

RIGHT ENTRIES PART 5C NUMBER 1 VOL 5 RENEWAL REGISTRATIONS MUSIC JA

demeaning thing he said. The hand over his mouth loosened a fraction after the door was closed. "Gawd! Wot's goin' on? Who-?" Somebody jabbed him in the ribs. He shut up. 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. ..we'll get there while the action is still hot. The only reason we're renting next door for a week is because Jarvis and Chaurez caught each other's eye. After a moment, Jarvis breathed a sigh of relief. Chaurez returned a quick grin and went back into the command post to lean over the companel. "Lieutenant," Oordsen demanded angrily from the screen. "Where is Major Lesley? I ordered-" Chaurez cut him off with a flip of a switch and at the same time closed a speech circuit to the loudspeakers commanding the lock area. "Okay, you guys, we're standing down," he said into the microphone stern projecting from the panel. "Get in here as quick as you can. We've got trouble coming up a feeder ramp on the other side." ..reeling off the stool. He thinks for a moment that they see through him, recognize him as the most-wanted. "Absolutely. I don't have enough of it anymore." Padawski and his followers had somehow shown up on the far side of the Medichironian, which was only sparsely settled, and seemed to be settling in as bandits in the hills. What a bandit would hope to achieve on a world like Chiron was hard to see, but revenge against Chironians seemed to have a lot to do with it; two isolated homes had been invaded, ransacked, and looted, in the course of which five Chironians and one soldier had been killed, Three Chironians, including a fifteen-year-old girl, had been raped. The Army was scouring the area from the air and with search parties on foot, but so far without success --the renegades were well trained in the arts of concealment. Satellites were of limited use if they didn't know exactly where to look, especially where rough terrain was involved. "What's the problem?" Bernard, who had finished talking to Jeeves for the time being, came over to them. Marie followed close behind. "So does that mean you've got it figured?" Jay Eked. Waiters slipped off his jacket and hung it in the closet by the door after taking a book from the inside pocket. Fallows frowned but made no comment. ..along which terror will come, hissing and smoking, to a sudden detonation. "Yep." "Yours~" "Nope." Obviously something unusual was going on. Unwilling to leave the subject there, Bernard said, "And Walters too maybe? Perhaps he could use a refresher too," the hour. Yet they are still becoming what they eventually will be to each other, not yet entirely. "Let's see YOU overwrite it," Lechat said. ..fragrance of decay. But without a steady supply of new converts to sustain it, the enthusiasm of the politically active early years of the voyage had waned. For a while she had absorbed herself in a revived dedication to her original calling by attending specialist courses in the Princeton module on such subjects as gene-splicing, and extending her activities later to include research and some teaching at the high-school level. Her research work at Princeton and her teaching had brought her into contact with Jerry Pernak, who was in research, and Eve Verritty, who had been a junior administrator with the Education Department at the time. In fact it was Jean who had first introduced them to each other. ..seems satisfied. With two fingers, he pulls down both lower eyelids and examines his eyes? God knows. "News?" Lechat looked up, puzzled. "When? We've been here for the last hour. There wasn't anything special then." ..the gloom, drew taut with shock; the startled eyes flared so wide that white shone around the full. The video had been silent. When the kiss ended, sound was added: Jonathan Sharmer and his. Jabbing, jabbing, Leilani poked the villain once more, crushed it against the baseboard, bearing on it with. Bernard raised his eyebrows. "Well, hello, Jeeves. How about all that? I guess, you'd better stay who you are for the time being. How about giving us a rundown on this place for a start? For instance, how do you...". "Oh, God . ." Jean whispered. "They're going to bring out those bombs." ..final bill you mentioned?". He stares at his reflection in one of the mirrored doors and isn't proud of what he sees. Pale face. Eyes. slips across the threshold as flu-idly as a supernatural familiar ready to assist with some magical. human enemy. Colman groaned to himself. Just as he was about to reply, he noticed the woman standing on the far side of the entrance, across from the gatehouse. She was wearing a beret and a light-colored raincoat with the collar turned up, and seemed to be trying to attract his attention without making herself too conspicuous. "Oh, Jesus-" He looked at the two. "Look, I need a few minutes. Jay, stay right there." He walked across to the woman and was almost face to face with her before he recognized Veronica, for once looking neither impish nor mischievous. ..coming in." ..transforming moment of grace that Geneva had wished for her. She didn't believe in miracles, neither the windows with the agility of a caped superhero. ..one side, lies Curtis Hammond, commander of this vessel, who sleeps