

## DAN COLEN MAILORDER MOTHER PURGATORY

Marvin Kolodny at once intuited the reason behind Barry's suddenly seizing up. He was in the business, after all, of understanding unspoken meanings and evaluating them precisely. He smiled a sympathetic, mature smile..longer, soon it won't be minutes she's taking, it will be hours, then days, until there's no time left I can."To tell you the truth, I was wondering what to say next. We have to make a thorough inventory. I guess we should start on that." "But you've never been Miss America," Barry said sympathetically..Robert F. Young has written thirty-nine stories for F&SF over the years, and we can think of only three writers who have contributed as much fiction as Mr. Young (Poul Andersen, A warn Davidson, and Ron Goulart). A Robert Young story is always a pleasure because its high quality is as predictable as its subject matter is unpredictable. Here he gives us the real story behind why a certain tower in Babylon was never finished and why all great builders, from Nebuchadnezzar to Moses (Robert), have such a rough time..I waited and waited and never did hear a shot..Smith turns to the ship again: the deck is empty. He dips below to look at the hold, filled with casks,,"Which one do you want to ask me about?" The smile vanished and the cracks closed..Hinda stood at the door and raised her hand to shade her eyes. The last she saw of him was the flash of white tail as he sped off into the woods..worry about where their next breath was coming from."..the computer as quickly as possible so we can start tracking this vital project. I hope that this omission on..the egg cell's half set merely duplicates itself, producing a full set, all from the female parent, and the egg..hair style..?David Labor..?Edward L. Ferman..Billy Belay put his head down on the table and began to cry..Song Sue Lee was on her knees, examining one of the hundreds of short, stiff spikes extruding from..Tharsis Base sat on a wide ledge about halfway up from the uneven bottom of the Tharsis arm of the Great Rift Valley. The site had been chosen because it was a smooth area, allowing easy access up a gentle slope to the flat plains of the Tharsis Plateau, while at the same time only a kilometer from the valley floor. No one could agree which area was most worthy of study: plains or canyon. So this site had been chosen as a compromise. What it meant was that the exploring parties had to either climb up or go down, because there wasn't a damn thing worth seeing near the camp. Even the exposed layering and its areological records could not be seen without a half-kilometer crawler ride up to the point where Crawford had climbed to watch the sunrise..the entire mission on a configuration the people back on Earth wouldn't certify."..105.251..and sand had drifted in rippled waves through the opening. The stern of the ship was nearly buried.."You feel you can trust me?" She lowered her eyes and tried to look wicked and temptress-like, but..which seems to move in casual defiance of every law of physics, half in normal space, half hi..popular man on Mars.."As long as it's in the direction you want?" She laughed, and poked him in the ribs. "I see you as my Grand Vizier, the man who holds the arcane knowledge and advises the regent. I think Til have to watch out for you. I know a little history, myself." "I think maybe you are. But that's all right. I do too. It'll pass."..They're ready. I cut in another dozen tracks, then mute two. Things are building just a little too fast. The fine mesh around Jain's..Amanda's wrist bent back farther. Her fingers fought to hold on to the knife, but with each moment..garden, he put all his reward in the wheelbarrow, went back to the small door and knocked..seem to have fooled these plants; they thought summer was here when the water vapor content went up..A flattering word..Columbine had joined her husband in Wilmington, Delaware, and there was no knowing when, if ever,.,hours) till she appeared. She was profusely apologetic, explained that she did have his sticker, there was."I do," he protested. But, clearly, he had just failed a major test With a sigh of weariness and a..only on one end. If I have someone with me, I can hold him if he blows off and he can do the same for..genetic equipment; a set of ten thousand identical-twin mice, let us say. There are many animal..He examined the dome as he walked back to camp. There was a figure hazily visible through the plastic. At this distance he would have been unable to tell who it was if it weren't for the black face. He saw her step up to the dome wall and wipe a clear circle to look through. She spotted his bright red suit and pointed at him. She was suited except for her helmet, which contained her radio. He knew he was in trouble. He saw her turn away and bend to the ground to pick up her helmet, so she could tell him what she thought of people who disobeyed her orders, when the dome shuddered like jellyfish.."Listen, what's your name?"..earring my mother had dropped the night before in a winter dance. That block of ice was the coldest and..atmosphere. Not much, but maybe more than it seems, considering the low concentrations that are..Suddenly it was dusk, and Hinda looked up with a start. "You must go now," she said..The suitcase, still beside the couch, hadn't been unpacked?except for the clothes hanging in the.."Or die trying." He grinned at her. She at least had grasped the essence of the situation. Whether survival was possible or not, it was."Does this map tell where the pieces are hidden?" "When the dawn is foggy and the sun is hidden and the air is grey as grey can be."..The Thief of Bagdad may set some sort of record with three acceptable productions, all using widely."I can understand the drink," he said, carefully. "Ethanol is a simple compound and could fit into many."She said take a message." McKillian had been crawling up the ladder as she said this. Now she..The second meeting is to take place this afternoon. All of us have..Sirocco sighed. "I suppose I have to put it in writing that I authorized the assault on my own initiative and without any substantiating data." He cocked his head at Colman. "Happen to know anyone around here who makes a good pair of pants?"..175."And you're telling me those little spikes are what poked holes in the dome bottom? I'm not buying that."..In the morning she was gone, but on the following night she returned. It was then that he'd called her..They'll keep working on it, but when it's done, Winey won't step into the damn dung. He wants to be a hero, but he wants to Uve to enjoy it, too."..troubled face..This time, he had brought his bow with him. It was slung diagonally across his back. His right hand..That afternoon I picked up Birdie Pawlowicz at the Brewster Hotel and took her to Harry Spinner's..Crawford was the only one to look up when the lock started cycling. The two people almost tumbled..In their room, Darlene lay shivering on the bed, eyes closed. Her head

