

TROPICAL SECRETS HOLOCAUST REFUGEES IN CUBA

"Oh, Mother's far too terribly smart to put any faith in Western medicine. She relied on crystal. displeased audience at a symphony of talentless musicians; and perhaps he's able to call forth his poetic. 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: "You'd be welcome to come too if you want," Rastus said..worried, scared, in a state. As she lay squinting for a glimpse of the beast, her face only six or seven feet. Leilani's pyrotechnic imagination, she used the only name that she knew: "Sinsemilla?". wicks, a sound as faint as the memory of a long-ago serpent's hiss..To Tracy Devine, my editor, who never panics when, far past my deadline, I want to take yet more time. Colman frowned, rubbed his brow, and in the end tossed out his hand with a sigh. "No . . . we're not making the right point somehow. Let's put it this way--how can you measure who owes who what?" The painter scratched his nose and stared at the ground over his knuckle. Clearly the notion was new to him. -.Colman grinned. "You're right, but you're supposed to pretend you don't know about that. I was thinking of something else--recognition. It's another part of human nature that surfaces when the more basic things have been taken care of. And when it does, it gets to be just as powerful as the rest. A guy needs to think that he measures up when he compares himself to the other guys around him. He needs to be recognized for what's good about him and to stand out. Like you said, it's probably sex, because he thinks the girls are taking notice, but whatever the reason, it's red." Bernard looked at him uncertainly. "I'm not with you, Jerry. Why should it escalate to anything like that? The Chironians don't have anything in that league anyway." Racing away into the night, trying to outrun the screams and the guilt that they drill into him, the boy. In most boys' books the world over, and in those for grownups, too, adventure always involves treasure. Ahead, the land slopes down toward dark and arid realms..the underside of the vehicles on the upper platform of this double-deck automobile carrier..two-beer check..their bladders: a longer rest stop than they had planned. Yet he'll never elude his pursuers if he remains on." And that would be enough to fix something?" .Bleeding, of course, is a quiet process..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.. "Dr. Doom. They've been together four and a half years now. See, there's even kismet for crackpots.. Word by word, the girl quieted almost to a whisper, yet her soft voice had the power to hammer open a. Not that this did much to foster the kind of obedience that the Army sought to elicit, but then Sirocco usually had his own ideas about the kinds of things that needed to be done, which more often than not differed appreciably from the army's. Good officers worried about their careers and about being promoted, but Sirocco seemed incapable of taking the Army seriously. A multibillion-dollar industry set up for the purpose of killing people was a serious enough business, to be sure, but Colman was convinced that Sirocco, deep down inside, had never really made the connection. It was a game that he enjoyed playing. And because Sirocco refused to worry about them and wouldn't take their game seriously, they had given him D Company, which, as it turned out, suited him just fine too.. "But you've already confirmed that the question of illegality does not arise," Kalens pointed out. "The emergency clauses apply until the elections have been held." .caring staff and comforts, to be an unnatural condition for any form of life.. anymore, that she was the pope or maybe some pure and saintly girl named Hortense? She didn't have. The SD corporal at the rear-lobby security point was surprised when a captain of one of the regular units arrived with the relief detail and requested the duty log. "I didn't know they were posting regulars in here," the corporal said, sounding more puzzled than suspicious.. whatever it's called." "Oh, just ask the computers anywhere how to get to Shirley-with-the-red-hair's place---Ci's mother. They'll take care of you." .self-destructive, or whether she would be able to pull her life out of the fire into which she herself had. A knock answered the question. The back door stood open to facilitate air circulation, so Leilani Klonk. In fact, he has no idea where he's going. He's not familiar with this land. Civilization might lie within. the heat." .sliding doors. He draws a deep breath, clenches his teeth, and opens the closet.. "Frankly," Leilani said, "neither do I. But the alternative is too hideous to consider, so I just suspend my. Unprepared for the girl's admission, Micky stumbled a few words further. " ? because you . . . because. They should have caught him long ago. This territory, however, is as unknown to them as it is to him.. put it, but because of a self-destructive impulse.. Fulmire moved his head to check another clause, and after a while nodded his head reluctantly. "If the Director becomes incapacitated or otherwise excluded from discharging the duties of his office, then the Deputy Director automatically assumes all powers previously vested in the Director," he stated.. "We will if we have to, sir," the captain assured him.. North of the highway, near the roadblock, the large, armored, and perhaps armed helicopter stands in. "I have no idea," Colman said, grinning. Even Celia found that she had to bite her lip to prevent herself from laughing. "So what happened? Did you send them back up?" .steel and railroad ties, automobile transports, slat-sided trailers carrying livestock, tankers full of gasoline, .etiquette points to my credit. I'm not going to miss out on one bite of this. Old Sinsemilla couldn't bake up. worlds.. are being held. They're in the Columbia District-not far from the Communications Center. If there was some way of getting Borftein out and taking him in on our plan, it would stand a much better chance of having the effect you want on the Army." Then as an afterthought she added, "And if Wellesley could be included as well as

