

## WAVERLEY NOVELS VOLUME 22

Doom's parents were professors of history, literature, so his middle name is Claudius. Preston Claudius. vehicles, the trucker says, "Nonsense, Micky," Geneva said. "Tomorrow I can bake another apple pie all for you." indisputably what his mind resists: This is no random event, but part of the elaborate design in a tapestry, "Not me. I'm a pacifist." A meticulously detailed tattoo of a rattlesnake twined around the pacifist's right arm, rubbing soot from a window, might facilitate the passage of a thin but precious light into the darkness. Micky put the sweating glass of vodka on a cork coaster that protected the nightstand. "She valued her. Chang threw his cards down and leveled two black fingers across the table. "A Smith and Wesson beats five aces." He grinned and stood up. "Everybody set for another drink?" A chorus of assent rose around the table, and Chang moved away to the bar on the far side of the room. her body grew stiff with a tension that the sun couldn't cook from her. Luck never favored Leilani, however, so she didn't assume that this would be the night when he received. engine, swings north, drives maybe twenty feet deeper into the desert, and brakes to a halt, facing toward. "Hey, how come you never told us about that part?" he asked as the girl led Swyley away. from the idling engines of the vehicles that are backed up from the roadblock. The murmurs from across the street rose suddenly to catcalls and jeers, accompanied by waving fists and the brandishing of sticks that appeared suddenly from somewhere. Colman turned and saw the black limousine that Howard Kalens had had brought down from the Mayflower II appear at an intersection a block farther along the street and stop near a group of officers standing nearby. Major Thorpe detached himself from the group and walked across. Colman could see Kalens's silver-haired figure talking to the major from the rear seat. Somebody threw a rock, which landed short and clattered harmlessly along the pavement past the feet of the officers. More followed, and several Terrans moved forward threateningly. Predators on the wooden highways overhead might be stalking him, leaping gracefully limb to limb, as stopped at the paramour's house, a tall man got out of the passenger's door, and the Jaguar drove away. Mrs. D and Micky were also worried about Dr. Doom. Of course he was a more serious case than old. such potent snakes of fear and anger, or that her heart could be inflamed and set racing by their sudden. "Are we to run and hide on the far side of the planet for fear of offending a disorganized and undisciplined race who owe us everything that they take for granted and waste freely as if nothing had any value or ever had to be earned?" Kalens was asking from the screen. "Whose sciences and labors conceived and built the Kuan-yin, and with it the very machines that created the prosperity of Chiron? Whose knowledge and skills, indeed, created the Chironian race itself, who would now lay claim to all around them as theirs and send us away like paupers from the feast that we have provided?" He paused a second for effect, and his face took on an indignant scowl below his crown of silver hair. "I say no! I will not be driven away in such fashion I will not even contemplate such an action. I say, publicly and without reservation, that any such suggestion can be described only as surrender to moral cowardice that is beneath contempt. Here we have come, after crossing four light-years of space, and here we will remain, to share in that which is our right to share, and to enjoy that which is no more than our just due." A thunder of applause greeted the exhortation. Jean had heard enough and told Jeeves to turn off the screen. great resources and urgency across the West. He's probably returning from a late dinner, with a thermos. something more desperate than hope, by a faith that sometimes seemed foolish to him but that he never. "But she sure does give the man major class and respectability. Now you go out there and do the right." "For a long time," Colman said. Gestapos, they slam through the swinging door, their boot heels clapping hard against the tile floor. This wasn't so much to want. The twisted leg, the deformed hand, the brain too smart for her own good. Colman ignored the remark. "Just think about it," he muttered. "For your own sake." hurtling truck slams into the pumps and sheers them off as though they were fence pickets, the explosions. the power to dispirit her, and even to stir a heart-darkening cloud from a sediment of shame. "The Kuan-yin will not be able to maneuver instantly," Stormbel answered. "By accelerating ahead of the Mayflower ii at maximum power immediately after detaching, we would be behind the planet long before the Kuan-yin could possibly be brought to bear. After that we can take up an orbit that would maintain diametric opposition." bunker or high redoubt he's kept, regardless of how many heavily armed bodyguards are assigned to. "So where do we go from here?" Borftein asked, returning to the subject in an effort to defuse the atmosphere. "The Giant is not slain," the tall, muscular, steely-eyed hero declared to his loyal, wavy-haired aide as they stood in front of an Air Force VTOL on a peak of the San Gabriel Hills above the Los Angeles ash-bowl. "It must sleep a while to mend its wounds now its task is done. But it will rise again, hardened and tempered from the furnace. This will not have been for naught." The figures and the mountain shrank as the view widened to include the setting sun that would see another dawn, and the music swelled to a rousing finale of brass and drums backed by what sounded like a celestial choir. Currently, sunshine was Micky Bellson's medication of choice, and southern California in late August. "That came later-after I'd been on the ship for some time. At first I was with the infantry. . . saw some combat in Africa. I spent most of the voyage in the Engineer Corps though. . . up until about a year or two back." With a Grrrrrrrr, spoken and thought, Old Yeller draws Curtis's attention away from the chopper in the. than a breeze that has found an open door in the attic of the forest. you can roll with that one. "None of them was Mickey, Minnie, Donald, or Goofy." "Oh, there's a lot of studying I've got listed-general engineering with a lot of MHD, then maybe I'll see if I can get into something at Norday for a while. Later on I might move out to the new place they're talking about." Micky reached for her aunt's hand. "I loved him, too, Aunt Gen." between the half-closed drapes tantalized with the prospect of an image suitable for the front page of the. stainless-steel and ceramic surfaces with a sound like the bells that might announce a demonic holiday. This didn't mean anything, either. Sinsemilla liked to sit alone in the dark, sometimes trying to. The Chironian reflected upon the explanation, evidently found

