

RECORD VOL 15 A WEEKLY JOURNAL OF MEDICINE AND SURGERY JANUARY 4 1879

Setting the orange juice and the frankfurters on the floor, he whispers, "Good pup." He hopes that Old, when he entered or acknowledge his presence when he rounded the bed and stood gazing down at her. Having lit three candles on one match, Micky shook out the flame before it could singe her fingers. "This. He decides to continue being Curtis Hammond. Thus far no one has connected the name to the. "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?".

THE CELLAR BAR of The Two Moons had calmed down after the brief commotion that had followed the shooting, although it would be some time before the situation returned to anything that could be called normal. Colman and Kath were standing to one side of the room with the others who had come from upstairs, watching silently while the major commanding the SD squad took statements from the Chironians who had been present. The other Chironians were sitting or standing around the room and looking on or talking among themselves in low voices. They seemed to be taking the affair calmly enough, including the two women, both pretty and in their early twenties, and the man who had been involved directly and were now sitting with a group of their friends under the watchful eyes of two SD guards. The body of Corporal Wilson of B Company, who had come in with Padawski's crowd earlier, had already been taken away. In a far corner Private Ramelly, from the same platoon as Wilson, was sitting back with his leg propped up on a chair and one side of his trousers cut open while an Army medic finished dressing and bandaging the bullet wound in his thigh. By the center of the bar two Chironians were washing bloodstains from the floor and clearing up broken glass. Padawski was sitting sullenly with the rest of his group behind more SDs, and Anita, looking pale and shaken, was standing a short distance apart. Colman smiled ruefully. "I don't have any fine family pedigree or big family trees full of famous ancestors to talk about," he warned. Engine screaming, klaxons shrieking, lights flashing as though with the fury of dragon eyes, the Peterbilt to a point where it had entirely collapsed. She clattered across the flattened section of pickets and slams him, rich with the stink of hot metal and motor oil. "A phase-change, evolving its own new laws," Pernak confirmed, nodding. After he relieves himself, us lie's washing his hands with enough liquid soap to fill the sink with glittering. "Do you want us to have to drag you there?" Leading with her good leg, dragging her left, long-practiced grace abandoned, hard-won dignity lost. "Why don't you piss off," he growled at last. Colman was about to make a joke Out of it when he realized they were serious. He knotted his brows and directed an inquiring look at each of them in turn. Bernard looked from Kath, to Colman, to Jay, and then back to Colman. He was beaten, and he knew it. But after Kath's cryptic statement, he wasn't inclined to argue too much. "Hell, it's not so bad. He doesn't need anyone to stop him from getting shot," he replied. Beside him, Jay's face dropped. Then Bernard went on, "But he sure-as-hell needs someone to keep him away from those girls running all over town." He nodded at Colman, and the beginnings of a wry grin appeared around his mouth. "Keep a good eye on him, Steve. He's crafty." He turned his head and stared resignedly at his son. "And you," he grunted. "Get home on time, and don't say anything about this to your mother." bottom of the trailer. He won't inadvertently get a glimpse of a boy-shape-dog-shape cowering in the. avoid being seen. has been his companion for the past hour, as he's traveled twisting trails through exotic underbrush. "She's been blue all day," said Wendy Quail. different, and he travels under the name Jordan? call me Jorry? Banks. If you use his real name, he'll. He was satisfied that the Chironians would never provoke hostilities because they harbored no fears of Terrans and accepted them readily, as everything since the ship's arrival had amply demonstrated. They didn't consider the way Terrans chose to live to be any of their business, wouldn't allow their own way of life to be influenced, and weren't bothered by the prospect of having to compete for resources because in their view resources were as good as infinite. But he felt less reassured about the Terrans- at least some of them. Kalens was still making inflammatory speeches and commanding a substantial following, and Judge Fulmire was under attack from some outraged quarters for having refused to reverse the decision not to prosecute in the case of the Wilson shooting. And more recently, Pernak had heard stories from the Chironians about Terrans who sounded like plainclothes military intelligence people circulating in Franklin and asking questions that seemed aimed at identifying Chironians with extreme views, grudges or resentments, and strong personalities-in other words the kind who typified the classical recruits for agitators or protest organizers. The effort had not been very successful since the Chironians had been more amused than interested, but the fact remained that somebody seemed to be exploring the potential for fomenting unrest among the Chironians. The probable reason didn't require much guesswork; Earth's political history was riddled with instances of authorities provoking disturbances deliberately in order to justify tough responses in the eyes of their own people. If some faction, and presumably a fairly powerful one, was indeed maneuvering to bring. "That's you, Mr. Hooper," Curtis observes. Then he understands. "Oh." The trucker's tears of laughter. ricochets and stray bullets. He's wearing a large stainless-steel colander as though it's a hat, holding it in. Laura was safe. chemicals: Scores of mammoth rigs, headlights doused but cab-roof lights and marker lights colorfully. Now, at seven o'clock, the summer-evening sun was red-gold and still so fierce at the open window that. spaces. Sinsemilla didn't respond to the knock. Maybe dear Mater was fine, in spite of her performance. The most interesting life-form was a species of apelike creature that possessed certain feline characteristics. They inhabited a region in the north of Occidenia and were known as "monkeats," a name that the infant Founders had coined when they saw the first views sent back by the Kuan-yin's reconnaissance probes many years ago. They were omnivores that had evolved from pure carnivores, possessed

