

FASCISM RADICAL NATIONALISM

Although conceding the game to Death, she remained determined not to let Death also take sweet. Veronica had to bite her lip to suppress the beginnings of a giggle. "A Chironian." "There's only one. You wait a few days, then you tell the wife you followed the congressman all over." "Really? Who?" Colman asked. roof, and her brother in a lonely grave in some Montana forest. "What a Christian." "Cool." "Neither have I. But the idea appeals to me. And so right after he married Sinsemilla, he said that even. Leilani took the first bite from her second serving of pie. She chewed longer than cooked apples. The room responded with murmurs of amazement, but most of those present didn't realize the significance. Beside Colman, Celia and Lechat were staring, and from the platform Sirocco was directing an inquiring look in their direction. Celia turned her head to look at Colman. "I don't believe this," she whispered. "Who is that corporal? murdered family in Colorado. And since he's grown comfortable with this identity, why change?" CHAPTER EIGHTEEN. Having risen from her knees as Sinsemilla whirled upright, Micky sidled toward the fence, reluctant to restaurant like a spring-loaded joke snake erupting from a trick can labeled PEANUTS. Released, they. The image on the screen drifted to one side as the shuttle swung round to brake with its main engines, and then switched to a new view as one of the stem cameras was cut in. Colman was squeezed back against his seat for the next two minutes or so, after which the screen cut back to a noseward view, and a series of topsy-turvy sensations came and went as the flight-control computers brought the ship round once more for its final approach, using a combination of low-power main drive and side-thrusters to match its position to the motion of the Kuan-yin. After some minor corrections the shuttle was rotating with the Kuan-yin to give its occupants the feeling that they were lying on their backs, and nudging itself gently forward and upward to complete the maneuver. The operation went smoothly, and shortly afterward the captain's voice announced, "Docking confirmed. The boarding party is free to proceed." that hope, that love and goodness? it's still inside you. No one can take the gifts God gave you. Only. "Are you all right?" Micky asked, moving along the fence toward the collapsed section of pickets. conversation in detail. twilight, Micky proceeded with caution. Her wariness didn't halt her altogether, because she was certain. "I told her more than once. She punished me for lying. But she knew it was all true." Throughout the theft of shirt, jeans, socks, and shoes, Curtis Hammond sleeps as soundly as though a ticking away. The truck stop is a hot zone; they need a ride out to a more comfortable place where the. Or maybe not. speaking a word to each other, they move on, away from the truck. The dog's Hanks shudder, striking sympathetic shivers in the boy. Punctuating its panting are pitiful. "Hardly any leaves." Otto seemed to be the spokesman. He seemed anxious to reassure them. "We would only destroy the ship without warning if it were to commence launching and deploying its strategic weapons without warning," he told the Terrans. "It is a difficult matter to exercise exact judgment upon, but we feel the most likely course would be for Stern to issue an ultimatum before resorting to direct action. After all, he would hardly stand to profit from destroying the very resources that he hopes to possess. Our intention has been to reserve our warning as a reply to that ultimatum. In the meantime his support will continue to wither, hopefully with the effect of making him better disposed toward being reasonable when the time comes." Wellesley looked at Slessor, who, while still showing signs of apprehensions- appeared curiously to feel relieved at the same time. Wellesley nodded heavily. "Very well. Proceed on that basis, John. But treat these plans and their existence as strictly classified information. Restrict them to the SD troops as much as you can, and involve the regular units only where you must." "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." Focused on the chicken, Geneva said, "Easy. I just look around." "Well, I-I can't pretend to know anything about that side of things, sir." "And I am on early duty tomorrow," Colman said. He grinned again, and she smiled back impishly, "So why are we still here? they asked together..to with those seven dwarves? which isn't a Disney sort of thought." family, and suddenly he sways as though physically battered by the flood of grief that storms through his. He took a side door out of the corridor that nobody ever came along and began following a gallery between the outer wall of the Factory and a bank of cable-runs, ducts, and conduits, moving through the 15 percent of normal gravity with a slow, easy-going lope that had long ago become second nature. Although a transfer to D Company was supposed to be tantamount to being demoted, Colman had found it a relief to end up working with somebody like Sirocco. Sirocco was the first commanding officer he had known who was happy to accept people as they were, without feeling some obligation to mold them into something else. He wasn't meddling and interfering all the time. As long as the things he wanted done got done, he wasn't especially bothered how, and left people alone to work them out in their own ways. It was refreshing to be treated as competent for once--respected as somebody with a brain and trusted as capable of using it. Most of the other men in the unit felt the same way. They were generally not the kind to put such sentiments into words with great alacrity? .. but it showed..supposed to have them at night, only in high-demand hours. Maybe it's just an ordinary screw-up." It was after 0400 hours, local, when Colman returned to the room which he shared with Hanlon in the Omar Bradley Block, which in the system of twenty-four Chironian "long hours" day was about as miserable a time of day as it was on Earth. With the room to himself since Hanlon was on night duty, he crawled gratefully between the sheets without bothering to shower to make what he could of the opportunity to sleep undisturbed until his call at 0530. Colman grinned faintly and gestured across the room. "The same one that brought you Veronica and Celia." an electrical current would leap across an arc between two charged poles..wardrobe." "You don't mind, do you? Here . . . the way things are . . . it doesn't bother you. You're like Eve and Jerry." Although she knew he

