

THE CHRISTMAS FISH

"I guess so. I don't think 'Commander Long' would wear well over five years. But you'd better still." A book. Jain holds up the book so she can see. "No!" Her vehemence startled me. She quickly lowered her voice and went on: "My friends call me. This has been successfully tried with animals as complex as a tadpole. They triggered them to be activated only when they encountered certain different conditions. Maybe. echo of drums from the huts huddled beside the riverbank below. Miserable wretches were at it again. the big blue escalator up to his first first-hand experience of direct, interactive personal communication. I'm trying to balance. I juggle slides. "Any better?" "Don't tease me, Bertram. There's a boy here in the hotel. I saw something I don't think he wanted me to see. It's extremely odd." 189. couldn't be much better now, right after another war. And we can't leave, even if we wanted to." She. "You must return to your ship," they insist, "and obey the will of the Sreen." us Tumac of the Rock People and Luana of the Shell People in the persons of Victor Mature and Carole. Jubilation, he thought. Bingo. Hallelujah. "That's right," said Jack. "And nearer than you think is a great, grey, dull, tangled, boggy, and baleful. everything they did. with yourself, Barry? Few people are completely willing to talk about something. We've all got. "Yes. It's all over." for a moment, looking up to the ceiling where the airberries? white spheres about the size of bowling. John Varley. Lying there wide awake on the rough mattress, side by side in the warm air with Mary Lang, whose. at the rail; now he sees that the woman has a child in her arms. The child struggles, drops over the rail. Saturday morning, the third day since Miss Herndon died, I had a talk with Lorraine and Johnny. If. At least a thousand hired kids are there setting up chairs in the arena this morning, but it's still hard to feel I'm not alone. The dome is that big. Voices get lost here. Even thoughts echo. preserved without the chance of diminution by the interplay of genes obtained from a second parent. "About a day," Crawford said. "You have to destroy them to get out of them. The plastic strips don't. "Ashes?" I say, unsure how to respond. Humor her. "Sure. **." "Done!" she'd taken toward the ice cream. "I was laughing at myself. Obviously, I was asking for pity. So if I should get some, I shouldn't be surprised, should I. My name's Madeline, but my friends call me Mad. You're supposed to laugh." The door opened and he was yanked through and bound up again. The grey man marched Amos. It would take a tome to sort out all the Frankensteins and spinoffs therefrom. Only a handful, of. think he really has our best interests at heart, Jake?" he asked. that the only thing the Project will be a haven for will be fish. But I'll play the game fair. They're ready. I cut in another dozen tracks, then mute two. Things are building just a little too fast. the controls with a bored and superior air, has just left the room, saying, "All right, if you know so much, do it yourself." There was only one way to get it out of my head. short, feeling ashamed of his idea. Now that it was out in the open it seemed paltry and insignificant, little. "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?" ANDERSON'S Me Call Joe. loosed her scarlet cape and that too fell to the floor. Not from you, he wanted to tell her. Instead he looked off into the distance at the perambulations of a suite of chairs in another ring. Only when all the chairs had settled into place did he refocus on the. label detached itself in transit; the letter was delivered. When the agent replied, Smith was watching and. months Selene and I were together, if I hadn't already known about her, I'd never have guessed?" Nolan put his arm around her. "Why don't you go lie down? Mama Dolores can look after Robbie." 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. that mountain. It is so windy there, and the grey man is so thin, he would be blown away before he was. was probably good for him. You can't expect to like everyone you meet, as the Communications. "I have no idea. I only saw them in the hall a couple of times. Maurice and I were ... not close." He. "Jack, is Peg in there?" fast. He and the grey man looked at one another, and neither said anything. The only sound was from the. couch turned into a lumpy bed. The refrigerator looked as if someone had spilled a bottle of Br'er Rabbit. Fallows sat back in his chair and cast a routine eye around the monitor room. Everything seemed to be running smoothly at the crew stations beyond the glass partition behind his console, and the other displays confirmed that all else was as it should be. The reserve tank to Number 2 vernier motor had been recharged after a slight course-correction earlier and was checking out at "Ready" again. All the fuel, coolant, primary and standby power, hydraulic, pneumatic, gas, oil, life-support, and instrumentation subsystems servicing the Drive Section were performing well within limits. Way back near the tail, the banks of gigantic fusion reactors were gobbling up the 35 million tons of hydrogen that had been magnetically ram scooped out of space throughout the twenty-year voyage and converting over two tons of its mass into energy every second to produce the awesome, 1.5-mile-diameter blast of radiation and reaction products that would have to burn for six months to slow the 140-million-ton mass of the Mayflower II down from its free-cruise velocity. She washed the wound with water. The cut was long but it was not deep. Some scratch got in the woods. He looked at me with an expression I'd never seen before, and I knew why Lorraine said he had a. He was buttoning his shin. That must have been the delay: he wouldn't want anyone to see him with his shut off. Everything I'd been told about him was true. He wasn't very tall; the top of his head came to my nose. He was dark, though not as dark as I'd expected, I couldn't place his ancestry. It certainly wasn't Latin-American and I didn't think it was Slavic, His features were soft without the angularity usually found in the Mediterranean races. His hair wasn't quite black. It wasn't exactly long and it wasn't exactly short His clothes were nondescript. Everything about him was neutral? except. He held up his hands then, and a deerskin unrolled from them. With a swift, savage movement, he tacked it to the door with his knife. The hooves did not quite touch the ground. possible rescue. The more they thought about it, the less happy they looked. They all seemed to

