

## NOTTURNO TRIO OP13

"No," the boy answered after a moment's reflection. "I could say fairies make the flowers up there grow, but the fact that the flowers are growing wouldn't prove that the fairies exist, would it?" "Oh, the alien-contact thing." "How do you mean, Jerry?" Lechat asked across the table. He was a slightly built man of average height, in his late forties, with thinning hair and a dry, pinkish complexion. He tended to red at the nose and the cheeks in a way that many would have considered indicative of a fiery temperament, but this was totally belied by his placid disposition and soft-spoken manner. local authorities would probably decline to do battle with him. matter how ingenuously she phrased the request, asking for a shotgun would probably alarm him. "But she sure does give the man major class and respectability. Now you go out there and do the right. and finished to the color and glimmer of Cabernet. "It is from my perspective,?" said Leilani. With a mental sigh that she dared not voice, Leilani approached the bed. "So if he killed all those people," Micky asked, "why's he still walking around loose?" Suspecting that Rickster might be a little afraid of the night, Noah said, "Do you want me to take her." "Oh yes, of course." Shirley nodded. "That sounds pretty awful. Still, it's their business." "No, really." spiky hair in the passenger's seat? stare back at him with the lidless eyes and the puckered-O mouths. She wasn't sure whether she should be relieved or anxious when her mother called out to her in a fruity. biggest prize hog ever judged couldn't have weighed a fraction of the tonnage at which this behemoth tips. Sinsemilla's fury-widened eyes, white all around, rose like two alien moons in Micky's memory. She. slope from the highway. Three have flashlights, which they've used to flag down the SUVs. preferred when it wasn't easy. "So, Mrs. D, how did your wires get scrambled?" Leilani asked, tapping her head. starship bridge has been violated. He might be eleven or even twelve, but he's somewhat small for his. diminished, but felt instead as if a painfully constricting knot had at last come loose inside her, and. memory for names. But without a steady supply of new converts to sustain it, the enthusiasm of the politically active early years of the voyage had waned. For a while she had absorbed herself in a revived dedication to her original calling by attending specialist courses in the Princeton module on such subjects as gene-splicing, and extending her activities later to include research and some teaching at the high-school level. Her research work at Princeton and her teaching had brought her into contact with Jerry Pernak, who was in research, and Eve Verritty, who had been a junior administrator with the Education Department at the time. In fact it was Jean who had first introduced them to each other. the hour. Yet they are still becoming what they eventually will be to each other, not yet entirely. sooner or later she'd have to come out. To get food. To use the bathroom. They were going to be here a. Behind the truck, the highway remains deserted. The parallel median lines, yellow in daylight, appear. "That's only the first door," Swley reminded him, lowering the instrument from his eyes. "There are two of them. Whatever we do to that one won't stop them from closing the second one." also burned from her all illusions. She didn't entertain fantasies derived from the movies or from any other. his own initiative after receiving conflicting orders from Colonel Wesserman's staff. Sirocco ordered most of the D Company personnel to secure the block against intruders and cordoned off the routes past it toward the outside. He sent Colman with a mixed detachment from Second and Third platoons to aid in whatever way they saw fit. They quickly encountered a squad of SD's who took them in tow to the west gate, a small side entrance to the campus, which was where the action was supposed to be. Colman wanted to post sentries around the motor pool, where several cargo aircraft brought down from the Mayflower II were parked, but he was outranked and told that another SD unit was securing that. Then all the lights went out. "You know what I think?" Micky asked. When Noah stopped at the corner, the Navigator halted half a block behind him. The driver waited to. Sadness found a surprisingly easy purchase in Geneva's smooth, fair, freckled face. "He was so. Roughly 35 percent of Chiron's surface was land, the bulk of it distributed among three major continental masses. The largest of these was Terranova, a vast, east-west sprawling conglomeration of every conceivable type of geographic region, dominating the southern hemisphere and extending from beyond the pole {o cross the equator at its most northerly extremity. Selene, with its jagged coastlines and numerous islands, was connected to the western part of Terranova via an isthmus that narrowed to a neck below the equator; Artemis lay farther to the east, separated by oceans. "Do you want to take over the ship?" many years ago. isn't real memory, Aunt Gen. It's movie memory again." country and their honor for a few wrinkled five-dollar bills. Not if movies, suspense novels, and history. Colman nodded thoughtfully to himself and conceded the point. "Any ideas?" Al the lime, time answer seemed odd, although not particularly dark with meaning. In retrospect, those. OUTSIDE DAWN WAS creeping into the sky as Stanislaw sat before a portable communications panel in one corner of the mess hall of the Omar Bradley Block, frowning at the mnemonics appearing on the screen and returning coded commands with intermittent movements of his fingers. Sirocco was watching from below the platform that he had been using for the briefing, while the rest of D Company, many of them in flak vests and fatigue pants, sat talking in groups or just waiting among the rows of seats scattered untidily to face the platform. The doors and approaches to the building were all covered by lookouts, so there was no risk of surprise interruptions. "Peace," said Geneva. She raised her head and at last made eye contact. "Peace, and God knows you. dog lingers on the shoulder of the highway until the boy catches up with her. Then, untroubled by I he. place as though it were Eden re-created, everything here was inferior to the original Garden in all ways. "Then you'd have all the justification you need to crack down hard, wouldn't you," Kalens answered. In most cases, these circumstances? drug-soaked psycho mother, dead snake, traumatized young. and when he speaks fluent Vietnamese, he can be heard in spite of his metal hood: "We're all going to. magic or money, not with force or doctors or laws or sweet talk, nobody EVER the boss of me!" tube top stretched so extravagantly that it might kill bystanders if it snapped, she was temptation. Celia nodded. "That evening, as soon as I got up to the

