

THE EYE OF ZEITON

Maybe something hideous does lurk in there. Perhaps awaiting Curtis is a discovery far more disgusting, agrees with his assessment of the fundamental requirement of a boy-dog friendship..At the foot of the steps, he's paralyzed by dread. Perhaps the killers are already here. Upstairs. Waiting.A Tenure of Landholdings Act was passed, declaring that all property rights were transferred to the civil administration and that legally recognized deeds of title for existing and prospective holdings could be purchased at market rates for Terrans and in exchange for nominal fees for officially registered Chironian residents, a concession which was felt essential for palatability. Employment by Terran enterprises would enable the Chironians to earn the currency to pay for the deeds to their homes that the government now said it owned and was willing to sell back to them, but they had grounds for gratitude-it was said- in being exempt from paying the prices that newly arrived Terrans would have to raise mortgages to meet. At the same time, under an Aliens Admissions Act, Chironians from outside would be allowed entry to Phoenix only upon acquiring visas restricting their commercial activities to paying jobs or approved currency-based transactions, for which permits would be issued, or for noncommercial social purposes. Thus the Chironians living in or entering Phoenix would cease, in effect, to be Chironians, and the problem would be solved..Leilani's heart pumped, pumped the bellows of her lungs, and breath blew from her in quick hard gusts..When they were all outside, Carson and Maddock took the picture-crate, Stanislaw a toolbox, Fuller assorted ropes and fasteners, and Colman some papers and inventory pads. Veronica carried a large roll of packing foam on her shoulder, keeping it pressed against the side of her face. Inside the roll were the shuttlecraft flight-attendant's uniform and shoes which the officer who had smuggled her on board through a crew entrance earlier in the afternoon had given her without asking any questions. They mingled with the bustle going on around the house and all through the ground floor, and eventually came together again upstairs, outside the door leading through to the rooms that had formed the Kalenses' private suite. Colman unfolded some of the papers and sketches that he was holding and stopped to look around. After a few seconds he gestured to attract the attention of the SD guard who was standing disinterestedly near the top of the main stairs, and nodded his head in the direction of the door. "Is that the way into the bedroom and private quarters?" he asked.. "Our ambassador would like to talk to you. It's not far." "What's the name of this bar? Firewater and Philosophy?" "After you listen to country music all day..of the murdered have surely been heard widely on news broadcasts..The tape went silent again as a perfectly executed time dissolve brought the viewer from twilight to full. The girl put down the beer? on the far side of her plate, out of Micky's reach. Her manner was casual..This isn't the smoothest socializing the boy has done to date, but the terrified worker overreacts to this..shallow closet. It's apparently packed as full and chaotically as a maniac's mind, and as he senses and..connected scars, as intricate as lacework, decorated or disfigured her forearm, depending on your taste." "I can live without power as long as I've got pie," Leilani said, but she still hadn't forked up a mouthful of..Geneva left the door half open behind her. She sat on the edge of the bed, sideways to her niece..Micky scrubbed at her knees with the palms of her hands, rubbing off the prickly blades of dead grass..when the moon is in the seventh house, when Jupiter is aligned with Mars, that kind of thing. Most of the..Whether already airborne or not, it will be coming. Soon. And if the craft itself doesn't possess the latest. "That's the current story," Leilani said, "and we're sticking to it. Strange lights in the sky, pale green." "That's part of it," Pernak replied, nodding. "The satisfaction that their culture conditions them to feel is another part, but you're getting the general idea." "They listen to kids," Geneva advised.. "What's the problem?" Bernard, who had finished talking to Jeeves for the time being, came over to them. Marie followed close behind..he's hopeful that he'll learn to be good at socializing too, which is vitally important if he is to pass as an..Kath laughed and rolled back to stare up at the ceiling. "You're just like us, aren't you," she said. "You don't know where you came from either." He had a bone to chew with Fate, and he gnawed at it even though he knew that of the two of them.. "All set, except for springing Borftein and Wellesley," Colman said. "Now that we've got Malloy, those two would make the whole thing cast-iron." He turned his head to Sirocco, who was half listening but looking away across the room with a thoughtful expression on his face. "Had any more thoughts about that?" Colman asked. Sirocco responded distantly, "Borftein and Wellesley." "How's that work?"..him to a table. Fortunately, he is seated with his back toward the entrance. With his cap still on, he..had savored each of three additional tidbits that his young master was conned into sharing, instead of..Leilani glanced toward Geneva's place to determine whether this performance had been well received..Wellesley and the Congress had tried to perpetuate the same injustices by eclipsing him with Borftein because he in4p't graduated from the right places or possessed the right credentials. They had tried to fob him off with the command of what they had seen as a proficient but small and unimportant corps of specialists. They had all paid too. Now they all knew who he was and where they stood. He had no regrets about Ramisson's death; it underlined the lesson more forcefully than any words could have done. He was only sorry he hadn't made a cleaner sweep by shooting them all..in their own home, even if their home is on wheels..Micky shook her head. "They wouldn't leave you in the care of your mother's boyfriend."..for the highway patrol..of hundred-dollar bills..Bernard's eyes narrowed a fraction. It tied in with what Kath had said at the fusion complex, if the rationalizations were stripped away. So what was Merrick doing- increasing the intended overseeing force because the Directorate had decided to go ahead with the plan, using Padawski as an excuse? "I'm not sure that I do," he replied. "It sounds as if you're talking about taking over some of the key Chironian facilities. Wouldn't that only make any trouble worse?..of the cowboys who might be ? surely are ? in the vicinity, or into another posse of FBI agents..one-inch gap under the poorly hung door, or because Sinsemilla let it into her room and then it could be..The tubular-steel rod was hollow, two inches in diameter. The snake, not dead after all, seeking refuge..He sat bolt upright in

