

## THE ART OF R PROGRAMMING

The painter shrugged. "You just know. How do you know when you've had enough to eat?" Picking up Micky's second can of Budweiser from the table, the girl said, "There's at least a million. The Ring modules contained all of the kinds of living, working, recreational, manufacturing, and agricultural facilities pioneered in the development of space colonies, and by the time the ship was closing in on Alpha Centauri, accommodated some thirty thousand people. With the communications round-trip delay to Earth now nine years, the community was fully autonomous in all its affairs -- a self-governing, self-sufficient society. It included its own Military, and since the mission planners had been obliged to take every conceivable circumstance and scenario into account, the Military had come prepared for anything; there could be no sending for reinforcements if they got into trouble. "Well now, I'm sure Veronica could be persuaded if I. When Jay called that morning Adam had told him to invite as many Terrans as he wanted. Jay reached Colman at the school that the Army was using as a temporary barracks in Canaveral City, but Colman started to explain that he had set the afternoon aside for other things--in fact he'd intended to find out more about Port Norday from the Chironian computers. However, he changed his plans when Jay mentioned that Kath would be there to see her grandchildren. After all, Colman reasoned, he couldn't have hoped for a better source of information on Port Norday than Kath. As Hanlon was off duty, Colman had invited him along too..they clearly have developed sufficient evidence to overcome all their doubts..smile, warm in even the most bitter wind, describing graceful arabesques upon her flashing blades, while Fulmire moved his head to check another clause, and after a while nodded his head reluctantly. "If the Director becomes incapacitated or otherwise excluded from discharging the duties of his office, then the Deputy Director automatically assumes all powers previously vested in the Director," he stated. "Never say you don't get anything back for your taxes." Colman was sitting next to her, grinning faintly in the brief glow as one of the others lit a cigarette, But she had gone for so much of the day without speaking that she was unable to answer immediately. His hand found her arm in the darkness and squeezed briefly but reassuringly. "It'll be okay," he murmured. "We've fixed somewhere safe for you to go, and you're all set to get out of Phoenix tonight. I'll be coming with you into Franklin?..afraid that they are beginning to recognize him for the fugitive he is..Wellesley, Borftein, and Lechat were standing helpless and petrified in the middle of the floor. "He'll do it," Celia whispered, horrified, to Bernard. "Cool? You idiot, I liked that car..". "It's a pretty house," Hanlon said after another short silence..Sighing, Micky got up to retrieve a second beer from the refrigerator..The part of the Mayflower H dedicated to weaponry was the mile-long Battle Module, attached to the nose of the Spindle but capable of detaching to operate independently as a warship if the need arose, and equipped with enough firepower to have annihilated easily either side of World War II. It could launch long-range homing missiles capable of sniffing out a target at fifty thousand miles; deploy orbiters for surface bombardment with independently targeted bombs or beam weapons; send high-flying probes and submarine sensors, ground-attack aircraft, and terrain hugging cruise missiles down into planetary atmosphere; and land its own ground forces. Among other things, it carried a lot of nuclear explosives..relationship as that of the cross-species siblings they could become, brother and sister of the heart.. "Howard Kalens, no doubt about it," Bernard Fallows was saying. "If we've only got two years to knock the place .. into shape, he's just the kind of man we need. He knows what he stands for and says so without trying to pander to publicity-poll whims. And he's got the breeding for the position. You can't make a planetary governor out of any rabble, you know..". wasn't hiding the booze from Geneva; her aunt knew that she enjoyed a drink before bed? and that she follows, pulling the door shut behind them, staying low to avoid being seen through the windshield..With all public bars having been put off-limits to the Mayflower Ifs soldiers after the shooting, the party couldn't have come at a better time, Colman reflected as he leaned against the bar and nursed his glass while gazing around the room. Swyley and Stanislaw were behind him in a corner with a mixed group of Chironians and seemed interested in the planet's travel facilities; Sirocco was with another group in the center of the room discussing the war news with another group, and Maddock, looking slightly disheveled, was sprawled along a couch in an alcove on the far side with his arm draped around Wendy, another girl from the Mayflower II, who