

DERRYREEL A COLLECTION OF STORIES FROM NORTH WEST DONEGAL

"We never said it was," Kath replied. "You assumed it. So did Stern." Bernard gaped at her as the enormity of what she was saying suddenly dawned on him. Kath's expression 'was grave, but nevertheless there was a hint of mirth dancing at the back of her eyes. "We could hardly disguise our scientific work," she said. "It had to be seen to serve some legitimate purpose, and an antimatter drive seemed suitable. But the Kuan-yin project has been low down on our list of priorities."..now or whether they'd remember Luki?or admit to remembering him."."Love. I thought you would say love is the answer." Her sweet gamine face wasn't designed for ironic.Rickster shuffled along, smiling dreamily, as if the sandman had blown the dust of sleepiness in his eyes.."My mother's a little nuts about all things Hawaiian."..On the screen of the communicator, the view closed in on Celia as she began speaking in a slightly quivery but determined voice. But Colman only half heard. He was trying make himself think the way a Chironian would think.."Listen, kid, you can?t come around here, doing your dangerous-young-mutant act, worming your.understand what he's done to offend and can't imagine how to get himself admitted to her good graces."That's so true," Eve agreed..Celia set her glass on the table and found that she needed a moment to reorient her thoughts, even though she had known this was coming. "I'm concerned over this latest threat to evict Chironians from Phoenix. It's not the bluff that many people think. Howard is serious."."I think it will be all fight if Kalens gets elected," Terry told them. "He said earlier tonight that if the Chironians have started an army, it's probably a good thing because it'll save us the time and effort of having to show them how. What we need to do is show them we're on their side and get our act together for when the Pagoda shows up." The EAF starship was designed differently from the Mayflower II. To compensate for the forces of acceleration, it took the form of two clusters of slender pyramidal structures that hinged about their apexes to open out and revolve about a central stem like the spokes of a partly open, two stage umbrella, for which reason it had earned itself the nickname of the Flying Pagoda. Terry sipped her drink and looked around the table. "The guy's got it figured realistically. You see, there's no need for a fight. What we have to do is turn them around our way and straighten their thinking out."..A vivid imagination has always been his refuge. Tonight it is his curse.."You mean the way's clear right down to the Battle Module?" Colman asked..She's a fantastically large person, nearly as round as she is tall: bosoms the size of goose-down pillows.."I'm not suicidal. I'm just a wiseass."..it."..ten-dollar bill, two fives, four ones.."What about human beings crossed with wildly poisonous vipers?" Micky proposed..over him, and keeping your own name secret gives you more power still."..Interstate 15, on which they speed southwest, isn't deserted even at this hour, but neither is it busy..and had been given vinegar, it couldn't have tasted more bitter than her slow steady tears..Noah shrugged. "I never liked her anyway."..since..Later on, Colman thought about Anita being brought back in a body-bag because she had chosen to follow after a crazy man instead of using her own head to decide her life. The Chironians didn't watch their children being brought home in body-bags, he reflected; they didn't teach them that it was noble to die for obstinate old men who would never have to face a gun, or send them away to be slaughtered by the thousands defending other people's obsessions. The Chironians didn't fight that way.."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..He hummed softly to himself and sauntered along the hallway to look into the room that Jay had picked for himself. Jay's cases and boxes were still lying in an untidy pile that stretched along one wall beneath a litter of books, charts, tools, and a heap of mirrors and optical components scrounged from Jerry Pernak a month or so previously for a holographic microscope that Jay said he was going to make. The carcass of a stripped-down industrial process control computer was lying on the floor by the bed, along with more boxes, an Army battle helmet and ammunition belt--both souvenirs of Jay's mandatory cadet, training on the Mayflower II and assorted junk from a medium-duty fluid clutch assembly, the intended purpose of which was a complete mystery, Jay himself had disappeared early on to go off exploring. Bernard shrugged to himself. If Jay wanted to leave the work until the end of the day when he would be tired, that was his business..SOME DAYS SINSEMILLA stank like cabbage stew. Other days she drifted in clouds of attar of."Into your spleen?" Leilani suggested.."The white makes the best brandies, I believe," Celia said. "And isn't the amount of limestone in the soil very important?"..to question the outrageous family portrait that the girl was painting for them..Getting inside would therefore require some men being moved right up to at least one of the security points without arousing suspicion-armed men at that, since they would be facing armed guards and could hardly be sent in defenseless. Malloy had again discouraged ideas of attempting to impersonate SD's. The only alternative came from Armley-a bluff, backed up with information manufactured by Stanislaw, to the effect that regular troops were being posted to guard duties inside the complex as well as SD's, and providing reliefs from D Company. Obviously the plan had its risks, but making three separate attempts at the three entrances simultaneously would improve the chances, and it was a way of getting the right people near enough. In the end, Sirocco agreed. Once they got that far it would be a case of playing it by ear from there on, and the biggest danger would be that of SD reinforcements arriving from the guardroom behind the main doors of the Government Center complex, which was just a few hundred feet away on the same level, before the situation was under control. That was the part that Bernard Fallows had come along to handle..Driscoll met her eyes calmly. "I'd risk it," he said. "Sure, if this was for real, I'd put money on it."..Carson frowned and thought about the implications, then shook his head. "It's impossible," he said. "No system could work like that."..able to spend on a daughter or a son hadn't diminished in value over time, but had grown into a wealth of."Oh, God . ." Jean whispered. "They're going to bring out those bombs."."Not interested?"..could endure, this was too much, too much, intolerable..got to allow me a little literary license."."You shouldn't stray from right here, son. There's all kinds of people in the world, and some you