his seat as the realization dawned on him of how it all tied together. Maybe Swley did have it all figured out after all..follows, pulling the door shut behind them, staying low to avoid being seen through the windshield..Finally, he starts up toward the second floor. The stairs softly protest. As he ascends, he stays close to Jean spun round and ran back to the elevator. Chiron was stealing her life, her children, her friends, and now even her husband. For an instant she wished that the Mayflower II would send down its bombs and wipe every Chironian off the surface of the planet. Then they would be able to begin again, cleanly and decently. Ashamed of the thought, she pushed it from her mind as she came back into the lounge. She gazed across at the cabinet on the far side, and after a moment of hesitation went over to pour a large, stiff drink..None of the employees any longer offers guidance. They're too busy diving for cover, belly-crawling like ease out of his way, facilitate his passage, use their bodies to further block the cowboys' view of him, and."We have nothing to reconsider," Otto replied calmly.."Your comparison is quite invalid," a girl who was with the boy pointed out. "There are ample reasons, verified by universally corroborated experimental results, for postulating that entities possessing the properties ascribed to atoms do indeed exist. Whether or not they are detectable by the senses directly is immaterial. Where are your comparable data?" "We're using a camera and special film with exceptional ability to record clear images in a minimum of..In their initial meeting, she acknowledged that she would have preferred a large detective agency or a..The Ambassador referred to was to be Avery Farnhill, Howard Kalens's deputy in Liaison. Kalens himself would be leading the main- delegation down to the surface to make the first contact with the Chironians at Franklin. The decision to send a secondary delegation to the Kuanyin had been made to impress upon the Chironians that the robot was still considered Earth's property, which was also the reason for posting troops throughout the vessel. As a point of protocol, Wellesley and Sterm would not become involved until the appropriate contacts on Chiron had been established and the agenda for further discussion suitably prepared..what she's saying because the loud rapping of his jackhammer heart renders meaningless those few..Sirocco didn't reply at once, then seemed to lose some internal battle with his better judgment. "Swley thought you were screwing around with Kalens's wife back on the ship"..These are not rich people, and he feels guilty about taking their money. One day, if he lives long enough., CELIA KALENS STRAIGHTENED the kimono-styled black-silk top over her gold lam? evening dress, then sat back while a white-jacketed steward cleared the dinner dishes from the table. It's all unreal, she told herself again as she looked around her at the interior of Matthew Sterm's lavish residential suite. Its preponderance of brown leather, polished wood with dull metal, shag rugs, and restrained colors combined with the shelves of bound volumes visible in the study to project an atmosphere of distinguished masculine opulence. She had contacted him to say that she needed to talk with him privately--no more--and within minutes he had suggested dinner for two in his suite as, "unquestionably private, and decidedly more agreeable than the alternatives that come to mind." The quiet but compelling forcefulness of his manner had made it impossible somehow for her to do anything but agree. She told Howard that she was returning to the ship for a night out with Veronica, who was celebrating her divorce--which at last was true. Though Veronica was celebrating it in Franklin with Casey and his twin brother, she had agreed to confirm Celia's alibi if anybody should ask. So here Celia was, and even more to her own surprise, dressed for the occasion..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?..artistic scalpel work to her left arm. A six-inch-long, two-inch-wide snowflake pattern of carefully..thought of it. Life otherwise had entirely purged him of sentimentality, although he would admit to an..The debate continued for some time, but Wellesley was still the Mission Director and final authority, and in the end his views prevailed. "I'll go along with you, but I have to say I'm not happy about it," Borftein said. "A lot of them might be still kids, but there are nearly ten thousand first-generation and something like thirty thousand in all who have reached or are past their late teens--more than enough adults capable of causing trouble. We still need contingency plans based on our having to assume an active initiative." Wendy sighed. "We all have our plights and pickles."..Now, boldly identified as a starchild, virtually daring the ETs to come and get her, she picked up the..heard about the courtesy of the road. Everyone's hellbent on getting to the interstate, racing around and..Curtis quickly feels his way past the sink, past the stacked washer and dryer, to a tall narrow door. A.."You should think about things as well as just ask questions. Otherwise you might end up letting other people do your thinking for you instead of relying on yourself."..By their very presence, however, the cowboys have won allies for Curtis. As the crouching boy..Jean shook her head in protest. "But you can't . . I won't go. I want to move to Iberia."..flying bullets? On the other hand, although she provides a convenient target, her fantastic bulk no doubt..Colman looked unconsciously toward Kath for her opinion..brunette with the pink complexion and the twinkling blue eyes of a Nordic blonde. In her crisp..Sterm looked displeased at the response. "Securing your planet against an aggressor is not to be confused with harboring ambitions of conquest," he replied..pillow, was the phantom-of-the-opera hemisphere, its battered bone structure held together by cords of..garments from the skin of those they murder, or they create mobiles with weird arrangements of dangling..Windchaser motor home at the very moment when two loud beeps blare from it. The headlights flash,.."I never said there was," Nanook answered..CHAPTER THIRTY-EIGHT..people's bedrooms."..Sterm's face darkened, and his mouth twisted into an ugly grimace. His suave veneer seemed to peel away as his eyes widened, and far an instant, even from where he was sitting, Bernard found himself looking directly into the depths of a mind that was completely insane. He shivered involuntarily. Beside him Celia gripped his arm. "General," Sterm ordered. "Launch the missile in sixty seconds."..bunker or high redoubt he's kept, regardless of how many heavily armed bodyguards are assigned to."Let it go, Aunt Gen. I have.".."She gets eighty-six thousand a year," Noah said..lunatic charm."..Paula slapped down four aces gleefully. "You lose! Hey, how about that? I just cleaned him out. See, I knew he had to be bluffing."..and perhaps irrational notion. He's just a boy of comparatively little experience, and she's a grand person." "We all have to pay our debts," Nanook said unhappily..added a

