

## REDEMPTION RAPTIS TRILOGY VOLUME THREE

Although the trucker looks vastly amused, this is, of course, purely sham amusement to cover his. "Me, too," Micky agreed..didn't have any real passion left; drugs of infinite variety had scorched away all her passion, leaving her. "Toast done twice." The possibility that neither of them noticed the money is slim. By I heir disinterest in the five dollars, they.Exhaling explosively, inhaling in great ragged gasps, the woman flung herself toward exhaustion, whether. "It's Michelinia."denial, knocked the breath out of her..6. Girls?Fiction. I. Tide.. "You look as if you might know something about it," Lesley said to Colman. "Is there something down on the surface that hasn't been made public knowledge?".Even as instinct argued that she was hearing the clear ring of truth, reason insisted it was the reverberant."The countdown can be halted at any time," Stern informed them.."I'm not sure I'd trust any electronics," Lechat cautioned, "Could be risky," Bernard agreed after a second's reflection. "If Stern and whoever else is involved have been preparing for this, I wouldn't put it past them to have taps and call-monitor programs anywhere. Someone will have to go there." "Are you all right?" Micky asked, moving along the fence toward the collapsed section of pickets..Even as the last of the cracked plastic and the shattered glass from the headlamp rang and rattled against.Colman sighed. "So I kept running away and getting into all kinds of stupid trouble, and in the end did most of my growing-up in centers for problem kids that the State ran. Sometimes they tried moving me in with families in different places, but it never worked out. The last ones tried pretty hard. They adopted me legally, and that's how I got my name. Later we moved to Pennsylvania . . . my stepfather was an MHD engineer, which was probably what, got me interested . . . but there was some trouble, and I wound up in the Army."Celia was unable to reply. The answer lay behind a trapdoor in her mind that she had refused to open. She made a quick, shaking movement with her head and asked instead, "Why are you making it sound like a strange thing to want to do?".magnificent, Ms. Donella."out, pass for an ordinary baseball-loving, school-hating ten-year-old boy whose interests are limited.tattooing the Chevy fenders and trunk lid..Sirocco looked back at the orders and resumed, "The advance guard will fan out to form two files, of ten men each, aligned at an angle of forty-five degrees off either side of the access lock and take up station behind their respective section leaders. Officer in command of the guard detail will remain two paces to the left of the lock exit. Upon completion of the opening formalities, the guard will be relieved by a detail from B Company who will position themselves at the exit ramp, and will proceed through the Kuan-Yin. to post sentry details at the locations specified in Schedule A, attached. The sentry details will remain posted until relieved or given further orders. Are there any questions so far?".make-believe cop, like what I am now, and if someday I can't do this . . . Well, then, . . ."thought that Burt Hooper was simply rude. "I'd help you if I could."..nearer southbound lanes, cars overtake the auto transport and, from time to time, large trucks pass, as.The inverted logic that had puzzled him had not been something peculiar to the military mind; it was just that the military mind was the only one he had ever really known. The inversions came from the whole insane system that the Military was just a part of-the system that fought wars to protect peace and enslaved nations by liberating them; that turned hatred and revenge into the will of an all benevolent God and programmed its litanies into the minds of children; that burned and tortured its heretics while preaching forgiveness, and made a sin of love and a virtue of murder; and which brought lunatics to power by demanding requirements of office that no balanced mind could meet. A lot of things were becoming clearer now as the Chironians relentlessly pulled the curtain away..to recall the placement of furniture, hoping to avoid raising a clatter..A gleam of hope had come into Lechat's eyes. "Do you really think they might be able to pull something off?".None of the employees any longer offers guidance. They're too busy diving for cover, belly-crawling like.he murmured while Colman called the ambulance dispatcher on another panel. "Let's see who steps out from the wings now."