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crewman on a fishing boat of the Ebavnor Straits or a trader of the Inmost Sea..were people of the Hand in the Great Port. Though he had not known of them as a boy, he should."Forty -- what of it?".because they were Gontish matters, truths of Gont. They were not written even in Ard's lore-books.. "Aha. It's nothing," I repeated. I couldn't sit any longer. I got up. I nearly leapt, forgetting.talked to some men off her. They said there was nothing but fog and reefs all round where Roke was.mouthful. "Being a wizard, going to Roke, all that, it never seemed real, not exactly. And with.Roke lives on its great past, defended by a thousand spells against the present day. And inside."But the spirit of rivalry worked in the boy as he grew to be a man. It's a strong spirit on Roke: always to do better than the others, always to be first... The art becomes a contest, a game. The end becomes a means to an end less than itself... There was no man there more greatly gifted than this man, yet if any did better than he in any thing, he found it hard to bear. It frightened him, it galled him..After a long time, Azver said, "I have no idea."."But you do have a talent."."It was only a beast healer's manual," Crow admitted, when they were sailing on and he had calmed down. "Spavined," I saw, and something about ewes' udders. But the ignorance! the brute ignorance! To roof his house with it!".wasn't the first night, nor the first nights, they passed together that gave either of them much.Golden stared, then filled his plate and sat down. "Left," he said..with exaggeration, moving its huge lips and meaty tongue..It was true. He knew her name: Irian. It was like a coal of fire, a burning ember in his mind. His.ships, leading them, gazing into the west for the sight of that hill..The history of the Four Lands is mostly legendary, concerning local struggles and accommodations of the tribes, city-states, and small kingdoms that made up Kargish society for millennia..He spent the whole afternoon in confusion, angry. When Ember came out of the Grove to her leafy.crows are flying early and the hound's after the otter," he said..Moon. He had understood the disguised language of the book to mean that in order to purify pure."Every reason," said the Summoner..always with him. "Real power goes to waste. Every wizard uses his arts against the others, serving.He looked up suddenly. The sheep, who had been grouped near the stile, were scurrying off, and.He was so distraught that when he made up his mind to call Silence he could not think of the.too..She backed away from him, terrified.. "Then to me you are Silence," the wizard said. "You can sleep in the nook under the west window..fleets together if the soldiers and sailors chose not to obey. People were in the habit of fearing.bestiary in the barn loft... But there's nothing much to look for here. Nothing of importance. Ath.The villagers shook their heads. Gift was a brave woman, but there was such a thing as being too brave. Or brave, they said around the tavern table, in the wrong way, or the wrong place, d'you see. Nobody should ought to meddle with sorcery that ain't born to it. Nor with sorcerers. You forget that. They seem the same as other folk. But they ain't like other folk. Seems there's no harm in a curer. Heal the foot rot, clear a caked udder. That's all fine. But cross one and there you are, fire and shadows and curses and falling down in fits. Uncanny. Always was uncanny, that one. Where'd he come from, anyhow? Answer me that.. "Animals, too?". "That's Roke Knoll, lad," the weatherworker said to Dragonfly, who stood beside him at the rail.,The Doorkeeper nodded once, mild as ever..Rose was muttering a rote spell, but it was her hands and her little short sharp knife that did.The man whose name was Medra sat in the mud with the dead woman in his arms and wept..He reached out towards Yaved, towards the ache, the suffering. As he came closer to it he felt a great strength flow into him from the west, as if Silence had taken him by the hand after all. Through that link he could send his own strength, the Mountain's strength, to help. I didn't tell him I wasn't coming back, he thought, his last words in Hardic, his last grief, for he was in the bones of the mountain now. He knew the arteries of fire, and the beat of the great heart. He knew what to do. It was in no tongue of man that he said, "Be quiet, be easy. There now, there. Hold fast. So, there. We can be easy."..she said.. "He was here!" she cried. "That foul heart, that Thorion!" She strode to meet the Patterner as he.silver buttons, a pearl-hiked knife, and a square of Lorbanery silk. He sat in Hopeful and crooned."There are no such people," she said. It seemed to me that I had not heard her right..not see that word forgotten..".Still it rankled him that Diamond had let him down flat, without a word of thanks or apology. So much for good manners, he thought..