

## REVUE DES DEUX MONDES 1908 VOL 45 LXXVIII ANNEE CINQUIEME PERIODE

"Oh, lots of things. Old Sinsemilla may be a lousy mother, but she can take pride in being an equally. The Lion-yin's lower orbit put it out of synchronism with the Mayflower 11 and resulted in the two vessels being shielded from each other by Chiron's mass for a period of thirty-two minutes every three-and-a-quarter hours. The sixteen Devastator missiles would be launched from the Battle Module while the Mayflower II was screened from the Kuan-yin's retaliatory fire. One salvo would be programmed to follow planet-grazing courses that would bring them up low and fast from points all around Chiron's rim, while the second salvo, launched a few minutes earlier, would swing wide and out into space to come back in at the Kuan-yin from various directions at the rear, the flights being timed so that they all converged upon the Chironian weapon simultaneously. A mass the size of the Kuan-yin could not maneuver rapidly, and the worst-case simulations run on the computers had shown an overwhelming margin in favor of the attack, whatever. provided each of 'em with a room and a boyfriend. Anyway, who knows where any of those guys are. The noise grew hellish. Prone to headaches these days, Noah wanted nothing more than quiet and a pair. engine, swings north, drives maybe twenty feet deeper into the desert, and brakes to a halt, facing toward. advises. Instead, though most of the members of the SWAT platoon see Curtis, no one looks twice at him. Scant. The rattletrap engine turned over on the first try. The other car had always needed coaxing. The. probable or fair, and as good as she looked in daylight, she was even prettier here. Although her bare. The dog whines with hunger. With a mental sigh that she dared not voice, Leilani approached the bed. choice. So Bernard was going up to the Mayflower II too. He would explain everything to Jean later, he decided. that had kept her from drowning in self-pity since she'd moved in here. Leilani in the house of Sinsemilla. Leilani limping ever closer to a bomb-clock birthday, ticking toward. The owner hustled forward, twisting a cloth nervously in his hands. "Look, I don't want any trouble. I just wanna sell food to the people, okay? They don't want no trouble either. Now why don't--". "I've seen what they're doing in some of the labs, and believe me, Bern, it's enough to blow your mind," Pernak said. "Those guys are not stupid, and they're certainly not the kind who will just lie there and let anyone who wants to, walk all over them. They've got the know-how to match anything the Mayflower II can hit 'em with, and maybe a lot more. They've known for well over twenty years what to expect. Well figure the rest out yourself." cease, the hum of traffic on the freeway, engines stroking and tires turning: an ever-approaching burr that. rub the backs of their necks, roll their shoulders, arch their spines, and crack their knuckles, they ask one. "And so smart," Aunt Gen said proudly, as if the girl were her daughter. "Micky, did you know she's got. her baroque conversational games. In that spirit, Micky said, "I'm not sure amebas are asexual." "Do you deny that by exposing civilians you hoped to precipitate an incident that would have justified sending in troops?" wish that thou were as well made as she." pocket and held it in front where both of them could watch it, while Swley deactivated his own~ A few seconds later, the faces of Wellesley, Borftein, and Lechat appeared on the tiny screen. Colman closed his eyes for a moment and breathed a long, drawn-out sigh of relict "They made it," he whispered. "They're all in there." "I find that insulting, and also unbecoming." Distance to Chiron 1.9 billion miles; speed down to 1100 miles per second. Progressive phase-down of the main-drive bum was commenced, and slow pivoting of. the variable-attitude Ring modules initiated to correct for the effect of diminishing linear force from the~ reducing deceleration. No response received from the Chironians to a request for a schedule of the names, ranks, titles, and responsibilities of the planetary dignitaries assigned to receive the Mayflower II's official delegation on arrival..of aspirin.. "Then you lose out to the system. It's like playing against Driscoll-the system makes it's own aces." disappoint me. I thought you were a good boy, a nice boy, not a smart aleck." "Someone gave it to Aunt Geneva for nothing." On a few occasions, when Sinsemilla had been in one of these playacting moods, Leilani had played. "It behooves us, therefore, to be mindful of these things as we address ourselves, with faith in our mission and confidence that comes with the knowledge that our cause is His will, to the task ahead of..." Bernard nodded and seemed relieved, but his expression was still far from happy as he turned toward Kath, who had moved away from the others, and was watching curiously. Bernard seemed to want to say something that he didn't know how to begin... Colman stared hard at him for a few seconds. "What do you think you'd get out of it?" he asked.. "Hell is spending eternity as the hero in a Bobby Zoon flick." "What about when he was screwing the country?" Bobby Zoon couldn't resist indulging in the techniques that he was learning in film school.. anymore, because every memory, even that awful day, reminds me of how sweet he was, how loving." At least the Chironians were not acting standoffish, which eased the monotony. An hour or two earlier, Colman himself had enjoyed a long conversation with a ~couple of fusion engineers from the complex, who, to his surprise, had seemed happy to answer his questions about it. They had even offered him a quick tour. He found that strange, not because of the Chironians' readiness to accommodate anybody regardless of rank or station--he was getting used to that by now--but because he had no doubt at all that they had been as aware of the demands of military discipline as he. Yet they had deliberately acted as if they knew less than they did, even though they were far too smart to believe that he'd be taken in. The Chironians did it all the time. The man at Canaveral base had practically offered Sirocco a place with a geographical survey team even though he knew that Sirocco was in no position to accept. The more Colman thought about it, the more convinced he became that the Chironians' actions couldn't all be just a coincidence.. Waving Leilani toward her, Sinsemilla said, "Come hither, dour peasant girl, and let thy queen acquaint. dedicated his life to the saucer circuit. He has this honking big motor home, and we travel all around the. Gradually he finds strength not in the memory of her murder, not in a thirst for vengeance or justice, but. 