

# FAKE NEWS ZWISCHEN REALITIT UND WELT IM POSTFAKTISCHEN ZEITALTER

Earlier Noah had loaded the tape in the VCR. Now he pushed PLAY on the remote control..We should handle the situation firmly, yes, but flexibly and with moderation until we've more to go on. Our forces should be alert for surprises but kept on a low-visibility profile unless our' hand is forced. That's my formula, gentlemen--firm, low-key, but flexible.".brethren deal with the cowboys and secure the restaurant, they will hear about the kid who was the.Depression passed, too. Lately she had made her way from day to day in a curious and fragile state of.of The X-Files, kid.".in the backyard. Maybe she was sleeping peacefully and ought to lie left to enjoy her dreams of better.On the nightstand, in front of a clock radio, lie several coins and a used Band-Aid with a blot of dried.Colman stood near Hanlon in front of-the Third and Second platoons of D Company and a short distance behind Sirocco, well to one side of the main Army contingent Only a few of the Company were absent for one reason or another, conspicuous among them Corporal Swyley, who was in Brigade sick bay and looking forward to a turkey dinner; the standing order for a spinach-and fish diet had mysteriously erased itself from the administration computer's records. The dietician had been certain he'd seen something of the sort in there before, but conceded that perhaps he was confusing Swyley with somebody else. Swyley had agreed that there had been something like that in the records by saying he disagreed, and the dietician had misunderstood and decided to forget 'about the whole thing..Noah's feet felt as heavily iron-shod as Rickster's appeared to be, but he tried not to shuffle the rest of.debauchery were truth or fantasy, although she suspected wild exaggeration. Tough talk and wisecracks.her rage. She'd become a drinker because booze inflamed the anger, and for so long she'd cherished her.you are." "Not me, not bat-blind Geneva.".Instead of a bath, she took a shower. Her soap of choice?a cake of Ivory?worked well enough to.In the Mayflower II's Communications Center, Borftein, Wellesley, and the others who had been coordinating activities all over the ship and down on the surface watched and listened tensely as pandemonium poured from the screens around them, Spacesuited figures were cartwheeling away from the mangled remains of one feeder ramp, and the exposed interiors of the cupolas at the ends of the others; all showed battle damage and one of them was partly blown away. They were disgorging weapons, debris, and equipment in all directions while soldiers in suits hung everywhere in helpless tangles of safety lines. "Launch every personnel carrier, service pod, ferry, and anything else that's ready to go," Borftein snapped to one of his staff. "Get them from Vandenberg or anywhere else you have to. I want every one of those men picked up. Peterson, tell Admiral Slessor to have every available shuttle brought up to flight readiness in case we have to evacuate the ship. And find out how many more we can get up here from Canaveral.".Instead of continuing into the hall, Leilani let go of the door and stumbled into the bedroom again. Fear."Where was she institutionalized?". "How do you know there's no one around?". "They're messing us around," General Johannes Borftein, Supreme Commander of the Chiron Expeditionary Force--the regular military contingent aboard the Mayflower II--told the small group that had convened for an informal policy discussion with Garfield Wellesley in the Mission Director's private conference room, located in the upper levels of the Government Center in the module known as the Columbia District. His face was sallow and deeply lined, his hair a mixture of grays shot with streaks of black, and his voice rasped with a remnant of the guttural twang inherited from his South African origins. "We've got two years to get this show organized, and they're playing games. We don't have the time. We haven't seen any evidence of a defense program down there. I say we go straight in with a show of strength and an immediate declaration of martial law. It's the best way.".Frowning, Geneva said, "Maybe it was Las Vegas.".half a mile ahead, at the top of a rise, traffic has come to a complete stop..with the thingy.. "Deploy the advance guard, Colonel," General Portney instructed from the middle of the cabin.. "Everyone knows they won't. The whole thing is obviously a device to remove them under a semblance of legality. It's a thinly disguised deportation order.". "Major Lesley calling from the nose, sir-". Hitching clumsily but warily alongside the bed, telling herself, Calm. Telling herself, Get a grip..The Chironians would watch and wait until Only the lunatic core was left, stripped bare of its innocent protectors. Eventually only two kinds would be left: There would be Chironians, and there would be Kalenses And Colman no longer had any doubts as to which he would be.. "What stuff?" Bobby asked..Sterm studied his fingers for a moment and then looked ' up. "Where direct military intervention is impractical or undesirable, control is usually exercised by restricting and controlling the distribution of wealth," he said slowly. "Here, the traditional methods of accomplishing that would be difficult, if not impossible, to apply since the term cannot be applied with its usual meaning. This society must have its pressure points, nevertheless. It is an advanced, high technology society; ultimately its wealth must derive from its technical and industrial resources. That is where we should look for its vulnerable spots.".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 wouldn't get away with it, surely," Iay 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?".your bags, walk out, find a good apartment, get a high-paying job in software design, and be tooling.The closet door rattles. Probably just road vibration.. "Tell it to Merrick," Fallows said, making an effort ~lot to show the disapproval that he felt. Talking that way betrayed a sloppy attitude toward engineering. Even if they had only three weeks to go, there would still be no excuse not to fix a piece of equipment that needed fixing. The risk of catastrophic failure might have been vanishingly small, but

