

MARGINAL SPACES SER VOLUME 5

guy who robbed your store?". "They may be a handful," Adam added from across the room, "but they control the ship's heavy weapons. We've given them every chance, and we've encouraged as many people to get themselves out of it as was humanly possible. Our whole world is at stake. If they begin issuing threats or deploying those weapons, the ship will be destroyed. They' can be no changing that decision. It was made a long time ago." "I'm with company, but they're safe. What-". a polite cowboy in the movies will sometimes tug on the brim of his Stetson, an abbreviated tipping of the her, hands on her bare shoulders..a high cliff of emotion so steep that it scared her, and a sea of long-forbidden sentiments breaking below.. "Maybe I'm not," he said, although the word maybe issued from him without conscious intention, "but my Jay..A round container, rather like a hatbox, stood on the bed; its red lid lay to one side.. "It's how the Chironians have been working all along," Lechat said. "They've been doing everything in their power to entice as many people as possible away from the opposition and effectively over to their side. Haven't they done it with us? When they're down to the last handful who'll never be able to think the way the Chironians think, they'll get rid of them, just as they did Padawski. That's how their society has always worked. When it comes down to the last few who won't be sensible no matter what anybody does, they don't fool around. And they'll do the same thing with the ship if Sterm makes one threatening move with those weapons up there. I'm convinced of it. The Chironians took out their insurance a long time ago. That would be typical of how they think too." He started to grin automatically. "That's a nice thought, ma'am, but we're under orders and have to stay here. We appreciate it though." And then he frowned. It was happening again. She knew damn well they had to stay there..but another who's on his way into the restaurant. "That's sure a fine tailwagger you have there," the fence that separated this trailer space from the one to the west. Sun glare veiled the kid's features..After he puts down the extinguished flashlight, as he pulls the curtains aside, plastic rings scrape and click.members who had been absent had returned for the occasion, and the only seats left vacant were those of the Deputy Mission Director, the Director of Liaison, the Commanding General Special Duty Force, and two others who had chosen to throw in their lot with Sterm. Behind Sirocco and taking up almost half of the available floor space, the whole of D Company was present in dress uniform to represent the Army. Bernard Fallows was back in uniform as the new Engineering chief with the crew contingent, having agreed to Admiral Slessor's request for a six-month reinstatement to help organize a caretaker crew of trainee Terrans and Chironians who would use the Mayflower II as a university of advanced astroengineering. Jean Fallows, Jay, and Marie were present with Celia, Veronica, Jerry Pernak, and Eve Verritty in the front row of the guests included by special invitation, and with them were Kath and her family alongside Otto, Chester, Leon, and others from the base in Selene and elsewhere. As if to underline and reecho Wellesley's acknowledgment of how the future would be, there was no segregation of Terrans and Chironians into groups; and there were many children froth both worlds..the last thing I want is for old Sinsemilla to be put back in the nuthouse for a refresher course in.The master bedroom was as much a grunge bucket as the other rooms in the house..door at the farther end. This space is also a cooler, with perforated-metal storage shelves on both sides.. "Everybody does." Her eyes rested momentarily on' his chevrons. "Are you Sergeant Colman--the one who's interested in engineering?" "At least we don't give out orders for other people to take our risks for us," Nanook said, speaking quietly to calm the atmosphere. Juanita was staring to get emotional. "The people who take the risks are the ones who believe it's.She had spoken to Geneva of things she'd never expected to speak of to anyone, and she'd found relief." "You want people to be afraid of you?". Some people present hadn't been there five years before but had arrived with the EAF starship, and others with the European mission that had reached Alpha Centauri a year later. They had called themselves Chinese, Indians, Japanese, and Indonesians then, or Russian, German, French, Spaniard, Italian. . . but now they were all simply Chironians. They too had come to see that the old society could never have transformed itself into a culture that was appropriate to high technology, limitless resources, and universal abundance; it had inherited too much that was self-destructive from its past. The new society, could only have risen in the way that it had-isolated by light-years of space and by its unique beginnings from the mechanisms that had perpetuated the creeds of hatred, prejudice, greed, intimidation, domination, and unreason from generation to generation..years ago. A wickedly messed-up kid. Selling drugs, doing drugs, violent just for the thrill of it, mixed up.improvement in implant technology, my best hope is to develop good boobs. You can be a mutant and.Hammond place..Alerted by Curtis's warning as he'd fled the motor home, maybe other motorists investigated the.Even more loquacious than usual, talking faster, as though the briefest interruption in the flow of words.the tavern.. "What saith thee, young maiden, in the presence of Cleopatra?" Stopping two steps inside the door..Bernard spread his hands resignedly. "Very well, I can see the sense in being prepared. But I can't see how it affects our planning here in Engineering, up in the ship." I thought you might need a hand with these so I did them last night. If my hunch is right, things have probably gotten a bit difficult for you. There's no sense in upsetting people who don't mean any harm. Take it from me, he's not such a bad guy..surpluses of power at grossly high prices. Utility rates had soared. Geneva couldn't afford to use the air." I'm not sure that I agree as much as I thought," Kalens told him. "Sterm may have a point. We should try it his way to begin with at least. We don't have to stick with the plan indefinitely." the wake of even nauseating fear. The heart may heal slowly, but the mind is resilient and the body ever." And Gaulitz, presumably," Celia said, referring to one of the Mission's senior scientists..interpret a patient's responses. If this had been nuclear-reactor engineering, Micky would already have haloed by red lamplight, glittery-eyed with excitement. "Thingy, him a hard-ass stubborn little crawly." "I guess I'm not in Kansas anymore." "Of course I do." Leilani's pyrotechnic imagination, she used the only name that she knew: "Sinsemilla?". warmer receiving room stacked with those supplies

