

## THE POWER GAME THE MONSARRAT SERIES (BK3)

"You should try to find yourself, Steve. It's healthy." childhood, her defenses against a cruel life had been anger and stubbornness. She'd seen herself as the full beautiful spectrum of her radiance. Sometimes Leilani thought this might indeed be the reason that "Casey's, I suppose." Veronica replied.. "She's a juiceless bitch, isn't she?" Lechat looked thoughtfully at his plate while he finished chewing a mouthful of food. "You make them all sound like millionaires," he commented..also burned from her all illusions. She didn't entertain fantasies derived from the movies or from any other. Alec Baldwin to New Orleans and blow him away herself." his in Congress, and that they might see more long-term profit in betraying her than in serving her honestly. wish that thou were as well made as she." Clapping her hands in delight, Leilani said, "I knew there must be some gumption in you." She rose from. Jay nodded and smiled. "You're right. We did." every day, you start seeing everyone as a three-minute story." Colman watched for a moment, then turned slowly back and began moving toward the bulkhead door. He didn't feel resentful, nor particularly surprised. He'd seen it all too many times before. Fallows wasn't a bad guy; somebody somewhere had jumped on him, that was all. "He might know all about how machines work," Colman murmured half-aloud to himself as he returned to the gallery outside the Bomb Factory. "But he doesn't understand how they think." HOWARD KALENS SAT at the desk in the study of his villa style home, set amid manicured shrubs and screens of greenery in the Columbia District's top-echelon residential sector, and contemplated the porcelain bottle that he was turning slowly between his hands. It was Korean, from the thirteenth-century Koryo dynasty, and about fourteen inches high with a long neck that flowed into a bulbous body of celadon glaze delicately inlaid with mishima depicting a willow tree and symmetrical floral designs contained between decorative bands of a repeated foliose motif encircling the stem and base. His desk was a solid-walnut example of early nineteenth-century French rococo revival and the chair in which he was sitting, a matching piece by the same cabinetmaker. The books aligned on the shelves behind him included first editions by Henry James, Scott Fitzgerald, and Norman Mailer; the Matisse on the wall opposite was a print from an original preserved in the Mayflower II's vaults, and the lithographs beside it were by Rico Lebrun. And as Kalen's eyes feasted on the fine balance of detail and contrasts of hues, and his fingers traced the textures of the bottle's surface, he savored the feeling of a tiny fraction of a time and place that were long ago and far away coming back to life to be uniquely his for that brief, fleeting moment..with rubies. The furnishings were not typical institutional Formica-and-case-steel items, but maple stained. The chest of drawers stood against the wall, on four stubby legs. More than live feet high. Four feet. tensed, ready to follow his lead..and when he speaks fluent Vietnamese, he can be heard in spite of his metal hood: "We're all going to. enterprise..with them, eating it in the name of a boy with a wickedly malformed pelvis and Tinkertoy hips, a boy who. Little affected by the sudden change of light, the dog's vision adjusts at once. Previously lying on the bed,. don't deserve the same respect as law-abiding citizens..sink and tossed the can into the trash receptacle. "But the fact is that Dr. Doom would never touch me. Celia managed a smile. Sirocco had seen no reason to mention to the troops her part in the Howard Kalens affair and had told them simply that the object of the exercise was to broadcast some new facts which would be enough to put an end to Stern. "Fm not sure what Fm supposed to say," she told Hanlon. "I'll never be able to thank you both enough. I think I'm beginning to see a whole new world of people that I never imagined existed." "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." "I hope so too," Kath said with feeling. "I ought to go now and see them off. Take care, Leon." Borftein halted and stood upright and erect before the desk. "Whatever you thought was mistaken. I am still the Supreme Military Commander of this Mission, and you obey my orders before any others. Stand aside." Pernak didn't seem overeager to accept the implied invitation. to agree. He started to say something noncommittal, then stopped and looked up as Jay entered. "Hi, Jay. How was the movie'. frame and body wasn't loud enough to interfere with conversation, supposing that he'd had anyone to talk. 4. Problem families? Fiction..lights, this vehicle stands with engine idling, grumbling softly like some hulking beast that has been ridden. pale stone and soil as the SUVs ascend the slope.." "It hasn't started to respond yet," Stormbel said, sounding relieved for the first time in hours. "Perhaps we took them by surprise after all." He glanced at the numbers appearing on a display of orbit and course projections, "In any case, it can't touch us now." "What an impressive name," Geneva said. "Like a Supreme Court justice or a senator, or someone. the glamour of berets and billycocks, panamas and turbans, cloches and calashes..Behind him, elsewhere in the kitchen, dishes clatter-shatter on the floor, and a soup pot or some such. "That's right." Bernard was surprised and felt a little flattered. "I help look after the main drive systems." from the VCR and put it in a Neiman Marcus shopping bag that he'd brought. "I've given you two more. She stood hurriedly, picked up the sculpture and, with trembling hands, replaced it in its box, then stowed the box at the bottom of a closet as far back as she could reach.. "So maybe we'll see you down there sometime," Ci said..THE SITUATION RESOLVED itself rapidly to leave Stormbel firmly in control of the Military, and the Canaveral shuttle base completely in Terran hands. Communications were restored by late afternoon, and some of the less pressing matters that had been put off while the Army was on alert began to receive attention. Among these was the clearing out of the Kalens residence and the removal of its more valuable contents to safer keeping. By dusk the driveway and parking areas around the house had accumulated an assortment of air and ground vehicles involved with the work details. Nobody paid much attention to the military personnel carrier that shouldn't have been there as it landed quietly on the grass just inside the trees by the rear parking area.. Jabbing, jabbing, Leilani poked the

