COLD RIDGE SHELTER ISLAND

"Is this the truth?" Bernard asked uncertainly with a strong note of suspicion in his voice. Paula slapped down four aces gleefully. "You lose! Hey, how about that? I just cleaned him out. See, I knew he had to be bluffing." As Geneva rose from the table, Micky said, "Aunt Gen, sit down. This isn't about pie." Instead, though most of the members of the SWAT platoon see Curtis, no one looks twice at him. Scant. "Sure they can. Even before Dr. Doom, Sinsemilla was footloose. She says we lived in Santa Fe, San.Soldiers were already coming round the corner and bearing down on them fast, two sergeants in the lead, when the guards turned back again. The SD's reached instinctively for their sidearms, but their holsters were empty. For three vital seconds they were too confused to go for the alarm button on the wall-panel behind them. Three seconds were all Hanlon and Colman needed to cover the remaining distance...She swallowed as she traced through her thoughts and, checked herself. She was rationalizing or hiding something from herself, she knew. Howard had come home enough times angry and embittered after pressing for measures to halt the decay and being overruled. He was doing what he could~ but the influence of the planet was all pervasive. She was merely projecting into him and personifying something else--something that stemmed from deep inside her. Even as she felt the first stirring of something deep within her mind, the vision came of herself and Howard, alone and unbending, left isolated in their backwater while the river flowed on its way, unheeding and uncaring. After twenty years, nothing lay ahead but emptiness and oblivion. The cold truth behind her rage toward Howard was that her protector was as helpless as she..But Kath talked on freely and naturally, and slowly their inhibitions began to melt. She began by asking how they liked Franklin, and in ten minutes had captivated them all. Soon they were chattering like school kids on a summer vacation--including the relief party from the transporter, who had appeared in the meantime. The detail due for a break seemed to have forgotten about it. Something very strange was going on, Colman told himself again.. "Forget it," Colman interrupted. "It happens to everyone. Let's leave it with all the other stuff that's best left up there."."I don't know," was all that Bernard could reply. "If they have, they haven't published it. But does it seem likely? Would Sterm be moving the way he is if they had? But you have nothing to lose by spelling it out to them. It has to be worth a try.". The apparition in the dark yard next door stopped squealing, but in a silence as disconcerting as the cries." I've talked to shrinks. They're all crazy. How do they know whether I know me or not? Do you know how your head works inside?" Anita shook it in a way that said she didn't care all that much either. Colman's scowl deepened, more from frustration at a promise that was beginning to evaporate than from disapproval of something that wasn't his business. "Then how do you expect a pill to figure it out?". "I don't think it ever did. What I was afraid of was in my own head. None of it was out there." She took in the sight of her husband-his arms tanned and strong against the white of the casual shirt that he was wearing, his face younger, more at ease, but more self-assured than she could remember seeing for a long time-propped loosely but confidently against the frame of the door, and she smiled. "Kalens may have to hide himself away in a shell," she said. "I don't need mine anymore." NOAH FARREL WAS SITTING in his parked Chevy, minding someone else's business, when the As a temporary barracks for the military force based on the surface, the Chironians had made available a recently completed complex of buildings designed as a school, which was intended for occupation later as Canaveral City expanded. It comprised a main administrative and social block, which the Army was using mainly for administrative and social purposes; an assortment of teaching and residential blocks, most of which were being used for billeting the troops, with part of one serving as a Detention Wing; a gymnasium and sports center which had become the stores, armory, and motor pool; and a communal dining hall which was left unaltered..about a confrontation, and if what Pernak was beginning to glimpse of the Chironians was anything to go by, then that faction might well be in for some nasty surprises. That didn't worry Pernak so much as the thought that a lot of people stood to get hurt in the process. Knowing what he now knew, he felt he couldn't allow himself just to sit by on the sidelines and leave things to take such a course.. Celia managed a smile. Sirocco had seen no reason to mention to the troops her part in the Howard Kalens affair and had told them simply that the object of the exercise was to broadcast some new facts which would be enough to put an end to Sterm. "Fm not sure what Fm supposed to say," she told Hanlon. "I'll never be able to thank you both enough. I think I'm beginning to see a whole new world of people that I never imagined existed.". "Haven't you ever stopped and looked around, Michelina Bell-song? Life. It's one long comedy.". Utah night, four feet above the highway.. Leilani said, "This is great potato salad, Mrs. D.". 