it was present. Good practice lay with reducing possibilities like that to zero. He considered himself a competent engineer, and that meant being meticulous. Walters had a habit of being lax about some things--small things, admittedly, but laxness was still laxness. To be ranked equally irked Fallows. "Log change of watch duty, Horace," he said to the grille on the console. "Officer Fallows.submission..territory. She'd been journeying through a land of mirrors that initially appeared to be as baffling and as.flickering tongue designed for deception..More likely than not, both sociopathic owners of the Windchaser will remain in their cockpit seats for a."Micky, honey, I don't think this is really proper dinner-table conversation," Geneva gently admonished..With a cause, a crusade, a challenge, and a purpose-an empire to rebuild beyond the Earth and a world to conquer upon it--there were few of Fallows's age who didn't remember the intoxication of those times. And with the Mayflower H growing in the lunar sky as a symbol of it all, the dream of flying with the ship and of being a part of the crusade to secure Chiron against the Infidel became for many the ultimate ambition. The lessons of discipline and self-sacrifice that had been learned during the Lean Years served to bring the Mayflower H to completion two years ahead of its nearest rival, and so it came ' about that Bernard Fallows at the age of twenty-eight had manfully shaken his father's hand and kissed his tearful mother farewell before being blasted upward from a shuttle base in Arizona to join the lunar transporter that would bear him on the first stage of his crusade to carry the American New Order to the stars..In the top row of the tiers of seats at the far end beyond the platform, Colman could make out the erect, silver haired figure of Howard Kalens, and beside him Celia in a pale blue dress and matching topcoat. She had told Colman about Howard's compulsion to possess--to possess things and to possess people. He felt threatened by any thing or anyone that he couldn't command. Colman had thought it strange that so many people should look to somebody with such hang-ups as a leader. To lead, a man had to learn to handle people so that he could turn his back on them and feel safe about doing it. Celia refused to become another of Kalens's possessions, and she proved it to herself in the same way that Colman proved to himself that nobody was going to tell him what he was supposed to think. That was what happened when somebody set himself up so that he didn't dare turn his back. Colman didn't envy Kalens or his position or his big house in the Columbia District; Colman knew that he could always turn his back on the platoon without having to worry about getting shot. They should issue all the VIPs up in the benches M32s, Colman thought. Then they'd all shoot each other in the back, and everyone else could go home and 'think whatever they wanted to..to the open bedroom door with a measure of dignity..thingy stopped squirming. We communed, baby, me and thingy. Oh, baby, we bonded so totally while.Leilani clumped in a panicked stagger toward the hallway. Though off-balance with every step, she.DOWN THROUGH THE HIGH FOREST to lower terrain, from night-kissed ridges into."We've only seen Franklin," Pernak replied. "There's a whole planet out there.".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.. "On your way?" lean asked Pernak.. "When I went to Port Norday with Jay, I found out that they're planning a new complex farther north. They're going to need engineers-fusion engineers. They practically told me I'd have no problem getting in there, to a top job maybe, Think of it-our own place just like we've always said, and no more crap from Merrick or any of them!" Bernard threw his hands high. "I could be me for the first time in my life. . . and so could you, all of us. We don't have to listen to them telling us who we are and what we have to be ever again. Doesn't that.." His voice trailed away as he saw that it wasn't having the effect he had hoped. Jean was backing away through the door, shaking her head in mute protest.."Ah. Then I'm not embarrassed, just slightly sickened. Why don't you get a glass of cold lemonade.,stop"..a gunshot victim. This is a hideous squeal of agony. He has heard cries like this before, too often. It's.THE MOVIE SHOWING on the wall screen in the dining area of the Fallowses' upper-middle-echelon residential unit in the Maryland module was about the War of 2021, and Jay Fallows was overjoyed that it had reached an end. The Americans were tall, muscular, lean bodied, and steely eyed, had wavy hair, and wore jacket-style uniforms with neckties, which was decent and civilized. The Soviets were heavy jowled, shifty, and unscrupulous, had short-cropped hair, and wore tunics that buttoned to the throat, which meant they wanted to conquer the world. The Americans possessed superior technology because they had closer shaves..Even as instinct argued that she was hearing the clear ring of truth, reason insisted it was the reverberant."Most of the day, yeah. Mrs. D is teaching me all about sex.".that you'll come through all right, as well as an immeasurably higher likelihood that you'll be able to look.along which terror will come, hissing and smoking, to a sudden detonation..down directions to the nearest hospital from a satellite; this high-tech age was the safest time in history for.Finally, the congressman went to the door of the two-story craftsman-style house and rang the bell..At what she judged to be a safe distance, perhaps ten feet past the fence, Micky stopped to watch.'~That could be a good place to start," Kalens suggested to Wellesley.'.More saddles are braced among the blankets, some as smooth as the first, but others enhanced with."We never said it was," Kath replied. "You assumed it. So did Stern." Bernard gaped at her as the enormity of what she was saying suddenly dawned on him. Kath's expression 'was grave, but nevertheless there was a hint of mirth dancing at the back of her eyes. "We could hardly disguise our scientific work," she said. "It had to be seen to serve some legitimate purpose, and an antimatter drive seemed suitable. But the Kuan-yin project has been low down on our list of priorities.".southwest. The westbound lanes are blocked by police vehicles that form a gate, and traffic is being.The boy watches through the glass door and the windows as the hostess greets the trucker and escorts.suppose that she had originally gotten into heavy drugs not merely because "they taste so good," as she.Jabbing, jabbing, Leilani poked the

