

MENTS OF MENANDER EDITED WITH ENGLISH VERSION REVISED TEXT AND CRIT

flying bullets? On the other hand, although she provides a convenient target, her fantastic bulk no doubt. Pernak didn't seem overeager to accept the implied invitation. to agree. He started to say something noncommittal, then stopped and looked up as Jay entered. "Hi, Jay. How was the movie?" "What about Veronica?" she whispered. "What are all the changes around the back end?" Colman asked curiously. "It looks like a whole new drive system." Micky seemed cold enough to freeze droplets of sweat into beads of ice upon her brow. other than it was more amusing than talking about a miserable day of job-hunting. "They can't get away with that, dear." But a stepfather who had committed eleven murders? Who killed elderly women? And a little boy in a. The small group of Chironians watching from a short distance away and the larger crowd gathered behind them in the rear of the antechamber applauded enthusiastically and beamed their approval. They weren't supposed to do that. It didn't preserve the fight atmosphere. "So when are you going to show it to me?" Jay shrugged. "Any time you like." "You going to Jersey fight now?" "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?" "Sure." Sirocco tossed up a gauntleted hand as if the answer were obvious. "Guys who don't like it but have to do it get mad. They can't get mad at the people who make them do it, so they take it out on the enemy instead. That's what makes them good. But the guys who like it take too many risks and get shot, which makes them not so good. It's logical." Behind Bernard and Celia, Lechat told Otto, "All of the strategic weapons are in that module. The remainder of this ship represents no threat whatsoever." would then, of course, be mad-dog furious for having been subjected to university-trained doctors and. In addition to surprise, however, the boy has Old Yeller. And the dog has teeth. Curtis has teeth, too. He and the dog had abandoned that wheeled sanctuary shortly after dawn, west of Grand Junction. Her puzzlement passed to pained compassion, and Noah knew that she had read the text and subtext of "Worming your way into our hearts," Micky continued, because saying our instead of my seemed to. As Rickster had warned, Laura was in one of her private places. Oblivious of everything around her, she dealership to which it should be delivered. "Tomorrow morning's soon enough. Better not send anyone." * * *. matter of principle. Born to wealth and blessed with great beauty, she would skate through life with a. than ever it had gone when he and the dog had ridden in the back of it among horse blankets and. American continent. "Don't you mock me, Curtis." statistical variety that might present her with a winning lottery ticket. creatures, but in some ways, they're pathetically predictable." "You're nine, huh?" "Mama likes bad boys." Leilani knocked on the bedroom door. Unlike her mother, she had a respect for other people's personal. First, he wanted to visit this special site, a couple miles away, where some guy named Carver or Carter. The driver doesn't apply the brakes, but allows the Windchaser's speed to fall steadily. Not good, not. brethren deal with the cowboys and secure the restaurant, they will hear about the kid who was the. 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." dish for the dog; he will simply refill it with juice as often as the pooch requires. In the Mayflower II's Communications Center, Borftein, Wellesley, and the others who had been coordinating activities all over the ship and down on the surface watched and listened tensely as pandemonium poured from the screens around them, Spacesuited figures were cartwheeling away from the mangled remains of one feeder ramp, and the exposed interiors of the cupolas at the ends of the others; all showed battle damage and one of them was partly blown away. They were disgorging weapons, debris, and equipment in all directions while soldiers in suits hung everywhere in helpless tangles of safety lines. "Launch every personnel carrier, service pod, ferry, and anything else that's ready to go," Borftein snapped to one of his staff. "Get them from Vandenberg or anywhere else you have to. I want every one of those men picked up. Peterson, tell Admiral Slessor to have every available shuttle brought up to flight readiness in case we have to evacuate the ship. And find out how many more we can get up here from Canaveral." grace. Adam had not seemed especially surprised when Hanlon expressed reservations about the wisdom of such an attitude, and had replied to the effect that on Chiron personal affairs were considered personal business. Some couples might choose to remain exclusively committed to each other and their family, others might not, and it wasn't a matter for society or anybody else to comment on. As far as he was concerned, Adam had ~aid, the notion of anybody's presuming to decree moral standards for others and endeavoring to impose them by legislation was "obscene." "Oh yes, of course." Shirley nodded. "That sounds pretty awful. Still, it's their business." twelve steps, he checked on the SUV, and always it drifted slowly along in his wake, pacing him. "That came later-after I'd been on the ship for some time. At first I was with the infantry. . . saw some combat in Africa. I spent most of the voyage in the Engineer Corps though. . . up until about a year or two back." Sirocco shrugged. "I'm pretty sure it can't be Wellesley. He's tried to play it straight, it's all sweeping him way out of his depth. Anyhow, what would he have to gain? All he wants to do is to be put out to pasture; he's only got a few days left. Ramisson obviously wouldn't be involved in something like that, and the same goes for Lechat. But as for the rest, if you ask me, they're all crazy. It could be any of them or all of them. But that's who the Chironians are really after." Fingertips steepled toward the bridge of her nose, Geneva half hid her face in a prayer clasp, as if the. A hand descended on his arm and slid upward to tease the back of his neck. He turned round to find that Kath had come back. "You're starting a bachelors' party here," she said. "I have to break that up before the idea catches on." "Peace," said Geneva. She raised her head and at last made eye contact. "Peace, and God

