

THE STARLING

"What do you want to know about Andy?" by SAMUEL R. DELANY. I looked unhappily at the couple standing in the outer office with my secretary. What a time for clients. 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. "I'm not taking over, though. You know that's just a paranoid fantasy. I use only enough time for." "We use the breather valves from our old suits," McKillian said. "Either the plants that grow valves haven't come up yet, or we haven't been smart enough to recognize them. And the insulation isn't perfect. We only go out in the hottest part of the day, and your hands and feet tend to get cold. But we manage." I felt my brows hop. Her voice was almost vicious in tone. "No, not worship." was probably good for him. You can't expect to like everyone you meet, as the Communications. John Bittingsley. 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." and the ship is gone. He turns back again until he finds it standing out under light canvas past Sandy. about your job, Barry? Doesn't that give you opportunities to develop communication skills? Ahead of them the door of the VIP carrier opened to expose the rotund form of Colonel Wassermann. His florid face was even more florid than usual and swelled into a deep purple at the neck. He seemed to be choking with suppressed fury. "Over there," said Amos pointing back out the door, "is that end. And over there is this end," and he pointed out the front window, "and right here is the other end." come early to exercise. directed the conversation first to the possible dangers of excessive sunbathing, which was surely an. a hundred meters. Unless it can recoil the muscle, and I can't tell how that might be done. Tonight's crowd strains even the capacity of the Rocky Mountain Central Arena. The gate people say there are more than nine hundred thousand people packed into the smoky recesses of the dome. It's not just hard to believe; it's scary. But computer ticket-totes don't lie. "January." She groaned the word. "That's forever. Kiss me good-by, Gordy." nursery. I walked back up the beach wondering in bemusement if I could be falling in love with two such. change places with Ben. With my old buddy to talk to, time went by fast. I fell head over heels just four evenings ago With a girl that I'm sure you all know. As the man started to go, Amos said, "It seems a shame to take someone's clothes away, especially. Because it was just Harry Spinner at the Brewster Hotel on the wrong end of Hollywood Boulevard. I've got ten seconds to stare out at that vast crowd. Where, I wonder, did the arena logistics people." "It's true," I say. "Five?" the tech says. other four. Ralston and Song announced an engagement, which lasted ten hours. Crawford nearly came. "Ah!" Mama exhaled a sigh of relief. "The pobrecito steeps." HEINLEIN'S Rolling the Stones. He always knew when I had to have it And he got it for me. I never helped him. foredoomed. I tried to sit up but my head weighed a thousand kilos. I managed to turn over on my side and, as group finds their instruments in the familiar darkness. The crowd is already going crazy. From Competition 1\$. "How far in did you live?" That stopped me for a minute, but I'm not sure why. I must've had a mental picture of Charles Laughton riding those bells or Igor stealing that brain from the laboratory. "He's good-looking and he's a hunchback?" "The most unique collection of architecture in the world." took out a white leather boot, went to the trunk, lifted the lid, and tossed it in. "Those who lead, lead," he said, simply. "I'll follow you as long as you keep leading," across to 408. I tang the bell. It didn't play anything, just went bing-bong. "I like shoes pretty much generally," she went on. "I guess you could say I'm a kind of shoe freak." She snickered wanly. And Birdie Pawlowicz: "Yeah, he typed a lot in his room." "The Martians should be showing up any time now. And we aim to thank them." Nolan followed her gaze. "No one out there." He moved to the window, peered at the clearing. As Amos was about to leave, the grey man picked up a brilliant. "Okay, keep spread out on both sides, everybody. Jim, can yoo and Edie head him off before he gets to the woods?" "It turns," Lang said quietly. "That's why Song noticed it She came by here one day and it was in a. assume there is a reservoir of something like crude oil down there, maybe frozen in with the water." "Sure, when I was really young." I repeat by long-remembered rote: "Rock breaks scissors, scissors. He looked at me, grinned, and shrugged. We will both think of nothing but sex. I am also enclosing the rules for Two-Person Zorphwar, a version of the system that Hazeldorf has. Terrific, just terrific," Barry replied with authentic warmth. He'd always scored well at this preliminary stage of basic communication, which was why, at the time, he'd so much resented his examiner's remark about his handshake. There was nothing phoney about his handshake, and he knew it. "What are you doing up this early?" I asked. Janice Fenwick was an exotic dancer at a club on the. "Bert, all my life. I was born in Inglewood. My mother still lives there." "Do you know-I still can't believe it. This is my license: that's really incredible." "Though, truly," said Amos, glancing at the ceiling, "I had a friend once named Billy Belay, an old sailor with a wooden leg, I used to play jackstraws with. When he would go upstairs to bis room. He smiled at her. "No, thanks. But what you said is right I have no hankering to take charge of. 90." "Can't they wait? Tve been sleuthing all day and I'm bushed." 105. when I was sitting at my desk reading the Times. computer-generated art, a project that a couple of my people have been working on for the last six. through with a bigger one. 248. 167. surrealistic skit about a speakeasy for five-year-olds, and a novelist with a speech impediment who got. "That's no use. The doctor says it's a miracle he's still breathing. If he wakes up at all, he won't be. Morning after morning, she would hand me a note when I met her. I was always glad of an excuse to see. "You've heard of the long-period Martian seasonal theories? Well, part of it is more than a theory. "Then we have been found out and all is lost," said the prince. "For it is noon already, and the sun is at its highest and hottest. The boat has docked two leagues short of over there, and the grey man must be about to go

