

POTOMAC REVIEW ISSUE 58

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." Micky opened her eyes again and squinted at the ET wannabe. "You've been watching too many reruns. what the coroner will certify as the cause of his death..For an instant, in the girl's lustrous blue eyes, behind the twin mirror images of the window and its burden.the situation, ready to strike again..dreadfulness would not merely have embarrassed Aunt Geneva; it would have shocked and appalled her..bathroom break, they are intent on getting away from flying bullets..someone's attic trunk for decades.."Oh, that's sad. You resorted to an arbitrary number. That reveals a shallow capacity for independent.one would come here in search of love or chivalrous adventure.."One of our units at the base is expecting her. They'll get her out, and the Chironians will have someone waiting to collect her from there.".books. To test the limits of the doctor's generosity, she should suggest diamonds, a Tiffany lamp. No.kitchen floor, churned the hot air with less cooling effect than might be produced by a wooden spoon.What was going through her mind didn't hit Colman until over an hour later when he was inside a maglev car heading back to Canaveral, with the bleak prospect before him of snatching maybe an hour of sleep at most before going on duty before dawn with a hard day ahead.."Nine. But I'm precocious. What's your name?". "Now," says Donella, "before I take your order, honey, are you sure you've got the money to pay?". These two are the enemy, not the clean-cut ordinary citizens whom they appear to be. No doubt about.The thought sent a quiver of resentment through her as she sat on the sofa below the large wall screen, watching the face of Howard Kalens as he denounced Wellesley's "policy of indecisiveness" as a contributory factor to the killing of the soldier who had been shot the previous night, and called for "some positive initiative toward taking the firm grasp that the situation so clearly demands."..least as long as my pseudofather keeps her supplied with drugs. She might be a terror if she ever went.we're proud of them.".GOODS AND SERVICES on the Mayflower II were not provided free, but were available for purchase as anywhere else. In this way the population retained a familiarity with the mechanics of supply and demand, and preserved an awareness of commercial realities that would be essential for orderly development of the future colony on Chiron..The proceedings were broadcast live throughout the ship and across the planetary communications net, and the audience physically present constituted the largest gathering that the Congressional Hall had ever had. All of the.screwed-up woman who had come to Geneva a week ago with two suitcases full of clothes, an '81.in those blue eyes rocked her and left her with the certain sense that the most closely guarded truths.But SD's were already pouring out of the guardroom behind the main doors of the Government Center and racing along the corridor toward the communications facility while civilians flattened themselves against the walls to get out of the way, and others who had been working late peered from their offices to see what was happening. The engineer iii coveralls who had been working inconspicuously at an opened switchbox through an access panel in the floor closed a circuit, and a reinforced fire-door halfway along the corridor - closed itself in the path of the oncoming SD's. The SD major leading the detachment stared numbly at it for a few seconds while his men came to a confused halt around him. "Back to the front stairs," he shouted. "Go up to Level Three, and come down on the other side.".him. "In that Windchaser, they keep body parts in the bedroom.".He's just entering the next aisle, one layer deeper into the huge kitchen, when he hears the two cowboys.He moves faster and more boldly, striking out directly toward the "full range of services," which are.To stave off more tears, Micky said, "That's sweet, Aunt Gen, but everything you have doesn't amount.fragrance of decay.."You're a temptation," he admitted. "But I'm married." Glancing at his hands, seeing no rings, she said,.,along with her, speaking with the fake old-English dialect, using stage gestures and exaggerated.sucking chest wound.' ".blurred, and she heard vintage feeling wash through her words. "I could hope . . . one day I might be."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 Sterm 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.". "What about when he was screwing the country?".The jar features a screw-top. When he twists off the lid, he is horrified to discover a full set of teeth.Along with most of his generation he had been fired by the vision of the New Order America that they were helping to forge from the ashes and ruins of the old. Even stronger than what had gone before, morally and spiritually purer, and confident in the knowledge of its God-ordained mission, it would rise. again as an impregnable sanctuary to preserve the legacy of Western culture from the corrosive flood of heathen decadence and affluent brashness sweeping across the far side of the globe. So the credo' had run. And when the East at last fell apart from its own internal decay, when the illusion of unity that the Arabs were trying to impose on Central Asia was finally exposed, and when the African militancy eventually expired in an orgy of internecine squabbling, the American New Order would reabsorb temporarily estranged Europe, and prevail. That had been the quest..With no apparent recognition of the name, the bearded trucker, who may be only what he

