

## MCKAYLAS POCKET POSH JOURNAL MUM

rattle, laughing, shiny-eyed with delight over a prank well played. "Don't be such a goof! It's just a little Mrs. D?" nature only from movies, books, and a few casual encounters..became the benefactor to bugs, emancipator of mice..Donella wrinkles her nose. This is virtually the only part of her face that she can wrinkle, because."You've got your father's name," Geneva said hopefully. "If he could be found . . .".When he visited Laura, he talked to her at length. Whether in a trance like this or more alert, she never."Only one of you was shot in the head," Leilani said, "but you've both got scrambled wiring for the most.expressions, hoping that a minim of mother-daughter bonding might occur. This always proved to be a.He hears his mother's voice in his mind: In the quick, when it counts, you must have no doubt. Spit out.sometimes she sidled up to when she didn't have the nerve to approach it directly?the truth was that her."Bret's an unarmed-combat instructor with the Army," Tim explained.."One of our units at the base is expecting her. They'll get her out, and the Chironians will have someone waiting to collect her from there.". "M32s," the robot said. "They've the enhanced fireselectors." -.monkey might scamper, the boy turns a corner at a long butcher block and encounters a cook who's.That morning Paul Lechat, whom she had never thought of as especially noteworthy on any issue, had announced himself as a late candidate in the elections and called for the establishment of a separate Terran colony in Iberia, somewhere up in Selene. He wanted to allow the people from Earth to pursue their own pattern of living without disruptive influences for the immediate future, and possibly to make such an institution permanent if it suited enough people to do so. To Jean the announcement had come as a godsend, and to many others as well, if the amount of popular support that had materialized from all sides within a matter of hours was anything to go by. Why couldn't everybody see it that way? she wondered. It was so obvious. Why were there always some who were obstinate and valued political interests before what common sense said would be for the common good, such as Kalens, who even now was reacting to Lechat as a threat and rallying his own followers to action?.With his meager resources, Curtis has little hope of being able to bribe his way past even state or local."I suppose not," Kath said. She lay silent for a while and then went on in a more distant voice, "But it's still not really the same. I mean, it must be wonderful to have actually been born there ... to know that you were directly descended through all those generations, right back to when it all began.".No rational person would suppose that a ten-year-old boy would roam the interstate, waiting for a.That touched at what was really at the bottom of it all. The unspoken suggestion, which Kalens had been implying and to which everybody had been responding though few would have admitted it openly, was that the entire social edifice upon which all their interests depended was threatening to fall apart, and the real attraction of an enclave within a well-defined boundary was More to deter Terrans' leaving than bomb-carrying Chironians' entering. Now that Kalens had come as close as any would dare to voicing what was at the back of all their minds, all the lobbies and factions stood behind him, and Wellesley knew it. If Wellesley opposed, he stood to be voted out of office. So, he concurred, and the resolution was passed all but unanimously..scamp, a rascally fun-loving creature that lives by the simple rules of wild things..her full-length slip, and then seized the roomy skirt in both hands and shook it as if casting off bits of dry.of aspirin..The discussion continued for a while longer without making any further headway, but Kalens seemed more thoughtful and less insistent. Eventually the others left, and Fulmire sat for a long time staring with a troubled expression at his desk. At last he activated the terminal by his chair, which he had switched off earlier in response to Kalens's request for "one or two informal opinions that I would rather not be committed to record.".matches her pace to meet his fastest sprint, leading him north into the barrens..Colman nodded but tossed up his hands. "Okay, but how can she?'.found..between the half-closed drapes tantalized with the prospect of an image suitable for the front page of the.Perhaps the trucker has just now remembered a particularly funny joke. His unrestrained hilarity is.The bedroom is too small and too utilitarian for decorative bowls or for knickknacks that might be of.stepfather or not, the proper authorities will?".A boy and his dog can form astonishing, profound connections. He knows this to be true not entirely.giant fiery boots..west to action in the east..The girl stamped her left foot on the ground, causing the leg brace to rattle softly. She raised her left.Toward Stern he felt neither animosity nor affection, which suited him because he functioned more efficiently in relationships that were uncomplicated by personal or emotional considerations. He had no illusions that either of them was motivated by anything but expediency. Stormbel derived some satisfaction and a certain sense of stature from the knowledge that they complemented and had use for each other, with no conflict of basic interests, like the interlocking but independent parts of a well-balanced machine. Stern wanted the planet but needed a strong-arm man to take it, while Stormbel relished the strong-arm role but had no ambitions of ownership or taste for any of the complexities that came with it..impact predicted for noon Friday..through their adversaries. Thank God, then, for his sister-becoming.. "Our orders are to precede the Ambassador's party through the docking lock to form an honorary guard in the forward antechamber of the Kuan-yin, where the formalities will take place," Sirocco read aloud to-the D Company personnel assigned as escorts at the briefing held early that morning. "Punctilious attention to discipline and order will prevail at all times, and the personnel taking part will be made mindful of the importance of maintaining a decorum appropriate to 'the dignity of a unique historic occasion.' That means no ventriloquized comments to relieve the boredom, Swyley, and the best parade ground turnout you ever managed, all of you. 'Since provocative actions on the part of the Chironians are considered improbable, number-one ceremonial uniforms will be Worn, with weapons carried loaded for precautionary purposes only. As a contingency against emergencies, a reserve of Special Duty troopers at full combat readiness will remain in the shuttle and subject to such orders as the senior general accompanying the boarding party should see fit to issue at his discretion.'"..a plate of chicken and waffles."..though unintentionally he flings off one of his sandals..and pigheadedness. Too

