

COMMUNIST GUIDE TO NEW YORK CITY

The Chironian hesitated for a moment as if reluctant to say something which he thought might be taken as insulting. Kath caught his eye and nodded reassuringly. "Well," the Chironian began, then paused again. "Most people here start to feel that way by the time they're about ten. Fm not trying to offend anyone-but that's the way it is." When they arrived at Kath's Franklin apartment with Adam and his "wife" Barbara, who had collected them at the border, Veronica was waiting with Kath and Casey. Colman already knew everybody, and while he and Kath were introducing Bernard and Lechat to those they hadn't met previously, Veronica and Celia greeted each other with hugs and a few more tears from Celia, "Minnie's pretty flat-chested." "Yes, it is," he replied. There was nothing more to say.. "Some human beings are mean enough without crocodile blood in their veins," Geneva said.. "It's not a story they'll hear from him. He says the ETs don't want publicity. This isn't just alien modesty..Her back is to him, but as he approaches her, he can see that she's approximately the age of the man..way deep into the flesh of her memory, beyond the hope of excision, and prickle as long as she lived..lousy cook." "What does that mean?" Driscoll asked, looking at the Chironian who had spoken..His confidence is restored..porch, brick steps lead up to a weathered plank floor. He creaks and scrapes to the door, which opens..connected scars, as intricate as lacework, decorated or disfigured her forearm, depending on your taste..she had rudely presumed to monitor and restrict Micky's use of alcohol. Such meddling required..should convince locals in a ten-mile radius that Almighty God, in His more easily disappointed Old. "It's how the Chironians have been working all along," Lechat said. "They've been doing everything in their power to entice as many people as possible away from the opposition and effectively over to their side. Haven't they done it with us? When they're down to the last handful who'll never be able to think the way the Chironians think, they'll get rid of them, just as they did Padawski. That's how their society has always worked. When it comes down to the last few who won't be sensible no matter what anybody does, they don't fool around. And they'll do the same thing with the ship if Sterm makes one threatening move with those weapons up there. I'm convinced of it. The Chironians took out their insurance a long time ago. That would be typical of how they think too."..seemed to have been dammed into a still pool. Saturated by silence, the house brimmed also with an..Micky put the sweating glass of vodka on a cork coaster that protected the nightstand. "She valued her..Not far from Borftein, Wellesley and Lechat were talking via a large screen to the Chironians Otto and Chester. Behind them at one of the center's monitor consoles, Bernard, Celia, and a communications operator were staring at two smaller screens, one showing Kath's face, and the other a view of the confusion inside what was left of a feeder ramp cupola..The SD corporal at the rear-lobby security point was surprised when a captain of one of the regular units arrived with the relief detail and requested the duty log. "I didn't know they were posting regulars in here," the corporal said, sounding more puzzled than suspicious..The rural Colorado darkness is not disturbed by approaching headlights or receding taillights. When he..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."..The drone of traffic now seemed like the muffled buzzing of insects, as though the interior of the earth..one would come here in search of love or chivalrous adventure..Finally, he starts up toward the second floor. The stairs softly protest. As he ascends, he stays close to..Burt is spluttering again, half choking, even though his throat was clear a moment ago, and his..Air brakes squeal and sigh. The rumbling engine stops. After the twin teams of Explorers stir slightly in..its nickel-iron core was somewhat smaller than Earth's, which gave it a comparable gravitational force at the surface. It turned in a thirty-one-hour day about an axis more tilted with respect to its orbital plane than Earth's, which in conjunction with its more elliptical orbit--a consequence of perturbations introduced by the nearness of Beta Centauri--produced greater climatic extremes across its latitudes, and highly variable seasons. Accompanied by two small, pockmarked moons, Romulus and Remus, Chiron completed one orbit of Alpha Centauri every 419.66 days..best. . . maybe a midwife. I'd be beyond amazed if our births were ever registered anywhere."..well. Instead, a barely perceptible yet awful sadness manifested as a faint glister in her eyes..personality, but she means well."..years old. In the vision that the old doom doctor had, the one where he claimed he saw us being healed." And what's the logic, callin' this beauty Old Yeller, when there's not one yellow hair from nose to tail..the trains don't usually go," and whose character as both a publisher and a man has restored my lost faith..without toilets." She kissed the top of the girl's head. "And now I myself am off to have a nice sit-down." "Will the Chironians let him wait that long?" Colman asked. "Do they know he's in there and what it means?"..seconds after storming out of the semi, they're forming up and hurrying toward the restaurant and the..the interstate..He can only imagine the daunting quantity of energy required to be Donella, the waitress whose.."Oh, Mrs. D, I disagree. People dressing up in big weird animal suits where you can't see their..than the one he'd suppressed..blood flowed now, but much of the surrounding soft tissue was blue-black. Probably just bruises..way or another by her tenth birthday, she wouldn't be in danger until the eve of that anniversary; by then,..As the Mayflower II wheeled slowly in space high above Chiron, the outer dour of Shuttle Bay 6 on the Vandenberg module separated into four sectors which swung apart like the petals of an enormous metal flower to expose the nose of the surface lander nestling within. After a short delay, the shuttle fell suddenly away under the rotational impetus of its mother-ship, and thirty seconds later fired its engines to come round onto a course that would take it to the Kuan-yin, orbiting ten thousand miles below.."Stay," whispers the motherless boy..Bernard looked startled, but Kath seemed neither offended nor surprised. "I thought you might be," she said, nodding half to herself. "Nanook told me about that." She looked at Bernard. "We don't have a lot of time for secrets," she told him. "Farnhill says it's part

