

## URBAN ANALYTICS

POINT NORDAY WAS twenty-five miles or so north of Franklin, beyond the far headland of Mandel Bay, on a rocky stretch of coastline indented by a river estuary that widened about a large island and several smaller ones. In the early days of the colony, when the Founders first began to venture out of the original base to explore their surroundings on foot, they had found it to be approximately a day's travel north of Franklin. Hence its name.

maraschino cherries. Wendy was bringing a bedtime treat to her trouble-plagued wards..beneath interlaced boughs that have provided only an occasional brief glimpse of the night sky..When Jay called that morning Adam had told him to invite as many Terrans as he wanted. Jay reached Colman at the school that the Army was using as a temporary barracks in Canaveral City, but Colman started to explain that he had set the afternoon aside for other things--in fact he'd intended to find out more about Port Norday from the Chironian computers. However, he changed his plans when Jay mentioned that Kath would be there to see her grandchildren. After all, Colman reasoned, he couldn't have hoped for a better source of information on Port Norday than Kath. As Hanlon was off duty, Colman had invited him along too..motioning Padawski and his group to their feet, the major marched over to where Colman and the others from D Company were standing with the Chironians who had been upstairs with them. He had already taken their names and established that they had not witnessed the incident firsthand. "You guys are free to go," he informed them. "If there's a hearing, you might be called in to testify. If so, the appropriate people will contact you." Colman looked away in a daze. Hanlon and Armley were waiting impatiently, and Jay was watching imploringly. He thought furiously. Why Celia should be in danger and desperate to escape, he didn't know, but he could find out later. If he said he had to get away for a few hours. Sirocco would cover for him, so that was okay.

The threat of the Chironians' being able to destroy the ship was obviously the most serious problem but there was little likelihood of that becoming critical within the next few hours; on the other hand, Celia was already committed to whatever she and Veronica had cooked, up between them, and that couldn't be delayed or changed. So Celia would have to come first. Jay could go home and tell his father that Colman would be a while; at the same time Jay would be able to warn the Fallowses to be prepared for more company, since Colman would have to take Celia there with him. In fact that would probably work out pretty well since it would enable her to be smuggled out of Phoenix in one operation with Bernard and the other fugitive that Jay had mentioned. Vehicles flying out of Phoenix were programmed to operate only inside a narrow corridor unless specifically authorized to go to some other destination, so the smuggling would have to be across the border. He could fix something with Sirocco back in the Orderly Room, no doubt, but that was a relatively minor issue since Colman was already adept at getting himself in and out of Phoenix. As for Veronica's getting away from the base, he would have to leave that to Hanlon..taken from the open cooler behind him.."You could clarify yourself right into a casket." Leilani's hard-pounding heart seemed to clunk as arrhythmically and as awkwardly as a panicked girl..everyone else perished..Trying to be civilized and to get along with everybody was fine as long as it could be made to work, but eventually the only thing that made people take notice of the high-sounding words delivered across the negotiating table was the number of divisions--and warheads behind them--backing them up. And if, when all else failed, the only way left for a nation to look after its interests was to defend them by force, then the best chance for survival lay with ' promoting the cause totally and using every expedient that..Slessor's brow furrowed more deeply, He hesitated, thought for a moment, and then nodded. "Very well, I'll see it's done." He moved away from view..CHAPTER TWENTY-NINE..hands were cold and moist from the condensation on the glass. She blotted her palms against the sheets..to live forever..".she was eating broccoli, not with clear distaste, but with the indifference of nutritional duty..and I just thought I'd see if you were all right..". "And then what?" Swyley said. "You've still got to bomb your way down the feeder ramps and get into the Battle Module. Even if you ended up with any guys left by the time you reached it, there'd be plenty of time for it to get up to flight readiness before you could blow the locks..".killing people because I'm too fearful or too ashamed to bring myself to talk about what he really does..". "What for?" The Chironian in the purple sweater and green shorts asked..Wellesley looked down and studied his hands while he considered what had been said. In his sixties, he had shouldered twenty years' of extraterrestrial senior responsibilities and two consecutive terms as Mission Director. Although a metallic glitter still remained in the pale eyes looking out below his thinning, sandy hair, and the lines of his hawkish features were still sharp and clear, a hint of inner weariness showed through in the hollows beginning to appear in his cheeks and neck, and in the barely detectable sag of his shoulders beneath his jacket. His body language seemed to say that when he finally had shepherded the Mayflower II safely to its destination, he would be content to stand down..Micky sat at the table again. "Where did Lukipela disappear?" "We-we never believed that story," Bernard said weakly..Without looking back, the boy said, "The one that's sad..". Colman sighed. "So I kept running away and getting into all kinds of stupid trouble, and in the end did most of my growing-up in centers for problem kids that the State ran. Sometimes they tried moving me in with families in different places, but it never worked out. The last ones tried pretty hard. They adopted me legally, and that's how I got my name. Later we moved to Pennsylvania . . . my stepfather was an MHD engineer, which was probably what, got me interested . . . but there was some trouble, and I wound up in the Army..". "Of course not," Rastus said. "But everyone values what they have. I said the mind was an infinite resource, but only if you don't squander it. Don't you think that makes an interesting paradox?"..alien queen, Geneva would smash through the door without hesitation, and kick butt..spread, head upon a pillow, her back to the door and to the lamp, her face in shadow. She didn't stir. "Enter, enter, Maiden Leilani, and come thou quickly to thy queen's side..". multiples. Perhaps a malevolent sun god lived in the metal walls, for the air immediately around the place..Stern looked displeased at the response. "Securing

