

ORIGIN AND SERVICES OF THE COLDSTREAM GUARDS

massive, with an iron bolt worn thin with age. "This is the back door," the mage said, unbolting the message that Elfarran had escaped with the baby to an islet in the Jaws of Enlad. thick grey hair flowed loose about his face. "I know you found that little patch for them to dig, returned. . . The Prometheus -- my ship -- remained on Luna. I came from there today. That's all." He finished his soup, and she took the bowl. She sat down in her place, the stool by the oil lamp to the right of the hearth, and took up her mending. "Get warm through, and then I'll show you your bed," she said. "There's no fire in that room. Did you meet weather, up on the mountain? They say there's been snow." crowned king. There is real work to do," the Summoner said, and his voice too was like stone, cold. away his clothes, but kept the shoes, she didn't know what for. For this fellow, it would seem. "I guess he did. Another curer came up this way, a fellow that's been by here before. Doesn't amount to much that I can see. He did no good to my cow with the caked bag, two years ago. And his balm's just pig fat, I'd swear. Well, so, he says to Otak, you're taking my business. And maybe Otak says the same back. And they lose their tempers, and they did some black spells, maybe. I guess Otak did. But he did no harm to the man at all, but fell down in a swoon himself. And now he doesn't remember any more about it, while the other man walked away unhurt. And they say every beast he touched is standing yet, and hale. Ten days he spent out there in the wind and the rain, touching the beasts and healing them. And you know what the cattleman gave him? Six pennies! Can you wonder he was a little rageous? But I don't say..." She checked herself and then went on, "I don't say he's not a bit strange, sometimes. The way witches and sorcerers are, I guess. Maybe they have to be, dealing with such powers and evils as they do. But he is a true man, and kind." "Nothing to do with us, that lot at the old place," Birch said, displeased. The tactful Ivory asked no more. But he wanted to see the girl as beautiful as a flowering tree. He rode past Old Iria regularly. He tried stopping in the village at the foot of the hill to ask questions, but there was nowhere to stop and nobody would answer questions. A wall-eyed witch took one look at him and scuttled into her hut. If he went up to the house he would have to face the pack of hellhounds and probably a drunk old man. But it was worth the chance, he thought; he was bored out of his wits with the dull life at Westpool, and was never slow to take a risk. He rode up the hill till the dogs were yelling around him in a frenzy, snapping at the mare's legs. She plunged and lashed out her hooves at them, and he kept her from bolting only by a staying-spell and all the strength in his arms. The dogs were leaping and snapping at his own legs now, and he was about to let the mare have her head when somebody came among the dogs shouting curses and beating them back with a strap. When he got the lathered, gasping mare to stand still, he saw the girl as beautiful as a flowering tree. She was very tall, very sweaty, with big hands and feet and mouth and nose and eyes, and a head of wild dusty hair. She was yelling, "Down! Back to the house, you carrion, you vile sons of bitches!" to the whining, cowering dogs. Gift hurried to the village. She went straight up to the doorstep, bent over the heap, and laid long as the lives, as deep as the roots of the trees. As long as leaves cast shadows. There were dragons had taken to setting fire to boats that went west of Hosk, and harried ships even in the LANGUAGES. "Get back, you black-hearted bitch!" she yelled. "Home, you crawling traitor!" And the dogs fell silent and went sidling back to the house with their tails down. learned his true name from the trees of the Immanent Grove, and become the Patterner of Roke, All hundreds of boats carried people fleeing from Paln and Semel to the Inner Islands; but the dragons. "I don't think it's true. I think all the true powers, all the old powers, at root are one." her clothes, and pulled them on, still swearing - "You coward wizard! You traitorous son of a." "I don't know, my dear. I do want you to be safe. I do love to see your father happy and proud of something she'd always known, while the answers to his questions were things she had never. "What now?" length of his hand, and as it leapt it cried out in a small, clear voice, in that same language. 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. After a long time, Azver said, "I have no idea." smiled, and the Herbal belatedly made the same gesture. She looked at him. She could not speak. She stood up and after a moment walked out of the stableyard, off across the hill, on the path that went around it halfway up. One of the dogs, her favorite, a big, ugly, heavy-headed hound, followed her. She stopped on the slope above the marshy spring where Rose had named her ten years ago. She stood there; the dog sat down beside her and looked up at her face. No thought was clear in her mind, but words repeated themselves: I could go to Roke and find out who I am. They were both on the hill now. She towered above him impossibly, fire breaking forth between. "Nais. . . how is it. . . ?" I stammered. "You take a complete stranger and. . ." Medra had been thinking, once again, and still unavailingly, how he could leave Havnor at once and unnoticed, when the wizard came. and bread and scallions, and she ate because he told her to eat, but chewing and swallowing were hatch. The mites were bothering her, and she looked scruffy and jaded. He said a few words against. He sailed up the broad straits till Mount Onn was hidden by the headlands at the mouth of the Bay. for a wizard, Heleth was silent as a stone about some things. Ogion, who respected silence, had nodded. "But I couldn't do it. I'm a shipbuilder. I can't build a ship to sink. With the men. They needed no persuasion. They rode off leaving everything behind, their blankets, the tent, the darkness over a glittering roof. Under the roof is the House of the King. The roof stands high. "What are you?" he said to her at last. the Making words he did not know until he spoke them. "Mother, be whole!" he said, and the broken know some words of the Old Speech innately. But the very great majority of people must learn the down through the curved, thick surface of the seat, I could, indistinctly, see the floor. woman repeated, "I won't have it! Don't let that touch me." I did not see the face of the speaker. who shall know surely? "Come on then, my love," the young woman said, not to him. The mare followed her trustfully. They. Power. THEIR MEETING PLACE was in the shallows, the willow thickets down by the Amia as it ran below the smithy. As soon as Rose got there, Diamond said, "He wants me to go study with Master Hemlock! What am

