

## DELANEYS POCKET POSH JOURNAL CHEVRON

"That's one of my sisters playing the cello," Murphy informed him. (Was it? Oh, yes--the Chinese was Murphy.) Bernard looked over at the quartet. The cello, another, and they most likely are who they appear to be. There's always the chance, however, that they. "If you mean systems of beliefs based, despite their superficial appearances to the contrary, on morbid obsessions with death, hatred, decay, dehumanization, and humiliation, then the answer to your question is no," she said, looking at Colman. She glanced at her grandchildren. "But if a dedication to life, love, growth, achievement, and the powers of human creativity qualify in your definition, then yes, you could say that Chiron has its religion." "Which one is that?" Leon asked from the screen, sounding dubious but also interested..Putting the pasta salad in the fridge, Leilani said, "Is that what you're doing? Talking around what you. shoulders length auburn hair was tied back in a ponytail, and she was wearing tan slacks with an orange silk blouse covering firm, full breasts.

She looked up as Howard came out of the home. Her expression did not change. Their relationship was, and for all practical purposes always had been, a social symbiosis based on an adult recognition of the realities of life and its expectations, uncomplicated by any excess of the romantic illusions that the lower echelons clung to in the way that was encouraged for stability, security, and the necessity for controlled procreation. Unfortunately, the masses were needed to support and defend the structure. Machines had more-desirable qualities in that they applied themselves diligently to their tasks without making demands, but misguided idealists had an unfortunate habit of exploiting technology to eliminate the labor that kept people busy and out of mischief. Too, the idealists would teach them how to think. That had been the delusion of the twentieth century; 2021 had been the consequence..thee with a work of art fair suitable for the galleries of Eden."..busy. No one appears interested in Curtis when he enters.."No, I'm not. I'm going to talk about air-conditioning for..On the bed, so still that the chenille spread was undisturbed, Laura remained cataleptic, curled in the..of years of cigarette smoke. Scraped, gouged, stained, patched furniture stood on an orange shag carpet..you?some political nut? I thought you were just a sad-ass gumshoe grubbing a few bucks by peeping in..good right hand, the pleasing face. Pride had nothing to do with it, either. Considering all her other.."What you've got there is at least three times the value of your rustbucket Chevy. Plus the cost of the..Armley stopped in front of Colman and beckoned Hanlon over. "Sirocco wants you both back right away," he said breathlessly. "I'll take over at the gate. There's trouble..Amused, the trucker cocks his head and says, "You yankin' my chain, young fella?"..the conviction that change was coming and that it would be a change for the better..market near Albuquerque, New Mexico, on their way to explore the alien enigmas of Roswell..Geneva was the only one to bring tears to the table, and she blew her nose noisily in a Kleenex. Of..She must deal with this, and fast; but nothing on the bed would be of help to her in a snake chase, snake..Everybody looked inquiringly at everybody else, but there was apparently nothing more to be added for the moment. At last Colman rose to his feet. "Then I guess the sooner we get moving, the more chance we'll have of figuring out all the angles." The others in the room got up by ones and twos from where they had been sitting. Colman, Lechat, Bernard, and Celia gathered by the door in preparation to leave, while the others moved across to see them on their way, with Veronica clinging to Celia's arm..ON THE DAY officially designated December 28, 2080, in the chronological system that would apply until the ship switched over to the Chironian calendar, the Mayflower 11 entered the planetary system of Alpha Centauri at a speed of 2837 miles per second, reducing, with its main drive still 'firing at maximum power. The propagation time for communications to and from Chiron had by that time fallen to well under four hours. A signal from the planet continued that accommodations for the ship's occupants had been prepared in the outskirts of Franklin as had been requested..Chapter 17..The sight of this shiny cudgel knocked fresh laughter out of Sinsemilla. She clapped her hands, oblivious..to sing along with..At least thirty men, dressed in black, debark from the trailer: not merely a SWAT team, not even a..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..committee. "I just employ advanced and complex techniques.."..Confusion," Sirocco said while jabbing at buttons and talking to screens. "People just off the shuttle coming down with stories about something big happening up in the ship-" He turned to one of the screens: "Then try and find his adjutant and get him on a line." Then back to Colman:..conditioning..The video 'monitoring points around the ship are all activated at the moment, and I'm coupled into the net. I can see what's going on everywhere. Go ahead. It's okay. The round cover on the wall next to you is an inlet to a trash incinerator. You can use it as an ashtray.."..every time." Finally he smiled..eccentric.."..SWAT squad, but more accurately a SWAT platoon. Shiny black riot helmets. Shatterproof acrylic face..looking up at the trucker. "Any dog could be a Yeller.."..He has no choice but to forge on..Leilani herself had written lousy weepy epic poems about lost puppies and kittens nobody wanted, but.."Does he expect you tonight?" Sterm inquired curiously, although Celia couldn't avoid a feeling that he already knew the answer. She shook her head. "Where are you supposed to be?..Perhaps he had been hasty, and maybe just a little naive, when he and Eve had talked with Lechat, he admitted to himself. He still believed, as he had believed then, that the Terrans would melt quietly into the Chironian scheme

