

H AN EXPLANATORY AND CRITICAL COMMENTARY AND A REVISION OF THE TRA

to me that our difficulties stand only to be exacerbated by a continued division of authority. Since responsibility cannot be delegated, I alone am answerable for all consequences of my decision." He paused to look around the room, and then took a long breath. "By the powers vested in me as Mission Director, I declare a state of emergency to exist. The procedures of Congress are hereby suspended for such time as the emergency situation should persist, and by this declaration I assume all powers heretofore vested in the offices of Congress, apart from those exceptions that I may see fit to make during the remainder of the emergency period." After a short pause he added in a less formal tone, "Ans I ask the cooperation of all of you in making that period as short as possible." "Very probably it was," Kath replied. "The man you saw was probably having a relaxing day or two keeping his hand in. It's nice to have machines around to take care of things when they become chores." in a miserable voice, Aunt Gen said, "It's never this bad in the movies." advises..enough for me." Geneva poured lemonade. "Pretend it's Budweiser." To Micky, Leilani said, "She thinks. The only thing trickier than an amateur using a psychologist's techniques was an amateur trying to. At that moment the emergency tone sounded simultaneously from both their communicators, and warning--bleeps and wails went up from places in the labyrinth all around. They looked at each other for a second. The noise died away as Colman fished his unit froth his breast. Smiles and grins relieved the solemn atmosphere that had seized the room.. From the direction of the table, Jean emitted an audible sigh of relief. Bernard grinned up at the screen. "Thanks." he said. "We're all glad to hear it. Talk to you again soon." Kath gave a quick smile and vanished from the screen.. Yuck. This was going to be worse than blood and mutilation.. "The build-up at Canaveral is proceeding on schedule and will be completed before midnight," he informed Sterm at a midday staff meeting in the Columbia District's Government Center. "The greater pan of Phoenix is being abandoned as we assumed would be unavoidable, but the key points are secure and the wastage among the regular units has been checked. Transfer of SD forces to the surface will be completed by early evening, with the exception of those units being held to cover the Battle Module, the Columbia District, and Vandenberg. All operations tomorrow are clear to proceed as planned, with the strike against the Kuan-yin going in at 0513 hours, launch of orbital cover group immediately afterward, and the advance upon Franklin in force moving out at dawn." Now she knew why Earth seemed so far away. And she knew too what her mind in its wisdom had been cloaking and shielding from her. It was fear.. "Vice Admiral Crayford calling from Vandenberg now, sir," a voice called out.. "So they'll be coming for the Spindle next," Chazure said. They both looked at Lesley again but before anyone could say anything, a shrill tone from the main panel announced a call on the wire from the Bridge inside the Battle Module. - - .one side, lies Curtis Hammond, commander of this vessel, who sleeps on, unaware that the sanctity of his. Above this group, on the interstate, a larger crowd? forty or fifty strong? has formed along the. The Chironian studied him for a second or two longer, then grunted softly at the back of his throat somewhere. "We didn't do that," he said. "After we told 'em they were cooped up, some of 'em started shooting. Five of 'em tried making a break, holding a white shirt up to tell us they wanted out We held back, but a couple of the others gunned 'em down from behind while they were running. She was one of those five." The Chironian turned his head for a moment and spat onto the ground in the shadow beneath the aircraft. "After that, one-half of the bunch that was left started shooting it out with the other half- maybe because of what they'd done, or maybe because they wanted to quit too-and at the end of it there were maybe three or four left. We hadn't done a thing. Padawski was one of 'em, and there were a couple of others just as mean and crazy. Didn't leave us with too much of a problem." among the big rigs.. "Not. liking killing people makes a good soldier?". Listening as though to the voice of another, Micky was surprised to hear herself speaking of these things.. dinner sometimes she likes to talk about what she saw squashed on the highway that day. And my. 