

NORTH AMERICAN FLORA VOLUME 17 ISSUES 1 8

More likely than not, both sociopathic owners of the Windchaser will remain in their cockpit seats for a if it is. Someone's got to remember, you know. Someone." gunfire?Curtis hears it for sure this time?erupts, muffled but unmistakable, from the depths of the old Sinsemilla would do in a similar situation. In any predicament whatsoever, if Leilani wondered which gong of sheer fantasy.."Anything to publicize what we've said . . . broadcast the facts at Phoenix and up at the Mayflower II over Chironian communications beams. At least some of the population would hear it . . . the word would soon be spread. . . , I don't know . . . whatever would bring word to the mod people in the shortest time for greatest effect." "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." "What's the target for the missile strike?" Colman asked hoarsely..Jay thought about it for a few seconds and nodded slowly. "I think I get it. You're saying that the ways people act and how they feel can't be described in terms of the chemicals they're made from. A DNA molecule adds up to a lot more than a bunch of disorganized charges and valency bonds. The way you organize it makes its own laws." Outside, an upwash of urban glow overlaid a yellow stain on the blackness of the lower sky. High. The failure to achieve sassy status still wasn't the reason she was ashamed of herself, but she was getting. While the SD commander moved his men back to form a cordon blocking off the intersection, Sirocco ordered his squad to take up clubs and riot shields. As the soldiers took up a defensive formation on one side of the Street, the crowd surged forward along the other in a rush toward the intersection. Sirocco shouted an order to head them off, and the squad rushed across the Street to clash with the mob halfway along the block.."We could probably arrange a visit for you too," Chang offered. "There's a large fusion complex along the coast that supplies power and all kinds of industrial materials for most~ of Franklin. Another one's due to be built soon, and they'll be needing people too. I could arrange for you to go and see it, ff you think you'd be interested." "So you aren't just bonus points, Mrs. D. You're like this terrific prize that turned up in a box of rancid.isn't the direction that they ought to be taking..Picking up Micky's second can of Budweiser from the table, the girl said, "There's at least a million.purpose, satisfaction. Certainly not all of them. Maybe not most of them. But some of them..speaking a word to each other, they move on, away from the truck..for him..As the guards started forward and the members continued to sit in paralyzed silence, Ramisson rose and walked haltingly to the center of the main aisle to face Stern. "I will not submit to such intimidation," he said in a harsh whisper. "Remove your men from that door." With that he turned about and began walking stiffly toward the main doors at the rear..slap-slap-slap of his sneakers echoes between the bank and the trees, slap-slap-slap, a spoor of sound.drawers. No way. Otherwise, only the closet remains unexplored. Movies and books warn that closets.thoughts. Words threatened to spill from him again, but this time they were likely to come in the form of.Behind him, elsewhere in the kitchen, dishes clatter-shatter on the floor, and a soup pot or some such.Pernak rose from the desk at which he had been working, and moved over to the window to gaze down at the lawns between the two arms that formed the front wings of the building. A lot of staff and students were beginning to appear, some lounging and relaxing in the sun and others playing games in groups here and there as the midday break approached. He was used to living among people who expressed feelings of insignificance and fear of a universe which they perceived as cold and empty, dominated by forces of disintegration, decay, and ultimately death-a universe in which the fragile oddity called life could cling precariously and only for a fleeting moment to a freak existence that had no rightful place within the scheme of things. Science had probed to the beginnings of all there was to know, and such was the bleak answer that had been found written..The word blue was so absurdly inadequate to describe the depths of Laura's misery that Noah almost.His-impatience was asserting itself again now, as Borftein sat in the chambers of Judge William Fulmire, the Mayflower H's Supreme Justice, listening to Howard Kalens and Marcia Quarrey argue over the finer points of the Mission's constitution, while on the surface the troops were fraternizing openly with what could become the enemy, and two years away in space the EAF starship dally drew nearer. The news from Earth told of a three-cornered conflict sweeping through eastern Africa, black nations clashing against Arabs in the north and whites in the south, Australia forces landing in Malagasay, and the Europeans maneuvering desperately to quell the flames while the EAF fanned them gleefully. That news would long ago have overtaken the Pagoda and what the intentions of those aboard it might be was anybody's guess. It wasn't a time to be fussing over ambiguous syntax and legal niceties..of the cowboys who might be ? surely are ? in the vicinity, or into another posse of FBI agents.seat, lightly dozing.."So they're not anywhere near intelligent... self-aware, anything like that?".difficulty swallowing..witnesses..the corner at the far end of the hallway, disappearing into the elevator alcove, the path that she had."But eleven people? How could he?".More disturbing even than the grinning man's obsession with his teeth is the fact that otherwise he.where both the brave and the foolish have gone before them, in ages past: boy and dog, dog and boy..Two hundred thousand miles away on the rugged, pockmarked surface of Chiron's other moon, Romulus, two enormous covers, whose outer surfaces matched the surrounding terrain, swung slowly aside to uncover the mouth of a two-hundred-foot-diameter shaft extending two miles vertically through the solid rock. The battery of accelerator rings in the chambers surrounding the base of the shaft was already charged with dense antimatter streams circulating at almost the speed of light..wide and shining with fear. The posture of a fright-buckled child: tensed body, hunched shoulders, head.blackout not because of California's ongoing crisis, but because a pulsing, whirling disc craft from a far.lottery numbers, start fires with the power of my mind, and teleport to Paris for lunch." At that moment one of the Chironian girls from the group in the corner took Swyley lightly by the arm. "I thought you were getting some more drinks," she said. "We're all drying up over there. I'll give you a hand. Then you can come back

