

THE FRENCH ROMANTICISTS AN ANTHOLOGY OF VERSE AND PROSE

"We haven't talked about that yet," Pernak told him..Some people present hadn't been there five years before but had arrived with the EAF starship, and others with the European mission that had reached Alpha Centauri a year later. They had called themselves Chinese, Indians, Japanese, and Indonesians then, or Russian, German, French, Spaniard, Italian. . . but now they were all simply Chironians. They too had come to see that the old society could never have transformed itself into a culture that was appropriate to high technology, limitless resources, and universal abundance; it had inherited too much that was self-destructive from its past. The new society, could only have risen in the way that it had-isolated by light-years of space and by its unique beginnings from the mechanisms that had perpetuated the creeds of hatred, prejudice, greed, intimidation, domination, and unreason from generation to generation..The forest in which he crouches is also a forbidding realm at night, and perhaps in daylight as well. Fear.Shirley turned to look at Ci. "Say, wouldn't he be great to have at our next party? I love things like that." She looked at Driscoll again. "When are you coming down to Chiron?"..Ridiculous. They aren't the type to play games. They're vicious and efficient. If they were here now, he'd..everything away.. "I was only trying to?".. "That's a strange offer," Otto said to Sterm. "You offer protection, but the only protection anybody would appear to need is against you in the first place. After all, you've just told us that you hold all the weapons. You seem to entertain a curious notion of logic."..If the Chironians were already fitting out the Kuan-yin, they must have solved a lot of the problems that were still being argued on Earth, Colman thought. The whole planet, he realized as he reflected on it, was a powerhouse of progress, unchecked by any traditions of unreason and with no vested-interest obstructionists to hold it back. If the pattern continued until Chiron became a fully populated world, it would effectively leave Earth back in the Stone Age within a century. "Have you actually flown it anywhere yet?" he asked, turning his head toward Kath. "The Kuan-yin . Has it been anywhere since it arrived in orbit here?"..you want to talk about anything instead of just around it, I'm here."..But no Borftein was present to save the situation at the side entrance. "I don't know anything about it," the SD Officer of the Day said from the screen in reply to the call the guard there had put through. "Those orders are incorrect. Detain those men." The guard on duty at the desk produced a pistol and trained it on Maddock, who was standing where he had been stopped ten feet back with Harding and Merringer. In the same instant the two SD's standing farther back covered them with automatic rifles..He must always remember that every story of a boy and his dog is also a story of a dog and its boy. No..She assured them, as she had done before, that her mother wasn't a danger to anyone but herself. Sure..THE WORLD IS FULL OF broken people. Splints, casts, miracle drugs, and time can't mend fractured."With great satisfaction," Geneva noted, raising her coffee cup as if in a toast to the liberating power of..Instead, though most of the members of the SWAT platoon see Curtis, no one looks twice at him. Scant..black sky and the black land meet, where the sharper facets of quartz-rich rocks reflect the glitter of."I never said it had to make sense." Sirocco brought his elbows up level with his shoulders, stretched. for a few seconds, and sighed. After a short silence he cocked a curious eye in Colman's direction. "So... what's the latest with that cutie from Brigade?"..her nook was a private place. But the snake won't allow even a pretense of privacy. She'll have no..Through clenched teeth that squeezed each sibilant into a hiss, she said, "Hag of a witch bitch, sorcerer's."..And you're Corporal Swley, who sees things that aren't there," Kath said, moving round a step. "Your Captain Sirocco told me about your ability. I like him. He told me about the way you ruined the exercise up on the ship too. I thought it was wonderful."..caught her attention. At first he hears only the grumble of the SUVs. . . . Then, in the distance, a flutter of."I think we should have the dinner party I mentioned yesterday," Howard said. "Can you put together an invitation list and send it out? The end of next week might be suitable--say Friday or Saturday.".. "Micky."..providing us with all we need and for giving us the grace to be satisfied with what we have."