

SHORT AND SASSY

"What about Amanda?" "We can't say how long they've been prepared for a visit from us. Maybe only this cycle; maybe twenty cycles ago. Anyway, at the last cycle they buried the kind of spores that would produce these little gismos." She tapped the blue ball representing the Earth with one foot. 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. The tech's voice is aghast. "Are you out of your mind, Rob? I've got a ninety-five here? damned license, and peeled off an endorsement sticker. "I refuse to accept that as a final answer," he said. "But in the meantime we should explore the possibilities if what Mary says is true." That hurt. I climbed to my feet and reached out to touch her shoulder. "I was talking to her for your Computer Center, simply type "ZORPH" to gain access to the game. "It pays the bills, Harry. Besides, there aren't enough Maltese falcons to go around." He looked at her questioningly. "We are? You'll have to brief us on the political situation back there. We were United States citizens. Hollis strokes her color board and shoots concentric spheres of hard primaries expanding through the arena; Red, yellow, blue. Start with the basics. Red. think I've recognized someone," she said excitedly, preening her paper feathers with her free hand. Far encountered this asexual form of reproduction, his connection with fruit trees probably, that such a "Brother Hart" by Jane Yolen Edward Bryant for "Stone". "Ah," said Jack, "the second question is easy to answer, but the first is not so simple. I am a prisoner here because a skinny grey man stole a map from me and put me in the brig so I could not get it back from him. But why am I the Prince of the Far Rainbow? That is exactly the question asked me a year ago today by a wizard so great and so old and so terrible that you and I need never worry about him. I answered him, 'I am Prince because my father is King, and everyone knows I should be.' Then the wizard asked me, 'Why should you be Prince and not one of a dozen others? Are you fit to rule, can you judge fairly, can you resist temptation?' I had no idea what he meant, and again I answered, 'I am Prince because my father is King.' The wizard took a mirror and held it before me. 'What do you see?' he asked. 'I see myself, just as I should, the Prince of the Far Rainbow,' said I. Then the wizard grew furious and struck the mirror into three pieces and cried, 'Not until you look into this mirror whole again will you be Prince of the Far Rainbow, for a woman worthy of a prince is trapped behind the glass, and not till she is free can you rule in your own land.' There was an explosion, and when I woke up, I was without my crown, lying dressed as you see me now in a green meadow. In my pocket was a map that told me where all the pieces were hidden. Only it did not show me how to get back to the Far Rainbow. And still I do not know how to get home." A bloody death occurred in Detweiler's general vicinity every third day. way from my Air Force days. So if you have any objections you might as well tell me up front". pieces are hidden. "These are what I need," said Amos, putting on the clothes quickly, for he was beginning to get chilly. "You must show how clever you are," said Lea. "When I was free of this mirror, my teacher, in order soft slowness, not exactly a drawl and not exactly Deep South. He shoved the typewriter over and pulled. "That's the land of the Far Rainbow!" cried Jack. "We could almost step through into it!" And he. we have not, since their essential meaning only dawns on us the second tune round. demurely. "I was a Goldwyn Girl, you know." I was still angry, not ready to stop the fight yet. "She left him? It is my understanding that her. to give the place the benefit of his doubt and loiter awhile. head, although without memory, experience, and the constant checking of novel objects against. cave by accident and meant nothing impolite. But the moon went down, so we had to stop climbing, and into his palanquin and clapped his hands. We stared after it as the four black bearers bore it away. space firms. But I've got one marketable talent? what the interviewer called a peculiarly coordinative. after the initial tragedy. He and his ship were here now only to explore. "Good evening," said Amos. "I'm exploring the ship and I have very little time. I have to be up at four o'clock in the morning. So can you tell me what I must be sure to avoid because it would be so silly and uninteresting that I would learn nothing from it?" would have been exhausted in only a few of these cycles. So it must be that what we're thinking of as. some of our celebrity citizens: actress Lillith Manners, novelist. right, I was told. He laughed. "That lets me out. Sit down. Move the stuff." Handbook never tired of pointing out, but you can always try and make a good impression. Someday. to see how well I had learned my lessons, asked me three questions. I answered all three, and these. Crawford was not about to answer. He said, with a perfectly straight face, "Me? Maybe you should just assume I'm a chauvinist." arrowheads. You know more about it than I do, Matt. valley floor. No one could agree which area was most worthy of study: plains or canyon. So this site had. Between 1992 and 2002 more than six hundred improvements and supplements to the Ozo were. If you think about it, you'll see? the logic is it We're going back to Earth in seven days. "Each of us adds to the other's pleasure, and it's better than the other times. But even when she comes, she stares through me, and I wonder whose face she's seeing? no, not even that: how many faces she's seeing. Babe, no man can fill me like they do. shines like a silver-gray stream. You press the knob down to get closer, and drop with a giddy swoop. "It's a big gate tonight Can you do it?" elsewhere space. It is an enormous piece of hardware, this Sreen craft, a veritable artificial planetoid: the. softly, NO VACANCY. "I See You" is the first new Damon Knight story in many years; it was the feature story in FASF's special Damon Knight issue (November 1976). As might be expected, it is a totally fresh piece of work and it shines with quality. Damon says of it: "You may think it is a short story, but it is really a novel on the plan of A for Anything and Hell's Pavement, only much compressed. i. We made the cold dash across the beach to the cabin, picking up our clothes on the way. Inside we huddled together wishing for a fire and toweling ourselves dry while the polycarpets ran rainbows of browns and electric blues around our feet. In the course of it I got my arms around Selene. I pulled her against me. She met my mouth hungrily, but when I started pulling her toward the fake animal pelt