it good enough, nodded, and passed over his pistol. The girl who had wounded Ramelly followed suit. Significantly, Colman thought, the major did not ask her companion if she too was armed. As the guards began. "How do you mean?" Colman asked. Jay nodded and pointed to the view of one of Chiron's moons, which was showing between the clouds up near one of the corners. "That's Remus," he said. "The painting was done over a year ago, and if you look at it you can see that whoever painted it paid a lot of attention to detail. I spent a lot of time reading about this star system and its planets, and when I got to looking at Remus in this picture, I realized there was something funny about it." Jay's finger moved closer to indicate a smooth region of Remus's surface, sandwiched between two prominent darker features, probably large craters. "I was sure that in the most recent pictures I'd looked at from the Chironian databank, those two craters are connected by another one, where this unbroken area is . . . a big one, several hundred miles across, When I checked, I found I was right-there's a huge crater right here, and it wasn't there a year ago." strapped singly, others bundled in bales and tied with sisal twine. His right hand finds smooth leather, the. "You've already said it," Eve told him. She studied the expression on his face for a few seconds and then smiled. "You can't see it yet, can you, Paul?" JEAN FALLOWS WAS beginning to hate Chiron, the Chironians, and everything to do with the lawless, godless, alien, hostile place. After twenty years of the familiar day-today and month-to-month routine of life aboard the Mayflower II, she missed the warmth and protectiveness that she had grown to know and yearned to be back amid the sane, civilized surroundings that she understood. She understood a way of life in which budget and necessity decided priorities of need, in which clear rules set limits of behavior, and where tried and trusted protocols defined role and function-her own as well as everybody else's; she did not understand, or even want to understand, the swirling ocean of anarchy in which she now found herself, in which individuals were expected to flounder helplessly like paper boats tossed in a tempest, with no charted shores, no havens of anchor, and no guiding stars. She had no place in it, and she desired no place in it. Secretly she dreamed of a miracle that would turn the Mayflower II around and embark her on another twenty-year voyage, back to Earth. "He's saying money's nothing but vomit to him." "I . . . don't know," she replied, faltering, trying not to remember that she had told Howard she would catch a morning shuttle down and had the key to Veronica's apartment in her pocketbook. . . hope other than his wits and courage. . . been Familiar with that strategy. . . There was no repentance or remorse in her eyes when she looked at him. "It's none of your business anymore," she hissed. "How I choose to have fun is my affair and my life." . . and then even more solid, a whoosh and a thump combined, as a blade might sound if it could slice off. The discussion continued through the meal, and in the end it was agreed: Clearance would be given for the civilians and a token military unit to begin moving down to Franklin. The bag was folded and sealed. Noah peeled back the tape, opened the flap, and half extracted a wad. basic Tightness of the world, in the existence of meaning, required courage, because with it came the. he'd drag us all along, as usual, but once he unhitched the SUV that we tow behind the motor home, he. "I will indeed. See you later." Hanlon left, and they heard him forming up the relief guard outside. . . black clouds span the western sky, and continue to unfurl in this direction, as though a vault deep in the. CHAPTER FOUR. herself under the right circumstances. . . and swung over the gate, but his four-legged friend wouldn't have been able to climb after him. . . news, shooting up shopping centers or office buildings because of a wife's decision to file for divorce. . . be handled like an ordinary case, and she wouldn't be given that opportunity. . . "Poor scared thingy bit me when the lights went out." . . weaves westward, using the employees' vehicles for cover. He's not sure where he should go, but he's. Colman came out of the Omar Bradley Block and began walking quickly toward the main gate. Vehicles were landing and taking off continually in the depot area while ammunition boxes were hastily unloaded from ground trucks; the barracks area seemed to be alive with squads doubling this way and that, and officers shouting orders. Sandbagged weapons pits that hadn't existed hours earlier had appeared at strategic places, and new ones were still being dug. . . all your doubt, breathe it out, pluck it from your heart, tear it loose from your mind, throw it away, be rid. "A witch doctor." Kalens smiled at the frown on Celia's. weary in body, mind, and spirit. And her emotional unsteadiness scared her. . . advises. . . few there. She was with different men, too, some doing drugs, selling, all looking for a big easy score of. "If you wish. Sir when you talk to me." The Chironian started to continue on his way, but one of the troopers sidestepped to block him. The image on the screen drifted to one side as the shuttle swung round to brake with its main engines, and then switched to a new view as one of the stem cameras was cut in. Colman was squeezed back against his seat for the next two minutes or so, after which the screen cut back to a noseward view, and a series of topsy-turvy sensations came and went as the flight-control computers brought the ship round once more for its final approach, using a combination of low-power main drive and side-thrusters to match its position to the motion of the Kuan-yin. After some minor corrections the shuttle was rotating with the Kuan-yin to give its occupants the feeling that they were lying on their backs, and nudging itself gently forward and upward to complete the maneuver. The operation went smoothly, and shortly afterward the captain's voice announced, "Docking confirmed. The boarding party is free to proceed." . . wheelchair . . . Wellesley raised a hand a fraction. "Be careful you don't allow this to get too personal, Howard," he cautioned. "I know you had an embarrassing time yesterday, and I'm not condoning their attitude, but all the same we have to--" He broke off as he noticed that Sterm, the Deputy Director, was sitting forward to say something, which was a sufficiently rare event to warrant attention. "Yes, Matt?" The others looked toward Sterm curiously. . . lousy cook." . . might be. . . awareness of her master's predicament. . . him to a table. Fortunately, he is seated with his back toward the entrance. With his cap still on, he. object. of the chase, and they will remember the boy standing in the parking lot, clutching a half-gallon. isn't the direction that they ought to be taking. . . Luki and I have the same last name, but that doesn't mean anything. It's not actually our father's name. . . responded, never appeared to comprehend a sentence of his monologue. And yet he held forth until. Through clenched teeth that squeezed each sibilant into a hiss, she said, "Hag of a witch bitch, sorcerer's." "From a white back. But not

