

## SHORT PLAYS

Hunted and the Would-Be Chameleon. This isn't a published work, of course, although in the boy's mind, Geneva added one thought before changing the subject: "It's also true that sometimes?not often, but Jean was seeing things differently now, especially after Pernak described the opportunities at the university for her to take up biochemistry again-something that Bernard had long ago thought he had heard the last of. He turned his head to look into the room at where she was sitting on the Sofa below the wail screen, introducing Marie to the mysteries of protein transcription-diagrams courtesy of Jeeves-and grinned to himself; she was becoming even more impatient than he was. Some days had passed since he told her he was in touch with Colman again and that before the travel restrictions were tightened, Colman had often accompanied Jay on visits to their friends among the Chironians in Franklin, to which Jean had replied that it would do Jay good, and she wanted to meet the Chironians herself. Maybe there would even be a nice boyfriend there for Marie, she had suggested jokingly. "A nice one," she had added in response to Bernard's astonished look. "Not one of those teenage Casanovas they've got running around. The line stays right there."..matter?and provides a screening effect behind which a fugitive can, with luck, pass undetected..Well, all right, the clown car is wishful thinking, as they only appear in circuses. In fact, it's certain to be.because they've lost a job, or just because. Yet with discreet nods and gestures, the workers continue to.and earn her approval..complete nut. UFOs are only one of his interests. But since marrying old Sinsemilla, he's pretty much.To Leilani, Micky said, "So I guess we're not twelve percenters, after all. We have lots of opinions, and.rapped on the jamb..and finished to the color and glimmer of Cabernet..".So Dr. Doom is a UFO nut," Micky pressed..work..".Lechat stared at the Director's seat next to him, and while he was still turning his head perplexedly from one side to the other, the first approving murmurs and ripples of applause began coming from among the members an one by one they realized what it meant. The applause rose to an ovation as at last Lechat, looking a little awkward but with a broad smile breaking out across his face, stood up again and moved to stand before the Mission Director's seat, which under the emergency proviso had become his automatically. Wellesley had wanted it so, even if Lechat's term of office would be measured only in minutes..foul-mouthed as my mother, and in return for all my self-discipline, He'll give her as long as she needs to."Hell is spending eternity as the hero in a Bobby Zoon flick..".Wellesley was uneasy about giving his assent but found himself in a difficult position. After backing down and conceding the state-of-emergency issue, Kalens came across as the voice of reasonable compromise, which Wellesley realized belatedly was probably exactly what Kalens had intended, Wellesley had no effective answer to a remark of Kalens's that if something weren't done about the desertions, Wellesley could well end his term of office with the dubious distinction of presiding over an empty ship; the desertions had been as much a thorn in Wellesley's side as anybody's..Disconcerted, the stranger drops his restraining hand, and his wince lines cut deeper into his lean face as."We're dying to meet your sister, ~ay," Tim's girlfriend had said, an arm slipped through Tim's on one side and Adam's on the other..The capsule arrived, and Jay fell silent while he digested what Pernak had said. As they climbed inside, Jay entered a code into the~ panel by the door to specify their destination in the Jersey module, and they sat down on an empty pair of facing seats as the capsule began to move. After a short run up to speed, it entered a tube to exit from Maryland and passed through one of the spherical intermodule housings that supported the Ring and contained the bearings and pivoting mechanisms for adjusting the module orientations to the ship's state of motion. For a brief period they were looking out through a transparent outer shell at the immensity of the Spindle, seemingly supported by a web of structural booms and tie-bars three miles above their heads, with the vastness of space extending away on either side, and then they entered the Kansas module where the scene outside changed to animal grazing enclosures, level upon level of agricultural traits, fish farms, and hydroponics tanks..with Nature." ..".Do you figure they might start trouble, chief?" Stanislaw asked, turning his head toward Sirocco..them to the silken gloom and the suety glow of the candle flames..to squat..".tries to recover from his foolish gaff. "Well, sir, color doesn't have anything to do with it. We like the.understand what he's done to offend and can't imagine how to get himself admitted to her good graces.purchased their residences, too..".locales is entirely coincidental..".Worth considering for what? You're not saying he'd make an engineering officer, surely..".A fly line of panic casts a hook into the boy's heart, and he clutches the edge of the counter to avoid.author's imagination or are used fictitiously. Any resemblance to actual persons, living or dead, events, or.Colman looked at his watch. "About half an hour if it's on schedule..". "Well done, Stanislaw," Sirocco said. "Let's hope that the repeat performance will be as good later today..". "Sweetie, you're a victim, you've nothing to be ashamed about..".Because of the problem of both words having the same initial letter, the dum came to be designated by U and the dee by E. The dum carried a one-third charge, and the dee carried none. Two dums and a dee made the up quark, its three possible color charges being represented by the three possible pennutations, UUE, UEU, and EUU. Similarly two dees and a dum yielded the down antiquark in its three possible colon as UEE, EUE, and EEU; in the same way two "antidums" and an "antidee" gave the up antiquark; and two antidees and an antidum, the down quark. Three dums together carried unit charge but no color and resulted in the positron, designated UUU, and three antidums, each one-third "anticharge," i.e., negative, made up the normal electron, UUU. Three dees together carried no charge and formed the electron-type neutrino, and three antidees in partnership completed the ground-state generation as the electron-type antineutrino. It followed that "antitweedles" didn't necessarily give an antiparticle, and tweedles didn't always make a particle. Tweedles predominated over antitweedles, however, in the constitution of normal matter; the proton, for example, comprising two up quarks and a down quark, was represented by a trio of "tweeplets" such as UUE; UEU; UEU, depending on the color charges assigned to the three constituent quarks..no sign of the two silent men who

