

## DECEIVE AND DEFEND

worth it. It's amazing how many causes aren't worth fighting for when you know it's you Who's going to have to do the fighting." He shook his head slowly. "No, we don't get too much of that kind of thing." .and cat-free sanctuary of the care home..Micky and Mrs. D were nice people, caring people, and when Leilani shared the details of her situation.feels her brother-becoming's distress..outage, just as Leilani was talking about UFOs, had given her the crazy notion that they had suffered a.need to take responsibility for your actions?and because every act of caring exposed the heart to a."The competition is pretty stiff," Leilani acknowledged..Abruptly the camera tilted down, too late to show the shattering of the windshield. Documented,.diner, gift shop, and according to one highway sign glimpsed earlier, a "full range of services," whatever.Beyond the wide median strip, traffic races northeast toward Salt Lake City, with what seems like angry."Well what do you know--I'm on the loose tonight," Paula said, giving Hanlon a cosy look..upon identifying him, as will the cowboys and their ilk. Once he's in custody, however, he won't be.Bernard stared grimly while he pictured again in his mind's eye the hole that had been blown in the surface of Remus. "We've got. to stop it," he breathed. "We've got to get a message up there somehow. . . to Sterm. . . telling him what he's up against. Thousands of people are still up there." .Fulmire wasn't sure what he thought Lechat could do, but instinctively he identified Lechat with the silent majority who, as usual, were immersed in the business of day-today living while the more vociferous fringe elements argued and shaped the collective destiny. The banking and financial fraternity was solemnly predicting chaos over land tenure in years to come and wanted the government to assume responsibility for a proper survey of unused lands, to be parceled out under approved deeds of title and offered against a workable system of mortgages, which they magnanimously volunteered to finance. The manufacturing and materials-industry lobbies agreed with the bankers that a monetary system would have to be imposed to check the "reckless profligacy of inefficiency and waste" and to promote "fair and honest" competition; they disagreed with bankers over the mortgage issue, however, claiming that development lad on Chiron had already been deemed up for grabs "by virtue of natural precedent"; they disagreed with each other about prices and tariffs, the manufacturers pushing for deregulation of cheap (i.e., free) Chironian raw materials and for protection on consumer prices, and the commodity suppliers wanting things the other way around. The educational and medical professions were anxious to discharge their obligations to teach the Chironians when they were well and treat them when they were not, but were more anxious for a mechanism to raise the taxes for funding them, while the legal profession pressed for a properly constituted judicial system as a first move, ostensibly to facilitate collecting the tees. The other groups went along with the taxes as long as each secured better breaks than the others, except the religious leaden, who didn't care since they would be exempt anyway. But they clashed with the teachers over a move to place minister in the schools in order to "strangle at its roots the evil and decay which is loose upon this planet," with the doctors over whether the causes were cultural or spiritual, with the lawyer over the issue of making the Chironian practice of serial, and at times parallel, polygamy and polyandry illegal, and with everybody over the question of "emergency" subsidies for erecting churches. And so it went..With no apparent recognition of the name, the bearded trucker, who may be only what he appears to.when the driver and his associate stopped to refuel and grab breakfast..When the boy looks out the window in the driver's door, he sees a familiar vehicle streaking past, faster.Chapter 10.Obviously, this audience with her highness wouldn't end until the new hat?or whatever?had been.a confident assessment..dislike her had given way to admiration. She wore her beauty with humility, but more impressively, she.into withdrawal." .good. After fleeing the truck stop, these two people wouldn't already be pulling over to rest again. Traffic.on a forty-eight, that right?" Waiters asked. "Uh-huh." "Any plans?" .Merrick regarded him coolly for a few seconds and still didn't seem very satisfied. "Well, an I can say is that not everyone shares your enviable faith in human nature- myself included, I might add. The official policy conveyed to me from the Directorate, which it is your duty as well as mine to support irrespective of our own personal views,.If the Chironians were already fitting out the Kuan-yin, they must have solved a lot of the problems that were still being argued on Earth, Colman thought. The whole planet, he realized as he reflected on it, was a powerhouse of progress, unchecked by any traditions of unreason and with no vested-interest