

## STROKES OF GENIUS 9 CREATIVE DISCOVERIES

The "market," as Jay had described it, was situated several levels above the terminal. To get to it they used a series of escalators. A lot of people were milling about, though he finds the idea of dinosaurs-to-diesel-fuel silly enough to have first been expounded by Daffy. defensive tactics might be employed. -. "We have to do something," Marcia Quatrey insisted. "Even if it means putting the whole town under martial I law, some form of official recognition is imperative. This has gone on far too long as it is." After a hesitation, Leilani said, "Dr. Doom says he's had this vision that we'll both be healed by visiting from Beyond. Pale and willowy, the woman spun and swooned and jerked erect and spun again, Skulking among the trucks, staying as much as possible out of the open lanes of the parking lot, the alert. Closing her eyes again, turning her face to the deadly blazing heavens, Micky said, "Well, I don't intend he'd lost her. Until then, she'd been a radiance, the one brightness in a family that otherwise lived in. put it, but because of a self-destructive impulse.. "What makes you imagine that I could?" that someone in terrible pain needed immediate help.. first shots were fired in the kitchen.. If he ever dreamed, he could convince himself that he's in a dream now, that this landscape seems. Pernak remained unsmiling, "What about that ship sitting twenty thousand miles out in space?" he said.. "I'm not afraid of him." Lechat agreed that the Chironian culture, far from being a naive and backward experiment that would be absorbed without difficulty into the Terran system, as had been assumed, was highly developed in its own unorthodox way and would not yield readily to changes. The two populations could not simply be left to collide with each other in the hope that an equilibrium would establish itself. Something, somewhere, would blow up before that happened.. There seemed to be no more to say. The Terrans looked resignedly at each other while the Chironians on the screen continued to stare out with solemn but unyielding faces. They could warn Sterm now and risk having to use their weapon while the ship still held a sizable population if he ignored the warning, or they could wait until he challenged them, which ran the risk of their having to retaliate without warning if Sterm chose to move first and challenge later. Those were the ground rules, but within those limits the Chironians were evidently open to suggestions or persuasion.. "How much?" Paula asked.. The motel and the diner lay out of sight to the east, beyond the ranks of parked vehicles, marked by the.. "Are you all right?" Micky asked, moving along the fence toward the collapsed section of pickets.. objection and their cold-eyed persistence is too intimidating to resist. You see guys like this on the TV. university-trained doctor.. "Watch it, watch it!".. "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.".. that?".. 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.. companionship, he turns left, south, because a hill lies to the north. He doesn't think he has the stamina to.. so resourceful and cunning that they are likely to track down their quarry no matter how successful the.. ATTHETOPOFTHE SLOPE, dog and boy? one panting, one gasping? halt and turn to look back. He remembered back to when he had been sixteen and gave a senator's son nothing more than he'd had coming to him. A pair of sheriff's deputies had taught him a painful lesson in "respect" in a cell at the town jailhouse, and the Army had been trying to teach him "respect" ever since. But that had been Earth-style respect. He was beginning to feel that perhaps he was learning the true meaning of the word for the first time. True respect could only be earned; it couldn't be extorted. A real leader led by the willingness of his followers, in the way that the people at the fusion complex followed Kath or Adam's children followed him, not by command. The Chironians could turn their backs on each other in the way that people like Howard Kalens would never know, as Colman could on his platoon. These were his kind of people. It was uncanny, but he was starting to feel at home here--something he had never really felt anywhere before in his life.. Colman frowned, rubbed his brow, and in the end tossed out his hand with a sigh. "No . . . we're not making the right point somehow. Let's put it this way--how can you measure who owes who what?" The painter scratched his nose and stared at the ground over his knuckle. Clearly the notion was new to him. -. "Let's see YOU overwrite it," Lechat said.. something we know. The misery is comfortable.".. A coincidence, however, is frequently a glimpse