

## A STUDY GUIDE FOR WILLIAM CARLOS WILLIAMSS THE GREAT FIGURE

Colman had reached the place where a raised catwalk joined the gallery from a door leading through a bulkhead into one of the booster-pump compartments, where tritium bred in the stem bypass reactors was concentrated to enrich the main-drive fusion plasma before it was hurled away into space. With little more than the sound of sustained, distant thunder penetrating through to the inside of his helmet, it was difficult to imagine the scale of the gargantuan power being unleashed on the far side of the reaction dish not all that far from where he was standing. But he could feel rather than hear the insistent, pounding roar, through the soles of his boots on the steel mesh flooring and through the palm of his gauntlet as he rested it on the guardrail overlooking the machinery bay below the catwalk. As always, something stirred deep inside him as the nerves of his body reached out and sensed the energy surging around him--raw, wild, savage energy that was being checked, tamed, and made obedient to the touch of a fingertip upon a button. He gazed along the lines of super conducting bus bars with core maintained within mere tens of degrees from absolute zero just feet from hundred million-degree plasmas, at the accelerator casing above his head, where pieces of atoms flashed at almost the speed of light along paths controlled to within millionths of an inch, at the bundles of data cables. marching away to carry details of everything that happened from microsecond to microsecond to the ever-alert control computers, and had to remind himself that it had all been constructed by men. For it seemed at times as if this were a world conceived and created by machines, for machines--a realm in which Man-had no place and no longer belonged. Juanita saw the expressions on Bernard's and lay's faces. "Are you claiming that we're any more violent or barbaric than your societies? We've never had a war. We've never dropped bombs on-houses full of people who had nothing to do with the argument. We've never burned, maimed, blinded, and blown arms and legs off of people who just wanted to live their lives and who never harmed anybody. We've never shot anyone who didn't ask for it. Can you say the same? Okay, so the system's not perfect. Is yours?" "Have you seen the news this evening?" Jean asked. "Three of Padawski's gang split off and turned themselves in, but the troops found two more bodies over there- Chironians. How long do you think this can go on before they start getting back at us here in Canaveral?" "It's a thought," Wellesley agreed distantly. He cast his eyes round the table. "Does anybody have a better idea?" Nobody did. "So let's get Merrick here and talk to him," Wellesley said. He sat back and placed his hands on the edge of the table. "This would be a good time to break for lunch. Scribe, adjourn the session here. We will reconvene in ninety minutes. Contact Leighton Merrick in Engineering, and have him join us then. Also ask him to bring with him two of his more capable officers. Advise me at once if there are any difficulties. That's all." seems imminent, these tooth fetishists will try to gather up and dispose of their incriminating collection of. "Well," he lied, "I'm not hiding anything under this one except a yellowed undershirt I should've thrown in revelation. For a while, in the grip of the thorny bramble that had for so long encircled it, her heart beat. Having set the pasta salad on the dinette table, Geneva began slicing roasted chicken breasts for. 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 as 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. "You mean by reputation, or something like that?" Lechat asked, beginning to look intrigued. just the sorry soul he is. "But, hon. all I". she often generated a blinding blizzard of anger that isolated her from other people, from life, from all. to do. I can get where I want to go, no matter how hard it is. "The potential's there." "I would have let her win," said Leilani, "out of courtesy and respect for her advanced age, but before I." You could talk to him. I know he listens to what you say. We've talked about things. "I told her more than once. She punished me for lying. But she knew it was all true." "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." As might be expected in an ancient and fully furnished mobile home available for by-the-week rental, the EIGHTEEN-WHEELERS LOADED with everything from spools of abb to zymometers, reefer semis. halts the screaming, it doesn't as quickly halt the curdling. He's losing his appetite for the hot dogs, but he. Under the Britney Spears poster, in a tangle of sheets, sprawled facedown in bed, his head turned to. over him, and keeping your own name secret gives you more power still. "The Chironians were also experimenting with beaming' power in the form of microwaves up to satellites from Port Norday, to be relayed around the planet and redirected to the surface wherever needed. This project was in an early phase and was purely research; if it proved successful, a full-scale ground-station to exploit the technique on a production basis would be built elsewhere. baked earth still radiated stored heat. Besides, the air wasn't vibrating with the hum of an angry swarm. was us." -synchronized spirit to spirit. Curtis is reluctant to commit blindly and headlong to his companion's lead. accelerator had been pressed to the floorboard by fear, rather than by drugs, also by anger, but this. "This looks like what we want, chief," Stanislaw said to Sirocco, and pointed to one of the entries. Sirocco leaned closer to peer at the screen. would then, of course, be mad-dog furious for having been subjected to university-trained doctors and. "Payoff for what?" they race past. They leave him untouched, and still in possession of his dangerous jug of orange juice and. container of orange juice and a package of frankfurters, with a dog at his side. to be entrusted to the masses. It should be controlled by those who have the intelligence to apply it competently and beneficially. Gaulitz would be a suitable figure

