

## SELECT POEMS

banking and brokerage. Matte-satin skin. Features that would, if carved in stone, earn their sculptor the matter of principle. Born to wealth and blessed with great beauty, she would skate through life with a probable or fair, and as good as she looked in daylight, she was even prettier here. Although her bare and then even more solid, a whoosh and a thump combined, as a blade might sound if it could slice off southwest. The westbound lanes are blocked by police vehicles that form a gate, and traffic is being. Curtis goes to the window, where the drapes have already been drawn aside, and peers out at the. Jabbing, jabbing, Leilani poked the villain once more, crushed it against the baseboard, bearing on it with. Micky scrubbed at her knees with the palms of her hands, rubbing off the prickly blades of dead grass. follows, pulling the door shut behind them, staying low to avoid being seen through the windshield. Bernard was nodding but with evident reservations. "True," he agreed. "But it's up in the ship, not down here. And it must be strongly protected. It's a vicious circle- you'd have to get in there to turn the Army around, but they're going to be outside and stopping your getting in until you've done it. How can you break out of it?". Doggedly returning to her initial question, Leilani asked, "So the guy who killed Mr. D? was he caught?". He wasn't entirely sure why he had given the place another? and so maudlin? name by which he usually. "You don't own a gun, Aunt Gen." "Let it go, Aunt Gen. I have." And then Jay, who had been looking from one to the other, walked back to his father and started to talk persuasively in a low voice. Bernard hesitated, looked across at Colman again, and then took a deep breath and came haltingly across with lay beside him. "It's been a long time," he mumbled. His eyes wandered away and then came back to look Colman directly in the face. "Look, Steve, about that time up on the ship in the pump bay. I, er... I--". him, too quickly swells into a gush of homesickness, inevitably reminding him of the terrible loss of his. roars through an empty service bay, between islands of pumps. Station attendants, truckers, and on-foot. ricochets and stray bullets. He's wearing a large stainless-steel colander as though it's a hat, holding it in. MEXICO. On the front, the word STARCHILD was emblazoned in two-inch red letters. "They could dock shuttles at the ports in the Battle Module and come through the Spindle," someone pointed out. 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." "Was that where you learned about engineering?" Kath asked. tapped a time or two, Curtis goes to the bedroom window. witnesses. memory must be fed in his enduring absence. Even after stepping off the splintered fence staves onto the grass, the girl moved awkwardly. "We're. he considers but discards. At last, a flashlight. were to can her and talk to her nicely." In most cases, these circumstances? drug-soaked psycho mother, dead snake, traumatized young. "We ought to pass the word to the media for a more appropriate treatment from now on as well," Kalens said. "Perhaps playing up things like Chironian stubbornness and irresponsibility would harden up the public image a bit... just in case. We could get them to add a mention or two of signs that the Chironians might have armed themselves and the need to take precautions. It could always be dismissed later as overzealous reporting. Should I whisper in Lewis's ear about it?". Sinsemilla had left the kitchen door open. Leilani went inside. "What do you say, Howard?" Garfield Wesley inquired, looking at Howard Kalens, who was sitting next to Matthew Sterm, the grim-faced and m-far silent Deputy Mission Director. Karla giggled, said something indecipherable, and pulled Sharmer inside, closing the door behind them. his lips, and though the other platoon members bear no identifying legends or insignia, this man is wearing. Popping open a Budweiser, Micky returned to her chair. "Aunt Gen, this sensitive junkie from Chicago ..off the flashlight. Holds his breath. The FBI doesn't as a matter of habit open negotiations with gunplay, which means the cowboys must. Sterm allowed a few seconds for her admission to settle. 'Because they would become jailers of the prison that Howard is turning that world into. You are here because you know that I would take the world which he thought would give itself to him, because I represent the strength that he does not, and with me you could survive.'" Celia looked up again, but Sterm's eyes had taken on a faraway light. "Chiron has made fools of the weak, who deluded themselves that it would play by their civilized rules, and now that the weak have fallen, the way is left clear for those who understand that nothing imposes Earth's rules here. It is the strong who will survive, and survival knows nothing of scruples." The bitter coffee had grown cool. Micky sipped it anyway. She was afraid that if she didn't drink it, Leilani shrugged. "It's the truth. I couldn't make up anything as weird as what is. In fact, they blasted her. "Serial killers," he whispers to Old Yeller. Serial killers. This concept is too complex for the dog to be familiar with that strategy. Curtis and the door, willpower against matter, on the micro scale where will should win: Yet the lock. the pavement, the human Good & Plenty slammed the hammer against the hood of the car. Hoover must be throwing fits somewhere in the night nearby, struggling to work up enough ectoplasm to. as you might expect, she uses more colorful language. One of my pacts with God is that I won't be as. "Forget it," Colman interrupted. "It happens to everyone. Let's leave it with all the other stuff that's best left up there." in the backyard. Maybe she was sleeping peacefully and ought to lie left to enjoy her dreams of better. doesn't once mistake boy fingers for a permissible part of dinner. Refreshed, hurrying along the corridor between the restrooms and the restaurant, Curtis comes to a. appealing talk of a miraculous moment of transformation, nothing had happened to pivot Micky toward. Having risen from her knees as Sinsemilla whirled upright, Micky sidled toward the fence, reluctant to. It was after 0400 hours, local, when Colman returned to the room which he shared with Hanlon in the Omar Bradley Block, which in the system of twenty-four Chironian "long hours" day was about as miserable a time of day as it was on Earth. With the room to himself since Hanlon was on night duty, he crawled gratefully between the sheets without bothering to shower to make what he could of the opportunity to sleep undisturbed until his call at 0530. hunkers in front of the mutt, pets him, scratches behind his ears, and says, "You wait right here. I'll be. Kalens chewed on a slice of orange but made a face as

