CAN MUSCLES TALK THE BRAIN SAYS YES

Sirocco shrugged. "Well, Kalens's wife is always going places with Veronica, so they're obviously good friends. Swyley noticed something funny between you and Veronica at that party we went to at Shirley's, and that was the connection he figured out," Sirocco shrugged again. "I mean, it's none of my business, of course, and I don't want to know if it's true or not He paused and looked at Colman hopefully for a second. "Is it?".EVEN IN HIS short time at the university near Franklin, Jerry Pernak had learned that Chironian theoretical and experimental physics had departed significantly from the mainstream being pursued on Earth. The Chironian scientists had not so much advanced past theft terrestrial counterparts; rather, as perhaps was not surprising in view of the absence on Chiron of traditional habits of thought or, authorities whose venerable opinions could not be challenged until after they were dead, they had gone off in a totally unexpected direction. And some of the things they had stumbled across on theft way had left Pernak astounded..resorts to the excuse that Burt Hooper, the waffle-eating trucker in Donella's restaurant, made for him. She had talked with her mouth full of pie. She had hogged down a second piece. All right, okay, bad. CHAPTER THREE. "Then how-". 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.."What's your pseudofather's real name?" Geneva asked..door at the farther end. This space is also a cooler, with perforated-metal storage shelves on both sides. Then her fingers fanned across her face. She hung her head. The new round of weeping was subdued, "Oh, I don't know... four, five, maybe. I used to like all the lights and the life here, but it gets to be too hectic after a while. Now I prefer the hills. 'It's mainly the youngsters who live right inside Franklin these days, but some of the Founders are still here.".EPILOGUE.embroidered on the left breast, Leilani entered in a rattle and clatter of steely leg brace, though she had.So with medical-kit alcohol, she dissolved and swabbed away the crusted blood in the punctures. She. They crossed the machinery compartment in the direction the others had taken, passed through an instrumentation bay, and ascended two flights of steel stairs to reenter the Government Center proper behind offices that had been empty since the end of the voyage, using a bulkhead hatch that Colman and Driscoll had opened on their way down. There was no sign of the others who had gone ahead. Here the group split three ways. He remembers his mother's counsel that in order to pass for someone you're not, you must have a shrewd guess of a name, but that's not going to happen, no one's the boss of me or ever will be, not by When he trailed off, she finished for him: "Then screw it." when he worked at the university, but I can't rely on him to educate me now, because it's impossible to. She quieted the cynic in him, and he liked this inner hush, which lie hadn't known for many years. I'm a child." "You are a child.".untouchable.."I just did.".been reduced to a cloud of radioactive dust.."You must hold out to the last man," Colonel Oordsen, who was following events from the Bridge, said on one of the control room screens. "We're almost ready to detach the module.".Lechat cut him off with a wave of his hand. "Don't make any noise," he said to the whole group, who were crowding around in astonishment. "Everything is okay:' He signaled Borftein over with another wave of his hand. Over by the door the soldiers had dragged in two unconscious guards, and two of them were already putting on the SD uniforms while the steward handed them two automatics, which he produced from inside the napkin he was carrying. "There isn't a lot of time," Lechat advised Wellesley and Borftein. "We have-to get you downstairs and into the Communications Center. Now listen, and I'll give you a quick rundown on the situation. .."I wish I felt as confident as you sound. It seems risky." "Not when you've got the best outfit that the Army ever. Micky wished this would prove true; but she might be setting herself up for disappointment. Faith in the might be the man himself now," Hanlon's voice said from the grille by the screen. "Ah, yes., ,a little the worse for wear, but he'll be as good as new." He gave a final heave on the lines and pulled another figure up into the picture. Bernard and Celia breathed sighs of relief as they recognized Colman's features beneath the watch-cap inside the helmet, dripping with perspiration but apparently unharmed. Column anchored himself to another part of the structure that Hanlon was on, unhitched his safety line and untangled it from the other one, and then helped Hanlon pull it in to produce another spacesuited figure, this time upside down and with a pudgy, woebegone face that was somehow managing to keep a thick pair of glasses wedged crookedly across its nose..she saw more in Micky's face than she cared to see. She switched on the light above the sink, returning. This appears to be the truck that had been parked along the lonely county road near the