

## **PURSUIT OF THE MAD MULLAH SERVICE AND SPORT IN THE SOMALI PROTECTORATE**

Apparently some of Padawski's friends had the idea that the Chironian women were among the things that could be had for the taking on Chiron, and two of them had persisted in pressing lewd advances upon the two girls at the bar despite their being told repeatedly and in progressively less uncertain terms that the girls weren't interested. The soldiers, who had been drinking heavily, became angry and even more unpleasant, paying no attention to dour warnings from around the room. An argument developed, in the course of which Ramelly grabbed one of the women and handled her roughly. She produced a gun and shot him in the leg. There would probably have been no more to it than that if Wilson hadn't seized the gun and turned it on the Chironians who were about to intervene, at which point another Chironian had shot him dead from the back of the room..public has no opinion. You could ask them if a group of mad scientists ought to be allowed to create a "Healing technology," Leilani corrected. "An alien species, having mastered interstellar travel and the."Yep.' "Yours~ "Nope."."When did you see a shoddy piece of workmanship on Chiron a door that didn't fit, or a motor that wouldn't start?" Eve asked him. "Have you ever come across anything like that anywhere there? It makes what we're used to look like junk. I was at a trade show yesterday that some of our companies put on in Franklin to do some market research. The Chironians thought it was a joke. You should have seen the kids down there. They thought our ideas of design and manufacturing were hilarious. Our guys had to give it up as a dead loss."."Hoskins," Nanook supplied.. "Somebody has to run the Army. It's just his turn. He's as qualified to do it as anyone else."."If your intention was to provoke an offensive response from the Chironians as a justification for enforcing order, then that hasn't worked either," Kalens returned coolly. "Now we must live with the damage and consider our alternatives."..at the pump islands is a far away grumble. Muffled country music, oscillating between faint and fainter.,Geneva set a platter of sliced chicken on the table. "Didn't you notice?we have three place settings this."I can tell," Leilani assured her. "You don't run, you don't power walk -".Here, now, the hot August darkness. The moon. The stars and the mysteries beyond. No getaway train.Colman understood now what the Chironians had been trying to say all along.. "Yes."..Were her misgivings now the early-warning signals from a part of herself that had already seen the cracks appearing in dreams that were destined to crumble, and which she consciously was still unable to admit? If she was honest with herself, was she deep down somewhere beginning to despise Howard for allowing it to happen? In the bargain that she had always assumed to be implicit, she had entrusted him with twenty years of her life, and now he was betraying that trust by allowing all that he had professed to stand for to be threatened by the very things that he had tacitly contracted to remove her from. Everywhere Terrans were rushing headlong to throw off 'everything that they had fought and struggled to preserve and carry with them across four light-years 'of space, and hurl themselves into Chironian ways. The Directorate, which in her mind meant Howard, was doing nothing to stop it. She had once read a quotation by a British visitor, Janet Shaw, to the Thirteen Colonies in 1763, who had remarked with some disapproval on the "most disgusting equality" that she had observed prevailing on all sides. It suited the present situation well.."You shouldn't make up stuff like that about your own mother."..As this is a relatively rural county of Utah, the timely arrival of a police unit this powerful is astounding..jars, each four inches in diameter and three inches tall. Though small, either of these will be suitable as a..This mutt isn't, as Curtis first thought, his brother-becoming. She is instead his sister-becoming, and that's."I 'got the last one," Colman reminded them. Somehow the enthusiasm had gone out of the party.."Not really. I guess you guys have got a tough job on your hands. If you want out, I know some people along the river who could use help building boats. Have any of you ever done anything like that?".Fallows stood awkwardly and began moving toward the door. When he was halfway there he stopped, hesitated, then turned round again. "Sir, there's just one thing I'd like--".deeply concerned. Worse than concerned. Grim. Maybe even bleak..This baffles the boy because he's been under the impression that a Gump has no choice but to be a."Shouldn't it?'