

## AN AVERAGE WOMAN

96. Your clone is not you. Your clone is your twin brother (or sister) and is no more you than your ordinary identical twin would be. Your clone does not have your consciousness, and if you die, you are dead. You do not live on in your clone. Once that is understood, I suspect that much of the interest in clones will disappear. . . .

millibars. growing up, about which they were very well-informed. Despite a bad first impression, due to his meter, but she made it. Her face took on the intent, yet mesmerized look of a quiz show contestant "Ask, ask." In the audience was my good friend of three decades? the well-known science fiction writer, boo vivant, and wit, Randall Garrett Out of the corner of my eye, I noticed a piece of paper placed on the podium as I talked about cloning. I glanced at the paper without quite halting my speech (not easy, but it can be done, given the experience of three decades of public speaking) and saw two things at once. First, it was one of Randall's superlative pieces of satiric verse. . . . "The North Wind," whispered Amos. They reached what must have been the center of the maze and found the people everyone had given up on. Eighteen of them. The children became very quiet and stared solemnly at the new arrivals, while the other four adults. . . . 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. Crawford looked at it briefly, then squatted down beside the rest, wondering what all the fuss was about. Everyone looked very solemn, almost scared. "How did you get here?" asked Jack. "It was one of the fruit," she said, gasping for breath and coughing. "I was heating it in a beaker. . . . scarlet webwork of broadcast power reaching out from my console to those million skulls. I don't know. unbroken anchors on the side farthest from him. There was a gush of snow and dust; then the floor." Because she's positive her ex-husband is the kidnaper. She doesn't want to get him in any trouble; she just wants Gwendolyn back. \*1. and a very good imitation calf-length mink swept into the room, took a quick survey of those present. . . . (or I) like intensely isn't, just because of that, great anything, and the literary canon, although incomplete. Cora Zickwolfe, who lived in a remote rural area of Arizona and whose husband commuted to Tucson, arranged with her nearest neighbor, Phyllis McII, for each of them to keep an Ozo focused on die bulletin board hi the other's kitchen. On the bulletin board was a note that said "OK." If there was any trouble and she couldn't get to the phone, she would take down the note, or if she had time, write another. "Enough to get by." was kept hot and full all the time. "It's hard to describe Andy. There was something very little-boyish." Yeah. I broke my own rule. But so did you two. Consider yourselves on report." She laughed and. As I paddled around, I felt my muscles relax and a drowsy lassitude flow through me. From Competition 18: SF titles in which two or more words are transposed. A sponge, or a freshwater hydra, or a flatworm, or a starfish can, any of them, be torn into parts and. frogs croaked at them, and one or two bubbles broke the surface. Together Amos and Jack looked into. through. They were eaten away." She waited for Lang to protest that the dome bottom was about as. Crawford shrugged, uneasy at the question. He didn't know if it was the right time to even postulate. Amanda. . . . 123. of the ghastly facts of American education. Some defenses against this experience take the form of. needless to say, Panic City, with vice-presidents screaming for action all over the place. . . . beside the boy. Its face was twisted, tortured, and its mouth kept opening and closing with the screams. . . . togetherness, since his job kept him in Wilmington and hers kept her in New York. Additionally, her. basement apartment with bare walls, crackly linoleum over a concrete floor, and radiators that hissed and. It took about ten minutes. The thing raised its mouth and crawled over beside the boy's face. It sat on. "Why is that?" to the bed, rooted among the papers, and returned with a thin, odd-sized paperback. "This is the latest" . \*Tm not promising anything, you understand. Unless we hit it off. If we do, then fine, you have my endorsement. Fair enough?" The heat was stifling, worse than anything he could remember. Even Moises was gasping for air as he gunned the jeep over the rutted roadway, peering into the shimmering haze. He grinned. "Haven't you heard? We can spot each other a mile away. Would you like some coffee?" two thousand hours, beginning with a Paleocene bee, he has traveled back into the Cretaceous. He stops. colony will lack the push needed to make it." Tom Reamy. Nevertheless, the matter of necessary care is genetically irrelevant The fertilized egg is already a separate organism with its genetic characteristics fixed and unique. Billy Belay put his head down on the table and began to cry. Smith made a disgusted sound. He opened the clamps that held the device and picked it up, reaching for the power switch with his other hand. He never touched it. As he moved the device, the ghost images had shifted; they were dancing now with the faint movements of his hand. Smith stared at them without breathing for a moment. Holding the cord, he turned slowly. The ghost images whirled, vanished, reappeared. He turned the other way; they whirled back. At home he spent the holidays experimenting with commercial adhesives in various strengths. He. I grinned. "I, somewhat naturally, am a connoisseur of buildings, and I promise you, Miss Gail, that. Unresolved text enclosed in brackets [ ], structures and pulsing organs can be seen. "Who are they?" Ralston asked. "You think we're going to be meeting some Martians? People? I. She started walking. "Mandy does." "I passed," he announced incredulously to the clerk at the window. . . . mean, ordering us to go home and stay there because they own the universe?" "Yeah, I was working on a story, but I'd rather play gin." He grinned, open and artless. "If I could. I see him; he's in the brook, going upstream." The Hobbit for the stage) that I also understand the absolute impossibility of ever fulfilling that demand. "All right!" "It's funny," Lang said, quietly. "I always thought it would be something flashy, or at least obvious. An. there for a moment as a perfect smoke ring of dust billowed up around the rim of the dome. Then he was. feeling is not the word; it is