don't league." "But . . . you can't hope to run a whole planet like that," Bernard protested after a few seconds' astonishment. "I mean, I know that right now your productivity must be enormous compared to your population, but the population is growing fast. You've got to start thinking about some kind of . . . system to regulate things. Your resources are only finite." When Noah got into the front passenger's seat, Bobby, twenty, skinny, with a scraggly chin beard and diffusion through the membrane around Phoenix created an osmotic pressure which sucked more people down from the Mayflower II, and manpower shortages soon developed, making it impossible for the ship to sustain its flow of supplies down to the surface. The embarrassed officials in Phoenix were forced to turn to the Chironians for food and other essentials, which they insisted on paying for even though they knew that no reciprocal currency arrangements existed. The Chironians accepted good-humoredly the promissory notes they were offered and carried on as usual, leaving the Terrans to worry about how they would resolve the nonsense of having to pay their Customs dues to themselves. A line of dim light frosted the carpet under the door that lay directly ahead. No light, however, was moment and in the firm grip of the real jars, each four inches in diameter and three inches tall. Though small, either of these will be suitable as a Leilani shrugged. "It's the truth. I couldn't make up anything as weird as what is. In fact, they blasted her cotillion. The ravages to your face from a snakebite might involve more than scar tissue. Maybe nerve damage." "That's a gamble we'll have to take," Sirocco said. "Stern will hardly order them to fire on the rest of the ship if he's in it." but the whole strange story is out there if you want to look it up. As for me, I'd rather eat pie, talk about purchased their residences, too. jewel-sharp, jewel-dark colors, like a pirate's treasure of sapphires spilled among emeralds, scattered. previously been treacherous, arms pump-pump-pumping like the connecting rods on the driving wheels. "Though I wouldn't trust him around an open cash register," said Geneva, rising from her chair. "Alec too? will sooner or later learn his whereabouts. Eventually they will get to him no matter in what deep determination to accomplish the far more difficult task of redeeming her own screwed-up life. He grabs the handle on a container of orange juice, making a mental note to return to Utah. "It sure smells fantastic." On the griddles, tantalizing treats sizzle, pop, bubble, and steam fragrantly. It was the right thing to do. She collected her wits quickly, shouldered the roll at an angle across the back of her neck, and followed him into the lounge. Colman went ahead to stand peering through tile doorway from one side while soldiers came and went in bewildering confusion and then he motioned her out suddenly. In a strangely dreamlike way she found herself being conveyed down the stairway between two soldiers who were keeping up a steady exchange about something not being large enough and a typical screw-up somewhere, and then she was outside and crossing the rear parking area toward a personnel carrier standing a short distance back behind some other vehicles. Suddenly, without really remembering getting in, she was sitting in the cabin, ~figures materialized swiftly and silently from the darkness and jumped in after her. The last of them closed the door, the engine started, and she felt herself being lifted. Only then did she start shaking. "Sinsemilla? That's a ..." drumming from the physical demands of flight, now booms also with fear. Into the night has entered a modified high-five. Chapter 14. With only a wistful expression, Rickster said that being able to turn yourself loose, whenever you wanted, desperate with fear and fierce with anger. She surprised herself when she choked out a strangled cry, "Good, very good. And how do you view the question of our relationships with the Chironians generally?" otherwise dark, silent, and nearly scent-free desert. He breaks out of a run into a fast walk, striving to quiet both his footfalls and his breathing. Taking its. 3. Missing children? Fiction. Before one of them comes back here to take a leak, Curtis opens the last door and steps into more. Coming in, he'd known the risks. What he hadn't realized, until now, was that the motor home has no. "Hoing! Yikes!" Sinsemilla had compressed the anecdote into two words. She rollicked even to this. Celia was already prepared for it. She nodded. Nothing remained to be said. The room had become very quiet. "Except for the shooting." of the most serene bronze Buddha. CHAPTER TWENTY-FOUR. The bewildering proliferation first of baryons and mesons, and later the quarks, which were supposed to simplify them, that had plagued studies of the structure of matter to the end of the twentieth century had been reduced to an orderly hierarchy of "generations" of particles. Each generation contained just eight particles: six quarks and two leptons. The first generation comprised the "up" and "down" quarks, each appearing in the three colorcharge variants peculiar to the strong nuclear force to give six in all; the electron; and the electron-type neutrino. The second generation was made up of the "strange" and "canned" quarks, each of them again appearing in three possible colors; the muon; and the muon-type neutrino. The third generation contained the "top" and "bottom" quarks; the tau; and the tau-type neutrino; and so it went. more than once this time. Her thin cold complaints melted into a moan of abject misery, and the moan quickly. "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." although other tanks contain gasoline, which is without doubt a valid ticket to an apocalypse. If he was under surveillance. No one followed him, not even at a distance. Old Yeller either reacts to this serenade of bleats or to an instinctive realization that time to escape is fast. loose. She's so sweet." On a few occasions, when Sinsemilla had been in one of these playacting moods, Leilani had played. Of course, this is a little cottage on wheels, not a castle. It doesn't afford as many hiding places as a titled. As he reaches the rear bumper, feeling dangerously exposed in the ruddy glow of the parking lights, the Reformation that would sweep the world had awakened her political awareness and carried her along with hint into a whole new dimension of human relationships and motivations which until then she had hardly recognized as existing at all. The forces that would shape the world and forge the destinies of its peoples would not, she had come to realize, be found in culture dishes or precipitates from centrifugation, but in the minds, hearts, and souls of people who had been awakened, organized, and mobilized. And so they had toured from convention to convention together and spoken from the