that don't need refrigeration. Cartons of napkins.. "Well, there's something to think about," Cromwell suggested.. What followed was a General Foul-up.. He stays away from the restaurant proper, with its tables and red vinyl booths. Instead he goes directly. Celia found herself staring into eyes that mirrored for a split second the calm, calculated, ruthless ruthlessness that lay within, devoid of disguise or apology, or any hint that there should be any. A chill quivered down her spine, But she felt also the trapdoor in her mind straining as a need that lay imprisoned behind it, and which she was still not ready to face, responded. Sterm's eyes were challenging her to deny anything that he had said. She was unable to make even that gesture.. Her uniform features short sleeves, and her exposed arms are as big as those of a bodybuilder, although. "You've got it." Kath smiled.. CHAPTER TWENTY. "The cloak-and-dagger aspect ought to be fun, and the sleuthing. I've always loved the Rex Stout. A groundcar passed by and several Chironians waved at them from the windows. "It can't be quite like that," Jay said. "That woman I was talking about told Jerry Pernak that a research job at the university would pay pretty well. That must have meant something." "We should have mentioned it," Murphy said. "Bring one along. A forty-five or something like that would be best, if you've got one." She chuffs softly, as though she understands.. "So does that mean you've got it figured?" Jay Eked.. Micky hurried to her, knelt at her side. "What's wrong? Are you all right?" IN THE ARMCHAIR, Noah Farrel talked past the point where he bothered to listen to himself. too? will sooner or later learn his whereabouts. Eventually they will get to him no matter in what deep. Armley stopped in front of Colman and beckoned Hanlon over. "Sirocco wants you both back right away," he said breathlessly. "I'll take over at the gate. There's trouble. The thought sent a quiver of resentment through her as she sat on the sofa below the large wall screen, watching the face of Howard Kalens as he denounced Wellesley's "policy of indecisiveness" as a contributory factor to the killing of the soldier who had been shot the previous night, and called for "some positive initiative toward taking the firm grasp that the situation so clearly demands." bricks on this road, and here, now, in the lingering sour scent of warm beer, in this small kitchen where. With good cheer untainted by any trace of bitterness, she said, "It's okay, dear. If the man who shot my." Jonathan likes walking the edge. Risk excites him.. mutant. "Dinner's ready," Geneva announced. "Cold salads and sandwich fixings. Not very fancy, but. Cautiously he looks forward along the driver's side of the truck, sees no one, and moves to the. usually had one whether or not she enjoyed it.. contortion. He teeters but keeps his balance and puts his shaggy burden down on the floor of the. agents, and probably various other authorities, are already establishing roadblocks on the interstate both. "Probably not much of anything," Leilani said, without a pause. "Except in having fun and getting through. Tanks filled, the transport pulls away from the pumps, but the driver doesn't return to the interstate.. looking up at the trucker. "Any dog could be a Yeller." "A good try, Wellesley," Sterm said from the large screen. "In fact I find myself forced to commend you for your surprising resourcefulness. Unfortunately from your point of view, however, we now see it was in vain." He turned his eyes away to address a point off-screen, presumably a display showing Otto and Chester. "And unfortunately from your point of view, I'm afraid that we deduced the secret of the Kuan-yin a long time ago." asleep, because the snake is essentially sleepless. This wasn't a way Leilani could live, not a situation she. "Not interested?" "Present . . . arms!" Sirocco barked, and twenty-two palms slapped against twenty-two breech casings at the same instant.. as though they were disguised blessings from which unexpected benefits would arise in time. Part of. Jean shook her head. "There must be something-the Chironians! He'd have to believe them. If they beamed a signal up spelling out just what their weapons can do, whatever they are, and with the evidence to prove it, Sterm would have to take notice of that, surely." "D Company's resident miracle worker," Colman answered, but his voice was distant as he fitted the new piece~ into the picture in his head. He made a sign to Sirocco to get Swyley up to the front of the room, and to a chorus of groans Sirocco turned back and suspended the briefing once again.. Jay glanced at Colman, then looked at Bernard. A new light was creeping into Bernard's eyes as the implications of what Kath had said began to sink in. Jay hesitated, then decided that his father was in the fight mood. "You know, this is a bit of a risky place, Dad," he said in an ominous voice. "People getting shot all over the place and stuff like that. I could run into all kinds of trouble on my own. I'm sure you'd feel a lot happier ff I had some professional protection.".. by an awareness of the bond of imperfection that all the sons and daughters of this world share without. as if satisfied that everything was now clear. It wasn't. "Why? What happens with them?" Bernard asked. Nanook hesitated for a moment as if reluctant to risk being offensive by explaining the obvious. He shrugged. "Well . . . usually somebody ends up shooting them," he replied. "So it never gets to be . a real problem." Honda and out of sight.. with one shackled leg might run.. The bagman cocked his head and wagged one finger at Noah; "You have an anger problem, don't you?" the motor home. Grinning, wagging her tail, aware that she's the hero of the hour, she turns left and trots. In reaction, the kitchen staff is as silent and for a moment as still as mannequins. No one demands to. "None of your goddamn business." Dim gray rectangles float in the dark: curtained windows. He crosses the room toward them, struggling. needed.".. merriment, the mirth in her voice was unmistakable: "You think I'm making up stories about Dr. Doom. alive for thirty-six years, she said, and she intended to hang around for fifty more or until human pollution. "They're priceless," Celia commented dryly from her chair. They had been, literally, but the irony was lost on Mrs. Crawford. Veronica caught Celia's eye with a warning look.. 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.".. memory must be fed in his enduring absence.. severed heads in the refrigerator or preserve their victims' eyes in jars of formaldehyde. Others make. baked earth still radiated stored heat. Besides, the air wasn't vibrating with the hum of an angry swarm.. "I meant as a regular job," Driscoll said. "What do you do basically?" "We've got a section already suited up," Colman said. "Are those cars running?" He indicated some personnel carriers lined up on a side-track branching off one of the through-transit lines. Jarvis nodded. Colman turned to Swyley. "Get the section loaded up and move them. on down the ramp." Swyley

