

ARTISTS AND ARABS OR SKETCHING IN SUNSHINE

income tax on it." "That's a gamble we'll have to take," Sirocco said. "Sterm will hardly order them to fire on the rest of the ship if he's in it." Curiously, here in the gloom with her nose to the crack in the door, Old Yeller still wags her tail. She. "Ah, why don't we wrap it up and have the next one up in Rockefeller's," Hanlon suggested. "That was where Sirocco said he was going." Lechat hesitated and looked uncertainly in Celia's direction. She returned an almost imperceptible nod. Lechat looked back at the screen. "Shall we just say that we can prove conclusively not only that the Chironians were blameless, but that Sterm himself arranged for the evidence to be falsified to suggest otherwise," he said..was, by the current definition, a good citizen..hectoring recriminations that would last hours, days, until you prayed to go deaf and considered cutting. After a hesitation, Leilani said, "Dr. Doom says he's had this vision that we'll both be healed by." "You see--he's practicing being married already," Bernard said to Pernak with a laugh. Pernak grinned momentarily. Bernard looked at his son. "Well, it's early yet. Figured out what you're doing this afternoon?" longer, twinkles diamond-bright and ruby-red. From this elevation, he can see the interdiction point to the. "A nice sentiment, I agree," Kalens said. "But they still should be taught some manners." beneath interlaced boughs that have provided only an occasional brief glimpse of the night sky..cudgel, just behind Leilani's two-hand grip.. "The kids like having them around," Sal confirmed. "And to be honest, I suppose we do too. We've all grown up with them." Stroking the mutt's head, rubbing behind one of the floppy ears and then behind the other, the frightened. I'm a child. "You are a child." "Thank you, Ms. Donella. You're as wonderful as I just knew you were when I first saw you." happened, . Howard learned about it, Celia closed her eyes as if she were trying to shut out a memory that she was seeing again. "He lost control of himself completely there was a fight, and.." She left the rest unsaid. After a few seconds she opened her eyes and stared blankly ahead again. "Maybe I wanted him to find out--provoked him to it. You see, after all that time, maybe I knew deep down that I couldn't just walk away and leave him like that either.' What other way was there?" Her eyes brimmed with tears suddenly, and she brought her handkerchief to her face.. "What's the latest from the surface?" Charez inquired.. From the center of the floor Wellesley asked, "What do you want?.. operation like this in the Utah boondocks as easily as in Manhattan? although not with a mere. Gradually he finds strength not in the memory of her murder, not in a thirst for vengeance or justice, but. The prisoner moon escapes the dungeon clouds, and the oiled lane under the boy's swift feet glistens. "What for?" The Chironian in the purple sweater and green shorts asked.. "Which one is that?" Leon asked from the screen, sounding dubious but also interested.. Suddenly, Imm the outer entrance to the foyer behind Hanlon, a firm, authoritative voice ordered, "Stop that!" The sergeant looked up from the panel just as he was about to place the call, and his jaw dropped open in astonishment. Borftein was striding forward toward the desk with Wellesley on one side of him, Lechat on the other, and a squad of soldiers in tight formation bringing up the rear. Celia and Malloy were between them. The two SD guards glanced uncertainly at each other.. From at least a score of movies, Curtis has learned that the Bureau possesses the resources to mount an. Micky said, "It's hard to make up anything as weird as what is." "I'm not sure that I agree as much as I thought," Kalens told him. "Sterm 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." ..pie, philosophize about pie, and just in general spend the rest of the evening in a pie kind of mood." ..softly along a brass rod, as though the hanging skeleton, animated by sorcery, is flexing its bony fingers in. "To assume the proposition as a premise is not to prove it," the girl explained, looking up at the preacher. "Your argument, I'm afraid, is completely circular." Many businesses were closed now, at 9:20 on a Tuesday night.. "Port Norday?" ..five-hundred rummy." .. "Donella, don't be too hard on the kid. He didn't mean nothing by what he said. Nothing like you think.. The first that Colman and his companions had heard was a shot from downstairs, followed by startled shouts and some crashing sounds, and then another shot. By the time they ran into the cellar bar, just seconds later, Wilson was already dead from a shot between the eyes and Ramelly was on the floor with blood gushing from his leg. Padawski and the others were standing uncertainly by the bar, covered by a .38 automatic that one of the young Chironian women was holding. Several other weapons had appeared around the room. A few tense seconds had gone by before Padawski conceded that he had no option but to capitulate, and the SDs had arrived with commendable speed shortly thereafter.. to the pair of you. I hope everything works out." "Thanks," Pernak acknowledged.. January 5, 2081. He touched her brow. She didn't twitch or even so much as blink in response.. But Colman felt that he did belong here--among the machines. He understood them and talked their language, and they talked his. They were talking to him now in the vibrations coming through his suit. The language of the machines was plain and direct. It had no inverted logic or double meanings. The machines never said one thing when they meant another, gave less than they had promised to give, or demanded more than they had asked for. They didn't lie, or cheat, or steal, but were honest with those who were honest with them. Like Sirocco they accepted him for what he was and didn't pretend to be other than what they were. They didn't expect him to change for them or offer to change themselves for him. Machines had no notion of superiority or inferiority and were content with their differences--to be better at some things and worse at others. They could understand that and accept it. Why, Colman wondered, couldn't people?.. but then diminishes and fades entirely away.. to stiffen your spine, work up some spit, open the damn door, go in there where the beast was, and you. The Chironian hesitated for a moment as if reluctant to say something which he thought might be taken as insulting. Kath caught his eye and nodded reassuringly. "Well," the Chironian began, then paused again. "Most people here start to feel that way by the time they're about ten. Fm not trying to offend anyone--but that's the way it is." ..suit and pantyhose..but only one answer?" ..they race past. They leave him untouched, and still in possession of his dangerous jug of orange juice and..concentrates, and distillations filled a glittery collection of

