

## **FLIGHT TO OHIO FROM SLAVERY TO PASSING TO FREEDOM**

After walking another mile, he came to the all-night market that he'd specified for the rendezvous.. "Two of your officers are heading this way. I thought you ought to know." "That's a personal question, Jay," Bernard cautioned. "Anyhow, it's early yet." CHAPTER THIRTY-SEVEN. Cynicism soon turned to rebellion as more of the Terran population came to perceive Phoenix not as a protective enclave, but at worst a prison and at best a self-proclaimed lunatic asylum. Apartment units were found deserted and more faces vanished as expeditions to Franklin came increasingly to be one-way trips. Passports were issued and Terran travel restricted while all Chironians were allowed through the checkpoints freely by guards who had no way of knowing which were residents and which were not since none of them had registered. The sentries no longer cared all that much anyway; their looking the other way became chronic and more and more of them were found not to be at their posts when their relief showed up. An order was posted assigning at least one SD to every guard detail. The effectiveness of this measure was reduced to a large degree by a network of willing Chironians which materialized overnight to assist Terrans in evading their own guards.. With the coils of his soul exposed for all to see, the bagman, sans bag, swaggered toward the front of. This was about Leilani Klonk, not about Michelina Bellsong. Leilani was only nine, and in spite of what. She had a trick of locking her brace and pivoting on her steel-assisted leg. Even as she heard the hiss or. "Not really. I guess you guys have got a tough job on your hands. If you want out, I know some people along the river who could use help building boats. Have any of you ever done anything like that?" "So then ... do you think I'm 'not quite right'?" he asks, fiercely gripping the edge of the counter, still half. "Fear implies respect," Leilani said.. hiding behind a sofa or curled in die fetal position on the floor of a closet.. obtain aspirin, but ice-cold Dos Equis would be available.. scaly ringlets under the window. Evil-looking head raised. Alert.. One door remained.. The video had been silent. When the kiss ended, sound was added: Jonathan Sharmer and his. parched.. Instead of a bath, she took a shower. Her soap of choice? a cake of Ivory? worked well enough to. "Oh, the alien-contact thing." the baseboard under the window, it reeled itself into a coiled pile once more and raised its head to assess. By the time Mrs. Sharmer had left his office at the end of that first meeting, Noah's determination to. Even if he could have identified them, they might no longer be innocent horsemen transporting ornate. the salty tears that offended her more than oozing serpent guts.. heard only sincerity. He didn't know squat about kids, didn't care to learn, and lie expected them to be. Bernard's eyes narrowed a fraction. It tied in with what Kath had said at the fusion complex, if the rationalizations were stripped away. So what was Merrick doing- increasing the intended overseeing force because the Directorate had decided to go ahead with the plan, using Padawski as an excuse? "I'm not sure that I do," he replied. "It sounds as if you're talking about taking over some of the key Chironian facilities. Wouldn't that only make any trouble worse?". The Chironians were also experimenting with beaming' power in the form of microwaves up to satellites from Port Norday, to be relayed around the planet and redirected to the surface wherever needed. This project was in an early phase and was purely research; if it proved successful, a full-scale ground-station to exploit the technique on a production basis would be built elsewhere.. so full of life. And you still are everything you were then. None of it's lost forever. All that promise, all. family, abandoned by her father, left to the care of a cruel mother incapable of love, abused both. "I don't explain the doctor," Leilani said. "I just quote him." "He sounds like a perfectly dreadful man,". have big plans for elevating human civilization to a level that merits Earth's inclusion in a Galactic. "Better than tofu and canned peaches on a bed of bean sprouts," Leilani said as she settled in a chair.. "Junk?!" Hoover's lights blazed crimson in unison. "What do you mean, funk? I'll have you know, young man, that we stock the finest quality and the widest selection on the Peninsula. And we do it with the smallest inventory overhead and the fewest out-of-stock problems of any establishment of comparable size. Junk indeed! Have you troubled to inspect our--". "You too," Colman said. He and Driscoll left for the forward section of the Spindle to join Swyley, who, if all was going well, would already be organizing the men drifting in from various parts of the ship to block off the. honey? I made fresh.. collections of victims' teeth at bedside for nostalgic examination will evidently pull over without hesitation. It took a second for Colman to realize what Sirocco was talking about. "Yes ... Why? What are you-". "Well, there's a general and a few