

## THE HUNTERS A NOVEL

best way I know of pleasing our leaders..couch turned into a lumpy bed. The refrigerator looked as if someone had spilled a bottle of Br'er Rabbit..shuddered. "I don't know how she can actually live with such creatures. I suppose it's her nature. I've..We made the cold dash across the beach to the cabin, picking up our clothes on the way. Inside we.."Right here on the mountain?" I say.."She committed suicide.."a turnip existence..Left to himself he couldn't stop thinking about the staple he'd seen on her license. It was like the seemingly insignificant clue in a detective story from which the solution to the whole mystery gradually unfolds. For didn't it strongly suggest that she too had been given the benefit of the doubt that she'd got her license not because her score entitled her to it, but thanks to Bylaw 9(c), Section XII? The cha-..Here are some of the complaints that keep coming up..Having called for a discussion, McKillian proceeded to clam up. Song and Crawford sat on their bunks, and eventually as the silence stretched tighter, they all found themselves looking to Lang..181.77..Baird Searles is part owner of New York City's Science Fiction Shop and has been keeping track of..In Defense of Criticism..might have attracted some attention, but Jack's hair, for all his colorful costume, was a very ordinary..out here. Hey, I have to get back in there! There's another one . . . it could be dangerous, and the..rely on things you can't learn in a simulator. And he barely got us down in one piece. We didn't noise it..ideas (among which is the idea that art ought not to be political), then such neutrality simply doesn't exist."Crisscross, cross, and double cross!" cried die grey man triumphantly as once more Amos and Jack were led to the brig..forms to justify a new schedule. We have doubled the expected times required to complete phases four..alibi, and moved to Silver Lake..And there wasn't any sound at all..Thus, the facts alone make it clear that the King has no such intent His real purpose in building the Project is to provide a haven. A haven to which the people can flee should a second phenomenal ram-fall again cause the Twin Rivers to overflow their banks to such an extent that the entire Plain becomes inundated. Living on that Plain, the members of Local 209 stand to benefit from the Project as much as the rest of the people. For them to have, in effect, sabotaged such a noble undertaking is, frankly, beyond my comprehension, unless their motive for doing so can be partially attributed to their unwitting acceptance of the popular interpretation of the Project's purpose..impulse to make any further contributions of his own and sat back and did his level best to be a good..could almost smell the smoke from my sizzling nerve endings. And this time when I pushed her onto the..woman of twenty-six ought to be leaving home anyway.."I don't have the faintest idea." He looked her straight in the eye as he said this. She almost didn't bother to answer, but curiosity got the best of her..There was a man outside in the clearing. At least she thought it was a man. Yet he did not look like..She patted him on the back. "Sure, I know. You forget, I read your dossier. It mentioned several..well-known?even to non-football fans. She wouldn't tell me how she got it, just smirked and looked."Fm sorry. I know it seems an inconsequential thing to go to pieces about, but every time I meet one..Matthew, promise that if you ever see Selene, you'll tell me. I have to know when she's stealing time.."At last it is about to happen," said the grey man. "Bat first, Amos, you must have your reward for helping me so much."I was never genius enough that I could have got a really good job with, say, Bell Futures or one of the big..On your screen you will be given a display of your current sector of the galaxy and the stars in that..usually found in the Mediterranean races. His hair wasn't quite black. It wasn't exactly long and it wasn't.."I don't recall seeing your name anywhere. Miss Nesbitt said it was Andrew Detweiler?"..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..surface responded to her touch with art exploding aurora of hot oranges, reds, and violets.."Alas," sighed the North Wind, "mirrors are always kept inside people's houses where I am never..some reason beyond the Grand Canyon for her wanting to move to Arizona? She insisted it was strictly.."Thanks again"..structures and pulsing organs can be seen..93..For one of the two was Amos, wearing the top half of the costume of the Prince of the Far Rainbow..Her pictures, though, did not do her justice. Not only was I surprised to find her taller than I expected, fully as tall as I was, but no media camera had ever captured the glow that shone out through her..muscles protest to watch. She never broke the rhythm of them and her voice came in gasps between..effect, indivisible from the community.."173.."It's the only way I know to make you go away and leave me alone.."I nodded again, at the same time wondering how Amanda Gail could ever, really, consider herself alone. The acrimonious divorce of former Olympic runner Margot Randall and Senator Charles Christopher Gail had traumatically divided not only Amanda's childhood but her very psyche. Five years ago, when Margot Randall died hi a hovercraft accident and Amanda moved to Washington full-time, it emerged that for most of her childhood, Amanda Selene Gail had been two personalities, Amanda Gail and another calling herself Selene Randall. The revelation, and their decision to remain dissociated, had made them the darlings of the gossip columns..I shook my head. "You've lost me. A kflo of buildings?"I was brought op in a candy store under a father of the old school who, although he was Jewish, was..From Competition 19: SF limericks 183..not imagine anyone else writing it..area..Nina stood before him and she was stark naked. Stark naked, her arms opening in invitation..arrow, you guys with all the bread will be the first ones up the ladder.."Driscoll spoke into the microphone boom projecting from his helmet. "Red Three, routine check." This would leave an innocuous record in the automatic signal logging system. In the darkness Driscoll pressed a key to deactivate the recording channel momentarily. "You're showing a light, shitheads. Douse it or cover it." His finger released the key. "Report status, LCP.."Unresolved text enclosed in brackets [ ].with the word "Princess" in big, glitter-dust letters across her breasts. Her hat said: "Let Tonight Be Your..There were whirligigs in the second patch, but they lacked the variety and disorder of the originals..gets around to carving out a straight line or a perfect arc. The human

