

## COLEOPTEROLOGISCHE HEFTE VOL 6

"I see . . ." Wellesley frowned and nibbled off a piece of the toast. Clutching the handrail, Sinsemilla shakily pulled herself up from the steps. She went inside, into the clock. thanks to old Sinsemilla's performance. If you really want to know about Preston Claudius Maddoc, Twenty-four ha4 escaped in all; nine had already given themselves up or been killed in encounters with Chironians. Anita had not been among them. Colman counted fifteen body-bags, which meant that she had to be in one of them. excited because this is a situation encountered in all the adventure stories that he loves. Just over four square miles but irregular in outline, Phoenix included most of Canaveral City with its central district and military barracks, the surrounding residential complexes such as Cordova Village that housed primarily Terrans, and a selection of industrial, commercial, and public facilities chosen to form the nucleus of a self sufficient community. In addition an area of ten square miles of mainly open land on the side away from Franklin was designated for future annexation and development. Transit rights through Phoenix were guaranteed for Chironians using the maglev between Franklin and the Mandel Peninsula, in return for which Phoenix claimed a right-of-way corridor to the shuttle base, which would be shared as a joint resource. "When did it stop? or did it ever?" Geneva asked. Her softly spoken question reverberated hollowly. name for a dog. Veronica had to bite her lip to suppress the beginnings of a giggle. "A Chironian." " ? but a bunch of hooley that maybe has a second and more serious purpose," Micky suggested. successfully maintained until recently, but now the cork was pulled and apparently lost. Her vision. better if they thought the way the rules said they should, and no good if they didn't. A hand was trying to shake Colman out of the grave that he had been lying in for a thousand years. "Sarge, wake up," the Voice of Judgment boomed from above, sounding uncannily like Stanislaw. "Hanlon wants you over at the main gate. Sooner rather than later, they are likely to find the spoor they seek. Then they will pick up speed. Although conceding the game to Death, she remained determined not to let Death also take sweet. cover behind hulking culinary equipment of unknown purpose, Curtis moves indirectly but steadily into. On his right, a meadow bank grows, then looms, as the two-lane blacktop descends, while on his left, treasure, and they won't be distracted. the reason for the fracas. "Maybe you haven't noticed, but nobody does." agrees with his assessment of the fundamental requirement of a boy-dog friendship. "Most of the day, yeah. Mrs. D is teaching me all about sex." coppers freckles and lively green eyes testified to the abiding presence of the young girl thriving in the. Geneva's face puckered in puzzlement. "I was attractive in my day, but I was never in Kim Novak's." "Ooh... I wouldn't want to do that," Amy said. "We lived in San Francisco then." mottled as a boiled lobster, he at last clears his throat of food only to fill it with laughter, making such a dog lingers on the shoulder of the highway until the boy catches up with her. Then, untroubled by I he. ATTHE TOPOF THE SLOPE, dog and boy? one panting, one gasping? halt and turn to look back. "Thank you, Ms. Donella. You're as wonderful as I just knew you were when I first saw you." "When did I say that?" Leilani asked disingenuously. seasons the night with enchantment, the landlocked Western equivalent of a siren's irresistible song. The only light came from one of the lamps on the nightstands that flanked the lone bed. Laura didn't. resorts to the excuse that Burt Hooper, the waffle-eating trucker in Donella's restaurant, made for him. had done nothing of the sort, and though he knew that she was not for an instant disposed to take. The Chironian answered in a slow, low-pitched, expressionless drawl without turning his head. "We tracked 'em for two days, and when enough of us had showed up, we closed in while another group landed up front of 'em behind a ridge to head 'em off. When they moved into a ravine, we covered both exits with riflemen and let 'em know we were there. Gave 'em every chance . said if they came on out quiet, all we'd do was turn 'em in." The Chironian inclined his head briefly and sighed. "Guess some people never learn when to quit." pane, as though showcased: visible above the waist, nude. Jonathan Sharmer, also nude, loomed behind. seems imminent, these tooth fetishists will try to gather up and dispose of their incriminating collection of. "Then why not do something else?" she asked. "It wouldn't worry me if you burst into flames." The robot chuckled raspily. desert-scorched, sand-abraded, brush-scratched look acquired by more arduous use than trips to the. chinfest between the two of you is like when I'm not here to provide some rationality." worked on herself no more than once a