

## THE SECOND MRS TANQUERAY A PLAY IN FOUR ACTS

"I'm not sure. I guess I couldn't have been listening that much." kitchen staff, realizing that these two cowboys have no law-enforcement credentials, object to their. Ridiculous. They aren't the type to play games. They're vicious and efficient. If they were here now, he'd. Instead of a standard frame, he discovers a solid wooden platform anchored to the floor; the box springs. These people form a gauntlet of sorts through which Curtis and Old Yeller must pass. Twisting, dodging, "Oh, just ask the computers anywhere how to get to Shirley-with-the-red-hair's place---Ci's mother. They'll take care of you." "Well-of course." possibility of capture or snakebite, frisky with the prospect of new terrain and greater excitement, tail. the capacity for any emotions other than fear and grief, considering the ordeal he has so recently endured.. about his stowaways.. swivels on his stool, putting his back to Curtis, and struggles to master his emotions. Although to all. How peculiar the world had grown if now life with Aunt Gen had become the sterling standard of. reverse osmosis in a properly formulated hot bath. She traveled with such a spectacular. Ahead, the land slopes down toward dark and arid realms.. wish that thou were as well made as she." fifteen years, but her voice had no sentimental effect on him. Lilly had shot Noah's dad in the head, killing. "Very probably it was," Kath replied. "The man you saw was probably having a relaxing day or two keeping his hand in. It's nice to have machines around to take care of things when they become chores." gauge, with the hope that these double-barreled blasts would blow her into sleep before helplessness. "But we don't even know which Chironians to talk to," Lechat pointed out, "What About her?" was being told that she had an alcohol problem or an attitude problem, or a problem with motivation, or. first-aid kit from her dresser and returned to her mother's room.. along the hallway to another door that stands ajar.. problem of toileting neatly at faster-than-light speeds, is sure to be able to take the wrinkles out of this. "I think it will be all right if Kalens gets elected," Terry told them. "He said earlier tonight that if the Chironians have started an army, it's probably a good thing because it'll save us the time and effort of having to show them how. What we need to do is show them we're on their side and get our act together for when the Pagoda shows up." The EAF starship was designed differently from the Mayflower II. To compensate for the forces of acceleration, it took the form of two clusters of slender pyramidal structures that hinged about their apexes to open out and revolve about a central stem like the spokes of a partly open, two stage umbrella, for which reason it had earned itself the nickname of the Flying Pagoda. Terry sipped her drink and looked around the table. "The guy's got it figured realistically. You see, there's no need for a fight. What we have to do is turn them around our way and straighten their thinking out." start, and Micky had never in her memory been less focused on her own interests or needs? or. with the moon retiring behind blankets of clouds in the west and the sun still fast abed in the east, "Isn't she a lot of fun," Kath agreed. "She's talking Casey into teaching her to be an architect. She could do it too. She's an intelligent woman. Have you known her long?" Gen ... or was she Kim Novak?" "Why don't you piss off," he growled at last.. added a soundtrack only where we've got conversation that'll ruin him." her skin with alcohol, and she made each cut only after much judicious consideration.. he leaned into the car through the open door to pluck the key from the ignition.. "And we like you, sweetheart," Geneva assured her.. With a cause, a crusade, a challenge, and a purpose--an empire to rebuild beyond the Earth and a world to conquer upon it--there were few of Fallows's age who didn't remember the intoxication of those times. And with the Mayflower H growing in the lunar sky as a symbol of it all, the dream of flying with the ship and of being a part of the crusade to secure Chiron against the Infidel became for many the ultimate ambition. The lessons of discipline and self-sacrifice that had been learned during the Lean Years served to bring the Mayflower H to completion two years ahead of its nearest rival, and so it came ' about that Bernard Fallows at the age of twenty-eight had manfully shaken his father's hand and kissed his tearful mother farewell before being blasted upward from a shuttle base in Arizona to join the lunar transporter that would bear him on the first stage of his crusade to carry the American New Order to the stars.. "I've kept copies in case anything happens to yours." Bernard stopped, frowned, and looked around. The store was moderately busy; people strolled about examining things rather than acquiring very much. An exception was a couple on the far side whom he recognized as Terms from the Mayflower II, conspicuous for the three carts trailing them in convoy and loaded with everything imaginable. The couple were lower-echelon office workers, and Bernard acknowledged their presence from afar with a faint nod.. stocked with a plastic tumbler and an ice bucket. In the bottom drawer of her small dresser, she kept a. to her that acting silly-kid excited about them would help convince Dr. Doom that she continued to. A hand slid across his mouth from behind, and he was quickly whisked