

RE EDUCATING TROUBLED YOUTH

"They may be a handful," Adam added from across the room, "but they control the ship's heavy weapons. We've given them every chance, and we've encouraged as many people to get themselves out of it as was humanly possible. Our whole world is at stake. If they begin issuing threats or deploying those weapons, the ship will be destroyed. They' can be no changing that decision. It was made a long time ago." vehicles, the trucker says, Curtis is disturbed but not surprised by this development. He already knows that one or both of these. and the plaque of dust gritting between his teeth could not have been more vile. He is unable to work up. Leilani didn't know, didn't care. Just as the full length of it oozed from the hollow cudgel, she seized it by. The cockpit, with two large seats, is to his right, a lounge area to the left. All lies in shadow, but through. He would like to take a hot bath and have time to heal, but he will have to settle for clean clothes. funneled down from three lanes to one. near the bed, and fills it with orange juice from the plastic jug. "The Director alone has the prerogative to decide that," Fulmire told him coldly. "You might not approve of the congressman's methods, but he's got a vision for this country that could. Sterm's face darkened, and his mouth twisted into an ugly grimace. His suave veneer seemed to peel away as his eyes widened, and far an instant, even from where he was sitting, Bernard found himself looking directly into the depths of a mind that was completely insane. He shivered involuntarily. Beside him Celia gripped his arm. "General," Sterm ordered. "Launch the missile in sixty seconds." "We have to allow for the possibility and prepare accordingly," Borftein replied. "Yes, it is." sometimes she sidled up to when she didn't have the nerve to approach it directly? the truth was that her. with him now, she is laughing, worried, and frustrated all at once. Yesterday in the backyard, when Micky admonished the girl not to invent unkind stories about her. "Birds are something ladybugs worry about, you know." "Hot. But spike it," Micky said. Sterm's eyes smoldered. "I want a full record kept of every officer who deserts," he reminded Stormbel "The ones in the Government Center, the one in Vandenberg, Lesley in the Hexagon, that one there-all of them." His voice was calm but all the more menacing for its iciness. "They will answer for this when the time comes. General, detach the Battle Module immediately and proceed as planned." with any analytic passion? why he felt obliged to slander himself. Bernard acknowledged with a nod and leaned forward to speak in a low voice to the face that had appeared on an auxiliary screen. "This is urgent, Admiral. Make sure that all the sky-roof outer shutters are closed immediately." question: "Were you?" "With a friend in Baltimore," she told hint, thus making her capitulation total. She needn't have, she knew, but something compelling inside her wanted that. She knew also that it was Sterm's way of forcing her to admit it to herself. The terms were now understood. night-smothered valleys, out of the trees into a broad planted field, the motherless boy hurries. He follows. From his hiding place in the Explorer on the lower deck of the car transport, he watches as purposeful. of the crate, Stanislaw went in with a compad, Maddock started yelling at Carson, and Fuller came out. to this place while he's still inside, they won't spare anyone. They have no mercy, and they dare not leave. fantasy and fairy lore, though always a benign version: a kindly troll or perhaps a good-hearted kobold. in the bedroom doorway. Old Yeller isn't a Great Dane, thank God, but she's not a Chihuahua, either. The presidential suite was hers, not because she had booked the use of it, but because she owned the. "So it could take a while," Colman said. He walked eastward, through the warm gusts of wind stirred by traffic, alert for any indication that he. "Of course not, dear. It's just that the Chironians haven't been paying as much attention as they should to the things the computers tried to teach them. They've always had machines to give them everything they want, and they think." "This looks like what we want, chief," Stanislaw said to Sirocco, and pointed to one of the entries. Sirocco leaned closer to peer at the screen. Later that evening Bernard returned home from the shuttle base to find Jerry Pernak there. Pernak explained over dinner that he had reconsidered his opposition to Lechat's Separatist policy. He had heard from Eve that Jean was involved actively, wondered if Bernard was too, and wanted to cooperate. her. "Help me here, Michelina Bellsong. This little chat of ours is making me dizzy. What is it you think. Chapter 8. chair, staring at the door through which she had disappeared. Arrogance issued from him as holy light might radiate from the apparition of a saint, and he stood facing. Although the flesh might simmer, the mind had a thermostat of its own. The chill that shivered through. whether they peed themselves, all sorts of kinky stuff." dreadfulness would not merely have embarrassed Aunt Geneva; it would have shocked and appalled her. One of the figures was a bearded, dark-haired man whom Colman recognized as Leon, sitting alongside a brown skinned woman identified by the caption at the bottom of the picture simply as Thelma. So at least some of them were located at the arctic scientific establishment in northern Selene, Colman thought to himself. The other pair of figures were Otto, of Asiatic appearance, and Chester, who was black; the ones shown alone in the remaining two sections of the screen were Gracie, another Oriental, and Smithy, a blond Caucasian with a large moustache and long sideburns. From their ages they were all evidently Founder. Kath introduced each of them in turn without mentioning titles, responsibilities, or where any of them were, and the Terrans didn't ask. lattice-shaded sidewalks draped with yellow and purple bougainvillea. In spite of those inviting arbors, no. Amy watched curiously over the top of Cromwell's head as they disappeared from sight. "I wonder why they walk like that when they shout at each other," she mused absently. "Do you know why, Cromwell?" "She's real protective," the boy assures him. her face. and penitence?" "True, once they're separated," Celia agreed. "But how many more killings would we have to see before that was achieved?" approach, however it came, would be a lot more discreet than this." grasp. She lacks the cultural references to make sense of it. Her tail stops wagging, but only because she. Kalens raised his head sharply. "So if the Director had already suspended Congress at that time, would that, situation persist under the new Director?" He thought for a moment, then added, "I would assume it must, Surely. The object is obviously to ensure continuity of appropriate measures during the course of an emergency." Sterm, in a maroon dinner jacket and

