

THE DRESS

dislike." She snorted. "Imagine a contemporary man with a nineteenth-century taste in women. No. He smiled at her. "No, honey, but maybe there's some hi the ship." She seemed satisfied. She would. Barry popped the tops off two beer cans and Madeline swept an accumulation of books and papers off a tabletop and onto a many-cushioned bed. They sat down at the table. He was buttoning his shirt. That must have been the delay: he wouldn't want anyone to see him with his shirt off. Everything he'd been told about him was true. He wasn't very tall; the top of his head came to my nose. He was dark, though not as dark as I'd expected, I couldn't place his ancestry. It certainly wasn't Latin-American and I didn't think it was Slavic. His features were soft without the angularity usually found in the Mediterranean races. His hair wasn't quite black. It wasn't exactly long and it wasn't exactly short. His clothes were nondescript. Everything about him was neutral except. I tried to sit up but my head weighed a thousand kilos. I managed to turn over on my side and, as though down a silver tunnel, watched Amanda jerk open a drawer. She reached in. I gritted my teeth against the nausea the effort of moving brought and lurched onto my hands and knees. "I hope so." Rascal Moon, ALOIS BUDRYS completed. "At the Union Hall this evening the Organizer told us that another meeting between the Company and the Union has been arranged and that it's scheduled to take place day after tomorrow. This time, there's going to be a Mediator present, one that the King himself appointed. Maybe now we'll get somewhere. I hope so. We've only been out a week, but it seems twice that long, with nothing to do but hang around the house and with Debbie wondering out loud all the time about what we're going to do when our savings run out. To tell the truth, I'm kind of worried myself. Being a new Union, we don't have a strike fund, and we've got six more weeks to go before we become eligible for unemployment insurance. Meanwhile, the bills keep coming in. Ralston. They were waiting, and she had to blush and smile slowly at them. "I'm an unusual person," said Marvin Kolodny, leaning back in his swivel chair and taking a large. After a short pause she said, "I just throw things together." Why? Two reasons. Mary Lang was laving sideways across the improvised cot that had recently held the Podkayne pilot, Lou Prager. Her head was nodding listlessly against the aluminum hull plate behind her, her chin was on her chest. Her eyes were half-open. brief quotations in a review, without permission in writing from the publisher. with his wife's infidelity than with her taste; that it wouldn't have been so bad if she'd been shacking up. "Not lately. And even when we were together, we never talked to each other, except to say practical things like "When is your program going to be over?" Some people just aren't that interested in talking. Debra certainly isn't. That's why?" (He couldn't resist the chance to explain his earlier failures.) "I did so poorly on my earlier exams. Assuming I did get a low score last time, which isn't certain since the results were erased. But assuming that I did, that's the reason. I never got any practice. The basic day-to-day conversational experiences most people have with their spouses never happened in my case." only three writers who have contributed as much fiction as Mr. Young (Poul Andersen, A warn. some of the most beautiful photography that has ever graced a science fiction film. "Help me push them back in the closet," said the grey man. "They're so bright that if I look at them. of a bitch every minute. I comply. She kisses me with lips and tongue, working down across my belly. knowing exactly what will come up in forty thousand years. When it starts to get cold here and they tantalizes the audience as nakedly, only occasionally obscured by the cloudy metal mesh that transforms. and cut unfashionably short. He had a good-looking Kansas face. The haircut made me think he was new. complete. But as they turned to seek shelter in the rising wind, Amos cried, "There's a light!" Corporation and their ability to respond quickly to any technical challenge. I am fortunate in that, unlike Hollywood, F&SF seems to be largely immune from trends. The magazine has a reputation for offering variety, and to uphold that image, it seems to me that it must carefully avoid trends and formulas in an effort to publish a balance of different types of fantasy and sf. And so we continue to look for good writing and fresh ideas and entertaining narratives, and once those general criteria are satisfied, we take on whatever seems to be pleasing our writers at the time. That's the best way I know of pleasing our leaders. "What do you win?" MAD AGAIN: New Poems by Madeline Swain. On the back there was a picture of her sitting in this. as mine. The kitchen had one plastic plate, one plastic cup, one plastic glass, one plastic bowl, one small. time. They always go away." coughing and had to be slapped on the back several times. They sailed all that night and all the next day, and toward evening they pulled in to a rocky shore. He looked at her questioningly. steaming platter of sausages and eggs. Nolan nodded, flexing his cramped limbs. He stepped out onto the dock, then hurried up the path. worse and worse all day; then he'd be fine, all rosy and healthy* looking. "got off picket duty and dropped by. I told him about the package and he agreed it was a nice one. By. something to eat at the Mexican restaurant around the corner on Melrose. They have marvelous carne. He frowned slightly. "My dear sir, it is out of consideration for you that I have exposed you only to our lighter forms of entertainment I presume you are referring to something in the nature of a Music Hall, or Vaudeville. I assure you that, since the advent of Universal Education, even the popular taste has become too refined to tolerate the foolishness of sentimental songs and lurid melodrama. Also, please do not use again the expression you have just uttered. I mean the one beginning with the letter D. Our twentieth-century society has grown unaccustomed to language of such violence." and now, now you are on the big road, flying eastward, passing all the cars, rushing toward the great. "Yes," she said, the sniffles disappearing instantly. "I have two. Actually three, but I can't rent Miss. He stopped, bunking at me. He looked at Amanda's horrified expression and frowned uncertainly. into his palanquin and clapped his hands. We stared after it as the four black bearers bore it away. King Kong was remade into a not-so-nice big movie which was a veritable textbook on how not, and jogging, not running. She saw me about the same moment. She spun around as though to run away, then. split up the sides to the waistband. He was barefooted and had a smudge of green paint on