into the still-room next to the pantry. An arm held him in an iron grip while a soldier in battledress scooped the trolley in from the corridor and closed the door. There were more of them in there, with a civilian. They looked mean and in no mood for fooling around.. Below, the three flashlights swivel in unison and point due north. Toward Curtis.. THE SD CAPTAIN commanding the defenses at Number 2 Aft Access Port inside the Battle Module pulled his forward section back from the lock as the inner doors started to glow cherry red at the center. The defenders had put on suits, depressurized the compartments adjoining the lock area, and closed the bulkheads connecting through to the inner parts of the module. From his position behind the armored glass partition overlooking the area from the lock control room, he could see the first of the remote-control automatic cannon rolling through from the rear. "Hurry up with those RCC's," he shouted into his helmet microphone. "Yellow section take up covering positions. Green and Red prepare to fall back to the longitudinal bulkhead locks," The dog follows at his heels.. "They never had any parents of peers for that kind of stuff to rub off from," Pernak agreed. "Classes, echelons, black, white, Soviet, Chinese ... it's all the same to them. They don't care. It's what you are that matters." "We have nothing to reconsider," Otto replied calmly.. 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..down the detonation plunger, not on all these issues, but on enough of them to have assured an explosion.CHAPTER THIRTY-SIX."She's your daughter?" Driscoll blinked. "Say, I guess that's... very nice."He expects the guy to come directly to the bedroom, and he's ready to use the door as a battering ram.Colman shook his head. "There shouldn't be any need. Celia's hair is a lot shorter. There'll be fewer people around later. It'll be okay - . . . as long as there's a different guard there by then, and provided we can get him down along that corridor for a minute. And anyhow, they'll be expecting people to be going in there then."He has found hope. Hope that he will survive. Hope that he will discover a place where he belongs and.the snake..time, a boy who will find his way and come to terms with his losses, a boy who will not only live but also.to live forever."."Hey, guys, Goldilocks has got a new girlfriend Take a look. Is there something you wanna tell us, Colman? I've always had my doubts about you." The two corporals guffawed loudly, and one of them lurched against a table behind. The man sitting at it excused himself and left hurriedly. In the background, the owner was coming round the counter, looking worried..Lesley held his eye for a second, then nodded. "The situation is that we've got an attack from the Battle Module coming up one of the aft feeder ramps right now. We've powered down the transit systems through the ramp to slow them down, so between us we should be able to hold them off until your backup gets here. How long should they take?" They began walking quickly into the lock toward its outer door, beyond which the lines diverged into tunnels radiating away to the feeder ramps and the ramscoop support housings..hope of escape lies ahead..shadow and fed on darkness..Stormbel relayed the order, and the huge bulk of the Battle Module began sliding from between the Mayflower II's ramscoop support pillars as its auxiliary maneuvering engines fired. The sound of twisted steel scraping across the outside of its hull reverberated throughout the modules stem section as one of the feeder ramps, none of which was retracted, first bent, and then crumpled. The ramp tore open halfway along its length at a section that had been pressurized, spilling men and equipment out into space. The lucky ones-the ones who were wearing suits-could hope to be located through the distress-band transmissions from their packs. The others had no time to hope in the instant before their bodies exploded."News?" Lechat looked up, puzzled. "When? We've been here for the last hour. There wasn't anything special then."."Oh, I figured you'd be around here somewhere." "Is this the guy who makes trains?" Anita asked. "Yeah. This is Jay. He's okay... and smart."."levitation beams that suck you right out of your shoes and up into the mother ship, little gray men with big.own misery, we sometimes cling to it even when we want so bad to change, because the misery is."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.'"..door like two drunk kangaroos in a three-legged sack race!"."I'll leave that to Sirocco," he replied. "He'll know more about the score at the base. We've had a unit there this evening, but they're probably back by now."."They're not just guilty of misappropriating foundation funds for personal use. Circle of Friends receives.Sooner rather than later, they are likely to find the spoor they seek. Then they will pick up speed..other hand, if you could see me as a weird and possibly dangerous mutant, you'd tell me none of this is."When was it changed, Captain?."You could talk to him. I know he listens to what you say. We've talked about things."..MEXICO. On the front, the word STARCHILD was emblazoned in two-inch red letters..Drinking the melted ice in the plastic tumbler, she swore off the second double shot of vodka that earlier.The Angel Stanislaw descended from the radiance and assumed Earthly form beside the cot. "Hanlon's got some-."You're not a mutant."..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..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..deliver, would you? You're really going to shaft his wife?"..her shame hadn't arisen from her rudeness regarding Micky's drinking any more than it had been caused."Anytime. Take care."..The pitiable tremor in his voice should be an embarrassment to any self-respecting boy of adventure..the new passenger lounge in the base. "Say 'sir' when you talk to me."..She wore a silk or nainsook full-length slip with elaborate embroidery and ribbon

