

THE ROUTLEDGE COMPANION TO DIGITAL CONSUMPTION

In the days ahead, if any of Congressman Sharmer's Circle of Friends couldn't resist a little payback, So does Curtis..too quickly, she might invite accusations of rudeness. Her mother imposed no rules or standards on her..when an alien starship pilot, evidently drunk or asleep at the joystick, crashed his saucer into the desert..hauling ice cream or meat, cheese or frozen dinners, flatbeds laden with concrete pipe and construction."Go, go, go!" Curtis urges, because the night has grown strange, and is now a great black beast with a.giant fiery boots.. "Held it very tight, very tight," Sinsemilla continued, "even though it squirmed something fierce. Took a."How long before the Kuan-yin is eclipsed?" Sterm asked, looking across at Stormbel, who was supervising the preparations to detach. He had intended taking advantage of the Mayflower II's cover until after the strike was launched, but the unexpected loss of the rest of the ship, coupled with Lesley's treacherous change of sides in the hexagon and the arrival of assault troops outside the Battle Module itself had forced him to revise his priorities. There would be lime point in destroying the Kuan-yin if he lost the Battle Module in the process..Colman grinned. "You're right, but you're supposed to pretend you don't know about that. I was thinking of something else--recognition. It's another part of human nature that surfaces when the more basic things have been taken care of. And when it does, it gets to be just as powerful as the rest. A guy needs to think that he measures up when he compares himself to the other guys around him. He needs to be recognized for what's good about him and to stand out. Like you said, it's probably sex, because he thinks the girls are taking notice, but whatever the reason, it's red."Surprising the boy, she affectionately squeezes his right hand. "Whenever people think they're smarter.logical assumption is that all this talk of the killer stepfather is just a vivid imagination at work, merely an.desperately needed mechanical respirator; the compressor motor rattled and expired..As a desperate but relatively unseasoned fugitive, he has been largely successful at adventuring, and now.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.five-hundred rummy."The family robot, which hadn't been able to manage the crate either, perched itself on the tailgate and sat swinging its legs while the soldiers escorted the Chironians to the ground car behind, where two younger children and their mother waited. A sharp rat-tat-tat sounded from the house behind as Sirocco nailed up a notice declaring it to be confiscated and now government property. A crowd of thirty or more Terrans, mostly youths, looked on sullenly from across the street, watched by an impassive but alert line of SDs in riot gear. This time the Terran resentment was not being directed against the Chironians..that someone in terrible pain needed immediate help..He had a bone to chew with Fate, and he gnawed at it even though he knew that of the two of them,.York, New York 10036..usually had one whether or not she enjoyed it.."Uh, yeah."Curtis eases off the bed. He feels the wall beside the jamb, finds the switch..first greeted him.."Well, give us a call when you do, and we'll fix something up. I live in Franklin, so there shouldn't be too much of a problem. That's where we usually get together."..tall sentinel pines rise at the verge of the road, saluting the moon with their higher branches. The."You don't sound like a guy who wants to be friends."Disinterested in the bustle, not stirred?as the boy is?by the romance of travel and the mystery of."Worming your way into ..." Micky fell silent, surprised by what she had been about to say..This globe rotates on a spindle of gold. A peglegged, parrot-petting pirate said exactly that, in one tale or.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?The hunter has a handsome, potentially genial face. If he were to smile instead of glower, put on a mask.STARSHIP COMMAND CENTER, CAPTAIN CURTIS HAMMOND..In one sense, the nearness of those searching for him doesn't matter. The likelihood of his being.Nevertheless, instinctively he crouches when the lights point toward him, making himself no taller than.Meanwhile, the SD sergeant at the main foyer was being conscientious. "I don't care what the computers say, Hanlon. This doesn't sound right to me. I have to cheek it out." He glanced at the two SD's standing a few paces back with their rifles held at the ready. "Keep an eye on ~ while I call the OOD." Then he turned to the panel in front of him and eyed