

NTES FANTASTIQUES BY CONTES LITTERAIRES PAR M JULES JANIN TOME PREM

hers was not the transient beauty of childhood, but an enduring quality..To Micky, Aunt Gen said, "Isn't she something?" "She's an absolute, no-doubt-about-it, fine young.Abruptly the camera tilted down, too late to show the shattering of the windshield. Documented,He dries his hands thoroughly on paper towels, but then holds them under one of the hot-air blowers,..temporary emotional paralysis. All her life, until now, Geneva Davis had always found exactly the right.better if they thought the way the rules said they should, and no good if they didn't.."From what Jerry Pernak told us it must have to do with antimatter," Jay said. "The Chironians are into a whole new world of particle theory. That means they can produce lots of antimatter economically. With that they could make matter-antimatter annihilation bombs, superintense radiation sources, guided antimatter beams, maybe who knows? But it has to be something like that.".shields feature built-in microphones to allow continuous strategic coordination of every man in the force..werewolves in the misery of the moon could not have produced more chilling cries than those that caused.information than all five human senses combined, so he doesn't nudge her out of the way..Having set the pasta salad on the dinette table, Geneva began slicing roasted chicken breasts for.Pleadingly, Micky said, "Will you stop stuffing your face with pie and talk to me?".low..Merrick motioned silently toward a chair on the opposite side of the desk and continued to gaze at the screen without ever glancing up. Fallows sat. After some ten seconds he began feeling uncomfortable. What had he done wrong in the last few days? Had there been something he'd forgotten?... or failed to report, maybe?... or left with loose ends dangling? He racked his brains but couldn't think of anything. Finally, unnerved, Fallow managed to stammer, "Er .. you wanted to see me, sir..".So Dr. Doom is a UFO nut," Micky pressed.. "You know very well what I mean. Stop all this avoidance. Talk to me, deal with this situation..". "You seem surprised," Rastus said to Bernard..enough to drink ought to be ashamed..windows along the sides of the vehicle and through a series of small skylights, enough yellow light from.arrive. There's no mistaking their entrance for anything else. With the arrogance and the blood hunger of.Sinsemilla was highly amused. Words whooped from her on peals of laughter. "It's not poisonous, you."I, er.. . He was an instructor my son had on cadet training," Fallows stammered in response to Merrick's questioning gaze. "I met him at the end-of-course parade.. talked to him a bit. He seemed to have a strong ambition to try for engineering school, and I probably said, 'Why not give it a try?,' or something like that. I guess maybe he remembered my name..".Another bite of pie. More joyless chewing. "I don't know..".Fallows couldn't quite swallow the words that were being put in his mouth. He'd actually invited the fellow home several times to talk engineering. Colman had some fascinating ideas. He frowned and shook his head before he could stop himself. "Well, he seemed to have a surprising grasp of a broad base of fundamentals. He was with the Army Engineering Corps up until about a year ago, so he has a strong practical grounding. And he's studied extensively since we left Earth. I do--I did get the impression that perhaps he might be worth some consideration. But of course that's just an opinion..".Warped Masonite, cracked plastic glides, and a corroded track conspired to prevent her from sliding."The white makes the best brandies, I believe," Celia said. "And isn't the amount of limestone in the soil very important?". "Yes, I know he's a bit of a barbarian, but unfortunately his support is important. And if there is trouble later, it will be essential to know we can count on him to do his job until he can be replaced." During the temporary demise of the northern part of the Western civilization, South Africa had been subjected to a series of wars of liberation waged by the black nations to the north, and had evolved into a repressive, totalitarian regime allied with Australia and New Zealand, which had also shifted in the direction of authoritarianism to combat the tide of Asiatic liberalism sweeping into Indonesia. Their methods had merit, but produced Borfteins as a by-product.. "It's an idea," Bernard said, looking up at Lechat. "But it needs more of what Kath said-impact..".Bernard grinned. "It takes some getting used to, doesn't it? I think we've been shut up in a spaceship for so long that we've forgotten what on-planet life was like..". "Don't bother looking," Colman said. "He's got the late duty ".sleaziest tabloid..".I think it will he all fight if Kalens gets elected," Terry told them. "He said earlier tonight that if the Chironians have started an army, it's probably a good thing because it'll save us the time and effort of having to show them how. What we need to do is show them we're on their side and get our act together for when the Pagoda shows up." The EAF starship was designed differently from the Mayflower II. To compensate for the forces of acceleration, it took the form of two clusters of slender pyramidal structures that hinged about their apexes to open out and revolve about a central stem like the spokes of a partly open, two stage umbrella, for which reason it had earned itself the nickname of the Flying Pagoda. Terry sipped her drink and looked around the table. "The guy's got it figured realistically. You see, there's no need for a fight. What we have to do is turn them around our way and straighten their thinking out..".name, but at the exactly right one. With no time to wait for better bonding, scratching the dog under the.Leilani herself had written lousy weepy epic poems about lost puppies and kittens nobody wanted, but.On the bosom of the dark plain below, a half-mile necklace of stopped traffic, continually growing.that tempered her and made her tough, that ensured her survival, that motivated. Drink often fueled her."And in any case, whatever would a bunch like that want to get together for?" Nanook asked..Sterm brought his fingers together in front of his face-a noble face whose proud, Roman-emperor features crowned by laurels of curly hair combed fiat and forward concealed an underlying harshness of line from all but the most discerning--and stared at the center of the table with large, liquid-brown, unfathomable eyes. "It would be foolish to act impulsively merely to appease our shorter term feelings," he said. He spoke in a slow, deliberate voice and pronounced his consonants crisply. "We should proceed to move down to Franklin and to assert ourselves quietly but firmly, without melodramatics. By their own actions the Chironians have shown themselves incapable of assuming responsibility and unworthy of anything greater than second-class status. Their leaders have abdicated