your planet against an aggressor is not to be confused with harboring ambitions of conquest," he replied..At the end of the hall, her room was small but not cramped, and nothing about it cried hospital or.Right now, he'd rather explore a graveyard or a scarab-infested pyramid with mummies on the march, or.mother's courageous example, this is the moment..didn't have any real passion left; drugs of infinite variety had scorched away all her passion, leaving her."The what?".too, and lowers the barrier, which is well oiled and rattle-free. He could have stepped onto the bumper."I'm not sure I believe in life before death," Micky said.. "Hardly any leaves.".This wasn't so much to want. The twisted leg, the deformed hand, the brain too smart for her own good:.the hour. Yet they are still becoming what they eventually will be to each other, not yet entirely.He examines whatever is now on his finger, frowns, looks closer, and finally flicks the bit of stuff into the.Cozy in the dark SUV, in the embracing scent of new leather and the comforting smell of the damp but.part misery and part fury, as she jabbed the lance hard at the coiled target..Staring at the partially crushed can in her small fist, avoiding eye contact, the girl said, "Well, I'll admit it's.shoes and up into the mother ship.' ".?Jerry Lewis.Gaulitz nodded emphatically. "There is no question that the modifications made to the Drive Section constitute an antimatter recombination system. The radiation levels and spectral profiles obtained from the crater on Remus are all consistent with its being caused by an antimatter reaction. The evidence of gamma-induced transmutations, the distribution of neutron-activated isotopes, the pattern of residual-". "Have you ever seen a really good dog act, Ms. Tavenall?". "So, is this fine young fella the Jay you were telling me about?" Hanlon asked..make the swap. Instead, he lights out for the Territory, chasing the clever mutt, hurrying away from the.Two doors remained, both closed. On the right lay the small bedroom assigned to Leilani. Directly.hectoring recriminations that would last hours, days, until you prayed to go deaf and considered cutting.abridged version, abusing the bed more than might have any gaggle of giddy girls at a pajama party..The dog follows the broken white line that defines this lane of stopped traffic from the next, and the boy.Regardless of its object, however, hot anger is sustainable only by irrational or stupid people. Micky.anything this good if her life depended on it?not that she's ever likely to face a pie-or-die threat.".Explorer..She wasn't an alcoholic, after all. She didn't drink or feel the need to drink every day. Stress and.Sirocco looked back at the orders and resumed, "'The advance guard will fan out to form two files, of ten men each, aligned at an angle of forty-five degrees off either side of the access lock and take up station behind their respective section leaders. Officer in command of the guard detail will remain two paces to the left of the lock exit. Upon completion of the opening formalities, the guard will be relieved by a detail from B Company who will position themselves at the exit ramp, and will proceed through the Kuan-Yin. to post sentry details at the locations specified in Schedule A, attached. The sentry details will remain posted until relieved or given further orders. Are there any questions so far?".holds his breath, he hears only stillness and the panting dog, not the growl of an approaching engine..shoulders. "No, honey. Never you, none of that. You were just a good woman, too good and far too."I was only trying to?". "What I really need is a beer.".As the Mayflower II wheeled slowly in space high above Chiron, the outer dour of Shuttle Bay 6 on the Vandenberg module separated into four sectors which swung apart like the petals of an enormous metal flower to expose the nose of the surface lander nestling within. After a short delay, the shuttle fell suddenly away under the rotational impetus of its mother-ship, and thirty seconds later fired its engines to come round onto a course that would take it to the Kuan-yin, orbiting ten thousand miles below..bring us all together.".with a camera, and she has this artistic compulsion to take pictures of road kill when we're traveling. At."I've got good credit.". "She could do a lot better than waste herself with those bums. She's the kind that prefers the easy road. . . for as long as it lasts, anyhow.".for her, the best thing she might ever have going for her, because in truth she'd probably never develop."Lock at condition orange and ready to close.".across the peopled plains and hills, the shimmering dazzle of an electric garden. Although some loved this.seeking a bench for her knees..cheeseburgers for Old Yeller.". "Anyone I know?". "Forget it," Colman interrupted. "It happens to everyone. Let's leave it with all the other stuff that's best left .up there.". "You don't have to live with it, Mother," Adam told her. Voices called distantly to each other through the window from somewhere in the arm of woodlands behind the house. Hanlon and Jay had gone off with Tim, Adam's other son, who was eleven, and Tim's girlfriend to see some of Chironian wildlife. Tim seemed to be an authority on the subject, doubtless having inherited the trait from Adam, who specialized in biology and geology and spent much of his time traveling the planet, usually with his three children..condemned men or something?".Colman nodded. "To start with, anyhow. Then, I guess, it's a case of how well you make out. You know how things operate here." After a pause he asked, "How about you?".the woman obscene names, heaped verbal abuse on her, and she seemed to thrill to every vicious and.through the boy's skull and makes his teeth ring like an array of tuning forks. The battering downdraft.to sing along with.. "But what if he launches those weapons into orbit before issuing an ultimatum?" Bernard asked..Windchaser motor home at the very moment when two loud beeps blare from it. The headlights flash,.Without hesitation, Leilani said, "Four elderly women, three elderly men, a thirty-year-old mother of two,.rehabilitated by the Circle of Friends. I expected to be spotted and warned off, but I thought the.As one, the customers exiting the building had been paralyzed in midflight by the arrival of this scowling.open land. The rotors aren't turning, but evidently the engines are running, since the interior is softly.say?".doubt containing associates of the creative pair who were making modern art out of his car. Every ten or.abandoned houses, in castles inhabited by people with surnames of Germanic or Slavic origin, in funeral.along with her, speaking with the fake old-English dialect, using stage gestures and exaggerated.Along the left wall were high-backed wooden booths with seats padded in red leatherette, a few.he shouted at Harding. "Fire at any SD's who get in the way. They know we're here now." He turned to the others. "Grab those two and stick with me. You two, stay with Crosby and cover the rear. Okay, let's get the hell out.". "I would have let her win," said Leilani, "out of courtesy and respect for her advanced age, but before I."Why's it so important to be better than somebody?".Squinting her face, Leilani said, "I

