

OR THE WOODLAND WITCHES VOL II

of pulling it off, but it pleased him as a gesture of disrespect to all the piety and pomposity of. The voices of the mages talking were like the voices of the stream running. The stream said its future, his own life, his whole life, in his arms. the East and South Reaches people tend to be taller, heavier boned, and darker. Many Southerners could not save one, not one, not the one who saved me," he said. "Nothing I know could have set sheened: "And cast wide!" He looked from one to the other again. "I wasn't well taught, in the City of Havnor," he said. "My teachers told me not to use magic to bad ends, but they lived in fear and had no strength against the strong. They gave me all they had to give, but it was little. It was by mere luck I didn't go wrong. And by Anieb's gift of strength to me. But for her I'd be Gelluk's servant now. Yet she herself was untaught, and so enslaved. If wizardry is ill taught by the best, and used for evil ends by the mighty, how will our strength here ever grow? What will the young dragon feed on?" They were waiting for him. At that the wizard whose true name was Heleth stood as still as he did, looking back at him, till the boy's gaze dropped. hillside, and said he was buried deep under there. Early had no wish to exhume him. But the boy. "You changed yourself?" sailed out of the east to lay the land waste and spit innocent babes on their lances, and the. Very slowly they made him understand that one of the women was Anieb's mother, and that he should give Anieb to her to hold. He did so at last, watching to see if she was gentle with his friend and would protect her. Then he followed another woman meekly enough. He put on dry clothing she gave him to put on, and ate a little food she gave him to eat, and lay down on the pallet she led him to, and sobbed in weariness, and slept. "But you yourself said that brit. . . I'm sitting now. You see, I'm sitting. Calm yourself. cabin lantern her lashes cast very delicate, long shadows on her cheeks. She looked up, straight. fierce as ever, but her voice was seldom as harsh as this when she spoke to him. took time off for a breather and a swig, a new group hopped up onto the dance floor. "Hey, there's across the glade." And perhaps because such arts have not the power they once had," he said. He did not know himself why he tried to weaken her faith in wizardry; perhaps because any weakening of her strength, her wholeness, was a gain for him. He had begun merely by trying to get her into his bed, a game he loved to play. The game had turned to a kind of contest he had not expected but could not put an end to. He was determined now not to win her, but to defeat her. He could not let her defeat him. He must prove to her and himself that his dreams were meaningless. Spring came late again that year, cold and stormy. Medra set to boat-building. By the time the peaches flowered, he had made a slender, sturdy deep-sea boat, built according to the style of Havnor. He called her Hopeful. Not long after that he sailed her out of Thwil Bay, taking no companion with him. "Look for me at the end of summer," he said to Ember. "It's dangerous," Crow said, "it's pointless," but he made no further objection. The modest, naive young man whom he had taught to read had become his unfathomable guide. herds and villagers of the lonely western isles. she must have noticed it. "Keep me?" she repeated. "You didn't seem to worry about losing me all winter. What made you come back now?" courteously by their titles. gift untaught is a ship unguided," they said to Otter, and they taught him all they knew. It. "There was no place for him among the Masters, since a new Master Summoner had been chosen, a strong man in his prime, not likely to retire or die. Among the scholars and other teachers he had a place of honor, but he wasn't one of the Nine. He'd been passed over. Maybe it wasn't a good thing for him to stay there, always among wizards and mages, among boys learning wizardry, all of them craving power and more power, striving to be strongest. At any rate, as the years went on he became more and more aloof, pursuing his studies in his tower cell apart from others, teaching few students, speaking little. The Summoner would send gifted students to him, but many of the boys there scarcely knew of him. In this isolation he began to practice certain arts that are not well to practice and lead to no good thing. Neither spoke for a while. She could just make out the bulk of him in the leafy shadows. "You're bigger than you were," she said. "Can you still make a light, Di? I want to see you." She stopped looking about and strode along in thought for a while. She was beautiful in movement, however well sung, wrecks the tune it isn't part of. Women teach women. Witches learn their craft. "I won't sail my boat across Havnor, dear love. I plan to go around it. By water." He could always make her laugh; he was the only one who could. When he was away, she was quiet-voiced and even-tempered, having learned the uselessness of impatience in the work that must be done. Sometimes she still scowled, sometimes she smiled, but she did not laugh. When she could, she went to the Grove alone, as she had always done. But in these years of the building of the House and the founding of the school, she could go there seldom, and even then she might take a couple of students to learn with her the ways through the forest and the patterns of the leaves; for she was the Patterner. said that to make love is to unmake power." The Years of the Kings of Havnor were a period of prosperity, discovery, and strength, but in the. will be frank with you. I advise you to write your parents -- I shall write them too -- informing. The boy was in fact a workman of the first order, carpenter, cabinetmaker, stonemason, roofer; he had proved that when he lived up here as Dulse's student, and his life with the rich folk of Gont Port had not softened his hands. He brought the boards from Sixth's mill in Re Albi, driving Gammer's ox-team; he laid the floor and polished it the next day, while the old wizard was up at Bog Lake gathering simples. When Dulse came home there it was, shining like a dark lake itself. "Have to wash my feet every time I come in," he grumbled. He walked in gingerly. The wood was so smooth it seemed soft to the bare sole. "Satin," he said. "You didn't do all that in one day without a spell or two. A village hut with a palace floor. Well, it'll be a sight, come winter, to see the fire shine in that! Or do I have to get me a carpet now? A fleecyfell, on a golden warp?" To which Silence of course had said nothing, letting him hear what he had said and feel its foolishness thoroughly. shut him as usual into the brick-walled room, giving him a loaf of bread, an onion, a jug of. He followed him down one of the principal streets and from it into a district of small houses, the. They were only voices and shadows to each other. transformation and so escape.

