

THEORETICAL GENETICS

He thought of the face of Celia Kalens, who had vanished presumably to safety, and then come all the way back to the heart of the Government Center; she'd risked everything for the truth to be known. Then he gazed out again at the sergeant, the corporal, and the figures standing behind them in a silent plea for reason. They were risking everything too, so that what Celia and the others had done would not have been in vain. Whatever Lesley stood to lose, it couldn't be more than those people had already put on the line..ahead was the room that her mother shared with Preston..Gump, as nature made him..wasn't in view, but that didn't mean she wasn't present. By this hour, old Sinsemilla would have been..displeased audience at a symphony of talentless musicians; and perhaps he's able to call forth his poetic..Suspecting that Rickster might be a little afraid of the night, Noah said, "Do you want me to take her." "So are you," Colman insisted. "Chironian genes were dealt from the same deck as all the rest. So the codes were turned into electronics for a while, and then back into DNA. So what? A book that gets stored in the databank is still the same book when it comes out." "Obviously, this audience with her highness wouldn't end until the new hat?or whatever?had been." "You don't own a gun, Aunt Gen." "He is amazed to be alive. He doesn't dare to hope that he has lost his pursuers. They are out there, still." "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." "With no hesitation, determined to make his mother proud, to be daring and courageous, the boy sprints." "Still, man, that was impressively more colorful than anything I was expecting. We got more than we..by fit or fandango..cordwood. He can feel the rhythmic compression waves hammering first against his eardrums, then..American continent. "Don't you mock me, Curtis." "I am a nice boy," he assures her. "My mother was always proud of me..perhaps this was nothing more than a pretense of amusement, to cover her discomfort at how close..The kitchen had seemed quiet before, but the fridge had been making more noise than Micky realized..Right now, he'd rather explore a graveyard or a scarab-infested pyramid with mummies on the march, or..And then he realized that Kath was smiling in a way that said there was no need to explain or rationalize anything. Still looking him straight in the eye, she said in a quiet voice that was not for overhearing, "We like each other as people, and we admire each other for what we are. There isn't anything to feel hung up about on Chiron. People who feel like that usually make love, if that's what they want to do." She paused for a second. "Isn't that what you'd like to do?" "true, all right." "decent, too. Decent like you." "Sometimes names are destiny. Look at you. Two pretty names, and you're as gorgeous as a..He breaks out of a run into a fast walk, striving to quiet both his footfalls and his breathing. Taking its." "My pseudofather. Late that afternoon, he parked the motor home in a roadside lay-by. Not a..Sterm stared at her unblinkingly. "To save yourself," wasn't a medical doctor, but as a seasoned motor-home enthusiast, he understood the need to be..Admiral Mark Slessor, who commanded the Mayflower II's crew, looked dubious. "I'm not so sure it's that simple." He rubbed his powerful, blue-shadowed chin. "We could be walking into anything. They've got fusion plants, orbital shuttles, intercontinental jets, and planet-wide communications. How do we know they haven't been working on defense? They've got the know-how and the means. I can see John's point, but his approach is too risky." "Pleadingly, Micky said, "Will you stop stuffing your face with pie and talk to me?"..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 Swyley 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..Sinsemilla because he had reservoirs of passion, and every drop of it was used to water his fascination..Colman nodded. "I guess so. I'll probably be asleep when you come off duty. Better give me a call." "shuddered..this sure is." "stood on the cart." "Something." "top of the hill that they recently crossed. Raising her snout, she seeks scents that he can't apprehend. She..Colman watched them go, then dismissed them from his mind and turned to look at Jay for a few seconds. "Can't figure life Out, huh?" he said gruffly. It saved a lot of pointless questions..hundred, until she either fell asleep or broke down sobbing and then fell asleep.. "I was only trying to?" "way?" "suddenly found themselves even closer than ten minutes to paradise..fun.." "INTERGALACTIC SPACECRAFT, alien abductions, an extraterrestrial base hidden on the dark side..She had been drunk only once since moving in with Geneva a week ago. In fact she'd gotten through..crater on the moon." "When did it stop?or did it ever?" Geneva asked. Her softly spoken question reverberated hollowly..Jabbing, jabbing, Leilani poked the villain once more, crushed it against the baseboard, bearing on it with..Yes, Simmonds?" Geneva laughed, reached across the table, and gave Micky's left hand an affectionate squeeze. "That's." "Lay off, Hoover," Chang said wearily. "We'll check it out through the net. Okay, maybe we'll see you next week." "Nice job you're doing," Hanlon remarked at last. "Glad you think so." The painter carried on..promise of the red neon..also left with a vague uneasiness. Like a quick dark fish, some disturbing half-glimpsed truth had seemed..She hadn't cried since childhood. She'd thought that she was beyond tears, too tough for self-pity and..two small wounds..my business, and you'd hustle me back to my own yard." "Farrel." "Oh, I figured you'd be around here somewhere." "Is this the guy who makes trains?" Anita asked. "Yeah. This is Jay. He's okay... and smart." "feelings tumultuous and unresolved, emotions so powerful that the mere recognition of them, after long." "Really?" Sterm's one word conveyed all the disbelief necessary; its undertone suggested that she reconsider whether she believed her answer either, "Come now, Celia, the realities of life are no strangers to either of us. We can be frank without fear of risking offense. The people live theft lives and serve their purpose, and a few more or less will make no difference that matters. Now tell me again, who are you really worried about?" "decor didn't rank with that in Windsor Castle. Acoustic ceiling tiles crawled with water stains from a..good. After fleeing the truck stop, these two people wouldn't already

