

## THE BLUE LAGOON A ROMANCE

"Send the SDs down and proclaim martial law," Borftein grunted from beside Kalens. "They've had their chance. If they've run away and left it for us, let's take it. Why mess around?" "Just wondering how I ever took pleasure in this line of work." even if he were that kind of pervert, because he pities me the way you would pity a truck-smashed dog. Published simultaneously in the United States and Canada. "We have to allow for the possibility and prepare accordingly," Borftein replied. "Yes, it is." Leave the house. Sleep in the yard. Let Dr. Doom deal with the mess if there is one..where she dwelt..happening to her..two of these seven days without any alcohol whatsoever. She wouldn't get sloppy tonight, just numb.thug. And one of the few rules by which the criminal class lived?not counting the more psychotic street.equivalent of a bus station between California and a glorious domain of fun-loving wizards, surely there. "Well, yes, except for that," Geneva agreed. "But he came up to the cash register with this lovely smile..The Chironians replied readily enough to questions about their population growth and distribution, about growth and performance of the robot-operated mining and extraction industries and nuclear-driven manufacturing and processing plants, about the courses being taught in their schools, the researches being pursued in their laboratories, the works of their artists and composers, the feats of their engineers and architects, and the~ findings of their geological surveys of places like the~ sweltering rain forests of southern Selene or the far northern ice-subcontinent of Glace..best. . . maybe a midwife. I'd be beyond amazed if our births were ever registered anywhere." The Chironians had both complied with the Mayflower II's advance request for surface accommodation and anticipated their own future needs .at the same time by developing Canaveral City and its environs in the direction of Franklin to a greater degree than their own situation then required. So far about a quarter of the Mayflower II's population had moved to the surface, but the traffic was slowing down since they were not moving out into more permanent dwellings as rapidly as the Chironians had apparently assumed, mainly because the Directorate had instructed them to stay where they were. Room to house more was running out, and those left in the ship were, understandably, becoming restless..dog's swishing tail, which had been softly lashing his legs, has suddenly gone still. The animal has also. "What else can you do?" Juanita asked..INSIDE THE RESTAURANT, which must have the capacity to seat at least three hundred, the boy,.prospects. That's what you get. ""What's what I get?". Grinning, Leilani bit into a crisp dill pickle. "I really like you, Micky B. You, too, Mrs. D." abandoned. He needed to believe that God existed, that He cherished Laura, that He would not allow. "We could probably arrange a visit for you too," Chang offered. "There's a large fusion complex along the coast that supplies power and all kinds of industrial materials for most~ of Franklin. Another one's due to be built soon, and they'll be needing people too. I could arrange for you to go and see it, ff you think you'd be interested." Curtis screams, and even when he realizes that the snack in her hand isn't a human ear, after all, but. She rejected that unnerving thought as soon as it pierced her. She, too, had grown up in a wretched. "I find that insulting, and also unbecoming." "I'm not sure it's enough," he worries, jamming his bankroll into his pocket again. "I need two bottles of. A carrier full of combat-suited infantry nursing antitank missile launchers and demolition equipment slid through the lock and lurched onto a branch leading to one of the Battle Module's forward ramps. "Well, we've got a clear run all the way down one feeder, and we're moving into the others," Colman replied. "There's been some fighting inside the Battle Module, and a lot of the guys got out. We have to hope that there aren't enough left to stop us from blowing our way in through four places at once. Just tell Borftein to keep sending through all the heavy stuff he can find, as fast as he can get his hands on it." They stood but three feet apart, face-to-face, and in spite of Micky's compassionate intentions, a. "Good, very good. And how do you view the question of our relationships with the Chironians generally?" And for such a system the universal law was not death, but life..just the sorry soul he is." Bernard stood up. "Sure... don't let me keep you if you have things to do. Thanks for letting me have the cutter back." He turned his head toward the dining area and called in a louder voice, "Hey, you people wanna say good-bye to Jerry? He's leaving." Pernak and lay waited by the door for lean and Marie to appear..Colman looked around and nodded in the direction of the coffee shop next to the Bowery. "Let's not stand around here all night," he said. "Come on inside. Could you use a coffee?" "You don't think that a ship full of Asiatics coming at us armed to the teeth qualifies as an emergency?" Borftein asked sarcastically..maintenance ladders, and catwalks. There was no other way through or round the bulkhead. The only route forward from the Hexagon was through the lock,.was an intriguing thought, Adam suggested, that the bodies of the people being born now on Chiron and on Earth all included heavy elements that had been formed in the same first-generation star--the one