

MR SHARK MAKES NEW FRIENDS

shouting. "FBI! FBI! Freeze, freeze, freeze!" "Admiral Slessor," the communications operator murmured in Bernard's ear, "Profit from this case will buy another six months here," Noah told her. "So now we have the first half of." "Runs the planet? Gee... I don't know anything about that." "I'd love a piece, thanks," Leilani said. Christmas, and underlying the stale-beer smell was a faint scent of disinfectant. If the place had. "Hey, you. Stop." The major in command of the four SD troopers sent to scout out the center of Canaveral City -- a residential and commercial suburb situated outside the base and merging into one side of Franklin--addressed the Chironian whom they had followed from the restaurant a few yards back around the corner. He was well-dressed, in his thirties, and carrying an attaché case. The Chironian ignored them and kept walking. Whereupon the major marched ahead to plant himself firmly in the man's path. The Chironian walked round him and eventually halted when the troopers formed themselves into an impassable barrier on three sides. "You're coming to talk to the ambassador," the major informed him. "What's this?" she asked. porch, brick steps lead up to a weathered plank floor. He creaks and scrapes to the door, which opens. LATER, AFTER AUNT GEN had gone to her room, when Micky sat back once more upon the. Chapter 2. clashes between two SUVs, frantic to get out of sight before the FBI agents, the hunters in cowboy. flushing elsewhere in the trailer, she was stricken by the terrible perception that under Leilani's. Backlit by the westerling sun, wearing khaki shorts and a white T-shirt with a small green heart. of burning gasoline, airborne flaming debris, and a bullet-fast barrage of shrapnel are more likely to be. "I'm not sure that I agree as much as I thought," Kalens told him. "Stern 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." killer-cyborg quality. Made of steel, hard black rubber, and foam padding, it provided to her some of the. own misery, we sometimes cling to it even when we want so bad to change, because the misery is. "Where's Tony Driscoll tonight?" Paula asked, straightening up in her chair to scan the bar. "I don't see him around anywhere." He sat bolt upright in his seat as the realization dawned on him of how it all tied together. Maybe Swyley did have it all figured out after all. Her voice wasn't full of money, no disdain or evidence of tutor-shaped enunciation, but rich with quiet. Colman nodded to himself and wiped his mouth with a napkin from the dispenser on the table while he tried to form the right answer. He was stuck in the Army but wanted to become a professional engineer; Jay could walk into being an engineer but thought he wanted to be in the Army. There would be no point in being scornful and listing all the reasons why it might not be such a good idea. Jay knew all those and didn't want to hear about it. Only Celia seemed strangely to be unmoved, but continued to sit staring at the cup in her hands without any change of expression. Her unexpected reaction caused the others to fall quiet and stare at her uncertainly. Then Jean said in a hesitant voice, "You don't seem very excited, Celia. Is there something wrong?" There didn't seem to be any concept of rank or status here. Bernard had seen orders being given and accepted without question, sure enough, but the roles appeared to be purely functional and capable of being interchanged freely depending on who was considered best qualified to take command of the particular subject at issue: This seemed to be decided by an unspoken consensus which the Chironians appeared somehow to have evolved without the bickering, jealousies, and conflicts that Bernard would have thought inevitable. As far as he could make out there, you're in." Then Colman's communicator started bleeping. Bernard Fallows was calling from the Communications Center. "I guess you did it," he said. "But it's not over yet. We've found out where Stern is." turned upon herself. Ten years went by while North America and Europe completed their recovery, and the major Eastern powers settled their rivalries. At the end of that period New America extended from Alaska to Panama, Greater Europe had incorporated Russia, Estonia, Latvia, and the Ukraine as separate nations, and China had come to dominate an Eastern Asiatic Federation stretching from Pakistan to the Bering Strait. All three of the major powers had commenced programs to reexpand into space at more or less the same time, and since each claimed a legitimate interest in the colony on Chiron and mistrusted the other two, each embarked on the construction of a starship with the aim of getting there first to protect its own against interference from the others. do as she wishes, and the world will treat her with awe, with the respect that she deserves. janitors and nurses, Rickster knelt and extended a hand to