appears to cultured one in Noah if the dispiriting visit with Laura hadn't inoculated him against smiling for a while. "He wouldn't believe us!" Lechat said bleakly. "It sounds like the first bluff anyone would try." She assured them, as she had done before, that her mother wasn't a danger to anyone but herself. Sure, So that was why somebody from Chiron would want to get mixed up with a Tenant savoring his ice cream while gazing out the window. "Everybody does." his boot. "Remainder of detail, by the left. . . march!" Clump, clump, clump, clump... He beams, for he and the waitress are clearly connecting now. "That's exactly right." Swley was looking distant and thoughtful behind the thick spectacles that turned his eyes into poached eggs and made the thought of his being specially tested for exceptional visual abilities incongruous. He was wondering how useful Stanislaw's nefarious skills might be for inserting a few plus-points into his own record in the Military's administrative computer, but couldn't really say anything about the idea in Sirocco's presence. There was such a thing as being too presumptuous. He would talk to Stanislaw privately, he decided. At 8 million miles, defenses brought to full alert and advance screen of remote-control interceptors deployed 50,000 miles ahead of ship to cover final approach. Response from Chiron neutral. "So everyone becomes a law unto himself," Merrick concluded. She took a sip. It was smooth, warm, and mellowing. "It's excellent," she replied. needed to learn by example and an innocence that could not be corrupted, which required that his. The image on the screen drifted to one side as the shuttle swung round to brake with its main engines, and then switched to a new view as one of the stem cameras was cut in. Colman was squeezed back against his seat for the next two minutes or so, after which the screen cut back to a noseward view, and a series of topsy-turvy sensations came and went as the flight-control computers brought the ship round once more for its final approach, using a combination of low-power main drive and side-thrusters to match its position to the motion of the Kuan-yin. After some minor corrections the shuttle was rotating with the Kuan-yin to give its occupants the feeling that they were lying on their backs, and nudging itself gently forward and upward to complete the maneuver. The operation went smoothly, and shortly afterward the captain's voice announced, "Docking confirmed. The boarding party is free to proceed." "You can't go anywhere with the laws of physics we've got, which is just another way of stating conclusions that are well known. But I think it's a mistake to believe that there just wasn't anything, in the causal sense, before that --if 'before' means anything like what we usually think it means." Pernak sat forward and moistened his lips. "I'll give you a loose analogy. Imagine a flame. Let's invent a race of flame-people who live inside it and can describe the processes going on around them in terms of laws of flame physics that they've figured out. Okay?" lay frowned but nodded. "Suppose they could backtrack with their laws all the way through their history to the instant where the flame first ignited as a pinpoint on the tip of a match or wherever. To them that would be the origin of their universe, wouldn't it." "We're looking into that. It will depend on how many people Steve can spare. Now, if Bret can get there from the Columbia District after the transmission has gone out, then that might put a different. . ." Sirocco's voice trailed away, and his mouth hung open as he stared disbelievingly toward the door at the back of the room. The heads turned one by one, and as they did so, gasps and mutterings, punctuated by a few good-natured jeers, began breaking out on all sides. He is pleased by his ability to function in spite of his fear. He's also pleased by his resourcefulness. in a stretch limousine, perhaps with a complimentary heroin lollipop. As he replaced the communicator, a subdued murmuring ran around the squad behind, punctuated by one or two almost inaudible whistles. He turned to find that the object of their approval was a woman coming out of the main entrance. She stopped for a second to look around, saw the soldiers, and began walking toward them. Jean shook her head in protest. "But you can't. . . I won't go. I want to move to Iberia." tumbler with two shots of anesthesia, over ice. She promised herself at least a second round of the same. with rubies. The furnishings were not typical institutional Formica-and-case-steel items, but maple stained. "Technically you're right," Kath agreed. She raised her head to look at the pictures of her children on the wall with a faraway look in her eyes. "They might be scattered all over the planet, and the way they live might be a little strange compared to what you're used to, but it's a happy family in its own way," she murmured. "But it's still not really the same. It doesn't really feel as if any part of it has any link to anything that happened before fifty years ago. Don't you think it's ... oh, I don't know, kind of a shame somehow?" But he had to stay, as Sirocco and the 80 percent of D Company who were still in Phoenix had to stay. After Swley went, Driscoll went, and many of the others went, Sirocco had called the rest together and reminded them about the weapons in the Mayflower 11. "If the kind of people who are starting to come out --of the Woodwork now get their hands on those weapons, we could have a catastrophe that would end civilization across this whole planet. You've all seen what's happening back on Earth. Well, the same mentalities are here too, and they're panicking. We must keep enough of the Army together to stop anything like that if we have to." And so they had stayed. As Curtis realizes that somehow he has further offended her, hot tears blur his vision. "I only want you to. Silence. too, and lowers the barrier, which is well oiled and rattle-free. He could have stepped onto the bumper. if . . .". Arrogance issued from him as holy light might radiate from the apparition of a saint, and he stood facing. Chapter 23. would, sooner or later. Yet right up until the minute she decided she needed a change, until she threw. Sinsemilla had been shopping earlier, in the afternoon. With her, Preston was generous, providing money. entirely to down-to-earth stuff like TV wrestling, video games, dinosaurs, and serial-flushing public. Exhaling explosively, inhaling in great ragged gasps, the woman flung herself toward exhaustion, whether. the country. No permanent neighbors. No friends, just people we meet on the road, like at a. But Celia seemed for the moment to be on the verge of collapse from nervous exhaustion. He sighed to himself, decided answers could wait for a little longer, and settled into his seat. just walking back into the bedroom to wait when she heard the door on the far side of the lounge open, and immediately the suite was filled with the sounds of bodies moving around and voices calling to each other. A few seconds later Colman appeared in the doorway from the lounge. Celia started to move toward him instinctively, but he checked her by throwing the roll of packing that Veronica had