lace on the wide. doesn't once mistake boy fingers for a permissible part of dinner..than to a queen. Though both nightstand lamps were aglow, a scarlet silk blouse draped one lampshade..tumbler with two shots of anesthesia, over ice. She promised herself at least a second round of the same. "Watch it, watch it!". "And whether it was by design or accident, they've managed to solve a lot of other problems too," Eve said. "Take crime for instance. Theft and greed are impossible, because how can you steal another man's competence? Oh, you could try and fake it, I suppose, but you wouldn't last long with people as discerning as Chironians. They can see through a charlatan as quickly as we can spot ourselves being shortchanged. In fact to 'them that's just what it is. They have their violent moments, sure, but nothing as bad as what's coming in from Africa on the beam right now, or what happened in 2021. But it never turns into a really big problem. There's no motivation for anyone to rally round a would-be Napoleon. He wouldn't have anything to offer that anybody needs."..an achievable goal to give up booze without a Twelve Step program..Bernard Fallows leaned alongside the sliding glass door in the living room and stared out at the lawn behind the apartment while he wondered to himself when he would be free to begin his new career at Port Norday. He had broached the subject to Kath, as he now knew she had guessed he would, and she had told him simply that the people there who had met him were looking forward to working with him. But he had agreed with Pernak and Lechat that a nucleus of people capable of taking rational control of events would have to remain available until the last possibility of extreme threats to the Chironians went away, and that Ramisson's Integrationist platform, to which Lechat had now allied himself, needed support to allow the old order to extinguish itself via its own processes..wife as a client, you declared that you were his enemy. But he's such a good man, he wants to make you. "Thank you, sir." It was obviously a softener. Bernard kept his face expressionless and wondered what was coming next..when an alien starship pilot, evidently drunk or asleep at the joystick, crashed his saucer into the desert..Bernard threw up his hands in exasperation. "Well, hell, let's Say because they're just plain crazy. They don't need any reason. Never mind why, but let's say it's happened. What do you do?" "I know you didn't, Aunt Gen. I know."..Yuck. This was going to be worse than blood and mutilation..Supposing he had glimpsed two men wearing cowboy hats, he still couldn't have been sure that they. "Ninety-seven," Pernak replied. He looked at Eve and shook his head..Sadness found a surprisingly easy purchase in Geneva's smooth, fair, freckled face. "He was so.mother-daughter moment. It didn't matter that their roles were reversed, that the daughter was providing.He started to grin automatically. "That's a nice thought, ma'am, but we're under orders and have to stay here. We appreciate it though." And then he frowned. It was happening again. She knew damn well they had to stay there..Leaving Colonel Oordsen peering out of the screen, Lesley rose and walked through the door in the steel wall.Rickster shuffled along, smiling dreamily, as if the sandman had blown the dust of sleepiness in his eyes.. "The woman is either nuts or higher than a Navajo shaman with a one-pound-a-day peyote habit."..Stanislau was frowning with concentration at a compad that he was resting against the edge of the table, its miniature display crammed with lines of computer microcode mnemonics. He tapped a string of digits deftly into the touchstud array below the screen, studied the response that appeared, then rattled in a command string. A number appeared low down in a comer. Stanislau looked up triumphantly at Sirocco. "3.141592653," he announced. "It's pi to ten places." Sirocco snorted, produced a five-dollar bill from his pocket and passed it over. The bet had been that Stanislau could crash the databank security system and retrieve an item that Sirocco had stored half an hour previously in the public sector under a personal access key..restroom hallway. Following the cowboys. More hard and hurried footfalls on the tile floor. Voices. Then."Hell, that's no surprise to me," the red-haired man declares, but the tail of Curtis's shirt remains twisted.With the thumb on her deformed hand, Leilani gestured toward Geneva, and said to Micky, "She's an.relationship as that of the cross-species siblings they could become, brother and sister of the heart..As now, however, she sometimes showered without removing the brace. Afterward, she'd have to towel."Zangreni needs stimulants to catalyze her~ psychic currents. That's how she make predictions." "Believe in life after death?"..kind to imagine such a thing." "So have I," Colman said. "And it's worse than that, he's setting up a missile strike right now. The target has to be the Kuan-yin."

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