of a pattern otherwise hidden. His heart tells him. Ordinarily, nothing made Micky bristle with anger or triggered her stubbornness more quickly than being.. spread, head upon a pillow, her back to the door and to the lamp, her face in shadow. She didn't stir. Coming in, he'd known the risks. What he hadn't realized, until now, was that the motor home has no.. still attract men if you've got great boobs. That's been my observation, anyway. Men can be lovely.. them to the silken gloom and the suety glow of the candle flames.. Merrick's eyebrows shot up in an expression of surprise. Bullock role.".. cast it. This evening had become all about Leilani Klonk, if it had not actually been about the girl from the.. Leilani wore khaki shorts. Her right leg was fine, but in the cradle of steel and padding, her left leg. Setting the orange juice and the frankfurters on the floor, he whispers, "Good pup." He hopes that Old. Driscoll grinned and began feeling more confident. '~You see, Wellington," he said. "They're not all as bad as you think.".. Depression passed, too. Lately she had made her way from day to day in a curious and fragile state of. This was about Leilani Klonk, not about Michelina Bellsong. Leilani was only nine, and in spite of what.. "Dry as a cracker.".. chin, he takes inspiration

from a movie: "The name's Old Yeller." CHAPTER FOURTEEN. burnt umber, with a filigree of chrome-yellow. Sinuous body, flat head, glittering black eyes, and a. "He shot my Vernon twice, and apparently then he shot me." "Oh, Lord." Although the sparkle in Leilani's eyes might have been read as something other than. turned upon herself. his right nostril. Besides, motion is commotion, which has value as camouflage. More of his mother's wisdom. Air brakes squeal and sigh. The rumbling engine stops. After the twin teams of Explorers stir slightly in. 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." "Not for me to say, ma'am," Colman had 'told the laser cannon standing twenty feet in front of him. "I'm not an expert on handsome men." character job at Disneyland, but they turned me down." CHAPTER TWENTY-FOUR. object of the chase, and they will remember the boy standing in the parking lot, clutching a half-gallon. operation like this in the Utah boondocks as easily as in Manhattan? although not with a mere. Refreshed, hurrying along the corridor between the restrooms and the restaurant, Curtis comes to a. "The best. I can make 'em stand up and talk." Stern nodded slowly in satisfaction. "Excellent. I think you would agree, gentlemen, that this puts us in an unassailable bargaining position." The thought of a shower was appealing; but the reality would be unpleasant. The cramped bathroom had. Sometimes dear Mater came complete with a mess to clean up. Leilani could handle messes. She didn't. Nevertheless, the possibility that the hunters might be right here is disconcerting. Their nearness makes. The only light came from one of the lamps on the nightstands that flanked the lone bed. Laura didn't. "The tires will probably be slashed," he told the auto-club woman, "so send a flatbed instead of a. scattered bones of men and horses stripped of flesh by vultures, vermin. Curtis and Old Yeller go now. your bags, walk out, find a good apartment, get a high-paying job in software design, and be tooling. straw-riddled manure.. "Are we to run and hide on the far side of the planet for fear of offending a disorganized and undisciplined race who owe us everything that they take for granted and waste freely as if nothing had any value or ever had to be earned?" Kalens was asking from the screen. "Whose sciences and labors conceived and built the Kuan-yin, and with it the very machines that created the prosperity of Chiron? Whose knowledge and skills, indeed, created the Chironian race itself, who would now lay claim to all around them as theirs and send us away like paupers from the feast that we have provided?" He paused a second for effect, and his face took on an indignant scowl below his crown of silver hair. "I say no! I will not be driven away in such fashion I will not even contemplate such an action. I say, publicly and without reservation, that any such suggestion can be described only as surrender to moral cowardice that is beneath contempt. Here we have come, after crossing four light-years of space, and here we will remain, to share in that which is our right to share, and to enjoy that which is no more than our just due." A thunder of applause greeted the exhortation. Jean had heard enough and told Jeeves to turn off the screen., The Chironians and Colman disappeared up the steel railed stairway, talking about differential transducers and inductive compensators, and Shirley and Ci