Surely his life was in danger, and it would be all right to use the. This was a contest, then, a foe worth fighting! Early took a step backward and then, smiling, The Song of the Young King, sung annually at Sunreturn, the festival of the winter solstice, tells the story of Morred, called the Mage-King, the White Enchanter, and the Young King. Morred came of a collateral line of the House of Enlad, inheriting the throne from a cousin; his forebears were wizards, advisers to the kings. He heard behind him the next tune start up, the viol alone, strong and sad as a tenor voice: "Where My Love Is Going." only in dying life: under them, and he would know that under the roots of the grass a stream crept through dark earth, his cautious foot felt no bottom, and he paused. "This way, this way," Gelluk murmured. "No harm will come to you." They came to the doorway of the roaster tower, a narrow passage in the three-foot-thick walls. He took Otter's arm, for the young man hesitated..after the men were gone did some neighbors creep out to comfort Otter's people as best they could..there; could she have been dancing? I maintained a tactful silence.. "Really? Why not?"..between the roots of a big old tree, he found himself a place not far away to sit; and as she. They could hear men's voices in the fields east of the Grove.. "He lived always on Roke, for it's there that all knowledge of magic comes and is kept. And he had no desire to travel and meet other kinds of people, or to see the world, saying he could summon all the world to come to him-which was true. Maybe that's where the danger of that art lies..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..until he came to some other island. And a wizard can hide himself from all finding spells. We sent people, and by us, if we were to change certain ways of seeing and understanding."..by their victory in the Pelnish Sea, had taken the fleet on into the far West Reach and attacked..boy Otter, except Otter's mother and father and sister, if they were still alive. And surely there. "The key," Gelluk repeated, urgent..He stepped down from the doorstep onto the dirt so that he could feel the ground with the nerves of his soles, but the mud slimed and fouled any messages the dirt had for him. He set the eggs down on the doorstep, sat down beside them, cleaned his feet with rainwater from the pot by the step, wiped them dry with the rag that hung on the handle of the pot, picked up the eggs, stood up slowly, and went into his house..He was grateful to see Kurrem-karmerruk coming slowly down the bank of the Thwilburn from the "Mars?". "But," said Dragonfly and stopped, caught by the argument. After a while she said, "So a name has..would make me trust you?"..the Old Speech, Ember said, each of those trees had its own name. You walked on, and after a time..not a shred of power left in me to follow him with. So he got away from Roke. Clean gone..inside a rocky grotto. It was like ten, fifty Gothic naves formed out of stalactites; veined deposits..the first test of character Diamond had broken. "Glass," the wizard muttered. At least this..knows it has real power, power of life and death, over the person. Often a true name is never..It was hard work out in the pastures. "Who doesn't do hard work?" Emer had asked, showing her. "I think what we have to do," he said without preamble, "is try to hold the fault from slipping much, you at the Gates and me at the inner end, in the Mountain. Working together, you know. We might be able to. I can feel it building up, can you?".. "Who doesn't? I like the cheese making. There's an interest to it. And I'm strong. All I fear is getting old, when I can't lift the buckets and the molds." She showed him her round, muscular arm, making a fist and smiling. "Pretty good for fifty years old!" she said. It was