

## D ARMORIAL BEARINGS OF COLONIAL FAMILIES WHO SETTLED IN THE AMERICA

thinks they're all just breeding grounds for legionnaires' disease and that gross flesh-eating bacteria, cell phone or an in-car computer to report that the fugitive pair had only minutes ago created a scene on. HOWARD KALENS WAS not amused. weaves westward, using the employees' vehicles for cover. He's not sure where he should go, but he's. The Mayflower II's ramscoop cone had gone, and with it the field generator housing and the twin supporting pillars that had extended forward from the Hexagon. In their place a new nose section had sprouted, shaped generally in the form of a domed cylinder and containing additional shuttle bays, berths for a range of orbiters and daughter vessels, an enormous low-g recreational complex that included a cylindrical boating and swimming lagoon, and a new center for advanced technical education and scientific research. The stem of the ship had undergone even vaster changes, its original fusion drive having been replaced by a scaled-up antimatter system developed from the prototype successfully tested on the Kuan-yin. The scene inside the Bowry was busy and smoky, with a lot of uniforms and women visible among the crowd lining the long bar on the left side of the large room inside the door, and a four-piece combo playing around the corner in the smaller room at the back. Coleman and some of D Company were sitting at one of the tables standing in a double row along the wall opposite the bar. Sirocco had joined them despite the regulation against officers' fraternizing with enlisted men, and Corporal Swley was up and about again after the dietitian at the Brigade sick bay had enforced a standing order to put Swley on spinach and fish. Jean shook her head and indicated Marie surreptitiously with her eyes. "It would be best if you went on your own. We've got plenty to do here." Marie made a face but stayed quiet. possibility of capture or snakebite, frisky with the prospect of new terrain and greater excitement, tail. "We couldn't let him do that, could we?" Kath said to Bobby, age ten, and Susie, age eight, who were sitting with her across the room, where they had been struggling to master the intricacies of chess. "Lurch is half the fun of coming here." sand, across loose shale, between masses of sage and weather-sculpted thrusts of rock, zigging and slabs of the night, and if the slabs could fall heavily to the blacktop. Blades, indeed, but not knives. dividing the command post from the observation room and looked down through one of the ports at the approaches to the lock below. Charez watched from the doorway, ignoring Oordsen's indignant voice as it floated through from behind. "Major Lesley, you have not been dismissed. Come back at once. What in hell's going on there? What are those alarms? Lesley, do you hear me?" The theory opened up whole new realms, Pernak was beginning to appreciate as he sat back in his office to give his mind a rest from absorbing the information being presented on the wall screen opposite. What he was starting to glimpse hadn't just to do with the physics; it was the completely new philosophy of existence that came with the physical interpretation. Jabbing, jabbing, Leilani poked the villain once more, crushed it against the baseboard, bearing on it with. Sterm held up a hand. "Yes, yes, we have been through all that." that you'll come through all right, as well as an immeasurably higher likelihood that you'll be able to look. godforsaken alien planet where there's nothing worth watching on TV and the only flavor of ice cream is. day. Either of the murderous pair up front will enjoy the greater advantages of size, strength, and. iTener cuidado, muchacho! "Oh, that's sad. You resorted to an arbitrary number. That reveals a shallow capacity for independent. English accent. matter how ingenuously she phrased the request, asking for a shotgun would probably alarm him. slips across the threshold as flu-idly as a supernatural familiar ready to assist with some magical. "It's this whole business of not paying for anything," Stanislaw said at last. "We come in here and drink, we go into restaurants and eat, we walk out of stores with all kinds of stuff, and none of it costs anything." He sat back, looked from side to side for moral support, got plenty, and shook his head helplessly. "It seemed too good to be true at first, but that soon wears off. It's not funny anymore, chief. It's getting to all of u~. out of suitcases for the short time they were here. In fact, suitcases were open on a bench at the foot of. "I didn't mean that," Driscoll protested, feeling embar-. Tanks filled, the transport pulls away from the pumps, but the driver doesn't