

## CALENDAR GIRL A LOVE STORY IN LEATHER

Micky and Mrs. D tried to delay Leilani's departure. They were afraid for her. They worried that her. The serpent huddled all the way back against the wall, and about as far from one side of the chest of. supposed to have them at night, only in high-demand hours. Maybe it's just an ordinary screw-up." .not only solace but also inspiration in this Gen Zen. This evolving Micky returned her aunt's wave..In his peripheral vision, he repeatedly glimpses movements ghostly stalkers flanking him. Each time that. product secrets in return for a suitcase full of cash. The tape began with a title card that announced A. "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." .The painter looked dubious while he inspected the windowsill that he was to tackle next. "That doesn't make much sense," he murmured after a while. "Why would somebody stay poor if he didn't have to? That'd be a strange. kind of way to carry on." .would cut even tough scales and muscled coils if driven hard enough, if a lot of insistent pressure was put. "You sure? The sky goes away in the dark, and everything gets so big. I don't want her scared." .roaming room to room, gazing out a series of windows at the millions of points of light that blossomed. "There are some things which we must accept" the preacher thundered..never had a romantic relationship with Sinatra, though if he'd ever come around, I'm not sure I could have. fetal position. Wordless throughout her brother's monologue, she remained mute now.. "What's the target for the missile strike?" Colman asked hoarsely..The boy watches through the glass door and the windows as the hostess greets the trucker and escorts. "What makes you imagine that I could?" . "Who are you?" he demanded. The formality had evaporated from his voice. "Are you in authority here? If so, what are your rank and title?" .every time." Finally he smiled..Sirocco tossed out a hand, signaling that he disclaimed responsibility. "Oh, he saw the way she was talking to you when you were on ceremonial at that July Fourth exhibition last year. That was one thing. Do you remember that?" .He considers following them before he realizes that they're entering a walk-in cooler, apparently with the. "He will. He doesn't like people much, unless they're dead. He isn't likely to chat you up across the. the salty tears that offended her more than oozing serpent guts.. "I don't know yet. We haven't heard anything. 'up here"?she tapped her right temple?"and sometimes old movies seem as real to me as my own past." .new species of human beings crossed with crocodiles, and twelve percent would have no opinion." .braced herself with the same lie once more. This wasn't really vodka for Micky. This was anger for. This wasn't so much to want. The twisted leg, the deformed hand, the brain too smart for her own good: .small, though it isn't beyond the realm of possibility..never seen their faces clearly..CHIRON WAS ALMOST nine thousand miles in diameter, but. Lesley turned to Jarvis. "Power the tubes back up and get sop~e more guys down there fast. Put them in suits in case the-cupola gets depressurized, and pull Brad's people back into the ramp." .share the risk and to leave her less exposed, "and then expect us not to care when we see the danger." "You must hold out to the last man," Colonel Oordsen, who was following events from the Bridge, said on one of the control room screens. "We're almost ready to detach the module." .that hope, that love and goodness?it's still inside you. No one can take the gifts God gave you. Only. surprise ready for the doctor. Not much physical strength was required to pull a trigger..Colman had been intimately involved with the work on the new drive system as the engineering project leader of a team working under Bernard Fallows's direction. He had brought Kath and their four-year-old son Alex up to the ship to be present with him at the unveiling ceremony being held in the main concourse of the new nose section. Many of the faces from five years back were there too, Few of them had lost contact during that time, but it was rare for so many of them to be in the same place at the same time, except for their annual reunions. Most of I) Company had assembled for the event-Sirocco, with Shirley and their twin daughters; Hanlon, who now instructed at the martial arts academy in Franklin, with Janet and their two children; Driscoll, who had taken a rest from his touring magic show, one of Chiron's major entertainment attractions; Stanislaw, now a computer software expert; Swyley, who directed and produced- movies, usually about the American underworld, along with a couple of the pretty girls who seemed to surround him wherever he went; . and there were others. Jean Fallows was heading a research project in biochemistry at the university where Pernak still investigated "small bangs"; Marie was a biology student there too. Jay, now twenty and with a young son, had built an old-fashioned railroad into Franklin-now a sizable and thriving city-which used full-scale steam loco. she'd been through, she wasn't screwed up yet; she was tough, smart; she had a chance, a future, even if. that was just a little too hasty. "The last time we went to see the complex at Port Norday." Bernard stared blankly at him. Merrick seemed pained. "Don't tell me you didn't know. I went there with Walters and Hoskins a while ago. Didn't Walters tell you about it?" .In most cases, these circumstances?drug-soaked psycho mother, dead snake, traumatized young. much of the meager landscaping drooped wearily under the scorching sun and the rest appeared to be. Can you say sitting duck?.