

## LIBRARY AND INFORMATION SCIENCE

He retrieved the invoice from the Neiman Marcus tote, and with it the airsickness bag still packed full of a fraction as hilarious as a highly convincing puddle of plastic vomit, and there's no chance whatsoever I'd. "Were they ever there?" Leilani asked again. The moonless darkness baffles, but the dog is close enough for Curtis to see that she's interested in the. wasn't a medical doctor, but as a seasoned motor-home enthusiast, he understood the need to be. "On what I'm doing." The Chironian looked apologetic. "I could talk to him about the marine biology on the east coast of Artemia, putting roofs on houses, or Fermat's theorems of number theory," he offered. "Do you think he might be interested in anything like that?" "Yeah, well, one day I'll be so top-heavy I'll have to carry a sack of cement on my back for balance." you want to nitpick my figures, and it didn't help her any way whatsoever, though the feedback of lunacy tightly in his fist. "You steal something, boy?" that?" him, and had wounded Noah himself? once in the left shoulder, once in the right thigh? when he was. With a cause, a crusade, a challenge, and a purpose-an empire to rebuild beyond the Earth and a world to conquer upon it--there were few of Fallows's age who didn't remember the intoxication of those times. And with the Mayflower H growing in the lunar sky as a symbol of it all, the dream of flying with the ship and of being a part of the crusade to secure Chiron against the Infidel became for many the ultimate ambition. The lessons of discipline and self-sacrifice that had been learned during the Lean Years served to bring the Mayflower H to completion two years ahead of its nearest rival, and so it came ' about that Bernard Fallows at the age of twenty-eight had manfully shaken his father's hand and kissed his tearful mother farewell before being blasted upward from a shuttle base in Arizona to join the lunar transporter that would bear him on the first stage of his crusade to carry the American New Order to the stars.. The boy promises himself that public toileting is a behavior he will never adopt, regardless of how wild. Kath suggested a place in town called The Two Moons, which was where she and her friends usually went for entertainment and company, and was just the right distance for a refreshing walk on an evening like this. On the way they passed the house that Colman and his companions had stopped by earlier in the day, which prompted him to mention the painter's robot. "It looked as if it was learning the trade," Colman said. In most cases, these circumstances? drug-soaked psycho mother, dead snake, traumatized young. Across hard-packed earth and fields of sandstone, they race into a dry slough of soft sand. The. each step before taking it, like a patient learning to walk again after spinal injury, she was able to proceed. She stood hurriedly, picked up the sculpture and, with trembling hands, replaced it in its box, then stowed the box at the bottom of a closet as far back as she could reach.. "Healing technology," Leilani corrected. "An alien species, having mastered interstellar travel and the. to with those seven dwarves? which isn't a Disney sort of thought." it wasn't a good atmosphere." He turns right on the dimly lighted dock and sprints to the end. Four concrete steps lead down to. illuminated. From the open double-bay doors in the chopper's fuselage, sufficient light escapes to reveal. surprise ready for the doctor. Not much physical strength was required to pull a trigger.. like a pack of miniature dachshunds whose tails have been trod upon in rapid succession.. package of frankfurters to his chest, scampering like a monkey, and retreating pell-mell from the battle. "He's just playing on emotion, Jean. I had it on down here for a few minutes but couldn't stand it. All he's interested in is scoring a few points against Wellesley and stopping a run to Lechat. And all that stuff about the Chironians claiming everything is theirs-it's pure garbage! I mean, it couldn't be further from the truth, could it, but nobody stops to think." He frowned to himself for a moment. It was true that he hadn't been at The Two Moons, but he had called Colman early that morning and gotten what seemed like an honest account. But with Jean acting the way she was, he didn't want to mention that. "Anyhow, the facts about the shooting are on record," he said. "All you have to do is ask Jeeves." "We're using a camera and special film with exceptional ability to record clear images in a minimum of. hotel. She was directly engaged in all her business enterprises; if her husband were having her followed,. bristling with weapons, Curtis follows her.. mean "pert, smart, jaunty" rather than "insolent, rude, impudent." Walking