

## THE BISHOPS SON A NOVEL

men gathered alongside the craft. At this distance, it's impossible to discern whether these are additional. Lechat. "Speed is essential," Lechat said without preamble. . . . "We require access to all channels on the civil, service, military, and emergency networks immediately. . . . exception, and by gratitude that the worst of his own imperfections were within his ability to make right if. "No offense, Micky, but the story of Dr. Doom and his multiple homicides is a dreary tale, more tedious. . . . companionship, he turns left, south, because a hill lies to the north. He doesn't think he has the stamina to. Micky looked around. "Sorry, Aunt Gen, but all I see is a poky little trailer kitchen so old the gloss is. The party arrived at the little-used connecting passage running behind the Fran?oise and its neighboring establishments, and the soldiers waited among the shadows of the surrounding entrances and stairways while Lechat tapped lightly on the rear door of the restaurant. After a few seconds the door opened and Lechat disappeared inside. Several minutes later the door opened again and Lechat looked out, peered first one way, then the other, up overhead, and then beckoned the others quickly inside. "I'm not sure I believe in life before death," Micky said. . . . Not a brain-eating alien but feeling as though he himself is in the thrall of black-hole gravity, the intruder. Lechat nodded reluctantly. "Well, it sounds pretty final, I guess. . . . salad, a tray of cheese, and other stuff in the fridge. Would you put everything on the table? ". . . Chicago once. . . . "Aunt Gen," Micky cautioned. . . . Maybe, he thought to himself, at the end of it all, the myopic would inherit the Earth. . . . miracle. Something so powerful can happen, someone so special come along, some precious. . . . mother would hack her to pieces in the middle of the night or stuff cloves up her butt and stick an apple in. "I sure hope not, ma'am. That was one mean lizard. ". She had spoken to Geneva of things she'd never expected to speak of to anyone, and she'd found relief. Micky put the sweating glass of vodka on a cork coaster that protected the nightstand. "She valued her. . . . stall to stall, pushing all the flush levers in quick succession. The overlapping swish-and-lug of seven. . . . Beyond the window, the wounded day left an arterial stain across the western sky, pulling over itself a. . . . brush and bramble ahead. . . . Geneva beamed. "That's so sweet, Leilani. Would you like some fresh lemonade? ". The boy's mother used to say that a wasted opportunity wasn't just a missed chance, but was a wound. With a sigh and a laugh, Micky said, "Why don't we save time and you just tell me what I believe? ". . . . murdered family in Colorado. And since he's grown comfortable with this identity, why change? ". "What's your name, boy? ". The major thrust his face close and narrowed his eyes menacingly. . . . On the nightstand, in front of a clock radio, lie several coins and a used Band-Aid with a blot of dried. . . . in a miserable voice, Aunt Gen said, "It's never this bad in the movies. ". . . . it. ". "I bet he's giving himself a hand job right now, watching us. ". The unpacking was finished, and Jean would know better where she wanted to stow the few things he had left lying out. The move had gone very quickly and smoothly, mainly because the Chironians had even furnished the place--fight down to the towels and the bed linen, which had meant that the Failowses could leave most of their own things in storage at the base until something more permanent was worked out. . . . dish for the dog; he will simply refill it with juice as often as the pooch requires. . . . really are beautiful, Ms. Donella, so stupendous, awesome, you can live by your own rules, like a rhino. ". Jean seemed to dismiss the subject from her mind. She looked uncertainly at Bernard for a few seconds, and then said, "It's not really anything to do with that. It's- oh, I can't put this any other way-it's you. ". Kneeling on the mattress, her mother bounced like a schoolgirl, making the springs sing and the bedrails. . . . symbol of resistance to oppression, an advocate of freedom, whose teachings? both her philosophy and. . . . Nanook shifted his eyes and shook his head again. "Fanatics are gullible fools. If fools don't learn or won't keep themselves to themselves, they die young here. ". This isn't the ideal ride, but Curtis isn't likely to luck into a cushy berth on another automobile transport. "Why do people follow leaders? ". Pernak replied. "For collective-strength. What do you need collective strength for? Because strength ultimately gets to control the wealth and to impose ideas. But why does a race of millionaires need leaden if it already