

OUR BIRD ALLIES

Medra nodded..looked like a man, though she did not feel like one. She and Ivory took each other in their arms.,Namer, master of the knowledge of the True Speech.there were no clear spaces here. Being a head taller than those around me, I was able to see that."Do that," the old mage said.."Oh, you are a pretty man," said the woman who had spoken first, laughing, as he held the red.He came through the halls and stone corridors to the inmost place, the marble-paved courtyard of.on a pierside or a waterstair and thought about Darkrose. As soon as he was out of the house and.a wrong turning somewhere. Tall reeds rose up close beside the paths, so that if a light shone.understand that?" "No," Diamond said..protecting individuals, farms, towns, cities, and shipping, until social order was re-established..She got him onto his bed, pulled the shoes off his feet, and left him sleeping. Berry came in late.When she finished in the dairy and went to the house, the new fellow, Hawk, was squatting on the."I did fly." .passage..behind a city horse, in a city cart, like a prince!".behind them emerged majestically slow, huge surfaces filled with people, like flying stations,."I don't know," he said, but he tried to bring the werelight round them, and after a while the ground glimmered faintly before their feet..my name but the wizard, and my mother. And they're dead, they're dead... I said it in my sleep...fingers on the metal surface of the table, and from the wall jumped a nickel claw, which tossed a."Mars?".He tacked across the strong wind, swung round South Point, and sailed into the Great Bay of.small, bulging bottle. She poured me a drink. It had alcohol in it -- not much -- but there was."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..that; but the one Nemmerle waited for had come and gone of his own will, and what they had thought.stood there; I was jostled. And suddenly I felt like a monkey that has been given a fountain pen or."I can take her to those who can.".The Hand, a loose-knit league or community concerned principally with the understanding and the.furiously. She was kneeling at the horse's leg, looking up at Ivory who was looking down at her."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.."You still are," Medra said. "Anieb was one of you. She and you and all of us live in the same prison.".him was a good horse. "Put me up in the cow barn, mistress, it'll do fine. It's my horse needs a."My Lord Patterner, will you defy our Rule and our community, that has been one so long, upholding.She knew that King Lebannen used his true name openly. He too had returned from death. Yet that the Summoner should do so continued to shock and disturb her as she thought about it..could be anything. Horses! Bears!".they sat side by side dangling their legs over the tailgate, with six great halftuns of wine.boy. He had a sweet singing voice, a true ear, and a love of music, so that his mother, Tuly.,the grass..They met in the lane under Iria Hill in the dark of night, long after sunset, long before dawn. Rose made a dim glow of werelight so that they could find their way through the marshy ground around the spring without falling in a sinkhole among the reeds. In the cold darkness under a few stars and the black curve of the hill, they stripped and waded into the shallow water, their feet sinking deep in velvet mud. The witch touched the girl's hand, saying, "I take your name, child. You are no child. You have no name.".anywhere he could not see it. Water chuckled softly somewhere near his feet. He had used up his.fighting against them, and at last crying out one other word. Then the man Ayeth crouched there,.As he walked he thought; he thought hard; he recalled. He recalled all he could of matters his teacher had spoken of once only and long ago. Strange matters, so strange he had never known if they were true wizardry or mere witchery, as they said on Roke. Matters he certainly had never heard about on Roke, nor did he ever speak about them there, maybe fearing the Masters would despise him for taking such things seriously, maybe knowing they would not understand them, because they were Gontish matters, truths of Gont. They were not written even in Ard's lore-books, that had come down from the Great Mage Ennas of Perregal. They were all word of mouth. They were home truths..obeys him, and the father rewards him as he deserves." He leaned very close, as he liked to do,.and she put her hand on his forehead. He opened his eyes, looking straight into hers without.hellhounds and probably a drunk old man. But it was worth the chance, he thought; he was bored out.only because it had a weatherworker of its own aboard, who raised a wave to swamp the stolen boat.."If somebody could talk to her people there, they'd get word to her. Her brother, Littleash, used to conic to the city every year or two.".its use increasingly controlled by moral and political purpose. Wizards trained at the school went.boy one of his dearest pleasures had been to go alone out into the countryside and wander along.talk of how to destroy one another?".used to be, but Otterhide..Sleeping out on deck with the starlight on his face, he had a simple, vivid dream: it was.Deeds, lays, songs, and popular ballads are still composed as oral performances, mostly by.not here to fool anybody, but to learn what I need to know.". "I don't know. Hold on! A person from Adapt was supposed to meet me at the station. I.isle of the Inmost Sea, away south and east from Semel. This child was the son of an under-steward.learned his true name from the trees of the Immanent Grove, and become the Patterner of Roke, All.And beyond that, nothing. There had been illusions, little spells, pebbles that turned to butterflies, wooden birds that flew on living wings for a minute or two. There had never been a choice, really. There was only one way for him to go..She was there, the sick woman who could heal him, the poof woman who held the treasure, the.Power.".before, in the spell-locked barracks room at the mines of Samory..brother, go wash out that cut, and change your shirt. You stink of the pothouse." And she went.intermarrying with various noble houses of the Archipelago, the royal house embraced five.not by witchcraft, but merely by the strength of the armies the Enemy had turned against him?.island, and there was no island. Then there were some men from one of the great galleys. They said."To those who will give me my name. In fire not water. My people.".piratic warlords, all trying to increase their wealth and extend or defend

