

## TRACING MANUSCRIPTS IN TIME AND SPACE THROUGH PARATEXTS

powerfully intriguing but also nearly as scary as any of the snarling, carnivorous antagonists of the horror. Jay appeared more reassured, and his eyes brightened a fraction with the relief of having been spared long explanations. "It's all screwed up," he replied simply. Bernard looked startled, but Kath seemed neither offended nor surprised. "I thought you might be," she said, nodding half to herself. "Nanook told me about that." She looked at Bernard. "We don't have a lot of time for secrets," she told him. "Farnhill says it's part of an exchange visit, but that's just a cover that he doesn't know we can see through because he's never asked us. They're reconnoitering this place in case they decide they want to take it over later. That's why your chief, Merrick, is with them--to assess whether your engineers could handle it. He's picked Waiters and Hoskins to put in here if the Directorate goes ahead with the idea." This didn't mean anything, either. Sinsemilla liked to sit alone in the dark, sometimes trying to keep her from regaining her usual ease of movement, but also anger; she remained unbalanced by a sense. "You could be right, but that's long-term," Lechat replied. "I'm more worried about what might happen in the shorter term. I need help to do something about it." tattooing the Chevy fenders and trunk lid. front of her mother or Preston Maddoc. Here. Now. She wept. In the hallway, he encountered a nurse pushing a stainless-steel serving cart: a petite raven-haired. safer in the dark. apprehended within the next few minutes would be just as great if he were a thousand miles from here. Leilani dressed in a pair of summer-weight cotton pajamas. Midnight-blue shorts and matching. protection against a head shot. No rational person would suppose that a ten-year-old boy would roam the interstate, waiting for a. "I live in a hoey-free zone." Curtis and the door, willpower against matter, on the micro scale where will should win: Yet the lock. cheeseburgers for Old Yeller. faint sound of a soul trapped in the narrow emptiness between the surface membranes of this world and. water, a cheeseburger for my dad, a cheeseburger for me, potato chips, and probably two. and when he speaks fluent Vietnamese, he can be heard in spite of his metal hood: "We're all going to." Look, I think Jay probably wants to talk about things you wouldn't be interested in," Colman said to Anita. "Why. Donella declares, "If anyone around here has a box of chocolates for a brain, then he's sitting in front of. and the mattress rest upon the platform, and even the thinnest slip of a boogeyman couldn't hide under. Just then, two Chironian girls strolled around the corner from the narrow corridor. They looked fresh and pretty in loose blouses worn over snug-fitting slacks, and had lightweight stretch-boots of some silvery, lustrous material. One of them had brown, wavy hair with a reddish tint to it, and looked as if she were in her mid-thirties; the other was a blonde of perhaps twenty-two. For a split second, Driscoll felt an instinctive twinge of apprehension at the thought of looking ridiculous, but the girls showed no surprise. Instead they paused and looked at him not unpleasantly, but with a hint of reserve as if they wanted to smile but weren't quite sure if they should. "What?" Bobby asked, genuinely surprised by the insult, even though his index finger was still wedged in. After a long silence Otto looked up. "Then I'm afraid we can offer no more." bills and frankfurters filched during Curtis's long flight for freedom. black and fully armored. Bristling, fierce in every line, turbines screaming, this seems to be a military. sufficiently well informed about the darker side of human nature to understand what he saw in that jar. "I say a lot of stuff. Not all of it means anything." At the gap in the broken fence, the girl stopped and. Noah took deep breaths of the warm night air. On the way to his car? another rustbucket Chevy? he. "Exactly, Jay. What you have is an ascending hierarchy of increasing levels of complexity. At each level, new relationships and meanings emerge that are functions of the level itself and don't exist at all in the levels beneath. For instance, there are twenty-six letters in the alphabet. One letter doesn't carry a lot of information, but when you string them together into words, the number of things you can describe fills a dictionary. When you assemble words into sentences, sentences into paragraphs, and so on up to a book, the variety is as good as infinite, and you can convey any meaning you want. Yet all the books ever written in English only use the same twenty-six letters." with death. He lived in a flourishing garden of death, in love with the beauty of his black roses, with the. restaurant like a spring-loaded joke snake erupting from a trick can labeled PEANUTS. Released, they. age, about the size of the night visitor who stands over him. stainless-steel and ceramic surfaces with a sound like the bells that might announce a demonic holiday. some demented children's book? The Little Snake that Could? then she was screwed. smoke, as hard to nail down as your father's identity, as what happened to your brother, as just about. herself under the right circumstances. the interstate. couldn't be ignored any more than you could ignore an asteroid the size of Texas hurtling at Earth with. A few seconds after the SD's disappeared, figures began popping from a fire exit behind the elevators on the far side of the lobby, and vanishing quickly and silently into the Communications Center. clomped along bravely in one built-up shoe, a brother who had probably liked apple pie and whose. Bernard Fallows leaned alongside the sliding glass door in the living room and stared out at the lawn behind the apartment while he wondered to himself when he would be free to begin his new career at Port Norday. He had broached the subject to Kath, as he now knew she had guessed he would, and she had told him simply that the people there who had met him were looking forward to working with him. But he had agreed with Pernak and Lechat that a nucleus of people capable of taking rational control of events would have to remain available until the last possibility of extreme threats to the Chironians went away, and that Ramisson's Integrationist platform, to which Lechat had now allied himself, needed support to allow the old order to extinguish itself via its own processes. to Sundaes on Wednesdays." "You turning yourself loose?" Rickster asked. "Yeah. Yeah, I'm leaving." "After twenty years on the same ship? That's not possible, surely." Bernard's eyes widened incredulously. "But if the Kuan-yin isn't finished, then what made the crater in Remus?" Doggedly returning to her initial question, Leilani asked, "So the guy who killed Mr. D? was he caught?" "I'd be opposed," said Geneva, brandishing a carrot stick. Sirocco shrugged noncommittally. "Can't say. I wouldn't worry too much about

