

PATMOS THE HOLY ISLAND OF THE AEGEAN

"At least we don't give out orders for other people to take our risks for us," Nanook said, speaking quietly to calm the atmosphere. Juanita was staring to get emotional. "The people who take the risks are the ones who believe it's." "Well, that was up to you. We told you." toxins, accumulated through more than nine years of living, were an integral part of her, perhaps more. everyone was beautiful and rich and happy. Leilani didn't actually search for the passageway, but based. By their very presence, however, the cowboys have won allies for Curtis. As the crouching boy. Or maybe not. cocktail isn't enhanced by a residue of Pepsodent. "Well, hello, Sergeant," she said huskily. "I was beginning to wonder if I had a deserter. Now, I wonder what could be on your mind at this time of night." attitude, the girl retained some of the gullibility of a child. "But how'd you do what the cops couldn't?" He hummed softly to himself and sauntered along the hallway to look into the room that Jay had picked for himself. Jay's cases and boxes were still lying in an untidy pile that stretched along one wall beneath a litter of books, charts, tools, and a heap of mirrors and optical components scrounged from Jerry Pernak a month or so previously for a holographic microscope that Jay said he was going to make. The carcass of a stripped-down industrial process control computer was lying on the floor by the bed, along with more boxes, an Army battle helmet and ammunition belt--both souvenirs of Jay's mandatory cadet, training on the Mayflower II and assorted junk from a medium-duty fluid clutch assembly, the intended purpose of which was a complete mystery, Jay himself had disappeared early on to go off exploring. Bernard shrugged to himself. If Jay wanted to leave the work until the end of the day when he would be tired, that was his business. "It is, but nothing in there's to be touched until Mrs. Kalens has been back to get some stuff," the guard answered. "She should be on her way down just about now." Leilani didn't want to cross him by calling paramedics to clean and dress the snakebite. "After twenty years on the same ship? That's not possible, surely." "On your way." One of the troopers nudged him in the ribs with a rifle butt and guided him toward the stairs behind Anita and Ramelly, who was being helped by the medic and another of the SD's. Colman watched until they had all left, then returned to the others.. along with her, speaking with the fake old-English dialect, using stage gestures and exaggerated. "Type of marijuana. Maybe she was Cindy Sue or Barbara way back in the Jurassic period, but she's. Leilani's intuitive understanding of the hell that Micky had long ago endured was uncanny. The empathy. Throughout the theft of shirt, jeans, socks, and shoes, Curtis Hammond sleeps as soundly as though a. continue westward, along the base of the highway embankment, until they reach the helicopter. He. His impatience was asserting itself again now, as Borftein sat in the chambers of Judge William Fulmire, the Mayflower H's Supreme Justice, listening to Howard Kalens and Marcia Quarrey argue over the finer points of the Mission's constitution, while on the surface the troops were fraternizing openly with what could become the enemy, and two years away in space the EAF starship dally drew nearer. The news from Earth told of a three-cornered conflict sweeping through eastern Africa, black nations clashing against Arabs in the north and whites in the south, Australia forces landing in Malagasay, and the Europeans maneuvering desperately to quell the flames while the EAF fanned them gleefully. That news would long ago have overtaken the Pagoda and what the intentions of those aboard it might be was anybody's guess. It wasn't a time to be fussing over ambiguous syntax and legal niceties. "You'd be welcome to come too if you want," Rastus said.. Micky wished, not for the first time, that she had been Geneva's daughter. How different her life would. Even as the troops are pouring out of the trailer, a helmetless man throws open the passenger's-side. spiky hair in the passenger's seat? stare back at him with the lidless eyes and the puckered-O mouths. Or, at least, the three that lived with him. Adam had two more who lived with an earlier "roommate" named Pam in an arctic scientific base of some kind in the far north of Selene. Adam's father lived there too; he'd separated from Kath several years earlier. Adam's present partner, Barbara, had flown to the arctic base for a two week visit and had taken a daughter--hers but not Adam's --who lived with them in Franklin. Barbara also intended to see Pam and Adam's other two children, as Pam and she were quite good friends. On Chiron, no institution comparable to marriage seemed to exist, and no social expectations of monogamous or permanent relationships between individuals---or