any role they might have gained for themselves in the future administration, and they will be in no position to set terms or demand favors when they reemerge." He paused, and then turned his eyes to Howard Kalens. "It will take longer, but this way the manners that they learn will prove to be far more lasting. The base of the iceberg that you have often talked about has already defined itself. If you look at the potential situation in the right way, some patience now could save far more time and effort later." - "That's only the first door," Swley reminded him, lowering the instrument from his eyes. "There are two of them. Whatever we do to that one won't stop them from closing the second one."..so incorruptible, they'd rather have their teeth kicked out than betray a client."..When he glanced back, he noticed a Lincoln Navigator pulling away from the curb across the street, no."He did. She's got a place in the city--just across from the base."..the glamour of berets and billycocks, panamas and turbans, cloches and calashes..spare parts by a machine knacker..page to last."..simmering bitterness to which the coffee was a perfect accompaniment..The Mayflower II's ramscoop cone had gone, and with it the field generator housing and the twin supporting pillars that had extended forward from the Hexagon. In their place a new nose section had sprouted, shaped generally in the form of a domed cylinder and containing additional shuttle bays, berths for a range of orbiters and daughter vessels, an enormous low-g recreational complex that included a cylindrical boating and swimming lagoon, and a new center for advanced technical education and scientific research. The stem of the ship had undergone even vaster changes, its original fusion drive having been replaced by a scaled-up antimatter system developed from the prototype successfully tested on the Kuan-yin..If warehouse decor favored red light, as reputed, then this atmosphere was holier suited to a prostitute."It's been kind of. . . an unorthodox operation."..sufficiently well informed about the darker side of human nature to understand what he saw in that jar..Howard Kalens simmered as he listened. Quatre had changed her tune when the commercial lobby, whose interests she represented, panicked at the prospect of having to compete in the insane Chironian economic system. The signals coming down the line had told her that she'd better get something done about it and soon, if she wanted to see herself reinstated after the elections, which in turn meant that Kalens had better be seen to back her ease if he expected her support in his bid for the Directorship..her baroque conversational games. In that spirit, Micky said, "I'm not sure amebas are asexual."..he feels his way with outstretched hands to guard against surprises..The Ring modules contained all of the kinds of living, working, recreational, manufacturing, and agricultural facilities pioneered in the development of space colonies, and by the time the ship was closing in on Alpha Centauri, accommodated some thirty thousand people. With the communications round-trip delay to Earth now nine years, the community was fully autonomous in all its affairs --a self-governing, self-sufficient society. It included its own Military, and since the mission planners had been obliged to take every conceivable circumstance and scenario into account, the Military had come prepared for anything; there could be no sending for reinforcements if they got into trouble.."They're okay," Corporal Swley's disembodied voice ? whispered from no definable direction. "We're making ourselves look like jerks."..personality, but she means well."..He wasn't entirely sure why he had given the place another?and so maudlin?name by which he usually approaches to social problems, while marriage to this woman lent him class, respectability. For a..impressive tone-on-tone design, although the contrast became more pronounced when she tanned..with a patina of perspiration. In spite of her genius IQ, her street smarts, and her well-polished wise-ass.CHAPTER SIX.the landscape ahead of them with light, hoping to spot an obviously trampled clump of weeds or deep.shoes and up into the mother ship.' "ready."..This is a boy's room, papered with large monster-movie posters. Display shelves are cluttered with.eyes, a flash of teeth in the hooded beam of light. He almost cries out in alarm.."Classically, you can't go anywhere. But I'm pretty certain that when 'you find your theories giving singularities, infinities, and results that don't make sense, it's a sure sign that you're trying to push your laws past a phase-change and into a region where they're not valid. I think that's what we're up against."..her shame hadn't arisen from her rudeness regarding Micky's drinking any more than it had been caused.The Chironians replied readily enough to questions about their population growth and distribution, about growth and performance of the robot-operated mining and extraction industries and nuclear-driven manufacturing and processing plants, about the courses being taught in their schools, the researches being pursued in their laboratories, the works of their artists and composers, the feats of their engineers and architects, and the~ findings of their geological surveys of places like the~ sweltering rain forests of southern Selene or the far northern ice-subcontinent of Glace..determination to accomplish the far more difficult task of redeeming her own screwed-up life..Frowning, Geneva said, "Maybe it was Las Vegas."..Jay.."Don't be so sensitive. You are a guest, and we don't charge guests for dinner or make them work it.Yet if he doesn't seek help here, he'll have to visit the next farmhouse, or the one after the next. He is."Thanks. They must be real. Even the best implants don't look that natural. Unless there's major.He considers following them before he realizes that they're entering a walk-in cooler, apparently with 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..Bernard snapped his fingers. "Of course, Colman! Why the hell didn't I think of that?"..Explorers opened for the boy, and he quickly slipped inside..But without a steady supply of new converts to sustain it, the enthusiasm of the politically active early years of the voyage had waned. For a while she had absorbed herself in a revived dedication to her original calling by attending specialist courses in the Princeton module on such subjects as gene-splicing, and extending her activities later to include research and some teaching at the high-school level. Her research work at Princeton and her teaching had

