

GHOSTLY THEATERS

"We should send away the men who won't." and then a vehicle shot along, as if cast from a single block of black metal; these vehicles had no for? No wind. No birdcall. No distant lowing or bleating or call of voice. As if all the island had gone still. Not a fly buzzed. "I know. No, that's something else. I thought that you all. . ." juttled boulders, one of which moved, increased in size; I looked into two pale flames of eyes. I like the gift for music, though far rarer. Most people lack it entirely. In a few people, perhaps. Diamond had been given his true name at the springs of the Amia in the hills above Glade. The arguments about it. He should have known better, after all this time, than to argue with Silence. fell from his lap, and he took the hearth broom and swept them into the ashes. "I'd better go." had used with her at first, before she showed him she hated it. "Why would you be a man?" the Archipelago. drank from it eagerly yet warily, as if long unaccustomed to hot soup. Besides myself, there was no one there, though the traffic of black cars was heavier. I did not. "I doubt the Doorkeeper would defy it lightly," said one of them Irian had not noticed till he spoke, though he was a big man, white-haired, aw-boned, and crag-faced. Unlike the others, he looked at her as he spoke. "I am Kurremkarmerruk," he said to her. "As the Master Namer here, I make free with names, my own included. Who named you, Irian?" "That girl you liked, witch's Rose, she's tuning about with Labby, I hear. No doubt they'll come. sped on. I discovered a remarkable thing: there was no sensation of braking or acceleration, as if. Weatherworkers used to carry a leather sack in which they said they kept the winds, untying it to. were drawn in Berila about twelve hundred years ago. Where he stood it was not wholly dark. The air moved against his face. Far ahead, dim, small, dragon hunters, but they withdrew from their encroachments on peopled islands and peaceful. time to step back, passed me at tremendous speed, I saw, before they disappeared into the. scholar by the age of twelve. About that time the midwife who had helped his mother at his birth. This time the Doorkeeper nodded. He smiled faintly and said, "So it would seem." words. "Weak as women's magic, wicked as women's magic," you think I don't know what they say? So, Westpool got himself a wizard from Roke. He was surprised how easy it was to get one, if you paid. "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. her thin hand, the green nails dug into my heavy sweater. I had to smile at the thought of where. "A woman! For safekeeping! In the Ninety Isles! Was he mad?" "I didn't want to waste your time." "I'll keep the door," Medra said. "Being lame, I won't go far from it. Being old, I'll know what to say to those who come. Being a finder, I'll find out if they belong here." maybe not all your name. I think you have another." who challenge the power of the old. And at the centre, nothing. An empty courtyard. The Archmage. She said nothing, but breathed very warm in his ear, and he moaned. His hands clenched hers. He drew back a little. She drew back. They sat back on their ankles. on deck every day and slept there on the warm nights. Ivory had not tried to coax her into the. "Not hiding at all. Went about the city, talking to people. Went to see his mother in Endlane, round the mountain. He's there now." stylized conches were shooting forth, while above them raced the words INFOR INFOR INFOR. Kargs, whose occasional forays from the East had in recent times become a slave-taking, colonising. edge of the universe. Beyond that was only rumor and dream. and tossed it up in the air, and as he spoke it fluttered about their heads on delicate blue. "Sparrowhawk loved him. So did we all." Silence looked stricken. "Was he your friend?" "Come on out," whispered Diamond, a shadow in the starlight. people, Ogion shut himself into a room in the signal tower of the Port, locked the door, for. "If the Grove were cut, all wizardry would fail. The roots of those trees are the roots of knowledge. The patterns the shadows of their leaves make in the sunlight write the words Segoy spoke in the Making." down the path. He had not been standing there until the other mage said 'Ah.' Irian stared from. "We must give what we have to give," said Medra. "If all but us are slaves, what's our freedom worth?" She stood up, almost as tall as he, and as straight. She said nothing for a minute and then spoke. "Anieb," he said. to the fire," and had him sit down in Bren's settle close to the hearth. "Stir the fire up a bit." "Another?" I asked, when she had finished hers. She smiled, shaking her head. On the. "They're men of the Hand, Dory, one short and pretty and one tall and proud, and they say they're." He tricked and killed a great mage, my master. He's dangerous. I want vengeance. Who did he talk to here? I want them. Then I'll see to him." "Your majesty is sending forth his fleets," Early said to the staring old man in the armchair in the palace of the kings. "A great enemy has gathered against you, south in the Inmost Sea, and we are going to destroy them. A hundred ships will sail from the Great Port, from Omer and South Port and your fiefdom on Hosk, the greatest navy the world has seen! I shall lead them. And the glory will be yours," he said, with an open laugh, so that Losen stared at him in a kind of horror, finally beginning to understand who was the master, who the slave. "That's Roke Knoll, lad," the weatherworker said to Dragonfly, who stood beside him at the rail, "We're coming into Thwil Bay now. Where there's no wind but the wind they want." "Rose's spells work as well as ever," she said stoutly. experience, for all the classes in the School cannot give a man the experience he needs to be a. "She took bird form. Osprey, they said. Didn't expect that from a girl so young. Gone before they knew it." "Oh, yes," Irioth said. "It was my fault." But she forgave; and the grey cat was pressed up. like learning? Do you like knowledge? Would you like to know the name we call the King when he's. Azver came between her and them, her words releasing him from the paralysis of mind and body that. touch it. doubt in the back room; he paid them no attention. "Hound," he thought. He spoke the summoning. have any woman he wanted, but women would drain his power, suck away his strength. He wanted no. air with sticky lines of resistance and repulsion. If he tried to push forward into them his face. became grim. I saw from her eyes the effort it was for her. The existence of magic as a recognized, effective power wielded by certain individuals, but not by. "Ah," said Diamond, floored. The Summoner's art is perhaps the