his nose. He the lid. He didn't see anything, so he lifted it further. When he still didn't see anything, he opened it all the.9. A poem that skirts all around a secret she's never told anyone and then finally decides to keep it a supposedly humorous complications. I didn't think it was very funny then, and I didn't think it was very. It would have been inconsiderate to break in upon such testimony by mentioning that his name was. dead-letter office and was returned in due time, but meanwhile Smith had acknowledged the letter and. "Maurice? next door." He inclined his head slightly toward 407. The second meeting is to take place this afternoon. All of us have our fingers crossed. line. In this, the twenty-third volume in a series, I have continued the practice begun in number 22 of including non-fiction material from F&SF's regular departments. The aim is to provide readers of these anthologies with something like a very good and very big issue of the magazine. Thus we offer a fascinating article by Joanna Russ on the pain of reviewing sf books, Baird Searles on "multiples" in sf films, Isaac Asimov on cloning, and a sampling from our competitions. branching stairways spreading up and out from the ground-level entrance unit. There were the grottoes. and who must engage in all the complex phenomena, both physical and chemical, involved in sexual. ROAD TO LASTING. first you blunder into the dark trees on either side, and once the earth surges up over you in a chaos of. Jain flings her arms wide. Her back impossibly arches. "She probably let me catch the two of you making love so I'd throw you out and she could have you. The area isn't big on apartments or rooming houses, but there are a few. I found the Detweiler boy at the. 118. Stone by Edward Bryant. "Thanks. Ill help myself." yesterday. believe it for one minute! Nobody's going to incur Divine Wrath just for making sure he's got enough. across forty million miles. Barry nodded. He didn't understand what Ed was saying in any very specific way, but he knew he. Invasion of the Body Snatchers is the first "little" '50s s/f film to have the honor of a remake (or at least an acknowledged one). They should have left well enough alone in this case. Color instead of b&w, a big city for the claustrophobic small town, and six chases for every one in the original did not make it better, just bigger. "They don't have anything here?" Colman checked, touching the screen with a finger to indicate the place where the bottom of the trail emerged from a small wood on the edge of a grassy fiat and just a few hundred feet from the enemy bunker. The display showed a faint pattern of smudges on either side of the trail in just the positions where defensive formations would be expected. impossible for Barry, sitting so nearby and having no one to talk to himself, to avoid eavesdropping on. THE ORGANIZER: If the Project's real purpose is to provide a haven, why weren't they. Q: Where can you watch As the World Turns?. that. What do you say? Are you all with me?". And they were struck by a blast of air that sent the fires reeling in the basins, and the sailor's cap that. She laughed. "Wonderful. So that's what you want us to do? Dig down there and warm the ice with. just assume I'm a chauvinist." "About a day," Crawford said. "You have to destroy them to get out of them. The plastic strips don't cut well, but there's another specialized animal that eats that type of plastic. It's recycled into the system. If you want to suit up, you just grab a whirlbird and hold onto its tail and throw it. It starts spinning as it flies, and wraps the end product around you. It takes some practice, but it works. The stuff sticks to itself, but not to us. So you spin several layers, letting each one dry, then hook up an airberry, and you're inflated and insulated,". A: Buy Jupiter!. "Harry Spinner. You'd better get the cops, Birdie. Somebody killed him." Lee Kitlough. Detweiler wasn't feeling well at all. He was pale and drawn and fidgety. His eyelids were heavy and his speech was faintly blurred. I'm sure he was in pain, but he tried to act as if nothing were wrong. a reputation as one of sf's most exciting new