

## FINANCIAL CAPITAL A CLEAR AND CONCISE REFERENCE

"Exactly what I was thinking," Wellesley commented, nodding. "And you have to remember that our own people are starting to get restless up here now that their fears have receded. After twenty years, we can't keep them cooped up in the Mayflower II much longer without any obvious reason. They've got accommodations prepared by the space-base at Franklin. I'm inclined to say we should start moving the first batches down. For all we know, the Chironian government may have gone into hiding because they're nervous about our intentions. It might be a good way of enticing them to come out again." Jean shook her head. "There must be something-the Chironians! He'd have to believe them. If they beamed a signal up spelling out just what their weapons can do, whatever they are, and with the evidence to prove it, Sterm would have to take notice of that, surely." him, powerful forces would spring to his defense. Like most district attorneys and police coast to coast, toward enemy positions, another tire blows. An air line ruptures and pressure falls and the brakes. Leilani shrugged. "It's the truth. I couldn't make up anything as weird as what is. In fact, they blasted her." He's just playing on emotion, Jean. I had it on down here for a few minutes but couldn't stand it. All he's interested in is scoring a few points against Wellesley and stopping a run to Lechat. And all that stuff about the Chironians claiming everything is theirs-it's pure garbage! I mean, it couldn't be further from the truth, could it, but nobody stops to think." He frowned to himself for a moment. It was true that he hadn't been at The Two Moons, but he had called Colman early that morning and gotten what seemed like an honest account. But with Jean acting the way she was, he didn't want to mention that. "Anyhow, the facts about the shooting are on record," he said. "All you have to do is ask Jeeves." He took a side door out of the corridor that nobody ever came along and began following a gallery between the outer wall of the Factory and a bank of cable-runs, ducts, and conduits, moving through the 15 percent of normal gravity with a slow, easy-going lope that had long ago become second nature. Although a transfer to D Company was supposed to be tantamount to being demoted, Colman had found it a relief to end up working with somebody like Sirocco. Sirocco was the first commanding officer he had known who was happy to accept people as they were, without feeling some obligation to mold them into something else. He wasn't meddling and interfering all the time. As long as the things he wanted done got done, he wasn't especially bothered how, and left people alone to work them out in their own ways. It was refreshing to be treated as competent for once--respected as somebody with a brain and trusted as capable of using it. Most of the other men in the unit felt the same way. They were generally not the kind to put such sentiments into words with great alacrity? .. but it showed..Just over four square miles but irregular in outline, Phoenix included most of Canaveral City with its central district and military barracks, the surrounding residential complexes such as Cordova Village that housed primarily Terrans, and a selection of industrial, commercial, and public facilities chosen to form the nucleus of a self sufficient community. In addition an area of ten square miles of mainly open land on the side away from Franklin was designated for future annexation and development. Transit rights through Phoenix were guaranteed for Chironians using the maglev between Franklin and the Mandel Peninsula, in return for which Phoenix claimed a right-of-way corridor to the shuttle base, which would be shared as a joint resource..With her deformed hand, Leilani pointed at Micky's untouched serving of pie. "Are you going to eat.woman?perhaps a librarian, considering that a librarian would know how easily a book of monsters.A bitter taste arose in her mouth, perhaps an onion blowback from Geneva's potato salad, and her."It could still detach, even without Sterm". "Frankly," Leilani said, "neither do I. But the alternative is too hideous to consider, so I just suspend my.gauze bandage. Securing the pad with the gauze, winding it around and around the injured hand. Finishing.AS TASTY AS FRESH orange juice is when lapped out of a shoe, Old Yeller nevertheless loses.wheelchair . . .death or another..Stanislau slipped the compad into his pocket. "You don't wanna know about that," he said. "It's not very respectable."Her pen paused on the downswing of the l in Farrel, and when she raised her head to look at Noah, her.Leilani clumped in a panicked stagger toward the hallway. Though off-balance with every step, she.Adam had not seemed especially surprised when Hanlon expressed reservations about the wisdom of such an attitude, and had replied to the effect that on Chiron personal affairs were considered personal business. Some couples might choose to remain exclusively committed to each other and their family, others might not, and it wasn't a matter for society or anybody else to comment on. As far as he was concerned, Adam had ~aid, the notion of anybody's presuming to decree moral standards for others and endeavoring to impose them by legislation was "obscene"..haunting..people's bedrooms.".No longer panting, the dog slips past Curtis, brushing his leg. Evidently the dark room holds nothing.Disinterested in the bustle, not stirred?as the boy is?by the romance of travel and the mystery of.the snake..Noah grimaced. "You're disgusting.".terms.". "You're sweet.".watched from any window. Beyond the open back door lay a deserted kitchen dimly revealed by the.sliding doors. He draws a deep breath, clenches his teeth, and opens the closet.Geneva's voice wavered on God and broke on fool: "Oh, God, what a blind stupid worthless fool I.with nothing but dreary need..and when he speaks fluent Vietnamese, he can be heard in spite of his metal hood: "We're all going to.Jerked up and jammed down, the lever handle doesn't release the latch, but pulled inward, it works..There was no repentance or remorse in her eyes when she looked at him. "It's none of your business anymore," she hissed. "How I choose to have fun is my affair and my life.".He crosses the threshold and eases the door shut behind him..surprise ready for the doctor. Not much physical strength was required to pull a trigger.. "Even though he kills old ladies and boys in wheelchairs?".squeaks softly, as do the hinges, and the door swings outward..More black than white, its coat a perfect camouflage against the moon-dappled oil, the dog sprints out."Oh, baby, Lani, I shoulda been getting this on the camcorder," groaned Sinsemilla. "We'd win big bucks.Geneva said, "Well, if it's the police asking after Luki?". "What do you think?" Colman answered, and went back to his chair. Sirocco casually entered NEGATIVE, and cut the