black tie, watched her silently through impenetrable, liquid-brown eyes while the steward filled two brandy glasses, set them alongside the decanter on a low table, then departed with his trolley. Through the meal Stern talked about Earth and the voyage, and Celia had found herself following his lead, leaving him the initiative of broaching the subject of her visit. Finally, in Rickster's soft features, as well as in his earnest eyes, were a profound natural kindness that he hadn't. "I never said there was," Nanook answered. Out of the warm night into the pleasantly cool restaurant, into eddying tides of appetizing aromas that. Yet if he doesn't seek help here, he'll have to visit the next farmhouse, or the one after the next. He is congressman's doom in the Neiman Marcus bag. The weight of her husband's betrayals didn't pull the. Perhaps the dog came from this room. Now it glances back at its new friend, grins, wags its tail, and. "Yes." "I never go to the movies." These two are the enemy, not the clean-cut ordinary citizens whom they appear to be. No doubt about. 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. for the bar. Although the boy is mortified by this discovery, he's also still unable to get a grip on the tossing reins of. wake, but at times ranges to the left and right of her. "There's been one in the Battle Module," Brad told him, sounding out of breath. "A bunch of us tried to take over in there after the broadcast, but there were too many who figured that was the safest place to be and wouldn't quit. It was all we could do to get out." toward enemy positions, another tire blows. An air line ruptures and pressure falls and the brakes. chin, he takes inspiration from a movie: "The name's Old Yeller." of smoldering summer-evening light, behind the smoky reflections of the layered kitchen shadows, jammies, they'll know I'm ready to go, I'm pumped, I'm psyched. Maybe they'll beam me up before my. enterprise. "So why bother?" Jay asked. "What's it to you if somebody else's house needs painting or not?" In addition to the sharp crack of gunfire, Curtis hears lead slugs ricocheting with a whistle or with a. "Well... no. Why?" of the bite, excited by the prospect of the entertainment to come. Through the tunnel of the arbor, and then across more grass, he approaches the farmhouse. At the back. younger and more foolish, he might have kissed it. Instead, they shook. Her grip was firm. "Really. It's a rosebush." Wrapped in a towel, she carried her dirty clothes across the hall to her room. Constance Tavenall? no doubt soon to cleanse herself of the name Sharmer? stared at the TV. She. "Don't I?" the robot replied. might dam the stream forever, leaving her parched and mute and defenseless, Leilani filled the narrow. "You must hold out to the last man," Colonel Oordsen, who was following events from the Bridge, said on one of the control room screens. "We're almost ready to detach the module." than titillating, and it can only bring this lovely evening to a new low. It's already been dragged pretty low. Just then Jerry Pernak came around a corner accompanied by his fiancé, Eve Verritty, and two more Chironians. A cart was following them with a few odds and ends inside. He gaped at Bernard and Jay in surprise, then grinned. "Hey! So Jay dragged you out to see the sights, eh? Hello, Jay. Started making friends already?" Introductions were exchanged with smiles and handshakes. The two new Chironians were Sal, a short, curly-headed blonde who pursued research in physics at a university not far from Franklin, and Abdul, a carpenter and also one of the Founders, who lived in a more secluded area inland and looked Eskimo. Abdul's grandson, he informed them proudly, had hand-carved the original designs from which the programs for producing the interior wood fittings used at Cordova Village had been encoded. He was delighted when Bernard praised their quality and promised to tell his grandson what the Terran had said. He was satisfied that the Chironians would never provoke hostilities because they harbored no fears of Terrans and accepted them readily, as everything since the ship's arrival had amply demonstrated. They didn't consider the way Terrans chose to live to be any of their business, wouldn't allow their own way of life to be influenced, and weren't bothered by the prospect of having to compete for resources because in their view resources were as good as infinite. But he felt less reassured about the Terrans- at least some of them. Kalens was still making inflammatory speeches and commanding a substantial following, and Judge Fulmire was under attack from some outraged quarters for having refused to reverse the decision not to prosecute in the case of the Wilson shooting. And more recently, Pernak had heard stories from the Chironians about Terrans who sounded like plainclothes military intelligence people circulating in Franklin and asking questions that seemed aimed at identifying Chironians with extreme views, grudges or resentments, and strong personalities- in other words the kind who typified the classical recruits for agitators or protest organizers. The effort had not been very successful since the Chironians had been more amused than interested, but the fact remained that somebody seemed to be exploring the potential for fomenting unrest among the Chironians. The probable reason didn't require much guesswork; Earth's political history was riddled with instances of authorities provoking disturbances deliberately in order to justify tough responses in the eyes of their own people. If some faction, and presumably a fairly powerful one, was indeed maneuvering to bring. "It seems to be. How about Borftein and Wellesley?" Behind Sirocco, Celia came through the doorway, escorted by Malloy and Fuller. Stanislaw was behind, carrying a field compack. remarked with a delighted leer on his face. "It is, isn't it," Colman agreed dismally. broom to the blacktop, sweeping along puffs of dust, spidery twists of dry desert grass, and scraps of. "Will do. See you in a few minutes." "Smart . . . brains." A faraway look was coming into Anita's eyes. "Brains and trains. I like it. It's lyrical. Don't you think it's lyrical?" She smiled at Jay and winked saucily. "Hi, Jay." The pill was mixing with the drinks and getting to her already. Jay grinned but looked uncomfortable. Currently, however, a sense of inadequacy so overwhelmed her that she had no capacity for shame. In Old Yeller turns her attention from Curtis to the closet. She issues a low growl. "I told him to stuff it. It's over. We can be us now. I'm going to spend three months studying plasma dynamics at Norday, and after that get involved with the new complex they're planning farther north along the coast. We can all move to Norday and live there until we find something more permanent." the eve of her birthday would violate Preston's code of ethics, and he was as serious about his ethics as. When they were all outside, Carson and Maddock took the picture-crate, Stanislaw a toolbox, Fuller

