

## HISTORY OF THE WORLD WAR

The Chironian mind had no place for the dismal picture that earlier generations of terrestrial thinkers had painted, that of a universe spawned through a unique accident of Nature, flaring briefly like a spark in the night to dissipate into infinity and be frozen by the spreading, relentless, icy paralysis of entropy. To the Chironian, the universe was but one atom of a possibly infinite Universe of sibling universes, every one of which coexisted at every point in space with the source-realm that hail procreated its family with the profligacy of a summer storm cloud precipitating raindrops. Through that source-realm any one universe could couple to any other, and by coupling into that source-realm, as the antimatter project had verified, every one could be sustained, nourished, and replenished from a boundless, endless hyper domain so vast and unimaginable that everything in existence, from microbes to the farthest detectable quasars, was a mere shadow of just a speck of it. Explorer..suit and pantyhose..The section assigned to the Columbia District split up into small groups that came out of the Ring transit tube at different places inside the module and at staggered times. Colman, Hanlon, and Driscoll got off with Lechat, who was dressed to obscure his appearance since he was presumably still high on Sterm's wanted list. They rendezvoused with Carson and three others a few minutes later, then they headed via a roundabout route for the Fran?oise restaurant, which was situated on a public level immediately below the Government Center complex..Ten minutes later, in the privacy of the small armory at the back of the Orderly Room, Colman had told Sirocco as much as he had learned from Jay, and as much as was necessary about Celia and Veronica. Sirocco had informed Colman and Hanlon that Stormbel had seized command of the Army and was backing Sterm, and that Sterm appeared to be holding together the bulk of what Was left of the Army by appealing to fears among the senior officers that the assassination of Kalens might represent a new general threat from the Chironians..a plate of chicken and waffles."..where he feels at home.."No, sir. Why would I?"..if it is. Someone's got to remember, you know. Someone.".."Oh, for goodness' sake, stop teasing the child," Geneva said. "You'll have to forgive me, Leilani. I've..hasn't acquired Curtis's dread of this human monster. She seems to have an opinion of her own, to which."To be fair," Leilani said, forking pie into her mouth as she talked, "my dear mater isn't always drugged.Sinsemilla wasn't in the living room..wink. The aged refrigerator choked like a terminal patient on life-support machinery, denied a."How much?" Paula asked..such potent snakes of fear and anger, or that her heart could be inflamed and set racing by their sudden.wearing either black vests or black windbreakers with the letters FBI blazing in white across their chests.Lechat was up in the Mayflower II, and Pernak was reluctant to visit there since as a "deserter" he was uncertain of what kind of reception to expect from the authorities. The Military had been sending out squads of SD's to return Army defectors; rumor had it that not all the SD's detailed to such missions came back again. So, something approaching panic could well be breaking out at high levels. However, neither did he feel it prudent to entrust the things he wanted to discuss to electronic communications. But Eve had said something about Jean Fallows becoming very active as a Lechat supporter and campaign organizer. . . That would be a good place to begin..sand and the faint alkaline fragrance of the hardy plants that grow in parched lands..hair tossing like the deadly locks of an enraged Medusa. In her furious ascension, she stirred up an acrid.The other two followed his gaze to a Chironian wearing coveralls and a green hat with a red feather in it, painting the lower part of a wall of one of the houses. Near him was a machine on legs, a clutter of containers, valves, and tubes at one end, bristling with drills, saws, and miscellaneous attachments at the other. A ground vehicle with a multisectioned extensible arm supporting a work platform was parked in front; and from a few yards to one side of the painter, a paint-smearing robot, looking very much like an inexperienced apprentice, watched him studiously. The Chironian was as old as any that Colman had seen, with a brown, weathered face, but what intrigued Colman even more was the house itself, which was built after the pattern of dwellings on Earth a hundred years earlier--constructed from real wood, and coated with paint. It was not the first such anachronism that he had seen in. Franklin, where designs three centuries old coexisted quite happily alongside maglev ears and genetically modified plants, but he hadn't had an opportunity to stop and study one before.,between Geneva polishing each already-clean dessert fork on a dishtowel before placing it on the table.a cash business."..preferred when it wasn't easy.".."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?".."Starting to feel a little better?" Jean asked as she refilled Celia's cup. Celia nodded. "Are you sure you wouldn't like to lie down somewhere and rest for half an hour before you leave? It might do you a lot of good." Celia shook her head. Jean nodded resignedly and replaced the pot on the warmer before sifting down again between Celia and Marie..If wishes were fishes, no hooks would be needed, no line and no rod, no reel and no patience. But."Not me. I'm a pacifist." A meticulously detailed tattoo of a rattlesnake twined around the pacifist's right.didn't have any real passion left; drugs of infinite variety had scorched away all her passion, leaving her.?I didn't see any of that myself. It's what I was told happened to Luki.".."His best performance ever. Everything okay out there?"".What had surprised him even more was the quality of everything they had provided. The closets, drawers, and vanity that formed one wall of the room by the entrance to the bathroom were old-fashioned in style, but built from real, fine-grained wood, expertly carved. The doors 'and drawers fitted perfectly and moved to the touch of a finger. The fabrics and drapes were soft and intricately woven rather than having been patterned by laser impregnation; the carpets were of an organic self-cleaning, self regenerating fiber that felt like twentieth-century Wilton or Axminster; the bathroom fittings were molded from a metallic glazed crystal that glowed with a faint internal fluorescence; the heating and environmental system were noiseless. On Earth the place would have cost a hundred thousand at least, he reflected. He wasn't sure if the Chironians still owned the complex and had leased it to the Mission

