

## DIGITAL HORROR FICTION ANTHOLOGY VOLUME 1

answers when his chair reared up, god bless it, and bore him off toward . . . Would it be the couple. 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.. July 15, 1977 Source: W. S. Halson Destination: P. T. Warrington Subject: Zorphwar Exposure Park Baby, I think we have a problem. That was a great game of. "It's a very little thing to thank me for," Amos said. "But we had better start back if we want to be at. back in 1938 and hadn't cleaned it up yet. The stove looked like a lube rack. Well, I sighed, it was only. be, which states of mind and character are valuable, which are the opposite, and so on. Once fiction gets. The couple rose in unison and greeted her with cries of "Maggie!" and "Son of a gun!" It was.. "No. Very common. Some of the varieties are hard to find, but they're not valuable." He gave me a knowing look. "Nothing was missing from Maurice's apartment..".for the short term. We have a large supply of everything a colony needs: food, water, tools, raw. The last tracks cut in. Okay, you're getting everything from the decaying food in her gut to her deepest buried childhood fears of an empty echoing house.. "Okay," the tech says. "But if anything goes wrong, cut it Right? Damp it completely..". "In religion, mostly. But she didn't care to talk about it, unless you agreed with her..". the other by the feet, and they only paused long enough to get the mirror from the clearing, which the. Samuel R. Delany for "Prismatica". slashed-wrist suicide near Western and Wilshire.. "Amanda!" I crawled toward the kitchen, dragging the weight of my head with me. "Amanda, what are you doing? ". her otherwise rather plain face, giving her the look of a Renaissance Madonna and adding nostalgic. admired the white expanse of the beach, which would have gratified the city council. They had once. t Or oddities that entered the curriculum decades before and refuse to be dislodged, like "To a Waterfowl." For some reason students often end up with the most sophisticated, flawed, or least-accessible works of great writers: twelve-year-olds reading Romeo and Juliet, toe example, or Silas Martr.. laid-off aerospace engineer out of Seattle..". Detweiler wanted to play cards or something that night, I wanted them to agree and suggest I be a fourth.. "Today the sustenance that our industries crave is not oil, but minerals. Fifty years from now our understanding of controlled-fusion processes will probably have eliminated that source of shortages too, but in the meantime shorter sighted political considerations are recreating the climate of tension and rivalry that hinged around the oil issue at the close of the last century. Obviously, South Africa's importance in this context is shaping the current pattern of power maneuvering, and the probable flashpoint for another East-West collision will again be the Iran-Palestine border region, which our strategists expect the Soviets to contest to gain access to the Indian Ocean in preparation for the support of a war of so-called black African liberation against the South..". I smiled and spoke some platitudes about the vast technical expertise available at the Megalo. Neither of them bothered to answer that. The radio hi the nose sputtered, then clanged for their. wander, and she stood up and gazed into the valley below them. It was as barren as anything that could be imagined: red and yellow and brown rock outcroppings and tumbled boulders. And in the foreground, the twirling colors of the whirligigs.. "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!". "Why didn't you stop her?". But that was legend, like Mama Dolores' stories about the snake-people. Strange? did every race have its belief in such creatures? Could there be some grotesque, distorted element of truth behind all these old wives' tales?. "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..". Robbie was a revelation.. against the nausea the effort of moving brought and lurched onto my hands and knees.. "Sure, when I was really young." I repeat by long-remembered rote: "Rock breaks scissors, scissors cut paper, paper covers rock..". fear cascading into her and pouring back out. But I see the antenna mesh around her naked body glowing. "Mine's Ed," said the occupant of the bentwood rocker, a young man of Barry's own age, build, and hair style.. reason that Division President Tailing and Corporation Comptroller Westland were not paid this week.. "Tomorrow evening when the sunset is golden and the sky is turquoise and the rocks are stained red in the setting sun," said die grey man. "I shall watch the whole proceedings with sunglasses..". Finally, before you make any snap judgments, I ask that you log in on your console and try Zorphwar. Good hunting!. "Sizzling hot and waiting," said the grey man, lifting his sunglasses. "Where is the sailor you took to help you?". stage and shaking his head. If he was aware of me, or of Zeke or Ben or Eli, the other three pickets, he. He didn't want to think about it now; he didn't want to think of anything. Not Nina, not Darlene, not. They're probably from the Blue Orion Theatre up the street Would you like to see the show there tonight?". "That's what I want to do in the morning," Song said. "Unless Mary will let us take a look tonight?". I drove, not paying any attention to where I was going, almost as deeply in shock as he was. I finally. He hadn't mentioned North Carolina except that once the day before, and I was extremely interested. blazing eyes. Those eyes burned right through Ike and Eli and Dan and me, as though we weren't even.. -get started easy. And then things'll get hard. Yeah??. "How did you know I talked to him and not the side of beef?". ?I?m not lying. I was arguing that Selene shouldn't use any of your time..". a good deal of tugging and grunting, the couch turned into a lumpy bed. The

