

THE MOSS TROOPERS A BORDER TALE VOL III

A division of Oigion shook his head. Gelluk pressed close beside him, often taking his arm. "This way," he said several times. "Yes, yes! This is the way." Yet he was following Otter. His touch and his spells pushed him, rushed him, but in the direction Otter chose to go. "Woven cloth we're looking for, and the undyed thread, and other things too-but buttons we're short. became more and more aloof, pursuing his studies in his tower cell apart from others, teaching few. track. Medra knew the danger of repeatedly taking any form but his own, but he was shaken and weakened by the shipwreck and the long night flight, and the grey beach led him only to the feet of sheer cliffs he could not climb. He made the spell and said the word once more, and as a sea tern flew up on quick, laboring wings to the top of the cliffs. Then, possessed by flight, he flew on over a shadowy sunrise land. Far ahead, bright in the first sunlight, he saw the curve of a high green hill. "Maybe I came to destroy him." The villagers shook their heads. Gift was a brave woman, but there was such a thing as being too brave. Or brave, they said around the tavern table, in the wrong way, or the wrong place, d'you see. Nobody should ought to meddle with sorcery that ain't born to it. Nor with sorcerers. You forget that. They seem the same as other folk. But they ain't like other folk. Seems there's no harm in a curer. Heal the foot rot, clear a caked udder. That's all fine. But cross one and there you are, fire and shadows and curses and falling down in fits. Uncanny. Always was uncanny, that one. Where'd he come from, anyhow? Answer me that. "No. So this drinking is like wearing clothes? Just as necessary?" Scattered references and tales from Gont and the Reaches, passages of sacred history in the Kargad Lands and of arcane mystery in the Lore of Paln, long ignored by the scholars of Roke, relate that in the earliest days dragons and human beings were all one kind. Eventually these dragon-people separated into two kinds of being, incompatible in their habits and desires. Perhaps a long geographical separation caused a gradual natural divergence, a differentiation of species. The Pelnish Lore and the Kargish legends maintain that the separation was deliberate, made by an agreement known as *verw nadan*, Vedurnan, the Division. spoke to her, and in his mind she answered, her voice, her husky voice saying his name, "Diamond. narrowed between the cliffs and the sea. Then the tracks ceased. "But I know I have -I have something to do, to be. That's why I wanted to come here. To find out. On the Isle of the Wise." Then that was gone and he stood facing the witch-girl. Her look of accusation slowly changed. She. "What's that all about?" Golden said to his wife, a rhetorical question. She looked at him and. "I know where it is," Anieb said. whale's..it seemed to me, but no one paid the least attention to the change, and I could not even say when. child, and she has no name. So then you wait. You open your mind up, like. Like opening the doors. He could no longer see the chambers and passages of the cave as he had seen them with the uncaring, disembodied eye. He could see only what the flicker of werelight showed just around him and before him. As when he had gone through the night with Anieb to her death, each step into the dark..moment. "The whole village together couldn't change that!" she said, and laughed. It was all. "Wizards don't teach women. You're besotted." Time passed as always in the Grove, not passing at all it seemed, yet gone, the day gone quietly by in a few long breaths, a quivering of leaves, a bird singing far off and another answering it from even farther. Irian stood up slowly. She did not speak, but looked down the path, and then walked down it. The four men followed her. "Ard. My teacher." Heleth looked up, his face unreadable, its expression possibly sly. "You didn't." Anieb, he whispered, "conic with me". "When he passed me," she said in a low voice, "I saw a grave." somewhere, col?" go "there and back again," and "there" is always the beloved familiar Shire. Don Quixote sets out. but there's no more in that than a few drops. It's scarcely worth burning for so little. If you. moved you to break it and let her come in." It was hard work out in the pastures. "Who doesn't do hard work?" Emer had asked, showing her. The name and office of archmage were invented by Halkel, and the Archmage of Roke was a tenth Master, never counted among the Nine. A vital ethical and intellectual force, the archmage also exerted considerable political power. On the whole this power was used benevolently. Maintaining Roke as a strong centralising, normalising, pacific element in Archipelagan society, the archmages sent out sorcerers and wizards trained to understand the ethical practice of magic and to protect communities from drought, plague, invaders, dragons, and the unscrupulous use of their art. young'un," said a broad, strong man with a furrowed face, "but you can nod your head well enough. The boy was in fact a workman of the first order, carpenter, cabinetmaker, stonelayer, 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 fleecfeell, on a golden warp?" A red stripe passed across her face. Besides myself, there was no one there, though the traffic of black cars was heavier. I did not. "You talk in a strange way. Where are you from?" all over her yesterday, growling and muttering. Ordered the helm replaced." He meant Losen's chief. After the death of Orm the dragons remained a threat in the West, especially when provoked by dragon hunters, but they withdrew from their encroachments on peopled islands and peaceful shipping. Yevaud of Pendor was the only dragon to raid the Inward Lands after the time of the Kings. No dragon had been seen over the Inmost Sea for many centuries when Kalessin, called the Eldest, brought Ged and Lebannen to Roke Island. fingers on the metal surface of the table, and from the wall jumped a nickel claw, which tossed a. "Your impression is right. How is it between men and women?" "She took my cup away," the Master of Iria said to the stranger, whining like a puppy, while his dogs yammered around him. "She broke it." "Di," she said, and he looked up. His face was still round and a bit

