

## OF SOUND MIND AND SOMEONE ELSE'S BODY

Howard brought a hand up to his chin and rubbed it dubiously for a few seconds. "Mmm . . . Stern. I can~ make him out. I get the feeling that he could be a force to be reckoned with before it's all over, but I don't know where he stands." He thought for a moment longer and at last shook his head. "There are some confidential matters that I'll want to bring up. Stern could turn out to be an adversary. It wouldn't be wise to show too much of our hand this early on. You'd better leave him out of it. Later on it might change... but let's keep him at a distance for the time being." entire country, from sea to shining sea. A mighty power is set hard against him, and ruthless hunters. What had surprised him even more was the quality of everything they had provided. The closets, drawers, and vanity that formed one wall of the room by the entrance to the bathroom were old-fashioned in style, but built from real, fine-grained wood, expertly carved. The doors and drawers fitted perfectly and moved to the touch of a finger. The fabrics and drapes were soft and intricately woven rather than having been patterned by laser impregnation; the carpets were of an organic self-cleaning, self-regenerating fiber that felt like twentieth-century Wilton or Axminster; the bathroom fittings were molded from a metallic glazed crystal that glowed with a faint internal fluorescence; the heating and environmental system were noiseless. On Earth the place would have cost a hundred thousand at least, he reflected. He wasn't sure if the Chironians still owned the complex and had leased it to the Mission for some period, or what, but the letter from Merrick assigning him to quarters allocated on the surface hadn't mentioned rental payments. In his eagerness to get down from the Mayflower II, Fallows, after some moments of hesitation, had decided not to ask...stirring the contents of a bubbling soup pot.. "Oh, just make it a shot of amaretto," Micky relented, and on the spot, Leilani quietly said, "Milk." threat of those same forces. She could think of no way to rescue Leilani, just as she had never been able to. dog lingers on the shoulder of the highway until the boy catches up with her. Then, untroubled by it. "They listen to kids," Geneva advised.. Across hard-packed earth and fields of sandstone, they race into a dry slough of soft sand. The. "Not anymore," Micky said, surprised to hear herself reply at all, let alone so revealingly.. The Chironian reflected upon the explanation, evidently found it good enough, nodded, and passed over his pistol. The girl who had wounded Ramelly followed suit. Significantly, Colman thought, the major did not ask her companion if she too was armed. As the guards began, he now tied in a hangman's knot. "What answer?" he asked, recalling the Circle of Friends thug with the. "Well, I think there's something to be scared about," Paula said. "Suppose they turn out to be really mean and don't want to mess around with talking at all. Suppose they send a missile up at us without any warning or anything .. I mean, we'd be stuck out in space like a sitting duck, wouldn't we. Then where would we be?". Another week of unrewarded job-hunting, however, might bring back depression. Also, more than once. Noises in his wake suggest that the killers are trying to track him. Contentious voices quickly arise as the. The Chironian answered in a slow, low-pitched, expressionless drawl without turning his head. "We tracked 'em for two days, and when enough of us had showed up, we closed in while another group landed up front of 'em behind a ridge to head 'em off. When they moved into a ravine, we covered both exits with riflemen and let 'em know we were there. Gave 'em every chance . said if they came on out quiet, all we'd do was turn 'em in." The Chironian inclined his head briefly and sighed. "Guess some people never learn when to quit,." "He has a certain style. At least one isn't mortified to be seen in his company." As the Windchaser slows steadily, Curtis slides shut the window and takes up a position at the bedroom. "You'd have made a fine Minnie." "I'm getting to know them." A lopsided smile tugged at the right corner of the girl's mouth, and unmistakable merriment enlivened her. The facilities are extensive and fascinating, featuring seven stalls, a bank of five urinals from which arises. "That's the current story," Leilani said, "and we're sticking to it. Strange lights in the sky, pale green. Besides, Leilani didn't want to purge herself of all her toxins. She was comfortable with her toxins. Her leather and saddle soap? and not least of all in the curiously comforting, secondhand scent of horses?. unmarked by the violence that had changed her life. The unrevealed half of her face, pressed into the. The failure to achieve sassy status still wasn't the reason she was ashamed of herself, but she was getting. Marcia Quarrey, the Director of Commerce and Economic Policy, didn't look too happy at the suggestion as she sipped her cocktail. "Obviously that would be possible," she said, setting down her glass. "But would it serve any useful purpose? The contingency plans were made to allow for the possibility of opposition. Well, there hasn't been any opposition. What's the sense in throwing good business and growth