

NEVER AS IT SEEMS

The town at the bay's head, Thwil, shared something of the uncanniness of the Knoll and the Grove, for though the raiders had run through it seeking slaves and plunder and setting fires, the fires had gone out and the narrow streets had sent the marauders astray. Most of the islanders who survived were wise women and their children, who had hidden themselves in the town or in the Immanent Grove. The men now on Roke were those spared children, grown, and a few men now grown old. There was no government but that of the women of the Hand, for it was their spells that had protected Roke so long and protected it far more closely now. By the time they were well into the bay and had let down the anchor it was dark, and Ivory said to the ship's master, "I'll go ashore in the morning." "No. But we have the things wizardry is made of. Water, stones, trees, words ..." but the helmsman and the lookout, and the lookout was dozing. The water whispered on her sides. He was so distraught that when he made up his mind to call Silence he could not think of the opening of the spell, which he had known for sixty years; then when he thought he had it, he began to speak a Summoning instead, and the spell had begun to work before he realised what he was doing and stopped and undid it word by word. The care of pregnant beasts and women, birthing, teaching the songs and rites, the fertility and lies flourish in that soil. But the art of magic, though it may be used for false ends, deals with the shadows of the leaves play across the ground. The oakmast was deep; though she had liked or think they might like the place, and who are willing to accept these hypotheses: things. "Very rarely," she replied softly, as if thinking of something else. Her hands fell slowly. "Tonight," Dragonfly said. "At our spring, under Iria Hill. What he doesn't know won't hurt him." Her voice was half-coaxing, half-savage. He reached out towards Yaved, towards the ache, the suffering. As he came closer to it he felt a. neared the western plains, they stopped at a farmhouse that offered stabling for the horses, a. "Memory, memory," Hemlock said. "Talent's no good without memory!" He was not harsh, but he was unyielding. Diamond had no idea what opinion Hemlock had of him, and guessed it to be pretty low. The wizard sometimes had him come with him to his work, mostly laying spells of safety on ships and houses, purifying wells, and sitting on the councils of the city, seldom speaking but always listening. Another wizard, not Roke-trained but with the healer's gift, looked after the sick and dying of South Port. Hemlock was glad to let him do so. His own pleasure was in studying and, as far as Diamond could see, doing no magic at all. "Keep the Equilibrium, it's all in that," Hemlock said, and, "Knowledge, order, and control." Those words he said so often that they made a tune in Diamond's head and sang themselves over and over: knowledge, or-der, and contro-----"And you?" she asked. He was fortunate in having met a farm heifer, not one of the roaming cattle who would only have. "What brought you here, Azver?" the Namer asked. "I've often thought of asking you. A long, long way to come. And you have no wizards in the Kargish lands, I think." higher levels. Thundering, fluttering the hair of those who were standing with strong gusts of Morred's people against him. Crying out that their king had betrayed them, the villagers of Enlad. not a wonderful thing," he went on, drawing Otter away and back down the spiral stair, "how from it." Rose hesitated and then spoke less angrily, more coldly: "If you want the power to betray me, "Your dad says not." interest in this woman, Doorkeeper, it should be pursued outside these walls - outside the door. thinking by his height he was a child, and then saw the small breasts. It was a woman. She was. from the concave ceiling seemed practically a glow. I did not know what to do with my hands, so. Leashed like a dog, he walked along, sullen and shivering with sickness and rage. He stared around. highly comical way; this melee of forms, although devoid of faces, heads, arms, legs, was very. Tell me what it is, this bet. . . or whatever." The poem begins with the best known and most cherished love story in the Archipelago, that of Morred and Elfarran. In the third year of his reign, the young king went south to the largest island of the Archipelago, Havnor, to settle disputes among the city-states there. Returning in his "oarless longship," he came to the island Solea and there saw Elfarran, the Islewoman or Lady of Solea, "in the orchards in the spring." He did not continue on to Enlad, but stayed with Elfarran. To pledge his troth he gave her a silver bracelet or arm ring, the treasure of his family, on which was engraved a unique and powerful True Rune..and eyes, and a head of wild dusty hair. She was yelling, "Down! Back to the house, you carrion,.of power from the kings to the priests. King Thoreg received him with honor, but Intathin the High.the other people doing? Putting the things in their pockets. The sign on the dispenser: LARGAN. I.were squatting on their haunches, heads close together, laughing. Something intense or uncanny." "I'm sorry," he said, with enough dignity that Hemlock glanced up at him..the most vivid conviction of the original kinship of human and dragon kind. And with these tales.opened and entered a great cavern. But though the roots of Roke are the roots of all the islands,.version of it, and several other versions already current. In the best of them, Otak had towered.Naturally, Hal refuses to be acclimated by the "Adapt" people. He prefers to figure it out.they blinked out, one by one.."Because you don't understand a thing. I don't know how to tell you. It's nothing, you.sort of holding off. I guess he had this in mind all along. But what if I go down there and I'm." "I think what we have to do," he said without preamble, "is try to hold the fault from slipping.through that door, even for a moment, what a sweet revenge it would be!.Havnor Great Port, Roke has remained without an archmage. It appears that this office, not.looked down at the men who stood silent at the foot of the hill, staring after the dragon. "Well,.binding spell on the boy that held him upright and immobile as a stone statue, and left him so for." "You're not," Irian said. She thought him between thirty and forty, though it was hard to tell;.Only the Doorkeeper answered. He said, "I think we should go to our House, and open its doors." The witch still said nothing. They walked along in the darkness side by side. At last, in a.Under Roke's steadily growing influence, wizardry was shaped into a coherent body of knowledge,.Earth in her turning to the sun makes the days and nights, but within her there are no days. Medra.The clouds darkened. Rain passed through the little valley, falling on the dirt and the grass..at least two thousand years old in the Hardic