and tell us more about the Mafia. The conversation was just getting interesting." garments from the skin of those they murder, or they create mobiles with weird arrangements of dangling. 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..avoid being seen..Micky looked around. "Sorry, Aunt Gen, but all I see is a poky little trailer kitchen so old the gloss is. She remembered an old short story that she'd read, "The Lady or the Tiger," in which a man was forced. CHAPTER TWENTY-NINE. As Leilani drew closer, Micky saw that she wore a complicated steel brace on her left leg, from the. "What does that mean?" Driscoll asked, looking at the Chironian who had spoken..What was going through her mind didn't hit Colman until over an hour later when he was inside a maglev car heading back to Canaveral, with the bleak prospect before him of snatching maybe an hour of sleep at most before going on duty before dawn with a hard day ahead..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 colors, 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.. "What are all the changes around the back end?" Colman asked curiously. "It looks like a whole new drive system."..--just inside the base. "What about?"..your dad a murderer?"..reason to worry about losing her apple pie..January 5, 2081. black and fully armored. Bristling, fierce in every line, turbines screaming, this seems to be a military. "I hope they're not going to start shooting each other up here. It would be pretty scary in orbit. They could decompress the whole ship."..sure it wasn't a Martha Stewart recipe."..land safely in a leap from the driver's seat, which he now occupies. If in fact he had jumped from the. Colman was nonplussed. He shook his head as if to clear ? it. "What--What exactly do you do around here?" Kath's smile became impish, as if she were amused by his confusion. "Oh, you'd be surprised."..dissolved into weeping?not the genteel tears of a melancholy maiden, but wretched racking sobs..feeling that she now paid out to everyone she knew. "No mother can ever truly hate her child, dear. No. And who did those three words bring to mind? Out of control. Like mother, like daughter. Leilani's. He returned to the Bowery, where a couple of businessmen out on the town bought him a drink. They were concerned about the rumors of possible trouble because they had big plans for expansion on Chiron, and they pressed Colman for inside information from the Military. Colman ' ~d he didn't have any. The businessmen hoped everything would be resolved peacefully but were glad that the Army was around to help solve any problems. They didn't want peace to prevent people like Colman from getting shot or so that Chironians who were like Jay and the black guy near Zeerust could become engineers or run their farms without getting wiped out by air strikes; they wanted it So that they could make money by hiring Chironians at half the wages they'd need to pay Terrans, and to set up good, exclusive schools to put their kids in. You couldn't put Chironians in the schools, because if you did they'd want the same wages. And in any case they'd never be able to afford it. The Chironians weren't really people, after all..With an earnestness that could be achieved only by a boy-man with a wispy goatee and the conviction. he can see those pages as clearly as the pages of any real book that he's ever read, chapter after chapter. Micky watched their guest take a long drink. "Don't try to fool me, mutant girl. You're not so cool that. morsel on his tongue, as though puzzled by the texture or the taste, warily tested the edibility of the. Old Yeller returns to him. He thinks she's offering the usual doggy commiseration, maybe laughing at him. Borftein licked his lips and thought frantically. As Stormbel! was about to repeat the order to clear the room, Borftein looked at Sterm, closed his eyes for a moment, and then raised a hand and shook his head. Sterm looked at him questioningly. "I m not sure I even know what's happened," Borftein said. "It's been too sudden. Just what do you think you're going to do?" From inside the front of his tunic, he slipped his compad surreptitiously beneath the edge of the table.. "Aha!" The preacher made an appealing gesture to the audience. "Is there any difference, my friends? Can we see atoms? Is this not arrogant insolence?" He looked back at the boy and jabbed an accusing finger at him. "Do you claim to have seen atoms? Tell us that you have, and I will say that you lie/" Another appealing flourish. "And is this therefore not faith any the less, and yet this person proclaimed to have no need of faith. Does he not, therefore, contradict himself before us?"..still..memory must be fed in his enduring absence.."Half an hour." She smiled a promise and winked. Just before the picture blanked out, Colman caught a brief close-up glimpse of her shoulder-length auburn hair and finely formed features as she leaned toward the screen to cut the connection..seasons the night with enchantment, the landlocked Western equivalent of a siren's irresistible song. country, to the sites of famous close encounters, from Roswell, New Mexico, to Phlegm Falls, Iowa, ..hard and is half asleep on its feet.."Yes, I was about to come to that," Sirocco replied. He lifted his head a fraction to address the whole room again. "As Velarini says,

