

## OREGON AND ELDORADO

Now, in the Utah night, he sits boldly in the Explorer and sings along with the catchy music on the radio, survival, he must forget, at least for now, that particular terror, that unbearable loss. "Bluffing, hell." Driscoll laid down five more aces, and the room erupted into laughter and applause. Jay and Marie were her latest weapons. Bernard knew she was rationalizing her own fears of the changes involved, but he wasn't going to make a public issue of it. "I'd like them to have the chance to Make the best lives for themselves that they can, sure. They've got that chance right here. We don't have to go halfway round the planet to recreate part of a world we don't belong to anymore. It couldn't last. That's all over now. You have to bring yourself to face up to it, hon." terms. deeper than any the boy has heard since the high meadows of Colorado. By this time the capsule had entered the Jersey module and began slowing as it neared the destination Jay had selected. The machine shops and other facilities available for public use were located on the near side of the main production and manufacturing areas, and Jay led the way past administrative offices and along galleries through noisy surroundings that smelled of oil and hot metal to a set of large, steel double-doors. A smaller side door brought them to a check in counter topped by a glass partition behind which the attendant and a watchman were playing cribbage across a scratched and battered metal desk. The attendant stood and shuffled over when Jay and Pernak appeared, and Jay presented a school pass which entitled him to free use of the facilities. The attendant inserted the pass into a terminal, then returned it with a token to be used for drawing tools from the storekeeper inside. and to let her stubbornness rest in its scabbard. Now she said, "Just milk, Aunt Gen." tire iron to break out the rear window on the passenger's side, perhaps because he'd been offended by. Driscoll shrugged. "What would you stake?" away from the threshold of those unwanted memories, found her breath and voice: "That's not what I was." Was that why those guys took off?" Jay asked, by now having regained most of his color. "It probably had something to do with it," Colman said, grinning. "That's the kind of trash you have to deal with. Still interested?" "If I were you, I wouldn't invite him to dinner. By the way, he doesn't know I'm here. He wouldn't allow. merriment, the mirth in her voice was unmistakable: "You think I'm making up stories about Dr. Doom. he's hopeful that he'll learn to be good at socializing too, which is vitally important if he is to pass as an. fallen fence with as little hitching of her braced leg as possible. When she concentrated on physical. "I've always said you've got a good sense of timing, Bret." This mutt isn't, as Curtis first thought, his brother-becoming. She is instead his sister-becoming, and that's. Curtis. wasn't in view, but that didn't mean she wasn't present. By this hour, old Sinsemilla would have been. flying bullets? On the other hand, although she provides a convenient target, her fantastic bulk no doubt. demeaning thing he said. "It is," Adam agreed readily. "But modesty and self-effacement aren't the same thing either." savoring his ice cream while gazing out the window. Merrick nodded gravely. "An officer who abets an act contrary to the best interests of the Service is being disloyal, and a citizen who acts against the interests of the. Providing for Laura was the reason that he worked, the reason that he lived in a low-rent apartment. "Birth certificates," Micky suggested. "That would be proof. Where were you born? Where was Luki. "I've got one too," Veronica whispered, bringing her face. "Well," he lied, "I'm not hiding anything under this one except a yellowed undershirt I should've thrown." No chance with these Chironian robots around. They've got the place staked out." He wrinkled his nose, and his moustache twitched as he sniffed the air. "Take a break while you've got the chance, Private Driscoll," he advised. "And I'll have one of those cigarettes' that you've been smoking." Leon nodded gravely from his section of the screen. "That is a risk," he agreed. "As Otto said, it is difficult to judge exactly. However, we think that the policy we have outlined minimizes risks to the majority of people. Nothing will eliminate the risks completely." He drew a long, heavy breath before answering Bernard's question directly. "But there can be no alteration of our resolution." She wore a silk or nainsook full-length slip with elaborate embroidery and ribbon lace on the wide. baked earth still radiated stored heat. Besides, the air wasn't vibrating with the hum of an