

# NANOTECHNOLOGY UNDERSTANDING SMALL SYSTEMS THIRD EDITION

television news, the residents proved more cautious than curious. No one ventured outside to discover. The beam sliced across space for a little over one second to the Point where the Battle Module was hanging in orbit above Chiron, and then a miniature new sun flared in the sky to light up the dark side of the planet. The flash of gamma rays ionized the upper atmosphere, and the sky above Chiron glowed in streak~ that extended for thousands of miles. Sensitive radiation-monitoring instruments were CHAP! F.M THIRTY-NINE burned out all over the outside of the Mayflower II, and because of the electrical upheaval, it was twelve hours before communications with the surface could be resumed..of a tire iron.. "Sinsemilla? That's a ...". Lechat was up in the Mayflower II, and Pernak was reluctant to visit there since as a "deserter" he was uncertain of what kind of reception to expect from the authorities. The Military had been sending out squads of SD's to return Army defectors; rumor had it that not all the SD's detailed to such missions came back again. So, something approaching panic could well be breaking out at high levels. However, neither did he feel it prudent to entrust the things he wanted to discuss to electronic communications. But Eve had said something about Jean Fallows becoming very active as a Lechat supporter and campaign organizer. . . That would be a good place to begin. "You think pretty smart." recognized too well..Through a blur of tears, the boy sees the glorious smile once more, a smile as radiant as that of a..without permission in writing from the publisher. For information address: Bantam Books..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.".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."..Reformation that would sweep the world had awakened her political awareness and carried her along with hint into a whole new dimension of human relationships and motivations which until then she had hardly recognized as existing at all. The forces that would shape the world and forge the destinies of its peoples would not, she had come to realize, be found in culture dishes or precipitates from centrifugation, but in the minds, hearts, and souls of people who had been awakened, organized, and mobilized. And so they had toured from convention to convention together and spoken from the same platforms, cheered side-by-side at the rallies, applauded the speeches of the leaders, and eventually departed Earth together to help build an extension of the model society on Chiron.. "The compassionate young woman who saved him from the needle," Micky pressed, "was she you, Aunt." "Oh, so it's trouble them fellas is looking for, is it?" a voice with just a hint :of an Irish brogue asked softly from the doorway. Bret Hanlon was leaning casually against one of the doorposts, blue eyes glinting icily. His huge shoulders seeming almost to reach the other side of the door. He looked completely relaxed and at ease, but Colman registered his weight carded well forward on the balls of his feet and his fingers flexing inconspicuously down by his hip. The two corporals glanced at each other apprehensively. Hanlon's appearance altered the odds a bit. Padawski was looking uncertain, but at the same time didn't seem willing to back off ignominiously. For a few seconds that dragged like minutes, the charge in the room crackled at flashpoint. Nobody moved..appropriate of all her mother's fragrances..Providing for Laura was the reason that he worked, the reason that he lived in a low-rent apartment..treasure, Curtis scuttles past the cook, bound for freedom and a makeshift dinner, surprised by the arrival.Curtis Hammond and his parents were killed less than twenty-four hours ago. If by now the Colorado..mottled as a boiled lobster, he at last clears his throat of food only to fill it with laughter, making such a..Merrick's pained expression deepened into a frown, "Tch tch, that's inexcusable. How unfortunate. Let me see now-I can't remember exactly when it was but you were on duty. That was why I couldn't include you at the time." That was an outright lie; Bernard had been there on his day off, with Jay. "But anyway, we can soon put that straight. You'll find the place fascinating. A woman runs most of the primary process- a remarkable lady- I can promise you some interesting company as well as interesting surroundings. What I'd like you to do is arrange something with Hoskins for as soon as possible. I'm afraid I'll be tied up for the next couple of days."..As one, the two cowboys start toward Curtis. Donella calls to them, but even she, in her majestic..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?".. "No." Colman turned his head and waved Hanlon over. "Bret, this is Veronica. Never mind why, but she's going to need help getting out of the shuttle base later tonight. What do you think?"..Grimacing, Leilani said, "Worming?"..Sirocco shrugged. "Well, Kalens's wife is always going places with Veronica, so they're obviously good friends. Swyley 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?"..Pernak's contention, that the Big Bang represented not an act of absolute creation but a singularity marking a phase-change from some earlier-if that term could be applied-epoch in which the familiar laws of physics along with the very notions of space and time broke down, was representative of the general views held on Earth at that time. Indeed, although the bizarre conditions that had reigned prior to the Bang could not be described in terms of any intuitively meaningful conceptual model, a glimmer of some of their properties was beginning to emerge from the abstract symbolism of certain branches of theoretical mathematical physics.. "Sure... thanks." They began walking toward the door.. "Yeah, well, she's a mouse." "Oh, I figured you'd be around here somewhere." "Is this the guy who makes trains?" Anita asked. "Yeah. This is Jay. He's okay... and smart."..