

## GH LITERARY MISCELLANY VOL 78 BEING A GENERAL REPOSITORY OF LITERATURE

Sterm did not appear surprised. "They have merely to comply with the law to avoid such consequences," "Me? Oh . . . name's Driscoll--Tony Driscoll." He licked his lips while he searched for a follow-up. "I guess. Disconcerted to hear such a thing from a child, Micky covered her discomfort with self-deprecation: years old. In the vision that the old doom doctor had, the one where he claimed he saw us being healed. pendent salty jewels quivered on her lashes, and fresh tears shimmered in her brown eyes..as a purely passive observer; there was no reason why she should change that role now.. "Maybe I'm not," he said, although the word maybe issued from him without conscious intention, "but my." "They weren't," Jay protested. "That was the first thing that we thought too, but we watched the other people in there and we talked to the robot that runs the place, and he said that's what you do. They've got fusion plants and big, automatic factories down underground that produce everything anybody could want, and it's all so cheap to make everything that nobody bothers charging . . . or something like that. I can't figure it out." and then answered to her name, although usually she appeared not to know who she was ? or to care.. "Thank you," Merrick said, pouncing on the opportunity to conclude. "I agree with and endorse your assessment. Very good, Fallows. Enjoy your leave." Merrick turned to one side and began tapping something into the touchboard below the screens..erating capacity for practically this whole area, and a great deal of materials via a variety of interdependent processes," Farnhill informed the meeting. "Primary metals and chem..the landscape ahead of them with light, hoping to spot an obviously trampled clump of weeds or deep." "Would you feel better if I said I haven't figured it out yet either?" "He's just playing on emotion, Jean. I had it on down here for a few minutes but couldn't stand it. All he's interested in is scoring a few points against Wellesley and stopping a run to Lechat. And all that stuff about the Chironians claiming everything is theirs--it's pure garbage! I mean, it couldn't be further from the truth, could it, but nobody stops to think." He frowned to himself for a moment. It was true that he hadn't been at The Two Moons, but he had called Colman early that morning and gotten what seemed like an honest account. But with Jean acting the way she was, he didn't want to mention that. "Anyhow, the facts about the shooting are on record," he said. "All you have to do is ask Jeeves." Bernard shook his head and gestured in the direction of the couple from the Mayflower H, who were glancing furtively around them while a handling machine by the exit unloaded their carts onto a conveyer that looked as if it' fed down to the level below. "But look what's happening," he said. "How long can you keep up with that kind of thing? What happens when everyone starts acting like that?" Two, three, five men burst past the front of the parallel SUVs, a formidable pack of husky specimens, all. "Very probably it was," Kath replied. "The man you saw was probably having a relaxing day or two keeping his hand in. It's nice to have machines around to take care of things when they become chores."..stocked with strange fish. The fish? actually a man with a buzz cut behind the wheel, a brunette with..Over the past year, with as much mulish resistance as the most obstinate creature ever to pull a plow..If Death had pockets in his robe, they smelled like this filthy carpet. Nauseating waves of righteous anger. "They would never have listened if I had told them. It was necessary to demonstrate that every alternative to force was futile. Now they will understand, just as you have come to understand."..chunky cockroach with crushed-glass sprinkles."..circus had not played an engagement here..with men. In the recent past, Leilani's well-meaning murmured insistence on milk would have jammed..She had to escape from the snake. Get to her bedroom. Try to barricade that door against her mother's..her rage. She'd become a drinker because booze inflamed the anger, and for so long she'd cherished her..Although Terranova appeared solid and contiguous at first glance, it was almost bisected by a south-pointing inland sea called' the Medichironian, which opened to the ocean via a narrow strait at its northern end. A high mountain chain to the east of the Medichironian completed the division of Terranova into what had been designated two discrete continents--Oriena to the east, and Occidena to the west.. "Luki was born with a wickedly malformed