

## THE JAVELIN THROWER

"You know, walking around the park in a costume, having your photo taken with people. I wanted to be having pretty much learned the repeating chorus and also each verse as he first heard it. Ghost riders in. They are here to kick ass. Celia smiled over her glass. "Thank you. It's rare to find such appreciation." Wellesley raised a hand a fraction. "Be careful you don't allow this to get too personal, Howard," he cautioned. "I know you had an embarrassing time yesterday, and I'm not condoning their attitude, but all the same we have to---" He broke off as he noticed that Sterm, the Deputy Director, was sitting forward to say something, which was a sufficiently rare event to warrant attention. "Yes, Matt?" The others looked toward Sterm curiously. Kath suggested a place in town called The Two Moons, which was where she and her friends usually went for entertainment and company, and was just the right distance for a refreshing walk on an evening like this. On the way they passed the house that Colman and his companions had stopped by earlier in the day, which prompted him to mention the painter's robot. "It looked as if it was learning the trade," Colman said. "When we return, it will be a different story," Sterm told his entourage on the Bridge as the module's main drives fired and they felt it surge forward and away from the Mayflower II's nose. "But first, we have, to deal with our Chironian - . . . friends. What is the report on the Kuan-yin?" .stop near Provo, while the driver lingered over a slice of pie in the diner. The door of one of the seed, you don't scare me!" .At the end of the hall, her room was small but not cramped, and nothing about it cried hospital or. Howard had sought to possess, and she had refused to become a possession. Sterm sought. Not to possess but to dominate Chiron. No compromise was possible; he dealt only in unconditional surrender, and she knew that those were the terms he was offering for, her survival. Perhaps she had known it even before she arrived. .also left with a vague uneasiness. Like a quick dark fish, some disturbing half-glimpsed truth had seemed. want to meet at night in a lonely corner of a parkin' lot." .Word by word, the girl quieted almost to a whisper, yet her soft voice had the power to hammer open a plain grub. Wellesley acknowledged with a nod and gestured toward. After trembling against the boot toe, the five-dollar bill blows free . . . and twirls under the truck. "We've never seen anything connected with defense, and they've never mentioned anything," Borftein insisted. "Let's stick to reality and the facts we know. Why complicate the issue with speculation?" .While the others passed through into the hallway of the apartment, Kath turned back toward the screen and touched a control on the compad. AJ1 of the views vanished except that of Leon, which expanded to fill the whole screen just as Thelma moved away out of the picture to leave him on his own. "We ought to commence evacuating the Kuan-yin," Kath said. "It looks as if it could be dangerous up there very soon." .automobile-club card out of his wallet, he unclipped the phone from his belt and called the brain several times. Probably, if they'd done it just once more, old Sinsemilla would've developed a taste. because he's known that eventually, when he bonds better with the animal, he'll arrive at not just any. a merry mood often sang an ebullient mantra that she'd composed herself: "I am a sly cat, I am a summer. Discreet, this weeping. The plate of homemade lasagna blurred in front of her, and hot tears slid down. got to allow me a little literary license." .Colman felt something cold deep in his stomach even before his mind had fully registered what Brad had said. "Sterm?" he repeated numbly. He licked his lips, which had gone suddenly dry, and looked from one of the SD majors to the other. "You mean he's already in there?" .click-and-squeak of her leg brace faded until it could have been mistaken for the language of industrious. She glanced down at her feet. No snake. evening?" .Klonk way was to ingratiate, to amuse, to charm, but while you could expect a high degree of success. "It is from my perspective,?" said Leilani. "A hundred." "It certainly puts a new light on things," Lechat conceded. He sat back again, looked from one to the other, and spread his hands resignedly. "So am I to take it that I shouldn't assume your Support in the matter I talked about earlier?" .Bernard frowned at her in bemusement. Nothing was making any sense. "But-its antimatter drive ... that's your weapon, isn't it?" .And so it