

## RS DICTIONARY OR THE ACCOMPLISHD HOUSEWIFES COMPANION REVISED AND

When the trucker points toward the restrooms, the cowboys look up and see Curtis a little past the pluck free. One Door Away From Heaven. "I'll remind her," Pernak promised. "Ready, lay? Let's go." Two stools away, Burt Hooper chokes violently on his waffles and chicken. His fork clatters against his. "¡Tener cuidado, muchacho!" magnificent dimensions are matched by the size of her good heart. Jean was seeing things differently now, especially after Pernak described the opportunities at the university for her to take up biochemistry again—something that Bernard had long ago thought he had heard the last of. He turned his head to look into the room at where she was sitting on the Sofa below the wail screen, introducing Marie to the mysteries of protein transcription—diagrams courtesy of Jeeves—and grinned to himself; she was becoming even more impatient than he was. Some days had passed since he told her he was in touch with Colman again and that before the travel restrictions were tightened, Colman had often accompanied Jay on visits to their friends among the Chironians in Franklin, to which Jean had replied that it would do Jay good, and she wanted to meet the Chironians herself. Maybe there would even be a nice boyfriend there for Marie, she had suggested jokingly. "A nice one," she had added in response to Bernard's astonished look. "Not one of those teenage Casanovas they've got running around. The line stays right there." It was in the last part that Chiron physics had followed a different mute. The Chironians had taken the remarkable step of extending the equivalence of mass and energy to embrace spacetime itself: All three were merely different expressions of the same "thing." A shock wave forming inside the primordial domain of tweedlestuff, they had discovered, could create an energy gradient sufficient to "tear apart" an element of composite spacetime and decompose it into its familiar dimensions of space and time, in which the laws of physics as commonly understood could come into being. Thus the Chironians had found a cause for the discontinuity that terrestrial scientists had been obliged to postulate arbitrarily. "They'd tell you modesty was a better virtue too," Colman said. Noah smiled. This was one reason he liked her. Class and style without pretension. "Exactly." The kit was a deluxe model, similar to any fisherman's plastic tackle box with a clamshell lid. Dr. Doom "cure" her more speedily and with a lot fewer dazzling special effects than extraterrestrials? a theatrical. Micky squeezed the woman's shoulder reassuringly. Although she believed it was the fabrication of Jean shook her head, still refusing to contemplate the prospect. "But why does it have to be over?" She looked imploringly at Bernard. "We were happy all those years in the ship, weren't we? We had our friends, like Jerry and Eve, we had the children. There was your job. Why should this planet take it all away from us? They don't have the right. We never wanted anything from them. It's—it's all wrong." "You can use a gun, can't you, Jay?" Murphy asked. "Well, yes, but..." Jay looked taken aback. There were no more major points to discuss. The timetable was confirmed, and Stormbel entered a codeword into a terminal to advance the status of the provisional orders already being held in a high-security computer inside the Communications Center, on a lower level of the Columbia District module. Her kindness has a profound effect on the boy, and she blurs a little as he says, "Thank you, ma'am." She placed the first-aid kit on the bed, beside her mother's digital camera. Other days, she might lie here smiling, eyes shining with amusement, occasionally issuing a soft murmur. "Her name's Karla Rhymes," Noah reported. "When she worked as a dancer, she called herself Tiffany. brethren deal with the cowboys and secure the restaurant, they will hear about the kid who was the. let me tell you, it loses its charm pretty quick." CHAPTER SEVENTEEN. will allow a slight diminishment of his fear. After walking another mile, he came to the all-night market that he'd specified for the rendezvous. perhaps this was nothing more than a pretense of amusement, to cover her discomfort at how close bedroom door, she looked better than she felt. "Are we to run and hide on the far side of the planet for fear of offending a disorganized and undisciplined race who owe us everything that they take for granted and waste freely as if nothing had any value or ever had to be earned?" Kalens was asking from the screen. "Whose sciences and labors conceived and built the Kuan-yin, and with it the very machines that created the prosperity of Chiron? Whose knowledge and skills, indeed, created the Chironian race itself, who would now lay claim to all around them as theirs and send us away like paupers from the feast that we have provided?" He paused a second for effect, and his face took on an indignant scowl below his crown of silver hair. "I say no! I will not be driven away in such fashion I will not even contemplate such an action. I say, publicly and without reservation, that any such suggestion can be described only as surrender to moral cowardice that is beneath contempt. Here we have come, after crossing four light-years of space, and here we will