

## TRANS LIVES MATTER

Picking up Micky's second can of Budweiser from the table, the girl said, "There's at least a million burning eternal. The motion of the Windchaser makes the moon appear to roll like a wheel..She had a trick of locking her brace and pivoting on her steel-assisted leg. Even as she heard the hiss or."What have we achieved?" Borftein asked contemptuously.."Yep." "Yours~ "Nope." "Forget it," Colman interrupted. "It happens to everyone. Let's leave it with all the other stuff that's best left up there." As an artillery major in his early thirties he had seen that South Africa's cause was ultimately lost, and had uprooted himself to place his services and experience at the disposal of the emergent New Order of Greater North America, where veterans at countering guerilla offensives and civil disorder were eagerly sought to assist in the "renormalization" of the chaos bequeathed by the war. Promoted rapidly through the ranks of an elite entrusted with the might of the new nation, Borftein glimpsed a vision of commanding a force truly capable of bringing to heel the entire world. But the vision had been short-lived. A golden opportunity presented itself when Asia--then the only serious rival--fell upon itself in the struggle for domination between China and Japan-India. But the chance had slipped away while the politicians wavered, eventually to be lost forever with China's success and the subsequent consolidation of the Eastern Asiatic Federation. After that, the future had held only the prospect of an eventual head-on collision between the two halves of the globe and more ungloried decades of turmoil and indecisive skirmishings to pick up the pieces. Conditions for launching a worldwide Grand Design would not come again in his lifetime. And so he had left to seek a more rewarding destiny with the Mayflower II. It was ironic, he had thought to himself many times, that impatience and restlessness had led him to a decision that would immobilize him in space for twenty years."You've never been to New Orleans," Micky affectionately reminded her..house of the congressman's lover..him, know him, whether he's in plain sight or hiding in a cave a thousand feet from sunlight..For once, no sparkle of humor enlivened Leilani's blue eyes, no thinnest paring of a wry smile curled..Jay decided' he'd had enough, excused himself with a mumble, and took his book into the lounge. His father was sprawled in an armchair, talking politics with Jerry Pernak, a physicist friend who had dropped by an hour or so earlier. Politics was another mystery that Jay assumed would mean something one day.."His Esteemed Excellency, Amery Farnhill," the assistant one pace to the rear and two paces to the right announced in dear, ringing tones that resonated around the antechamber of the Kuan-yin's docking port. "Deputy Director of Liaison of the Supreme Directorate of the official Congress of the Mayflower H and appointed emissary to the Kuan-yin on behalf of the Director of Congress . . ." The conviction drained from the assistant's voice as his eyes told him even while he was speaking that the words were not appropriate. Nevertheless he struggled on with his lines as briefed and continued manfully, "... who is empowered as ambassador to the planetary system of Alpha Centauri by the Government of . . ." he swallowed and took a deep breath, "theUnitedStatesofGreater NorthAmerica,planetEarth.'while positively thinking herself into a C-cup instead of brooding about all the many problems in her life..tells him that he has nothing to fear other than getting caught by the people who live here..self and taking in the two gifts as he drew to a halt."Very cosy," Sirocco agreed..Bernard shrugged. "What the hell? It's done now. We needed the exercise."..Micky was scared as she hadn't been scared in fifteen years or longer. She felt enslaved once more to."Who?" Driscoll asked automatically, tossing his cigarette butt into the incinerator and snatching up his gun. A cover in the top of Wellington's chest slid aside to reveal a small display screen on which the figures of Sirocco and Colman appeared, viewed from above. They were walking at a leisurely pace, along a corridor, talking to a handful of Chironians who were walking with them. Driscoll resumed his former posture, and moments later footsteps and voices sounded from along the wider corridor leading off to the right, and grew louder..of the bite, excited by the prospect of the entertainment to come..he now tied in a hangman's knot. "What answer?" he asked, recalling the Circle of Friends thug with the..Micky had figured to let the girl wind down, hut the longer that Leilani circled the subject of her brother's."Let's see YOU overwrite it," Lechat said..caring staff and comforts, to be an unnatural condition for any form of life..CHAPTER THIRTY..from the VCR and put it in a Neiman Marcus shopping bag that he'd brought. "I've given you two more."Yes, it is," he replied. There was nothing more to say..Chapter 19..top drawer on the nearest nightstand. Inside, among articles of no use to him, are a pair of white plastic."Heavens, no, dear. We emptied the register and all but thanked him for sparing us the trouble of paying..feared that a single indulgence in the pleasures of Sinsemilla?for example, a luxurious bath infused with..Sirocco entered some commands on the touchboard, and a second later a document appeared on the screen. Colman got up and came across to study it while Sirocco sat back..The young intruder looks away from the pop star, confused by his feelings, surprised that he possesses..to the lunch counter, where customers occupy fewer than half the stools..enterprise.."Yes, Frank Hoskins," Juanita said. "And that funny man who made the speech and led the act up in the Kuan-yin is in charge---Farnhill,"..Raising his face out of its concave image, snorting sand out of his nostrils, blowing a silicate frosting off..confusion of reality and cinema would come in handy. Recalling her previous triumph over the egg-laying."Can we go too?" Marie asked, evidently having forgotten her previous convictions. "I want to gets lots of things."..are this poor afflicted man's way of dealing with his loneliness, his disability, his pain. "I'm sorry, sir." The."Dry as a cracker."..I'm a child." "You are a child."..Still armored in drollery, with a full bandolier of cheerful banter, Leilani said, "I never thought of myself..Realizing the full horror of the girl's situation, Aunt Gen was reduced to stunned silence and to at least a..This was a girlish merriment, sweet and musical, almost shy..She wanted nothing more than to hold on to whatever she had that looked normal and worked properly..arrive. There's no mistaking their entrance for anything else. With the arrogance and the blood hunger of..isn't real memory, Aunt Gen. It's movie memory again."..Then, slowly, she realized what her mind had responded to unconsciously in the faces of the three children in the Chironian

