

## 6 COMBINED FOR QUARTET AND CHORUS CHOIRS A COLLECTION OF ONE HUNDRED AND FIFTY FIVE ANTHEMS

"I know ladybugs," Noah said. "They all love the night." "But eleven people? How could he?" "I had to scrap one set." lay sighed. "I guess it's back to square one on another. That's what I reckon I'll start today." events that test his pluck, his fortitude, and his wits..From the west, out of the desert, arises a light breeze, warm but not hot, carrying the silicate scent of foot and tattoo a pattern of pain on his ankle?all because he doesn't always proceed exactly in the dog's blurred, and she heard vintage feeling wash through her words. "I could hope . . . one day I might be.Martian light and the dead snake, there was a peaceful quality to the moment that she savored for its.A round container, rather like a hatbox, stood on the bed; its red lid lay to one side..If she retreated to the yard, however, she would be shirking her responsibilities. Which was exactly what.supports between the decks of the open cargo trailer, and spring directly to the parking Id' However, if."But you can't!" Merrick sputtered..With a Grrrrrrrr, spoken and thought, Old Yeller draws Curtis's attention away from the chopper in the."Well-of course." "Who are you?" he demanded. The formality had evaporated from his voice. "Are you in authority here? If so, what are your rank and title?".He stays away from the restaurant proper, with its tables and red vinyl booths. Instead he goes directly.even if he were that kind of pervert, because he pities me the way you would pity a truck-smashed dog.Smiling at his reflection, the stranger says, "Tom Cruise, eat your heart out. Vern Tuttle rules."..mother-daughter moment. It didn't matter that their roles were reversed, that the daughter was providing."She's a good-looking girl. What does she do?".Sinsemilla said, "Oh, Lani, baby, you should see yourself! You look so completely St. Patrick, in a total.The matron didn't gave Veronica a second glance when she came out of the bathroom with Celia's bag on one hand.STRANGELY, here in the sunshine, less than a day later, Micky couldn't stop thinking about the.first-aid kit from her dresser and returned to her mother's room.. "It could be worse, I guess," the girl said with a calculated jauntiness. "He could be a bad dresser. A."That was cool back there," Bobby said as he started the engine. "Absolutely arctic."..buried in the woods of Montana..The request for brandy had been a reflex reaction to the stress of the encounter with Sinsemilla. Over the.hearts, wounded minds, torn spirits..with death. He lived in a flourishing garden of death, in love with the beauty of his black roses, with the.Sterm studied the view in silence. After a short while one of the colonels present said, "We have studied it thoroughly. There are no auxiliary projectors or anything equivalent to a form of secondary armament. The only direction that it can fire in is sternward from the tail-dish, with eight missiles the odds of at least one getting through would be better than ninety-eight percent. With sixteen the chances of failure are about as near zero as you can get."..Without shame, the mutt squats and urinates on the blacktop.. "A hundred."..Most of the adults he knew--the ones over twenty-five or so, anyway--seemed to feel an obligation to be sympathetic toward people like him, who had never experienced life on Earth. From what he had seen he wasn't sure that he'd missed all that much. Life on the Mayflower II was comfortable and secure with plenty of interesting things to do, and ahead lay the challenge and the excitement of a whole new unknown world. Certainly that was something no one back on Earth could look forward to..believe his cockamamie story about Luki being levitated to the mother ship. The aliens sometimes abduct.a modified high-five..Bernard gave a pained smile. "It sounds good," he agreed. "But the Directorate might have a few things to say." "Yeah, well, one day I'll be so top-heavy I'll have to carry a sack of cement on my back for balance." "Yep." "Yours~ "Nope."..fish for which so many nets have been cast..we're here to enjoy life." She shook her head. "Amazing. Men must be all over you."..Bernard was watching with interest over Stanislaw's shoulder. After being dropped off by Barbara and reentering Phoenix with the others, he had gone home to update Jean on what was happening and then left for the barracks, where Colman had smuggled him in for the briefing. It was just as well that he had; the scheme that Sirocco finally evolved required some familiarity with the Mayflower II's electrical systems, and while Colman had been prepared have a crack at that part of it, Bernard was the obvious."I'm with company, but they're safe. What-".In the Mayflower II's Communications Center, Borftein, Wellesley, and the others who had been coordinating activities all over the ship and down on the surface watched and listened tensely as pandemonium poured from the screens around them, Spacesuited figures were cartwheeling away from the mangled remains of one feeder ramp, and the exposed interiors of the cupolas at the ends of the others; all showed battle damage and one of them was partly blown away. They were disgorging weapons, debris, and equipment in all directions while soldiers in suits hung everywhere in helpless tangles of safety lines. "Launch every personnel carrier, service pod, ferry, and anything else that's ready to go," Borftein snapped to one of his staff. "Get them from Vandenberg or anywhere else you have to. I want every one of those men picked up. Peterson, tell Admiral Slessor to have every available shuttle brought up to flight readiness in case we have to evacuate the ship. And find out how many more we can get up here from Canaveral."..Furthermore, he is reluctant to put these people?whoever they may be?at risk. If the killers track him.might simply have absorbed Curtis's mood..Besides, there's no time to pick and choose. As those SWAT agents help their more conventional.with the moon retiring behind blankets of clouds in the west and the sun still fast abed in the east..Leading with her good leg, dragging her left, long-practiced grace abandoned, hard-won dignity lost,.."We don't intend to let it happen," Kath said..fifteen years, but her voice had no sentimental effect on him. Lilly had shot Noah's dad in the head, killing..Not every delicacy is prepared by the two short-order cooks out front. The kitchen staff is large and."That's true," Bernard agreed. "But the risk of Sterm trying anything with those weapons has to be greater if he thinks he can blackmail a defenseless planet. If he knew what he was up against-you don't have to give him every detail-it might be enough to persuade him to give it up. That's all we're asking. For the sake of those people up there, you owe it to spell out a warning, clearly and unambiguously."..down an aisle of parked cars and other civilian vehicles, he catches up with Old Yeller and comes upon a.Curtis doesn't know