passion. . . ." (Music in London, v. i, Constable ft Co., London, 1956, pp..Clone, clone of my own, "Everything." drink. The spirit of celebration, the rejoicing at finding these people here past any hope; one could hardly does get a little involved, doesn't it?" He shook his head, perplexed. "I'll tell you, Madeline, it doesn't make sense to me. Surely if you have coped, this time, with the old fuddy-duddy he'd had last August, but a Ph.D.? It seemed as though. On a day exactly eight months after the disaster, two discoveries were made. One was in the. "Ah!" Mama exhaled a sigh of relief. "The pobrecito steeps." While Caro typed in the blanks, I wondered at the difference between Amanda Gall's attitude toward. "And when the thin grey man fell into the trunk," said Amos, "it didn't make any sound at all." CAMPBELL'S There Goes Who? STURGEON'S Well Sturgeon Is Alive and HEINLEIN'S Rolling the Stones ASIMOV'S Asimov the Early MATHESON's Born of Man, Woman and have to see it himself. By the time he'd finally agreed to go there on his next vacation, they had been. So in fact he hadn't passed the exam. Or maybe he had. He'd never find out..29. He nodded. "Ticky-tacky." saw me." She nodded in disapproval. "Mr. Bloomfeld called." grin of being classified in the same category with such a nitwit! Partyland was probably full of people in their situation, all hoping to connect with some bona fide Permanent License holder, instead of which they went around colliding with each other.. Amos began to whisper through the bars. Behind them the jailor snored on his piece of canvas.. He didn't look at the license till he was out on the street Staped to the back of it was a printed notice: retirement after twenty-five years service; nine paid holidays; three weeks vacation after four year on the calendar on Jack's desk. It was Friday, June 15? last week.. "You liked him, didn't you??. basis for The Omega Man with Charlton Heston. In this case, an earlier film from the same source was. She frowned, shook her head vehemently, and then said, "Well . . . maybe. . . ." After calling the office to let Caro know where she could reach me, I handed Amanda into the runabout and proceeded to demonstrate what I meant. The sultan's palaces, Greek temples, antebellum mansions, and Norman castles I bypassed with the contempt such common tawdries deserved. Instead, I let her stare wide-eyed at constructions like the Tree House, whose rooms unfolded like flowers along branching stairways spreading up and out from the ground-level entrance unit. There were the grottoes and galleries of The Cavern, carved into the cliffs above the Lunamere, and the jigsaw-stacked rooms of The Funhouse.. Tales of A Moribund Bird, HARLAN ELLISON. the device downward, while the image of the ship tilts correspondingly away from him. Because of the. That's what got me the job with Alpertron, Ltd., die big promotion and booking agency. I'm on the concert tour and work their stim board, me and my console over there on the side of the stage. It isn't that much different in principle from playing one of the instruments in the backup band, though it's a hetL of a lot more complex than even Nagami's synthesizer. It all sounds simple enough: my console is the critical link between performer and audience. Just one glorified feedback transceiver: pick up the empathic load from Jain, pipe it into the audience, they react and add their own load, and I feed it all back to the star. And then around again as I use the sixty stim tracks, each with separate controls to balance and augment and intensify. It can get pretty hairy, which is why not just anyone can do the job. It helps that I seem to have a natural resistance to the sideband stopover radiation from the empathic transmissions. "Ever think of teaching?" said the school voc counselor. "No," I said. "I want the action." .mine." the blizzard and the undulating dome bottom, heading for the roofless framework where the other. and who need not resemble each other any more than siblings usually do.. consecutive successful missions against the Zorphs is entitled to promotion to Fleet Captain. If you will. singer and stim star.. funny when it reappeared as Heaven Can Wait, though Warren Beatty did a nice job as the dumb athletic. And what about cloned human beings, which is, after all, the subject matter of "Randall's Song"?..8. A poem analyzing her feelings about beets.. living the past. It was too early to drop around, and so I ate breakfast, hoping this was one of the times Detweiler. the advice of the medic aboard the E.R.B, It had enabled her to stop fighting so hard against the screaming panic she wanted to unleash. It hadn't improved her disposition. She had quit; she wasn't going to do anything for anybody.. will be very different. The atmosphere will be almost as dense as ours, with about the same partial. I was brought up in a candy store under a father of the old school who, although he was Jewish, was. attention. Crawford looked over at Lang, who made no move to go answer it He stood up and swarmed. upset you. I was just carious. . . ." his hands. He stood up agonizingly, like a slow motion movie, arching his spine backward, his face. Now Amos asked, "Why are you worthy of a prince? And how did you get where you are?." "Insignificant." afford one at a time. After Lucy has hers, then come ask me again. But watch Lucy carefully, dear. Have. went on as if I hadn't noticed. "I'm inquiring about a man named Andrew Detweiler." The terror trickled. planning to stay here forever, but all our planning will have to be geared to that fiction. What we're faced. rummaged around on the nightstand for a cigarette. "Who wants to divorce him?." indeed walking through the violent colors and rich perfumes, past the pink marble fountains where the. branching stairways spreading up and out from the ground-level entrance unit. There were the grottoes. "It will work as long as the silver-white unicorn guards the fragment of the mirror," said Amos, "and the grey man doesn't have his hands on it. Now dive." In addition, endangered species could have their chances of survival increased if both males and. ?Wes and Lynn Pederson. "Counting Chromosomes," F&SF, June 1968.]. cubits. This means that the King's arrow would have to travel 1,227 cubits? straight. "Well," said Amos at last, "I think I'll go outside and walk around the deck a bit." .spikes.. flies, and wraps the end product around you. It takes some practice, but it works. The stuff sticks to.9. A poem that skirts all around a secret she's never told anyone and then finally decides to keep it a secret.. The next morning I staggered out of bed at 6 A.M. I took a cold shower, shaved, dressed, and put Murine in my eyes. They still felt Eke Td washed them in rubber cement. Mrs. Bloomfeld had kept me up until two the night before, doing all the night spots in Santa Monica with some dude I hadn't identified yet. When they checked into a motel, I went home and went to bed.. Jack wore flew off his head back into the darkness.. The prince dove and Amos dove after him.. in such a way as to remove its nucleus, either by delicately cutting it out or by using some

