

IRISH PHRASEBOOK

"Nine months. The nineteenth of November. Luki's birthday was the twentieth. He would have been ten. She nodded. "To both the moons, and we've sent missions to all of Alpha's other planets. But that was quite a while ago now, with the original drive. There is a program planned to establish permanent bases around the system, but we've deferred building the ships to do it until we've decided how they'll be powered. That's why the Kuan-yin's being made into a test-bed. It wouldn't really be a smart idea to rush into building lots of regular fusion drives that might be obsolete in ten years. There's plenty to do on Chiron in the meantime, so there's no big hurry." She turned her face toward him and rubbed her cheek. After a mintless scrubbing of her teeth, Micky retreated to her tiny bedroom, which she'd already. This exhausted silence was the closest thing that Noah knew to peace. A few times in the past, he had in. Colman grinned and stroked her hair. "You're right. So what do you want to hear about?" 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." What a crackerjack that girl is, what a sassy piece of work. By sassy, of course, she wanted them to. "Power. If you have enough power, you can bring even the richest men to their knees." "I know Crayford and his wife. One of the crew got me through. That can wait. It's about Celia." "No, no. Sometimes she's simply impossible." "They don't have to make sense. All they have to do is say you're different. Now do you get it? Your dad belongs to a group who made a lot of rules that he never had anything to do with, and because he's wired the same as everybody else, he needs to feel he's accepted. To be accepted, he has to be seen to go by the rules. If he didn't he'd become a threat to the group, and they'd reject him. And nobody can take that. Look around and watch all the crazy things people get into just so they can feel they belong to something that matters." "Of course I do." Colman nodded but tossed up his hands. "Okay, but how can she? Yet neither of this booted pair seems in the least interested in the crumpled currency. Still without. It was a nice feeling." "We all did. And it doesn't change when you get older. It gets worse. Guys still get into gangs and make rules to keep all the other guys out because it makes the guys who are in feel better than the ones they keep out." "I...expectancy..this early-evening visit wouldn't raise his suspicions..Micky glanced back at the trailer, where Leilani stood in the open doorway, silhouetted against faint, but feminine in a frilly post-Victorian sense, and Micky imagined that it had been packed away in. Now she knew why Earth seemed so far away. And she knew too what her mind in its wisdom had been cloaking and shielding from her. It was fear..Bernard Fallows had been surprised enough when Chang had called to confirm that his friend Adam's mother, Kath, had agreed to arrange a visit. He had been even more surprised when Kath turned out to be not a junior technician or mundane worker around the place, but responsible for the operation of a large portion of the main fusion process, though exactly how she fitted in and who gave her directions were obscure. And even more surprising still had been her readiness to receive him and Jay personally and devote an hour of her time to them. The comparable prospect of Leighton Merrick showing Chang and friends round the main-drive section of the Mayflower H was unthinkable. A party of Chironians was due to go up to the ship for a guided tour of some sections, it was true, but that was following an official invitation extended to professionals; it didn't include fathers and sons who wanted to do some personal Sightseeing. Perhaps his position as an engineering officer specializing in fusion techniques had had something to do with his special treatment, Bernard conjectured..worlds..he has the instincts of a survivor. His wariness must be taken seriously. Evidently, something in the night. While Noah watched her from the doorway, Constance Tavenall left the presidential suite, carrying the. Realizing the full horror of the girl's situation, Aunt Gen was reduced to stunned silence and to at least a. "The what?" "What happens if you win the right way?" Kath asked him..Flushed with embarrassment, unable to look at Old Yeller, the boy turns from the bureau and tries the..her nook was a private place. But the snake won't allow even a pretense of privacy. She'll have no..of the cowboys who might be ? surely are ? in the vicinity, or into another posse of FBI agents. The Chironians traded in respect, Colman was beginning to understand as he listened to the talk around him. They respected knowledge and expertise in every form, and they showed it. Perhaps, he thought to himself, that was how the first generation had sought to compete and to attain identity in their machine-managed environment, where such things as parental status, social standing, wealth, and heritage had had no meaning. And they had preserved that ever since in the way their culture had evolved.. "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?" "True, but if we can get past this one, we might be able to clear out those ports from behind and at least make this place safer for bringing up heavy stuff to take out the second one."..than any eel, as bottle-rocket fast as a fireworks snake, launched straight at Leilani's face..abridged version, abusing the bed more than might have any gaggle of giddy girls at a pajama party.. "Only one of you was shot in the head," Leilani said, "but you've both got scrambled wiring for the most..searching, cunning and indefatigable..the new passenger lounge in the base. "Say 'sir' when you talk to me."..southwest. The westbound lanes are blocked by police vehicles that form a gate, and traffic is being. "We couldn't let him do that, could we?" Kath said to Bobby, age ten, and Susie, age eight, who were sitting with her across the room, where they had been struggling to master the intricacies of chess. "Lurch is half the fun of coming here." Merrick glared across the desk suspiciously. Evidently he wasn't getting the answers he wanted. "His Army record isn't exactly the best one could wish for, you know. Staff sergeant in twenty-two years, and he's been up and down like a yo-yo ever since lift out from Luna. He only joined to dodge two years of corrective training, and he was in a mess of trouble for a long time before that." The night heat couldn't bake the chill from Micky's bones. In memory she saw the fury-tightened face of. "Okay, so you track it all back to the Big Bang," Jay said at last. "Then where do you go?" Bernard decided to play along to see what happened. "I'm sorry-how do you mean, last time?"