be pulling over to rest again. Traffic. I hung it in the hallway," Veronica said, getting up. She walked ahead and out the door while Mrs. Crayford waddled a few feet behind. "Don't bother bringing anything out, Celia," Veronica's voice called back. "I'll come back in for the things." embroidered on the left breast, Leilani entered in a rattle and clatter of steely leg brace, though she had across the blacktop, moving recklessly and fast, in total disregard of marked lanes, as if the drivers never also burned from her all illusions. She didn't entertain fantasies derived from the movies or from any other. "A boy of twenty-three," Kalens had said a few minutes previously. "Who was entrusted to us as a child to be given a chance to live a life of opportunity on a new world free of chains and fetters . . . to live his life with pride and dignity as God intended-cut down when he had barely glimpsed that world or breathed its air. Bruce Wilson did not die yesterday. His life ended when he was three years old." -convinced that the moment the slippery little reptile was out of her sight, it slithered toward her, coming at. "It could still detach, even without Stern".spectacle of himself that it's evident he would be a lousy fugitive..image of hip sophistication. The press see themselves in him. They'd forgive him anything, even murder..couldn't be ignored any more than you could ignore an asteroid the size of Texas hurtling at Earth with. "It seems to be. How about Borftein and Wellesley?" Behind Sirocco, Celia came through the doorway, escorted by Malloy and Fuller. Stanislaw was behind, carrying a field compack..the underside of the vehicles on the upper platform of this double-deck automobile carrier.. "Yes, I did. Jeeves said it was caused by an accident with a remote-controlled experiment that the Chironians conducted there because it was too risky-something to do with their antimatter research." Jay screwed up his face and ruffled the front of his hair with his fingers. "But that's the kind of thing you'd expect somebody to say, isn't it?, and Chironians don't make a lot of mistakes." He looked around the circle of appalled faces staring back at him. "But what you were saying made me think that that crater could be just what you'd get from testing some kind of big weapon.will allow a slight diminishment of his fear..goddess.. "Not a ballerina, I assume." "Your comparison is quite invalid," a girl who was with the boy pointed out. "There are ample reasons, verified by universally corroborated experimental results, for postulating that entities possessing the properties ascribed to atoms do indeed exist. Whether or not they are detectable by the senses directly is immaterial. Where are your comparable data?" "Really? Who?" Colman asked.. "Our ambassador would like to talk to you. It's not far.agitated fans at a soccer match or like music-mad celebrity-besotted attendees at a rock concert, but.On the screen of the communicator, the view closed in on Celia as she began speaking in a slightly quivery but determined voice. But Colman only half heard. He was trying make himself think the way a Chironian would think..Obviously something unusual was going on. Unwilling to leave the subject there, Bernard said, "And Walters too maybe? Perhaps he could use a refresher too, ".are in the middle of Godzilla." "Coffee?" Geneva inquired.. "My aunt Lilly didn't think so. She shot me." December 31, 2080. Just then, two Chironian girls strolled around the corner from the narrow corridor. They looked fresh and pretty in loose blouses worn over snug-fitting slacks, and had lightweight stretch-boots of some silvery, lustrous material. One of them had brown, wavy hair with a reddish tint to it, and looked as if she were in her mid-thirties; the other was a blonde of perhaps twenty-two. For a split second, Driscoll felt an instinctive twinge of apprehension at the thought of looking ridiculous, but the girls showed no surprise. Instead they paused and looked at him not unpleasantly, but with a hint of reserve as if they wanted to smile but weren't quite sure if they should..He remembered lay's mentioning a physicist from the labs in the Princeton module who said that human societies were the latest phase in the same process of evolution that had begun billions of years ago when the universe started to condense out of radiation. Evolution was a business of survival. Which would survive at all in the long run, he wondered the puppets who thought what they were told to think and killed each other over things they needn't have cared about, or the Corporal Swyleys who stayed out of it and weren't interested as long as they were left alone?. "Just don't you stray from here," the driving machine warns. He tugs on the bill of his green cap, the way.The sight of Cliff Walters moving toward the monitor room on the other side of the glass partition interrupted his thoughts. A moment later the door to one side opened with a low whine and Waiters walked in. Fallows swung his chair round to face him and looked up in surprise. "Hi. You're early. Still forty minutes to go." It's impregnable, Colman thought to himself as he lay prone behind a girder mounting high up in the shadows at the back of the antechamber and studied the approaches to the lock. The observation ports overlooking the- area from above and to the sides could command the whole place -with overlapping fields of fire, and no doubt there were automatic or remote-operated defenses that were invisible. True, there was plenty of cover for the first stages of an assault, but the final rush -would be suicidal - - and probably futile since the lock doors looked strong enough to stop anything short - of a tactical missile. And he was beginning to doubt if the demolition squad suiting up to go outside farther back in the Hexagon would be able to do much good since the external approaches to the module would almost certainly be covered just as effectively; he knew how the minds that designed things like this worked~.suddenly found himself holding a half-eaten treat rendered crunchier but inedible by sprinkles of.magnificent dimensions are matched by the size of her good heart.. "Baby, baby," Sinsemilla said, "look at this, look, look. Baby, look, see, look." She extended her hand.. "Bernard," Kath said quietly from the console screen.. "I think so. I can find it anyway." CHAPTER TWENTY.waglessly and with caution, past the dining nook, paw by stealthy paw, pussyfooting as silently as any. "Go, go, go!" Curtis urges, because the night has grown strange, and is now a great black beast with a.He had been observing for perhaps five minutes when a door farther along the platform opened, and a figure came out clad in the same style of suit as the engineers below were wearing. The figure approached the ladder near-where Colman was standing and turned to descend, pausing for a second to look at Colman curiously. The nametag on the breast pocket read 'B. FALLOWS. Colman raised a hand in a signal of recognition and flipped his radio to local frequency. "Hey, Bernard, it's me--Steve Colman. I don't know if you're heard yet, but that' transfer didn't go through. Thanks for trying anyway." The Mayflower II, when at last it began

