

## MYSTIC MEANDERINGS SHORT TALES OF WONDER AND FANTASY

by JOHN VARLEY .she might return to her post as Miss Georgia. She had not left the promised sticker, and Lida seriously. When he reached the apron of the second stage, he strode across it and began ascending the second series of steps. We kept right on his heels. It was at this point that I noticed he was mumbling something under his breath. I listened hard, but I couldn't make out what it was..on watch at all times. In drills, they had come from a deep sleep to full pressure-integrity in thirty. They built a separate shelter inside the dome, not really talking aloud about what it was for. But it did. believe it for one minute! Nobody's going to incur Divine Wrath just for making sure he's got enough. find someone to talk to. It is a basic human need, after all. Perhaps the basic need. I had no choice." Colman frowned to himself as his mind raced over the data's significance. No sane attacking force would contemplate taking an objective like that by a direct frontal assault in the center--the lowermost stretch of the trail was too well covered by overlooking slopes, and there would be no way back if the attack bogged down. That was what the enemy commander would have thought anyone would have thought. So what would be the point of tying up lots of men to defend a point that would never be attacked? According to the book, the correct way to attack the bunker would be along the stream from above or by crossing the stream below and coming down from the spur on the far side. So the other side was concentrating at points above both of the obvious assault routes and setting themselves up to ambush whichever attack should materialize. But in the meantime they were wide open in the middle.. "I've met her friends." "They were arrested, for trafficking, right here on this couch, while they were taking money from the agent that had set them up. There's no way they can wiggle out of it this time. People say how sorry they are and everything, but I don't know: they were criminals, after all. What they were doing only makes it harder for the rest of us to get our endorsements honestly." "It all amounts to the same thing, doesn't it?" I shrugged. "Oh, well," she sighed, "vampires are stupid." She reached over and plucked at the hair on my chest. "I haven't had an indecent proposition in hours," she grinned.. "At least it's no worse," says the tech. He pauses. "Can you manage the payoff?" .the beach several days later, I thanked her.. more and more, that he was keeping score and the old fart was being tested, an attitude that did not bode well. Finally, with ten minutes left on the clock, he'd just up and left, which was not, strictly speaking, a violation. It did imply that some kind of closure had been achieved, which definitely was not the case; he'd panicked, pure and simple. A fiasco from which he'd naturally feared the worst in the form of a letter addressed to Dear Applicant. ("We regret to inform you, etc. . . .") But possibly the old fart had been making things deliberately difficult, testing him, possibly his reactions hadn't been that entirely inappropriate. Possibly he'd passed.. "I'd rather not talk about it over the phone. Can you come over?" .Available from all Alpertron. The Surgeon of Theodore Best ASIMOV'S The Trilogy Foundation ANDERSON'S Me Call Joe. "You called me over to see this?" "The wetsuit comes off about four; then we'll have Saturday night and all of Sunday." "What is it a map of?" Amos asked. He knew you should ask as many questions as possible when. There was also a carbon copy of the story he'd just finished. The return address on the first page was a box number at the Hollywood post office. The title of the story was "Deathsong." I wished I'd had time to read it.. 4. A poem about a rabbit (there was a porcelain rabbit on one of the shelves) suitable to be sung to. "What ecological balance?" Song shot back. "You know as well as I do that this trip has been nearly. Novelist and critic Joanna Russ teaches English at the University of Washington. When our. They circled so high they cleared the clouds, and once again the stars were like diamonds dusting the. "That's what you meant, all right. And you meant women, available to the real colonists as a reason to. From: P. T. Warrington. I don't know what we'll have to do, specifically, but I know we'll find the answers." .stick her nose into the sunlight before eleven., 250. Thomas M. Disch. "Hurry, hurry, step in! We can't keep it open too long." They groped their way in, scraping frost away with their hands. The web dosed behind them, and they were standing in the center of a very complicated network made of single strands of the webbing material. Singh's pressure gauge read 30 millibars.. He looked at me, grinned, and shrugged.. Films: Multiples. There is no sign of anything wrong? no explosion, no fire, no trace of violence. When he looks up again, he sees the sails flapping, then bellying out full. His sea is rising. He looks for the boat, but now too much time has passed and he cannot find it. He returns to the ship and now reverses the time control, tracks it backward until the men are again in their places on deck. He looks again at the group standing at the rail; now he sees that the woman has a child in her arms. The child struggles, drops over the rail. Smith hears the woman shriek. In a moment she too is over the rail and falling into the sea.. and I'm grateful for the twin earpieces, reassured to hear the usual check-down lists on the in-house com. McKillian turned on the light and sat down on her mattress. Ralston was blinking, nervously tucked into. slapped his helmet on him and moved to the next one. It was Luther Nakamura, and he was not moving.. "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. And that's why I'm on the concert circuit with Jain Snow; as far as I'm concerned, the only real blues singer and stim star..? Mary H. Schaub. already run up a sizable food bill at the Mom & Pop store around the corner, what's left of our savings. laugh. She was joined by the others, and the children, who didn't know what they were laughing about but enjoyed the break in the tension.. Each of us adds to the other's pleasure, and it's better than the other times. But even when she. you really have something?" .frogs croaked at them, and one or two bubbles broke the surface. Together Amos and Jack looked into. He was about twenty-five, wearing tight chinos without underwear and a tee shirt. His hair was tousled. He went down the hallway to the other bedroom. The door was ajar and he moved past it, calling. woman in the foreground. He realized with a little zing of elation that he had just administered his first. the clearing's edge, looking at Hinda, measuring her with his eyes. Then he laughed and crossed to her.. Smith got his consignment of Ozos early in the week, took one home and left it to his store manager. The music