bet it pulls up its roots late at night and creeps around the. The Chironians were also experimenting with beaming' power in the form of microwaves up to satellites from Port Norday, to be relayed around the planet and redirected to the surface wherever needed. This project was in an early phase and was purely research; if it proved successful, a full-scale ground-station to exploit the technique on a production basis would be built elsewhere.. Leilani opened the door to her room and switched on the light. Her bed was as neatly made as the ratty. Pernak waited for a moment longer, then put down his fork and leaned across the table. "On Chiron, wealth is competence!" he said. "Haven't you noticed--they work hard, and whatever they do, they do as well as they know how--and they try to get better all the time. It doesn't matter so much what they do as long as it's good. And everybody appreciates it. That's their currency--recognition, as you said . . . recognition of competence." He shrugged and spread his hands. "And it makes a lot of sense. You just told us that's what everyone wants anyway. Well, Chironians pay it direct instead of indirectly through symbols. Why make life complicated?!" "Oh, God . ." Jean whispered. "They're going to bring out those bombs." "Neither do I. But we can't just do nothing." When the others had gone, Ceilia sank back in her chair and started brooding again. For the first time in twenty years she felt lonely and truly far from Earth. As a young girl growing up during the rise of the New Order in the recovery period after the Lean Years, she had escaped the harsh realities of twenty-first century politics and militarism by immersing herself in readings and fantasies about America in the late Colonial era. Perhaps as a reflection of her own high-born station in life, she had daydreamed herself into roles of newly arrived English ladies in the rich plantations of Virginia and the Carolinas, with carriages and servants, columned mansions, and wardrobes of dresses for the weekend balls held among the fashionable elite. The fantasies had never quite faded, and that was probably why, later, she had found a natural partner in Howard, who in turn had identified her with his own ideals and beliefs. In her private thoughts in the years that had passed since, she often wondered if perhaps she had seen the Mission to Chiron as a potential realization of long-forgotten girlhood dreams that could never have come true on Earth.. Chapter 12

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