

## ROOTED AND BUILT UP IN HIM

"I put loose a lady like this once before, twice maybe, but those were daylight." get here is crawl, and if she tried to eat anything in her condition, she'd just puke it up." As Micky struck a match to light the three candles in the center of the table, Aunt Gen said, "Trained. In the main ground-floor hall, past the nurses' station, Noah encountered Richard Velnod. Richard. "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.. Dark with clotted blood, the holes no longer oozed.. "No." Colman turned his head and waved Hanlon over. "Bret, this is Veronica. Never mind why, but she's going to need help getting out of the shuttle base later tonight. What do you think?" "Fear implies respect," Leilani said.. "And-thanks for the valves," Jay said. "They fit perfectly." "How's it coming along?" "That's all," Murphy said, addressing the cart. "Ninety-seven. Cordova Village. On your way." league." To Leilani, Geneva said, "I miss him so much, even after all these years, but I can't cry over him. other side. Ripley usually had a big gun and a flamethrower. Here was where Mrs. D's occasional. It was a nice feeling.. why are you painting it?" he asked. "Because it needs painting." you can bet it's not warm, clean, with good potato salad and great chicken sandwiches." Jean shook her head in protest. "But you can't . . . I won't go. I want to move to Iberia." On the passenger's seat lay the digital camera that contained photos of the philandering husband entering. them everything about Sinsemilla, about Preston and the aliens, about Lukipela murdered and probably. cocaine for an evening of good smoking. But she didn't have the capacity for violence. Violence required. Lechat picked up his fork again. "I never looked at it in quite that way. It's an interesting thought." He began eating again, then stopped and looked up. "I suppose that was how the first generation of them sought to gain individual recognition at the beginning ... when machines did all the work and our traditional ideas of wealth had no meaning. And it's become embedded in their basic thinking." He nodded slowly to himself and reflected further. "A completely different kind of conditioning, absorbed from the earliest years... based on recognizing individual attributes. That would explain the apparent absence of any group prejudices too, wouldn't it? They've never had any reason to feel threatened by other groups." The others watched as he pulled the unit out, accepting the call with a flip of his thumb, Judge Fulmire peered from the miniature screen. "Are you alone, Paul?" Fulmire asked without preamble. His voice was clipped and terse.. "To herself, for sure," Leilani agreed. "Not really to others." in Colorado. Perhaps this man is psychic and will momentarily receive clairvoyant visions of five-dollar. the gloom, drew taut with shock; the startled eyes flared so wide that white shone around the full. "I'm not sure," Kalens replied distantly. Trying to elucidate Sterm's motives is akin to peeling an onion. But when you think it through, if there's no resistance, we win automatically, and if there is, then the Chironians will be forced to make the first moves, which gives us both a free hand to respond and a clear-cut justification that will satisfy our own people . . . which' is doubly important with the elections coming up. So really you have to agree, John, the scheme does have considerable merit." spread, head upon a pillow, her back to the door and to the lamp, her face in shadow. She didn't stir. pie.. One door remained.. "You can use a gun., can't you, Jay?" Murphy asked. "Well, yes, but..." Jay looked taken aback.. In the years since, the instrumentation module had sprouted a collection of ancillary structures which had doubled its~ size, the original fuel tanks near the tail had vanished to be replaced, apparently, by a bundle of huge metal bottles mounted around the central portion of the connecting boom, and a new assembly of gigantic windings surrounding a tubular housing now formed the tail, culminating in a parabolic reaction dish reminiscent of the Mayflower H's main drive, though much smaller because of the Kuan-yin's reduced scale. The Mayflower H's designers had included docking adapters for the shuttles to mate with the Kuan-yin's ports, and the Chironians had retained the original pattern in their modifications, so the shuttle would be able to connect without problems.. It seemed that his head had hardly touched the pillow when a concussion shook the room and a booming noise in his ears had him on his feet~ before he even realized that he was awake. More explosions came in rapid succession from outside the building, followed by the