

## THE TRUTH ABOUT WRITING

became a habit, since they seemed to have developed a bond between them and none of the other three. "You may take a nap," said the grey man. "But come and have breakfast first." The grey man put his arm around Amos' shoulder and took him down to his cabin where the cook brought them a big, steaming platter of sausages and eggs. "I think that's a good idea," said Amos. "You won't get such a bad headache." "It's just a whole new area," McKillian whispered back. "Think about it Back on Earth, nature never got around to inventing the wheel. I've sometimes wondered why not There are limitations, of course, but it's such a good idea. Just look what we've done with it But all motion hi nature is confined to up and down, back and forth, in and out, or squeeze and relax. Nothing on Earth goes round and round, unless we built it. Think about it". John VaHey. She patted him on the back. "Sure, I know. You forget, I read your dossier. It mentioned several. I was carrying a long list of rentals, owned by summer people who authorized whiter leasing to pay. She grinned. "You've got a cute rear end. Almost as cute as Hurt Reynolds'. Maybe he's twins." "Marvelous," Singh said, truly impressed. He had seen the tiny whirlbirds weaving the suits, and the. Kissing Selene was like grabbing a high-voltage wire. The charge in her swept through us both. I also stepped forward, and the grey man found the sharp point of the unicorn's horn against the grey cloth. sympathetic, mature smile. high. With a crew of satisfied programmers, I feel there is nothing we cannot accomplish. Prismatic 271 "Then it said orlmb, and mlpbgrm, and grublmeumplefrmp? "What do' the ' seismics and Sniffers say about Swley's decoys?" Colman asked, turning his head toward Driscoll. "Two leagues short of over there is a garden of violent colors and rich perfume, where black butterflies glisten on the rims of pink marble fountains, and the only thing white in it is a silver-white unicorn who guards the third piece of the mirror." Detweiler had broken his pattern. He didn't have an alibi. I couldn't believe it. writer. "January." She groaned the word. "That's forever. Kiss me good-by, Gordy." The only thing about him not grey was a large black trunk beside him, high as his shoulder. Several rough. and intensify. It can get pretty hairy, which is why not just anyone can do the job. It helps that I seem to. "Have you considered a divorce?" Marvin Kolodny asked. regular intervals. Some of the labels curled up and detached themselves after twenty-six hours without. often enough. the beach several days later, I thanked her. She did not move or answer. closing time be asked if they would either consider giving him an endorsement. They said they would. You are watching an old movie, Bob and Ted and Carol and Alice. The humor seems infantile and unimaginative to you; you are not interested in the actresses' occasional seminudity. What strikes you as hilarious is the coyness, the sidelong glances, smiles, grimaces hinting at things that will never be shown on the screen. You realize that these people have never seen anyone but then\* most intimate friends without clothing, have never seen any adult shit or piss, and would be embarrassed or disgusted if they did. Why did children say "pee-pee" and "poo-poo," and then giggle? You have read scholarly books about taboos on "bodily functions," but why was shitting worse than sneezing? "These 'fruit' are full of compressed gas," he told them. "We have to open up another, carefully this. Two weeks of research left them knowing no more. They had to abandon the matthews for the time, as another enigma had cropped up which demanded their attention. He snuffed his cigarette out on pure-white alabaster and sat so prim and pristine I would have bet his feces came out wrapped in cellophane. He shrugged his eyebrows again. "Maurice picked him up somewhere the other night." Virginia Kidd for "The Detweiler Boy" by Tom Reamy. for a moment, looking up to the ceiling where the airberries? white spheres about the size of bowling. They circled so high they cleared the clouds, and once again the stars were like diamonds dusting the velvet night. He flew so long that at last the sun began to shoot spears of gold across the horizon; and when the ball of the sun had rolled halfway over the edge of the sea, he settled one foot on a crag to the left, his other foot on the pinnacle to the right, and bent down and set them on the tallest peak in the middle. streamers of orange and scarlet radiated out across the surface of the poly while the shape narrowed and. He passed through the gate, approached the massive pile of the Project and began ascending the steps of the first stage. Ike and I, coming out of our daze, followed him. Not to try and stop him but to catch him in case he slipped and fell. "The same way we do," said Lea. "When we are gone, look into the mirror and you will see your. read the letter as a secretary typed it. The agent followed his instruction to mail his reply in an envelope. seized Mrs. Zickwolfe before she had time to get to the bulletin board. He dragged her into the bedroom. and cut unfashionably short. He had a good-looking Kansas face. The haircut made me think he was new. Suppose, then, the nucleus of a somatic cell were surrounded with the cytoplasm of an egg cell. "You take it easy. What's this about another one?" who likes to sniff the air for trends, you may have detected a smell of old attics, as much sf seemed to. Then, in his deer heart, her brother would know the day's enchantment was at an end and run swiftly home. There, at the lintel over the cottage door, he would rub between his antlers till the hide on his forehead broke bloodlessly apart He would rub and rub fur-flier still till the brown hide skinned back along both sides and he stepped out a naked man. "Yeah," I say. "Sorry. Just . . . trying to make up for previous lag-time." months, I've never seen her get up before noon on a concert day. That kind of sleep-in routine would. she might return to her post as Miss Georgia. She had not left the promised sticker, and Lida seriously. "Thank you, Matt." Congreve's voice rumbled in a gravelly baritone from the speakers all around. He glanced from side to side to take in the whole of his audience. "I, ah--I almost didn't make it here at all." He paused, and the last whispers of conversation died away. "A sign in the hall outside says that the fossil display is in twelve-oh-three upstairs." The American Archeological Society was holding its annual convention in the Hilton complex that week. Congreve shrugged "I figured that had to be where I was supposed to go. Luckily I bumped into Matt on the way, and he got me back on the right track." A ripple of laughter wavered in the darkness, punctuated by a few shouts of protest from some of the tables. He waited for silence, then continued in a less flippant voice. "The first thing I have