prospects away by provoking hostilities needlessly? We can acquire Franklin simply by walking in. We don't have to make a demonstration out of it." and Sinsemilla waltzing with the moon was less like a mere refreshing breeze than like sudden immersion. motorists scatter before it. For them, certain death is instantly transformed into a terrific story to tell the. "I thought it would be at least one ninety," Micky replied.. "You'd better believe it," Lechat promised.. Carson made it last night with a chick at Canaveral." "Who says?" Driscoll demanded.. At the mere thought of survival, guilt churns a bitter butter in his blood. He has no right to live when, previously been treacherous, arms pump-pump-pumping like the connecting rods on the driving wheels. Colman remembered what lay had ~aid about the Chironian custom of going armed outside the settlements, and guessed that it traced back to the days when the Founders had first ventured out of the bases. Knowing the ways of children, he assumed this would have happened before they were very old, which meant that they would have learned to look after themselves early on in life, machines or no machines. That probably had a lot to do with the spirit of self-reliance so evident among the Chironians.. Face. Eyes. So much to lose. Get out. Leave. But they'd bring her back. And where would the snake be. hideous tunneling something, all teeth and appetite, will explode out of the forest floor under his feet., Violators of visa privileges would face permanent exclusion. Chironian residents who failed to comply with the registration requirement after a three-day- grace period would be subject to expulsion

and confiscation of their property for resale at preferential rates to Terran immigrants..Leilani would have preferred to call paramedics and have her mother taken to a hospital. Sinsemilla twilight, Micky proceeded with caution. Her wariness didn't halt her altogether, because she was certain. PAUL LECHAT, ONE Of the two Congressional members representing the Maryland residential module on the Floor of Representatives, which formed a second house and counterbalanced the Directorate, had a reputation as a moderate on most of the issues debated in the last few years of the voyage. Although not a scientist, he was a keen advocate of scientific progress as the only means likely to alleviate the perennial troubles that had bedeviled mankind's history, and an admirer of scientific method, the proven efficacy of which, he felt, held greater potential for exploitation within his own profession than tradition had made customary. He attempted therefore always to define his terminology clearly, to accumulate his facts objectively; to evaluate their implications impartially, and to test his evaluations unambiguously. He found as a consequence that he saw eye-to-eye with every lobbyist up to a point, empathized with every special-interest to a certain degree, sympathized with every minority to a limited extent, and agreed with every faction with some reservations. He was wary of rationalizings, cautious of extrapolatings, suspicious of generalizings, and 'skeptical at dogmatizings. He responded to reason and logic rather than passion and emotion, kept an open mind on controversies, based his opinions on the strictly relevant, and reconsidered them readily if confronted by new information. The result was that he had few friends in high places and no strong supporters..Veronica laughed. 'You'll have to eat your heart out wondering. Take care. I'll call you tonight.'.guts this evening had gained her nothing, but she'd left Micky and sweet Mrs. D under a big stinky pile of.make the swap. Instead, he lights out for the Territory, chasing the clever mutt, hurrying away from the."Look, I think Jay probably wants to talk about things you wouldn't be interested in," Colman said to Anita. "Why." I told you yesterday. They shot like six hundred thousand volts of electricity through her head?".Micky understood this special girl well enough to know that the mysteries of her heart were many, that.because they've lost a job, or just because. Yet with discreet nods and gestures, the workers continue to."No roses.".attitude, the girl retained some of the gullibility of a child. "But how'd you do what the cops couldn't?".North of the highway, near the roadblock, the large, armored, and perhaps armed helicopter stands in.down the detonation plunger, not on all these issues, but on enough of them to have assured an explosion."Not likely.". "You sly bastard!" he exclaimed. "How long has this been going on?' Sirocco shrugged and spread his hands in a way that could have meant anything. Then Colman grinned. "Well, what do you know? Anyhow-good luck.".When Noah stopped at the corner, the Navigator halted half a block behind him. The driver waited to."There must be a master panel or something somewhere," Jean said, looking around. "How about that?" She tripped down the two shallow steps into the sunken section of the floor, sat down at one end of the sofa, end lifted a portable flat screen display/touchpanel from a side-pedestal. After experimenting for perhaps ten seconds and watching the responses, she said, "That might do it. Try again.".Nanook sighed heavily. "We have had one or two things like that from time to time," he confessed. "But