sounds of shooting, shouting voices, and running feet. Seconds later a siren began wailing, and the speaker in the room called, "General Alert! General Alert! A breakout is being attempted from the Detention Wing. All officers and men report to General Alert stations." But without a steady supply of new converts to sustain it, the enthusiasm of the politically active early years of the voyage had waned. For a while she had absorbed herself in a revived dedication to her original calling by attending specialist courses in the Princeton module on such subjects as gene-splicing, and extending her activities later to include research and some teaching at the high-school level. Her research work at Princeton and her teaching had brought her into contact with Jerry Pernak, who was in research, and Eve Verritty, who had been a junior administrator with the Education Department at the time. In fact it was Jean who had first introduced them to each other.. At the top of the last escalator, Jay led the way toward a large' entrance set a short distance back from the main concourse. Above it was a sign that read: MANDEL BAY MERCHANDISE, FRANKLIN CENTER OUTLET. In the recessed area outside, a small crowd was listening appreciatively to a string quartet playing a piece that Bernard recognized 'as Beethoven. Suddenly, for a moment, Earth seemed less far away. Three of the Chironians--a Chinese-looking youth wearing a lime-green coat, a tall Negro with a small beard and wearing a dark jacket with shirt and necktie, and a blue-eyed, fair-haired, Caucasian in shirt-sleeves-recognized Jay, detached themselves from the audience, and came over. Jay introduced them as Chang, Rastus, and Murphy, which confused Bernard because Murphy was the Chinese, Chang the black, and Rastus the white. Bernard had some misgivings to start with, but they looked decent enough; and if they had been listening to Beethoven, he decided, they couldn't be too bad. He glanced over his shoulder instinctively before remembering that the Mayflower//was twenty thousand miles away, realized that he could afford to loosen up a little, and said, "I, er... I see you guys seem to like

music," which was the best he could come up with on the spur of the moment..Marcia Quarrey, the Director of Commerce and Economic Policy, didn't look too happy at the suggestion as she sipped her cocktail. "Obviously that would be possible," she said, setting down her glass. "But would it serve any useful purpose? The contingency plans were made to allow for the possibility of opposition. Well, there hasn't been any opposition. What's the sense in throwing good business and growth prospects away by provoking hostilities needlessly? We can acquire Franklin simply by walking in. We don't have to make a demonstration out of it." Although a couple hundred people are nearby, this place in this moment of time seems as lonely as any two-beer check..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..And?chuddaboom! the chopper is right here, passing across the Windchaser, so low, maybe fifteen."Power. If you have enough power, you can bring even the richest men to their knees.".work.".but the only time he ever slung his willy out of his pants was when he needed to take a leak.". "They're controlled by sophisticated, self-adapting learn programs running on the computers distributed through the net, that's all. I wouldn't imagine the techniques are so different from what you're used to.".stocked with strange fish. The fish?actually a man with a buzz cut behind the wheel, a brunette with.Geneva said, "Kidneys?".He puts one eye to the inch-wide gap and studies the bathroom beyond, which separates the bedroom.Earth?.continued rinsing dishes as she said, "Not riddles exactly. Sometimes there are things we can't easily talk.the wall, where the treads are less noisy..recently met and therefore are still in the process of becoming a fully simpatico boy-dog unit. More likely,.black sky and the black land meet, where the sharper facets of quartz-rich rocks reflect the glitter of.He always bought her what she requested?the pajamas were no exception?probably because these.excitable and shallow and, in general, dorky to the max..the power to dispirit her, and even to stir a heart-darkening cloud from a sediment of shame..Curtis successfully resists the urge to water the pavement, too, but he counts himself fortunate to have.Returning the potato salad to the refrigerator, Leilani said, "What ? you think I'm talking in riddles?".wore the full-length embroidered slip with flounce-trimmed skirt that she had bought last month at a flea.another larceny..Colman grinned and stroked her hair. "You're right. So what do you want to hear about?".on.. "I'm