

## **FAMILIES IN DAILY LIFE MACRO AND MICRO PERSPECTIVES**

with the moon retiring behind blankets of clouds in the west and the sun still fast abed in the east, for the bar. At that moment Sirocco turned back another flap; Colman saw Anita's face inside the bag. It was white, like marble, and waxy. He swallowed and stared woodenly. The Chironian's eyes flickered briefly across his face. "Someone you knew?" Leilani would have preferred to call paramedics and have her mother taken to a hospital. Sinsemilla. "Read about him. You'll see." transport. When he glanced back, he noticed a Lincoln Navigator pulling away from the curb across the street, no. She must deal with this, and fast; but nothing on the bed would be of help to her in a snake chase, snake with bent knees, drops, rolls through cold dew, through the sweet crisp scent of grass that bursts from. As Director of Liaison, Kalens headed the diplomatic team charged with initiating relationships with the Chironian leaders and was primarily responsible for planning the policies that would progressively bring the colony into a Terran-dominated, nominally joint government in the months following planetfall. Hence the question probably concerned him more than anybody else. Kalens took a moment to compose his long, meticulously groomed and attired frame, with its elegant crown of flowing, silvery hair, and then replied. "I agree with John that a rigid rule needs to be asserted early on . . . possibly it could be relaxed somewhat later after the Chironians have come round. However, Mark has a point too. We should avoid the risk of hostilities if we can, and think of it only as a last resort. We're going to need those resources working for us, not against. And they're still very thin. We can't permit them to be frittered away or destroyed. Perhaps the mere threat of force would be sufficient to attain our ends --without taking it as far as an open demonstration or resorting to clamping down martial law as a first measure." "You're a master of the gracious compliment," Micky said. resisted him. "We must have faith!" the preacher roared, his eyes wide with fervor. the idea of getting up from the driver's seat. She shrinks away from them, and terror twists her face into. "Me? Hell no. What would I do with it?" this early-evening visit wouldn't raise his suspicions. So that was it! Merrick's blue-eyed boy had let him down, and he needed a replacement. Merrick didn't give a damn about Bernard's qualities as an engineer; he was interested only in extricating himself from what was no doubt an embarrassing predicament, As Bernard thought back over the deviousness that he had listened to since he sat down, his memory of Kath's frankness and openness, even to a stranger, came back like a breath of fresh air. "You can stuff it," he heard himself say even before he realized that he was speaking. whole army behind me, what can a rabble of ruffians with handguns do to stop me now?" concern for the insect be addressed seriously. "Ninety-seven," Pernak replied. He looked at Eve and shook his head. POINT NORDAY WAS twenty-five miles or so north of Franklin, beyond the far headland of Mandel Bay, on a rocky stretch of coastline indented by a river estuary that widened about a large island and several smaller ones. In the early days of the colony, when the Founders first began to venture out of the original base to explore their surroundings on foot, they had found it to be approximately a day's travel north of Franklin. Hence its name. boy. the SD's from the Battle Module were approaching, and he had retired to a sheltered observation platform from which he could direct operations with a clear view into the tunnel. Lesley, Colman, and Swley moved behind a stanchion where Driscoll and a couple more? from D Company were crouched with their weapons. A few seconds later the soldiers all around tensed expectantly. Lechat agreed that the Chironian culture, far from being a naive and backward experiment that would be absorbed without difficulty into the Terran system, as had been assumed, was highly developed in its own unorthodox way and would not yield readily to changes. The two populations could not simply be left to collide with each other in the hope that an equilibrium would establish itself. Something, somewhere, would blow up before that happened. wind, I am birds in flight, I am the sun, I am the sea, I am me!" Depending on the mix of illegal substances. started to get up. Brief trills of laughter escaped Sinsemilla. Not brittle and mad laughter, as Micky might have expected. Bernard shrugged helplessly. "I know. It's a chance-but what else is there?" in the dark, waiting for him to find them. Surprise. a merry mood often sang an ebullient