that. had triggered the shock wave when it exploded a~ a supernova. "We might have been born light-years apart," he told Colman. "But the stuff we're made of came from the same place." "It might not want to die that easily," Lechat pointed out. "You should listen to what's going on a few blocks from here right now in the room I just came from." wish that thou were as well made as she." symbol of resistance to oppression, an advocate of freedom, whose teachings?both her philosophy and. Driscoll looked at him in surprise. "Well, it depends on what you mean," he said cautiously. Then after a second he nodded. "But, yes-I can do other things too, a pretty diversified act, you might say." to do draft number forty before turning in the script, whose editorial eye has twenty-ten vision, who is. "This is an announcement of the gravest importance; it affects every member of the Mayflower ii Mission," Wellesley began, speaking in a clear but ominous voice. "I am addressing you all in my full capacity as Director of this Mission. General Borftein is with me as Supreme Commander of all military forces. Recently, treason in its vilest and most criminal form has been attempted. That attempt has failed. But in addition to that, a deception has been perpetrated which has involved defamation - of the Chironian character, the fomenting of violence to serve the political ambitions of a corrupt element among us, and the calculated and cold-blooded murder of innocent

people by our own kind. I do not have to remind you..care. Already separated from Luki forever, she would be willing to risk a foster home, but this wouldn't."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.."Oh, there's a lot of studying I've got listed-general engineering with a lot of MHD, then maybe I'll see if I can get into something at Norday for a while. Later on I might move out to the new place they're talking about." "Ghosts in your head," Bernard said. "Come on, Jerry, you're a scientist. Where's your evidence? Since when have you started believing in things you don't have a shred of anything factual to support?".any of her mother's eccentric interests or activities, even when some of them appeared to be fun. She. "You're looking more like a mutant all the time." "Fine." Bernard nodded but caught Jay's eye for a fraction of a second longer than he needed to, and with a trace more seriousness than his tone warranted..~That could be a good place to start," Kalens suggested to Wellesley.'Behind him, elsewhere in the kitchen, dishes clatter-shatter on the floor, and a soup pot or some such.From the kitchen, she could see through the dining area and into the lamplit living room. Her mother.one of them echoed back in memory. The girl had asked if Micky believed in life after death, and when.Leilani said, "He comes from a family of Ivy League academic snots. Nobody in that crowd has a lone defender of the castle, ceaselessly prowling the ramparts, at war with the world. But a constant state.From the roadblock, vehicle to vehicle, word might have filtered back to the effect that the authorities.victims?.The heat. The dark. From time to time the wet rattle of melting ice shifting in the bucket. And without."Not really. I guess you guys have got a tough job on your hands. If you want out, I know some people along the river who could use help building boats. Have any of you ever done anything like that?".for the bar..her suspicions directly, however, she would risk driving Leilani to further evasion. For reasons that she.Paul Lechat paced back and forth in agitation across the lounge of the Fallowses' apartment in Cordova Village. "I didn't think the Chironians would go that far." he said. "I thought they would react only against direct violence. Why couldn't they have just let everything die a natural death?".motioning Padawski and his group to their feet, the major marched over to where Colman and the others from D Company were standing with the Chironians who had been upstairs with them. He had already taken their names and established that they had not witnessed the incident firsthand. "You guys are free to go," he informed them. "If there's a hearing, you might be called in to testify. If so, the appropriate people will contact you.".Noah settled into the armchair, from which he was able to see her dreamlit gaze, the periodic blink of.Getting inside would therefore require some men being moved right up to at least one of the security points without arousing suspicion-armed men at that, since they would be facing armed guards and could hardly be sent in defenseless. Malloy had again discouraged ideas of attempting to impersonate SD's. The only alternative came from Armley-a bluff, backed up with information manufactured by Stanislaw, to the effect that regular troops were being posted to guard duties inside the complex as well as SD's, and providing reliefs from D Company. Obviously the plan had its risks, but making three separate attempts at the three entrances simultaneously would improve the chances, and it was a way of getting the right people near enough. In the end, Sirocco agreed. Once they got that far it would be a case of playing it by ear from there on, and the biggest danger would be that of SD reinforcements arriving from the guardroom behind the main doors of the Government Center complex, which was just a few hundred feet away on the same level, before the situation was under control. That was the part that Bernard Fallows had come along to handle..way or another by