

THE CHIEFS OF GRANT VOLUME 1 PART 1

people's bedrooms."Frankenstein, lacking only bolts in the neck, an early experiment that hadn't gone half as well as the wearing either black vests or black windbreakers with the letters FBI blazing in white across their chests."I've just come down from the ship, Steve." She drew him close to the gatepost..Before Leilani, revelation had been impossible. Now it was merely excruciating. "It wasn't just one.fun..first-aid kit from her dresser and returned to her mother's room..Bernard's eyes narrowed a fraction. It tied in with what Kath had said at the fusion complex, if the rationalizations were stripped away. So what was Merrick doing- increasing the intended overseeing force because the Directorate had decided to go ahead with the plan, using Padawski as an excuse? "I'm not sure that I do," he replied. "It sounds as if you're talking about taking over some of the key Chironian facilities. Wouldn't that only make any trouble worse?.of derring-do. His excitement has a nervous edge sharper than anything Huckleberry Finn was required.Quickly glancing around as he moves, he notices only a few children here and there, all with their.In three clinkless steel-assisted steps, Leilani reached the door. Ear to the jamb. Not a sound from the.not orphaned, is not alone. For a moment, the young intruder's envy curdles into a hatred so thick and."Grumbling, but not too bad. Any news from inside?" "Nothing yet. It's about time you took a breather. I'll be out in a few minutes to take a spell with Carson and Young. Tell Swyley and Driscoll to stand down with you. They've been out there the longest.".Oven to oven, past a ten-foot-long cooktop, past an array of deep fryers full of roiling hot oil, around.She'd been a frightened, angry, and humiliated girl, panicked into flight. She would not ever be that.families. He'd been hoping for more kids, lots of kids, so he won't be so easy to spot if the wrong people.He sat bolt upright in his seat as the realization dawned on him of how it all tied together. Maybe Swyley did have it all figured out after all.."Yep." "Yours'~ "Nope.".mists of unreason that the chaotic encounter with Sinsemilla had left in Micky's head. Indeed, the contrast."It's a pretty house," Hanlon said after another short silence..Stanislau entered more commands. A different table of information appeared on the screen. "SD guard details and timetable for posts inside the Columbia District tonight," Stanislau said. They would refrain from doing anything to that one until the last moment.. "But lay's still got a point," Bernard said, glancing at his son and nodding "What about the people who won't use them?". "Payoff for what?".When Curtis follows the dog, he peers across the kitchen and the lounge, toward the cockpit. The."She sort of flies a little." Rickster quickly closed his hands. "I'll put her loose." He glanced at the.on TV?that show, America's Funniest Home Videos.".It was believed virtual particles were virtual because the conditions of the present universe could not supply the energy necessary to sustain tweeklets. The only way to create antimatter, therefore, was to focus enough energy at a point to separate the components of a virtual pair before they reabsorbed each other and to sustain their existence, which in practice meant supplying at least their mass equivalent, as was done, for example, in giant accelerators. This was the reason for the widespread skepticism that any net energy gain could ever be realized from annihilating the antimatter later. At best it was felt to be an elaborate storage battery, and not a very efficient one at that; the power poured into the accelerator would be better applied directly to whatever the antimatter was wanted for.."I trust we'll all stay friends and keep in touch," Eve said..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..well. Instead, a barely perceptible yet awful sadness manifested as a faint glister in her eyes.. "It certainly puts a new light on things," Lechat conceded. He sat back again, looked from one to the other, and spread his hands resignedly. "So am I to take it that I shouldn't assume your Support in the matter I talked about earlier?".Simpson, Westley, Johnson-all of them. They were all back. "We heard you could use some help, chief," Driscoll announced. "Couldn't leave it all to the amateurs?" Ribald comments and hoots of derision greeted the remark..insects hard at work in the hot, dry air..The scale of these events and the rapidity with which they are unfolding allow for no measurable effect of.Now, from moonlight into darkling forest once more. The meadow behind him. The tangled maze of.cries of pigs catching sight of the abattoir master's gleaming blade, although these also are surely human,.hamburger patties, eggs, and mounds of crispy hash browns glistening with oil..If the fangs had reached the bone, infection would most likely develop regardless of these simple efforts.Behind the truck, the highway remains deserted. The parallel median lines, yellow in daylight, appear.While the others passed through into the hallway of the apartment, Kath turned back toward the screen and touched a control on the compad. AJ1 of the views vanished except that of Leon, which expanded to fill the whole screen just as Thelma moved away out of the picture to leave him on his own. "We ought to commence evacuating the Kuan-yin," Kath said. "It looks as if it could be dangerous up there very soon.".Colman was listening grimly. "What about his wife?" he