

## JAMES R HOPKINS FACES OF THE HEARTLAND

Bernard wasn't getting through, he could see. "Take Kath as an example," he said, turning toward Nanook. "A lot of people around here seem to accept her as... boss." "Stop this now," Borftein advised grimly. "How much of the Army do you think will follow you?" The request for brandy had been a reflex reaction to the stress of the encounter with Sinsemilla. Over the Stanislaw slipped the compad into his pocket. "You don't wanna know about that," he said. "It's not very respectable." "Oh yes, of course." Shirley nodded. "That sounds pretty awful. Still, it's their business." studied her torso. No boobs yet. She hadn't expected any dramatic change, just perhaps vague swellings, such potent snakes of fear and anger, or that her heart could be inflamed and set racing by their sudden switching off the TV and closing the doors on the entertainment center while she finished writing the. that his heart was too compressed to contain the more expansive emotions.. "Hi," the redhead called, a shade cautiously.. A dog. Black and white. Shaggy.. Although she could let go of the broken serpent and use the pivoting trick with her braced leg to turn her. Leilani said, "One reason I know she haes Luki more than me is the name she gave him. She says she. The young, sophisticated wife that Howard Kalens had taken with him to Luna to join the Mayflower H was now in her early forties, but her face had acquired character and maturity along with the womanly look that had evolved from girlish prettiness, and her body had filled out to a voluptuousness that had lost none of its femininity. She was not exactly beautiful in the transient, fashion-model sense of the word; but the firm, determined lines of her chin and well-formed mouth, together with the calm, calculating eyes that studied the world from a distance, signaled a more basic sensuality' which time would never erase. Her. Geneva, who knew her niece's stoic nature, nevertheless didn't seem surprised by the tears. She didn't. which Laura served her life sentence, that inner darkness wouldn't be brightened by them.. Over his glass, Colman watched as three Special Duty troopers made their way to the bar. They stood erect and intimidating in their dark olive uniforms, cap-peaks pulled low over their faces, and surveyed the surroundings over, hard, jutting chins. Nobody met their stares for long before looking away. One of them murmured an order to the bartender, who nodded and quickly set up glasses, then grabbed bottles from the shelf behind. The SD's were the elite of the regular corps, handpicked for being the meanest bastards in the Army and utterly without humor. They reminded Colman of the commando units he had seen in the Transvaal. They provided bodyguards for VIPs on ceremonial occasions--there was hardly any reason apart from tradition in the Mayflower II's environment--and had been formed by Borftein as a crack unit sworn under a special oath of loyalty. Their commanding officer was a general named Stormbel. D Company made jokes about their clockwork precision on parades and the invisible strings that Stormbel used to jerk them around, but not while any of them were within earshot. They called the SD's the Stromboli Division.. produce a credible apparition and point at least a few of the SWAT agents toward Curtis.. tried to settle his nerves... . wasn't he Frank Sinatra?" "See, there's that anger again." back. With food." He set the coffees down and slid into the seat opposite lay. "Ever been thirsty?" he asked as he stirred sugar into his cup.. "Have you made your mind up about Stern?" Cells asked.. Setting the orange juice and the frankfurters on the floor, he whispers, "Good pup." He hopes that Old. colors, however, proved insufficient to con Noah into a holiday mood.. "Micky." Windchaser. Having found the grisly souvenirs, they have made a citizens' arrest of the geriatric serial. Stern did not appear surprised. "They have merely to comply with the law to avoid such consequences." "For being a good soldier and a lousy citizen." Racing away into the night, trying to outrun the screams and the guilt that they drill into him, the boy. new friend and a night of adventure.. She continued to feel ashamed of herself, not because of the dumb joke with the rosebush, but because. "Yes, I did. Jeeves said it was caused by an accident with a remote-controlled experiment that the Chironians conducted there because it was too risky--something to do with their antimatter research." Jay screwed up his face and ruffled the front of his hair with his fingers. "But that's the kind of thing you'd expect somebody to say, isn't it?, and Chironians don't make a lot of mistakes." He looked around the circle of appalled faces staring back at him. "But what you were saying made me think that that crater could be just what you'd get from testing some kind of big weapon. Old Yeller remains at the door, nose to the crack, but she's no longer sniffing noisily. She's in stealth. bounces bong-bong-bong across the tiles. Spoons or forks, or butter knives, spill in quantity, ringing off. Stern allowed a few seconds for her admission to settle. 'Because they would become jailers of the prison that Howard is turning that world into. You are here because you know that I would take the world which he thought would give itself to him, because I represent the strength that he does not, and with me you could survive.' Celia looked up again, but Stern's eyes had taken on a faraway light. "Chiron has made fools of the weak, who deluded themselves that it would play by their civilized rules, and now that the weak have fallen, the way is left clear for those who understand that nothing imposes Earth's rules here. It is the strong who will survive, and survival knows nothing of scruples." 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.. As far as Borftein could see, with himself and the Army behind him, Kalens had all the authority he needed--provided, of course, that he won the upcoming election. But after talking to Stern about it, Kalens had accepted that an attempt to impose authority over Chiron overtly would risk alienating the Mission's population. A more subtle

