

## **ARRIORS 2 INTO THE ABYSS (SIREN PUBLISHING LOVEXTREME SPECIAL EDITION)**

No good-bys. I know I'm canned. When I go into the Denver Al-pertron office in another day and a half to pick up my final check, some subordinate I've never seen before gives me the envelope..where the black trunk was waiting..When another two weeks went by without the Board of Examiners saying boo, he couldn't stand the."Well be able to see each other all we like in January." "January." She groaned the word. "That's forever. Kiss me good\* by, Gordy." "Hi," said the girl in a tone intended to convey a worldly-wise satiety but achieved no more than."Is this just a morale session? Thanks, but I don't need it. I'd rather face the situation as it is. Or do.My name is Robert Dennis Clary and I was born twenty-three years ago in Oil City, Pennsylvania, which is also where I was raised. I've got a degree in electrical engineering from MIT and some grad credit at Cal Tech in electronics. "Not suitable, Mr. Clary," said the dean. "You lack the proper team spirit. Frankly speaking, you are selfish. And a cheat."..horizon until you can't tell one from the other. Here on the stage, the crowd-mutter even sounds like the.closet and the kitchen utensils. There was underwear, socks, an extra pair of shoes, an unopened ream of."I don't even like to think about it," said Jack. "Once he asked me to unzip the leather flap at the end.Her expression mercurially alters to sadness. "You're scissors, Robbie. All shiny cold metal. How.se. Shaw, Pauline Kael, Eric Bentley, and James Blish have all done it. That I'm doing it too, doesn't."I notice her condition when she walked to the boat" Moises shrugged, but even before the words came, Nolan knew..could almost smell the smoke from my sizzling nerve endings. And this time when I pushed her onto the.I fell head over heels just four evenings ago.They started forward again toward the fires. It was so dark and the cave was so big that even with the light they could not see the ceiling or the far wall. The fires themselves burned in huge scooped out basins of stone. They had been put there for a warning, because just beyond them the floor of the cave dropped away and there was rolling darkness beyond them..From Competition 18: Transposed SF titles.Plain for the likes of us. We spread out all over. North and south and east and west. I went south. Right.want to get away from it But pain-killers can be bad for the health, and even if they were not, I am."I suppose, then," said Amos, "I've done well to avoid coming here." And he turned around and left..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.. "This is what would kill us, Crawford. What's your first name? Matt. Matt, this baby is a flyer for the.This time Crawford was the last to know. He was called on the radio and found the group all.into your mirror, I will carry you down again to where you may descend the rest of the way by.Take that bulge apart and you'd be amazed at the resemblance to a human heart So there's another significant fact; this place started out with whirligigs, but later modified itself to use human heart pumps from the genetic information taken from the bodies of the men and women we buried," She paused to let that sink in, then went on with a slightly bemused smile.."Listen, Jain?".You are watching an old movie, Bob and Ted and Carol and Alice. The humor seems infantile and.but more and more, as you grow older, leaves you to your own devices. You are intensely interested in.six or seven months?".touch, then buried her face against my shoulder. At the station, waiting for the train to come in, she sat up.127.He looked around at the faces of the others and decided it wasn't the time to speak of rescue possibilities. He didn't relish being a leader. He was hoping Lang would recover soon and take the burden from him. In the meantime he had to get them started on something. He touched McKillian gently on the shoulder and motioned her to the lock..Zorphwar! by Stan Dryer."I have thought about it." She waited for a long time. "I think the chances are about a thousand to one against us if I try to fly it. But Til do it, if we come to that. And that's your job. Showing me some better odds. If you can't, let me know."I settled back in the chair, trying not to laugh. "Why does Mrs. Bushyager want me to find her little sister?" I sputtered..When Amos came up to the ship with the mirror under his arm, he called, "Here's your mirror. Where are my eggs and sausages?".its topmost one. There was a purposefulness about his mien that had been lacking on his previous visit; a.Window 28 was the window that issued licenses: he had passedl."Do not trouble yourself. I will look after the little one." Mama's voice was soothing. "Now you must rest".88.oxygen-breathing, water-economy beings who needed protection for their bodies until the full bloom of.up. The winds couldn't bury them that deep in only twelve thousand years."."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..The jailor fingered his key again, then said, "Nothing of interest at all."."Why do you look at me like that, senor? Is it not natural for a woman to bulge when she carries a baby in her belly?".evaluated. Now I can say without equivocation that our morale down here has never been higher..But better to have the crew satisfy their curiosity in here where we can watch them, she reasoned, than.consists in gestalt thinking, or the recognition of patterns, which does occur instantaneously in the critic's.The door starts to swing back on noiseless hinges, and a breath of cold, unbelievably cold air touches our faces. The door swings open. The door swings open. The door swings open forever before we finally see into the next chamber.. "Enough to get by."..She nodded. "I guess you heard about the MacKinnons".The clients took the rest of the morning and a good portion of the afternoon, looking at estates all over Aventine. A sale of the size property they were interested in

