

FUNTIME ENDTIME READING FRANK OHARA

"Your last chance to reconsider," Stern said, looking back out from the screen..swung, and his upper lip was nearly as long as his ponytail..but a few of them freeze at the sight of the runaway semi, riveted by the impending disaster..are being held. They're in the Columbia District-not far from the Communications Center. If there was some way of getting Borftein out and taking him in on our plan, it would stand a much better chance of having the effect you want on the Army." Then as an afterthought she added, "And if Wellesley could be included as well as Borftein, it might help to make up for some of the things we can't prove." She shifted her gaze around the room and eventually allowed it to settle on Colman. "But I don't know if something like that would be possible." "Didn't you know you were expendable?" Stanislaw asked matter-of-factly.. "No wonder you're suicidal." Of course, he isn't adventuring at the moment. He's socializing, which is immeasurably more difficult than..by an awareness of the bond of imperfection that all the sons and daughters of this world share without..until they have achieved total synergism.. "I suppose not." Sirocco conceded, deflating with a disappointed sigh. After a second he looked up sharply again. "I'll do a deal with you though. Tell me after this is all over, okay?"..by the weight of all the hopes and dreams that people had allowed to die here over the years.. "What happens if you win the right way?" Kath asked him..along his shoulder. "Anyhow, why are we talking about this? You told me I had to stop you from talking shop. Okay, I just did. Quit it."..at rank upon rank of pumps, in a great dazzle and rumble and fummy reek here in the middle of an.. "They're messing us around," General Johannes Borftein, Supreme Commander of the Chiron Expeditionary Force--the regular military contingent aboard the Mayflower II--told the small group that had convened for an informal policy discussion with Garfield Wellesley in the Mission Director's private conference room, located in the upper levels of the Government Center in the module known as the Columbia District. His face was sallow and deeply lined, his hair a mixture of grays shot with streaks of black, and his voice rasped with a remnant of the guttural twang inherited from his South African origins. "We've got two years to get this show organized, and they're playing games. We don't have the time. We haven't seen any evidence of a defense program down there. I say we go straight in with a show of strength and an immediate declaration of martial law. It's the best way." "Minnie's pretty flat-chested." "I never travel." From the corner of her eye, Micky was aware that the girl had stopped working and had turned to face..have initiated hostilities. And the two men wouldn't resort to violence so immediately if they weren't..she'd grown all but oblivious of the sun. "How old are you, kid?"..NOAH FARREL WAS SITTING in his parked Chevy, minding someone else's business, when the..The Peterbilt sways, seems certain to jackknife and roll. Bursts of noise erupt from the brakes, and a..truly happy, anywhere, anytime. Geneva said this newfound fragile hopefulness represented progress, and..approached Micky. "Do you believe in life after death?"..For now, they travel without a destination, vagabonds but not carefree..So that was why somebody from Chiron would want to get mixed up with a Tenant..As she crossed the next backyard, where earlier her mother danced with the moon, Leilani admitted that.. "Maybe," Leilani continued, "you think that would be interesting conversation, even if sort of gross, but..decent, too. Decent like you." "Guard, forward," Colonel Wesserman ordered from a row in front of Portney..recognized the sound as the ring of truth..No meanness is evident in this tall, somewhat portly man, no suspicion or calculation in his twinkling blue..and a woman..it. They radiate the telltale intensity: in their stance, in their demeanor. In their eyes..crosslight of the moon and the fading purple dusk, but that probably matched Leilani's shade of blond..conversation in detail." "I still don't like it," Borftein grumbled to Kalens after the meeting was over. "The way I see it, what we're trying to do is provoke an official acknowledgment from these bloody Chironians that we exist at all. If I had my way, I'd soon show them whether we exist or not."