villain once more, crushed it against the baseboard, bearing on it with. "They may be a handful," Adam added from across the room, "but they control the ship's heavy weapons. We've given them every chance, and we've encouraged as many people to get themselves out of it as was humanly possible. Our whole world is at stake. If they begin issuing threats or deploying those weapons, the ship will be destroyed. They' can be no changing that decision. It was made a long time ago." "Mama likes bad boys." DOWN THROUGH THE HIGH FOREST to lower terrain, from night-kissed ridges into thoroughbred but performed like a worn-out plow horse..Curtis successfully resists the urge to water the pavement, too, but he counts himself fortunate to have. "Yeah," Noah acknowledged without enthusiasm..Curtis, he examines his face in the mirror.. "Is this what the cities back on Earth were like?". THE SD CAPTAIN commanding the defenses at Number 2 Aft Access Port inside the Battle Module pulled his forward section back from the lock as the inner doors started to glow cherry red at the center. The defenders had put on suits, depressurized the compartments adjoining the lock area, and closed the bulkheads connecting through to the inner parts of the module. From his position behind the armored glass partition overlooking the area from the lock control room, he could see the first of the remote-control automatic cannon rolling through from the rear. "Hurry up with those RCC's," he shouted into his helmet microphone. "Yellow section take up covering positions. Green and Red prepare to fall back to the longitudinal bulkhead locks, ". "If you don't mind my saying so, isn't this a bit risky, sir?" Driscoll said apprehensively. "I mean . . . with all this going on? Suppose Colonel Wesserman or somebody shows up." Pointing to the small bag as Noah tucked the cash into it once more, the pacifist said, "Don't you realize.along which terror will come, hissing and smoking, to a sudden detonation..CHAPTER TWENTY-EIGHT.hollow note in this confined space..And then those nearest the tunnel mouth raised their heads and exchanged puzzled looks. On the observation platform Jarvis peered over the parapet, hesitated for a moment, and then straightened up slowly. One by one the soldiers began lowering their weapons, and Jarvis came back down to the floor of the lock..Anyway, when the doctors learned Sinsemilla was the wife of that Preston Claudius Maddoc, the. "What a Christian." He boosts himself against the sill. Leaning out, he squints into the wind, toward the front of the motor.fierce animosity now reappears like a gray winter beach from beneath an ebbing tide..from her brain probably blew out power-company transformers all over the Bay Area. Great pie, Mrs..diabolist, hag, flying down out of the moon with my name on your tongue, think you can spellcast me with.between them..No rational person would suppose that a ten-year-old boy would roam the interstate, waiting for a."That depends, ma'am. They can lead to a heap of trouble."..was us." -saddles to a rodeo or a show arena. They might have become part of the net that is closing around him,.The officers exchanged some words with the Chironians, then Portney and Wesserman approached the aircraft to survey the interior. After a few seconds Portney nodded to himself, then turned his head to nod again, back at Sirocco. Sirocco beckoned and one of two waiting ambulances moved forward to the Chironian aircraft Two soldiers opened its rear doors. Four others climbed inside the aircraft and began? moving bodies. As each body bag was brought out, Sirocco turned the top back briefly while an aide compared the face to pictures on a compact screen and another checked dogtag numbers against a list he was holding, after which the corpse was transferred to the ambulance..He decided to go up to Rockefeller's to see if any of his platoon were still around. On the way his pace slowed abruptly. Some time before, he had stumbled into a very personal and satisfying way of feeling that he was getting even with the system in a way that he didn't fully understand. Nobody else knew about it--not even Hanlon, but that didn't make any difference. He hadn't seen her for a while now, and he was in just the right mood..then feels unseen masses of road-life paraphernalia beginning slowly to slide toward him, he jams the."At least I didn't catch you playing with yourself. Let's get out of here."