

THE NATURAL SON A PLAY IN FIVE ACTS

Scott Meredith Uterary Agency for "Nina" by Robert Bloch Joanna Russ for "In Defense of Criticism" Isaac Asimov for "Clone, Clone of My Own" John Varley for "In the Hall of the Martian Kings" Steven Utley for "Upstart" Lee Killough for "A House Divided" Baird Searles for "Multiples"; Copyright ? 1980 by Baird.build up a biome here and get ready for the builders. Think about it. When summer comes, the conditions.respond immediately to Central Processing with date and time of initial tribute delivery..into the elevator, rides to the fourth floor. She rings the bell beside the door marked 410. The door.baby kicking and squirming. You have seen yourself delivered, seen the first moment when your.rather.".Nina by Robert Block 91.cells, such as those of the muscles or nerves, have become so specialized they can't divide at all. Only the."Barry what?".261.you're guilty of breaking the law..A faint orange glow outlined the top of a craggy boulder, and they hurried toward it over the crumbly ledge. When they climbed the rock, they saw that the light came from behind another wall of stone further away, and they scrambled toward it, pebbles and bits of ice rolling under their hands. Behind the wall they saw that the light was even stronger above another ridge, and they did their best to climb it without falling who-knows-how-many hundreds of feet to the foot of the mountain. At last they pulled themselves onto the ledge and leaned against the side, panting. Far ahead of them, orange flames flickered brightly and there was light on each face. For all the cold wind their faces were still shiny with the sweat of the effort..Of course." I smile. I know how to play..most of them folded and stacked, a refreshment stand that sold orange juice and coffee, and a great."We were never suspected before." .think you should consider that when you're deciding what we should do." He shut up, afraid to sound like.A clone is any organism (or group of organisms) that arises out of a cell (or group of cells) by means.By the addition of other genetic-engineering techniques, it might be possible to produce a whole.?I'm trying to balance." I juggle slides. "Any better?".195."If we don't make it home from this," I say at length, "if they never hear from us back on Earth, never.I See You by Damon Knight 1.come back I shall show you a man living through the happiest moment of his life. Then I will put you and."Certainly. Barry, you said? You're so direct it's almost devious. Let's go to my place. It's only a.of our situation. If anyone is a commodity here, it's you and Ralston, by virtue of your scarcity. There will.HENDERSON'S The Different People: No Flesh.6. A poem apologizing to the last person she had been especially rude to..Why is that?".But why this thing?" Crawford asked, pointing to the impossible artifact-plant. "Why a model of the Earth and Moon? And why right here, in the graveyard?".burials. The same sort of thing was happening around the Podkayne, too, triggered by our waste; urine."No, you can't! The baby?".(1st verse) O, give me a clone."Certainly," said Amos. "Fried eggs, if you please, once over lightly, and plenty of hot sausages.".Today the sustenance that our industries crave is not oil, but minerals. Fifty years from now our understanding of controlled-fusion processes will probably have eliminated that source of shortages too, but in the meantime shorter sighted political considerations are recreating the climate of tension and rivalry that hinged around the oil issue at the close of the last century. Obviously, South Africa's importance in this context is shaping the current pattern of power maneuvering, and the probable flashpoint for another East-West collision will again be the Iran-Palestine border region, which our strategists expect the Soviets to contest to gain access to the Indian Ocean in preparation for the support of a war of so-called black African liberation against the South.".trying to scrub the last bit of color off the grey boards. "Good evening to you too," said Amos. "I'm.She looked at me, not saying anything, her face slowly collapsing into an infinitely weary resignation..what?".the hunter stepped out of the woods on the very path that Brother Hart usually took, Hinda gave a gasp..I don't know," he told her cheerfully. "It's a tough problem, isn't it?".And who should I meet coming out of the door but Admiral Venerate. Venerate and I are old buddies..Darling, even vampires have to be at the scene of the crime.".beneficent Old Testament prophet in the Lugosi role. But even Laughton and Lugosi would have been.that never seemed to be finished. So he and Lang had to learn about the new discoveries at the nightly.twentieth-century society has grown unaccustomed to language of such violence.".Pretty slim. Mostly the air problem. The people I've read about never sank so low that they had to worry about where their next breath was coming from..anybody's going to incur it, the Company is. Because I happen to have it from a pretty good."You've heard of the long-period Martian seasonal theories? Well, part of it is more than a theory..her otherwise rather plain face, giving her the look of a Renaissance Madonna and adding nostalgic.David (or Murray) was about twenty-five, redheaded, and freckled. He had a slim, muscular body which was also freckled. I could tell because he was wearing only a pair of jeans, cut off very short, and split up the sides to the waistband. He was barefooted and had a smudge of green paint on his nose. He had an open, friendly face and gave me a neutral smile-for-a-stranger. "Yes?" he asked..in front of an unoccupied bent-wood rocker. A sign in the seat of the rocker said: "I feel a little sick..know?".Investigations. I got up and looked out. This section of the Boulevard wasn't rotting yet, but it wouldn't.showtime, and partly because I didn't feel like being in the star's bed when she woke up..something else, something that could be important but kept eluding him..May his head split into a thousand pieces," said Amos..Since a pump is not an organic system, I presume the expression is an expletive," Horace observed chattily..away with their hands. The web dosed behind them, and they were standing in the center of a very.the way down to the layer of permafrost, twenty meters down..the beach several days later, I thanked her..as the discoverer?".Moines I saw her crying alone in a darkened phone booth?Jain had awakened her and told her to take.a long, brutal war with the Palestinian Empire, and a growing conviction that the survivors of the First.very peculiar. I don't really know what to make of it.".Neither of us sleeps much the rest of the night. Sometime before dawn I doze briefly and awaken.making me do it?".completely separate entities and may be enjoyed on their own. This one concerns the visit to.Science: Clone, Clone

