

DESTINY OR THE CHIEFS DAUGHTER VOLUME 2

"If you're going to lose anyway, you might as well win," Swley replied. "If you win the wrong way, you lose, and if you lose either way, you lose. So why not enjoy it?" The prednct outside was full of people wasting the evening while trying to figure out what to do with it, when Colman and Anita emerged from the Bowry and turned to follow the others, who were already some distance ahead. Anita stopped to fish for something in her pocketbook, and Colman slowed to a halt to wait. The touch of her hand resting on his arm in the bar had been stimulating, and the faint whiff of perfume he had caught when she leaned forward to pick up her glass, tantalizing. What the hell? he thought. She's not a kid. A guy needed a break now and again after twenty years of being cooped up in a spaceship. "But that doesn't mean we have to take chances," Anita pointed out. spiky hair in the passenger's seat?stare back at him with the lidless eyes and the puckered-O mouths. "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?" "Yeah, I heard that somewhere," Leilani replied, picking up her fork. surely suffering tromped toes and elbow-poked ribs aplenty. The tangled escapees ravel out of the. Kath touched a code into the compad, and at once the large screen at one end of the room came to life to reveal head-and-shoulder views of six people. The screen was divided conference-style into quarters, with a pair of figures in two of the boxes and a single person in each of the other two, implying that the views were coming from different locations. Kath noticed the concerned look that flashed across Bernard's face. "It's all right," she told him. "The channels are quite secure. Instead, each time Noah saw this boy?twenty-six but to some degree a boy forever?he was pierced.pretty?". "maybe you'll realize your palm-shaded terrace isn't in Heaven." comment on them, because she surely knew that consolation wouldn't be welcome. After blow-drying her hair and her leg brace, the young killer cyborg wiped the steam off the mirror and. boy hears voices. Men in easy conversation. "I knew you were suicidal." by ETs?it was supposed to happen before we were ten. Each of us would be made whole, he promised. petroleum deposits in particular, as put forth locally in everything from textbooks to the Internet. Yet even. "Just a bunch of hooley ? ". dedicated his life to the saucer circuit. He has this honking big motor home, and we travel all around the. The bulkhead door at the far end of the catwalk was open, and some tools were lying in front of an opened switchbox nearby. Colman went through the door into the pump compartment and emerged onto a railed platform part way up one side of a tall bay extending upward and below, divided into levels of girders and struts with one of the huge pumps and its attendant equipment per level. On the level below him, a group of engineers and riggers was working on one of the pumps. They had removed one of the end-casings and dismantled the bearing assembly, and were attaching slings from an overhead gantry in preparation for withdrawing the rotor. Colman leaned on the rail to watch for a few moments, nodding to himself in silent approval as he noted the slings and safety lines correctly tensioned at the fight angles, the chocks wedging the rotor to avoid trapped hands, the parts laid out in order well clear of the working area, and the exposed bearing surfaces protected by padding from damage by dropped tools. He liked watching professionals. not paying for it--not a cent's worth of any of it. "They will," Rastus replied. "How?" Rastus looked mildly surprised. "They'll find a way," he said. "cure" her more speedily and with a lot fewer dazzling special effects than extraterrestrials?a theatrical. "It could still detach, even without Sterm". overheating vehicles. distances. Curtis is "not quite right," as Burt Hooper put it, and Old Yeller is neither yellow nor male, nor. More saddles are braced among the blankets, some as smooth as the first, but others enhanced with. A call came through from Brigade, and Sirocco switched into the audio channel to take it. Colman sat back and looked around. The indicators and alarms on the console in front of him had nothing to report. Nobody was creeping about under the floor, worming their way between the structure's inner and outer ski.~, tampering with any doors or hatches, cutting a hole through from the booster compartments, crawling down from the accelerator level above, or climbing furtively across the outside. Nobody, it seemed, wanted any thermonuclear warheads today. He rose and moved round behind the chair. "Need to stretch my legs," he said as Sirocco glanced up behind his faceplate. 'It's time to do a round anyhow.' Sirocco nodded and carried on talking inside his helmet. Colman shouldered his M32 and left the guardroom. "Your last chance to reconsider," Sterm said, looking back out from the screen. He's scared, mouth suddenly bitter with the taste of what might be his mortality, lungs cinched tight. "Detail... halt!". memory for names. "I never said it had to make sense." Sirocco brought his elbows up level with his shoulders, stretched. for a few seconds, and sighed. After a short silence he cocked a curious eye in Colman's direction. "So... what's the latest with that cutie from Brigade?". Driscoll shrugged. "What would you stake?". dog surely knows what Heaven's like and won't confuse paradise with a good dinner. and tire iron. He focused on Karla's house, on the lighted window of an upstairs bedroom, where the gap. the rich shade of pure-gold coins, fitting for a descendant of an old-money family that earned its fortune in. "Aunt Gen and Uncle Vernon owned a little corner grocery," Micky explained, "which is like being. Behind Bernard and Celia, Lechat told Otto, "All of the strategic weapons are in that module. The remainder of this ship represents no threat whatsoever." toward the highway, which lies a third of a mile to the south. Anyway, the toilet?the restroom?is within sight from the lunch counter, at the end of a long hallway. still attract men if you've got great boobs. That's been my observation, anyway. Men can be lovely. "Heavens, no, dear. We emptied the register and all but thanked him for sparing us the trouble of paying. just one furter from an unpleasant flowback. The sausages are cold but delicious. He would eat more if. "Why should you be nice to people who are acting like they're trying to take over your ship? ". "Maybe we shouldn't rush things too much," Bernard suggested. He looked at lay: "You may want to give yourself time to acclimatize before you get into something like this." His tone said that he was being tactful in his phrasing; lay wasn't going. For the moment, at least, lay didn't feel inclined to argue too much. "Hey, you. Stop." The major in command of the four SD troopers

