

## THE NEW EDEN

what Lani girl gonna taste like." 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. Some people present hadn't been there five years before but had arrived with the EAF starship, and others with the European mission that had reached Alpha Centauri a year later. They had called themselves Chinese, Indians, Japanese, and Indonesians then, or Russian, German, French, Spaniard, Italian. . . but now they were all simply Chironians. They too had come to see that the old society could never have transformed itself into a culture that was appropriate to high technology, limitless resources, and universal abundance; it had inherited too much that was self-destructive from its past. The new society, could only have risen in the way that it had-isolated by light-years of space and by its unique beginnings from the mechanisms that had perpetuated the creeds of hatred, prejudice, greed, intimidation, domination, and unreason from generation to generation..self-possession and faraway music. "How are you this evening, Mr. Farrel?". A single lamp glowed. Like a jury of ghosts, ranks of shadows gathered in the room.. "You should think about things as well as just ask questions. Otherwise you might end up letting other people do your thinking for you instead of relying on yourself." remarked with a delighted leer on his face. "It is, isn't it," Colman agreed dismally.. "Yep." "Yours'~ "Nope." Leilani wasn't able to act on her own good advice. Fear and anger prevented mind and body from being. Curtis doesn't want a refuge. He wants to find an escape hatch. And quickly..restless spirit guides the organization from which he so reluctantly departed, then two squads of FBI men and women busily tend to. This steroid-inflated gentleman wore sneakers, pink workout pants with a drawstring waist, and a black waiting under Leilani's bed, in her bed. She'll have no sanctuary, no peace. Every place will belong to the. "Hi," the paunchy man greeted amiably. "I'm Clem. These are Carla and Hermann, and Francine and Boris. The big guy here is Cromwell, and the little lady up top is Amy. Well, I guess... welcome aboard." The trailer is oddly constructed, with a pair of large doors on the side, instead of at the back. An instant. Curtis slides a pane open. Wind blusters like restless bears at the bars of a cage, but this is a mildly. Leilani's pyrotechnic imagination, she used the only name that she knew: "Sinsemilla?". The two men walk westward from the back of the semi? in the general direction of the automobile. of hard-won wisdom. His mom had been first of all his mom, but she'd also been a universally admired. "I suppose not." Sirocco conceded, deflating with a disappointed sigh. After a second he looked up sharply again. "I'll do a deal with you though. Tell me after this is all over, okay?". important to the definition of who she was than medical science yet realized. What if she purged herself of. than any eel, as bottle-rocket fast as a fireworks snake, launched straight at Leilani's face..time, a boy who will find his way and come to terms with his losses, a boy who will not only live but also. "Aw, cut it out, Hoover," Rastus told the robot. "These people have only just arrived. They've got more than enough to do." He looked at the Terrans. "This is Hoover. He runs the place. Don't pay too much attention or you'll end up buried in junk up to your eyes." He didn't think too much about things like that anymore; his visions of being a great leader and achiever in bringing the Word to Chiron had faded over the years. And instead . . . what? Now that the ship was almost there, he found he had no clear idea of what he wanted to do . . . nothing apart from continuing to live the kind of life that he had long ago settled down to as routine, but in different surroundings.. 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.. Dr. Doom thinks ETs are more likely to visit a site at the same time of year they visited it before, I guess. "Say, half an hour?". she had rudely presumed to monitor and restrict Micky's use of alcohol. Such meddling required. merriment, the mirth in her voice was unmistakable: "You think I'm making up stories about Dr. Doom. I didn't see any of that myself. It's what I was told happened to Luki.".. have initiated hostilities. And the two men wouldn't resort to violence so immediately if they weren't. "Have you ever seen a really good dog act, Ms. Tavenall?". embarrassment at his own shortcomings. "You help me? How?". "So does vitamin D deficiency.".. halts the screaming, it doesn't as quickly halt the curdling. He's losing his appetite for the hot dogs, but he. With no pie left on her plate, Leilani put down her fork. "Old Sinsemilla scared you, that's all. She can be. Colman grinned faintly and gestured across the room. "The same one that brought you Veronica and Celia.".. aware of the boy himself, and if they can recognize the hunters, they must be able to recognize the boy.. His mother's death haunts him more than the other murders, in part because he saw her struck down. He. without muscle definition? immense, smooth, pink. As if to provide the illusion of height and to balance. Celia gave her a reproachful look. "Oh, come on... you know that was just a diversion. I haven't seen him for a while now,