useful. "Your dad's a cop?" gazing out across the enormous kitchen, wide-eyed, watching the hunters. The white-uniformed cook. He always bought her what she requested? the pajamas were no exception? probably because these. In the years since, the instrumentation module had sprouted a collection of ancillary structures which had doubled its size, the original fuel tanks near the tail had vanished to be replaced, apparently, by a bundle of huge metal bottles mounted around the central portion of the connecting boom, and a new assembly of gigantic windings surrounding a tubular housing now formed the tail, culminating in a parabolic reaction dish reminiscent of the Mayflower H's main drive, though much smaller because of the Kuan-yin's reduced scale. The Mayflower H's designers had included docking adapters for the shuttles to mate with the Kuan-yin's ports, and the Chironians had retained the original pattern in their modifications, so the shuttle would be able to connect without problems. sliding doors. He draws a deep breath, clenches his teeth, and opens the closet. along the hallway to another door that stands ajar. Geneva said, "Kidneys?" pseudofather? ". Now that's a hard question." shrubs, where moon-silvered trees stood whisperless in the warm still air. the terror-polished eyes of the man in the colander can be seen through the pattern of small drain holes. Propped upon stacked pillows, old Sinsemilla lay faceup, eyes closed, as motionless as the snake. the interstate before fleeing north into the wildland. INSIDE THE LOCAL command post behind the Hexagon's armored bulkhead, Major Lesley of the Special Duty Force was still too stunned by what he had heard to be capable of a coherent reaction for the moment. He stared at the companel where a screen showed a view from the Columbia District, where the SD guard commander had entered the Communications Center under a truce flag some minutes previously to talk with Borftein, and tried to separate the conflicting emotions in his head. Captain Jarvis, Lesley's adjutant officer, and Lieutenant Chazurez watched in silence while around the command post the duty staff averted their eyes and occupied themselves with their own thoughts. His dilemma was not so much having to choose between conflicting orders for the first time in his life, for their order of precedence was plain enough and he had no duty to serve somebody who had usurped rank and criminally abused the power of command, but deciding which side he wanted to be on. Though Borftein was waving the credentials, Stormbel was holding the gun. Eve looked at the car, which was waiting patiently, and then back at Pernak. "We're through, really," she said. "Shall we carry on and see the town?" Geneva shook her miswired head. "I don't watch anything on TV except old movies." those places she goes. house. Kath watched in silence for a second or two but for some reason seemed to find the situation amusing. Bernard stared with a mixture of uncertainty and resentment. "I think I know what's going through your mind," she told him. "But don't worry about it. We don't take orders from Farnhill or Merrick here. Hoskins doesn't have a lot of experience with high-flux techniques yet, and Walters is good but careless with details. If the people here were going to accept anybody new, it would be somebody who knew what they were doing and who didn't leave anything to chance, however tiny." "If so, then Steve's section will have to try rushing it from the nose and taking it over inside. But that's only as a last resort, as I said." He looked across at Colman, who returned a heavy nod. in the mirror again without cringing. Below, the three flashlights swivel in unison and point due north. Toward Curtis. "Excuse me," he said to the bargain-basement Thor as the hammer arced high over the hood again, and pluck free. LOVE IS THE ANSWER T-shirt. are being held. They're in the Columbia District-not far from the Communications Center. If there was some way of getting Borftein out and taking him in on our plan, it would stand a much better chance of having the effect you want on the Army." Then as an afterthought she added, "And if Wellesley could be included as well as Borftein, it might help to make up for some of the things we can't prove." She shifted her gaze around the room and eventually allowed it to settle on Colman. "But I don't know if something like that would be possible." so close. suit and pantyhose. WELLESLEY STOOD TO deliver his final address from in front of the Mission director's seat at the center of the raised dais facing out over the Congressional Hall of the Mayflower if's Government Center. In it he recapitulated the events that had taken place since the Mission's arrival at Alpha Centauri, dwelled for a long time on the things that had been learned and the transformation of minds that had been brought about since then, paid tribute to those who had lost their lives to preserve those lessons, and elaborated on the promise that the future now held for everybody on the planet, referring to them pointedly as "Chironians" without making distinctions. The chopper might not be aloft yet, just getting up to power while the troops reboard. scoffed derisively. "He still thinks it's for playing with." "I'm just telling you what the guy said." Celia had become very thoughtful in the last few seconds. She waited for the talking to subside for a moment, and then said, "If we have to go up to the ship anyway, it might be possible to make this far more effective than what we've been talking about so far." She paused, but nobody interrupted. "I know where the people who have been arrested. 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. If he began to think she was a troublemaker, he might decide to prepare a nice dirt bed for her, like the. What followed was a General Foul-up. "Old Yeller would be your dog?" "You don't mind, do you? Here . . . the way things are . . . it doesn't bother you. You're like Eve and Jerry." Although she knew he was trying to be understanding, she was unable to keep an edge out of her voice. attraction for light, and the vodka glimmered like quicksilver. Bobby's Honda was parked next to a collection bin for Salvation Army thrift shops. Colman shrugged. "I don't know. I guess there didn't seem much risk of making any worse a mess of things than J had already." music of a charmer's flute. "I'm getting to know them." drinking pina coladas on a palm-shaded terrace in Heaven, what will they be serving in Hell?" "Looks like it," Sirocco agreed. He moved behind the desk

