

## CRYPTOGRAPHIC PROTOCOL SECOND EDITION

"Really. It's a rosebush." "My department?" 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..Anyway, the toilet?the restroom?is within sight from the lunch counter, at the end of a long hallway.."Thank you, and my compliments to you, sir." Hoover acknowledged in a suddenly more agreeable voice. "I hope you all enjoyed your visit and that we'll see you here again soon." The cart rolled away to deliver its load to the handling machine. Hoover escorted the group back to the entrance. "Now, next week we're expecting a consignment of absolutely first-class--".Curtis..To stave off more tears, Micky said, "That's sweet, Aunt Gen, but everything you have doesn't amount."They would never have listened if I had told them. It was necessary to demonstrate that every alternative to force was futile. Now they will understand, just as you have come to understand."the house across the street and being greeted at the door by his lover. If Noah reached for the camera,.The painter glanced across and noticed them watching. "Nice day," he commented and continued with his work. The surface that he was finishing had been thoroughly cleaned, filled, smoothed, and primed, and a couple of planks had been replaced and a windowsill repaired in readiness for coating. The woodwork-was neat and clean, and the pieces fitted precisely; the painter worked on with slow, deliberate movements that smoothed the paint into the grain to leave no brush marks or uneven patches. The three Terrans crossed the street and stood for a while to watch more closely.."By my authority." Matthew Sterm rose from his seat and came round onto the floor to face the assembly defiantly. "This prattling has continued for too long. I have no eloquent speeches to make. Enough time has been wasted on such futilities already. You will all proceed now, under escort, to quarters that have been allocated and remain there until further notice. We have business to attend to." He nodded at Stormbel, who motioned at the guards. "I would like Admiral Slessor's to remain behind to discuss matters concerning the continued well-being of the ship."..be dead for sure. As one, the two cowboys start toward Curtis.."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..demeaning thing he said..Spears.." 'Strange lights in the sky,' " Micky quoted, " 'pale green levitation beams that suck you right out of your..He walked eastward, through the warm gusts of wind stirred by traffic, alert for any indication that he..needy..Minnie Mouse or at least maybe Snow White, but I was too busy.."Another pulse..At that moment the emergency tone sounded shrilly from the companel. Sirocco jerked his legs off the desk, cut the alarm, and flipped on the screen, It was Hanlon, looking..appears to be at once enthralled by the offerings on the tall, two-fold menu.."I have. I got cut off with some guys for almost a week in the South African desert once. All you think about is water. You can't describe the craving. You'd cut off your arm for a cup." He paused, and Jay waited with a puzzled expression on his face. "When you've got ~enough to drink," Colman went on, "then you start worrying about food. That takes longer to build up, but it gets as bad. There have been lots of instances of people cannibalizing dead bodies to stay alive once they got hungry enough. They've killed each other over potato peels."..purpose, satisfaction. Certainly not all of them. Maybe not most of them. But some of them..gait..Bernard hadn't really thought of that. He saw Jay nodding vigorously, and tossed up his hands. "Why not? :If..microphone captured the laughter and most of the running commentary between Karla and the..but by nothing more than landmarks, broken wagon wheels of previous failed expeditions, and the."It could still detach, even without Sterm". "Eating that stuff right before bed," Noah told him, "you're sure to have sweet dreams."..but the only time he ever slung his willy out of his pants was when he needed to take a leak."..staggering and bewildered, as they ought to be, but instantly balanced and oriented, as though they have..disappointment. "I sure did want to be Minnie.."..roaming spirit seemed to travel. Dampness darkened the pillowcase under her head, her cheek was wet.."Sorry to hear that."..lone defender of the castle, ceaselessly prowling the ramparts, at war with the world. But a constant state..The serpent huddled all the way back against the wall, and about as far from one side of the chest of..boy hears voices. Men in easy conversation.."Okay, then the lowly paramecium," Leilani said, shouldering past Micky to the sink..The apparition in the dark yard next door stopped squealing, but in a silence as disconcerting as the cries..Running with this strange blind exuberance, he loses all sense of distance and time, so he doesn't know..Hammond place.."I'm still with you..'..simmering bitterness to which the coffee was a perfect accompaniment.."I didn't know you had a thing about little girls, Steve," Anita teased. "You don't look the type." Hanlon roared and slapped his thigh.."I've got more than enough to destroy Jonathan without this. Keep his bribe as a bonus. There's a nice..mouth. "The dead singer?".The matron didn't gave Veronica a second glance when she came out of the bathroom with Celia's bag on one hand..Now, at seven o'clock, the summer-evening sun was red-gold and still so fierce at the open window that..but fear for her one good hand caused her to choose the nether end..birthday, bring me and Luki back together, with a new leg and new hand for the party!..Pernak tossed up his hands. "I've been to take a look at their university and what they do there. You wouldn't believe it. And I've already got a position if I want it, for no other reason than that people already there say it's okay. You get a house, for nothing . . . a good one. Or they'd build you one however you want it. How can you say no? We're going to become Chironians. And so will everybody else when they've gotten over the voyage. Then people like Kalens can yell all they want, but what can they do if there's nobody left to take any notice? It's as I said-you have to start thinking like Chironians."..The Chironians suddenly appeared intrigued. "We suspected that it bad to be something like that," Casey said, sitting forward on the couch beside Veronica. "But how can you prove it?". "Just a friendly chat . . . about your government, how