sent to scout out the center of Canaveral City --a residential and commercial suburb situated outside the base and merging into one side of Franklin--addressed the Chironian whom they had followed from the restaurant a few yards back around the corner. He was well-dressed, in his midthirties, and carrying an attaché case. The Chironian ignored them and kept walking. Whereupon the major marched ahead to plant himself firmly in the man's path. The Chironian walked round him and eventually halted when the troopers formed themselves into an impassable barrier on three sides. "You're coming to talk to the ambassador," the major informed him..called me Leilani, which means 'heavenly flower,' because maybe . . . maybe people will think of me as.want to meet at night in a lonely corner of a parkin' lot.".she often generated a blinding blizzard of anger that isolated her from other people, from life, from all.know joy, to have faith that our lives have meaning . . . and to find The Way..Micky figured this approach to hardship and calamity worked best if you'd been shot in the head and if.beauty that until now he hadn't seen the kindness in her eyes. "Could be self-pity," he said, naming his.Reaching the steps on which Sinsemilla perched after the moon dance, Leilani felt tempted to glance.he murmured while Colman called the ambulance dispatcher on another panel. "Let's see who steps out from the wings now.". "Which you're wearing," Noah guessed, pointing at the guy's.On all sides of Curtis, remote-released locks electronically disengage with sharp double-beep signals,. "But lay's still got a point," Bernard said, glancing at his son and nodding "What about the people who won't use them?". "They do. How could it be up to anyone else?". "I wouldn't know, but it wouldn't surprise me," Celia answered. "I just know the true story about Howard because. . because..".Colman kept a poker face. "What made him think that?".when he entered or acknowledge his presence when he rounded the bed and stood gazing down at her..shoulders. "No, honey. Never you, none of that. You were just a good woman, too good and far too.The owner bustled forward, twisting a cloth nervously in his hands. "Look, I don't want any trouble. I just wanna sell food to the people, okay? They don't want no trouble either. Now why don't--".task is to stop any SD's getting out and, more important, to stop Sterm and his people from getting in if things go well and they realize they can't hold the rest of the ship. What we have to prevent at all costs is Sterm and Stormbel get/ ting in there and detaching the module so that it can threaten the rest of the Mayflower II as well as the planet.really want to talk about? And I'm ? what? ? supposed to guess the true subject?". "As long as you think of me as a handicapped waif, your pity doesn't allow you to be impolite. On the.Sinsemilla had left the kitchen door open. Leilani went inside..thinks he hears sporadic gunfire. He can't be sure. His explosive breathing and the slap of his sneakers on.Drawing upon the messy experience of giving the dog a drink from a bottle of water in the Explorer, he.young faces pressed against the rear window..Kath nodded. "Wally and Sam. It was only briefly, became I had to get back to Farnhill and your other people, but from what they said it seems as if you know quite a bit about MHD. Where did you study?". "But we don't even know which Chironians to talk to," Lechat pointed out,.peach juice from a handful of dried pits would be easier than squeezing one drop of pity from this hunter's.grass that shimmers out there beyond the trees..what the coroner will certify as the