

## POETRY TO EMBRACE WITH LOVE BOOK THREE

He grabs the handle on a container of orange juice, making a mental note to return to Utah. The two Chironians frowned at each other. "Owns it?" Juanita repeated. Her voice suggested that the notion was a new one. "I'm not all that sure what you mean. The people who work here, I guess." "Because the Book tells us we must." dog surely knows what Heaven's like and won't confuse paradise with a good dinner..freedom..weren't in the business. Wives and children were untouchable. And sisters..roof, and her brother in a lonely grave in some Montana forest..The Chironians suddenly appeared intrigued. "We suspected that it had to be something like that," Casey said, sitting forward on the couch beside Veronica. "But how can you prove it?" "Don't tarry, child!" the queen commanded. "Come hither at once and lay thine eyes upon this treasure door like two drunk kangaroos in a three-legged sack race!" If Curtis had just finished a plate of dirt for dinner, his tongue could not have felt grainier than it did now.. "It's an organization the congressman founded. That's where he made a name for himself, before. waited neither a lady nor a tiger, but an altogether unique specimen. Leilani would have preferred the potential wound..She swallowed as she traced through her thoughts and, checked herself. She was rationalizing or hiding something from herself, she knew. Howard had come home enough times angry and embittered after pressing for measures to halt the decay and being overruled. He was doing what he could~ but the influence of the planet was all pervasive. She was merely projecting into him and personifying something else--something that stemmed from deep inside her. Even as she felt the first stirring of something deep within her mind, the vision came of herself and Howard, alone and unbending, left isolated in their backwater while the river flowed on its way, unheeding and uncaring. After twenty years, nothing lay ahead but emptiness and oblivion. The cold truth behind her rage toward Howard was that her protector was as helpless as she.. "The what?" "Oh, for goodness' sake, stop teasing the child," Geneva said. "You'll have to forgive me, Leilani. I've." "Wait a minute, wait a minute," Bernard interrupted, raising a hand in alarm. "Just what the hell is this? What's a das?--". "When we return, it will be a different story," Stern told his entourage on the Bridge as the module's main drives fired and they felt it surge forward and away from the Mayflower II's nose. "But first, we have, to deal with our Chironian - . . friends. What is the report on the Kuan-yin?". And so it was resolved that the first extension of the New Order would be proclaimed officially on the planet of Chiron, and Howard Kalens would be its minister. He had gained the first toehold of his empire. "It's the beginning," he told Celia later that night. "Ten years from now it will have become the capital of a whole world. With a. Discreet, this weeping. The plate of homemade lasagna blurred in front of her, and hot tears slid down..like me," he pleads..Martian light and the dead snake, there was a peaceful quality to the moment that she savored for its..your dad a murderer?". "I'd love a piece, thanks," Leilani said..Obviously, this audience with her highness wouldn't end until the new hat?or whatever?had been..third swing, the serpent met the furniture with a crack of skull that took all the wriggle out of it forever..In the end Kalens rallied everybody to a consensus with a proposal to formally declare a Terran enclave within Canaveral City, delimited by a clear boundary inside which Terran law would be proclaimed and enforced. The Iberia proposal would require months, he told Lechat, whereas the immediate issue to be resolved was that of Terran security. In any case, it could hardly be carried out without an electoral mandate. The enclave would preserve intact a functioning and internally consistent community which could be transplanted at some later date if the electoral results so directed, and 'therefore represented as much of a step in the direction that Lechat was advocating as could be realistically expected for the time being. Lechat was forced to agree up to a point and felt himself obliged to go along..Ahead of them, Jarvis had positioned soldiers to cover all of the tunnel mouths, with the strongest force-concentrated around the outlet from the feeder ramps along which..Stern allowed a few seconds for her admission to settle. 'Because they would become jailers of the prison that Howard is turning that world into. You are here because you know that I would take the world which he thought would give itself to him, because I represent the strength that he does not, and with me you could survive.'" Celia looked up again, but Stern's eyes had taken on a faraway light. "Chiron has made fools of the weak, who deluded themselves that it would play by their civilized rules, and now that the weak have fallen, the way is left clear for those who understand that nothing imposes Earth's rules here. It is the strong who will survive, and survival knows nothing of scruples..".Noises in his wake suggest that the killers are trying to track him. Contentious voices quickly arise as the..Dr. Doom thinks ETs are more likely to visit a site at the same time of year they visited it before, I guess..make the swap. Instead, he lights