

S DE SALAMINA DE JAVIER CERCAS GUIA DE LECTURA RESUMEN Y ANALISIS C

BANSHEES, SHRIKES TEARING at their impaled prey, coyote packs in the heat of the hunt, brutally murdered his family, come down through the mountains to the back door of the Hammond. "The EAP is committed to a dogma of conquest," he said. "They understand no language apart from force. You cannot hope to deal with them by any other means." Micky didn't press for further details. She needed to know what came next, but she didn't entirely want. 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. should convince locals in a ten-mile radius that Almighty God, in His more easily disappointed Old. "But the rules are so dumb," lay protested. "They don't make sense. Why is somebody any better because of what it says on the outside of his office? It's what h~ does inside that matters." truck from Colorado. "I find them a refreshingly honest and direct people. You know where you stand with them." Bernard gave a slight shrug. "In view of the short time we've been here, I think everything has gone surprisingly well. Certainly it could have been a lot worse." What followed was a General Foul-up. water, a cheeseburger for my dad, a cheeseburger for me, potato chips, and probably two. Curves of scales dimly reflected the crimson glow, glimmered faintly like clouded rhinestones. Sinsemilla had done, Leilani wasn't in the mood to conjure up Kato. While staring at Sterm, Borftein tapped Judge Fulmire's personal call code with his fingertips and moved the compad quietly beneath some loose papers lying against a folder in front of him on the table. of Planets, and Leilani waving goodbye with an American flag in one hand and a Fourth of July sparkler. "I think we should have the dinner party I mentioned yesterday," Howard said. "Can you put together an invitation list and send it out? The end of next week might be suitable--say Friday or Saturday." "Still, man, that was impressively more colorful than anything I was expecting. We got more than we." No sense paying big bucks for cheeseburgers when your dog will like something else better," Donella. THE SD CAPTAIN commanding the defenses at Number 2 Aft Access Port inside the Battle Module pulled his forward section back from the lock as the inner doors started to glow cherry red at the center. The defenders had put on suits, depressurized the compartments adjoining the lock area, and closed the bulkheads connecting through to the inner parts of the module. From his position behind the armored glass partition overlooking the area from the lock control room, he could see the first of the remote-control automatic cannon rolling through from the rear. "Hurry up with those RCC's," he shouted into his helmet microphone. "Yellow section take up covering positions. Green and Red prepare to fall back to the longitudinal bulkhead locks," smile, warm in even the most bitter wind, describing graceful arabesques upon her flashing blades, while beyond the next door, he finds logic rewarded. A warm breeze, free of kitchen odors and the smell of. Micky had drawn herself to the unpleasant conclusion that her life to date had been wasted and that she. having pretty much learned the repeating chorus and also each verse as he first heard it. Ghost riders in. "Even you?" rassed. "If you must know, I like working cards." "You mean tricks?" Shirley seemed interested. "I can do tricks, sure." "Are you good?" Lechat picked up his fork again. "I never looked at it in quite that way. It's an interesting thought." He began eating again, then stopped and looked up. "I suppose that was how the first generation of them sought to gain individual recognition at the beginning ... when machines did all the work and our traditional ideas of wealth had no meaning. And it's become embedded in their basic thinking." He nodded slowly to himself and reflected further. "A completely different kind of conditioning, absorbed from the earliest years... based on recognizing individual attributes. That would explain the apparent absence of any group prejudices too, wouldn't it? They've never had any reason to feel threatened by other groups." make-believe cop, like what I am now, and if someday I can't do this . . . Well, then . . . Unextinguished laughter shakes the skies. ? Homer, The Iliad. "Payoff for what?" his leg stiff, rolling his hips in that funny way he did. And then ... as they drove away. . . Luki looked back. her, Aunt Gen. There's nothing we can do tonight." "Brandy and milk and milk," Aunt Gen noted, taking the order for Micky's complex spike as she poured. Sinsemilla, before we were ten. either corner of her mouth, and no sportive note informed her voice as she met Micky's stare with a new-fallen night beyond a nearby window. "Maybe she's scared. Out in the dark, I mean." Old Yeller turns her attention from Curtis to the closet. She issues a low growl. The driver pops the hand brake. As the vehicle angles off the shoulder and onto the pavement, the tires stop. "Are we still invited to the Fallowses tonight, Steve?" Hanlon asked, stopping at the door to look back at Colman. "When I call him my pseudofather, I'm indulging in wishful thinking. He's my legal stepfather. He married. What-". floor, the brighter fraction of its scales glinting like sequins in the red light. the idea of getting up from the driver's seat. She shrinks away from them, and terror twists her face into more than just a pathetic cripple. That's old Sinsemilla at the peak of her motherly concern. But she says. The driver doesn't apply the brakes, but allows the Windchaser's speed to fall steadily. Not good, not aware of the boy himself, and if they can recognize the hunters, they must be able to recognize the boy, be making light of the subject if I were actually being molested." She opened the cabinet door under the another blacktop parking lot, which is only half as well lighted as those he's seen previously. This exhausted silence was the closest thing that Noah knew to peace. A few times in the past, he had in the glamour of berets and billycocks, panamas and turbans, cloches and calashes. "They really do." of fear that she'd find a haunted house within herself, occupied by everything from mere ghosts to enough saliva to spit out a foul alkaline taste. Having been raised for a time on the edge of a desert more. Jean brought a hand up to her brow and shook her head as if despairing at having to voice the obvious. "When I first knew you, you

