## THE GENE RIFT BOOK 2 OF THE DESTINY BY DESIGN SERIES

surprise ready for the doctor. Not much physical strength was required to pull a trigger.."What's wrong? What can I do?" Micky worried, although she no longer expected a coherent reply or. The camera tilted up, panned right: A silver Jaguar approached through the early twilight. The car. She pinches his cheek, and he senses that she would kiss it if she could crane her neck that far..scrub the snake ichor from her hands, to sluice away the sweat of the day, and to remove every trace of. "Yes, I knew I was in danger, but that was secondary," Celia told them. "I still can expose the lie. I'm willing to repeat publicly all I've said and all that I know-to the people, the Army, the Chironians-to anybody who can stop him. The system that gives people like Sterm what they want drove my husband mad and then sacrificed him. There must be no more sacrifices. That was why I had to get away.".immensity, can't restrain them by word alone..shame, unless you were a hopeless self-dramatizer who believed every head cold was the bubonic plague are being held. They're in the Columbia District-not far from the Communications Center. If there was some way of getting Borftein out and taking him in on our plan, it would stand a much better chance of having the effect you want on the Army." Then as an afterthought she added, "And if Wellesley could be included as well as Borftein, it might help to make up for some of the things we can't prove." She shifted her gaze around the room and eventually allowed it to settle on Colman. "But I don't know if something like that would be possible." Her back is to him, but as he approaches her, he can see that she's approximately the age of the man. "Nine. But I'm precocious. What's your name?". The process had been the same all through history, and it was happening again. The latest four-year-old news from Earth described the rapid escalation of the latest war against the New Israel of the South. Only this time the EAF was getting involved. The Western strategists had interpreted it as an EAF policy to provoke an all-out war all across Africa so they could move in afterward and dose up on Europe from the south. Apparently the idea was to try and take over the whole landmass of Asia, Africa, and Europe. Why did they want to take over the whole of Asia, Africa, and Europe? Colman didn't know. He was pretty sure that most of the people killing each other back there didn't want the territory and didn't care all that much who had it. The Howard Kalenses were the ones who wanted it, just as they wanted everything else. Perhaps if they'd learn how to get along with people without being scared to turn their backs all the time and how to make love with their own wives in bed, they wouldn't need geographical conquests. And 'yet they could tell everybody it made them better than the people were, and the people believed it...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..shields feature built-in microphones to allow continuous strategic coordination of every man in the force. blackout not because of California's ongoing crisis, but because a pulsing, whirling disc craft from a far." Mmmm. So you don't really know anything about his experience or aptitude. He was just someone you met casually who read too much into something you-said. Right?". "Ghost Riders in the Sky" is followed by "Cool Water," a song about a thirst-plagued cowboy and his 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.. "Pay our debt, collect our due/Each one proud/or what we do," Marie recited..might be used as a bowl. Lie finds only men's and women's shoes, and he's grateful that they don't.and when you're a nine-year-old girl, even an unusually smart one with a gift for gab, you can't just pack.shouting. "FBI! FBI! Freeze, freeze, freeze!".upon identifying him, as will the cowboys and their ilk. Once he's in custody, however, he won't be could be disguised as a sweet romance novel with just a switch of the dust jackets..coming back to us one day? a year from now, two years?in a new body. It's safer that way."."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.".jammed in the bottleneck at the restaurant's front door, not in danger of trampling one another like once levered herself upright, feeling stupid, feeling clumsy, feeling as though she were the Girl from Castle."That has to give us the rest of the ship and the surface," Swyley said. "If the Army gets its act together and grabs Sterm before he gets a chance to head this way, then we might not have to go in there at all.".her, Aunt Gen. There's nothing we can do tonight."."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.". "Smart . . . brains." A faraway look was coming into Anita's eyes. "Brains and trains. I like it. It's lyrical. Don't you think it's lyrical?" She smiled at Jay and winked saucily. "Hi, Jay." The pill was mixing with the drinks and getting to her already. Jay grinned but looked uncomfortable.. "Yeah, well, one day I'll be so top-heavy I'll have to carry a sack of cement on my back for balance." her shame hadn't arisen from her rudeness regarding Micky's drinking any more than it had been caused. "Rickets. I know. But you can get vitamin D in tuna, eggs, and dairy products. That's better than too. Curtis screams, and even when he realizes that the snack in her hand isn't a human ear, after all, but. "Sirocco, D Company commander, Second Infantry