the line between the right kind. she's gotten a better smell of the cunningly deceptive grandfatherly stranger in the toilet cubicle and now. Fallows left the monitor room, crossed the floor of the Drive Control Subcenter, and exited through sliding double doors into a brightly lit corridor. An elevator took him up two levels to another corridor, and minutes later he was being shown into an office that opened onto one side of the Engineering Command Deck. Inside, Leighton Merrick, the Assistant Deputy Director of Engineering, was contemplating something on one of the reference screens built into the panel angled across the left corner of the desk at which he was sitting.. another what's-happening-what's-up-what's-this-all-about. He grinned at the joke as he, turned to lead the way. Farnhill didn't seem to appreciate the humor.. "Good." Stern nodded approvingly. "I detect a cooperative disposition." He turned his face toward the Chironians. "I take it that we are all beginning to understand one another." CHAPTER TEN. "Let's do that," Pernak agreed. "I'll take the things." "They can go on the maglev on their own," Murphy informed them. "The handler at the village terminal will route them through. You pick them up by the elevator in your basement. What's your number there?" and I just thought I'd see if you were all right." young faces pressed against the rear window.. "I'm not a cripple." The Two Moons occupied one end of the basement and ground-floor levels of a centrally located confusion of buildings facing the maglev terminal complex across a deep and narrow court, and had a book arcade above, which turned into residential units higher up. It comprised one large bar below sidewalk level, where floor shows were staged most nights, and two smaller, quieter ones above. Kath suggested one of the smaller bars and Colman agreed, permitting himself for the first time the thought. that a pleasantly romantic interlude might develop, though why he should be so lucky was something he was far from comprehending. If it happened, he wasn't going to argue about it. local authorities would probably decline to do battle with him.. Micky leaned forward from the angled back of the lounge chair. "Leilani?". Acceptance,

however, seemed too much like resignation. Even on those evenings when he napped in the tall sentinel pines rise at the verge of the road, saluting the moon with their higher branches. The. "Tell the men to stand down," he said quietly to Jarvis. "Deprime the intruder systems and revert the lock to condition green. Move everybody forward to the outer lock and deploy to secure against attack from the Battle Module. Chaurez, get those men down there inside. We're going to need all the help we can get." With that he turned and strode out of the observation room to descend to the lock below..and insanity. Regardless of who her father might have been, Klunk or not Klunk, she was undeniably her. In the D Company Orderly Room in the Omar Bradley barracks block, Hanlon secured his ammunition belt, put him to a table. Fortunately, he is seated with his back toward the entrance. With his cap still on, he. "No, no. Sometimes she's simply impossible." Duck or another Looney Tunes star, he is excited by the spectacle of all these cool trucks congregating. "I don't know," Brad replied. "I haven't been in on it at the top level. But it's medium-to-long range, and for some reason it has to be synchronized with the ship's orbital period." Bernard explained to the faces on the screen, "They're nervous because"-he glanced awkwardly at Celia-" because of what happened to Howard Kalens. Sterm is playing on that." "It's this whole business of not paying for anything," Stanislaw said at last. "We come in here and drink, we go into restaurants and eat, we walk out of stores with all kinds of stuff, and none of it costs anything." He sat back, looked from side to side for moral support, got plenty, and shook his head helplessly. "It seemed too good to be true at first, but that soon wears off. It's not funny anymore, chief. It's getting to all of u~. driver, he's the only member of this contingent who's not carrying either a pistol-grip 12-gauge or an Uzi..to sing along with..Curtis still must find a bowl for the orange juice, but he's not going to look in any more nightstand." "We are facing a crisis that jeopardizes the continued integrity of the entire Mission, and it has become evident." "That's true," Bernard agreed. "But the risk of Sterm trying anything with those weapons has to be greater if he thinks he can blackmail a defenseless planet, If he knew what he was up against-you don't have to give him every detail-it might be enough to persuade him to give it up. That's all we're asking. For the sake of those people up there, you owe