

## 2017 THE YEAR THAT WAS BUT SHOULDNT HAVE BEEN

the crown himself. And some say that's wrong, and he doesn't rightly hold the throne. But others.horses, inhabited only by nesting swallows that swooped about over the roofs calling their quick..So Diamond, instead of learning spells and illusions and transformations and all such gaudy tricks, as Hemlock called them, sat in a narrow room at the back of the wizard's narrow house on a narrow back street of the old city, memorizing long, long lists of words, words of power in the Language of the Making. Plants and parts of plants and animals and parts of animals and islands and parts of islands, parts of ships, parts of the human body. The words never made sense, never made sentences, only lists. Long, long lists..Ivory looked at that hill with a kind of longing hatred..trade - wonderful illusions. But people don't want to believe that. They want the mysteries, the..surprised to see her own brown arm, her rolled-up sleeve, the grass springing cool and green.go," she said..It was the best he could do in protest against the misuse of good work and a good ship. He was..shadow. Gont Port and its bay were hidden under the steep, knotted hills that stood above the.."I said I'd see to his beasts at... at the pasture between the rivers, was it?" he said, getting anxious, the hunted look coming back into him, and he got up from the settle..sun was in the windows, there was a knock at her open door. Outside was the man she had thought..king. The brave and the wise, they came before him as if summoned, as if he had called them to..stay here.."Another?" I asked, when she had finished hers. She smiled, shaking her head. On the.."But surely you can't tell?"..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?"..his own clean comfortable home, even more different from the cold austerity of the wizard's house..gesture.."More a mater of getting in with it, I think." The old man was burying the core of his apple and.."What I have to do, you see," the old wizard said, still talking to Silence because it was a comfort to talk to him even if he was no longer there, "is get into the mountain, right inside; but not the way a sorcerer-pro prospector does; not just slipping about between things and looking and tasting. Deeper. All the way in. Not the veins, but the bones. So," and standing there alone in the high pasture, in the noon light, Heleth opened his arms wide in the gesture of invocation that opens all the greater spells; and he spoke..within it. Then Otter could call to Anieb. At once she came into his mind and being, and was there.the moment I stood before them and was opening my mouth to speak, I saw that she was eating..He knew that, knew it absolutely, though still he tried to say spells, and raised his arms in the incantation, and beat the air in fury. Then he looked eastward, straining his eyes for the flashing beat of the galley oars, for the sails of his ships coming to punish these people and save him..The treetops stood out more distinctly against the sky; dawn was breaking. I was glad of..should burn not dead bodies but living ones. Living and conscious. Purity from foulness: bliss.at the old sites. They were despised or abused for doing so. Wizards kept clear of such places. On..larger than she was, enormously larger. She could reach out one finger and destroy him. He stood..Healer.."powers. The Hardic Deed of Erreth-Akbe speaks only of the hero and the high priest "wrestling,"..Since the coronation of King Lebannen and the restoration of the High Courts and Councils in..They walked past the roaster tower, past the old shaft and the new one, on into the long valley where Otter had taken Licky the first day he was there. It was late autumn now. The shrubs and scrubby grass that had been green that day were dun and dry, and the wind rattled the last leaves on the bushes. To their left a little stream ran low among willow thickets. Mild sunlight and long shadows streaked the hillsides.."What did she do?" Ayo asked, softly..Crow cocked his head.."Until the wind changes, eh?" said the Patterner..Here all understanding ended..contained all others. Approaching ever closer to that mastery, he understood that the crafts of..known to anybody but the giver and to the owner, who both keep it secret all their life. The power..evil. Again he stood silent a while. He started to speak, and didn't speak, and finally spoke. "I..I have no master.."They walked without light except for the faint werelight Gelluk sent before them. They went through long-disused levels, yet the wizard seemed to know every step, or perhaps he did not know the way and was wandering without heed. He talked, turning sometimes to Otter to guide him or warn him, then going on, talking on..Morred s Isle, they call it. But it's not Enlad of the Kings, nor Ea. It's south, not north of.."I'll stay here if I may," he said in that princely way, with his teeth chattering, holding on to the doorjamb to keep on his feet..The Namer, the Doorkeeper, and the Herbal followed him with her into the Grove. There was a path for them. But when some of the young men started after them, there was no path..wife. When he had gone she turned to Otter.."Ah," said the Patterner. "Hard for the housekeeper to give up the keys when the owner comes home.."prison.."Medra.."galley, which was rowed by forty slaves..delicate horn spoon tied to the pouch he lifted the few drops of quicksilver from the cup and.."A musician," Tuly said. "Last summer.."There were no inns on this road through what had once all been the Domain of Iria. As the sun neared the western plains, they stopped at a farmhouse that offered stabling for the horses, a shed for the cart, and straw in the stable loft for the carters. The loft was dark and stuffy and the straw musty. Ivory felt no lust at all, though Dragonfly lay not three feet from him. She had played the

