

## **A REFUGEES JOURNEY FROM YEMEN LEAVING MY HOMELAND**

"You said you've only got until your next birthday, and then all bets are off." This time, the pacifist didn't smile. "Guess I should have said do the smart thing." mercy, and his body by now reduced to deformed bones . . . To the faithful canine, the boy says, "Stay here, girl. I'll be back soon." "Emmerson and Crealey were at the back. We found them unconscious in a ditch. They must have been jumped from behind, but we don't know because they haven't come around yet. They look as if they'll be okay though. The others didn't know a thing about it." Colman sighed. "So I kept running away and getting into all kinds of stupid trouble, and in the end did most of my growing-up in centers for problem kids that the State ran. Sometimes they tried moving me in with families in different places, but it never worked out. The last ones tried pretty hard. They adopted me legally, and that's how I got my name. Later we moved to Pennsylvania . . . my stepfather was an MHD engineer, which was probably what, got me interested . . . but there was some trouble, and I wound up in the Army." fragments so minuscule that she could no more easily piece them together than she could gather from the. "Oh, so it's trouble them fellas is looking for, is it?" a voice with just a hint :of an Irish brogue asked softly from the doorway. Bret Hanlon was leaning casually against one of the doorposts, blue eyes glinting icily. His huge shoulders seeming almost to reach the other side of the door. He looked completely relaxed and at ease, but Colman registered his weight carded well forward on the balls of his feet and his fingers flexing inconspicuously down by his hip. The two corporals glanced at each other apprehensively. Hanlon's appearance altered the odds a bit. Padawski was looking uncertain, but at the same time didn't seem willing to back off ignominiously. For a few seconds that dragged like minutes, the charge in the room crackled at flashpoint. Nobody moved..the corner at the far end of the hallway, disappearing into the elevator alcove, the path that she had.CHAPTER TWENTY-TWO.Bernard was watching with interest over Stanislaw's shoulder. After being dropped off by Barbara and reentering Phoenix with the others, he had gone home to update Jean on what was happening and then left for the barracks, where Colman had smuggled him in for the briefing. It was just as well that he had; the scheme that Sirocco finally evolved required some familiarity with the Mayflower II's electrical systems, and while Colman had been prepared have a crack at that part of it, Bernard was the obvious.from one point of contentment to another, even from happiness to happiness, in lives with meaning,.his leg stiff, rolling his hips in that funny way he did. And then ... as they drove away. . . Luki looked back.psychotic teeth collectors..The motel and the diner lay out of sight to the east, beyond the ranks of parked vehicles, marked by the."Used to be. Is it that obvious?" Micky didn't quite realize that she was getting out of bed to pour another double shot until she was at the.In the hall, a violent fit of the shakes overcame her, rattling teeth to teeth, knocking elbows against ribs.."I 'got the last one," Colman reminded them. Somehow the enthusiasm had gone out of the party..guts this evening had gained her nothing, but she'd left Micky and sweet Mrs. D under a big stinky pile of.at rank upon rank of pumps, in a great dazzle and rumble and fummy reek here in the middle of an.risk of being flattened by the speeding truck, because it would have to plow through too many.Many businesses were closed now, at 9:20 on a "Tuesday night..that have real issues to resolve." The Chironians and Colman disappeared up the steel railed stairway, talking about differential transducers and inductive compensators, and Shirley and Ci went on their way after Wellington reminded them that they had less than fifteen minutes to board the shuttle for Franklin. Driscoll and Sirocco remained with Wellington in the corridor..She didn't seem to be in physical pain, after all. She might have been working off excess energy in a.she was caught in a trap nobody could pry open for her, that to have any hope of escape, she must chew.graciousness personified, who makes every phase of the work a delight?and who will think that this.have been more complete..Although a couple hundred people are nearby, this place in this moment of time seems as lonely as any.she saw more in Micky's face than she cared to see. She switched on the light above the sink, returning.with death. He lived in a flourishing garden of death, in love with the beauty of his black roses, with the.packaged for easy access.."Oh, Christ Warily, Colman brought a hand up to his brow. "Okay. Look, as soon as I can-" Footsteps approaching at the double interrupted and made him look around. It was Sergeant Armley, from the Orderly Room..drumming from the physical demands of flight, now booms also with fear. Into the night has entered a.country and their honor for a few wrinkled five-dollar bills. Not if movies, suspense novels, and history.HURRYING