

Summary - Beyond the Windward Sea

Chapter 1 - Are We Alone?

Three intersexual Taupoians compete for each other's favors while the Taupoian starship Sunrise is on a "taupaforming" mission to prepare a planet for colonization. The mission is abandoned when the Sunrise is called home to provide security and other assistance after an alien disease infects the home planet.

Chapter 2 - The Great Dying

On the planet, Taupoi, Brittany Fawddom, promotes the abandonment of space travel, supposedly because of the possibility that deadly alien diseases will eventually be brought back. Then she infects Taupoians with an "alien virus" (actually a genetically modified native virus) and encourages rioters destroy space-related industries while surreptitiously shielding her own from their attacks. After a coup to make her president, she is assassinated by her valet who, initially a sympathizer even though the virus has killed her own mother-prime, realizes that Fawddom's only goal is her own enrichment. The devastation caused by both the rioters and the virus results in exploration and colonization no longer being desirable or possible.

Chapter 3 - Use Discretion

When the Fawddomites scuttle the starship Sunrise, one of its shuttles, the Marcopo, escapes the fall into Taupoi's Southern Sea because it contains an experimental computer, "Marki." Marki lands the shuttle on a deserted island, but, because of the Fawddomite coup and the counter-coup, her distress messages go unheard and unanswered. Marki goes into sleep-mode, leaving only the transponder and minimal sensors on, while she awaits rescue. Years pass while the hull weathers, allowing water to corrode the interior and plants and animals to take over the shuttle. Some nine-hundred years later, Taupoians scavenging the scuttled starships find Marki and tell her that she is to be transferred to a new starship as the Taupoians return to the stars.

Chapter 4 - Something Wicked

A raptor starship from the Black Fleet survives the great explosion but crash lands on an unknown planet. The damage to the spaceship permits the heavy rains to eventually destroy most equipment and supplies not already damaged in the crash. They find that their eggs are not hatching because of a lack of selenium in the local fauna. Although it was Captain Sivis' skill in piloting the damaged starship which saves most of the crew, his unprofessional behavior, resulting in the death of a Sergeant, creates dissension. To forestall any action against himself, he divides the surviving raptors into six groups and they set off in different directions, hoping to find someplace which is richer in selenium, but not before one of his dissenting lieutenants dies under mysterious circumstances. As Captain Sivis's group moves northward, he promotes his lover, Jullan,

rapidly until she is second in command. Jullan, however, drugs Sivis and leads the group away, leaving him to face a mysterious creature in the area.

Chapter 5 - The Meeks Shall Inherit

Ten years after the murder of Dr. Boretta Brom, a researcher at Taupoian Pharmaceuticals, another researcher, Annetta Pleshetta discovers her secret - a DNA sequence which will extend life at least ten-fold. Capturing the murderer allows the research to proceed.