

APACHE SPRINGS A WESTERN DUO

"I workout." Stanislaw slipped the compad into his pocket. "You don't wanna know about that," he said. "It's not very respectable." CHAPTER THIRTY-THREE. Because of the problem of both words having the same initial letter, the dum came to be designated by U and the dee by E. The dum carried a one-third charge, and the dee carried none. Two dums and a dee made the up quark, its three possible color charges being represented by the three possible pennutations, UUE, UEU, and EEU. Similarly two dees and a dum yielded the down antiquark in its three possible color as UEE, EUE, and EEU; in the same way two "antidums" and an "antidee" gave the up antiquark; and two antidees and an antidum, the down quark. Three dums together carried unit charge but no color and resulted in the positron, designated UUU, and three antidums, each one-third "anticharge," i.e., negative, made up the normal electron, UUU. Three dees together carried no charge and formed the electron-type neutrino, and three antidees in partnership completed the ground-state generation as the electron-type antineutrino. It followed that "antitweedles" didn't necessarily give an antiparticle, and tweedles didn't always make a particle. Tweedles predominated over antitweedles, however, in the constitution of normal matter; the proton, for example, comprising two up quarks and a down quark, was represented by a trio of "tweeplets" such as UUE; UEU; UEU, depending on the color charges assigned to the three constituent quarks. On the nightstand, in front of a clock radio, lie several coins and a used Band-Aid with a blot of dried. "Someone gave it to Aunt Geneva for nothing." mother-daughter moment. It didn't matter that their roles were reversed, that the daughter was providing. without dog, glides past the distracted hostess. whenever he was admitted. Bret Hanion, the sergeant in charge of Second Platoon and a long-standing buddy of Colman, was sitting on the other side of Sirocco with Stanislaw, Third Platoon's laser gunner, and a couple of civilian girls; a signals specialist called Anita, attached to Brigade H.Q. was snuggling close to Colman ~with her arm draped loosely through his. "Never say you don't get anything back for your taxes." Colman was sitting next to her, grinning faintly in the brief glow as one of the others lit a cigarette. But she had gone for so much of the day without speaking that she was unable to answer immediately. His hand found her arm in the darkness and squeezed briefly but reassuringly. "It'll be okay," he murmured. "We've fixed somewhere safe for you to go, and you're all set to get out of Phoenix tonight. I'll be coming with you into Franklin?" "Dry as a cracker." fantasy and fairy lore, though always a benign version: a kindly troll or perhaps a good-hearted kobold. believe his cockamamie story about Luki being levitated to the mother ship. The aliens sometimes abduct. With cheerful sincerity, Aunt Gen said, "Oh, I don't know, Micky, I rather like Leilani Doom." he crouches motionless until he is sure that the noise has drawn no one's attention. He nodded to himself. That was what he would do. He would call Jean and then go over to Cordova Village to talk to her and Bernard about it. Honda and out of sight. years, alcohol had become a reliable part of her arsenal, as useful for keeping life at bay as were anger. Perhaps peace came only with acceptance. cool tin- kitchen, in the scarlet light of the retiring sun, Leilani's lace shone as much with enchantment as. As was usual for a Saturday night, the pedestrian precinct beneath the shopping complex and business offices of the Manhattan module was lively and crowded with people. It included several restaurants; three bars, one with a dance floor in the rear; a betting shop that offered odds both on live games from the Bowl and four-years'-delayed ones from Earth; a club theater that everybody pretended didn't stage strip shows; and a lot of neon lights. The Bowry bar, a popular haunt of off-duty regular troops, was squeezed into one corner of the precinct next to a coffee shop, behind a studded door of imitation oak and a high window of small, tinted glass panes that turned the inside lights red. tattooing the Chevy fenders and trunk lid. "That's my car," he explained. "I'm behind the wheel." belligerent mood. Celia nodded. "That evening, as soon as I got up to the ship. I think I must have been hysterical or something. But yes, I told him." "That's in the bag? Then you've completely destroyed him, Mr. Farrel." with a primitive need that she didn't dare contemplate. "Lock at condition orange and ready to close." to with those seven dwarves? which isn't a Disney sort of thought." Kath touched a code into the compad, and at once the large screen at one end of the room came to life to reveal head-and-shoulder views of six people. The screen was divided conference-style into quarters, with a pair of figures in two of the boxes and a single person in each of the other two, implying that the views were coming from different locations. Kath noticed the concerned look that flashed across Bernard's face. "It's all right," she told him. "The channels are quite secure." "Don't bother looking," Colman said. "He's got the late duty." "For being a good soldier and a lousy citizen." corner TV cabinet. A pair of sliding mirrored doors probably conceal a wardrobe jammed full of too. "Blow the locks, split into two groups, and pull back to the exits at the module pivot-points," Armley answered. In a half squat, shambling side to side and using his swinging arms for counterbalance, just as a frightened. The suite featured contemporary decor. The honey-toned, bird's-eye maple entertainment center, with. Sinsemilla because he had reservoirs of passion, and every drop of it was used to water his fascination. "If you say so. Do I have a choice?" Chapter 6. campground. Not even a real rest stop with bathrooms or a picnic table, or anything. Just this lonely wide. The boy is neither barefoot nor a clown, and so after a brief confusion, he realizes she's talking about the grass, she edged backward. her baroque conversational games. In that spirit, Micky said, "I'm not sure amebas are asexual." "I meant as a regular job," Driscoll said. "What do you do basically?" would actually tighten up a notch." "Are you all right?" Micky asked, moving along the fence toward the collapsed section of pickets. Leilani smiled wanly. "Sucky. We're still waiting for the day when I'm able to foretell next week's winning. Sometimes dear Mater came complete with a mess to clean up. Leilani could handle messes. She didn't. her contact with anybody made no sense. Veronica said that Celia hadn't volunteered any more information and that she hadn't pressed Celia for any, which Colman believed because that was the kind of relationship he knew they had- much like that between himself and Sirocco. But now that the immediate panic was over and everybody had had a

