

## THE ART OF LOVE

"Aw, I wasn't watching it." Jay waved vaguely with the book and returned it to its shelf. "Usual stuff." "The Kuan-yin will not be able to maneuver instantly," Stormbel answered. "By accelerating ahead of the Mayflower ii at maximum power immediately after detaching, we would be behind the planet long before the Kuan-yin could possibly be brought to bear. After that we can take up an orbit that would maintain diametric opposition." "Well, all right, the clown car is wishful thinking, as they only appear in circuses. In fact, it's certain to be. Sirocco shrugged. "Well, Kalens's wife is always going places with Veronica, so they're obviously good friends. Swley noticed something funny between you and Veronica at that party we went to at Shirley's, and that was the connection he figured out," Sirocco shrugged again. "I mean, it's none of my business, of course, and I don't want to know if it's true or not. He paused and looked at Colman hopefully for a second. "Is it?".that have real issues to resolve." "You know very well what I mean. Stop all this avoidance. Talk to me, deal with this situation." the crop rows to a rail fence..Chapter 15.They're dead serious about it. He says if we tell anyone about them, they'll never bring Luki back. They.of burning gasoline, airborne flaming debris, and a bullet-fast barrage of shrapnel are more likely to be.But his reputation had put him in a no-win situation at the Friday night poker school because when he won, everybody said he was sharpening, and when he didn't, everybody said he was lousy. So he had stopped playing poker, but not before his name had been linked catalytically with enough arguments and brawls to get him transferred to D Company. As he stared fixedly at the wall across the corridor, the thought occurred to him that in a place with so many kids around, there ought to be a big demand for a conjuror. The more he thought about it, the more appealing the idea became. But to do something about it, he would first have to figure out-some way of working an escape trick---out of the Army. Swley should have some useful suggestions about that, he thought.."Got any better ideas?" For once Swley didn't. -. "Very smoothly, considering that it's been twenty years." Bernard permitted a faint smile. "Jean's finding some things a bit strange, but I'm sure she'll get over it."..Something isn't right, the silence too deep. Perhaps Curtis's parents have awakened.."On' the contrary, it would confer virtually dictatorial powers," Fulmire retorted. "There can be no validity in a legality established by ~legal means."..Lechat. "Speed is essential," Lechat said without preamble...--'~ "We require access to all channels on the civil, service, military, and emergency networks immediately..Her voice wasn't full of money, no disdain or evidence of tutor-shaped enunciation, but rich with quiet.welcoming than the baleful fire in a menacing jack-o'-lantern. The draperies were shut tight, and no one.up here"?she tapped her right temple?"and sometimes old movies seem as real to me as my own past."..sight to see with this leg brace." As though to prove how tough she was, Leilani crumpled the empty beer.thinks he hears sporadic gunfire. He can't be sure. His explosive breathing and the slap of his sneakers on.Murphy looked pleased. "Don't you think it has a fine ? tone? It's one of Chang's. He makes them."..properly admired.."Programs based on Jesus don't get enough public funds to make them worth faking the piety." He slid..Jay looked uncomfortable and massaged the top of his forehead with his fingers. "I know you're not going to believe this, Ms," he said. "But they're not going to cost anything. Nothing seems to cost anything. I don't understand it either, but--"-.Driscoll had taken Shirley up on her invitation to get in touch when he got down to the surface, and she had asked him along to the party in Franklin, at the same time telling him to feel free to bring anyone he wanted. So Driscoll had invited Colman, Swley, Maddock, and Stanislaw, who among them had persuaded Sirocco to come too, and Sirocco had suggested bringing some of the girls from the Mayflower II. Adam, who turned out to be a friend of Ci's, had also been invited with Kath, and between them they had brought Adam's twin brother, Casey, and Casey's girlfriend from the ship-the lively woman that Colman hadn't been able to place previously.."What can I do ya for, big guy?" a counter waitress inquires..against the sensitive surfaces of his upturned eyes..With no apparent recognition of the name, the bearded trucker, who may be only what he appears to.But they were less forthcoming about details of their administrative system, which had evidently departed far from the well-ordered pattern laid down in the guidelines they were supposed to have followed. The guidelines had specified electoral procedures to be adopted when the first generation attained puberty. The intention had been not so much to establish an active decision-making process there and then--the computers were quite capable of handling the things that mattered but to instill at an early age the notion of representative government and the principle of a ruling elite, thus laying the psychological foundations for a functioning social order that could easily be absorbed intact into the approved scheme of things at some later date. From what little the Chironians had said, it seemed that the early generations had ignored the guidelines completely and possessed no governing system worth talking about at all, which was absurd since they appeared to be managing a thriving and technically advanced society and to be doing so, if the truth were admitted, fairly effectively. In other words, they had to be covering a lot of things up..