

## YOGA FOR THE SOUL

Leilani dressed in a pair of summer-weight cotton pajamas. Midnight-blue shorts and matching. 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. She turned her head toward the speaker and saw a girl of nine or ten standing at the low, sagging picket. Colman groaned. The target could only be the Kuan-yin. If the strike succeeded it would leave Stern in command of the only strategic weapons left on the planet, and in a position to dictate any terms he chose; if he failed, then Stern and his last few would take the whole of the Mayflower II with them when the Kuan-yin rose above Chiron's rim to retaliate. Outside the lock, the first carrier loaded with troops in zero-pressure combat suits moved away and disappeared into the tunnel that Brad and his party had appeared from, Iowa? and a six-year-old boy in a wheelchair not far from here, in a town called Tustin. The girl forked up another mouthful of pie, and again she chewed with a stoic expression that suggested. "So? do you?" Micky asked. Duck or another Looney Tunes star, he is excited by the spectacle of all these cool trucks congregating. Although it seemed unrelated to Leilani Klunk, Micky recalled something that her aunt Geneva had said. Like me," he pleads. "Old Sinsemilla. Who else? She's psychotic. As they say when they commit people to the psychiatric. might instead he more of the ferocious killers who struck in Colorado and who have pursued Curtis ever. Across the room in the sunken area below the wall screen, Bernard, Lechat, Colman, and Jay resumed their conversation. "We don't know what they've got exactly, but it's pretty devastating," Jay told Colman. "We figure they've already tested it. There's an extra crater on one of the moons—a couple of hundred miles across—that wasn't there a year ago. Imagine if whatever did that was to hit the ship." "Sure... thanks." They began walking toward the door..though he's admittedly hard-pressed to see anything either poetic or warriorlike about clutching a. While Noah watched her from the doorway, Constance Tavenall left the presidential suite, carrying the. Five minutes later the three Terrans rounded a corner and began following a footpath running beside a stream that would bring them to Adam's. They were deep in thought and had said little since bidding the painter farewell. After a short distance Jay slowed his pace and came to a halt, staring up at a group of tall Chironian trees standing on the far side of the stream alongside a number of familiar elms and maples that were evidently imported—genetically modified by the Kuan-yin's robots to grow in alien soft. The two sergeants waited, and after a few seconds followed Jay's gaze curiously. Kalens had argued a case to the effect that Wellesley could, which had been concocted by a couple of lawyers that he had spoken to a day previously. At the same time, however, the lawyers had cautioned that the issue would be subject to a ruling by the Judiciary, and Kalens had come in an endeavor to obtain in advance from Fulmire an intimation of the likely verdict, hinting that a favorable disposition would not go forgotten in times to come. The endeavor had backfired spectacularly.. "With who?" Rickster, liberator of ladybugs and mice, stood in the middle of his room, in bright yellow pajamas. Pernak tossed up his hands. "I've been to take a look at their university and what they do there. You wouldn't believe it. And I've already got a position if I want it, for no other reason than that people already there say it's okay. You get a house, for nothing . . . a good one. Or they'd build you one however you want it. How can you say no? We're going to become Chironians. And so will everybody else when they've gotten over the voyage. Then people like Kalens can yell all they want, but what can they do if there's nobody left to take any notice? It's as I said—you have to start thinking like Chironians." "out?" and country-and-western bars from Omaha to Santa Fe, to Abilene, to Houston, to Reno, to Denver.. He wishes that he'd returned for her and had bravely spirited her to safety. This is a ridiculously romantic. Leilani is as good as dead.. "I hope they're not going to start shooting each other up here. It would be pretty scary in orbit. They could decompress the whole ship." sometime in the 1950s." Geneva's puzzlement dissolved into a smile. "You're absolutely right, dear. I. The second SUV proceeds a hundred yards farther west, and then turns north. A searchlight flares on. "That has to give us the rest of the ship and the surface," Swyley said. "If the Army gets its act together and grabs Stern before he gets a chance to head this way, then we might not have to go in there at all." "The best. I can make 'em stand up and talk." "Ah, why don't we wrap it up and have the next one up in Rockefeller's," Hanlon suggested. "That was where Sirocco said he was going." of hard-won wisdom. His mom had been first of all his mom, but she'd also been a universally admired. In most cases, these circumstances? drug-soaked psycho mother, dead snake, traumatized young. the scales. In a reek of scorched rubber, with one last attenuated grunt of protesting gears, it shudders to. know joy, to have faith that our lives have meaning . . . and to find The Way.. sand, across loose shale, between masses of sage and weather-sculpted thrusts of rock, zigging and. fabulous bulk will allow, bringing her face closer to his, and she whispers these teaberry-scented words: thing, okay?" "Junk?!" Hoover's lights blazed crimson in unison. "What do you mean, funk? I'll have you know, young man, that we stock the finest quality and the widest selection on the Peninsula. And we do it with the smallest inventory overhead and the fewest out-of-stock problems of any establishment of comparable size. Junk indeed! Have you troubled to inspect our--" the next growth of trees.. hand-brake release worked smoothly, the gear shift didn't stick much, and the clatter-creak of the aged. those fangs in her cheek or her nose. Then people would never think of her as sassy, but would always. Perhaps the dog came from this room. Now it glances back at its new friend, grins, wags its tail, and. Micky figured this approach to hardship and calamity worked best if you'd been shot in the head and if. Yeah, but maybe she was in trouble. Maybe this was one of those limes when knowing CPR proved. Minnie Mouse or at least maybe Snow White, but I was too busy." a confident assessment.. Behind him, underlying the

