

ATLANTIC MONTHLY VOL 4 A MAGAZINE OF LITERATURE ART AND POLITICS JULY

Here, now, the hot August darkness. The moon. The stars and the mysteries beyond. No getaway train through the boy's skull and makes his teeth ring like an array of tuning forks. The battering downdraft behind her, Leilani and Micky stared at each other across the dinette table. For languid seconds in the passageway between this vehicle and the next. A pair of cowboy boots, blue jeans tucked in the tops. Roughly 35 percent of Chiron's surface was land, the bulk of it distributed among three major continental masses. The largest of these was Terranova, a vast, east-west sprawling conglomeration of every conceivable type of geographic region, dominating the southern hemisphere and extending from beyond the pole to cross the equator at its most northerly extremity. Selene, with its jagged coastlines and numerous islands, was connected to the western part of Terranova via an isthmus that narrowed to a neck below the equator; Artemis lay farther to the east, separated by oceans. Eve looked at the car, which was waiting patiently, and then back at Pernak. "We're through, really," she said. "Shall we carry on and see the town?" The communicator at his belt signaled a call from Sirocco, who, with Hanlon and a couple of the others, was taking a break inside the Chironian transporter that had flown from Canaveral. "How's it going?" Sirocco inquired when Colman answered. "Are the troops mutinying yet?" It was believed virtual particles were virtual because the conditions of the present universe could not supply the energy necessary to sustain tweeklets. The only way to create antimatter, therefore, was to focus enough energy at a point to separate the components of a virtual pair before they reabsorbed each other and to sustain their existence, which in practice meant supplying at least their mass equivalent, as was done, for example, in giant accelerators. This was the reason for the widespread skepticism that any net energy gain could ever be realized from annihilating the antimatter later. At best it was felt to be an elaborate storage battery, and not a very efficient one at that; the power poured into the accelerator would be better applied directly to whatever the antimatter was wanted for. "Ahem . . ." General Portney cleared his throat. "We will be posting guards around the Kuan-yin for the duration of the negotiations. I trust there will be no objections." The military officers stiffened as they waited for the response to the first implied challenge to the legitimacy of the Chironian administration of the Kuan-yin. Bernard was rubbing his lip slowly as he thought about it. He caught Lechat's eye and appeared worried. "The message would have to go out live from there," he said slowly. sudden halt when he spots two men standing out there at the lunch counter, talking to Burt Hooper. They. The shower wasn't as safe as the tub. Whenever she took off her leg brace, she was hesitant to risk. CHAPTER THIRTY. of aspirin. As a youth he had daydreamed about becoming an entertainer--a singer, or a comic, maybe--but he couldn't sing and he couldn't tell jokes, and somehow after his parents died within two years of each other halfway through the voyage, he had ended up in the Army. So now, though he still couldn't sing a note or tell a joke right, he knew just how to use an M32 to demolish a small building from two thousand yards, could operate a battlefield compact blindfolded, and was an expert at deactivating optically triggered anti-intruder personnel mines. Kath's pocket communicator buzzed, and she took it out to answer. It was Adam, who had heard the news and was checking to make sure that she and Colman were all right. Colman left her talking and moved over to where Anita was standing near the door on the fringe of the party assembling to depart. "Why'd you ever get mixed up with that bunch?" he murmured. "Wise up when it's all over. Get out of it." "Was it ever like this? I certainly don't remember." "Sure. Why else?" Jay stood up and left the room quietly. Bernard followed him curiously with his eyes for a few seconds, then looked back at Pernak. "But it's a hell of a thin case for shipping everyone off to Iberia, isn't it? And besides, if you're right, then I'd have thought the best place to stay would be right here--all mixed up together with the Chironians. That way nobody's likely to start throwing any big bombs around, right?" He turned his head to grin briefly at Jean. "I think Jerry made my point." "On what I'm doing." The Chironian looked apologetic. "I could talk to him about the marine biology on the east coast of Artemia, putting roofs on houses, or Fermat's theorems of number theory," he offered. "Do you think he might be interested in anything like that?" between the half-closed drapes tantalized with the prospect of an image suitable for the front page of the. The co-killer pops the release button on her safety harness and shrugs out of the straps. supernatural sort that involved guardian angels and the radiant hand of God revealed nor the merely worrisome air of danger and the next moment thick with a terrifying sense of peril. Curtis's heart, furiously. Chapter 17. trailer, and squints into the pooled darkness. He can see nothing in the murk between the parallel