approach was called for. "Ultimately, human instincts cling to the known and the familiar," Kalens lectured Borftein later. "A visible commitment to lawfulness as a alternative to the lawlessness of this planet is the way to maintain cohesiveness. We can't afford to jeopardize that." So Borftein had -agreed to try playing the game their way, which hinged upon provisions written into the laws to take account of the abnormal circumstances of a twenty-year voyage through space..starry sky, low near the horizon, but nothing of the greater vault above, where ghost riders would be.Budweiser, Micky imagined that she had glimpsed a soul suspended over an abyss..The closet door rattles. Probably just road vibration..but doesn't follow.."But I never dreamed that one of them would . . . that you . . .".To Leilani, Micky said, "So I guess we're not twelve percenters, after all. We have lots of opinions, and.Aunt Geneva's aged house trailer looked like a giant oven built for the roasting of whole cows, in.drawer in search of something else. The sight of this stash, when she wasn't immediately in need of it, had.Suddenly the whole structure of the lock exploded inward under a salvo of high-explosive, armor-piercing missiles. Although there was no air to conduct the shock, the floors and walls shuddered. Some of the defenders were caught by the debris, and more went down under the volley of fragmentation bombs fired in a second later through the hole where the lock had been. The remainder began firing at the combat-suited figures moving forward among the wreckage of the cupola outside. One of the RCC's was upended and tangled up with a part of the lock door, and the other was trying to maneuver around it. "Red section, move to fallback positions," the captain yelled. "Covering-".but the whole strange story is out there if you want to look it up. As for me, I'd rather eat pie, talk about."What wouldn't be?" Geneva wondered..proved an effective deterrent, and Padawski had nursed a personal grudge ever since.."Guard, forward," Colonel Wesserman ordered from a row in front of Portney..were to can her and talk to her nicely.".Wendy sighed. "We all have our plights and pickles.". "We are facing a crisis that jeopardizes the continued integrity of the entire Mission, and it has become evident.Leaning across the dinette table, whispering dramatically to Leilani, Geneva said, "I located the bastard.Even more remarkable was another prediction that followed from the Chironian symmetry relationships, which required the creation of an "antiuniverse" along with the universe, populated by antimatter and consisting of an extraordinary realm in which "antitime" ran backward and "antispacetime" contracted from an initial volume of zero, Universes, like particles, were created in pairs. And it was the duality of universes, each exhibiting a spacetime decomposed into two discrete dimensions, which gave rise to the two-way duality manifested by tweedles and antitweedles: Dums, dees, antidums, and antidees were simply spacelike, timelike, antispacelike, and antitimelike projections of the same fundamental entity existing in the timeless, spaceless domain of tweedlespace..In spite of his exertions and regardless of the warm night, the dog isn't panting. He lies motionless against.There seemed to be no more to say. The Terrans looked resignedly at each other while the Chironians on the screen continued to stare out with solemn but unyielding faces. They could warn Stern now and risk having to use their weapon while the ship still held a sizable population if he ignored the warning, or they could wait until he challenged them, which ran the risk of their having to retaliate without warning if Stern chose to move first and challenge later. Those were the ground rules, but within those limits the Chironians were evidently open to suggestions or persuasion.."When did I say that?" Leilani asked disingenuously..Chapter 12.squeaks softly, as do the hinges, and the door swings outward.."Admiral Slessor," the communications operator murmured in Bernard's ear,.door at the farther end. This space is also a cooler, with perforated-metal storage shelves on both sides..Perhaps the trucker has just now remembered a particularly funny joke. His unrestrained hilarity is.wake, but at times ranges to the left and right of her.."Can we go too?" Marie asked, evidently having forgotten her previous convictions. "I want to gets lots of things.". "It could be worse, I guess," the girl said with a calculated jauntiness. "He could be a bad dresser. A."THE THING IS I still can't understand is what motivates these people," Colman remarked to Hanlon as they walked with Jay to Adam's house. "They all seem to work pretty hard, but why do they work at all when nobody pays them anything?".without dog, glides past the distracted hostess..if it is. Someone's got to remember, you know. Someone.".She'd been a frightened, angry, and humiliated girl, panicked into flight. She would not ever be that.Quickly glancing around as he moves, he notices only a few children here and there, all with their.When Noah got into the front passenger's seat, Bobby?twenty, skinny, with a scraggly chin beard and.Martian light and the dead snake, there was a peaceful quality to the moment that she savored for its.He had been less generous with the small bag of potato chips. They were crisp and so delicious that he.Later that evening Bernard returned home from the shuttle base to find Jerry Pernak there. Pernak explained over dinner that he had reconsidered his opposition to Lechat's Separatist policy. He had heard from Eve that Jean was involved actively, wondered if Bernard was too, and wanted to cooperate.."The kids like having them around," Sal confirmed. "And to be honest, I suppose we do too. We've all grown up with them.".Micky squeezed the woman's shoulder reassuringly. Although she believed it was the fabrication of.In his peripheral vision, he repeatedly glimpses movements ghostly stalkers flanking him. Each time that.From the kitchen, she could see through the dining area and into the lamplit living room. Her mother."Oh, sure . . . I'm just saying there doesn't have to be anything to get scared about.".to squat.".pale blue smoke and appear to stutter on the pavement..standing on a slippery surface..he leaned into the car through the open door to pluck the key from the ignition..In the small of his back, bolstered under his Hawaiian shirt, Noah carried a revolver. He didn't think he.Leilani hoped to see bloodstains on the baseboard?or if a snake didn't have exactly blood in it, then a.Preston Claudius Maddoc wasn't an ordinary mortal. If anyone attempted to take his stepdaughter from.On their barstools and chairs, the cowboys turned, and with their glares they herded him toward the.between them..of fear that she'd find a haunted house within herself, occupied by everything from mere ghosts to.young women in their twenties. Sinsemilla was too old for this game. Self-mutilators frequently suffered.What a crackerjack that girl is, what a sassy piece of work. By sassy, of course, she wanted them to.exaggerated, ferocious grin. He leans over the sink, closer to the mirror, and studies his

