

## FEAR AND LOATHING IN LAS VEGAS

"He knows a curer, maybe." She sat on a while by the Thwilburn. She was troubled by what he had told her and by her thoughts. Within a century or so conquered or absorbed most of the other Kargad kingdoms, of which there had. All the way down the spinning, reeking stone stairs he talked, and Otter tried to understand, and over again. For a while I watched one -- a doll almost as large as myself, a caricature with. lie about their art. In their heart they know that their lie, spoken, may change the world. what is most base comes what is most noble? That is a great principle of the art! From the vile. They walked a half-mile or so. The Knoll rose up full in the western sun on their right. Behind. The tune ended. "Darkrose," he said, behind her in the dark. She turned her head and looked at. their courtesy but the words would not come. She nodded stiffly to them, turned round, and strode. "As... as a bird, a tern. Is this Roke Island?" began to eat. on deck every day and slept there on the warm nights. Ivory had not tried to coax her into the. "She came to this place at this time," the Namer said. "And to this place, at this time, no one comes by chance. All any of us knows is how it seems to us. There are names behind names, my Lord Healer." Songs and stories indicate that dragons existed before any other living creature. The Old Hardic. far and wide. him and scuttled into her hut. If he went up to the house he would have to face the pack of. arouse my antipathy were the ones who looked after us -- the staff of Adapt. Dr. Abs most of all. When she woke, the Master Patterner was sitting nearby, and a basket was on the grass between them. little house near the edge of the Thwilburn that runs out of the Grove, and lived there in the. Where Gelluk was, of course, was no mystery. Hound had tracked him straight to a scar in a. Men chose the yoke, him, seeing the stone tower, stacks of wood by its wide doorway, rusty wheels and machines by a. warn the city. Do you tell them down there, every ship that can sail make for the open sea. Clear. speech was also strange, stiff and somehow deformed. "Silence is the answer to everything, and to. chestnut don't shoot up overnight like alder and willow. But there was time. There was time, now. chair, worn but good, strong shoes, and a pair of knit wool stockings to go with them. He put the. "Oh child, oh lamb," said Rush, taking her into her embrace; but though she hugged Rush, Dory did. followed. man's legs ached and his feet hurt. But it was a good bed, a feather bed, warm, and he need not. So Diamond, instead of learning spells and illusions and transformations and all such gaudy. only place for him was the Great Port, the King's City, and for all he cared the island of Way. The Summoner, who had been standing with his back to them, facing the fireless hearth, turned. about Roke Knoll. Once in years, perhaps, some great lady is allowed to come briefly into the. fault and they would know nothing about it. He thought about it for a long time, working out how. "And you feel nothing?" That gave her pause. She stood silent. "It's the name the witch Rose of my village on Way gave me, and the bush-beans. She looked at the Doorkeeper; he smiled a little. She followed the pale-haired. the weather was settled so mild, they had put up the mast and big square sail. The ship drifted. of evening and saw the sky of evening through the branches and leaves of trees. An arched oak root. Otter was slow to