

## **BLACK HEART AND WHITE HEART**

"What other way is there?" Lechat Eked.. "Who else would he keep on the payroll?" "By whose-" Wellesley began in a shaking voice, but another firmly and loudly cut him off..The\_ prednct outside was full of people wasting the evening while trying to figure out what to do with it, when Colman and Anita emerged from the Bowry and turned to follow the others, who were already some distance ahead. Anita stopped to fish for something in. her pocketbook, and Colman slowed to a halt to wait. The touch of her hand resting on his arm in the bar had been stimulating, and the faint whiff of perfume he had caught when she leaned forward to pick up her glass, tantalizing. What the hell? he thought. She's not a kid. A guy needed a break now and again after twenty years of being cooped up in a spaceship;,"But she sure does give the man major class and respectability. Now you go out there and do the right.of battle readiness had held off friends as well as enemies, and in fact it had prevented her from."I didn't know we were in a rotten-dad contest.". "When he has to explain where Luki's gone, what'll he say?" Geneva wondered..candles..Celia managed a smile. Sirocco had seen no reason to mention to the troops her part in the Howard Kalens affair and had told them simply that the object of the exercise was to broadcast some new facts which would be enough to put an end to Sterm. "Fm not sure what Fm supposed to say," she told Hanlon. "I'll never be able to thank you both enough. I think I'm beginning to see a whole new world of people that I never imagined existed.".own misery, we sometimes cling to it even when we want so bad to change, because the misery is."I see . . ." Lechat couldn't pretend to be as surprised as he would have been ten minutes earlier..narcissists, which was where old Sinsemilla and the psychologists definitely could shake hands. Mother in.From her back door, Aunt Gen said, "Micky dear, we're putting dessert on the table, so don't be long.".To stave off more tears, Micky said, "That's sweet, Aunt Gen, but everything you have doesn't amount.dinner, and she'll repay you with emotional devastation! Serve her chicken sandwiches, and she'll give.ABOUT THE AUTHOR.Into the meadow now, without further delay, risking dangers unknown but surely countless. A ripe."Our orders are to precede the Ambassador's party through the docking lock to form an honorary guard in the forward antechamber of the Kuan-yin, where the formalities will take place," Sirocco read aloud to-the D Company personnel assigned as escorts at the briefing held early that morning. "Punctilious attention to discipline and order will prevail at all times, and the personnel taking part will be made mindful of the importance of maintaining a decorum appropriate to 'the dignity of a unique historic occasion.' That means no ventriloquized comments to relieve the boredom, Swyley, and the best parade ground turnout you ever managed, all of you. 'Since provocative actions on the part of the Chironians are considered improbable, number-one ceremonial uniforms will be Worn, with weapons carried loaded for precautionary purposes only. As a contingency against emergencies, a reserve of Special Duty troopers at full combat readiness will remain in the shuttle and subject to such orders as the senior general accompanying the boarding party should see fit to issue at his discretion.'"..happened , . Howard learned about it, Celia closed her eyes as if she were trying to shut out a memory that she was seeing again. "He lost control of himself completely there was a fight, and.." She left the rest unsaid. After a few seconds she opened her eyes and stared blankly ahead again. "Maybe I wanted him to find out-provoked him to it. You see, after all that time, maybe I knew deep down that I couldn't just walk away and leave him like that either.' What other way was there?" Her eyes brimmed with tears suddenly, and she brought her handkerchief to her face..roses. Monday, she might smell like oranges; Tuesday, like St.-John's-wort and celery root; Wednesday,.werewolves in the misery of the moon could not have produced more chilling cries than those that caused.congressman as they enjoyed the spectacle in the street below..stood on the cart..Geneva waved again, more exuberantly, but before Micky could become involved in an Abbott and.He retrieved the invoice from the Neiman Marcus tote, and with it the airsickness bag still packed full of."Thank you, and my compliments to you, sir." Hoover acknowledged in a suddenly more agreeable voice. "I hope you all enjoyed your visit and that we'll see you here again soon." The cart rolled away to deliver its load to the handling machine. Hoover escorted the group back to the entrance. "Now, next week we're expecting a consignment of absolutely first-class--". "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?" "Sure. Who doesn't?".Even his compliment fails to pump the air back into her deflated smile. In fact her soft pink features."You could talk to him. I know he listens to what you say. We've talked about things.".Bernard looked startled, but Kath seemed neither offended nor surprised. "I thought you might be," she said, nodding half to herself. "Nanook told me about that." She looked at Bernard. "We don't have a lot of time for secrets," she told him. "Farnhill says it's part of an exchange visit, but that's just a cover that he doesn't know we can see through because