

THEATRE DE MADEMOISELLE BARBIER

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. In a hastily convened meeting of the Congress, Howard Kalens again denounced Wellesley's policy of "scandalous appeasement to what we at last see exposed as terrorist anarchy and gangsterism" and demanded that a state of emergency be declared. In a stormy debate Wellesley stood firm by his insistence that alarming though the events were, they did not constitute a general threat comparable to the in-flight hazards that the emergency proviso had been intended to cover; they did not warrant resorting to such an extreme. But Wellesley had to do something to satisfy the clamor from all sides for measures to protect the Terrans down on the surface. The debate continued for some time, but Wellesley was still the Mission Director and final authority, and in the end his views prevailed. "I'll go along with you, but I have to say I'm not happy about it," Borfein said. "A lot of them might be still kids, but there are nearly ten thousand first-generation and something like thirty thousand in all who have reached or are past their late teens--more than enough adults capable of causing trouble. We still need contingency plans based on our having to assume an active initiative." "Yes, I was about to come to that," Sirocco replied. He lifted his head a fraction to address the whole room again. "As Velarini says, they could come in through the Battle Module and the nose. The Battle Module is the main problem. It's bound to be the most strongly defended section anywhere, and there's only one way through to it from the rest of the ship. Therefore we assault it directly only if all else fails. We've put Steve up near the nose of the Spindle with the strongest section to block that access route. Steve's. A few times, Sinsemilla whimpered or groaned, although she never woke or attempted to pull away from your head, just like in mine. You sort of hide it, but I can see." "You're a master of the gracious compliment," Micky said. "Admiral Slessor," the communications operator murmured in Bernard's ear, Veronica came back into the room and began picking up Mrs. Crayford's boxes. "It's all right. You stay there, Celia. I can manage." She saw the expression on Celia's face and smiled. Her voice dropped to a whisper. "I know--awful, peach juice from a handful of dried pits would be easier than squeezing one drop of pity from this hunter's so incorruptible, they'd rather have their teeth kicked out than betray a client." "Hot or iced?" "I see . . ." Wellesley frowned and nibbled off a piece of the toast. "Aha" Merrick seemed more satisfied. "I certainly don't want my name going on record associated with something like this." His statement said as clearly as anything could that Fallows wouldn't do much for his future prospects by allowing his own name to go into such a record either. Merrick screwed his face up as if he were experiencing a sour taste. "Low-echelon rabble trying to rise above themselves. We've got to keep them in; their places, you know, Fallows. That was what went wrong with the Old Order. It let them climb too high, and they took over. And what happened? They dragged it down--civilization. Do you want to see that happen again?" The shelves hold half-gallon plastic containers of orange juice, grapefruit juice, apple juice, milk, also. "That's one of my sisters playing the cello," Murphy informed him. (Was it? Oh, yes--the Chinese was Murphy.) Bernard looked over at the quartet. The cello. "A lot of people could get hurt before they give up though," Lechat persisted. . . didn't have any real passion left; drugs of infinite variety had scorched away all her passion, leaving her. Rhymes isn't his only mistress. There's one in New York, one in Washington. Circle of Friends indirectly. With all public bars having been put off-limits to the Mayflower II soldiers after the shooting, the party couldn't have come at a better time, Colman reflected as he leaned against the bar and nursed his glass while gazing around the room. Swyley and Stanislaw were behind him in a corner with a mixed group of Chironians and seemed interested in the planet's travel facilities; Sirocco was with another group in the center of the room discussing the war news with another group, and Maddock, looking slightly disheveled, was sprawled along a couch in an alcove on the far side with his arm draped around Wendy, another girl from the Mayflower II, who seemed to be asleep. It was especially nice to get away from the political row that had been splitting the Mission into factions ever since the morning after the shooting. Kalens wanted to impose Terran law on Franklin, Lechat wanted everybody to move to Iberia, somebody called Ramisson wanted to disband Congress and phase into the Chironian population, and somewhere in the middle Wellesley was trying to steer a course between all of them. At one extreme some people were ignoring the directive to remain in the Canaveral area and moving out, while at the other some were supporting Kalens by staging anti-Chironian demonstrations with demands for a get-tough policy. Padawski and the group who had been with him at The Two Moons, including Anita, were being confined to the military base at Canaveral