

ANTONIO OBRADOR

Tom Reamy wrote four stories for F&SF: "Twill," "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. . . novel, *Titan*. This story was another Nebula award nominee. . . a year. They are prized as wives, for they never nag their husbands. . . Finally, before you make any snap judgments, I ask that you log in on your console and try. "Exactly," said the grey man. "Look, we are here. . ." "You're prejudiced" Nolan grinned, but he was flattered. And when the tiny pink starshell of a hand reached forth to meet his fingers, he tingled at the touch. . . During the week of September 23, seven thousand Ozos were shipped to domestic and Canadian addresses supplied by Smith: five hundred to electronics manufacturers and suppliers, six thousand, thirty to a carton, marked "On Consignment," to TV outlets in major cities, and the rest to private citizens chosen at random. The instruction booklets were in sealed envelopes packed with each device. Three thousand more went to Europe, South and Central America, and the Middle East. . . away with their hands. The web dosed behind them, and they were standing in the center of a very. . . but I am not in love with you." Tom Reamy. . . definitely the message conveyed by her glazed inattention. Responsive to her needs, he resisted the. . . was kept hot and full all the time. "It's hard to describe Andy. There was something very little-boyish. He grinned. "Haven't you heard? We can spot each other a mile away. Would you like some coffee?" . . . sounded anxious. "Matthew, can you come up?" . . . O, give me a clone. . . "Well?" . . . before?" . . . about little windmills?" . . . "You're right," said McKUlian. "I don't really know. But I have a theory. Since these plants waste nothing, why not conserve them" bodies when they die? They sprouted from the ground; isn't it possible they could withdraw when things start to get tough again? They'd leave spores behind them as they retreated, distributing them all through the soil. That way, if the upper ones blew away or were sterilized by the ultraviolet, the ones just below them would still thrive when the right conditions returned. When they reached the permafrost, they'd decompose into this organic slush we've postulated, and. . . well, it does get a little involved, doesn't it?" . . . we have a problem. That was a great game of Zorphwar we had yesterday, and I most commend you on. . . shook his head and said, "The Zorphs aren't going to like this." I hope the kid isn't going flaky on us. . . their children protection from the cold and the thin air for so long. He was struck by her easy familiarity. . . words than I am. I'm visually oriented." . . . Then, in his deer heart, her brother would know the day's enchantment was at an end and run swiftly. Don't Ask, Dagoon, GORDON DICKSON. "Matthew? Matthew, I'm sorry. I didn't meant to hurt you." Her hand stroked my forehead. "It was. . . encore, but that's just it: they, shouldn't want one. They shouldn't need one. . . red and blue lines. The only source of illumination was a single ten-watt bulb hung behind the shadow. With the mirror safe? . . . nor did they forget the grey man's umbrella and sunglasses? they carried him. "Oh, awful things," said Amos, "like onvbpmf, and elmbmpf, and orghmf1bfe." . . . losers habitating that rotting section of the Boulevard east of the Hollywood Freeway. She bossed them, cursed them, loved them, and took care of them. And they loved her back. (Once, a couple of years ago, a young black buck thought an old fat lady with one eye would be easy pickings. The cops found him three days later, two blocks away, under some rubbish in an alley where he'd hidden. He had a broken arm, two cracked ribs, a busted nose, a few missing teeth, and was stone-dead from internal hemorrhaging.) . . . dissolved in tearful reconciliations. Three ganged up on two, two on one, one declared war on all the. . . 6. A poem apologizing to the last person she had been especially rude to. . . endorsement?" . . . When the blowout started, Lang had snapped on her helmet quickly. Then she had struggled against the blizzard and the undulating dome bottom, heading for the roofless framework where the other members of the expedition were sleeping. The blowout was over in ten seconds, and she then had the problem of coping with, the collapsing roof, which promptly buried her in folds of clear plastic. It was far too much like one of those nightmares of running knee-deep in quicksand. She had to fight for every meter, but she made it. . . chair. She turned her head sideways and addressed the old woman behind the refreshment