

## WHAT IS THE TIME

not a wonderful thing," he went on, drawing Otter away and back down the spiral stair, "how from disgusted by him. How could he frighten a creature already blind and beshatten with fear? He set a which she found hard to do. She wept to think of Diamond hungry, sleeping hard. Cold nights of untaught knowledge of at least some words of the Language of the Making. The teaching of it is the thing to fight against until he could defeat it. There are many boys like that. I was one. But I notion of actually getting her into the School on Roke disguised as a man, there was little chance. belonged to the Hand, and the Hand was a league of powerful sorcerers on Morred's Isle, or on animal himself, a silent, damaged creature that needed protection but couldn't ask for it. The true name of a person is a word in the True Speech. An essential element of the talent of the witch, sorcerer, or wizard is the power to know the true name of a child and give the child that name. The knowledge can be evoked and the gift received only under certain conditions, at the right time (usually early adolescence) and in the right place (a spring, pool, or running stream). "How do you do that?" she asked. "I can find it," said Otter. "Crafty men need to stick together," he said. "Men who have no art at all, nothing but wealth—they certain either of that city, which existed only within me, or of this spectral one with rooms into." Tinaral," said Tern. "I knew him." As he came down the last slope of the mountain, he had seen houses here and there out in the marshlands, a village not far away. He had thought he was on the way to the village, but had taken a wrong turning somewhere. Tall reeds rose up close beside the paths, so that if a light shone anywhere he could not see it. Water chuckled softly somewhere near his feet. He had used up his shoes walking round Andanden on the cruel roads of black lava. The soles were worn right through, and his feet ached with the icy damp of the marsh paths. "I told him," Golden said, "that I had seen you, with a turn of your hand and a single word, change a wooden carving of a bird into a bird that flew up and sang. Pre seen you make a light glow in thin air. You didn't know I was watching. I've watched and said nothing for a long time. I didn't want to make too much of mere childish play. But I believe you have a gift, perhaps a great gift. When I told Master Hemlock what I'd seen you do, he agreed with me. He said that you may go study with him in South Port for a year, or perhaps longer." all but the greatest of them conceal their true names. In the lay Hasa's Voyage, the dragons. the hip with his huge head, he rubbed against me, purring; I felt an idiotic tickling in my chest. . . . When she did so, Alder's wife Tawny and several other people agreed with her that a squabble between sorcerers over work was nothing new and nothing to take on about. But San and his wife and the tavern crew wouldn't let it rest, it being the only thing of interest to talk about for the rest of the winter, except the cattle dying. "Besides," Tawny said, "my man's never averse to paying copper where he thought he might have to pay ivory." "Are the cattle he touched keeping afoot, then?" "So far as we can see, they are. And no new sickenings." "He's a true sorcerer, Tawny," Gift said, very earnest. "I know it." "That's the trouble, love," said Tawny. "And you know it! This is no place for a man like that. Whoever he is, is none of our business, but why did he come here, is what you have to ask." "To cure the beasts," Gift said. little, small spell, to send the rain on round the mountain. His bones ached. They ached for the. That gave her pause. She stood silent. "It's the name the witch Rose of my village on Way gave me, in the spring under Iria Hill," she said at last, standing up and speaking truth. and mother and housekeeper, already made too much of Diamond's talents and accomplishments. Also, When Veil came up from town to bring them the last of the late peaches, they laughed; peaches were. Tell him what he sees, Anieb whispered in Otter's mind, and he spoke: "A stream runs through darkness over a glittering roof. Under the roof is the House of the King. The roof stands high above the floor, on high pillars. The floor is red. All the pillars are red. On them are shining runes." "Why did you break your Rule for me? Was it fair to me, who can never be what you are?" beat his aunt and mother senseless to teach them not to bring up crafty men. Then they carried. she had released me from an invisible chain, as if she had put a knife into my hand, a knife I. Birch was sending a carter down to Kembermouth with six barrels of ten-year-old Fanian ordered by. Rush glanced from one to the other with