

## NOVELS THE CRATER

The North Wind rose up in his cave and sped toward the opening that was so high they could not see. He came in quickly and bolted the door behind him. He didn't notice the open curtain. He glanced. When Amos came up to the ship with the mirror under his arm, he called, "Here's your mirror. They are titans, they are the true and indisputable masters of the universe, the lords of Creation, and is," she explained. Then, contritely, "I hope you don't mind." "Not once you understand what this graveyard is and why it became what it did," Song said. She was sitting cross-legged on the floor nursing her youngest, Ethan. "Certainly. Barry, you said? You're so direct it's almost devious. Let's go to my place. It's only a couple blocks away. You see? I can be direct myself." recognized the name? She stepped back, holding the door for me. I could tell that detectives, private or. The Isaac Asimov clones, once they grow up, simply won't live in the same social environment I did. First, it was one of Randall's superlative pieces of satiric verse, and second, it was clearly intended to be. Rainbow. "Before six-thirty?" "I'm not lying. I was arguing that Selene shouldn't use any of your time." myself, you will never have your mirror. "We flew over and spent most of the day glubbing around in the Pacific with a bunch of kids fifteen. Before I reach the door, she stops me by saying, "The initial report is in already." that you people are doing important work in other areas and should not be forced to produce a program. four wide. In addition to everything else, the Sreen must be physically massive beings. My head is full of. Plain for the likes of us. We spread out all over. North and south and east and west. I went south. Right. you're quite likable; that's another matter. "Feeling betrayed and pissed-off, he grabbed the nearest can of vegetables (beets, he would later discover, and he hated beets) and handed it to Mr. Morone with the can of Spam. The cause of this high morale rests with one programmer in our department, Morris Hazeldorf, the. Lang raised her eyebrows. "Yes, it was under the dome. The air we exhausted was warm, you see," Commander Lang?" I raised my brows. "You've given up being hostess for your father?" "Believe me, a little air would make me sleep much better." eyes head-on. Their expression seemed oddly out of character with the monologue she'd just delivered. are wet and the ones you wore were dry." dismiss Hazeldorf. Please contact me at once to apprise me of the status of corrective action. I assume. along both sides and he stepped out a naked man. The nice thing about guilt is that it's so easy to repress. Within a day Barry had relegated all. "Who, senor?" 172. Quick as a light switch he could feel his throat go dry and his face tighten into a smile of rigid. Nolan turned and glanced at the girl who lay beside him. She stared up through the shadows with. "Stand so that the sun is in your eyes," said the North Wind, towering over Amos, "because I do not want anyone else to see before I have." ?Harvey Abramson. Destination: P. T. Warrington Tribute Station 756. "Jesus," says the tech- "You ought to be performing. The crowd would love it". develop in water and can just lie there after the micro-operation. MOORCOCK'S Ruins in the Breakfast. haven't explored yet. But I can't really say if it's alive in the sense we use. I mean, it runs on wheels! It has." This eloquent novel,\* says the jacket of Taylor Caldwell's The Devil's Advocate, making two errors. problem. He didn't have to write the poem, only propose it. 153. He sat for a moment then solemnly held out his hand. I took it He shook my hand, then opened the glove compartment He removed the gun and slipped out of the car. He went down the hill into the brush. 206. 109. past her and collapsed, shivering, on then- bed. "Hey, everybody!" Jain raises her voice, cutting stridently through everyone else's conversations. "Get this. For a small fee, these folks'll put a video tape gadget in my tombstone. It's got everything? stereo sound and color. All I've got to do is go in before I die and cut the tape." stood, fidgety. "There's really not anything I can tell you. Why don't you ask David and Murray. They." "I thought you were dead too," said Billy Belay, "after you ran out of here with that thin grey man and. seven-league strides. keep tight purse strings. Better watch it, kid. If she finds out, you'll be back on the streets again. And you. machine is halted while Zorphwar computations are completed. As you may have noticed, it took up her purse and stalked out I sniveled the chair around and looked at the calendar. Tomorrow was the. think I've recognized someone," she said excitedly, preening her paper feathers with her free hand. Far. focus, he saw slim brown legs. brown haunch, brown body and head. The horns shriveled and fell to the. CHAPTER ONE. In another half hour I said I had to call it a night. I had to get up early the next morning. I always. "They would weigh me down," said Amos, "and I could not be back for lunch. No, I need a suit of clothes that is bright and brilliant enough to keep me from losing myself in all that grey. For HI do lose myself, you will never have your mirror." The North Wind mumbled and groaned around the darkness for a while and at last said, "Very well. Climb on my shoulders and I shall carry you up to the highest peak of this mountain. When I have looked into your mirror, I will carry you down again to where you may descend the rest of the way by yourselves." the map. option, since the whole point of the place was that you could just sit back and let your chair do the. a long, brutal war with the Palestinian Empire, and a growing conviction that the survivors of the First. price, if Barry were interested. but blood beaded his head like a crown. It was the first time she had ever seen him bleed. He pushed. want to see. This machine has dials and little windows with numbers in them, and switches and. Unresolved text enclosed in brackets [ ]. Destination: W. S. Halson, Programming Services, Wrapping Falls, New York. either Ike or I were, and by the time we reached the apron he was halfway up the scaffolding that flanked. alabaster box and lit it with an alabaster lighter. As an afterthought, he offered me one. a rescue mission now, easier to sell. But the design will need modification, if only to include five more. Picket duty wasn't as bad as I thought it would be. There's been some talk about the Company hiring scabs, but I guess that's all h is ?talk. Anyway, nobody tried to get in. Not that they'd have succeeded if they had. The setup is ideal for picketing. You'd almost. "We'll never catch her then!" Nolan gripped Moises\* shoulder. "Don't you understand? She's taken Robbiel". For instance, suppose you wanted one hundred Isaac Asimovs so that the supply of F&SF essays. Smith got his consignment of Ozos early in the week, took one home and left it to his store manager to put a price on the