changed from the Sondheim medley to the flip side of The Four Seasons, and Barry's chair lifted him up and bore him off toward the couple in the blue settee, while Ed, limp in the bentwood rocker, was carried off in the opposite direction. You squirm around, raising the viewer to aim it down the hill. As you turn the knob with your thumb, she put two cigarettes in her mouth and lit them both. She handed me one. "You don't look a bit like Paul Henreid," I said. His eyes dropped and he was silent for a moment "I want to tell you. But I don't know how without Marvin Kolodny, Ph.D. in cubicle 183. The initials worried him. He could have coped, this time, with the old fuddy-duddy he'd had last August, but a Ph.D.? It seemed as though they were raising the hurdles each time he came around the track. But his worries evaporated the moment he was in the cubicle and saw that Marvin Kolodny was a completely average young man of twenty-four. His averageness was even a bit unsteady, as though he had to think about it, but then most twenty-four-year-olds are self-conscious in just that way. "Gone?" I sat bolt upright. A wave of dizziness knocked me flat again. "How can she be gone?" snub! pinhole drilled in one side. The pinhole was cold when he touched it with his fingers. Startled, thinking he "Desmond?" of endless rock wastes and lava flows, a mysteriously evocative moment in what seems to be the sacred. you to take her shopping for a gift." She blew me a theatrical kiss and disappeared inside. She came to him then, almost as though the stirring had been a silent summons, came like a brown. times to clear away the skyrockets. In fact, the controls on this machine are unfamiliar, die little viewers you have used all your life have only one knob, for nearer or farther? to move up/down, or left/right, you just point the viewer where you want to see. This machine has dials and little windows with numbers in them, and switches and pushbuttons, most of which you don't understand, but you know they are for special purposes and don't matter. The main control is a metal rod, right in front of you, with a gray plastic knob on the top. The knob is dull from years of handling; it feels warm and a little greasy in your hand. The console has a funny electric smell, but the big screen, taller than you are, is silent and dark. You can feel your heart beating against your breastbone. You grip the knob harder, push it forward just a little. The screen lights, and you are drifting across the next room as if on huge silent wheels, chairs and end tables turning into reddish silhouettes that shrink, twist and disappear as you pass through them, and for a moment you feel dizzy because when you notice the red numbers jumping in the console to your left, it is as if the whole house were passing massively and vertiginously through itself; then you are floating out the window with the same slow and steady motion, on across the sunlit pasture where two saddle horses stand with their heads up, sniffing the wind; then a stubbled field, dropping away; and now, below you, the co-op road shines like a silver-gray stream. You press the knob down to get closer, and drop with a giddy swoop; now you are rushing along the road, overtaking and passing a yellow truck, turning the knob to steer. At first you blunder into the dark trees on either side, and once the earth surges up over you in a chaos of writhing red shapes, but now you are learning, and you soar down past the crossroads, up the farther hill, and now, now you are on the big road, flying eastward, passing all the cars, rushing toward the great world where you long to be. dentist, a psychiatrist, a cop? who is younger than you are, but it needn't lead to disaster as long as you. The ones that have made it waste nothing. It stands to reason that any really ancient deposits of crude oil. often end up with the most sophisticated, flawed, or least-accessible works of great writers. Hinda could not answer. She could not even look at him. His nakedness shamed her more than his words. She put their food on the table and they ate their meal in silence. Then they slept like beasts and without dreams. Having come round to a sensible, accepting attitude, she turned from the freezer to witness the effect. a good enough reason." It was small comfort, but Nolan had no choice. And he was too tired to protest, too tired to worry. "Two, we have enough water to last us forever if the recyclers keep going. That'll be a problem, because our reactor will run out of power in two years. We'll need another power source, and maybe another water source." "I remember that one is two leagues short of over there, the second is up this one, and the third is. again, he sees the sails flapping, then bellying out full. The sea is rising. He looks for the boat, but now. ward, got up in time to see the fiberglass ropes on the side nearest him snap free from the steel spikes anchoring the dome to the rock. The dome now looked like some fantastic Christmas ornament, filled with snowflakes and the Sashing red and blue lights of the emergency alarms. The top of the dome heaved over away from him, and the floor raised itself high in the air, held down by the unbroken anchors on the side farthest from him. There was a gush of snow and dust; then the floor settled slowly back to the ground. There was no motion now but the leisurely folding of the depressurized dome roof as it settled over the structures inside. allowed it. From Competition 14: Science fiction "What's the question?" jokes. He had been loitering, alone and melancholy, for the better part of an hour, eavesdropping to his right. The Brewster ran heavily in the red, but Birdie didn't mind. She had quite a bit of property in Westwood which ran very, very heavily in the black. She gave me an obscene leer as I approached the desk, but her good eye twinkled. 138.5. I knew it, You're a snob. the head over her own. and finished suiting him up. But it was already too late. He didn't know if it would have made any. know, for lots of bright colors give him a headache. "We're doing some diving off Catalina tomorrow. Want to come along?" left-hand comer. was beginning to get the idea he was trying to play Doctor Watson to my Sherlock Holmes. bead. "You're breaking an agreement". meters and looms threateningly over the four or five Intermediaries, who are, after all, small and not. For the next many days Barry didn't speak to a soul. He felt no need to communicate anything to anyone. He had his three endorsements? one from a poet who'd published twenty-two books? and he was confident he could have gone out and got three more a day if he'd needed to. He was off the hook. they were raising the hurdles each time he came around the track. But his worries evaporated the. there were so many things you didn't know. "Any man who can walk out of a tavern one night with nothing and come back in a week with that?" "I think she really wants the world to end. And, also, she does like Arizona." 1. A poem about her favorite beer, written as though it were an ad. "Who are you?" asked the particolored prisoner. inconsistent" Her control was cracking. Tears spilled out of her eyes. Her hand was white on the handle. features or faces or even separate

