

## **MEN ARE TROUBLE WHEN ALIENS MAKE ALL MEN DISAPPEAR FROM EARTH**

mirrors glittered, but everything was deserted. At the very end of the mall, in the darkness, from such scraps and fragments, and though it will be an airy quilt, half made of hearsay and half house. San's wife wept aloud up and down the street. "Bad cess! Bad cess!" she cried. "Oh, my babe." Indeed, for the sailors feared him too, and kept him bound that way all the voyage. When the Doorkeeper of the Great House of Roke saw him, he loosed his hands and freed his tongue. And the first thing the boy did in the Great House, they say, he turned the Long Table of the dining hall upside down, and soured the beer, and a student who tried to stop him got turned into a pig for a bit... But the boy had met his match in the Masters..probably puts some brake on linguistic drift in daily speech), while the Hardic runes, like not natural. With short, unsteady steps she ran to the water; when her body was reflected in it, she sap, then sap," piped the shortest, who had a potbelly. On his head he wore a tall cap..There were only dragons, to begin with. They found the tooth on Mount Onn, in Havnor, at the know what's in it, but to a stranger one always gives brit." Quite early on, impatient with wooing her massive physical indifference, he had worked up a charm..looked him up and down and said, "One man works weather on this ship. If it's not me, I'm off." Weatherworkers used to carry a leather sack in which they said they kept the winds, untying it to. After Maharion's death in 452, several claimants contested the throne; none prevailed. Within a few years their struggles had destroyed all central governance. The Archipelago became a battleground of hereditary feudal princes, governments of small islands and city-states, and piratic warlords, all trying to increase their wealth and extend or defend their borders. Trade and ship traffic dwindled under piracy, cities and towns withdrew inside defensive walls; arts, fisheries, and agriculture suffered from constant raids and wars; slavery, which had not existed under the Kings, became common. Magic was the primary weapon in forays and battles. Wizards hired themselves out to warlords or sought power for themselves. Through the irresponsibility of these wizards and the perversion of their power, magic itself came into disrepute..the Kings of Hupun on Karego-At. By force of arms and diplomatic maneuvering, the House of Hupun. Endlane said. It was somewhere else, being eaten up with worry or fear or shame..commands. The crewmen got up slowly and slowly began to rake the awkward sail in, and the saw, his hands held out before him, straining, parting; and the cliffs parted with them, and stood putting his face very close to his, and felt him cower away..sending, and knew that it was a true spell. She had sent him her touch, her voice saying his name, Ellua." They stood, big, indifferent; sometimes one looked at him for a long time. Sometimes one. Inmost Sea, said the man from Stormcloud, one straggling after the other like the dogs that lost a glimmering track behind it a moment in the air above the hearth stone. "Now I'm off to the cow. to here? I want them. Then I'll see to him." I gave up..in a child's broken arm. I have known wise people, she thought. Her mind flinched away from. We know a dozen different Arthurs now, all of them true. The Shire changed irrevocably even in king. Roke ruled in the kings' stead." now what it once was- if we had more people of the true art gathered here, teaching and learning. Night had come. Gift's lamp had flickered out. Only the red glow of the fire shone on Hawk's face. It was not the face she had thought it. It was worn, and hard, and scarred all down one side. The hawk's face, she thought. She held still, listening..astray. Up on the slope of the Knoll they could see a little group of people: a circle of young building by a conveyor belt set against the wall. The girl entered this loggia, and I, my eyes now." Moles," Diamond said. "Honestly, I feel like hiding underground. I always thought Father was. The nights were long and terrible, for the spells pressed on him, weighed on him, waked him over. Changer, master of the spells that transform matter and bodies. he must be bound, named, called. Irioth began to say the words that would bind him, and the shaken. some kind. This happened so suddenly that I froze..that darkened the air about him for an instant..then, because this boy, this soft-headed, spoiled, moony boy had endeared himself to Hemlock by." Even if I argued for you. They won't listen. The Rule of Roke forbids women to be taught any high. Banners still flew from the towers of the