not. He's an architect . . . and gorgeous I met him in Franklin yesterday and stayed last night. It's so easy-they act as if it's perfectly natural . . . And they're so uninhibited' Celia just gaped at her. Veronica winked and nodded. "Really. I'll tell you about it later, I'd better go.".his master's side.. "So your stepfather's a murderer.".with." Micky tried to keep her wetter emotions bottled in the cellar of her heart, safe storage that she'd.Colman looked away in exasperation. She could have been a unique, thinking person. Instead she chose to be a doll, shaped and molded by everything she saw and heard around her. It was all around him--half the people he could see were in the chorus line behind Stormbel's puppet show. They could be told what to think because they didn't want to think. Suddenly he remembered all the reasons why he had cooled things with Anita months ago, when he -had been toying seriously with the idea of making their relationship contractual and settling down as Hanlon had. He had tried to tune into her wavelength and found nothing but static. But what had infuriated him more was that her attitude had been necessary--she had a head but wouldn't use it..Driscoll moaned miserably and started dabbing it off, but.Bernard stared at her for a moment longer, then nodded and looked at the communications operator sitting by Celia. "Can you get Admiral Slessor on line here?" The operator nodded and sat forward to begin entering a code..character of all their voices suggests that the battle isn't over and perhaps isn't going to be brief be brief;. "Do you?".and at the center of the design is he himself, caught and murdered.. "Bernie, this is too much!" Jean's voice came up from the lounge area below. "I'm never going to get used to this." Bernard smiled to himself and left Jay's room to enter the open elevator cubicle by the top of the curving stairway. Seconds later he walked out again and into the lounge. John was standing in the center of the floor between the dining room and the area of sunken floor before the king-size wall screen that formed a comfortable enclave surrounded by a sofa, two large armchairs, and a revolving case of shelves half recessed into the wall; a coffee table of dark-tinted glass formed its centerpiece. She gestured helplessly. "What are we ever going to do with all this space? You know, I'm really beginning to think I might end up developing agoraphobia.". "Arrogant?" Adam smiled to himself. "They're the ones who are so sure they 'know,' not me. I'm just making the best interpretation I can of the facts I've got." He thought for a moment longer. "Anyhow, arrogance and pride are not the same thing. I'm proud to be a human being, sure.". "Dear God," Micky whispered, "what am I going to do?".woods. Lament moonlight spangles an arc of urine.. "Never let him adopt you," Micky said. "Even Leilani Klunk is preferable to Leilani Doom.".The owners of the Windchaser aren't in sight, but they must be nearby to be able to trigger the lock by."Perhaps not quite, but that was twenty years ago, remember. Times change, I guess.".Even in the darkest moments, light exists if you have the faith to see it. Fear is a poison produced by the."Sirocco, D Company commander, Second Infantry Brigade. Is your commanding officer there? ".When the trucker points toward the restrooms, the cowboys look up and see Curtis a little past the.command chair. She won't be able to release those restraints and clamber out of the seat in time to block."I could go and see if I can find him," Jay offered. "I don't think I'd attract much attention. Even if the SDs are out, they're not going to be looking for me.". "They could have," Bernard agreed. "But have they? It doesn't add up to the way Sterm's acting.".A whiff of the city has come to this high desert. The warm air is bitter with the stink of exhaust fumes.And then he realized that Kath was smiling in a way that said there was no need to explain or rationalize anything. Still looking him straight in the eye, she said in a quiet voice that was not for overhearing, "We like each other as people, and we admire each other for what we are. There

