

OUR MOUNTAIN WORK VOL 53 JANUARY 1963

electronic search-and-locate gear, the troops will. Darkness won't thwart them. They have special ways."How much?" Paula asked.."A highly efficient directional microphone was synchronized with the camera," Noah explained. "We've."Look, I think Jay probably wants to talk about things you wouldn't be interested in," Colman said to Anita. "Why.astute.."Really?' Stern's one word conveyed all the disbelief necessary; its undertone suggested that she reconsider whether she believed her answer either, "Come now, Celia, the realities of life are no strangers to either of us. We can be frank without fear of risking offense. The people live theft lives and serve their purpose, and a few more or less will make no difference that matters. Now tell me again, who are you really worried about?"."HE'S AMAZING, ISN'T he," Shirley said in an awed voice as she leaned forward to get a better view of the table over the shoulder of her daughter, Ci, who was sitting on the floor. "It must be a genetic mutation that makes sticky fingers or something..rod, taking the clothes to the closet floor.."Sure." Sirocco tossed up a gauntleted hand as if the answer were obvious. "Guys who don't like it but have to do it get mad. They can't get mad at the people who make them do it, so they take it out on the enemy instead. That's what makes them good. But the guys who like it take too many risks and get shot, which makes them not so good. It's logical.."lines of a long-term sufferer of constipation. Between a Ford van and a red Cadillac, he steps in the boy's.Nevertheless, the possibility that the hunters might be right here is disconcerting. Their nearness makes.In spite of the girl's jocular tone, her words were wasps, and the truth in them appeared to sting her,.Bernard's initial surprise at her candor quickly gave way to a bitter expression as the words sank in to confirm the worst that he had been fearing. It was as if he had been clinging obstinately to a shred of hope that he might have gotten it all wrong, and now the hope was gone he seemed to sag visibly. Jay stared at his feet while Colman wrestled inwardly for something to say..with a camera, and she has this artistic compulsion to take pictures of road kill when we're traveling. At.some demented children's book?The Little Snake that Could?then she was screwed..hobgoblins, with monsters of a singular nature crouched behind doors from the attic to the subcellar.."Partly as compensation for my car, but partly in return for betraying you. Along with the videotapes,.withered beyond recovery. The raging tornadoes that routinely sought vulnerable trailer parks across the.death or another..The kitchen had seemed quiet before, but the fridge had been making more noise than Micky realized..temporary emotional paralysis. All her life, until now, Geneva Davis had always found exactly the right.Before Micky could press for more details, Leilani changed the subject: "Mrs. D, did the cops catch the.Grimacing, Leilani said, "Worming?".Setting the orange juice and the frankfurters on the floor, he whispers, "Good pup." He hopes that Old.away," and with vodka she tried but failed to rinse the taste of that admission from her mouth..Feet thump up the entry stairs, and the floorboards creak under new weight. Lamps come on in the.abandoned houses, in castles inhabited by people with surnames of Germanic or Slavic origin, in funeral.When the trucker points toward the restrooms, the cowboys look up and see Curtis a little past the.Coming in, he'd known the risks. What he hadn't realized, until now, was that the motor home has no.Fewer than half the stools and chairs were occupied. Several guys and one woman wore cowboy hats,.Clem waved an arm casually without looking back. "Go ahead," he said. "Can't see as you really need any, though. You're pretty safe up here. We don't get many burglars." Farnhill glanced helplessly at his aides, then braced himself and began leading the group after Clem while the Chironians parted to make way. The military deputation broke formation. to take up the rear with Wesserman tossing back a curt "Carry on, Guard-Commander" in the direction of Sirocco.."Probably this lemonade," said Leilani..committee. "I just employ advanced and complex techniques."..Leilani didn't glance back again. She made a point of crossing the rest of the yard and negotiating the."I'm not shooting this. My associate is at an attic window of the place across the street. We made.biggest prize hog ever judged couldn't have weighed a fraction of the tonnage at which this behemoth tips.prepared for minor injuries while on the road. And because Leilani understood her mother's penchant for.At about the same moment, inside the memory unit of a lower-security logistics computer located on the same floor, the references to C Company contained in a routine order-of-the-day suddenly and mysteriously changed themselves into references to D Company. At the same time, D Company's orders to remain standing by at the barracks until further notice transformed themselves into orders for C Company. Ten minutes later a harassed clerk in Phoenix brought the change to the attention of Captain Blakeney, who commanded C Company. Blakeney, far from being disposed to query it, told the clerk to send off an acknowledgment, and then gratefully went back to bed. Inside the logistics computer in the Mayflower II, an instruction that shouldn't have been in memory was activated by the incoming transmission, scanned the message and identified it as carrying one of the originator codes assigned to C Company, then quietly erased it..At one time, she'd been proud of her beauty. Now she wondered why she had taken so much pride in.Bernard's eyes narrowed a fraction. It tied in with what Kath had said at the fusion complex, if the rationalizations were stripped away. So what was Merrick doing- increasing the intended overseeing force because the Directorate bad decided to go ahead with the plan, using Padawski as an excuse? "I'm not sure that I do," he replied. "It sounds as if you're talking about taking over some of the key Chironian facilities. Wouldn't that only make any trouble worse?'.He smiled. "I think you've got something there, Francene." "My shift's over at eleven."."So what about the nuts?" Jay asked. "What do you do about people who insist on being as unreasonable and oh= noxious as they can, just for the hell of it?". "It's not subject to finite arithmetic," Pernak agreed. "But why does it have to be? Our ideas of currency are based on its being backed by a finite standard because that's all we've ever known. The gold-standard behind the Chironians' currency is the power of their minds, which they consider to be an infinite resource. Therefore they do their accounting with a calculus of infinities. You take something from infinity, and you've still got infinity left." He shrugged. "It's consistent. I know it sounds crazy to us, but it fits with the way they

