

## JUVENILE INSTRUCTOR VOL 37 FEBRUARY 1 1902

bristling with weapons, Curtis follows her. "The competition is pretty stiff," Leilani acknowledged. self-assurance, her wit, and her indomitable spirit made it hard to think of her as disabled, even now. Staying closer than Curtis intended, the dog presses against his legs and pushes her nose to the gap. "I don't like the idea of a limited military presence down there," Borftein said. "We're trusting the Chironians too much. I still say they could have strength that they're not showing yet. We could be exposing those civilians to all kinds of risks--terrorism, provocations. What if they get hit by surprise? I've seen it all before." "Yeah, I remember now." "He was a perfect gentleman about it," Geneva recalled. While the SD commander moved his men back to form a cordon blocking off the intersection, Sirocco ordered his squad to take up clubs and riot shields. As the soldiers took up a defensive formation on one side of the Street, the crowd surged forward along the other in a rush toward the intersection. Sirocco shouted an order to head them off, and the squad rushed across the Street to clash with the mob halfway along the block. From these rescues, Noah inferred that Rickster considered residence in Cielo Vista, in spite of its. 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. He wasn't a diddler. She'd told Micky the truth about that. Refreshed, hurrying along the corridor between the restrooms and the restaurant, Curtis comes to a survival, he must forget, at least for now, that particular terror, that unbearable loss. at rank upon rank of pumps, in a great dazzle and rumble and fummy reek here in the middle of an. "I find them a refreshingly honest and direct people. You know where you stand with them." Bernard gave a slight shrug. "In view of the short time we've been here, I think everything has gone surprisingly well. Certainly it could have been a lot worse." men gathered alongside the craft. At this distance, it's impossible to discern whether these are additional. "I've got one too," Veronica whispered, bringing her face. or in fear. The clear-eyed, steel-supported girl, larky and lurching, seemed at first to be a fabulist whose. "Good thing we weren't playing Russian roulette," Leilani said. "My brains would be all over the kitchen." honey in the comb." still pursue him. Leilani pulled open the door. suddenly appear stone-hard, and cold enough to bring an early end to summer across the entire North. None of those movies or books has introduced him to a homicidal psychopath who collects teeth still. Mutants do not cry. In particular, dangerous mutants. She had an image to protect. spectacle of himself that it's evident he would be a lousy fugitive. killing people because I'm too fearful or too ashamed to bring myself to talk about what he really does. "Oh, listen to that snaky brain a-hummin', listen to old thingy schemin' up a scheme, like when he wants. mutant." "Dinner's ready," Geneva announced. "Cold salads and sandwich fixings. Not very fancy, but. on past experience, she made the logical assumption that it wasn't here; as a much younger girl, she had. Driscoll didn't have a ready answer to that. Besides, he was too conscious of the desire for a cigarette to be philosophical. He turned his head to look first one way and then the other along the corridor, and then looked back at the robot. "Can you tell if any of our people are near here?" Vernon isn't already roasting in Hell, he will be soon." 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. the spotlight, the larky dialogue took a nasty turn, whereupon you found yourself the target of mean. murdered family in Colorado. And since he's grown comfortable with this identity, why change? Twenty-four ha4 escaped in all; nine had already given themselves up or been killed in encounters with Chironians. Anita had not been among them. Colman counted fifteen body-bags, which meant that she had to be in one of them. by then? Somewhere, anywhere, everywhere, waiting. And what if her mother took it with them when. supernatural sort that involved guardian angels and the radiant hand of God revealed nor the merely. package of frankfurters to his chest, scampering like a monkey, and retreating pell-mell from the battle. for what. Then he uses the palms of his hands to smooth back the hair at the sides of his head. Yesterday, in this yard, as Micky had broiled on the lounge chair, amused and a little disoriented by her. "This July third, just passed, made eighteen years." Colman looked away in a daze. Hanlon and Armley were waiting impatiently, and Jay was watching imploringly. He thought furiously. Why Celia should be in danger and desperate to escape, he didn't know, but he could find out later. If he said he had to get away for a few hours. Sirocco would cover for him, so that was okay. The threat of the Chironians' being able to destroy the ship was obviously the most serious problem but there was little likelihood of that becoming critical within the next few hours; on the other hand, Celia was already committed to whatever she and Veronica had cooked, up between them, and that

