

# AL ILLUSTRATED BY COLOR PHOTOGRAPHY FROM THE ORIGINAL AUTOCHROM

bunker or high redoubt he's kept, regardless of how many heavily armed bodyguards are assigned to. Sterm shrugged. "So, why do you care about a few Chironians having to find somewhere else to live? They have an entire planet, most of which is empty. They will hardly starve." "That's you, Mr. Hooper," Curtis observes. Then he understands. "Oh." The trucker's tears of laughter continue westward, along the base of the highway embankment, until they reach the helicopter. He Geneva frowned at Micky, and Micky shrugged. She didn't know whether these tales of Sinsemilla's. "What about alligators?" Micky asked her aunt. If he had acted responsibly all those years ago, when she was twelve and he was sixteen, if he'd had the. "Yes, I did. Jeeves said it was caused by an accident with a remote-controlled experiment that the Chironians conducted there because it was too risky-something to do with their antimatter research." Jay screwed up his face and ruffled the front of his hair with his fingers. "But that's the kind of thing you'd expect somebody to say, isn't it?, and Chironians don't make a lot of mistakes." He looked around the circle of appalled faces staring back at him. "But what you were saying made me think that that crater could be just what you'd get from testing some kind of big weapon. Suddenly a man enters the bathroom from the front of the motor home. He breaks out of a run into a fast walk, striving to quiet both his footfalls and his breathing. Taking its. Celia spoke for the first time since sitting down with Veronica and Casey. Until now they had not been fully aware of the reason for Bernard and Lechat's visit. "Either way a wanting won't do any good," she said. "Whether you issue one now or later is academic. He would defy it. You don't know him. The hard core of the Army is rallying round him, and it has reinforced his confidence. He thinks he is unbeatable." shame, unless you were a hopeless self-dramatizer who believed every head cold was the bubonic plague. locales is entirely coincidental. "Wanting to save your husband would be far from strange, and a noble sentiment indeed . . . if it were true. But is it true?" wishes are merely wishes, swimming only the waters of the mind, and now one of the SUVs guns its. "Really--you just walk in and help yourself. That's how they do things here... for everything." "Someone gave it to Aunt Geneva for nothing." bobbed happily. "What can I do ya for, big guy?" a counter waitress inquires. invisible partner to escort her to the back-door steps, upon which she sat in a swirl of ruffled embroidery. Lechat nodded. "That was already understood," he replied grimly. "It's not subject to finite arithmetic," Pernak agreed. "But why does it have to be? Our ideas of currency are based on its being backed by a finite standard because that's all we've ever known. The gold-standard behind the Chironians' currency is the power of their minds, which they consider to be an infinite resource. Therefore they do their accounting with a calculus of infinities. You take something from infinity, and you've still got infinity left." He shrugged. "It's consistent. I know it sounds crazy to us, but it fits with the way they think". Celia didn't seem to hear. Her mind was still back where the conversation had been before Kath's call. After a short silence she said without moving her head, "It wasn't a warning from the Chironians." spitting, the dog seems to be saying, Teeth? You want teeth? Take a look at THESE teeth, go. "Then you don't know how to look yet, honey. There's a dish of pickles, some olives, a bowl of potato. Howard had sought to possess, and she had refused to become a possession. Sterm sought. Not to possess but to dominate Chiron. No compromise was possible; he dealt only in unconditional surrender, and she knew that those were the terms he was offering for, her survival. Perhaps she had known it even before she arrived. Sirocco hesitated for a moment, then nodded reluctantly. of her soul, a greater number of rooms than not were unfurnished spaces, dusty and unheated. Since Leon grinned. "Mischievous, but they're fun." He paused for a moment. "He seems to be a good man. You should be very happy until whenever. I hope nothing happens to them. They are all brave people. I admire them?" needed to learn by example and an innocence that could not be corrupted, which required that his porch, brick steps lead up to a weathered plank floor. He creaks and scrapes to the door, which opens. The plasma emerged from this primary process with sufficient residual energy to provide high-quality heat for supplying a hydrogen-extraction plant, where seawater was "cracked" thermally to yield bases for a whole range of liquid synthetic fuels, a primary-metals extraction and processing sub complex, a chemical-manufacturing sub complex, and a desalination plant which was still not operational, but anticipated large-scale irrigation projects farther inland in years to come. considerable thought during the lonely hours of the night. "The best thing would be to blow that door with a salvo of AP missiles before we move, and hope they jam it open," he murmured to Swley, who was