angry swarm. their traces, like sleeping horses briefly roused from dreams of sweet pastures, the silence that settles is. see which way he would go. draws a smile from him. He takes a moment to thank God for keeping him alive, and he thanks his. To carry the burden of each day and to keep breathing under the weight of every night, Noah Farrel. "Who?" house, onto the front-porch roof, and glances back. Preston Claudius Maddoc wasn't an ordinary mortal. If anyone attempted to take his stepdaughter from. Curtis goes to the window, where the drapes have already been drawn aside, and peers out at the. Adam had not seemed especially surprised when Hanlon expressed reservations about the wisdom of such an attitude, and had replied to the effect that on Chiron personal affairs were considered personal business. Some couples might choose to remain exclusively committed to each other and their family, others might not, and it wasn't a matter for society or anybody else to comment on. As far as he was concerned, Adam had ~aid, the notion of anybody's presuming to decree moral standards for others and endeavoring to impose them by legislation was "obscene." 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. "You shouldn't stray from right here, son. There's all kinds of people in the world, and some you don't. Up front, the two voices are louder, more excited. The engine starts. Before either of the owners takes a. pickled slugs, and crushed-insect protein. The earthworm pie sort of put an end to all that. I'm absolutely. hobgoblins, with monsters of a singular nature crouched behind doors from the attic to the subcellar. She worked slowly, methodically, taking satisfaction from the care that she provided. In spite of the. American continent. "Don't you mock me, Curtis." "For a few

hours maybe." whimpers of fear, but the boy dares not surrender to his desire to sit in the lane beside the dog and cry in. "Thank you, sir." It was obviously a softener. Bernard kept his face expressionless and wondered what was coming next..Gen ... or was she Kim Novak?".The Battle Module was not intended to be part of the Mayflower its public domain, and restriction of access to it had been one of its primary design criteria. Personnel and supplies entered the module via four enormous tubular extensions, known as feeder ramps, that telescoped from the main body of the ship to terminate in cupolas mating with external ports in the Battle Module, two forward and two aft its midships section. One pair of feeder ramps extended backward and inward from spherical housings Zn the forward ends of the two ramscoop-support pillars, and the other pair extended forward and inward from the six-sided, forward most section of the Spindle, called, appropriately enough, the Hexagon. As if having to get through the feeder ramps wasn't problem enough, the transit tubes, freight handling conveyors, ammunition rails, and other lines running through to them from the Spindle all came together at a single, heavily protected lock to pass through an armored bulkhead inside the Hexagon. Aft of the bulkhead, the lock faced out over a three-hundred-foot long, wedge-shaped support platform upon which the various lines and tubes converged through a vast antechamber amid a jungle of girder and structural supports, motor housings, hoisting machinery, ducts, pipes, con-.brutally murdered his family, come down through the mountains to the back door of the Hammond.ON THE DAY officially designated December 28, 2080, in the chronological system that would apply until the ship switched over to the Chironian calendar, the Mayflower 11 entered the planetary system of Alpha Centauri at a speed of 2837 miles per second, reducing, with its main drive still 'firing at maximum power. The propagation time for communications to and from Chiron had by that time fallen to well under four hours. A signal from the planet continued that accommodations for the ship's occupants had been prepared in the outskirts of Franklin as had been requested.."Do you? Or is it that you are unable, yet, to accept it?" Celia forced as much coldness into her voice as she could muster. "I don't like being told that I'm interested in protecting my own skin."The party ascended the main staircase, at the top of."Hmmm . . ." The reply didn't seem quite what Merrick hoped for. 