to do is thank everybody here, and all the NASDO people who couldn't be with us tonight, for inviting me. Also, of course, I have to express my sincere appreciation for this, and even more my appreciation for the sentiments that it signifies. Thank you--all of you." As he spoke, he gestured toward the eighteen-inch-long, silver and bronze replica of the as yet unnamed, untried SP3 star probe that stood on its teak base before Congreve's place at the main table..that in one hour he had laid open the chunk, and there, sticking out, was the broken fragment of mirror..often enough to keep me feeling good, but this time it gave me a queasy sensation, like I was being..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."You are witnessing a demonstration of die Zorphwar Naval Bat-tie Simulation System," I said to Westland. "A valuable training aid, ft is a product of the research staff of the Megalo Corporation Programming Services Department".She went to her desk and returned a moment later with a second poem..clamped down on the bench all the time until now. "Christ almighty, how dumb can one man get?" he..good-bad scales (tike the Daily News system of stars) is always colliding with readers' tastes. Some..see him from the front, you can't even tell."..steaming platter of sausages and eggs..A similar case is that of H. G. Wells's *The Island of Dr. Moreau*, filmed with superbly demonic..?I've finished that. She's picked up her last parking-lot attendant? at least with this husband," L.in return for a favor he did me a million years past, for it was he who made this cave for me by artful and..stand. A clerk coded the form and fed it into the computer. The computer instructed Barry to fill out..?Marc Russell."I am Jack, Prince of the Far Rainbow," said Jack, "and this is Amos."Q: Say, Guv, what's the author of "Chthon" ?ave in 'is car that he loves to 'onk?.up the walls, but as she walked from the kitchen, across the lounge area to the fireplace, and turned to.Selene. You're cheating."Mama shook her head. "He sleeps like an angel," she murmured "But the senora-".John Vartey.vacancy of the clearing beyond..automatic machinery. The inner door opened and Lang pushed forward?and right back into the airlock.."What is this?" asked Hidalgo as they stepped inside. She picked up the glass prism from the top of the barrow.."But how did the remains get so far below ground?" Ralston asked. "You'd expect them to be high."Gwendolyn. A Mrs. Bushyager came by. She wants you to find her little sister."THE ORGANIZER: Very well. But keep in mind that the typical member of Local 209 is concerned solely with how much his efforts will net him, not with the use to which their end result will be put."I suppose you're right. But sometimes I get the feeling that he's using us guys for some purpose of his own."Up with your glittering clothes for so long," said Amos. "Anyway, I I don't think it's lair of our grey friend to get your mirror with your I map. You should at least have a chance at it. Let me see, the first |place we are going is somewhere nearer than you think." "In the swamp then," said Jack..such an extent that the entire Plain becomes inundated. Living on that Plain, the.Nolan stared at her. "They worship snakes up there?"..you see?".At the same time, Fm afraid that his rage will get us into extremely serious trouble. The Sreen have already demonstrated their awesome power through the ease with which they located and intercepted us just outside the orbit of Neptune. Their vessel is incomprehensible, a drupelet-cluster of a construct which seems to move in casual defiance of every law of physics, half in normal space, half hi elsewherespace. It is an enormous piece of hardware, this Sreen craft, a veritable artificial planetoid: the antiseptic bay in which our own ship now sits, for example, is no less than a cubic kilometer in volume; the antechamber in which the captain and I received the Sreen edict is small by comparison, but only by comparison. Before us is a great door of dully gleaming gray metal, five or six meters high, approximately four wide. In addition to everything else, the Sreen must be physically massive beings. My head is full of unpleasant visions of superintelligent dinosaurs, and I do not want the captain to antagonize such creatures..Immediately there was thunder, and light shot from the restored glass. The grey man stepped back, and from the minor stepped the beautiful and worthy Lea..less."."No. The window was open. But it has bars on it. No way anybody could get in."He stopped at the clearing's edge, raised his head, and sniffed. The smell of man hung on the ah", heavy and threatening. He came through it as if through a swift current and stepped to the cottage door..178.windy peaks, is the cave of the North Wind. Even higher, on the highest and windiest peak, is the second..bricks the brickmakers made and said he'd like to see him slog around in mud and straw eight hours a..So the grey man turned to one of his sailors and said, "You know where yon can get him such a suit."..ask the question without in the least seeming to challenge Marvin Kolodny's authority.."Third," said Lea, "what are they going to do to you?" "There is nobody there and they are going to do nothing," said the grey man.."Believe me," said the grey man, "I have put a little something m your eggs and sausages that will make you sleep much better than all the air hi the world."He was genuinely surprised. "You didn't take that crack seriously, did you? I might as weQ admit it It was intentional, like that cattle prod you mentioned. You looked like you needed a kick in the ass.\*\*.down to look at himself in the mirror. He must have been pleased with what he saw, because he gave a.I settled back in the chair, trying not to laugh. "Why does Mrs. Bushyager want me to find her little..main question, which is?"..that too general? Better to ask her to write about her favorite brand of beer, a kind of advertisement.It's always there, so you never get around to it".consciousness aren't independent processes, after all. Talking is thinking turned inside-out. No more, no.Wilson does), and the writers of *Bored of the Rings*, the *Lampoon* parody, from which came."Are you indeed?" asked Lea, smiling. "A piece of die mirror I am trapped in lies at the bottom of this pool. Once I myself dived from a rock into the blue ocean to retrieve the pearl of white fire I wear on my forehead now. That was the deepest dive ever heard of by man or woman, and this pool is ten feet deeper than that. Will you still try?"..cut. The blood hadn't spread very far. Most of it had been soaked up by the threadbare carpet under the..without some sort of exhaust, you wouldn't last long. How is that accomplished?".Smith is watching the planet Mars. The clockwork which turns the Ozo to follow the planet, even."You know ... I wish ... Of course, I know it's not permis-..Date: September 23,1977.sible, you being an examiner and all... but I wish I knew yon in a personal way. Truly. You're a very heavy individual."."No, I didn't know, but it explained how he could move around so much without seeming to work..clever man,

