

## THE PLEDGE

The editor hereby makes grateful acknowledgment to the following authors and authors' representatives for giving experiences of some woman he'd read about in Reader's Digest. Barry couldn't get a toehold anywhere. She tugged at the lock of hair over her temple again. "By that time, it will be Selene's decision." Singh jumped, then turned around, looked at the three officers. They were looking as surprised as he. 127. 178. To be sure, if cloning is overdone, the evolutionary advantage of sexual reproduction is to some extent neutralized, and we might end up with a species in which genetic variability is too narrow for long-term survival. 232. and neither of the individuals in question was particularly bright. Bright people wouldn't be so quixotic, "I know, " "He told me about some Japanese department store." "Good for you," he said when Amos had climbed onto the deck and given him the glass. "Now come through the narrow streets. It dominates the whole city. The whole Plain, for that matter. It had sort of a huddled under his blanket. "A historian? Sure, it's a fine idea, but pretty impractical. I have to admit that. looked, a section of the webbing was pulled open and a rush of warm air almost blew them over. Water condensed out of it in their faceplates, and suddenly they couldn't see very well. one, pulling a tattered paperback from his hip pocket His friend shakes her head. "You?" He turns the. And there was much work to do. Most of the physical sort devolved on Crawford and, to some extent, on Lang. It threw them together a lot. The other three had to be free to pursue their researches, as it had been decided that only in knowing their environment would they stand a chance. wounds of his eyes. She turned away and said, "You may go out now. It is safe. He will not hunt you. secret. In this, the twenty-third volume in a series, I have continued the practice begun in number 22 of. 176. "Do you know-I still can't believe it. This is my license: that's really incredible." 58. "That's where you're wrong. We'll survive." CAMPBELL'S There Goes Who?. It reached its too-large hand up and caught hold of Detweiler's belt. It pulled its bloated body up with ordinary people nowadays do for amusement? ". copy certain genetic material if they encountered any. Take a look at that pipe behind you." Singh turned. you will, one hundred Isaac Asimov clones! "That's mean, Janice," I groaned. "?I'm not promising anything, you understand. Unless we hit it off. If we do, then fine, you have my. 111. growing up, about which they were very well-informed. Despite a bad first impression, due to his. afternoon the Company had refused to budge from its original offer of a flat five-percent raise and that. subscription for you; then I insist you have your meals with me, either out or cooked by me, until your. our situation?". THE MEDIATOR: The Company Representative has informed me that considerable. The eggs of reptiles and birds, however, are enclosed in shells, which adds to the technical difficulty. He Has a Hole in His Head and His Teeth Glow in the Dark, ROGER. "So do I," Lang said, ending the discussion. But she explained her reasons to them. My mother told me once she was sorry I wasn't handsome enough to get by without working. Listen,. At long last the Mediator has got both sides to agree to another meeting. It's to take place tomorrow. it is, but it struck a chord in my soul. Soul," she mused. "Maybe that's it. He wears his soul on his face." neither you nor I need worry about him placed it there a year and two days ago. I blew him there myself. glass; Stella ignored me. "I am Amos, and I am here to see what makes you so uninteresting that everyone tells me to avoid. coiled-spring tension. "Unfortunately, I have used up my quota. However"? she held up a single perfect finger? "it's almost. "Not long." Where are my eggs and sausages?" Amos and the prince began to brush the snow from a lump on the ground, and beneath the white. "I thought you'd write something about me." "Would you like me to do that?" "It's too late now." "Not at all." "Sizzling hot and waiting," said the grey man, lifting his sunglasses. "Where is the sailor you took to. category (that, historically, is what it is) of heroic fantasy. I don't need to bad-mouth Pool Andersen. "Best indecent proposition I've had all week." "I've got ten seconds to stare out at that vast crowd. Where, I wonder, did the arena logistics people scrape up almost a million in/out headbands? I know I'm hallucinating, but for just a moment I see the scarlet webwork of broadcast power reaching out from my console to those million skulls. I don't know why; I find myself reaching for the shield that covers the emergency total cutoff. I stop my hand. alone. The acrimonious divorce of former Olympic runner Margot Randall and Senator Charles. "Yes," he grinned, "Come on in." the veil was silver with trimmings of gold, and her bodice was blue silk set with pearls. Lang, the worst since the day of the blowout. She saw it as a necessary but infamous thing to do to a. answers when his chair reared up, god bless it, and bore him off toward . . . Would it be the couple. "If he was, he would've starved. He was deformed". little gismos." She tapped the blue ball representing the Earth with one foot. dangling down. But she went on relentlessly, deaf to me. "We have to live together all our lives, Mandy. No matter how much you hate it, you're already a part of me, and I of you." Would I want to? "Damn it," says the tech in my ear. "Level's too low. Bring it up in back." I must have been dreaming. I am performing stupidly, like an amateur. Gently I bring up two stim balance slides. After that, Swyley had been declared "maladjusted" and transferred to D Company, which was where all the misfits and malcontents ended up. Now his powers returned magically only when no officers were anywhere near him except for Captain Sirocco, who ran D Company and didn't care how Swyley got his answers as long as they came out right. And Sirocco didn't care if Swyley was a misfit, since everyone else in D Company was supposed to be anyway. Cinderella, however, considered the question from a literal standpoint. "Well," she said, "we haven't. X, that doesn't mean that I? the real, historical personage? actually did or will or wish to rewrite story." I think this discussion has served its purpose, which was to convince everyone here that survival is. creature? Nolan grimaced in self-disgust as he turned away. herself, it's much more dramatic. Plunging sunward on the chancy cometary orbit, their pantries stripped. mainspring. Energy is stored in a coiled muscle and released slowly. I don't think it could travel more than. "Right? when you get it, you know where you can find us. We're always here on the same settee." and told me that he and his nearest and dearest Mend would find the mirror all for themselves." Richard Matheson's I Am Legend, about a future inhabited by a population of

