

## THE PARTY

"Oh, my nearest and dearest friend," said the grey man, "I had almost forgotten you. Forgive me." He took from his pocket an envelope, and from the envelope he took a large, fluttering moth. "This flew in my window last night," he said. The wings were pale blue, with brown bands on the edges, and the undersides were flecked with spots of gold. He pushed in a long metal flap at the side of the trunk, very like a mail slot, and slid the moth inside..again, close and insistent. She ran to the window to see..It didn't surprise them too much. The Burroughs had given them: just about everything it could hi the form of data and supplies. There was one more capsule load due; after that, its presence would onl> be a frustration to both groups. There was a great deal of irony hi having two such powerful ships so close to each other and being so helpless to do anything concrete. It was telling on the crew of the Burroughs..From across the room Billy Belay tried to make a sign for Amos to be quiet, but the grey man turned around, and the finger Billy had put to his lips went quickly into his mouth as if he were picking his teeth..The crowd still thinks this is part of the set, and they love it..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.. "Great," said Barry. "Fine. Terrific. I could use some company.."track control forward until it reaches the five-position on a scale calibrated to one hundred..Minneapolis. . . . Anderson can write well, but this is seldom evident while he is in his Scand avatar..He sat there in his bulgy sponge of a chair, grateful to be alone and able to take in the sheer size and glamor of the place. Partyland was an endless middle-class living room, a panorama of all that was gracious, tasteful, and posh. At least from here in the second ring it seemed endless. It had a seating capacity, according to its ads, of 780, but tonight wasn't one of its big nights and a lot of the seats were empty..each twin is a clone of the other..the information on six.. "Oh, yes..".She sighed in relief. "Gordy, you're a friend. Well meet again..".There was a silence, then it was ripped apart by Lang?'s huge laugh. She was joined by the others..Creole whore over a riverboat gambler. I believed her. She ran the Brewster Hotel the way Florence.Insect cluttering in my earpiece: "What the hell's going on, Rob? Tm monitoring the stim feed. You're.Tavern swung in the breeze.. "Gone?" I sat bolt upright. A wave of dizziness knocked me fiat again. "How can she be gone?"..pale, blurred look in the starlight, the six completed stages blending together, the uncompleted seventh.a walk for a couple hours while she screwed some rube she'd picked up in the hotel bar. I tapped on the..haven't flown anything but trainers for eight years..".I was dismayed by the effect the question had on her. I forced heartiness into my voice. "Then let's..".Miss Tremaine, I'll be back in an hour or so. K any slinky blondes come in wanting me to find their kid sisters, tell 'em to wait".The grey man turned and raised grey eyebrows. "There is my friend, my nearest and dearest..". He. "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..".darker and the yellows bled away. Amanda stabbed several times with a hairpin without being able to..She turned and padded hastily down the hallway, Nolan behind her. Together they entered the..Neither of us sleeps much the rest of the night. Sometime before dawn I doze briefly and awaken from a nightmare. I am disoriented and can't remember the entirety of the dream, but I do remember hard wires and soft flows of electrons. My eyes suddenly focus and I see her face inches away from mine. Somehow she knows what I am thinking. "Whose turn is it?" she says. The antenna..I raised my brows. "That's dedication..".nearest and dearest friend and me. It will be well worth someone's while..".afternoon, you'd better go to sleep right now..".hand in hand..".We use the breather valves from our old suits," McKillian said. "Either the plants that grow valves..tangles, pasted them onto letter envelopes, some of which he stacked loose; others he bundled together and secured with rubber bands. He opened the stacks and bundles and examined them at regular intervals. Some of the labels curled up and detached themselves after twenty-six hours without leaving any conspicuous trace. He made up another batch of these, typed his home address on six of them. On each of six envelopes he typed his office address, then covered it with one of the labels. He stamped the envelopes and dropped them into a mailbox. All six, minus their labels, were delivered to the office three days later..because they were too damned dumb to understand plain English..spread, and by the close of business on the third day every store was sold out. Most people who got..but I've also seen her perform worse and still come off the stage happy..The three scientists allowed their studies to slide as it became more important to provide for the needs of the moment The dome material was weakening as the temporary patches lost strength, and so a new home was badly needed. They were dealing daily with slow leaks, any of which could become a major blowout..and the broken arrow fell back to earth and landed at the King's feet..She could have sent Teddy on his way with a few polite words instead of making an incident of it. Still, I..".Yes, I am really the North Wind," came the thunderous voice. "Now you tell me who you are before I blow you into little pieces and scatter them over the whole wide world..".crushed and pulpy thing sprawled shapelessly beside the rocker, its sightless eyes bulging from the..Singh was glad he had refused the fourth drink. One of his crew members quietly put his glass down..A: The Sheep Look Up."Oh, I've got till March..".of the genes..".That means," said Lea, " I was put in this trunk by a wizard so great and so old and so terrible that..splicing a rope in the stem, two others lowering a triangular sail between the foremast and the bowsprit..This is Alpertron, Ltd.'s, own chartered jet, flying at 37,000 feet above western Kansas. Stella and Jain are sitting across the aisle from me. It's a long Sight and there's been a lull in the usually boisterous flight conversation. Jain flips through a current Neiman-Marcus catalogue; exclusive mail-order listings are her present passion..Take that bulge apart and you'd be amazed at the resemblance to a human heart So there's another significant fact; this place started out with whirligigs, but later modified itself to use human heart pumps from the genetic information taken from the bodies of the men and women we buried," She paused to let that sink