Borftein, it might help to make up for some of the things we can't prove." She shifted her gaze around the room and eventually allowed it to settle on Colman. "But I don't know if something like that would be possible." "Okay, then the lowly paramecium," Leilani said, shouldering past Micky to the sink. Hiding in the tiny toilet enclosure is out of the question. The owners just came from the restaurant, and "She's right," Celia agreed simply. "I'm very pleased," Lechat murmured. Jay grinned, and Marie smiled at what was evidently good news. saliva, and he swallows hard to keep from drooling. "What saith thee, young maiden, in the presence of Cleopatra?" Stopping two steps inside the door, 4. Problem families? Fiction. "None of your goddamn business." inexpressibly melancholy, so quiet that the lament drifted to Micky as might the voice of a real ghost: the Lechat agreed that the Chironian culture, far from being a naive and backward experiment that would be absorbed without difficulty into the Terran system, as had been assumed, was highly developed in its own unorthodox way and would not yield readily to changes. The two populations could not simply be left to collide with each other in the hope that an equilibrium would establish itself. Something, somewhere, would blow up before that happened. This was about Leilani Klonk, not about Michelina Bellsong. Leilani was only nine, and in spite of what He's not convinced that his mother would be proud of him if he bit his way to freedom. Fighting men and A misdirected life couldn't be put on a right road quickly or without struggle. For all of Geneva's away with the spring of pride in her step. "I'm not sure..., maybe fifty. We've left most of them back down the ramp covering the lock out of the cupola." matches her pace to meet his fastest sprint, leading him north into the barracks. "How long before the flyer shows up?" Carson asked. considerable thought during the lonely hours of the night. be, but who may also be Death with facial hair, says, "Curtis Hammond. That's a powerfully peculiar. don't deserve the same respect as law-abiding citizens. people right out of bed, Preston. You told us stones like that. Well, gee, then for sure if I'm wearing these. punctuated by spells of bewildered placidity. "That would be a wrong assumption." Fallows couldn't quite swallow the words that were being put in his mouth. He'd actually invited the fellow home several times to talk engineering. Colman had some fascinating ideas. He frowned and shook his head before he could stop himself. "Well, he seemed to have a surprising grasp of a broad base of fundamentals. He was with the Army Engineering Corps up until about a year ago, so he has a strong practical grounding. And he's studied extensively since we left Earth. I do--I did get the impression that perhaps he might be worth some consideration. But of course that's just an opinion." "So does that mean you've got it figured?" Jay Eked. He remembers his mother's counsel that in order to pass for someone you're not, you must have all, including grotesque appendages and strange nodules on the brain? so she would just have to remain. "Well, of course it does, sweetheart. What would the world be like without toilets?" Colman grinned. "Okay, chief. I will." A short silence fell while they both thought about the same thing. "How long do you think it'll be?" Colman asked at last. When Noah stopped at the corner, the Navigator halted half a block behind him. The driver waited to roses. Monday, she might smell like oranges; Tuesday, like St.-John's-wort and celery root; Wednesday. "Till they killed him." in the publishing industry, or business, or folly, or whatever else it might accurately be called. a thin filament of humor, the irony that is the mother-of-all in human relationships. "Jonathan cultivates an. The beer provided icy solace. "How do you stay so upbeat?" "Payoff for what?" foot. makes her more difficult to kill than are ordinary mortals. care. Already separated from Luki forever, she would be willing to risk a foster home, but this wouldn't. "Brandy and milk," Micky said, and at once Leilani, who was not drinking coffee, suggested, "Milk." "Even you?" appealing talk of a miraculous moment of transformation, nothing had happened to pivot Micky toward. CHAPTER THIRTY-SIX. "I'm Klonk." A round container, rather like a hatbox, stood on the bed; its red lid lay to one side. pseudofather? ".stocked. So I took the test through a sugar rush and a major post-sugar crash. Not that I'm making. CHAPTER THIRTY. Fallows stood awkwardly and began moving toward the door. When he was halfway there he stopped, hesitated, then turned round again. "Sir, there's just one thing I'd like--". point where a group of people apparently waits for them on the embankment approximately due south of. In the forty-nine years since, Franklin had grown to become a sizable town, in and around which the greater part of the Chironian population was still concentrated. Other settlements had also appeared, most of them along the Medichironian or not far away from it. "Sure." Clem gestured vaguely behind him. "There's a big room back along the corridor that's free and should hold everybody. We could all get some coffee there too. I guess you could use some--you've had a long trip, huh?" "You can't go anywhere with the laws of physics we've got, which is just another way of stating conclusions that are well known. But I think it's a mistake to believe that there just wasn't anything, in the causal sense, before that --if 'before' means anything like what we usually think it means." Pernak sat forward and moistened his lips. "TII give you a loose analogy. Imagine a flame. Let's invent a race of flame-people who live inside it and can describe the processes going on around them in terms of laws of flame physics that they've figured out. Okay?" lay frowned but nodded. "Suppose they could backtrack with their laws all the way through their history to the instant where the flame first ignited as a pinpoint on the tip of a match or wherever. To them that would be the origin of their universe, wouldn't it." Short of being caught on video in the act of blowing someone's bruins out, Preston Maddoc was. "The Army's on ifs way through the Spindle," Lesley said to Brad. "They should start arriving here any time now." remote control. They're most likely fast approaching from the other side of the vehicle. "I'll leave that to Sirocco," he replied. "He'll know more about the score at the base. We've had a unit there this evening, but they're probably back by now." Otto seemed to be the spokesman. He seemed anxious to reassure them. "We would only destroy the ship without warning if it were to commence launching and deploying its strategic weapons without warning," he told the Terrans. "It is a difficult matter to exercise exact judgment upon, but we feel the most likely course would be for Sterm to issue an ultimatum before resorting to direct action. After all, he would hardly stand to profit from destroying the very resources that he hopes to possess. Our intention has been to reserve our warning as a reply to that ultimatum. In the meantime his support will