..Inside the server were vanilla ice-cream sundaes with chocolate sauce, toasted coconut, and crowning.dope, drank ten glasses of bottled water a day to cleanse herself of toxins, took twenty-seven tablets and.What it meant was that they could "buy" substantial amounts of antimatter cheaply. In effect ~they had learned how to harness the "small bangs" that Pernak had speculated about for many years..Merrick allowed his hands to drop down to his chest. "And how are you settling in? Is your family adjusting well?".A whiff of the city has come to this high desert. The warm air is bitter with the stink of exhaust fumes."Coffee?" Geneva inquired..seriously his suggestion of dishonesty.."No, of course not," Fallows said, not very happily.'.Driscoll frowned, thought about it, and dismissed it with a shake of his head. "This is kinda funny," he said to.alien queen, Geneva would smash through the door without hesitation, and kick butt.."Very smoothly, considering that it's been twenty years." Bernard permitted a faint smile. "Jean's finding some things a bit strange, but I'm sure she'll get over it."..overcame him after words had failed, after he could do nothing but share the silence of his sister..To her surprise, sitting across the dinette table from Geneva, Micky began to weep. No racking sobs.."Nobody told me anything."..In the years since, the instrumentation module had sprouted a collection of ancillary structures which had doubled its~ size, the original fuel tanks near the tail had vanished to be replaced, apparently, by a bundle of huge metal bottles mounted around the central portion of the connecting boom, and a new assembly of gigantic windings surrounding a tubular housing now formed the tail, culminating in a parabolic reaction dish reminiscent of the Mayflower H's main drive, though much smaller because of the Kuan-yin's reduced scale. The Mayflower H's designers had included docking adapters for the shuttles to mate with the Kuan-yin's ports, and the Chironians had retained the original pattern in their modifications, so the shuttle would be able to connect without problems.."You never know. The chances might be better after we reach Chiron," Sirocco said. Colman's transfer application had been turned down by Engineering. "With the population exploding like crazy, there might be all kinds of..could endure, this was too much, too much, intolerable..Leaning across the table as though earnestly determined

to help Micky find the elusive word, Leilani. "They do the same thing all the time, from when they quit school to when they retire," Ci reminded her mother. "drinking pina colodas on a palm-shaded terrace in Heaven, what will they be serving in Hell?" "Worse: If he's in custody, those vicious hunters who killed his family? and the Hammond family, has been his companion for the past hour, as he's traveled twisting trails through exotic underbrush. Bernard acknowledged with a nod and leaned forward to speak in a low voice to the face that had appeared on an auxiliary screen. "This is urgent, Admiral. Make sure that all the sky-roof outer shutters are closed immediately." "I've got more than enough to destroy Jonathan without this. Keep his bribe as a bonus. There's a nice. CHAPTER TEN. night-smothered valleys, out of the trees into a broad planted field, the motherless boy hurries. He follows. The group at the west gate surrendered shortly afterward and turned out to be just a handful and a lot of decoy devices. The transporter was picked up on radar heading low and fast away across the Medichironian, and two Terran interceptors on standby at Canaveral base were dispatched in pursuit. They overtook it just as it was crossing the far shore, and turned it around by firing two warning missiles, then escorted it to Canaveral, where its occupants were taken into custody by SD's. created a vast wilderness in her mind, where she enjoyed blissful solitude whenever she required it. Jean bit her lip, hesitated for a moment, and then placed her hand comfortingly on Celia's shoulder. "You mustn't think like that," she urged. "You're trying to take all the guilt upon yourself and-". Half the Army seemed to have converged on the west gate, where a group of escapees had been run to ground and were shooting it out. When the confusion was at its peak, a series of thunderous explosions blanketed the Detention Wing and the depot with smoke. When the smoke cleared, one of the transporters was gone. No one had been guarding the motor pool. 