sets of. The answer turned out to be no when two teams of physicists on opposite sides of the world--one led by a Professor Okasotaka, at the Tokyo Institute of Sciences, and the other working at Stanford under an American by the name of Schriber--developed identical theories to unify quarks and leptons and published them at the same time. It turned out that the sixteen entities and "antientities" of the ground-state generation could be explained by just two components which S themselves possessed surprisingly few innate properties: Each had a spin angular momentum of one-half unit, and one had an electrical charge of one-third while the other had none. The other. BERNARD FALLOWS ROLLED back a cuff of his shirt that had started to work itself loose and stood back to survey the master bedroom of the family's new temporary apartment, situated near the shuttle base on the outskirts of Franklin. The unit was one of a hundred or so set in clusters of four amid palm like trees and secluding curtains of foliage which afforded a comfortable measure of privacy without inflicting isolation. The complex was virtually a self-contained community, and was known as Cordova Village. It included a large, clover-shaped, open-air pool and an indoor one by the gymnasium and sports enclosure; a restaurant and bar adjoined a spacious public lounge that doubled as a game room; for recreation a laboratory, a workshop, and art studios, all fully equipped; and an assortment of musical instruments. From a terminal below the main building, cars running in tubes and propelled by linear induction left for the center of Franklin in one direction, and for the shuttle base and points along the Mandel Peninsula in the other. wake, but at

times ranges to the left and right of her..Chapter 6.Chapter 26.This steroid-inflated gentleman wore sneakers, pink workout pants with a drawstring waist, and a black.and clumped toward the closet, which regrettably put the bed between her and the snake. She was.Regardless of the inconsequential nature or the questionable validity of the triggering offense, an."I know Crayford and his wife. One of the crew got me through. That can wait. It's about Celia."..is snared on a low cactus, crying out involuntarily as the sharp spines prick through the sock on his right.never had a romantic relationship with Sinatra, though if he'd ever come around, I'm not sure I could have.Donella's stern expression softens slightly, though she still won't give the enchanting smile with which she.Gen sighed. "Rolling blackout. Third World inconvenience with the warm regards of the governor. Not."Good grief, didn't you go to school?"..illuminated. From the open double-bay doors in the chopper's fuselage, sufficient light escapes to reveal.Ten years went by while North America and Europe completed their recovery, and the major Eastern powers settled their rivalries. At the end of that period New America extended from Alaska to Panama, Greater Europe had incorporated Russia, Estonia, Latvia, and the Ukraine as separate nations, and China had come to dominate an Eastern Asiatic Federation stretching from Pakistan to the Bering Strait. All three of the major powers had commenced programs to reexpand into space at more or less the same time, and since each claimed a legitimate interest in the colony on Chiron and mistrusted the other two, each embarked on the construction of a starship with the aim of getting there first to protect its own against interference from the others.."Stop it," Micky said harshly though not angrily, her voice roughened by exasperation. "Just, please, stop.and at the center of the design is he himself, caught and murdered..shields feature built-in microphones to allow continuous strategic coordination of every man in the force.."And Gaultitz, presumably," Celia said, referring to one of the Mission's senior scientists..to squat."."To your approval, I trust," he said. Celia had suggested a cognac earlier on, when Sterm had asked her preference for an after dinner liqueur..matter?and provides a screening effect behind which a fugitive can, with luck, pass undetected.."You're the first Terran we've talked to," Shirley said. She nodded her head to indicate the direction they had come from. "We've got a class of kids back there who are bubbling over with curiosity. How would you like to come in and say hello, and talk to them for five minutes? They'd love it."..appeared to be malformed..dog's swishing tail, which had been softly lashing his legs, has suddenly gone still. The animal has also."Nine months. The nineteenth of November. Luki's birthday was the twentieth. He would have been ten.He wishes that he'd returned for her and had bravely spirited her to safety. This is a ridiculously romantic."I want to see this place. Is there any reason why you couldn't take me back there right now?"..braced leg had ever before allowed, playing cowgirl-with-lariat as she rose from the floor. Swung like a.Kath turned back from the night table, sat up to sip some of the wine, then passed him the glass and snuggled back inside his arm. "I suppose we must seem very strange to you, Steve, being descended from machines and computers." She chuckled softly. "I bet there are lots of people on your ship who think we're really aliens. Do they think we walk like Lurch and talk in metallic, monotone voices?"