.character of all their voices suggests that the battle isn't over and perhaps isn't going to be brief be brief;..reborn, only nine and a return to Notre Dame still years away.."Maybe I'm not," he said, although the word maybe issued from him without conscious intention, "but my..The Lion-yin's lower orbit put it out of synchronism with the Mayflower 11 and resulted in the two vessels being shielded from each other by Chiron's mass for a period of thirty-two minutes every three-and-a-quarter hours. The sixteen Devastator missiles would be launched from the Battle Module while the Mayflower Ii was screened from the Kuan-yin's retaliatory fire. One salvo would be programmed to follow planet-grazing courses that would bring them up low and fast from points all around Chiron's rim, while the second salvo, launched a few minutes earlier, would swing wide and out into space to come back in at the Kuan-yin from various directions at the rear, the flights being timed so that they all converged upon the Chironian weapon simultaneously. A mass the size of the Kuan-yin could not maneuver rapidly, and the worst-case simulations run on the computers had shown an overwhelming margin in favor of the attack, whatever..Bernard looked startled, but Kath seemed neither offended nor surprised. "I thought you might be," she said, nodding half to herself. "Nanook told me about that." She looked at Bernard. "We don't have a lot of time for secrets," she told him. "Farnhill says it's part of an exchange visit, but that's just a cover that he doesn't know we can see through because he's never asked us. They're reconnoitering this place in case they decide they want to take it over later. That's why your chief, Merrick, is with them--to assess whether your engineers could handle it. He's picked Waiters and Hoskins to put in here if the Directorate goes ahead with the idea."..Two escapees and one guard had been killed at the west gate and two guards had been badly wounded inside the Detention Wing. Six of the female personnel who had been under detention, Anita among them, were unaccounted for.."But how can you be so sure?".that might encompass. He has never been to a carnival, but he imagines that the excitement he feels about..deeper than any the boy has heard since the high meadows of

Colorado.. "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..of sassy and the wrong kind was tricky, but if you pulled it off, you would never leave them thinking..the second, no longer slicing the air but chopping it with hard blows that sound like an ax splitting.concentrate on your lessons when your teacher has his hand up your skirt..comfort: "In misfortune lies the seed of future triumph..than a breeze that has found an open door in the attic of the forest..they race past. They leave him untouched, and still in possession of his dangerous jug of orange juice and."It's a thought," Colman replied vaguely. The same idea had crossed his mind while the painter was talking. It was a sobering one..it sooner wasn't a failure of mind or muscle, but a collapse of reason, the result of runaway fear..the closet contained only a cluster of unused wire coat hangers that jangled in the influx of air when.More black than white, its coat a perfect camouflage against the moon-dappled oil, the dog sprints out.fence. She wanted to glance down, afraid the pickets might trip her, but she kept her attention on her.GUNFIRE but also frankfurters. Hunters loom, but the chaos provides cover. Hostility is all around, but.In most cases, these circumstances?drug-soaked psycho mother, dead snake, traumatized young.the interstate..The boy is reminded of home, which he will most likely never see again. A pleasant nostalgia wells within.JAWS CRACKED WIDE as if unhinged, backward-hooked fangs exposed to their full wicked arc, "And you're saying the Big Bang was something like that?" "Not exactly like," the driving machine disagrees. "Old Yeller was a male. This lovely black-and-white.One of the figures was a bearded, dark-haired man whom Colman recognized as Leon, sitting alongside a brown skinned woman identified by the caption at the bottom of the picture simply as Thelma. So at least some of them were located at the arctic scientific establishment in northern Selene, Colman thought to himself. The other pair of figures were Otto, of Asiatic appearance, and Chester, who was black; the ones shown alone in the remaining two sections of the screen were Gracie, another Oriental, and Smithy, a blond Caucasian with a large moustache and long sideburns. From their ages they were all evidently Founder. Kath introduced each of them in turn without mentioning titles, responsibilities, or where any of them were, and the Terrans didn't ask.."When I was a little kid, I saw a fantastic performing-dog act. This golden retriever did all these.Lechat thought for a while as he continued to eat. He had entertained similar thoughts himself; nevertheless, he was unable to grasp clearly the notion that an advanced culture, even with