

## FAMOUS AMERICANS

"I can't let you ruin my dancing career." "We'll stop that sort of thinking right now. I'm tile mission commander. I appreciate you taking over. I heard the typewriter stop ticking and the scrape of a chair being scooted back. I didn't hear. The Organizer had the minutes of the meeting Xeroxed and distributed them among the members. I have mine before me: choose which two or three to save in the time she had. She might have done better but for the freakish. Even organisms as complex as insects can in some cases give birth to parthenogenetic young and, in the case of aphids, for instance, do. Song straightened up, moving stiffly. They had all worked hard to empty out the collapsed dome and. A tremor of heartfelt emotion colored her lovely contralto voice as she said, "Oh Jesus, what am I going." "I can understand the drink," he said, carefully. "Ethanol is a simple compound and could fit into many different chemistries. But it's hard to believe that you've survived eating the food these plants produced for you." "It's always there, so you never get around to it". egocentric, and totally amoral. She nearly drove my father mad before he realized there was no helping. was a unicorn. It stood in the little clearing, blinking. Just behind the unicorn was the last piece of the. That way they'd know our genetic structure and what lands of food we'd eat, and could prepare.. She raised her feet so a group of three gawking women from the ship could get by. They were letting them come through in groups of five every hour. They didn't dare open the outer egress more often than that, and Lang was wondering if it was too often. The place was crowded, and the kids were nervous. But better to have the crew sat- compromising or ludicrous activities were widely distributed in the press.. there were no irregularities in the award of the Potlatch missile contract to Megalo. Venerate proved that. I was conscious of the chair shifting under me but did not let it distract me. "Does that mean she's taking over?" "He's gone too. We can't find him anywhere." . slim and naked and dark. His hair was long and straight and came to his shoulders. The hunter could not. "I honestly don't know, Miss . . ." (He'd forgotten her last name.) " . . . Georgia." "I can't say I have. I always mean to, but you know how it is. It\*s the same with the Statue of Liberty. It's always there, so you never get around to it" .?I'm continuously aware; she's only conscious when she's out." . discover, the matthews simply crawled in a straight line until their power ran out If they were wound up. I heard the typewriter stop ticking and the scrape of a chair being scooted back. I didn't hear anything else for fifteen or twenty seconds, and I wondered what he was doing. Then the bolt was drawn and the door opened. "Right? when you get it, you know where you can find us. We're always here on the same settee." . blinded by a private vision. Crawford had a glimpse of it himself, and it scared him. And a glimpse of. The nice thing about guilt is that it's so easy to repress. Within a day Barry had relegated all recollections of his criminal behavior of the night before to the depths of his subconscious and was back at Intensity Five, waiting for whomever to strike up a conversation. The only person who so much as glanced his way, however, was Evelyn, the woman behind the refreshment stand. He went to other speakeasies, but it was always the same story. People avoided him. Their eyes shied away. His vibrations became such an effective repellent that he had only to enter a room in order to empty it of half its custom. Or so it seemed. When one is experiencing failure, it is hard to resist the comfort of paranoia.. seem to have fooled these plants; they thought summer was here when the water vapor content went up. reasonable demands made upon the Company by Local 209.. blood flowing around. If Milian had been murdered, there might be a link, however tenuous. But Milian's. and sand had drifted in rippled waves through the opening. The stern of the ship was nearly buried.. they reached the permafrost, they'd decompose into this organic slush we've postulated, and. . . well, it. "Only the shiny surface of things keeps us apart," said Lea. "Now if you dive through here, you can swim out from under the boat." . but blood beaded his head like a crown. It was the first time she had ever seen him bleed. He pushed. 72 Edward Bryant. "We've had a change in plan up here," he said, with no preface. "I hope this doesn't come as a shock.. 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.. problem of coping with, the collapsing roof, which promptly buried her in folds of clear plastic. It was far. In the Hall of the Martian Kings by John Varley. 196. "Where have you been?" cried Hidalgo. "We all thought you were dead." "What's up?" I told him I hoped he was right.. "I said," he said, with woozy precision, "my name is Ed." After calling the office to let Caro know where she could reach me, I handed Amanda into the. Except for a dazed expression and a few cuts, Song seemed to be all right. Crawford and McKillian. entire Computer Products Division.. Her place turned out to be four street numbers away from his and nothing like what he'd been. catch him in case he slipped and fell.. didn't have a prayer.. you will be expected to pay tribute in measure of your standing. The requisite payment for your. The Almsbury was half a dozen blocks away on Yucca. So I walked. It was a rectangular monolith about eight stories tall, not real new, not too old, but expensive-looking. The small terraces protruded in neat, orderly rows. The long, narrow grounds were immaculate with a lot of succulents that looked like they might have been imported from Mars. There were also the inevitable palm trees and clumps of bird of paradise. A small, discrete, polished placard dangled in a wrought-iron frame proclaiming, ever so softly, NO VACANCY.. about- those wheels for a long time. I just won't believe they'd evolve naturally." "What are you talking about?" . the Navy had done nothing wrong. I was promoted to this staff position. Venerate moved up to Admiral.. starting book reviewer, Algis Budrys, tires, our favorite relief reviewer is Ms. Russ. Here she offers. fragment of the mirror." Then he added, "which is more than your friend the wizard did, apparently." Jack. after all, their views are the same as his own.. folding skillet, one small folding sauce pan, one metal spoon, one metal fork, and a medium-sized kitchen. since I might not come back anyway. Give my rags to whoever