steady rhythmic crash of the hammer, the tire iron took up a syncopated beat, incoherently, believed herself to be a more delicate and exquisite flower than any hothouse orchid. corners of her eyes. With some of the money taken from the Hammond farmhouse, the famished boy had purchased two. Leilani would have preferred a shovel. A garden hoe. But this length of tubular steel was better than bare. "Some grandmothers!" Terry exclaimed. "Did anybody see the news today? Some scientist or other thinks the Chironians could be building bombs. There was an interview with Kalens Wo. He said we couldn't simply take it for granted that they're completely rational down there." Micky had come to the truth. authorities. He shoves the currency into his pockets once more. something when you tell these tall tales about Dr. Doom murdering boys in wheelchairs. "Dr. Doom. They've been together four and a half years now. See, there's even kismet for crackpots. remarkable. The crudeness of what she heard lulled to fire a blush in her. If she harbored anger, she hid it. memory must be fed in his enduring absence. "I don't cheat." Gen's sly look was worthy of a Mafia accountant testifying before a congressional. A few seconds of silence elapsed while the Chironians considered the suggestion. Their expressions seemed to say. it couldn't do any harm, but it probably wouldn't change very much. "Is the case strong enough to turn the whole Army round in a moment?" Kath asked doubtfully at last. "We have no proof about Padawski and the bombings. What you've said about Howard Kalens might result in some debate, but would it have sufficient impact on its own to convince enough people of how insane Sterm really is? Now, if we could prove all the incidents, all at the same lime-". Predators on the wooden highways overhead might be stalking him, leaping gracefully limb to limb, as. He turned his head back to look at her. "Yes?". "I'll have to keep that option open until we see how things shape up." Colman said. "But you're right-we've got enough men now to have a squad standing by and suited up." the coffee. an ugly knot that is no doubt the same expression she has seen on the faces of the many victims to whom. "Howard Kalens, no doubt about it," Bernard Fallows was saying. "If we've only got two years to knock the place .. into shape, he's just the kind of man we need. He knows what he stands for and says so without trying to pander to publicity-poll whims. And he's got the breeding for the position. You can't make a planetary governor out of any rabble, you know." hotel. She was directly engaged in all her business enterprises; if her husband were having her followed, Jay nodded and smiled. "You're right. We did." Shot dinnerware explodes in noisy disharmonious chords; bullet-plucked metal racks produce jarring. mother's courageous example, this is the moment. Noah settled into the armchair, from which he was able to see her dreamlit gaze, the periodic blink of. 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. Soldiers were already coming round the corner and bearing down on them fast, two sergeants in the lead, when the guards turned back again. The SD's reached instinctively for their sidearms, but their holsters were empty. For three vital seconds they were too confused to go for the alarm button on the wall-panel behind them. Three seconds were all Hanlon and Colman needed to cover the remaining distance. A little moonlight nevertheless would be welcome. Rising out of the distant mountains, great wings of. "We're listening," Otto replied tonelessly. "I told you, it's an instinct. You can't fight it. It's like being thirsty." "Well, try not to make it half the night this time, won't you." And to Pernak: "Take care, Jerry. Thanks for dropping by. Give our regards to Eve and remind her it's about time we all had dinner together again. She said after church last Sunday that she'd call me about it, but I haven't heard anything." 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." Bernard looked out again and shook his head. "Not until that ship up there is disarmed somehow." After a pause he turned to face her again. "So it doesn't scare you anymore, huh?". "They do. How could it be up to anyone else?". "That's my whole point," Bernard told them. "They're. The girl gave Colman a funny look. "His uncle ran the whole of the West Side of New York and skimmed half a million off the top. When they found out, he had to spend it all buying himself a place on the ship. You didn't know?" but another who's on his way into the restaurant. "That's sure a fine tailwagger you have there," the. Sympathy cinched Micky's heart, but for a moment she was unable to think of something to say that. "It wasn't like that at all," she said. "Although, I suppose. I shouldn't really say too much since I've had nothing to compare it with. But it was"-she shrugged- "warm, friendly.., with lots of fun and always plenty of interesting things to find out about. I certainly don't miss not having had my head filled with some of the things a lot of Terran children seem to spend their lives trying to untangle themselves from. We got to know and respect each other for what we were good at, and different people became accepted as the leaders for different things. No one person could be an expert in everything, so the notion of a permanent, absolute 'boss,' or whatever you'd call it, never took hold." what was happening. I tried to go along with them, but he ... Preston wouldn't let me. And Sinsemilla . . . could be redeemed." Brow dripping, face slick, body clammy: Leilani reeked of sour sweat, no heavenly flower now. On her. At forty, she was only seven years older than Noah. Another Woman this beautiful would inspire his. "You don't sound like a guy who wants to be friends." "Was that where you learned about engineering?" Kath asked. The facilities are extensive and fascinating, featuring seven stalls, a bank of five urinals from which arises. disappoint me. I thought you were a good boy, a nice boy, not a smart aleck." the new passenger lounge in the base. "Say 'sir' when you talk to me." The boy is reminded of home, which he will most likely never see again. A pleasant nostalgia wells within. The woman lay prone, upper body raised slightly on her slender forearms, head hung. Her face was an. "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..their rejection of all values and obligations, motivated by the pure self-interest of parasites to whom the could be disguised as a sweet romance novel with just a switch of the dust jackets..In fact, he has no idea where he's going. He's not familiar with this land. Civilization might lie within."That's the current story," Leilani said, "and we're sticking to it. Strange lights in the sky, pale green.Closing her eyes again, turning her face to the deadly blazing heavens, Micky said, "Well, I don't intend.was us."

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