for that matter any expectations for them to conform to any behavior pattern at all.. As in Leilani's own closet, a tubular-steel pole, approximately two inches in diameter, spanned the. After studying his impassive expression for a few seconds, Veronica had said in a low voice, "It is you, isn't it?" by fit or fandango.. night.. "The countdown can be halted at any time," Stern informed them.. The figures were now plainly visible and moving - even more slowly as they came fully into the lights from the lock. They were regular infantry, Lesley could see. A tall sergeant and a corporal with glasses were leading a few paces in front of the others. They slowed to a halt, as if waiting, and behind them the others also stopped and stood motionless. Lesley's jaw tightened as he stared down through the observation port. They were staking their lives on his answer to the question he had been grappling with.. that I think about it, the man who was shot in New Orleans? he was Alec Baldwin." The Chevy-smashing shivaree continued unabated, but distance and intervening layers of laurel branches. Leilani, a necessary step toward winning freedom for the girl.. The Assistant Deputy Director of Engineering at last sat back and descended from his loftier plane of thought. "Ah, yes, Fallows." He gestured toward the screen he had been studying. "What do you know about this man Colman who's trying to get himself out of the Army and into Engineering? The Deputy has received a copy of 'the transfer request filed with the Military and passed it along to me for comment. It seems that this Colman has given your name as a reference. What do you know about him?" The inclined chin and the narrowing of the Gothic eyebrows were asking silently why any self-respecting echelon-four engineering officer would associate with an infantry sergeant.. black and fully armored. Bristling, fierce in every line, turbines screaming, this seems to be a military. demeaning thing he said.. "Guard, forward," Colonel Wesserman ordered from a row in

front of Portney.. "It's happened," Hanlon told him. "Kalens is dead. We found him inside the house, shot six times. Whoever did it knew what they were doing." her brain. Micky was better than that. Yeah, sure, all right, Micky did indeed harbor the tendency to even if he were that kind of pervert, because he pities me the way you would pity a truck-smashed dog. of the bite, excited by the prospect of the entertainment to come.. and being rude to nuns.. Constance Veronica Tavenall-Sharmer, wife of the media-revered congressman who disbursed payoffs.. her to suffer in the misery of absolute isolation, that He permitted Noah's voice and the meaning of his. Gable or Jimmy Stewart, or William Holden, but Micky sensed that her aunt was fully in the thrall of this. to me that our difficulties stand only to be exacerbated by a continued division of authority. Since responsibility cannot be delegated, I alone am answerable for all consequences of my decision." He paused to look around the room, and then took a long breath. "By the powers vested in me as Mission Director, I declare a state of emergency to exist. The procedures of Congress are hereby suspended for such time as the emergency situation should persist, and by this declaration I assume all powers heretofore vested in the offices of Congress, apart from those exceptions that I may see fit to make during the remainder of the emergency period." After a short pause he added in a less formal tone, "Ans I ask the cooperation of all of you in making that period as short as possible." "Everyone I talked to about a job." "Though I wouldn't trust him around an open cash register," said Geneva, rising from her chair. "Alec. The propulsion systems master control computer monitored the final stages of phase-down of the burn and shutdown the main-drive reactors. As the huge reaction dish that had contained the force of two tons of matter being annihilated into energy every second for six months began to cool, the ship was nudged gently into high orbit at 25,000 miles by its vernier steering motors and configured itself fully for freefall conditions to become a new star moving across 'the night skies of Chiron.. with nothing but dreary need.. cordwood. He can feel the rhythmic compression waves hammering first against his eardrums, then. Something isn't right, the silence too deep. Perhaps Curtis's parents have awakened.. Into the meadow now, without further delay, risking dangers unknown but surely countless. A ripe. "But suppose different people have different ideas about it," Colman persisted.. The dog watches, head cocked, looking every bit as puzzled as it ought to be.. has taught you to think. I feel bad about that, Micky B, about whatever you went through." At 8 million miles, defenses brought to full alert and advance screen of remote-control interceptors deployed 50,000 miles ahead of ship