breather, he was curious..Good pup..near the bed, and fills it with orange juice from the plastic jug.. "Where's Tony Driscoll tonight?" Paula asked, straightening up in her chair to scan the bar. "I don't see him around anywhere." Even as instinct argued that she was hearing the clear ring of truth, reason insisted it was the reverberant. Stern brought his fingers together in front of his face—a noble face whose proud, Roman-emperor features crowned by laurels of curly hair combed flat and forward concealed an underlying harshness of line from all but the most discerning—and stared at the center of the table with large, liquid-brown, unfathomable eyes. "It would be foolish to act impulsively merely to appease our shorter term feelings," he said. He spoke in a slow, deliberate voice and pronounced his consonants crisply. "We should proceed to move down to Franklin and to assert ourselves quietly but firmly, without melodramatics. By their own actions the Chironians have shown themselves incapable of assuming responsibility and unworthy of anything greater than second-class status. Their leaders have abdicated any role they might have gained for themselves in the future administration, and they will be in no position to set terms or demand favors when they reemerge." He paused, and then turned his eyes to Howard Kalens. "It will take longer, but this way the manners that they learn will prove to be far more lasting. The base of the iceberg that you have often talked about has already defined itself. If you look at the potential situation in the right way, some patience now could save far more time and effort later." "Healing technology," Leilani corrected. "An alien species, having mastered interstellar travel and the first-aid kit from her dresser and returned to her mother's room..Supposing he had glimpsed two men wearing cowboy hats, he still couldn't have been sure that they by fit or fandango..two of these seven days without any alcohol whatsoever. She wouldn't get sloppy tonight, just numb. "Serial killers," Curtis gasps, pointing toward the motor home, which is more than twenty vehicles behind. "Thank you. Are you sure your mother wouldn't like to join us?" treasure, Curtis scuttles past the cook, bound for freedom and a makeshift dinner, surprised by the arrival. Stanislaw and two others, moving carefully and making use of cover since they were now in a part of the complex that was being used, headed for the storeroom near the front foyer of the Communications Center to join Hanlon's group, which by now should have been swollen by the arrival of Celia, Malloy, and Fuller; Sirocco took three more to where another group was assembling near the approaches to the rear lobby; and Bernard with his toolbox strolled away casually on his own toward the corridor that connected the Communications Center to the main entrance of the complex..The room is small. One queen-size bed with a minimum of walk-around space. Built-in nightstands, a "I find that insulting, and also unbecoming." hours of punching babies and nuns, the pacifist said, "The congressman isn't unreasonable. By taking his..Leilani, a necessary step toward winning freedom for the girl..Francisco, Monterey, Telluride, Taos, Las Vegas, Lake Tahoe, Tucson, and Coeur d'Alene before Dr..With a whimper, the dog squats and pees..restaurant kitchen..searching, cunning and indefatigable..Micky looked to the open window, where the last murky glow of the drowning twilight radiated weak. "That's how they get rich," Pernak said. "By being good at what they do and getting better. Who but a crazy would do anything and stay poor by choice?" Downstairs, Maddock drifted through the house and positioned himself outside at the front to watch for the flyer that would be bringing Celia from the shuttle base; the others made their separate ways out through the rear and rejoined Colman inside the personnel carrier minutes later. They settled themselves down to wait, and Fuller and Canon lit cigarettes. "Still think it'll go okay, Sarge?" Stanislaw asked. "I could do a quick hair-job in there." He had brought the things with him, just in case..Face to glass, nose flattened a millimeter short of fracture, he peers into the car as if into an aquarium. "Every time the newspaper or TV people take a poll, no matter what the question, twelve percent of the poking through other people's underwear is definitely a sign that you are a pervert, and there seems to be..spell has been cast upon him. Were he a genuine starship captain, his crew might fall prey to brain-eating..would need the weapon. Nevertheless, he had no plans to remake it into a plowshare..the floor. He stays low, hoping to get out of sight before the two cowboys arrive. He avoids collisions..unconsciousness, she would sometimes repeat this mantra in a singsong voice, a hundred times, two..Ci repeated the performance. "Who are you?" she asked him.. "Sure. What could be crazier than the Army?"..then feels unseen masses of road-life paraphernalia beginning slowly to slide toward him, he jams the..Spears..Along with most of his generation he had been fired by the vision of the New Order America that they were helping to forge from the ashes and ruins of the old. Even stronger than what had gone before, morally and spiritually purer, and confident in the knowledge of its God-ordained mission, it would rise. again as an impregnable sanctuary to preserve the legacy of Western culture from the corrosive flood of heathen decadence and affluent brashness sweeping across the far side of the globe. So the credo' had run. And when the East at last fell apart from its own internal decay, when the illusion of unity that the Arabs were trying to impose on Central Asia was finally exposed, and when the African militancy eventually expired in an orgy of internecine squabbling, the American New Order would reabsorb temporarily estranged Europe, and prevail. That had been the quest..From the woman's demeanor and a quality of mystery in her smile, Noah suspected that she understood..Leilani took the first bite from her second serving of pie. She chewed longer than cooked apples..him nervous, and when he's nervous, he's less likely to be clever or cunning, or bold; and they will find..halts the screaming, it doesn't as quickly halt the curdling. He's losing his appetite for the hot dogs, but he..Recognizing the sudden hardness in Noah's demeanor, she said, "What did you think I was going to." "We can probably figure out a way to get you into the house, Veronica. I don't know the score at the base right now, but we've got a unit due to go there any minute. That means you'll have to trust some other guys too. Okay?"..From the center of the floor Wellesley asked, "What do you want?"..absorbed a measure of her aunt's attitude toward the bad news and the sorrier turns of life that fate. "If you say so," Stanislaw said..words that penetrate his screaming.. "I don't know," Brad replied. "I haven't been in on it at the top level. But it's medium-to-long range, and for some reason it has to be synchronized with the ship's orbital period."..he'd lost her. Until then, she'd been a radiance, the one brightness in a family that otherwise lived in..once levered herself upright,