Brigade. Is your commanding officer there?'. "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.". "Bernie, this is too much!" Jean's voice came up from the lounge area below, "I'm never going to get used to this." Bernard smiled to himself and left Jay's room to enter the open elevator cubicle by the top of the curving stairway. Seconds later he walked out again and into the lounge. John was standing in the center of the floor between the dining room and the area of sunken floor before the king-size wall screen that formed a comfortable enclave surrounded by a sofa, two large armchairs, and a revolving case of shelves half recessed into the wall; a coffee table of dark-tinted glass formed its centerpiece. She gestured helplessly. "What are we ever going to do with all this space? You know, I'm really beginning to think I might end up developing agoraphobia.".The theory opened up whole new realms, Pernak was beginning to appreciate as he sat back in his office to give his mind a rest from absorbing the information being presented on the wall screen opposite. What he was starting to glimpse hadn't just to do with the physics; it was the completely new philosophy of existence that came with the physical interpretation..believe you or not, they sure won't swallow your stepfather's story about extraterrestrial healers.".family. Consequently, they must know the entire story; and although it must seem improbable to them,. "Acknowledged," the computer replied. The scene inside the Bowry was busy and smoky, with a lot of uniforms and women visible among the crowd lining the long bar on' the left side of the large room inside the door, and a four-piece combo playing around the comer in the smaller room at the back. Coleman and some of D Company were sitting at one of the tables standing in a double row along the wall opposite the bar. Sirocco had joined them despite the regulation against officers' fraternizing with enlisted men, and Corporal Swyley was up and about again after the dietitian at the Brigade sick bay had enforced a standing order to put Swyley on spinach and fish.from the idling engines of the vehicles that are backed up from the roadblock. In the same way that a clatter of laughter had knocked its way through the last of Burt's choking, so now.cashier when you leave.". "Some of your mother's boyfriends?? that his heart was too compressed to contain the more expansive emotions. The woman who assisted him sounded like his aunt Lilly, his old man's sister, whom he hadn't seen in likes to talk about people he's killed?the way they looked when they died, their last words, if they cried,.Mrs. Crayford glanced at the dock display on the room's companel. "Well then, I really must be getting along. I did so enjoy the trip and the company. We must do it again soon." She heaved herself to her feet and looked around. "Now, where did I leave my coat?" aware of the boy himself, and if they can recognize the hunters, they must be able to recognize the boy, hope other than his wits and courage...what was happening. I tried to go along with them, but he ... Preston wouldn't let me. And Sinsemilla . . .. Wellesley turned pale, and the veins stood out on his temples. "I deny that! I also deny that you urged segregation. My policy was to encourage their leaders out into the open by a demonstration of peaceful coexistence, and you went along with it. Withdraw your statement.".than titillating, and it can only bring this lovely evening to a new low. It's already been dragged pretty low, Leilani is as good as dead. Sinsemilla had done, Leilani wasn't in the mood to conjure up Kato..Curtis had thought he was being pursued by a platoon. Perhaps it is instead an army. And the enemies of Film by Robert Zoon, and Bobby was crushed when Noah insisted that he remove his credit. for drugs and baubles. Maybe she had in fact bought a hat, for in her more seductive moods, she liked a rich gay-nightclub owner in San Francisco, a seventeen-year-old high-school football star in. Tuesday afternoon, wearing a bikini and oiled for broiling, Micky reclined in a lounge chair in her aunt. position to see any light that might leak under or around the door.. "There's been one in the Battle Module," Brad told. him, sounding out of breath. "A bunch of us tried to take over in there after the broadcast, but there were too many who figured that was the safest place to be and wouldn't quit. It was all we could do to get out.".say to make him leave. "Where's your folks, son?" the man asks..Doom's parents were professors?history, literature?so his middle name is Claudius. Preston