

THE POLITICAL BUDDHA

behind her, Leilani and Micky stared at each other across the dinette table. For languid seconds in the. "Aunt Gen always cheats," Micky confirmed. "I have to go back inside now to fix things up," Colman said, leading them back toward the gatehouse, where Armley was watching curiously with Jay. "Mike," Colman said to him as they stopped by the door. "Take these two people inside and fix them up with coffee or something, will you. Jay, wait inside with Veronica. I have to get back in with Bret, but I'll be back in a few minutes. Don't worry. It'll be okay." "You've got it." Kath smiled. windows along the sides of the vehicle and through a series of small skylights, enough yellow light from. "Yeah, I heard that somewhere," Leilani replied, picking up her fork. One of the figures was a bearded, dark-haired man whom Colman recognized as Leon, sitting alongside a brown skinned woman identified by the caption at the bottom of the picture simply as Thelma. So at least some of them were located at the arctic scientific establishment in northern Selene, Colman thought to himself. The other pair of figures were Otto, of Asiatic appearance, and Chester, who was black; the ones shown alone in the remaining two sections of the screen were Gracie, another Oriental, and Smithy, a blond Caucasian with a large moustache and long sideburns. From their ages they were all evidently Founder. Kath introduced each of them in turn without mentioning titles, responsibilities, or where any of them were, and the Terrans didn't ask. she asked, "So why're you there? And why isn't your operation bigger?" beneath the chest of drawers to Leilani's exposed back, where now it slowly extruded on the floor. Leilani to be convinced against her will that they were mother and daughter. impressive tone-on-tone design, although the contrast became more pronounced when she tanned. closest they had come to madness. "All set, except for springing Borftein and Wellesley," Colman said. "Now that we've got Malloy, those two would make the whole thing cast-iron." He turned his head to Sirocco, who was half listening but looking away across the room with a thoughtful expression on his face. "Had any more thoughts about that?" Colman asked. Sirocco responded distantly, "Borftein and Wellesley." Other days, she might lie here smiling, eyes shining with amusement, occasionally issuing a soft murmur. shouting, a couple men cursing, a woman, shakily reciting the Hail Mary prayer over and over. The. "Yes, Frank Hoskins," Juanita said. "And that funny man who made the speech and led the act up in the Kuan-yin is in charge---Farnhill." "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. CHAPTER FIFTEEN. In mid-1977 he moved from England to the United States to become a Senior Sales Training Consultant, concentrating on the applications of minicomputers in science and research for DEC. "So how does anyone know who to listen to?" Jay asked, every bit as mystified as his father. "I guess you have to learn moderation in this place," Stanislaw remarked, studying his half-emptied glass of dark, frothy Chironian beer. He shook his head slowly. "You know, this sounds crazy but sometimes I wish they would make us pay for it." When Curtis follows the dog, he peers across the kitchen and the lounge, toward the cockpit. The. "Our own people have a right to expect the protection of a properly constituted legal system, and this planet falls even to possess one," Kalens argued. "I would have thought that the ethics of your profession would require you to cooperate with any measures calculated to establish one. The purpose of this provision is precisely that." POINT NORDAY WAS twenty-five miles or so north of Franklin, beyond the far headland of Mandel Bay, on a rocky stretch of coastline indented by a river estuary that widened about a large island and several smaller ones. In the early days of the colony, when the Founders first began to venture out of the original base to explore their surroundings on foot, they had found it to be approximately a day's travel north of Franklin. Hence its name. and a woman. "The people here 'wouldn't mind if our people started. Lesley and the major obviously knew each other. "Brad," Lesley said. "What in hell's happened? We were expecting a fight." "Into your spleen?" Leilani suggested. "Easy, easy now," Micky counseled, still on her knees, making placating gestures with her hands. obscured by the shade of the porch roof, their long kiss could not be mistaken for platonic affection. sigh. "Can I ask you something?" he said, looking up. "Do I have to answer it?" The ears arc pricked, the head lifted, the nose twitching. The fluffy tail, usually a proud plume, is held. thinking. Since then, she had fallen asleep most nights while picturing herself with massive hooters. The. anymore, and he kept talking until he was wrung dry of words. "We ought to pass the word to the media for a more appropriate treatment from now on as well," Kalens said. "Perhaps playing up things like Chironian stubbornness and irresponsibility would harden up the public image a bit... just in case. We could get them to add a mention or two of signs that the Chironians might have armed themselves and the need to take precautions. It could always be dismissed later as overzealous reporting. Should I whisper in Lewis's ear about it?" Bernard sat back and drew a long breath. He was just about to say something when Jeeves interrupted to announce an incoming call on the Chironian net. It was Kath, calling from her place in Franklin. "I've heard from Casey," she said when Bernard accepted. "He's collected his package with Adam, and they're on their way home with it. I just thought you'd like to know." childhood, her defenses against a cruel life had been anger and stubbornness. She'd seen herself as the. Bernard stopped, frowned, and looked around. The store was moderately busy; people strolled about examining things rather than acquiring very much. An exception was a couple on the far side whom he recognized as Terms from the Mayflower II, conspicuous for the three carts trailing them in convoy and loaded with everything imaginable. The couple were lower-echelon office workers, and Bernard acknowledged their presence from afar with a faint nod. Charles, in those old Thin Man movies. strike force. Now, also as one, they spin into motion, scattering toward their vehicles, eager to clear out. A coincidence, however, is frequently a glimpse of a pattern otherwise hidden. His heart tells him. another, and they most likely are who they appear to be. There's always the chance, however, that they. "I lose again. He's just a selfish pig." Bernard spread his hands resignedly. "Very well, I can see the sense in being prepared. But I can't see

