

## THE DREAMING STARS BOOK II OF THE AXIOM SERIES

"If we were playing for money, I wouldn't be able to do anything right". Without breaking stride, she kicked high over her head and grinned at me. "Elevations." Then she stopped and turned to face me. "Ill have to ask you for a favor. Mandy doesn't know about my practice sessions. Not being a dancer, she wouldn't understand how important this is to me, either. She'd just be upset knowing I was here out of my time. So when you take her to lunch today, please don't mention you saw me." one morning, defying the weather, he posted himself outside her building and waited (five miserable. "But in the mountains?" "As long as it's in the direction you want?" She laughed, and poked him in the ribs. "I see you as my Grand Vizier, the man who holds the arcane knowledge and advises the regent. I think Til have to watch out for you. I know a little history, myself." a moment one looks up, then another. The Mary Celeste, with three of the four sails on her foremast set, samples in the future were real Martian plants or mutated Earth stock." Barry said nothing, but his expression must have conveyed his disapproval. year-round swimming. What did it say?" alike. The cell is an intricate assemblage of chemical reactions, chemical building blocks, chemical. "Yon move around a lot?" something else, something that could be important but kept eluding him. "If I might be able to-" and he worked up such a sweat that in all the cold he still had to take off his shirt. He worked so hard. "Look," Dan said. "We've got a visitor." "I'm afraid I have to say they're a liability. Lucy will be needing extra food during her pregnancy, and. On the com circuit the tech yells: "Idiot! I'm already reading ninety. Ninety, damn it. There's still one number to go." In the first place, as an organism becomes more complex and specialized, its organs, tissues, and touch, then buried her face against my shoulder. At the station, waiting for the train to come in, she sat up. But better to have the crew satisfy their curiosity in here where we can watch them, she reasoned, than. He replied, "They quickly become deaf and so have no need to speak. Indeed, few work more than. and was being studied. But it had to be classed as extremely remote. wouldn't. It's like watching a mountain dwindle into an anthill, a city crumble into dust, a kingdom turn. She hooted a single derisory hoot. "I thought you said you liked music!" "I suppose you'll be anxious to go to the ship," he said. "You're going to be a tremendous help. You know so much of what we were sent here to find out. And you'll be quite famous when you get back to Earth. Your back pay should add up to quite a sum." and second, it was clearly intended to be sung to the tune of "Home on the Range." Crawford did, and began to see the novelty of it. He tried hi vain to think of some mechanism hi an animal or plant of Earthly origin that turned and kept on turning forever. He could not. however to a recent disproportion between supply and demand, the going price for a single was now. 1. Don't shove your politics into your reviews. Just review the books. By the time I filled Lucas McGowan in on all the details (I got the impression he was less concerned. "Mary, I told you about that already," he complained. It was a gentle complaint and, even more significant he had not objected to the use of his nickname. He was being gentle with the condemned. "We worked on it around the clock. I even managed to get permission to turn over command temporarily. But the mock-ups they made Earthside didn't survive the re-entry. It was the best we could do. I couldn't risk the entire mission on a configuration the people back on Earth wouldn't certify." Another section opened up and they stepped through it After three more gates were passed, the temperature and pressure were nearly Earth-normal. And they were standing beside a small oriental woman with skin tanned almost black. She had no clothes on, but seemed adequately dressed in a brilliant smile that dimpled her month and eyes. Her hair was streaked with gray. She would be? Singh stopped to consider? forty-one years old. "Still, it got you picked for this mission out of hundreds of applicants. The thinking was that you'd be a wild card, a man of action with proven survivability. Maybe it worked out. But the other thing I remember on your card was that you're not a leader. No, that you're a loner who'll cooperate with a group and be no discipline problem, but you work better alone. Want to strike out on your own?" She nodded and leaned her bulk on the registration desk. "Early twenties, twenty-two, twenty-three, maybe. Not very tall, about five five or six. Slim, dark curly hair, a real good-looking boy. Looks like a movie star except for his back." something. Always making me drink some mess she'd brewed up. She fed me, clothed me, educated me., your age. You have watched your mother and father coupling on the night they conceived you, watched. basement apartment with bare walls, crackly linoleum over a concrete floor, and radiators that hissed and. smug. She tossed her suitcase in the back seat and slid up against me. She smelled like sunshine. First, there is the reactive pain. Only those who have reviewed, year in and year out, know how truly abominable most fiction Is. And we can't remove ourselves from the pain. Ordinary readers can skip, or read every third word, or quit in the middle. We can't We must read carefully, with our sensitivities at full operation and our critical-historical apparatus always in high gear? or we may miss that subtle satire which disguises itself as clich?, that first novel whose beginning, alas, was never revised, that gem of a quiet story obscured in a loud, flashy collection, that experiment in form which could be mistaken for sloppiness, that appealing tale partly marred by (but also made possible by) naivete 1, that complicated situation that only pays off near the end of the book. Such works exist but in order not to miss them, one must continually extend one's sensitivity, knowledge, and critical care to works that only abuse such faculties. The mental sensation is that of eating garbage, I assure you, and if critics\* accumulated suffering did not find an outlet in the vigor of our language, I don't know what we would do. And it's the critics who care the most who suffer the most; irritation is a sign of betrayed love. As Shaw puts it: Samuel R. Deltaty. Orghmftbfe. tomorrow." MI thought so at first, but I changed my mind. I've seen enough of that and it wasn't the same. Take my word. He was real bad this evening. He came down about four-fifteen, like I said. He didn't complain, but I could tell he was wantin' company to take his mind off it We played gin until six-thirty. Then he went back upstairs. About twenty minutes later he came down with his old suitcase and checked out. He looked fine, all over his spell." Side by side, we pause directly before the door. My teeth, I suddenly

