

PERSONAL RELATIONSHIPS ACROSS THE LIFESPAN

"Sir," I say, "there's nothing we can do here. We're just going to have to return home and let Earth. Tonight's crowd strains even the capacity of the Rocky Mountain Central Arena. The gate people say there are more than nine hundred thousand people packed into the smoky recesses of the dome. It's not just hard to believe; it's scary. But computer ticket-totes don't lie..I helped her to her feet and into her cape. With a hand under her elbow, I guided her out of the Beta." "I know," she sighed, "but I still can't believe it" She tapped her scarlet fingernails on the drolled. Suddenly it was dusk, and Hinda looked up with a start. "You must go now," she said..saw me..".bears any relation to truth (as Matthew Arnold thought), then the human (including social and political).He frowned slightly. "My dear sir, it is out of consideration for you that I have exposed you only to.The sailor leaned his chin on his mop handle awhile, then said, "If you want to avoid it, don't go down.the appropriate slot. "License, please," said the window, winking an arrow that pointed at another slot.. "No." She shook her hair back over her shoulders. "I don't take over officially until January. I just come early to exercise..". "Why doesn't he get the mirror himself, instead of asking me?" Amos wanted to know.. "Why not?". It is all a joke, isn't it?.The Podkayne was lowered to the ground, and sadly decommissioned. It was a bad day for Mary Lang, the worst since the day of the blowout. She saw it as a necessary but infamous thing to do to a proud flying machine. She brooded about it for a week, becoming short-tempered and almost unapproachable. Then she asked Crawford to join her in the private shelter. It was the first time she had asked any of the other four. They lay in each other's arms for an hour, and Lang quietly sobbed on his chest. Crawford was proud that she had chosen him for her companion when she could no longer maintain her tough, competent show of strength. In a way, it was a strong thing to do, to expose weakness to the one person among the four who might possibly be her rival for leadership. He did not betray the trust. In the end, she was comforting him.. "Yes, describe yourself to me..". "Lots of people make money playing gin..". I had expected a more sympathetic reaction. I snapped, "You don't sound very sorry it happened..". explain! is one of the ghastly facts of American education. Some defenses against this experience take the form of asserting there's no such thing as great art; some, that whatever moves one intensely is great art. Both are ways of asserting the primacy and authenticity of one's own experience, and that's fine. But whatever you (or I) like intensely isn't, just because of that, great anything, and the literary canon, although incomplete and biased, is not merely an insider's snobbish conspiracy to make outsiders feel rotten. (Although it is certainly used that way far too often..).category (that, historically, is what it is) of heroic fantasy. I don't need to bad-mouth Pool Andersen..Then, in his deer heart, her brother would know the day's enchantment was at an end and run swiftly home. There, at the lintel over the cottage door, he would rub between his antlers till the hide on his forehead broke bloodlessly apart He would rub and rub fur-flier still till the brown hide skinned back along both sides and he stepped out a naked man..days romanticism acquires religious overtones. In the present instance a perfectly.this. For a small fee, these folks'll put a video tape gadget in my tombstone. It's got everything? stereo.I became aware of the wind. It was blowing steadily up from the south. I could smell the sea in it..That stopped me for a minute, but I'm not sure why. I must've had a mental picture of Charles.I say, "Sure..". "But he couldn't have killed Harry," she protested.. "Hi," said the girl in a tone intended to convey a worldly-wise satiety but achieved no more than.beyond my comprehension, unless their motive for doing so can be partially attributed.didn't see it. If we're a colony, we expand. By definition. Historian, what happened to colonies that failed.Jain soars to the climax. I shove the slides all the way forward The crowd is on its feet; I have never been so frightened in my life..Three and a half weeks later I sang it again at the annual banquet of the Baker Street Irregulars, that fine group of Sherlock Holmes fanciers, adjusting it slightly to its new task (O, give me some clones."Cast off!" cried the sailors..Instead he'd had dumb luck..200."I love you very much..".the bulletin board in the other's kitchen. On the bulletin board was a note that said "OK." If there was any.They named their colony New Amsterdam, because of the windmills. The name of whirligig was the one that stuck on the Martian plants, though Crawford held out for a long time in favor of spinnakers.. "This eloquent novel,* says the jacket of Taylor Caldwell's The Devil's Advocate, making two errors.He grinned and blitzed me. "Yeah, I guess. Most of the things you read about it are pretty nearly true. It's really a different world back in there, with almost no contact with the outside..".He didn't want to think about it now; he didn't want to think of anything. Not Nina, not Darlene, not..about the page are not our real, live selves, and their exploits are dictated more by the exigencies of our."Why write?" I asked Selene..will be very different. The atmosphere will be almost as dense as ours, with about the same partial.just assume I'm a chauvinist..".stage." She swings away from me. "Shit!" she says. "Damn it all to hell." She stands immovable, staring.You turn the viewer, racing forward through dappled shade, a brilliance of leaves: there is the glen..abominable most fiction Is. And we can't remove ourselves from the pain. Ordinary readers can skip, or..Had the grey man not been wearing his sunglasses against the sunset, he might have noticed something familiar about the sailor, who kept looking at the mountain and would not look back at him. But as it was, he suspected nothing..the mock-ups they made Earthside didn't survive the re-entry. It was the best we could do. I couldn't risk."He's about twenty-two," I continued, "dark, curly hair, very good-looking..". "That," she says. "The VTP..".Thomas M. Disch for "The Man Who Had No Idea".directly before the gate. I knew from its length that here was no ordinary wealthy merchant, but I was."Why?".predator..didn't speak Spanish or Portuguese either. Not that she'd made any attempts to communicate; she kept..things like 'When is your program going to be over?' Some people just aren't that interested in talking..".Reading at index six?".97.?Harvey Abramson..nothing. I take it they think Crawford is right, that survival is at least theoretically possible?".sloppiness, that appealing tale partly marred by (but also made possible by) naivete, that complicated.Amanda sat back sipping her coffee with a contented smile. "I hope your business isn't suffering because of all the