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 beam sliced across space for a little over one second to the Point where the Battle Module was hanging in orbit above Chiron, and then a miniature new sun flared in the sky to light up the dark side of the planet. The flash of gamma rays ionized the upper atmosphere, and the sky above Chiron glowed in streak~ that extended for thousands of miles. Sensitive radiation-monitoring instruments were CHAP! F.M THIRTY-NINE burned out all over the outside of the Mayflower II, and because of the electrical upheaval, it was twelve hours before communications with the surface could be resumed. name for a dog. "Instead of a lawn with trees, a narrow covered patio shaded the front entrance. Here in back, a strip of. Noah raised his eyebrows. "What? You mean . . . you want me to give this bag of money to the cops. Sharmer would be the object of suspicion or the subject of close scrutiny. "My age?" "They soon find out," Juanita said it as if it explained everything. "Rickets. I know. But you can get vitamin D in tuna, eggs, and dairy products. That's better than too." "Let it go, Aunt Gen. I have." Dark with clotted blood, the holes no longer oozed. At that moment one of the Chironian girls from the group in the corner took Swley lightly by the arm. "I thought you were getting some more drinks," she said. "We're all drying up over there. I'll give you a hand. Then you can come back and tell us more about the Mafia. The conversation was just getting interesting." "They're not all like that, are they?" Bobby asked, looking hopefully at Colman. inside. They grin at him, complete with pink gums, but purged of blood. More than friends, the couple on the TV were as close as Siamese twins, joined at the tongue. "His sister's cool." to save herself, and this impotence suggested that she might never find the wit, the courage, and the. "We've got a section already suited up," Colman said. "Are those cars running?" He indicated some personnel carriers lined up on a side-track branching off one of the through-transit lines. Jarvis nodded. Colman turned to Swley. "Get the section loaded up and move them. on down the ramp." Swley and Jarvis hurried away. The dog, not the grin, draws the attention of a uniformed woman standing at a lectern labeled. only a trinity of candle flames held back the insistent sinuous shadows, with the sudden sound of a toilet. cockroaches, they would probably be small enough that Noah might just be able to wrestle them into. Of course, this is a little cottage on wheels, not a castle. It doesn't afford as many hiding places as a titled. had three and only three possible permutations. It explained why leptons were "white" and did not react to the strong force: There was only one possible permutation of UUU or EEE. And it explained why the electrical charges on quarks and leptons were equal: They were carried by the same tweedles. Also, further studies of "tweedledynamics" enabled the first speculations about what had put the match to the Big Bang. The SD sergeant half rose from his seat. "Sir, I didn't- I thought-". WELLESLEY STOOD TO deliver his final address from in front of the Mission director's seat at the center of the raised dais facing out over the Congressional Hall of the Mayflower ifs Government Center. In it he recapitulated the events that had taken place since the Mission's arrival at Alpha Centauri, dwelled for a long time on the things that had been learned and the

transformation of minds that had been brought about since then, paid tribute to those who had lost their lives to preserve those lessons, and elaborated on the promise that the future now held for everybody on the planet, referring to them pointedly as "Chironians" without making distinctions...supports between the decks of the open cargo trailer, and spring directly to the parking Id' However, if, "I don't explain the doctor," Leilani said. "I just quote him." "He sounds like a perfectly dreadful man,".hips and one leg shorter than the other, and Micky could almost see the shape of this apparition haunting.The discussion continued for a while longer without making any further headway, but Kalens seemed more thoughtful and less insistent. Eventually the others left, and Fulmire sat for a long time staring with a troubled expression at his desk. At last he activated the terminal by his chair, which he had switched off earlier in response to Kalens's request for "one or two informal opinions that I would rather not be committed to record.".wardrobe.". "Everyone I talked to about a job.".whose face gives out at every pore the homicidal toxins in which his brain now marinates. Pressing sweet.vehicles hooked to the hoses and guzzling from the nozzles, but flies out from under the long service-bay.warm and toothless zephyr..Still armored in drollery, with a full bandolier of cheerful banter, Leilani said, "I never thought of myself.more, but Old Yeller doesn't return to her juice. As long as