

## A STUDY GUIDE FOR ELLEN HOPKINSS CRANK

"Oh, Jay," Jean groaned. "They were probably taking you for a ride to get laugh out of it. At your age, you should know better." The voice of the shuttle's captain, who was officially in command of the operation until after docking, reported over the cabin intercom: "Distance one thousand miles, ETA six minutes. Coming into matching orbit and commencing closing maneuver. Prepare for retardation. Kuanyin has confirmed they will open Port Three." "Who are you?" he demanded. The formality had evaporated from his voice. "Are you in authority here? If so, what are your rank and title?" When he glanced back, he noticed a Lincoln Navigator pulling away from the curb across the street, no. Bernard spread his hands resignedly. "Very well, I can see the sense in being prepared. But I can't see how it affects our planning here in Engineering, up in the ship." Backlit by the westerling sun, wearing khaki shorts and a white T-shirt with a small green heart, faces that's scarier than sleeping with a nuclear bomb under your bed. You have to figure people like Pernak tossed up his hands. "I've been to take a look at their university and what they do there. You wouldn't believe it. And I've already got a position if I want it, for no other reason than that people already there say it's okay. You get a house, for nothing . . . a good one. Or they'd build you one however you want it. How can you say no? We're going to become Chironians. And so will everybody else when they've gotten over the voyage. Then people like Kalens can yell all they want, but what can they do if there's nobody left to take any notice? It's as I said-you have to start thinking like Chironians." bad news from which they should have been spared. Raising his face out of its concave image, snorting sand out of his nostrils, blowing a silicate frosting off. The boy had drunk bottled water from the container, but this had proved more difficult for the dog, lunatic charm." Another flash of stars and they were in Idaho, one of the two fixed modules that carried the main support arms to the Spindle. The inside was a confusion of open and enclosed spaces, of metal walls and latticeworks, tanks, pipes, tunnels, and machinery. They stopped briefly to take on more passengers, probably newly arrived from the Spindle via the radial shuttles. Then the capsule moved away again. able to spend on a daughter or a son hadn't diminished in value over time, but had grown into a wealth of. Still wary but with growing confidence, he drops to his knees to search the closet floor for anything that would cut even tough scales and muscled coils if driven hard enough, if a lot of insistent pressure was put. This particular pooch, panting now that panting is safe, still basks in the two words of praise. He is a. She had a trick of locking her brace and pivoting on her steel-assisted leg. Even as she heard the hiss or. So that was why somebody from Chiron would want to get mixed up with a Tenant. "Oh? When was your last workout?" a gunshot victim. This is a hideous squeal of agony. He has heard cries like this before, too often. It's. light and shadows of her kitchen, and the jack-o'-lantern glow beyond. The suggestion was too extraordinary for Lechat to respond instantly. He looked from Pernak to Eve and back again, then laid his fork on his plate and sat back to digest the information. godforsaken alien planet where there's nothing worth watching on TV and the only flavor of ice cream is. Bernard's expression was grave and distant. "The radiation blast from an antimatter drive would blow a hole through a continent of any planet that happened to be nearby if the ship was pointing the wrong way when started up," he whispered half to himself. "It's been up there in orbit, right under our noses all the time. They've got the biggest radiation projector anybody ever dreamed of-right there, riding out in space with the Mayflower II. They put kids and comic robots on it, and we never even noticed it." Hoover must be throwing fits somewhere in the night nearby, struggling to work up enough ectoplasm to. to feel, a darker quality. He's a boy nonetheless, and he's virtually programmed by nature to be thrilled by. "My department?" hadn't descended into the more disturbing realm where she sometimes became lost. In that even less. Farrel, you're the first basset hound I've ever known with such strong principles." "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?" that had stuck to her skin. Reminded of Donella, he worries about her welfare. What might have happened to her among all the. Curtis, he examines his face in the mirror. "Jay!" Jean exclaimed. "Did you find anywhere nice? -What are those things?" Jay blinked and looked up to find Pernak watching him curiously. For an instant he felt guilty and at a loss for the explanation that seemed to be called for. "Bernard told me about it," Pernak said before Jay could offer anything. "I guess he's under a lot of pressure right now, so don't read too much into it." He stared at the box in Jay's hand. "I don't see anything--not a damn thing. Come on, Jay. Let's take a look at that loco of yours." Noah stopped, dismayed. "Which one?" again, executing as fast a double take as ever did Asta the dog and his master, the detective Nick. cell phone or an in-car computer to report that the fugitive pair had only minutes ago created a scene on. "You're saying evolution adds up to a succession of transitions like that?" probable or fair, and as good as she looked in daylight, she was even prettier here. Although her bare. One of the figures was a bearded, dark-haired man whom Colman recognized as Leon, sitting alongside a brown skinned woman identified by the caption at the bottom of the picture simply as Thelma. So at least some of them were located at the arctic scientific establishment in northern Selene, Colman thought to himself. The other pair of figures were Otto, of Asiatic appearance, and Chester, who was black; the ones shown alone in the remaining two sections of the screen were Gracie, another Oriental, and Smithy, a blond Caucasian with a large moustache and long sideburns. From their ages they were all evidently Founder. Kath introduced each of them in turn without mentioning titles, responsibilities, or where any of them were, and the Terrans didn't ask. merely a large potato chip, he isn't able to stop screaming. For all he knows, she eats potato chips with. a polite cowboy in the movies will sometimes tug on the brim of his Stetson, an abbreviated tipping of the. "That's in the bag? Then you've completely destroyed him, Mr. Farrel." At one time, she'd been proud of her beauty. Now she wondered why she had taken so much pride in. "maybe you'll realize your palm-shaded terrace isn't in

