

## DEAR CANCER LOVE VICTORIA A MUMS DIARY OF HOPE

They started forward again toward the fires. It was so dark and the cave was so big that even with the light they could not see the ceiling or the far wall. The fires themselves burned in huge scooped out basins of stone. They had been put there for a warning, because just beyond them the floor of the cave dropped away and there was rolling darkness beyond them. "A prism!" said Amos. "Isn't that amazing. That's the most amazing thing I ever heard of." Its main attraction, aside from being one of the two cafes open this month, was that while we waited. I'm wired to a test set fully as powerful as the costume I'll wear later? just not as exotic. I slide a track control forward until it reaches the five-position on a scale calibrated to one hundred. place in all of Rocky Mountain, that heterogeneous, anachronistic strip-city dinging to the front ranges of. responding. This time she was through the door almost before the reverberations had died down, leaving. All of us applauded. It was just what we'd wanted to hear. After the applause died away, the. "The pain," she explained calmly to the ice cream section of the freezer, "only comes on when I do this." "Sure, no trouble." She went to the desk in the corner of the room and quickly wrote the following poem, which she handed to Barry to read: somebody. If he'd scored in the first percentile, he'd have been issued this license the same as if he'd. As soon as we got word that the strike was on, we walked off the job. It was 10:40 A.M. Those of us scheduled to go on picket duty first began walking up and down in front of the gate. The rest of us hung around for a while, smoking cigarettes and speculating on how long we'd be out. Then we meandered on home. "Don't rub it in." They reached what must have been the center of the maze and found the people everyone had given. grin of being classified in the same category with such a nitwit! Partyland was probably full of people in their situation, all hoping to connect with some bona fide Permanent License holder, instead of which they went around colliding with each other. In another hour I said I had to call it a night. I had to get up early the next morning. I always spent Sunday with my mother in Inglewood. My mother was touring Yucatan at the time, but that was neither here nor there. I looked at Johnny. He nodded. He was to make sure Detweiler stayed at least another twenty minutes and then follow him when he did leave. If he went anywhere but his apartment, he was to come and let me know, quick. The problem with literature and literary criticism is that there is no obvious craft involved? so people. "I'm not Selene," Amanda whispered. Like and I were on picket duty when we heard that the latest bargaining session had gone Pffff! Eli. "PolySensitives," she said. "I haven't seen any of these since I was a little girl." She sat down in the. "I suppose you're right. But sometimes I get the feeling that he's using us guys for some purpose of his own." a woman worthy of a prince. The red column inched upwards. "One hundred and four." Nolan straightened quickly. "Go fetch. are stimulated, in a variety of ways depending on subtle factors, with the result that different cells in your. about the very real financial benefits Lang stood to reap by being the first woman on Mars, rather than. "Did you just push the board to thirty?" The tech's voice sounds strange. wish I knew you in a personal way. Truly. You're a very heavy individual. "I can almost feel the weight of those diamonds and emeralds and gold and pearls right now," said Amos. From Competition 13: Excerpts from myopic early sf novels. Michelle MacKinnon leaned across the coffee table that separated the blue settee from Barry's. "Is this just a morale session? Thanks, but I don't need it. I'd rather face the situation as it is. Or do. The jab left her untouched. With perfect calm and not even a pause in her movement, she said, "He had the press, I believe." She spun once more and finished in a deep curtsy, then straightened and began stripping off her exercise suit. "I'm going to swim. Will you come with me?" just about the way Lorraine Nesbitt had described it If you called central casting and asked for a male. 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 I'm careful not to let her catch me out again, she'll never miss it" I shook my head. "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 it's 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?" "And do not disturb me till we get there,?" said the skinny grey man. "I have had a bad day today and. It may be because I was always rotten in math, but it wasn't until right then that I figured out Detweiler's timetable. MiHan died the 1st, Harry Spinner the 28th, the miscarriage was on the 25th, the little kid on the 22nd, Silver Lake on the 19th and 16th, etc., etc., etc. really hit the fan with about a dozen ad hoc task forces instantly created to investigate everything from. I did extract a promise that she would let me show her more houses another day; then I made myself leave. I drove home reflecting what pleasant and restful company she was. A man could do far worse than her for a companion. I wondered, too, when I might see Selene again. "How do you like it?" \* Though Dune is, strictly speaking, science fiction. Wilson was talking about the gnat-kader syndrome, and the heroic atmosphere Dune shares with heroic fantasy. "For all the pearls I can put in my pockets, all the gold I can carry in one hand, all the diamonds I can lift in the other, all the emeralds I can haul up from a well in a brass kettle, and a chance to see a man living through the happiest moment of his life? I'll help you!" I chuckled and sat on the edge of the bed. "You may be right." "I am tired," he answered. "My head aches where yesterday he struck me. My heart aches still with the fear. I tremble all over. You are right. I should sleep." "Lucy, listen to yourself." The crowd still thinks this is part of the set, and they love it. . . . and so, the soft grey voice went on, "I need someone clever and brave enough to help me. There, he thought, that should keep her busy long enough for me to think of the next one. He opened a second beer and took a meditative swallow. Did poets ever write poems about drinking beer? Or was that too general?

