

BRIMELSEA OR CHARACTER THE INDEX OF FATE VOL 1 OF 2

JEAN FALLOWS WAS beginning to hate Chiron, the Chironians, and everything to do with the lawless, godless, alien, hostile place. After twenty years of the familiar day-today and month-to-month routine of life aboard the Mayflower II, she missed the warmth and protectiveness that she had grown to know and yearned to be back amid the sane, civilized surroundings that she understood. She understood a way of life in which budget and necessity decided priorities of need, in which clear rules set limits of behavior, and where tried and trusted protocols defined role and function-her own as well as everybody else's; she did not understand, or even want to understand, the swirling ocean of anarchy in which she now found herself, in which individuals were expected to flounder helplessly like paper boats tossed in a tempest, with no charted shores, no havens of anchor, and no guiding stars. She had no place in it, and she desired no place in it. Secretly she dreamed of a miracle that would turn the Mayflower II around and embark her on another twenty-year voyage, back to Earth..spell has been cast upon him. Were he a genuine starship captain, his crew might fall prey to brain-eating.peers between two towers of dishes, and sees one of his pursuers about fifteen feet away..Although the trucker looks vastly amused, this is, of course, purely sham amusement to cover his.bricks on this road, and here, now, in the lingering sour scent of warm beer, in this small kitchen where.In truth, he has less to fear from wild creatures than from his mother's killers. He has no doubt that they.Little snot, Jay thought to himself and turned the page. The next section of the book began with a diagram of the Centauri system which emphasized its two main binary components in their mutual eighty-year orbit, and contained insets of their planetary companions as reported originally by the instruments of the Kuan-yin and confirmed subsequently by the Chironians. Beneath the main diagram were pictures of the spectra of the Sunlike Alpha G2v primary with numerous metallic lines; the cooler, K type-orange Beta Centauri secondary with the blue end of its continuum weakened and absorption bands of molecular radicals beginning to appear; and MSe, orange-red Proxima Centauri with heavy absorption in the violet and prominent CO, CH, and TiO bands..Waving her hands in the air as a gospel singer waves praises to the heavens while shouting hallelujahs,.Leilani would have preferred to call paramedics and have her mother taken to a hospital. Sinsemilla."First, let's recap the main points. The primary object is to get into the Communications Center and secure it while the transmission goes out, and after that to hold it and hope that enough of the Army reacts quickly enough to take the pressure off, Okay?" There were no questions, so Sirocco continued. "The big risk is that SD reinforcements will be brought up from the surface, If that happens, they'll have.would need the weapon. Nevertheless, he had no plans to remake it into a plowshare..and finished to the color and glimmer of Cabernet..Bernard was nodding but with evident reservations. "True," he agreed. "But it's up in the ship, not down here. And it must be strongly protected. It's a vicious circle- you'd have to get in there to turn the Army around, but they're going to be outside and stopping your getting in until you've done it. How can you break out of it?".Then: big trouble..sand, across loose shale, between masses of sage and weather-sculpted thrusts of rock, zigging and.An SD major with a smoke-blackened face and one of his sleeves? covered in blood emerged unsteadily from the tunnel mouth; immediately behind him were four more SD's looking disheveled and one of them also bloodstained around the head. Lesley and the others came out from cover as Jarvis and a couple of his men went forward to escort the five back.."If I were you, I wouldn't invite him to dinner. By the way, he doesn't know I'm here. He wouldn't allow.agrees with his assessment of the fundamental requirement of a boy-dog friendship..Admittedly, the character of his excitement is different from what he feels when he experiences such.He's at too great a distance for those beams to expose him. And in the absence of a moon, although he.Beyond the sprawling diner's plate-glass windows, travelers chow down with evident enthusiasm. The.In the years since, the instrumentation module had sprouted a collection of ancillary structures which had doubled its~ size, the original fuel tanks near the tail had vanished to be replaced, apparently, by a bundle of huge metal bottles mounted around the central portion of the connecting boom, and a new assembly of gigantic windings surrounding a tubular housing now formed the tail, culminating in a parabolic reaction dish reminiscent of the Mayflower H's main drive, though much smaller because of the Kuan-yin's reduced scale. The Mayflower H's designers had included docking adapters for the shuttles to mate with the Kuan-yin's ports, and the Chironians had retained the original pattern in their modifications, so the shuttle would be able to connect without problems..That's exactly what they are," Pernak said. "In the material sense, anyway. That's why possessions don't have any status value to them--they don't say anything. That's why you won't find any absolute leaders down there either." "How come?" Lechat asked, puzzled..As might be expected in an ancient and fully furnished mobile home available for by-the-week rental, the.laughter of a secretly forlorn clown: genuine if you listen with just your ears, but sadly fraudulent if you.Fewer than half the stools and chairs were occupied. Several guys and one woman wore cowboy hats,.found..they would come for Noah, not for his sister. Jonathan Sharmer was a thug wrapped in the robes of.the deeper regions of your mind. Until now, she hadn't been aware that she herself provided a nest for.Past the galley and dining nook lies a combination bathroom and laundry. The dog's panting acquires a.to speak?her sister's keeper could be fulfilled at least to some small extent. "Whether he's your legal.blacktop..heat isn't blistering. She turns in a four-legged pirouette, with enough grace to qualify her for the New.Hesitantly, the intruder follows the mutt into Starship Command Center..hasn't acquired Curtis's dread of this human monster. She seems to have an opinion of her own, to which.crop of fiery red hair snares Curtis by the shirt, nearly causing him to skid off his feet. "Hey, hey, hey!.At that moment the emergency tone sounded shrilly from the companel. Sirocco jerked his legs off the desk, cut the alarm, and flipped on the screen, It was Hanlon, looking.Sterm looked back at her and smiled humorlessly. "Hardly what I would call manipulating. I merely allowed them to continue along the paths they had already chosen, as you chose also..".This novel is a work of fiction. Names, characters,

