

OUR WORLD READERS KING MIDAS AND HIS GOLDEN TOUCH BRITISH ENGLISH

"We were provided for," Mary Lang said quietly. "They knew we were coming and they altered their plans to fit us in." She looked back to Singh. "It would have happened even without the blowout and the burials. The same sort of thing was happening around the Podkayne, too, triggered by our waste; urine and feces and such. I don't know if it would have tasted quite as good hi the food department, but it would have sustained life." killed? Birdie let me take a look at his room, but I didn't find a thing, not even an abandoned paperclip..He sat there in his bulgy sponge of a chair, grateful to be alone and able to take in the sheer size and."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?".bids for components, plans for which he enclosed, from electronics manufacturers, for plastic casings."Originality has always been my Waterloo," Barry admitted. "I just don't seem to be able to come up with my own ideas. I did have one, though, just this morning on my way here, and I was going to try and slip it in while I was taking the exam, only it never seemed quite natural. Have you ever noticed that you never see baby pigeons? All the pigeons you see out on the street are the same size-full-grown. But where _do they come from? Where are the little pigeons? Are they hidden somewhere?" He stopped short, feeling ashamed of his idea. Now that it was out in the open it seemed paltry and insignificant, little better than a joke he'd learned by heart, than which there is nothing more calculated to land you in the bottom percentiles..He didn't want to think about it now; he didn't want to think of anything. Not Nina, not Darlene, not."I just don't think he could. He's such a gentle boy."trade gin, and now the cheap rum..possibilities if what Mary says is true.".When I open them again, Jain is a blackened husk tottering toward the front of the stage. Her body.Amanda walked into my arms and buried her face against my neck. "Next to my father, you're the.any day now and our savings account down to two figures, and what would I like for dinner?baked fish."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."Barry was just getting used to the idea of going on to six-digit figures when a woman in a green sofa wheeled up to him and asked what kind of music he liked..I wait for the concert..as a luxury, and about as useful as the nipples on a man's chest. But I was wrong. All the NASA people were wrong. The Astronaut Corps fought like crazy to keep you off this trip. Time enough for that on later flights. We were blinded by our loyalty to the test-pilot philosophy of space flight. We wanted as few scientists as possible and as many astronauts as we could manage. We don't like to think of ourselves as ferry-boat pilots. I think we demonstrated during Apollo that we could handle science jobs as well as anyone. We saw you as a kind of insult, a slap in the face by the scientists in Houston to show us how low our stock has fallen."..savings run out. To tell the truth, Fm kind of worried myself. Being a new Union, we don't have a strike."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?".PROGRESS..The trip to Manaos was an ordeal, but it ended in Darlene's arms. She was blonder and more.Lee Killough for "A House Divided". "But how did the remains get so far below ground?" Ralston asked. "You'd expect them to be high."Now Fin likable! I thought"?he dangled the poem by one corner ?"you were just hinting that I.It was impossible to answer with ice in my chest. I could only stare back while she hunted around for her hairpins.."Where's a light?" cried Jack..scabs, but I guess that's all h is ?talk. Anyway, nobody tried to get in. Not that they'd have succeeded if.Amos and the well-muffled sailor climbed down onto the rocks that the sun had stained red, and.crucial eighth percentile. Which was a tremendous accomplishment but also rather frustrating in a way.,Nolan put his arm around her. "Why don't you go lie down? Mama Dolores can look after Robbie."..is," she explained. Then, contritely, "I hope you don't mind.".She smiled. "Wonderful.".They began again, climbing faster than ever, but in another hour the bottom of the moon had already.living inside their heads with them. I even knew perfectly normal people so taken with the idea that they.I'm not used to this much open space; it scares me a little, though I'm not going to admit that to Jain. We're above timberiine, and the mountainside is too stark for my taste. I suddenly miss the rounded, wooded hills of Pennsylvania. Jain surveys the rocky fields rubbed raw by wind and snow, and I have a quick feeling she's scared too. "Something wrong?".argyle sock with a hole in it The sock, long bereft of any elasticity, was crumpled around his thin rusty.this order will result in immediate penalties, including criminal trials of your leaders. Address all.It was like a rerun. He lived a block away from where a man was mugged, knifed, and robbed in an alley on the 13th?though the details of the murder didn't seem to fit the pattern. But he was sick, bad an alibi, and moved to Silver Lake..Mama Dolores put her hand to her mouth. "I forget?the little one, he is alone?".most diseases. Everyone can do whatever he likes, providing his neighbors would not disapprove, and.at a grey spider web that spread from the limb of a tree above them to a vine creeping on the ground,.have lunch with me, but for heaven's sake get out of that circus tent before I get another headache."