

THE OPEN COURT VOL 41 AUGUST 1927

also burned from her all illusions. She didn't entertain fantasies derived from the movies or from any other. Mrs. Crayford glanced at the dock display on the room's companel. "Well then, I really must be getting along. I did so enjoy the trip and the company. We must do it again soon." She heaved herself to her feet and looked around. "Now, where did I leave my coat?" Colman felt something cold deep in his stomach even before his mind had fully registered what Brad had said. "Stern?" he repeated numbly. He licked his lips, which had gone suddenly dry, and looked from one of the SD majors to the other. "You mean he's already in there?" Soldiers were already coming round the corner and bearing down on them fast, two sergeants in the lead, when the guards turned back again. The SD's reached instinctively for their sidearms, but their holsters were empty. For three vital seconds they were too confused to go for the alarm button on the wall-panel behind them. Three seconds were all Hanlon and Colman needed to cover the remaining distance. "So they'll be coming for the Spindle next," Charez said. They both looked at Lesley again but before anyone could say anything, a shrill tone from the main panel announced a call on the wire from the Bridge inside the Battle Module. - -sinks to his ankles, is thrown off-balance, and topples forward, imprinting his face in the sand, fortunately. Jean was too astonished to do anything but gape at him while Jay stared in undisguised amazement. Pernak blinked a couple of times and waited a few seconds for the atmosphere to discharge itself. "The problem is it isn't quite that simple," he finally said, forcing his voice to remain steady. "If everybody was going to be left alone to make that choice I'd agree with you, but they're not. There's a faction at work somewhere that's pushing for trouble, and what I've seen of the Chironians says that could mean big trouble. The Iberia thing would at least keep everybody apart until this all blows over, and that's all I'm saying. I agree with you, Bern-I don't think it'll last into the long-term future either, but it's not the long-term that I'm worried about." He glanced at Jean apologetically. "Sorry, but that's how I think it'll go." even though He's God with all His resources, realizes what He's gotten Himself into by agreeing to those. Gripping the pole in her right hand as if it were a shepherd's staff, she used it to help maintain her balance. During her short walk, the electrical service had come on again. The wall clock glowed, but it displayed. to feel, a darker quality. He's a boy nonetheless, and he's virtually programmed by nature to be thrilled by. "Oh, okay," lay said. "Their laws couldn't tell them anything about the cold universe before that instant. Flame physics only came into existence when the flame did." Meeting Micky's eyes, Geneva read the love in them, and smiled, but then seemed to read something. arpeggios; from a severed refrigeration line, a toxic mist of rapidly evaporating coolant hisses like a. "Better than tofu and canned peaches on a bed of bean sprouts," Leilani said as she settled in a chair. "Sure." Sirocco tossed up a gauntleted hand as if the answer were obvious. "Guys who don't like it but have to do it get mad. They can't get mad at the people who make them do it, so they take it out on the enemy instead. That's what makes them good. But the guys who like it take too many risks and get shot, which makes them not so good. It's logical." customer paying his check. "How many other engineers do you have here?" she inquired lightly, looking around the rest of the squad. It was clearly intended more to invite them into the conversation than as a serious question. They shuffled uncomfortably and exchanged apprehensive looks, unable to decide if she was serious or just slumming with the troops. cupholders, and when the boy filled one of these with water, his companion lapped it up efficiently. bride. "Not you," she disagreed, as though she knew him well. "Anger's more like it." Sirocco tossed out a hand, signaling that he disclaimed responsibility. "Oh, he saw the way she was talking to you when you were on ceremonial at that July Fourth exhibition last year. That was one thing. Do you remember that?" Colman looked away in exasperation. She could have been a unique, thinking person. Instead she chose to be a doll, shaped and molded by everything she saw and heard around her. It was all around him--half the people he could see were in the chorus line behind Stormbel's puppet show. They could be told what to think because they didn't want to think. Suddenly he remembered all the reasons why he had cooled things with Anita months ago, when he -had been toying seriously with the idea of making their relationship contractual and settling down as Hanlon had. He had tried to tune into her wavelength and found nothing but static. But what had infuriated him more was that her attitude had been necessary--she had a head but wouldn't use it. The Korean craftsman who had fashioned the piece had probably led a simple and uncomplaining life, Kalens thought to himself, and would have died satisfied in the knowledge that he had created beauty from nothing and left the world a richer place for having passed through. Would his descendants in the Asia of eight hundred years later be able to say the same or to feel the same fulfillment as they scrambled for their share of mass-produced consumer affluence, paraded their newfound wealth and arrogance through the fashion houses and auction rooms of London, Paris, and New York, or basked on the decks of their gaudy yachts off Australian beaches? Kalens very much doubted it. So what had their so-called emancipation done for the world except prostitute its treasures, debase its cultural currency, and submerge the products of its finest minds in a flood of banal egalitarianism and tasteless uniformity? The same kind of destructive parasitism by its own masses, multiplying in its tissues and spreading like a disease, had brought the West to its knees over half a century earlier. The rosebush, however, responded perversely to tender care. In spite of ample sunshine, water, and. "This zwieback crap." Celia's eyes opened wide. "You're kidding!" it with two strips of waterproof tape. Nice. This tender, quiet caregiving was almost a normal. off the flashlight. Holds his breath. At last Kath looked around for a way of relieving the heaviness in the air. "How will you get them up to the ship?" she asked Colman. women have seldom, if ever, to his knowledge, been decorated for bravery after gnawing their way. The people who have fled the restaurant appear to share Curtis's grim assessment of the situation. All. "I never said anything of the kind. The whole point is that they are no~ indiscriminate. That's precisely what a lot of people around here won't get into their heads, and why they have nothing to be afraid of. The Chironians don't draw a line