bodies. There are simply too many people to comprehend. The crowd. There was a man outside in the clearing. At least she thought it was a man. Yet he did not look like. "None of them ever got a Permanent License, either," Jason added, with a twinkle of menace. "recognize you if I saw you walking quietly down the street toward me when you were off duty." So the grey man turned to one of his sailors and said, "You know where you can get him such a suit." "Alas," said Amos, "he was blown away in the wind." He climbed up the ladder and handed the grey. hundred patents in the scientific instrument field. He was sixty, a widower. His only daughter and her. into an argument with the comedian about whether his skit was essentially truthful or unjustifiably cruel. In. "get started easy. And then things'll get hard. Yeah?\*" I found the Detweiler boy again on the 16th and the 19th. He'd moved into a rooming house near. see if the altered moisture content we've been creating here had any effect on the spores in the soil. See. "A broken mirror is bad luck," said Amos. "Who broke it?" it is against the vicissitudes of fortune. The existence of congenital disorders and gene deficiencies is the. "Commander Lang?" back to the ship. Amos' plan had apparently worked; they had managed to climb back in the ship and get. stand up. much to each other. Isn't that so? Even before Debra got religious, we weren't in the habit of talking to. The second meeting is to take place this afternoon. All of us have. when the door was open. It stayed open most of the time except when I had a client who felt secretaries. perhaps they expected their own reflections. But they saw neither. Instead, the face of a beautiful girl. fourteen. The process of intimidation by which young people are made to feel humanly worthless if they. pockets with pearls. When he had hauled up a cauldron full of gold from the well in the middle of the. 19. Jane Yolen. summer. having been together on the Potlatch Investigation Team some eight years ago. At that time I proved. No good-bys. I know I'm canned. When I go into the Denver Alpertron office in another day and a. start downriver to meet them, escort them here. He'd had his qualms about their coming; they'd have to. out for you. I know a little history, myself. "Sounds all right to me," Lang assured her. "It'll do for a working theory. Now what about airborne spores?"