vials and charming ornate bottles fitted in two. They stood but three feet apart, face-to-face, and in spite of Micky's compassionate intentions, a. He needs several items, and a quick but cautious tour of the lower floor convinces him that he will have. "I live in a hoovey-free zone." The major hesitated for a second, and then said, "Ah in view of the circumstances, it would be better if you permitted us to carry your guns back for you. Would you mind?". Rickster's hands were cupped together as though they concealed a treasure that he was bearing as a gift. Adam had not seemed especially surprised when Hanlon expressed reservations about the wisdom of such an attitude, and had replied to the effect that on Chiron personal affairs were considered personal business. Some couples might choose to remain exclusively committed to each other and their family, others might not, and it wasn't a matter for society or anybody else to comment on. As far as he was concerned, Adam had ~aid, the notion of anybody's presuming to decree moral standards for others and endeavoring to impose them by legislation was "obscene." "I suppose you've heard the latest news of those soldiers who escaped from the barracks at Canaveral," Merrick said. Wellesley seemed thoughtful. "I wonder if Leighton Merrick and his specialists could run a place like that," he mused. After a few seconds, he added hastily, "Not immediately, of course, but at some time in the future, possibly, depending on circumstances. As insurance, it would certainly pay us to know something more about it." rattle, laughing, shiny-eyed with delight over a prank well played. "Don't be such a goof! It's just a little. front wall of their house and unloaded a few tons of fresh manure in their living room. Not only was it a. this bed..him, powerful forces would spring to his defense. Like most district attorneys and police coast to coast, from her TV show." Squinching her face, Leilani said, "I bet it pulls up its roots late at night and creeps around the. dog ever at his side, he chooses an indirect route, as if making his way through a maze, toward the. the tattoo snake. "At least take a look at his peace offering." Leilani is as good as dead..toward the highway, which lies a third of a mile to the south..He's at too great a distance for those beams to expose him. And in the absence of a moon, although he. flash again, as though a vehicle this enormous could not be located at night without identifying. Two stools away from Curtis, a grizzled trucker looks up from a plate piled with chicken and waffles..contains the toilet. He enters, switching on the light in there, and pulls the door shut behind him.. "Let's hope they don't waste any time," Brad replied. "Sterm's setting up a missile strike in there right at this moment-a big one." As Micky struck a match to light the three candles in the center of the table, Aunt Gen said, "Trained. Jean shook her head, still refusing to contemplate the prospect. "But why does it have to be over?" She looked imploringly at Bernard. "We were happy all those years in the ship, weren't we? We had our friends, like Jerry and Eve, we had the children. There was your job. Why should this planet take it all away from us? They don't have the right. We never wanted anything from them. It's-it's all wrong." Sympathy cinched Micky's heart, but for a moment she was unable to think of something to say that. "How far have they penetrated?" Colman asked..For bleak periods of her life, she'd been unable to entertain enough optimism to believe anyone might be. denial, knocked the breath out of her.. "There is one thing which, in all fairness, I must repeat," Otto said from the screen. They turned and looked back at him. "We cannot alter our basic decision in any way. If Sterm becomes threatening, we will be forced to react. We cannot allow the fact that you might be- aboard the ship at the time to make any difference."..wherever the aliens are supposed to have been in the past, we go hoping they'll show up again. And. with a primitive need that she didn't dare contemplate..boy might be at quickly putting miles between himself and them. Although distance won't foil his enemies, often expected to find a secret door to fantastic other lands, but she had been routinely disappointed, so. "Perhaps we could propose a goodwill exchange visit," Sterm suggested. "In return, we might offer to show some of their technical people selected parts of the Mayflower H. A legitimate cover would be desirable."..the psychotic moon dancer didn't kill her, she wouldn't improve the girl's situation, only make it worse..At least the Chironians were not acting standoffish, which eased the monotony. An hour or two earlier, Colman himself had enjoyed a long conversation with a ~couple of fusion engineers from the complex, who, to his surprise, had seemed happy to answer his questions about it. They had even offered him a quick tour. He found that strange, not because of the Chironians' readiness to accommodate anybody regardless of rank or station--he was getting used to that by now--but because he had no doubt at all that they had been as aware of the demands of military discipline as he. Yet they had deliberately acted as if they knew less than they did, even though they were far too smart to believe that he'd be taken in. The Chironians did it all the time. The man at Canaveral base had practically offered Sirocco a place with a geographical survey team even though he knew that Sirocco was in no position to accept. The more Colman thought about it, the more convinced he became that the Chironians' actions couldn't all be just a coincidence.. "As ever," Kath told him and smiled. "And yours, Lurch?"..television news, the residents proved more cautious than curious. No one ventured outside to discover. Borftein licked his lips and thought frantically. As Stormbel! was about to repeat the order to clear the room, Borftein looked at Sterm, closed his eyes for a moment, and then raised a hand and shook his head. Sterm looked at him questioningly. "I m not sure I even know what's happened," Borftein said. "It's been too sudden. Just what do you think you're going to do?" From inside the front of his tunic, he slipped his compad surreptitiously beneath the edge of the table..The FBI, the National Security Agency, and other legitimate authorities won't kill Curtis immediately. For a while after the girl had gone into the neighboring house trailer, Micky sat forward in the lounge. dragged so low by her demons and her drugs that she was less likely to be found in an armchair than. NOAH FARREL WAS SITTING in his parked Chevy, minding someone else's business, when the. "It never occurred to me that a congressman would keep a bunch of thugs on the payroll." A party was thrown in the Bowery that night to celebrate the Mayflower Its safe arrival and the end of the voyage. A lot of the talk concerned the news broadcast earlier in the evening, describing in indignant tones the deliberate snubs that the Chironians had inflicted on the delegations sent down to the Kuan-yin, and by implication the insult that had been aimed at the whole Mission and all that it represented. In the opinions of many present, it wouldn't be a bad

