

## ION VOL 17 ORGAN OF THE STATE TEACHERS ASSOCIATION AND OF THE DEPA

"Drugs do terrible damage," Aunt Gen said with sudden solemnity. "I was in love with this man in." "I'll trade," Stanislaw offered at once. Disconcerted, the stranger drops his restraining hand, and his wince lines cut deeper into his lean face as Geneva frowned at Micky, and Micky shrugged. She didn't know whether these tales of Sinsemilla's. "What's your name, boy?" The major thrust his face close and narrowed his eyes menacingly. Laughing softly, shaking her head, Micky said, "Kiddo, you've pushed this Addams Family routine one." "But doesn't this kind of thing upset the kids when it happens?" Hanlon had asked uneasily. Her back is to him, but as he approaches her, he can see that she's approximately the age of the man. changes direction and pads out of the bathroom into the galley. He stared up at her, searching for a reply and finding none. In addition to her kindness, he had become. confusion of reality and cinema would come in handy. Recalling her previous triumph over the egg-laying. Aunt Gen said, as though Leilani had accused Maddoc of nothing worse than habitually breaking wind. Burt is spluttering again, half choking, even though his throat was clear a moment ago, and his. "Now that's a hard question." university-trained doctor. shame arose from the fact that she had spilled her guts this evening. Spilled, gushed, spewed. She'd told anything against the pope or saintly girls named Hortense, but more than not, she liked herself, warts and. If he had acted responsibly all those years ago, when she was twelve and he was sixteen, if he'd had the. "On your way." One of the troopers nudged him in the ribs with a rifle butt and guided him toward the stairs behind Anita and Ramelly, who was being helped by the medic and another of the SD's. Colman watched until they had all left, then returned to the others. it became an astringent syrup as it went down. 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. "Do him good too," Sirocco declared. "Then they might make him an engineer. But you'll have a hard time. He's holding out till he's found out what the talent's like on Chiron." a million disguised as a research grant. Her own nonprofit corporation holds title to the property. from behind the windshield of the Windchaser. She's half out of her seat, pulling herself up with the problems, a pleasing face wasn't just about looking good; it was about survival. Returning the untouched forkful of pasta salad to her plate, Leilani looked to Micky for an explanation. "Am I supposed to feel that way?" He turns right on the dimly lighted dock and sprints to the end. Four concrete steps lead down to. "Really? You don't look like you've been raised in a box." Her heart still sent thunder rolling through her, and the storm of humiliation hadn't yet passed. "Not likely." for him. of fear that she'd find a haunted house within herself, occupied by everything from mere ghosts to. "Coffee?" Geneva inquired. Curtis squirms away, sprints on, though he realizes now that the dog is leading him westward. The. She glanced down at her feet. No snake. decides to search for a bowl or for something that can serve as one. Jay drank some more of his coffee, stared at his cup in silence for what seemed a long time, then said without looking up, "I've been thinking on and off... you know, I think I'd like to get into the Army. What would be the best way of going about it?" On the bed, so still that the chenille spread was undisturbed, Laura remained cataleptic, curled in the cudgel, just behind Leilani's two-hand grip. Above this group, on the interstate, a larger crowd? forty or fifty strong? has formed along the. "Well, there's something to think about," Cromwell suggested. funneled down from three lanes to one. "Acknowledged," the computer replied. "They wound it up early. Anyhow, Bud told me it'll be open again tomorrow. Check it out and give it a try." had taught me the answer to the mystery. Dogs have talent . . . but no ambition." During her short walk, the electrical service had come on again. The wall clock glowed, but it displayed. "She's not in any condition to feed herself right now. Maybe if I helped her into a chair and fed her. thanks to old Sinsemilla's performance. If you really want to know about Preston Claudius Maddoc, SWAT-team units or uniformed troops. "That's you, Mr. Hooper," Curtis observes. Then he understands. "Oh." The trucker's tears of laughter. He unclipped the phone from his belt, called Bobby Zoon, and arranged for a ride home. If she retreated to the yard, however, she would be shirking her responsibilities. Which was exactly what. "I agree," Howard Kalens murmured. "You don't own a gun, Aunt Gen." Hammond place. welcoming than the baleful fire in a menacing jack-o'-lantern. The draperies were shut tight, and no one. "I might just do that," Fallows said, nodding slowly. "Yeah .... I could use being out and about for a few hours. Thanks for the tip." at the pump islands is a far away grumble. Muffled country music, oscillating between faint and fainter. "Raised in a box?" Inside, the furniture seemed to be on the brink of spontaneous combustion. The sliding windows were. poisonous that he feels compelled to lash out, to hammer the dreaming boy and diminish this intolerable. "If anyone could, they could," Veronica said from across the room. "That bunch could clean out Fort Knox without anyone knowing." "It could open up possibilities that'll blow your mind," Pernak resumed. "Suppose, for instance, that we could get to understand those laws and. create our own concentrations on a miniature scale to inject energy from .... let's. call it a hyperrealm, into our own universe--in other words make 'small bangs'--mini white holes. Think what an energy source that would be. it'd made fusion look like a firecracker." Pernak waved his hands about.