return to the interstate. This was about Leilani Klonk, not about Michelina Bellsong. Leilani was only nine, and in spite of what. rassed. "If you must know, I like working cards." "You mean tricks?" Shirley seemed interested. "I can do tricks, sure." "Are you good?" "Why don't you piss off," he growled at last. "My pseudofather. Late that afternoon, he parked the motor home in a roadside lay-by. Not a. "Child Protective Services?". After the door swung shut behind the pacifist, Noah ordered another beer from the never-was Minnie. filtered cacophony into a muted clump-and-crackle. "Exactly right. But a lot of birds go to roost at night and stay there till morning. Your little orange lady is." Gut-feel," Pernak told him "The weapons have to exist. I tell you, I know how these people's minds work." with a patina of perspiration. In spite of her genius IQ, her street smarts, and her well-polished wise-ass. thinks he hears sporadic gunfire. He can't be sure. His explosive breathing and the slap of his sneakers on. relief when he fails to find jars of pickled eyeballs arrayed on the one long shell. None of the garments. motioning Padawski and his group to their feet, the major marched over to where Colman and the others from D Company were standing with the Chironians who had been upstairs with them. He had already taken their names and established that they had not witnessed the incident firsthand. "You guys are free to go," he informed them. "If there's a hearing, you might be called in to testify. If so, the appropriate people will contact you." The scene was an alfresco working-lunch, being held on the terrace of the roof garden atop the Government Center, which crowned the ascending tiers of buildings forming the central part of the Columbia District. High above, the shutters outside the module's transparent roof had been opened to admit the almost forgotten phenomenon of natural sunlight, streaming in from Alpha Centauri, as it held a position low in the sky below the nose of the Spindle while the Mayflower H rotated with its axis kept steady toward it. linger after its visitation. resorts to the excuse that Burt Hooper, the waffle-eating trucker in Donella's restaurant, made for him. Tweaked by puzzlement, her classic features had a pixie charm. "Excuse me?". Beyond

the hard-packed barnyard earth lies a recently mown lawn. A concrete birdbath. Beds of roses...as heartworm, but I guess it's a perfectly respectable parasite. Anyway, I assure you with all. Although that wasn't ;in answer, she turned away from Micky and crossed the lawn in steel-stiffened. Spears also adorns one wall. With her deep cleavage, bared belly, and aggressive sparkling smile, she's. In this darker night, several structures loom, all humble and yet mysterious. A barn, a stable, "I'm not sure I'd trust any electronics," Lechat cautioned, "Could be risky," Bernard agreed after a second's reflection. "If Stern and whoever else is involved have been preparing for this, I wouldn't put it past them to have taps and call-monitor programs anywhere. Someone will have to go there." "Son-of-a-something, anyway," Anita added. They all laughed. Interstate 15, on which they speed southwest, isn't deserted even at this hour, but neither is it busy.. "Were they ever there?" Leilani asked again.. suddenly appear stone-hard, and cold enough to bring an early end to summer across the entire North. dissolved into weeping? not the genteel tears of a melancholy maiden, but wretched racking sobs. Francisco, Monterey, Telluride, Taos, Las Vegas, Lake Tahoe, Tucson, and Coeur d'Alene before Dr. him nervous, and when he's nervous, he's less likely to be clever or cunning, or bold; and they will find. stars. Rattlesnakes, scorpions, and tarantulas will be more hospitable than the merciless pack of hunters. cudgel, just behind Leilani's two-hand grip.. "Of course they are. It's all a mess up there." "Love," Geneva declared, and her eyes grew misty with the memory of that long-ago passion.. a small waxy bag and dropped it on the table.. past her left ear, but the lash of smooth dry scales across her cheek was real. This caressing flick, cold or "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.. dedication is too effusive and in need of cutting. Well, this time she's wrong.. "That's part of it," Pernak replied, nodding. "The satisfaction that their culture conditions them to feel is another part, but you're getting the general idea." He's heard people say that it's a small world, and this Cruise connection sure does support that. feet were grass-stained and filthy, though her fine slip was rumpled and streaked with dirt, though her hair. Kath switched on her impish smile again. "That's all I'm prepared to say," she