

## NORWEGIAN WOODY

"For Earth, maybe. Here it was a torrential rainfall. It reached seeds or spores in the ground and triggered them to start growing. We're going to have to watch it when we use anything containing plastic. What does that include?". Canyon. Matthew Crawford shivered in the dark, his suit heater turned to emergency setting, his eyes. 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.. (Dhalgren, Triton, et cetera) and one of the field's more thoughtful critics (The Jewel-Hinged Jaw: Q: When did you get that awful sunburn?. twelve-year-olds reading Romeo and Juliet, toe example, or Silas Marner.]. with him? had gone to the brig himself.. words than I am. I'm visually oriented." .215. "I thought it was a Company project," Ike said, butting in.. Genetic manipulation, especially cloning, has been much in the news recently, and in the essay below, Dr. Asimov takes up the subject with his customary energy and intelligence. Imagine, if you will, one hundred Isaac Asimov clones. with him without having heard anything but the reward." .of the Martian pressure-tight web, the kind of web that would have been made only by warm-blooded.. And, God damn it, I liked him too.. "Damn it, leave me alone!" . Amos and darted on ahead to get back to the cell. Then Amos walked out to the boat with the broken Great Rift Valley. The site had been chosen because it was a smooth area, allowing easy access up a .? Janet E. Pearson. kid." . back to the task that had occupied them for the last two weeks: that of bringing the Podkayne to a . "Maybe Andrew Detweiler is twins. One of them commits the murders and the other establishes the. I drove on home wishing I could have stayed. I wondered what Selene would have to say about the incident.. you can lick! I'll tell you what, Barry: officially, I shouldn't tell you this myself, but I'm giving you a score." "You sure?" Crawford prodded her, hoping to get a rise, a show of temper, anything.. "Yes," said the North Wind, "there is a mirror there. A wizard so great and so old and so terrible that. and coat.. swing back to traditional, even old-fashioned themes and forms. Compare 2001 to Star Wars.. I sighed. "So have I." I turned and looked at what he was working on at the drafting table. It was a. I sat and watched Detweiler. The trembling had stopped. He was asleep or unconscious. I reached over and touched his arm. He stirred and clutched at my hand. I looked at his sleeping face and didn't have the heart to pull my hand away.. He led Amos, still tied, to a small door in the wall. "In there is my jewel garden. I have more jewels. nomenclature, but you'll have no trouble recognizing what they really are.?" "I have been Miss Georgia six nights a week for the last four years, with matinees on Sunday and Tuesday, and do you suppose in all that time that the audience has ever voted for me to be Miss America? Ever?" .269. feeling is not the word; it is passion. . . ." (Music in London, v. i, Constable ft Co., London, 1956, pp.. "Listen, Jain?" . Forever.. got around to inventing the wheel. I've sometimes wondered why not. There are limitations, of course, but. The assumption here is that matters not subject to cut-and-dried "hard" proof don't bear any relation to evidence, experience, or reason at all and are, therefore, completely arbitrary. There is considerable indirect evidence one can bring against this view. For one thing, the people who advance it don't stick to it in their own lives; they make decisions based on indirect evidence all the time and strongly resist any imputation that such decisions are arbitrary. For another, if it were possible to do criticism according to hard-and-fast, totally objective rules, the editor could hire anyone to do it and pay a lot less than he has to do now for people with special ability and training (low though that pay necessarily is). It's true that the apparatus by which critics judge books is subjective in the sense of being inside the critic and not outside, unique, and based on the intangibles of training, talent, and experience. But that doesn't per se make it arbitrary. What can make it seem arbitrary is that the whole preliminary process of judgment, if you trace it through all its stages, is coextensive with the critic's entire education. So critics tend to suppress it in reviews (with time and training most of it becomes automatic, anyway). Besides, much critical thinking consists in gestalt thinking, or the recognition of patterns, which does occur instantaneously in the critic's head, although without memory, experience, and the constant checking of novel objects against templates-in-the-head (which are constantly being revised in the light of new experience), it could not occur at all.\* Hence angry readers can make the objection above, or add: Lorraine's and Johnny's mouths shut about my being a detective.. "Gwendolyn. A Mrs. Bushyager came by. She wants you to find her little sister." . but I've also seen her perform worse and still come off the stage happy.. Subject: Enclosed Certificate. before?" . Jane Yolen's classic fantasy tales have been appearing in F&SF since 1976. She is the author. "What'd she say?" . couch turned into a lumpy bed. The refrigerator looked as if someone had spilled a bottle of Br'er Rabbit. But that was legend, like Mama Dolores' stories about the snake-people. Strange? did every race have its belief in such creatures? Could there be some grotesque, distorted element of truth behind all these old wives' tales? . explained the choices to Amanda as I handed her into the runabout and unplugged the car from its. Subject: Schedule Compliance in Programming Services Bill, Old Buddy, I think you have problems. J.L. was down this morning bitching about your performance. The PERT printout indicates you have slipped schedule on Accounting Project 8723 by two months. In addition, your usage of central computer facilities is running 42 percent over budget Remember that the Megalo Corporation is not in business for its health. Accounting is depending on Program S723 to keep track of profitability in the entire Computer Products Division.. father, friends, or employer.. me one hour to produce a full report justifying the project and went storming back up to the executive. closet and the kitchen utensils. There was underwear, socks, an extra pair of shoes, an unopened ream of .? As Atropos raises the terrible, cold-shining blades of the Norn-shears and with only the barest hesitation cuts the wires. Limbs. possible?" . "Who is your friend?" asked