'Not quite everything, surely,' he said. "What about the shooting of Corporal Wilson a week ago?". "Fear. Shame. I felt dirty.."with the thingy..another what's-happening-what's-up-what's-this-all-about..Veronica nodded her head quickly a couple of times. "She's not hurt or anything like that, but she's in a lot, of trouble. She's gotten herself mixed up with Stern, and she can't make a move without being watched. She could be in real danger, Steve. She has to get away from there."Lesley accepted automatically and found himself looking at the features of Colonel Oordsen, one of Stormbel's staff, looking grim faced and determined, but visibly shaken. "Activate the intruder defenses, close the inner and outer locks, and have the guard stand to, Major," he ordered. "Any attempted entry from the Spindle before the locks are closed is to be opposed with maximum force. Report back to me as soon as the bulkhead has been secured, and in any case not later than in five minutes. Is that understood?".cries out and lets go of Curtis, but Old Yeller isn't as quick to release the shorts. She pulls them down his.and the plaque of dust gritting between his teeth could not have been more vile. He is unable to work up."I'm not afraid of him."."Will Laura want a sundae?" she 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?".admire and be charmed by her performance, for this was a one-woman show. If you persisted in sharing."Sure... thanks." They began walking toward the door..little."Onward, quickly to the paved road, which leads north and south to points unknown. Either direction will.Most of the adults he knew--the ones over twenty-five or so, anyway--seemed to feel an obligation to be sympathetic toward people like him, who had never experienced life on Earth. From what he had seen he wasn't sure that he'd missed all that much. Life on the Mayflower II was comfortable and secure with plenty of interesting things to do, and ahead lay the challenge and the excitement of a whole new unknown world. Certainly that was something no one back on Earth could look forward to..Pernak had a surprisingly long stride for his height, and Jay had to hurry to keep up as they' walked a couple of blocks through densely packed but ingeniously secluded interlocking terraces of Maryland residential units. It wasn't long before Pernak was talking about phase-.changes in the laws of physics and their manifestation through the process of evolution. One of the refreshing things about Pernak, Jay found, was that he stuck to his subject and didn't burden it with moralizing and unsolicited adult advice. He had never been able to make up his mind whether Pernak was secretly a skeptic about things like that or just believed in minding his own business, but he had never found a way of leading up to the question..there's no doubt one present?and that they will hassle even properly documented workers if they're in a.original. Where'd you find her?".me on the cheek, he'd probably puke up his guts."Lechat looked at them for a few seconds longer, then sat up and mustered a grin. "Well, what can I say? Good luck.Farrel."A few seconds later Lurch, the household robot--apparently an indispensable part of any environment on Chiron that included children--appeared in the doorway. "It slipped," it announced. "Sorry about that, boss. I've wired off an order for a replacement".door at the farther end. This space is also a cooler, with perforated-metal storage shelves on both sides.."Micky, honey, I don't think this is really proper dinner-table conversation," Geneva gently admonished.."They really do."This baffles the boy because he's been under the impression that a Gump has no choice but to be a.Driscoll turned his eyes a fraction to the side. They widened in disbelief as one of the Kuan-Yin's steel colossi marched into view, holding a length of aluminum alloy tubing over its left shoulder and being followed by a brown, Indian-looking gift of about seven and a fair-halted boy of around the same age.."Deleted," the machine confirmed. "Last line of entry reads: "... shut up behind a fence, ignored, and looking ridiculous.""Freezer Sirocco stepped out in front of them with his automatic drawn and Stewart

beside him holding a leveled assault cannon. Before the SD's could react, two more weapons were trained on them from behind. They were disarmed in seconds, and Sirocco motioned them through the open door with a curt wave of his gun while Faustzman herded the two startled civilians from the coffee machine. Two women rounded the corner just as the door of the office closed again, and walked by talking to each other without having seen anything. Moments later Sirocco left the office again with two privates. They formed up in the center of the corridor and moved off in step in the direction of the rear lobby..Paula was looking at him impishly. "Do you think you could beat mine?" she asked in a curious voice..Published simultaneously in the United States and Canada.to speak?her sister's keeper could be fulfilled at least to some small extent. "Whether he's your legal.started to get up..Pernak's contention, that the Big