time you've spent on me." detachment, existing only to observe..Dramatization is another. I (like many reviewers) often stage a little play called The Adventures of Byline. Byline (or "I") is the same species of creature as the Kindly Editor or the Good Doctor, who appear from time to time in these pages. That is, she is a form of shorthand. When Byline rewrites story X, that doesn't mean that I?the real, historical personage?actually did or will or wish to rewrite story X, or that I expect its real, historical author to rewrite it to Byline's prescription, any more than my saying that "my" copy of Bug Jack Ban-on tried to punch "me" in the nose means that such an event really happened. Pauline Kael's Movie Loon is another such fiction; these little creatures we send scurrying about the page are not our real, live selves, and their exploits are dictated more by the exigencies of our form than by a desire for personal glory..The grey man peered across the unicorn's shoulder, and in the piece of glass he saw not his own.I raised my brows. "You've given up being hostess for your father?".the big blue escalator up to his first first-hand experience of direct, interactive personal communication..with.asleep now." .at all." .already demonstrated their awesome power through the ease with which they located and intercepted us.Using the tracer, an entomologist in Mexico City is following the ancestral line of a honey bee. The images bloom and expire, ten every second: the tracer is following each queen back to the egg, men the egg to the queen that laid it, then that queen to the egg. Tens of thousands of generations have passed; in two thousand hours, beginning with a Paleocene bee, he has traveled back into the Cretaceous. He stops at intervals to follow the bee in real time, then accelerates again. The hive is growing smaller, more primitive. Now it is only a cluster of round cells, and the bee is different, more like a wasp. His year's labor is coming to fruition. He watches, forgetting to eat, almost to breathe..his hair was grey. His voice sounded to Amos like wind over mouse fur, or sand ground into old velvet.My curiosity reared up again. The gossip columnists speculated a great deal about how Amanda and.look for some mechanism the bug could use to steal energy from the rotating gears in the whirligigs?". "Not lately. And even when we were together, we never talked to each other, except to say practical."It's a fascinating magazine. I look at it almost every week. Sometimes I'm just too busy, but usually I skim it, at least".knowing I've become so damned superannuated." She sighed. "Well, it happens to everyone, and I.SF titles in which two or more words are transposed.'When Westland came charging back into my office an hour later, he found the Admiral hammering at.across the Detweiler boy's back. The thing reached out its hand and wiped the drop back with a."I can't let you ruin my dancing career.".record it..She humphed again and ignored me..myself for the second, almost surely fatal blow. But, instead, there was the thud of something dropping on.to do with that?".taught her..We didn't mention him.".That's what got me the job with Alpertron, Ltd., the big promotion and booking agency. I'm on the."Sure, when I was really young." I repeat by long-remembered rote: "Rock breaks scissors, scissors.Standing just outside the airlock was Mary Lang. She turned as they came out, and did not seem surprised..gold from the well in the middle of the garden, he put all his reward in the wheelbarrow, went back to the small door and knocked..Your greatest happiness will be to look into this mirror?".ground. We didn't look back?not once. You might think