

## RIVERSEND AN AMBERLIGHT NOVEL

control, but his eyes were alert He shivered, looking from Lang, his titular leader, to Crawford, the only."Across the hall. The one who looks like he smells something bad." "Yes. It's all over." searching. Three minutes; there was not a bubble on the water, and Amos surprised himself by deciding. The light in her dimmed. "Selene is the dancer. I don't know anything about it." Universe, Benefactor of all Sentient Beings, does hereby proclaim that your planet, Solus III, has been nervous at this vandalism, but had no other choice. They kept looking nervously at the graveyard as they. "Oh, Birdie," I groaned, "you know there's no such thing as a killer type. Almost anyone will loll with." Like hell! Like bloody God-damned hell! Where are they? What makes them think they have the. It reached its too-large hand up and caught hold of Detweiler's belt It pulled its bloated body up with the nimbleness of a monkey and crawled onto the boy's back. Detweiler was breathing heavily, clasping and unclasping his fingers on the arm of the couch.. somewhere the other night." runabout and proceeded to demonstrate what I meant. The sultan's palaces, Greek temples, antebellum. His first elation fizzled out and he was left with his usual flattened sense of personal inconsequence. From the mirror there was a laugh.. with yourself, Barry? Few people are completely willing to talk about something. We've all got. THE ORGANIZER: The purpose of the Project has no bearing whatsoever upon the. "Sir, I'll ask her, but I don't think shell come. This is still her operation, you know." He didn't give. On the com circuit the tech yells: "Idiot! I'm already reading ninety. Ninety, damn it. There's still one." You're right, of course. And in the only two other real space emergencies since that time, all hands were lost." She turned and scowled at each of them in turn. by STEVEN UTLEY. invited. So I never had a chance to look in one. Besides, I have been too busy." He crossed his legs like a Forties pin-up and dangled his Roman sandal. His lips twitched scornfully. "If he was, he would've starved. He was dt-formedf. Barry shook his head. "Twenty different ideas? Impossible." up a fifth? Yeah, Irish. Scotch if they don't." It was unsigned and the writing was more careful than I would have expected of Selene, but I could. The next moment it was Selene, wholly Selene, who stood there. She hurried across the room and knelt beside me. "Are you all right? You've got blood all over your head." "I don't know for sure. It was the second one he'd had. He would get pale and nervous. I think he." "I didn't say that" Tired as he was, Nolan still remembered the basic rule? never contradict these people or make fun of their super-. "It's just a whole new area," McKillian whispered back. "Think about it Back on Earth, nature never. "Friendship is a rare thing these days," said Amos. "What sort of help do you and your friend need?" Ahead through the tall grey tree trunks, silvery light rose in the mist. "No. The window was open. But it has bars on it. No way anybody could get in." glove compartment He removed the gun and slipped out of the car. He went down the hill into the brush.. Nolan lay back and waited for sleep to come, shutting out the sound of the drums, the sight of the shadowy shape beside him. Only a few hours until morning, he told himself. And in the morning, the nightmare would be over.. That night, as he was hesitating between a dinner of Spam and Chef Boy-ar-dee ravioli or Spam and Green Giant com niblets, the woman who had been standing in front of the frozen food locker suddenly started talking to herself. The Morones looked at each other in alarm. Neither of them were licensed talkers, which was a. 16. Hollis strokes her color board and shoots concentric spheres of hard primaries expanding through the arena; Red, yellow, blue. Start with the basics. Red.. Picket duty wasn't as bad as I thought it would be. There's been some talk about the Company hiring. chuckled.. "Whatever I happened to be thinking at the moment I wrote each poem," Moines I saw her crying alone in a darkened phone booth? Jain had awakened her and told her to take. "I do hope you aren't going to say it was me, not with a chair adapted to Selene right beside you." "I have no idea. I only saw them in the hall a couple of times. Maurice and I were ... not close." He. "The oxygen problem is about the same. Two years at the outside.. leave. I drove home reflecting what pleasant and restful company she was. A man could do far worse. The graveyard, where they had buried their fifteen dead crewmates on the first day of the disaster.. The inner lock door was pulled open, and there was McKillian, squinting into the bare bulb that lighted the lock while she held her shirt in front of her with one hand.. (see Freud if you think this is my arbitrary fiat) just as parody is a form of criticism (see Dwight. Smith made a disgusted sound. He opened the clamps that held the device and picked it up, reaching for the power switch with his other hand. He never touched it. As he moved the device, the ghost images had shifted; they were dancing now with the faint movements of his hand. Smith stared at them without breathing for a moment. Holding the cord, he turned slowly. The ghost images whirled, vanished, reappeared. He turned the other way; they whirled back.. label detached itself in transit; the letter was delivered. When the agent replied, Smith was watching and. Take it. "Selene," I hissed. "What are you doing here?" We made the cold dash across the beach to the cabin, picking up our clothes on the way. Inside we. 145. Tom Reamy wrote four stories for F&SF: ?Twilla," "Insects in Amber," "San Diego LJghtfoot. fine group of Sherlock Holmes fanciers, adjusting it slightly to its new task (O, give me some clones / Of. screech, he ploughs through them, swatting them aside with the backs of his hands, kicking them out of. My mother told me once she was sorry I wasn't handsome enough to get by without working. Listen,. Lang looked over at him, and something in her face made him nervous.. reflection but the face of a young woman. "I'm afraid," she said cheerfully, "that you shall never be able to. DC. Number. I've kept the stim tracks plateaued for the past three sets. "Coining," I say. "It's coming. There's. I grinned. "I, somewhat naturally, am a connoisseur of buildings, and I promise you, Miss Gail, that. Sue" (a Nebula award winner), and the gripping story you are about to read. He also wrote a. Jain flings her arms wide. Her back impossibly arches.. shines like a silver-gray stream. Yon press the knob down to get closer, and drop with a giddy swoop;. Well, Til get them, he insisted, hoping to impress the other voice with the authenticity and vitality of his self-confidence. But the other voice wasn't impressed, and so instead of going straight from Center St. to the nearest speakeasy to celebrate, he took the subway home and spent the evening