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?". "No, of course not," Fallows said, not very happily.'. "Not interested?" without muscle definition? immense, smooth, pink. As if to provide the illusion of height and to balance crater on the moon.. "Some things were said tonight, some other things suggested." "I wish you'd never heard them."."Fifty?"."Therefore?Micky."."I'm not sure," Kalens replied distantly. Trying to elucidate Sterm's motives is akin to peeling an onion. But when you think it through, if there's no resistance, we win automatically, and if there is, then the Chironians will be forced to make the first moves, which gives us both a free hand to respond and a clear-cut justification that will satisfy our own people . . . which' is doubly important with the elections coming up. So really you have to agree, John, the scheme does have considerable merit.".Some people present hadn't been there five years before but had arrived with the EAF starship, and others with the European mission that

had reached Alpha Centauri a year later. They had called themselves Chinese, Indians, Japanese, and Indonesians then, or Russian, German, French, Spaniard, Italian. . . but now they were all simply Chironians. They too had come to see that the old society could never have transformed itself into a culture that was appropriate to high technology, limitless resources, and universal abundance; it had inherited too much that was self-destructive from its past. The new society, could only have risen in the way that it had-isolated by light-years of space and by its unique beginnings from the mechanisms that had perpetuated the creeds of hatred, prejudice, greed, intimidation, domination, and unreason from generation to generation..mutant.".With an earnestness that could be achieved only by a boy-man with a wispy goatee and the conviction.The roar of the long barrage has left his ears ringing. Yet in the aftermath, Curtis is able to hear people are tall, made taller by their Stetsons. Both wear their blue jeans tucked into their cowboy boots..entrance..She felt helpless, and she needed to keep her hands busy, because if her hands weren't occupied, her.Little snot, Jay thought to himself and turned the page. The next section of the book began with a diagram of the Centauri system which emphasized its two main binary components in their mutual eighty-year orbit, and contained insets of their planetary companions as reported originally by the instruments of the Kuan-vin and confirmed subsequently by the Chironians. Beneath the main diagram were pictures of the spectra of the Sunlike Alpha G2v primary with numerous metallic lines; the cooler, K type-orange Beta Centauri secondary with the blue end of its continuum weakened and absorption bands of molecular radicals beginning to appear; and MSe, orange-red Proxima Centauri with heavy absorption in the violet and prominent CO, CH, and TiO bands..was.". Hesitantly, he eases open the driver's door and slips out of the SUV. onto the bed of the transport. With the coils of his soul exposed for all to see, the bagman, sans bag, swaggered toward the front of Extracting the cheese tray from the refrigerator, Micky said, "Are you cooking for a cellblock full of."Oh, little mouse, what's wrong with me that I let the child go back there?". In the end Kalens rallied everybody to a consensus with a proposal to formally declare a Terran enclave within Canaveral City, delimited by a clear boundary inside which Terran law would be proclaimed and enforced. The Iberia proposal would require months, he told Lechat, whereas the immediate issue to be resolved was that of Terran security. In any case, it could hardly be carried out without an electoral mandate. The enclave would preserve intact a functioning and internally consistent community which could be transplanted at some later date if the electoral results so directed, and 'therefore represented as much of a step in the direction that Lechat was advocating as could be realistically expected for the time being. Lechat was forced to agree up to a point and felt himself obliged to go along. Old Yeller remains at the door, nose to the crack, but she's no longer sniffing noisily. She's in stealth. Being among people is helpful, too. A crowd distracts the enemy? not much but sometimes enough to already be dead ... arrive at a destination, but will race perpetually through alternating stretches of moon-dazzled meadow. Lechat looked thoughtfully at his plate while he finished chewing a mouthful of food. "You make them all sound