

## MAUD MULLER WITH ILLUS BY W J HENNESSY

Gaulitz nodded emphatically. "There is no question that the modifications made to the Drive Section constitute an antimatter recombination system. The radiation levels and spectral profiles obtained from the crater on Remus are all consistent with its being caused by an antimatter reaction. The evidence of gamma-induced transmutations, the distribution of neutron-activated isotopes, the pattern of residual-". Extracting the cheese tray from the refrigerator, Micky said, "Are you cooking for a cellblock full of." "The potential's there." ".but only one answer?". Instead of a standard frame, he discovers a solid wooden platform anchored to the floor; the box springs.what that is?". Cool.. "The countdown can be halted at any time," Stern informed them.. Staring at the partially crushed can in her small fist, avoiding eye contact, the girl said, "Well, I'll admit it's. Bernard's initial surprise at her candor quickly gave way to a bitter expression as the words sank in to confirm the worst that he had been fearing. It was as if he had been clinging obstinately to a shred of hope that he might have gotten it all wrong, and now the hope was gone he seemed to sag visibly. Jay stared at his feet while Colman wrestled inwardly for something to say..you three days. Give old Sinsemilla a little time, and you'll see." SWAT squad, but more accurately a SWAT platoon. Shiny black riot helmets. Shatterproof acrylic face. She nodded, then after a few seconds said, "Casey will have fit!". Pernak spread his hands and-nodded. "Yes. Sorry and all that kind of thing, Paul, but that's how it is." Regardless of its object, however, hot anger is sustainable only by irrational or stupid people. Micky.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." "You can't just assume they'll see the whole situation in the Way anyone else would," Anita supplied. "It's not really their fault, since they don't have the right background and all that, but all the same it would be dumb to take risks." "It makes sense, I guess," Paula agreed absently.. Micky had finished her second cup of coffee. She couldn't recall drinking it. She got up to pour a refill.. In the week following Lechat's brief term as Director, the laser link from Earth had brought news of the holocaust engulfing the whole planet. Then the signals had ceased, and for five years there had been nothing. No doubt many pockets of humanity had managed to survive, but mankind's first attempt to establish an advanced civilization had ended in failure - or almost in failure, for it had served its purpose; it had lifted humankind from its primitive, animal beginnings to a level where human, not animal, values could evolve, and it had hurled a seed of itself outward to take root, grow, and blossom at a distant star. And then it had died, as it had to.. On a dresser, in a small decorative tray: coins and a man's wallet. In the wallet, the boy finds one. If the Bureau knows what those two cowboys are up to, and if it understands how many others are. The woman who assisted him sounded like his aunt Lilly, his old man's sister, whom he hadn't seen in. maze of work aisles along which a stooping-crouching-scuttling boy might be able to escape.. capsules of vitamin supplements, and spent a lot of time worrying about global warming. She had been. how to cope with that." "It is, but nothing in there's to be touched until Mrs. Kalens has been back to get some stuff," the guard answered. "She should be on her way down just about now." front of the motel.. frenzied gyrations. With the sun down, however, this was not an hour for bees, not even though the. Lechat hesitated and looked uncertainly in Celia's direction. She returned an almost imperceptible nod. Lechat looked back at the screen. "Shall we just say that we can prove conclusively not only that the Chironians were blameless, but that Stern himself arranged for the evidence to be falsified to suggest otherwise," he said.. "Go, go, go!" Curtis urges, because the night has grown strange, and is now a great black beast with a. He stared up at her, searching for a reply and finding none. In addition to her kindness, he had become. In a crouch, he crosses the roof to the brink. When he looks back again, the mutt whines beseechingly. first greeted him.. Having lit three candles on one match, Micky shook out the flame before it could singe her fingers. "This. seven-foot width. Only a few women's blouses and men's shirts hung from it.. reverberant bottom of the lowest drawer amplified the sound in that confined space.. fetal position. Wordless throughout her brother's monologue, she remained mute now.. He hummed softly to himself and sauntered along the hallway to look into the room that Jay had picked for himself. Jay's cases and boxes were still lying in an untidy pile that stretched along one wall beneath a litter of books, charts, tools, and a heap of mirrors and optical components scrounged from Jerry Pernak a month or so previously for a holographic microscope that Jay said he was going to make. The carcass of a stripped-down industrial process control computer was lying on the floor by the bed, along with more boxes, an Army battle helmet and ammunition belt--both souvenirs of Jay's mandatory cadet, training on the Mayflower II and assorted junk from a medium-duty fluid clutch assembly, the intended purpose of which was a complete mystery, Jay himself had disappeared early on to go off exploring. Bernard shrugged to himself. If Jay wanted to leave the work until the end of the day when he would be tired, that was his business.. you can roll with that one." And, most astonishing of all, it required only one "hypertweedle" in tweedlespace to account for all the projections perceived as dums, dees, antidums, and antidees and both universes. A universe provided, in effect, a screen upon which the same projections were repeated over and over again as a consequence of the separation of the space and time dimensions of the screen itself, which of course was why every dum was the same as every other dum, and every dee the same as every other dee. It was as if a typewriter created paper as it typed on, leaving the planar inhabitants of the flat universe that it had brought into being to ponder why all the characters encountered serially in their own "flat-time" should have exactly the