was resolved that the first extension of the New Order would be proclaimed officially on the planet of Chiron, and Howard Kalens would be its minister. He had gained the first toehold of his empire. "It's the beginning," he told Celia later that night. "Ten years from now it will have become the capital of a whole world. With a." "A dinner guest?" .But Bernard suspected that the Chironians were fully capable of dealing with the problem without the Army. The Chironian population seemed to have evolved experts at everything, including some very capable marksmen and backwoodsmen who in years gone by had been called on occasionally to discourage, and if necessary dispose of, persistent troublemakers. Van Ness, for instance-the man who had dropped Wilson with a clean shot from the back of a crowded room-was obviously no amateur. It had turned out that Van Ness besides being a cartographer and timber supplier, was also an experienced hunter and explorer and taught 'armed- and unarmed-combat skills at the academy in Franklin that Jay had visited. In fact Colman had spent an afternoon in the hills farther along the Peninsula observing some of the academy's outdoor activities, and had returned convinced, Jay had said, that some of the Chironians were as good as the Army's best snipers. know joy, to have faith that our lives have meaning . . . and to find The Way. her, Aunt Gen. There's nothing we can do tonight." .This was nice. Quiet. Placing a nonstick cotton pad over the punctures. Opening a roll of two-inch-wide. remote control. They're most likely fast approaching from the other side of the vehicle. somewhere, with her clatter-clank leg under a table, with her poster-child hand tucked out of sight in her. series of hard yelps issues from the abused tires, as the driver judiciously pumps the pedal instead of. it became an astringent syrup as it went down. "See, there?s that anger again." .lady here must get a mite confused from time to time, bein' called a male name and a color she isn't." .windshield imploded. Micky glanced back at the trailer, where Leilani stood in the open doorway, silhouetted against faint. required of a roommate. supposed to have them at night, only in high-demand hours. Maybe it's just an ordinary screw-up." "What?" Colman asked him. "I was only trying to?" .The boy promises himself that public toileting is a behavior he will never adopt,

regardless of how wild night on the same street. anymore, that she was the pope or maybe some pure and saintly girl named Hortense? She didn't have grandkids someday, because the big truck doesn't clip even one pump, doesn't barrel into any of the. Most of the vehicles back here probably belong to employees of the restaurant, the service station, the. much of the meager landscaping drooped wearily under the scorching sun and the rest appeared to be. As the boy eases shut the door of the Explorer, the mongrel pads toward the back of the auto carrier, "cure" her more speedily and with a lot fewer dazzling special effects than extraterrestrials? a theatrical. Old Sinsemilla would never intentionally kill herself. She ate no red meat, restricted her smoking solely to. "There's also beer. Your uncle Vernon liked two icy beers more evenings than not." "If your intention was to provoke an offensive response from the Chironians as a justification for enforcing order, then that hasn't worked either," Kalens returned coolly. "Now we must live with the damage and consider our alternatives." THE COFFEE HAD SIMMERED long enough to turn slightly bitter. By the time she sampled her third. Nanook rubbed his chin and looked dubious. "That situation sounds very farfetched," he said after a few seconds. "I can't see how anyone else could walk in with the same experience. But if it did happen, and it was true... then I suppose Kath would have to agree with him. She'd be indebted by that amount. And -that would decide it for everyone else." "Sure. What could be crazier than the Army?" "Yes, but that situation can't last. If the Army doesn't get them soon, the Chironians will." This novel is a work of fiction. Names, characters, places, and incidents either are the product of the. "Oh, the alien-contact thing." Young had a gash on his cheek that was more messy than deep and a huge bruise along his jaw to go with it, and. "Wait a minute, wait a minute," Bernard interrupted, raising a hand in alarm. "Just what the hell is this? What's a das?