

DIAGNOSIS INTERPRETING THE SHADOWS

John Varley's first story for F&Sf was "Picnic on Nearside" in 1974. Since then, he has earned a reputation as one of sfs most exciting new storytellers through such work as "Retrograde Summer/* "The Black Hole Passes," "In the Bowl" (Best from F&SF, 22nd series) and his first novel, Titan. This story was another Nebula award nominee..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?".The Man Who Had No Idea.splendid effects by Ray Harryhausen, and starred John Richardson as Tumac and Raquel Welch as Luana, both of them being pretty spectacular special effects themselves. Add to this an appropriately grim but beautiful setting of endless rock wastes and lava flows, a mysteriously evocative moment in what seems to be the sacred cave of a lower form of man, and a beautifully original score consisting mostly of rocks struck together. As you may gather, it's one of my favorite schlock movies..Association seminar by calling Dune a fascist book), and Michael Moorcock (see his jacket copy for.wit than the rest of Mr. Reeves' spaghetti spectaculars, containing some good film magic of its own and a.Afterward, Ike and I stopped in The Fig Leaf for a couple of beers. Ike seemed worried. "Do you.lived. He had been discovered about midnight when the people living below him had noticed dried blood.grabbed the nearest, who happened to be Doctor Ralston. He had nearly finished donning his suit; so she.Dr. Robales from slumber at his house near the plaza..foredoomed..pockets with pearls. When he had hauled up a cauldron full of gold from the well in the middle of the.MOOG INDIGO.He held out his hand. Ed shook it gravely..couple blocks away. You see?I can be direct myself.".household word." His eyes said he'd really rather not tell me what it was. He had a slight accent, a sort of.halfway to the top. Two leagues short of over there, where the third piece is, there stretches a garden of."The Organizer can take care of himself.".her to the cottage door. Hinda followed behind him, uncertain.."There are times," said Amos, "when it is better to know only the reward and not the dangers.".nervous at this vandalism, but had no other choice. They kept looking nervously at the graveyard as they."Gone?" I sat bolt upright. A wave of dizziness knocked me fiat again. "How can she be gone?". "No." She shook her hair back over her shoulders. "I don't take over officially until January. I just.wrong with the Megalo Banking Network, a program bug that appears to have taken roughly ten percent out of every account in the six major banks on the system. The funds have been transferred to some unknown account. This place is, needless to say, Panic City, with vice-presidents screaming for action all over the place.."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.."Do not trouble yourself. I will look after the little one." Mama's voice was soothing. "Now you must.-Chris Riesbeck.man by the right arm, and somebody else grabbed him by the left, and they pulled him down on his back,.bright blue. It's always brown or yellow for you. Selene has to have been sitting in it."I drive west, away from the soiled towers of the strip-city. I drive beyond the colstrip pits and into.through the narrow streets. It dominates the whole city. The whole Plain, for that matter. It had sort of a.Johnny took the news of his impending stardom with total unconcern. He moved to the couch and sat down, yawning. "Detweiler? Don't think I ever laid eyes on the man. What'd he do?".There was a poker in her hand..Saturday, the 23rd, I had three. A knifing in a bar on Pico, a shooting in a rooming house on Irolo, and a rape and knifing in an alley off La Brea. Only the gunshot victim had bled to death, but there had been a lot of blood in all three..badly needed washing, as did all their clothes. For a moment, as he watched her shadow stretch and.Now one day in late spring, Brother Hart had gone as usual to the lowland meadows leaving Hinda.clever man, Amos knew there were some situations in which it was a waste of wit to try and figure a way.Brother Hart lay on their straw bed. When he looked up at her, Hinda could not bear the twin wounds of his eyes. She turned away and said, "You may go out now. It is safe. He will not hunt you again.".butterflies glisten on the rims of pink marble fountains, and the only thing white in it is a silver-white.him this furious before, and it frightens me. Not that I cannot appreciate and even share his anger toward.anything at all after spending every night wailing to those damned drums..the top and so wide they could not see the far wall, and his hair brushed the ceiling, and his toenails.the elevator (the dogs growled portentously until the doorman said "Aus!"), and told him to ring at door.She bit her lip. "I don't think the Detweiler boy killed him.".to get started on their analyses. Song knelt again and started digging around one of the ten-centimeter."That's the land of the Far Rainbow!" cried Jack. "We could almost step through into it!" And he began to go forward..insincerity. He blushed, he trembled, he fainted dead away, but only metaphorically..controls with a bored and superior air, has just left the room, saying, "All right, if you know so much, do.He looked at me sharply, fear creeping back. "Please. No!". "What about me?" cried Amos. "How do I get home?". "Never once," she went on fiercely, ignoring his supportiveness. "It's always Miss Massachusetts, or.Jack's head emerged, and a moment later his hand holding the huge fragment of a broken mirror came into sight..so as a matter of course. In these cases, an egg cell, containing only a half set of chromosomes, does not require union with a sperm cell to supply the other half set. Instead, the egg cell's half set merely duplicates itself, producing a full set, all from the female parent, and the egg then proceeds to divide and become an independent organism, again a kind of clone..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.". "Ob, I'm afraid it's not much good. I can usually do better. I guess I don't trust you enough. Though you're quite likable; that's another matter.".There was a silence. Then Zeke said, "I've got to go tell the rest of the guys." He looked at us kind of."I will tell the cook," said the grey man..She threw up her hands. "How can I make you understand? This is nothing like anything I've ever flown. You might as

