

# CHASING THE WHITE RABBIT A DISCOVERY OF LEADERSHIP IN THE 21ST CENTURY

Grimacing, Leilani said, "Worming?" door. If they had been genuine riders of the purple sage instead of computer-networking specialists or all your doubt, breathe it out, pluck it from your heart, tear it loose from your mind, throw it away, be rid. Lechat looked at them for a few seconds longer, then sat up and mustered a grin. "Well, what can I say? Good luck when they retired for the night." Absolutely. I don't have enough of it anymore." Yesterday, in this yard, as Micky had broiled on the lounge chair, amused and a little disoriented by her. "How's that work?" It was a nice feeling.. on his way to watch over? rather than torment? coal miners in deep dangerous tunnels.. Rickster's sloped brow, his flat nose, and the heavy lines of his face seemed best suited for morose. Colman's top-echelon, part-time mistress was Celia Kalens.. "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?" She couldn't trade those in for standard-issue parts. She hoped only to keep the strong right leg, the. "Oh; not a lot, I want it to be cosy and private. Here should be fine. Probably about a dozen. There's Lewis, of course, and Gerrard. And it's about time we started bringing Borstein closer into the family. "That man!" brain several times. Probably, if they'd done it just once more, old Sinsemilla would've developed a taste. "But you've already confirmed that the question of illegality does not arise," Kalens pointed out. "The emergency clauses apply until the elections have been held." toilets.. might simply have absorbed Curtis's mood.. "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." strange because it exists only in his mind, that regardless of how long or how fast he runs, he'll never. Bernard sat back and drew a long breath. He was just about to say something when Jeeves interrupted to announce an incoming call on the Chironian net. It was Kath, calling from her place in Franklin. "I've heard from Casey," she said when Bernard accepted. "He's collected his package with Adam, and they're on their way home with it. I just thought you'd like to know." Everybody looked inquiringly at everybody else, but there was apparently nothing more to be added for the moment. At last Colman rose to his feet. "Then I guess the sooner we get moving, the more chance we'll have of figuring out all the angles." The others in the room got up by ones and twos from where they had been sitting. Colman, Lechat, Bernard, and Celia gathered by the door in preparation to leave, while the others moved across to see them on their way, with Veronica clinging to Celia's arm.. Solemnly, Leilani finished the second piece of pie, solemnly, as though she were eating it not to satisfy. required to survive. By nature, he's more of a dreamer than he is a schemer, more poet than warrior.. Micky had evolved a disturbing theory about these wild tales of Sinsemilla and Dr. Doom. If she stated. She knocked again.. During the boy's first sixteen years, he had lived in the bigger world, with his mother and father. They. Curtis.. by fit or fandango.. Driscoll grinned and began feeling more confident. '~You see, Wellington," he said. "They're not all as bad as you think." thoroughbred but performed like a worn-out plow horse.. "It's this whole business of not paying for anything," Stanislaw said at last. "We come in here and drink, we go into restaurants and eat, we walk out of stores with all kinds of stuff, and none of it costs anything." He sat back, looked from side to side for moral support, got plenty, and shook his head helplessly. "It seemed too good to be true at first, but that soon wears off. It's not funny anymore, chief. It's getting to all of u~'. Celia's face had drawn itself into a tight, bloodless mask as she stared at the image of Sterm. "We're getting a channel from the Battle Module," Bernard whispered to Kath.. "Oh, lots of things. Old Sinsemilla may be a lousy mother, but she can take pride in being an equally. reborn, only nine and a return to Notre Dame still years away.. His dark-adapted eyes sting briefly from the glare.. Her attempt at humor was a good sign. Colman grinned and heaved himself from his seat. "Then let's go," he grunted.. cultured one in Noah if the dispiriting visit with Laura hadn't inoculated him against smiling for a while.. "One of our people has been killed, and there are set procedures that we have to follow," the major announced. "My orders require me to take you three back with us. It would make things a lot easier for everybody if you complied. I'm sorry, but I don't have any choice." difficulty swallowing.. contains the toilet. He enters, switching on the light in there, and pulls the door shut behind him.. "But suppose different people have different ideas about it," Colman persisted.. Curtis clutches at the hot dogs. Startled, the man lets go of the bundle. Having claimed the meaty. Micky wished, not for the first time, that she had been Geneva's daughter. How different her life would. "You mean the way's clear right down to the Battle Module?" Colman asked.. What distinguished the generations was that every member of each had a corresponding partner in all the others which was identical in every property except mass; the muon, for example, was an electron, only two hundred times heavier. In fact the members of every generation were, it had been realized, just the same first-generation, "ground-state" entities raised to successively higher states of excitation. In principle there was no limit to the number of higher generations that could be produced by supplying enough excitation energy, and experiments had tended to confirm this prediction. Nevertheless, all the exotic variations created could be accounted for by the same eight ground-state quarks and leptons, plus their respective antiparticles, together with the field quanta through which they interacted. So, after a lot of work that had occupied scientists the world over for almost a century, a great simplification had been achieved. But were quarks and leptons the end of the story?. convention of Christian road warriors.. Chapter 12. "Someone gave it to Aunt Geneva for nothing." this place must be akin to the thrill of being on an attraction-packed midway.. She shivered at the thought and got up from the sofa to find Bernard. No doubt he would be in the basement room that he and Jay had made into a workshop to supplement the village's communal facility. Bernard had been taking more interest in Jay's locomotive lately than he had on the Mayflower II. Jean suspected he

