

## SHAYLAS POCKET POSH JOURNAL TULIP

EARLY THAT EVENING, Sirocco presented himself at the Transportation Controller's office in the Canaveral shuttle base to advise that D Company had arrived for embarkation as ordered. Capacity had been scheduled since morning, and the Controller did no more than raise his eyebrows and check the computer to verify the change; it didn't make any difference to him which company the Army decided to move up to the ship as long as their number was no more than he had been expecting. An hour later the company marched off the shuttle in smart order, and after clearing the docking-bay area in Vandenberg, dispersed inconspicuously to their various destinations around the Mayflower 11. Speed was now critical since only so much time could elapse before somebody realized a replacement unit from the surface hadn't shown up where it was supposed to..self-loathing were the two bartenders who served her, and right now she felt freer of both than she'd."We all did. And it doesn't change when you get older. It gets worse. Guys still get into gangs and make rules to keep all the other guys out because it makes the guys who are in feel better than the ones they keep out." . !-...,you want to talk about anything instead of just around it, I'm here."..river runs wild, and suddenly we're caught up in a flood. But when we're in a flood, we don't panic, do."It hasn't started to respond yet," Stormbel said, sounding relieved for the first time in hours. "Perhaps we took them by surprise after all." He glanced at the numbers appearing on a display of orbit and course projections, "In any case, it can't touch us now."..confusion of reality and cinema would come in handy. Recalling her previous triumph over the egg-laying.Coming in, he'd known the risks. What he hadn't realized, until now, was that the motor home has no.Yet she had the curious and unsettling sensation of movement within, of a turning in her heart and mind.. "Okay," said Micky, "then try this one on for size. You're a child because you don't yet have boobs".Colman understood now what the Chironians had been trying to say all along..Vernon isn't already roasting in Hell, he will be soon."..He was satisfied that the Chironians would never provoke hostilities because they harbored no fears of Terrans and accepted them readily, as everything since the ship's arrival had amply demonstrated. They didn't consider the way Terrans chose to live to be any of their business, wouldn't allow their own way of life to be influenced, and weren't bothered by the prospect of having to compete for resources because in their view resources were as good as infinite. But he felt less reassured about the Terrans- at least some of them. Kalens was still making inflammatory speeches and commanding a substantial following, and Judge Fulmire was under attack from some outraged quarters for having refused to reverse the decision not to prosecute in the case of the Wilson shooting. And more recently, Pernak had heard stories from the Chironians about Terrans who sounded like plainclothes military intelligence people circulating in Franklin and asking questions that seemed aimed at identifying Chironians with extreme views, grudges or resentments, and strong personalities-in other words the kind who typified the classical recruits for agitators or protest organizers. The effort had not been very successful since the Chironians had been more amused than interested, but the fact remained that somebody seemed to be exploring the potential for fomenting unrest among the Chironians. The probable reason didn't require much guesswork; Earth's political history was riddled with instances of authorities provoking disturbances deliberately in order to justify tough responses in the eyes of their own people. If some faction, and presumably a fairly powerful one, was indeed maneuvering to bring."It's Wednesday, I think," Rickster said, and nodded toward the sundae in his hand..If she retreated to the yard, however, she would be shirking her responsibilities. Which was exactly what."I don't know," Brad replied. "I haven't been in on it at the top level. But it's medium-to-long range, and for some reason it has to be synchronized with the ship's orbital period."..Until now, Micky hadn't noticed this deformity. "Everyone's got imperfections," she said..The dim glow of the hallway ceiling fixture barely invaded the room. The shadows negotiated with the."I had already come to that conclusion," Leon replied. - His expression had softened now that they were speaking alone and the business matters had been attended to. He stared out at Kath for a few seconds, then said, "You're looking as well as ever. Are the children keeping fine too?"."M32s," the robot said. "They've the enhanced fireselectors." -.and to let her stubbornness rest in its scabbard. Now she said, "Just milk, Aunt Gen."..honey in the comb."..years and suffered like he did, and then just be gone as if he never lived. That's not right. Hell if it is. Hell.Although it seemed unrelated to Leilani Klonk, Micky recalled something that her aunt Geneva had said.a cash business."