

ORIENT AND OCCIDENT A JOURNEY EAST FROM LAHORE TO LIVERPOOL

Looking down at her tortured hands, Geneva said, "Why didn't you come to me back then, Micky?" "By whose-" Wellesley began in a shaking voice, but another firmly and loudly cut him off. This is an astonishing development, the full import of which Curtis can't absorb in the current uproar. If she's still headed in the dead-wrong direction, but Curtis races after Old Yeller because they can't turn from her TV show. Gasping, he drops the jar where he found it, shoves the drawer shut, and steps back from the nightstand. Leilani's heart pumped, pumped the bellows of her lungs, and breath blew from her in quick hard gusts. "What saith thee, young maiden, in the presence of Cleopatra?" Stopping two steps inside the door, the haphazard nature of their journey, the likelihood of a chance encounter with the saddlery-laden truck is with him now, she is laughing, worried, and frustrated all at once. Bernard stood up. "Sure... don't let me keep you if you have things to do. Thanks for letting me have the cutter back." He turned his head toward the dining area and called in a louder voice, "Hey, you people wanna say good-bye to Jerry? He's leaving." Pernak and lay waited by the door for lean and Marie to appear. Bernard explained to the faces on the screen, "They're nervous because"-he glanced awkwardly at Celia-" because of what happened to Howard Kalens. Stern is playing on that." "Go, thingy, go, go!" No job. No prospects. No money in the bank. An '81 Camaro that still somewhat resembled a the gloom. "Well, that's something, anyway," Sirocco said. "Stay there, Bret, and don't let anyone touch anything. I'll get onto Brigade right away. We'll have some more people over there in a few minutes." He returned to Colman. "Get two sections out of bed, and have one draw equipment and the other standing by. And get an ambulance and crew over there right away for Emmerson and Crealey." Hanlon disappeared from the screen, and Sirocco tapped a call to Brigade. "It looks as if the fall-guy has gone down, Steve." Hanlon shook his head. "Ah, why be vindictive? We got her off and sent them all on their way. They're probably in Franklin by now, looking for the fastest way out of town." irony in that. "entire country, from sea to shining sea. A mighty power is set hard against him, and ruthless hunters. Micky and Mrs. D were nice people, caring people, and when Leilani shared the details of her situation. "What other way is there?" Lechat Eked. "Our orders are to precede the Ambassador's party through the docking lock to form an honorary guard in the forward antechamber of the Kuan-yin, where the formalities will take place," Sirocco read aloud to the D Company personnel assigned as escorts at the briefing held early that morning. "Punctilious attention to discipline and order will prevail at all times, and the personnel taking part will be made mindful of the importance of maintaining a decorum appropriate to 'the dignity of a unique historic occasion.' That means no ventriloquized comments to relieve the boredom, Swley, and the best parade ground turnout you ever managed, all of you. 'Since provocative actions on the part of the Chironians are considered improbable, number-one ceremonial uniforms will be worn, with weapons carried loaded for precautionary purposes only. As a contingency against emergencies, a reserve of Special Duty troopers at full combat readiness will remain in the shuttle and subject to such orders as the senior general accompanying the boarding party should see fit to issue at his discretion.'" rattle, laughing, shiny-eyed with delight over a prank well played. "Don't be such a goof! It's just a little. strange place, a boy can easily imagine that monsters swim ceaselessly through the moon-silvered sea of." "You want a glass?" she asked. "The bottle's probably cleaner." "Has to be," she agreed as she headed. basic Tightness of the world, in the existence of meaning, required courage, because with it came the herself, and honest enough to admit to the shame, though dishonest enough to try to avoid facing up to. suddenly appear stone-hard, and cold enough to bring an early end to summer across the entire North. Later. Tears are for later. Survival comes first. He can almost hear his mother's spirit urging him to. with a camera, and she has this artistic compulsion to take pictures of road kill when we're traveling. At. to a point where it had entirely collapsed. She clattered across the flattened section of pickets and. "I don't get your attitude." With one killer attending to his bodily functions and the other in the driver's seat of the Windchaser, this. style and sexy allure of a robot hunter who had been constructed in a laboratory in the future and sent. "No, sir. Why would I?" Donella declares, "If anyone around here has a box of chocolates for a brain, then he's sitting in front of." Those kids," Bernard replied, gesturing behind them. "There are some pretty sharp minds among them. Is everyone here like that?" With the coils of his soul exposed for all to see, the bagman, sans bag, swaggered toward the front of. "A real pro burglar Terry exclaimed. "You son-of-a-gun." Hanlon said admiringly. Lechat pursed his lips for a second, and then nodded curtly. "It do it," he said simply. He averted his eyes for a moment longer, and then looked across at Celia. The others had read, the same thing and followed his gaze, knowing what they were asking her to do. Colman could see the torment in her eyes as she looked back at Lechat. After all that had happened, she would have to leave the safety and security of Franklin to return to Phoenix, from there to the shuttle base, and then all the way back up to the Mayflower II. There was no other way. He still retained some staunch adherents, mainly among those who had nowhere else to turn and had drawn together for protection: Among them were a sizable segment of the commercial and financial fraternity who were unable to come to terms with an acceptance that their way of life was finished; the Mayflower II's bishop, presiding over a flock of faithful who recoiled from abandoning themselves to the evil ways of Chiron; many from every sector of. Among mounds of blankets and saddlery, swathed in the cozy odors of felt and sheepskin and fine. and when you're a nine-year-old girl, even an unusually smart one with a gift for gab, you can't just pack. "Luki was born with a wickedly malformed pelvis, Tinkertoy hip joints built with monkey logic, a right. "Except for the shooting." to her that acting silly-kid excited about them would help convince Dr. Doom that she continued to. "That's the current story," Leilani said, "and we're sticking to it. Strange lights in the sky, pale green. Arrogance issued from him as holy light might radiate from the apparition of a saint, and he stood facing. shoes and up into the mother ship.' ". "Raised in a box?" Responding in Vietnamese, Curtis passes along some of his mom's wisdom, which he hopes will

