

## THE END OF DEMOCRACY

Crawford nodded. He looked around at the other occupants of the room. There was the Surface Mission Commander, Mary Lang, the black woman he had seen inside the dome just before the blowout. She was sitting on the edge of Lou Prager's cot, her head cradled in her hands. In a way, she was a more shocking sight than Lou. No one who knew her would have thought she could be brought to this limp state of apathy. She had not moved for the last hour. Summer, "The Black Hole Passes," "In the Bowl" (Best from F&SF, 22nd series) and his first. least an acknowledged one). They should have left well enough alone in this case. Color instead of b&w., Gus Verdugo worked in R&I. I had done him a favor once, and he insisted on returning it tenfold. I. to send him into a state of fugue in which conversation in the linear sense became next to impossible. So. "Go see what's in the trunk," said Jack. "It's probably not so terrible after all." "If there is anything I can do in return . . . ?" . tracks it backward until the men are again in then- places on deck. He looks again at the group standing. lights below us. The ocean was on the other side of the mountains. Just out of curiosity, Barry wondered aloud, what kind of cash payment were they talking about?. Stone. "Lots of people make money playing gin." . time." "Just a few minutes. Hold tight." Crawford looked over to Lang and thought he saw tears, but he couldn't be sure in the dark. If clones can be produced wholesale, a biologist can have a whole group of animals with identical genetic equipment; a set of ten thousand identical-twin mice, let us say. There are many animal experiments that can be conducted with the hope of more useful results if the question of genetic variation could be eliminated. "I don't know quite what to do with it," Song admitted. "If it's the only one, I don't dare dissect it, and. San Diego Freeway, into the Santa Monica Mountains. The pavement ends a couple of miles past the. These people? they are snakes." "Third," said Lea, "what are they going to do to you?" . sooner seen them off than I was flinging myself back into the runabout and driving up to Amanda's cabin. Hinda could not answer. She could not even look at him. His nakedness shamed her more than his. 92. They triggered them to be activated only when they encountered certain different conditions. Maybe. 205. anyone who didn't want to make love to her. "When you're a star," she said once, half drunk, "you're not. I dropped in at the office for a while Friday morning and checked the first-of-the-month bills. Miss. hadn't improved her disposition. She had quit; she wasn't going to do anything for anybody. "Nay, I must stay." . left, his other foot on the pinnacle to the right, and bent down and set them on the tallest peak in the. now. You probably didn't see them on the way in, but you saw the models. They're very light. "If you say so," said Amos. He went to the trunk, walked all around it three times, then gingerly lifted the lid. He didn't see anything, so he lifted it further. When he still didn't see anything, he opened it all the way. "Why, there's nothing in ..." he began. But then something caught his eye at the very bottom of the trunk, and he reached in and picked it up. "Now I shall tell all the leaves and whisper to the waves who I am and what I look like, so they can. She rolls to face me. "Huh?" . where Brother Hart was smooth. And he was dressed in animal skins that hung from his shoulders to his. "I'm not going to get out of your way, and I tell you, don't do it Not now and not later." . In a voice of such preternatural calm it terrified me, Amanda said, "Who were you talking to?" "I'd advise you to do it," Crawford said. "I know my opinion means nothing after shooting my mouth. of your certificate suitable for framing and wall display. Note that it is a fine example of." "Thanks, but I wouldn't have room." . She bit her lip. "I don't think the Detweiler boy killed him." "Don't worry, there's another over behind you." Now that they were looking for them, they quickly. HEINLEIN'S Rolling the Stones. A Box of Scruples, JAMES BLISH. "I have a plan," said Amos. . wrote another one. Since then I've been traveling around and writing. I've got an agent who takes care of. in Houston to show us how low our stock has fallen." . transparent sheets of film to the sunlight, heating the water which circulated through them. The water was. his self-confidence. But the other voice wasn't impressed, and so instead of going straight from Center St. . of a dissident group in Moscow, who used it to document illegal government actions. The device was. "I think this discussion has served its purpose, which was to convince everyone here that survival is. Detweiler wasn't feeling well at all. He was pale and drawn and fidgety. His eyelids were heavy and. really hit the fan with about a dozen ad hoc task forces instantly created to investigate everything from. blazing eyes. Those eyes burned right through Ike and Eli and Dan and me, as though we weren't even. meaning we did not at first suppose to be there. We think we have understood our words, then learn that. Hinda stood at the door and raised her hand to shade her eyes. The last she saw of him was the flash. "Which night?" . slogging all day in a mud hole. . track control forward until it reaches the five-position on a scale calibrated to one hundred. I came hi the door, with prices the way they were and with no money coming in? I told her not to worry. . Immediately there was thunder, and light shot from the restored glass. The grey man stepped back, and from the minor stepped the beautiful and worthy Lea. . never have been more than clients to me, either. There are nights I cannot sleep for wishing she had. "Is this just a morale session? Thanks, but I don't need it. I'd rather face the situation as it is. Or do. had an open, friendly face and gave me a neutral smile-for-a-stranger. "Yes?" he asked. . being classified in the same category with such a nitwit! Partyland was probably full of people in their. still on the table. His suitcase was on the floor by the couch. It was riveted cowhide of a vintage I hadn't. Towards Here Is Coming An Evil Thing, RAY BRADBURY. rock one moment, then tried to jerk them loose the next The rope was very useful indeed, and neither. stripping off her exercise suit. "I'm going to swim. Will you come with me?" "I'm sorry," Lang said quietly. "Go on with what you were saying." . loud sob reached our ears. Another. We turned away and slowly descended the successive stages to the. On the greyest and gloomiest island on the map is a large grey gloomy castle, and great grey stone. When Amos woke up, he was lying on the floor of the ship's brig inside the cell, and Jack, in his. think I've recognized someone," she said excitedly, preening her paper feathers with her free hand. Far. "Yes," said the North Wind, "there is a mirror there. A wizard so great and so old and so terrible that. Q: What did the man who sold the moon do next?. He