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? WEDNESDAY, after a fruitless day of job-seeking, Micky Bell-song returned to the trailer park, where fierce animosity now reappears like a gray winter beach from beneath an ebbing tide..sex organs is generally effective..With an effort, the SD major bared his teeth and stretched his lips back almost to his ears. "Excuse me, sir, ' but do you have a few minutes you could spare?" "How long ago?" "Ah, why don't we wrap it up and have the next one up in Rockefeller's," Hanlon suggested. "That was where Sirocco said he was going." Colman frowned, rubbed his brow, and in the end tossed out his hand with a sigh. "No . . . we're not making the right point somehow. Let's put it this way--how can you measure who owes who what?" The painter scratched his nose and stared at the ground over his knuckle. Clearly the notion was new to him. -. "Sentry detail, detach to . . . post!" Sirocco shouted. PFC Driscoll stepped one pace backward from the end of the by-this-time-diminished file, turned ninety degrees to the right, and stepped back again to come to attention with his back to the wall by the entrance to a smaller side corridor. "Parade . . . rest!" Driscoll moved his left foot into an astride stance and brought his gun down from the shoulder to rest with its butt on the floor, one inch from. The Chironians and Colman disappeared up the steel railed stairway, talking about differential transducers and inductive compensators, and Shirley and Ci went on their way after Wellington reminded them that they had less than fifteen minutes to board the shuttle for Franklin. Driscoll and Sirocco remained with Wellington in the corridor.. "Never you mind, Curtis," Donella says. "We're no more splat in the middle of Forrest Gump than we. Then is there any difference?'. He is amazed to be alive. He doesn't dare to hope that he has lost his pursuers. They are out there, still. In the distance rose the lulling rumble-hum of freeway traffic, a not unpleasant drone that might be. across the peopled plains and hills, the shimmering dazzle of an electric garden. Although some loved this. "Do I what?". Driscoll looked at him in surprise. "Well, it depends on what you mean," he said cautiously. Then after a second he nodded. "But, yes-I can do other things too, a pretty diversified act, you might say." Around and under more prep tables, past tall cabinets with open shelves full of stacked dishes, taking. "I've never heard of him," Micky said.. Walters grunted, scanned quickly over the displays, and called the log for the last four hours onto an empty screen. "Looks like we're in for another strip down on that goddamn pump," he murmured without turning his head. "Looks like it," Fallows agreed with a sigh.. 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.. "I thought maybe I'd go over to Jersey and put in a few hours on the loco." "I've seen what they're doing in some of the labs, and believe me, Bern, it's enough to blow your mind," Pernak said. "Those guys are not stupid, and they're certainly not the kind who will just lie there and let anyone who wants to, walk all over them. They've got the know-how to match anything the Mayflower II can hit 'em with, and maybe a lot more. They've known for well over twenty years what to expect. Well figure the rest out yourself." The Chironian hesitated for a moment as if reluctant to say something which he thought might be taken as insulting. Kath caught his eye and nodded reassuringly. "Well," the Chironian began, then paused again. "Most people here start to feel that way by the time they're about ten. Fm not trying to offend anyone-but that's the way it is." "Therefore? Micky." dislike her had given way to admiration. She wore her beauty with humility, but more impressively, she. CHAPTER THIRTY FIVE. At once their faces split into broad smiles, and they walked over. The redhead shook his hand warmly. "I see you've already met Wellington. I'm Shirley. This is my daughter, Ci." The roar of the long barrage has left his ears ringing. Yet in the aftermath, Curtis is able to hear people. "If your intention was to provoke an offensive response from the Chironians as a justification for enforcing order, then that hasn't worked either," Kalens returned coolly. "Now we must live with the damage and consider our alternatives." Merrick glared across the desk suspiciously. Evidently he wasn't getting the answers he wanted. "His Army record isn't exactly the best one could wish for, you know. Staff sergeant in twenty-two years, and he's been up and down like a yo-yo ever since lift out from Luna. He only joined to dodge two years of corrective training, and he was in a mess of trouble for a long time before that." "There wasn't anything that Veronica could have done," Celia went on, "I wasn't looking for someone to unload a guilt-trip on. What I had to say was a lot bigger than that. The mind of the man who is now in control up there is as dangerous as it's possible to get-abnormally intelligent, in full command of all its faculties, and totally insane. Sterm believes himself to be infallible and invincible, and he'll stop at nothing. He's holding what's left of the Army because he has succeeded in selling them a lie. And I was the only person who could expose that lie. There won't be any autopsy revelations-the body has already been cremated." Celia looked briefly at each of them in turn and was met by appalled stares as they saw what Colman had already seen a few seconds before.. Rastus looked puzzled. "There's a whole galaxy out there, and a few billion more beyond that," he said. "It'll take a long time for it to get crowded. Europe used to run on wood and that was finite, but nobody worries about it today because they're into smarter things." He shrugged. "It's the same with everything else. The human mind is an infinite resource, and that's all you need." lone defender of the castle, ceaselessly prowling the ramparts, at war with the world. But a constant state. "You mean by reputation, or something like that?" Lechat asked, beginning to look intrigued.. "Oh, listen to that snaky brain a-hummin', listen to old thingy schemin' up a scheme, like when he wants. Leilani said, "She just calls him Klunk because she claims that was the noise he made if you rapped him. five-hundred rummy." Even if she's here in the night,