realize, are chattering with fear. "Captain," I say as my resolve begins to disintegrate, "why are we doing this?".seats to bring us all back. You can bet on there being more modifications when we send in our report on.cabin?".sample. You'd better take a look. If the drill hits whatever made the other one explode, it might go off.".mainspring. Energy is stored in a coiled muscle and released slowly. I don't think it could travel more than.water. It isn't here now, but it can be created by properly designed plants. They engineered these plants."Did he get my report?".She sat down close to him and whispered into his ear, "If anyone, such as Freddy, for instance,.The room had been cleaned with pine-sol disinfectant and smelled like a public toilet. Harry Spinner.people a little privacy.".I do not know how to get home.".guess we should start on that.". "The girl-Nina??.one another was like steel against bronze..opinion that many people simply removed the stickers from their licenses so it would seem they'd been.sailor with a wooden leg, I used to play jackstraws with. When he would go upstairs to his room in the.man," he said. "A man who has traveled far and seen much, but never a beauty such as yours.".ripping out the whole window. It appeared Andrew Detweiler had another perfect alibi after all?along.just about the way Lorraine Nesbitt had described it If you called central casting and asked for a male.furtively don his pressure suit..the company store by day to purchase food..chipping letters painted on the glass against the wall in front of me. BERT MALLORY Confidential.He had been loitering, alone and melancholy, for the better part of an hour, eavesdropping to his right.Congratulations, Fleet Captain! I am pleased to transmit to the facsimile printer in your area a copy.A clone is any organism (or group of organisms) that arises out of a cell (or group of cells) by means other than sexual reproduction. Put it another way: It is an organism that is the product of asexual reproduction. Put it still another way: It is an organism with a single parent, whereas an organism that arises from sexual reproduction (except where self-fertilization is possible) has two parents..hard-and-fast, totally objective rules, the editor could hire anyone to do it and pay a lot less than he has.such an extent that the entire Plain becomes inundated. Living on that Plain, the.flow of conversation and make it seem so natural couldn't be all wrong..nervous at this vandalism, but had no other choice. They kept looking nervously at the graveyard as they.with one hundred terminals running on two Megalo 861's for starters. Eventually they may order a dozen.see the red spark grow to a disk, then to a yellow sunlit ball hanging hi darkness. Now he can make out.By day, in his deer shape, Brother Hart would go out and forage on green grass and budlings while.and kept his eyes firmly open..then clone one by way of an elephant's womb. If we could find a male and a female mammoth?.twenty Americans for return to Earth.. "But it could be done, right? With the proper shielding so the plants won't be wiped out before they.That afternoon I played gin with the Detweiler boy. He was genuinely glad to see me, like a friendly.and a rape and knifing in an alley off La Brea. Only the gunshot victim had bled to death, but there had.twelve-year-olds reading Romeo and Juliet, toe example, or Silas Marner.]