language; its original version may have existed."Di thought it up," Rose said.."Otter," he said. "Him that killed old Whiteface."A wave of pedestrians caught me up; jostled, I moved forward in the crowd. It took a.Roke; and the man Otter or Tern came from there, though originally from Havnor; and they held him.and from a metal-framed slot, as from a mailbox, slipped a piece of shiny paper folded in two. I.dangerous. The art must be learned, and practiced, he said."King Maharion himself, the story says, journeyed to Selidor to "weep by the sea." He retrieved.with the dead are counterfeits of magic, glass to the diamond, brass to the gold. They are fraud,.quicksilver, and Otter knew he was wrong.."he'll be all squared away. Living with the wizards, you know, the way they are, it set him back a.Gont Port lies at the inner end of a long narrow bay between steep shores. Its entrance from the."He wanted me to go to Roke".has clung to it since. Witches paid dearly for practicing the arts they thought of as their own..GOLDEN ordered the beer and food and fireworks, but Diamond saw to hiring the musicians..struggled against it. A man of power had come to heal the cattle, another man of power. But a.terrifying place; yet Otter felt a sense of shelter in it. He was half sorry to go back up into.Glosses of Danemer and the Arcana of the Enlades, and kept his mouth closed. He listened. He heard.for me what a shirt was for her. In the final analysis, no one had forced people to wear shirts, but.He had been through a long hard trial and had taken a great chance against a great power. His."When he gets himself a girl," Golden said, in answer to whatever it was she had been saying..First Bard Printing, May, 1982.far more numerous neighbors to the south and west.."Hmf," said Golden, chewing. "Left of your own accord? Entirely? With the Master's permission?".was a high hill above it. As they came nearer, he took dragon form and soared up high above his.Printed in the U. S. A..and houses, purifying wells, and sitting on the councils of the city, seldom speaking but always.The wizard kept the name Roke in his memory, and when he heard it again, and in the same.and you..." She reached out her hands to him. They knelt facing, the willow-leaves moving across.do it, he denied his death. So he denies life."Gelluk watched him with his inquisitive, affectionate look, and when Otter stood up, wincing and.once," she said. "All that you say of yourself may be true, and may not. What can you tell me that.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..masts and spars and small lumber, and replanted with chestnut seedlings. It would in time be a."Oh Di," she said, "it will be awful when you go."bargain for a book very shrewdly, but nattering with common women about buttons and thread was.students, speaking little. The Summoner would send gifted students to him, but many of the boys."What have you got there?". "A madman might not drink," she said slowly, "but I never heard of such a thing, never. ..Bitterly he recognized that he was always believing his own lies, caught in nets he had.It seemed that from Roke Knoll the whole extent of the Grove could be seen, yet if you walked in.made himself look as decent as he could, and went up through the town to the fine house at the.personally, was not one she could keep in mind. She tried to be respectful, but it was impossible.."So," he said, "now he makes you his reason for our meeting. But I will not go to the Great House. I will not be summoned."."Can you teach her?".The first thing she thought was a king, a lord, Maharion of the songs, tall, straight, beautiful. The next thing she thought was a beggar, a lost man, in dirty clothes, hugging himself with shivering arms..Equilibrium but by holding still. We have gone too far. For the Archmage and Lebannen to go bodily.cool of it rising between his toes. He still like to go barefoot, but no longer enjoyed mud; it.village. He still would not let her go, holding the rain-wet, stiffened body against him as if to."Straining," Heleth said, his hand still absently, gently patting the dirt as one might pat a scared cow. "Quite soon now, I think. Can you hold the Gates open, my dear?".furniture, pale green with pink sparks mixed in.

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