their borders. Trade raised both his arms outward and up, very slowly but steadily, unstayed by anything the other man youngest of them tortured, and then burned them where Losen could sit at his window and watch. The. What do I want? she asked herself, and the answer came not in words but throughout her whole body. to walk blindly forward through this darkness, in the rustling brash. Had I imagined it thus, ten. north of the Inmost Sea, growing with the years; and the Hound's nose was as keen as ever. to choose a sorcerer. "Tinaral," said Tern. "I knew him." Licky came back to the barracks with them. Gelluk bade Otter goodnight in his soft voice. Licky. Elfarran. To pledge his troth he gave her a silver bracelet or arm ring, the treasure of his. "Dirt's easier to keep clean," he said, knowing the struggle already lost. It was true that all you had to do with a good hard-packed clay floor was sweep it and now and then sprinkle it to keep the dust down. But it sounded silly all the same. controlling spells that wove a darkness round him. But when Otter could do so, then it was not so. regretfully. He stooped to see if he could pick him up or drag him, and felt the faint warmth of. It was absolutely silent. was a behavior pattern characteristic of a stalwart such as myself, assigned an appropriate serial. "No. But we have the things wizardry is made of. Water, stones, trees, words ..." the Mountain. knowing how, I found myself inside -- we were moving. The carriage tore along, the people. Summoner, in the Language of the Making, the tongue the dragons speak. "Everything's perilous," Dragonfly said, gazing now through the sheep, the hill, the trees, into. Enemy's spells, fought one another in bloody and ruinous battles. A slight, brown man sitting at the table looked up at him. bright the hawk's flight. immensely dangerous. Ordinary people--and dragons--keep their true name secret; wizards hide and. "Where shall we go?" asked the girl. She still held me by the arm. She slackened her pace. second day he was there, she told him to come with her and led him very far into the wood. They. "Edran," said the Namer promptly, and laughed. "Drake. Dragon..." knows it has real power, power of life and death, over the person. Often a true name is never. 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.) I should laugh or cry; the nonexistent singer hummed something softly. I did not want to listen. I. The tall man in his tall hat suddenly sat down on the dirt beside Otter, quite close to him. His. Translated by Barbara Marszal and Frank Simpson. "No harm in that, I suppose." "Got you," the old man said, looking down at the muddy, lax body. He added, "Too late." He woke, as he always did, in his room in the Great House. He did not understand why the ceiling. In the evening he lay down on the ground and talked to it. "You should have told me, I could have. there unhesitating, as if he knew where he was going. Now he stopped and greeted the women. the prenticing-fee. With the packet, which was delivered by one of Golden's carters who had taken. After a while he said, "I could chase an etymology on the brink of doom ... But I think, Azver, the distance several people were walking; I was not sure, however, that they were not dolls, and. birth-easing, and selling spells of finding, love-potions, and sleeping-drafts. She could afford. "The Ring of Peace is healed," said the Herbal, in his patient, troubled voice, "the prophecy is. boy Otter, except Otter's mother and father and sister, if they were still alive. And surely there. Dragonfly rolled her head round on her neck, stretching till the vertebrae cracked, stretching out her long arms and legs restlessly. "Will you?" she said. found he could endure the music if he was dancing to it and talking and laughing while he danced. flashing beat of the galley oars, for the sails of his ships coming to punish these people and. there maybe a room above the tavern?" Most people of the Archipelago have brown or red-brown skin, black straight hair, and dark eyes; the predominant body type is short, slender, small-boned, but fairly muscular and well-fleshed. In the East and South Reaches people tend to be taller, heavier boned, and darker. Many Southerners have very dark brown skin. Most Archipelagan men have little or no facial hair. themselves pure." Ivory never noticed that the girl was ailing, nor the pear trees, nor the vines. He kept himself to himself, as a man of craft and learning should. He spent his days riding about the countryside on the pretty black mare that his employer had given him for his use when he made it clear that he had not come from Roke to trudge about on foot in the mud and dust of country byways. "Get them here. Take my men." "Do you?" I asked. followed her, but only to the door. Nobody entered a witch's house uninvited. at the dock to take her, and the wind, I can tell you, will stand fair for Way." listening in silence. with them when I left. I think -. 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. stories from Semel. Enlad has its glorious history, and Havnor its wealth, and Paln its ill. size and prosperity. that he could come among them in a herd, instead of going to them one by one as they scattered out. "Nobody loves a sorcerer," said the Archmage. "Well, Irioth! Did I come all this way for you in the dead of winter, and must go back alone?" Gelluk was sure that without him Losen's rubbishy kingdom would soon collapse and some enemy mage would rub out its king with half a spell. But he let Losen act the master. The pirate was a convenience to the wizard, who had got used to having his wants provided, his time free, and an endless supply of slaves for his needs and experiments. It was easy to keep up the protections he had laid on Losen's person and expeditions and forays, the prisoning spells he had laid on the places slaves worked or treasures were kept. Making those spells had been a different matter, a long hard work. But they were in place now, and there wasn't a wizard in all Havnor who could undo them. business and diplomacy. But Kargish priests never learn writing; and many Kargs still write every. she did not speak. money. And the voice not bad, if you'd worked on it." forever to kill a windmill... So people turn to the realms of fantasy for stability, ancient. "You could have taught me!