it's organized, who's in it . . . a few things like that. It won't take long at all." frenzied gyrations. With the sun down, however, this was not an hour for bees, not even though the. This is an astonishing development, the full import of which Curtis can't absorb in the current uproar. If. "You can't be soft with people like this," Borftein said bluntly. "Give them a yard, and they'll hate you because they want a mile. Give them nothing and clamp down hard, and later on they'll love you for giving them an inch. I've seen it all before." "It is. A research team is modifying the Kuan-yin to test out an antimatter drive. In fact the project is at quite an advanced stage. They're doing the same kind of thing back on Earth, aren't they?" "Oh? When was your last workout?" "Five-sub-three primary's starting to play up again, you'll be happy to hear. Low-level profile, but it's positive, We had a one-fifteen second burn on vernier two at seven\* teen hundred hours, which went okay. The main burn is behaving itself fine and correcting for trim as programmed .... ' He shrugged. "That's about it." "Maybe I'm not," he said, although the word maybe issued from him without conscious intention, "but my. Groping blindly, he discovers that the truck is loaded in part with a great many blankets, some rolled and. "She couldn't have known," Geneva said, but those four words were more of a question than they were. Nevertheless, during the week that she'd been staying with Aunt Gen, she awakened each morning with. At the windows of the two-story motel, most of the drapes have been flung back. Curious, worried. "Well, I know he shot me, of course, but I have no memory of it. I remember him shooting Vernon, and. Two hundred thousand miles away on the rugged, pockmarked surface of Chiron's other moon, Romulus, two enormous covers, whose outer surfaces matched the surrounding terrain, swung slowly aside to uncover the mouth of a two-hundred-foot-diameter shaft extending two miles vertically through the solid rock. The battery of accelerator rings in the chambers surrounding the base of the shaft was already charged with dense antimatter streams circulating at almost the speed of light.. "You're a temptation," he admitted. "But I'm married." Glancing at his hands, seeing no rings, she said.. A short silence fell while the meeting digested the observation. Kalens thought about the fusion complex that Farnhill had learned about in his largely unproductive talks with an assortment of Chironians in Franklin. Kalens had sent Farnhill off to learn what he could through more casual contact and conversation, after Borftein's sarcastic remark to the effect that the Army's company of misfits seemed to be making better progress with the natives than the diplomats were managing. "Yes.. I know what you mean," Kalens said, acknowledging Sterm with a motion of his head. "As a matter of fact, we have already begun inquiries along those lines." He turned toward Farnhill. "Amery, tell us again about that place along the coast." strictly followed in all life-and-death matters. Because he had committed himself to healing Leilani one. One door remained.. The snake lay looped like a tossed rope on the floor, as dead as Leilani had left it.. The Chironian answered in a slow, low-pitched, expressionless drawl without turning his head. "We tracked 'em for two days, and when enough of us had showed up, we closed in while another group landed up front of 'em behind a ridge to head 'em off. When they moved into a ravine, we covered both exits with riflemen and let 'em know we were there. Gave 'em every chance . said if they came on out quiet, all we'd do was turn 'em in." The Chironian inclined his head briefly and sighed. "Guess some people never learn when to quit,". A bitter taste arose in her mouth, perhaps an onion blowback from Geneva's potato salad, and her. sat there.. The closet just inside the front door provided a perfect haven from the goblins that were sometimes. "Girl, don't say such things!" Geneva admonished. "Someone will believe you. We were playing. comment on them, because she surely knew that consolation wouldn't be welcome.. Fierce as she has never been before, Old Yeller lunges toward the woman. Snarling, snapping, foaming,. Curtis still must find a bowl for the orange juice, but he's not going to look in any more nightstand. "What can I do ya for, big guy?" a counter waitress inquires.. "Exactly what are you asking us to do?" Otto asked from the screen. Lechat tossed up his hands and began pacing again.. Earlier Noah had loaded the tape in the VCR. Now he pushed PLAY on the remote control.. On their barstools and chairs, the cowboys turned, and with their glares they herded him toward the. and insanity. Regardless of who her father might have been, Klonk or not Klonk, she was undeniably her. Sterm emitted a sigh of sorely tried patience. "I will endeavor to spell it out in simple terms," he replied. "This act of clowns has been...". "No," Micky said. "Cops haven't had one lead in eighteen years." The room responded with murmurs of amazement, but most of those present didn't realize the significance. Beside Colman, Celia and Lechat were staring, and from the platform Sirocco was directing an inquiring look in their direction. Celia turned her head to look at Colman. "I don't believe this," she whispered. "Who is that corporal?'. 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." As a desperate but relatively unseasoned fugitive, he has been largely successful at adventuring, and now. Ford Explorer, while the harlequin dog sits erect beside him in the passenger's seat, listening to a radio. To the girl, Geneva said, "So you don't believe Lukipela went off with aliens." "We should have mentioned it," Murphy said. "Bring one along. A forty-five or something like that would be best, if you've got one." "There's no such thing." "Deploy the advance guard, Colonel," General Portney instructed from the middle of the cabin.. Tanks filled, the transport pulls away from the pumps, but the driver doesn't return to the interstate.. step too far. I don't buy the alien abduction for a second.. "Does the little orange lady like the dark out?" Rickster asked.. "It's true, isn't it, all that crazy stuff she told us? It's not like me and Alec Baldwin in New Orleans." "It's. chemicals: Scores of mammoth rigs, headlights doused but cab-roof lights and marker lights colorfully." "Yes, I did. Jeeves said it was caused by an accident with a remote-controlled experiment that the Chironians conducted there because it was too risky- something to do with their antimatter research." Jay screwed up his face and ruffled the front of his hair with his fingers. "But that's the kind of thing you'd expect somebody to say, isn't it?, and Chironians don't make a lot of mistakes." He looked around the circle of appalled faces staring back at him. "But what you were

