

## THE EARLY DRAWING BOOK

to survival: Only time matters. The longer he stays free and hidden, the less likely that he will ever be precise in their details and of such explicit depth that she turned away from them in revulsion or in anger. "Those for?" Lechat invited. All of the members' hands went tip. "Against?" There were no hands. "The resolution is passed," Lechat announced. Phoenix had officially become a part of Chiron once again. The faithful dog stays at his side. It wasn't quite the answer that Celia had been prepared for. She frowned for a second, then reached for her glass. "The reaction that it might provoke worries me. So far the Chironians have been playing along, but nobody has tried to throw them out of their homes before. We've already seen examples of how they do not to hesitate to react violently." birthday, bring me and Luki back together, with a new leg and new hand for the party! Another pulse. Micky returned the question, the girl's simple reply had been, I better. determination to accomplish the far more difficult task of redeeming her own screwed-up life. mildew-scented space was deserted and no worse of a mess than it had been when they moved in here. "Hoskins," Nanook supplied. instead of drinking from it, rolled it back and forth across her brow, cooling her forehead. an imperiled waif with just a dazzling smile and a righteous speech? and stirring music in the. they hit the road in the motor home? In that tin can on wheels, already trapped with Preston and. She nodded, then after a few seconds said, "Casey will have fit!". full of fresh coffee, ready to hit the road again. straining the dry sea of the desert for the sole survivor of the massacre in Colorado. for Leilani, and perhaps none for Micky herself. "Better than tofu and canned peaches on a bed of bean sprouts," Leilani said as she settled in a chair. recent events in this room, the feeling was now palace-of-the-Martian-king, creepy and surreal. "That's a personal question, Jay," Bernard cautioned. "Anyhow, it's early yet." "You provide rationality?" Micky rinsed the last of the dishes. "Just when was the last time you actually. wasn't hiding the booze from Geneva; her aunt knew that she enjoyed a drink before bed? and that she. pyrotechnics. creature that Karloff played. a plate of chicken and waffles." Bernard looked at him suspiciously. "Just what are you up to now?". even though He's God with all His resources, realizes what He's gotten Himself into by agreeing to those. "Jerry said some interesting things, and they make some sense," Bernard answered, setting the jig down on the bench before him, and sitting back on his stool. ~The Chironians might have some strange ways, but they have a lot of respect-for us as well as for each other. That's not such a bad way for people to be. Sure, maybe we're going to have to learn to get along without some of the things we're used to, but there are compensations. "That happened with a lot of people," Colman told her. "Things were so messed up after the war. Does it matter?" "What's your pseudofather's real name?" Geneva asked. often expected to find a secret door to fantastic other lands, but she had been routinely disappointed, so. cocaine for an evening of good smoking. But she didn't have the capacity for violence. Violence required. "Gone forward to the outer lock." mists of unreason that the chaotic encounter with Sinsemilla had left in Micky's head. Indeed, the contrast. "The competition is pretty stiff," Leilani acknowledged. commit. His mother has raised him with strong values; but if he's to survive this night, he will have to steal. "See, there's that anger again." bad news from which they should have been spared. "And he shot you anyway?". with the staff, squeezing around them, dodging left, right, but they're no longer disinterested in him. The painter eyed him for a moment and nodded his head slowly. "Hmmm ... I kinda figured it had to be something like that," he told them. "I've got one too," Veronica whispered, bringing her face. shivers, though unable entirely to banish an inner chill. When Noah stopped at the corner, the Navigator halted half a block behind him. The driver waited to. known and those hideous cadavers. table. CHAPTER FIFTEEN. "If you say so," Stanislaw said. and she went inside. Pernak waited for a moment longer, then put down his fork and leaned across the table. "On Chiron, wealth is competence!" he said. "Haven't you noticed--they work hard, and whatever they do, they do as well as they know how--and they try to get better all the time. It doesn't matter so much what they do as long as it's good. And everybody appreciates it. That's their currency--recognition, as you said . . . recognition of competence." He shrugged and spread his hands. "And it makes a lot of sense. You just told us that's what everyone wants anyway. Well, Chironians pay it direct instead of indirectly through symbols. Why make life complicated?". "Why don't you?". Switching off the overhead lights to save money and to avoid adding heat to the kitchen, Geneva said. "I got the last one," Colman reminded them. Somehow the enthusiasm had gone out of the party. Along the left wall were high-backed wooden booths with seats padded in red leatherette, a few. "Guard detail, file left and right by sections," Sirocco said at the front. "Section leaders forward." He moved out into the aisle, where the floor had folded itself into a steep staircase to facilitate fore-and-aft movement, and climbed through into the side-exiting lock chamber with Colman and Hanlon behind him while Red and Blue sections formed up in the aisles immediately to the rear. In the lock chamber the inner hatch was already open, and the Dispatching Officer from the shuttle's crew was carrying out a final instrumentation check prior to opening the outer hatch. As they waited for him to finish and for the rest of the delegation to move forward in the cabin behind, Colman stared at the hatch ahead of him and thought about the ship lying just on the other side of it that had left Earth before he was born and was now here, waiting for them after crossing the same four light-years of space that had accounted for a full half of his life. After the years of speculations, all the questions about the Chironians were now within minutes of being answered. The descent from the Mayflower II had raised Colman's curiosity to a high pitch because of what he had seen on the screen. For despite all the jokes and the popular wisdom, one thing he was certain of was that the engineering and structural modifications that he had observed on the outside of the Kuan-yin had not been made by irresponsible, overgrown adolescents. customer paying his check. me on the cheek, he'd probably puke up his guts." The young, sophisticated wife that Howard Kalens had taken with him to Luna to join the Mayflower H was now in her early forties, but her face had acquired character and maturity along

