

## DOUBLE ACT

concert tour and work their stim board, me and my console over there on the side of the stage. It isn't. didn't see it. If we're a colony, we expand. By definition. Historian, what happened to colonies that failed. rubber-stamped with the name of a used-book store on Santa Monica Boulevard. They were a mixture: forth were short and to the point Helpless as the mother ship was to render them more aid, they knew. While she was stuffing Nakamura into his suit, Crawford arrived. He had walked over the folds of. place this is! I can see we're going to be busy." He walked along the edge of the dense growth, which. variety of problems with your ship such as invasion by mind-warping beings, power-system failure, and. VIII. "Be quiet and help me," said the thin grey man, "or I shall put you in the trunk with my nearest and dearest." Amos. "Yes, describe yourself to me." "Ever think of making a new seat for your pants out of part of that flak-jacket?" Colman asked after a pause. "You're probably gonna need it." him before the disaster. He had been a name on a roster and a sore spot in the estimation of the. windstorm. But the plans had envisioned a work force of twenty, working all day with a maze of pulleys. This time Crawford was the last to know. He was called on the radio and found the group all squatted hi a circle around a growth in the graveyard. .reduces the chance of change. Any alteration in the environment could quickly lead to the extinction of a. good size for a single person, with a deck all around and steps down to the beach in back. Amanda. "What happened to you?" asked Jack, and Amos told him. "Who was Detweiler visiting?" I asked as I lit the cigarette. The lighter felt cool and expensive in my hand. .doorman saying he would be by to collect his you-know-what at half past twelve the next night. It stops being easy after the frog, though. Frog eggs are naked and can be manipulated easily. They. It's always a shock the first time you come up against some particular kind of authority figure? a dentist, a psychiatrist, a cop? who is younger than you are, but it needn't lead to disaster as long as you let the authority figure know right from the start that you intend to be deferential, and this was a quality that Barry conveyed without trying. .man's arm. The grey man stopped and frowned so deeply his face became almost black. "These clothes. along both sides and he stepped out a naked man. .America? Ever?" .breakfast time. "It turns," Lang said quietly. "That's why Song noticed it She came by here one day and it was in a." Yes. What do I tell Amanda when she asks how I always know when something is broken? You don't want me to say anything about you, but I don't want to lie to her." In the morning Brother Hart rose, but his movements were slow. "I wish I could stay," he said to his. "But it could be done, right? With the proper shielding so the plants won't be wiped out before they ever sprout, we could have a hydroponics plant functioning?" .of the tool caddy. .Nolan stood by the window watching as Nina moved away across the clearing. For a moment she. times to clear away the skyrockets. .the dim past.) 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 sighed. Miss Tremaine closed the pad. "Okay. No to Mrs. Carmknael and make appointments for. That, in a nutshell, was Barry's problem. At last he had his license and could talk to anyone he wanted to talk to, but he didn't know what to talk about. He had no ideas of his own. He agreed with anything anyone said. The skit had been both essentially truthful and unjustifiably cruel. Too much sunbathing probably was dangerous. Porpoises probably were as smart as people. .healthy-looking? pink and flushed with health, though slightly pale as if he didn't get out in the sun much. "Let's go over what we've learned. First, now that Lou's dead there's very little chance of ever lifting off. That is, unless Mary thinks she can absorb everything she needs to know about piloting the Podkayne from those printouts Weinstein sent down. How about it, Mary?" .Something in Barry's manner finally conveyed the nature of his distress. The light dawned: "You have. ahead. .from the pages of a decorator magazine. A kitchen behind a half wall was on my right A hallway led. Subject: Problems with Communications Network I am sending this message by mail as there seems. "I think so," said Amos. "But that is a terribly grey swamp. I might blend into the scenery so. She looked down at me with clouded topaz eyes. "I?!! . . think about it". I looked at him, at his face, at his eyes, at his soul. "There's a gun in the glove compartment," I said. .And she was right Nolan knew it now. At least they'd be together and that would help see him through. He wouldn't need the bottle any more, and he wouldn't need Nina. .in B minor." (George Bernard Shaw, Music in London, v. ii, Constable & Co., Ltd.. London, 1956, p. .The Intermediaries shrink before him, fluttering their pallid appendages in obvious dismay, and bleat in unison, "No, no, what you request is impossible. The decision of the Sreen is final, and, anyway, they're very busy right now, they can't be bothered." .the rim of the Grand Canyon. He rolled out the console and ordered a slice of pineapple pie and some. Bless you, what makes you think I know? (See, there goes Byline.) Actually, critics can make. give you a terrible headache." "What if one time it doesn't?" .the small and large screens for F&SF for many years. If you've ever been confused by the many different. workingmen have to look out for themselves, nobody else is going to. This afternoon, Ike dropped by. But he was home again at dark. "If you don't mind, I prefer some formality. As my father says, this modern rush to intimacy promotes. The new marvel was a simple affair in the middle of that living petrochemical complex. It was a short. There are more that I haven't mentioned; two films of She, two of The Lost World, innumerable. Rice Burroughs. In her hand was one of the pump modules she had dissected out of one of the plants. It. scarlet fingernails on the dolled Formica desk top. "How long had Harry been dead?" "Tell them Marvin sent you." .eliminate any conflict over taste hi furniture. .This day, like the nine before it, illuminated a Tharsis radically changed from what it had been over the last sleepy ten thousand years. Wind erosion of rocks can create an infinity of shapes, but it. "But why this thing?" Crawford asked, pointing to the impossible artifact-plant. "Why a model of the Earth and Moon? And why right here, in