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--". "What about his adjutant?" Sirocco asked.. savoring his ice cream while gazing out the window.. happening to her.. If Preston Maddoc, alias Dr. Doom, was at home, his disinterest in his wife's extreme distress couldn't. To carry the burden of each day and to keep breathing under the weight of every night, Noah Farrel. called herself Sinsemilla as long as I've known her." Leilani settled into a hideous orange-and-blue chair. "Hmmm . . ." The reply didn't seem quite what Merrick hoped for. "Not quite everything, surely," he said. "What about the shooting of Corporal Wilson a week ago?". "Photographs," Micky said. "Pictures of you and Luki. That would be proof he wasn't just your. place mats from Wal-Mart. The homey glow of three unscented candles that had been acquired with. "He wouldn't get away with it, surely," lay said incredulously. "I mean, you wouldn't still let him walk in and out of places and help himself to anything he wanted, would you?". LATER, AFTER AUNT GEN had gone to her room, when Micky sat back once more upon the. "Ye-es," Bernard said slowly, nodding to himself. "He'd know the situation, and he'd probably know a safe way through the border even if some trouble breaks out." He began nodding more strongly. "And we certainly know we can trust him." of hundred-dollar bills.. Curtis, he examines his face in the mirror.. vehicles hooked to the hoses and guzzling from the nozzles, but flies out from under the long service-bay. "Veronica made it!" Jean exclaimed delightedly. "Steve, I don't know how you handled it all." Anita held on to Colman's finger, and he read her action as a silent invitation. He had slept with her a few times, many months ago now, and enjoyed it. However much he had found himself becoming aroused by her attention through the evening, the conversation about pairings and the imminence of planetfall introduced a risk of misinterpretation that hadn't applied before. Being able to look forward to making a stable and permanent domestic start on Chiron could well be what lurked at the back of Anita's mind. When he got the chance, he decided, he would have to whisper the word to

Hanlon to help him out if the need arose as the evening wore on..grandfather if he were ever in a major motion picture; but he would never be cast as a chainsaw-wielding. A month ago, she had read a magazine article about enlarging your breasts through the power of positive. "Great work, Steve," Sirocco muttered, stepping inside while stealthy figures slipped through one by one from the shadows behind him. "How did the Amazing Driscoll go over?" "Just a bunch of hooley ?". "Oh, I don't know... four, five, maybe. I used to like all the lights and the life here, but it gets to be too hectic after a while. Now I prefer the hills. It's mainly the youngsters who live right inside Franklin these days, but some of the Founders are still here..the next.. "Stay.. . there!" the girl instructed.. She stifled another giggle and said to the boy in a lower voice, "Come on, let's put another one outside the Graphics lab. They crept away and left Driscoll staring across the corridor at the imperturbable robot..Over bleating horns, screeching tires, and squealing brakes, another sound flicks at the boy's ears..Bernard Fallows had been surprised enough when Chang had called to confirm that his friend Adam's mother, Kath, had agreed to arrange a visit. He had been even more surprised when Kath turned out to be not a junior technician or mundane worker around the place, but responsible for the operation of a large portion of the main fusion process, though exactly how she fitted in and who gave her directions were obscure. And even more surprising still had been her readiness to receive him and Jay personally and devote an hour of her time to them. The comparable prospect of Leighton Merrick showing Chang and friends round the main-drive section of the Mayflower H was unthinkable. A party of Chironians was due to go up to the ship for a guided tour of some sections, it was true, but that was following an official invitation extended to professionals; it didn't include fathers and sons who wanted to do some personal Sightseeing. Perhaps his position as an engineering officer specializing in fusion techniques had had something to do with his special treatment, Bernard conjectured..kissing cousin to the Grim Reaper, try reading the news. He hasn't been on the front pages for a while..would, sooner or later. Yet right up until the minute she decided she needed a change, until she threw.CHAPTER THIRTY-SEVEN.on his way to watch over?rather than torment?coal miners in deep dangerous tunnels..Sirocco tossed out a hand, signaling that he disclaimed responsibility. "Oh, he saw the way she was talking to you when you were on ceremonial at that July Fourth exhibition last year. That was one thing. Do you remember that?" "I'll trade," Stanislaw offered at once..see which way he would go..With Sterm playing what was nominally the leading role, Stormbel could afford nothing that might be seen as a concession of inferiority, which required his half of the machine to perform flawlessly, precisely, and in a way that was beyond criticism. That was what made mistakes doubly intolerable at this particular time. But what made the whole thing completely baffling and all the snore galling was that the escorts and their charge had not only checked in on time, but hid actually boarded the return shuttle-having passed safely through all the riskier parts of the agenda-before vanishing without a trace. They had definitely boarded and taken their seats, and it had been only a matter of minutes before lift-off when one of the flight-crew noticed that suddenly they weren't there-any of them. The SD guards at the boarding gate had all known what Celia Kalens looked liked, and they had been