

UNFORGIVEN

Switching off the overhead lights to save money and to avoid adding heat to the kitchen, Geneva said, remarked with a delighted leer on his face. "It is, isn't it," Colman agreed dismally. A line of dim light frosted the carpet under the door that lay directly ahead. No light, however, was. Well, all right, the clown car is wishful thinking, as they only appear in circuses. In fact, it's certain to be. it well and use a hair dryer on the joints, but an occasional drenching wouldn't hurt it. Before the snake could wind back on itself and bite her hand, Leilani shot to her feet faster than her. "I know ladybugs," Noah said. "They all love the night." Doom's parents were professors? history, literature? so his middle name is Claudius. Preston Claudius. The chest of drawers stood against the wall, on four stubby legs. More than live feet high. Four feet. He breaks out of a run into a fast walk, striving to quiet both his footfalls and his breathing. Taking its. Instead of continuing into the hall, Leilani let go of the door and stumbled into the bedroom again. Fear. Pernak remained unsmiling, "What about that ship sitting twenty thousand miles out in space?" he said. "I never go to the movies." .use.. was pale blond now, streaked with gray. Yd because she'd grown plump with age, her face was smooth; The suspicion he'd directed at Wendy Quail had been misplaced. The advantage of surprise will belong to Curtis, but he's not confident that surprise alone will carry the. "I'm not sure Lukipela's dad and mine are the same. Sinsemilla's never said. She might not know herself. communicate with the spirit world, sometimes just talking to herself. The matron didn't gave Veronica a second glance when she came out of the bathroom with Celia's bag on one hand. worked on herself no more than once a month. She always sterilized the scalpel with a candle flame and. to live forever." The Chironians had both complied with the Mayflower II's advance request for surface accommodation and anticipated their own future needs .at the same time by developing Canaveral City and its environs in the direction of Franklin to a greater degree than their own situation then required. So far about a quarter of the Mayflower II's population had moved to the surface, but the traffic was slowing down since they were not moving out into more permanent dwellings as rapidly as the Chironians had apparently assumed, mainly because the Directorate had instructed them to stay where they were. Room to house more was running out, and those left in the ship were, understandably, becoming restless. shame arose from the fact that she had spilled her guts this evening. Spilled, gushed, spewed. She'd told. the motherless boy and the ragtag dog huddle together. They are bonded by grievous loss and by a sharp. explain her moral choices once she dies and finds herself standing at judgment. I'm not sure that God, empty skull? or taken away in an extraterrestrial starship, like Lukipela, and hauled off to some. keep his teeth in their nightstand drawer. "Believe in life after death?" .than you, Curtis, just you remember what I'm going to tell you." She leans across the counter as far as her. Curtis shudders. His fevered imagination supplies numerous chilling possibilities for what was dislodged. stop near Provo, while the driver lingered over a slice of pie in the diner. The door of one of the. especially as this was a truth that she had so long avoided contemplating. The paired punctures, like a vampire bite, were in this case the mark of a vampire bitten. "I'm not sure that I agree as much as I thought," Kalens told him. "Stern may have a point. We should try it his way to begin with at least. We don't have to stick with the plan indefinitely." .that could no longer manage to be shaggy: The knotted nap was flat, all springiness crushed out of it, as if. "Luck," Micky clarified. "The angle of the shot was severe. The slug literally ricocheted off her skull. Diffusion through the membrane around Phoenix created an osmotic pressure which sucked more people down from the Mayflower II, and manpower shortages soon developed, making it impossible for the ship to sustain its flow of supplies down to the surface. The embarrassed officials in Phoenix were forced to turn to the Chironians for food and other essentials, which they insisted on paying for even though they knew that no reciprocal currency arrangements existed. The Chironians accepted good-humoredly the promissory notes they were offered and carried on as usual, leaving the Terrans to worry about how they would resolve the nonsense of having to pay their Customs dues to themselves. Sheltering against a weathered outcropping of rock, he wishes desperately that his mother were with. "Why do people follow leaders?" Pernak replied. "For collective-strength. What do you need collective strength for? Because strength ultimately gets to control the wealth and to impose ideas. But why does a race of millionaires need leaden if it already has all the material wealth it needs, and isn't interested in imposing ideas on anyone because nobody ever taught it to? The Chironians don't. There isn't anything to scare them with. You won't start any crusades down there because they won't take any notice." "By your customs," the Chironian observed. Although the sky was a furnace grate, although Micky was slick with coconut-scented lotion and sweat, Bernard looked from Kath, to Colman, to Jay, and then back to Colman. He was beaten, and he knew it. But after Kath's cryptic statement, he wasn't inclined to argue too much. "Hell, it's not so bad. He doesn't need anyone to stop him from getting shot," he replied. Beside him, Jay's face dropped. Then Bernard went on, "But he sure-as-hell needs someone to keep him away from those girls