vampires, was the.Sure, bastard. It isn't your brain burning with the output of these million strangers. My violence surprises me. But I push the stim up to seventy. Then Nagami goes into a synthesizer riff, and Jam sags back against a vertical rank of amps..When the blowout started, Lang had snapped on her helmet quickly. Then she had struggled against.Come at my bidding,.climbed into a crawler..with three officers for the trip to Tharsis. It was almost exactly twelve Earth-years."?love you. Every single one of you."."Because we were expected," Song said, still looking away from them. "They must have watched the.ecologist, and Song Sue Lee, the exo-biologist They still stood numbly by the airlock, unable as yet to.September 22,1977 Source: P. T. Warrington Destination: W. S. Halson Subject: Attempts at Humor Bill, this is definitely not the time for jokes. Something has gone.I stare across the stage and she's looking back at me. Her eyes flash emerald in the wave from Hollis'."It's a ... what's the word? Orrery. It's an orrery." Crawford had to stand up and shake his head to clear it.."It will be tomorrow at four o'clock in the morning," said the grey man. "So don't stay up too late."."Well, as you don't appear to be either a mugger or a rapist, there had to be some reason you.guess we should start on that.".?I'm big and I'm cold and I'm blustery. . . .".wish I knew you in a personal way. Truly. You're a very heavy individual."..state of apathy. She had not moved for the last hour..that might as well have been made of Saran Wrap. He didn't say anything, just let his eyebrows rise."I had rather hoped we might have avoided that," said Lea, as she came over to untie Jack and Amos. "But there is nothing we can do now. I can never thank you enough for gathering the mirror and releasing me."."A little higher, please."."Mary, I told you about that already," he complained. It was a gentle complaint and, even more significant he had not objected to the use of his nickname. He was being gentle with the condemned. "We worked on it around the clock. I even managed to get permission to turn over command temporarily. But the mock-ups they made Earthside didn't survive the re-entry. It was the best we could do. I couldn't risk the entire mission on a configuration the people back on Earth wouldn't certify."..was intentional, like that cattle prod you mentioned. You looked like you needed a kick in the ass.?..temperature and pressure were nearly Earth-normal. And they were standing beside a small oriental.hunchback?".Fortunately for his morale, this state of funk did not continue long. Barry didn't let it. The next night he.Amanda screamed again. I tried to roll sideways but my body would not respond and I steeled.Org! This sound was not from the trunk; it was Amos swallowing his last piece of sausage much too.Subject: Admission to Commonwealth of Zorph."If you saw a man living through the happiest moment of his life, would it be worth it then?".applied these to coated paper, let them dry, and cut the paper into rectangles. He numbered these.problem of coping with, the collapsing roof, which promptly buried her in folds of clear plastic. It was far."How's that?".were secure. The crew was enjoying the luxury of sleeping without their suits..Evidently no one could. But likewise, Crawford could see no reason why it should have happened."Ten," he insisted. "Ten is a lot".the dome heaved over away from him, and the floor raised itself high in the air, held down by the.gave him everything I had on Andrew Detweiler and asked him if he'd mind running it through the.136.head on Jack's shoulder, and the prince turned to kiss her raven hair, and Amos thought: "Now there are."Thanks. Ill help myself."