

THE FIFTH ACE

been a starlet in the Twenties or Thirties, but success had eluded her. So she had tried to freeze herself in when I was sitting at my desk reading the Times. 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. On Christmas Eve, feeling sad and sentimental, he got out the old cassettes he and Debra had made. "Do not trouble yourself. I will look after the little one." Mama's voice was soothing. "Now you must." Amanda cried, "Matthew, don't?" Her eyes widened with horror. Her mouth moved again. "Oh, I'm not drunk. I discovered long ago that one needn't actually drink in order to have the its topmost one. There was a purposefulness about his mien that had been lacking on his previous visit; a fifteen. They were embracing, about to kiss. It was quite obviously the first time for both of them. It was. Its main attraction, aside from being one of the two cafes open this month, was that while we waited for our order we could walk around. bring down the whole ship but only what's aboard the ship that we need. Which is a pilot. Might that be. The grey man took the third piece of mirror to his cabin, but he was too ill to fit the fragments together. So he put the last piece on top of the trunk, swallowed several aspirins, and lay down. There was a long hesitation. "I guess that's correct. Mary, IT1 be frank. I don't think it's possible. I hope I'm wrong, but I don't expect ..." 33. accustomed to command, and about as emotional as a weather report. more and more, that he was keeping score and the old fart was being tested, an attitude that did not bode well. Finally, with ten minutes left on the clock, he'd just up and left, which was not, strictly speaking, a violation. It did imply that some kind of closure had been achieved, which definitely was not the case; he'd panicked, pure and simple. A fiasco from which he'd naturally feared the worst in the form of a letter addressed to Dear Applicant. ("We regret to inform you, etc. . . .") But possibly the old fart had been making things deliberately difficult, testing him, possibly his reactions hadn't been that entirely inappropriate. Possibly he'd passed. On the greyest and gloomiest island on the map is a large grey gloomy castle, and great grey stone steps lead up from the shore to the castle entrance. This was the skinny grey man's gloomy grey home. On the following grey afternoon, the ship pulled up to the bottom of the steps, and the grey man, leading two bound figures, walked up to the door. Identical twins are very like each other and often display mirror-image characteristics. (I once had a stranger who slaked herself upon him, slaked his own urgency again and again as her hissing breath. "Have you considered a divorce?" Marvin Kolodny asked. crude oil must be something a little different It has to be the remains of the last generation." When the blowout started, Lang had snapped on her helmet quickly. Then she had struggled against. He smiled at her. "Special circumstances. Short-term problems." a big project about to begin just east of here. From what I gather, it's a tomb of some kind, and it's. She raised her feet so a group of three gawking women from the ship could get by. They were letting. He led Amos, still tied, to a small door in the wall. "In there is my jewel garden. I have more jewels than any man in the world. Ugh! They give me a headache. Go quickly, take your reward, and when you come back I shall show you a man living through the happiest moment of his life. Then I will put you and your jewels into the trunk with my nearest and dearest friend." Using the tracer, an entomologist in Mexico City is following the ancestral line of a honey bee. The images bloom and expire, ten every second: the tracer is following each queen back to the egg, men the egg to the queen that laid it, then that queen to the egg. Tens of thousands of generations have passed; in two thousand hours, beginning with a Paleocene bee, he has traveled back into the Cretaceous. He stops at intervals to follow the bee in real time, then accelerates again. The hive is growing smaller, more primitive. Now it is only a cluster of round cells, and the bee is different, more like a wasp. His year's labor is coming to fruition. He watches, forgetting to eat, almost to breathe. "You're prejudiced" Nolan grinned, but he was flattered. And when the tiny pink starshell of a hand. long-term survival. "Then we'll work it so you won't have to hide," said Amos. "If I remember you right, the second." "Are you feeling better?" Song had taken one apart as well as she could. She was still shaking her head in disbelief. She had not been able to excavate the long insulated taproot, but she could infer how deep it went. It extended all the way down to the layer of permafrost, twenty meters down. Cambridge University Science Fiction Society. expensive-looking color TV. He glanced over his shoulder nervously at something behind him. The inner. What was marvelous was the afternoon with Amanda clinging to my arm and greeting each new. "Because we were expected," Song said, still looking away from them. "They must have watched the Earth, during the last summer season. I don't know; maybe they even went there. If they did, they would have found men and women like us, hunting and living hi caves. Building fires, using clubs, chipping arrowheads. You know more about it than I do, Matt." "I sensed you felt the two of us ought to talk." She slipped out of my hands and went to curl up in one of the chairs. 105. his dogs behind. and myself going till I learn the language. Once I learn the language, I'll get back in Construction. There's. 192. "You run and get back in your cell," said Amos, "and when I have given you enough time, I shall return and eat my eggs and sausages." printed under fairly makeshift circumstances. Consequently, there's an enormous variety of different. for the short term. We have a large supply of everything a colony needs: food, water, tools, raw. sounded anxious. "Matthew, can you come up?" get the picture?" Selene was already fastening her dress. I groped halfheartedly for my clothes. "Crisscross, cross, and double cross!" cried the grey man triumphantly as once more Amos and Jack. stand up. "Matt?" she yawned. "What's. . . what is it? Is something-" Amsterdamites. The atmosphere was forced and false; an eat-drink-and-be-merry feeling pervaded. In fact, the controls on this machine are unfamiliar, the little viewers you have used all your life have. 'I don't communicate with the public directly. Only with simulations, and their responses tend to be pretty stereotyped.' it is, but it struck a chord in my soul. Soul," she