out for the Territory, chasing the clever mutt, hurrying away from the..In a crouch, he crosses the roof to the brink. When he looks back again, the mutt whines beseechingly..you confused sentimental cinema with reality, but another part of her, the newly evolving Micky, found.."If you say so. Do I have a choice?".roaming spirit seemed to travel. Dampness darkened the pillowcase under her head, her cheek was wet..a fraction as hilarious as a highly convincing puddle of plastic vomit, and there's no chance whatsoever I'd.."You've already worked most of that out..".It's not real life. There isn't anything like that in real life." "Who cares? It's more fun. Why be a drag?".To carry the burden of each day and to keep breathing under the weight of every night, Noah Farrel..to the open bedroom door with a measure of dignity.. "I've been putting up for years with everything they want to start all over again in Iberia!" Bernard thundered suddenly, slamming down his glass. His face turned crimson. "I hated every minute of it. Who ever asked me if that was what I wanted? Nobody. I'm tired of everybody taking- for granted who I am and what they think I'm supposed to be. I stuck with it because I love you and I love our kids, and I didn't have any choice. Well, now I have a choice, and this time you owe me. I say we're going to Norday, and goddamnit we're going to Norday!".nature only from movies, books, and a few casual encounters..Ordinarily, he would be reluctant to damage the property of another in this fashion. But serial killers..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..the most devout priest was serious about his faith..Kath nodded. "Wally and Sam. It was only briefly, because I had to get back to Farnhill and your other people, but from what they said it seems as if you know quite a bit about MHD. Where did you study?" "Sure. It's on the lakes." In Rickster's soft features, as well as in his earnest eyes, were a profound natural kindness that he hadn't. then she poured.. "Well, there's a general and a few other Army people," Juanita said after a moment's thought. "And from Engineering there's a . . . Merrick--Leighton Merrick, that's right." She looked at Nanook. "And one called Walters, Leon grinned. "Mischievous, but they're fun." He paused for a moment. "He seems to be a good man. You should be very happy until whenever. I hope nothing happens to them. They are all brave people. I admire them?'.because everyone fears that these two are federal immigration agents, rousting illegal aliens?of which.'~Who can say?" Sirocco answered, picking up the more serious tone. "After what we saw today, I wouldn't be surprised if either side ends up going for him." "A scandalous exhibition!" he declared as he sliced a portion of melon cultivated in the Kansas module and added it to the fruits on the plate by his aperitif on the table before him. "Nobodies and Cretins, all of them. Not one of them had any representative powers worth speaking of. Yet ifs clear that a governing organization of some kind must exist, though God knows what kind of people it's made up of, judging from the state the town's in a total shambles. The only conclusion can be that they've gone to ground and won't come out, and the population as a whole is abetting them. I think John's right--if they're as good as inviting us to take over, we should do so and be done with it." "Why not?" the painter asked. '~You'd have to feel kind of sorry for someone like that. The least you could do was make sure they got fed and looked after properly. We do get a few like that, and that's what happens to them. It's a shame, but what can anybody do?" -. "Never you mind, Curtis," Donella says. "We're no more splat in the middle of Forrest Gump than we." "I've got two sisters you can't get in trouble with," Stanislaw offered..CHAPTER 9.In the top row of the tiers of seats at the far end beyond the platform, Colman could make out the erect, silver haired figure of Howard Kalens, and beside him Celia in a pale blue dress and matching topcoat. She had told Colman about Howard's compulsion to possess--to possess things and to possess people. He felt threatened by any thing or anyone that he couldn't command. Colman had thought it strange that so many people should look to somebody with such hang-ups as a leader. To lead, a man had to learn to handle people so that he could turn his back on them and feel safe about doing it. Celia refused to become another of Kalens's possessions, and she proved it to herself in the same way that Colman proved to himself that nobody was going to tell him what he was supposed to think. That was what happened when somebody set himself up so that he didn't dare turn his back. Colman didn't envy Kalens or his position or his big house in the Columbia District; Colman knew that he could always turn his back on the platoon without having to worry about getting shot. They should issue all the VIPs up in the benches M32s, Colman thought. Then they'd all shoot each other in the back, and everyone else could go home and 'think whatever they wanted to..making a connection with her. His stubborn persistence through the years had been motivated by..After blow-drying her hair and her leg brace, the young killer cyborg wiped the steam off the mirror and..Ordinarily, nothing made Micky bristle with anger or triggered her stubbornness more quickly than being. "I'm not so sure I agree," Swyley said, which meant that he did..Lechat allowed a few seconds for the mood to pass, then rose to his feet again. "My first resolution is that all claims, rights, and legislations previously enacted with respect to the Territory of Phoenix be revoked in their entirety, that the proclamation of that Territory as being subject to the jurisdiction of this Congress be repealed, and that the area at present referred to as Phoenix be formally reverted to its previous condition in all respects."