

ANALES DE LA SOCIEDAD CIENTÍFICA ARGENTINA VOL 53 PRIMER SEMESTRE DE 1902

CHAPTER TWENTY-SEVEN. "Well, there's a general and a few other Army people," Juanita said after a moment's thought. "And from Engineering there's a . . . Merrick--Leighton Merrick, that's right." She looked at Nanook. "And one called Walters, previously been treacherous, arms pump-pump-pumping like the connecting rods on the driving wheels. mother-daughter moment. It didn't matter that their roles were reversed, that the daughter was providing. Perhaps the only good thing about the unextinguishable anger that had charred Micky's life was that it. deception. Perfect poise is the key to survival. Mom always said so, and Mom knew her stuff. . . giant fiery boots. . . 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. . . as scary as Bela Lugosi and Boris Karloff and Big Bird all rolled into one, but she's not dangerous. At. "Better late than never, I suppose," another commented, glancing at the painter, who was still there. The painter nodded but didn't reply. . . He always bought her what she requested? the pajamas were no exception? probably because these. "When I went to Port Norday with Jay, I found out that they're planning a new complex farther north. They're going to need engineers--fusion engineers. They practically told me I'd have no problem getting in there, to a top job maybe, Think of it--our own place just like we've always said, and no more crap from Merrick or any of them!" Bernard threw his hands high. "I could be me for the first time in my life. . . and so could you, all of us. We don't have to listen to them telling us who we are and what we have to be ever again. Doesn't that. . ." His voice trailed away as he saw that it wasn't having the effect he had hoped. Jean was backing away through the door, shaking her head in mute protest. . . Yet if he doesn't seek help here, he'll have to visit the next farmhouse, or the one after the next. He is. he'd no doubt be left with a hand full of bones as shattered as the windshield. . . once they were on the road again, old Sinsemilla might set the motor home on fire while cooking up rock. heard only sincerity. He didn't know squat about kids, didn't care to learn, and lie expected them to be. never had a romantic relationship with Sinatra, though if he'd ever come around, I'm not sure I could have. dog. By bursting into the restaurant with the animal at his side, he's drawn attention to himself when he. In her tiny bedroom, Micky kicked off her toe-pinching high heels. She stripped out of her cheap cotton. locked. He rattles it up and down, up and down, insistently, to no effect. . . Although they're riding the Hannibal Lecter band bus and running from a pack of terminators who have. Windchaser motor home at the very moment when two loud beeps blare from it. The headlights flash. . . Leilani to be convinced against her will that they were mother and daughter. "Ah, but think of the honor of it," Hanlon told them. "And won't every one of them poor SD fellas back in the shuttle be eating his heart out with envy and just wishing he could be out there with the same opportunity to risk himself for flag and country. . ." "Thanks. I guess. . ." Paul Lechat paced back and forth in agitation across the lounge of the Fallowses' apartment in Cordova Village. "I didn't think the Chironians would go that far." he said. "I thought they would react only against direct violence. Why couldn't they have just let everything die a natural death?" . . . shoulder, watching the activity below. They have assembled just west of the Windchaser owned by the. The trailer is oddly constructed, with a pair of large doors on the side, instead of at the back. An instant. through their adversaries. Thank God, then, for his sister--becoming. . . eager to put some distance between himself and this complex of buildings. . . He stays away from the restaurant proper, with its tables and red vinyl booths. Instead he goes directly. next year covered. "Leilani's mother, half mesmerized by her bizarre performance. . . dedication is too effusive and in need of cutting. Well, this time she's wrong. . . so full of life. And you still are everything you were then. None of it's lost forever. All that promise, all. once levered herself upright, feeling stupid, feeling clumsy, feeling as though she were the Girl from Castle. Pernak didn't seem overeager to accept the implied invitation. to agree. He started to say something noncommittal, then stopped and looked up as Jay entered. "Hi, Jay. How was the movie'. Colman kept a poker face. 'What made him think that?'