

HUGONIS DE S VICTORE OPERA OMNIA VOLUME 3

"Not for the same reasons as you," she said, "but I still want to. And we came all this way. And she was getting used to his strange face now and was able to read it. She thought that he looked sad. His way of speaking was harsh, quick, dry, peaceable. The men of the Isle are not always wise, eh?" he said. "Maybe the Doorkeeper." He looked at her now, not glancing but squarely, his eyes catching and holding hers. "But there. In the wood. Under the trees. There is the old wisdom. Never old. I can't teach you. I can take you into the Grove." After a minute he stood up. "Yes?" No wind. No birdcall. No distant lowing or bleating or call of voice. As if all the island had. mouth and her long, lean arms, the words spoken awry then, spoken truly now. "Maybe you can find that island," said Ayo. formed the mouth of the cave, no bigger than a man or a badger needed to crawl through. He crawled. Ever since he had walked on the green hill above the town and had seen the bright shadows in the grass, his heart had been easy. He was expectant, full of a sense of great strangeness, but not frightened. He stood still and looked at the people who came to meet him. When he got up at last, he wondered how old he was, and looked at his hands and arms to see if he was seventy. He still looked forty, though he felt seventy and moved like it, wincing. He got his clothes on, foul as they were from days and days of travel. There was a pair of shoes under the chair, worn but good, strong shoes, and a pair of knit wool stockings to go with them. He put the stockings on his battered feet and limped into the kitchen. Emer stood at the big sink, straining something heavy in a cloth. The dragons offered no threat during this period, and the Kargs had withdrawn into their own. in the air, turned concave, and became motionless. We sat facing each other; the girl tapped two. Not a door opened in the narrow street. Nobody looked out to see what the noise was. Not till long. increasingly costly temples, and controlling public ceremonies such as marriages, funerals, and the eyes on her dress actually opened and closed. The walkway, on which I stood behind the two. to name yourself. "To Roke?" was only a cals. I was with a six, you see, but it got awfully bottom. The orka was no good and. "There's people all over these parts, and maybe beyond, who think, as you said, that nobody can be wise alone. So these people try to hold to each other. And so that's why we're called the Hand, or the women of the Hand, though we're not women only. But it serves to call ourselves women, for the great folk don't look for women to work together. Or to have thoughts about such things as rule or misrule. Or to have any powers." initially taken to be a vaulted ceiling were only overhanging tiers, tiers that now gave way to. "Yes," she said uncertainly. "You could have taught me! You never would!" "Got you," the old man said, looking down at the muddy, lax body. He added, "Too late," regretfully. He stooped to see if he could pick him up or drag him, and felt the faint warmth of life. "You're tough," he said. "Here, wake up. Come on. Otter, wake up." and finally to promise him, swearing on his own true and secret name, that if he learned the house, said the mage, pointing to a low, moss-ridden roof half-hidden by the afternoon shadows of. was leaping up and down, a frog? a toad? a big cricket? He went out into the garden and came up. They had little trust in men. A man had betrayed them. Men had attacked them. It was men's ambitions, they said, that had perverted all the arts to ends of gain. "We do not deal with their governments," said tall Veil in her mild voice. "Well, well, well," he said to his wife, frequently, "all rosy again, eh? Got the apple of your eye back home, eh? No more moping, eh?" need a room for the night, I have one. Or San might, if you're going to the village. "My mastery is here, on Gont," he said, still speaking hardly above a whisper. "My master is Heleth" the boat with better wares than most householders of the Isles were used to seeing, and Tern. the East and South Reaches people tend to be taller, heavier boned, and darker. Many Southerners. off for the Ninety Isles as soon as Tern liked. The Kargish version of the story, told as a sacred recital by the priesthood, says that Intathin. "Master Ivory said I could pass for a man. Though I thought I should say who I was. I will be as. They were not far inside the Grove, and still beside the stream, when Irian stopped, turned aside, it was. Whatever art he studied came easy to him, too easy, so that he despised illusion, and with counters. When we approached one of these, seats emerged from the wall on either side of. Kings. No dragon had been seen over the Inmost Sea for many centuries when Kalessin, called the. The old wizard stood there. He recollected all he knew of the names of Gont, and after a while he understand that? "No," Diamond said. of his plans, an extension of himself. "Yes, yes, you will," he said, and smiled again. All the way down the spinning, reeking stone stairs he talked, and Otter tried to understand, because this was a man of power telling him what power was. down again and tried to hold still. The spellbonds around his chest kept him from breathing. "Whatever for?" One day in autumn he came back to the school. He went in by the garden door, which gives on the. "I couldn't. They'd know. I couldn't even get in. There's the Doorkeeper, you said. I don't know the word to say to him." something more in her, something beyond what she was. And when Irian looked away from the world. "The one," Rose said. As suddenly as the ewe had walked off, she went into her house. Dragonfly. all but the greatest of them conceal their true names. In the lay Hasa's Voyage, the dragons. Mage. the flare of candles among jagged shadows. He touched the earth of the tunnel's end, took clods of. held in my hand seemed to be made of paper, empty. But I quickly learned to control my body. In. was nothing to fear. There was no harm. master any longer, he could not in conscience command him. "You have a true gift, Essiri," he. they blinked out, one by one. "Thank you, mistress," he muttered, crouching at the fire. She brought him a bowl of broth. He drank from it eagerly yet warily, as if long unaccustomed to hot soup. it thickened and darkened, creeping out over the slow waves. light? But he could not. He crawled in the dark till the sound of water was loud and the rocks. "I can protect you here, and have done so. On Roke, of course, you'll be perfectly safe. The very walls, there... But if you go home, you must be willing to protect yourself. It's a difficult thing for a young man, very difficult -- a test of a will that has not yet been steeled, a mind that has not yet seen its true goal. I very strongly advise that you not take that risk. Write your parents, and go to the Great Port, or to Roke. Half your year's fee, which I'll return to you, will see to your first

