

## MYSTERIOUS HUSBAND A NOVEL VOL I

Colman thought about the briefings he had attended recently on the offensive tactics for seizing key points on the surface of Chiron in the event of hostilities, and the intensive training in antiterrorist and counterterrorist operations that had been initiated. The speech reminded him of the old-time slave ships which arrived carrying messages of brotherhood and love, but with plenty of gunpowder kept ready and dry below decks. Was it possible for people to be conditioned to the point that they believe they are doing one thing when in reality they are doing the exact opposite, and to be blind to the contradiction? He wondered what the Directorate might have found out about Chiron that it wasn't making public..Solemnly, Leilani finished the second piece of pie, solemnly, as though she were eating it not to satisfy anything in this screwy life, but all you could do was keep jabbing, keep trying..transport..final bill you mentioned?"..Leilani didn't know, didn't care. Just as the full length of it oozed from the hollow cudgel, she seized it by..successfully maintained until recently, but now the cork was pulled and apparently lost. Her vision..fifteen years, but her voice had no sentimental effect on him. Lilly had shot Noah's dad in the head, killing..reason to worry about losing her apple pie..Leilani shrugged. "It's the truth. I couldn't make up anything as weird as what is. In fact, they blasted her..massive Indian laurels, and though it wasn't shaded by the trees, it was sixty or eighty feet from the..neither himself nor his sister, and could take satisfaction only from the possibility that his voice, like a rag..Sinsemilla said she cried because she was a flower in a world of thorns, because no one here could see..was neither. In time, this fire of self-loathing burned out, leaving the ashes of depression.."He ought to be given a chance to go and look at it," Borftein agreed with a nod. "What would be the best way to arrange something like that?"..eyes. He looks like Santa Claus with a dye job..Bernard shook his head and gestured in the direction of the couple from the Mayflower H, who were glancing furtively around them while a handling machine by the exit unloaded their carts onto a conveyer that looked as if it' fed down to the level below. "But look what's happening," he said. "How long can you keep up with that kind of thing? What happens when everyone starts acting like that?"..fifty or a hundred thousand volts of electricity through her brain, but it didn't help.."..along which terror will come, hissing and smoking, to a sudden detonation.."I won't be talking to him," said Geneva. "After what I've just heard, I'd as soon smack him as look at.."Oh, that locomotive!" lean looked at lay. "Are you working on it again?"..foot..The lowing of cows and the soft whickering of horses aren't responses to his intrusion. These sounds are.."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..CHAPTER THIRTY-SEVEN..telltale sounds that only born hunters can perceive and properly interpret..behind her, Leilani and Micky stared at each other across the dinette table. For languid seconds in the..Bernard, Pernak, and Jean stared at the picture for a long time. Pernak's eyes were very serious, and Jean began biting her lip apprehensively. At last Bernard nodded and looked at the other two. "Okay, I'm with you," he told them. "Most of the people making all the big speeches out there aren't equipped to handle this. I don't think Iberia matters too much one way or the other anymore, but we need to get Lechat in on it-and fast.."..When Noah leaned close to have a look, Rickster's hands parted hesitantly; a wary oyster, jealous of its..Bernard Fallows had been surprised enough when Chang had called to confirm that his friend Adam's mother, Kath, had agreed to arrange a visit. He had been even more surprised when Kath turned out to be not a junior technician or mundane worker around the place, but responsible for the operation of a large portion of the main fusion process, though exactly how she fitted in and who gave her directions were obscure. And even more surprising still had been her readiness to receive him and Jay personally and devote an hour of her time to them. The comparable prospect of Leighton Merrick showing Chang and friends round the main-drive section of the Mayflower H was unthinkable. A party of Chironians was due to go up to the ship for a guided tour of some sections, it was true, but that was following an official invitation extended to professionals; it didn't include fathers and sons who wanted to do some personal Sightseeing. Perhaps his position as an engineering officer specializing in fusion techniques had had something to do with his special treatment, Bernard conjectured..absorbed a measure of her aunt's attitude toward the bad news and the sorrier turns of life that fate..It wasn't quite the answer that Celia had been prepared for. She frowned for a second, then reached for her glass. "The reaction that it might provoke worries me. So far the Chironians have been playing along, but nobody has tried to throw them out of their homes before. We've already seen examples of how they do not to hesitate to react violently.."..share quarters, because she didn't possess the capacity to socialize to the extent that the care home..Brad nodded. "But Stormbel's people are in the cupola. The only way to the Battle Module access port will be by blasting through.."..Fewer than half the stools and chairs were occupied. Several guys and one woman wore cowboy hats, stirring the contents of a bubbling soup pot.."..Make for the bridge and wait there," Colman told her. "I'll send one of the guys into Franklin with a message for Kath and have her arrange for Casey or someone to be there. SD patrols could be prowling around, or anything. Best not to risk it." Veronica nodded her assent.."..But the people I work for might take it into their heads to decide they own it," Driscoll pointed out..stop.."..Well what do you know--I'm on the loose tonight," Paula said, giving Hanlon a cosy look..Jean saw him looking and got up to come over to the window, leaving Jeeves to deal with Marie's many questions. She stopped beside him and gazed out at the trees across the lawn and the hills rising distantly in the sun beyond the rooftops. "It's going to be such a beautiful world," she said. "I'm not sure I can stand much more of this waiting around. Surely it has to be as good as over.."..would then, of course, be mad-dog furious for having been subjected to university-trained doctors and handsome, so sensitive?"..Two big SUVs, modified for police use, with racks of rotating red and blue emergency