around a whole group of people and think everyone inside it is the same. They haven't started hating every soldier because he happens to wear the same color coat as the bunch that's running wild down there, and they won't start hating every Terran either. They don't think that way." "I'm not shooting this. My associate is at an attic window of the place across the street. We made again, executing as fast a double take as ever did Asta the dog and his master, the detective Nick. Listening as though to the voice of another, Micky was surprised to hear herself speaking of these things..Chapter 14. fiends..Sterm emitted a sigh of sorely tried patience. "I will endeavor to spell it out in simple terms," he replied. "This act of clowns has been..." Micky leaned forward from the angled back of the lounge chair. "Leilani?" "Oh, Christ!" Driscoll began fussing with a napkin to clean it off, in the process managing to trail a corner of it through the soup and brush it against the hem of the second guard's jacket as he turned back from the soup..the salty tears that offended her more than oozing serpent guts..Instrument of nostalgia, scented with desert fragrances that remind the boy of home, the breeze is also a. Celia took a quick breath, held it for a moment, and then lifted her face toward him. "Very well. I've seen what happened to the corporal and to Padawski. The Chironians retaliate against whomever they perceive as the cause of hostility directed against them. If the evictions are enforced. jammed in the bottleneck at the restaurant's front door, not in danger of trampling one another like. By the time the others returned everybody was getting hungry, and Kath and Susie decided to forgo the services of the kitchen's automatic chef and conduct an experiment in the old-fashioned art of cooking, using nothing but mixer, blender, slicer, peeler, and self-regulating stove, and their own bare hands. The result was declared a success by unanimous proclamation, and over the meal the Terrans talked mainly about the more memorable events during the voyage while Kath was curious to learn more about the Mayflower II's propulsion system in anticipation of the tour that she was scheduled to make with the Chironian delegation. Colman found, however, that he was unable to add much to the information she had collected already..Otto shook his head. "If Earth is tearing itself apart, it ~ because its people allowed themselves to believe the same - self-fulfilling prophecies that you are asking us to accept, Mr. Sterm. But we reject them. We need no more protection from you against the people in the EAP starship than they need from their Sterms to protect them against us. We have no need of that kind of strength. Is it strength for neighbors to fortify their homes against each other, or is it paranoia? You must feel very insecure to wish to fortify an entire star system." Sterm's mouth clamped into a grim, down turned line..in Colorado. Perhaps this man is psychic and will momentarily receive clairvoyant visions of five-dollar.the tail. She knew that snakehandlers always gripped immediately under the head to immobilize the jaws.,A dirt lane, flanked by fenced meadows and oiled to control dust, leads to a public road about two..spirit sewn to spirit with the strong thread of Curtis's reckless trust..seconds after storming out of the semi, they're forming up and hurrying toward the restaurant and the. "I put loose a lady like this once before, twice maybe, but those were daylight."..Sucking in great lungfuls of the astringent desert air, giving it back hotter than he receives it, the boy..and the law-enforcement officers in those two SUVs is not happening. He wishes they would just. The tailgate is hinged at the bottom. Two latch bolts fix it at the top..any lesser person. Surely not. She is majestic. She is magnificent, beautiful. She can live by her own rules.,Jean looked away as she heard the front door open. A few seconds later Jay arrived. He had a brand-new-looking backpack slung across one shoulder end was carrying a framed painting of an icy, mountainous landscape with a background of stormy sky under one arm. His expression was vaguely perplexed..blood flowed now, but much of the surrounding soft tissue was blue-black. Probably just bruises..beneath the chest of drawers to Leilani's exposed back, where now it slowly extruded on the floor. "What happens if you win the right way?" Kath asked him.. "Pay our debt, collect our due/Each one proud/or what we do," Marie recited..Curtis can't see any lights in the sky that nature didn't put there, but the helicopter is growing louder by. "Love," Geneva declared, and her eyes grew misty with the memory of that long-ago passion..excitable and shallow and, in general, dorky to the max.. "And-thanks for the valves," Jay said. "They fit perfectly." "How's it coming along?"..Retreating quickly and silently from the bedroom, the boy sees movement in the hall, a pair of shining. Sometimes, from the side windows, depending on the encroaching landscape, they are able to see the.the rush and rumble of the trains to which she had listened on many other nights..door shut again, to hold back the avalanche before it gains unstoppable momentum..courage to turn against his contemptible family and to do the right thing, his sister would not have been. In the kitchen, after quietly closing the door behind himself, he holds his breath, listening. The house is. but only one answer?". something sophisticated and classy and smart. She liked things that weren't what they seemed to be.. "The people who are being held in the rooms along corridor Eight-E," the shorter of the two sergeants whispered with a hint of an Irish brogue. "You take their food in?" The steward gulped and nodded vigorously. "When is the evening meal due?"..leather and saddle soap? and not least of all in the curiously comforting, secondhand scent of horses?. Pleadingly, Micky said, "Will you stop stuffing your face with pie and talk to me?"..magnificent dimensions are matched by the size of her good heart..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."..Colman grinned and drank from the glass. "Not quite that bad. But some of them do have pretty funny ideas- or did have, anyway. A lot of people couldn't imagine that kids brought up by machines could be anything else but . . . 'inhuman,' I guess you'd call it-cold, that kind of thing." "That's all," Murphy said, addressing the cart. "Ninety-seven, Cordova Village. On your way." "We've only seen Franklin," Pernak replied. "There's a whole planet out there."..the new passenger lounge in the base. "Say 'sir' when you talk to me."..all your doubt, breathe it out, pluck it from your heart, tear it loose from your mind, throw it away, be rid. Celia had become very thoughtful in the last few seconds. She waited for the talking to subside for a moment, and then said, "If we have to go up to the ship anyway, it might be possible to make this far more effective than what we've been talking about so far." She paused, but nobody interrupted. "I know where the people who have been arrested." Engineering.

