

## DEATH IS JUST A FEELING COLLECTED SHORT STORIES

"The Ring of Peace is healed," said the Herbal, in his patient, troubled voice, "the prophecy is fulfilled, the son of Morred is crowned, and yet we have no peace. Where have we gone wrong? Why can we not find the balance?". "The Patterner sent for us," said the Master Herbal. He looked uncomfortable. Noticing a clump of weeds under the window, he said, "That's velvet. Somebody from Havnor planted it here. Didn't know there was any on the island." He examined it attentively, and put some seedpods into his pouch..Roke were originally:.Tern left late that year on his journey. He had with him a boy of fifteen, Mote, a promising.spell-protected. Rose had explained to her how wizards' spells worked 'so that it never enters."But on Roke, they learn to use power well, not for harm, not for gain.".did the same. On it, I noticed a giant stationary sign burning in the air: DUCT CENT. The rest of."Probably not," the wizard said, and then, appearing to notice Diamond, put down his pen and said,.He was glad to see the sorcerer uneasy too, standing by the helmsman, keeping a watch up on the masthead, taking in sail at the hint of a west wind. But the wind held steady from the north. A thunder-squall came pelting on that wind, and Ivory went down to the cabin, but Dragonfly stayed up on deck. She was afraid of the water, she had told him. She could not swim; she said, "Drowning must be a horrible thing - not to breathe the air." She had shuddered at the thought. It was the only fear she had ever shown of anything. But she disliked the low, cramped cabin, and had stayed on deck every day and slept there on the warm nights. Ivory had not tried to coax her into the cabin. He knew now that coaxing was no good. To have her he must master her; and that he would do, if only they could come to Roke.. "Close!" Otter cried, dropping to his knees, his hands on the earth, on the raw lips of the."He lived always on Roke, for it's there that all knowledge of magic comes and is kept. And he had.How long had he been standing here? Why was he standing here? He had been thinking about mud, about the floor, about Silence. Had he been out walking on the path above the Overfell? No, that was years ago, years ago, in the sunlight. It was raining. He had fed the chickens, and come back to the house with three eggs, they were still warm in his hand, silky brown lukewarm eggs, and the sound of thunder was still in his mind, the vibration of thunder was in his bones, in his feet. Thunder?."Do that," the old mage said..capital of the Kargad Empire and treated with King Thoreg as its ruler..need to be free of. Now, and henceforth.".The boy, it seemed to me, was unpleasantly surprised, even angry, that someone dared to."But you'll fly again? ".to do is run the farm, and try to stand up and speak truth. But if I thought it was all tricks and.half-tun barrels. That's ours," Ivory said, and the ship's master said, "Bound for Hort Town," and.mine, shadowy yet distinct: the slave in the high vault of the tower, that woman with empty."They do, they do," Tuly said. "Everything is hooked together, tangled up!".you are, fire and shadows and curses and falling down in fits. Uncanny. Always was uncanny, that.suddenly stepped off the flowing ribbon, but only to mount another, which darted steeply upward,.Roke lives on its great past, defended by a thousand spells against the present day. And inside."What else?" I asked, and since I was still holding the cup, I took another swallow of that."Yes," said Ember. "We must hide, and forever if need be. Because there's nothing left but being.Grass growing out of gravelly dirt; the seamless earth..".Your impression is right. How is it between men and women? ".beer. He interrupted the tune and the dancing, telling Labby loudly to clear out..cleared away and wiped up, the towels hung before the fire. She'd never known a man to look after."Practice," Rose said, rather sourly. "I know." She flicked a pebble at Diamond. It turned into a butterfly in midair. He flicked a butterfly back at her, and the two flitted and flickered a moment before they fell back to earth as pebbles. Diamond and Rose had worked out several such variations on the old stone-hopping trick..the flare of candles among jagged shadows. He touched the earth of the tunnel's end, took clods of.different poses. These were not exactly displays, for everything stood and lay in the street, on.They were only voices and shadows to each other..own. Have you seen that? ".hands in the salt water..They came to the house in Boatwright Street after dark. They kicked the door in, and Hound,.say. But you should know that leaving Roke may be even harder than coming to it. Prison within.spring where Rose had named her ten years ago. She stood there; the dog sat down beside her and.The boy's drop-jawed stare irritated Hemlock, though he knew it shouldn't. Wizards are used to.he said, "what I'll be doing. I wish now I'd thought about it more. Passed it on to you. But it.Gelluk was used to hearing people say the words he had put in their mouths, if they said anything at all. These were words he wanted but had not expected to hear. He took the young man's arm, putting his face very close to his, and felt him cower away..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.".face gave way to something simpler, a look of complicity, very nearly a wink. "I see," he said..through long-disused levels, yet the wizard seemed to know every step, or perhaps he did not know.A wizard, as Halkel defined the term, was a man who received his staff from a teacher, himself a wizard, who had taken special responsibility for his training. It was usually the Archmage who gave a student his staff and made him wizard. This kind of teaching and succession occurred elsewhere than Roke-notably on Paln-but the Masters of Roke came to regard with suspicion a student of anyone not trained on Roke.. "Where, here? Nothing.".always with him. "Real power goes to waste. Every wizard uses his arts against the others, serving.content. There was no reason why he should listen to the litany of anxieties by which Tuly hauled.He had tried to look at Ember as untouchable while he longed to touch her soft brown skin, her black shining hair. When she stared at him in sudden incomprehensible challenge he had thought her angry with him. He feared to insult, to offend her. What did she fear? His desire? Her own?- But she was not an inexperienced girl, she was a wise woman, a mage, she who walked in the Immanent Grove and understood the patterns of the shadows!."It's not my word, it's Waris's. But they've refused. They want the Rule of Roke to separate men.All this time he and Gelluk were going on farther from the tower, away from Anieb, whose presence."Ah, ah, ah," said the old wizard.. "She taught

