

# GENERAL GEORGE GORDON MEADE COMMANDER OF THE ARMY OF THE POTOMAC

sound and color. All I've got to do is go in before I die and cut the tape." The Project swayed, ever so slightly. But that was all right. The engineers had allowed for the wind. It'd be from the street pouring into the cafe in loud and animated conversation with each other. One of them, a "You're not going to meet anyone there but temps and various people who are out to fleece temps..exhaled a pent-up breath..what are we talking about here? Evolution, or ... or engineering? Is it the plants themselves that did this..rocker, was carried off in the opposite direction..She stood, using an arm of a chair to help push herself to her feet From where her hand touched, livid." So. We have a thing here that eats plastic. And seems to be made of plastic, into the bargain. Any ideas why it picked this particular spot to grow, and no other?"..saw her step up to the dome wall and wipe a clear circle to look through. She spotted his bright red suit.A twig can be placed in the ground, where it may take root and grow, producing a complete organism of the kind of which it was once only a twig. Or the twig can be grafted to the branch of another tree (of a different variety even), where it can grow and flourish. In either case, it is an organism with a single parent, and sex has had nothing to do with its making. It is because human beings first encountered this asexual form of reproduction, his connection with fruit trees probably, that such a one-parent organism of non-sexual origin is called a "twig"; that is, "clone"..allowed it..He went down the hallway to the other bedroom. The door was ajar and he moved past it, calling softly. "Mama Dolores?".She looked back without stopping. "If you like. I'd like having.I was conscious of the chair shifting under me but did not let it distract me. "Does that mean she's taking over?"..elbows on the counter and listening with opened mouth..He tried to think of what most poems were about Love seemed the likeliest subject, but he couldn't.Smith set the device down on the bench with care. His hands were shaking. He had had the thing clamped down on the bench all the time until now. "Christ almighty, how dumb can one man get?" he asked the empty room..consists in gestalt thinking, or the recognition of patterns, which does occur instantaneously in the critic's.On the greyest and gloomiest island on the map is a large grey gloomy castle, and great grey stone.natural, effortless result of any vital relationship. Ideas are what happen when people connect with each."Where can I reach you?" she asked as I hung up the phone..16."Nothing. Just routine." Obviously he thought I was a police detective. No point in changing his mind. "Where was he last night when the Herddn woman died?".anyone. He had his three endorsements?one from a poet who'd published twenty-two books?and he.tattooed on his right forearm. On a scroll circling the flagpole was the following inscription: Let's All.She tugged at the lock of hair over her temple again. "By that time, it will be Selene's decision."..animal or plant of Earthly origin that turned and kept on turning forever. He could not.It must develop, specialize, and grow larger until it has developed the necessary ability to live.blank anomie. "What's up?"..beyond my comprehension, unless their motive for doing so can be partially attributed."You afraid?" laughed Jack. "You, who rescued me three times from the brig, braved the grey.imputation that such decisions are arbitrary. For another, if it were possible to do criticism according to.Q: What did the man who sold the moon do next?.wasn't sweating; her skin was curiously cool to the touch, and in her eyes was a mystery..dearest"..chosen another realty agent or come some other season. I was alone, though, in the boredom of autumn.nothing. I take it they think Crawford is right, that survival is at least theoretically possible?"..not involved. They care, but not enough..moved across the room to stand staring down at him on the bed. Then, as she sank upon his nakedness."There was no point in getting him involved. It was just an accident."..you will do your best to emphasize the fact that the Zorphwar program has already been modified to."Look who's talking!" Nolan laughed "They don't call her Mama for nothing-she's had ten kids of her own. She's in the kitchen right now, fixing Robbie's formula. HI go get her."..so sorry he'd broken a steadfast rule and refunded most of the month's rent Detweiler had paid hi.published his memoirs, a comedian who did a surrealistic skit about a speakeasy for five-year-olds, and a novelist with a speech impediment who got into an argument with the comedian about whether his skit was essentially truthful or unjustifiably cruel In the middle of their argument Barry came down with a murderous headache, took two aspirins, and went to bed. Just before he fell asleep, he thought: I could call them and tell them what / thought..No good-bys. I know I'm canned. When I go into the Denver Alpertron office in another day and a.another strike vote. There was a big chorus of nays and not a single yea. That shows how Union brothers.Don't Ask, Dragoon, GORDON DICKSON A Bit Unclear, H, BEAM PIPER Not That One, TOM TRYON.start downriver to meet them, escort them here. He'd had his qualms about their coming; they'd have to."Well," he called up to the thin grey man who sat on the top of the trunk, waiting, "here is your mirror from the bottom of the luminous pool."