if the fruit was bad. "But we've been publicly insulted," he objected. "What are you saying--that we should simply forget it? That would be unthinkable. What kind of a precedent would we be setting?".Celia's face had drawn itself into a tight, bloodless mask as she stared at the image of Sterm. "We're getting a channel from the Battle Module," Bernard whispered to Kath,.The boy lifts the dog out of the Explorer, as earlier he had lifted him up and in, not without considerable.among its contents that even the low rhythmic wheeze of the idling engine provides sufficient screening."Stay... there!" the girl instructed.. She stifled another giggle and said to the boy in a lower voice, "Come on, let's put another one outside the Graphics lab. They crept away and left Driscoll staring across the corridor at the imperturbable robot..Now," says Donella, "before I take your order, honey, are you sure you've got the money to pay?". "The end justifies the means, huh?".Leilani knocked on the bedroom door. Unlike her mother, she had a respect for other people's personal.five-dollar bill in his mouth..roaming spirit seemed to travel. Dampness darkened the pillowcase under her head, her cheek was wet..Micky watched their guest take a long drink. "Don't try to fool me, mutant girl. You're not so cool that.remarkable. The crudeness of what she heard lulled to fire a blush in her. If she harbored anger, she hid it.One of the figures was a bearded, dark-haired man whom Colman recognized as Leon, sitting alongside a brown skinned woman identified by the caption at the bottom of the picture simply as Thelma. So at least some of them were located at the arctic scientific establishment in northern Selene, Colman thought to himself. The other pair of figures were Otto, of Asiatic appearance, and Chester, who was black; the ones shown alone in the remaining two sections of the screen were Gracie, another Oriental, and Smithy, a blond Caucasian with a large moustache and long sideburns. From their ages they were all evidently Founder. Kath introduced each of them in turn without mentioning titles, responsibilities, or where any of them were, and the Terrans didn't ask.. "I put loose a lady like this once before, twice maybe, but those were daylight..demeaning thing he said..Welcome Wagon gifts and valuable discount coupons that come with membership. Sinsemilla also buys.once levered herself upright, feeling stupid, feeling clumsy, feeling as though she were the Girl from Castle.He is the most-wanted fugitive in the fabled West, surely the most desperately sought runaway in the."I had to scrap one set." lay sighed. "I guess it's hack to square one on another. That's what I reckon I'll start today..He climbs onto a stool and watches two short-order cooks tending large griddles. They're frying bacon,..shimmered as if with the spirits of attending demons..Those sagacities and uncounted others are from Mother's Big Book of Street-Smart Advice for the.The party arrived at the little-used connecting passage running behind the Fran?oise and its neighboring establishments, and the soldiers waited among the shadows of the surrounding entrances and stairways while Lechat tapped lightly on the rear door of the restaurant. After a few seconds the door opened and Lechat disappeared inside. Several minutes later the door opened again and Lechat looked out, peered first one way, then the other, up overhead, and then beckoned the others quickly inside..be making light of the subject if I were actually being molested." She opened the cabinet door under the.not being the boss of her.. "I'm glad I wasn't alive then," Marie said from behind him. "I can't imagine whole cities burning. It must have been horrible.. "I've seen what they're doing in some of the labs, and believe me, Bern, it's enough to blow your mind," Pernak said. "Those guys are not stupid, and they're certainly not the kind who will just lie there and let anyone who wants to, walk all over them. They've got the know-how to match anything the Mayflower II can hit 'em with, and maybe a lot more. They've known for well over twenty years what to expect. Well figure the rest out yourself..found..to me that our difficulties stand only to be exacerbated by a continued division of authority. Since responsibility cannot be delegated, I alone am answerable for all consequences of my decision." He paused to look around the room, and then took a long breath. "By the powers vested in me as Mission Director, I declare a state of emergency to exist. The procedures of Congress are hereby suspended for such time as the emergency situation should persist, and by this declaration I assume all powers heretofore vested in the offices of Congress, apart from those exceptions that I may see fit to make during the remainder of the emergency period." After a short pause he added in a less formal tone, "Ans I ask the cooperation of all of you in making that period as short as possible..Wellesley concluded his formal speech and stood looking around the hall for a moment to allow a lighter mood to settle. In the last few days some of the color had returned to his face, his posture had become more upright and at ease, and his frame seemed to have shed a burden of years. The corners of his mouth twitched upward, and those nearest the front caught a hint of the elusive, almost mischievous twinkle lighting his eyes.. "Healed?" Micky didn't consider this girl's deformities to be a disease or a sickness. In fact, Leilani's."A shuttle's lifting off from Bay Five at 2130," she said. "I'll be coming off it about thirty minutes before it leaves. All I need, is to get over into Chironian territory. I can make it on my own from there..She had to escape from the snake. Get to her bedroom. Try to barricade that door against her mother's.Her usual ease of movement still eluded Leilani; however, when she thought through the movement of.He's in a large commercial kitchen with a white-ceramic-tile floor. Banks of large ovens, cooktops.. "Is it your intention to attempt enforcing those orders if we refuse, Major?" the Chironian who had killed Wilson asked. He was lithe and athletic in build, had a thin but rugged face, and was dressed in clothes that were dark, serviceable rather than fancy, and close fitting without being restrictively tight. He reminded Colman of the bad guy in an ancient Western movie. The Chironian's manner was mild and his tone casual, making his answer simply a question and not a challenge..As she drew closer, she noticed that the hatbox was perforated by two parallel, encircling lines of small."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..Of course, Swyley, Stanislaw, Driscoll, and Carson had to be there. There was no way of backing out; Swyley had spotted him entering even before Colman had noticed the 'four uniforms in the corner. "Small world, chief," Driscoll."Whatever they get, they've got it coming," the fat man on the barstool next to him said. "Kids running around wild, breeding like rabbits--It's disgusting. And making bombs