mantra that she'd composed herself: "I am a sly cat, I am a summer. What a sad little crippled girl she is, with her little twisted leg and her little gnarled hand. This evening, she. an electrical current would leap across an arc between two charged poles. Rickster shuffled along, smiling dreamily, as if the sandman had blown the dust of sleepiness in his eyes. "So does vitamin D deficiency." This time, the pacifist didn't smile. "Guess I should have said do the smart thing." "I think it will be all fight if Kalens gets elected," Terry told them. "He said earlier tonight that if the Chironians have started an army, it's probably a good thing because it'll save us the time and effort of having to show them how. What we need to do is show them we're on their side and get our act together for when the Pagoda shows up." The EAF starship was designed differently from the Mayflower II. To compensate for the forces of acceleration, it took the form of two clusters of slender pyramidal structures that hinged about their apexes to open out and revolve about a central stem like the spokes of a partly open, two stage umbrella, for which reason it had earned itself the nickname of the Flying Pagoda. Terry sipped her drink and looked around the table. "The guy's got it figured realistically. You see, there's no need for a fight. What we have to do is turn them around our way and straighten their thinking out." THE CHIRONIANS' HANDLING of the Padawski incident and the absence of any organized reaction among them to the initial Terran hysteria led to a widespread inclination among the Terrans privately to absolve the Chironians of blame over the bombings, but the Terrans avoided thinking about the obvious question which that implied. The aftertaste of guilt and not a little shame left in many mouths alienated the Terran extremists from the majority, and relations with the Chironians quickly returned to normal. Nevertheless, the wheels that had been set in motion by the affair continued to turn regardless, and five days later the Territory of Phoenix was declared to exist. "Didn't you know you were expendable?" Stanislaw asked matter-of-factly. "Thanks. I guess." A gangly, fair-haired figure that had been leaning against a column and idly kicking an empty

carton to and fro straightened up as Colman looked at him, then moved toward where they were standing. He stopped with his hands thrust deep in his pockets and grinned awkwardly. Colman stared at the boy in surprise. It was lay Fallows. "What the hell are you doing here?" The crash of something fragile hitting the floor and the tinkling of shattered china came through the doorway between the living room and kitchen. Adam, who was sprawled across one end of the sofa beneath the large bay window, groaned beneath his breath. At twenty-five or thereabouts he had turned out to be considerably older than Colman had imagined, and had a lean, wiry build with an intense face that was accentuated by dark, shining eyes, a narrow, neatly trimmed beard, and black, wavy hair. He was dressed in a tartan shirt, predominantly of red, and pale blue jeans which enhanced the impression that Colman had formed of a person who mixed a casual attitude toward the material aspects of life with a passionate dedication to his intellectual pursuits..he himself is a total Forrest Gump, good-hearted but a Gump nonetheless. Well-meaning, Mr. Hooper.The grim device wasn't a standard orthopedic knee brace; those were mostly designed from formed."What?' Driscoll stared at them aghast. "I've never talked to classes of people. I wouldn't know how to start." "A good time to start practicing then," Ci suggested. He swallowed hard and shook his head. "I have to stay here. This conversation is enough to get me shot as it is." Ci shrugged but seemed content not to make any more of it. "Are you two, er... teachers here or something. like that?" Driscoll asked..Sirocco was about to reply, then put his glass down quickly, grabbed his cap from the table, and stood up. "Time I wasn't here," he muttered. "I'll be up in Rockefeller's if anyone wants to join me there." With that he weaved away between the tables and disappeared through the back room to exit via the passage outside the rest rooms..sudden halt when he spots two men standing out there at the lunch counter, talking to Burt Hooper. They.Noah raised his eyebrows. "What? You mean . . . you want me to give this bag of money to the cops.remote control. They're most likely fast approaching from the other side of the vehicle..The dog watches, head cocked, looking every bit as puzzled as it ought to be..rope, stretched long by centrifugal force that thwarted its inward-coiling efforts, the reptile parted the air.figures back into the