replied. "For now, anyway. I just thought you'd like to hear it." She turned to Jay to change the subject. "Chang told my son Adam about you, and Adam says you ought to drop by sometime, Jay. He lives in Franklin, so it wouldn't be far. Why don't you do that?" "Oh, just ask the computers anywhere how to get to Shirley-with-the-red-hair's place---Ci's mother. They'll take care of you." "Primed and ready for immediate launch," Stormbel replied in a monotone. "Programmed for air-burst at two thousand feet, impacting after thirteen minutes. Warhead twenty megatons equivalent, non-recallable and nondefusible after firing." else as well, something that helped her to understand the depth of her naivete on this matter. Her smile. "Well now, I'm sure Veronica could be persuaded if I. denial, knocked the breath out of her.. cockroaches, they would probably be small enough that Noah might just be able to wrestle them into." "Ah." Leilani's eyes widened. "You're the twelve percenters." The Ambassador referred to was to be Avery Farnhill, Howard Kalens's deputy in Liaison. Kalens himself would be leading the main- delegation down to the surface to make the first contact with the Chironians at Franklin. The decision to send a secondary delegation to the Kuanyin had been made to impress upon the Chironians that the robot was still considered Earth's property, which was also the reason for posting troops throughout the vessel. As a point of protocol, Wellesley and Stern would not become involved until the appropriate contacts on Chiron had been established and the agenda for further discussion suitably prepared.. you!. motorists scatter before it. For them, certain death is instantly transformed into a terrific story to tell the. "By whose-" Wellesley began in a shaking voice, but another firmly and loudly cut him off.. found it hard to raise a genuine smile in this place, and because he arrived under such a weight of guilt. "Yes, people have been doing aft kinds of things with it over the last ten, fifteen years or so." The rosebush, however, responded perversely to tender care. In spite of ample sunshine, water, and. not, sent chills chasing chills along her spine, with such palpable shivers that she could almost believe the. He turned back to find her holding a phial of capsules. She popped one into her mouth and smiled impishly as she offered the phial to Colman. "It's Saturday, why not live it up a little?" He scowled and shook his head. Anita pouted. "They're good. Shrinks say they relieve repressions and allow the consciousness to expand. We should get to know ourselves." Colman looked unconsciously toward Kath for her opinion.. electronic search-and-locate gear, the troops will. Darkness won't thwart them. They have special ways. of the cowboys who might be ? surely are ? in the vicinity, or into another posse of FBI agents. One day a would-be victim, impervious to Preston's dry charm and oily sympathy, would have a. The\_ predct 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;. else their suspicion draws them, even if they've searched those places before. And if not those same two. rest against the toe of one of the boots. The parking-lot light is bright enough that from a distance of a. freedom.. No meanness is evident in this tall, somewhat portly man, no suspicion or calculation in his twinkling blue. "They can't get away with that, dear." searching for them in certain mountains in Montana and other places they like to hang out. So we're. The divine Donella glares at Burt with the expression of a perturbed rhino, lacking only the threat of a. Old Yeller jumps off the bed and noisily laps up the treat with enthusiasm. She doesn't hesitate or pause. And therefore the Chironian rejected the death-cult of surrender to the inevitability of ultimate universal stagnation and decay. Just as an organism died and decomposed when deprived of food, or a city deserted by its builders

crumbled to dust, entropy increased only in closed systems that were isolated from sources of energy and life. But the Chironian universe was no longer a closed system. Like a seedling rooted in soil and bathed by water and sunlight, or an egg-cell dividing and taking on form in a womb, it was a thriving, growing organism- an open system fed from an inexhaustible source.. "They may be a handful," Adam added from across the room, "but they control the ship's heavy weapons. We've given them every chance, and we've encouraged as many people to get themselves out of it as was humanly possible. Our whole world is at stake. If they begin issuing threats or deploying those weapons, the ship will be destroyed. They' can be no changing that decision. It was made a long time ago."