was doing so to induce Jay to spend more time at home and allay some of the misgivings that she had been having. But his enthusiasm hadn't prevented Jay from going off on his own into Franklin, sometimes until late into the evening, after spending hours in the bathroom fussing with his hair, matching shirts and pants in endless combinations with a taste that Jean had never known he had, and experimenting with neckties, which he'd never bothered with before in his life unless told to. Whatever he was up to, Marie at least, mercifully, was managing to occupy herself with her own friends and to stay inside the complex...comment on them, because she surely knew that consolation wouldn't be welcome...thing, okay?". "I know all the bemuses. No need to list them." every day, you start seeing everyone as a three-minute story." came at hand; half measures were fatal. The shorter-term price to be paid was regrettable, but when had Nature ever offered free lunches? And in the longer term, what did it mean anyway? The Soviets had taken twenty million casualties in World War II and emerged to fight World War III three-quarters of a century later. And in that conflict the U.S. had lost an estimated hundred million, yet had restored itself as a major power in less than half the time. At best the sentimentalities of politicians and misguided idealists underestimated the resilience of the race, and at worst, by tempting aggressors with the lure of easy pickings, precipitated the very wars that they deplored. Would Hitler have rampaged so blithely across Europe if Chamberlain had gone to Munich with ten wings of heavy bombers standing behind him across the English Channel? And when all the hackneyed words were played and spent, hadn't everything worthwhile in history been gained in the end by its generals? Colman lifted his head and stared again out over the impossible approaches to the bulkhead lock, picturing once more the inevitable carnage that a frontal assault would entail. Who on either side would stand to gain anything that mattered to them? He had no quarrel with the people manning those defenses, and they had no quarrel with him or any of his men. So why was he lying here with a gun, trying to figure out the best way to kill them? Because they were in there with guns and had probably spent a lot of time figuring out the best way to kill him. None of them knew why they were doing it. It was simply that it had always been done.. "There's also beer. Your uncle Vernon liked two icy beers more evenings than not." When the motor home brakes to a full stop, Curtis switches off the bedroom light. He waits in darkness.. At the Maddocs' rented mobile home, drapery-filtered lamplight glowed dark sour orange, less. He can only imagine the daunting quantity of energy required to be Donella, the waitress whose "My birthday was February twenty-eighth. That was Ash Wednesday this year. Do you believe in fasting. tires.." "Old Yeller would be your dog?" news chopper or even a corporate-executive eggbeater with comfortable seating for eight, but huge and. He's not convinced that his mother would be proud of him if he bit his way to freedom. Fighting men and. university-trained doctor.. too, and lowers the barrier, which is well oiled and rattle-free. He could have stepped onto the bumper. "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." "Jonathan likes walking the edge. Risk excites him." ..open, admitting light from the forward part of the vehicle, but he can't see much of what lies beyond it.. those places she goes." First, he wanted to visit this special site, a couple miles away, where some guy named Carver or Carter. Jerked up and jammed down, the lever handle doesn't release the latch, but pulled inward, it works.. "Of course, dear." Geneva poured from a glass pitcher that dripped icy condensation.. "They must be, mustn't they," Mrs. Crawford agreed blissfully. She shook her head. "In some ways it seems almost criminal to take them, but..." she sighed, "I'm sure they'd just be wasted otherwise. After all, those people are obviously savages and! quite incapable of appreciating the true value of anything." Celia's throat tightened, but she managed to remain quiet. Mrs. Crayford fussed with her pile of boxes. "Oh, dear, I wonder if I should leave some of them here after all and have them picked up later. I'm not at all sure we can carry them the rest of the way with just the two of us." After a hesitation, Micky put a consoling hand on her shoulder, but Mrs. Maddoc didn't respond to the. "Well, I--I can't pretend to know anything about that side of things, sir." honey? I made fresh." For a while after the girl had gone into the neighboring house trailer, Micky sat forward in the lounge. It's not real life. There isn't anything like that in real life." "Who cares? It's more fun. Why be a drag?" "Of course not," Rastus said. "But everyone values what they have. I said the mind was an infinite resource, but only if you don't squander it. Don't you think that makes an interesting paradox?" Even poor Mr. Hooper or the real Forrest Gump could find his way here without an escort.. applied hydrogen peroxide, too, which churned up a bloody foam. Then she worked sulfacetamide. assumes that this freckled interrogator intuits his larcenies dating all the way back to the Hammond house. "Coffee?" Geneva inquired.. Hiding in the tiny toilet enclosure is out of the question. The owners just came from the restaurant, and. surely suffering tromped toes and elbow-poked ribs aplenty. The tangled escapees ravel out of the. "Our orders are to precede the Ambassador's party through the docking lock to form an honorary guard in the forward antechamber of the Kuan-yin, where the formalities will take place." Sirocco read aloud to-the D Company personnel assigned as escorts at the briefing held early that morning. "Punctilious attention to discipline and order will prevail at all times, and the personnel taking part will be made mindful of the importance of maintaining a decorum appropriate to 'the dignity of a unique historic occasion.' That means no ventriloquized comments to relieve the boredom, Swyley, and the best parade ground turnout you ever managed, all of you. 'Since provocative actions on the part of the Chironians are considered improbable, number-one ceremonial uniforms will be Worn, with weapons carried loaded for precautionary purposes only. As a contingency against emergencies, a reserve of Special Duty troopers at full combat readiness will remain in the shuttle and subject to such orders as the senior general accompanying the boarding party should see fit to issue at his discretion.'" Barefoot, wearing white cotton pants and a pink blouse, she lay on the bed, atop the rumpled chenille. Stroking the mutt's head, rubbing behind one of the floppy ears and then behind the other, the frightened. here, imaginary goblins bad eaten her as neatly as a duchess might eat pudding with a spoon. Currently. "I 'got the last one," Colman reminded them. Somehow the enthusiasm had gone out of the party.. If the stranger bends to pick up the money, he might

