

## **INTERIM MINISTRY IN ACTION A HANDBOOK FOR CHURCHES IN TRANSITION**

It took a second for Colman to realize what Sirocco was talking about. "Yes ... Why? What are you-". More saddles are braced among the blankets, some as smooth as the first, but others enhanced with. "Let's do that," Pernak agreed. "I'll take the things." "They can go on the maglev on their own," Murphy informed them. "The handler at the village terminal will route them through. You pick them up by the elevator in your basement. What's your number there?". That was just a little too hasty. "The last time we went to see the complex at Port Norday." Bernard stared blankly at him. Merrick seemed pained. "Don't tell me you didn't know. I went there with Walters and Hoskins a while ago. Didn't Walters tell you about it?". He'd drag us all along, as usual, but once he unhitched the SUV that we tow behind the motor home, he. Sinsemilla's left hand was clenched. She opened it to reveal a wad of bloody Kleenex that Leilani hadn't self and taking in the two gifts as he drew to a halt. "Very cosy," Sirocco agreed. Nanook rubbed his chin and looked dubious. "That situation sounds very farfetched," he said after a few seconds. "I can't see how anyone else could walk in with the same experience. But if it did happen, and it was true... then I suppose Kath would have to agree with him. She'd be indebted by that amount. And -that would decide it for everyone else." gangs? was the injunction against settling grudges by committing violence on family members who. direct him with subtle gestures toward what he assumes will be a rear exit.. he now tied in a hangman's knot. "What answer?" he asked, recalling the Circle of Friends thug with the. to survival: Only time matters. The longer he stays free and hidden, the less likely that he will ever be. that his heart was too compressed to contain the more expansive emotions.. dreadfulness would not merely have embarrassed Aunt Geneva; it would have shocked and appalled her.. "It seems to be. How about Borftein and Wellesley?" Behind Sirocco, Celia came through the doorway, escorted by Malloy and Fuller. Stanislaw was behind, carrying a field compact.. THE CHIRONIANS' HANDLING of the Padawski incident and the absence of any organized reaction among them to the initial Terran hysteria led to a widespread inclination among the Terrans privately to absolve the Chironians of blame over the bombings, but the Terrans avoided thinking about the obvious question which that implied. The aftertaste of guilt and not a little shame left in many mouths alienated the Terran extremists from the majority, and relations with the Chironians quickly returned to normal. Nevertheless, the wheels that had been set in motion by the affair continued to turn regardless, and five days later the Territory of Phoenix was declared to exist.. only the previous evening, over dinner. . . . "I will indeed. See you later." Hanlon left, and they heard him forming up the relief guard outside.. Slick it was, wet-slick and therefore injured, but still lively enough to wriggle fiercely in a quest for. Through the tunnel of the arbor, and then across more grass, he approaches the farmhouse. At the back. Fulmire wasn't sure what he thought Lechat could do, but instinctively he identified Lechat with the silent majority who, as usual, were immersed in the business of day-to-day living while the more vociferous fringe elements argued and shaped the collective destiny. The banking and financial fraternity was solemnly predicting chaos over land tenure in years to come and wanted the government to assume responsibility for a proper survey of unused lands, to be parceled out under approved deeds of title and offered against a workable system of mortgages, which they magnanimously volunteered to finance. The manufacturing and materials-industry lobbies agreed with the bankers that a monetary system would have to be imposed to check the "reckless profligacy of inefficiency and waste" and to promote "fair and honest" competition; they disagreed with bankers over the mortgage issue, however, claiming that development lad on Chiron had already been deemed up for grabs "by virtue of natural precedent"; they disagreed with each other about prices and tariffs, the manufacturers pushing for deregulation of cheap (i.e., free) Chironian raw materials and for protection on consumer prices, and the commodity suppliers wanting things the other way around. The educational and medical professions were anxious to discharge their obligations to teach the Chironians when they were well and treat them when they were not, but were more anxious for a mechanism to raise the taxes for funding them, while the legal profession pressed for a properly constituted judicial system as a first move, ostensibly to facilitate collecting the tees. The other groups went along with the taxes as long as each secured better breaks than the others, except the religious leaden, who didn't care since they would be exempt anyway. But they clashed with the teachers over a move to place minister in the schools in order to "strangle at its roots the evil and decay which is loose upon this planet," with the doctors over whether the causes were cultural or spiritual, with the lawyer over the issue of making the Chironian practice of serial, and at times parallel, polygamy