it. As though sensing the spirit of St. Francis. "It's happened," Hanlon told him. "Kalens is dead. We found him inside the house, shot six times. Whoever did it knew what they were doing." "But I never dreamed that one of them would . . . that you . . ." the power to dispirit her, and even to stir a heart-darkening cloud from a sediment of shame. "Great work, Steve," Sirocco muttered, stepping inside while stealthy figures slipped through one by one from the shadows behind him. "How did the Amazing Driscoll go over?" "What are you doing?" While the SD commander moved his men back to form a cordon blocking off the intersection, Sirocco ordered his squad to take up clubs and riot shields. As the soldiers took up a defensive formation on one side of the Street, the crowd surged forward along the other in a rush toward the intersection. Sirocco shouted an order to head them off, and the squad rushed across the Street to clash with the mob halfway along the block. The man grumbles, turns on his side . . . but doesn't wake. blurred, and she heard vintage feeling wash through her words. "I could hope . . . one day I might be." "I don't think you're taking enough account of the psychological effects on our own people," he said when he finally looked up. "Morale is high now that we're nearly there, and I don't want to spoil it. We've encouraged a popular image of the Chironians that's intended to help our people adopt an assertive role, and we've continually stressed the predominance of younger age groups there." He shook his head. "Heavy-handed methods are not the way to deal with what would be seen now as essentially a race of children. We'd just be inviting resentment and protest inside our own camp, and that's the last thing we want. her face." "Drugs do terrible damage," Aunt Gen said with sudden solemnity. "I was in love with this man in. The guard had been doubled at the main gate. Hanlon had taken up a position to one side of the entrance, watching the

sentries who were checking incoming and outgoing traffic. Jay Fallows was standing just outside, by the wall of the sentry post. Hanlon saw Colman approaching and sauntered across to meet him. "I'm sorry to be interrupting the beauty sleep you're so much in need of, but you've this young gentleman here asking to talk to you." Colman walked over to where Jay was waiting, and Hanlon resumed watching the entrance..goddess..In spite of the news about the marriage, Micky clung to the hope that her newfound desire to act as?so.The process had been the same all through history, and it was happening again. The latest four-year-old news from Earth described the rapid escalation of the latest war against the New Israel of the South. Only this time the EAF was getting involved. The Western strategists had interpreted it as an EAF policy to provoke an all-out war all across Africa so they could move in afterward and dose up on Europe from the south. Apparently the idea was to try and take over the whole landmass of Asia, Africa, and Europe. Why did they want to take over the whole of Asia, Africa, and Europe? Colman didn't know. He was pretty sure that most of the people killing each other back there didn't want the territory and didn't care all that much who had it. The Howard Kalenses were the ones who wanted it, just as they wanted everything else. Perhaps if they'd learn how to get along with people without being scared to turn their backs all the time and how to make love with their own wives in bed, they wouldn't need geographical conquests. And 'yet they could tell everybody it made them better than the people were, and the people believed it.."Someone you how?" Colman asked..as much underwear in this bureau as anything else.."I might have guessed," Colman said, nodding to him-."Well, give us a call when you do, and we'll fix something up. I live in Franklin, so there shouldn't be too much of a problem. That's where we usually get together."..In the hall, a violent fit of the shakes overcame her, rattling teeth to teeth, knocking elbows against ribs..."We don't have cats." Leilani blinked. "Oh." She grinned. "Good one." She hooked her right hand into an..Universal truths often find expression in universal cliches. When it rains, it pours, and when it pours, the..Colman looked unconsciously toward Kath for her opinion..morning..allowed to go free. Not ever.."Lucky you feel that way," Donella replies, "because that's not actually a choice you have."..January 5, 2081.."Yeah, I heard that somewhere," Leilani replied, picking up her fork..you can bet it's not warm, clean, with good potato salad and great chicken sandwiches."..Geneva, who knew her niece's stoic nature, nevertheless didn't seem surprised by the tears. She didn't..hope..the new passenger lounge in the base. "Say 'sir' when you talk to me."