month. She always sterilized the scalpel with a candle flame and. thinks he hears sporadic gunfire. He can't be sure. His explosive breathing and the slap of his sneakers on. Veronica paused as she was about to turn toward the door. "I'm beginning to miss being thrown out in the middle of the night. How's your handsome sergeant these days? You haven't finished with him, have you?" The metals-extraction sub complex made use of the high fusion temperatures available on-site to reduce seawater, common rocks, and sands, and all forms of industrial and domestic waste and debris to a plasma of highly charged elementary ions which were then separated cleanly and simply by magnetic techniques; it was like an industrial scale mass spectrometer. In the chemicals sub complex a range of compounds such as fertilizers, plastics, oils, fuels, and feedstocks for an assortment of dependent industries were also formed primarily by recombining reactants from the plasma state under conditions in which the plasma radiation~ was tuned to peak in a narrow frequency band that favored the formation of desired molecules and optimized yields without an excess of unwanted by-products; which was far more efficient than using broad-band thermal sources of combining energy. The plasma method did away with most of the vats and distilling towers of older technologies and, moreover, enabled bulk reactions, which in the past would have taken days or even weeks, to proceed in seconds--and without requiring catalysts to accelerate them. maniac. Leilani pretended puzzlement. "Stop what?" Donella declares, "If anyone around here has a box of chocolates for a brain, then he's sitting in front of." "Yeah, well, she's a mouse." "Is bad news what you always bring?" she asked as Noah closed the door and followed her into the. They stood but three feet apart, face-to-face, and in spite of Micky's compassionate intentions, a mother, Leilani had

said, couldn't make up anything as weird as what is.. "Some things were said tonight, some other things suggested." "I wish you'd never heard them." Her eyes rested momentarily on his chevrons. "Are you Sergeant Colman--the one who's interested in engineering?" Still armored in drollery, with a full bandolier of cheerful banter, Leilani said, "I never thought of myself." But doesn't this kind of thing upset the kids when it happens?" Hanlon had asked uneasily.. Obviously something unusual was going on. Unwilling to leave the subject there, Bernard said, "And Walters too maybe? Perhaps he could use a refresher too," "Does it do-that a lot?" Colman asked from his chair, which had been cleared of a pile of books and some stuffed birds to make room for him. when they had arrived an hour or so earlier.. He always bought her what she requested? the pajamas were no exception? probably because these. place, less than twenty-four hours ago.. CHAPTER SEVEN. "She made an earthworm pie once," Leilani said. "That was when she was deep in a passionate." "Thank you. Are you sure your mother wouldn't like to join us?" The Chironian mind had no place for the dismal picture that earlier generations of terrestrial thinkers had painted, that of a universe spawned through a unique accident of Nature, flaring briefly like a spark in the night to dissipate into infinity and be frozen by the spreading, relentless, icy paralysis of entropy. To the Chironian, the universe was but one atom of a possibly infinite Universe of sibling universes, every one of which coexisted at every point in space with the source-realm that hail procreated its family with the profligacy of a summer storm cloud precipitating raindrops. Through that source-realm any one universe could couple to any other, and by coupling into that source-realm, as the antimatter project had verified, every one could be sustained, nourished, and replenished from a boundless, endless hyper domain so vast and unimaginable that everything in existence, from microbes to the farthest detectable quasars, was a mere shadow of just a speck of it.. character job at Disneyland, but they turned me down." "Those for?" Lechat invited. All of the members' hands went tip. "Against?" There were no hands. "The resolution is passed," Lechat announced. Phoenix had officially become a part of Chiron once again.. Funny had better be sad somewhere.. Bobby Zoon couldn't resist indulging in the techniques that he was learning in film school.. "But if what you've just said it true, Steve, the real threat is against the ship," Sirocco said, tugging at his moustache. "What are these weapons, and what would it take to make the Chironians use them? I've got to have more information." "Confusion," Sirocco said while jabbing at buttons and talking to screens. "People just off the shuttle coming down with stories about something big happening up in the ship-" He turned to one of the screens: "Then try and find his adjutant and get him on a line." Then back to Colman: the answers to them could be learned only by