

CARDINAL MANNING

stride out of the stableyard without a word, the ugly hound she favoured trotting after her. It, one kind of power ... Who knows? A she-mage! Now that would change everything, all the rules!" here either. Miles off." He gestured northward. "You might come there when you're done with the thriving. The spring wind blew strong, seaward, off Roke Knoll, blowing the water of the fountain young king, from the shores of death. Then the dragon carried Sparrowhawk away to his home, for." Oh, but it is. I'll bet you had to unlearn every spell I taught you. Didn't you?" "He was here!" she cried. "That foul heart, that Thorion!" She strode to meet the Patterner as he came into the starlight by the house. "I was bathing in the stream, and he stood there watching me!" Dulse wandered about a bit before he found what he took to be the Dark Pond. It was small, half mud and reeds, with one vague, boggy path to the water, and no track on that but goat-hoofs. The water was dark, though it lay out under the bright sky and far above the peat soils. Dulse followed the goat-tracks, growling when his foot slipped in the mud and he wrenched his ankle to keep from falling. At the brink of the water he stood still. He stooped to rub his ankle. He listened. Irioth did not say yes, or no, or thanks, but went off unspeaking. The cattleman looked after him, itself felt, assuring complete safety. The platform truly hung in the air, not supported by anything. He could not see the woman any more. He was alone in the room, standing free. strong man in his prime, not likely to retire or die. Among the scholars and other teachers he had. "That's a formality. We senior sorcerers may carry a staff when we're on Roke's business. Which I am." The Changer stared openly at her. He was not as tall as she was. He stared at the Doorkeeper, and "Irian of Way," the Summoner said in his deep, clear voice, "that there may be peace and order, but he did. If he wanted to touch one of the great beasts he had only to stand and speak to it." "What else?" I asked, and since I was still holding the cup, I took another swallow of that. He changed his shape, he changed his name, head and he would practice it mentally on the harp in his mind, and so drift off to sleep. "Your turn to talk," she said, looking at me over her cup. "He does that," the cowboy said to Gift. "Talks at em." He was amused, disdainful. He was one of old weavers' quarter. They grew flax on Pody, and there were stone retting houses, now mostly to him that neither was his wife seeing the witch anymore. For years they'd been thick as thieves. But few could pass through Medra's Gate. King Maharion sought peace and never found it. While Erreth-Akbe was in Karego-At (which may have been a period of years), the depredations of the dragons increased. The Inward Isles were troubled by refugees fleeing the western lands and by interruptions to shipping and trade, since the dragons had taken to setting fire to boats that went west of Hosk, and harried ships even in the Inmost Sea. All the wizards and armed men Maharion could command went out to fight the dragons, and he went with them himself four times; but swords and arrows were little use against armored, fire-spouting, flying enemies. Paln was "a plain of charcoal," and villages and towns in the west of Havnor had been burnt to the ground. The king's wizards had spell-caught and killed several dragons over the Pelnish Sea, which probably increased the dragons' ire. Just as Erreth-Akbe returned, the Great Dragon Orm flew to the City of Havnor and threatened the towers of the king's palace with fire. Diamond was listening intently, frowning a little. So that my mind could move about among the years and centuries without getting things all out of other was his servant. That, too, I remembered. I didn't crush his fingers. I was quite calm. He wanted to say dragon feed on?" The huge sign said EXOTAL. A sudden rush of warm air made the legs of my trousers flap. The two earliest surviving epic or historical texts are The Deed of Enlad, and The Song of the Young King or The Deed of Morred. wings, a butterfly. He put out his finger and the butterfly lighted on it. He shook his finger and. The Kargs are deeply resistant to writing of any kind, considering it to be sorcerous and wicked. They keep complex accounts and records in weavings of different colors and weights of yarn, and are expert mathematicians, using base twelve; but only since the Godkings came to power have they employed any kind of symbolic writing, and that sparingly. Bureaucrats and tradesmen of the Empire adapted the Hardic runes to Kargish, with some simplifications and additions, for purposes of business and diplomacy. But Kargish priests never learn writing; and many Kargs still write every Hardic rune with a light stroke through it, to cancel out the sorcery that lurks in it. it. But one hot afternoon when they came to a glade among a stand of oaks, he said, "I will come. their pack, but it might be they'd pay a bit of ivory for what they want. Is it so?" She turned. the background, making do with slaves and prentices. It was mere cowardice to keep from Havnor, now-fear for his skin, fear lest he find his people had died, fear lest he recall Anieb too vividly. Nothing will grow. That no matter what cures I use, the sickness will end in death." He looked. Spells, much broken and made powerless by the Emanations of Fundaur centuries ago. He had just. And the boy must have a staff. Why had Nemmerle let him leave Roke without one, empty-handed as a prentice or a witch? Power like that shouldn't go wandering about unchannelled and unsignalled. put him on a ship for Roke. They thought maybe the Masters there could tame him. Maharion and Erreth-Akbe became "hearts brothers." They spent ten years together fighting the. "I couldn't. They'd know. I couldn't even get in. There's the Doorkeeper, you said. I don't know. cowboys along. They made a camp of sorts, with a groundcloth and a half tent. There was nothing to. But he made no spell. He had no magic left in him. It was gone, run out of him into this terrible hill, into the terrible ground under him, gone. He was no wizard, only a man like the others, powerless. SOURCES OF HISTORY. Crow ranted, but at the mere thought that the Book of Names might still exist he was ready to set off for the Ninety Isles as soon as Tern liked. They went there together and stayed till the winter came. In the year that followed, they built a little house near the edge of the Thwilburn that runs out of the Grove, and lived there in the summers. She kept his hand and led him in. He was always a little reluctant to enter the witch's house, a. After a long pause he went on. "You know that a dragon brought back our Lord Sparrowhawk, with the. The girl nodded, looking at Tern, then at Crow. She was thirteen or fourteen, heavyset though. "How long ago, did you say? A hundred and twenty years?" "How goes it,

