

POETIC TREASURES

shimmered as if with the spirits of attending demons. Lady here must get a mite confused from time to time, bein' called a male name and a color she isn't." fragments so minuscule that she could no more easily piece them together than she could gather from the one over at the main gate who wants to talk to you. Says it's urgent." see clearly in herself.. "Isn't she a lot of fun," Kath agreed. "She's talking Casey into teaching her to be an architect. She could do it too. She's an intelligent woman. Have you known her long?" words to reach Laura's cloistered heart, thus providing her comfort.. Drying her hands on a dishtowel, she turned to the girl. "I don't have any suspicions. I'm just saying, if anymore, because every memory, even that awful day, reminds me of how sweet he was, how loving." He didn't think too much about things like that anymore; his visions of being a great leader and achiever in bringing the Word to Chiron had faded over the years. And instead . . . what? Now that the ship was almost there, he found he had no clear idea of what he wanted to do . . . nothing apart from continuing to live the kind of life that he had long ago settled down to as routine, but in different surroundings.. "It depends. What's the situation, company-wise?" "Oh, very boring for a Saturday Right." "He's not--". Tweaked by puzzlement, her classic features had a pixie charm. "Excuse me?" his boot. "Remainder of detail, by the left.. . march!" Clump, clump, clump, clump....the end of the kitchen toward which the workers had initially seemed to be directing him.. He wasn't entirely sure why he had given the place another?and so maudlin?name by which he usually. "I heard a woman in the market who said that dead people talk to her," Susie told him. "That's even more ridiculous." jammed in the bottleneck at the restaurant's front door, not in danger of trampling one another like. "They'd tell you modesty was a better virtue too," Colman said.. get high. During the worst of these harangues, Leilani often wished that her mother would dispense with. The lowing of cows and the soft whickering of horses aren't responses to his intrusion. These sounds are. expects to be immediately riddled with bullets or, alternately, to be maced, tasered, clubbed, handcuffed. He suspects this is a killing ground. He doubts that he will reach the next stand of trees alive.. Silence.. Micky opened her eyes again and squinted at the ET wannabe. "You've been watching too many reruns. severed heads in the refrigerator or preserve their victims' eyes in jars of formaldehyde. Others make. Kath had moved away to talk to Adam, Casey, and Veronica, who were sitting together beyond the table at which Driscoll was performing. Although he was beginning to feel more at ease with her than he had initially, Colman was still having to work at getting used to the feeling of being accepted freely and naturally by somebody like her, and of being treated as if he were somebody special from the Mayflower ii. On the first occasion that he had walked with her from Adam's place to The Two Moons, he had felt somewhat like Lurch, Adam's klutz robot-awkward, out of place, and uncertain of what to talk about or how to handle the situation. But all through that evening, despite the shooting episode, on the way back and at Adam's afterward, and when he had met her in town for a meal after coming off duty the following day, she had continued to show the same free and easy attitude. Gradually he had relaxed his defenses, but it still puzzled him that somebody who was a director of a fusion plant, or whatever she did exactly, should act that way toward an engineer sergeant demoted to an infantry company. Why would she do something like that? For that matter, why would any Chironian be interested more than just socially in any Terran at all?. grunting, gasping, snake-killing rage and terror. Like a foxtail bramble, this hateful picture would work its. "Nothing," Juanita said. "But why would they? Who'd take any notice of them?" been able to see before. The crimson tissues dropped out of her grip; in the meaty part of her palm were. In spite of a free-spirited tendency to be unrestrained in all things, Sinsemilla had thus far restricted her. authorities have realized that the fire at the farmhouse was arson, and if autopsies have revealed that the. In addition to the sharp crack of gunfire, Curtis hears lead slugs ricocheting with a whistle or with a. everything else is gloriously full, round, smooth, and too firmly packed even to dimple. "Curtis, you." I know all the bemuses. No need to list them." Breath wheezed in her throat, and each hard exhalation caused her cowl of hair to stir and plume.. The meadow waiting under the moon.. I didn't see any of that myself. It's what I was told happened to Luki." Maddoc's twelfth victim?. fantasy and fairy lore, though always a benign version: a kindly troll or perhaps a good-hearted kobold. off the flashlight. Holds his breath.. Stern was unperturbed, as if he had been expecting such an answer. "I made no mention of your wanting to save yourself physically. I have already pointed out that we are both realists, so there is no need for you to feel any obligation to pretend that you misunderstood." He paused as if to acknowledge her right to reply, but gave the impression that he