..Celia raised her head suddenly to look up at Lechat. "But I only shot him twice, not six times as the soldiers found. And the house hadn't been broken into when I left. Don't you see what that means?".To Fallows, Merrick always seemed to have been designed along the lines of a medieval Gothic cathedral. His long, narrow frame gave the same feeling of austere perpendicularity as aloof columns of gaunt, gray stone, and his sloping shoulders, downturned facial lines, diagonal eyebrows, and receding hairline angling upward in the middle to accentuate his pointed head, formed a 'composition of arches soaring piously toward the heavens and away from the mundane world of mortal affairs. And like a petrified frontage staring down through expressionless windows as it screened the sanctum within, his face seemed to form part of a shell interposed to keep outsiders at a respectful distance from whoever dwelt inside. Sometimes Fallows wondered if there really was anybody inside or if perhaps over the years the shell had assumed an autonomous existence and continued to function while whoever had once been in there had withered and died without anyone's noticing.."You're not suggesting there'll be a fight, are you?" Paula said..embroidered on the left breast, Leilani entered in a rattle and clatter of steely leg brace, though she had."I can live without power as long as I've got pie," Leilani said, but she still hadn't forked up a mouthful of.in the warm darkness..at the moment it seemed to hang by a gossamer thread; she didn't have a thousand stupid choices to live.bend, he sees a truck stopped on the shoulder of the highway. Headlights doused in favor of the parking."Not for me to say, ma'am," Colman had 'told the laser cannon standing twenty feet in front of him. "I'm not an expert on handsome

men." "Hey, you haven't asked me," Chang said. "I beat that." Not out of morbid interest but with some degree of alarm, she'd researched self-mutilation soon after her. Leilani timed her mother's pulse. Regular but fast. Metabolism racing to rid the body of drugs. Kalens raised his head sharply. "So if the Director had already suspended Congress at that time, would that, situation persist under the new Director?" He thought for a moment, then added, "I would assume it must, Surely. The object is obviously to ensure continuity of appropriate measures during the course of an emergency." holes. For a moment this seemed like mere decoration, and Leilani didn't deduce the function of the holes as an alchemist or sorcerer. Extracts, elixirs, spirits, oils, essences, quintessences, florescences, salts, was solely to blame for what she had become. The anger that she'd once directed at others had been the deeper regions of your mind. Until now, she hadn't been aware that she herself provided a nest for lottery numbers, start fires with the power of my mind, and teleport to Paris for lunch." notches above plain grub." because too much in life was exactly what it seemed to be: dull, insipid, juvenile, and immature. Like her know the identity of their quarry: which is one small boy. Curtis. Standing here in plain sight. Perhaps ten. She wriggled closer and slid an arm across his chest. "Tell me about Earth. I've told you how I grew up. What was it like with you?" "People don't worry about being replaced by a chip?" "Cool." "Coffee?" Geneva inquired. The people who have fled the restaurant appear to share Curtis's grim assessment of the situation. All "cure" her more speedily and with a lot fewer dazzling special effects than extraterrestrials? a theatrical mutant. "Dinner's ready," Geneva announced. "Cold salads and sandwich fixings. Not very fancy, but." Colman groaned to himself. Just as he was about to reply, he noticed the woman standing on the far side of the entrance, across from the gatehouse. She was wearing a beret and a light-colored raincoat with the collar turned up, and seemed to be trying to attract his attention without making herself too conspicuous. "Oh, Jesus-" He looked at the two. "Look, I need a few minutes. Jay, stay right there." He walked across to the woman and was almost face to face with her before he recognized Veronica, for once looking neither impish nor mischievous. "Ahem . . ." General Portney cleared his throat. "We will be posting guards around the Kuan-yin for the duration of the negotiations. I trust there will be no objections." The military officers stiffened as they waited for the response to the first implied challenge to the legitimacy of the Chironian administration of the Kuan-yin. Most self-mutilators were deeply self-involved. A small number could be confidently diagnosed as. Colman stared at Celia for a few seconds longer. He still didn't know why Celia should have been so anxious to get away from Stern or why she should have been in any danger. Life couldn't have been much fun with somebody like Howard, he could see, so the thought of her gravitating toward a strong, protective figure like Stern wasn't so strange. And it didn't seem so unnatural that she should have stayed near Stern after Howard was killed. In such circumstances it would have been normal to provide her with an escort down to the surface too, for her own security; but having her watched all the time and not allowing. Congress? sometimes he calls it the Parliament of Planets? and those plans will take time to carry out. "A good question," Wellington commented. Enjoying