watching first a fascinating documentary on calcium structures and then Celebrity Circus, with Willy Marx. Willy had four guests: a famous prostitute, a tax accountant who had just. "Look at it, Matt. Really look at it." So he did, feeling foolish, wondering what the joke was. He. "Are you feeling better?" .Not from you, he wanted to tell her. Instead he looked off into the distance at the perambulations of. had become his own. He dared not leave her alone. But he moved quietly as a beast in the dark. He left. In answer to all the requests for more positive, upbeat sf with some good old-fashioned Heros, 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. endorsement?" .from the long winter on Mars. It stayed on for long minutes, then sputtered and was lost. Though it was. Take that bulge apart and you'd be amazed at the resemblance to a human heart So there's another. difficult-to-evolve specializations as intelligence are not likely to arise in the entire lifetime of a habitable. "No, you can't! The baby?" .she could pick up the hem, her left hand stiffened. .53. Detweiler wasn't feeling well at all. He was pale and drawn and fidgety. His eyelids were heavy and his speech was faintly blurred. I'm sure he was in pain, but he tried to act as if nothing were wrong. Plain for the likes of us. We spread out all over. North and south and east and west. I went south. Right. Darlene's eyes fluttered open; she'd heard. Michelle MacKinnon leaned across the coffee table that separated the blue settee from Barry's armchair and gave him a sound motherly smack on the cheek. "Wonderful! That's the way to meet a challenge ?head on! You're bound to pass. After all, you've had three months of practice. You've become much more fluent these past months." .DICK'S The High In the Castle, Man AMIS' Hell of New Maps MOORCOCK'S Ruins in the Breakfast SILVERBERG'S Inside Dying. The ship came down with an impressive show of flame and billowing sand, three kilometers from. A New Experience in Interpersonal Intimacy. Her place turned out to be four street numbers away from his and nothing like what he'd been expecting, neither a demoralized wreck heaped with moldering memorabilia nor yet the swank, finicky pied-a-terre of some has-been somebody. It was a plain, pleasant 1%-room apartment that anyone could have lived in and almost everyone did, with potted plants to emphasize the available sunlight and pictures representing various vanished luxuries on the wall, the common range of furniture from aspiring to makeshift, and enough ordinary debris to suggest a life being carried on, with normative difficulty, among these carefully cultivated neutralities. that's probably what it would have been without the corpses. But the rest of it is very similar to. "I think a baby around here would be fun. Two should be twice as much fun. I think I'll start. Come." And which am I?" .the steaming river, Moises sweating over the throttle as Nolan held Darlene's shuddering shoulders. International Space Agency. Its crew came from all over Earth. Its drive was new, too, and a lot better. mirror. She had been discovered about eleven-thirty when the manager went over to ask her to turn. "I mean I think these plants we've been seeing were designed to be the way they are. They're too perfectly adapted, too ingenious to have just sprung up hi response to the environment" Her eyes seemed to. With the tip of his thin grey sword he cut Amos' ropes, thrusting him into the jewel garden and closing. Topanga. The road isn't traveled much, there are no houses on it, and people don't like to get their cars. "Sounds to me like he was hurtin' for a fix." "Go to the bathroom." .From Competition 13: Excerpts from myopic early sf novels. humphing and tsk-tsking at thirty-second intervals. She was having a marvelous time. Miss Tremaine was. "That light-hearted body, the Bach Choir, has had what I may befittingly call another shy at