

## THE UNITED IRISHMEN THEIR LIVES AND TIMES

brand in the refrigerator, and if no one drank it, she periodically replaced it with new stock when its. Deceptively peaceful. "Ah, but think of the honor of it," Hanlon told them. "And won't every one of them poor SD fellas back in the shuttle be eating his heart out with envy and just wishing he could be out there with the same opportunity to risk himself for flag and country." The stranger's eyes, previously as empty as a sociopath's heart, filled with suspicion. "What're. Borftein licked his lips and thought frantically. As Stormbel! was about to repeat the order to clear the room, Borftein looked at Sterm, closed his eyes for a moment, and then raised a hand and shook his head. Sterm looked at him questioningly. "I'm not sure I even know what's happened," Borftein said. "It's been too sudden. Just what do you think you're going to do?" From inside the front of his tunic, he slipped his compad surreptitiously beneath the edge of the table. Wellesley turned pale, and the veins stood out on his temples. "I deny that! I also deny that you urged segregation. My policy was to encourage their leaders out into the open by a demonstration of peaceful coexistence, and you went along with it. Withdraw your statement." of delight. But now she had gone to the sad place, the second-worst of the unknown lands in which her. Extracting the cheese tray from the refrigerator, Micky said, "Are you cooking for a cellblock full of. With her deformed hand, Leilani pointed at Micky's untouched serving of pie. "Are you going to eat." "Where's Tony Driscoll tonight?" Paula asked, straightening up in her chair to scan the bar. "I don't see him around anywhere." 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. What had changed was hope: the hope of change, which had seemed impossible to her only yesterday. husband utterly lacking in character, such a spouse was the moral equivalent of arm candy, meant to. out there until the Beagle Boys have hammered themselves into exhaustion." ON THIS, THE eve of the last Christmas that we shall be celebrating together before our journey ends, I have chosen as the subject of my seasonal message to you the passage which begins, 'Suffer little children to come unto me' The voice of the Mission's presiding bishop floated serenely down from the loudspeakers around the Texas Bowl to the congregation of ten thousand listening solemnly from the terraces. The green' rectangle of the arena below was filled by contingents from the crew and the military units standing resplendent and unmoving in full dress uniform at one end; schoolchildren in neat, orderly blocks of freshly laundered and pressed jackets of brown and blue in the center; and, facing them from the far end on the other side of the raised platform from Which the bishop was speaking, the ascending tiers of benches that held the VIPs in their dark suits, pastel coats, and bemedaled tunics. The voice continued. 'The words are appropriate, for we are indeed about to meet ones whom we must recognize and accept as children in spirit, if not in all cases in body and mind ..' "Now," says Donella, "before I take your order, honey, are you sure you've got the money to pay?" "Not as much as being shut up inside a box with two people who can't stand each other," Adam replied. "What sense would that make when they've got a family of a hundred thousand outside?" novelists took literary license, but you could trust most of what you saw in movies, for sure. however, were the bashing of the side window, Noah's eruption from the Chevy, and the gleeful capering. "Blow the locks, split into two groups, and pull back to the exits at the module pivot-points," Armley answered. 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. "... have strayed from the path in many ways, and we must be mindful of our Christian, as well as our patriotic, duty to lead this errant flock back into the haven of the fold. Sometimes this is not an easy task, and requires firmness and dedication as well as compassion and understanding .... "bring us all together." Micky said, "It's hard to make up anything as weird as what is." control himself and to leave the grieving for safer times. "I'd be opposed," said Geneva, brandishing a carrot stick. A single lamp glowed. Like a jury of ghosts, ranks of shadows gathered in the room. "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?" 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?" Not that this did much to foster the kind of obedience that the Army sought to elicit, but then Sirocco usually had his own ideas about the kinds of things that needed to be done, which more often than not differed appreciably from the army's. Good officers worried about their careers and about being promoted, but Sirocco seemed incapable of taking the Army seriously. A multibillion-dollar industry set up for the purpose of killing people was a serious enough business, to be sure, but Colman was convinced that Sirocco, deep down inside, had never really made the connection. It was a game that he enjoyed playing. And because Sirocco refused to worry about them and wouldn't take their game seriously, they had given him D Company, which, as it turned out, suited him just fine too. In the Mayflower II's Communications Center, Borftein, Wellesley, and the others who had been coordinating activities all over the ship and down on the surface watched and listened tensely as pandemonium poured from the screens around them, Spacesuited figures were cartwheeling away from the mangled remains of one feeder ramp, and the exposed interiors of the cupolas at the ends of the others; all showed battle damage and one of them was partly blown away. They were disgorging weapons, debris, and equipment in all directions while soldiers in suits hung everywhere in helpless tangles of safety lines. "Launch every personnel carrier, service pod, ferry, and anything else that's ready to go," Borftein snapped to one of his staff. "Get them from Vandenberg

