

## GUIDE THROUGH NORTH AMERICA

Joanna Russ for "In Defense of Criticism". Caution, an old habit, claimed him. He circled the clearing, never once making a sound. He approached the cottage from the side, and Hinda's singing led him on. When he reached the window, he peered in. Friday, the 22nd, the same day Detweiler checked in the Brewster, a two-year-old boy had fallen on. She humphed again and ignored me. the record I'd like to cite a few pertinent facts. darkness. right on. was deliberately avoiding him. He decided to give her one last chance. He left a message with the. She smiled at them and said, "I am glad you have come for the second piece of the mirror, but it is buried in this frozen shard of ice. Once, when I was a girl, I chopped through a chunk of ice to get to an earring my mother had dropped the night before in a winter dance. That block of ice was the coldest and hardest ice any man or woman had ever seen. This block is ten degrees colder. Can you chop through it?" I looked unhappily at the couple standing in the outer office with my secretary. What a time for clients to walk in. "I have some people here. Can it possibly wait?" you really get into it, don't you?" She went on like that, whispering about creatures half-serpent and half-human, with bodies cold to the touch, limbs that could writhe in boneless contortion to squeeze the breath from a man and crush him like the coils of a giant constrictor. She spoke of forked tongues, of voices hissing forth from mouths yawning incredibly wide on movable jawbones. And she might have gone on, but Nolan stopped her now; his head was throbbing with weariness. "Isn't he adorable?" Darlene said. "He looks just like you." It isn't Moog Indigo; they're laying down the sound and light patterns behind Jain as expertly as always. enough to keep Darlene in comfort and tide them over after he got back. She couldn't have come with Amos. "But there is nothing we can do now. I can never thank you enough for gathering the mirror and chatter about it among themselves in autumn and rise and doff their caps to me before a winter storm." "Because Mrs. Bushyager thinks she's shackled up somewhere with Mr. Bushyager. She'd like you to never see baby pigeons? All the pigeons you see out on the street are the same size—full-grown. But "Jain!" I scream at the sky until my voice is gone and vertigo destroys my balance. The echoes die. A box number at the Hollywood post office. The title of the story was "Deathsong." I wished I'd had time. It was Nina. And that's why I sold her. He was about twenty-five, wearing tight chinos without underwear and a tee shirt. His hair was tousled. His first elation fizzled out and he was left with his usual flattened sense of personal inconsequence. Tucking the license into his ID folder, he felt like a complete charlatan, a nobody pretending to be a somebody. If he'd scored in the first percentile, he'd have been issued this license the same as if he'd scored in the tenth. And he knew with a priori certainty that he hadn't done that well. The most he'd hoped for was another seven points, just enough to top him over the edge, into the sixth percentile. Instead he'd had dumb luck. friends. "What's the use of all this talk?" Crawford to nurse the leg she had stepped on in her haste. lack. I've always wanted to go places, and you can't with a baby. But I never planned to become a. I'd gone to a hospital, they'd have wanted to know how I'd stayed alive so far. Sometimes I'm glad if s. I thought about it a minute. There seemed to be no harm in Selene being here. "No, I won't tell her." number seven." She turned back to me. "This is my protegee, Johnny Peacock? a very talented young. 107. There had been a brief lifting of spirits among Song, Ralston, and McKillian at the thought of a possible rescue. The more they thought about it, the less happy they looked. They all seemed to agree with Crawford's assessment. no protests. McKillian and Ralston headed for the pile of salvaged equipment, hoping to rescue enough of her desires; please carry them out accordingly." The packet contains a chrome cylinder with a screw. DENVER. his fingers. If he didn't bring it up, I would, but I had a feeling he would want his usual alibi this time. song she always tops her concerts with, the number that really made her. Nolan gestured quickly. "Get that engine started? we're going after her." any day now and our savings account down to two figures, and what would I like for dinner? baked fish. membership fee, Barry felt as though he'd been had, but since the outlay was nonrefundable, he decided to himself as he hung up the two-thirds completed mirror. The final third was on the table. The technique has been tried on different animals. You begin with an unfertilized egg cell and treat it forever. No sense getting uptight; everything was going to be all right. I didn't want to die. We had to have blood. He always did it so there was lots of blood, so no one would. After that day Lang was ruthless in gutting the old Podkayne. She supervised the ripping out of the motors to provide more living space, and only Crawford saw what it was costing her. They drained the fuel tanks and stored the fuel in every available container they minutes left on the clock, he'd just up and left, which was not, strictly speaking, a violation. It did imply. "Hello, hello, hello? No good on this one, Mary. Want me to try another channel?" small pickaxe they had used to help them climb the mountain. "What you can do with your stickers," Barry said resolutely, "is stick them up your ass. Your asses, rather." no word of farewell. Her thoughts were on the hunter, the man of the wolves. She never doubted he high peaks, where the great serpents dwell. Your workers here, even Moises, know only the jungle, but I role undermined the '70s trip to the Island; Richard Basehart didn't help matters by looking like a. listening to the pounding of the drums, he thought of her again and felt a stirring in his loins. "Tell her she fell asleep. By the way, thanks for saying nothing about me." FASF's special Damon Knight issue (November 1976). As might be expected, it is a totally fresh way. "Why, there's nothing in ..." he began. But then something caught his eye at the very bottom of the. Selene laughed. She spun across the sand in time to some music only she could hear and grinned. "I think maybe you are. But that's all right. I do too. It'll pass." "Nonsense," said the grey man smoothing his grey gloves over his wrists. "If you're going to be up this. the only thing to do was to jump in and at least try to save the prince. But there was a splash of water at. and sun? loses it, finds it again, counting days as he goes. The farther eastward, the more he has to tilt. No sweat. That was a laugh. All he'd done since he got here was sweat. Patrolling the plantation at sunset, loading cargo all day for the boats that went downriver, squinting over paperwork while night closed down on the bungalow to imprison him behind a wall

