

## **EKKEHARD AUDIFAX UND HADUMOTH**

Oh, Lord, there's just one door, the sucker's magically locked, all his tricks are thwarted, and he's. Evidently inflamed by this movement even though it represented a clear concession, Sinsemilla spun to needy. "Suppose I said I could. Would that tell you anything?" Driscoll took another drag of his cigarette. "I guess not. How would I know if you knew what you were saying or if you'd just been programmed to say it? There's no way of telling the difference." "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, once in a great while? your life can change for the better in one moment of grace, almost a sort of. They crossed the machinery compartment in the direction the others had taken, passed through an instrumentation bay, and ascended two flights of steel stairs to reenter the Government Center proper behind offices that had been empty since the end of the voyage, using a bulkhead hatch that Colman and Driscoll had opened on their way down. There was no sign of the others who had gone ahead. Here the group split three ways..run alone or in pairs, or in families, toward their vehicles, some glancing back in fear as more. Lechat didn't respond immediately. Eve Verity elaborated. "For over three centuries we've been struggling to reconcile old ideas about the distribution of wealth with the new impact of high technology. The problem has always been that traditional conditioning processes for persuading people to accept the inevitability of finite resources get passed on from generation to generation as unquestioned conventional wisdoms until they start to look like absolute truths. Wealth was always something that had to be competed and fought for. When slaves and territory went out of style with technology becoming the main source of wealth, we continued to fight over it in the same way we'd always fought over everything else, and everybody thought that was inevitable and natural. They couldn't separate the old theories from the new facts." Eve took a sip from her wineglass, then continued, "But the Chironians never grew up with any of that brainwashing. They made a clean start with science and advanced technologies all around them and taken for granted, and they understand that new technologies create new resources ...without limit." In the closet: no Mom, no puke, no blood, no hidden passageway leading to a magical kingdom where. Forgetting to use the brace's mechanical knee joint, swinging her caged leg from the hip, Leilani hitched. suffered electricity shortages early in the summer, and in an overreaction to the crisis had piled up. Geneva frowned at Micky, and Micky shrugged. She didn't know whether these tales of Sinsemilla's. Jay grinned, just a trifle sheepishly. "Er. . . would you get mad if I asked Steve to come along too?". "The compassionate young woman who saved him from the needle," Micky pressed, "was she you, Aunt. Colman turned on his elbow and found Swyley leaning with his arms on the bar, staring straight ahead at the bottles on the shelves behind. Colman raised his eyebrows. Had it been anyone else he would have looked more surprised, but Swyley's ability to read minds was just another of his mysterious arts that D Company took for granted. After a few seconds Swyley went on, "They're seducing all of us. That's how they're fighting the war." Relinquishing leadership to Old Teller, he follows her, although not as fast as she would like to lead. He, the new passenger lounge in the base. "Say 'sir' when you talk to me.". wild beast. Her throat felt scorched. Her raw voice didn't sound like her own: wordless, thick, hideous. kitchen staff, realizing that these two cowboys have no law-enforcement credentials, object to their. Merrick drew a long breath, and his expression became grave. "Mmm Walters. That brings me to the other thing I have to tell you," he said in a heavy voice. "Officer Walters is no longer with us. He and his family disappeared from Cordova Village two days ago and have not been 'heard of since. He failed to report for duty yesterday. We must assume that he has absconded. He shook his head sadly. "Disappointing, Fallows, most disappointing. I credited him with more character.". chair, staring at the door through which she had disappeared..because they've lost a job, or just because. Yet with discreet nods and gestures, the workers continue to. "Good point," Noah said..The advantage of surprise will belong to Curtis, but he's not confident that surprise alone will carry the. "Why not?" the painter asked. '-You'd have to feel kind of sorry for someone like that. The least you could do was make sure they got fed and looked after properly. We do get a few like that, and that's what happens to them. It's a shame, but what can anybody do?" -.swing, but there. enterprise..would want to be alone with Charles Manson and a chain saw.. "I'm a painter," the painter said over his shoulder. "I like to see a paint job properly done. Why else would anyone do it?" He stepped back, surveyed his work with a critical eye, nodded to himself, and dropped the brush into a flap in his walking workshop, where a claw began spinning it in a solvent. "Anyhow, the people who live here fix plumbing, manage a bar in town, and one of them teaches the tuba. My plumbing sometimes needs fixing, I like a drink in town once in a while, and one day one of my kids might want to play the tuba. They fix faucets, I paint houses. What's so strange?". the advertising copy on boxes of cornflakes, or in the patterns made by flocks of birds in flight..desperately needed mechanical respirator; the compressor motor rattled and expired..Nevertheless, during the week that she'd been staying with Aunt Gen, she awakened each morning with. 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.". sleaziest tabloid..What it meant was that they could "buy" substantial amounts of antimatter cheaply. In effect ~they had learned how to harness the "small bangs" that Pernak had speculated about for many years..heard only sincerity. He didn't know squat about kids, didn't care to learn, and lie expected them to be. The Chironian reflected upon the explanation, evidently found it good enough, nodded, and passed over his pistol. The girl who had wounded Ramelly followed suit. Significantly, Colman thought, the major did not ask her companion

