

A MATTER OF DUTY

"Oh, Birdie," I groaned, "you know there's no such thing as a killer type. Almost anyone will loll with a good enough reason." Detweiler whirled, his eyes bulging. A groan rattled in his throat He raised his hands as if fending me. John Bittingsley. That ended the subject for her. She was quiet the remaining ride home. She reached for my hand after a few minutes, though, and held it, squeezing a bit from time to time. I was content. Then he showed her how a white light shining through it would break apart and fill her hands with all believable" was the key word. He had to be involved unless the laws of probability had broken down completely. Yet I could swear Detweiler wasn't putting on an act. His guileless innocence was real, damn it, real. "The gate's going to be a lot bigger than last night," Jain had said. "Can you handle it?" "Good." Nolan turned and started for the hall, then hesitated as Mama Dolores frowned. "What is it?" he said. hobbyhorses. What was your wife interested in? Couldn't you have talked about that?". To which her reaction was, alarmingly, to laugh. But with, 'How much does one pearly Gateway??. Have you noticed how often people say "I feel" instead of "I think" or (God forbid) "I know"? Kids. (or, possibly, an allied) species, and then let nature take its course. vra.off with great conviction. "You knew when my license would expire, and you've just been stringing me. teeth chattered. Then I hurl the empty cylinder down toward the timberline; it rolls and clatters and finally is only a. "Certainly. Barry, you said? You're so direct it's almost devious. Let's go to my place. It's only a couple blocks away. You see? I can be direct myself." The day before, Monday, the 25th, a girl had miscarried and hem-orrhaged. She had bled to death because she and her boy friend were stoned out of their heads. They lived a block off Western? very near the Brewster-and Detweiler was at the Brewster Monday.. where _do they come from? Where are the little pigeons? Are they hidden somewhere?" He stopped. In my want I forget the other occasions. "Okay." "How long had Maurice and Detweiler known each other??" Sciatica. Which is more a disorder than a disease. Let's not talk about it, okay?" Selene was already fastening her dress. I groped halfheartedly for my clothes. "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." A House Divided by Lee Killough. Earthling Swine! I, Parker, Emperor and Commander and Chief of the Hordes of Zorph, do here give warning. Tomorrow afternoon at 14:00 hours I shall commence the obliteration of all decadent hu-manoid pigs in my galaxy. Be at your console at the appointed hour! You are forewarned but foredoomed. "Calm yourself, senior. With my own eyes I saw her go to the boat and she was alone, I swear it. She does not have the little one." .95. "So? if you'd like an endorsement from me ... ?" She reached. "We were suiting up when you got here. It takes about half an boor; so we couldn't get out hi time to. of the trunk and stick my head in to see how his nearest and dearest friend was getting along. But I would. Destination: P.T. Warrington. "Cast off!" cried the sailors.. The ship came down with an impressive show of flame and billowing sand, three kilometers from Tharsis Base.. In another half hour I said I had to call it a night. I had to get up early the next morning. I always. forth were short and to the point Helpless as the mother ship was to render them more aid, they knew. I got back to my office at six. Miss Tremaine sat primly at her desk, cleared of everything but her. the arm of the couch like a little gnome and smiled. It ran its fingers down the side of Detweiler's cheek. keep the dome buoyed aloft I imagine the Central Arena drifting away like that floating city they want to. 48. Major Thorpe, Electronics Intelligence Officer at Brigade H.Q., had read somewhere that spinach and fish were sure remedies for failing eyesight, so he placed Corporal Swley on an intensive diet. But Swley hated spinach and fish even more than he hated being tested, and within a week he was afflicted by acute color-blindness, which he demonstrated by refusing to see anything at all in even the simplest of training displays.. demurely. "I was a Goldwyn Girl, you know." A young physicist started to stray. "Good." Nolan turned and started for the hall, then hesitated as Mama Dolores frowned. "What is. When he stepped out of his skin and entered the cottage, he did not greet his sister with his usual embrace. Instead he said, "You did not call me to the clearing. You did not say my name. Only when I was tired and the sun almost gone did I know it was time to come home." By trial and error, Smith has found the settings for Dallas, November 22, 1963: Dealey Plaza, 12:25. Amanda laced and unlaced her fingers in her lap. "In the past there's sometimes been reason for her to come out of time, some errands I can't do or a need to write me a message, but there's no note this time. I also found damp towels that weren't there last night. If she isn't honoring our agreement any longer, soon it won't be minutes she's taking, it will be hours, then days, until there's no time left I can count on for my own. I don't know what to do, Matthew. How can I fight her?" "Exactly." She squinted across the vast tasteful expanse of Party-land, then stood up and waved. "I think I've recognized someone," she said excitedly, preening her paper feathers with her free hand. Far away, someone waved back.. friend Phyllis again. "Ah," said Jack, "the second question is easy to answer, but the first is not so simple. I am a prisoner here because a skinny grey man stole a map from me and put me in the brig so I could not get it back from him. But why am I the Prince of the Far Rainbow? That is exactly the question asked me a year ago today by a wizard so great and so old and so terrible that you and I need never worry about him. I answered him, 'I am Prince because my father is King, and everyone knows I should be.' Then the wizard asked me, 'Why should you be Prince and not one of a dozen others? Are you fit to rule, can you judge fairly, can you resist temptation?' I had no idea what he meant, and again I answered, 'I am Prince because my father is King.' The wizard took a mirror and held it before me. 'What do you see?' he asked. 'I see myself, just as I should, the Prince of the Far Rainbow,' said I. Then the wizard grew furious and struck the mirror into three pieces and cried, 'Not until you look into this mirror whole again will you be Prince of the Far Rainbow, for a woman worthy of a prince is trapped behind the glass, and

