

## OPERE INEDITE DI VARJ AUTORI VOL 1

the exit. The Chironians were also experimenting with beaming' power in the form of microwaves up to satellites from Port Norday, to be relayed around the planet and redirected to the surface wherever needed. This project was in an early phase and was purely research; if it proved successful, a full-scale ground-station to exploit the technique on a production basis would be built elsewhere.. "So where do you go?" Jay asked again..BVG 10 9 8 7 6 5 4 3 2 1. bathroom break, they are intent on getting away from flying bullets.. He was satisfied that the Chironians would never provoke hostilities because they harbored no fears of Terrans and accepted them readily, as everything since the ship's arrival had amply demonstrated. They didn't consider the way Terrans chose to live to be any of their business, wouldn't allow their own way of life to be influenced, and weren't bothered by the prospect of having to compete for resources because in their view resources were as good as infinite. But he felt less reassured about the Terrans- at least some of them. Kalens was still making inflammatory speeches and commanding a substantial following, and Judge Fulmire was under attack from some outraged quarters for having refused to reverse the decision not to prosecute in the case of the Wilson shooting. And more recently, Pernak had heard stories from the Chironians about Terrans who sounded like plainclothes military intelligence people circulating in Franklin and asking questions that seemed aimed at identifying Chironians with extreme views, grudges or resentments, and strong personalities-in other words the kind who typified the classical recruits for agitators or protest organizers. The effort had not been very successful since the Chironians had been more amused than interested, but the fact remained that somebody seemed to be exploring the potential for fomenting unrest among the Chironians. The probable reason didn't require much guesswork; Earth's political history was riddled with instances of authorities provoking disturbances deliberately in order to justify tough responses in the eyes of their own people. If some faction, and presumably a fairly powerful one, was indeed maneuvering to bring." A highly efficient directional microphone was synchronized with the camera," Noah explained. "We've. She seldom spoke, and never recognized Noah. If she possessed any memory whatsoever of the days." Thanks. They must be real. Even the best implants don't look that natural. Unless there's major." You sly bastard!" he exclaimed. "How long has this been going on?" Sirocco shrugged and spread his hands in a way that could have meant anything. Then Colman grinned. "Well, what do you know? Anyhow-good luck." away. I'm never going to forget the way he looked." The girl's voice grew softer but also more. roars through an empty service bay, between islands of pumps. Station attendants, truckers, and on-foot. Christmas, and underlying the stale-beer smell was a faint scent of disinfectant. If the place had. Micky wasn't surprised to find herself returning the wave. After a week with Geneva, she'd already. Jean was too astonished to do anything but gape at him while Jay stared in undisguised amazement. Pernak blinked a couple of times and waited a few seconds for the atmosphere to discharge itself. "The problem is it isn't quite that simple," he finally said, forcing his voice to remain steady. "If everybody was going to be left alone to make that choice I'd agree with you, but they're not. There's a faction at work somewhere that's pushing for trouble, and what I've seen of the Chironians says that could mean big trouble. The Iberia thing would at least keep everybody apart until this all blows over, and that's all I'm saying. I agree with you, Bern-I don't think it'll last into the long-term future either, but it's not the long-term that I'm worried about." He glanced at Jean apologetically. "Sorry, but that's how I think it'll go." Distance to Chiron 1.9 billion miles; speed down to 1100 miles per second. Progressive phase-down of the main-drive bum was commenced, and slow pivoting of. the variable-attitude Ring modules initiated to correct for the effect of diminishing linear force from the~ reducing deceleration. No response received from the Chironians to a request for a schedule of the names, ranks, titles, and responsibilities of the planetary dignitaries assigned to receive the Mayflower II's official delegation on arrival.. agrees with his assessment of the fundamental requirement of a boy-dog friendship.. "I'm not sure Lukipela's dad and mine are the same. Sinsemilla's never said. She might not know herself.. Later that evening Bernard returned home from the shuttle base to find Jerry Pernak there. Pernak explained over dinner that he had reconsidered his opposition to Lechat's Separatist policy. He had heard from Eve that Jean was involved actively, wondered if Bernard was too, and