

APPALACHIA VOLUME 4

This day, like the nine before it, illuminated a Tharsis radically changed from what it had been over the last sleepy ten thousand years. Wind erosion of rocks can create an infinity of shapes, but it. "You're in bad trouble with New York if there isn't," says the tech. "I want to register a jag. Now." "You are witnessing a demonstration of the Zorphwar Naval Bat-tie Simulation System," I said to forever. No sense getting uptight; everything was going to be all right. Upstart by Steven Utley 157. blowing away. "It is so high and so cold up there that you will never reach it," said the Wind. "Even the. THE ORGANIZER: The purpose of the Project has no bearing whatsoever upon the. "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?". "Now let us find your luminous pool," said Amos, "so we can be back by lunch." It was two, maybe three months ago in Memphis, in a studio just before rehearsal. Jain had been sitting and reading. She reads quite a lot, though the promotional people downplay it? Alpertron, Ltd, likes to suck the country-girl image for all it's worth. THE ORGANIZER: To me, it was never obvious. It still isn't. In the first place, only minimal flooding has occurred since the Inundation; in the second, it's highly unlikely that Yahweh will again choose that particular form of chastisement should future foul-ups on the part of the human race necessitate additional punishment; and in the third, if he does decide on a second Inundation, you can rest assured that it will be of such dimensions that the only thing the Project will be a haven for will be fish. But I'll play the game fair: I'll see to it that the members of Local 209 have access to these minutes; and if, after reading them, they wish to take another strike vote, I won't stand in their way. Meanwhile, the package stays as is. of the chairs. It would have been inconsiderate to break in upon such testimony by mentioning that his name was not, in fact, Larry. What difference does one letter make, after all? Friday night when I see them lining up out there, I think I might go someday, but I never seem to get around to it. (You might think I'd see a few movie stars living where I do, but I haven't I did see Seymour occasionally when he worked at Channel 9, before he went to work for Gene Autry at Channel 5.) "Sure." She raised her eyebrows. The one over the patch didn't go up as high as the other. "If you see him from the front, you can't even tell." 257. umbrella, but they came right back again. piece is on the top of a windy mountain so high the North Wind lives in a cave there. "Rob! I swear to God you're canned, you?". streamers of orange and scarlet radiated out across the surface of the poly while the shape narrowed and. Everybody knows about Receptacle? fat best seller of the year. It's all fact, about the guy who went to Prague to have a dozen artificial vaginas implanted all over his body. Nerve grafts, neural rerouting, the works. I'd seen him interviewed on some talk show where he'd worn a jumpsuit zipped to the neck. game that night, but Johnny didn't play bridge, and so they settled on Scrabble. whirligig garden and concerned a new plant that was bearing what might be fruit. They were clusters of. Afterward, Ike and I stopped in The Fig Leaf for a couple of beers. Ike seemed worried. "Do you think he really has our best interests at heart, Jake?" he asked. planking. He stood up, and the wind set his ringleted hair to dancing about his golden crown. where just a few hundred yards away a mountain rose high and higher into the clear twilight. Brother Hart. "Third," said Lea, "what are they going to do to you?". Division. The little delay our game occasioned upset the very tight schedule for that operation. As a. "Pssst," he said, "You colorful but uninteresting person, wake up and talk to me.". Smith turns to the ship again: the deck is empty. He dips below to look at the hold, filled with casks. For one of the two was Amos, wearing the top half of the costume of the Prince of the Far Rainbow, minus a little green patch from the sleeve and a strip from the crimson cape; he had stood [behind some bushes so the grey man could not see his less colorful I pants. The other was Prince Jack himself, wearing the bottom of the F costume, minus the white leather boot; he had stood behind a low-I hanging branch so the grey man had not been able to see him from | the waist up. won't be subjected to the same pressures, won't have the same opportunities. What's more, when I. It turned out that they were safe from that imagined danger. There were spores in the air now, but. The Funhouse. human being. they would miss it when it was gone. So the day of departure was a stiff, determinedly nonchalant affair. And she was right Nolan knew it now. At least they'd be together and that would help see him. bright vines weave in and about The only thing white in the garden is a silver-white unicorn who guards. it?". She narrowed her eyes and gazed at nothing. CONTENTS. now, I've got a flunky's job in a granary. It doesn't pay very much, but it'll keep Debbie and Little Jake. would never run out. You would then have to ask what it was that made me the kind of writer I am or a crucial eighth percentile. Which was a tremendous accomplishment but also rather frustrating in a way. But crazy in a dull, not an interesting way. He wondered how long they'd have to go on talking before the chairs switched round again. It seemed such a waste of time talking to another temp, since he could only get the endorsements he needed from people who held Permanent Licenses. Of course, the practice was probably good for him. You can't expect to like everyone you meet, as the Communications Handbook never tired of pointing out, but you can always try and make a good impression. Someday you'd meet someone it was crucial to hit it off with and your practice would pay off. "First you have to understand that all this you see"? she waved around at the meters of hanging. "No, this is Crawford again. Commander Lang is . . . indisposed. She's busy with Lou, trying to do. "No: why are you so accommodating to me, when Fra being such a bitch? Are you looking for an endorsement?". Lee Killough has written a series of superior stories for F&SF that share a common theme (the future of the arts) and background (an artist's colony called Aventine). The tales are completely separate entities and may be enjoyed on their own. This one concerns the visit to Aventine of Selene and Amanda, two different personalities that snare the body of one beautiful young woman. death is sensational or the dead prominent, the story might be tucked in anywhere except the classifieds. 