of My Own by Isaac Asimov 101. ZELAZNY hatchway, he went down very quickly and was just about to go to the barred cell when he saw the grimy and decrease heat loss." into your mirror, I will carry you down again to where you may descend the rest of the way by. pushed them from him with a rough sweep of his hand. and a rape and knifing in an alley off La Brea. Only the gunshot victim had bled to death, but there had. I sighed. "So have I." I turned and looked at what he was working on at the drafting table. It was a small painting of a boy and girl, she in a soft white dress, and he in jeans and tee shirt. They looked about fifteen. They were embracing, about to kiss. It was quite obviously the first time for both of them. It was good. I told him so. "PolySensitives," she said. "I haven't seen any of these since I was a little girl." She sat down in the chair, watching the color change spread over the entire surface and the contours alter to a deeper, softer look. "How fun." it? ". He stood there staring down at it. wasn't sweating; her skin was curiously cool to the touch, and in her eyes was a mystery. It was not unexpected; Lang had been waiting for it to happen since the night the Burroughs left. But. That hardly seemed fan' to me. As though she read my mind, Selene said, "I didn't plan it; it just. Tin not sure. I've never been more than three days. I can't stand it any longer than that. He knew. He always knew when I had to have it And he got it for me. I never helped him." .too sharp to ignore. At last I reach the summit. A similar case is that of H. G. Wells's *The Island of Dr. Moreau*, filmed with superbly demonic atmosphere as *Island of Lost Souls* in 1932. Charles Laughton, maybe the best actor yet to appear on film, gives an extraordinary performance as Dr. M., and Bela Lugosi captures the spirit of the beast men as the Speaker of the Law with the abhuman quality that characterized his *Dracula*. Now Burt Lancaster is one of film's most underrated actors, but his straightforward non-intellectual approach to the doctor role undermined the '70s trip to the Island; Richard Basehart didn't help matters by looking like a beneficent Old Testament prophet in the Lugosi role. But even Laughton and Lugosi would have been hard put to come across, with the later film's completely uninteresting script and camerawork. But here luck turned against them, for no sooner had they reached the shore again when the sailors descended on them. The jailor had at his woken up and, finding his captives gone, had organized a searching party which set out just as Amos and the prince reached the boat. meandered on home. I was brought up in a candy store under a father of the old school who, although he was Jewish, was the living embodiment of the Protestant ethic. My nose was kept to the grindstone until I could no longer remove it. Furthermore, I was brought up during the Great Depression and had to find a way of making a living? or I would inherit the candy store, which I desperately didn't want to do. Furthermore, I lived in a time when science fiction magazines, and pulp magazines generally, were going strong, and when a young man could sell clumsily written stories because the demand was greater than the supply. a period of time before it can be trusted to care for itself. and I can get to my equipment." .That's a hard one, but other than that we're no different than any other group of survivors in a tough spot. Just then, behind the bars, Amos saw the pile of grubby grey blankets move. A corner fell away and. out here. Hey, I have to get back in there! There's another one . . . it could be dangerous, and the. But I couldn't figure out a pattern for the victims: male, female, little kids, old aunties, married, unmarried, rich, poor, young, old. No pattern of any kind, and there's always a pattern. I even checked to see if the names were in alphabetical order. I couldn't find a morning paper at that hour closer than *Western and Wilshire*. The story was on page seven. Fortunately they found the body in time for the early edition. A woman named Sybil Hern* don, age 38, had committed suicide in an apartment court on Las Palmas. (Detweiler hadn't gone very far. The address was just around the corner from the Almsbury.) She had cut her wrists on a piece of broken mirror. She had been discovered about eleven-thirty when the manager went over to ask her to turn down the volume on her television set. started looking at the street signs. I was on Mullholland. I kept going west for a long time, crossed the. swamp and rode the back of the North Wind? ". come bade." Amos jumped out of his rags and handed them to the sailor who trotted off toward the wheelhouse. Minutes later he was back with a bright costume: the sleeves were green silk with blue and purple trimming, the cape was crimson with orange design, the shirt was gold with rainbow checks, and sitting on top of it all was one white boot and one black one. Smith hears the woman shriek. In a moment she too is over the rail and falling into the sea. "Do not trouble yourself. I will look after the little one." Mama's voice was soothing. "Now you must rest". them made a great deal of sense. When she was through, he spoke softly. "Who was Detweiler visiting?" I asked as I lit the cigarette. The lighter felt cool and expensive in my. important undertaking, but construction workers have to live the same as anybody else, no matter how. said. I answered sleepily, "You're really good." .versions of *Midsummer Night's Dream*. And yet more to come: As the science fiction and fantasy films. asked the empty room. lines that followed. "Yeah." .garden, he put all his reward in the wheelbarrow, went back to the small door and knocked. It is the year 2783. Suddenly the galaxy is invaded by a horde of alien beings, the Zorphs. They. as mine. The kitchen had one plastic plate, one plastic cup, one plastic glass, one plastic bowl, one small. something to eat at the Mexican restaurant around the corner on Melrose. They have marvelous carne. "In a way it's about time," she said, tossing her clothes in a corner. "The only thing to do with these. Then she was gone, gliding off into the night where the drums thudded in distant darkness. want anyone else to see before I have." .In fact, the controls on this machine are unfamiliar, die little viewers you have used all your life have only one knob, for nearer or farther? to move up/down, or left/right, you just point the viewer where you want to see. This machine has dials and little windows with numbers in them, and switches and pushbuttons, most of which you don't understand, but you know they are for special purposes and don't matter. The main control is a metal rod, right in front of you, with a gray plastic knob on the top. The knob is dull from years of handling; it feels warm and a little greasy in your hand. The console has a funny electric smell, but the big screen, taller than you are, is silent and dark. You can feel your heart beating against your breastbone. You grip the knob harder, push it forward just a little. The screen lights, and you are drifting across the next room as if on huge silent wheels, chairs and end tables turning into reddish silhouettes that shrink, twist and disappear as you pass through them,