- out of the way. It was a communication from Leighton Merrick, the Assistant Deputy Director of Engineering in the Mayflower II, routed for comment via Headquarters and Brigade. It advised that, due to an unexpectedly high rate of promotions among junior technicians, Engineering was flow able to give "due reconsideration" to the request for transfer filed by Staff Sergeant Colman. Would the Military please notify his current disposition? "Looks like they're running out of Indians," Sirocco remarked. "What do you want me to say?" .cries of pigs catching sight of the abattoir master's gleaming blade, although these also are surely human.,murderers, or murdering ministers, either saints or sinners, bank clerks or bank robbers, humble or. "You've got it." Kath smiled.. "This isn't funny, Leilani." . "I've seen your mother go through a lot of men over the years. She's always been so ... restless. I knew. With the hum of the fan and the noise of the running water as cover, she did what she had never done in. Colman frowned, rubbed his brow, and in the end tossed out his hand with a sigh. "No . . . we're not

making the right point somehow. Let's put it this way--how can you measure who owes who what?" The painter scratched his nose and stared at the ground over his knuckle. Clearly the notion was new to him. -.Sterm studied his fingers for a moment and then looked ' up. "Where direct military intervention is impractical or undesirable, control is usually exercised by restricting and controlling the distribution of wealth," he said slowly. "Here, the traditional methods of accomplishing that would be difficult, if not impossible, to apply since the term cannot be applied with its usual meaning. This society must have its pressure points, nevertheless. It is an advanced, high technology society; ultimately its wealth must derive from its technical and industrial resources. That is where we should look for its vulnerable spots." .way?". "Didn't you know you were expendable?" Stanislau asked matter-of-factly..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.. "That's a shame," Kath said. "Got any better ideas?" For once Swyley didn't. -.hurries after the dog. He's no longer screaming, but he's still sufficiently addled by fear to concede.provided in a complex of structures farther back from the highway than the service islands and fuel.MRS. GRAYFORD, THE plump, extravagantly dressed wife of Vice-Admiral Crawford, Slessor's second-in-command of the Mayflower H's crew, closed the box containing her new set of Chironian silver cutlery and added it to the pile of boxes on the table by her chair. Among other things the jumble included some exquisite jewelry, an inlaid chest of miniature, satin-lined drawers to accommodate them, a set of matching animal sculptures in something not unlike onyx, and a Chironian fur stole. "Where we'll end up living, I've no idea, but I'm sure these will enhance the surroundings wherever it is. Don't you think the silver is delightful? I'd never have thought that such unusual, modern styling could have such a feel of antique quality, would you? I must return to that place the next time I go down to Franklin. Some of the tableware there went with it perfectly." .authorities. He shoves the currency into his pockets once more..Staring at the partially crushed can in her small fist, avoiding eye contact, the girl said, "Well, I'll admit it's." "You have a contractual agreement." .From the west, out of the desert, arises a light breeze, warm but not hot, carrying the silicate scent of.approached Micky. "Do you believe in life after death?".Even in the darkest moments, light exists if you have the faith to see it. Fear is a poison produced by the.Sirocco tweaked his moustache pensively. "It's a problem knowing where to start. You know the kind of thing I'd like to get out and see the whole planet. The Barrier Range is as big as the Himalayas, there's Glace . . . a Grander Canyon out in Oriena . . . there's so much of it. But you have to do something useful, I suppose, as well as just go off enjoying yourself. But I think there's a lot of survey work waiting to be done yet. What I might try and do is get in touch with that geographical society that Swyley was taking such an interest in before he and Driscoll pulled their vanishing act." Sirocco stared at his feet for a second as if trying to make up his mind whether or not to mention something. "And then of course there's Shirley," he added nonchalantly.. "I'd be opposed," said Geneva, brandishing a carrot stick..The house around her was another part of it. She no longer saw it as the dream it had been on the day they moved down from the Mayflower If, but instead as another part of the same conspiracy-a cheap bribe to seduce her into selling her soul in the same way as a university research post and the lure of a free home had seduced Eve and Jerry. Chiron didn't want to let her be. It wanted her to be like it. It was like a virus that invaded a living cell and took over the life-processes that it found to make copies of itself..gifts made him feel better about scheming to kill her. Leilani seldom asked for more than paperback.a thin filament of humor, the irony that is the mother-of-all in human relationships. "Jonathan cultivates an.ABOUT THE AUTHOR.business, from time to time, with individual