encampment below him broke up the crowded space. The others got out of her way almost without thinking, except for Ralston who still Miss Tremaine looked up from her typing at the rattle and frowned. Her desk was out in the small rubber-stamped with the name of a used-book store on Santa Monica Boulevard. They were a mixture: screech, he ploughs through them, swatting them aside with the backs of his hands, kicking them out of. "Who is Ireina Khokolovna?" he asked. "Rob! I swear to God you're canned, you?" tossed it on the back of a chair. Amanda's wrist bent back farther. Her fingers fought to hold on to the knife, but with each moment they loosed more. price paid for the advantage of variety and versatility. well. egg to the queen that laid it, then that queen to the egg. Tens of thousands of generations have passed; in. "Or die trying." He grinned at her. She at least had grasped the essence of the situation. Whether. cut. The blood hadn't spread very far. Most of it had been soaked up by the threadbare carpet under the. There had been a brief lifting of spirits among Song, Ralston, and McKillian at the thought of a. "That's what I want to do in the morning," Song said. "Unless Mary will let us take a look tonight?" She said it hopefully, but without real expectation. Mary Lang shook her head decisively. should happen to ask what we were talking about, say it was the New Woolly Look, okay?. music. whom to believe and whom not to. Your last words have proved you worthy of my opinion.". 202. Since I first heard her in Washington, I've loved this song the best. I push more keys. Eighty-two. I closed the door quietly behind me and walked around the end of the bed so I could see all of him. 159. nodding. Singh was uncomfortably aware that the idea of a rescue mission had died out only a few years. 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. In the garden the grey man, with sunglasses tightly over his eyes and an umbrella above his head, was indeed walking through the violent colors and rich perfumes, past the pink marble fountains where the black butterflies glistened. It was hot, he was dripping with perspiration, and his head was in agony. "Don't defend her. She's just like her mother, and my father told me what she was. Selene's been. must continually extend one's sensitivity, knowledge, and critical care to works that only abuse such. We looked. It was that long black palanquin again. Out of it stepped the King. the mountains until the paved highway becomes narrow asphalt and then rutted earth and then only a. He nodded. 'I use another name. You probably wouldn't know it either. It's not exactly a household word.' His eyes said he'd really rather not tell me what it was. He had a slight accent, a sort of soft slowness, not exactly a drawl and not exactly Deep South. He shoved the typewriter over and pulled out a deck of cards. was on the floor behind the bed, scrunched down between it and the wall. The almost colorless chenille. . . . criticism written without personal feeling is not worth reading. It is the capacity for making good or bad art a personal matter that makes a man [sic] a critic. . . . when people do less than their best, and do that less at once badly and self-complacently, I hate them, loathe them, detest them, long to tear them limb from limb and strew them in gobbets about the stage or platform. ... In the same way really fine artists inspire me with the warmest possible regard. . . . When my critical mood is at its height personal feeling is not the word; it is. "I'm afraid I have to say they're a liability. Lucy will be needing extra food during her pregnancy, and afterward, and it will be an extra mouth to feed. We can't afford the strain on our resources." Lang said nothing, waiting to hear from McKillian. Birdie Pawlowicz was a fat, slovenly old broad somewhere between forty and two hundred. She was. Q: What is the state of the Competition Editor after each contest?. Tharsis Base. artists inspire me with the warmest possible regard. . . . When my critical mood is at its height personal. He came in quickly and bolted the door behind him. He didn't notice the open curtain. He glanced. I drove, not paying any attention to where I was going, almost as deeply in shock as he was. I finally. Perhaps they expected to see the mirror glittering in the weeds and pebbles at the bottom of the pool; perhaps they expected their own reflections. But they saw neither. Instead, the face of a beautiful girl looked up at them from below the surface. offering with a sigh of pleasure or gasp of delicious dismay. In the course of it she stopped calling me Mr.. "Reading at index six?". process. In the place of the removed egg cell nucleus, you insert the nucleus of a somatic cell of the same. 245. "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. Everyone else in the tavern came running outside too. Sure enough it was Amos, and sure enough a rainbow looped above them to the far horizons. "Then we'll work it so you won't have to hide," said Amos. "If I remember you right, the second piece is on the top of a windy mountain so high the North Wind lives in a cave there." his device was sharp and bright When he varied the inputs to the components in a certain way, the bright. strong. Above, there seemed no way to go any higher. 12. split up the sides to the waistband. He was barefooted and had a smudge of green paint on his nose. He. are drifting across the next room as if on huge silent wheels, chairs and end tables turning into reddish. ornament, filled with snowflakes and the flashing red and blue lights of the emergency alarms. The top of. 90. Mary Lang sighed, slapped her thighs, and stood up. Like all the others, she was nude and seemed totally at home with it None of them had worn anything but a Martian pressure suit for eight years. She ran her hand lovingly over the gossamer wall, the wall that had provided her and her fellow colonists and their children protection from the cold and the thin air for so long. He was struck by her easy familiarity with what seemed to him outlandish surroundings. She looked at home. He couldn't imagine her anywhere else. He blew a stream of smoke from pursed lips and tapped his cigarette on an alabaster ashtray. "Yes." "Why don't you tell me what you think? You're the survival expert. Are babies a plus or a minus in. THE COMPANY REPRESENTATIVE: I will be brief. Common people, even uncommon ones, tend to romanticize reality, often to fantastic extremes, and invariably in these days romanticism acquires religious

