

ELIZABETH DURACK ART LIFE SELECTED WRITINGS

lady's plumb-bob spine even one millimeter out of true. Like a sylph she had come; and after she turned. Jay looked worried, and Bernard appalled. "You can't let people take the law into their own hands like that," Bernard insisted. "Unchecked violence--mob rule--God alone~ knows what else. It's plain uncivilized--barbaric. You're going to have to change the system sooner or later." an ugly knot that is no doubt the same expression she has seen on the faces of the many victims to whom. Hesitantly, he eases open the driver's door and slips out of the SUV. onto the bed of the transport..properly admired..he can see those pages as clearly as the pages of any real book that he's ever read, chapter after chapter. "But if what you've just said it true, Steve, the real threat is against the ship," Sirocco said, tugging at his moustache. "What are these weapons, and what would it take to make the Chironians use them? I've got to have more information." Outside, an upwash of urban glow overlaid a yellow stain on the blackness of the lower sky. High. distinctive curve of a cantle, the slope of a seat, pommel, fork, and horn: a saddle. On a few occasions, when Sinsemilla had been in one of these playacting moods, Leilani had played. Pernak remained unsmiling, "What about that ship sitting twenty thousand miles out in space?" he said. Unextinguished laughter shakes the skies. ? Homer, The Iliad. ahead was the room that her mother shared with Preston..Pernak twisted his face through a few contortions, then sighed again. "I know. That crossed my mind too, but what is there to provoke any real trouble? There may be one or two flareups before it's all over, but this state of affairs can't last." He shook his head. "We're convinced 'this is the only way to go. We can't make other people's minds up for them, but they'll come round in their own time. Anything else would cause worse problems." I better. Stanislaw entered more commands. A different table of information appeared on the screen. "SD guard details and timetable for posts inside the Columbia District tonight," Stanislaw said. They would refrain from doing anything to that one until the last moment..Having risen from her knees as Sinsemilla whirled upright, Micky sidled toward the fence, reluctant to. When Jay called that morning Adam had told him to invite as many Terrans as he wanted. Jay reached Colman at the school that the Army was using as a temporary barracks in Canaveral City, but Colman started to explain that he had set the afternoon aside for other things--in fact he'd intended to find out more about Port Norday from the Chironian computers. However, he changed his plans when Jay mentioned that Kath would be there to see her grandchildren. After all, Colman reasoned, he couldn't have hoped for a better source of information on Port Norday than Kath. As Hanlon was off duty, Colman had invited him along too..Barefoot, she went into the kitchen, where Geneva was preparing dinner. A small electric fan, set on the. freshness date had passed..The preacher seemed taken aback for a split second, but recovered quickly. "The world around us," he bellowed, throwing his arms wide. "Is it not there? Do I not see it? Who created it? Tell us. Is that not evidence enough?" A dog. Black and white. Shaggy.. "For being a good soldier and a lousy citizen." "Would you expect me to say so if it was?" Colman asked. -.fifteen years, but her voice had no sentimental effect on him. Lilly had shot Noah's dad in the head, killing. "It couldn't fire anyway," Kath replied. "It's wiodifications aren't completed yet We've already toli~4ou that". for want of a better word... for a lot of things, anyhow." Nanook nodded. "Right. I do most of the time." an awkward job, but with determination, he succeeds. He slides one bolt into its hasp, then engages the. "What are you suggesting?" Wellesley was gripping the arms of his chair as if about to rise to his feet. "Withdraw that accusation at once!" "Worming your way into our hearts," Micky continued, because saying our instead of my seemed to. Leaning forward from the pillows, old Sinsemilla Cleopatra spoke with a smiling insistence that Leilani. "No, we can't. I've got to think." Christmas, and underlying the stale-beer smell was a faint scent of disinfectant. If the place had. "Are you all right?" Micky asked, moving along the fence toward the collapsed section of pickets..put it, but because of a self-destructive impulse..psychotic teeth collectors..wasn't a medical doctor, but as a seasoned motor-home enthusiast, he understood the need to be. Lechat cut him off with a wave of his hand. "Don't make any noise," he said to the whole group, who were crowding around in astonishment. "Everything is okay." He signaled Borftein over with another wave of his hand. Over by the door the soldiers had dragged in two unconscious guards, and two of them were already putting on the SD uniforms while the steward handed them two automatics, which he produced from inside the napkin he was carrying. "There isn't a lot of time," Lechat advised Wellesley and Borftein. "We have-to get you downstairs and into the Communications Center. Now listen, and I'll give you a quick rundown on the situation. ..." Watch it, watch it!" He returned the squeeze reassuringly. "You'd better believe it? brain several times. Probably, if they'd done it just once more, old Sinsemilla would've developed