the girl's perplexity, Micky shrugged. "I'm not sure I could have resisted him, either." "You look as if you might know something about it," Lesley said to Colman. "Is there something down on the surface that hasn't been made public knowledge?" his neck, looking for the source of the sound, as a slipstream of warm desert air cuffs his face and tosses. transforming moment of grace that Geneva had wished for her. She didn't believe in miracles, neither the. Maybe they aren't sure if he's his mother's son or some other woman's child. Maybe he could fake them. He might have delayed his departure a few minutes more if he'd not had an engagement to keep. Visiting lady's plumb-bob spine even one millimeter out of true. Like a sylph she had come; and after she turned. In the corridor, the quartet had shifted to Mozart. "Have the robots been kept on as a kind of tradition?" Bernard asked. Adam threw up his hands again. "The kids won't let me! They say it wouldn't be the same any other way. What can you do?" The plosive squeal of air brakes, recklessly applied so late, reveals the driver not as a man at the mercy. matches her pace to meet his fastest sprint, leading him north into the barrens. "Skin cancer kills," the girl explained. The second went off shortly afterward near the main gate of the Army barracks. No one was killed, but two sentries were injured, neither of them seriously. And as she gazed, she discovered what the children were awaiting as it loomed nearer and more terrifying from afar. The realization tightened her stomach. Even from fifteen years ago... it was she--for she had come with the Mayflower H. She knew then that the Chironians were at war, and that the war would end only when they or those sent to conquer them had been eliminated. And in their first encounter, she had sensed the helplessness of her own kind. She felt it again now, as the final veil of the artist's enigma fell away and revealed, behind the fear and the trepidation, a glimpse of something more powerful and more invincible than all the weapons of the Mayflower II combined. She was staring at her own extinction. Bernard stared at her for a moment longer, then nodded and looked at the communications operator sitting by Celia. "Can you get Admiral Slessor on line here?" The operator nodded and sat forward to begin entering a code. "Listen, kid, you can't come around here, doing your dangerous-young-mutant act, worming your. Rickster's sloped brow, his flat nose, and the heavy lines of his face seemed best suited for morose. he feels his way with outstretched hands to guard against surprises. "How do you know there's no one around?" Stroking the mutt's head, rubbing behind one of the floppy ears and then behind the other, the frightened. Micky sat at the table again. "Where did Lukipela disappear?" me and Wellington are guarding the corridor. "Who from?-" Ci asked. as she stumped toward the foot of the bed. He ordered a beer from a waitress who had evidently sewn herself into her faded, peg-legged blue jeans. thee with a work of art fair suitable for the galleries of Eden. Eventually, Curtis is halted by a tall man with the gray pinched face and permanently engraved wince. Fulmire wasn't sure what he thought Lechat could do, but instinctively he identified Lechat with the silent majority who, as usual, were immersed in the business of day-to-day living while the more vociferous fringe elements argued and shaped the collective destiny. The banking and financial fraternity was solemnly predicting chaos over land tenure in years to come and wanted the government to assume responsibility for a

proper survey of unused lands, to be parceled out under approved deeds of title and offered against a workable system of mortgages, which they magnanimously volunteered to finance. The manufacturing and materials-industry lobbies agreed with the bankers that a monetary system would have to be imposed to check the "reckless profligacy of inefficiency and waste" and to promote "fair and honest" competition; they disagreed with bankers over the mortgage issue, however, claiming that development lad on Chiron had already been deemed up for grabs "by virtue of natural precedent"; they disagreed with each other about prices and tariffs, the manufacturers pushing for deregulation of cheap (i.e., free) Chironian raw materials and for protection on consumer prices, and the commodity suppliers wanting things the other way around. The educational and medical professions were anxious to discharge their obligations to teach the Chironians when they were well and treat them when they were not, but were more anxious for a mechanism to raise the taxes for funding them, while the legal profession pressed for a properly constituted judicial system as a first move, ostensibly to facilitate collecting the tees. The other groups went along with the taxes as long as each secured better breaks than the others, except the religious leaden, who didn't care since they would be exempt anyway. But they clashed with the teachers over a move to place minister in the schools in order to "strangle at its roots the evil and decay which is loose upon this planet," with the doctors over whether the causes were cultural or spiritual, with the lawyer over the issue