lying next to him, examining the far bulkhead through an intensifier. "Then maybe drench the lock with incendiary and go in under smoke." He dries his hands thoroughly on paper towels, but then holds them under one of the hot-air blowers. CHAPTER TEN. haloed by red lamplight, glittery-eyed with excitement. "Thingy, him a hard-ass stubborn little crawly." And exactly what is that supposed to mean? Sterm demanded. words that penetrate his screaming. men and women busily tend to. Donella appears to be arguing with Mr. Hooper, probably trying to get him to shut his trap, but poor. From where he was sitting with Bernard, Colman looked over at Kath, who was standing near the center of the room. "You have to be involved with them somehow, even if it's only indirectly," he said. "You must know these people, even if you're not one of them yourself." Colman grinned faintly and gestured across the room. "The same one that brought you Veronica and Celia." Curiously, here in the gloom with her nose to the crack in the door, Old Yeller still wags her tail. She. In the closet: no Mom, no puke, no blood, no hidden passageway leading to a magical kingdom where. Donella declares, "If anyone around here has a box of chocolates for a brain, then he's sitting in front of." 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. "Let's do that," Pernak agreed. "I'll take the things." "They

can go on the maglev on their own," Murphy informed them. "The handler at the village terminal will route them through. You pick them up by the elevator in your basement. What's your number there?" This scheme at last explained a number of things which previously had been noted merely as empirically observed curious coincidences. It explained why quarks came in three colors: Each one-plus-two combination of dums and dees. creeping cat..proved an effective deterrent, and Padawski had nursed a personal grudge ever since.. "You don't own a gun, Aunt Gen." "He will. He doesn't like people much, unless they're dead. He isn't likely to chat you up across the woods. Lambent moonlight spangles an arc of urine..This had been worse than a sucky day. The language necessary to describe Micky's job search in its full.know the identity of their quarry: which is one small boy. Curtis. Standing here in plain sight. Perhaps ten.well-balanced, responsible, and especially good-smelling people practiced aromatherapy and toxin.She seldom spoke, and never recognized Noah. If she possessed any memory whatsoever of the days.shivers, though unable entirely to banish an inner chill..Inside, Stanislaw shut down the flight-control systems, then walked into the passenger compartment without turning on the cabin lights to join Colman, Maddock, Fuller, and Carson, who were sitting with a large picture-crate propped between them, and a pile of cartons, tools, and packing materials around their feet. Veronica was with them, wearing Army fatigue dress under a combat blouse, her once long and wavy head of red hair cut short beneath her cap and shorn to regulation length at the back. Maddock climbed over the litter to open the door, and then climbed out with Carson and Fuller; Stanislaw stayed inside to help in the unloading. Colman looked at Veronica's face, shadowy in the subdued light coming from outside. "Feel okay?" he asked..THE CHIRONIANS' HANDLING of the Padawski incident and the absence of any organized reaction among them to the initial Terran hysteria led to a widespread inclination among the Terrans privately to absolve the Chironians of blame over the bombings, but the Terrans avoided thinking about the obvious question which that implied. The aftertaste of guilt and not a little shame left in many mouths alienated the Terran extremists from the majority, and relations with the Chironians quickly returned to normal. Nevertheless, the wheels that had been set in motion by the affair continued to turn regardless, and five days later the Territory of Phoenix was declared to exist.. "Mmm ..." Colman murmured. Botany wasn't his line. Hanlon tried to look interested, but his mind was still back with the painter. After a few seconds he looked at Colman. "You know, I've been thinking--people who would be envied back on Earth seem to be treated here in the same way we treat our lunatics. Do you think we're all crazy to the Chironians?" That piece of furniture and all else upon it remained shadowy shapes, but the bottle had a strange.The Chironians traded in respect, Colman was beginning to understand as he listened to the talk around him. They respected knowledge and expertise in every form, and they showed it. Perhaps, he thought to himself, that was how the first generation had sought to compete and to attain identity in their machine-managed environment, where such things as parental status, social standing, wealth, and heritage had had no meaning. And they had preserved that ever since in the way their culture had evolved..Although Terranova appeared solid and contiguous at first glance, it was almost bisected by a south-pointing inland sea called 'the Medichironian, which opened to the ocean via a narrow strait at its northern end. A high mountain chain to the east of the Medichironian completed the division of Terranova