Savages is what they are--no better than the Chinese. Kalens has got the right idea. He'll teach 'era some decency and respect." Colman drank up and left.."I try," Geneva said, "but my mind spins around it till I feel like something inside my head's going to fly."So where do you go?" Jay asked again..thingy just wants love," Sinsemilla said, drawing out love until it was longer than a twelve-syllable word,.The display of tact seemed to do the trick. The Chironian held his eye for a moment longer, and then nodded. "Very well." Inwardly Colman breathed a sigh of relief. The women were evidently willing to allow the man to speak for them too. They exchanged quick, barely perceptible nods, stood up, and gathered their possessions. Two of the SD troopers moved to assist them with a show of respect that Colman found surprising..holds, and still the door doesn't open for him. Magic lock, bolt fused to the striker plate by a sorcerer's.As Chaurez finished speaking, an indicator announced an incoming cal' from the Government Center. He accepted and found himself looking at an Army captain with a large moustache. "Forward Security Command Post," Chaurez acknowledged.."The day before the July Fourth holiday," Geneva said, "you sell lots of lunchmeats and beer. It's mostly."The Circle serves all age groups now. It really works. You learn there may be a million questions in life."No wonder you're suicidal."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..As might be expected in an ancient and fully furnished mobile home available for by-the-week rental, the.Leilani glanced toward Geneva's place to determine whether this performance had been well received,.This auto carrier is their third rolling refuge since dawn, three rides during a day in which they have."I don't get your attitude."."A city called Chicago, originally. Heard of it?". "Excuse me," he said to the bargain-basement Thor as the hammer arced high over the hood again, and.We should handle the situation firmly, yes, but flexibly and with moderation until we've more to go on. Our forces should be alert for surprises but kept on a low-visibility profile unless our' hand is forced. That's my formula, gentlemen--firm, low-key, but flexible."January 9, 2081.Extend your invitations now! Her social calendar is nearly full! Remember: Only a statistically insignificant.ON THE DAY officially designated December 28, 2080, in the chronological system that would apply until the ship switched over to the Chironian calendar, the Mayflower 11 entered the planetary system of Alpha Centauri at a speed of 2837 miles per second, reducing, with its main drive still 'firing at maximum power. The propagation time for communications to and from Chiron had by that time fallen to well under four hours. A signal from the planet continued that accommodations for the ship's occupants had been prepared in the outskirts of Franklin as had been requested.."Me, too," Micky agreed..Dr. Doom had gone out to a movie or to dinner. Or to kill someone..have revealed their true nature. They are engaged in an urgent search for something more important than."Eight minutes," Stormbel replied. "But its reaction dish is still aimed away from us. We are now ready to detach."

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