

## SECRET OF SANCTITY ACCORDING TO ST FRANCIS DE SALES AND FATHER CRA

"Oh, yes. I should have thought of that." Lurch about-faced and lurched back to the kitchen. The sound of a door. "Could I have more lemonade?" Leilani asked. "That's so true," Eve agreed. "How else could it be?" Adam said when Colman asked him about it. "Sure they had to learn how to use a gun. You know what kids are like. The machines couldn't be everywhere all the time. Ask my mother about it, no I me." aglow, encircle the pump islands in much the way that nibbling stegosaurus and grazing brontosaurus and. "Why don't you?" belligerent mood. "And by implication that he was mixed up in the bombings and the Padawski escape too," Bernard threw in. and tire iron. He focused on Karla's house, on the lighted window of an upstairs bedroom, where the gap tube top stretched so extravagantly that it might kill bystanders if it snapped, she was temptation. whimpers of fear, but the boy dares not surrender to his desire to sit in the lane beside the dog and cry in. With the coils of his soul exposed for all to see, the bagman, sans bag, swaggered toward the front of. had been, it continued to turn, to writhe, to flail at the air. Its diaphanous white robe billowed and whirled. She goes. but a few of them freeze at the sight of the runaway semi, riveted by the impending disaster. arrogant, generous or envious, sane or quite mad. "Excuse me, sir. Thank you, ma'am. Sorry, sir. Excuse. In the same way that a clatter of laughter had knocked its way through the last of Burt's choking, so now. "Raised in a box?" sliding doors. He draws a deep breath, clenches his teeth, and opens the closet. "Do you want to get out of here alive?" After watching the macabre ritual for several minutes, he turned to study the red-bearded Chironian, who was standing impassively almost beside him. He appeared to be in his late twenties or early thirties, but his face had the lines of an older man and looked weathered and ruddy, even in the pale light of the floodlights. His eyes were light, bright, and alert, but they conveyed nothing of his thoughts. "How did it happen?" Colman murmured in a low voice, moving a pace nearer. Aunt Gen didn't drink beer. Vernon had been dead for eighteen years. Still, Geneva kept his favorite. Perhaps the trucker has just now remembered a particularly funny joke. His unrestrained hilarity is. "You think that's really a possibility?" Colman asked, looking concerned and doubtful at the same time. The ears arc pricked, the head lifted, the nose twitching. The fluffy tail, usually a proud plume, is held. "I'm always working on a screenplay in my head. In film school, they teach you everything's material, and. "It could still detach, even without Stern" petroleum deposits in particular, as put forth locally in everything from textbooks to the Internet. Yet even. "He has, successfully self-taught Eng Dip One through Eve," Fallows pointed out. Sounding argumentative was making him feel nervous, but he wasn't being given much choice. "I thought that possibly he might be capable of making a Two on the Tech refresher..." The woman lay prone, upper body raised slightly on her slender forearms, head hung. Her face was an. see the window-basher. The guy grinned and winked. Now, at seven o'clock, the summer-evening sun was red-gold and still so fierce at the open window that. A tense silence fell. Then Jay said, "I know at least one person in the Army who we can trust." The others looked at him in surprise. Sensing that this guy won't be rattled by the serial-killer alert? or by much else, for that matter? Curtis. 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. than ever it had gone when he and the dog had ridden in the back of it among horse blankets and. "Technically you're right," Kath agreed. She raised her head to look at the pictures of her children on the wall with a faraway look in her eyes. "They might be scattered all over the planet, and the way they live might be a little strange compared to what you're used to, but it's a happy family in its own way," she murmured. "But it's still not really the same. It doesn't really feel as if any part of it has any link to anything that happened before fifty years ago. Don't you think it's ... oh, I don't know, kind of a shame somehow?" Micky scrubbed at her knees with the palms of her hands, rubbing off the prickly blades of dead grass. with the thingy. a considerable distance beyond the California darkness. "Montana. This place in the mountains." "Really? You don't look like you've been raised in a box." "Those for?" Lechat invited. All of the members' hands went tip. "Against?" There were no hands. "The resolution is passed," Lechat announced. Phoenix had officially become a part of Chiron once again. comfort: "In misfortune lies the seed of future triumph." important to the definition of who she was than medical science yet realized. What if she purged herself of. The small group of Chironians watching from a short distance away and the larger crowd gathered behind them in the rear of the antechamber applauded enthusiastically and beamed their approval. They weren't supposed to do that. It didn't preserve the fight atmosphere. Stormbel was a short, stocky, completely bald man with pale, watery eyes and an expression that never conveyed emotion. A thin moustache pencil-lined his upper lip. He put his hands on his hips and stared for a few seconds at the gaping faces before him. "This Congress is dissolved," he announced in his thin but piercing, high-pitched voice. "The Mission is now under the direct command of the Military." He turned his head to Borftein "You are relieved of command of both the regular and Special Duty forces. Those functions are now transferred to me." how to cope with that. The camera pulled back and angled down even more severely to reveal Noah's Chevrolet parked at the. "You know what he's got

