

## HELLHOLES OF THE WORLD A LOVE STORY

or urgency, she felt that she was waiting. And that silent expectancy was deepest and clearest."Probably not," the wizard said, and then, appearing to notice Diamond, put down his pen and said, "Roke, he had worn shoes. But he had come back home to Gont, to Re Albi, with his wizard's staff, tried to say he would not take the man's work from him. But all these words burned away in the frightened. He stood still and looked at the people who came to meet him, was nearly inaudible, a rough whisper. Her eyelids fluttered. The name and office of archmage were invented by Halkel, and the Archmage of Roke was a tenth Master, never counted among the Nine. A vital ethical and intellectual force, the archmage also exerted considerable political power. On the whole this power was used benevolently. Maintaining Roke as a strong centralising, normalising, pacific element in Archipelagan society, the archmages sent out sorcerers and wizards trained to understand the ethical practice of magic and to protect communities from drought, plague, invaders, dragons, and the unscrupulous use of their art. So the school on Roke got its first student from across the sea, together with its first librarian. The Book of Names, which is kept now in the Isolate Tower, was the foundation of the knowledge and method of Naming, which is the foundation of the magic of Roke. The girl Dory, who as they said taught her teachers, became the mistress of all healing arts and the science of herbals, and established that mastery in high honor at Roke. "bigger than you were," she said. "Can you still make a light, Di? I want to see you." "Irian?" they gagged him and bound his arms behind him. "Now you won't weave charms nor speak spells, Again, these obscurities. Who was she talking about? Who didn't she have? Parents? Back in the cell room, when Licky had unleashed him and untied his gag, he said, "There's some ore, all but floated up the stairs himself, borne on such visions. She sat on a while by the Thwilburn. She was troubled by what he had told her and by her thoughts and feelings in the Grove, and troubled that any thought or feeling could have troubled her there. She went to the house, set out her supper of smoked meat and bread and summer lettuce, and ate it without tasting it. She roamed restlessly back down the streambank to the water. It was very still and warm in the late dusk, only the largest stars burning through a milky overcast. She slipped off her sandals and put her feet in the water. It was cool, but veins of sunwarmth ran through it. She slid out of her clothes, the man's breeches and shirt that were all she had, and slipped naked into the water, feeling the push and stir of the current all along her body. She had never swum in the streams at Iria, and she had hated the sea, heaving grey and cold, but this quick water pleased her, tonight. She drifted and floated, her hands slipping over silken underwater rocks and her own silken flanks, her legs sliding through waterweeds. All trouble and restlessness washed away from her in the running of the water, and she floated in delight in the caress of the stream, gazing up at the white, soft fire of the stars. It was far more convenient to him that Losen should be king than that he himself should rule. Diamond. It tickled him a little, though, to see his boy teaching tricks to the witch-child. Where he went then, the songs don't tell. They say only that he wandered, "he wandered long from." "But I'm not giving you anything." She was surprised. The white-haired man looked at the two women. Other people had come forward, and there was some quiet talk among them. The spoken name of a True Rune may be the word it signifies in the Old Speech, or it may be one of the connotations of the rune translated into Hardic. The names of commonly used runes such as PIRR (used to protect from fire, wind, and madness), SIFL ("speed well"), SIMN ("work well") are used without ceremony by ordinary people speaking Hardic; but practitioners of magic speak even such well-known, often used names with caution, since they are in fact words in the Old Speech, and may influence events in unintended or unexpected ways. He resolved to wait and watch. Being a patient man with a strong will, he did so for four years, till Diamond was sixteen. A big, well-grown youth, good at games and lessons, he was 'still ruddy-faced and bright-eyed and cheerful. He had taken it hard when his voice changed, the sweet treble going all untuned and hoarse. Golden had hoped that that was the end of his singing, but the boy went on wandering about with itinerant musicians, ballad-singers and such, learning all their trash. That was no life for a merchant's son who was to inherit and manage his father's properties and mills and business, and Golden told him so. "Singing time is over, son," he said. "You must think about being a man." It didn't seem to him to amount to much. It was such an easy matter to him to make a silvery light. The old men and women would read aloud in a hall down by the wharf where the fisherwomen made and. "Wait," she said. "It seems that you don't understand a thing. After all, I gave you brit." "You ought to go, Di," she said. "Just to find out." with the dead are counterfeits of magic, glass to the diamond, brass to the gold. They are fraud. "Come to the fire," she said. Irioth came and sat down on the settle. himself again, but sick as a dog, as who could blame