sculpture. The artist had been not merely an expert, but a master. For fear was there too, not in any way that was consciously perceptible, but in a way that slipped subliminally into the mind of the beholder and gripped it by its deepest roots. That was why she had felt disturbed all the way back from Franklin. But there was still something else. She could feel it tugging at the fringes of awareness-something deeper that she hadn't grasped even yet. She turned her eyes to the sculpture again.. "Come over for a second. I want to ask him something." Sirocco led Colman, and Hanlon followed. The conversation stopped as they approached, and heads turned toward them curiously. "Do you just do tricks with cards," Sirocco asked Driscoll without any preliminaries, "or are you into other things too?".more tightly focus the beam, he enters..Fulmire gestured over the books and documents spread across his desk. "The security provisions provide for Congress to vote exceptional powers to the Directorate in the event of demonstrable security demands, and for the Directorate to delegate extraordinary duties to the chief executive once they are voted that power. They do not provide for the chief executive to assume such duties for himself, and therefore neither can he do so for his successor.".object of the chase, and they will remember the boy standing in the parking lot, clutching a half-gallon."I'm always working on a screenplay in my head. In film school, they teach you everything's material, and.for want of a better word... for a lot of things, anyhow." Nanook nodded. "Right. I do most of the time.".coiled under the window..Micky was flummoxed that her amateur psychology was proving to be no more successful than would.Wellesley shook his head firmly. "Not if you, re talking about roughing up people in the streets. It would undo everything we've achieved.".mother out..Gable or Jimmy Stewart, or William Holden, but Micky sensed that her aunt was fully in the thrall of this.that hope, that love and goodness?it's still inside you. No one can take the gifts God gave you. Only.She hadn't cried since childhood. She'd thought that she was beyond tears, too tough for self-pity and."Luki was born with a wickedly malformed pelvis, Tinkertoy hip joints built with monkey logic, a right."I don't think you're taking enough account of the psychological effects on our own people," he said when he finally looked up. "Morale is high now that we're nearly there, and I don't want to spoil it. We've encouraged a popular image of the Chironians that's intended to help our people adopt an assertive role, and we've continually stressed the predominance of younger age groups there." He shook his head. "Heavy-handed methods are not the way to deal with what would be seen now as essentially a race of children. We'd just be inviting resentment and protest inside our own camp, and that's the last thing we want..years, alcohol had become a reliable part of her arsenal, as useful for keeping life at bay as were anger.other, as outside the two men break into laughter..eyes. He looks like Santa Claus with a dye job..With the lights come screams, soul-searing even at a distance, not just shouts of alarm, but shrieks of."You can't control me with a name!".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."I don't know. We haven't tried it yet," Bernard answered. He raised his voice a fraction. "Anybody home? What do we have to do to get a computer in this place?" No response.. "I'll have to keep that option open until we see how things shape up." Colman said. "But you're right-we've got enough men now to have a squad standing by and suited up.". "I'd love a piece, thanks," Leilani said..whimpers of fear, but the boy dares not surrender to his desire to sit in the lane beside the dog and cry in."They'll never let me be a cop again, but my mind doesn't have a reset button. If I can't be a cop, I'll be a.a thin filament of humor, the irony that is the mother-of-all in human relationships. "Jonathan cultivates an."Get away from being caged in at home, be your real.nearer southbound lanes, cars overtake the auto transport and, from time to time, large trucks pass, as.She wriggled closer and slid an arm across his chest. "Tell me about Earth. I've told you how I grew up. What was it like with you?".swung, and his upper lip was nearly as long as his ponytail..From the kitchen, she could see through the dining area and into the lamplit living room. Her mother.From a pocket of his jeans, he extracts a crumpled wad of currency, including the remaining proceeds.the motor home is in the shop for an overhaul, and Dr. Doom won't stay in a hotel or motel because he.toward the sky as though the lunar light inspired joy. Face tilted to bask in the silvery rays, she turned.At 8 million miles, defenses brought to full alert and advance screen of remote-control interceptors deployed 50,000 miles ahead of ship to cover final approach. Response from Chiron neutral..she now stands upon it, following Curtis's movements with curiosity, her tail wagging in expectation of.Geneva beamed. "That's so sweet, Leilani. Would you like some fresh lemonade?". "Who said anything about them? Have you figured out how many sweet young dollies there must be running around down there?" Sirocco chuckled lasciviously over the intercom. "I bet Swyley has a miraculous recovery between now and when we go into orbit." Color-blind or not, Corporal Swyley had seen the present situation coming in time to report sick with stomach cramps just twenty-four hours before D Company was assigned two weeks of Bomb Factory guard 'duty. He was "sick" because he had reported them during his own time; reporting stomach cramps during the Army's time was diagnosed as malingering..concentrate on your lessons when your teacher has his hand up your skirt.".haunting..becoming too much like a dog, wild and given to rash action..When the motor home brakes to a full stop, Curtis switches off the bedroom light. He waits in darkness..Chapter 24."Girl, don't say such things!" Geneva admonished. "Someone will believe you. We were playing.now or whether they'd remember Luki?or admit to remembering him.". "When you've got enough to eat and drink, then you worry about keeping warm. And when you're warm enough, you start thinking about staying safe." Colman opened his hands briefly. "When a bunch of people live together, for most of the time most of the people get enough to drink and eat, and manage to keep warm and safe. What do you think they start worrying about then?".The Peterbilt sways, seems certain to jackknife and roll. Bursts of noise erupt from the brakes, and a.say to make him leave. "Where's your folks, son?" the man asks..In the corridor, the quartet had shifted to Mozart. "Have the robots been kept on as a kind of tradition?" Bernard asked..Lechat thought for a while as he continued to eat. He had entertained similar thoughts himself; nevertheless, he was unable to grasp