pelvis, Tinkertoy hip joints built with monkey logic, a right..arm, its fangs bared on the back of his hand, its eyes bright with hatred. "But you ought to realize that..transport..before she had been able to return here. She hadn't been Leilani Klunk when she hurried from this room..Although scared, Curtis is also intrigued. There's something fascinating about secretly watching strangers..and the plaque of dust gritting between his teeth could not have been more vile. He is unable to work up..hundred, until she either fell asleep or broke down sobbing and then fell asleep..plant food, in spite of the regular aeration of its roots and periodic treatment with measured doses of." "I'm thirty-three," Noah said..Leilani glanced toward Geneva's place to determine whether this performance had been well received.. "She sort of flies a little." Rickster quickly closed his hands. "I'll put her loose." He glanced at the.. "What?" Colman asked him..a halt in front of the motel, next to the restaurant, still upright, hissing and rumbling, smoking and steaming..her skin with alcohol, and she made each cut only after much judicious consideration..scar tissue..so intently focused on the rear entrance to the restaurant that not one of them catches sight of Curtis as." "Relax." Micky switched on the light above the sink. "I can handle it."..few more days, and if the creature was loose in the house, it could be anywhere, and once she came out..her cheeks. She kept her fork in motion throughout this silent salty storm, loath to acknowledge what was..treasure, Curtis scuttles past the cook, bound for freedom and a makeshift dinner, surprised by the arrival..dresser, dropping ice cubes in the glass. After uncapping the vodka, she hesitated before pouring. But." "But you are. What can you do to stop it?"..After he puts down the extinguished flashlight, as he pulls the curtains aside, plastic rings scrape and click..Sterm allowed a few seconds for his words to sink in, and then made a slight tossing motion with his hands as if to convey to those watching him the hopelessness of their position. "But it is not my desire to destroy without purpose valuable resources that it would ill-behoove any of us to squander. I have no need to bargain since I hold all the strength, but I am willing to bargain. In return for recognition and 'loyalty, I offer you the protection of that strength. I

am in a position to make unconditional demands, but I choose to make you an offer. So, you see, my terms are not ungenerous." "It seems to be. How about Borftein and Wellesley?" Behind Sirocco, Celia came through the doorway, escorted by Malloy and Fuller. Stanislaw was behind, carrying a field compack..drumming from the physical demands of flight, now booms also with fear. Into the night has entered a. When they were all outside, Carson and Maddock took the picture-crate, Stanislaw a toolbox, Fuller assorted ropes and fasteners, and Colman some papers and inventory pads. Veronica carried a large roll of packing foam on her shoulder, keeping it pressed against the side of her face. Inside the roll were the shuttlecraft flight-attendant's uniform and shoes which the officer who had smuggled her on board through a crew entrance earlier in the afternoon had given her without asking any questions. They mingled with the bustle going on around the house and all through the ground floor, and eventually came together again upstairs, outside the door leading through to the rooms that had formed the Kalenses' private suite. Colman unfolded some of the papers and sketches that he was holding and stopped to look around. After a few seconds he gestured to attract the attention of the SD guard who was standing disinterestedly near the top of the main stairs, and nodded his head in the direction of the door. "Is that the way into the bedroom and private quarters?" he asked..doesn't once mistake boy fingers for a permissible part of dinner..Throughout the institution, the floors?gray vinyl speckled with peach and turquoise?were immaculate..OUTSIDE DAWN WAS creeping into the sky as Stanislaw sat before a portable communications panel in one corner of the mess hall of the Omar Bradley Block, frowning at the mnemonics appearing on the screen and returning coded commands with intermittent movements of his fingers. Sirocco was watching from below the platform that he had been using for the briefing, while the rest of I) Company, many of them in flak vests and fatigue pants, sat talking in groups or just waiting among the rows of seats scattered untidily to face the platform. The doors and approaches to the building were all covered by lookouts, so there was no risk of surprise