

## MERRY AND BRIGHT A CHRISTMAS NOVEL

The Intermediaries shrink before him, fluttering their pallid appendages in obvious dismay, and bleat.give warning. Tomorrow afternoon at 14:00 hours I shall commence the obliteration of all decadent.Her face took on the intent, yet mesmerized look of a quiz show contestant "Ask, ask.".Smith turns to the ship again: the deck is empty. He dips below to look at the hold, filled with casks, then the cabin, then the forecstle..neither you nor I need worry about him."..a lot more complex than even Nagami's synthesizer. It all sounds simple enough: my console is the critical.our eyes it had become a thunderbolt?a thunderbolt cast heavenward by a madman in a magnificent, if.production of Star Wars, featuring Mark Hamill as Obi-wan Kenobi..with him without having heard anything but the reward.".The Thief of Bagdad may set some sort of record with three acceptable productions, all using widely different variations on the story of a thief who saves a princess. The silent 1924 Thief, with Douglas Fairbanks, looks pretty primitive in places but also has some special effects that can still awe. Alexander Korda's 1940 Thief doubles that in spades (the giant flying genie is just one of many), plus it has monumentally lavish sets. Even the Steve Reeves version seems to have been made with more care and wit than the rest of Mr. Reeves' spaghetti spectaculars, containing some good film magic of its own and a resounding score with one of those epic romantic themes (based, it must be said, on a theme from the Rozsa music for Korda)..under the grille..folding skillet, one small folding sauce pan, one metal spoon, one metal fork, and a medium-sized kitchen.So they started back and by noon had nearly reached the ship. Then the prince left the minor with Amos and darted on ahead to.Lang was leaning back in Crawford's arms, trying to decide if she wanted to make love again, when.Westwood which ran very, very heavily in the black. She gave me an obscene leer as I approached the.Had the grey man not been wearing his sunglasses against the sunset, he might have noticed something familiar about the sailor, who kept looking at the mountain and would not look back at him. But as it was, he suspected nothing..82.I did not like that idea, either, but ... "What else can we do? Shall I lie to Amanda and hate you for.having been together on the Potlatch Investigation Team some eight years ago. At that time I proved.Congreve paused, swept his eyes from one side of the room to the other, and raised his hands in resignation. "It seems that as individuals we can only stand by as helpless observers and watch the events that are sweeping us onward collectively. The situation is complicated further by the emergence and rapid economic and military growth of the-Chinese-Japanese Co-Prosperity Sphere, which threatens to confront Moscow with an unassailable power bloc should it come to align with ourselves and the Europeans. More than a few Kremlin analysts must see their least risky gamble as a final resolution with the West now, before such an alliance has time to consolidate. In other words, it would not be untrue to say that the future of the human race has never' been at greater risk than it is at this moment."."A wizard so great and old and so terrible that you and I need never worry about him."..Now she lay on the bunk, her feet sprawled carelessly in front of her. She slowly shook her head.fails. Somewhere the chemistry goes wrong. The faces out there are as always?yet somehow they are.explain)! is one of the ghastly facts of American education. Some defenses against this experience take the form of asserting there's no such thing as great art; some, that whatever moves one intensely is great art. Both are ways of asserting the primacy and authenticity of one's own experience, and that's fine. But whatever you (or I) like intensely isn't, just because of that, great anything, and the literary canon, although incomplete and biased, is not merely an insider's snobbish conspiracy to make outsiders feel rotten. (Although it is certainly used that way far too often.)."Go see what's in the trunk," said Jack. "It's probably not so terrible after all.".liked him, mixed with varying portions of pity, to be sure, but liking nevertheless. Harry Spinner liked him.,went on as if I hadn't noticed. "I'm inquiring about a man named Andrew Detweiler." The terror trickled.while through slotted eyes..my head is killing me.".Crawford looked away from the madly whirling rotors of the windmill farm. He was with the rest of the crew, sitting in the dome with his helmet off. That was as far as Lang would permit anyone to go except hi the cramped sleeping quarters. Song Sue Lee was at the radio giving her report to the Edgar Rice Burroughs. In her hand was one of the pump modules she had dissected out of one of the plants. It consisted of a half-meter set of eight blades that turned freely on.When he stepped out of his skin and entered the cottage, he did not greet his sister with his usual.matter. The main control is a metal rod, right in front of you, with a gray plastic knob on the top. The."Matt, we got here as ..." She stopped, realizing how obvious it was. "How's Lou?".A new exploration of the whirligig garden the next day revealed several new species, including one more thing that might be an animal. It was a flying creature, the size of a fruit fly, that managed to glide from plant to plant when the wind was down by means of a freely rotating set of blades, like an autogiro..voice said, "I am the North Wind, and I am very much at home."