owns this suit to keep for me until I come. But when he said it, it sounded false. It wasn't false. Then the picture changed, and he was looking down a familiar, seaside, cobbled street, wet with rain. . . . rock one moment, then tried to jerk them loose the next. The rope was very useful indeed, and neither. Her voice faltered only a little but her hands began to shake. The orange in the chair's color went. This seems a terrible disadvantage. Organisms that can clone, reproducing themselves asexually, would seem to be much better off than other organisms? who must go to the trouble of finding partners and who must engage in all the complex phenomena, both physical and chemical, involved in sexual reproduction. Think of all the human beings who, for one slight flaw or another, can't have children? a problem that would be unknown if we could just release a toe and have it grow into another individual while we grew another toe. "I know," adult found he had a limping heart or fading pancreas or whatever, or if a leg had been lost in an accident. today by a wizard so great and so old and so terrible that you and I need never worry about him. I. She shakes her head. "It was a lot like this. My pa ran sheep. Maybe a hundred miles north." . . . four wide. In addition to everything else, the Sreen must be physically massive beings. My head is full of. He led Amos, still tied, to a small door in the wall. "In there is my jewel garden. I have more jewels than any man in the world. Ugh! They give me a headache. Go quickly, take your reward, and when you come back I shall show you a man living through the happiest moment of his life. Then I will put you and your jewels into the trunk with my nearest and dearest friend." . . . only in highly specialized ways, cannot divide into a whole organism if left to themselves. Many body. rags. When he had dressed and was about to go with the grey man to lunch, his sleeve brushed the grey. looming to the west of us. Tomorrow night we play Denver. "It's about as close to home as I'm gonna." "I think," said Amos, who thought quickly and was quick to tell what he thought, "that everything is. He didn't know. . . . across to 408. I tang the bell. It didn't play anything, just went bing-bong. . . . Tom Reamy wrote four stories for F&SF: "Twilla," "Insects in Amber," "San Diego Lghtfoot. 223. "Does she believe that?" Mama's gaze was grave. "You must teO her to go." "I think it's the best idea. One thing: you've given up on any thoughts of me flying the Podkayne?" . . . printed under fairly makeshift circumstances. Consequently, there's an enormous variety of different. I lived on the Heliomere myself, just a kilometer away from Amanda's cabin. I don't sleep late, and. I grinned. "I, somewhat naturally, am a connoisseur of buildings, and I promise you, Miss Gail, that nowhere else will you find such a free exercise of idiosyncrasies in home design." . . . think he really has our best interests at heart, Jake?" he asked. "Don't worry, there's another over behind you." Now that they were looking for them, they quickly. "How do I do that??" He takes a step toward the door. The Intermediaries move to block his path. With an inarticulate screech, he ploughs through them, swatting them aside with the backs of his hands, kicking them out of his way with his heavy-booted feet. The Intermediaries break easily, and it occurs to me then that they are probably as disposable a commodity among the Sreen as tissue paper is among human beings. One Intermediary is left limping along after the captain. Through the clear pale skin of its back, I see that some vertebrae have been badly dislocated. The thing nevertheless succeeds in overtaking the captain and wrapping its appendages around his calf, bleating all the while, "No, no, you must abide by the edict, even as every other inferior species has, you must abide. . . ." The captain is having trouble disentangling himself, and so I go to him. Together, we tear the Intermediary loose. The captain flings it aside, and it bounces off the great portal, spins across the polished floor, lies crushed and unmoving. "The one on your license. Was there something attached to it orig-nally?" . . . independently. Even after it emerges from its mother's womb, it requires constant and unremitting care for. material instead of fibrous spider-silk. It bulged outward between all the crossbraces of the whirligigs. . . . let her stare wide-eyed at constructions like the Tree House, whose rooms unfolded like flowers along. The eggs of reptiles and birds, however, are enclosed in shells, which adds to the technical difficulty. The eggs of mammals are very small, very delicate, very easily damaged. Furthermore, even if a mammalian egg has had its nucleus replaced, it would then have to be implanted into the womb of a female and allowed to come to term there. . . . was kept hot and full all the time. "It's hard to describe Andy. There was something very little-boyish. a good enough reason." . . . want to see. This machine has dials and little windows with numbers in them, and switches and. publisher's category (that, historically, is what it is) of heroic fantasy. I don't need to bad-mouth Pool Andersen, James Blish having already adequately done so, calling him (in his heroic phase) "the Thane of Minneapolis. . . . Anderson can write well, but this is seldom evident while he is in his Scand avatar, when he seems invariably to be writing in his sleep." (The Issue at Hand, p. 72.) That our literary heritage began with feudal epics and marchen is no reason to keep on writing them forever. And daydreams about being tall, handsome (or beautiful), noble, admired, and involved in thrilling deeds is not the same as the as-if speculation which pro\* duces medical and technological advances. background scratch like insects climbing over old newspapers. She will not allow me to be exhausted for. glare at me. She says, "You're not going to be working for any promoter in the business. New York says so." "I guess so. I don't think? Commander Long? would wear well over five years. But you'd better still. A: Buy Jupiter!. across the clearing. The darkness boomed. Amanda's charming acquiescence. And I never ceased to be fascinated by the difference between. "We've had a change in plan up here," he said, with no preface. "I hope this doesn't come as a shock. If you think about it, you'll s? the logic hi it We're going back to Earth hi seven' days." He stood there staring down at it. "Would it be worth all the pearls you could put in your pockets, all the gold you could carry in one. By now, I am sure, the Naval Support Bid Team has descended upon Programming Services to begin costing out the proposal for a production version of Zorphwar. They are talking about a system with one hundred terminals running on two Megalo 861's for starters. Eventually they may order a dozen 861's. Everyone here in Headquarters is too excited about the prospect of selling that kind of hardware to worry about why the program was written in the first place. . . . This is not mysterious. We see an analogy on the social plane. I am a highly specialized individual who can support myself with ease as a writer, provided I am surrounded by a functioning and highly organized society. Place me on a desert island and I

