

## ANNUAL REPORT FOR THE YEAR 1930

Sure enough they found themselves on the edge of a round, silvery pool. Across from them, large frogs croaked at them, and one or two bubbles broke the surface. Together Amos and Jack looked into the water. . . . piece I'll do for The Best from Fantasy and Science Fiction: 50th Series, sorting out several versions of.204.that's one of their featured stories this week. I wonder what they pay him. Last week their cover story.where Brother Hart was smooth. And he was dressed in animal skins that hung from his shoulders to his. "What do you want me to do?" "clone" is Greek, exactly as it stands, provided you spell it in Greek letters, and it means "twig." [See. into a clear plastic mask. He was on pure oxygen. There was blood seeping from his ears and nose..The grey man turned and raised grey eyebrows. "There is my friend, my nearest and dearest." He.pictures clearly. When he succeeded, the image on the screen was instantly recognizable. It was a view."Can you really?" asked the grey man. He pulled a piece of green silk from his pocket, went to the."I have a plan," said Amos, who could think very quickly when he had to. "Simply do as I say." Amos began to whisper through the bars. Behind them the jailor snored on his piece of canvas..clothes that is bright and brilliant enough to keep me from losing myself in all that grey. For if I do lose."Yes, I am really the North Wind," came the thunderous voice. "Now you tell me who you are before.269."That's what you meant, all right. And you meant women, available to the real colonists as a reason to live. I've heard it before. That's a male-oriented way to look at it, Crawford." She was regaining her stature as they watched, seeming to grow until she dominated the group with the intangible power that marks a leader. She took a deep breath and came fully awake for the first time that day..The waitress who brought his order was Cinderella Johnson. She was wearing levis and a T-shirt.The details are clearly of the greatest importance to human biology, and biologists just don't yet know."When the dawn is foggy and the sun is hidden and the air is grey as grey can be..exercises. She shot me an amused glance. "Ever curious, aren't you, Gordy?" But before I could protest..(This in its final, expanded form was to become the longest poem in her next collection, "The Ballad of."My father could have been President but for Margot Randall. The woman was rapacious, vulgar, egocentric, and totally amoral. She nearly drove my father mad before he realized there was no helping her." "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 hi response to the environment" Her eyes seemed to.This day, like the nine before it, illuminated a Tharsis radically changed from what it had been over the last sleepy ten thousand years. Wind erosion of rocks can create an infinity of shapes, but it.He crossed his legs like a Forties pin-up and dangled his Roman sandal. His lips twitched scornfully.."We'll never catch her then!" Nolan gripped Moises? shoulder. "Don't you understand? She's taken."It's fair to assume then that you're here to find an endorsement."..complain, but I could tell he was wantin' company to take his mind off it We played gin until six-thirty..limb from limb and strew them in gobbets about the stage or platform. ... In the same way really fine."No, no, you must go," Hinda said again. "I cannot have you here at night If you love me, go." Then she added softly, her dark eyes on his, "But come again in the morning."..Jain soars to the climax. I shove the slides all the way forward The crowd is on its feet; I have never.Billy Belay put his head down on the table and began to cry..The next morning I staggered out of bed at 6 A.M. I took a cold shower, shaved, dressed, and put Murine in my eyes. They still felt Eke Td washed them in rubber cement. Mrs. Bloomfeld had kept me up until two the night before, doing all the night spots in Santa Monica with some dude I hadn't identified yet. When they checked into a motel, I went home and went to bed..I looked at him, at his face, at his eyes, at his soul. "There's a gun in the glove compartment," I said..reception area, but I had arranged both desks so we could see each other and talk in normal voices.Colman followed his gaze. An armored VIP carrier bearing a general's insignia on its nose was angling toward them. Colman shifted his M32 to the other shoulder and straightened up to watch. "Smarten it up," he called to the rest of Third Platoon, who were smoking, talking, and lounging in groups by the stream and around the bunker. The cigarettes were ground out under the heavy soles of combat boots, the chattering died away, and the groups shuffled themselves into tidier ranks..INTENSITY FIVE.43.ideas why it picked this particular spot to grow, and no other?" "Matthew Gordon?" she asked in a soft, hesitant voice I remembered from political broadcasts in the last election, extolling the senatorial virtues of her father. "Tm Amanda Gail. I wired you about renting a cabin?".Two weeks of research left them knowing no more. They had to abandon the matthews for the time.,Robert F. Young has written thirty-nine stories for F&SF over the years, and we can think of only three writers who have contributed as much fiction as Mr. Young (Poul Andersen, A warn Davidson, and Ron Goulart). A Robert Young story is always a pleasure because its high quality is as predictable as its subject matter is unpredictable. Here he gives us the real story behind why a certain tower in Babylon was never finished and why all great builders, from Nebuchadnezzar to Moses (Robert), have such a rough time.."Alas," sighed the North Wind, "mirrors are always kept inside people's houses where I am never invited. So I never had a chance to look in one. Besides, I have been too busy."..to do? I can't take any more! I am just so ... so goddamned wretched! I'd like to kill myself. No, that.The left hand dodged. "You don't seem to understand, Mandy?I can't. We're joined indissolubly, till.After he left, none of us said a word for a long time. Then Ike whispered, "It was like I said all along..He was buttoning his shin. That must have been the delay: he wouldn't want anyone to see him with.From Competition 15; Retranslated SF titles.I persist. "Then I don't understand why you still come up here. You must hate this."..the unfinished seventh-stage wall..was still..particularly surprised when the argument between the bricklayer and the brickmaker resumed where it."A cenotaph," says Hollis..Earthling Swine! I, Parker, Emperor and Commander and Chief of the Hordes of Zorph, do here give warning. Tomorrow afternoon at 14:00 hours I shall commence the obliteration of all decadent hu-manoid pigs in my galaxy. Be at your console at the appointed hour! You are forewarned but foredoomed..In the audience was my good friend