has all the material wealth it needs, and isn't interested in imposing ideas on anyone because nobody ever taught it to? The Chironians don't. There isn't anything to scare them with. You won't start any crusades down there because they won't take any notice. ". The Chironians traded in respect, Colman was beginning to understand as he listened to the talk around him. They respected knowledge and expertise in every form, and they showed it. Perhaps, he thought to himself, that was bow the first generation had sought to compete and to attain identity in their machine-managed environment, where such things as parental status, social standing, wealth, and heritage had had no meaning. And they had preserved that ever since in the way their culture had evolved. . . . cliff, so be it; even in his dying fall, he will love her, his sister-becoming. ". "Confused but quiet at the barracks," Jarvis told him. "A lot of shooting inside the base at Canaveral. Everyone seems to be trying to get his hands on the heavy equipment there. A shuttle's on fire in one of the launch bays. ". one of them echoed back in memory. The girl had asked if Micky believed in life after death, and when. What had impressed him the most was the way the kids seemed to be involved in everything that was going on just as much as the grown-ups. They didn't come across like kids at all, but more like small people who were busy finding out how things were done. In a room two posts back, he had glimpsed a couple of kids who couldn't have been more than twelve probing carefully and with deep frowns of concentration inside the electronics of a piece of equipment that must have cost millions. The older Chironian with them just watched over their shoulders and offered occasional suggestions. It made sense, Driscoll thought. Treat them as if they're responsible, and they act responsibly; give them bits of cheap plastic to throw around, and they act like it's cheap plastic. Or maybe the Chironians just had good insurance on their equipment. . . . pretty? ". please don't forget the large bills under the drawer. ". "I know what you think and why. You think Dr. Doom diddles little girls, because that's what experience. "I'll trade," Stanislaw offered at once. . . . glances up at the boy and mewls entreatingly. ". "Me? Oh . . . name's Driscoll--Tony Driscoll." He licked his lips while he searched for a

follow-up. "I guess. "Where to?" Colman asked her. "Really?" Sterm's one word conveyed all the disbelief necessary; its undertone suggested that she reconsider whether she believed her answer either. "Come now, Celia, the realities of life are no strangers to either of us. We can be frank without fear of risking offense. The people live theft lives and serve their purpose, and a few more or less will make no difference that matters. Now tell me again, who are you really worried about?" "I don't think it ever did. What I was afraid of was in my own head. None of it was out there." She took in the sight of her husband-his arms tanned and strong against the white of the casual shirt that he was wearing, his face younger, more at ease, but more self-assured than she could remember seeing for a long time-propped loosely but confidently against the frame of the door, and she smiled. "Kalens may have to hide himself away in a shell," she said. "I don't need mine anymore." Around and under more prep tables, past tall cabinets with open shelves full of stacked dishes, taking weaves westward, using the employees' vehicles for cover. He's not sure where he should go, but he's. This apparently had been an exotic treat to the dog, as well. When first given a chip, he turned the. "You know what he's got that's better than money?" fierce animosity now reappears like a gray winter beach from beneath an ebbing tide. would then, of course, be mad-dog furious for having been subjected to university-trained doctors and pure sulfur in the Satanic gardens of Hell. CHAPTER SEVEN. faces? that's scarier than sleeping with a nuclear bomb under your bed. You have to figure people like. In reaction, the kitchen staff is as silent and for a moment as still as mannequins. No one demands to. In the hallway, he encountered a nurse pushing a stainless-steel serving cart: a petite raven-haired. "A good question," Wellington commented. establishment, but we still say no to barefoot bozos and all four-legged kind, regardless of how cute they. but scoping the audience was a mistake. Micky stood at the bottom of the steps, and Mrs. D stood. seems imminent, these tooth fetishists will try to gather up and dispose of their incriminating collection of. "I never imagined you were. More news? Karla's house was bought with Circle of Friends money. Half." Then there's your answer. "I know all the bemuses. No need to list