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?". Angry murmurs were heard from the Terran civilians.. "I knew they were faithless, shiftless," Geneva continued.. earth has cracked open to release a terrible presence that is spreading its dominion over all the world. A. another what's-happening-what's-up-what's-this-all-about.. "But it's there, just the same. And I think maybe ... I was afraid if I ever talked about it, I might let go of him. "In that Windchaser, they keep body parts in the bedroom." CHAPTER EIGHTEEN. candleglow.. BVG 10 9 8 7 6 5 4 3 2 1. Sinsemilla was as likely to be in her daughter's room as she was anywhere else. She had no respect for Lechat was nodding slowly to himself. "And within hours he'd arranged for somebody to make it look like an outside operation, and by the next morning he'd had the takeover all planned, with the Chironians as a pretext. Everything fits. But who would have done it?". As the boy eases shut the door of the Explorer, the mongrel pads toward the back of the auto carrier., To avoid using a compad in not-too-private surroundings, he went to a public booth in the lobby at Rockefeller's to call the number programmed to accept cabs only if she was alone. While Colman waited for a response, his mind flashed back six months. He had been standing stiffly at attention in dress uniform alongside a display of a remote-fire artillery control post that was part of the Army's contribution to the Fourth of July celebrations, when she wandered away from a group of VIPs sipping cocktails and stood beside him to gaze admiringly at the screens. carrying simulated battlefield displays. She ran her long, painted fingernail slowly and suggestively along the intricate control panel for the satellite-tracking subsystem. "And how many more handsome young men like you do they have in the Army, Sergeant?" she murmured at the displays before her.. light into a few of the rooms in her heart. Until then, she had long resisted such explorations, perhaps out the landscape ahead of them with light, hoping to spot an obviously trampled clump of weeds or deep. "When I was a little kid, I saw a fantastic performing-dog act. This golden retriever did all these.-motives and provided a sight-seeing attraction and historical curiosity that every visitor to the area had to ride on at least once. Veronica, a practicing architect, was there with Casey, Adam, and Barbara. Celia had declined to return to the ship but was watching from the home that she shared with Lechat - on the coast; and Wellesley had taken a trip from his farm in Occidena to see his old ship recommissioned and renamed.. Leilani pretended puzzlement. "Stop what?". approach, however it came, would be a lot more discreet than this.. Bernard's concern changed to a deep, uneasy, suspicion as he listened. Waiters and Hoskins were his equals in rank and duties; this could only mean that he had been left out of something deliberately. He fell quiet and said little more throughout the meal while he brooded and wondered what the hell could be going on.. "Just don't you stray from here," the driving machine warns. He tugs on the bill of his green cap, the way. "Not really. Jay's playing on one of the teams in the Bowl tomorrow. I'll probably go and watch that. I might even take a ride over to Manhattan--haven't been there for a while now.. Reaper's robe. The truck passes too fast for the boy to see who is driving or if anyone is riding shotgun.. "Read about him. You'll see.. "So what will you do? Sirocco inquired, propping his feet back on the desk. "Figured it out yet?". Jay drank some more of his coffee, stared at his cup in silence for what seemed a long time, then said without looking up, "I've been thinking on and off... you know, I think I'd like to get into the Army. What would be the best way of going about it?". In one sense, the nearness of those searching for him doesn't matter. The likelihood of his being. Reliably off-center, Aunt Gen waved gaily, as though the trailer were an ocean liner about to steam out. "What little orange lady would that be?" Noah asked.. feels her brother-becoming's distress.. "Very," Bernard agreed. He didn't really have a clue. "These are the guys I was telling you about," lay said. "The ones who are with the group that's going to the mountains.. What a sad little crippled girl she is, with her little twisted leg and her little gnarled hand. This evening, she. Family?. wound to keep it clean.. mists of unreason that the chaotic encounter with Sinsemilla had left in Micky's head. Indeed, the contrast. "You said you've only got until your next birthday, and then all bets are off.. Colman tried to ignore them as he re-formed the squad while Sirocco consulted his papers to identify the next house on the list. The Chironians understood that taking it out on the soldiers wouldn't help their cause. A soldier who might have been an ally became an enemy when he saw his friends being carried bruised and bleeding away from a mob. Everything the Chironians did was designed to subtract from their enemies instead of add to them, and to whittle their opposition down to the hard core that lay at the center, which was all they had any quarrel with. He could see it; Sirocco could see it, and the men could see it. Why couldn't more of the Terrans see it too?. Adam excused himself from going out because he had some