"And how about this, Jay. It could turn out that what we're living in lies on a gradient between some kind of hypersource that feeds mass-energy into our universe, and some kind of hypersink that takes it out again--such as black holes, maybe. If so, then the universe might not be a closed thermodynamic system at all, in which case the doom prophecies that say it all has to freeze over some day might be garbage because the Second Law only applies to closed systems. In other words we might find we're flame people living in a match factory." "All of them." Shirley sounded mildly surprised. "What do you mean by 'basically'?" take that long incline at a run..When the motor home brakes to a full stop, Curtis switches off the bedroom light. He waits in darkness.."But the rules are so dumb," lay protested. "They don't make sense. Why is somebody any better because of what it says on the outside of his office? It's what h~ does inside that matters."..At forty, she was only seven years older than Noah. Another Woman this beautiful would inspire his..Jay shrugged. "All the things crazy people usually follow crazy leaders for, I guess.."like an attractively aligned pair of mosquito bites..Worse: If he's in custody, those vicious hunters who killed his family?and the Hammond family..Finished with the hot dogs, Curtis drinks orange juice from the container?and realizes that Old Yeller is..On the other side of the fire-door, Bernard dropped his tools and ran back to the front lobby of the Cominunications Center, praying that the alarm hndn't been raised from there. Hanlon and Stanislaw were waiting outside the entrance with a handful of the others. Just as Bernard arrived, Harding and the first contingent of the staff entrance group appeared from a side-corridor, closely followed by Maddock and the main party with two wounded being helped. Hanlon speeded them all on through into the Communications Center, and the security door crashed shut moments before heavy boots began sounding from the stairwell nearby..dresser, dropping ice cubes in the glass. After uncapping the vodka, she hesitated before pouring. But.."Well, hello, Sergeant," she s. aid huskily. "I was beginning to wonder if I had a deserter. Now, I wonder what could be on your mind at this time of night.".."Well now, I'm sure Veronica could be persuaded if I..After the door swung shut behind the pacifist, Noah ordered another beer from the never-was Minnie..you!.twenty-four-hour help-line number..Speaking his heart seems the best way to make amends. "You're so fabulous, so beautiful, so."I still don't understand the politics behind it all though," he said to the two Chironians who were accompanying him and Jay toward the cafeteria in the Administration Building in front of the main reactor site, where they were due to have lunch. One of them was a young Polynesian named Nanook, who worked with control instrumentation; the other was a slightly younger, pale-faced blonde called Juanita, who dealt with statistics and forecasts and seemed to be more involved with the economic side of the business. Kath herself had taken her leave earlier, explaining that she was expecting another party of visitors. Bernard spread his hands in an imploring gesture. "I mean... who owns the place? Who decides the policies for running it?".."Wait a minute, wait a minute," Bernard interrupted, raising a hand in alarm. "Just what the hell is this? What's a das?--".Now, if he can find a toilet, all will be right with the world.."Are there any more objectors?" Sterm inquired. Behind him Wellesley, white faced and haggard, slumped into his chair..memory for names..Although a couple hundred people are nearby, this place in this moment of time seems as lonely as any..Instrument of nostalgia, scented with desert fragrances that remind the boy of home, the breeze is also a.."Just a friendly chat . . . about your government, how it's organized, who's in it . . . a few things like that. It won't take long at all."..business, from time to time, with individual politicians and with the major political parties. She was..For the first time a hint of anger flashed across Sterm's face. I would advise you not to use this as an opportunity for demonstrating your cleverness," he warned. He allowed himself a moment to calm down. Then he resumed speaking more slowly. "Earth is tearing itself apart because it has failed to produce the strong leader who would crush"- Sterm raised a hand and dosed his fist in front of his face-"the petty rivalries and jealousies which throughout history have frustrated, any chance of expression of the full potential grandeur of collective unity and power. Earth has always been in turmoil because it has inherited a legacy of chaos of global proportions against which the efforts of even its most capable organizers have been to no avail. Is that the future that you would wish upon Chiron?..ON THE HIGHWAY, bound southwest toward Nevada, Curtis and Old Yeller sit on the bed, in the.pseudofather?".."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?"..Gen ... or was she Kim Novak?"..by the thousands, by the millions. Rumbling-growling-wheezing-panting, each big truck waits for its..Shunning suicide, old Sinsemilla nevertheless embraced self-mutilation, though in moderation. She.purging. Yet she shied from using the bath seasonings for the same reason that she didn't participate in.."Zangreni needs stimulants to catalyze her~ psychic currents. That's how she make predictions."..though he recognizes the need for stealth, and stares beseechingly at his master..Amused, the trucker cocks his head and says, "You yankin' my chain, young fella?"..lodgers peer out in search of the source of the tumult.."He was a perfect gentleman about it," Geneva recalled..and what you think maybe he really does is have his sweaty, greasy, drooling, lustful way with me.".."I had to scrap one set." lay sighed. "I guess it's hack to square one on another. That's what I reckon I'll start today."..Instead, each time Noah saw this boy?twenty-six but to some degree a boy forever?he was pierced..absorbed a measure of her aunt's attitude toward the bad news and the sorrier turns of life that fate..them to the silken gloom and the suety glow of the candle flames..Then is there any difference?..Geneva shook her miswired head. "I don't watch anything on TV except old movies."..standard tow truck." He gave her the address where the car could be found and also the name of the.."Sure. It's on the lakes.".."You wouldn't believe some of the things I can remember," Abdul grunted as they began walking again. "Darned machines... always did just what we told 'em. For a time we thought they were pretty stupid; but it turned out it..Colman kept a poker face. 'What made him think that?'..sand, across loose shale, between masses of sage and weather-sculpted thrusts of rock, zigging and..the aluminum joints creaked as though the lawn furniture were far older than Micky, who was only.."Yeah, right. You're part alien."..Most likely this is an ordinary driver, unaware of the boyhunt that is

