

AMERICAN MEDICAL MONTHLY AND NEW YORK REVIEW VOL 15 JANUARY JUNE 1861

her rage. She'd become a drinker because booze inflamed the anger, and for so long she'd cherished her. Micky had come to the truth..the dark, and he knows that the Hammond place has been set ablaze. Reduced to blackened bones and. Jay Fallows thought for a moment that he was going to throw up and tried to shut out the soundtrack as he sat nibbling at the remains of his lunch. An astronomy book lay propped open on the table in front of him. Behind him his mother and his twelve-year-old sister, Marie, were digesting the message in silent reverence. The page he was looking at showed the northern constellations of stars as they appeared from Earth. They looked much as they did from the Mayflower 11, except in the book Cassiopeia was missing a star--the Sun. On the page opposite, the Southern Cross included Alpha Centauri as one of its 'pointers, whereas from the ship it had separated and grown into a brilliant orb~ shining in the foreground. And the view from Earth didn't show Proxima Centauri at all--a feeble red dwarf Of less than a ten-thousandth the Sun's luminosity and invisible without a telescope, but now quite close to and easily seen from the Mayflower II. Always imperceptible from one day to the next and practically so from month to month, the changes in the stars were happening ever more slowly as the main drive continued to fire and steadily ate up the velocity that had carried the ship across four light-years of space..She seldom spoke, and never recognized Noah. If she possessed any memory whatsoever of the days. Bernard made no reply but let his eyebrows ask the question for him..Pernak rose from the desk at which he had been working, and moved over to the window to gaze down at the lawns between the two arms that formed the front wings of the building. A lot of staff and students were beginning to appear, some lounging and relaxing in the sun and others playing games in groups here and there as the midday break approached. He was used to living among people who expressed feelings of insignificance and fear of a universe which they perceived as cold and empty, dominated by forces of disintegration, decay, and ultimately death-a universe in which the fragile oddity called life could cling precariously and only for a fleeting moment to a freak existence that had no rightful place within the scheme of things. Science had probed to the beginnings of all there was to know, and such was the bleak answer that had been found written..She couldn't trade those in for standard-issue parts. She hoped only to keep the strong right leg, the. Driscoll met her eyes calmly. "I'd risk it," he said. "Sure, if this was for real, I'd put money on it." Out in the vast parking area, where cones of dirty yellow light alternate with funnels of shadow, there's. LEIGHTON MERRICK FORMED his fingers into a fluted column to support the Gothic arch of his brows down at the desk while he chose his words. "Ah, I've been looking over your record, Fallows," he looked up. "It shows a consistent attention to detail that is very pronounced . . . everything thorough and complete, and properly documented. It's commendable, very commendable . . . the kind of thing we could do with more of in the Service." .above her, in the open doorway, and even in this poor light, Leilani could see that they both still looked.ashes, the bodies of the dead will offer fewer clues to the true identity of the killers..something we know. The misery is comfortable." Trust. They are bonding; He has no doubt that their relationship is growing deeper by the day, better by. his boot. "Remainder of detail, by the left.. . march!" Clump, clump, clump, clump.... "I never said they'd do anything," the robot replied. "I just said that people telling them wouldn't bother them." He thought of the face of Celia Kalens, who had vanished presumably to safety, and then come all the way back to the heart of the Government Center; she'd risked everything for the truth to be known. Then he gazed out again at the sergeant, the corporal, and the figures standing behind them in a silent plea for reason. They were risking everything too, so that what Celia and the others had done would not have been in vain. Whatever Lesley stood to lose, it couldn't be more than those people had already put on the line..ricocheted across Utah with the unpredictability of a pinball. After all this time and considering the. In the same way that a clatter of laughter had knocked its way through the last of Burt's choking, so now. "Intruder defenses primed and ready to activate." "I don't like the idea of a limited military presence down there," Borftein said. "We're trusting the Chironians too much. I still say they could have strength that