like millionaires," he commented..here, imaginary goblins bad eaten her as neatly as a duchess might eat pudding with a spoon. Currently Freshening her own coffee, Geneva said, "I don't find Big Bird very scary, dear, just unnerving." Curtis quickly feels his way past the sink, past the stacked washer and dryer, to a tall narrow door. A.Perhaps the girl mistakenly believed that every secret of her soul was written on her features, or perhaps. The boy promises himself that public toileting is a behavior he will never adopt, regardless of how wild terror, wails of anguish. The most piercing squeals seem less like human sounds than like the panicked."You shouldn't stray from right here, son. There's all kinds of people in the world, and some you don't."A nice sentiment, I agree," Kalens said. "But they still should be taught some manners."."I guess you have to learn moderation in this place," Stanislau remarked, studying his half-emptied glass of dark, frothy Chironian beer. He shook his head slowly. "You know, this sounds crazy but sometimes I wish they would make us pay for it.".stands on the ridge line, the sky is too dark to reveal him in silhouette..LEIGHTON MERRICK FORMED his fingers into a fluted column to support the Gothic arch of his brows down at the desk while he chose his words. "Ah, I've been looking over your record, Fallows," he looked up. "It shows a consistent attention to detail that is very pronounced . . . everything thorough and complete, and properly documented. It's commendable, very commendable . . . the kind of thing we could do with more of in the Service." biggest prize hog ever judged couldn't have weighed a fraction of the tonnage at which this behemoth tips.icals are among its major products, as well as electricity." "Who operates it?" Marcia Quarrey asked..because too much in life was exactly what it seemed to be: dull, insipid, juvenile, and immature. Like her.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 wore the full-length embroidered slip with flounce-trimmed skirt that she had bought last month at a flea. This evening, he didn't doze, and after a while his mind began to brim once more with unwanted. Although Jean felt sympathy for the soldier, the course that Kalens seemed to be advocating, with its prospect of more trouble and, inevitably, more killing, worried her even more. Why did it always have to be like this? she asked herself. All she wanted was to feel comfortable and secure, and to watch her children grow up to become decent, respectable, responsible adults who would weave themselves into the reassuring cocoon of familiarity around her-as much for their own future well-being as for hers. That much was hers to expect as her due because she had made sacrifices to earn it. It threatened nobody. So why should other people's squabbles which were not of her making now threaten her with sweeping it all away?.Bantam Books are published by

Bantam Books, a division of Random House, Inc. Its trademark, "I know what you think and why. You think Dr. Doom diddles little girls, because that's what experience. The boy watches through the glass door and the windows as the hostess greets the trucker and escorts. "A payoff from your husband, ten thousand bucks, offered by one of his flunkies.".11 as a kid by an uncle who had died fifteen years into the voyage from a heart condition, but that was about all..BVG 10 9 8 7 6 5 4 3 2 1.that hope, that love and goodness?it's still inside you. No one can take the gifts God gave you. Only."Maybe you should try looking at it their way," Colman said.. The bulkhead door at the far end of the catwalk was open, and some tools were lying in front of an opened switchbox nearby. Colman went through the door into the pump compartment and emerged onto a railed platform part way up one side of a tall bay extending upward and below, divided into levels of girders and struts with one of the huge pumps and its attendant equipment per level. On the level below him, a group of engineers and riggers was working on one of the pumps. They had removed one of the end-casings and dismantled the bearing assembly, and were attaching slings from an overhead gantry in preparation for withdrawing the rotor. Colman leaned on the rail to watch for a few moments, nodding to himself in silent approval as he noted the slings and safety lines correctly tensioned at the fight angles, the chocks wedging the rotor to avoid trapped hands, the parts laid out in order well clear of the working area, and the exposed bearing surfaces protected by padding from damage by dropped tools. He liked watching professionals. Ten minutes later, in the privacy of the small armory at the back of the Orderly Room, Colman had told Sirocco as much as he had learned from Jay, and as much as was necessary about Celia and Veronica. Sirocco had informed Colman and Hanlon that Stormbel had seized command of the Army and was backing Sterm, and that Sterm appeared to be holding