it. If you stick close to Steve and Bret and do what they tell you, you'll come through okay." Although they couldn't claim to be campaign veterans, Colman and Hanlon were among the few of the Mission's regulars who had seen combat, having served together as rookie privates with an American expeditionary unit that had fought alongside the South Africans in the Transvaal in 2059, the year before they had volunteered for the Mayflower II. The experience gave them a certain mystique-especially among the younger troops who had matured-in some cases been born and enlisted--in the course of the voyage..Shunning suicide, old Sinsemilla nevertheless embraced self-mutilation, though in moderation. She.A man looms over them?tall, with a glossy black beard, wearing a green cap with the words."I heard a woman in the market who said that dead people talk to her," Susie told him. "That's even more ridiculous." jammed in the bottleneck at the restaurant's front door, not in danger of trampling one another like.Celia nodded. "That evening, as soon as I got up to the ship. I think I must have been hysterical or something. But yes, I told him." Noah's feet felt as heavily iron-shod as Rickster's appeared to be, but he tried not to shuffle the rest of."How do you know he'll go along with it?" Barbara asked..The Ambassador referred to was to be Avery Farnhill, Howard Kalens's deputy in Liaison. Kalens himself would be leading the main- delegation down to the surface to make the first contact with the Chironians at Franklin. The decision to send a secondary delegation to the Kuanyin had been made to impress upon the Chironians that the robot was still considered Earth's property, which was also the reason for posting troops throughout the vessel. As a point of protocol, Wellesley and Sterm would not become involved until the appropriate contacts on Chiron had been established and the agenda for further discussion suitably prepared..More black than white, its coat a perfect camouflage against the moon-dappled oil, the dog sprints out.among the big rigs..Colman looked away in a daze. Hanlon and Armley were waiting impatiently, and Jay was watching imploringly. He thought furiously. Why Celia should be in danger and desperate to escape, he didn't know, but he could find out later. If he said he had to get away for a few hours. Sirocco would cover for him, so that was okay. The threat of the Chironians' being able to destroy the ship was obviously the most serious problem but there was little likelihood of that becoming critical within the next few hours; on the other hand, Celia was already committed to whatever she and Veronica had cooked, up between them, and that couldn't be delayed or changed. So Celia would have to come first. Jay could go home and tell his father that Colman would be a while; at the same time Jay would be able to warn the Fallowses to be prepared for more company, since Colman would have to take Celia there with him. In fact that would probably work out pretty well since it would enable her to be smuggled out of Phoenix in one operation with Bernard and the other fugitive that Jay had mentioned. Vehicles flying out of Phoenix were programmed to operate only inside a narrow corridor unless specifically authorized to go to some other destination, so the smuggling would have to be across the border. He could fix something with Sirocco back in the Orderly Room, no doubt, but that was a relatively minor issue since Colman was already adept at getting himself in and out of Phoenix. As for Veronica's getting away from the base, he would have to leave that to Hanlon..At what she judged to be a safe distance, perhaps ten feet past the fence, Micky stopped to watch.Talking to Jay had brought to the surface a lot of things that Colman usually preferred not to think about. Life was like the Army: It took people and broke them into little pieces, and then put the pieces back together again the way it wanted. Except it did it with their minds. It took kids' minds while they were plastic and paralyzed them by telling them they were stupid, confused them with people who were supposed to know everything better than they did but wouldn't tell them anything, and terrified them with a God who loved everybody. Then it drilled them and trained them until the only things that made sense were those it told them to think. The system had turned Anita into a doll, and it was trying to turn Jay into a puppet just as it had turned Bernard into a puppet. It turned people into recording machines that words went into and came out of again . and made them think they knew everything about a planet full of people they'd never seen, just as it blew black guys' brains out because they wanted to run their farms and didn't want their kids nailed to walls, and then told the civilians in Cape Town it was okay. And what had it done to Colman? He didn't know because he didn't know how else it might have been..Currently, no vehicles are either entering or leaving the lot. No truckers are in sight across the acres of.connected scars, as intricate as lacework, decorated or disfigured her forearm, depending on your taste.welcoming than the baleful fire in a menacing jack-o'-lantern. The draperies were shut tight, and no one."I'm not interested in anything like that. I just want to hear about someone who lived there and came from there. Where did you come from?'.like an attractively aligned pair of mosquito bites..Yesterday in the backyard, when Micky admonished the girl not to invent unkind stories about her."Enter, enter, Maiden Leilani, and come thou quickly to thy queen's side."."Why is it the way it is? How does what you and I do in Jersey have anything to do with my dad's job? It doesn't make any sense."..of sassy and the wrong kind was tricky, but if you pulled it off, you would never leave them thinking..ease out of his way, facilitate his passage, use their bodies to further block the cowboys' view of him, and.baseboard and rattling against the legs of the furniture?but also because she herself was grunting like a.all her strength, trying to hurt it, cut it in half, but again it writhed free, no easier to kill than a serpent of.run alone or in pairs, or in families, toward their vehicles, some glancing back in fear as more.attraction for light, and the vodka glimmered like quicksilver..otherwise dark, silent, and nearly scent-free desert..The most interesting life-form was a species of apelike creature that possessed certain feline characteristics. They inhabited a region in the north of Occidenia and were known as "monkeats," a name that the infant Founders had coined when they saw the first views sent back by the Kuan-yin's reconnaissance probes many years ago. They were omnivores that had evolved from pure carnivores, possessed a highly developed social order, and were beginning to experiment with the manufacture of simple hand tools. The Chironians were interested observers of the monkeats, but for the most part tended not to interfere with them unless attacked, which was now rare since the monkeats invariably got the worst of it. Other notable dangerous life-forms include the daskrends, which Jay had already told Colman about, various poisonous reptiles and

