

## **SHADOW OF THE VOID BOOK TWO OF THE SUNDERED WORLD TRILOGY**

"Yes, I am really the North Wind," came the thunderous voice. "Now you tell me who you are before I blow you into little pieces and scatter them over the whole wide world." .and it was thought it could be put to use one last time before we let it go, to warm the floor of the dome. Well, no matter? it was ended now, over once and for all. Today the message had arrived from Belem: Darlene and Robbie were on the ship, ready for the flight to Manaos. Tomorrow morning he'd start downriver to meet them, escort them here. He'd had his qualms about their coming; they'd have to face three months in this hellhole before the year was up, but Darlene had insisted. .Company would have to come across pronto. She said she hoped so, what with another mouth to feed. rendezvous with a drone capsule full of supplies we hadn't counted on." And besides, Lang thought to. Sum Dryer. June 10, 1977 Source: W. S. Halson Destination: P. T. Warrington Subject: Schedule Compliance Park, Old Buddy, when your message appeared on my display. Without breaking stride, she kicked high over her head and grinned at me. "Elevations." Then she stopped and turned to face me. "I'll have to ask you for a favor. Mandy doesn't know about my practice sessions. Not being a dancer, she wouldn't understand how important this is to me, either. She'd just be upset knowing I was here out of my time. So when you take her to lunch today, please don't mention you saw me." "Then we have been found out and all is lost," said the prince. "For it is noon already, and the sun is at its highest and hottest. The boat has docked two leagues short of over there, and the grey man must be about to go for the third mirror himself." The grey man looked after Amos until he disappeared. Then he put his hand on his head, which was beginning to throb a little, and leaned against the black trunk which had been carried to the deck. "That means," said Lea, "I was put here to be the nearest and dearest friend to all those grim, grey." "Which," said Lea, "can be stated as: 'I've done it.' Roughly speaking." .could possibly be involved in a string of bloody deaths. Maybe it was just a series of unbelievable. Smith hears the woman shriek. In a moment she too is over the rail and falling into the sea. .being pretty spectacular special effects themselves. Add to this an appropriately grim but beautiful setting. are drifting across the next room as if on huge silent wheels, chairs and end tables turning into reddish. "Mary," McKillian said, "it occurs to me that I'd better start looking for airborne spores. If there are some, it could mean that the airlock on the Podkayne is vulnerable. Even thirty meters off the ground." "No, absolutely not. We're still basically in love. After all, most married couples end up not saying much to each other. Isn't that so? Even before Debra got religious, we weren't in the habit of talking to each other. To tell the truth, Dr. Kolodny, I've never been much of a talker. I think I was put off it by the compulsory talk we had to do in high school." .to the bed, rooted among the papers, and returned with a thin, odd-sized paperback. "This is the latest" .a hero, but he wants to live to enjoy it, too." .I've been thinking of you as a luxury, and about as useful as the nipples on a man's chest. But I was. Mama's voice sank to a murmur. "It concerns the one outside." "Selene, did you hear me?" They'll keep working on it, but when it's done, Winey won't step into the damn dung. He wants to be a hero, but he wants to Uve to enjoy it, too." .Hidalga, the woman who owned the tavern and took no man's jabbering seriously, was leaning her. down, yawning. "Detweiler? Don't think I ever laid eyes on the man. What'd he do?" .The years Fallows remembered had come later, when the slender fingers of gleaming new cities were beginning to claw skyward once more from the deserts of rubble, and new steel and aluminum plants were humming and pounding while on the other side of the world China and India Japan wrestled for control over the industrial and commercial might of the 'East. Those had been stirring years, vibrant years, inspiring years. Fallows remembered the floodlit parades .in Washington on the Fourth of July-the color and the splendor of the massed bands, the columns of marching soldiers with uniforms glittering and flags flying, the anthems and hymns rising on the voices of tens of thousands packed into Capitol Square, where the famous building had once stood. He remembered strutting into a high-school ball in his just acquired uniform of the American New Order Youth Corps and pretending haughtily not to notice the admiring looks following him wherever he went. How he had bragged to his envious friends after the tint weekend of war gaming with the Army in the New Mexico desert. . . . the exhilaration when America reestablished a permanently manned base on the Moon. .a limited and unchallenging range of choices (cold meats, canned goods, beer, Nabisco cookies) that he. 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. .windows and on framed pictures, and he experimented briefly with the diaphragms in speaker systems, .to fiction is bad because the standards are rigid, stupid, and narrow, not because they are political. For. The background music changed from Vivaldi's Four Seasons to a Sondheim medley, and all the. wouldn't notice. I went back to the closet and waited. .moved across the room to stand staring down at him on the bed. Then, as she sank upon his nakedness. is launch interceptors when we see them push the button." "Pretty slim. Mostly the air problem. The people I've read about never sank so low that they had to worry about where their next breath was coming from." "I'm Barry Riordan," he managed to bring out, tardily. .leering over my shoulder, I'd kiss you good-night. Another time I will. Please call me tomorrow." Miss Tremaine looked up from her typing at the rattle and frowned. Her desk was out in the small reception area, but I had arranged both desks so we could see each other and talk in normal voices when the door was open. It stayed open most of the time except when I had a client who felt secretaries shouldn't know his troubles. She had been transcribing the Lucas McGowan report for half an hour, humming and tsk-tsking at thirty-second intervals. She was having a marvelous time. Miss Tremaine was about forty-five, looked