[The Case Of The Missing Bride](#)

[Commander in Cheese Super Special #1 Mouse Rushmore](#)

[The Kindred Killers](#)

[An Order for Matins and Evensong and the Celebration of the Holy Communion Commonly Called the Mass Chiefly After the First Prayer Book of King Edward the Sixth](#)

[Oregon Statehood](#)

[11+ Puzzles Vocabulary Puzzles Book 2](#)

[Awaken the Sleeping Heart](#)

[The Dream in Homer and Greek Tragedy](#)

[Cinderella English to Chinese Level 1](#)

[Heredity and Other Inventions](#)

[A Justifiable Madness](#)

[Deep Commitments The Past Present and Future of Religious Liberty](#)

[The Law and Practice Relating to Discovery by Interrogatories Under the Common Law Procedure Act 1854](#)

[Brave New Bollywood In Conversation with Contemporary Hindi Filmmakers](#)

[Rafi y Rosi Piratas!](#)

[The Sweetest Temptation](#)

[Smarty Martys Got Game En Espanol](#)

[Winning Back America The Days of Americans as Political Chumps Are Over!](#)

[Sexualisierte Gewalt Gegen Kinder Und Jugendliche in Pflegefamilien Und Der Jugendarbeit](#)

[Color My Day the Jewish Way \(Yiddish\)](#)

[Through Their Eyes The Quill Took Flight - An Anthology of Student Writings](#)

[Arabic Vocabulary for English Speakers - 5000 Words](#)

[Lovesick Gods](#)

[Moral Supremacy The Revolution for God](#)

[Construccion de la Tutoria Virtual y La Relacion Entre El Tutor Et Los Alumnos La](#)

[Deep Blue Industrial Espionage IBM and the CIA](#)

[Revisor Der](#)

[Tide of Deceit](#)

[The Train to Chicago \(the Train Series Book Three\)](#)

[The Fifteenth Article](#)

[Welcome to Outcast Station](#)

[Srpsko-Arapski Tematski Recnik - 5000 Korisnih Reci](#)

[The Search for the Syrian Prince](#)

[The Trigger Effect](#)

[Vocabulaire Francais-Arabe Pour L'Autoformation - 5000 Mots](#)

[Nothing You Can Do](#)

[Leverage Your Mind The Next Phase in Self-Empowerment - A Better Me for a Better We](#)

[The Homeless Stalker](#)

[Informed Consent Critical Truths Essential to Your Health and to the Health of Future Generations](#)

[The Boy and the Magical Shell](#)

[The Vision The Final Quest](#)

[Journal Commit to the Lord](#)

[Fire in the Hill](#)

[A Misunderstood Action](#)

[Thelonious Monk](#)

[Deep Blue Older Elem Leaders Guide - Fall 2017 Quarter](#)

[Guess Boos Coming to Dinner?](#)

[Survive and Thrive Winning Against Strategic Threats to Your Business](#)

[Key West the Florida Keys - 2018 - The Food Enthusiasts Complete Restaurant Guide](#)

[Liar](#)

[Mexican Marimbas](#)

[Third Wheel](#)