smiled faintly. "I didn't know much about anything then. Too many people were already dead. If I'd gone to a hospital, they'd have wanted to know how I'd stayed alive so far. Sometimes I'm glad if s over, and, then, the next minute I'm terrified of dying." Films: Multiples by Baird Searles 193. "Oh, happiness!" laughed the thin grey man. "She is grey too". She washed the wound with water. The cut was long but it was not deep. Some scratch got in the woods. meandered on home. "Amanda!" I crawled toward the kitchen, dragging the weight of my head with me. "Amanda, what. same simple-minded story, made it in color, which for once was an improvement, used splendid effects. colors of the pigeons, the very pigeons, perhaps, that had inspired his so-called idea earlier that day. But. "No, I guess not," I said. "You people want to take a walk around the dome with me? Maybe we could discuss ways of giving people a little privacy." consciousness aren't independent processes, after all. Talking is thinking turned inside-out. No more, no. Detweiler left his room that afternoon for the first time since I'd been there. He went north on Las Palmas, dropped a large Manila envelope in the mailbox (the story he'd been working on, I guess), and bought groceries at the supermarket on Highland. Did that mean he wasn't planning to move? I had a sudden pang in my belly. What if he was staying because of his friendship with me? I felt more like a son of a bitch every minute. She considered the accusation. "I wouldn't choose her for a friend. I think she's insipid and gutless. She could have sent Teddy on his way with a few polite words instead of making an incident of it. Still, I think I pity rather than dislike her. Don't I let myself get sucked into looking after her like everyone else? That sweet, yielding, dependency is no more than what her father trained into her. It's the Senator I dislike." She snorted. "Imagine a contemporary man with a nineteenth-century taste in women. No wonder my mother left him." She began dancing again. PROLOGUE. The grey man took the last piece of the mirror, went to the wall, and fitted it in place, saying, "The. "Are you indeed?" asked Lea, smiling. "A piece of the mirror I am trapped in lies at the bottom of this pool. Once I myself dived from a rock into the blue ocean to retrieve the pearl of white fire I wear on my forehead now. That was the deepest dive ever heard of by man or woman, and this pool is ten feet deeper than that. Will you still try?". 119. Edgar Rice Burroughs, the orbital ship that got them to Mars and had been intended to get them back. coughing and had to be slapped on the back several times. "But we're middlemen, you see. We have only limited flexibility in the terms we can offer. Say, fifteen hundred." "Go to the bathroom." "Well, to be completely candid, Columbine, it's hard for me to imagine your feeling anything but terrific. To be Miss Georgia and have such a lot of talent? isn't that enough? I would have thought you'd be very happy." "Really, what's that?". With only a week left till his temporary license expired, Barry abandoned all hope and all shame and. They sailed all that night and all the next day, and toward evening they pulled in to a rocky shore where just a few hundred yards away a mountain rose high and higher into the clear twilight. Evidently no one could. But likewise, Crawford could see no reason why it should have happened. jackstraws. were lost." She turned and scowled at each of them in turn. the arm of the couch like a little gnome and smiled. It ran its fingers down the side of Detweiler's cheek. seem to have fooled these plants; they thought summer was here when the water vapor content went up. that "my" copy of Bug Jack Ban-on tried to punch "me" in the nose means that such an event really. things are adapted for low pressure, no oxygen, scarce water. The later ones will be adapted to an. "Very well then, I have a plan." Again Amos began to whisper through the bars, and Jack smiled and. Amanda screamed inarticulately. Her whole body convulsed with the effort to tear loose. Selene held on. antiseptic bay in which our own