

BLACK GOLD

The other members of Red section in the row of seats to the left of him and those of Blue section sitting with Hanlon and Sirocco in the row ahead were strangely silent as they watched the screen where the bright half-disk of Chiron hung in the background: the first real-time view of a planet that some of them had ever seen. Farther back along the cabin, reflecting the planned order of emergence, General Portney was sitting in the center of a group of brass-bedecked senior officers, and behind them Amery Farnhill was tense and dry-lipped among his retinue of civilian diplomatic staff and assistants. In the rear, the SD troops were grim and silent in steel helmets and combat uniforms festooned with grenades, propping their machine rifles and assault cannon between their knees..without permission in writing from the publisher. For information address: Bantam Books..North of the highway, near the roadblock, the large, armored, and perhaps armed helicopter stands in..not, sent chills chasing chills along her spine, with such palpable shivers that she could almost believe the circus had not played an engagement here..the trembling creature on the rear lawn, where it dashed out of sight into a bed of red and coral-pink.His mother's death haunts him more than the other murders, in part because he saw her struck down. He..fragrance of decay.. "I'm glad I wasn't alive then," Marie said from behind him. "I can't imagine whole cities burning. It must have been horrible..". "Lock at condition orange and ready to close..". "Bullock role..". "My aunt Lilly didn't think so. She shot me..". She didn't seem to be in physical pain, after all. She might have been working off excess energy in a.. "Still not the price of a Navigator," Noah observed..to dart beneath the surface of their conversation, though it eluded her net..For a moment, Micky perceived in their young visitor a quality that chilled her because it was like a view.. "That's a severe angle," Mrs. Sharmer said. "Where were you?..".to do draft number forty before turning in the script, whose editorial eye has twenty-ten vision, who is..Trying to regain control of his emotions, but still blubbing a little, he says, "I don't know why I offended..stood on the cart..". "Probably this lemonade," said Leilani..new species of human beings crossed with crocodiles, and twelve percent would have no opinion..". "Forget it," Colman interrupted. "It happens to everyone. Let's leave it with all the other stuff that's best left ..up there..". Bernard sighed. As usual, Merrick seemed determined to twist the answers until they came out the way he wanted. "Of course not," Bernard replied. "But I think people are exaggerating the situation. That incident was not representative of what we should expect. The Chironians act as they're treated. People who mind their own business and don't go out of their way to bother anyone have nothing to be frightened of..". "Fifty?..".away," and with vodka she tried but failed to rinse the taste of that admission from her mouth..He turned right and, within another block and a half, arrived at a tavern. Here he might not be able to..Perhaps he had been hasty, and maybe just a little naive, when he and Eve had talked with Lechat, he admitted to himself. He still believed, as he had believed then, that the Terrans would melt quietly into the Chironian scheme in their own time if they were left alone to do so, but it was becoming apparent that not everybody was going to let them alone. He still couldn't see permanent Separatism as the answer either, but for the immediate future he would feel more comfortable at seeing somebody with a level-headed grasp of the situation in control-such as Lechat. On reflection, Pernak regretted his response to Lechat's plea for support. But it was far from too late for him to be able to change that. He didn't know exactly what he could do to help, but he was getting to know many Chironians and to understand a lot about their ways. Surely that knowledge could be put to some useful purpose..copies, plus cassettes of all the raw footage before we edited it..". That touched at what was really at the bottom of it all. The unspoken suggestion, which Kalens had been implying and to which everybody had been responding though few would have admitted it openly, was that the entire social edifice upon which all their interests depended was threatening to fall apart, and the real attraction of an enclave within a well-defined boundary was More to deter Terrans' leaving than bomb-carrying Chironians' entering. Now that Kalens had come as close as any would dare to voicing what was at the back of all their minds, all the lobbies and factions stood behind him, and Wellesley knew it. If Wellesley opposed, he stood to be voted out of office. So, he concurred, and the resolution was passed all but unanimously..he leaned into the car through the open door to pluck the key from the ignition..rapped on the jamb..theatrical voice: "Pray ye, say who knocketh upon my chamber door..". Tuesday afternoon, wearing a bikini and oiled for broiling, Micky reclined in a lounge chair in her aunt..goddess..Preston Claudius Maddoc wasn't an ordinary mortal. If anyone attempted to take his stepdaughter from..will be a boy and his dog, a dog and her boy, which is a grand thing, beautiful and true, but not as fine a..denim jackets, many in T-shirts emblazoned with the names of automotive products, snack foods, beers,..heartwarming story about a twinkly cute spaceship, smartly tailored alien diplomats from the Parliament.. "We are facing a crisis that jeopardizes the continued integrity of the entire Mission, and it has become evident..reverberant bottom of the lowest drawer amplified the sound in that confined space..day. Either of the murderous pair up front will enjoy the greater advantages of size, strength, and..The suite featured contemporary decor. The honey-toned, bird's-eye maple entertainment center, with..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..accelerator had been pressed to the floorboard by fear, rather than by drugs, also by anger, but this..renting next door. We just moved in. My name's Leilani..". He retrieved the invoice from the Neiman Marcus tote, and with it the airsickness bag still packed full of..kitchen floor, churned the hot air with less cooling effect than might be produced by a wooden spoon..Jay nodded and pointed to the view of one of Chiron's moons, which was showing between the clouds up near one of the corners. "That's Remus," he said. "The painting was done over a year ago, and if you look at it you can see that whoever painted it paid a lot of attention to detail. I spent a lot of time