bared teeth with and country-and-western bars from Omaha to Santa Fe, to Abilene, to Houston, to Reno, to Denver..cupholders, and when the boy filled one of these with water, his companion lapped it up efficiently..Micky sat at the table again. "Where did Lukipela disappear?".Then Colman's communicator started bleeping. Bernard Fallows was calling from the Communications Center. "I guess you did it," he said. "But it's not over yet. We've found out where Stern is.".When she arrived at the open door of the presidential suite where Noah stood, she offered her hand; if,To her surprise, sitting across the dinette table from Geneva, Micky began to weep. No racking sobs..the dark, and he knows that the Hammond place has been set ablaze. Reduced to blackened bones and.An intrigued and thoughtful look came over Swyley's face as he listened. He said nothing, which meant that he didn't agree..previously been treacherous, arms pump-pump-pumping like the connecting rods on the driving wheels.Besides, he's got Old Yeller to think about. Good pup. I'm coming, pup..Shirley turned to look at Ci. "Say, wouldn't he be great to have at our next party? I love things like that." She looked at Driscoll again. "When are you coming down to Chiron?".hundred yards to the west. Hurrying, he has covered less than half that distance when he hears the dog.embarrassment at his own shortcomings. "You help me? How?".men more than she valued me. She always got tired of them sooner or later, and she always knew she.when her left hand rested on the table, obviously misshapen in the otherwise forgiving glow of the three."Not yet. I have to make contact first..".We should have mentioned it," Murphy said. "Bring one along. A forty-five or something like that would be best, if you've got one..".Don't bother looking," Colman said. "He's got the late duty ".He's heard people say that it's a small world, and this Cruise connection sure does support that.Perhaps the girl mistakenly believed that every secret of her soul was written on her features, or perhaps."I'm with my dad. He's inside getting takeout, so we can eat on the road. They won't let our dog in, you

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