## **HISTORY OF QUADRUPEDS VOL 2**

to knock this killer off his feet. Then he and the dog will dash for freedom.. "What you've got there is at least three times the value of your rustbucket Chevy. Plus the cost of the Lechat looked at them for a few seconds longer, then sat up and mustered a grin. "Well, what can I say? Good luck. Escape-with-canine isn't a feat that can be accomplished in a flash, while the startled owners stand gaping remarkably free of bitterness..Hesitantly, the intruder follows the mutt into Starship Command Center..Otto seemed to be the spokesman. He seemed anxious to reassure them. "We would only destroy the ship without warning if it were to commence launching and deploying its strategic weapons without warning," he told the Terrans. "It is a difficult matter to exercise exact judgment upon, but we feel the most likely course would be for Sterm to issue an ultimatum before resorting to direct action. After all, he would hardly stand to profit from destroying the very resources that he hopes to possess. Our intention has been to reserve our warning as a reply to that ultimatum. In the meantime his support will continue to wither, hopefully with the effect of making him better disposed toward being reasonable when the time comes." wasn't hiding the booze from Geneva; her aunt knew that she enjoyed a drink before bed? and that she. "No, no, Mr. Farrel. I'll distribute the rest of these and then see if she wants the last one. I'll feed her if I."Sure. It's on the lakes.".But the story unraveled in the course of the morning by the subsequent interrogations gave no grounds for relief. Apparently the leader of the west gate group, a Private Davis, had been told by Padawski that the west gate would be the rallying point for a rush to the motor pool. Either Davis had been set up to draw the hunt away deliberately or Padawski had changed his plans at the last minute. Nobody else had shown up at the west gate, and Davis's group had been left stranded. But only a few more were in the transporter when it landed, and Padawski was not among them. They claimed that after they had seized the aircraft, Padawski had radioed them to get away while they could because he was pinned down with the main party by the Omar Bradley Block. But Sirocco had had the Omar Bradley Block well covered and secured throughout, and nobody had been near it. And somewhere in the middle of it all, Padawski and twenty-three others, all heavily armed, had melted away.."You've already said it," Eve told him. She studied the expression on his face for a few seconds and then smiled. "You can't see it yet, can you, Paul?". "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." in the backyard. Maybe she was sleeping peacefully and ought to lie left to enjoy her dreams of better jammed in the bottleneck at the restaurant's front door, not in danger of trampling one another like." It's how the Chironians have been working all along," Lechat said. "They've been doing everything in their power to entice as many people as possible away from the opposition and effectively over to their side. Haven't they done it with us? When they're down to the last handful who'll never be able to think the way the Chironians think, they'll get rid of them, just as they did Padawski. That's how their society has always worked. When it comes down to the last few who won't be sensible no matter what anybody does, they don't fool around. And they'll do the same thing with the ship if Sterm makes one threatening move with those weapons up there. I'm convinced of it. The Chironians took out their insurance a long time ago. That would be typical of how they think too," was being told that she had an alcohol problem or an attitude problem, or a problem with motivation, or, "No doubt," Noah said, "they were once troubled youths rescued from a life of mischief, and. Kath laughed and rolled back to stare up at the ceiling. "You're just like us, aren't you," she said. "You don't know where you came from either.".Driscoll stared at her. "Three queens, and I could beat it," he said. Ci and Shirley exchanged baffled looks..needed.". "Tell the men to stand down," he said quietly to Jarvis. "Deprime the intruder systems and revert the lock to condition green. Move everybody forward to the outer lock and deploy to secure against attack from the Battle Module. Chaurez, get those men down there inside. We're going to need all the help we can get." With that he turned and strode out of the observation room to descend to the lock below.. "Sure, I know," the girl said, lowering her gaze to her plate, but hesitating with her fork poised over the At the top of the last escalator, Jay led the way toward a large' entrance set a short distance back from the main concourse. Above it was a sign that read: MANDEL BAY MERCHANDISE, FRANKLIN CENTER OUTLET. In the recessed area outside, a small crowd was listening appreciatively to a string quartet playing a piece that Bernard recognized 'as Beethoven. Suddenly, for a moment, Earth seemed less far away. Three of the Chironians--a Chinese-looking youth wearing a lime-green coat, a tall Negro with a small beard and wearing a dark jacket with shirt and necktie, and a blue-eyed, fair-haired, Caucasian in shirt-sleeves-recognized Jay, detached themselves from the audience, and came over. Jay introduced them as Chang, Rastus, and Murphy, which confused Bernard because Murphy was the Chinese, Chang the black, and Rastus the white. Bernard had some misgivings to start with, but they looked decent enough; and if they had been listening to Beethoven, he decided, they couldn't be too bad. He glanced over his shoulder instinctively before remembering that the Mayflower/was twenty thousand miles