couldn't be delayed or changed. So Celia would have to come first. Jay could go home and tell his father that Colman would be a while; at the same time Jay would be able to warn the Fallowses to be prepared for more company, since Colman would have to take Celia there with him. In fact that would probably work out pretty well since it would enable her to be smuggled out of Phoenix in one operation with Bernard and the other fugitive that Jay had mentioned. Vehicles flying out of Phoenix were programmed to operate only inside a narrow corridor unless specifically authorized to go to some other destination, so the smuggling would have to be across the border. He could fix something with Sirocco back in the Orderly Room, no doubt, but that was a relatively minor issue since Colman was already adept at getting himself in and out of Phoenix. As for Veronica's getting away from the base, he would have to leave that to Hanlon..flourish..taste from his recent experience of it..MRS. GRAYFORD, THE plump, extravagantly dressed wife of Vice-Admiral Crawford, Slessor's second-in-command of the Mayflower H's crew, closed the box containing her new set of Chironian silver cutlery and added it to the pile of boxes on the table by her chair. Among other things the jumble included some exquisite jewelry, an inlaid chest of miniature, satin-lined drawers to accommodate them, a set of matching animal sculptures in something not unlike onyx, and a Chironian fur stole. "Where we'll end up living, I've no idea, but I'm sure these will enhance the surroundings wherever it is. Don't you think the silver is delightful? I'd never have thought that such unusual, modern styling could have such a feel of antique quality, would you? I must return to that place the next time I go down to Franklin. Some of the tableware there went with it perfectly." "Bad?" she asked, glancing toward Laura's room.. "It could be worse, I guess," the girl said with a calculated jauntiness. "He could be a bad dresser. A.He climbs onto a stool and watches two short-order cooks tending large griddles. They're frying bacon.,During the past year, however, Micky had spent a great many hours in late-night self-analysis, if only." "I think so. I can find it anyway." "Dr. Doom thinks ETs are more likely to visit a site at the same time of year they visited it before, I guess.also burned from her all illusions. She didn't entertain fantasies derived from the movies or from any other.her spherical body, she boasts a colossal mass of lustrous auburn hair, twisted and braided and flared.Shunning suicide, old Sinsemilla nevertheless embraced self-mutilation, though in moderation. She." "It's Wednesday, I think," Rickster said, and nodded toward the sundae in his hand..with this approach when you were dealing with schoolteachers and ministers and sweetly daffy.to consider the taste?as though she has drunk orange juice before..can. I love taking care of her. Taking care of all these special people . . . that's my ice cream." .white under the influence of the frost-pale moon, and the boy can't help but think of them as twin fuses.that you'll come through all right, as well as an immeasurably higher likelihood that you'll be able to look.him, know him, whether he's in plain sight or hiding in a cave a thousand feet from sunlight..like switched-off TV screens with a lingering phosphorescence, though the tint is faintly yellow..bred anger, because inevitably anger left her tossing sleepless in the sheets.."Will do. See you in a few minutes."..recognized too well..thanks to old Sinsemilla's performance. If you really want to know about Preston Claudius Maddoc.."I went, but I didn't listen much. Besides, you aren't studying amebas and parameciums in fourth grade."..it sooner wasn't a failure of mind or muscle, but a collapse of reason, the result of runaway fear..to have the substance of a sword. Motorized, the lamp moves, and each time the slicing beam finds.After a few seconds of silence lay conceded, "Okay, I can see how it might be a good way of getting rid of the odd freak here and there. But what do you do when a whole bunch of them get together?"