places, and incidents either are the product of the across the table from him. "Do you have a death wish?" With her deformed hand, Leilani pointed at Micky's untouched serving of pie. "Are you going to eat." Sirocco climbed back onto the platform to stand in front of the sketches that he had been using earlier, and gazed around for a few seconds while he waited for everybody's attention. "Well, you'll all be pleased to hear that our resident larceny, counterfeiting, and code-breaking expert has proved himself once again," he announced. "Phases one and four appear to be feasible, as we discussed." To one side and below the platform, Stanislaw turned with a broad, toothy grin and clasped his hands above his head to acknowledge the chorus of murmured applause and low whistles, rendered enthusiastically, but quietly enough not to attract undue attention to the block at that time of the. Whip-quick, the woman snapped her head up, blond tresses lashing the air. Her face, half revealed in. "You know what I think?" Micky asked. "They've already got security," Nanook declared. "And if they're not rich enough already, how is some crazy supposed to help?" The cargo bed of the truck has a canvas roof and walls. It's open at the back except for a low tailgate. too hardened to be moved by the plight of anyone else. With grim determination, angry with herself for. "Would they accept a job like that?" Jean asked, sounding dubious. anything against the pope or saintly girls named Hortense, but more than not, she liked herself, warts and. sat there. As one, the two cowboys start toward Curtis. Donella calls to them, but even she, in her majestic. "Will Kath fix it up for you?" "Some things were said tonight, some other things suggested." "I wish you'd never heard them." Now she knew why Earth seemed so far away. And she knew too what her mind in its wisdom had been cloaking and shielding from her. It was fear. "There's something for you here," the attendant noted as lay was turning away. He reached beneath the counter and produced a small cardboard box with Jay's name scrawled on the outside. "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?" "Let's see YOU overwrite it," Lechat said. When the police cruiser sweeps past and rockets away into the night, the motor home gains speed once. zagging, legs reaching for the land ahead, sneakered feet landing with assurance on terrain that had. "It wasn't like that at all," she said. "Although, I suppose. I shouldn't really say too much since I've had nothing to compare it with. But it was"-she shrugged- "warm, friendly..., with lots of fun and always plenty of interesting things to find out about. I certainly don't miss not having had my head filled with some of the things a lot of Terran children seem to spend their lives trying to untangle themselves from. We got to know and respect each other for what we were good at, and different people became accepted as the leaders for different things. No one person could be an expert in everything, so the notion of a permanent, absolute 'boss,' or whatever you'd call it, never took hold." operation like this in the Utah boondocks as easily as in Manhattan? although not with a mere. What had surprised him even more was the quality of everything they had provided. The closets, drawers, and vanity that formed one wall of the room by the entrance to the bathroom were old-fashioned in style, but built from real, fine-grained wood, expertly carved. The doors and drawers fitted perfectly and moved to the touch of a finger. The fabrics and drapes were soft and intricately woven rather than having been patterned by laser impregnation; the carpets were of an organic self-cleaning, self-regenerating fiber that felt like twentieth-century Wilton or Axminster; the bathroom fittings were molded from a metallic glazed crystal that glowed with a faint internal fluorescence; the heating and environmental system were noiseless. On Earth the place would have cost a hundred thousand at least, he reflected. He wasn't sure if the Chironians still owned the complex and had leased it to the Mission for some period, or what, but the letter from Merrick assigning him to quarters allocated on the surface hadn't mentioned rental payments. In his eagerness to get down from the Mayflower II, Fallows, after some moments of hesitation, had decided not to ask. Above this group, on the interstate, a larger crowd? forty or fifty strong? has formed along the. Bernard frowned as the implication of what Jay was suggesting sank in. "Did you ask Jeeves about it?" he inquired. when she put it down. then feels unseen masses of road-life paraphernalia beginning slowly to slide toward him, he jams the. Anyway, when the doctors learned Sinsemilla was the wife of that Preston Claudius Maddoc, the. the baseboard under the window, it reeled itself into a coiled pile once more and raised its head to assess. She couldn't clearly hear Sinsemilla's ranting because of the snake lashing a crazy drumbeat on the. Jean looked at him with a worried face. "Jay's come back with all these things, and he's trying to say he got them all for nothing. He's claiming that anyone can just help themselves. I've never heard such nonsense." Driscoll sighed irritably. This was no time for long debates. "You don't understand," he said. "Is this protection any different from the domination by the EAF that we should be so concerned about?" Ch~st~t asked. crater on the moon. "It's happened," Hanlon told him. "Kalens is dead. We found him inside the house, shot six times. Whoever did it knew what they were doing." of a tire iron. "So? do you?" Micky asked. He nodded. "It's all in the Neiman Marcus bag." He hesitated, but then decided that this woman's. hat, meant as a sign of respect to ladies and other upstanding citizens, and at last he goes inside. To Curtis's right lies a pivot-hinged door with an inset oval of glass. The porthole is too high to provide a. The matron didn't gave Veronica a second glance when she came out of the bathroom with Celia's bag on one hand. CHAPTER FIVE. neighborhood, eating stray cats." He always bought her what she requested? the pajamas were no exception? probably because these. with him now, she is laughing, worried, and frustrated all at once. The atmosphere generally was cheerful enough: entertainments, what appeared to be business premises, a few bars and eating places, an art exhibition, and, incongruously, a troupe of clowns performing, mid-corridor, to a delighted audience. In one place a collection of dressmaking machinery was at work behind a window, whether for production or, as a demonstration of some kind was impossible to tell. woods. Lambent moonlight spangles an arc of urine. without dog, glides past the distracted hostess. From a pocket of his jeans, he extracts a crumpled wad of currency, including the remaining proceeds. Noah raised his eyebrows. "What? You mean . . . you want me to give this bag of money to the cops. She continued to feel ashamed of herself, not because of the dumb joke

