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"Everything's perilous," Dragonfly said, gazing now through the sheep, the hill, the trees, into. When he came home he had a three-year-old daughter with him. He turned her over to the housekeeper. There were other people on the hill, he saw now, many others, men and women, children, living and spirits of the dead; many, many of them. He was terrified of them and cowered, trying to make a spell that would hide him from them all. I put out my cigarette. Otter's shoulder. "I know you have the gift of finding what's hidden. Quite a great gift, were it. that tell the story of those years. foreleg. Her hands came away covered with blood-streaked horse sweat. "There, there," she said. remembering her father, but the motion of the leaves and shadows drew it on. She saw him drunk. Dragonfly stopped too. She said after a moment, "I'm sorry. But I feel like - I feel like you betrayed me." Crafty men used weather as a weapon, sending hail to blight an enemy's crops or a gale to sink his. Away from the lanterns of the party it was dark, but she knew the way in the dark. He was there. The willows had grown, these two years. There was only a little space to sit among the green shoots and the long, falling leaves. made no objection. She turned her long, creamy-white nose and beautiful eyes to look at her rider. bright-colored plastic, advertised, sold, broken, junked, replaceable, interchangeable. "I do not know my other name," she said. She spoke as he had spoken, as she had spoken to the. who had been with him, Hound could not track: could not say whether he was under that hill with. Her companion pulled at her arm, was saying something to calm her. What was the meaning of. nearby. He did not know what Ember wanted of him; he hoped she meant to teach him, to begin to. "Should I speak to him?" Gift asked in a steady voice. black machines. I took these for cars. But when the two nearest me emerged and, before I had. better. He knew that magic itself resists untruth. Conjuring, sleight of hand, and false commerce. Sunreturn and the Long Dance, in the speaking and singing of the traditional songs and epics at. there maybe a room above the tavern? fulfilled. And in Havnor he set his crown on his own head. around them, a few lights glimmering, pulsing, so that they were encircled now by an orange. growing and the sparrows hopping, and now and then a hawk far up in the sky, and the wind moving. whispered. me now? harshly, and Diamond stiffened up a bit. "What does that mean, 'really'? Biologically I'm forty, but by Earth clocks, one hundred. chanting, weatherworking). A student who showed a gift for sorcery and was sent to Roke for. The password, yes. But I can teach it to you. her eyes only. She spat into the fire, wiped her sore mouth with her hand, and stood motionless. Medra took her hand and put his forehead against it. Telling his story he had kept back tears. He could not do so now. the sea turned thick too, so that the oarsmen could barely push the oars through it, and they were. Her voice was half-coaxing, half-savage. The True Runes used in the Archipelago embody words of the Speech of the Making. True Runes are not symbols only, but reifactors: they can be used to bring a thing or condition into being or bring about an event. To write such a rune is to act. The power of the action varies with the circumstances. Most of the True Runes are found only in ancient texts and lore-books, and used only by wizards trained in their use; but a good many of them, such as the symbol written on the door lintel to protect a house from fire, are in common use, familiar to unlearned people. wizards were as crude and false as Losen's title and rule. When he was one with the true element, or urgency, she felt that she was waiting. And that silent expectancy was deepest and clearest. The Patterner came forward and took her hands in his. His hands were warm, and she felt so mortally cold that she came close up against him for the warmth of his body. They stood so for a while, her face turned from him but their hands joined and their bodies pressed close. At last she broke free, straightening herself, pushing back her lank wet hair. Thank you," she said. "I was cold." struggled against it. A man of power had come to heal the cattle, another man of power. But a. Leashed like a dog, he walked along, sullen and shivering with sickness and rage. He stared around. in labor when her womb contracts. That was Ogion's thought, even as he said, "What did you mean, never seen wild swine in the wood, she saw their tracks here. For a moment she caught the scent of. So they talked, that long winter, and others talked with them. Slowly their talk turned from vision to intention, from longing to planning. Veil was always cautious, warning of dangers. White-haired Dune was so eager that Ember said he wanted to start teaching sorcery to every child in Thwil. Once Ember had come to believe that Roke's freedom lay in offering others freedom, she set her whole mind on how the women of the Hand might grow strong again. But her mind, formed by her long solitudes among the trees, always sought form and clarity, and she said, "How can we teach our art when we don't know what it is?" queens and kings of Earthsea," he thought, "and they are only the grass that grows on this hill." Havnor. He called her Hopeful. Not long after that he sailed her out of Thwil Bay, taking no. "He wanted me to go to Roke." THE KARGAD LANDS. little and opened. "Oh child, oh lamb," said Rush, taking her into her embrace; but though she hugged Rush, Dory did not bend. that he could come among them in a herd, instead of going to them one by one as they scattered out. Moon. He had understood the disguised language of the book to mean that in order to purify pure. I'll lock the house door. There's... there's been strangers about. You rest yourself. It's bitter. to do, to learn? What is she, that you ask this for her?" would have the boy call him Father. He recalled that he had intended to find out his true name. She had planted a young rowan from the Grove beside the fountain. They came to be sure it was thriving. The spring wind blew strong, seaward, off Roke Knoll, blowing the water of the fountain astray. Up on the slope of the Knoll they could see a little group of people: a circle of young students learning how to do tricks of illusion from the sorcerer Hega of O; Master Hand, they called him. The sparkweed, past flowering, cast its ashes on the wind. There were streaks of grey in Ember's hair. of feet. Suddenly the city vanished, and an enormous face, three meters high, came into view. "They said you should give me my name," said Dragonfly. "Father fell to raging. So that's that." Seven or eight years after Tehanu was published, I was asked to write a story set in Earthsea. A. news; suddenly the walkway took me into a lighted interior and came to an end. the village down there, when I've got my breath.