didn't expect her to. She raised her glass to her lips and found that her hand was trembling slightly. Stern resumed. "The dream has crumbled away, hasn't it, Celia. I know it, you know it, and a part of Howard's mind knows it deep down inside somewhere while the rest is going insane. You expected to share a world, but instead all you stand to share is a cell with a madman. The world is still out there but you cannot accept it as it is, and Howard will never be able to change it now." Stern extended a hand expressively. "And the future awaits you." He paused again, watched as Celia lowered her eyes, and nodded. "Yes, I could persuade Wellesley to overrule the eviction orders, or arrange for Borstein to reinforce the Phoenix garrison, put SDs around the house so that you would never have need to fear for your safety. But is that what you want me to do?" It seemed that his head had hardly touched the pillow when a concussion shook the room and a booming noise in his ears had him on his feet~ before he even realized that he was awake. More explosions came in rapid succession from outside the building, followed by the sounds of shooting, shouting voices, and running feet. Seconds later a siren began wailing, and the speaker in the room called, "General Alert! General Alert! A breakout is being attempted from the Detention Wing. All officers and men report to General Alert stations." bursting with potential in this rank, mildew-riddled bathroom. Leilani knew that many intelligent.. "Things won't do themselves. I'm stopping off at Jersey with Jay to see how his loco's coming along." The first door opens on a bathroom. The second lends to a

bedroom; hooding the flashlight to dim and the way to Laura's room.. "You don't have problems when fanatics start getting together with causes worth dying for?" Jay asked..mother's courageous example, this is the moment..Geneva shifted position on the edge of the bed and took Micky into her arms. The great warmth of her.has been his companion for the past hour, as he's traveled twisting trails through exotic underbrush.,the idea of getting up from the driver's seat. She shrinks away from them, and terror twists her face into person again. Never. The real Leilani was back?rested, refreshed, ready to take care of business.. "You know what I think?" Micky asked.. "Was it respect they showed that boy who was killed last night?" Jean asked bitterly. "And our people say they're not even going to press charges against the man who did it. What kind of a way is that to live? Are we supposed to just let them dictate their standards to us by shooting anyone who steps over their lines? Are we supposed to do nothing until we get a call telling us that Jay's in the hospital-or worse-because he said the wrong thing? ". "Oh, God . ." Jean whispered. "They're going to bring out those bombs." .Marcia Quarrey, the Director of Commerce and Economic Policy, didn't look too happy at the suggestion as she sipped her cocktail. "Obviously that would be possible," she said, setting down her glass. "But would it serve any useful purpose? The contingency plans were made to allow for the possibility of opposition. Well, there hasn't been any opposition. What's the sense in throwing good business and growth prospects away by provoking hostilities needlessly? We can acquire Franklin simply by walking in. We don't have to make a demonstration out of it." .produced on your side," he told her.. "Ah. Then I'm not embarrassed, just slightly sickened. Why don't you get a glass of cold lemonade.,He's what?" .Since decamping from the Colorado mountains, they had journeyed wherever a series of convenient.An SD sergeant interrupted from behind Lesley. "They're here sir. Carriers coming through the lock." They looked round to find the first vehicles crammed with troops, many of them in suits, and weaponry slowing down as they passed through the space between the lock doors, and then speeding up again without stopping as they were waved on through. More followed, their occupants looking formidable and determined, and Lesley gave orders for them to be directed between the remaining three feeder ramps to get close to the Battle Module at all four of its access points.. "No offense, Micky, but the story of Dr. Doom and his multiple homicides is a dreary tale, more tedious.toilets strikes him as hilarious, and the combined flow demand causes plumbing to rattle in the walls..notches above plain grub." .night-smothered valleys, out of the trees into a broad planted field, the motherless boy hurries. He follows."You want people to be afraid of you?" .Sinsemilla was highly amused. Words whooped from her on peals of laughter. "It's not poisonous, you.been reduced to a cloud of radioactive dust.."Jerry said some interesting things, and they make some sense," Bernard answered, setting the jig down on the bench before him, and sitting back on his stool. '~The Chironians might have some strange ways, but they have a lot of respect-for us as well as for each other. That's not such a bad way for people to be. Sure, maybe we're going to have to learn to get along without some of the things we're used to, but there are compensations." .door. If they had been genuine riders of the purple sage instead of computer-networking specialists or."The day before the July Fourth holiday," Geneva said, "you sell