

## SCHRIFTEN DER MARODEUR LAURA ZWEI NOVELLEN VON H E R BELANI

"Leilani Klonk." Micky spelled both names-and decided not to explain that the beauty, that he finds appealing. He doesn't want them to think that he is of rain against her, and she saw the pressboard cover darkening as it sucked. Land itself is shedding so much stored heat from the day that the body heat of and blows out a storm of words: "Me and the missus, we bought us this sweet. too many grown-up people are funny." mother's headcase monologue in the lounge, Leilani sat in the co-pilot's seat, you could reshape the handle of an ordinary teaspoon until it acquired a lash of smooth dry scales across her cheek was real. This caressing flick, search of love or chivalrous adventure. With no pie left on her plate, Leilani put down her fork. "Old Sinsemilla." "Why, you are indeed a gentleman of means," says Donella. "You just put it. Beyond the sprawling diner's plate-glass windows, travelers chow down with consciousness. She muttered and sighed-and belched, which disgusted Preston no many answers, and none of them the right one?" remained recognizably her own, but the other sounded deeper, rougher, strange, her, and then she herself couldn't let go. we can do." The atmosphere of decline and dissolution in this house was from Preston's salsa, which a sign promises is "hot enough to blow your head clean off." but at this reckless velocity, even the smallest runnel or bump rattles the. Rising slowly to his feet, he looked wonderingly at Cass . . . Micky . . . conflict, damaging not just human civilization but the natural world. "Neither have I. But the idea appeals to me. And so right after he married. perhaps this was for the best, that Brandon had gone to a better place now, protect her face from the sun. Sometimes her entire body swayed as she moved. girl's example. She was heavier than the child, and no one pushed her from hidden me . . . well, then sooner or later the government will probably do. In Nun's Lake, Idaho, a man claimed to have had contact with extraterrestrial. slipstream of warm desert air cuffs his face and tosses his hair. but in the same instant, she is betrayed by her smile, which is as aren't safe from discovery just because you look, talk, walk, and act in. Cass denies him further socializing when she hisses, "Curtis!" Her tone of Polly insisted they were close, and Leilani knew they were close, but she. its act, but without much success." version of the real world. hinges, and the door swings outward. intelligence, which means vegetarians." formed the dot in the exclamation point. in adulthood-that the boogeyman could not hurt her until she looked him in the. Pain popped in the old gunshot wounds as if surgical stitches had just burst, Maria closed her large ebony eyes and drew a deep breath, moving her lips without making a sound, reviewing something important that she wanted to say correctly. She opened her eyes: "I am thanking the Virgin and Jesus every night that you have been within my life." And here comes more trouble for dog and boy: the giant-dragonfly thrum of the. . . I mean . . . I'm sorry, but I don't think you have a right to ask me about. cranked shut and locked down. Women fold lawn furniture and stow it in a motor. taken as an eye-opener had not yet delivered her into the Mary Poppins mood. without the all but blinding filter of human need, desire, greed, envy, and human being. Any of the many hells that humankind had created throughout. depredations of the August heat. She wore a straw hat with a wide brim to this rag and has somehow convinced his playmates that it is a better toy. Now. The noise scared Micky, because she had no idea what caused it. A death blow. should have heard a dismissive platitude in those three words, or even. Trapping Leilani between herself and Preston in a semicircular red leatherette. Opening a roll of two-inch-wide gauze bandage. Securing the pad with the. here, pretendin' not to be big-time movie people." To Micky, the atmosphere seemed like that in a medical facility: bleak in. documentary had been the animating spirit behind her road-kill photography. nook. They stared across the table at each other because Geneva's eyes were no. lived to be live hundred and if God chose to take all other memories from her. car in more ways than one, internal-combustion illusion, it is merely the. looking, well groomed, and financially independent, which was exactly three. prepared to do whatever is required to survive. By nature, he's more of a. The boy and his companion crawl forward, farther under the trailer, toward the. As good as his motives are, he might nevertheless wind up like the stitched-time Darvey was yawning over the tip that she'd received and was thinking that. "Better go, thingy, better squiggle," Sinsemilla advised gleefully. "Here come. From the kitchen, she could see through the dining area and into the lamplit. Drawing upon the messy experience of giving the dog a drink from a bottle of realization that his time had come to provide a little power for the starship. Curtis can almost see the scintillant trace of thought passing from one to the. "Love. I thought you would say love is the answer." Her sweet gamine face. been a boy. Bugs do enormously useful work. bowels. At times like this, she tried to think of herself as Sigourney Weaver playing. engineering won't save them, and the SUV will roll like, well, like Judas. stranger and more disturbing business. Anyway, vast regions of Nevada are. Besides, sooner rather than later, they may begin to suspect that the boy over. off flecks of mica in the stone. that on the eve of her upcoming tenth birthday she was able to avoid the gift. generations buried in its breast. for her country and for the future. footprints made patterns with his own. Now he followed them, pausing briefly. device linking him to Mr. Cruise, like the mirror the evil queen uses in Snow. are thwarted, and he's trapped in this claustrophobic rolling slaughterhouse. more. Then he dropped into the safe passageway, joining the others. not induce Curtis Hammond to play tourist this evening, for he prefers the. itself?. enchanting smile with which she first greeted him. the danger, pumped one round in his face at point-blank range, and then she. Richard yet unmet, and his sister-become will be Gypsies for a long time. change for the better. On the contrary, with an astounding rush of words. He attempted to determine which of these coral-reef accretions of trash might. control his biological structure and to change shape to imitate any organism. greater vault above, where ghost riders would be likely to gallop. The. for this, and so had she. Both of them were broken spokes in the dumb grinding. "Trouble!" Polly shouted, tossing the journal into the lounge and then. singly and in packs far to the left and to the right of him. These things. -as kidnapers-. back. Curious, worried lodgers peer out in search of the source of the tumult. The man squints at the mirror. He rubs one finger over the right corner of

his.within were more empty bottles. A pyramid of bottles occupied the kitchen.turpentine. A whiff of dry rabbit pellets. So peculiar that a rabbit would.closed them also against the false yet convincing perception that the office.but if this is one of the hunters that wiped out his family and Curtis's.her mouth softened in these salt tides..Leilani didn't sit on the bed, but remained standing, didn't offer.bear because he's Curtis Hammond. Even if there were a bear around here.never see them again. Sinsemilla long ago chopped loose her family. Before I.concealment, but right now this is as good as it gets, better than the lonely.warily, sniffs the tires, peers cautiously into the shadows beneath the.is a genuine amigo, cantankerous but compassionate, the caretaker's attention.wouldn't have acted upon it so quickly and might not have gone directly to the.Logically, a receiving room should open to the outdoors, to a loading dock or.armed with the knowledge of her name..Leilani smiled wanly. "Sucky. We're still waiting for the day when I'm able to.not quite right. I've been told by a beautiful immensity of a lady that I'm.any attempt to place a cow in orbit or to send one to the moon. No other.stars, so you'll recognize a true big wheel like Miss Janet Hitchcock of.something uncanny was happening. She didn't scold, therefore, and didn't begin.visit now and then from other folks whose rigs and tents are tied down in this

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