of jungle darkness. And at night the noises came—the hum of insect hordes, the bellow of caimans, the snorting snuffle of peccary, the ceaseless chatter of monkeys intermingled with the screeching of a milling mindless birds. "Matthew? Matthew, I'm sorry. I didn't meant to hurt you." Her hand stroked my forehead. "It was the illumination did not make them clearer. They were vaguely rectilinear shapes without any coherent reflection but the face of a young woman. "I'm afraid," she said cheerfully, "that you shall never be able to. big, white, puckered scar between its shoulder blades, at the top of its jutting backbone..sound and color. All I've got to do is go in before I die and cut the tape."..folding skillet, one small folding sauce pan, one metal spoon, one metal fork, and a medium-sized kitchen." . . . the North Wind," whispered Amos..truth of a piece of fiction matters, for aesthetic reasons. To apply rigid, stupid, narrow, political standards."Is something the matter?" she asked, handing him the uppers with a glass of water. "You look 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..There was a tiny new star, brighter than all the rest, brighter than Phobos. It hurt to look at it but..Crawford was the only one to look up when the lock started cycling. The two people almost tumbled..We can therefore imagine that at birth, every human individual will have scrapings taken from his little toe, thus attaining a few hundred living cells that can be at once frozen for possible eventual use. (This is done at birth, because the younger the cell, the more efficiently it is likely to clone.)..Not from you, he wanted to tell her. Instead he looked off into the distance at the perambulations of a suite of chairs in another ring. Only when all the chairs had settled into place did he refocus on the..For the next many days Barry didn't speak to a soul. He felt no need to communicate anything to ..I'm not lying. I was arguing that Selene shouldn't use any of your time."..hours poring over them."..Robert F. Young has written thirty-nine stories for F&SF over the years, and we can think of..55.)..Humor Bill, this is definitely not the time for jokes. Something has gone wrong with the Megalo Banking."Then I am the prince to save you," said Jack..The combination of the Martian polar inclination, the precessional cycle, and the eccentricity of the orbit..per-cent admixture of the proud blood of the conquistadores, "Who are we to know the way of..Outside, the water lapped at the ship, and after a moment Jack said, "A river runs by the castle of the Far Rainbow, and when you go down into the garden, you can hear the water against the wall just like that".When Westland left, I headed for the men's room to down a couple of aspirin to steady my nerves. And who should I meet coming out of the door but Admiral Venerate. Venerate and I are old buddies, having been together on the Potlatch Investigation Team some eight years ago. At that time I proved there were no irregularities in the award of the Potlatch missile contract to Megalo. Venerate proved that the Navy had done nothing wrong. I was promoted to this staff position. Venerate moved up to Admiral.."Now," said the grey man, "here is a map."..water. It isn't here now, but it can be created by properly designed plants. They engineered these plants."Mary," McKillian said, "it occurs to me that I'd better start looking for airborne spores. If there are..International Space Agency. Its crew came from all over Earth. Its drive was new, too, and a lot better."That's perfectly natural. I hated compulsory talk myself, though I must admit I was good at it. What about your job, Barry? Doesn't that give you opportunities to develop communication skills?"..saw her step up to the dome wall and wipe a clear circle to look through. She spotted his bright red suit..rags. When he had dressed and was about to go with the grey man to lunch, his sleeve brushed the grey..healthy-looking?pink and flushed with health, though slightly pale as if he didn't get out in the sun much..you can lick! I'll tell you what, Barry: officially, I shouldn't tell you this myself, but I'm giving you a score."Have you heard about the giant department store in Japan?" he asked her. "It covers sixteen acres."..145..maintain your energy supply. Any Zorphs in your sector will attack you and each attack will use up some..sometimes getting on their knees when the clearance lowered. They heard the sound of children's voices.."You're sure you want me to have this?" Barry asked, incredulous, with the white curlicue of the sticker dangling from his fingertip..abrupt, though polite..toe, thus attaining a few hundred living cells that can be at once frozen for possible eventual use. (This is..And groom your domestic balrogs..Thus, the facts alone make it clear that the King has no such intent His real purpose in..haven, why weren't they and the rest of the people so informed in the first place?.."Do not trouble yourself. I will look after the little one." Mama's voice was soothing. "Now you must rest".me." Amos turned to the sailors. "What about that man there? He has a rope and is well muffled against..As for the exception reports triggered by your schedule slippage, J.L. has signed off on the necessary forms to justify a new schedule. We have doubled the expected times required to complete phases four through seven. While this stretches out the predicted completion for Project 8723 by two years, we feel that you people are doing important work in other areas and should not be forced to produce a program of use only to those uptight jokers hi Accounting..God only knows why she was up this early; over the last eight..She says, "Hurry," and cuts off..his big black trunk. He told us terrible stories of the places he intended to go. And you just up and went."Right," said Ed, nodding more vigorously. "But I liked what you were saying about cars. That made..Stan Dryer Zorphwar!.Rerun it on the 10th: a woman slipped in the bathtub and fell through the glass shower doors, cutting..suppose it could be worse. There's no use complaining. Life goes on, as they say."..Crawford missed most of the interesting work, being more suited for the semiskilled manual labor that never seemed to be finished. So he and Lang had to learn about the new discoveries at the nightly briefings in the shelter. He remembered nothing about any animal life being discovered, and so when he saw something crawling through the whirligig garden, he dropped everything and started over to it."Really?"..Landis, not to mention enraged giant lizards and a volcanic eruption. One Million Years B.C. took the..The camp was anything but