agree."I think so," Lang said. "It was so little water, though. You know we didn't want to waste it; we have a natural resistance to the sideband stopover radiation from the empathic transmissions. "Ever think The Man Who Had No Idea by Thomas M. Disch 197.down, yawning.

"Detweiler? Don't think I ever laid eyes on the man. What'd he do?".reason that Division President Tailing and Corporation Comptroller Westland were not paid this week..You may reapply for another examination at any time. An examination score in or above the eighth percentile will secure the removal of all restrictions, and you will immediately receive your Permanent License. A score in the sixth or seventh percentile will not affect the validity of your Temporary License, though its expiration date may be extended by this means for a period of up to three months. A score hi the fifth percentile or below will result in the withdrawal of your Temporary License.. "You liked him, didn't your*.up. She humphed..about his handshake. There was nothing phoney about his handshake, and he knew it.. "This is what you were thinking just now?" he asked skeptically. "Are you disappointed?".brown haunch, brown body and head. The horns shriveled and fell to the ground. Only her eyes remained the same..sible, you being an examiner and all... but I wish I knew yon in a personal way. Truly. You're a very heavy individual."Norman Spinrad's *The Iron Dream*, a novel which vehemently denounces the genre in the same terms.Handbook never tired of pointing out, but you can always try and make a good impression. Someday.the plants, like bees, and the plants either donate or are robbed of the power to wind the spring. Did you."Now let us find your luminous pool," said Amos, "so we can be back by lunch."..passion in his foolishness, and it is an infectious passion. "How dare they treat us this way? What do they.The waitress who brought his order was Cinderella Johnson. She was wearing levis and a T-shirt.into her back pocket, took out her license, and peeled off an endorsement sticker..They'll keep working on it, but when it's done, Winey won't step into the damn dung. He wants to be.Sure enough they found themselves on the edge of a round, silvery pool. Across from them, large frogs croaked at them, and one or two bubbles broke the surface. Together Amos and Jack looked into the water..bearers bore him away.. "Yeah. I broke my own rule. But so did you two. Consider yourselves on report." She laughed and.hung around for a while, smoking cigarettes and speculating on how long we'd be out. Then we.that never seemed to be finished. So he and Lang had to learn about the new discoveries at the nightly."I meant, would you like some now, with me? I've got a six-pack."..Immediately he let the lid drop again, and the sailor with the iron key locked the lock on the top of the box. From inside came the mew of a cat that ended with a deep, depressing: Elmbmpf..my console keys and shouting his best Navy profanity at the Zorphs who had just zapped him for.1931 is worth mentioning. That is *Frankenstein: The True Story*. Coscripted by Christopher Isherwood.,She comes off the stage crying. I touch her arm as she walks past my console. Jam stops and rubs her eyes and asks me if 111 go back to the hotel with her..shut?". . . Mr. Zirul has committed so many other failures of technique that a whole course in fiction writing.goldstone than the feral warmth of topaz. Too, despite her slow walk beside me, she radiated energy so.When the sun called Brother Hart to his deerskin once again, Hinda opened the door. Silently she.By the time the rescue expedition arrived, no one was calling it that There had been the little matter of a long, brutal war with the Palestinian Empire, and a growing conviction that the survivors of the First Expedition had not had any chance in the first place. There had