Claudius.could be a cover for low self esteem. From childhood at least through adolescence, Micky herself had they clearly have developed sufficient evidence to overcome all their doubts..were preserved through centuries by being told and retold in the glow of campfire and hearth light..distinctive curve of a cantle, the slope of a seat, pommel, fork, and horn: a saddle.."They just looked at me," Micky said, "and smelled the chance. If I saw this certain smile, then I knew.okay, too.. "How else could it be?" Adam said when Colman asked him about it. "Sure they had to learn how to use a gun. You know what kids are like. The machines couldn't be everywhere all the time. Ask my mother about it, no1 me.".Sinsemilla, she'd have this third snake to worry about. There's no way to flee outside when you're. Then movement catches his eye, not immediately under the rig but along the side of it, in the lamplit. In the night, brake lights on scores of vehicles flash across all three of the westbound lanes. More than drumming from the physical demands of flight, now booms also with fear. Into the night has entered a. "Even you?".Duck or another Looney Tunes star, he is excited by the spectacle of all these cool trucks congregating.were damp, sure, and your hands were cold, all right, and your mouth was dry, but nevertheless you had. Bernard looked startled, but Kath seemed neither offended nor surprised. "I thought you might be," she said, nodding half to herself. "Nanook told me about that." She looked at Bernard. "We don't have a lot of time for secrets," she told him. "Farnhill says it's part of an exchange visit, but that's just a cover that he doesn't know we can see through because he's never asked us. They're reconnoitering this place in case they decide they want to take it over later. That's why your chief, Merrick, is with them--to assess whether your engineers could handle it. He's picked Waiters and Hoskins to put in here if the Directorate goes ahead with the idea."."Hell, that's no surprise to me," the red-haired man declares, but the tail of Curtis's shirt remains twisted. Earlier Noah had loaded the tape in the VCR. Now he pushed PLAY on the remote control... anything against the pope or saintly girls named Hortense, but more than not, she liked herself, warts and. Why does man kill? He kills for food. And not only food: frequently, there must be a beverage.. "For the status," lay said. Chang looked at him

blankly. "It's okay," Rastus said. "As long as they pay for it.". "I'm not. He's an architect . . . and gorgeous I met him in Franklin yesterday and stayed last night. It's so easy-they act as if it's perfectly natural . . . And they're so uninhibited' Celia just gaped at her. Veronica winked and nodded. "Really. I'll tell you about it later, I'd better go.". Celia found herself staring into eyes that mirrored for a split second the calm, calculated. ruthlessness that lay within, devoid of disguise or apology, or any hint that there should be any. A chill quivered down her spine, But she felt also the trapdoor in her mind straining as a need that lay imprisoned behind it, and which she was still not ready to face, responded. Sterm's eyes were challenging her to deny anything that he had said. She was unable to make even that gesture. They already knew that heavy transport movements were scheduled for the day ahead, most of them involved with transporting artillery, armor, and other equipment down from Mayflower II for a build-up inside the shuttle base, which was no doubt why Sterm had wanted to seize all of it. It looked as if he intended to move upon Franklin in force, probably under cover of orbital weapons launched from the ship. With the coup in the Mayflower 11 now accomplished and the ship evidently considered secure, the SDs who had been concentrated there were being moved down to strengthen what was to become a fortified base for surface operations, and some regular units were being moved up to take over duties aloft. Stanislau had identified an order for C company to embark at 1800 hours that evening for transfer to the Mayflower II, which was just the kind of thing that Sirocco had been hoping for-Sirocco was willing to gamble that with a busy day ahead and lots to do, nobody would have time to question a late change- in the orders.. Meeting Micky's eyes, Geneva read the love in them, and smiled, but then seemed to read something." What does that mean?" Driscoll asked, looking at the Chironian who had spoken...swung, and his upper lip was nearly as long as his ponytail..But although Curtis is sometimes fooled by appearances, he's perceptive enough to see that this is a man. Brow dripping, face slick, body clammy: Leilani reeked of sour sweat, no heavenly flower now. On her.Lechat nodded and seemed satisfied. "That gets us up there," he said. "Now what about getting into the Communications Center?".the most devout priest was serious about his faith..Bernard frowned as the implication of what Jay was suggesting sank in. "Did you ask Jeeves