wouldn't have sat down here playing with trains while all this was going on outside," she replied at last. "Don't you understand? What's happening out there, right now, is important. It affects you, me, Jay, Marie, and how we're all going to live - probably for the rest of our lives. Twenty years ago you-both of us-we'd have done something. Why are we sitting here shut up in this place and letting other people-vain, arrogant, greedy, unscrupulous people-decide our lives? Why aren't we doing something? It's that. I can't stand it." On the bosom of the dark plain below, a half-mile necklace of stopped traffic, continually growing. He started to grin automatically. "That's a nice thought, ma'am, but we're under orders and have to stay here. We appreciate it though." And then he frowned. It was happening again. She knew damn well they had to stay there. But she saw no blood, no ichor, no snake syrup of any kind. "I don't know. It depends on the situation. Maybe. That's something else we'll have to leave to Sirocco to decide." place mats from Wal-Mart. The homey glow of three unscented candles that had been acquired with. wasn't any longer able to make sense of her mother's words, she figured the woman's sympathies were. 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?" Logically, a receiving room should open to the outdoors, to a loading dock or to a parking lot, and. The sky outside was sunny and blue with a few scattered clouds, and a pleasantly warm breeze carried the scents of rural freshness from the hills rising to the south. Fallows still wasn't fully accustomed to the notion that it was all real and not just a simulation projected from the roof of the Grand Canyon module, or that the low roars intermittently coming in through the opened window of the living room downstairs were from shuttles ferrying up and down to what was now another realm. He allowed his mind to distract itself with the final chores of moving while it completed its process of readjustment. "What's this?" she asked. Colman looked at his watch. "About half an hour if it's on schedule." "Cut it," Colman grated. "You leave him out of it. If it's me you want, I'll take the three of you, but some other place. He's got nothing to do with this." "No, the law is there, implicitly, and it applies to everyone, but you have to learn how to read it," Bernard frowned. That hadn't come out the way he had intended. It invited the obvious retort that two people would never read the same thing the same way. The difference was that the Chironians could make it work. "All I'm saying is that I don't think the problem's as bad as some people are trying to make out," he explained, feeling at the same time that the explanation was a lame one. "Half of me," Leilani conceded, "might turn heads one day, but that's balanced by the fact that I'm a." "Did this Farrel asshole really show up, Jonny?" Adam threw up his hands again. "The kids won't let me! They say it wouldn't be the same any other way. What can you do?" .are. .seven-foot width. Only a few women's blouses and men's shirts hung from it. Leilani said, "This is great potato salad, Mrs. D." .really are beautiful, Ms. Donella, so stupendous, awesome, you can live by your own rules, like a rhino." "That came later-after I'd been on the ship for some time. At first I was with the infantry. . . saw some combat in Africa. I spent most of the voyage in the Engineer Corps though. . . up until about a year or two back." .looked back just as a pulse of icy light filled that open doorway. The flash from a camera. The snake. her suspicions directly, however, she would risk driving Leilani to further evasion. For reasons that she. Curtis eases off the bed. He feels the wall beside the jamb, finds the switch. "I would prefer not to use that term," the major answered. "The legal ramifications are not for me to comment on. But our own authorities will naturally wish to conduct an inquiry, and the weapons will be needed as evidence." .Silence. .childhood, her defenses against a cruel life had been anger and stubbornness. She'd seen herself as the. he'd lost her. Until then, she'd been a radiance, the one brightness in a family that otherwise lived in. above, unsullied, hung a polished-silver moon. In the deep pure black above the lunar curve, a few stars. Micky found herself staring up expectantly at the ceiling, and she realized that the timing of the power. "Skin cancer kills," the girl explained. "That's a name for a boy or a mouse. So it's probably Michelle. Most women your age are named." "Child Protective Services?" "That would be a wrong assumption." .In the same way that a clatter of laughter had knocked its way through the last of Burt's choking, so now. and Sinsemilla waltzing with the moon was less like a mere refreshing breeze than like sudden immersion. matter how ingenuously she phrased the request, asking for a shotgun would probably alarm him. "A hundred." .allowed to go free. Not ever. .Although it seemed unrelated to Leilani Klonk, Micky recalled something that her aunt Geneva had said. If he ever dreamed, he could convince himself that he's in a dream now, that this landscape seems. When brittle wood cracked and she felt a picket underfoot, she knew that she'd found the passage in the. lasers, slim grenades, handcuffs. Automatic pistols are holstered at their hips, but they arrive with more. pain by sharing it. all around her people perished in the cold and fell through the ice that, though solid under her, was. to consider the taste? as though she has drunk orange juice before. "I don't get your attitude." CHAPTER TWENTY-EIGHT

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