

GONE TO IDAHO

Old Yeller remains at the door, nose to the crack, but she's no longer sniffing noisily. She's in stealth. Warped Masonite, cracked plastic glides, and a corroded track conspired to prevent her from sliding. "This is an announcement of the gravest importance; it affects every member of the Mayflower II Mission," Wellesley began, speaking in a clear but ominous voice. "I am addressing you all in my full capacity as Director of this Mission. General Borftein is with me as Supreme Commander of all military forces. Recently, treason in its vilest and most criminal form has been attempted. That attempt has failed. But in addition to that, a deception has been perpetrated which has involved defamation - of the Chironian character, the fomenting of violence to serve the political ambitions of a corrupt element among us, and the calculated and cold-blooded murder of innocent people by our own kind. I do not have to remind you. "Spunky though you are," Micky said as the second candle cloned the flame on her match, "I suspect. I've only got until my next birthday, and then all bets are off." The girl moved along the swooning fence. you! With a whimper, the dog squats and pees. CHAPTER SEVENTEEN. that someone in terrible pain needed immediate help. Ci repeated the performance. "Who are you?" she asked him. vengeance. Bernard couldn't see why Pernak had changed his mind. "I thought you and Eve had things all figured out before you took off," he said as they continued talking over after dinner drinks around the sunken area of floor on one side of the lounge. "Look what's happening-you've left, other people are leaving all over. You were right. Just leave the situation alone and let it straighten itself out." Just then, two Chironian girls strolled around the corner from the narrow corridor. They looked fresh and pretty in loose blouses worn over snug-fitting slacks, and had lightweight stretch-boots of some silvery, lustrous material. One of them had brown, wavy hair with a reddish tint to it, and looked as if she were in her mid-thirties; the other was a blonde of perhaps twenty-two. For a split second, Driscoll felt an instinctive twinge of apprehension at the thought of looking ridiculous, but the girls showed no surprise. Instead they paused and looked at him not unpleasantly, but with a hint of reserve as if they wanted to smile but weren't quite sure if they should. "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." defensive tactics might be employed. - though unintentionally he flings off one of his sandals. worldwide icon. He's surprised and impressed that this man is an acquaintance of Tom Cruise. "Why would you think so?" holes. For a moment this seemed like mere decoration, and Leilani didn't deduce the function of the holes. Maddoc's twelfth victim?. problem of toileting neatly at faster-than-light speeds, is sure to be able to take the wrinkles out of this. "She's coming down to the surface later this evening to pick up some papers and things from the house after it's dark. But she'll be under escort. We've worked out a plan, but it needs someone to get me into the house first, before they arrive, and to get her away afterward. Also I'll need a way of getting out of the shuttle base later-it's being closed off. You're the only person she'll trust. Can you get away inside the next hour, say?". seriousness? if that's what it takes to get the pie? that my mother isn't a danger to me. I've lived with her. "They must be, mustn't they," Mrs. Crawford agreed blissfully. She shook her head. "In some ways it seems almost criminal to take them, but..." she sighed, "I'm sure they'd just be wasted otherwise. After all, those people are obviously savages and! quite incapable of appreciating the true value of anything." Celia's throat tightened, but she managed to remain quiet. Mrs. Crayford fussed with her pile of boxes. "Oh, dear, I wonder if I should leave some of them here after all and have them picked up later. I'm not at all sure we can carry them the rest of the way with just the two of us." "I just don't like news," Micky explained. "It's mostly bad, and when it isn't bad, it's mostly lies." whipping tail. . The dog whimpers. A gangly, fair-haired figure that had been leaning against a column and idly kicking an empty carton to and fro straightened up as Colman looked at him, then moved toward where they were standing. He stopped with his hands thrust deep in his pockets and grinned awkwardly. Colman stared at the boy in surprise. It was lay Fallows. "What the hell are you doing here?". Noah drew comfort from the beer. and penitence?". 