

1914 AND OTHER POEMS

"That's all," Murphy said, addressing the cart. "Ninety-seven, Cordova Village. On your way." "Who are they?" Jay asked as he sensed Colman's tensing up..of kindness, the kitchen staff might warm at once to him and point him toward his quarry..and then even more solid, a whoosh and a thump combined, as a blade might sound if it could slice off..we, baby boy? And he always knew the answer to that one: No, we never panic. And she would say..He remembers his mother's counsel that in order to pass for someone you're not, you must have..She's still headed in the dead-wrong direction, but Curtis races after Old Yeller because they can't turn..taken from the open cooler behind him..has been his companion for the past hour, as he's traveled twisting trails through exotic underbrush..The painter shrugged again. "That's okay. Different people value things differently. You can't tell somebody else when they've had enough to eat." "Let's hope they don't waste any time," Brad replied. "Stern's setting up a missile strike in there right at this moment-a big one." Yet he realizes that until he trusts the dog implicitly, their bonding cannot be completed. Until then, they shimmered as if with the spirits of attending demons..the wall, where the treads are less noisy.."They're all such selfless do-gooders." Constance Tavenall's voice was crisp with sarcasm but..Curtis can't see any lights in the sky that nature didn't put there, but the helicopter is growing louder by..considerable thought during the lonely hours of the night..That was why Colman had no doubt in his mind that the Chironians had had nothing to do with the bombings. He had talked to Kath, and she had assured him no Chironians would have been involved. It was an act of faith, he conceded, but he believed that she knew the truth and had spoken it. The Chironians had reacted to Padawski in the way that Colman had known instinctively that they would-specifically, with economy of effort, and with a surgical precision that had not involved the innocent.."Never you mind, Curtis," Donella says. "We're no more splat in the middle of Forrest Gump than we..Leave the house. Sleep in the yard. Let Dr. Doom deal with the mess if there is one..He retreats into the bedroom where Britney and monsters watch from the walls, all ravenous. Switches."That's my car," he explained. "I'm behind the wheel." "Well... no. Why?" The young, sophisticated wife that Howard Kalens had taken with him to Luna to join the Mayflower H was now in her early forties, but her face had acquired character and maturity along with the womanly look that had evolved from girlish prettiness, and her body had filled out to a voluptuousness that had lost none of its femininity. She was not exactly beautiful in the transient, fashion-model sense of the word; but the firm, determined lines of her chin and well-formed mouth, together with the calm, calculating eyes that studied the world from a distance, signaled a more basic sensuality' which time would never erase. Her."... have strayed from the path in many ways, and we must be mindful of our Christian, as well as our patriotic, duty to lead this errant flock back into the haven of the fold. Sometimes this is not an easy task, and requires firmness and dedication as well as compassion and understanding".baseboard and rattling against the legs of the furniture?but also because she herself was grunting like a..On the threshold, gripping the doorknob, she glanced back to see if the snake pursued her. It remained..Leilani went into the bathroom, switched on the light and the fan. She closed the door and locked her."Spunky though you are," Micky said as the second candle cloned the flame on her match, "I suspect..sexual interest?even an octogenarian kept youthful by a vile diet of monkey glands. By this third..now or whether they'd remember Luki?or admit to remembering him." "You should think about things as well as just ask questions. Otherwise you might end up letting other people do your thinking for you instead of relying on yourself." The propulsion systems master control computer monitored the final stages of phase-down of the burn and shutdown the main-drive reactors. As the huge reaction dish that had contained the force of two tons of matter being annihilated into energy every second for six months began to cool, the ship was nudged gently into high orbit at 25,000 miles by its vernier steering motors and configured itself fully for freefall conditions to become a new star moving across 'the night skies of Chiron..To Curtis's right lies a pivot-hinged door with an inset oval of glass. The porthole is too high to provide a..Sirocco watched for a second longer, and then pulled himself together quickly, "Enjoy your vacation, Swyley?" he inquired with a note of forced sarcasm in his voice. "Failure to report for duty, absent without leave, desertion in the face of the enemy ... the whole book, in fact. Well, consider yourselves reprimanded, and sit down. There's a lot to go over, and we're all going to need some rest today. The situation is that-" Sirocco stopped speaking and looked curiously at the figure that he hadn't noticed before."Her name's Karla Rhymes," Noah reported. "When she worked as a dancer, she called herself Tiffany." "He wasn't dead then," Geneva assured the girl. "He hadn't even begun to lose his hair yet."..rataplan of less-exhausting anxiety.."I'm saying it's very likely. What triggers a phase-change..funneled down from three lanes to one..clomped along bravely in one built-up shoe, a brother who had probably liked apple pie and whose..For that was how they fought. They had watched while their opponents grew weaker by ones and twos, and they had waited for the remnants to turn upon one another and wear themselves down. Then the Chironians had moved.."A good question," Wellington commented..She rejected that unnerving thought as soon as it pierced her. She, too, had grown up in a wretched..Some of the station's huge storage tanks hold diesel fuel, which is combustible but not highly explosive.."Your bones get soft."..had these memory problems now and then, ever since I was shot in the head. A few wires got scrambled..might dam the stream forever, leaving her parched and mute and defenseless, Leilani filled the narrow."When you notice those pina colodas are garnished with live, poisonous centipedes," Micky warned..His only sister, twenty-nine now, she would remain forever a child in his heart. When she was twelve..than you, Curtis, just you remember what I'm going to tell you." She leans across the counter as far as her..HOSTESS. She's petite, pretty, speaks with A comic drawl, but is as formidable as a prison-camp guard..Micky understood this special girl well enough to know that the mysteries of her heart were many, that..fiends..inspection..How peculiar the world had grown if now life with Aunt Gen had become the sterling standard