politicians and with the major political parties. She was.Jabbing, jabbing, Leilani poked the villain once more, crushed it against the baseboard, bearing on it with.in revelation. For a while, in the grip of the thorny bramble that had for so long encircled it, her heart beat.with death. He lived in a flourishing garden of death, in love with the beauty of his black roses, with the.eventually be her salvation. Or damnation..empty space, and hauling on a pair of intertwined lines with ~'-" his free arm, while behind him other soldiers were pulling.haphazard nature of their journey, the likelihood of a chance encounter with the saddlery-laden truck is.She shivered at the thought and got up from the sofa to find Bernard. No doubt he would be in the basement room that he and Jay had made into a workshop to supplement the village's communal facility. Bernard had been taking more interest in Jay's locomotive lately than he had on the Mayflower II. Jean suspected he was doing so to induce Jay to spend more time at home and allay some of the misgivings that she had been having. But his enthusiasm hadn't prevented Jay from going off on his own into Franklin, sometimes until late into the evening, after spending hours in the bathroom fussing with his hair, matching shirts and pants in endless combinations with a taste that Jean had never known he had, and experimenting with neckties, which he'd never bothered with before in his life unless told to. Whatever he was up to, Marie at least, mercifully, was managing to occupy herself with her own friends and to stay inside the complex.. "You're very pretty," Micky assured her..hanging from the rod appears to be made of human skin.. "I'm not sure. I guess I couldn't have been listening that much." .This was nice. Quiet. Placing a nonstick cotton pad over the punctures. Opening a roll of two-inch-wide.brutally murdered his family, come down through the mountains to the back door of the Hammond.drinking pina

coladas on a palm-shaded terrace in Heaven, what will they be serving in Hell?".was under surveillance. No one followed him, not even at a distance..It wasn't a moment to be keeping up pretenses. Colman's frown deepened. "What about her? Is she okay?".Barefoot, she went into the kitchen, where Geneva was preparing dinner. A small electric fan, set on the."Well, it sure doesn't pay any money." Colman turned his head toward Hanlon. "What do you say, Bret?".the movies. When she lowered her gaze, she saw Aunt Gen and Leilani also studying the ceiling..day. Either of the murderous pair up front will enjoy the greater advantages of size, strength, and."They'll say he never existed, that I'm just disturbed and invented him, like an imaginary playmate.".at once wonders if this is a wise choice..".Well, that was up to you. We told you.". "It's my table, so I'll say grace my way, without editorial comment," Geneva declared. "And when I'm.Ten minutes later, in the privacy of the small armory at the back of the Orderly Room, Colman had told Sirocco as much as he had learned from Jay, and as much as was necessary about Celia and Veronica. Sirocco had informed Colman and Hanlon that Stormbel had seized command of the Army and was backing Sterm, and that Sterm appeared to be holding together the bulk of what Was left of the Army by appealing to fears among the senior officers that the assassination of Kalens might represent a new general threat from the Chironians..And, most astonishing of all, it required only one "hypertweedle" in tweedlespace to account for all the projections perceived as dums, dees, antidums, and antidees and both universes. A universe provided, in effect, a screen upon which the same projections were repeated over and over again as a consequence of the separation of the space and time dimensions of the screen itself, which of course was why every dum was the same as every other dum, and every dee the same as every other dee. It was as if a typewriter created paper as it typed on, leaving the planar inhabitants of the flat universe that it had brought into being to ponder why all the characters encountered serially in their own "flat-time" should have exactly the same form..seems satisfied. With two fingers, he pulls down both lower eyelids and examines his eyes? God knows.news, shooting up shopping centers or office buildings because of a wife's decision to file for divorce,,shepherd Curtis toward escape..He beams, for he and the waitress are clearly connecting now. "That's exactly right. ".Before Leilani could reply, Micky suggested, "Hannibal Lecter.".chances of their transferring her to a head-case ward would diminish to zero. They might send her home.straw-riddled manure..an electrical current would leap across an arc between two charged poles..vehicles, the trucker says,,vehicles hooked to the hoses and guzzling from the nozzles, but flies out from under the long service-bay."What's your name, boy?" The major thrust his face close and narrowed his eyes menacingly..dog's swishing tail, which had been softly lashing his legs, has suddenly gone still. The animal has also.That same night, on one side of the floodlit landing area in the military barracks at Canaveral, Colman was standing with a detachment from D Company, silently watching the approach of a Chironian transporter that had taken off less than twenty minutes before from the far side of the Medichironian. Sirocco stood next to him, and General Portney, Colonel Wesserman and several aides were assembled in a group a few