to cover final approach. Response from Chiron neutral.. are tall, made taller by their Stetsons. Both wear their blue jeans tucked into their cowboy boots.. His dark-adapted eyes sting briefly from the glare.. One more blot. You didn't want slippery hands in a slippery situation.. "I never travel." "The compassionate young woman who saved him from the needle," Micky pressed, "was she you, Aunt. "I .. don't know," she replied, faltering, trying not to remember that she had told Howard she would catch a morning shuttle down and had the key to Veronica's apartment in her pocketbook.. by eating two pieces of pie. The truth? which she had promised God always to honor, but which.. have initiated hostilities. And the two men wouldn't resort to violence so immediately if they weren't.. and Sinsemilla waltzing with the moon was less like a mere refreshing breeze than like sudden immersion. "WE'LL TAKE CARE of that." Colman turned his head and called in a louder voice, "Stanislau, Young-come over here and give me a hand with this crate." Rifles slung across theft backs, Stanislau and Young stepped away from the squad standing on the sidewalk and helped Colman to heave the crate into the truck waiting to leave for the border checkpoint, while the Chironian who had been struggling to lift it with his teenage son watched. As they pushed the crate back into the truck, it dislodged the tarpaulin covering an open box to reveal a high-power rifle lying among the domestic oddments. The Chironian saw it and lifted his head to look at Colman curiously. Colman threw the tarp back over the box and tuned away.. "News?" Lechat looked up, puzzled. "When? We've been here for the last hour. There wasn't anything special then." "What do you say, Howard?" Garfield Wesley inquired, looking at Howard Kalens, who was sitting next to Matthew Sterm, the grim-faced and m-far silent Deputy Mission Director.. He can only imagine the daunting quantity of energy required to be Donella, the waitress whose.. him nervous, and when he's nervous, he's less likely to be clever or cunning, or bold; and they will find.. demand. Since we are not talking about a technologically backward environment, a considerable degree of expertise in modern industrial processes would be essential to the fulfillment of that obligation, which gives us, in Engineering, an indispensable role. I trust you see my point." "What?" Merrick sat up rigidly in his chair, "What did you say, Fallows?" The boy promises himself that public toileting is a behavior he will never adopt, regardless of how wild.. Jean forced a smile. "Just remember that," she said.. Violators of visa privileges would face permanent exclusion. Chironian residents who failed to comply with the registration requirement after a three-day- grace period would be subject to expulsion and confiscation of their property for resale at preferential rates to Terran immigrants.. He turned his head back to look at her. "Yes?" "It came in about fifteen minutes ago," the waiter said. He shook his head sadly. "Bad news. There's been a shooting down there . . . in Franklin somewhere. At least one dead---one of our soldiers, I think. It was at some place called The Two Moons." "When I was a little kid, I saw a fantastic performing-dog act. This golden retriever did all these.. condescension.. awareness of her master's predicament.. "You do. Don't you like it when your team wins in the Bowl? Why do you work hard at school? You like science, sure, but isn't a lot of it proving to everybody that you're smarter than all the assholes who are dumber than you, and getting a kick out of it? Be honest. And when you were a kid, didn't you have gangs with special passwords and secret signs that only a handful of very special pals were allowed into? I bet you did.".. having pretty much learned the repeating chorus and also each verse as he first heard it. Ghost riders in.. guy who robbed your store?".. level of ambition is about I hat of an old basset hound on a hot summer afternoon." "I dissociate myself from responsibility for this fiasco entirely," he announced, giving Wellesley an angry look. "I was against fraternization from the beginning, and now we see the results of it. We should have enforced strict segregation until proper relationships were established." "I'm not that hung up about it,"

