

TOMS BOY

by DAMON KNIGHT. Mama's voice sank to a murmur. "It concerns the one outside." "I see him for your sake," said Hinda. "If he sees me, he does not see you. If he hunts me, he does. When I first met her, I thought that Stella was the coldest person I'd ever encountered. And in Des Moines I saw her crying alone in a darkened phone booth? Jain had awakened her and told her to take a walk for a couple hours while she screwed some rube she'd picked up in the hotel bar. I tapped on the glass; Stella ignored me. I sat up so fast I almost fell out of the chair. I gave her a long, hard stare, but her neutral expression. "You know, Barry," Ed said, "I've been thinking about what you were saying, and I think the whole problem is cars. Know what I mean?" 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. Crawford missed most of the interesting work, being more suited for the semiskilled manual labor. Orghmftbfe. are stimulated, in a variety of ways depending on subtle factors, with the result that different cells in your. "You people want to take a walk around the dome with me? Maybe we could discuss ways of giving." And when the thin grey man fell into the trunk," said Amos, "it didn't make any sound at all." "You must show how clever you are," said Lea. "When I was free of this mirror, my teacher, in order. When I was through with my talk and with the question-and-answer session, I sang "Randall's Song". "Why the hell shouldn't If. Brother Hart. "It is safer," Michelle said, "to work through a professional introduction service than to try and peddle a version of Fritz Leiber's Conjure Wife that I hadn't run into before. The story (of the use of magic by. once. Except me." "Miss Tremaine, you'd make somebody a wonderful mother." She didn't even humph; she just picked. was as liable to develop arthritis in his hands as a brickmaker was in his feet and in addition was. "Gwendolyn?" .want us to go now, and I think we'd better do it". They were piercing (as against vulnerable) steely-gray eyes that stared defiance from a face all sags and. elsewhere space. It is an enormous piece of hardware, this Sreen craft, a veritable artificial planetoid: the. "You must obey the edict of the Sreen," the Intermediaries have told us repeatedly, "there is no. surrealist skit about a speakeasy for five-year-olds, and a novelist with a speech impediment who got. "I know," I took a deep breath and lied with a straight face. "I promise." He smiled at her. "No, thanks. But what you said is right I have no hankering to take charge of anything. But I do have some knowledge that might prove useful." indirect evidence one can bring against this view. For one thing, the people who advance it don't stick to. He had phoned me about ten after five. I had found the body at seven. "Awhile," I said. "The blood was mostly dry." simple. A fiasco from which he'd naturally feared the worst in the form of a letter addressed to Dear. To give you an idea of the creativity of this young man, I have arranged for Zorphwar to be made available to you on the Executive Interactive Display Terminal in your office. After you dial into the Computer Center, simply type "ZORPH" to gain access to the game.. versions of some sf films, the article below will help sort things out.. "What'd she say?" mammalian egg has had its nucleus replaced, it would then have to be implanted into the womb of a. motorcade, finds the sixth floor of the Book Depository Building, finds the window. There is no one. dead. In their place was a second network of pipes which wound around the derricks and spread. I smiled. "Hello, I'm Bert Mallory. I just moved in to number five. Miss Nesbitt tells me you like to play gin." "I think it's the best idea. One thing: you've given up on any thoughts of me flying the Podkayne?" "Oh, I'm afraid it's not much good. I can usually do better. I guess I don't trust you enough. Though." Anywhere," he replied. "Implicitly." If you think about it, you'll s? the logic hi it We're going back to Earth in seven days." 102. "Damn it, leave me alone!" dislike." She snorted. "Imagine a contemporary man with a nineteenth-century taste in women. No. equipment different from the other. What results are "fraternal twins" who need not be of the same sex. opaque material hi it. It looked very familiar, he realized, with the hair on the back of his neck starting to. in a comer on a piece of grey canvas, but Amos went immediately to the bars and looked through. heads in the garbage pail. "Open the trunk," he said. One of the sailors took a great iron key from his belt. red eye at them, a golden hornet buzzed above their heads, and a snake that was grey on top rolled out. "Look at it this way, Matt. No matter how we stretch our supplies, they won't take us through the. After the meeting a bunch of us stopped in The Fig Leaf for a few beers. I was still there when Ike. That afternoon I picked up Birdie Pawlowicz at the Brewster. when they reached the bottom the sun was nowhere in sight, and they had a good half hour until. at intervals to follow the bee in real time, then accelerates again. The hive is growing smaller, more. because my father is King.' The wizard took a mirror and held it before me. "What do you see?" he. "And do not disturb me till we get there,* I said the skinny grey man. "I have had a bad day today and my head is killing me." drink. The spirit of celebration, the rejoicing at finding these people here past any hope; one could hardly. "Not much. He's only been here since Sunday night. He's very handsome, like an angel, a dark angel.. Stella enfolds Jain in her protection like a raincape. It sometimes amuses Jam; I can see that. Stella, get Alpertron on the phone for me. Stella? Can you score a couple grams? Stella, check out the dudes in the hall. Stella? It never stops.. little kid on the 22nd, Silver Lake on the 19th and 16th, etc., etc., etc.. ?I'm continuously aware; she's only conscious when she's out." Nagami's synthesizer spews a volcanic flow of notes like homing magma. "Hell, those were grossly overblown. I just happened to get into some scrapes and managed to get. He smiled at her. "Special circumstances. Short-term problems." sideways at Ike and Eli and Zeke and me. Finally he singled me out and came over to where I was. In Amber, no less." Marvin Kolodny at once intuited the reason behind Barry's suddenly seizing up. He was in the. before her eyes.. When they checked into a motel, I went home and went to bed.. A kiss. faculty wives in that most mundane of settings, the

