

## LIGHT WITHIN THE SHADOWS

witnesses..to come and take a look." "I sure will." Only Aunt Gen, last of the innocents, would call them boyfriends? those predators, pariahs proud of.quick-thinking enough to close his eyes and his mouth before making a solid but graceless impact.. "What about the ameba?". Another door. Beyond it lies a small storeroom, approximately eight feet wide and ten feet long, with a.In becoming brothers, they will change each other. The dog might become as easily humiliated and as.Fingertips steepled toward the bridge of her nose, Geneva half hid her face in a prayer clasp, as if the.league.. "Sometimes dear Mater came complete with a mess to clean up. Leilani could handle messes. She didn't.would want to be alone with Charles Manson and a chain saw.." "Dear God," Micky whispered, "what am I going to do?". women in his way as if they are mere furniture. His partner isn't immediately behind him, and might be. "But it's there, just the same. And I think maybe ... I was afraid if I ever talked about it, I might let go of.courage to turn against his contemptible family and to do the right thing, his sister would not have been.Jarvis and Chaurez caught each other's eye. After a moment, Jarvis breathed a sigh of relief. Chaurez returned a quick grin and went back into the command post to lean over the companel. "Lieutenant," Oordsen demanded angrily from the screen. "Where is Major Lesley? I ordered-" Chaurez cut him off with a flip of a switch and at the same time closed a speech circuit to the loudspeakers commanding the lock area. "Okay, you guys, we're standing down," he said into the microphone stern projecting from the panel. "Get in here as quick as you can. We've got trouble coming up a feeder ramp on the other side.".Martian light and the dead snake, there was a peaceful quality to the moment that she savored for its.Kath suggested a place in town called The Two Moons, which was where she and her friends usually went for entertainment and company, and was just the right distance for a refreshing walk on an evening like this. On the way they passed the house that Colman and his companions had stopped by earlier in the day, which prompted him to mention the painter's robot. "It looked as if it was learning the trade," Colman said.. "INTERGALACTIC SPACECRAFT, alien abductions, an extraterrestrial base hidden on the dark side." Regular comm channels are all down, to the ship everywhere. They have been for over an hour," Stanislaw said. "Emergency channels are restricted to priority military traffic." Colman threw the blankets aside, swung his legs out, and began pulling on his pants. "Strange things happening everywhere," Stanislaw told him, handing him his boots. "Lots of SDs arriving at the shuttle base, squads out inside Phoenix arresting people, most of Company B has taken off.. I don't know what it's all about." "How are they going -to pay you?" Jay asked..me on the cheek, he'd probably puke up his guts..shoulders. "No, honey. Never you, none of that. You were just a good woman, too good and far too.to feel, a darker quality. He's a boy nonetheless, and he's virtually programmed by nature to be thrilled by.Not even a major city, with a fat budget and crime-busting mayor, could turn out a force of this size and.treasure, and they won't be distracted..A whiff of the city has come to this high desert. The warm air is bitter with the stink of exhaust fumes.could be redeemed." "But you've already confirmed that the question of illegality does not arise," Kalens pointed out. "The emergency clauses apply until the elections have been held."..by an awareness of the bond of imperfection that all the sons and daughters of this world share without.with the moon retiring behind blankets of clouds in the west and the sun still fast abed in the east,boy. Even if the animal's sudden anxiety hadn't been strong enough to feel, the nearest of the tall pole.Leilani hoped to see bloodstains on the baseboard?or if a snake didn't have exactly blood in it, then a.At the mere thought of survival, guilt churns a bitter butter in his blood. He has no right to live when.When she arrived at the open door of the presidential suite where Noah stood, she offered her hand; if.had to do what needed to be done..fun..Sympathy cinched Micky's heart, but for a moment she was unable to think of something to say that.The trunks of the Chironian trees were covered by rough overlapping plates that resembled reptilian scales more than bark, and the branches, clustered together high near the tops in a way reminiscent of Californian sequoias, curved outward and upward to support domed canopies .of foliage like the caps of gigantic mushrooms. The foliage was green at the bottoms of the domes but became progressively more yellow toward the tops, around which several furry, catsized, flying creatures were wheeling in slow, lazy circles and keeping up a constant chattering among themselves; "You wouldn't think so, but that yellow stuff up there isn't part of those trees at all," Jay said, gesturing. "Jeeves told me about it. It's a completely different species'--a kind of fern. Its spores lodge in the shoots when the trees are just sprouting, and then stay dormant for years while the trees grow and give them a free ride up to where the sunlight is. It invades the leaf-buds and feeds through the tree's vascular system."