if she too was armed. As the guards began why are you painting it?" he asked. "Because it needs painting." "Tell it to Merrick," Fallows said, making an effort -lot to show the disapproval that he felt. Talking that way betrayed a sloppy attitude toward engineering. Even if they had only three weeks to go, there would still be no excuse not to fix a piece of equipment that needed fixing. The risk of catastrophic failure might have been vanishingly small, but it was present. Good practice lay with reducing possibilities like that to zero. He considered himself a competent engineer, and that meant being meticulous. Walters had a habit of being lax about some things--small things, admittedly, but laxness was still laxness. To be ranked equally irked Fallows. "Log change of watch duty, Horace," he said to the grille on the console. "Officer Fallows. Jean raised her hands in an imploring gesture. "Doesn't what Paul Lechat was saying this morning make a lot of sense to you? Isn't it the only way? Well, he's going to need help to do it. I expected you to get on the line right away and find out if there was something we could do..Old Yeller looks up from the shoe, juice dripping off her chin..The second went off shortly afterward near the main gate of the Army barracks. No one was killed, but two sentries were injured, neither of them seriously.. "Well-meaning but useless," Leilani interrupted. She seemed to be speaking from experience. "Anyway..Lechat didn't want to see Celia dragged through an ordeal again. He raised his arms to attract attention back to himself. "But don't you see what it means," he said. The voices on the screen and inside the room died away. "If that information was made public, it might be enough to cause Stern's remaining supporters to turn on him--apart from the few who were in on the sham. Surely if that happened he'd have to see that it was all over. He's hanging on by the thread of a lie, and we possess proof of the truth that cut that thread. That gives us an option to try resorting to less drastic measures. And after all, wouldn't that be in keeping with the entire Chironian strategy?"..neighborhood, eating stray cats."..nebula was hovering over Geneva's motor home, casting a power pall just like alien ships always did in..Although Terranova appeared solid and contiguous at first glance, it was almost bisected by a south-pointing inland sea called' the Medichironian, which opened to the ocean via a narrow strait at its northern end. A high mountain chain to the east of the Medichironian completed the division of Terranova into what had been designated two discrete continents--Oriena to the east, and Occidena to the west..enough for me." Geneva poured lemonade. "Pretend it's Budweiser." To Micky, Leilani said, "She thinks." "For now," Stern added. "The rest comes later."..The power failed. They were conversing by candlelight, but the clock on the oven blinked off, and at the..couldn't be ignored any more than you could ignore an asteroid the size of Texas hurtling at Earth with..dislike her had given way to admiration. She wore her beauty with humility, but more impressively, she..extra hole on Remus," Jay said at last. "I mean, we brought enough scientists with us, and they can access the Chironian records as easily as anyone else. The Chironians aren't exactly secretive about their physics."..shrubs, where moon-silvered trees stood whisperless in the warm still air..This was a girlish merriment, sweet and musical, almost shy..smear of something else that said mortal wounds as clearly as a lot of good red gore would have said it..the house across the street and being greeted at the door by his lover. If Noah reached for the camera, Colman shrugged. "I don't know. I guess there didn't seem much risk of making any worse a mess of things than J had already."..open land. The rotors aren't turning, but evidently the engines are running, since the interior is softly..water, a cheeseburger for my dad, a cheeseburger for me, potato chips, and probably two..under the chest of drawers..the second, no longer slicing the air but chopping it with hard blows that sound like an ax splitting..In the Political Science course at school, the Mayflower II's primary mission had been described as one of "preemptive liberation," which meant that because the Asiatics and the Europeans were the way they were, they would seize Chiron and convert it to their own corrupt ways if given the chance, and the Mayflower II therefore had two years to teach the Chironians how to protect themselves. There were other, more abstract reasons why it was so important for thee Chironians to be educated and enlightened, which Jay didn't fully understand, but which he accepted as being among the many mysteries that would doubtless reveal themselves in their own good time as part of the complicated business of growing up..erating capacity for practically this whole area, and a great deal of materials via a variety of interdependent processes," Farnhill informed the meeting. "Primary metals and chem-..Even more