expenses." "Go to Roke," the wizard said. The boy wore shoes and a good leather vest. He could afford or earn. From time to time, a plaintive whistle high above us rent the unseen sky. The girl, because he treated me the way a doctor would an abnormal patient, pretending, and very well, then lit up, as if by a momentary dawn. Farther on, long, low silhouettes sailed past, much like look at her as she came into the room. "And we're out of buttons," Tern said. He was cheerful; as soon as he had thought of Pody he knew he was going in the right direction. "Perhaps I can find some along the way," he said. "It's my gift, you know." Once instead of smiling and agreeing, she said, "It's lovely to have him back, but" and Golden fleets together if the soldiers and sailors chose not to obey. People were in the habit of fearing. "Come" she said, "before you fall asleep there," and he followed her obediently to Berry's room, which wasn't much more than a cupboard built onto the corner of the house. Her room was behind the chimney. Berry would come in, drunk, in a while, and she'd put down the pallet in the chimney corner for him. Let the traveler have a good bed for a night. Maybe he'd leave a copper or two with her when he went on. There was a terrible shortage of coppers in her household these days. "What's that all about?" Golden said to his wife, a rhetorical question. She looked at him and said nothing, a non-rhetorical answer. Her mother Ayo and her mother's sister Mead were wise women. They healed Otter as best they could with warm oils and massage, herbs and chants. They talked to him and listened when he talked. Neither of them had any doubt but that he was a man of great power. He denied this. "I could have done nothing without your daughter," he said. "What all the students do. Live alone in a stone cell and learn to be wise! It might not be what you dream it to be, but that, too, you'd learn." "It isn't the life I want." Havnor, gathering its tributaries on the way. Eighty ships sailed past Ark and Ilien on a true and. Ember usually scowled when he greeted her. She asked him abrupt questions, listened to his. "In the unlikely event that a science-fiction writer is deemed worthy of a Nobel Prize in the near. The young man, called Ivory, did not actually have his staff and cloak yet; he explained that he was to be made wizard when he went back to Roke. The Masters had sent him out in the world to gain experience, for all the classes in the School cannot give a man the experience he needs to be a wizard. Birch looked a little dubious at this, and Ivory reassured him that his training on Roke had equipped him with every kind of magic that could be needed in Iria of Westpool on Way. To prove it, he made it seem that a herd of deer ran through the dining hall, followed by a flight of swans, who marvellously soared through the south wall and out through the north wall; and lastly a fountain in a silver basin sprang up in the centre of the table, and when the Master and his family cautiously imitated their wizard and filled their cups from it and tasted it, it was a sweet golden wine. "Wine of the Andrades," said the young man with a modest, complacent smile. By then the wife and daughters were entirely won over. And Birch thought the young man was worth his fee, although his own silent preference was for the dry red Fanian of his own vineyards, which got you drunk if you drank enough, while this yellow stuff was just honeywater. little way, a few strides. She turned and looked back down at him. "What keeps you from the hill?" Gift hurried to the village. She went straight up to the doorstep, bent over the heap, and laid her hand on it. Everybody gasped and muttered, "Avert! Avert!" except Tawny's youngest daughter, who mistook the signs and piped up, "Speed the work!" He had been stowed in a storeroom of one of the old palaces that Losen had appropriated. It had no strong in her fear and willful in her vileness. She holds him back and hides him deep, fearing to a man called Early, who would have liked to find the young upstart who defeated his master Gelluk. connection, he knew Hound had been on a true track again. quick and fierce. "We are to meet to uphold the Rule of Roke. And so to choose an Archmage." The seed and source of might and right. You'll see. You'll see. Come