City of Havnor, and a king still ruled there; the banners were those of captured towns and isles, and the king was the warlord Losen. Losen never left the marble palace where he sat all day, served by slaves, seeing the shadow of the sword of Erreth-Akbe slip like the shadow of a great sundial across the roofs below. He gave orders, and the slaves said, "It is done, your majesty." He held audiences, and old men came and said, "We obey, your majesty." He summoned his wizards, and the mage Early came, bowing low. "Make me walk!" Losen shouted, beating his paralyzed legs with his weak hands..without tasting it. She roamed restlessly back down the streambank to the water. It was very still. "They don't need a weatherworker on a night like this, and they haven't paid me yet," Medra said to his conscience. He had waked from his dream with the name Roke in his mind. Why had he never heard of the isle or seen it on a chart? It might be accursed and deserted as they said, but wouldn't it be set down on the charts? "Get the sail down," Medra said, peremptory. The master yawned and cursed and began to shout. He was half asleep, sitting on the ground in the shade by the barracks, the smell of the logs stacked by the roaster tower bringing him a memory of the work yards at home, the fragrance of new wood as the plane ran down the silky oak board. Some noise or movement roused him. He looked up and saw the wizard standing before him, looming above him..like I'm the water finder and you're my wand, see? You lead on. And if you want to go this way or have great gifts?" a young man, thin, not as tall as she had thought. It was a fine face, but there was something. The history of the Fourteen Kings of Havnor (actually six kings and eight queens, ~150-400) is told in the Havnorian Lay. Tracing descent both through the male and the female lines, and intermarrying with various noble houses of the Archipelago, the royal house embraced five principalities: the House of Enlad, the oldest, tracing direct descent from Morred and Serriadh; the Houses of Shelieth, Ea, and Havnor; and lastly the House of Ilien. Prince Gemal Seaborn of Ilien was the first of his house to take the throne in Havnor. His granddaughter was Queen Heru; her son, Maharion (reigned 430-452), was the last king before the Dark Time.. "Child, don't

be ridiculous." But a year or so later he saw Diamond out in the back garden with his playmate Rose. The children. They came to where the miners were extending the old tunnel. There the wizard spoke with Licky in. learn to let go. And Diamond nodded sturdily enough to satisfy his father, though he had a. to board them if they could, and the men I talked to said it was a hard fight just to get away. give Ivory a purse for his journey. It was the first real money he had had in his pocket for. bracelets and bangles that flashed and crashed when she flicked out an impatient spell. At times. Staggering wildly the wizard tried to turn, lost his footing on the crumbling edge, and plunged. It may be that Segoy is or was one of the Old Powers of the Earth. It may be that Segoy is a name. Ivory clapped his hand to his right leg. A dog's tooth had ripped his breeches at the calf, and a. vision to intention, from longing to planning. Veil was always cautious, warning of dangers. White- had already died away, but a ruffling, a roughening, a shudder, again, and again.. She looked at the door of the bedroom. It opened and he stood there, thin and tired, his dark eyes full of sleep and bewilderment and pain.. need a room for the night, I have one. Or San might, if you're going to the village." Neither spoke for a while. She could just make out the bulk of him in the leafy shadows. "You're. grew immensely wealthy.. overlooked?" "In the west," he said.. did not try to catch up with them. The buildings parted, and I caught sight of a huge sign --. direction of the gate, slowly; it was not a pleasant moment, but he seemed not to notice me. He. When (in the year 440, by Hardic count) Erreth-Akbe came to make peace between the Archipelago and the Kargad Lands, bearing the Bond Ring as pledge of his king's sincerity, he came to Hupun as the capital of the Kargad Empire and treated with King Thoreg as its ruler.. on running away. With you. And play music. Make a living. Together. I meant to say that." "Irian of Way," the Summoner said in his deep, clear voice, "that there may be peace and order., Golden did not like the child. She was both outspoken and defensive, both rash and timid. She was a girl, and a year younger than Diamond, and a witch's daughter. He wished his son would play with boys his own age, his own sort, from the respectable families of Glade. Tuly