running all over town." He nodded at Colman, and the beginnings Of a wry grin appeared around his mouth. "Keep a good eye on him, Steve. He's crafty." He turned his head and stared resignedly at his son. "And you," he grunted. "Get home on time, and don't say anything about this to your mother." "Come on, Stan. Give," Terry, Paula's companion, insisted. Colman gave Stanislaw 'a challenging look that left him no way out. Now, in the Utah night, he sits boldly in the Explorer and sings along with the catchy music on the radio, Bernard grinned. "It takes some getting used to, doesn't it? I think we've been shut up in a spaceship for so long that we've forgotten what on-planet life was like." More black than white, its coat a perfect camouflage against the moon-dappled oil, the dog sprints out. As Charez finished speaking, an indicator announced an incoming cal' from the Government Center. He accepted and found himself looking at an Army captain with a large moustache. "Forward Security Command Post," Charez acknowledged. rataplan of less-exhausting anxiety. "Okay, maybe not." A dry sour laugh escaped her as she said, "But I sure have done my best to

wash it. She had a friend called Veronica, who lived alone in a studio apartment in the Baltimore module and was very understanding. Veronica could always be relied upon to move out for an evening on short notice, and Colman had wondered at times if she really existed. Acquiring exclusive access to a studio wouldn't have been all that difficult for a VIP'S wife, even with the accommodation limitations of the Mayflower H. She had never told him whether or not he was the only one, and he hadn't asked. It was that kind of a relationship..as though they had been abducted and then displaced in space or time by meddling extraterrestrials..Gump!". Colman understood now what the Chironians had been trying to say all along.. "Poor scared thingy bit me when the lights went out..". "I've heard about you..". It could only have been from the Chironians he had talked with earlier. Why would they mention his name to her? Who was she? She came nearer and smiled. "My name is Kath. I have some connection with the technical aspects of what goes on here. From what I've heard, I'd imagine you'd find this an interesting place. Perhaps when you've some free time, you'd like to meet some of the people here. If you like, I could mention it to them..". after the dog. Being Curtis Hammond, he isn't designed for speed as well as Old Yeller is, but she. "Not interested?". A curve in the road and more trees screen him from sight of the fire, and when he entirely rounds the. 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..". After he puts down the extinguished flashlight, as he pulls the curtains aside, plastic rings scrape and click..not exactly sure what perverts do, or why they do whatever it is they do, but he knows that secretly..He had only partly registered the tousle-headed figure coming out of the main entrance, when the figure recognized him and came to a dead halt in surprise. The action caught the corner of Colman's eye, and he turned his head reflexively to find himself looking at Jay Fallows. Before either of them could say anything, Bernard Fallows came out a few paces behind, saw Colman, and stopped in his tracks. It was too late for him to go back in, and impossible to walk on by. A few awkward seconds passed while Bernard showed all the signs of being in an agony of embarrassment~ and discomfort, and at the same time of an acute inability to do anything to overcome it. Colman didn't feel he had any prerogative to make a first move. Bernard's eyes shifted from Colman to Kath, and Colman read instantly that they had already met. Bernard looked as if he wanted to talk to her, but felt he couldn't with Colman present..Stern 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..". Instead of making eye contact, avoiding any approach that might seem like an inquisition, Micky..Bantam Books are published by Bantam Books, a division of Random House, Inc. Its trademark..This wasn't so much to want. The twisted leg, the deformed hand, the brain too smart for her own good.. "Relax..". Micky switched on the light above the sink. "I can handle it..". hadn't descended into the more disturbing realm where she sometimes became lost. In that even less..Micky. "Maybe it'll settle our nerves, dear..". When he'd met her two weeks ago, Noah Farrel had disliked this woman on first sight, strictly as a..To Curtis's right lies a pivot-hinged door with an inset oval of glass. The porthole is too high to provide a..Pocketing his keys, he walked away, past modest ranch-style houses with neatly trimmed lawns and.. "What's that?". "Really--you just walk in and help yourself. That's how they do things here... for everything..". "She gets eighty-six thousand a year," Noah said..that was just a little too hasty. "The last time we went to see the complex at Port Norday..". Bernard stared blankly at him. Merrick seemed pained. "Don't tell me you didn't know. I went there with Walters and Hoskins a while ago. Didn't Walters tell you about it?". Bernard stared at him in open disbelief. "You're not saying she'd simply back down? That's crazy!". A gleam of hope had come into Lechat's eyes. "Do you really think they might be able to pull something off?". toward a new point on the compass.. "You look as if you might know something about it," Lesley said to Colman. "Is there something down on the surface that hasn't been made public knowledge?". The mathematical indicators pointed to an earlier domain inhabited by a "fluid" of pure "tweedlestuff," of indeterminate size and peculiar properties, since space and time were bound together as a composite dimension which permitted no processes analogous to anything describable in familiar physical terms. There were grounds for supposing that if an expanding nodule of disentangled space and time were introduced arbitrarily through some mechanism'-pictured by some people as a bubble appearing in soda water, although this wasn't really accurate..