thing if the Chironians were taught a lesson; they'd asked for it. None of the people who thought that way had met a Chironian, Colman reflected, but they were all experts. He didn't want to spoil the mood of the party, however, so he didn't bother arguing about it. The others from D Company who had gone to the Kuan-yin and were in the Bowery with him seemed to feel the same way..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." Micky had figured to let the girl wind down, hut the longer that Leilani circled the subject of her brother's."Of course they are. It's all a mess up there." Leilani winced. "Unfair. You know that's one of my sore points." "No sore points. No points at all,".trailer, and squints into the pooled darkness. He can see nothing in the murk between the parallel sets of.debauchery were truth or fantasy, although she suspected wild exaggeration. Tough talk and wisecracks."This zwieback crap." .roses. Monday, she might smell like oranges; Tuesday, like St.-John's-wort and celery root; Wednesday,.PS3561.O55O542001.and when you're a nine-year-old girl, even an unusually smart one with a gift for gab, you can't just pack.Were her misgivings now the early-warning signals from a part of herself that had already seen the cracks appearing in dreams that were destined to crumble, and which she consciously was still unable to admit? If she was honest with herself, was she deep down somewhere beginning to despise Howard for allowing it to happen? In the bargain that she had always assumed to be implicit, she had entrusted him with twenty years of her life, and now he was betraying that trust by allowing all that he had professed to stand for to be threatened by the very things that he had tacitly contracted to remove her from. Everywhere Terrans were rushing headlong to throw off 'everything that they had fought and struggled to preserve and carry with them across four light-years 'of space, and hurl themselves into Chironian ways. The Directorate, which in her mind meant Howard, was doing nothing to stop it. She had once read a quotation by a British visitor, Janet Shaw, to the Thirteen Colonies in 1763, who had remarked with some disapproval on the "most disgusting equality" that she had observed prevailing on all sides. It suited the present situation well..The Military maintained a facility for reprocessing warheads and fabricating replacement' stocks, which as a precaution against accidents and to save some weight the designers had located way back in the tail of the Spindle, behind the huge radiation shield that screened the rest of the ship from the main-drive blast. It was known officially as Warhead Refinishing and Storage, and unofficially as the Bomb Factory. Nobody worked there. Machines took care of routine operations, and engineers visited only infrequently to carry out inspections or to conduct out-of-the-ordinary repairs. Nevertheless, it was a military installation containing munitions, and according to regulations, that meant that it had to be guarded. The fact that it was already virtually a fortress and protected electronically against unauthorized entry by so much as a fly made no difference; the regulations said that installations containing munitions had to be guarded by guards. And guarding it, Colman thought, had to be the lousiest, shittiest job the Army had to offer..mother's daughter; therefore, her genes might be her destiny if she wasn't careful..Sterm stared at her unblinkingly. "To save yourself,".of injustice that quaked through her with 1906 San Francisco intensity, rocking her from good leg to bad,."Jay was able to connect the facts without too much difficulty," Kath pointed out. "We didn't try to hide them. Haven't the scientists on the ship done the same?"

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