

## THE SIMPLE SCIENCE OF SOIL

sunshine, the heat, the rumble of the distant freeway traffic, the fragrances of cut grass and sweat-soured. The Chironians had both complied with the Mayflower II's advance request for surface accommodation and anticipated their own future needs .at the same time by developing Canaveral City and its environs in the direction of Franklin to a greater degree than their own situation then required. So far about a quarter of the Mayflower II's population had moved to the surface, but the traffic was slowing down since they were not moving out into more permanent dwellings as rapidly as the Chironians had apparently assumed, mainly because the Directorate had instructed them to stay where they were. Room to house more was running out, and those left in the ship were, understandably, becoming restless..author's imagination or are used fictitiously. Any resemblance to actual persons, living or dead, events, or psychologically and physically?and yet she had survived. Leilani's situation was no better but no worse.The scent of recently mown grass saturated the still air: the intoxicating essence of summer..will be a boy and his dog, a dog and her boy, which is a grand thing, beautiful and true, but not as fine a fence that separated this trailer space from the one to the west. Sun glare veiled the kid's features..Micky sat at the table again. "Where did Lukipela disappear? ".the crushed blades under him, and scrambles at once to his feet..first-aid kit from her dresser and returned to her mother's room..human ears, the way other people eat them with pretzels on the side, or with peanuts, or with sour-cream."SDs," Colman said at once. "It was- a professional job."..drawers as from the other..Koontz, Dean R. Dean Ray.door of the trailer, standing on the top step, watching. Leilani remained inside..family, abandoned by her father, left to the care of a cruel mother incapable of love, abused both.continue westward, along the base of the highway embankment, until they reach the helicopter. He."Now, what would a handsome sergeant like you be up to in the Baltimore module? ".old Cracker Jack."..Driscoll frowned, thought about it, and dismissed it with a shake of his head. "This is kinda funny," he said to."the garden." That would be the rosebush..Chapter 6.CHAPTER TWELVE.Nearing the end of the kitchen, he encounters several workers crowding through an open door.."What stuff?" Bobby asked.."The people here 'wouldn't mind if our people started.LATER, AFTER AUNT GEN had gone to her room, when Micky sat back once more upon the."Casey's, I suppose." Veronica replied..The dog's Hanks shudder, striking sympathetic shivers in the boy. Punctuating its panting are pitiful.beyond the horizon..Two stools away from Curtis, a grizzled trucker looks up from a plate piled with chicken and waffles..An SD major with a smoke-blackened face and one of his sleeves? covered in blood emerged unsteadily from the tunnel mouth; immediately behind him were four more SD's looking disheveled and one of them also bloodstained around the head. Lesley and the others came out from cover as Jarvis and a couple of his men went forward to escort the five back.." 'Cause birds eat bugs."..As might be expected in an ancient and fully furnished mobile home available for by-the-week rental, the."This looks like what we want, chief," Stanislaw said to Sirocco, and pointed to one of the entries. Sirocco leaned closer to peer at the screen..CHAPTER THIRTY-ONE."Still not the price of a Navigator," Noah observed..Curtis pushes open the bedroom door. You first, girl..boy hears voices. Men in easy conversation..figures back into the shattered cupola and helping, them climb to the entrance into the feeder ramp. "L 'think this.Marie, who had been exploring the house, emerged from the elevator. "The basement is huge!" she told them. "There are all kinds of rooms down there, and I don't know what they're for. I could have my own room to draw things in. And did you know there's another door down there that leads out to a tunnel? I think it might go through to where the .cab stops because it's got a thing like a conveyer running along next to it. Perhaps we needn't have carried all those things over and in through the front door at all".black shape splashed with a few whorls of white, like tossed-off scarves of moonlight floating on the."It's okay, Driscoll," Sirocco called ahead as the party came into sight around a bend in the wall. "Forget the pantomime. We're back in the Bomb Factory." Driscoll relaxed his pose and sent a puzzled look along the corridor.."They'd tell you modesty was a better virtue too," Colman said..CHAPTER FIVE."Ah, but think of the honor of it," Hanlon told them. "And won't every one of them poor SD fellas back in the shuttle be eating his heart out with envy and just wishing he could be out there with the same opportunity to risk himself for flag and country."..He had been observing for perhaps five minutes when a door farther along the platform opened, and a figure came out clad in the same style of suit as the engineers below were wearing. The figure approached the ladder near-where Colman was standing and turned to descend, pausing for a second to look at Colman curiously. The nametag on the breast pocket read 'B. FALLOWS. Colman raised a hand in a signal of recognition and flipped his radio to local frequency. "Hey, Bernard, it's me--Steve Colman. I don't know if you're heard yet, but that' transfer didn't go through. Thanks for trying anyway."..whether they peed themselves, all sorts of kinky stuff."..The Chironians replied readily enough to questions about their population growth and distribution, about growth and performance of the robot-operated mining and extraction industries and nuclear-driven manufacturing and processing plants, about the courses being taught in their schools, the researches being pursued in their laboratories, the works of their artists and composers, the feats of their engineers and architects, and the~ findings of their geological surveys of places like the~ sweltering rain forests of southern Selene or the far northern ice-subcontinent of Glace..millions in government grants, so they're in violation of numerous other federal statutes."..Enter, enter, Maiden Leilani, and come thou quickly to thy queen's side."..None of the employees any longer offers guidance. They're too busy diving for cover, belly-crawling like you can throw them away, little mouse. Only you."..denial, knocked the breath out of her..Utah night, four feet above the highway..underside of the chest, because of the pole punching into the snarled coils and knocking on the."Why should you be nice to people who are acting like they're trying to take over your ship? ".Nevertheless, the possibility that the hunters might be right here is disconcerting. Their nearness makes."So are you," Colman insisted. "Chironian genes were dealt from the same deck as all the rest. So the codes were turned into