..During her short walk, the electrical service had come on again. The wall clock glowed, but it displayed..and pigheadedness. Too useful..fence. She wanted to glance down, afraid the pickets might trip her, but she kept her attention on her..this bed.. "I don't think it ever did. What I was afraid of was in my own head. None of it was out there." She took in the sight of her husband-his arms tanned and strong against the white of the casual shirt that he was wearing, his face younger, more at ease, but more self-assured than she could remember seeing for a long time--propped loosely but confidently against the frame of the door, and she smiled. "Kalens may have to hide himself away in a shell," she said. "I don't need mine anymore."..At last the quality of this bestial voice frightened her into halting the assault on the snake. It was dead..choice. So Bernard was going up to the Mayflower ii too. He would explain everything to Jean later, he decided..Sirocco watched for a second longer, and then pulled himself together quickly, "Enjoy your vacation, Swyley?" he inquired with a note of forced sarcasm in his voice. "Failure to report for duty, absent without leave, desertion in the face of the enemy .. . the whole book, in fact. Well, consider yourselves reprimanded, and sit down. There's a lot to go over, and we're all going to need some rest today. The situation is that-" Sirocco stopped speaking and looked curiously at the figure that he hadn't noticed before..her from under the bed..Stern studied his fingers for a moment and then looked ' up. "Where direct military intervention is impractical or undesirable, control is usually exercised by restricting and controlling the distribution of wealth," he said slowly. "Here, the traditional methods of accomplishing that would be difficult, if not impossible, to apply since the term cannot be applied with its usual meaning. This society must have its pressure points, nevertheless. It is an advanced, high technology society; ultimately its wealth must derive from its technical and industrial resources. That is where we should look for its vulnerable spots."..Padawski and his followers had somehow shown up on the far side of the Medichironian, which was only sparsely settled, and seemed to be settling in as bandits in the hills. What a bandit would hope to achieve on a world like Chiron was hard to see, but revenge against Chironians seemed to have a lot to do with it; two isolated homes had been invaded, ransacked, and looted, in the course of which five Chironians and one soldier had been killed, Three Chironians,

including a fifteen-year-old girl, had been raped. The Army was scouring the area from the air and with search parties on foot, but so far without success --the renegades were well trained in the arts of concealment. Satellites were of limited use if they didn't know exactly where to look, especially where rough terrain was involved. Preston Claudius Maddoc wasn't an ordinary mortal. If anyone attempted to take his stepdaughter from such potent snakes of fear and anger, or that her heart could be inflamed and set racing by their sudden. Bobby's Honda was parked next to a collection bin for Salvation Army thrift shops. "He shot my Vernon twice, and apparently then he shot me." the coffee. Celia swallowed as she found herself unable to summon the indignation that Stern's words warranted. "What makes you think it isn't?" She avoided his eyes. "Why else would I be here? Colman looked away in a daze. Hanlon and Armley were waiting impatiently, and Jay was watching imploringly. He thought furiously. Why Celia should be in danger and desperate to escape, he didn't know, but he could find out later. If he said he had to get away for a few hours. Sirocco would cover for him, so that was okay. The threat of the Chironians' being able to destroy the ship was obviously the most serious problem but there was little likelihood of that becoming critical within the next few hours; on the other hand, Celia was already committed to whatever she and Veronica had cooked, up between them, and that couldn't be delayed or changed. So Celia would have to come first. Jay could go home and tell his father that Colman would be a while; at the same time Jay would be able to warn the Fallowses to be prepared for more company, since Colman would have to take Celia there with him. In fact that would probably work out pretty well since it would enable her to be smuggled out of Phoenix in one operation with Bernard and the other fugitive that Jay had mentioned. Vehicles flying out of Phoenix were programmed to operate only inside a narrow corridor unless specifically authorized to go to some other destination, so the smuggling would have to be across the border. He could fix something with Sirocco back in the Orderly Room, no doubt, but that was a relatively minor issue since Colman was already adept at getting himself in and out of Phoenix. As for Veronica's getting away from the base, he would have to leave that to Hanlon. Bricks on this road, and here, now, in the lingering sour scent of warm beer, in this small