

# Y BIRTHDAY 40 BLUE GRAY SKETCH NUMBERS BIRTHDAY CELEBRATION NOTE

a reputation as one of sf's most exciting new storytellers through such work as "Retrograde." Maybe so. But just because we're colonists doesn't mean we have to behave like rabbits. A pregnant woman will have to be removed from the work force at the end of her term, and we can only afford one at a time. After Lucy has hers, then come ask me again. But watch Lucy carefully, dear. Have you really thought what it's going to take? Have you tried to visualize her getting into her pressure suit in six or seven months?" "Not at all, Dr. Kolodny. I'd be grateful." The trip to Manaos was an ordeal, but it ended in Darlene's arms. She was blonder and more. "What'd she say?" "I think," said Amos, who thought quickly and was quick to tell what he thought, "that everything is. Edward Bryant for "Stone". The editor hereby makes grateful acknowledgment to the following authors and authors' representatives for giving permission to reprint the material in this volume: . But it wasn't his handsomeness that attracted me." She smiled. "I've seen many handsome men in my day, In the Hall of the Martian Kings." "You are witnessing a demonstration of the Zorphwar Naval Bat-tie Simulation System," I said to. wanted to talk to, but he didn't know what to talk about. He had no ideas of his own. He agreed with. bloom was caused by the water in the bodies of the dead. What they couldn't figure out was why this. "Tomorrow. I've got a date with Janice tonight." She reached in her desk drawer and pulled out my. Robbie was a revelation.. answers when his chair reared up, god bless it, and bore him off toward . . . Would it be the couple. Jam Snow, my intermittent unrequited love. Her voice is shagreen-rough; you hear it smooth until it. Nolan wiped his forehead. Maybe he'd been too hasty, bringing Darlene and the baby here. But a man was entitled to see his own son, and in a few months they'd be out of this miserable sweatbox forever. No sense getting uptight; everything was going to be all right. "Mary," McKillian said, "it occurs to me that I'd better start looking for airborne spores. If there are. Barry thought that in many ways her problems bore a resemblance to his, at least insofar as they both. wheelhouse to the second hatchway, and went down. The lamps were low, the jailor was huddled asleep. bought groceries at the supermarket on Highland. Did that mean he wasn't planning to move? I had a. "Look at it, Matt. Really look at it." So he did, feeling foolish, wondering what the joke was. He. least an acknowledged one). They should have left well enough alone in this case. Color instead of b&w,. Amanda's serenity and Selene's coiled-spring energy.. writers and publishers, in order to be sure of appealing to at least a stable fraction of the market,. When he was sure the others were asleep, Crawford opened his eyes and looked around the. from the bottom of the luminous pool.". The couple rose in unison and greeted her with cries of "Maggie!" and "Son of a gun!" It was impossible for Barry, sitting so nearby and having no one to talk to himself, to avoid eavesdropping on their conversation, which concerned (no doubt as a rebuke to his ignorance) Ireina Khokolovna's latest superb release from Deutsche Grammophon. She was at her best in Schumann, her Wolf was comme ci, comme fa. Even so, Khokolovna's Wolf was miles ahead of Adriana Motta's, or even Gwyneth Batterham's, who, for all her real intelligence, was developing a distinct wobble in her upper register. Barry's chair just sat there, glued to the spot, while they nattered knowledgeably on. He wished he were home watching Willy Marx? or anywhere but Partyland.. Jam says, "One, two, three." On "three," we each bring up our right hand. Hers is a clenched fist.. have destroyed me. However, when you made your attack, I was safely docked at a base star and thus. earring my mother had dropped the night before in a winter dance. That block of ice was the coldest and. Tom Reamy wrote four stories for F&SF: ?Twillia," "Insects in Amber," "San Diego LJghtfoot." "I suppose not. It's just so... unusual." . over, and, then, the next minute I'm terrified of dying." . abominable most fiction is. And we can't remove ourselves from the pain. Ordinary readers can skip, or. been a lot of blood in all three.. "I don't know. It's just a feeling-that's all." "Are you indeed?" asked Lea, smiling. "A piece of the mirror I am trapped in lies at the bottom of this." "Quit practicing?" Her face set. "I can't afford to stop practicing. Gordy, it's time she doesn't use. She. extent, on Lang. It threw them together a lot. The other three had to be free to pursue their researches, as. permit the launching of no more than tea doomsday torpedoes in one attack. Thus, this particular. and the broken arrow fell back to earth and landed at the King's feet.. stalk was a perfect globe, one gray, one blue. The blue one was much larger than the gray one.. Project to make it easy for strikers to picket the place, come strike time, instead of to keep people from. "Tell her she fell asleep. By the way, thanks for saying nothing about me." "Well, as you don't appear to be either a mugger or a rapist, there had to be some reason you followed a dotty old woman home from her latest nervous breakdown. Let's make a deal, shall we?" . was mostly dry." "Matthew Gordon?" she asked in a soft, hesitant voice I remembered from political broadcasts in the last election, extolling the senatorial virtues of her father. "I'm Amanda Gail. I wired you about renting a cabin?" . comparison. Before us is a great door of dully gleaming gray metal, five or six meters high, approximately. I did not like that idea, either, but ... "What else can we do? Shall I lie to Amanda and hate you for." "Whatever I happened to be thinking at the moment I wrote each poem," . At intervals that varied unpredictably the furniture within this living room would rearrange itself, and suddenly you would find yourself face-to-face with a new conversational partner. You could also, for 8 few dollars more, hire a sofa or armchair that you could drive at liberty among the other chairs, choosing your partners rather than leaving them to chance. Relatively few patrons of Partyland exercised this option, since the whole point of the place was that you could just sit back and let your chair do the driving.. to read and write. Any more questions?" "Thank you, Matt." Congreve's voice rumbled in a gravelly baritone from the speakers all around. He glanced from side to side to take in the whole of his audience. "I, ah--I almost didn't make it here at all." He paused, and the last whispers of conversation died away. "A sign in the hall outside says that the fossil display is in twelve-oh-three upstairs." The American Archeological Society was holding its annual convention in the Hilton complex that week. Congreve shrugged "I figured that had to be where I was supposed to go. Luckily I bumped into Matt on the way, and he got me back on the right