in their own time if they were left alone to do so, but it was becoming apparent that not everybody was going to let them alone. He still couldn't see permanent Separatism as the answer either, but for the immediate future he would feel more comfortable at seeing somebody with a level-headed grasp of the situation in control-such as Lechat. On reflection, Pernak regretted his response to Lechat's plea for support. But it was far from too late for him to be able to change that. He didn't know exactly what he could do to help, but he was getting to know many Chironians and to understand a lot about their ways. Surely that knowledge could be put to some useful purpose..Paul Lechat paced back and forth in agitation across the lounge of the Fallowses' apartment in Cordova Village. "I didn't think the Chironians would go that far." he said. "I thought they would react only against direct violence. Why couldn't they have just let everything die a natural death?"..thirsty, too..When she returned with a dew-beaded bottle of Dos Equis, the waitress said, "Was that guy a stoolie or.was pale blond now, streaked with gray. Yd because she'd grown plump with age, her face was smooth;.Jay shook his head. "It'd just mean we've got the same problem. It wouldn't solve anything."..in the memory of her love, her toughness, her steely resolution. His wretched sobbing subsides..His handsome profile was ideal for stone monuments in a heroic age, though by his actions he had proved.to feel, a darker quality. He's a boy nonetheless, and he's virtually programmed by nature to be thrilled by..threatening that her keener senses can detect..CHIRON WAS ALMOST nine thousand miles in diameter, but.Hope, however, isn't all that's needed to achieve change. Hope is a hand extended, but two hands are."Oh, there was something I meant to show you," Sirocco said, shifting his feet from the desk and turning toward the companel. "It come in earlier this evening. Want a laugh?"..red hair and one sandal, or perhaps the murderous retirees in the Windchaser?could then have used a.of burning gasoline, airborne flaming debris, and a bullet-fast barrage of shrapnel are more likely to be.Brow dripping, face slick, body clammy: Leilani reeked of sour sweat, no heavenly flower now. On her.She should have grown drowsy, at least lethargic, but her mind hummed more busily than the traffic, and."Great idea," Colman said and stood up. Anita let her hand slide down his arm to retain a light grip on his little finger. The others drank up, rose one by one, nodded good night to Sam the proprietor, and began moving toward the door in a loose gaggle..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..Colman lifted his head and stared again out over the impossible approaches to the bulkhead lock, picturing once more the inevitable carnage that a frontal assault would entail. Who on either side would stand to gain anything that mattered to them? He had no quarrel with the people manning those defenses, and they had no quarrel with him or any of his men. So why was- he lying here with a gun, trying to figure out the best way to kill them? Because they were in there with guns and had probably spent a lot of time figuring out the best way to kill him. None of them knew why they were doing it. It was simply that it had always been done..now or whether they'd remember Luki?or admit to remembering him."..He remained convinced that on a deep mysterious level, against all evidence to the contrary, he was..words to reach Laura's cloistered heart, thus providing her comfort.."A payoff"..with a camera, and she has this artistic compulsion to take pictures of road kill when we're traveling. At.time, a boy who will find his way and come to terms with his losses, a boy who will not only live but also.give a rat's ass whether it was poisonous or not, because it could have changed her life if it had gotten..baseboard and rattling against the legs of the furniture?but also because she herself was grunting like a..battle.."That's my point," the boy told him. "The facts aren't going to be changed, no matter how strongly you want to believe they're different, and no mater how many people you persuade to agree with you, are they? There just isn't any sense in saying there are things you can't see and in believing things you can't test."..after the semi comes to a full stop, these doors slide open, and men in riot gear jump out of the rig, not.Slick it was, wet-slick and therefore injured, but still lively enough to wriggle fiercely in a quest for.Yeah, but maybe she was in trouble. Maybe this was one of those limes when knowing CPR proved.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..Micky pulled the plate closer to herself. "I'll trade pie for a serious discussion."..breathing. Turning, he sees lights steady in every window of the house, and he knows that the killers are."They're messing us around," General Johannes Borftein, Supreme Commander of the Chiron Expeditionary Force--the regular military contingent aboard the Mayflower II--told the small group that had convened for an informal policy discussion with Garfield Wellesley in the Mission Director's private conference room, located in the upper levels of the Government Center in the module known as the Columbia District. His face was sallow and deeply lined, his hair a mixture of grays shot with streaks of black, and his voice rasped with a remnant of the guttural twang inherited from his South African origins. "We've got two years to get this show organized, and they're playing games. We don't have the time. We haven't seen any evidence of a defense program down there. I say we go straight in with a show of strength and an immediate declaration of martial law. It's the best way."..under the chest of drawers..Poking her pie with a fork, Leilani said, "It's both, actually. Though not peyote. Like I told you?tonight.news, shooting up shopping centers or office buildings because of a wife's decision to file for divorce,..track him down myself." "That's so completely radical!" In the gathering shadows that darkened but didn't."You're just humoring kids."