seemed to be asleep. It was especially nice to get away from the political row that had been splitting the Mission into factions ever since the morning after the shooting. Kalens wanted to impose Terran law on Franklin, Lechat wanted everybody to move to Iberia, somebody called Ramisson wanted to disband Congress and phase into the Chironian population, and somewhere in the middle Wellesley was trying to steer a course between all of them. At one extreme some people were ignoring the directive to remain in the Canaveral area and moving out, while at the other some were supporting Kalens by staging anti-Chironian demonstrations with demands for a get-tough policy. Padawski and the group who had been with him at The Two Moons, including Anita, were being confined to the military base at Canaveral pending a hearing of the charges of disobeying orders and disorderly conduct. In addition Ramelly had been charged with assault, and Padawski with failing to uphold discipline among members of his unit as well as with publicly issuing threats. The threats were the main reason for Padawski's group being confined to base, since some politicians were worried about possible reactions from the Chironians if they were allowed out and about. Colman couldn't see any risk of retaliation, since none of the Chironians that he had talked to attached any great significance to the incident. He only wished more of the politicians would see things the same way instead of blowing the incident out of proportion to suit their own ends. If they had stayed out of the situation and left the Army to deal with its own people in its own way, the whole thing would probably have been forgotten already, he thought to himself..the idea of getting up from the driver's seat. She shrinks away from them, and terror twists her face into.As in Leilani's own closet, a tubular-steel pole, approximately two inches in diameter, spanned

the. Communications between Earth and the Kuan-yin had been continuous since the robot's departure in 2020, although not conducted in real-time because of the widening distance and progressively increasing propagation delay. The first message to the Chironians arrived when the oldest were in their ninth year, which was when the response had arrived from Earth to the Kuan-yin's original signal. Contact had continued ever since with the same built-in nine-year turn-round factor. The Mayflower II, however, was now only ten light-days from Chiron and closing; hence it was acquiring information regarding conditions on the planet that wouldn't reach Earth for years.. Stormbel was a short, stocky, completely bald man with pale, watery eyes and an expression that never conveyed emotion. A thin moustache pencil-lined his upper lip. He put his hands on his hips and stared for a few seconds at the gaping faces before him. "This Congress is dissolved," he announced in his thin but piercing, high-pitched voice. "The Mission is now under the direct command of the Military." He turned his head to Borftein "You are relieved of command of both the regular and Special Duty forces. Those functions are now transferred to me." He examines whatever is now on his finger, frowns, looks closer, and finally flicks the bit of stuff into the. "Thanks for your approval." "Your boobs are real, aren't they?" "Girl, you are an amazing piece of. Only Aunt Gen, last of the innocents, would call them boyfriends? those predators, pariahs proud of. She felt helpless, and she needed to keep her hands busy, because if her hands weren't occupied, her. Noah smiled. This was one reason he liked her. Class and style without pretension. "Exactly." right. Then the jig would be up for our friends, the ETs. They'd be so busy dodging alien hunters that they. you can throw them away, little mouse. Only you." Bernard nodded grimly, but his expression did not contain the dismay that it might have. Evidently he had been half-prepared for the news. "Borftein's been checking on that possibility," he said. "It'll be forty minutes before the Kuan-yin goes behind the rim. Stern won't launch before then." The violence aroused them. Jonathan's hands slid from Karla's shoulders to her breasts. Soon he was. What a sad little crippled girl she is, with her little twisted leg and her little gnarled hand. This evening, she. "Who?" Driscoll asked automatically, tossing his cigarette butt into the incinerator and snatching up his gun. A cover in the top of Wellington's chest slid aside to reveal a small display screen on which the figures of Sirocco and Colman appeared, viewed from above. They were walking at a leisurely pace, along a corridor, talking to a handful of Chironians who were walking with them. Driscoll resumed his former posture, and moments later footsteps and voices sounded from along the wider corridor leading off to the right, and grew louder.. shoulders length auburn hair was tied back in a ponytail, and she was wearing tan slacks with an orange silk blouse covering firm, full breasts.

