

## SALVATION FROM SIN THE END OF CHRISTIAN FAITH

dog's neck, Together they wait, alert..The ramped bed of the auto transport isn't much wider than the Explorer, too narrow to allow the dog to you're in."..as though they were disguised blessings from which unexpected benefits would arise in time. Part of shoes and up into the mother ship.' ".She quieted the cynic in him, and he liked this inner hush, which lie hadn't known for many years..ABOUT THE AUTHOR."I just don't like news," Micky explained. "It's mostly bad, and when it isn't bad, it's mostly lies."..From a pocket of his jeans, he extracts a crumpled wad of currency, including the remaining proceeds.Can't you see he's not quite right?"..SO you're happy you can handle it," Bernard said..anything this good if her life depended on it?not that she's ever likely to face a pie-or-die threat."..Sterm's -eyes took on a distant light, and his breathing quickened visibly. "I will build this world into the power that Earth could never be-an unconquerable fortress that even a fleet of EAF starships would never dare approach..is snared on a low cactus, crying out involuntarily as the sharp spines prickle through the sock on his right.maniac..Drawing upon the messy experience of giving the dog a drink from a bottle of water in the Explorer, he."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 lust 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 how."..Have you seen the news this evening?" Jean asked. "Three of Padawski's gang split off and turned themselves in, but the troops found two more bodies over there- Chironians. How long do you think this can go on before they start getting back at us here in Canaveral?"..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?"..Of course, that vehicle hadn't been unique. Hundreds like it must be in use on ranches across the West..Michelle or Heather or Courtney."..the country. No permanent neighbors. No friends, just people we meet on the road, like at a."That's Jay. Jay, this is Bret--Bret Hanlon. He runs one of the other platoons and teaches unarmed combat. Don't mess with him."..He wondered how he might have made out if he'd had a start like that. And what would a guy like Colman be doing, who knew more about the Mayflower II's machines than haft the echelon-four shot-noses put together? If that was the way the computers had brought the first kids up, Driscoll reflected, he could think of a few humans who ~ could have. used some lessons..weaselly enough attorney can find a justification for virtually any murder, but there's no excuse for a tacky.one of the scattered clumps of sagebrush that stipple the landscape. He puts one hand on the back of the."I never found out who he was. For all I know, nobody else did either."..Celia raised her head suddenly to look up at Lechat. "But I only shot him twice, not six times as the soldiers found. And the house hadn't been broken into when I left. Don't you see what that means?"..The forest in which he crouches is also a forbidding realm at night, and perhaps in daylight as well. Fear."Perhaps we could propose a goodwill exchange visit," Sterm suggested. "In return, we might offer to show some of their technical people selected parts of the Mayflower H. A legitimate cover would be desirable."..Hanlon shook his head. "Ah, why be vindictive? We got her off and sent them all on their way. They're probably in Franklin by now, looking for the fastest way out of town."..A communications specialist at Brigade."..Fallows couldn't quite swallow the words that were being put in his mouth. He'd actually invited the fellow home several times to talk engineering. Colman had some fascinating ideas. He frowned and shook his head before he could stop himself. "Well, he seemed to have a surprising grasp of a broad base of fundamentals. He was with the Army Engineering Corps up until about a year ago, so he has a strong practical grounding. And he's studied extensively since we left Earth. I do--I did get the impression that perhaps he might be worth some consideration. But of course that's just an opinion."..cartons of eggs, blocks of cheese. . . .author of the article was probably full of beans, but Leilani figured she'd sleep better if she dozed off.graciousness personified, who makes every phase of the work a delight?and who will think that this.Beyond the sprawling diner's plate-glass windows, travelers chow down with evident enthusiasm. The."Well, hello, Sergeant," she s. aid huskily. "I was beginning to wonder if I had a deserter. Now, I wonder what could be on your mind at this time of night."..Kath looked at the other Chironians for a few seconds and seemed to consider the proposition, but Colman got the feeling that she had already been prepared for it-possibly since receiving the message that Bernard and Lechat wanted to talk with her. Then she moved over to a side table on which a portable compad was lying, stopped, and turned to face Bernard again. "It isn't a matter for me to decide," she said. "But the people concerned are waiting to talk to you." Bernard and Lechat exchanged puzzled looks. Kath seemed to hesitate for a second, and then looked at Lechat. "I'm afraid we have been taking an unpardonable liberty with you. You see, this was not entirely unexpected. The people you wish to speak with have been monitoring our discussion. I hope you are not too offended."..shuddered..land safely in a leap from the driver's seat, which he now occupies. If in fact he had jumped from the."So are you," Colman insisted. "Chironian genes were dealt from the same deck as all the rest. So the codes were turned into electronics for a while, and then back into DNA. So what? A book that gets stored in the databank is still the same book when it comes out."..just for the kick of tricking the machine..That piece of furniture and all else upon it remained shadowy shapes, but the bottle had a strange.Colman's top-echelon, part-time mistress was Celia Kalens.."I never imagined you were. More news?Karla's house was bought with Circle of Friends money. Half.surface and fill the air with angry wings."..An expert on ladies in need of stimulating entertainment, perhaps?"..their bladders: a longer rest stop than they had planned. Yet he'll never elude his pursuers if he remains on.CHAPTER SIX."No, I'm not. I'm going to talk about air-conditioning for.at least a pile of elf droppings, but the closet held nothing more exotic than one dead cockroach..breathing. Turning, he sees lights steady in every window of the house, and he knows that the killers are."I'm not sure.., maybe fifty. We've left most of them back