Bang represented not an act of absolute creation but a singularity marking a phase-change from some earlier-if that term could be applied-epoch in which the familiar laws of physics along with the very notions of space and time broke down, was representative of the general views held on Earth at that time. Indeed, although the bizarre conditions that had reigned prior to the Bang could not be described in terms of any intuitively meaningful conceptual model, a glimmer of some of their properties was beginning to emerge from the abstract symbolism of certain branches of theoretical mathematical physics..whether they peed themselves, all sorts of kinky stuff.".The Chironian rubbed his chin dubiously. "I'm not at all sure that I could be much help. Government of what in particular?".The silk-textured light, as red as Sinsemilla's favorite party blouse, barely brightened the nest of shadows.Curtis and the door, willpower against matter, on the micro scale where will should win: Yet the lock.pyrotechnics..At a table stacked with clean plates, Curtis stops and, though still crouching, dares to raise his head. He.shame arose from the fact that she had spilled her guts this evening. Spilled, gushed, spewed. She'd told."Well, it sure doesn't pay any money." Colman turned his head toward Hanlon. "What do you say, Bret?".points toward the hallway that leads to the restrooms..One more blot. You didn't want slippery hands in a slippery situation..decides to search for a bowl or for something that can serve as one..university-trained doctor..but their smiles and greetings seemed false, not because he doubted their sincerity, but because he himself.If the Bureau knows what those two cowboys are up to, and if it understands how many others are.With the thumb on her deformed hand, Leilani gestured toward Geneva, and said to Micky, "She's an.Colman nodded. "Her friends showed up, and she's in Franklin. It all went fine." He turned his head to Celia. "This is Bret. He got Veronica off the base.".aware of the boy himself, and if they can recognize the hunters, they must be able to recognize the boy.,How peculiar the world had grown if now life with Aunt Gen had become the sterling standard of.Dr. Doom thinks ETs are more likely to visit a site at the same time of year they visited it before, I guess."Don't you want to come along?" Bernard asked Jean. "It would get you out and give you a break.".alive for thirty-six years, she said, and she intended to hang around for fifty more or until human pollution.wind, I am birds in flight, I am the sun, I am the sea, I am me!" Depending on the mix of illegal substances."How do you mean, Jerry?" Lechat asked across the table. He was a slightly built man of average height, in his late forties, with thinning hair and a dry, pinkish complexion. He tended to red at the nose and the cheeks in a way that many would have considered indicative of a fiery temperament, but this was totally belied by his placid disposition and soft-spoken manner.. "Oh, for goodness' sake, stop teasing the child," Geneva said. "You'll have to forgive me, Leilani. I've.good right hand, the pleasing face. Pride had nothing to do with it, either. Considering all her other."Who did you live with while she was hospitalized?".thingy just wants love," Sinsemilla said, drawing out love until it was longer than a twelve-syllable word.,She felt diminished, humiliated, shaken?no less afraid than she'd been a moment ago, but now for."Maybe. Who knows? Let's just hope there aren't too many of them in the Army.".From another tire, a second gator peels off, tumbling in coils after the first..and she laughed with strange delight..More tweedles than antitweedles would be projected into a normal universe, and more antitweedles than tweedles into an antiuniverse, and that, according to the Chironian version, was why the universe was composed of matter and not antimatter; the opposite, of course, held for the twin antiuniverse. The way to obtain antimatter, they therefore reasoned, would be to make a small part of the universe look like an antiuniverse so that tweedlespace could be "fooled" into projecting antitweedles instead of tweedles into it. In other words, instead of expending enormous amounts of energy to create antitweedles from scratch, as was thought to be inescapable by most terrestrial scientists, could they "flip" tweedles into antitweedles in ~the matter they already had?.help was being sought..conversation in detail.".Leilani in the house of Sinsemilla. Leilani limping ever closer to a bomb-clock birthday, ticking toward.gotten out of their cars to stretch their legs. Not all have fled the showdown at the truck stop; and as they

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