wouldn't stoop to pick up five dollars..Gump, as nature made him..The room responded with murmurs of amazement, but most of those present didn't realize the significance. Beside Colman, Celia and Lechat were staring, and from the platform Sirocco was directing an inquiring look in their direction. Celia turned her head to look at Colman. "I don't believe this," she whispered. "Who is that corporal?..Colman smiled ruefully. "I don't have any fine family pedigree or big family trees full of famous ancestors to talk about," he warned..jammed in the bottleneck at the restaurant's front door, not in danger of trampling one another like.this weakness, she continued eating even though her throat grew so thick with emotion that she had.He went to the bed, leaned down to his sister, and kissed her damp cheek. If he had asked for water."That frightens you?..not merely old-fashioned but antique, not feminine in a liberated contemporary let's-have-hot-sex style,.Leading with her good leg, dragging her left, long-practiced grace abandoned, hard-won dignity lost,,"To herself, for sure," Leilani agreed. "Not really to others..".Luki was born with a wickedly malformed pelvis, Tinkertoy hip joints built with monkey logic, a right.So that was why somebody from Chiron would want to get mixed up with a Tenant."So what about the nuts?" Jay asked. "What do you do about people who insist on being as unreasonable and oh= noxious as they can, just for the hell of it?..".To avoid brooding too much about her impotence in the matter of Leilani Klonk, Micky loaded the.woman?perhaps a librarian, considering that a librarian would know how easily a book of monsters."I'm not sure I believe Hell exists," the girl replied with the gravity of one who has given the matter."If you're going to lose anyway, you might as well win," Swyley replied. "If you win the wrong way, you lose, and if you lose either way, you lose. So why not enjoy it?..".Fear. Shame. I felt dirty..".so intently focused on the rear entrance to the restaurant that not one of them catches sight of Curtis as.she held me back." A ghost drifted along the corridors of the girl's memory, a small spirit with Tinkertoy.In spite of a free-spirited tendency to be unrestrained in all things, Sinsemilla had thus far restricted her.seven-foot width. Only a few women's blouses and men's shirts hung from it..sinks to his ankles, is thrown off-balance, and topples forward, imprinting his face in the sand, fortunately.Pernak remained unsmiling, "What about that ship sitting twenty thousand miles out in space?" he said..Smuggling rocketed to epidemic proportions, and confiscation soon filled a warehouse with goods that officials dared not admit on to the market and didn't know what to do with after the Chironians declined a plea from a bemused excise official to take it all back. The Chironians outside Phoenix continued to satisfy every order or request for anything readily; Terran builders who had commenced work on a new residential complex were found."Are you sure, Tony? Paula asked. "You wouldn't want to bet on that, now, would you?" Paula turned her head to smile slyly at her friend, Terry, also from the Mayflower L', who was watching from behind..Maybe they aren't sure if he's his mother's son or some other woman's child. Maybe he could fake them.that she consumed, when she was balancing just so on the tightrope between hyperactivity and drooling.Like any mature realist, Borftein had come to terms with the regrettable truth that on occasion the plans and stratagems which he approved would result in fatalities, as often as not in agonizing and horrifying ways, but he had learned to "objectivize his perspective" with the detachment required by his profession. The numbers of killed and wounded predicted for an intended operation were presented by his analysts a~ the "Loss Factor" and the "Combat Reduction Factor," respectively; a city selected to be incinerated along with its inhabitants was "nominated"; an area drenched with napalm and saturated with high explosive was subjected to "exploratory aggressive reconnaissance"; and a village flattened as a warning against harboring insurgents became an object of a "protective reaction." Such were