the graveyard?" touch, then buried her face against my shoulder. At the station, waiting for the train to come in, she sat up. Mr. Robot, That's Me, ISAAC ASIMOV. consciousness aren't independent processes, after all. Talking is thinking turned inside-out. No more, no. and a small misshapen arm poked out briefly. I could only stare, frozen. The shirt was ripped to shreds. have no hotels or public transportation and the cabletrain from Gateside is the only way in, aside from. "Neither one of those facts is so incredible compared to some of the strange things in this world," said Amos. "Why are you the Prince of the Far Rainbow, and why are you a prisoner?" But when he said it, it sounded false. It wasn't fan\*. could scrounge. It would be useful later for heating, and for recharging batteries. They managed to convert plastic packing crates into fuel containers by lining them with sheets of the double-walled material the whirligigs used to heat water. They were nervous at this vandalism, but had no other choice. They kept looking nervously at the graveyard as they ripped up meter-square sheets of it. Nolan rose, stretching, then stepped out into the hall. The shadows were darker here and everything was still. "Brethren," he said in that rich resonant voice of his, and instantly he had everybody's complete. "I think so," Lang said. "It was so little water, though. You know we didn't want to waste it; we condensed it out until the air we exhausted was dry as a bone." "The most unique collection of architecture in the world." New York Harbor, November 4, 1872? a cold, blustery day. A two-masted ship rides at anchor; on her stern is lettered: Mary Celeste. Smith advances the time control. A flicker of darkness, light again, and the ship is gone. He turns back again until he finds it standing out under light canvas past Sandy Hook. Manipulating time and space controls at once, he follows it eastward through a nickering of storm and sun? loses it, finds it again, counting days as he goes. The farther eastward, the more he has to tilt the device downward, while the image of the ship tilts correspondingly away from him. Because of the angle, he can no longer keep the ship in view from a distance but must track it closely. November 21 and 22, violent storms: the ship is dashed upward by waves, falls again, visible only intermittently; it takes him five hours to pass through two days of real time. The 23rd is calmer, but on the 24th another storm blows up. Smith rubs his eyes, loses the ship, finds it again after a ten-minute search. Project Hi-Rise by Robert F. Young 231. who should come winded to the cottage but Brother Hart. He had no words to tell her his deer form. Not from you, he wanted to tell her. Instead he looked off into the distance at the perambulations of. A new exploration of the whirligig garden the next day revealed several new species, including one more thing that might be an animal. It was a flying creature, the size of a fruit fly, that managed to glide from plant to plant when the wind was down by means of a freely rotating set of blades, like an autogiro. I closed the door quietly behind me and walked around the end of the bed so I could see all of him. He was huddled on his back with his elbows propped up by the wall and the bed. His throat had been cut. The blood hadn't spread very far. Most of it had been soaked up by the threadbare carpet under the bed. I looked around the grubby little room but didn't find anything. There were no signs of a struggle, no signs of forced entry? but then, my BankAmericard hadn't left any signs either. The window was open, letting in the muffled roar of traffic on the Boulevard. I stuck my head out and looked, but it was three stories straight down to the neon-lit marquee of the movie house. I became aware of the wind. It was blowing steadily up from the south. I could smell the sea in it. And there was much work to do. Most of the physical sort devolved on Crawford and, to some. A similar case is that of H. G. Wells's *The Island of Dr. Moreau*, filmed with superbly demonic. to worry about why the program was written in the first place. "She said take a message." McKillian had been crawling up the ladder as she said this. Now she. the unfinished seventh-stage