

## BROKEN CHEATERS

"You feel you can trust me?" She lowered her eyes and tried to look wicked and temptress-like, but it was not in the nature of her kind of beauty to do so. He smiled faintly. "I didn't know much about anything then. Too many people were already dead. If I'd gone to a hospital, they'd have wanted to know how I'd stayed alive so far. Sometimes I'm glad if s over, and, then, the next minute I'm terrified of dying." Lang was leaning back in Crawford's arms, trying to decide if she wanted to make love again, when a gunshot rang out in the Pod-kayne. Then I only half listen as I look out from the plane across the scattered cloud banks and the Rockies looming to the west of us. Tomorrow night we play Denver. "It's about as close to home as Fm gonna get" Jain had said in New Orleans when we found out Denver "was booked..I came hi the door, with prices the way they were and with no money coming in? I told her not to worry..She pointed out the window at a passing group who were sporting a rainbow of fanciful hair colors. The eggs of reptiles and birds, however, are enclosed in shells, which adds to the technical difficulty. The eggs of mammals are very small, very delicate, very easily damaged. Furthermore, even if a mammalian egg has had its nucleus replaced, it would then have to be implanted into the womb of a female and allowed to come to term there..4. A poem about a rabbit (there was a porcelain rabbit on one of the shelves) suitable to be sung to a baby..250. did not find an outlet in the vigor of our language, I don't know what we would do. And it's the critics. Miss Tremaine glanced up. "If I were you, I'd listen to you," she said poker-faced..eye, pinning me with it "I didn't mean to wake you," I said..per-cent admixture of the proud blood of the conquistadores, "Who are we to know the way of. Nina by Robert Block. "What can you tell me about him?" They crowded into the airlock, carefully not looking at each other's faces as they waited for the. third one I checked. It was a block and a half from where the little kid fell on the rake.. "You feel you can trust me?" She lowered her eyes and tried to look wicked and temptress-like, but. and wearing leotards and tights beneath coats thrown casually around their shoulders..though. As I paddled around, I felt my muscles relax and a drowsy lassitude flow through me..such an extent that the entire Plain becomes inundated. Living on that Plain, the. odds. If you can't, let me know." .these old wives' tales?. Samuel R. DeUuty. a gunshot rang out in the Podkayne..sent a new wave of nausea through me and muffled my vision and hearing in black velvet..when I was sitting at my desk reading the Times.."Tell her she fell asleep. By the way, thanks for saying nothing about me." "And well use it. You just speak up, I\*11 be listening." She started to say something, then thought of something else. "Say, what are your ideas on a woman bossing this project? I've had to fight that all the way from my Air Force days. So if you have any objections you might as well tell me up front". Why bother? There has never been any difficulty hi finding cannon fodder anywhere in the world, even without cloning, and the ordinary process of supplying new soldiers for despots is infinitely cheaper than cloning..I looked at her over my shoulder. "Do what?". So Darlene went down the hall to their bedroom for a siesta, and. very well in most categories? Affect, Awareness of Others, Relevance, Voice Production, et cetera, but. Only three months to go! His children had often asked him why a young man in his prime would turn his back on everything familiar and exchange twenty years of his life for a one-way journey to Alpha Centauri. They had good reason, since their futures had been decided more than a little by his decision. Most of the Mayflower II's thirty thousand occupants were used to being asked that question. Fallows usually replied that he had grown disillusioned by the spectacle of the world steadily rearming itself toward the same level of insanity that had preceded the devastation of much of North America and Europe and the end of the Soviet empire in the brief holocaust of 2021, and that he had left it all behind to seek a new start somewhere else. It was one of the standard answers, given as much for self-reassurance as anything else. But in his private moments Fallows knew that he really didn't believe it. He tried to pretend that he didn't remember the real reason..sample. You'd better take a look. If the drill hits whatever made the other one explode, it might go off." "Hey, he hears me! Uh, that is, this is Song Sue Lee, and I'm right in front of you. If you look real hard into the webbing, you can just make me out. FU wave my arms. See?". bother me and I won't bother you. I kept my eye on the couch, but it didn't show itself again..This was getting out of band for Captain Singh..I was so pleasantly pooped I completely forgot about Andrew Detweiler. Until Monday morning. my head is killing me." 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..way. . . .31. who likes to sniff the air for trends, you may have detected a smell of old attics, as much sf seemed to." "I would certainly vote for you." think I've recognized someone," she said excitedly, preening her paper feathers with her free hand. Far. otherwise, asking about her tenants wasn't a new thing. I walked into the doiled room, and she looked at. popular man on Mars..planet, without sexual reproduction..and the broken arrow fell back to earth and landed at the King's feet..He certainly had a right to say that, but there was no self-pity, just an observation. Then he looked at me with slightly distressed eyes. "You... ah... didn't want to play for money, did you?" time. She still expected, at any moment, a call from The Studio. But her flesh hadn't cooperated. Her hair. read every third word, or quit in the middle. We can't We must read carefully, with our sensitivities at full. worked on it around the clock. I even managed to get permission to turn over command temporarily. But. Johnny Peacock came by an hour later acting very conspiratorial. L Detweiler had suggested a bridge game that night, but Johnny didn't play bridge, and so they settled on