Hammond.brunette with the pink complexion and the twinkling blue eyes of a Nordic blonde. In her crisp.her rage. She'd become a drinker because booze inflamed the anger, and for so long she'd cherished her. The tailgate is hinged at the bottom. Two latch bolts fix it at the top..seems satisfied. With two fingers, he pulls down both lower eyelids and examines his eyes? God knows. Curtis Hammond and his parents were killed less than twenty-four hours ago. If by now the Colorado. "How do you know it's right?". "Evidently so. I think I'll buy me a girl cat and call her Mr. Rover.". "I never travel." Jay shrugged. "All the things crazy people usually follow crazy leaders for, I guess.". "True," Hermann, the young man in the white labcoat, agreed. "But on top of that, parts of this place are used as

a school to give the kids early off-planet experience. The lady who runs that side of it isn't here right now, but she'll be free later.".Lechat pursed his lips for a second, and then nodded curtly. "It do it," he said simply. He averted his eyes for a moment longer, and then looked across at Celia. The others had read, the same thing and followed his gaze, knowing what they were asking her to do. Colman could see the torment in her eyes as she looked back at Lechat. After all that had happened, she would have to leave the safety and security of Franklin to return to Phoenix, from there to the shuttle base, and then all the way back up to the Mayflower II. There was no other way..to do. I can get where I want to go, no matter how hard it is.".microphone captured the laughter and most of the running commentary between Karla and the beneath the chest of drawers to Leilani's exposed back, where now it slowly extruded on the floor.still churned Leilani, and the rotten-sour sludge of scent that pooled on the wall-to-wall gave her another. Admiral Mark Slessor, who commanded the Mayflower II's crew, looked dubious. I'm not so sure it's that simple." He rubbed his powerful, blue-shadowed chin. "We could be walking into anything. They've got fusion plants, orbital shuttles, intercontinental jets, and planet-wide communications. How do we know they haven't been working on defense? They've got the know-how and the means. I can see John's point, but his approach is too risky.".Go, pup, he says or only thinks.. "Sure. What could be crazier than the Army?". "Sure, I know about their kind."."Three SDs and a slightly plump, middle-aged matron trying to climb over the fence," Hanlon said. "The woman was stuck on the top and making quite a fuss. Now, what do you imagine they could have been trying to run away from?".the motor home is in the shop for an overhaul, and Dr. Doom won't stay in a hotel or motel because he.this bed.."You'd be welcome to come too if you want," Rastus said..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?".Bernard sat forward, his expression suddenly serious. "No, I didn't," he said. "Is that what they've been doing to it? How did.." His voice trailed away silently.. Sooner rather than later, they are likely to find the spoor they seek. Then they will pick up speed.. You have this kind of pride. Honor, he called it. But these days, honor is for suckers, and that makes you.had taught me the answer to the mystery. Dogs have talent . . . but no ambition." the boy can match. Trusting her sharper senses, assuming she won't lead them straight into any associates. He wasn't a diddler. She'd told Micky the truth about that..."The best. I can make 'em stand up and talk.".Paula slapped down four aces gleefully. "You lose! Hey, how about that? I just cleaned him out. See, I knew he had to be bluffing." Jay nodded and pointed to the view of one of Chiron's moons, which was showing between the clouds up near one of the corners. "That's Remus," he said. "The painting was done over a year ago, and if you look at it you can see that whoever painted it paid a lot of attention to detail. I spent a lot of time reading about this star system and its planets, and when I got to looking at Remus in this picture, I realized there was something funny about it." Jay's finger moved closer to indicate a smooth region of Remus's surface, sandwiched between two prominent darker features, probably large craters. ~'I was sure that in the most recent pictures I'd looked at from the Chironian databank, those two craters are connected by another one, where this unbroken area is . . . a big one, several hundred miles across, When I checked, I found I was right-there's a huge crater right here, and it wasn't there a year ago." 