under special instructions to watch for her, but none of them had seen her when the escorts came out of the shuttle after somehow losing her; hid shortly after that, the escorts had disappeared into the base and were never seen again. Nobody reme9b~red seeing.Nonetheless, she could imagine that the people passing on the highway were in some cases traveling.The family robot, which hadn't been able to manage the crate either, perched itself on the tailgate and sat swinging its legs while the soldiers escorted the Chironians to the ground car behind, where two younger children and their mother waited. A sharp rat-tat-tat sounded from the house behind as Sirocco nailed up a notice declaring it to be confiscated and now government property. A crowd of thirty or more Terrans, mostly youths, looked on sullenly from across the street, watched by an impassive but alert line of SDs in riot gear. This time the Terran resentment was not being directed against the Chironians..The beam sliced across space for a little over one second to the Point where the Battle Module was hanging in orbit above Chiron, and then a miniature new sun flared in the sky to light up the dark side of the planet. The flash of gamma rays ionized the upper atmosphere, and the sky above Chiron glowed in streak~ that extended for thousands of miles. Sensitive radiation-monitoring instruments were CHAP! F.M THIRTY-NINE burned out all over the outside of the Mayflower II, and because of the electrical upheaval, it was twelve hours before communications with the surface could be resumed.. "No, I'm not. I'm going to talk about air-conditioning for.First, he wanted to visit this special site, a couple miles away, where some guy named Carver or Carter.She took a sip. It was smooth, warm, and mellowing. "It's excellent," she replied.. "That's a personal question, Jay," Bernard cautioned. "Anyhow, it's early yet.."blood drained out of the poor dear's face, he looked like one of the walking dead?though I've got to."What makes you imagine that I could?"..why are you painting it?" he asked. "Because it needs painting.." "You'll find a way," one of the Chironians at the table said, not sounding perturbed..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. Swyley should have some useful suggestions about that, he thought..the idea of getting up from the driver's seat. She shrinks away from them, and terror twists her face into.attitude, the girl retained some of the gullibility of a child. "But how'd you do what the cops couldn't?" "For now," Sterm added. "The rest comes later.."mercy, and his body by now reduced to deformed bones . . .hair tossing like the deadly locks of an enraged Medusa. In her furious ascension, she stirred up an acrid.Veronica laughed. "You'll have to eat your heart out wondering. Take care. I'll call you tonight.."beautiful. She might indeed have been a princess once, in a previous

incarnation, during another life when. "I find them a refreshingly honest and direct people. You know where you stand with them." Bernard gave a slight shrug. "In view of the short time we've been here, I think everything has gone surprisingly well. Certainly it could have been a lot worse." Through clenched teeth that squeezed each sibilant into a hiss, she said, "Hag of a witch bitch, sorcerer's." So everyone becomes a law unto himself," Merrick concluded. In the small of his back, bolstered under his Hawaiian shirt, Noah carried a revolver. He didn't think he. The sergeant hesitated for a moment longer, and then -- nodded to the two guards. Borftein and his party marched through, and Hanlon began posting men to secure the entrance, another section of D Company materialized from a stairwell to one side of the foyer and vanished into the Communications Center, taking with them a few bewildered secretaries and office workers that they had bumped into on the way. threatening that her keener senses can detect..without dog, glides past the distracted hostess..Micky had finished her second cup of coffee. She couldn't recall drinking it. She got up to pour a refill..CHAPTER THIRTY-TWO."Everyone I talked to about a job." At last the quality of this bestial voice frightened her into halting the assault on the snake. It was dead..Their only hope lies in the vastness of the high desert to the north of the interstate, out there where the.exaggerated, ferocious grin. He leans over the sink, closer to the mirror, and studies his bared teeth with..Leilani didn't have a fearsome capacity for violence, maybe not any. She never fantasized about being a.erating capacity for practically this whole area, and a great deal of materials via a variety of interdependent processes," Farnhill informed the meeting. "Primary metals and chem-.astute..straining the dry sea of the desert for the sole survivor of the massacre in Colorado..her, Aunt Gen. There's nothing we can do tonight." One bottle with an unbroken seal and another, half empty, lay concealed under a yellow sweater. Micky.For the curtain that was falling away was the backcloth of the stage upon which the dolls had danced. And as the backcloth fell and the strings fell with it, the dolls were dancing on. The dolls were dancing without the strings because there were no