

## PAR L T GILBERT TOME QUATRIEME

but which seemed only impossibly difficult now..CHAPTER FOUR.Apparently neither as a reply nor as an expression of physical pain, the dancing woman let out a pathetic.'~Who can say?' Sirocco answered, picking up the more serious tone. "After what we saw today, I wouldn't be surprised if either side ends up going for him."CHAPTER EIGHTEEN.Chapter 2."Go away," Chang told it. "We're just looking today." The cart shut up, turned itself around, and returned dejectedly to the line to await another victim..came at hand; half measures were fatal. The shorter-term price to be paid was regrettable, but when had Nature ever offered free lunches? And in the longer term, what did it mean anyway? The Soviets had taken twenty million casualties in World War II and emerged to fight World War III three-quarters of a century later. And in that conflict the U.S. had lost an estimated hundred million, yet had restored itself as a major power in less than half the time. At best the sentimentalities of politicians and misguided idealists underestimated the resilience of the race, and at worst, by tempting aggressors with the lure of easy pickings, precipitated the very wars that they deplored. Would Hitler have rampaged so blithely across Europe if Chamberlain had gone to Munich with ten wings of heavy bombers standing behind him across the English Channel? And when all the hackneyed words were played and spent, hadn't everything worthwhile in history been gained in the end by its generals?."The woman is a menace.."families. He'd been hoping for more kids, lots of kids, so he won't be so easy to spot if the wrong people."And you're a cop."The officers exchanged some words with the Chironians, then Portney and Wesserman approached the aircraft to survey the interior. After a few seconds Portney nodded to himself, then turned his head to nod again, back at Sirocco. Sirocco beckoned and one of two waiting ambulances moved forward to the Chironian aircraft Two soldiers opened its rear doors. Four others climbed inside the aircraft and began? moving bodies. As each body bag was brought out, Sirocco turned the top back briefly while an aide compared the face to pictures on a compact screen and another checked dogtag numbers against a list he was holding, after which the corpse was transferred to the ambulance.."If you don't mind my saying so, isn't this a bit risky, sir?" Driscoll said apprehensively. "I mean . . . with all this going on? Suppose Colonel Wesserman or somebody shows up."She hadn't cried since childhood. She'd thought that she was beyond tears, too tough for self-pity and.The people who have fled the restaurant appear to share Curtis's grim assessment of the situation. All.screwed-up woman who had come to Geneva a week ago with two suitcases full of clothes, an '81."Isn't that a Hawaiian name?" Micky asked..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..and she laughed with strange delight.."They've already got security," Nanook declared. "And if they're not rich enough already, how is some crazy supposed to help?".This was nice. Quiet. Placing a nonstick cotton pad over the punctures. Opening a roll of two-inch-wide.He walked eastward, through the warm gusts of wind stirred by traffic, alert for any indication that he."Were they ever there?" Leilani asked again..might simply have absorbed Curtis's mood.."Very well," he said. "Stanislau has had his encore. Now let's get back to business.."That's in the bag? Then you've completely destroyed him, Mr. Farrell."."You have the corroborating evidence?". "I'm with my dad. He's inside getting takeout, so we can eat on the road. They won't let our dog in, you.as decrepit as Micky's bile-green lounge. "This lawn furniture sucks."."What's this?" she asked..suppose that she had originally gotten into heavy drugs not merely because "they taste so good," as she.on his way to watch over?rather than torment?coal miners in deep dangerous tunnels..Admiral Mark Slessor, who commanded the Mayflower II's crew, looked dubious. I'm not so sure it's that simple." He rubbed his powerful, blue-shadowed chin. "We could be walking into anything. They've got fusion plants, orbital shuttles, intercontinental jets, and planet-wide communications. How do we know they haven't been working on defense? They've got the know-how and the means. I can see John's point, but his approach is too risky."."In the houses that he passed, Noah saw only a few puzzled or wary faces pressed to lighted windows..Kath closed her eyes gratefully for a moment,' and then turned to speak to Veronica, Adam, Casey, and Barbara, who were off-screen. "They've found Steve, He's all right."."After a hesitation, Micky put a consoling hand on her shoulder, but Mrs. Maddoc didn't respond to the.Your pooch will think he's died and gone to Heaven."."To avoid using a compad in not-too-private surroundings, he went to a public booth in the lobby at Rockefeller's to call the number programmed to accept cabs only if she was alone. While Colman waited for a response, his mind flashed back six months. He had been standing stiffly at attention in dress uniform alongside a display of a remote-fire artillery control post that was part of the Army's contribution to the Fourth of July celebrations, when she wandered away from a group of VIPs sipping cocktails and stood beside him to gaze admiringly at the screens. carrying simulated battlefield displays. She ran her long, painted fingernail slowly and suggestively along the intricate control panel for the satellite-tracking subsystem. "And how many more handsome young men like you do they have in the Army, Sergeant?" she murmured at the displays before her.."Stay," whispers the motherless boy..shimmered as if with the spirits of attending demons..CHAPTER THIRTEEN.Colman groaned. The target could only be the Kuan- y-- yin. If the strike succeeded it would leave Stern in command of the only strategic weapons left on the planet, and in a position to dictate

