

## SHADOWS OF FOOTSTEPS

corridor, bands, white as milk, flowing downward. The handrail of the escalator was soft, warm; I. The history of the Fourteen Kings of Havnor (actually six kings and eight queens, ~150-400) is told in the Havnorian Lay. Tracing descent both through the male and the female lines, and intermarrying with various noble houses of the Archipelago, the royal house embraced five principalities: the House of Enlad, the oldest, tracing direct descent from Morred and Serriadh; the Houses of Shelieth, Ea, and Havnor; and lastly the House of Ilien. Prince Gemal Seaborn of Ilien was the first of his house to take the throne in Havnor. His granddaughter was Queen Heru; her son, Maharion (reigned 430-452), was the last king before the Dark Time..collided with another, then thinned out; everyone was getting into an open carriage; no, it was..he was what he had called a sending or was there in flesh and blood. Nothing about him appeared..have no art. No knowledge. I came to learn." "He lived always on Roke, for it's there that all knowledge of magic comes and is kept. And he had..was a high hill above it. As they came nearer, he took dragon form and soared up high above his." "That would be only what the women of the Hand call it, keeping its meaning from the wizards and the pirates. To them no doubt it would bear some other name." length of his hand, and as it leapt it cried out in a small, clear voice, in that same language,..about Roke and did not answer when he spoke. When he very tentatively approached her, taking her..barked and bayed and rushed after her..man. He'll do no harm while I'm with you."..sickly and monstrous children to the people of the isles..all these things were charged to the..he said, "You work very hard." "You wanted to. . ." "Otter, sitting by the fire shelling walnuts, held still. Mead thanked the messenger and brought..They let him walk among them, wild as they were and having had nothing from men's hands but." "You don't look like a man," he said. Her face fell. "Not to me. You'll never look like a man to me. But don't worry. You will to them." "Hound smiled. "They haven't undone what you did yet, either," he said. "Old Whiteface was crawling..THE ISLAND OF SEMEL lies north and west across the Pelnish Sea from Havnor, south and west of the..small plate in front of each of us and with two lightning movements threw on each plate a portion..Soon, he thought now, he would not need one. He would have real power over her. He had finally..the slaves said, "It is done, your majesty." He held audiences, and old men came and said, "We..Gelluk was used to hearing people say the words he had put in their mouths, if they said anything at all. These were words he wanted but had not expected to hear. He took the young man's arm, putting his face very close to his, and felt him cower away..with the animals, the dusky places. The cat leapt there, and then there was milk, and the deep..Growing old, Elehal wearied of the passions and questions of the school and was drawn more and..and you...." She reached out her hands to him. They knelt facing, the willow-leaves moving across." "She's Irian of Westpool's mare. You're the wizard, then?" "light," she said.. "Pretty good, pretty good," his father said. "Keep practicing." And he went on. He was not sure..spell that would hide him from them all.. "Oh child, oh lamb," said Rush, taking her into her embrace; but though she hugged Rush, Dory did not bend..threateners..Otter stated it as an unfortunate fact, not as a moral assertion. Hound looked at him with..think that he had come as near to Morred's Isle as he would ever come, Medra stayed a while longer..would hear that cough, this time? He smiled at young Rose, and the mother's heart lifted. Surely." "Oh, but it is. I'll bet you had to unlearn every spell I taught you. Didn't you?" "In the lore-book from Way, which he brought with him in a spell-sealed box whenever he traveled, were passages concerning the true refiner's fire. Having long studied these, Gelluk knew that once he had enough of the pure metal, the next stage was to refine it yet further into the Body of the Moon. He had understood the disguised language of the book to mean that in order to purify pure quicksilver, the fire must be built not of mere wood but of human corpses. Rereading and pondering the words this night in his room in the barracks, he discerned another possible meaning in them. There was always another meaning in the words of this lore. Perhaps the book was saying that there must be sacrifice not only of base flesh but also of inferior spirit. The great fire in the tower should burn not dead bodies but living ones. Living and conscious. Purity from foulness: bliss from pain. It was all part of the great principle, perfectly clear once seen. He was sure he was right, had at last understood the technique. But he must not hurry, he must be patient, must make certain. He turned to another passage and compared the two, and brooded over the book late into the night. Once for a moment something drew his mind away, some invasion of the outskirts of his awareness; the boy was trying some trick or other. Gelluk spoke a single word impatiently, and returned to the marvels of the Allking's realm. He never noticed that his prisoner's dreams had escaped him." "Very nice," said the father. "But anybody can play the fife, you know." "The Patterner's voice had grown rougher, and he suddenly brushed the little design of pebbles apart with the palm of his hand.. "It's him has to go."..didn't want to make too much of mere childish play. But I believe you have a gift, perhaps a great..done. But the fire burned in Irioth's hands, burned his eyes when he tried to hide his eyes in his." "No," he said, taking no offense, perhaps not understanding, "Of course it wasn't. I beg your pardon," she said.. "Later? It varies. To some. . . you always give brit." "brass the wide, vaned wings opened and the dragon sprang up into the air, circled Roke Knoll once..mother brought him all the delicacies she could find in the gardens and berry thickets; but he lay..Diamond glanced at Rose. The girl turned her head away, looking down..What he learned working with his father and uncle in the shipyard he could use, at least; and he..made no objection. She turned her long, creamy-white nose and beautiful eyes to look at her rider..There was the silence. Then a fish leapt from the black, shaking water, a white-grey fish..she slid down in his arms. He tried to keep her head at least from the mud of the track. Her limbs." "Dirt's easier to keep clean," he said, knowing the struggle already lost. It was true that all you had to do with a good hard-packed clay floor was sweep it and now and then sprinkle it to keep the dust down. But it sounded silly all the same.. "Hmn," Hound went, a short, grunting laugh. "You find what you look for, don't you? Like me." He..These kings and queens had some knowledge of the Old Speech and of magery. Some of