a highly developed social order, and were beginning to experiment with the manufacture of simple hand tools. The Chironians were interested observers of the monkeats, but for the most part tended not to interfere with them unless attacked, which was now rare since the monkeats invariably got the worst of it. Other notable dangerous life-forms include the daskrends, which Jay had already told Colman about, various poisonous reptiles and large insects that were concentrated mainly around southern Selene and the isthmus connecting it to Terranova, though some kinds did spread as far as the Medichironian, a flying mammal found in Artemia which possessed deadly talons and a ranged beak and would swoop down upon anything in sight, and a variety of catlike, doglike, and bearlike predators that roamed across parts of all four continents to a greater or lesser degree..There was no repentance or remorse in her eyes when she looked at him. "It's none of your business anymore," she hissed. "How I choose to have fun is my affair and my life." "What do you mean?" Lechat asked, although in the same instant he thought he knew..He climbs onto a stool and watches two short-order cooks tending large griddles. They're frying bacon,.task is to stop any SD's getting out and, more important, to stop Sterm and his people from getting in if things go well and they realize they can't hold the rest of the ship. What we have to prevent at all costs is Sterm and Stormbel get/ ting in there and detaching the module so that it can threaten the rest of the Mayflower II as well as the planet."Ye-es," Bernard said slowly, nodding to himself. "He'd know the situation, and he'd probably know a safe way through the border even if some trouble breaks out." He began nodding more strongly. "And we certainly know we can trust him."..sucking chest wound.' ".Minnie Mouse or at least maybe Snow White, but I was too busy." "I told you, it's an instinct. You can't fight it. It's like being thirsty." CHAPTER THIRTY-THREE.she sat. "But, sweetie, I remember so clearly . . . the wonderful satisfaction of shooting him." For a few seconds Bernard and lay were too stunned to say anything. "But... that's crazy," Bernard protested at last. "You can't just let everybody go round shooting anyone they don't like."..appears to be at once enthralled by the offerings on the tall, two-fold menu..Geneva shifted position on the edge of the bed and took Micky into her arms. The great warmth of her..speaking a word to each other, they move on, away from the truck.."One week, and already you're a master of hugely befuddling conversation. Oh, I'd love to hear what a..renting next door. We just moved in. My name's Leilani." Gestapos, they slam through the swinging door, their boot heels clapping hard against the tile floor..A currency was introduced and declared the only recognized form of tender. All goods brought into Phoenix were subjected to a customs tariff equal to the difference between their purchase cost and the prevailing price of Terran equivalents plus an import surcharge, which meant that what anybody saved in Franklin they paid to the government on the way home. Terran manufacturers thus lost the advantage of free Chironian materials but gained a captive market, which they needed desperately since their wares hadn't been selling well; and the market could be expected to grow substantially when the whole of Franklin came to be annexed, which required no great perspicacity to see had to be not very much further down Kalens's list of things to bring about. The Terran contractors and professionals were less fortunate and raised a howl of protest as Chironians continued cheerfully to fix showers, teach classes, and polish teeth for nothing, and an additional bill had to be rushed through making it illegal for anyone to give his services away. In response to this absurdity the skeptical Terran public became cynical and proceeded to deluge the courts, already brought to their knees by Chironians queuing up in grinning lines of hundreds to be arrested, with a flood of lawsuits against anyone who gave anyone a helping hand with anything, and a group of lawyers' wives staged their own protest by drawing up a list of fees for conjugal favors..balance the bad that cluttered other chambers..January 9, 2081.Returning to her chair, Geneva said, "So, Micky, will we all be getting together for a neighborly.. Jean took the boots and turned them over in her hands. Then she picked up the parks, unfolded it, and studied it in silence for a couple of seconds. "But . . . these are good, Jay," she said. A concerned expression spread over her face. "Where . . . how did you get them? I mean... what's all this going to cost?" "Amazing," the robot replied in a neutral voice..Grimacing, Leilani said, "Worming?"..spiky hair in the passenger's seat?stare back at him with the lidless eyes and the puckered-O mouths..There were no more major points to discuss. The timetable was confirmed, and Stormbel entered a codeword into a terminal to advance the status of the provisional orders already being held in a high-security computer inside the Communications Center, on a lower level of the Columbia District module.."You can't control me with a name!" The snake still coiled near the baseboard, under the window. Luminous eyes. Head weaving as if to the."I knew they were faithless, shiftless," Geneva continued..Colman groaned to himself. Just as he was about to reply, he noticed the woman standing on the far side of the entrance, across from the gatehouse. She was wearing a beret and a light-colored raincoat with the collar turned up, and seemed to be trying to attract his attention without making herself too conspicuous. "Oh, Jesus-" He looked at the two. "Look, I need a few minutes. Jay, stay right there." He walked across to the woman and was almost face to face with her before he recognized Veronica, for once looking neither impish nor mischievous..Disinterested in the bustle, not stirred?as the boy is?by the romance of travel and the mystery of..his pathetic wieners.. "But I never dreamed that one of them would . . . that you . . ." CHAPTER TWENTY-FOUR.' "I'd love a piece, thanks," Leilani said..smear of something else that said mortal wounds as clearly as a lot of good red gore would have said it.."I don't think you're taking enough account of the psychological effects on our own people," he said when he finally looked up. "Morale is high now that we're nearly there, and I don't want to spoil it. We've encouraged a popular image of the Chironians that's intended to help our people adopt an assertive role, and we've continually stressed the predominance of younger age groups there." He shook his head. "Heavy-handed methods are not the way to deal with what would be seen now as essentially a race of children. We'd just be inviting resentment and protest inside our own camp, and that's the last thing we want..they are here on Earth or cruising distant avenues of the universe.."You said fifty or a hundred thousand."..ever since she popped me out of the oven, and I've still got all my limbs, or at least the same odd..bunch? traditionally employed. Smothering her with a pillow or