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..He wants the coins, too, but he doesn't touch them. In his nervousness, he's likely to jingle or drop them.,Staying closer than Curtis intended, the dog presses against his legs and pushes her nose to the gap."Was that where you learned about engineering?" Kath asked.."I will not be a party to such shenanigans' the Judge exclaimed. "This is all highly irregular, as you well know. A ruling must be subject to all due process, and only to all due process. There the matter must remain. What you are asking is inexcusable.".temporary emotional paralysis. All her life, until now, Geneva Davis had always found exactly the right.Kath smiled on the other side of the room. "I was from the first batch to be created. There were a hundred of us. Leon -he's Adam's father--was another. We called the machine that taught us how to use firearms Mickey Mouse because it had imaging sensors that looked like big black ears. I shot a daskrend when I was six... or maybe less. It came at Leon from under a rock, which was why the satellites hadn't spotted it. He's still got a limp today from that." She emitted a soft chuckle. "Poor Leon. He reminds me of Lurch.".defensive tactics might be employed. -.two small wounds..Some of the station's huge storage tanks hold diesel fuel, which is combustible but not highly explosive,."Thanks a lot," Jay said.."Hey, kid..".From a white back. But not anymore, I guess, by the look of it..".Ah, gee, I wouldn't take it personal," said the waitress. "Everybody's family's screwed up these days..".They listen to kids," Geneva advised..".What did you mean when you said 'all bets are off'?"..At any moment, however, one of them might retreat here to the bedroom. If a search by authorities."No offense taken," Noah said. "No sane person ought to have confidence in a guy whose business.A dog. Black and white. Shaggy..".What little orange lady would that be?" Noah asked..".Sure, I'd cover that..".reed; she a whistling flute..click-and-squeak of her leg brace faded until it could have been mistaken for the language of industrious."I know all the bemuses. No need to list them..".Throughout the theft of shirt, jeans, socks, and shoes, Curtis Hammond sleeps as soundly as though a.he now tied in a hangman's knot. "What answer?" he asked, recalling the Circle of Friends thug with the.we're proud of them..".Doom's parents were professors?history, literature?so his middle name is Claudius. Preston Claudius.The painter shrugged again. "That's okay. Different people value things differently. You can't tell somebody else when they've had enough to eat..".instead of drinking from it, rolled it back and forth across her brow, cooling her forehead..From the roadblock, vehicle to vehicle, word might have filtered back to the effect that the authorities.him to a table. Fortunately, he is seated with his back toward the entrance. With his cap still on, he.Eve looked at' the car, which was waiting patiently, and then back at Pernak. "We're through, really,' she said. "Shall we carry on and see the town?..".note of long-throttled anger in her voice..soldiers seeking shelter in an unexpected firefight, and saying their prayers, each of them determined to.Surprising the boy, she affectionately squeezes his right hand. "Whenever people think they're smarter."Sorry to hear that..".Who said anything about them? Have you figured out how many sweet young dollies there must be running around down there?" Sirocco chuckled lasciviously over the intercom. "I bet Swyley has a miraculous recovery between now and when we go into orbit." Color-blind or not, Corporal Swyley had seen the present situation coming in time to report sick with stomach cramps just twenty-four hours before D Company was assigned two weeks of Bomb Factory guard 'duty. He was "sick" because he had reported them during his own time; reporting stomach cramps during the Army's time was diagnosed as malingering..Jarvis scanned the screen on the far side of the post. "The fighting at Vandenberg looks as if ifs being contained," he announced. - "Two pockets of our guys are holding out at Bays One and Three, but the rest are cooperating with the regulars. The regulars have pretty well secured the whole module already. Stormbel won't be getting any help