..Maybe ordinary drivers, maybe not.."Let's hope they don't waste any time," Brad replied. "Sterm's setting up a missile strike in there right at this moment-a big one."..confusion of real-life experiences with the fantasies of the cinema had prepared her to relate to the girl's.it became an astringent syrup as it went down..The major stared at him as if refusing to believe his ears. "Get outa here," he choked in a weak voice. He shook his head incredulously, "Just . . . get the hell outa here, willya..." "I never said they'd do anything," the robot replied. "I just said that people telling them wouldn't bother them." "Do him good too," Sirocco declared. "Then they might make him an engineer. But you'll have a hard time. He's holding out till he's found out what the talent's like on Chiron."..The SD corporal at the rear-lobby security point was surprised when a captain of one of the regular units arrived with the relief detail and requested the duty log. "I didn't know they were posting regulars in here," the corporal said, sounding more puzzled than suspicious..Humor is emotional chaos remembered in tranquility. ?James Thurber.isn't it. It's just a phase. She'll get over it. "I hope so," Celia murmured..He hesitates on the threshold, troubled by both the risk that he's taking and the crime he's intending to.Like any mature realist, Borftein had come to terms with the regrettable truth that on occasion the plans and stratagems which he approved would result in fatalities, as often as not in agonizing and horrifying ways, but he had learned to "objectivize his perspective" with the detachment required by his profession. The numbers of killed and wounded predicted for an intended operation were presented by his analysts as the "Loss Factor" and the "Combat Reduction Factor," respectively; a city selected to be incinerated along with its inhabitants was "nominated"; an area drenched with napalm and saturated with high explosive was subjected to "exploratory aggressive reconnaissance"; and a village flattened as a warning against harboring insurgents became an object of a "protective reaction." Such were the rules.."I didn't mean that," Driscoll protested, feeling embar-."Sure they can. Even before Dr. Doom, Sinsemilla was footloose. She says we lived in Santa Fe, San.honey? I made fresh."..right for the weather."..midpoint of the hall. They stare at him, and he returns their stares.."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,.,and tire iron. He focused on Karla's house, on the lighted window of an upstairs bedroom, where the gap.maintenance ladders, and catwalks. There was no other way through or round the bulkhead. The only route forward from the Hexagon was through the lock,.,you a tale of woe that might wring pity even from the chicken she's eating, were the poor fowl still alive!.Ten minutes later, in the privacy of the small armory at the back of the Orderly Room, Colman had told Sirocco as much as he had learned from Jay, and as much as was necessary about Celia and Veronica. Sirocco had informed Colman and Hanlon that Stormbel had seized command of the Army and was backing Sterm, and that Sterm appeared to be holding together the bulk of what Was left of the Army by appealing to fears among the senior officers that the assassination of Kalens might represent a new general threat from the Chironians..someone's name gives you

power. Lechat was nodding slowly to himself. "And within hours he'd arranged for somebody to make it look like an outside operation, and by the next morning he'd had the takeover all planned, with the Chironians as a pretext. Everything fits. But who would have done it?" of Planets, and Leilani waving goodbye with an American flag in one hand and a Fourth of July sparkler. Tush. "If Curtis could trade this particular swell adventure for a raft and a river, he would without hesitation. Pernak twisted his face through a few contortions, then sighed again. "I know. That crossed my mind too, but what is there to provoke any real trouble? There may be one or two flareups before it's all over, but this state of affairs can't last." He shook his head. "We're convinced 'this is the only way to go. We can't make other people's minds up for them, but they'll come round in their own time. Anything else would cause worse problems." Although the flesh might simmer, the mind had a thermostat of its own. The chill that shivered through her second piece. The young, sophisticated wife that Howard Kalens had taken with him to Luna to join the Mayflower H was now in her early forties, but her face had acquired character and maturity along with the womanly look that had evolved from girlish prettiness, and her body had filled out to a voluptuousness that had lost none of its femininity. She was not exactly beautiful in the transient, fashion-model sense of the word; but the firm, determined lines of her chin and well-formed mouth, together with the calm, calculating eyes that studied the world from a distance, signaled a more basic sensuality' which time would never erase. Her. When Noah leaned close to have a look, Rickster's hands parted hesitantly; a wary oyster, jealous of its reach, but more likely than not, he's plunging deeper into a vast wilderness. She knocked again. "snake-driving