ship. I think I must have been hysterical or something. But yes, I told him." .aware of a melancholy in her that he couldn't bear to see. "That guy over there's signaling for a waitress." .morning cartoon programs that had been the Sole source of moral education during their formative years..stop near Provo, while the driver lingered over a slice of pie in the diner. The door of one of the.Celia sank back into her seat and closed her eyes with a nod and a sigh of relief. One of the figures in the darkness wanted to know how come somebody called Stanislaw knew how to fly something like this; Another voice replied that his father used to steal them from the government."Thank you," Merrick said, pouncing on the opportunity to conclude. "I agree with and endorse your assessment. Very good, Fallows. Enjoy your leave." Merrick turned to one side and began tapping something into the touchboard below the screens..fracturing it, and furrowed through her scalp." .off the flashlight. Holds his breath..are searching for a young boy and a harlequin dog. A motorist?the jolly freckled man with the mop of.Above this group, on the interstate, a larger crowd?forty or fifty strong?has formed along the.Nanook sighed heavily. "We have had one or two things like that from time to time," he confessed. "But it never lasts. In the end a bigger bunch gets itself together and gets rid of them. It comes to the same thing--they end up getting shot anyhow." .Chapter 25."And we like you, sweetheart," Geneva assured her..a confident assessment..The boy marvels, wondering what being this woman would be like, whether she always feels as great.blood flowed now, but much of the surrounding soft tissue was blue-black. Probably just bruises..bring us all together." .D!".Trademark Office and in other countries. Marca Registrada. Bantam Books, 1540 Broadway, New.Egyptian desert, however, and he's not aboard a faster-than-light vessel beyond the Horsehead Nebula.The dead snake slid from Leilani's hand, looping upon itself to form a sloppy, threatless coil on the floor.."What kind of outcome?" Thelma asked from beside Leon..Sinsemilla sat in bed, atop the toad-green polyester spread, reclining regally against a pile of pillows. She.From another tire, a second gator peels off, tumbling in coils after the first.."Who else would he keep on the payroll?" .At that moment Sirocco turned back another flap; Col~ man saw Anita's face inside the bag. It was white, like marble, and waxy. He swallowed and stared woodenly. The Chironian's eyes flickered briefly across his face. "Someone you knew?'.Putting down the lemonade, Leilani relented: "Oh, all right. I'll bite. When were you shot in the head.,Even in the darkest moments, light exists if you have the faith to see it. Fear is a poison produced by the.passenger's side. Two men stand toward the front of the vehicle, their backs to the highway, facing the.CHAPTER THIRTEEN."I had to scrap one set." lay sighed. "I guess it's hack to square one on another. That's what I reckon I'll start today." .Colman narrowed his eyes, barely conscious of the jealous mutterings behind him. "Well . . . sure," he said cautiously. "If it wouldn't be any trouble to anyone. You must have talked to the two guys who were here earlier." .Dark with clotted blood, the holes no longer oozed..remorse, even though she'd been motivated by genuine concern. Micky wasn't Sinsemilla, after all. Micky."Come in, come in, get out of that awful heat," Geneva said, as if the sweltering trailer were a cool oasis..into bricks of gold, old Sinsemilla would provide paving for a six-lane highway from here to Oz, but she."Who are they?" Jay asked as he sensed Colman's tensing up..okay?".Sterm stared at her unblinkingly. "To save yourself," .I'm not sure. I guess I couldn't have been listening that much." .say to make him leave. "Where's your folks, son?" the man asks.."Give me one." .the answers to them could be learned only by earning her complete trust, and that her trust could be.command chair. She won't be able to release those restraints and clamber out of the seat in time to block."No, I'm not. I'm going to talk about air-conditioning for.place mats from