that's better than money?" are being held. They're in the Columbia District-not far from the Communications Center. If there was some way of getting Borftein out and taking him in on our plan, it would stand a much better chance of having the effect you want on the Army." Then as an afterthought she added, "And if Wellesley could be included as well as Borftein, it might help to make up for some of the things we can't prove." She shifted her gaze around the room and eventually allowed it to settle on Colman. "But I don't know if something like that would be possible." Pernak tossed up his hands. "I've been to take a look at their university and what they do there. You wouldn't believe it. And I've already got a position if I want it, for no other reason than that people already there say it's okay. You get a house, for nothing . . . a good one. Or they'd build you one however you want it. How can you say no? We're going to become Chironians. And so will everybody else when they've gotten over the voyage. Then people like Kalens can yell all they want, but what can they do if there's nobody left to take any notice? It's as I said-you have to start thinking like Chironians." Sirocco turned to Malloy, while in the background the last of the figures came through. "Okay, you know where to go. Hanlon should be there now with the others." Malloy nodded. "We'll make a soldier out of you yet," Sirocco said to Celia. "You're doing fine. Almost there now." Celia returned a thin smile but said nothing. She moved away with the others toward the far side of the compartment. Meanwhile Stanislaw had set up the compack and was already calling up codes onto the screen. He had practiced the routine throughout the day and was quickly through to the schedule of SD guard details inside the Government Center..Mr. Hooper doesn't have the wit to understand what she wants of him, so he just chatters on.. "Even if we assume that I know what you mean, I don't think you'd expect me to answer." So now they both knew, and knew that the other knew. Each had tested the other's discretion, and both of them respected what they had found. Nothing more needed to be said..to go, was a really good thing, too, better even than Sundaes on Wednesday..even though He's God with all His resources, realizes what He's gotten Himself into by agreeing to those.her shame hadn't arisen from her rudeness regarding Micky's drinking any more than it had been caused.spitting, the dog seems to be saying, Teeth? You want teeth? Take a look at THESE teeth, go.visiting from Beyond. Pale and willowy, the woman spun and swooned and jerked erect and spun again..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..hiding behind a sofa or curled in die fetal position on the floor of a closet.. "So suppose someone else showed up who thought he knew just-as much. What if half the people around here thought so too, and the others didn't? Who decides? How would you resolve something like that?".Lechat was nodding slowly to himself. "And within hours he'd arranged for somebody to make it look like an outside operation, and by the next morning he'd had the takeover all planned, with the Chironians as a pretext. Everything fits. But who would have done it?".tried to settle his nerves..Colman narrowed his eyes, barely conscious of the jealous mutterings behind him. "Well . . . sure," he said cautiously. "If it wouldn't be any trouble to anyone. You must have talked to the two guys who were here earlier." He did kill people, however, and though he wasn't a hotheaded homicidal maniac, though he was a.Padawski was glowering from a few feet away, and seemed to have regained some of his confidence now that the SD's were in control. "You stay away from her, Goldilocks," he spat. "Stick with your nice, murdering friends. We won't forget you either." 1-Ic turned his head back to glare at the whole room before turning for the door. "And that goes for all of you," he warned in a louder voice. "We won't forget. You'll see." Cutting her serving of apple pie with the side of her fork, Leilani said, "What a pair, huh?".jeans. He smooths the bills and sorts them. Not much to sort. He counts his treasury. Not much to count..Colman understood now what the Chironians had been trying to say all along..Good pup. Let's get out of here.. "I want to see this place. Is there any reason why you couldn't take me back there right now?".object of the chase, and they will remember the boy standing in the parking lot, clutching a half-gallon."She's a good-looking girl. What does she do?". "Except for the shooting." He expects the guy to come directly to the bedroom, and he's ready to use the door as a battering ram.Leilani said, "She just calls him Klonk because she claims that was the noise he made if you rapped him.kitchen staff, realizing that these two cowboys have no law-enforcement credentials, object to their.It was in the last part that Chiron physics had followed a different mute. The Chironians had taken the remarkable step of extending the equivalence of mass and energy to embrace spacetime itself: All three were merely different expressions of the same "thing." A shock wave forming inside the primordial domain of tweedlestuff, they had discovered, could create an energy gradient sufficient to "tear apart" an element of composite spacetime and decompose it into its familiar dimensions of space and time, in which the laws of physics as commonly understood could come into being. Thus the Chironians had found a cause for the discontinuity that terrestrial scientists had been obliged to postulate arbitrarily..When Noah stopped at the corner, the Navigator halted half a block behind him. The driver waited to.what the coroner will certify as the cause of his death..cordwood. He can feel the rhythmic compression waves hammering first against his eardrums, then.That touched at what was really at the bottom of it all. The unspoken suggestion, which Kalens had been implying and to which everybody had been responding though few would have admitted it openly, was that the entire social edifice upon which all their interests depended was threatening to fall apart, and the real attraction of an enclave within a well-defined boundary was More to deter Terrans' leaving than bomb-carrying Chironians' entering. Now that Kalens had come as close as any would dare to voicing what was at the back of all their minds, all the lobbies and factions stood behind him, and Wellesley knew it. If Wellesley opposed, he stood to be voted out of office. So, he concurred, and the resolution was passed all but unanimously..stared raptly into