Listen. Don't fret. I haven't hunted you all. The ship's weatherworker came aboard just before they sailed, no Roke wizard but a weatherbeaten fellow in a worn sea-cloak. Ivory flourished his staff a little in greeting him. The sorcerer looked him up and down and said, "One man works weather on this ship. If it's not me, I'm off." Hardic. Kargish has diverged most widely in vocabulary and syntax from the Old Speech. Most of its impurities fester and run free from their sores. And then when they're burned clean at last they. The dark-eyed mage bowed his head at that, and said, "Very well," evidently with relief at accepting their judgment over his own. "Thorion has been much with the other Masters, and with the young men. Secret meetings, inner circles. Rumors, whispers. The younger students are frightened, and several have asked me or the Doorkeeper if they may go. And we'd let them go. But there's no ship in port, and none has come into Thwil Bay since the one that brought you, lady, and sailed again next day for Wathort. The Windkey keeps the Roke-wind against all. If the king himself should come, he could not land on Roke." Writing is said to have been invented by the Rune Masters, the first great wizards of the ship's captain beside him walked on several steps and turned to see Ogion talking to the air. made and put against the front wall of the house. He looked upstream at her, crouching motionless. "Oh, yes," Irioth said. "It was my fault." But she forgave; and the grey cat was pressed up against his thigh, dreaming. The cat's dreams came into his mind, in the low fields where he spoke with the animals, the dusky places. The cat leapt there, and then there was milk, and the deep soft thrilling. There was no fault, only the great innocence. No need for words. They would not find him here. He was not here to find. There was no need to speak any name. There was nobody but her, and the cat dreaming, and the fire flickering. He had come over the dead mountain on black roads, but here the streams ran slow among the pastures. Among the Kargs the power of magic appears to be very rare as a native gift, perhaps because it was neglected or actively suppressed by their society and government. Except as an evil to be dreaded and shunned, magic plays no recognized part in their society. This inability or refusal to practice magic puts the Kargs at a disadvantage with the Archipelagans in almost every respect, which may explain why they have generally held themselves aloof from trade or any kind of interchange, other than piratical raids and invasions of the nearer islands of the South Reach and around the Gontish Sea. The water shivered. He felt it first on his thighs, a lapping like the tickling touch of fur; then, marsh, in the cold, for days on end, and wore himself out. "the bucket. What do you do when you aren't working?" descends to airy caverns, the glimmer of branched silver in the walls; and as he went on, it was, without losing anything, without falsifying. I returned to the wall of trees. The blue of the, the eldest, the Doorkeeper, Segoy.... behind them emerged majestically slow, huge surfaces filled with people, like flying stations, choppy seas, but never a storm or a troublesome wind. They put off and took on cargo at ports on, what some boys learned in six or seven and many never learned at all, but to him it had been mere, prison shut. The spells were gone, but the people in the tower did not know it, working on under, the King sits, having returned after the healing of the Ring, in sign of healing. And in that, might be able to. I can feel it building up, can you?" Hound sniffed, sighed, and followed, trudging along unwillingly, while behind him in the village the flames died down, and children cried, and women shouted curses after the eagle. the moment I stood before them and was opening my mouth to speak, I saw that she was eating. In the time of the kings, mages gathered in the court of Enlad and later in the court of Havnor to. When (in the year 440, by Hardic count) Erreth-Akbe came to make peace between the Archipelago and. It isn't me. I still don't know who I am. I'm not Irian!" She fell silent abruptly, having spoken, from pain. It was all part of the great principle, perfectly clear once seen. He was sure he was. "If you ever tell it to anyone I'll kill you," Dragonfly said. bold, muddy-coated, with the sickness in it like a prickling, a tingling, a hotness in his hands, wizard, not in apparition but as a presence in his mind. "There's not much worth much in my life," she said, gazing down at the pavement. "All I know how to do is run the farm, and try to stand up and speak truth. But if I thought it was all tricks and lies even on Roke, I'd hate those men for fooling me, fooling us all. It can't be lies. Not all of it. The Archmage did go into the labyrinth among the Hoary Men and come back with the Ring of Peace. He did go into death with the young king, and defeat the spider mage, and come back. We know that on the word of the king himself. Even here, the harpers came to sing that song, and a teller came to tell it." "I can protect you here, and have done so. On Roke, of course, you'll be perfectly safe. The very. There are two entirely different kinds of writing in Earthsea: the True Runes and runic writing." "Come on then, my love," the young woman said, not to him. The mare followed her trustfully. They set off up the rough path round the hillside to an old stone and brick stableyard, empty of horses, inhabited only by nesting swallows that swooped about over the roofs calling their quick gossip. He stopped and felt the dirt under his feet. He was barefoot, as usual. When he was a student on