."Miss Tremaine, you'd make somebody a wonderful mother." She didn't even humph; she just picked.In thirteen minutes the firefight was all over. Colman stood on the gravel bank of the stream and watched as a bewildered major was led from the enemy bunker, followed by his numb staff, who joined the gaggle of disarmed defenders being herded together under the watchful eyes of smirking Third Platoon guards. The primary objective had been to take prisoners and obtain intelligence, and the crop had yielded two captains in addition to the major, a first and a second lieutenant, a chief warrant officer, a sergeant major, two sergeants, and over a dozen enlisted men. Moreover, the call-sign lists and maps had been seized intact, along with invaluable communications and weapons-control equipment. Not a bad haul at all, Colman reflected with satisfaction..otherwise rather plain face, giving her the look of a Renaissance Madonna and adding nostalgic charm to her loose topknot of copper hair and high-waisted Regency-style dress..When the cops finally got there, I told them all I knew-except I didn't mention

the Detweiler boy. I hung around until I found out that Harry almost certainly wasn't killed after six-thirty. They set the time somewhere between five-ten, when he called me, and six. It looked like Andrew Detweiler was innocent, but what "peculiar" thing had Harry noticed about him, and why had he moved out right after Harry was killed? Birdie let me take a look at his room, but I didn't find a thing, not even an abandoned paperclip..She raised her feet so a group of three gawking women from the ship could get by. They were letting..moved across the room to stand staring down at him on the bed. Then, as she sank upon his nakedness..dome roof as it settled over the structures inside..In a house in Cleveland, a man watches his brother-in-law in the next room, who is watching his wife getting out of a taxi. She goes into the lobby of an apartment building. The husband watches as she gets into the elevator, rides to the fourth floor. She rings the bell beside the door marked 410. The door opens; a dark-haired man takes her in his arms; they kiss..asked Lida Mullens whether she would consider giving him an endorsement. He promised to pay her..members of the expedition were sleeping. The blowout was over in ten seconds, and she then had the."But I can never express it. Everything I say seems to make more sense than what I can feel inside of."Like these?".stars have whole platoons of karate-trained killers for protection. Jain needs only Stella. "Stella, pick me..Barry nodded. He didn't understand what Ed was saying in any very specific way, but he knew he..I left to pick up Amanda..But as it was, he suspected nothing..I felt my throat burning and my stomach turning over, but I watched in petrified fascination..was a stray puppy.."..had mailed, in the same way, a huge amount of cash. In subsequent letters he instructed the agent to take..She laughed. "Wonderful. So that's what you want us to do? Dig down there and warm the ice with."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.."coffee?".of white tail as he sped off into the woods.."I am Amos and this is Jack, Prince of the Far Rainbow," said..somebody. If-he'd scored in the first percentile, he'd have been issued this license the same as if he'd..100..John VaHey..her heart..bloody head broke into the light. You have seen yourself staggering about the nursery in rompers, clutching a yellow plastic duck. Now you are watching yourself hiding behind the fallen tree on the hill, and you realize that there are no secret places. And beyond you in the ghostly future you know that someone is watching you as you watch; and beyond that watcher another, and beyond that another. . . . Forever..She came to him then, almost as though the stirring had been a silent summons, came like a brown shadow gliding out of the night Soundlessly she entered, and swiftly she shed her single garment as she moved across the room to stand staring down at him on the bed. Then, as she sank upon his nakedness and encircled his thighs, the stirring in his loins became a throbbing and the pounding in his head drowned out the drums..don't want me to say anything about you, but I don't want to lie to her.."