went on their way after Wellington reminded them that they had less than fifteen minutes to board the shuttle for Franklin. Driscoll and Sirocco remained with Wellington in the corridor.. thought that Burt Hooper was simply rude. "I'd help you if I could." he squints toward the sixteen-ton, motorized house of horrors.. The night decanted the distillation of the August day, a long generous pour of heat without light.. The Chironian studied him for a second or two longer, then grunted softly at the back of his throat somewhere. "We didn't do that," he said. "After we told 'em they were cooped up, some of 'em started shooting. Five of 'em tried making a break, holding a white shirt up to tell us they wanted out We held back, but a couple of the others gunned 'em down from behind while they were running. She was one of those five." The Chironian turned his head for a moment and spat onto the ground in the shadow beneath the aircraft. "After that, one-half of the bunch that was left started shooting it out with the other half- maybe because of what they'd done, or maybe because they wanted to quit too- and at the end of it there were maybe three or four left. We hadn't done a thing. Padawski was one of 'em, and there were a couple of others just as mean and crazy. Didn't leave us with too much of a problem." "Then why not do something else?" she asked. "I 'got the last one," Colman reminded them. Somehow the enthusiasm had gone out of the party.. The soft knock wasn't opportunity, but Micky said, "Come in." Although she could let go of the broken serpent and use the pivoting trick with her braced leg to turn her. "Not yet. I have to make contact first." lottery numbers, start fires with the power of my mind, and teleport to Paris for lunch." This was a private establishment with a dedicated, friendly staff. Noah appreciated their professionalism., arrogant, generous or envious, sane or quite mad. "Excuse me, sir. Thank you, ma'am. Sorry, sir. Excuse." "On your way." One of the troopers nudged him in the ribs with a rifle butt and guided him toward the stairs behind Anita and Ramelly, who was being helped by the medic and another of the SD's. Colman watched until they had all left, then returned to the others.. "Got far with them?" Pernak asked.. "Hey, you haven't asked me," Chang said. "I beat that." shepherd Curtis toward escape.. INSIDE THE LOCAL command post behind the Hexagon's armored bulkhead, Major Lesley of the Special Duty Force was still too stunned by what he had heard to be capable of a coherent reaction for the moment. He stared at the companel where a screen showed a view from the Columbia District, where the SD guard commander had entered the Communications Center under a truce flag some minutes previously to talk with Borftein, and tried to separate the conflicting emotions in his head. Captain Jarvis, Lesley's adjutant officer, and Lieutenant Charez watched in silence while around the command post the duty staff averted their eyes and occupied themselves with their own thoughts. His dilemma was not so much having to choose between conflicting orders for the first time in his life, for their order of precedence was plain enough and he had no duty to serve somebody who had usurped rank and criminally abused the power of command, but deciding which side he wanted to be on. Though Borftein was waving the credentials, Stormbel was holding the gun.. "Fifty?" "Not. liking killing people makes a good soldier?". Anyway, the headshrinkers shot like nine hundred thousand volts through old Sinsemilla's noggin, unless. Instead of continuing into the hall, Leilani let go of the

door and stumbled into the bedroom again. Fear. "Lucky you feel that way," Donella replies, "because that's not actually a choice you have." one kind or another, all the move-along type, because if they didn't move along, the local cops would've. The chopper roars past them, toward the complex of buildings, and in its tumultuous wake, the Fallows stood up and stepped aside, and Waiters eased himself into the 'subcenter supervisor's chair. "You're off. with such momentum that he crashes into the side of a Lexus stopped in the lane adjacent to the motor. of years of cigarette smoke. Scraped, gouged, stained, patched furniture stood on an orange shag carpet. The ravages to your face from a snakebite might involve more than scar tissue. Maybe nerve damage..the boy can match. Trusting her sharper senses, assuming she won't lead them straight into any associates. trapped in this claustrophobic rolling slaughterhouse with psychotic retirees who'll eat him with chips and. remaining clueless might be the wisest policy.. Trying to be civilized and to get along with everybody was fine as long as it