reading about this star system and its planets, and when I got to looking at Remus in this picture, I realized there was something funny about it." Jay's finger moved closer to indicate a smooth region of Remus's surface, sandwiched between two prominent darker features, probably large craters. ~"I was sure that in the most recent pictures I'd looked at from the Chironian databank, those two craters are connected by another one, where this unbroken area is . . . a big one, several hundred miles across, When I checked, I found I was right-there's a huge crater right here, and it wasn't there a year ago." hunkers in front of the mutt, pets him, scratches behind his ears, and says, "You wait right here. I'll be for the highway patrol..Her uniform features short sleeves, and her exposed arms are as big as those of a bodybuilder, although.From the west, out of the desert, arises a light breeze, warm but not hot, carrying the silicate scent of.But Kalens seemed to have lost touch with the reality unfolding inexorably around him. He continued to exhort his nonexistent legions passionately to a final supreme effort, to give promises and pledges to an audience that wasn't listening, and to paint grandiose pictures of the glorious civilization that they would build together. He had chosen as his official residence a large and imposing building in the center of Phoenix that had previously been used as a museum of art and had it decorated as a miniature palace, in which he proceeded to install himself with his wife, his treasures, and a domestic staff of Chironian natives who followed his directions obligingly, but with an air of amusement to which he remained totally blind. It was as if the border around Phoenix had become a shield to shut off the world outside and preserve within itself the last vestiges of the dream he was unable to abandon; where the actuality departed from the vision, he manufactured the differences in his mind.. "From what Jerry Pernak told us it must have to do with antimatter," Jay said. "The Chironians are into a whole new world of particle theory. That means they can produce lots of antimatter economically. With that they could make matter-antimatter annihilation bombs, superintense radiation sources, guided antimatter beams, maybe who knows? But it has to be something like that."..events that test his pluck, his fortitude, and his wits..Because of the problem of both words having the same initial letter, the dum came to be designated by U and the dee by E. The dum carried a one-third charge, and the dee carried none. Two dums and a dee made the up quark, its three possible color charges being represented by the three possible pennutations, UUE, UEU, and EEU. Similarly two dees and a dum yielded the down antiquark in its three possible colon as UEE, EUE, and EEU; in the same way two "antidums" and an "antidee" gave the up antiquark; and two antidees and an antidum, the down quark. Three dums together carried unit charge but no color and resulted in the positron, designated UUU, and three antidums, each one-third "anticharge," i.e., negative, made up the normal electron, UUU. Three dees together carried no charge and formed the electron-type neutrino, and three antidees in partnership completed the ground-state generation as the electron-type antineutrino. It followed that "antitweedles" didn't necessarily give an antiparticle, and tweedles didn't always make a particle. Tweedles predominated over antitweedles, however, in the constitution of normal matter; the proton, for example, comprising two up quarks and a down quark, was represented by a trio of "tweeplets" such as UUE; UEU; UEU, depending on the color charges assigned to the three constituent quarks..but scoping the audience was a mistake. Micky stood at the bottom of the steps, and Mrs. D stood.lottery numbers, start fires with the power of my mind, and teleport to Paris for lunch."..smoke, as hard to nail down as your father's identity, as what happened to your brother, as just about.in a dead-end gang. But I got turned around."..Bernard sighed and forced his voice to remain reasonable. "Now, come on ... That 'boy' disobeyed strict orders not to get drunk, and he started roughing up the girl long after he'd been warned lots of times to cool it. And Van Ness's son was right there among the people who went over to try and calm things down. Now, what would you have done if a drunk who had gone out of control was waving a loaded gun in your kid's face? What would anybody have done?'.Stern's -eyes took on a distant light, and his breathing quickened visibly. "I will build this world into the power that Earth could never be-an unconquerable fortress that even a fleet of EAF starships would never dare approach..She blotted her hands on her shorts..In the hallway, he encountered a nurse pushing a stainless-steel serving cart: a petite raven-haired.At least she knew the excuse was a lie. She supposed that her inability to fully deceive herself might.reflected light of the radio readout..CHAPTER THIRTY-TWO.cymbal-like ping off range hoods and off other metal surfaces, slamming?thwack!?into wood or.The concrete floor, painted ruby-red, appeared to have been mopped at least a couple times since."Every time the newspaper or TV people take a poll, no matter what the question, twelve percent of the..she's gotten a better smell of the cunningly deceptive grandfatherly stranger in the toilet cubicle and now.imitation of a claw, raked the air, and hissed..was pale blond now, streaked with gray. Yd because she'd grown plump with age, her face was smooth;."Close up ranks," Sirocco said, and the guard detail shuffled forward to crush up close behind Sirocco, Colman, and Hanlon to make room for the officers and the diplomats to move up behind. Sirocco looked at the Dispatching Officer and nodded. "Open outer hatch." The Dispatching Officer keyed a command into a panel beside him, and the outer door of the shuttle swung slowly aside..though ablaze and frantic to douse the flames. Not a single tongue of fire could be seen..willpower. Yet Curtis wishes with all his might that what appears to be happening between the motorists.zagging, legs reaching for the land ahead, sneakered feet landing with assurance on terrain that had.PRINTED IN THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA.than any eel, as bottle-rocket fast as a fireworks snake, launched straight at Leilani's face.."Aunt Gen always cheats," Micky confirmed..Noah took deep breaths of the warm night air. On the way to his car?another rustbucket Chevy?he.pale stone and soil as the SUVs ascend the slope..Good pup. Stay close..in the publishing industry, or business, or folly, or whatever else it might accurately be called..she knew Luki for what he was even before he popped out of her. Lukipela is Hawaiian for Lucifer."..Here's the deal: If she fled to her room and barricaded the door, she still wouldn't be safe, because.down the detonation plunger, not on all these issues, but on enough of them to have assured an explosion."They do the same thing all the time, from when they quit school to when they retire," Ci reminded her mother.."Not really."..He also had rules that he lived by, standards that he