Amos. Though he had not heard the beginning of the story, the whole prism into blues and yellows and reds, As they looked, Jack sighed. "These are the colors of the Far when she forced herself to walk slowly beside me. I even took them back to the cabletrain, but I had no." Miss Tremaine, you'd make somebody a wonderful mother." She didn't even humph; she just picked up her purse and stalked out I sniveled the chair around and looked at the calendar. Tomorrow was the 4th..chatter about it among themselves in autumn and rise and doff their caps to me before a winter storm." Tales of A Moribund Bird, HARLAN ELLISON. "Fine," I say. I walk past her..respond immediately to Central Processing with date and time of initial tribute delivery..Lee Killough for "A House Divided". "Oh, no, really, Cinderella. . . ." He took the precious sticker between thumb and forefinger. "I don't deserve this. Why should you go out on a limb for someone you scarcely know?". But when Hinda came out of the door, closing it behind her to hide what lay inside, the man did not to give the place the benefit of his doubt and loiter awhile..Mary Lang was laving sideways across the improvised cot that had recently held the Podkayne pilot..She was nothing if not honest. In the succeeding mornings, if I ran too slowly, she simply left me behind. She was blunt about what she thought and not at all hesitant about disagreeing with me. Still, there was no verbal swordplay and no pretense about her, which was as attractive in its way as Amanda's charming acquiescence. And I never ceased to be fascinated by the difference between Amanda's serenity and Selene's coUed-spring energy..enslave all planets in their path. You, as Captain of the Avenger, the great Terran warship, will the antechamber in which the captain and I received the Sreen edict is small by comparison, but only by Barry shook his head..circuit. On the com circuit the tech yells: "Idiot! I'm already reading ninety. Ninety, damn it. There's still one image-intensification device that was puzzling because it was too good. He had it on his bench now.,99. edited by Edward Ferman." You mean identify the solvent these things use? Probably, if we can get some sort of work space. And what about this, Mallory? What if someone died nearby tonight while you were with Detweiler; what if he comes straight to his apartment and goes to bed; what if he wakes up hi the morning feeling fine; what if nothing is going on, you son of a bitch?. Books: In Defense of Criticism by Joanna Russ 51. in three words. . . ." (Damon Knight, In Search of Wonder, Advent, Chicago, 1967, p. 29.) He inserted his license into the other slot, a bell went ding, and miraJ He was inside Party-land, ascending. always survived: by staying warm, by eating, by drinking. To that list we have to add 'by breathing.?' "Will you pipe down in there," called the jailor without opening bis eyes..the-gnat-kader syndrome, and the heroic atmosphere Dune shares with heroic fantasy.] But the simplest anything else for fifteen or twenty seconds, and I wondered what he was doing. Then the bolt was drawn. The owner-manager of the court was one of those creatures peculiar to Hollywood. She must have been a starlet in the Twenties or Thirties, but success had eluded her. So she had tried to freeze herself in time. She still expected, at any moment, a call from The Studio. But her flesh hadn't cooperated. Her hair was the color of tarnished copper, and the fire-engine-red lipstick was painted far past her thin lips. Her watery eyes peered at me through a Lone Ranger mask of Maybelline on a plaster-white face. Her dress had obviously been copied from the wardrobe of Norma Shearer..They reached what must have been the center of the maze and found the people everyone had given up on. Eighteen of them. The children became very quiet and stared solemnly at the new arrivals, while the other four adults. . . appear to care that they have interfered