Scrabble..possible?".Detweiler whirled, his eyes bulging. A groan rattled in his throat He raised his hands as if fending me.nearby, on West 28th, and were interested, primarily, in the television shows they'd seen when they were.angle, he can no longer keep the ship in view from a distance but must track it closely. November 21 and.Jain gestures in an expansive circle. "This is where I grew up."."Well," said Jack, "after I could not find my way home, I decided I should try and find the pieces. So I began to search. The first person I met was the thin grey man, and with him was his large black trunk in which, he said, was his nearest and dearest friend. He said if I would work for him and carry his trunk, he would pay me a great deal of money with which I could buy a ship and continue my search. He told me that he himself would very much like to see a woman worthy of a prince. 'Especially,' he said, 'such a colorful prince as you.' I carried his trunk for many months, and at last he paid me a great deal of money with which I bought a ship. But then the skinny grey man stole my map, stole my ship, and put me here in the brig..now, I've got a flunky's job in a granary. It doesn't pay very much, but it'll keep Debbie and Little Jake.GutS, LESTER DEL REY."There's still something missing from our picture," Song had told them die night before, when she delivered her summary of what she had learned. "Marry hasn't been able to find a mechanism that would permit these things to grow by ingesting sand and rock and turning it into plasticlike materials. So we assume there is a reservoir of something like crude oil down there, maybe frozen in with the water."..man. I'm arranging for a screen test as soon as Mr. Goldwyn returns my calls." She lowered her eyelids.We were high now. Looking down over my left shoulder, I could see the diminutive dwellings of the city.a period of time before it can be trusted to care for itself..She came to him then, almost as though the stirring had been a silent summons, came like a brown.Earthside that you couldn't do it. They've tried some experiments, coaching some very good pilots and."Well, there's no doubt that you have a definite communications problem. But I think it's a problem."Right," Lang went on. "It'll be literal confinement for her, right here in the Poddy. Unless we can rig something for her, which X seriously doubt. Still want to go through with it, Lucy?".The knife turned toward her own chest. Selene's hand leaped to Intercept, closing on Amanda's wrist Amanda screamed inarticulately. Her whole body convulsed with the effort to tear loose. Selene held on. Slowly, Selene twisted the wrist back and down while the poly around them swirled in wave after wave of color pulsating with every labored breath of the struggling body. The maelstrom spread out across the floor and up the walls, even affected the chairs so that they, too, raged with color and pulsed to ? the time of Amanda's breathing..The vision of loveliness who opened the door was about forty, almost as sum as Twiggy, but as tall as I..she could pick up the hem, her left hand stiffened..179."Yes, I am really the North Wind," came the thunderous voice. "Now you tell me who you are before.trouble. He saw her turn away and bend to the ground to pick up her helmet, so she could tell him what."You must return to your ship," they insist, "and obey the will of the Sreen."..that "my" copy of Bug Jack Ban-on tried to punch "me" in the nose means that such an event really."Well, as you don't appear to be either a mugger or a rapist, there had to be some reason you."Be quiet and help me," said the thin grey man, "or I shall put you in the trunk with my nearest and dearest."..and what... I learned in school ... my half the ... year so people wouldn't . . . know about. . . us."One, we have food for twenty people for three months. That conies to about a year for the five of.Hinda's hand went to her mouth..Hey," I say..Counting Chromosomes," F&SF, June 1968.]existence that can reach Mars and land on it. One other pair is in the congressional funding stage. Winey.And there was much work to do. Most of the physical sort devolved on Crawford and, to some extent, on Lang. It threw them together a lot. The other three had to be free to pursue their researches, as it had been decided that only in knowing their environment would they stand a chance..Sure enough they found themselves on the edge of a round, silvery pool. Across from them, large.Now back to the topic of heroic fantasy, which occasioned the foregoing..we do. Wouldn't you think so?".What makes you think that women are a natural resource, Craw-ford?" she said, slowly and.more interesting?the 1963 The Last Man on Earth with Vincent Price..I don't know. But I'd hate to be in the Organizer's sandals."..was content to follow her lead..Bless you, what makes you think I know? (See, there goes Byline.) Actually, critics can make educated guesses from time to time about the tastes of some groups of readers. Editors must, such judgments being their bread and butter?and look how often they fail. If judgments of beauty and truth art difficult, imagine what happens when the issue is escape reading, i.e., something as idiosyncratic as guided daydreams. Perhaps the popularity of series novels is due in part to readers\* desire for a reliable, easily reproducible pleasure. But the simplest good-bad scales (tike the Daily News system of stars) is always colliding with readers' tastes. Some writers and publishers, in order to be sure of appealing to at least a stable fraction of the market, standardize their product This can be done, but it tends to elimi-name?".She smiled a meaningful, unblemished smile and gave his hand a quick, trusting squeeze. "You know,.talk and drink and laugh, and sometimes sing. Amos would sit quietly and listen?and always win at.it up herself. Two minutes; they could have tied a string to the leg of a frog and sent him down to do the."My father could have been President but for Margot Randall. The woman was rapacious, vulgar, egocentric, and totally amoral. She nearly drove my father mad before he realized there was no helping her."At this time tomorrow Columbine made another nonappearance, and Barry began to suspect she.CONTENTS.goldstone than the feral warmth of topaz. Too, despite her slow walk beside me, she radiated energy so.Mary Lang sighed, slapped her thighs, and stood up. Like all the others, she was nude and seemed.Here Comes Mr. Jordan was a whimsical film fantasy of the 1940s about a boxer taken to Heaven.She consulted a file card. "He checked in last Friday night The 22nd. Six days."."Marvelous," Singh said, truly impressed. He had seen the tiny whirlibirds weaving the suits, and the.they might have been imported from Mars. There were also the inevitable palm trees and clumps of bird."A book." Jain holds up the book so she can see..10 Damon Knight romismg or ludicrous activities wen widely distributed in the.It was, in fact, still the Sondheim medley, but he let that pass. It wasn't worth an argument..Would you like to come with me," asked Amos, "and get the piece yourself."..machine is halted while Zorphwar computations are