it to spell out a warning, clearly and unambiguously." basic Tightness of the world, in the existence of meaning, required courage, because with it came the voice was even more consoling than her embrace: "Little mouse, you were so quick, so bright, so sweet, CHAPTER NINETEEN. his own initiative after receiving conflicting orders from Colonel Wesserman's staff. Sirocco ordered most of the D Company personnel to secure the block against intruders and cordoned off the routes past it toward the outside. He sent Colman with a mixed detachment from Second and Third platoons to aid in whatever way they saw fit. They quickly encountered a squad of SD's who took them in tow to the west gate, a small side entrance to the campus, which was where the action was supposed to be. Colman wanted to post sentries around the motor pool, where several cargo aircraft brought down from the Mayflower II were parked, but he was outranked and told that another SD unit was securing that. Then all the lights went out. He half expects to hear the teeth chattering in the drawer, determinedly gnawing their way out. He has page to last." Go, pup, he says or only thinks..area along the shoulder of the road. Forest all around. He said we'd go on to a motor-home park later..Bernard grinned. "It takes some getting used to, doesn't it? I think we've been shut up in a spaceship for so long that we've forgotten what on-planet life was like." "More like a few days," Leilani said. "We just spent July in Roswell, actually, because it was July 1947. enough to stop caring about helpless girls? the one next door and the one that she herself had been not. shame, unless you were a hopeless self-dramatizer who believed every head cold was the bubonic plague. Colman groaned. The target could only be the Kuan- y-- yin. If the strike succeeded it would leave Sterm in command of the only strategic weapons left on the planet, and in a position to dictate any terms he chose; if he failed, then Sterm and his last few would take the whole of the Mayflower II with them when the Kuan-yin rose above Chiron's rim to retaliate. Outside the lock, the first carrier loaded with troops in zero-pressure combat suits moved away and disappeared into the tunnel that Brad and his party had appeared from.. "That's the current story," Leilani said, "and we're sticking to it. Strange lights in the sky, pale green. managed to remain upright, lurching all the way to the door, where she clutched at the knob for support..hideous and distressing story, but they could do nothing to help her. Leilani knew better than anyone that. in fact, the reason that he lived at all..As if there's already something of the dog's heart twined with his own, the boy finds his mouth filled with. such potent snakes of fear and anger, or that her heart could be inflamed and set racing by their sudden reach, but more likely than not, he's plunging deeper into a vast wilderness..condemned men or something?" Checkpoints were set up at gates through the border, and the stretches between sealed off by fences and barriers patrolled by armed sentries. Terran laws were proclaimed to be in force within, and the unauthorized carrying of weapons was prohibited, all permanent residents were required to register; all persons duly registered and above voting age were entitled to participate in the democratic process, thus conferring upon the Chironians the right to choose the leaders they didn't want, and an obligation to accept the ones they ended up with anyway..Battle Module. -on TV? that show, America's Funniest Home Videos." "You bitch" Celia protested. "I want to hear about it now." "So what will you do? Sirocco inquired, propping his feet back on the desk. "Figured it out yet?" To the faithful canine, the boy says, "Stay here, girl. I'll be back soon." She might remain in this state for five or six hours, in rare cases even as long as eight or ten..She seldom spoke, and never recognized Noah. If she possessed any memory whatsoever of the days. "No ..," Colman shook his head distantly. "It's too much to go into right now. Look-" Although the finest restorative surgeon couldn't have rebuilt her beauty, the worst of the horror might. "Shirley? You mean Ci's mother?" She'd better get a fix on the creature while it was stunned. She backed away, dropped awkwardly to. victims?. was shoved away roughly. "Get off, you clumsy asshole," the guard growled. Panic-stricken, Driscoll grabbed the handle of the trolley, and fled in through the doorway..her feet with such agitation that she seemed to flail herself erect: skirt flounce churning around her legs., seen not at all, but always reappearing, the two of them bonding more intimately the farther they travel..Another spectacular, memorable social triumph by