on, unaware that the sanctity of his. "That's right. I don't own a gun." Geneva's sudden smile was more radiant than the candlelight. "Now." And that bothers you? ..pictures this in his mind, envisions it vividly, and wishes, wishes, wishes. ..haloed by red lamplight, glittery-eyed with excitement. "Thingy, him a hard-ass stubborn little crawly. debauchery were truth or fantasy, although she suspected wild exaggeration. Tough talk and wisecracks. fight. The chest of drawers contained but a few articles of clothing, nothing else, because they were living. gauge, with the hope that these double-barreled blasts would blow her into sleep before helplessness. Jay and Colman stared at each other as they both came to the same, obvious conclusion at the same time. "That's it," Jay murmured. ..her chair with a hitch and pointed across the backyard. "What's that thing?" ..merely a large potato chip, he isn't able to stop screaming. For all he knows, she eats potato chips with. continued rinsing dishes as she said, "Not riddles exactly. Sometimes there are things we can't easily talk. hard enough at them, but the lipstick light kissed only one form among all the shifting phantom shapes. A short

silence fell while the meeting digested the observation. Kalens thought about the fusion complex that Farnhill had learned about in his largely unproductive talks with an assortment of Chironians in Franklin. Kalens had sent Farnhill off to learn what he could through more casual contact and conversation, after Borftein's sarcastic remark to the effect that the Army's company of misfits seemed to be making better progress with the natives than the diplomats were managing. "Yes. . . I know what you mean," Kalens said, acknowledging Sterm with a motion of his head. "As a matter of fact, we have already begun inquiries along those lines." He turned toward Farnhill. "Amery, tell us again about that place along the coast." While the noise was dying away, Sirocco swept his eyes around the room and over the sixty-odd faces that had stayed to the last, and who, apart from the ten lookouts placed around the block, were all that was left of D Company's original complement of almost a hundred. He was going to need every one of them, he knew, and even so, it would be cutting things ridiculously thin. But as well as the misgivings that he tried not to show, he felt inwardly moved as he looked at the men who by all the accepted norms and standards should have been among the first in the Army to have gone. But apart from the SD units, D Company's record was second to none. It was a tribute to him personally, expressed in the only common language that meant anything to the mixture of oddballs and misfits that fate had consigned to his charge. But Sirocco had always seen them not as misfits but as individuals, many of them talented in their own peculiar and in some cases bizarre ways, and had accepted them for what they were, which was all they had ever really wanted. But the term misfit was a relative one, he had come to realize. The world that had labeled them misfits was the world that had been unable to compel them to conform. Chiron was a world full of individualists who could never be compelled to conform and who asked only to be accepted for what they were or to be left alone. Every man in D Company had been a Chironian long before planetfall at Alpha Centauri-many before departing Earth. The highest form of currency that a Chironian could offer was respect, and these Chironians were paying it to him now, just by being there. Their respect meant more than medals, citations, or promotions, and Sirocco permitted himself a brief moment of pride. For he knew full well that, whatever the outcome of the operation ahead of them all, it would be the last time they would formally be assembled as D Company..The dim glow of the hallway ceiling fixture barely invaded the room. The shadows negotiated with the.Noah's feet felt as heavily iron-shod as Rickster's appeared to be, but he tried not to shuffle the rest of.Of course, Swley, Stanislau, Driscoll, and Carson had to be there. There was no way of backing out; Swley had spotted him entering even before Colman had noticed the 'four uniforms in the corner. "Small world, chief," Driscoll.That touched at what was really at the bottom of it all. The unspoken suggestion, which Kalens had been implying and to which everybody had been responding though few would have admitted it openly, was that the entire social edifice upon which all their interests depended was threatening to fall apart, and the real attraction of an enclave within a well-defined boundary was More to deter Terrans' leaving than bomb-carrying Chironians' entering. Now that Kalens had come as close as any would dare to voicing what was at the back of all their minds, all the lobbies and factions stood behind him, and Wellesley knew it. If Wellesley opposed, he stood to be voted out of office. So, he concurred, and the resolution was passed all but unanimously..lunatic, but so many things in this world aren't what they appear to be, including Curtis himself..Although it seemed unrelated to Leilani Klonk, Micky recalled something that her aunt Geneva had said.A synchronizing computer issued commands, and the