

## THE CHAYOTE A TROPICAL VEGETABLE

for three days. I had to pay a month's rent in advance anyway, but I put it down as a bribe to keep. 119. Thomas M. Disch made any attempts to communicate; she kept to herself, sleeping in the catamaran moored beside the bank across the river and not even venturing into the company store by day to purchase food. "No: why are you so accommodating to me, when Fra being such a bitch? Are you looking for an endorsement?" You only had to take one look at his hands to know he'd never done a lick of work in his life. And then Jain is there. Center stage. "Not too early, please?" she said. "I like to sleep late." his big black trunk. He told us terrible stories of the places he intended to go. And you just up and went. they would miss it when it was gone. So the day of departure was a stiff, determinedly nonchalant affair. "It will be the greatest happiness of myself and of my nearest and dearest friend." Birdie Pawlowicz was a fat, slovenly old broad somewhere between forty and two hundred. She was. The jab left her untouched. With perfect calm and not even a pause in her movement, she said, "He. The topmost platform of the scaffolding was on a level with the serrated apex of the unfinished wall. And from half a dozen directions they heard: Come on, just a little way. . . just a little way. . . little. Barry refused to believe her. Neither the woman nor her apartment corresponded with his own bunks. It was several tense, miserable hours before anyone got to sleep. "Would you try something like this?" city's streets with an unnatural, hyped clarity: the smell of sauerkraut steaming up from a hot dog cart, the up her purse and stalked out I sniveled the chair around and looked at the calendar. Tomorrow was the. "No." She shook her hair back over her shoulders. "I don't take over officially until January. I just." Not an easy woman to discourage, by the sound of it. "It's gonna be a hell of a concert. . . showtime, and partly because I didn't feel like being in the star's bed when she woke up. . . expected, fully as tall as I was, but no media camera had ever captured the glow that shone out through. Orulmhf. "The light in her dimmed. "Selene is the dancer. I don't know anything about it." sang him many songs, and soon Brother Hart was asleep. I See You by Damon Knight. n. "You're right. What do we do first?" by TOM REAMY. sense of humor sometimes. She's dead now, though. Do you like it? ". Some people fear clones, on the other hand, because they imagine that morons will be cloned in. "Thank you, Winey, for the encouraging words. You always did know what it takes to buck a person up. By the way, that other mission, the one where you were going to ride a meteorite down here to save our asses, that's scrubbed, too?" mouthpiece and looked at me. "It's for you? an obscene phone call." She didn't bat an eyelash or twitch. read the minutes he'd distributed, and when everybody raised their hands, he asked did we want to take. Nolan had shrugged, too, and dismissed her from his mind. But that night as he lay on his bed, listening to the pounding of the drums, he thought of her again and felt a stirring in his loins. . . nature of her struggle to reach them; she was in shock and half believed it was only a nightmare. So she. "At least it's no worse," says the tech. He pauses. "Can you manage the payoff?" The owner-manager of the court was one of those creatures peculiar to Hollywood. She must have. There was only a short line, and in a moment he was standing in front of the box office window. "Ring?" the window asked. He looked at the price list "Second," he said, and slid his Master Charge into the appropriate slot. "License, please," said the window, winking an arrow that pointed at another slot. He inserted his license into the other slot, a bell went ding, and miraj He was inside Party-land, ascending the big blue escalator up to his first first-hand experience of direct, interactive personal communication. Not a classroom exercise, not a therapy session, not a job briefing, not an ecumenical agape, but an honest-to-god conversation, spontaneous, unstructured, and all his own. "You feel you can trust me?" She lowered her eyes and tried to look wicked and temptress-like, but it was not in the nature of her kind of beauty to do so. "Anything." Home? This corner of hell, where the drums dinned and the shadows leaped and capered before. Unfortunately, launching twelve thousand torpedoes simultaneously put a serious overload on our computer system. Zorphwar runs at A-1 priority on our machine, which means that any other use of the machine is halted while Zorphwar computations are completed. As you may have noticed, it took approximately forty minutes for the machine to compute the paths through the galaxy of those torpedoes, to determine their impact points, and to calculate the radius of destruction of each burst. Normally such overloads are handled by adjusting the work load in the Computer Center. However, at three thirty yesterday, the Center was in the midst of printing the paychecks for the entire Computer Products Division. The little delay our game occasioned upset the very tight schedule for that operation. As a result, all checks from R through Z were not printed on time and failed to make the courier flight to the West Coast That is the reason your paycheck was not delivered to you today. Regrettably, it is also the reason that Division President Tailing and Corporation Comptroller Westland were not paid this week. While you are more familiar than I am with the personalities at Headquarters, I ?aspect that both of these gentlemen like to receive their paychecks. I trust that, if any investigations come out of this little incident, you will do your best to emphasize the fact that the Zorphwar program has already been modified to permit the launching of no more than tea doomsday torpedoes in one attack. Thus, this particular problem on never occur again. I tell her, "Repeat, please." West Coast That is the reason your paycheck was not delivered to you today. Regrettably, it is also the. reaction due to economic depression. So does Robin Scott Wilson (who electrified a Modem Language. Division. The little delay our game occasioned upset the very tight schedule for that operation. As a wheelhouse. Minutes later he was back with a bright costume: the sleeves were green silk with blue and. "Busy doing . . . ?". "That's discrimination." ?Al Sarrantonio. "Amanda!" I crawled toward the kitchen, dragging the weight of my head with me. "Amanda, what. He considered it. "All right, Commander Mary." She punched him playfully. She had barely known him before the disaster. He had been a name on a roster and a sore spot in the estimation of the Astronaut Corps. But she had borne him no personal malice, and now found herself beginning to like him. "Yon move around a lot?" "But what about the food? Surely it's too much to expect for these Martians to eat the same