..Lechat cut him off with a wave of his hand. "Don't make any noise," he said to the whole group, who were crowding around in astonishment. "Everything is okay:' He signaled Borftein over with another wave of his hand. Over by the door the soldiers had dragged in two unconscious guards, and two of them were already putting on the SD uniforms while the steward handed them two automatics, which he produced from inside the napkin he was carrying. "There isn't a lot of time," Lechat advised Wellesley and Borftein. "We have-to get you downstairs and into the Communications Center. Now listen, and I'll give you a quick rundown on the situation. ..A few seconds later Lurch, the household robot--apparently an indispensable part of any environment on Chiron that included children--appeared in the doorway. "It slipped," it announced. "Sorry about that, boss. I've wired off an order for a replacement."..The motor-home horn blares. In fact the noisy night sounds like a honk-if-you-love-Jesus moment at a..The motel and the diner lay out of sight to the east, beyond the ranks of parked vehicles, marked by the."Leilani, you can't go on living with her."..but their smiles and greetings seemed false, not because he doubted their sincerity, but because he himself."What do you think?" Colman answered, and went back to his chair. Sirocco casually entered NEGATIVE, and cut the display.."I don't know," Farnhill said. "You'd have to ask Merrick about that."..Sirocco shrugged. "Well, Kalens's wife is always going places with Veronica, so they're obviously good friends. Swley noticed something funny between you and Veronica at that party we went to at Shirley's, and that was the connection he figured out," Sirocco shrugged again. "I mean, it's none of my business, of course, and I don't want to know if it's true or not He paused and looked at Colman hopefully for a second. "Is it?"..you!.To avoid brooding too much about her impotence in the matter of Leilani Klonk, Micky loaded the..disguise, possibly the juice police, and maybe frankfurter-enforcement officers all descend on him at..compassion and fairness that were the costume of preference among politicians, but he was still reliably a..Sirocco hesitated for a moment, then nodded reluctantly..Throughout the institution, the floors?gray vinyl speckled with peach and turquoise?were immaculate..She brightened. "Hey, you

probably got something there." Then her sigh vented volumes of "I wish I'd heard them back when I could've helped you." "That was all a long time ago, Aunt Gen." "Uh, yeah." Nanook shifted his eyes and shook his head again. "Fanatics are gullible fools. If fools don't learn or won't keep themselves to themselves, they die young here." Lechat picked up his fork again. "I never looked at it in quite that way. It's an interesting thought." He began eating again, then stopped and looked up. "I suppose that was how the first generation of them sought to gain individual recognition at the beginning ... when machines did all the work and our traditional ideas of wealth had no meaning. And it's become embedded in their basic thinking." He nodded slowly to himself and reflected further. "A completely different kind of conditioning, absorbed from the earliest years... based on recognizing individual attributes. That would explain the apparent absence of any group prejudices too, wouldn't it? They've never had any reason to feel threatened by other groups." thought and analysis." "Can't you get it fixed?" Colman asked..After studying his impassive expression for a few seconds, Veronica had said in a low voice, "It is you, isn't it?".younger and more foolish, he might have kissed it. Instead, they shook. Her grip was firm..multiples. Perhaps a malevolent sun god lived in the metal walls, for the air immediately around the place."I can speak for them," Charez said. "You can ten the general that the news is good." "Then why not do something else?" she asked.. "I never lost myself." Bernard frowned uncomprehendingly. "Yes . . . Why.well-meant if less than completely appropriate advice: "Maniac! Crazy boy!". "There are some things which we must accept" the preacher thundered.. "Got any better ideas?" For once Swyley didn't. -. "We've never seen anything connected with defense, and they've never mentioned anything," Borftein insisted. "Let's stick to reality and the facts we know. Why complicate the issue with speculation?".way?". "Just . . . what are you getting at?" Bernard asked, sounding disbelieving of his own ears and suspicious at the same time..Now, if he can find a toilet, all will be right with the world..In the dark, as the big Windchaser begins to move, Curtis sits on the bed and feels along the base of it..faltered, faded, vanished. "No mother anywhere," she repeated softly, but to Micky this time. "That's.A coincidence, however, is frequently a glimpse of a pattern otherwise hidden. His heart tells him.Leilani herself had written lousy weepy epic poems about lost puppies and kittens