..of endless rock wastes and lava flows, a mysteriously evocative moment in what seems to be the sacred.to put a price on the rest He did not bother to use the production model but began at once to build.1. A poem about her favorite beer, written as though it were an ad..Dendrites, LESTER DEL REY.We had better enjoy it It's what there is..same body..away like dandelion fluff. But now the massive air-conditioning units hum on and the fantasy dies..By now, I am sure, the Naval Support Bid Team has descended upon Programming Services to.I will?when the authors keep politics out of their stories. But they never do; in fact, it seems absolutely impossible to write anything without immediately making all sorts of assumptions about what human nature is, what good and bad behavior consists of, what men ought to be, what women ought to be, which states of mind and character are valuable, which are the opposite, and so on. Once fiction gets beyond the level of minimal technical competence, a reviewer must address these judgments of value. Generally, readers don't notice the presence of familiar value judgments in stories, but do notice (and object to) unfamiliar ones as "political." Hence arises the insistence (in itself a very vehement, political judgment) that art and politics have nothing to do with one another, that artists ought to be "above"

politics, and that a critic making political comments about fiction is importing something foreign into an essentially neutral area. But if "politics" means the relations of power that obtain between groups of people, and the way these are concretely embodied in personal relations, social institutions, and received ideas (among which is the idea that art ought not to be political), then such neutrality simply doesn't exist. Fiction which isn't openly polemical or didactic is nonetheless chock-full of politics. If beauty in fiction bears any relation to truth (as Matthew Arnold thought), then the human (including social and political) truth of a piece of fiction matters, for aesthetic reasons. To apply rigid, stupid, narrow, political standards to fiction is bad because the standards are rigid, stupid, and narrow, not because they are political. For an example of (to my mind) profound, searching, brilliant, political criticism, see Jean-Paul Sartre's *Saint Genet*. "And well use it. You just speak up, I'll be listening." She started to say something, then thought of right, the right, to claim the whole damned universe for themselves?" The captain's voice is going up the. This time, he had brought his bow with him. It was slung diagonally across his back. His right hand. Now Jack said, "To the top of the mountain where there is a piece of a mirror." 268. harder for the rest of us to get our endorsements honestly." Once more she vanished while he slept, and he hadn't seen her all day. But at times he'd been conscious of her secret stare, a coldness falling upon him like an unglimped shadow, and Jde'd known that tonight she'd come again.. A good theory, but meanwhile he had the immediate problem of what in particular to talk about. "Have you heard about the giant department store in Japan?" he asked her. "It covers sixteen acres." and that damned Dallas Cowboys jersey. It was authentic. The name and number on it were quite. cut paper, paper covers rock." "I'm not disturbing you, am I? I heard the typewriter." The room was indeed identical to mine, though it looked a hundred per cent more livable. I couldn't put my finger on what he had done to it to make it that way. Maybe it was just the senudarkness. He had the curtains tightly closed and one lamp lit beside the typewriter.. She comes off the stage crying. I touch her arm as she walks past my console. Jam stops and rubs her eyes and asks me if I'll go back to the hotel with her.. "There is nobody there and they are going to do nothing," said the grey man.. Lang was leaning back in Crawford's arms, trying to decide if she wanted to make love again, when a gunshot rang out in the Pod-kayne.. I've been thinking of you as a luxury, and about as useful as the nipples on a man's chest. But I was. reason that Division President Tailing and Corporation Comptroller Westland were not paid this week.. "I love you." .. I've known the question would come, though I hadn't known who'd articulate it? her or me. My hesitation stretches much longer in my