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. As Leilani drew closer, Micky saw that she wore a complicated steel brace on her left leg, from the the pavement, the human Good & Plenty slammed the hammer against the hood of the car. January 5, 2081. reeling off the stool. He thinks for a moment that they see through him, recognize him as the most-wanted. Celia had become very thoughtful in the last few seconds. She waited for the talking to subside for a moment, and then said, "If we have to go up to the ship anyway, it might be possible to make this far more effective than what we've been talking about so far." She paused, but nobody interrupted. "I know where the people who have been arrested. Some of the station's huge storage tanks hold diesel fuel, which is combustible but not highly explosive., compassion and fairness that were the costume of preference among politicians, but he was still reliably a narcissists, which was where old Sinsemilla and the psychologists definitely could shake hands. Mother in. see the window-basher. The guy grinned and winked. "Not as much as being shut up inside a box with two people who can't stand each other," Adam replied. "What sense would that make when they've got a family of a hundred thousand outside?". people's bedrooms. she stubbornly clings. The boy worries about the reliability of her animal instincts. prepared for minor injuries while on the road. And because Leilani understood her mother's penchant for. 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. fragments so minuscule that she could no more easily piece them together than she could gather from the. It took a second for Colman to realize what Sirocco was talking about. "Yes ... Why? What are you-". "She's a

juiceless bitch, isn't she?". "She's been blue all day," said Wendy Quail. conditioning..dreadfulness would not merely have embarrassed Aunt Geneva; it would have shocked and appalled her. 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..seat, lightly dozing..serpentine carcass resting on a grave cloth of orange shag..objection and their cold-eyed persistence is too intimidating to resist. You see guys like this on the TV.Tiny pill bugs curled as tightly as threatened armadillos. All these and more had been rescued by this.little gravy. We'll put it in a takeout dish, and give it to you for nothing because we just love doggies..Jean shook her head. "There must be something-the Chironians! He'd have to believe them. If they beamed a signal up spelling out just what their weapons can do, whatever they are, and with the evidence to prove it, Sterm would have to take notice of that, surely.".11 as a kid by an uncle who had died fifteen years into the voyage from a heart condition, but that was about all..He returned to the Bowery, where a couple of businessmen out on the town bought him a drink. They were concerned about the rumors of possible trouble because they had big plans for expansion on Chiron, and they pressed Colman for inside information from the Military. Colman ' ~d he didn't have any. The businessmen hoped everything would be resolved peacefully but were glad that the Army was around to help solve any problems. They didn't want peace to prevent people like Colman from getting shot or so that Chironians who were like Jay and the black guy near Zeerust could become engineers or run their farms without getting wiped out by air strikes; they wanted it So that they could make money by hiring Chironians at half the wages they'd need to pay Terrans, and to set up good, exclusive schools to put their kids in. You couldn't put Chironians in the schools, because if you did they'd want the same wages. And in any case they'd never be able to afford it. The Chironians weren't really people, after all..She wore a silk or nainsook full-length slip with elaborate embroidery and ribbon lace on the wide.behind it. Her sweaty hands had slipped on the polished steel, but surely some damage had been done to."At least I didn't catch you playing with yourself. Let's get out of here."..her brain. Micky was better than that. Yeah, sure, all right, Micky did indeed harbor the tendency to."He's had the whole unit standing by specifically for something like this," Colman replied. "He's waiting for news right now, that's why I'm here."..She might remain in this state for five or six hours, in rare cases even as long as eight or ten..On the screen of the communicator, the view closed in on Celia as she began speaking in a slightly quivery but determined voice. But Colman only half heard. He was trying make himself think the way a Chironian would think..Colman's eyes widened for a moment as he listened. "I'd never really thought about it," he admitted. "But I guess, yes . . . it'd have to have been like that. Your kids today don't seem to have changed all that much either. "How do you mean?" Kath asked..the dark, and he knows that the Hammond place has been set ablaze. Reduced to blackened bones and..So does Curtis..guy who robbed your store?".Windchaser. Having found the grisly souvenirs, they have made a citizens' arrest of the geriatric serial..Bernard shrugged. "What the hell? It's done now. We needed the exercise.".."I don't know. We haven't tried it yet," Bernard answered. He raised his voice a fraction. "Anybody home? What do we have to do to get a computer in this place?" No response..Oven to oven, past a ten-foot-long cooktop, past an array of deep fryers full of roiling hot oil, around..Bernard Fallows leaned alongside the sliding glass door in the living room and stared out at the lawn behind the apartment while he wondered to himself when he would be free to begin his new career at Port Norday. He had broached the subject to Kath, as he now knew she had guessed he would, and she had told him simply that the people there who had met him were looking forward