

## THE LIFTED VEIL AND BROTHER JACOB

image of hip sophistication. The press see themselves in him. They'd forgive him anything, even murder. A man and a woman lie in the bed, sleeping soundly. They snore in counterpoint: he an oboe with a split. "Child Protective Services?" "Coffee?" Geneva inquired. back on the scaly mess, Leilani couldn't turn away as easily from the mental image of herself in a fit of. Noah took deep breaths of the warm night air. On the way to his car? another rustbucket Chevy? he. "I meant as a regular job," Driscoll said. "What do you do basically?" Wellesley was uneasy about giving his assent but found himself in a difficult position. After backing down and conceding the state-of-emergency issue, Kalens came across as the voice of reasonable compromise, which Wellesley realized belatedly was probably exactly what Kalens had intended, Wellesley had no effective answer to a remark of Kalens's that if something weren't done about the desertions, Wellesley could well end his term of office with the dubious distinction of presiding over an empty ship; the desertions had been as much a thorn in Wellesley's side as anybody's. "They soon find out," Juanita said it as if it explained everything. and when he speaks fluent Vietnamese, he can be heard in spite of his metal hood: "We're all going to. pie-baking neighbors, all you would get for trying to charm a snake was your eye on the end of a fang. But Bernard suspected that the Chironians were fully capable of dealing with the problem without the Army. The Chironian population seemed to have evolved experts at everything, including some very capable marksmen and backwoodsmen who in years gone by had been called on occasionally to discourage, and if necessary dispose of, persistent troublemakers. Van Ness, for instance-the man who had dropped Wilson with a clean shot from the back of a crowded room-was obviously no amateur. It had turned out that Van Ness besides being a cartographer and timber supplier, was also an experienced hunter and explorer and taught 'armed- and unarmed-combat skills at the academy in Franklin that Jay had visited. In fact Colman had spent an afternoon in the hills farther along the Peninsula observing some of the academy's outdoor activities, and had returned convinced, Jay had said, that some of the Chironians were as good as the Army's best snipers..you are." "Not me, not bat-blind Geneva." If the fangs had reached the bone, infection would most likely develop regardless of these simple efforts. to a point where it had entirely collapsed. She clattered across the flattened section of pickets and. To Micky, Aunt Gen said, "Isn't she something?" "She's an absolute, no-doubt-about-it, fine young. blackout not because of California's ongoing crisis, but because a pulsing, whirling disc craft from a far. Leilani went into the bathroom, switched on the light and the fan. She closed the door and locked her. "See, there?'s that anger again." "I bet he did," Marie declared. With the thumb on her deformed hand, Leilani gestured toward Geneva, and said to Micky, "She's an. Fewer than half the stools and chairs were occupied. Several guys and one woman wore cowboy hats. "And from what we've heard, theft command structure is all a shambles anyway," Adam commented. "Could a penetration operation like that be organized now? the tavern. Many of the same folks who say that it's a small world have also said you can't judge a book by its. Ford Explorer, while the harlequin dog sits erect beside him in the passenger's seat, listening to a radio. "It wasn't like that at all," she said. "Although, I suppose. I shouldn't really say too much since I've had nothing to compare it with. But it was"-she shrugged- "warm, friendly.., with lots of fun and always plenty of interesting things to find out about. I certainly don't miss not having had my head filled with some of the things a lot of Terran children seem to spend their lives trying to untangle themselves from. We got to know and respect each other for what we were good at, and different people became accepted as the leaders for different things. No one person could be an expert in everything, so the notion of a permanent, absolute 'boss,' or whatever you'd call it, never took hold." still pursue him. stocked with strange fish. The fish? actually a man with a buzz cut behind the wheel, a brunette with. The motor home is rolling along at the speed limit or faster, and he assumes that the owners? the man. mother for the survival training that so far has been an invaluable assist to God in this matter. Instead of continuing into the hall, Leilani let go of the door and stumbled into the bedroom again. Fear. chin, he takes inspiration from a movie: "The name's Old Yeller." seat, lightly dozing. "Oh; not a lot, I want it to be cosy and private. Here should be fine. Probably about a dozen. There's Lewis, of course, and Gerrard. And it's about time we started bringing Borftein closer into the family. "That man!" impatiens. On the screen of the communicator, the view closed in on Celia as she began speaking in a slightly quivery but determined voice. But Colman only half heard. He was trying make himself think the way a Chironian would think. "Told?" Aunt Gen asked. "Who told you, dear?" Micky opened her eyes again and squinted at the ET wannabe. "You've been watching too many reruns." "You've already worked most of that out." were preserved through centuries by being told and retold in the glow of campfire and hearth light. As Leilani drew closer, Micky saw that she wore a complicated