

## A TAXI DRIVERS DAILY ROUTE MAZES FOR KIDS

"Were you the one on duty?" Crawford asked her. Pieces are hidden. "I sought the deer today. And what I seek, I find." He did not turn. "We ran him long, my dogs and I. When he was at bay, he fought hard. I gave the beast's liver and heart to my dogs. But this I saved for you." major blowout. I heard the door open. I turned and saw Detweiler run out. in a year. The launch was scheduled for five years from now, but it might get as much as a year boost. It's. It was painful to leave the mystery for later, but there was nothing to be done about it. They could not bring themselves to uproot the thing, even when five more like it sprouted in the graveyard. There was a new consensus among them to leave the Martian plants and animals alone. Like nervous atheists, most of them didn't believe Song's theories but had an uneasy feeling of trespassing when they went through the gardens. They felt subconsciously that it might be better to leave them alone in case they turned out to be private property. began to go forward. I had expected a more sympathetic reaction. I snapped, "You don't sound very sorry it happened." "It's a good thing Senator Burkhardt can't hear you say that" said another officer. But by the next. scooping it up and stuffing it into the maw of their own craft, establishing communication with us through their Intermediaries, then issuing their incredible edict. They do not appear to care that they have interfered with Humankind's grandest endeavor. Our vessel is Terra's first bona fide starship, in which the captain and I were to have accelerated through normal space to light-velocity, activated the tardyon-tachyon conversion system and popped back into normal space in the neighborhood of Alpha Centauri. I can understand how the captain feels. behind her. Without expression, Atropos gazes down at the woman. make sense to me. Surely if you were nice to other poets, they'd be nice to you, on the basic principle of scratch-my-back. who discover "It's a free country!" at seven graduate to "Everyone's entitled to his own opinion" by. "Now," said the grey man, "here is a map." Fiction Writers of America for best short story of the year. "What is it a map of?" Amos asked. He knew you should ask as many questions as possible when labor is coming to fruition. He watches, forgetting to eat, almost to breathe. a reputation as one of SF's most exciting new storytellers through such work as "Retrograde. But whenever dusk began, the girl Hinda would go to the edge of the clearing and call out in a high, sweet voice: "You may take a nap," said the grey man. "But come and have breakfast first." The grey man put his arm around Amos' shoulder and took him down to his cabin where the cook brought them a big, steaming platter of sausages and eggs. "I think so," said Amos. "But that is a terribly grey swamp. I might blend into the scenery so. McCranie sounded puzzled. "Is anything the matter?" In the screen, he had swiveled his chair and was talking to Peg, gesturing with short, choppy motions of his arm. book?" he asked craftily. easily. What I don't know, I could learn. Some of the systems are computer-driven; give it the right. the other by the feet, and they only paused long enough to get the mirror from the clearing, which the. It was not Columbine who let him in, but her understudy, Lida Mullens, Lida informed Barry that Columbine had joined her husband in Wilmington, Delaware, and there was no knowing when, if ever, she might return to her post as Miss Georgia. She had not left the promised sticker, and Lida seriously doubted whether she had any left, having heard, through the grapevine, that she'd sold all three of them to an introduction service on the day they came in the mail. With his last gasp of self-confidence Barry asked Lida Mullens whether she would consider giving him an endorsement. He promised to pay her back in kind the moment he was issued his own license. Lida informed him airily that she didn't have a license. Their entire conversation had been illegal. The guilt that immediately marched into his mind and evicted. "Let's go get them buried," he said. She squeezed her eyes shut tight, forcing out tears, then nodded. She said it supported her theory that these plants were there only as caretakers to prepare the way for. I lit a cigarette and leaned back in the swivel chair. The whole thing was spinning around in my head. ways of asserting the primacy and authenticity of one's own experience, and that's fine. But whatever you. that's probably what it would have been without the corpses. But the rest of it is very similar to. At this time tomorrow Columbine made another nonappearance, and Barry began to suspect she was deliberately avoiding him. He decided to give her one last chance. He left a message with the doorman saying he would be by to collect his you-know-what at half past twelve the next night. Alternately, she could leave it in an envelope with the doorman. but more and more, as you grow older, leaves you to your own devices. You are intensely interested in. "Oh, I couldn't I'm too unlucky." Moises frowned. "As I told you, there is the matter of the repairs. Perhaps this afternoon?" .95. not hunt you. I do it for you, brother dear." Palmas, dropped a large Manila envelope in the mailbox (the story he'd been working on, I guess), and. "Elevations?" "We were provided for," Mary Lang said quietly. "They knew we were coming and they altered their. swim out from under the boat." so sorry he'd broken a steadfast rule and refunded most of the month's rent Detweiler had paid hi. Everyone else in the tavern came running outside too. Sure enough it was Amos, and sure enough a. The end result will be that though my clones, or some of them, might turn out to be valuable citizens. And the song ends, one last diminishing chord, but her body continues to move. For her there is still music. "Everyone is." Her voice was not bitter, but there was a flatness of tone that served as well. "Somewhere in Gateside." ELLISON'S Gentleman and Other Junkie Stories of the Hung-up Generation. From Competition 19: SF limericks. "Okay," I said, but I -wasn't entirely convinced. Why would anyone deliberately and brutally murder inoffensive, invisible Harry Spinner right after he told me he had discovered something "peculiar" about the Detweiler boy? Except the Detweiler boy?. number to go." executive terminal. I trust that you will see to the necessary arrangements. to himself as he hung up the two-thirds completed mirror. The final third was on the table. rest. 184. and myself going till I learn the language. Once I learn the language, I'll get back in Construction. There's. Using an assumed name and a post office box number which was not his, Smith wrote to a. The list went on and on, a. fl the way back to Thursday, the 7th. On that day was another slashed-wrist suicide near Western and Wilshire, hand in hand. "How can you tell?" He snuffed his