them." his own initiative after receiving conflicting orders from Colonel Wesserman's staff. Sirocco ordered most of the D Company personnel to secure the block against intruders and cordoned off the routes past it toward the outside. He sent Colman with a mixed detachment from Second and Third platoons to aid in whatever way they saw fit. They quickly encountered a squad of SD's who took them in tow to the west gate, a small side entrance to the campus, which was where the action was supposed to be. Colman wanted to post sentries around the motor pool, where several cargo aircraft brought down from the Mayflower II were parked, but he was outranked and told that another SD unit was securing that. Then all the lights went out. seemed to have been dammed into a still pool. Saturated by silence, the house brimmed also with an. Doggedly returning to her initial question, Leilani asked, "So the guy who killed Mr. D? was he caught?" From the corner of her eye, Micky was aware that the girl had stopped working and had turned to face. Shirley turned to look at Ci. "Say, wouldn't he be great to have at our next party? I love things like that." She looked at Driscoll again. "When are you coming down to Chiron?" sinuous whipping adversary nailed loose. grasp. She lacks the cultural references to make sense of it. Her tail stops wagging, but only because she. "No, of course not," Fallows said, not very happily. "I will indeed. See you later." Hanlon left, and they heard him forming up the relief guard outside. spine, rolling her head, spreading her arms, the woman stretched as languorously as a sleeper waking. He has no choice but to forge on. The voyage of the Mayflower II had ended. of port on a long holiday. One of the figures was a bearded, dark-haired man whom Colman recognized as Leon, sitting alongside a brown skinned woman identified by the caption at the bottom of the picture simply as Thelma. So at least some of them were located at the arctic scientific establishment in northern Selene, Colman thought to himself. The other pair of figures were Otto, of Asiatic appearance, and Chester, who was black; the ones shown alone in the remaining two sections of the screen were Gracie, another Oriental, and Smithy, a blond Caucasian with a large moustache and long sideburns. From their ages they were all evidently Founder. Kath introduced each of them in turn without mentioning titles, responsibilities, or where any of them were, and the Terrans didn't ask. She couldn't clearly hear Sinsemilla's ranting because of the snake lashing a crazy drumbeat on the. "Into your spleen?" Leilani suggested. Micky kept the vodka under the sweater because she didn't want to see it each time that she opened the. weary in body, mind, and spirit. And her emotional unsteadiness scared her. At the end of 1979, Hogan opted to write full-time. He is now living in northern California. CHANGE ISN'T EASY, Micky. Changing the way you live means changing how you think. Changing. "They destroyed all the pictures of him. Because when he comes back with the aliens, he'll be completely. From the kitchen, she could see through the dining area and into the lamplit living room. Her mother. hear the booted feet of winch-lowered SWAT officers thumping on the roof and demands for his. Bernard looked startled, but Kath seemed neither offended nor surprised. "I thought you might be," she said, nodding half to herself. "Nanook told me about that." She looked at Bernard. "We don't have a lot of time for secrets," she told him. "Farnhill says it's part of an exchange visit, but that's just a cover that he doesn't know we can see through because he's never asked us. They're reconnoitering this place in case they decide they want to take it over later. That's why your chief, Merrick, is with them--to assess whether your engineers could handle it. He's picked Waiters and Hoskins to put in here if the Directorate goes ahead with the idea." "You know, walking around the park in a costume, having your photo taken with people. I wanted to be. to feel, a darker quality. He's a boy nonetheless, and he's virtually programmed by nature to be thrilled by. once more. He dare not call undue attention to himself, not with so many murderous hunters looking for. with him now, she is laughing, worried, and frustrated all at once. die. advises. hamburger patties, eggs, and mounds of crispy hash browns glistening with oil. circumference of each iris. "I'm not a cripple." They stood but three feet apart, face-to-face, and in spite of Micky's compassionate intentions, a. The propulsion systems master control computer monitored the final stages of phase-down of the burn and shutdown the main-drive reactors. As the huge reaction dish that had contained the force of two tons of matter being annihilated into energy every second for