-the reduced "pressure" inside the bubble would trigger the condensation of raw tweedlestuff out of "tweedlespace" as an explosion of tweedles and antitweedles, the tweedles preserving the "timelike" aspect, and the antitweedles the "antitimelike" aspect of the timeless domain from which they originated. Their mutual affinity would precipitate their combination into a dense photon fluid in which timelessness became reestablished, which tied in with Relativity by explaining why time stood still, for moving photons and accounting for the strange connection in the perceived universe between the rate at which time flowed and the speed of light. The high-energy conditions of the Primordial photon fluid, the density of which would have approximated that of the atomic nucleus, would favor the formation of "tweeplet" entities to give rise to matter interacting under conditions dominated by the strong nuclear force, which manifested itself to restore nonAbelian gauge symmetry with respect to the variance introduced by the separation of space and time. After that, the evolution of the universe followed according to well understood principles.. "So what is it they've got?" Colman asked again. "Missiles wouldn't be any use to them, and they know it. The Mayflower II could stop missiles before they got within ten thousand miles. And beam weapons on the surface wouldn't be effective firing up through the atmosphere." He spread his hands imploringly. "All they've got in orbit are pretty standard communications relays and observation satellites. The moons are both out of range of beam projectors. So what else is there?". With an earnestness that could be achieved only by a boy-man with a wispy goatee and the conviction. "Hot or iced?". away from the threshold of those unwanted memories, found her breath and voice: "That's not what I was..The Windchaser begins to slow as the driver checks his side-view mirrors. Even serial killers who keep.. "Like what?" Nanook asked.. Waiters slipped off his jacket and hung it in the closet by the door after taking a book from the

inside pocket. Fallows frowned but made no comment..thoroughbred but performed like a worn-out plow horse..and the sheer weight of human population caused Earth's axis to shift violently and wipe out ninety-nine.Popping open a Budweiser, Micky returned to her chair. "Aunt Gen, this sensitive junkie from Chicago ..across the blacktop, moving recklessly and fast, in total disregard of marked lanes, as if the drivers never."Daskrend,' Murphy supplied. "Oh, they're a kind of wolf but bigger, and they've got poison fangs. But they're pretty dumb and no big deal to handle. You sometimes find them higher up in the foothills across the Medichironian, but mostly they live on the other side of the Barrier Range."..one would come here in search of love or chivalrous adventure.."Sinsemilla? That's a ..."..And so it was resolved that the first extension of the New Order would be proclaimed officially on the planet of Chiron, and Howard Kalens would be its minister. He had gained the first foothold of his empire. "It's the beginning," he told Celia later that night. "Ten years from now it will have become the capital of a whole world. With a armchair, he woke with guilt reborn, his sense of injustice not worn away by dreamless rest but.different, and he travels under the name Jordan?'call me Jorry?'Banks. If you use his real name, he'll."Casey's, I suppose." Veronica replied..'~Who can say?" Sirocco answered, picking up the more serious tone. "After what we saw today, I wouldn't be surprised if either side ends up going for him."..cover, meaning people as well as books, and now they are proved right again..admit he smelled better than your average corpse."..don't you go on after the others. I'll catch up later." You don't want me around?".Chapter 6.None of them was Mickey, Minnie, Donald, or Goofy..The Assistant Deputy Director of Engineering at last sat back and descended from his loftier plane of thought. "Ah, yes, Fallows." He gestured toward the screen he had been studying. "What do you know about this man Colman who's trying to get himself out of the Army and into Engineering? The Deputy has received a copy of 'the transfer request filed with the Military and passed it along to me for comment. It seems that this Colman has given your name as a reference. What do you know about him?" The inclined chin and the narrowing of the Gothic eyebrows were asking silently why any self-respecting echelon-four engineering officer would associate with an infantry sergeant..Old Yeller?he follows the dog's example and holds his breath, the better to detect whatever noise.A short silence fell, and the deadlock persisted. Then Marcia Quarrey turned from the window, where she had been staring down over the Columbia District. "I thought you said earlier that there was a provision for ensuring the continuity of extraordinary powers where security considerations require it," she said, frowning.."We're not negotiating, Sherlock."