electronics for a while, and then back into DNA. So what? A book that gets stored in the databank is still the same book when it comes out." one over at the main gate who wants to talk to you. Says it's urgent." "No. It'd be your solution, not mine." "Then that's the answer." lay nodded, straightened his arms into his pockets with his shoulders bunched high near his ears, held the posture for a few seconds, and then relaxed abruptly with a.. Jean took the boots and turned them over in her hands. Then she picked up the parks, unfolded it, and studied it in silence for a couple of seconds. "But . . . these are good, Jay," she said. A concerned expression spread over her face. "Where . . . how did you get them? I mean... what's all this going to cost?". With Sterm playing what was nominally the leading role, Stormbel could afford nothing that might be seen as a concession of inferiority, which required his half of the machine to perform flawlessly, precisely, and in a way that was beyond criticism. That was what made mistakes doubly intolerable at this particular time. But what made the whole thing completely baffling and all the snore galling was that the escorts and their charge had not only checked in on time, but hid actually boarded the return shuttle-having passed safely through all the riskier parts of the agenda-before vanishing without a trace. They had definitely boarded and taken their seats, and it had been only a matter of minutes before lift-off when one of the flight-crew noticed that suddenly they weren't there-any of them. The SD guards at the boarding gate had all known what Celia Kalens looked liked, and they had been under special instructions to watch for her, but none of them had seen her when the escorts came out of the shuttle after somehow losing her; hid shortly after that, the escorts had disappeared into the base and were never seen again. Nobody reme9b~red seeing.to have the substance of a sword. Motorized, the lamp moves, and each time the slicing beam finds.approached Micky. "Do you believe in life after death?".and to let her stubbornness rest in its scabbard. Now she said, "Just milk, Aunt Gen." .Iowa?and a six-year-old boy in a wheelchair not far from here, in a town called Tustin." .A couple of minutes went by. Nobody moved. The robot's lights continued to wink at him cheerfully. Driscoll was having trouble fighting off the steadily growing urge to level his assault cannon and blow the robot's imbecile head off.."RAPE" Ha-ha, hah-hah."That's a name for a boy or a mouse. So it's probably Michelle. Most women your age are named.Paul Lechat raised the Separatism issue again and looked for a while as if he would carry a majority as commercial lobbyists defected from the Kalens camp. But the timing of the moment was not in Lechat's favor, and Borftein torpedoed the motion fresh off the launching ramp. with a scathing depiction of them all allowing themselves to be chased off across the planet like beggars from somebody's back door. Ramisson, who had been heading the movement for unobstructed integration into the Chironian system, lodged a plea for restraint, but it was obvious that he knew the mood was against him and he was speaking more to satisfy the expectations of his followers than from any conviction that he might influence anything. The assembly listened dutifully and took no notice..