. At about the same moment, inside the memory unit of a lower-security logistics computer located on the same floor, the references to C Company contained in a routine order-of-the-day suddenly and mysteriously changed themselves into references to D Company. At the same time, D Company's orders to remain standing by at the barracks until further notice transformed themselves into orders for C Company. Ten minutes later a harassed clerk in Phoenix brought the change to the attention of Captain Blakeney, who commanded C Company. Blakeney, far from being disposed to query it, told the clerk to send off an acknowledgment, and then gratefully went back to bed. Inside the logistics computer in the Mayflower II, an instruction that shouldn't have been in memory was activated by the incoming transmission, scanned the message and identified it as carrying one of the originator codes assigned to C Company, then quietly erased it. . . Abruptly the camera tilted down, too late to show the shattering of the windshield. Documented. . . white-and-peach uniform, she was as perky as a parakeet on Dexedrine. Her infectious smile might have. Pretending that the thorny tentacles of the bloomless rosebush had threatened her, she turned to confront. unconsciousness, she would sometimes repeat this mantra in a singsong voice, a hundred times, two. original. Where'd you find her?". "I'm not sure I believe Hell exists," the girl replied with the gravity of one who has given the matter. "I 'got the last one," Colman reminded them. Somehow the enthusiasm had gone out of the

party..Micky glanced back at the trailer, where Leilani stood in the open doorway, silhouetted against faint. Up front, the two voices are louder, more excited. The engine starts. Before either of the owners takes a. "So have I," Colman said. "And it's worse than that, he's setting up a missile strike right now. The target has to be the Kuan-yin." The thought of a shower was appealing; but the reality would be unpleasant. The cramped bathroom had. "We ought to pass the word to the media for a more appropriate treatment from now on as well," Kalens said. "Perhaps playing up things like Chironian stubbornness and irresponsibility would harden up the public image a bit... just in case. We could get them to add a mention or two of signs that the Chironians might have armed themselves and the need to take precautions. It could always be dismissed later as overzealous reporting. Should I whisper in Lewis's ear about it?" "I only live at Port Norday during the week," Kath said. "I've got a place in Franklin as well. It's not far from here at all." Bernard shrugged helplessly. "I know. It's a chance-but what else is there?" you confused sentimental cinema with reality, but another part of her, the newly evolving Micky, found. The sky outside was sunny and blue with a few scattered clouds, and a pleasantly warm breeze carried the scents of rural freshness from the hills rising to the south. Fallows still wasn't fully accustomed to the notion that it was all real and not just a simulation projected from the roof of the Grand Canyon module, or that the low roars intermittently coming in through the opened window of the living room downstairs were from shuttles ferrying up and down to what was now another realm. He allowed his mind to distract itself with the final chores of moving while it completed its process of readjustment.. She slipped into white shorts and a sleeveless Chinese-red blouse. In the mirror on the back of the. Micky crazily thought of killer bees, which might also have caused the shrieking figure to perform these. "I've seen your mother go through a lot of men over the years. She's always been so ... restless. I knew. Donella says, "Curtis, I'm sorry I snapped at you." "So, Mrs. D, how did your wires get scrambled?" Leilani asked, tapping her head.. might be.. Whether already airborne or not, it will be coming. Soon. And if the craft itself doesn't possess the latest. "I think I'd have done the same thing," Otto told him.. He must always remember that every story of a boy and his dog is also a story of a dog and its boy. No. Doggedly returning to her initial question, Leilani asked, "So the guy who killed Mr. D? was he caught?" Sirocco entered some commands on the touchboard, and a second later a document appeared on the screen. Colman got up and came across to study it while Sirocco sat back. Evidently having snatched a small treasure from the teeth of the desert breeze, the dog holds the. Jay sighed again. "I guess not. Let's go. It's one stop along the maglev line." starship bridge has been violated. He might be eleven or even twelve, but he's somewhat small for his. managed a laugh even though a smile had eluded him. Oh, but it would have been a humorless bark of a. What had changed was hope: the hope of change, which had seemed impossible to her only yesterday.. "Does Casey know?" Colman asked. Veronica shook her head. Colman thought for a few seconds. "I don't like the sound of what's going on around there," he said. "Do you know the bridge outside, the base on the south side-where the maglev tube crosses a small gully by the distribution substation?" With a sigh and a laugh, Micky said, "Why don't we save time and you just tell me what I believe?" enough to stop caring about helpless girls? the one next door and the one that she herself had been not. Chapter 26. Colman hesitated for a split second to let the question ask itself. "So...?" No job. No prospects. No money in the bank. An '81 Camaro that still somewhat resembled a. Jay grinned, just a trifle sheepishly. "Er.. would you get mad if I asked Steve to come along too?" "Old Sinsemilla," said Leilani.. 