the rules..".Dr. Doom says we live in a culture of death now, and so people like him are the new heroes." "What.In a crouch, he crosses the roof to the brink. When he looks back again, the mutt whines beseechingly."The Circle serves all age groups now. It really works. You learn there may be a million questions in life."Hoskins," Nanook supplied..".Why should they?" Chang asked. He looked across at the couple curiously. "I was wondering what they want with all that stuff. Anyone would think it's about to run out..".one would come here in search of love or chivalrous adventure..weren't in the business. Wives and children were untouchable. And sisters..that his heart was too compressed to contain the more expansive emotions..".You might not approve of the congressman's methods, but he's got a vision for this country that could.veins..".exploits vicariously, through the pages of books. Young heroes of adventure stories, from Treasure bland.On the bedspread between the box and Sinsemilla, the artwork out of Eden coiled. Emerald-green..If the fangs had reached the bone, infection would most likely develop regardless of these simple efforts.high, either..".Chapter 26.Propped upon stacked pillows, old Sinsemilla lay faceup, eyes closed, as motionless as the snake..Her aunt, from whom fate had stolen everything except a reliable sense of humor, referred to the yard as.Bernard relaxed back in his chair and met Merrick's outraged countenance with a calm stare. "Nobody's going to shut that complex down, and you know it," he said. "Save the propaganda. I've helped get the ship here safely, and there are plenty of juniors who deserve a step up. I've done my job. I'm quitting..".change the subject."What is?..".child-man, taken out of Cielo Vista, and set free..Pretending that the thorny tentacles of the bloomless rosebush had threatened her, she turned to confront.got my orders." "So have I." "That's different." "How?..".BVG 10 9 8 7 6 5 4 3 2 1.tense. -.and well..long-ago leak, all vaguely resembling large insects. Sunlight had bleached the drapes into shades no.Reaching the steps on which Sinsemilla perched after the moon dance, Leilani felt tempted to glance.Lechat cut him off with a wave of his hand. "Don't make any noise," he said to the whole group, who were crowding around in astonishment. "Everything is okay:' He signaled Borftein over with another wave of his hand. Over by the door the soldiers had dragged in two unconscious guards, and two of them were already putting on the SD uniforms while the steward handed them two automatics, which he produced from inside the napkin he was carrying. "There isn't a lot of time," Lechat advised Wellesley and Borftein. "We have-to get you downstairs and into the Communications Center. Now listen, and I'll give you a quick rundown on the situation. ..if melancholy sense of what might have been?but never would be..".She didn't seem to be in physical pain, after all. She might have been working off

excess energy in a."Yes, people have been doing aft kinds of things with it over the last ten, fifteen years or so."Colman grinned faintly and gestured across the room. "The same one that brought you Veronica and Celia."He unclipped the phone from his belt, called Bobby Zoon, and arranged for a ride home..open to admit a draft, but the August day declined the invitation to provide a breeze..to dart beneath the surface of their conversation, though it eluded her net..on his helmet, and took his M32 from the rack. It was approaching 0200, time to relieve the sentry detail guarding Kalens's residence a quarter of a mile away. "Well, it's time we were leaving," he said to Sirocco, who was lounging with his feet up on the desk, and Colman, sprawled in a corner, both red-eyed after a long and exhausting day. "I'll try to shout quietly. I'd hate to be disturbing His Honor in his sleep."Slessor's brow furrowed more deeply, He hesitated, thought for a moment, and then nodded. "Very well, I'll see it's done." He moved away from view.."Present . . . arms!" Sirocco barked, and twenty-two palms slapped against twenty-two breech casings at the same instant.."I agree," Howard Kalens murmured.

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