same platforms, cheered side-by-side at the rallies, applauded the speeches of the leaders, and eventually departed Earth together to help build an extension of the model society on Chiron..Before Bernard could reply. Jay came back in carrying the landscape painting he had brought back from Franklin after his first expedition out exploring. He propped it on one end of the table and held it up so that everyone could see it. "Do you notice anything unusual about that?" he asked them..Colman had been intimately involved with the work on the new drive system as the engineering project leader of a team working under Bernard Fallows's direction. He had brought Kath and their four-year-old son Alex up to the ship to be present with him at the unveiling ceremony being held in the main concourse of the new nose section. Many of the faces from five years back were there too, Few of them had lost contact during that time, but it was rare for so many of them to be in the same place at the same time, except for their annual reunions. Most of I) Company had assembled for the event-Sirocco, with Shirley and their twin daughters; Hanlon, who now instructed at the martial arts academy in Franklin, with Janet and their two children; Driscoll, who had taken a rest from his touring magic show, one of Chiron's major entertainment attractions; Stanislaw, now a computer software expert; Swyley, who directed and produced- movies, usually about the American underworld, along with a couple of the pretty girls who seemed to surround him wherever he went;. . and there were others. Jean Fallows was heading a research project in biochemistry at the university where Pernak still investigated "small bangs"; Marie was a biology student there too. Jay, now twenty and with a young son, had built an old-fashioned railroad into Franklin-now a sizable and thriving city-which used full-scale steam loco."Major Lesley calling from the nose, sir-"..scoffed derisively. "He still thinks it's for playing with." "I'm just telling you what the guy said."..in a stretch limousine, perhaps with a complimentary heroin lollipop..bobbed happily..His-impatience was asserting itself again now, as Borstein sat in the chambers of Judge William Fulmire, the Mayflower H's Supreme Justice, listening to Howard Kalens and Marcia Quarrey argue over the finer points of the Mission's constitution, while on the surface the troops were fraternizing openly with what could become the enemy, and two years away in space the EAF starship dally drew nearer. The news from Earth told of a three-cornered conflict sweeping through eastern Africa, black nations clashing against Arabs in the north and whites in the south, Australia forces landing in Malagasay, and the Europeans maneuvering desperately to quell the flames while the EAF fanned them gleefully. That news would long ago have overtaken the Pagoda and what the intentions of those aboard it might be was anybody's guess. It wasn't a time to be fussing over ambiguous syntax and legal niceties.."Want to come with us?" Bernard invited..Fingertips steepled toward the bridge of her nose, Geneva half hid her face in a prayer clasp, as if the..Doggedly returning to her initial question, Leilani asked, "So the guy who killed Mr. D?was he caught?"..haloed by red lamplight, glittery-eyed with excitement. "Thingy, him a hard-ass stubborn little crawly..Windchaser motor home at the very moment when two loud beeps blare from it. The headlights flash,,and unreliable wits, he's barely able to be poor Curtis Hammond. And yet he tries. He says, "My name's..Rickster was dispatched to Cielo Vista. He arrived shy, scared, without protest. A week later, he.."That's how they get rich," Pernak said. "By being good at what they do and getting better. Who but a crazy would do anything and stay poor by choice?"..and at the center of the design is he himself, caught and murdered..well. Instead, a barely perceptible yet awful sadness manifested as a faint glister in her eyes..as she stumped toward the foot of the bed..about herself had been exposed, ugly secrets around which she had constructed impregnable vaults of

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