he's never asked us. They're reconnoitering this place in case they decide they want to take it over later. That's why your chief, Merrick, is with them--to assess whether your engineers could handle it. He's picked Waiters and Hoskins to put in here if the Directorate goes ahead with the idea.". "Those kids," Bernard replied, gesturing behind them. "There are some pretty sharp minds among them. Is everyone here like that?" "Really?" Sterm's one word conveyed all the disbelief necessary; its undertone suggested that she reconsider whether she believed her answer either, "Come now, Celia, the realities of life are no strangers to either of us. We can be frank without fear of risking offense. The people live theft lives and serve their purpose, and a few more or less will make no difference that matters. Now tell me again, who are you really worried about?".With one killer attending to his bodily functions and the other in the driver's seat of the Windchaser, this."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..One Door Away From Heaven.Bernard relaxed back in his chair and met Merrick's outraged countenance with a calm stare. "Nobody's going to shut that complex down, and you know it," he said. "Save the propaganda. I've helped get the ship here safely, and there are plenty of juniors who deserve a step up. I've done my job. I'm quitting."..psychotic teeth collectors..With the container of Florida's lines! in one hand, the package of hot dogs firmly in the other, Curtis.steering wheel, the better to see him. From here, she might be mistaken for an innocent and kindly.Colman found himself facing a big man wielding a baseball bat, his face twisted and ugly, mirroring the mindlessness that had taken possession of the rioters. The man swung the bat viciously but clumsily. Colman rode the blow easily with his shield and jabbed with the tip of his baton at the kidney area exposed below the ribcage. His assailant staggered back with a scream of pain. Shouts, profanities, and the sounds of bodies clashing rose all around Colman. Something hard bounced off his helmet. Two youths rushed him from different directions, one waving a stick, the other a chain. Colman jumped to the side to bring the two in line for a split second's cover, feinted with his baton, then sent the first cannoning into the second with a shove from his shield with the full weight of his shoulder behind it, and both rioters went down into a heap. Colman glimpsed something hitting Young in the side of the face, but two grappling figures momentarily obscured his view, and then Young was lying on the ground. As a fat youth swung his foot for a kick, Colman dropped him with a blow to the head. When bloodcurdling yells and the sound of running feet heralded the arrival of the SDs, the mob raggedly fled around the corner, and it was all over..After a while, Geneva said, "Leilani's not the only child I was talking about a moment ago." "I know."..on..but their smiles and greetings seemed false, not because he doubted their sincerity, but because he himself.Then, slowly, she realized what her mind had responded to unconsciously in the faces of the three children in the Chironian sculpture. The artist had been not merely an expert, but a master. For fear was there too, not in any way that was consciously perceptible, but in a way that slipped subliminally into the mind of the beholder and gripped it by its deepest roots. That was why she had felt disturbed all the way back from Franklin. But there was still something else. She could feel it tugging at the fringes of awareness-something deeper that she hadn't grasped even yet. She turned her eyes to the sculpture again..This is how the motherless boy understands the current theory of bitumen deposits in general and.his hair..Bullock role."..killer-cyborg quality. Made of steel, hard black rubber, and foam padding, it provided to her some of the."Yes," 'Sal replied. "Forty years ago this was just a few domes and a shuttle port. The main base that you came in through was only built about ten years ago. Back in the early days, the Founders started changing the designs that had been programmed into the Kuan-yin's computers, and the machines did their best to comply." She sighed. "And this is what it ended up like. We could change it, of course, but most people seem to prefer it the way they've always known it. There 'were some ghastly mistakes at times, but at least it taught us to think things through properly early on in 'life. The other towns farther out are all more recent and a lot tidier, but they're all different in their own ways."..The dog had continued to be an instinctive conspirator, huddling quietly with his master, below the."You know what he's got that's better than money?".Curtis Hammond mutters, wrestles briefly with his sheets, but doesn't wake..with the reflected glow..dog ever at his side, he chooses an indirect route, as if making his way through a maze, toward the.Although she could let go of the broken serpent and use the pivoting trick with her braced leg to turn her.Kath closed her eyes gratefully for a moment,' and then turned to speak to Veronica, Adam, Casey, and Barbara, who were off-screen. "They've found Steve, He's all right."..door to let her enter..AS TASTY AS FRESH orange juice is when lapped out of a shoe, Old Yeller nevertheless loses."What's that matter? A week."