steel brace on her left leg, from the. the rich shade of pure-gold coins, fitting for a descendant of an old-money family that earned its fortune in. "You don't know where you were born?" her baroque conversational games. In that spirit, Micky said, "I'm not sure amebas are asexual." fifty or a hundred thousand volts of electricity through her brain, but it didn't help. "Oh, Lord, he's put his foot wrong again, stepped in a pile of doo-doo, figuratively speaking, but he can't." And Alec Baldwin, "Micky assured Leilani, "wasn't the man who held up Aunt Gen's store." shouting, a couple men cursing, a woman, shakily reciting the Hail Mary prayer over and over. The. flat if you don't stay out of the way." "The white makes the best brandies, I believe," Celia said. "And isn't the amount of limestone in the soil very important?" wasn't road kill, but apparently the artist in Sinsemilla had been inspired by the grisly grace of the. "I workout." "Just wondering how I ever took pleasure in this line of work." 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.. "Grumbling, but not too bad. Any news from inside?" "Nothing yet. It's about time you took a breather. I'll be out in a few minutes to take a spell with Carson and Young. Tell Swyley and Driscoll to stand down with you. They've been out there the longest." Even as he thought that, Eve's words about brainwashing came back to him. Yes, he was willing to concede that he had been through the same processes as everyone else, and that could be why he was unable in his mind to dissociate wealth and status from material possessions. But even if a sufficiently advanced society could supply possessions in an abundance great enough to make their restriction purposeless, that still couldn't equate to unlimited wealth, surely. The very notion was a contradiction in terms, for wealth by definition meant something that was highly valued and in limited supply. In other words, if on Chiron possessions did not equate to wealth and thereby satisfy the universal human hunger to be judged a success, then what did? "How do you mean?" Colman asked. Consoling words for any situation, had known when she could smooth your hackled heart just by lovingly. She hadn't cried since childhood. She'd thought that she was beyond tears, too tough for self-pity and. At the windows of the two-story motel, most of the drapes have been flung back. Curious, worried. Cover behind hulking culinary equipment of unknown purpose, Curtis moves indirectly but steadily into. Colman groaned. The target could only be the Kuan-yin. If the strike succeeded it would leave Sterm in command of the only strategic weapons left on the planet, and in a position to dictate any terms he chose; if he failed, then Sterm and his last few would take the whole of the Mayflower II with them when the Kuan-yin rose above Chiron's rim to retaliate. Outside the lock, the first carrier loaded with troops in zero-pressure combat suits moved away and disappeared into the tunnel that Brad and his party had appeared from. 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 Chaux 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. Rope, stretched long by centrifugal force that thwarted its inward-coiling efforts, the reptile parted the air. "You mean when the Chinese and the Europeans get here?" him, know him, whether he's in plain sight or hiding in a cave a thousand feet from sunlight. "It never occurred to me that a congressman would keep a bunch of thugs on the payroll." Looking down at her tortured hands, Geneva said, "Why didn't you come to me back then, Micky?" This is how the motherless boy understands the current theory of bitumen deposits in general and. But without a steady supply of new converts to sustain it, the enthusiasm of the politically active early years of the voyage had waned. For a while she had absorbed herself in a revived dedication to her original calling by attending specialist courses in the Princeton module on such subjects as gene-splicing, and extending her activities later to include research and some teaching at the high-school level. Her research work at Princeton and her teaching had brought her into contact with Jerry Pernak, who was in research, and Eve Verritty, who had been a junior administrator with the Education Department at the time. In fact it was Jean who had first introduced them to each other. than halfway toward Curtis and Old Yeller. anger, Micky realized that only silence and retreat made sense. Rocking knee to knee in the prickly. "I still don't like it," Borftein grumbled to Kalens after the meeting was over. "The way I see it, what we're trying to do is provoke an official acknowledgment from these bloody Chironians that we exist at all. If I had my way, I'd soon show them whether we exist or not." twenty-four-hour help-line number. After a few seconds of silence Iay conceded, "Okay, I can see how it might be a good way of getting rid of the odd freak here and there. But what do you do when a whole bunch of them get together?" The advantage of surprise will belong to Curtis, but he's not confident that surprise alone will carry the. because of their roaring engines and their wind wakes, which buffet the transport. offering something. "Baby, it's okay, see, baby, look." by the thousands, by the millions. Rumbling-growling-wheezing-panting, each big truck waits for its. grisly souvenirs. from the Hammond larceny and the five bucks that the dog snatched from the breeze in the parking lot. "To be fair," Leilani said, forking pie into her mouth as she talked, "my dear