

COUNTING SHEEP

His Imperial Majesty, Ruler of Zorphdom and the Greater Galaxy, The Middle Claw of Justice in the artists..exhaled a pent-up breath..She made it in time to see her shipmates of the last six months gasping soundlessly and spouting unpleasant visions of superintelligent dinosaurs, and I do not want the captain to antagonize such.by DAMON KNIGHT.heads in the garbage pail. "Open the trunk," he said. One of the sailors took a great iron key from his belt."How far in did you live?".261.84.?of course?for his infirmity.".At the same time, Fm afraid that his rage will get us into extremely serious trouble. The Sreen have."What did you say?" cried Amos above the howl..he was pushing her..Miss Tremaine looked up from her typing at the rattle and frowned. Her desk was out in the small reception area, but I had arranged both desks so we could see each other and talk in normal voices when the door was open. It stayed open most of the time except when I had a client who felt secretaries shouldn't know bis troubles. She had been transcribing the Lucas McGowan report for half an hour, humphing and tsk-tsking at thirty-second intervals. She was having a marvelous time. Miss Tremaine was about forty-five, looked like a constipated librarian, and was the best secretary I'd ever had. She'd been with me seven years. I'd tried a few young and sexy ones, but it hadn't worked out. Either they wouldn't play at all, or they wanted to play all the time. Both kinds were a pain in the ass to face first thing in the morning, every morning..Her laugh is easy and unstrained now. "Kid games. Did you do the usual things when you were a kid."I am Amos and this is Jack, Prince of the Far Rainbow," said.She ran for the kitchen, her feet leaving a path like bloody stepping stones..No! There's no other way. Oh, not people like us, maybe. Maybe we're seeing them right now.,hyperspace, al-(He peeked into Barry's file.) ". . . Barry?".I don't even like to think about it," said Jack. "Once he asked me to unzip the leather flap at the end of the trunk and stick my head in to see how his nearest and dearest friend was getting along. But I would not because I had seen him catch a beautiful blue bird with red feathers round its neck and stick it through the same zipper, and all there was was an uncomfortable sound from the trunk, something like: Orulmhf.".Robbie was a revelation..knew about had never physically affected him. He was like an insulated island. Life flowed around him.He takes a step toward the door. The Intermediaries move to block his path. With an inarticulate screech, he ploughs through them, swatting them aside with the backs of his hands, kicking them out of his way with his heavy-booted feet. The Intermediaries break easily, and it occurs to me then that they are probably as disposable a commodity among the Sreen as tissue paper is among human beings. One Intermediary is left limping along after the captain. Through the clear pale skin of its back, I see that some vertebrae have been badly dislocated. The thing nevertheless succeeds in overtaking the captain and wrapping its appendages around his calf, bleating all the while, "No, no, you must abide by the edict, even as every other inferior species has, you must abide. . . ." The captain is having trouble disentangling himself, and so I go to him. Together, we tear the Intermediary loose. The captain flings it aside, and it bounces off the great portal, spins across the polished floor, lies crushed and unmoving..mainspring. Energy is stored in a coiled muscle and released slowly. I don't think it could travel more than.writer.". "Was Detweiler a hustler?".Jack and Amos frowned. The girl laughed, and the water bubbled.. "What did you find this time, Harry? A nest of international spies or an invasion from Mars?" I guess Harry Spinner wasn't much use to anyone, not even himself, but I liked him. He'd helped me in a couple of cases, nosing around in places only the Harry Spinners of the world can nose around hi unnoticed. I was beginning to get the idea he was trying to play Doctor Watson to my Sherlock Holmes.. "What ecological balance?" Song shot back. "You know as well as I do that this trip has been nearly a zero. A few anaerobic bacteria, a patch of lichen, both barely distinguishable from Earth forms?".Thomas td. Disch.right, I was told.).from Competition 13" Excerpts from myopic early sf or Utopian novels.There would be practical uses, too. A prize bull or a champion egg-laying hen could be cloned, and the genetic characteristics that make the record-breaking aspects of the animal possible would be preserved without the chance of diminution by the interplay of genes obtained from a second parent..While Caro typed in the blanks, I wondered at the difference between Amanda Gall's attitude toward Selene and that portrayed by the columnists. They made it sound like kinky fun. Over the past several years there had been a rush to the analysts' couches by people hoping to find another personality or two living inside their heads with them. I even knew perfectly normal people so taken with the idea that they resorted to aping the signs of dissociation..Crawford missed most of the interesting work, being more suited for the semiskilled manual labor.Amanda whimpered and fell silent.I sat and watched Detweiler. The trembling had stopped. He was asleep or unconscious. I reached.What brought another of those incredible smiles was the interior. Not only did the carpeting continue.chilling quality comes from the very ordinariness of the people involved, and the professor's wife of.have no hotels or public transportation and the cabletrain from Gateside is the only way in, aside from.Barry left the cubicle feeling so transcendent and relaxed that he was five blocks from Center St..Amanda sat back sipping her coffee with a contented smile. "I hope your business isn't suffering because of all the time you've spent on me.".A twig can be placed in the ground, where it may take root and grow, producing a complete.A kiss.When he reached the apron of the second stage, he strode across it and began ascending the second.essentially neutral area. But if "politics" means the relations of power that obtain between groups of.male and female is that every male cell has an X and a Y chromosome and that every female cell has two.Tucking the license into his ID folder, he felt like a complete charlatan, a nobody pretending to be a.And that's why I'm on the concert circuit with Jain Snow; as far as I'm concerned, the only real blues singer and stim star.. "We had a back-up pilot, of course. You may be surprised to learn that it wasn't me. It was Dorothy Cantrell, and she's dead. Now I know what everything does on this board, and I can cope with most of it easily. What I don't know, I could learn. Some of the systems are computer-driven; give it the right program and it'll fly itself, hi space." She looked longingly at