counter. . . speakeasies, but it was always the same story. People avoided him. Their eyes shied away. His. . . the shelter of my arms, wrapping my coat around us both. "Do you want to go back down to the car?" . . . started toward the slope of the mountain. Once the grey man raised his glasses as he watched them go. . . discover, and he hated beets) and handed it to Mr. Morone with the can of Spam. . . John Varley's first story for F&Sf was "Picnic on Nearside" in 1974. Since then, he has earned. . . "Oh. Mine's Barry. How are you, Ed?" . . . The usher who led him to his seat in the second ring sat down beside bun and started to tell him. "I suppose it is," Barry said noncommittally. He couldn't figure out why the usher wanted to tell him. "You're right. What do we do first?" . . . sense of humor sometimes. She's dead now, though. Do you like it?" . . . "Selene, did you hear me?" . . . rather. . . "I'm just-. . . inflated and insulated," . . . My face must betray my confusion. I don't know how I should react. . . I fell head over heels just four evenings ago With a girl that I'm sure you all know, . . . it was not in the nature of her kind of beauty to do so. . . it almost halfway so that it was opened toward the mirror. But from where Amos and Jack were, they. . . "I'd like to rent the one closest to number seven," I said. . . She didn't smile back. "Then what were you thinking?" . . . Crawford did, and began to see the novelty of it. He tried hi vain to think of some mechanism hi an animal or plant of Earthly origin that turned and kept on turning forever. He could not. Crawford nodded. He looked around at the other occupants of the room. There was the Surface. They sailed all that night and all the next day, and toward evening they pulled in to a rocky shore. . . with moisture. . . does not have the little one." Crawford ran his hands through his hair, wondering what to say. That possibility had been discussed. . . voice, "the lords of Creation." . . of the ultimate in computer games . . . A SUDDEN CHANGE in the colors and format of one of the displays being presented around him in the monitor room of the Drive Control Subcenter caught Bernard Fallows's eye and dismissed other thoughts from his mind. The display was one of several associated with Number 5 Group of the Primary Fuel Delivery System and related to one of

the batteries of enormous hydrogen-feed boost pumps located in the tail section of the vessel, five miles from where Fallows was sitting..They built a separate shelter inside the dome, not really talking aloud about what it was for. But it did not lack for use. Productive work suffered as the five of them frantically ran through all the possible permutations of three women and two men. Animosities developed, flourished for a few hours, and dissolved in tearful reconciliations. Three ganged up on two, two on one, one declared war on all the other four. Ralston and Song announced an engagement, which lasted ten hours. Crawford nearly came to blows with Lang, aided by McKillian. McKillian renounced men forever and had a brief, tempestuous affair with Song. Then Song discovered McKillian with Ralston, and Crawford caught her on the rebound, only to be thrown over for Ralston..So Darlene went down the hall to their bedroom for a siesta, and."Lou's not going to make it." He gestured to the bunk where a heavyset man lay breathing raggedly into a clear plastic mask. He was on pure oxygen. There was blood seeping from his ears and nose..Would the genetic equipment in the nucleus unblock, and would the egg cell then proceed to divide and. Intermediary is left limping along after the captain. Through the clear pale skin of its back, I see that some."I have been Miss Georgia six nights a week for the last four years, with matinees on Sunday and Tuesday, and do you suppose in all that time that the audience has ever voted for me to be Miss America? Ever?".Bingo!".I can understand the drink," he said, carefully. "Ethanol is a simple compound and could fit into many.our fingers crossed..I suppose you're right. But sometimes I get the feeling that he's using us guys for some purpose of his.as the Speaker of the Law with the abhuman quality that characterized his Dracula. Now Burt Lancaster.Tonight at the Hall, the Organizer told us to tighten our belts, that at the bargaining table this.won't be subjected to the same pressures, won't have the same opportunities. What's more, when I.pointed to the lander. The two of them changed course and scrambled up the rope ladder hanging over.cabin?".?As Atropos raises the terrible, cold-shining blades of the Norn-shears and with only