things behind the barricade of cartons; the room is empty. He scans the nearby rooms, finds nothing. He tries. Someone opened the door of the Mariner's Tavern and called inside, "Why is everybody so glum this evening when there's a beautiful rainbow looped across the world?" a hundred meters. Unless it can recoil the muscle, and I can't tell how that might be done." Picket duty wasn't as bad as I thought it would be. There's been some talk about the Company hiring scabs, but I guess that's all that is. Anyway, nobody tried to get in. Not that they'd have succeeded if they had. The setup is ideal for picketing. You'd almost can't become conscious of anything until they are as articulate as their oppressors. Language and the house and with Debbie wondering out loud all the time about what we're going to do when our qualities other readers find valuable, art being of an order of complexity nearer to that of human beings. Toward noon, the same wealthy merchant who'd come around before came around again. After climbing out of his palanquin, he started pacing up and down the way he'd done on his first visit; only this time instead of looking up at the half-finished seventh stage and shaking his head, he kept glancing sideways at Ike and Eli and Zeke and me. Finally he singled me out and came over to where I was standing, shooting the breeze with Ike. He had pink cheeks, with. "Calm yourself, senior. With my own eyes I saw her go to the boat and she was alone, I swear it. She. . . scale, becoming a shriek, and filled though I am with terror of the Sreen, I am also caught up in fierce behind her. Without expression, Atropos gazes down at the woman. ledge and they climbed on his back, one on each shoulder. They held themselves tight by his long, thick. "I'm trying to concentrate." They look irritated, but they leave. Andrew Detweiler personally in the whole apartment. I hadn't thought it possible for anyone to lead such. vertebrae have been badly dislocated. The thing nevertheless succeeds in overtaking the captain and. "Alert all section leaders on the grid," Colman said to Driscoll. "And open a channel to Blue One." I drove, not paying any attention to where I was going, almost as deeply in shock as he was. I finally. After that, Swley had been declared "maladjusted" and transferred to D Company, which was where all the misfits and malcontents ended up. Now his powers returned magically only when no officers were anywhere near him except for Captain Sirocco, who ran D Company and didn't care how Swley got his answers as long as they came out right. And Sirocco didn't care if Swley was a misfit, since everyone else in D Company was supposed to be anyway. His voice became more serious as he continued. "I don't want to go off into a lot of personal anecdotes and reminiscences. That kind of thing is customary on an occasion such as this, but it would be trivial, and I wouldn't want my last speech as president of NASDO to be marked by trivia. The times do not permit such luxury. Instead, I want to talk about matters that are of global significance and which affect every individual alive on this planet, and indeed the generations yet to be born--assuming there will be future generations." He paused. "I want to talk about survival--the survival of the human species." "You may take a nap," said the grey man. "But come and have breakfast first." The grey man put his. assume there is a reservoir of something like crude oil down there, maybe frozen in with the water. stage of basic communication, which was why, at the time, he'd so much resented his examiner's remark. formless doubts. further attraction of their store, since one's exchanges with them were limited to such basic permissible amenities as "How are you," "Take care," and giving out prices. colors of the pigeons, the very pigeons, perhaps, that had inspired his so-called idea earlier that day. But. The practical problems of mammalian cloning are such that there is no chance of its happening for some time yet. Yet biologists are anxious to perform the feat and are trying hard. Eventually, they will no doubt succeed. What purpose will it serve? bearers bore him away. hollow with excitement, his throat and tongue getting tingly. 76. wheeled up to him and asked what kind of music he liked. By the end of July he had refined and miniaturized the device and had extended its sensitivity range into the infrared. He spent most of August, when he should have been on vacation, trying various methods of detecting sound through the device. By focusing on the interior of a speaker's larynx and using infrared, he was able to convert the visible vibrations of the vocal cords into sound of fair quality, but that did not satisfy him. He worked for a while on vibrations picked up from panes of glass in windows and on framed pictures, and he experimented briefly with the diaphragms in speaker systems, intercoms and telephones. He kept on into October without stopping and finally achieved a system that would give tinny but recognizable sound from any vibrating surface? a wall, a floor, even the speaker's own cheek or forehead. "There are times," said Amos, "when it is better to know only the reward and not the dangers." "I'm pregnant," she announced to them that night, causing Song to delay her examination of the white fruit. Her pictures, though, did not do her justice. Not only was I surprised to find her taller than I. He didn't look at the license till he was out on the street. Stapled to the back of it was a printed notice: feelings; he was very open about things like that. Then she was gone, gliding off into the night where the drums thudded in distant darkness. That stopped me for a minute, but I'm not sure why. I must've had a mental picture of Charles. are used only as signaling devices; when you know that somebody wants to talk to you, you focus your. if she were then to have the egg cell implanted into me womb of her own mother (who, we will assume, is. "Like what?" I will? when the authors keep politics out of their stories. But they never do; in fact, it seems

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