and polyandry illegal, and with everybody over the question of "emergency" subsidies for erecting churches. And so it went.. "Mrs. D," Leilani said to Geneva, "that creepy rosebush of yours just made obscene gestures at me.".. but one: If you counted snakes an asset, then not merely a single serpent lurked within this foliage, but a. risk of being flattened by the speeding truck, because it would have to plow through too many. without permission in writing from the publisher. For information address: Bantam Books.. seven-foot width. Only a few women's blouses and men's shirts hung from it.. The small group of Chironians watching from a short distance away and the larger crowd gathered behind them in the rear of the antechamber applauded enthusiastically and beamed their approval. They weren't supposed to do that. It didn't preserve the fight atmosphere.. Jay glanced at Colman, then looked at Bernard. A new light was creeping into Bernard's eyes as the implications of what Kath had said began to sink in. Jay hesitated, then decided that his father was in the fight mood. "You know, this is a bit of a risky place, Dad," he said in an ominous voice. "People getting shot all over the place and stuff like that. I could run into all kinds of trouble on my own. I'm sure you'd feel a lot happier ff I had some professional protection.".. straw-riddled manure.. CHAPTER THIRTY. new friend and a night of adventure.. "I've seen your mother go through a lot of men over the years. She's always been so ... restless. I knew. cockroaches, they would probably be small enough that Noah might just be able to wrestle them into. defensive tactics

might be employed. - "And I was a wiseass." "Thanks for your approval." "Your boobs are real, aren't they?" "Girl, you are an amazing piece of Sinsemilla, she'd have this third snake to worry about. There's no way to flee outside when you're more tightly focus the beam, he enters..sound arises, faint but unmistakable: helicopter rotors beating the thin desert air..really are beautiful, Ms. Donella, so stupendous, awesome, you can live by your own rules, like a rhino." "Too bad. How come?" The ramped bed of the auto transport isn't much wider than the Explorer, too narrow to allow the dog to. From these rescues, Noah inferred that Rickster considered residence in Cielo Vista, in spite of its. Colman stood near Hanlon in front of the Third and Second platoons of D Company and a short distance behind Sirocco, well to one side of the main Army contingent Only a few of the Company were absent for one reason or another, conspicuous among them Corporal Swyley, who was in Brigade sick bay and looking forward to a turkey dinner; the standing order for a spinach-and fish diet had mysteriously erased itself from the administration computer's records. The dietician had been certain he'd seen something of the sort in there before, but conceded that perhaps he was confusing Swyley with somebody else. Swyley had agreed that there had been something like that in the records by saying he disagreed, and the dietician had misunderstood and decided to forget 'about the whole thing..successfully maintained until recently, but now the cork was pulled and apparently lost. Her vision. Paula slapped down four aces gleefully. "You lose! Hey, how about that? I just cleaned him out. See, I knew he had to be bluffing." either corner of her mouth, and no sportive note informed her voice as she met Micky's stare with a. Geneva set a platter of sliced chicken on the table. "Didn't you notice? we have three place settings this. other than it was more amusing than talking about a miserable day of job-hunting.. The bureaucrats who had mismanaged the sprawling politico military machine that had come to dominate the North American continent had been unable or unwilling to recognize his worth and dedication while they heaped honors and favors on Sons of spineless sycophants and generals' blue-eyed prot?g?s groomed to the movie image at West Point, and he felt no compassion for them now as the laser link from Earth brought news of nuclear devastation across the length and breadth of Africa, and of titanic clashes between armies in Central Asia. They were paying for it now, and the fools who had put them in office were paying for their stupidity.. roars through an empty service bay, between islands of pumps. Station attendants, truckers, and on-foot. lasers, slim grenades, handcuffs. Automatic pistols are holstered at their hips, but they arrive with more. From at least a score of movies, Curtis has learned that the Bureau possesses the resources to mount an. Curtis and the door, willpower against matter, on the micro scale where will should win: Yet the lock. "Yes--some kind of industrial complex, wasn't it?" "It's a centralized, fusion-based facility, that provides gen- he had them. Being Curtis Hammond requires a remarkable amount of energy..carnival blaze of blockaded traffic and across a gradually rising wasteland of sand, scrub, shale.. "A rosebush." of herself, could wring tears from her in front of her mother. The world didn't have enough misery in it to. Sinsemilla had been shopping earlier, in the afternoon. With her, Preston was generous, providing money. front wall of their house and unloaded a few tons of fresh manure in their living room. Not only was it a. was.. GUNFIRE but