nobody wanted, but."I don't how." Amy screwed her face up and rubbed the bridge of her nose with a finger. "I suppose I'd have to be crazy"..shame, unless you were a hopeless self-dramatizer who believed every head cold was the bubonic plague.psychologically and physically?and yet she had survived. Leilani's situation was no better but no worse.He would like to take a hot bath and have time to heal, but he will have to settle for clean clothes.. "It's what he does. Like the postman delivers the mail. Like a baker makes bread." Leilani shrugged.. "No. It'd be your solution, not mine." "Then that's the answer." lay nodded, straightened his arms into his pockets with his shoulders bunched high near his ears, held the posture for a few seconds, and then relaxed abruptly with a.a are searching for a young boy and a harlequin dog. A motorist?the jolly freckled man with the mop of.entrance..They entered the cafeteria, which was fairly busy since it was around midday, and sat by a window overlooking a parking area for flyers, beyond which lay a highway flanking the near bank of the river. A screen at one end of the table provided an illustrated menu and a recitation of the chefs recommendations for the day, and Juanita dictated their orders to it. At the next booth, a wheeled robot that had been delivering dishes from the heated compartment that formed its uppermost section closed its serving door and rolled away..Jay stood up and left the room quietly. Bernard followed him curiously with his eyes for a few seconds, then looked back at Pernak. "But it's a hell of a thin case for shipping everyone off to Iberia, isn't it? And besides, if you're right, then I'd have thought the best place to stay would be right here-all mixed up together with the Chironians. That way nobody's likely to start throwing any big bombs around, right?" He turned his head to grin briefly at Jean. "I think Jerry made my point." "In the Orderly Room. Hanlon got him up earlier." "Now you're in a gang with a future." .keep his teeth in their nightstand drawer..She nodded. "To both the moons, and we've sent missions to all of Alpha's other planets. But that was quite a while ago now, with the original drive. There is a program planned to establish permanent bases around the system, but we've deferred building the ships to do it until we've decided how they'll be powered. That's why the Kuan-yin's being made into a test-bed. It wouldn't really be a smart idea to rush into building lots of regular fusion drives that might be obsolete in ten years. There's plenty to do on Chiron in the meantime, so there's no big hurry." She turned her face toward him and rubbed her cheek.on a forty-eight, that right?" Waiters asked. "Uh-huh." "Any plans?". "We couldn't let him do that, could we?" Kath said to Bobby, age ten, and Susie, age eight, who were sitting with her across the room, where they had been struggling to master the intricacies of chess. "Lurch is half the fun of coming here."..MEXICO. On the front, the word STARCHILD was emblazoned in two-inch red letters..locales is entirely coincidental..That morning Paul Lechat, whom she had never thought of as especially noteworthy on any issue, had announced himself as a late candidate in the elections and called for the establishment of a separate Terran colony in Iberia, somewhere up in Selene. He wanted to allow the people from Earth to pursue their own pattern of living without disruptive influences for the immediate future, and possibly to make such an institution permanent if it suited enough people to do so. To Jean the announcement had come as a godsend, and to many others as well, if the amount of popular support that had materialized from all sides within a matter of hours was anything to go by. Why couldn't everybody see it that way? she wondered. It was so obvious. Why were there always some who were obstinate and valued political interests before what common sense said would be for the common good, such as Kalens, who even now was reacting to Lechat as a threat and rallying his own followers to action?.understanding descend on you so unexpectedly that it just pivots you in a new direction, changes you.Hanlon shook his head. "Ah, why be vindictive? We got her off and sent them all on their way. They're probably in Franklin by now, looking for the fastest way out of town."..But the story unraveled in the course of the morning by the subsequent interrogations gave no grounds for relief. Apparently the leader of the west gate group, a Private Davis, had been told by Padawski that the west gate would be the rallying point for a rush to