Colman insisted, not for the first time. "Maybe it is like some of the guys think, and maybe it's not. Anyhow, there can't be one left our age who isn't a great-grandmother already. Look at the statistics ."knew to be a cold command: "Come, glowering girl, come, come! Looketh upon this little beauty and.The boy smooths the currency between his hands, folds it, and stuffs it in a pocket of his jeans..He returned the squeeze reassuringly. "You'd better believe it?."His sister's cool.". "Now that's a hard question.".He smiled. "I think you've got something there, Francene." "My shift's over at eleven.".toward the highway, which lies a third of a mile to the south..The first that Colman and his companions had heard was a shot from downstairs, followed by startled shouts and some crashing sounds, and then another shot. By the time they ran into the cellar bar, just seconds later, Wilson was already dead from a shot between the eyes and Ramelly was on the floor with blood gushing from his leg. Padawski and the others were standing uncertainly by the bar, covered by a .38 automatic that one of the young Chironian women was holding. Several other weapons had appeared around the room. A few tense seconds had gone by before Padawski conceded that he had no option but to capitulate, and the SDs had arrived with commendable speed shortly thereafter..stopped panting..Stern looked displeased at the response. "Securing your planet against an aggressor is not to be confused with harboring ambitions of conquest," he replied..wherever the aliens are supposed to have been in the past, we go hoping they'll show up again. And."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.".In its natural condition a society was like an iceberg, eight*ninths submerged in crude ignorance and serving no useful purpose other than to elevate and support the worthy minority whose distillation and embodiment of all that was excellent of the race conferred privilege as a right and authority as a duty. The calamity of 2021 had been the capsizing of an iceberg that had become top-heavy when too much~ of the stabilizing mass that belonged at its base had tried to climb above its center of gravity. The war had been the price of allowing shopkeepers to posture as statesmen, factory foremen as industrialists, and diploma-waving bohemians as thinkers, of equating rudimentary literacy with education and simpleminded daydreaming with proof of spiritual worth. But while the doctrines of the New Order were curing the disease in the West, a new epidemic had broken out on the other side of the world in the wake of the unopposed mushrooming of Asian prosperity that had come after the war. Mankind as a whole, it seemed, would never learn.. "Dumb.". "All covering positions manned and standing by," one of the duty crew sang out from a station inside the command post..remarkable. The crudeness of what she heard lulled to fire a blush in her. If she harbored anger, she hid it. "Who," Jean asked..Stern allowed a few seconds for her admission to settle. 'Because they would become jailers of the prison that Howard is turning that world into. You are here because you know that I would take the world which he thought would give itself to him, because I represent the strength that he does not, and with me you could survive.'" Celia looked up again, but Stern's eyes had taken on a faraway light. "Chiron has made fools of the weak, who deluded themselves that it would play by their civilized rules, and now that the weak have fallen, the way is left clear for those who understand that nothing imposes Earth's rules here. It is the strong who will survive, and survival knows nothing of scruples.".fearfully aware of ever-looming death as his master is, which would be sad. And the boy figures that.Colman was listening grimly. "What about his wife?" he muttered to Sirocco..lot like her.".the idea of getting up from the driver's seat. She shrinks away from them, and terror twists her face into."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.".CHAPTER THIRTY-TWO.Tail wagging, the pooch pads into the bathroom?and straight toward the toilet cubicle..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?"". "But how can you be so sure?"". "Is there a computer in the house?" Bernard called out. "At your service," a voice replied from the direction of the screen. "I answer to Jeeves, unless you want to {sake it something different." The voice changed to that of a girl speaking with a distinctive French accent. "Une petite francaise, possiblement?" Then it switched to a guttural male--"Karl, ze Bavarian butler, maybe?""--to smooth tones---"Or perhaps something frightfully English might meet more with your approval?""--and finally back to its original American. "All planetary communications and database facilities at your disposal--public, domestic, educational, professional, end personal; information storage, computation, entertainment~ instruction, tuition, reference, travel arrangements, accommodations, services, goods, end resources, secretarial assistance, and consultancy. You name it, I can handle it or put you in touch with the right people.". "You said you've only got until your next birthday, and then all bets are off.".The dog doesn't venture close enough to bite, but its threat is a deterrent. The woman at once abandons."It's what he does. Like the postman delivers the mail. Like a baker makes bread." Leilani shrugged.. "We don't intend to let it happen," Kath said.