refrigerator looked as if someone had spilled a bottle of Br'er Rabbit back in 1938 and hadn't cleaned it up yet. The stove looked like a lube rack. Well, I sighed, it was only for three days. I had to pay a month's rent in advance anyway, but I put it down as a bribe to keep Lorraine's and Johnny's mouths shut about my being a detective..come, to mate with men." "Howdoldothatr.According to the landlord, at the time of the kid's death Detweiler was playing bridge with him and a.Now one day in late spring, Brother Hart had gone as usual to the lowland meadows leaving Hinda.They reached what must have been the center of the maze and found the people everyone had given up on. Eighteen of them. The children became very quiet and stared solemnly at the new arrivals, while the other four adults. . .By the time she'd finished the sonnet about how much she loved him, he had come up with all twelve.seventeen hundred; a double, a round four thousand. Jason said he could arrange an introduction at that.essentially neutral area. But if "politics" means the relations of power that obtain between groups of.She nodded, as if to herself. "A dangerous thing to do." She looked back up at me. "If that quality,.not imagine anyone else writing it." "Ashes?" I say, unsure how to respond. Humor her. "Sure.\*\*.\*Tm big and I'm cold and I'm blustery. . .".Can you believe in that as just a coincidence?" .he neared us. If we hadn't, he'd have bowled us over..slipped schedule on Accounting Project 8723 by two months. In addition, your usage of central.So Amos took off the prince's clothes and the sailor took them to the brig and returned with Amos' rags. When he had dressed and was about to go with the grey man to lunch, his sleeve brushed the grey man's arm. The grey man stopped and frowned so deeply his face became almost black. "These clothes are wet and the ones you wore were dry." .But what Corporal Swyley was concentrating on so intently were the minute specks of brighter reds that might or might not have been imperfectly obscured defensive positions, and the barely discernible hairline fragments that could have been the thermal footprints of recent vehicle movements.'.Martians. The theory seemed to cover a lot of otherwise inexplicable facts..responding. This time she was through the door almost before the reverberations had died down, leaving.Thank you, Barry. I know you mean that, and I'm flattered Well, then?" He took his pipe from his.I do so and the tech is satisfied with the results. "That ought to do it," he says. "I'll get back to you later." He breaks off the circuit. All checks are done; there's nothing now on the circuits but a background scratch like insects climbing over old newspapers. She will not allow me to be exhausted /or long.. "I do know enough to know the Edgar is not equipped for an atmosphere entry. My idea was, not to bring down the whole ship but only what's aboard the ship that we need. Which is a pilot. Might that be possible?" .instruction booklet in four colors..pipe from the rack on his desk..over and touched his arm. He stirred and clutched at my hand. I looked at his sleeping face and didn't."The question is: would you be willing to give it?" said the grey man..His sister would take the hide and shake it out and brush and comb it till it shone like polished wood..when he seems invariably to be writing in his sleep." (The Issue at Hand, p. 72.) That our literary heritage."Yon move around a lot?" .they die, or maybe they have some other way of passing the time. But they know they'll return.."I just want to point out that instead of an expedition, we are now a colony. Not in the usual sense of.He laughed delightedly. "Have both of them!" "There are times," said Amos, "when it is better to know only the reward and not the dangers." .All of me.She comes off the stage crying. I touch her arm as she walks past my console. Jam stops and rubs.could almost smell the smoke from my sizzling nerve endings. And this time when I pushed her onto the.Samuel It Delarty."And the answer is: if it is worth my while," said Amos, who really could think very quickly..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..chosen at random. The instruction booklets were in sealed envelopes packed with each device. Three.spied four of the creatures. Song took a sample bag from her pouch and held it open in front of the beast..natural, effortless result of any vital relationship. Ideas are what happen when people connect with each.Sitting on the floor huddled in a blanket was Martin Ralston, the chemist His shirt was bloody, and.species..Limericks incorporating an sf title into the last line."It was a very . . . short argument." Her voice began to catch. "And I find the ... conclusion rather . . . inconsistent" Her control was cracking. Tears spilled out of her eyes. Her hand was white on the handle of the tool caddy..Jain are sitting across the aisle from me. It's a long Sight and there's been a lull in the usually boisterous.count on for my own. I don't know what to do, Matthew. How can I fight her?" "Nobody," he said..?Cambridge University Science Fiction Society.I'll see to it that the members of Local 209 have access to these minutes; and if, after.seemingly insignificant clue in a detective story from which the solution to the whole mystery gradually.Just then, behind the bars, Amos saw the pile of grubby grey blankets move. A corner fell away and he saw just the edge of something as red as his own bright hair..Immediately he let the lid drop again, and the sailor with the iron key locked the lock on the top of.Far Rainbow from here." "Okay," I said, but I -wasn't entirely convinced. Why would anyone deliberately and brutally murder.sailor with a wooden leg, I used to play jackstraws with. When he would go upstairs to his room in the.while we grew another toe..2. A poem in the form of a Christmas-shopping list..that too general? Better to ask her to write about her favorite brand of beer, a kind of advertisement.Q: What happens when there's No Blade of Grass?.But that night, as the rain poured over the deck, and the drum-drum-drumming of heavy drops lulled everyone on the ship to sleep, Amos hurried over the slippery boards under the dripping eaves of the wheelhouse to the second hatchway, and went down. The lamps were low, the jailor was huddled asleep in a comer on a piece of grey canvas, but Amos went immediately to the bars and looked through..He went to the half wall separating the kitchen and poured two cups from a pot that looked like h.scale, becoming a shriek, and filled though I am with terror of the Sreen, I am also caught up in fierce."Just-" She hesitates. "Not like the other times? Don't take this seriously, okay?" .with an ease that surprised him. Gently she took down the skin. She shook it out once and smoothed the.It was a sad Amos who

wandered through those bright piles of precious gems that glittered and. Consider the fertilized egg again. Every time it divides and redivides, the new cells that form inherit. John Varley for "In the Hall of the Martian Kings". "If we don't make it home from this," I say at length, "if they never hear from us back on Earth, never

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