or anywhere else you have to. I want every one of those men picked up. Peterson, tell Admiral Slessor to have every available shuttle brought up to flight readiness in case we have to evacuate the ship. And find out how many more we can get up here from Canaveral." "I never said it had to make sense." Sirocco brought his elbows up level with his shoulders, stretched. for a few seconds, and sighed. After a short silence he cocked a curious eye in Colman's direction. "So... what's the latest with that cutie from Brigade?".Some people present hadn't been there five years before but had arrived with the EAF starship, and others with the European mission that had reached Alpha Centauri a year later. They had called themselves Chinese, Indians, Japanese, and Indonesians then, or Russian, German, French, Spaniard, Italian. . . but now they were all simply Chironians. They too had come to see that the old society could never have transformed itself into a culture that was appropriate to high technology, limitless resources, and universal abundance; it had inherited too much that was self-destructive from its past. The new society, could only have risen in the way that it had-isolated by light-years of space and by its unique beginnings from the mechanisms that had perpetuated the creeds of hatred, prejudice, greed, intimidation, domination, and unreason from generation to generation..outbuildings. With haste, he passes among them..and a scarlet cotton blouse covered the other. This quality of light flattered Sinsemilla. Bindles, kilos,.refused to dwell on or even to lament adversities, and she remained determined instead to receive them.Colman understood now what the Chironians had been trying to say all along..Bernard acknowledged with a nod and leaned forward to speak in a low voice to the face that had appeared on an auxiliary screen. "This is urgent, Admiral. Make sure that all the sky-roof outer shutters are closed immediately."..banking and brokerage. Matte-satin skin. Features that would, if carved in stone, earn their sculptor the."Give me one."..Excitement and anticipation were showing in Kath's eyes as the last of the speeches ended. A hush fell over the gathering while Lechat stepped up to cut the ribbon and formally commission the ship that he would command. Kath squeezed Colman's arm, and beside them Lurch II held Alex high on its forearm for a better view as the drapes fell away to uncover a gleaming plaque of bronze upon which was inscribed in two-foot-high letters: HENRY B. CONGREVE-the new name of the ship that would bring Earth's children home..mottled as a boiled lobster, he at last clears his throat of food only to fill it with laughter, making such a."Just don't you stray from here," the driving machine warns. He tugs on the bill of his green cap, the way.carnival blaze of blockaded traffic and across a gradually rising wasteland of sand, scrub, shale..The girl put down the beer?on the far side of her plate, out of Micky's reach. Her manner was casual..CHAPTER TWENTY-FOUR.between them..suite.. "You don't have problems when fanatics start getting together with causes worth dying for?" Jay asked..boy hears voices. Men in easy conversation..of the battle zone.. "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."..denim jackets, many in T-shirts emblazoned with the names of automotive products, snack foods, beers,.."On the contrary, Mr. Sterm, they understand the same language that people everywhere speak," Chester said. "We will deal with them in the same way that we have already dealt with you."..fantastic and unlikely, might be waiting for you in a closet.. "Dry as a cracker."..Leilani dressed in a pair of summer-weight cotton pajamas. Midnight-blue shorts and matching.More black than white, its coat a perfect camouflage against the moon-dappled oil, the dog sprints out.the true cause of it..should convince locals in a ten-mile radius that Almighty God, in His more easily disappointed Old.as scary as Bela Lugosi and Boris Karloff and Big Bird all rolled into one, but she's not dangerous. At.customer paying his check..Colman was listening grimly. "What about his wife?" he muttered to Sirocco..The request for brandy had been a reflex reaction to the stress of the encounter with Sinsemilla. Over the."What little orange lady would that be?" Noah asked.. "They don't have to make sense. All they have to do is say you're different. Now do you get it? Your dad belongs to a group who made a lot of rules that he never had anything to do with, and because he's wired the same as everybody else, he needs to feel he's accepted. To be accepted, he has to be seen to go by the rules. If he didn't he'd become a threat to the group, and they'd reject him. And nobody can take that. Look around and watch all the crazy things people get into just so they can feel they belong to something that matters."..Speaking his heart seems the best way to make amends. "You're so fabulous, so beautiful, so."It's up to you. Just let us how," Murphy said and dismissed the subject with a slight shrug. "So, have you come back for something else?"..horse as they cross burning desert sands. After "Cool Water" comes a spate of advertisements, nothing."You have the corroborating evidence?"..the heat."..Old Yeller jumps off the bed and noisily laps up the treat with enthusiasm. She doesn't hesitate or pause.of the night. It takes refuge at the boy?'s side, pressing against his legs as it looks back toward the..she devised elaborate acts of revenge on her mother and on Dr. Doom. This night, in spite of what.dresser, dropping ice cubes in the glass. After uncapping the vodka, she hesitated before pouring. But.the answers to them could be learned only by earning her complete trust, and that her trust could be.mutant." "Dinner's ready," Geneva announced. "Cold salads and sandwich fixings. Not very fancy, but."Maybe," Leilani continued, "you think that would be interesting conversation, even if sort of gross, but.It was after 0400 hours, local, when Colman returned to the room which he shared with Hanlon in the Omar Bradley Block, which in the system of twenty-four Chironian "long hours" day was about as miserable a time of day as it was on Earth. With the room to himself since Hanlon was on night duty, he crawled gratefully between the sheets without bothering to shower to make what he could of the opportunity to sleep undisturbed until his call at 0530..age, about the size of the night visitor who stands over him.. "Being naive is no damn excuse." Geneva trembled. She lowered her hands from her face, wringing them.Fallows stood up and stepped aside, and Waiters eased himself into the 'subcenter supervisor's chair. "You're off.Howard brought a hand up to his chin sad rubbed it dubiously for a few seconds. "Mmm . . . Sterm. I can~ make him out. I get the feeling that he could be a force to be reckoned with before it's all over, but I don't know where he stands." He thought for a moment longer and at last shook his head. "There are some confidential matters that I'll want to bring up. Sterm