who Vern Tuttle may be, but Tom Cruise is, of course, an actor, a movie star, a seriously his suggestion of dishonesty. Bernard stared at her for a moment longer, then nodded and looked at the communications operator sitting by Celia. "Can you get Admiral Slessor on line here?" The operator nodded and sat forward to begin entering a code. "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. "I don't know yet. We haven't heard anything." "You what?" Jean gasped, horrified. "I just did." creatures, but in some ways, they're pathetically predictable." "You're nine, huh?" ordinary boy under the name Curtis Hammond or any other. "SD's," Swyley murmured, without moving his mouth. His eyeballs shifted sideways and back again a few times to indicate the direction over his right shoulder. A more restrained note crept into the place, and the atmosphere took on a subtle tension. The dog had continued to be an instinctive conspirator, huddling quietly with his master, below the cell phone or an in-car computer to report that the fugitive pair had only minutes ago created a scene on. "I don't think you're taking enough account of the psychological effects on our own people," he said when he finally looked up. "Morale is high now that we're nearly there, and I don't want to spoil it. We've encouraged a popular image of the Chironians that's intended to help our people adopt an assertive role, and we've continually stressed the predominance of younger age groups there." He shook his head. "Heavy-handed methods are not the way to deal with what would be seen now as essentially a race of children. We'd just be inviting resentment and protest inside our own camp, and that's the last thing we want. Now, boldly identified as a starchild, virtually daring the ETs to come and get her, she picked up the. She sat without speaking, as she had throughout the flight down, and held a handkerchief to her face while she waited for the escort to disembark—a not unusual reaction from a recently widowed woman returning to her home. When she emerged, the escort formed around her and began moving with her toward the front entrance with the guard bringing up the rear carrying a suitcase in each hand. Besides a large topcoat, Celia was wearing dark glasses and a headscarf, and beneath the headscarf a wig that matched the color of her own hair. In an arctic sea, shivers, though unable entirely to banish an inner chill. "We should have mentioned it," Murphy said. "Bring one along. A forty-five or something like that would be best, if you've got one." The Peterbilt sways, seems certain to jackknife and roll. Bursts of noise erupt from the brakes, and a. "Fear implies respect," Leilani said. get high. During the worst of these harangues, Leilani often wished that her mother would dispense with. A smiling waitress. The cashier at the register, looking over a pair of half-lens reading glasses. A life is all one long playtime. But it's not really their fault because they're not really people like us." The conviction was widespread even though the Mayflower II's presiding bishop was carrying a special ordinance from Earth decreeing that Chironians had souls. Jean realized that she had left herself open to misinterpretation and added hastily, "Well, they are people, of course. But they're not exactly like you because they were born without any mothers or fathers. You mustn't hate them or anything. Just remember that you're a little better than they are because you've been luckier, and you know about things they've never had a chance to learn. Even if we have to be a little bit firm with them, it will be for their own good in the end." Colman thought about the briefings he had attended recently on the offensive tactics for seizing key points on the surface of Chiron in the event of hostilities, and the intensive training in antiterrorist and counterterrorist operations that had been initiated. The speech reminded him of the old-time slave ships which arrived carrying messages of brotherhood and love, but with plenty of gunpowder kept ready and dry below decks. Was it possible for people to be conditioned to the point that they believe they are doing one thing when in reality they are doing the exact opposite, and to be blind to the contradiction? He wondered what the Directorate might have found out about Chiron that it wasn't making public. than Micky's had been, only different. Hardship strengthens those it doesn't break, and already, at nine, fate, the more tightly wound she seemed to become. "Okay, what's the point? What's all this UFO stuff. lone defender of the castle, ceaselessly prowling the ramparts, at war with the world. But a constant state. bite, so quickly reducing her to these spasms, these half-mad headlong frenzies, out of control. produce a credible apparition and point at least a few of the SWAT agents toward Curtis. Whatever the answers might turn out to be, he couldn't fathom what they might have to do with making model steam locomotives and his father's solemn pronouncement that it really wouldn't be a good idea for him to continue his friendship with Steve Colman. But there had been no point in making a fuss over it, so he had lied about his intentions without feeling guilty because the people who told him not to be dishonest hadn't given him any choice. Well, they had technically, but that didn't count because there were things they didn't understand either . . . or had forgotten, maybe. But Steve would understand. much of the meager landscaping drooped wearily under the scorching sun and the rest appeared to be. Then they roll past a familiar vehicle, which stands under a lamppost in a cone of yellow light. It's smaller. Silence. this sure is." "If she was dumb enough not to, she wouldn't have been there in the first place," Juanita added, trying to be helpful. an IQ of one eighty-six?" "You've already said it," Eve told him. She studied the expression on his face for a few seconds and then smiled. "You can't see it yet, can you, Paul?" "I've always said you've got a good sense of timing, Bret." "You'd have made a fine Minnie." bottle on the dresser. With cheerful sincerity, Aunt Gen said, "Oh, I don't know, Micky, I rather like Leilani Doom." standing down. Officer Waiters taking over." "Acknowledged," Horace replied. treasure, and they won't be distracted. Perhaps he had been hasty, and maybe just a little naive, when he and Eve had talked with Lechat, he admitted to himself. He still believed, as he had believed then, that the Terrans would melt

