

## NATALIE OR A GEM AMONG THE SEA WEEDS

way it must be. Clear?" "No, no, no, no." perched on a cushion in the leather chair at the console; your brother, who has been showing you the enough to frustrate their efforts to push through and enter the old ship. But both lock doors were open. "Who is your friend?" asked Amos. Though he had not heard the beginning of the story, the whole tavern seemed far too quiet for a Saturday night. samples in the future were real Martian plants or mutated Earth stock. "Billy Belay put his head down on the table and began to cry. Megalo Network Message: September 21, 1977. three inches and went back to typing. Grinning, I picked up my phone. "Hello, Janice," I said. We have our congruencies. writer. television channel, had shielded the device against radio frequencies, and the ghosts remained. Increasing. These people? they are snakes. "India," Moises said, pronouncing the word with all the contempt of one in whose veins ran a ten per-cent admixture of the proud blood of the conquistadores, "Who are we to know the way of savages?" He shrugged. hand, all the diamonds you could lift in the other, and all the emeralds you could haul up from a well in a. Meanwhile, the bills keep coming in. This time, he had brought his bow with him. It was slung diagonally across his back. His right hand. "I suppose you'll be anxious to go to the ship," he said. "You're going to be a tremendous help. You. however to a recent disproportion between supply and demand, the going price for a single was now. Song, do you have any ideas?" shore of the Heliomere. It was a good size for a single person, with a deck all around and steps down to the beach in back. Amanda admired the white expanse of the beach, which would have gratified the city council. They had once spent a good deal importing all those tons of santf from some distant world on the stargate system to cover the razor flint nature originally laid there. Bushyager and Bloomfeld." She lowered her eyelids at me. I spread my hands. "Would Sam Spade go. With only a week left till his temporary license expired, Barry abandoned all hope and all shame and. slapped his helmet on him and moved to the next one. It was Luther Nakamura, and he was not moving. their next conversational destination. Barry found himself sitting next to a girl in a red velvet evening dress. "A Mr. Bloomfeld called. He wants you to get the goods on Mrs. Btoomfeid so he can sue for divorce." him, not while she was carrying the kid, so he came alone, figuring no sweat. "Fine. Feed me another five tracks, Rob; broad spectrum this time." out. So, sadly, he picked up a small wheelbarrow lying on top of a bill of rubies and began to fill his. The list went on and on, all the way back to Thursday, the 7th. On that day was another. By the time she'd finished the sonnet about how much she loved him, he had come up with all twelve other subjects. She picked up the pad. "I wanted to give you your calls." "What do you want to know about Andy?" him what this contract would mean to the Megalo Corporation and how I expected him to assume a. Like Nina, here. call her tonight". slim and naked and dark. His hair was long and straight and came to his shoulders. The hunter could not. I've got to admit, though, that before I yelled my nay I had a bad moment. I'm still not sure I did right. Suppose the Company Representative was telling the truth and the Project really is for the benefit of common people like ourselves? If that's so, then we aren't acting in our own best interests at all; we're just pulling the rug out from under our own feet. evening when there's a beautiful rainbow looped across the world?" "Get out of my way." In the case of sexual reproduction, every new organism has a. from a nightmare. I am disoriented and can't remember the entirety of the dream, but I do remember hard. Eighty. I engage five more tracks. Five to go. The crowd's getting damn near all of her. And, of course, the opposite's true. "Now where is the mirror?" asked Amos, looking around. Nolan had shrugged, too, and dismissed her from his mind. But that night as he lay on his bed, literature or the standards of criticism outside our own small field. Add to this the defensiveness so many. 26. "What do they say on the Burroughs?" McKillian asked, tossing her helmet on the floor and squatting tiredly against the wall. The lender was not the most comfortable place to hold a meeting; all the couches were mounted horizontally since their purpose was cushioning the acceleration of landing and takeoff. With the ship sitting on its tail, this made ninety per cent of the space in the lander useless. They were all gathered on the circular bulkhead at the rear of the lifiesystem, just forward of the fuel tank. pointed to the trunk. From it came a low, muggy sound: Ulmphf. message is this: "Jain Snow wished you to have possession of this. She informed you prior to her demise. and kept his eyes firmly open. Crawford called down to Lang, who raised her head enough to mumble something. embrace. Instead he said, "You did not call me to the clearing. You did not say my name. Only when I. not see his face, but he lay in sleep like a man who was no stranger to the bed. I was brought op in a candy store under a father of the old school who, although he was Jewish, was the living embodiment of the Protestant ethic. My nose was kept to the grindstone until I could no longer remove it Furthermore, I was brought up during the Great Depression and had to find a way of making a living? or I would inherit the candy store, which I desperately didn't want to do. Furthermore, I lived in a time when science fiction magazines, and pulp magazines generally, were going strong, and when a young man could sell clumsily written stories because the demand was greater than the supply. "That's discrimination." "You must show how clever you are," said Lea. "When I was free of this mirror, my teacher, in order to see how well I had learned my lessons, asked me three questions. I answered all three, and these questions were harder than any questions ever heard by man or woman. I am going to ask you three questions which are ten times as hard, and if you answer them correctly, you may pick up the mirror." "We do. Between them and our celebrity citizens, shopkeepers and simple businessmen like me are a. license. Their entire conversation had been illegal. The guilt that immediately marched into his mind and. "But doesn't that idea"? Barry nodded at the tattoo- "conflict with your having this particular job? Aren't you part of the U. S. Government yourself?" 54. "Basically. In the beginning ... it was to tell her . . . about me, then . . . to let her know . . . who I met and what... I learned in school ... my half the ... year so people wouldn't . . . know about. . . us." "It can't work." Amos. "But there is nothing we can do now. I can never thank you enough for gathering the mirror and. He inserted his license into the other

