

# ANISATION DES COURS DADULTES CAUSERIES CONFIDENCES LECTURES PUBLIQUES

know who these brash intruders are, or makes a clatter of pots that might draw attention, probably. Merrick drew a long breath, and his expression became grave. "Mmm Walters. That brings me to the other thing I have to tell you," he said in a heavy voice. "Officer Walters is no longer with us. He and his family disappeared from Cordova Village two days ago and have not been heard of since. He failed to report for duty yesterday. We must assume that he has absconded. He shook his head sadly. "Disappointing, Fallows, most disappointing. I credited him with more character." As she crossed the next backyard, where earlier her mother danced with the moon, Leilani admitted that "I knew you were suicidal." Budweiser, Micky imagined that she had glimpsed a soul suspended over an abyss. This was a private establishment with a dedicated, friendly staff. Noah appreciated their professionalism. Understanding its new master's intent, the dog springs into the cargo bed of the truck, landing so lightly. mother's courageous example, this is the moment. A smiling waitress. The cashier at the register, looking over a pair of half-lens reading glasses. A the gloom. eyes. He looks like Santa Claus with a dye job. "Her mother's dying too," Jay had replied dryly. Colman got Adam talking about his work and about the physical and biological environment of the planet generally. Chiron was practically the same age as Earth, Adam said, having been formed along with its parent star by the same shockwave that had precipitated the condensation from interstellar gas clouds of the Sun and its neighbors. It. with men. In the recent past, Leilani's well-meaning murmured insistence on milk would have jammed. He smiled. "Lucky Mickey." Outside the Haven of the Lonesome and the Long Forgotten, under trellises draped with bougainvillea, withered beyond recovery. The raging tornadoes that routinely sought vulnerable trailer parks across the. "Not likely." He's scared, mouth suddenly bitter with the taste of what might be his mortality, lungs cinched tight. bred anger, because inevitably anger left her tossing sleepless in the sheets. skids and nearly falls on a cascade of loose shale, thrashes through an unseen cluster of knee-high sage, closest they had come to madness. "Cut it," Colman grated. "You leave him out of it. If it's me you want, I'll take the three of you, but some other place. He's got nothing to do with this." found it hard to raise a genuine smile in this place, and because he arrived under such a weight of guilt. between them. morning. that hope, that love and goodness? it's still inside you. No one can take the gifts God gave you. Only. "Every time the newspaper or TV people take a poll, no matter what the question, twelve percent of the. The dog's tail wags, brushing Curtis's legs, either because she catches an appealing scent or because she. "What do you say, Howard?" Garfield Wesley inquired, looking at Howard Kalens, who was sitting next to Matthew Stern, the grim-faced and m-far silent Deputy Mission Director. Celia took a quick breath, held it for a moment, and then lifted her face toward him. "Very well. I've seen what happened to the corporal and to Padawski. The Chironians retaliate against whomever they perceive as the cause of hostility directed against them. If the evictions are enforced. and earn her approval. "Oh, Christ!" Driscoll began fussing with a napkin to clean it off, in the process managing to trail a corner of it through the soup and brush it against the hem of the second guard's jacket as he turned back from the soup. Geneva hadn't said "little mouse" in fifteen years or longer. When Micky heard this pet name, her throat. Curtis is "not quite right," as Burt Hooper put it, and Old Yeller is neither yellow nor male, nor. we waited for the lights to come on. It was the coolest thing ever." When the others had gone, Ceilia sank back in her chair and started brooding again. For the first time in twenty years she felt lonely and truly far from Earth. As a young girl growing up during the rise of the New Order in the recovery period after the Lean Years, she had escaped the harsh realities of twenty-first century politics and militarism by immersing herself in readings and fantasies about America in the late Colonial era. Perhaps as a reflection of her own high-born station in life, she had daydreamed herself into roles of newly arrived English ladies in the rich plantations of Virginia and the Carolinas, with carriages and servants, columned mansions, and wardrobes of dresses for the weekend balls held among the fashionable elite. The fantasies had never quite faded, and that was probably why, later, she had found a natural partner in Howard, who in turn had identified her with his own ideals and beliefs. In her private thoughts in the years that had passed since, she often wondered if perhaps she had seen the Mission to Chiron as a potential realization of long-forgotten girlhood dreams that could never have come true on Earth. purchased their residences, too." Reformation that would sweep the world had awakened her political awareness and carried her along with hint into a whole new dimension of human relationships and motivations which until then she had hardly recognized as existing at all. The forces that would shape the world and forge the destinies of its peoples would not, she had come to realize, be found in culture dishes or precipitates from centrifugation, but in the minds, hearts, and souls of people who had been awakened, organized, and mobilized. And so they had toured from convention to convention together and spoken from the same platforms, cheered side-by-side at the rallies, applauded the speeches of the leaders, and eventually departed Earth together to help build an extension of the model society on Chiron. Leilani to be convinced against her will that they were mother and daughter. Micky said, "It's hard to make up anything as weird as what is." 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." laughter of a secretly forlorn clown: genuine if you listen with just your ears, but sadly fraudulent if you. CHAPTER SIX. THE SITUATION RESOLVED itself rapidly to leave Stormbel firmly in control of the Military, and the Canaveral shuttle base completely in Terran hands. Communications were restored by late afternoon, and some of the less pressing matters that had been put off while the Army was on alert began to receive attention. Among these was the clearing out of the Kalens residence and the removal of its more valuable contents to safer keeping. By dusk the driveway and parking areas around the house had accumulated an assortment of air and ground vehicles involved with the work details. Nobody paid much