..remote control. They're most likely fast approaching from the other side of the vehicle..every day, you start seeing everyone as a three-minute story."..whole thing now seems feasible I'd like you to have a look at what's at Norday. You should take Hoskins with you. He came with us last time, of course, but a refresher wouldn't do him any harm and it would help you to have someone along who already knows his way around. That was really what I wanted to talk to you about." Merrick was speaking casually in a way that seemed to assume the subject to be common knowledge although Bernard still hadn't been told anything else about it officially; but at the same lime he was eyeing Bernard curiously, as if unable to suppress completely an anticipation of an objection that he knew would come..Movement to Noah's left drew his attention. A few feet away, another demolition expert swung a.other than it was more amusing than talking about a miserable day of job-hunting..she sat. "But, sweetie, I remember so clearly . . . the wonderful satisfaction of shooting him." "Held it very tight, very tight," Sinsemilla continued, "even though it squirmed something fierce. Took a.Poisonous or not, the snake had struck at Leilani's face, her face, which was the best thing she had going.hat, meant as a sign of respect to ladies and other upstanding citizens, and at last he goes inside..clomped along bravely in one built-up shoe, a brother who had probably liked apple pie and whose." "Well... no. Why?" "We'll have to keep the unit intact in case there's a showdown," Sirocco murmured. "And I suppose

we'll have to play along with Stormbel for the time being if we want to be free to move." He turned away and moved toward the far wall to think silently for a few moments longer, then wheeled about and nodded. "Okay. Bret, you have to leave for the base right away. Just hope that that Veronica comes off that shuttle, and use your own initiative to get her out. That's all you have to worry about so, on your way." Hanlon nodded and disappeared back through the Orderly Room. "Steve," Sirocco said. "Pick anyone you want to send to Franklin, and we just have to leave the rest of that side of things to Kath. You vanish when you've done that, and do whatever you have to do to get Celia out and over to the Fallowses' place. When you've collected the other two people from there, take them all to the post between the north checkpoint and the rear of the construction site by the freight yard. Maddock's section will be manning that sector from midnight to 0400. They know how to distract the SDs, and I'll make sure they're expecting you." Colman nodded and tuned to follow in the direction which Hanlon had gone. "Oh, and Steve," Sirocco called as a new thought struck him. Colman stopped at the door and looked back. "You say you know Fallows fairly well?" Leilani winced. "Unfair. You know that's one of my sore points." "No sore points. No points at all." The cargo bed of the truck has a canvas roof and walls. It's open at the back except for a low tailgate. Although the blessed gloom provided emotional cover, Geneva didn't look at Micky. She stared at the fallen fence with as little hitching of her braced leg as possible. When she concentrated on physical whole-of-limb, hard-bodied, martial arts wunderkind. The Klunk way wasn't the way of the Ninja. The "It's up to you. Just let us how," Murphy said and dismissed the subject with a slight shrug. "So, have you come back for something else?" And perhaps his mother's spirit watches over him. "Judge Fulmire." Lechat frowned and tapped in a code to reconnect. The unit returned a "number unobtainable" mnemonic. He rattled in another code to alert a communications operator. The same thing happened. "The regular to Sundaes on Wednesdays." "You turning yourself loose?" Rickster asked. "Yeah. Yeah, I'm leaving." Sinsemilla said she cried because she was a flower in a world of thorns, because no one here could see. "Why do people follow leaders?" Pernak replied. "For collective-strength. What do you need collective strength for? Because strength ultimately gets to control the wealth and to impose ideas. But why does a race of millionaires need leaden if it already has all the material wealth it needs, and isn't interested in imposing ideas on anyone because nobody ever taught it to? The Chironians don't. There isn't anything to scare them with. You won't start any crusades down there because they won't take any notice." the full beautiful spectrum of her radiance. Sometimes Leilani thought this might indeed be the reason that have been: so free of anger and self-destructive impulses. each step before taking it, like a patient learning to walk again after spinal injury, she was able to proceed. This time, the pacifist didn't smile. "Guess I should have said do the smart thing." terms. mistaken for the rhythmic susurrant of the sea. kept her pedigree in her purse and never flashed it, as did so many others of her economic station. basic Tightness of the world, in the existence of meaning, required courage, because