overtones. In the present instance a perfectly practical undertaking has been interpreted, on the one hand, as an attempt on the part of the King to get high enough above the ground so he can shoot an arrow into Heaven and, on the other hand, as an attempt on the part of the local citizens, especially the rich ones, to provide themselves with an avenue into Heaven. The two interpretations have somehow intermingled and become one. The absurdity of the second is self-evident and unworthy of closer scrutiny. The absurdity of the first is also self-evident, but for the record I'd like to cite a few pertinent facts..houses in the compound, and now you see Bruce standing beside the corral, looking into his viewer,.who wouldn't dream of challenging a dance critic's comments on an assoluta's line or a prima donna's."What if one time it doesn't?".He examined the dome as he walked back to camp. There was a figure hazily visible through the plastic. At this distance he would have been unable to tell who it was if it weren't for the black face. He saw her step up to the dome wall and wipe a clear circle to look through. She spotted his bright red suit and pointed at him. She was suited except for her helmet, which contained her radio. He knew he was in trouble. He saw her turn away and bend to the ground to pick up her helmet, so she could tell him what she thought of people who disobeyed her orders, when the dome shuddered like jellyfish..maybe I shouldn't even touch it".passion, Rob. ... It seems to build.".The Mm Who Had No Idea.The sailor leaned his chin on his mop handle awhile, then said, "If you want to avoid it, don't go down the second hatchway behind the wheelhouse.".couple of elderly old-maid sisters in number twelve. He hadn't been feeling well and had moved out later."No, sir," Colman replied stiffly, keeping his eyes fixed straight ahead. "Corporal Swyley was manning the compack. He would not have been assigned to ELINT analysis. He's color-blind.".Now, months later, I remember it and my skin again goes warm. "Get out of here," I say to the lads..artificial hump and stowed it in the suitcase. He closed the lid and locked it

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