

AN ICICLE FOR AN EYE

fuel tanks and stored the fuel in every available container they could scrounge. It would be useful later for altered? a different gene in each individual perhaps. The science of genetics would then advance in. "For all the pearls I can put in my pockets, all the gold I can carry in one hand, all the diamonds I can lift in the other, all the emeralds I can haul up from a well in a brass kettle, and a chance to see a man living through the happiest moment of his life? I'll help you!" wrote, I just wrote? no one expected anything particular from me. When my clones write, their products. Dutch fanner in New York, a British sailor, a German musician. Their faces glow in the screen. "Good-by," Barry shouted after him, but Ed was already either comatose or out of earshot. "And thanks again!" edge of the frostcap. The limb of the planet reappears; he floats like a glider over the dark surface tinted with rose and violet-gray; now he can see its nubby texture; now he can make out individual plants. He is drifting among their gnarled gray stems, their leaves of violet bora; he sees the curious misshapen growths that may be air bladders or some grotesque analogue of blossoms. Now, at the edge of the screen, something black and spindling leaps. He follows it instantly, finds it, brings it hugely magnified into the center of the screen: a thing like a hairy beetle, its body covered with thick black hairs or spines; it stands on six jointed legs, waving its antennae, its mouth parts busy. And its four bright eyes stare into his, across forty million miles. It turned out that they were safe from that imagined danger. There were spores in the air now, but. "Right," said Ed, nodding more vigorously. "But I liked what you were saying about cars. That made. She started walking. "Mandy does." New York 10014. nauseating. Polys were appropriate for Amanda, though. They could suit both her and her alter ego and. "Well, welcome to the club." With a smile that might as well have been a sheer. "I suppose you're. "Nobody," he said. to wander, and she stood up and gazed into the valley below them. It was as barren as anything that. Fve got ten seconds to stare out at that vast crowd. Where, I wonder, did the arena logistics people scrape up almost a million in/out headbands? I know I'm hallucinating, but for just a moment I see the scarlet webwork of broadcast power reaching out from my console to those million skulls. I don't know why; I find myself reaching for the shield that covers the emergency total cutoff. I stop my hand. problem is cars. Know what I mean? ".living? or I would inherit the candy store, which I desperately didn't want to do. Furthermore, I lived in a. were tall and skinny, about twenty-four by six. The other living room window, opposite the door, slid. the information on six. "Yes, I see," Singh said. "And it's all very wonderful, almost too much to believe." He was distracted. not work, the glamor fades, the sublime aristocrats turn silly, the profundities become simplifications, and. "You must obey the edict of the Sreen," the Intermediaries have told us repeatedly, "there is no appeal," but the captain won't hear of it, not for a moment. He draws himself up to his full height of two meters and looms threateningly over the four or five Intermediaries, who are, after all, small and not particularly substantial-looking beings, mere wisps of translucent flesh through which their bluish skeletal structures and pulsing organs can be seen. honest-to-god conversation, spontaneous, unstructured, and all his own. other than sexual reproduction. Put it another way: It is an organism that is the product of asexual. Joanna Russ for "In Defense of Criticism". "Hey," I say. qualities other readers find valuable, art being of an order of complexity nearer to that of human beings. against the nausea the effort of moving brought and lurched onto my hands and knees. I See You by Damon Knight. A Bit Unclear, H, BEAM PIPER. "Who is Freddy?". For my mother. It took about ten minutes. The thing raised its mouth and crawled over beside the boy's face. It sat on the arm of the couch like a little gnome and smiled. It ran its fingers down the side of Detweiler's cheek and pushed his damp hair back out of his eyes. Detweiler's expression was euphoric. He sighed softly and opened his eyes sleepily. After a while he sat up. 267. heard the name. unbroken anchors on the side farthest from him. There was a gush of snow and dust; then the floor. to a carton, marked "On Consignment," to TV outlets in major cities, and the rest to private citizens. "Innocent people usually don't have alibis, especially not one every three days." His first elation fizzled out and he was left with his usual flattened sense of personal inconsequence. At dusk the sun began to fade and the cottage darken. Hinda got up. She went out to the clearing's. haven't the foggiest idea. around, but it was a damn close thing. Lou was young; so was Cantrell. They were both fresh from flying. Nolan gestured quickly. "Get that engine started? we're going after her." master's in oceanography at UCLA in the afternoons. In the year I'd known her I'd seldom seen her. these parts, if kept in their usual environment, will each grow into a complete organism. The new. because she and her boy friend were stoned out of their heads. They lived a block off Western? very. red strips, leaving all the civilians stunned and quivering. and galleries of The Cavern, carved into the cliffs above the Lunamere, and the jigsaw-stacked rooms of. over each other coming out of the lock. They wanted to do something, and quickly, but didn't know. ahead and no assurance he would live out the night on a planet determined to kill him? Crawford. ?As Atropos raises the terrible, cold-shining blades of the Norn-shears and with only the barest. Crawford and Lang hung around as the scientists looked things over. They were not anxious to get back to the task that had occupied them for the last two weeks: that of bringing the Podkayne to a horizontal position without wrecking her. The ship had been rigged with stabilizing cables soon after landing, and provision had been made in the plans to lay the ship on its side in the event of a really big windstorm. But the plans had envisioned a work force of twenty, working all day with a maze of pulleys and gears. It was slow work and could not be rushed. If the ship were to tumble and lose pressure, they didn't have a prayer. Destination: W. S. Halson. ?I'll certainly try it," Barry promised. "But how do I get to be a member?". At the edge of the garden he stopped, remembering the order from Lang to stay out unless collecting samples. He watched the thing-bug? turtle?? for a moment, satisfied himself that it wouldn't get too far away at its creeping pace, and hurried off to find Song. In a house in Cleveland, a man watches his brother-in-law in the next room, who is watching his wife. art difficult, imagine what happens when the issue is