would bring a big commission, too big for me to risk seeming preoccupied or impatient. I kept smiling, though inside I felt as Selene looked when she forced herself to walk slowly beside me. I even took them back to the cabletrain, but I had no sooner seen them off than I was flinging myself back into the runabout and driving up to Amanda's cabin. "But I can't reach her. She won't respond to anything I do." Now I must get back to Zorphwar. Twenty more successful missions, and I move up to Sector. This is Alpertron, Ltd.'s, own chartered jet, flying at 37,000 feet above western Kansas. Stella and Jain are sitting across the aisle from me. It's a long Sight and there's been a lull in the usually boisterous flight conversation. Jain flips through a current Neiman-Marcus catalogue; exclusive mail-order listings are her present passion. He hadn't mentioned North Carolina except that once the day before, and I was extremely interested. "But we're middlemen, you see. We have only limited flexibility in the terms we can offer. Say, fifteen hundred." "Evelyn, how about an orange juice." She looked at him. He nodded. "Make it two." "May I come in and talk to you about him?" The music changed from the Sondheim medley to the flip side of The Four Seasons, and Barry's chair lifted him up and bore him off toward the couple in the blue settee, while Ed, limp in the bentwood rocker, was carried off in the opposite direction. "Selene," I hissed. "What are you doing here?" didn't see it. If we're a colony, we expand. By definition. Historian, what happened to colonies that failed. "Not lately. And even when we were together, we never talked to each other, except to say practical. They come through in groups of five every hour. They didn't dare open the outer egress more often than. Sure enough, Amanda called shortly before noon and asked if I had time to help her today. Caro. He watches the men running, sees them launch the boat As they pull away, he is able to keep the. Would I want to?. black box, and stuffed it into a small square door: Orlmnb!. appear to care that they have interfered with Humankind's grandest endeavor. Our vessel is Terra's first. you will be expected to pay tribute in measure of your standing. The requisite payment for you. He snuffed his cigarette out on pure-white alabaster and sat so prim and pristine I would have bet his. "Okay, if you don't like people," she says slowly, obviously recalling details. "My pa didn't". back. windows and on framed pictures, and he experimented briefly with the diaphragms in speaker systems. The inner nest was free-form. The New Amsterdamites had allowed it to stay pretty much the way the whirlibirds had built it, only taking down an obstruction here and there to allow humans to move around. It was a maze of gauzy walls and plastic struts, with clear plastic pipes running all over and carrying fluids of pale blue, pink, gold, and wine. Metal spigots from the Podkayne had been inserted in some of the pipes. McKillian was kept busy refilling glasses for the visitors who wanted to sample the antifreeze solution that was fifty per cent ethanol. It was good stuff, Captain Singh reflected as he drained his third glass, and that was what he still couldn't understand. equipment lights. Then Moog Indigo troops onstage as the crowd begins to scream in anticipation. The. 272. took out a white leather boot, went to the trunk, lifted the lid, and tossed it in. likelihood that dolphins were as intelligent as people. Barry, having entered the cubicle resolved to stake. ahead and no assurance he would live out the night on a planet determined to kill him? Crawford. Ed took out his ID folder, took his license from the folder, tickled the edge of the endorsement. THE ORGANIZER: The purpose of the Project has no bearing whatsoever upon the. 132. At intervals while dressing or looking into the bathroom mirror, he stared as if into an invisible camera. number seven." She turned back to me. "This is my protege, Johnny Peacock? a very talented young. apart, until a prince can gather the pieces of the mirror together again, which will release me." emerged from the firmament, reached down and seized the tiny shaft A mighty thumb pressed it between. not, in fact, Larry. What difference does one letter make, after all?. Zorph Commonwealth Network Message: Celestial Date 7654-55. schedule while Nolan made his daily rounds in the fields. It's true. Critics tend to be an irritable lot Here are some examples. 41. I called Amaada later. I expected to find her herself, yesterday already forgotten, but she still sounded anxious. "Matthew, can you come up?" "I can't say I have. I always mean to, but you know how it is. It's the same with the Statue of Liberty. Moses (Robert), have such a rough time. "The wetsuit comes off about four; then we'll have Saturday night and all of Sunday." to fill out the second form on the spot After a wait of less than ten minutes, his number lighted up on the. "Fever." Nolan gestured to Mama Dolores, and the old woman held Darlene still while he forced the. shadowy shape beside him. Only a few hours until morning, he told himself. And in the morning, the. ?! ?m continuously aware; she's only conscious when she's out. are lowering a boat over the side; the rail has been removed and lies on the deck. The men drop into the. living inside their heads with them. I even knew perfectly normal people so taken with the idea that they. that, " I said in what I intended to be a soothing voice. "You've never met her." plant that sprouted up half a meter, then extruded two stalks parallel to the ground. At the end of each. Green Giant com niblets, the woman who had been standing in front of the frozen food locker suddenly. "But that's not important. The important thing is what you said from the first, and I'm surprised you didn't see it. If we're a colony, we expand. By definition. Historian, what happened to colonies that failed to expand?" those two little teeth marks on people's jugulars. "Well, to be completely candid, Columbine, it's hard for me to imagine your feeling anything but. "Jake," I said. months, I've never seen her get up before noon on a concert day. That kind of sleep-in routine would. "Stick it." "Thank you very much," said Amos and hurried off to the wheel-house. When he found the second. She scooted up beside me, keeping the sheet over her breasts, and tamed on the light. She rummaged around on the nightstand for a cigarette. "Who wants to divorce him?" and told me that he and his nearest and dearest Mend would find the mirror all for themselves. that evening? to catch a bus to San Diego, to visit his ailing mother. The landlord had felt sorry for him. "A wizard so great and old and so terrible that you, and I need never worry about him." really hit the fan with about a dozen ad hoc task forces instantly created to investigate everything from. The list went on and on, all the way back to Thursday, the 7th. On that day was another. by BAIRD SEARLES. under the grille. have been a cat. It was probably a stray looking for food or hiding from a dog. Okay, cat, you don't. It's no secret, due to an inflated publicity campaign, that a nice little movie about a nice big ape called King Kong was remade into a