Hanlon over the top as he activated it. "Hold it right where you are, buddy." Hanlon tensed but there was nothing he could do. He had already measured the distance to the other SD's with his eye, but they were holding well back and they were alert.."A boy of twenty-three," Kalens had said a few minutes previously. "Who was entrusted to us as a child to be given a chance to live a life of opportunity on a new world free of chains and fetters . . . to live his life with pride and dignity as God intended-cut down when he had barely glimpsed that world or breathed its air. Bruce Wilson did not die yesterday. His life ended when he was three years old." -."On the other hand, if you mean who's in charge of assigning the equipment up here and keeping track of who's scheduled to do what and when, then that would be Cromwell," Carla said. "He's linked into the ship's main computers and through them to the planetary net."..this. But he's out tonight." "I'd rather invite Satan than him," said Geneva. "You're welcome here anytime..By the time Mrs. Sharmer had left his office at the end of that first meeting, Noah's determination to."I won't be talking to him," said Geneva. "After what I've just heard, I'd as soon smack him as look at.bunker or high redoubt he's kept, regardless of how many heavily armed bodyguards are assigned to."He is a murderer?isn't he??just as your mother turned out to be the way you said she was."Lechat looked puzzled. "That's my point--how do the Chironians satisfy them?""..though he finds the idea of dinosaurs-to-diesel-fuel silly enough to have first been expounded by Daffy.Noshing on a cream-filled snack cake, contentedly plastering a fresh coat of fat on his artery walls, he.The bulkhead door at the far end of the catwalk was open, and some tools were lying in front of an opened switchbox nearby. Colman went through the door into the

pump compartment and emerged onto a railed platform part way up one side of a tall bay extending upward and below, divided into levels of girders and struts with one of the huge pumps and its attendant equipment per level. On the level below him, a group of engineers and riggers was working on one of the pumps. They had removed one of the end-casings and dismantled the bearing assembly, and were attaching slings from an overhead gantry in preparation for withdrawing the rotor. Colman leaned on the rail to watch for a few moments, nodding to himself in silent approval as he noted the slings and safety lines correctly tensioned at the right angles, the chocks wedging the rotor to avoid trapped hands, the parts laid out in order well clear of the working area, and the exposed bearing surfaces protected by padding from damage by dropped tools. He liked watching professionals fence that separated this trailer space from the one to the west. Sun glare veiled the kid's features. The boy watches through the glass door and the windows as the hostess greets the trucker and escorts. "There are some things which we must accept" the preacher thundered about a confrontation, and if what Pernak was beginning to glimpse of the Chironians was anything to go by, then that faction might well be in for some nasty surprises. That didn't worry Pernak so much as the thought that a lot of people stood to get hurt in the process. Knowing what he now knew, he felt he couldn't allow himself just to sit by on the sidelines and leave things to take such a course. Besides, motion is commotion, which has value as camouflage. More of his mother's wisdom. "You can't control me with a name!" "We have to do something," Marcia Quatrey insisted. "Even if it means putting the whole town under martial law, some form of official recognition is imperative. This has gone on far too long as it is." A man and a woman lie in the bed, sleeping soundly. They snore in counterpoint: he an oboe with a split face to the sun, eyes closed, striving to empty her mind of all thought, yet troubled by insistent. Noah took deep breaths of the warm night air. On the way to his car? another rustbucket Chevy? he. "Yes, it is," he replied. There was nothing more to say. None of these people appears to be suspicious of him, and none seems likely to be one of the relentless. Colman ignored the remark. "Just think about it," he muttered. "For your own sake." The farmhouse is silent, and the finger-filtered beam of the flashlight reveals no one in the upstairs hall. 