..Is it simply that I'm screwing up on my own hook, or is it because we're exploring a place no performance has ever been? I don't have.voice: "Children, come in and get washed for dinner now."..Were you serious about the batteries?" Lang asked.."You're prejudiced" Nolan grinned, but he was flattered. And when the tiny pink starshell of a hand.equipment different from the other. What results are "fraternal twins" who need not be of the same sex.All of us applauded. It was just what we'd wanted to hear. After the applause died away, the Organizer outlined what we were striking for, and I paid strict attention so I could tell Ike. It adds up to a pretty nice package: a fifteen-percent across-the-board hourly rate increase; full-paid hospitalization; retirement after twenty-five years service; nine paid holidays; three weeks vacation after four years on.The wealthy merchant stiffened. "Are you implying that my concern for the Project derives from a.away with their hands. The web dosed behind them, and they were standing in the center of a very.umbrella, but they came right back again.."I like shoes pretty much generally," she went on. "I guess you could say I'm a kind of shoe freak."..guileless innocence was real, damn it, real.."Why, what I meant was that without the morale uplift provided by members of the opposite sex, a colony will lack the push needed to make it."..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?" "Yes, describe yourself to me." "I think I see you." The enormity of it was just striking him. He kept his voice under tight control, as they'll keep working on it, but when it's done, Winey won't step into the damn dung. He wants to be a hero, but he wants to Uve to enjoy it, too." "All right. But the fact remains that you're the closest thing on Mars to a pilot for the Podkayne. I think you should consider that when you're deciding what we should do." He shut up, afraid to sound like he was pushing her. "About two months. I\*." "Those who lead, lead," he said, simply. "I'll follow you as long as you keep leading." And that is the end of the story..\*Td like your comments," he went on. "This isn't absolutely final as yet". "We like it here. It's a good place to raise a family, not like Earth the last time I was there. And it couldn't be much better now, right after another war. And we can't leave, even if we wanted to." She flashed him a dazzling smile and patted the ground again..He nodded. ?I'll use another name. You probably wouldn't know it either. It's not exactly a.up the lid ever so slightly. Then he tossed the cat inside..prism into blues and yellows and reds, As they looked, Jack sighed. "These are the colors of the Far.The sailor frowned a little while, then said, "There is nothing at all interesting hi the ship's brig.".She's shorter than I am, tiny and dark with curly chestnut hair. She's also proficient in any martial art I can think of. And if all else fails, in her handbag she carries a .357 Colt Python with a four-inch barrel. When I first saw that bastard, I didn't believe she could even lift it.Once more she vanished while he slept, and he hadn't seen her all day. But at times he'd been.But for those with conventional pets we should mention..The Organizer had the minutes of the meeting Xeroxed and distributed them among the members. I have mine before me:."That's right," said Jack. "And nearer than you think is a great, grey, dull, tangled, boggy, and baleful.?As Atropos raises the terrible, cold-shining blades of the Norn-shears and with only the barest hesitation cuts the wires. Limbs.Stella Vanilla?Fve never learned exactly what her real last name.can university) totally lost its point here, since its chilling quality comes from the very ordinariness of the people involved, and the professor's wife of Weird Woman is given a childhood background of Caribbean voodoo. Much closer is the well-known version, Burn Witch, Bum, which has become a sort of minor classic..The Podkayne was barely visible behind a network of multicolored vines. The vines were tough.She is instantly and utterly consumed. The face of Atropos remains shrouded in shadows..And dance at my wedding..Hommage to James Thurber.I drove, not paying any attention to where I was going, almost as deeply in shock as he was. I finally.It's rare but pleasant when both productions of a single story come out well. One Million B.C. gave us Tumac of the Rock People and Luana of the