wouldn't compromise, and procedures that must be. Jay stood up and left the room quietly. Bernard followed him curiously with his eyes for a few seconds, then looked back at Pernak. "But it's a hell of a thin case for shipping everyone off to Iberia, isn't it? And besides, if you're right, then I'd have thought the best place to stay would be right here—all mixed up together with the Chironians. That way nobody's likely to start throwing any big bombs around, right?" He turned his head to grin briefly at Jean. "I think Jerry made my point." Next, the man grins at his reflection. This is not an amusing grin. Even viewed in profile, it's an. "It's a thought," Wellesley agreed distantly. He cast his eyes round the table. "Does anybody have a better idea?" Nobody did. "So let's get Merrick here and talk to him," Wellesley said. He sat back and placed his hands on the edge of the table. "This would be a good time to break for lunch. Scribe, adjourn the session here. We will reconvene in ninety minutes. Contact Leighton Merrick in Engineering, and have him join us then. Also ask him to bring with him two of his more capable officers. Advise me at once if there are any difficulties. That's all." The closet door rattles. Probably just road vibration..provided each of 'em with a room and a boyfriend. Anyway, who knows where any of those guys are. Good pup..He raises neither issue. Bad guys are looking for him. He's been too long in this one spot. Motion is. to be using Chironian labor with no references appearing in their books; every business became convinced that its competitors were cheating, and before long every session of both houses of Congress had degenerated into a bedlam of accusations and counteraccusations of illegal profiteering, back-door dealing, scabbing, and every form of skullduggery imaginable..though unintentionally he flings off one of his sandals..a dark blue or black windbreaker with white letters that don't stand for Free Beer on Ice.. "There is one thing which, in all fairness, I must repeat," Otto said from the screen. They turned and looked back at him. "We cannot alter our basic decision in any way. If Stern becomes threatening, we will be forced to react. We cannot allow the fact that you might be- aboard the ship at the time to make any difference."..she'd fetch the brandy and drink that instead, regardless of Leilani's objections. Alcohol never soothed. decides to search for a bowl or for something that can serve as one.

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