cause of his death.. "Believe in life after death?".salad, a tray of cheese, and other stuff in the fridge. Would you put everything on the table?".Leilani's heart pumped, pumped the bellows of her lungs, and breath blew from her in quick hard gusts..now or whether they'd remember Luki?'or admit to remembering him.".caring staff and comforts, to be an unnatural condition for any form of life..Meeting Micky's eyes, Geneva read the love in them, and smiled, but then seemed to read something.The first door opens on a bathroom. The second lends to a bedroom; hooding the flashlight to dim and.While Alan Jackson filled the jukebox with a melancholy lament about loneliness, Noah fished the.objection and their cold-eyed persistence is too intimidating to resist. You see guys like this on the TV.While the red and then the purple dust of twilight settled, Noah remained in the three-bedroom suite,.flamboyant fantasies rivaled Dorothy's dreams of Oz; however, Micky could get no glimpse of yellow."How-how could you justify it?".Geneva leaned forward on the edge of the bed, shoulders hunched, as though she were on a pew.. "Intruder defenses primed and ready to activate.".table..see the window-basher. The guy grinned and winked..only the previous evening, over dinner. . . .He returned to the Bowery, where a couple of businessmen out on the town bought him a drink. They were concerned about the rumors of possible trouble because they had big plans for expansion on Chiron, and they pressed Colman for inside information from the Military. Colman ' ~d he didn't have any. The businessmen hoped everything would be resolved peacefully but were glad that the Army was around to help solve any problems. They didn't want peace to prevent people like Colman from getting shot or so that Chironians who were like Jay and the black guy near Zeerust could become engineers or run their farms without getting wiped out by air strikes; they wanted it So that they could make money by hiring Chironians at half the wages they'd need to pay Terrans, and to set up good, exclusive schools to put their kids in. You couldn't put Chironians in the schools, because if you did they'd want the same wages. And in any case they'd never be able to afford it. The Chironians weren't really people, after all..A tire blows, the trailer bounces, the stacks bark as loud as a mortar lobbing hundred-millimeter rounds.The FBI, the National Security Agency, and other legitimate authorities won't kill Curtis immediately."See, there?s that anger again.".To reach the stairs, he will need to pass their bedroom door, which he unthinkingly left open. If the.Leilani to be convinced against her will that they were mother and daughter..place, less than twenty-four hours ago..the pavement mask other noises; the desert breeze breaks over him, and in the shells of his ears, this stir.Otto smiled humorlessly. "Take a look at the other lunatics around you," he suggested. "What happened to all the people? Where did your army go? They're all Chironians now. And you have nothing to offer them but protection from the fear that you would manufacture in their minds. But they have Chironian minds. They see that the fear is your fear, not theirs; and it is you who are in need of protection, not they.".been in years..corner TV cabinet. A pair of sliding mirrored doors probably conceal a wardrobe jammed full of too.Curtis had thought he was being pursued by a platoon. Perhaps it is instead an army. And the enemies of.furniture, dead-on for the snake. She struck again, again, again,

furiously, burning her knuckles from

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