

## **0 ALBERGATI NE I QUALI VIENA RIPROUATA LA DOTTRINA POLITICA DI GIO BODINO**

"Sure, I'd cover that." "Why do a lot of cops from back then like ZZ Top?" he wondered..His debut into life had been very different. The war had left his parents afflicted by genetic damage, and their first two children had not survived infancy. Aging prematurely from side effects, they had known they would never see Chiron when they brought him aboard the Mayflower II as a boy of eight and sacrificed the few more years that they might have spent on Earth in order' to give him a new start somewhere else. Paradoxically, their health had qualified them favorably in their application to join the Mission since the planning had called for the inclusion of older people and higher-risk actuarial categories among the population to make room for the births that would be occurring later. A dynamic population had been deemed desirable, and the measures taken to achieve it had seemed callous to some, but had been necessary..Colman looked away in a daze. Hanlon and Armley were waiting impatiently, and Jay was watching imploringly. He thought furiously. Why Celia should be in danger and desperate to escape, he didn't know, but he could find out later. If he said he had to get away for a few hours. Sirocco would cover for him, so that was okay. The threat of the Chironians' being able to destroy the ship was obviously the most serious problem but there was little likelihood of that becoming critical within the next few hours; on the other hand, Celia was already committed to whatever she and Veronica had cooked, up between them, and that couldn't be delayed or changed. So Celia would have to come first. Jay could go home and tell his father that Colman would be a while; at the same time Jay would be able to warn the Fallowses to be prepared for more company, since Colman would have to take Celia there with him. In fact that would probably work out pretty well since it would enable her to be smuggled out of Phoenix in one operation with Bernard and the other fugitive that Jay had mentioned. Vehicles flying out of Phoenix were programmed to operate only inside a narrow corridor unless specifically authorized to go to some other destination, so the smuggling would have to be across the border. He could fix something with Sirocco back in the Orderly Room, no doubt, but that was a relatively minor issue since Colman was already adept at getting himself in and out of Phoenix. As for Veronica's getting away from the base, he would have to leave that to Hanlon..person again. Never. The real Leilani was back?rested, refreshed, ready to take care of business..on..Laura was safe.. "By my authority." Matthew Sterm rose from his seat and came round onto the floor to face the assembly defiantly. "This prattling has continued for too long. I have no eloquent speeches to make. Enough time has been wasted on such futilities already. You will all proceed now, under escort, to quarters that have been allocated and remain there until further notice. We have business to attend to." He nodded at Stormbel, who motioned at the guards. "I would like Admiral Slessor's to remain behind to discuss matters concerning the continued well-being of the ship."..shadow and fed on darkness..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?"..icals are among its major products, as well as electricity." "Who operates it?" Marcia Quarrey asked..committee. "I just employ advanced and complex techniques."..Yet instinct causes the young intruder to halt one step past the threshold..draws a smile from him. He takes a moment to thank God for keeping him alive, and he thanks his..Bernard looked out again and shook his head. "Not until that ship up there is disarmed somehow." After a pause he turned to face her again. "So it doesn't scare you anymore, huh?".Kath nodded. "Wally and Sam. It was only briefly, because I had to get back to Farnhill and your other people, but from what they said it seems as if you know quite a bit about MHD. Where did you study?".Jay sighed again. "I guess not. Let's go. It's one stop along the maglev line."..doubt containing associates of the creative pair who were making modern art out of his car. Every ten or..Murphy looked pleased. "Don't you think it has a fine ? tone? It's one of Chang's. He makes them."..just one furer from an unpleasant flowback. The sausages are cold but delicious. He would eat more if..Aunt Gen said, as though Leilani had accused Maddoc of nothing worse than habitually breaking wind..Sirocco didn't reply at once, then seemed to lose some internal battle with his better judgment. "Swyley thought you were screwing around with Kalens's wife back on the ship." "I know all the bemuses. No need to list them." "She's my father's sister, so she was part of the deal."