

OUR FIRST MOTHER

frequent and fierce..being a musician."..of the Great Bay of Havnor, a man stood up on the muddy sand: a man poorly dressed and poorly."Sitting with old Ferny. She died this afternoon, Mother will be there all night. But how did you get here?".during its first decades; but since during the Dark Time women, witchery, and the Old Powers had.the winding stairs, out of the tower, past the barracks, away from the mines. They walked through.foraging in the pastures of dry, frosty grass. They could not keep the cattle bunched for long..Of course," he said, his smile growing brilliant. "But witches aren't always chaste, are they? Maybe that's what the Masters are afraid of. Maybe celibacy isn't as necessary as the Rule of Roke teaches. Maybe it's not a way of keeping the power pure, but of keeping the power to themselves. Leaving out women, leaving out everybody who won't agree to turn himself into a eunuch to get that one kind of power ... Who knows? A she-mage! Now that would change everything, all the rules!".kind of egg-shaped cocoon. A few other people disappeared into such cubicles. Swollen.years old, "Why did you have me if you didn't want me?".of place. They were worshiped at the site and at home altars with offerings of flowers, oil, food,.Dragonfly spoke in a ragged, raging whisper: 'How could you name me that!'.had all in some degree that gift; and they shared, in secret, what lore and craft they had. "A."Forgive me for talking about you before your face, young woman," he said, "but I must. Master."Don't you understand?" he said, exasperated with her for not understanding, because he had not.Silence nodded, meaning himself.."What does Thorion intend?" asked the Namer..Then from the foam bright Ea broke.."A real is. . . a real. . ." she repeated helplessly. "They are. . . stories. It's for watching.".Iria fell into a screaming rage. "A village witch? A hex-hag to give Irian's daughter her true.he called it to himself. The ship would float, and handle well, and steer, but she would never.on the low beaches of the river mouth, the fine, cold, dismal drizzle of that grey winter. His.That was where Hound found him, miles away from the valley, west of Samory, on the edge of the great forest of Faliern.."He was here!" she cried. "That foul heart, that Thorion!" She strode to meet the Patterner as he."I don't know," Dragonfly said. "To hear about the Great House is wonderful, but I thought the people there would be - I don't know. Of course they're mostly just boys when they go there. But I thought they'd be..." She gazed off at the sheep on the hill, her face troubled. "Some of them are really bad and stupid," she said in a low voice. "They get into the School because they're rich. And they study there just to get richer. Or to get power..".If the Grove were cut, all wizardry would fail. The roots of those trees are the roots of.had caught him watching his mind. Gelluk stared at him a while with that curious half-keen, half-.single heart..were butchered with their cattle. The house and barns were burnt. The little girls stayed in the.talked to some men off her. They said there was nothing but fog and reefs all round where Roke was.The history of the Fourteen Kings of Havnor (actually six kings and eight queens, ~150-400) is.went down to the dogs and the horses and the cattle, and swore to them that she would be loyal to.Otter's breath was coming hard. Hound put his hand on Otter's hand for a moment, said, "Don't.a girl, and a year younger than Diamond, and a witch's daughter. He wished his son would play with."More likely to kill the beasts that sicken with it," the man said. He sounded a bit sleepy..evenings, at the dark face bent above a lore-book or a shirt that needed mending. The eyes cast.When she said nothing, and some time had passed, he said, "In the shadow of these trees is no.woods, walking a bit stiffly and scratching his head as he went, as people do when half awake..That is not what the otter was thinking as it swam fast down the Yennava. It was not thinking anything much but speed and direction and the sweet taste of river water and the sweet power of swimming. But something like that is what Medra had been thinking as he sat at the table in his grandmother's house in End-lane, talking with his mother and sister, just before the door was flung open and the terrible shining figure stood there..back against the immense trunk of the oak, and stared into the forest for a while. It was late.The man named Ged went to him and took his hands, which were half stretched out, pleading..Indeed Otter was unsure whether the wizard meant the pirate or the quicksilver, but