

CHILDHOOD AND YOUTH SERIES THE HIGH SCHOOL AGE

Kalens chewed on a slice of orange but made a face as if the fruit was bad. "But we've been publicly insulted," he objected. "What are you saying--that we should simply forget it? That would be unthinkable. What kind of a precedent would we be setting?" Ten years went by while North America and Europe completed their recovery, and the major Eastern powers settled their rivalries. At the end of that period New America extended from Alaska to Panama, Greater Europe had incorporated Russia, Estonia, Latvia, and the Ukraine as separate nations, and China had come to dominate an Eastern Asiatic Federation stretching from Pakistan to the Bering Strait. All three of the major powers had commenced programs to reexpand into space at more or less the same time, and since each claimed a legitimate interest in the colony on Chiron and mistrusted the other two, each embarked on the construction of a starship with the aim of getting there first to protect its own against interference from the others..?I didn't see any of that myself. It's what I was told happened to Luki.".books can be believed. Maybe the history texts are written with political bias, and maybe some of those."Not all, I guess," Colman replied with a grin. He turned to Adam and then Kath. "You, er--you don't seem to have any religion here at all, at least, not that I've seen. Is that right?" Having grown up to accept it around him as a part of life, he hadn't been able to help noticing..Corporal Swyley wasn't saying anything, which was significant because Swyley was usually a pretty good judge of what was what. His silence meant that he didn't agree with what was being said. When Swyley agreed with something, he said he didn't agree. When he really didn't agree, he said nothing. He never said he agreed with anything. When he had decided that he felt fine after the dietitian discovered the standing order for spinach and fish, the Medical Officer hadn't been able to accuse him of faking anything because Swyley had never agreed with anybody that he was sick; all he'd said was that he had stomach cramps. The M.O. had diagnosed that anybody with stomach cramps on his own time had to be sick. Swyley hadn't. In fact, Swyley had disagreed, which should have been obvious because he hadn't said anything..dog lingers on the shoulder of the highway until the boy catches up with her. Then, untroubled by I he.His-impatience was asserting itself again now, as Borftein sat in the chambers of Judge William Fulmire, the Mayflower H's Supreme Justice, listening to Howard Kalens and Marcia Quarrey argue over the finer points of the Mission's constitution, while on the surface the troops were fraternizing openly with what could become the enemy, and two years away in space the EAF starship dally drew nearer. The news from Earth told of a three-cornered conflict sweeping through eastern Africa, black nations clashing against Arabs in the north and whites in the south, Australia forces landing in Malagasay, and the Europeans maneuvering desperately to quell the flames while the EAF fanned them gleefully. That news would long ago have overtaken the Pagoda and what the intentions of those aboard it might be was anybody's guess. It wasn't a time to be fussing over ambiguous syntax and legal niceties..have been more complete.. "Look, I think Jay probably wants to talk about things you wouldn't be interested in," Colman said to Anita. "Why."No," Micky said. "Cops haven't had one lead in eighteen years.".Micky was flummoxed that her amateur psychology was proving to be no more successful than would."My guys will junk it. He better have a bus pass for backup.".balance the bad that cluttered other chambers..laugh that might make this earnest little nurse want to jump off a bridge, so he held it back and simply."We're all having to lean how to do that.". "Were they ever there?" Leilani asked again..Retreating toward the front door, with the dismayed dog at his side, he?s aware of people staring at him..He walked eastward, through the warm gusts of wind stirred by traffic, alert for any indication that he.to the moon as if it were an admiring prince who held her in his arms.. "Oh, little mouse, what's wrong with me that I let the child go back there?".Leaning across the dinette table, whispering dramatically to Leilani, Geneva said, "I located the bastard."You've already worked most of that out.".Lights blaze, blink, and blaze again behind the windows of the Hammond place, a strobing chaos, as."I don't think it ever did. What I was afraid of was in my own head. None of it was out there." She took in the sight of her husband-his arms tanned and strong against the white of the casual shirt that he was wearing, his face younger, more at ease, but more self-assured than she could remember seeing for a long time-propped loosely but confidently against the frame of the door, and she smiled. "Kalens may have to hide himself away in a shell," she said. "I don't need mine anymore.". "She isn't here, We've checked with transportation, and she was booked onto a shuttle up to the ship earlier this.Micky wished, not for the first time, that she had been Geneva's daughter. How different her life would."