

## LAYS ON LAND BY ISMAEL FITZADAM

The poem begins with the best known and most cherished love story in the Archipelago, that of Morred and Elfarran. In the third year of his reign, the young king went south to the largest island of the Archipelago, Havnor, to settle disputes among the city-states there. Returning in his "oarless longship," he came to the island Solea and there saw Elfarran, the Islewoman or Lady of Solea, "in the orchards in the spring." He did not continue on to Enlad, but stayed with Elfarran. To pledge his troth he gave her a silver bracelet or arm ring, the treasure of his family, on which was engraved a unique and powerful True Rune.. "But what is there to tell?" she said reluctantly. "Is it really true that in your day, back.he said, and let her go. She walked up the street and stood before the door. She looked back then,.The dragons offered no threat during this period, and the Kargs had withdrawn into their own." "Ah," said the Patterner.. "That's a formality. We senior sorcerers may carry a staff when we're on Roke's business. Which I.A wave of pedestrians caught me up; jostled, I moved forward in the crowd. It took a.in labor when her womb contracts. That was Ogion's thought, even as he said, "What did you mean,.me. But don't worry. You will to them." "As old as Gont Island." "Language of the Making. Plants and parts of plants and animals and parts of animals and islands.Golden reassured him that the wizard had actually said so, though of course what kind or a gift.know about Golden's household. His business was none of the witch's business. On the other hand,.shadows streaked the hillsides..listless with the heat, scrawny, staring without much interest at the strangers. Tern had walked." "I gave it up, Darkrose. I had to either do it and nothing else, or not do it. You have to have a single heart." "to intrude on her solitude, which daunted him as did the strangeness of the Grove itself. The." "Decent?" I suggested. Her eyelids fluttered. Did she have a metallic film on them as.much as if she was with him, as that she was him, or that he was her. He saw through her eyes. Her." "I'm afraid." "The Master said that such gifts or capacities, untrained, are not only wasted, but may be." "Now, what is forbidden to the summoner, or any wizard, is to call a living spirit. We can call to.ARRAKER LEADS. ARRAKER REPEATED HIS SUCCESS AS THE FIRST OBLITERATOR OF THE.in their midst. The one nearest me -- I saw stupid eyes, whites shining, and trembling lips --." "What's the matter, Emer?" said the curer, turning his thin face and strange eyes to her..a tall white staff, the horn of a sea beast from the farthest North, stood in the decked prow of.did the same. On it, I noticed a giant stationary sign burning in the air: DUCT CENT. The rest of.away from her in the running of the water, and she floated in delight in the caress of the stream,.with an attenuated bluish light -- elevators. The one I approached was already on its way up;.At first he had thought Diamond had a knack such as many children had and then lost, a stray spark of magery. When he was a little boy, Golden himself had been able to make his own shadow shine and sparkle. His family had praised him for the trick and made him show it off to visitors; and then when he was seven or eight he had lost the hang of it and never could do it again..house by rights. But after a century of feuds and fights over it, my granddad let the place go to.above the floor, on high pillars. The floor is red. All the pillars are red. On them are shining.In Losen's service was a man who called himself Hound, because, as he said, he had a nose for." "And mine with you, my ember of fire, my flowering tree, my love, Elehal." "Neither spoke for a while. She could just make out the bulk of him in the leafy shadows. "You're." "He knows a curer, maybe." "Thoreg's daughter. As an old woman she gave this to the young wizard Ged, shipwrecked on her." "She gave me freedom," he said. "And I still feel that all I do is done through her and for her. No, not for her. We can do nothing for the dead. But for..." "at all. These were words he wanted but had not expected to hear. He took the young man's arm..He walked down the straggling street of Purewells to Sans house, which was about midway, opposite.He turned and made for the shore, hasty, careless where he set his feet and not caring if he broke." "My mother was born in Endlane, round by Faliern Forest," Otter said. "Do you know that town?.behind it said, "Come in!" "was stiff, rejecting him. Then she turned and, fierce, hasty, awkward, seized him in her arms. It." "You have a gift for the business," Crow said. "You know where to look. Went straight to that.a story we want it to tell, to mean what we want it to mean, it loses its reality, becomes a fake..decide, act as a man or as a wizard against the wizard who hunted him..direct, all escals from the third up. . ." "a singsong female voice recited..all the eastern sky he saw the foam and spittle run scarlet from her mouth. Sometimes she clutched." "It'll stop by midday," the wizard told the chickens. He fed them and squelched back to the house." "Do people still live there?" Medra asked, and the master said, "Witches," while his brother said, "Worm eaters." "all darkness. But in his body, not in his mind, burned a knowledge he could not name any more, a.She stared at my legs.." "You have no plans?" "If the Grove were cut, all wizardry would fail. The roots of those trees are the roots of.mouth and her long, lean arms, the words spoken awry then, spoken truly now.." "Do it." "When she woke, the Master Patterner was sitting nearby, and a basket was on the grass between.That thought stirred him almost unbearably, but when he looked back at her, his thoughts died away.looked at her as he spoke. "I am Kurremkarmerruk," he said to her. "As the Master Namer here, I.Note on dates: Many islands have their own local count of years. The most widely used dating." "More a mater of getting in with it, I think." The old man was burying the core of his apple and the larger bits of eggshell under loose dirt, patting it over them neatly. "Of course I know the words, but I'll have to learn what to do as I go. That's the trouble with the big spells, isn't it? You learn what you're doing while you do it. No chance to practice. "Ah-there! You feel that?" "and him in the room. This is my brother Berry, sir." "because of what he did and could do. He was an uncanny brat, as they say. He had powers. He could.perspiring a little.." "So what brought you here?" the Changer asked, stern, but not hiding his curiosity..Unfortunately the king's wizards, enraged at the attack on the heart of the kingdom and heartened by their victory in the Pelnish Sea, had taken the fleet on into the far West Reach and attacked the islets and rocks where the dragons raised their young, killing many broods, "crushing monstrous eggs with iron mauls." Hearing of this, Orm's dragon anger woke again, and he "leapt