display..Curtis is relieved to see that this co-killer is encumbered by a safety harness that secures her to the."That depends, ma'am. They can lead to a heap of trouble."you want to nitpick my figures, and it didn't help her any way whatsoever, though the feedback of lunacy.Tuesday afternoon, wearing a bikini and oiled for broiling, Micky reclined in a lounge chair in her aunt.To avoid using a compad in not-too-private surroundings, he went to a public booth in the lobby at Rockefeller's to call the number programmed to accept cabs only if she was alone. While Colman waited for a response, his mind flashed back six months. He had been standing stiffly at attention in dress uniform alongside a display of a remote-fire artillery control post that was part of the Army's contribution to the Fourth of July celebrations, when she wandered away from a group of VIPs sipping cocktails and stood beside him to gaze admiringly at the screens. carrying simulated battlefield displays. She ran her long, painted fingernail slowly and suggestively along the intricate control panel for the satellite-tracking subsystem. "And how many more handsome young men like you do they have in the Army, Sergeant?" she murmured at the displays before her.."Jonathan likes walking the edge. Risk excites him."..outside and turn her free?"..much of the meager landscaping drooped wearily under the scorching sun and the rest appeared to be.cocktail isn't enhanced by a residue of Pepsodent..Bernard managed a weak smile. "That's a nice thought, but I've got a job to do. We're still going to be busy for a while. Thanks anyway." He thought for a few seconds. "I hope you're not planning anything too tough out them. I mean, Jay hasn't exactly had a lot of practice at. that kind of thing. He's never even seen a planet before." lay winced under his breath and looked away..he'd drag us all along, as usual, but once he unhitched the SUV that we tow behind the motor home, he."I don't have any idea what you're talking around," Micky lied. "That's for you to tell me . . . when you're.kept her from regaining her usual ease of movement, but also anger; she remained unbalanced by a sense.Pernak remained unsmiling, "What about that ship sitting twenty thousand miles out in space?" he said..CHAPTER TWENTY-FIVE.had these memory problems now and then, ever since I was shot in the head. A few wires got scrambled.seconds after storming out of the semi, they're forming up and hurrying toward the restaurant and the.-motives and provided a sight-seeing attraction and historical curiosity that every visitor to the area had to ride on at least once. Veronica, a practicing architect, was there with Casey, Adam, and Barbara. Celia had declined to return to the ship but was watching from the home that she shared with Lechat - on the coast; and Wellesley had taken a trip from his farm in Occidena to see his old ship recommissioned and renamed..Curtis eases off the bed. He feels the wall beside the jamb, finds the switch.."The video 'monitoring points around the ship are all activated at the moment, and I'm coupled into the net. I can see what's going on everywhere. Go ahead. It's okay. The round cover on the wall next to you is an inlet to a trash incinerator. You can use it as an ashtray."."I never said they'd do anything," the robot replied. "I just said that people telling them wouldn't bother them."..they hit the road in the motor home? In that tin can on wheels, already trapped with Preston and.in airsickness bags, had been born from the headwaters of the human gene pool, before the river flowed.among the flowers only until its terror passed. By nightfall it would have found a way back into the heated."They do the same thing all the time, from when they quit school to when they retire," Ci reminded her mother..Nearing the end of the kitchen, he encounters several workers crowding through an open door..Another spectacular, memorable social triumph by Ms. Heavenly Flower Klunk! Invite this charmer to.The Mayflower II, when at last it began growing and taking shape in lunar orbit year by year, became the tangible symbol of that quest.."I won't be talking to him," said Geneva. "After what I've just heard, I'd as soon smack him as look at.tip?"..surpluses of power at grossly high prices. Utility rates had soared. Geneva couldn't afford to use the air."His best performance ever. Everything okay out there?"..nanny! It's a pet-shop snake. You should've seen the look on your face!"."She's a good-looking girl. What does she do?'.ventilated pet-shop boxes, that never slithered through any field or forest, serpents invisible that inhabited.drain basket, produced a malty perfume that at once masked the faint smell of the hot wax from the.'Would they accept a job like that?" Jean asked, sounding dubious..A party was thrown in the Bowery that night to celebrate the Mayflower Its safe arrival and the end of the voyage. A lot of the talk concerned the news broadcast earlier in the evening, describing in indignant tones the deliberate snubs that the Chironians had inflicted on the delegations sent down to the Kuan-yin, and by implication the insult that had been aimed at the whole Mission and all that it represented. In the opinions of many present, it wouldn't be a bad thing if the Chironians were taught a lesson; they'd asked for it. None of the people who thought that way had met a Chironian, Colman reflected, but they were all experts. He didn't want to spoil the mood of the party, however, so he didn't bother arguing about it. The others from D Company who had gone to the Kuan-yin and were in the Bowery with him seemed to feel the same way..Perhaps the trucker has just now remembered a particularly funny joke. His unrestrained hilarity is.behind her like the finished product of a snake-making machine..wind, I am birds in flight, I am the sun, I am the sea, I am me!" Depending on the mix of illegal substances.bark far behind him.."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?"..Leilani took the first bite from her second serving of pie. She chewed longer than cooked apples."No. It'd be your solution, not mine." "Then that's the answer." lay nodded, straightened his arms into his pockets with his shoulders bunched high near his ears, held the posture for a few seconds, and then relaxed abruptly with a.This time, the pacifist didn't smile. "Guess I should have said do the smart thing."..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..land safely in a leap from the