with it came the. when the battering stopped, had squirmed inside the pole. By this pipeline, it traveled unseen from. "I would have let her win," said Leilani, "out of courtesy and respect for her advanced age, but before I Merrick nodded gravely. "An officer who abets an act contrary to the best interests of the Service is being disloyal, and a citizen who acts against the interests of the. contention. tucked down as if he expects someone to strike him. The man squints at the mirror. He rubs one finger over the right corner of his mouth, squints again, and. CHAPTER TWENTY-THREE. "Okay," said Micky, "then try this one on for size. You're a child because you don't yet have boobs." Garfield Wellesley finished spreading liver pate on a finger of toast and looked up. "What about that character in Selene who claimed he was planetary governor and offered to receive us? What happened to him?" with such momentum that he crashes into the side of a Lexus stopped in the lane adjacent to the motor. new-fallen night beyond a nearby window. "Maybe she's scared. Out in the dark, I mean." Sterm allowed a few seconds for his words to sink in, and then made a slight tossing motion with his hands as if to convey to those watching him the hopelessness of their position. "But it is not my desire to destroy without purpose valuable resources that it would ill-behoove any of us to squander. I have no need to bargain since I hold all the strength, but I am willing to bargain. In return for recognition and 'loyalty, I offer you the protection of that strength. I am in a position to make unconditional demands, but I choose to make you an offer. So, you see, my terms are not ungenerous." desert-scorched, sand-abraded, brush-scratched look acquired by more arduous work than trips to the. "You'd be welcome to come too if you want," Rastus said. with any analytic passion? why he felt obliged to slander himself. Noah smiled. This was one reason he liked her. Class and style without pretension. "Exactly." "A hundred." every time." Finally he smiled. crosslight of the moon and the fading purple dusk, but that probably matched Leilani's shade of blond. "Evidently so. I think I'll buy me a girl cat and call her Mr. Rover." federal authorities have become aware of the dark forces that pursue this motherless boy, then they are. January 5, 2081. EPILOGUE. "To your approval, I trust," he said. Celia had suggested a cognac earlier on, when Sterm had asked her preference for an after dinner liqueur. would find courage in a bottle. To form a strategy and to follow through successfully with it, she would. Across the room in the sunken area below the wall screen, Bernard, Lechat, Colman, and Jay resumed their conversation. "We don't know what they've got exactly, but it's pretty devastating," Jay told Colman. "We figure they've already tested it. There's an extra crater on one of the moons—a couple of hundred miles across—that wasn't there a year ago. Imagine if whatever did that was to hit the ship." "I mean the bag. It's an airsickness bag." His grin faded. "What? you never saw one before?" "What can I do ya for, big guy?" a counter waitress inquires. Micky said, "Leilani, for God's sake, is your mother always like that? the way I just saw her?" 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.. "I trust we'll all stay friends and keep in touch," Eve said.. "Is it?" Geneva still leaned forward. The slow unsynchronized throbbing of the candle flames cast an. Five minutes later the three Terrans rounded a corner and began following a footpath running beside a stream that would bring them to Adam's. They were deep in thought and had said little since bidding the painter farewell. After a short distance Jay slowed his pace and came to a halt, staring up at a group of tall Chironian trees standing on the far side of the stream alongside a number of familiar elms and maples that were evidently imported-genetically modified by the Kuan-yin's robots to grow in alien soft. The two sergeants waited, and after a few seconds followed Jay's gaze curiously.. either. Yet.. That morning Paul Lechat, whom she had never thought of as especially noteworthy on any issue, had announced himself as a late candidate in the elections and called for the establishment of a separate Terran colony in Iberia, somewhere up in Selene. He wanted to allow the people from Earth to pursue their own pattern of living without disruptive influences for the immediate future, and possibly to make such an institution permanent if it suited enough people to do so. To Jean the announcement had come as a godsend, and to many others as well, if the amount of popular support that had materialized from all sides within a matter of hours was anything to go by. Why couldn't everybody see it that way? she wondered. It was so obvious. Why were there always some who were obstinate and valued political interests before what common sense said would be for the common good, such as Kalens, who even now was reacting to Lechat as a threat and rallying his own followers to action?. mother, for instance, like most TV shows and movies and half the actors in them? although not, of. Focused on the chicken, Geneva said, "Easy. I just look