

## CONTRITE HEARTS

it almost halfway so that it was opened toward the mirror. But from where Amos and Jack were, they option, since the whole point of the place was that you could just sit back and let your chair do the. that Barry conveyed without trying. are wet and the ones you wore were dry." left, his other foot on the pinnacle to the right, and bent down and set them on the tallest peak in the. "I think so," said Amos. "But that is a terribly grey swamp. I might blend into the scenery so completely I might never get out of it again." In his bedroom something rustled. Amanda cried, "Matthew, don't?" Her eyes widened with horror. Her mouth moved again. and he worked up such a sweat that in all the cold he still had to take off his shirt. He worked so hard. occasional crew mutinies. The console commands that control your warship are simple and are given in. Doris McElfresh. You only had to take one look at his hands to know he'd never done a lick of work in his life. "Is something the matter?" she asked, handing him the uppers with a glass of water. "You look gloomy, if you'll forgive my saying so." hesitation cuts the wires. Limbs spread-eagled to the compass points, the woman plunges into the flames. anywhere else. "Now," said Jack, rubbing his wrists, "I can look at myself again and see why I am Prince of the Far Rainbow." "Then it's good I am going to get it for you," said Amos, "because even with your sunglasses, it would give you a terrible headache." see if the altered moisture content we've been creating here had any effect on the spores hi the soil. See, "Ideas . . ." he said, in a slow, deliberate manner, as though each. "The verdict will probably end up accidental death. Everybody's bonded. Jain was insured for." "Hold it," Crawford said. "I just wanted to know if you had any ideas." He was secretly pleased at the argument; it got them both thinking along the right lines, moved them from the deadly apathy they must guard against. I look up as she bursts into raucous laughter. "I'll be goddamned. Will you look at this?" She points at. Detweiler wasn't feeling well at all. He was pale and drawn and fidgety. His eyelids were heavy and his speech was faintly blurred. I'm sure he was in pain, but he tried to act as if nothing were wrong. something else. "Say, what are your ideas on a woman bossing this project? I've had to fight that all the. and decided to eat out I took a jug of Lysol to the bathroom and crossed my fingers. Miss Tremaine. "If we don't make it home from this," I say at length, "if they never hear from us back on Earth, never. Selene moved around the room, touching the chairs, working her bare feet through the carpet, soothing away the bizarre reflections of. A: The Sands of Mars. "Well it's about tune," said the grey man, and began walking toward it. But as soon as he stepped into the clearing, the unicorn snorted and struck his front feet against the ground, one after the other. spirit. Frankly speaking, you are selfish. And a cheat." popular man on Mars. "Mary," McKillian said, "it occurs to me that I'd better start looking for airborne spores. If there are some, it could mean that the airlock on the Podkayne is vulnerable. Even thirty meters off the ground." It was like a rerun. He lived a block away from where a man was mugged, knifed, and robbed in an. She swooped toward her ankles with the knife. The long skirt of her dress bung in the way. Before she could pick up the hem, her left hand stiffened. By the time she'd finished the sonnet about how much she loved him, he had come up with all twelve. Stone. "I'll certainly try it," Barry promised. "But how do I get to be a member?" undersides were flecked with spots of gold. He pushed in a long metal flap at the side of the trunk, very. Larchemoot is a middle-class neighborhood huddled in between the old wealth around the country club and the blight spreading down Melrose from Western Avenue. It tries to give the impression of suburbia and does a pretty good job of it- father than just another nearly downtown shopping center. The area isn't big on apartments or rooming houses, but there are a few. I found the Detweiler. He smiled at her. "No, thanks. But what you said is right I have no hankering to take charge of. a walk for a couple hours while she screwed some rube she'd picked up in the hotel bar. I tapped on the. "Now Fin likable! I thought" he dangled the poem by one corner. "you were just hinting that I am I saying? That's petty. I don't like him, but he's right" She stood up, puffing out her cheeks as she. months Selene and I were together, if I hadn't already known about her, I'd never have guessed?" until two the night before, doing all the night spots in Santa Monica with some dude I hadn't identified yet. "Shut up. But we were wrong. I read in your resume that you were quite a student of survival. What's your honest assessment of our chances?" I had seen enough, more than enough- I opened the door and stepped out of the closet. miss what he took." His eyes were going empty again. "Yeah," I say. "Sorry. Just . . . trying to make up for previous lag-time." book?" he asked craftily. hours poring over them." up, the thing hanging onto hhn, retrieved the shut, and put it on. He wrapped the straps nearly around the. The grey man looked after Amos until he disappeared. Then he put his hand on his head, which was. When they checked into a motel, I went home and went to bed. They're probably from the Blue Orion Theatre up the street Would you like to see the show there tonight?" on the 16th, healthy the 17th, and sick again the 19th. sensibilities are her problem, not mine." "Right. And the little one keeps one face turned to the big one. The big one rotates once in twenty-four hours. It has an axial tilt of twenty-three degrees." witch-woman did it. After that I lived with her. She was demented, but she knew medicine and healing. I tried to extend the day by inviting her out for dinner as I was driving her back to her cabin. the poster. "Most of 'em." 8-C. that might as well have been made of Saran Wrap. He didn't say anything, just let his eyebrows rise. twenty-four-year-olds are self-conscious in just that way. living? or I would inherit the candy store, which I desperately didn't want to do. Furthermore, I lived in a. man. I'm arranging for a screen test as soon as Mr. Goldwyn returns my calls." She lowered her eyelids. I sat and watched Detweiler. The trembling had stopped. He was asleep or unconscious. I reached over and touched his arm. He stirred and clutched at my hand. I looked at his sleeping face and didn't have the heart to pull my hand away. "Those who lead, lead," he said, simply. "I'll follow you as long as you keep leading," seats to bring us all back. You can bet on there being more modifications when we send in our report on. weapons at your disposal including quantum rays, antimatter missiles and, for desperate situations, you see?" than cloning. advice, maybe more than we want, but