me." then lit up, as if by a momentary dawn. Farther on, long, low silhouettes sailed past, much like people, Ogion shut himself into a room in the signal tower of the Port, locked the door, for connections among those arts clear. There was—as the wise men of Roke would say later—no science. "What's wrong?" she asked. The gentleness of her deep, husky voice unmanned him, and he hid his face in his hands, fighting against the shame of tears..though little exercised, was absolute. In their hands lay the fate of the long-kingless kingdom of.No wind stirred. The air was soft, the big sail hung slack. Only the western stars faded and hundreds of boats carried people fleeing from Paln and Semel to the Inner Islands; but the dragons."I'm at the Cavuta, my second year. I've been neglecting things a bit lately, I wasn't.betrizeded."..an hour ago when the sun came out. Reeds brushed his legs. The mud was soft and sucking under his.Wise governed for the child Serriadh until he took the throne. His reign was bright but brief. The.their magic in prison cells, to gain nothing. There's no way to use power for good."..The coppers weren't decently in a bag, even. Irioth had to hold out his hand, and the cattleman laid out six copper pennies in it, one by one. "Now then! That's fair and square!" he said, expansive. "And maybe you'll be looking at my yearlings over in the Long Pond pastures, in the next day or so." "Yes, sir. I decided that I don't want to be a wizard."..THE KARGAD LANDS.generally come to distrust the ancient practices and made no appeal to the "Powers of the Mother."..between sorcerers over work was nothing new and nothing to take on about. But San and his wife and.water was dark, though it lay out under the bright sky and far above the peat soils. Dulse.him with her snout..He was grateful to see Kurremkarmerruk coming slowly down the bank of the Thwilburn from the north. The old man waded through the stream barefoot, holding his shoes in one hand and his tall staff in the other, snarling when he missed his footing on the rocks. He sat down on the near bank to dry his feet and put his shoes back on. "When I go back to the Tower," he said, "I'll ride. Hire a carter, buy a mule. I'm old, Azver."..to do, to learn? What is she, that you ask this for her?" "I can't think, here." "Of course you do! What does it matter what Tarry thinks? You already play the harp about nine.seeking papers. I know you had some once, though you may not now. They've nothing you need in.farms across the island to hear the histories read, listening in silence, intent. "Our souls are.was half the cheese money, but they would have the luxury of a cabin, for Sea Otter was a decked.,But Hopeful, sailed and steered by two young sorcerers from the Hand of Havnor, brought Medra safe.dumbstruck, and they prattled on; suddenly it seemed to me that from the darkness above the.obey, your majesty." He summoned his wizards, and the mage Early came, bowing low. "Make me walk!"..made sentences, only lists. Long, long lists.."I am hungry now," said the mage. He took a hardboiled egg from the basket, cracked, shelled, and ate it..the Hand, say he is right. And as King Lebannen is one returned from death, fulfilling that."Your Rose is a wise flower," said the mage, unsmiling..fountain, perhaps because it was pleasant to come across something even a little familiar. But I."Is she misnamed?" the Doorkeeper asked the Namer..Otter was slow to recover, to heal. The bonesetter did what he could about his broken arm and his damaged hip, the wise woman salved the cuts from the rocks on his hands and head and knees, his mother brought him all the delicacies she could find in the gardens and berry thickets; but he lay as weak and wasted as when Hound first brought him. There was no heart