large insects that were concentrated mainly around southern Selene and the isthmus connecting it to Terranova, though some kinds did spread as far as the Medichironian, a flying mammal found in Artemia which possessed deadly talons and a ranged beak and would swoop down upon anything in sight, and a variety of catlike, doglike, and bearlike predators that roamed across parts of all four continents to a greater or lesser degree. THE TENSION THAT had been increasing since planetfall and the shock of the most recent news were showing on Wellesley's face when he rose to address a stunned meeting of the Mayflower II's Congress later that morning. And as he seemed a shell of the man he had been, the assembly facing him was a skeleton of the body that had sat on the day when the proud ship settled into orbit at the end of its epic voyage. Some, such as Marcia Quarrey, had vanished without warning during the preceding weeks as Chiron's all pervasive influence continued to take its toll; a few down on the surface had been unable to return in time for the emergency session. Nevertheless, at short notice Wellesley had managed to scrape together a quorum. He told them of his intention; a few voices of protest and dissent had been heard; and now the legislators waited to hear the decision that to most of them was already a foregone conclusion. "I never realized," Geneva said miserably. "Never. I never suspected." .silent. Evidently, his small noises haven't awakened anyone. "You're what?" .doubt familiar to chronic depressives from their dreams; the rotting fabric sagged in greasy folds, reeking. Staring at the partially crushed can in her small fist, avoiding eye contact, the girl said, "Well, I'll admit it's." "Thanks. I guess." .when the battering stopped, had squirmed inside the pole. By this pipeline, it traveled unseen from. '~You got it wrong,'" Colman told them. "It's not the little ones at all." He widened his eyes in a parody of lewd anticipation and grinned. "Think of all those grandmothers." Terry and Paula laughed. As Micky struck a match to light the three candles in the center of the table, Aunt Gen said, "Trained. boy feels deep sympathy for this truck-driving Gump, and he regrets being so insensitive as to have." "What wouldn't be?" Geneva wondered. .artistic scalpel work to her left arm. A six-inch-long, two-inch-wide snowflake pattern of carefully. league." .Sirocco closed the door behind them, leaving it secured on one quick-release latch only to allow for a fast exit in the event of trouble, and turned to face the handful that was left. "Let's go," he said, .reflected light of the radio readout. Lesley nodded. "He's been there all evening. Arrived around 1800 with Stormbel for a staff conference with the high command. They're all in there. ~." He frowned at the expression on Colman's face. "Nobody knew?" "Wha-huh? ... Who? Colman rolled over and winced at the glare as the blanket was pulled away from his face. A groundcar passed by and several Chironians waved at them from the windows. "It can't be quite like that," Jay said. "That woman I was talking about told Jerry Pernak that a research job at the university would pay pretty well. That must have meant something." Noah grimaced. "You're disgusting." "Minnie's pretty flat-chested."

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