Amos knew there were some situations in which it was a waste of wit to try and figure a way. The thing's eyes focused for a moment on Detweiler. It looked at him, beseeching, held out one hand, pleading. Its screams continued, that one monotonous, hopeless note repeated over and over. It lowered its arm and kept crawling about mindlessly, growing weaker. "But it could be done, right? With the proper shielding so the plants won't be wiped out before they ever sprout, we could have a hydroponics plant functioning?" you an explanation of the apparent schedule slip and computer overruns in the Headquarters reports. "Exactly." She squinted across the vast tasteful expanse of Party-land, then stood up and waved. "I. Smith hears the woman shriek. In a moment she too is over the rail and falling into the sea." "How many will be in your party?" I asked. "Counting Chromosomes," F&SF, June 1968.]. underwear? for the sailors had jumped on him when he came back in the morning and given the jailor. other four. Ralston and Song announced an engagement, which lasted ten hours. Crawford nearly came. A: The Man Who Folded Himself. "Let's put our cards on the table, shall we, Mr. Riordan? I am a Permanent Card holder. What are you?" Hinda's eyes followed nun down the path until she counted even ' the shadows of trees as his own. "Thanks." Setting the tray on the table, she contrived to brush against his left foot. "I see you're. while through slotted eyes. THE ORGANIZER: To me, it was never obvious. It still isn't. In the first place, only minimal flooding has occurred since the Inundation; in the second, it's highly unlikely that Yahweh will again choose that particular form of chastisement should future foul-ups on the part of the human race necessitate additional punishment; and in the third, if he does decide on a second Inundation, you can rest assured that it will be of such dimensions that the only thing the Project win be a haven for will be fish. But 111 play the game fair: HI see to it that the members of Local 209 have access to these minutes; and if, after reading them, they wish to take another strike vote, I won't stand in their way. Meanwhile, the package stays as is. "I'd suffer if I couldn't spend time on you." He strode toward the gate. The four of us were standing right in his path, and we stepped aside when he neared us. If we hadn't, he'd have bowled us over. After that day Lang was ruthless in gutting the old Podkayne. She supervised the ripping out of the motors to provide more living space, and only Crawford saw what it was costing her. They drained the fuel tanks and stored the fuel in every available container they. immune to the inevitable despair of the castaway. Ralston in his laboratory was the picture of carefree. support myself with ease as a writer, provided I am surrounded by a functioning and highly organized. friendships. They were much closer to being a team. Rivalries never died out completely, but they no

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