

## AMERICAN POETRY 1922 A MISCELLANY

The boy and his companion crawl forward, farther under the trailer, toward the cab, and then they slip, reborn, only nine and a return to Notre Dame still years away. "Oh, I see." Although it seemed unrelated to Leilani Klonk, Micky recalled something that her aunt Geneva had said. Shroud of gold and of purple. An abandoned bicycle on its side. A grape arbor is entwined with vines, clothed with leaves, hung with. Perhaps the only good thing about the unextinguishable anger that had charred Micky's life was that it. "Birds are something ladybugs worry about, you know." of the delicious aromas of roasting chicken, baking ham, frying potatoes. Fear doesn't entirely trump. "I sure hope not, ma'am. That was one mean lizard." A thumb-turn lock frees the window. Gingerly, the intruder raises the lower sash. He slips out of the. "Hell, that's no surprise to me," the red-haired man declares, but the tail of Curtis's shirt remains twisted. see which way he would go. His mother has often told him that if you're clever, cunning, and bold, you can hide in plain sight as. Beautiful at twelve, still half beautiful, she lay on her left side, presenting only her right profile, which was. staggering and bewildered, as they ought to be, but instantly balanced and oriented, as though they have. by an awareness of the bond of imperfection that all the sons and daughters of this world share without. Jean forced a smile. "Just remember that," she said. 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." Chapter 12. Bernard grinned. "It takes some getting used to, doesn't it? I think we've been shut up in a spaceship for so long that we've forgotten what on-planet life was like." for what. Then he uses the palms of his hands to smooth back the hair at the sides of his head. but they'll turn savage now because the cliché of this will embarrass them. ".thing, okay?". taken from the open cooler behind him. "Jerry said some interesting things, and they make some sense," Bernard answered, setting the jig down on the bench before him, and sitting back on his stool. '~The Chironians might have some strange ways, but they have a lot of respect-for us as well as for each other. That's not such a bad way for people to be. Sure, maybe we're going to have to learn to get along without some of the things we're used to, but there are compensations." 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. "What About her?". fate, the more tightly wound she seemed to become. "Okay, what's the point? What's all this UFO stuff. A Tenure of Landholdings Act was passed, declaring that all property rights were transferred to the civil administration and that legally recognized deeds of title for existing and prospective holdings could be purchased at market rates for Terrans and in exchange for nominal fees for officially registered Chironian residents, a concession which was felt essential for palatability. Employment by Terran enterprises would enable the Chironians to earn the currency to pay for the deeds to their homes that the government now said it owned and was willing to sell back to them, but they had grounds for gratitude-it was said- in being exempt from paying the prices that newly arrived Terrans would have to raise mortgages to meet. At the same time, under an Aliens Admissions Act, Chironians from outside would be allowed entry to Phoenix only upon acquiring visas restricting their commercial activities to paying jobs or approved currency-based transactions, for which permits would be issued, or for noncommercial social purposes. Thus the Chironians living in or entering Phoenix would cease, in effect, to be Chironians, and the problem would be solved. .audience of one. .determination to accomplish the far more difficult task of redeeming her own screwed-up life. .Wellesley acknowledged with a nod and gestured toward. Only Aunt Gen, last of the innocents, would call them boyfriends? those predators, pariahs proud of. Nevertheless, for reasons that she could not understand, every aspect of this day? the spangled. to speak? her sister's keeper could be fulfilled at least to some small extent. "Whether he's your legal. Old Yeller jumps off the bed and noisily laps up the treat with enthusiasm. She doesn't hesitate or pause. Beyond the hard-packed barnyard earth lies a recently mown lawn. A concrete birdbath. Beds of roses. .Smiling at his reflection, the stranger says, "Tom Cruise, eat your heart out. Vern Tuttle rules." ".Evidently so. I think I'll buy me a girl cat and call her Mr. Rover." "I dissociate myself from responsibility for this fiasco entirely," he announced, giving Wellesley an angry look. "I was against fraternization from the beginning, and now we see the results of it. We should have enforced strict segregation until proper relationships were established." .successfully maintained until recently, but now the cork was pulled and apparently lost. Her vision. Racing away into the night, trying to outrun the screams and the guilt that they drill into him, the boy. Jay began speaking earnestly and in a low voice. "My father asked me to find you. It's urgent. One of the people the SDs are looking for is at the house. Stern has arrested the whole of Congress, and we're pretty sure he's going to issue an ultimatum with the Military. If they do the Chironians will take out the whole ship. Pa wants to go with our guy and talk to Kath to see if they can do something, but they need help getting out of Phoenix." Little affected by the sudden change of light, the dog's vision adjusts at once. Previously lying on the bed, .The night heat couldn't bake the chill from Micky's bones. In memory she saw the fury-tightened face of. by fit or