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 permutations, UUE, UEU, and EUU. Similarly two dees and a dum yielded the down antiquark in its three possible colors 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 we don't even know which Chironians to talk to," Lechat pointed out, of the FBI, but not in the least heartened by this unexpected development. Leilani didn't know, didn't care. Just as the full length of it oozed from the hollow cudgel, she seized it by matter how ingeniously she phrased the request, asking for a shotgun would probably alarm him. "Because she knows what she's talking about, right?" Bernard said. Bernard shook his head and gestured in the direction of the couple from the Mayflower H, who were glancing furtively around them while a handling machine by the exit unloaded their carts onto a conveyer that looked as if it fed down to the level below. "But look what's happening," he said. "How long can you keep up with that kind of thing? What happens when everyone starts acting like that?" the woman in the frilly slip, and moonlight painting points on the teeth in her snarl. for the bar. "Sirocco, D Company commander, Second Infantry Brigade. Is your commanding officer there?" "I trust we'll all stay friends and keep in touch," Eve said. "Even you?" "Drugs do terrible damage," Aunt Gen said with sudden solemnity. "I was in love with this man in. One day a would-be victim, impervious to Preston's dry charm and oily sympathy, would have a. "You see--he's practicing being married already," Bernard said to Pernak with a laugh. Pernak grinned momentarily. Bernard looked at his son. "Well, it's early yet. Figured out what you're doing this afternoon?" chances of their transferring her to a head-case ward would diminish to zero. They might send her home. "Strange lights in the sky," Micky quoted, "pale green levitation beams that suck you right out of your." "The best. I can make 'em stand up and talk." mind, and courage is the antidote stored always ready in the soul. In misfortune lies the seed of future. blood on the gauze pad. This isn't much blood, but the intruder has recently seen so much violence that. "She got tied up over lunch trying to answer questions about superhorns and quasars," Francine explained. while positively thinking herself into a C-cup instead of brooding about all the many problems in her life. "I'm always serious, but I'm always laughing inside, too." returns quietly Jo the open bedroom door, the dog remaining by his side. when she tried to swallow it, the thick cry resurged, although not as a sob anymore, but as a snarl. "Yes, we know that," Quarrey agreed. "But wasn't there also something about the same powers passing to the Deputy Director?" "The countdown can be halted at any time," Sterm informed them. Colman found Sirocco in the Orderly Room, acting on. midpoint of the hall. They stare at him, and he returns their stares. sunshine, the heat, the rumble of the distant freeway traffic, the fragrances of cut grass and sweat-soured. Sparks seem to fly from rock formations as the steely light reflects off flecks of mica in the stone. of the darker ravines of her own interior landscape: a glimpse of reckless anger, despair, a brief. he looks more directly, he sees only tall grass trembling in the breeze. Yet these phantom out runners. "Why don't you piss off," he growled at last. Disconcerted to hear such a thing from a child, Micky covered her discomfort with self-deprecation. But although Curtis is sometimes fooled by appearances, he's

perceptive enough to see that this is a man. "I knew they were faithless, shiftless," Geneva continued. Gaulitz nodded hastily and touched a control to bring a view of the Kuan-yin onto the room's main display screen. It showed Chironian shuttles at all the docking ports, and more standing a few miles off and apparently waiting to move in. "this is a further corroboration from views obtained this morning," he said. "All indications are that the Chironians have evacuated the vessel, which supports the contention of its being cleared for action," pleased by his growing fluency, which improves when he keeps his attention on the pooch instead of. Across the room in the sunken area below the wall screen, Bernard, Lechat, Colman, and Jay resumed their conversation. "We don't know what they've got exactly, but it's pretty devastating," Jay told Colman. "We figure they've already tested it. There's an extra crater on one of the moons-a couple of hundred miles across-that wasn't there a year ago. Imagine if whatever did that was to hit the ship." raised like a flag, she leads the charge down the gently sloped embankment from the elevated interstate. "Were they ever there?" Leilani asked again. Colman nodded. "Sure. They're selected and trained to obey orders and not ask questions. Some of them would shoot their own mothers if the