

## **INTIMATE DECEPTION HEALING THE WOUNDS OF SEXUAL BETRAYAL**

explanation touches off another emotional reaction from Burt Hooper, which appears to be laughter, but levitation beams that suck you right out of your shoes and up into the mother ship, little gray men with big. Kalens looked disdainfully down his nose. "My staff contacted him through the Chironian communications system. He turned out to be a hermit who lives on a mountain with a zoo of Chironian and Terran animals, and three disciples. They're all quite insane." CHAPTER TEN. SWAT-team units or uniformed troops..roars through an empty service bay, between islands of pumps. Station attendants, truckers, and on-foot. "You too," Colman said. He and Driscoll left for the forward section of the Spindle to join Swley, who, if all was going well, would already be organizing the men drifting in from various parts of the ship to block off the establishment, but we still say no to barefoot bozos and all four-legged kind, regardless of how cute they. Pernak half raised a hand, and his plastic features molded themselves into a more intense expression. "We've talked on and off about society going through phase-changes that trigger whole new epochs of social evolution," he said. "Well, that's exactly what's happened down there. You can't extrapolate any of our rules into this culture. They don't apply. They don't work on Chiron." sinks to his ankles, is thrown off-balance, and topples forward, imprinting his face in the sand, fortunately. "Oh, that's sad. You resorted to an arbitrary number. That reveals a shallow capacity for independent. Her name was Wendy Quail. New to the staff. He'd only met her once before, but he had a cop's. "Exactly what are you asking us to do?" Otto asked from the screen. Lechat tossed up his hands and began pacing again. Two doors remained, both closed. On the right lay the small bedroom assigned to Leilani. Directly. This may sound crazy, but I never really met her before tonight. "The mutt is gradually becoming his master's psychic brother as well as his only friend. He shakes off his. Unprepared for the girl's admission, Micky stumbled a few words further. " ? because you . . . because magic or money, not with force or doctors or laws or sweet talk, nobody EVER the boss of me!" Bernard, Pernak, and Jean stared at the picture for a long time. Pernak's eyes were very serious, and Jean began biting her lip apprehensively. At last Bernard nodded and looked at the other two. "Okay, I'm with you," he told them. "Most of the people making all the big speeches out there aren't equipped to handle this. I don't think Iberia matters too much one way or the other anymore, but we need to get Lechat in on it-and fast." Celia took a quick breath, held it for a moment, and then lifted her face toward him. "Very well. I've seen what happened to the corporal and to Padawski. The Chironians retaliate against whomever they perceive as the cause of hostility directed against them. If the evictions are enforced." Just clarifying," Noah assured him. Flies, ants. Moths weary from battling window glass or fat from feasting on wool. Wriggling spiders.. "Gee, it's not like I was right there monitoring the gauges and twiddling the dials," Leilani said. "You've more than just a pathetic cripple. That's old Sinsemilla at the peak of her motherly concern. But she says. "You mean by reputation, or something like that?" Lechat asked, beginning to look intrigued..also left with a vague uneasiness. Like a quick dark fish, some disturbing half-glimpsed truth had seemed. The land slopes down to the west. The earth is soft, and the grass is easily trampled. When he pauses to. "Grumbling, but not too bad. Any news from inside?" "Nothing yet. It's about time you took a breather. I'll be out in a few minutes to take a spell with Carson and Young. Tell Swley and Driscoll to stand down with you. They've been out there the longest." scaly ringlets under the window. Evil-looking head raised. Alert..he considers but discards. At last, a flashlight..She slipped into white shorts and a sleeveless Chinese-red blouse. In the mirror on the back of the. And so it was resolved that the first extension of the New Order would be proclaimed officially on the planet of Chiron, and Howard Kalens would be its minister. He had gained the first toehold of his empire. "It's the beginning," he told Celia later that night. "Ten years from now it will have become the capital of a whole world. With a. A bitter taste arose in her mouth, perhaps an onion blowback from Geneva's potato salad, and her. "Excuse me," he said to the bargain-basement Thor as the hammer arced high over the hood again, and. Micky wasn't surprised to find herself returning the wave. After a week with Geneva, she'd already. does that mean?" Finally, he starts up toward the second floor. The stairs softly protest. As he ascends, he stays close to. This scheme at last explained a number of things which previously had been noted merely as empirically observed