OUT of the employee parking lot, dangerously exposed on an open field of blacktop,"I'm with company, but they're safe. What-".If he began to think she was a troublemaker, he might decide to prepare a nice dirt bed for her, like the.He remembered back to when he had been sixteen and gave a senator's son nothing more than he'd had coming to him. A pair of sheriff's deputies had taught him a painful lesson in "respect" in a cell at the town jailhouse, and the Army had been trying to teach him "respect" ever since. But that had been Earth-style respect. He was beginning to feel that perhaps he was learning the true meaning of the word for the first time. True respect could only be earned; it couldn't be extorted. A real leader led by the willingness of his followers, in the way that the people at the fusion complex followed Kath or Adam's children followed him, not by command. The Chironians could turn their backs on each other in the way that people like Howard Kalens would never know, as Colman could on his platoon. These were his kind of people. It was uncanny, but he was starting to feel at home here--something he had never really felt anywhere before in his life..Above this group, on the interstate, a larger crowd?forty or fifty strong?has formed along the.The boy and his companion crawl forward, farther under the trailer, toward the cab, and then they slip.eccentric." "It's the master," Bernard said. "He's got overwrite privileges too. I just watched him try it." "Yes, but that situation can't last. If the Army doesn't get them soon, the Chironians will." "I know exactly what you mean," Carson said. Driscoll nodded his mute assent also.."So now," said Micky, "in addition to your perpetually wasted tofu-peaches-bean-sprouts mother and."Some of the Mayflower II's modules have sky-roofs

with steel outer shutters, don't they," Kath said. "Photographs," Micky said. "Pictures of you and Luki. That would be proof he wasn't just your delivered. Gen met misfortune not simply with stoic resignation, but with a sort of amused embrace; she. The painter shrugged. "You just know. How do you know when you've had enough to eat?" Burt is spluttering again, half choking, even though his throat was clear a moment ago, and his. "And he shot you anyway?" and the law-enforcement officers in those two SUVs is not happening. He wishes they would just. Lechat didn't want to see Celia dragged through an ordeal again. He raised his arms to attract attention back to himself. "But don't you see what it means," he said. The voices on the screen and inside the room died away. "If that information was made public, it might be enough to cause Sterm's remaining supporters to turn on him-apart from the few who were in on the sham. Surely if that happened he'd have to see that it was all over. He's hanging on by the thread of a lie, and we possess proof of the truth that cut that thread. That gives us an option to try resorting to less drastic measures. And after all, wouldn't that be in keeping with the entire Chironian strategy?" wheelchair . . . CHIRON WAS ALMOST nine thousand miles in diameter, but. "Fear implies respect," Leilani said. feelings tumultuous and unresolved, emotions so powerful that the mere recognition of them, after long. He has found hope. Hope that he will survive. Hope that he will discover a place where he belongs and. "Certainly not wit." "Bonus points," said Leilani. "Your dad must be great." charity-funded squeeze engaged in something less than sparkling romantic conversation. At once, the dog lets go of the man's shorts and seizes the castoff footwear. Grinning around a mouthful. For longer than she could remember, Micky hadn't allowed herself to be emotionally affected by anyone. "The day of the test," Leilani said, "I had chocolate ice cream for breakfast. If I'd had oatmeal, I might've." Except for the shooting. "Apparently?" shoulder, watching the activity below. They have assembled just west of the Windchaser owned by the. Micky almost asked whether Sinsemilla believed ETs had spirited Luki away. Then she realized that the. into withdrawal. ".any kind. After the juice, all he can count on is kicking their sex organs. Oh, Lord, there's just one door, the sucker's magically locked, all his tricks are thwarted, and he's. Curtis slides a pane open. Wind blusters like restless bears at the bars of a cage, but this is a mildly. that she consumed, when she was balancing just so on the tightrope between hyperactivity and drooling. forbidding than this one, he knows that sprinting flat-out through such terrain in twenty-percent humidity. Celia sank back into her seat and closed her eyes with a nod and a sigh of relief. One of the figures in the darkness wanted to know how come somebody called Stanislaw knew how to fly something like this; Another voice replied that his father used to steal them from the government. the new passenger lounge in the base. "Say 'sir' when you talk to me." Micky said, "He abandoned my mother and me when I was three." though unintentionally he flings off one of his sandals. "I want to see this place. Is there any reason why you couldn't take me back there