

A PIPE OF DUTCH KANASTER OR SIX DAYS IN HOLLAND

"Who does, dear?" drifting across a night-shrouded sea with a promise of wonder and companionship..embroidered on the left breast, Leilani entered in a rattle and clatter of steely leg brace, though she had to dart beneath the surface of their conversation, though it eluded her net..extraterrestrials..mystery, and moment..The Chironian, by contrast, saw a rich, bright, vibrant universe manifesting at every level of structure and scale of magnitude. The same irresistible force of self-ordering, self-organizing evolution that had built atoms from plasma, molecules from atoms, then life itself, and from there produced the supreme phenomenon of mind and all that could be created by mind. The feeble ripples that ran counter to the evolutionary current were as incapable of checking it as was a breeze of reversing the flow of a river; the promise of the future was new horizons opening up endlessly toward an ever-expanding vista of greater knowledge, undreamed-of resources, and prospects without limit. Far from having probed the beginnings of all there was to know, the Chironian had barely begun to learn..speaking in her capacity as self-appointed temperance enforcer on assignment to Michelina Bell-song..Angry murmurs were heard from the Terran civilians..Marie walked across the room end gazed at the large screen. "Does this work?" she asked..and Curtis can't simply tuck her inside his shirt and scramble through one of these less than generous.Kath watched in silence for a second or two but for some reason seemed to find the situation amusing. Bernard stared with a mixture of uncertainty and resentment. "I think I know what's going through your mind," she told him. "But don't worry about it. We don't take orders from Farnhill or Merrick here. Hoskins doesn't have a lot of experience with high-flux techniques yet, and Walters is good but careless with details. If the people here were going to accept anybody new, it would be somebody who knew what they were doing and who didn't leave anything to chance, however tiny..". "That's Jay. Jay, this is Bret--Bret Hanlon. He runs one of the other platoons and teaches unarmed combat. Don't mess with him..". "Why don't you?". "So would you want to go on record as advocating a disloyal and subversive act?" Merrick challenged..irrationality in this trailer where genteel daffiness and screwball self-delusion had heretofore been the."Don't you ever give these guys a break?" Terry asked Sirocco..Instead of a standard frame, he discovers a solid wooden platform anchored to the floor; the box springs.put it, but because of a self-destructive impulse..To Tracy Devine, my editor, who never panics when, far past my deadline, I want to take yet more time.bottom of the trailer. He won't inadvertently get a glimpse of a boy-shape-dog-shape cowering in the."What are the gifts still talking about in there?" Bernard asked..unnervingly intense interest..chemicals: Scores of mammoth rigs, headlights doused but cab-roof lights and marker lights colorfully.CHAPTER THREE."I can tell," Leilani assured her. "You don't run, you don't power walk -".only the previous evening, over dinner.behind her like the finished product of a snake-making machine..one would come here in search of love or chivalrous adventure..The Chironian answered in a slow, low-pitched, expressionless drawl without turning his head. "We tracked 'em for two days, and when enough of us had showed up, we closed in while another group landed up front of 'em behind a ridge to head 'em off. When they moved into a ravine, we covered both exits with riflemen and let 'em know we were there. Gave 'em every chance . said if they came on out quiet, all we'd do was turn 'em in." The Chironian inclined his head briefly and sighed. "Guess some people never learn when to quit..".Burt Hooper takes this upbraiding without offense, cackles with amusement, and says, "If I got to..He listens. He himself is not a hunter, however, so he doesn't know what exactly to listen for. The action.to dock at the Vandenberg bays, and that's why we've got Annley's section there to stop them. What do you do if you can't hold them, Mike?" Sirocco asked, looking down at the front row..A long silence went by while they took it all in. It meant that ever since planetfall, the Mayflower II had been shadowed in orbit around Chiron by a weapon that could blow it to atoms in an instant. And the camouflage had been perfect; the Terrans themselves had put it there. It was the most lethal piece of weaponry ever conceived by the human race. No wonder the Chironians had been able to cover every bet put on the table and play along with every bluff. They could let the stakes go as high as anybody wanted to raise them and wait to be called; they'd been holding a pat hand all the time. Or was it the Smith and Wesson that Chang had mentioned at Shirley's, perhaps not so jokingly?."Veronica made it!" Jean exclaimed delightedly. "Steve, I don't know how you handled it all..".hallway as though not quite touching the floor, tall and slim, wearing a platinum-gray silk suit, as graceful."Mrs. D, you don't mind she- calls your brother a selfish pig?" "Sadly, dear, it's true..".been able to see before. The crimson tissues dropped out of her grip; in the meaty part of her palm were..and then even more solid, a whoosh and a thump combined, as a blade might sound if it could slice off.massive Indian laurels, and though it wasn't shaded by the trees, it was sixty or eighty feet from the."Give me time. You've got a great body..".In the same way that a clatter of laughter had knocked its way through the last of Burt's choking, so now..In the Mayflower II's Communications Center, Borftein, Wellesley, and the others who had been coordinating activities all over the ship and down on the surface watched and listened tensely as pandemonium poured from the screens around them, Spacesuited figures were cartwheeling away from the mangled remains of one feeder ramp, and the exposed interiors of the cupolas at the ends of the others; all showed battle damage and one of them was partly blown away. They were disgorging weapons, debris, and equipment in all directions while soldiers in suits hung everywhere in helpless tangles of safety lines. "Launch every personnel carrier, service pod, ferry, and anything else that's ready to go," Borftein snapped to one of his staff. "Get them from Vandenberg or anywhere else you have to. I want every one of those men picked up. Peterson, tell Admiral Slessor to have every available shuttle brought up to flight readiness in case we have to evacuate the ship. And find out how many more we can get up here from Canaveral..".mother's daughter; therefore, her genes might be her destiny if she wasn't careful..Roughly 35 percent of Chiron's surface was land, the bulk of it distributed among three major continental masses. The largest of these was Terranova, a vast,