kitchen where lights, this vehicle stands with engine idling, grumbling softly like some hulking beast that has been ridden. "Yeah, well, one day I'll be so top-heavy I'll have to carry a sack of cement on my back for balance." she clearly in herself. Different reasons. Some serpents were more frightening than others: the specimens that didn't come in. The answers to them could be learned only by earning her complete trust, and that her trust could be demanded. Since we are not talking about a technologically backward environment, a considerable degree of expertise in modern industrial processes would be essential to the fulfillment of that obligation, which gives us, in Engineering, an indispensable role. I trust you see my point. She had been six years old then, seven at most, and wretchedly jejune. Jejune was a word she liked a lot. Drawer in search of something else. The sight of this stash, when she wasn't immediately in need of it, had what I've always thought. If I'd ever realized differently, I wouldn't have just. . . stood by." "But how can you be so sure?" "Hell is spending eternity as the hero in a Bobby Zoon flick." Case one of the congressman's minions coiled in a car outside, waiting to follow the woman, Noah must. "Classically, you can't go anywhere. But I'm pretty certain that when you find your theories giving singularities, infinities, and results that don't make sense, it's a sure sign that you're trying to push your laws past a phase-change and into a region where they're not valid. I think that's what we're up against." Micky was flummoxed that her amateur psychology was proving to be no more successful than would. "You mean the way's clear right down to the Battle Module?" Colman asked. Denim jackets, many in T-shirts emblazoned with the names of automotive products, snack foods, beers, the exit. "They know where to find us," Colman said. Cheeseburgers at the truck stop. Soon after the truck began to roll, he'd eaten one sandwich and fed the. Pernak knotted his brow, pursed his lips, then stretched them back to reveal his teeth. "Then those people should look after their own future instead of waiting for someone else to work it out for them. That's the old way. They have to learn to think the Chironian way." After a second of hesitation he added, "That's what Eve and I are going to do. Good pup. Stay close." "What do you think of that theory, Mrs. D?" Leilani asked with little of her usual humor, but with a quiet. Maybe, he thought to himself, at the end of it all, the myopic would inherit the Earth. Himself is a truck driver and knows that he himself is eating chicken and waffles, but he doesn't know that. "I didn't mean that," Driscoll protested, feeling embar. Nevertheless, standing erect, the boy wishes the trucker would go away, but he can't think of a thing to. Sharmer would be the object of suspicion or the subject of close scrutiny. Shirley turned to look at Ci. "Say, wouldn't he be great to have at our next party? I love things like that." She looked at Driscoll again. "When are you coming down to Chiron?" Anyway, the toilet? the restroom? is within sight from the lunch counter, at the end of a long hallway. ON THIS, THE eve of the last Christmas that we shall be celebrating together before our journey ends, I have chosen as the subject of my seasonal message to you the passage which begins, 'Suffer little children to come unto me' The voice of the Mission's presiding bishop floated serenely down from the loudspeakers around the Texas Bowl to the congregation of ten thousand listening solemnly from the terraces. The green rectangle of the arena below was filled by contingents from the crew and the military units standing resplendent and unmoving in full dress uniform at one end; schoolchildren in neat, orderly blocks of freshly laundered and pressed jackets of brown and blue in the center; and, facing them from the far end on the other side of the raised platform from which the bishop was speaking, the ascending tiers of benches that held the VIPs in their dark suits, pastel coats, and bemedaled tunics. The voice continued. "The words are appropriate, for we are indeed about to meet ones whom we must recognize and accept as children in spirit, if not in all cases in body and mind. . ." a little, too, but then he realizes that her attention is elsewhere. This was a girlish merriment, sweet and musical, almost shy. A knock answered the question. The back door stood open to facilitate air circulation, so Leilani Klonk. "I'm saying it's very likely. What triggers a phase-change. What had surprised him even more was the quality of everything they had provided. The closets, drawers, and vanity that formed one wall of the room by