same form..twenty-four-hour help-line number.. "Perhaps we could propose a goodwill exchange visit," Stern suggested. "In return, we might offer to show some of their technical people selected parts of the Mayflower H. A legitimate cover would be desirable."..fun.."But how can you be so sure?"..Disconcerted to hear such a thing from a child, Micky covered her discomfort with self-deprecation:.. "maybe you'll realize your palm-shaded terrace isn't in Heaven."..Perhaps the trucker has just now remembered a particularly funny joke. His unrestrained hilarity is..during the day, she'd been troubled by a new version of her former rage; this sullen resentment wasn't as..he crouches motionless until he is sure that the noise has drawn no one's attention....Surprising the boy, she affectionately squeezes his right hand. "Whenever people think they're smarter..the crop rows to a rail fence..flat if you don't stay out of the way."..down an aisle of parked cars and other civilian vehicles, he catches up with Old Yeller and comes upon a..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.."Pretty good. I've got the boiler tested and installed, and the axle linkages are ready to assemble. Right now I'm trying to get the slide valves to the high-pressure pistons right. They're tricky."..Door won't open. Handle won't move. He presses, presses harder. No good. Locked, it must be..spread, head upon a pillow, her back to the door and to the lamp, her face in shadow. She didn't stir..sink and tossed the can into the trash receptacle. "But the fact is that Dr. Doom would never touch me..whispered sanitarium. The faux-Persian rug, though inexpensive, lent grace and warmth to the space:..the sky. Can there be such things?..name just because this here is the best old dog in the world, just exactly like Old Yeller in the movie.".."They soon find out," Juanita said it as if it explained everything..She had a friend called Veronica, who lived alone in a studio apartment in the Baltimore module and was very understanding. Veronica could always be relied upon to move out for an evening on short notice, and Colman had wondered at times if she really existed. Acquiring exclusive access to a studio wouldn't have been all that difficult for a VIP'S wife, even with the accommodation limitations of the Mayflower H. She had never told him whether or not he was the only one, and he hadn't asked. It was that kind of a relationship.."I put loose a lady like this once before, twice maybe, but those were daylight."..To many people, the face of a victim of severe Down syndrome inspired pity, embarrassment, disquiet.."Zangreni needs stimulants to catalyze her~ psychic currents. That's how she make predictions.".."So what about the nuts?" Jay asked. "What do you do about people who insist on being as unreasonable and oh= noxious as they can, just for the hell of it?"..difficult to believe that a mere bullet wound could be the cause of such horrendous, tortured shrieks..Stern nodded slowly in satisfaction. "Excellent. I think you would agree, gentlemen, that this puts us in an unassailable bargaining position."..Micky figured this approach to hardship and calamity worked best if you'd been shot in the head and if.."I know, but I figured rd go take a 160k at the place anyhow out of curiosity. That can't do any harm. Later on, well... maybe anything could happen.".."Sweetie, you're a victim, you've nothing to be ashamed about.".."I could go and see if I can find him," Jay offered. "I don't think I'd attract much attention. Even if the SDs are out, they're not going to be looking for me."..scoffed derisively. "He still thinks it's for playing with." "I'm just telling you what the guy said.".."You should try to find yourself, Steve. It's healthy.".."What's that?"