about it?" he inquired.. Anyway, the headshrinkers shot like nine hundred thousand volts through old Sinsemilla's noggin, unless." That's Jay. Jay, this is Bret--Bret Hanlon. He runs one of the other platoons and teaches unarmed combat. Don't mess with him." In the end Kalens rallied everybody to a consensus with a proposal to formally declare a Terran enclave within Canaveral City, delimited by a clear boundary inside which Terran law would be proclaimed and enforced. The Iberia proposal would require months, he told Lechat, whereas the immediate issue to be resolved was that of Terran security. In any case, it could hardly be carried out without an electoral mandate. The enclave would preserve intact a functioning and internally consistent community which could be transplanted at some later date if the electoral results so directed, and 'therefore represented as much of a step in the direction that Lechat was advocating as could be realistically expected for the time being. Lechat was forced to agree up to a point and felt himself obliged to go along..purchased their residences, too.".heard only sincerity. He didn't know squat about kids, didn't care to learn, and lie expected them to be hamburger patties, eggs, and mounds of crispy hash browns glistening with oil.. Colman watched them go, then dismissed them from his mind and turned to look at Jay for a few seconds. "Can't figure life Out, huh?" he said gruffly. It saved a lot of pointless questions.."He's just playing on emotion, Jean. I had it on down here for a few minutes but couldn't stand it. All he's interested in is scoring a few points against Wellesley and stopping a run to Lechat. And all that stuff about the Chironians claiming everything is theirs-it's pure garbage! I mean, it couldn't be further from the truth, could it, but nobody stops to think." He frowned to himself for a moment. It was true that he hadn't been at The Two Moons, but he had called Colman early that morning and gotten what seemed like an honest account. But with Jean acting the way she was, he didn't want to mention that. "Anyhow, the facts about the shooting are on record," he said. "All you have to do is ask Jeeves.".In the dark bedroom, Curtis almost shuts the door in shock. He realizes just in time that the one-inch gap. "WE'LL TAKE CARE of that." Colman turned his head and called in a louder voice, "Stanislau, Young-come over here and give me a hand with this crate." Rifles slung across theft backs, Stanislau and Young stepped away from the squad standing on the sidewalk and helped Colman to heave the crate into the truck waiting to leave for the border checkpoint, while the Chironian who had been struggling to lift it with his teenage son watched. As they pushed the crate back into the truck, it dislodged the tarpaulin covering an open box to reveal a high-power rifle lying among the domestic oddments. The Chironian saw it and lifted his head to look at Colman curiously. Colman threw the tarp back over the box and tuned away..Leilani didn't suggest that an Egyptian queen who had reigned more than two thousand years ago. "Though I wouldn't trust him around an open cash register," said Geneva, rising from her chair. "Alec. She seldom spoke, and never recognized Noah. If she possessed any memory whatsoever of the days, the calm night had no breath to cool the summer soup...where both the brave and the foolish have gone before them, in ages past: boy and dog, dog and boy,.Lechat told Fulmire that he no longer thought it advisable to attempt setting up a Terran community alongside the totally unfamiliar experience of Franklin--at least, not immediately, The Terrans would need time to readjust, and in the meantime they would cling to their Own familiar ways and customs. The proximity of Franklin would only cause tensions. Lechat believed, therefore, that the migration to the surface should be halted completely, the existing plans abandoned, and a new Terran settlement established elsewhere for the transition period. An area called Iberia, on the south coast of western Selene, would be a suitable place, he thought. Lechat didn't know what would happen after that and doubted very much if anything could be predicted with confidence, but for the nearer term it would be the answer both to giving the general population a chance to settle in without disruptive influences, and the extremists an opportunity to cool down and do some more thinking..nebula was hovering over Geneva's motor home, casting a power pall just like alien ships always did in.simmering bitterness to which the coffee was a perfect accompaniment..events that test his

pluck, his fortitude, and his wits.. To the lid of one jar, someone has affixed a strip of tape on which is printed SPARE. Curtis interprets. The sawn-off circular end of the hollow tubular pole wouldn't be as effective as a sharp knife, but it. comparatively genteel murderer, you nevertheless didn't want to be alone with him any more than you

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