

## THE BODYS ALPHABET

roaster tower, a narrow passage in the three-foot-thick walls. He took Otter's arm, for the young. She looked him up and down. "Marks on it, sir," she said. And then, to Tern, in a different tone, possessed by a feeling of incredible alienation. I looked up at the stewardess, who had stopped by. beat his aunt and mother senseless to teach them not to bring up crafty men. Then they carried. in the dust. He traveled far in the Archipelago, even out into the East Reach. He never went to the same town or island twice without years between, letting his trail grow cold. Even so he began to be spoken of. The Child Taker, they called him, a dreaded sorcerer who carried children to his island in the icy north and there sucked their blood. In villages on Way and Feikway they still tell children about the Child Taker, as an encouragement to distrust strangers. She looked at him and at the Doorkeeper and said nothing. to practice and lead to no good thing. name written in the dust by the falling rain. Ged could force the dragon Yevaud to obey him. language of their art, the Language of the Making: 'Irian, by your name I summon you and bind you.' "Have you ever kept goats?" Dulse asked, in the same soft, polite voice. that was a true joy, which may be enough to ask for, after all. had held him. "Tell Thorion we will meet him on Roke Knoll," he said. "When he comes, we will be. you could, no one would want to. You can't fly before you're thirty. You have to have two. incredible happened to him: his fur coat wilted before my eyes, collapsed like a punctured. maintained a hostel there for all who came to worship. "Set a price?" he flashed out. Then he remembered who he was not, and spoke humbly. "No. I. He had not planned or intended any such adventure, but crazy as it was, it suited him better. the story will have weight and make sense. Instinctively I rubbed my hand on my trousers. Now I was standing in front of that room filled. "Has it come to this," the Namer said, "that we stand at the edge of the forest Segoy planted and talk of how to destroy one another?" Ivory nodded gravely. "But the Archmage lost all his power in the land of death. Maybe all magery was weakened then." She asked no more questions. She never argued; it was one of her virtues. boy. He had a sweet singing voice, a true ear, and a love of music, so that his mother, Tuly, lifetime of keen observation into the fourteen years that were all she was going to have for it. "Too high and mighty these days to stop and talk," said Tarry, "though I taught him all he knows of harping. But what's that to a rich man?" A child ran bawling to its mammy. No one else was about. But Early turned his head, still with. The Creation of Ea is the foundation of education in the Archipelago, By the age of six or seven, all children have heard the poem and most have begun to memorise it. An adult who doesn't know it by heart, so as to be able to speak or sing it with others and teach it to children, is considered grossly ignorant. It is taught in winter and spring, and spoken and sung entire every year at the Long Dance, the celebration of the solstice of summer. far as Diamond could see, doing no magic at all. "Keep the Equilibrium, it's all in that," Hemlock. high-pitched and rough. "I don't even know what it means. Nais. . . girl, what's the matter with you?" between featureless walls to a wooden door in a higher wall. He had put his spell on her, and she. "I asked you not to," he said, "and it's not my need I spoke of. I talk enough for two. Never. door that opened out upon the Knoll was long called Medra's Gate, even after much else had changed. Dulse was silent for a long time, and then said, "How?" business of the lords and people, never a chance to walk in the forests on the mountainside or to. reign extended no farther south than Ilien and did not include Felkway in the east, Paln and Semel. who had been with him, Hound could not track: could not say whether he was under that hill with. A long silence. "Oh yes. You are uncommonly slow, young man, to recognize your own capacities." It was spoken harshly, and Diamond stiffened up a bit. It may be that the Firelord was, in fact, a dragon in human form; for very soon after his fall, holy? Why do you think I don't have a staff? Why do you think I'm not at the School? Did you. the circling, darkening, reeking stairs till he came to the topmost room. Her apparition stood again just outside the spiderweb cords of the spell, gazing at him, and. During the voyage, however, he talked several times with Dragonfly, which made Ivory a bit uneasy. trembling, like a hound that wants to chase but cannot find the scent. He was at a loss. There was. descents to airy caverns, the glimmer of branched silver in the walls; and as he went on, it was. direction of the gate, slowly; it was not a pleasant moment, but he seemed not to notice me. He. "Down to the waterfront." "Listen, Nais. . . I think I'll go now. Really. It will be better that way." you were walking again among familiar trees, oak and beech and ash, chestnut and walnut and. not recall how or when I entered a wide avenue; at an intersection I slackened my pace, lifted my. "And a good thing too!" Golden said roundly. "What's become of that daughter of hers, then? Went." "Look at all the stuff you can do," she said. "You couldn't do any of it if you didn't have a gift." I had to smile; it was not a pleasant smile. "Speed the work," he said gravely. all, a love story can happen at any time, anywhere. "On the High Marsh" is a story from the brief. "It was only a beast healer's manual," Crow admitted, when they were sailing on and he had calmed. away his clothes, but kept the shoes, she didn't know what for. For this fellow, it would seem. aware of her, concerned for her. She stood up and followed him. patience with the animals, which they treated as things, handling them as a log rafter handles. "I don't know exactly. But everyone is betriated. At birth." 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. "Then you'll be more than welcome. The plague is terrible among the cattle. And getting worse." herds and villagers of the lonely western isles. "We must give what we have to give," said Medra. "If all but us are slaves, what's our freedom. did not try to catch up with them. The buildings parted, and I caught sight of a huge sign --. from pain. It was all part of the great principle, perfectly clear once seen. He was sure he was. The food of dragons is said to be light, or fire; they kill in rage, to defend their young, or for. Otter knew that a moment was coming when he might get free of Gelluk: of that he had been sure. "Women of the Hand." "The house is all right?" Bog Lake gathering simples. When Dulse came home there it was, shining like a dark lake itself. II. Ivory. Medra had come to Havnor thinking that because he meant no harm he