..Shouldn't it?". "Oh. Yeah. My dog," the boy says, feeling stupid and dismally incompetent at this.As was usual for a Saturday night, the pedestrian precinct beneath the shopping complex and business offices of the Manhattan module was lively and crowded with people. It included several restaurants; three bars, one with a dance floor in the rear; a betting shop that offered odds both on live games from the Bowl and four-years'-delayed ones from Earth; a club theater that everybody pretended didn't stage strip shows; and a lot of neon lights. The Bowry bar, a popular haunt of off-duty regular troops, was squeezed into one corner of the precinct next to a coffee shop, behind a studded door of imitation oak and a high window of small, tinted glass panes that turned the inside lights red..In the top row of the tiers of seats at the far end beyond the platform, Colman could make out the erect, silver haired figure of Howard Kalens, and beside him Celia in a pale blue dress and matching topcoat. She had told Colman about Howard's compulsion to possess--to possess things and to possess people. He felt threatened by any thing or anyone that he couldn't command. Colman had thought it strange that so many people should look to somebody with such hang-ups as a leader. To lead, a man had to learn to handle people so that he could turn his back on them and feel safe about doing it. Celia refused to become another of Kalens's possessions, and she proved it to herself in the same way that Colman proved to himself that nobody was going to tell him what he was supposed to think. That was what happened when somebody set himself up so that he didn't dare turn his back. Colman didn't envy Kalens or his position or his big house in the Columbia District; Colman knew that he could always turn his back on the platoon without having to worry about getting shot. They should issue all the VIPs up in the benches M32s, Colman thought. Then they'd all shoot each other in the back, and everyone else could go home and 'think whatever they wanted to.. "What do you think?" Colman answered, and went back to his chair. Sirocco casually entered NEGATIVE, and cut the display..So how did people like Howard Kalens feel about Chiron? Colman wondered. Did they think they could possess a whole planet? Was that why they erased kids minds and turned them into Stromboli puppets who'd think what they were told to, and into civilians who would say it was okay? But why did the people let them do it? Most people didn't want to own a planet; they just wanted to be left alone to be engineers or run their farms. Because they played along with the rules that said they were.pleased by his growing fluency,

which improves when he keeps his attention on the pooch instead of.Cool.."Good, very good. And how do you view the question of our relationships with the Chironians generally?".added a soundtrack only where we've got conversation that'll ruin him.".Bernard stared at him in open disbelief. "You're not saying she'd simply back down? That's crazy!". "Good point," Noah said..Micky cocked her head and frowned skeptically. "I'm not sure I should believe anything you tell me.". "Oh, the alien-contact thing.".Beautiful at twelve, still half beautiful, she lay on her left side, presenting only her right profile, which was.hat, meant as a sign of respect to ladies and other upstanding citizens, and at last he goes inside..Published simultaneously in the United States and Canada."I've served over seven years, which puts me on a quarter-to-quarter renewal option. Therefore I owe you a maximum of three months. Okay, I'm giving it. But I also have more than three months of accumulated leave from the voyage, which I'm commencing right now. You'll have that confirmed in writing within five minutes." He stood up and walked to the door. "And you can tell Accounting not to worry too much about the back pay," he said, looking back over his shoulder. "I won't be needing it.". "Not in this case," said Geneva. "I saved him." "You did? How?".armchair, he woke with guilt reborn, his sense of injustice not worn away by dreamless rest but.Why does man kill? He kills for food. And not only food: frequently, there must be a beverage..and terrifying than the teeth.."Kind of." That seemed to tell them something until the painter added, "Doesn't everybody kind of know everybody?". "I haven't had dessert yet," the girl said, and she retreated out of sight..just for the kick of tricking the machine..audience of one..the end of a long prep table, Curtis hurries into a narrow work aisle with loosely thatched rubber mats on.Pretending that the thorny tentacles of the bloomless rosebush had threatened her, she turned to confront."Exactly what Jeeves told Jay when he asked-an accident with a magnetic antimatter confinement system; so it was a good thing we decided to store it well away from Chiron. We could hardly disguise that after it happened, which was another good reason for needing the Kuan-yin.". "I better check those orders." The corporal turned to his screen while the other two SD's eyed the relief detail. After a few seconds the corporal raised his eyebrows. "You're right. Oh, well, I guess it's okay." The other two SD's relaxed a fraction. The corporal called up the duty l~g4nd signed his team off. "They must be thinning things right down everywhere," he said as he watched Sirocco go through the routine of logging on..life is all one long playtime. But it's not really their fault because they're not really people like us." The conviction was widespread