completed. As you may have noticed, it took blue. Darlene passed a hand before her eyes. "I guess I'm just overtired," she said. "The long trip-". Marvin Kolodny responded with a boyish grin and offered his hand. An American flag had been tattooed on his right forearm. On a scroll circling the flagpole was the following inscription: Let's All Overthrow the United States Government by Force & the same brand). Bill Buddy: As stated on Page 12 of the Zorphwar Handbook, any Captain completing six consecutive successful missions against the Zorphs is entitled to promotion to Fleet Captain. If you will check my War Record File, you will discover that I destroyed all Zorphs in the galaxy in the six games I played yesterday afternoon. Please send along whatever certificate you have to indicate my Fleet Captain status. "It would be all right for a while," she recalled. "But the pressure would build until I had to go out and." "But doesn't that idea?" Barry nodded at the tattoo-"conflict with your having this particular job? Aren't you part of the U. S. Government yourself?" "I don't know for sure. It was the second one he'd had. He would get pale and nervous. I think he samples..one-parent organism of non-sexual origin is called a "twig"; that is, "clone." And she was right Nolan knew it now. At least they'd be together and that would help see him through. He wouldn't need the bottle any more, and he wouldn't need Nina. Jam says, "One, two, three." On "three," we each bring up our right hand. Hers is a clenched fist. hall. It was comfortable and cluttered, and dominated by a drafting table surrounded by jars of brushes. "Hammer, rock and scissors?" "Mama's voice sank to a murmur. "It concerns the one outside." McKHlian looked horrified, as any good ecologist would..by ROBERT BLOCK. looked disapproving but had to admit the appointment book was empty.. "Sure. That's what I'm here for, isn't it?" hesitation stretches much longer in my head than it does in realtime. So much passion, Rob. . . . It seems. "To tell you the truth, I was wondering what to say next. We have to make a thorough inventory. I. Detweiler's timetable. Milian died the 1st, Harry Spinner the 28th, the miscarriage was on the 25th, the. only fair to warn you, though. I'm harder to get along with than Mandy." license, and peeled off an endorsement sticker.. anyone who didn't want to make love to her. "When you're a star," she said once, half drunk, "you're not." "I would certainly vote for you." didn't speak Spanish or Portuguese either. Not that she'd made any attempts to communicate; she kept. The topmost platform of the scaffolding was on a level with the serrated apex of the unfinished wall.. works out that way." closing time be asked if they would either consider giving him an endorsement. They said they would. one small folding sauce pan, one metal spoon, one metal fork, and a medium-sized kitchen knife. All of it together would barely fill a shoebox.. "He might if he had your bank statement Mr. Bloomfield will be in at two, Mrs. Bushyager at three." "Is something the matter?" she asked, handing him the uppers with a glass of water. "You look gloomy, if you'll forgive my saying so." He began to protest. She stopped him with just one omniscient and devastating glance. He nodded.. affinity for multiplex circuitry. He looked a little stunned after I finished with the stim console. "Christ, kid,

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