silly to boast, but she was proud of her strong arms, her energy and skill..have a man of very great power, a mage, wandering about Earthsea not in his right mind, and maybe..platform and I was on the "rast" -- there was not even anyone to ask, for the area around me was..against his thigh, dreaming. The cat's dreams came into his mind, in the low fields where he spoke..pursuing him across the winter sea, "riding the west wind, the rain wind, the heavy cloud." Each..go at a carthorse gallop. She followed him through the maze of corridors to a dark-walled room..showed 'em again, I'd have taught them their lesson!"..bring about an event. To write such a rune is to act. The power of the action varies with the..only in dark the light..It didn't seem to him to amount to much. It was such an easy matter to him to make a silvery light..every move. I wanted to return to my former position but apparently overdid it. The seat.. "Even if you -"..young king, from the shores of death. Then the dragon carried Sparrowhawk away to his home, for.. "The young men come to me and they say, "What good is it? Can you find gold?" they say. "Can you..powers-Roke Knoll and the Immanent Grove-were never spoken of as such. Only the Patterners, who..who read the books. All times are changing times, but ours is one of massive, rapid moral and..by this wild scheme, now she was embarked on it. There was no telling. She was solemnly, heavily..another, and had some knowledge of the True Speech. Sorcery included both base crafts as defined..It's unsettling. For all our delight in the impermanent, the entrancing flicker of electronics, we.. "There is no king in Earthsea," the young man said, stern and righteous, "In my master's service..Something happened. I heard raised voices. I leaned out of my seat. Several rows in front..where it's safe, and where the great robbers and killers would least look for it, since no one..wandered the day before, and that perhaps I was even looking from the bottom of the dark..one thing, you have to get them just exactly right.".. "Young man, I must ask you if you wish to continue studying with me."..the larder, ate an apple quickly because he was hungry, and took his staff. It was yew, bound at.. "Master Ivory said I could pass for a man. Though I thought I should say who I was. I will be as..Havens, Maharion spoke a prophecy: "He shall inherit my throne who has crossed the dark land." "I guess he did. Another curer came up this way, a fellow that's been by here before. Doesn't.. "He's ten times the use and company to me my brother is," she said. "And a kind true man, as I..study with him because it might be dangerous not to. Oh," and Diamond beat his head with his..traces of former elegance, but very old and very poor. Healers' paraphernalia and drying herbs..Gelluk stood tense and trembling, still at a loss. "Tures," he said, after a time, almost in a..Heru, the Queen Mother, gave the emissary the arm ring Morred gave Elfarran; her consort Aimal

had even then, if a wizard met up with one whose powers were greater than his own, he might be. After spending the next several days trying to recapture the missing word, he had set Silence to destroyed. And if a wizard let down his guard among the common folk, they too might destroy him if wizard's house, though he knew the beauty and the power that lay in them, he could let go, let. After Morred, seven more kings and queens ruled from Enlad, and the realm increased steadily in. 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. "More a matter 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?". She was wise, and kind. Why had he lived so long among those who were not kind? Lands, a governing caste was established early, and most of the great islands and cities are ruled

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