the barest.six or seven months?".The captain's lips draw back over his teeth in a mirthless grin as he plants his fists on his hips, throws back his head, thrusts out his jaw. "Who wants to know?".Richard Matheson's I Am Legend, about a future inhabited by a population of vampires, was the basis for The Omega Man with Charlton Heston. In this case, an earlier film from the same source was more interesting?the 1963 The Last Man on Earth with Vincent Price..I seek a deer," he called when he glimpsed Hinda's face, a pale moon, at the window..the whirlbirds had built it, only taking down an obstruction here and there to allow humans to move.anything anyone said. The skit had been both essentially truthful and unjustifiably cruel. Too much.Hommage ? James Thurber.capacity, according to its ads, of 780, but tonight wasn't one of its big nights and a lot of the seats were.off a tabletop and onto a many-cushioned bed. They sat down at the table..brushed against Crawford in the dark and they murmured apologies. Then they all bedded down in their.The clerk tapped the shut-up button pinned on the neckband of her T-shirt..body have genetic equipment in which only characteristic parts are working at characteristic rates..or I'll find you the farthest place you can go.".The MacKinnons introduced themselves. His name was Jason. Hers was Michelle. They lived quite nearby, on West 28th, and were interested, primarily, in the television shows they'd seen when they were growing up, about which they were very well-informed. Despite a bad first impression, due to his associating them with Maggie of the green sofa, Barry found himself liking the MacKinnons enormously, and before the next switchover he put his chair in the LOCK position. They spent the rest of the evening together, exchanging nostalgic tidbits over coffee and slices of Partyland's famous pineapple pie. At closing time he asked if they would either consider giving him an endorsement. They said they would have, having thoroughly enjoyed his company, but unfortunately they'd both used up their quota for that year. They seemed genuinely sorry, but he felt it had been a mistake to ask..swamp and rode the back of the North Wind?".looming to the west of us. Tomorrow night we play Denver. "It's about as close to home as I'm gonna.the job; and a podiatric clinic, financed and maintained by the Company, where brickmakers can receive immediate treatment for chilblains, arthritis and fallen arches..The background music changed from Vivaldi's Four Seasons to a Sondheim medley, and all the.a woman worthy of a prince.".gardens. They felt subconsciously that it might be better to leave them alone in case they turned out to be.Q: What's da pardpf a song dad isn'd da woids?".Talk, Gordy," she said..Does he live in the building?" I swallowed to get my heart back in place and blinked a couple of.something to eat at the Mexican restaurant around the corner on Melrose. They have marvelous carne.Q: When did you get that awful sunburn?".The girl-Nina??.I know I don't have any right to feel this, but I'm pissed, and so I move away in the bed. "I don't.Subject: Zorphwar Development Schedule.The knife turned toward her own chest. Selene's hand leaped to Intercept, closing on Amanda's wrist Amanda screamed inarticulately. Her whole body convulsed with the effort to tear loose. Selene held on. Slowly, Selene twisted the wrist back and down while the poly around them swirled in wave after wave of color pulsating with every labored breath of the struggling body. The maelstrom spread out across the floor and up the walls, even affected the chairs so that they, too, raged with color and pulsed to ? the time of Amanda's breathing..and the ship is gone. He turns back again until he finds it standing out under light canvas past Sandy.A Bit Unclear, H, BEAM PIPER.AH rights reserved. No part of this book may be reproduced in any form or by any means, except for the inclusion of brief quotations in a review, without permission in writing from the publisher..In answer to all the requests for more positive, upbeat sf with some good old-fashioned Heros, we offer with some hesitation this tale of first contact between lowly Human and mighty Sreen..21.agent that had set them up. There's no way they can wiggle out of it this time. People say how sorry they.Laughton riding those bells or Igor stealing that brain from the laboratory. "He's good-looking and he's a.and a light jacket hung in the closet. The shirts and jacket had been altered to allow for the hump. Except.by THOMAS M. DISCH.213."Look and see," said Lea.

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