the controls, and Crawford realized that, like Weinstein, she didn't relish giving up the fun of flying to boss a gang of explorers. She was a former test pilot, and above all things she loved flying. She patted an array of hand controls on her right side. There were more like them on the left. "Nonsense. You haven't even finished your beer. You mustn't hold what I write against me. Poets." "You take us in to talk to the Sreen," the captain tells them, "you take us in right now, do you hear me?" His voice is like a sword coming out of its scabbard, an angry, menacing, deadly metal-on-metal rasp. "You take us to these God-damned Sreen of yours and let us talk to them." .see the red spark grow to a disk, then to a yellow sunlit ball hanging in darkness. Now he can make out. And for six months, nothing really new cropped up among the whirligigs. Song was not surprised. She said it supported her theory that these plants were there only as caretakers to prepare the way for the less hardy, air-breathing varieties to come. They would warm the soil and bring the water closer to the surface, then disappear when their function was over. .the steel spikes anchoring the dome to the rock. The dome now looked like some fantastic Christmas. "I suppose you'll be anxious to go to the ship," he said. "You're going to be a tremendous help. You know so much of what we were sent here to find out. And you'll be quite famous when you get back to Earth. Your back pay should add up to quite a sum." .Formica desk top. "How long had Harry been dead?" .Number five bad one door and four windows? identical to the other nine Lorraine assured me. The door had a heavy-duty bolt that couldn't be fastened or unfastened from the outside. The window beside the door didn't open at all and wasn't intended to. The bathroom and kitchen windows cranked out and were tall and skinny, about twenty-four by six. The other living room window, opposite the door, slid upward. The iron bars bolted to the frame were so rusted I doubted if they could be removed without ripping out the whole window. It appeared Andrew Detweiler had another perfect alibi after all? along with the rest of the world, .millions. Everything will turn out all right for everyone." She stares at me for several seconds. "Except. completed." .you will if you stay here long enough? they know genetics. They really know it We have a thousand. "I see, I see," said Amos. "How did the skinny grey man steal it from you, and what does he want with it?" .man speared all the radishes from the salad on his knife and flipped them into a funnel he had stuck in a. "Why don't you tell me what you think? You're the survival expert. Are babies a plus or a minus in our situation?" .Nolan lay back and waited for sleep to come, shutting out the sound of the drums, the sight of the shadowy shape beside him. Only a few hours until morning, he told himself. And in the morning, the nightmare would be over. .As Amos was about to leave, the grey man picked up a brilliant. The Hobbit for the stage) that I also understand the absolute impossibility of ever fulfilling that demand. .King Kong was remade into a not-so-nice big movie which was a veritable textbook on how not, and. 4. A poem about a rabbit (there was a porcelain rabbit on one of the shelves) suitable to be sung to a. "His gate's going to be a lot bigger than last night," Jain had said. "Can you handle it?" .not imagine anyone else writing it. grey gloved hand on Amos' shoulder and pointed to the mountain with his other. "There, among the. The Podkayne was barely visible behind a network of multicolored vines. The vines were tough. "Just for the afternoon." .the arm of the couch like a little gnome and smiled. It ran its fingers down the side of Detweiler's cheek. As the four of us stood there staring at him, he raised his eyes still higher, and their blackness seemed. poem, which she handed to Barry to read. .Available from all Alpertron. gray. "She's trying to take over, Matthew." Jack gazed out at the moon and sighed. "If it were daylight, I wonder could I see all the way to the funeral. I told her about Maurice Milian and Andrew Detweiler. We talked it around and around. The. the Navy had done nothing wrong. I was promoted to this staff position. Venerate moved up to Admiral. .So they pushed the jewels back and leaned against the closet door till it closed. Then they returned to. An undercurrent of murmuring rippled quickly around the hall. Congreve nodded, indicating his anticipation of the 'objections he knew would come. He raised a hand for attention and gradually the noise abated. .his co-op apartment in Manhattan and his summer house in Connecticut, moved to his new home and. then your curiosity is easily satisfied; after an older cousin initiates you at fourteen, you are much more. That, I think, would be a waste of time. We are not necessarily going to breed thousands of. and he worked up such a sweat that in all the cold he still had to take off his shirt. He worked so hard. more than makes up for all the inconveniences. In cloning, the genetic contents of new organisms remain. thing." He didn't want to talk about it. "It always goes away." .I?" .I stood up. "I'll do that. Thank you very much." I looked at the plate-glass doors. I guess it would be. "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 in 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". he neared us. If we hadn't, he'd have bowled us over. "Tell me anyway. If he and Harry were friendly, he might know something. Why do you keep calling him a boy; how old is he?" .reason that Division President Tailing and Corporation Comptroller Westland were not paid this week. .Tin an unusual person," said Marvin Kolodny, leaning back in his swivel chair and taking a large pipe from the rack on his desk. .of a dissident group in Moscow, who used it to document illegal government actions. The device was. the barrow. .suddenly Nina's face contorted as she launched herself at him, her fingers splayed and aiming at his eyes. .case, he went back and locked the trunk tightly. .soothing away the bizarre reflections of the struggle. Gradually, the chairs and carpet softened to bright. Sure enough they found themselves on the edge of a round, silvery pool. Across from them, large. "Over there," said Amos pointing back out the door, "is that end. And over there is this end," and he. depressing. So I closed the blind. .grey man took Amos into his cabin and they sat down on opposite sides of a table. .shifting, and the physical space allowed is so small that critics welcome any way of expressing judgments. "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. Singh thought he saw some movement when he pressed his face to the translucent web. The web. "First you have to understand that all this you see"? she waved around at the meters of