well. . ." She groped for a comparison, trying to coax it out with gestures in the air. "Listen. Does the fact that someone can fly a biplane, maybe even be the best goddamn biplane pilot that ever was, does that mean they're qualified to fly a helicopter?" from a nightmare. I am disoriented and can't remember the entirety of the dream, but I do remember hard.hatchway, he went down very quickly and was just about to go to the barred cell when he saw the grimy.So they welcomed an opportunity to tour fairyland. The place was even more bountiful than the last.pieces are hidden.".many configurations, but all had vanes covered with a transparent film like cellophane, and all were."Are you feeling better?".the plants, like bees, and the plants either donate or are robbed of the power to wind the spring. Did you.wouldn't believe it. But it's more than just things that're different. People are different, think different?."We can't say how long they've been prepared for a visit from us. Maybe only this cycle; maybe twenty cycles ago. Anyway, at the last cycle they buried the kind of spores that would produce these little gismos." She tapped the blue ball representing the Earth with one foot.He turned to move out of my way and I saw the hump. I don't know how to describe what I felt I suddenly had a hurting in my gut I felt the same unfairness and sadness the others had, the way you would feel about any beautiful thing with one overwhelming flaw..There is no reason to suppose that this separation of offspring cells can't happen over and over, so.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.his hands. He stood up agonizingly, like a slow motion movie, arching his spine backward, his face.windstorm. But the plans had envisioned a work force of twenty, working all day with a maze of pulleys."Well," said Amos, "if you help get us to the top of the mountain, we will let you look into the fragment of the mirror." Then he added, "which is more than your friend the wizard did, apparently." Jack gave Amos a little kick, for it is not a good thing to insult a wizard so great and so old and so terrible as all that, even if you don't have to worry about him..It's true. Critics tend to be an irritable lot Here are some examples:.shape hanging by the cottage door. It was a deerskin, a fine buck's hide, hung by the antlers and the legs.even as every other inferior species has, you must abide. . . ." The captain is having trouble disentangling.PHsmatica.RUSS's I Changed? When?.ends of his eyebrows drooped in a frown. He looked back at me and started to say something, then, with.As the four of us stood there staring at him, he raised his eyes still higher, and their blackness seemed.in expansion and contraction..43 would only let the cabin until May. Was that all right with her?.According to the best estimates of our astronomers, Heaven is located 1,432.Smith is watching the planet Mars. The clockwork which turns the Ozo to follow the planet, even.a gunshot rang out in the Podkayne..cut paper, paper covers rock."."Not in my book," I said. "But I can see why it would be in yours. After the King lets fly with his.problem on never occur again..last election, extolling the senatorial virtues of her father. ?I?m Amanda Gail. I wired you about renting a.Amanda sat back sipping her coffee with a contented smile. "I hope your business isn't suffering.she just wants Gwendolyn back?.When he was at bay, he fought hard. I gave the beast's liver and heart to my dogs. But this I saved for.198.Rerun it on the 10th: a woman slipped in the bathtub and fell through the glass shower doors, cutting herself to ribbons. Sick, alibi, moved..It was too early to drop around, and so I ate breakfast, hoping this was one of the times Detweiler stuck around for more than three days. Not for a minute did I doubt he would be living at the apartment court on Las Palmas, or not far away..She was answered by quiet assent and nods of the head. She did not acknowledge it but plowed.make sense to me. Surely if you were nice to other poets, they'd be nfce to you, on the basic principle of scratch-my-back.".notice:.come bade." Amos jumped out of his rags and handed them to the sailor who trotted off toward the wheelhouse. Minutes later he was back with a bright costume: the sleeves were green silk with blue and purple trimming, the cape was crimson with orange design, the shirt was gold with rainbow checks, and sitting on top of it all was one white boot and one black one..They crowded into the airlock, carefully not looking at each other's faces as they waited for the automatic machinery. The inner door opened and Lang pushed forward?and right back into the airlock. Crawford had a glimpse of Ralston and Lucy McKillian; then Mary shut the door..Neither of them bothered to answer that. The radio hi the nose sputtered, then clanged for their attention. Crawford looked over at Lang, who made no move to go answer it He stood up and swarmed up the ladder to sit in the copilot's chair. He switched on the receiver.. "I sought the deer today. And what I seek, I find." He did not turn. "We ran him long, my dogs and I..?I?m going to cut her out, Matthew," Amanda's voice said from above me. It was tow but trembling.. "Over there," said Amos pointing back out the door, "is that end. And over there is this end," and he.hours) till she appeared. She was profusely apologetic, explained that she did have his sticker, there was."And well use it. You just speak up, 1*11 be listening." She started to say something, then thought of something else. "Say, what are your ideas on a woman bossing this project? I've had to fight that all the way from my Air Force days. So if you have any objections you might as well tell me up front". "No, I am not saying that SP3 could be modified from a robot craft to carry a human crew. The design could not feasibly be modified at this late stage. Too many things would have to be thought out again from the beginning, and such a task would require decades. And yet, nothing comparable to SP3 is anywhere near as advanced a stage of design at the present time, let alone near being constructed. The opportunity is unique and cannot, surely, be allowed to pass by. But at the same time we cannot afford the delay that would be needed to take advantage of that opportunity. Is there a solution to this dilemma?" He looked around as if inviting responses. None came..Megal Network Message: July 13, 1977."Where was he last night when the Herndon woman died?".Jain. You bastard.".scarlet webwork of broadcast power reaching out from my console to those million skulls. I don't know.won't be subjected to the same pressures, won't have the same opportunities. What's more, when I.upset you. I was just carious. . . ." ?Steve Steinberg.Take that bulge apart and you'd be amazed at the resemblance to a human heart So there's another significant fact; this place started out with whirligigs, but later modified itself to use human heart pumps from the genetic information taken from the bodies of the men and women we buried," She paused to let that sink in, then went on with a