Roke, he had worn shoes. But he had come back home to Gont, to Re Albi, with his wizard's staff, and kicked his shoes off. He stood still and felt the dust and rock of the cliff-top path under his feet, and the cliffs under that, and the roots of the island in the dark under that. In the dark under the waters all islands touched and were one. So his teacher Ard had said, and so his teachers on Roke had said. But this was his island, his rock, dust, dirt. His wizardry grew out of it. "My mastery is here," the boy had said, but it went deeper than mastery. That, perhaps, was something Dulse could teach him: what went deeper than mastery. What he had learned here, on Gont, before he ever went to Roke. "What, to send them back into death?" the Namer said, and the Patterner, "Who is to say what is, would have with him a force no mage could withstand. Had not even Morred been nearly brought down, Six to seven hundred years ago a sky-god religion began to spread across the islands, a. No. There had been a thunderclap, a while ago. This was not thunder. He had had this queer feeling, as pitiless as any wild animal, terrifying, unpredictable, yet intelligent, sometimes wiser than, any way. That night he had been in utter despair. But then Anieb had come into his mind: come of. "Memory, memory," Hemlock said. "Talent's no good without memory!" He was not harsh, but he was unyielding. Diamond had no idea what opinion Hemlock had of him, and guessed it to be pretty low. The wizard sometimes had him come with him to his work, mostly laying spells of safety on

ships and houses, purifying wells, and sitting on the councils of the city, seldom speaking but always listening. Another wizard, not Roke-trained but with the healer's gift, looked after the sick and dying of South Port. Hemlock was glad to let him do so. His own pleasure was in studying and, as far as Diamond could see, doing no magic at all. "Keep the Equilibrium, it's all in that," Hemlock said, and, "Knowledge, order, and control." Those words he said so often that they made a tune in Diamond's head and sang themselves over and over: knowledge, or-der, and contro-----.....When in 730 the first Archmage of Roke, Halkel of Way, excluded women from the school, among his Nine Masters only the Patterner and the Doorkeeper protested; they were overruled. For more than three centuries, no woman taught or studied at the school on Roke. During those centuries, wizardry was an honored art, conferring status and power, while witchery was an unclean and ignorant superstition, practiced by women, paid for by peasants..But beyond the rich and the lordly were those called the Men of Power: the wizards. Their power..".Stay.".He stood there for a while, bewildered. It seemed to him that it was not by his own act or.they blinked out, one by one..them the School sprawled grey and many-roofed on its lower hill. The grove of trees towered before.Golden chewed very slowly, his eyes on the table. Diamond had seen his father look like this when a forester reported an infestation in the chestnut groves, and when he found a mule-dealer had cheated him..".Keep an eye on him then, master," said the carter..The Herbal, and I too, judged the Summoner dead. We thought the breath he breathed was left from some spell of his own art that we did not understand, like the spell snakes know that keeps their heart beating long after they are dead. Though it seemed terrible to bury a breathing body, yet he was cold, and his blood did not run, and no soul was in him. That was more terrible. So we made ready to bury him. And then, by his grave, his eyes opened. He moved, and spoke. He said, "I have summoned myself again into life, to do what must be done."".There was a pause. He forgot that he had to answer in words. "I'd stay if I might," he said. "I'd.and from a metal-framed slot, as from a mailbox, slipped a piece of shiny paper folded in two. I..".Dragons have been seen flying above the Inmost Sea. Roke has no Archmage, and the islands no true-.along, and go with him: at least I would learn something. My platform lifted lightly, like the wing."I've walked on dirt for seventy-five years," Dulse had said. "A few more won't kill me!"..I found myself beneath the open sky. But the blackness of the night was kept at a great distance..Crow cocked his head..".He knows that, sister," Mead told her. "Didn't he tell us he was a ship carpenter? But it's a..".I'm looking for a bed for the night."..That was all right, for she had done the same for Otter's elder sister, and so his parents sent.hands, burned his tongue away when he tried to speak..high end, his father's house..corridor, bands, white as milk, flowing downward. The handrail of the escalator was soft, warm; I.gazed at the trinkets as if they were treasures. He let them gaze and finger all they would;".There is."..down the path. He had not been standing there until the other mage said 'Ah." Irian stared from.Dulse knew no transformation that was irrevocable, no spell that could not be unsaid, except the Word of Unbinding, which is spoken only once..came cooler air. I turned. The stewardess was standing by the partition wall, not touching it with.the blind blackness. When he moved, he whimpered; but he sat up. I have to live, he thought. I.did it told me. She talked about her son on Roke. Calling out to him to come, you know. But like.Sorcery was practiced by men-its only real distinction from witchery. Sorcerers trained one.him, stroke him, and he purred louder; behind him flashed another pair of eyes, another lion, no.,dying of South Port. Hemlock was glad to let him do so. His own pleasure was in studying and, as

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