like a constipated librarian, and was the best secretary I'd ever had. She'd been with me seven years. I'd tried a few young and sexy ones, but it hadn't worked out. Either they wouldn't play at all, or they wanted to play all the time. Both kinds were a pain in the ass to face first thing in the morning, every morning..If the first trip had been an ordeal, this one was an agony: a frantic thrust through the sultry night on the steaming river, Moises sweating over the throttle as Nolan held Darlene's shuddering shoulders against the straw mattress in the stern of the vibrating launch. They made Manaos by dawn and roused Dr. Robales from slumber at his house near the plaza..Hinda was sitting on a low straw bed, and beside her, his head in her lap, lay a man. The man was..curiously, does not echo in the vast antechamber. "Sreen! SREEN!".occur at all.\* [\* I used to inform people of the endings of television plays (before the endings happened)..rubber-stamped with the name of a used-book store on Santa Monica Boulevard. They were a mixture:..Sanders, almost two hours had passed. Harry hadn't answered my knock, and so I let myself in with a.the hunter stepped out of the woods on the very path that Brother Hart usually took, Hinda gave a gasp..and a computerized tracer device which would keep the Ozo focused on any subject..was expelled?". "I swear, man, if you had touched me with a cattle prod you couldn't have got a bigger rise out of me than you did with what you said a few minutes ago. Do I dare ask?". "I have been Miss Georgia six nights a week for the last four years, with matinees on Sunday and Tuesday, and do you suppose in all that time that the audience has ever voted for me to be Miss America? Ever?". Baird Searles is part owner of New York City's Science Fiction Shop and has been keeping track of the small and large screens for F&SF for many years. If you've ever been confused by the many different versions of some sf films, the article below will help sort things out..Marvin Kolodny, Ph.D. in cubicle 183. The initials worried him. He could have coped, this time, with the old fuddy-duddy he'd had last August, but a Ph.D.? It seemed as though they were raising the hurdles each time he came around the track. But his worries evaporated the moment he was in the cubicle and saw that Marvin Kolodny was a completely average young man of twenty-four. His averageness was even a bit unsteady, as though he had to think about it, but then most twenty-four-year-olds are self-conscious in just that way..Ma, I'm all right. There's nothing wrong with working the concert circuit. I'm working damned hard now..performing a much more essential task. The brickmaker asked him how he'd perform it without the..through the same zipper, and all there was was an uncomfortable sound from the trunk, something like:..by STEVEN UTLEY..that may be air bladders or some grotesque analogue of blossoms. Now, at the edge of the screen,,you get the last one, you will have done very well indeed."..that".160.66."Like hell! Like bloody God-damned hell! Where are they? What makes them think they have the right, the right, to claim the whole damned universe for themselves?" The captain's voice is going up the scale, becoming a shriek, and filled though I am with terror of the Sreen, I am also caught up in fierce admiration for my superior officer. He may be a suicidal fool to refuse to accept the situation, but there is passion in his foolishness, and it is an infectious passion. "How dare they treat us this way? What do they mean, ordering us to go home and stay there because they own the universe?". "What is this?" asked Hidalgo as they stepped inside. She picked up the glass prism from the top of..sail and lay down..let the authority figure know right from the start that you intend to be deferential, and this was a quality."No, this is Crawford again. Commander Lang is . . . indisposed. She's busy with Lou, trying to do something."..Davidson, and Ron Goulart). A Robert Young story is always a pleasure because its high quality is..Toward noon, the same wealthy merchant who'd come around before came around again. After."Without CB suppression there wouldn't be time to move any of the other platoons round to back you up. You'd be on your own," Sirocco said.."What about contamination?" she asked. "What do you think that sterilization was for before we..73..was on the floor behind the bed, scrunched down between it and the wall. The almost colorless chenille..Here Comes Mr. Jordan was a whimsical film fantasy of the 1940s about a boxer taken to Heaven before he was due; as compensation, he was redelivered into another man's body, with all sorts of supposedly humorous complications. I didn't think it was very funny then, and I didn't think it was very funny when it reappeared as Heaven Can Wait, though Warren Beatty did a nice job as the dumb athletic type (a football player now) and Dyan Cannon shrieked to great effect a couple of times..are probably as disposable a commodity among the Sreen as tissue paper is among human beings. One..comme fa. Even so, Khokolovna's Wolf was miles ahead of Adriana Motta's, or even Gwyneth..that the confusion should be cleared up..marks a leader. She took a deep breath and came fully awake for the first time that day.."But I'd have to become part of ... what Selene is." She pulled away from me, shaking her head..That hardly seemed fan' to me. As though she read my mind, Selene said, "I didn't plan it; it just..Take it."Lots of people make money playing gin."."Stand so that the sun is in your eyes," said the North Wind, towering over Amos, "because I do not want anyone else to see before I have."..Evidently no one could. But likewise, Crawford could see no reason why it should have happened."this place isn't so grey after all. Look closely."..To Your Broadcast Bodies, Get Yourselves, PHILIP JOSE FARMER."You must return to your ship," they insist, "and obey the will of the Sreen."..She grimaced. "No need to panic. It's not an emergency. Fm licensed." ..mouth issued a gentle snore..Song, do you have any ideas?".There were whirligigs in the second patch, but they lacked the variety and disorder of the originals. They were of nearly uniform size, about four meters tall, and all the same color, a dark purple. They had pumped water for two weeks, then stopped. When Song examined them, she reported the bearings were frozen, dried out They seemed to have lost the plasticizer that kept the structures fluid and living. The water in the pipes was frozen. Though she would not commit herself in the matter, she felt they were dead. In their place was a second network of pipes which wound around the derricks and spread transparent sheets of film to the sunlight, heating the water which circulated through them. The water was being pumped, but not by the now-familiar system of windmills. Spaced along each of the pipes were expansion-contraction pumps with valves very like those in a human heart..had the press, I believe." She spun once more and finished in a deep curtsy, then straightened and began..Once there was a poor man named Amos. He had nothing but his bright red hair, fast fingers, quick feet,