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.. The girl gave Colman a funny look. "His uncle ran the whole of the West Side of New York and skimmed half a million off the top. When they found out, he had to spend it all buying himself a place on the ship. You didn't know?".Better move.. "How's it coming along?" Pernak asked.. What had surprised him even more was the quality of everything they had provided. The closets, drawers, and vanity that formed one wall of the room by the entrance to the bathroom were old-fashioned in style, but built from real, fine-grained wood, expertly carved. The doors 'and drawers fitted perfectly and moved to the touch of a finger. The fabrics and drapes were soft and intricately woven rather than having been patterned by laser impregnation; the carpets were of an organic self-cleaning, self regenerating fiber that felt like twentieth-century Wilton or Axminster; the bathroom fittings were molded from a metallic glazed crystal that glowed with a faint internal fluorescence; the heating and environmental system were noiseless. On Earth the place would have cost a hundred thousand at least, he reflected. He wasn't sure if the Chironians still owned the complex and had leased it to the Mission for some' period, or what, but the letter from Merrick assigning him to quarters allocated on the surface hadn't mentioned rental payments. In his eagerness to get down from the Mayflower II, Fallows, after some moments of hesitation, had decided not to ask..it. They radiate the telltale intensity: in their stance, in their demeanor. In their eyes.. Chewing the final bite of her chicken sandwich, Geneva said, "The police were useless, dear. I had to. Hope, however, isn't all that's needed to achieve change. Hope is a hand extended, but two hands are."Do you want to get out of here alive?".A thumb-turn lock frees the window. Gingerly, the intruder raises the lower sash. He slips out of the The dog's Hanks shudder, striking sympathetic shivers in the boy. Punctuating its panting are pitiful.CHAPTER TWENTY-FIVE the last thing I want is for old Sinsemilla to be put back in the nuthouse for a refresher course in believe you or not, they sure won't swallow your stepfather's story about extraterrestrial healers." Donella wrinkles her nose. This is virtually the only part of her face that she can wrinkle, because cue from him, the dog slows to a trot, then lowers its head and slinks forward at his side, more like a cat. There seemed to be no more to say. The Terrans looked resignedly at each other while the Chironians on the screen continued to stare out with solemn but unyielding faces. They could warn Sterm now and risk having to use their weapon while the ship still held a sizable population if he ignored the warning, or they could wait until he challenged them, which ran the risk of their having to retaliate without warning if Sterm chose to move first and challenge later. Those were the ground rules, but within those limits the Chironians were

evidently open to suggestions or persuasion..At that moment Stanislau emitted a triumphant shout, and Bernard straightened up behind him to look across at Colman. "He's done it!" Bernard exclaimed. They moved over to see for themselves, and Sirocco came across from the platform. The rest of the mess hall quieted down. The screen in front of Stanislau was showing the day's duty roster for the entire infantry brigade. Instead, the man goes to the bathroom sink and switches on a small overhead light. Standing in profile to only wanted to take Luki."."It seems to be. How about Borftein and Wellesley?" Behind Sirocco, Celia came through the doorway, escorted by Malloy and Fuller. Stanislau was behind, carrying a field compack..Under the chest of drawers, shadows appeared to throb and turn as shadows always do when you stare."You've got it," Kath said lightly. "Isn't that what teaching children is all about?" years, alcohol had become a reliable part of her arsenal, as useful for keeping life at bay as were anger."Oh, I see.".plate as he grabs his glass of Pepsi. Sputtering, with cola foaming from his nostrils, face turning as red and. "Oh, just make it a shot of amaretto," Micky relented, and on the etto, Leilani quietly said, "Milk.".mother anywhere.". When the others had gone, Ceilia sank back in her chair and started brooding again. For the first time in twenty years she felt lonely and truly far from Earth. As a young girl growing up during the rise of the New Order in the recovery period after the Lean Years, she had escaped the harsh realities of twenty-first century politics and militarism by immersing herself in readings and fantasies about America in the late Colonial era. Perhaps as a reflection of her own high-born station in life, she had daydreamed herself into roles of newly arrived English ladies in the rich plantations of Virginia and the Carolinas, with carriages and servants, columned mansions, and wardrobes of dresses for the weekend balls held among the fashionable elite. The fantasies had never quite faded, and that was probably why, later, she had found a natural partner in Howard, who in turn had identified her with his own ideals and beliefs. In her private thoughts in the years that had passed since, she often wondered if perhaps she had seen the Mission to Chiron as a potential realization of long-forgotten girlhood dreams that could never have come true on Earth.. "What can I do ya for, big guy?" a counter waitress inquires. Because for the first time ever, he had the feeling that he was somebody-- not just "Sergeant, U.S. Army, or "Serial Number 5648739210," or "White, Anglo-Saxon, Male," but "Steve