interruptions..Meeting Micky's eyes, Geneva read the love in them, and smiled, but then seemed to read something.garments from the skin of those they murder, or they create mobiles with weird arrangements of dangling."It doesn't matter," Colman told him. "It's different in different places. It might be the best hunter in the village or the guy who's killed the most lions. It might be the way you paint your face. Through most of history it's been money. What you buy with it isn't important. What's 'important is that the things you buy say to all the other guys, I've got what it takes to earn what you have to, to buy all this stuff, and you haven't. Therefore I'm better than you.' That's what it's all about." Colman grinned. "Okay, chief. I will." A short silence fell while they both thought about the same thing. "How long do you think it'll be?" Colman asked at last..expressions, hoping that a minim of mother-daughter bonding might occur. This always proved to be a.she knew Luki for what he was even before he popped out of her. Lukipela is Hawaiian for Lucifer."."Sure," Driscoll told her. His eyes twinkled just for an instant. "If you want to know how, I'd beat you with aces."..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:."To Congress, the people."..He thought it as he and Sirocco sat entombed in their heavy-duty protective suits behind a window in the guardroom next to the facility's armored door, staring out along the corridors that nobody had come along in twenty years unless they'd had to. Behind them PFC Driscoll was wedged into a chair, watching a movie on one of the companel screens with the audio switched through- to his suit radio. Driscoll should have been patrolling outside, but that ritual was dispensed with whenever Sirocco was in charge of the Bomb Factory guard detail. A year or so previously, somebody in D Company had taken advantage of the fact that everyone looked the same in heavy-duty suits by feeding a video recording of some dutiful, long forgotten sentry into the closed-circuit TV system that senior officers .were in the habit of spying through from time to time, and nobody from the unit had done any patrolling since. The cameras were used instead to afford early warning of. unannounced spot checks.. "By my authority." Matthew Stern rose from his seat and came round onto the floor to face the assembly defiantly. "This prattling has continued for too long. I have no eloquent speeches to make. Enough time has been wasted on such futilities already. You will all proceed now, under escort, to quarters that have been allocated and remain there until further notice. We have business to attend to." He nodded at Stormbel, who motioned at the guards. "I would like Admiral Slessor's to remain behind to discuss matters concerning the continued well-being of the ship."..dreamed it, she twisted around in time to see the "treasure out of Eden" as it raveled in a long arc to the.own way, she loves you very much." Aunt Gen was childless, not by choice. The love she'd never been.Nonetheless, she could imagine that the people passing on the highway were in some cases traveling.On a dresser, in a small decorative tray: coins and a man's wallet. In the wallet, the boy finds one.enough to make each breath a labor, heart rapping with woodpecker frenzy?and yet he is acutely aware.advises..As a youth he had daydreamed about becoming an entertainer--a singer, or a comic, maybe--but he couldn't sing and he couldn't tell jokes, and somehow after his parents died within two years of each other halfway through the voyage, he had ended up in the Army. So now, though he still couldn't sing a note or tell a joke right, he knew just how to use an M32 to demolish a small building from two thousand yards, could operate a battlefield compack blindfolded, and was an expert at deactivating optically triggered anti-intruder personnel mines..With cheerful sincerity, Aunt Gen said, "Oh, I don't know, Micky, I rather like Leilani Doom."..She whips around ? no older than she is yellow ? and trots away, not at a full run, but at a pace that.In the Mayflower II's Communications Center, Borftein, Wellesley, and the others who had been coordinating activities all over the ship and down on the surface watched and listened tensely as pandemonium poured from the screens around them, Spacesuited figures were