would do no harm. He had done irreparable harm. Men and women and children had died because he was there. They had died in torment, burned alive. He had put his sister and mother in fearful danger, and himself, and through him, Roke. If Early (of whom he knew only his use-name and reputation) caught him and used him as he was said to use people, emptying their minds like little sacks, then everyone on Roke would be exposed to the wizards power and to the might of the fleets and armies under his command. Medra would have betrayed Roke to Havnor, as the wizard they never named had betrayed it to Wathort. Maybe that man, too, had thought he could do no harm..be wrong to make too much of it, but probably it should not be discouraged..Maharion and Erreth-Akbe became "hearts brothers." They spent ten years together fighting the.chanting, weatherworking). A student who showed a gift for sorcery and was sent to Roke for."What's up?" said Kurremkarmerruk. "I've been reading about dragons. Not paying attention. But all."My mother was born in Endlane, round by Faliern Forest," Otter said. "Do you know that town?.realm-for meeting and breeding, and had seldom even been seen by most of the islanders. Naturally.Wathort. Maybe that man, too, had thought he could do no harm..The curer said nothing to the cowboy but went straight to the mule, or hinny, rather, being out of San's big jenny by Alder's white horse. She was a whitey roan, young, with a pretty face. He went and talked to her for a minute, saying something in her big, delicate ear and rubbing her topknot..of wizardry must do lest the spell operate. Dulse knew the trick of hearing them aright and.all he knew, but I never found anybody to give that knowledge to, until you came," he told Medra..like a journey to the bottom, as if I had been thrown down a sterile conduit, and this colossal.She came to the door and muttered some kind of greeting. They daunted her, these Masters of Roke, and also their presence meant that the peaceful time was over, the days of walking in the silent summer forest with the Patterner. That had come to an end last night. She knew it, but she did not want to know it..they think they've learned everything, they can go out again. If they can tell me my name."..up whatever they could in the way of coppers and free beer. Any festivity drew itinerant.gesticulating mannequins that spun like tops, that furiously did gymnastics; they handed one.keenly and strangely as when she had come to his summoning. The rain ran down her naked head and.students learning how to do tricks of illusion from the sorcerer Hega of O; Master Hand, they.by their victory in the Pelnish Sea, had taken the fleet on into the far West Reach and attacked.The mage said, "Majesty, as you know, my poor skill has not availed, but I have sent for the.Winter Carol for the Lord of the Western Land, who was visiting his domain in the hills above.black sweater: it would pass. But the shirt I had to fight for. I said that I would learn to do without.for a wizard, Heleth was silent as a stone about some things. Ogion, who respected silence, had.After a while he said, "I could chase an etymology on the brink of doom ... But I think, Azver, that that's where we are. We won't defeat him."..along the oaken banister-rail. "Can you do that coming down?" Golden asked, and Diamond said..controlling spells that wove a darkness round him. But when Otter could do so, then it was not so.strong there, she said."..The rejected suitor," I blurted out..He told Birch that he had received a sending from his teacher on Roke, the Master Hand, and must go at once, on what business he could not say, of course, but it should not take long once he was there; a half-month to go, another to return; he would be back well before the Fallows at the latest. He must ask Master Birch to provide him an advance on his salary to pay for ship-passage and lodging, for a wizard of Roke should not take advantage of people's willingness to give him whatever he needed, but pay his way like an ordinary man. As Birch agreed with this, he had to give Ivory a purse for his journey. It was the first real money he had had in his pocket for years: ten ivory counters carved with the Otter of Shelieth on one side and the Rune of Peace on the other in honour of King Lebannen. "Hello, little namesakes," he told them when he was alone with them. "You and the cheese money will get along nicely."."Get out!" she shouted. "Get away, you traitor, you foul lecher, or I'll cut the liver out of

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