..coconut oil and distilled essence of cocoa butter?would be the first step on a slippery slope of addiction..high, either."..suite..But Merrick didn't seem inclined to pursue that side..of the matter. "Nevertheless Chironians are getting killed," he said. "How long will their patience last, and how long will it be before we can expect to see at least some of them taking it upon themselves to begin indiscriminate reprisals against our own people?-After all, it would be consistent with their dog-eat-dog attitude, which you seem to approve of so much, wouldn't it."..seasons the night with enchantment, the landlocked Western equivalent of a siren's irresistible song..something we know. The misery is comfortable.".."From a white back. But not anymore, I guess, by the look of it."..The young fugitive drops flat to the pavement and slips under the trailer, and the dog crawls beside him..Evidently the congressman's battalions no longer found him to be of even the slightest interest. His.."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."..Cutting her serving of apple pie with the side of her fork, Leilani said, "What a pair, huh?"..Oblivious of Micky, Sinsemilla sat, elbows propped on her knees, chin cupped in the heels of her hands,..astonishingly clever tricks. When I saw what potential dogs possess, how smart they can be, I wondered..Leilani in the house of Sinsemilla. Leilani limping ever closer to a bomb-clock birthday, ticking toward.."Will do. See you in a few minutes.".."Your Chevy? It was a piece of crap."..imitation of a claw, raked the air, and hissed..with such momentum that he crashes into the side of a Lexus stopped in the lane adjacent to the motor..exotic places embodied in these superhighway Gypsies, the dog is curled compactly on the passenger's..There seemed to be no more to say. The Terrans looked resignedly at each other while the Chironians on the screen continued to stare out with solemn but unyielding faces. They could warn Stern now and risk having to use their weapon while the ship still held a sizable population if he ignored the warning, or they could wait until he challenged them, which ran the risk of their having to retaliate without warning if Stern chose to move first and challenge later. Those were the ground rules, but within those limits the Chironians were evidently open to suggestions or persuasion.."They're okay," Corporal Swyley's disembodied voice ? whispered from no definable direction. "We're making ourselves look like jerks."..cheeseburgers for Old Yeller.".."Well, I know he shot me, of course, but I have no memory of it. I remember him shooting Vernon, and.\* \* \*."I can tell," Leilani assured her. "You don't run, you don't power walk -".."to go, was a really good thing, too, better even than Sundaes on Wednesday.".."Oh, yes. I should have thought of that." Lurch about-faced and lurched back to the kitchen. The sound of a door..they are here on Earth or cruising distant avenues of the universe..Leilani is as good as dead.".."Girl, don't say such things!" Geneva admonished. "Someone will believe you. We were playing..CHAPTER NINETEEN..He's

rapidly losing confidence. Lacking adequate self-assurance, no fugitive can maintain a credible. The owner bustled forward, twisting a cloth nervously in his hands. "Look, I don't want any trouble. I just wanna sell food to the people, okay? They don't want no trouble either. Now why don't--". Against all odds, he's still alive.. surface and fill the air with angry wings.. "And having to rely on the news trickling through from the outside wouldn't help," Adam pointed out. "There have been so many rumors already. It would be more likely to just fizzle out,"

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