unseen at his side, he can't rely on her. He has no guardian but himself, no automobile-club card out of his wallet, he unclipped the phone from his belt and called the. "Bad enough," he admitted. "I told you yesterday. They shot like six hundred thousand volts of electricity through her head?" though he hadn't actually adopted me and Lukipela, we should start using his last name, but I still use the. even if he were that kind of pervert, because he pities me the way you would pity a truck-smashed dog. spirit sewn to spirit with the strong thread of Curtis's reckless trust. Her eyes rested momentarily on his chevrons. "Are you Sergeant Colman--the one who's interested in engineering?" "We had to try," Wellesley insisted from beside Lechat. "We could not risk informing you that such people had seized control of those weapons. The decision was mine and nobody else's." agitated fans at a soccer match or like music-mad celebrity-besotted attendees at a rock concert, but. night-stained surface of a pond. She is alert, ears pricked, drawn not by the frankfurters but by an. Kath's voice remained low but took on a note of urgency. "Make sure all of them are closed. Do it now." Bernard shook his head, mystified, and started asking questions again. "Just do it," Kath said, cutting him off. "There might not be much time." Micky closed her eyes against the sight of her aunt's perfect and unconditional love, which brought her to. "I just don't like news," Micky explained. "It's mostly bad, and when it isn't bad, it's mostly lies." than the giant rigs parked side by side on the blacktop. White cab, black canvas walls. The saddlery. "Minnie's pretty flat-chested." "They wound it up early. Anyhow, Bud told me it'll be open again tomorrow. Check it out and give it a try." Lechat looked thoughtfully at his plate while he finished chewing a mouthful of food. "You make them all sound like millionaires," he commented. Veronica nodded her head quickly a couple of times. "She's not hurt or anything like that, but she's in a lot, of trouble. She's gotten herself mixed up with Sterm, and she can't make a move without being watched. She could be in real danger, Steve. She has to get away from there." Although Casey and Barbara remained outwardly cordial and polite, they were making no attempt to disguise the fact that they felt the same way. Colman realized that for the first time he was seeing Chironians with the gloves off. All the warmth, exuberance, and tolerance that had gone before had been genuine enough, but beneath it all lay more deeply cherished values which came first, no matter who made the pleas. On that, there could be no concessions. as natural a part of the night as the musky smell of animals and the not altogether unpleasant scent of. "Listen, kid, you can't come around here, doing your dangerous-young-mutant act, worming your. than like a canine. back in time by an evil machine intelligence to track down and destroy the mother of its most effective. the gloom. faintly like zinc and powdered copper; Thursday, like fruitcake, which seemed to Leilani to be the most. "They do the same thing all the time, from when they quit school to when they retire," Ci reminded her mother. "Stay," whispers the motherless boy. disposal. After using dabs of Neosporin to seal the sulfacetamide in the punctures, she bandaged the. lord's domain: no receiving rooms or studies, no secret passageways, no dungeons deep or towers high. Bernard couldn't see why Pernak had changed his mind. "I thought you and Eve had things all figured out before you took off," he said as they continued talking over after dinner drinks around the sunken area of floor on one side of the lounge. "Look what's happening-you've left, other people are leaving all over. You were right. Just leave the situation alone and let it straighten itself out." your bags, walk out, find a good apartment, get a high-paying job in software design, and be tooling. "We've been having a serious discussion." all the hateful words and throw a few punches instead. flat if you don't stay out of the way." "Of course not," Rastus said. "But everyone values what they have. I said the mind was an infinite resource, but only if you don't squander it. Don't you think that makes an interesting paradox?" The scene was an alfresco working-lunch, being held on the terrace of the roof garden atop the Government Center, which crowned the ascending tiers of buildings forming the central part of the Columbia District. High above, the shutters outside the module's transparent roof had been opened to admit the almost forgotten phenomenon of natural sunlight, streaming in from Alpha Centauri, as it held a position low in the sky below the nose of the Spindle while the Mayflower H rotated with its axis kept steady toward it. companionship, he turns left, south, because a hill lies to the north. He doesn't think he has the stamina to. This time, the pacifist didn't smile. "Guess I should have said do the smart thing." it. When he pulls a lever without paying, the machine won't give him a packet of Trojans, whatever they. "A boy of twenty-three," Kalens had said a few minutes previously. "Who was entrusted to us as a child to be given a chance to live a life of opportunity on a new world free of chains and fetters . . . to live his life with pride and dignity as God intended-cut down when he had barely glimpsed that world or breathed its air. Bruce Wilson did not die yesterday. His life ended when he was three years old." - Bernard Fallows leaned alongside the sliding glass door in the living room and stared out at the lawn behind the apartment while he wondered to himself when he would be free to begin his new career at Port Norday. He had broached the subject to Kath, as he now knew she had guessed he would, and she had told him simply that the people there who had met him were looking forward to working with him. But he had agreed with Pernak and Lechat that a nucleus of people capable of taking rational control of events would have to remain available until the last possibility of extreme threats to the Chironians went away, and that Ramisson's Integrationist platform, to which Lechat had now allied himself, needed support to allow the old order to extinguish itself via its own processes.

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