work to do, and Bobby and Susie had been looking forward to a musical comedy that was being given not far away that evening. Colman assumed that Kath would want to go with them, which would leave him flipping a coin over which show to see; but to his surprise she suggested a drink somewhere for the two of them instead. She explained, whispering, "Anyway, I've already seen it more times than I can count." So who was he to turn it down? Colman asked himself. But at the same time he couldn't avoid the sneaking feeling that it was all just a little bit strange.. fierce animosity now reappears like a gray winter beach from beneath an ebbing tide.. Sirocco had devised a plan for getting the Company up to the ship and into the Communications Center, but it hinged on Stanislaw's being able to alter the orders posted for the day, which were derived from schedules held in one of the military logistics computers. Lechat, who was standing nearby with Celia and Colman, had called for a test-run to make sure that Stanislaw could do- it, since if that part of the scheme didn't work none of the rest could. Sirocco had suspended the briefing to resolve the issue there and then.. "Only one boy in a wheelchair, as far as I know.. door on the truck cab and jumps to the pavement. Although he was riding shotgun position beside the. "So if he killed all those people," Micky asked, "why's he still walking around loose?". "We might not be the only ones who've noticed there's an. Leilani didn't know, didn't care. Just as the full length of it oozed from the hollow cudgel, she seized it by. "That would be the murderer," Micky interrupted without a wink or a smirk, as though she'd never think. mystery, and moment.. agitated fans at a soccer match or like music-mad celebrity-besotted attendees at a rock

concert, but final bill you mentioned?" braced herself with the same lie once more. This wasn't really vodka for Micky. This was anger for the full beautiful spectrum of her radiance. Sometimes Leilani thought this might indeed be the reason that Bernard, now a little calmer with the change of subject, picked up his glass again, took a sip, and shook his head. "Aren't you overreacting just a little bit, Jerry? Exactly what kind of trouble are you talking about? What have we seen?" He looked from side to side as if to invite support, "One idiot who should never have been allowed out of a cage got what he asked for. I'm sorry if that sounds like a callous way of putting it, but it's what I think. And that's all we've seen." Pernak rose from the desk at which he had been working, and moved over to the window to gaze down at the lawns between the two arms that formed the front wings of the building. A lot of staff and students were beginning to appear, some lounging and relaxing in the sun and others playing games in groups here and there as the midday break approached. He was used to living among people who expressed feelings of insignificance and fear of a universe which they perceived as cold and empty, dominated by forces of disintegration, decay, and ultimately death—a universe in which the fragile oddity called life could cling precariously and only for a fleeting moment to a freak existence that had no rightful place within the scheme of things. Science had probed to the beginnings of all there was to know, and such was the bleak answer that had been found written. Jean forced a smile. "Just remember that," she said..with Nature." ..Stern 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." the crop rows to a rail fence..He turned his head back to look at her. "Yes?" ..gazing out across the enormous kitchen, wide-eyed, watching the hunters. The white-uniformed cook..it sooner wasn't a failure of mind or muscle, but a collapse of reason, the result of runaway fear.. "As long as you think of me as a handicapped waif, your pity doesn't allow you to be impolite. On the..one of them echoed back in memory. The girl had asked if Micky believed in life after death, and when..narcissists, which was where old Sinsemilla and the psychologists definitely could shake hands. Mother in..She quieted the cynic in him, and he liked this inner hush, which lie hadn't known for many years..cover behind hulking culinary equipment of unknown purpose, Curtis moves indirectly but steadily into..Putting down the lemonade, Leilani relented: "Oh, all right. I'll bite. When were you shot in the head,..age, about the size of the night visitor who stands over him.."Hi," the redhead called, a shade cautiously..To Fallows, Merrick always seemed to have been designed along the lines of a medieval Gothic cathedral. His long, narrow frame gave the same feeling of austere perpendicularity as aloof columns of gaunt, gray stone, and his sloping shoulders, downturned facial lines, diagonal eyebrows, and receding hairline angling upward in the middle to accentuate his pointed head, formed a 'composition of arches soaring piously toward the heavens and away from the mundane world of mortal affairs. And like a petrified frontage staring down through expressionless windows as it screened the sanctum within, his face seemed to form part of a shell interposed to keep outsiders at a respectful distance from whoever dwelt inside. Sometimes Fallows wondered if there really was anybody inside or if perhaps over the years the shell had assumed an autonomous existence and continued to function while whoever had once been in there had withered and died without anyone's noticing.."So then ... do you think I'm 'not quite right'?" he asks, fiercely gripping the edge of the counter, still half.."We're all having to learn how to do that.."Jean raised her hands in an imploring gesture. "Doesn't what Paul Lechat was saying this morning make a lot of sense to you? Isn't it the only way? Well, he's going to need help to do it. I expected you to get on the line right away and find out if there was something we could do.."Stop this now," Borftein advised grimly. "How much of the Army do you think will follow you?"

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