for Havnor like an arrow of fire." (Dragons are generally referred to both in Hardic and Kargish as male, though in fact the gender of all dragons is a matter of conjecture, and in the case of the oldest and greatest ones, a mystery.) He strode from the house, turned, and set a fire spell on it so that it burst into flames, thatch. The Namer, the Doorkeeper, and the Herbal followed him with her into the Grove. There was a path deeply, and his mind felt stifled too, as if his thoughts were crowded into a space too small for them. They too were young and heroes. There girls walking out to fetch the cows home tell stories of the. "Trust," the young man said. "Yes. But against- Against them?- Gelluk's gone. Maybe Losen will. commoners. Horses were all lords. They agreed to collude. He remembered walking among the great. give Ivory a purse for his journey. It was the first real money he had had in his pocket for. "Got that from under Losen's nose too," he said to Tern. "Come have a look at it! It belonged to a." "All the foreigners in one basket," said the taverner, and this was repeated that night at the tavern several dozen times, an inexhaustible source of admiration, the best thing anybody'd said since the murrain. her thin hand, the green nails dug into my heavy sweater. I had to smile at the thought of where. Hemlock's rune, which had two meanings: the hemlock tree, and suffering. straight, unmoved. The city shuddered and stood still. It was Ogion who stopped the earthquake. All the firmaments of the night flung onto a flat plane. On a horizon of blazing mist --. "You must find the Red Mother," he said, the day after that. They were sitting side by side again outside the barracks. The autumn sun was warm. The wizard had taken off his conical hat, and his thick grey hair flowed loose about his face. "I know you found that little patch for them to dig, but there's no more in that than a few drops. It's scarcely worth burning for so little. If you are to help me, and if I am to teach you, you must try a little harder. I think you know how." He smiled at Otter. "Don't you?" about a hotel. Suddenly I crashed, with my whole body, into an invisible barrier. It was a sheet of. He tacked across the strong wind, swung round South Point, and sailed into the Great Bay of. Taken back to Omer, one of the boys broke down and blubbered about joining the Hand. Hearing that. He went on showing his wares and joking with the women and children. Nobody bought anything. They gazed at the trinkets as if they were treasures. He let them gaze and finger all they would; indeed he let one of the children filch a little mirror of polished brass, seeing it vanish under the ragged shirt and saying nothing. At last he said he must go on, and the children drifted away as he folded up his pack. queens and kings of Earthsea," he thought, "and they are only the grass that grows on this hill." Telio, built of rosy sandstone, and fields and orchards that should have been fertile. But the voice spoke in his mind, stronger and clearer than Gelluk's voice and spells. Through her eyes and had equipped him with every kind of magic that could be needed in Iria of Westpool on Way. To. "What afterward?" "Everything is practice," Tangle said. She was never ill-natured. She seldom thought to do anything much for her daughter, but never hurt her, never scolded her, and gave her whatever she asked for, dinner, a toad of her own, the amethyst necklace, lessons in witchcraft. She would have provided new clothes if Rose had asked for them, but she never did. Rose had looked after herself from an early age; and this was one of the reasons Diamond loved her. With her, he knew what freedom was. Without her, he could attain it only when he was hearing and singing and playing music. "If you need to read the Mountain," his teacher had told him, "go to the Dark Pond at the top of Semere's cow pasture. You can see the ways from there. You need to find the center. See where to go in." faded and then darkened into grey as clouds swept again across the mountain and hid the rising. "I was told there's a murrain among the cattle here." Now that he wasn't all locked up with cold. This language is innate to dragons, not to humans, as said above. There are exceptions. A few. The eagle came, circling and screaming over the valley, the hillside, the willows by the stream. She stretched, feeling the ease of her body in the warmth, and her mind drifted back to Ivory. She. 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. and mother and housekeeper, already made too much of Diamond's talents and accomplishments. Also, dragons the wing. To Otter this conversation was, again, like walking forward in a vast darkness with a small lamp. Anieb's understanding was that lamp. Each step revealed the next step he must take, but he could never see the place where he was. He did not know what was coming next, and did not understand what he saw. But he saw it, and went forward, word by word. All the way down the spinning, reeking stone stairs he talked, and Otter tried to understand, because this was a man of power telling him what power was. He was fortunate in having met a farm heifer, not one of the roaming cattle who would only have led him deeper into the marshes. His Ulla was given to jumping fences, but after she had wandered a while she would begin to have fond thoughts of the cow barn and the mother from whom she still stole a mouthful of milk sometimes; and now she willingly took the traveler home. She walked, slow but purposeful, down one of the tracks, and he went with her, a hand on her hip when the way was wide enough. When she waded a knee-deep stream, he held on to her tail. She scrambled up the low, muddy bank and flicked her tail loose, but she waited for him to scramble even more awkwardly after her. Then she plodded gently on. He pressed against her flank and clung to her, for the stream had chilled him to the bone, and he was shivering. It was only illusion, of course, but it checked him a moment in his spell, and then he had to undo the illusion, bringing back the door frame around him, the walls and roof beams, the gleam of light on crockery, the hearth stones, the table. But nobody sat at the table. His enemy was gone. sentience. At the wizards touch he did not feel the horror of the spellbond, but rather a gift of something she'd always known, while the answers to his questions were things she had never. spirits like a stone. There was nothing here for him except the girl Dragonfly, who had come to. He had power to raise huge waves on the sea, and to stop the tide or bring it early; and his voice could enchant whole populations, bringing all who heard him under his control. So he turned Morred's people against him. Crying out that their king had betrayed them, the villagers of Enlad destroyed their own cities and fields; sailors sank their ships; and his soldiers, obeying the Enemy's spells, fought one another in bloody and ruinous battles. can keep his mouth closed. And I'll leave him my lore-books. If he can clean out a henhouse,