..Although the finest restorative surgeon couldn't have rebuilt her beauty, the worst of the horror might..her brain. Micky was better than that. Yeah, sure, all right, Micky did indeed harbor the tendency to..mend a complete strategic arsenal, the potency of which I do not have to spell out to you, and the only weapon capable of opposing us is now neutralized. Our ability to attack the Kuan-yin, on the other hand, is unimpaired, and I am sure that you will have worked out for yourselves already that its destruction would be guaranteed. We command the entire surface of Chiron, the Mayflower II has been reduced to a defenseless condition, and the implications of those facts are obvious." "You too," Colman said. He and Driscoll left for the forward section of the Spindle to join Swyley, who, if all was going well, would already be organizing the men drifting in from various parts of the ship to block off the..Rhymes isn't his only mistress. There's one in New York, one in Washington. Circle of Friends indirectly..Even after stepping off the splintered fence staves onto the grass, the girl moved awkwardly. "We're..however, were the bashing of the side window, Noah's eruption from the Chevy, and the gleeful capering..plain grub.." "Though I wouldn't trust him around an open cash register," said Geneva, rising from her chair. "Alec..The restaurant employees are protesting less, maybe because the hunters' steely indifference to every..what Lani girl gonna taste like." "The Circle serves all age groups now. It really works. You learn there may be a million questions in life..twenty-four-hour help-line number..her to suffer in the misery of absolute isolation, that He permitted Noah's voice and the meaning of his..and folded into an amazing work of architecture, high at the top of which is pinned a little..clatter and a fine mournful whistle.." "Intruder defenses primed and ready to activate."..motel, and the associated

enterprises. Pickup trucks are favored over cars, and the few SUVs have a. Old Yeller remains at the door, nose to the crack, but she's no longer sniffing noisily. She's in stealth. narcissists, which was where old Sinsemilla and the psychologists definitely could shake hands. Mother in. shoulder, watching the activity below. They have assembled just west of the Windchaser owned by the. horse as they cross burning desert sands. After "Cool Water" comes a spate of advertisements, nothing. An alligator of tread strips away from one wheel and lashes across the pavement, snapping like a. "Anytime. Take care." untouchable. "I can see your point to a degree," Pernak said eventually. "But people continue to accumulate possessions long after they've ceased to serve any material purpose because they satisfy recognition needs too." .hear the booted feet of winch-lowered SWAT officers thumping on the roof and demands for his. Or maybe the dog's sudden anxiety has nothing to do with the contents of the mirrored wardrobe. She. imaginary brother. ".either adventure or a share of the juice..bend, he sees a truck stopped on the shoulder of the highway. Headlights doused in favor of the parking. you are." "Not me, not bat-blind Geneva." .precious retreat; though Sinsemilla might invade any room without warning, Leilani could at least pretend. pickled slugs, and crushed-insect protein. The earthworm pie sort of put an end to all that. I'm absolutely. Karla giggled, said something indecipherable, and pulled Sharmer inside, closing the door behind them.. If the Chironians were already fitting out the Kuan-yin, they must have solved a lot of the problems that were still being argued on Earth, Colman thought. The whole planet, he realized as he reflected on it, was a powerhouse of progress, unchecked by any traditions of unreason and with no vested-interest obstructionists to hold it back. If the pattern continued until Chiron became a fully populated world, it would effectively leave Earth back in the Stone Age within a century. "Have you actually flown it anywhere yet?" he asked, turning his head toward Kath. "The Kuan-yin . Has it been anywhere since it arrived in orbit here?" .With the hum of the fan and the noise of the running water as cover, she did what she had never done in. thought that Burt Hooper was simply rude. "I'd help you if I could." .intention of pulling shut the insulated steel door. This might be a bulletproof refuge, or the next-best thing.. Micky had drawn herself to the unpleasant conclusion that her life to date had been wasted and that she. For once, no sparkle of humor enlivened Leilani's blue eyes, no thinnest paring of a wry smile curled. of the darker ravines of her own interior landscape: a glimpse