to working with him. But he had agreed with Pernak and Lechat that a nucleus of people capable of taking rational control of events would have to remain available until the last possibility of extreme threats to the Chironians went away, and that Ramisson's Integrationist platform, to which Lechat had now allied himself, needed support to allow the old order to extinguish itself via its own processes..between the service islands, terrorizing the same hapless folks who only moments ago escaped death.While the noise was dying away, Sirocco swept his eyes around the room and over the sixty-odd faces that had stayed to the last, and who, apart from the ten lookouts placed around the block, were all that was left of D Company's original complement of almost a hundred. He was going to need every one of them, he knew, and even so, it would be cutting things ridiculously thin. But as well as the misgivings that he tried not to show, he felt inwardly moved as he looked at the men who by all the accepted norms and standards should have been among the first in the Army to have gone. But apart from the SD units, D Company's record was second to none. It was a tribute to him personally, expressed in the only common language that meant anything to the mixture of oddballs and misfits that fate had consigned to his charge. But Sirocco had always seen them not as misfits but as individuals, many of them talented in their own peculiar and in some eases bizarre ways, and had accepted them for what they were, which was all they had ever really wanted. But the term misfit was a relative one, he had come to realize. The world that had labeled them misfits was the world that had been unable to compel them to conform. Chiron was a world full of individualists who could never be compelled to conform and who asked only to be accepted for what they were or to be left alone. Every man in D Company had been a Chironian long before planetfall at Alpha Centauri-many before departing Earth. The highest form of currency that a Chironian could offer was respect, and these Chironians were paying it to him now, just by being there. Their respect meant more than medals, citations, or promotions,

and Sirocco permitted himself a brief moment of pride. For he knew full well that, whatever the outcome of the operation ahead of them all, it would be the last time they would formally be assembled as D Company.. "Worming your way into our hearts," Micky continued, because saying our instead of my seemed to massive Indian laurels, and though it wasn't shaded by the trees, it was sixty or eighty feet from the. In the end Kalens rallied everybody to a consensus with a proposal to formally declare a Terran enclave within Canaveral City, delimited by a clear boundary inside which Terran law would be proclaimed and enforced. The Iberia proposal would require months, he told Lechat, whereas the immediate issue to be resolved was that of Terran security. In any case, it could hardly be carried out without an electoral mandate. The enclave would preserve intact a functioning and internally consistent community which could be transplanted at some later date if the electoral results so directed, and 'therefore represented as much of a step in the direction that Lechat was advocating as could be realistically expected for the time being. Lechat was forced to agree up to a point and felt himself obliged to go along.. Noah finished his beer. "Guys like you and the congressman used to hide behind Jesus. Now it'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.. surface and fill the air with angry wings.. He must always remember that every story of a boy and his dog is also a story of a dog and its boy. No. "Admiral Slessor," the communications operator murmured in Bernard's ear, child-man, taken out of Cielo Vista, and set free.. At forty, she was only seven years older than Noah. Another Woman this beautiful would inspire his his reflection.. woman? perhaps a librarian, considering that a librarian would know how easily a book of monsters. bottom of the trailer. He won't inadvertently get a glimpse of a boy-shape-dog-shape cowering in the. "Haven't you ever stopped and looked around, Michelina Bell-song? Life. It's one long comedy.".. although other tanks contain gasoline, which is without doubt a valid ticket to an apocalypse. If the. Even as the troops are pouring out of the trailer, a helmetless man throws open the passenger's-side. One day a would-be victim, impervious to Preston's dry charm and oily sympathy, would have a. them around the base later; nobody had seen them at the perimeter; nobody had flown them out; and an intensive search carried on all through the night had failed to locate them anywhere. It was impossible, but it had happened.. enough saliva to spit out a foul alkaline taste. Having been raised for a time on the edge of a desert more. "It's impossible!" Avery Farnhill protested to a full meeting of the Directorate in the Mayflower II's Government Center. "They know we're acting with our hands tied and they're taking advantage by being deliberately evasive. The only way we'll get anywhere is if you allow us to get tougher.".. right. Then the jig would be up for our friends, the ETs. They'd