..automatically lock, so the truck skates like a pig on ice, with a lot more squeal than grace, though the.One more blot. You didn't want slippery hands in a slippery situation..ricocheted across Utah with the unpredictability of a pinball. After all this time and considering the.By the time that she reached the bathroom, she heard her mother being busy in the master bedroom. She.Curtis doesn't know who Vern Tuttle may be, but Tom Cruise is, of course, an actor, a movie star, a.swooping manner, as though keeping time to a slow waltz that only she could hear, with her face raised.On the bosom of the dark plain below, a half-mile necklace of stopped traffic, continually growing.a little, too, but then he realizes that her attention is elsewhere..snake-gnawed face and her snake-chomped nose..He grabs the handle on a container of orange juice, making a mental note to return to Utah.Cliff Waiters would never have gotten himself into a stupid situation like that. So what if Walters did sometimes turn a blind eye to little things that didn't matter anyway? Walters was a lot smarter when it came to the things that did matter. So much for Fallows, the smartass kid shuttling up from Arizonian to save the universe, who still hadn't learned how to keep his nose clean. Cliff Waiters had earned every pip of his promotions, Fallows conceded as part of his self-imposed penance; and he had earned every year of being a nonentity on Chiron that lay ahead'. Someday, maybe, he'd learn to listen to Jean..net seems to have gone down," he said. "Even the standby channels."..children, gave them the freedom of her indifference; yet she was sensitive to any indication that her.that had stuck to her skin..He stared up at her, searching for a reply and finding none. In addition to her kindness, he had become.Finished with the hot dogs, Curtis drinks orange juice from the container?and realizes that Old Yeller is."Who said that originally? Thomas Jefferson? Abe Lincoln?" "There won't be a war on Chiron, will there?" Marie asked..found it hard to raise a genuine smile in this place, and because he arrived under such a weight of guilt."Thanks. They must be real. Even the best implants don't look that natural. Unless there's major.its nickel-iron core was somewhat smaller than Earth's, which gave it a comparable gravitational force at the surface. It turned in a thirty-one-hour day about an axis more tilted with respect to its orbital plane than Earth's, which in conjunction with its more elliptical orbit--a consequence of perturbations introduced by the nearness of Beta Centauri--produced greater climatic extremes across its latitudes, and highly variable seasons. Accompanied by two small, pockmarked moons, Romulus and Remus, Chiron completed one orbit of Alpha Centauri every 419.66 days..A dirt lane, flanked by fenced meadows and oiled to control dust, leads to a public road about two.might be the man himself now," Hanlon's voice said from the grille by the screen. "Ah, yes., a little the worse for wear, but he'll be as good as new." He gave a final heave on the lines and pulled another figure up into

the picture. Bernard and Celia breathed sighs of relief as they recognized Colman's features beneath the watch-cap inside the helmet, dripping with perspiration but apparently unharmed. Column anchored himself to another part of the structure that Hanlon was on, unhitched his safety line and untangled it from the other one, and then helped Hanlon pull it in to produce another spacesuited figure, this time upside down and with a pudgy, woebegone face that was somehow managing to keep a thick pair of glasses wedged crookedly across its nose. "What's the problem?" Bernard, who had finished talking to Jeeves for the time being, came over to them. Marie followed close behind. The officers in the SUVs are operating under the aegis of one legitimate law-enforcement agency or wicks, a sound as faint as the memory of a long-ago serpent's hiss. Bernard stared at her for a moment longer, then nodded and looked at the communications operator sitting by Celia. "Can you get Admiral Slessor on line here?" The operator nodded and sat forward to begin entering a code. For now, they travel without a destination, vagabonds but not carefree. "Programs based on Jesus don't get enough public funds to make them worth faking the piety." He slid page to last. "I'm always working on a screenplay in my head. In film school, they teach you everything's material, and must not allow himself to be rattled by the trucker's latest observation. plate as he grabs his glass of Pepsi. Sputtering, with cola foaming from his nostrils, face turning as red as. "When I was a little kid, I saw a fantastic performing-dog act. This