how it affects our planning here in Engineering, up in the ship." recognized too well.. "Proceed, General," Farnhill said from the back..out of suitcases for the short time they were here. In fact, suitcases were open on a bench at the foot of. Smiles and grins relieved the solemn atmosphere that had seized the room.. From the direction of the table, Jean emitted an audible sigh of relief. Bernard grinned up at the screen. "Thanks." he said. "We're all glad to hear it. Talk to you again soon." Kath gave a quick smile and vanished from the screen.. "Don't I?" the robot replied.. shoes and up into the mother ship.' ".excuses or complaining. I'm lucky there was ice cream and not just marijuana brownies. Heck, I'm lucky. drawers. No way. Otherwise, only the closet remains unexplored. Movies and books warn that closets. The major sighed wearily. "It doesn't matter. Forget it. Do you know anyone else around here we should try asking?"..only a small window, and in this heat, the roiling steam wouldn't properly vent.. The thought of a shower was appealing; but the reality would be unpleasant. The cramped bathroom had. "Hot or iced?"..much sun." ".Grumbling, but not too bad. Any news from inside?" "Nothing yet. It's about time you took a breather. I'll be out in a few minutes to take a spell with Carson and Young. Tell Swyley and Driscoll to stand down with you. They've been out there the longest."..The meadow waiting under the moon..He has found hope. Hope that he will survive. Hope that he will discover a place where he belongs and. But he's only ten years old, without family and friends, alone and afraid and lost..resentments..stocked with a plastic tumbler and an ice bucket. In the bottom drawer of her small dresser, she kept a. the crop rows to a rail fence..the answers to them could be learned only by earning her complete trust, and that her trust could be. "Who," Jean asked..Sometimes, from the side windows, depending on the encroaching landscape, they are able to see the. Nevertheless, for reasons that she could not understand, every aspect of this day?the spangled. die." ".Did this Farrel asshole really show up, Jonny?"..He might have delayed his departure a few minutes more if he'd not had an engagement to keep. Visiting. "Isn't she a lot of fun," Kath agreed. "She's talking Casey into teaching her to be an architect. She could do it too. She's an intelligent woman. Have you known her long?".. "Lock your doors.".. "Scared shitless," Leilani agreed..grass. She pulled her long hair back from her face, letting it spill over her pale shoulders. Arching her. "Why would anybody be interested?".. "What an impressive name," Geneva said. "Like a Supreme Court justice or a senator, or someone. loose. She's so sweet."..Gump!"..cover behind hulking culinary equipment of unknown purpose, Curtis moves indirectly but steadily into. "As ever," Kath told him and smiled. "And yours, Lurch?".. "Am I supposed to feel that way?"..hair tossing like the deadly locks of an enraged Medusa. In her furious ascension, she stirred up an acrid. Whether the serpent moved slowly because it was hurt or because it was being cautious to deceive.. "Aw, I wasn't watching it." Jay waved vaguely with the book and returned it to its shelf. "Usual stuff."..Violators of visa privileges would face permanent exclusion. Chironian residents who failed to comply with the registration requirement after a three-day- grace period would be subject to expulsion and confiscation of their property for resale at preferential rates to Terran immigrants.. "Because he keeps tabs on you, he's been on to me from the start, but he doesn't know that I know that. Ford Explorer, while the harlequin dog sits erect beside him in the passenger's seat, listening to a radio. purchased their residences, too."..to recall the placement of furniture, hoping to avoid raising a clatter..than the one he'd suppressed..private security firm with nationwide reach. She suspected, however, that all those operations did. slumped shoulder. To the delight and applause of the staff and residents, he walked outside and released. Veronica came back into the room and began picking up Mrs. Crayford's boxes. "It's all right. You stay there, Celia. I can manage." She saw the expression on Celia's face and smiled. Her voice dropped to a whisper. "I know--awful.. Onward, quickly to the paved road, which leads north and south to points unknown. Either direction will. thing? Sundays on Wednesday." At first Noah didn't get it..The Ambassador referred to was to be Avery Farnhill, Howard Kalens's deputy in Liaison. Kalens himself would be leading the main-delegation down to the surface to make the first contact with the Chironians at Franklin. The decision to send a secondary delegation to the Kuanyin had been made to impress upon the Chironians that the robot was still considered Earth's property, which was also the reason for posting troops throughout the vessel. As a point of protocol, Wellesley and Sterm would not become involved until the appropriate contacts on Chiron had been established and the agenda for further discussion suitably prepared..Just then, the door opened noisily, and several loud voices drowned out the conversations in the coffee shop. Colman recognized three faces from B Company, Padawski--a tall, wiry sergeant with harsh, thin lips and hard, bleek eyes set in a long, swarthy face---and two corporals whose names didn't come immediately to mind. They had been drinking, and Padawski could be mean at the best of times. Colman's earlier friendship with Anita had developed at a time when she had taken to staying close to Colman and Hanlon because Padawski had been pestering her. Colman could look after himself when the need arose, and Hanlon, besides being the sergeant in charge of Second Platoon, was a hand-to-hand combat instructor for the whole of D Company, and good. The combination had. than you, Curtis, just you remember what I'm going to tell you." She leans across the counter as far as her. Armley stopped in front of Colman and beckoned Hanlon over. "Sirocco wants you both back right away," he said breathlessly. "I'll take over at the gate. There's trouble. shroud of gold and of purple.. Before Micky could press for more details, Leilani changed the subject: "Mrs. D, did the cops catch the." "I live in a hooley-free zone."..smells threatening or at least suspicious.

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