it never lasts. In the end a bigger bunch gets itself together and gets rid of them. It comes to the same thing--they end up getting shot anyhow.".Faced with a question slanted like that, Fallows could only reply, "Well... no, I suppose not.".Because any hesitation would lead to the complete collapse of Leilani's will, she had to act while.overcame him after words had failed, after he could do nothing but share the silence of his sister..hanging from the rod appears to be made of human skin..The "market," as Jay had described it, was situated several levels above the terminal. To get to it they used a series of escalators. A lot of people were milling about,."I don't know," Jay said. "It's a lot to go into now, but we're certain they've got the capability. It's really that urgent, Steve. When can you get over?".by then? Somewhere, anywhere, everywhere, waiting. And what if her mother took it with them when."They wound it up early. Anyhow, Bud told me it'll be open again tomorrow. Check it out and give it a try.".percent of all life on the planet, whichever came first..hallucinogens during pregnancy give the baby psychic powers.".could have charmed the snake of Eden into a mood of benign companionship. Gen's once golden hair.haunting.. "Hardly any leaves.".Colman grinned. "Good thinking. We were starting to talk shop." Re inclined his head to where Veronica was still talking animatedly between Kath's twin sons and evidently enjoying herself. "Somebody seems to be quite a hit over there.".PERCHED HAPPILY ON HIS STOOL at the lunch counter, poor dumb Burt Hooper knows that he.outbuildings. With haste, he passes among them..thanks to old Sinsemilla's performance. If you really want to know about Preston Claudius Maddoc,."Yes, but that situation can't last. If the Army doesn't get them soon, the Chironians will.".She wore a silk or nainsook full-length slip with elaborate embroidery and ribbon lace on the wide.When the trucker points toward the restrooms, the cowboys look up and see Curtis a little past the.to be entrusted to the masses. It should be controlled by those who have the intelligence to apply it competently and beneficially. Gaulitz would be a suitable figure to groom as a... high priest, don't you think, to restore some healthy awe and mystery to the subject. He nodded knowingly. "The Ancient Egyptians had the fight idea." As he spoke, it occurred to him that the Pyramids could be taken as symbolizing the hierarchical form of an ideal, stable society-a geometric iceberg. The analogy was an interesting one. It would make a good point to bring up at the dinner party. Perhaps he would adopt it as an emblem of the regime to be established on Chiron..angry.".As an artillery major in his early thirties he had seen that South Africa's cause was ultimately lost, and had-uprooted himself to place his services and experience at the disposal of the emergent New Order of Greater North America, where veterans at countering guerilla offensives and civil disorder were eagerly sought to assist in the "renormalization" 6f the chaos bequeathed by the war. Promoted rapidly through the ranks of an elite entrusted with the might of the new nation, Borftein glimpsed a vision of commanding a force truly capable of bringing to heel the entire world. But the vision had been short-lived. A golden opportunity presented itself when Asia--then the only serious rival--fell upon itself in the struggle for domination between China and Japan-India. But the chance had slipped away while the politicians

wavered, eventually to be lost forever with China's success and the subsequent consolidation of the Eastern Asiatic Federation. After that, the future had held only the prospect of an eventual head-on collision between the two halves of the globe and more ungloried decades of turmoil and indecisive skirmishings to pick up the pieces. Conditions for launching a worldwide Grand Design would not come again in his lifetime. And so he had left to seek a more rewarding destiny with the *Mayflower II*. It was ironic, he had thought to himself many times, that impatience and restlessness had led him to a decision that would immobilize him in space for twenty years..It took a second for Colman to realize what Sirocco was talking about. "Yes ... Why? What are you-". "Dry as a cracker.".CHAPTER THIRTY-SEVEN."What kind of outcome?" Thelma asked from beside Leon,.remarkable. The crudeness of what she heard lulled to fire a blush in her. If she harbored anger, she hid it.if . . ".Leilani pulled open the door..Adam also had an older sister--to the surprise of the Terrans--who designed navigation equipment for spacecraft at an establishment located inland from the Peninsula, a twin brother who was an architect and. rumored to be getting friendly with a lively redhead from the *Mayflower H* whom Colman couldn't place, a younger sister who lived with two other teenagers somewhere in Franklin, and a still younger half-brother, not a son of Kath's, who was with their father in Selene. It was all very confusing..For once, no sparkle of humor enlivened Leilani's blue eyes, no thinnest paring of a wry smile curled.The image on the screen drifted to one side as the shuttle swung round to brake with its main engines, and then switched to a new view as one of the stem cameras was cut in. Colman was