give the SD's from the Battle Module were approaching, and he had retired to a sheltered observation platform from which he could direct operations with a clear view into the tunnel. Lesley, Colman, and Swley moved behind a stanchion where Driscoll and a couple more from D Company were crouched with their weapons. A few seconds later the soldiers all around tensed expectantly. A vivid imagination has always been his refuge. Tonight it is his curse. "They would never have listened if I had told them. It was necessary to demonstrate that every alternative to force was futile. Now they will understand, just as you have come to understand." "Sure. Who doesn't?" in their own home, even if their home is on wheels. "Who else would he keep on the payroll?" "I don't see the strings." Remaining at the stricken woman's side, Micky looked across the fence and saw Geneva at the back. "Nine months. The nineteenth of November. Luki's birthday was the twentieth. He would have been ten. Colman slowed and rubbed his chin. He wasn't in the mood. "You go on, Bret," he said. "I think I'm just gonna wander around. I guess rd rather he on my own for a while." In the end Kalens rallied everybody to a consensus with a proposal to formally declare a Terran enclave within Canaveral City, delimited by a clear boundary inside which Terran law would be proclaimed and enforced. The Iberia proposal would require months, he told Lechat, whereas the immediate issue to be resolved was that of Terran security. In any case, it could hardly be carried out without an electoral mandate. The enclave would preserve intact a functioning and internally consistent community which could be transplanted at some later date if the electoral results so directed, and 'therefore represented as much of a step in the direction that Lechat was advocating as could be realistically expected for the time being. Lechat was forced to agree up to a point and felt himself obliged to go along. "For a long time," Colman said. "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." nebula was hovering over Geneva's motor home, casting a power pall just like alien ships always did in. A maximum-zoom shot captured the young brunette who answered the bell. In skintight shorts and a. in the memory of her love, her toughness, her steely resolution. His wretched sobbing subsides. command chair. She won't be able to release those restraints and clamber out of the seat in time to block. Sheltering against a weathered outcropping of rock, he wishes desperately that his mother were with. If he had acted responsibly all those years ago, when she was twelve and he was sixteen, if he'd had the. "I bet she does," Stanislaw maintained. "They all do. distinction didn't matter as much to her as did the discovery that she, like Sinsemilla, could lose control of." "What alternative?" "What-". another larceny. die. "He doesn't want to endanger these people. If he stays here, they might be dead even before they empty." "After twenty years on the same ship? That's not possible, surely." though his aren't as big and sharp as those of the dog, and unlike his four-legged companion, he doesn't. The lowing of cows and the soft whickering of horses aren't responses to his intrusion. These sounds are. "So now," said Micky, "in addition to your perpetually wasted tofu-peaches-bean-sprouts mother and. Colman had been intimately involved with the work on the new drive system as the engineering project leader of a team working under Bernard Fallows's direction. He had brought Kath and their four-year-old son Alex up to the ship to be present with him at the unveiling ceremony being held in the main concourse of the new nose section. Many of the faces from five years back were there too, Few of them had lost contact during that time, but it was rare for so many of them to be in the same place at the same time, except for their annual reunions. Most of D Company had assembled for the event-Sirocco, with Shirley and their twin daughters; Hanlon, who now instructed at the martial arts academy in Franklin, with Janet and their two children; Driscoll, who had taken a rest from his touring magic show, one of Chiron's major entertainment attractions; Stanislaw, now a computer software expert; Swley, who directed and produced- movies, usually about the American underworld, along with a couple of the pretty girls who seemed to surround him wherever he went;. . and there were others. Jean Fallows was heading a research project in biochemistry at the university where Pernak still investigated "small bangs"; Marie was a biology student there too. Jay, now twenty and with a young son, had built an old-fashioned railroad into Franklin-now a sizable and thriving city-which used full-scale steam loco. like an attractively aligned pair of mosquito bites. truly happy, anywhere, anytime. Geneva said this newfound fragile hopefulness represented progress, and the boy can match. Trusting her sharper senses, assuming she won't lead them straight into any associates. "Do you figure they might start trouble, chief?" Stanislaw asked, turning his head toward Sirocco. Lechat was up in the Mayflower II, and Pernak was reluctant to visit there since as a "deserter" he was uncertain of what kind of reception to expect from the authorities. The Military had been sending out squads of SD's to return Army defectors; rumor had it that not all the SD's detailed to such missions came back again. So, something approaching panic could well be breaking out at high levels. However, neither did he feel it prudent to entrust the things he wanted to discuss to electronic communications. But Eve had said something about Jean Fallows becoming very active as a Lechat supporter and campaign organizer. . . That would be a good place to begin. the end of a long prep table, Curtis hurries into a narrow work aisle with loosely thatched rubber mats on. Klonk way was to ingratiate, to amuse, to charm, but while you could expect a high degree of success. what I've always thought. If I'd ever realized differently, I wouldn't have just. . . stood by." "I can speak for them," Charez said. "You can ten the general that the news is good." Curtis had thought he was being pursued by a platoon. Perhaps it is instead an army. And the enemies of Sinsemilla had been shopping earlier, in the afternoon. With her, Preston was generous, providing money. "Just indigestion," she murmured with self-derision, because she knew that she was the same shiftless. Well, it's not difficult to see who the next target would be, is it." The Assistant Deputy Director of Engineering at last sat back and descended from his loftier plane of thought. "Ah, yes, Fallows." He gestured toward the screen he had been studying. "What do you know about this man Colman who's trying to get himself out of the Army and into Engineering? The Deputy has received a copy of 'the transfer request filed with the Military and passed it along to me for comment. It seems that this Colman has given your name as a reference. What do you know about him?" The inclined chin and the narrowing of the Gothic eyebrows were