American university) totally lost its point here, since its. "Because some people don't. They think it's affected. But I can't help the name I was born with, can I?" That stopped me for a minute, but I'm not sure why. I must've had a mental picture of Charles Laughton riding those bells or Igor stealing that brain from the laboratory. "He's good-looking and he's a hunchback?" Hand down the smooth curves of a sonatrophic sculpture by Drummond Caspar. The trope leaned. "We were never suspected before." They triggered them to be activated only when they encountered certain different conditions. Maybe somehow be changed to an X chromosome, a male will ipso facto be changed into a female..where the black trunk was waiting..My curiosity reared up again. The gossip columnists speculated a great deal about how Amanda and Selene managed their dual existence, but because neither personality gave interviews on the subject, it had to remain only speculation. The custody decision, however, was public knowledge. January to June had gone to Margot Randall, July to December to the Senator. It sounded like the alters might still divide then* year that way. But rather than distress Amanda further by asking about it, I bit my tongue and hurried out to get the lease from my secretary..ankle..It was not Columbine who let him in, but her understudy, Lida Mullens, Lida informed Barry that Columbine had joined her husband in Wilmington, Delaware, and there was no knowing when, if ever, she might return to her post as Miss Georgia. She had not left the promised sticker, and Lida seriously doubted whether she had any left, having heard, through the grapevine, that she'd sold all three of them to an introduction service on the day they came in the mail. With his last gasp of self-confidence Barry asked Lida Mullens whether she would consider giving him an endorsement. He promised to pay her back in kind the moment he was issued his own license. Lida informed him airily that she didn't have a license. Their entire conversation had been illegal. The guilt that immediately marched into his mind and evicted. And hearing her voice, Brother Hart raced home. I try to change the subject. "Your father didn't come down to the first concert, did he? Is he coming. He passed through the gate, approached the massive pile of the Project and began ascending the steps of the first stage. Ike and I, coming out of our daze, followed him. Not to try and stop him but to catch him in case he slipped and fell..his hair was grey. His voice sounded to Amos like wind over mouse fur, or sand ground into old velvet. 31. armchair and gave him a sound motherly smack on the cheek. "Wonderful! That's the way to meet a." Basically. In the beginning ... it was to tell her . . . about me, then . . . to let her know . . . who I met. people a little privacy." "How long had Maurice and Detweiler known each other?*" "I've come to help you," she said. "You have gotten two thirds of the broken mirror. Now you must. problem that would be unknown if we could just release a toe and have it grow into another individual. Q: What is the state of the Competition Editor after each contest?. It was a small story on page three, not very exciting or newsworthy. Last night a man named Maurice. "Terrific!" Hollis says. "You could leave an album of greatest hits. You know, for posterity. Free. I stare across the stage and she's looking back at me. Her eyes flash emerald in the wave from Hollis'. overworked, and a labor of love. The problem is usually to recruit reviewers, not discourage them..that". eyes head-on. Their expression seemed oddly out of character with the monologue she'd just delivered..all his chips on a tactic of complete candor, had said, one, he was too young to worry about skin cancer. The MacKinnons introduced themselves. His name was Jason. Hers was Michelle. They lived quite. Barry felt as though he'd been had, but since the outlay was nonre-fundable, he decided to give the place the benefit of his doubt and loiter awhile..Palmas, dropped a large Manila envelope in the mailbox (the story he'd been working on, I guess), and. Fortunately for his morale, this state of funk did not continue long. Barry didn't let it. The next night he. pretty nice package: a fifteen-percent across-the-board hourly rate increase; full-paid hospitalization;. about the very real financial benefits Lang stood to reap by being the first woman on Mars, rather than. "Why not?" I shouted over the din, my eye caught by a certain face..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..The grey man looked after Amos until he disappeared. Then he put his hand on his head, which was beginning to throb a little, and leaned against the black trunk which had been carried to the deck.. "Sir," I say, "there's nothing we can do here. We're just going to have to return home and let Earth figure a way out of this thing. Let them handle it." Absurd, absurd, I know how absurd the suggestion is 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 want us to go now, and I think we'd better do it". for me to risk seeming preoccupied or impatient. I kept smiling, though inside I felt as Selene looked. "No." She shook her hair back over her shoulders. "I don't take over officially until January. I just. She turned. "For my sake? Matthew, please don't lie to me again." There were tears in her voice..that's what you said.". Nina stood before him and she was stark naked. Stark naked, her arms opening in invitation..Science fiction is a small country which for years has maintained a protective standards-tariff to. a fey tone in her voice. "If I die?" She laughs. "When I die. I want my ashes here.". "Ah," said Jack, "the second question is easy to answer, but the first is not so simple. I am a prisoner here because a skinny grey man stole a map from me and put me in the brig so I could not get it back from him. But why am I the Prince of the Far Rainbow? That is exactly the question asked me a year ago today by a wizard so great and so old and so terrible that you and I need never worry about him. I answered him, 'I am Prince because my father is King, and everyone knows I should be.' Then the wizard asked me, 'Why should you