accelerator rings discharged tangentially into the shaft in sequence to send a concentrated beam of instant annihilation streaking out into space through giant deflection coils controlled by data from the Chironian tracking satellites.."Sure." Sirocco tossed up a gauntleted hand as if the answer were obvious. "Guys who don't like it but have to do it get mad. They can't get mad at the people who make them do it, so they take it out on the enemy instead. That's what makes them good. But the guys who like it take too many risks and get shot, which makes them not so good. It's logical"..collections of science-fiction action figures and models of ornate but improbable spaceships. In one.So that was it! Merrick's blue-eyed boy had let him down, and he needed a replacement. Merrick didn't give a damn about Bernard's qualities as an engineer; he was interested only in extricating himself from what was no 'doubt an embarrassing predicament, As Bernard thought back over the deviousness that he had listened to since he sat down, his memory of Kath's frankness and openness, even to a stranger, came back like a breath of fresh air. "You can stuff it," he heard himself say even before he realized that he was speaking..never had a romantic relationship with Sinatra, though if he'd ever come around, I'm not sure I could have.the interstate..of the time, or at least when medicated, which was in fact most of the time. Of course, you had to.Short of being caught on video in the act of blowing someone's bruises out, Preston Maddoc was."Stop this now," Borftein advised grimly. "How much of the Army do you think will follow you?".of injustice that quaked through her with 1906 San Francisco intensity, rocking her from good leg to bad.."I suppose all this seems a bit strange to you folks," Rastus noted. "But with the machines providing everything back in the days when the Founders were growing up, the idea of restricting the supply of anything never occurred to anybody. There wasn't any reason to. We've carried on that way ever since. You'll get used to it"..boy feels deep sympathy for this truck-driving Gump, and he regrets being so insensitive as to have.thanks to old Sinsemilla's performance. If you really want to know about Preston Claudius Maddoc,.shouting, a couple men cursing, a woman, shakily reciting the Hail Mary prayer over and over. The.Micky had figured to let the girl wind down, hut the longer that Leilani circled the subject of her brother's.Curtis can't see any lights in the sky that nature didn't put there, but the helicopter is growing louder by.Battle Module. -.Disconcerted, the stranger drops his restraining hand, and his wince lines cut deeper into his lean face as.more than just a pathetic cripple. That's old Sinsemilla at the peak of her motherly concern. But she says."So-o-o-o?".Sirocco raised his eyebrows in what was obviously feigned surprise. "Oh, didn't I tell you? She wants me to move in. It's surprising how a lot of these Chironian women have a thing about Terrans. to he frowned and scratched his nose while he searched for the right words ". . . assist with their future

contribution to procreation." He looked up. "She wants my kids. How about that, Steve? Come on, I bet it's the same with Kath." Although by his manner he was trying to be seen to make light of it, Sirocco couldn't hide his exhilaration. Nothing like that had ever happened to him before, and he had to tell somebody, Colman saw; but Colman played along..Even after stepping off the splintered fence staves onto the grass, the girl moved awkwardly. "We're." "You could be right, but that's long-term," Lechat replied. "I'm more worried about what might happen in the shorter term. I need help to do something about it."..saturated with toxins..She threw off Micky's hand and scooted backward in the grass. A last sob clogged her throat, and..reach, but more likely than not, he's plunging deeper into a vast wilderness.."Cool? You idiot, I liked that car.."..though he finds the idea of dinosaurs-to-diesel-fuel silly enough to have first been expounded by Daffy." "I just don't like news," Micky explained. "It's mostly bad, and when it isn't bad, it's mostly lies."..Sirocco shrugged. "I'm pretty sure it can't be Wellesley. He's tried to play it straight, it's all sweeping him way out of his depth. Anyhow, what would he have to gain? All he wants to do is to be put out to pasture; he's only got a few days left. Ramisson obviously wouldn't be involved in something like that, and the same goes for Lechat. But as for the rest, if you ask me, they're all crazy. It could be any of them or all of them. But that's who the Chironians are really after.".."Is this what the cities back on Earth were like?"..audience of one..bedroom door, she looked better than she felt..right for the weather."..The major stared at him as if refusing to believe his ears. "Get outa here," he choked in a weak voice. He shook his head incredulously, "Just . . . get the hell outa here, willya..."..He might have delayed his departure a few minutes more if he'd not had an engagement to keep. Visiting..long-ago leak, all vaguely resembling large insects. Sunlight had bleached the drapes into shades no..could have a brandy or two and not wind up, one year later, facedown in a puddle of vomit, her nasal..only a small window, and in this heat, the roiling steam wouldn't properly vent..cashier when you leave."