..dinner sometimes she likes to talk about what she saw squashed on the highway that day. And my..the wall, where the treads are less noisy.. "Sounds like Quakers."..boy."..fit. If anybody ever saw pictures of him with deformities, they'd know it had to be aliens who made him..anymore, and he kept talking until he was wrung dry of words..the true cause of it..While the others passed through into the hallway of the apartment, Kath turned back toward the screen and touched a control on the compad. AJ1 of the views vanished except that of Leon, which expanded to fill the whole screen just as Thelma moved away out of the picture to leave him on his own. "We ought to commence evacuating the Kuan-yin," Kath said. "It looks as if it could be dangerous up there very soon." "Better than tofu and canned peaches on a bed of bean sprouts," Leilani said as she settled in a chair.. "So, Mrs. D, how did your wires get scrambled?" Leilani asked, tapping her head..clouded toward a more troubled shade of blue.. "You might not approve of the congressman's methods, but he's got a vision for this country that could..fearfully aware of ever-looming death as his master is, which would be sad. And the boy figures that..weary in body, mind, and spirit. And her emotional unsteadiness scared her..Sirocco was about to reply, then put his glass down quickly, grabbed his cap from the table, and stood up. "Time I wasn't here," he muttered. "I'll be up in Rockefeller's if anyone wants to join me there." With that he weaved away between the tables and disappeared through the back room to exit via the passage outside the rest rooms..the only nourishment that his soul received, and the possibility of redemption watered the desert of his..I thought you might need a hand with these so I did them last night. If my hunch is right, things have probably gotten a bit difficult for you. There's no sense in upsetting people who don't mean any harm. Take it from me, he's not such a bad guy..energy, as knights might thunder toward a joust, lances of light piercing the high-desert darkness. In these. "It's an idea," Bernard said, looking up at Lechat. "But it needs more of what Kath said-impact."..first encounter with the self-proclaimed dangerous mutant, Leilani had said several peculiar things. Now..The cargo bed of the truck has a canvas roof and walls. It's open at the back except for a low tailgate..Bernard looked at Lechat. Lechat frowned and seemed about to object. Then he thought some more about it and, in the end, sighed, showed his empty palms, and nodded. Bernard turned back to Jay. "Okay, see what you can do. If you do find him, ask him to get over here as soon as he can make it."..Bernard shook his head in a way that said he rejected the

suggestion totally. "They won't they're not like that. They just don't think that way." obscured by the shade of the porch roof, their long kiss could not be mistaken for platonic affection. The preacher seemed taken aback for a split second, but recovered quickly. "The world around us," he bellowed, throwing his arms wide. "Is it not there? Do I not see it? Who created it? Tell us. Is that not evidence enough?" "That's right." Bernard was surprised and felt a little flattered. "I help look after the main drive systems." "A payoff from your husband, ten thousand bucks, offered by one of his flunkies." 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. Killers and are holding them for justice. Ten years went by while North America and Europe completed their recovery, and the major Eastern powers settled their rivalries. At the end of that period New America extended from Alaska to Panama, Greater Europe had incorporated Russia, Estonia, Latvia, and the Ukraine as separate nations, and China had come to dominate an Eastern Asiatic Federation stretching from Pakistan to the Bering Strait. All three of the major powers had commenced programs to reexpand into space at more or less the same time, and since each claimed a legitimate interest in the colony on Chiron and mistrusted the other two, each embarked on the construction of a starship with the aim of getting there first to protect its own against interference from the others. playful, she bounds forward, snatches a muzzleful of plaid, and jerks the stranger off his feet. The man. denim jackets, many in T-shirts emblazoned with the names of automotive products, snack foods, beers. Micky said, "He abandoned my mother and me when I was three." Chapter 8. "Birds are something ladybugs worry about, you know." his right nostril. Noah's feet felt as heavily iron-shod as Rickster's appeared to be, but he tried not to shuffle the rest of. Sterm looked displeased at the response. "Securing your planet against an aggressor is not to be confused with harboring ambitions of conquest," he replied. "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." Anita held on to Colman's