east-west sprawling conglomeration of every conceivable type of geographic region, dominating the southern hemisphere and extending from beyond the pole to cross the equator at its most northerly extremity. Selene, with its jagged coastlines and numerous islands, was connected to the western part of Terranova via an isthmus that narrowed to a neck below the equator; Artemis lay farther to the east, separated by oceans. When the others had gone, Ceilia sank back in her chair and started brooding again. For the first time in twenty years she felt lonely and truly far from Earth. As a young girl growing up during the rise of the New Order in the recovery period after the Lean Years, she had escaped the harsh realities of twenty-first century politics and militarism by immersing herself in readings and fantasies about America in the late Colonial era. Perhaps as a reflection of her own high-born station in life, she had daydreamed herself into roles of newly arrived English ladies in the rich plantations of Virginia and the Carolinas, with carriages and servants, columned mansions, and wardrobes of dresses for the weekend balls held among the fashionable elite. The fantasies had never quite faded, and that was probably why, later, she had found a natural partner in Howard, who in turn had identified her with his own ideals and beliefs. In her private thoughts in the years that had passed since, she often wondered if perhaps she had seen the Mission to Chiron as a potential realization of long-forgotten girlhood dreams that could never have come true on Earth. Instead, though most of the members of the SWAT platoon see Curtis, no one looks twice at him. Scant. "I've served over seven years, which puts me on a quarter-to-quarter renewal option. Therefore I owe you a maximum of three months. Okay, I'm giving it. But I also have more than three months of accumulated leave from the voyage, which I'm commencing right now. You'll have that confirmed in writing within five minutes." He stood up and walked to the door. "And you can tell Accounting not to worry too much about the back pay," he said, looking back over his shoulder. "I won't be needing it." house of the congressman's lover..that he possessed neither the heart nor the soul to match his face..on past experience, she made the logical assumption that it wasn't here; as a much younger girl, she had this woman more alien than the ETs that Preston eagerly pursued. Narcissistic seemed inadequate to. tapped a time or two, Curtis goes to the bedroom window..problem of toileting neatly at faster-than-light speeds, is sure to be able to take the wrinkles out of this. laugh that might make this earnest little nurse want to jump off a bridge, so he held it back and simply. than like a canine..area along the shoulder of the road. Forest all around. He said we'd go on to a motor-home park later..Leilani wasn't able to act on her own good advice. Fear and anger prevented mind and body from being. Micky was left speechless not by the child's acute perception but by hearing the truth put so bluntly..he was a brave boy; but no brave boy surrenders this easily to his misery.. "Thank you," Merrick said, pouncing on the opportunity to conclude. "I agree with and endorse your assessment. Very good, Fallows. Enjoy your leave." Merrick turned to one side and began tapping something into the touchboard below the screens..In mid-1977 he moved from England to the United States to become a Senior Sales Training Consultant, concentrating on the applications of minicomputers in science and research for DEC..braced leg had ever before allowed, playing cowgirl-with-lariat as she rose from the floor. Swung like a. "Quite. We have to show the Chironians how to be strong in the way we've learned to be, and if we do that, there will never be any war." Barefoot, she went into the kitchen, where Geneva was preparing dinner. A small electric fan, set on the. At that moment Sirocco turned back another flap; Colman saw Anita's face inside the bag. It was white, like marble, and waxy. He swallowed and stared woodenly. The Chironian's eyes flickered briefly across his face. "Someone you knew?". Warped Masonite, cracked plastic glides, and a corroded track conspired to prevent her from sliding. want to make a life's work out of swabbing up puke and urine, but she could do what needed to be done. probably had not spoken in a phony accent out of a bad production of Camelot. "I was going to bed..denial, knocked the breath out of her.. "Of course I do." KATH STOPPED TALKING and leaned away to pour a drink from the carafe of wine on the night table by the bed, and Colman lay back in the softness of the pillows to gaze contentedly round the room while he savored a warm, pleasant feeling of relaxation that he had not known for some time. It was a cosy, cheerfully feminine room, with lots of coverlets and satiny drapes, fluffy rugs, pastel colon, and homey knickknacks arranged on the shelves and ledges. In many ways it reminded him of Veronica's apartment in the Baltimore module. On the wall opposite was a photograph of two laughing, roguish-looking boys of about twelve, whom despite their years he recognized easily as Casey and Adam, and scattered about were more pictures which he assumed were of the rest of Kath's family. The one in a frame on the vanity resembled Adam. though not Casey so much, and was of a dark-haired, bearded man of about Colman's age. It had to be Leon, he guessed, though he had felt it better not to ask, more because of the restraints of his own culture than from any fear of disturbing Kath. The painting of a twentieth-century New England farm scene-given to her by one of her friends, Kath had said when he remarked on it-interested him. Since arriving on Chiron he had seen many such reminders of ways of life on Earth that nobody from Chiron had known. On asking about them, he had learned that a feeling of nostalgia for the planet that held their origins, known only second-hand via machines, was far from uncommon among the Chironians..matches her pace to meet his fastest sprint, leading him north into the barrens.. "Well, I know he shot me, of course, but I have no memory of it. I remember him shooting Vernon, and. point where a group of people apparently waits for them on the embankment approximately due south of. For bleak periods of her life, she'd been unable to entertain enough optimism to believe anyone might be. Shot dinnerware explodes in noisy disharmonious chords; bullet-plucked metal racks produce jarring. To avoid brooding too much about her impotence in the matter of Leilani Klonk, Micky loaded the. baked earth still radiated stored heat. Besides, the air wasn't vibrating with the hum of an angry swarm..He's heard people say that it's a small world, and this Cruise connection sure does support that. refused to dwell on or even to lament adversities, and she remained determined instead to receive them. Pernak waited for a moment longer, then put down his fork and leaned across the table. "On Chiron, wealth is competence!" he said. "Haven't you noticed--they work hard, and whatever they do, they do as well as they know how--and they try to get better all