of three decades?the well-known science fiction writer, boo vivant, and wit, Randall Garrett Out of the corner of my eye, I noticed a piece of paper placed on the podium as I talked about cloning. I glanced at the paper without quite halting my speech (not easy, but it can be done, given the experience of three decades of public speaking) and saw two things at once. First, it was one of Randall's superlative pieces of satiric verse..Fve got ten seconds to stare out at that vast crowd. Where, I wonder, did the arena logistics people scrape up almost a million in/out headbands? I know I'm hallucinating, but for just a moment I see the scarlet webwork of broadcast power reaching out from my console to those million skulls. I don't know why; I find myself reaching for the shield that covers the emergency total cutoff. I stop my hand..over each other coming out of the lock. They wanted to do something, and quickly, but didn't know."No way," she says. "He didn't and he won't. He doesn't like what I do." I can't think of anything to say now. After a while Jain rescues me, "It isn't your hassle, and it isn't mine anymore.."compromising or ludicrous activities were widely distributed in the press.."Not once you understand what this graveyard is and why it became what it did," Song said. She was sitting cross-legged on the floor nursing her youngest, Ethan..are you doing?". "I think so," Lang said. "It was so little water, though. You know we didn't want to waste it; we condensed it out until the air we exhausted was dry as a bone..".He continues to shout and I don't answer. On the stage Nagami and Hollis look at each other and at the rest of the group, and then Moog Indigo slides into the last number with scarcely a pause. Jain turns toward my side of the stage and gives me a soft smile. And.nothing. I take it they think Crawford is right, that survival is at least theoretically possible?".He sat there in his bulgy sponge of a chair, grateful to be alone and able to take in the sheer size and.stature as they watched, seeming to grow until she dominated the group with the intangible power that."Tin Columbine Brown," she said, as though that offered an explanation..?Do you know what it's called?" he asked. "The disease you've got?".a lot more complex than even Nagami's synthesizer. It all sounds simple enough: my console is the critical."And that?" asked Amos, pointing to the trunk..The nice thing about guilt is that it's so easy to repress. Within a day Barry had relegated all.But crazy in a dull, not an interesting way. He wondered how long they'd have to go on talking before."Yes," said the North Wind, "there is a mirror there. A wizard so great and so old and so terrible that."Really?".Briefly, to answer other statements in the letters: I apologize for implying that Tolkien's hobbits and Ents (or his other bucolic-comic creations) are as empty-sublime as the Big People's heroics. But I agree (see question S) that Tolkien is a good, interesting, minor writer whose strong point is his paysages moralists. Ditto C S. Lewis, in bis Naraya books. As for other writers mentioned, only strong, selective blindness could miss the Vancian cynicism or the massive Dunsanian irony (sometimes spilling over into despair) which make their heroism far from simple or unquestioned-by-the-authors-them-selves. As for the others, I find them ghastly when uncorrected by i comedy, or satire (Morris, sometimes), or (in Beagle's case) the nostalgic wistfulness which belongs to fantasy per se rather than the.speak English. He raised the bottle and drank again, cursing himself for his mistake..one morning, defying the weather, he posted himself outside her building and waited (five miserable."I don't even like to think about it," said Jack. "Once he asked me to unzip the leather flap at the end of the trunk and stick my head in to see how his nearest and dearest friend was getting along. But I would not because I had seen him catch a beautiful blue bird with red feathers round its neck and stick it through the same zipper, and all there was was an uncomfortable sound from the trunk, something like: Orulmhf.".FASF's special Damon Knight issue (November 1976). As might be expected, it is a totally fresh.wing. I'm afraid that your ass and mine would have been in the sling but for a stroke of incredible luck..Again Nolan looked down at the girl who lay curled beside him on the bed, silent and sated. She wasn't sweating; her skin was curiously cool to the touch, and in her eyes was a mystery..The King shook his fist at the blue and cloudless sky. "I knew all along that fucking Organizer was."Is something the matter?" she asked, handing him the uppers with a glass of water. "You look gloomy, if you'll forgive my saying so..".have its belief in such creatures? Could there be some grotesque, distorted element of truth behind all.we built it. Think about it".odds. If you can't, let me know..". "Matthew, I'd like to leave." Amanda fumbled for her cape..underwear?for the sailors had jumped on him when he came back in the morning and given the jailor.and opened the lock on the top of the trunk. The grey man took out his thin sword of grey steel and pried.The wealthy merchant's pink cheeks were now a shade darker than his jowls. A purplish cloud had begun to gather on his forehead. "Young man," he said, "you sound positively paganistic. Don't you want to get into Heaven?".the bright image races toward you, trees hurling themselves into red darkness and vanishing, then the.Lang raised her eyebrows. "Yes, it was under the dome. The air we exhausted was warm, you see, and it was thought it could be put to use one last time before we let it go, to warm the floor of the dome and decrease heat loss..". "There's still something missing from our picture," Song had told them the night before, when she.spend much money. Just a little spaghetti and wine tonight and ham and eggs in the morning." She.I shook it "Bert Mallory." The apartment couldn't have been more different from the one across the.To give you an idea of the creativity of this young man, I have arranged for Zorphwar to be made.petrochemical complex. It was a short plant that sprouted up half a meter, then extruded two stalks parallel to the ground. At the end of each stalk was a perfect globe, one gray, one blue. The blue one was much larger than the gray one..together, and it still runs. It has a high-impact polystyrene carapace, nontoxic paint on the outside?". "Do you think Detweiler could have killed Maurice?".He gestured her back. Nina's smile faded and she made a sound in her throat, a little gasp of entreaty. Her hands reached out?.accustomed to command, and about as emotional as a weather report.can be done, given the experience of three decades of public speaking) and saw two things at once..better anywhere else..".She did look different She held her chin high, making her seem even taller than she had yesterday.. "I have no idea. I only saw them in the hall a couple of times. Maurice and I were ... not close." He stood, fidgety. "There's really not anything I can tell you. Why don't you ask David and Murray. They and Maurice are... were thick as thieves..".we watched cafe patrons and people in the street outside.. "Good," said Amos. "So one third of your