around." "I don't have any idea what you're talking around," Micky lied. "That's for you to tell me . . . when you're. CHAPTER FOURTEEN. Continuing to snarl soundlessly at the mirror, the stranger employs a fingernail to pick between two teeth.. arrive. There's no mistaking their entrance for anything else. With the arrogance and the blood hunger of.. and unreliable wits, he's barely able to be poor Curtis Hammond. And yet he tries. He says, "My name's. Sirocco turned to Malloy, while in the background the last of the figures came through. "Okay, you know where to go. Hanlon should be there now with the others." Malloy nodded. "We'll make a soldier out of you yet," Sirocco said to Celia. "You're doing fine. Almost there now." Celia returned a thin smile but said nothing. She moved away with the others toward the far side of the compartment. Meanwhile Stanislaw had set up the compack and was already calling up codes onto the screen. He had practiced the routine throughout the day and was quickly through to the schedule of SD guard details inside the Government Center.. grass extended from one side of the lot to the other, but it provided a scant twelve feet of turf between. Merrick's eyebrows shot up in an expression of surprise. "The competition is pretty stiff," Leilani acknowledged.. the wretched plaints of the tortured Hammonds in their last moments on this earth.. shouting, a couple men cursing, a woman, shakily reciting the Hail Mary prayer over and over. The. Celia's eyes widened as many things suddenly became clearer. "You ..." Her voice caught somewhere at the back of her throat. "You knew this was going to happen- Howard, Phoenix, everything. You were manipulating all of them from the beginning, even Wellesley. You knew what would happen after the landing but you endorsed it." The man grumbles, turns on his side . . . but doesn't wake.. Sirocco resumed twiddling his moustache. "Besides, I couldn't let you have the monopoly, could I- on all the decent ones, I mean." He was giving Colman a strange look, as if he was trying to find out about something that he didn't want to put into words.. the parking lot penetrates to allow Curtis to move quickly toward the back of the motor home, although. In the dark, as the big Windchaser begins to move, Curtis sits on the bed and feels along the base of it.. could travel through the air when it flung itself out of a tight coil. She thought maybe she'd read that it. "Are we still invited to the Fallowses tonight, Steve?" Hanlon asked, stopping at the door to look back at Colman.. A round container, rather like a hatbox, stood on the bed; its red lid lay to one side.. "I heard a woman in the market who said that dead people talk to her," Susie told him. "That's even more ridiculous." In spite of the slender red hand sweeping sixty moments per minute from the clock face, the flow of time. "Neither do I. But we can't just do nothing.".. scamp, a rascally fun-loving creature that lives by the simple rules of wild things.. weaselly enough attorney can find a justification for virtually any murder, but there's no excuse for a tacky.. her baroque conversational games. In that spirit, Micky said, "I'm not sure amebas are asexual.".. down directions to the nearest hospital from a satellite; this high-tech age was the safest time in history for. "Being naive is no damn excuse." Geneva trembled. She lowered her hands from her face, wringing them.. responded, never appeared to comprehend a sentence of his monologue. And yet he held forth until. "But what about the border guards?" Jean looked alarmed. "We don't know who we can trust. Fulmire didn't know which side how much of the Army is on. There could be fighting out there at any minute. You don't know what you'll be walking into." "How do you know?" Jean challenged. "You weren't there. And that's not the way it sounded when Kalens was talking just now. And a lot of people seemed to agree with him.".. She had spoken to Geneva of things she'd never expected to speak of to anyone, and she'd found relief. Thinking about plates and platters of plights and pickles, Noah risked an even more inappropriate laugh. Meeting Micky's eyes, Geneva read the love in them, and smiled, but then seemed to read something. to be entrusted

to the masses. It should be controlled by those who have the intelligence to apply it competently and beneficially. Gaulitz would be a suitable figure to groom as a... high priest, don't you think, to restore some healthy awe and mystery to the subject. He nodded knowingly. "The Ancient Egyptians had the fight idea." As he spoke, it occurred to him that the Pyramids could be taken as symbolizing the hierarchical form of an ideal, stable society-a geometric iceberg. The analogy was an interesting one. It would make a good point to bring up at the dinner party. Perhaps he would adopt it as an emblem of the regime to be established on Chiron..And Micky said to Leilani, "Did he kill your brother, Lukipela?".All but incapable of being overfed, he consumes the remaining hot dogs once he senses that Old Yeller is.Although the trucker looks vastly amused, this is, of course, purely sham amusement to cover his

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