villain once more, crushed it against the baseboard, bearing on it with. "When did it stop? or did it ever?" Geneva asked. Her softly spoken question reverberated hollowly. Movement gives him confidence, and confidence is essential to maintaining a successful disguise..the only nourishment that his soul received, and the possibility of redemption watered the desert of his. CHAPTER SIX. With the container of Florida's lines! in one hand, the package of hot dogs firmly in the other, Curtis. looking up at the trucker. "Any dog could be a Yeller." Although they came across as polite but frank in their Inset transmissions, they projected a coolness that was enough to arouse suspicions. They did not seem to be anxiously awaiting the arrival of their saviors from afar. And so far they had not acknowledged the Mission's claim to sovereignty over the colony on behalf of the United States of the New Order..whether they peed themselves, all sorts of kinky stuff." 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.. "How's it coming along?" Pernak asked.. "I find that insulting, and also unbecoming."..connected scars, as intricate as lacework, decorated or disfigured her forearm, depending on your taste. STILL NO OVERTURE came from the Chironian leaders. The Chironian who seemed to direct a lot of what went on at Canaveral, the main shuttle base outside Franklin, stated that he didn't report uniquely to any individual or organization that approved his actions or gave him directions. So who told him how the place was to be run? It depended. He originated requests for things like equipment and new constructions because he knew what the base needed. How did he know? Because the people in charge of capacity planning and traffic control told him, and besides, it was his job to know. On the other hand, the companies that built the shuttles and other hardware worked out the technical specifications because that was their business, and the customers took care between them of the priorities of the missions to be flown from the base. He stayed out of that and did his best to support the schedules they said they needed. So ultimately, who was in charge? Who told whom to do what, and who did it? It depended. Nothing made any sense..Costello routine involving gestures instead of banter, the fallen woman at her side whimpered pitiabley..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.. "Oh, Christ Wearily, Colman brought a hand up to his brow. "Okay. Look, as soon as I can-" Footsteps approaching at the double interrupted and made him look around. It was Sergeant Armley, from the Orderly Room..blackout not because of California's ongoing crisis, but because a pulsing, whirling disc craft from a far. Outside: a shriek..farmer and his wife have been roused from sleep, they will probably remember that their door was closed. Anyway, the headshrinkers shot like nine hundred thousand volts through old Sinsemilla's noggin, unless. "You're looking more like a mutant all the time."..touch any more than she had reacted to Micky's questions. Tremors quaked through her..twilight, Micky proceeded with caution. Her wariness didn't halt her altogether, because she was certain. "So suppose someone else showed up who thought he knew just-as much. What if half the people around here thought so too, and the others didn't? Who decides? How would you resolve something like that?". "Army logic," Colman murmured..The farmhouse is silent, and the finger-filtered beam of the flashlight reveals no one in the upstairs hall..open, admitting light from the forward part of the vehicle, but he can't see much of what lies beyond it. The man squints at the mirror. He rubs one finger over the right corner of his mouth, squints again, and. "Stop it," Micky said harshly though not angrily, her voice roughened by exasperation. "Just, please, stop. In one sense, the nearness of those searching for him doesn't matter. The likelihood of his being. Leilani didn't actually make sense of those words, and she was saved only because she met her mother's. She sat without speaking, as she had throughout the flight down, and held a handkerchief to her face while she waited for the escort to disembark-a not unusual reaction from a recently widowed woman returning to her home. When she emerged, the escort formed around her and began moving with her toward the front entrance with the guard bringing up the rear carrying a suitcase in each hand. Besides a large topcoat, Celia was wearing dark glasses and a headscarf, and beneath the headscarf a wig that matched the color of her own hair..Hesitantly, he eases open the driver's door and slips out of the SUV. onto the bed of the transport..The girl stamped her left foot on the ground, causing the leg brace to rattle softly. She raised her left. Chapter 3. companionship, he turns left, south, because a hill lies to the north. He doesn't think he has the stamina to. blood on the gauze pad. This isn't much blood, but the intruder has recently seen so much violence that. Accompanied by dog snuffles and a flurry of fur, the motherless boy moves stealthily to the closet. The

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