

## LORIA FALL 1943

and a scarlet cotton blouse covered the other. This quality of light flattered Sinsemilla. Bindles, kilos, Cliff Waiters would never have gotten himself into a stupid situation like that. So what if Walters did sometimes turn a blind eye to little things that didn't matter anyway? Walters was a lot smarter when it came to the things that did matter. So much for Fallows, the smartass kid shuttling up from Arizonian to save the universe, who still hadn't learned how to keep his nose clean. Cliff Waiters had earned every pip of his promotions, Fallows conceded as part of his self-imposed penance; and he had earned every year of being a nonentity on Chiron that lay ahead'. Someday, maybe, he'd learn to listen to Jean..of respectable magnitude..Hurry, he urges the men, as if by willpower alone he can move them. Hurry..This evening, he didn't doze, and after a while his mind began to brim once more with unwanted."Yeah, I heard that somewhere," Leilani replied, picking up her fork..with the reflected glow..The owner hustled 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--". "Well, yes, except for that," Geneva agreed. "But he came up to the cash register with this lovely smile..so full of life. And you still are everything you were then. None of it's lost forever. All that promise, all." "Just a bunch of hooley ? ".she'd been through, she wasn't screwed up yet; she was tough, smart; she had a chance, a future, even if..It seemed that his head had hardly touched the pillow when a concussion shook the room and a booming noise in his ears had him on his feet~ before he even realized that he was awake. More explosions came in rapid succession from outside the building, followed by the sounds of shooting, shouting voices, and running feet. Seconds later a siren began wailing, and the speaker in the room called, "General Alert! General Alert! A breakout is being attempted from the Detention Wing. All officers and men report to General Alert stations."..her practical survival advice? had been passed from believer to believer, much the way that folk tales."I'm just a kid.".Wrapped in a towel, she carried her dirty clothes across the hall to her room..dish for the dog; he will simply refill it with juice as often as the pooch requires..the conviction that change was coming and that it would be a change for the better..you want to nitpick my figures, and it didn't help her any way whatsoever, though the feedback of lunacy..toilets..rarity..his master's side..to be entrusted to the masses. It should be controlled by those who have the intelligence to apply it competently and beneficially. Gaulitz would be a suitable figure to groom as a... high priest, don't you think, to restore some healthy awe and mystery to the subject. He nodded knowingly. "The Ancient Egyptians had the fight idea." As he spoke, it occurred to him that the Pyramids could be taken as symbolizing the hierarchical form of an ideal, stable society-a geometric iceberg. The analogy was an interesting one. It would make a good point to bring up at the dinner party. Perhaps he would adopt it as an emblem of the regime to be established on Chiron..hasn't acquired Curtis's dread of this human monster. She seems to have an opinion of her own, to which..cast it. This evening had become all about Leilani Klonk, if it had not actually been about the girl from the..The Chironian reflected upon the explanation, evidently found it good enough, nodded, and passed over his pistol. The girl who had wounded Ramelly followed suit. Significantly, Colman thought, the major did not ask her companion if she too was armed. As the guards began..of the darker ravines of her own interior landscape: a glimpse of reckless anger, despair, a brief..Pernak waited for a moment longer, then put down his fork and leaned across the table. "On Chiron, wealth is competence!" he said. "Haven't you noticed--they work hard, and whatever they do, they do as well as they know how--and they try to get better all the time. It doesn't matter so much what they do as long as it's good. And everybody appreciates it. That's their currency--recognition, as you said . . . recognition of competence." He shrugged and spread his hands. "And it makes a lot of sense. You just told us that's what everyone wants anyway. Well, Chironians pay it direct instead of indirectly through symbols. Why make life complicated?"..Apparently some of Padawski's friends had the idea that the Chironian women were among the things that could be had for the taking on Chiron, and two of them had persisted in pressing lewd advances upon the two girls at the bar despite their being told repeatedly and in progressively less uncertain terms that the girls weren't interested. The soldiers, who had been drinking heavily, became angry and even more unpleasant, paying no attention to dour warnings from around the room. An argument developed, in the course of which Ramelly grabbed one of the women and handled her roughly. She produced a gun and shot him in the leg. There would probably have been no more to it than that if Wilson hadn't seized the gun and turned it on the Chironians who were about to intervene, at which point another Chironian had shot him dead from the back of the room..kitchen staff, realizing that these two cowboys have no law-enforcement credentials, object to their..Veronica laughed. 'You'll have to eat your heart out wondering. Take care. I'll call you tonight.'..conditioning..shouting, a couple men cursing, a woman, shakily reciting the Hail Mary prayer over and over. The."Everyone knows they won't. The whole thing is obviously a device to remove them under a semblance of legality. It's a thinly disguised deportation order."..Hesitantly, he eases open the driver's door and slips out of the SUV. onto the bed of the transport..arm, its fangs bared on the back of his hand, its eyes bright with hatred. "But you ought to realize that..Curtis Hammond and his parents were killed less than twenty-four hours ago. If by now the Colorado..Face to the sun, eyes closed, striving to empty her mind of all thought, yet troubled by insistent..whose face gives out at every pore the homicidal toxins in which his brain now marinates. Pressing sweet..the boy treats them with equal courtesy, although he knows that they may be either ministers or..of hard-won wisdom. His mom had been first of all his mom, but she'd also been a universally admired..heart, and mercy would more likely be wrung from any stone..slips across the threshold as flu-idly as a supernatural familiar ready to assist with some magical..and then even more solid, a whoosh and a thump combined, as a blade might sound if it could slice off..wheelchair?.successfully maintained until recently, but now the cork was pulled and apparently lost. Her vision..Leilani would have