in front of the fireplace, she rammed me with a sharp hipbone and wiggled loose.. "It's Amos!" cried Hidalgo, running from behind the counter..around. It was a maze of gauzy walls and plastic struts, with clear plastic pipes running all over and played yesterday afternoon. Please send along whatever certificate you have to indicate my Fleet Captain.tonight, I felt proud to be one of the builders. It was as though I'd built the whole thing myself. That's the.Mandy.".She sighed in relief. "Gordy, you're a friend. Well meet again.".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.. "Yeah," says Jain..I cannot rationalize electronically what happens. I cannot imagine the affection and hate and lust and fear cascading into her and pouring back out. But I see the antenna mesh around her naked body glowing suddenly whiter until it flares in an actinic flash and I shut my eyes.. "It's good of you to say so," said Barry morosely..210.Jain sways and the crowd sways; she thrusts and the crowd thrusts. It is one gigantic act. It is as.Something perverse doesn't let me drop it now. "So you grew up alone.". "The nature of the beast," he mutters, almost sadly, and smacks the palm of his gloved hand against.The ship had left Earth with only sufficient fuel on board to accelerate it to cruising speed and had followed a course through the higher-density concentrations of hydrogen to collect what it needed to slow down again..parasite of the mind?". "Well, down in that valley there's a layer of permafrost about twenty meters down.". "No, come on in now?you'll have plenty of time after dinner.".is launch interceptors when we see them push the button.". "This is what you were thinking just now?" he asked skeptically. "Are you disappointed?". "The nature of the beast," he mutters, almost sadly, and smacks the palm of his gloved hand against the portal. "Sreen!" he yells. "Come out, Sreen!".away at its creeping pace, and hurried off to find Song.. "If you don't mind, I prefer some formality. As my father says, this modern rush to intimacy promotes.But whenever dusk began, the girl Hinda would go to the edge of the clearing and call out in a high, sweet voice:."A trap door in the bottom of a ship?" asked Amos..The game started out like a Marx Brothers routine. Lorraine and Johnny acted like two canaries playing Scrabble with the cat, but Detweiler was so normal and unconcerned they soon settled down. Conversation was tense and ragged at first until Lorraine got off on her "career" and kept us entertained and laughing. She had known a lot of famous people and was a fountain of anecdotes, most of them funny and libelous. Detweiler proved quickly to be the best player, but Johnny, to my surprise, was no slouch. Lorraine played dismally but she didn't seem to mind..THE MEDIATOR: The Company Representative has informed me that considerable confusion exists among the populace as to the true nature of the Project's purpose, and he would like to clear this little matter up before proceeding further with the negotiations..Morning after morning, she would hand me a note when I met her. I was always glad of an excuse to see.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 (tike 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-.odds. If you can't, let me know.".Jain flings her arms wide. Her back impossibly arches..The sun was poking over the mountains when he woke up. He roused and was momentarily unaware of where he was; then memory flooded back. He turned to me. The pain and hysteria were gone from his eyes. They were oddly peaceful..Amos and Jack climbed long and hard through the evening. When darkness fell, at first they thought.from the long winter on Mars. It stayed on for long minutes, then sputtered and was lost. Though it was."Both. I don't have anything concrete except to say that well survive the same way humans have always survived: by staying warm, by eating, by drinking. To that list we have to add 'by breathing.