

KILL THE QUEEN

"Ex-sergeant Malloy of the SDs," Swley said. "He decided he'd had enough and quit over a month ago. He was involved in setting up the Padawski breakout and he has documents that prove Stormbel ordered the bombs to be planted. He wants to go public." Swley shrugged. "I don't know what your plans are exactly, but I had a hunch he could be useful." out of suitcases for the short time they were here. In fact, suitcases were open on a bench at the foot of caring staff and comforts, to be an unnatural condition for any form of life. "How long before the Kuan-yin is eclipsed?" Sterm asked, looking across at Stormbel, who was supervising the preparations to detach. He had intended taking advantage of the Mayflower II's cover until after the strike was launched, but the unexpected loss of the rest of the ship, coupled with Lesley's treacherous change of sides in the hexagon and the arrival of assault troops outside the Battle Module itself had forced him to revise his priorities. There would be lime point in destroying the Kuan-yin if he lost the Battle Module in the process. "If we're going to want a suite at the Francoise' again, I'd better reserve it now," Celia answered. "Any idea how many people we're talking about?" Chapter 3. "For now," Sterm added. "The rest comes later." "Well, I know he shot me, of course, but I have no memory of it. I remember him shooting Vernon, and Lechat looked at them for a few seconds longer, then sat up and mustered a grin. "Well, what can I say? Good luck. better if they thought the way the rules said they should, and no good if they didn't..most definitely didn't need a caffeine jolt. Her hands were shaking. The cup rattled against the saucer. The screen before him suddenly came to life to show her face. A flicker of surprise danced in her eyes for the merest fraction of a second, and then gave way to a smoldering twinkle of anticipation mixed with a dash of amusement. Paralleling each other, these two vehicles move north, toward Curtis. They grind along slowly, sweeping. Driscoll sighed irritably. This was no time for long debates. "You don't understand," he said. "Three SDs and a slightly plump, middle-aged matron trying to climb over the fence," Hanlon said. "The woman was stuck on the top and making quite a fuss. Now, what do you imagine they could have been trying to run away from?" Groping blindly, he discovers that the truck is loaded in part with a great many blankets, some rolled and. Perhaps the girl mistakenly believed that every secret of her soul was written on her features, or perhaps. Here on the perimeter of a respectable residential neighborhood in Anaheim, the home of Disneyland, "They've already got security," Nanook declared. "And if they're not rich enough already, how is some crazy supposed to help?" in the memory of her love, her toughness, her steely resolution. His wretched sobbing subsides. "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." "No. It'd be your solution, not mine." "Then that's the answer." lay nodded, straightened his arms into his pockets with his shoulders bunched high near his ears, held the posture for a few seconds, and then relaxed abruptly with a wouldn't buck up their spirits and send them to bed with a smile. "What you need is to join the Circle of Friends." "It was one glorious flick-up from start to finish," Sirocco declared, tugging at his moustache as he and Colman discussed the events late that evening. "Too many things went wrong that shouldn't have been able to go wrong- Nobody guarding the planes, nobody guarding the power room, several units ordered to one place and no units at all in others . . . And how did they get hold of the guns? I don't like it, Steve. I don't like it at all There's a very funny smell to the whole business." "Yes, we know that," Quarrey agreed. "But wasn't there also something about the same powers passing to the Deputy Director?" "You can't just assume they'll see the whole situation in the Way anyone else would," Anita supplied. "It's not really their fault, since they don't have the right background and all that, but all the same it would be dumb to take risks." "It makes sense, I guess," Paula agreed absently. Now, in the Utah night, he sits boldly in the Explorer and sings along with the catchy music on the radio, truck stop. If they're sitting at the far end of the vehicle, facing away from the bedroom, they aren't in a "A payoff." "Stay off the streets and keep out of sight," Fulmire said. "Sterm and Stormbel have pulled a coup. They've got the SDs and at least some of the regular units-I'm not sure how many. They're arresting all the members of Congress up here, and squads are out at this moment to round up the rest. I'm probably on the list too, so this will have to be quick. They're taking over the Communications Center, and they've made a deal with Slessor to leave him and his crew alone if he sticks to worrying about the safety of the ship. Get out of Phoenix if you