

GLISH INGLENOOKS VOLUME 2 TRADITIONAL TALES FABLES AND SAGAS FROM

Micky shook her head. "They wouldn't leave you in the care of your mother's boyfriend." each step before taking it, like a patient learning to walk again after spinal injury, she was able to proceed. 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 Chauxez 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. Adam waved an arm resignedly. "Okay, okay. Never mind the sackcloth-and-ashes act. How about cleaning it up?" Pernak spread his hands and-nodded. "Yes. Sorry and all that kind of thing, Paul, but that's how it is." "If you want to put it that way." sink and tossed the can into the trash receptacle. "But the fact is that Dr. Doom would never touch me. Micky said, "Some of your brother's problems ... It sounds like surgery could have helped at least a. the reason for the fracas. as natural a part of the night as the musky smell of animals and the not altogether unpleasant scent of "Child Protective Services?" Her name was Wendy Quail. New to the staff. He'd only met her once before, but he had a cop's. In reaction, the kitchen staff is as silent and for a moment as still as mannequins. No one demands to. Leilani said, "One reason I know she haes Luki more than me is the name she gave him. She says she. "I'm a painter," the painter said over his shoulder. "I like to see a paint job properly done. Why else would anyone do it?" He stepped back, surveyed his work with a critical eye, nodded to himself, and dropped the brush into a flap in his walking workshop, where a claw began spinning it in a solvent. "Anyhow, the people who live here fix plumbing, manage a bar in town, and one of them teaches the tuba. My plumbing sometimes needs fixing, I like a drink in town once in a while, and one day one of my kids might want to play the tuba. They fix faucets, I paint houses. What's so strange?" "What?" Bobby asked, genuinely surprised by the insult, even though his index finger was still wedged in. rattle, laughing, shiny-eyed with delight over a prank well played. "Don't be such a goof! It's just a little." "Oh. Yeah. Nice things when you don't expect them. That makes them even better. You're right. Here's. roars through an empty service bay, between islands of pumps. Station attendants, truckers, and on-foot. "Brandy and milk and milk," Aunt Gen noted, taking the order for Micky's complex spike as she poured. But he had to stay, as Sirocco and the 80 percent of D Company who were still in Phoenix had to stay. After Swyley went, Driscoll went, and many of the others went, Sirocco had called the rest together and reminded them about the weapons in the Mayflower 11. "If the kind of people who are starting to come out -of the Woodwork now get their hands on those weapons, we could have a catastrophe that would end civilization across this whole planet. You've all seen what's happening back on Earth. Well, the same mentalities are here too, and they're panicking. We must keep enough of the Army together to stop anything like that if we have to." And so they had stayed. "My birthday was February twenty-eighth. That was Ash Wednesday this year. Do you believe in fasting." My pseudofather. Late that afternoon, he parked the motor home in a roadside lay-by. Not a. realized that sympathy, as this girl had shown it to her, did not have to contain any element of. Although it seemed unrelated to Leilani Klunk, Micky recalled something that her aunt Geneva had said. Admiral Mark Slessor, who commanded the Mayflower II's crew, looked dubious. I'm not so sure it's that simple." He rubbed his powerful, blue-shadowed chin. "We could be walking into anything. They've got fusion plants, orbital shuttles, intercontinental jets, and planet-wide communications. How do we know they haven't been working on defense? They've got the know-how and the means. I can see John's point, but his approach is too risky." Although Terranova appeared solid and contiguous at first glance, it was almost bisected by a south-pointing inland sea called the Medichironian, which 9pened to the ocean via a narrow strait at its northern end. A high mountain chain to the east of the Medichironian completed the division of Terranova into what had been designated two discrete continents--Oriena to the east, and Occidena to the west. Jean glanced at the screen and then looked at Bernard. "Should we try calling her through Jeeves ... via the Chironian net? It shouldn't be affected, should it?" companies, however, decline to pay for expensive plastic-surgery when the patient also suffers serious. when her left hand rested on the table, obviously misshapen in the otherwise forgiving glow of the three. right. ". renting next door. We just moved in. My name's Leilani. ". "They weren't," Jay protested. "That was the first thing that we thought too, but we watched the other people in there and we talked to the robot that runs the place, and he said that's what you do. They've got fusion plants and big, automatic factories down underground that produce everything anybody could want, and it's all so cheap to make everything that nobody bothers charging . . . or something like that. I can't figure it out." by other government agencies that have more-ominous initials and less-honorable intentions, Curtis. which Laura served her life sentence, that inner darkness wouldn't be brightened by them. The major's jaw quivered; his face colored. He could see the throat muscles of the troopers in the background tighten with frustration, but there was nothing for it. He had his orders. "On your way," he growled. "And don't think you've been so lucky," he warned as the Chironian walked away. "We've got your face taped. There'll be a next time." "You know what he's got that's better than money?" hours of punching babies and nuns, the pacifist said, "The congressman isn't unreasonable. By taking his. might dam the stream forever, leaving her parched and mute and defenseless, Leilani filled the narrow. top drawer on the nearest nightstand. Inside, among articles of no use to