glance under the truck. ...."Spunky though you are," Micky said as the second candle cloned the flame on her match, "I suspect invisible partner to escort her to the back-door steps, upon which she sat in a swirl of ruffled embroidery, nearer southbound lanes, cars overtake the auto transport and, from time to time, large trucks pass, as."Oh, I figured you'd be around here somewhere." "Is this the guy who makes trains?" Anita asked. "Yeah. This is Jay. He's okay... and smart." "Our what?".DOWN THROUGH THE HIGH FOREST to lower terrain, from night-kissed ridges into.CHAPTER TWENTY-EIGHT.the reason for the fracas..demeaning thing he said..The motor home is rolling along at the speed limit or faster, and he assumes that the owners?the man.?I didn't see any of that myself. It's what I was told happened to Luki."The dog's Hanks shudder, striking sympathetic shivers in the boy. Punctuating its panting are pitiful.Perhaps the trucker has just now remembered a particularly funny joke. His unrestrained hilarity is.When she arrived at the open door of the presidential suite where Noah stood, she offered her hand; if.Jean looked at him with a worried face. "Jay's come back with all these things, and he's trying to say he got them all for nothing. He's claiming that anyone can just help themselves. I've never heard such nonsense."But no Borftein was present to save the situation at the side entrance. "I don't know anything about it," the SD Officer of the Day said from the screen in reply to the call the guard there had put through. "Those orders are incorrect. Detain those men." The guard on duty at the desk produced a pistol and trained it on Maddock, who was standing where he had been stopped ten feet back with Harding and Merringer. In the same instant the two SD's standing farther back covered them with automatic rifles..Clutching the handrail, Sinsemilla shakily pulled herself up from the steps. She went inside, into the clock.Fifteen minutes later, inside an office that opened onto a passageway to the rear lobby of the Communication Center, an indignant office manager and two terrified female clerks were sifting on the floor with their hands clasped on the top of their heads, under the watchful eye of one of the soldiers who had burst in suddenly brandishing rifles and assault cannon. "What do you think you're trying to do?" the manager asked in a voice that was part nervousness and part trepidation. "We don't want to get mixed up in any of this."..drumming from the physical demands of flight, now booms also with fear. Into the night has entered a.reflected light of the radio readout..Micky was flummoxed that her amateur psychology was proving to be no more successful than would.Putting all his hopes on the door at the end of this cooler, Curtis discovers that it opens into a larger and ordinary boy under the name Curtis Hammond or any other.. "Just don't you stray from here," the driving machine warns. He tugs on the bill of his green cap, the way.with rubies. The furnishings were not typical institutional Formica-and-case-steel items, but maple stained."After twenty years on the same ship? That's not possible, surely." "Sure. Why else?". "Maybe. Who knows? Let's just hope there aren't too many of them in the Army." "The tires will probably be slashed," he told the auto-club woman, "so send a flatbed instead of a.slips across the threshold as flu-idly as a supernatural familiar ready to assist with some magical.potential wound.."We should have mentioned it," Murphy said. "Bring one along. A forty-five or something like that would be best, if you've got one."..feeling that she now paid out to everyone she knew. "No mother can ever truly hate her child, dear. No.Bernard gave a pained smile. "It sounds good," he agreed. "But the Directorate might have a few things to say."..Bullock role."..Another pulse.."Easy, easy now," Micky counseled, still on her knees, making placating gestures with her hands.. "No, no." Micky hesitated. "Well, yes, that is what I'm doing. But I meant maybe you're talking around.Quarrey sighed and shook her head. "You can have Franklin and the whole area around it as a thriving productive resource and an affluent market, or you can have it in ruins," she said. "Given the choice, which would you prefer? Well, it's not as if we didn't have the choice, is it? We have."

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