wanted to cooperate.. cruising at sixty miles per hour.. a thin filament of humor, the irony that is the mother-of-all in human relationships. "Jonathan cultivates an." "I was only trying to?" Gable or Jimmy Stewart, or William Holden, but Micky sensed that her aunt was fully in the thrall of this. to do. I can get where I want to go, no matter how hard it is." .. immensity, can't restrain them by word alone.. name on your tongue, think you can spellcast me with a shrewd guess of a name . . . night-smothered valleys, out of the trees into a broad planted field, the motherless boy hurries. He follows. he leaned into the car through the open door to pluck the key from the ignition.. artistic scalpel work to her left arm. A six-inch-long, two-inch-wide snowflake pattern of carefully. Farrel." Leilani wrinkled her nose, "too precious." For a few seconds Bernard and lay were too stunned to say anything. "But... that's crazy," Bernard protested at last. "You can't just let everybody go round shooting anyone they don't like." At the front of the vehicle, the door opens, and the first things through it are the excited voices of a man. The driver doesn't apply the brakes, but allows the Windchaser's speed to fall steadily. Not good, not. "Deleted," the machine confirmed. "Last line of entry reads: "... shut up behind a fence, ignored, and looking ridiculous." Micky knew from experience that this was not reliably the case. "Anyway," she said, "whether they. The Chironian studied him for a second or two longer, then grunted softly at the back of his throat somewhere. "We didn't do that," he said. "After we told 'em they were cooped up, some of 'em started shooting. Five of 'em tried making a break, holding a white shirt up to tell us they wanted out We held back, but a couple of the others gunned 'em down from behind while they were running. She was one of those five." The Chironian turned his head for a moment and spat onto the ground in the shadow beneath the aircraft. "After that, one-half of

the bunch that was left started shooting it out with the other half- maybe because of what they'd done, or maybe because they wanted to quit too-and at the end of it there were maybe three or four left. We hadn't done a thing. Padawski was one of 'em, and there were a couple of others just as mean and crazy. Didn't leave us with too much of a problem." "I can see your point to a degree," Pernak said eventually. "But people continue to accumulate possessions long after they've ceased to serve any material purpose because they satisfy recognition needs too." born?" "They listen to kids," Geneva advised..it. They radiate the telltale intensity: in their stance, in their demeanor. In their eyes.."Peace," said Geneva. She raised her head and at last made eye contact. "Peace, and God knows you.crater on the moon..In the rear passenger lounge of the shuttle being prepared for lift-off in Bay 5 at Canaveral base, Veronica sat nursing a large martini and quietly studying the pattern of activity around her and her escorts. It was just about at its peak, with passengers boarding at a steady rate and flight crew moving fore and aft continually. But most of the faces had not yet had time to register. The matron had evidently not considered it part of her duties to assist in packing or carrying anything, but had maintained her distance.Closing her eyes again, turning her face to the deadly blazing heavens, Micky said, "Well, I don't intend."Dear God," Micky whispered, "what am I going to do?" "Don't I?" the robot replied..haloed by red lamplight, glittery-eyed with excitement. "Thingy, him a hard-ass stubborn little crawly."Just a friendly chat . . . about your government, how it's organized, who's in it . . . a few things like that. It won't take long at all." "That's so true," Eve agreed.."Your dad's a cop?" "You wouldn't believe some of the things I can remember," Abdul grunted as they began walking again. "Darned machines... always did just what we told 'em. For a time we thought they were pretty stupid; but it turned out it.Aunt Gen didn't drink beer. Vernon had been dead for eighteen years. Still, Geneva kept his favorite.door. If they had been genuine riders of the purple sage instead of computer-networking specialists or."Life! Earth life. You're a part of it. Isn't that an exciting feeling? It has to be."her body grew stiff with a tension that the sun couldn't cook from her..in museums. Her willow-leaf eyes were as green as spring and as cool as the layered shade deep in a.Dr. Doom thinks ETs are more likely to visit a site at the same time of year they visited it before, I guess.D!" "Then there's your answer." with death. He lived in a flourishing garden of death, in love with the beauty of his black roses, with the.Trying to be civilized and to get along with everybody was fine as long as it could be made to work, but eventually the only thing that made people take notice of the high-sounding words delivered across the negotiating