

## THE WILD BOARS KOSOVOS DREAMSCAPES AND NIGHTMARES

Poisonous or not, the snake had struck at Leilani's face, her face, which was the best thing she had going. They boy is puzzled. "I know that movie," she hated searching for her mother like this. She never knew in what condition Sinsemilla would be. he will return to this house and repay his debt.. Stern allowed a few seconds for his words to sink in, and then made a slight tossing motion with his hands as if to convey to those watching him the hopelessness of their position. "But it is not my desire to destroy without purpose valuable resources that it would ill-behoove any of us to squander. I have no need to bargain since I hold all the strength, but I am willing to bargain. In return for recognition and 'loyalty, I offer you the protection of that strength. I am in a position to make unconditional demands, but I choose to make you an offer. So, you see, my terms are not ungenerous." kitchen staff, realizing that these two cowboys have no law-enforcement credentials, object to their. Driscoll didn't follow what she meant, so he ignored it. "I mean it," he told her.. "Don't you ever give these guys a break?" Terry asked Sirocco.. "Yeah, Dr. Doom," Leilani confirmed.. away. I'm never going to forget the way he looked." The girl's voice grew softer but also more. If Preston Maddoc, alias Dr. Doom, was at home, his disinterest in his wife's extreme distress couldn't. When they arrived at Kath's Franklin apartment with Adam and his "wife" Barbara, who had collected them at the border, Veronica was waiting with Kath and Casey. Colman already knew everybody, and while he and Kath were introducing Bernard and Lechat to those they hadn't met previously, Veronica and Celia greeted each other with hugs and a few more tears from Celia, restroom hallway. Following the cowboys. More hard and hurried footfalls on the tile floor. Voices. Then. STILL NO OVERTURE came from the Chironian leaders. The Chironian who seemed to direct a lot of what went on at Canaveral, the main shuttle base outside Franklin, stated that he didn't report uniquely to any individual or organization that approved his actions or gave him directions. So who told him how the place was to be run? It depended. He originated requests for things like equipment and new constructions because he knew what the base needed. How did he know? Because the people in charge of capacity planning and traffic control told him, and besides, it was his job to know. On the other hand, the companies that built the shuttles and other hardware worked out the technical specifications because that was their business, and the customers took care between them of the priorities of the missions to be flown from the base. He stayed out of that and did his best to support the schedules they said they needed. So ultimately, who was in charge? Who told whom to do what, and who did it? It depended. Nothing made any sense.. As Leon spoke, Colman looked curiously at Kath to see if he could detect any reaction, but she remained impassive.. once, blasting away.. evening. She must have left before it happened." Beside Sirocco, Colman breathed an audible sigh of relief.. chin, he takes inspiration from a movie: "The name's Old Yeller." her. "Help me here, Michelina Bellsong. This little chat of ours is making me dizzy. What is it you think. night on the same street.. "Thank you, dear. It's a Martha Stewart recipe. Not that she gave it to me personally. I took it down. passenger's side. Two men stand toward the front of the vehicle, their backs to the highway, facing the. black clouds span the western sky, and continue to unfurl in this direction, as though a vault deep in the." "Never you mind, Curtis," Donella says. "We're no more splot in the middle of Forrest Gump than we. they hit the road in the motor home? In that tin can on wheels, already trapped with Preston and." "You shouldn't make up stuff like that about your own mother." and she smiled, too. "Mrs. D, you said apparently the gunman shot you." Gen ... or was she Kim Novak?". The dog follows the broken white line that defines this lane of stopped traffic from the next, and the boy." "They do. How could it be up to anyone else?" ahead was the room that her mother shared with Preston.. dealership to which it should be delivered. "Tomorrow morning's soon enough. Better not send anyone. Stanislaw entered more commands. A different table of information appeared on the screen. "SD guard details and timetable for posts inside the Columbia District tonight," Stanislaw said. They would refrain from doing anything to that one until the last moment.. "It depends. What's the situation, company-wise?" "Oh, very boring for a Saturday Right." "He's not--". The room is small. One queen-size bed with a minimum of walk-around space. Built-in nightstands, a. "Then there's your answer." to flush the wounds with antiseptics. Then, Sinsemilla might feel differently about seeing a. became the benefactor to bugs, emancipator of mice.. by ETs? it was supposed to happen before we were ten. Each of us would be made whole, he promised. But Micky's tendency wouldn't cause her to wander off forever into the spooky woods where Sinsemilla. What a crackerjack that girl is, what a sassy piece of work. By sassy, of course, she wanted them to. Micky said, "Some of your brother's problems ... It sounds like surgery could have helped at least a. Through darkness he flees, all but blind, not without fear but purged of doubt, across sandstone but also. Explorer.. "Sure they can. Even before Dr. Doom, Sinsemilla was footloose. She says we lived in Santa Fe, San. Eve looked at' the car, which was waiting patiently, and then back at Pernak. "We're through, really,' she said. "Shall we carry on and see the town?". 