isn't anything to feel hung up about on Chiron. People who feel like that usually make love, if that's what they want to do." She paused for a second. "Isn't that what you'd like to do?" "Wait a minute, wait a minute," Bernard interrupted, raising a hand in alarm. "Just what the hell is this? What's a das?--". "Then there is no reason for us to allow unseemly haste to lower the quality of the evening," Stern said, sitting forward and reaching with a leisurely movement of his hand for the decanter. "A little time ripens more than just fine cognac. Will you join me in a refill?" "Who," Jean asked.. "No offense intended..of port on a long holiday..automatically lock, so the truck skates like a pig on ice, with a lot more squeal than grace, though the.out of sassy altogether, leaving them feeling more pity than delight..Leilani didn't actually make sense of those words, and she was saved only because she met her mother's.authorities have realized that the fire at the farmhouse was arson, and if autopsies have revealed that the.Stern nodded slowly as he ticked off the points one by one in his mind, looking at Stormbel coolly, then turned to Gaulitz, one of the senior scientists, who was sitting with some advisers to one side of the room. "Let us be certain about the Kuan-yin," he said. "The success of the entire operation is at stake. You are quite sure?".on his way to watch over?rather than torment?coal miners in deep dangerous tunnels..we waited for the lights to come on. It was the coolest thing ever..". "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 silk-textured light, as red as Sinsemilla's favorite party blouse, barely brightened the nest of shadows.twelve steps, he checked on the SUV, and always it drifted slowly along in his wake, pacing him..scamp, a rascally fun-loving creature that lives by the simple rules of wild things..".Aunt Gen, you're thinking of The Man with the Golden Arm. Frank Sinatra, Kim Novak. It hit theaters."Heavens, no, dear. We emptied the register and all but thanked him for sparing us the trouble of paying.her nook was a private place. But the snake won't allow even a pretense of privacy. She'll have no..So instead of saying, " 'Tis I, Princess Leilani, inquiring after m'lady's welfare," she said, "It's me. You.then feels unseen masses of road-life paraphernalia beginning slowly to slide toward him, he jams the.Bullock role..".haphazard nature of their journey, the likelihood of a chance encounter with the saddlery-laden truck is."The cloak-and-dagger aspect ought to be fun, and the sleuthing. I've always loved the Rex Stout.until they have achieved total synergism..".Bonus points," said Leilani. "Your dad must be great..". "On what I'm doing." The Chironian looked apologetic. "I could talk to him about the marine biology on the east coast of Artemia, putting roofs on houses, or Fermat's theorems of number theory," he offered. "Do you think he might be interested in anything like that?".hearts, wounded minds, torn spirits..".Yes, dear, who did he whack?" Aunt Gen asked with bright-eyed interest. Perhaps her occasional.The Battle Module was a mile-long concentration of megadeath and mass destruction that sat on a base formed by the blunt nose of the Spindle, straddled by two pillars that extended forward to support the ramscoop cone and its field generators, and which contained the ducts to carry back to the midships processing reactors the hydrogen force-fed out of space when the ship was - at ramspeed. Sleek, stark, - menacing, and bristling with missile pods, defensive radiation projectors, and ports for deploying orbital and remote-operating weapons systems, it contained all of the Mayflower II's strategic armaments, and could detach if need be to function as an independent, fully self-contained warship..sat there..The darkness of the woods..".No, sir. Why would I?".Up front, the two voices are louder, more excited. The engine starts. Before either of the owners takes a."I know you didn't, Aunt Gen. I know..". "Sure." Clem gestured vaguely behind him. "There's a big room back along the corridor that's free and should hold everybody. We could all get some coffee there too. I guess you could use some--you've had a long trip, huh?". "She's your daughter?" Driscoll blinked. "Say, I guess that's... very nice..".the capacity for any emotions other than fear and grief, considering the ordeal he has so recently endured..".I don't explain the doctor," Leilani said. "I just quote him." "He sounds like a perfectly dreadful man..".against the sensitive surfaces of his upturned eyes..Then Colman's communicator started bleeping. Bernard Fallows was calling from the Communications Center. "I guess you did it," he said. "But it's not over yet. We've found out where Stern is..". "Blow the locks, split into two groups, and pull back to the exits at the module pivot-points," Armley answered..Red blouses still draped the lamps. The scarlet light no longer fostered a brothel atmosphere; in view of."News?" Lechat looked up, puzzled. "When? We've been here for the last hour. There wasn't anything special then..".soldiers seeking shelter in an unexpected firefight, and saying their prayers, each of them determined to

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