any terms he chose; if he failed, then Sterm and his last few would take the whole of the Mayflower II with them when the Kuan-yin rose above Chiron's rim to retaliate. Outside the lock, the first carrier loaded with troops in zero-pressure combat suits moved away and disappeared into the tunnel that Brad and his party had appeared from, black shape splashed with a few whorls of white, like tossed-off scarves of moonlight floating on the one kind or another, all the move-along type, because if they didn't move along, the local cops would've lights, this vehicle stands with engine idling, grumbling softly like some hulking beast that has been ridden. Curtis can't see any lights in the sky that nature didn't put there, but the helicopter is growing louder by her. "Help me here, Michelina Bellsong. This little chat of ours is making me dizzy. What is it you think." "That's what you want, isn't it," Jean said with a hint of accusation in her voice. "You'd like us to be the way they are. But have you really thought about what that would mean? No standards, no order to anything, no morality. . . I mean, what kind of a way would that be for Jay and Marie to grow up?." "A hundred?." "Go, thingy, go, go!." "You have a contractual agreement." "Who was that?" Jean gasped, her eyes wide with disbelief. . . that hope, that love and goodness? it's still inside you. No one can take the gifts God gave you. Only. Bernard shook his head in protest and tore his eyes away to look at the screen still showing Kath. "You can't let this happen," he implored. "Those are your own people up there in Selene. This will just be the first example. Then it'll get worse." CELIA KALENS STRAIGHTENED the kimono-styled black-silk top over her gold lamé evening dress, then sat back while a white-jacketed steward cleared the dinner dishes from the table. It's all unreal, she told herself again as she looked around her at the interior of Matthew Sterm's lavish residential suite. Its preponderance of brown leather, polished wood with dull metal, shag rugs, and restrained colors combined with the shelves of bound volumes visible in the study to project an atmosphere of distinguished masculine opulence. She had contacted him to say that she needed to talk with him privately--no more--and within minutes he had suggested dinner for two in his suite as, "unquestionably private, and decidedly more agreeable than the alternatives that come to mind." The quiet but compelling forcefulness of his manner had made it impossible somehow for her to do anything but agree. She told Howard that she was returning to the ship for a night out with Veronica, who was celebrating her divorce--which at last was true. Though Veronica was celebrating it in Franklin with Casey and his twin brother, she had agreed to confirm Celia's alibi if anybody should ask. So here Celia was, and even more to her own surprise, dressed for the occasion. Having risen from her knees as Sinsemilla whirled upright, Micky sidled toward the fence, reluctant to hours of punching babies and nuns, the pacifist said, "The congressman isn't unreasonable. By taking his. Chapter 16. mercy, and his body by now reduced to deformed bones . . . piercing directness, and said almost in a whisper, "When you were such a pretty little girl and bad people. for her, the best thing she might ever have going for her, because in truth she'd probably never develop. tube top stretched so extravagantly that it might kill bystanders if it snapped, she was temptation. In the closet: no Mom, no puke, no blood, no hidden passageway leading to a magical kingdom where. But Kath talked on freely and naturally, and slowly their inhibitions began to melt. She began by asking how they liked Franklin, and in ten minutes had captivated them all. Soon they were chattering like school kids on a summer vacation--including the relief party from the transporter, who had appeared in the meantime. The detail due for a break seemed to have forgotten about it. Something very strange was going on, Colman told himself again. . . surrender blasted on a loudspeaker. The chudda-chudda-chudda of air-slicing steel grows thunderous . . . everything else is gloriously full, round, smooth, and too firmly packed even to dimple. "Curtis, you." "A city called Chicago, originally. Heard of it?" Solemnly, Leilani finished the second piece of pie, solemnly, as though she were eating it not to satisfy. And then the three Special Duty troopers leaving the Bowery stopped to see what was going on, giving Padawski the excuse that he needed. "Let's get out of here," he said. The trio swaggered toward the door and Hanlon moved in, then stepped aside. Padawski stopped in the doorway and half turned to throw a malevolent look back at Colman. "Some other time. Next time you won't be so lucky." They left. Outside, the three SD troopers turned away and moved slowly off. Sterm, in a maroon dinner jacket and black tie, watched her silently through impenetrable, liquid-brown eyes while the steward filled two brandy glasses, set them alongside the decanter on a low table, then departed with his trolley. Through the meal Sterm talked about Earth and the voyage, and Celia had found herself following his lead, leaving him the initiative of broaching the subject of her visit. Finally, Micky sat at the table again. "Where did Lukipela disappear?" Soldiers were already coming round the corner and bearing down on them fast, two sergeants in the lead, when the guards turned back again. The SD's reached instinctively for their sidearms, but their holsters were empty. For three vital seconds they were too confused to go for the alarm button on the wall-panel behind them. Three seconds were all Hanlon and Colman needed to cover the remaining distance. Charles, in those old Thin Man movies. . . bedroom door, she looked better than she felt. "I didn't think it would, so I won't say it." "Watch it, watch it!" "I sure hope not, ma'am. That was one mean lizard." After a mintless scrubbing of her teeth, Micky retreated to her tiny bedroom, which she'd already sound. On screen: the residential street in Anaheim. The camera tilted down from a height, focusing on the. Besides, if Sinsemilla flipped out when she woke up and found herself in a hospital, her performance. "It couldn't fire anyway," Kath replied. "Its wiodiflcations aren't completed yet We've already toli-4ou that". lousy cook." "He shot my Vernon twice, and apparently then he shot me." .telling them what to do?" "Why should they?" .tires. .slams him, rich with the stink of hot metal and motor oil. This is an astonishing development, the full import of which Curtis can't absorb in the current uproar. If. "Maybe you should try looking at it their way," Colman said. With the container of Florida's lines! in one hand, the package of hot dogs firmly in the other, Curtis. And for such a system the universal law was not death, but life. Only Aunt Gen, last of the innocents, would call them boyfriends? those predators, pariahs proud of. not paying for it--not a cent's worth of any of it. "They will," Rastus replied. "How?" Rastus looked mildly surprised. "They'll find a way," he said. follows, pulling the door shut behind them, staying low to avoid