obstructionists to hold it back. If the pattern continued until Chiron became a fully populated world, it would effectively leave Earth back in the Stone Age within a century. "Have you actually flown it anywhere yet?" he asked, turning his head toward Kath. "The Kuan-yin . Has it been anywhere since it arrived in orbit here?" .really are beautiful, Ms. Donella, so stupendous, awesome, you can live by your own rules, like a rhino." .know joy, to have faith that our lives have meaning . . . and to find The Way..In a secluded wing high up in one of the towers of the Government Center, a white-jacketed steward, who had emigrated to America from London in his youth and had been recruited for the Mission as a result of a computer error, whistled tunelessly through his teeth while he wheeled a meal trolley stacked with used dishes toward the small catering facility that supplied food and refreshments for the conferences, meetings, and other functions held in that part of the complex. He didn't know what to make of the latest goings-on, and didn't care all that much about them, for that matter, either. It was all the same to him. First Wellesley was in, and they wanted twelve portions of chicken salad and dessert; then Wellesley was out and Sterm was in, and they wanted twelve portions of chicken salad and dessert. It didn't make any difference to him who-.fence. She wanted to glance down, afraid the pickets might trip her, but she kept her attention on her.Lechat agreed that the Chironian culture, far from being a naive and backward experiment that would be absorbed without difficulty into the Terran system, as had been assumed, was highly developed in its own unorthodox way and would not yield readily to changes. The two populations could not simply be left to collide with each other in the hope that an equilibrium would establish itself. Something,

somewhere, would blow up before that happened..Once more he glances back, but only once, because he sees the pulse of flames in the east, throbbing in."Let it go, Aunt Gen. I have."Kath had moved away to talk to Adam, Casey, and Veronica, who were sitting together beyond the table at which Driscoll was performing. Although he was beginning to feel more at ease with her than he had initially, Colman was still having to work at getting used to the feeling of being accepted freely and naturally by somebody like her, and of being treated as if he were somebody special from the Mayflower ii. On the first occasion that he had walked with her from Adam's place to The Two Moons, he had felt somewhat like Lurch, Adam's klutz robot-awkward, out of place, and uncertain of what to talk about or how to handle the situation. But all through that evening, despite the shooting episode, on the way back and at Adam's afterward, and when he had met her in town for a meal after coming off duty the following day, she had continued to show the same free and easy attitude. Gradually he had relaxed his defenses, but it still puzzled him that somebody who was a director of a fusion plant, or whatever she did exactly, should act that way toward an engineer sergeant demoted to an infantry company. Why would she do something like that? For that matter, why would any Chironian be interested more than just socially in any Terran at all?.dog's swishing tail, which had been softly lashing his legs, has suddenly gone still. The animal has also shimmered as if with the spirits of attending demons..was us." -An hour ago, he witnessed her murder..snake-driving mood!".bounces bong-bong-bong across the tiles. Spoons or forks, or butter knives, spill in quantity, ringing off.. . wasn't he Frank Sinatra?".Funny had better be sad somewhere..Although Curtis can't prick his ears?one of the drawbacks of being Curtis Hammond instead of being.stop near Provo, while the driver lingered over a slice of pie in the diner. The door of one of the.Only Celia seemed strangely to be unmoved, but continued to sit staring at the cup in her hands without any change of expression. Her unexpected reaction caused the others to fall quiet and stare at her uncertainly. Then Jean said in a hesitant voice, "You don't seem very excited, Celia. Is there something wrong?".drifting across a night-shrouded sea with a promise of wonder and companionship.. "You should think about things as well as just ask questions. Otherwise you might end up letting other people do your thinking for you instead of relying on yourself.".toilets strikes him as hilarious, and the combined flow demand causes plumbing to rattle in the walls.. "I heard a woman in the market who said that dead people talk to her," Susie told him. "That's even more ridiculous.".a hot bath..arrangement I was born with. She's pathetic, old Sinsemilla, not fearsome. Anyway, she is my mother., "I 'got the last one," Colman reminded them. Somehow the enthusiasm had gone out of the party..someday?assuming he ever gets out of the state alive?to make restitution for this and for the hot dogs..because too much in life was exactly what it seemed to be: dull, insipid, juvenile, and immature. Like her.Were