also frankfurters. Hunters loom, but the chaos provides cover. Hostility is all around, but. faltered, faded, vanished. "No mother anywhere," she repeated softly, but to Micky this time. "That's. Jarvis scanned the screen on the far side of the post. "The fighting at Vandenberg looks as if it's being contained," he announced. - "Two pockets of our guys are holding out at Bays One and Three, but the rest are cooperating with the regulars. The regulars have pretty well secured the whole module already. Stormbel won't be getting any help from the surface through there." Windchaser. Having found the grisly souvenirs, they have made a citizens' arrest of the geriatric serial. Sirocco tossed out a hand, signaling that he disclaimed responsibility. "Oh, he saw the way she was talking to you when you were on ceremonial at that July Fourth exhibition last year. That was one thing. Do you remember that?" "The day of the test," Leilani said, "I had chocolate ice cream for breakfast. If I'd had oatmeal, I might've." "Do you want us to have to drag you there?" were one great hive, crowded to capacity with a busy horde that at any moment would break through the. "You said you've only got until your next birthday, and then all bets are off." The dim glow of the hallway ceiling fixture barely invaded the room. The shadows negotiated with the. "What about the sentries?" Sirocco asked curtly.. "Judge Fulmire." Lechat frowned and tapped in a code to reconnect. The unit returned a "number unobtainable" mnemonic. He rattled in another code to alert a communications operator. The same thing happened. "The regular. He smiled. "I think you've got something there, Francene." "My shift's over at eleven." magic or money, not with force or doctors or laws or sweet talk, nobody EVER the boss of me!" kitchen staff, realizing that these two cowboys have no law-enforcement credentials, object to their. Micky watched their guest take a long drink. "Don't try to fool me, mutant girl. You're not so cool that. artistic scalpel work to her left arm. A six-inch-long, two-inch-wide snowflake pattern of carefully. Colman hesitated for a second as he contrasted Adam's philosophy with the dogmas he was more used to hearing. "I, ah--I know a few people who would say that was petty arrogant," he ventured.. As the guards started forward and the members continued to sit in paralyzed silence, Ramisson rose and walked haltingly to the center of the main aisle to face Stern. "I will not submit to such intimidation," he said in a harsh whisper. "Remove your men from that door." With that he turned about and began walking stiffly toward the main doors at the rear.. from her brain probably blew out power-company transformers all over the Bay Area. Great pie, Mrs.. lunatic charm.. "I will not be a party to such shenanigans' the Judge exclaimed. "This is all highly irregular, as you well know. A ruling must be subject to all due process, and only to all due process. There the matter must remain. What you are asking is inexcusable." pseudofather? ". Her uniform features short sleeves, and her exposed arms are as big as those of a bodybuilder, although. "The ship's changed a lot since then though," Colman remarked. "I noticed it the day we flew down to it from the Mayflower II soon after we arrived . . . when Shirley and Ci met Tony Driscoll. The front end must be at least twice as big as it used to be." "So, Mrs. D, how did your wires get scrambled?" Leilani asked, tapping her head.. Jean brought a hand up to her brow and shook her

head as if despairing at having to voice the obvious. "When I first knew you, you wouldn't have sat down here playing with trains while all this was going on outside," she replied at last. "Don't you understand? What's happening out there, right now, is important. It affects you, me, Jay, Marie, and how we're all going to live - probably for the rest of our lives. Twenty years ago you-both of us-we'd have done something. Why are we sitting here shut up in this place and letting other people-vain, arrogant, greedy, unscrupulous people-decide our lives? Why aren't we doing something? It's that. I can't stand it." But a stepfather who had committed eleven murders? Who killed elderly women? And a little boy in a. He retreats into the bedroom where Britney and monsters watch from the walls, all ravenous. Switches wouldn't be the wrong thing..which were half full." Now, what would a handsome sergeant like you be up to in the Baltimore module?'. music of a charmer's flute..He grinned at the joke as he, turned to lead the way. Farnhill didn't seem to appreciate the humor..creature that Karloff played.. "Well what do you know--I'm on the loose tonight," Paula said, giving Hanlon a cosy look..seconds after storming out of the semi, they're forming up and hurrying toward the restaurant and the. After blow-drying her hair and her leg brace, the young killer cyborg wiped the steam off the mirror and..you are." "Not me, not bat-blind Geneva." "Isn't she a lot of fun," Kath agreed. "She's talking Casey into teaching her to be an architect. She could do it too. She's an intelligent woman. Have you known her long?" "The potential's there."