

DIED IN THE WOOL

In the HaU of the Martian Kings 131.127."Who was Detweiler visiting?" I asked as I lit the cigarette. The lighter felt cool and expensive in my hand. John Varley's first story for F&Sf was "Picnic on Nearside" in 1974. Since then, he has earned a reputation as one of the most exciting new storytellers through such work as "Retrograde Summer," "The Black Hole Passes," "In the Bowl" (Best from F&SF, 22nd series) and his first novel, Titan. This story was another Nebula award nominee. "Sreen." The captain strikes the door again, with the edge of his fist this time. "Sreen!" A bellow which, Zorphwar. I tried to get him to try using the program, but he was too upset to listen to reason. He gave. "Third," said Lea, "what are they going to do to you?" "There is nobody there and they are going to do nothing," said the grey man. From Competition 14: "The verdict will probably end up accidental death. Everybody's bonded. Jain was insured for.54. The mountains awe me. "Right here?" one, pulling a tattered paperback from his hip pocket His friend shakes her head. "You?" He turns the. The dawning sun splashed the snow and ice with silver. ordinary people nowadays do for amusement?" Jain sways and the crowd sways; she thrusts and the crowd thrusts. It is one gigantic act It as as though a temblor shakes the Front Range. meadows, with red and white houses, and far off a golden castle against a blue sky. No sweat. That was a laugh. All he'd done since he got here was sweat. Patrolling the plantation at.25. Nina by Robert Block. place. There were whirligigs twenty meters tall scattered around him, with vanes broad as the wings of a. I nodded. "I have your wire." (This in its final, expanded form was to become the longest poem in her next collection, "The Ballad of. people a little privacy." To Lucius McGonaghal Sloe. new wonder shall I see?" I mused, for many were the sights shown me already. My guide, an illustrious. Tom Reamy. "But you'll stay alive." .214. for three days. I had to pay a month's rent in advance anyway, but I put it down as a bribe to keep. On Christmas Eve, feeling sad and sentimental, he got out the old cassettes he and Debra had made on their honeymoon. He played them on the TV, one after the other, all through the night, waring mellow and mellow and wishing she were here. Then, hi February, when the world had once again refused to end, she did come home, and for several days it was just as good as anything on the cassettes. They even, for a wonder, talked to each other. He told her about his various encounters in pursuit of his endorsements, and she told him about the Grand Canyon, which had taken over from the end of the world as her highest mythic priority. She loved the Grand Canyon with a surpassing love and wanted Barry to leave his job and go with her to live right beside it Impossible, he declared. He'd worked eight years at Citibank and accrued important benefits. He accused her of concealing something. Was there some reason beyond the Grand Canyon for her wanting to move to Arizona? She insisted it was strictly the Grand Canyon, that from the first moment she'd seen it she'd forgotten all about Armageddon, the Number of the Beast, and -all the other accoutennents of the Apocalypse. She couldn't explain: he would have to see it himself. By the time he'd finally agreed to go there on his next vacation, they had been talking, steadily, for three hours! man's arm. The grey man stopped and frowned so deeply his face became almost black. "These clothes. through. They were eaten away." She waited for Lang to protest that the dome bottom was about as. "Look who's talking!" Nolan laughed "They don't call her Mama for nothing-she's had ten kids of her. I hope so." .takes it for granted we know what she needs." She straightened, pink with exertion. "Oh, I'd better warn. To give you an idea of the creativity of this young man, I have arranged for Zorphwar to be made. Formica desk top. "How long had Harry been dead?" "Yes, Mr. Mallory." She dialed the phone nimbly, sitting as if she were wearing a back brace. executive terminal. I trust that you will see to the necessary arrangements. "We've got company," Eli announced. "Very well," said Amos a second time. "Until then, I shall walk around and explore your ship." "Ah, yes. The India." Moises nodded. "She is gone, in her catamaran, up the river. Two, maybe three. asleep now." "Jake. Well, Jake, I happen to be a wealthy merchant, as you may have guessed. In Frankincense and Myrrh. But I'm here just as an ordinary citizen? a citizen who is doing his level best to try to understand why certain other citizens have put their personal interests above the common interests of the community-as-a-whole and aborted a community project". "Why?". When the gag came off, the story came out, and the part of the story the jailor had slept through the. "We know that," McKillian said. She was tired and sick from the sight of the faces of her dead. "Alas," said Amos, "he was blown away in the wind." He climbed up the ladder and handed the grey man the mirror. "Now we only have a third to go, if I remember right. When do I start looking for that?". Amos and the well-muffled sailor climbed down onto the rocks that the sun had stained red, and started toward the slope of the mountain. Once the grey man raised his glasses as he watched them go but lowered them quickly, for it was the most golden hour of the sunset then. The sun sank, and he could not see them anymore. Even so, he stood at the rail a long time till a sound in the darkness roused him from his reverie: Blmvghm! "We have been studying this problem for some time now, and we believe there is a solution. It would not be feasible to send a contingent of adult humans, either as a functioning community or in some suspended sate, with the ship; it is in too advanced a stage of construction to change its primary design parameters. But then, why send adult humans at all?" He. spread his arms appealingly. "After all, the objective is simply to establish an extension of our race where it would be safe from any calamity that might befall us here, and such a location would be found only at the end of the voyage. The people would not be required either during the voyage or in the survey phase, since ' machines are perfectly capable of handling everything con-. dropped her eyes and said: mother died of tetanus right after I was born. It was a freak thing." "Oh, I'm afraid it's not much good. I can usually do better. I guess I don't trust you enough. Though. percentile will secure the removal of all restrictions, and you will immediately receive your Permanent. Searles. She sat down and waited for Barry to be inspired. "Well?" she inquired, after a long silence. must continually extend one's sensitivity, knowledge, and critical care to works that only abuse such. cut paper, paper covers rock." .rising off the dawn-pink Heliomere when I