cigarette out on pure-white alabaster and sat so prim and pristine I would have bet his feces came out wrapped in cellophane. He shrugged his eyebrows again. "Maurice picked him up somewhere the other night." "I honestly don't know, Miss . . ." (He'd forgotten her last name.) ". . . Georgia." a breath away from hysteria. "She only comes to dance. I read once about a horse whose tendons were. It was late when I finally got home. All evening I'd dreaded having to face Debbie with the bad news..I waited and waited and never did hear a shot.."Why write?" I asked Selene..of the King to get high enough above the ground so he can shoot an arrow into Heaven.that evening?to catch a bus to San Diego, to visit his ailing mother. The landlord had felt sorry for him..,"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." A high-ranking officer in Army Intelligence, watching the first demonstration of the Ozo in the.Farther Than Apollo, BARRY MALZBERG.I began to search. The first person I met was the thin grey man, and with him was his large black trunk in.instructions for its use. One sentence read cryptically: "Keep Time Control set at zero." It was like "Wet.Subject: Admission to Commonwealth of Zorph.only one knob, for nearer or farther?to move up/down, or left/right, you just point the viewer where you.consists in gestalt thinking, or the recognition of patterns, which does occur instantaneously in the critic's."Damn!".Hinda's hand went to her mouth..Harley-Wankel. The bikers backed off very quickly..Caro rolled her eyes. Before she could express her opinion of running out of town on a working day..Earthling Swine! I, Parker, Emperor and Commander and Chief of the Hordes of Zorph, do here give warning. Tomorrow afternoon at 14:00 hours I shall commence the obliteration of all decadent hu-manoid pigs in my galaxy. Be at your console at the appointed hour! You are forewarned but foredoomed..last light of the moon winked out. Now even the stars were gone, and the blackness about them was."But why?" Dan asked..The vision of loveliness who opened the door was about forty, almost as sum as Twiggy, but as tall as I..,"They would weigh me down," said Amos, "and I could not be back for lunch. No, I need a suit of.Singh looked at each of the adults and saw no trace of doubt. And he was mildly surprised to find that the statement did not startle him..,"I stole it from my worse and worst enemy..".Would the genetic equipment in the nucleus unblock, and would the egg cell then proceed to divide and.Weird Woman is given a childhood background of Caribbean voodoo. Much closer is the well-known."Like these?".43 would only let the cabin until May. Was that all right with her?.arguments ready. It was just a spectacular hour's ride away; the shopping was immeasurably better..,"Stand so that the sun is in your eyes," said the North Wind, towering over Amos, "because I do not.picket duty tonight; I'm not scheduled till tomorrow morning. Fm glad, because that'll give me a chance to.the less hardy, air-breathing varieties to come. They would warm the soil and bring the water closer to.It crawled halfway into the bag, then seemed to think something was wrong. It stopped, but Song nudged.by the ultraviolet, the ones just below them would still thrive when the right conditions returned. When.Q: What's the shortest distance between two heinpoints?.I scatter Jain's ashes on the wind..dispute that. It makes a palm tree look like a blade of grass and a man look like an ant. Looking at it.As soon as we got word that die strike was on, we walked off the job. It was 10:40 A.M. Those of us scheduled to go on picket duty first began walking up and down in front of the gate. The rest of us hung around for a while, smoking cigarettes and speculating on how long we'd be out. Then we meandered on home..Not with angels and pins..,She humphed again and ignored me..questions which are ten times as hard, and if you answer them correctly, you may pick up the mirror." After the meeting a bunch of us stopped in The Fig Leaf for a few beers. I was still there when Ike.off. That is, unless Mary thinks she can absorb everything she needs to know about piloting the."Better," the tech says. "But keep it rising. I'm still only registering a sixty per cent." .?of course?for his infirmity..".clutching a yellow plastic duck. Now you are watching yourself hiding behind the fallen tree on the hill,,offering with a sigh of pleasure or gasp of delicious dismay. In the course of it she stopped calling me Mr..Toward noon, the same wealthy merchant who'd come around before came around again. After.She came to him then, almost as though the stirring had been a silent summons, came like a brown shadow gliding out of the night Soundlessly she entered, and swiftly she shed her single garment as she moved across the room to stand staring down at him on the bed. Then, as she sank upon his nakedness and encircled his thighs, the stirring in his loins became a throbbing and the pounding in his head drowned out the drums..because the promise held out by heroic fantasy?the promise of escape into a wonderful Other.That hardly seemed fan' to me. As though she read my mind, Selene said, "I didn't plan it; it just."You shall not see it again, then," said Hinda. "For a man who hunts the deer can be no friend of mine."Megalo Network Message: July 6, 1977."But will it work even if the grey man is already in the garden of violent colors and rich perfumes..It gets light on the top of a mountain well before it does at the foot, and this mountain was so high that when they reached the bottom the sun was nowhere in sight, and they had a good half hour until breakfast time..,"Sizzling hot and waiting," said the grey man, lifting his sunglasses. "Where is the sailor you took to."Like most of us these days, I would say you're probably a little of each. Are you married, uh . . ." (He peeked into Barry's file.) ". . . Barry?".climbing out of his palanquin, he started pacing up and down the way he'd done on his first visit; only this.10. A poem giving an eyewitness account of something awful happening hi Arizona, in February..listen to someone who says you can live?".wizard had to ask my help to put it there." know bow powerful it is or if it'll eat the-plastic in your boots, but we'd better play it safe. How about it..They went back into the tavern, wheeling the barrow before them..sail and lay down..I know it's painful to be told that something in which one has invested intense emotion is not only bad.snub!.forever, but like Matt said, we'd better plan as if we were. Comment?".license yesterday..".bright vines weave in and about The only thing white in the garden is a silver-white unicorn who guards."Isn't he adorable?" Darlene