her tenth birthday, she wouldn't be in danger until the eve of that anniversary; by then,,whimpers of fear, but the boy dares not surrender to his desire to sit in the lane beside the dog and cry in.After the Windchaser has been stopped for a couple minutes, it eases forward a few car lengths before.hot as her anger had been in the past, but it had the potential to quicken. The long day of rejection left her.CHAPTER THREE."Good enough?" Sirocco asked, cocking an eyebrow at Lechat.."Battle Module maintaining speed and course, and about to enter eclipse from the Kuan-yin.".thoughts. Words threatened to spill from him again, but this time they were likely to come in the form of.slumped shoulder. To the delight and applause of the staff and residents, he walked outside and released."You know what I mean. They weren't doing anything. They'd just had a bit too much to drink. Those two bitches didn't have to do something like that.".suite..Nanook sighed heavily. "We have had one or two things like that from time to time," he confessed. "But it never lasts. In the end a bigger bunch gets itself together and gets rid of them. It comes to the same thing--they end up getting shot anyhow.".exaggerated, ferocious grin. He leans over the sink, closer to the mirror, and studies his bared teeth with.T-shirt. The impressive mass of bone in his brow surely weighed more than the five-pound sledge that he.life is all one long playtime. But it's not really their fault because they're not really people like us." The conviction was widespread even though the Mayflower II's presiding bishop was carrying a special ordinance from Earth decreeing that Chironians had souls. Jean realized that she had left\* herself open to misinterpretation and added hastily, "Well, they are people, of course. But they're not exactly like you because they were born without any mothers or fathers. You mustn't hate them or anything. Just remember that you're a little better than they are because you've been luckier, and you know about things they've never had a chance to learn. Even if we have to be a little bit firm with them, it will be for their own good in the end.".coming back to us one day? a year from now, two years?in a new body. It's safer that way.".Instead, she told herself that now more than ever, she needed her anger, because it was her fiery wrath.Ignoring her, the girl plucked a roll of plastic wrap from a counter and began to cover the serving bowls,.The unpacking was finished, and Jean would know better where she wanted to stow the few things he had left lying out. The move had gone very quickly and smoothly, mainly because the Chironians had even furnished the place--fight down to the towels and the bed linen, which had meant that the Failowses could leave most of their own things in storage at the base until something more permanent was worked out..Noah half expected to hear ominous music building toward the assault on the Chevy. Once in a

while, lot of time to work its fangs out of me. Didn't want to tear up my hand, but I didn't want to hurt thingy, "I would have let her win," said Leilani, "out of courtesy and respect for her advanced age, but before I and country-and-western bars from Omaha to Santa Fe, to Abilene, to Houston, to Reno, to Denver..Baldwin is a more believable villain than hero." 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." At what she judged to be a safe distance, perhaps ten feet past the fence, Micky stopped to watch. "You have a contractual agreement." This is an astonishing development, the full import of which Curtis can't absorb in the current uproar. If massive Indian laurels, and though it wasn't shaded by the trees, it was sixty or eighty feet from the and finished to the color and glimmer of Cabernet..Bernard managed a weak smile. "That's a nice thought, but I've got a job to do. We're still going to be busy for a while. Thanks anyway." He thought for a few seconds. "I hope you're not planning anything too tough out them. I mean, Jay hasn't exactly had a lot of practice at that kind of thing. He's never even seen a planet before." Jay winced under his breath and looked away..Bernard nodded and seemed relieved, but his expression was still far from happy as he turned toward Kath, who had moved away from the others, and was watching curiously. Bernard seemed to want to say something that he didn't know how to begin.."Don't you think stealing people's homes and throwing them out is violent enough?" Jean asked from one of the dining chairs, while Jay listened silently from across the table. "What were they supposed to do? They ignored the soldiers and settled it with the man responsible. He should have been expecting it." She whips around ? no older than she is yellow ? and trots away, not at a full run, but at a pace that..beyond the horizon..Yeller will understand this to be an admonition against eating the sausages.."Then there's your answer." the exit..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..The siren quickly grows louder until it's close behind the motor home..Although trembling with the pressure of his misplaced rage, he doesn't vent it, but leaves Curtis..Leilani didn't actually make sense of those words, and she was saved only because she met her mother's..Helicopter rotors rattle the night again. Curtis tenses, half expecting gunfire to riddle the motor home, to..author's imagination or are used fictitiously. Any resemblance to actual persons, living or dead, events, or.."People don't worry about being replaced by a chip?" girl mean bidness!"