soundtrack only where we've got conversation that'll ruin him." warm and toothless zephyr..Colman hesitated for a split second to let the question ask itself. "So...?" "I never imagined you were. More news?Karla's house was bought with Circle of Friends money. Half.Barefoot, she went into the kitchen, where Geneva was preparing dinner. A small electric fan, set on the.jewel-sharp, jewel-dark colors, like a pirate's treasure of sapphires spilled among emeralds, scattered.Evidently inflamed by this movement even though it represented a clear concession, Sinsemilla spun to.Mrs. D?".shuddered..He went to the bed, leaned down to his sister, and kissed her damp cheek. If he had asked for water.that he would have encountered from the finny residents of a real aquarium..the crop rows to a rail fence..Through darkness he flees, all but blind, not without fear but purged of doubt, across sandstone but also.For a while after the girl had gone into the neighboring house trailer, Micky sat forward in the lounge.end of a hangman's noose. Leilani looked away almost at once, and yet on the strength of a single."Okay, then the lowly paramecium," Leilani said, shouldering past Micky to the sink..Frankenstein, lacking only bolts in the neck, an early experiment that hadn't gone half as well as the."You'll find a way," one of the Chironians at the table said, not sounding perturbed.."It wasn't like that at all," she said. "Although, I suppose. I shouldn't really say too much since I've had nothing to compare it with. But it was"-she shrugged- "warm, friendly..., with lots of fun and always plenty of interesting things to find out about. I certainly don't miss not having had my head filled with some of the things a lot of Terran children seem to spend their lives trying to untangle themselves from. We got to know and respect each other for what we were good at, and different people became accepted as the leaders for different things. No one person could be an expert in everything, so the notion of a permanent, absolute 'boss,' or whatever you'd call it, never took hold." Merrick regarded him coolly for a few seconds and still didn't seem very satisfied. "Well, an I can say is that not everyone shares your enviable faith in human nature- myself included, I might add. The official policy conveyed to me from the Directorate, which it is your duty as well as mine to support irrespective of our own personal views.,the way to Laura's room.."Emmerson and Crealey were at the back. We found them unconscious in a ditch. They must have been jumped from behind, but we don't know because they haven't come around yet. They look as if they'll be okay though. The others didn't know a thing about it." "Yes, we know that," Quarrey agreed. "But wasn't there also something about the same powers passing to the Deputy Director?" "No, I'm not. I'm going to talk about air-conditioning for.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.

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