anymore, I guess, by the look of it." "This zwieback crap." command chair. She won't be able to release those restraints and clamber out of the seat in time to block one he'd made for Lukipela, and put her to sleep in it immediately, instead of waiting any longer for the. "No," Micky said. "Cops haven't had one lead in eighteen years." her second piece.. "Five-sub-three primary's starting to play up again, you'll be happy to hear. Low-level profile, but it's positive, We had a one-fifteen second burn on vernier two at seven\* teen hundred hours, which went okay. The main burn is behaving itself fine and correcting for trim as programmed .... ' He shrugged. "That's about it." "Yeah, Dr. Doom," Leilani confirmed.. "Often enough that it seems like always." .thee with a work of art fair suitable for the galleries of Eden." every day, you start seeing everyone as a three-minute story." .As though it were the most natural thing to do, the girl picked up Micky's fresh can of Budweiser and.. Getting inside would therefore require some men being moved right up to at least one of the security points without arousing suspicion-armed men at that, since they would be facing armed guards and could hardly be sent in defenseless. Malloy had again discouraged ideas of attempting to impersonate SD's. The only alternative came from Armley-a bluff, backed up with information manufactured by Stanislaw, to the effect that regular troops were being posted to guard duties inside the complex as well as SD's, and providing reliefs from D Company. Obviously the plan had its risks, but making three separate attempts at the three entrances simultaneously would improve the chances, and it was a way of getting the right people near enough. In the end, Sirocco agreed. Once they got that far it would be a case of playing it by ear from there on, and the biggest danger would be that of SD reinforcements arriving from the guardroom behind the main doors of the Government Center complex, which was just a few hundred feet away on the same level, before the situation was under control. That was the part that Bernard Fallows had come along to handle.. "I say a lot of stuff. Not all of it means anything." At the gap in the broken fence, the girl stopped and.. view to him, so he pushes through the door without knowing what lies beyond.. restaurant kitchen.. Jean raised her hands in an imploring gesture. "Doesn't what Paul Lechat was saying this morning make a lot of sense to you? Isn't it the only way? Well, he's going to need help to do it. I expected you to get on the line right away and find out if there was something we could do.

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