saying made me think that that crater could be just what you'd get from testing some kind of big weapon.CHAPTER ELEVEN."Nice job you're doing," Hanlon remarked at last. "Glad you think so." The painter carried on..long Johns instead of proper pants and a shirt isn't a reliable judge of who's not quite right."."How do you know there's no one around?".She goes..Geneva shifted position on the edge of the bed and took Micky into her arms. The great warmth of her.Micky said, "He abandoned my mother and me when I was three.".'~Who can say?" Sirocco answered, picking up the more serious tone. "After what we saw today, I wouldn't be surprised if either side ends up going for him."..audience of one..Lechat. "Speed is essential," Lechat said without preamble...--'~ "We require access to all channels on the civil, service, military, and emergency networks immediately..that his heart was too compressed to contain the more expansive emotions..Sterm was not a person to waste his time and energy with futile melodramatics and accusations, but Stormbel knew full well that he wouldn't forget-and neither would Stormbel forget. The Chironians were behind it, he was."You have the corroborating evidence?".see the window-basher. The guy grinned and winked..Only Celia seemed strangely to be unmoved, but continued to sit staring at the cup in her hands without any change of expression. Her unexpected reaction caused the others to fall quiet and stare at her uncertainly. Then Jean said in a hesitant voice, "You don't seem very excited, Celia. Is there something wrong?". "Okay, maybe not." A dry sour laugh escaped her as she said, "But I sure have done my best to wash it

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