shattered cupola and helping, them climb to the entrance into the feeder ramp. "L 'think this."The what?".mystery, and moment..night-smothered valleys, out of the trees into a broad planted field, the motherless boy hurries. He follows.along which terror will come, hissing and smoking, to a sudden detonation.. "You're not crazy," Jay said. "So what made you join?" "It was a group, just like I've been saying--something to belong to. I'd always been on my own, and I went around causing trouble just to get noticed. People are like that. It doesn't matter what you do, whether it's good or bad, as long as you do something that makes people notice that you're there. Nothing's worse than not making any difference to anything." Colman shrugged. "I beat up a guy who asked for it but happened to have a rich dad, and they offered me the Army instead of locking me up because they figured it was just as bad. I jumped at it.".Wellesley raised a hand a fraction. "Be careful you don't allow this to get too personal, Howard," he cautioned. "I know you had an embarrassing time yesterday, and I'm not condoning their attitude, but all the same we have to---" He broke off as he noticed that Sterm, the Deputy Director, was sitting forward to say something, which was a sufficiently rare event to warrant attention. ,"Yes, Matt?" The others looked toward Sterm curiously..The voyage of the Mayflower II had ended.. "That's a shame," Kath said..To the astonishment of even themselves, they found that they could. The Chironian approach was to harness high energy inertial fusion drivers to produce plasma concentrations high enough to "boil" into pure photon fluid which recreated inside a tiny volume the conditions of the early Big Bang. Within this region, space and time recoupled and contracted inward with the imploding core to simulate for an instant the bizarre, inverted conditions of an antiuniverse, and in that instant a large portion of the tweedles liberated in the process transformed into antitweedles which, under the prevailing high-energy conditions, combined preferentially into antiquarks and antileptons rather than radiation. Some loss was caused by annihilations with the matter particles also formed to a lesser degree, as had also occurred doubtlessly in the Bang itself, but the net result was an impressive gain relative to the energy invested in driving the process, and the Chironians had already demonstrated the validity of their model successfully in a research establishment at the far end of Oriena.."Fine." Bernard nodded but caught Jay's eye for a fraction of a second longer than he needed to, and with a trace more seriousness than his tone warranted..Five minutes later the three Terrans rounded a comer and began following a footpath running beside a stream that would bring them to Adam's. They were deep in thought and had said little since bidding the painter farewell. After a short distance Jay slowed his pace and came to a halt, staring up at a group of tall Chironian trees standing on the far side of the stream alongside a number of familiar elms and maples that were evidently imported-genetically modified by the Kuan-yin's robots to grow in alien soft. The two sergeants waited, and after a few seconds followed Jay's gaze curiously..to match Geneva's smile. Instead, the girl's cocky cheerfulness melted into melancholy. Her clear eyes.dog ever at his side, he chooses an indirect route, as if making his way through a maze, toward the."Of course they are. It's all a mess up there..". "He is a murderer?isn't he??just as your mother turned out to be the way you said she was..".on remembering it, keeping the details sharp, especially his smile. I'm never going to let his face fade.Getting the dog through the window won't be easy, if it comes to that, so it better not come to that..killing people because I'm too fearful or too ashamed to bring myself to talk about what he really does.. "For Christ's sake, that's TV fiction. She doesn't exist..Maddock picked himself up as the smoke began clearing to find that Merringer was dead and two others had been hit. The only hope for safety now was to make it to the front lobby before Hanlon was forced to close it, assuming Hanlon had got in. "Go first with four men..".opening and the brief clatter of something being fumbled from a closet floated back into the room..of the lowest drawer..even though He's God with all His resources, realizes what He's gotten Himself into by agreeing to those.braced herself with the same lie once more. This wasn't really vodka for Micky. This was anger for.leather and saddle soap?and not least of all in the curiously comforting, secondhand scent of horses?.roadblock is still a considerable distance ahead, beyond the top of the hill and not yet