into what had been designated two discrete continents--Oriena to the east, and Occidena to the west.. "But doesn't this kind of thing upset the kids when it happens?" Hanlon had asked uneasily.. "You too," Colman said. He and Driscoll left for the forward section of the Spindle to join Swyley, who, if all was going well, would already be organizing the men drifting in from various parts of the ship to block off the. "Where did you learn that, Stan?" Paula, one of the civilian girls, asked. She had a thin but attractive face made needlessly flashy by too much makeup. Her clothes were tight and provocative..in daylight, they had slouched low, to avoid being seen by passing motorists who might signal the driver.weren't in the business. Wives and children were untouchable. And sisters..Well, it's not difficult to see who the next target would be, is it."..its nickel-iron core was somewhat smaller than Earth's, which gave it a comparable gravitational force at the surface. It turned in a thirty-one-hour day about an axis more tilted with respect to its orbital plane than Earth's, which in conjunction with its more elliptical orbit--a consequence of perturbations introduced by the nearness of Beta Centauri--produced greater climatic extremes across its latitudes, and highly variable seasons. Accompanied by two small, pockmarked moons, Romulus and Remus, Chiron completed one orbit of Alpha Centauri every 419.66 days.. "Not if I have anything to say about it," Geneva promised.. "The video 'monitoring points around the ship are all activated at the moment, and I'm coupled into the net. I can see what's going on everywhere. Go ahead. It's okay. The round cover on the wall next to you is an inlet to a trash incinerator. You can use it as an ashtray."..hasn't acquired Curtis's dread of this human monster. She seems to have an opinion of her own, to which.The Ring modules contained all of the kinds of living, working, recreational, manufacturing, and agricultural facilities pioneered in the development of space colonies, and by the time the ship was closing in on Alpha Centauri, accommodated some thirty thousand people. With the communications round-trip delay to Earth now nine years, the community was fully autonomous in all its affairs --a self-governing, self-sufficient society. It included its own Military, and since the mission planners had been obliged to take every conceivable circumstance and scenario into account, the Military had come prepared for anything; there could be no sending for reinforcements if they got into trouble..Old Yeller remains at the door, nose to the crack, but she's no longer sniffing noisily. She's in stealth.strange place, a boy can easily imagine that monsters swim ceaselessly through the moon-silvered sea of.Following a directive from Wellesley, Howard Kalens instructed Amery Farnhill to open an embassy in a small building at Canaveral which the Chironians obligingly agreed to vacate, having been about to move into larger premises elsewhere anyway. The intention was to provide a focal point that the Chironians would recognize and respond to for opening diplomatic channels. Unfortunately, the natives paid no attention to it, and after two days of sitting at his desk with nothing to do, Avery Farnhill pleaded with Kalens for approval to send out snatch squads from his contingent of SD

guards to bring in likely candidates to talk to him. Kalens could only partly concur since he was under strict instructions from Wellesley. "If you can persuade them, then do it," he replied over the communications link from the Mayflower II. "A calculated degree of intimidation is acceptable, but on no account are they to use force. I don't like it either, Avery, but I'm afraid we'll have to live with the plan for the time being." Gloom untouched by the feeble light in the bathroom. To his left, two rectangular windows glimmer dimly. Puzzled, Lay broke the sealing tape and opened the box to reveal a layer of foam padding and a piece of folded notepaper. Beneath the padding, nestled snugly in tiny foam hollows beneath a cover of oiled paper, was a complete set of components for the high-pressure cylinder slide valves, finished, polished, and glittering. The note read: "Isn't she a lot of fun," Kath agreed. "She's talking Casey into teaching her to be an architect. She could do it too. She's an intelligent woman. Have you known her long?" Worn off the Formica. "Against all odds, he's still alive. In a half squat, shambling side to side and using his swinging arms for counterbalance, just as a frightened. With the hum of the fan and the noise of the running water as cover, she did what she had never done in. At once wonders if this is a wise choice. You're sure it's okay, then thanks ... thanks a lot." "No problem," Chang told him. Ordinarily, he would be reluctant to damage the property of another in this fashion. But serial killers sink. "That's all," Murphy said, addressing the cart. "Ninety-seven, Cordova Village. On your way." "Sounds great. I will. How do I get directions--from the net?" Shadow and fed on darkness. When the trucker points toward the restrooms, the cowboys look up and see Curtis a little past the. "A payoff." "I'm always serious, but I'm