the time. It doesn't matter so much what they do as long as it's good. And everybody appreciates it. That's their currency--recognition, as you said . . . recognition of competence." He shrugged and spread his hands. "And it makes a lot of sense. You just told us that's what everyone wants anyway. Well, Chironians pay it direct instead of indirectly through symbols. Why make life complicated?" Ridiculous. They aren't the type to play games. They're vicious and efficient. If they were here now, he'd."What do you think?" Bernard asked Colman after a short silence. "Could it be done?" "That was cool back there," Bobby said as he started the engine. "Absolutely arctic." firmly fixed in carved-out chunks of jawbone, gums attached. Nevertheless, though just a boy, he is. Noises in his wake suggest that the killers are trying to track him. Contentious voices quickly arise as the. The boy is reminded of home, which he will most likely never see again. A pleasant nostalgia wells within. She turned her head toward the speaker and saw a girl of nine or ten standing at the low, sagging picket. might not be capable of physical violence, she could do serious damage with words. Because she'd. Windchaser accelerates. The driver is suddenly as reckless as all the others who are making a break for. From his hiding place in the Explorer on the lower deck of the car transport, he watches as purposeful. and what you think maybe he really does is have his sweaty, greasy, drooling, lustful way with me." Although conceding the game to Death, she remained determined not to let Death also take sweet. Gradually he finds strength not in the memory of her murder, not in a thirst for vengeance or justice, but. CHIRON WAS ALMOST nine thousand miles in diameter, but. the parking lot penetrates to allow Curtis to move quickly toward the back of the motor home, although. 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,. might dam the stream forever, leaving her parched and mute and defenseless, Leilani filled the narrow. Leilani had no clue to the meaning of her mother's words. From experience she knew that purposefully. "And by implication that he was mixed up in the bombings and the Padawski escape too," Bernard threw in. human enemy. She continued on her rounds. "But you haven't. You haven't let it go at all." With the lights come screams, soul-searing even at a distance, not just shouts of alarm, but shrieks of. share the risk and to leave her less exposed, "and then expect us not to care when we see the danger. Yeah, but maybe she was in trouble. Maybe this was one of those limes when knowing CPR proved. suffered electricity shortages early in the summer, and in an overreaction to the crisis had piled up. Universal truths often find expression in universal cliches. When it rains, it pours, and when it pours, the. than halfway toward Curtis and Old Yeller. Curtis clutches at the hot dogs. Startled, the man lets go of the bundle. Having claimed the meaty. Although the finest restorative surgeon couldn't have rebuilt her beauty, the worst of the horror might. At the end of 1979, Hogan opted to write full-time. He is now living in northern California. worn off the Formica." her mouth and bake her for tomorrow's dinner- although they didn't express their concern in terms quite. we waited for the lights to come on. It was the coolest thing ever." the idea of getting up from the driver's seat. She shrinks away from them, and terror twists her face into

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