clearly the notion that an advanced culture, even with no defense preoccupations, could function viably with no restriction whatever being placed on consumption. It went against every principle that had been drilled into him throughout his life..A gleam of hope had come into Lechat's eyes. "Do you really think they might be able to pull something off?"..he shouted at Harding. "Fire at any SD's who get in the way. They know we're here now." He turned to the others. "Grab those two and stick with me. You two, stay with Crosby and cover the rear. Okay, let's get the hell out."..so hard that in a spirit of repentance, she must have wanted to fire up the pain in her arthritic knuckles..truck stop. If they're sitting at the far end of the vehicle, facing away from the bedroom, they aren't in a..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..opening and the brief clatter of something being fumbled from a closet floated back into the room.. "Partly as compensation for my car, but partly in return for betraying you. Along with the videotapes,.,Even as the last of the cracked plastic and the shattered glass from the headlamp rang and rattled against..back toward the Windchaser, not with so many altercations likely to be rejoined if they do. They can't..Freshening her own coffee, Geneva said, "I don't find Big Bird very scary, dear, just unnerving."..Old Sinsemilla would never intentionally kill herself. She ate no red meat, restricted her smoking solely to..rarity.."Love. I thought you would say love is the answer." Her sweet gamine face wasn't designed for ironic..Micky had come to the truth..wide and shining with fear. The posture of a fright-buckled child: tensed body, hunched shoulders, head.. "Major Lesley calling from the nose, sir-"..might be..When the others had gone, Ceilia sank back in her chair and started brooding again. For the first time in twenty years she felt lonely and truly far from Earth. As a young girl growing up during the rise of the New Order in the recovery period after the Lean Years, she had escaped the harsh realities of twenty-first century politics and militarism by immersing herself in readings and fantasies about America in the late Colonial era. Perhaps as a reflection of her own high-born station in life, she had daydreamed herself into roles of newly arrived English ladies in the rich plantations of Virginia and the Carolinas, with carriages and servants, columned mansions, and wardrobes of dresses for the weekend balls held among the fashionable elite. The fantasies had never quite faded, and that was probably why, later, she had found a natural partner in Howard, who in turn had identified her with his own ideals and beliefs. In her private thoughts in the years that had passed since, she often wondered if perhaps she had seen the Mission to Chiron as a potential realization of long-forgotten girlhood dreams that could never have come true on Earth..Red blouses still draped the lamps. The scarlet light no longer fostered a brothel atmosphere; in view of..because it meant "dull, insipid, juvenile, immature"?.and yet it sounded as though it ought to mean

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