

THE CROSSES

the open catalogue on her lap..So they welcomed an opportunity to tour fairyland. The place was even more bountiful than the last.⁸²"It's just a whole new area," McKillian whispered back. "Think about it Back on Earth, nature never.Two willowy young men gave me appraising glances in the carpeted lobby as they exited into the sunlight like exotic jungle birds. It's one of those, I thought My suspicions were confirmed when I looked over the tenant directory. All the names seemed to be male, but none of them was Andrew Detweiler..it was not in the nature of her kind of beauty to do so..He had been born almost at the end of the Lean Years following the war, so he didn't remember about that period, but his father had told him about the times when fifty million people lived amid shantytown squalor around the blackened and twisted skeletons of their cities and huddled in lines in the snow for their ration of soup and bread at government field-kitchens; about his mother laboring fifteen hours a day cutting boards for prefabricated houses to put two skimpy meals of beef broth and rice from the Chinese food ships on the table each day and to buy one pair of utility-brand pressed-paper shoes per person every six months; about his older brother killed in the fighting with the hordes that had come plundering from the Caribbean and from the south..²¹more thing that might be an animal. It was a flying creature, the size of a fruit fly, that managed to glide.Sombody would die tomorrow and Andrew Detweiler would be close-by..Things did settle down, as Lang had known they would. They entered their second week alone in virtually the same position they had started: no romantic entanglements firmly established. But they knew each other a lot better, were relaxed in the close company of each other, and were supported by a new framework of interlocking.whole idea of having to have a license to talk to someone was as ridiculous as having to have a license to."But I'd have to become part of ... what Selene is." She pulled away from me, shaking her head..and adapt it to us where we can. For that, we're better oft than most of the colonists of the past, at least.our pink little hands? It won't work, I tell you."Amos. "Why are you the Prince of the Far Rainbow, and why are you a prisoner?"."Not in my book," I said. "But I can see why it would be in yours. After the King lets fly with his arrow, you guys with all the bread will be the first ones up the ladder."..She stood, using an arm of a chair to help push herself to her feet From where her hand touched, livid streamers of orange and scarlet radiated out across the surface of the poly while the shape narrowed and trembled. A marbled pool of the same colors spread from her.balls-hung in dusters from the pipes that supplied them with high-pressure oxygen..There was another twisting of the facial features. Amanda, her voice rising, said, "You can't do this, Selene. You're cheating."..took from his pocket an envelope, and from the envelope he took a large, fluttering moth. "This flew in.naturally available. We've altered the biome. Does anyone know where the exhaust air from the dome.First, there is the reactive pain. Only those who have reviewed, year in and year out, know how truly abominable most fiction Is. And we can't remove ourselves from the pain. Ordinary readers can skip, or read every third word, or quit in the middle. We can't We must read carefully, with our sensitivities at full operation and our critical-historical apparatus always in high gear?or we may miss that subtle satire which disguises itself as clich?, that first novel whose beginning, alas, was never revised, that gem of a quiet story obscured in a loud, flashy collection, that experiment in form which could be mistaken for sloppiness, that appealing tale partly marred by (but also made possible by) naivete¹, that complicated situation that only pays off near the end of the book. Such works exist but in order not to miss them, one must continually extend one's sensitivity, knowledge, and critical care to works that only abuse such faculties. The mental sensation is that of eating garbage, I assure you, and if critics* accumulated suffering did not find an outlet in the vigor of our language, I don't know what we would do. And it's the critics who care the most who suffer the most; irritation is a sign of betrayed love. As Shaw puts it..She swooped toward her ankles with the knife. The long skirt of her dress bung in the way. Before she could pick up the hem, her left hand stiffened..legs from cramping. My position wasn't too graceful if he happened to look in the closet, but it was too."In just a moment," said the thin grey man, "you will see a man living through the happiest moment of his life. But first I must make sure my nearest and dearest friend can see too." He went to the large black trunk, which seemed even blacker and larger, stood it on its side; then with the great iron key he opened it almost halfway so that it was opened toward the mirror. But from where Amos and Jack were, they could not see into it at all..He turned to move out of my way and I saw the hump. I don't know how to describe what I felt I suddenly had a hurting in my gut I felt the same unfairness and sadness the others had, the way you would feel about any beautiful thing with one overwhelming flaw.."The Martians should be showing up any time now. And we aim to thank them.".. and I guess if you kept changing the batteries it would run forever. And it's nearly polystyrene,,his hand up in hers and at the sight of the blood grew pale. It was the second time she had seen Brother.After the funeral I went to the Los Angeles Public Library and started checking back issues of the.The room had been cleaned with pine-oH disinfectant and smeHed like a public toilet. Harry Spinner was on the floor behind the bed, scrunched down between it and the wall. The ahmost colorless chenille bedspread had been pulled askew exposing part of the clean, but dingy, sheet. All I could see of Harry was one leg poking over the edge of the bed. He wasn't wearing a shoe, only a faded brown-and-tan argyle sock with a hole in it The sock, long bereft of any elasticity, was crumpled around his thin rusty ankle.."No, honestly. Whatever is playing I usually like it. What are they playing here? I like that."."Since a pump is not an organic system, I presume the expression is an expletive," Horace observed chattily..was confident he could have gone out and got three more a day if he'd needed to. He was off the hook..⁶²but what "peculiar" thing had Harry noticed about him, and why had he moved out right after Harry was.play gin."..television channel, had shielded the device against radio frequencies, and the ghosts remained. Increasing.different position than it had been."."I don't even like to think about it," said Jack. "Once he asked me to unzip the leather flap at the end."They pay Jain. She's the star." / tried to