..Jay was beginning to see the connection. "Measures up with respect to what?" he asked. "What's the standard?"..custom-designed carrying cases, each as large as a Samsonite two-suit, and both bags now stood." "A phase-change, evolving its own new laws," Pernak confirmed, nodding..that he possessed neither the heart nor the soul to match his face..Leilani's palms were still damp. She blotted them again. In spite of the August heat, her hands were cold..Hitching clumsily but warily alongside the bed, telling herself, Calm. Telling herself, Get a grip.."..Then how-".."Power. If you have enough power, you can bring even the richest men to their knees.."..crater on the moon.." "Are you telling us we're prisoners?" the Chironian man asked..When he'd met her two weeks ago, Noah Farrel had disliked this woman on first sight, strictly as a..Jay began speaking earnestly and in a low voice. "My father asked me to find you. It's urgent. One of the people the SDs are looking for is at the house. Sterm has arrested the whole of Congress, and we're pretty sure he's going to issue an ultimatum with the Military. If they do the Chironians will take out the whole ship. Pa wants to go with our guy and talk to Kath to see if they can do something, but they need help getting out of Phoenix."..husband utterly lacking in character, such a spouse was the moral equivalent of arm candy, meant to..Knowing the creature was dead, she had nevertheless been unable to stop jabbing at it. Out of control.." "Will do. See you in a few minutes."..west to action in the east.." "Then I held poor scared thingy a long time in the dark, the two of us here on the bed, and after a while..Indicating the can of Budweiser on the table, the girl said, "If beer's good enough for Micky, it's good..it..".."Aha!" The preacher made an appealing gesture to the audience. "Is there any difference, my friends? Can we see atoms? Is this not arrogant insolence?" He looked back at the boy and jabbed an accusing finger at him. "Do you claim to have seen atoms? Tell us that you have, and I will say that you lie/" Another appealing flourish. "And is this therefore not faith any the less, and yet this person proclaimed to have no need of faith. Does he not, therefore, contradict himself before us?"..With an earnestness that could be achieved only by a boy-man with a wispy goatee and the conviction..By the time the flyer touched down at the front of the house, Celia's earlier nervousness had given way to a stoic resignation to the fact that she was now committed. She had gambled that Sterm would accept her desire to return to her home as normal feminine behavior and that because he believed her to be helpless and without anyone else to run to anyway, the thought of her trying to escape would not enter his mind seriously. That - was just how it had worked out; her three SD guards and a matron had orders to keep her under observation and from talking to anybody, but she was not considered to be a prisoner. Her only worry now was that Veronica might have failed to contact Colman or that for some reason he might have been unable to 4? anything.." "And Alec Baldwin," Micky assured Leilani, "wasn't the man who held up Aunt Gen's store."..Fallows left the monitor room, crossed the floor of the Drive Control Subcenter, and exited through sliding double doors into a brightly lit corridor. An elevator took him up two levels to another corridor, and minutes later he was being shown into an office that opened onto one side of the Engineering Command Deck. Inside, Leighton Merrick, the Assistant Deputy Director of Engineering, was contemplating something on one of the reference screens built into the panel angled across the left corner of the desk at which he was sitting..At least thirty men, dressed in black, debark from the trailer: not merely a SWAT team, not even a..'CHANGE ISN'T EASY, Micky. Changing the way you live means changing how you think. Changing.." "Oh, Christ Wearily, Colman brought a hand up to his brow. "Okay. Look, as soon as I can-" Footsteps approaching at the double interrupted and made him look around. It was Sergeant Armley, from the Orderly Room..For that was how they fought. They had watched while their opponents grew weaker by ones and twos, and they had waited for the remnants to turn upon one another and wear themselves down. Then the Chironians had moved..anything this good if her life depended on it?not that she's ever likely to face a pie-or-die threat.".."How long were you up on the Kuan-yin before they moved you down to the surface, Kath?'.North of the highway, near the roadblock, the large, armored, and perhaps armed helicopter stands in..Noah smiled. This was one reason he liked her. Class and style without pretension. "Exactly.".."We're using a camera and special film with exceptional ability to record clear images in a minimum of..December 31, 2080..Running with this strange blind exuberance, he loses all sense of distance and time, so he doesn't know..Lechat nodded.

"That was already understood," he replied grimly.

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