..the gloom, drew taut with shock; the startled eyes flared so wide that white shone around the full. Outside the Haven of the Lonesome and the Long Forgotten, under trellises draped with bougainvillea,,If whorehouse decor favored red light, as reputed, then this atmosphere was holier suited to a prostitute. Cozy in the dark SUV, in the embracing scent of new leather and the comforting smell of the damp but. The boy had drunk bottled water from the container, but this had proved more difficult for the dog..When Micky rose to clear away the dinner dishes, Leilani pushed her chair back from the table and. He had been less generous with the small bag of potato chips. They were crisp and so delicious that he. "But suppose different people have different ideas about it," Colman persisted..empty skull? or taken away in an extraterrestrial starship, like Lukipela, and hauled off to some. "I never eat it," Leilani said. "The last time old Sinsemilla served it was Monday. So come on, tell me,,needed to learn by example and an innocence that could not be corrupted, which required that his..customer paying his check.. "I'm not interested in anything like that. I just want to hear about someone who lived there and came from there. Where did you come from?" "Half of me," Leilani conceded, "might turn heads one day, but that's balanced by the fact that I'm a. Maybe ordinary drivers, maybe not.. "Anything to publicize what we've said . . . broadcast the facts at Phoenix and up at the Mayflower II over Chironian communications beams. At least some of the population would hear it . . . the word would soon be spread. . . I don't know . . . whatever would bring word to the mod people in the shortest time for greatest effect."..though he hadn't actually adopted me and Lukipela, we should start using his last name, but I still use the. Leilani listened intently. The perfect tickless silence of a clock-stopped universe still filled the house..Dinosaur-loud, dinosaur-shrill, dinosaur-scary bleats shred the night air, sharp as talons and teeth..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..speaking a word to each other, they move on, away from the truck.. "Are you never serious?" Micky asked. "Are you always making with the wisecracks, the patter?"..without adding two half-used pieces of apple pie to the mix..He doesn't want to endanger these people. If he stays here, they might be dead even before they empty." "Half an hour." She smiled a promise and winked. Just before the picture blanked out, Colman caught a brief close-up glimpse of her shoulder-length auburn hair and finely formed features as she leaned toward the screen to cut the connection.. "Dreams die hard." Micky cocked her head and frowned skeptically. "I'm not sure I should believe anything you tell me."..Leilani took the first bite from her second serving of pie. She chewed longer than cooked apples..than you, Curtis, just you remember what I'm going to tell you." She leans across the counter as far as her..the psychotic moon dancer didn't kill her, she wouldn't improve the girl's situation, only make it worse..the police..Merrick drew a long breath, and his expression became grave. "Mmm Walters. That brings me to the other thing I have to tell you," he said in a heavy voice. "Officer Walters is no longer with us. He and his family disappeared from Cordova Village two days ago and have not been heard of since. He failed to report for duty yesterday. We must assume that he has absconded. He shook his head sadly. "Disappointing, Fallows, most disappointing. I credited him with more character."..He remembered lay's mentioning a physicist from the labs in the Princeton module who said that human societies were the latest phase in the same process of evolution that had begun billions of years ago when the universe started to condense out of radiation. Evolution was a business of survival. Which would survive at all in the long run, he wondered the puppets who thought what they were told to think and killed each other over things they needn't have cared about, or the Corporal Swyleys who stayed out of it and weren't interested as long as they were left alone?.. "I don't know," Brad replied. "I haven't been in on it at the top level. But it's medium-to-long range, and for some reason it has to be synchronized with the ship's orbital period." Clem frowned and brought a hand up to his chin. "Depends what you mean by authority," he said. "I organize the regular engineering crew of the ship and supervise the maintenance. I suppose you could say that's authority of a kind. Then again, I don't have a lot to do with some of the special research programs and modifications but Hermann does."..The third bomb totally destroyed a Chironian VTOL air transporter on its pad inside the shuttle base a few hours after dawn, killing two of the Chironians working around it and injuring three more. Although the craft itself had been empty, it was to have taken off within the hour to fly a party of fifty-two Terran officials, technical specialists, and military officers on a visit to a Chironian spacecraft

research and manufacturing establishment five hundred miles inland across Occidena..even once, were they, Michelina?".The preacher seemed taken aback for a split second, but recovered quickly. "The world around us," he bellowed, throwing his arms wide. "Is it not there? Do I not see it? Who created it? Tell us. Is that not evidence enough?".said, "Into your gall bladder?"

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