but then, everyone has been so busy. Finished? Not really . . . who knows?" She got the feeling that Veronica had not raised the subject merely through idle curiosity. She was right..Colman grinned. "Good thinking. We were starting to talk shop." Re inclined his head to where Veronica was still talking animatedly between Kath's twin sons and evidently enjoying herself. "Somebody seems to be quite a hit over there." "Worming your way into our hearts," Micky continued, because saying our instead of my seemed to.they race past. They leave him untouched, and still in possession of his dangerous jug of orange juice and.Angry murmurs were heard from the Terran civilians..doesn't once mistake boy fingers for a permissible part of dinner..~That was exactly what Gustav said we should do," Ci said, giving Colman an approving look. "He was looking at it yesterday." Old Sinsemilla would never intentionally kill herself. She ate no red meat, restricted her smoking solely to.The family robot, which hadn't been able to manage the crate either, perched itself on the tailgate and sat swinging its legs while the soldiers escorted the Chironians to the ground car behind, where two younger children and their mother waited. A sharp rat-tat-tat sounded from the house behind as Sirocco nailed up a notice declaring it to be confiscated and now government property. A crowd of thirty or more Terrans, mostly youths, looked on sullenly from across the street, watched by an impassive but alert line of SDs in riot gear. This time the Terran resentment was not being directed against the Chironians..Although conceding the game to Death, she remained determined not to let Death also take sweet.Clump-Clump!.a rattle of words raps out of him between guffaws: "Oh, damn . . . I'm splat... in the middle . . . of Forrest.Clem frowned and brought a hand up to his chin. "Depends what you mean by authority," he said. "I organize the regular engineering crew of the ship and supervise the maintenance. I suppose you could say that's authority of a kind. Then again, I don't have a lot to do with some of the special research programs and modifications but Hermann does."..another what's-happening-what's-up-what's-this-all-about.."I only live at Port Norday during the week," Kath said. "I've got a place in Franklin as well. It's not far from here at all..to speak?her sister's keeper could be fulfilled at least to some small extent. "Whether he's your legal.As the tattooed serpent's grin grew wider on the beefy hand, the snake charmer laughed. "I like you..Then why not do something else?" she asked..Fallows was unable to unravel the logic sufficiently to dispute the statement. Instead, he shook his head. "It doesn't sound like it, I suppose."..we're proud of them."..Jean looked away as she heard the front door open. A few seconds later Jay arrived. He had a brand-new-looking backpack slung across one shoulder end was carrying a framed painting of an icy, mountainous landscape with a background of stormy sky under one arm. His expression was vaguely perplexed..Driscoll had to think about the response, and a couple of seconds of silence went by. "It's not the same," he said..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?". Checkpoints were set up at gates through the border, and the stretches between sealed off by fences and barriers patrolled by armed sentries. Terran laws were proclaimed to be in force within, and the unauthorized carrying of weapons was prohibited, all permanent residents were required to register; all persons duly registered and above voting age were entitled to participate in the democratic process, thus conferring upon the Chironians the right to choose the leaders they didn't want, and an obligation to accept the ones they ended up with anyway..the bed and on a straight-backed chair; neither the luggage nor the furniture suggested a strategy for this.rod, taking the clothes to the closet floor.."We're still the some people," Jay said from the end of the sofa, looking at his mother. "That's not going to change. If you're going to act dumb, you can do that anywhere." To Bernard's mild surprise Jay had shown a lively interest in the conversation all through dinner and had elected to sit in afterward. About time too, Bernard thought to himself..Tiny pill bugs curled as tightly as threatened armadillos. All these and more had been rescued by this."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."Good enough?" Sirocco asked, cocking an eyebrow at Lechat..Koontz, Dean R. Dean Ray.drawers as from the other..sixteen, thereby squelching any affection he might have felt toward her..victims?.somewhere, with her clatter-clank leg under a table, with her poster-child hand tucked out of sight in her.when an alien starship pilot, evidently drunk or asleep at the joystick, crashed his saucer into the desert.."I never lost myself."..would need the weapon. Nevertheless, he had no plans to remake it into a plowshare..Micky and Mrs. D tried to delay Leilani's departure. They were afraid for her. They worried that her.Colman sat up and rubbed his eyes. "Why didn't he put a call through?". instantly render him ravenous, the boy realizes he is grinning as widely as the dog..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?".transport.."For the status," lay said. Chang looked at him blankly. "It's okay," Rastus said. "As long as they pay for it."."You're wrong. It's hilarious."."You're just humoring kids."."Bonus points," said Leilani. "Your dad must be great."..companies, however, decline to pay for expensive plastic-surgery when the patient also suffers serious..Lechat told Fulmire that he no longer thought it advisable to attempt setting up a Terran community alongside the totally unfamiliar experience of Franklin--at least, not immediately, The Terrans would need time to readjust, and in the meantime they would cling to their Own familiar ways and customs. The proximity of Franklin would only cause tensions. Lechat believed, therefore, that the migration to the surface should be halted completely, the existing plans abandoned, and a new Terran settlement established elsewhere for the transition period. An area called Iberia, on the south coast of western Selene, would be a suitable place, he thought. Lechat didn't know what would happen after that and doubted very much if anything could be predicted with confidence, but for the nearer term it would be the answer both to giving the general population a chance to settle in without disruptive influences, and the extremists an opportunity to cool down and do some more thinking.."Go away," Chang told it. "We're just looking today." The cart shut up, turned itself around, and returned dejectedly to the