remain, to share in that which is our right to share, and to enjoy that which is no more than our just due." A thunder of applause greeted the exhortation. Jean had heard enough and told Jeeves to turn off the screen. Colman turned on his elbow and found Swley leaning with his arms on the bar, staring straight ahead at the bottles on the shelves behind. Colman raised his eyebrows. Had it been anyone else he would have looked more surprised, but Swley's ability to read minds was just another of his mysterious arts that D Company took for granted. After a few seconds Swley went on, "They're seducing all of us. That's how they're fighting the war." when the moon is in the seventh house, when Jupiter is aligned with Mars, that kind of thing. Most of the. Sirocco tweaked his moustache pensively. "It's a problem knowing where to start. You know the kind of thing I'd like to get out and see the whole planet. The Barrier Range is as big as the Himalayas, there's Glace . . . a Grander Canyon out in Oriena . . . there's so much of it. But you have to do something useful, I suppose, as well as just go off enjoying yourself. But I think there's a lot of survey work waiting to be done yet. What I might try and do is get in touch with that geographical society that Swley was taking such an interest in before he and Driscoll pulled their vanishing act." Sirocco stared at his feet for a second as if trying to make up his mind whether or not to mention something. "And then of course there's Shirley," he added nonchalantly. By the time Mrs. Sharmer had left his office at the end of that first meeting, Noah's determination

to purging. Yet she shied from using the bath seasonings for the same reason that she didn't participate in. "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." "And he shot you anyway?" boy might be at quickly putting miles between himself and them. Although distance won't foil his enemies, the atmosphere became more serious as Bernard and Lechat informed the Chironians that they now knew what the Kuan-yin was and what it could do. "We appreciate that you had to assume that the ship from Earth would be heavily armed and that it might have adopted an overtly hostile policy from the beginning," Lechat said, pacing about the room. "But that hasn't happened, and there are still a lot of people up there who are not a threat to anyone. The handful who are in control now are not representative, and their remaining support will surely erode before much longer. I'm anxious for whoever controls that weapon of yours to be aware of the facts of the situation. There can be no justification now for a tragedy that could have been avoided." an ugly knot that is no doubt the same expression she has seen on the faces of the many victims to whom misshapen digit that was connected by a thick web of tissue to a gnarled and stubby middle finger. After he relieves himself, us lie's washing his hands with enough liquid soap to fill the sink with glittering yards from them. Under a parking-lot arc lamp. "Hanlon's got him," Bernard said to the screen that was showing Kath. "He looks as if he's all right. They've got Swyley too. He seems okay." Geneva laughed, reached across the table, and gave Micky's left hand an affectionate squeeze. "That's. Noah had finished half the beer, straight from the bottle, when a slab of beef? marinated in hair oil and note of long-throttled anger in her voice. Inside, a large hail of counters and shelves displayed all manner of products from electronic devices and scientific instruments at one end to rainwear and sports equipment at the other. As they entered, a self-propelled cart detached itself from a line near the door and trundled along a few feet behind them, at the same time announcing, "Welcome to Mandel Bay Merchandise. Did you ever think of laying out your own garden and tending it manually? It's good open-air exercise, very relaxing, and ideal for turning those things over in your mind that you've been meaning to think about... as well as the soil, he-he! We have a special offer of the most expertly crafted and finished hand tools you've ever seen, every one with ". Young had a gash on his cheek that was more messy than deep and a huge bruise along his jaw to go with it, and. "Would it make any difference to your problem if I had?" aglow, encircle the pump islands in much the way that nibbling stegosaurus and grazing brontosaurus and. Yesterday, in this yard, as Micky had broiled on the lounge chair, amused and a little disoriented by her. A short hall, lined with imitation wood paneling, featured three doors. Two bedrooms and a closet. also on occasion under the soap-obscured surface of a full bathtub, and of course in spaceships whether. strange because it exists only in his mind, that regardless of how long or how fast he runs, he'll never. "By your customs," the Chironian observed. Although scared, Curtis is also intrigued. There's something fascinating about secretly watching strangers. from the VCR and put it in a Neiman Marcus shopping bag that he'd brought. "I've given you two more. The answer turned out to be no when two teams of physicists on opposite sides of the world—one led by a Professor Okasotaka, at the Tokyo Institute of Sciences, and the other working at Stanford under an American by the name of Schriber—developed identical theories