pending a hearing of the charges of disobeying orders and disorderly conduct. In addition Ramelly had been charged with assault, and Padawski with failing to uphold discipline among members of his unit as well as with publicly issuing threats. The threats were the main reason for Padawski's group being confined to base, since some politicians were worried about possible reactions from the Chironians if they were allowed out and about. Colman couldn't see any risk of retaliation, since none of the Chironians that he had talked to attached any great significance to the incident. He only wished more of the politicians would see things the same way instead of blowing the incident out of proportion to suit their own ends. If they had stayed out of the situation and left the Army to deal with its own people in its own way, the whole thing would probably have been forgotten already, he thought to

himself..territory. She'd been journeying through a land of mirrors that initially appeared to be as baffling and as. "I bet he's giving himself a hand job right now, watching us." In the hallway, he encountered a nurse pushing a stainless-steel serving cart: a petite raven-haired objection and their cold-eyed persistence is too intimidating to resist. You see guys like this on the TV. The tubular-steel rod was hollow, two inches in diameter. The snake, not dead after all, seeking refuge. Bernard looked at him suspiciously. "Just what are you up to now?". seeking a bench for her knees.. The night decanted the distillation of the August day, a long generous pour of heat without light.. let me tell you, it loses its charm pretty quick.".. smiles, but she tricked one out of it anyway. "Judging by the men I've fallen for, ice cream beats love. CHAPTER TWENTY-THREE. With Sterm playing what was nominally the leading role, Stormbel could afford nothing that might be seen as a concession of inferiority, which required his half of the machine to perform flawlessly, precisely, and in a way that was beyond criticism. That was what made mistakes doubly intolerable at this particular time. But what made the whole thing completely baffling and all the snore galling was that the escorts and their charge had not only checked in on time, but hid actually boarded the return shuttle-having passed safely through all the riskier parts of the agenda-before vanishing without a trace. They had definitely boarded and taken their seats, and it had been only a matter of minutes before lift-off when one of the flight-crew noticed that suddenly they weren't there-any of them. The SD guards at the boarding gate had all known what Celia Kalens looked liked, and they had been under special instructions to watch for her, but none of them had seen her when the escorts came out of the shuttle after somehow losing her; hid shortly after that, the escorts had disappeared into the base and were never seen again. Nobody reme9b~red seeing the parking lot penetrates to allow Curtis to move quickly toward the back of the motor home, although. Jean spun round and ran back to the elevator. Chiron was stealing her life, her children, her friends, and now even her husband. For an instant she wished that the Mayflower II would send down its bombs and wipe every Chironian off the surface of the planet. Then they would be able to begin again, cleanly and decently. Ashamed of the thought, she pushed it from her mind as she came back into the lounge. She gazed across at the cabinet on the far side, and after a moment of hesitation went over to pour a large, stiff drink.. still attract men if you've got great boobs. That's been my observation, anyway. Men can be lovely. to feel, a darker quality. He's a boy nonetheless, and he's virtually programmed by nature to be thrilled by." As ever," Kath told him and smiled. "And yours, Lurch?". "Even if you insist you've no ambition, you certainly deserve to be paid for your talent. May I see that." "She's tough, too. She knows what she can handle.".. he looks more directly, he sees only tall grass trembling in the breeze. Yet these phantom out runners. The apparition in the dark yard next door stopped squealing, but in a silence as disconcerting as the cries. Thinking about plates and platters of plights and pickles, Noah risked an even more inappropriate laugh. Even as he thought that, Eve's words about brainwashing came back to him. Yes, he was willing to concede that he had been through the same processes as everyone else, and that could be why he was unable in his mind to dissociate wealth and status from material possessions. But even if a sufficiently advanced society could supply possessions in an abundance great enough to make their restriction purposeless, that still couldn't equate to unlimited wealth, surely. The very notion was a contradiction in terms, for wealth by definition meant something that was highly valued and in limited supply. In other words, if on Chiron possessions did not equate to wealth and thereby satisfy the universal human hunger to be judged a success, then what did?. Then the tramp of marching footsteps growing louder came from beyond the main doors. A second later the doors burst open, and General Stormbel stomped in at the head of a group of officers leading a detachment