

## EINE WENDUNG

CHAPTER TWENTY-EIGHT. This isn't the smoothest socializing the boy has done to date, but the terrified worker overreacts to this. That one. Probably because she wants to. Anyway, I hid two snapshots of Luki, but they found them. "The best. I can make 'em stand up and talk." The mathematical indicators pointed to an earlier domain inhabited by a "fluid" of pure "tweedlestuff," of indeterminate size and peculiar properties, since space and time were bound together as a composite dimension which permitted no processes analogous to anything describable in familiar physical terms. There were grounds for supposing that if an expanding nodule of disentangled space and time were introduced arbitrarily through some mechanism—pictured by some people as a bubble appearing in soda water, although this wasn't really accurate—the reduced "pressure" inside the bubble would trigger the condensation of raw tweedlestuff out of "tweedlespace" as an explosion of tweedles and antitweedles, the tweedles preserving the "timelike" aspect, and the antitweedles the "antitimelike" aspect of the timeless domain from which they originated. Their mutual affinity would precipitate their combination into a dense photon fluid in which timelessness became reestablished, which tied in with Relativity by explaining why time stood still, for moving photons and accounting for the strange connection in the perceived universe between the rate at which time flowed and the speed of light. The high-energy conditions of the Primordial photon fluid, the density of which would have approximated that of the atomic nucleus, would favor the formation of "tweeplet" entities to give rise to matter interacting under conditions dominated by the strong nuclear force, which manifested itself to restore nonAbelian gauge symmetry with respect to the variance introduced by the separation of space and time. After that, the evolution of the universe followed according to well understood principles. grunting, gasping, snake-killing rage and terror. Like a foxtail bramble, this hateful picture would work its. "LCP's standing by and ready to fire," another voice reported. He begins to doubt the instinct that pressed him backward out of the hallway. Then he realizes that the. "Come in, come in, get out of that awful heat," Geneva said, as if the sweltering trailer were a cool oasis. . . . waglessly and with caution, past the dining nook, paw by stealthy paw, pussyfooting as silently as any. CHAPTER THIRTEEN. "But what about the border guards?" Jean looked alarmed. "We don't know who we can trust. Fulmire didn't know which side how much of the Army is on. There could be fighting out there at any minute. You don't know what you'll be walking into." . . . but they'll turn savage now because the cliché of this will embarrass them. "Micky knew from experience that this was not reliably the case. "Anyway," she said, "whether they. "From a white back. But not anymore, I guess, by the look of it." . . . nebula was hovering over Geneva's motor home, casting a power pall just like alien ships always did in. After he puts down the extinguished flashlight, as he pulls the curtains aside, plastic rings scrape and click. The dead snake slid from Leilani's hand, looping upon itself to form a sloppy, threatless coil on the floor. . . . To many people, the face of a victim of severe Down syndrome inspired pity, embarrassment, disquiet. Jay looked worried, and Bernard appalled. "You can't let people take the law into their own hands like that," Bernard insisted. "Unchecked violence—mob rule—God alone~ knows what else. It's plain uncivilized—barbaric. You're going to have to change the system sooner or later." "She gets eighty-six thousand a year," Noah said. "I, er. . . He was an instructor my son had on cadet training," Fallows stammered in response to Merrick's questioning gaze. "I met him at the end-of-course parade. . . . talked to him a bit. He seemed to have a strong ambition to try for engineering school, and I probably said, 'Why not give it a try?,' or something like that. I guess maybe he remembered my name." . . . aware of the boy himself, and if they can recognize the hunters, they must be able to recognize the boy. . . . A thumb-turn lock frees the window. Gingerly, the intruder raises the lower sash. He slips out of the. Not a brain-eating alien but feeling as though he himself is in the thrall of black-hole gravity, the intruder. An SD sergeant interrupted from behind Lesley. "They're here sir. Carriers coming through the lock." They looked round to find the first vehicles crammed with troops, many of them in suits, and weaponry slowing down as they passed through the space between the lock doors, and then speeding up again without stopping as they were waved on through. More followed, their occupants looking formidable and determined, and Lesley gave orders for them to be directed between the remaining three feeder ramps to get close to the Battle Module at all four of its access points. "Everything I've said is true," Jay insisted. "There's this big kinds market in town. It's got just about everything, and you just walk in and take what you want. We got talking to some Chironians, and they showed us what you do. I don't understand it either, but that's how things work here." . . . Some of the station's huge storage tanks hold diesel fuel, which is combustible but not highly explosive. . . . with Nature." . . . each of the bastards out, she cared about me less than him, and me less than the new bastard who was. Having set the pasta salad on the dinette table, Geneva began slicing roasted chicken breasts for the true cause of it. . . . pie. . . ? I didn't see any of that myself. It's what I was told happened to Luki." "Give me one." "My pleasure." . . . miracle. Something so powerful can happen, someone so special come along, some precious. "Yeah," Noah acknowledged without enthusiasm. "Not likely." "She performed at a club called Planet Pussycat." "I bet he's giving himself a hand job right now, watching us." . . . millions in government grants, so they're in violation of numerous other federal statutes." . . . hundred yards to the west. Hurrying, he has covered less than half that distance when he hears the dog. But his reputation had put him in a no-win situation at the Friday night poker school because when he won, everybody said he was sharpening, and when he didn't, everybody said he was lousy. So he had stopped playing poker, but not before his name had been linked catalytically with enough arguments and brawls to get him transferred to D Company. As he stared fixedly at the wall across the corridor, the thought occurred to him that in a place with so many kids around, there ought to be a big demand for a conjuror. The more he thought about it, the more appealing the idea became. But to do something about it, he would first have to figure out—some way of working an escape trick—out of the Army. Swley should have some useful suggestions about that, he thought. "They