peachy, though the bones were heavier and the eyes were melancholy..He had tried to look at Ember as untouchable while he longed to touch her soft brown skin, her black shining hair. When she stared at him in sudden incomprehensible challenge he had thought her angry with him. He feared to insult, to offend her. What did she fear? His desire? Her own?- But she was not an inexperienced girl, she was a wise woman, a mage, she who walked in the Immanent Grove and understood the patterns of the shadows!."To drink? Nothing, thank you." you and watch what they do, you think about it seriously, and you try to tell it honestly, so that.It was mere cowardice to keep from Havnor, now-fear for his skin, fear lest he find his people had.suddenly came a reflection, surprising in that I myself would never have expected it if someone."It'll stop by midday," the wizard told the chickens. He fed them and squelched back to the house.ox, the middle-aged man driving the iron-bladed plough, never a word spoken; as they started home.back to see the light shine through the thousand leaves of the tree carved in the high door in its.But he made no spell. He had no magic left in him. It was gone, run out of him into this terrible.the story will have weight and make sense..So they sailed south in Hopeful, landing first at malodorous Geath, and then in the guise of peddlers working their way from one islet to the next among the mazy channels. Crow had stocked the boat with better wares than most householders of the Isles were used to seeing, and Tern offered them at fair prices, mostly in barter, since there was little money among the islanders. Their popularity ran ahead of them. It was known that they would trade for books, if the books were old and uncanny. But in the Isles all books were old and all uncanny, what there was of them."No," Otter said, and hesitated. He felt he owed this man an explanation. "See, it's not so much."A hundred and twenty-seven. What about it?".it is said, that word is used to mean both wizard and dragon..their love of their own desolate domain. They address the hero:her eyes with her apron. "Was that what broke you," she said, "the drink?".Rose was muttering a rote spell, but it was her hands and her little short sharp knife that did most of the work. The ewe bore the digging knife patiently, her opaque, amber, slotted eyes gazing into silence; only she stamped her small left front foot now and then, and sighed..And Dulse was standing on his own doorstep, three eggs in his hand and the rain running cold down his back..".What afterward?".could enchant whole populations, bringing all who heard him under his control. So he turned.Tales from Earthsea/Ursula K. Le Guin.-1st ed. p. cm. Contents: The finder-Darkrose and.San's big jenny by Alder's white horse. She was a whitey roan, young, with a pretty face. He went.the veins of water underground, the lodes and knots of ore, the lay and interfolding of the kinds."Sit down," said Hemlock. After a moment Diamond took the stiff, high-backed chair facing him..".Of course," Golden said, pleased with his son's caution. He had thought Diamond might leap at the offer, which would have been natural, perhaps, but painful to the father, the owl who had -- perhaps -- hatched out an eagle..Diamond had been given his truenam at the springs of the Amia in the hills above Glade. The.he'd had a dirt floor it hadn't mattered, but now he had a wooden floor, like a lord or a merchant."It can do it by itself," Diamond said, and held out the fife away from his lips. His fingers danced on the stops, and the fife played a short jig. It hit several false notes and squealed on the last high note. "I haven't got it right yet," Diamond said, vexed and embarrassed..".Your father told me. A witch's daughter, a childhood playmate. He believed that you had taught her spells.".house, which, like most witches' houses, stood somewhat apart from the village. "Well," she said,.harm. Only truth..".Dulse had the big lore-book open on the table. He had been trying to reweave one of the Acastan Spells, much broken and made powerless by the Emanations of Fundaur centuries ago. He had just begun to get a sense of the missing word that might fill one of the gaps, he almost had it, and-"You might keep some goats," Silence said..The wizard kept the name Roke in his memory, and when he heard it again, and in the same.That is not what the otter was thinking as it swam fast down the Yennava. It was not thinking anything much but speed and direction and the sweet taste of river water and the sweet power of swimming. But something like that is what Medra had been thinking as he sat at the table in his grandmother's house in End-lane, talking with his mother and sister, just before the door was flung open and the terrible shining figure stood there..She knocked..".Well, this boy did learn at last to tame his anger and control his power. And a very great power.He had given her a little warmth when she was cold. He had nothing else to give her. Where she.walked away, entering under the trees..".Yes. Of course..".I beg your pardon..".was a gardener, the Master Herbal, looking solid and stolid, like a brown ox, beside the gaunt,.Otter felt as if he were being brought back to vivid life from interminable, dreary, dazed half sentience. At the wizards touch he did not feel the horror of the spellbond, but rather a gift of energy and hope. He told himself not to trust this man, but he longed to trust him, to learn from him. Gelluk was powerful, masterful, strange, yet he had set him free. For the first time in weeks Otter walked with unbound hands and no spell on him..".My name's myself. True. But what's a name, then? It's what another calls me. If there was no other, only me, what would I want a name for?".He snorted. I felt drops of his saliva, and before I had time to be terrified he butted me in.Since the coronation of King Lebannen and the restoration of the High Courts and Councils in Havnor Great Port, Roke has remained without an archmage. It appears that this office, not originally part of the governance of the school or of the Archipelago, is no longer useful or appropriate, and that Ged, whom many call the greatest of the arch-mages, may have been the last..monstrous eggs with iron mauls." Hearing of this, Orm's dragon anger woke again, and he "leapt for."Keep away. No! No! I beg you!".The Changer and a thin, keen-faced old man standing beside him nodded in agreement. The Master Hand said, "Irian, I am sorry. Ivory was my pupil. If I taught him badly, I did worse in sending him away. I thought him insignificant, and so harmless. But he lied to you and beguiled you. You must not feel shame. The fault was his, and mine..".".Or the music without you..".quarreled with a stable boy, and turned the poor lad into a lump of dung. When the wizards had got."Thank you, Father," the boy said. Golden embraced him and left, well pleased with him..Old Speech is endless, so are the runes..pounded behind me; a girl ran toward the singer, pursued by someone; with a short, throaty laugh.Otter, sitting by the fire shelling walnuts, held still. Mead thanked the messenger and brought.man unwilling to put himself under the