slot, a bell went ding, and miraj He was inside Party-land, ascending at intervals to follow the bee in real time, then accelerates again. The hive is growing smaller, more. "Nothing yet," said Amos. "But we can help you if you help us." And, God damn it, I liked him too. Thomas M. Disch for "The Man Who Had No Idea" Robert F. Young for "Project Hi-Rise" Samuel R. Delany for "Prismattca". Andrew Detweiler personally in the whole apartment. I hadn't thought it possible for anyone to lead such. "Screw off," I answer. "None of your business." Asexual reproduction can take place among them as well. The more primitive the animal? that is, the. they are unhappy with us. They speak, and theirs is a voice that shatters mountains. "WHO ARE.." "Have you heard about the giant department store in Japan?" he asked her. "It covers sixteen acres." He sat for a moment then solemnly held out his hand. I took it He shook my hand, then opened the. 170. "In a mirror," said the grey man. "In three mirrors, or rather, one mirror broken in three pieces." the hall. Stella? It never stops.. Detweiler left his room that afternoon for the first time since I'd been there. He went north on Las Palmas, dropped a large Manila envelope in the mailbox (the story he'd been working on, I guess), and bought groceries at the supermarket on Highland. Did that mean he wasn't planning to move? I had a sudden pang in my belly. What if he was staying because of his friendship with me? I felt more like a son of a bitch every minute.. "Help me push them back in the closet," said the grey man. "They're so bright that if I look at them too long, I get a headache." In your mother's study after she dies, you find an elaborate chart of her ancestors and your father's. You retrieve the program for it, punch it in, and idly watch a random sampling, back into time, first me female line, then the male ... a teacher of biology in Boston, a suffragette, a corn merchant, a singer, a Dutch fanner in New York, a British sailor, a German musician. Their faces glow in the screen, bright-eyed, cheeks flushed with life. Someday you too will be only a aeries of images in a screen.. new wonder shall I see?" I mused, for many were the sights shown me already. My guide, an illustrious. "You're right," said McKUlian. "I don't really know. But I have a theory. Since these plants waste nothing, why not conserve then" bodies when they die? They sprouted from the ground; isn't it possible they could withdraw when things start to get tough again? They'd leave spores behind them as they retreated, distributing them all through the soil. That way, if the upper ones blew away or were sterilized by the ultraviolet, the ones just below them would still thrive when the right conditions returned. When they reached the permafrost, they'd decompose into this organic slush we've postulated, and. . . well, it does get a little involved, doesn't it?" maybe. Not very tall, about five-five or six. Slim, dark curly hair, a real good-looking boy. Looks like a. Though he minded, he hadn't the gumption to say so. "I don't remember. Not a lot. They're really." "Who, senior?" by JANE YOLEN. parasite of the mind?" Curtis Brown Ltd. for "Zorphwar!" by Stan Dryer and "Brother Hart" by Jane Yolen. swamp. The first piece is at the bottom of a luminous pool in the center. But it is so grey there that the. Q: Where can you watch As the World Turns?. 36 Tom Reamy. feelings; he was very open about things like that." Expedition had not had any chance in the first place. There had been no time for luxuries like space travel. frogs croaked at them, and one or two bubbles broke the surface. Together Amos and Jack looked into. "Be quiet and help me," said the thin grey man, "or I shall put you in the trunk with my nearest and. Barry told Cinderella of his ups and downs during the past six months.. Nolan stared at her. "They worship snakes up there?" - I. G. Saltier. "I wondered from the start why you were along, Crawford." She was pacing slowly back and forth in the crowded space. The others got out of her way almost without thinking, except for Ralston who still huddled under his blanket. "A historian? Sure, it's a fine idea, but pretty impractical. I have to admit that I've been thinking of you. Identical twins are very like each other and often display mirror-image characteristics. (I once had a chemistry professor with his nose canted to the left. His identical-twin brother had his nose canted to the right, I was told.)" "Well it's about time," said the grey man, and began walking toward it. But as soon as he stepped. face and hands from the nosebleed he'd only recently gotten under control, but his eyes were alert He shivered, looking from Lang, his titular leader, to Crawford, the only one who seemed calm enough to deal with anything. He was a follower, reliable but unimaginative.. divorce." but had discovered something "peculiar" about him. Birdie Pawlowicz, Maurice Milian, David Fowler., "What's this spell he was having?" mouthpiece and looked at me. "It's for you? an obscene phone call." She didn't bat an eyelash or twitch. "You may take a nap," said the grey man. "But come and have breakfast first." The grey man put his. We made the cold dash across the beach to the cabin, picking up our clothes on the way. Inside we. "Neither one of those facts is so incredible compared to some of the strange things in this world," said. "Certainly. Barry, you said? You're so direct it's almost devious. Let's go to my place. It's only a. glamor of the place. Partyland was an endless middle-class living room, a panorama of all that was. The three scientists allowed their studies to slide as it became more important to provide for the. Number. I've kept the stim tracks plateaued for the past three sets. "Coining," I say. "It's coming. There's. He looked at her questioningly.. crude oil must be something a little different It has to be the remains of the last generation." It was too early to drop around, and so I ate breakfast, hoping this was one of the times Detweiler stuck around for more than three days. Not for a minute did I doubt he would be living at the apartment court on Las Palmas, or not far away.. squatted hi a circle around a growth in the graveyard.. The crawler skidded to a stop, nearly rolling over, beside the deflated dome. Two pressure-suited figures got out. They started for the dome, hesitantly, in fits and starts. One grabbed the other's arm and pointed to the lander. The two of them changed course and scrambled up the rope ladder hanging over the side.. saw something crawling through the whirligig garden, he dropped everything and started over to it. These cells could serve as potential organ banks for the future. H the time were to come when an adult found he had a limping heart or fading pancreas or whatever, or if a leg had been lost in an accident or had had to be amputated, then those long-frozen cells would be defrosted and put into action.. It was the mystery that Nolan had sensed the first time he saw her staring at him across the village. stalk was a perfect globe, one gray, one blue. The blue one was much larger than the gray one.. "Why didn't you go to a hospital or something?" I asked, feeling enormous pity for the wretched boy.. became anonymous.. Number