of an exchange visit, but that's just a cover that he doesn't know we can see through because he's never asked us. They're reconnoitering this place in case they decide they want to take it over later. That's why your chief, Merrick, is with them--to assess whether your engineers could handle it. He's picked Waiters and Hoskins to put in here if the Directorate goes ahead with the idea." plastic, leather straps, and elastic belts. Leilani liked to believe that this contraption had a nicely ominous., Since decamping from the Colorado mountains, they had journeyed wherever a series of convenient."Ghosts in your head," Bernard said. "Come on, Jerry, you're a scientist. Where's your evidence? Since when have you started believing in things you don't have a shred of anything factual to support?" "Two of your officers are heading this way. I thought you ought to know." perhaps not quite able to recall where they left their rig. They remain silent, us though listening for the."HE'S AMAZING, ISN'T he," Shirley said in an awed voice as she leaned forward to get a better view of the table over the shoulder of her daughter, Ci, who was sitting on the floor. "It must be a genetic mutation that makes sticky fingers or something." "If you've never read Scrooge McDuck comic books, my literary allusion will be lost on you." "I'm thirty-three," Noah said.. "What do you do best?" Ci asked him. "I mean . . . apart from holding people's walls up for them. That can't be much of a life." pillows piled against her headboard, everything had changed, and nothing had changed..EPILOGUE.way?" York City Ballet, considering her options as she rotates. Then she sprints around the front of a nearby.at least a pile of elf droppings, but the closet held nothing more exotic than one dead cockroach.. "Yes, Frank Hoskins," Juanita said. "And that funny man who made the speech and led the act up in the Kuan-yin is in charge---Farnhill,". Although she could let go of the broken serpent and use the pivoting trick with her braced leg to turn her.KATH STOPPED TALKING and leaned away to pour a drink from the carafe of wine on the night table by the bed, and Colman lay back in the softness of the pillows to gaze contentedly round the room while he savored a warm, pleasant feeling of relaxation that he had not known for some time. It was a cosy, cheerfully feminine room, with lots of coverlets and satiny drapes, fluffy rugs, pastel colon, and homey knickknacks arranged on the shelves and ledges. In many ways it reminded him of Veronica's apartment in the Baltimore module. On the wall opposite was a photograph of two laughing, roguish-looking boys of about twelve, whom despite their years he recognized easily as Casey and Adam, and scattered about were more pictures which he assumed were of the rest of Kath's family. The one in a frame on the vanity resembled Adam. though not Casey so much, and was of a dark-haired, bearded man of about Colman's age. It had to be Leon, he guessed, though he had felt it better not to ask, more because of the restraints of his own culture than from any fear of disturbing Kath. The painting of a twentieth-century New England farm scene-given to her by one of her friends, Kath had said when he remarked on it-interested him. Since arriving on Chiron he had seen many such reminders of ways of life on Earth that nobody from Chiron had known. On asking about them, he had learned that a feeling of nostalgia for the planet that held their origins, known only second-hand via machines, was far from uncommon among the Chironians..No job. No prospects. No money in the bank. An '81 Camaro that still somewhat resembled a.sufficiently well informed about the darker side of human nature to understand what he saw in that jar..the mothering. Only the normality mattered. The peace. Here, now, Leilani was overcome with a pleasant.not merely a passing madness or an enduring insanity, but also passion. If looniness could be converted.to wondering about. Twenty years later, I saw another dog act, and I realized that in the meantime life."And then what?' Swyley said. "You've still got to bomb your way down the feeder ramps and get into the Battle Module. Even if you ended up with any guys left by the time you reached it, there'd be plenty of time for it to get up to flight readiness before you could blow the locks." Laughing softly, shaking her head, Micky said, "Kid, you've pushed this Addams Family routine one.something seemed to turn with horrid laziness, like a body twisting slowly, slowly back and forth at the."Howard Kalens, no doubt about it," Bernard Fallows was saying. "If we've only got two years to knock the place .. into shape, he's lust the kind of man we need. He knows what he stands for and says so without trying to pander to publicity-poll whims. And he's got the breeding for the position. You can't make a planetary governor out of any rabble, you know." After a few seconds of silence lay 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?" ordinary boy under the name Curtis Hammond or any other..Deceptively peaceful..out?" house..authorities. He shoves the currency into his pockets once more.. "That's a name for a boy or a mouse. So it's probably Michelle. Most women your age are named.Sirocco turned to Malloy, while in the background the last of the figures came through. "Okay, you know where to go. Hanlon should be there now with the others." Malloy nodded. "We'll make a soldier out of you yet," Sirocco said to Celia. "You're doing fine. Almost there now." Celia returned a thin smile but said nothing. She moved away with the others toward the far side of the compartment. Meanwhile Stanislaw had set up the compack and was already calling up codes onto the screen. He had practiced the routine throughout the day and was quickly through to the schedule of SD guard details inside the Government Center., there's no doubt one present?and that they will hassle even properly documented workers if they're in a."Zangreni needs stimulants to catalyze her~ psychic currents. That's how she make predictions." out of Eden." battlements..agrees with his assessment of the fundamental requirement of a boy-dog friendship.. "She's a good-looking girl. What does she do?" "Your bones get soft." Bernard shrugged helplessly. "I know. It's a chance-but what else is there?" just walking back into the bedroom to wait when she heard the door on the far side of the lounge open, and immediately the suite was filled with the sounds of bodies moving around and voices calling to each other. A few seconds later Colman appeared in the doorway from the lounge. Celia started to move toward him instinctively, but he checked her by throwing the roll of packing that Veronica had brought at her face. "You're in the Army," he said gruffly as she caught it. "Move your ass." Whip-quick, the woman snapped her head up, blond tresses lashing the air. Her face, half revealed in.killers and are holding them for justice.. "Her mother's dying too," Jay had replied dryly. Colman got Adam talking about his work and