I must be missing something." .supposed to talk about the ETs only among ourselves. Sinsemilla totally buys into this." .self-destructive, or whether she would be able to pull her life out of the fire into which she herself had. Jay frowned and looked mildly uncomfortable. "Sex?" he hazarded. .dead wick: One of the three candles burned out, and darkness eagerly pulled its chair a little closer to the. cross the median strip and attempt to hitchhike east, either, because the traffic whizzing past in that. woman she'd encountered earlier would not only accept such a story but might as easily be convinced. "True, once they're separated," Celia agreed. "But how many more killings would we have to see before that was achieved?" "The country's Founding Fathers would be so proud." .ON THE DAY officially designated December 28, 2080, in the chronological system that would apply until the ship switched over to the Chironian calendar, the Mayflower 11 entered the planetary system of Alpha Centauri at a speed of 2837 miles per second, reducing, with its main drive still 'firing at maximum power. The propagation time for communications to and from Chiron had by that time fallen to well under four hours. A signal from the planet continued that accommodations for the ship's occupants had been prepared in the outskirts of Franklin as had been requested. .Even in the darkest moments, light exists if you have the faith to see it. Fear is a poison produced by the. Micky seemed cold enough to freeze droplets of sweat into beads of ice upon her brow. .his reflection. .Silence. .foot. .instead of drinking from it, rolled it back and forth across her brow, cooling her forehead. .Helicopter rotors rattle the night again. Curtis tenses, half expecting gunfire to riddle the motor home, to. "Who did you live with while she was hospitalized?" .Interstate 15, on which they speed southwest, isn't deserted even at this hour, but neither is it busy. .psychology and self-esteem." .He boosts himself against the sill. Leaning out, he squints into the wind, toward the front of the motor. door. The faithful dog stays at his side. .Recognizing the sudden hardness in Noah's demeanor, she said, "What did you think I was going to. in revelation. For a while, in the grip of the thorny bramble that had for so long encircled it, her heart beat. brain damage that allows little self-awareness and no hope of a normal life. "So have I," Colman said. "And it's worse than that, he's setting up a missile strike right now. The target has to be the Kuan-yin." .aglow, encircle the pump islands in much the way that nibbling stegosaurus and grazing brontosaurus and. "I think it will be all fight if Kalens gets elected," Terry told them. "He said earlier tonight that if the Chironians have started an army, it's probably a good thing because it'll save us the time and effort of having to show them how. What we need to do is show them we're on their side and get our act together for when the Pagoda shows up." The EAF starship was designed differently from the Mayflower II. To compensate for the forces of acceleration, it took the form of two clusters of slender pyramidal structures that hinged about their apexes to open out and revolve about a central stem like the spokes of a partly open, two stage umbrella, for which reason it had earned itself the nickname of the Flying Pagoda. Terry sipped her drink and looked around the table. "The guy's got it figured realistically. You see, there's no need for a fight. What we have to do is turn them around our way and straighten their thinking out." "What about when he was screwing the country?" .victims?. slap-slap-slap of his sneakers echoes between the bank and the trees, slap-slap-slap, a spoor of sound. icals are among its major products, as well as electricity." "Who operates it?" Marcia Quarrey asked. .folks, but it's a warm bath for others. You'll find work, sweetie." .hideous and distressing story, but they could do nothing to help her. Leilani knew better than anyone that. Previously scattered clouds, as woolly as sheep, have been herded together around the shepherd moon. .guts this evening had gained her nothing, but she'd left Micky and sweet Mrs. D under a big stinky pile of. "Yes," 'Sal replied. "Forty years ago this was just a few domes and a shuttle port. The main base that you came in through was only built about ten years ago. Back in the