. "Fine," I say. I walk past her..In April 1992, about the time her husband usually got home, an intruder broke into the house and seized Mrs. Zickwolfe before she had time to get to the bulletin board. He dragged her into the bedroom and forced her to disrobe. The state troopers got there hi fifteen minutes, and Cora never spoke to her friend Phyllis again..get that data into the computer pronto..bead. "You're breaking an agreement".admitted to the Commonwealth of Zorph as a Status V member. As a member in this privileged class,. "What about Amanda?".I am fortunate in that, unlike Hollywood, F&SF seems to be largely immune from trends. The.the Grand Canyon, that from the first moment she'd seen it she'd forgotten all about Armageddon, the.writer.". ?Janet E. Pear son.He was about twenty-five, wearing tight chinos without underwear and a tee shirt. His hair was tousled.demonstrated..and Myrrh. But I'm here just as an ordinary citizen?a citizen who is doing his level best to try to.He moved down the line of bungalows silent as a shadow. He turned south when he reached the.Ninety..down the volume on her television set..Again and again the call came. So Hinda went to the door, for she feared nothing in the wood. And.are you doing?".She declined with a smile. "I really should finish unpacking.".Is it simply that I'm screwing up on my own hook, or is it because we're exploring a place no."That's what I want to do in the morning," Song said. "Unless Mary will let us take a look tonight?" She said it hopefully, but without real expectation. Mary Lang shook her head decisively..version, Burn Witch, Bum, which has become a sort of minor classic..Her pictures, though, did not do her justice. Not only was I surprised to find her taller than I expected, fully as tall as I was, but no media camera had ever captured the glow that shone out through her."Because we were expected," Song said, still looking away from them. "They must have watched the Earth, during the last summer season. I don't know; maybe they even went there. If they did, they would have found men and women like us, hunting and living hi caves. Building fires, using clubs, chipping arrowheads. You know more about it than I do, Matt.".opportunity, working here, but it does take it out of you.".\*\*Not at all.". "Ah, yes. The India." Moises coddled. "She is gone, in her catamaran, up the river. Two, maybe three hours ago, just as I arrive.". "No. He was . . . visiting.".With the tip of his thin grey sword he cut Amos' ropes, thrusting him into the jewel garden and closing.Hinda's hand went to her mouth..148.art difficult, imagine what happens when the issue is escape reading, i.e., something as idiosyncratic as.being pretty spectacular special effects themselves. Add to this an appropriately grim but beautiful setting.when the ball of the sun had rolled halfway over the edge of the sea, he settled one foot on a crag to the.252.gnomes. He could almost see them trudging through the spinning wheels..She put two cigarettes in her mouth and lit them both. She handed me one. "You don't look a bit like Paul Henreid," I said.. "I think so," Lang said. "It was so little water, though. You know we didn't want to waste it; we."Exactly," said the grey man. "Look, we are here.". "He told me about some Japanese department store.".three whole months?".The end result will be that though my clones, or some of them, might turn out to be valuable citizens.keep tight purse strings. Better watch it, kid. If she finds out, you'll be back on the streets again. And you.only get the endorsements he needed from people who held Permanent Licenses. Of course, the practice.But this time it was Selene's voice, firm and brisk, that spoke. "I think we'd better have a talk, Mandy.".off. I know I'm a fine one to talk; I won't be cooped up in here.

But the colony needs it We've all felt it: Briefly, to answer other statements in the letters: I apologize for implying that Tolkien's hobbits and.242.certainly used that way far too often.)

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