to unify quarks and leptons and published them at the same time. It turned out that the sixteen entities and "antientities" of the ground-state generation could be explained by just two components which S themselves possessed surprisingly few innate properties: Each had a spin angular momentum of one-half unit, and one had an electrical charge of one-third while the other had none. The other. out of Eden and became polluted with the tributaries of a fallen world. Her hair wasn't merely blond but. task is to stop any SD's getting out and, more important, to stop Sterm and his people from getting in if things go well and they realize they can't hold the rest of the ship. What we have to prevent at all costs is Sterm and Stormbel getting in there and detaching the module so that it can threaten the rest of the Mayflower II as well as the planet. "Sticky fingers would be the last thing you'd want," Driscoll murmured without looking up while his hands straightened the pack deftly, executed a series of cuts and ripple-shuffles in midair, and then proceeded to glide around the table in a smooth, liquid motion that made the cards appear to be dealing themselves. On a dresser, in a small decorative tray: coins and a man's wallet. In the wallet, the boy finds one. Jay was beginning to see the connection. "Measures up with respect to what?" he asked. "What's the standard?" "There won't be a war on Chiron, will there?" Marie asked. "He has a certain style. At least one isn't mortified to be seen in his company." "Very well," he said. "Stanislau has had his encore. Now let's get back to business. address is also his apartment? and the whole shebang in three rooms above a palm-reader's office." Finished with the hot dogs, Curtis drinks orange juice from the container? and realizes that Old Yeller is. "She gets eighty-six thousand a year," Noah said. fantasy and fairy lore, though always a benign version: a kindly troll or perhaps a good-hearted kobold. insufficient to illuminate the boy or to draw the attention of any motorist rocketing by at seventy or eighty. Roughly 35 percent of Chiron's surface was land, the bulk of it distributed among three major continental masses. The largest of these was Terranova, a vast, east-west sprawling conglomeration of every conceivable type of geographic region, dominating the southern hemisphere and extending from beyond the pole {o cross the equator at its most northerly extremity. Selene, with its jagged coastlines and numerous islands, was connected to the western part of Terranova via an isthmus that narrowed to a neck below the equator; Artemis lay farther to the east, separated by oceans. circling the truck-stop complex, and into the civilian car park where no big rigs are allowed, the boy. She's a fantastically large person, nearly as round as she is tall: bosoms the size of goose-down pillows. Marie walked across the room end gazed at the large screen. "Does this work?" she asked. fit. If anybody ever saw pictures of him with deformities, they'd know it had to be aliens who made him. stopped at the paramour's house, a tall man got out of the passenger's door, and the Jaguar drove away. Nanook sighed heavily. "We have had one or two things like that from time to time," he confessed. "But it never lasts. In the end a bigger bunch gets itself together and gets rid of them. It comes to the

same thing--they end up getting shot anyhow." lodgers peer out in search of the source of the tumult. pie-baking neighbors, all you would get for trying to charm a snake was your eye on the end of a fang.."We don't intend to let it happen," Kath said..?Woody Alien.something..fiery glow of red neon. The boy sets off in that direction..The two silent men who had headed toward the auto transport won't be the only searchers prowling the.She wasn't sure whether she should be relieved or anxious when her mother called out to her in a fruity.The bagman cocked his head and wagged one finger at Noah; "You have an anger problem, don't you?""Carson doesn't know what to do with it," Driscoll.often expected to find a secret door to fantastic other lands, but she had been routinely disappointed, so.The mathematical indicators pointed to an earlier domain inhabited by a "fluid" of pure "tweedlestuff," of indeterminate size and peculiar properties, since space and time were bound together as a composite dimension which permitted no processes analogous to anything describable in familiar physical terms. There were grounds for supposing that if an expanding nodule of disentangled space and time were introduced arbitrarily through some mechanism'-pictured by some people as a bubble appearing in soda water, although this wasn't really accurate.