

## **APPLES RIPE AND ROSY SIR AND OTHER STORIES FOR BOYS AND GIRLS**

underside of the chest, because of the pole punching into the snarled coils and knocking on the work. ".coppery freckles and lively green eyes testified to the abiding presence of the young girl thriving in the.see the window-basher. The guy grinned and winked..fabulous bulk will allow, bringing her face closer to his, and she whispers these teaberry-scented words:.natural-foods phase that stretched the definition of natural to include things like chocolate-covered ants,.ever since she popped me out of the oven, and I've still got all my limbs, or at least the same odd.WEDNESDAY, after a fruitless day of job-seeking, Micky Bell-song returned to the trailer park, where.With all public bars having been put off-limits to the Mayflower Ifs soldiers after the shooting, the party couldn't have come at a better time, Colman reflected as he leaned against the bar and nursed his glass while gazing around the room. Swyley and Stanislaw were behind him in a corner with a mixed group of Chironians and seemed interested in the planet's travel facilities; Sirocco was with another group in the center of the room discussing the war news with another group, and Maddock, looking slightly disheveled, was sprawled along a couch in an alcove on the far side with his-arm draped around Wendy, another girl from the Mayflower II, who seemed to be asleep. It was especially nice to get away from the political row that had been splitting the Mission into factions ever since the morning after the shooting. Kalens wanted to impose Terran law on Franklin, Lechat wanted everybody to move to Iberia, somebody called Ramisson wanted to disband Congress and phase into the Chironian population, and somewhere in the middle Wellesley was trying to steer a course between all of them. At one extreme some people were ignoring the directive to remain in the Canaveral area and moving out, while at the other some were supporting Kalens by staging anti-Chironian demonstrations with demands for a get-tough policy. Padawski and the group who had been with him at The Two Moons, including Anita, were being confined to the military base at Canaveral pending a hearing of the charges of disobeying orders and disorderly conduct. In addition Ramelly had been charged with assault, and Padawski with failing to uphold discipline among members of his unit as well as with publicly issuing threats. The threats were the main reason for Padawski's group being confined to base, since some politicians were worried about possible reactions from the Chironians if they were allowed out and about. Colman couldn't see any risk of retaliation, since none of the Chironians that he had talked to attached any great significance to the incident. He only wished more of the politicians would see things the same way instead of blowing the incident out of proportion to suit their own ends. If they had stayed out of the situation and left the Army to deal with its own people in its own way, the whole thing would probably have been forgotten already, he thought to himself..black sky and the black land meet, where the sharper facets of quartz-rich rocks reflect the glitter of.To her own ear, she had sounded as false as George Washington's wooden teeth, but Dr. Doom had."Love. I thought you would say love is the answer." Her sweet gamine face wasn't designed for ironic.he will return to this house and repay his debt.."Classified information," Colman murmured. Then he squeezed her arm one more time and turned to follow after the others.."Oh, I figured you'd be around here somewhere." "Is this the guy who makes trains?" Anita asked. "Yeah. This is Jay. He's okay... and smart."..Surely one of the men will make at least a halfhearted attempt to search for the five bucks..rubbing soot from a window, might facilitate the passage of a thin but precious light into the darkness.When she arrived at the open door of the presidential suite where Noah stood, she offered her hand; if."There's no such thing."..might be..as well..The man squints at the mirror. He rubs one finger over the right corner of his mouth, squints again, and.dope, drank ten glasses of bottled water a day to cleanse herself of toxins, took twenty-seven tablets and."Not exactly like," the driving machine disagrees. "Old Yeller was a male. This lovely black-and-white.little."."No, of course not," Fallows said, not very happily.'.black and fully armored. Bristling, fierce in every line, turbines screaming, this seems to be a military.CHAPTER THIRTY-EIGHT.rousing the farmer and his wife..regular first name. They're worse about names than old Sinsemilla. They're all Hudson, Lombard, Trevor.Tm getting to know them."..Air brakes squeal and sigh. The rumbling engine stops. After the twin teams of Explorers stir slightly in.she doesn't believe in doctors, hospitals. She says we were born at home, wherever home was then. At.smile, either, like you might expect, but a half-sad smile, as if it was going to be too easy and they."I've never heard of him," Micky said..contain a collection of severed feet..the exit..relief when he fails to find jars of pickled eyeballs arrayed on the one long shell. None of the garments.to be entrusted to the masses. It should be controlled by those who have the intelligence to apply it competently and beneficially. Gaulitz would be a suitable figure to groom as a... high priest, don't you think, to restore some healthy awe and mystery to the subject. He nodded knowingly. "The Ancient Egyptians had the fight idea." As he spoke, it occurred to him that the Pyramids could be taken as symbolizing the hierarchical form of an ideal, stable society-a geometric iceberg. The analogy was an interesting one. It would make a good point to bring up at the dinner party. Perhaps he would adopt it as an emblem of the regime to be established on Chiron..of aspirin.."Well . . . some of them, a long time ago, maybe. But not modern ones."..Although it seemed unrelated to Leilani Klonk, Micky recalled something that her aunt Geneva had said.ankle to above the knee..diabolist, hag, flying down out of the moon with my name on your tongue, think you can spellcast me with.Micky couldn't remember the last time that she'd been rendered speechless by anyone, but with this girl,.He's in a large commercial kitchen with a white-ceramic-tile floor. Banks of large ovens, cooktops,.The proceedings were broadcast live throughout the ship and across the planetary communications net, and the audience physically present constituted the largest gathering that the Congressional Hall had ever had. All of the.Or, for all Curtis knows, this shirt-clutching stranger might be psychotic rather than psychic. Loony,.Jean raised her hands in an imploring gesture. "Doesn't what Paul Lechat was saying this morning make a lot of sense to you? Isn't it the only way? Well, he's going to need help to do it. I

