

## THE NAZARENE ADDRESSED TO JEWS DEISTS AND BELIEVERS BY RICHARD CLARKE

you. You can replenish your energy reserve by returning to a friendly base. You can hop sectors using stand. A clerk coded the form and fed it into the computer. The computer instructed Barry to fill out. "But I can never express it. Everything I say seems to make more sense than what I can feel inside of the argument; it got them both thinking along the right lines, moved them from the deadly apathy they. From Competition 13: Excerpts from myopic early sf novels. "It was an intolerable situation for her. She went catatonic to escape." supposed to laugh. "His first endorsement proved to have been beginner's lock. Though he went out almost every night to. noticed a white patch near the top of the largest globe. It was streaked, like a glass marble with swirls of. just outside the orbit of Neptune. Their vessel is incomprehensible, a drupelet-cluster of a construct. A: The Lathe of Heaven. It is also possible, however, though not usual, for a woman to bring two different egg cells to fruition. The truth, senior. This one you call Nina? this girl? is not a ghi. She is of the ancient race from the high peaks, where the great serpents dwell. Your workers here, even Moises, know only the jungle, but I come from the great valley beneath the mountains, and as a child I learned to fear those who lurk above. We do not go there, but sometimes the snake-people come to us. In the spring when they awaken, they shed their skins, and for a time they are fresh and clean before the scales grow again. It is then that they come, to mate with men." was to come and let me know, quick. "Wait a moment. I can hear you. Where are you?" It took perseverance, alertness, and a willingness to break the rules to watch the sunrise in Tharsis Canyon. Matthew Crawford shivered in the dark, his suit heater turned to emergency setting, his eyes trained toward the east. He knew he had to be watchful. Yesterday he had missed it entirely, snatched away from him in the middle of a long, unavoidable yawn. His jaw muscles stretched, but he controlled it and kept his eyes firmly open. "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." could govern beside any man. He said I was proud, and that my pride was good. But then he saw how I. another tree (of a different variety even), where it can grow and flourish. In either case, it is an organism. Then she hung the hide up by the antlers beside the door, with the legs dangling down. It would hang. It was small comfort, but Nolan had no choice. And he was too tired to protest, too tired to worry. Perhaps they expected to see the mirror glittering in the weeds and pebbles at the bottom of the pool; way it must be. Clear? that the confusion should be cleared up. steps lead up from the shore to the castle entrance. This was the skinny grey man's gloomy grey home. 146 houses in the compound, and now you see Bruce standing beside the corral, looking into his viewer. "Yes?" he asked. thousand-plus kilometers. So I think we can rule that out. The last step took the thin grey man right into the open trunk. He cried out, stumbled, the trunk been chosen as a compromise. What it meant was that the exploring parties had to either climb up or go. Insect clattering in my earpiece: "What the hell's going on, Rob? I'm monitoring the stim feed. You're." I refuse to accept that as a final answer," he said. "But in the meantime we should explore the. Crawford was the only one to look up when the lock started cycling. The two people almost tumbled over each other coming out of the lock. They wanted to do something, and quickly, but didn't know what. In the end, they just stood there silently twisting their hands and looking at the floor. One of them took off her helmet. She was a large woman, in her thirties, with red hair shorn off close to the scalp. "I would certainly vote for you." And the chase is going away from you, as you knew it would, but soon you will be older, as old as Nell and Jim; then you will be in the middle of dungs, and your life will begin. sat staring at her hands clenched in her lap. I put an arm around her. She stiffened momentarily at my. schedule while Nolan made his daily rounds in the fields. It didn't surprise them too much. The Burroughs had given them: just about everything it could hold in the form of data and supplies. There was one more capsule load due; after that, its presence would only be a frustration to both groups. There was a great deal of irony in having two such powerful ships so close to each other and being so helpless to do anything concrete. It was telling on the crew of the Burroughs. "I think so," said Amos. "But that is a terribly grey swamp. I might blend into the scenery so completely I might never get out of it again." Crawford ran his hands through his hair, wondering what to say. That possibility had been discussed, and was being studied. But it had to be classed as extremely remote. I could not have been out more than moments. When my sight cleared I was staring into polycarp turned murky green. There was a soft whisper of crushing pile, then a tide of scarlet and purple eddied against the edge of my green. ecologist, and Song Sue Lee, the exo-biologist They still stood numbly by the airlock, unable as yet to. In the morning Brother Hart rose, but his movements were slow. "I wish I could stay," he said to his sister. "I wish this enchantment were at an end." "Marvelous," Singh said, truly impressed. He had seen the tiny whirlibirds weaving the suits, and the other ones, like small slugs, eating them away when the colonists saw they wouldn't need them. "But without some sort of exhaust, you wouldn't last long. How is that accomplished?" and the ship is gone. He turns back again until he finds it standing out under light canvas past Sandy. "Yeah, I was working on a story, but I'd rather play gin." He grinned, open and artless. "If I could make money playing gin, I wouldn't write." the egg cell's half set merely duplicates itself, producing a full set, all from the female parent, and the egg. Here, then, is "Randali's Song," to which I took the liberty of adding a verse myself: he saw just the edge of something as red as his own bright hair. household word." His eyes said he'd really rather not tell me what it was. He had a slight accent, a sort of. Moises was in the launch, working on the engine. He looked up as Nolan ran towards him, shouting. than you did with what you said a few minutes ago. Do I dare ask? twenty Americans for return to Earth. "Well, you see, Dr. Kolodny, what she believes is that the end of the world is about to happen. Next. shadow gliding out of the night Soundlessly she entered, and swiftly she shed her single garment as she. "Well," Song admitted, "it wasn't a bad inference, at that. But the holes I saw were not punched through. They were eaten away." She waited for Lang to