ship now sits, for example, is no less than a cubic kilometer in volume; It was a small story on page three, not very exciting or newsworthy. Last night a man named Maurice Milian, age 51, had fallen through the plate-glass doors leading onto the terrace of the high-rise where he lived. He had been discovered about midnight when the people living below him had noticed dried blood on their terrace. The only thing to connect the deaths of Harry Spinner and Maurice Milian was a lot of blood flowing around. If Milian had been murdered, there might be a link, however tenuous. But Milian's death was accidental? a dumb, stupid accident It niggled around in my brain for an hour before I gave in. There was only one way to get it out of my head. My mother told me once she was sorry I wasn't handsome enough to get by without working. Listen, Amanda Gail and Selene Randall came to Aventine during the autumn hiatus, when the last of the. Mama Dolores put her hand to her mouth. "I forget? the little one, he is alone?". color of parrot's feathers, a yellow as pale as Chinese mustard, and a blue brilliant as the sky at eight. But this time it was Selene's voice, firm and brisk, that spoke. "I think we'd better have a talk. In my want I forget the other occasions. "Okay." huddled under his blanket. "A historian? Sure, it's a fine idea, but pretty impractical. I have to admit that. us." "What do you want me to do?" with her. But we didn't realize just how much they had prepared for us until Marty started analyzing the. fire tools. "It hasn't been long at all since? since I told you I... trusted you." "Don't you see?" she went on, calmer now. "It's too pat, too much of a coincidence. This thing is like a ... a headstone, a monument. It's growing right here in the graveyard, from the bodies of our friends. Can you believe in that as just a coincidence?" Darlene passed a hand before her eyes. "I guess I'm just overtired," she said. "The long trip-". When another two weeks went by without the Board of Examiners saying boo, he couldn't stand the. "When do I go after the next piece?" Amos asked when they had finished eating. Alternately, she could leave it in an envelope with the doorman. "Yeah. I broke my own rule. But so did you two. Consider yourselves on report." She laughed and. "Miss Tremaine, you'd make somebody a wonderful mother." She didn't even humph; she just picked up her purse and stalked out I sniveled the chair around and looked at the calendar. Tomorrow was the 4th. mottle of yellow and orange. stop. The hissing died away, and Crawford picked it up. It was lighter than it had been. There was a. And what about this, Mallory? What if someone died nearby tonight while you were with Detweiler; "In his room, I think. I heard his typewriter. He wasn't feeling well," Lorraine Nesbitt said. Then she. The penthouse seemed to have gone to Lang and Crawford as an unasked-for prerogative. It just became a habit, since they seemed to have developed a bond between them and none of the other three complained. Neither of the other women seemed to be suffering in any

way. So Lang left it at that. What went on between the three of them was of no concern to her as long as it stayed happy.. "At Intensity Five I'm just plain Columbine, honey. The same as you're just Larry. And not knowing." "We know that," McKillian said. She was tired and sick from the sight of the faces of her dead friends. "What's the use of all this talk?". Fantasy & Science Fiction #23. skill, almost an art. Lou practiced for three years on the best simulators we could build and still had to. "Sure," Song said, peering along his pointed finger. "Just show me the damn thing and I'll immortalize. And what about cloned human beings, which is, after all, the subject matter of "RandalPs Song"?. body seems to glitter with more than reflected light Her skin already gleams with moisture.. call her tonight". "You have come," she said, and her voice trembled.. way. . . . dialogue, even the oonga-boonga black natives. All this could not in any way survive modernization; "big. be long.. something."

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