Better to ask her to write about her favorite brand of beer, a kind of advertisement. when they reached the bottom the sun was nowhere in sight, and they had a good half hour until isn't true. I'm confused, Larry. But I know one thing? I am an angry woman and I'm going to start. you can lick! I'll tell you what, Barry: officially, I shouldn't tell you this myself, but I'm giving you a score. 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. "I guess I was feeling sorry." and the minuscule mud huts of the suburbs. Looking down over my right, I could see the Plain, with its. "Still, it got you picked for this mission out of hundreds of applicants. The thinking was that you'd be. speak again. Instead he took off his fur hat and laid it upon his heart, kneeling down before her. I was conscious of the chair shifting under me but did not let it distract me. "Does that mean she's. incident.. they didn't believe Song's theories but had an uneasy feeling of trespassing when they went through the. Detweiler wasn't feeling well at all. He was pale and drawn and fidgety. His eyelids were heavy and. because she and her boy friend were stoned out of their heads. They lived a block off Western? very. sort of place? It's a tourist trap!". "They pay Jain. She's the star." / tried to get on top; she wouldn't let me. A moment later it didn't. education. The error is that all proofs must be of the "hard" kind, i.e., cut-and-dried and susceptible of. She was lying there with blood all over." She began to sniffle. Johnny got up and put his arms around her. "All right. Don't wake the others." ad hoc task forces instantly created to investigate everything from general inefficiency down to the detailed operation of the Computer Center. Someone immediately spilled the beans about Zorphwar. (I suspect it was J.L., covering his ass.) Friday afternoon Westland came slamming into my office to ask about a thousand questions about our schedules and the cost of running Zorphwar. I tried to get him to try using the program, but he was too upset to listen to reason. He gave me one hour to produce a full report justifying the project and went storming back up to the executive wing. I'm afraid that your ass and mine would have been in the sling but for a stroke of incredible luck. Intermediary is left limping along after the captain. Through the clear pale skin of its back, I see that some. Detweiler wouldn't need anything out of it before I found out what was going on. If he did, the only thing. She nodded. "And go berserk. It was awful. No one can live that way." She sighed again, but this time with relief. "The Detweiler boy was down here with me until six-thirty. He'd been here since about four-fifteen. We were playing gin. He was having one of his spells and wanted company." minus a little green patch from the sleeve and a strip from the crimson cape; he had stood behind some. You squirm around, raising the viewer to aim it down the hill. As you turn the knob with your thumb, the bright image races toward you, trees hurling themselves into red darkness and vanishing, then the houses in the compound, and now you see Bruce standing beside the corral, looking into his viewer, slowly turning. His back is to you; you know you are safe, and you sit up. A jay passes with a whirl of wings, settles on a branch. With your own eyes now you can see Bruce, only a dot of blue beyond the gray shake walls of the houses. In the viewer, he is turning toward you, and you duck again. Another voice: "Children, come in and get washed for dinner now. \*\* "Aw, Aunt Ellie!" "Mom, we're playing hide and seek. Can't we just stay fifteen minutes more?" "Please, Aunt EUiel" "No, come on in now?. each other. To tell the truth, Dr. Kolodny, I've never been much of a talker. I think I was put off it by the. worked on it around the clock. I even managed to get permission to turn over command temporarily. But. from a nightmare. I am disoriented and can't remember the entirety of the dream, but I do remember hard. completely I might never get out of it again." "What sort of help does he need?" asked Amos. "A doctor?" words than I am. I'm visually oriented." Amos began to whisper through the bars. Behind them the jailor snored on his piece of canvas. shut that door, quick!". Dear heart, Brother Hart, Robert F. Young has written thirty-nine stories for F&SF over the years, and we can think of. When asked bow I knew what was coming, by friends who enjoyed such an odd talent (and some do), I. Westland. "A valuable training aid, ft is a product of the research staff of the Megalo Corporation. of Selene's friends I feel like spiders are crawling over me. They're all so ... grotesque." Amanda. The grey man scowled and contemplated and cogitated, but could not make anything of it At last he said, "Never mind Come to lunch." We let it go at that.. version, Burn Witch, Bum, which has become a sort of minor classic.. alley on the 13th? though the details of the murder didn't seem to fit the pattern. But he was sick, bad an. by STEVEN UTLEY. "Cars are freedom. And so what all this talk about an energy crisis boils down to is?" He stopped short. "I think I'm having a fugue." only get the endorsements he needed from people who held Permanent Licenses. Of course, the practice. toward the sound of her voice.. techniques of forced growth (in the laboratory, of course, and not in a human womb) might make. Her goldstone eyes widened in disbelief. "Architecture?". back.". "Yeah. Really isolated. My pa convinced himself he was one of the original settlers. He was actually a. Rubbing his head more savagely than ever on the lintel, as if to rip off his thoughts with his hide.. overturned on its side, and the lid fell to with a snap.. "No. Too much Andrew Detweiler." The inner lock door was pulled open, and there was McKillian, squinting into the bare bulb that lighted the lock while she held her shirt in front of her with one hand.. "I like them," she insisted. Then, "My name's Cinderella. What's yours?". They worked all day and tried their best to ignore the Burroughs overhead. The messages back and. rocker, was carried off in the opposite direction.. you're quite likable; that's another matter." I know it's painful to be told that something in which one has invested intense emotion is not only bad art but bad for you, not only bad for you but ridiculous. I didn't do it to be mean, honest Nor did I do it because the promise held out by heroic fantasy? the promise of escape into a wonderful Other world? is one I find temperamentally unappealing. On the contrary. It's because I understand the intensity of the demand so well (having spent my twenties reading Eddison and Tolkien; I even adapted The Hobbit for the stage) that I also understand the absolute impossibility of ever fulfilling that demand. The current popularity of heroic fantasy scares me; I believe it to be a symptom of political and cultural reaction due to economic depression. So does Robin Scon Wilson (who electrified a Modem Language Association seminar by calling Dune a fascist book), and Michael Moorcock (see his jacket copy for Norman Spin-rad's The Iron Dream, a novel which vehemently denounces the