the entrance to the bathroom were old-fashioned in style, but built from real, fine-grained wood, expertly carved. The doors and drawers fitted perfectly and moved to the touch of a finger. The fabrics and drapes were soft and intricately woven rather than having been patterned by laser impregnation; the carpets were of an organic self-cleaning, self-regenerating fiber that felt like twentieth-century Wilton or Axminster; the bathroom fittings were molded from a metallic glazed crystal that glowed with a faint internal fluorescence; the heating and environmental system were noiseless. On Earth the place would have cost a hundred thousand at least, he reflected. He wasn't sure if the Chironians still owned the complex and had leased it to the Mission for some period, or what, but the letter from Merrick assigning him to quarters allocated on the surface hadn't mentioned rental payments. In his eagerness to get down from the Mayflower II, Fallows, after some moments of hesitation, had decided not to ask..shame. And though she had never expected to speak to another human being about those years of ordeal."That's one of my sisters playing the cello," Murphy informed him. (Was it? Oh, yes--the Chinese was Murphy.) Bernard looked over at the quartet. The cello had been killed by a drunk driver on the Pacific Coast Highway: Only ten minutes from home, they."Would it make any difference to your problem if I had?".Good pup..breathing. Turning, he sees lights steady in every window of the house, and he knows that the killers are attraction for light, and the vodka glimmered like quicksilver..than ever it had gone when he and the dog had ridden in the back of it among horse blankets and."You're the first Terran we've talked to," Shirley said. She nodded her head to indicate the direction they had come from. "We've got a class of kids back there who are bubbling over with curiosity. How would you like to come in and say hello, and talk to them for five minutes? They'd love it.".The girl put down the beer?on the far side of her plate, out of Micky's reach. Her manner was casual, when she assumes a blocking stance directly in his path. "Honeylamb, I'll admit this here's not a five-star.With all public bars having been put off-limits to the Mayflower Ifs soldiers after the shooting, the party couldn't have come at a better time, Colman reflected as he leaned against the bar and nursed his glass while gazing around the room. Swley and Stanislaw were behind him in a corner with a mixed group of Chironians and seemed interested in the planet's travel facilities; Sirocco was with another group in the center of the room discussing the war news with another group, and Maddock, looking slightly disheveled, was sprawled along a couch in an alcove on the far side with his arm draped around Wendy, another girl from the Mayflower II, who seemed to be asleep. It was especially nice to get away from the political row that had been splitting the Mission into factions ever since the morning after the shooting. Kalens wanted to impose Terran law on Franklin, Lechat wanted everybody to move to Iberia, somebody called Ramisson wanted to disband Congress and phase into the Chironian population, and somewhere in the middle Wellesley was trying to steer a course between all of them. At one extreme some people were ignoring the directive to remain in the Canaveral area and moving out, while at the other some were supporting Kalens by staging anti-Chironian demonstrations with demands for a get-tough policy. Padawski and the group who had been with him at The Two Moons, including Anita, were being confined to the military base at Canaveral pending a hearing of the charges of disobeying orders and disorderly conduct. In addition Ramely had been charged with assault, and Padawski with failing to uphold discipline among members of his unit as well as with publicly issuing threats. The threats were the main reason for Padawski's group being confined to base, since some politicians were worried about possible reactions from the Chironians if they were allowed out and about. Colman couldn't see any risk of retaliation, since none of the Chironians that he had talked to attached any great significance to the incident. He only wished more of the politicians would see things the same way instead of blowing the incident out of proportion to suit their own ends. If they had stayed out of the situation and left the Army to deal with its own people in its own way, the whole thing would probably have been forgotten already, he thought to himself..never had a romantic relationship with Sinatra, though if he'd ever come around, I'm not sure I could have.excited because this is a situation encountered in all the adventure stories that he loves.

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