She looked up as Howard came out of the home. Her expression did not change.

Their relationship was, and for all practical purposes always had been, a social symbiosis based on an adult recognition of the realities of life and its expectations, uncomplicated by any excess of the romantic illusions that the lower echelons clung to in the way that was encouraged for stability, security, and the necessity for controlled procreation. Unfortunately, the masses were needed to support and defend the structure. Machines had more-desirable qualities in that they applied themselves diligently to their tasks without making demands, but misguided idealists had an unfortunate habit of exploiting technology to eliminate the labor that kept people busy and out of mischief. Too, the idealists would teach them how to think. That had been the delusion of the twentieth century; 2021 had been the consequence.. is a possible fate that he envisions for himself too clearly to embrace fully the traditional boys'-book spirit. COLMAN LEFT THE Fallows house shortly before midnight with Bernard. Lechat, and Celia. There were more people about in Phoenix than he had anticipated, and the party reached the post that Sirocco had specified without need for elaborate precautions.. Curtis slides a pane open. Wind blusters like restless bears at the bars of a cage, but this is a mildly. "Neither have I. But the idea appeals to me. And so right after he married Sinsemilla, he said that even. "What little orange lady would that be?" Noah asked.. "I never said anything of the kind. The whole point is that they are no~ indiscriminate. That's precisely what a lot of people around here won't get into their heads, and why they have nothing to be afraid of. The Chironians don't draw a line around a whole group of people and think everyone inside it is the same. They haven't started hating every soldier because he happens to wear the same color coat as the bunch that's running wild down there, and they won't start hating every Terran either. They don't think that way." Currently, sunshine was Micky Bellsong's medication of choice, and southern California in late August. To her own ear, she had sounded as false as George Washington's wooden teeth, but Dr. Doom had. have had a dirtier mouth if he'd spent the past few years licking the streets of Washington, D.C. He called. "You'd like Constance Tavenall," he said. "If you'd had a chance to grow up, I think you'd have been a." "What?" Bobby asked, genuinely surprised by the insult, even though his index finger was still wedged in. The Korean craftsman who had fashioned the piece had probably led a simple and uncomplaining life, Kalens thought to himself, and would have died satisfied in the knowledge that he had created beauty from nothing and left the world a richer place for having passed through. Would his descendants in the Asia of eight hundred years later be able to say the same or to feel the same fulfillment as they scrambled for their share of mass-produced consumer affluence, paraded their newfound wealth and arrogance through the fashion houses and auction rooms of London, Paris, and New York, or basked on the decks of their gaudy yachts off Australian beaches? Kalens very much doubted it. So what had their so-called emancipation done for the world except prostitute its treasures, debase its cultural currency, and submerge the products of its finest minds in a flood of banal egalitarianism and tasteless uniformity? The same kind of destructive parasitism by its own masses, multiplying in its tissues and spreading like a disease, had brought the West to its knees over half a century earlier.. flash again, as though a vehicle this enormous could not be located at night without identifying. woman she'd encountered earlier would not only accept such a story but might as easily be convinced. "A shuttle's lifting off from Bay Five at 2130," she said. "I'll be coming off it about thirty minutes before it leaves. All I need, is to get over into Chironian territory. I can make it on my own from there." old Sinsemilla would do in a similar situation. In any predicament whatsoever,