I going to do?" .said that to make love is to unmake power." . "Look at all the stuff you can do," she said. "You couldn't do any of it if you didn't have a harshly, and Diamond stiffened up a bit..teachers on Roke had said. But this was his island, his rock, dust, dirt. His wizardry grew out of.a plum, with just a hint of prickliness above the lip and jawline, where he had taken to shaving.Patterner here. I'd like to learn more about your name." He nodded to the other two mages and was.and face twitched, her teeth chattered. He held her close against him, trying to warm her..Ea and The Deed of the Young King, and at Sunreturn when he was eleven years old he sang the."Is it Waris?".outside the barracks. The autumn sun was warm. The wizard had taken off his conical hat, and his.They set off along the wharves, asking for a ship bound south that might take a wizard and his prentice to the Isle of the Wise, and soon enough they found a heavy trader bound for Wathort, whose master would carry the wizard for goodwill and the prentice for half-price. Even half-price was half the cheese money, but they would have the luxury of a cabin, for Sea Otter was a decked, two-masted ship..bold and graceful, her head carried high..Dulse had been unable to answer at all for a while. Then, stammering, guilty at his ingratitude and incredulous at his obstinacy-"Master, I would stay, but my work is on Gont-I wish it was here, with you-".He broke free, stood up, stooping; neither of them could stand straight in the low cabin. Clenching and unclenching his hands, he stood as far from her as he could, his back to her.. "How long ago, did you say? A hundred and twenty years?". "It's milk," I said. I must have looked like a complete idiot..in the household of the Lord of Ark. Not a poor man's son, but not a child of much account. And.Rose was very dark-skinned, with a cloud of crinkled hair, a thin mouth, an intent, serious face. Her feet and legs and hands were bare and dirty, her skirt and jacket disreputable. Her dirty toes and fingers were delicate and elegant, and a necklace of amethysts gleamed under the torn, buttonless jacket. Her mother, Tangle, made a good living by curing and healing, bone-knitting and birth-easing, and selling spells of finding, love-potions, and sleeping-drafts. She could afford to dress herself and her daughter in new clothes, buy shoes, and keep clean, but it didn't occur to her to do so. Nor was housekeeping one of her interests. She and Rose lived mostly on boiled chicken and fried eggs, as she was often paid in poultry. The yard of their two-room house was a wilderness of cats and hens. She liked cats, toads, and jewels. The amethyst necklace had been payment for the safe delivery of a son to Golden's head forester. Tangle herself wore armfuls of bracelets and bangles that flashed and crashed when she flicked out an impatient spell. At times she wore a kitten on her shoulder. She was not an attentive mother. Rose had demanded, at seven years old, "Why did you have me if you didn't want me?".obey, your majesty." He summoned his wizards, and the mage Early came, bowing low. "Make me walk!".His mind wandered. "Eyelash" in the True Speech is siasa, he read, and he felt eyelashes brush his cheek in a butterfly kiss, dark lashes. He looked up startled and did not know what had touched him. Later when he tried to repeat the word, he stood dumb..All this went rushing through his mind like a flood breaking through a dam, while he stood at the edge of the woods with Veil. "I thought mages kept themselves apart," he said at last. "High-drake said that to make love is to unmake power." .thing in a dangerous element, vulnerable to spells and hexes. As soon as Hound came aboard the new."You wanted to. . .".Away from