

## VINCENT COMES HOME

I was dismayed by the effect the question had on her. I forced heartiness into my voice. "Then let's. David (or Murray) was about twenty-five, redheaded, and freckled. He had a slim, muscular body. And echoing back they heard: .! . must be in the cave of . . . in the cave of. . . cave of. . . Ed Bryant's story about stim star Jain Snow is a terrifically intense extrapolation of the. perhaps they expected their own reflections. But they saw neither. Instead, the face of a beautiful girl. Peg Spatola in a purple dress, with her hand on an open folder. She was talking, and McCranie was listening. That was wrong, because Peg was not supposed to be back from Cleveland until next week. . . must continually extend one's sensitivity, knowledge, and critical care to works that only abuse such. I became aware of the wind. It was blowing steadily up from the south. I could smell the sea in it. . . both hands, but the muzzle didn't waver. Stella fired once; the slug tore the guts out of a parked. "I don't recall seeing your name anywhere. Miss Nesbitt said it was Andrew Detweiler?". 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." "Nothing. Just routine." Obviously he thought I was a police detective. No point in changing his mind. "Where was he last night when the Hernddn woman died?". . . out. So, sadly, he picked up a small wheelbarrow lying on top of a bill of rubies and began to fill his. appeal," but the captain won't hear of it, not for a moment. He draws himself up to his full height of two. of cases, nosing around in places only the Harry Spinners of the world can nose around hi unnoticed. I. chest as he buttoned the shirt It wasn't muscular but it was very well made. He was very. wrote a story and sent it to a magazine. They bought it; paid me fifty dollars. Thought I was rich, so I. He grinned with pleasure. "Thanks. It's for a paperback cover. \*\*I was conscious of the chair shifting under me but did not let it distract me. "Does that mean she's taking over?". the door didn't open at all and wasn't intended to. The bathroom and kitchen windows cranked out and. "Amanda," I called. . DC. the New Year. If you're not in a desperate hurry . . . ". never let a man touch me, but she? shell have any man who strikes her fancy, just like her mother.". want to get away from it But pain-killers can be bad for the health, and even if they were not, I am. "What do you think that feels like, here?" She grabbed a handful of white nylon in the general area of her heart. . film, gives an extraordinary performance as Dr. M., and Bela Lugosi captures the spirit of the beast men. I have tried to speak to general issues rather than "defend" my own criticism. Issues are, in any case, more important than personalities, although there is a (small) section of fandom which sees in aesthetic or political disagreement nothing but personal squabbling motivated by envy. It's not for me to judge how good my criticism is; if enough readers think it's bad, and the editor thinks so too, presumably hell stop printing it although writing book reviews (except for places like the New York Times) is underpaid, overworked, and a labor of love. The problem is usually to recruit reviewers, not discourage them. . The house lights go all the way down; the only illumination comes from a thousand exit signs and the equipment lights. Then Moog Indigo troops onstage as the crowd begins to scream in anticipation. The group finds their instruments in the familiar darkness. The crowd is already going crazy. . Cora Zickwolfe, who lived in a remote rural area of Arizona and whose husband commuted to. "It must be in the center of this chunk of ice," said Jack. As they stared at the shiny, frozen hunk, something moved inside it, and they saw it was the form of a lovely girl. It was Lea, who had appeared to them in the pool. . she added softly, her dark eyes on his, "But come again in the morning.". From Competition 19: . Don't Ask, Dragoon, GORDON DICKSON. "You must have quite an artists' colony here," Amanda said, looking over the collection. She ran a. "What do they say on the Burroughs?" McKillian asked, tossing her helmet on the floor and squatting tiredly against the wall. The lender was not the most comfortable place to hold a meeting; all the couches were mounted horizontally since their purpose was cushioning the acceleration of landing and takeoff. With the ship sitting on its tail, this made ninety per cent of the space in the lander useless. They were all gathered on the circular bulkhead at the rear of the lifesystem, just forward of the fuel tank. . Amanda's wrist bent back farther. Her fingers fought to hold on to the knife, but with each moment they loosed more. . to send him into a state of fugue in which conversation in the linear sense became next to impossible. So. "Sure," Song said, peering along his pointed finger. "Just show me the damn thing and I'll immortalize. She looked thoughtful, which produced two vertical punctuation marks between her slanted eyes. . "Evelyn, how about an orange juice." She looked at him. He nodded. "Make it two." . ?Do you know what it's called?" he asked. "The disease you've got?". below, Dr. Asimov takes up the subject with his customary energy and intelligence. Imagine, if. Invasion of the Body Snatchers is the first "little" '50s s/f film to have the honor of a remake (or at. flung herself into a succession of cartwheels and forward flips. She went around a curve of the beach and. "Ideas . . ." he said, in a slow, deliberate manner, as though each. "When I blew the wizard here a year ago," said the North Wind from above them, "he left it right there, but the snow and ice have frozen over it.". He continues to shout and I don't answer. On the stage Nagami and Hollis look at each other and at. He fell again, forward onto the couch, blacking out from pain. . unprepared for the personage who presently stepped out and stood gazing at the Project with black. lost, doomed look. "Well, we can't live forever, can we? Are you ready to go?". an old wound, crusted but clean. The slash on the right was new, and from it blood still dripped. . She was gone, but the hate remained. Nolan felt its force as he. day before? and today? I'll end up screaming. It seems so pointless, collecting all that information, for. The clerk tapped the shut-up button pinned on the neckband of her T-shirt. . sunlight and not have them killed by the ultraviolet. . . ". Then came the examination, the removal to the hospital, the tests and the verdict A simple matter. . Nolan smiled at the sound, then nodded at Mama. ?I'm going to turn in now. You take good care of. That stopped me for a minute, but I'm not sure why. I mustVe had a mental picture of Charles Laughton riding those bells or Igor stealing that brain from the laboratory. "He's good-looking and he's a hunchback?". condensed it out until the air we exhausted was dry as a bone.". In the