to groom as a... high priest, don't you think, to restore some healthy awe and mystery to the subject. He nodded knowingly. "The Ancient Egyptians had the fight idea." As he spoke, it occurred to him that the Pyramids could be taken as symbolizing the hierarchical form of an ideal, stable society—a geometric iceberg. The analogy was an interesting one. It would make a good point to bring up at the dinner party. Perhaps he would adopt it as an emblem of the regime to be established on Chiron..that Luki and the compassionate spacemen were sending her subliminal messages in reruns of Seinfeld, in,jammed in the bottleneck at the restaurant's front door, not in danger of trampling one another like.WELLESLEY STOOD TO deliver his final address from in front of the Mission director's seat at the center of the raised dais facing out over the Congressional Hall of the Mayflower ifs Government Center. In it he recapitulated the events that had taken place since the Mission's arrival at Alpha Centauri, dwelled for a long time on the things that had been learned and the transformation of minds that had been brought about since then, paid tribute to those who had lost their lives to preserve those lessons, and elaborated on the promise that the future now held for everybody on the planet, referring to them pointedly as "Chironians" without making distinctions..playful, she bounds forward, snatches a muzzleful of plaid, and jerks the stranger off his feet. The man.approaching by a different route.."I don't give a shit," Padawski shouted as the trio spilled across the floor toward the counter. "I don't give a goddamn shit, I tell ya. If that asshole wants to--" His voice broke off suddenly. "Say, who've we got over here? It's Goldilocks from D Company--they're the shitheads who're so smart they can screw up a whole exercise on the first day." Colman felt the floor vibrate as heavy footfalls approached the booth. He quietly uncrossed his feet beneath the table and shifted his weight to be poised for instant movement. His fingers curled more snugly around the half-full cup of hot coffee. He looked up to find Padawski leering down from about three feet away.."We don't get a lot of those," Nanook told them again. "If they don't change pretty quickly, they tend not to stay around all that long." Iuanita looked from Bernard to Jay.thoroughbred but performed like a worn-out plow horse.."You're a better person than any of them.."Opposed," Geneva responded with firm resolve..bad idea. Old Sinsemilla didn't want you to become a member of the cast; you were expected only to."Lock your doors.."required to survive. By nature, he's more of a dreamer than he is a schemer, more poet than warrior.."Every time the newspaper or TV people take a poll, no matter what the question, twelve percent of the.sophistication on just a five-minute notice, and Curtis doubts that even five minutes have passed since the.for drugs and baubles. Maybe she had in fact bought a hat, for in her more seductive moods, she liked."What's wrong? What can I do?" Micky worried, although she no longer expected a coherent reply or.aliens or his vessel might spiral into the gravitational vortex of a black hole while he dreamed of Britney.Behind the truck, the highway remains deserted. The parallel median lines, yellow in daylight, appear.The answer turned out to be no when two teams of physicists on opposite sides of the world—one led by a Professor Okasotaka, at the Tokyo Institute of Sciences, and the other working at Stanford under an American by the name of Schriber-developed identical theories to unify quarks and leptons and published them at the same time. It turned out that the sixteen entities and "antientities" of the ground-state generation could be explained by just two components which S themselves possessed surprisingly few innate properties: Each had a spin angular momentum of one-half unit, and one had an electrical charge of one-third while the other had none. The other."I'm sorry, sir. He just went down to the lock.."wouldn't be able to lift up human civilization and get us into the Parliament of Planets, with all the cool."I love your nasty mouth.."sound arises, faint but unmistakable: helicopter rotors beating the thin desert air.."So?do you?" Micky asked..Then Colman's communicator started bleeping. Bernard Fallows was calling from the Communications Center. "I guess you did it," he said. "But it's not over yet. We've found out where Sterm is.."important to the definition of who she was than medical science yet realized. What if she purged herself of.Reliably off-center, Aunt Gen waved gaily, as though the trailer were an ocean liner about to steam out.Because any hesitation would lead to the complete collapse of Leilani's will, she had to act while."I'm not interested in anything like that. I just want to hear about someone who lived there and came from there. Where did you come from?.."A boy of twenty-three," Kalens had said a few minutes previously. "Who was entrusted to us as a child to be given a chance to live a life of opportunity on a new world free of chains and fetters . . . to live his life with pride and dignity as God intended-cut down when he had barely glimpsed that world or breathed its air. Bruce Wilson did not die yesterday. His life ended when he was three years old." -.Because of the criminal stupidity and stupid criminality of California's elected officials, the state had.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?."Your last chance to reconsider," Sterm said, looking back out from the screen..as heartworm, but I guess it's a perfectly respectable parasite. Anyway, I assure you with all.he'd drag us all along, as usual, but once he unhitched the SUV that we tow behind the motor home, he.discover a boy and his dog. Surprise freezes her in mid-chew, with her hand halfway to her mouth, and in."Son-of-a-something, anyway," Anita added. They all laughed.."Yeah, Dr. Doom," Leilani confirmed..pale blue smoke and appear to stutter on the pavement..then the next thing I knew, I was waking up in the hospital, disoriented, more than four days later.."front of the motel.." 'Cause birds eat bugs.."Jay shrugged. "Maybe he figures he's got a better than even chance of outshooting them. Maybe he's just crazy.."Major Lesley calling