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." flourish.. Sterm studied the amber liquid for a few seconds while he swirled it slowly around in his glass, and then looked up. "However, I am sure that you did not travel twenty thousand miles to discuss matters such as that." When she arrived at the open door of the presidential suite where Noah stood, she offered her hand; if. "The what?" Luki and I have the same last name, but that doesn't mean anything. It's not actually our father's name.. of smoldering summer-evening light, behind the smoky reflections of the layered kitchen shadows.. Picking up Micky's second can of Budweiser from the table, the girl said, "There's at least a million. The wheel, or Ring, was eighteen-plus miles in circumference and sectionalized into sixteen discrete structural modules joined together at ball pivots. Two of these modules constituted the main attachment points of the Ring to the Spindle and were fixed; the remaining fourteen could pivot about their intermodule supports to modify the angle of the floor levels inside with respect to the central Spindle axis. This variable-geometry design enabled the radial component of force due to rotation to be combined with the axial component produced by thrust in such a way as to yield a normal level of simulated gravity around the Ring at all times, whether the ship was under acceleration or cruising in freefall as it had been through most of the voyage.. "Of course they are. It's all a mess up there." killing people because I'm too fearful or too ashamed to bring myself to talk about what he really does.. LIBRARY OF CONGRESS CATALOGING-IN-PUBLICATION DATA. "What?" Driscoll stared at them aghast. "I've never talked to classes of people. I wouldn't know how to start." "A good time to start practicing then," Ci suggested. He swallowed hard and shook his head. "I have to stay here. This conversation is enough to get me shot as it is." Ci shrugged but seemed content not to make any more of it. "Are you two, er... teachers here or something. like that?" Driscoll asked.. diabolist, hag, flying down out of the moon with my name on your tongue, think you can spellcast me with. in the mirror again without cringing.. had been tossed and tangled by the moon dance, she might pass for a queen.. every time." Finally he smiled.. Her puzzlement passed to pained compassion, and Noah knew that she had read the text and subtext of. scattered bones of men and horses stripped of flesh by vultures, vermin. Curtis and Old Yeller go now. He had a bone to chew with Fate, and he gnawed at it even though he knew that of the two of them.. "This planet has escaped such a fate until now, but its population will grow. It has a chance to profit from what Earth has- learned, and to

plant the seeds of a strong, unshakable order now, before the diseases of disunity have had a chance to germinate and become virulent. The same forces that are already unleashed upon Earth are only two years away from reaching Chiron in the form of the vanguard of the Eastern Asiatic Federation. In just two years' time, your choice will be either to submit to the domination of those who would enslave this planet, or to confront them with a unified strength that would make Chiron impregnable. Your choice is weakness or strength servility as opposed to dignity; slavery as opposed to freedom; ignominy as opposed to honor; and shame as opposed to pride. Weakness or strength. I offer the latter alternatives".climbed the three back steps with no noise..empty skull?or taken away in an extraterrestrial starship, like Lukipela, and hauled off to some."Who else would he keep on the payroll?".obtain aspirin, but ice-cold Dos Equis would be available..When he'd met her two weeks ago, Noah Farrel had disliked this woman on first sight, strictly as a didn't have any real passion left; drugs of infinite variety had scorched away all her passion, leaving her.hanging from the rod appears to be made of human skin..Colman shook his head slowly. There had been too much to think about in too little time. It was always the same; whenever the pressure was at its highest, there was invariably one thing that everybody missed because it was too obvious. They had all been so preoccupied with thinking of how to stop Stern from getting into the Battle Module that none of them had allowed for the obvious possibility of his being there already..Air brakes squeal and sigh. The rumbling engine stops. After the twin teams of Explorers stir slightly in."Don't you ever give these guys a break?" Terry asked Sirocco."Frankly," Leilani said, "neither do I. But the alternative is too hideous to consider, so I just suspend my.WEDNESDAY, after a fruitless day of job-seeking, Micky Bell-song returned to the trailer park, where.eyes, a flash of teeth in the hooded beam of light. He almost cries out in alarm..After he had walked a block and a half, he arrived at a major street lined with commercial enterprises..cocaine for an evening of good smoking. But she didn't have the capacity for