from the surface through there..".The prisoner moon escapes the dungeon clouds, and the oiled lane under the boy's swift feet glistens.Colman's eyes widened for a moment as he listened. "I'd never really thought about it," he admitted. "But I guess, yes . . . it'd have to have been like that. Your kids today don't seem to have changed all that much either. "How do you mean?" Kath asked..It wasn't quite the answer that Celia had been prepared for. She frowned for a second, then reached for her glass. "The reaction that it might provoke worries me. So far the Chironians have been playing along, but nobody has tried to throw them out of their homes before. We've already seen examples of how they do not to hesitate to react violently..".Geneva said, "Well, if it's the police asking after Luki?..".of the delicious aromas of roasting chicken, baking ham, frying potatoes. Fear doesn't entirely trump."Probably this lemonade," said Leilani..Driscoll had to think about the response, and a couple of seconds of silence went by. "It's not the same," he said..Laura was safe..of the darker ravines of her own interior landscape: a glimpse of reckless anger, despair, a brief.this nutball is driving you and Luki around looking for aliens with healing hands..".of delight. But now she had gone to the sad place, the second-worst of the unknown lands in which her.A gray-haired man in shirt-sleeves stepped forward from a group huddled outside one of the office doorways. "I am," he said, "McPherson-Communications and Datacenter Manager." After a short. pause he added, "At your disposal..".That's part of it," Pernak replied, nodding. "The satisfaction that their culture conditions them to feel is another part, but you're getting the general idea..".Noah finished his beer. "Guys like you and the congressman used to hide behind Jesus. Now it's.sinuous whipping adversary nailed loose..".Poor scared thingy bit me when the lights went out..".Not trusting herself to speak, Micky shook her head, which was the first admission she had ever made.Clump, clump, clump, clump. His train of thought was derailed by the sound of steady tramping approaching from his left--not the direction in which the detail had departed, which shouldn't have been returning by this route anyway, but the opposite one. Besides, it didn't sound like multiple pairs of regulation Army feet; it sounded like one pair, but header and more metallic. And along with it came the sound of two children's voices, whispering and furtive, and punctuated with giggles..nearest streetlamp and thus in gloom; however, the glow of the Chevy's interior lights allowed Noah to.front of the motel..Violators of visa privileges would face

permanent exclusion. Chironian residents who failed to comply with the registration requirement after a three-day- grace period would be subject to expulsion and confiscation of their property for resale at preferential rates to Terran immigrants..Kath looked at the other Chironians for a few seconds and seemed to consider the proposition, but Colman got the feeling that she had already been prepared for it-possibly since receiving the message that Bernard and Lechat wanted to talk with her. Then she moved over to a side table on which a portable compad was lying, stopped, and turned to face Bernard again. "It isn't a matter for me to decide," she said. "But the people concerned are waiting to talk to you." Bernard and Lechat exchanged puzzled looks. Kath seemed to hesitate for a second, and then looked at Lechat. "I'm afraid we have been taking an unpardonable liberty with you. You see, this was not entirely unexpected. The people you wish to speak with have been monitoring our discussion. I hope you are not too offended"..sort of the way college students go to Fort Lauderdale every spring break. And isn't it amazing, really,.."You don't understand;" Jay said. "On Earth, a lot of people would see that as their big ambition in life.".Through the tunnel of the arbor, and then across more grass, he approaches the farmhouse. At the back.hollow note in this confined space..She quieted the cynic in him, and he liked this inner hush, which lie hadn't known for many years..another larceny.."I'm not shooting this. My associate is at an attic window of the place across the street. We made.Donella's stern expression softens slightly, though she still won't give the enchanting smile with which she."So does that mean you've got it figured?" Jay Eked..Geneva's voice wavered on God and broke on fool: "Oh, God, what a blind stupid worthless fool I.third swing, the serpent met the furniture with a crack of skull that took all the wriggle out of it forever.."Oh, there's a lot of studying I've got listed-general engineering with a lot of MHD, then maybe I'll see if I can get into something at Norday for a while. Later on I might move out to the new place they're talking about."Curtis..The truck lot adjoins a separate parking area for cars. Here, the boy is more exposed than he was

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