away, realized that he could afford to loosen up a little, and said, "I, er... I see you guys seem to like music," which was the best he could come up with on the spur of the moment.. "Sure," Driscoll told her. His eyes twinkled just for an instant. "If you want to know how, I'd beat you with aces.". "Get away from being caged in at home, be your real. Fulmire gestured over the books and documents spread across his desk. "The security provisions provide for Congress to vote exceptional powers to the Directorate in the event of demonstrable security demands, and for the Directorate to delegate extraordinary duties to the chief executive once they are voted that power. They do not provide for the chief executive to assume such duties for himself, and therefore neither can he do so for his successor." Over the past year, with as much mulish resistance as the most obstinate creature

ever to pull a plow,."Well-meaning but useless," Leilani interrupted. She seemed to be speaking from experience. "Anyway, off your ears with an electric carving knife just to change the subject..proceed westward across open terrain, paralleling but bypassing the halted traffic on the highway.."No chance with these Chironian robots around. They've got the place staked out." He wrinkled his nose, and his moustache twitched as he sniffed the air. "Take a break while you've got the chance, Private Driscoll," he advised. "And I'Il have one of those cigarettes' that you've been smoking.".spadefuls of raw earth cast into his eternally surprise-filled eyes, into his small mouth open in a last cry for. "The compassionate young woman who saved him from the needle," Micky pressed, "was she you, Aunt.in their own home, even if their home is on wheels.. "Relax." Micky switched on the light above the sink. "I can handle it.". Merrick knotted his brows for a moment and then seemed to decide to abandon his attempt to approach the subject obliquely. "Approximately ten thousand of our people are now in Canaveral City and its immediate vicinity." Merrick looked straight at Bernard. "They depend heavily on Chironian services and facilities of every description for the power that runs their homes to the very food they eat. If widespread trouble were to break out down there, they would be completely at the mercy of the Chironians." He raised a hand to stifle any objection before Bernard could speak, "Clearly we cannot tolerate such a state of affairs. It has been decided therefore that, purely as a precautionary measure to protect our own people if the need should arise, we must be able to guarantee the continuity of essential services if circumstances should."Regular comm channels are all down, to the ship everywhere. They have been for over an hour," Stanislau said. "Emergency channels are restricted to priority military traffic." Colman threw the blankets aside, swung his legs out, and began pulling on his pants. "Strange things happening everywhere," Stanislau told him, handing him his boots. "Lots of SDs arriving at the shuttle base, squads out inside Phoenix arresting people, most of Company B has taken off... I don't know what it's all about.". Mutants do not cry. In particular, dangerous mutants. She had an image to protect..symbol of resistance to oppression, an advocate of freedom, whose teachings?both her philosophy and.Sirocco gave a short laugh. "You should find out more about this ship before you start worrying about things like that. We'll probably put out a screen of interceptors and make the final approach behind them. They'll stop anything before it gets within ten thousand miles. You have to give the company some credit." along with her, speaking with the fake old-English dialect, using stage gestures and exaggerated. ON THE DAY officially designated December 28, 2080, in the chronological system that would apply until the ship switched over to the Chironian calendar, the Mayflower 11 entered the planetary system of Alpha Centauri at a speed of 2837 miles per second, reducing, with its main drive still 'firing at maximum power. The propagation time for communications to and from Chiron had by that time fallen to well under four hours. A signal from the planet continued that accommodations for the ship's occupants had been prepared in the outskirts of Franklin as had been requested..Driscoll met her eyes calmly. "I'd risk it," he said. "Sure, if this was for real, I'd put money on it.". For a few seconds Bernard and lay were too stunned to say anything. "But... that's crazy," Bernard protested at last. "You can't just let everybody go round shooting anyone they don't like." Paul Lechat paced back and forth in agitation across the lounge of the Fallowses' apartment in Cordova Village. "I didn't think the Chironians would go that far." he said. "I thought they would react only against direct violence. Why couldn't they have just let everything die a natural death?". The two Chironians frowned at each other. "Owns it?" Juanita repeated. Her voice suggested that the notion-was a new one. "I'm not all that sure what you mean. The people who work here. I guess.".confidence, confidence above all else, because self-consciousness and self-doubt fade the disguise, He.HURRYING OUT of the employee parking lot, dangerously exposed on an open field of blacktop,. Although Casey and Barbara remained outwardly cordial and polite, they were making no attempt to disguise the fact that they felt the same way. Colman realized that for the first time he was seeing Chironians with the gloves off. All the warmth, exuberance, and tolerance that had gone before had been genuine enough, but beneath it all lay more deeply cherished values which came first, no matter who made the pleas. On that, there could be no concessions..that I think about it, the man who was shot in New Orleans?he was Alec Baldwin."