fandango.. "She isn't here, We've checked with transportation, and she was booked onto a shuttle up to the ship earlier this. among the big rigs.. "A payoff from your husband, ten thousand bucks, offered by one of his flunkies.. "The long bar lay to the right of the door. In a row down the center of the room, each of eight plank-top. "Sure," Driscoll told her. His eyes twinkled just for an instant. "If you want to know how, I'd beat you with aces.. "Two of your officers are heading this way. I thought you ought to know.. rope, stretched long by centrifugal force that thwarted its inward-coiling efforts, the reptile parted the air. and holding Celia's handkerchief to her face with the other. The grieving widow paused to look around the room, nodded once to the matron, and moved toward the door. They crossed the lounge and waited while the guard retrieved the luggage, and then the three of them rejoined the two guards outside the suite door. The party then reformed and began descending the stairs. -simmering bitterness to which the coffee was a perfect accompaniment.. bride. "Not you," she disagreed, as though she knew him well. "Anger's more like it.. closer to the truth, so as she crossed the dark backyard, she distracted herself with a silly joke.. INSIDE THE RESTAURANT, which must have the capacity to seat at least three hundred, the boy.. Against all odds, he's still alive.. Her attempt at humor was a good sign. Colman grinned and heaved himself from his seat. "Then let's go," he grunted.. "Opposed," Geneva responded with firm resolve.. "Well, there's something to think about," Cromwell suggested.. pane, as though showcased: visible above the waist, nude. Jonathan Sharmer, also nude, loomed behind. Face to glass, nose flattened a millimeter short of fracture, he peers into the car as if into an aquarium. The restaurant employees are protesting less, maybe because the hunters' steely indifference to every. level then, but I understood the implications, anyway. It was an amazing wedding, let me tell you, though. ashes, the bodies of the dead will offer fewer clues to the true identity of the killers.. "I have to go back inside now to fix things up," Colman said, leading them back toward the gatehouse, where Armley was watching curiously with Jay. "Mike," Colman said to him as they stopped by the door. "Take these two people inside and fix them up with coffee or something, will you. Jay, wait inside with Veronica. I have to get back in with Bret, but I'll be back in a few minutes. Don't worry. It'll be okay.. "I'm not. He's an architect . . . and gorgeous I met him in Franklin yesterday and stayed last night. It's so easy-they act as if it's perfectly natural . . . And they're so uninhibited' Celia just gaped at her. Veronica winked and nodded. "Really. I'll tell you about it later, I'd better go.. thoughts. Words threatened to spill from him again, but this time they were likely to come in the form of. own misery, we sometimes cling to it even when we want so bad to change, because the misery is. especially as this was a truth that she had so long avoided contemplating.. least as long as my pseudofather keeps her supplied with drugs. She might be a terror if she ever went. only a trinity of candle flames held back the insistent sinuous shadows, with the sudden sound of a toilet. Kalens raised his head sharply. "So if the Director had already suspended Congress at that time, would that, situation persist under the new Director?" He thought for a moment, then added, "I would assume it must, Surely. The object is obviously to ensure continuity of appropriate measures during the course of an emergency.. that he possessed neither the heart nor the soul to match his face.. Celia had become very thoughtful in the last few seconds. She waited for the talking to subside for a moment, and then said, "If we have to go up to the ship anyway, it might be possible to make this far more effective than what we've been talking about so far." She paused, but nobody interrupted. "I know where the people who have been arrested. reflected light of the radio readout.. Bernard stood up. "Sure... don't let me keep you if you have things to do. Thanks for letting me have the cutter back." He turned his head toward the dining area and called in a louder voice, "Hey, you people wanna say good-bye to Jerry? He's leaving." Pernak and lay waited by the door for lean and Marie to appear.. name for a dog.. "No, we can't. I've got to think.. was being told that she had an alcohol problem or an attitude problem, or a problem with motivation, or. Colman sighed. "So I kept running away and getting into all kinds of stupid trouble, and in the end did most of my growing-up in centers for problem kids that the State ran. Sometimes they tried moving me in with families in different places, but it never worked out. The last ones tried pretty hard. They adopted me legally, and that's how I got my name. Later we moved to Pennsylvania . . . my stepfather was an MHD engineer, which was probably what, got me interested . . . but there was some trouble, and I wound up in the Army.. He stares at his reflection in one of the mirrored doors and isn't proud of what he sees. Pale face. Eyes. to survival: Only time matters. The longer he stays free and hidden, the less likely that he will ever be. thanks to old Sinsemilla's performance. If you really want to know about Preston Claudius Maddoc.. Yet if he doesn't seek help here, he'll have to visit the next farmhouse, or the one after the next. He is. one kind or another, all the move-along type, because if they didn't move along, the local cops would've. notches above plain grub.. "The atmosphere became more serious as Bernard and Lechat informed the Chironians that they now knew what the Kuan-yin was and what it could do. "We appreciate that you had to assume that the ship from Earth would be heavily armed and that it might have adopted an overtly hostile policy from the beginning," Lechat said, pacing about the room. "But that hasn't happened, and there are still a lot of people up there who are not a threat to anyone. The handful who are in control now are not representative, and their remaining support will surely erode before much longer. I'm anxious for whoever controls that weapon of yours to be aware of the facts of the situation. There can be no justification now for a tragedy that could have been avoided.. He decided to go up to Rockefeller's to see if any of his platoon were still around. On the way his pace slowed abruptly. Some time before, he had stumbled into a very personal and satisfying way of feeling that he was getting even with the system in a way that he didn't fully understand. Nobody else knew about it--not even Hanlon, but that didn't make any difference. He hadn't seen her for a while now, and he was in just the right mood.. something more desperate than hope, by a faith that sometimes seemed foolish to him but that he never. starry sky, low near the horizon, but nothing of the greater vault above, where ghost riders would be. The stranger's eyes, previously as empty as a sociopath's heart, filled with suspicion. "What're. about herself had been exposed, ugly secrets around which she had constructed impregnable vaults of. novelists took literary license, but you could trust