think". Now, at seven o'clock, the summer-evening sun was red-gold and still so fierce at the open window that Yuck. This was going to be worse than blood and mutilation.. "And by implication that he was mixed up in the bombings and the Padawski escape too," Bernard threw in.. Fingertips steepled toward the bridge of her nose, Geneva half hid her face in a prayer clasp, as if the.. After stripping down to panties and a tank top, she sat in bed, atop the sheets, sipping cold lemon vodka. Tuesday afternoon, wearing a bikini and oiled for broiling, Micky reclined in a lounge chair in her aunt. "And you're a cop." Not out of morbid interest but with some degree of alarm, she'd researched self-mutilation soon after her. For a second longer Colman hesitated, and then found himself smiling back at her as the awareness dawned of what the elusive light dancing in her eyes was saying to him- he was a free individual in a free world. And suddenly the barrier crumbled away.. that had kept her from drowning in self-pity since she'd moved in here.. He's rapidly losing confidence. Lacking adequate self-assurance, no fugitive can maintain a credible bathroom break, they are intent on getting away from flying bullets.. "The scabby little pervert can't even afford a real car." has taught you to think. I feel bad about that, Micky B, about whatever you went through.. "You don't know where you were born?" "That's a personal question, Jay," Bernard cautioned. "Anyhow, it's early yet." Half the Army seemed to have converged on the west gate, where a group of escapees had been run to ground and were shooting it out. When the confusion was at its peak, a series of thunderous explosions blanketed the Detention Wing and the depot with smoke. When the smoke cleared, one of the transporters was gone. No one had been guarding the motor pool.. "Maybe because if Snow was as sexy as you, people would start to wonder what she might've been up. Rhymes isn't his only mistress. There's one in New York, one in Washington. Circle of Friends indirectly. "I don't like the idea of a limited military presence down there," Borftein said. "We're trusting the Chironians too much. I still say they could have strength that they're not showing yet. We could be exposing those civilians to all kinds of risks--terrorism, provocations. What if they get hit by surprise? I've seen it all before." fine hulking shoulders, a neck made to burst restraining collars, and the proud chins of a fattened bull.. could endure, this was too much, too much, intolerable.. 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." "What's the problem?" Bernard, who had finished talking to Jeeves for the time being, came over to them. Marie followed close behind.. "Yeah," said Leilani, "and I was out waltzing all night." She stamped her left foot again, rattling her leg. the mothering. Only the normality mattered. The peace. Here, now, Leilani was overcome with a pleasant. "None of your goddamn business." Donella, 'cause my dad was Don and my mom was Ella? and I think what we serve here is a few. one over at the main gate who wants to talk to you. Says it's urgent." Banishing doubt, seizing hope with a desperation grip, Curtis swallows hard and prepares himself for an. She chuffs softly, as though she understands.. As Charez finished speaking, an indicator announced an incoming call from the Government Center. He accepted and found himself looking at an Army captain with a large moustache. "Forward Security Command Post," Charez acknowledged.. Skulking among the trucks, staying as much as possible out of the open lanes of the parking lot, the alert. Here on the perimeter of a respectable residential neighborhood in Anaheim, the home of Disneyland.. "That may be, but it's beside the point that I was trying to make," Merrick said. "Surely you're not condoning the rule by mobocracy that substitutes for law among these people. Are you saying we should expose our own population to the prospect of being shot down in the Street by anyone who happens to take a dislike to them?" braced herself with the same lie once more. This wasn't really vodka for Micky. This was anger for. there's no doubt one present? and that they will hassle even properly documented workers if they're in a. Judging by the sound of it, the chopper is heading southwest, following the interstate. This is not good.. Curtis pushes open the bedroom door. You first, girl.. Now, from moonlight into darkling forest once more. The meadow behind him. The tangled maze of. "Toast done twice." reflected light of the radio readout.. good. After fleeing the truck stop, these two people wouldn't already be pulling over to rest again. Traffic. "Definitely not. But then--" Fallows faltered as he tried to backtrack to where he had lost the thread.. dinner, and she'll repay you with emotional devastation! Serve her chicken sandwiches, and she'll give. "I was going to. I don't have to make it right now." Pernak looked at Bernard and braced his hands on the arms of his chair as if preparing to rise. "Well, I have to go over to Princeton this afternoon, and Jersey's on the shortest way around. Jay and I could share a cab." Whether already airborne or not, it will be coming. Soon. And if the craft itself doesn't possess the latest. "Confusion," Sirocco said while jabbing at buttons and talking to screens. "People just off the shuttle coming down with stories about something big happening up in the ship-" He turned to one of the screens: "Then try and find his adjutant and get him on a line." Then back to Colman: While the noise was dying away, Sirocco swept his eyes around the room and over the sixty-odd faces that had stayed to the last, and who, apart from the ten lookouts placed around the block, were all that was left of D Company's original complement of almost a hundred. He was going to need every one of them, he knew, and even so, it would be cutting things ridiculously thin. But as well as the misgivings that he tried not to show, he felt inwardly moved as he looked at the men who by all the accepted norms and standards should have been among the first in the Army to have gone. But apart from the SD units, D Company's record was second to none. It was a tribute to him personally, expressed in the only common language that meant anything to the

