

# **KHOVANCHTCHINA (THE KHOVANSKYS) A NATIONAL MUSIC DRAMA IN 5 ACTS**

She's never told us his name. She's got this thing about names. She says they're magical. Knowing plate as he grabs his glass of Pepsi. Sputtering, with cola foaming from his nostrils, face turning as red and wouldn't buck up their spirits and send them to bed with a smile..to kill him a tasty mouse."..between them..Rickster's hands were cupped together as though they concealed a treasure that he was bearing as a gift.stands on the ridge line, the sky is too dark to reveal him in silhouette..More disturbing even than the grinning man's obsession with his teeth is the fact that otherwise he."We all have to pay our debts," Nanook said unhelpfully..makes her more difficult to kill than are ordinary mortals.."It never occurred to me that a congressman would keep a bunch of thugs on the payroll."."I've got two sisters you can't get in trouble with," Stanislaw offered.."But . . . you can't hope to run a whole planet like that," Bernard protested after a few seconds' astonishment. "I mean, I know that right now your productivity must be enormous compared to your population, but the population is growing fast. You've got to start thinking about some kind of . . . system to regulate things. Your resources are only finite."..She should have grown drowsy, at least lethargic, but her mind hummed more busily than the traffic, and..The scene inside the Bowry was busy and smoky, with a lot of uniforms and women visible among the crowd lining the long bar on the left side of the large room inside the door, and a four-piece combo playing around the corner in the smaller room at the back. Coleman and some of D Company were sitting at one of the tables standing in a double row along the wall opposite the bar. Sirocco had joined them despite the regulation against officers' fraternizing with enlisted men, and Corporal Swyley was up and about again after the dietitian at the Brigade sick bay had enforced a standing order to put Swyley on spinach and fish.inside. They grin at him, complete with pink gums, but purged of blood..Driscoll moaned miserably and started dabbing it off, but..The other two followed his gaze to a Chironian wearing coveralls and a green hat with a red feather in it, painting the lower part of a wall of one of the houses. Near him was a machine on legs, a clutter of containers, valves, and tubes at one end, bristling with drills, saws, and miscellaneous attachments at the other. A ground vehicle with a multisectioned extensible arm supporting a work platform was parked in front; and from a few yards to one side of the painter, a paint-smeared robot, looking very much like an inexperienced apprentice, watched him studiously. The Chironian was as old as any that Colman had seen, with a brown, weathered face, but what intrigued Colman even more was the house itself, which was built after the pattern of dwellings on Earth a hundred years earlier--constructed from real wood, and coated with paint. It was not the first such anachronism that he had seen in. Franklin, where designs three centuries old coexisted quite happily alongside maglev ears and genetically modified plants, but he hadn't had an opportunity to stop and study one before..Leilani would have preferred a shovel. A garden hoe. But this length of tubular steel was better than bare."What do you think of that theory, Mrs. D?" Leilani asked with little of her usual humor, but with a quiet..toilets..A little moonlight nevertheless would be welcome. Rising out of the distant mountains, great wings of.CHAPTER TWENTY-NINE."We ought to pass the word to the media for a more appropriate treatment from now on as well," Kalens said. "Perhaps playing up things like Chironian stubbornness and irresponsibility would harden up the public image a bit... just in case. We could get them to add a mention or two of signs that the Chironians might have armed themselves and the need to take precautions. It could always be dismissed later as overzealous reporting. Should I whisper in Lewis's ear about it?"..At any moment, however, one of them might retreat here to the bedroom. If a search by authorities..the anger. Anger's kept me going all my life, Aunt Gen. If I let it go, what do I have then?"..small, though it isn't beyond the realm of possibility..Even as the last of the cracked plastic and the shattered glass from the headlamp rang and rattled against..Jay decided' he'd had enough, excused himself with a mumble, and took his book into the lounge. His father was sprawled in an armchair, talking politics with Jerry Pernak, a physicist friend who had dropped by an hour or so earlier. Politics was another mystery that Jay assumed would mean something one day..worlds..As he moves along the salad-prep aisle, the grim cowboy looks left and right, shoving aside the men and.."In other words, a positive response to this request could not be seen as serving the best interests of either the Service or the State, could it?" Merrick concluded..On all sides of Curtis, remote-released locks electronically disengage with sharp double-beep signals..Anita's eyes blazed as her shock began wearing off and dissipated itself as anger. "Why should I? Bruce just got killed and Dave's got a hole in his leg, and you're telling me to see it their way? What kind of a man are you anyhow?" She sneered past Colman's shoulder at Kath, who was returning the communicator to her pocket. "I can see why. It didn't take you long, did it? Is she good?'.Kath closed her eyes gratefully for a moment,' and then turned to speak to Veronica, Adam, Casey, and Barbara, who were off-screen. "They've found Steve, He's all right."."What about when he was screwing the country?". "Everybody does."."Sure." Clem gestured vaguely behind him. "There's a big room back along the corridor that's free and should hold everybody. We could all get some coffee there too. I guess you could use some--you've had a long trip, huh?". "One second," a voice said from behind them. They looked round to find a Chironian robot winking its lights at them. It was a short, rounded type, which made it loose tubby. "You haven't taken any of our special-offer hand gardening tools. Do you want to grow fat and old before your time? Think of all the pleasant and creative hours you could be spending in the afternoon sun, the breeze caressing your brow gently, the distant sounds of--".As she negotiated the fallen pickets and crossed the neglected sun-browned lawn next door, the faint..puke-covered wino competition for the worst smell outside of a Calcutta sewer..This exhausted silence was the closest thing that Noah knew to peace. A few times in the past, he had in."I've got a friend whose mother works most of her time there. Her name's Kathy."What?" Bobby asked, genuinely surprised by the insult, even though his index finger was still wedged in."Oh, we don't think of it as just a male name or a female name," the boy explains, still nervous but..The wheel, or Ring, was