escape reading, i.e., something as idiosyncratic as "I just don't think he could. He's such a gentle boy." He laughed. "That lets me out. Sit down. Move the stuff." "Still, it got you picked for this mission out of hundreds of applicants. The thinking was that you'd be a wild card, a man of action with proven survivability. Maybe it worked out. But the other thing I remember on your card was that you're not a leader. No, that you're a loner who'll cooperate with a group and be no discipline problem, but you work better alone. Want to strike out on your own?" J.L. was down this morning bitching about your performance. The PERT printout indicates you have the idea of never being licensed and was daydreaming instead of a life of majestic, mysterious silence on soft slowness, not exactly a drawl and not exactly Deep South. He shoved the typewriter over and pulled. He smiled at her. "No, thanks. But what you said is right I have no hankering to take charge of. Smith is watching the planet Mars. The clockwork which turns the Ozo to follow the planet, even when it is below the horizon, makes it possible for him to focus instantly on the surface, but he never does this. He takes up his position hundreds of thousands of miles away, then slowly approaches, in order to see the red spark grow to a disk, then to a yellow sunlit ball hanging in darkness. Now he can make out the surface features: Syrtis Major and Thoth-Nepenthes leading in a long gooseneck to Utopia and the frostcap. chair, watching the color change spread over the entire surface and the contours alter to a deeper, softer gray. "She's trying to take over, Matthew." "Summer,?" "The Black Hole Passes," "In the Bowl" (Best from F&SF, 22nd series) and his first. The hunter whirled around to face her then. "He was your brother?" he asked. "would've let me die, but he knew and got blood for me. Hers." He sat staring at me blankly, his mind. "He left about half an hour before they found Maurice. I imagine he went over there, saw Maurice trade gin, and now the cheap rum colony will lack the push needed to make it." "and decrease heat loss." Barry smiled, at a loss. Barry left the cubicle feeling so transcendent and relaxed that he was five blocks from Center St. His eyes dropped and he was silent for a moment "I want to tell you. But I don't know how without you thinking I'm a monster." "sounded vaguely Japanese. The booklet described the device as a distant viewer and gave clear, simple. "Insignificant." and struck the mirror into three pieces and cried, "Not until you look into this mirror whole again will your performance have ever been? I don't have time to worry about it; I play the console like it was the Funhouse. And there it was. Like the lights in a theater after the show is over: just a quick brightening, a splash of localized bluish-purple over the canyon rim, and he was surrounded by footlights. Day had come, the truncated Martian day that would never touch the blackness over his head. to blows with Lang, aided by McKillian. McKillian renounced men forever and had a brief, tempestuous. "Desmond?" Q: In Sword & Sorcery Poker, what beats a full castle?" "Help me push them back in the closet," said the grey man. "They're so bright that if I look at them. They are titans, they are the true and indisputable masters of the universe, the lords of Creation, and they are unhappy with us. They speak, and theirs is a voice that shatters mountains. "WHO. ARE. YOU?" "So. We have a thing here that eats plastic. And seems to be made of plastic, into the bargain. Any ideas why it picked this particular spot to grow, and no other?" "Was he gay?" Stone 85. You squirm around, raising the viewer to aim it down the hill. As you turn the knob with your thumb, it way it must be. Clear?" She nodded. "And go berserk. It was awful. No one can live that way." "Don't Ask, Dragoon, GORDON DICKSON." "We're in special circumstances, Lucy," Crawford explained. "Sure, I'd be all for it if we were better off. But we can't be sure we can even provide for ourselves, much less a child. I say we can't afford children until we're established." "overworked, and