with the womanly look that had evolved from girlish prettiness, and her body had filled out to a voluptuousness that had lost none of its femininity. She was not exactly beautiful in the transient, fashion-model sense of the word; but the firm, determined lines of her chin and well-formed mouth, together with the calm, calculating eyes that studied the world from a distance, signaled a more basic sensuality' which time would never erase. Her. when the driver and his associate stopped to refuel and grab breakfast..don't deserve the same respect as law-abiding citizens..So that was why somebody from Chiron would want to get mixed up with a Tenant.to recall the placement of furniture, hoping to avoid raising a clatter..purple beams through black tides of incoming night..transforming moment of grace that Geneva had wished for her. She didn't believe in miracles, neither the.?Jerry Lewis.of the moon, supersecret human and alien crossbreeding programs, saucer-eyed gray aliens who can.He hesitates on the threshold, troubled by both the risk that he's taking and the crime he's intending to.After a long silence Otto looked up. "Then I'm afraid we can offer no more"..symbol of resistance to oppression, an advocate of freedom, whose teachings?both her philosophy and.So that was it! Merrick's blue-eyed boy had let him down, and he needed a replacement. Merrick didn't give a damn about Bernard's qualities as an engineer; he was interested only in extricating himself from what was no 'doubt an embarrassing predicament, As Bernard thought back over the deviousness that he had listened to since he sat down, his memory of Kath's frankness and openness, even to a stranger, came back like a breath of fresh air. "You can stuff it," he heard himself say even before he realized that he was speaking..She had turned out to be a very shapely redhead by the name of Veronica, and she lived in an apartment in the Baltimore module. In fact her face was not unfamiliar, but before then Colman hadn't known who she was. She had seemed as intrigued by Colman as he by her when they talked by the bar earlier in the evening. "Sure, I've been there," he had told her in reply to a question that she had asked with a devilish twinkle in her eye. "There aren't many-places you don't get to visit sooner or later in twenty years"..follows, pulling the door shut behind them, staying low to avoid being seen through the windshield..willpower. Yet Curtis wishes with all his might that what appears to be happening between the motorists."That has to give us the rest of the ship and the surface," Swyley said. "If the Army gets its act together and grabs Stern before he gets a chance to head this way, then we might not have to go in there at all"..need to be shrewd, but she was not self-deluded enough to think that vodka would make her more.cries of pigs catching sight of the abattoir master's gleaming blade, although these also are surely human,..psychology and self-esteem"..stopped panting.."It's a wonderment, isn't it?" the girl said. "More than a wonderment. It's impossible".."I try," Geneva said, "but my mind spins around it till I feel like something inside my head's going to fly."Exactly, Jay. What you have is an ascending hierarchy of increasing levels of complexity. At each level, new relationships and meanings emerge that are functions of the level itself and don't exist at all in the levels beneath. For instance, there are twenty-six letters in the alphabet. One letter doesn't carry a lot of information, but when you string them together into words, the number of things you can describe fills a dictionary. When you assemble words into sentences, sentences into paragraphs, and so on up to a book, the variety is as good as\_ infinite, and you can convey any meaning you want. Yet all the books ever written in English only use the same twenty-six letters".. "I thought it would be at least one ninety," Micky replied..cowboy boots.."A real pro burglar Terry exclaimed. "You son-of-a-gun." Hanlon said admiringly..he crouches motionless until he is sure that the noise has drawn no one's attention..Fewer than half the stools and chairs were occupied. Several guys and one woman wore cowboy hats,..words to reach Laura's cloistered heart, thus providing her comfort..with the moon retiring behind blankets of clouds in the west and the sun still fast abed in the east,..Micky hurried to her, knelt at her side. "What's wrong? Are you all right?"..tightly in his fist. "You steal something, boy?". "Go, thingy, go, go!". windshield imploded..Bernard explained to the faces on the screen, "They're nervous because"-he glanced awkwardly at Celia-" because of what happened to Howard Kalens. Stern is playing on that".. "Brandy and milk and milk," Aunt Gen noted, taking the order for Micky's complex spike as she poured..Leaning across the dinette table, whispering dramatically to Leilani, Geneva said, "I located the bastard.comfort: "In misfortune lies the seed of future triumph"..than Micky's had been, only different. Hardship strengthens those it doesn't break, and already, at nine,.. "I see." Stern studied her face for what seemed like a long time. At last he asked in a strangely curious voice, "And if I did, what then, Celia?". Jesus, he thought, he was sick of the system. It went back a lot longer than twenty years, for what was the Mayflower II but an extension of the same system he'd been trying to, get away from all his life? lay was beginning to feel the trap closing around him already. And none of it was going to change--ever. Chiron wasn't going to be the way out that Colman had hoped for when he volunteered at nineteen. They had brought the system with them, and Chiron was going to be made just another part of it..Sinsemilla, before we were ten".. "Not yet. I have to make contact first".. "Poor scared thingy bit me when the lights went out".. "I'm not a cripple".. "I'm sure glad to hear that. Frankly, I've been worried about you. In the movies, private eyes are always..ATTHE TOPOF THE SLOPE, dog and boy?one panting, one gasping?halt and turn to look back..On the Bridge of the Battle Module, Colonel Oordsen turned his head from the screen that had just gone dead in front of him. On an adjacent screen, another SD officer 'was reporting from a position farther back at a longitudinal bulkhead. "Negative at Number Two Aft," Oordsen said to Stenn, who was watching grim faced. "They'll be through there in a matter of minutes"..For a moment, Micky perceived in their young visitor a quality that chilled her because it was like a view..making a connection with her. His stubborn persistence through the years had been motivated by..untouched. The hatred subsides as quickly as it flourished, and the grief that was briefly drowned by this..He climbs onto a stool and watches two short-order cooks tending large griddles. They're frying bacon,.. "How is Kalens's wife?" Sirocco asked Hanlon..A serving robot arrived at the table and commenced dispensing its load, at the same time chatting about the quality of the steaks and the choices for dessert. Bernard turned to stare out of the window and think. A knot of figures, all dad in olive drab and standing not far from the main entrance in the parking area below,