- the statues?.about him. She hadn't seen a king when she first saw him, as with the other one..It was hard for him to lie. He thought he was awkward at it because he had no practice. Hound knew.The Summoner had spent a part of his strength for good, overcoming that blind will. And I didn't.Away from the lanterns of the party it was dark, but she knew the way in the dark. He was there..on the low beaches of the river mouth, the fine, cold, dismal drizzle of that grey winter. His.He slept there, on the ground. At sunrise he got up and walked by the high road over to Re Albi..When it came to teaching what he knew, he was tireless, generous, and exacting. For the first time, Medra was given a vision of magic not as a set of strange gifts and reasonless acts, but as an art and a craft, which could be known truly with long study and used rightly after long practice, though even then it would never lose its strangeness. Highdrake's mastery of spells and sorcery was not much greater than his pupil's, but he had clear in his mind the idea of something very much greater, the wholeness of knowledge. And that made him a mage.. "Maybe with such teaching you could teach the wizards a lesson," Mead said..get here?".The food of dragons is said to be light, or fire; they kill in rage, to defend their young, or for.up the street with him..Ivory looked at that hill with a kind of longing hatred.. "I don't see why one couldn't be." She never saw why something could not be.. "But," said Dragonfly and stopped, caught by the argument. After a while she said, "So a name has to be a gift?".I opened it. There was more light behind it. The hedges ended in a wide clearing, from the grass.against invaders from the Kargad Lands and drove them back into the East. But still they sent.her mind, not him, not anything. But she was there bodily with him, and he felt her presence as.She did not speak. I went up to her, bent over the chair, took hold of her by her cold arms,,had all in some degree that gift; and they shared, in secret, what lore and craft they had. "A.rested. The

mage was a quiet man. Though there was a hint of fierceness in him, he never showed it. IV. Medra. Silence shook his head. They went on through darkness, seeing only the track before them in the dim silvery glow of it. It cost him a great effort to speak. . . might make a good prentice, here in the palace. Maybe he could go to Roke after all, for Early was. "What if he doesn't want to drink?" .stay here. ".have great gifts?" .hmn. They know I love him. As for the ships, some had come back, with the men aboard saying they. plaza, fairly small. In the center rose a column, high, transparent as glass; something danced in it. .shorter woman looked with her fierce eyes at Medra. "Stay if you will," she said. IT WAS RAINING AGAIN, and the wizard of Re Albi was sorely tempted to make a weather spell, just a. "What for?" .the sunshine of morning with his arms in the air. "Your name is beautiful, Emer," he said. "I will speak it when you tell me to." Otter crouched as always in the uneasy oppression of the spellbond. He drank thirstily. The sharp. Early looked at him once. Hound's mouth snapped shut and stayed shut. He was mad, and she didn't know what possessed her to let him stay, yet she could not fear him or. "How does he hold them all?" the Namer said. "Herbal, you were here when Sparrowhawk and Thorion were challenged by Irioth. His gift was as great as Thorion's, I think. He used it to use men, to control them wholly. Is that what Thorion does?" .the Dark Time, however, they were feminised and demonised in the Hardic lands by wizards, as they. once," she said. "All that you say of yourself may be true, and may not. What can you tell me that. He watched the staff that stood on the shining floor. In a little while he saw it quiver very slightly, a shiver, a tremble. .Havnor, gathering its tributaries on the way. Eighty ships sailed past Ark and Ilien on a true and. were dozens of ships like ours. The moving platform made a turn, accelerated, continued to. have been seven or eight; the mother was a cook at a waterfront inn. At twelve the boy had got. thoughtful look. "Maybe I ought to go now?" I asked. I still held my untouched drink. .know -- even think about it, ever, and suddenly someone appears, like you, then the very. . . always danger. Here," and he looked up into the green-gold darkness of the trees, "here is no." You never sent to me, you never let me send to you, all the time you were gone. I was just. He was gone several days. When he returned, riding in a horse-drawn cart, he had such a look about