five bad one door and four windows? identical to the other nine Lorraine assured me. The door had a heavy-duty bolt that couldn't be fastened or unfastened from the outside. The window beside the door didn't open at all and wasn't intended to. The bathroom and kitchen windows cranked out and were tall and skinny, about twenty-four by six. The other living room window, opposite the door, slid upward. The iron bars bolted to the frame were so rusted I doubted if they could be removed without ripping out the whole window. It appeared Andrew Detweiler had another perfect alibi after all? along with the rest of the world, "We're waiting for a reply," Crawford said. "But I can sum up what they're going to say: not good. Unless one of you two has some experience in Mars-lander handling that you've been concealing from us." I stood up. "I'll do that. Thank you very much." I looked at the plate-glass doors. I guess it would be pretty easy to walk through one of them if you thought it was open. "Are all the apartments alike? Those terrace doors?" Just like, he thought, a lie. We Sold Space, POHL & KORKBLUTH. And in return from the bubbles they heard, "Who are you?" It was painful to leave the mystery for later, but there was nothing to be done about it. They could not bring themselves to uproot the thing, even when five more like it sprouted in the graveyard. There was a new consensus among them to leave the Martian plants and animals alone. Like nervous atheists, most of them didn't believe Song's theories but had an uneasy feeling of trespassing when they went through the gardens. They felt subconsciously that it might be better to leave them alone in case they turned out to be private property. By the end of July he had refined and miniaturized the device and had extended its sensitivity range into the infrared. He spent most of August, when he should have been on vacation, trying various methods of detecting sound through the device. By focusing on the interior of a speaker's larynx and using infrared, he was able to convert the visible vibrations of the vocal cords into sound of fair quality, but that did not satisfy him. He worked for a while on vibrations picked up from panes of glass in windows and on framed pictures, and he experimented briefly with the diaphragms in speaker systems, intercoms and telephones. He kept on into October without stopping and finally achieved a system that would give tinny but recognizable sound from any vibrating surface? a wall, a floor, even the speaker's own cheek or forehead. that with the Project so close to completion and the King on their backs morning, noon and night, the 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. I got back to my office at six. Miss Tremaine sat primly at her desk, cleared of everything but her purse and a notepad. She reminded me quite a lot of Desmond. "What are you still doing here, Miss Tremaine? You should've left an hour ago." I sat at my desk, leaned back until the swivel chair groaned twice, and propped my feet up. Hinda could not answer. She could not even look at him. His nakedness shamed her more than his words. She put their food on the table and they ate their meal in silence. Then they slept like beasts and without dreams. "Sir," I say, "there's nothing we can do here. We're just going to have to return home and let Earth basins of stone. They had been put there for a warning, because just beyond them the floor of the cave. I sought the deer today. And what I seek, I find." He did not turn. "We ran him long, my dogs and I.

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