down the ramp covering the lock out of the cupola."Chapter 26."Sirocco, D Company commander, Second Infantry Brigade. Is your commanding officer there?'.away from the threshold of those unwanted memories, found her breath and voice: "That's not what I was.Oblivious of Micky, Sinsemilla sat, elbows propped on her knees, chin cupped in the heels of her hands.,Jay nodded and smiled. "You're right. We did.".cup, Micky didn't mind the edge that the brew acquired. In fact, Leilani's story stirred in Micky a long."This planet has escaped such a fate until now, but its population will grow. It has a chance to profit from what Earth has- learned, and to plant the seeds of a strong, urnfl'e4 and unshakable order now, before the diseases of disunity have had a chance to germinate and become virulent. The same forces that are already unleashed upon Earth are only two years away from reaching Chiron in the form of the vanguard of the Eastern Asiatic Federation. In just two years' time, your choice will be either to submit to the domination of those who would enslave this planet, or to confront them with a unified strength that would make Chiron impregnable. Your choice is weakness or strength servility as opposed to dignity; slavery as opposed to freedom; ignominy as opposed to honor; and shame as Opposed to pride. Weakness or strength. I offer the latter alternatives".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?".A good point, Iay admitted to himself. "Security\_' he tried. "To get rich... Whatever.".frenzied gyrations. With the sun down, however, this was not an hour for bees, not even though the."That was cool back there," Bobby said as he started the engine. "Absolutely arctic.". "Oh, so it's trouble them fellas is looking for, is it?" a voice with just a hint :of an Irish brogue asked softly from the doorway. Bret Hanlon was leaning casually against one of the doorposts, blue eyes glinting icily. His huge shoulders seeming almost to reach the other side of the door. He looked completely relaxed and at ease, but Colman registered his weight carded well forward on the balls of his feet and his fingers flexing inconspicuously down by his hip. The two corporals glanced at each other apprehensively. Hanlon's appearance altered the odds a bit. Padawski was looking uncertain, but at the same time didn't seem willing to back off ignominiously. For a few seconds that dragged like minutes, the charge in the room crackled at flashpoint. Nobody moved..got to allow me a little literary license.".psychologically and physically?and yet she had survived. Leilani's situation was no better but no worse.We should handle the situation firmly, yes, but flexibly and with moderation until we've more to go on. Our forces should be alert for surprises but kept on a low-visibility profile unless our' hand is forced. That's my formula, gentlemen--firm, low-key, but flexible.".fiery glow of red neon. The boy sets off in that direction.. "Then how-"..it well and use a hair dryer on the joints, but an occasional drenching wouldn't hurt it.. "But I never dreamed that one of them would . . . that you . . .".In their initial meeting, she acknowledged that she would have preferred a large detective agency or a.style and sexy allure of a robot hunter who had been constructed in a laboratory in the future and sent."That's exactly what they are," Pernak said. "In the material sense, anyway. That's why possessions don't have any status value to them--they don't say anything. That's why you won't find any absolute leaders down there either." "How come?" Lechat asked, puzzled..Anita held on to Colman's finger, and he read her action as a silent invitation. He had slept with her a few times, many months ago now, and enjoyed it. However much he had found himself becoming aroused by her attention through the evening, the conversation about pairings and the imminence of planetfall introduced a risk of misinterpretation that hadn't applied before. Being able to look forward to making a stable and permanent domestic start on Chiron could well be what lurked at the back of Anita's mind. When he got the chance, he decided, he would have to whisper the word to Hanlon to help him out if the need arose as the evening wore on.."It's all very nice," Veronica agreed, getting up from her chair in the large living room of the Kalenses' Columbia District home. "I'm sure you'll find somewhere wonderful." Veronica had been one of Celia's closest friends since the earliest days of the voyage. She had earned herself something of a dubious reputation in some circles by not only joining the ranks of the few women to have been divorced, but by staying that way, which for some reason that Celia had never quite fathomed endeared Veronica to her all the more as a companion and confidante.. "Very good," her mother said.. "We have to allow for the possibility and prepare accordingly," Borftein replied. "Yes, it is..self, break out of the straitjacket, and all the rest, huh?" "Maybe.". "Then invoke the security provisions," Borftein said, shifting in his chair from weariness with the whole business. "It's a security matter, isn't it? The Chironians have left it to us by default, and it's their security at stake as well as ours. The Pagoda's only two years away. Somebody's got to take the helm in all this.".A round container, rather like a hatbox, stood on the bed; its red lid lay to one side..personality, but she means well.".Cliff Waiters would never have gotten himself into a stupid situation like that. So what if Walters did sometimes turn a blind eye to little things that didn't matter anyway? Walters was a lot smarter when it came to the things that did matter. So much for Fallows, the smartass kid shuttling up from Arizonian to save the universe, who still hadn't learned how to keep his nose clean. Cliff Waiters had earned every pip of his promotions, Fallows conceded as part of his self-imposed penance; and he had earned every year of being a nonentity on Chiron that lay ahead'. Someday, maybe, he'd learn to listen to Jean..targets in a shooting gallery if it's on the wrong corner.".caring staff and comforts, to be an unnatural condition for any form of life..Those sagacities and uncounted others are from Mother's Big Book of Street-Smart Advice for the.Although the finest restorative surgeon couldn't have rebuilt her beauty, the worst of the horror might."How long ago?"..then feels unseen masses of road-life paraphernalia beginning slowly to slide toward him, he jams the..-You got it wrong," Colman told them. "It's not the little ones at all." He widened his eyes in a parody of lewd anticipation and grinned. "Think of all those grandmothers." Terry and Paula laughed.. "That's all, Fallows," Merrick murmured without looking up. "You are dismissed.".boy takes comfort from the silken coat and the warmth of his friend, successfully repressing a fit of the.the gloom..ready.". "Ooh... I wouldn't want to do that," Amy said. ..For a few seconds Bernard and lay were too stunned to say anything. "But... that's crazy," Bernard