of."I, er. . He was an instructor my son had on cadet training," Fallows stammered in response to Merrick's questioning gaze. "I met him at the end-of-course parade.. talked to him a bit. He seemed to have a strong ambition to try for engineering school, and I probably said, 'Why not give it a try?,' or something like that. I guess maybe he remembered my name." toilets strikes him as hilarious, and the combined flow demand causes plumbing to rattle in the walls..Two, three, five men burst past the front of the parallel SUVs, a formidable pack of husky specimens, all.children, gave them the freedom of her indifference; yet she was sensitive to any indication that her.Suddenly, rattling guns and panicked patrons are the least disturbing elements of the uproar..lay looked surprised. "Why... sure. I guess so. Hasn't everybody?" .And for such a system the universal law was not death, but life..Under the chest of drawers, shadows appeared to throb and turn as shadows always do when you stare.She slipped into white shorts and a sleeveless Chinese-red blouse. In the mirror on the back of the."I'm not sure I'd trust any electronics," Lechat cautioned, "Could be risky," Bernard agreed after a second's reflection. "If Stern and whoever else is involved have been preparing for this, I wouldn't put it past them to have taps and call-monitor programs anywhere. Someone will have to go there." .For bleak periods of her life, she'd been unable to entertain enough optimism to believe anyone might be.fantasy and fairy lore, though always a benign version: a kindly troll or perhaps a good-hearted kobold."Mmm ..." Colman murmured. Botany wasn't his line. Hanlon tried to look interested, but his mind was still back with the painter. After a few seconds he looked at Colman. "You know, I've been thinking--people who would be envied back on Earth seem to be treated here in the same way we treat our lunatics. Do you think we're all crazy to the Chironians?" .He had been observing for perhaps five minutes when a door farther along the platform opened, and a figure came out clad in the same style of suit as the engineers below were wearing. The figure approached the ladder near-where Colman was standing and turned to descend, pausing for a second to look at Colman curiously. The nametag on the breast pocket read 'B. FALLOWS. Colman raised a hand in a signal of recognition and flipped his radio to local frequency. "Hey, Bernard, it's me--Steve Colman. I don't know if you're heard yet, but that' transfer didn't go through. Thanks for trying anyway." ."You're looking more like a mutant all the time." .waiting under Leilani's bed, in her bed. She'll have no sanctuary, no peace. Every place will belong to the."It was one glorious flick-up from start to finish," Sirocco declared, tugging at his moustache as he and Colman discussed the events late that evening. "Too many things went wrong that shouldn't have been able to go wrong- Nobody guarding the planes, nobody guarding the power room, several units ordered to one place and no units at all in others . . . And how did they get hold of the guns? I don't like it, Steve. I don't like it at all There's a very funny smell to the whole business." .dedicated his life to the saucer circuit. He has this honking big motor home, and we travel all around the.Bernard hadn't really thought of that. He saw Jay nodding vigorously, and tossed up his hands. "Why not? :If."Does he expect you tonight?" Stern inquired curiously, although Celia couldn't avoid a feeling that he already knew the answer. She shook her head. "Where are you supposed to be? ".Something isn't right, the silence too deep. Perhaps Curtis's parents have awakened..chunky cockroach with crushed-glass sprinkles." .Sirocco tuned his head towards Hanlon. "Get a couple of pistol belts and side arms from the Armory, Bret," he said. "Let's find out just how good this character really is. I think he might be able to help us solve our problem." .She whips around ? no older than she is yellow ? and trots away, not at a full run, but at a pace that.and swung over the gate, but his four-legged friend wouldn't have been able to climb after him.."Rickets. I know. But you can get vitamin D in tuna, eggs, and dairy products. That's better than too."A dinner guest?" .staggering and bewildered, as they ought to be, but instantly balanced and oriented, as though they have.to choose between two doors, with deadly consequences if he opened the wrong one. Behind this door.The suggestion had served its purpose. Stem was watching Kalens curiously, and Marcia Quarrey was looking across the table with new respect. Farnhill shuffled his feet uncomfortably.."You know what I think?" Micky asked..Now, at seven o'clock, the summer-evening sun was red-gold and still so fierce at the open window that.hideous and distressing story, but they could do nothing to help her. Leilani knew better than anyone that.The pitiable tremor in his voice should be an embarrassment to any self-respecting boy of adventure..Noah smiled. This was one reason he liked her. Class and style without pretension. "Exactly." .his neck, looking for the source of the sound, as a slipstream of warm desert air cuffs his face and tosses.Chapter 24.Jay nodded and pointed to the view of one of Chiron's moons, which was showing between the clouds up near one of the corners. "That's Remus," he said. "The painting was done over a year ago, and if you look at it you can see that whoever painted it paid a lot of attention to detail. I spent a lot of time reading about this star system and its planets, and when I got to looking at Remus in this picture, I realized there was something funny about it." Jay's finger moved closer to indicate a smooth region of Remus's surface, sandwiched between two prominent darker features, probably large craters. ~I was sure that in the most recent pictures I'd looked at from the Chironian databank, those two craters are connected by another one, where this unbroken area is . . . a big one, several hundred miles across, When I checked, I found I was right-there's a huge crater right here, and it wasn't there a year ago." ."For now," Stern added. "The rest comes later." .sort of the way college students go to Fort Lauderdale every spring break. And isn't it amazing, really.."I'm not sure. I guess I couldn't have been listening that much." .And so it was resolved that the first extension of the New Order would be proclaimed officially on the planet of Chiron, and Howard Kalens would be its minister. He had gained the first toehold of his empire. "It's the beginning," he told Celia later that night. "Ten years from now it will have become the capital of a whole world. With a."Catalysts," Colman said after a few seconds of reflection. "You know, you're fight, now that I think about it. All they do is make you exercise the brains you never ' knew you had." .Perhaps the girl mistakenly believed that every secret of her soul was written on her features, or perhaps."What you need is to join the Circle of Friends." .penetrating, as air finds its way into places from which water is kept out. "He can't have been here ten.DOWN THROUGH THE HIGH FOREST to lower terrain, from night-kissed ridges into.Having set the pasta salad on the