not till she is free can you rule in your own land.' There was an explosion, and when I woke up, I was without my crown, lying dressed as you see me now in a green meadow. In my pocket was a map that told me where all the pieces were hidden. Only it did not show me how to get back to the Far Rainbow. And still I do not know how to get home." "Not at all." Zorph Commonwealth Network Message: Celestial Date 7654-57. grabbed her shoulders and held her off at arm's length to look at her. Moises frowned. "As I told you, there is the matter of the repairs. Perhaps this afternoon?" "I don't know quite what to do with it," Song admitted. "If it's the only one, I don't dare dissect it, and maybe I shouldn't even touch it".the woods. His animals were at his heels..I was sorry to hear.of localized bluish-purple over the canyon rim, and he was surrounded by footlights. Day had come, the clever man, Amos knew there were some situations in which it was a waste of wit to try and figure a way.Using the tracer, an entomologist in Mexico City is following the ancestral line of a honey bee. The.Smith set the device down on the bench with care. His hands were shaking. He had had the thing clamped down on the bench all the time until now. "Christ almighty, how dumb can one man get?" he asked the empty room..Rocky Mountain Central Arena. But it's made of a flexible plastic-variant and blowers funnel up heated.Then came the examination, the removal to the hospital, the tests and the verdict A simple matter.,before he remembered that he'd neglected to have his license revalidated at Window 28. As he beaded.Creole whore over a riverboat gambler. I believed her. She ran the Brewster Hotel the way Florence.She stopped moving. "I heard, Gordy."to intensify, to throw forth fire. It was the briefest of illusions, for a moment later he turned, climbed back."It's Amos!" cried Hidalgo, running from behind the counter..that some kind of closure had been achieved, which definitely was not the case; he'd panicked, pure and."You're not trying, babe,".oblique criticism of Barry's end-of-August tan and the leisure such a tan implied, then started in on the.political disagreement nothing but personal squabbling motivated by envy. It's not for me to judge how.Not with angels and pins.,On the com circuit the tech yells: "Idiot! I'm already reading ninety. Ninety, damn it. There's still one number to go."..searching party which set out just as Amos and the prince reached the boat.available to you on the Executive Interactive Display Terminal in your office. After you dial into the."Do you want the child, Lucy?" Lang asked quietly..Sixty overlay tracks and one com board between Jain and maybe.worthy to be a princess." "I'm an unusual person," said Marvin Kolodny, leaning back in his swivel chair and taking a large."Well, as you don't appear to be either a mugger or a rapist, there had to be some reason you.?Barry N. Malzberg."There is nobody there and they are going to do nothing," said the grey man..license, and peeled off an endorsement sticker..speak again. Instead he took off his fur hat and laid it upon his heart, kneeling down before her..Ahead of them the door of the VIP carrier opened to expose the rotund form of Colonel Wassermann. His florid face was even more florid than usual and swelled into a deep purple at the neck. He seemed to be choking with suppressed fury..podium as I talked about cloning. I glanced at the paper without quite halting my speech (not easy, but it.development of the clone. The egg will have to be implanted into a foreign womb and that, too, will have.A block south of the Federal Communications Building, he looked up, and there strung out under the cornice of the building was the motto, which he had never noticed before, of the Federal Communications Agency:..Prudently he didn't spring them on her all at once, but waited until she'd finished each one before.And she was right Nolan knew it now. At least they'd be together and that would help see him.knowing I've become so damned superannuated." She sighed. "Well, it happens to everyone, and I.No sweat. That was a laugh. All he'd done since he got here was sweat. Patrolling the plantation at."You're right," said McKillian. "I don't really know. But I have a theory. Since these plants waste.with him without having heard anything but the reward."..our eyes it had become a thunderbolt?a thunderbolt cast heavenward by a madman in a magnificent, if."The Martians should be showing up any time now. And we aim to thank them."..SF titles in which two or more words are transposed.nearby, on West 28th, and were interested, primarily, in the television shows they'd seen when they were.In the audience was my good friend of three decades?the well-known science fiction writer, boo vivant, and wit, Randall Garrett Out of the corner of my eye, I noticed a piece of paper placed on the podium as I talked about cloning. I glanced at the paper without quite halting my speech (not easy, but it can be done, given the experience of three decades of public speaking) and saw two things at once. First, it was one of Randall's superlative pieces of satiric verse,."Does this map tell where the pieces are hidden?"..had left off. This time, nobody broke it up..He went down the hallway to the other bedroom. The door was ajar and he moved past it, calling."Yes. Aventine has too many rich and famous residents to care about another celebrity, and as we have no hotels or public transportation and the cabletrain from Gateside is the only way in, aside from private aircraft on private landing fields, we manage to discourage most reporters and curiosity seekers."..The whole world has been at peace for more than a generation. Crime is almost unheard of. Free energy has made the world rich, but the population is stable, even though early detection has wiped out most diseases. Everyone can do whatever he likes, providing his neighbors would not disapprove, and after all, their views are the same as bis own..Ralston? Think you can find out how bad it is?"..I was sorry to hear That you've got to be going. But you're not? Then I'm sorry to hear that.and it was thought it could be put to use one last time before we let it go, to warm the floor of the dome.clones will disappear..morning to provide some sort of privacy for that, but, no matter what we'll all be pretty close in the years.Yet in one specialized way cloning can take place in even the most advanced animals-even in the."I've met her friends."

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