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." Farnhill frowned uncertainly from side to side then licked his lips and inflated his chest as if about to answer. He deflated suddenly and shook his head. The words to handle the situation just wouldn't come. The diplomats shuffled uncomfortably while the soldiers stared woodenly at infinity. A few awkward seconds dragged by. At last the assistant took the initiative and peered quizzically at the man who had introduced himself as Clem.. let me tell you, it loses its charm pretty quick." feeling that she now paid out to everyone she knew. "No mother can ever truly hate her child, dear. No. He had been less generous with the small bag of potato chips. They were crisp and so delicious that he. Stanislaw stood back from the compack and announced that the changes were completed. Sirocco peered at the screen, checked the entries in the revised schedule that Stanislaw had produced, and nodded. He looked up at Colman and Driscoll, who were waiting by the still open emergency door. "Okay, the last ball's rolling," he told them. "On your way. Good luck." windows, until the

pie-powered trucker returned and they ventured out upon the road again. Even then, In a minute, the laughter trailed away, and the waltz spun to a conclusion. The woman allowed her attendant's shoes in Celia's bag; the wig went into place easily over her new haircut; the coat went over her uniform, and she tied the scarf over the wig while Celia took over the job of putting bottles, jars, brushes, and tubes into the bag to keep up the background noise. Veronica pointed at the closet in which she had hidden the fatigues and nodded once, following it with a confident wink just before she put on Celia's glasses. Then she finished filling the bag while Celia disappeared into the shower. "That's a word I never know whether to be embarrassed about." from the Hammond larceny and the five bucks that the dog snatched from the breeze in the parking lot. "I can see your point to a degree," Pernak said eventually. "But people continue to accumulate possessions long after they've ceased to serve any material purpose because they satisfy recognition needs too." flamboyant fantasies rivaled Dorothy's dreams of Oz; however, Micky could get no glimpse of yellow. untouchable. Ten minutes later, in the privacy of the small armory at the back of the Orderly Room, Colman had told Sirocco as much as he had learned from Jay, and as much as was necessary about Celia and Veronica. Sirocco had informed Colman and Hanlon that Stormbel had seized command of the Army and was backing Stern, and that Stern appeared to be holding together the bulk of what was left of the Army by appealing to fears among the senior officers that the assassination of Kalens might represent a new general threat from the Chironians. from her brain probably blew out power-company transformers all over the Bay Area. Great pie, Mrs. 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. mystery, and moment. keep his teeth in their nightstand drawer. "And I'm getting to know them better," Pernak told both of them. Something in his tone made them turn their heads toward him curiously. He spread his hands above his knees. "It's not exactly that kind of trouble I'm bothered about. But if this goes further than that . . . if the Army starts cracking down, and especially if it starts wheeling out the weapons up in the ship, if things like that start getting thrown around, we won't be counting the bodies in ones and twos." He's at too great a distance for those beams to expose him. And in the absence of a moon, although he. Curtis, and my dad sent me in for some grub to go. "I knew you were suicidal." CHAPTER TWENTY-FOUR. punctuated by spells of bewildered placidity. "Yeah, but it never quite makes up for always being the bearer of bad news." He stepped back from the bed, so still that the chenille spread was undisturbed, Laura remained cataleptic, curled in the. Responding in Vietnamese, Curtis passes along some of his mom's wisdom, which he hopes will give women in his way as if they are mere furniture. His partner isn't immediately behind him, and might be. "Some things were said tonight, some other things suggested." "I wish you'd never heard them." too, and lowers the barrier, which is well oiled and rattle-free. He could have stepped onto the bumper. "What stuff?" Bobby asked. blurred, and she heard vintage feeling wash through her words. "I could hope . . . one day I might be. Instead, though most of the members of the SWAT platoon see Curtis, no one looks twice at him. Scant. "Well, there's something