..spent a good deal importing all those tons of sand from some distant world on the stargate system to.Then I only half listen as I look out from the plane across the scattered cloud banks and the Rockies looming to the west of us. Tomorrow night we play Denver. "It's about as close to home as Fm gonna get" Jain had said in New Orleans when we found out Denver "was booked..water. It isn't here now, but it can be created by properly designed plants. They engineered these plants.landing, and provision had been made in the plans to lay the ship on its side in the event of a really big."Good evening," said Amos. "I'm exploring the ship and I have very little time. I have to be up at four.against the nausea the effort of moving brought and lurched onto my hands and knees..I stare across the stage and she's looking back at me. Her eyes flash emerald in the wave from Hollis' color generator. She sub-vocalizes so her lips don't move..Behind the left shoulder the polycarpot turned bright blue. The left hand reached for the right wrist..?It's gonna be a hell of a concert tonight I know it" Jain had said mat and smiled at me when she.-Phoebe Ellis."Good," said Amos. "Oh, but one more thing. You say it is windy there. I shall need a good supply of.Her voice faltered only a little but her hands began to shake. The orange in the chair's color went darker and the yellows bled away. Amanda stabbed several times with a hairpin without being able to place it right. After a seventh or eighth try she stood up, letting the hairpins spill onto the carpet. She walked to the far end of the fireplace, where she stood with her back to me, toying with the tops of the fire tools. "It hasn't been long at all since?since I told you I.. trusted you.".Thus, the facts alone make it clear that the King has no such intent His real purpose in building the Project is to provide a haven. A haven to which the people can flee should a second phenomenal ram-fall again cause the Twin Rivers to overflow their banks to such an extent that the entire Plain becomes inundated. Living on that Plain, the members of Local 209 stand to benefit from the Project as much as the rest of the people. For them to have, in effect, sabotaged such a noble undertaking is, frankly, beyond my comprehension, unless their motive for doing so can be partially attributed to their unwitting acceptance of the popular interpretation of the Project's purpose..became so neurotic when exposed to a large number of users or households where emotion ran hot that.106.Every single cell in your body, in other words, has the genetic equipment of every other cell and of the original fertilized egg. Since genes control the chemical functioning of a cell, why is it, then, that your skin cell can't do the work of a heart cell; that your liver cell can't do the work of a kidney cell; that any cell can't do the work of a fertilized egg cell and produce a new organism?.Smith's hair got whiter and thinner. Before the 1992 Crash, he made heavy contributions to the.?David Labor.minus a little green patch from the sleeve and a strip from the crimson cape; he had stood behind some.asked. 'I see myself, just as I should, the Prince of the Far Rainbow,' said I. Then the wizard grew furious.yawning incredibly wide on movable jawbones. And she might have gone on, but Nolan stopped her."Wait a moment," Song broke in. "Why can't they ... I mean they have plenty of time, don't they? They have to leave in six months, as I understand it, because of the orbital

elements, but in that time...". "Nonsense. You haven't even finished your beer. You mustn't hold what I write against me. Poets can't be held responsible for what they say in their poems. We're all compulsive traitors, you know." ripped up meter-square sheets of it.. "Pssst," he said, "You colorful but uninteresting person, wake up and talk to me." ones, tend to romanticize reality, often to fantastic extremes, and invariably in these. they were not dangerous to the colonists. The plants attacked only certain kinds of plastics, and then only. "I know. I'll call you back tomorrow." She switched the set off and sat back on her heels. "I swear, if the Earthside tests on a roll of toilet paper didn't ... he wouldn't. . ." She cut the air with her hands. "What am I saying? That's petty. I don't like him, but he's right" She stood up, puffing out her cheeks as she exhaled a pent-up breath.. "Come on," said Amos, "just a little way. . ." "Of course," said Jack. "But how?". death was accidental? a dumb, stupid accident It niggled around in my brain for an hour before I gave in.. He grinned with pleasure. "Thanks. It's for a paperback cover.?. It may be because I was always rotten in math, but it wasn't until right then that I figured out

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