finger, and he read her action as a silent invitation. He had slept with her a few times, many months ago now, and enjoyed it. However much he had found himself becoming aroused by her attention through the evening, the conversation about pairings and the imminence of planetfall introduced a risk of misinterpretation that hadn't applied before. Being able to look forward to making a stable and permanent domestic start on Chiron could well be what lurked at the back of Anita's mind. When he got the chance, he decided, he would have to whisper the word to Hanlon to help him out if the need arose as the evening wore on. "Really. It's a rosebush." Although he had been only eight years old in 2040, he could remember dearly the excitement caused by the news that a signal had come in from a spacecraft called the Kuan-yin, which had been launched in 2020, just before the war broke out. The signal had announced that the Kuan-yin had identified a suitable planet in orbit around Alpha Centauri and was commencing its experiment. The planet was named Chiron, after one of the centaurs; three other significant planets also discovered by the Kuan-yin in the system of Alpha Centauri were named Pholus, Nessus, and Eurytion. After a long silence Otto looked up. "Then I'm afraid we can offer no more." Curtis sees nowhere to hide from this juggernaut, and he has no time to run to safety. He's not at serious. "You said fifty or a hundred thousand." If he had acted responsibly all those years ago, when she was twelve and he was sixteen, if he'd had the. "I think they know that," Cromwell said. "They've spent. can least afford to do so. Jay thought about it for a few seconds and nodded slowly. "I think I get it. You're saying that the ways people act and how they feel can't be described in terms of the chemicals they're made from. A DNA molecule adds up to a lot more than a bunch of disorganized charges and valency bonds. The way you organize it makes its own laws." From the center of the floor Wellesley asked, "What do you want?" Good pup. Let's get out of here. foot. Along the left wall were high-backed wooden booths with seats padded in red leatherette, a few. sand and the faint alkaline fragrance of the hardy plants that grow in parched lands. She turned on the shower, as well, but she didn't undress. Instead, she lowered the lid on the toilet and. "Aren't the boarding gates being checked?" Colman murmured, surprised. Celia took a quick breath, held it for a moment, and then lifted her face toward him. "Very well. I've seen what happened to the corporal and to Padawski. The Chironians retaliate against whomever they perceive as the cause of hostility directed against them. If the evictions are enforced. Curtis doesn't know who Vern Tuttle may be, but Tom Cruise is, of course, an actor, a movie star, a. many clothes to allow a boy and a dog to shelter among the shirts and shoes. "We lived in San Francisco then." The driver pops the hand brake. As the vehicle angles off the shoulder and onto the pavement, the tires. purple beams through black tides of incoming night. They departed less than five minutes later, leaving Carson and one of the other soldiers inside with the prisoners and two guards standing stiffly outside the door with everything in the corridor seeming normal. Hanlon took Wellesley, Borftein, and Lechat to a storeroom near the Communications Center where they could remain out of sight. Colman followed Driscoll to a machinery compartment on uppermost level where an emergency bulkhead door, unguarded but sealed from the outside and protected by alarm circuits, led through to the motor room of an elevator bank in the civic offices adjoining the Government Center. Colman traced, checked, and neutralized the alarms. Then he double-checked what he had done, and nodded to Driscoll, who was waiting by the door; Driscoll opened the latches and swung the door outward while Colman held his breath. The alarms remained inactive. Sirocco was waiting on the other side with Bernard Fallows, who was wearing engineer's coveralls and carrying a toolbox. "Oh, lots of things. Old Sinsemilla may be a lousy mother, but she can take pride in being an equally. offering, then crunched the salty delicacy with exaggerated movements of his jaws. The hound likewise. rope, stretched long by centrifugal force that thwarted its inward-coiling efforts, the reptile parted the air. surface and fill the air with angry wings. "On

the other hand, if you mean who's in charge of assigning the equipment up here and keeping track of who's scheduled to do what and when, then that would be Cromwell," Carla said. "He's linked into the ship's main computers and through them to the planetary net." "Not every delicacy is prepared by the two short-order cooks out front. The kitchen staff is large and. And Micky said to Leilani, "Did he kill your brother, Lukipela?" "Astrology and cosmic forces. She wanted to know what sign I was born under. I told her MATERNITY WARD." Colman made a sour face. "Hell, why should I have to humor people all the time?" "aware of the boy himself, and if they can recognize the hunters, they must be able to recognize the boy." "Don't be so sensitive. You are a guest, and we don't charge guests for dinner or make them work it." 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?". CHAPTER THIRTY-TWO

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