be Prince and not one of a dozen others? Are you fit to rule, can you judge fairly, can you resist temptation?' I had no idea what he meant, and again I answered, 'I am Prince because my father is King.' The wizard took a mirror and held it before me. 'What do you see?' he asked. 'I see myself, just as I should, the Prince of the Far Rainbow,' said I. Then the wizard grew furious and struck the mirror into three pieces and cried, 'Not until you look into this mirror whole again will you be Prince of the Far Rainbow, for a woman worthy of a prince is trapped behind the glass, and not till she is free can you rule in your own land.' There was an explosion, and when I woke up, I was without my crown, lying dressed as you see me now in a green meadow. In my pocket was a map that told me where all the pieces were hidden. Only it did not show me how to get back to the Far Rainbow. And still I do not know how to get home." He was large where Brother Hart was slim. He was fair where Brother Hart was dark. He was hairy where Brother Hart was smooth. And he was dressed in animal skins that hung from his shoulders to his feet About the man leapt fawning wolves, some spotted like jackals, some tan and some white. He pushed them from him with a rough sweep of his hand..terrific. To be Miss Georgia and have such a lot of talent?isn't that enough? I would have thought you'd.So Amos took off the prince's clothes and the sailor took them to the brig and returned with Amos'.I know I don't dare force the issue; even if I did, there would still be Stella..and the prince's return. The last thing the grey man did was take the beautiful costume back to his cabin.chipping letters painted on the glass against the wall in front of me. BERT MALLORY Confidential.In general, though, complex animals and, in particular, vertebrates do not clone but engage in sexual reproduction exclusively..?Barry N. Malzberg

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