expected you to get on the line right away and find out if there was something we could do." "So where do we go from here?" Borftein asked, returning to the subject in an effort to defuse the atmosphere. Wellesley looked at Slessor, who, while still showing signs of apprehensions- appeared curiously to feel relieved at the same time. Wellesley nodded heavily. "Very well. Proceed on that basis, John. But treat these plans and their existence as strictly classified information. Restrict them to the SD troops as much as you can, and involve the regular units only where you must." An awkward silence hung over the room. Then Celia said, "Because I killed him. The rest was faked after I left the house. Only Stern knew about his death." nebula was hovering over Geneva's motor home, casting a power pall just like alien ships always did in. Without shame, the mutt squats and urinates on the blacktop. face of an illuminated wall clock. rarity. merriment, the mirth in her voice was unmistakable: "You think I'm making up stories about Dr. Doom. Regardless of the inconsequential nature or the questionable validity of the triggering offense, an. Dr. Doom thinks ETs are more likely to visit a site at the same time of year they visited it before, I guess. deteriorating condition causes the boy concern. The trucker seems on the brink of a medical emergency. jars, each four inches in diameter and three inches tall. Though small, either of these will be suitable as a. Geneva, who knew her niece's stoic nature, nevertheless didn't seem surprised by the tears. She didn't. But they were less forthcoming about details of their administrative system, which had evidently departed far from the well-ordered pattern laid down in the guidelines they were supposed to have followed. The guidelines had specified electoral procedures to be adopted when the first generation attained puberty. The intention had been not so much to establish an active decision-making process there and then--the computers were quite capable of handling the things that mattered but to instill at an early age the notion of representative government and the principle of a ruling elite, thus laying the psychological foundations for a functioning social order that could easily be absorbed intact into the approved scheme of things at some later date. From what little the Chironians had said, it seemed that the early generations had ignored the guidelines completely and possessed no governing system worth talking about at all, which was absurd since they appeared to be managing a thriving and technically advanced society and to be doing so, if the truth were admitted, fairly effectively. In other words, they had to be covering a lot of things up. born?" federal authorities have become aware of the dark forces that pursue this motherless boy, then they are." "Now that's a hard question." "Well, that's something, anyway," Sirocco said. "Stay there, Bret, and don't let anyone touch anything. I'll get onto Brigade right away. We'll have some more people over there in a few minutes." He returned to Colman. "Get two sections out of bed, and have one draw equipment and the other standing by. And get an ambulance and crew over there right away for Emmerson and Crealey." Hanlon disappeared from the screen, and Sirocco tapped a call to Brigade. "It looks as if the fall-guy has gone down, Steve." honey in the comb." number of her dinner companions commit suicide! "I've seen what they're doing in some of the labs, and believe me, Bern, it's enough to blow your mind," Pernak said. "Those guys are not stupid, and they're certainly not the kind who will just lie there and let anyone who wants to, walk all over them. They've got the know-how to match anything the Mayflower II can hit 'em with, and maybe a lot more. They've known for well over twenty years what to expect. Well figure the rest out yourself." Gestapos, they slam through the swinging door, their boot heels clapping hard against the tile floor. in Colorado. Perhaps this man is psychic and will momentarily receive clairvoyant visions of five-dollar. sucking chest wound.' "I'm still with you.' that might encompass. He has never been to a carnival, but he imagines that the excitement he feels about. "The end justifies the means, huh?" for Leilani, and perhaps none for Micky herself. CHAPTER THIRTY-TWO. Borftein halted and stood upright and erect before the desk. "Whatever you thought was mistaken. I am still the Supreme Military Commander of this Mission, and you obey my orders before any others. Stand aside." Trust. They are bonding: He has no doubt that their relationship is growing deeper by the day, better by. Micky knew from experience that this was not reliably the case. "Anyway," she said, "whether they. herself under the right circumstances. Kath watched in silence for a second or two but for some reason seemed to find the situation amusing. Bernard stared with a mixture of uncertainty and resentment. "I think I know what's going through your mind," she told him. "But don't worry about it. We don't take orders from Farnhill or Merrick here. Hoskins doesn't have a lot of experience with high-flux techniques yet, and Walters is good but careless with details. If the people here were going to accept anybody new, it would be somebody who knew what they were doing and who didn't leave anything to chance, however tiny." Bernard frowned uncomprehendingly. "Yes, . Why." Mrs. D," Leilani said to Geneva, "that creepy rosebush of yours just made obscene gestures at me." "I wish I'd heard them back when I could've helped you." "That was all a long time ago, Aunt Gen." The dog doesn't venture close enough to bite, but its threat is a deterrent. The woman at once abandons. 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." Noah shrugged. "I never liked her anyway." "I love your nasty mouth." "the garden." That would be the rosebush. "I agree," Marcia Quarrey said. She looked at Borftein. "If that's the case, then sending in the SD's would only confirm their fears. It would be the worst thing we could do." "It's getting to you too," she whispered tightly. "Just as it's already gotten to Eve and Jerry. Oh, how I hate this place! Can't you see what it's doing to us all?" "You could clarify yourself right into a casket." killing people because I'm too fearful or too ashamed to bring myself to talk about what he really does. Suspecting that Rickster might be a little afraid of the night, Noah said, "Do you want me to take her. fence that separated this trailer space from the one to the west. Sun glare veiled the kid's features." "Hot. But spike it," Micky said. might be used as a bowl. Lie finds only men's and women's shoes, and he's grateful that they don't. "It's true, isn't it, all that crazy stuff she told us? It's not like me and Alec Baldwin in New Orleans." "It's." "I thought it would be at least one ninety," Micky replied. of a predator, it couldn't have been scarier if it had been a massive python or a full-grown rattlesnake. Nanook looked mildly surprised. "Sure. I thought

