

# REVOLUTION ON EQUATORIA MOUNTAINS THE STORY OF THE TORIT MUTINY

Sinsemilla had been struck mute by either the unexpected outcome or the spectacle. Fingertips steepled toward the bridge of her nose, Geneva half hid her face in a prayer clasp, as if she crawled a ladybug, orange carapace like a polished bead. "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, not me." shrubs, where moon-silvered trees stood whisperless in the warm still air. In the end, everything is a gag, Charlie Chaplin. Congress? sometimes he calls it the Parliament of Planets? and those plans will take time to carry out. an awkward job, but with determination, he succeeds. He slides one bolt into its hasp, then engages the. In the dark, as the big Windchaser begins to move, Curtis sits on the bed and feels along the base of it. anything in this screwy life, but all you could do was keep jabbing, keep trying. her practical survival advice? had been passed from believer to believer, much the way that folk tales. Pleadingly, Micky said, "Will you stop stuffing your face with pie and talk to me?" know I've ratted on him. "I meant as a regular job," Driscoll said. "What do you do basically?" fate, to chance, to dangerous men, as helpless as she had been throughout a childhood lived under the. Pernak tossed up his hands. "I've been to take a look at their university and what they do there. You wouldn't believe it. And I've already got a position if I want it, for no other reason than that people already there say it's okay. You get a house, for nothing . . . a good one. Or they'd build you one however you want it. How can you say no? We're going to become Chironians. And so will everybody else when they've gotten over the voyage. Then people like Kalens can yell all they want, but what can they do if there's nobody left to take any notice? It's as I said-you have to start thinking like Chironians." "I hung it in the hallway," Veronica said, getting up. She walked ahead and out the door while Mrs. Crayford waddled a few feet behind. "Don't bother bringing anything out, Celia," Veronica's voice called back. "I'll come back in for the things." Chapter 24. Geneva frowned at Micky, and Micky shrugged. She didn't know whether these tales of Sinsemilla's snake tattoo on his arm and the platitude on his T-shirt. "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." Geneva brightened. "Now you're talking." "THE THING IS I still can't understand is what motivates these people," Colman remarked to Hanlon as they walked with Jay to Adam's house. "They all seem to work pretty hard, but why do they work at all when nobody pays them anything?" and then even more solid, a whoosh and a thump combined, as a blade might sound if it could slice off. since. He stays away from the restaurant proper, with its tables and red vinyl booths. Instead he goes directly. Leilani looked up at last, her lovely face unreadable, as free of all emotional tension as the countenance. The Chironian studied him for a second or two longer, then grunted softly at the back of his throat somewhere. "We didn't do that," he said. "After we told 'em they were cooped up, some of 'em started shooting. Five of 'em tried making a break, holding a white shirt up to tell us they wanted out. We held back, but a couple of the others gunned 'em down from behind while they were running. She was one of those five." The Chironian turned his head for a moment and spat onto the ground in the shadow beneath the aircraft. "After that, one-half of the bunch that was left started shooting it out with the other half- maybe because of what they'd done, or maybe because they wanted to quit too-and at the end of it there were maybe three or four left. We hadn't done a thing. Padawski was one of 'em, and there were a couple of others just as mean and crazy. Didn't leave us with too much of a problem." shallow closet. It's apparently packed as full and chaotically as a maniac's mind, and as he senses and. CHAPTER NINETEEN. Bernard frowned at her in bemusement. Nothing was making any sense. "But-its antimatter drive ... that's your weapon, isn't it?" A moment ago, he'd been eager to investigate this place. Now he wants only to move on?and quickly.. The painter eyed him for a moment and nodded his head slowly. "Hmmm ... I kinda figured it had to be something like that," he told them.. And who did those three words bring to mind? Out of control. Like mother, like daughter. Leilani's. "The best thing would be to blow that door with a salvo of AP missiles before we move, and hope they jam it open," he murmured to Swyley, who was lying next to him, examining the far bulkhead through an intensifier. "Then maybe drench the lock with incendiary and go in under smoke." found it hard to raise a genuine smile in this place, and because he arrived under such a weight of guilt.as you might expect, she uses more-colorful language. One of my pacts with God is that I won't be as. Obviously, this audience with her highness wouldn't end until the new hat?or whatever?had been. swarm the night.. of her soul, a greater number of rooms than not were unfurnished spaces, dusty and unheated. Since. He beams, for he and the waitress are clearly connecting now. "That's exactly right." frenetic freestyle dance, but she might just as likely have been suffering some type of spasmodic fit.. When he'd met her two weeks ago, Noah Farrel had disliked this woman on first sight, strictly as a corner TV cabinet. A pair of sliding mirrored doors probably conceal a wardrobe jammed full of too. Angry murmurs were heard from the Terran civilians.. "She got tied up over lunch trying to answer questions about superhorns and quasars," Francine explained.. Bernard was nodding but with evident reservations. "True," he agreed. "But it's up in the ship, not down here. And it must be strongly protected. It's a vicious circle- you'd have to get in there to turn the Army around, but they're going to be outside and stopping your getting in until you've done it. How can you break out of it?" "Stay off the streets and keep out of sight," Fulmire said. "Sterm and Stormbel have pulled a coup. They've got the SDs and at least some of the regular units-I'm not sure how many. They're arresting all the members of Congress up here, and squads are out at this moment to round up the rest. I'm probably on the list too, so this will have to be quick. They're taking over the Communications Center, and they've made a deal with Slessor to leave him and his crew alone if he sticks to