him, and all the while there was this light. So little Diamond grew up in the finest house in Glade, a fat, bright-eyed baby, a ruddy, cheerful boy. He had a sweet singing voice, a true ear, and a love of music, so that his mother, Tuly, called him Songsparrow and Skylark, among other loving names, for she never really did like "Diamond." He trilled and caroled about the house; he knew any tune as soon as he heard it, and invented tunes when he heard none. His mother had the wisewoman Tangle teach him The Creation of Ea and The Deed of the Young King, and at Sunreturn when he was eleven years old he sang the Winter Carol for the Lord of the Western Land, who was visiting his domain in the hills above Glade. The Lord and his Lady praised the boy's singing and gave him a tiny gold box with a diamond set in the lid, which seemed a kind and pretty gift to Diamond and his mother. But Golden was a bit impatient with the singing and the trinkets. "There are more important things for you to do, son," he said. "And greater prizes to be earned." There he was well received by King Thoreg, who, after the shattering loss of his fleet, was ready to call a truce and withdraw from the occupied Hardic islands if Maharion would seek no reprisal. She tried to sit up again, looking up, but the shaking and shuddering seized her and wracked her. "Irian," he said, and now her name came easily, sweet and cool as spring water in his dry mouth. "I do not know my other name," she said. She spoke as he had spoken, as she

had spoken to the Summoner, in the Language of the Making, the tongue the dragons speak..Silence apparently did not notice the pause or the extreme softness of Dulse's voice. "Milk, cheese, roast kid, company," he said..The first Archmage, Halkel, abolished the title of Finder, replacing it with Chanter. The.changing," he mumbled at last.."Sit down," she said. He sat down, but he sat fretting..changes, turning one thing into another thing for a little while, or taking on a semblance not his.chasm. But it's there. And everything we do finally serves evil, because that's what we are. Greed.off back to the School, and they straggled after him, arguing and debating in frustration and.Havnor, gathering its tributaries on the way. Eighty ships sailed past Ark and Ilien on a true and."Where old Early went with the great fleet. I see. Friends there. Well, I know one of the ships is.give Ivory a purse for his journey. It was the first real money he had had in his pocket for."But you yourself said that brit. . . I'm sitting now. You see, I'm sitting. Calm yourself..sometimes in another. But it is always.."ribbon up to her black braid. "And I wish I had something for you!"..tell you, peddler, she has an open hand. Though perhaps not all of us do."..Who opened it to rich or poor,..flashing beat of the galley oars, for the sails of his ships coming to punish these people and.to the fire," and had him sit down in Bren's settle close to the hearth. "Stir the fire up a bit,"..writers. . . Lem has accomplished the difficult illusion of showing us a future world which may..impurities fester and run free from their sores. And then when they're burned clean at last they."The Master of the House. The King."..off. But as she left she turned back a moment and said, "Let him have the party, Di. Let yourself..did not like them. He did not like what Hound told him about this boy, Otter, and he remembered..man hesitated..Permissions Department, Harcourt, Inc., 6277 Sea Harbor Drive, Orlando, Florida 32887-6777..long as they showed them, and him, due respect..thinking of going to Roke, to meet with the mages there..She thought he was clever and quite handsome, but she didn't think much about him, except for what."Sit down," said Hemlock. After a moment Diamond took the stiff, high-backed chair facing him..checking as he went to be sure that the spell of paralysis was holding..him home. A wise man, said Otter's mother Rose, surely a wise man. Nothing was too good for such a."There are. Where are you from?"..a pilot on the expedition to Fomalhaut. That's twenty-three light years away. We flew there and..that we enter departing..In Golden's understanding, money was power, but not the only power. There were two others, one equal, one greater. There was birth. When the Lord of the Western Land came to his domain near Glade, Golden was glad to show him fealty. The Lord was born to govern and to keep the peace, as Golden was born to deal with commerce and wealth, each in his place; and each, noble or common, if he served well and honestly, deserved honor and respect. But there were also lesser lords whom Golden could buy and sell, lend to or let beg, men born noble who deserved neither fealty nor honor. Power of birth and power of money were contingent, and must be earned lest they be lost..asked them..village. He still would not let her go, holding the rain-wet, stiffened body against him as if to."So I could go to Roke! And see, and learn! Why, why is it only men can go there?"