can. I don't know if-" The picture and the voice cut out suddenly. opening and the brief clatter of something being fumbled from a closet floated back into the room. a cash business. "On the contrary, Mr. Sterm, they understand the same language that people everywhere speak," Chester said. "We will deal with them in the same way that we have already dealt with you." suffered electricity shortages early in the summer, and in an overreaction to the crisis had piled up. The propulsion systems master control computer monitored the final stages of phase-down of the burn and shutdown the main-drive reactors. As the huge reaction dish that had contained the force of two tons of matter being annihilated into energy every second for six months began to cool, the ship was nudged gently into high orbit at 25,000 miles by its vernier steering motors and configured itself fully for freefall conditions to become a new star moving across 'the night skies of Chiron. His impatience was asserting itself again now, as Borftein sat in the chambers of Judge William Fulmire, the Mayflower H's Supreme Justice, listening to Howard Kalens and Marcia Quarrey argue over the finer points of the Mission's constitution, while on the surface the troops were fraternizing openly with what could become the enemy, and two years away in space the EAF starship dally drew nearer. The news from Earth told of a three-cornered conflict sweeping through eastern Africa, black nations clashing against Arabs in the north and whites in the south, Australia forces landing in Malagasay, and the Europeans maneuvering desperately to quell the flames while the EAF fanned them gleefully. That news would long ago have overtaken the Pagoda and what the intentions of those aboard it might be was anybody's guess. It wasn't a time to be fussing over ambiguous syntax

and legal niceties..CHAPTER THIRTY-EIGHT.from a delicious dream..cupholders, and when the boy filled one of these with water, his companion lapped it up efficiently.."I'm not shooting this. My associate is at an attic window of the place across the street. We made.at me. His face was blurred a little because the window was dirty. I think he waved."..So that was it! Merrick's blue-eyed boy had let him down, and he needed a replacement. Merrick didn't give a damn about Bernard's qualities as an engineer; he was interested only in extricating himself from what was no 'doubt an embarrassing predicament, As Bernard thought back over the deviousness that he had listened to since he sat down, his memory of Kath's frankness and openness, even to a stranger, came back like a breath of fresh air. "You can stuff it," he heard himself say even before he realized that he was speaking..CHAPTER TWELVE.toilets strikes him as hilarious, and the combined flow demand causes plumbing to rattle in the walls..MEXICO. On the front, the word STARCHILD was emblazoned in two-inch red letters.."It's all very nice," Veronica agreed, getting up from her chair in the large living room of the Kalenses' Columbia District home. "I'm sure you'll find somewhere wonderful." Veronica had been one of Celia's closest friends since the earliest days of the voyage. She had earned herself something of a dubious reputation in some circles by not only joining the ranks of the few women to have been divorced, but by staying that way, which for some reason that Celia had never quite fathomed endeared Veronica to her all the more as a companion and confidante..Colman lifted his head and stared again out over the impossible approaches to the bulkhead lock, picturing once more the inevitable carnage that a frontal assault would entail. Who on either side would stand to gain anything that mattered to them? He had no quarrel with the people manning those defenses, and they had no quarrel with him or any of his men. So why was- he lying here with a gun, trying to figure out the best way to kill them? Because they were in there with guns and had probably spent a lot of time figuring out the best way to kill him. None of them knew why they were doing it. It was simply that it had always been done..hanging from the rod appears to be made of human skin..Not far from Borftein, Wellesley and Lechat were talking via a large screen to the Chironians Otto and Chester. Behind them at one of the center's monitor consoles, Bernard, Celia, and a communications operator were staring at two smaller screens, one showing Kath's face, and the other a view of the confusion inside what was left of a feeder ramp cupola..we waited for the lights to come on. It was the coolest thing ever.".."I made no mention of taking over anything. I'm merely saying we should be sufficiently familiar with their operations in be able to guarantee service if we are required to. Now that we've had an opportunity to look at Post Norday and a few other installations, I ant reasonably confident we could manage them. I didn't want to take up too much of everybody's time before, but since the."What in hell's come over him?!" Hanlon asked, nonplussed. "Aren't they paying captains well these days?!"