they're not showing yet. We could be exposing those civilians to all kinds of risks--terrorism, provocations. What if they get hit by surprise? I've seen it all before." .brain several times. Probably, if they'd done it just once more, old Sinsemilla would've developed a taste. command chair. She won't be able to release those restraints and clamber out of the seat in time to block. With the container of Florida's lines! in one hand, the package of hot dogs firmly in the other, Curtis. At the open window, the night lay breathless..Chapter 16. "Yeah, well, by nature I'm a huge pudding. I've got to work hard to stay like this." CHAPTER SEVENTEEN. "You could talk to him. I know he listens to what you say. We've talked about things." Chiron's surface had been formed through the same kind of tectonic 15rocesses as had shaped Earth's, and Chironian scientists had reconstructed most of its history of continental movements, mountain-building, sedimentation, vulcanism, and erosion. Like Earth, it possessed a magnetic field which reversed itself periodically and which had written a coherent story onto the moving seafloors as they spread outward and cooled from uplifts along oceanic ridges; the complicated tidal cycle induced by Chiron's twin satellites had been unraveled to yield the story of previous epochs of periodic inundation by the oceans; and analysis of the planet's seismic patterns had mapped its network of active transform faults and subduction zones, along which most of its volcanoes and earthquake belts were located..Bernard sighed. As usual, Merrick seemed determined to twist the answers until they came out the way he wanted. "Of course not," Bernard replied. "But I think people are exaggerating the situation. That incident was not representative of what we should expect. The Chironians act as they're treated. People who mind their own business and don't go out of their way to bother anyone have nothing to be frightened of." .ordinary boy under the name Curtis Hammond or any other..On the screen of the communicator, the view closed in on Celia as she began speaking in a slightly quivery but determined voice. But Colman only half heard. He was trying make himself think the way a

Chironian would think. Even if he could have identified them, they might no longer be innocent horsemen transporting ornate. Although she juked, the viper must also have misaimed, because her reaction alone wouldn't have been. "I just don't like news," Micky explained. "It's mostly bad, and when it isn't bad, it's mostly lies." might simply have absorbed Curtis's mood. "Is that a proposal?" Wellesley asked. "You're proposing to plan for contingencies involving a first use of force?" Although the blessed gloom provided emotional cover, Geneva didn't look at Micky. She stared at the. he can see those pages as clearly as the pages of any real book that he's ever read, chapter after chapter. Worse: If he's in custody, those vicious hunters who killed his family? and the Hammond family, across the blacktop, moving recklessly and fast, in total disregard of marked lanes, as if the drivers never. "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." Duck or another Looney Tunes star, he is excited by the spectacle of all these cool trucks congregating. January 5, 2081. CHAPTER THIRTY-FOUR. by fit or fandango. out of shelter, into the open space between this rig and the next, where they had first glimpsed the. bobbed happily. three victims were savagely assaulted, perhaps tortured, all dead before the fire was set, then the names. "At least my real dad isn't a murderer like my current pseudo-father? or as far as I know, he isn't. Is. tapped a time or two, Curtis goes to the bedroom window. seemed to have been dammed into a still pool. Saturated by silence, the house brimmed also with an. remarkably free of bitterness. into withdrawal." CHAPTER TWENTY-EIGHT. work cut out for you." Jarvis and Charez glanced at each other. Then Jarvis looked away as a new report came up on one of the screens. "Peterson has come out for Borftein in the Government Center," he muttered over his shoulder. "I guess it's all over in the Columbia District. That has to give them the whole Ring." had to do what needed to be done. "Good thing we weren't playing Russian roulette," Leilani said. "My brains would be all over the kitchen." convinced that the moment the slippery little reptile was out of her sight, it slithered toward her, coming at. Throughout the institution, the floors? gray vinyl speckled with peach and turquoise? were immaculate. braced herself with the same lie once more. This wasn't really vodka for Micky. This was anger for. When he'd met her two weeks ago, Noah Farrel had disliked this woman on first sight, strictly as a. seen not at all, but always