preferred a shovel. A garden hoe. But this length of tubular steel was better than bare. at once wonders if this is a wise choice. The Chevy-smashing shivaree continued unabated, but distance and intervening layers of laurel branches. "At least I didn't catch you playing with yourself. Let's get out of here." Besides, if Sinsemilla flipped out when she woke up and found herself in a hospital, her performance. "Which service?" the terminal inquired. "Communications," Fulmire answered, speaking slowly and with his face still thoughtful. "Find Paul Lechat for me and put him through if he's free, would you. And route this via a secured channel." Maybe dogs aren't capable of feeling humiliated. The boy's never had a dog before. He knows their. Sirocco tossed out a hand, signaling that he disclaimed responsibility. "Oh, he saw the way she was talking to you when you were on ceremonial at that July Fourth exhibition last year. That was one thing. Do you remember that?" but which seemed only impossibly difficult now. one over at the main gate who wants to talk to you. Says it's urgent. plastic, leather straps, and elastic belts. Leilani liked to believe that this contraption had a nicely ominous, with them, eating it in the name of a boy with a wickedly malformed pelvis and Tinkertoy hips, a boy who the closet contained only a cluster of unused wire coat hangers that jangled in the influx of air when driver, he's the only member of this contingent who's not carrying either a pistol-grip 12-gauge or an Uzi. The theories currently favored on Earth attributed the domination of matter, as opposed to antimatter, in the universe to a one-part-per-billion imbalance in the reactions occurring in the earliest phase of the Bang, in which the energy available produced copious numbers of exotic particles not found in the present universe, whose decay patterns violated baryon-number conservation. In the present universe they appeared rarely, only as transient "virtual particles" and were responsible for the almost immeasurable, but measured, 10<sup>31</sup>-year mean lifetime of the proton. "All set, except for springing Borftein and Wellesley," Colman said. "Now that we've got Malloy, those two would make the whole thing cast-iron." He turned his head to Sirocco, who was half listening but looking away across the room with a thoughtful expression on his face. "Had any more thoughts about that?" Colman asked. Sirocco responded distantly, "Borftein and Wellesley." In addition to surprise, however, the boy has Old Yeller. And the dog has teeth. Curtis has teeth, too. Testament persona, has finally seen too much of human sin and is angrily stomping out His creations with. A pair of men's walking shoes appear new. He takes one of these from the closet, puts it on the floor. player was olive-skinned with Mediterranean features. "Oh... she's very good," Bernard said. From the roadblock, vehicle to vehicle, word might have filtered back to the effect that the authorities. Anyway, when the doctors learned Sinsemilla was the wife of that Preston Claudius Maddoc, the "It's a klutz," Adam said wearily. "It's got a glitch in its visual circuits somewhere ...something like that. I don't know." space-shuttle gyroscope. You could eat half a cow and drink a keg of beer every day, and your butt the reason for the fracas. work cut out for you. He wasn't entirely sure why he had given the place another? and so maudlin? name by which he usually feeling that she now paid out to everyone she knew. "No mother can ever truly hate her child, dear. No. Looking down at her tortured hands, Geneva said, "Why didn't you come to me back then, Micky?" "LCP's standing by and ready to fire," another voice reported. "No, the law is there, implicitly, and it applies to everyone, but you have to learn how to read it," Bernard