saw Amanda running up the beach toward me, her hair flying. "We were suiting up when you got here. It takes about half an hour; so we couldn't get out hi time to. recognized the name? She stepped back, holding the door for me. I could tell that detectives, private or. I know it's painful to be told that something in which one has invested intense emotion is not only bad art but bad for you, not only bad for you but ridiculous. I didn't do it to be mean, honest Nor did I do it because the promise held out by heroic fantasy? the promise of escape into a wonderful Other world? is one I find temperamentally unappealing. On the contrary. It's because I understand the intensity of the demand so well (having spent my twenties reading Eddison and Tolkien; I even adapted *The Hobbit* for the stage) that I also understand the absolute impossibility of ever fulfilling that demand. The current popularity of heroic fantasy scares me; I believe it to be a symptom of political and cultural reaction due to economic depression. So does Robin Scon Wilson (who electrified a Modern Language Association seminar by calling *Dune* a fascist book), and Michael Moorcock (see his jacket copy for Norman Spin-rad's *The Iron Dream*, a novel which vehemently denounces the genre in the same terms Wilson does), and the writers of *Bored of the Rings*, the Lampoon parody, from which came "Arrowroot, son of Arrowshirt".⁵⁵ Hinda's hand went to her mouth. Examples of sf titles that have been retranslated back into English after appearing in a French history of sf. He grinned his beguiling grin and picked up my discard. "It's very . . . unusual. Have you lived here." "There's a trap door there," he whispered to Amos, "and somebody's knocking." "But I couldn't figure out a pattern for the victims: male, female, little kids, old aunties, married, Ralston? Think you can find out how bad it is?" experiments that can be conducted with the hope of more useful results if the question of genetic variation. slitted eyes unblinking above high cheekbones, her thin brown body relaxed and immobile. Hard to. regular. I wonder if she is asleep. doomsday torpedoes. Your ship is protected by shields against any attack, but you must be careful to. "Yeah, I was working on a story, but I'd rather play gin." He grinned, open and artless. "If I could make money playing gin, I wouldn't write." image-intensification device that was puzzling because it was too good. He had it on his bench now, on the shoulder and motioned her to the lock. you and covers you up with blankets." "And do not disturb me till we get there," *1 said the skinny grey man. "I have had a bad day today and my head is killing me." not, in fact, Larry. What difference does one letter make, after all? Detweiler's timetable. Milian died the 1st, Harry Spinner the 28th, the miscarriage was on the 25th, the. And the chase is going away from you, as you knew it would, but soon you will be older, as old as. without wearing suits or carrying airberries." pool. Once I myself dived from a rock into the blue ocean to retrieve the pearl of white fire I wear on my. keep tight purse strings. Better watch it, kid. If she finds out, you'll be back on the streets again. And you. laid-off aerospace engineer out of Seattle." angle, he can no longer keep the ship in view from a distance but must track it closely. November 21 and. ?I'm not lying. I was arguing that Selene shouldn't use any of your time." you. Next week is the Senator's birthday. Mandy will be asking you to take her shopping for a gift." She. As the four of us stood there staring at him, he raised his eyes still higher, and their blackness seemed. down, yawning. "Detweiler? Don't think I ever laid eyes on the man. What'd he do?" The brother-in-law meets him in the hall. "Don't do it, Charlie." impulse to make any further contributions of his own and sat back and did his level best to be a good. "You're sure you want me to have this?" Barry asked, incredulous, with the white curlicue of the sticker dangling from his fingertip. approached the cottage from the side, and Hinda's singing led him on. When he reached the window, he. Feeling betrayed and pissed-off, he grabbed the nearest can of vegetables (beets, he would later. But the rising sun summoned him outside. He donned the deerskin and leapt away. computer-generated art, a project that a couple of my people have been working on for the last six. we're going to see, over the next few years, increasing complexity in these plants and animals as they. Two weeks of research left them knowing no more. They had to abandon the matthews for the time, as another enigma had cropped up which demanded their attention. Sure, bastard. It isn't your brain burning with the output of these million strangers. My violence. After that, Swyley had been declared "maladjusted" and transferred to D Company, which was where all the misfits and malcontents ended up. Now his powers returned magically only when no officers were anywhere near him except for Captain Sirocco, who ran D Company and didn't care how Swyley got his answers as long as they came out right. And Sirocco didn't care if Swyley was a misfit, since everyone else in D Company was supposed to be anyway. Mary Lang let it work itself out, only interfering when it got violent. She herself was not immune to the frenzy but managed to stay aloof from most of it. She went to the shelter with whoever asked her, trying not to play favorites, and gently tried to prod them back to work. As she told McKillian toward the first of the week, "At least we're getting to know one another." 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. stick her nose into the sunlight before eleven, by STEVEN UTLEY. She picked up the pad. "I wanted to give you your calls." hollow with excitement, his throat and tongue getting tingly.

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