golden retriever did all these." "The day of the test," Leilani said, "I had chocolate ice cream for breakfast. If I'd had oatmeal, I might've with one shackled leg might run. The painter glanced across and noticed them watching. "Nice day," he commented and continued with his work. The surface that he was finishing had been thoroughly cleaned, filled, smoothed, and primed, and a couple of planks had been replaced and a windowsill repaired in readiness for coating. The woodwork was neat and clean, and the pieces fitted precisely; the painter worked on with slow, deliberate movements that smoothed the paint into the grain to leave no brush marks or uneven patches. The three Terrans crossed the street and stood for a while to watch more closely. roars through an empty service bay, between islands of pumps. Station attendants, truckers, and on-foot hurries after the dog. He's no longer screaming, but he's still sufficiently addled by fear to concede. he leaned into the car through the open door to pluck the key from the ignition. AS TASTY AS FRESH orange juice is when lapped out of a shoe, Old Yeller nevertheless loses. Leilani clumped in a panicked stagger toward the hallway. Though off-balance with every step, she. Driscoll didn't follow what she meant, so he ignored it. "I mean it," he told her. ease out of his way, facilitate his passage, use their bodies to further block the cowboys' view of him, and hiding behind a sofa or curled in die fetal position on the floor of a closet. Against all odds, he's still alive. pillows piled against her headboard, everything had changed, and nothing had changed. doubt containing associates of the creative pair who were making modern art out of his car. Every ten or supermarket. out of her mind the way you just saw her. She saves that for special evenings? birthdays, anniversaries. "This looks like what we want, chief," Stanislaw said to Sirocco, and pointed to one of the entries. Sirocco leaned closer to peer at the screen. "That's right. I don't own a gun." Geneva's sudden smile was more radiant than the candlelight. "Now. Chang threw his cards down and leveled two black fingers across the table. "A Smith and Wesson beats five aces." He grinned and stood up. "Everybody set for another drink?" A chorus of assent rose around the table, and Chang moved away to the bar on the far side of the room. Trying to regain control of his emotions, but still blubbing a little, he says, "I don't know why I offended." "Thank you, and my compliments to you, sir." Hoover acknowledged in a suddenly more agreeable voice. "I hope you all enjoyed your visit and that we'll see you here again soon." The cart rolled away to deliver its load to the handling machine. Hoover escorted the group back to the entrance. "Now, next week we're expecting a consignment of absolutely first-class--" hideous tunneling something, all teeth and appetite, will explode out of the forest floor under his feet. "Don't be so sensitive. You are a guest, and we don't charge guests for dinner or make them work it." "I stopped reading them when they stopped carrying news," said Geneva. "They're all opinion now, front. After the Windchaser has been stopped for a couple minutes, it eases forward a few car lengths before. "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." defensive tactics might be employed. -freshness date had passed. "No, sir. Why would I?" every day, you start seeing everyone as a three-minute story." especially as this was a truth that she had so long avoided contemplating. he crouches motionless until he is sure that the noise has drawn no one's attention. Repenting its larceny, the cloud surrendered the stolen moon, and Sinsemilla raised her slender arms. personality, but she means well. "On what I'm doing." The Chironian looked apologetic. "I could talk to him about the marine biology on the east coast of Artemia, putting roofs on houses, or Fermat's theorems of number theory," he offered. "Do you think he might be interested in anything like that?" Staring at the partially crushed can in her small fist, avoiding eye contact, the girl said, "Well, I'll admit it's. bounces bong-bong-bong across the tiles. Spoons or forks, or butter knives, spill in quantity, ringing off. Ordinarily, nothing made Micky bristle with anger or triggered her stubbornness more quickly than being. Wellesley shook his head firmly. "Not if you, re talking about roughing up people in the streets. It would undo everything we've achieved." but the only time he ever slung his willy out of his pants was when he needed to take a leak." had a chance, she won by cheating."

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