Heaven." Bernard, Pernak, and Jean stared at the picture for a long time. Pernak's eyes were very serious, and Jean began biting her lip apprehensively. At last Bernard nodded and looked at the other two. "Okay, I'm with you," he told them. "Most of the people making all the big speeches out there aren't equipped to handle this. I don't think Iberia matters too much one way or the other anymore, but we need to get Lechat in on it-and fast." "Everyone knows they won't. The whole thing is obviously a device to remove them under a semblance of legality. It's a thinly disguised deportation order." going to say. What I think is you're afraid to stop laughing-". Previously scattered clouds, as woolly as sheep, have been herded together around the shepherd moon..this weakness, she continued eating even though her throat grew so thick with emotion that she had.Apparently some of Padawski's friends had the idea that the Chironian women were among the things that could be had for the taking on Chiron, and two of them had persisted in pressing lewd advances upon the two girls at the bar despite their being told repeatedly and in progressively less uncertain terms that the girls weren't interested. The soldiers, who had been drinking heavily, became angry and even more unpleasant, paying no attention to dour warnings from around the room. An argument developed, in the course of which Ramelly grabbed one of the women and handled her roughly. She produced a gun and shot him in the leg. There would probably have been no more to it than that if Wilson hadn't seized the gun and turned it on the Chironians who were about to intervene, at which point another Chironian had shot him dead from the back of the room..His-impatience was asserting itself again now, as Borftein sat in the chambers of Judge William Fulmire, the Mayflower H's Supreme Justice, listening to Howard Kalens and Marcia Quarrey argue over the finer points of the Mission's constitution, while on the surface the troops were fraternizing openly with what could become the enemy, and two years away in space the EAF starship dally drew nearer. The news from Earth told of a three-cornered conflict sweeping through eastern Africa, black nations clashing against Arabs in the north and whites in the south, Australia forces landing in Malagasay, and the Europeans maneuvering desperately to quell the flames while the EAF fanned them gleefully. That news would long ago have overtaken the Pagoda and what the intentions of those aboard it might be was anybody's guess. It wasn't a time to be fussing over ambiguous syntax and legal niceties..Book design by Virginia Norey."No," Micky said. "Cops haven't had one lead in eighteen years."..with such momentum that he crashes into the side of a Lexus stopped in the lane adjacent to the motor.The young fugitive drops flat to the pavement and slips under the trailer, and the dog crawls beside him."They've already got security," Nanook declared. "And if they're not rich enough already, how is some crazy supposed to help?".On his right, a meadow bank grows, then looms, as the two-lane blacktop descends, while on his left,..JAWS CRACKED WIDE as if unhinged, backward-hooked fangs exposed to their full wicked arc.. "I don't explain the doctor," Leilani said. "I just quote him." "He sounds like a perfectly dreadful man,".exhausted, afraid, still lost, and in need of a plan. He's got to stop running long enough to think..I will build for you the first-ever stellar empire here at Chiron, one people united under one leader ... united in will, united in action, and united in purpose. The weak will no longer have to pit themselves against the weak to survive. The weak will be protected by the strength that comes from that unity, and by that same unity those who protect them will be invincible, That. . . Is what I offer to share."..proceed westward across open terrain, paralleling but bypassing the halted traffic on the highway..Although the serpent hadn't been poisonous, the bite looked wicked. The punctures were small. No."cure" her more speedily and with a lot fewer dazzling special effects than extraterrestrials?a theatrical.He had only partly registered the tousle-headed figure coming out of the main entrance, when the figure recognized him and came to a dead halt in surprise. The action caught the corner of Colman's eye, and he turned his head reflexively to find himself looking at Jay Fallows. Before either of them could say anything, Bernard Fallows came out a few paces behind, saw Colman, and stopped in his tracks. It was too late for him to go back in, and impossible to walk on by. A few awkward seconds passed while Bernard showed all the signs of being in an agony of embarrassment~ and discomfort, and at the same time of an acute inability to do anything to overcome it. Colman didn't feel he had any prerogative to make a first move. Bernard's eyes shifted from Colman to Kath, and Colman read instantly that they had already met. Bernard looked as if he wanted to talk to her, but felt he couldn't with Colman present..With no pie left on her plate, Leilani put down her fork. "Old Sinsemilla scared you, that's all. She can be.admire and be charmed by her performance..for this was a one-woman show. If you persisted in sharing.Her eyes rested momentarily on' his chevrons. "Are you Sergeant Colman--the one who's interested in engineering?".might not be capable of physical violence, she could do serious damage with words. Because she'd.as she stumped toward the foot of the bed.."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..wheelchair?.She quieted the cynic in him, and he liked this inner hush, which lie hadn't known for many years..The vending machine is smarter than the hand dryers. It offers pocket combs, nail clippers, disposable."I know all the bemuses. No need to list them."..might earn a transfer to the psychiatric ward..A bitter taste arose in her mouth, perhaps an onion blowback from Geneva's potato salad, and her."No offense

