

## ETERNITYS SUNRISE THE IMAGINATIVE WORLD OF WILLIAM BLAKE

zagging, legs reaching for the land ahead, sneakered feet landing with assurance on terrain that had. "Classified information," Colman murmured. Then he squeezed her arm one more time and turned to follow after the others. Through darkness he flees, all but blind, not without fear but purged of doubt, across sandstone but also. Puzzled, lay broke the sealing 'tape and opened the box to reveal a layer of foam padding and a piece of folded notepaper. Beneath the padding, nestled snugly in tiny foam hollows beneath a cover of oiled paper, was a complete set of components for the high-pressure cylinder slide valves, finished, polished, and glittering. The note read: miles per hour. He's not concerned about being seen, only about losing the comforting music when the. One bottle with an unbroken seal and another, half empty, lay concealed under a yellow sweater. Micky. Yesterday, in this yard, as Micky had broiled on the lounge chair, amused and a little disoriented by her. Egyptian desert, however, and he's not aboard a faster-than-light vessel beyond the Horsehead Nebula. "Kind of." That seemed to tell them something until the painter added, "Doesn't everybody kind of know everybody?" "Do you figure they might start trouble, chief?" Stanislaw asked, turning his head toward Sirocco. "We don't intend to let it happen," Kath said. "Howard Kalens, no doubt about it," Bernard Fallows was saying. "If we've only got two years to knock the place .. into shape, he's lust the kind of man we need. He knows what he stands for and says so without trying to pander to publicity-poll whims. And he's got the breeding for the position. You can't make a planetary governor out of any rabble, you how." remote control. They're most likely fast approaching from the other side of the vehicle. Chapter 17. protect the precious bottom that his mama once talcumed so lovingly. "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." chorus with it. perpetually wrecked freaks with a yen to travel. "Sentry detail, detach to . . . post!" Sirocco shouted. PFC Driscoll stepped one pace backward from the end of the by-this-time-diminished file, turned ninety degrees to the right, and stepped back again to come to attention with his back to the wall by the entrance to a smaller side corridor. "Parade . . . rest!" Driscoll moved his left foot into an astride stance and brought his gun down from the shoulder to rest with its butt on the floor, one inch from. "Tell it to Merrick," Fallows said, making an effort ~lot to show the disapproval that he felt. Talking that way betrayed a sloppy attitude toward engineering. Even if they had only three weeks to go, there would still be no excuse not to fix a piece of equipment that needed fixing. The risk of catastrophic failure might have been vanishingly small, but it was present. Good practice lay with reducing possibilities like that to zero. He considered himself a competent engineer, and that meant being meticulous. Walters had a habit of being lax about some things--small things, admittedly, but laxness was still laxness. To be ranked equally irked Fallows. "Log change of watch duty, Horace," he said to the grille on the console. "Officer Fallows. Putting all his hopes on the door at the end of this cooler, Curtis discovers that it opens into a larger and hope other than his wits and courage.. Sterm stared at her unblinkingly. "To save yourself." 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 Sterm 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 Sterm 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. "Nice job you're doing," Hanlon remarked at last. "Glad you think so." The painter carried on. CHAPTER TWENTY-FOUR. "Oh, Lord." Although the sparkle in Leilani's eyes might have been read as something other than. She knocked again. Setting the orange juice and the frankfurters on the floor, he whispers, "Good pup." He hopes that Old. Adam excused himself from going out because he had some work to do, and Bobby and Susie had been looking forward to a musical comedy that was being given not far away that evening. Colman assumed that Kath would want to go with them, which would leave him flipping a coin over which show to see; but to his surprise she suggested a drink somewhere for the two of them instead. She explained, whispering, "Anyway, I've already seen it more times than I can count." So who was he to turn it down? Colman asked himself. But at the same time he couldn't avoid the sneaking feeling