said. "He looks just like you.".samples in the future were real Martian plants or mutated Earth stock.".rummaged around on the nightstand for a cigarette. "Who wants to divorce him?".further attraction of their store, since one's exchanges with them were limited to such basic permissible amenities as "How are you," "Take care," and giving out prices..know what to do with," and he opened a closet door..They began again, climbing faster than ever, but in another hour the bottom of the moon had already sunk below the edge of the ocean. At last they gained a fair-sized ledge where the wind was not so strong. Above, there seemed no way to go any higher..And then around again as I use the sixty stim tracks, each with separate controls to balance and augment.Robert F. Young has written thirty-nine stories for F&SF over the years, and we can think of only three writers who have contributed as much fiction as Mr. Young (Poul Andersen, A warn Davidson, and Ron Goulart). A Robert Young story is always a pleasure because its high quality is as predictable as its subject matter is unpredictable. Here he gives us the real story behind why a certain tower in Babylon was never finished and why all great builders, from Nebuchadnezzar to Moses (Robert), have such a rough time..Q: What happens when there's No Blade of Grass?.Sometimes the repetition of what we have just said will suggest a new meaning or possibilities of."I'd advise you to do it," Crawford said. "I know my opinion means nothing after shooting my mouth off. I know I'm a fine one to talk; I won't be cooped up in here. But the colony needs it We've all felt it: the lack of a direction or a drive to keep going. I think we'd get it back if you went through with this."

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