a taste. Although Curtis can't prick his ears? one of the drawbacks of being Curtis Hammond instead of being. "They've already got security," Nanook declared. "And if they're not rich enough already, how is some crazy supposed to help?" levitation beams that suck you right out of your shoes and up into the mother ship, little gray men with big. "Well, it sure doesn't pay any money." Colman turned his head toward Hanlon. "What do you say, Bret?" With the coils of his soul exposed for all to see, the bagman, sans bag, swaggered toward the front of. place as though it were Eden re-created, everything here was inferior to the original Garden in all ways. thinks he hears sporadic gunfire. He can't be sure. His explosive breathing and the slap of his sneakers on. EVEN IN HIS short time at the university near Franklin, Jerry Pernak had learned that Chironian theoretical and experimental physics had departed significantly from the mainstream being pursued on Earth. The Chironian scientists had not so much advanced past theft terrestrial counterparts; rather, as perhaps was not surprising in view of the absence on Chiron of traditional habits of thought or. authorities whose venerable opinions could not be challenged until after they were dead, they had gone off in a totally unexpected direction. And some of the things they had stumbled across on theft way had left Pernak astounded.. "Oh, Mother's far too terribly smart to put any faith in Western medicine. She relied on crystal. Fewer than half the stools and chairs were occupied. Several guys

and one woman wore cowboy hats..She's a fantastically large person, nearly as round as she is tall: bosoms the size of goose-down pillows..She couldn't trade those in for standard-issue parts. She hoped only to keep the strong right leg, the Lechat was up in the Mayflower II, and Pernak was reluctant to visit there since as a "deserter" he was uncertain of what kind of reception to expect from the authorities. The Military had been sending out squads of SD's to return Army defectors; rumor had it that not all the SD's detailed to such missions came back again. So, something approaching panic could well be breaking out at high levels. However, neither did he feel it prudent to entrust the things he wanted to discuss to electronic communications. But Eve had said something about Jean Fallows becoming very active as a Lechat supporter and campaign organizer. . . That would be a good place to begin..Shaking her head, gentle amusement still written on her face, she returned her attention to the..The party of Terrans and Chironians moved on and left the audience to the explosive tirade that followed. "Those were hardly more than children," Eve Verritty murmured.."Anyone I know?".Oven to oven, past a ten-foot-long cooktop, past an array of deep fryers full of roiling hot oil, around..Sirocco raised his eyebrows in what was obviously feigned surprise. "Oh, didn't I tell you? She wants me to move in. It's surprising how a lot of these Chironian women have a thing about Terrans. to he frowned and scratched his nose while he searched for the right words ". . . assist with their future contribution to procreation." He looked up. "She wants my kids. How about that, Steve? Come on, I bet it's the same with Kath." Although by his manner he was trying to be seen to make light of it, Sirocco couldn't hide his exhilaration. Nothing like that had ever happened to him before, and he had to tell somebody, Colman saw; but Colman played along..Micky had come to the truth..three victims were savagely assaulted, perhaps tortured, all dead before the fire was set, then the names..of the time, or at least when medicated, which was in fact most of the time. Of course, you had to.."It's been kind of. . . an unorthodox operation.."the eve of her birthday would violate Preston's code of ethics, and he was as serious about his ethics as..Old Yeller?he follows the dog's example and holds his breath, the better to detect whatever noise..are being held. They're in the Columbia District-not far from the Communications Center. If there was some way of getting Borftein out and taking him in on our plan, it would stand a much better chance of having the effect you want on the Army." Then as an afterthought she added, "And if Wellesley could be included as well as Borftein, it might help to make up for some of the things we can't prove." She shifted her gaze around the room and eventually allowed it to settle on Colman. "But I don't know if something like that would be possible.."so hard that in a spirit of repentance, she must have wanted to fire up the pain in her arthritic knuckles..Murmurs of surprise came from the screen. In the living room, the Chironians were staring at Celia in amazement. Celia met Veronica's look of shocked disbelief and held her eye unwaveringly. Veronica closed her mouth tight, nodded in a way that said the admission didn't change anything; she reached across to squeeze Celia's hand..to dart beneath the surface of their conversation, though it eluded her net..exploits vicariously, through the pages of books. Young heroes of adventure stories, from Treasure bland.."No ..," Colman shook his head distantly. "It's too much to go into right now. Look-".Stormbel relayed the order, and the huge bulk of the Battle Module began sliding from between the Mayflower II's ramscoop support pillars as its auxiliary maneuvering engines fired. The sound of twisted steel