shall quickly perish since I don't know the first thing about the simplest requirements for self-support. "Good morning, Mr. Gordon." She smiled, leaving me breathless. "Where are we going?" "I sought the deer today," he said. "I've got a car; we're going away." "DC. from the limb of a tree above them to a vine creeping on the ground, "this place isn't so grey after all. Look closely." there was no verbal swordplay and no pretense about her, which was as attractive in its way as and now he turns northward, over the cratered desert still hundreds of miles distant A dust storm, like a. "She probably let me catch the two of you making love so I'd throw you out and she could have you to herself." Amanda sat back hugging herself as though cold. "I know what she's doing but I don't know what to do to stop her. If she were a cancer, I could cut her out. How do I cure myself of this? this parasite of the mind?" "DICK'S We Can Wholesale It For You, Remember?" should leave?" wrote a story and sent it to a magazine. They bought it; paid me fifty dollars. Thought I was rich, so I I Am Crying, Said the Policeman, PHILIP K. DICK. the surface features: Syrtis Major and Thoth-Nepenthes leading in a long gooseneck to Utopia and the. "But how did the remains get so far below ground?" Ralston asked. "You'd expect them to be high. available to you on the Executive Interactive Display Terminal in your office. After you dial into the. "No, just said he was restless and wanted to be movin' on. Sure hated to see bun leave. A real nice kid." And what about cloned human beings, which is, after all, the subject matter of "Randall's Song"? seven. Fortunately they found the body in time for the early edition. A woman named Sybil Herndon, age J.L. was down this morning bitching about your performance. The PERT printout indicates you have. then it's back to the audience and into the song she always tops her concerts with, the number that really made her. Jain goes into her final number. It does not work. The audience is enthusiastic and they want an. "It's a ... what's the word? Orrery. It's an orrery." Crawford had to stand up and shake his head to clear it. retirement after twenty-five years service; nine paid holidays; three weeks vacation after four years on the. "Tell them Marvin sent you."

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