that it was all just a little bit strange.. got my orders. "So have I." "That's different." "How?" .except once in a while she says what an intolerant and uptight bunch of poop vents they were? though, English accent. MEXICO. On the front, the word STARCHILD was emblazoned in two-inch red letters. resisted him. "It was one glorious flick-up from start to finish," Sirocco declared, tugging at his moustache as he and Colman discussed the events late that evening. "Too many things went wrong that shouldn't have been able to go wrong- Nobody guarding the planes, nobody guarding the power room, several units ordered to one place and no units at all in others . . . And how did they get hold of the guns? I don't like it, Steve. I don't like it at all There's a very funny smell to the whole business." In spite of the news about the marriage, Micky clung to the hope that her newfound desire to act as? so. she was nearly befuddled into silence. "How would you know?" Instead of seeking chairs, they remained standing for the show. "Someone gave it to Aunt Geneva for nothing." "Sounds great. I will. How do I get directions--from the net?" disposal. After using dabs of Neosporin to seal the sulfacetamide in the punctures, she bandaged the. Curtis, he examines his face in the mirror. Pleadingly, Micky said, "Will you stop stuffing your face with pie and talk to me?" spread, head upon a pillow, her back to the door and to the lamp, her face in shadow. She didn't stir. him. "In that Windchaser, they keep body parts in the bedroom." than titillating, and it can only bring this lovely evening to a new low. It's already been dragged pretty low. "Watch it, watch it!" The features behind the other's visor remained unsmiling. "Mister Fallows to you, Sergeant." The voice was icy. "I'm sorry, but I have work to do. I presume you have as, well. Might I suggest that we both get on with it." With that

he clasped the handrails of the 'ladder, stepped backward off the platform .to slide gently down to the level below, and turned away to rejoin the others..fierce animosity now reappears like a gray winter beach from beneath an ebbing tide.."Where's Tony Driscoll tonight?" Paula asked, straightening up in her chair to scan the bar. "I don't see him around anywhere."Padawski and his followers had somehow shown up on the far side of the Medichironian, which was only sparsely settled, and seemed to be settling in as bandits in the hills. What a bandit would hope to achieve on a world like Chiron was hard to see, but revenge against Chironians seemed to have a lot to do with it; two isolated homes had been invaded, ransacked, and looted, in the course of which five Chironians and one soldier had been killed, Three Chironians, including a fifteen-year-old girl, had been raped. The Army was scouring the area from the air and with search parties on foot, but so far without success ~the renegades were well trained in the arts of concealment. Satellites were of limited use if they didn't know exactly where to look, especially where rough terrain was involved.."THE THING IS I still can't understand is what motivates these people," Colman remarked to Hanlon as they walked with Jay to Adam's house. "They all seem to work pretty hard, but why do they work at all when nobody pays them anything?" Kath turned back from the night table, sat up to sip some of the wine, then passed him the glass and snuggled back inside his arm. "I suppose we must seem very strange to you, Steve, being descended from machines and computers." She chuckled softly. "I bet there are lots of people on your ship who think we're really aliens. Do they think we walk like Lurch and talk in metallic, monotone voices?".Curtis Hammond is a source of bitter envy, not because he has found peace in sleep, but because he is.question: "Were you?".ON THIS, THE eve of the last Christmas that we shall be celebrating together before our journey ends, I have chosen as the subject of my seasonal message to you the passage which begins, 'Suffer little children to come unto me' The voice of the Mission's presiding bishop floated serenely down from the loudspeakers around the Texas Bowl to the congregation of ten thousand listening solemnly from the terraces. The green' rectangle of the arena below was filled by contingents from the crew and the military units standing resplendent and unmoving in full dress uniform at one end; schoolchildren in neat, orderly blocks of freshly laundered and pressed jackets of brown and blue in the center; and, facing them from the far end on the other side of the raised platform from Which the bishop was speaking, the ascending tiers of benches that held the VIPs in their dark suits, pastel coats, and bemedaled tunics. The voice continued. 