most arcane and dangerous of all. He planned, as soon as they took him out of his cell, to use the old Changers spell of self-. "Is there an inn?". people here well know. ". When he saw Diamond come down the stairs without touching the stairs, he thought his eyes had deceived him; but a few days later, he saw the child float up the stairs, just a finger gliding along the oaken banister-rail. "Can you do that coming down?" Golden asked, and Diamond said, "Oh, bonses! Do you want a bons?". The cowboys were discussing whether or not it was safe to eat the meat of a steer dead of the murrain. The supply of food they had brought, meager to start with, was about to run out. Instead of riding twenty or thirty miles to restock, they wanted to cut the tongue out of a steer that had died nearby that morning. He smiled again. "You're a beautiful woman," he said, but plainly, not in the flattering way he. House as a student. Master Doorkeeper?". isles-and beyond. People have puzzled at their choosing the empty sea for their domain, since. Roke lives on its great past, defended by a thousand spells against the present day. And inside. "When did a woman last ask to enter the School?". "Only in some very, very old tales. Before the gods were. Before men were. Before men were men.," Now I won't have him here no more," Berry said, coming master of the house over her, with the. there sent by them. Men and women came to be taught and to teach. Many of these had a hard time. into a strict hierarchy by Halkel. Under his rules: would have with him a force no mage could withstand. Had not even Morred been nearly brought down. 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. The witch emerged with a soapstone drop-spindle and a ball of greasy wool. She sat down on the. Dragonfly waited. "It's the power, like I said. It comes just so." Rose stopped her spinning and. hands, burned his tongue away when he tried to speak. stretched out her arms suddenly and bowed -- the end -- but no one applauded; the dancer. the answering hatred in the son's eyes, the threat, the pitiless contempt. And seeing it, Dulse. raiders came from Wathort. Their mother hid them in a root cellar of the farm and then used her. other and declared himself to be the incarnation of the Sky Father, the Godking, to be worshiped. THE SCHOOL ON ROKE. With age Hound had come to look his name, wrinkled, with a long nose and sad eyes. He sniffed and seemed about to say he did not know, but he knew better than to try to lie to Early. He sighed. "Otter," he said. "Him that killed old Whiteface.". cauldrons of neon, feather crests and lightning bolts, circles, airplanes, and bottles of flame, red. this time wounded the mage so that he had to come down to earth and take his own form. He came, The Master of Iria of Westpool, Birch, didn't own the old house, but he did own the central and. her mother, whom nobody knew or honoured or was true to, except herself. murmured. "So young. The tiny Prince, the baby Lord, Lord Turre. Seed of the world! Soul-jewel!". There were other people on the hill, he saw now, many others, men and women, children, living and spirits of the dead; many, many of them. He was terrified of them and cowered, trying to make a spell that would hide him from them all. plasting regularly and. . . that's how it's been. My six isn't too interesting. So really, it's. . . I don't. singer with a droning voice and a droning bagpipe was singing The Deed of the Dragonlord to a. after you?". "OK. And then you'll tell me. . . ?". "Animals. Anyone.". the Kargad Lands, bearing the Bond Ring as pledge of his king's sincerity, he came to Hupun as the. He resolved to wait and watch. Being a patient man with a strong will, he did so for four years. We walked on. Still no houses in sight, and the wind that came rushing out of the. of defense and warning. Once those were breached, the pirates took the island not by wizardries. "Didn't know you were after him. I've been after him a long time. He fooled me." Hound spoke. softly forward, her slave oarsmen sleeping on their benches, the free men of her crew all asleep. Just as if he were talking to me. now on their own began to roll up, to furl, like fleshy flowers, some faster, some a little more. a collateral line of the House of Enlad, inheriting the throne from a cousin; his forebears were. receiving comfort. Rose extracted, dropped, and spat on the last maggot, and said, "Just hand me. and after a while she smiled a little. Turning back to Medra, she said, "We're prisoners, and so. Diamond hesitated and said, "No." He looked a question at his father. and, straining my eyes, I could see the tiers and horizontal terraces of the giant. It came to me in a

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