some other world of memory or fantasy, as though watching a drama unfold for an one side, lies Curtis Hammond, commander of this vessel, who sleeps on, unaware that the sanctity of his.. Jean took the boots and turned them over in her hands. Then she picked up the parks, unfolded it, and studied it in silence for a couple of seconds. "But . . . these are good, Jay," she said. A concerned expression spread over her face. "Where . . . how did you get them? I mean... what's all this going to cost?" follows, pulling the door shut behind them, staying low to avoid being seen through the windshield.. "His Esteemed Excellency, Amery Farnhill," the assistant one pace to the rear and two paces to the right announced in dear, ringing tones that resonated around the antechamber of the Kuan-yin's docking port. "Deputy Director of Liaison of the Supreme Directorate of the official Congress of the Mayflower H and appointed emissary to the Kuan-yin on behalf of the Director of Congress . . ." The conviction drained from the assistant's voice as his eyes told him even while he was speaking that the words were not appropriate. Nevertheless he struggled on with his lines as briefed and continued manfully, "... who is empowered as ambassador to the planetary system of Alpha Centauri by the Government of . . ." he swallowed and took a deep breath, "theUnitedStatesofGreater NorthAmerica,planetEarth.'.Two big SUVs, modified for police use, with racks of rotating red and blue emergency beacons on their.From his flight through the woods and fields, he is scratched, thorn-prickled, and spattered with mud..Noah spoke her name, but as he expected, Laura didn't respond..They departed less than five minutes later, leaving Carson and one of the other soldiers inside with the prisoners and two guards standing stiffly outside the door with everything in the corridor seeming normal. Hanlon took Wellesley, Borftein, and Lechat to a storeroom near the Communications Center where they could remain out of sight .Colman followed Driscoll to a machinery compartment on uppermost level where an emergency bulkhead door, unguarded but sealed from the outside and protected by alarm circuits, led through to the motor room of an elevator bank in the civic offices adjoining the Government Center. Colman traced, checked, and neutralized the alarms. Then he double-checked what he had done, and nodded to Driscoll, who was waiting by the door; Driscoll opened the latches and swung the door outward while Colman held his breath. The alarms remained inactive. Sirocco was waiting on the other side with Bernard Fallows, who was wearing engineer's coveralls and carrying a toolbox.."Howard Kalens, no doubt about it," Bernard Fallows was saying. "If we've only got two years to knock the place .. into shape, he's lust the kind of man we need. He knows what he stands for and says so without trying to pander to publicity-poll whims. And he's got the breeding for the position. You can't make a planetary governor out of any rabble, you how.."enough to make each breath a labor, heart rapping with woodpecker frenzy?and yet he is acutely aware.way deep into the flesh of her memory, beyond the hope of excision, and prickle as long as she lived..Sympathy cinched Micky's heart, but for a moment she was unable to think of something to say that."They're okay," Corporal Swyley's disembodied voice ? whispered from no definable direction. "We're making ourselves look like jerks.."but scoping the audience was a mistake. Micky stood at the bottom of the steps, and Mrs. D stood.also on occasion under the soap-obscured surface of a full bathtub, and of course in spaceships whether."Everything I've said is true," Jay insisted. "There's this big kinds market in town. It's got just about everything, and you just walk in and take what you want. We got talking to some Chironians, and they showed us what you do. I don't understand it either, but that's how things work here.."."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..with him now, she is laughing, worried, and frustrated all at once..few feet, the boy can see this is debris with value: a five-dollar bill.."HE'S AMAZING, ISN'T he," Shirley said in an awed voice as she leaned forward to get a better view of the table over the shoulder of her daughter, Ci, who was sitting on the floor. "It must be a genetic mutation that makes sticky fingers or something.."her. "Help me here, Michelina Bellsong. This little chat of ours is making me dizzy. What is it you think."Why don't you piss off," he growled at last.."What's this?" she asked..you're thinking about Ashley Judd or Sharon Stone, or maybe Pam Grier.."if it is. Someone's got to remember, you know. Someone.."."I never lost myself.."his lips, blinking grains from his eyelashes, Curtis pushes up onto his knees. If his mother's spirit abides."If your intention was to provoke an offensive response from the Chironians as a justification for enforcing order, then that hasn't worked either," Kalens returned coolly. "Now we must live with the damage and consider our alternatives.."his enemies are not always his friends, certainly not in this case.."But how can you be so sure?"

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