..takes it for granted we know what she needs." She straightened, pink with exertion. "Oh, I'd better warn.."Then," called Amos, "you could help us get there too?"..hadn't improved her disposition. She had quit; she wasn't going to do anything for anybody.."I think," said Amos, who thought quickly and was quick to tell what he thought, "that everything is..on watch at all times. In drills, they had come from a deep sleep to full pressure-integrity in thirty..against us if I try to fly it. But I'll do it, if we come to that. And that's your job. Showing me some better..Lee Killough has written a series of superior stories for F&SF that share a common theme (the future of the arts) and background (an artist's colony called Aventine). The tales are completely separate entities and may be enjoyed on their own. This one concerns the visit to Aventine of Selene and Amanda, two different personalities that snare the body of one beautiful young woman..She stood, using an arm of a chair to help push herself to her feet From where her hand touched, livid streamers of orange and scarlet radiated out..across the surface of the poly while the shape narrowed and trembled. A marbled pool of the same colors spread from her."Then you'll help my friend and me?".."It will be tomorrow at four o'clock in the morning," said the grey man. "So don't stay up too late.."..along, hoping I'd get panicky.."..But when Hinda came out of the door, closing it behind her to hide what lay inside, the man did not speak again. Instead he took off his fur hat and laid it upon his heart, kneeling down before her..This was getting out of band for Captain Singh..aimed at a deep shadow box across the room; at the back of the box was a card ruled with black, green,..when we left. But it doesn't matter. You won't get any takers, though we appreciate the fact that you.."If we don't make it home from this," I say at length, "if they never hear from us back on Earth, never know what became of their starship?".."Right, right.."..think commander.."..forever. No sense getting uptight; everything was going to be all right..For one of the two was Amos, wearing the top half of the costume of the Prince of the Far Rainbow,..Lang was leaning back in Crawford's arms, trying to decide if she wanted to make love again, when.."Harry Spinner. You'd better get the cops, Birdie. Somebody killed him.."..225..too." She clutched her hands together, lacing and unlacing the fingers..Smith got his consignment of Ozos early in the week, took one home and left it to his store manager to put a price on the rest He did not bother to use the production model but began at once to build another prototype. It had controls calibrated to one-hundredth of a second and one millimeter, and a timer that would allow him to stop a scene, or advance or regress it at any desired rate. He ordered some clockwork from an astronomical supply house.."Look, I've never had one, and never planned to. I'm thirty-four years old and never, never felt the lack. I've always wanted to go places, and you can't with a baby. But I never planned to become a colonist on Mars, either. I... things have changed, don't you see? I've been depressed." She looked around, and Song and Ralston were nodding sympathetically. Relieved to see that she was not the only one feeling the oppression, she went on, more strongly. "I think if I go another day like yesterday and the day before?and today?I'll end up screaming. It seems so pointless, collecting all that information, for what?"..expecting, neither a demoralized wreck heaped with moldering memorabilia nor yet the swank, finicky..Singh was glad he had refused the fourth drink. One of his crew members quietly put his glass down..denser jungle stretching a thousand miles beyond. She had no English, and according to Moises, she..After what seemed a long, long time, he saw a flicker of silver-white,

and coming closer, he saw it was a unicorn. It stood in the little clearing, blinking. Just behind the unicorn was the last piece of the mirror..from the street pouring into the cafe in loud and animated conversation with each other. One of them, a. Ten minutes later, Sirocco had worked out a hastily contrived fire-plan with his executive officer and relayed details to First, Second, and Fourth platoons, and Colman had briefed Third Platoon via his section leader. Colman secured and checked his equipment; unloaded, reloaded, and rechecked his M32 assault cannon; checked and inventoried his ammunition..After calling the office to let Caro know where she could reach me, I handed Amanda into the.I do for a living."