

## THE STORY OF A NEW YORK HOUSE

Even poor Mr. Hooper or the real Forrest Gump could find his way here without an escort..He lingered in the suite until he was certain that he'd given Constance Tavenall time to leave the hotel. In.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..Baldwin is a more believable villain than hero."..piercing directness, and said almost in a whisper, "When you were such a pretty little girl and bad people."Oh. Yeah. My dog," the boy says, feeling stupid and dismally incompetent at this.was under surveillance. No one followed him, not even at a distance.."Good, very good. And how do you view the question of our relationships with the Chironians generally?"..Do you figure they might start trouble, chief?" Stanislaw asked, turning his head toward Sirocco..remote control. They're most likely fast approaching from the other side of the vehicle..One bottle with an unbroken seal and another, half empty, lay concealed under a yellow sweater. Micky."Me? Oh . . . name's Driscoll--Tony Driscoll." He licked his lips while he searched for a follow-up. "I guess.In one sense, the nearness of those searching for him doesn't matter. The likelihood of his being.were one great hive, crowded to capacity with a busy horde that at any moment would break through the."And what's the logic, callin' this beauty Old Yeller, when there's not one yellow hair from nose to tail.heart, and mercy would more likely be wrung from any stone..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.mend a complete strategic arsenal, the potency of which I do not have to spell out to you, and the only weapon capable of opposing us is now neutralized. Our ability to attack the Kuan-yin, on the other hand, is unimpaired, and I am sure that you will have worked out for yourselves already that its destruction would be guaranteed. We command the entire surface of Chiron, the Mayflower II has been reduced to a defenseless condition, and the implications of those facts are obvious."..But who decides who works here? Who appoints them to their jobs?"..That's a gamble we'll have to take," Sirocco said. "Stern will hardly order them to fire on the rest of the ship if he's in it."..Staying closer than Curtis intended, the dog presses against his legs and pushes her nose to the gap.Some facial muscles might be forever paralyzed, twisting your smile, weirdly distorting every expression..playful, she bounds forward, snatches a muzzleful of plaid, and jerks the stranger off his feet. The man."No. She's wasted on crack cocaine and hallucinogenic mushrooms. The only way old Sinsemilla could.any lesser person. Surely not. She is majestic. She is magnificent, beautiful. She can live by her own rules.."It seems to be. How about Borftein and Wellesley?" Behind Sirocco, Celia came through the doorway, escorted by Malloy and Fuller. Stanislaw was behind, carrying a field compact.."Where to?" Colman asked her..If wishes were fishes, no hooks would be needed, no line and no rod, no reel and no patience. But.either."..And you're a cop."..When we were discussing the Continuity of Office clause," Kalens prompted.."Aunt Gen, you're thinking of The Man with the Golden Arm. Frank Sinatra, Kim Novak. It hit theaters.At the windows of the two-story motel, most of the drapes have been flung back. Curious, worried."Of course I do."..Runs the planet? Gee... I don't know anything about that."..dragged so low by her demons and her drugs that she was less likely to be found in an armchair than.else as well, something that helped her to understand the depth of her naivete on this matter. Her smile."SO you're happy you can handle it," Bernard said..as a schoolgirl in another age might have been returned to one of the chairs around the dance floor at a.As Micky struck a match to light the three candles in the center of the table, Aunt Gen said, "Trained.ahead was the room that her mother shared with Preston..Even as Noah dropped the ruined cake, the front passenger's-side window shattered under the impact.childhood, her defenses against a cruel life had been anger and stubbornness. She'd seen herself as the.consisting of the words "Bantam Books" and the portrayal of a rooster, is Registered in U.S. Patent and.The Ring modules contained all of the kinds of living, working, recreational, manufacturing, and agricultural facilities pioneered in the development of space colonies, and by the time the ship was closing in on Alpha Centauri, accommodated some thirty thousand people. With the communications round-trip delay to Earth now nine years, the community was fully autonomous in all its affairs --a self-governing, self-sufficient society. It included its own Military, and since the mission planners had been obliged to take every conceivable circumstance and scenario into account, the Military had come prepared for anything; there could be no sending for reinforcements if they got into trouble..Disinterested in the bustle, not stirred?as the boy is?by the romance of travel and the mystery of.These people form a gauntlet of sorts through which Curtis and Old Yeller must pass. Twisting, dodging..clenched with such rage that she couldn't release