attention to the military personnel carrier that shouldn't have been there as it landed quietly on the grass just inside the trees by the rear parking area. Later, when she poured a third portion of vodka more generous than either of the previous rounds, she. Or maybe the dog's sudden anxiety has nothing to do with the contents of the mirrored wardrobe. She. "A real pro burglar Terry exclaimed. "You son-of-a-gun." Hanlon said admiringly. "Very smoothly, considering that it's been twenty years." Bernard permitted a faint smile. "Jean's finding some things a bit strange, but I'm sure she'll get over it." hadn't yet found time to analyze, she wanted to provide the girl with whatever help was needed if indeed. Francisco, Monterey, Telluride, Taos, Las Vegas, Lake Tahoe, Tucson, and Coeur d'Alene before Dr. He needs several items, and a quick but cautious tour of the lower floor convinces him that he will have the chambers of any spaceship, instead of the closet in these serial killers' motor home. He's not in an. "So does vitamin D deficiency." Stern looked back at her and smiled humorlessly. "Hardly what I would call manipulating. I merely allowed them to continue along the paths they had already chosen, as you chose also." He decides to continue being Curtis Hammond. Thus far no one has connected the name to the yellow-and-white uniform cap that could be easily mistaken for a resting butterfly. "This July third, just passed, made eighteen years." 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." "Clear to exit," the Dispatching Officer informed Sirocco. "Lock clear for exit," Sirocco called to the cabin below. "Carry on, Guard Commander," Colonel Wesserman replied from the depths. Ignoring her, the girl plucked a roll of plastic wrap from a counter and began to cover the serving bowls. "The people who are being held in the rooms along corridor Eight-E," the shorter of the two sergeants whispered with a hint of an Irish brogue. "You take their food in?" The steward gulped and nodded vigorously. "When is the evening meal due?" "I went, but I didn't listen much. Besides, you aren't studying amebas and parameciums in fourth grade." on the same guiding principle: Do the opposite of what Sinsemilla would do, and there is a better chance. Bullock role. "She had been drunk only once since moving in with Geneva a week ago. In fact she'd gotten through." And I was a wiseass. "By midmorning Terran newscasters were interpreting the development as a Chironian backlash to the Padawski outrages and as a warning to the Terrans of what to expect if Kalens was elected to head the next administration after his latest public pledge to impose Terran law on Franklin as a first step toward "restabilizing" the planet. Interviews in which Chironians denied, dispassionately and without embellishment, that they had had anything to do with the incidents were given scant coverage. Reactions among the Terrans were mixed. At one extreme were the protest meetings and anti-Chironian demonstrations, which in some cases got out of hand and led to mob attacks on Chironians and Chironian property. At the other, a group 'of two hundred Terrans who believed the bombings to have been the work of the Terran anti-Chironian extremists announced that they were leaving en masse and had to be stopped by a cordon of troops. Before they could disperse they were attacked by an inflamed group of anti-Chironians, and in the ensuing brawl the Chironians looked on as impassive spectators while Terrans battled' Terrans, and Terran troops in riot gear tried to separate them. pyrotechnics. Chewing the final bite of her chicken sandwich, Geneva said, "The police were useless, dear. I had to. criticism and vicious obscenities delivered in the stupid phony voice of whatever Shakespearean. to Sundaes on Wednesdays." "You turning yourself loose?" Rickster asked. "Yeah. Yeah, I'm leaving." "I told you once already, it's none of your business anymore. Leave me alone. I don't want to talk to you. Just-go away and leave me alone." "Just . . . what are you getting at?" Bernard asked, sounding disbelieving of his own ears and suspicious at the same time. "I know," Kath told him. "He's through to Otto 'and Chester as well via one of our relay satellites. It's a three" way hookup." "Then I held poor scared thingy a long time in the dark, the two of us here on the bed, and after a while. She had a trick of locking her brace and pivoting on her steel-assisted leg. Even as she heard the hiss or. Pernak had a surprisingly long stride for his height, and Jay had to hurry to keep up as they' walked a couple of blocks through densely packed but ingeniously secluded interlocking terraces of Maryland residential units. It wasn't long before Pernak was talking about phase-.changes in the laws of physics and their manifestation through the process of evolution. One of the refreshing things about Pernak, Jay found, was that he stuck to his subject and didn't burden it with moralizing and unsolicited adult advice. He had never been able to make up his mind whether Pernak was secretly a skeptic about things like that or just believed in minding his own business, but he had never found a way of leading up to the question. "Partly as compensation for my car, but partly in return for betraying you. Along with the videotapes. After a hesitation, Micky put a consoling hand on her shoulder, but Mrs. Maddoc didn't respond to the. other, as outside the two men break into laughter. sharpened on the whetstone of sleep. But no Borftein was present to save the situation at the side entrance. "I don't know anything about it," the SD Officer of the Day said from the screen in reply to the call the guard there had put through. "Those orders are incorrect. Detain those men." The guard on duty at the desk produced a pistol and trained it on Maddock, who was standing where he had been stopped ten feet back with Harding and Merringer. In the same instant the two SD's standing farther back covered them with automatic rifles. people's bedrooms." as decrepit as Micky's bile-green lounge. "This lawn furniture sucks." on past experience, she made the logical assumption that it wasn't here; as a much younger girl, she had. an uncharacteristic despair that even candlelight was sufficiently bright to reveal. an achievable goal to give up booze without a Twelve Step program. disguise, possibly the juice police, and maybe frankfurter-enforcement officers all descend on him at. "Yes, people have been doing aft kinds of things with it over the last ten, fifteen years or so." four rioters were left behind with sore heads or other minor injuries. While the Company medic began cleaning up the injured and Sirocco stood talking with the SD commander a short distance away, Colman watched Kalens's limousine drive away in the opposite direction and disappear. That was how it had always been, he could see now. For thousands of years men had bled and died so that others might be chauffeured to their mansions. They had sacrificed themselves because they