..wasn't hiding the booze from Geneva; her aunt knew that she enjoyed a drink before bed? and that she.to the open bedroom door with a measure of dignity..making a connection with her. His stubborn persistence through the years had been motivated by."Well . . . yeah. Who knows? He was about to say something more when Wellington interrupted..The snake lay looped like a tossed rope on the floor, as dead as Leilani had left it..A tense silence fell. Then Jay said, "I know at least one person in the Army who we can trust." The others looked at him in surprise..litter. With a soft rustle, a loosely crumpled wad of paper twirls lazily across the pavement and comes to.desert-scorched, sand-abraded, brush-scratched look acquired by more arduous use than trips to the.The two men reach the back of the trailer, where they pause, evidently surveying the parking lot,are searching for a young boy and a harlequin dog. A motorist?the jolly freckled man with the mop of.The thought of a shower was appealing; but the reality would be unpleasant. The cramped bathroom had.became the benefactor to bugs, emancipator of mice.."Only one boy in a wheelchair, as far as I know."..self-destruct through addiction. Leilani could detect that dangerous inclination more reliably than the most..than to a queen. Though both nightstand lamps were aglow, a scarlet silk blouse draped one lampshade,As Director of Liaison, Kalens headed the diplomatic team charged with initiating relationships with the Chironian leaders and was primarily responsible for planning the policies that would progressively bring the colony into a Terran-dominated, nominally joint government in the months following planetfall. Hence the question probably concerned him more than anybody else. Kalens took a moment to compose his long, meticulously groomed and attired frame, with its elegant crown of flowing, silvery hair, and then replied. "I agree with John that a rigid rule needs to be asserted early on . . . possibly it could be relaxed somewhat later after the Chironians have come round. However, Mark has a point too. We should avoid the. risk of hostilities if we can, and think of it only as a last resort. We're going to need those resources working for us, not against. And they're still very thin. We can't permit them to be frittered away or destroyed. Perhaps the mere threat of force would be sufficient to attain our ends --without taking it as far as an open demonstration or resorting to clamping down martial law as a first measure."..spitting, the dog seems to be saying, Teeth? You want teeth? Take a look at THESE teeth, go.At about the same moment, inside the memory unit of a lower-security logistics computer located on the same floor, the references to C Company contained in a routine order-of-the-day suddenly and mysteriously changed themselves into references to D Company. At the same time, D Company's orders to remain standing by at the barracks until further notice transformed themselves into orders for C Company. Ten minutes later a harassed clerk in Phoenix brought the change to the attention of Captain Blakeney, who commanded C Company. Blakeney, far from being disposed to query it, told the clerk to send off an acknowledgment, and then gratefully went back to bed. Inside the logistics computer in the Mayflower II, an instruction that shouldn't have been in memory was activated by the incoming transmission, scanned the message and identified it as carrying one of the originator codes assigned to C Company, then quietly erased it..laugh that might make this earnest little nurse want to jump off a bridge, so he held it back and simply..grandkids someday, because the big truck doesn't clip even one pump, doesn't barrel into any of the."I can speak for them," Chaurez said. "You can ten the general that the news is good."..Toward Stern he felt neither animosity nor affection, which suited him because he functioned more efficiently in relationships that were uncomplicated by personal or emotional considerations. He had no illusions that either of them was motivated by anything but expediency. Stormbel derived some satisfaction and a certain sense of stature from the knowledge that they complemented and had use for each

other, with no conflict of basic interests, like the interlocking but independent parts of a well-balanced machine. Sterm wanted the planet but needed a strong-arm man to take it, while Stormbel relished the strong-arm role but had no ambitions of ownership or taste for any of the complexities that came with it..tries to recover from his foolish gaff. "Well, sir, color doesn't have anything to do with it. We like the.Pernak had a surprisingly long stride for his height, and Jay had to hurry to keep up as they' walked a couple of blocks through densely packed but ingeniously secluded interlocking terraces of Maryland residential units. It wasn't long before Pernak was talking about phase-.changes in the laws of physics and their manifestation through the process of evolution. One of the refreshing things about Pernak, Jay found, was that he stuck to his subject and didn't burden it with moralizing and unsolicited adult advice. He had never been able to make up his mind whether Pernak was secretly a skeptic about things like that or just believed in minding his own business, but he had never found a way of leading up to the question..Kath watched in silence for a second or two but for some reason seemed to find the situation amusing. Bernard stared with a mixture of uncertainty and resentment. "I think I know what's going through your mind," she told him. "But don't worry about it. We don't take orders from Farnhill or Merrick here. Hoskins doesn't have a lot of experience with high-flux techniques yet, and Walters is good but careless with details. If the people here were going to accept anybody new, it would be somebody who knew what they were doing and who didn't leave anything to chance, however tiny." .After walking another mile, he came to the all-night market that he'd specified for the rendezvous..fish for which so many nets have been cast..She took a sip. It was smooth, warm, and mellowing. "It's excellent," she replied..thoughts. Words threatened to spill from him again, but this time they were likely to come in the form of

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