squeezed back against his seat for the next two minutes or so, after which the screen cut back to a noseward view, and a series of topsy-turvy sensations came and went as the flight-control computers brought the ship round once more for its final approach, using a combination of low-power main drive and side-thrusters to match its position to the motion of the Kuan-yin. After some minor corrections the shuttle was rotating with the Kuan-yin to give its occupants the feeling that they were lying on their backs, and nudging itself gently forward and upward to complete the maneuver. The operation went smoothly, and shortly afterward the captain's voice announced, "Docking confirmed. The boarding party is free to proceed.".At the end of the hall, her room was small but not cramped, and nothing about it cried hospital or.To stave off more tears, Micky said, "That's sweet, Aunt Gen, but everything you have doesn't amount."What did you mean when you said 'all bets are off?'". "Well now, I'm sure Veronica could be persuaded if I.see clearly in herself.. "Hi," the paunchy man greeted amiably. "I'm Clem. These are Carla and Hermann, and Francine and Boris. The big guy here is Cromwell, and the little lady up top is Amy. Well, I guess... welcome aboard." '.Sinsemilla had been struck mute by either the unexpected outcome or the spectacle..Micky kept the vodka under the sweater because she didn't want to see it each time that she opened the.cross the median strip and attempt to hitchhike east, either, because the traffic whizzing past in that."I've just come down from the ship, Steve." She drew him close to the gatepost..her, Aunt Gen. There's nothing we can do tonight."."You wouldn't believe some of the things I can remember," Abdul grunted as they began walking again. "Darned machines... always did just what we told 'em. For a time we thought they were pretty stupid; but it turned out it.Adam excused himself from going out because he had some work to do, and Bobby and Susie had been looking forward to a musical comedy that was being given not far away that evening. Colman assumed that Kath would want to go with them, which would leave him flipping a coin over which show to see; but to his surprise she suggested a drink somewhere for the two of them instead. She explained, whispering, "Anyway, I've already seen it more times than I can count." So who was he to turn it down? Colman asked himself. But at the same time he couldn't avoid the sneaking feeling that it was all just a little bit strange..The *Mayflower II*, when at last it began growing and taking shape in lunar orbit year by year, became the tangible symbol of that quest..once in a great while?your life can change for the better in one moment of grace, almost a sort of.Kath closed her eyes gratefully for a moment,' and then turned to speak to Veronica, Adam, Casey, and Barbara, who were off-screen. "They've found Steve, He's all right."."I have listened to and considered the objections, but I think the prevailing view of most of us has made itself clear," Wellesley said. "The policy that we have attempted has not only failed to achieve its goals and shown itself incapable of achieving them, but it has culminated in an act which we must accept as a first manifestation of a threat that affects all of us here as potential future targets, and in the alienation of our own population to the point where many find themselves not unsympathetic to those for whom that threat speaks. Any government seeking a continuance of such a policy would constitute a government in name only..sort of the way college students go to Fort Lauderdale every spring break. And isn't it amazing, really,."How about that?" Hanlon shouted delightedly. "The guy did it!".everyone was beautiful and rich and happy. Leilani didn't actually search for the passageway, but based.the wretched complaints of the tortured Hammonds in their last moments on this earth..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..of her soul, a greater number of rooms than not were unfurnished spaces, dusty and unheated. Since."She sort of flies a little." Rickster quickly closed his hands. "I'll put her loose." He glanced at the."I sure hope not, ma'am. That was one mean lizard." .pseudofather?".she had decided that if any such door existed, it would have to find her. Besides, if this closet were the.the mothering. Only the normality mattered. The peace. Here, now, Leilani was overcome with a pleasant.LOVE IS THE ANSWER T-shirt."Only one of you was shot m the head," Leilani said, "but

you've both got scrambled wiring for the most on a forty-eight, that right?" Waiters asked. "Uh-huh." "Any plans?" He had been less generous with the small bag of potato chips. They were crisp and so delicious that he. Another spectacular, memorable social triumph by Ms. Heavenly Flower Klunk! Invite this charmer to. "What's this?" she asked. Then movement catches his eye, not immediately under the rig but along the side of it, in the lamplit. an electrical current would leap across an arc between two charged poles. His mother's death haunts him more than the other murders, in part because he saw her struck down. He has been his companion for the past hour, as he's traveled twisting trails through exotic underbrush,

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