reappearing, the two of them bonding more intimately the farther they travel. "Then invoke the security provisions," Borftein said, shifting in his chair from weariness with the whole business. "It's a security matter, isn't it? The Chironians have left it to us by default, and it's their security at stake as well as ours. The Pagoda's only two years away. Somebody's got to take the helm in all this." "Not as much as being shut up inside a box with two people who can't stand each other," Adam replied. "What sense would that make when they've got a family of a hundred thousand outside?" Sinsemilla because he had reservoirs of passion, and every drop of it was used to water his fascination. What troubled Fulmire was the specter of Kalens's emerging from the midst of it all as a virtual dictator, with Borftein supporting him and straining to be let off the leash. Every faction would see such a concentration of power as a potential battering ram to be harnessed exclusively for the advancement of its own cause, and even more as an instrument to be denied at all costs to its rivals. In an explosive situation like that anything could happen, and Fulmire had visions of the whole Mission tearing itself apart in internecine squabbling with a strong possibility of bloodshed at the end of it all when frustrations boiled over. The only force that he could see with any potential for exerting a stabilizing influence was the more moderate consensus as represented by the Mayflower 1's population as a whole; and Lechat, possibly, could provide a means of mobilizing it before things got out of hand. Being among people is helpful, too. A crowd distracts the enemy? not much but sometimes enough to. "Confusion," Sirocco said while jabbing at buttons and talking to screens. "People just off the shuttle coming down with stories about something big happening up in the ship-" He turned to one of the screens: "Then try and find his adjutant and get him on a line." Then back to Colman. Colman nodded. "Her friends showed up, and she's in Franklin. It all went fine." He turned his head to Celia. "This is Bret. He got Veronica off the base." say to make him leave. "Where's your folks, son?" the man asks. After stripping down to panties and a tank top, she sat in bed, atop the sheets, sipping cold lemon vodka. Along the left wall were high-backed wooden booths with seats padded in red leatherette, a few. Slessor's brow furrowed more deeply, He hesitated, thought for a moment, and then nodded. "Very well, I'll see it's done." He moved away from view. The sky outside was sunny and blue with a few scattered clouds, and a pleasantly warm breeze carried the scents of rural freshness from the hills rising to the south. Fallows still wasn't fully accustomed to the notion that it was all real and not just a simulation projected from the roof of the Grand Canyon module, or that the low roars intermittently coming in through the opened window of the living room downstairs were from shuttles ferrying up and down to what was now another realm. He allowed his mind to distract itself with the final chores of moving while it completed its process of readjustment. model? except for all the sweat and your face puffy with a hangover." "Healed?" Micky didn't consider this girl's deformities to be a disease or a sickness. In fact, Leilani's. the woman in the frilly slip, and moonlight painting points on the teeth in her snarl. "Are we to run and hide on the far side of the planet for fear of offending a disorganized and undisciplined race who owe us everything that they take for granted and waste freely as if nothing had any value or ever had to be earned?" Kalens was asking from the screen. "Whose sciences and labors conceived and built the Kuan-yin, and with it the very machines that created the prosperity of Chiron? Whose knowledge and skills, indeed, created the Chironian race itself, who would now lay claim to all around them as theirs and send

us away like paupers from the feast that we have provided?" He paused a second for effect, and his face took on an indignant scowl below his crown of silver hair. "I say no! I will not be driven away in such fashion I will not even contemplate such an action. I say, publicly and without reservation, that any such suggestion can be described only as surrender to moral cowardice that is beneath contempt. Here we have come, after crossing four light-years of space, and here we will remain, to share in that which is our right to share, and to enjoy that which is no more than our just due." A thunder of applause greeted the exhortation. Jean had heard enough and told Jeeves to turn off the screen, eager to put some distance between himself and this complex of buildings. At the windows of the two-story motel, most of the drapes have been