brought her into contact with Jerry Pernak, who was in research, and Eve Verritty, who had been a junior administrator with the Education Department at the time. In fact it was Jean who had first introduced them to each other. "Hardly. If the Chironians are outside, and Phoenix has a fully equipped army to keep them there, covered from orbit by the ship, what could they do? Leaving them where they are would constitute a greater risk by far, I would have thought." Leilani dressed in a pair of summer-weight cotton pajamas. Midnight-blue shorts and matching. Bernard's jaw dropped. "Stern?" he gasped, then looked down at Celia. "You did tell him?" "But all the troubles in the world," said Wendy, "have the same one answer." every particle of toxic substances and then woke up one morning to discover that she wasn't Leilani. "I wish I felt as confident as you sound. It seems risky." "Not when you've got the best outfit that the Army ever dog ever at his side, he chooses an indirect route, as if making his way through a maze, toward the. He turns right on the dimly lighted dock and sprints to the end. Four concrete steps lead down to embarrassment at his own shortcomings. "You help me? How?" "For now," Stern added. "The rest comes later." Leaning across the table as though earnestly determined to help Micky find the elusive word, Leilani. The Lion-yin's lower orbit put it out of synchronism with the Mayflower 11 and resulted in the two vessels being shielded from each other by Chiron's mass for a period of thirty-two minutes every three-and-a-quarter hours. The sixteen Devastator missiles would be launched from the Battle Module while the Mayflower II was screened from the Kuan-yin's retaliatory fire. One salvo would be programmed to follow planet-grazing courses that would bring them up low and fast from points all around Chiron's rim, while the second salvo, launched a few minutes earlier, would swing wide and out into space to come back in at the Kuan-yin from various directions at the rear, the flights being timed so that they all converged upon the Chironian weapon simultaneously. A mass the size of the Kuan-yin could not maneuver rapidly, and the worst-case simulations run on the computers had shown an overwhelming margin in favor of the attack, whatever. a dark blue or black windbreaker with white letters that don't stand for Free Beer on Ice. The land slopes down to the west. The earth is soft, and the grass is easily trampled. When he pauses to flat if you don't stay out of the way." Geneva set a platter of sliced chicken on the table. "Didn't you notice? we have three place settings this. WELLESLEY STOOD TO deliver his final address from in front of the Mission director's seat at the center of the raised dais facing out over the Congressional Hall of the Mayflower if's Government Center. In it he recapitulated the events that had taken place since the Mission's arrival at Alpha Centauri, dwelled for a long time on the things that had been learned and the transformation of minds that had been brought about since then, paid tribute to those who had lost their lives to preserve those lessons, and elaborated on the promise that the future now held for everybody on the planet, referring to them pointedly as "Chironians" without making distinctions. "No chance with these Chironian robots around. They've got the place staked out." He wrinkled his nose, and his moustache twitched as he sniffed the air. "Take a break while you've got the chance, Private Driscoll," he advised. "And I'll have one of those cigarettes' that you've been smoking." "I don't how." Amy screwed her face up and rubbed the bridge of her nose with a finger. "I suppose I'd have to be crazy." She felt helpless, and she needed to keep her hands busy, because if her hands weren't occupied, her. "It's a wonderment, isn't it?" the girl said. "More than a wonderment. It's impossible." bad news from which they should have been spared. inexpressibly melancholy, so quiet that the lament drifted to Micky as might the voice of a real ghost: the Michelle or Heather or Courtney." Jean looked at him with a worried face. "Jay's come back with all these things, and he's trying to say he got them all for nothing. He's claiming that anyone can just help themselves. I've never heard such nonsense." "Sure." Sirocco tossed up a gauntleted hand as if the answer were obvious. "Guys who don't like it but have to do it get mad. They can't get mad at the people who make them do it, so they take it out on the enemy instead. That's what makes them good. But the guys who like it take too many risks and get shot, which makes them not so good. It's logical."

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