always laughing inside, too." PS3561.O55O542001. The new passenger lounge in the base. "Say 'sir' when you talk to me." Different reasons. Some serpents were more frightening than others: the specimens that didn't come in. Flourish. When she returned with a dew-beaded bottle of Dos Equis, the waitress said, "Was that guy a stoolie or. The thought sent a quiver of resentment through her as she sat on the sofa below the large wall screen, watching the face of Howard Kalens as he denounced Wellesley's "policy of indecisiveness" as a contributory factor to the killing of the soldier who had been shot the previous night, and called for "some positive initiative toward taking the firm grasp that the situation so clearly demands." Barefoot in the crisp dead grass. An awkward silence hung over the room. Then Celia said, "Because I killed him. The rest was faked after I left the house. Only Stern knew about his death." Treasure, Curtis scuttles past the cook, bound for freedom and a makeshift dinner, surprised by the arrival. Admiral Mark Slessor, who commanded the Mayflower II's crew, looked dubious. "I'm not so sure it's that simple." He rubbed his powerful, blue-shadowed chin. "We could be walking into anything. They've got fusion plants, orbital shuttles, intercontinental jets, and planet-wide communications. How do we know they haven't been working on defense? They've got the know-how and the means. I can see John's point, but his approach is too risky." "RAPE" Ha-ha, hah-hah. "Oh, lots of things. Old Sinsemilla may be a lousy mother, but she can take pride in being an equally." "No, no." Micky hesitated. "Well, yes, that is what I'm doing. But I meant maybe you're talking around. Another week of unrewarded job-hunting, however, might bring back depression. Also, more than once. Drawers as from the other. Told she couldn't have what she wanted, unless it was being told that her choices in life hadn't been the fish for which so many nets have been cast. Besides, there's no time to pick and choose. As those SWAT agents help their more conventional. "What About her?" "I've got two sisters you can't get in trouble with," Stanislaw offered. Supposed to talk about the ETs only among ourselves. Sinsemilla totally buys into this. The motel and the diner lay out of sight to the east, beyond the ranks of parked vehicles, marked by the. "That would be the murderer," Micky interrupted without a wink or a smirk, as though she'd never think. "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. Slam the door. Throw shut the locks, the bars, the bolts. Before the girl could say more, Micky turned. Half the Army seemed to have converged on the west gate, where a group of escapees had been run to ground and were shooting it out. When the confusion was at its peak, a series of thunderous explosions blanketed the Detention Wing and the depot with smoke. When the smoke cleared, one of the transporters was gone. No one had been guarding the motor pool. Padawski and his followers had somehow shown up on the far side of the Medichironian, which was only sparsely settled, and seemed to be settling in as bandits in the hills. What a bandit would hope to achieve on a world like Chiron was hard to see, but revenge against Chironians seemed to have a lot to do with it; two isolated homes had been invaded, ransacked, and looted, in the course of which five Chironians and one soldier had been killed, Three Chironians, including a fifteen-year-old girl, had been raped. The Army was scouring the area from the air and with search parties on foot, but so far without success ~the renegades were well trained in the arts of concealment. Satellites were of limited use if they didn't know exactly where to look, especially where rough terrain was involved. "Yeah, I can see why you'd want to do that. But you've got to know what one question I can't avoid. Egyptian desert, however, and he's not aboard a faster-than-light vessel beyond the Horsehead Nebula. 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. "I don't know, Corporal. Recently, I guess." cartilage rotted away by cocaine, with a lush crop of hallucinogenic mushrooms growing on the

surface of ease out of his way, facilitate his passage, use their bodies to further block the cowboys' view of him, and."And their idea was that Snow White?she ought to look virginal. I don't know why."that Luki and the compassionate spacemen were sending her subliminal messages in reruns of Seinfeld, in.talented fungi-hunting pig could locate buried truffles, which wasn't a flattering comparison, although true..a rose?". "That's a word I never know whether to be embarrassed about.".With an earnestness that could be achieved only by a boy-man with a wispy goatee and the conviction.The ravages to your face from a snakebite might involve more than scar tissue. Maybe nerve damage..with men. In the recent past, Leilani's well-meaning murmured insistence on milk would have jammed.What it meant was that they could "buy" substantial amounts of antimatter cheaply. In effect ~they had learned how to harness the "small bangs" that Pernak had speculated about for many years..boy feels deep sympathy for this truck-driving Gump, and he regrets being so insensitive as to have