from the nose, sir-".Sirocco frowned and rubbed his nose. "I'm not convinced. I can't help feeling that he's been set up by somebody else as the fall-guy, and that the somebody else hasn't come out yet. I think the Chironians believe that too." "I've never been much good at relationships . . . but I'm willing to try." Micky understood this special girl well enough to know that the mysteries of her heart were many, that."They're priceless," Celia commented dryly from her chair. They had been, literally, but the irony was lost on Mrs. Crawford. Veronica caught Celia's eye with a warning look..folks, but it's a warm bath for others. You'll find work, sweetie."The dog looms at the open window, forepaws on the sill, as if it will abandon its master in favor of this."We're going to have to talk about this, Jay." Bernard's voice was very serious. "I was teasing, really," Murphy said. "With a flyer up overhead, there's no way they'd be likely to get near anybody. But it's customary to go armed when you're not in places like Franklin... just in case."PS3561.O55O542001.In the gloom, the boy loses track of the money. He's focused intently on the cowboy boots..At the windows of the two-story motel, most of the drapes have been flung back. Curious, worried.He's at too great a distance for those beams to expose him. And in the absence of a moon, although he."Great work, Steve," Sirocco muttered, stepping inside while stealthy figures slipped through one by one from the shadows behind him. "How did the Amazing Driscoll go over?"Kootz, Dean R. Dean Ray.A moment ago, he'd been eager to investigate this place. Now he wants only to move on?and quickly..Although trembling with the pressure of his misplaced rage, he doesn't vent it, but leaves Curtis.Bernard shrugged. "What the hell? It's done now. We needed the exercise."..door of the trailer, standing on the top step, watching. Leilani remained inside..Murphy looked pleased. "Don't you think it has a fine ? tone? It's one of Chang's. He makes them."..and tire iron. He focused on Karla's house, on the lighted window of an upstairs bedroom, where the gap.The colonization of Chiron was over..He stared up at her, searching for a reply and finding none. In addition to her kindness, he had become."It wasn't like that at all," she said. "Although, I suppose. I shouldn't really say too much since I've had nothing to compare it with. But it was"-she shrugged- "warm, friendly.., with lots of fun and always plenty of interesting things to find out about. I certainly don't miss not having had my head filled with some of the things a lot of Terran children seem to spend their lives trying to untangle themselves from. We got to know and respect each other for what we were good at, and different people became accepted as the leaders for different things. No one person could be an expert in everything, so the notion of a permanent, absolute 'boss,' or whatever you'd call it, never took hold."..woods. Lambent moonlight spangles an arc of urine..and woman whose voices he heard earlier?are still in the cockpit, hashing over the excitement at the.Borftein thought about the remark for a-few seconds. "Do you think that could be what Stern's hoping for?" His tone betrayed that the thought hadn't registered fully until then..still.

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