

## TEMPTATION AND OTHER DRAMATIC FRAGMENTS

puppy. I was beginning to feel like a son of a bitch..His first endorsement proved to have been beginner's lock. Though he went out almost every night to a different speakeasy and practically lived at Partyland during the weekends, when it was at his liveliest, he never again had such a plum fall in his lap. He didn't get within sniffing distance of his heart's desire. Most people he met were temps, and the few Permanent License holders inclined to be friendly to him invariably turned out, like the MacKinnons, to have already disposed of their allotted endorsements. Or so they said. As the weeks went by and anxiety mounted, he began to be of the cynical but widely held opinion that many people simply removed the stickers from their licenses so it would seem they'd been used. According to Jason MacKinnon, a completely selfless endorsement, like his from Ed, was a rare phenomenon. Quid pro quos were the gen-. "Of course." I smile. I know how to play.. "Enough to get by." "We shall dine on berry wine." "love you. Every single one of you." the floor. I looked up through a starry haze of pain to see Amanda falling to her knees beside me, crying.. little kid on the 22nd, Silver Lake on the 19th and 16th, etc., etc., etc.. twenty Americans for return to Earth.. "Matt?" she yawned. "What's. . . what is it? Is something-". were going to furnish a free foot clinic, they should furnish a free hand clinic too, because a bricklayer. She sighed in relief. "Gordy, you're a friend. Well meet again." never heard of television or movies and some of 'em don't even know the name of the President? Most of. marked. Anyway, the old woman took me in. She was a midwife, but she fancied herself a witch or. hug. She glances over at me and winks, and my face starts to flush. One-way.. The week following the departure of the Burroughs was one of hysterical overreaction by the New. "What do they say on the Burroughs?" McKillian asked, tossing her helmet on the floor and squatting tiredly against the wall. The lender was not the most comfortable place to hold a meeting; all the couches were mounted horizontally since their purpose was cushioning the acceleration of landing and takeoff. With the ship sitting on its tail, this made ninety per cent of the space in the lander useless. They were all gathered on the circular bulkhead at the rear of the lifesystem, just forward of the fuel tank.. is launch interceptors when we see them push the button." "And echoing back they heard: ". . . must be in the cave of . . . in the cave o. . . cave of. . . " "If I didn't mean it," said Marvin Kolodny, "do you think I'd have had it tattooed on my arm?" "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 in response to the environment" Her eyes seemed to. "Stand so that the sun is in your eyes," said the North Wind, towering over Amos, "because I do not. taken toward the ice cream. "I was laughing at myself. Obviously, I was asking for pity. So if I should get." "Well," said Amos, "if you help get us to the top of the mountain, we will let you look into the. Grand Vizier, the man who holds the arcane knowledge and advises the regent. I think I'll have to watch." "Come on in," she said, stepping back. "We might as well talk about this." They entered, and. type (a football player now) and Dyan Cannon shrieked to great effect a couple of times.. standardize their product This can be done, but it tends to eliminate from fiction these idiosyncratic. I took a deep breath and lied with a straight face. ?I promise." Later in the castle hall, Amos and the prince stood bound by the back wall. The grey man chuckled. 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.. 222. Fitt me like the mountains Fill me like the sea. master's in oceanography at UCLA in the afternoons. In the year I'd known her I'd seldom seen her. I knocked on the door.. The MacKinnons introduced themselves. His name was Jason. Hers was Michelle. They lived quite. Topanga. The road isn't traveled much, there are no houses on it, and people don't like to get their cars. "What sort of deal?" She shakes her head. "It was a lot like this. My pa ran sheep. Maybe a hundred miles north." She smiled a meaningful, unblemished smile and gave his hand a quick, trusting squeeze. "You know,." "Basically. In the beginning ... it was to tell her . . . about me, then . . . to let her know . . . who I met and what... I learned in school ... my half the ... year so people wouldn't . . . know about. . . us." The poly flattened into a lower, broader shape and turned an intense, pulsating blue. It was odd to see Selene in Amanda's clothes, "Yes. Aventine has too many rich and famous residents to care about another celebrity, and as we have no hotels or public transportation and the cabletrain from Gateside is the only way in, aside from private aircraft on private landing fields, we manage to discourage most reporters and curiosity seekers." voice: "Children, come in and get washed for dinner now." "I didn't say that" Tired as he was, Nolan still remembered the basic rule? never contradict these people or make fun of their super-. none of them looked away. It was the fusion drive of the Edgar Rice Burroughs, heading sunward, away. "Selene, did you hear me?" Four black bearers had appeared, bearing a long black palanquin. They proceeded to set it down. "What?" "I don't know. The subject never came up." He wasn't being defensive.. version, Burn Witch, Bum, which has become a sort of minor classic.. The assembled crew smiled, and Song gave a high-pitched cheer. Weinstein was not the most. "The luminous pool!" cried the prince, and they ran forward.. But whenever dusk began, the girl Hinda would go to the edge of the clearing and call out in a high, of the ultimate in computer games . . . The current popularity of heroic fantasy scares me; I believe it to be a symptom of political and cultural. novel, Blind Voices. In 1978 he died at the age of forty-two, as he was reaching his peak as a. An alarm started in his helmet, flat and strangely soothing coming from the tiny speaker. He stood there for a moment as a perfect smoke ring of dust billowed up around the rim of the dome. Then he was running.. live. I've heard it before. That's a male-oriented way to look at it, Crawford." She was regaining her. The tech's voice is aghast. "Are you out of your mind,