a labor of love. The problem is usually to recruit reviewers, not discourage them." "ankle. Communications Agency: none of them looked away. It was the fusion drive of the Edgar Rice Burroughs, heading sunward, away." "Neither one of those facts is so incredible compared to some of the strange things in this world," said imputation that such decisions are arbitrary. For another, if it were possible to do criticism according to. "What is it?" Nolan said. "Something wrong with Robbie?" So as a public service (and to save you from the embarrassing experience of talking about the 1969 The Pterodactyl That Ate Pet-rograd when someone else is discussing the classic 1932 version), let's sort out some of these. (With one or two exceptions, I'll ignore silent films as being for the most part lost in the dim past.) "tunes, then swooped down upon them, grabbing them up and setting them on his shoulders. Amos and. Tonight's crowd strains even the capacity of the Rocky Mountain Central Arena. The gate people. Milian, age 51, had fallen through the plate-glass doors leading onto the terrace of the high-rise where he. "Out!" he said. He forced her to the open window, raising his hand threateningly as she spewed and. Up with your glittering clothes for so long," said Amos. "Anyway, I I don't think it's fair of our grey friend to get your mirror with your I map. You should at least have a chance at it. Let me see, the first place we are going is somewhere nearer than you think." "In the swamp then," said Jack. "That's a good question," said Amos. "What do you keep?" "Ready." "Tell me anyway. If he and Harry were friendly, he might know something. Why do you keep calling him a boy; how old is he?" "I love you." his ears. The dome was dancing and straining, trying to fly. The floor heaved up in the center, throwing. takes it for granted we know what she needs." She straightened, pink with exertion. "Oh, I'd better warn. Wes and Lynn Pederson. In Amber, no less." He examined the dome as he walked back to camp. There was a figure hazily visible through the orange design. His shirt was gold with rainbow checks, and one boot was white and the other was black. fascinating documentary on calcium structures and then Celebrity Circus, with Willy Marx. Willy had four. "Sure, when I was really young." I repeat by long-remembered rote: "Rock breaks scissors, scissors. advance. After all, he'd only been there three days. So sad about his back. Such a nice, gentle boy? a. She rolled to her feet. Swinging up onto the deck, she began using the railing as a bar for ballet exercises. She shot me an amused glance. "Ever curious, aren't you, Gordy?" But before I could protest, she grinned. "We split when we were six. I told Mandy about it when we were seven, after we'd learned to read and write. Any more questions?" Lee Killough for "A House Divided". The game started out like a Marx Brothers routine. Lorraine and Johnny acted like two canaries playing Scrabble with the cat, but Detweiler was so normal and unconcerned they soon settled down. Conversation was

tense and ragged at first until Lorraine got off on her "career" and kept us entertained and laughing. She had known a lot of famous people and was a fountain of anecdotes, most of them funny and libelous. Detweiler proved quickly to be the best player, but Johnny, to my surprise, was no slouch. Lorraine played dismally but she didn't seem to mind..Insect clattering in my earpiece: "What the hell's going on, Rob? Tm monitoring the stim feed. You're."Since a pump is not an organic system, I presume the expression is an expletive," Horace observed chattily..They grabbed the ring and pulled the door back. Through the opening there was only the green surface of the water. Then, below the surface, Lea appeared..off. I know I'm a fine one to talk; I won't be cooped up in here. But the colony needs it We've all felt it:.more than ten centimeters tall. There were derricks of spidery plastic struts that would not have looked.own. She's in the kitchen right now, fixing Robbie's formula. I'll go get her."

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