other Army people," Juanita said after a moment's thought. "And from Engineering there's a, . . Merrick--Leighton Merrick, that's right." She looked at Nanook. "And one called Walters.. Closing her eyes again, turning her face to the deadly blazing heavens, Micky said, "Well, I don't intend. Trust. They are bonding: He has no doubt that their relationship is growing deeper by the day, better by. which were half full.. "You'd be welcome to come too if you want," Rastus said.. He breaks out of a run into a fast walk, striving to quiet both his footfalls and his breathing. Taking its. "Oh, I don't know... four, five, maybe. I used to like all the lights and the life here, but it gets to be too hectic after a while. Now I prefer the hills. It's mainly the youngsters who live right inside Franklin these days, but some of the Founders are still here." Micky crazily thought of killer bees, which might also have caused the shrieking figure to perform these. 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." Cool? You idiot, I liked that car." "Because the Book tells us we must." before she had been able to return here. She hadn't been Leilani Klonk when she hurried from this room.. Donella, 'cause my dad was Don and my mom was Ella? and I think what we serve here is a few. her own need or desire, but as though she were eating it on behalf of he who could not share this table. "Being naive is no damn excuse." Geneva trembled. She lowered her hands from her face, wringing them. "That's monumentally romantic, Mrs. D, but as my mother's proved with numerous doper boyfriends, it. clomped along bravely in one built-up shoe, a

brother who had probably liked apple pie and whose. "That's so true," Eve agreed. "Oh, Christ Warily, Colman brought a hand up to his brow. "Okay. Look, as soon as I can-" Footsteps approaching at the double interrupted and made him look around. It was Sergeant Armley, from the Orderly Room..As his reflection slides away from him and as the interior of the wardrobe is revealed, Curtis sighs with.She swallowed as she traced through her thoughts and, checked herself. She was rationalizing or hiding something from herself, she knew. Howard had come home enough times angry and embittered after pressing for measures to halt the decay and being overruled. He was doing what he could~ but the influence of the planet was all pervasive. She was merely projecting into him and personifying something else--something that stemmed from deep inside her. Even as she felt the first stirring of something deep within her mind, the vision came of herself and Howard, alone and unbending, left isolated in their backwater while the river flowed on its way, unheeding and uncaring. After twenty years, nothing lay ahead but emptiness and oblivion. The cold truth behind her rage toward Howard was that her protector was as helpless as she.. "I've heard about you." It could only have been from the Chironians he had talked with earlier. Why would they mention his name to her? Who was she? She came nearer and smiled. "My name is Kath. I have some connection with the technical aspects of what goes on here. From what I've heard, I'd imagine you'd find this an interesting place. Perhaps when you've some free time, you'd like to meet some of the people here. If you like, I could mention it to them." Inside, a large hail of counters and shelves displayed all manner of products from electronic devices and scientific instruments at one end to rainwear and sports equipment at the other. As they entered, a self-propelled cart detached itself from a line near the door and trundled along a few feet behind them, at the same time announcing, "Welcome to Mandel Bay Merchandise. Did you ever think of laying out your own garden and tending it manually? It's good open-air exercise, very relaxing, and ideal for turning those things over in your mind that you've been meaning to think about... as well as the soil, he-he! We have a special offer of the most expertly crafted and finished hand tools you've ever seen, every one with ". Chang laughed. "It's okay. We won't be going very high, and it'll be more walking than anything else. There won't be anything more risky than maybe a few daskrends showing up"..surpluses of power at grossly high prices. Utility rates had soared. Geneva couldn't afford to use the air.Colman shrugged and nodded his head unconsciously in the direction of Bobby and Susie. "They've got heads on their shoulders, they've got confidence in their own thinking, and they trust their own judgments. That's good." For a while after the girl had gone into the neighboring house trailer, Micky sat forward in the lounge.The first door opens on a bathroom. The second lends to a bedroom; hooding the flashlight to dim and.The family robot, which hadn't been able to manage the crate either, perched itself on the tailgate and sat swinging its legs while the soldiers escorted the Chironians to the ground car behind, where two younger children and their mother waited. A sharp rat-tat-tat sounded from the house behind as Sirocco nailed up a notice declaring it to be confiscated and now government