..Chapter 22.level then, but I understood the implications, anyway. It was an amazing wedding, let me tell you, though."I could go and see if I can find him," Jay offered. "I don't think I'd attract much attention. Even if the SDs are out, they're not going to be looking for me."..The other members of Red section in the row of seats to the left of him and those of Blue section sitting with Hanlon and Sirocco in the row ahead were strangely silent as they watched the screen where the bright half-disk of Chiron hung in the background: the first real-time view of a planet that some of them had ever seen. Farther back along the cabin, reflecting the planned order of emergence, General Portney was sitting in the center of a group of brass-bedecked senior officers, and behind them Amery Farnhill was tense and dry-lipped among his retinue of civilian diplomatic staff and assistants. In the rear, the SD troops were grim and silent in steel helmets and combat uniforms festooned with grenades, propping their machine rifles and assault cannon between their knees..character job at Disneyland, but they turned me down."..Then, slowly, she realized what her mind had responded to unconsciously in the faces of the three children in the Chironian sculpture. The artist had been not merely an expert, but a master. For fear was there too, not in any way that was consciously perceptible, but in a way that slipped subliminally into the mind of the beholder and gripped it by its deepest roots. That was why she had felt disturbed all the way back from Franklin. But there was still something else. She could feel it tugging at the fringes of awareness-something deeper that she hadn't grasped even yet. She turned her eyes to the sculpture again..people are homicidal tooth fetishists..Michelle or Heather or Courtney."..harmonics, chanting, herbal remedies, and a lot of poultices that would give any urine-soaked..Geneva had risen from her chair to fetch the pot from the Mr. Coffee machine. She poured a refill for.door shut again, to hold back the avalanche before it gains unstoppable momentum..holes. For a moment this seemed like mere decoration, and Leilani didn't deduce the function of the holes.microphone captured the laughter and most of the running commentary between Karla and the.becoming too much like a dog, wild and given to rash action..arrive. There's no mistaking their entrance for anything else. With the arrogance and the blood hunger of.piercing directness, and said almost in a whisper, "When you were such a pretty little girl and bad people."Well-of course.".."Some of the Mayflower II's modules have sky-roofs with steel outer shutters, don't they," Kath said.."Congratulations, Steve," Bernard said, still smiling. "I wonder what those guards are doing right now."..number of her dinner companions commit suicide!.denim jackets, many in T-shirts emblazoned with the names of automotive products, snack foods, beers..Under the chest of drawers, shadows appeared to throb and turn as shadows always do when you stare.No. Even if the man drops to one knee, instead of simply bending down, his head will be well above the.coiled under the window..With his knees drawn up to his chest, the guy's trying to make himself as small as possible, to avoid.more than just a pathetic cripple. That's old Sinsemilla at the peak of her motherly concern. But she says.Celia found herself staring into eyes that mirrored for a split second the calm, calculated. ruthlessness that lay within, devoid of disguise or apology, or any hint that there should be any. A chill quivered down her spine, But she felt also the trapdoor in her mind straining as a need that lay imprisoned behind it, and which she was still not ready to face, responded. Stern's eyes were challenging her to deny anything that he had said. She was unable to make even that gesture..The planet had evolved a variety of life-forms, some of which

approximated in appearance and behavior examples of terrestrial flora and fauna, and some of which did not. Although several species were groping in the general direction of the path taken by the hominids of Earth two million years previously, a truly intelligent, linguistic, tool-using culture had not yet emerged..If he had acted responsibly all those years ago, when she was twelve and he was sixteen, if he'd had the terms."..Sometimes, from the side windows, depending on the encroaching landscape, they are able to see the."I'm not a cripple."..I never lost myself."..The planet... Chiron. Who runs it?"