while the D Company privates took up positions beside the entrance, and the SD's walked away talking among themselves.. "We get them," Nanook agreed. "But not a lot. People usually get to learn very early on what's acceptable and what isn't. They've all got eyes, ears, and brains."..mother would hack her to pieces in the middle of the night or stuff cloves up her butt and stick an apple in..all your doubt, breathe it out, pluck it from your heart, tear it loose from your mind, throw it away, be rid..Just then, the door opened noisily, and several loud voices drowned out the conversations in the coffee shop. Colman recognized three faces from B Company, Padawski--a tall, wiry sergeant with harsh, thin lips and hard, bleek eyes set in a long, swarthy face---and two corporals whose names didn't come immediately to mind. They had been drinking, and Padawski could be mean at the best of times. Colman's earlier friendship with Anita had developed at a time when she had taken to staying close to Colman and Hanlon because Padawski had been pestering her. Colman could look after himself when the need arose, and Hanlon, besides being the sergeant in charge of Second Platoon, was a hand-to-hand combat instructor for the whole of D Company, and good. The combination had.. "And I am on early duty tomorrow," Colman said. He grinned again, and she smiled back impishly, "So why are we still here?" they asked together..his right nostril..Fulmire wasn't sure what he thought Lechat could do, but instinctively he identified Lechat with the silent majority who, as usual, were immersed in the business of day-to-day living while the more vociferous fringe elements argued and shaped the collective destiny. The banking and financial fraternity was solemnly predicting chaos over land tenure in years to come and wanted the government to assume responsibility for a proper survey of unused lands, to be parceled out under approved deeds of title and offered against a workable system of mortgages, which they magnanimously volunteered to finance. The manufacturing and materials-industry lobbies agreed with the bankers that a monetary system would have to be imposed to check the "reckless profligacy of inefficiency and waste" and to promote "fair and honest" competition; they disagreed with bankers over the mortgage issue, however, claiming that development lad on Chiron had already been deemed up for grabs "by virtue of natural precedent"; they disagreed with each other about prices and tariffs, the manufacturers pushing for deregulation of cheap (i.e., free) Chironian raw materials and for protection on consumer prices, and the commodity suppliers wanting things the other way around. The educational and medical professions were anxious to discharge their obligations to teach the Chironians when they were well and treat them when they were not, but were more anxious for a mechanism to raise the taxes for funding them, while the legal profession pressed for a properly constituted judicial system as a first move, ostensibly to facilitate collecting the tees. The other groups went along with the taxes as long as each secured better breaks than the others, except the religious leaden, who didn't care since they would be exempt anyway. But they clashed with the teachers over a move to place minister in the schools in order to "strangle at its roots the evil and decay which is loose upon this planet," with the doctors over whether the causes were cultural or spiritual, with the lawyer over the issue of making the Chironian practice of serial, and at times parallel, polygamy and polyandry illegal, and with everybody over the question of "emergency" subsidies for erecting churches. And so it went..diminished, but felt instead as if a painfully constricting knot had at last come loose inside her, and..wouldn't be the wrong thing..As Curtis realizes that somehow he has further offended her, hot tears blur his vision. "I only want you to..ahead was the room that her mother shared with Preston..At the top is a short hallway. Four doors.. "Yeah, I remember now."..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.".."You mean you'll be gone in a week?" Aunt Gen asked. A web of worry strung spokes and spirals at the perch, the dog cocks his head left, then right, makes a pathetic sound of anxiety, stifles the whine as..be dead for sure. As one, the two cowboys start toward Curtis..Celia smiled over her glass. "Thank you. It's rare to find such appreciation."..Kath's pocket communicator buzzed, and she took it out to answer. It was Adam, who had heard the news and was checking to make sure that she and Colman were all right. Colman left her talking and moved over to where Anita was standing near the door on the fringe of the party assembling to depart. "Why'd you ever get mixed up with that bunch?" he murmured. "Wise up when it's all over. Get out of it."..He's what?".Colman looked at his watch. "About half an hour if it's on schedule."..levitation beams that suck you right out of your shoes and up into the mother ship, little gray men with big..Not every delicacy is prepared by the two short-order cooks out front. The kitchen staff is large and

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