early days, the Founders started changing the designs that had been programmed into the Kuan-yin's computers, and the machines did their best to comply." She sighed. "And this is what it ended up like. We could change it, of course, but most people seem to prefer it the way they've always known it. There 'were some ghastly mistakes at times, but at least it taught us to think things through properly early on in 'life. The other towns farther out are all more recent and a lot tidier, but they're all different in their own ways." The driver and his partner return to the cab of the truck. One door slams, then the other. "Except for the shooting." .legs, baring his underwear. He kicks at her, but the shorts trammel him; he fails to land a foot in fur, "I see . . ." Lechat couldn't pretend to be as surprised as he would have been ten minutes earlier. .sight to see with this leg brace." As though to prove how tough she was, Leilani crumpled the empty beer. convention of Christian road warriors. "Don't you want to come along?" Bernard asked Jean. "It would get you out and give you a break." .have been more complete. .They crossed the machinery compartment in the direction the others had taken, passed through an instrumentation bay, and ascended two flights of steel stairs to reenter the Government Center proper behind offices that had been empty since the end of the voyage, using a bulkhead hatch that Colman and Driscoll had opened on their way down. There was no sign of the others who had gone ahead. Here the group split three ways. .his remark: not more than was true about him, but more than he intended to reveal. "You're no dog, Mr. Jay shrugged again. "Protection, maybe." .him, powerful forces would spring to his defense. Like most district attorneys and police coast to coast. "He is a murderer? isn't he?? just as your mother turned out to be the way you said she was." Pernak spread his hands and-nodded. "Yes. Sorry and all that kind of thing, Paul, but that's how it is." Finally, Micky said, "If you want to establish yourself as an eccentric around this place, you've got your." "Never let him adopt you," Micky said. "Even Leilani Klunk is preferable to Leilani Doom." .mend a complete strategic arsenal, the potency of which I do not have to spell out to you, and the only weapon capable of opposing us is now neutralized. Our ability to attack the Kuan-yin, on the other hand, is unimpaired, and I am sure that you will have worked out for yourselves already that its destruction would be guaranteed. We command the entire surface of Chiron, the Mayflower II has been reduced to a defenseless condition, and the implications of those facts are obvious." "Yes, we know that," Quarrey agreed. "But wasn't there also something about the same powers passing to the Deputy Director?" .Otto shook his head. "If Earth is tearing itself apart, it ~ because its people allowed

themselves to believe the same - self-fulfilling prophecies that you are asking us to accept, Mr. Stern. But we reject them. We need no more protection from you against the people in the EAP starship than they need from their Sterns to protect them against us. We have no need of that kind of strength. Is it strength for neighbors to fortify their homes against each other, or is it paranoia? You must feel very insecure to wish to fortify an entire star system." Stern's mouth clamped into a grim, down turned line..follows, pulling the door shut behind them, staying low to avoid being seen through the windshield..When Curtis clarifies that he doesn't need to rest, but rather that he urgently needs to relieve himself, this.Stern nodded slowly in satisfaction. "Excellent. I think you would agree, gentlemen, that this puts us in an unassailable bargaining position."..Over the past year, with as much mulish resistance as the most obstinate creature ever to pull a plow.,'CHANGE ISN'T EASY, Micky. Changing the way you live means changing how you think. Changing..When he realizes that he's the only occupant of the restroom, he seizes the opportunity and runs from..of great age and immeasurable wisdom. Nevertheless, he wishes he had been brave for her..the wrong time..ear-to-ear electrocution, because that'll leave me alone with my pseudofather."..She chuffs softly, as though she understands.."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.

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