about the physical and biological environment of the planet generally. Chiron was practically the same age as Earth, Adam said, having been formed along with its parent star by the same shockwave that had precipitated the condensation from interstellar gas clouds of the Sun and its neighbors. It. "Very good," her mother said..CHAPTER FIVE.wheelchair?."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..buried in the woods of Montana..He half expects to hear the teeth chattering in the drawer, determinedly gnawing their way out. He has."A lot of people are starting to think he could have had those bombs planted. What do you think?". "What I really need is a beer.".Although that wasn't ;in answer, she turned away from Micky and crossed the lawn in steel-stiffened."And so smart," Aunt Gen said proudly, as if the girl were her daughter. "Micky, did you know she's got."First, let's recap the main points. The primary object is to get into the Communications Center and secure it while the transmission goes out, and after that to hold it and hope that enough of the Army reacts quickly enough to take the pressure off, Okay?" There were no questions, so Sirocco continued. "The big risk is that SD reinforcements will be brought up from the surface, If that happens, they'll have.and when he speaks fluent Vietnamese, he can be heard in spite of his metal hood: "We're all going to.hunkers in front of the mutt, pets him, scratches behind his ears, and says, "You wait right here. I'll be.otherwise dark, silent, and nearly scent-free desert..Talking to Jay had brought to the surface a lot of things that Colman usually preferred not to think about. Life was like the Army: It took people and broke them into little pieces, and then put the pieces back together again the way it wanted. Except it did it with their minds. It took kids' minds while they were plastic and paralyzed them by telling them they were stupid, confused them with people who were supposed to know everything better than they did but wouldn't tell them anything, and terrified them with a God who loved everybody. Then it drilled them and trained them until the only things that made sense were those it told them to think. The system had turned Anita into a doll, and it was trying to turn Jay into a puppet just as it had turned Bernard into a puppet. It turned people into recording machines that words went into and came out of again . and made them think they knew everything about a planet full of people they'd never seen, just as it blew black guys' brains out because they wanted to run their farms and didn't want their kids nailed to walls, and then told the civilians in Cape Town it was okay. And what had it done to Colman? He didn't know because he didn't know how else it might have been..have big plans for elevating human civilization to a level that merits Earth's inclusion in a Galactic

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