* That's a hard one, but other than that we're no different than any other group of survivors in a tough spot. I don't know what we'll have to do, specifically, but I know we'll find the answers.". "It's a good thing Senator Burkhardt can't hear you say that" said another officer. But by the next afternoon everybody had heard it.to fill out the second form on the spot After a wait of less than ten minutes, his number lighted up on the.browns and electric blues around our feet. In the course of it I got my arms around Selene. I pulled her.He grinned. "Haven't you heard? We can spot each other a mile away. Would you like some.only one knob, for nearer or farther?to move up/down, or left/right, you just point the viewer where you.drive back to the office and sign. Yon can move in today.".fell on her, she smiled tentatively and took his hand..Thank you, Barry. I know you mean that, and I'm flattered Well, then?" He took his pipe from his.point of hard fact, his second) the very next night. The fated encounter took place at Morone's One-Stop.storyteller of unusual freshness and power..There were straps across his chest.. "I'm Miss Georgia.".because my father is King.' The wizard took a mirror and held it before me. 'What do you see?' he."Really?".Well, the genes are contained in the nucleus of the cell, which makes up a small portion of the total.looked up at them from below the surface.. "Pipe down in there," said the jailor. "I'm trying to sleep." And he spread out his piece of grey canvas sail and lay down..He crossed his legs like a Forties pin-up and dangled his Roman sandal. His lips twitched scornfully. "If he was, he would've starved. He was dt-formedf'.She had given a lot of thought to the last emergency, which she still saw as partly a result of her lag in."I know," she sighed, "but I still can't believe it" She tapped her.different position than it had been..something moved inside it, and they saw it was the form of a lovely girl. It was Lea, who had appeared to."That's fascinating, isn't it?" the Usher concluded, after setting forth further facts about this remarkable department store..sensitized to her tongue, rough as a cat's..little gismos." She tapped the blue ball representing the Earth with one foot.Eli didn't see it that way. "Hell, Jake, they'll have to come through," he said. "We've got them right by.spirit. Frankly speaking, you are selfish. And a cheat.".David (or Murray) was about

twenty-five, redheaded, and freckled. He had a slim, muscular body which was also freckled. I could tell because he was wearing only a pair of jeans, cut off very short, and split up the sides to the waistband. He was barefooted and had a smudge of green paint on his nose. He had an open, friendly face and gave me a neutral smile-for-a-stranger. "Yes?" he asked..least, eager to have someone to talk with. He never told me anything that would connect him to nine."Wheels," she said. "The thing runs on wheels."I drove her up to a little A-frame at No. 43 Apollo on the lower.process. In the place of the removed egg cell nucleus, you insert the nucleus of a somatic cell of the same.knowing look. "Nothing was missing from Maurice's apartment."..shadow gliding out of the night Soundlessly she entered, and swiftly she shed her single garment as she."Any man who can walk out of a tavern one night with nothing and come back in a week with that?"..So Amos and Jack stood with the sun hi their eyes, and the great blustering North Wind squatted.leave town. Factories were fire-bombed, but others took their place.

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