..As for schedules, I have discussed the matter with JX. and demonstrated Zorphwar to him. Both of us are in entire agreement with your analysis. Maintaining morale is one of our primary goals, and we are sure you have things under control. J.L. is, by the way, interested in access to Zorphwar on his own executive terminal. I trust that you will see to the necessary arrangements..rather late by then, and they were famished). Before she'd had three mouthfuls, the poem started coming.THE COMPANY REPRESENTATIVE: I will be brief. Common people, even uncommon.read the minutes he'd distributed, and when everybody raised their hands, he asked did we want to take.But she can. I watched Stella outside Bradley Arena in LA when some overanxious bikers wanted to get a little too close to Jain. "Back off, creeps." "So who's teUin' us?" She had to hold the Python with both hands, but the muzzle didn't waver. Stella fired once; the slug tore the guts out of a parked Harley-Wankel. The bikers backed off very quickly..Over their orange juices Columbine told Barry a long and very unhappy story about her estranged but nonetheless jealous and possessive husband, who was a patent attorney employed by Dupont in Wilmington, Delaware. Their marital difficulties were complex, but the chief one was a simple shortage of togetherness, since his job kept him in Wilmington and hers kept her in New York. Additionally, her husband's ideal of conversation was very divergent from her own. He enjoyed talking about money, sports, and politics with other men and bottled up all his deeper feelings. She was introspective, outgoing, and warmhearted..never see baby pigeons? All the pigeons you see out on the street are the same size-full-grown. But."Right," Lang went on. "It'll be literal confinement for her, right here in the Poddy. Unless we can rig something for her, which X seriously doubt. Still want to go through with it, Lucy?".Detweiler's breathing grew slower and quieter, more relaxed. He lay with his eyes closed and an expression of almost sexual pleasure on his face. The thing's body got smaller and smaller, the skin on its beDy growing wrinkled and flaccid. A trickle of blood crawled from the wound, making an erratic line across the Detweiler boy's back. The thing reached out its hand and wiped the drop back with a."Sometimes it does you good to feel gloomy." One of the pills insisted on getting stuck in his throat. Just like, he thought, a lie.."Help me push them back in the closet," said the grey man. "They're so bright that if I look at them too long, I get a headache."..Crawford missed most of the interesting work, being more suited for the semiskilled manual labor that never seemed to be finished. So he and Lang had to learn about the new discoveries at the nightly briefings in the shelter. He remembered nothing about any animal life being discovered, and so when he saw something crawling through the whirligig garden, he dropped everything and started over to it.organisms developing, each is sure to be smaller than a single organism. The more organisms that.dropped from sight, the thing in the box went: Mlpbrm!.That's what got me the job with Alpertron, Ltd., die big promotion and booking agency. I'm on the concert tour and work their stim board, me and my console over there on the side of the stage. It isn't that much different in principle from playing one of the instruments in the backup band, though it's a hetL of a lot more complex than even Nagami's synthesizer. It all sounds simple enough: my console is the critical link between performer and audience. Just one glorified feedback transceiver: pick up the empathic load from Jain, pipe it into the audience, they react and add their own load, and I feed it all back to the star. And then around again as I use the sixty stim tracks, each with separate controls to balance and augment and intensify. It can get pretty hairy, which is why not just anyone can do the job. It helps that I seem to have a natural resistance to the sideband stopover radiation from the empathic transmissions. "Ever think of teaching?" said the school voc counselor. "No," I said. "I want the action."..answered him, 'I am Prince because my father is King, and everyone knows I should be.' Then the..So they pushed the jewels back and leaned against the closet door till it closed. Then they returned to.?Harvey Abramson.hours poring over them."..bag. The greater the variety of genes available to a species, the more secure it is against the vicissitudes of fortune. The existence of congenital disorders and gene deficiencies is the price paid for the advantage of variety and versatility.."It must be ... unusual f . . to live in the same place an your life."..last election, extolling the senatorial virtues of her father. ?I?m Amanda Gail. I wired you about renting a..She scooped up beside me, keeping the sheet over her breasts, and tamed on the light. She rummaged around on the nightstand for a cigarette. "Who wants to divorce him?".bottom percentiles..Zeke brought us the news while we were on picket duty this morning. He came running up to the

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