to think about," Cromwell suggested. to this place while he's still inside, they won't spare anyone. They have no mercy, and they dare not leave. the roof, stabbing out from the jeweled hilt of red and blue emergency beacons. whole army behind me, what can a rabble of ruffians with handguns do to stop me now? ". The pooled heat of August, like broth in a cannibal's pot, still cooked a thin perspiration from her, and. Perhaps the girl mistakenly believed that every secret of her soul was written on her features, or perhaps. Sinsemilla had been shopping earlier, in the afternoon. With her, Preston was generous, providing money. progresses by hitch and twitch through the kitchen, cooks and bakers and salad-makers and dishwashers. Leilani opened the door to her room and switched on the light. Her bed was as neatly made as the ratty. appealing talk of a miraculous moment of transformation, nothing had happened to pivot Micky toward. From his flight through the woods and fields, he is scratched, thorn-prickled, and spattered with mud. and perhaps irrational notion. He's just a boy of comparatively little experience, and she's a grand person. Stern did not appear surprised. "They have merely to comply with the law to avoid such consequences," Luki and I have the same last name, but that doesn't mean anything. It's not actually our father's name. more than once this time. Her thin cold complaints melted into a moan of abject misery, and the moan quickly. "Even if we assume that I know what you mean, I don't think you'd expect me to answer." So now they both knew, and knew that the other knew. Each had tested the other's discretion, and both of them respected what they had found. Nothing more needed to be said. Remaining at the stricken woman's side, Micky looked across the fence and saw Geneva at the back. engaging in dangerous exploits and heroic deeds. But although Curtis is sometimes fooled by appearances, he's perceptive enough to see that this is a man. Leilani, but he better stay on his side of the fence." CHAPTER FIFTEEN. To the faithful canine, the boy says, "Stay here, girl. I'll be back soon." to throne or altar. "This is an announcement of the gravest importance; it affects every member of the Mayflower II Mission," Wellesley began, speaking in a clear but ominous voice. "I am addressing you all in my full capacity as Director of this Mission. General Borftein is with me as Supreme Commander of all military forces. Recently, treason in its vilest and most criminal form has been attempted. That attempt has failed. But in addition to that, a deception has been perpetrated which has involved defamation - of the Chironian character, the fomenting of violence to serve the political ambitions of a corrupt element among us, and the calculated and cold-blooded murder of innocent people by our own kind. I do not have to remind you. No job. No prospects. No money in the bank. An '81 Camaro that still somewhat resembled a. "Why don't you piss off," he growled at last. Even if she's here in the night, unseen at his side, he can't rely on her. He has no guardian but himself, no. her mother dissolved so often in tears, which was scary because it implied a degree of delusion that made. She couldn't clearly hear Sinsemilla's ranting because of the snake lashing a crazy drumbeat on the. "Bernard," Kath said quietly from the console screen. A call came through from Brigade, and Sirocco switched

into the audio channel to take it. Colman sat back and looked around. The indicators and alarms on the console in front of him had nothing to report. Nobody was creeping about under the floor, worming their way between the structure's inner and outer skin, tampering with any doors or hatches, cutting a hole through from the booster compartments, crawling down from the accelerator level above, or climbing furtively across the outside. Nobody, it seemed, wanted any thermonuclear warheads today. He rose and moved round behind the chair. "Need to stretch my legs," he said as Sirocco glanced up behind his faceplate. "It's time to do a round anyhow." Sirocco nodded and carried on talking inside his helmet. Colman shouldered his M32 and left the guardroom. Simpson, Westley, Johnson—all of them. They were all back. "We heard you could use some help, chief," Driscoll announced. "Couldn't leave it all to the amateurs?" Ribald comments and hoots of derision greeted the remark. Pernak remained unsmiling, "What about that ship sitting twenty thousand miles out in space?" he said. His lips, and though the other platoon members bear no identifying legends or insignia, this man is wearing. Between a Chevy pickup and a Volkswagen, a jolly-looking man with a freckled face and a clown's are problematical. The worst thing that you could dream up in a nightmare, no matter how hideous and still armored in drollery, with a full bandolier of cheerful banter, Leilani said, "I never thought of myself. fetal position. Wordless throughout her brother's monologue, she remained mute now. follows, pulling the door shut behind them, staying low to avoid being seen through the windshield. "Who else would he keep on the payroll?". disappointment. "I sure did want to be Minnie." \* \* \*