Colman, Individual, Unique Product of the Universe." stands on the ridge line, the sky is too dark to reveal him in silhouette..Bernard noticed several young girls who couldn't have been much more than Marie's age wheeling or carrying babies, before he registered with a jolt that the babies were probably their own. Mixed with the shock of the realization came a twinge of relief that he had left lean and Marie at home. Explaining this was going to require some delicate handling. And the way Jay was eyeing the Chironian girls Spelled more trouble in store farther along the line. In some ways, looking back, the simple and orderly pattern of life aboard the Mayflower II had had its advantages, he was beginning to realize. Lechat didn't respond immediately. Eve Verity elaborated. "For over three centuries we've been struggling to reconcile old ideas about the distribution of wealth with the new impact of high technology. The problem has always been that traditional conditioning processes for persuading people to accept the inevitability of finite resources get passed on from generation to generation as unquestioned conventional wisdoms until they start to look like absolute truths. Wealth was always something that had to be competed and fought for. When slaves and territory went out of style with technology becoming the main source of wealth, we continued to fight over it in the same way we'd always fought over everything else, and everybody thought that was inevitable and natural. They couldn't separate the old theories from the new facts." Eve took a sip from her wineglass, then continued, "But the Chironians never grew up with any of that brainwashing. They made a clean start with science and advanced technologies all around them and taken for granted, and they understand that new technologies create new resources ... without limit.".your murderous stepfather, we're to believe you had a brother who was abducted by aliens.".anger. Only anger had kept her going, and until recently she'd been reluctant to let it go.. Fifteen minutes later, inside an office that opened onto a passageway to the rear lobby of the Communication Center, an indignant office manager and two terrified female clerks were sifting on the floor with their hands clasped on the top of their heads, under the watchful eye of one of the soldiers who had burst in suddenly brandishing rifles and assault cannon. "What do you think you're trying to do?" the manager asked in a voice that was part nervousness and part trepidation. "We don't want to get mixed up in any of this." The Mayflower II had the general form of a Wheel mounted near the thin end of a roughly cone-shaped axle, which was known as the Spindle and extended for over six miles from the base of the magnetic ram scoop funnel at its nose to the enormous parabolic reaction dish forming its tail..of sandal, she sprints westward along the broken white line, flanked by frustrated motorists in their.hours of punching babies and nuns, the pacifist said, "The congressman isn't unreasonable. By taking his STILL NO OVERTURE came from the Chironian leaders. The Chironian who seemed to direct a lot of what went on at Canaveral, the main shuttle base outside Franklin, stated that he didn't report uniquely to any individual or organization that approved his actions or gave him directions. So who told him how the place was to be run? It depended. He originated requests for things like equipment and new constructions because he knew what the base needed. How did he know? Because the people in charge of capacity planning and traffic control told him, and besides, it was his job to know. On the other hand, the companies that built the shuttles and other hardware worked out the technical specifications because that was their business, and the customers took care between them of the priorities of the missions to be flown from the base. He stayed out of that and did his best to support the schedules they said they needed. So ultimately, who was in charge? Who told whom to do what, and who did it? It depended. Nothing made any sense. In the week following Lechat's brief term as Director, the laser link from Earth had brought news of the holocaust engulfing the whole planet. Then the signals had ceased, and for five years there had been nothing. No doubt many pockets of humanity had managed to survive, but mankind's first attempt to establish an advanced civilization had ended in failure - or almost in failure, for it had served its purpose; it had lifted humankind from its primitive, animal beginnings to a level where

human, not animal, values could evolve, and it had hurled a seed of itself outward to take root, grow, and blossom at a distant star. And then it had died, as it had to..chemicals: Scores of mammoth rigs, headlights doused but cab-roof lights and marker lights colorfully."Not me. I'm a pacifist." A meticulously detailed tattoo of a rattlesnake twined around the pacifist's right.supposed to have them at night, only in high-demand hours. Maybe it's just an ordinary screw-up."

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