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.".worldwide icon. He's surprised and impressed that this man is an acquaintance of Tom Cruise..To avoid using a compad in not-too-private surroundings, he went to a public booth in the lobby at Rockefeller's to call the number programmed to accept cabs only if she was alone. While Colman waited for a response, his mind flashed back six months. He had been standing stiffly at attention in dress uniform alongside a display of a remote-fire artillery control post that was part of the Army's contribution to the Fourth of July celebrations, when she wandered away from a group of VIPs sipping cocktails and stood beside him to gaze admiringly at the screens. carrying simulated battlefield displays. She ran her long, painted fingernail slowly and suggestively along the intricate control panel for the satellite-tracking subsystem. "And how many more handsome young men like you do they have in the Army, Sergeant?" she murmured at the displays before her..Micky said, "It's hard to make up anything as weird as what is.".and she laughed with strange delight.. "What's your name, boy?" The major thrust his face close and narrowed his eyes menacingly..though the farmhouse has become a carnival funhouse awhirl with bright flickering spooks..icals are among its major products, as well as electricity." "Who operates it?" Marcia Quarrey asked.. "You'd like Constance Tavenall," he said. "If you'd had a chance to grow up, I think you'd have been a.Unextinguished laughter shakes the skies. ? Homer, The Iliad.Currently, however, a sense of inadequacy so overwhelmed her

that she had no capacity for shame. In visiting from Beyond. Pale and willowy, the woman spun and swooned and jerked erect and spun again. Lechat pursed his lips for a second, and then nodded curtly. "It do it," he said simply. He averted his eyes for a moment longer, and then looked across at Celia. The others had read, the same thing and followed his gaze, knowing what they were asking her to do. Colman could see the torment in her eyes as she looked back at Lechat. After all that had happened, she would have to leave the safety and security of Franklin to return to Phoenix, from there to the shuttle base, and then all the way back up to the Mayflower II. There was no other way. Published simultaneously in the United States and Canada. As she negotiated the fallen pickets and crossed the neglected sun-browned lawn next door, the faint. "We'll have to keep the unit intact in case there's a showdown," Sirocco murmured. "And I suppose we'll have to play along with Stormbel for the time being if we want to be free to move." He turned away and moved toward the far wall to think silently for a few moments longer, then wheeled about and nodded. "Okay. Bret, you have to leave for the base right away. Just hope that that Veronica comes off that shuttle, and use your own initiative to get her out. That's all you have to worry about so, on your way." Hanlon nodded and disappeared back through the Orderly Room. "Steve," Sirocco said. "Pick anyone you want to send to Franklin, and wet just have to leave the rest of that side of things to Kath. You vanish when you've done that, and do whatever you have to do to get Celia out and over to the Fallowses' place. When you've collected the other two people from there, take them all to the post between the north checkpoint and the rear of the construction site by the freight yard. Maddock's section will be manning that sector from midnight to 0400. They know how to distract the SDs, and I'll make sure they're expecting you." Colman nodded and tuned to follow in the direction which Hanlon had gone. "Oh, and Steve," Sirocco called as a new thought struck him. Colman stopped at the door and looked back. "You say you know Fallows fairly well?" The rhythmic thuds of marching feet died away and were replaced by the background sounds of daily life aboard the Kuan-yin--the voice of a girl calling numbers ~ of some kind to somebody in the observatory on the level above, children's laughter floating distantly through an open door at the other end of the narrow corridor behind Driscoll, and the low whine of machinery. A muted throbbing built up from below, causing the floor to vibrate for a few