

THE ECLECTIC READER A SELECTION OF FAMILIAR LESSONS DESIGNED FOR C

She smiled. "That sounds lovely." 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. He laughed and almost dropped his coffee cup. "I don't think Roy can talk." He came in quickly and bolted the door behind him. He didn't notice the open curtain. He glanced around, clicking his tongue softly. His eyes caught on something at the end of the couch. He smiled. At the cat? He began unfastening his shirt, fumbling at the buttons in his haste. He slipped off the shirt and tossed it on the back of a chair. . . . with looking for a French poodle named Gwendolyn?? . . . home too." . . . somebody. If he'd scored in the first percentile, he'd have been issued this license the same as if he'd worked on it around the clock. I even managed to get permission to turn over command temporarily. But . . . and is marked off by a membrane of its own. Outside the nucleus is the cytoplasm of a cell, and it is the soothing away the bizarre reflections of the struggle. Gradually, the chairs and carpet softened to bright . . . hundred patents in the scientific instrument field. He was sixty, a widower. His only daughter and her. "Bert AD my life. I was born in Ingtewood. My mother still lives there." . . . needle's about to peg. Back off to ninety." . . . "A temp." . . . There were straps across his chest. . . . I knocked on the door. . . . except his cramped sleeping quarters. Song Sue Lee was at the radio giving her report to the Edgar. Of course it was Moises who did the actual driving; Nolan couldn't even chew them out properly because they were too damned dumb to understand plain English. . . . Therefore, in accordance with Bylaw 9(c), Section XII, of the Revised Federal Communications Act, . . . lived. He had been discovered about midnight when the people living below him had noticed dried blood. . . . upset you. I was just curious. . . . "After calling the office to let Caro know where she could reach me, I handed Amanda into the . . . down to look at himself in the mirror. He must have been pleased with what he saw, because he gave a . . . horizontal position without wrecking her. The ship had been rigged with stabilizing cables soon after . . . buried in this frozen shard of ice. Once, when I was a girl, I chopped through a chunk of ice to get to an . . . Jam says, "One, two, three." On "three," we each bring up our . . . high peaks, where the great serpents dwell. Your workers here, even Moises, know only the jungle, but I . . . confusion exists among the populace as to the true nature of the Project's purpose, and . . . Of the feminine sex. "Not at all," laughed Jack. "They didn't even notice that the jailor was gone." For what they had done. The leash broke. She bounded away down the sand. As though that were not release enough, she . . . Lang looked over at him, and something in her face made him nervous. . . . over Aventine. A sale of the size property they were interested in would bring a big commission, too big. Song had taken one apart as well as she could. She was still shaking her head in disbelief. She had not been able to excavate the long insulated taproot, but she could infer how deep it went. It extended all the way down to the layer of permafrost, twenty meters down. . . . talk and drink and laugh, and sometimes sing. Amos would sit quietly and listen? . . . and always win at . . . And dance at my wedding. . . . each twin is a clone of the other. . . . read the letter as a secretary typed it. The agent followed his instruction to mail his reply in an envelope. So he'd started to drink. First the good bourbon from the company's stock, then the halfway-decent. . . . New York Harbor, November 4, 1872? . . . a cold, blustery day. A two-masted ship rides at anchor; on her stern is lettered: Mary Celeste. Smith advances the time control. A flicker of darkness, light again, and the ship is gone. He turns back again until he finds it standing out under light canvas past Sandy Hook. Manipulating time and space controls at once, he follows it eastward through a nickering of storm and sun? . . . loses it, finds it again, counting days as he goes. The farther eastward, the more he has to tilt the device downward, while the image of the ship tilts correspondingly away from him. Because of the angle, he can no longer keep the ship in view from a distance but must track it closely. November 21 and 22, violent storms: the ship is dashed upward by waves, falls again, visible only intermittently; it takes him five hours to pass through two days of real time. The 23rd is calmer, but on the 24th another storm blows up. Smith rubs his eyes, loses the ship, finds it again after a ten-minute search. . . . license. It was blue, like his (a Temporary License), and, again like his, there was a staple in the upper . . . the terrace was a bronzed hunk of beef stretched out nude trying to get bronzer. The hunk opened his . . . through. They were eaten away." She waited for Lang to protest that the dome bottom was about as . . . Crawford looked back to the newest arrivals. They were Lucy Stone McKillian, the red-headed ecologist, and Song Sue Lee, the ex-obiologist. They still stood numbly by the airlock, unable as yet to come to grips with the fact of fifteen dead men and women beneath the dome outside. . . . my life was that she did not have Selene's conscious coordination. The poker only brushed my forearm. . . . restaurants, two movie theaters, and a children's playground. . . . "It is Amos!" cried Billy Belay, thumping after her on his wooden leg. . . . Compared to the chill of the air, the water felt boiling hot. The heat drew out the last of my anger, though. . . . valley floor. No one could agree which area was most worthy of study: plains or canyon. So this site had. Crawford followed Lang back toward the Podkayne. . . . could not see into it at all. "Well, come in, then," said Billy, "and play me a game of jack-straws, and you can tell us all about it." "Darling, even vampires have to be at the scene of the crime." . . . earring my mother had dropped the night before in a winter dance. That block of ice was the coldest and . . . curtain fell on him. His back was scarred, little white lines like scratches grouped around a hole. . . . woods, his long hair flying. Then back to the glen: the fox is gone. . . . Now back to the topic of heroic fantasy, which occasioned the foregoing. . . . image vanished and was replaced by shadows, like the ghost of another image. He had monitored every. "India," Moises said, pronouncing the word with all the contempt of one in whose veins ran a ten per-cent admixture of the proud blood of the conquistadores, "Who are we to know the way of savages?" He shrugged. "What could he want with a woman worthy of a prince?" asked Amos. . . . In your mother's study after she dies, you find an elaborate chart of her ancestors and your father's. . . . gate, limping a little the way all brickmakers do, and shouting, "Did you hear? Did you hear? The . . . on a proposed naval system. Thus, we have pretended that we are fighting a space war of the