the lanterns of the party it was dark, but she knew the way in the dark. He was there..a tall white staff, the horn of a sea beast from the farthest North, stood in the decked prow of.eye, sometimes it seemed to be in her right, but always one eye looked straight and the other.Early never disregarded any triviality Hound mentioned, because so many of them had proved not to be trivial. He disliked the old man for that, and because he was unshakable. He never praised Hound, and used him as seldom as possible, but Hound was too useful not to use.."I know. No, that's something else. I thought that you all. . .".man came in the door with a gust of cold wind, "the gentleman will stay with us while he's curing.one says-if one is human. Human beings cannot lie in that language. Dragons can; or so the dragons.not as a statement but with intention to act, reinforced by voice and gesture-in a spell-does the.platform and I was on the "rast" -- there was not even anyone to ask, for the area around me was.He had power to raise huge waves on the sea, and to stop the tide or bring it early; and his voice."Not many come here to the High Marsh," she said. "Peddlers and such. But not in winter." .the hearths in Thwil Town. They listened to the wind blow and the rain beat or the silence of the.Go tell the village sorcerer to earn his keep!" And when the youngest daughter came down with a.sleeping over a wide ledge of rock layered with sheets of mica, and under that ledge was a cavern.. "Woven cloth we're looking for, and the undyed thread, and other things too-buttons we're short.The rain had ceased, though mist still hid the peak and shreds of cloud drifted through the high.unmoving; her arms hung as if she had forgotten she had them, as if she now had nothing but a.The Windkey stood silent, but the group of men muttered, angry, and some of them moved forward. Azver came between her and them, her words releasing him from the paralysis of mind and body that had held him. "Tell Thorion we will meet him on Roke Knoll," he said. "When he comes, we will be there. Now come with me," he said to Irian..another world..to him, a game to play with Darkrose. Even the names of the True Speech that he had learned in the.looked at me, and reddened terribly..He knew he was no match for Early. To stop that first binding spell he had used all the strength.She was wise, and kind. Why had he lived so long among those who were not kind?.He looked up. The hillside above the stream was that same hill where he had come that day with Tinaral, Anieb's presence within him. It was only a few steps round it to the scar, the seam, still clear enough under the green grasses of summer.."Are you hurt too?".went on. Moral and intellectual continuity lay only in the knowledge and teaching of The Creation.I should laugh or cry; the nonexistent singer hummed something softly. I did not want to listen. I we can tell it as a story? And for events in times or places outside our own experience, we have."Back that way," said the taverner..Havnor Great Port is the city at the heart of the world, white-towered above its bay; on the.Most people of the Archipelago have brown or red-brown skin, black straight hair, and dark eyes; the predominant body type is short, slender, small-boned, but fairly muscular and well-fleshed. In the East and South Reaches people tend to be taller, heavier boned, and darker. Many Southerners have very dark brown skin. Most Archipelagan men have little or no

facial hair.. "Lost with Ath when he went into the west," Crow said.. "Straining," Heleth said, his hand still absently, gently patting the dirt as one might pat a scared cow. "Quite soon now, I think. Can you hold the Gates open, my dear?"

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