seconds. Footsteps and a snatch of voices came from the right before being shut off abruptly by a closing door. identify a reason for this almost sweet anticipation. Defensively, she tempered it with wariness. "I've been putting up for years with everything they want to start all over again in Iberia!" Bernard thundered suddenly, slamming down his glass. His face turned crimson. "I hated every minute of it. Who ever asked me if that was what I wanted? Nobody. I'm tired of everybody taking- for granted who I am and what they think I'm supposed to be. I stuck with it because I love you and I love our kids, and I didn't have any choice. Well, now I have a choice, and this time you owe me. I say we're going to Norday, and goddamnit we're going to Norday!" rising to check out their new circumstances, the boy says worriedly, "We've got to keep moving." "Carson doesn't know what to do with it," Driscoll. They will see through him, perhaps not immediately, but soon, and if they get their hands on him, he will. "Married to what?" "I've seen your mother go through a lot of men over the years. She's always been so ... restless. I knew." "Of course, dear." Geneva slid the dish of garnishes across the table. Stroking the mutt's head, rubbing behind one of the floppy ears and then behind the other, the frightened. of a locomotive, the dog often visible in front of him, but sometimes seen less than sensed, sometimes guard, as well. At what she judged to be a safe distance, perhaps ten feet past the fence, Micky stopped to watch. simmering bitterness to which the coffee was a perfect accompaniment. was shoved away roughly. "Get off, you clumsy asshole," the guard growled. Panic-stricken, Driscoll grabbed the handle of the trolley, and fled in through the doorway. shoes and up into the mother ship. raised like a flag, she leads the charge down the gently sloped embankment from the elevated interstate. "Micky." Old Yeller looks up from the shoe, juice dripping off her chin. Jay began speaking earnestly and in a low voice. "My father asked me to find you. It's urgent. One of the people the SDs are looking for is at the house. Sterm has arrested the whole of Congress, and we're pretty sure he's going to issue an ultimatum with the Military. If they do the Chironians will take out the whole ship. Pa wants to go with our guy and talk to Kath to see if they can do something, but they need help getting out of Phoenix." that I think about it, the man who was shot in New Orleans? he was Alec Baldwin. "straw-riddled manure." "What's that?" The driver and his partner return to the cab of the truck. One door slams, then the other. Ci repeated the performance. "Who are you?" she asked him. isn't real memory, Aunt Gen. It's movie memory again. I as a kid by an uncle who had died fifteen years into the voyage from a heart condition, but that was about all. would then, of course, be mad-dog furious for having been subjected to university-trained doctors and. "They'll say he never existed, that I'm just disturbed and invented him, like an imaginary playmate." "Shall we be getting back to the party then?" Hanlon asked as they descended a broad flight of steps in the intermediate Level plaza after Jay had departed for the Maryland module. A few seconds later Lurch, the household robot--apparently an indispensable part of any environment on Chiron that included children--appeared in the doorway. "It slipped," it announced. "Sorry about that, boss. I've wired off an order for a replacement." "Oh, is that what it is? I never realized. You never told me you were with a special unit." "Got a name?? Borftein halted and stood upright and erect before the desk. "Whatever you thought was mistaken. I am still the Supreme Military Commander of this Mission, and you obey my orders before any others. Stand aside." just walking back into the bedroom to wait when she heard the door on the far side of the lounge open, and immediately the suite was filled with the sounds of bodies moving around and voices calling to each other. A few seconds later Colman appeared in the doorway from the lounge. Celia started to move toward him instinctively, but he checked her by throwing the roll of packing that Veronica had brought at her face. "You're in the Army," he said gruffly as she caught it. "Move your ass." Alerted by Curtis's warning as he'd fled the motor home, maybe other motorists investigated the. "Too bad. How come?" than titillating, and it can only bring this lovely evening to a new low. It's already been dragged pretty low, great resources and urgency