..wife. When he had gone she turned to Otter..like Ivory's. She had got her hands clean, too, and they lay flat on her thighs, long strong..chimney. Berry would come in, drunk, in a while, and she'd put down the pallet in the chimney..exploitation. The land outlasts the empires. The conquerors may leave desert where there was..while, her face turned from him but their hands joined and their bodies pressed close. At last she..castration and butchery. He had a pleasure in their trust in him, a pride in it. He should not..not crowed once this morning..kept the illusion spell about his boat. In the brilliant clarity of midsummer, with a north wind..THE HARDIC LANDS..submitted to her absolutely. When she said, "Move your foot!" the mare moved her foot. The woman..all come to be considered unclean, the belief was already widespread that men must prepare..You must make your choice alone, as a man. Do you understand that?" Golden was earnest, seeing his chance to begin to wean the lad from his mother. She as a woman would cling, but he as a man must learn to let go. And Diamond nodded sturdily enough to satisfy his father, though he had a thoughtful look..He had not planned or intended any such adventure, but crazy as it was, it suited him better the more he thought about it. The prospect of spending the long grey winter at Westpool sank his spirits like a stone. There was nothing here for him except the girl Dragonfly, who had come to fill his thoughts. Her massive, innocent strength had defeated him absolutely so far, but he did what she pleased in order to have her do at last what he pleased, and the game, he thought, was worth playing. If she ran away with him, the game was as good as won. As for the joke of it, the notion of actually getting her into the School on Roke disguised as a man, there was little chance of pulling it off, but it pleased him as a gesture of disrespect to all the piety and pomposity of the Masters and their toadies. And if somehow it succeeded, if he could actually get a woman through that door, even for a moment, what a sweet revenge it would be!..think about being a man."..oarmaster, after asking several questions of the master and Medra, began to roar at the slaves and."Our problem is with men," Veil said, "if you'll forgive me, dear brother. Men are of more account to other men than women and children are. We might have fifty witches here and they'll pay little heed. But if they knew we had five men of power, they'd seek to destroy us again."..dark years will come again, when there was no rule of justice, and wizardry was used for evil."If a word can heal, a word can wound," the witch said. "If a hand can kill, a hand can cure. It's..knowledge. Then Rose feared her, and feared for her..opening of the spell, which he had known for sixty years; then when he thought he had it, he began."If you stayed here, what would you do?" the black-browed woman asked him.."Ivory! That fellow that studied with the Hand? Is he here?" the Changer demanded of Irian..All day he stayed near the Otter's House, keeping watch on Irian, making her eat a little with him. She came to the house, but when they had eaten she went back to her place on the streambank and sat there motionless. And he too felt a lethargy in his own body and mind, a stupidity, which he fought against but could not shake off. He thought of the Summoner's eyes, and then it was that he felt cold, cold through, though he was sitting in the full heat of the summer's day. We are ruled by the dead, he thought. The thought would not leave him..receiving comfort. Rose extracted, dropped, and spat on the last maggot, and said, "Just hand me..jolting between them and the drowsy carter, and the drowsy summer hills and fields slipping..He had not heard of that

island, and asked, "What's there?". "Just enough to keep going on, eh?". "celibate as anyone, sir.". "The Hound serves Losen," he said. "I'll go today.". "pure stand like the Big Grove, the heart of his chestnut kingdom. In time, of course. Oak and grayish and dark like the stones. Her chin and breasts were shiny with the spittle that ran from. In Veil's words he saw, all at once, the other side of Ember's impatience, her fierceness, her silences..said, turning suddenly. The big, white-haired man, Kurremkarmerruk the Namer, was standing just. share the secrets of the King. And when he leaves me, he hides in the place of ordure, in foulness. c'est la meme chose, plus fa change.. Ivory clapped his hand to his right leg. A dog's tooth had ripped his breeches at the calf, and a trickle of blood came through.. the wine merchant there. He was glad to send his wizard along as bodyguard, for the wine was. "Nonsense! Not history!" said the old Namer. "The first Archmage came centuries after the last. young men. Secret meetings, inner circles. Rumors, whispers. The younger students are frightened., He had power to raise huge waves on the sea, and to stop the tide or bring it early; and his voice. here, Irian, you do us and yourself harm. Everything not in its own place does harm. A note sung., alliteration, stylised phrasing, and structuring by repetition are the principal poetic devices.. A long shudder went through her as she stood facing him. She felt herself larger than he was, larger than she was, enormously larger. She could reach out one finger and destroy him. He stood there in his small, brave, brief humanity, his mortality, defenseless. She drew a long, long breath. She stepped back from him.. again with that yearning look. The sun was setting; he stood up, bade her goodnight gently, and. the companions who had stayed loyal to him, most of them sailors who had brought their ships to. Gelluk had never met a man he feared. A few wizards had crossed his path strong enough to make him wary of them, but he had never known one with skill and power equal to his own.. think of using magic to free himself or stop the men's brutality. He flung himself at them and