Rob? I've got a ninety-five here?damned needle's about to peg. Back off to ninety." charm to her loose topknot of copper hair and high-waisted Regency-style dress.. "He told me about some Japanese department store." The inner lock door was pulled open, and there was McKillian, squinting into the bare bulb that. ANDERSON'S Me Call Joe. important what they're constructing is. Like the Organizer says, it's dog-eat-dog these days, and. In the first place, as an organism becomes more complex and specialized, its organs, tissues, and. Nolan shuddered. That's what she was; an animal. In repose, the lithe brown body was grotesquely elongated, the wide mouth accentuating the ugliness of her face. How could he have coupled with this creature? Nolan grimaced in self-disgust as he turned away.. "A Mr. Bloomfeld called. He wants you to get the goods on Mrs. Btoomfeid so he can sue for divorce." She looked at me, not saying anything, her face slowly collapsing into an infinitely weary resignation.. "Sorry. Go to your right about ten meters, where you see the steam coming from the web. There, see." "Don't you see?" she went on, calmer now. "It's too pat, too much of a coincidence. This thing is like a ... a headstone, a monument. It's growing right here in the graveyard, from the bodies of our friends. Can you believe in that as just a coincidence?" once. Except me." Quick as a light switch he could feel his throat go dry and his face tighten into a smile of rigid insincerity. He blushed, he trembled, he fainted dead away, but only metaphorically.. I drove, not paying any attention to where I was going, almost as deeply in shock as he was. I finally. "Bert AD my life. I was born in Ingteewood. My mother still lives there." The North Wind was silent a whole minute. Then he asked, "Why should I? The wizard built my cave. agreed. I was enjoying the frosty bite of the air in my nose and throat and the surreal effect of the steam. I have tried to speak to general issues rather than "defend" my own criticism. Issues are, in any case, guests: a famous prostitute, a tax accountant who had just published his memoirs, a comedian who did a. one thing I have always wanted more than anything else, for myself, for my nearest and dearest friend, is. inquiringly as his eyes flicked down, then up.. ones, to provide themselves with an avenue into Heaven. The two interpretations have. opens; a dark-haired man takes her in his arms; they kiss.. the antechamber in which the captain and I received the Sreen edict is small by comparison, but only by. "We'll see, won't we?" ecologist, and Song Sue Lee, the exo-biologist They still stood numbly by the airlock, unable as yet to. Amos and the prince began to brush the snow from a lump on the ground, and beneath the white. 224. The King shook his fist at the blue and cloudless sky. "I knew all along that fucking Organizer was. IX. years younger than I and five years younger than Janice. I'd been on these jaunts with Janice before and. "Where did you get it?" asked Amos.. the way down to the layer of permafrost, twenty meters down.. "That's exactly what I said," Amos told her, and they were both very happy, for they were both. "Yeah," I say. "Sorry. Just . . . trying to make up for previous lag-time." onto the ledge and leaned against the side, panting. Far ahead of them, orange flames flickered brightly. been so frightened in my life.. you thinking I'm a monster." He was very clever. He always made it look like an accident or suicide when he could. I didn't interfere.. we go through the positions. Her breathing grows a little ragged; that is all. And yet she is more. encore, but that's just it: they, shouldn't want one. They shouldn't need one.. "I can understand the drink," he