violence. Violence required.The girl put down the beer?on the far side of her plate, out of Micky's reach. Her manner was casual,.logical assumption is that all this talk of the killer stepfather is just a vivid imagination at work, merely an.and perhaps irrational notion. He's just a boy of comparatively little experience, and she's a grand person.More tweedles than antitweedles would be projected into a normal universe, and more antitweedles than tweedles into an antiuniverse, and that, according to the Chironian version, was why the universe was composed of matter and not antimatter; the opposite, of course, held for the twin antiuniverse. The way to obtain antimatter, they therefore reasoned, would be to make a small part of the universe look like an antiuniverse so that tweedlespace could be "fooled" into projecting antitweedles instead of tweedles into it. In other words, instead of expending enormous amounts of energy to create antitweedles from scratch, as was thought to be inescapable by most terrestrial scientists, could they "flip" tweedles into antitweedles in ~the matter they already had?."They don't have to make sense. All they have to do is say you're different. Now do you get it? Your dad belongs to a group who made a lot of rules that he never had anything to do with, and because he's wired the same as everybody else, he needs to feel he's accepted. To be accepted, he has to be seen to go by the rules. If he didn't he'd become a threat to the group, and they'd reject him. And nobody can take that. Look around and watch all the crazy things people get into just so they can feel they belong to something that matters.".To Curtis's right lies a pivot-hinged door with an inset oval of glass. The porthole is too high to provide a.tires..for her, the best thing she might ever have going for her, because in truth she'd probably never develop.third swing, the serpent met the furniture with a crack of skull that took all the wriggle out of it forever..of fear that she'd find a haunted house within herself, occupied by everything from mere ghosts to.to the open bedroom door with a measure of dignity..entirely to down-to-earth stuff like TV wrestling, video games, dinosaurs, and serial-flushing public."I live in a hooley-free zone.". "They soon find out," Juanita said it as if it explained everything.. "Half an hour." She smiled a promise and winked. Just before the picture blanked out, Colman caught a brief close-up glimpse of her shoulder-length auburn hair and finely formed features as she leaned toward the screen to cut the connection..boy takes comfort from the silken coat and the warmth of his friend, successfully repressing a fit of the.The_ prednct outside was full of people wasting the evening while trying to figure out what to do with it, when Colman and Anita emerged from the Bowry and turned to follow the others, who were already some distance ahead. Anita stopped to fish for something in. her pocketbook, and Colman slowed to a halt to wait. The touch of her hand resting on his arm in the bar had been stimulating, and the faint whiff of perfume he had caught when she leaned forward to pick up her glass, tantalizing. What the hell? he thought. She's not a kid. A guy needed a break now and again after twenty years of being cooped up in a spaceship;.A Tenure of Landholdings Act was passed, declaring that all property rights were transferred to the civil administration and that legally recognized deeds of title for existing and prospective holdings could be purchased at market rates for Terrans and in exchange for nominal fees for officially registered Chironian residents, a concession which was felt essential for palatability. Employment by Terran enterprises would enable the Chironians to earn the currency to pay for the deeds to their homes that the government now said it owned and was willing to sell back to them, but they had grounds for gratitude-it was said- in being exempt from paying the prices that newly arrived Terrans would have to raise mortgages to meet. At the same time, under an Aliens Admissions Act, Chironians from outside would be allowed entry to Phoenix only upon acquiring visas restricting their commercial activities to paying jobs or approved currency-based transactions, for which permits would be issued, or for noncommercial social purposes. Thus the Chironians living in or entering Phoenix would cease, in effect, to be Chironians, and the problem would be solved..Celia sank back into her seat and closed her eyes with a nod and a sigh of relief. One of the figures in the darkness wanted to know how come somebody called Stanislaw knew how to fly something like this; Another voice replied that his father used to steal them from the government.rolling through her in nauseating waves..Twenty-four ha4 escaped in all; nine had already given themselves up or been killed in encounters with Chironians. Anita had not been

among them. Colman counted fifteen body-bags, which meant that she had to be in one of them..His dark-adapted eyes sting briefly from the glare.

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