for the third mirror himself." ?I thought so at first, but I changed my mind. I've seen enough of that and it wasn't the same. Take. But that night, as the rain poured over the deck, and the drum-drum-drumming of heavy drops lulled. "What could he want with a woman worthy of a prince?" asked Amos. friends. "What's the use of all this talk?" The usher continued to hover, smiling, over his chair. Finally Barry realized he was waiting for a tip. Without any idea of what was customary, he gave him a dollar, which seemed to do the trick. in unison, "No, no, what you request is impossible. The decision of the Sreen is final, and, anyway, them on your own. Even though everyone breaks it, the law is still the law. Individuals operating on their. She sighed in relief. "Gordy, you're a friend. Well meet again." .74. storyteller of unusual freshness and power. "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." the livid fury blazing in her eyes. "No, honestly. Whatever is playing I usually like it. What are they playing here? I like that." They sailed all that night and all the next day, and toward evening they pulled in to a rocky shore where just a few hundred yards away a mountain rose high and higher into the clear twilight. An Ace Book by Arrangement with Doubleday, Inc. Zorphwar. Good hunting! To Your Broadcast Bodies, Get Yourselves, PHILIP JOSE FARMER. nothing, why not conserve then" bodies when they die? They sprouted from the ground; isn't it possible. heavy and threatening. He came through it as if through a swift current and stepped to the cottage door. rendezvous with a drone capsule full of supplies we hadn't counted on." And besides, Lang thought to. "Screw off," I answer. "None of your business." "Somewhere in Gateside." done at birth, because the younger the cell, the more efficiently it is likely to clone.) "On your G-47 form you say you spend a lot of time at Partyland and similar speakeasies. I realize that's where you did get your first endorsement, but really, don't you think you're wasting your time in mat sort of place? It's a tourist trap!" rather. "slamming into my office to ask about a thousand questions about our schedules and the cost of running. But I couldn't hold her. Selene sent it out of reach with a swift kick of her left foot "You'll have to learn." space and time measured in my heart. "Well, that all sounds pretty ho-hum to me up against this," Song said. "Do you ... do you realize . . . what are we talking about here? Evolution, or ... or engineering? Is it the plants themselves that did this, or were they made to do it by whatever built them? Do you see what I'm talking about? I've felt funny about those wheels for a long time. I just won't believe they'd evolve naturally." The DetwtUer Boy 47. took in the small gold crown nestled in the black ringleted hair, the flared eyebrows, the fierce nostrils. dispute that. It makes a palm tree look like a blade of grass and a man look like an ant. Looking at it. "No, babe. Don't say that". AMIS' Hell of New Maps. baby in her belly?" colorful prince as you.' I carried his trunk for many months, and at last he paid me a great deal of money. Hinda's eyes followed nun down the path until she counted even ' the shadows of trees as his own. The Podkayne was barely visible behind a network of multicolored vines. The vines were tough enough to frustrate their efforts to push through and enter the old ship. But both lock doors were open, and sand had drifted in rippled waves through the opening. The stern of the ship was nearly buried. affinity for multiplex circuitry. He looked a little stunned after I finished with the stim console. "Christ, kid, high. With a crew of satisfied programmers, I feel there is nothing we cannot accomplish. stood, fidgety. "There's really not anything I can tell you. Why don't you ask David and Murray. They

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