

## COMING APART AT THE SEAMS RILEY OBRIEN CO 2

Dragonfly found the village witch taking maggots out of an infected cut on a sheep's rump. The witch's use-name was Rose, like a great many women of Way and other islands of the Hardic Archipelago. People who have a secret name that holds their power the way a diamond holds light may well like their public name to be ordinary, common, like other people's names..liquid hu-hu-hu-hu that made people call them laughing owls. She heard it with a mournful heart..Hemlock's rune, which had two meanings: the hemlock tree, and suffering..and Serriadh the peacemaker, and Elfarran of Solea, and Morred, the White Enchanter, the beloved.The air was darkening around them. The west was only a dull red line, the eastern sky was shadowy above the sea..Anieb's understanding was that lamp. Each step revealed the next step he must take, but he could.After a while, deliberately, he re-entered the trap of spell-bonds, went back to his old place, "I've been there." "In Havnor, years ago, I was in servitude. Those who freed me told me about a place where there.Hand, the community survived for centuries, maintaining a tenuous but vigorous network of.The Master of Iria of Westpool, Birch, didn't own the old house, but he did own the central and.and when his son was born, the mother said, "We could call him Chestnut, or Oak, maybe?" But the.She slid out of her clothes, the man's breeches and shirt that were all she had, and slipped naked.lands of the Inmost Sea. What he sought might be there. So he went as a weatherworker on the.All this took only two days, and all the time Early was looking and probing toward Endlane village, sending Hound there before him, sending his own presentment there to watch. When he knew where the man was he betook himself there very quickly, on eagle's wings; for Early was a great shape-changer, so fearless that he would take even dragon form..had come close enough to know that it was surrounded by imprisoning spells that would sting and.wizard, and so, thinking to earn her porridge, she did her best to repair the Otter's House,.the summoner's art goes straight to that. It's a wonderful thing to summon up the semblance and.He could speak his language only with her. And he had lost her, let her go. The double heart has no true speech. From now on he could talk only the language of duty: the getting and the spending, the outlay and the income, the profit and the loss..At first he was overwhelmed with fierce fantasies of power and revenge: he would free the slaves,.There was a long pause..island, and there was no island. Then there were some men from one of the great galleys. They said.died, fear lest he recall Anieb too vividly.."Oh, I know. It's beneath them."..looking at me like that? What's the matter with you? Nais!".The Patterner pushed four pebbles into a little curve on the sand and said, "I wish the."Well," Rose said, and dumped out the salt water on the bare dirt of the small front yard of her house, which, like most witches' houses, stood somewhat apart from the village. "Well," she said, straightening up and looking about vaguely as if for an answer, or a ewe, or a towel. "You have to know something about the power, see," she said at last, and looked at Dragonfly with one eye. Her other eye looked a little off to the side. Sometimes Dragonfly thought the cast was in Rose's left eye, sometimes it seemed to be in her right, but always one eye looked straight and the other watched something just out of sight, around the corner, elsewhere..morning sunlight; along an alley, among trees with pale pink leaves, walked three youths in shirts.clothes were soaked. He hunched his shoulders, turned about, and set off towards a wisp of chimney.Wathort. Maybe that man, too, had thought he could do no harm..places slaves worked or treasures were kept. Making those spells had been a different matter, a.the fishermen can't pay us." "You ought to go, Di," she said. "Just to find out."..being a musician."..So they sailed south in Hopeful, landing first at malodorous Geath, and then in the guise of peddlers working their way from one islet to the next among the mazy channels. Crow had stocked the boat with better wares than most householders of the Isles were used to seeing, and Tern offered them at fair prices, mostly in barter, since there was little money among the islanders. Their popularity ran ahead of them. It was known that they would trade for books, if the books were old and uncanny. But in the Isles all books were old and all uncanny, what there was of them..gigantic letters that flew above the sea of heads like rows of burning tightrope-walkers, the.them, but the door's so strong that if the Doorkeeper shuts it no spell could ever open it. And.Diamond expected to feel relieved, released, but found he felt rejected, ashamed..say. But you should know that leaving Roke may be even harder than coming to it. Prison within.balloon! I stood over him, astounded, unable even to mutter an apology. He picked himself up.."If you ask me to, I'll talk," the young man said, so earnest, so willing to deny his whole nature at Dulse's request that the wizard had to laugh..lifted my head I saw only a black void. Yet, strangely enough, at that moment its blind presence."A col," I answered. I lifted my cup, as if to examine it. This milk had no smell. I did not.followers in Awabath, the Holy City, fifty miles from Hupun. The priests of the Twin Gods were in.It was hard to be aware of her through the wizard's talk and the constant, half-conscious controlling spells that wove a darkness round him. But when Otter could do so, then it was not so much as if she was with him, as that she was him, or that he was her. He saw through her eyes. Her voice spoke in his mind, stronger and clearer than Gelluk's voice and spells. Through her eyes and mind he could see, and think. And he began to see that the wizard, completely certain of possessing him body and soul, was careless of the spells that bound Otter to his will. A bond is a connection. He-or Anieb within him-could follow the links of Gelluk's spells back into Gelluk's own mind..Men and women of the Hand had joined together on Roke a hundred or more years ago, forming a league of mages. Proud and secure in their powers, they had sought to teach others to band together in secret against the war makers and slave takers until they could rise openly against them. Women had always been leaders in the league, said Ember, and women, in the guise of salve sellers and net makers and such, had gone from Roke to other lands around the Inmost Sea, weaving a wide, fine net of resistance. Even now there were strands and knots of that net left. Medra had come on one of those traces first in Anieb's village, and had followed them since. But they had not led him here. Since the raid, Roke Island had isolated itself wholly, sealed itself inside powerful spells of protection woven and rewoven by the wise women of the island, and had no commerce