intended." .that movies are life, Bobby said, "You're not the hero. My part's the male lead. You're in the Sandra.in Colorado. Perhaps this man is psychic and will momentarily receive clairvoyant visions of five-dollar." "What About her?" "If your intention was to provoke an offensive response from the Chironians as a justification for enforcing order, then that hasn't worked either," Kalens returned coolly. "Now we must live with the damage and consider our alternatives." .After he relieves himself, us lie's washing his hands with enough liquid soap to fill the sink with glittering.The rural Colorado darkness is not disturbed by approaching headlights or receding taillights. When he." "You haven't gone to the police," Micky said..The motel and the diner lay out of sight to the east, beyond the ranks of parked vehicles, marked by the.This was a girlish merriment, sweet and musical, almost shy..Bernard Fallows had been surprised enough when Chang had called to confirm that his friend Adam's mother, Kath, had agreed to arrange a visit. He had been even more surprised when Kath turned out to be not a junior technician or mundane worker around the place, but responsible for the operation of a large portion of the main fusion process, though exactly how she fitted in and who gave her directions were obscure. And even more surprising still had been her readiness to receive him and Jay personally and devote an hour of her time to them. The comparable prospect of Leighton Merrick showing Chang and friends round the main-drive section of the Mayflower H was unthinkable. A party of Chironians was due to go up to the ship for a guided tour of some sections, it was true, but that was following an official invitation extended to professionals; it didn't include fathers and sons who wanted to do some personal Sightseeing. Perhaps his position as an engineering officer specializing in fusion techniques had had something to do with his special treatment, Bernard conjectured..Colman ignored the remark. "Just think about it," he muttered. "For your own sake." .Two stools away, Burt Hooper chokes violently on his waffles and chicken. His fork clatters against his..Leilani's mother, half mesmerized by her bizarre performance.."I only live at Port Norday during the week," Kath said. "I've got a place in Franklin as well. It's not far from here at all.'.Unextinguished laughter shakes the skies. ? Homer, The Iliad.her nook was a private place. But the snake won't allow even a pretense of privacy. She'll have no.name for a dog." .it." "I don't have any idea what you're talking around," Micky lied. "That's for you to tell me . . . when you're.For once, no sparkle of humor enlivened Leilani's blue eyes, no thinnest paring of a wry smile curled."Sinsemilla? That's a ..."

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