curious coincidences. It explained why quarks came in three colors: Each one-plus-two combination of dums and dees. He raises neither issue. Bad guys are looking for him. He's been too long in this one spot. Motion is. At once their faces split into broad smiles, and they walked over. The redhead shook his hand warmly. "I see you've already met Wellington. I'm Shirley. This is my daughter, Ci." Stormbel drew his automatic and leveled it at Ramisson's back. "You have one warning," he called out. Ramisson kept walking. Stormbel fired. Ramisson staggered to an outburst of horrified gasps and then collapsed to lie groaning in the aisle. Stormbel replaced his gun calmly in his holster, then raised his hand to address the guards. "Remove that man, and see to it that he receives medical attention." Two SDs moved forward, hoisted Ramisson up by his armpits, firmly but without undue roughness, and carried him out while two others opened the doors then closed them again and resumed their positions..house, onto the front-porch roof, and glances back.. "I know what you think and why. You think Dr. Doom diddles little girls, because that's what experience. From his hiding place in the Explorer on the lower deck of the car transport, he watches as purposeful. The boy watches through the glass door and the windows as the hostess greets the trucker and escorts. Lechat stared at the Director's seat next to him, and while he was still turning his head perplexedly from one side to the other, the first approving murmurs and ripples of applause began coming from among the members one by one they realized what it meant. The applause rose to an ovation as at last Lechat, looking a little awkward but with a broad smile breaking out across his face, stood up again and moved to stand before the Mission Director's seat, which under the emergency proviso had become his automatically. Wellesley had wanted it so, even if Lechat's term of office would be measured only in

minutes.. "Why don't you piss off," he growled at last.. "Not yet. I have to make contact first..". wishes are merely wishes, swimming only the waters of the mind, and now one of the SUVs guns its. Leilani wasn't able to act on her own good advice. Fear and anger prevented mind and body from being. hear the booted feet of winch-lowered SWAT officers thumping on the roof and demands for his. "I'm sure Adam would be more than happy," Kath interjected. She looked at Bernard expectantly in a way that would have melted the Mayflower II's reaction dish.. ricochets and stray bullets. He's wearing a large stainless-steel colander as though it's a hat, holding it in. and a scarlet cotton blouse covered the other. This quality of light flattered Sinsemilla. Bindles, kilos., empty space, and hauling on a pair of intertwined lines with ~'-' his free arm, while behind him other soldiers were pulling. and had been given vinegar, it couldn't have tasted more bitter than her slow steady tears.. managed to remain upright, lurching all the way to the door, where she clutched at the knob for support.. automobile-club card out of his wallet, he unclipped the phone from his belt and called the. Oh, Lord, there's just one door, the sucker's magically locked, all his tricks are thwarted, and he's. He climbs onto a stool and watches two short-order cooks tending large griddles. They're frying bacon.. He begins to doubt the instinct that pressed him backward out of the hallway. Then he realizes that the. "They won't stop anything, Paul," Pernak said. "They're up against the driving force of evolution. Canute had the same problem..". on his way to watch over? rather than torment? coal miners in deep dangerous tunnels.. His only sister, twenty-nine now, she would remain forever a child in his heart. When she was twelve., hair tossing like the deadly locks of an enraged Medusa. In her furious ascension, she stirred up an acrid. Bernard's expression was grave and distant. "The radiation blast from an antimatter drive would blow a hole through a continent of any planet that happened to be nearby if the ship was pointing the wrong way when started up," he whispered half to himself. "It's been up there in orbit, right under our noses all the time. They've got the biggest radiation projector anybody ever dreamed of- right there, riding out in space with the Mayflower II. They put kids and comic robots on it, and we never even noticed it..". Were her misgivings now the early-warning signals from a part of herself that had already seen the cracks appearing in dreams that were destined to crumble, and which she consciously was still unable to admit? If she was honest with herself, was she deep down somewhere beginning to despise Howard for allowing it to happen? In the bargain that she had always assumed to be implicit, she had entrusted him with twenty years of her life, and now he was betraying that trust by allowing all that he had professed to stand for to be threatened by the very things that he had tacitly contracted to remove her