across the West. He's probably returning from a late dinner, with a thermos. collections of science-fiction action figures and models of ornate but improbable spaceships. In one. Leilani, but he better stay on his side of the fence." "Yes--some kind of industrial complex, wasn't it?" "It's a centralized, fusion-based facility, that provides gen-. Colman shrugged. "Strange things happen at sea, they say, and I guess even stranger things in space." A synchronizing computer issued commands, and the accelerator rings discharged tangentially into the shaft in sequence to send a concentrated beam of instant annihilation streaking out into space through giant deflection coils controlled by data from the Chironian tracking satellites.--just inside the base. "What about?" "I'm not in fourth grade," Leilani said, pouring the warm beer into the sink. "We're twenty-first-century. Utah night, four feet above the highway.. Sirocco looked back at the orders and resumed, "The advance guard will fan out to form two files, of ten men each, aligned at an angle of forty-five degrees off either side of the access lock and take up station behind their respective section leaders. Officer in command of the guard detail will remain two paces to the left of the lock exit. Upon completion of the opening formalities, the guard will be relieved by a detail from B Company who will position themselves at the exit ramp, and will proceed through the Kuan-Yin. to post sentry details at the locations specified in Schedule A, attached. The sentry details will remain posted until relieved or given further orders. Are there any questions so far?" "So-o-o-o?" Celia spoke for the first time since sitting down with Veronica and Casey. Until now they had not been fully aware of the reason for Bernard and Lechat's visit. "Either way a wanting won't do any good," she said. "Whether you issue one now or later is academic. He would defy it. You don't know him. The hard core of the Army is rallying round him, and it has reinforced his confidence. He thinks he is unbeatable." .stepfather or not, the proper authorities will?" .Noah took deep breaths of the warm night air. On the way to his car? another rustbucket Chevy? he. "Me, too," Micky agreed.. "I don't know," Farnhill said. "You'd have to ask Merrick about that." .his enemies are not always his friends, certainly not in this case.. stall to stall, pushing all the flush levers in quick succession. The overlapping swish-and-lug of seven. they clearly have developed sufficient evidence to overcome all their doubts.. As one, the customers exiting the building had been paralyzed in midflight by the arrival of this scowling. and being rude to nuns.. "Sure, I know about their kind." .level of ambition is about I hat of an old basset hound on a hot summer afternoon." .with the reflected glow.. The matron didn't gave Veronica a second glance when she came out of the bathroom with Celia's bag on one hand. Behind the truck, the highway remains deserted. The parallel median lines, yellow in daylight, appear. By the time he nears the public road, he can no longer hear the terrible cries, only his explosive. reborn, the frightened fugitive scampered directly to him, onto his palm, up his arm, finally to a stop on his. "Lock at condition orange and ready to close." Suddenly the whole structure of the lock exploded inward under a salvo of high-explosive, armor-piercing missiles. Although there was no air to conduct the shock, the floors and walls shuddered. Some of the defenders were caught by the debris, and more went down under the volley of fragmentation bombs fired in a second later through the hole where the lock had been. The remainder began firing at the combat-suited figures moving forward among the wreckage of the cupola outside. One of the RCC's was upended and tangled up with a part of the lock door, and the other was trying to maneuver around it. "Red section, move to fallback positions," the captain yelled. "Covering-". With cheerful sincerity, Aunt Gen said, "Oh, I don't know, Micky, I rather like Leilani Doom." Lesley nodded. "He's been there all evening. Arrived around 1800 with Stormbel for a staff conference with the high command. They're all in there. ~." He frowned at the expression on Colman's face. "Nobody knew?" .corners of her eyes.. "That has to give us the rest of the ship and the surface," Swley said. "If the Army gets its act together and grabs Sterm before he gets a chance to head this way, then we might not have to go in there at all." .one would come here in search of love or chivalrous adventure.. "Better than tofu and canned peaches on a bed of bean sprouts," Leilani said as she settled in a chair.. Curtis had thought he was being pursued by a platoon. Perhaps it is instead an army. And the enemies of. The dog watches, head cocked, looking every bit as puzzled as it ought to be.. "Who," Jean asked.

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