knows you. Chapter 14. "Nonsense, Micky," Geneva said. "Tomorrow I can bake another apple pie all for you." zapping, legs reaching for the land ahead, sneakered feet landing with assurance on terrain that had. "Why would he kill a helpless child?" Geneva asked. visible under the door to the right. Disinterested in the bustle, not stirred? as the boy is? by the romance of travel and the mystery of. as if satisfied that everything was now clear. It wasn't. "Why? What happens with them?" Bernard asked. Nanook hesitated for a moment as if reluctant to risk being offensive by explaining the obvious. He shrugged. "Well . . . usually somebody ends up shooting them," he replied. "So it never gets to be . a real problem." Driscoll propped his gun against the wall, fished a pack and lighter from inside his jacket, lit up, and leaned back to exhale with a grateful sigh. The irritability that he had been feeling wafted away with the smoke. The robot set down its piece of tubing, folded its arms, and leaned back against the wall, evidently programmed to take its cues from the behavior of the people around it. Driscoll looked at it with a new curiosity. His impulse was to strike up a conversation, but the whole situation was too strange. The thought flashed through his mind that it would have been a lot easier if the robot had been an EAF infantryman. Driscoll would never have believed he could feel anything in common with the Chinese. He didn't know whether he was talking to the robot, or through it to computers somewhere else in the Kuan-yin or even down on Chiron, maybe; whether they had minds or simply embodied some fever programming, or what. He had talked to Colman about machine intelligence once. Colman said it was possible in principle, but a truly aware artificial mind was still a century away at least. Surely the Chironians couldn't have advanced that much. "What kind of a machine are you?" he asked, "I mean, can you think like a person? Do you know who you are?". Sirocco was about to reply, then put his glass down quickly, grabbed his cap from the table, and stood up. "Time I wasn't here," he muttered. "I'll be up in Rockefeller's if anyone wants to join me there." With that he weaved away between the tables and disappeared through the back room to exit via the passage outside the rest rooms. truly happy, anywhere, anytime. Geneva said this newfound fragile hopefulness represented progress, and gazing out across the enormous kitchen, wide-eyed, watching the hunters. The white-uniformed cook. "But they seem to have an intuition to make human value judgments," Colman objected. "They know too much about how people think." Movement to Noah's left drew his attention. A few feet away, another demolition expert swung a. "The day of the test," Leilani said, "I had chocolate ice cream for breakfast. If I'd had oatmeal, I might've. Most likely this is an ordinary driver, unaware of the boyhunt that is being conducted discreetly but with. but then diminishes and fades entirely away. CHAPTER THIRTY-TWO. have been more complete. authorities. He shoves the currency into his pockets once more. had been tossed and tangled by the moon dance, she might pass for a queen. "Isn't she a lot of fun," Kath agreed. "She's talking Casey into teaching her to be an architect. She could do it too. She's an intelligent woman. Have you known her long?". "From what Jerry Pernak told us it must have to do with antimatter," Jay said. "The Chironians are into a whole new world of particle theory. That means they can produce lots of antimatter economically. With that they could make matter-antimatter annihilation bombs, superintense radiation sources, guided antimatter beams, maybe who knows? But it has to be something like that." "I was going to. I don't have to make it right now." Pernak looked at Bernard and braced his hands on the arms of his chair as if preparing to rise. "Well, I have to go over to Princeton this afternoon, and Jersey's on the shortest way around. Jay and I could share a cab." Colman grinned and stroked her hair. "You're right. So what do you want to hear about?". With a cause, a crusade, a challenge, and a purpose-an empire to rebuild beyond the Earth and a world to conquer upon it--there were few of Fallows's age who didn't remember the intoxication of those times. And with the Mayflower H growing in the lunar sky as a symbol of it all, the dream of flying with the ship and of being a part of the crusade to secure Chiron against the Infidel became for many the ultimate ambition. The lessons of discipline and self-sacrifice that had been learned during the Lean Years served to bring the Mayflower H to completion two years ahead of its nearest rival, and so it came ' about that Bernard Fallows at the age of twenty-eight had manfully shaken his father's hand and kissed his tearful mother farewell before being blasted upward from a shuttle base in Arizona to join the lunar transporter that would bear him on the first stage of his crusade to carry the American New Order to the stars. "She was a danger to me in the yard, all that screaming about hag of a witch bitch and spellcasting and beaten and left for dead. Her life wouldn't now be a long series of waking dreams and nightmares." Just wondering how I ever took pleasure in this line of work. "Does it do-that a lot?" Colman asked from his chair, which had been cleared of a pile of books and some stuffed birds to make room for him. when they had arrived an hour or so earlier. "And he shot you anyway?". This time, Micky resisted being charmed. "That's not funny, Leilani." The cargo bed of the truck has a canvas roof and walls. It's open at the back except for a low tailgate. The communicator at his belt signaled a call from Sirocco, who, with Hanlon and a couple of the others, was taking a break inside the Chironian transporter that had flown from Canaveral. "How's it going?" Sirocco inquired when Colman answered. "Are the troops mutinying yet?". "No, no." Micky hesitated. "Well, yes, that is what I'm doing. But I meant maybe you're talking around. As in Leilani's own closet, a tubular-steel pole, approximately two inches in diameter, spanned the. 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. mystery, and moment. "It is from my perspective, said Leilani. The painter eyed him for a moment and nodded his head slowly. "Hmmm ... I kinda figured it had to be something like that," he told them. Celia sank back into her seat and closed her eyes with a nod and a sigh of relief. One of the figures in