orderly. No one would get the impression that any care had been taken. compromising or ludicrous activities were widely distributed in the press..At the same time, Fm afraid that his rage will get us into extremely serious trouble. The Sreen have already demonstrated their awesome power through the ease with which they located and intercepted us just outside the orbit of Neptune. Their vessel is incomprehensible, a drupelet-cluster of a construct which seems to move in casual defiance of every law of physics, half in normal space, half hi elsewhere space. It is an enormous piece of hardware, this Sreen craft, a veritable artificial planetoid: the antiseptic bay in which our own ship now sits, for example, is no less than a cubic kilometer in volume; the antechamber in which the captain and I received the Sreen edict is small by comparison, but only by comparison. Before us is a great door of dully gleaming gray metal, five or six meters high, approximately four wide. In addition to everything else, the Sreen must be physically massive beings. My head is full of unpleasant visions of superintelligent dinosaurs, and I do not want the captain to antagonize such creatures..through what had to be every shop in Gateside before Amanda found a gift she thought worthy of her.fuel tanks and stored the fuel in every available container they could scrounge. It would be useful later for.We Also Walk Dogs..It is also possible, however, though not usual, for a woman to bring two different egg cells to fruition.be some thorny questions to resolve there, but for the meantime we will function as a unit, under my.CLAUSE'S Tales White From the Hart.Sitting on the floor huddled in a blanket was Martin Ralston, the chemist His shirt was bloody, and there was dried blood all over his."Hey, do you mind if I sit down on your couch a minute? I am frazzled. It's a tremendous opportunity, working here, but it does take it out of you."I found the Detweiler boy again on the 16th and the 19th. He'd moved into a rooming house near.more thing that might be an animal. It was a flying creature, the size of a fruit fly, that managed to glide.When another two weeks went by without the Board of Examiners saying boo, he couldn't stand the suspense any longer and went down to Center St. to fill out a form that asked basically where did he stand. A clerk coded the form and fed it into the computer. The computer instructed Barry to fill out another form, giving more details. Fortunately he'd brought the data the computer wanted, so he was able to fill out the second form on the spot After a wait of less than ten minutes, his number lighted up on the board and he was told to go to Window 28..AMIS' Hell of New Maps.development of the clone. The egg will have to be implanted into a foreign womb and that, too, will have.place it right. After a seventh or eighth try she stood up, letting the hairpins spill onto the carpet. She.common people like ourselves? If that's so, then we aren't acting in our own best interests at all; we're

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