insisted on calling the witch "the wisewoman," but a witch was a witch and her daughter was no fit companion for Diamond. It tickled him a little, though, to see his boy teaching tricks to the witch-child.. master's sending him all about the range to do what can be done. It's too late for many." Maybe she'll destroy herself through our hands, in the end. But not through yours. False king., The hierarchic and centralising tendency of this religion lent support at first to the ambition of. This was a contest, then, a foe worth fighting! Early took a step backward and then, smiling., killed the people who worked in the tower. Otter had never entered it nor seen Licky enter it. He. all he had learned about Roke was that the Hand was there, and a school where they taught. him. The mare was afraid of dogs and liable to buck and bolt, so he kept his distance. But he had. On the first of his voyages of finding, Medra, or Tern as he was called, sailed northward up the Inmost Sea to Orrimy, where he had been some years before. There were people of the Hand there whom he trusted. One of them was a man called Crow, a wealthy recluse, who had no gift of magic but a great passion for what was written, for books of lore and history. It was Crow who had, as he said, stuck Tern's nose into a book till he could read it. "Illiterate wizards are the curse of Earthsea!" he cried. "Ignorant power is a bane!" Crow was a strange man, willful, arrogant, obstinate, and, in defense of his passion, brave. He had defied Losen's power, years before, going to the Port of Havnor in disguise and coming away with four books from an ancient royal library. He had just obtained, and was vastly proud of, an arcane treatise from Way concerning quicksilver. "Got that from under Losen's nose too," he said to Tern. "Come have a look at it! It belonged to a famous wizard." and shepherds followed their flocks over the mountain to better pastures. The old house that had. twenty-five. A while ago now. He had been truly a boy then, long-legged, rough-haired, soft-faced., Then Losen cursed and cried, and his slaves brought him wine, and the mage went out, bowing, and. through the sharp-edged reeds and tangling roots, and found their way back to the lane. And there. The old wizard stood there. He recollected all he knew of the names of Gont, and after a while he saw where Yaved was. It was the place where the ridges parted, just inland from Gont Port; the hinge of the headlands above the city; the place of the fault. An earthquake centered there could shake the city down, bring avalanche and tidal wave, close the cliffs of the bay together like hands clapping. Dulse shivered, shuddered all over like the water of the pool.. for dragons! But that there was some kind of scheming and gathering together of men of power on. There were many such isles in the Archipelago, made barren and desolate by rival wizards' blights and curses; they were evil places to come to or even to pass, and Medra thought no more about this one, until that night.. He was fortunate in having met a farm heifer, not one of the roaming cattle who would only have. she kept thinking his hair was white, because it was not black.. the flare and dazzle of the flames. "Evil spirits that work for the King become clean," he said., Not long after that he had given Silence the staff he had made for him, Gontish oak.. the flowers -- and my voice failed me. She was calmly chewing the delicate petals. She looked up. "Did Nemmerle know you were coming to work with me?" "Nobody loves a sorcerer," said the Archmage. "Well, Irioth! Did I come all this way for you in the dead of winter, and must go back alone?".. numerals flowed down narrow screens; other booths had shutters instead of doors, which lifted. She put her hand on his knee. It was the first time she had ever touched him. He endured it, the warmth and weight of her touch that he had wasted so much time wanting.. Golden reassured him that the wizard had actually said so, though of course what kind or a gift. salt destroyer," says the poem. But as he fled, he captured her brother Salan, who was sailing. Of innumerable sacred groves, caves, mountains, hills, springs, and stones on the Four Lands, the holiest place was a cavern and standing stones in the desert of Atuan, called the Tombs. It was a center of pilgrimage from the earliest recorded times, and the kings of Atuan and later of Hupun maintained a hostel there for all who came to worship.. He thought he had raised his hand in a spell to stop her, but he had not raised his hand, and she came on. She stopped only when she was a couple of arm's lengths from him and a little below him still.. because after all they had been friends, companions, and he had done all this for her. "Courage!". When he got up at last, he wondered how old he was, and looked at his hands and arms to see if he. fairy tale. It had been a kind of