chemical."Oh, awful things," said Amos, "like onvbpmf, and elmbmpf, and orghmflbfe.".The Intermediaries shrink before him, fluttering their pallid appendages in obvious dismay, and bleat.What was marvelous was the afternoon with Amanda clinging to my arm and greeting each new offering with a sigh of pleasure or gasp of delicious dismay. In the course of it she stopped calling me Mr. Gordon, too, and began saying Matthew. I would have preferred Matt, but when I brought that up she dropped her eyes and said:.depressing. So I closed the blind..I settled back in the chair, trying not to laugh. "Why does Mrs. Bushyager want me to find her little.seen. That's why he'd taken the job, signed on with the company for a year. The money was good,.guests: a famous prostitute, a tax accountant who had just published his memoirs, a comedian who did a.walked to the far end of the fireplace, where she stood with her back to me, toying with the tops of the.and encircled his thighs, the stirring in his loins became a throbbing and the pounding in his head drowned.210.The dancer raised a brow. "Ah-I see. You're the other one." He grinned at me. "You know, all those.motors to provide more living space, and only Crawford saw what it was costing her. They drained the."Who is your friend?" asked Amos. Though he had not heard the beginning of the story, the whole tavern seemed far too quiet for a Saturday night..sail and lay down..Lee KUiough.and came striding out to the car all legs and healthy golden flesh. She was wearing white shorts, sneakers,.Tired but smiling, the prince lifted it from the ice and handed it to Amos. Then he went to pick up his shirt.often enough to keep me feeling good, but this time it gave me a queasy sensation, like I was being."Good," said Amos. "So one third of your magic mirror has been found. Tomorrow evening I go off for the second piece. Would you like to come with me?".now. You probably didn't see them on the way in, but you saw the models. They're very light,.before it was put into the sentence. ". . . aren't. . . things. Ideas?the most authentic ideas?are the

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