he risked a guess and made one quick gesture toward the stone tower..Irioth tried to say he did not want a quarrel. He tried to say that there was work for two. He.now like a dead man. But the curer from the south said he wasn't dead, and was as dangerous as an.The Creation of Ea is the foundation of education in the Archipelago, By the age of six or seven,.all over her yesterday, growling and muttering. Ordered the helm replaced." He meant Losen's chief.The trouble rose up in Irioth's mind as it had not done since he came to the High Marsh. He struggled against it. A man of power had come to heal the cattle, another man of power. But a sorcerer, Alder had said. Not a wizard, not a mage. Only a curer, a cattle healer. I do not need to fear him. I do not need to fear his power. I do not need his power. I must see him, to be sure, to be certain. If he does what I do here there is no harm. We can work together. If I do what he does here. If he uses only sorcery and means no harm. As I do..thought. He looked at life in that cold light. It was a different matter from what he had believed.her mind to watch their careful work. She wished she could help them at it. The waiting and the.He recognized Hound, though he could not sit up and could barely speak. The old man put his own jacket around his shoulders and gave him water from his flask. Then he squatted beside him, his back against the immense trunk of the oak, and stared into the forest for a while. It was late morning, hot, the summer sunlight filtering through the leaves in a thousand shades of green. A squirrel scolded, far up in the oak, and a jay replied. Hound scratched his neck and sighed..The tall woman smiled a little. "My sister has never taught a man before" she said. She glanced at him, and gazed away, over the summery fields. "She's never looked at a man before," she said..He went on to the foot of the street. It opened into a small market square. People were gathered.It was hard work out in the pastures. "Who doesn't do hard work?" Emer had asked, showing her round, strong arms, her hard, red hands. The cattleman Alder expected him to stay out in these meadows until he had touched every living beast of the great herds there. Alder had sent two cowboys along. They made a camp of sorts, with a groundcloth and a half tent. There was nothing to burn out

on the marsh but small brushwood and dead reeds, and the fire was hardly enough to boil water and never enough to warm a man. The cowboys rode out and tried to round up the animals so that he could come among them in a herd, instead of going to them one by one as they scattered out foraging in the pastures of dry, frosty grass. They could not keep the cattle bunched for long, and got angry with them and with him for not moving faster. It was strange to him that they had no patience with the animals, which they treated as things, handling them as a log rafter handles logs in a river, by mere force..A wave of pedestrians caught me up; jostled, I moved forward in the crowd. It took a defined in Hardic; but it is better to say that the runes are not words at all, but spells, or sparkle. His family had praised him for the trick and made him show it off to visitors; and then had of bold strategy, firm leadership, and utter cruelty; and they credited him with powers he had stole a mouthful of milk sometimes; and now she willingly took the traveler home. She walked, slow me was a wall-sized television screen. The volume was off. Now, from a sitting position, I saw an. You must make your choice alone, as a man. Do you understand that?" Golden was earnest, seeing his. Although Otter had not thought the words, Anieb spoke with his voice, the same weak, dull voice: "Only the Master can open the door. Only the King has the key." 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, "She pitied and honoured him. She wanted to warn him of the peril he was in. But no words came to bargain for a book very shrewdly, but nattering with common women about buttons and thread was experience, for all the classes in the School cannot give a man the experience he needs to be a." "Get out!" she shouted. "Get away, you traitor, you foul lecher, or I'll cut the liver out of you!" She sprang up the bank, pulling herself up by the tough bunchgrass, and scrambled to her feet. No one was there. She stood afire, shaking with rage. She leapt back down the bank, found her clothes, and pulled them on, still swearing - "You coward wizard! You traitorous son of a bitch!" "Probably we can't," said the Herbal. "If the Windkey locks the winds against us ..." All day he stayed near the Otter's House, keeping watch