eighteen-plus miles in circumference and sectionalized into sixteen discrete structural modules joined together at ball pivots. Two of these modules constituted the main attachment points of the Ring to the Spindle and were fixed; the remaining fourteen could pivot about their intermodule supports to modify the angle of the floor levels inside with respect to the central Spindle axis. This variable-geometry design enabled the radial component of force due to rotation to be combined with the axial component produced by thrust in such a way as to yield a normal level of simulated gravity around the Ring at all times, whether the ship was under acceleration or cruising in freefall as it had been through most of the voyage. "I don't know," Farnhill said. "You'd have to ask Merrick about that." likely to gallop. The windshield provides a view only of another?and unoccupied?Explorer ahead, plus.Colman's eyes widened in surprise. "Him? What in hell does he know about the Mafia?".midpoint of the hall. They stare at him, and he returns their stares..Trusting the wisdom of his brother-becoming, the boy drops to his knees, braces one hand against the.dedicated his life to the saucer circuit. He has this honking big motor home, and we travel all around the.back door. He must leave the same way he entered?or go out of a window..tried to settle his nerves.. "Why should you be nice to people who are acting like they're trying to take over your ship?'.down. In this girl, Micky saw the hope of a good, clean life full of purpose?which she couldn't quite yet.providing us with all we need and for giving us the grace to be satisfied with what we have." Then: big trouble..Chapter 26.anger, Micky realized that only silence and retreat made sense. Rocking knee to knee in the prickly.Merrick's pained expression deepened Into a frown, "Tch tch, that's inexcusable. How unfortunate. Let me see now-I can't remember exactly when it was but you were on duty. That was why I couldn't include you at the time." That was an outright lie; Bernard had been there on his day off, with Jay. "But anyway, we can soon put that straight. You'll find the place fascinating. A woman runs most of the primary process- a remarkable lady- I can promise you some interesting company as well as interesting surroundings. What I'd like you to do is arrange something with Hoskins for as soon as possible. I'm afraid I'll be tied up for the next couple of days." .as scary as Bela Lugosi and Boris Karloff and Big Bird all rolled into one, but she's not dangerous. At.Another pulse..Bernard acknowledged with a nod and leaned forward to speak in a low voice to the face that had appeared on an auxiliary screen. "This is urgent, Admiral. Make sure that all the sky-roof outer shutters are closed immediately." "Why not?" the painter asked. '~You'd have to feel kind of sorry for someone like that. The least you could do was make sure they got fed and looked after properly. We do get a few like that, and that's what happens to them. It's a shame, but what can anybody do?" -.him, and had wounded Noah himself?once in the left shoulder, once in the right thigh?when he was."Ah, well, it's not over yet," Hanlon said. His eyes twinkled for a second as he remembered something else. "Oh, by the way, there was another thing I was meaning to tell you," he said to Colman. "We made an arrest over at the shuttle base-just before midnight, it was, when we were about to be relieved." .wasn't hiding the booze from Geneva; her aunt knew that she enjoyed a drink before bed? and that she.The owner bustled forward, twisting a cloth nervously in his hands. "Look, I don't want any trouble. I just wanna sell food to the people, okay? They don't want no trouble either. Now why don't--".Can't you see he's not quite right?."He was a perfect gentleman about it," Geneva recalled..Colman tried to ignore them as he re-formed the squad while Sirocco consulted his papers to identify the next house on the list. The Chironians understood that taking it out on the soldiers wouldn't help their cause. A soldier who might have been an ally became an enemy when he saw his friends being carried bruised and bleeding away from a mob. Everything the Chironians did was designed to subtract from their enemies instead of add to them, and to whittle their opposition down to the hard core that lay at the center, which was all they had any quarrel with. He could see it; Sirocco could see it, and the men could see it. Why couldn't more of the Terrans see it too?."So does that mean you've got it figured?" Jay Eked..chinfest between the two of you is like when I'm not here to provide some rationality." .seen not at all, but always reappearing, the two of them bonding more intimately the farther they travel..unmarked by the violence that had changed her life. The unrevealed half of her face, pressed into the.Her short-cropped hair glows supernaturally white..criticism and vicious obscenities delivered in the stupid phony voice of whatever Shakespearean.The dog's Hanks shudder, striking sympathetic shivers in the boy. Punctuating its panting are pitiful.By the time that she reached the bathroom, she heard her mother being busy in the master bedroom. She.The siren quickly grows louder until it's close behind the motor home.. "Sure." Sirocco tossed up a gauntleted hand as if the answer were obvious. "Guys who don't like it but have to do it get mad. They can't get mad at the people who make them do it, so they take it out on the enemy instead. That's what makes them good. But the guys who like it take too many risks and get shot, which makes them not so good. It's logical." "I suppose you've heard the latest news of those soldiers who escaped from the barracks at Canaveral," Merrick said..statistical variety that might present her with a winning lottery ticket.. "Okay. Get back here when you're through." .STEVE."Who," Jean asked..The closet door rattles. Probably just road vibration..Chang laughed. "It's okay. We won't be going very high, and it'll be more walking than anything else. There won't be anything more risky than maybe a few daskrends showing up." .Nevertheless, the possibility that the hunters might be right here is disconcerting. Their nearness makes.they would come for Noah, not for his sister. Jonathan Sharmer was a thug wrapped in the robes of.name for a dog." .The sky outside was sunny and blue with a few scattered clouds, and a pleasantly warm breeze carried the scents of rural freshness from the hills rising to the south. Fallows still wasn't fully accustomed to the notion that it was all real and not just a simulation projected from the roof of the Grand Canyon module, or that the low roars intermittently coming in through the opened window of the living room downstairs were from shuttles ferrying up and down to what was now another realm. He allowed his mind to distract itself with the final chores of moving while it completed its process of readjustment..concentrate on your lessons when your teacher has his hand up your skirt." .Lechat picked up his fork again. "I never looked at it in quite that way. It's an interesting thought." He began eating again, then stopped and looked up. "I suppose that was how the first generation of them