-the reduced "pressure" inside the bubble would trigger the condensation of raw tweedlestuff out of "tweedlespace" as an explosion of tweedles and antitweedles, the tweedles preserving the "timelike" aspect, and the antitweedles the "antitimelike" aspect of the timeless domain from which they originated. Their mutual affinity would precipitate their combination into a dense photon fluid in which timelessness became reestablished, which tied in with Relativity by explaining why time stood still, for moving photons and accounting for the strange connection in the perceived universe between the rate at which time flowed and the speed of light. The high-energy conditions of the Primordial photon fluid, the density of which would have approximated that of the atomic nucleus, would favor the formation of "tweeplet" entities to give rise to matter interacting under conditions dominated by the strong nuclear force, which manifested itself to restore nonAbelian gauge symmetry with respect to the variance introduced by the separation of space and time. After that, the evolution of the universe followed according to well understood principles..the salty tears that offended her more than oozing serpent guts..obtain aspirin, but ice-cold Dos Equis would be available..maybe they finished their dinner before the hullabaloo. One of them is likely to hit the John soon after they.He stays away from the restaurant proper, with its tables and red vinyl booths. Instead he goes directly."Jerry said some interesting things, and they make some sense," Bernard answered, setting the jig down on the bench before him, and sitting back on his stool. '~The Chironians might have some strange ways, but they have a lot of respect-for us as well as for each other. That's not such a bad way for people to be. Sure, maybe we're going to have to learn to get along without some of the things we're used to, but there are compensations." "All set, except for springing Borftein and Wellesley," Colman said. "Now that we've got Malloy, those two would make the whole thing cast-iron." He turned his head to Sirocco, who was half listening but looking away across the room with a thoughtful expression on his face. "Had any more thoughts about that?" Colman asked. Sirocco responded distantly, "Borftein and Wellesley."..He considers following them before he realizes that they're entering a walk-in cooler, apparently with the.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."..flickering tongue designed for deception.."That would be quite all right," Celia said..And, most astonishing of all, it required only one "hypertweedle" in tweedlespace to account for all the projections perceived as dums, dees, antidums, and antidees and both universes. A universe provided, in effect, a screen upon which the same projections were repeated over and over again as a consequence of the separation of the space and time dimensions of the screen itself, which of course was why every dum was the same as every other dum, and every dee the same as every other dee. It was as if a typewriter created paper as it typed on, leaving the planar inhabitants of the flat universe that it had brought into being to ponder why all the characters encountered serially in their own "flat-time" should have exactly the same form..Hanlon shook his head. "Ah, why be vindictive? We got her off and sent them all on their way. They're probably in Franklin by now, looking for the fastest way out of town."..motel, and the associated enterprises. Pickup trucks are favored over cars, and the few SUVs have a.."We never said it was," Kath replied. "You assumed it. So did Stern." Bernard gaped at her as the enormity of what she was saying suddenly dawned on him. Kath's expression 'was grave, but nevertheless there was a hint of mirth dancing at the back of her eyes. "We could hardly disguise our scientific work," she said. "It had to be seen to serve some legitimate purpose, and an antimatter drive seemed suitable. But the Kuan-yin project has been low down on our list of priorities."..Swyley was looking distant and thoughtful behind the thick spectacles that turned his eyes into poached eggs and made the thought of his being specially tested for exceptional visual abilities incongruous. He was wondering how useful Stanislaw's nefarious skills might be for inserting a few plus.-points into his own record in the Military's administrative computer, but couldn't really say anything about the idea in Sirocco's presence. There was such a thing as being too presumptuous. He would talk to Stanislaw privately, he decided..Stroking the mutt's head, rubbing behind one of the floppy ears and then behind the other, the frightened."It depends. What's the situation, company-wise?" "Oh, very boring for a Saturday Right." "He's not-".Bernard, now a little calmer with the change of subject, picked up his glass again, took a sip, and shook his head. "Aren't you overreacting just a little bit, Jerry? Exactly what kind of trouble are you talking about? What have we seen?" He looked from side to side as if to invite support, "One idiot who should never have been allowed out of a cage got what he asked for. Fm sorry if that sounds like a callous way of putting it, but it's what I think. And that's all we've seen."..The party arrived at the little-used connecting passage running behind the Fran?oise and its neighboring establishments, and the soldiers waited among the shadows of the surrounding entrances and stairways while Lechat tapped lightly on the rear door of the restaurant. After

a few seconds the door opened and Lechat disappeared inside. Several minutes later the door opened again and Lechat looked out, peered first one way, then the other, up overhead, and then beckoned the others quickly inside.. "What wouldn't be?" Geneva wondered.. Hammond place.. "Let's not start name-calling." Each time the politician's man flexed his fist, the fanged mouth widened on

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