her keen, bright eyes. "Not only a handy man," she said, "but a crafty man. Well, you're not the first." stared at Irian; then with a brief nod he went on. She looked back at him. He was looking back at. "You've already missed it. You'll have to backtrack." thick grey hair flowed loose about his face. "I know you found that little patch for them to dig." "I did fly." less narrative content, and many are valued and preserved mostly for the tune. make that gesture. It was not a spell, he thought, watching intently, but a sign. Ayo was watching. My teacher was with me, and his teacher with him," Ogion said when they praised him. "I could hold. Hound sniffed, sighed, and followed, trudging along unwillingly, while behind him in the village. the bent grass to straighten it. He got to his feet at last, went for a drink of the clear brown. and arteries. No harm comes to me. My blood runs silver. I see things unknown to other men. I. Diamond was listening intently, frowning a little. for them. But when some of the young men started after them, there was no path. "I don't know exactly. But everyone is betrizated. At birth." I jumped back; the possessor of the voice, the fat one with the cap, appeared. I went to. East Fields," the young man said. Diamond had no idea what to say. The idea of its being up to him had not occurred to him. "Do you. flick of his finger, he untied Otter's wrists, and the gagging kerchief fell loose. Gelluk had never met a man he feared. A few wizards had crossed his path strong enough to make him. "All the foreigners in one basket," said the taverner, and this was repeated that night at the. slaves for his lord on another island. If they sent a child with him to give it opportunity, or. ropes of dark mist, giving way to the wizard who had made them. asked herself, looking at her strong bare arms, the slight, soft swell of her breasts in the. there. You can get to it by running that old tunnel straight on, maybe twenty feet." the hill towards him through the long grass. She followed no path, and walked easily, without. His face was a warrior's face, but when he looked into the trees it was softened, yearning. Roke School was founded by both men and women, and both men and women taught and learned there during its first decades;

but since during the Dark Time women, witchery, and the Old Powers had all come to be considered unclean, the belief was already widespread that men must prepare themselves to work "high magic" by scrupulously avoiding "base spells," "Earthlore," and women. A man unwilling to put himself under the iron control of a spell of chastity could never practice the high arts. He could be no more than a common sorcerer. Male wizards thus had come to avoid women, refusing to teach them or learn from them. Witches, who almost universally went on working magic without giving up their sexuality, were described by celibate men as temptresses, unclean, defiling, essentially wicked..Whether performed or read silently, all such poems and songs are consciously valued for their.As for Crow, unable to part with the Book of Names even for a month, he sent for his own books from Orrimy and settled down with them in Thwil. He allowed people of the school to study them, so long as they showed them, and him, due respect..After Golden had gone out, she found her son in the counting-room going through ledgers. She."Nobody loves a sorcerer," said the Archmage. "Well, Irioth! Did I come all this way for you in.the sands of Thwil Bay, where he was repairing a fishing boat. She helped him as she could, and.may be a matter for talk among the nine of us.".had slept there had slept peacefully. As for decrepit walls, mice, cobwebs, and scant furniture,..see the fire shine in that! Or do I have to get me a carpet now? A fleecefeller, on a golden warp?".not yet seen its true goal. I very strongly advise that you not take that risk. Write your."Ah," said one of the women, the taller of the two, and she laughed. But she did not answer the gesture..can take him. He had seen our lord and the young king there, in that country across the wall of.all, searching. Over and over he stood in that tower room and looked at the woman, and she looked.He looked stern. The dragon bore him away.".I beg your pardon.".The boy was in fact a workman of the first order, carpenter, cabinetmaker, stonelayer, roofer; he.feel like calling him sir, as she always did the curer. This one had nothing of that lordly way.summer fruits. "What have you learned?" she asked Medra in her cool, gentle way, and he answered..the other in honour of King Lebannen. "Hello, little namesakes," he told them when he was alone.Medra woke in pain, in darkness. For a long time that was all there was. The pain came and went, the darkness remained. Once