iron control of a spell of chastity could never practice.rained very hard all the night after, and when Hound thought he had found the boy's tracks, they."You ought to have your proper name day, your feast and dancing, like any young 'un," the witch.It was utterly still..shod, a thin brown man with dark eyes and hair so fine and thick it shed the rain. It was raining.didn't want to make too much of mere childish play. But I believe you have a gift, perhaps a great.nothing, only shining plates in the ceiling and a small depression for the feet, padded with a..So little Diamond grew up in the finest house in Glade, a fat, bright-eyed baby, a ruddy, cheerful.balm's just pig fat, I'd swear. Well, so, he says to Otak, you're taking my business. And maybe.some of their beliefs are closer to Kargish than to Hardic. These far Northerners probably descend.and parts of islands, parts of ships, parts of the human body. The words never made sense, never.down through the curved, thick surface of the seat, I could, indistinctly, see the floor..(From her it passed through her descendants for over five hundred years to the last heirs of.onto a moving walkway. Quite close to me, a pair of startled eyes flashed by -- a lovely dark girl.people, and put a stop to this rubbishy talk, if she could.. "Dark is bad," said the Patterner. "Eh?".When (in the year 440, by Hardic count) Erreth-Akbe came to make peace between the Archipelago and."For us," said Ember. "For us who live, in hiding, neither killed nor killing. The dead are dead.. "Of all of us. Of Way, and Felkway, and Havnor, and Wathort, and Roke. All the people of the islands. He says that when King Lebannen was to be crowned, last autumn, he sent to Gont for the old Archmage to come crown him, and he wouldn't come. And there was no new Archmage. So he took the crown himself. And some say that's wrong, and he doesn't rightly hold the throne. But others say the king himself is the new Archmage. But he isn't a wizard, only a king. So others say the dark years will come again, when there was no rule of justice, and wizardry was used for evil ends."..to the boy that the old man took alarm. Otter had to beg and wheedle him for any further teaching."Flew away?".CELIBACY AND WIZARDRY.yellowing, no flowers in it but the little white heads of the lacefoam. A woman came walking up.Leashed like a dog, he walked along, sullen and shivering with sickness and rage. He stared around.ordered these children to be stranded on a desert island. Among her clothes and toys the princess.but eventful six years that Ged was Archmage of Earthsea. And the last story, "Dragonfly," which.And beyond that, nothing. There had been illusions, little spells, pebbles that turned to.the shipwreck and the long night flight, and the grey beach led him only to the feet of sheer

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