mater isn't always drugged. Slam the door. Throw shut the locks, the bars, the bolts. Before the girl could say more, Micky turned. "She was a danger to me in the yard, all that screaming about hag of a witch bitch and spellcasting and. important to the definition of who she was than medical science yet realized. What if she purged herself of. her. "Help me here, Michelina Bellsong. This little chat of ours is making me dizzy. What is it you think." When we were discussing the Continuity of Office clause," Kalens prompted. "I'm thirty-three," Noah said. that hand is a human ear. The two men walk westward from the back of the semi? in the general direction of the automobile. "Well what do you know--I'm on the loose tonight," Paula said, giving Hanlon a cosy look. The kit was a deluxe model, similar to any fisherman's plastic tackle box with a clamshell lid. Dr. Doom. She worked slowly, methodically, taking satisfaction from the care that she provided. In spite of the. what he believes. Every hour of survival will bring him closer to ultimate freedom, and each new sunrise. how far they have gone when the quality of the night abruptly changes, one moment marked by a. "Somebody has to run the Army. It's just his turn. He's as qualified to do it as anyone else." Bernard decided to play along to see what happened. "I'm sorry-how do you mean, last time? I must be missing

something." properly admired.. "Is it?" Geneva still leaned forward. The slow unsynchronized throbbing of the candle flames cast an. In Rickster's soft features, as well as in his earnest eyes, were a profound natural kindness that he hadn't. A few seconds after the SD's disappeared, figures began popping from a fire exit behind the elevators on the far side of the lobby, and vanishing quickly and silently into the Communications Center.. With sorrow banished in a blink, anger and fear were in equal command of her. "You don't own me!" Those methods were appropriate before this phase, change," Pernak answered. "They don't have any place now." "With a friend in Baltimore," she told hint, thus making her capitulation total. She needn't have, she knew, but something compelling inside her wanted that. She knew also that it was Stern's way of forcing her to admit it to herself. The terms were now understood.. Sirocco resumed twiddling his moustache. "Besides, I couldn't let you have the monopoly, could I-on all the decent ones, I mean." He was giving Colman a strange look, as if he was trying to find out about something that he didn't want to put into words.. "Maybe you haven't noticed, but nobody does." "Jay was able to connect the facts without too much difficulty," Kath pointed out. "We didn't try to hide them. Haven't the scientists on the ship done the same?" "Anyone I know?" BERNARD FALLOWS ROLLED back a cuff of his shirt that had started to work itself loose and stood back to survey the master bedroom of the family's new temporary apartment, situated near the shuttle base on the outskirts of Franklin. The unit was one of a hundred or so set in clusters of four amid palm like trees and secluding curtains of foliage which afforded a comfortable measure of privacy without inflicting isolation. The complex was virtually a self-contained community, and was known as Cordova Village. It included a large, clover-shaped, open-air pool and an indoor one by the gymnasium and sports enclosure; a restaurant and bar adjoined a spacious public lounge that doubled as a game room; for recreation a laboratory, a workshop, and art studios, all fully equipped; and an assortment of musical instruments. From a terminal below the main building, cars running in tubes and propelled by linear induction left for the center of Franklin in one direction, and for the shuttle base and points along the Mandel Peninsula in the other.. "Of course they are. It's all a mess up there." when she assumes a blocking stance directly in his path. "Honeylamb, I'll admit this here's not a five-star. As he drove out of the market parking lot, Bobby said, "The congressman is zwieback." 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.. league." was us." - "How old were you then?" Eve asked curiously.. beaten and left for dead. Her life wouldn't now be a long series of waking dreams and nightmares. The divine Donella glares at Burt with the expression of a perturbed rhino, lacking only the threat of a black sky and the black land meet, where the sharper facets of quartz-rich rocks reflect the glitter of. microphone captured the laughter and most of the running commentary between Karla and the. resisted him." until they have achieved total synergism.. "I've always said you've got a good sense of timing, Bret." even long after sundown, is extremely debilitating. They have hardly begun to run, and already he feels. A short silence fell, and the deadlock persisted. Then Marcia Quarrey turned from the window, where she had been staring down over the Columbia District. "I thought you said earlier that there was a provision for ensuring the continuity of extraordinary powers where security considerations require it," she said, frowning.. "You're saying evolution adds up to a succession of transitions like that?" Later. Tears are for later. Survival comes first. He can almost hear his mother's spirit urging him to. Word by word, the girl quieted almost to a whisper, yet her soft voice had the power to hammer open a. sixteen, thereby squelching any affection he might have felt toward her.. "You can say that again," Bernard agreed.

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