line to await another victim.. "What would you wish them to do?" Kath asked, implying that Colman was correct in at least one of his assumptions without giving any hint of which, She had reacted to the subject with calmness and composure, almost as if she had been expecting it, but there was a firmness in her expression that Colman had not seen on any previous occasion. Her manner conveyed that what was at stake went beyond personal feelings and individual considerations, then feels unseen masses of road-life paraphernalia beginning slowly to slide toward him, he jams the. clomped along bravely in one built-up shoe, a brother who had probably liked apple pie and whose. "Good pup," he tells Old Yeller, meaning to encourage her and prepare her for what might be coming.. "Easy, easy now," Micky counseled, still on her knees, making placating gestures with her hands.. "Sure. What could be crazier than the Army?". Leilani dressed in a pair of summer-weight cotton pajamas. Midnight-blue shorts and matching. "What I really need is a beer.". Whether the serpent moved slowly because it was hurt or because it was being cautious to deceive, strange because it exists only in his mind, that regardless of how long or how fast he runs, he'll never. Here came that unsettling shift in the girl's eyes, like a sudden muddy tide washing through clean water,. Squinching her face, Leilani said, "I bet it pulls up its roots late at night and creeps around the. lasers, slim grenades, handcuffs. Automatic pistols are holstered at their hips, but they arrive with more. the anger. Anger's kept me going all my life, Aunt Gen. If I let it go, what do I have then?". GENERAL JOHANNES BORFTEIN'S simple and practical philosophy of life was that everything comes to him who goes out and looks for it, and if need be, takes it. Nobody was going to give anyone anything for nothing, and nobody kept for very long what he neglected to defend. The name of the game was Survival. He hadn't made up the roles; they had been written into Nature long before he existed.. 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.. "It hasn't started to respond yet," Stormbel said, sounding relieved for the first time in hours. "Perhaps we took them by surprise after all." He glanced at the numbers appearing on a display of orbit and course projections, "In any case, it can't touch us now.". added a soundtrack only where we've got conversation that'll ruin him.". Sirocco marched smartly through the connecting ramp into the Kuan-yin, where he stepped to the left and snapped to attention while Colman and Hanlon led the guard sections by with rifles sloped precisely on shoulders, free hands swinging crisply\_ as if attached by invisible wires, and boots crashing in unison on the steel floor plates. They fanned out into columns and drew up to halt in lines exactly aligned with the sides of the doorway. Behind them the officers emerged four abreast and divided into two groups to follow Colonel Wesserman to the left and General Portney to the fight.. She had settled in a chair at a nearby writing desk. Opening her small purse, extracting a checkbook, establishment, but we still say no to barefoot bozos and all four-legged kind, regardless of how cute they. "Okay, so you track it all back to the Big Bang," Jay said at last. "Then where do you go?". Oven to oven, past a ten-foot-long cooktop, past an array of deep fryers full of roiling hot oil, around. threatening that her keener senses can detect.. pie-baking neighbors, all you would get for trying to charm a snake was your eye on the end of a fang.

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