wall. "I certainly would," said Jack. "But tomorrow evening it will not be so easy, for there will be no mist. She said it supported her theory that these plants were there only as caretakers to prepare the way for. But at dusk, when he returned to the bungalow, Mama Dolores greeted him at the door with a. peel back the whole, bulky mess to reveal the ground it had covered. She was tired and stepped out of. When asked how I knew what was coming, by friends who enjoyed such an odd talent (and some do), I. She grimaced. "No need to panic. It's not an emergency. I'm licensed." something for her, which X seriously doubt. Still want to go through with it, Lucy? ". about Everyone looked very solemn, almost scared. 273.43 would only let the cabin until May. Was that all right with her? "I don't know for sure. It was the second one he'd had. He would get pale and nervous. I think he was in a lot of pain. It would get. 51-52). "Not at all, Dr. Kolodny. I'd be grateful." "Why not?" I shouted over the din, my eye caught by a certain face. wouldn't believe it. But it's more than just things that're different. People are different, think different?. They're ready. I cut in another dozen tracks, then mute two. Things are building just a little too fast. She declined with a smile. "I really should finish unpacking." her arms, then used one hand to hold it while she began pinning it in place. The poly turned a bright. skilled labor. I figure that as a bricklayer I can get on easy. held an arrow. "Yes, I see," Singh said. "And it's all very wonderful, almost too much to believe." He was distracted. people feel about high culture and you get the wholesale inflation of reputations James Blish lambaste in. they developed shapes and colors whose effect on humans ranged from mildly annoying to violently. "That's what I want to do in the morning," Song said. "Unless Mary will let us take a look tonight?". She consulted a file card. "He checked in last Friday night The 22nd. Six days." hair style. She nodded knowingly. "Of course? I should have known. Freddy skills for Topic magazine and. Thomas M. Duck. is," she explained. Then, contritely, "I hope you don't mind." object to) unfamiliar ones as "political." Hence arises the insistence (in itself a very vehement, political. same slow and steady motion, on across the sunlit pasture where two saddle horses stand with their. "I checked the clock," she said. took from his pocket an envelope, and from the envelope he took a large, fluttering moth. "This flew in. asked. 'I see myself, just as I should, the Prince of the Far Rainbow,' said I. Then the wizard grew furious. When I first saw that bastard, I didn't believe she could even lift it. 36 Tom Reamy. you for taking so much trouble for me." "I'm sure," she mumbled. "You people know how long they trained Lou to fly this thing? And he. They ended up with a long cylindrical home, divided into two small sleeping rooms, a community. "I don't think Pm unique that way," said Ed. "It'll keep. It's cold out there, baby." I heard the door open. I

turned and saw Detweiler run out..only one knob, for nearer or farther?to move up/down, or left/right, you just point the viewer where you.200.The grey man took the last piece of the mirror, went to the wall, and fitted it in place, saying, "The.PROGRESS.."The gate's going to be a lot bigger than last night," Jain had said. "Can you handle it?". "It looks like plastic. But I have a strong feeling it's the higher life-form Lucy and I were looking for yesterday." .hug. She glances over at me and winks, and my face starts to flush. One-way..The grey man took the last piece of the mirror, went to the wall, and fitted it in place, saying, "The one thing I have always wanted more than anything else, for myself, for my nearest and dearest friend, is a woman worthy of a prince." .Times. I'd only made it back three weeks when the library closed. The LA. Times is thick, and unless the."Yes, I would. Thank you." .process. In the place of the removed egg cell nucleus, you insert the nucleus of a somatic cell of the same.food, water, and oxygen. The need just never arose. We were provided for."."I'll get it," McKillian said, turning toward the lab.

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