slightly bemused smile..my window last night," he said. The wings were pale blue, with brown bands on the edges, and the."Don't tease me, Bertram. There's a boy here in the hotel. I saw something I don't think he wanted me to see. It's extremely odd."But the rising sun summoned him outside. He donned the deerskin and leapt away..gold from the well in the middle of the garden, he put all his reward in the wheelbarrow, went back to the small door and knocked..Don't Ask, Dragoon, GORDON DICKSON A Bit Unclear, H, BEAM PIPER Not That One, TOM TRYON.coming down with another bout of fever. Then, as the harsh heat of the rum scalded his stomach, he.and gears. It was slow work and could not be rushed. If the ship were to tumble and lose pressure, they."Jake," I said..better anywhere else." Crawford ran his hands through his hair, wondering what to say. That possibility had been discussed.,that never seemed to be finished. So he and Lang had to learn about the new discoveries at the nightly.Boulevard. Now it's hi Westwood. The grand old Pantages, east of Vine and too near the freeway, used."Name it.".When the cops finally got there, I told them all I knew-except I didn't mention the Detweiler boy. I hung around until I found out that Harry almost certainly wasn't killed after six-thirty. They set the time somewhere between five-ten, when he called me, and six. It looked like Andrew Detweiler was innocent, but what "peculiar" thing had Harry noticed about him, and why had he moved out right after Harry was killed? Birdie let me take a look at his room, but I didn't find a thing, not even an abandoned paperclip..Isaac Astmav.coffee?".wires and soft flows of electrons. My eyes suddenly focus and I see her face inches away from mine..have to choose..?Margery Goldstein.I was dismayed by the effect the question had on her. I forced heartiness into my voice. "Then let's.Samuel R. (Chip) Delany has for some time been one of sf?s most interesting novelists.he rushed into the cell and began to tear apart the bundle of blankets in the comer. And out of the.we are especially pleased to offer this fresh and magical change of pace..there were no irregularities in the award of the Potlatch missile contract to Megalo. Venerate proved that.aren't going to like this." I hope the kid isn't going flaky on us.."Jain!" I scream at the sky until my voice is gone and vertigo destroys my balance. The echoes die. A.demonstrated..Detweiler whirled, his eyes bulging. A groan rattled in his throat He raised his hands as if fending me off. The groan rose hi pitch, becoming an hysterical keening. The expression on his face was too horrible to watch. He stepped backward and tripped over the suitcase..In the Hall of the Martian Kings 129."You must obey the edict of the Sreen," the Intermediaries have told us repeatedly, "there is no appeal," but the captain won't hear of it, not for a moment. He draws himself up to his full height of two meters and looms threateningly over the four or five Intermediaries, who are, after all, small and not particularly substantial-looking beings, mere wisps of translucent flesh through which their bluish skeletal structures and pulsing organs can be seen..Not from you, he wanted to tell her. Instead he looked off into the distance at the perambulations of

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