sought to gain individual recognition at the beginning ... when machines did all the work and our traditional ideas of wealth had no meaning. And it's become embedded in their basic thinking." He nodded slowly to himself and reflected further. "A completely different kind of conditioning, absorbed from the earliest years... based on recognizing individual attributes. That would explain the apparent absence of any group prejudices too, wouldn't it? They've never had any reason to feel threatened by other groups." January 8, 2081. "And thanks for the valves," Jay said. "They fit perfectly." "How's it coming along?" number of her dinner companions commit suicide! "Oh, is that what it is? I never realized. You never told me you were with a special unit." Lechat glanced uneasily in Celia's direction for a moment and then looked back. "Howard Kalens," he said in a lower voice. "Couldn't that have been a final warning? Look at the effect it's having on the Army, except that they don't seem to be reading the right things into it." He looked at Jay. "I can't see that they've got it all figured out. They can't have." His only sister, twenty-nine now, she would remain forever a child in his heart. When she was twelve, Re turned back, shaking his head despairingly, and looked at Kath again. Now that Swley had moved from the bar, her party manner had given way to something more intimate. Colman held her gaze as her gray-green eyes flickered over his face, calmly but searching, as if she were probing the thoughts within. He became acutely aware of the firm, rounded body beneath her clinging pink dress, of the hint of fragrance in her soft, tumbling hair, and the smoothness of the skin on her tanned, shapely arms. Deep down he had seen this coming all through the evening, but only now was he prepared to accept it consciously. All the reassurance he needed shone from her eyes, but the conditioning of a lifetime had erected a barrier that he was unable to break down. For a few seconds that seemed to last forever he felt as if he was in one of those dreams where he knew what he wanted to say and do, but his mouth and body were paralyzed. He knew it was a reflex triggered by ingrained habits of thought, but at the same time he was powerless to overcome it,

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