no defense preoccupations, could function viably with no restriction whatever being placed on consumption. It went against every principle that had been drilled into him throughout his life..it. They radiate the telltale intensity: in their stance, in their demeanor. In their eyes..The Chironians replied readily enough to questions about their population growth and distribution, about growth and performance of the robot-operated mining and extraction industries and nuclear-driven manufacturing and processing plants, about the courses being taught in their schools, the researches being pursued in their laboratories, the works of their artists and composers, the feats of their engineers and architects, and the~ findings of their geological surveys of places like the~ sweltering rain forests of southern Selene or the far northern ice-subcontinent of Glace..Inside the server were vanilla ice-cream sundaes with chocolate sauce, toasted coconut, and crowning.The tailgate is hinged at the bottom. Two latch bolts fix it at the top..Celia raised her head suddenly to look up at Lechat. "But I only shot him twice, not six times as the soldiers found. And the house hadn't been broken into when I left. Don't you see what that means?"..them to the silken gloom and the suety glow of the candle flames..None of those movies or books has introduced him to a homicidal psychopath who collects teeth still.to match Geneva's smile. Instead, the girl's cocky cheerfulness melted into melancholy. Her clear eyes.While the others passed through into the hallway of the apartment, Kath turned back toward the screen and touched a control on the compad. AJ1 of the views vanished except that of Leon, which expanded to fill the whole screen just as Thelma moved away out of the picture to leave him on his own. "We ought to commence evacuating the Kuan-yin," Kath said. "It looks as if it could be dangerous up there very soon..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..".caught her attention. At first he hears only the grumble of the SUVs. . . . Then, in the distance, a flutter of..how to cope with that..conditioning.. "I've only got until my next birthday, and then all bets are off." The girl moved along the swooning fence.bricks on this road, and here, now, in the lingering sour scent of warm beer, in this small kitchen where.The party ascended the main staircase, at the top of."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..".ebony accents, was a modified obelisk, not gracefully tapered like a standard obelisk, but of chunky."Exactly what Jeeves told Jay when he asked-an accident with a magnetic antimatter confinement system; so it was a good thing we decided to store it well away from Chiron. We could hardly disguise that after it happened, which was another good reason for needing the Kuan-yin..".MEXICO. On the front, the word STARCHILD was emblazoned in two-inch red letters..".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?" skids and nearly falls on a cascade of loose shale, thrashes through an unseen cluster of knee-high sage. "Congratulations, Steve," Bernard said, still smiling. "I wonder what those guards are doing right now." Not trusting herself to speak, Micky shook her head, which was the first admission she had ever made. "Army logic," Colman murmured. recently met and therefore are still in the process of becoming a fully simpatico boy-dog unit. More likely, at the moment it seemed to hang by a gossamer thread; she didn't have a thousand stupid choices to live. Leilani looked toward the kitchen window but seemed to be gazing at something far away in time and at. Major Lesley shook his head slowly and continued to stare ahead with a vacant look in his eyes. "This shouldn't be happening," he murmured. "They're not the enemy. They shouldn't be fighting each other." But without a steady supply of new converts to sustain it, the enthusiasm of the politically active early years of the voyage had waned. For a while she had absorbed herself in a revived dedication to her original calling by attending specialist courses in the Princeton module on such subjects as gene-splicing, and extending her activities later to include research and some teaching at the high-school level. Her research work at Princeton and her teaching had brought her into contact with Jerry Pernak, who was in research, and Eve Verritty, who had been a junior administrator with the Education Department at the time. In fact it was Jean who had first introduced them to each other. control himself and to leave the grieving for safer times. work. Marie, who had been exploring the house, emerged from the elevator. "The basement is huge!" she told them. "There are all kinds of rooms down there, and I don't know what they're for. I could have my own room to draw things in. And did you know there's another door down there that leads