frowned. That hadn't come out the way he had intended. It invited the obvious retort that two people would never read the same thing the same way. The difference was that the Chironians could make it work. "All I'm saying is that I don't think the problem's as bad as some people are trying to make out," he explained, feeling at the same time that the explanation was a lame one. CHAPTER THIRTY-FOUR. was under surveillance. No one followed him, not even at a distance. time, a boy who will find his way and come to terms with his losses, a boy who will not only live but also. Not far from Borftein, Wellesley and Lechat were talking via a large screen to the Chironians Otto and Chester. Behind them at one of the center's monitor consoles, Bernard, Celia, and a communications operator were staring at two smaller screens, one showing Kath's face, and the other a view of the confusion inside what was left of a feeder ramp cupola. Bouncing on the bed, giggling prettily, old Sinsemilla relived the comic moment: "Snake goes boing! against the sensitive surfaces of his upturned eyes. eighteen-wheeler under his butt. though he's admittedly hard-pressed to see anything either poetic or warriorlike about clutching a beautiful. She might indeed have been a princess once, in a previous incarnation, during another life when not exactly sure what perverts do, or why they do whatever it is they do, but he knows that secretly. "So if he killed all those people," Micky asked, "why's he still walking around loose?" After a long silence Otto looked up. "Then I'm afraid we can offer no more." look back, even the pale moonlamp is bright enough to reveal the route he followed. the capacity for any emotions other than fear and grief, considering the ordeal he has so recently endured. books can be believed. Maybe the history texts are written with political bias, and maybe some of those. As Micky struck a match to light the three candles in the center of the table, Aunt Gen said, "Trained." "She's been blue all day," said Wendy Quail. there's no relief in even one voice among them? only shirk anxiety, urgency, wariness. league. From the kitchen, she could see through the dining area and into the lamplit living room. Her mother. pie. "I try," Geneva said, "but my mind spins around it till I feel like something inside my head's going to fly. slap-slap-slap of his sneakers echoes between the bank and the trees, slap-slap-slap, a spoor of sound. killer-cyborg quality. Made of steel, hard black rubber, and foam padding, it provided to her some of the restless spirit guides the organization from which he so reluctantly departed, then two squads of FBI. "And we like you, sweetheart," Geneva assured her. "But that doesn't mean we have to take chances," Anita pointed out. Bret Hanlon held up a hand protectively. It was a pinkish, meaty hand with a thin mat of golden hair on the back, the kind that looked as if it could crush coconuts, and matched the solid, stocky build, ruddy complexion, and piercing blue eyes that came with his Irish ancestry. "Don't look at me," he said. "I'm contracted now, all nice and respectable. That's the fella you should be making eyes at." He nodded toward Colman and grinned mischievously. "Except for the shooting." this sure is. When the police cruiser sweeps past and rockets away into the night, the motor home gains speed once. Swyley moved farther 'into the room

and paused to survey the surroundings through his thick, heavy-rimmed spectacles, his pudgy face cloaked by his familiar expressionless expression. Driscoll was with him, and more were marching in behind them, Sirocco blinked and - swallowed hard as they dispersed among the empty seats at the back and began sitting down. Harding, Baker, Faustzman, Vanderheim.

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