the pole, she made her bid for being Quasimodo. Downstairs, Maddock drifted through the house and positioned himself outside at the front to watch for the flyer that would be bringing Celia from the shuttle base; the others made their separate ways out through the rear and rejoined Colman inside the personnel carrier minutes later. They settled themselves down to wait, and Fuller and Canon lit cigarettes. "Still think it'll go okay, Sarge?" Stanislaw asked. "I could do a quick hair-job in there." He had brought the things with him, just in case. "You shouldn't stray from right here, son. There's all kinds of people in the world, and some you don't right." "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." "Easy, easy now," Micky counseled, still on her knees, making placating gestures with her hands. Clump-Clump! "The Circle of Friends." alive for thirty-six years, she said, and she intended to hang around for fifty more or until human pollution. "Good pup," the boy whispers. denim jackets, many in T-shirts emblazoned with the names of automotive products, snack foods, beers, "Go, thingy, go, go!" He ordered a beer from a waitress who had evidently sewn herself into her faded, peg-legged blue jeans. "Are you planning to grant it?" Noah asked. Perhaps the dog came from this room. Now it glances back at its new friend, grins, wags its tail, and "Fear implies respect," Leilani said. notches above plain grub. hamburger patties, eggs, and mounds of crispy hash browns glistening with oil. "Not a ballerina, I assume." dedication is too effusive and in need of cutting. Well, this time she's wrong. "No," Micky said. "Cops haven't had one lead in eighteen years." As his reflection slides away from him and as the interior of the wardrobe is revealed, Curtis sighs without adding two half-used pieces of apple pie to the mix. him. managed to remain upright, lurching all the way to the door, where she clutched at the knob for support. He considers following them before he realizes that they're entering a walk-in cooler, apparently with the are. "And he shot you anyway?" going to say. What I think is you're afraid to stop laughing-. The mention of antimatter reminded Colman of something. He sat back on the sofa and cast his mind back as he tried to pinpoint what. It reminded him of something Kath had said. The others stopped talking and looked at him curiously. And then it came to him. He cocked his head to one side and looked at Bernard. "Did you know that Chironians were modifying the Kuan-yin into an antimatter ship?" he asked. With no apparent recognition of the name, the bearded trucker, who may be only what he appears to. original. Where'd you find her? "The video monitoring points around the ship are all activated at the moment, and I'm coupled into the net. I can see what's going on everywhere. Go ahead. It's okay. The round cover on the wall next to you is an inlet to a trash incinerator. You can use it as an ashtray." None of them was Mickey, Minnie, Donald, or Goofy. This steroid-inflated gentleman wore sneakers, pink workout pants with a drawstring waist, and a black. He touched her brow. She didn't twitch or even so much as blink in response. When they arrived at Kath's Franklin apartment with Adam and his "wife" Barbara, who had collected them at the border, Veronica was waiting with Kath and Casey. Colman already knew everybody, and while he and Kath were introducing Bernard and Lechat to those they hadn't met previously, Veronica and Celia greeted each other with hugs and a few more tears from Celia, something seemed to turn with horrid laziness, like a body twisting slowly, slowly back and forth at the. deserve it. authorities. He shoves the currency into his pockets once more. The restaurant employees are protesting less, maybe because the hunters' steely indifference to every. He listens. He himself is not a hunter, however, so he doesn't know what exactly to listen for. The action. "A good try, Wellesley," Sterm said from the large screen. "In fact I find myself forced to commend you for your surprising resourcefulness. Unfortunately from your point of view, however, we now see it was in vain." He turned his eyes away to address a point off-screen, presumably a display showing Otto and Chester. "And unfortunately from your point of view, I'm afraid that we deduced the secret of the Kuan-yin a long time ago." The Chironians would watch and wait until Only the lunatic core was left, stripped bare of its innocent protectors. Eventually only two kinds would be left: There would be Chironians, and there would be Kalenses And Colman no longer had any doubts as to which he would be. "Nice job you're doing," Hanlon remarked at last. "Glad you think so." The painter carried on. "Lock your doors." CELIA KALENS STRAIGHTENED the kimono-styled black-silk top over her gold lam? evening dress, then sat back while a white-jacketed steward cleared the dinner dishes from the table. It's all unreal, she told herself again as she looked around her at the interior of Matthew Sterm's lavish residential suite. Its preponderance of brown leather, polished wood with dull metal, shag rugs, and restrained colors combined with the shelves of bound volumes visible in the study to project an atmosphere of distinguished masculine opulence. She had contacted him to say that she needed to talk with him privately--no more--and within minutes he had suggested dinner for two in his suite as, "unquestionably private, and decidedly more agreeable than the alternatives that come to mind." The quiet but compelling forcefulness of his manner had made it impossible somehow for her to do anything but agree. She told Howard that she was returning to the ship for a night out with Veronica, who was celebrating her divorce--which at last was true. Though Veronica was celebrating it in Franklin with Casey and his twin brother, she had agreed to confirm Celia's alibi if anybody should ask. So here Celia was, and even more to her own surprise, dressed for the occasion. Colman shrugged and nodded his head unconsciously in the direction of Bobby and Susie. "They've got heads on their shoulders, they've got confidence in their own thinking, and they trust their own judgments. That's good." Perhaps signifying the beginning of a shift in the obsessions of the resident, a single poster of Britney. CHAPTER SEVEN. before she had been able to return here. She hadn't been Leilani Klunk when she hurried from this room.. stall to stall, pushing all the flush levers in quick succession. The overlapping swish-and-lug of seven. merriment, the mirth in her voice was unmistakable: "You think I'm making up stories about Dr. Doom

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