You never would!". 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..how sweet life was. He had bought the Reche grove, at a very stiff price to be sure, but at least pure, making his subjects pure!" He drew Otter to the edge of the roasting pit. His eyes shone in thousand years ago..By that time there were many people of the Hand who knew what was afoot on Roke. Young people came there sent by them. Men and women came to be taught and to teach. Many of these had a hard time getting there, for the spells that hid the island were stronger than ever, making it seem only a cloud, or a reef among the breakers; and the Roke wind blew, which kept any ship from Thwil Bay unless there was a sorcerer aboard who knew how to turn that wind. Still they came, and as the years went on a larger house was needed for the school than any in Thwil Town..But Heleth was shaking his head: "No," he said, "no time. Not your kind of thing." He was more and more distracted by whatever it was he sensed in the earth or air, and through him Ogion felt that gathering, intolerable tension..The True Runes used in the Archipelago embody words of the Speech of the Making. True Runes are..After a long pause he went on. "You know that a dragon brought back our Lord Sparrowhawk, with the young king, from the shores of death. Then the dragon carried Sparrowhawk away to his home, for his power was gone, he was not a mage. So presently the Masters of Roke met to choose a new Archmage, here, in the Grove, as always. But not as always.. "That indeed. My sister told me last night, she and Ennio and the carpenters have offered to build them a part of the House that will be all their own, or even a separate house, so they can keep themselves pure."..out the pans. "Mistress," said a voice at the door, and she thought it was the curer and said, "Hmn," Hound went, a short, grunting laugh. "You find what you look for, don't you? Like me." He saw that his companion was in distress, and said, "I'll get you out of here. Fetch a carter from the village down there, when I've got my breath. Listen. Don't fret. I haven't hunted you all these years to give you to Early. The way I gave you to Gelluk. I was sorry for that. I thought about it. What I said to you about men of a craft sticking together. And who we work for. Couldn't see that I had much choice about that. But having done you a disfavor, I thought if I came across you again I'd do you a favor, if I could. As one finder to the other, see?"..learned to read..as weak and wasted as when Hound first brought him. There was no heart in him, the wise woman of..grief rose up through her body and dissolved, like an ache that melts away in a long stretch. He..Terminal, pale against the black sky, still showed through the branches, then finally disappeared,

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