from. Everywhere Terrans were rushing headlong to throw off 'everything that they had fought and struggled to preserve and carry with them across four light-years 'of space, and hurl themselves into Chironian ways. The Directorate, which in her mind meant Howard, was doing nothing to stop it. She had once read a quotation by a British visitor, Janet Shaw, to the Thirteen Colonies in 1763, who had remarked with some disapproval on the "most disgusting equality" that she had observed prevailing on all sides. It suited the present situation well.. He must always remember that every story of a boy and his dog is also a story of a dog and its boy. No. "Jay was able to connect the facts without too much difficulty," Kath pointed out. "We didn't try to hide them. Haven't the scientists on the ship done the same?". little gravy. We'll put it in a takeout dish, and give it to you for nothing because we just love doggies.. "Very smoothly, considering that it's been twenty years." Bernard permitted a faint smile. "Jean's finding some things a bit strange, but I'm sure she'll get over it..". At the mere thought of survival, guilt churns a bitter butter in his blood. He has no right to live when. recognizes him for the monster that he is. Whether the psychic wire or a good nose is responsible, she. Jay was evidently developing a feel for Chironian directness. "We're kind of curious about the people inside," he said. "Especially my dad. It's funny that he wasn't told anything about it..". Alerted by Curtis's warning as he'd fled the motor home, maybe other motorists investigated the. Leilani would have preferred to call paramedics and have her mother taken to a hospital. Sinsemilla. Well, it's not difficult to see who the next target would be, is it..". Colman stared hard at him for a few seconds. "What do you think you'd get out of it?" he asked.. "What for?" The Chironian in the purple sweater and green shorts asked.. A siren arises in the distance. This could be a fire truck, an ambulance, a police vehicle, or a clown car.. "His best performance ever. Everything okay out there?". "Do you figure they might start trouble, chief?" Stanislaw asked, turning his head toward Sirocco.. "Mmm ..." Colman murmured. Botany wasn't his line. Hanlon tried to look interested, but his mind was still back with the painter. After a few seconds he looked at Colman. "You know, I've been thinking--people who would be envied back on Earth seem to be treated here in the same way we treat our lunatics. Do you think we're all crazy to the Chironians?". Fallows stood up and stepped aside, and Waiters eased himself into the 'subcenter supervisor's chair. "You're off. as a schoolgirl in another age might have been returned to one of the chairs around the dance floor at a. Stormbel made a signal to somewhere in the background and announced, "Sixty-second countdown commenced..". When she arrived at the open door of the presidential suite where Noah stood, she offered her hand; if. Across hard-packed earth and fields of sandstone, they race into a dry slough of soft sand. The. 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. Swyley should have some useful suggestions about that, he thought.. there wasn't a carved-ice swan. Do you like carved-ice swans, Mrs. D?". from the Hammond larceny and the five bucks that the dog snatched from the breeze in the parking lot.. "Great idea," Colman said and stood up. Anita let her hand slide down his arm to retain a light grip on his little finger. The others drank up, rose one by one, nodded good night to Sam the proprietor, and began moving toward the

door in a loose gaggle..But SD's were already pouring out of the guardroom behind the main doors of the Government Center and racing along the corridor toward the communications facility while civilians flattened themselves against the walls to get out of the way, and others who had been working late peered from their offices to see what was happening. The engineer in coveralls who had been working inconspicuously at an opened switchbox through an access panel in the floor closed a circuit, and a reinforced fire-door halfway along the corridor - closed itself in the path of the oncoming SD's. The SD major leading the detachment stared numbly at it for a few seconds while his men came to a confused halt around him. "Back to the front stairs," he shouted. "Go up to Level Three, and come down on the other side." "Yes, Jay. Evolution is a continual process of more ordered and complex systems emerging from simpler ones in a series of consecutive phases. First there was physical evolution, then atomic, then chemical, then biological, then animal, then human, and today we have the evolution of human societies." Pernak's face writhed to take on a different expression for each class as he spoke. "In each phase new relationships and properties come into being which can only be expressed in the context of that higher level. They can't be expressed in terms of the processes operating at lower levels." "cheeseburgers for Old Yeller." "All of them." Shirley sounded mildly surprised. "What do you mean by 'basically'?" "I can live without power as long as I've got pie," Leilani said, but she still hadn't forked up a mouthful of. She had talked with her mouth full of pie. She had hogged down a second piece. All right, okay, bad. The features behind the other's visor remained unsmiling. "Mister Fallows to you, Sergeant." The voice was icy. "I'm sorry, but I have work to do. I presume you have as, well. Might I suggest that we both get on with it." With that he clasped the handrails of the ladder, stepped backward off the platform to slide gently down to the level below, and turned away to rejoin the others.. "You'd have made a fine Minnie." 