flung back. Curious, worried. A smiling waitress. The cashier at the register, looking over a pair of half-lens reading glasses. A. To the girl, Geneva said, "So you don't believe Lukipela went off with aliens." Stern's eyes took on a distant light, and his breathing quickened visibly. "I will build this world into the power that Earth could never be an unconquerable fortress that even a fleet of EAF starships would never dare approach. On TV? that show, America's Funniest Home Videos." the key to escape, to freedom, and to being Curtis Hammond. "Go, go, go!" fetal position. Wordless throughout her brother's monologue, she remained mute now. pie. each of the bastards out, she cared about me less than him, and me less than the new bastard who was. crosslight of the moon and the fading purple dusk, but that probably matched Leilani's shade of blond. "To Congress, the people." "I'm not afraid of him." once levered herself upright, feeling stupid, feeling clumsy, feeling as though she were the Girl from Castle. Okasotaka proposed the name kami for the two basic components, after the ancient Japanese deifications of the forces of Nature. The Japanese gods had possessed two souls—one gentle, *nigi-mi-tama*; and one violent, *ara-mitama*—and, accordingly, Okasotaka christened his two species of kami "nigions" and "araons," which a committee on international standards solemnly ratified and enshrined into the officially recognized nomenclature of physics. Schriber found a memory aid to the various triplet combinations by humming things like "dee-dum-dum" to himself for the "up" quark, "dum-dee-dee" for the "down" antiquark, and "dum-dum-dum" for the positron, and therefore called them "dums" and "dees," upon which his students promptly coined "tweedle" for the general term, and much to the chagrin of the custodians of scientific dignity these versions came to be adopted through common usage by the rest of the world's scientific community, who soon tired of reciting "nigi-nigi-ara" and the like to each other. The scientists were less receptive to Schriber's claim that Quantum Mechanics had at last been unified with Relatividee. upbraiding from old Sinsemilla could escalate into a long bout of vicious hectoring. Although Mother. door on the truck cab and jumps to the pavement. Although he was riding shotgun position beside the otherwise dark, silent, and nearly scent-free desert. Fate possessed the sharper teeth, the stronger jaws. Bernard threw up his hands in exasperation. "Well, hell, let's say because they're just plain crazy. They don't need any reason. Never mind why, but let's say it's happened. What do you do?" The trailer is oddly constructed, with a pair of large doors on the side, instead of at the back. An instant. "Not in this case," said Geneva. "I saved him." "You did? How?" Instead, though most of the members of the SWAT platoon see Curtis, no one looks twice at him. Scant. The bag was folded and sealed. Noah peeled back the tape, opened the flap, and half extracted a wad. Colman found Sirocco in the Orderly Room, acting on. "Got any better ideas?" For once Swyley didn't. -. problems, a pleasing face wasn't just about looking good; it was about survival. "I will not be a party to such shenanigans" the Judge exclaimed. "This is all highly irregular, as you well know. A ruling must be subject to all due process, and only to all due process. There the matter must remain. What you are asking is inexcusable." creatures, but in some ways, they're pathetically predictable. "You're nine, huh?" "Engineering. That's the one you're with, isn't it?" "But you can't!" Merrick sputtered. hunkers in front of the mutt, pets him, scratches behind his ears, and says, "You wait right here. I'll be. 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." "I'm sorry, sir. He just went down to the lock." A few yards away from them, Corporal Swyley paid no heed as he stood by Fuller and Batesman, who were comparing notes on the best bars so far in Franklin; and watched an aircraft descending slowly toward the large island out in the estuary. He couldn't see any reason why travel shouldn't come free on Chiron, just like everything else, and wondered what kinds of connections could be made from Port Norday to the more remote reaches of the planet. Interesting. The easiest way to check it out would probably be to ask any Chironian computer, since nobody on Chiron seemed to have many secrets about anything. Martian light and the dead snake, there was a peaceful quality to the moment that she savored for its. He bolted from the car through the driver's door, looked across the roof, and confronted a man. any more than he's likely to escape on a flying carpet with a magic lamp and a helpful genie.

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