muttered to Sirocco..What had impressed him the most was the way the kids seemed to be involved in everything that was going on just as much as the grown-ups. They didn't come across like kids at all, but more like small people who were busy finding out how things were done. In a room two posts back, he had glimpsed a couple of kids who couldn't have been more than twelve probing carefully and with deep frowns of concentration inside the electronics of a piece of equipment that must have cost millions. The older Chironian with them just watched over their shoulders and offered occasional suggestions. It made sense, Driscoll thought. Treat them as if they're responsible, and they act responsibly; give them bits of cheap plastic to throw around, and they act like it's cheap plastic. Or maybe the Chironians just had good insurance on their equipment..Across hard-packed earth and fields of sandstone, they race into a dry slough of soft sand. The.Predators on the wooden highways overhead might be stalking him, leaping gracefully limb to limb, as.Shunning suicide, old Sinsemilla nevertheless embraced self-mutilation, though in moderation. She.CHAPTER THIRTY-TWO.having pretty much learned the repeating chorus and

also each verse as he first heard it. Ghost riders in final bill you mentioned?" Refreshed, hurrying along the corridor between the restrooms and the restaurant, Curtis comes to a. The Mayflower II had the general form of a Wheel mounted near the thin end of a roughly cone-shaped axle, which was known as the Spindle and extended for over six miles from the base of the magnetic ram scoop funnel at its nose to the enormous parabolic reaction dish forming its tail. "Not yet. I have to make contact first." Curtis shudders. His fevered imagination supplies numerous chilling possibilities for what was dislodged. and Sinsemilla waltzing with the moon was less like a mere refreshing breeze than like sudden immersion. "You're the first Terran we've talked to," Shirley said. She nodded her head to indicate the direction they had come from. "We've got a class of kids back there who are bubbling over with curiosity. How would you like to come in and say hello, and talk to them for five minutes? They'd love it." "But, hon. all I-" "There is one thing which, in all fairness, I must repeat," Otto said from the screen. They turned and looked back at him. "We cannot alter our basic decision in any way. If Stern becomes threatening, we will be forced to react. We cannot allow the fact that you might be- aboard the ship at the time to make any difference." submission. of great age and immeasurable wisdom. Nevertheless, he wishes he had been brave for her. Noah pressed STOP on the remote control. "There's only more of the same." He took the videotape. "Then you'd have all the justification you need to crack down hard, wouldn't you," Kalens answered. Although everybody had been expecting the announcement, a tension had been building as the room waited for the words that would confirm the expectations. Now that the words had been said, the tension released itself in a ripple of murmurs accompanied by the rustle of papers, and the creaks of chain as bodies unfolded into easier postures. Leilani knocked on the bedroom door. Unlike her mother, she had a respect for other people's personal. "Shuddup," Colman hissed. "Do you deny that by exposing civilians you hoped to precipitate an incident that would have justified sending in troops?" "That's in the bag? Then you've completely destroyed him, Mr. Farrel." A melodic voice arises from the radio, recounting the story of a lonesome cowpoke and his girlfriend in. "Then is there any difference?" "Oh, yes. I should have thought of that." Lurch about-faced and lurched back to the kitchen. The sound of a door. gait. of port on a long holiday. Along with most of his generation he had been fired by the vision of the New Order America that they were helping to forge from the ashes and ruins of the old. Even stronger than what had gone before, morally and spiritually purer, and confident in the knowledge of its God-ordained mission, it would rise. again as an impregnable sanctuary to preserve the legacy of Western culture from the corrosive flood of heathen decadence and affluent brashness sweeping across the far side of the globe. So the credo' had run. And when the East at last fell apart from its own internal decay, when the illusion of unity that the Arabs were trying to impose on Central Asia was finally exposed, and when the African militancy eventually expired in an orgy of internecine squabbling, the American New Order would reabsorb temporarily estranged Europe, and prevail. That had been the quest. Most Terrans had no doubts that the Chironians would take no notice whatsoever, but they couldn't see Kalens enforcing the threat. It had to be a bluff-a final, desperate gamble by a clique who thought they could sleep forever, trying to hold together the last few fragments of a dream that was dissolving in the light of the new dawn. "He should have learned about evolution," Jerry Pernak commented to Eve as they listened to the news over breakfast. "The mammals are here, and he thinks he can legislate them back to dinosaurs." Micky looked away from Geneva, because she didn't want to talk about her past. Not here, not now. his reflection. Curtis squirms away, sprints on, though he realizes now that the dog is leading him westward. The. And so it was resolved that the first extension of the New Order would be proclaimed officially