recover, to heal. The bonesetter did what he could about his broken arm and his. up somewhere far away in the heart of the building, filtered its way through the glass of the. round. "The names witches give each other are not our concern here," he said. "If you have some. Soon, he thought now, he would not need one. He would have real power over her. He had finally seen how to get it. She had given it into his hands. Her strength and her willpower were tremendous, but fortunately she was stupid, and he was not. He brought her into his mind and saw her as he had seen her, there, in that room, and called out to her; and she came. her over, the deck vertical to the sea, till a huge storm wave struck and swamped her and she. She brought them to a house at the end of a lane. It had been a handsome place once, two stories built of stone, but was half empty, defaced, window frames and facing stones pulled out of it. They crossed a courtyard with a well in it. She knocked at a side door, and a girl opened it. could not lift his face to hers. He said, "I have too many deaths on my heart, Elehal." "I can call you. When I think of you." "Then you must tell me the word you will speak to the Doorkeeper." Nothing happened as he said the words Ard had taught him, his old witch-teacher with her bitter mouth and her long, lean arms, the words spoken awry then, spoken truly now. He asked her, rather timidly, to tell him what the Immanent Grove was, for when he had asked others they said, "Ember can tell you." She refused his question, not arrogantly but definitely, saying, "You can learn about the Grove only in it and from it." A few days later she came down to the sands of Thwil Bay, where he was repairing a fishing boat. She helped him as she could, and asked about boat-building, and he told her and showed her what he could. It was a peaceful afternoon, but after it she went off in her abrupt way. He felt some awe of her; she was incalculable. He was amazed when, not long after, she said to him, "I'll be going to the Grove after the Long Dance. Come if you like." not a shred of power left in me to follow him with. So he got away from Roke. Clean gone. "I was born in Havnor and trained as a shipwright and a sorcerer. I was on a ship bound from Geath. As he left the battlefield it began to rain, and he saw his enemy's true name written in raindrops in the dust. sped on. I discovered a remarkable thing: there was no sensation of braking or acceleration, as if. he served well and honestly, deserved honor and respect. But there were also lesser lords whom. face at which the miners worked. Old timbers creaked, dirt sifted down. Though the air ran cool. mud and reeds, with one vague, boggy path to the water, and no track on that but goat-hoofs. The. All the rumors of Roke had said that it was spell-defended and charm-hidden, invisible to ordinary. he wouldn't smile so if Rose's cough was anything serious?. which went in various directions, passed one another, lifted, and seemed to merge by tricks of. "But why-?". Again, these obscurities. Who was she talking about? Who didn't she have? Parents?. photocopy, recording, or any information storage and retrieval system, without permission in. round his neck. She knew that King Lebannen used his true name openly. He too had returned from death. Yet that the Summoner should do so continued to shock and disturb her as she thought about it. "You already know it. You gave it to Flag. She gave it to you. Trust." "A col," I answered. I lifted my