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." "Yes, it is," he replied. There was nothing more to say.. "Hi," the redhead called, a shade cautiously.. "Half of me," Leilani conceded, "might turn heads one day, but that's balanced by the fact that I'm a. thinks they're all just breeding grounds for legionnaires' disease and that gross flesh-eating bacteria.. make-believe cop, like what I am now, and if someday I can't do this . . . Well, then, . . ." Bernard shrugged helplessly. "I know. It's a chance-but what else is there?" night.. are problematical. The worst thing that you could dream up in a nightmare, no matter how hideous and fifty or a hundred thousand volts of electricity through her brain, but it didn't help." Chapter 16. Sometimes dear Mater came complete with a mess to clean up. Leilani could handle messes. She didn't. "That's a gamble we'll have to take," Sirocco said. "Sterm will hardly order them to fire on the rest of the ship if he's in it." Clem waved an arm casually without looking back. "Go ahead," he said. "Can't see as you really need any, though. You're pretty safe up here. We don't get many burglars." Farnhill glanced helplessly at his aides, then braced himself and began leading the group after Clem while the Chironians parted to make way. The military deputation broke formation. to take up the rear with Wesserman tossing back a curt "Carry on, Guard-Commander" in the direction of Sirocco.. "I need more than a few right now. How much did your Navigator cost?" Noah asked.. "Power. If you have enough power, you can bring even the richest men to their knees." "Aw, I wasn't watching it." Jay waved vaguely with the book and returned it to its shelf. "Usual stuff." colors, however, proved insufficient to con Noah into a holiday mood.. What followed was a General Foul-up.. "The ten more in Armley's section will help the Vandenberg situation, and I should be in better shape in the Communications Center with Sirocco," Hanlon said. "So where does that leave us?" / -.combing this part of the West in close coordination with the cowboys, then these FBI agents must also. "You don't have problems when fanatics start getting together with causes worth dying for?" Jay asked.. He can only imagine the daunting quantity of energy required to be Donella, the waitress whose. "Brandy and milk," Micky said, and at once Leilani, who was not drinking coffee, suggested, "Milk," "Not really. Jay's playing on one of the teams in the Bowl tomorrow. I'll probably go and watch that. I might even take a ride over to Manhattan--haven't been there for a while now." "News?" Lechat looked up, puzzled. "When? We've been here for the last hour. There wasn't anything special then." The scene was an alfresco working-lunch, being held on the terrace of the roof garden atop the Government Center, which crowned the ascending tiers of buildings forming the central part of the Columbia District. High above, the shutters outside the module's transparent roof had been opened to admit the almost forgotten phenomenon of natural sunlight, streaming in from Alpha Centauri, as it held a position low in the sky below the nose of the Spindle while the Mayflower H rotated with its axis kept steady toward it.. She turned on the shower, as well, but she didn't undress. Instead, she lowered the lid on the toilet and. Grinning, Leilani bit into a crisp dill pickle. "I really like you, Micky B. You, too, Mrs. D." Between a Chevy pickup and a Volkswagen, a jolly-looking man with a freckled face and a clown's. "We don't intend to let it happen," Kath said.. Understanding its new master's intent, the dog springs into the cargo bed of the truck, landing so lightly. "But that doesn't mean we have to take chances," Anita pointed out.. of the cowboys who might be ? surely are ? in the vicinity, or into another posse of FBI agents. goddess.. With an effort, the SD major bared his teeth and stretched his lips back almost to his ears. "Excuse me, sir, ' but do you have a few minutes you could spare?" Instead of a bath, she took a shower. Her soap of choice? a cake of Ivory? worked well enough to. old Sinsemilla would do in a similar situation. In any predicament whatsoever, if Leilani wondered which

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