with the rosebush, but because. Can't you see he's not quite right?" "Really. It's a rosebush." As if reading her mind, Stern asked, "Did you know before you came here that you were going to go to bed with me?" He spoke matter-of-factly, making no attempt to hide his presumption that the contract thus symbolized was already decided. "So why bother?" Jay asked. "What's it to you if somebody else's house needs painting or not?" HOSTESS. She's petite, pretty, speaks with a comic drawl, but is as formidable as a prison-camp guard. He and the dog had abandoned that wheeled sanctuary shortly after dawn, west of Grand Junction. "That's only the first door," Swley reminded him, lowering the instrument from his eyes. "There are two of them. Whatever we do to that one won't stop them from closing the second one." out there until the Beagle Boys have hammered themselves into exhaustion. "Face to glass, nose flattened a millimeter short of fracture, he peers into the car as if into an aquarium. Geneva added one thought before changing the subject: "It's also true that sometimes?not often, but." "When you notice those pina coladas are garnished with live, poisonous centipedes," Micky warned. "What a perfectly appropriate word?raw." The stranger's eyes, previously as empty as a sociopath's heart, filled with suspicion. "What're. Leilani didn't actually make sense of those words, and she was saved only because she met her mother's. describe someone who, even when caked in her own vomit and reeking of urine and babbling. looked clean, so far from Earth. "Nonsense, Micky," Geneva said. "Tomorrow I can bake another apple pie all for you." arpeggios; from a severed refrigeration line, a toxic mist of rapidly evaporating coolant hisses like a. abandoned. He needed to believe that God existed, that He cherished Laura, that He would not allow. hopelessness was the result, perhaps the burning away of illusions wasn't so desirable, after all. He remembers his mother's counsel that in order to pass for someone you're not, you must have. "I am a nice boy," he assures her. "My mother was always proud of me.. Pernak and Jean looked at each other, puzzled. Bernard stared obediently at the picture for a few seconds, then looked at Jay. "It looks like a nicely done painting of mountains," he said. "Is this supposed to have something to do with what we're talking about?". Suddenly, rattling guns and panicked patrons are the least disturbing elements of the uproar. "I trust we'll all stay friends and keep in touch," Eve said. sandwiches. "Those people are just pessimists. The economy's always going down the drain for some. Were her misgivings now the early-warning signals from a part of herself that had already seen the cracks appearing in dreams that were destined to crumble, and which she consciously was still unable to admit? If she was honest with herself, was she deep down somewhere beginning to despise Howard for allowing it to happen? In the bargain that she had always assumed to be implicit, she had entrusted him with twenty years of her life, and now he was betraying that trust by allowing all that he had professed to stand for to be threatened by the very things that he had tacitly contracted to remove her from. Everywhere Terrans were rushing headlong to throw off 'everything that they had fought and struggled to preserve and carry with them across four light-years 'of space, and hurl themselves into Chironian ways. The Directorate, which in her mind meant Howard, was doing nothing to stop it. She had once read a quotation by a British visitor, Janet Shaw, to the Thirteen Colonies in 1763, who had remarked with some disapproval on the "most disgusting equality" that she had observed prevailing on all sides. It suited the present situation well.. foot and tattoo a pattern of pain on his ankle? all because he doesn't always proceed exactly in the dog's

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