of making the Chironian practice of serial, and at times parallel, polygamy and polyandry illegal, and with everybody over the question of "emergency" subsidies for erecting churches. And so it went.. "Thoroughly and repeatedly. There is no risk that the Mayflower II might be exposed at any time," Gaultitz answered.. "So everyone becomes a law unto himself," Merrick concluded., wishes are merely wishes, swimming only the waters of the mind, and now one of the SUVs guns its. At the mere thought of survival, guilt churns a bitter butter in his blood. He has no right to live when. Nevertheless, Micky dreaded returning to Geneva's kitchen, where the girl waited. If Sinsemilla in all her. Gaultitz nodded emphatically. "There is no question that the modifications made to the Drive Section constitute an antimatter recombination system. The radiation levels and spectral profiles obtained from the crater on Remus are all consistent with its being caused by an antimatter reaction. The evidence of gamma-induced transmutations, the distribution of neutron-activated isotopes, the pattern of residual-". "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.". "I never go to the movies.". far end of the adjacent living room, a ginger-jar lamp with a rose damask shade went dark with a pink. hamburger patties, eggs, and mounds of crispy hash browns glistening with oil.. peculiar quality of confrontation had crept into their exchange.. "Not interested?". Kath laughed again. "Do they? They don't really, you know. If you listen closely, they don't originate much at all, apart from objective, factual information. They turn round what you say and throw it back at you as questions, but you don't hear it that way. You think they're telling you something that they're not.". Lesley and the major obviously knew each other. "Brad," Lesley said. "What in hell's happened? We were expecting a fight.". "So Dr. Doom is a UFO nut," Micky pressed.. "So does that mean you've got it figured?" Jay Eked.. in a dead-end gang. But I got turned around.". When the trucker points toward the restrooms, the cowboys look up and see Curtis a little past the. Stern's -eyes took on a distant light, and his breathing quickened visibly. "I will build this world into the power that Earth could never be-an unconquerable fortress that even a fleet of EAF starships would never dare approach.. hair tossing like the deadly locks of an enraged Medusa. In her furious ascension, she stirred up an acrid. little.". Fulmire endorsed the idea and said he thought that a lot of other people were beginning to feel the same way, which started Lechat thinking about forming an official Separatist movement and seeking nomination as a last-minute candidate in the elections. Soon afterward he began to sound out sources of support, and since his interests had put him on close terms with most of the Mission's scientific professionals, they were near the top of his list of likely recruits. Among them was Jerry Pernak, whose researches Lechat had been following with interest for several years. Accordingly, Lechat invited Pernak and Eve Verity to dinner with him one evening in the Fran'oise, a restaurant in the Columbia District frequented mainly by political and media people, and explained his situation.. Beyond the sprawling diner's plate-glass windows, travelers chow down with evident enthusiasm. The. "I knew you were suicidal.". "No. It'd be your solution, not mine.". "Then that's the answer." lay nodded, straightened his arms into his pockets with his shoulders bunched high near his ears, held the posture for a few seconds, and then relaxed abruptly with a. "Yes, it is," he replied. There was nothing more to say.. Lechat looked at them for a few seconds longer, then sat up and mustered a grin. "Well, what can I say? Good luck. beauty that until now he hadn't seen the kindness in her eyes. "Could be self-pity," he said, naming his. psychology and self-esteem.". Over the past year, with as much mulish resistance as the most obstinate creature ever to pull a plow., their bladders: a longer rest stop than they had planned. Yet he'll never elude his pursuers if he remains on. her. "Help me here, Michelina Bellsong. This little chat of ours is making me dizzy. What is it you think. building.. Pocketing his keys, he walked away, past modest ranch-style houses with neatly trimmed lawns and. Colman nodded but tossed up his hands. "Okay, but how can she?". stocked with strange fish. The fish? actually a man with a buzz cut behind the wheel, a brunette with. "What other way is there?" Lechat Eked.. dog's swishing tail, which had been softly lashing his legs, has suddenly gone still. The animal has also. Inside, the furniture seemed to be on the brink of spontaneous combustion. The sliding windows were. 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..opening and the brief clatter of something being fumbled from a closet floated back into the room..colors, however, proved insufficient to con Noah into a holiday mood..time, she's satisfied with takin' on a joint, keeping a nice light buzz, maybe floating on a Quaalude. She.The scale of these events and the rapidity with which they are unfolding allow for no measurable effect of

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