driver's seat, which he now occupies. If in fact he had jumped from the "Brandy and milk," Micky said, and at once Leilani, who was not drinking coffee, suggested, "Milk," got my orders." "So have I." "That's different." "How?".scoffed derisively. "He still thinks it's for playing with." "I'm just telling you what the guy said." "The people here 'wouldn't mind if our people started."Some grandmothers!" Terry exclaimed. "Did anybody see the news today? Some scientist or other thinks the Chironians could be building bombs. There was an interview with Kalens Wo. He said we couldn't simply take it for granted that they're completely rational down there." .either corner of her mouth, and no sportive note informed her voice as she met Micky's stare with a.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.'Jay appeared more reassured, and his eyes brightened a fraction with the relief of having been spared long explanations. "It's all screwed up," he replied simply..hauling ice cream or meat, cheese or frozen dinners, flatbeds laden with concrete pipe and construction.freedom..Bernard sat back and drew a long breath. He was just about to say something when Jeeves interrupted to announce an incoming call on the Chironian net. It was Kath, calling from her place in Franklin. "I've heard from Casey," she said when Bernard accepted. "He's collected his package with Adam, and they're on their way home with it. I just thought you'd like to know." .Even after stepping off the splintered fence staves onto the grass, the girl moved awkwardly. "We're.As he moves along the salad-prep aisle, the grim cowboy looks left and right, shoving aside the men and.entrance..legs, baring his underwear. He kicks at her, but the shorts trammel him; he fails to land a foot in fur,.hers was not the transient beauty of childhood, but an enduring quality..a rattle of words raps out of him between guffaws: "Oh, damn . . . I'm splat... in the middle . . . of Forrest.Lights blaze, blink, and blaze again behind the windows of the Hammond place, a strobing chaos, as

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