said, carefully. "Ethanol is a simple compound and could fit into many different chemistries. But it's hard to believe that you've survived eating the food these plants produced for you." would've let me die, but he knew and got blood for me. Hers." He sat staring at me blankly, his mind. is gliding away, slowly, now faster; now she is gone.. "But doesn't that idea"? Barry nodded at the tattoo- "conflict with your having this particular job?. for the second piece. Would you like to come with me?" perched on a cushion in the leather chair at the console; your brother, who has been showing you the. colors of the pigeons, the very pigeons, perhaps, that had inspired his so-called idea earlier that day. But. unpleasant visions of superintelligent dinosaurs, and I do not want the captain to antagonize such. tonight?". "Basically. In the beginning ... it was to tell her . . . about me, then . . . to let her know . . . who I met." . . , and so," the soft grey voice went on, "I need someone clever and brave enough to help my." Ah," said Lea, "the second question is easy to answer, but the first is not so simple. For that is the same question asked me a year and a day ago by a wizard so great and so old and so terrible that you and I need not worry about him." permit these things to grow by ingesting sand and rock and turning it into plastic-like materials. So we. "Don't you see?" she went on, calmer now. "It's too pat, too much of a coincidence. This thing is like. She nodded knowingly. "Of course? I should have known. Freddy shills for Topic magazine and. followed a dotty old woman home from her latest nervous breakdown. Let's make a deal, shall we?" perhaps they expected their own reflections. But they saw neither. Instead, the face of a beautiful girl. performance has ever been? I don't have time to worry about it; I play the console like it was the. "Really. You want to see my ID?" That's a hard one, but other than that we're no different than any other group of survivors in a tough spot.. is," she explained. Then, contritely, "I hope you don't mind." Humaner, THEODORE STURGEON. these carefully cultivated neutralities.. "I think she really wants the world to end. And, also, she does like Arizona." What the woman was saying was of a character to suggest that she had just that minute gone crazy.. The ship came down with an impressive show of flame and billowing sand, three kilometers from Tharsis Base.. Aubade. "Oh, horrors!" cried the thin grey man, and stepped back again.. 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. man with a face gone tallow-pale, replies, "Never mind? row!" They are staring down into the sea. After. The Man Who Had No Idea. From Competition 18: Transposed sf titles 155. Ed held out his hand. "Mine's Ed. Say, are you trying to pick up an endorsement?" German buildings. Conditions in Germany were still pretty chaotic at the time, and the stamps were. 171. "I don't know for sure. It was the second one he'd had. He would get pale and nervous. I think he. The Detweiler Boy by Tom Reamy 17. agent that had set them up. There's no way they can wiggle out of it this time. People say how sorry they. Gordy.. Scarlet wiped out the blues and greens. Amanda cried, "Let's see." She says, "Hurry," and cuts off.. Again Nolan looked down at the girl who lay curled beside him on the bed, silent and sated. She. "Oh, misery!" screamed the grey man, and stepped back once more.. who should

come winded to the cottage but Brother Hart. He had no words to tell her hi his deer form,,(see question 5) that Tolkien is a good, interesting, minor writer whose strong point is his paysages.case, he went back and locked the trunk tightly.

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