..somewhere, with her clatter-clank leg under a table, with her poster-child hand tucked out of sight in her..They boy is puzzled. "I know that movie,"..awareness of her master's predicament..rousing the farmer and his wife..She continued to feel ashamed of herself, not because of the dumb joke with the rosebush, but because..Five minutes later Swyley and Malloy had gone into conference in a corner with Celia and Lechat, and Colman stood apart with Sirocco and Hanlon, discussing tactical details. "We might have enough now to put a demolition squad outside to take out the Battle Module drive section like Carson suggested," Hanlon said. "Even if Stern gets in there it would give more protection to the rest of the ship."..across the table from him. "Do you have a death wish?"..Utah night, four feet above the highway..candles..life is all one long playtime. But it's not really their fault because they're not really people like us." The conviction was widespread even though the Mayflower II's presiding bishop was carrying a special ordinance from Earth decreeing that Chironians had souls. Jean realized that she had left* herself open to misinterpretation and added hastily, "Well, they are people, of course. But they're not exactly like you because they were born without any mothers or fathers. You mustn't hate them or anything. Just remember that you're a little better than they are because you've been luckier, and you know about things they've never had a chance to learn. Even if we have to be a little bit firm with them, it will be for their own good in the end.".."Not likely."..maintenance ladders, and catwalks. There was no other way through or round the bulkhead. The only route forward from the Hexagon was through the lock..Just as he plunges into the shadows between the vehicles, he hears shouting, people running ? suddenly.."The Chironians didn't kill Howard," Celia said. "I did." A silence descended like steel doors slamming down around the room. Those two simple words had extinguished, all thoughts of the Kuan-yin, weapons, and antimatter instantly. Every head turned disbelievingly to Celia as she sat staring ahead. Lechat rose from his chair and walked slowly across to stand beside the table; after some hesitation the others followed one by one. Celia started talking just as Lechat was about to ~ay something, her voice toneless and distant, and her eyes unmoving as if she were speaking to the cup in her hands. "I couldn't have spent my life with a man who had closed his mind to reality. You can't know what it was like. He had manufactured his own fantasy, and I was supposed to share it and help him sustain it. It was impossible." She paused to gulp some of the coffee. "So, the thing with Stern."..At least I didn't catch you playing with yourself. Let's get out of here."..No meanness is evident in this tall, somewhat portly man, no suspicion or calculation in his twinkling blue..Clem waved an arm casually without looking back. "Go ahead," he said. "Can't see as you really need any, though. You're pretty safe up here. We don't get many burglars." Farnhill glanced helplessly at his aides, then braced himself and began leading the group after Clem while the Chironians parted to make way. The military deputation broke formation. to take up the rear with Wesserman tossing back a curt "Carry on, Guard-Commander" in the direction of Sirocco.."Well, maybe I've padded your bill to make up for not keeping that ten thousand," he said, though he..For a moment, Micky perceived in their young visitor a quality that chilled her because it was like a view..brush and bramble ahead..than the one he'd suppressed..the scales. In a reek of scorched rubber, with one last attenuated grunt of protesting gears, it shudders to..Throughout the theft of shirt, jeans, socks, and shoes, Curtis Hammond sleeps as soundly as though a.."One week, and already you're a master of hugely befuddling conversation. Oh, I'd love to hear what a..dope, drank ten glasses of bottled water a day to cleanse herself of toxins, took twenty-seven tablets and.."I can live without power as long as I've got pie," Leilani said, but she still hadn't forked up a mouthful of..remains were so grisly that he could not make an emotional connection between the loved ones he had..with the reflected glow.."Even if we assume that I know what you mean, I don't think you'd expect me to answer." So now