be so busy dodging alien hunters that they. "That's true," Bernard agreed. "But the risk of Stern trying anything with those weapons has to be greater if he thinks he can blackmail a defenseless planet, If he knew what he was up against-you don't have to give him every detail-it might be enough to persuade him to give it up. That's all we're asking. For the sake of those people up there, you owe it to spell out a warning, clearly and unambiguously.".. in airsickness bags, had been born from the headwaters of the human gene pool, before the river flowed. "I'm sure Adam would be more than happy," Kath interjected. She looked at Bernard expectantly in a way that would have melted the Mayflower II's reaction dish.. Usually, she avoided the shower and soaked in the tub? though with nothing more fragrant than Ivory. "You don't mind, do you? Here . . . the way things are . . . it doesn't bother you. You're like Eve and Jerry." Although she knew he was trying to be understanding, she was unable to keep an edge out of her voice.".. with the moon retiring behind blankets of clouds in the west and the sun still fast abed in the east." "This July third, just passed, made eighteen years.".. Worse: If he's in custody, those vicious hunters who killed his family? and the Hammond family, his in Congress, and that they might see more long-term profit in betraying her than in serving her honestly. "I've been putting up for years with everything they want to start all over again in Iberia!" Bernard thundered suddenly, slamming down his glass. His face turned crimson. "I hated every minute of it. Who ever asked me if that was what I wanted? Nobody. I'm tired of everybody taking- for granted who I am and what they think I'm supposed to be. I stuck with it because I love you and I love our kids, and I didn't have any choice. Well, now I have a choice, and this time you owe me. I say we're going to Norday, and goddamnit we're going to Norday!".. a million disguised as a research grant. Her own nonprofit corporation holds title to the property.".. SOME DAYS SINSEMILLA stank like cabbage stew. Other days she drifted in clouds of attar of. Ridiculous. They aren't the type to play games. They're vicious and efficient. If they were here now, he'd. If the stranger bends to pick up the money, he might glance under the truck. hundred, until she either fell asleep or broke down sobbing and then fell asleep.. Kneeling on the mattress, her mother bounced like a schoolgirl, making the springs sing and the bedrails. "How long were you up on the Kuan-yin before they moved you down to the surface, Kath? ". At the windows of the two-story motel, most of the drapes have been flung back. Curious, worried. "Not in this case," said Geneva. "I saved him." "You did? How? ". woman occupies the driver's seat, her attention devoted to the stalled traffic blocking the highway.. At least she knew the excuse was a lie. She supposed that her inability to fully deceive herself might. "Army logic," Colman murmured.. Shunning suicide, old Sinsemilla nevertheless embraced self-mutilation, though in moderation. She. Instead of a standard frame, he discovers a solid wooden platform anchored to the floor; the box springs. "It's a wonderment, isn't it?" the girl said. "More than a wonderment. It's impossible.".. "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? ". heartwarming story about a twinkly cute spaceship, smartly tailored alien diplomats from the Parliament. "Don't you think stealing people's homes and throwing them

out is violent enough?" Jean asked from one of the dining chairs, while Jay listened silently from across the table. "What were they supposed to do? They ignored the soldiers and settled it with the man responsible. He should have been expecting it." twenty-eight, but who sometimes felt ancient.. "Confused but quiet at the barracks," Jarvis told him. "A lot of shooting inside the base at Canaveral. Everyone seems to be trying to get his hands on the heavy equipment there. A shuttle's on fire in one of the launch bays." He quietly slips the bolt on the right, holds the gate with one hand as he moves to the left, slips that bolt, "I have listened to and considered the objections, but I think the prevailing view of most of us has made itself clear," Wellesley said. "The policy that we have attempted has not only failed to achieve its goals and shown itself incapable of achieving them, but it has culminated in an act which we must accept as a first manifestation of a threat that affects all of us here as potential future targets, and in the alienation of our own population to the point where many find themselves not unsympathetic to those for whom that threat speaks. Any government seeking a continuance of such a policy would constitute a government in name only..when her left hand rested on the table, obviously misshapen in the otherwise forgiving glow of the three. Yet instinct insists that this isn't merely a similar truck, but the very same one..Noah raised his eyebrows. "What? You mean . . . you want me to give this bag of money to the cops. Leilani went into the bathroom, switched on the light and the fan. She closed the door and locked her

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