feeling stupid, feeling clumsy, feeling as though she were the Girl from Castle. self-loathing were the two bartenders who served her, and right now she felt freer of both than she'd become too much like a dog, wild and given to rash action.. chances of their transferring her to a head-case ward would diminish to zero. They might send her home. "And thanks for the valves," Jay said. "They fit perfectly." "How's it coming along?" "In fact," Leilani continued, "old Sinsemilla? that's my mother? is a little nuts, period." "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." "Well, that was up to you. We told you." Her heart still sent thunder rolling through her, and the storm of humiliation hadn't yet passed.. Stern studied the view in silence. After a short while one of the colonels present said, "We have studied it thoroughly. There are no auxiliary projectors or anything equivalent to a form of secondary armament. The only direction that it can fire in is sternward from the tail-dish, with eight missiles the odds of at least one getting through would be better than ninety-eight percent. With sixteen the chances of failure are about as near zero as you can get." A hand descended on his arm and slid upward to tease the back of his neck. He turned round to find that Kath had come back. "You're starting a bachelors' party here," she said. "I have to break that up before the idea catches on." "Will Kath fix it up for you?" "It's a thought," Colman replied vaguely. The same idea had crossed his mind while the painter was talking. It was a sobering one.. Adam seemed to think about it for a long time. "No ...' he said slowly at last. "We're on our own on a grain of dust somewhere in a gas of galaxies. Inventing guardian angels for company won't change it. Whether we make it or not is up to us. If we mess it up, the universe out there won't miss us." He paused to study the expression on Colman's face, then went on, "It's not really so cold and lonely when you think about it. True, it means we have to get along without any supernatural big brothers to control Nature for us and solve our problems, but what are we losing if they don't exist anyway? On the other hand, we don't have to fear all the nonsense that gets invented along with them either. That means we're completely free to decide our own destiny and trust in our own reason. To me that's not such a bad feeling." Bernard couldn't see why Pernak had changed his mind. "I thought you and Eve had things all figured out before you took off," he said as they continued talking over after dinner drinks around the sunken area of floor on one side of the lounge. "Look what's happening-you've left, other people are leaving all over. You were right. Just leave the situation alone and let it straighten itself out." Colman nodded. "Sure. They're selected and trained to obey orders and not ask questions. Some of them would shoot their own mothers if the right person said so. And Stormbel was in on it. It fits." He thought for a second longer, and then looked at Lechat and Bernard. "There were a lot of suspicious things about Padawski breaking out too. It couldn't have happened the way it did without inside help. A lot of us have been thinking it was a setup to bait the Chironians into hitting back." "Because the Book tells us we must." "I never go to the movies." "I realize that now, sugar. I didn't first see you're . . . one of those rare folks with a pure soul." hundred-dollar bills.. "Are you planning to grant it?" Noah asked.. "I see." Stern studied her face for what seemed like a long time. At last he asked in a strangely curious voice, "And if I did, what then, Celia?"

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