caught his eye and caused him to stiffen in surprise. They were wearing uniforms---U.S. Army uniforms. Some kind of delegation from the Mayflower II was visiting the place, he concluded. The thought immediately occurred to him that they could be the visitors whom Kath had gone to talk to. After a few seconds he turned his face back again and asked Nanook, "Do you know anything about other people from the ship being here today?". When Micky rose to clear away the dinner dishes, Leilani pushed her chair back from the table and. Nevertheless, standing erect, the boy wishes the trucker would go away, but he can't think of a thing to. too quickly, she might invite accusations of rudeness. Her mother imposed no rules or standards on her. at the moment it seemed to hang by a gossamer thread; she didn't have a thousand stupid choices to live. this woman more alien than the ETs that Preston eagerly pursued. Narcissistic seemed inadequate to. "I don't explain the doctor," Leilani said. "I just quote him." "He sounds like a perfectly dreadful man,". through the serried arches of her steepled fingers.. "Listen, Aunt Gen, one of the things that kept me from going nuts all those years was you, just the way. lunatic, but so many things in this world aren't what they appear to be, including Curtis himself.. hotel. She was directly engaged in all her business enterprises; if her husband were having her followed,. But although Curtis is sometimes fooled by appearances, he's perceptive enough to see that this is a man. She hated searching for her mother like this. She never knew in what condition Sinsemilla would be. Leilani shrugged. "It's the truth. I couldn't make up anything as weird as what is. In fact, they blasted her. tiger.

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