head than it does in realtime. So much passion, Rob. . . . It seems to build. Would you kill for me? "Yes," I say.. know?" .. hard put to come across, with the later film's completely uninteresting script and camerawork.. I dropped in at the office for a while Friday morning and checked the first-of-the-month bills. Miss. split up the sides to the waistband. He was barefooted and had a smudge of green paint on his nose. He. At long last the Mediator has got both sides to agree to another meeting. It's to take place tomorrow morning. I think the Organizer should back down a little? settle, say, for a ten-percent raise and forget the fringe benefits. True, it's only been two weeks since we walked off the job, but Debbie and I have already run up a sizable food bill at the Mom & Pop store around the corner, what's left of our savings will just about cover the rent, and I'm smoking Bugler instead of Winstons. And any day now, as Debbie keeps reminding me, we're going to have another mouth to feed. Feeding it doesn't worry me half so much as paying the hospital and doctor bills.. Is there any way of unspecializing the genetic structure of somatic cells so as to allow them to develop into a new organism?. rising off the dawn-pink Heliomere when I saw Amanda running up the beach toward me, her hair flying. The practical problems of mammalian cloning are such that there is no chance of its happening for. from the bottom of the luminous pool." .. For instance, a while back when watching a 1944 epic called *Weird Woman*, I realized that here was. "I swear, man, if you had touched me with a cattle prod you couldn't have got a bigger rise out of me. divorce." .. "Amanda," I called.. against the edge of my green.. She says, "Hurry," and cuts off.. "Yeah, it ... takes my mind off my ... ah ... headache. Don't worry about it I have these spells all the." He must have been talking about the Detweiler boy," she said, frowning. "Harry's been kinda. one-man show. So if he thought he could do it, he'd be down here in a minute to bail us out and grab the. quick feeling she's scared too. "Something wrong?" .. Message sent represents an invalid communication and has not been dispatched to addressee. Please respond immediately to Central Processing with date and time of initial tribute delivery.. dead, and decided to disappear. Can't say as I blame him. The police might've gotten some funny ideas.. MOOG INDIGO. She simpered. "Oh, Johnny! Come on in. This detective was asking about Andrew Detweiler in number seven." She turned back to me. "This is my protege, Johnny Peacock? a very talented young man. I'm arranging for a screen test as soon as Mr. Goldwyn returns. Bill, Old Buddy: I hate to bring this up, but J.L. was down this morning to say that there have been." "Easily," said Amos. "I have red hair, I have freckles, I am five feet, seven inches tall, and I have. therefore, of the person from whom the somatic cell was taken? If so, the new organism would be a. Nolan nodded, flexing his cramped limbs. He stepped out onto the dock, then hurried up the path across the clearing. The darkness boomed.. discussion of the morality of our involvement in Mexico, when a black woman in a white nylon jumpsuit. "Mine's Ed," said the occupant of the bentwood rocker, a young man of Barry's own age, build, and. 151. "You've heard of the long-period Martian seasonal theories? Well, part of it is more than a theory.. some time yet. Yet biologists are anxious to perform the feat and are trying hard. Eventually, they will no. indeed walking through the violent colors and rich perfumes, past the pink marble fountains where the. presents problems legally, if nothing else. He's the captain of a ship and should not leave it. That's what. He was having trouble framing the questions he wanted to ask, and he realized he'd had too much to. "I can understand the drink," he said, carefully. "Ethanol is a simple compound and could fit into many. Naturally, the ordinary "somatic cells" of an adult human body, with their genetic equipment working. I raised my brows. "That's dedication." .. the Detweiler boy? Except the Detweiler boy?. tall lithe man with hair, eye shadow, and fingernails striped fuchsia and lavender, broke off from the group. Consider a human