been no time for luxuries like space travel beyond the Moon and no billions of dollars to invest while the world's energy policies were being debated in the Arabian Desert with tactical nuclear weapons..there for a moment as a perfect smoke ring of dust billowed up around the rim of the dome. Then he was.that the statement did not startle him..His Imperial Majesty, Ruler of Zorphdom and the Greater Galaxy, The Middle Claw of Justice in the.After calling the office to let Caro know where she could reach me, I handed Amanda into the.From Competition 1\$:. "I suppose you'll be anxious to go to the ship," he said. "You're going to be a tremendous help. You.don't see how. I don't believe it."..it yourself."..a hero, but he wants to live to enjoy it, too."..Of course it was Moises who did the actual driving; Nolan couldn't even chew them out properly.(chorus) Clone, clone of my own..must continually extend one's sensitivity, knowledge, and critical care to works that only abuse such.99.?I'm not lying. I was arguing that Selene shouldn't use any of your time."..had evolved. He was a laboratory chemist, specializing in inorganic compounds. The way these plants.I didn't say anything..swollen purple face..The light hi her dimmed, leaving her only a lanky girl in an anachronistic dress. She pulled at a copper.Crawford looked back to the newest arrivals. They were Lucy Stone McKillian, the red-headed.Her place turned out to be four street numbers away from his and nothing like what he'd been expecting, neither a demoralized wreck heaped with moldering memorabilia nor yet the swank, finicky pied-a-terre of some has-been somebody. It was a plain, pleasant 1%-room apartment that anyone could have lived in and almost everyone did, with potted plants to emphasize the available sunlight and pictures representing various vanished luxuries on the wall, the common range of furniture from aspiring to makeshift, and enough ordinary debris to suggest a life being carried on, with normative difficulty, among these carefully cultivated neutralities..I did extract a promise that she would let me show her more houses another day; then I made myself."I thought you'd write something about me." "Would you like me to do that?" "It's too late now." "Not.Jam says, "One, two, three." On "three," we each bring up our."Matthew?Matthew, I'm sorry. I didn't meant to hurt you." Her hand stroked my forehead. "It was.She smiled. "That sounds lovely."..since I might not come back anyway. Give my rags to whoever owns this suit to keep for me until I come.you. You can replenish your energy reserve by returning to a friendly base. You can hop sectors using..grabbed the nearest, who happened to be Doctor Ralston. He had nearly finished donning his suit; so she."We were provided for," Mary Lang said quietly. "They knew we were coming and they altered their.inevitable. A matter, merely, of making the effort and reaping the reward..Sure enough, Amanda called shortly before noon and asked if I had time to help her today. Caro.are her present passion,.do?".off. That is, unless Mary thinks she can absorb everything she needs to know about piloting the.It was so dark in there with the curtains drawn that I couldn't see a thing. I left the closet and opened them a little on the front window. It didn't let in a lot of light, but it

was enough. Maybe Detweiler wouldn't notice. I went back to the closet and waited..After all, a human being is more than his genes. Your clone is the result of your nucleus being placed.RUSS's // Changed? When?.Mama Dolores took over Robbie's schedule while Nolan made his daily rounds in the fields..Standing just outside the airlock was Mary Lang. She turned as they came out, and did not seem surprised..members of Local 209 stand to benefit from the Project as much as the rest of the

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