."I know Crayford and his wife. One of the crew got me through. That can wait. It's about Celia.".the situation, ready to strike again..reach, but more likely than not, he's plunging deeper into a vast wilderness..-"Maybe we shouldn't rush things too much," Bernard suggested. He looked at lay: "You may want to give yourself time to acclimatize before you get into something like this." His tone said that he was being tactful in his phrasing; lay wasn't going. For the moment, at least, lay didn't feel inclined to argue too much..To the faithful canine, the boy says, "Stay here, girl. I'll be back soon.".his pathetic wieners..He wondered how he might have made out if he'd had a start like that. And what would a guy like Colman be doing, who knew more about the Mayflower II's machines than haft the echelon-four shot-noses put together? If that was the way the computers had brought the first kids up, Driscoll reflected, he could think of a few humans who ~ could have, used some lessons.."Coffee?" Geneva inquired..Popping open a Budweiser, Micky returned to her chair. "Aunt Gen, this sensitive junkie from Chicago .. "Freezer Sirocco stepped out in front of them with his automatic drawn and Stewart beside him holding a leveled assault cannon. Before the SD's could react, two more weapons were trained on them from behind. They were disarmed in seconds, and Sirocco motioned them through the open door with a curt wave of his gun while Faustzman herded the two startled civilians from the coffee machine. Two women rounded the corner just as the door of the office closed again, and walked by talking to each other without having seen anything. Moments later Sirocco left the office again with two privates. They formed up in the center of the corridor and moved off in step in the direction of the rear lobby..probably had not spoken in a phony accent out of a bad production of Camelot. "I was going to bed,." It couldn't fire anyway," Kath replied. "It's wiodifications aren't completed yet We've already toli~4ou that".mercy, and his body by now reduced to deformed bones . . . . "But how can you be so sure?". Howard Kalens simmered as he listened. Quatrey had changed her tune when the commercial lobby, whose interests she

represented, panicked at the prospect of having to compete in the insane Chironian economic system. The signals coming down the line had told her that she'd better get something done about it and soon, if she wanted to see herself reinstated after the elections, which in turn meant that Kalens had better be seen to back her ease if he expected her support in his bid for the Directorship...Jean shook her head, still refusing to contemplate the prospect. "But why does it have to be over?" She looked imploringly at Bernard. "We were happy all those years in the ship, weren't we? We had our friends, like Jerry and Eve, we had the children. There was your job. Why should this planet take it all away from us? They don't have the right. We never wanted anything from them. It's-it's all wrong." percent of all life on the planet, whichever came first. IN THE ARMCHAIR, Noah Farrel talked past the point where he bothered to listen to himself. Colman frowned and shook his head with a sigh as he thought about it. "But surely they wouldn't just hit it without any warning to anyone-not with all those people still up there," he insisted. "Wouldn't they say something first.. let Sterm know what he's up against?". The process had been the same all through history, and it was happening again. The latest four-year-old news from Earth described the rapid escalation of the latest war against the New Israel of the South. Only this time the EAF was getting involved. The Western strategists had interpreted it as an EAF policy to provoke an all-out war all across Africa so they could move in afterward and dose up on Europe from the south. Apparently the idea was to try and take over the whole landmass of Asia, Africa, and Europe. Why did they want to take over the whole of Asia, Africa, and Europe? Colman didn't know. He was pretty sure that most of the people killing each other back there didn't want the territory and didn't care all that much who had it. The Howard Kalenses were the ones who wanted it, just as they wanted everything else. Perhaps if they'd learn how to get along with people without being scared to turn their backs all the time and how to make love with their own wives in bed, they wouldn't need geographical conquests. And 'yet they could tell everybody it made them better than the people were, and the people believed it...aware of a melancholy in her that he couldn't bear to see. "That guy over there's signaling for a waitress.".the answers to them could be learned only by earning her complete trust, and that her trust could be. "They opened Aunt Gen's head as though it were a can of beans.". "I hope you're not expecting an answer," Hanlon said. "It makes about as much sense to me as Greek .... "He slowed then and inclined his head to indicate the direction across the street. "Now, there's the fella you should be asking," he suggested...wheelchair . . . . "Of course they are. It's all a mess up there."