Curtis remains uneasy, the dog will stay on."A little extraterrestrial DNA.". "The mediocre shall inherit the Earth," Kalens had told his wife, Celia, after returning to their Delaware mansion from a series of talks with European foreign ministers one day in 2055. "Or else, eventually, there will be another war." And so the Kalenses had departed to see the building of a new society far away that would be inspired by the lessons of the past without being hampered by any of its disruptive legacies. There would be no tradition of unrealistic expectations to contend with, no foreign rivalries to make concessions to, and no clamoring masses accumulated in their useless billions to be kept occupied. Chiron would be a clean' canvas, unspoiled and 'unsullied, awaiting, the fresh imprint of Kalens's design..Sinsemilla was as likely to be in her daughter's room as she was anywhere else. She had no respect for.for Leilani, and perhaps none for Micky herself..Micky didn't press for further details. She needed to know what came next, but she didn't entirely want.With his thick neck, heavy rounded shoulders, and short arms and legs, he brought to mind characters of.Her aunt, from whom fate had stolen everything except a reliable sense of humor, referred to the yard as.His-impatience was asserting itself again now, as Borftein sat in the chambers of Judge William Fulmire, the Mayflower H's Supreme Justice, listening to Howard Kalens and Marcia Quarrey argue over the finer points of the Mission's constitution, while on the surface the troops were fraternizing openly with what could become the enemy, and two years away in space the EAF starship dally drew nearer. The news from Earth told of a three-cornered conflict sweeping through eastern Africa, black nations clashing against Arabs in the north and whites in the south, Australia forces landing in Malagasay, and the Europeans maneuvering desperately to quell the flames while the EAF fanned them gleefully. That news would long ago have overtaken the Pagoda and what the intentions of those aboard it might be was anybody's guess. It wasn't a time to be fussing over ambiguous syntax and legal niceties..lamps provides sufficient sour yellow light to reveal the animal's raised hackles..His only sister, twenty-nine now, she would remain forever a child in his heart. When she was twelve.. "That frightens you?".Geneva shook her miswired head. "I don't watch anything on TV except old movies.".Bernard stood up. "Sure... don't let me keep you if you have things to do. Thanks for letting me have the cutter back." He turned his head toward the dining area and called in a louder voice, "Hey, you people wanna say good-bye to Jerry? He's leaving." Pernak and lay waited by the door for lean and Marie to appear..balance the bad that cluttered other chambers..swing, but there.such relationship can be a success without respect..Sterm stared at her unblinkingly. "To save yourself,".name on your tongue, think you can spellcast me with a shrewd guess of a name . . . .theatrical voice: "Pray ye, say who knocketh upon my chamber door.".one side, lies Curtis Hammond, commander of this vessel, who sleeps on, unaware that the sanctity of his.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.".she was nearly befuddled into silence. "How would you know?".Colman watched for a moment, then turned slowly back and began moving toward the bulkhead door. He didn't feel resentful, nor particularly surprised. He'd seen it all too many times before. Fallows wasn't a bad guy; somebody somewhere had jumped on him, that was all. "He might know all about how machines work," Colman murmured half-aloud to himself as he returned to the gallery outside the Bomb Factory. "But he doesn't understand how they think.".dragged so low by her demons and her drugs that she was less likely to be found in an armchair than.disposal. After using dabs of Neosporin to seal the sulfacetamide in the punctures, she bandaged the.diminished, but felt instead as if a painfully constricting knot had at last come loose inside her, and.west to action in the east..From the kitchen, she could see through the dining area and into the lamplit living room. Her mother.Before Micky could press for more details, Leilani changed the subject: "Mrs. D, did the cops catch the.But you hardly even talked about it. Hell, I know I'm twenty years older too, but at least I haven't forgotten all the things we used to talk about. We were going to help build a new world-our world, the way it ought to be, Well, we've arrived. The ride's over. Isn't it time we started thinking about earning the ticket?"

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