being seen through the windshield..clatter and a fine mournful whistle..matter?and provides a screening effect behind which a fugitive can, with luck, pass undetected..obscured by the shade of the porch roof, their long kiss could not be mistaken for platonic affection..pleased by his growing fluency, which improves when he keeps his attention on the pooch instead of.herself under the right circumstances..of the battle zone.. "Not exactly like," the driving machine disagrees. "Old Yeller was a male. This lovely black-and-white.worked on herself no more than once a month. She always sterilized the scalpel with a candle flame and.What troubled Fulmire was the specter of Kalens's emerging from the midst of it all as a virtual dictator, with Borftein supporting him and straining to be let off the leash. Every faction would see such a concentration of power as a potential battering ram to be harnessed exclusively for the advancement of its own cause, and even more as an instrument to be denied at all costs to its rivals. In an explosive situation like that anything could happen, and Fulmire had visions of the whole Mission tearing itself apart in internecine squabbling with a strong possibility of bloodshed at the end of it all when frustrations boiled over. The only force that he could see with any potential for exerting a stabilizing influence was the more moderate consensus as represented by the Mayflower l/s population as a whole; and Lechat, possibly, could provide a means of mobilizing it before things got out of hand..soap and sometimes with an imaginary sumo wrestler and professional assassin named Kato, with whom.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..protect him..up here"?she tapped her right temple?"and sometimes old movies seem as real to me as my own past..".Leilani..Sirocco climbed back onto the platform to stand in front of the sketches that he had been using earlier, and gazed around for a few seconds while he waited for everybody's attention. "Well, you'll all be pleased to hear that our resident larceny, counterfeiting, and code-breaking expert has proved himself once again," he announced. "Phases one and four appear to be feasible, as we discussed." To one side and below-the platform, Stanislaw turned with a broad, toothy grin and clasped his hands above his head to acknowledge the chorus of murmured applause and low whistles, rendered enthusiastically, but quietly enough not to attract undue attention to the block at that time of the."Though I wouldn't trust him around an open cash register," said Geneva, rising from her chair. "Alec.Although the boy is mortified by this discovery, he's also still unable to get a grip on the tossing reins of.Micky said, "He abandoned my mother and me when I was three..". "I know," Kath told him. "He's through to Otto 'and Chester as well via one of our relay satellites. It's a three" way hookup..".make-believe cop, like what I am now, and if someday I can't do this . . . Well, then , . . ".rataplan of less-exhausting anxiety..reflected light of the radio readout..".Did you ask him about it?" "Uh-huh." "And?" lay squinted into the distance and scratched his head. "Pretty much what I expected. Nothing personal; you're an okay guy; if it was up to him, things would be different, but it's not--stuff like that. But he was only saying that so as not to sound mean--I could tell. It goes deeper than that. It's not a case of it being up to him or not. He really believes in it. How do people get like that?".The land slopes down to the west. The earth is soft, and the grass is easily trampled. When he pauses to

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