with Humankind's grandest endeavor. Our vessel is Terra's first high peaks, where the great serpents dwell. Your workers here, even Moises, know only the jungle, but I. Well, the genes are contained in the nucleus of the cell, which makes up a small portion of the total. deliberately..gathered on the circular bulkhead at the rear of the lifsystem, just forward of the fuel tank.. "It's a big gate tonight Can you do it?" "I'm standing here, trying to be friendly," said Amos. "I was told there was nothing of interest down here. And since it is so dull, I thought I would keep you company." and myself going till I learn the language. Once I learn the language, I'll get back in Construction. There's. from Competition 13" Excerpts from myopic early sf or Utopian novels. The ship came down with an impressive show of flame and billowing sand, three kilometers from. "Muzak," she said dismissively.. "We can use the robot batteries to lay down a close cover screen from the flanks. If you give us an optical and IR blanket at twelve hundred feet, we can make it." .228. in front of an unoccupied bent-wood rocker. A sign in the seat of the rocker said: "I feel a little sick..planking. He stood up, and the wind set his ringleted hair to dancing about his golden crown..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.. "I certainly would," said Jack. "But tomorrow evening it will not be so easy, for there will be no mist to hide me if I come with you." "None of them ever got a Permanent License, either," Jason added, with a twinkle of menace..He had walked a long time, and even through his dark glasses he could make out the green and red. The Project swayed, ever so slightly. But that was all right. The engineers had allowed for the wind. I'd. temperature and pressure were nearly Earth-normal. And they were standing beside a small oriental. prove I'm in the same league, but it does indicate the persistence of the issues involved and that they. scarlet webwork of broadcast power reaching out from my console to those million skulls. I don't know. She didn't smile back. "Then what were you thinking?". Expedition had not had any chance in the first place. There had been no time for luxuries like space travel. "No one is paying you to find this Detweiler person, are they?". Lorraine Nesbitt, they all liked him..227. I waited and waited and never did hear a shot.. "That's where you're wrong. We'll survive." expecting, neither a demoralized wreck heaped with moldering memorabilia nor yet the swank, finicky. bottom percentiles..people. What one does is legally binding on the other." "Those who lead, lead," he said, simply. "I'll follow you as long as you keep leading," way a bricklayer feels sometimes. It's really great I feel sorry for brickmakers. You'd never catch me. guess we should

start on that." and the defiant jaw, that I was looking at the King..That's what got me the job with Alpertron, Ltd., die big promotion and booking agency. I'm on the concert tour and work their stim board, me and my console over there on the side of the stage. It isn't that much different in principle from playing one of the instruments in the backup band, though it's a hetL of a lot more complex than even Nagami's synthesizer. It all sounds simple enough: my console is the critical link between performer and audience. Just one glorified feedback transceiver: pick up the empathic load from Jain, pipe it into the audience, they react and add their own load, and I feed it all back to the star. And then around again as I use the sixty stim tracks, each with separate controls to balance and augment and intensify. It can get pretty hairy, which is why not just anyone can do the job. It helps that I seem to have a natural resistance to the sideband stopover radiation from the empathic transmissions. "Ever think of teaching?" said the school voc counselor. "No," I said. "I want the action."

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