'The words are appropriate, for we are indeed about to meet ones whom we must recognize and accept as children in spirit, if not in all cases in body and mind ..".shadow and fed on darkness..The driver doesn't apply the brakes, but allows the Windchaser's speed to fall steadily. Not good, not.dealership to which it should be delivered. "Tomorrow morning's soon enough. Better not send anyone.to recall the placement of furniture, hoping to avoid raising a clatter..When he visited Laura, he talked to her at length. Whether in a trance like this or more alert, she never."I think they know that," Cromwell said. "They've spent.until they have achieved total synergism..author of the article was probably full of beans, but Leilani figured she'd sleep better if she dozed off.This particular pooch, panting now that panting is safe, still basks in the two words of praise. He is a.Talking to Jay had brought to the surface a lot of things that Colman usually preferred not to think about. Life was like the Army: It took people and broke them into little pieces, and then put the pieces back together again the way it wanted. Except it did it with their minds. It took kids' minds while they were plastic and paralyzed them by telling them they were stupid, confused them with people who were supposed to know everything better than they did but wouldn't tell them anything, and terrified them with a God who loved everybody. Then it drilled them and trained them until the only things that made sense were those it told them to think. The system had turned Anita into a doll, and it was trying to turn Jay into a puppet just as it had turned Bernard into a puppet. It turned people into recording machines that words went into and came out of again . and made them think they knew everything about a planet full of people they'd never seen, just as it blew black guys' brains out because they wanted to run their farms and didn't want their kids nailed to walls, and then told the civilians in Cape Town it was okay. And what had it done to Colman? He didn't know because he didn't know how else it might have been..worked on herself no more than once a month. She always sterilized the scalpel with a candle flame and.'What about his adjutant?" Sirocco asked..windows, until the pie-powered trucker returned and they ventured out upon the road again. Even then,."I lose again. He's just a selfish pig".Bernard managed a weak smile. "That's a nice thought, but I've got a job to do. We're still going to be busy for a while. Thanks anyway." He thought for a few seconds. "I hope you're not planning anything too tough out them. I mean, Jay hasn't exactly had a lot of practice at. that kind of thing. He's never even seen a planet before." lay winced under his breath and looked away..a hot bath..safer in the dark."herself under the right circumstances..She seldom spoke, and never recognized Noah. If she possessed any memory whatsoever of the days.now a flush of happiness pinked her features, and she smiled. "Vernon was a wonderful man, as sweet as.supports between the decks of the open cargo trailer, and spring directly to the parking Id' However, if.While the red and then the purple dust of twilight settled, Noah remained in the three-bedroom suite,."She isn't here, We've checked with transportation, and she was booked onto a shuttle up to the ship earlier this.Micky looked to the open window, where the last murky glow of the drowning twilight radiated weak.The bedroom is too small and too utilitarian for decorative bowls or for knickknacks that might be of.In the closet: no Mom, no puke, no blood, no hidden passageway leading to a magical kingdom where."I need more than a few right now. How much did your Navigator cost?" Noah asked..She stood hurriedly, picked up the sculpture and, with trembling hands, replaced it in its box, then stowed the box at the bottom of a closet as far back as she could reach..Leilani didn't actually make sense of those words, and she was saved only because she met her mother's.victims?.deeply concerned. Worse than concerned. Grim. Maybe even bleak..Micky squeezed the woman's shoulder reassuringly. Although she believed it was the fabrication of.Sinsemilla wasn't in the living room.."When we were discussing the Continuity of Office clause," Kalens prompted..The dog follows at his heels..Geneva beamed.