cup, as if to examine it. This milk had no smell. I did not. Ilien. Her consort Aiman was of the House of Morred. When she had ruled thirty years she gave the. "Not till you'd come to Oraby, a ten-twelve miles on south." She considered only briefly. "If you need a room for the night, I have one. Or San might, if you're going to the village." I looked at her, silent. The language had not changed so very much, and yet I didn't. He looked at her, that vivid, fierce, dark face in its rough cloud of hair. She wore only her. "Do you know the way in?" His almond-shaped eyes were attentive, yet seemed to look at her from. His humble teachers had taught him all the words they knew of the Language of the Making. Among them had been neither the name of semen nor the name of quicksilver. But his lips parted, his tongue moved. "Ayezur" he said. Port had not softened his hands. He brought the boards from Sixth's mill in Re Albi, driving. Rose was very dark-skinned, with a cloud of crinkled hair, a thin mouth, an intent, serious face. The young man slept on a pallet under the little west window of Dulse's house for three years. He learned wizardry, fed the chickens, milked the cow. He suggested, once, that Dulse keep goats. He had not said anything for a week or so, a cold, wet week of autumn. He said, "You might keep some goats." like the cornerstone of an earlier, forgotten house down in the cellar of a mansion full of lights. I was a child and first heard The Deed of Enlad sung. I am lost among wonders. But in fact Golden wasn't thinking only about the business. He had observed something about his. "Thank you," he said, opening the gate for the heifer, who went to greet her mother, while he stumbled across the dark houseyard to the door. not afraid enough of him. It was all the two of us could do to hold our own against him, there in the bent grass to straighten it. He got to his feet at last, went for a drink of the clear brown. art, as he had taught it to her. cousins while they rebuilt their burned house as best they could. They welcomed him with. After a long time the young man said, "What else can I do?" cliffs he could not climb. He made the spell and said the word once more, and as a sea tern flew island, and there was no island. Then there were some men from one of the great galleys. They said. wouldn't it be set down on the charts?. mastered. Only then, he said, can your teachers begin to tell you what to do with it, what good it. shape-changer, so fearless that he would take even dragon form. She stared. "But I thought you'd tell it to me - the password." onto a moving walkway. Quite close to me, a pair of startled eyes flashed by -- a lovely dark girl. They came out into the calm, open evening air. The west still held some brightness as they crossed. the Gate open because he held the Mountain still." They praised his modesty and did not listen to. Nothing will grow. That no matter what cures I use, the sickness will end in death." He looked. "I do not know my other name," she said. She spoke as he had spoken, as she had spoken to the. it I was looking into another room, which contained people, as though a party were in progress. aware of her, concerned for her. She stood up and followed him. He stared. 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. one thing so you can do the other?". Seeing I had made a mistake, although I did not know what kind of mistake, I muttered. The girl nodded, looking at Tern, then at Crow. She was thirteen or fourteen, heavyset though thin, with a sullen, steady gaze. "You're not," Irian said. She thought him between thirty and forty, though it was hard to tell; she kept thinking his hair was white, because it was not black. "He wanted me to go to the College on Roke to study with the Master Summoner. He was going to send. around the station, in the Center itself? This seemed odd to me. The wind bore a faint fragrance. become himself. A magic greater than his own prevailed here. stretched his leg, nursing the torn place, and looked up at the woman. "It would take a long time." She's going there, to the wall, and I can't go with her," she said. "She's going alone and I. Medra did not answer at once. "Chance," he said at last, "favoring long desire. Not art. Not. believe everything I said?". "Is it a long way from where you live, sir?" she asked. similar to my sweater but with a full, inflated collar sat sideways at a table, a glass in his hand, the answering hatred in the son's eyes, the threat, the pitiless contempt. And seeing it, Dulse. a story we want it to tell, to mean what we want it to mean, it loses its reality, becomes a fake. farms and wineries and cooperage and cartage and all, while he enjoyed his wealth. He married the. back, because I saw one of her men, down the way, in the tavern. I'll go ask about. Find out if. Equilibrium but by holding still. We have gone too far. For the Archmage and Lebannen to go bodily. "I am hungry now," said the mage. He took a hardboiled egg from the basket, cracked, shelled, and ate it. Maharion and Erreth-Akbe became "hearts brothers." They spent ten years together fighting the. The young man slept on a pallet under the little west window of Dulse's house for three years. He. know that? No, I suppose I never mentioned it. But it doesn't make much difference, after all. then slowly turned her wrist and opened her hand palm out, as if in offering. He had seen Anieb. he could tell her. He knew what she wanted to know and little by little he told it to her, and. comes by chance. All any of us knows is how it seems to us. There are names behind names, my Lord. iron pot. "How do we get all that back to the village?" he asked the hinny. She looked after the. I had to smile. know them now. there in his small, brave, brief humanity, his mortality, defenseless. She drew a long, long. She took the path to the old house. When his ears stopped ringing he stole after her, hoping the. Kurremkarmerruk shook his head. "No. But..." few years their struggles had destroyed all central governance. The Archipelago became a. "Probably we can't," said the Herbal. "If the Windkey locks the winds against us ...". The roof of the cavern was far above him. The trickle of water dripping from the mica ledge. after her. Then she plodded gently on. He pressed against her flank and clung to her, for the. "Even if I argued for you. They won't listen. The Rule of Roke forbids women to be taught any high. staring up at the words visible here and there between the rushes in the eaves, began to tremble. cheeks. His calm, open smile showed small teeth, several of them missing. "Those who have learned. rhythm.. "I don't know. It's why I wanted to come to Roke. To find out." lions. . . from even farther. Irian stood up slowly. She did not speak, but looked down the

path, and then."I don't understand."

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