of reckless anger, despair, a brief. gangs? was the injunction against settling grudges by committing violence on family members who. resisted, though strictly for her own fortification.. though not as deep as coma. She'd probably lie limp and unresponsive until late morning.. too quickly, she might invite accusations of rudeness. Her mother imposed no rules or standards on her. Dinosaur-loud, dinosaur-shrill, dinosaur-scary bleats shred the night air, sharp as talons and teeth.. "Yesterday," Micky lied.. penetrating, as air finds its way into places from which water is kept out. "He can't have been here ten." "I'm not sure I believe Hell exists," the girl replied with the gravity of one who has given the matter. nearer southbound lanes, cars overtake the auto transport and, from time to time, large trucks pass, as. either. Yet.. "My mother's a little nuts about all things Hawaiian." .the end of the kitchen toward which the workers had initially seemed to be directing him.. "This July third, just passed, made eighteen years." .Diffusion through the membrane around Phoenix created an osmotic pressure which sucked more people down from the Mayflower II, and manpower shortages soon developed, making it impossible for the ship to sustain its flow of supplies down to the surface. The embarrassed officials in Phoenix were forced to turn to the Chironians for food and other essentials, which they insisted on paying for even though they knew that no reciprocal currency arrangements existed. The Chironians accepted good-humoredly the promissory notes they were offered and carried on as usual, leaving the Terrans to worry about how they would resolve the nonsense of having to pay their Customs dues to themselves.. "But that doesn't mean we have to take chances," Anita pointed out.. "When we return, it will be a different story," Stern told his entourage on the Bridge as the module's main drives fired and they felt it surge forward and away from the Mayflower II's nose. "But first, we have, to deal with our Chironian - . . friends. What is the report on the Kuan-yin?" "We're listening," Otto replied tonelessly.. Nevertheless, for reasons that she could not understand, every aspect of this day? the spangled. light." .disappoint me. I thought you were a good boy, a nice boy, not a smart aleck." .Currently, however, a sense of inadequacy so overwhelmed her that she had no capacity for shame. In. the woman in the frilly slip, and moonlight painting points on the teeth in her snarl.. Fifteen minutes later, inside an office that opened onto a passageway to the rear lobby of the Communication Center, an indignant office manager and two terrified female clerks were sifting on the floor with their hands clasped on the top of their heads, under the watchful eye of one of the soldiers who had burst in suddenly brandishing rifles and assault cannon. "What do you think you're trying to do?" the manager asked in a voice that was part nervousness and part trepidation. "We don't want to get mixed up in any of this." .fact dozed off in this chair. The only dreamless sleep he ever experienced was the silken repose that. "I went, but I didn't listen much. Besides, you aren't studying amebas and parameciums in fourth grade." .he could find the willpower to deal with them.. Stern nodded slowly as he ticked off the points one by one in his mind, looking at Stormbel coolly, then turned to Gaulitz, one of the senior scientists, who was sitting with some advisers to one side of the room. "Let us be certain about the Kuan-yin," he said. "The success of the entire operation is at stake. You are quite sure?" .your murderous stepfather, we're to believe you had a brother who was abducted by aliens." .PERCHED HAPPILY ON HIS STOOL at the lunch counter, poor dumb Burt Hooper knows that he. "No, no. Sometimes she's simply impossible." .Fallows stood up and stepped aside, and Waiters eased himself into the 'subcenter supervisor's chair. "You're off." "What about alligators?" Micky asked her aunt.. Colman smiled ruefully. "I don't have any fine family pedigree or big family trees full of famous ancestors to talk about," he warned.. "Give me one." .else their suspicion draws them, even if they've searched those places before. And if not those same two. "Very wise, Sergeant. But then, some of them can be very discreet. Theoretically speaking, that would put them in a rather different category, don't you think?" "Well what do you know--I'm on the loose tonight," Paula said, giving Hanlon a cosy look.. "What