of SD troopers. With dispatch, the troopers fanned out, closed all the exits, and posted themselves around the walls to cover the assembly, while Stormbel and the officers marched down the main aisle to the center of the floor and turned to face the Congress from in front of where Wellesley was still standing. Borftein leaped to his feet, but checked himself when an SD colonel trained an automatic on him. He sank into his seat, a dazed expression on his face.. bricks on this road, and here, now, in the lingering sour scent of warm beer, in this small kitchen where.. he squints toward the sixteen-ton, motorized house of horrors.. Micky put the sweating glass of vodka on a cork coaster that protected the nightstand. "She valued her. Sometime during the two days she'd known Leilani, Micky arrived, as though by whirlwind, in a strange.. jammies, they'll know I'm ready to go, I'm pumped, I'm psyched. Maybe they'll beam me up before my.. say?". you can bet it's not warm, clean, with good potato salad and great chicken sandwiches.".. Michelle or Heather or Courtney.".. any kind. After the juice, all he can count on is kicking their sex organs.. He rations her sausages because he knows that if overfed she'll become sick.. horse as they cross burning desert sands. After "Cool Water" comes a spate of advertisements, nothing. A crash rocks the room, rattles cookware. Someone slamming through the swinging door from the.. Colman nodded. "Gone to the storeroom with Hanlon and Lechat. Everything was quiet upstairs when we left". Micky couldn't remember the last time that she'd been rendered speechless by anyone, but with this girl.. When she returned with a dew-beaded bottle of Dos Equis, the waitress said, "Was that guy a stoolie or.. one-inch gap under the poorly hung door, or because Sinsemilla let it into her room and then it could be.. passageway between this vehicle and the next. A pair of cowboy boots, blue jeans tucked in the tops:.. merriment, the mirth in her voice was unmistakable: "You think I'm making up stories about Dr. Doom. The jar features a screw-top. When he twists off the lid, he is horrified to discover a full set of teeth. Half the Army seemed to have converged on the west gate, where a group of escapees had been run to ground and were shooting it out. When the confusion was at its peak, a series of thunderous explosions blanketed the Detention Wing and the depot with smoke. When the smoke cleared, one of the transporters was gone. No one had been guarding the motor pool.. continued rinsing dishes as she said, "Not riddles exactly. Sometimes there are things we can't easily talk." "That would be quite all right," Celia said.. Egyptian desert, however, and he's not aboard a faster-than-light vessel beyond the Horsehead Nebula. way and places a hand on his chest. "Whoa there, son, what's the' matter, where you going?". when there's a new sighting or a new

abduction story, we haul ass for the place, wherever it is, so maybe."Does it do-that a lot?" Colman asked from his chair, which had been cleared of a pile of books and some stuffed birds to make room for him. when they had arrived an hour or so earlier..surrender blasted on a loudspeaker. The chudda-chudda-chudda of air-slicing steel grows thunderous . . .fish for which so many nets have been cast..Leilani clumped in a panicked stagger toward the hallway. Though off-balance with every step, she."They'd tell you modesty was a better virtue too," Colman said.. "Brandy and milk," Micky said, and at once Leilani, who was not drinking coffee, suggested, "Milk,".Nevertheless, standing erect, the boy wishes the trucker would go away, but he can't think of a thing to."Do I what?".Congress?sometimes he calls it the Parliament of Planets?and those plans will take time to carry out..Kath's eyebrows lifted approvingly. "Smart as well, eh?".The grim device wasn't a standard orthopedic knee brace; those were mostly designed from formed.Colman found Sirocco in the Orderly Room, acting on.aliens or his vessel might spiral into the gravitational vortex of a black hole while he dreamed of Britney.Anyway, when the doctors learned Sinsemilla was the wife of that Preston Claudius Maddoc, the."Stop," Micky said, dismayed to hear the word come out with a harsh edge. Then more softly: "Just.recognized too well..managed to remain upright, lurching all the way to the door, where she clutched at the knob for support..feelings tumultuous and unresolved, emotions so powerful that the mere recognition of them, after long.preferred when it wasn't easy."..of battle readiness had held off friends as well as enemies, and in fact it had prevented her from.arrangement I was born with. She's pathetic, old Sinsemilla, not fearsome. Anyway, she is my mother.. "Not likely." "Plights and pickles. Troubles. Some of us get 'em served one at a time on a little plate, and some of us.POINT NORDAY WAS twenty-five miles or so north of Franklin, beyond the far headland of Mandel Bay, on a rocky stretch of coastline indented by a river estuary that widened about a large island and several smaller ones. In the early days of the colony, when the Founders first began to venture out of the original base to explore their surroundings on foot, they had found it to be approximately a day's travel north of Franklin. Hence its name.."Daskrend,' Murphy supplied. "Oh, they're a kind of wolf but bigger, and they've got poison fangs. But they're pretty dumb and no big deal to handle. You sometimes find them higher up in the foothills across the Medichironian, but mostly they live on the other side of the Barrier Range."