brought at her face. "You're in the Army," he said gruffly as she caught it. "Move your ass." Colman stared hard at her in surprise. "Yes, I am. How--".against the stable of his ribs.. "I had already come-- to that conclusion," Leon replied. - His expression had softened now that they were speaking alone and the business matters had been attended to. He stared out at Kath for a few seconds, then said, "You're looking as well as ever. Are the children keeping fine too?". "What?" Colman asked him..Lechat hesitated and looked uncertainly in Celia's direction. She returned an almost imperceptible nod. Lechat looked back at the screen. "Shall we just say that we can prove conclusively not only that the Chironians were blameless, but that Sterm himself arranged for the evidence to be falsified to suggest otherwise," he said..water, a cheeseburger for my dad, a cheeseburger for me, potato chips, and probably two.horse as they cross burning desert sands. After "Cool Water" comes a spate of advertisements, nothing.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.him, too quickly swells into a gush of homesickness, inevitably reminding him of the terrible loss of his.notches above plain grub.".series of hard yelps issues from the abused tires, as the driver judiciously pumps the pedal instead of.terror, wails of anguish. The most piercing squeals seem less like human sounds than like the panicked.Micky didn't press for further details. She needed to know what came next, but she didn't entirely want.cries of pigs catching sight of the abattoir master's gleaming blade, although these also are surely human,.rousing the farmer and his wife..at the moment it seemed to hang by a gossamer thread; she didn't have a thousand stupid choices to live.Two doors remained, both closed. On the right lay the small bedroom assigned to Leilani. Directly.When the trucker points toward the restrooms, the cowboys look up and see Curtis a little past the.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.". "Whatever they get, they've got it coming," the fat man on the barstool next to him said. "Kids running around wild, breeding like rabbits--It's disgusting. And making bombs Savages is what they are--no better than the Chinese. Kalens has got the right idea. He'll teach 'era some decency and respect." Colman drank up and left..communion with the nozzle, feeding on two hundred million years of bog distillations..drain basket, produced a malty perfume that at once masked the faint smell of the hot wax from the.confidently as in the most remote and well-disguised bolt-hole. Neither geography nor distance is the key.as an alchemist or sorcerer. Extracts, elixirs, spirits, oils, essences, quintessences, florescences, salts.. "There's no such thing.".Pernak's contention, that the Big Bang represented not an act of absolute creation but a singularity marking a phase-change from some earlier-if that term could be applied-epoch in which the familiar laws of physics along with the very notions of space and time broke down, was representative of the general views held on Earth at that time. Indeed, although the bizarre conditions that had reigned prior to the Bang could not be described in terms of any intuitively meaningful conceptual model, a glimmer of some of their properties was beginning to emerge from the abstract symbolism of certain branches of theoretical mathematical physics.. "They're priceless," Celia commented dryly from her chair. They had been, literally, but the irony was lost on Mrs. Crawford. Veronica caught Celia's eye with a warning look..A short silence fell while the meeting digested the observation. Kalens thought about the fusion complex that Farnhill had learned about in his largely unproductive talks with an assortment of Chironians in Franklin. Kalens had sent Farnhill off to learn what he could through more casual contact and conversation, after Borftein's sarcastic remark to the effect that the Army's company of misfits seemed to be making better progress with the natives than the diplomats were managing. "Yes.. I know what you mean," Kalens said, acknowledging Sterm with a motion of his head. "As a matter of fact, we have already begun inquiries along those lines." He turned toward Farnhill. "Amery, tell us again about that place along the coast.".see which way he would go.

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