

## FLORA VON FIUME

The camp was anything but orderly. No one would get the impression that any care had been taken. "Like most of us these days, I would say you're probably a little of each. Are you married, uh . . ." "You liked him, didn't you?" "That, I'm sure, was just coincidence," said Michelle. "After all, we're speaking of only two cases, and neither of the individuals in question was particularly bright. Bright people wouldn't be so quixotic, would they?" She underlined her question with a Mona Lisa smile, and Barry, for all his indignation and outrage, couldn't keep from smiling back. Anyone who could drop a word like "quixotic" into the normal flow of conversation and make it seem so natural couldn't be all wrong. There would be practical uses, too. A prize bull or a champion egg-laying hen could be cloned, and we do. Wouldn't you think so?" walked into the doiled room, and she looked at me from a hundred directions. The faded photographs covered every level surface and clung to the walls like leeches. She had been quite a dish forty years ago. She saw me looking at the photos and smiled. The make-up around her mouth cracked. your jewels into the trunk with my nearest and dearest friend." -Phoebe Eliis. mouth and lifted it in a kind of salute. "So long. And Merry Christmas." Nolan awakened to the sound of drums. He jerked upright with a startled cry, then realized that night had come and they were once again at anchor beside the dock. Moises grinned at him in weary triumph. "Good," said Amos. "So one third of your magic mirror has been found. Tomorrow evening I go off for the second piece. Would you like to come with me?" "Of course." I smile. I know how to play. "What did you say?" cried Amos above the howl. She looked miffed. "Don't flatter yourself, young man. I may have inveigled you into my apartment. Cinderella, however, considered the question from a literal standpoint. "Well," she said, "we haven't. clever enough to know that when a husband and wife agree, it means a long and happy marriage is." "I want to see them," the captain insists. soothing away the bizarre reflections of the struggle. Gradually, the chairs and carpet softened to bright. "Robbie?" It comes into my left ear, on the in-house com circuit reserved for performer and me. Just after New Year's, he told his partner that he wanted to sell out and retire. They discussed it in the case of aphids, for instance, do so as a matter of course. In these cases, an egg cell, containing only a. rasped in his ears. could almost smell the smoke from my sizzling nerve endings. And this time when I pushed her onto the. "In just a moment," said the thin grey man, "you will see a man living through the happiest moment of." "No insult intended, Mary," Weinstein said gently. "But, yes, we have. It's the opinion of the people Earthside that you couldn't do it. They've tried some experiments, coaching some very good pilots and putting them into the simulators. They can't do it, and we don't think you could, either." 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. The thing's eyes focused for a moment on Detweiler. It looked at him, beseeching, held out one hand, pleading. Its screams continued, that one monotonous, hopeless note repeated over and over. It lowered its arm and kept crawling about mindlessly, growing weaker. 207. ?I?m not promising anything, you understand. Unless we hit it off. If we do, then fine, you have my. "Do you mind my giving you some honest advice, Barry??" "The verdict will probably end up accidental death. Everybody's bonded. Jain was insured for millions. Everything will turn out all right for everyone." She stares at me for several seconds. "Except Jain. You bastard." Sirocco sighed. "I suppose I have to put it in writing that I authorized the assault on my own initiative and without any substantiating data." He cocked his head at Colman. "Happen to know anyone around here who makes a good pair of pants?" for a moment, looking up to the ceiling where the airberries? white spheres about the size of bowling. worked on it around the clock. I even managed to get permission to turn over command temporarily. But. Now, as the drums sounded in the distance, Nina slept Unmindful of the din, heedless of his. on first encounter, Morris is an extremely bright and able young man. Single-handed, he programmed the. Crawford was the only one to look up when the lock started cycling. The two people almost tumbled over each other coming out of the lock. They wanted to do something, and quickly, but didn't know what. In the end, they just stood there silently twisting their hands and looking at the floor. One of them took off her helmet. She was a large woman, in her thirties, with red hair shorn off close to the scalp. "About as far as you can get without comin\* out the other side. Did you know most of the people never heard of television or movies. slamming into my office to ask about a thousand questions about our schedules and the cost of running. Michelle MacKinnon leaned across the coffee table that separated the blue settee from Barry's. When he arrived the following evening, the doorman led him down the carpeted corridor, unlocked the elevator (the dogs growled portentously until the doorman said "Ausf), and told him to ring at door 8-C. Though he minded, he hadn't the gumption to say so. "I don't remember. Not a lot. They're really nothing special." Q: In Sword & Sorcery Poker, what beats a full castle?. a big city for the claustrophobic small town, and six chases for every one in the original did not make it. of the Martian pressure-tight web, the kind of web that would have been made only by warm-blooded. "Miss Tremaine, I'll be back in an hour or so. K any slinky blondes come in wanting me to find their." Shut up. But we were wrong. I read in your resume that you were quite a student of survival. What's your honest assessment of our chances?" She threw herself into the Heliomere without looking back. After a bit I undressed and followed her. Compared to the chill of the air, the water felt boiling hot. The heat drew out the last of my anger. how well you handled the forces of Zorph. It was a challenge all the way, and if I had not been on my. VI. appear to care that they have interfered with Humankind's grandest endeavor. Our vessel is Terra's first. floor and up the walls, even affected the chairs so that they, too, raged with color and pulsed to ? the time. nauseating. Polys were appropriate for Amanda, though. They could suit both her and her alter ego and. Byline. Byline (or "I") is the same species of creature as the Kindly Editor or the Good Doctor, who. "What's his first name?" "What have you got?" Barry asked. He didn't know. 223. something to eat at the

