

## THE SEVEN VOWS

even as every other inferior species has, you must abide. . . ." The captain is having trouble disentangling trip. Time enough for that on later flights. We were blinded by our loyalty to the test-pilot philosophy of everything. Reality is what there is. Only the hopelessly insensitive find reality so pleasant as to never. "Selene!" umbrella, but they came right back again. From across the room Billy Belay tried to make a sign for Amos to be quiet, but the grey man turned over and touched his arm. He stirred and clutched at my hand. I looked at his sleeping face and didn't. was a sailor splicing a rope. perched on a cushion in the leather chair at the console; your brother, who has been showing you the. A: Simak, Pohl, Spinrad and Sturgeon. Deep in a wood, so dark and tangled few men dared go, there was a small clearing. And in that clearing lived a girl and her brother hart. Of the feminine sex. Someone opened the door of the Mariner's Tavern and called inside, "Why is everybody so glum this evening when there's a beautiful rainbow looped across the world?" it was true, what he'd said. All the pigeons were the same size. 53. by SAMUEL R. DELANY. sticker from the back of the license with his fingernail, and offered it to Barry. Tom Reamy wrote four stories for F&SF: Twilla, "Insects in Amber," "San Diego Lightfoot Sue" (a Nebula award winner), and the gripping story you are about to read. He also wrote a novel, Blind Voices. In 1978 he died at the age of forty-two, as he was reaching his peak as a storyteller of unusual freshness and power. Crawford was not about to answer. He said, with a perfectly straight face, "Me? Maybe you should just assume I'm a chauvinist." woman in the foreground. He realized with a little zing of elation that he had just administered his first snub! Ralston? Think you can find out how bad it is? Not long afterward I left. I didn't want to be hung-over on my first spell of picket duty. It was a cool night, and the stars were thick in the sky. I caught glimpses of the Project as I made my way home through the narrow streets. It dominates the whole city. The whole Plain, for that matter. It had sort of a pale, blurred look in the starlight, the six completed stages blending together, the uncompleted seventh one softly serrated against the night sky. Working on it every day, I've kind of forgot how high it is, how much higher it's going to be when we get back on the job. The highest thing ever, they say. I won't dispute that. It makes a palm tree look like a blade of grass and a man look like an ant. Looking at it tonight, I felt proud to be one of the builders. It was as though I'd built the whole thing myself. That's the way a bricklayer feels sometimes. It's really great I feel sorry for brickmakers. You'd never catch me slogging all day in a mud hole. your hands; then a voice: "Lone, I see you? under the bam, eating an apple!" A silence. "Lone, come on. Thomas M. Dix. shocking sight than Lou. No one who knew her would have thought she could be brought to this limp. Lang groaned. "All the air-lock seals, for one thing." There were grimaces from all of them at the. "What staple?" she countered, becoming in an instant rigid with suspicion, like a hare that scents a. "Okay, keep spread out on both sides, everybody. Jim, can you and Edie head him off before he gets to the woods?" ecologist, and Song Sue Lee, the exo-biologist They still stood numbly by the airlock, unable as yet to separate organism with its genetic characteristics fixed and unique. the bulletin board in the other's kitchen. On the bulletin board was a note that said "OK." If there was any. in B minor." (George Bernard Shaw, Music in London, v. ii, Constable & Co., Ltd. London, 1956, p. The grey man went over and picked up a tangerine-colored alley cat that had been searching for fish heads in the garbage pail. "Open the trunk," he said. One of the sailors took a great iron key from his belt and opened the lock on the top of the trunk. The grey man took out his thin sword of grey steel and pried up the lid ever so slightly. Then he tossed the cat inside. we'd best be sure it's safe. Meantime, well all sleep in our suits." There were helpless groans at this, but. Jam says, "One, two, three." On "three," we each bring up our right hand. Hers is a clenched fist: like the wings of a hawk; his lips were set like bitumen. He was wearing a maroon turtleneck with a big N. "Thank you very much," said Amos and hurried off to the wheel-house. When he found the second hatchway, he went down very quickly and was just about to go to the barred cell when he saw the grimy sailor with the great iron key? who must be the jailor as well, thought Amos. We Also Walk Dogs. Edward Bryant for "Stone". long loud laugh that nearly blew them from the peak. Then he leapt a mile into the air, turned over three. "Isn't he adorable?" Darlene said. "He looks just like you." Tin not sure. I've never been more than three days. I can't stand it any longer than that. He knew. He always knew when I had to have it And he got it for me. I never helped him. opportunity. I had put away the report I was writing on Lucas McGowan's hyperactive wife. (She had a definite predilection for gas-pump jockeys, car-wash boys, and parking-lot attendants. I guess it had something to do with the Age of the Automobile.) I propped my feet on my desk and leaned back until the old swivel chair groaned a protest. 80. never have been more than clients to me, either. There are nights I cannot sleep for wishing she had. The crowd roars back. The filling begins. I cut in four more low-level tracks. minus a little green patch from the sleeve and a strip from the crimson cape; he had stood behind some. We Sold Space, POHL & KORKBLUTH. left, his other foot on the pinnacle to the right, and bent down and set them on the tallest peak in the. 263. invited. So I never had a chance to look in one. Besides, I have been too busy. but nonetheless jealous and possessive husband, who was a patent attorney employed by Dupont in. That, I think, would be a waste of time. We are not necessarily going to breed thousands of. brown haunch, brown body and head. The horns shriveled and fell to the ground. Only her eyes remained the same. mouthpiece and looked at me. "It's for you? an obscene phone call." She didn't bat an eyelash or twitch. // like them," she insisted. Then, "My name's Cinderella. What's yours?" Lee Killough has written a series of superior stories for F&SF that share a common theme (the future of the arts) and background (an artist's colony called Aventine). The tales are completely separate entities and may be enjoyed on their own. This one concerns the visit to Aventine of Selene and Amanda, two different personalities that snare the body of one beautiful young woman. gathered on the circular bulkhead at the rear of the lifesystem, just forward of the fuel tank. Samuel R. (Chip) Delany has for some time been one of sfs most interesting novelists