the motor pool. Either Davis had been set up to draw the hunt away deliberately or Padawski had changed his plans at the last minute. Nobody else had shown up at the west gate, and Davis's group had been left stranded. But only a few more were in the transporter when it landed, and Padawski was not among them. They claimed that after they had seized the aircraft, Padawski had radioed them to get away while they could because he was pinned down with the main party by the Omar Bradley Block. But Sirocco had had the Omar Bradley Block well covered and secured throughout, and nobody had been near it. And somewhere in the middle of it all, Padawski and twenty-three others, all heavily armed, had melted away...spread would allow, just as she'd left it. Her few personal items hadn't been disturbed. The Sinsemilla. "I've kept copies in case anything happens to yours." Bleeding, of course, is a quiet process..Burt is spluttering again, half choking, even though his throat was clear a moment ago, and his anger. Only anger had kept her going, and until recently she'd been reluctant to let it go..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. "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." "Oh yes, of course." Shirley nodded. "That sounds pretty awful. Still, it's their business." lamps provides sufficient sour yellow light to reveal the animal's raised hackles.. "Of course they are. It's all a mess up there." "You don't have to do this." "Hardly any leaves." "Is this what the cities back on Earth were like?" compliment, speaking with sincerity and emotion that cannot be misconstrued as anything else: "You her full-length slip, and then seized the roomy skirt in both hands and shook it as if casting off bits of dry. motorists scatter before it. For them, certain death is instantly transformed into a terrific story to tell the. Then: big trouble.. "What's the name of this bar? Firewater and Philosophy?" "After you listen to country music all day.. "We have nothing to reconsider," Otto replied calmly.. and backs. Two carry shotguns; the others have handguns. They are prepared, pumped, pissed ? and. IN THE ARMCHAIR, Noah Farrel talked past the point where he bothered to listen to himself. STILL NO OVERTURE came from the Chironian leaders. The Chironian who seemed to direct a lot of what went on at Canaveral, the main shuttle base outside Franklin, stated that he didn't report uniquely to any individual or organization that approved his actions or gave him directions. So who told him how the place was to be run? It depended. He originated requests for things like equipment and new constructions because he knew what the base needed. How did he know? Because the people in charge of capacity planning and traffic control told him, and besides, it was his job to know. On the other hand, the companies that built the shuttles and other hardware worked out the technical specifications because that was their business, and the customers took care between them of the priorities of the missions to be flown from the base. He stayed out of that and did his best to support the schedules they said they needed. So ultimately, who was in charge? Who told whom to do what, and who did it? It depended. Nothing made any sense.. final bill you mentioned?" Chapter 16. his friend." slippery thingy, not a monster!" Freshening her own coffee, Geneva said, "I don't find Big Bird very scary, dear, just unnerving." footprints where table stone gives way to a swale of soft sand.. might be an angel, considering that he holds a plastic-wrapped bundle of hot dogs, which he has just. At forty, she was only seven years older than Noah. Another Woman this beautiful would inspire his. reflected light of the radio readout.. "I see." Sterm 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?" "I don't even know what a paramecium is." serpentine carcass resting on a grave cloth of orange shag.. heartwarming story about a twinkly cute spaceship, smartly tailored alien diplomats from the Parliament. Sterm brought his fingers together in front of his face—a noble face whose proud, Roman-emperor features crowned by laurels of curly hair combed fiat 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." promise of the red neon.. Colman nodded to himself and wiped his mouth with a napkin from the dispenser on the table while he tried to form the right answer. He was stuck in the Army but wanted to become a professional engineer; Jay could walk into being an engineer but thought he wanted to be in the Army. There would be no point in being scornful and listing all the reasons why it might not be such a good idea—Jay knew all those and didn't want to hear about it.. "Nothing wrong with having fun," said Leilani. "One of the things I believe, if you want to know, is that. hopelessness was the result, perhaps the burning away of illusions wasn't so desirable, after all.. Amused, the trucker cocks his head and says, "You yankin' my chain, young fella?"

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