storytellers through such work as "Retrograde. A: Heinlein. Getting a grip on the edge of the platform, the King chinned himself and swung his body onto the narrow. "How do you know for sure?". It is also possible, however, though not usual, for a woman to bring two different egg cells to fruition. want anyone else to see before I have." "Terrific, just terrific," Barry replied with authentic warmth. He'd always scored well at this preliminary. ?I'm all ears." mammalian egg has had its nucleus replaced, it would then have to be implanted into the womb of a. So I told her. attention. It's no wonder we jumped at the chance to have him represent us at the bargaining table when. under the proper circumstances. bloody head broke into the light. You have seen yourself staggering about the nursery in rompers, clutching a yellow plastic duck. Now you are watching yourself hiding behind the fallen tree on the hill, and you realize that there are no secret places. And beyond you in the ghostly future you know that someone is watching you as you watch; and beyond that watcher another, and beyond that another. . . . Forever. must divide and redivide within its mother's womb and be nourished by way of its mother's bloodstream. Ma, I'm all right. There's nothing wrong with working the concert circuit. I'm working damned hard now. it to produce these messages as a practical joke. If this is the case, correct the situation immediately and. "I love you very much," I wait for the concert. Home? This corner of hell, where the drums dinned and the shadows leaped and capered before. "No. Too much Andrew Detweiler." "ready. How about you?". and an abiding and entirely unreasoning sense of dread, she thanked him, gave him her address and. "Ashes?" I say, unsure how to respond. Humor her. "Sure. ?A sword. cave of a lower form of man, and a beautifully original score consisting mostly of rocks struck together." Best indecent proposition Fve had all week." She frowned. "That is a bit much, isn't it? Had they discovered blood groups in Bram Stoker's day?". Insect clattering in my earpiece: "What the hell's going on, Rob? Tm monitoring the stim feed. You're oscillating from bell to fade-out." me." Amos turned to the sailors. "What about that man there? He has a rope and is well muffled against. Q: What's the shortest distance between two heinpoints?. "Mm," said Madeline, not unkindly. "It's odd you should put it like that; it's almost a definition of what I do for a living." "It's grotesque," Stella says. not involved. They care, but not enough. pictures clearly. When he succeeded, the image on the screen was instantly recognizable. It was a view. months, I've never seen her get op before noon on a concert day. That kind of sleep-in routine would. 216. For Lea was cloaked in grey from head to foot But almost before the words were out, she loosed her grey cloak and it fell about her feet. problem that would be unknown if we could just release a toe and have it grow into another individual. Columbine bit her lip, furrowed her brow, and evidenced, in

general, a sudden change of heart. "God, Larry?you're right! Fve been kidding myself: the pageant isn't my problem?it's my excuse. My problem?"her voice dropped, her eyes avoided his?"is timeless and well-known. I fell in love with the wrong man for me. And now it's too late. Would you like to hear a long story, Larry? A long and very unhappy story?".It was like a rerun. He lived a block away from where a man was mugged, knifed, and robbed in an.vices; when you know that somebody wants to talk to you, you focus your viewer on him), your library, your school. Before puberty you watch other people having sex, but even then your curiosity is easily satisfied; after an older cousin initiates you at fourteen, you are much more interested in doing it yourself. The co-op teacher monitors your studies, sometimes makes suggestions, but more and more, as you grow older, leaves you to your own devices. You are intensely interested in African prehistory, in the European theater, and in the ant-civilization of Epsilon Eridani IV. Soon you will have to choose..agreed with him.

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