(Dhalgren, Triton, et cetera) and one of the field's more thoughtful critics (The Jewel-Hinged Jaw: Notes of the Language of Science Fiction). He has not written much short fiction recently, and so we are especially pleased to offer this fresh and magical change of pace..75.them a little on the front window. It didn't let in a lot of light, but it was enough. Maybe Detweiler.3. A poem embodying several important long-range economic forecasts..She swooped toward her ankles with the knife. The long skirt of her dress bung in the way. Before.by ROBERT BLOCK.Without breaking stride, she kicked high over her head and grinned at me. "Elevations." Then she.restaurants, two movie theaters, and a children's playground..for a moment, looking up to the ceiling where the airberries?white spheres about the size of bowling.He tried to think of a compliment that wouldn't be completely insincere. "Heavy," he allowed at last..We can therefore imagine that at birth, every human individual will have scrapings taken from his little toe, thus attaining a few hundred living cells that can be at once frozen for possible eventual use. (This is done at birth, because the younger the cell, the more efficiently it is likely to clone.)..ected with those operations. People become relevant only when those phases have been successfully completed. Therefore we can avoid all the difficulties inherent in the ~ idea of sending people along by dispensing with the conventional notions of interstellar travel and adopting. A totally new approach: by having the ship create the people after it gets there" ".Johnny took the news of his impending stardom with total unconcern. He moved to the couch and sat down, yawning. "Detweiler? Don't think I ever laid eyes on the man. What'd he do?".guess we should start on that.".ELLISON'S Gentleman and Other Junkie Stories of the Hung-up Generation.He retreated a step. "No," he said..open window..I dropped by number seven. The typewriter had been put away, but the cards and score pad were.Samuel R. DeUuty.140.you're guilty of breaking the law..not involved. They care, but not enough..before it was put into the sentence. ". . . aren't. . . things. Ideas?the most authentic ideas?are the.Rerun it on the 10th: a woman slipped in the bathtub and fell through the glass shower doors, cutting.in certain stages of their lives. Since they were still changing, it bore watching, but the airlocks and suits.184.on the 16th, healthy the 17th, and sick again the 19th..another water source..stay aloof from it But he refused a fourth drink regretfully..up. Smith rubs his eyes, loses the ship, finds it again after a ten-minute search..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..Song Sue Lee was on her knees, examining one of the hundreds of short, stiff spikes extruding from.Take it.119."Andrew Detweiler." She looked blank. "Young, good-looking, with a hunchback.".pied-a-terre of some has-been somebody. It was a plain, pleasant 10-room apartment that anyone could.In the pilot's cabin, Crawford was ready to believe her. Like all flying machines since the days of the.sensibilities are her problem, not mine.".Johnny Peacock came by an hour later acting very conspiratorial Detweiler had suggested a bridge game that night, but Johnny didn't play bridge, and so they settled on Scrabble..As soon as we got word that the strike was on, we walked off the job. It was 10:40 A.M. Those of."What are you doing here?" whispered Amos..our eyes it had become a thunderbolt?a thunderbolt cast heavenward by a madman in a magnificent, if.five hours to pass through two days of real time. The 23rd is calmer, but on the 24th another storm blows.the frenzy but managed to stay aloof from most of it. She went to the shelter with whoever asked her,..not use again the expression you have just uttered. I mean the one beginning with the letter D. Our.to the trunk, lifted the lid, and tossed it in..224.There was only one incident: a wealthy merchant came around in a big pink palanquin, got out and began pacing up and down. He didn't say anything?just kept looking up at that half-finished seventh stage and shaking his head. If he was aware of me, or of Zeke or Ben or Eli, the other three pickets, he gave no sign. Finally he stopped pacing, climbed back into his palanquin and closed the curtains, and his bearers bore him away... earlier today, well. . .".game that night, but Johnny didn't play bridge, and so they settled on Scrabble..lighted the lock while she held her shirt in front of her with one hand..last light of the moon winked out. Now even the stars were gone, and the blackness about them was.that the confusion should be cleared up.. "Miss Tremaine, will you get Gus Verdugo on the phone, please?".ago, when Margot Randall died hi a hovercraft accident and Amanda moved to Washington full-time, it.Selene. You're cheating.". "Gone?" I sat bolt upright. A wave of dizziness knocked me fiat again. "How can she be gone?".He went to the half wall separating the kitchen and poured two cups from a pot that looked like h was kept hot and full all the time. "It's hard to describe Andy. There was something very little-boyish about him. A real innocent. Delighted with everything new. It's sad about his back. Real sad." He handed me the cup and returned to the stool. "There was something very secretive about him. Not about his feelings; he was very open about things like that.".before her eyes..That includes me, and sometimes she's let me come into her bed. But not often. "You like it?" she.had sprouted with life during the week after the departure of the Burroughs. It was separated from the."Okay, if you don't like people," she says slowly, obviously recalling details. "My pa didn't.". "It's a big gate tonight Can you do it?". "What sort of help does he need?" asked Amos. "A doctor?". "That's just what I mean. You import Earth forms now, and we'll never tell the difference.". June 10, 1977 Source: W. S. Halson Destination: P. T. Warrington Subject: Schedule Compliance.endorsement?".Barry told Cinderella of his ups and downs during the past six months..would seem to be much better off than other organisms?who must go to the trouble of finding partners."Tomorrow evening when the sunset is golden and the sky is turquoise and the rocks are stained red in the setting sun," said die grey man. "I shall watch the whole proceedings with sunglasses.".dusty. I was about in the middle of the unpaved section when Detweiler seemed to calm down. I pulled.surrealistic skit about a speakeasy for five-year-olds, and a novelist with a speech impediment who got."What did you find this time, Harry? A nest of international spies or an invasion from Mars?" I guess.bought groceries at the supermarket on Highland. Did that mean he wasn't planning to move? I had a.superb release from Deutsche Grammophon. She was at her best in Schumann, her Wolf was comme ci,."Can you really?" asked the grey man. He pulled a piece of green silk

from his pocket, went to the. A sponge, or a freshwater hydra, or a flatworm, or a starfish can, any of them, be torn into parts and these parts, if kept in their usual environment, will each grow into a complete organism. The new organisms are clones. dioxide, and quite a bit of oxygen into the atmosphere. Not much, but maybe more than it seems, considering the low concentrations that are naturally available. We've altered the biome. Does anyone know where the exhaust air from the dome was expelled?" "Across the hall. The one who looks like he smells something bad." ripped up meter-square sheets of it. "It's a very little thing to thank me for," Amos said. "But we had better start back if we want to be at. And she was right Nolan knew it now. At least they'd be together and that would help see him through. He wouldn't need the bottle any more, and he wouldn't need Nina.

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