six months began to cool, the ship was nudged gently into high orbit at 25,000 miles by its vernier steering motors and configured itself fully for freefall conditions to become a new star moving across 'the night skies of Chiron..Although trembling with the pressure of his misplaced rage, he doesn't vent it, but leaves Curtis.the floor. He stays low, hoping to get out of sight before the two cowboys arrive. He avoids collisions.In the end Kalens rallied everybody to a consensus with a proposal to formally declare a Terran enclave within Canaveral City, delimited by a clear boundary inside which Terran law would be proclaimed and enforced. The Iberia proposal would require months, he told Lechat, whereas the immediate issue to be resolved was that of Terran security. In any case, it could hardly be carried out without an electoral mandate. The enclave would preserve intact a functioning and internally consistent community which could be transplanted at some later date if the electoral results so directed, and 'therefore represented as much of a step in the direction that Lechat was advocating as could be realistically expected for the time being. Lechat was forced to agree up to a point and felt himself obliged to go along..from the Hammond larceny and the five bucks that the dog snatched from the breeze in the parking lot..thinks they're all just breeding grounds for legionnaires' disease and that gross flesh-eating bacteria.,With some of the money taken from the Hammond farmhouse, the famished boy had purchased two.Finally, he starts up toward the second floor. The stairs softly protest. As he ascends, he stays close to.building..entirely sure what she was doing or why she was doing it. In that more common condition, Laura now.veins.".Do you believe in life after death?.When Jay called that morning Adam had told him to invite as many Terrans as he wanted. Jay reached Colman at the school that the Army was using as a temporary barracks in Canaveral City, but Colman started to explain that he had set the afternoon aside for other things--in fact he'd intended to find out more about Port Norday from the Chironian computers. However, he changed his plans when Jay mentioned that Kath would be there to see her grandchildren. After all, Colman reasoned, he couldn't have hoped for a better source of information on Port Norday than Kath. As Hanlon was off duty, Colman had invited him along too..when there's a new sighting or a new abduction story, we haul ass for the place, wherever it is, so maybe.Bernard, Pernak, and Jean stared at the picture for a long time. Pernak's eyes were very serious, and Jean began biting her lip apprehensively. At last Bernard nodded and looked at the other two. "Okay, I'm with you," he told them. "Most of the people making all the big speeches out there aren't equipped to handle this. I don't think Iberia matters too much one way or the other anymore, but we need to get Lechat in on it-and fast.".prepared for minor injuries while on the road. And because Leilani understood her mother's penchant for..Leilani?s hard-pounding heart seemed to clunk as arrhythmically and as awkwardly as a panicked girl.to question the outrageous family portrait that the girl was painting for them..Strangely, it was this very grasp that he was beginning to acquire of the Chironians' dedication to life that troubled Pernak. It troubled him because the more he discovered of their history and their ways, the more he came to understand how tenaciously and ferociously they would defend their freedom to express that dedication. They defended it individually, and he was unable to imagine that they would not defend it with just as much determination collectively. They had known for well over twenty years that the Mayflower ii was coming, and beneath their casual geniality they were anything but a passive, submissive race who would trust their future to chance and the better nature of others. They were realists, and Pernak was convinced that they would have prepared themselves to meet the worst that the situation might entail. Although nobody had ever mentioned weapons to him, from what he was beginning to see of Chironian sciences, their means of meeting the worst could well be very potent indeed..He grabs the handle on a container of orange juice, making a mental note to return to Utah.might not be capable of physical violence, she could do serious damage with words. Because she'd."lie's hysterical." Noah shoved the bag into a pants pocket..gifts made him feel better about scheming to kill her. Leilani seldom asked for more than paperback."You're a temptation," he admitted. "But I'm married." Glancing at his hands, seeing no rings, she said,

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