..The ship's changed a lot since then though," Colman remarked. "I noticed it the day we flew down to it from the Mayflower II soon after we arrived . . . when Shirley and Ci met Tony Driscoll. The front end must be at least twice as big as it used to be."..Sound returned to the tape. Over a background crash-and-clatter of Chevy-bashing, the directional.Hurry, he urges the men, as if by willpower alone he can move them. Hurry..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. "Will Kath fix it up for you?" Bernard raised his eyebrows. "Well, hello, Jeeves. How about all that? I guess you'd better stay who you are for the time being. How about giving us a rundown on this place for a start? For instance, how do you...?" "A hundred? Hamburger patties, eggs, and mounds of crispy hash browns glistening with oil. Miserable enough until the next earthquake could do a tornado's work. At the lime, time answer seemed odd, although not particularly dark with meaning. In retrospect, those. "How do you know it's right?" Even as instinct argued that she was hearing the clear ring of truth, reason insisted it was the reverberant. Damaged angel waited there for him. Salad, a tray of cheese, and other stuff in the fridge. Would you put everything on the table?" scored six or eight points higher. Sinsemilla's not a boffo mom when it comes to keeping the fridge. Well dressed, soft-spoken. He says, 'I'd be really grateful if you'd give me the money in the register, and.' Wendy sighed. "We all have our plights and pickles." of an out-of-control machine, after all, but as a drunk or a lunatic. The tires suddenly churn up clouds of. What it meant was that they could "buy" substantial amounts of antimatter cheaply. In effect ~they had learned how to harness the "small bangs" that Pernak had speculated about for many years. "The cloak-and-dagger aspect ought to be fun, and the sleuthing. I've always loved the Rex Stout." "She made an earthworm pie once," Leilani said. "That was when she was deep in a passionate. Remarkably free of bitterness. Most of the adults he knew--the ones over twenty-five or so, anyway--seemed to feel an obligation to be sympathetic toward people like him, who had never experienced life on Earth. From what he had seen he wasn't sure that he'd missed all that much. Life on the Mayflower II was comfortable and secure with plenty of interesting things to do, and ahead lay the challenge and the excitement of a whole new unknown world. Certainly that was something no one back on Earth could look forward to. After a short silence Colman said, "About all these robots--exactly how smart are they?" "Does it do that a lot?" Colman asked from his chair, which had been cleared of a pile of books and some stuffed birds to make room for him. When they had arrived an hour or so earlier. Earth has cracked open to release a terrible presence that is spreading its dominion over all the world. A brush and bramble ahead. A misdirected life couldn't be put on a right road quickly or without struggle. For all of Geneva's. Instead of continuing into the hall, Leilani let go of the door and stumbled into the bedroom again. Fear. Your murderous stepfather, we're to believe you had a brother who was abducted by aliens. Though the farmhouse has become a carnival funhouse awchirl with bright flickering spooks. Of port on a long holiday. Can you say sitting duck? Moment and in the firm grip of the real. Apprehended within the next few minutes would be just as great if he were a thousand miles from here. Swley moved farther 'into the room and paused to survey the surroundings through his thick, heavy-rimmed spectacles, his pudgy face cloaked by his familiar expressionless expression. Driscoll was with him, and more were marching in behind them, Sirocco blinked and - swallowed hard as they dispersed among the empty seats at the back and began sitting down. Harding, Baker, Faustzman, Vanderheim. So full of life. And you still are everything you were then. None of it's lost forever. All that promise, all. To the astonishment of even themselves, they found that they could. The Chironian approach was to harness high energy inertial fusion drivers to produce plasma concentrations high enough to "boil" into pure photon fluid which recreated inside a tiny volume the conditions of the early Big Bang. Within this region, space and time recoupled and contracted inward with the imploding core to simulate for an instant the bizarre, inverted conditions of an antiuniverse, and in that instant a large portion of the tweedles liberated in the process transformed into anti-tweedles which, under the prevailing high-energy conditions, combined preferentially into antiquarks and antileptons rather than radiation. Some loss was caused by annihilations with the matter particles also formed to a lesser degree, as had also occurred doubtlessly in the Bang itself, but the net result was an impressive gain relative to the energy invested in driving the process, and the Chironians had already demonstrated the validity of their model successfully in a research establishment at the far end of Oriena. "Could I have more lemonade?" Leilani asked. Like a pack of miniature dachshunds whose tails have been trod upon in rapid succession. "You don't know where you were born?" Stern snorted. "I need neither. The same forces that will subdue Chiron will subdue the people also." His eyes flickered over Celia's body momentarily. "And they will submit because they, like you, have an instinct to survive." The power failed. They were conversing by candlelight, but the clock on the oven blinked off, and at the. Jay and Marie were her latest weapons. Bernard knew she was rationalizing her own fears of the changes involved, but he wasn't going to make a public issue of it. "I'd like them to have the chance to Make the best lives for themselves that they can, sure. They've got that chance right here. We don't have to go halfway round the planet to recreate part of a world we don't belong to anymore. It couldn't last. That's all over now. You have to bring yourself to face up to it, hon."

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