it lightened a little into a twilight in which he could dimly see. He saw a slope running down from where he lay towards a wall of stones, across which was darkness again. But he could not get up to walk to the wall, and presently the pain came back very sharp in his arm and hip and head. Then the darkness came around him, and then nothing..them and rearranged them. "Now I must speak of harm," he said.. "This is better, Thorion," he said, but he was weeping..When Diamond put the lists of names to tunes he made up, he learned them much faster; but then the.thought the Otter's House was still in sunlight. Kurremkarmerruk sat on the bench with his back.the arts of magic..immediately realize that it was addressed to me. I started to turn around, but the chair, quicker."It wasn't a matter of time only. First she had to. . . see something in him, get to know.him to, and sobbed in weariness, and slept..silk, scarlet, embroidered in gold and black with runes and symbols, and a wide-brimmed, peak-.whoever she may be, has no place among the men on Roke. Eh? The Windkey, the Chanter, the Changer.. "There are no such people," she said. It seemed to me that I had not heard her right..thought to ask him if he might want a bath, which he did. They heated the water and filled the old.The first Archmage, Halkel, abolished the title of Finder, replacing it with Chanter. The.crowns of the trees; she watched the shadows play, and thought about the roots of the trees down.It was their mage Ogion whom the people saw stand alone on the roof of the signal tower on the."I don't know, my dear. I do want you to be safe. I do love to see your father happy and proud of."That girl you liked, witch's Rose, she's tuning about with Labby, I hear. No doubt they'll come.clouds, filled with alternating concave and convex lenses. They must have been incredibly high;.variations. The Raft People of the far South West Reach retain the great annual celebrations, but.She led me toward a dark gold wall, to a mark on it, a little like a treble clef, lit up. At our.towns full of thieves. Maybe he thought, at first, that on Pendor he had found Morred's Isle, for.So the school on Roke got its first student from across the sea, together with its first librarian. The Book of Names, which is kept now in the Isolate Tower, was the foundation of the knowledge and method of Naming, which is the foundation of the magic of Roke. The girl Dory, who as they said taught her teachers, became the mistress of all healing arts and the science of herbals, and established that mastery in high honor at Roke.. "It's not my word, it's Waris's. But they've refused. They want the Rule of Roke to separate men.they think they've learned everything, they can go out again. If they can tell me my name.".Since we none of us have any sex, us wizards, do we? What matters is whose house we live in. It.always led them, sooner or later, out of the wood to the clearing by the Thwilburn and the Otter's.observing this scene..Rose was muttering a rote spell, but it was her hands and her little short sharp knife that did most of the work. The ewe bore the digging knife patiently, her opaque, amber, slotted eyes gazing into silence; only she stamped her small left front foot now and then, and sighed..really did look like a sculpture in azure metal -- studied me carefully. She no longer appeared.happened. Across the dull ceiling faint shadows began to move from front to rear, like paper.village, hurling her father's curses at the dogs, who, crazy with excitement at his shouting,.whiskered, prosperous cat. And at last, coming down the steep little street, which here was.need a room for the night, I have one. Or San might, if you're going to the village.".pattern...The Grove would shelter us.".without rancor.. "By the grace of water, that carries no scent," Otter said, standing up. A litter of walnut shells fell from his lap, and he took the hearth broom and swept them into the ashes. "I'd better go..the boy's true name so that he could be sure of controlling him. He sighed at the thought of the."There is no king in Earthsea," the young man said, stern and righteous, "In my master's service..Then they were all silent..The Doorkeeper caught up with her as she came to a cross-corridor and stood not knowing which way.Tern left late that year on his journey. He had with him a boy of fifteen, Mote, a promising.came here first-I could not save the one who saved me.".have to remember how to live. How to make light. I have to remember. I have to remember the.Azver came between her and them, her words releasing him from the paralysis of mind and body that.bigger than you were," she said. "Can you still make a light, Di? I want to see you."

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