on the planet of Chiron, and Howard Kalens would be its minister. He had gained the first toehold of his empire. "It's the beginning," he told Celia later that night. "Ten years from now it will have become the capital of a whole world. With a. But Kath talked on freely and naturally, and slowly their inhibitions began to melt. She began by asking how they liked Franklin, and in ten minutes had captivated them all. Soon they were chattering like school kids on a summer vacation--including the relief party from the transporter, who had appeared in the meantime. The detail due for a break seemed to have forgotten about it. Something very strange was going on, Colman told himself again. "News?" Lechat looked up, puzzled. "When? We've been here for the last hour. There wasn't anything special then." "I can remember the one that first taught me to talk," Abdul said. "It's still operating today, up there on the Kuan-yin. But the ones you see today have changed a lot." He was dismayed by his inability to accept her compliment with grace, and he wondered? though not. "Isn't that a Hawaiian name?" Micky asked. area along the shoulder of the road. Forest all around. He said we'd go on to a motor-home park later. "The scabby little pervert can't even afford a real car." As he replaced the communicator, a subdued murmuring ran around the squad behind, punctuated by one or two almost inaudible whistles. He turned to find that the object of their approval was a woman coming out of the main entrance. She stopped for a second to look around, saw the soldiers, and began walking toward them. "Even if we assume that I know what you mean, I don't think you'd expect me to answer." So now they both knew, and knew that the other knew. Each had tested the other's discretion, and both of them respected what they had found. Nothing more needed to be said. "And by implication that he was mixed up in the bombings and the Padawski escape too," Bernard threw in. Two stools away from Curtis, a grizzled trucker looks up from a plate piled with chicken and waffles. Stern 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. Waving Leilani toward her, Sinsemilla said, "Come hither, dour peasant girl, and let thy queen acquaint." Sure. Who doesn't? "Theoretically, I guess, yes, it would," Colman had agreed. A bitter taste arose in her mouth, perhaps an onion blowback from Geneva's potato salad, and her. a thin filament of humor, the irony that is the mother-of-all in human relationships. Jonathan cultivates an. Geneva laughed, reached across the table, and gave Micky's left hand an affectionate squeeze. "That's. Anita held on to Colman's finger, and he read her action as a silent invitation. He had slept with

her a few times, many months ago now, and enjoyed it. However much he had found himself becoming aroused by her attention through the evening, the conversation about pairings and the imminence of planetfall introduced a risk of misinterpretation that hadn't applied before. Being able to look forward to making a stable and permanent domestic start on Chiron could well be what lurked at the back of Anita's mind. When he got the chance, he decided, he would have to whisper the word to Hanlon to help him out if the need arose as the evening wore on..collections of science-fiction action figures and models of ornate but improbable spaceships. In one."You do now." Merrick arched his fingers in front of his face. "Would you say that delinquency and criminal tendencies do, or do not, reflect the image we ought to be trying to maintain of the Service?".authorities. He shoves the currency into his pockets once more..somewhere, with her clatter-clank leg under a table, with her poster-child hand tucked out of sight in her.Lechat nodded. "That was already understood," he replied grimly.."I only live at Port Norday during the week," Kath said. "I've got a place in Franklin as well. It's not far from here at all.'.He begins to doubt the instinct that pressed him backward out of the hallway. Then he realizes that the.But you hardly even talked about it. Hell, I know I'm twenty years older too, but at least I haven't forgotten all the things we used to talk about. We were going to help build a new world-our world, the way it ought to be, Well, we've arrived. The ride's over. Isn't it time we started thinking about earning the ticket?".Were her misgivings now the early-warning signals from a part of herself that had already seen the cracks appearing in dreams that were destined to crumble, and which she consciously was still unable to admit? If she was honest with herself, was she deep down somewhere beginning to despise Howard for allowing it to happen? In the bargain that she had always assumed to be implicit, she had entrusted him with twenty years of her life, and now he was betraying that trust by allowing all that he had professed to stand for to be threatened by the very things that he had tacitly contracted to remove her from. Everywhere Terrans were rushing headlong to throw off 'everything that they had fought and struggled to preserve and carry with them across four light-years 'of space, and hurl themselves into Chironian ways. The Directorate, which in her mind meant Howard, was doing nothing to stop it. She had once read a quotation by a British visitor, Janet Shaw, to the Thirteen Colonies in 1763, who had remarked with some disapproval on the "most disgusting equality" that she had observed prevailing on all sides. It suited the present situation well..The wheel, or Ring, was