That's the one you're with, isn't it?". "On your way?" lean asked Pernak..Micky reached for her aunt's hand. "I loved him, too, Aunt Gen." .copies, plus cassettes of all the raw footage before we edited it.".and bristling blind-dark forest.. "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".Curtis Hammond and his parents were killed less than twenty-four hours ago. If by now the Colorado.piercing directness, and said almost in a whisper, "When you were such a pretty little girl and bad people.Chevrolet Camaro that whiffpered and wheezed worse than a pneumonic horse, and a past that wound."HE'S AMAZING, ISN'T he," Shirley said in an awed voice as she leaned forward to get a better view of the table over the shoulder of her daughter, Ci, who was sitting on the floor. "It must be a genetic mutation that makes sticky fingers or something.".Sirocco had devised a plan for getting the Company up to the ship and into the Communications Center, but it hinged on Stanislaw's being able to alter the orders posted for the day, which were derived from schedules held in one of the military logistics computers. Lechat, who was standing nearby with Celia and Colman, had called for a test-run to make sure that Stanislaw could do- it, since if that part of the scheme didn't work none of the rest could. Sirocco had suspended the briefing to resolve the issue there and then..It was after 0400 hours, local, when Colman returned to the room which he shared with Hanlon in the Omar Bradley Block, which in the system of twenty-four Chironian "long hours" day was about as miserable a time of day as it was on Earth. With the room to himself since Hanlon was on night duty, he crawled gratefully between the sheets without bothering to shower to make what he could of the opportunity to sleep undisturbed until his call at 0530.. "They're controlled by sophisticated, self-adapting learn programs running on the computers distributed through the net, that's all. I wouldn't imagine the techniques are so different from what you're used to.".She sat without speaking, as she had throughout the flight down, and held a handkerchief to her face while she waited for the escort to disembark-a not unusual reaction from a recently widowed woman returning to her home. When she emerged, the escort formed around her and began moving with her toward the front entrance with the guard bringing up the rear carrying a suitcase in each hand. Besides a large topcoat, Celia was wearing dark glasses and a headscarf, and beneath the headscarf a wig that matched the color of her own hair..sex organs is generally effective.. "Does the little orange lady like the dark out?" Rickster asked..gunfire?Curtis hears it for sure this time?erupts, muffled but unmistakable, from the depths of the.of Planets, and Leilani waving goodbye with an American flag in one hand and a Fourth of July sparkler."Just a friendly chat . . . about your government, how it's organized, who's in it . . . a few things like that. It won't take long at all.". "That's you, Mr. Hooper," Curtis observes. Then he understands. "Oh." The trucker's tears of laughter.provided in a complex of structures farther back from the highway than the service islands and fuel.apparent cowardice and the alacrity with which he had betrayed his client confirmed for them that he

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