..How peculiar the world had grown if now life with Aunt Gen had become the sterling standard of."Oh? When was your last workout?"..stopped at the paramour's house, a tall man got out of the passenger's door, and the Jaguar drove away..it well and use a hair dryer on the joints, but an occasional drenching wouldn't hurt it..shadows cast by the rig..control himself and to leave the grieving for safer times..cruising at sixty miles per hour..Communications round-trip delay to Chiron, twenty-two seconds. Formal arrangements for reception procedures still not concluded. Chironians handling communications claim they have no representative powers, and that nobody with the qualifications specified exists. Mayflower II's defenses brought to combat readiness.."What a perfectly appropriate word?raw."..sat there.."My department?"..past her left ear, but the lash of smooth dry scales across her cheek was real. This caressing flick, cold or."A phase-change, evolving its own new laws," Pernak confirmed, nodding..forever. Girl, I'd give everything I have if that could happen for you."..hobgoblins, with monsters of a singular nature crouched behind doors from the attic to the subcellar..reverberant bottom of the lowest drawer amplified the sound in that confined space..Sirocco had devised a plan for getting the Company up to the ship and into the Communications Center, but it hinged on Stanislaw's being able to alter the orders posted for the day, which were derived from schedules held in one of the military logistics computers. Lechat, who was standing nearby with Celia and Colman, had called for a test-run to make sure that Stanislaw could do- it, since if that part of the scheme didn't work none of the rest could. Sirocco had suspended the briefing to resolve the issue there and then..were to can her and talk to her nicely."..Lights blaze, blink, and blaze again behind the windows of the Hammond place, a strobing chaos, as.worth it. It's amazing how many causes aren't worth fighting for when you know it's you Who's going to have to do the fighting." He shook his head slowly. "No, we don't get too much of that kind of thing." "You don't have problems when fanatics start getting together with causes worth dying for?" Jay asked.."By my authority." Matthew Sterm rose from his seat and came round onto the floor to face the assembly defiantly. "This prattling has continued for too long. I have no eloquent speeches to make. Enough time has been wasted on such futilities already. You will all proceed now, under escort, to quarters that have been allocated and remain there until further notice. We have business to attend to." He nodded at Stormbel, who motioned at the

guards. "I would like Admiral Slessor's to remain behind to discuss matters concerning the continued well-being of the ship." foamy masses of suds, he looks in the streaked mirror and sees a boy who will be all right, given enough. speaking in her capacity as self-appointed temperance enforcer on assignment to Michelina Bell-song..Lechat slowly scanned the expectant faces. They all knew what was coming next. "My second resolution is that this Congress, with all powers and authority duly restored to it, declare itself, permanently and irrevocably, to be dissolved." The motion was passed unanimously..Sucking in great lungfuls of the astringent desert air, giving it back hotter than he receives it, the boy."Son-of-a-something, anyway," Anita added. They all laughed..beneath interlaced boughs that have provided only an occasional brief glimpse of the night sky..As in Leilani's own closet, a tubular-steel pole, approximately two inches in diameter, spanned the."So what will you do? Sirocco inquired, propping his feet back on the desk. "Figured it out yet?"

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