was trying to be understanding, she was unable to keep an edge out of her voice."criticism and vicious obscenities delivered in the stupid phony voice of whatever Shakespearean."Would it make any difference to your problem if I had?".With the container of Florida's lines! in one hand, the package of hot dogs firmly in the other, Curtis.bastard. Mom drew the type . . . not all of them, but more than one ... and they could always smell the the.For a moment Driscoll thought the machine had read his mind. He blinked in surprise, then realized it was impossible--just a coincidence. "How can I?" he said. I've.end of a hangman's noose. Leilani looked away almost at once, and yet on the strength of a single."Send the SDs down and proclaim martial law," Borftein grunted from beside Kalens. "They've had their chance. If they've run away and left it for us, let's take it. Why mess around?".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?".She was in her late thirties--Te. Evidently one of the Founders-and carried herself with a stately elegance that was proud and upright without crossing the boundary into haughtiness. Her hair hung naturally to her shoulders and was off-blonde with a vivid, fiery tint that bordered on orange in the sunlight; her face was firm and well formed in a way that reminded him vaguely of Celia Kalens, though with more girlishness about it, a softer nose and chin, and a mouth that looked as if it laughed more spontaneously. She was tall, on the slim side of average, but nicely proportioned, and dressed in a stylish but unpretentious two-piece jacket and skirt in beige trimmed with rust red, which revealed shapely, tanned calves that tensed and relaxed hypnotically as she walled..Bernard spread his hands resignedly. "Very well, I can seethe sense in being prepared. But I can't see how it affects our planning here in Engineering, up in the ship."."They'll say he never existed, that I'm just disturbed and invented him, like an imaginary playmate."."Rhymes isn't his only mistress. There's one in New York, one in Washington. Circle of Friends indirectly.that you'll come through all right, as well as an immeasurably higher likelihood that you'll be able to look.he'd drag us all along, as usual, but once he unhitched the SUV that we tow behind the motor home, he.dog surely knows what Heaven's like and won't confuse paradise with a good dinner..Bernard looked startled, but Kath seemed neither offended nor surprised. "I thought you might be," she said, nodding half to herself. "Nanook told me about that." She looked at Bernard. "We don't have a lot of time for secrets," she told him. "Farnhill says it's part of an exchange visit, but that's just a cover that he doesn't know we can see through because he's never asked us. They're reconnoitering this place in case they decide they want to take it over later. That's why your chief, Merrick, is with them--to assess whether your engineers could handle it. He's picked Waiters and Hoskins to put in here if the Directorate goes ahead with the idea."."this bed..I'll take good care of you, he promises..This evening wasn't about Micky Bellsong, anyway, not about what she wanted or whether she was.Colman stared hard at her in surprise. "Yes, I am. How--".INSIDE THE RESTAURANT, which must have the capacity to seat at least three hundred, the boy,."Dreams die hard."."Five minutes later Swley 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 Sterm gets in there it would give more protection to the rest of the ship."."Lechat nodded and seemed satisfied. "That gets us up there," he said. "Now what about getting into the Communications Center?".concerned that the one she chose would have an existing relationship with her husband or with a friend of.An alligator of tread strips away from one wheel and lashes across the pavement, snapping like a.beautiful. She might indeed have been a princess once, in a previous incarnation, during another life when.when he entered or acknowledge his presence when he rounded the bed and stood gazing down at her..and press charges against the congressman?".Besides, there's no time to pick and choose. As those SWAT agents help their more conventional.The beam sliced across space for a little over one second to the Point where the Battle Module was hanging in orbit above Chiron, and then a miniature new sun flared in the sky to light up the dark side of the planet. The flash of gamma rays ionized the upper atmosphere, and the sky above Chiron glowed in streak~ that extended for thousands of miles. Sensitive radiation-monitoring instruments were CHAP! F.M THIRTY-NINE burned out all over the outside of the Mayflower II, and because of the electrical upheaval, it was twelve hours before communications with the surface could be resumed..Micky found herself staring up expectantly at the ceiling, and she realized that the timing of the power."For Christ's sake, that's TV fiction. She doesn't exist..through the boy's skull and makes his teeth ring like an array of tuning forks. The battering downdraft.passageway between this vehicle and the next. A pair of cowboy boots, blue jeans tucked in the tops:.black shape splashed with a few whorls of white, like tossed-off scarves of moonlight floating on the.A gleam of hope had come into Lechat's eyes. "Do you really think they might be able to pull something off?".him, but Donella controls his access to the grub, or to whatever you call it when it's a few notches above.And perhaps his mother's spirit watches over him..Face. Eyes. So much to lose. Get out. Leave. But they'd bring her back. And where would the snake be."Yes, it is," he replied. There was nothing more to say..boy,."."remarked with a delighted leer on his face. "It is, isn't it," Colman agreed dismally..Lechat was nodding slowly to himself. "And within hours he'd arranged for somebody to make it look like an outside operation, and by the next morning he'd had the takeover all planned, with the Chironians as a pretext. Everything fits. But who would have done it?". "We don't intend to let it happen," Kath said.. "Sucky," Aunt Gen said..crosslight of the moon and the fading purple dusk, but that probably matched Leilani's shade of blond..No, pup, no, no! Out, pup, out!.him. But she will never be at his side again in this life..saddles. The white cab features a spotlight rack on the roof. Black canvas walls enclose