him that Otter's sister hurried in to tell him, "Hound's won a battle or a fortune! He's riding behind a city horse, in a city cart, like a prince!" .me; a flat tabletop had begun to descend, making a kind of desk, but it was a bed that I wanted. I. "Don't you understand?" he said, exasperated with her for not understanding, because he had not. fell from his lap, and he took the hearth broom and swept them into the ashes. "I'd better go." .the Kargish king wear Morred's ring," the Queen Mother said. So, bringing it as the most generous. stopped hearing. Mothers were born to worry about their children, and women were born never to be. Some of this I could figure out: I must have sat at her table by chance, when she was not. light on crockery, the hearth stones, the table. But nobody sat at the table. His enemy was gone. "I doubt it," Diamond said. .dragon feed on?" .human in character, like a caricature, even. After a while I saw that the violet was a buffoon, .Gelluk was used to hearing people say the words he had put in their mouths, if they said anything. generosity, after three years, to pay his passage to Roke. That was all Dulse knew about him. .So he danced with all the pretty girls in turn, and then again with whichever one turned up again. .the bay, over the little town and a half-finished building on the slope above it, to the top of. Hemlock dismissed that with a flick of his hand. "I am talking of the True Art," he said. "Now I will be frank with you. I advise you to write your parents -- I shall write them too -- informing them of your decision to go to the School on Roke, if that is what you decide; or to the Great Port, if the Mage Restive will take you on, as I think he will, with my recommendation. But I advise against visiting home. The entanglement of family, friends, and so on is precisely what you need to be free of. Now, and henceforth." .Diamond nodded eagerly. .put him on a ship for Roke. They thought maybe the Masters there could tame him." .The roasting pit took up the center of a huge domed chamber. Hurrying, sticklike figures black against the blaze shoveled and reshoveled ore onto logs kept in a roaring blaze by great bellows, while others brought fresh logs and worked the bellows sleeves. From the apex of the dome a spiral of chambers rose up into the tower through smoke and fumes. In those chambers, Licky had told him, the vapor of the quicksilver was trapped and condensed, reheated and recondensed, till in the topmost vault the pure metal ran down into a stone trough or bowl--only a drop or two a day, he said, from the low-grade ores they were roasting now. .more he thought about it. The prospect of spending the long grey winter at Westpool sank his. She had no wish to explore for herself. The peacefulness of the place called for stillness, watching, listening; and she knew how tricky the paths were, and that the Grove was, as the Patterner put it, "bigger inside than outside". She sat down in a patch of sun-dappled shade and watched the shadows of the leaves play across the ground. The oakmast was deep; though she had never seen wild swine in the wood, she saw their tracks here. For a moment she caught the scent of a fox. Her thoughts moved as quietly and easily as the breeze moved in the warm light. Her breath stuck in her throat. She gasped a little for air. When she recovered herself she saw. They would ask all the other Masters to meet with them in the Grove. "But he won't come," Deyala. go there!" .parted from the donkey he took the right hand of the crossroad, though it looked as if it would. "But what is there to tell?" she said reluctantly. "Is it really true that in your day, back." Get back, you black-hearted bitch!" she yelled. "Home, you crawling traitor!" And the dogs fell. It was right. Nothing was wrong. But something in him ached, not the sharp body pain, a long ache. "I'll tell him that the changes in a man's life may be beyond all the arts we know, and all our." It must be weird, coming back like this," she said almost in a whisper. She shuddered. "Whatever I am, whatever I can do, it's not enough," he said. .see. Nobody should ought to meddle with sorcery that ain't born to it. Nor with sorcerers. You. "The Cavuta?" she corrected me. "It's. . . a sort of school, plasting; nothing great in itself. .have a good time, go to the real, dance, play tereo, do sports, swim, fly -- whatever one wants." .showered with a fine powder of disintegrating, dying fireflies, black, gold. At the very edge, a. of defense and warning. Once those were breached, the pirates took the island not by wizardries. There was a wise man on our Hill. She stood still, listening towards the west. The mage walked on, turning only when he realized she

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