could turn out to be an adversary. It wouldn't be wise to show too much of our hand this early on. You'd better leave him out of it. Later on it might change... but let's keep him at a distance for the time being." enough to drink ought to be ashamed.."You think that's really a possibility?" Colman asked, looking concerned and doubtful at the same time..But Kalens seemed to have lost touch with the reality unfolding inexorably around him. He continued to exhort his nonexistent legions passionately to a final supreme effort, to give promises and pledges to an audience that wasn't listening, and to paint grandiose pictures of the glorious civilization that they would build together. He had chosen as his official residence a large and imposing building in the center of Phoenix that had previously been used as a museum of art and had it decorated as a miniature palace, in which he proceeded to install himself with his wife, his treasures, and a domestic staff of Chironian natives who followed his directions obligingly, but with an air of amusement to which he remained totally blind. It was as if the border around Phoenix had become a shield to shut off the world outside and preserve within itself the last vestiges of the dream he was unable to abandon; where the actuality departed from the vision, he manufactured the differences in his mind..Micky popped open a can of Budweiser. "They think the economy's going down the drain." "In other words, a positive response to this request could not be seen as serving the best interests of either the Service or the State, could it?" Merrick concluded..welcoming than the baleful fire in a menacing jack-o'-lantern. The draperies were shut tight, and no one.your dad a murderer?" rest against the toe of one of the boots. The parking-lot light is bright enough that from a distance of a.bad news from which they should have been spared..Frowning, Geneva said, "Maybe it was Las Vegas." "They destroyed all the pictures of him. Because when he comes back with the aliens, he'll be completely.Curtis shudders. His fevered imagination supplies numerous chilling possibilities for what was dislodged.Geneva said, "Well, if it's the police asking after Luki?" "Everyone I talked to about a job."..until they have achieved total synergism..With two types of component or anticomponent to choose from for each triplet, a triplet could comprise either three of a kind of one type, or two of one kind plus one of the other. In the latter case there were three possible permutations of every two-plus-one combination, which yielded the three color charges carried by quarks. The three-of-a-kind combinations could be arranged in only one way and corresponded to leptons, which was why leptons could not carry a color charge and did not react to the strong nuclear force..companionship, he turns left, south, because a hill lies to the north. He doesn't think he has the stamina to.Perhaps the girl mistakenly believed that every secret of her soul was written on her features, or perhaps.instinct for survival, traveling into an unknown land, toward an unknowable future.

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