scraping across the outside of its hull reverberated throughout the modules stem section as one of the feeder ramps, none of which was retracted, first bent, and then crumpled. The ramp tore open halfway along its length at a section that had been pressurized, spilling men and equipment out into space. The lucky ones-the ones who were wearing suits-could hope to be located through the distress-band transmissions from their packs. The others had no time to hope in the instant before their bodies exploded.."We'll use candles later.."Hey, how come you never told us about that part?" he asked as the girl led Swyley away.."You bitch" Celia protested. "I want to hear about it now..!". "It wouldn't have worked," Wellesley countered. "We'd simply have remained shut up behind a fence, ignored, and looking ridiculous..". "What about his adjutant?" Sirocco asked..Explorers opened for the boy, and he quickly slipped inside.."Of course it is..", Jay sighed wearily. "I wouldn't just walk in with it like this if I'd stolen it or something, would I?".On the bosom of the dark plain below, a half-mile necklace of stopped traffic, continually growing..she was caught in a trap nobody could pry open for her, that to have any hope of escape, she must chew.."Excuse me," he said to the bargain-basement Thor as the hammer arced high over the hood again, and..Veronica emitted a semi audible gasp as the glass slipped from her fingers and spilled down her coat. She snatched up her bag and straightened up from her seat in a single movement; the escorts merely raised their heads for a second or two as she hurried to the rear, holding her coat away from her body and brushing off the liquid with her hand. The matron did not rise from her seat just across the aisle; there was nothing aft but a few more seats, the restroom, and lockers used by the crew. The flight-attendant with short red hair who walked by with a blanket under her arm and disappeared into the forward cabin less than ten seconds later blended so naturally into the background that none of the escorts really even noticed her..WEDNESDAY, after a fruitless day of job-seeking, Micky Bell-song returned to the trailer park, where.."The build-up at Canaveral is proceeding on schedule and will be completed before midnight," he informed Sterm at a midday staff meeting in the Columbia District's Government Center. "The greater pan of Phoenix is being abandoned as we assumed would be unavoidable, but the key points are secure and the wastage among the regular units has been checked. Transfer of SD forces to the surface will be completed by early evening, with the exception of those units being held to cover the Battle Module, the Columbia District, and Vandenberg. All operations tomorrow are clear to proceed as planned, with the strike against the Kuan-yin going in at 0513 hours, launch of orbital cover group immediately afterward, and the advance upon Franklin in force moving out at dawn..".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.."Hey, don't get too excited about this," Colman cautioned. "I only said rd be interested in seeing it. The Army might have different ideas about me getting

involved. Don't bet your life savings on it." "Life! Earth life. You're a part of it. Isn't that an exciting feeling? It has to be." "Ah, but think of the honor of it," Hanlon told them. "And won't every one of them poor SD fellas back in the shuttle be eating his heart out with envy and just wishing he could be out there with the same opportunity to risk himself for flag and country." on remembering it, keeping the details sharp, especially his smile. I'm never going to let his face fade. underside of the chest, because of the pole punching into the snarled coils and knocking on the. Jarvis and Charez glanced at each other. Then Jarvis looked away as a new report came up on one of the screens. "Peterson has come out for Borftein in the Government Center," he muttered over his shoulder. "I guess it's all over in the Columbia District. That has to give them the whole Ring." "Deploy the advance guard, Colonel," General Portney instructed from the middle of the cabin. "How much?" Paula asked. mottled as a boiled lobster, he at last clears his throat of food only to fill it with laughter, making such a cool tin- kitchen, in the scarlet light of the retiring sun, Leilani's lace shone as much with enchantment as. Leilani said, "She just calls him Klonk because she claims that was the noise he made if you rapped him. Disconcerted to hear such a thing from a child, Micky covered her discomfort with self-deprecation. "Just wondering how I ever took pleasure in this line of work." different reasons. Some serpents were more frightening than others: the specimens that didn't come in. condemned men or something?". There seemed to be no more to say. The Terrans looked resignedly at each other while the Chironians on the screen continued to stare out with solemn but unyielding faces. They could warn Stern now and risk having to use their weapon while the ship still held a sizable population if he ignored the warning, or they could wait until he challenged them, which ran the risk of their having to retaliate without warning if Stern chose to move first and challenge later. Those were the ground rules, but within those limits the Chironians were evidently open to suggestions or persuasion. boy hears voices. Men in easy conversation. If the stranger bends to pick up the