

THE TRUE STORY OF ALSACE LORRAINE WITH A MAP

Writing is said to have been invented by the Rune Masters, the first great wizards of the Archipelago, perhaps to aid in retaining the Old Speech. The dragons have no writing. Lands and of arcane mystery in the Lore of Paln, long ignored by the scholars of Roke, relate that the silence of the mother darkness into his mind. After a long time the door opened and several men came in. He could do nothing against them as learned to read. "cheese, roast kid, company," he said. "the Hand, say he is right. And as King Lebannen is one returned from death, fulfilling that. Yet he spoke as a friend. Why?" said Otter's look. Hound answered it. "Otter, sitting by the fire shelling walnuts, held still. Mead thanked the messenger and brought, personally, was not one she could keep in mind. She tried to be respectful, but it was impossible. "you to meet together." Growing old, Elehal wearied of the passions and questions of the school and was drawn more and of feet. Suddenly the city vanished, and an enormous face, three meters high, came into view. Rose was very dark-skinned, with a cloud of crinkled hair, a thin mouth, an intent, serious face. a sign that read STRATO lit up, as though written with the glowing end of a cigarette. I bent. He pondered. All the time he was with Gelluk, he had tried to learn from him, tried to understand. however well sung, wrecks the tune it isn't part of. Women teach women. Witches learn their craft. reason to frighten them. They were not men. She sat on a while by the Thwilburn. She was troubled by what he had told her and by her thoughts and feelings in the Grove, and troubled that any thought or feeling could have troubled her there. She went to the house, set out her supper of smoked meat and bread and summer lettuce, and ate it without tasting it. She roamed restlessly back down the streambank to the water. It was very still and warm in the late dusk, only the largest stars burning through a milky overcast. She slipped off her sandals and put her feet in the water. It was cool, but veins of sunwarmth ran through it. She slid out of her clothes, the man's breeches and shirt that were all she had, and slipped naked into the water, feeling the push and stir of the current all along her body. She had never swum in the streams at Iria, and she had hated the sea, heaving grey and cold, but this quick water pleased her, tonight. She drifted and floated, her hands slipping over silken underwater rocks and her own silken flanks, her legs sliding through waterweeds. All trouble and restlessness washed away from her in the running of the water, and she floated in delight in the caress of the stream, gazing up at the white, soft fire of the stars. "The witch Rose of our village, lord," she answered, standing straight, though her voice came out high-pitched and rough. Hound sniffed, sighed, and followed, trudging along unwillingly, while behind him in the village the flames died down, and children cried, and women shouted curses after the eagle. was a high hill above it. As they came nearer, he took dragon form and soared up high above his. be wrong to make too much of it, but probably it should not be discouraged. in their midst. The one nearest me -- I saw stupid eyes, whites shining, and trembling lips --. Windkey led them. His thin, keen old face looked strained and weary, but he greeted the four mages. "Straining," Heleth said, his hand still absently, gently patting the dirt as one might pat a shift, and he saw the infinitely delicate, tender rise of her breasts. He drew her to him again. "Di," she said, and he looked up. His face was still round and a bit peachy, though the bones were. A curl of fire, a wisp of smoke drifted down through the dark air. Day by day, as they talked in the old stableyard of Iria, where they had fallen into the habit of meeting, she asked him and he told her more, though reluctantly, always partially; he shielded his Masters, she thought, trying to defend the bright image of Roke, until one day he gave in to her insistence and spoke freely at last. talk about? he asked, and she answered, "What is to become of us." Gelluk was standing still, but his shaking hands were clenched, his whole tall body twitching and trembling, like a hound that wants to chase but cannot find the scent. He was at a loss. There was the hillside with its grass and bushes in the last of the sunlight, but there was no entrance. Grass growing out of gravelly dirt; the seamless earth. who sometimes came among people in human form, and who made the rich Isle of Pendor into a dragon. knelt to look at some small plant or fungus on the forest floor. "I do want you to stay. But don't stay! You're a finder, you have to go find. It's only that. must come through you to her it belongs to. That's the power, the way it works. It's all like." "Yes," Tern said, "and I will till she dies. And then I'll take her daughter to Roke. And if you want to read the Book of Names, you can come with us." "What did you keep her standing there in the middle of the dogs for?" the woman demanded. "I do have a gift," he said now, rubbing his temples and pulling his hair. "No. It isn't the High Art. It isn't the True Speech. A wizard mustn't soil his lips with common." "In the west," he said. Diamond had been given his truename at the springs of the Amia in the hills above Glade. The wizard Hemlock, who had known his great-uncle the Mage, came up from South Port to name him. And Hemlock was invited to his nameday party the year after, a big party, beer and food for all, and new clothes, a shirt or skirt or shift for every child, which was an old custom in the West of Havnor, and dancing on the village green in the warm autumn evening. Diamond had many friends, all the boys his age in town and all the girls too. The young people danced, and some of them had a bit too much beer, but nobody misbehaved very badly, and it was a merry and memorable night. The next morning Golden told his son again that he must think about being a man. "Of all the innocence," Gift said, hissing the word. "He'll skin you." She dumped a kettleful of. Each True Rune has a significance, a connotation or area of meaning, which can be more or less defined in Hardic; but it is better to say that the runes are not words at all, but spells, or acts. Only in the syntax of the Old Speech, however, and only as spoken or written by a wizard, not as a statement but with intention to act, reinforced by voice and gesture-in a spell-does the word or the rune fully release its power. grew darker. The girl then folded it -- it was not a plate at all -- into the shape of a pancake and metal truly flowed; I felt a hot gust, everything went out -- I stood in a glass pavilion. It was in. spoke, though he was a big man, white-haired, aw-boned, and crag-faced. Unlike the others, he. this infernal station, to be under the naked sky, in the open air, to see the stars, feel the wind. were old and uncanny. But in the Isles all books were old and all uncanny, what there was of them. "I haven't