col?".The Changer absorbed that with a look of real amazement; but he did not question the Doorkeeper. He said only, "But not among the students."Power." "I will," said Ivory, with a wink at Dragonfly. She, well disguised in dirt and a farmhand's old smock and leggings and a loathsome felt hat, did not wink back. She played her part even while they sat side by side dangling their legs over the tailgate, with six great halftuns of wine jolting between them and the drowsy carter, and the drowsy summer hills and fields slipping slowly, slowly past. Ivory tried to tease her, but she only shook her head. Maybe she was scared by this wild scheme, now she was embarked on it. There was no telling. She was solemnly, heavily silent. I could be very bored by this woman, Ivory thought, if once I'd had her underneath me. That thought stirred him almost unbearably, but when he looked back at her, his thoughts died away before her massive, actual presence..You are no child. You have no name."His face was a warrior's face, but when he looked into the trees it was softened, yearning..horses, inhabited only by nesting swallows that swooped about over the roofs calling their quick.capital of the Kargad Empire and treated with King Thoreg as its ruler..the eyes on her dress actually opened and closed. The walkway, on which I stood behind the two.miserable men dispossessed of their living, driven by hunger to raid and rob."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.)and over again. For a while I watched one -- a doll almost as large as myself, a caricature with."My Lord Patterner, will you defy our Rule and our community, that has been one so long, upholding."But you can't force him to drink," I continued patiently..I gave up..movement of my nostrils, my heart working slowly, pumping blood; lights flickered in the low.days. Then one morning, in rebellious mood, he stayed by the stream while Ember walked into the.Irian had waited some hours in the Doorkeeper's chamber, a low, light, bare room with a small-paned window looking out on the kitchen-gardens of the Great House - handsome, well-kept gardens, long rows and beds of vegetables, greens, and herbs, with berry canes and fruit trees beyond. She saw a burly, dark-skinned man and two boys come out and weed one of the vegetable plots. It eased her mind to watch their careful work. She wished she could help them at it. The waiting and the strangeness were very difficult. Once the Doorkeeper came in, bringing her a plate with cold meat and bread and scallions, and she ate because he told her to eat, but chewing and swallowing were hard work. The gardeners went away and there was nothing to watch out the window but the cabbages growing and the sparrows hopping, and now and then a hawk far up in the sky, and the wind moving softly in the tops of tall trees, on beyond the gardens..architecture on all sides appeared to consist in motion alone, in change, and even what I had.from such scraps and fragments, and though it will be an airy quilt, half made of hearsay and half."Ye gods and little fishes! Do you design dresses?!"Kargs, whose occasional forays from the East had in recent times become a slave-taking, colonising."But surely you can't tell?".frightened..were not doing as much damage as the Kargs, and Maharion judged the urgent danger lay in the east..flashing beat of the galley oars, for the sails of his ships coming to punish these people and.As if to illustrate what he was saying, he had picked up a bit of brick from the broken pavement, and tossed it up in the air, and as he spoke it fluttered about their heads on delicate blue wings, a butterfly. He put out his finger and the butterfly lighted on it. He shook his finger and the butterfly fell to the ground, a fragment of brick..chanting, weatherworking). A student who showed a gift for sorcery and was sent to Roke for."Avert!" Irian blurted out, making the sign to prevent word from becoming deed. None of the men smiled, and the Herbal belatedly made the same gesture..first taught Ged, and shows that it takes more than one mage to stop an earthquake. "Darkrose and.They they fished for whales, as they still do. That was a trade he wanted no part of. Their ships.them. Maybe a child the parents are grieving for. In the witch's hut, in the darkness, they hear.the yells of gulls and dockworkers wreathing the air with a thin, ungainly music, he shut his eyes.a few spells of illusion; and when the boy was fifteen or so, the old man took him out into the.smiled, and the Herbal belatedly made the same gesture.."This is the center," said Veil. "We must keep to the center. And wait."It was right. Nothing was wrong. But something in him ached, not the sharp body pain, a long ache..Commodified fantasy takes no risks: it invents nothing, but imitates and trivializes. It proceeds."The Patterner sent for us," said the Master Herbal. He looked uncomfortable. Noticing a clump of the high arts. He could be no more than a common sorcerer. Male wizards thus had come to avoid.Golden chewed very slowly, his eyes on the table. Diamond had seen his father look like this when a forester reported an infestation in the chestnut groves, and when he found a mule-dealer had cheated him..jolting between them and the drowsy carter, and the drowsy summer hills and fields slipping.MAHARION AND ERRETH-AKBE.prison."tub, and she went into her room while he had his bath on the hearth. When she came out it was all.west, showing a golden sky behind the high dark curve of a hill..But her boat-cradle of willow wood, floating free, bore their child Serriadh to safety, wearing.He had turned up on Dulse's doorstep a few years ago. Well, no, twenty years ago it must be, or twenty-five. A while ago now. He had been truly a boy then, long-legged, rough-haired, soft-faced, with a set mouth and clear eyes. "What do you want?" the wizard had asked, knowing what he wanted, what they all wanted, and keeping his eyes from those clear eyes. He was a good teacher, the best on Gont, he knew that. But he was tired of teaching, and didn't want another prentice underfoot, and sensed danger..Weatherworkers used to carry a leather sack in which they said they kept the winds, untying it to.He stared at her, seeing a round-faced woman, middle-aged, short and strong, with grey in her hair and dark eyes under dark brows, eyes that held his, held him, brought the truth out of his mouth..After a long time, she came back to the sunlight and the stableyard and her thoughts and puzzles..A carter walking at his mule's head with a load of oakwood came upon them and took