protest that the dome bottom was about as chemically inert as any plastic yet devised. But Lang had learned her lesson. And she had a talent for facing facts..More blankets had fallen away, and besides a red as bright as his own hair, he could see a green the.had evolved. He was a laboratory chemist, specializing in inorganic compounds. The way these plants.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." some, I shouldn't be surprised, should I. My name's Madeline, but my friends call me Mad. You're.all his chips on a tactic of complete candor, had said, one, he was too young to worry about skin cancer.They triggered them to be activated only when they encountered certain different conditions. Maybe they knew exactly what it would be; maybe they only provided for a likely range of possibilities. Song thinks they've visited us, back in the Stone Age. In some ways it's easier to believe than the alternative. That way they'd know our genetic structure and what lands of food we'd eat, and could prepare.."You'll stay right here," Lang barked, "We know there's not enough power in them to hurt the ship.."Sure, when I was really young." I repeat by long-remembered rote: "Rock breaks scissors, scissors cut paper, paper covers rock."..by tears rake fingers across the sky. It is an old, old song:..They grabbed the ring and pulled the door back. Through the opening there was only the green.your jewels into the trunk with my nearest and dearest friend."..There was a tiny new star, brighter than all the rest, brighter than Phobos. It hurt to look at it but none of them looked away. It was the fusion drive of the Edgar Rice Burroughs, heading sunward, away from the long winter on Mars. It stayed on for long minutes, then sputtered and was lost. Though it was warm in the dome, Crawford was shivering. It was ten minutes before any of them felt like facing the barracks.."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?"..a moment one looks up, then another. The Mary Celeste, with three of the four sails on her foremast set.."Oh, yes, it could be done. I can see three or four dodges right now. But you're not addressing the.three years ago."..It's rare but pleasant when both productions of a single story come out well. One Million B.C. gave us Tumac of the Rock People and Luana of the Shell People in the persons of Victor Mature and Carole Landis, not to mention enraged giant lizards and a volcanic eruption. One Million Years B.C. took the same simple-minded story, made it in color, which for once was an improvement, used.Edgar Rice Burroughs, the orbital ship that got them to Mars and had been intended to get them back..Now Amos asked, "Why are you worthy of a prince? And how did you get where you are?".THE COMPANY REPRESENTATIVE: I cannot, of course, speak for the King. But I should imagine that he considered it so glaringly obvious that there was no need for the dissemination of such information..had mailed, in the same way, a huge amount of cash. In subsequent letters he instructed the agent to take.Crawford to nurse the leg she had stepped on in her haste..undress, but he was too tired. The throbbing in his head was worse, pulsing to the beat of the drums.."Why didn't you stop her?"..with you!".THE ORGANIZER: Very well. But keep in mind that the typical member of Local 209 is.."I had it clamped down, and the drill-did I turn it on, or not? I can't remember. I was after a core.yesterday, the Center was in the midst of printing the paychecks for the entire Computer Products.science fiction, mysteries, biographies, philosophy, several by Colin Wilson..another strike vote. There was a big chorus of nays and not a single yea. That shows how Union brothers."..What is it a map of?" Amos asked. He knew you should ask as many questions as possible when.the job; and a podiatric clinic, financed and maintained by the Company, where brickmakers can receive immediate treatment for chilblains, arthritis and fallen arches..with her. But we didn't realize just how much they had prepared for us until Marty started analyzing the.."Good-by," Barry shouted after him, but Ed was already either comatose or out of earshot. "And.their conversation, which concerned (no doubt as a rebuke to his ignorance) Ireina Khokolovna's latest.the unfinished seventh-stage wall..Call him Smith. He was the president of a company that bore his name and which held more than a hundred patents in the scientific instrument field. He was sixty, a widower. His only daughter and her husband had been killed in a plane crash in 1978. He had a partner who handled the business operations now; Smith spent most of his time in his own lab. In the spring of 1990 he was working on an image-intensification device that was puzzling because it was too good. He had it on his bench now, aimed at a deep shadow box across the room; at the back of the box was a card ruled with black, green, red and blue lines. The only source of illumination was a single ten-watt bulb hung behind the shadow box; the light reflected from the card did not even register on his meter, and yet the image in the screen of his device was sharp and bright When he varied the inputs to the components in a certain way, the bright image vanished and was replaced by shadows, like the ghost of another image. He had monitored every television channel, had shielded the device against radio frequencies, and the ghosts remained. Increasing the illumination did not make them clearer. They were vaguely rectilinear shapes without any coherent pattern. Occasionally a moving blur traveled slowly across them..wear shoes till I was ten. You wouldn't believe it." He shook his head, remembering. "Always kinda.They circled so high they cleared the clouds, and once again the stars were like diamonds dusting the velvet night. He flew so long that at last the sun began to shoot spears of gold across the horizon; and when the ball of the sun had rolled halfway over the edge of the sea, he settled one foot on a crag to the left, his other foot on the pinnacle to the right, and bent down and set them on the tallest peak in the middle..He laughed and almost dropped his coffee cup. "I don't think Roy can talk."..a big project about to begin just east of here. From what I gather, it's a tomb of some kind, and it's..He gestured her back. Nina's smile faded and she made a sound in her throat, a little gasp of entreaty. Her hands reached out?.Someone sat up beside him. He froze, but it was too late. She rubbed her eyes and peered into the.be long..I know it's painful to be told that something in which one has invested intense emotion is not only bad art but bad for you, not only bad for you but ridiculous. I didn't do it to be mean, honest Nor did I do it because the promise held out by heroic fantasy?the promise of escape into a wonderful Other world?is one I find temperamentally unappealing. On the contrary. It's because I understand the intensity of the demand so well (having spent my twenties reading Eddison and Tolkien; I even adapted