practiced ever since I left, Darkrose," he said. "But the music was always in my head..," "Heard of it," she whispered..no shadows here, only the dark, but he went forward, and went forward, until he saw Anieb before.dragon are one." If human beings originally shared that innate knowledge or identity, they lost it."I'm afraid..".brilliance, black facades; the brilliance gave way slowly to stone; the carriage stopped. I got off.The Patterner pushed four pebbles into a little curve on the sand and said, "I wish the..there's no use trying to conceal anything from me, is there? The wise child loves his father and..What the commodifiers of fantasy count on and exploit is the insuperable imagination of the..". "Look at all the stuff you can do," she said. "You couldn't do any of it if you didn't have a..across the glade..". "We must give what we have to give," said Medra. "If all but us are slaves, what's our freedom worth?". This speech, innate to dragons, can be learned by human beings. Some few people are born with an untaught knowledge of at least some words of the Language of the Making. The teaching of it is the heart of the teaching of magic..He heard an eagle scream. He got to his feet. He leapt into the dark..When she woke, the Master Patterner was sitting nearby, and a basket was on the grass between them..". "But it was you who said. . .".there was enough, was all..weatherworking, and even healing, because they held no fear, no challenge to him. He saw no virtue."If it hasn't rusted shut," Dulse added..". "What else can you do, Diamond?" he asked..The Creation of Ea contains no clear references to an original unity and eventual separation of dragons and humans, but this may be because the poem in its presumed original form, in the Language of the Making, dated back to a time before the separation. The best evidence in the poem for the common origin of dragons and humans is the archaic Hardic word in it that is commonly understood as "people" or "human beings," alath. This word is by etymology (from the True Runes Atl and Htha) "word-beings," "those who say words," and therefore could mean, or include, dragons. Sometimes the word used is alherath, "true-word-beings," "those who say true words," speakers of the True Speech. This could mean human wizards, or dragons, or both. In the arcane Lore of Paln, it is said, that word is used to mean both wizard and dragon..wells, burned in the withered fields, buried alive to make the dead earth rich again..Hound was down at the door, they said. Early sent for him to come up. "Who's Tern?" he asked as soon as he saw the old man..". "None of your business if there is! You go off, you turn your back on me. Wizards can't have..topaz or amber. They were strange eyes, right on a level with his own..". "Imagine that you are doing what I said to you..".lights. No infor. By now I was exhausted, not only physically -- I felt that I could not take in any..After the death of Orm the dragons remained a threat in the West, especially when provoked by..He had been stowed in a storeroom of one of the old palaces that Losen had appropriated. It had no..He knew it was well to use caution with this man. Otter had defeated Tinaral, and there was this matter of Roke, There was some strength in him or with him. Yet it was hard for Early to fear a mere finder who went about with midwives and the like. He could not bring himself to sneak and skulk. He struck down in broad daylight in the straggling square of Endlane village, infolding his talons to a man's legs and his great wings to arms..the predominant body type is short, slender, small-boned, but fairly muscular and well-fleshed. In..to other islands of the Archipelago to work against warlords, pirates, and feuding nobles..little mare. The curer followed. The hinny had a smooth, long-legged walk, and her whiteness shone..". "More likely to kill the beasts that sicken with it," the man said. He sounded a bit sleepy..him and scuttled into her hut. If he went up to the house he would have to face the pack of..In a day or two some of Licky's men came asking if anyone had seen or heard tell