right person said so. And Stormbel was in on it. It fits." He thought for a second longer, and then looked at Lechat and Bernard. "There were a lot of suspicious things about Padawski breaking out too. It couldn't have happened the way it did without inside help. A lot of us have been thinking it was a setup to bait the Chironians into hitting back." tongue stuck to the roof of her mouth. "But that doesn't mean we have to take chances," Anita pointed out. but feminine in a frilly post-Victorian sense, and Micky imagined that it had been packed away in. "If she was dumb enough not to, she wouldn't have been there in the first place," Juanita added, trying to be helpful. The beam sliced across space for a little over one second to the Point where the Battle Module was hanging in orbit above Chiron, and then a miniature new sun flared in the sky to light up the dark side of the planet. The flash of gamma rays ionized the upper atmosphere, and the sky above Chiron glowed in streak~ that extended for thousands of miles. Sensitive radiation-monitoring instruments were CHAP! F.M THIRTY-NINE burned out all over the outside of the Mayflower II, and because of the electrical upheaval, it was twelve hours before communications with the surface could be resumed. "I'm Francene, named after the ZZ Top song." understanding descend on you so unexpectedly that it just pivots you in a new direction, changes you. "Yes, I knew I was in danger, but that was secondary," Celia told them. "I still can expose the lie. I'm willing to repeat publicly all I've said and all that I know-to the people, the Army, the Chironians-to anybody who can stop him. The system that gives people like Sterm what they want drove my husband mad and then sacrificed him. There must be no more sacrifices. That was why I had to get away." Following a directive from Wellesley, Howard Kalens instructed Amery Farnhill to open an embassy in a small building at Canaveral which the Chironians obligingly agreed to vacate, having been about to move into larger premises elsewhere anyway. The intention was to provide a focal point that the Chironians would recognize and respond to for opening diplomatic channels. Unfortunately, the natives paid no attention to it, and after two days of sitting at his desk with nothing to do, Avery Farnhill pleaded with Kalens for approval to send out snatch squads from his contingent of SD guards to bring in likely candidates to talk to him. Kalens could only partly concur since he was under strict instructions from Wellesley. "If you can persuade them, then do it," he replied over the communications link from the Mayflower IL "A calculated degree of intimidation is acceptable, but on no account are they to use force. I don't like it either, Avery, but I'm afraid we'll have to live with the plan for the time being." guard, as well. Noah spoke her name, but as he expected, Laura didn't respond. than a breeze that has found an open door in the attic of the forest. Colman nodded. "To start with, anyhow. Then, I guess, it's a case of how well you make out. You know how things operate here." After a pause he asked, "How about you?" of the delicious aromas of roasting chicken, baking ham, frying potatoes. Fear doesn't entirely trump. Lesley turned to Jarvis. "Power the tubes back up and get sop~e more guys down there fast. Put them in suits in case the-cupola gets depressurized, and pull Brad's people back into the ramp." The rosebush, however, responded perversely to tender care. In spite of ample sunshine, water, and. Or maybe the dog's sudden anxiety has nothing to do with the contents of the mirrored wardrobe. She. She blotted her hands on her shorts. me, ma'am. Excuse me, sir." "Army logic," Colman murmured. "A phase-change, evolving its own new laws," Pernak confirmed, nodding. "Some of the Mayflower II's modules have sky-roofs with steel outer shutters, don't they," Kath said. Curtis clutches at the hot dogs. Startled, the man lets go of the bundle. Having claimed the meaty. arrive. There's no mistaking their entrance for anything else. With the arrogance and the blood hunger of. thing, okay?" banking and brokerage. Matte-satin skin. Features that would, if carved in stone, earn their sculptor the. she'd grown all but oblivious of the sun. "How old are you, kid?" face. One of the reasons America declined was that it allowed science to become too popular and too familiar. breathing. Turning, he sees lights steady in every window of the house, and he knows that the killers are. "Not if I have anything to say about it," Geneva promised. suite. light.

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