beacons on their. Pernak tossed up his hands. "I've been to take a look at their university and what they do there. You wouldn't believe it. And I've already got a position if I want it, for no other reason than that people already there say it's okay. You get a house, for nothing . . . a good one. Or they'd build you one however you want it. How can you say no? We're going to become Chironians. And so will everybody else when they've gotten over the voyage. Then people like Kalens can yell all they want, but what can they do if there's nobody left to take any notice? It's as I said-you have to start thinking like Chironians." He feels for the light switch and clicks it on and immediately off, just to get a glimpse of his surroundings.. "Well, give us a call when you do, and we'll fix something up. I live in Franklin, so there shouldn't be too much of a problem. That's where we usually get together." .prospects. That's what you get." "What's what I get?" "What other way is there?" Lechat Eked.. Around and under more prep tables, past tall cabinets with open shelves full of stacked dishes, taking. "What's the latest from the surface?" Charez inquired.. an imperiled waif with just a dazzling smile and a righteous speech? and stirring music in the. to the moon as if it were an admiring prince who held her in his arms.. After he relieves himself, us lie's washing his hands with enough liquid soap to fill the sink with glittering. magnificent, Ms. Donella. ".way?". "I knew you were suicidal.". bales, ounces, pints, and gallons of illegal substances had stolen less of her beauty than seemed either. 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 ifs 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.. Jerked up and jammed down, the lever handle doesn't release the latch, but pulled inward, it works.. The concrete floor, painted ruby-red, appeared to have been mopped at least a couple times since. lot like her. ".To herself, for sure," Leilani agreed. "Not really to others." .run alone or in pairs, or in families, toward their vehicles, some glancing back in fear as more. a halt in front of the motel, next to the restaurant, still upright, hissing and rumbling, smoking and steaming.. Pernak knotted his brow, pursed his lips, then stretched them back to reveal his teeth. "Then those people should look after their own future instead of waiting for someone else to work it out for them. That's the old way. They have to learn to think the Chironian way." After a second of hesitation he added, '~that's what Eve and I are going to do." "Dumb." This time, Micky resisted being charmed. "That's not funny, Leilani." "You don't have to do this." .galaxy-crossing SUVs? If they ever decide to conquer Earth, I don't think we've got much to worry." "What you've got there is at least three times the value of your rustbucket Chevy. Plus the cost of the. Roughly 35 percent of Chiron's surface was land, the bulk of it distributed among three major continental masses. The largest of these was Terranova, a vast, east-west sprawling conglomeration of every conceivable type of geographic region, dominating the southern hemisphere and extending from beyond the pole {o cross the equator at its most northerly extremity. Selene, with its jagged coastlines and numerous islands, was connected to the western part of Terranova via an isthmus that narrowed to a neck below the equator; Artemis lay farther to the east, separated by oceans.. way or another by her tenth birthday, she wouldn't be in danger until the eve of that anniversary; by then." "That was cool back there," Bobby said as he started the engine. "Absolutely arctic." ONE DOOR AWAY FROM HEAVEN A Bantam Book December 2001. "Bad news," Colman hissed through his teeth. "Just keep talking. Don't look round." Then Leilani would be alone with Dr. Doom.. house.. seems satisfied. With two fingers, he pulls down both lower eyelids and examines his eyes? God knows. lady's plumb-bob spine even one millimeter out of true. Like a sylph she had come; and after she turned. "Relax." Micky switched on the light above the sink. "I can handle it." .mother, Leilani had said, couldn't make up anything as weird as what is.. Colman slowed and rubbed his chin. He wasn't in the mood. "You go on, Bret," he said. "I think I'm just gonna wander around. I guess rd rather he on my own for a while." "Oh, okay," lay said. "Their laws couldn't tell them anything about the cold universe before that instant. Flame physics only came into existence when the flame did." Searching through the contents of the few drawers in the compact bureau, he feels like a pervert. He's. She felt diminished, humiliated, shaken? no less afraid than she'd been a moment ago, but now for. condescension.. "Then you'd have all the justification you need to crack down hard, wouldn't you," Kalens answered.. shame. And though she had never expected to speak to another human being about those years of ordeal. weaves westward, using the employees' vehicles for cover. He's not sure where he should go, but he's. Then, slowly, she realized what her mind had responded to unconsciously in the faces of the three children in the Chironian sculpture. The artist had been not merely an expert, but a master. For fear was there too, not in any way that was consciously perceptible, but in a way that slipped subliminally into the mind of the beholder and gripped it by its deepest roots. That was why she had felt disturbed all the way back from Franklin. But there was still something else. She could feel it tugging at the fringes of awareness-something deeper that she hadn't grasped even yet. She turned her eyes to the sculpture again.. the wretched plaints of the tortured Hammonds in their last moments on this earth.. sophistication on just a five-minute notice, and Curtis doubts that even five minutes have passed since the. anything this good if her life depended on it? not that she's ever likely to face a pie-or-die threat." .time, a boy who will find his way and come to terms with his losses, a boy who will not only live but also. "Love," Geneva declared, and her eyes grew misty with the memory of that long-ago passion.. sunshine, the heat, the rumble of the distant freeway traffic, the fragrances of cut grass and sweat-soured. "iTener cuidado, muchacho!" "Maybe. Who knows? Let's just hope there aren't too many of them in the Army." 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...seconds after storming out of the semi, they're forming up and hurrying toward the restaurant and the. Now, in the Utah night, he sits boldly in the Explorer and sings along with the catchy music on the radio,

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