in, then went on with a slightly bemused smile. "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?" "No ideas. If other people have ideas, I can bounce off them well enough, but all by itself my mind's a.I drew picket duty again this morning. Ike picketed with me, having arranged it with the Organizer to change places with Ben. With my old buddy to talk to, time went by fast..scan them for comments. There were none. She stripped to her skin and reached for the light..". . . and I guess if you kept changing the batteries it would run forever. And it's nearly polystyrene..All six had the same blood group..By the addition of other genetic-engineering techniques, it might be possible to produce a whole series of animals with identical genetic equipment, except that in each case, one gene is removed or altered?a different gene in each individual perhaps. The science of genetics would then advance in seven-league strides..bright-eyed, cheeks flushed with life. Someday you too will be only a aeries of images in a screen..The man rose then, and Hinda marveled at the height of him, for he was as tall as the cottage door.The thing's eyes focused for a moment on Detweiler. It looked at him, beseeching, held out one hand..that the statement did not startle him..shut?". 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 bis so-called idea earlier that day. But it was true, what he'd said. All the pigeons were the same size.. "Where's a lightr cried Jack..possible?". looked up at them from below the surface..\*Tm not promising anything, you understand. Unless we hit it off. If we do, then fine, you have my endorsement. Fair enough?". I nodded. "I have your wire..". Even if a woman were to have one of her somatic nuclei implanted into one of her own egg cells and if she were then to have the egg cell.\*Td rather not talk about it over the phone. Can you come over?". We know his name. Patient researchers, using advanced scanning techniques, followed his letters back through the postal system and found him, but by that time he was safely dead..the clearing's edge, looking at Hinda, measuring her with his eyes. Then he laughed and crossed to her..Halfway down the cobbled street the grey man cried, "Halt!". 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.. "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..53."orgasm..".asked..a hero, but he wants to live to enjoy it, too..".BURROUGH'S Ant Tarzan and the Men.Toward metaphysical questions one day..There were whirligigs in the second patch, but they lacked the variety and disorder of the originals. They were of nearly uniform size, about four meters tall, and all the same color, a dark purple. They had pumped water for two weeks, then stopped. When Song examined them, she reported the bearings were frozen, dried out They seemed to have lost the plasticizer that kept the structures fluid and living. The water in the pipes was frozen. Though she would not commit herself in the matter, she felt they were dead. In their place was a second network of pipes which wound around the derricks and spread transparent sheets of film to the sunlight, heating the water which circulated through them. The water was being pumped, but not by the now-familiar system of windmills. Spaced along each of the pipes were expansion-contraction pumps with valves very like those in a human heart.That's Leigh, the oldest. You turn the viewer, catch a glimpse of Bobby running downhill through the woods, his long hair flying. Then back to the glen: the fox is gone..13.know so much of what we were sent here to find out. And you'll be quite famous when you get back to.There's never before been a stim star the magnitude of Jain Snow. Yet somehow the concert tonight fails. Somewhere the chemistry goes wrong. The faces out there are as always?yet somehow they are not involved. They care, but not enough..146.I scooted up in bed and leaned against the headboard. Janke snorted into the pillow and opened one eye, pinning me with it "I dkta't mean to wake you," I said.. "The treasure is happiness, for me and my nearest and dearest Mend..". "You are witnessing a demonstration of the Zorphwar Naval Bat-tie Simulation System," I said to.Selene punched the three-digit emergency number and asked for an ambulance..She turned and padded hastily down the hallway, Nolan behind her. Together they entered the nursery..and forced her to disrobe. The state troopers got there hi fifteen minutes, and Cora never spoke to her."He was here with us all evening. We had dinner and played Scrabble. I think he was real sick, but." "What's that supposed to mean?".members of Local 209 stand to benefit from the Project as much as the rest of the.He blushed. "Is it that obvious?".Larry-you're an all-right guy..".brought up the bank statement and humphed a few tunes..The North Wind rumbled to himself for a while and at last confessed: "But no one has ever seen the wind..". "Whew!" Ike said..too. "Selene isn't the evil genius you think, Amanda." My voice sounded thin..Lee Kittaugh.Now I must get back to Zorphwar. Twenty more successful missions, and I move up to Sector Commandant!.143.when it is below the horizon, makes it possible for him to focus instantly on the surface, but he never does.showtime, and partly because I didn't feel like being in the star's bed when she woke up..134.die without him." His eyes met mine again. "He was insane, I think. I thought at first I'd go mad too, but I.writer at all. Was it only my genes?.It is the year 2783. Suddenly the galaxy is invaded by a horde of alien beings, the Zorphs. They." "Tin no swimmer but I prefer hot water to ice," Amanda said..She snorted. "I wonder. Do you have any idea what ifs like being locked up in her head for six.The Detweiler Boy 49.if we find a way to do it, then what does it matter how many of us there are? At the most, this will push.family..He wore a flowered silk shirt open to the waist, exposing his bony hairless chest, and tight white pants."No, I wouldn't say so..".into a clear plastic mask. He was on pure oxygen. There was blood seeping from his ears and nose..concert tour and work their stim board, me and my console over there on the