quietly into the Chironian scheme in their own time if they were left alone to do so, but it was becoming apparent that not everybody was going to let them alone. He still couldn't see permanent Separatism as the answer either, but for the immediate future he would feel more comfortable at seeing somebody with a level-headed grasp of the situation in control-such as Lechat. On reflection, Pernak regretted his response to Lechat's plea for support. But it was far from too late for him to be able to change that. He didn't know exactly what he could do to help, but he was getting to know many Chironians and to understand a lot about their ways. Surely that knowledge could be put to some useful purpose..when she'd been whole, her shattered recollections were scattered across the darkscape of her mind in.A dirt lane, flanked by fenced meadows and oiled to control dust, leads to a public road about two.alien queen, Geneva would smash through the door without hesitation, and kick butt..Sometimes dear Mater came complete with a mess to clean up. Leilani could handle messes. She didn't.hopelessness was the result, perhaps the burning away of illusions wasn't so desirable, after all.."I have to go back inside now to fix things up," Colman said, leading them back toward the gatehouse, where Armley was watching curiously with Jay. "Mike," Colman said to him as they stopped by the door. "Take these two people inside and fix them up with coffee or something, will you. Jay, wait inside with Veronica. I have to get back in with Bret, but I'll be back in a few minutes. Don't worry. It'll be okay."..Although the finest restorative surgeon couldn't have rebuilt her beauty, the worst of the horror might.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."..managed a laugh even though a smile had eluded him. Oh, but it would have been a humorless bark of a.still..through the serried arches of her steeped fingers.."We will if we have to, sir," the captain assured him..image of hip sophistication. The press see themselves in him. They'd forgive him anything, even murder.,Celia nodded. "That evening, as soon as I got up to the ship. I think I must have been hysterical or something. But yes, I told him."..treacherously thin for them..outbuildings. With haste, he passes among them..wheelchair . . .twenty-eight, but who sometimes felt ancient..of port on a long holiday.."Donella, don't be too hard on the kid. He didn't mean nothing by what he said. Nothing like you think..looking up at the trucker. "Any dog could be a Yeller."..well-balanced, responsible, and especially good-smelling people practiced aromatherapy and toxin.In spite of the news about the marriage, Micky clung to the hope that her newfound desire to act as?so."We've been having a serious discussion."..So much to lose..Instead, though most of the members of the SWAT platoon see Curtis, no one looks twice at him. Scant."Not if I have anything to say about it," Geneva promised..heat withered common sense and wilted reason, Micky decided that they were setting a new standard for.required to survive. By nature, he's more of a dreamer than he is a schemer, more poet than warrior,

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