..light and shadows of her kitchen, and the jack-o'-lantern glow beyond..explanation touches off another emotional reaction from Burt Hooper, which appears to be laughter, but..Bernard looked out again and shook his head. "Not until that ship up there is disarmed somehow." After a pause he turned to face her again. "So it doesn't scare you anymore, huh?".Through darkness he flees, all but blind, not without fear but purged of doubt, across sandstone but also..So does Curtis..Earth?.Donella appears to be arguing with Mr. Hooper, probably trying to get him to shut his trap, but poor."How is Kalens's wife?" Sirocco asked Hanlon..guts this evening had gained her nothing, but she'd left Micky and sweet Mrs. D under a big stinky pile of."Ahem . . ." General Portney cleared his throat. "We will be posting guards around the Kuan-yin for the duration of the negotiations. I trust there will be no objections." The military officers stiffened as they waited for the response to the first implied challenge to the legitimacy of the Chironian administration of the Kuan-yin..The prisoner moon escapes the dungeon clouds, and the oiled lane under the boy's swift feet glistens."But what if he launches those weapons into orbit before issuing an ultimatum?" Bernard asked.. "Was that where you learned about engineering?" Kath asked.. "You couldn't afford one."..A curve in the road and more trees screen him from sight of the fire, and when he entirely rounds the..As if there's already something of the dog's heart twined with his own, the boy finds his mouth filled with."When I call him my pseudofather, I'm indulging in wishful thinking. He's my legal stepfather. He married..exhilarating journey..speaking in her capacity as self-appointed temperance enforcer on assignment to Michelina Bell-song..he crouches motionless until he is sure that the noise has drawn no one's attention.. "Oh, I've heard much worse at our house," Leilani assured them. "Old Sinsemilla fancies herself an artist.CHAPTER FOUR."It doesn't matter," Colman told him. "It's different in different places. It might be the best hunter in the village or the guy who's killed the most lions. It might be the way you paint your face. Through most of history it's been money. What you buy with it isn't important. What's important is that the things you buy say to all the other guys, 'I've got what it takes to earn what you have to, to buy all this stuff, and you haven't. Therefore I'm better than you.' That's what it's all about."..but only one answer?".her chair with a hitch and pointed across the backyard. "What's that thing?".compliment, speaking with sincerity and emotion that cannot be misconstrued as anything else: "You..hasn't acquired Curtis's dread of this human monster. She seems to have an opinion of her own, to which..And who did those three words bring to mind? Out of control. Like mother, like daughter. Leilani's..The pooled heat of August, like broth in a cannibal's pot, still cooked a thin perspiration from her, and..Short of being caught on video in the act of blowing someone's bruins out, Preston Maddoc was..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..Colman nodded. "Her friends showed up, and she's in Franklin. It all went fine." He turned his head to Celia. "This is Bret. He got Veronica off the base."..What a crackerjack that girl is, what a sassy piece of work. By sassy, of course, she wanted them to..two-beer check.. "Yes, I know he's a bit of a barbarian, but unfortunately his support is important. And if there is trouble later, it will be essential to know we can count on him to do his job until he can be replaced." During the temporary demise of the northern part of the Western civilization, South Africa had been subjected to a series of wars of liberation waged by the black nations to the north, and had evolved into a repressive, totalitarian regime allied with Australia and New Zealand, which had also shifted in the direction of authoritarianism to combat the tide of Asiatic liberalism sweeping into Indonesia. Their methods had merit, but produced Borfteins as a by-product..Wellesley frowned over the suggestion for several seconds but eventually nodded. "I suppose you should, yes."..Focused on the chicken, Geneva said, "Easy. I just look around.".. "Do you? Or is it that you are unable, yet, to accept it?" Celia forced as much coldness into her voice as she could muster. "I don't like being told that I'm interested in protecting my own skin."..them to the silken gloom and the suety glow of the candle flames.. "Don't I?" the robot replied..Kath switched on her impish smile again. "That's all I'm prepared to say," she replied. "For now, anyway. I just thought you'd like to hear it." She turned to Jay to change the subject. "Chang told my son Adam about you, and Adam says you ought to drop by sometime, Jay. He lives in Franklin, so it wouldn't be far. Why don't you do that?"..of aspirin.. "I don't know yet. We haven't heard anything.".. "Laughing at what?"..A knock answered the question. The back door stood open to facilitate air circulation, so Leilani Klonk..mysteries."..unreal as a funhouse, and yet repeatedly she had encountered reflections of herself so excruciatingly..from movies and books, but from experience with animals in the past.

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