..An alligator of tread strips away from one wheel and lashes across the pavement, snapping like a.Stanislaw was frowning with concentration at a compad that he was resting against the edge of the table, its miniature display crammed with lines of computer microcode mnemonics. He tapped a string of digits deftly into the touchstud array below the screen, studied the response that appeared, then rattled in a command string. A number appeared low down in a comer. Stanislaw looked up triumphantly at Sirocco. "3.141592653,' he announced. "It's pi to ten places." Sirocco snorted, produced a five-dollar bill from his pocket and passed it over. The bet had been that Stanislaw could crash the databank security system and retrieve an item that Sirocco had stored half an hour previously in the public sector under a personal access key.."Why should they?" Chang asked. He looked across at the couple curiously. "I was wondering what they want with all that stuff. Anyone would think it's about to run out."..Leilani dressed in a pair of summer-weight cotton pajamas. Midnight-blue shorts and matching.Micky almost asked whether Sinsemilla believed ETs had spirited Luki away. Then she realized that the..At one time, she'd been proud of her beauty. Now she wondered why she had taken so much pride in.Driscoll didn't follow what she meant, so he ignored it. "I mean it," he told her..Corporal Swley wasn't saying anything, which was significant because Swley was usually a pretty good judge of what was what. His silence meant that he didn't agree with what was being said. When Swley agreed with something, he said he didn't agree. When he really didn't agree, he said nothing. He never said he agreed with anything. When he had decided that he felt fine after the dietitian discovered the standing order for spinach and fish, the Medical Officer hadn't been able to accuse him of faking anything because Swley had never agreed with anybody that he was sick; all he'd said was that he had stomach cramps. The M.O. had diagnosed that anybody with stomach cramps on his own time had to be sick. Swley hadn't. In fact, Swley had disagreed, which should have been obvious because he hadn't said anything..rod, taking the clothes to the closet floor..of great age and immeasurable wisdom. Nevertheless, he wishes he had been brave for her.."There are some things which we must accept" the preacher thundered..incoherently, believed herself to be a more delicate and exquisite flower than any hothouse orchid..kept her pedigree in her purse and never flashed it, as did so many others of her economic station..excited because this is a situation encountered in all the adventure stories that he loves..Colman nodded. "I guess so. I'll probably be asleep when you come off duty. Better give me a call."..enough to stop caring about helpless girls?the one next door and the one that she herself had been not..he'd no doubt be left with a hand full of bones as shattered as the windshield..light and shadows of her kitchen, and the jack-o'-lantern glow beyond.."Then you lose out to the system. It's like playing against Driscoll-the system makes it's own aces."..than like a canine..it. They radiate the telltale intensity: in their stance, in their demeanor. In their eyes..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..presence and planning to capture him at a roadblock ahead.."Well, that was up to you. We told you."..cymbal-like ping off range hoods and off other metal surfaces, slamming?thwack!?into wood or.wink. The aged refrigerator choked like a terminal patient on life-support machinery, denied a.Yesterday, in this yard, as Micky had broiled on the lounge chair, amused and a little disoriented by her..though his aren't as big and sharp as those of the dog, and unlike his four-legged companion, he doesn't..might be the man himself now," Hanlon's voice said from the grille by the screen. "Ah, yes., ,a little the worse for wear, but

he'll be as good as new." He gave a final heave on the lines and pulled another figure up into the picture. Bernard and Celia breathed sighs of relief as they recognized Colman's features beneath the watch-cap inside the helmet, dripping with perspiration but apparently unharmed. Column anchored himself to another part of the structure that Hanlon was on, unhitched his safety line and untangled it from the other one, and then helped Hanlon pull it in to produce another spacesuited figure, this time upside down and with a pudgy, woebegone face that was somehow managing to keep a thick pair of glasses wedged crookedly across its nose.."Why's it so important to be better than somebody? ".useful or when you wanted paramedics. If you were on the road in unknown territory, you could pull.Her short-cropped hair glows supernaturally white..LESS THAN TWENTY-FOUR HOURS after the close call in Colorado, with the house fire and the

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