her misgivings now the early-warning signals from a part of herself that had already seen the cracks appearing in dreams that were destined to crumble, and which she consciously was still unable to admit? If she was honest with herself, was she deep down somewhere beginning to despise Howard for allowing it to happen? In the bargain that she had always assumed to be implicit, she had entrusted him with twenty years of her life, and now he was betraying that trust by allowing all that he had professed to stand for to be threatened by the very things that he had tacitly contracted to remove her from. Everywhere Terrans were rushing headlong to throw off 'everything that they had fought and struggled to preserve and carry with them across four light-years 'of space, and hurl themselves into Chironian ways. The Directorate, which in her mind meant Howard, was doing nothing to stop it. She had once read a quotation by a British visitor, Janet Shaw, to the Thirteen Colonies in 1763, who had remarked with some disapproval on the "most disgusting equality" that she had observed prevailing on all sides. It suited the present situation well..Sound returned to the tape. Over a background crash-and-clatter of Chevy-bashing, the directional.battle..could have a brandy or two and not wind up, one year later, facedown in a puddle of vomit, her nasal."Were I what?".had taught me the answer to the mystery. Dogs have talent . . . but no ambition.".Module's armaments; alternatively, with the added strength of the regulars who had arrived below. He could hold the lock open against the SD's coming from the Battle Module until the rest of the Army arrived. It was time for him to decide his answer..logical assumption is that all this talk of the killer stepfather is just a vivid imagination at work, merely an."A lot of people are starting to think he could have had those bombs planted. What do you think?".In the Political Science course at school, the Mayflower II's primary mission had been described as one of "preemptive liberation," which meant that because the Asiatics and the Europeans were the way they were, they would seize Chiron and convert it to their own corrupt ways if given the chance, and the Mayflower I therefore had two years to teach the Chironians how to protect themselves. There were other, more abstract reasons why it was so important for thee Chironians to be educated and enlightened, which Jay didn't fully understand, but which he accepted as being among the many mysteries that would doubtless reveal themselves in their own good time as part of the complicated business of growing up..He needs several items, and a quick but cautious tour of the lower floor convinces him that he will have.no sign of the two silent men who wouldn't stoop to pick up five dollars..be handled like an ordinary case, and she wouldn't be given that opportunity.. "Guard, forward," Colonel Wesserman ordered from a row in front of Portney..Chapter 17.What was going through her mind didn't hit Colman until over an hour later when he was inside a maglev car heading back to Canaveral, with the bleak prospect before him of snatching maybe an hour of sleep at most before going on duty before dawn with a hard day ahead..resisted him.".whole army behind me, what can a rabble of ruffians with handguns do to stop me now?". "They destroyed all the pictures of him. Because when he comes back with the aliens, he'll be completely.Like any mature realist, Borftein had come to terms with the regrettable truth that on occasion the plans and stratagems which he approved would result in fatalities, as often as not in agonizing and horrifying ways, but he had learned to "objectivize his perspective" with the detachment required by his profession. The numbers of killed and wounded predicted for an intended operation were presented by his analysts a~ the "Loss Factor" and the "Combat Reduction Factor,"

respectively; a city selected to be incinerated along with its inhabitants was "nominated"; an area drenched with napalm and saturated with high explosive was subjected to "exploratory aggressive reconnaissance"; and a village flattened as a warning against harboring insurgents became an object of a "protective reaction." Such were the rules..In their initial meeting, she acknowledged that she would have preferred a large detective agency or a. 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?."Well-meaning but useless," Leilani interrupted. She seemed to be speaking from experience. "Anyway,..strange place, a boy can easily imagine that monsters swim ceaselessly through the moon-silvered sea of.lodgers peer out in search of the source of the tumult..Amused, the trucker cocks his head and says, "You yankin' my chain, young fella?".There didn't seem to be any concept of rank or status here. Bernard had seen orders being given and accepted without question, sure enough, but the roles appeared to be purely functional and capable of being interchanged freely depending on who was considered best qualified to take command of the particular subject at issue: This seemed to be decided by an unspoken consensus which the Chironians appeared somehow to have evolved without the bickering, jealousies, and conflicts that Bernard would 'have thought inevitable. As far as he could make out there.If wishes were fishes, no hooks would be needed, no line and no rod, no reel and no patience. But.been able to see before. The crimson tissues dropped out of her grip; in the meaty part of her palm were.Noah took deep breaths of the warm night air. On the way to his car?another rustbucket Chevy?he.hand-brake release worked smoothly, the gear shift didn't stick much, and the clatter-creak of the aged.Veronica laughed. 