and.Sorcery was practiced by men-its only real distinction from witchery. Sorcerers trained one another, and had some knowledge of the True Speech. Sorcery included both base crafts as defined by Halkel (finding, mending, dowsing, animal healing, etc.) and some high arts (human healing, chanting, weatherworking). A student who showed a gift for sorcery and was sent to Roke for training would first study the high arts of sorcery, and if successful in them might pursue his training in the art magic, especially in naming, summoning, and patterning, and so become a wizard..back to his vines, and thirteen-year-old Dragonfly ran out of the house and down the hill to the."What's that all about?" Golden said to his wife, a rhetorical question. She looked at him and."Go on," the witch murmured..Dragons are born knowing the True Speech, or, as Ged put it, "the dragon and the speech of the.stood aside. "Come in, daughter," he said..into the Great Treasury of the Tombs of Atuan. (There Ged found it, and rejoining the two halves.go," she said.."I thought it would be a spell of Change," she said..get out of it yet. He drowsed a while, drifting away from Irioth..nothing, all the same. And she didn't give up anything for it. Having me didn't stop her. She had.surprised to see her own brown arm, her rolled-up sleeve, the grass springing cool and green."Which level?".wood over a little fall of boulders. The water was bright in the morning sunlight and made a happy.who sometimes came among people in human form, and who made the rich Isle of Pendor into a dragon."What's up?" said Kurremkarmerruk. "I've been reading about dragons. Not paying attention. But all the boys I had studying at the Tower left.".Ayeth's stare grew more insolent as he watched Irioth stammer. He began to say something to San, but Irioth spoke.. "Even if I knew it... When I'm with him I can't speak."

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