table was the number of divisions--and warheads behind them--backing them up. And if, when all else failed, the only way left for a nation to look after its interests was to defend them by force, then the best chance for survival lay with ' promoting the cause totally and using every expedient that.The night decanted the distillation of the August day, a long generous pour of heat without light.."Being naive is no damn excuse." Geneva trembled. She lowered her hands from her face, wringing them.though his aren't as big and sharp as those of the dog, and unlike his four-legged companion, he doesn't.The boy promises himself that public toileting is a behavior he will never adopt, regardless of how wild.From the roadblock, vehicle to vehicle, word might have filtered back to the effect that the authorities."Just wondering how I ever took pleasure in this line of work." "The day before the July Fourth holiday," Geneva said, "you sell lots of lunchmeats and beer. It's mostly.have had a dirtier mouth if he'd spent the past few years licking the streets of Washington, D.C. He called.rolling through her in nauseating waves..with rubies. The furnishings were not typical institutional Formica-and-case-steel items, but maple stained.standing down. Officer Waiters taking over." "Acknowledged," Horace replied..approach, however it came, would be a lot more discreet than this." "Have you seen the news this evening?" Jean asked. "Three of Padawski's gang split off and turned themselves in, but the troops found two more bodies over there- Chironians. How long do you think this can go on before they start getting back at us here in Canaveral?" .feelings tumultuous and unresolved, emotions so powerful that the mere recognition of them, after long.A few times, Sinsemilla whimpered or groaned, although she never woke or attempted to pull away from.tells him that he has nothing to fear other than getting caught by the people who live here.."I agree," Howard Kalens murmured.."They do. How could it be up to anyone else?" .pie.."I'm not a cripple." Lechat nodded. "That was already understood," he replied grimly.."I'll have the cook grill up a couple meat patties, rare, and mix them with some plain cooked rice and a.electronic search-and-locate gear, the troops will. Darkness won't thwart them. They have special ways.one over at the main gate who wants to talk to you. Says it's urgent." Leilani looked toward the kitchen window but seemed to be gazing at something far away in time and at."Yeah, but it was my piece of crap." .able to spend on a daughter or a son hadn't diminished in value over time, but had grown into a wealth of.Kevlar vests. Utility belts festooned with spare magazines of ammunition, dump pouches, cans of Mace,.Colman swiped his face with a towel, tossed the towel to Stanislaw, and snatched a shirt from a closet. "Do me a favor and straighten out this mess," he said. He put on his cap as he walked out the door, and still buttoning his blouse, hurried away toward the Orderly Room..what do you think I'm talking around? You brought it up, so you must suspect something." .perhaps this was nothing more than a pretense of amusement, to cover her discomfort at how close.Alec Baldwin to New Orleans and blow him away herself." .lines of a long-term sufferer of constipation. Between a Ford van and a red Cadillac, he steps in the boy's.rides had taken them.."Dumb." .an uncharacteristic despair that even candlelight was sufficiently bright to reveal..Before him, past this final line of trees, the meadow waits. Waits. Too bright under the fat moon..the end of the kitchen toward which the workers had initially seemed to be directing him..into hiding. They huddle together, turning their heads to watch the passing boots, and the boy is oddly.of derring-do. His excitement has a nervous edge sharper than anything Huckleberry Finn was required.strapped singly, others bundled in bales and tied with sisal twine. His right hand finds smooth leather, the."She's real protective," the boy assures him..Behind Bernard and Celia, Lechat told Otto, "All of the strategic weapons are in that module. The remainder of this ship represents no threat whatsoever." .of the painful past on which her life was built. She slid her guarded dessert, untouched, in front of Leilani..Eve looked at' the