with any other people. "We can't save them," Ember said. "We couldn't save ourselves." .fell, because his left hip gave way with a pain that made him cry out aloud. After a while he.irreparable harm. Men and women and children had died because he was there. They had died in.his prey was in. He walked to it and flung the door open..his true name, by which he is remembered in islands far from Havnor..be afraid of him. She found that he had no memory at all of what had happened in the village, of.Medra stood silent. His face felt hot. He looked down. "I thought," he said, and stopped..placating, frightened voice, Rose said, "It came so ...".the Archipelago..uneasy in an ordinary-looking town on a sweet spring morning, but in such silence he must wonder."If a word can heal, a word can wound," the witch said. "If a hand can kill, a hand can cure. It's."Excuse me, Master," he said. "I have to think." .rained very hard all the night after, and when Hound thought he had found the boy's tracks, they."You have a gift for the business," Crow said. "You know where to look. Went straight to that.glistened in short dashes in the werelight..".You did?".And the old man railed on about the folly of the young and the evils of modern times..into the water, feeling the push and stir of the current all along her body. She had never swum in.buzzed. I followed suit. A tickling wind blew on my fingers, and when I withdrew them, they.while the dispute was at its brief height, Rose put her fife in her pocket and slipped away..flash of her eyes, and led on..vision to intention, from longing to planning. Veil was always cautious, warning of dangers. White-.work for us they'll kill you," he said. "Losen can't have fellows like you on the loose. You'd.There was always another meaning in the words of this lore. Perhaps the book was saying that there.Dragonfly rolled her head round on her neck, stretching till the vertebrae cracked, stretching out her long arms and legs restlessly. "Will you?" she said..cool, as if a mountain stream ran through them..The witch said nothing. She knew the girl was right. Once the Master of Iria said he would or.know out of you just with a word or two, and your wits with it. I've seen what old Whiteface."Then should we go to Gont?" said the Herbal, caught in Azver's passion. "Sparrowhawk is there."."He won't come here?". "I will," said Ivory, with a wink at Dragonfly. She, well disguised in dirt and a farmhand's old smock and leggings and a loathsome felt hat, did not wink back. She played her part even while they sat side by side dangling their legs over the tailgate, with six great half-tuns of wine jolting between them and the drowsy carter, and the drowsy summer hills and fields slipping slowly, slowly past. Ivory tried to tease her, but she only shook her head. Maybe she was scared by this wild scheme, now she was embarked on it. There was no telling. She was solemnly, heavily silent. I could be very bored by this woman, Ivory thought, if once I'd had her underneath me. That thought stirred him almost unbearably, but when he looked back at her, his thoughts died away before her massive, actual presence..Tarry came back with his band in an hour or so, ungrateful for the respite and much the worse for.But Heleth was shaking his head: "No," he said, "no time. Not your kind of thing." He was more and."Darkrose," he breathed in her ear, his secret name for her..face. She put her hand to the door and it opened, but not into an apartment; the floor moved softly.The wizard who called himself Gelluk and the pirate who called himself King Losen had worked.prentice to the Isle of the Wise, and soon enough they found a heavy trader bound for Wathort,.He shivered like a horse as he stood there, too tall for the herb-festooned rafters. He was very."The wizard let you visit home?".The early kings and queens of Enlad, among whose names are Lar Ashal, Dohun, Enashen, Timan, and.He planned, as soon as they took him out of his cell, to use the old Changers spell of self-.long, and not meeting his eyes. Like an animal, like a cat, she was, sizing him up but not."Oh, yes," Irioth said. "It was my fault." But she forgave; and the grey cat was pressed up."Oh, yes," he said, confused, and got up and limped back to the bedroom for his pouch. He brought her a piece of money, a little Enladian crownpiece of gold..shadowy sunrise land. Far ahead, bright in the first sunlight, he saw the curve of a high green.Elfarran. To pledge his troth he gave her a silver bracelet or arm ring, the treasure of his.counsel the king and take counsel together, using their arts to pursue goals they agreed were.he could tell her. He knew what she wanted to know and little by little he told it to her, and.that sweater had been and how little it had in common with the fingers of a woman. Beneath a.mind?".She sat on a while by the Thwilburn. She was troubled by what he had told her and by her thoughts."I'll know. How do you know what name to say, Rose? Does the water tell you?".Again he paused. All at once he looked straight at Otter, who froze in terror thinking the wizard had caught him watching his mind. Gelluk stared at him a while with that curious half-keen, half-unseeing gaze, smiling. "Little Medra!" he said, as if just discovering he was there. He patted Otter's shoulder. "I know you have the gift of finding what's hidden. Quite a great gift, were it suitably trained. Have no fear, my son. I know why you led my servants only to the little lode, playing and delaying. But now that I've come, you serve me, and have nothing to be afraid of. And there's no use trying to conceal anything from me, is there? The wise child loves his father and obeys him, and the father rewards him as he deserves." He leaned very close, as he liked to do, and said gently, confidentially, "I'm sure you can find the great lode.".Otter's shoulder. "I know you have the gift of finding what's hidden. Quite a great gift, were it.tub, and she went into her room while he had his bath on the hearth. When she came out it was all.put him on a ship for Roke. They thought maybe the Masters there could tame him."."When he passed me," she said in a low voice, "I saw a grave."."He had forced them to boil any water they used. Now he said, "If you eat that meat, in a year you'll begin to get dizzy. You'll end with the blind staggers and die as they do."."Otter had seen, with bluish eyes. Grey and black hairs curled here and there on his chin and.out inquiries, in the ways we have of doing so, but nothing and nobody replied. So we set off.could stab her with..ship in port, and none has come into Thwil Bay since the one that brought you, lady, and sailed.he could. Another, the old Stormcloud, used to be Losen's own ship, came in while I was there. I.him. Gelluk was powerful, masterful, strange, yet he had set him free. For the first time in weeks.IV. Irian."Get back, you black-hearted bitch!" she yelled. "Home, you crawling traitor!" And the dogs fell silent and went sidling back to the house with their tails down..".Keep me?" she repeated. "You didn't seem to worry about losing me all winter. What made you come.knelt by the loud-running water, but an otter slipped into it and was gone..In Endlane and the villages round the foot of Onn on Havnor,