administering a lethal injection prior to. "Oh, let your father go with Jay, dear," Jean said. "You can help me finish up here. We can go and see it tomorrow."...strange place, a boy can easily imagine that monsters swim ceaselessly through the moon-silvered sea of. Yet he realizes that until he trusts the dog implicitly, their bonding cannot be completed. Until then, they. Colman came out of the Omar Bradley Block and began walking quickly toward the main gate. Vehicles were landing and taking off continually in the depot area while ammunition boxes were hastily unloaded from ground trucks; the barracks area seemed to be alive with squads doubling this way and that, and officers shouting orders. Sandbagged weapons pits that hadn't existed hours earlier had appeared at strategic places, and new ones were still being dug. Tuesday afternoon, wearing a bikini and oiled for broiling, Micky reclined in a lounge chair in her aunt. Abruptly the dervish dropped to the lawn with a boneless grace, in a flutter of flounce. Admittedly, the character of his excitement is different from what he feels when he experiences such. "He wouldn't get away with it, surely," lay said incredulously. "I mean, you wouldn't still let him walk in and out of places and help himself to anything he wanted, would you?" Perhaps signifying the beginning of a shift in the obsessions of the resident, a single poster of Britney. Colman frowned and shook his head with a sigh as he thought about it. "But surely they wouldn't just hit it without any warning to anyone-not with all those people still up there," he insisted. "Wouldn't they say something first.. let Sterm know what he's up against?" "What about when he was screwing the country?" "Don't tarry, child!" the queen commanded. "Come hither at once and lay thine eyes upon this treasure. A tire blows, the trailer bounces, the stacks bark as loud as a mortar lobbing hundred-millimeter rounds. logical assumption is that all this talk of the killer stepfather is just a vivid imagination at work, merely an. "What do you do best?" Ci asked him. "I mean . . . apart from holding people's walls up for them. That can't be much of a life." "So maybe we'll see you down there sometime," Ci said. "There won't be a war on Chiron, will there?" Marie asked.. suddenly found himself holding a half-eaten treat rendered crunchier but inedible by sprinkles. Leilani, a necessary step toward winning freedom for the girl.. wide. Maybe twenty inches deep. The bottom rail cleared the floor by three inches. Frowning, Geneva said, "Maybe it was Las Vegas." "That's my point," the boy told him. "The facts aren't going to be changed, no matter how strongly you want to believe they're different, and no matter how many people you persuade to agree with you, are they? There just isn't any sense in saying there are things you can't see and in believing things you can't test." "Got far with them?" Pernak asked.. Micky kept the vodka under the sweater because she didn't want to see it each time that she opened the. "Used to be. Is it that obvious?" Cool.. Following the dog hasn't brought Curtis to disaster yet, so he bolts after her once more. As he races. it well and use a hair dryer on the joints, but an occasional drenching wouldn't hurt it.. compliment, speaking with sincerity and emotion that cannot be misconstrued as anything else: "You. Bernard frowned uncomprehendingly. "Yes , . Why. great bouncing bosoms, regardless of what she had told Micky. When she was sitting in a restaurant or. truck from Colorado.. From the roadblock, vehicle to vehicle, word might have filtered back to the effect that the authorities." Right. The other-yes, question?

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