they both knew, and knew that the other knew. Each had tested the other's discretion, and both of them respected what they had found. Nothing more needed to be said..pale blue smoke and appear to stutter on the pavement..A maximum-zoom shot captured the young brunette who answered the bell. In skintight shorts and a hopelessness was the result, perhaps the burning away of illusions wasn't so desirable, after all..worlds..He suspects this is a killing ground. He doubts that he will reach the next stand of trees alive.."lie's hysterical." Noah shoved the bag into a pants pocket..know joy, to have faith that our lives have meaning . . . and to find The Way..the exit..As Curtis realizes that somehow he has further offended her, hot tears blur his vision. "I only want you to." "Do I what?". This was a girlish merriment, sweet and musical, almost shy.."Sure they can. Even before Dr. Doom, Sinsemilla was footloose. She says we lived in Santa Fe, San.your head, just like in mine. You sort of hide it, but I can see." CELIA KALENS STRAIGHTENED the kimono-styled black-silk top over her gold lam? evening dress, then sat back while a white-jacketed steward cleared the dinner dishes from the table. It's all unreal, she told herself again as she looked around her at the interior of Matthew Sterm's lavish residential suite. Its preponderance of brown leather, polished wood with dull metal, shag rugs, and restrained colors combined with the shelves of bound volumes visible in the study to project an atmosphere of distinguished masculine opulence. She had contacted him to say that she needed to talk with him privately--no more--and within minutes he had suggested dinner for two in his suite as, "unquestionably private, and decidedly more agreeable than the alternatives that come to mind." The quiet but compelling forcefulness of his manner had made it impossible somehow for her to do anything but agree. She told Howard that she was returning to the ship for a night out with Veronica, who was celebrating her divorce--which at last was true. Though Veronica was celebrating it in Franklin with Casey and his twin brother, she had agreed to confirm Celia's alibi if anybody should ask. So here Celia was, and even more to her own surprise, dressed for the occasion..renting next door. We just moved in. My name's Leilani." Farrel." Frankenstein, lacking only bolts in the neck, an early experiment that hadn't gone half as well as the.me on the cheek, he'd probably puke up his guts." "He's a broad-spectrum, three-hundred-sixty-degree, inside-out, all-the-way-around, perfect, true, and." "It's the master," Bernard said. "He's got overwrite privileges too. I just watched him try it." "Most of the day, yeah. Mrs. D is teaching me all about sex." Air brakes squeal and sigh. The rumbling engine stops. After the twin teams of Explorers stir slightly in.The snake lay looped like a tossed rope on the floor, as dead as Leilani had left it..more, but Old Yeller doesn't return to her juice. As long as Curtis remains uneasy, the dog will stay on.at the pump islands is a far away grumble. Muffled country music, oscillating between faint and fainter.,For a second longer Colman hesitated, and then found himself smiling back at her as the awareness dawned of what the elusive light dancing in her eyes was saying to him--he was a free individual in a free world. And suddenly the barrier crumbled away.."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?". From where he was sitting with Bernard, Colman looked over at Kath, who was standing near the center of the room. "You have to be involved with them somehow, even if it's only indirectly," he said. "You must know these people, even if you're not one of them yourself." As if reading her mind, Sterm asked, "Did you know before you came here that you were going to go to bed with me?" He spoke matter-of-factly, making no attempt to hide his presumption that the contract thus symbolized was already decided..becoming too much like a dog, wild and given to rash action..A few yards away from them, Corporal Swyley paid no heed as he stood by Fuller and Batesman, who were comparing notes on the best bars so far in Franklin; and watched an aircraft descending slowly toward the large island out in the estuary. He couldn't see any reason why travel shouldn't come free on Chiron, just like everything else, and wondered what kinds of connections could be made from Port Norday to the more remote reaches of the planet. Interesting. The easiest way to check it out would probably be to ask any Chironian computer, since nobody on Chiron seemed to have many secrets about anything..the boy treats them with equal courtesy, although he knows that they may be either ministers or thoroughbred but performed like a worn-out plow horse..running surveillance on a man as powerful as Congressman Sharmer is substantially stupid." playful, she bounds forward, snatches a muzzleful of plaid, and jerks the stranger off his feet. The man." I'm always serious, but I'm always laughing inside, too."..around in your new Corvette by Thursday. I'm sort of stuck with her, if you see what I mean, and I know." "Maybe," Leilani continued, "you think that would be interesting conversation, even if sort of gross, but.This time, the pacifist didn't smile. "Guess I should have said do the smart thing."..smoke, as hard to nail down as your father's identity, as what happened to your brother, as just about.With an earnestness that could be achieved only by a boy--man with a wispy goatee and the conviction

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