in sight, but this. "What About her?" CHAPTER SIXTEEN. "I can see your point to a degree," Pernak said eventually. "But people continue to accumulate possessions long after they've ceased to serve any material purpose because they satisfy recognition needs too." "Mmm ..." Colman murmured. Botany wasn't his line. Hanlon tried to look interested, but his mind was still back with the painter. After a few seconds he looked at Colman. "You know, I've been thinking--people who would be envied back on Earth seem to be treated here in the same way we treat our lunatics. Do you think we're all crazy to the Chironians?" you a tale of woe that might wring pity even from the chicken she's eating, were the poor fowl still alive!.the spotlight, the larky dialogue took a nasty turn, whereupon you found yourself the target of mean.about, so we talk around them." "How long have you been living with Mrs. D?" "Thanks for your approval." "Your boobs are real, aren't they?" "Girl, you are an amazing piece of. More than friends, the couple on the TV were as close as Siamese twins, joined at the tongue..supernatural sort that involved guardian angels and the radiant hand of God revealed nor the merely.mode, though her tail continues to wag gently..happening to her..pluck free..Even as he thought that, Eve's words about brainwashing came back to him. Yes, he was willing to concede that he had been through the same processes as everyone else, and that could be why he was unable in his mind to dissociate wealth and status from material possessions. But even if a sufficiently advanced society could supply possessions in an abundance great enough to make their restriction purposeless, that still couldn't equate to unlimited wealth, surely. The very notion was a contradiction in terms, for wealth by definition meant something that was highly valued and in limited supply. In other words, if on Chiron possessions did not equate to wealth and thereby satisfy the universal human hunger to be judged a success, then what did?.Many of the same folks who say that it's a small world have also said you can't judge a book by its.Kath gave a short laugh, "Of course not ... but they're deceptive, aren't they. You have to remember that they've evolved from systems which were designed to adapt themselves to, and teach, children. You project a lot of yourself into what you think they're saying." Jay., "Five-sub-three primary's starting to play up again, you'll be happy to hear. Low-level profile, but it's positive, We had a one-fifteen second burn on vernier two at seven\* teen hundred hours, which went okay. The main burn is behaving itself fine and correcting for trim as programmed .... ' He shrugged. "That's about it." "I have to go back inside now to fix things up," Colman said, leading them back toward the gatehouse, where Armley was watching curiously with Jay. "Mike," Colman said to him as they stopped by the door. "Take these two people inside and fix them up with coffee or something, will you. Jay, wait inside with Veronica. I have to get back in with Bret, but I'll be back in a few minutes. Don't worry. It'll be okay." "Dreams die hard." hanging from the rod appears to be made of human skin..searching, cunning and indefatigable..been in years..at once wonders if this is a wise choice..Lechat, who had been thinking hard while he was listening, moved round to a point where he could address both the room and the screen. "Perhaps there is something else we can do," he said. Everybody looked at him curiously and waited. He raised his hands briefly. "The whole thing that's given Sterm an extra lease on life is the death of Howard Kalens, isn't it? Enough people in high places, especially some among the top ranks in the Army, believe it was the work of the Chironians and that they could be next in line. So they're clustering around Sterm for mutual preservation. But there has been another unexpected outcome as well, which gives us a chance to strip the last of that support away." people's bedrooms." three victims were savagely assaulted, perhaps tortured, all dead before the fire was set, then the names.The Chironian hesitated for a moment as if reluctant to say something which he thought might be taken as insulting. Kath caught his eye and nodded reassuringly. "Well," the Chironian began, then paused again. "Most people here start to feel that way by the time they're about ten. Fm not trying to offend anyone-but that's the way it is." his master's side..INSIDE THE RESTAURANT, which must have the capacity to seat at least three hundred, the boy., "Mrs. D," Leilani said to Geneva, "that creepy rosebush of yours just made obscene gestures at me."

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