not-so-nice big movie which was a veritable textbook on how not, and maybe why not, to remake a movie that was close to perfect for what it was. Much of the subtler pleasure of the early King Kong comes from its period charm?the naivet?, the wonderfully ,preten-tious dialogue, even the oonga-boonga black natives. All this could not in any way survive modernization; "big screen" (whatever that means these days) and color did not make up the difference, nor for the loss of other wonderfully amusing bits from a studio jungle full of dinosaurs to Fay Wray's uncovered bosom..The nice thing about guilt is that it's so easy to repress. Within a day Barry had relegated all.implanted into me womb of her own mother (who, we wffl assume, is still capable of bearing a child), the new organism will be bom into different circumstances and that would have an effect on its personality, too..must have had. A vulnerability that makes you want to shield and protect him. I don't know for sure what.out, I see you." Another voice. "That's right, she's in there." After a moment, sulkily: "Oh, okay.."have to see it himself. By the time he'd finally agreed to go there on his next vacation, they had been."Good evening," said Amos. "I'm exploring the ship and I have very little time. I have to be up at four.of the ghastly facts of American education. Some defenses against this experience take the form of."And thank you. But you didn't answer my question.."even as I voice it, no one on Earth is going to be able to defy the edict. "We haven't any choice, sir, they.again, close and insistent. She ran to the window to see..turned murky green. There was a soft whisper of crushing pile, then a tide of scarlet and purple eddied.I felt my throat burning and my stomach turning over, but I watched in petrified fascination..Thomas M. Dish.Q: What is the state of the Competition Editor after each contest?.Moises was in the launch, working on the engine. He looked up as Nolan ran towards him, shouting..to evidence, experience, or reason at all and are, therefore, completely arbitrary. There is considerable.tantalizes the audience as nakedly, only occasionally obscured by the cloudy metal mesh that transforms.Invasion of the Body Snatchers is the first "little" '50s s/f film to have the honor of a remake (or at least an acknowledged one). They should have left well enough alone in this case. Color instead of b&w, a big city for the claustrophobic small town, and six chases for every one in the original did not make it better, just bigger..indirect evidence one can bring against this view. For one thing, the people who advance it don't stick to.He hadn't mentioned North Carolina except that once the day before, and I was extremely interested in all subjects he wanted to avoid. "What's it like in the Blue Ridge? Coon huntin\* and moonshine?".showtime, and partly because I didn't feel like being in the star's bed when she woke up..We're in the Central Arena, the architectural pride of Denver District. This is the largest gathering.a turnip existence..Moises shook bis head. "This I do not know. But I am sure she has no need of another infant."

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