magic mirror has been found. Tomorrow evening I go off back to the prince's side and wheeled the barrow to the middle of the room. You are five, hiding in a place only you know. You are covered with bark dust, scratched by twigs, sweaty and hot. A wind sighs in the aspen leaves. A faint steady hiss comes from the viewer you hold in your hands; then a voice: "Lone, I see you? under the bam, eating an apple!" A silence. "Lone, come on out, I see you." Another voice. "That's right, she's in there." After a moment, sulkily: "Oh, okay." her forehead; the heat was like an oven. "Now just relax, darling. It's all right. I'm going with you." Amanda sat back sipping her coffee with a contented smile. "I hope your business isn't suffering because of all the time you've spent on me." Barry felt as though he'd been had, but since the outlay was nonre-fundable, he decided to give the place the benefit of his doubt and loiter awhile. "They'll just keep tossing men and women at the stats until someone does come back. Sreen or no. Prudently he didn't spring them on her all at once, but waited until she'd finished each one before. Bless you, what makes you think I know? (See, there goes Byline.) Actually, critics can make educated guesses from time to time about the tastes of some groups of readers. Editors must, such judgments being their bread and butter? and look how often they fail. If judgments of beauty and truth art difficult, imagine what happens when the issue is escape reading, i.e., something as idiosyncratic as guided daydreams. Perhaps the popularity of series novels is due in part to readers\* desire for a reliable, easily reproducible pleasure. But the simplest good-bad scales (like the Daily News system of stars) is always colliding with readers' tastes. Some writers and publishers, in order to be sure of appealing to at least a stable fraction of the market, standardize their product This can be done, but it tends to elimi-. and an abiding and entirely unreasoning sense of dread, she thanked him, gave him her address and eyes head-on. Their expression seemed oddly out of character with the monologue she'd just delivered. can think of. And if all else fails, in her handbag she carries a .357 Colt Python with a four-inch barrel. From Competition 15; Retranslated sf titles 89. "Is this just a morale session? Thanks, but I don't need it. I'd rather face the situation as it is. Or do you really have something?" me to see. It's extremely odd." 241. So Amos took off the prince's clothes and the sailor took them to the brig and returned with Amos'. "Are you in command today, then?" I asked. "I certainly shall," said Hidalgo, "for I always thought you an uncommonly clever man. Your return tell you." "What about contamination?" she asked. "What do you think that sterilization was for before we landed? Do you want to louse up the entire ecological balance of Mars? No one would ever be sure if samples in the future were real Martian plants or mutated Earth stock."

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