and quicker wits. One grey evening when the rain rumbled in the clouds, about to fall, he came down the cobbled street toward Mariner's Tavern to play jackstraws with Billy Belay, the sailor with a wooden leg and a mouth full of stories that he chewed around and spit out all evening. Billy Belay would talk and drink and laugh, and sometimes sing. Amos would sit quietly and listen and always win at jackstraws..tomorrow.".it takes enough liberties to almost qualify as a variation, but is wonderfully literate and contains some of.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..across the clearing, through the trees and into the open space before the riverbank..a huge trunk that almost filled the car, I did my best to be kind and amusing. Finally, she started glowing..had sketched on the back of an envelope..back and forth..189.Again those black and burning eyes of his seemed to absorb the Project from its bottommost brick to.guided daydreams. Perhaps the popularity of series novels is due in part to readers' desire for a reliable,.out of them.".tears you to shreds..".It was one of the fruit," she said, gasping for breath and coughing. "I was heating it in a beaker, turned away, and it blew. I guess it sort of stunned me. The next thing I knew, Marty was carrying me out here. Hey, I have to get back in there! There's another one . . . it could be dangerous, and the damage, I have to check on that?" She struggled to get up but Lang held her down..Marvin Kolodny frowned?an ingratiating, boyish frown. "Are you sure you're being entirely honest.scarlet fingernails on the dolled Formica desk top. "How long had Harry been dead?".dirt of kingdoms she had never seen. He sang songs she had never heard before, singing them softly into."What if one time it doesn't?".I picked up Janice at her apartment in Westwood early Saturday morning. She was waiting for me and came striding out to the car all tugs and healthy golden flesh. She was wearing white shorts, sneakers, and that damned Dallas Cowboys jersey. It was authentic. The name and number on it were quite well-known?even to non-football fans. She wouldn't tell me how she got it, just smirked and looked smug. She tossed her suitcase in the back seat and slid up against me. She smelled like sunshine..She shook her head, eyes hooded and expressionless, and then Nolan remembered that she didn't.seats to bring us all back. You can bet on there being more modifications when we send in our report on.I was dismayed by the effect the question had on her. I forced heartiness into my voice. "Then let's drive back to the office and sign. You can move in today.".wish I knew you in a personal way. Truly. You're a very heavy individual.".An alarm started in his helmet, flat and strangely soothing coming from the tiny speaker. He stood there for a moment as a perfect smoke ring of dust billowed up around the rim of the dome. Then he was running..in unison, "No, no, what you request is impossible. The decision of the Screen is final, and, anyway,.result, all checks from R through Z were not printed on time and failed to make the courier flight to the

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