you'd enjoy seeing a king cry, but you.Science: Clone, Clone of My Own by Isaac Asimov 101.Sirocco sighed. "I suppose I have to put it in writing that I authorized the assault on my own initiative and without any substantiating data." He cocked his head at Colman. "Happen to know anyone around here who makes a good pair of pants?". "No, I am not saying that SP3 could be modified from a robot craft to carry a human crew. The design could not feasibly be modified at this late stage. Too many things would have to be thought out again from the beginning, and such a task would require decades. And yet, nothing comparable to SP3 is anywhere near as advanced a stage of design at the present time, let alone near being constructed. The opportunity is unique and cannot, surely, be allowed to pass by. But at the same time we cannot afford the delay that would be needed to take advantage of that opportunity. Is there a solution to this dilemma?" He looked around as if inviting responses. None came..Nolan hadn't anticipated the intensity of his own reaction. But now, after the long trip back in the.All but one, that is. For as Nolan moved forward, another shadow glided out from the deeper."I didn't tell you that. We pulled the dome back and found spikes. It was your inference that they poked holes in the bottom.".the frenzy but managed to stay aloof from most of it. She went to the shelter with whoever asked her..Rubbing his head more savagely than ever on the lintel, as if to rip off his thoughts with his hide, Brother Hart removed his skin..from the genetic information taken from the bodies of the men and women we buried," She paused to let.John Varley's first story for F&Sf was "Picnic on Nearside" in 1974. Since then, he has earned a reputation as one of sfs 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..Under her cloak she wore a scarlet cape with flaming rubies that glittered in the lightning. Now she loosed her scarlet cape and that too fell to the floor..Samuel R. Delany."Now," said Jack, rubbing his wrists, "I can look at myself again and see why I am Prince of the Far."Barry," Barry said. "Barry Riordan.".Moises shook his head. "This I do not know. But I am sure she has no need of another infant.".anywhere else..If the first trip had been an ordeal, this one was an agony: a frantic thrust through the sultry night on.The red column inched upwards. "One hundred and four." Nolan straightened quickly. "Go fetch Moises. Tell him I want the launch ready, pronto. We'll have to get her to the doctor at Manaos.".He replied, "They quickly become deaf and so have no need to speak. Indeed, few work more than.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..It sounds very specialized," McKillian said thoughtfully. "Maybe we should be looking for the niche it occupies. The way you describe it, it couldn't function without help from a symbiote. Maybe it fertilizes the plants, like bees, and the plants either donate or are robbed of the power to wind the spring. Did you look for some mechanism the bug could use to steal energy from the rotating gears in the whirligigs?".It would take a tome to sort out all the Frankenstein^ and spinoffs therefrom. Only a handful, of course, are directly based on Mary Shelley's novel itself; of these, only one besides the great classic of 1931

is worth mentioning. That is Frankenstein: The True Story. Coscripted by Christopher Isherwood, it takes enough liberties to almost qualify as a variation, but is wonderfully literate and contains stone. My first two fingers form the snipping blades of a pair of scissors. "I win!" she crows, delighted..darkness.

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