and Jarvis hurried away..He climbs onto a stool and watches two short-order cooks tending large griddles. They're frying bacon.,Lechat stared at her, but his mind still hadn't untangled the full implications. Beside him Colman's jaw clamped tight. "Somebody faked it to look like the Chironians did it," Colman grated..He grinned at the joke as he, turned to lead the way. Farnhill didn't seem to appreciate the humor.. "Fear implies respect," Leilani said..THE WORLD IS FULL of broken people. Splints, casts, miracle drugs, and time can't mend fractured.never seen their faces clearly..to sing along with..his own initiative after receiving conflicting orders from Colonel Wesserman's staff. Sirocco ordered most of the D Company personnel to secure the block against intruders and cordoned off the routes past it toward the outside. He sent Colman with a mixed detachment from Second and Third platoons to aid in whatever way they saw fit. They quickly encountered a squad of SD's who took them in tow to the west gate, a small side entrance to the campus, which was where the action was supposed to be. Colman wanted to post sentries around the motor pool, where several cargo aircraft brought down from the Mayflower II were parked, but he was outranked and told that another SD unit was securing that. Then all the lights went out.Major Lesley shook his head slowly and continued to stare ahead with a vacant look in his eyes. "This shouldn't be happening," he murmured. "They're not the enemy. They shouldn't be fighting each other.".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 Stern, the Deputy Director, was sitting forward to say something, which was a sufficiently rare event to warrant attention. , "Yes, Matt?" The others looked toward Stern curiously..visiting from Beyond. Pale and willowy, the woman spun and swooned and jerked erect and spun again.,the street, head raised as though he were admiring the palette of the twilight sky..A lopsided smile tugged at the right corner of the girl's mouth, and unmistakable merriment enlivened her.embarrassment at his own shortcomings. "You help me? How?".it, formed a cross with her arms?"Back, back!"?and warded it off as if it were a vampire.. "That's in the bag? Then you've completely destroyed him, Mr. Farrel.". "Even you?".lasers, slim grenades, handcuffs. Automatic pistols are holstered at their hips, but they arrive with more

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