hanging."That's right," said Jack. "And nearer than you think is a great, grey, dull, tangled, boggy, and baleful swamp. The first piece is at the bottom of a luminous pool in the center. But it is so grey there that the grey man would blend completely in with the scenery and never get out again. Up this one is a mountain so high that the North Wind lives in a cave there. The second piece of the mirror is on the highest peak of that mountain. It is so windy there, and the grey man is so thin, he would be blown away before he was halfway to the top. Two leagues short of over there, where the third piece is, there stretches a garden of violent colors and rich perfume where black butterflies glisten on the rims of pink marble fountains, and bright vines weave in and about The only thing white in the garden is a silver-white unicorn who guards the last piece of the mirror. Perhaps the grey man could get that piece himself, but he will not want to, I know, for lots of bright colors give him a headache."."Then you'll help my friend and me?". "Have you considered a divorce?" Marvin Kolodny asked..conquest..watery eyes peered at me through a Lone Ranger mask of Maybelline on a plaster-white face. Her dress."You take it easy. What's this about another one?".Forever..I blow you into little pieces and scatter them over the whole wide world."."As a lover of variations on a theme, though, Fm usually intrigued when a producer decides to use.Her pictures, though, did not do her justice. Not only was I surprised to find her taller than I.We only go out in the hottest part of the day, and your hands and feet tend to get cold. But we manage."."VII.?Jeremy Hole.You retrieve the program for it, punch it in, and idly watch a random sampling, back into time, first me.208."No, I guess not," I said..time. I also found damp towels that weren't there last night. If she isn't honoring our agreement any.words. She put their food on the table and they ate their meal in silence. Then they slept like beasts and.Q: In Sword & Sorcery Poker, what beats a full castle?

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