women spinning and weaving sing a. His voice had become very soft, very dark..to the palace, just to hear the news, and what do I see? I see old King Pirate standing on his fought, "talon and fire and word and sword," until..village lane up the hill, a pack of scrawny, evil-mouthed dogs came pelting and bellowing down at.A good sign, thunder, Dulse thought. It would stop raining soon. He pulled up his hood and went out into the rain to feed the chickens..increase his soldiery and the fleets he sent out to take slaves and plunder from other lands. As..probably puts some brake on linguistic drift in daily speech), while the Hardic runes, like.Lands, a governing caste was established early, and most of the great islands and cities are ruled."No," he said, taking no offense, perhaps not understanding, "Of course it wasn't. I beg your pardon," she said..the impression you wanted to ask about something else. . . ?".and yet slower, but they walked on. There was no sound but the sound of the rain falling from the.the shipwreck and the long night flight, and the grey beach led him only to the feet of sheer.I paced the room. She followed me with her eyes, as if I were. . . as if she stood in a cage..smoke he saw far down the shore. Behind him were the tracks of an otter's four feet coming up from.Winter Carol for the Lord of the Western Land, who was visiting his domain in the hills above.Though he seldom left the city, Early prided himself on his knowledge of all the Archipelago,.Otter stood motionless, effaced, as Anieb had stood in the room in the tower..never lasted. He teased her about it. Finding her strewing pennyroyal and miller's-bane in the.OTTER WAS THE SON of a boatwright who worked in the shipyards of Havnor Great Port. His mother."Pretty good, pretty good," his father said. "Keep practicing." And he went on. He was not sure."So the vulgar call it, or quicksilver, or the water of weight. But those who serve him call him.He was fortunate in having met a farm heifer, not one of the roaming cattle who would only have led him deeper into the marshes. His Ulla was given to jumping fences, but after she had wandered a while she would begin to have fond thoughts of the cow barn and the mother from whom she still stole a mouthful of milk sometimes; and now she willingly took the traveler home. She walked, slow but purposeful, down one of the tracks, and he went with her, a hand on her hip when the way was wide enough. When she waded a knee-deep stream, he held on to her tail. She scrambled up the low, muddy bank and flicked her tail loose, but she waited for him to scramble even more awkwardly after her. Then she plodded gently on. He pressed against her flank and clung to her, for the stream had chilled him to the bone, and he was shivering..below them. "I'll go in, try to keep things from sliding around, eh? I'll find out when I'm doing.Queen Heru, called the Eagle, inherited the throne from her father, Denggemal of the House of Ilien. Her consort Aiman was of the House of Morred. When she had ruled thirty years she gave the crown to their son Maharion..grandmother's house in End-lane, talking with his mother and sister, just before the door was.in hiding, under the newer, institutional religions of the Twin Gods and the Godking.

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