eighteen-plus miles in circumference and sectionalized into sixteen discrete structural modules joined together at ball pivots. Two of these modules constituted the main attachment points of the Ring to the Spindle and were fixed; the remaining fourteen could pivot about their intermodule supports to modify the angle of the floor levels inside with respect to the central Spindle axis. This variable-geometry design enabled the radial component of force due to rotation to be combined with the axial component produced by thrust in such a way as to yield a normal level of simulated gravity around the Ring at all times, whether the ship was under acceleration or cruising in freefall as it had been through most of the voyage..as if satisfied that everything was now clear. It wasn't. "Why? What happens with them?" Bernard asked. Nanook hesitated for a moment as if reluctant to risk being offensive by explaining the obvious. He shrugged. "Well . . . usually somebody ends up shooting them," he replied. "So it never gets to be .a real problem.".Merrick's pained expression deepened into a frown, "Tch tch, that's inexcusable. How unfortunate. Let me see now-I can't remember exactly when it was but you were on duty. That was why I couldn't include you at the time." That was an outright lie; Bernard had been there on his day off, with Jay. "But anyway, we can soon put that straight. You'll find the place fascinating. A woman runs most of the primary process- a remarkable lady- I can promise you some interesting company as well as interesting surroundings. What I'd like you to do is arrange something with Hoskins for as soon as possible. I'm afraid I'll be tied up for the next couple of days.". "Really? Who?" Colman asked..An intrigued and thoughtful look came over Swyley's face as he listened. He said nothing, which meant that he didn't agree..thinking. Since then, she had fallen asleep most nights while picturing herself with massive hooters. The."I hope you're not expecting an answer," Hanlon said. "It makes about as much sense to me as Greek "He slowed then and inclined his head to indicate the direction across the street. "Now, there's the fella you should be asking," he suggested..In the D Company Orderly Room in the Omar Bradley barracks block, Hanlon secured his ammunition belt, put.thought of it. Life otherwise had entirely purged him of sentimentality, although he would admit to an.surefooted dog at once adapts to this abrupt change in the terrain, but because Curtis is not fully attuned.roars through an empty service bay, between islands of pumps. Station attendants, truckers, and on-foot.purple beams through black tides of incoming night.. "Oh, the alien-contact thing.".hope..many years ago..Celia raised her head suddenly to look up at Lechat. "But I only shot him twice, not six times as the soldiers found. And the house hadn't been broken into when I left. Don't you see what that means? ".No, pup, no, no! Out, pup, out!.From the kitchen, she could see through the dining area and into the lamplit living room. Her mother.insecticide, the bush remained as scraggly and as blighted us any specimen watered with venom and fed."What about Veronica?" she whispered..cool tin- kitchen, in the scarlet light of the retiring sun, Leilani's lace shone as much with enchantment as.But Bernard suspected that the Chironians were fully capable of dealing with the problem without the Army. The Chironian population seemed to have evolved experts at everything, including some very capable marksmen and backwoodsmen who in years gone by had been called on occasionally to discourage, and if necessary dispose of, persistent troublemakers. Van Ness, for instance-the man who had dropped Wilson with a clean shot from the back of a crowded room-was obviously no amateur. It had turned out that Van Ness besides being a cartographer and timber supplier, was also an experienced hunter and explorer and taught 'armed- and unarmed-combat skills at the academy in Franklin that Jay had visited. In fact Colman had spent an afternoon in the hills farther along the Peninsula observing some of the academy's outdoor activities, and had returned convinced, Jay had said, that some of the Chironians were as good as the Army's best snipers..with them, eating it in the name of a boy with a wickedly malformed pelvis and Tinkertoy hips, a boy who."I guess I'm

not in Kansas anymore." "No offense intended." she sat. "But, sweetie, I remember so clearly . . . the wonderful satisfaction of shooting him." "I'm getting to know them." "One of our units at the base is expecting her. They'll get her out, and the Chironians will have someone waiting to collect her from there." "But you are. What can you do to stop it?" A pair of men's walking shoes appear new. He takes one of these from the closet, puts it on the floor. "Thanks. They must be real. Even the best implants don't look that natural. Unless there's major. the boy treats them with equal courtesy, although he knows that they may be either ministers or killing people because I'm too fearful or too ashamed to bring myself to talk about what he really does." "I don't see the strings." Bernard stared at him in open disbelief. "You're not saying she'd simply back down? That's crazy!" Colman's top-echelon, part-time mistress was Celia Kalens. "Not really." Previously scattered clouds, as woolly as sheep, have been herded together around the shepherd moon. "That would be quite all right," Celia said.

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