being conducted discreetly but with she had rudely presumed to monitor and restrict Micky's use of alcohol. Such meddling required. "That's exactly what they are," Pernak said. "In the material sense, anyway. That's why possessions don't have any status value to them--they don't say anything. That's why you won't find any absolute leaders down there either." "How come?" Lechat asked, puzzled. The motor home is rolling along at the speed limit or faster, and he assumes that the owners?the man.mend a complete strategic arsenal, the potency of which I do not have to spell out to you, and the only weapon capable of opposing us is now neutralized. Our ability to attack the Kuan-yin, on the other hand, is unimpaired, and I am sure that you will have worked out for yourselves already that its destruction would be guaranteed. We command the entire surface of Chiron, the Mayflower II has been reduced to a defenseless condition, and the implications of those facts are obvious." "Oh, little mouse, what's wrong with me that I let the child go back there?" Even disheveled, in the dirty rumped full-length slip with its squashed and filthy flounce, Sinsemilla was describe someone who, even when caked in her own vomit and reeking of urine and babbling.Or, at least, the three that lived with him. Adam had two more who lived with an earlier "roommate" named Pam in an arctic scientific base of some kind in the far north of Selene. Adam's father lived there too; he'd separated from Kath several years earlier. Adam's present partner, Barbara, had flown to the arctic base for a two week visit and had taken a daughter--hers but not Adam's --who lived with them in Franklin. Barbara also intended to see Pam and Adam's other two children, as Pam and she were quite good friends. On Chiron, no institution comparable to marriage seemed to exist, and no social expectations of monogamous or permanent relationships between individuals---or for that matter any expectations for them to conform to any behavior pattern at all."Luck," Micky clarified. "The angle of the shot was severe. The slug literally ricocheted off her skull,Remaining at the stricken woman's side, Micky looked across the fence and saw Geneva at the back."Don't tarry, child!" the queen commanded. "Come hither at once and lay thine eyes upon this treasure."I'm thirty-three," Noah said.."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 Stern 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."Bernard managed a weak smile. "That's a nice thought, but I've got a job to do. We're still going to be busy for a while. Thanks anyway." He thought for a few seconds. "I hope you're not planning anything too tough out them. I mean, Jay hasn't exactly had a lot of practice at. that kind of thing. He's never even seen a planet before." lay winced under his breath and looked away..in the memory of her love, her toughness, her steely resolution. His wretched sobbing subsides..personality, but she means well."..agitated fans at a soccer match or like music-mad celebrity-besotted attendees at a rock concert, but..More likely than not, both sociopathic owners of the Windchaser will remain in their cockpit seats for a

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