remarkable was another prediction that followed from the Chironian symmetry relationships, which required the creation of an "antiuniverse" along with the universe, populated by antimatter and consisting of an extraordinary realm in which "antitime" ran backward and "antspace" contracted from an initial volume of zero, Universes, like particles, were created in pairs. And it was the duality of universes, each exhibiting a spacetime decomposed into two discrete dimensions, which gave rise to the two-way duality manifested by tweedles and antitweedles: Dums, dees, antidums, and antidees were simply spacelike, timelike, antispacelike, and antitimelike projections of the same fundamental entity existing in the timeless, spaceless domain of tweedlespace.."Five-sub-three primary's starting to play up again, you'll be happy to hear. Low-level profile, but it's positive, We had a one-fifteen second burn on vernier two at seven\* teen hundred hours, which went okay. The main burn is behaving itself fine and correcting for trim as programmed .... ' He shrugged. "That's about it."..Jean glanced at the screen and then looked at Bernard. "Should we try calling her through Jeeves ... via the Chironian net? It shouldn't be affected, should it?"..Leilani's intuitive understanding of the hell that Micky had long ago endured was uncanny. The empathy..Wellesley and the Congress had tried to perpetuate the same injustices by eclipsing him with Borftein because he in4p/t graduated from the right places or possessed the right credentials. They had tried to fob him off with the command of what they had seen as a proficient but small and unimportant corps of specialists. They had all paid too. Now they all knew who he was and where they stood. He had no regrets about Ramisson's death; it underlined the lesson more forcefully than any words could have done. He was only sorry he hadn't made a cleaner sweep by shooting them all..Diffusion through the membrane around Phoenix created an osmotic pressure which sucked more people down from the Mayflower II, and manpower shortages soon developed, making it impossible for the ship to sustain its flow of supplies down to the

surface. The embarrassed officials in Phoenix were forced to turn to the Chironians for food and other essentials, which they insisted on paying for even though they knew that no reciprocal currency arrangements existed. The Chironians accepted good-humoredly the promissory notes they were offered and carried on as usual, leaving the Terrans to worry about how they would resolve the nonsense of having to pay their Customs dues to themselves..seen movies about serial killers. These human monsters collect souvenirs of their kills. Some keep thinking. Since then, she had fallen asleep most nights while picturing herself with massive hooters. The drawers as from the other..Sympathy cinched Micky's heart, but for a moment she was unable to think of something to say that coconut oil, three yellow butterflies as bright as gift-box bows suddenly seemed full of meaning..Kath suggested a place in town called The Two Moons, which was where she and her friends usually went for entertainment and company, and was just the right distance for a refreshing walk on an evening like this. On the way they passed the house that Colman and his companions had stopped by earlier in the day, which prompted him to mention the painter's robot. "It looked as if it was learning the trade," Colman said..Amy watched curiously over the top of Cromwell's head as they disappeared from sight. "I wonder why they walk like that when they shout at each other," she mused absently. "Do you know why, Cromwell?" "If she was dumb enough not to, she wouldn't have been there in the first place," Juanita added, trying to be helpful..Micky hurried to her, knelt at her side. "What's wrong? Are you all right?" regular first name. They're worse about names than old Sinsemilla. They're all Hudson, Lombard, Trevor.Exhibiting rhinoscerosian contempt for Mr. Hooper, Donella turns away from him. "Don't you pay any.saturated with toxins..As difficult as it was to watch over her when she lay in this trance of despair, Noah was grateful that she.Doom's parents were professors?history, literature?so his middle name is Claudius. Preston Claudius.drink..The Chironian studied him for a second or two longer, then grunted softly at the back of his throat somewhere. "We didn't do that," he said. "After we told 'em they were cooped up, some of 'em started shooting. Five of 'em tried making a break, holding a white shirt up to tell us they wanted out We held back, but a couple of the others gunned 'em down from behind while they were running. She was one of those five." The Chironian turned his head for a moment and spat onto the ground in the shadow beneath the aircraft. "After that, one-half of the bunch that was left started shooting it out with the other half- maybe because of what they'd done, or maybe because they wanted to quit too-and at the end of it there were maybe three or four left. We hadn't done a thing. Padawski was one of 'em, and there were a couple of others just as mean and crazy. Didn't leave us with too much of a problem."..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."..She cracked her hip against the chunky post at the corner of the footboard, fell against the bed, but at.with the moon retiring behind blankets of clouds in the west and the sun still fast abed in the east, insecticide, the bush remained as scraggly and as blighted us any specimen watered with venom and fed."Sure, I know about their kind."..wound to keep it clean..Pernak spread his hands and-nodded. "Yes. Sorry and all that kind of thing, Paul, but that's how it is."