earning her complete trust, and that her trust could be. "We don't get a lot of those," Nanook told them again. "If they don't change pretty quickly, they tend not to stay around all that long." Iuanita looked from Bernard to Jay. In the Mayflower II's Communications Center, Borftein, Wellesley, and the others who had been coordinating activities all over the ship and down on the surface watched and listened tensely as pandemonium poured from the screens around them, Spacesuited figures were cartwheeling away from the mangled remains of one feeder ramp, and the exposed interiors of the cupolas at the ends of the others; all showed battle damage and one of them was partly blown away. They were disgorging weapons, debris, and equipment in all directions while soldiers in suits hung everywhere in helpless tangles of safety lines. "Launch every personnel carrier, service pod, ferry, and anything else that's ready to go," Borftein snapped to one of his staff. "Get them from Vandenberg or anywhere else you have to. I want every one of those men picked up. Peterson, tell Admiral Slessor to have every available shuttle brought up to flight readiness in case we have to evacuate the ship. And find out how many more we can get up here from Canaveral." The dog peers at something in the oily Muck gloom under the big truck. Instead of growling again, he. "Are you planning to grant it?" Noah asked.. course, she might be flashing back to some tender moment she believed that she'd shared with Clark. "More like a few days," Leilani said. "We just spent July in Roswell, actually, because it was July 1947. her cheeks. She kept her fork in motion throughout this silent salty storm, loath to acknowledge what was. shoulders. "No, honey. Never you, none of that. You were just a good woman, too good and far too. He rounds the end of another work aisle and finds an employee sitting on the floor, wedged into the. HOWARD KALENS SAT at the desk in the study of his villa style home, set amid manicured shrubs and screens of greenery in the Columbia District's top-echelon residential sector, and contemplated the porcelain bottle that he was turning slowly between his hands. It was Korean, from the thirteenth-century Koryo dynasty, and about fourteen inches high with a long neck that flowed into a bulbous body of celadon glaze delicately inlaid with mishima depicting a willow tree and symmetrical floral designs contained between decorative bands of a repeated foliose motif encircling the stem and base. His desk was a solid-walnut example of early nineteenth-century French rococo revival and the chair in which he was sitting, a matching piece by the same cabinetmaker. The books aligned on the shelves behind him included first editions by Henry James, Scott Fitzgerald, and Norman Mailer; the Matisse on the wall opposite was a print from an original preserved in the Mayflower II's vaults, and the lithographs beside it were by Rico Lebrun. And as Kalen's eyes feasted on the fine balance of detail and contrasts of hues, and his fingers traced the textures of the bottle's surface, he savored the feeling of a tiny fraction of a time and place that were long ago and far away coming back to life to be uniquely his for that brief, fleeting moment.. "You can count on it, sir," Stanislaw said.. Out in the vast parking area, where cones of dirty yellow light alternate with funnels of shadow, there's. The theory opened up whole new realms, Pernak was beginning to appreciate as he sat back in his office to give his mind a rest from absorbing the information being presented on the wall screen opposite. What he was starting to glimpse hadn't just to do with the physics; it was the completely new philosophy of existence that came with the physical interpretation.. dragged so low by her demons and her drugs that she was less likely to be found in an armchair than. "Two of your officers are heading this way. I thought you ought to know." Old Sinsemilla would never intentionally kill herself. She ate no red meat, restricted her smoking solely to. strictly followed in all life-and-death matters. Because he had committed himself to healing Leilani one. As the snake slithered

along the wall and under the tall chest of drawers, Sinsemilla bounced on the bed. He grinned at the joke as he, turned to lead the way. Farnhill didn't seem to appreciate the humor. "And exactly what is that supposed to mean?" Sterm demanded. He remained convinced that on a deep mysterious level, against all evidence to the contrary, he was and being rude to nuns. eccentric. supposed to talk about the ETs only among ourselves. Sinsemilla totally buys into this. cover, meaning people as well as books, and now they are proved right again. tire iron to break out the rear window on the passenger's side, perhaps because he'd been offended by. Yesterday, in this yard, as Micky had broiled on the lounge chair, amused and a little disoriented by her. slumped shoulder. To the delight and applause of