..but their smiles and greetings seemed false, not because he doubted their sincerity, but because he himself. "And Alec Baldwin," Micky assured Leilani, "wasn't the man who held up Aunt Gen's store."..Wellesley acknowledged with a nod and gestured toward. "She ought to've been paid to take it. Anyway, they put old Sinsemilla in an institution once and shot like."..Plights and pickles. Troubles. Some of us get 'em served one at a time on a little plate, and some of us."..Not yet. I have to make contact first."..millions in government grants, so they're in violation of numerous other federal statutes.".. "What are you suggesting?" Wellesley was gripping the arms of his chair as if about to rise to his feet. "Withdraw that accusation at once!"..the SD's from the Battle Module were approaching, and he had retired to a sheltered observation platform from which he could direct operations with a clear view into the tunnel. Lesley, Colman, and Swyley moved behind a stanchion where Driscoll and a couple more? from D Company were crouched with their weapons. A few seconds later the soldiers all around tensed expectantly.. "It seems irrational to me to argue one way or another about things there's no evidence for," a boy of about four' teen remarked. "You can make up anything you want if there's no way of testing whether it's true or not, so what's the point?"..first greeted him..complete nut. UFOs are only one of his interests. But since marrying old Sinsemilla, he's pretty much. "I told you once already, it's none of your business anymore. Leave me alone. I don't want to talk to you. Just-go away and leave me alone."..In the same way that a clatter of laughter had knocked its way through the last of Burt's choking, so now..exceptional strength matched the congressman's weakness. She didn't have to be coddled. "Karla." "I don't know, Corporal. Recently, I guess."..The small group of Chironians watching from a short distance away and the larger crowd gathered behind them in the rear of the antechamber applauded enthusiastically and beamed their approval. They weren't supposed to do that. It didn't preserve the fight atmosphere..The Mayflower II, when at last it began growing and taking shape in lunar orbit year by year, became the tangible symbol of that quest.. "Zangreni needs stimulants to catalyze her~ psychic currents. That's how she make predictions."..And then he realized that Kath was smiling in a way that said there was no need to explain or rationalize anything. Still looking him straight in the eye, she said in a quiet voice that was not for overhearing, "We like each other as people, and we admire each other for what we are. There isn't anything to feel hung up about on Chiron. People who feel like that usually make love, if that's what they want to do." She paused for a second. "Isn't that what you'd like to do?"..The major met his eye firmly. "My duty is to carry out my orders to the best of my ability," he replied, avoiding a direct answer. His tone said that he regretted the circumstances as much as anybody, but he couldn't compromise..Bernard didn't seem as surprised as he might have been. "Want to spit it out?"..Jay..Just then Jerry Pernak came around a comer accompanied by his fianc?, Eve Verritty, and two more Chironians. A cart was following them with a few odds and ends inside. He gaped at Bernard and Jay in surprise, then grinned. "Hey! So Jay dragged you out to see the sights, eh? Hello, Jay. Started making friends already?" Introductions were exchanged with smiles and handshakes. The two new Chironians were Sal, a short, curly-headed blonde who pursued research in physics at a university not far from Franklin, and Abdul, a carpenter and also one of the Founders, who lived in a more secluded area inland and looked Eskimo. Abdul's grandson, he informed them proudly, had hand-carved the original designs from which the programs for producing the interior wood fittings used at Cordova Village had been encoded. He was delighted when Bernard praised their quality and promised to tell his grandson what the Terran had said..likes to talk about people he's killed?the way they looked when they died, their last words, if they cried..anger. Only anger had kept her going, and until recently she'd been reluctant to let it go..truck stop. If they're sitting at the far end of the vehicle, facing away from the bedroom, they aren't in a..Micky observed. "Flat as a slice of the Swiss cheese on that platter."..He wishes that he'd returned for her and had bravely spirited her to safety. This is a ridiculously romantic..cashier when you leave."..Two doors remained, both closed. On the right lay the small bedroom assigned to Leilani. Directly

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