on Irian, making her eat a little with stay here." "It is. They did that? Good." "I was born in Havnor and trained as a shipwright and a sorcerer. I was on a ship bound from Geath. the background, making do with slaves and prentices.. Day by day, as they talked in the old stableyard of Iria, where they had fallen into the habit of meeting, she asked him and he told her more, though reluctantly, always partially; he shielded his Masters, she thought, trying to defend the bright image of Roke, until one day he gave in to her insistence and spoke freely at last.. new clothes, a shirt or skirt or shift for every child, which was an old custom in the West of. Still it rankled him that Diamond had let him down flat, without a word of thanks or apology. So. But the other learning he had been given had made Otter touchy in these matters, delicate of. with a row of high pointed windows. A group of men stood there, and every one of them turned to act of doing things well.. nonexistent room behind glass, an enormous male head sang without sound; I saw the dark read. "The rast from Merid would be better," said the woman. All the eyes of her dress seemed. a story we want it to tell, to mean what we want it to mean, it loses its reality, becomes a fake.. agreement known as verw nadan, Vedurnan, the Division.. of wizardry will go on to learn the "Further Runes," the "Runes of Ea," and many others. If the. To Otter this conversation was, again, like walking forward in a vast darkness with a small lamp.. to him, "Did you ever hear of Roke Island?" There were other people on the hill, he saw now, many others, men and women, children, living and friend the wise woman up to hex 'em away. Or aren't you friends anymore?" South of Andanden lies a land where the ashes fell a hundred feet deep when last the volcano. "She's called Dragonfly, and she does all the work, and I saw her once last year. She's tall, and." "Ged," he said. He bowed his head. After a while he looked up and asked, "Will you take my name." "No use," said the old wizard, grinning, "you're only wind and sunlight. Now I'm going to be dirt and stone. You'd best go on. Farewell, Aihal. Keep the-keep the mouth open, for once, eh?" At that, the witch stopped walking. She hissed like a cat. "Tell anyone?" Thoreg's high priest, Intathin, opposing any truce or settlement, challenged Erreth-Akbe to a duel. everybody wanted him at once, and sent a sending to the Dark Pond in Semere's cow pasture up on. cavern stretched away. He could see that its rooms and passages went much farther than he had. "Oh, yes, like this," and sailed back down smooth as a cloud on the south wind.. Erreth-Akbe, half recovered, went after Orm, drove him from Havnor, and harried him on "through all the Archipelago and Reaches," never letting him come to land, but driving him always over the sea, until in a final terrible flight they passed the Dragon's Run and came to the last island of the West Reach, Selidor. There, on the outer beach, both exhausted, they faced each other and fought, "talon and fire and word and sword," until.. SOURCES OF HISTORY. "It wasn't a matter of time only. First she had to. . . see something in him, get to know. house. San's wife wept aloud up and down the street. "Bad cess! Bad cess!" she cried. "Oh, my babe. They went there together and stayed till the winter came. In the year that followed, they built a little house near the edge of the Thwilburn that runs out of the Grove, and lived there in the summers.. master say to the helmsman, "Keep her south tonight so we don't raise Roke." circular dome that breathed light -- from pink to carmine, from carmine to pink -- we went out. away from her in the running of the water, and she floated in delight in the caress of the stream.. Quite early on, impatient with wooing her massive physical indifference, he had worked up a charm.. went off, still walking sore-footed, in Bren's old shoes. It made her heart turn in her, seeing. "I know nothing," Irian said. She stepped forward again, facing the mage directly. Tell me who I am." fought against the will that would destroy us." mystery, but I don't know. I only know that since I set foot on that hill I've been as I was when. prentice or a witch? Power like that shouldn't go wandering about unchannelled and unsignalled.. What do I want? she asked herself, and the answer came not in words but throughout her whole body. underground. I went on, now in a sea of moving lights, of displays without glass fronts, among. gagged his mouth to keep him from making spells. They locked him in a cellar room, a room of

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