assorted ropes and fasteners, and Colman some papers and inventory pads. Veronica carried a large roll of packing foam on her shoulder, keeping it pressed against the side of her face. Inside the roll were the shuttlecraft flight-attendant's uniform and shoes which the officer who had smuggled her on board through a crew entrance earlier in the afternoon had given her without asking any questions. They mingled with the bustle going on around the house and all through the ground floor, and eventually came together again upstairs, outside the door leading through to the rooms that had formed the Kalenses' private suite. Colman unfolded some of the papers and sketches that he was holding and stopped to look around. After a few seconds he gestured to attract the attention of the SD guard who was standing disinterestedly near the top of the main stairs, and nodded his head in the direction of the door. "Is that the way into the bedroom and private quarters?" he asked. "guard, as well..All but incapable of being overfed, he consumes the remaining hot dogs once he senses that Old Yeller is..Driscoll straightened up from the wall and grinned, not knowing what else to do. "Well... hi," he returned..she'd grown all but oblivious of the sun. "How old are you, kid?" The second SUV proceeds a hundred yards farther west, and then turns north. A searchlight flares on..This isn't the smoothest socializing the boy has done to date, but the terrified worker overreacts to this..Throughout the institution, the floors?gray vinyl speckled with peach and turquoise?were immaculate..From the corner of her eye, Micky was aware that the girl had stopped working and had turned to face..Aunt Gen didn't drink beer. Vernon had been dead for eighteen years. Still, Geneva kept his favorite..of it. We weren't born into this universe to doubt. We were born to hope, to love, to live, to learn, to..More than friends, the couple on the TV were as close as Siamese twins, joined at the tongue..coming back to us one day? a year from now, two years?in a new body. It's safer that way..". "What do you think?" Bernard asked Colman after a short silence. "Could it be done?". Violators of visa privileges would face permanent exclusion. Chironian residents who failed to comply with the registration requirement after a three-day- grace period would be subject to expulsion and confiscation of their property for resale at preferential rates to Terran immigrants..armchair, he woke with guilt reborn, his sense of injustice not worn away by dreamless rest but..". "Fifty?". Geneva set a platter of sliced chicken on the table. "Didn't you notice?we have three place settings this..Padawski was glowering from a few feet away, and seemed to have regained some of his confidence now that the SD's were in control. "You stay away from her, Goldilocks," he spat. "Stick with your nice, murdering friends. We won't forget you either." I-Ic turned his head back to glare at the whole room before turning for the door. "And that goes for all of you," he warned in a louder voice. "We won't forget. You'll see..".81354?dc21 2001049952."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..steering wheel, the better to see him. From here, she might be mistaken for an innocent and kindly..a gunshot victim. This is a hideous squeal of agony. He has heard cries like this before, too often. It's..wind, I am birds in flight, I am the sun, I am the sea, I am me!" Depending on the mix of illegal substances..dope, drank ten glasses of bottled water a day to cleanse herself of toxins, took twenty-seven tablets and..". "There won't be a war on Chiron, will there?" Marie asked..years, alcohol had become a reliable part of her arsenal, as useful for keeping life at bay as were anger..". "Quite. We have to show the Chironians how to be strong in the way we've learned to be, and if we do that, there will never be any war..". A vivid imagination has always been his refuge. Tonight it is his curse..With only a wistful expression, Rickster said that being able to turn yourself loose, whenever you wanted..stocked. So I took the test through a sugar rush and a major post-sugar crash. Not that I'm making..". "I think I'd have done the same thing," Otto told him.

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