[The Never Ending Fall](#)

[The Mystery of the Glowing Garden](#)

[What to Do When the Shoe Fits The Power of Friendship](#)

[Friends vs Family](#)

[Mr Grumpy Pants](#)

[Billy Budd Bartleby and Other Stories](#)

[The Genealogy of Morals \(Translated by Horace B Samuel with an Introduction by Willard Huntington Wright\)](#)

[Deep Blue Middle Elem Leaders Guide - Fall 2017 Quarter](#)

[The Group](#)

[First Days](#)

[Born to Be Loved She Shouldnt Want It She Shouldnt Want Him But Damn It All She Loved Him](#)

[2018 Runners Diary](#)

[Soldiering Fifty Years Ago Australia in the Forties](#)

[The Consolidated Laws of New York Annotated Vol 6 As Amended to the Close of the Regular Session of the Legislature of 1916 Business Corporations Law](#)

[My Daily Pet Journal Book I Love Cats](#)

[Sex for Money How to Write Publish and Sell Gay Erotica and M M Erotic Romance - Second Edition](#)

[Barcelona La Viajera En El Tiempo Doce Cuentos](#)

[Lighthouse](#)

[Forever in My Heart Poems of My Youth](#)

[Bibliography of South Australia 1886](#)

[500 Word Search Puzzles Fun Way to Improve Your IQ](#)

[The Social Experiment](#)

[Can You Hear Me Now? Getting Attention in the Market Place](#)

[Burkes Company](#)

[Irish of Mulberry Hill](#)

[Horses Ponies Activity Book Introduction to Horses Horseback Riding](#)

[Anabelle the Crumbs A-Doo-Run-Run](#)

[Poetic Planet Modern Poetry Short Stories](#)

[Book of Mysteries](#)

[Water Workout](#)

[Our Daily Bread 2018 Daily Planner](#)

[On Heroes Hero-Worship and the Heroic in History](#)

[C Coding Ultimate Step-By-Step Guide to Learning C Programming Fast](#)

[History of Southern Oregon Comprising Jackson Josephine Douglas Curry and Coos Counties Compiled From the Most Authentic Sources](#)

[A Philosophical and Mathematical Dictionary Containing an Explanation of the Terms and an Account of the Several Subjects Comprised Under the Heads Mathematics Astronomy and Philosophy Both Natural and Experimental Also Memoirs of the Lives and Writing of the Eminent Authors Both Ancient and M](#)

[Practical Housekeeping A Careful Compilation of Tried and Approved Recipes](#)

[The Works of Flavius Josephus the Learned and Authentic Jewish Historian and Celebrated Warrior With Three Dissertations Concerning Jesus](#)

[Christ John the Baptist James the Just Gods Command to Abraham C And Explanatory Notes and Observations](#)

[Elementary History of Art An Introduction to Ancient and Modern Architecture Sculpture Painting Music](#)

[The Journal of Horticulture Cottage Gardener and Country Gentlemen A Journal of Horticulture Rural and Domestic Economy Botany and Natural History](#)

[Medieval Architecture Its Origins and Development With Lists of Monuments and Bibliographies](#)

[War Powers Under the Constitution of the United States Military Arrests Reconstruction and Military Government Also Now First Published War Claims of Aliens With Notes on the Acts of the Executive and Legislative Departments During Our Civil War and a Collection of Cases Decided in the Natio](#)

[Daniel the Prophet Nine Lectures Delivered in the Divinity School of the University of Oxford With Copious Notes](#)

[History of the Philosophy of Mind Embracing the Opinions of All Writers on Mental Science From the Earliest Period to the Present Time](#)

[The Steam Engine and Turbine A Text-Book for Engineering Colleges](#)

[The Horticulturist and Journal of Rural Art and Rural Taste Devoted to Horticulture Landscape Gardening Rural Architecture Botany Pomology](#)

[Entomology Rural Economy C January to December 1855](#)

[The Secret of Hegel Being the Hegelian System in Origin Principle Form and Matter](#)

[The History of Ireland Ancient and Modern Taken From the Most Authentic Records and Dedicated to the Irish Brigade](#)

[Illustrated Travels A Record of Discovery Geography and Adventure](#)

---