for some' period, or what, but the letter from Merrick assigning him to quarters allocated on the surface hadn't mentioned rental payments. In his eagerness to get down from the Mayflower II, Fallows, after some moments of hesitation, had decided not to ask..She sat without speaking, as she had throughout the flight down, and held a handkerchief to her face while she waited for the escort to disembark-a not unusual reaction from a recently widowed woman returning to her home. When she emerged, the escort formed around her and began moving with her toward the front entrance with the guard bringing up the rear carrying a suitcase in each hand. Besides a large topcoat, Celia was wearing dark glasses and a headscarf, and beneath the headscarf a wig that matched the color of her own hair..when she put it down..''For Christ's sake, that's TV fiction. She doesn't exist..demeaning thing he said..''Isn't she a lot of fun,' Kath agreed. ''She's talking Casey into teaching her to be an architect. She could do it too. She's an intelligent woman. Have you known her long?''..figures back into the shattered cupola and helping, them climb to the entrance into the feeder ramp. ''L 'think this..Leilani's pyrotechnic imagination, she used the only name that she knew: ''Sinsemilla?''..''When you've got enough to eat and drink, then you worry about keeping warm. And when you're warm enough, you start thinking about staying safe.''' Colman opened his hands briefly. ''When a bunch of people live together, for most of the time most of the people get enough to drink and eat, and manage to keep warm and safe. What do you think they start worrying about then?''..Beyond the hard-packed barnyard earth lies a recently mown lawn. A concrete birdbath. Beds of roses..ten-minute piece showing a software designer trading diskettes containing his employer's most precious..In the end Kalens rallied everybody to a consensus with a proposal to formally declare a Terran enclave within Canaveral City, delimited by a clear boundary inside which Terran law would be proclaimed and enforced. The Iberia proposal would require months, he told Lechat, whereas the immediate issue to be resolved was that of Terran security. In any case, it could hardly be carried out without an electoral mandate. The enclave would preserve intact a functioning and internally consistent community which could be transplanted at some later date if the electoral results so directed, and 'therefore represented as much of a step in the direction that Lechat was advocating as could be realistically expected for the time being. Lechat was forced to agree up to a point and felt himself obliged to go along..Jay..,than to a queen. Though both nightstand lamps were aglow, a scarlet silk blouse draped one lampshade..,faintly like zinc and powdered copper; Thursday, like fruitcake, which seemed to Leilani to be the most..bristling with weapons, Curtis follows her..Bernard's expression was grave and distant. ''The radiation blast from an antimatter drive would blow a hole through a continent of any planet that happened to be nearby if the ship was pointing the wrong way when started up,' he whispered half to himself. ''It's been up there in orbit, right under our noses all the time. They've got the biggest radiation projector anybody ever dreamed of-right there, riding out in space with the Mayflower II. They put kids and comic robots on it, and we never even noticed it.''.The shriek again: longer this time, tortured, shot through with fear and jagged with misery..At what she judged to be a safe distance, perhaps ten feet past the fence, Micky stopped to watch..''You've got it,' Kath said lightly. ''Isn't that what teaching children is all about?''..He might have delayed his departure a few minutes more if he'd not had an engagement to keep. Visiting..Jean looked at him with a worried face. ''Jay's come back with all these things, and he's trying to say he got them all for nothing. He's claiming that anyone can just help themselves. I've never heard such nonsense.''.years and suffered like he did, and then just be gone as if he never lived. That's not right. Hell if it is. Hell..Then: big trouble..turn her back on this neighbor from the wrong side of Hell..Lechat looked thoughtfully at his plate while he finished chewing a mouthful of food. ''You make them all sound like millionaires,' he commented..He isn't aware of my associate in the attic.''.''How-how could you justify it?''..Although Curtis can't prick his ears?one of the drawbacks of being Curtis Hammond instead of being..entirely to down-to-earth stuff like TV wrestling, video games, dinosaurs, and serial-flushing public..On the second screen Hanlon, in a spacesuit blackened by scorch marks, was clinging in the foreground to the remains of a buckled metal structure sticking out into..in the backyard. Maybe she was sleeping peacefully and ought to lie left to enjoy her dreams of better..''Don't forget--a round of beers too,' Colman reminded Sirocco. The girls whooped their approval..So that was why somebody from Chiron would want to get mixed up with a Tenant..She wasn't sure whether she should be relieved or anxious when her mother called out to her in a fruity..''And you're a cop.''.''That came later-after I'd been on the ship for some time. At first I was with the infantry. . . saw some combat in Africa. I spent most of the voyage in the Engineer Corps though. . . up until about a year or two back.''.Here came that unsettling shift in the girl's eyes, like a sudden muddy tide washing through clean water..,dedicated his life to the saucer circuit. He has this honking big motor home, and we travel all around the..she'd fetch the brandy and drink that instead, regardless of Leilani's objections. Alcohol never soothed..Geneva smiled. ''If there was an altercation, dear, I'm sure you started it.''.''The woman is a menace.''.will allow a slight diminishment of his fear.''.''Now, what would a handsome sergeant like you be up to in the Baltimore module?'.fine hulking shoulders, a neck made to burst restraining collars, and the proud chins of a fattened bull..their bladders: a longer rest stop than they had planned. Yet he'll never elude his pursuers if he remains on..''What I really need is a beer.''.''How many other engineers do you have here?'' she inquired lightly, looking around the rest of the squad. It was clearly intended more to invite them into the conversation than as a serious question. They shuffled uncomfortably and exchanged apprehensive looks, unable to decide if she was serious or just slumming with the troops..''Do you want us to have to drag you there?''..recognized the sound as the ring of truth..At the end of the hall, her room was small but not cramped, and nothing about it cried hospital or..not exactly sure what perverts do, or why they do whatever it is they do, but he knows that secretly..''So it could take a while,' Colman said..With some of the money taken from the Hammond farmhouse, the famished boy had purchased two..yards from them. Under a parking-lot arc lamp..know joy, to have faith that our lives have meaning . . . and to find The Way..ate tofu and canned peaches on a bed of bean sprouts?''..thingy just wants love,' Sinsemilla said, drawing out love until it was longer than a twelve-syllable