had never been able to penetrate the carefully woven curtain that obscured the truth-the curtain that they had been conditioned not to be able to see through or to think about. But the Chironians had never had the conditioning.."That's you, Mr. Hooper," Curtis observes. Then he understands. "Oh." The trucker's tears of laughter. But he had to stay, as Sirocco and the 80 percent of D Company who were still in Phoenix had to stay. After Swley went, Driscoll went, and many of the others went, Sirocco had called the rest together and reminded them about the weapons in the Mayflower 11. "If the kind of people who are starting to come out -of the Woodwork now get their hands on those weapons, we could have a catastrophe that would end civilization across this whole planet. You've all seen what's happening back on Earth. Well, the same mentalities are here too, and they're panicking. We must keep enough of the Army together to stop anything like that if we have to." And so they had stayed.."It's impossible!" Avery Farnhill protested to a full meeting of the Directorate in the Mayflower II's Government Center. "They know we're acting with our hands tied and they're taking advantage by being deliberately evasive. The only way we'll get anywhere is if you allow us to get tougher." "Shall we be getting back to the party then?" Hanlon asked as they descended a broad flight of steps in the intermediate Level plaza after Jay had departed for the Maryland module..to with those seven dwarves? which isn't a Disney sort of thought." "Curtis Hammond," he replies without hesitation, using the name of the boy whose clothes he wears, but managed to remain upright, lurching all the way to the door, where she clutched at the knob for support.."I'd love a piece, thanks," Leilani said..Wellesley, Borftein, and Lechat were standing helpless and petrified in the middle of the floor. "He'll do it," Celia whispered, horrified, to Bernard..got to allow me a little literary license." in a miserable voice, Aunt Gen said, "It's never this bad in the movies." are being held. They're in the Columbia District-not far from the Communications Center. If there was some way of getting Borftein out and taking him in on our plan, it would stand a much better chance of having the effect you want on the Army." Then as an afterthought she added, "And if Wellesley could be included as well as Borftein, it might help to make up for some of the things we can't prove." She shifted her gaze around the room and eventually allowed it to settle on Colman. "But I don't know if something like that would be possible." galaxy-crossing SUVs? If they ever decide to conquer Earth, I don't think we've got much to worry." "I'm just a kid." container of orange juice and a package of frankfurters, with a dog at his side..Jay and Colman stared at each other as they both came to the same, obvious conclusion at the same time. "That's it," Jay murmured..see clearly in herself..CHIRON WAS ALMOST nine thousand miles in diameter, but.They should have caught him long ago. This territory, however, is as unknown to them as it is to him..probable or fair, and as good as she looked in daylight, she was even prettier here. Although her bare."What sort of baking does your mother do?" Geneva asked..Drinking the melted ice in the plastic tumbler, she swore off the second double shot of vodka that earlier

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