Hall of the Martian Kings 147. from the pages of a decorator magazine. A kitchen behind a half wall was on my right A hallway led. maybe why not, to remake a movie that was close to perfect for what it was. Much of the subtler. Darlene's voice trailed off into an incoherent babbling, and she sank back. Nolan kept his hand on her forehead; the heat was like an oven. "Now just relax, darling. It's all right. I'm going with you." Something perverse doesn't let me drop it now. "So you grew up alone." demurely. "I was a Goldwyn Girl, you know." The background music changed from Vivaldi's Four Seasons to a Sondheim medley, and all the chairs in Barry's area suddenly lifted their occupants up in the air and carried them off, legs dangling, to their next conversational destination. Barry found himself sitting next to a girl in a red velvet evening dress with a hat of paper feathers and polyhedrons. The band of the hat said, "I'm a Partyland Smarty-pants." that rotting section of the Boulevard east of the Hollywood Freeway. She bossed them, cursed them, two bound figures, walked up to the door. "The hunter was here," he said as he crossed the door's threshold. "Why don't I come over at noon? We'll have lunch somewhere and I can show you the sights." with is not a simple matter of stretching supplies until rescue comes. Stopgap measures are not likely to. They looked at the floor. Then Jack got down on his hands and knees and looked under the cot. "There's a trap door there," he whispered to Amos, "and somebody's knocking." "Did you hear him?" he said softly. "Did you hear him die?" Every single cell in your body, in other words, has the genetic equipment of every other cell and of Baird Searles for "Multiples"; Copyright ? 1980 by Baird Searles. we have a problem. That was a great game of Zorphwar we had yesterday, and I most commend you on. "Maybe Andrew Detweiler is twins. One of them commits the murders and the other establishes the alibis." "It's a good thing Senator Burkhart can't hear you say that" said another officer. But by the next afternoon everybody had heard it. I tried to extend the day by inviting her out for dinner as I was driving her back to her cabin. same question asked me a year and a day ago by a wizard so great and so old and so terrible that you. What spell had brought them there, deep in the wood, neither could recall. The woods, the meadow, the clearing, the deer hide, the cottage door were all they knew. THE BEST FROM FANTASY & SCIENCE FICTION. still don't really believe in them, but you will if you stay here long enough? they know genetics. They really know it We have a thousand theories about what they may be like, and I won't bore you with them yet, but this is one thing we do know. They can build anything they need, make a blueprint in DNA, encapsulate it in a spore and bury it, knowing exactly what will come up in forty thousand years. When it starts to get cold here and they know the cycle's drawing to an end, they seed the planet with the spores and ... do something. Maybe they die, or maybe they have some other way of passing the time. But they know they'll return. But that night, as the rain poured over the deck, and the drum-drum-drumming of heavy drops lulled. "Listen, Jain?" not yourself, you were depressed and feeling hopeless. Does that still stand?" Q: Name three sci-fi authors and something that goes great on a. I fell head over heels just four evenings ago With a girl that I'm sure you all know, 84. nursery. coating on the ground was in reality two thin sheets of plastic with a space between for water to circulate. is one of film's most underrated actors, but his straightforward non-intellectual approach to the doctor. "Not long." back his clothes? was trying to wake him up. and came striding out to the car all legs and healthy golden flesh. She was wearing white shorts, sneakers. It was so dark in there with the curtains drawn that I couldn't see a thing. I left the closet and opened them a little on the front window. It didn't let in a lot of light, but it was enough. Maybe Detweiler wouldn't notice. I went back to the closet and waited. in town, but the eyes said he wasn't. I guess the old broad liked his hair that way. McKillian didn't seem to know what she wanted. "No. I... but, yes. Yes, I guess I do." She looked at. "Certainly. Barry, you said? You're so direct it's almost devious. Let's go to my place. It's only a couple blocks away. You see? I can be direct myself." "When?" "Then it says something for his endurance that he was able to put up with your glittering clothes for so. She went on like that, whispering about creatures half-serpent and half-human, with bodies cold to course, are directly based on Mary Shelley's novel itself; of these, only one besides the great classic of water in the pipes was frozen. Though she would not commit herself in the matter, she felt they were. "Mine's Ed," said the occupant of the bentwood rocker, a young man of Barry's own age, build, and bushy and Bloomfeld." She lowered her eyelids at me. I spread my hands. "Would Sam Spade go. Let me give you a quick rundown of this exciting interactive game. It is the year 2783. Man has reached out to settle thousands of planets scattered across the galaxy. Then, suddenly, the galaxy is invaded by a horde of alien beings, the Zorphs. They enslave all planets in their path. Those that resist are destroyed without mercy. You, as Captain of the Avenger, the great Terran warship, will range interstellar space, seeking out and destroying the forces of Zorph." "Jesus," says the tech- "You ought to be performing. The crowd would love it"

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