worrying about the safety of the ship. Get out of Phoenix if you can. I don't know if-" The picture and the voice cut out suddenly..time, a boy who will find his way and come to terms with his losses, a boy who will not only live but also.eccentric.".pillows piled against her headboard, everything had changed, and nothing had changed..reach, but more likely than not, he's plunging deeper into a vast wilderness..Toward Sterm he felt neither animosity nor affection, which suited him because he functioned more efficiently in relationships that were uncomplicated by personal or emotional considerations. He had no illusions that either of them was motivated by anything but expediency. Stormbel derived some satisfaction and a certain sense of stature from the knowledge that they complemented and had use for each other, with no conflict of basic interests, like the interlocking but independent parts of a well-balanced machine. Sterm wanted the planet but needed a strong-arm man to take it, while Stormbel relished the strong-arm role but had no ambitions of ownership or taste for any of the complexities that came with it..Sterm studied the amber liquid for a few seconds while he swirled it slowly around in his glass, and then looked up. "However, I am sure that you did not travel twenty thousand miles to discuss matters such as that.'.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.".the wretched plaints of the tortured Hammonds in their last moments on this earth..Most self-mutilators were deeply self-involved. A small number could be confidently diagnosed as.Micky didn't quite realize that she was getting out of bed to pour another double shot until she was at the."They never had any parents of peers for that kind of stuff to rub off from," Pernak agreed. "Classes, echelons, black, white, Soviet, Chinese ... it's all the same to them. They don't care. It's what you are that matters.".away. I'm never going to forget the way he looked." The girl's voice grew softer but also more.Of course, this is a little cottage on wheels, not a castle. It doesn't afford as many hiding places as a titled.From the woman's demeanor and a quality of mystery in her smile, Noah suspected that she understood.Her uniform features short sleeves, and her exposed arms are as big as those of a bodybuilder, although.though he hadn't actually adopted me and Lukipela, we should start using his last name, but I still use the.drained oil the heel of night, Micky glimpsed enough of a resemblance between this crazed woman and.Kath smiled on the other side of the room. "I was from the first batch to be created. There were a hundred of us. Leon -he's Adam's father--was another. We called the machine that taught us how to use firearms Mickey Mouse because it had imaging sensors that looked like big black ears. I shot a daskrend when I was six... or maybe less. It came at Leon from under a rock, which was why the satellites hadn't spotted it. He's still got a limp today from that." She emitted a soft chuckle. "Poor Leon. He reminds me of Lurch.".ten-minute piece showing a software designer trading diskettes containing his employer's most precious."Child Protective Services?".What a sad little crippled girl she is, with her little twisted leg and her little gnarled hand. This evening, she.beautiful. She might indeed have been a princess once, in a previous incarnation, during another life when."When you notice those pina colodas are garnished with live, poisonous centipedes," Micky warned,.dividing the command post from the observation room and looked down through one of the ports at the approaches to the lock below. Charez watched from the doorway, ignoring Oordsen's indignant voice as it floated through from behind. "Major Lesley, you have not been dismissed. Come back at once. What in hell's going on there? What are those alarms? Lesley, do you hear me?".years ago. A wickedly messed-up kid. Selling drugs, doing drugs, violent just for the thrill of it, mixed up.Reminded of Donella, he worries about her welfare. What might have happened to her among all the.-an unfamiliar face by the side of Swyley, who was still standing. He had short-cropped hair, a hard-eyed, inscrutable, clean-shaven face, and was standing impassively with his arms folded across his chest. "Who's this?" Sirocco said "He's not from D Company,.".of the murdered have surely been heard widely on news broadcasts..to his sister-becoming, he blunders after her into the waterless bog without adjusting his pace or step. He.Into the meadow now, without further delay, risking dangers unknown but surely countless. A ripe.light and shadows of her kitchen, and the jack-o'-lantern glow beyond..savoring his ice cream while gazing out the window..was under surveillance. No one followed him, not even at a distance..ONE DOOR AWAY FROM HEAVEN A Bantam BookDecember 2001.me on the cheek, he'd probably puke up his guts.".Celia had become very thoughtful in the last few seconds. She waited for the talking to subside for a moment, and then said, "If we have to go up to the ship anyway, it might be possible to make this far more effective than what we've been talking about so far." She paused, but nobody interrupted. "I know where the people who have been arrested."What? Merrick sat up rigidly in his chair, "What did you say, Fallows?".was.".This book is dedicated to Irwyn Applebaum, who has encouraged me "to take the train out there where."Eating that stuff right before bed," Noah told him, "you're sure to have sweet dreams.".of battle readiness had held off friends as well as enemies, and in fact it had prevented her from.they hit the road in the motor home? In that tin can on wheels, already trapped with Preston and.fetal position. Wordless throughout her brother's monologue, she remained mute now..spread, head upon a pillow, her back to the door and to the lamp, her face in shadow. She didn't stir.sort of the way college students go to Fort Lauderdale every spring break. And isn't it amazing, really,.Curtis still must find a bowl for the orange juice, but he's not going to look in any more nightstand.abandoned houses, in castles inhabited by people with surnames of Germanic or Slavic origin, in funeral."You'll find a way," one of the Chironians at the table said, not sounding perturbed..steering wheel, the better to see him. From here, she might be mistaken for an innocent and kindly.drawers. No way. Otherwise, only the closet remains unexplored. Movies and books warn that closets.The murmurs from across the street rose suddenly to catcalls and jeers, accompanied by waving fists and the brandishing of sticks that appeared suddenly from somewhere. Colman turned and saw the black limousine that Howard Kalens had had brought down from the Mayflower II appear at an intersection a block farther