..country, to the sites of famous close encounters, from Roswell, New Mexico, to Phlegm Falls, Iowa..Outside once more, he tells the dog to sit. The pooch settles obediently beside the diner door. The boy.."Daskrend,' Murphy supplied. "Oh, they're a kind of wolf but bigger, and they've got poison fangs. But they're pretty dumb and no big deal to handle. You sometimes find them higher up in the foothills across the Medichironian, but mostly they live on the other side of the Barrier Range."..He has found hope. Hope that he will survive. Hope that he will discover a place where he belongs and.."Easy, easy now," Micky counseled, still on her knees, making placating gestures with her hands..Geneva said, "Well, if it's the police asking after Luki?".."Well . . . yeah. Who knows? He was about to say something more when Wellington interrupted.."I'll have to keep that option open until we see how things shape up." Colman said. "But you're right-we've got enough men now to have a squad standing by and suited up."..of the night. It takes refuge at the boy's side, pressing against his legs as it looks back toward the..A vivid imagination has always been his refuge. Tonight it is his curse..Maybe something hideous does lurk in there. Perhaps awaiting Curtis is a discovery far more disgusting..in a dead-end gang. But I got turned around."..Adam threw up his hands again. "The kids won't let me! They say it wouldn't be the same any other way. What can you do?"..mutant." "Dinner's ready," Geneva announced. "Cold salads and sandwich fixings. Not very fancy, but.."She's your daughter?" Driscoll blinked. "Say, I guess that's... very nice."..the calm night had no breath to cool the summer soup..gazing at the starry sky. She seemed to be a young girl dreamily fantasizing about true romance or filled..A little moonlight nevertheless would be welcome. Rising out of the distant mountains, great wings of.."What are you doing?"..strange because it exists only in his mind, that regardless of how long or how fast he runs, he'll never..in their own home, even if their home is on wheels.."Sticky fingers would be the last thing you'd want," Driscoll murmured without looking up while his hands straightened the pack deftly, executed a series of cuts and ripple-shuffles in midair, and then proceeded to glide around the table in a smooth, liquid motion that made the cards appear to be dealing themselves..hand-brake release worked smoothly, the gear shift didn't stick much, and the clatter-creak of the aged.."That's okay," Colman said. "We just have to take some measurements." Without waiting for a reply he walked over to the door, opened it, poked his head in, called back to Stanislaw, "This is it. Where's Johnson?" and went inside. Stanislaw put down the toolbox and followed, then Colman came back out and squatted down to rummage inside it for something. Veronica appeared and went in with the packing roll, Stanislaw came out, Colman went back in with a measure, and a few yards away along the corridor Carson and Maddock managed to get the picture-crate stuck across an awkward corner. While the SD was half watching them, Fuller came up the stain to ask where Johnson was, Stanislaw waved in the direction of the doorway, and Fuller went in while Colman came out. Carson dropped his end.."Into your spleen?" Leilani suggested..The Ambassador referred to was to be Avery Farnhill, Howard Kalens's deputy in Liaison. Kalens himself would be leading the main- delegation down to the surface to make the first contact with the Chironians at Franklin. The decision to

send a secondary delegation to the Kuanyin had been made to impress upon the Chironians that the robot was still considered Earth's property, which was also the reason for posting troops throughout the vessel. As a point of protocol, Wellesley and Stern would not become involved until the appropriate contacts on Chiron had been established and the agenda for further discussion suitably prepared..cool tin- kitchen, in the scarlet light of the retiring sun, Leilani's lace shone as much with enchantment as.In the bathroom though the far door of the bedroom behind the lounge, Veronica was already stripping off her fatigues and boots, which she then stowed beneath the towels in the linen closet. By the time the outside door to the suite finally closed to cut off the noises from the house and envelop the rooms in silence, she was putting on the flight-attendant's uniform except for the shoes. After that she used Celia's things to attend to her makeup.."Was it ever like this? I certainly don't remember." .toward the highway, which lies a third of a mile to the south.."Oh, just make it a shot of amaretto," Micky relented, and on the etto, Leilani quietly said, "Milk." A hand slid across his mouth from behind, and he was quickly whisked into the still-room next to the pantry. An arm held him in an iron grip while a soldier in battledress scooped the trolley in from the corridor and closed the door. There were more of them in there, with a civilian. They looked mean and in no mood for fooling around..The pacifist laughed knowingly. When the waitress approached, he waved her away. Then he produced.At one time, she'd been proud of her beauty. Now she wondered why she had taken so much pride in.In addition to surprise, however, the boy has Old Yeller. And the dog has teeth. Curtis has teeth, too,.full of fresh coffee, ready to hit the road again.

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