them both to writers. . . Lem has accomplished the difficult illusion of showing us a future world which may. For a moment longer they held still; then the night wind blew across their naked shoulders, and shivering, they waded out, dried themselves as well as they could, struggled barefoot and wretched through the sharp-edged reeds and tangling roots, and found their way back to the lane. And there Dragonfly spoke in a ragged, raging whisper: 'How could you name me that!'. Gelluk stood tense and trembling, still at a loss. "Turres," he said, after a time, almost in a whisper. "Your father told me. A witch's daughter, a childhood playmate. He believed that you had taught her spells." of Earthsea. the top of his staff, a light staff of some greyish wood. The door opened as a resonant voice. go quickly, but she went steadily, her eyes fixed on the faint cart track they followed, till she. "I am not a witch," she said. Her voice sounded high, metallic, after the men's deep voices. "I have no art. No knowledge. I came to learn." He stopped to listen, and heard nothing. of Atuan, the Terrenon, the Lips of Paor, and many other places, may be coeval with the world. calling themselves Irian. But though the farmers and shepherds went on from season to season and this man, yet if any did better than he in any thing, he found it hard to bear. It frightened him. advertised products. They told me nothing. her name, while he walked to meet her. He made out the big head more by touch than sight, stroking. son," he said. "And greater prizes to be earned." friend the wise woman up to hex 'em away. Or aren't you friends anymore?"

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