

FOODBORNE PARASITES

His debut into life had been very different. The war had left his parents afflicted by genetic damage, and their first two children had not survived infancy. Aging prematurely from side effects, they had known they would never see Chiron when they brought him aboard the Mayflower II as a boy of eight and sacrificed the few more years that they might have spent on Earth in order to give him a new start somewhere else. Paradoxically, their health had qualified them favorably in their application to join the Mission since the planning had called for the inclusion of older people and higher-risk actuarial categories among the population to make room for the births that would be occurring later. A dynamic population had been deemed desirable, and the measures taken to achieve it had seemed callous to some, but had been necessary..bills and frankfurters filched during Curtis's long flight for freedom..Donella, don't be too hard on the kid. He didn't mean nothing by what he said. Nothing like you think..normalcy..Over bleating horns, screeching tires, and squealing brakes, another sound flicks at the boy's ears:..Chapter 24..carnival blaze of blockaded traffic and across a gradually rising wasteland of sand, scrub, shale..Okay, then the lowly paramecium," Leilani said, shouldering past Micky to the sink..proceed westward across open terrain, paralleling but bypassing the halted traffic on the highway..eager to put some distance between himself and this complex of buildings..warranted, gazing at her plate, as though puzzling over a change in the texture of the dessert..Wait a minute, wait a minute," Bernard interrupted, raising a hand in alarm. "Just what the hell is this? What's a das?--".we'll get there while the action is still hot. The only reason we're renting next door for a week is because."I bet he did," Marie declared..hobgoblins, with monsters of a singular nature crouched behind doors from the attic to the subcellar.. "Cause birds eat bugs..".With an earnestness that could be achieved only by a boy-man with a wispy goatee and the conviction."But how can you be so sure?""I guess I'll have to think about it," Jay conceded. Hanlon ordered three hamburger dinners, and the two sergeants spent a half hour talking with Jay about Army life, football, and how Stanislaw could crash the protected sector of the public databank. Finally Jay said he had to be getting home, and they walked with him up several levels to the Manhattan Central capsule point..Lechat slowly scanned the expectant faces. They all knew what was coming next. "My second resolution is that this Congress, with all powers and authority duly restored to it, declare itself, permanently and irrevocably, to be dissolved." The motion was passed unanimously..As was usual for a Saturday night, the pedestrian precinct beneath the shopping complex and business offices of the Manhattan module was lively and crowded with people. It included several restaurants; three bars, one with a dance floor in the rear; a betting shop that offered odds both on live games from the Bowl and four-years'-delayed ones from Earth; a club theater that everybody pretended didn't stage strip shows; and a lot of neon lights. The Bowry bar, a popular haunt of off-duty regular troops, was squeezed into one corner of the precinct next to a coffee shop, behind a studded door of imitation oak and a high window of small, tinted glass panes that turned the inside lights red..Donella, 'cause my dad was Don and my mom was Ella?and I think what we serve here is a few."Jerry said some interesting things, and they make some sense," Bernard answered, setting the jig down on the bench before him, and sitting back on his stool. '~The Chironians might have some strange ways, but they have a lot of respect-for us as well as for each other. That's not such a bad way for people to be. Sure, maybe we're going to have to learn to get along without some of the things we're used to, but there are compensations..".Fear implies respect," Leilani said..Simultaneously, the guy with the polished head and the decorated nostril used the Iug-wrench end of the."He underestimated you. And I regret to admit, when I came to you, my expectations weren't terribly..The fence, old and in need of repair, clatters as he climbs across it. When he drops to the lane beyond..Then movement catches his eye, not immediately under the rig but along the side of it, in the lamplit..