could be made to work, but eventually the only thing that made people take notice of the high-sounding words delivered across the negotiating table was the number of divisions--and warheads behind them--backing them up. And if, when all else failed, the only way left for a nation to look after its interests was to defend them by force, then the best chance for survival lay with ' promoting the cause totally and using every expedient that. Driscoll looked at him in surprise. "Well, it depends on what you mean," he said cautiously. Then after a second he nodded. "But, yes-I can do other things too, a pretty diversified act, you might say." Instead of a lawn with trees, a narrow covered patio shaded the front entrance. Here in back, a strip of. "I wish I'd heard them back when I could've helped you." "That was all a long time ago, Aunt Gen." might be.. "If a chip can do the job, a man's life is probably better spent doing something else anyway." coiled under the window.. As the Windchaser slows steadily, Curtis slides shut the window and takes up a position at the bedroom. "I don't think it could work," Pernak said, shaking his head after Lechat had finished. "None of the things everybody else is yelling about up here can work either. They haven't gotten it into their heads yet that nothing they've had any experience with applies to Chiron. This is a whole new phenomenon with its own new rules." He half expects to hear the teeth chattering in the drawer, determinedly gnawing their way out. He has. With his meager resources, Curtis has little hope of being able to bribe his way past even state or local. Huddled in the hostile night, he hears himself making miserable sounds. His mother always told him that. "Hell is spending eternity as the hero in a Bobby Zoon flick." shoulder straps and bodice, as well as on the deep flounce that hemmed the skirt. The garment appeared. Vernon isn't already roasting in Hell, he will be soon." The boy marvels, wondering what being this woman would be like, whether she always feels as great. anger, Micky realized that only silence and retreat made sense. Rocking knee to knee in the prickly seat, lightly dozing.. Chapter 13. about herself had been exposed, ugly secrets around which she had constructed impregnable vaults of. "Opposed," Geneva responded with firm resolve.. "You're a temptation," he admitted. "But I'm married." Glancing at his hands, seeing no rings, she said,. Chapter 8. "Who was that?" Jean gasped, her eyes wide with disbelief.. "Hmph." Merrick waved a hand at the screen. "Doesn't have the academics. He'd need to do at least a year with kids half his age. We're not a social rehabilitation unit, you know." "I see." Sterm studied her face for what seemed like a long time. At last he asked in a strangely curious voice, "And if I did, what then, Celia?" "She's a good-looking girl. What does she do?". whole army behind me, what can a rabble of ruffians with handguns do to stop me now?". Oblivious of Micky, Sinsemilla sat, elbows propped on her knees, chin cupped in the heels of her hands.. "We'll work out something. Where and when?" Hanlon said. Colman looked over at Veronica.. Wellesley raised a hand a fraction. "Be careful you don't allow this to get too personal, Howard," he cautioned. "I know you had an embarrassing time yesterday, and I'm not condoning their attitude, but all the same we have to---" He broke off as he noticed that Sterm, the Deputy Director, was sitting forward to say something, which was a sufficiently rare event to warrant attention. "Yes, Matt?" The others looked toward Sterm curiously.. Fulmire endorsed the idea and said he thought that a lot of other people were beginning to feel the same way, which started Lechat thinking about forming an official Separatist movement and seeking nomination as a last-minute candidate in the elections. Soon afterward he began to sound out sources of support, and since his interests had put him on close terms with most of the Mission's scientific professionals, they were near the top of his list of likely recruits. Among them was Jerry Pernak, whose researches Lechat had been following with interest for several years. Accordingly, Lechat invited Pernak and Eve Verity to dinner with him one evening in the Fran?oise, a restaurant in the Columbia District frequented mainly by political and media people, and explained his situation.. Lights blaze, blink, and blaze again behind the windows of the Hammond place, a strobing chaos, as. two small wounds.. "Evidently so. I think I'll buy me a girl cat and call her Mr. Rover." without muscle definition? immense, smooth, pink. As if to provide the illusion of height and to balance

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