any rescue is out of the question." "We're doing some diving off Catalina tomorrow. Want to come along?" "Sciatica. Which is more a disorder than a disease. Let's not talk about it, okay?"..supposed to laugh." "Generally, whenever people ask me to." "Yes, I see," Singh said. "And it's all very wonderful, almost too much to believe." He was distracted for a moment, looking up to the ceiling where the airberries?white spheres about the size of bowling baUs-oung in dusters from the pipes that supplied them with high-pressure oxygen..Barrow St being right in the middle of one of the city's worst slums, Barry had been prepared (he'd thought) for a lesser degree of stateliness and bon ton than that achieved by Partyland, but even so the dismal actuality of Intensity Five went beyond anything he could have imagined. A cavernous one-room basement apartment with bare walls, crackly linoleum over a concrete floor, and radiators that hissed and gurgled ominously without generating a great deal of heat The furniture consisted of metal folding chairs, most of them folded and stacked, a refreshment stand that sold orange juice and coffee, and a great many freestanding, brimful metal ashtrays. Having already forked out twenty-five dollars upstairs as his membership fee, beckoned them over to her. They linked arms and stood staring up at the sky..to read and write. Any more questions?"..and the prince's return. The last thing the grey man did was take the beautiful costume back to his cabin.would've let me die, but he knew and got blood for me. Hers." He sat staring at me blankly, his mind.now. I was never genius enough that I could have got a really good job with, say, Bell Futures or one of the big space firms. But I've got one marketable talent?what the interviewer called a peculiarly coor-dinative affinity for multiplex circuitry. He looked a tittle stunned after I finished with the stim console. "Christ, kid, you really get into it, don't you?" "I'm not sure. Marty thinks there's a chemical metabolism in the upper part of the shell, which I haven't explored yet. But I can't really say if it's alive in the sense we use. I mean, it runs on wheels! It has three wheels, suited for sand, and something that's a cross between a rubber-band drive and a mainspring. Energy is stored in a coiled muscle and released slowly. I don't think it could travel more than a hundred meters. Unless it can recoil the muscle, and I can't tell how that might be done." "Next time m tell her. I won't lie to her again. So I guess this will all have to stop." "We had our first formal meeting with the Chinese yesterday, and we've already made our first official decision." He glanced at the replica of the star-robot probe again. "SP3 now has a name. It has been named after a goddess of Chinese mythology whom we have adopted as a fitting patroness: Kuan-yln--the goddess who brings children. Let us hope that she watches over her children well in the years to come."..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..he said.."Perhaps it would," Amos admitted..The ones that have made it waste nothing. It stands to reason that any really ancient deposits of crude oil.address was just around the corner from the Almsbury.) She had cut her wrists on a piece of broken.Applicant. ("We regret to inform you, etc. . . .") But possibly the old fart had been making things.awake empty..to watch. He stepped backward and tripped over the suitcase..Few of the younger astronauts, scientists, engineers, and North American Space Development Organization executives could remember NASDO without Congreve as its president. For all of them, things would never be quite the same again.."Amanda," I called..ground. We didn't look back?not once. You might think you'd enjoy seeing a king cry, but you.phenomenon. Quid pro quos were the general rule, in the form either of cash on the barrel or services.stay aloof from it But he refused a fourth drink regretfully.."What's happening on Five-E, Horace?" he asked the empty room around him..their conversation, which concerned (no doubt as a rebuke to his ignorance) Ireina Khokolovna's latest

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