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..Subject: Admission to Commonwealth of Zorph.into an argument with the comedian about whether his skit was essentially truthful or unjustifiably cruel In.humphed. My point "Anything else?".being pumped, but not by the now-familiar system of windmills. Spaced along each of the pipes were.new picture hadn't opened in downtown L.A. in a long, long time. The action ten years ago was on the.DICK'S We Can Wholesale It For You, Remember? SILVERBERG'S Dead With The Born.The water was heated by the sun then pumped down to the permafrost, melting a little more of it each."I don't recall seeing your name anywhere. Miss Nesbitt said it was Andrew Detweiler?".now covered several acres. He came to a section where the predominant color was purple. It was.wizard asked me, 'Why should you be Prince and not one of a dozen others? Are you fit to rule, can you.Somone sat up beside him. He froze, but it was too late. She rubbed her eyes and peered into the.and you realize that there are no secret places. And beyond you in the ghostly future you know that.through the pipes, I guess. If you have some toys or something, it might be nice. The stories I've told little.ledge and they climbed on his back, one on each shoulder. They held themselves tight by his long, thick.114.on the shoulder and motioned her to the lock.."Pardon?" said Barry..gave him everything I had on Andrew Detweiler and asked him if he'd mind running it through the.had to be out there, watch it with his own eyes. It didn't matter if he never lived to tell about it, he must.is launch interceptors when we see them push the button."The image as it swells hypnotically toward him is clear and sharp, without tremor or atmospheric distortion. It is summer in the northern hemisphere: Utopia is wide and dark. The planet fills the screen, and now he turns northward, over the cratered desert still hundreds of miles distant A dust storm, like a yellow veil, obscures the curved neck of Thoth-Nepenthes; then he is beyond it, drifting down to die."I was afraid that might happen," Crawford said. "What do we do, Mary?".hard enough..I know I don't have any right to feel this, but I'm pissed, and so I move away in the bed. "I don't care." The first time: "Such a goddamned adolescent, Rob.".the shelter of my arms, wrapping my coat around us both. "Do you want to go back down to the car?".It is all a joke, isn't it?.He certainly had a right to say that, but there was no self-pity, just an observation. Then he looked at.speculatively at Crawford..I was conscious of the chair shifting under me but did not let it distract me. "Does that mean she's taking over?".state of apathy. She had not moved for the last hour..bunks, and eventually as the silence stretched tighter, they all found themselves looking to Lang..The waitress who brought his order was Cinderella Johnson. She was wearing levis and a T-shirt with the word "Princess" in big, glitter-dust letters across her breasts. Her hat said: "Let Tonight Be Your Enchanted Evening at Partyland!" a fascinating article (in response to some critical letters) which tells why critics are such snobs.Nolan blinked as he recognized her standing there and staring up at him. There was no mistaking the look on her face or its urgency, but he had no time to waste hi words. Brushing past her, he hastened to the doorway and she melted back into the night.."Right. The thing about cars is ... Well, I live in Elizabeth across the river, right? So any time I come.again.". "I hope m be gone before then. I'm just on holiday until I decide what to do with my life.". "Why did you need the blood?" I repeated.."We had a back-up pilot, of course. You may be surprised to learn that it wasn't me. It was Dorothy Cantrell, and she's dead. Now I know what everything does on this board, and I can cope with most of it easily. What I don't know, I could learn. Some of the systems are computer-driven; give it the right program and it'll fly itself, hi space." She looked longingly at the controls, and Crawford realized that, like Weinstein, she didn't relish giving up the fun of flying to boss a gang of explorers. She was a former test pilot, and above all things she ioved flying. She patted an array of hand controls on her right side. There were more like them on the left.."I don't recall seeing your name anywhere. Miss Nesbitt said it was Andrew Detweiler?".Again those black and burning eyes of his seemed to absorb the Project from its bottommost brick to.phone number she'd given him was bet answering service, the address was an apartment building with.I frowned. "If you know I'm taking her to lunch, how is it she doesn't know what you're doing?".I mean think I am drunk; My tongue's just a (hie) Little Fuzzy.."It will be tomorrow at four o'clock in the morning," said the grey man. "So don't stay up too late.".represent the full situation. For example, nowhere in those reports is the well-being of our programmers.own.".pretty nice package: a fifteen-percent across-the-board hourly rate increase; full-paid hospitalization;."No neighbors?".A: Against the Fall of Night.But, at the boat, all had not gone according to Amos' plan during the night The grey man, still puzzling over Amos' wet clothes?and at last he began to inquire whom Amos had solicited from the sailors to go with him?had gone to the brig himself..that too general? Better to ask her to write about her favorite brand of beer, a kind of advertisement.later." He breaks off the circuit. All checks are done; there's nothing now on the circuits but a."Okay. Who called?". "Haven't you done enough?" I sighed. "When I called you, I didn't mean for you to push her like that. Couldn't you guess what she might do? We'll call my psychiatrist friend and have her help bring Amanda back.". "Neither one of those facts is so incredible compared to some of the strange things in this world," said Amos. "Why are you the Prince of the Far Rainbow, and why are you a prisoner?".I almost missed the next step turning to stare at her. "You're Selene?". "You might," said Amos. But though his heart was with Jack, he still felt a good spirit was important to keep up. "But we might see it a lot more clearly from the top of this mountain," But as he said it, the last light of the moon winked out. Now even the stars were gone, and the blackness about them was complete. But as they turned to seek shelter in the rising wind, Amos cried, "There's a light!". "No, you can't! The baby?".Perhaps they expected to see the mirror glittering in the weeds and pebbles at the bottom of the pool; perhaps they expected their own reflections. But they saw neither. Instead, the face of a beautiful girl looked up at them from below the surface..Amanda was still very quiet when I took the lease in to her. I offered her myself and my runabout to.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..the appropriate slot. "License, please," said the window, winking an arrow that pointed at another slot..Q: What's da pardpf a song dad isn'd da woids?."I have come," he said. His back was to her. "I wish to God I had not."

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