out to a tunnel? I think it might go through to where the .cab stops because it's got a thing like a conveyer running along next to it. Perhaps we needn't have carried all those things over and in through the front door at all". About all he was good with outside things like that was cards. He couldn't remember exactly when his fascination with them had started, but it had been soon after Swyley, then a fellow private, had taught him to shuffle four aces to the top of a deck and feed them into a deal from the pall. Finding to his surprise that he seemed to have an aptitude, Driscoll had borrowed a leaf from Colman's book and started reading up about the subject. For many long off duty hours he had practiced top-pass palms and one-handed side-cuts until he could materialize three full fans from an. "Carson doesn't know what to do with it," Driscoll. grandkids someday, because the big truck doesn't clip even one pump, doesn't barrel into any of the. The boy is neither barefoot nor a clown, and so after a brief confusion, he realizes she's talking about the. EPILOGUE. Kalens looked at him calmly for a few seconds, then nodded. "Very well. I withdraw the statement and apologize." The Chironian studied him for a second or two longer, then grunted softly at the back of his throat somewhere. "We didn't do that," he said. "After we told 'em they were cooped up, some of 'em started shooting. Five of 'em tried making a break, holding a white shirt up to tell us they wanted out We held back, but a couple of the others gunned 'em down from behind while they were running. She was one of those five." The Chironian turned his head for a moment and spat onto the ground in the shadow beneath the aircraft. "After that, one-half of the bunch that was left started shooting it out with the other half- maybe because of what they'd done, or maybe because they wanted to quit too- and at the end of it there were maybe three or four left. We hadn't done a thing. Padawski was one of 'em, and there were a couple of others just as mean and crazy. Didn't leave us with too much of a problem." "We don't intend to let it happen," Kath said. "Aunt Gen, you're thinking of The Man with the Golden Arm. Frank Sinatra, Kim Novak. It hit theaters. place, less than twenty-four hours ago. Jarvis scanned the screen on the far side of the post. "The fighting at Vandenberg looks as if ifs being contained," he announced. - "Two pockets of our guys are holding out at Bays One and Three, but the rest are cooperating with the regulars. The regulars have pretty well secured the whole module already. Stormbel won't be getting any help from the surface through there." than Micky's had been, only different. Hardship strengthens those it doesn't break, and already, at nine. Jean looked at him with a worried face. "Jay's come back with all these things, and he's trying to say he got them all for nothing. He's claiming that anyone can just help themselves. I've never heard such nonsense." For now, they travel without a destination, vagabonds but not carefree. "The day of the test," Leilani said, "I had chocolate ice cream for breakfast. If I'd had oatmeal, I might've." "RAPE" Ha-ha, hah-hah. Nevertheless, standing erect, the boy wishes the trucker would go away, but he can't think of a thing to. arrogant, generous or envious, sane or quite mad. "Excuse me, sir. Thank you, ma'am. Sorry, sir. Excuse." But there is no specifically defined right for the Director to extend that privilege to his successor," Fulmire replied. "You cannot attempt to extract any form of assurance from me concerning the possible resolution of such a question. My presuming the right to give any such assurance would be highly illegal, as would be any consequential actions that you might take. I repeat, I have no more to say." each of the bastards out, she cared about me less than him, and me less than the new bastard who was. even if he were that kind of pervert, because he pities me the way you would pity a truck-smashed dog. "I guess I'll have to think about it," Jay conceded. Hanlon ordered three hamburger dinners, and the two sergeants spent a half hour talking with Jay about Army life, football, and how Stanislau could crash the protected sector of the public databank. Finally Jay said he had to be getting home, and they walked with him up several levels to the Manhattan Central capsule point. swing, but there. The room is small. One queen-size bed with a minimum of walk-around space. Built-in nightstands, a. "Will the Chironians let him wait that long?" Colman asked. "Do they know he's in there and what it means?". The boy is athletic, agile. The leap from the porch roof is a challenge easily met. He lands on the lawn. grace. "What saith thee, young maiden, in the presence of Cleopatra?" Stopping two steps inside the door,

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