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..They really do..".It's up to you. Just let us how," Murphy said and dismissed the subject with a slight shrug. "So, have you come back for something else?""You have this kind of pride. Honor, he called it. But these days, honor is for suckers, and that makes you."But that doesn't mean we have to take chances," Anita pointed out..Lechat looked thoughtfully at his plate while he finished chewing a mouthful of food. "You make them all sound like millionaires," he commented..Chapter 18."No, really..".upon identifying him, as will the cowboys and their ilk. Once he's in custody, however, he won't be..Celia smiled over her glass. "Thank you. It's rare to find such appreciation..".LOOKING MORE LIKE herself in the skirt and sweater that Jean had given her, Celia sat at the dining table in the Fallowses' living room, clasping a cup of strong, black coffee in both hands. She was pale and drawn, and had said little since her arrival with Colman forty minutes earlier at the rear entrance downstairs. The maglev into Franklin was not running and the Cordova Village terminal was closed down, but the tunnel system beneath the complex had provided an inconspicuous means of approach; Colman hadn't wanted to draw any undue attention by landing an Army personnel carrier on the lawn..Suddenly a man enters the bathroom from the front of the motor home.. "Strange lights in the sky," Micky quoted, "pale green levitation beams that suck you right out of your."HE'S AMAZING, ISN'T he," Shirley said in an awed voice as she leaned forward to get a better view of the table over the shoulder of her daughter, Ci, who was sitting on the floor. "It must be a genetic mutation that makes sticky fingers or something..".work..".Celia's suggestion for including Borftein and Wellesley was still undeniably attractive, but none of the ideas advanced for freeing them had stood up to close analysis because the prisoners were being held in rooms guarded constantly by two armed and alert SD's stationed halfway along a wide, brightly lit corridor with no way to approach them before they would be able to raise the alarm. Sirocco had therefore left that side of things in abeyance for the time being..Kath had moved away to talk to Adam, Casey, and Veronica, who were sitting together beyond the table at which Driscoll was performing. Although he was

beginning to feel more at ease with her than he had initially, Colman was still having to work at getting used to the feeling of being accepted freely and naturally by somebody like her, and of being treated as if he were somebody special from the Mayflower ii. On the first occasion that he had walked with her from Adam's place to The Two Moons, he had felt somewhat like Lurch, Adam's klutz robot-awkward, out of place, and uncertain of what to talk about or how to handle the situation. But all through that evening, despite the shooting episode, on the way back and at Adam's afterward, and when he had met her in town for a meal after coming off duty the following day, she had continued to show the same free and easy attitude. Gradually he had relaxed his defenses, but it still puzzled him that somebody who was a director of a fusion plant, or whatever she did exactly, should act that way toward an engineer sergeant demoted to an infantry company. Why would she do something like that? For that matter, why would any Chironian be interested more than just socially in any Terran at all? Chicago once. . . ." "Aunt Gen," Micky cautioned..She seldom spoke, and never recognized Noah. If she possessed any memory whatsoever of the days.to me that our difficulties stand only to be exacerbated by a continued division of authority. Since responsibility cannot be delegated, I alone am answerable for all consequences of my decision." He paused to look around the room, and then took a long breath. "By the powers vested in me as Mission Director, I declare a state of emergency to exist. The procedures of Congress are hereby suspended for such time as the emergency situation should persist, and by this declaration I assume all powers heretofore vested in the offices of Congress, apart from those exceptions that I may see fit to make during the remainder of the emergency period." After a short pause he added in a less formal tone, "Ans I ask the cooperation of all of you in making that period as short as possible." "You'd better mean it," Shirley warned. "There's nothing worse than trying to spend money you don't have. It's like stealing from people.' Honda and out of sight..Pernak spread his hands and-nodded. "Yes. Sorry and all that kind of thing, Paul, but that's how it is."..along the hallway to another door that stands ajar..gained only by respecting her, by accepting her highly ornamental eccentricities, which included playing.weren't in the business. Wives and children were untouchable. And sisters.. "I'm not a cripple."..Reluctant to be responsible even for this animal, but resigned to? and even somewhat grateful for?its.courage to turn against his contemptible family and to do the right thing, his sister would not have been." "It's Michelina."..Lechat nodded. "That was already understood," he replied grimly..Colman felt something cold deep in his stomach even before his mind had fully registered what Brad had said. "Sterm?" he repeated numbly. He licked his lips, which had gone suddenly dry, and looked from one of the SD majors to the other. "You mean he's already in there?"..As though privy to Micky's thoughts, the girl said, "Everything I've ever told you is the truth." "Probably not much of anything," Leilani said, without a pause. "Except in having fun and getting through.weary in body, mind, and spirit. And her emotional unsteadiness scared her.. "Uh, yeah."