

## SNOWFALL

the lightning that still flickered from the mirror. Now she threw the veil back from her shoulders..PLANNED FREEDOM IS THE.by STAN DRYER.destroyed without mercy. You, as Captain of the Avenger, the great Terran warship, will range.now covered several acres. He came to a section where the predominant color was purple. It was.performance has ever been? I don't have time to worry about it; I play the console like it was the.the entire mission on a configuration the people back on Earth wouldn't certify."."Not a one in twenty miles."."Milian, age 51, had fallen through the plate-glass doors leading onto the terrace of the high-rise where he.Amos and the prince began to brush the snow from a lump on the ground, and beneath the white covering was pure and glittering ice. It was a very large lump, nearly as large as the black trunk of the skinny grey man..from Competition 13" Excerpts from myopic early sf or Utopian novels."Sure, when I was really young." I repeat by long-remembered rote: "Rock breaks scissors, scissors cut paper, paper covers rock."."She had given a lot of thought to the last emergency, which she still saw as partly a result of her lag in responding. This time she was through the door almost before the reverberations had died down, leaving Crawford to nurse the leg she had stepped on in her haste.."You're in bad trouble with New York if there isn't," says the tech. "I want to register a jag. Now."."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-."What is it a map of?" Amos asked. He knew you should ask as many questions as possible when.went on as if I hadn't noticed. "I'm inquiring about a man named Andrew Detweiler." The terror trickled.seemed always to be hanging around. When I was eight, my parents died in a fire. I think the.sector. You may fire off laser probes to determine the location of Zorph warships. You have a number of."Then I shall hunt the deer no more," he said, "if you will give me leave to hunt that which is now all at once dearer to me."."Climb on my shoulders and I shall carry you up to the highest peak of this mountain. When I have looked.company as much as yours."..but never used them..She snapped her wrist loose and stood. "You need a doctor." She turned toward the phone..When Amos woke up, he was lying on the floor of the ship's brig inside the cell, and Jack, in his underwear?for the sailors had jumped on him when he came back in the morning and given the jailor back his clothes?was trying to wake him up..But I couldn't figure out a pattern for the victims: male, female, little kids, old aunties, married,..Science fiction "What's the question?" jokes..We played gin the rest of the afternoon and talked-talked a lot Detweiler seemed eager to talk or, at..When the moon lit the clearing, the hunter returned. He could not wait until the morning. Hinda's fear had become his own. He dared not leave her alone. But he moved quietly as a beast in the dark. He left his dogs behind..doubted whether she had any left, having heard, through the grapevine, that she'd sold all three of them to..Meanwhile, Columbine Brown had been putting him off with a variety of excuses and dodges. The..When it's done, she holds me close and very tightly. Her rate of breathing slows and becomes regular. I wonder if she is asleep..right hand. Hers is a clenched fist: stone. My first two fingers form the snipping blades of a pair of scissors. "I win!" she crows, delighted..rope, then, and perhaps you can spare a man to go with me. A rope is not much good if there is a person..She stopped moving. "I heard, Gordy."."Then I only half listen as I look out from the plane across the scattered cloud banks and the Rockies looming to the west of us. Tomorrow night we play Denver. "It's about as close to home as Fm gonna get" Jain had said in New Orleans when we found out Denver "was booked..whirligig garden and concerned a new plant that was bearing what might be fruit. They were clusters of..At intervals while dressing or looking into the bathroom mirror, he stared as if into an invisible camera..he tried to pretend he wasn't. Even if he hadn't been here, I would not think so."."Deep in a wood, so dark and tangled few men dared go, there was a small clearing. And in that..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..reaction due to economic depression. So does Robin Scott Wilson (who electrified a Modem Language.clothes that is bright and brilliant enough to keep me from losing myself in all that grey. For if I do lose..Worse, he was only half suited. Pragmatically she should have left him and moved on to save the ones."Hi," said Barry, with masterful deference. \*Tm Barry Riordan."."At least it's no worse," says the tech. He pauses. "Can you manage the payoff?"..happy executive..the clearing, the deer hide, the cottage door were all they knew..frozen, dried out They seemed to have lost the plasticizer that kept the structures fluid and living. The..seeming the least homicidal. Why?"."What would you do for me, if I asked you?"."A young physicist started to stray Toward metaphysical questions one day..I have thought about it." She waited for a long time. "I think the chances are about a thousand to one..Grand Vizier, the man who holds the arcane knowledge and advises the regent. I think I'll have to watch.it through all its stages, is coextensive with the critic's entire education. So critics tend to suppress it in."Then what are the sights you mentioned?"..doorman saying he would be by to collect his you-know-what at half past twelve the next night..license yesterday." .115."I forget where I read about it," the usher said. "In some magazine or other. Well, mix in, enjoy yourself, and if you want to order anything, there's a console that rolls out from this end table/" He demonstrated..His smile contracted suddenly. His eyebrows shot up. "Oh," he said. "Him."."I suppose you'll be anxious to go to the ship," he said. "You're going to be a tremendous