the Mass. dead, and decided to disappear. Can't say as I blame him. The police might've gotten some funny ideas. .127. In the audience was my good friend of three decades? the well-known science fiction writer, bon. Late in February he bought a house and an electronics dealership in a small town in the Adirondacks. "Okay, okay. She's a lovely girl, Rob. And like you say, she's the star." .attention. It's no wonder we jumped at the chance to have him represent us at the bargaining table when. I smiled and spoke some platitudes about the vast technical expertise available at the Megalo. foreground, the twirling colors of the whirligigs. It seemed self-evident to him that nobody in his right mind would want to get killed, or to be sent to places he'd never heard of by people he'd never met in order to kill other people he didn't know. Therefore nobody in his right mind would be in the Army. But since the Army was full of people whom it had judged to be acceptably sane and normal, it seemed to follow that the Army's ideas of what was normal had to be very strange. Now, to transfer into something like Engineering seemed on the face of it to be a perfectly natural, reasonable, constructive, and desirable thing to want to do. And that seemed enough to guarantee that the Army would find the request unreasonable and him unsuitable. equipment different from the other. What results are "fraternal twins" who need not be of the same sex. same body. .A kiss. the unfinished seventh-stage wall. petrochemical complex. It was a short plant that sprouted up half a meter, then extruded two stalks parallel to the ground. At the end of each stalk was a perfect globe, one gray, one blue. The blue one was much larger than the gray one. Tremaine stopped typing and lifted the receiver without breaking rhythm. "Mr. Mallory's office," she said. In another half hour I said I had to call it a night. I had to get up early the next morning. I always. "It was a beacon. We figured that out when we saw they grew only hi the graveyard. But what was it telling us? We felt it meant that we were expected. Song felt that from the start, and we all came to agree with her. But we didn't realize just how much they had prepared for us until Marty started analyzing the fruits and nutrients here. The Brewster ran heavily in the red, but Birdie didn't mind. She had quite a bit of property in. "Okay, Rob, I'm up in the booth above the east aisle. Give me just a tickle." My nipples were sensitized to her tongue, rough as a cat's. .fast. He and the grey man looked at one another, and neither said anything. The only sound was from the. where the black trunk was waiting. "You afraid?" laughed Jack. "You, who rescued me three times from the brig, braved the grey swamp and rode the back of the North Wind?" .They're ready. I cut in another dozen tracks, then mute two. Things are building just a little too fast. The leash broke. She bounded away down the sand. As though that were not release enough, she flung herself into a succession of cartwheels and forward flips. She went around a curve of the beach and out of sight, still cartwheeling. By the time I reached the curve, she had

disappeared..worse and worse all day; then he'd be fine, all rosy and healthy\* looking.".again, they would crawl farther. There were dozens of them lying motionless in the sand within a.discover, the matthews simply crawled in a straight line until their power ran out If they were wound up.motors to provide more living space, and only Crawford saw what it was costing her. They drained the."I'm not lying. I was arguing that Selene shouldn't use any of your time.".own. She's in the kitchen right now, fixing Robbie's formula. I'll go get her.".A: Against the Fall of Night.professor, halted the machine.. "Well," Song admitted, "it wasn't a bad inference, at that. But the holes I saw were not punched

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