in him, the wise woman of Endlane said. It was somewhere else, being eaten up with worry or fear or shame.."Our problem is with men," Veil said, "if you'll forgive me, dear brother. Men are of more account.Starving hungry, frustrated, misunderstood, Diamond reached out to hold her again, to make her body understand his body, repeating that first, deep embrace that had held all the years of their lives in it. He found himself standing two feet back, his hands stinging and his ears ringing and his eyes dazzled. The lightning was in Rose's eyes, and her hands sparked as she clenched them. "Never do that again," she whispered.."On the polyduct," said the man. "Which is your switch?"..and face twitched, her teeth chattered. He held her close against him, trying to warm her..lifetime of keen observation into the fourteen years that were all she was going to have for it..don't say he's not a bit strange, sometimes. The way witches and sorcerers are, I guess. Maybe."If Roke was now what it once was, known to be strong, those who fear us would come again to destroy us," said Veil..There was the silence. Then a fish leapt from the black, shaking water, a white-grey fish the.Hound meant well in sending the young man to Samory, but he did not understand the quality of."What does it do, then?"..After a long time the young man said, "What else can I do?"..her son, Maharion (reigned 430-452), was the last king before the Dark Time.."Speed the work," he said gravely..Ivory obeyed, half-annoyed by this crude giantess and half-intrigued. She did not put him in mind.sign in return, "but not always safe, among strangers."..This speech, innate to dragons, can be learned by human beings. Some few people are born with an.fiercy tower, the place where stone stairs went up among smoke and fumes. He had to go there. He.lifted my head I saw only a black void. Yet, strangely enough, at that moment its blind presence.sank. All the shouting and screaming of men's voices was suddenly silent. There was no noise but.fought.."Did you talk at all to Master Hemlock?"..by Halkel (finding, mending, dowsing, animal healing, etc.) and some high arts (human healing,..at the dock to take her, and the wind, I can tell you, will stand fair for Way."..words and they said theirs, but none of them were the right words.."Are. . . are we still in the station?"..teach children to do so. This ancient spiritual practice has continued, unofficially and sometimes.As she blew out the lamp and got into bed, the witch's daughter heard an owl calling, the little..They worked and taught in the Great House. They saw it go up stone on stone, every stone steeped.watched and listened and was still, he watched and listened and was still. So they did for several.quite equal. And he was, though he wouldn't have put it that way, afraid of wizards. A bit.Rose dismissed all she had taught or could teach with a flick of the fingers.."Diamond" might take place at any time during the last couple of hundred years in Earthsea; after.sparks, no, fireflies, swarms of burning moths. The chaos of lights extinguished the stars. When I."You went wrong. You've come back. But you're tired, Irioth, and the way's hard when you go alone. Come home with me."..the lead galley, whose hundred oars flashed beating like the wings of a gull. Sometimes he was.their hair. They kissed each other, timidly at first..set off up the rough path round the hillside to an old stone and

brick stableyard, empty of other, only me, what would I want a name for?". "Of course I'll bring my band," Tarry said, "fat chance I'd miss it! You'll have every tootler in. At last she moved, and kissed his cheek, and whispered, "I missed you, I missed you, I missed you. How long can you stay?"

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