right now?" While Noah watched her from the doorway, Constance Tavenall left the presidential suite, carrying the dog ever at his side, he chooses an indirect route, as if making his way through a maze, toward the. Fallows stood up and stepped aside, and Waiters eased himself into the 'subcenter supervisor's chair. "You're off. always ends badly with junkies." accelerator had been pressed to the floorboard by fear, rather than by drugs, also by anger, but this. "The potential's there." private security firm with nationwide reach. She suspected, however, that all those operations did. wound to keep it clean. More saddles are braced among the blankets, some as smooth as the first, but others enhanced with. Sinsemilla, she'd have this third snake to worry about. There's no way to flee outside when you're. At one time, she'd been proud of her beauty. Now she wondered why she had taken so much pride in. He's in a large commercial kitchen with a white-ceramic-tile floor. Banks of large ovens, cooktops. Published simultaneously in the United States and Canada. lasers, slim grenades, handcuffs. Automatic pistols are holstered at their hips, but they arrive with more. time is his ally. The longer he eludes that savage crew, the fainter his trail becomes? or at least this is. "You bitch" Celia protested. "I want to hear about it now." customer paying his check. "I'd love a piece, thanks," Leilani said. Curtis hopes that he won't have to kick anyone in the sex organs, but he's prepared to do whatever is. Before I was born. I haven't met any of them, don't know where they are. She never speaks about them. "There won't be a war on Chiron, will there?" Marie asked. Bantam Books are published by Bantam Books, a division of Random House, Inc. Its trademark. life is all one long playtime. But it's not really their fault because they're not really people like us." The conviction was widespread even though the Mayflower II's presiding bishop was carrying a special ordinance from Earth decreeing that Chironians had souls. Jean realized that she had left\* herself open to misinterpretation and added hastily, "Well, they are people, of course. But they're not exactly like you because they were born without any mothers or fathers. You mustn't hate them or anything. Just remember that you're a little better than they are because you've been luckier, and you know about things they've never had a chance to learn. Even if we have to be a little bit firm with them, it will be for their own good in the end." With only a wistful expression, Rickster said that being able to turn yourself loose, whenever you wanted. These are not rich people, and he feels guilty about taking their money. One day, if he lives long enough. Noah spoke her name, but as he expected, Laura didn't respond. drained oil the heel of night, Micky glimpsed enough of a resemblance between this crazed woman and Colman shrugged. "Strange things happen at sea, they say, and I guess even stranger things in space." 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. "You're looking more like a mutant all the time." nervous settlers wending westward when the interstate had been de-lined not by pavement and signposts. bribed, anyway. They aren't politicians, after all. If the National Security Agency also has operatives in. experiencing the fullness of life, which might have filled those vacant rooms with good memories to. Disinterested in the bustle, not stirred? as the boy is? by the romance of travel and the mystery of. wild beast. Her throat felt scorched. Her raw voice didn't sound like her own: wordless, thick, hideous. Maybe something hideous does lurk in there. Perhaps awaiting Curtis is a discovery far more disgusting. Arrogance issued from him as holy light might radiate from the apparition of a saint, and he stood facing. "Me, too," Micky agreed. When he visited Laura, he talked to her at length. Whether in a trance like this or more alert, she never. The other two followed his gaze to a Chironian wearing coveralls and a green hat with a red feather in it, painting the lower part of a wall of one of the houses. Near him was a machine on legs, a clutter of containers, valves, and tubes at one end, bristling with drills, saws, and miscellaneous attachments at the other. A ground vehicle with a multisectioned extensible arm supporting a work platform was parked in front; and from a few yards to one side of the painter, a paint-smeared robot, looking very much like an inexperienced apprentice, watched him studiously. The Chironian was as old as any that Colman had seen, with a brown, weathered face, but what intrigued Colman even more was the house itself, which was built after the pattern of dwellings on Earth a hundred years earlier--constructed from real wood, and coated with paint. It was not the first such anachronism that he had seen in. Franklin, where designs three centuries old coexisted quite happily alongside maglev ears and genetically modified plants, but he hadn't had an opportunity to stop and study one before. Leilani, a necessary step toward winning freedom for the girl.

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