get on top; she wouldn't let me. A moment later it didn't electric it fairly raised the hair on my arm nearest her. Even her voice was changed? higher, firm, rapid. The day before, Monday, the 25th, a girl had miscarried and hemorrhaged. She had bled to death. "Of course I'm right." pieces of the mirror together. Now they could make out what the shape of the third would be. "And if main question, which is?" was deliberately avoiding him. He decided to give her one last chance. He left a message with the chest as he buttoned the shirt It wasn't muscular but it was very well made. He was very. "Could I have one of your shoes?" In Defense of Criticism. "That's perfectly natural. I hated compulsory talk myself, though I must admit I was good at it. What. Half an hour later the curtains over the barred open window moved. I had squatted down in the closet and wasn't looking in that direction, but the movement caught my eye. Something hopped in the window and scooted across the floor and went behind the couch. I. The captain wheels savagely, face mottled, teeth bared, arms windmilling with rage. I have never seen. "Don't you know anything about spaceships?" McKillian shouted. Song went on, unperturbed. Cinderella, however, considered the question from a literal standpoint. "Well," she said, "we haven't transcendent geniuses out of an Einstein or thousands of diabolical villains out of a Hitler. couple blocks away. You see? I can be direct myself." ". . . and I guess if you kept changing the batteries it would run forever. And it's nearly polystyrene, that's what you said." the crew, sitting in the dome with his helmet off. That was as far as Lang would permit anyone to go. with an ease that surprised him. Gently she took down the skin. She shook it out once and smoothed the. once dearer to me. "What did you say to him?" asked Jack. It was not Columbine who let him in, but her understudy, Lida Mullens, Lida informed Barry that. "He's in the glen." "We'll stop that sort of thinking right now. I'm tile mission commander. I appreciate you taking over while I was . . . how did you say it? Indisposed. But you should pay more attention to the social aspects of our situation. If anyone is a commodity here, it's you and Ralston, by virtue of your scarcity. There will be some thorny questions to resolve there, but for the meantime we will function as a unit, under my command. We'll do all we can to minimize social competition among the women for the men. That's the way it must be. Clear?" if she were then to have the egg cell implanted into me womb of her own mother (who, we will assume, is grabbed her shoulders and held her off at arm's length to look at her. wonder my mother left him." She began dancing again. "Then I love you," and breaks off as the riff ends and she struts back out into the light. I reluctantly. Joanna Russ. mouth and lifted it in a kind of salute. "So long. And Merry Christmas." her heart. competition and closed them again. Tall and lanky indicated one of two identical orange-and-brown-striped couches facing each other across a football-field-size marble-and-glass cocktail table. He sat on the other one, took a cigarette from an alabaster box and lit it with an alabaster lighter. As an afterthought, he offered me one. "That's Topic's feature story this week?" to put a price on the rest He did not bother to use the production model but began at once to build. neither are you or you or you!" With that, he stamped back to his palanquin, got in and yanked the. "We know that," McKillian said. She was tired and sick from the sight of the faces of her dead. certainly doesn't speak well of his friendship for his nearest and dearest. "To give you an idea of the creativity of this young man, I have arranged for Zorphwar to be made. totally at home with it None of them had worn anything but a Martian pressure suit for eight years. She. "But we're -not going to lose." She dared any of them to disagree, and no one was about to. She relaxed and resumed her stroll around the room. She turned to Crawford again. hurried out to get the lease from my secretary. Baird Searles for "Multiples"; Copyright ? 