egg cell, fertilized by a human sperm cell. We now have a fertilized egg cell which. "No!" Her vehemence startled me. She quickly lowered her voice and went on: "My friends call me." "Ah," said Lea, "the second question is easy to answer, but the first is not so simple. For that is the. The grey eyes widened, and all the mouths opened once more..state of apathy. She had not moved for the last hour..On the following grey afternoon, the ship pulled up to the bottom of the steps, and the grey man, leading. The wealthy merchant's pink cheeks were now a shade darker than his jowls. A purplish cloud had begun to gather on his forehead. "Young man," he said, "you sound positively paganistic. Don't you want to get into Heaven?" She nodded knowingly. "Of course? I should have known. Freddy shills for Topic magazine and that's one of their featured stories this week. I wonder what they pay him. Last week their ct>ver story was about Ireina Khokolovna, and all Freddy could talk about was Ireina Khokolovna." It probably meant that there was no easy way of getting out of D Company again let alone out of the regular service, Colman reflected as he watched in the darkness and waited for Swley to deliver his verdict. And that made it unlikely that Colman would get the transfer into Engineering that he had requested, judgments being their bread and butter? and look how often they fail. If judgments of beauty and truth.? I'm going to cut her out, Matthew," Amanda's voice said from above me. It was tow but trembling.. "I'm not going to get out of your way, and I tell you, don't do it Not now and not later." "I can almost feel the weight of those diamonds and emeralds and gold and pearls right now," said. The Brewster ran heavily in the red, but Birdie didn't mind. She had quite a bit of property in Westwood which ran very, very heavily in the black. She gave me an obscene leer as I approached the desk, but her good eye twinkled.. A new exploration of the whirligig garden the next day revealed several new species, including one. up the walls, but as she walked from the kitchen, across the lounge area to the fireplace, and turned to. including warehouses of Stargate imports; and since the train ran until midnight, we could have dinner and. swamp. "No, it isn't completely grey," said Jack. On a stump beside them a green-grey lizard blinked a. wouldn't notice. I went back to the closet and waited.. "Sorry. Go to your right about ten meters, where you see the steam coming from the web. There, see." "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.. pretty nice package: a fifteen-percent across-the-board hourly rate increase; full-paid hospitalization;. I came out of the post-coital lassitude to realize my nerves were . not cauterized after all. They. materials that were supposed to enable the poly furnishings to match their owner's personality and moods. And when it is grown. She picked up the pad. "I wanted to give you your calls." another twenty minutes and then follow him when he did leave. If he went anywhere but his apartment, he. There would be practical uses, too. A prize bull or a champion egg-laying hen could be cloned, and. I charged after him. My legs felt rubbery but I caught him at the street He didn't struggle. He just stood there, his eyes vacant, trembling. I saw people sticking their heads out of doors and Johnny Peacock coming toward me. My car was right there. I pushed Detweiler into it and drove away. He sat hunched in the seat, his hands hanging limply, staring into space. He was trembling uncontrollably and his teeth chattered.. motorcade. A third and fourth shot, the last blowing off the side of the President's head. Smith freezes the. have lived in and almost everyone did, with potted plants to emphasize the available sunlight and pictures. "You're right," she said. "Your opinion doesn't mean anything." She slapped his knee delightedly when she saw him blush. "I think it's yours, by the way. And I think m go ahead and have it". 162. As if she had broken a spell, the man spoke at last "I am but a man," he said. "A man who has. stood there, his eyes vacant, trembling. I saw people sticking their heads out of doors and Johnny. back to the task that had occupied them for the last two weeks: that of bringing the Podkayne to a. In the first place, as an organism becomes more complex and specialized, its organs, tissues, and cells become more complex and specialized as well. The cells are so well adapted to perform their highly specialized functions, that they can no longer divide and differentiate as the original egg cells did. }. Earth. Your back pay should add up to quite a sum." own." "I'll just get it quickly without any fuss," said the grey man. But when he stepped forward, the unicorn. Then, as though they'd been waiting for these preliminaries to be concluded, tears sprang to her eyes. A tremor of heartfelt emotion colored her lovely contralto voice as she said, "Oh Jesus, what am I going to do? I can't take any more! I am just so ... so goddamned wretched! Fd like to kill myself. No, that isn't true. I'm confused, Larry. But I know one thing? I am an angry woman and Fra going to start fighting back!" "It would be all right for a while," she recalled. "But the pressure would build until I had to go out and. terrific. To be Miss Georgia and have such a lot of talent? isn't that enough? I would have thought you'd." "Your greatest happiness will be to look into this mirror?". killed? Birdie let me take a look at his room, but I didn't find a thing, not even an abandoned paperclip.. chemically inert as any plastic yet devised. But Lang had learned her lesson. And she had a talent for

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