future. bare rock, rearranged the exhaust to prevent more condensation on the underside, and added more. "You called me over to see this?" Barry left the cubicle feeling so transcendent and relaxed that he was five blocks from Center St. before he remembered that he'd neglected to have his license revalidated at Window 28. As he beaded back to the Federal Communications Building, his senses seemed to register all the ordinary details of the city's streets with an unnatural, hyped clarity: the smell of sauerkraut steaming up from a hot dog cart, the glint of the noon sun on the mica mixed into the paving blocks of the sidewalk, the various shapes and colors of the pigeons, the very pigeons, perhaps, that had inspired his so-called idea earlier that day. But it was true, what he'd said. All the pigeons were the same size. . . first you blunder into the dark trees on either side, and once the earth surges up over you in a chaos of. "I thought you were dead too," said Billy Belay, "after you ran out of here with that thin grey man and his big black trunk. He told us terrible stories of the places he intended to go. And you just up and went with him without having heard anything but the reward." Barry smiled, at a loss. . . stuck around for more than three days. Not for a minute did I doubt he would be living at the apartment. Just out of curiosity, Barry wondered aloud, what kind of cash payment were they talking about? Jason said the standard fee, a year ago, for a single sticker had been a thousand dollars; two and a half for a pair, since people with two blanks to fill could be presumed to be that much more desperate. Due however to a recent disproportion between supply and demand, the going price for a single was now seventeen hundred; a double, a round four thousand. Jason said he could arrange an introduction at that price, if Barry were interested. . . The tech's voice is aghast. "Are you out of your mind, Rob? I've got a ninety-five here? damned. King Kong was remade into a not-so-nice big movie which was a veritable textbook on how not, and. Consider the fertilized egg again. Every time it divides and redivides, the new cells that form inherit. "Not in my book," I said. "But I can see why it would be in yours. After the King lets fly with his arrow, you guys with all the bread will be the first ones up the ladder." It was two, maybe three months ago in Memphis, in a studio just before rehearsal. Jain had been sitting and reading. She reads quite a lot, though the promotional people downplay it? Alpertron, Ltd, likes to suck the country-girl image for all it's worth. . . Brother Hart," she cried. "It was for me you died. Now your enchantment is at an end." . . concerned solely with how much his efforts will net him, not with the use to which their. Nolan moved down the hall to his bedroom at the far end. He hadn't trusted himself to answer her. After all, she meant well; it was just that he was too damned tired to put up with any more nonsense from the old woman. . . another cabin." . . simple. A fiasco from which he'd naturally feared the worst in the form of a letter addressed to Dear. PROGRESS. . . mirror. . . into your mirror, I will carry you down again to where you may descend the rest of the way by. heads up, sniffing the wind; then a stubbled field, dropping away; and now, below you, the co-op road. Here, then, is "Randali's Song," to which I took the liberty of adding a verse myself. . . faculty wives in that most mundane of settings, the American university) totally lost its point here, since its. "We're in special circumstances, Lucy," Crawford explained. "Sure, I'd be all for it if we were better. The fire licks her body. . . anywhere else. "You must have quite an artists' colony here," Amanda said, looking over the collection. She ran a hand down the smooth curves of a sonatrophic sculpture by Drummond Caspar. The trope leaned toward the sound of her voice. . . Baird Searles is part owner of New York City's Science Fiction Shop and has been keeping track of the small and large screens for F&SF for many years. If you've ever been confused by the many different versions of some sf films, the article below will help sort things out. . . 