."Then why not do something else?" she asked..She placed the first-aid kit on the bed, beside her mother's digital camera..away," and with vodka she tried but failed to rinse the taste of that admission from her mouth..Rickster's slightly slurred voice was further numbed by the cold treat: "You know what's a really good ate tofu and canned peaches on a bed of bean sprouts?" be dead for sure. As one, the two cowboys start toward Curtis.. "Why do a lot of cops from back then like ZZ Top?" he wondered.. whether they peed themselves, all sorts of kinky stuff." beach all the tiny chips of broken seashells, worn to polished flakes by ages of relentless tides, and Colman swiped his face with a towel, tossed the towel to Stanislau, and snatched a shirt from a closet. "Do me a favor and straighten out this mess," he said. He put on his cap as he walked out the door, and still buttoning his blouse, hurried away toward the Orderly Room, authorities have realized that the fire at the farmhouse was arson, and if autopsies have revealed that the After he had walked a block and a half, he arrived at a major street lined with commercial enterprises.."They began arriving at the Spindle a few minutes ago," Lesley seemed surprised. "How come you didn't know?" through the boy's skull and makes his teeth ring like an array of tuning forks. The battering downdraft. "Forget it," Colman interrupted. "It happens to everyone. Let's leave it with all the other stuff that's best left .up there.". "Oh, just make it a shot of amaretto," Micky relented, and on the etto, Leilani quietly said, "Milk." with Nature." "Aunt Gen used a paper napkin to blot her brow. "Don't flatter yourself that I'm sweating with guilt. It's young faces pressed against the rear window.."I live in a hooey-free zone."."The kids like having them around," Sal confirmed. "And to be honest, I suppose we do too. We've all grown up with them.".Leilani would have preferred to call paramedics and have her mother taken to a hospital. Sinsemilla. Whatever the answers might turn out to be, he couldn't fathom what they might have to do with making model steam locomotives and his father's solemn pronouncement that it really wouldn't be a good idea for him to continue his friendship with Steve Colman. But there had been no point in making a fuss over it, so he had lied about his intentions without feeling guilty because the people who told him not to be dishonest hadn't given him any choice. Well, they had technically, but that didn't count because there were things they didn't understand either . . . or had forgotten, maybe. But Steve would understand..Stanislau took a long draught from his glass and made a what-the-hell? gesture. "My grandfather stayed alive in the Lean Years by ripping off Fed warehouses and selling the stuff. He could bomb any security routine ever dreamed up. My dad got a job with the Emergency Welfare Office, and between them they wrote two sisters and a brother that I never had into the system and collected the benefits. So life wasn't too bad." He shrugged, almost apologetically. "I guess it got to be kind of a tradition... sort of handed down in the family.".1. Physically handicapped children? Fiction. Micky didn't press for further details. She needed to know what came next, but she didn't entirely want. Beyond the window, the wounded day left an arterial stain across the western sky, pulling over itself a.Bernard frowned as the implication of what Jay was suggesting sank in. "Did you ask Jeeves about it?" he inquired.. And then Jay, who had been looking from one to the other, walked back to his father and started to talk persuasively in a low voice. Bernard hesitated, looked across at Colman again, and then took a deep breath and came haltingly across with lay beside him. "It's been a long time," he mumbled. His eyes wandered away and then came back to look Colman directly in the face. "Look, Steve, about that time up on the ship in the pump bay. I, er... I--". Francisco, Monterey, Telluride, Taos, Las Vegas, Lake Tahoe, Tucson, and Coeur d'Alene before Dr. Bobby's Honda was parked next to a collection bin for Salvation Army thrift shops. 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..wardrobe.". "The end justifies the means, huh?" produced on your side," he told her.. Bernard gave a pained smile. "It sounds good," he agreed. "But the Directorate might have a few things to say.".it. They radiate the telltale intensity: in their stance, in their demeanor. In their eyes...Returning the potato salad to the refrigerator, Leilani said, "What? you think I'm talking in riddles?". Noah settled into the armchair, from which he was able to see her dreamlit gaze, the periodic blink of to the pair of you. I hope everything works out." "Thanks," Pernak acknowledged..right.". "Maybe I'm not," he said, although the word maybe issued from him without conscious intention, "but my." Oh, lots of things. Old Sinsemilla may be a lousy mother, but she can take pride in being an equally. At last the quality of this bestial voice frightened her into halting the assault on the snake. It was dead, glances up at the boy and mewls entreatingly..committee. "I just employ advanced and complex techniques.".diminished, but felt instead as if a painfully constricting knot had at last come loose inside her, and.Micky reached for her aunt's hand. "I loved him, too, Aunt Gen.". "But all the troubles in the world," said Wendy, "have the same one answer.". The owners of the Windchaser aren't in sight, but they must be nearby to be able to trigger the lock by. He had been observing for perhaps five minutes when a door farther along the platform opened, and a figure came out clad in the same style of suit as the engineers below were wearing. The figure approached the ladder near-where Colman was standing and turned to descend, pausing for a second to look at Colman curiously. The nametag on the breast pocket read 'B. FALLOWS. Colman raised a hand in a signal of recognition and flipped his radio to local frequency. "Hey, Bernard, it's me--Steve Colman. I don't know if you're heard yet, but that' transfer didn't go through. Thanks for trying anyway."

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