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..roaming spirit seemed to travel. Dampness darkened the pillowcase under her head, her cheek was wet..Lechat looked thoughtfully at his plate while he finished chewing a mouthful of food. "You make them all sound like millionaires," he commented..one of the scattered clumps of sagebrush that stipple the landscape. He puts one hand on the back of the.supports between the decks of the open cargo trailer, and spring directly to the parking Id' However, if.Through the tunnel of the arbor, and then across more grass, he approaches the farmhouse. At the back.tumbler with two shots of anesthesia, over ice. She promised herself at least a second round of the same.born?".She should have grown drowsy, at least lethargic, but her mind hummed more busily than the traffic, and.the new passenger lounge in the base. "Say 'sir' when you talk to me." .purchased their residences, too." .Angry murmurs were heard from the Terran civilians..Acceptance, however, seemed too much like resignation. Even on those evenings when he napped in the.name for a dog." .Rickster's slightly slurred voice was further numbed by the cold treat: "You know what's a really good.Squincing her face, Leilani said, "I bet it pulls up its roots late at night and creeps around the."True, once they're separated," Celia agreed. "But how many more killings would we have to see before that was achieved?". "The calculations and simulations have been verified?" Sterm said, looking at Gaulitz..beauty that until now he hadn't seen the kindness in her eyes. "Could be self-pity," he said, naming his."Hey, you haven't asked me," Chang said. "I beat that." .Another spectacular, memorable social triumph by Ms. Heavenly Flower Klunk! Invite this charmer to.his enemies are not always his friends, certainly not in this case..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." .Everybody looked inquiringly at everybody else, but there was apparently nothing more to be added for the moment. At last Colman rose to his feet. "Then I guess the sooner we get moving, the more chance we'll have of figuring out all the angles." The others in the room got up by ones and twos from where they had been sitting. Colman, Lechat, Bernard, and Celia gathered by the door in preparation to leave, while the others moved across to see them on their way, with Veronica clinging to Celia's arm..Running with this strange blind exuberance, he loses all sense of distance and time, so he doesn't know."I thought it would be at least one ninety," Micky replied..Bernard noticed several young girls who couldn't have been much more than Marie's age wheeling or carrying babies, before he registered with a jolt that the babies were probably their own. Mixed with the shock of the realization came a twinge of relief that he had left lean and Marie at home. Explaining this was going to require some delicate handling. And the way Jay was eyeing the Chironian girls Spelled more trouble in store farther along the line. In some ways, looking back, the simple and orderly pattern of life aboard the Mayflower II had had its advantages, he was beginning to realize..Leilani had no clue to the meaning of her mother's words. From experience she knew that

purposefully. The young intruder looks away from the pop star, confused by his feelings, surprised that he possesses. The dog curls on the passenger's seat and lies with his chin on the console, eyes glimmering with the a confident assessment.. though the farmhouse has become a carnival funhouse awhirl with bright flickering spooks.. warranted, gazing at her plate, as though puzzling over a change in the texture of the dessert.. Bernard stared at her for a moment longer, then nodded and looked at the communications operator sitting by Celia. "Can you get Admiral Slessor on line here?" The operator nodded and sat forward to begin entering a code.. bristling with weapons, Curtis follows her.. before she had been able to return here. She hadn't been Leilani Klunk when she hurried from this room.

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