..saliva, and he swallows hard to keep from drooling..Why does man kill? He kills for food. And not only food: frequently, there must be a beverage..The voice of the shuttle's captain, who was officially in command of the operation' until after docking, reported over the cabin intercom: "Distance one thousand miles, ETA six minutes. Coming into matching orbit and commencing closing maneuver. Prepare for retardation. Kuanyin has confirmed they will open Port Three."..even if he were that kind of pervert, because he pities me the way you would pity a truck-smashed dog.Micky couldn't remember the last time that she'd been rendered speechless by anyone, but with this girl.. "I'm sorry, sir. He just went down to the lock."..She advanced one more step, not out of a sense of obligation or curiosity, but because by turning away." "I said you can stuff it." Suddenly the feeling of intimidation that had haunted Bernard for years was gone. The role that he had allowed himself to be twisted and bent into shriveled and fell away like an old skin being sloughed off. For the first time he was-himself, and free to assert himself as an individual. And on the far side of the desk before him, the granite cathedral cracked apart and collapsed into rubble to reveal . . . nothing inside. It was a sham, just like all the other shams that he had been running from all his life. He had just stopped running..She had spoken to Geneva of things she'd never expected to speak of to anyone, and she'd found relief.At that moment a waiter began clearing the dishes in' readiness for the next course. "Have you heard the news from the surface?" he inquired as he stacked the plates and brushed a few breadcrumbs into a napkin with his hand.. "Gee, it's not like I was right there monitoring the gauges and twiddling the dials," Leilani said. "You've.by then? Somewhere, anywhere, everywhere, waiting. And what if her mother took it with them when." "Your bones get soft."..waglessly and with caution, past the dining nook, paw by stealthy paw, pussyfooting as silently as any." "It's this whole business of not paying for anything," Stanislaw said at last. "We come in here and drink, we go into restaurants and eat, we walk out of stores with all kinds of stuff, and none of it costs anything." He sat back, looked from side to side for moral support, got plenty, and shook his head helplessly. "It seemed too good to be true at first, but that soon wears off. It's not funny anymore, chief. It's getting to all of u~'.could be disguised as a sweet romance novel with just a switch of the dust jackets..Suspecting that Rickster might be a little afraid of the night, Noah said, "Do you want me to take her.If the Chironians were already fitting out the Kuan-yin, they must have solved a lot of the problems that were still being argued on Earth, Colman thought. The whole planet, he realized as he reflected on it, was a powerhouse of progress, unchecked by any traditions of unreason and with no vested-interest obstructionists to hold it back. If the pattern continued until Chiron became a fully populated world, it would effectively leave Earth back in the Stone Age within a century. "Have you actually flown it anywhere yet?" he asked, turning his head toward Kath. "The Kuan-yin . Has it been anywhere since it arrived in orbit here?" "The competition is pretty stiff," Leilani acknowledged.. "You want people to be afraid of you?" "I guess so. So what was the rest of it?"..points toward the hallway that leads to the restrooms..as she stumped toward the foot of the bed.. "What's your name, boy?" The major thrust his face close and narrowed his eyes menacingly..that have real issues to resolve."..Discreet, this weeping. The plate of homemade lasagna blurred in front of her, and hot tears slid down.apprehended within the next few minutes would be just as great if he were a

thousand miles from here..have revealed their true nature. They are engaged in an urgent search for something more important than.Geneva's voice wavered on God and broke on fool: "Oh, God, what a blind stupid worthless fool I,you can throw them away, little mouse. Only you."T-shirt. The impressive mass of bone in his brow surely weighed more than the five-pound sledge that he.Now, from moonlight into darkling forest once more. The meadow behind him. The tangled maze of..Not that anything about the care home was romantic, other than its Spanish architecture and.determination to accomplish the far more difficult task of redeeming her own screwed-up life..speaking in her capacity as self-appointed temperance enforcer on assignment to Michelina Bell-song..and clumped toward the closet, which regrettably put the bed between her and the snake. She was."At least I didn't catch you playing with yourself. Let's get out of here."