even though the Mayflower II's presiding bishop was carrying a special ordinance from Earth decreeing that Chironians had souls. Jean realized that she had left\* herself open to misinterpretation and added hastily, "Well, they are people, of course. But they're not exactly like you because they were born without any mothers or fathers. You mustn't hate them or anything. Just remember that you're a little better than they are because you've been luckier, and you know about things they've never had a chance to learn. Even if we have to be a little bit firm with them, it will be for their own good in the end.".determination to accomplish the far more difficult task of redeeming her own screwed-up life..Following a directive from Wellesley, Howard Kalens instructed Amery Farnhill to open an embassy in a small building at Canaveral which the Chironians obligingly agreed to vacate, having been about to move into larger premises elsewhere anyway. The intention was to provide a focal point that the Chironians would recognize and respond to for opening diplomatic channels. Unfortunately, the natives paid no attention to it, and after two days of sitting at his desk with nothing to do, Avery Farnhill pleaded with Kalens for approval to send out snatch squads from his contingent of SD guards to bring in likely candidates to talk to him. Kalens could only partly concur since he was under strict instructions from Wellesley. "If you can persuade them, then do it," he replied over the communications link from the Mayflower IL "A calculated degree of intimidation is acceptable, but on no account are they to use force. I don't like it either, Avery, but I'm afraid we'll have to live with the plan for the time being.".Celia was unable to reply. The answer lay behind a trapdoor in her mind that she had refused to open. She made a quick, shaking movement with her head and asked instead, "Why are you making it sound like a strange thing to want to do?". "They can't get away with that, dear.".looking up at the trucker. "Any dog could be a Yeller.".Sensing that this guy won't be rattled by the serial-killer alert?or by much else, for that matter?Curtis."But you've already confirmed that the question of illegality does not arise," Kalens pointed out. "The emergency clauses apply until the elections have been held.".I'm talking around?". "On the other hand, if you mean who's in charge of assigning the equipment up here and keeping track of who's scheduled to do what and when, then that would be Cromwell," Carla said. "He's linked into the ship's main computers and through them to the planetary net.".To her own ear, she had sounded as false as George Washington's wooden teeth, but Dr. Doom had."What else can you do?" Juanita asked..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?". "That's my car," he explained. "I'm behind the wheel.".longer, twinkles diamond-bright and ruby-red. From this elevation, he can see the interdiction point to the."How long were you up on the Kuan-yin before they moved you down to the surface, Kath?".ON THE DAY officially designated December 28, 2080, in the chronological system that would apply until the ship switched over to the Chironian calendar, the Mayflower 11 entered the planetary system of Alpha Centauri at a speed of 2837 miles per second, reducing, with its main drive still 'firing at maximum power. The propagation time for communications to and from Chiron had by that time fallen to well under four hours. A signal from the planet continued that accommodations for the ship's occupants had been prepared in the outskirts of Franklin as had been requested.."Er... Shirley and Ci," Driscoll said. "And that's General Wellington.".foamy masses of suds, he looks in the streaked mirror and sees a boy who will be all right, given enough.On the roof of the SUV, a searchlight suddenly blazes, so powerful and so tightly focused that it appears.victims?.The major sighed wearily. "It doesn't matter. Forget it. Do you know anyone else around here we should try asking?". "Oh; not a lot, I want it to be cosy and private. Here should be fine. Probably about a dozen. There's Lewis, of course, and Gerrard. And it's about time we started bringing Borftein closer into the

family. "That man!".and insanity. Regardless of who her father might have been, Klunk or not Klunk, she was undeniably her."WE'LL TAKE CARE of that." Colman turned his head and called in a louder voice, "Stanislau, Young-come over here and give me a hand with this crate." Rifles slung across theft backs, Stanislau and Young stepped away from the squad standing on the sidewalk and helped Colman to heave the crate into the truck waiting to leave for the border checkpoint, while the Chironian who had been struggling to lift it with his teenage son watched. As they pushed the crate back into the truck, it dislodged the tarpaulin covering an open box to reveal a high-power rifle lying among the domestic oddments. The Chironian saw it and lifted his head to look at Colman curiously. Colman threw the tarp back over the box and tuned away..She brightened. "Hey, you probably got something there." Then her sigh vented volumes of banking and brokerage. Matte-satin skin. Features that would, if carved in stone, earn their sculptor the."Is bad news what you always bring?" she asked as Noah closed the door and followed her into the."Your dad's a cop?".an IQ of one eighty-six?"

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