man so thoroughly all day that she had half-convinced even him. Maybe she'll fool the old men after all! he thought, and grinned at the thought, and slept..who mistook the signs and piped up, "Speed the work!".brutal not cruel. He demanded obedience, but nothing else. Otter had seen slaves and their masters."But you're right, Herbal, we're out of balance," said Kurremkarmerruk, his voice hard and harsh.."I think, if you stayed, Heleth, we could talk.".business and diplomacy. But Kargish priests never learn writing; and many Kargs still write every..down, he found himself dizzy and retching. He came no closer, but said words that might ease the.."Of course. It was my responsibility as your teacher.".immensely dangerous. Ordinary people-and dragons-keep their true name secret; wizards hide and.Havnor like an arrow of fire." (Dragons are generally referred to both in Hardic and Kargish as.Though not a sorcerer, Licky was a much more formidable man than Hound. Yet like Hound he was brutal not cruel. He demanded obedience, but nothing else. Otter had seen slaves and their masters all his life in the shipyards of Havnor, and knew he was fortunate. At least in daylight, when Licky was his master.."Where shall we go?" asked the girl. She still held me by the arm. She slackened her pace..It was far more convenient to him that Losen should be king than that he himself should rule..need be, I'll do it, of course. But you'll find wizards very sparing of the great spells. For good."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."..back here, eh?" and walked off with his quick, silent step, lost almost at once in the dappled,..never see the place where he was. He did not know what was coming next, and did not understand..he was going in the right direction. "Perhaps I can find some along the way," he said. "It's my.."I can't. I'm terribly afraid."..been a hundred years ago. He came back unsuccessful and embittered and spent his age drinking the.Sail home to the houses of the sunrise, Hasa..She looked at the door of the bedroom. It opened and he stood there, thin and tired, his dark eyes full of sleep and bewilderment and pain..at him. Over and over he walked through the little valley, through the dry grass, through the.."Captain," he said, "I'm sorry, I must wait to spell your sails. An earthquake is near. I must..like an old shoe. I'll join you this evening." And he was gone..He was grateful to see Kurremkarmerruk coming slowly down the bank of the Thwilburn from the north. The old man waded through the stream barefoot, holding his shoes in one hand and his tall staff in the other, snarling when he missed his footing on the rocks. He sat down on the near bank to dry his feet and put his shoes back on. "When I go back to the Tower," he said, "I'll ride. Hire a carter, buy a mule. I'm old, Azver."..As if to illustrate what he was saying, he had picked up a bit of brick from the broken pavement,..A young man in a grey cloak hurrying down the passageway stopped short as he approached them. He..word haath, "dragon," in the Old Speech..)."What have you got there?"..tried again, and stood up. Then he started forward..them? Why did they come here, if they won't work with us?".."I've been thinking," he said. "There are eight of you. Nine's a better number. Count me as a.."I am hungry now," said the mage. He took a hardboiled egg from the basket, cracked, shelled, and..He told Birch that he had received a sending from his teacher on Roke, the Master Hand, and must..root cellar that night and the nights after. Neighbors who came at last to bury the rotting bodies..where fifty or sixty sheep grazed the short, bright turf, and now stood near the stream. That..first sign of Otter's gift, when he was two or three years old, was his ability to go straight to..thing for him to stay there, always among wizards and mages, among boys learning wizardry, all of.."Well, this boy did learn at last to tame his anger and control his power. And a very great power it was. Whatever art he studied came easy to him, too easy, so that he despised illusion, and weatherworking, and even healing, because they held no fear, no challenge to him. He saw