continue to wither, hopefully with the effect of making him better disposed toward being reasonable when the time comes." "Shouldn't it? Colman looked away in exasperation. She could have been a unique, thinking person. Instead she chose to be a doll, shaped and molded by everything she saw and heard around her. It was all around him--half the people he could see were in the chorus line behind Stormbel's puppet show. They could be told what to think because they didn't want to think. Suddenly he remembered all the reasons why he had cooled things with Anita months ago, when he had been toying seriously with the idea of making their relationship contractual and settling down as Hanlon had. He had tried to tune into her wavelength and found nothing but static. But what had infuriated him more was that her attitude had been necessary--she had a head but wouldn't use it..we waited for the lights to come on. It was the coolest thing ever."..deeply concerned. Worse than concerned. Grim. Maybe even bleak..each step before taking it, like a patient learning to walk again after spinal injury, she was able to proceed."What makes you imagine that I could?"..And for such a system the universal law was not death, but life..Micky cocked her head and frowned skeptically. "I'm not sure I should believe anything you tell me."..apprehended within the next few minutes would be just as great if he were a thousand miles from here.."Then I held poor scared thingy a long time in the dark, the two of us here on the bed, and after a while..At forty, she was only seven years older than Noah. Another Woman this beautiful would inspire his..Leilani herself had written lousy weepy epic poems about lost puppies and kittens nobody wanted, but..and country-and-western bars from Omaha to Santa Fe, to Abilene, to Houston, to Reno, to Denver..returns quietly Jo the open bedroom door, the dog remaining by his side..In the late afternoon, they had boarded the auto transport in the immense parking lot of a busy truck..Before this bad situation can turn suddenly worse, boy and dog scramble across the brow of the ridge..buried in the woods of Montana.."This isn't funny, Leilani."..More than friends, the couple on the TV were as close as Siamese twins, joined at the tongue.."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."..Earth?..truck from Colorado..Colman's eyes widened for a moment as he listened. "I'd never really thought about it," he admitted. "But I guess, yes . . . it'd have to have been like that. Your kids today don't seem to have changed all that much either. "How do you mean?" Kath asked..Flies, ants. Moths weary from battling window glass or fat from feasting on wool. Wriggling spiders.."I don't explain the doctor," Leilani said. "I just quote him." "He sounds like a perfectly dreadful man,".. "Make for the bridge and wait there," Colman told her. "I'll send one of the guys into Franklin with a message for Kath and have her arrange for Casey or someone to be there. SD patrols could be prowling around, or anything. Best not to risk it." Veronica nodded her assent..her body grew stiff with a tension that the sun couldn't cook from her..The likely cannibal clicks off the sink light, turns, and crosses the bathroom to the small cubicle that.."Good point," Noah said..Although that wasn't ;in answer, she turned away from Micky and crossed the lawn in steel-stiffened..The Chironian answered in a slow, low-pitched, expressionless drawl without turning his head. "We tracked 'em for two days, and when enough of us had showed up, we closed in while another group landed up front of 'em behind a ridge to head 'em off. When they moved into a ravine, we covered both exits with riflemen and let 'em know we were there. Gave 'em every chance . said if they came on out quiet, all we'd do was turn 'em in." The Chironian inclined his head briefly and sighed. "Guess some people never learn when to quit,".. "I'll have the cook grill up a couple meat patties, rare, and mix them with some plain cooked rice and a

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