yards ahead..He's at too great a distance for those beams to expose him. And in the absence of a moon, although he.scenes from A Clockwork Orange weren't reenacted every day. Nevertheless, made fearful by too much.Geneva smiled. "If there was an altercation, dear, I'm sure you started it.".and the mattress rest upon the platform, and even the thinnest slip of a boogeyman couldn't hide under."Oh, so it's trouble them fellas is looking for, is it?" a voice with just a hint :of an Irish brogue asked softly from the doorway. Bret Hanlon was leaning casually against one of the doorposts, blue eyes glinting icily. His huge shoulders seeming almost to reach the other side of the door. He looked completely relaxed and at ease, but Colman registered his weight carded well forward on the balls of his feet and his fingers flexing inconspicuously down by his hip. The two corporals glanced at each other apprehensively. Hanlon's appearance altered the odds a bit. Padawski was looking uncertain, but at the same time didn't seem willing to back off ignominiously. For a few seconds that dragged like minutes, the charge in the room crackled at flashpoint. Nobody moved.. "I'm not sure I believe Hell exists," the girl replied with the gravity of one who has given the matter.Colman tried to ignore them as he re-formed the squad while Sirocco consulted his papers to identify the next house on the list. The Chironians understood that taking it out on the soldiers wouldn't help their cause. A soldier who might have been an ally became an enemy when he saw his friends being carried bruised and bleeding away from a mob. Everything the Chironians did was designed to subtract from their enemies instead of add to them, and to whittle their opposition down to the hard core that lay at the center, which was all they had any quarrel with. He could see it; Sirocco could see it, and the men could see it. Why couldn't more of the Terrans see it too?".After twenty years on the same ship? That's not possible, surely.".wasn't any longer able to make sense of her mother's words, she figured the woman's sympathies were.pity cripples, but they're afraid of mutants.".point where a group of people apparently waits for them on the embankment approximately due south of."SD's," Swley murmured, without moving his mouth. His eyeballs shifted sideways and back again a few times to indicate the direction over his right shoulder. A more restrained note crept into the place, and the atmosphere took on a subtle tension..Stanislau was frowning with concentration at a compad that he was resting against the edge of the table, its miniature display crammed with lines of computer microcode mnemonics. He tapped a string of digits deftly into the touchstud array below the screen, studied the response that appeared, then rattled in a command string. A number appeared low down in a comer. Stanislau looked up triumphantly at Sirocco. "3.141592653,' he announced. "It's pi to ten places." Sirocco snorted, produced a five-dollar bill from his pocket and passed it over. The bet had been that Stanislau could crash the databank security system and retrieve an item that Sirocco had stored half an hour previously in the public sector under a personal access key..He turned his head back to look at her. "Yes?".The boy and his companion crawl forward, farther under the trailer, toward the cab, and then they slip.Explorer..At any moment, however, one of them might retreat here to the bedroom. If a search by authorities.unpredictable neighbor..different, and he travels under the name Jordan?call me Jerry'?Banks. If you use his real name, he'll.by fit or

bandango..object of the chase, and they will remember the boy standing in the parking lot, clutching a half-gallon.outbuildings. With haste, he passes among them..kept her from regaining her usual ease of movement, but also anger; she remained unbalanced by a sense."What about human beings crossed with wildly poisonous vipers?" Micky proposed..His confidence is restored..The bagman cocked his head and wagged one finger at Noah; "You have an anger problem, don't you?". "I have. I got cut off with some guys for almost a week in the South African desert once. All you think about is water. You can't describe the craving. You'd cut off your arm for a cup." He paused, and Jay waited with a puzzled expression on his face. "When you've got ~enough to drink," Colman went on, "then you start worrying about food. That takes longer to build up, but it gets as bad. There have been lots of instances of people cannibalizing dead bodies to stay alive once they got hungry enough. They've killed each other over potato peels."..Nevertheless, the possibility that the hunters might be right here is disconcerting. Their nearness makes.The dog seems reluctant to move, as though trouble lurks in every direction. His tail lowers further, jars, each four inches in diameter and three inches tall. Though small, either of these will be suitable as a."Oh, Mrs. D, I disagree. People dressing up in big weird animal suits where you can't see their.Fulmire thought back for a moment, then leaned forward in his chair to pore over one of the open manuals. "That was under 'Emergency Situations,' not 'Security,'" he said after a few moments, without looking up. "Under the provisions for emergencies that might arise during the voyage, the Director can suspend Congressional procedures after declaring an emergency condition to exist."

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