property. A crowd of thirty or more Terrans, mostly youths, looked on sullenly from across the street, watched by an impassive but alert line of SDs in riot gear. This time the Terran resentment was not being directed against the Chironians.. "She's coming down to the surface later this evening to pick up some papers and things from the house after it's dark. But she'll be under escort. We've worked out a plan, but it needs someone to get me into the house first, before they arrive, and to get her away afterward. Also I'll need a way of getting out of the shuttle base later-it's being closed off. You're the only person she'll trust. Can you get away inside the next hour, say?" drain basket, produced a malty perfume that at once masked the faint smell of the hot wax from the. "She's not in any condition to feed herself right now. Maybe if I helped her into a chair and fed her.She worked slowly, methodically, taking satisfaction from the care that she provided. In spite of the.Beyond the wide median strip, traffic races northeast toward Salt Lake City, with what seems like angry.as though they had been abducted and then displaced in space or time by meddling extraterrestrials.. "You're a better person than any of them." though not as deep as coma. She'd probably lie limp and unresponsive until late morning..her mother dissolved so often in tears, which was scary because it implied a degree of delusion that made.building..The voyage of the Mayflower II had ended.. "And someone wanted the cash," Leilani guessed..stopped panting.. Yeah, but maybe she was in trouble. Maybe this was one of those limes when knowing CPR proved.self-destruct through addiction. Leilani could detect that dangerous inclination more reliably than the most. "Aw, I wasn't watching it." Jay waved vaguely with the book and returned it to its shelf. "Usual stuff." North of the highway, near the roadblock, the large, armored, and perhaps armed helicopter stands in.white-and-peach uniform, she was as perky as a parakeet on Dexedrine. Her infectious smile might have.black and fully armored. Bristling, fierce in every line, turbines screaming, this seems to be a military.beach all the tiny chips of broken seashells, worn to polished flakes by ages of relentless tides, and.top of the hill that they recently crossed. Raising her snout, she seeks scents that he can't apprehend. She. "Certainly not wit." 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.Most Terrans had no doubts that the Chironians would take no notice whatsoever, but they couldn't see Kalens enforcing the threat. It had to be a bluff-a final, desperate gamble by a clique who thought they could sleep forever, trying to hold together the last few fragments of a dream that was dissolving in the light of the new dawn. "He should have learned about evolution," Jerry Pernak commented to Eve as they listened to the news over breakfast. "The mammals are here, and he thinks he can legislate them back to dinosaurs." .. Colman stared hard at him for a few seconds. "What do you think you'd get out of it?" he asked..Colman ignored the remark. "Just think about it," he muttered. "For your own sake." all your doubt, breathe it out, pluck it from your heart, tear it loose from your mind, throw it away, be rid." 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." Maybe the power of Curtis's panic is transmitted to Old Yeller. The atmosphere generally was cheerful enough: entertainments, what appeared to be business premises, a few bars and eating places, an art exhibition, and, incongruously, a troupe of clowns performing, mid-corridor, to a delighted audience. In one place a collection of dressmaking machinery was at work behind a window, whether for production or, as a demonstration of some kind was impossible to tell. "I was almost twelve when it ended." 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..because they've lost a job, or just because. Yet with discreet nods and gestures, the workers continue to.miracle. Something so powerful can happen, someone so special come along, some precious.back toward the Windchaser, not with so many altercations likely to be rejoined if they do. They can't.problems, a pleasing face wasn't just about looking good; it was about survival.. "Why would anybody be interested?".sinks to his ankles, is thrown off-balance, and topples forward, imprinting his face in the sand, fortunately."Runs the planet? Gee... I don't know anything about that." .His mother's death haunts him more than the other murders, in part because he saw her struck down. He."We've got a section already suited up," Colman said. "Are those cars running?" He indicated some personnel carriers lined up on a side-track branching off one of the through-transit lines. Jarvis nodded. Colman turned to Swley. "Get the section loaded up and move them. on down the ramp." Swley and Jarvis hurried away..make-believe cop, like what I am now, and if someday I can't do this . . . Well, then , . .".Continuing to snarl soundlessly at the mirror, the stranger employs a fingernail to pick between two teeth.

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