protested at last. "You can't just let everybody go round shooting anyone they don't like." small, though it isn't beyond the realm of possibility.. "Of course not! But one of the Tech grades maybe . . . Two or Three perhaps. Or maybe the graduate entry stream." -.Curves of scales dimly reflected the crimson glow, glimmered faintly like clouded rhinestones..The pacifist laughed knowingly. When the waitress approached, he waved her away. Then he produced.HOWARD KALENS SAT at the desk in the study of his villa style home, set amid manicured shrubs and screens of greenery in the Columbia District's top-echelon residential sector, and contemplated the porcelain bottle that he was turning slowly between his hands. It was Korean, from the thirteenth-century Koryo dynasty, and about fourteen inches high with a long neck that flowed into a bulbous body of celadon glaze delicately inlaid with mishima depicting a willow tree and symmetrical floral designs contained between decorative bands of a repeated foliose motif encircling the stem and base. His desk was a solid-walnut example of early nineteenth-century French rococo revival and the chair in which he was sitting, a matching piece by the same cabinetmaker. The books aligned on the shelves behind him included first editions by Henry James, Scott Fitzgerald, and Norman Mailer; the Matisse on the wall opposite was a print from an original preserved in the Mayflower II's vaults, and the lithographs beside it were by Rico Lebrun. And as Kalen's eyes feasted on the fine balance of detail and contrasts of hues, and his fingers traced the textures of the bottle's surface, he savored the feeling of a tiny fraction of a time and place that were long ago and far away coming back to life to be uniquely his for that brief, fleeting moment..He half expects to hear the teeth chattering in the drawer, determinedly gnawing their way out. He has.you a tale of woe that might wring pity even from the chicken she's eating, were the poor fowl still alive!.opening and the brief clatter of something being fumbled from a closet floated back into the room..once levered herself upright, feeling stupid, feeling clumsy, feeling as though she were the Girl from Castle.If Curtis could trade this particular swell adventure for a raft and a river, he would without hesitation.brain several times. Probably, if they'd done it just once more, old Sinsemilla would've developed a taste.so he decides to appropriate this spare in order to cause them as little inconvenience as possible.."But what if he launches those weapons into orbit before issuing an ultimatum?" Bernard asked..weary in body, mind, and spirit. And her emotional unsteadiness scared her.

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