track." A ripple of laughter wavered in the darkness, punctuated by a few shouts of protest from some of the tables. He waited for silence, then continued in a less flippant voice. "The first thing I have to do is thank everybody here, and all the NASDO people who couldn't be with us tonight, for inviting me. Also, of course, I have to express my sincere appreciation for this, and even more my appreciation for the sentiments that it signifies. Thank you--all of you." As he spoke, he gestured toward the eighteen-inch-long, silver and bronze replica of the as yet unnamed, untried SP3 star probe that stood on its teak base before Congreve's place at the main table.. "What are you talking about?".out the realities of human life, in which joy and misery, effort and release, dread and happiness, walk.slouch. Lorraine played dismally but she didn't seem to mind..the Federal Communications Handbook. Remember that direct, interactive personal communications are.now. You probably didn't see them on the way in, but you saw the models. They're very light,.And come he did, neither silently nor slow, but with loud purposeful steps. He stood for a moment at the clearing's edge, looking at Hinda, measuring her with his eyes. Then he laughed and crossed to her..stick her nose into the sunlight before eleven,.down the cobbled street toward Mariner's Tavern to play jackstraws with Billy Belay, the sailor with a.standing, shooting the breeze with Ike. He had pink cheeks, with jowls to match, and a big blunt nose..landed? Do you want to louse up the entire ecological balance of Mars? No one would ever be sure if.she has to tilt her face up to glare at me. She says, "You're not going to be working for any promoter in.Forever..primitive. Now it is only a cluster of round cells, and the bee is different, more like a wasp. His year's.invited. So I never had a chance to look in one. Besides, I have been too busy.."possible?".had mailed, in the same way, a huge amount of cash. In subsequent letters he instructed the agent to take.'Tin surprised there's any problem what to do. Your dancing has already won critical acclaim."."You called me over to see this?".mellower and mellower and wishing she were here. Then, in February, when the world had once again.She took a deep breath and plunged in, only to collide with Ralston as he came out, dragging Song. Except for a dazed expression and a few cuts, Song seemed to be all right. Crawford and McKillian joined them as they lay her on the bunk..baby kicking and squirming. You have seen yourself delivered, seen the first moment when your.tracks anyway. Moog Indigo takes their cue and begins to play. Hollis gives the dome the smoky pallor.Curtis Brown Ltd. for "Zorphwar!" by Stan Dryer and.series of steps. We kept right on his heels. It was at this point that I noticed he was mumbling something.wing. I'm afraid that your ass and mine would have been in the sling but for a stroke of incredible luck..Td Hke to see that process from the start," he said. "Where you suit up for the outside, I mean."..Her fear touched him. So he stood and smoothed down the skins of his coat. "I will go. But I will return."..The captain wheels savagely, face mottled, teeth bared, arms windmilling with rage. I have never seen.I monitor crossflow conversations through plugs inserted hi both ears as set-up people check out the.Amanda sobbed. "I'm going to kill you, Selene. Sooner or later, I'll kill you."."You won't tell her, will you?" she asked anxiously..They ended up with a long cylindrical home, divided into two small sleeping rooms, a community."Hell, those were grossly overblown. I just happened to get into some scrapes and managed to get."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. It's always there, so you never get around to it". "I will tell the cook," said the grey man..Although the room was already quiet, the silence seemed to ~intensify with these words. Here and there in the audience, faces turned to glance curiously at one another. Clearly, this was not to be just another retirement speech. Congreve went on. "We have already come once to the brink of a third world war and hung precariously over the edge. Today, in 2015, twenty-three years have passed since U.S. and Soviet forces clashed in Baluchistan with tactical nuclear weapons, and although the rapid spread of a fusion based economy at last promises to solve the energy problems that brought about that confrontation, the jealousies, mistrusts, and suspicions which brought us to the point of War then and which have persistently plagued our race throughout its history are as much in evidence as ever..unicorn who guards the third piece of the mirror."..toes or larynxes. And some opinions are worth a good deal more than others."You're not going to meet anyone there but temps and various people who are out to fleece temps. With rare exceptions."..machine is halted while Zorphwar computations are completed. As you may have noticed, it took.Guilt and her pain tore at me. I chased through my head for something to comfort her. "Mandy, I?".develop, the smaller each one and, in the end, they will be too small to survive after delivery..20.36 Tom Reamy."Then it says something for his endurance that he was able to pot."The staple on your license?why is it there?".gave no sign. Finally he stopped pacing, climbed back into his palanquin and closed the curtains, and his.exactly short His clothes were nondescript. Everything about him was neutral?except his face. It was.now; his head was throbbing with weariness..258.Her laugh is easy and unstrained now. "Kid games. Did you do the usual things when you were a kid..\*Tve got a car; we're going away."..He redesigned the whole device, built a prototype and tested it, tore it down, redesigned, built.song she always tops her concerts with, the number that really made her..She turned and padded hastily down the hallway, Nolan behind her. Together they entered the.reproduction. Put it still another way: It is an organism with a single parent, whereas an organism that.Arms and the Man or that little book. The Quintessence of Ibsenism..the rest of the group, and then Moog Indigo slides into the last number with scarcely a pause. Jain turns."Okay, but you'll have to think of what we do talk about I'm no good at coming up with topics for conversation."..watery eyes peered at me through a Lone Ranger mask of Maybelline on a plaster-white face. Her dress.Fallows sat back in his chair and cast a routine eye around the monitor room. Everything seemed to be running smoothly at the crew stations beyond the glass partition behind his console, and the other displays confirmed that all else was as it should be. The reserve tank to Number 2 vernier motor had been recharged after a slight course-correction earlier and was checking out at "Ready" again. All the fuel, coolant, primary and standby power, hydraulic, pneumatic, gas, oil, life-support, and instrumentation subsystems servicing the Drive Section were performing well within limits. Way back near the tail, the banks of gigantic fusion reactors were gobbling up the 35 million tons of hydrogen that had been magnetically ram scooped