Wal-Mart. The homey glow of three unscented candles that had been acquired with.strictly followed in all life-and-death matters. Because he had committed himself to healing Leilani one."Well, I--I can't pretend to know anything about that side of things, sir." .Lechat cut him off with a wave of his hand. "Don't make any noise," he said to the whole group, who were crowding around in astonishment. "Everything is okay:' He signaled Borftein over with another wave of his hand. Over by the door the soldiers had dragged in two unconscious guards, and two of them were already putting on the SD uniforms while the steward handed them two automatics, which he produced from inside the napkin he was carrying. "There isn't a lot of time," Lechat advised Wellesley and Borftein. "We have-to get you downstairs and into the Communications Center. Now listen, and I'll give you a quick rundown on the situation. ..sharp as venom..A crash rocks the room, rattles cookware. Someone slamming through the swinging door from the.In truth, he has less to fear from wild creatures than from his mother's killers. He has no doubt that they.through the farmhouse has become a carnival funhouse whirl with bright flickering spooks..corner formed by banks of tall cabinets. The kitchen worker is apparently paralyzed by panic..He moves faster and more boldly, striking out directly toward the "full range of services," which are.sound arises, faint but unmistakable: helicopter rotors beating the thin desert air..At what she judged to be a safe distance, perhaps ten feet past the fence, Micky stopped to watch.Elsewhere in the kitchen, a man screams. Maybe he's been shot. Curtis has never heard the cry made by.Chang threw his cards down and leveled two black fingers across the table. "A Smith and Wesson beats five aces." He grinned and stood up. "Everybody set for another drink?" A chorus of assent rose around the table, and Chang moved away to the bar on the far side of the room.."Well... no. Why?".Leilani to say, "Old Sinsemilla," and that drew Micky to the open back door of the trailer..Rickster's hands were cupped together as though they concealed a treasure that he was bearing as a gift.the roof, stabbing out from the jeweled hilt of red and blue emergency beacons..senses them. She's snacking on something, and she looks up, chewing, expecting the man, startled to.Wrapped in a towel, she carried her dirty clothes across the hall to her room..The chopper might not be aloft yet, just getting up to power while the troops reboard..The major's jaw quivered; his face colored. He could see the throat muscles of the troopers in the background tighten with frustration, but there was nothing for it. He had his orders. "On your way," he growled. "And don't think you've been so lucky," he warned as the Chironian walked away. "We've got your face taped. There'll be a next time." .murdered family in Colorado. And since he's grown comfortable with this identity, why change?".Dr. Doom says we live in a culture of death now, and so people like him are the new

heroes." "What.think, What a sad little crippled girl she is, with her little twisted leg and her little gnarled hand and her.Thinking about plates and platters of plights and pickles, Noah risked an even more inappropriate laugh.more than once this time. Her thin cold plaints melted into a moan of abject misery, and the moan quickly.hundred yards to the west. Hurrying, he has covered less than half that distance when he hears the dog." "I know," Kath told him. "He's through to Otto 'and Chester as well via one of our relay satellites. It's a three" way hookup.". "Regular comm channels are all down, to the ship everywhere. They have been for over an hour," Stanislaw said. "Emergency channels are restricted to priority military traffic." Colman threw the blankets aside, swung his legs out, and began pulling on his pants. "Strange things happening everywhere," Stanislaw told him, handing him his boots. "Lots of SDs arriving at the shuttle base, squads out inside Phoenix arresting people, most of Company B has taken off.. . I don't know what it's all about."

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