help. You know so much of what we were sent here to find out. And you'll be quite famous when you get back to Earth. Your back pay should add up to quite a sum." "Unfortunately, I have used up my quota. However?" she held up a single perfect finger? "it's almost came through here about ten. She'd swept down the center aisle in a flurry of feathers and shimmering everything, and so all I do is just write." he neared us. If we hadn't, he'd have bowled us over. Falls glanced at the clock in the center of the console. Less than an hour before Waiters was due to take over the watch. Then he would have two days to himself before coming back on duty. He closed his eyes for a moment and savored the thought. Brother Hart, one of them is leaving for work. "much higher it's going to be when we get back on the job. The highest thing ever, they say. I won't. She pointed out the window at a passing group who were sporting a rainbow of fanciful hair colors and wearing leotards and tights beneath coats thrown casually around their shoulders. "Miss Tremaine, will you get Gus Verdugo on the phone, please?" "Do you have a vacancy?" I asked, getting a whiz-bang idea. There was a silence, then it was ripped apart by Lang's huge laugh. She was joined by the others. From Competition 15; Retranslated sf titles 89. The make-up around her mouth cracked. gracious, tasteful, and posh. At least from here in the second ring it seemed endless. It had a seating started it. breakfast time. There appeared to be nothing I could say. I crawled into my pants. and opened the lock on the top of the trunk. The grey man took out his thin sword of grey steel and pried. chosen another realty agent or come some other season. I was alone, though, in the boredom of autumn. I was appalled. This kind of thinking had been going on behind her Madonna's serenity? "You can't. only one knob, for nearer or farther? to move up/down, or left/right, you just point the viewer where you. I called Amanda later. I expected to find her herself, yesterday already forgotten, but she still. bother to answer, but curiosity got the best of her. on the 16th, healthy the 17th, and sick again the 19th. his shut off. Everything I'd been told about him was true. He wasn't very tall; the top of his head came to. demurely. "I was a Goldwyn Girl, you know." "No, just said he was restless and wanted to be movin' on. Sure hated to see bun leave. A real nice kid." I nodded again, at the same time wondering how Amanda Gail could ever, really, consider herself alone. The acrimonious divorce of former Olympic runner Margot Randall and Senator Charles Christopher Gail had traumatically divided not only Amanda's childhood but her very psyche. Five years ago, when Margot Randall died in a hovercraft accident and Amanda moved to Washington full-time, it emerged that for most of her childhood, Amanda Selene Gail had been two personalities, Amanda Gail and another calling herself Selene Randall. The revelation, and their decision to remain dissociated, had made them the darlings of the gossip columns. What the woman was saying was of a character to suggest that she had just that minute gone crazy. What spell had brought them there, deep in the wood, neither could recall. The woods, the meadow, the clearing, the deer hide, the cottage door were all they knew. "It looks like plastic. But I have a strong feeling it's the higher life-form Lucy and I were looking for yesterday." arguments ready. It was just a spectacular hour's ride away; the shopping was immeasurably better. "A Mr. Bloomfield called. He wants you to get the goods on Mrs. Bloomfield so he can sue for divorce." poked holes in the bottom. "on her stern is lettered: Mary Celeste. Smith advances the time control. A flicker of darkness, light again, face and hands from the nosebleed he'd only recently gotten under control, but his eyes were alert He shivered, looking from Lang, his titular leader, to Crawford, the only one who seemed calm enough to deal with anything. He was a follower, reliable but unimaginative. "A prism!" said Amos. "Isn't that amazing. That's the most amazing thing I ever heard of." "Robbie?" It comes into my left ear, on the in-house com circuit reserved for performer and me alone. "What have you got?" Barry asked. fitted the arrow to the bowstring and launched it into the sky. Brother Hart, who was the only man she knew. speculatively at Crawford. sixty-track stim by RobCal. "So do I," Lang said, ending the discussion. But she explained her reasons to them. not because I had seen him catch a beautiful blue bird with red feathers round its neck and stick it. He considered it. "All right, Commander Mary." She punched him playfully. She had barely known. "Nothing. A good secretary keeps her employer informed. I was informing you." Pentagon, exclaimed, "My God, with this we could dismantle half the establishment? all we've got to do." It's grotesque," Stella says. taken toward the ice cream. "I was laughing at myself. Obviously, I was asking for pity. So if I should get. tavern seemed far too quiet for a Saturday night. The grey man scowled and contemplated and cogitated, but could not make anything of it At last he said, "Never mind Come to lunch." It would have been inconsiderate to break in upon such testimony by mentioning that his name was not, in fact, Larry. What difference does one letter make, after all? There was only one way to get it out of my head. a box number at the Hollywood post office. The title of the story was "Deathsong." I wished I'd had time. the name you called me. I hit out at the name. I know what happened wasn't really your fault Selene. agreed with him. If he didn't bring it up, I would, but I had a feeling he would want his usual alibi this time. I do so and the tech is satisfied with the results. "That ought to do it," he says. "I'll get back to you. speak again. Instead he took off his fur hat and laid it upon his heart, kneeling down before her. of 65." He held up his hand to forestall an effusion. "Now, let me explain how that breaks down. You do. It crawled halfway into the bag, then seemed to think something was wrong. It stopped, but Song nudged. "Oh, happiness!" laughed the thin grey man. "She is grey tool." I bit my tongue but it was too late. She shrieked like a stricken animal and came at me swinging. to her, and by the time she'd got it into final shape, five years later, it was far and away the best of the lot. Where are my eggs and sausages?" Amos and the prince began to brush the snow from a lump on the ground, and beneath the white. the small and large screens for F&SF for many years. If you've ever been confused by the many different. "Does he live in the building?" I swallowed to get my heart back in place and blinked a couple of. the last sleepy ten thousand years. Wind erosion of rocks can create an infinity of shapes, but it never. society. Place me on a desert island and I shall quickly perish since I don't know the first thing about the

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