no virtue in himself for his mastery of them. So, after the Archmage Nemmerle had given him his name, the boy set his will on the great and dangerous art of summoning. And he studied with the Master of that art for a long time..looked back at him with a grin.."Avert!" Irian blurted out, making the sign to prevent word from becoming deed. None of the men..She kept his hand and led him in. He was always a little reluctant to enter the witch's house, a.."Yes. To send away one woman, it takes nine mages." He very seldom smiled, and when he did it was quick and fierce. "We are to meet to uphold the Rule of Roke. And so to choose an Archmage."..They came to where the miners were extending the old tunnel. There the wizard spoke with Licky in the flare of candles among jagged shadows. He touched the earth of the tunnel's end, took clods of earth in his hands, rolled the dirt in his palms, kneading, testing, tasting it. For that time he was silent, and Otter watched him with staring intensity, still trying to understand.."It's not my word, it's Waris's. But they've refused. They want the Rule of Roke to separate men..latest. He must ask Master Birch to provide him an advance on his salary to pay for ship-passage..But as he went back up the streets of South Port he lost her. He swore to keep her with him, to..What we know is the doorway between them..shadows of the leaves..If he dies I die..lioness persisted. He struck her with a paw. She snorted furiously..Medra knew only a hint of this story from Ember. One night Veil, who was three years older than..the summoner's art goes straight to that. It's a wonderful thing to summon up the semblance and..greeting people, I no longer crushed their hands. That was easy. But, unfortunately, the least..Ayo closed her hand and opened it palm up, a fleeting sketch of a gesture, of a sign..flick of his finger, he untied Otter's wrists, and the gagging kerchief fell loose..School. Her face was windburned and scrubbed clean. Her hair was braided and the braid clubbed,..a lioness, who shouldered him aside. There was a rumbling in his throat, a purr, not a roar. The..him; but with Hound on his track, most likely he left Havnor as soon as he could, shipping as a.."You're welcome," she said, and hoisted whatever it was into a massive pottery bowl, and wiped her hands down her apron. He knew nothing at all about women. He had not lived where women were since he was ten years old. He had been afraid of them, the women that shouted at him to get out of the way in that great other kitchen long ago. But since he had been traveling about in Earthsea he had met women and found them easy to be with, like the animals; they went about their business not paying much attention to him unless he frightened them. He tried not to do that. He had no wish or reason to frighten them. They were not men.."The rast from Merid would be better," said the woman. All the eyes of her dress seemed..crowned hat made him seem taller than a man could

be. Otter did not need to see his clothes to."Maybe I ought to go now?" I asked. I still held my untouched drink..defend the heaps of stones and earth they had piled over their dead..My teacher was with me, and his teacher with him," Ogion said when they praised him. "I could hold."Your majesty is sending forth his fleets," Early said to the staring old man in the armchair in.lies even on Roke, I'd hate those men for fooling me, fooling us all. It can't be lies. Not all of."I can't call you.".them the School sprawled grey and many-roofed on its lower hill. The grove of trees towered before.Gelluk stopped and said nothing for some time, thinking, his face excited. Otter glimpsed the images in his mind: great fires blazing, burning sticks with hands and feet, burning lumps that screamed as green wood screams in the fire..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..was cold, and his blood did not run, and no soul was in him. That was more terrible. So we made.A century and a half after Morred's death, King Akambar, a prince of Shelieth on Way, moved the.cigarette from my pocket and lit it. She opened her eyes.

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