176. could be eliminated. . . he neared us. If we hadn't, he'd have bowled us over. . . members of Local 209 stand to benefit from the Project as much as the rest of the. ?I'm afraid to," said Amos. "It has said such awful and terrible things." A For Whatever, DAMON KNIGHT. Nolan's tongue froze to the roof of his mouth. Time itself was frozen as he stared down at the. said. I answered sleepily, "You're really good." . . And when the thin grey man fell into the trunk," said Amos, "it didn't make any sound at all." . . another prototype. It had controls calibrated to one-hundredth of a second and one millimeter, and a. "I can almost feel the weight of those diamonds and emeralds and gold and pearls right now," said Amos. . . from the genetic information taken from the bodies of the men and women we buried," She paused to let. Crawford to nurse the leg she had stepped on in her haste. . . beneficent Old Testament prophet in the Lugosi role. But even Laughton and Lugosi would have been. "I checked the clock," she said. "First," said Lea, "who is standing just behind your left shoulder?" . . "Well, down in that valley there's a layer of permafrost about twenty meters down." . . Til certainly try it," Barry promised. "But how do I get to be a member?" . . 204. He looked at me with an expression I'd never seen before, and I knew why Lorraine said he had a. LADIES AND GENTLEMEN, our guest of honor tonight-Henry B. Congreve." The toastmaster completed his introduction and stepped aside to allow the stocky, white-haired figure in black tie and dinner jacket to move to the podium. Enthusiastic applause arose from the three hundred guests gathered in the Hilton complex on the western outskirts of Washington, D.C. The lights around the room dimmed, fading the audience into white shirtfronts, glittering throats and fingers, and mask like faces. A pair of spotlights picked out the speaker as he waited for the applause to subside. In the shadows next to him, the toastmaster returned to his chair. . . No use calling her name again; she'd never hear it And Robbie?. "The girl-Nina?? talk to Commander Lang. Have her come up." The voice of Mission Commander Weinstein was away like dandelion fluff. But now the massive air-conditioning units hum on and the fantasy dies. . . "These 'fruit' are full of compressed gas," he told them. "We have to open up another, carefully this." Mary, McKillian said, "it occurs to me that I'd better start looking for airborne spores. If there are." Yeah. . . It took about ten minutes. The thing raised its mouth and crawled over beside the boy's face. It sat on. again, they would crawl farther. There were dozens of them lying motionless in the sand within a. phenomenon. Quid pro quos were the general rule, in the form either of cash on the barrel or services. I don't think the fault's in Jain. I detect no significant difference from other conceits. Her skin still. I drove on home wishing I could have stayed. I wondered what Selene would have to say about the incident. . . "He checked out." "That is not much for true friendship," said Amos. . . This was getting out of band for Captain

Singh..alien artifact mixed in with caveman bones, or a spaceship entering the system. I guess I was thinking hi.and now he turns northward, over the cratered desert still hundreds of miles distant A dust storm, like a.rve known the question would come, though I hadn't known who'd articulate it?her or me. My hesitation stretches much longer in my head than it does in realtime. So much passion, Rob. . . . It seems to build. Would you kill for me? "Yes," I say..They built a separate shelter inside the dome, not really talking aloud about what it was for. But it did.After he left, none of us said a word for a long time. Then Ike whispered, "It was like I said all along. The Organizer was using us."..therefore, of the person from whom the somatic cell was taken? If so, the new organism would be a.and headed toward us with a grin.."Oh, Birdie," I groaned, "you know there's no such thing as a killer type. Almost anyone will loll with."I remember that one is two leagues short of over there, the second is up this one, and the third is."You, dear heart," he said, reaching for her.

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