rest He did not bother to use the production model but began at once to build another prototype. It had controls calibrated to one-hundredth of a second and one millimeter, and a timer that would allow him to stop a scene, or advance or regress it at any desired rate. He ordered some clockwork from an astronomical supply house..recognized that the room was chilling..blowing away. "It is so high and so cold up there that you will never reach it," said the Wind. "Even the." "In a way it's about time," she said, tossing her clothes in a corner. "The only thing to do with these." "Damn it," said the Admiral, "I don't want technical expertise. I want a working system."..complicated network made of single strands of the webbing material. Singh's pressure gauge read 30.For instance, suppose you wanted one hundred Isaac Asimovs so that the supply of F&SF essays would never run out. You would then have to ask what it was that made me the kind of writer I am or a writer at all. Was it only my genes?.He blew a stream of smoke from pursed lips and tapped his cigarette on an alabaster ashtray. "Yes,." "Then we have been found out and all is lost," said the prince. "For it is noon already, and the sun is at its highest and hottest. The boat has docked two leagues short of over there, and the grey man must be about to go for the third mirror himself."..way a bricklayer feels sometimes. It's really great I feel sorry for brickmakers. You'd never catch me.Harley-Wankel. The bikers backed off very quickly..that," I said in what I intended to be a soothing voice. "You've never met her."..Prisatatica."Robbie?" It comes into my left ear, on the in-house com circuit reserved for performer and me alone..Corporation and their ability to respond quickly to any technical challenge..two thousand hours, beginning with a Paleocene bee, he has traveled back into the Cretaceous. He stops.72 Edward Bryant.Unless one of you two has some.72 experience in Mars-lander handling that you've been concealing from." "Sixteen and a half," she corrected. "You must read Topic too."..aimed at a deep shadow box across the room; at the back of the box was a card ruled with black, green,.,She was nothing if not honest. In the succeeding mornings, if I ran too slowly, she simply left me.lighted the lock while she held her shirt in front of her with one hand.."What makes you think that women are a natural resource, Craw-ford?" she said, slowly and deliberately.."What about me?" cried Amos. "How do I get home?"..His first endorsement proved to have been beginner's lock. Though he went out almost every night to a different speakeasy and practically lived at Partyland during the weekends, when it was at his liveliest, he never again had such a plum fall in his lap. He didn't get within sniffing distance of his heart's desire. Most people he met were temps, and the few Permanent License holders inclined to be friendly to him invariably turned out, like the MacKinnons, to have already disposed of their allotted endorsements. Or so they said. As the weeks went by and anxiety mounted, he began to be of the cynical but widely held opinion that many people simply removed the stickers from their licenses so it would seem they'd been used. According to Jason MacKinnon, a completely selfless endorsement, like his from Ed, was a rare phenomenon. Quid pro quos were the gen-..we walked off the job this morning about Divine Wrath, the inference being that us fellows, by bringing.The next moment it was Selene, wholly Selene, who stood there. She hurried across the room and..stay aloof from it But he refused a fourth drink regretfully..The two of them had managed to salvage most of the dome. Working with patching kits and lasers to cut the tough material, they had constructed a much smaller dome. They erected it on an outcropping of bare rock, rearranged the exhaust to prevent more condensation on the underside, and added more safety features. They now slept in a pressurized building inside the dome, and one of them stayed awake on watch at all times. In drills, they had come from a deep sleep to full pressure-integrity in thirty seconds. They were not going to get caught again..Dedication.took out a white leather boot, went to the trunk, lifted the lid, and tossed it in..Having come round to a sensible, accepting attitude, she turned from the freezer to witness the effect of her outburst on the Morones, who looked elsewhere, and on Barry, who couldn't resist meeting her eyes head-on. Their expression seemed oddly out of character with the monologue she'd just delivered. They were piercing (as against vulnerable) steely-gray eyes that stared defiance from a face all sags and wrinkles. Without the contradiction of such eyes, her face would have seemed ruined and hopeless; with them, she looked just like an ancient centurion in a movie about the Roman Empire..Straight up, it sped, impervious to the wind, seeming to gather momentum with every cubit it traveled. Ike and I no longer breathed. Everything in all creation except that arrow had ceased to exist for us. In our eyes it had become a thunderbolt? a thunderbolt cast heavenward by a madman in a magnificent, if senseless, gesture of defiance..THE ORGANIZER: The purpose of the Project has no bearing whatsoever upon the..feelings; he was very open about things like that." "Where're you from?" I asked. "I don't place the accent" ..pretty stereotyped."..Eli didn't see it that way. "Hell, Jake, they'll have to come through," he said. "We've got them right by the balls!"..boat and row away. He hears them shouting to each other but cannot make out the words..Neither of them bothered to answer that. The radio hi the nose sputtered, then clanged for their.\*"I'm pregnant," she announced to them that night, causing Song to delay her examination of the white fruit..bears any relation to truth (as Matthew Arnold thought), then the human (including social and political)..she'd dredged up somewhere, most of 'em published before the First World War. I read a complete set..least an acknowledged one). They should have left well enough alone in this case. Color instead of b&w,.,7. A poem for a Get Well card to someone who has sciatica..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.)..When I came out she said, "Why?".. "I shall surely come." He bowed, turned, and then was gone, walking swiftly, a man's stride, through the woods. His animals were at his heels..tonight?"..sector. You may fire off laser probes to determine the location of Zorph warships. You have a number of." "How is our friend doing?" Amos asked the prince, pointing to the bundle of blankets in the corner..Damon Knight.I sighed. Miss Tremaine closed the pad. "Okay. No to Mrs. Car-mknael and make appointments for Bushyager and Bloomfeld." She lowered her eyelids at me. I spread my hands. "Would Sam Spade go looking for a French poodle named Gwendolyn?\*" 1..She considered the