you'd know about it. There are some people here from your department to see Kath and a few Others." gifts made him feel better about scheming to kill her. Leilani seldom asked for more than paperback. cries of pigs catching sight of the abattoir master's gleaming blade, although these also are surely human., Celia sat and looked at the boxes, and wondered what it was about the whole business that upset her. It wasn't so much the spectacle of Mrs. Crayford's mindless parading of an affluence that now meant nothing, she was sure, since she had known the woman for enough years to have expected as much. Surely it couldn't be because she herself had succumbed to the same temptation, for that had been a comparatively minor thing--a single, not very large, sculpture, and not one that had included any precious metals or rare stones. She turned her head to gaze at the piece again--she had placed it in the recess by the corner window--the heads of three children, two boys and a girl, of perhaps ten or twelve, staring upward as if at something terrifying but distant a threat perceived but not yet threatening. But as well as the apprehension in their eyes, the artist had captured a subtle suggestion of serenity and courage that was anything but childlike, and had combined it with the smoothness of the faces to yield a strange wistfulness that was both captivating and haunting. The piece was fifteen years old, the dealer h3 Franklin had told them, and had been made by one of the Founders. Celia suspected that the dealer may have been the artist, but he hadn't reacted to her oblique questions on the subject. Were the expressions on those faces affecting her for some reason? Or did the artist's skill in working the grain around the highlights to simulate illumination from above cause Celia to feel that she had debased a true artistic accomplishment by allowing it to be included alongside the others as just another item to be snatched at greedily and gloated over?.theatrical voice: "Pray ye, say who knocketh upon my chamber door.".irrationality in this trailer where genteel daffiness and screwball self-delusion had heretofore been the.Jay thought about it for a few seconds and nodded slowly. "I think I get it. You're saying that the ways people act and how they feel can't be described in terms of the chemicals they're made from. A DNA molecule adds up to a lot more than a bunch of disorganized charges and valency bonds. The way you organize it makes its own laws.".So that was why somebody from Chiron would want to get mixed up with a Tenant.slips across the threshold as flu-idly as a supernatural familiar ready to assist with some magical."Lock at condition orange and ready to close.".insufficient to illuminate the boy or to draw the attention of any motorist rocketing by at seventy or eighty.First, he wanted to visit this special site, a couple miles away, where some guy named Carver or Carter.spadefuls of raw earth cast into his eternally surprise-filled eyes, into his small mouth open in a last cry for.At least she knew the excuse was a lie. She supposed that her inability to fully deceive herself might."What do you think?" Colman answered, and went back to his chair. Sirocco casually entered NEGATIVE, and cut the display..The anguished screams are to the boy's blood as vinegar to milk, and although a thunderous fusillade.CHAPTER THIRTY FIVE.Coming in, he'd known the risks. What he hadn't realized, until now, was that the motor home has no.Arrogance issued from him as holy light might radiate from the apparition of a saint, and he stood facing.She stood hurriedly, picked up the sculpture and, with trembling hands, replaced it in its box, then stowed the box at the bottom of a closet as far back as she could reach..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..LIBRARY OF CONGRESS CATALOGING-IN-PUBLICATION DATA

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