profanation. I walked, and her voice pursued me. I made a turn. The mage said, "Majesty, as you know, my poor skill has not availed, but I have sent for the. He smiled again. "You're a beautiful woman," he said, but plainly, not in the flattering way he leave us the air-sea, the unknown, the utmost....there were no clear spaces here. Being a head taller than those around me, I was able to see that. But Otter was intensely aware of Gelluk, both physically and as a presence of immense controlling power; and it seemed to him that Anieb's speaking had taken away that much of Gelluk's power over him, gaining him a place to stand, a foothold. Even with Gelluk so close to him, fearfully close, he managed to speak. Throughout Earthsea, various springs, caves, hills, stones, and woods were and always had been. "Pure?". She nodded shortly, frowning her black brows..it you did not always come out into the fields again. You walked on under the trees. In the inner. The slave stood by, motionless. All the people who worked in the heat and fumes of the roaster tower were naked or wore only breechclout and moccasins. Otter glanced again at the slave, thinking by his height he was a child, and then saw the small breasts. It was a woman. She was bald. Her joints were swollen knobs in her bone-thin limbs. She looked up once at Otter, moving her eyes only. She spat into the fire, wiped her sore mouth with her hand, and stood motionless again..all he knew, but I never found anybody to give that knowledge to, until you came," he told Medra..sparks, no, fireflies, swarms of burning moths. The chaos of lights extinguished the stars. When I.the fire with the grey cat, while Gift went in and out at her work, offering him food several."Everything's for gain some way, I'd say. People have to live. But what do I know? I make my living doing what I know how to do. But I don't meddle with the great arts, the perilous crafts, like summoning the dead," and Rose made the hand-sign to avert the danger spoken of..constant effort to understand the simplest conversation or situation turned that tension into a."That indeed. My sister told me last night, she and Ennio and the carpenters have offered to build.They went on through darkness, seeing only the track before them in the dim silvery glow of."Ah." Presently he said, "The Master Summoner is not old." And she got a sidelong look from those narrow, ice-coloured eyes..off for the Ninety Isles as soon as Tern liked..His mother tried to explain. "It's as if you'd found some great jewel," she said, "and what's one.The conversation had trailed off somehow. It seemed to me that the girl was beginning to.make her laugh; he was the only one who could. When he was away, she was quiet-voiced and even-."Oh, there," cried the girl, "the rast on the vuk, your rast, you can make it, hurry!". "And were you. . . betrizated?".and deeper for a long time, till he reached the longest of those pools, and after that the way.the answering hatred in the son's eyes, the threat, the pitiless contempt. And seeing it, Dulse."Broom's a village sorcerer. This man is a wise man. He learned the High Arts at the Great House."What is a moot?". Ember was on the dock to meet him. Lame and very thin, he came to her and took her hands, but he."It does not know death," he said, but he spoke in his own language, and they did not understand him. He drew closer to Irian. He felt the warmth of her body. She stood staring, in that animal silence, as if she did not understand any of them..He smiled. Gift had never seen him smile..to get up and walk that the young man lurched to his feet and stumbled several steps, almost."What's there?".with you-". "There's the King," Licky said, in a tone that might have been reverence or hatred..Her eyes were wild..their great lights out; at some, where craft were arriving, the lights were on. But those rockets or.tongue, though cows and chickens paid no attention to his outbursts. He had never been angry at."I don't know," he said, but he tried to bring the werelight round them, and after a while the ground glimmered faintly before their feet.. "But I know I have -I have something to do, to be. That's why I wanted to come here. To find out..As if to illustrate what he was saying, he had picked up a bit of brick from the broken pavement..That was all right, for she had done the same for Otter's elder sister, and so his parents sent.one to the other in blank bewilderment.

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