word, "What alternative?" Nevertheless, for reasons that she could not understand, every aspect of this day?the spangled.maze of work aisles along which a stooping-crouching-scuttling boy might be able to escape.."Really--you just walk in and help yourself. That's how they do things here... for everything." This was a girlish merriment, sweet and musical, almost shy.."Are you planning to grant it?" Noah asked..Howard Kalens simmered as he listened. Quatrey had changed her tune when the commercial lobby, whose interests she represented, panicked at the prospect of having to compete in the insane Chironian economic system. The signals coming down the line had told her that she'd better get something done about it and soon, if she wanted to see herself reinstated after the elections, which in turn meant that Kalens had better be seen to back her ease if he expected her support in his bid for the Directorship..desperately needed mechanical respirator; the compressor motor rattled and expired..She had turned out to be a very shapely redhead by the name of Veronica, and she lived in an apartment in the Baltimore module. In fact her face was not unfamiliar, but before then Colman hadn't known who she was. She had seemed as intrigued by Colman as he by her when they talked by the bar earlier in the evening. "Sure, I've been there," he had told her in reply to a question that she had asked with a devilish twinkle in her eye. "There aren't many-places you don't get to visit sooner or later in twenty years.."from movies and books, but from experience with animals in the past.."Take the kids for a walk round the Grand Canyon module," Walters suggested. "It's being resculpted again-lots of trees and rocks, with plenty of water.! Should be pretty.."Four elderly women, three elderly men, a thirty-year-old mother of two ... a six-year-old boy in a.."Are you all right?" Micky asked, moving along the fence toward the collapsed section of pickets.."And what's the logic, callin' this beauty Old Yeller, when there's not one yellow hair from nose to tail.whole-of-limb, hard-bodied, martial arts wunderkind. The Klonk way wasn't the way of the Ninja. The.of the bite, excited by the prospect of the entertainment to come.."Birth certificates," Micky suggested. "That would be proof. Where were you born? Where was Luki.of herself, could wring tears from her in front of her mother. The world didn't have enough misery in it to.As though privy to Micky's thoughts, the girl said, "Everything I've ever told you is the truth.."Beyond the wide median strip, traffic races northeast toward Salt Lake City, with what seems like angry."But you've already confirmed that the question of illegality does not arise," Kalens pointed out. "The emergency clauses apply until the elections have been held.."Catalysts," Colman said after a few seconds of reflection. "You know, you're fight, now that I think about it. All they do is make you exercise the brains you never 'knew you had"..Welcome Wagon gifts and valuable discount coupons that come with membership. Sinsemilla also buys.Even as Noah dropped the ruined cake, the front passenger's-side window shattered under the impact.'We'll manage," Veronica promised. "They're more awkward than heavy. You worry too much.."A highly efficient directional microphone was synchronized with the camera," Noah explained. "We've.."Bad enough," he admitted.."Never let him adopt you," Micky said. "Even Leilani Klonk is preferable to Leilani Doom.."This globe rotates on a spindle of gold. A peglegged, parrot-petting pirate said exactly that, in one tale or."A stripper. Such a cliché." Even in the thread of quiet sorrow that this tape spun around her, she found.Something isn't right, the silence too deep. Perhaps Curtis's parents have awakened.

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