tap dance like a house on fire. My balcony scene would break your heart. And I can say objectively that Fve got better legs than anyone except, possibly, Miss Wyoming."..He looked at me, trusting me. "They're pretty superstitious back in there, you know. Thought I was . . .ahead..would check in every couple of hours to find out if the slinky blonde looking for her kid sister had shown.I thought you like to sleep late," I said..up the walls, but as she walked from the kitchen, across the lounge area to the fireplace, and turned to.Mission Commander, Mary Lang, the black woman he had seen inside the dome just before the blowout.?Barry N. Malzberg.24.responding. This time she was through the door almost before the reverberations had died down, leaving..less."..branching stairways spreading up and out from the ground-level entrance unit. There were the grottoes.enslave all planets in their path. You, as Captain of the Avenger, the great Terran warship, will."But what about the food? Surely it's too much to expect for these Martians to eat the same things."But we're middlemen, you see. We have only limited flexibility in the terms we can offer. Say, fifteen hundred."..They're probably from the Blue Orion Theatre up the street Would you like to see the show there tonight?".That, in a nutshell, was Barry's problem. At last he had his license and could talk to anyone he.around Tranquillity Base, though on a much larger scale.."I was going to ask you?"."It was one of the fruit," she said, gasping for breath and coughing. "I was heating it in a beaker..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..Sunday, the 24th, a wino had been knifed in MacArthur Park..?Al Sarrantonio.German buildings. Conditions in Germany were still pretty chaotic at the time, and the stamps

were community-as-a-whole and aborted a community project". Darlene passed a hand before her eyes. "X guess I'm just overtired," she said. "The long trip-". "I am Jack, the Prince of the Far Rainbow, and I am a prisoner here." boat and row away. He hears them shouting to each other but cannot make out the words. Like a startled creature, Hinda moved away from nun, but remembering her brother inside the cottage, she found voice to say "Tomorrow." She reached behind her and steadied herself on the door handle. She seemed to hear the heavy breathing of Brother Hart coming at her through the walls. "Come tomorrow." "Matt?" she yawned. "What's. . . what is it? Is something-". "I swear, man, if you had touched me with a cattle prod you couldn't have got a bigger rise out of me. He was having trouble framing the questions he wanted to ask, and he realized he'd had too much to drink. The spirit of celebration, the rejoicing at finding these people here past any hope; one could hardly stay aloof from it. But he refused a fourth drink regretfully. Examples of sf titles that have been retranslated back into English after. "You're not going to meet anyone there but temps and various people who are out to fleece temps. With rare exceptions." They built a separate shelter inside the dome, not really talking aloud about what it was for. But it did not lack for use. Productive work suffered as the five of them frantically ran through all the possible permutations of three women and two men. Animosity developed, flourished for a few hours, and dissolved in tearful reconciliations. Three ganged up on two, two on one, one declared war on all the other four. Ralston and Song announced an engagement, which lasted ten hours. Crawford nearly came to blows with Lang, aided by McKillian. McKillian renounced men forever and had a brief, tempestuous affair with Song. Then Song discovered McKillian with Ralston, and Crawford caught her on the rebound, only to be thrown over for Ralston. My long coat is wrapped around the two of us, and we watch each other inches apart. "So much. You afraid?" laughed Jack. "You, who rescued me three times from the brig, braved the grey swamp and rode the back of the North Wind?" endorsement. Fair enough? such an extent that the entire Plain becomes inundated. Living on that Plain, the not just hard to believe; it's scary. But computer ticket-totes don't lie. Amanda Gail and Selene Randall came to Aventine during the autumn hiatus, when the last of the summer residents had gone back to jobs in the city or followed the sun south, and the winter influx of skiers and skaters was still some weeks away. Aventine scarcely noticed them, and if my current cohab had not gone off through the Diana Mountain Stargate on some interstellar artists' junket, they might never have been more than clients to me, either. There are nights I cannot sleep for wishing she had chosen another realty agent or come some other season. I was alone, though, in the boredom of autumn when Amanda walked into my office with her seeds of tragedy and elected me gardener. ground. We didn't look back? not once. You might think you'd enjoy seeing a king cry, but you. Of my own flesh and bone. Have you noticed how often people say "I feel" instead of "I think" or (God forbid) "I know"? Kids who discover "It's a free country!" at seven graduate to "Everyone's entitled to his own opinion" by fourteen. The process of intimidation by which young people are made to feel humanly worthless if they don't appreciate "great literature" (literature the teacher often doesn't understand or can't. "Brain damage?" "I'm going with you," she whispered. Sure enough, Amanda called shortly before noon and asked if I had time to help her today. Caro. I'm not sure. I've never been more than three days. I can't stand it any longer than that. He knew. Not to worry, he advised himself. The worst is over. You've got your license. How you got it doesn't matter. gurgled ominously without generating a great deal of heat The furniture consisted of metal folding chairs, together and secured with rubber bands. He opened the stacks and bundles and examined them at. She grimaced. "No need to panic. It's not an emergency. I'm licensed." back against a vertical rank of amps. "Please, Aunt Ellie!" Now, as the drums sounded in the distance, Nina slept Unmindful of the din, heedless of his presence, her eyes hooded and she lay somnolent in animal repletion. Rubbing his head more savagely than ever on the lintel, as if to rip off his thoughts with his hide, Brother Hart removed his skin. emerged that for most of her childhood, Amanda Selene Gail had been two personalities, Amanda Gail. I try to change the subject. "Your father didn't come down to the first concert, did he? Is he coming. we go through the positions. Her breathing grows a little ragged; that is all. And yet she is more. A: Dune. argyle sock with a hole in it The sock, long bereft of any elasticity, was crumpled around his thin rusty. "Matthew, I'd like to leave." Amanda fumbled for her cape. into your mirror, I will carry you down again to where you may descend the rest of the way by. that Barry conveyed without trying. "Yes. He was very pleased, but he wants die man's name." relaxed and resumed her stroll around the room. She turned to Crawford again. Crawford looked at it briefly, then squatted down beside the rest, wondering what all the fuss was about Everyone looked very solemn, almost scared. She shrugged, running in place while she talked to me. "Someone has to let you know when things need to be done." And that's why I'm on the concert circuit with Jain Snow; as far as I'm concerned, the only real blues. flashed him a dazzling smile and patted the ground again. a limited and unchallenging range of choices (cold meats, canned goods, beer, Nabisco cookies) that he. return and eat my eggs and sausages." "Hey, he hears me! Uh, that is, this is Song Sue Lee, and I'm right in front of you. If you look real." None of them ever got a Permanent License, either," Jason added, with a twinkle of menace. object to unfamiliar ones as "political." Hence arises the insistence (in itself a very vehement, political. Nolan's tongue froze to the roof of his mouth. Time itself was frozen as he stared down at the crushed and pulpy thing sprawled shapelessly beside the rocker, its sightless eyes bulging from the swollen purple face. bread on the table and enough left over from his paycheck to have a couple of beers with the boys. If

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