together the bulk of what Was left of the Army by appealing to fears among the senior officers that the assassination of Kalens might represent a new general threat from the Chironians..In spite of a free-spirited tendency to be unrestrained in all things, Sinsemilla had thus far restricted her. Bernard wasn't getting through, he could see. "Take Kath as an example," he said, turning toward Nanook. "A lot of people around here seem to accept her as... boss,."Oh, so it's trouble them fellas is looking for, is it?" a voice with just a hint :of an Irish brogue asked softly from the doorway. Bret Hanlon was leaning casually against one of the doorposts, blue eyes glinting icily. His huge shoulders seeming almost to reach the other side of the door. He looked completely relaxed and at ease, but Colman registered his weight carded well forward on the balls of his feet and his fingers flexing inconspicuously down by his hip. The two corporals glanced at each other apprehensively. Hanlon's appearance altered the odds a bit. Padawski was looking uncertain, but at the same time didn't seem willing to back off ignominiously. For a few seconds that dragged like minutes, the charge in the room crackled at flashpoint. Nobody moved.."That may be, but it's beside the point that I was trying to make," Merrick said. "Surely you're not condoning the rule by mobocracy that substitutes for law among these people. Are you saying we should expose our own population to the prospect of being shot down in the Street by anyone who happens to take a dislike to them?'.to The Amber Spyglass, are never eviscerated, decapitated, torn limb from limb, and immolated?which.By this time the capsule had entered the Jersey module and began slowing as it neared the destination Jay had selected. The machine shops and other facilities available for public use were located on the near side of the main production and manufacturing areas, and Jay led the way past administrative offices and along galleries through noisy surroundings that smelled of oil and hot metal to a set of large, steel double-doors. A smaller side door brought them to a check in counter topped by a glass partition behind which the attendant and a watchman were playing cribbage across a scratched and battered metal desk. The attendant stood and shuffled over when Jay and Pernak appeared, and Jay presented a school pass which entitled him to free use of the facilities. The attendant inserted the pass into a terminal, then returned it with a token to be used for drawing tools from the storekeeper inside..really want to talk about? And I'm? what?? supposed to guess the true subject?"."Except for the shooting.".This time, Micky resisted being charmed. "That's not funny, Leilani." but scoping the audience was a mistake. Micky stood at the bottom of the steps, and Mrs. D stood enough to drink ought to be ashamed..twenty-eight, but who sometimes felt ancient.."Cromwell knows everything," Amy declared from her perch. "Cromwell, are those soldiers carrying Terran M32 assault cannon, or are they M30s?". The facilities are extensive and fascinating, featuring seven stalls, a bank of five urinals from which arises. "How long have you been living with Mrs. D?". "Have you made your mind up about Sterm?" Cells asked...A tire blows, the trailer bounces, the stacks bark as loud as a mortar lobbing hundred-millimeter rounds.theatrical voice: "Pray ye, say who knocketh upon my chamber door.".maintenance ladders, and catwalks. There was no other way through or round the bulkhead. The only route forward from the Hexagon was through the lock, understand what he's done to offend and can't imagine how to get himself admitted to her good graces. Next, the man grins at his reflection. This is not an amusing grin. Even viewed in profile, it's an. "You know what he's got that's better than money?".though not as deep as coma. She'd probably lie limp and unresponsive until late morning..Micky said, "He abandoned my mother and me when I was three."."No. My father just wants to see the gore.".She wasn't sure whether she should be relieved or anxious when her mother called out to her in a fruity." I know all the bemuses. No need to list them." .EPILOGUE.clouded toward a more troubled shade of blue..we're proud of them.".found..mutant." "Dinner's ready," Geneva announced. "Cold salads and sandwich fixings. Not very fancy, but.eyes, a flash of teeth in the hooded beam of light. He almost cries out in alarm.."You don't sound like a guy who wants to be friends."."Abaht ten minutes," the steward said. "I'm supposed ter collect it next door any time nah." In the background, one of the soldiers was stripping off his blouse and unbuckling his belt., Colman stared hard at him for a few seconds. "What do you think you'd get out of it?" he asked.." I try," Geneva said, "but my mind spins around it till I feel like something inside my head's going to fly.

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