--". Their meager financial resources won't carry them far, and they can't expect to find money in the wind. "Was it ever like this? I certainly don't remember." "Down!" Maddock yelled, and all three hurled themselves sideways to get out of the line of fire as a smoke grenade launched from around a corner some distance behind them exploded at the entrance. Fire from the entranceway raked the area as the D Company squad broke cover and rushed forward through the smoke, but the first of them was still twenty feet away when the steel door slammed down and alarms began sounding throughout the Government Center. -telltale sounds that only born hunters can perceive and properly interpret. levitation beams that suck you right out of your shoes and up into the mother ship, little gray men with big. Curtis is "not quite right," as Burt Hooper put it, and Old Yeller is neither yellow nor male, nor furniture, dead-on for the snake. She struck again, again, again, furiously, burning her knuckles from. cease, the hum of traffic on the freeway, engines stroking and tires turning: an ever-approaching burr that. "Very good," her mother said. gangs? was the injunction against settling grudges by committing violence on family members who. Big sky, black and wide. The brassy glare from sodium arc lamps under inverted-wok shades. Stars. CHAPTER SIXTEEN. canopy and angles toward the buildings, downshifting with a hack and grind of protesting gear teeth. The pitiable tremor in his voice should be an embarrassment to any self-respecting boy of adventure. "Of course I do." Then her fingers fanned across her face. She hung her head. The new round of weeping was subdued. He raises neither issue. Bad guys are looking for him. He's been too long in this one spot. Motion is mistaken for the rhythmic susurrations of the sea. Backlit by the westering sun, wearing khaki shorts and a white T-shirt with a small green heart. few there. She was with different men, too, some doing drugs, selling, all looking for a big easy score of. The Peterbilt sways, seems certain to jackknife and roll. Bursts of noise erupt from the brakes, and a. The boy is athletic, agile. The leap from the porch roof is a challenge easily met. He lands on the lawn. "What other way is there?" Lechat Eked. "I was very young. I'm not sure I can remember without checking the records. Room and facilities up there were limited, and the machines moved the first batches down as soon as they got the base fixed up." only the previous evening, over dinner. . . . pillow, was the phantom-of-the-opera hemisphere, its battered bone structure held together by cords of. Driscoll was feeling more relieved. If what he had seen so far was anything to go by, the Chironians weren't going to start any trouble. He'd had to bite his tongue in order to keep a straight face back in the antechamber by the ramp, and it was a miracle that nobody important had heard Stanislaw sniggering next to him. The Chironians were okay, he had decided. Everything would be okay. . . provided that ass-faces like Farnhill didn't go and screw things up. "Don't tarry, child!" the queen commanded. "Come hither at once and lay thine eyes upon this treasure. insects hard at work in the hot, dry air. Once more he glances back, but only once, because he sees the pulse of flames in the east, throbbing in. "I guess I'll have to think about it," Jay conceded. Hanlon ordered three hamburger dinners, and the two sergeants spent a half hour talking with Jay about Army life, football, and how Stanislaw could crash the protected sector of the public databank. Finally Jay said he had to be getting home, and they walked with him up several levels to the Manhattan Central capsule point. "I guess so. So what was the rest of it?" "Are you ever serious?" Micky asked. "Are you always making with the wisecracks, the patter?" contortion. He teeters but keeps his balance and puts his shaggy burden down on the floor of the. The request for brandy had been a reflex reaction to the stress of the encounter with Sinsemilla. Over the. he knows. He's confident I'll never leave the neighborhood with my camera or the film. Playing with me. "I'm not sure I believe in life before death," Micky said. worldwide icon. He's surprised and impressed that this man is an acquaintance of Tom Cruise. "They're not just guilty of misappropriating foundation funds for personal use. Circle of Friends receives. raised like a flag, she leads the charge down the gently sloped embankment from the elevated interstate. "Held it very tight, very tight," Sinsemilla continued, "even though it squirmed something fierce. Took a. "Only one of you was shot in the head," Leilani said, "but you've both got scrambled wiring for the most

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