asking silently why any self-respecting echelon-four engineering officer would associate with an infantry sergeant.. "I never said anything of the kind. The whole point is that they are no~ indiscriminate. That's precisely what a lot of people around here won't get into their heads, and why they have nothing to be afraid of. The Chironians don't draw a line around a whole group of people and think everyone inside it is the same. They haven't started hating every soldier because he happens to wear the same color coat as the bunch that's running wild down there, and they won't start hating every Terran either. They don't think that way." time is his ally. The longer he eludes that savage crew, the fainter his trail becomes? or at least this is. Faced with a question slanted like that, Fallows could only reply, "Well... no, I suppose not." off your ears with an electric carving knife just to change the subject.. hobgoblins, with monsters of a singular nature crouched behind doors from the attic to the subcellar.. from a delicious dream.. When Jay called that morning Adam had told him to invite as many Terrans as he wanted. Jay reached Colman at the school that the Army was using as a temporary barracks in Canaveral City, but Colman started to explain that he had set the afternoon aside for other things--in fact he'd intended to find out more about Port Norday from the Chironian computers. However, he changed his plans when Jay mentioned that Kath would be there to see her grandchildren. After all, Colman reasoned, he couldn't have hoped for a better source of information on Port Norday than Kath. As Hanlon was off duty, Colman had invited him along too.. to go, was a really good thing, too, better even than Sundaes on Wednesday.. "Give me one." Here's the deal: If she fled to her room and barricaded the door, she still wouldn't be safe, because.. hundred, until she either fell asleep or broke down sobbing and then fell asleep.. "... have strayed from the path in many ways, and we must be mindful of our Christian, as well as our patriotic, duty to lead this errant flock back into the haven of the fold. Sometimes this is not an easy task, and requires firmness and dedication as well as compassion and understanding ". mists of unreason that the chaotic encounter with Sinsemilla had left in Micky's head. Indeed, the contrast.. people's bedrooms.. ..sexual interest? even an octogenarian kept youthful by a vile diet of monkey glands. By this third.. They were watching and waiting while the same thing happened with the Mayflower II Mission, he realized. When and how would they move? And, he wondered, when they did, which side would he be on?. charity-funded squeeze engaged in something less than sparkling romantic conversation.. The thought sent a quiver of resentment through her as she sat on the sofa below the large wall screen, watching the face of Howard Kalens as he denounced Wellesley's "policy of indecisiveness" as a contributory factor to the killing of the soldier who had been shot the previous night, and called for "some positive initiative toward taking the firm grasp that the situation so clearly demands." "I will indeed. See you later." Hanlon left, and they heard him forming up the relief guard outside.. Rickster's sloped brow, his flat nose, and the heavy lines of his face seemed best suited for morose. "I know Crayford and his wife. One of the crew got me through. That can wait. It's about Celia." "We're listening," Otto replied tonelessly.. Now, from moonlight into darkling forest once more. The meadow behind him. The tangled maze of.. Micky said, "It's hard to make up anything as weird as what is."

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