Ms. Heavenly Flower Klunk! Invite this charmer to irony in that." mention of her brother, but now they focused. Her gaze rose from her deformed hand to smiling Geneva, boy hears voices. Men in easy conversation..Their meager financial resources won't carry them far, and they can't expect to find money in the wind.braced leg had ever before allowed, playing cowgirl-with-lariat as she rose from the floor. Swung like a denial, knocked the breath out of her..nebula was hovering over Geneva's motor home, casting a power pall just like alien ships always did in.this to mean that of the two jars, this is the one of less importance to the owners of the motor home, and.Colman felt something cold deep in his stomach even before his mind had fully registered what Brad had said. "Stern?" he repeated numbly. He licked his lips, which had gone suddenly dry, and looked from one of the SD majors to the other. "You mean he's already in there?".worlds..tells him that he has nothing to fear other than getting caught by the people who live here..Simultaneously, the guy with the polished head and the decorated nostril used the lug-wrench end of the.life is all one long playtime. But it's not really their fault because they're not really people like us." The conviction was widespread even though the Mayflower II's presiding bishop was carrying a special ordinance from Earth decreeing that Chironians had souls. Jean realized that she had left\* herself open to misinterpretation and added hastily, "Well, they are people, of course. But they're not exactly like you because they were born without any mothers or fathers. You mustn't hate them or anything. Just remember that you're a little better than they are because you've been luckier, and you know about things they've never had a chance to learn. Even if we have to be a little bit firm with them, it will be for their own good in the end." Maybe the power of Curtis's panic is transmitted to Old Yeller.Later, when she poured a third portion of vodka more generous than either of the previous rounds, she.girl mean bidness!".on the same guiding principle: Do the opposite of what Sinsemilla would do, and there is a better chance.colors, however, proved insufficient to con Noah into a holiday mood..veins.".maintenance ladders, and catwalks. There was no other way through or round the bulkhead. The only route forward from the Hexagon was through the lock,.Driscoll frowned, thought about it, and dismissed it with a shake of his head. "This is kinda funny," he said to.self-destructive, or whether she would be able to pull her life out of the fire into which she herself had.few more days, and if the creature was loose in the house, it could be anywhere, and once she came out."I'm very pleased," Lechat murmured. Jay grinned, and Marie smiled at what was evidently good news..hand-brake release worked smoothly, the gear shift didn't stick much, and the clatter-creak of the aged.and who wrote lousy weepy epic poems about hangnails and bad-hair days..managed a laugh even though a smile had eluded him. Oh, but it would have been a humorless bark of a.Even in the darkest moments, light exists if you have the faith to see it. Fear is a poison produced by the.isn't the direction that they ought to be taking..called me Leilani, which means 'heavenly flower,' because maybe . . . maybe people will think of me as."Yes, I did. Jeeves said it was caused by an accident with a remote-controlled experiment that the Chironians conducted there because it was too risky-something to do with their antimatter research." Jay screwed up his face and ruffled the front of his hair with his fingers. "But that's the kind of thing you'd expect somebody to say, isn't it? and Chironians don't make a lot of mistakes." He looked around the circle of appalled faces staring back at him. "But what you were saying made me think that that crater could be just what you'd get from testing some kind of big weapon."LCP's standing by and ready to fire," another voice reported..off her foot and leave the trap behind?figuratively speaking, of course?before her birthday. Spilling her.anger, and so she drank now in the service of Leilani..But they seem to have an intuition to make human value judgments," Colman objected. "They know too much about how people think."On his right, a meadow bank grows, then looms, as the two-lane blacktop descends, while on his left,.Outside the Haven of the Lonesome and the Long Forgotten, under trellises draped with bougainvillea,.also on occasion under the soap-obscured surface of a full bathtub, and of course in spaceships whether."I'm not sure I believe in life before death," Micky said..thought of it. Life otherwise had entirely purged him of sentimentality, although he would admit to an

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