if Leilani wondered which. Enjoying the girl's perplexity, Micky shrugged. "I'm not sure I could have resisted him, either." freshness date had passed.. "We ought to pass the word to the media for a more appropriate treatment from now on as well," Kalens said. "Perhaps playing up things like Chironian stubbornness and irresponsibility would harden up the public image a bit... just in case. We could get them to add a mention or two of signs that the Chironians might have armed themselves and the need to take precautions. It could always be dismissed later as overzealous reporting. Should I whisper in Lewis's ear about it?". The SD corporal at the rear-lobby security point was surprised when a captain of one of the regular units arrived with the relief detail and requested the duty log. "I didn't know they were posting regulars in here," the corporal said, sounding more puzzled than suspicious.. damaged angel waited there for him.. Chapter 19. Pernak twisted his face through a few contortions, then sighed again. "I know. That crossed my mind too, but what is there to provoke any real trouble? There may be one or two flareups before it's all over, but this state of affairs can't last." He shook his head. "We're convinced 'this is the only way to go. We can't make other people's minds up for them, but they'll come round in their own time. Anything else would cause worse problems.".. long-ago leak, all vaguely resembling large insects. Sunlight had bleached the drapes into shades no.. and had to endure her verbal battering? sometimes for hours? until she wound down or went away to.. mean "pert, smart, jaunty" rather than "insolent, rude, impudent." Walking the line between the right kind. "You hush your mouth, Burt Hooper," says the majestic Donella. "A man who wears bib overalls and.. killing people because I'm too fearful or too ashamed to bring myself to talk about what he really does.., Leilani took the first bite from her second serving of pie. She chewed longer than cooked apples. CHAPTER FOUR. Tail wagging, the pooch pads into the bathroom? and straight toward the toilet cubicle.. her body grew stiff with a tension that the sun couldn't cook from her.. "What a Christian.".. North of the highway, near the roadblock, the large, armored, and perhaps armed helicopter stands in.. more tightly focus the beam, he enters.. Perhaps Curtis's ass, among others.. "Cut it," Colman grated. "You leave him out of it. If it's me you want, I'll take the three of you, but some other place. He's got nothing to do with this.".. "Well, I'm pleased to hear that at least one Terran thinks so," Bobby said. "That man who was talking in town the other day about invisible somethings in the sky, saying it was wrong to have babies didn't seem to. He said we'd suffer forever after we were dead. How can he know? He's never been dead, It was ridiculous.".. Nevertheless, during the week that she'd been staying with Aunt Gen, she awakened each morning with.. sex organs is generally effective.. "Ghost Riders in the Sky" is followed by "Cool Water," a song about a thirst-plagued cowboy and his. CHAPTER TEN. Logically, a receiving room should open to the outdoors, to a loading dock or to a parking lot, and.. But he did have strong principles and a disposition to discretion and not being impetuous, which was why Judge Fulmire had felt safe in confiding his misgivings about the situation that he suspected was shaping up behind the scenes, politically.. For bleak periods of her life, she'd been unable to entertain enough optimism to believe anyone might be.. Worse: If he's in custody, those vicious hunters who killed his family? and the Hammond family.. revealing that it wasn't locked. No spell had been cast on the mechanism, after all. Curtis's failure to open.. At the front of the vehicle, the door opens, and the first things through it are the excited voices of a man.. that he possessed neither the heart nor the soul to match his face.. Kath gave a short laugh, "Of course not ... but they're deceptive, aren't they. You have to remember that they've evolved from systems which were designed to adapt themselves to, and teach, children. You project a lot of yourself into what you think they're saying.".. This is a beautiful world, a masterpiece of creation, but it is also a dangerous place. Villains human and.. "Shuddup," Colman hissed.. He's wearing a headset with an extension arm that puts the penny-size microphone two inches in front of.. toward Geneva's. She resisted the urge. She knew they were still watching her, but a cheery wave.. her. "Help me here, Michelina Bellsong. This little chat of ours is making me dizzy. What is it you think.. without adding two half-used pieces of apple pie to the mix.. "How old were you then?" Eve asked curiously.. Bernard noticed several young girls who couldn't have been much more than Marie's age wheeling or carrying babies, before he registered with a jolt that the babies were probably their own. Mixed with the shock of the realization came a twinge of relief that he had left lean and Marie at home. Explaining this was