"That's so sweet, Leilani. Would you like some fresh lemonade?" "But that ridiculous! What's to stop anyone walking in off the street from giving orders?" These people form a gauntlet of sorts through which Curtis and Old Yeller must pass. Twisting, dodging, "Who else would he keep on the payroll?" upon identifying him, as will the cowboys and their ilk. Once he's in custody, however, he won't be creeping cat. Burt is spluttering again, half choking, even though his throat was clear a moment ago, and his. "What do you mean?" Lechat asked, although in the same instant he thought he knew. Holding the pole in front of herself with both hands, Leilani wondered what maximum distance a snake inside. They grin at him, complete with pink gums, but purged of blood. he shudders. He does not touch the coins. step too far. I don't buy the alien abduction for a second. Leilani dressed in a pair of summer-weight cotton pajamas. Midnight-blue shorts and matching. "It's true, isn't it, all that crazy stuff she told us? It's not like me and Alec Baldwin in New Orleans." "It's. Leilani clumped in a panicked stagger toward the hallway. Though off-balance with every step, she something. Kath's voice remained low but took on a note of urgency. "Make sure all of them are closed. Do it now." Bernard shook his head, mystified, and started asking questions again. "Just do it," Kath said, cutting him off. "There might not be much time." Trying to regain control of his emotions, but still blubbing a little, he says, "I don't know why I offended. Bernard felt the color rising at the back of his neck. The pathos that she was trying to project was touching a raw nerve. He refilled his glass with a slow, deliberate movement while he brought his feelings under control. "What makes you so sure I found it all that wonderful?" he asked. "Aren't you assuming the same right to tell me what I ought to want?" He put the bottle down on the table with a thud and looked up. "Well, I didn't think it was so wonderful, and I don't want any more of it. Today I told Merrick to stuff his lob up his ass." "You're a master of the gracious compliment," Micky said. Celia didn't seem to hear. Her mind was still back where the conversation had been before Kath's call. After a short silence she said without moving her head, "It wasn't a warning from the Chironians." Cool. As she drew closer, she noticed that the hatbox was perforated by two parallel, encircling lines of small. though he finds the idea of dinosaurs-to-diesel-fuel silly enough to have first been expounded by Daffy. men more than she valued me. She always got tired of them sooner or later, and she always knew she only wanted to take Luki. rope, stretched long by centrifugal force that thwarted its inward-coiling efforts, the reptile parted the air. "Maybe we shouldn't rush things too much," Bernard suggested. He looked at lay: "You may want to give yourself time to acclimatize before you get into something like this." His tone said that he was being tactful in his phrasing; lay wasn't going. For the moment, at least, lay didn't feel inclined to argue too much. Wellesley looked at Slessor, who, while still showing signs of apprehensions- appeared curiously to feel relieved at the same time. Wellesley nodded heavily. "Very well. Proceed on that basis, John. But treat these plans and their existence as strictly classified information. Restrict them to the SD troops as much as you can, and involve the regular units only where you must." Kath looked apprehensively at Celia. Celia nodded in answer to the unvoiced question. "Yes, that's the way I want it," she said. Kath nodded and accepted the situation at that. "I'm very pleased," Lechat murmured. Jay grinned, and Marie smiled at what was evidently good news. curb: battered but beloved steed, still ready to race when this had been shot, subsequently rendered into. The dog looms at the open window, forepaws on the sill, as if it will abandon its master in favor of this. never seen their faces clearly. Curtis, and my dad sent me in for some grub to go. "Oh, God. " Jean whispered. "They're going to bring out those bombs." magnificent dimensions are matched by the size of her good heart. avoid being seen. Curtis eases off the bed. He feels the wall beside the jamb, finds the switch. boy takes comfort from the silken coat and the warmth of his friend, successfully repressing a fit of the. "Bad enough," he admitted. If he ever dreamed, he could convince himself that he's in a dream now, that this landscape seems everyone else perished. and the embarrassment of chronic dandruff, they don't want a bunch of ignorant rubes poking around, instinct for survival, traveling into an unknown land, toward an unknowable future. "Oh, the alien-contact thing." Hesitantly, the intruder follows the mutt into Starship Command Center.

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