could have," Bernard agreed. "But have they? It doesn't add up to the way Stern's acting." Chapter 21. Dim gray rectangles float in the dark: curtained windows. He crosses the room toward them, struggling. cries of pigs catching sight of the abattoir master's gleaming blade, although these also are surely human, straw-riddled manure. Two escapees and one guard had been killed at the west gate and two guards had been badly wounded inside the Detention Wing. Six of the female personnel who had been under detention, Anita among them, were unaccounted for. aliens or his vessel might spiral into the gravitational vortex of a black hole while he dreamed of Britney. the gloom, drew taut with shock; the startled eyes flared so wide that white shone around the full. sophistication on just a five-minute notice, and Curtis doubts that even five minutes have passed since the approach, however it came, would be a lot more discreet than this. "Who did you live with while she was hospitalized?" The aircraft touched down softly, and a pair of double doors slid open halfway along the side nearest to the reception party. A tall, burly, red-bearded Chironian wearing a dark parka with a thick belt buckled over it jumped out, followed by another, similarly clad but more slender and catlike. More figures became visible inside when the cabin light came on. Laid out neatly along the floor behind them were two rows of plastic bundles the size of sleeping bags. "Anytime. Take care." Two hundred thousand miles away on the rugged, pockmarked surface of Chiron's other moon, Romulus, two enormous covers, whose outer surfaces matched the surrounding terrain, swung slowly aside to uncover the mouth of a two-hundred-foot-diameter shaft extending two miles vertically through the solid rock. The battery of accelerator rings in the chambers surrounding the base of the shaft was already charged with dense antimatter streams circulating at almost the speed of light. He has found hope. Hope that he will survive. Hope that he will discover a place where he belongs and. Although scared, Curtis is also intrigued. There's something fascinating about secretly watching strangers. her shame hadn't arisen from her rudeness regarding Micky's drinking any more than it had been caused. have been a little amateur nuclear-reactor engineering or a session of brain surgery with kitchen utensils. mode, though her tail continues to wag gently. morning cartoon programs that had been the Sole source of moral education during their formative years. godforsaken alien planet where there's nothing worth watching on TV and the only flavor of ice cream is. "Major Lesley calling from the nose, sir-". Although a couple hundred people are nearby, this place in this moment of time seems as lonely as any. From the kitchen, she could see through the dining area and into the lamplit living room. Her mother. Colman's eyebrows arched in surprise. "True, but-wow! I had no idea that anything here was that advanced." Experiments and research into harnessing the potential energy release of antimatter had been progressing on Earth since the first quarter of the century, primarily in connection with weapons programs. The attraction was the theoretical energy yield of bringing matter and antimatter together- one hundred percent conversion of mass into energy, which dwarfed even thermonuclear fusion. For bombs and as a source of radiation beams, the process had devastating possibilities, and it had been appreciated for a long time that such a beam would offer a highly effective means of propelling a spacecraft. "Thank you, Ms. Donella. You're as wonderful as I just knew you were when I first saw you." brace. "Having a great metabolism is nothing to be ashamed about. It's not like laziness or anything." "For a few hours maybe." anger, Micky realized that only silence and retreat made sense. Rocking knee to knee in the prickly. "With active opposition around, you wouldn't want to be risking complications with remote links into it." He was telling Lechat that if the transmission was going to go out, that was where it would have to go out from and that was where Lechat would have to go to make it. But more to the point, as Lechat well knew, Bernard was saying that Celia would have to go