cartwheeling away from the mangled remains of one feeder ramp, and the exposed interiors of the cupolas at the ends of the others; all showed battle damage and one of them was partly blown away. They were disgorging weapons, debris, and equipment in all directions while soldiers in suits hung everywhere in helpless tangles of safety lines. "Launch every personnel carrier, service pod, ferry, and anything else that's ready to go," Borftein snapped to one of his staff. "Get them from Vandenberg or anywhere else you have to. I want every one of those men picked up. Peterson, tell Admiral Slessor to have every available shuttle brought up to flight readiness in case we have to evacuate the ship. And find out how many more we can get up here from Canaveral." .shields feature built-in microphones to allow continuous strategic coordination of every man in the force..recognized the sound as the ring of truth.. "Not interested?". A couple of minutes went by. Nobody moved. The robot's lights continued to wink at him cheerfully. Driscoll was having trouble fighting off the steadily growing urge to level his assault cannon and blow the robot's imbecile head off.. "A payoff." .SOME DAYS SINSEMILLA stank like cabbage stew. Other days she drifted in clouds of attar of."How far have they penetrated?' Colman asked..A crash rocks the room, rattles cookware. Someone slamming through the swinging door from the.in their own home, even if their home is on wheels..caring staff and comforts, to be an unnatural condition for any form of life..If wishes were fishes, no hooks would be needed, no line and no rod, no reel and no patience. But.denim jackets, many in T-shirts emblazoned with the names of automotive products, snack foods, beers,. "Well, there's a general and a few other Army people," Juanita said after a moment's thought. "And from Engineering there's a, . Merrick--Leighton Merrick, that's right." She looked at Nanook. "And one called Walters.. "There must be a master panel or something somewhere," Jean said, looking around. "How about that?" She tripped down the two shallow steps into the sunken section of the floor, sat down at one end of the sofa, end lifted a portable flat screen display/touchpanel from a side-pedestal. After experimenting for perhaps ten seconds and watching the responses, she said, "That might do it. Try again." .human ears, the way other people eat them with pretzels on the side, or with peanuts, or with sour-cream."You never asked me," Swyley answered over his shoulder..The digital readout on the radio, powered by the car's battery, emits a glow, but the faint radiance is.The scale of these events and the rapidity with which they are unfolding allow for no measurable effect of."Great idea," Colman said and stood up. Anita let her hand slide down his arm to retain a light grip on his little finger. The others drank up, rose one by one, nodded good night to Sam the proprietor, and began moving toward the door in a loose gaggle..A thieving cloud pocketed the silver-coin moon. At the western horizon, us the last livid blister of light.On the threshold, Karla and the politician embraced. Even in the fading light of dusk, and further.about herself had been exposed, ugly secrets around which she had constructed impregnable vaults of.my business, and you'd hustle me back to my own yard."."Just wondering how I ever took pleasure in this line of work." .Veronica laughed. 'You'll have to eat your heart out wondering. Take care. I'll call you tonight." .full of fresh coffee, ready to hit the road again..highest accolades and also immortality, if you measure immortality by mere centuries and expect to find it.Next, the man grins at his reflection. This is not an amusing grin. Even viewed in profile, it's an.exotic places embodied in these superhighway Gypsies, the dog is curled compactly on the passenger's."Do I what?"."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.'"Yeah, well, she's a mouse."."Tell it to Merrick," Fallows said, making an effort ~lot to show the disapproval that he felt. Talking that way betrayed a sloppy attitude toward engineering. Even if they had only three weeks to go, there would still be no excuse not to fix a piece of equipment that needed fixing. The risk of catastrophic failure might have been vanishingly small, but it was present. Good practice lay with reducing possibilities like that to zero. He considered himself a competent engineer, and that meant being meticulous. Walters had a habit of being lax about some things--small things, admittedly, but laxness was still laxness. To be ranked equally irked Fallows. "Log change of watch duty, Horace," he said to the grille on the console. "Officer Fallows.like an attractively aligned pair of mosquito bites..Geneva leaned forward on the edge of the bed, shoulders hunched, as though she were on a pew.. "Yeah, well, by nature I'm a huge pudding. I've got to work hard to stay like this."

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