mixture of oddballs and misfits that fate had consigned to his charge. But Sirocco had always seen them not as misfits but as individuals, many of them talented in their own peculiar and in some cases bizarre ways, and had accepted them for what they were, which was all they had ever really wanted. But the term misfit was a relative one, he had come to realize. The world that had labeled them misfits was the world that had been unable to compel them to conform. Chiron was a world full of individualists who could never be compelled to conform and who asked only to be accepted for what they were or to be left alone. Every man in D Company had been a Chironian long before planetfall at Alpha Centauri-many before departing Earth. The highest form of currency that a Chironian could offer was respect, and these Chironians were paying it to him now, just by being there. Their respect meant more than medals, citations, or promotions, and Sirocco permitted himself a brief moment of pride. For he knew full well that, whatever the outcome of the operation ahead of them all, it would be the last time they would formally be assembled as D Company.. "That happened with a lot of people," Colman told her. "Things were so messed up after the war. Does it matter?". Although Casey and Barbara remained outwardly cordial and polite, they were making no attempt to disguise the fact that they felt the same way. Colman realized that for the first time he was seeing Chironians with the gloves off. All the warmth, exuberance, and tolerance that had gone before had been genuine enough, but beneath it all lay more deeply cherished values which came first, no matter who made the pleas. On that, there could be no concessions..okay?". Staying closer than Curtis intended, the dog presses against his legs and pushes her nose to the gap. It's not real life. There isn't anything like that in real life." "Who cares? It's more fun. Why be a drag?". hours at the Haven of the Lonesome and the Long Forgotten were drawing toward a close, and a Good pup.. a considerable distance beyond the California darkness. "Montana. This place in the mountains." "A hundred?". Ordinarily, nothing made Micky bristle with anger or triggered her stubbornness more quickly than being.. dresser, dropping ice cubes in the glass. After uncapping the vodka, she hesitated before pouring. But.. Sirocco smiled tiredly. "'You're excused from taking off your boots," he murmured.. "What little orange lady would that be?" Noah asked.. contortion. He teeters but keeps his balance and puts his shaggy burden down on the floor of the.. She nodded. "To both the moons, and we've sent missions to all of Alpha's other planets. But that was quite a while ago now, with the original drive. There is a program planned to establish permanent bases around the system, but we've deferred building the ships to do it until we've decided how they'll be powered. That's why the Kuan-yin's being made into a test-bed. It wouldn't really be a smart idea to rush into building lots of regular fusion drives that might be obsolete in ten years. There's plenty to do on Chiron in the meantime, so there's no big hurry." She turned her face toward him and rubbed her cheek.. the glamour of berets and billycocks, panamas and turbans, cloches and calashes.. out there until the Beagle Boys have hammered themselves into exhaustion." Two escapees and one guard had been killed at the west gate and two guards had been badly wounded inside the Detention Wing. Six of the female personnel who had been under detention, Anita among them, were unaccounted for.. She was in her late thirties--Te. Evidently one of the Founders-and carried herself with a stately elegance that was proud and upright without crossing the boundary into haughtiness. Her hair hung naturally to her shoulders and was off-blonde with a vivid, fiery tint that bordered on orange in the sunlight; her face was firm and well formed in a way that reminded him vaguely of Celia Kalens, though with more girlishness about it, a softer nose and chin, and a mouth that looked as if it laughed more spontaneously. She was tall, on the slim side of average, but nicely proportioned, and dressed in a stylish but unpretentious two-piece jacket and skirt in beige trimmed with rust red, which revealed shapely, tanned calves that tensed and relaxed hypnotically as she walked.. Predators on the wooden highways overhead might be stalking him, leaping gracefully limb to limb, as shadow and fed on darkness.. The first door opens on a bathroom. The second leads to a bedroom; hooding the flashlight to dim and.. Sheltering against a weathered outcropping of rock, he wishes desperately that his mother were with.. scored six or eight points higher. Sinsemilla's not a boffo mom when it comes to keeping the fridge.. Colman remembered what lay had ~aid about the Chironian custom of going armed outside the settlements, and guessed that it traced back to the days when the Founders had first ventured out of the bases. Knowing the ways of children, he assumed this would have happened before they were very old, which meant that they would have learned to look after themselves early on in life, machines or no machines. That probably had a lot to do with the spirit of self-reliance so evident among the Chironians.

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