money, he might glance under the truck.two-beer check. "A good question," Wellington commented. Just over four square miles but irregular in outline, Phoenix included most of Canaveral City with its central district and military barracks, the surrounding residential complexes such as Cordova Village that housed primarily Terrans, and a selection of industrial, commercial, and public facilities chosen to form the nucleus of a self sufficient community. In addition an area of ten square miles of mainly open land on the side away from Franklin was designated for future annexation and development. Transit rights through Phoenix were guaranteed for Chironians using the maglev between Franklin and the Mandel Peninsula, in return for which Phoenix claimed a right-of-way corridor to the shuttle base, which would be shared as a joint resource. By their very presence, however, the cowboys have won allies for Curtis. As the crouching boy. "Oh, just ask the computers anywhere how to get to Shirley-with-the-red-hair's place---Ci's mother. They'll take care of you." for him. the full beautiful spectrum of her radiance. Sometimes Leilani thought this might indeed be the reason that. family, abandoned by her father, left to the care of a cruel mother incapable of love, abused both. of the murdered have surely been heard widely on news broadcasts. Colman could only shake his head. "I don't know. Neither did Jay. That's what Fallows and whoever this other guy is want to find out." shouting, a couple men cursing, a woman, shakily reciting the Hail Mary prayer over and over. The. "Would they accept a job like that?" Jean asked, sounding dubious. Do you believe in life after death?. snake-driving mood!". and what you think maybe he really does is have his sweaty, greasy, drooling, lustful way with me." Most self-mutilators were deeply self-involved. A small number could be confidently diagnosed as. It was after 0400 hours, local, when Colman returned to the room which he shared with Hanlon in the Omar Bradley Block, which in the system of twenty-four Chironian "long hours" day was about as miserable a time of day as it was on Earth. With the room to himself since Hanlon was on night duty, he crawled gratefully between the sheets without bothering to shower to make what he could of the opportunity to sleep undisturbed until his call at 0530. Following the dog hasn't brought Curtis to disaster yet, so he bolts after her once more. As he races. The third bomb totally destroyed a Chironian VTOL air transporter on its pad inside the shuttle base a few hours after dawn, killing, two of the Chironians working around it and injuring three more. Although the craft itself had been empty, it was to have taken off within the hour to fly a party of fifty-two Terran officials, technical specialists, and military officers on a visit to a Chironian spacecraft research and manufacturing establishment five hundred miles inland across Occidena. most definitely didn't need a caffeine jolt. Her hands were shaking. The cup rattled against the saucer. A butterfly flutter of light, a sibilant sputter, a serpent of smoke rising lazily from the black stump of a. Colman had reached the place where a raised catwalk joined the gallery from a door leading through a bulkhead into one of the booster-pump compartments, where tritium bred in the stem bypass reactors was concentrated to enrich the main-drive fusion plasma before it was hurled away into space. With little more than the sound of sustained, distant thunder penetrating through to the inside of. his helmet, it was difficult to imagine the scale of the gargantuan power being unleashed on the far side of the reaction dish not all that far from where he was standing. But he could feel rather than hear the insistent, pounding roar, through the soles of his boots on the steel mesh flooring and through the palm of his gauntlet as he rested it on the guardrail overlooking the machinery bay below the catwalk. As always, something stirred deep inside him as the nerves of his body reached out and sensed the energy surging around him--raw, wild, savage energy that was being checked, tamed, and made obedient to the touch of a fingertip upon a button. He gazed along the lines of super conducting bus bars with core maintained within mere tens of degrees from absolute zero just feet from hundred million-degree plasmas, at the accelerator casing above his head, where pieces of atoms flashed at almost the speed of light along paths controlled to within millionths of an inch, at the bundles of data cables. marching away to carry details of everything that happened from microsecond to microsecond to the ever-alert control computers, and had to remind himself that it had all been constructed by men. For it seemed at times as if this were a world conceived and created by machines, for machines--a realm in which Man-had no place and no longer belonged.. "For a long time," Colman

said.. "Down!" Maddock yelled, and all three hurled themselves sideways to get out of the line of fire as a smoke grenade launched from around a corner some distance behind them exploded at the entrance. Fire from the entranceway raked the area as the D Company squad broke cover and rushed forward through the smoke, but the first of them was still twenty feet away when the steel door slammed down and alarms began sounding throughout the Government Center. -

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