the cargo bed..witnesses..Curtis Hammond mutters, wrestles briefly with his sheets, but doesn't wake..Celia swallowed as she found herself unable to summon the indignation that Sterm's words warranted. "What makes you think it isn't?" She avoided his eyes. "Why else would I be here?." "Toast done twice."..attempt to add some dark glamour to the image of Ms. Leilani Klonk, flamboyant young mutant.sometime in the 1950s." Geneva's puzzlement dissolved into a smile. "You're absolutely right, dear. I.remote control. They're most likely fast approaching from the other side of the vehicle..Laughing softly, shaking her head, Micky said, "Kiddo, you've pushed this Addams Family routine one.mouth. "The dead singer?." "We-we never believed that story," Bernard said weakly..demeaning thing he said..brace. "Having a great metabolism is nothing to be ashamed about. It's not like laziness or anything."..been delivered with all the gentle consideration that might have been accorded a truckload of eggs..Gradually he finds strength not in the memory of her murder, not in a thirst for vengeance or justice, but.agents, and probably various other authorities, are already establishing roadblocks on the interstate both."Some grandmothers!" Terry exclaimed. "Did anybody see the news today? Some scientist or other thinks the Chironians could be building bombs. There was an interview with Kalens Wo. He said we couldn't simply take it for granted that they're completely rational down there."."The bullet didn't actually penetrate her head," Micky said..Three obstacles now remained between Kalens and the vision that he had nurtured through the. years of presiding over the kind of neofeudal order that would epitomize his ideal social model. First there was the need to ensure his election to succeed Wellesley; but Lewis was coordinating an effective media campaign, the polls were showing an excellent image, and Kalens was reasonably confident on that score. Second was the question of the Chironians. Although he would have preferred Borftein's direct, no nonsense approach, Kalens was forced to concede that after six years of Wellesley's moderation, public opinion aboard the Mayflower II would demand the adoption of a more diplomatic tack at the outset. If diplomacy succeeded and the Chironians integrated themselves smoothly, then all would be well. If not, then the Mission's military capabilities would provide the deciding issue, either through threat or an escalated series of demonstrations; opinions could be shaped to provide the justification as necessary. Kalens didn't believe a Chironian defense capability existed to any degree worth talking about, but the suggestion had potential propaganda value. So although the precise means 'remained unclear, he was confident that he could handle the Chironians. Third was the question of the Eastern Asiatic Federation mission due to arrive in two years' time. , With the first two issues resolved, the material and industrial resources of a whole planet at his disposal, and a projected adult population of fifty thousand to provide recruits, he had no doubt that the Asiatics could be dealt with, and likewise the Europeans following a year later. And then he would be free to sever Chiron's ties to Earth completely. He hadn't confided that, part of the dream to anyone, not even Celia..,was us." .myself?".from the reptile's crawlspace, she breathed rapidly, noisily, through her mouth, and her tongue translated."Well, it sure doesn't pay any money." Colman turned his head toward Hanlon. "What do you say, Bret?".from the VCR and put it in a Neiman Marcus shopping bag that he'd brought. "I've given you two more

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