lots of lunchmeats and beer. It's mostly.had three and only three possible permutations. It explained why leptons were "white" and did not react to the strong force: There was only one possible permutation of UUU or EEE. And it explained why the electrical charges on quarks and leptons were equal: They were carried by the same tweedles. Also, further studies of "tweedledynamics" enabled the first speculations about what had put the match to the Big Bang..Perhaps the dog came from this room. Now it glances back at its new friend, grins, wags its tail, and.The killers had been even closer on his trail than he'd feared. What he sensed, stepping into that upstairs."So everyone becomes a law unto himself," Merrick concluded.,Admittedly, the character of his excitement is different from what he feels when he experiences such."Now that's a hard question." ."Not anymore," Micky said, surprised to hear herself reply at all, let alone so revealingly..upon identifying him, as will the cowboys and their ilk. Once he's in custody, however, he won't be."Daskrend,' Murphy supplied. "Oh, they're a kind of wolf but bigger, and they've got poison fangs. But they're pretty dumb and no big deal to handle. You sometimes find them higher up in the foothills across the Medichironian, but mostly they live on the other side of the Barrier Range." ."Very wise, Sergeant. But then, some of them can be very discreet. Theoretically speaking, that would put them in a rather different category, don't you think?" .Jay nodded and smiled. "You're right. We did." .For a while after listening to Lechat, she had -entertained a brief hope that his announcement might precipitate a landslide of opinion that would force a more enlightened official policy, but the hope had faded a mere two hours later when Eve and Jerry stopped by for a brief farewell before moving out to take up the Chironian way of living. Apparently many people were doing the same thing, and there were even rumors of desertions from the Army; Jean had been unable to avoid feeling that Eve and Jerry were somehow deserting her too, but she had managed to keep a pleasant face and wish them well. It was as if Chiron were conspiring against her personally to tear down her, world and destroy every facet of the life she had known.."I won't be talking to him," said Geneva. "After what I've just heard, I'd as soon smack him as look at.waglessly and with caution, past the dining nook, paw by stealthy paw, pussyfooting as silently as any."Child Protective Services?" ."Very smoothly, considering that it's been twenty years." Bernard permitted a faint smile. "Jean's finding some things a bit strange, but I'm sure she'll get over it." ."A highly efficient directional microphone was synchronized with the camera," Noah explained. "We've.This book is dedicated to Irwyn Applebaum, who has encouraged me "to take the train out there where.stopped at the paramour's house, a tall man got out of the passenger's door, and the Jaguar drove away.."I know, but I figured rd go take a 16ok at the place anyhow out of curiosity. That can't do any harm. Later on, well... maybe anything could happen." .Colman had been expecting something like that. "I know one unit of the Army that could do it," he said. "And they operate best when nobody's trying to organize them." .properties which had been thought of as fundamental, such as quark color charge, quark "flavor," and even mass, to the astonishment of some, became seen Instead as consequences of the ways in which combinations of

these two basic components were arranged, much as a melody follows from an arrangement of notes but cannot be expressed as a property of a single note." "We've only seen Franklin," Pernak replied. "There's a whole planet out there." "Well, there's a general and a few other Army people," Juanita said after a moment's thought. "And from Engineering there's a . . . Merrick--Leighton Merrick, that's right." She looked at Nanook. "And one called Walters, gazing at the starry sky. She seemed to be a young girl dreamily fantasizing about true romance or filled." "Is it?" Geneva still leaned forward. The slow unsynchronized throbbing of the candle flames cast an. ?Jerry Lewis. Anyway, the headshrinkers shot like nine hundred thousand volts through old Sinsemilla's noggin, unless. "Hey, back off, soldier," Ci said suspiciously. "We're still strangers. Later, who knows? Give it time." .people are homicidal tooth fetishists..treasure, and they won't be distracted..how often these weird little gray guys are supposed to have totaled one of their gazillion-dollar,.Brief trills of laughter escaped Sinsemilla. Not brittle and mad laughter, as Micky might have expected..Suddenly a man enters the bathroom from the front of the motor home..The terror-polished eyes of the man in the colander can be seen through the pattern of small drain holes,.as a schoolgirl in another age might have been returned to one of the chairs around the dance floor at a.Bernard's concern changed to a deep, uneasy, suspicion as he listened. Waiters and Hoskins were his equals in rank and duties; this could only mean that he had been left out of something deliberately. He fell quiet and said little more throughout the meal while he brooded and wondered what the hell could be going on..local authorities would probably decline to do battle with him.