1980 by Baird Searles. appeal," but the captain won't hear of it, not for a moment. He draws himself up to his full height of two. vivand, and wit, Randall Garrett Out of the corner of my eye, I noticed a piece of paper placed on the. Then before them was a rushing and a rumbling and a rolling like thunder, and from the blackness a. I killed time earlier tonight reading the promo pamphlet on this place. As the designer says, the. "You're sure you want me to have this?" Barry asked, incredulous, with the white curlicue of the. Congreve paused, swept his eyes from one side of the room to the other, and raised his hands in resignation. "It seems that as individuals we can only stand by as helpless observers and watch the events that are sweeping us onward collectively. The situation is complicated further by the emergence and rapid economic and military growth of the-Chinese-Japanese Co-Prosperity Sphere, which threatens to confront Moscow with an unassailable power bloc should it come to align with ourselves and the Europeans. More than a few Kremlin analysts must see their least risky gamble as a final resolution with the West now, before such an alliance has time to consolidate. In other words, it would not be untrue to say that the future of the human race has never' been at greater risk than it is at this moment." such a green monkey he'd had to retreat into his insular existence. Practically everyone I had talked to. tracks anyway. Moog Indigo takes their cue and begins to play. Hollis gives the dome the smoky pallor. The couple rose in unison and greeted her with cries of "Maggie!" and "Son of a gun!" It was impossible for Barry, sitting so nearby and having no one to talk to himself, to avoid eavesdropping on their conversation, which concerned (no doubt as a rebuke to his ignorance) Ireina Khokolovna's latest superb release from Deutsche Grammophon. She was at her best in Schumann, her Wolf was comme ci, comme fa. Even so, Khokolovna's Wolf was miles ahead of Adriana Motta's, or even Gwyneth Batterham's, who, for all her real intelligence, was developing a distinct wobble in her upper register. Barry's chair just sat there, glued to the spot, while they nattered knowledgeablely on. He wished he were home watching Willy Marx? or anywhere but Partyland. have them messing things up outside. have sex with them. Right? Right! But ridiculous or not, the law was the law, and when you break it, Nolan flinched, then halted as the shadow-shape glided forth from the darkened corner beside the open window. looked, a section of the webbing was pulled open and a rush of warm air almost blew them over. Water condensed out of it in their faceplates, and suddenly they couldn't see very well. of her outburst on the Morones, who looked elsewhere, and on Barry, who couldn't resist meeting her. ends of his eyebrows drooped in a frown. He looked back at me and started to say something, then, with. These people? they are snakes." "Haven't I?" said the grey man. He reached under the table and Barry popped the tops off two beer cans and Madeline swept an

accumulation of books and papers."Of course." I smile. I know how to play..both sides had walked out..peered in..Lee KMough

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