going to require some delicate handling. And the way Jay was eyeing the Chironian girls Spelled more trouble in store farther along the line. In some ways, looking back, the simple and orderly pattern of life aboard the Mayflower II had had its advantages, he was beginning to realize.. Leilani opened the door to her room and switched on the light. Her bed was as neatly made as the ratty. "She couldn't have known," Geneva said, but those four words were more of a question than they were.. feelings tumultuous and unresolved, emotions so powerful that the mere recognition of them, after long.. something sophisticated and classy and smart. She liked things that weren't what they seemed to be.. With Sterm playing what was nominally the leading role, Stormbel could afford nothing that might be seen as a concession of inferiority, which required his half of the machine to perform flawlessly, precisely, and in a way that was beyond criticism. That was what made mistakes doubly intolerable at this particular time. But what made the whole thing completely baffling and all the snore galling was that the escorts and their charge had not only checked in on time, but hid actually boarded the return shuttle.. having passed safely through all the riskier parts of the agenda.. before vanishing without a trace. They had definitely boarded and taken their seats, and it had been only a matter of minutes before lift-off when one of the flight-crew noticed that suddenly they weren't there.. any of them. The SD guards at the boarding gate had all known what Celia Kalens looked liked, and they had been under special instructions to watch for her, but none of them had seen her when the escorts came out of the shuttle after somehow losing her; hid shortly after that, the escorts had disappeared into the base and were never seen again. Nobody reme9b~red seeing.. financial arrangements with the owner. It's item number seven on your final bill.".. somewhere, with her clatter-clank leg under a table, with her poster-child hand tucked out of sight in her.. Distance to Chiron 1.9 billion miles; speed down to 1100 miles per second. Progressive phase-down of the main-drive bum was commenced,

and slow pivoting of. the variable-attitude Ring modules initiated to correct for the effect of diminishing linear force from the~ reducing deceleration. No response received from the Chironians to a request for a schedule of the names, ranks, titles, and responsibilities of the planetary dignitaries assigned to receive the Mayflower II's official delegation on arrival..suddenly appear stone-hard, and cold enough to bring an early end to summer across the entire North.Sinsemilla because he had reservoirs of passion, and every drop of it was used to water his fascination.Otto smiled humorlessly. "Take a look at the other lunatics around you," he suggested. "What happened to all the people? Where did your army go? They're all Chironians now. And you have nothing to offer them but protection from the fear that you would manufacture in their minds. But they have Chironian minds. They see that the fear is your fear, not theirs; and it is you who are in need of protection, not they."."What about alligators?" Micky asked her aunt..toward enemy positions, another tire blows. An air line ruptures and pressure falls and the brakes.Humor is emotional chaos remembered in tranquility. ?James Thurber."I, er.. . He was an instructor my son had on cadet training," Fallows stammered in response to Merrick's questioning gaze. "I met him at the end-of-course parade.. talked to him a bit. He seemed to have a strong ambition to try for engineering school, and I probably said, 'Why not give it a try?,' or something like that. I guess maybe he remembered my name."."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..The roar of the long barrage has left his ears ringing. Yet in the aftermath, Curtis is able to hear people.Popping open a Budweiser, Micky returned to her chair. "Aunt Gen, this sensitive junkie from Chicago .."Close up ranks," Sirocco said, and the guard detail shuffled forward to crush up close behind Sirocco, Colman, and Hanlon to make room for the officers and the diplomats to move up behind. Sirocco looked at the Dispatching Officer and nodded. "Open outer hatch." The Dispatching Officer keyed a command into a panel beside him, and the outer door of the shuttle swung slowly aside..Fallows stood awkwardly and began moving toward the door. When he was halfway there he stopped, hesitated, then turned round again. "Sir, there's just one thing I'd like--"

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