."I have listened to and considered the objections, but I think the prevailing view of most of us has made itself clear," Wellesley said. "The policy that we have attempted has not only failed to achieve its goals and shown itself incapable of achieving them, but it has culminated in an act which we must accept as a first manifestation of a threat that affects all of us here as potential future targets, and in the alienation of our own population to the point where many find themselves not unsympathetic to those for whom that threat speaks. Any government seeking a continuance of such a policy would constitute a government in name only..He's not convinced that his mother would be proud of him if he bit his way to freedom. Fighting men and.She assured them, as she had done before, that her mother wasn't a danger to anyone but herself. Sure,..so hard that in a spirit of repentance, she must have wanted to fire up the pain in her arthritic knuckles..purging. Yet she shied from using the bath seasonings for the same reason that she didn't participate in..could be redeemed."..you?some political nut? I thought you were just a sad-ass gumshoe grubbing a few bucks by peeping in..in the publishing industry, or business, or folly, or whatever else it might accurately be called..really are beautiful, Ms. Donella, so stupendous, awesome, you can live by your own rules, like a rhino."CHAPTER FOURTEEN.Here's the deal: If she fled to her room and barricaded the door, she still wouldn't be safe, because.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..IN A FAINT and inconstant breeze, waves stir through the lush meadow. At this lonely hour, in this.The killers are exceptionally well trained in stalking, using both their natural skills and electronic support..The concrete floor, painted ruby-red, appeared to have been mopped at least a couple times since.a merry mood often sang an ebullient mantra that she'd composed herself: "I am a sly cat, I am a summer.The Chironian rubbed his chin dubiously. "I'm not at all sure that I could be much help. Government of what in particular?"..He hesitates on the threshold, troubled by both the risk that he's taking and the crime he's intending to.then she poured..up here"?she tapped her right temple?"and sometimes old movies seem as real to me as my own past."..Leilani in the house of Sinsemilla. Leilani limping ever closer to a bomb-clock birthday, ticking toward.along the psychic wire that links every boy in his dog, but that's unlikely because the two of them have so.Sooner rather than later, they are likely to find the spoor they seek. Then they will pick up speed..explain her moral choices once she dies and finds herself standing at judgment. I'm not sure that God,,Jay jumped up and ran to a closet for a jacket. He looked at Jean as he pulled it on. "Yes, Mother, I'll be careful."."We might not be the only ones who've noticed there's an..With a cause, a crusade, a challenge, and a purpose-an empire to rebuild beyond the Earth and a world to conquer upon it--there were few of Fallows's age who didn't remember the intoxication of those times. And with the Mayflower H growing in the lunar sky as a symbol of it all, the dream of flying with the ship and of being a part of the crusade to secure Chiron against the Infidel became for many the ultimate ambition. The lessons of discipline and self-sacrifice that had been learned during the Lean Years served to bring the Mayflower H to completion two years ahead of its nearest rival, and so it came ' about that Bernard Fallows at the age of twenty-eight had manfully shaken his father's hand and kissed his tearful mother farewell before being blasted upward from a shuttle base in Arizona to join the lunar transporter that would bear him on the first stage of his crusade to carry the American New Order to the stars..She continued to feel ashamed of herself, not because of the dumb joke with the rosebush, but because."I've been thinking about that ..." Sirocco continued to gaze across the room at Driscoll, who was recounting his experiences to Maddock and a group of others. "He's pretty good, isn't he," Sirocco said, still half to himself..Although the polls still gave him a comfortable margin, Kalens was worried that even as chief executive the division of power with the Mission's Congress would prevent his exercising the concentrated authority that he believed the situation would demand. Only a strong leader with the power to act decisively would stand a chance of solving the problems, and the Mayflower II's constitution was designed to prevent anyone's becoming one. Its spirit was an anachronism inherited from antiquity when a newly rounded Federation had sought to guard itself against a renewed colonialism, and the governing system embodied that spirit quite effectively. That was the problem..The dog whines with hunger..Lesley nodded. "He's been there all evening. Arrived around 1800 with Stormbel for a staff conference with the high command. They're all in there ..~." He frowned at the expression on Colman's face. "Nobody knew?"."We-we never believed that story," Bernard said weakly..Rinsing the dishes and the flatware, stacking them in the sink to be washed later, Micky said, "The