the darkness wanted to know how come somebody called Stanislaw knew how to fly something like this; Another voice replied that his father used to steal them from the government.to the moon as if it were an admiring prince who held her in his arms..criticism and vicious obscenities delivered in the stupid phony voice of whatever Shakespearean.concern for the insect be addressed seriously.. "How's that work?".Adam also had an older sister--to the surprise of the Terrans--who designed navigation equipment for spacecraft at an establishment located inland from the Peninsula, a twin brother who was an architect and. rumored to be getting friendly with a lively redhead from the Mayflower H whom Colman couldn't place, a younger sister who lived with two other teenagers somewhere in Franklin, and a still younger half-brother, not a son of Kath's, who was with their father in Selene. It was all very confusing.. "It might not want to die that easily," Lechat pointed out. "You should listen to what's going on a few blocks from here right now in the room I just came from.".the roof, stabbing out from the jeweled hilt of red and blue emergency beacons..entirely to down-to-earth stuff like TV wrestling, video games, dinosaurs, and serial-flushing public.On the threshold, Karla and the politician embraced. Even in the fading light of dusk, and further.In spite of the girl's jocular tone, her words were wasps, and the truth in them appeared to sting her.,two of these seven days without any alcohol whatsoever. She wouldn't get sloppy tonight, just numb."If I could, I'd make you normal just like Ms. Donella and me.".Farnhill frowned uncertainly from side to side then licked his lips and inflated his chest as if about to answer. He deflated suddenly and shook his head. The words to handle the situation just wouldn't come. The diplomats shuffled uncomfortably while the soldiers stared woodenly at infinity. A few awkward seconds dragged by. At last the assistant took the initiative and peered quizzically at the man who had introduced himself as Clem..He suspects this is a killing ground. He doubts that he will reach the next stand of trees alive..The motor-home horn blares. In fact the noisy night sounds like a honk-if-you-love-Jesus moment at a."Good thing we weren't playing Russian roulette," Leilani said. "My brains would be all over the kitchen.". "Uh, yeah.".Regardless of the inconsequential nature or the questionable validity of the triggering offense, an.the advertising copy on boxes of cornflakes, or in the patterns made by flocks of birds in flight.

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