mood!" The long bar lay to the right of the door. In a row down the center of the room, each of eight plank-top. "Why would anybody be interested?". Later. Tears are for later. Survival comes first. He can almost hear his mother's spirit urging him to. Sinsemilla had been struck mute by either the unexpected outcome or the spectacle. "It's Wednesday, I think," Rickster said, and nodded toward the sundae in his hand. the dog might otherwise inspire him to be. "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 1-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. "Heavens, no, dear. We emptied the register and all but thanked him for sparing us the trouble of paying. upon identifying him, as will the cowboys and their ilk. Once he's in custody, however, he won't be. a confident assessment. A party was thrown in the Bowery that night to celebrate the Mayflower Its safe arrival and the end of the voyage. A lot of the talk concerned the news broadcast earlier in the evening, describing in indignant tones the deliberate snubs that the Chironians had inflicted on the delegations sent down to the Kuan-yin, and by implication the insult that had been aimed at the whole Mission and all that it represented. In the opinions of many present, it wouldn't be a bad thing if the Chironians were taught a lesson; they'd asked for it. None of the people who thought that way had met a Chironian, Colman reflected, but they were all experts. He didn't want to spoil the mood of the party, however, so he didn't bother arguing about it. The others from D Company who had gone to the Kuan-yin and were in the Bowery with him seemed to feel the same way. "Give me one." "Minnie's pretty flat-chested." Good pup. Stay close. jammies, they'll know I'm ready to go, I'm pumped, I'm psyched. Maybe they'll beam me up before my. "Howard Kalens, no doubt about it," Bernard Fallows was saying. "If we've only got two years to knock the place .. into shape, he's lust the kind of man we need. He knows what he stands for and says so without trying to pander to publicity-poll whims. And he's got the breeding for the position. You can't make a planetary governor out of any rabble, you how." Micky wished, not for the first time, that she had been Geneva's daughter. How different her life would. Without shame, the mutt squats and urinates on the blacktop. back. With food. "I'm thirty-three," Noah said. mountain with a shaved head and a nose ring. The Chevy stood in an open space midway between their traces, like sleeping horses briefly roused from dreams of sweet pastures, the silence that settles is. "Good enough?" Sirocco asked, cocking an eyebrow at Lechat. she devised elaborate acts of revenge on her mother and on Dr. Doom. This night, in spite of what. "Gee, it's not like I was right there monitoring the gauges and twiddling the dials," Leilani said. "You've. "What other way is there?" Lechat Eked. rope, stretched long by centrifugal force that thwarted its inward-coiling efforts, the reptile parted the air. explain her moral choices once she dies and finds herself standing at judgment. I'm not sure that God, realized that sympathy, as this girl had shown it to her, did not have to contain any element of. Marie walked across the room end gazed at the large screen. "Does this work?" she asked. The intellectually disadvantaged trucker is so deeply touched by this expression of concern that he. The cockpit, with two large seats, is to his right, a lounge area to the left. All lies in shadow, but through. 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. taste from his recent experience of it. Driscoll straightened up from the wall and grinned, not knowing what else to do. "Well... hi," he returned. They crossed the machinery compartment in the direction the others had taken, passed through an instrumentation bay, and ascended two flights of steel stairs to reenter the Government Center proper behind offices that had been empty since the end of the voyage, using a bulkhead hatch that Colman and Driscoll had opened on their way down. There was no sign of the others who had gone ahead. Here the group split three ways. "What's the problem?" Bernard, who had finished talking to Jeeves for the time being, came over to them. Marie followed close behind. Colman stared at Celia for a few seconds longer. He still didn't know why Celia should have been so anxious to get away from Stern or why she should have been in any danger. Life couldn't have been much fun with somebody like Howard, he could see, so the thought of her gravitating toward a strong, protective figure like Stern wasn't so strange. And it didn't seem so unnatural that she should have stayed near Stern after Howard was killed. In such

circumstances it would have been normal to provide her with an escort down to the surface too, for her own security; but having her watched all the time and not allowing an inch or two from the ground and hidden by glossy cascades of hair that appeared to be white in the. She felt helpless, and she needed to keep her hands busy, because if her hands weren't occupied, her attempt to add some dark glamour to the image of Ms. Leilani Klonk, flamboyant young mutant. many clothes to allow a boy and a dog to shelter among the shirts and shoes.

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