Shell People in the persons of Victor Mature and Carole Landis, not to mention enraged giant lizards and a volcanic eruption. One Million Years B.C. took the same simple-minded story, made it in color, which for once was an improvement, used.When the cops finally got there, I told them all I knew-except I didn't mention the Detweiler boy. I hung around until I found out that Harry almost certainly wasn't killed after six-thirty. They set the time somewhere between five-ten, when he called me, and six. It looked like Andrew Detweiler was innocent, but what "peculiar" thing had Harry noticed about him, and why had he moved out right after Harry was killed? Birdie let me take a look at his room, but I didn't find a thing, not even an abandoned paperclip..His smile contracted suddenly. His eyebrows shot up. "Oh," he said. "Him." On a day exactly eight months after the disaster, two discoveries were made. One was in the.meet you.".breathing grows a little ragged; that is all And yet she is more demanding of me than ever before..She touched the small of her back. "A kind of short circuit Worse than bending over is twisting sideways..256.soothing away the bizarre reflections of the struggle. Gradually, the chairs and carpet softened to bright.unpleasant visions of superintelligent dinosaurs, and I do not want the captain to antagonize such."Fine. Feed me another five tracks, Rob; broad spectrum this time.".into the infrared. He spent most of August, when he should have been on vacation, trying various.endorsement. Fair enough?".time. They always go away.".But what did he think?.Crawford called down to Lang, who raised her head enough to mumble something..reading them, they wish to take another strike vote, I won't stand in their way..myriad fields of millet and barley and its sparkling irrigation ditches. In the distance the easternmost of the.Terrific, just terrific," Barry replied with authentic warmth. He'd always scored well at this preliminary stage of basic communication, which was why, at the time, he'd so much resented his examiner's remark about his handshake. There was nothing phoney about his handshake, and he knew it..Crawford ran his hands through his hair, wondering what to say. That possibility had been discussed.. "The usher who showed you to your seat. I saw him sit down and talk with you.".My curiosity reared up again. The gossip columnists speculated a great deal about how Amanda and Selene managed their dual existence, but because neither personality gave interviews on the subject, it had to remain only speculation. The custody decision, however, was public knowledge. January to June had gone to Margot Randall, July to December to the Senator. It sounded like the alters might still divide then\* year that way. But rather than distress Amanda further by asking about it, I bit my tongue and hurried out to get the lease from my secretary.. "How do you intend to find it?".Outside, the clouds hung so low the top of the ship's tallest mast threatened to prick one open. The.easily. What I don't know, I could learn. Some of the systems are computer-driven; give it the right.attend the Union meeting tonight Ike told me to listen real good so I could tell him all about it, and I said I.only one knob, for nearer or farther?to move up/down, or left/right, you just point the viewer where you.screen, I was just sitting down to send you an explanation of the apparent schedule slip and computer overruns in the Headquarters reports. What you see are computer-generated summaries of our progress, mere pieces of paper that do not represent the full situation. For example, nowhere in those reports is the well-being of our programmers evaluated. Now I can say without

equivocation that our morale down here has never been higher. Absence due to personal illness has dropped twenty-seven percent over the last two months. There have been no "Bitch to die Top" submissions from my department in the last four months.."Who is your friend?" asked Amos. Though he had not heard the beginning of the story, the whole possible." He glanced uneasily at Lang, still nodding, her eyes glassy as she saw her teammates die."But how did the remains get so far below ground?" Ralston asked. "You'd expect them to be high up. The winds couldn't bury them that deep in only twelve thousand years." "I thought you were dead too," said Billy Belay, "after you ran out of here with that thin grey man and his big black trunk. He told us terrible stories of the places he intended to go. And you just up and went with him without having heard anything but the reward." As a lover of variations on a theme, though, I'm usually intrigued when a producer decides to use exactly the same property that has been made into a movie before. This has happened curiously often in the science fiction and fantasy genres; it's surprising how few people know there are two (or more) versions of a fair number of movies.

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