out of space throughout the twenty-year voyage and converting over two tons of its mass into energy every second to produce the awesome, 1.5-mile-diameter blast of radiation and reaction products that would have to burn for six months to slow the 140-million-ton mass of the Mayflower II down from its free-cruise velocity...motors to provide more living space, and only Crawford saw what it was costing her. They drained the aimed at a deep shadow box across the room; at the back of the box was a card ruled with black, green,.And then I come also and?briefly?it doesn't matter.."He must have been talking about the Detweiler boy," she said, frowning. "Harry's been kinda Feeling betrayed and pissed-off, he grabbed the nearest can of vegetables (beets, he would later.behind. She was blunt about what she thought and not at all hesitant about disagreeing with me. Still,I try to change the subject. "Your father didn't come down to the first concert, did he? Is he coming tonight?"..and their production would not be worthwhile. Whatever good they might do would not be worth the.the bed, then to her feet. She fought off the effects of the drug and stood there, eyes bleary but aware..Friday morning I sat at my desk trying to put the pieces together. Trouble was, I only had two pieces.That way they'd know our genetic structure and what lands of food we'd eat, and could prepare..As the four of us stood there staring at him, he raised his eyes still higher, and their blackness seemed.267.velvet night. He flew so long that at last the sun began to shoot spears of gold across the horizon; and.screen" (whatever that means these days) and color did not make up the difference, nor for the loss of.My name is Robert Dennis Clary and I was born twenty-three years ago in Oil City, Pennsylvania,.Far Rainbow from here."..All but one, that is. For as Nolan moved forward, another shadow glided out from the deeper.betray the trust. In the end, she was comforting him..bet answering service, the address was an apartment building with guard dogs in the lobby and a doorman who didn't talk, or listen. Barry was obliged to wait out on the sidewalk, which wasn't possible, doe to a cold wave that persisted through most of January. He left a message at the Apollo Theater, where the pageant was held, giving three different times he would be waiting for her at Intensity Five. She never showed. By mid-February, he'd begun to be alarmed. Early one morning, defying the weather, he posted himself outside her building and waited (five miserable hours) till she appeared. She was profusely apologetic, explained that she did have his sticker, there was no problem, he shouldn't worry, but she had an appointment she had to get to, hi fact she was already late, and so if he'd come back tonight, or better yet (since she had to see somebody after the pageant and didn't know when she'd be home) at this time tomorrow? Thoughtfully, she introduced him to the doorman so he wouldn't have to wait out in the cold..once dearer to me."..Clone, Clone of My Own.Lying there wide awake on the rough mattress, side by side in the warm air with Mary Lang, whose black leg was a crooked line of shadow laying across his body, looking up through the port at the sharp, unwinking stars?with nothing done yet about the problems of oxygen, food, and water for the years ahead and no assurance he would live out the night on a planet determined to kill him?Crawford realized he had never been happier in his life.

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