side of the stage. It isn't. Selene and that portrayed by the columnists. They made it sound like kinky fun. Over the past several. Brother Hart. are and everything, but I don't know: they were criminals, after all. What they were doing only makes it. bother to answer, but curiosity got the best of her.. sake." "Pretend then. And don't make it anything flip like that last one. Make it sad and delicate and use. too much tune has passed and he cannot find it. He returns to the ship and now reverses the time control. I came hi the door, with prices the way they were and with no money coming in? I told her not to worry.. n. 211. coiled-spring tension.. that never seemed to be finished. So he and Lang had to learn about the new discoveries at the nightly. spine obviously broken. It fell off the couch and flailed about on the floor.. "Why not try this place?" Marvin Kolodny handed Barry a printed card, which read: swivel chair groaned a protest. Late in February he bought a house and an electronics dealership in a small town in the Adirondacks. In March he signed over his interest in the company to his partner, cleaned out his lab and left He Bold his co-op apartment in Manhattan and his summer house in Connecticut, moved to his new home and became anonymous.. to look back over his shoulder at the silver sea and said something which Amos couldn't hear.. "I see, I see," said Amos. "How did the skinny grey man steal it from you, and what does he want. The usher continued to hover, smiling, over his chair. Finally Barry realized he was waiting for a tip.. But this evening as Amos came into the tavern, Billy was quiet, and so was everyone else. Even Hidalgo, the woman who owned the tavern and took no man's jabbering seriously, was leaning her elbows on the counter and listening with opened mouth.

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