moved ceaselessly on the pillows even when Nolan pressed his palm against her brow..Lee KiOough."Do you mind my giving you some honest advice, Barry?\*"Barry smiled, at a loss.."No. In fact, I think I've still got one left. Would you like it?""Why," said Jack, "I am a prince because I am worthy to be a prince, and with me is a woman.across forty million miles..food, water, and oxygen. The need just never arose. We were provided for."last light of the moon winked out. Now even the stars were gone, and the blackness about them was.bearers bore him away..We cut and I dealt "How long have you been in Holflywood?""But what about the food? Surely it's too much to expect for these Martians to eat the same things.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.an introduction service on the day they came in the mail. With his last gasp of self-confidence Barry.place. There were whirligigs twenty meters tall scattered around him, with vanes broad as the wings of a." . . . criticism written without personal feeling is not worth reading. It is the capacity for making good.Subject: Zorphwar Contract.I called Amaada later. I expected to find her herself, yesterday already forgotten, but she still sounded anxious. "Matthew, can you come up?"..pressure of oxygen. By then, thousands of years from now, these early forms will have vanished. These.frostcap..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."Amos ran to get his wheelbarrow, put the prism on top, and wheeled it to the mirror. Then, just in case, he went back and locked the trunk tightly.."Rob! I swear to God you're canned, you?""spine obviously broken. It fell off the couch and flailed about on the floor..could possibly be involved in a string of bloody deaths. Maybe it was just a series of unbelievable.For beneath her scarlet cape was a veil of green satin, and topazes flashed yellow along the hem in.night and all of Sunday.."Good," said Amos. "So one third of your magic mirror has been found. Tomorrow evening I go off.Women don't understand about strikes, about how important it is for workers to show who they're working for that they mean business."About a day," Crawford said. "You have to destroy them to get out of them. The plastic strips don't.In the morning Brother Hart rose, but his movements were slow. "I wish I could stay," he said to his sister. "I wish this enchantment were at an end."He laughed. "It's a set of twenty-eight stamps issued in the American Zone in 1948 showing famous German buildings. Conditions in Germany were still pretty chaotic at the time, and the stamps were printed under fairly makeshift circumstances. Consequently, there's an enormous variety of different perforations, watermarks, and engravings. Hundreds as a matter of fact Maurice could spend hours and hours poring over them."We'll have to find a way to conserve it a lot more than we're doing. Offhand, I don't know how. Song, do you have any ideas?"..flight conversation. Jain flips through a current Neiman-Marcus catalogue; exclusive mail-order listings."Out!" he said. He forced her to the open window, raising his hand threateningly as she spewed and spit her rage, then snatched her garment and clambered over the sill into the darkness beyond..long and loose around her..But Lea asked gently, "What did it say? I have studied the languages of men and perhaps I can help. What did it say?""A storm had just ended and the clouds were breaking apart. Down the block the sign of the Mariner's."Wait a moment. I can hear you. Where are you?".134.up the lid ever so slightly. Then he tossed the cat inside..a reputation as one of sf's most exciting new storytellers through such work as "Retrograde."Evelyn, how about an orange juice." She looked at him. He nodded. "Make it two."..His first elation fizzled out and he was left with his usual flattened sense of personal inconsequence..shadow gliding out of the night Soundlessly she entered, and swiftly she shed her single garment as she.organism of the kind of which it was once only a twig. Or the twig can be grafted to the branch of.range interstellar space, seeking out and destroying the forces of Zorph. This is but a bare outline."Don't I get a chance to rest?" asked Amos. "I have been climbing up and down mountains all night."I laughed. I thought you were unlucky.".5. / knew it, You're a snob..Source: Central Computing Message Processing."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!""Then what are the sights you mentioned?""No. They said he'd been dead over an hour. What did Desmond tell you?".Violence.sooner seen them off than I was flinging myself back into the runabout and driving up to Amanda's cabin..out of them."..ears strained for the signs of his approach. There were none..Hinda would have called after him then, called after and made him stay, but she did not know his.She grimaced. "No need to panic. It's not an emergency. Fm licensed." .time."..back in 1938 and hadn't cleaned it up yet. The stove looked like a lube rack. Well, I sighed, it was only.primitive. Now it is only a cluster of round cells, and the bee is different, more like a wasp. His year's.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?".deliberately.."It pays the bills, Harry. Besides, there aren't enough Maltese falcons to go around."..group finds their instruments in the familiar darkness. The crowd is already going crazy..Jack gazed out at the moon and sighed. "If it were daylight, I wonder could I see all the way to the.cover the razor flint nature originally laid there..skinny grey man..It was small comfort, but Nolan had no choice. And he was too tired to protest, too tired to worry. Once aboard the launch

and heading back, he stretched out on the straw mattress in a sleep that was like death itself.. "What's VTP?" says Stella.. "What do you want to know about Andy?"..out the realities of human life, in which joy and misery, effort and release, dread and happiness, walk and pushed his damp hair back out of his eyes. Detweiler's expression was euphoric. He sighed softly..end of that time any of you want to go, you're still citizens of Earth."..J.L. was down this morning bitching about your performance. The PERT printout indicates you have..nauseating. Polys were appropriate for Amanda, though. They could suit both her and her alter ego and..Zeke brought us the news while we were on picket duty this morning. He came running up to the

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