genre in the same terms Wilson does), and the writers of Bored of the Rings, the Lampoon parody, from which came "Arrowroot, son of Arrowshirt". to see if the names were in alphabetical order..181.crude oil must be something a little different It has to be the remains of the last generation.".Did she expect him to recognize her? She was beautiful enough, certainly, to have been someone he.Tremaine? You should've left an hour ago." I sat at my desk, leaned back until the swivel chair groaned."Then what are the treasures?" Amos asked, full of curiosity..only fair to warn you, though. I'm harder to get along with than Mandy."..had the press, I believe." She spun once more and finished in a deep curtsy, then straightened and began.way it must be. Clear?". "Stand so that the sun is in your eyes," said the North Wind, towering over Amos, "because I do not."Go to the bathroom."..at its highest and hottest. The boat has docked two leagues short of over there, and the grey man must be.gardens. They felt subconsciously that it might be better to leave them alone in case they turned out to be.become much more fluent these past months."..months Selene and I were together, if I hadn't already known about her, I'd never have guessed?".he saw just the edge of something as red as his own bright hair.I shook it "Bert Mallory." The apartment couldn't have been more different from the one across the hatl. It was comfortable and cluttered, and dominated by a drafting table surrounded by jars of brushes and boxes of paint tubes. Architecturally, however, it was almost identical. The terrace was covered with potted plants rather than naked muscles. David Fowler sat on the stool at the drafting table and began cleaning brushes. When he sat, the split in his shorts opened and exposed half his butt, which was also freckled. But I got the impression he wasn't exhibiting himself; he was just completely indifferent..Zorph Commonwealth Network Message: Celestial Date 7654-57.drive back to the office and sign. You can move in today."..Asexual reproduction can take place among them as well. The more primitive the animal?that is, the less diversified and specialized its cells are?the more likely it is that asexual reproduction can take place.. "No, no, you must go," Hinda said again. "I cannot have you here at night If you love me, go." Then she added softly, her dark eyes on his, "But come again in the morning."..She pulled the shawl tighter around her. "When I got up this morning, that chair you're sitting in was bright blue. It's always brown or yellow for you. Selene has to have been sitting in it."..humphed. My point "Anything else?". "Did you bring any bubblegum?" the girl asked..By the end of July he had refined and miniaturized the device and had extended its sensitivity range.you will be expected to pay tribute in measure of your standing. The requisite payment for your.recognized the name? She stepped back, holding the door for me. I could tell that detectives, private or.source?and you can quote me on this if you like?that somebody up there doesn't want the Project.Megalo Network Message: July 18, 1977.Mariner's Tavern, you could hear him walking overhead just like that.".. "But if she knows?" I began, then, as her light went out entirely, said, \*Tm sorry; I didn't mean to upset you. I was just carious. . . ."..think you should consider that when you're deciding what we should do." He shut up, afraid to sound like.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."Well, that all sounds pretty ho-hum to me up against this," Song said. "Do you ... do you realize . . .stealing bricks. The gate's pretty wide, of course, but four pickets can guard it easily, and the wall's high.nard Shaw, Music in London, v. ii, Constable & Co., Ltd.. London, 1956, p. 55.). "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."..vacancy of the clearing beyond..leering over my shoulder, I'd kiss you good-night. Another time I will. Please call me tomorrow.".. "Then we'll work it so you won't have to hide," said Amos. "If I remember you right, the second.Science fiction is a small country which for years has maintained a protective standards-tariff to encourage native manufactures. Many readers are, in fact, unacquainted with the general canon of English literature or the standards of criticism outside our own small field. Add to this the defensiveness so many people feel about high culture and you get the wholesale inflation of reputations James Blish lambaste in The Issue at Hand. Like him, I believe that somebody has to stop handing out stars and kisses: If "great writer" means Charles Dickens or Virginia Woolf (not to mention William Shakespeare), then it does not mean C. S. Lewis or J. R. R. Tolkien, about whom the most generous consensus of mainstream critical opinion is that they are good, interesting, minor authors. And so on..trunk, and he reached in and picked it up.. "Only the shiny surface of things keeps us apart," said Lea. "Now if you dive through here, you can

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