the staff and residents, he walked outside and released. ahead was the room that her mother shared with Preston. following the ramped bed. He is waiting immediately behind the truck when his master arrives. "They'd tell you modesty was a better virtue too," Colman said. and swung over the gate, but his four-legged friend wouldn't have been able to climb after him. was an intriguing thought, Adam suggested, that the bodies of the people being born now on Chiron and on Earth all included heavy elements that had been formed in the same first-generation star--the one that had triggered the shock wave when it exploded a~ a supernova. "We might have been born light-years apart," he told Colman. "But the stuff we're made of came from the same place." "Fear. Shame. I felt dirty." The dog's Hanks shudder, striking sympathetic shivers in the boy. Punctuating its panting are pitiful. Colman nodded. "I guess so. I'll probably be asleep when you come off duty. Better give me a call." heard the screams of the others, but by the time he found them, they were dead, and their steaming. Providing for Laura was the reason that he worked, the reason that he lived in a low-rent apartment, pale stone and soil as the SUVs ascend the slope. regular first name. They're worse about names than old Sinsemilla. They're all Hudson, Lombard, Trevor. Kneeling on the mattress, her mother bounced like a schoolgirl, making the springs sing and the bedrails. "So everyone becomes a law unto himself," Merrick concluded. Celia raised her head suddenly to look up at Lechat. "But I only shot him twice, not six times as the soldiers found. And the house hadn't been broken into when I left. Don't you see what that means?" From the corner of her eye, Micky was aware that the girl had stopped working and had turned to face. lasers, slim grenades, handcuffs. Automatic pistols are holstered at their hips, but they arrive with more. "It was," Jean agreed. "It's a lesson that we an have to remember. It happened because people had forgotten that we all have our proper places in the order of things and our proper functions to perform. They allowed too many people who were unqualified and unworthy to get into positions that they hadn't earned." "Very well," he said. "Stanislau has had his encore. Now let's get back to business. deliver, would you? You're really going to shaft his wife?" "It hasn't started to respond yet," Stormbel said, sounding relieved for the first time in hours. "Perhaps we took them by surprise after all." He glanced at the numbers appearing on a display of orbit and course projections, "In any case, it can't touch us now." "Well, maybe I've padded your bill to make up for not keeping that ten thousand," he said, though he. what do you think I'm talking around? You brought it up, so you must suspect something. "The woman is either nuts or higher than a Navajo shaman with a one-pound-a-day peyote habit." "And I am on early duty tomorrow," Colman said. He grinned again, and she smiled back impishly, "So why are we still here?" they asked together. "No, no, Mr. Farrel. I'll distribute the rest of these and then see if she wants the last one. I'll feed her if I. again, executing as fast a double take as ever did Asta the dog and his master, the detective Nick. "Evidently so. I think I'll buy me a girl cat and call her Mr. Rover." brethren deal with the cowboys and secure the restaurant, they will hear about the kid who was the. When the police cruiser sweeps past and rockets away into the night, the motor home gains speed once. Constance Veronica Tavenall-Sharmer, wife of the media-revered congressman who disbursed payoffs. At that moment the emergency tone sounded simultaneously from both their communicators, and warning--bleeps and wails went up from places in the labyrinth all around. They looked at each other for a second. The noise died away as Colman fished his unit froth his breast. The Chironian rubbed his chin dubiously. "I'm not at all sure that I could be much help. Government of what in particular?" among the big rigs. "Bret's an unarmed-combat instructor with the Army," Tim explained. "Not as much as being shut up inside a box with two people who can't stand each other," Adam replied. "What sense would that make when they've got a family of a hundred thousand outside?" The Windchaser begins to slow as the driver checks his side-view mirrors. Even serial killers who keep. Resolved to live up to his mother's expectations, reminding himself of his remorse over failing to rescue. the rich shade of pure-gold coins, fitting for a descendant of an old-money family that earned its fortune in. "Does Casey know?" Colman asked. Veronica shook her head. Colman thought for a few seconds. "I don't like the sound of what's going on around there," he said. "Do you know the bridge outside, the base on the south side--where the maglev tube crosses a small gully by the distribution substation?"

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