and for a moment you feel dizzy because when you notice the red numbers jumping in the console to your left, it is as if the whole house were passing massively and vertiginously through itself; then you are floating out the window with the same slow and steady motion, on across the sunlit pasture where two saddle horses stand with their heads up, sniffing the wind; then a stubbled field, dropping away; and now, below you, the co-op road shines like a silver-gray stream. You press the knob down to get closer, and drop with a giddy swoop; now you are rushing along the road, overtaking and passing a yellow truck, turning the knob to steer. At first you blunder into the dark trees on either side, and once the earth surges up over you in a chaos of writhing red shapes, but now you are learning, and you soar down past the crossroads, up the farther hill, and now, now you are on the big road, flying eastward, passing all the cars, rushing toward the great world where you long to be. For instance, suppose you wanted one hundred Isaac Asimovs so that the supply of F&SF essays, all, however, were the swarms of golden gnats that buzzed about him. He would beat at them with the would check in every couple of hours to find out if the slinky blonde looking for her kid sister had shown. "Yes?" he asked. Grand Vizier, the man who holds the arcane knowledge and advises the regent. I think I'll have to watch. An organ replacement would be grown and since it would have precisely the same genetic equipment. "No, not worship." "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." living the past. Fallows glanced at the clock in the center of the console. Less than an hour before Waiters was due to take over the watch. Then he would have two days to himself before coming back on duty. He closed his eyes for a moment and savored the thought. . . . glass. . . . skilled labor. I figure that as a bricklayer I can get on easy. . . . drive back to the office and sign. You can move in today." I blow you into little pieces and scatter them over the whole wide world." I moved in enough clothes for three days, some sheets and pillows, took another look at the kitchen and decided to eat out I took a jug of Lysol to the bathroom and crossed my fingers. Miss Tremaine brought up the bank statement and humphed a few tunes. . . . And that's why I sold her, . . . ? As Atropos raises the terrible, cold-shining blades of the Norn-shears and with only the barest. Crawford and Lang hung around as the scientists looked things over. They were not anxious to get back to the task that had occupied them for the last two weeks: that of bringing the Podkayne to a horizontal position without wrecking her. The ship had been rigged with stabilizing cables soon after landing, and provision had been made in the plans to lay the ship on its side in the event of a really big windstorm. But the plans had envisioned a work force of twenty, working all day with a maze of pulleys and gears. It was slow work and could not be rushed. If the ship were to tumble and lose pressure, they didn't have a prayer. . . . not because I had seen him catch a beautiful blue bird with red feathers round its neck and stick it. He didn't know. . . . once. Except me." . . . So finely drawn, and with the glitter of ice, the manipulating wires radiate outward. Taut bonds

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