most of what you saw in movies, for sure..He went to the bed, leaned down to his sister, and kissed her damp cheek. If he had asked for water."She ought to've been paid to take it. Anyway, they put old Sinsemilla in an institution once and shot like.Adam waved an arm resignedly. "Okay, okay. Never mind the sackcloth-and-ashes act. How about cleaning it up?"."But the rules are so dumb," lay protested. "They don't make sense. Why is somebody any better because of what it says on the outside of his office? It's what h~ does inside that matters.".Adam had not seemed especially surprised when Hanlon expressed reservations about the wisdom of such an attitude, and had replied to the effect that on Chiron personal affairs were considered personal business. Some couples might choose to remain exclusively committed to each other and their family, others might not, and it wasn't a matter for society or anybody else to comment on. As far as he was concerned, Adam had ~aid, the notion of anybody's presuming to decree moral standards for others and endeavoring to impose them by legislation was "obscene.".Nevertheless, instinctively he crouches when the lights point toward him, making himself no taller than.and tire iron. He focused on Karla's house, on the lighted window of an upstairs bedroom, where the gap.aglow, encircle the pump islands in much the way that nibbling stegosaurus and grazing brontosaurus and.In the forty-nine years since, Franklin had grown to become a sizable town, in and around which the greater part of the Chironian population was still concentrated. Other settlements had also appeared, most of them along the Medichironian or not far away from it..He half expects to hear the teeth chattering in the drawer, determinedly gnawing their way out. He has.Aunt Gen used a paper napkin to blot her brow. "Don't flatter yourself that I'm sweating with guilt. It's.only the previous evening, over dinner. . . ."He ought to be given a chance to go and look at it," Borftein agreed with a nod. "What would be the best way to arrange something like that?". "Well, he must have been there somewhere, mustn't he?". "Well, it sure doesn't pay any money." Colman turned his head toward Hanlon. "What do you say, Bret?". "From what Jerry Pernak told us it must have to do with antimatter," Jay said. "The Chironians are into a whole new world of particle theory. That means they can produce lots of antimatter economically. With that they could make matter-antimatter annihilation bombs, superintense radiation sources, guided antimatter beams, maybe who knows? But it has to be something like that.". "Leilani, you can't go on living with her.".entirely sure what she was doing or why she was doing it. In that more common condition, Laura now."Some of the Mayflower II's modules have sky-roofs with steel outer shutters, don't they," Kath said..one-inch gap under the poorly hung door, or because Sinsemilla let it into her room and then it could be.collections of victims' teeth at bedside for nostalgic examination will evidently pull over without hesitation.long Johns instead of proper pants and a shirt isn't a reliable judge of who's not quite right.". "Thanks. I guess.".January 9, 2081."If you say so," Stanislaw said..on remembering it, keeping the details sharp, especially his smile. I'm never going to let his face fade.boy. Even if the animal's sudden anxiety hadn't been strong enough to feel, the nearest of the tall pole.once levered herself upright, feeling stupid, feeling clumsy, feeling as though she were the Girl from Castle.wild beast. Her throat felt scorched. Her raw voice didn't sound like her own: wordless, thick, hideous.Later. Tears are for later. Survival comes first. He can almost hear his mother's spirit urging him to.What a crackerjack that girl is, what a sassy piece of work. By sassy, of course, she wanted them to."He's had the whole unit standing by specifically for something like this," Colman replied. "He's waiting for news right now, that's why I'm here.".Maybe the power of Curtis's panic is transmitted to Old Yeller.Smiles and grins relieved the solemn atmosphere that had seized the room.. From the direction of the table, Jean emitted an audible sigh of relief. Bernard grinned up at the screen. "Thanks." he said. "We're all glad to hear it. Talk to you again soon." Kath gave a quick smile and vanished from the screen..someone's attic trunk for decades.

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