there too; what she had to say couldn't come second-hand through anybody else. Geneva said, "I've never seen one, dear." since. telltale sounds that only born hunters can perceive and properly interpret. The intellectually disadvantaged trucker is so deeply touched by this expression of concern that he. "Bluffing, hell." Driscoll laid down five more aces, and the room erupted into laughter and applause. seed, you don't scare me!" when the battering stopped, had squirmed inside the pole. By this pipeline, it traveled unseen from. believes in all of it, and more," Leilani reported. When he glanced back, he noticed a Lincoln Navigator pulling away from the curb across the street, no. "Really. It's a rosebush." Chapter 8. On the bed, Sinsemilla romped, cheering one of the combatants, cursing the other, and though Leilani. "It could open up possibilities that'll blow your mind," Pernak resumed. "Suppose, for instance, that we could get to understand those laws and. create our own concentrations on a miniature scale to inject energy from .... let's. call it a hyperrealm, into our own universe--in other words make 'small bangs'--mini white holes. Think what an energy source that would be. it'd made fusion look like a firecracker." Pernak waved his hands about. "And how about this, Jay. It could turn out that what we're living in lies on a gradient between some kind of hypersource that feeds mass-energy into our universe, and some kind of hypersink that takes it out again--such as black holes, maybe. If so, then the universe might not be a closed thermodynamic system at all, in which case the doom prophecies that say it all has to freeze over some day might be garbage because the Second Law only applies to closed systems. In other words we might find we're flame people living in a match factory." Lechat looked at them for a few seconds longer, then sat up and mustered a grin. "Well, what can I say? Good luck. empty hand and lift a named number of cards off a deck eight times out of ten. Swyley had been his guinea pig, for he had discovered that if Swyley couldn't spot a false move, nobody could, and in the years since, he had perfected his technique to the degree that Swyley now owed him \$1,343,859.20, including interest. "Me, on the other hand? I've got one pretty name followed by a clinker like Klunk. Half of me is sort of. from the VCR and put it in a Neiman Marcus shopping bag that he'd brought. "I've given you two more. to come and take a look." "I sure will." supermarket. white under the influence of the frost-pale moon, and the boy can't help but think of them as twin fuses. hips and one leg shorter than the other, and Micky could almost see the shape of this apparition haunting. and insanity. Regardless of who her father might have been, Klunk or not Klunk, she was undeniably her. Being among people is helpful, too. A crowd distracts the enemy? not much but sometimes enough to. In the

hallway, he encountered a nurse pushing a stainless-steel serving cart: a petite raven-haired. This particular pooch, panting now that panting is safe, still basks in the two words of praise. He is a. "Listen, Aunt Gen, one of the things that kept me from going nuts all those years was you, just the way." Ah, well, it's not over yet," Hanlon said. His eyes twinkled for a second as he remembered something else. "Oh, by the way, there was another thing I was meaning to tell you," he said to Colman. "We made an arrest over at the shuttle base-just before midnight, it was, when we were about to be relieved." Smiling, reaching down to stroke the lovely lady's head, the trucker says, "I guess you'll be all right with." If you say so," Stanislaw said..one would come here in search of love or chivalrous adventure..waiting under Leilani's bed, in her bed. She'll have no sanctuary, no peace. Every place will belong to the apparent cowardice and the alacrity with which he had betrayed his client confirmed for them that he matches her pace to meet his fastest sprint, leading him north into the barrens..you're thinking about Ashley Judd or Sharon Stone, or maybe Pam Grier." the bed and on a straight-backed chair; neither the luggage nor the furniture suggested a strategy for this

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