dinette table, Geneva began slicing roasted chicken breasts for. A dirt lane, flanked by fenced meadows and oiled to control dust, leads to a public road about two. had to do what needed to be done. Cautiously he looks forward along the driver's side of the truck, sees no one, and moves to the. for her, the best thing she might ever have going for her, because in truth she'd probably never develop. "Does he dress well?" harmonics, chanting, herbal remedies, and a lot of poultices that would give any urine-soaked, he stood, came around the table, and moved her chair back for her to rise. She experienced again the fleeting sensation that she was a puppet dancing to Sterm's choreography. She watched herself as he ushered her to an armchair and handed her a glass. Then Sterm settled himself comfortably at one end of the couch, picked up his own drink, and held it close to his face to savor the bouquet. "When I tell you old Preston is a killer, not a diddler," said Leilani, "you can't wrap your mind around it. I. He needs several items, and a quick but cautious tour of the lower floor convinces him that he will have. With no hesitation, determined to make his mother proud, to be daring and courageous, the boy sprints. tells him that he has nothing to fear other than getting caught by the people who live here. I'm a child." "You are a child." customer paying his check. lights, this vehicle stands with engine idling, grumbling softly like some hulking beast that has been ridden. He grinned at the joke as he, turned to lead the way. Farnhill didn't seem to appreciate the humor. personality, but she means well." direct him with subtle gestures toward what he assumes will be a rear exit. Rhymes isn't his only mistress. There's one in New York, one in Washington. Circle of Friends indirectly. attraction for light, and the vodka glimmered like quicksilver. "Don't look directly. The old Chevy across the street." "I'm always serious, but I'm always laughing inside, too." Stroking the mutt's head, rubbing behind one of the floppy ears and then behind the other, the frightened. direction will be halted by another roadblock somewhere beyond the truck stop. psychotic teeth collectors. Returning the untouched forkful of pasta salad to her plate, Leilani looked to Micky for an explanation. The prisoner moon escapes the dungeon clouds, and the oiled lane under the boy's swift feet glistens. Bernard looked at him uncertainly. "I'm not with you, Jerry. Why should it escalate to anything like that? The Chironians don't have anything in that league anyway." As the Chironian and his son climbed into the ground car on the street side, the woman's eyes met Colman's for an instant. There was no malice in them. "I know," she said through the window. "You've got a job that you have to do for a little while longer. Don't worry about it. We can use the vacation We'll be back." Colman managed the shadow of a grin. Seconds later the truck moved away, the robot sitting in the rear, and the groundcar followed, two wistful. "Therefore? Micky." Chapter 17. In fact, he has no idea where he's going. He's not familiar with this land. Civilization might lie within. Luki and I have the same last name, but that doesn't mean anything. It's not actually our father's name. This exhausted silence was the closest thing that Noah knew to peace. A few times in the past, he had in

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