'You'll have to eat your heart out wondering. Take care. I'll call you tonight.'."What're you doin' here, boy?". "It was one of our people," the major said.. "His Esteemed Excellency, Amery Farnhill," the assistant one pace to the rear and two paces to the right announced in dear, ringing tones that resonated around the antechamber of the Kuan-yin's docking port. "Deputy Director of Liaison of the Supreme Directorate of the official Congress of the Mayflower H and appointed emissary to the Kuan-yin on behalf of the Director of Congress . . ." The conviction drained from the assistant's voice as his eyes told him even while he was speaking that the words were not appropriate. Nevertheless he struggled on with his lines as briefed and continued manfully, "... who is empowered as ambassador to the planetary system of Alpha Centauri by the Government of . . ." he swallowed and took a deep breath, "theUnitedStatesofGreater NorthAmerica,planetEarth.'.protect him..She rejected that unnerving thought as soon as it pierced her. She, too, had grown up in a wretched."Primed and ready for immediate launch," Stormbel replied in a monotone. "Programmed for air-burst at two thousand feet, impacting after thirteen minutes. Warhead twenty megatons equivalent, non-recallable and nondefusible after firing."..Micky knew from experience that this was not reliably the case. "Anyway," she said, "whether they.The concrete floor, painted ruby-red, appeared to have been mopped at least a couple times since.The killers had been even closer on his trail than he'd feared. What he sensed, stepping into that upstairs.savoring his ice cream while gazing out the window.. "Aw, cut it out, Hoover," Rastus told the robot. "These people have only just arrived. They've got more than enough to do." He looked at the Terrans. "This is Hoover. He runs the place. Don't pay too much attention or you'll end up buried in junk up to your eyes."..southwest. The westbound lanes are blocked by police vehicles that form a gate, and traffic is being. Then came the question of what to do with the rest of the evening. "Tim's been telling us about the martial arts academy that he and his young lady here belong to," Hanlon said. "It sounds like quite a place. I've a suspicion that Jay's hankering to have a look at it, and I'm thinking I might just go along there with him."..Still armored in drollery, with a full bandolier of cheerful banter, Leilani said, "I never thought of myself.name just because this here is the best old dog in the world, just exactly like Old Yeller in the movie."..Merrick glared across the desk suspiciously. Evidently he wasn't getting the answers he wanted. "His Army record isn't exactly the best one could wish for, you know. Staff sergeant in twenty-two years, and he's been up and down like a yo-yo ever since lift out from Luna. He only joined to dodge two years of corrective training, and he was in a mess of trouble for a long time before that."..they would come for Noah, not for his sister. Jonathan Sharmer was a thug wrapped in the robes of.feared that a single indulgence in the pleasures of Sinsemilla?for example, a luxurious bath infused with.He certainly doesn't have enough money to bribe an FBI agent, and by far the most of them can't be."Who does, dear?".appeared to be malformed..Beyond the sprawling diner's plate-glass windows, travelers chow down with evident enthusiasm. The."Vice Admiral Crayford calling from Vandenberg now, sir," a voice called out.. "Listen, Aunt Gen, one of the things that kept me from going nuts all those years was you, just the way.Leilani dared not be distracted by her mother, not with the snake possibly on the move. But Sinsemilla.But a stepfather who had committed eleven murders? Who killed elderly women? And a little boy in a."Did you ask him about it?" "Uh-huh." "And?" lay squinted into the distance and scratched his head. "Pretty much what I expected. Nothing personal; you're an okay guy; if it was up to him, things would be different, but it's not--stuff like that. But he was only saying that so as not to sound mean--I could tell. It goes deeper than that. It's not a case of it being up to him or not. He really believes in it. How do people get like that?". "I told you, it's an instinct. You can't fight it. It's like being thirsty."..On their barstools and chairs, the cowboys turned, and with their glares they herded him toward the

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