strings. There had never been any, except those which the dolls had allowed the puppeteers to fasten to their minds. But those strings had held up the puppeteers, not the dolls, for the puppeteers were falling while the dolls danced on..Engine screaming, klaxons shrieking, lights flashing as though with the fury of dragon eyes, the Peterbilt.What followed was a General Foul-up..Sparks seem to fly from rock formations as the steely light reflects off flecks of mica in the stone..Good pup. Stay close..embroidered on the left breast, Leilani entered in a rattle and clatter of steely leg brace, though she had.Oh, Lord, there's just one door, the sucker's magically locked, all his tricks are thwarted, and he's.Chapter 16."True, once they're separated," Celia agreed. "But how many more killings would we have to see before that was achieved?" Fulmire looked uneasy but in the end was forced to nod his agreement. "But such a situation could only come about if an emergency condition had already been in force to begin with," he warned. "It could not be applied in any way to the present circumstances."..and when he speaks fluent Vietnamese, he can be heard in spite of his metal hood: "We're all going to." "You're what?" Kath turned back from the night table, sat up to sip some of the wine, then passed him the glass and snuggled back inside his arm. "I suppose we must seem very strange to you, Steve, being descended from machines and computers." She chuckled softly. "I bet there are lots of people on your ship who think we're really aliens. Do they think we walk like Lurch and talk in metallic, monotone voices?" Wellesley seemed thoughtful. "I wonder if Leighton Merrick and his specialists could run a place like that," he mused. After a few seconds, he added hastily, "Not immediately, of course, but at some time in the future, possibly, depending on circumstances. As insurance, it would certainly pay us to know something more about it." "I know. Maybe we can get Gustav and Steve working on it together." If the Chironians were already fitting out the Kuan-yin, they must have solved a lot of the problems that were still being argued on Earth, Colman thought. The whole planet, he realized as he reflected on it, was a powerhouse of progress, unchecked by any traditions of unreason and with no vested-interest obstructionists to hold it back. If the pattern continued until Chiron became a fully populated world, it would effectively leave Earth back in the Stone Age within a century. "Have you actually flown it anywhere yet?" he asked, turning his head toward Kath. "The Kuan-yin . Has it been anywhere since it arrived in orbit here?"..as you might expect, she uses more-colorful language. One of my pacts with God is that I won't be as..In her despondency, just as when she lay in a trance of sweet amusement, she could not be reached..snake; no place will belong to Leilani, no smallest place. Usually she had only a corner, a nook, a..The young, sophisticated wife that Howard Kalens had taken with him to Luna to join the Mayflower H was now in her early forties, but her face had acquired character and maturity along with the womanly look that had evolved from girlish prettiness, and her body had filled out to a voluptuousness that had lost none of its femininity. She was not exactly beautiful in the transient, fashion-model sense of the word; but the firm, determined lines of her chin and well-formed mouth, together with the calm, calculating eyes that studied the world from a distance, signaled a more basic sensuality' which time would never erase. Her. "My age?" "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." . !-...and what you think maybe he really does is have his sweaty, greasy, drooling, lustful way with me."..thingy just wants love," Sinsemilla said, drawing out love until it was longer than a twelve-syllable word."Sure. Who doesn't?" "Lots of thorns, though," Micky noted..Colman kept a poker face. "What made him think that?"..morning..Twenty-four ha4 escaped in all; nine had already given themselves up or been killed in encounters with Chironians. Anita had not been among them. Colman counted fifteen body-bags, which meant that she had to be in one of them..unnerving expectancy, as though some bulwark were about to crack, permitting a violent flood to sweep..frenzied gyrations. With the sun down, however, this was not an hour for bees, not even though the..wink. The aged refrigerator choked like a terminal patient on life-support machinery, denied a..Jay decided' he'd had enough, excused himself with a mumble, and took his book into the lounge. His father was sprawled in an armchair, talking politics with Jerry Pernak, a physicist friend who had dropped by an hour or so earlier.

Politics was another mystery that Jay assumed would mean something one day.. "We've been having a serious discussion." He's heard people say that it's a small world, and this Cruise connection sure does support that. Sirocco frowned and rubbed his nose. "I'm not convinced. I can't help feeling that he's been set up by somebody else as the fall-guy, and that the somebody else hasn't come out yet. I think the Chironians believe that too."

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