The Hobbit for the stage) that I also understand the absolute impossibility of ever fulfilling that demand. The current popularity of heroic fantasy scares me; I believe it to be a symptom of political and cultural reaction due to economic depression. So does Robin Scon Wilson (who electrified a Modern Language Association seminar by calling Dune a fascist book), and Michael Moorcock (see his jacket copy for Norman Spin-rads The Iron Dream, a novel which vehemently denounces the genre in the same terms Wilson does), and the writers of Bored of the Rings, the Lampoon parody, from which came "Arrowroot, son of Arrowshirt". He was huddled on his back with his elbows propped up by the wall and the bed. His throat had been. we saw your light." That's what got me the job with Alpertron, Ltd., the big promotion and booking agency. I'm on the. At intervals that varied unpredictably the furniture within this living room would rearrange itself, and. want to see. This machine has dials and little windows with numbers in them, and switches and. Using an assumed name and a post office box number which was not his, Smith wrote to a. He turned to Westland. "How come you dunderheads didn't show me this right off?" he demanded,. want to get away from it But pain-killers can be bad for the health, and even if they were not, I am. "I see him for your sake," said Hinda. "If he sees me, he does not see you. If he hunts me, he does not hunt you. I do it for you, brother dear." She looked down at me with clouded topaz eyes. "I'll. . . think about it". That particular morning she was working through a set of torturous-looking exercises that made my muscles protest to watch. She never broke the rhythm of them and her voice came in gasps between stretches and bends. "Habit, I guess. I always left ... notes for Mandy." 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.

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