accusation. "I wouldn't choose her for a friend. I think she's insipid and gutless.."Let's put our cards on the table, shall we, Mr. Riordan? I am a Permanent Card holder. What are.Samuel It Delarty.Would the genetic equipment in the nucleus unblock, and would the egg cell then proceed to divide and.male and female is that every male cell has an X and a Y chromosome and that every female cell has two."It's a good thing Senator Burkhart can't hear you say that" said another officer. But by the next."It sounds very specialized," McKillian said thoughtfully. "Maybe we should be looking for the niche it occupies. The way you describe it, it couldn't function without help from a symbiote. Maybe it fertilizes the plants, like bees, and the plants either donate or are robbed of the power to wind the spring. Did you look for some mechanism the bug could use to steal energy from the rotating gears in the whirligigs?"Just then, behind the bars, Amos saw the pile of grubby grey blankets move. A corner fell away and.Beachwood. And a couple of Chicano kids had had a knife fight behind Hollywood High. One was dead.And hearing her voice, Brother Hart raced home..Suddenly Amos felt his eyes grow heavy, his head grow light, and he slipped down in his chair..Maybe it's me, but I don't think I'm handling the stim console badly. If I were, the nameless tech.I could not have been out more than moments. When my sight cleared I was staring into polycarpet turned murky green. There was a soft whisper of crushing pile, then a tide of scarlet and purple eddied against the edge of my green..so sorry he'd broken a steadfast rule and refunded most of the month's rent Detweiler had paid hi.times to clear away the skyrocketes..Crawford and Lang hung around as the scientists looked things over. They were not anxious to get."No reason to stay. When I was eight, my parents were killed in a fire. Our house burned down. I

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