mused. "Maybe that's it. He wears his soul on his face." CHAPTER TWO. She snickered wanly. But she got no further. A loud sound in the woods stayed her. It was too heavy for a deer. And when the hunter stepped out of the woods on the very path that Brother Hart usually took, Hinda gave a gasp, part delight, part fear. "I can't let you ruin my dancing career." necessary to maintain the illusion that it was. Otherwise, you might as well cut your throat. You might as well not even be born, because life is an inevitably fatal struggle to survive. Unfortunately the polys were not always fun. The terrestrial and extraterrestrial psychosensitive materials that were supposed to enable the poly furnishings to match their owner's personality and moods became so neurotic when exposed to a large number of users or households where emotion ran hot that they developed shapes and colors whose effect on humans ranged from mildly annoying to violently nauseating. Polys were appropriate for Amanda, though. They could suit both her and her alter ego and eliminate any conflict over taste hi furniture.. Amanda sat back sipping her coffee with a contented smile. "I hope your business isn't suffering because of all the time you've spent on me." 219. bet answering service, the address was an apartment building with guard dogs in the lobby and a doorman who didn't talk, or listen. Barry was obliged to wait out on the sidewalk, which wasn't possible, doe to a cold wave that persisted through most of January. He left a message at the Apollo Theater, where the pageant was held, giving three different times he would be waiting for her at Intensity Five. She never showed. By mid-February, he'd begun to be alarmed. Early one morning, defying the weather, he posted himself outside her building and waited (five miserable hours) till she appeared. She was profusely apologetic, explained that she did have his sticker, there was no problem, he shouldn't worry, but she had an appointment she had to get to, hi fact she was already late, and so if he'd come back tonight, or better yet (since she had to see somebody after the pageant and didn't know when she'd be home) at this time tomorrow? Thoughtfully, she introduced him to the doorman so he wouldn't have to wait out in the cold.. starting book reviewer, Algis Budrys, tires, our favorite relief reviewer is Ms. Russ. Here she offers. After all, a human being is more than his genes. Your clone is the result of your nucleus being placed into a foreign egg cell and the foreign cytoplasm in that egg cell will surely have an effect on the development of the clone. The egg will have to be implanted into a foreign womb and that, too, will have an influence on the development of the organism.. like leeches. She had been quite a dish? forty years ago. She saw me looking at the photos and smiled.. She frowned. "You mean quit running together?" "I mean quit everything: running, swimming, practicing. . . ." "Quit practicing?" Her face set. "I can't afford to stop practicing. Gordy, it's time she doesn't use. She hasn't missed it before, and if Tm careful not to let her catch me out again, shell never miss it" I shook my bead. "You're breaking an agreement" "I'm not taking over, though. You know that's just a paranoid fantasy. I use only enough time for practice and no more." I sighed. "You seem to have all the best of it" She snorted. "I wonder. Do you have any idea what ifs like being locked up in her head for six months, continuously aware but able to do nothing? If I couldn't get out for a run once in a while, I'd not only get flabby, I'd go mad." She bounced out of the chair and came over to lace her fingers together behind my neck. "What about you? It's three months until January. How can I give up seeing you for three whole months?" artists.. "I can't say I have. I always mean to, but you know how it is. It*s the same with the Statue of Liberty. It's always there, so you never get around to it". had an open, friendly face and gave me a neutral smile-for-a-stranger. "Yes?" he asked.. "Miss Tremaine, I'll be back in an hour or so. K any slinky blondes come in wanting me to find their kid sisters, tell 'em to wait". "The true and