along! Come along! Let's go. "I'll see you then," said Diamond, looking big and handsome and indifferent, and walked off. little like models of wartime searchlights. "But after the Summoner and I got over the bruises on our souls, as you might say, and the great. Although Otter had not thought the words, Anieb spoke with his voice, the same weak, dull voice: above its eyes and below its ears. When he did so, it flicked its long right ear. So when he. that. It's not a thing you do. You have to know how to let it do. That's all the mastery." "I am hungry now," said the mage. He took a hardboiled egg from the basket, cracked, shelled, and ate it. riddle song of which the last line has to do, maybe, with the man who was Medra, and Otter, and. "The Summoner was among us when we stood on Roke Knoll and saw the Archmage kneel to King. To the sisters and all these villagers, Mount Onn was the world, and the shores of Havnor were the edge of the universe. Beyond that was only rumor and dream. He thought he caught a whiff of fox from the little orchard behind the house. are one. She said nothing, but breathed very warm in his ear, and he moaned. His hands clenched hers. He drew back a little. She drew back. They sat back on their ankles. before he ever went to Roke. "Everything is practice," Tangle said. She was never ill-natured. She seldom thought to do anything much for her daughter, but never hurt her, never scolded her, and gave her whatever she asked for, dinner, a toad of her own, the amethyst necklace, lessons in witchcraft. She would have provided new clothes if Rose had asked for them, but she never did. Rose had looked after herself from an early age; and this was one of the reasons Diamond loved her. With her, he knew what freedom was. Without her, he could attain it only when he was hearing and singing and playing music. "Well. . . yes, in a sense, yes. I don't design, I only make. . ." him away. I thought him insignificant, and so harmless. But he lied to you and beguiled you. You. about the floor, about Silence. Had he been out walking on the path above the Overfell? No, that. keep from falling. At the brink of the water he stood still. He stooped to rub his ankle. He. continue to exist in both forms. The many written copies of the ancient texts serve to keep them. from my grandfather? If that polecat sets foot on my land I'll have the dogs tear out his liver. Of the four of them, only the Doorkeeper moved and spoke. He took a step forward, looking from one young man to the next and the next. He said, "You trusted me, giving me your names. Will you trust me now?" in Ember's hair. Immanent Grove. The men now on Roke were those spared children, grown, and a few men now grown. end becomes a means to an end less than itself. . . There was no man there more greatly gifted than. "Lord Thorion has returned from death to save us all," the

Windkey said, fiercely and clearly. "He will be Archmage. Under his rule Roke will be as it was. The king will receive the true crown from his hand, and rule with his guidance, as Morred ruled. No witches will defile sacred ground. No dragons will threaten the Inmost Sea. There will be order, safety, and peace." "There," Anieb said. She pointed at the mountain and smiled. She looked at her companion, then. Otter pointed at the low slope that rose before them. "The King's House is there," he said. "I think you feared him." "I don't know," the Herbal said. "I can only tell you that when I'm with him, when I'm in the." "Do that," the old mage said. provided new clothes if Rose had asked for them, but she never did. Rose had looked after herself. "Well, take care. I saw the fox on the full-moon night," Dulse said, and went on his way. south road on a good horse and asking at the tavern for lodging. They sent him to Sans house, but. "It's up to me too if he stays or goes, and he goes. You haven't got all the sayso. All the people." "It's not Roke magic," the old man said. His voice was dry, a little forced. "Not to do with the Old Powers, either. Nothing of that sort. Nothing sticky." this little scene? The other passengers paid no attention to her. For the hundredth time I was. "What's changed?" A chill ran through her. The water ran cold. Gathering herself together, her limbs still soft and

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