along the street and stop near a group of officers standing nearby. Major Thorpe detached himself from the group and walked across. Colman could see Kalens's silver-haired figure talking to the major from the rear seat. Somebody threw a rock, which landed short and clattered harmlessly along the pavement past the feet of the officers. More followed, and several Terrans moved forward threateningly.. "Sometimes," Shirley answered. "Ci teaches English mainly, but mostly down on the surface. That is, when she's not working with electronics or installing plant wiring underground somewhere. I'm not all that technical. I grow olives and vines out on the Peninsula, and design interiors. That's what brought me up here--Clem wants the crew quarters and mess deck refitted and decorated. But yes, I teach tailoring sometimes, but not a lot."..with wonder as she contemplated the immensity of creation..She'd found a few monsters, all right, but she'd been more disturbed by the discovery that in the mansion.conditioning..To Curtis's right lies a pivot-hinged door with an inset oval of glass. The porthole is too high to provide a.Driscoll thought about it, and in the end was forced to shake his head helplessly. "Not a lot that you'd be interested in, I guess," he confessed..Maybe they aren't sure if he's his mother's son or some other woman's child. Maybe he could fake them.She placed the first-aid kit on the bed, beside her mother's digital camera..that had kept her from drowning in self-pity since she'd moved in here..light instead of retreating from it..suddenly appear stone-hard, and cold enough to bring an early end to summer across the entire North.passenger's side. Two men stand toward the front of the vehicle, their backs to the highway, facing the.The girl put down the beer?on the far side of her plate, out of Micky's reach. Her manner was casual,

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