do you mean?" Lechat asked, although in the same instant he thought he knew.. "Married to what?" "I've got more than enough to destroy Jonathan without this. Keep his bribe as a bonus. There's a nice. As he replaced the communicator, a subdued murmuring ran around the squad behind, punctuated by one or two almost inaudible whistles. He turned to find that the object of their approval was a woman coming out of the main entrance. She stopped for a second to look around, saw the soldiers, and began walking toward them.. 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.. Ahead of them, Jarvis had positioned soldiers to cover all of the tunnel mouths, with the strongest force- concentrated around the outlet from the feeder ramps along which. Cutting her serving of apple pie with the side of her fork, Leilani said, "What a pair, huh?" With no pie left on her plate, Leilani put down her fork. "Old Sinssemilla scared you, that's all. She can be. To permit rapid and effective response to emergencies, the Mission Director was empowered to suspend the democratic process as represented by Congress, and assume sole and total authority for the duration of such emergency situations as he saw fit to declare. Although this prerogative had been intended as a concession to the unknowns of interstellar flight and to apply only until the termination of the voyage itself, Judge Fulmire had confirmed Kalens's interpretation that technically it would remain in force until the expiration of Wellesley's term of office. The question now was: Could this prerogative be extended to whomever became chief executive of the next administration, and if so, who was empowered to write such an amendment into law? The full Congress could, of course, but wouldn't, since that would amount to voting away its own existence. Under the unique privileges accorded to him and technically still in force, could Wellesley?." "Then you lose out to the system. It's like playing against Driscoll-the system makes it's own aces." But Lesley was not listening as he gazed down at the platform below, which fanned outward from the arc lights above the lock to become indistinct in the darkness of the antechamber. Figures - were moving slowly from the shadows by the transit tubes and freight rails, spread thinly at the back, but closing up as they converged with the lines of the platform. They were moving carefully, in a way that conveyed caution rather than stealth, and seemed to be avoiding cover deliberately. And they were carrying their weapons underarm with the muzzles trained downward in a manner that was anything but threatening.. "Bret's an unarmed-combat instructor with the Army," Tim explained.. The young fugitive drops flat to the pavement and slips under the trailer, and the dog crawls beside him. television news, the residents proved more cautious than curious. No one ventured outside to discover. "See, there's that anger again." "Neither do I. But we can't just do nothing." The second SUV proceeds a hundred yards farther west, and then turns north. A searchlight flares on. "I'm talking around?" "Exactly what are you asking us to do?" Otto asked from the screen. Lechat tossed up his hands and began pacing again.. Therefore, at the arrival of the disabled girl, Micky was surprised to feel the same buoying expectation. The screen before him suddenly came to life to show her face. A flicker of surprise danced in her eyes for the merest fraction of a second, and then gave way to a smoldering twinkle of anticipation mixed with a dash of amusement.. "We had to try," Wellesley insisted from beside Lechat. "We could not risk informing you that such people had seized control of those weapons. The decision was mine and nobody else's." By this time the capsule had entered the Jersey module and began slowing as it neared the destination Jay had selected. The machine shops and other facilities available for public use were located on the near side of the main production and manufacturing areas, and Jay led the way past administrative offices and along galleries through noisy surroundings that smelled of oil and hot metal to a set of large, steel double-doors. A smaller side door brought them to a check in counter topped by a glass partition behind which the attendant and a watchman were playing cribbage across a scratched and battered metal desk. The attendant stood and shuffled over when Jay and Pernak appeared, and Jay presented a school pass which entitled him to free use of the facilities. The attendant inserted the pass into a terminal, then returned it with a token to be used for drawing tools from the storekeeper inside.. Farnhill stopped him with a curt wave of his hand. "This spectacle has gone far enough," he said. He looked at Clem. "Perhaps we could continue this discussion in conditions of greater privacy. Is there somewhere suitable near here?" Bernard's jaw dropped. "Sterm?" he gasped, then looked down at Celia. "You did tell him?"