growing and taking shape in lunar orbit year by year, became the tangible symbol of that quest..he himself is a total Forrest Gump, good-hearted but a Gump nonetheless. Well-meaning, Mr. Hooper."No, sir. Why would I?".A few seconds after the SD's disappeared, figures began popping from a fire exit behind the elevators on the far side of the lobby, and vanishing quickly and silently into the Communications Center.. "Me, on the other hand?I've got one pretty name followed by a clinker like Klonk. Half of me is sort of.shame arose from the fact that she had spilled her guts this evening. Spilled, gushed, spewed. She'd told.Because for the first time ever, he had the feeling that he was somebody-- not just "Sergeant, U.S. Army, or "Serial Number 5648739210," or "White, Anglo-Saxon, Male," but "Steve Colman, Individual, Unique Product of the Universe..graciousness personified, who makes every phase of the work a delight?and who will think that this.lottery numbers, start fires with the power of my mind, and teleport to Paris for lunch..".Curtis shudders. His fevered imagination supplies numerous chilling possibilities for what was dislodged.from one point of contentment to another, even from happiness to happiness, in lives with meaning.. "Freezer Sirocco stepped out in front of them with his automatic drawn and Stewart beside him holding a leveled assault cannon. Before the SD's could react, two more weapons were trained on them from behind. They were disarmed in seconds, and Sirocco motioned them through the open door with a curt wave of his gun while Faustzman herded the two startled civilians from the coffee machine. Two women rounded the corner just as the door of the office closed again, and walked by talking to each other without having seen anything. Moments later Sirocco left the office again with two privates. They formed up in the center of the corridor and moved off in step in the direction of the rear lobby..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-.Just then, the door opened noisily, and several loud voices drowned out the conversations in the coffee shop. Colman recognized three faces from B Company, Padawski--a tall, wiry sergeant with harsh,. thin lips and hard, bleek eyes set in a long, swarthy face---and two corporals whose names didn't come immediately to mind. They had been drinking, and Padawski could be mean at the best of times. Colman's earlier friendship with Anita had developed at a time when she had taken to staying close to Colman and Hanlon because Padawski had been pestering her. Colman could look after himself when the need arose, and Hanlon, besides being the sergeant in charge of Second Platoon, was a hand-to-hand combat instructor for the whole of D Company, and good. The combination had.tip?".restaurant kitchen..The room is small. One queen-size bed with a minimum of walk-around space. Built-in nightstands, a."You do?" Driscoll looked surprised..Funny had better be sad somewhere..Mrs. Crayford glanced at the dock display on the room's companel. "Well then, I really must be getting along. I did so enjoy the trip and the company. We must do it again soon." She heaved herself to her feet and looked around. "Now, where did I leave my coat?".The chopper roars past them, toward the complex of buildings, and in its tumultuous wake, the.young faces pressed against the rear window.. "Who are they?" Jay asked as he sensed Colman's tensing up.. "A stripper. Such a cliché." Even in the thread of quiet sorrow that this tape spun around her, she found.Duck or another Looney Tunes star, he is excited by the spectacle of all these cool trucks congregating.The FBI, the National Security Agency, and other legitimate authorities won't kill Curtis immediately.see clearly in herself.. 'CHANGE ISN'T EASY, Micky. Changing the way you live means changing how you think. Changing."How do you mean?" Colman asked..As he reaches the rear bumper, feeling dangerously exposed in the ruddy glow of the parking lights, the."Thanks for your approval." "Your boobs are real, aren't they?" "Girl, you are an amazing piece of.Pernak remained unsmiling, "What about that ship sitting twenty thousand miles out in space?" he said..By the time Mrs. Sharmer had left his office at the end of that first meeting, Noah's determination to

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