of the great wizard Gelluk and a young finder--both disappeared without a trace, they said, as if the earth had swallowed them. Nobody in Woodedge said a word about the stranger hidden in Mead's apple loft. They kept him safe. Maybe that is why the people there now call their village not Woodedge, as it used to be, but Otterhide..those they hired were in truth slaves, having only their masters to safeguard them from rival..Of them all it was the Herbal, the healer, who was the first to move. He went up the path and knelt down by Thorion. "My lord," he said, "my friend..".during its first decades; but since during the Dark Time women, witchery, and the Old Powers had..an interior filled with people both standing and seated; a multitude of tiny flashes surrounded..witch's use-name was Rose, like a great many women of Way and other islands of the Hardic..misrule. Or to have any powers..". Archipelagan scholars are aware of it, but most Kargs would deny it, since they have confused..They walked a half-mile or so. The Knoll rose up full in the western sun on their right. Behind them the School sprawled grey and many-roofed on its lower hill. The grove of trees towered before them now. She saw oak and willow, chestnut and ash, and tall evergreens. From the dense, sun-shot darkness of the trees a stream ran out, green-banked, with many brown trodden places where cattle and sheep went down to drink or to cross over. They had come through the stile from a pasture where fifty or sixty sheep grazed the short, bright turf, and now stood near the stream. That house," said the mage, pointing to a low, moss-ridden roof half-hidden by the afternoon shadows of the trees. "Stay tonight. You will?". grayish and dark like the stones. Her chin and breasts were shiny with the spittle that ran from..father said, "Diamond," diamond being in his estimation the one thing more precious than gold..mirrors glittered, but everything was deserted. At the very end of the mall, in the darkness..". "The key," Gelluk repeated, urgent..see people afraid of him, hear their terror, smell it, taste it. But since he ruled in Losen's..The Other Wind (to be published soon). A dragon bridge..". "The Archmage brought the boy Arren there..".crows are flying early and the hound's after the otter," he said..and spat. "Avert," he said..hundreds of boats carried people fleeing from Paln and Semel to the Inner Islands; but the dragons..". "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..".he'll likely find another dowser..". "Perhaps I am wrong," said Hemlock in his dry, flat voice. "Your gift may be for Pattern. Or perhaps it's an ordinary gift for shaping and transformation. I'm not certain..". "And you?" she asked..He finished his soup, and she took the bowl. She sat down in her place, the stool by the oil lamp to the right of the hearth, and took up her mending. "Get warm through, and then I'll show you your bed," she said. "There's no fire in that room. Did you meet weather, up on the mountain? They say there's been snow..".enough. I walked awhile. I remember that later I sat by a fountain, though perhaps it

was not a."Do what?".I smiled but said nothing. She came up to me, took me by the arm, and was again.For there had been times when he felt that, as he had summoned her living, so dead she might summon him. The bond between them that had linked them and let her save him was not broken. Many times she had come into his dreams, standing silent as she stood when he first saw her in the reeking tower at Samory. And he had seen her, years ago, in the vision of the dying healer in Telio, in the twilight, beside the wall of stones.."But you have some knowledge.."notion of actually getting her into the School on Roke disguised as a man, there was little chance.hatches; it was as if monsters, chrome-plated fish, were depositing, at regular intervals, their.been enough of that kind of intimidation lately. But it went against his grain. He didn't like to."Once?" she said. "Or twice?".defend the heaps of stones and earth they had piled over their dead.

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