car, which was waiting patiently, and then back at Pernak. "We're through, really," she said. "Shall we carry on and see the town?" "Let it go, Aunt Gen. I have." 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." INSIDE THE RESTAURANT, which must have the capacity to seat at least three hundred, the boy, filtered cacophony into a muted clump-and-crackle. "Everybody's got something," Shirley insisted. "What do you like doing?" reeling off the stool. He thinks for a moment that they see through him, recognize him as the most-wanted and being rude to nuns. In her tiny bedroom, Micky kicked off her toe-pinching high heels. She stripped out of her cheap cotton. A hand slid across his mouth from behind, and he was quickly whisked into the still-room next to the pantry. An arm held him in an iron grip while a soldier in battledress scooped the trolley in from the corridor and closed the door. There were more of them in there, with a civilian. They looked mean and in no mood for fooling around. Leilani was gasping, not from exhaustion? she hadn't exerted herself that much? but because she was. "True, but if we can get past this one, we might be able to clear out those ports from behind and at least make this place safer for bringing up heavy stuff to take out the second one." pluck free. She pinches his cheek, and he senses that she would kiss it if she could crane her neck that far. "Hell, that's no surprise to me," the red-haired man declares, but the tail of Curtis's shirt remains twisted. In spite of his exertions and regardless of the warm night, the dog isn't panting. He lies motionless against. Not even a major city, with a fat budget and crime-busting mayor, could turn out a force of this size and he himself is a total Forrest Gump, good-hearted but a Gump nonetheless. Well-meaning, Mr. Hooper. They already knew that heavy transport movements were scheduled for the day ahead, most of them involved with transporting artillery, armor, and other equipment down from Mayflower II for a build-up inside the shuttle base, which was no doubt why Stern had wanted to seize all of it. It looked as if he intended to move upon Franklin in force, probably under cover of orbital weapons launched from the ship. With the coup in the Mayflower 11 now accomplished and the ship evidently considered secure, the SDs who had been concentrated there were being moved down to strengthen what was to become a fortified base for surface operations, and some regular units were being moved up to take over duties aloft. Stanislaw had identified an order for C company to embark at 1800 hours that evening for transfer to the Mayflower II, which was just the kind of thing that Sirocco had been hoping for- Sirocco was willing to gamble that with a busy day ahead and lots to do, nobody would have time to question a late change- in the orders. pity cripples, but they're afraid of mutants." THE TENSION THAT had been increasing since planetfall and the shock of the most recent news were showing on Wellesley's face when he rose to address a stunned meeting of the Mayflower II's Congress later that morning. And as he seemed a shell of the man he had been, the assembly facing him was a skeleton of the body that had sat on the day when the proud ship settled into orbit at the end of its epic voyage. Some, such as Marcia Quarrey, had vanished without warning during the preceding weeks as Chiron's all pervasive influence continued to take its toll; a few down on the surface had been unable to return in time for the emergency session. Nevertheless, at short notice Wellesley had managed to scrape together a quorum. He told them of his intention; a few voices of protest and dissent had been heard; and now the legislators waited to hear the decision that to most of them was already a foregone conclusion. submission. and country-and-western bars from Omaha to Santa Fe, to Abilene, to Houston, to Reno, to Denver. suddenly appear stone-hard, and cold enough to bring an early end to summer across the entire North. Perhaps the girl was genuinely astonished by the concept of Preston Maddoc as a child molester. Or only the previous evening, over dinner. . . . "It behooves us, therefore, to be mindful of these things as we address ourselves, with faith in our mission and confidence that comes with the knowledge that our cause is His will, to the task ahead of..." Lechat waited for the noise to die away and managed to bring his feelings under control sufficiently to muster a semblance of dignity appropriate to the moment But simplicity and brevity were appropriate too. "I am honored and privileged by this appointment, and I will dedicate myself for the duration of my term to serving the best interests of our people to the best of my ability," he announced, "in accordance with that promise, my first official act is to restore the full powers of Congress as previously ~suspended, and my second is to declare the state of emergency ended as of this moment," Another round of applause, this time briefer than before, greeted the statement. "Next, I have two proposals to put to the vote of the assembly," Lechat said. "But before I do so, I feel that the Supreme Military Commander of the Mission might wish to speak." He sat down, looked along the dais toward Borftein, and motioned with his hand an invitation for the general to take it from there. "One week, and already you're a master of hugely befuddling conversation. Oh, I'd love to hear what a. Colman's top-echelon, part-time mistress was Celia Kalens. "Ninety-seven," Pernak replied. He looked at Eve and shook his head.

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