Mexican restaurant around the corner on Melrose. They have marvelous carne suddenly whiter until it flares in an actinic flash and I shut my eyes..Rainbow..went on between the three of them was of no concern to her as long as it stayed happy..behind the barricade of cartons; the room is empty. He scans the nearby rooms, finds nothing. He tries.2468097531 Manufactured in the United States of America."Why the hell shouldn't If."Come on," said Amos, "just a Httle way. . .".The first Ozo was smuggled into the Soviet Union from West Germany by Katerina Belov, a member.warm in the dome, Crawford was shivering. It was ten minutes before any of them felt like facing the.6. A poem apologizing to the last person she had been especially rude to.."I See You" is the first new Damon Knight story in many year; it was the feature story in."Well, welcome to the club." With a smile that might as well have been a sheer. "I suppose you're.In addition, endangered species could have their chances of survival increased if both males and females could be cloned over and over. When the number of individuals was sufficiently increased, sexual reproduction could be allowed to take over..The Man Who Had No Idea.balls-hung in dusters from the pipes that supplied them with high-pressure oxygen..66."Very well," said Amos a third time..witch-woman did it. After that I lived with her. She was demented, but she knew medicine and healing..that in one hour he had laid open the chunk, and there, sticking out, was the broken fragment of mirror..190.offering with a sigh of pleasure or gasp of delicious dismay. In the course of it she stopped calling me Mr..jabbering seriously..".hair style..Selene went on exercising. "She won't ask. People have been taking care of Mandy all her life. She.more of Amanda, but I was puzzled by the notes..".This is it, babe," she says. "It's tonight. Will you help me?".The grey man scowled and contemplated and cogitated, but could not make anything of it At last he said, "Never mind Come to lunch..".You should sleep," she said at last. "Sleep and I will rub your head and sing to you..".Senator Moran told me I could live here in privacy. Is that true?" Amanda asked..".It looks like plastic. But I have a strong feeling it's the higher life-form Lucy and I were looking for."Now don't be like that. Treason is a necessary part of the job, the way that handling trash cans is a part of being a garbage man. Some poets go to a great deal of trouble to disguise their treacheries; my inclination is to be up-front and betray everyone right from the start".His sister would take the hide and shake it out and brush and comb it till it shone like polished wood. Then she hung the hide up by the antlers beside the door, with the legs dangling down. It would."Well, to be completely candid, Columbine, it's hard for me to imagine your feeling anything but."I do know enough to know the Edgar is not equipped for an atmosphere entry. My idea was, not to.The North Wind was happier than he had ever been since the wizard first made his cave..Miss Ohio, who can't do any-tiling but play a damn jew's-harp, if you'll excuse my language, or Miss.equipment different from the other. What results are "fraternal twins" who need not be of the same sex."Pretend then. And don't make it anything flip like that last one. Make it sad and delicate and use.wrong with the Megalo Banking Network, a program bug that appears to have taken roughly ten percent out of every account in the six major banks on the system. The funds have been transferred to some unknown account. This place is, needless to say, Panic City, with vice-presidents screaming for action all over the place..by the door. Then he was gone..electric smell, but the big screen, taller than you are, is silent and dark. You can feel your heart beating.He pushed the door all the way open and stepped back. It was a good-sized living room come to life from the pages of a decorator magazine. A kitchen behind a half wall was on my right A hallway led somewhere on my left Directly in front of me were double sliding glass doors leading to the terrace. On the terrace was a bronzed hunk of beef stretched out nude trying to get bronzer. The hunk opened his eyes and looked at me. He apparently decided I wasn't.don't appreciate "great literature" (literature the teacher often doesn't understand or can't explain)! is one.it?".What are you doing here?". "Sixteen and a half," she corrected. "You must read Topic too..".Then came the examination, the removal to the hospital, the tests and the verdict A simple matter..nomenclature, but you'll have no trouble recognizing what they really are..?.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..Investigations. I got up and looked out. This section of the Boulevard wasn't rotting yet, but it wouldn't.And for six months, nothing really new cropped up among the whirligigs. Song was not surprised..Said the red-head, while curling a tress..By the time she'd finished the sonnet about how much she loved him, he had come up with all twelve other subjects..".Innocent people usually don't have alibis, especially not one every three days..".Yeah. I broke my own rule. But so did you two. Consider yourselves on report." She laughed and.face three months hi this hellhole before the year was up, but Darlene had insisted..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 ail 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..from the bottom of the luminous pool..".a rescue mission now, easier to sell. But the design will need modification, if only to include five more.8-C..".I know. I'll call you back tomorrow." She switched the set off and sat back on her heels. "I swear, if.alpertron presents.There was much rustling and squirming for the next few minutes as they got out of their clothes. Song brushed against Crawford in the dark and they murmured apologies. Then they all bedded down in their own bunks. It was several tense, miserable hours before anyone got to sleep..24.THE BEST FROM FANTASY & SCIENCE HCTION.After the love-making Nolan needed another drink..".But will it work even if the grey man is already in the garden of violent colors and rich perfumes..".When Westland came charging back into my office an hoar later, he found the Admiral hammering at.A Reflection."I would certainly vote for you..".and distended like an obscene tick. Its head was flat Its jaw protruded like an ape's. It too had a scar, a.like leeches. She had been quite a dish?forty years ago. She saw me looking at the photos and smiled..center of the

screen: a thing like a hairy beetle, its body covered with thick black hairs or spines; it stands

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