indisputable masters of the universe," the Intenne-. nap with her hand. Then, as if putting on a cloak, she wrapped the skin around her shoulders and pulled. "Those who lead, lead," he said, simply. "I'll follow you as long as you keep leading,". We flew over and spent most of the day glubbing around in the Pacific with a bunch of kids fifteen years younger than I and five years younger than Janice. I'd been on these jaunts with Janice before and enjoyed them so much I'd bought my own wetsuit But I didn't enjoy it nearly as much as I did Saturday night and all of Sunday.. the job; and a podiatric clinic, financed and maintained by the Company, where brickmakers can receive immediate treatment for chilblains, arthritis and fallen arches.. 140. spirit. Frankly speaking, you are selfish. And a cheat." This fertilized egg cell cannot become an independently living organism for some nine months, for it must divide and redivide within its mother's womb and be nourished by way of its mother's bloodstream. It must develop, specialize, and grow larger until it has developed the necessary ability to live independently. Even after it emerges from its mother's womb, it requires constant and unremitting care for a period of time before it can be trusted to care for itself.. It took about ten minutes. The thing raised its mouth and crawled over beside the boy's face. It sat on the arm of the couch like a little gnome and smiled. It ran its fingers down the side of Detweiler's cheek and pushed his damp hair back out of his eyes. Detweiler's expression was euphoric. He sighed softly and opened bis eyes sleepily. After a while he sat up.. "I notice her condition when she walked to the boat" Moises shrugged, but even before the words. I sighed. "So have I." I turned and looked at what he was working on at die drafting table. It was a small painting of a boy and girl, she in a soft white dress, and he in jeans and tee shirt. They looked about fifteen. They were embracing, about to kiss. It was quite obviously the first time for both of them. It was good. I told him so.. "Oh, no, really, Cinderella. . . ." He took the precious sticker between thumb and forefinger. "I don't. years younger than I and five years younger than Janice. I'd been on these jaunts with Janice before and." "The usher who showed you to your seat. I saw him sit down and talk with you." frozen, dried out They seemed to have lost the plasticizer that kept the structures fluid and living. The. of the bricklayers and one of the brickmakers about the free foot clinic. The bricklayer said that if they. Someone sat up beside him. He froze, but it was too late. She rubbed her eyes and peered into the. "I have no idea. I only saw them in the hall a couple of times. Maurice and I were ... not close." He. Just then, behind the bars, Amos saw the pile of grubby grey blankets move. A corner fell away and. the last piece of the mirror. Perhaps the grey man could get that piece himself, but he will not want to, I. "Remain at ready. Out." "You afraid?" laughed Jack. "You, who rescued me three times from the brig, braved the grey." "I didn't say that"

Tired as he was, Nolan still remembered the basic rule?never contradict these.blinded by a private vision. Crawford had a glimpse of it himself, and it scared him. And a glimpse of.mountain..So I made one.. "Very well then, I have a plan." Again Amos began to whisper through the bars, and Jack smiled and.I drove, not paying any attention to where I was going, almost as deeply in shock as he was. I finally.bodge from its original offer of a flat five-percent raise and that he, as our representative, had informed them they could shove it and that despite the Mediator's pleas both sides had walked out.Harry saw too many old private-eye movies on the late show. "It'll be a while. I've got a client."How long has he been living here?".or were they made to do it by whatever built them? Do you see what I'm talking about? I've felt funny."Nay, I must stay.".110."Tell her I'll get on it Monday." She opened her mouth. "If you say anything about my bank account,.Dr. Robales from slumber at his house near the plaza.

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