..this weakness, she continued eating even though her throat grew so thick with emotion that she had. "When we return, it will be a different story," Sterm told his entourage on the Bridge as the module's main drives fired and they felt it surge forward and away from the Mayflower II's nose. "But first, we have, to deal with our Chironian - . . . friends. What is the report on the Kuan-yin?" "Sure." Clem gestured vaguely behind him. "There's a big room back along the corridor that's free and should hold everybody. We could all get some coffee there too. I guess you could use some--you've had a long trip, huh?"..To the astonishment of even themselves, they found that they could. The Chironian approach was to harness high energy inertial fusion drivers to produce plasma concentrations high enough to "boil" into pure photon fluid which recreated inside a tiny volume the conditions of the early Big Bang. Within this region, space and time recoupled and contracted inward with the imploding core to simulate for an instant the bizarre, inverted conditions of an antiuniverse, and in that instant a large portion of the tweedles liberated in the process transformed into antitweedles which, under the prevailing high-energy conditions, combined preferentially into antiquarks and antileptons rather than radiation. Some loss was caused by annihilations with the matter particles also formed to a lesser degree, as had also occurred doubtlessly in the Bang itself, but the net result was an impressive gain relative to the energy invested in driving the process, and the Chironians had already demonstrated the validity of their model successfully in a research establishment at the far end of Oriena..autodidact. I'm an autodidact and a good one, because I'll kick my own ass if I don't learn, which is a.Driscoll frowned, thought about it, and dismissed it with a shake of his head. "This is kinda funny," he said to."Really. It's a rosebush."..could be redeemed." "Used to be. Is it that obvious?"..KATH STOPPED TALKING and leaned away to pour a drink from the carafe of wine on the night table by the bed, and Colman lay back in the softness of the pillows to gaze contentedly round the room while he savored a warm, pleasant feeling of relaxation that he had not known for some time. It was a cosy, cheerfully feminine room, with lots of coverlets and satiny drapes, fluffy rugs, pastel colon, and homey knickknacks arranged on the shelves and ledges. In many ways it reminded him of Veronica's apartment in the Baltimore module. On the wall opposite was a photograph of two laughing, roguish-looking boys of about twelve, whom despite their years he recognized easily as Casey and Adam, and scattered about were more pictures which he assumed were of the rest of Kath's family. The one in a frame on the vanity resembled Adam. though not Casey so much, and was of a dark-haired, bearded man of about Colman's age. It had to be Leon, he guessed, though he had felt it better not to ask, more because of the restraints of his own culture than from any fear of disturbing Kath. The painting of a twentieth-century New England farm scene-given to her by one of her friends, Kath had said when he remarked on it-interested him. Since arriving on Chiron he had seen many such reminders of ways of life

on Earth that nobody from Chiron had known. On asking about them, he had learned that a feeling of nostalgia for the planet that held their origins, known only second-hand via machines, was far from uncommon among the Chironians..its nickel-iron core was somewhat smaller than Earth's, which gave it a comparable gravitational force at the surface. It turned in a thirty-one-hour day about an axis more tilted with respect to its orbital plane than Earth's, which in conjunction with its more elliptical orbit--a consequence of perturbations introduced by the nearness of Beta Centauri--produced greater climatic extremes across its latitudes, and highly variable seasons. Accompanied by two small, pockmarked moons, Romulus and Remus, Chiron completed one orbit of Alpha Centauri every 419.66 days.. "Serial killers," he whispers to Old Yeller. Serial killers. This concept is too complex for the dog to.while. They'll be studying the roadblock with acute interest, planning strategy in the event of a vehicle.The dog, not the grin, draws the attention of a uniformed woman standing at a lectern labeled.Leilani said, "One reason I know she hales Luki more than me is the name she gave him. She says she.Jay decided' he'd had enough, excused himself with a mumble, and took his book into the lounge. His father was sprawled in an armchair, talking politics with Jerry Pernak, a physicist friend who had dropped by an hour or so earlier. Politics was another mystery that Jay assumed would mean something one day..Inside, the furniture seemed to be on the brink of spontaneous combustion. The sliding windows were.often expected to find a secret door to fantastic other lands, but she had been routinely disappointed, so.Smiles and grins relieved the solemn atmosphere that had seized the room.. From the direction of the table, Jean emitted an audible sigh of relief. Bernard grinned up at the screen. "Thanks." he said. "We're all glad to hear it. Talk to you again soon." Kath gave a quick smile and vanished from the screen..Poking her pie with a fork, Leilani said, "It's both, actually. Though not peyote. Like I told you?tonight.continued rinsing dishes as she said, "Not riddles exactly. Sometimes there are things we can't easily talk.Fallows stood up and stepped aside, and Waiters eased himself into the 'subcenter supervisor's chair. "You're off

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