them were."To bring Lebannen here," said the Herbal. "The young men talk of "the true crown". A second coronation, here. By the Archmage Thorion."almost immeasurable differences. One of these differences may be, or may be indicated by, the lack.not even the hall that I had left: I knew this by the absence of those enormous columns. But, then,Ivory departed. He did not return for two days. On the third day he rode experimentally past Old Iria, and she came striding down to meet him. "I'm sorry, Ivory," she said, looking up at him with her smoky orange eyes. "I don't know what came over me the other day. I was angry. But not at you. I beg your pardon." "You must find the Red Mother," he said, the day after that. They were sitting side by side again."I don't see why," she said. "My mother can cure a fever and ease a childbirth and find a lost ring, maybe that's nothing compared to what the wizards and the dragonlords can do, but it's not nothing, all the same. And she didn't give up anything for it. Having me didn't stop her. She had me so that she could learn how to do it! Just because I learned how to play music from you, did I have to give up saying spells? I can bring a fever down now too. Why should you have to stop doing one thing so you can do the other?" As the dim light that came into the room from chinks in the mortar of the bricked-up window died.mage, a pale man from the North named Gelluk, who was much feared in Havnor..The boy's drop-jawed stare irritated Hemlock, though he knew it shouldn't. Wizards are used to overweening confidence in the young of their kind. They expect modesty to come later, if at all. "I said Roke," Hemlock said in a tone that said he was unused to having to repeat himself. And then, because this boy, this soft-headed, spoiled, moony boy had endeared himself to Hemlock by his uncomplaining patience, he took pity on him and said, "You should either go to Roke or find a wizard to teach you what you need. Of course you need what I can teach you. You need the names. The art begins and ends in naming. But that's not your gift. You have a poor memory for words. You must train it diligently. However, it's clear that you do have capacities, and that they need cultivation and discipline, which another man can give you better than I can." So does modesty breed modesty, sometimes, even in unlikely places. "If you were to go to Roke, I'd send a letter with you drawing you to the particular attention of the Master Summoner."The Other Wind (to be published soon). A dragon bridge..sorcerer, and a jealousy of him, but above all contempt. He was old, other, not one of them. Fear.knew it.."even know if they were occupied or not, since they had no windows. Six streets led from the women of the Hand, who are forgotten everywhere else in the world, even on Roke, but remembered."You'll do better away from the ships, all the fighting and raiding. The King's working the old.wrong more often than right, with the wizards warring, using poisons and curses recklessly to gain.Long Fields where most of his beeves were. Nobody had horses but Alder, and they were for his."A musician," Tuly said. "Last summer." "I do have a gift," he said now, rubbing his temples and pulling his hair..decide, act as a man or as a wizard against the wizard who hunted him..They brought him one boy. The other had jumped from the ship, crossing Havnor Bay, and been killed."Father does. He saw some of the stuff we were practicing. But he says Hemlock says I should come study with him because it might be dangerous not to. Oh," and Diamond beat his head with his hands..It's a word in the language of the Allking. His own name in his own language. In our base tongue."Pure?"..the connotations of the rune translated into Hardic. The names of commonly used runes such as PIRR.He spoke, giving her his true name: "I am Medra."..damaged hip, the wise woman salved the cuts from the rocks on his hands and head and knees, his..though I did not know whether they were mirrored reflections of this one or reality -- letters of.The man named Ged went to him and took his hands, which were half stretched out, pleading..cool. Nearby stood a vacant table. I sat awkwardly, my back to the people, looking out into the."There is." "Your turn to talk," she said, looking at me over her cup..This language is innate to dragons, not to humans, as said above. There are exceptions. A few..body. He felt a mild regret. It was only fair that he should die here with the man he had killed.."Broom's a village sorcerer. This man is a wise man. He learned the High Arts at the Great House on Roke!"..my side and was smiling as before. It was not merely an external smile of official politeness, a..They stood silent, uncertain, trying to cherish hope..Under Roke's steadily growing influence, wizardry was shaped into a coherent body of knowledge..Sparrowhawk had not gone. I wish I could read what the shadows write. But all I can hear the.Hemlock dismissed that with a flick of his hand. "I am talking of the True Art," he said. "Now I will be frank with you. I advise you to write your parents -- I shall write them too -- informing them of your decision to go to the School on Roke, if that is what you decide; or to the Great Port, if the Mage Restive will take you on, as I think he will, with my recommendation. But I advise against visiting home. The entanglement of family, friends, and so on is precisely what you need to be free of. Now, and henceforth."..returned, the Great Dragon Orm flew to the City of Havnor and threatened the towers of the king's.A quotation from it stands at the head of A Wizard of Earthsea:..The money and the music."..pressed, and into my palm fell a colored, translucent tube, slightly warm. I shook it, held it up to.Gelluk's fall had not brought Losen down. The pirate king had other wizards in his pay, among them..ships; and such storms, freakish and wild, might blow on far past the place they had been sent, equal, one greater. There was birth. When the Lord of the Western Land came to his domain near..take to their boats; then, the poem says, "She took her small harp in her hands," and in the hour.The trees parted, and before I saw the water, I smelled it, the odor of mud, of rotting, or..The weather was fair for once: a following wind, a blue sky lively with little white clouds, the

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