him, are a pair of white plastic. Laughing softly, shaking her head, Micky said, "Kiddo, you've pushed this Addams Family routine one." "So maybe we'll see you down there sometime," Ci said. An SD sergeant interrupted from behind Lesley. "They're here sir. Carriers coming through the lock." They looked round to find the first vehicles crammed with troops, many of them in suits, and weaponry slowing down as they passed through the space between the lock doors, and then speeding up again without stopping as they were waved on through. More followed, their occupants looking formidable and determined, and Lesley gave orders for them to be directed between the remaining three feeder ramps to get close to the Battle Module at all four of its access points. "Oh, I was in the Engineer Corps for a while, and I guess I picked a lot up here and there." If she had been with Farnhill's party inside, she was obviously more than just a go-fer. Why in hell did she come out to the parking lot to be nice to the troops? anymore, that she was the pope or maybe some pure and saintly girl named Hortense? She didn't have well-balanced, responsible, and especially good-smelling people practiced aromatherapy and toxin. The Chironian rubbed his chin dubiously. "I'm not at all sure that I could be much help. Government of what in particular?" foot and tattoo a pattern of pain on his ankle? all because he doesn't always proceed exactly in the dog's boy hears voices. Men in easy conversation. CHAPTER TWENTY-ONE. how far they have gone when the quality of the night abruptly changes, one moment marked by a. "Very smoothly, considering that it's been twenty years." Bernard permitted a faint smile. "Jean's finding some things a bit strange, but I'm sure she'll get over it." - "That's only the first door," Swley reminded him, lowering the instrument from his eyes. "There are two of them. Whatever we do to that one won't stop them from closing the second one." explanation touches off another emotional reaction from Burt Hooper, which appears to be laughter, but. January 5, 2081. Lechat stared at the Director's seat next to him, and while he was still turning his head perplexedly from one side to the other, the first approving murmurs and ripples of applause began coming from among the members an one by one they realized what it meant. The applause rose to an ovation as at last Lechat, looking a little awkward but with a broad smile breaking out across his face, stood up again and moved to stand before the Mission Director's seat, which under the emergency proviso had become his automatically. Wellesley had wanted it so, even if Lechat's term of office would be measured only in minutes. Jay stood up and left the room quietly. Bernard followed him curiously with his eyes for a few seconds, then looked back at Pernak. "But it's a hell of a thin case for shipping everyone off to Iberia, isn't it? And besides, if you're right, then I'd have thought the best place to stay would be right here-all mixed up together with the Chironians. That way nobody's likely to start throwing any big bombs around, right?" He turned his head to grin briefly at Jean. "I think Jerry made my point." in a miserable voice, Aunt Gen said, "It's never this bad in the movies." remorse, even though she'd been motivated by genuine concern. Micky wasn't Sinsemilla, after all. Micky. To permit rapid and effective response to emergencies, the Mission Director was empowered to suspend the democratic process as represented by Congress, and assume sole and total authority for the duration of such emergency situations as he saw fit to declare. Although this prerogative had been intended as a concession to the unknowns of interstellar flight and to apply only until the termination of the voyage itself, Judge Fulmire had confirmed Kalens's interpretation that technically it would remain in force until the expiration of Wellesley's term of office. The question now was: Could this prerogative be extended to whomever became chief executive of the next administration, and if so, who was empowered to write such an amendment into law? The full Congress could, of course, but wouldn't, since that would amount to voting away its own existence. Under the unique privileges accorded to him and technically still in force, could Wellesley? about a confrontation, and if what Pernak was beginning to glimpse of the Chironians was anything to go by, then that faction might well be in for some nasty surprises. That didn't worry Pernak so much as the thought that a lot of people stood to get hurt in the process. Knowing what he now knew, he felt he couldn't allow himself just to sit by on the sidelines and leave things to take such a course. Bernard shook his head again. "I don't know what you .- mean. The Kuan-yin can't fire effectively, It' & eclipsed frowt

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