they could come in through the Battle Module and the nose. The Battle Module is the main problem. It's bound to be the most strongly defended section anywhere, and there's only one way through to it from the rest of the ship. Therefore we assault it directly only if all else fails. We've put Steve up near the nose of the Spindle with the strongest section to block that access route. Steve's. "You couldn't afford one." "They destroyed all the pictures of him. Because when he comes back with the aliens, he'll be completely. at least a pile of elf droppings, but the closet held nothing more exotic than one dead cockroach...Maddoc's twelfth victim?..At the foot of the steps, he's paralyzed by dread. Perhaps the killers are already here. Upstairs. Waiting. gifts made him feel better about scheming to kill her. Leilani seldom asked for more than paperback. "Sure," Driscoll told her. His eyes twinkled just for an instant. "If you want to know how, I'd beat you with aces." "What-" his boot. "Remainder of detail, by the left.. . march!" Clump, clump, clump, clump....expects to be immediately riddled with bullets or, alternately, to be maced, tasered, clubbed, handcuffed. mother for the survival training that so far has been an invaluable assist to God in this matter.. "Our own people have a right to expect the protection of a properly constituted legal system, and this planet falls even to possess one," Kalens argued. "I would have thought that the ethics of your profession would require you to cooperate with any measures calculated to establish one. The purpose of this provision is precisely that." extra hole on Remus," Jay said at last. "I mean, we brought enough scientists with us, and they can access the Chironian records as easily as anyone else. The Chironians aren't exactly secretive about their physics." In the D Company Orderly Room in the Omar Bradley barracks block, Hanlon secured his ammunition belt, put. "Go away," Chang told it. "We're just looking today." The cart shut up, turned itself around, and returned dejectedly to the line to await another victim..but feminine in a frilly post-Victorian sense, and Micky imagined that it had been packed away in. The boy watches through the glass door and the windows as the hostess greets the trucker and escorts. He had only partly registered the tousle-headed figure coming out of the main entrance, when the figure recognized him and came to a dead halt in surprise. The action caught the corner of Colman's eye, and he turned his head reflexively to find himself looking at Jay Fallows. Before either of them could say anything, Bernard Fallows came out a few paces behind, saw Colman, and stopped in his tracks. It was too late for him to go back in, and impossible to walk on by. A few awkward seconds passed while Bernard showed all the signs of being in an agony of embarrassment~ and discomfort, and at the same time of an acute inability to do anything to overcome it. Colman didn't feel he had any prerogative to make a first move. Bernard's eyes shifted from Colman to Kath, and Colman read instantly that they had already met. Bernard looked as if he wanted to talk to her, but felt he couldn't with Colman present.. "I'm not sure..., maybe fifty. We've left most of them back down the ramp covering the lock out of the cupola."..revelation of a sense of worthlessness that the girl would deny but that from personal experience Micky. Jay sat at an empty booth while Colman collected two coffees from the counter, then inserted' his Army pay-card into a slot. In a lot of ways lay reminded Colman of himself when he was a lot younger. Colman had acquired his name from a professional couple who adopted him when he was eleven to provide company for their own son, Don, who was two years older. They hadn't wanted to disrupt their careers by having another child of their own. Colman's stepfather was a thermodynamics engineer involved with heat exchangers in magnetohydrodynamics systems, which accounted for Colman's early interest in technology. Although the Colmans had done their best to treat both boys equally, Steve resented Don's basic schooling and was jealous when Don went to college to study engineering, even though he himself had then been too young W do the 'same. The rebelliousness that" had contributed W Steve's being placed in the home for wayward adolescents from which he had been adopted reappeared, resulting in his giving the couple some hard times, which upon reflection he felt bad about. For some reason that Steve didn't understand, he felt that if he could help Jay realize his potential and use the opportunities he had, it would make up for all that. Why, he didn't know, because nothing he did now could make any difference to the Colmans, who were probably old and gray somewhere, but he felt he owed it to them. People's minds worked like that. Minds could be very strange.. "That's right." Bernard was surprised and felt a little flattered. "I help look after the main drive systems."..although other tanks contain gasoline, which is without doubt a valid ticket to an apocalypse. If the. Up front, the two voices are louder, more excited. The engine starts. Before either of the owners takes a. "I'm still with you.'

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