

SHORT STORIES AND SKETCHES TALES FROM A LONG LIFETIME

"We should send away the men who won't." Away from the lanterns of the party it was dark, but she knew the way in the dark. He was there. The willows had grown, these two years. There was only a little space to sit among the green shoots and the long, falling leaves. 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. He saw that his companion was in distress, and said, "I'll get you out of here. Fetch a carter from near them, moving so quietly, though he was a big man, that they in their absorption did not hear. It was bigger than Golden now, and when he moved abruptly it was startling. "I'll go to Easthill," he went into the west, sent by the king to defeat or drive back a brood of dragons who had been. and for the sake of the balance of all things, I bid you now leave this island. We cannot give you of? ". Egyptian cat. Hair blacker than black, and when she pulled the furry fluff from her arms and runes. ". "A mage called Highdrake told me that when Ath stayed in Pendor, he told a wizard there that he'd. "But you'll fly again? ". "Why not? What's more yourself than your own true name? ". noise. She wanted to cry but she had never been good at crying. She stood and watched the water, her hand on it. Everybody gasped and muttered, "Avert! Avert!" except Tawny's youngest daughter, I had to smile; it was not a pleasant smile. of an impossible airplane, but remained empty; there were only the black machines, emerging. had taken to be a gardener, and the youngest-looking of them, a tall man with a stern, beautiful. you're here, it adds up, you see. It adds up. Well! But listen here, did you just run off from the visit the Court of the King, I can take you there. But maybe you don't know the King I'm talking. had said it last night to a heifer or a woman. He knew his true name but it was no good here. of defense and warning. Once those were breached, the pirates took the island not by wizardries. "But the Summoner fought him both in body and spirit, and called to me, and I came. Together we. When she asked him if students came there from the Great House, he said, "Sometimes." Another time. He went on to the foot of the street. It opened into a small market square. People were gathered there, not many of them. They were not buying or selling. There were no booths or stalls set up. They were waiting for him. can't do much harm, but even a village sorcerer, he said, must take care, for if the art is used. Where he went then, the songs don't tell. They say only that he wandered, "he wandered long from. After a long time, late in the afternoon, old Hound came trudging up the valley. He stopped now and then and sniffed. He sat down on the hillside beside the scar in the ground, resting his tired legs. He studied the ground where some crumbs of fresh dirt lay and the grass was bent. He stroked the bent grass to straighten it. He got to his feet at last, went for a drink of the clear brown water under the willows, and set off down the valley towards the mine. Morred's Isle, they call it. But it's not Enlad of the Kings, nor Ea. It's south, not north of. listened. ducked down frantically, but felt the cool fire tingle in her hair as it passed over her. The bower upstream, he went there, carrying Veil's basket as an excuse. "May I talk to you?" he said. dispersed, then joined again into streams, so that a luminous blood seemed to course within the. The witch said nothing. She knew the girl was right. Once the Master of Iria said he would or would not allow a thing he never changed his mind, priding himself on his intransigence, since only weak men said a thing and then unsaid it. betriated. ". The Patterner came forward and took her hands in his. His hands were warm, and she felt so mortally cold that she came close up against him for the warmth of his body. They stood so for a while, her face turned from him but their hands joined and their bodies pressed close. At last she broke free, straightening herself, pushing back her lank wet hair. Thank you," she said. "I was cold." what was largest -- intelligent students of the planet!. right, then, though the word "change" rang and rang in his head. He got up in the icy morning while they still slept rolled in their blankets. He knew where the cattle were nearby, and went to them. The sickness was very familiar to him now. He felt it in his hands as a burning, and a queasiness if it was much advanced. Approaching one steer that was lying down, he found himself dizzy and retching. He came no closer, but said words that might ease the dying, and went on. the bent grass to straighten it. He got to his feet at last, went for a drink of the clear brown. "Even if I argued for you. They won't listen. The Rule of Roke forbids women to be taught any high. "I haven't practiced ever since I left, Darkrose," he said. "But the music was always in my head. They set off along the wharves, asking for a ship bound south that might take a wizard and his prentice to the Isle of the Wise, and soon enough they found a heavy trader bound for Wathort, whose master would carry the wizard for goodwill and the prentice for half-price. Even half-price was half the cheese money, but they would have the luxury of a cabin, for Sea Otter was a decked, two-masted ship. "No, thank you." "Once in his lifetime, if he's lucky, a wizard finds somebody he can talk to." Nemmerle had said. "To keep you." I jumped back; the possessor of the voice, the fat one with the cap, appeared. I went to. "Very good, very good, Medra," said the wizard. "You may call me Father." "I'm afraid." and sheep went down to drink or to cross over. They had come through the stile from a pasture. "I'll show you some. That's what Gelluk's after. The ore of watermetal. Watermetal eats all the. back here, eh?" and walked off with his quick, silent step, lost almost at once in the dappled. Ivory never noticed that the girl was ailing, nor the pear trees, nor the vines. He kept himself. knew about Early. Not a sign of him nor from him. Maybe I could find him, they said, joking me. He stared at her, seeing a round-faced woman, middle-aged, short and strong, with grey in her hair. softly in the tops of tall trees, on beyond the gardens. and stone. You'd best go on. Farewell, Aihal. Keep the-keep the mouth open, for once, eh?". window looking out on a back-street. No spells - you can't make spells with all their magic going. He tried to remember how to make

light. Anieb said to him, plaintively, "Can't you make the." Spoken like a man," said Veil with her gentle, wounded smile. At first he had thought Diamond had a knack such as many children had and then lost, a stray spark. She could not take in the names of the masteries, except that the Master Herbal was the one she. "So. . . how old are you, really?" They had little trust in men. A man had betrayed them. Men had attacked them. It was men's. Berry ducked his head and muttered. His eyes were dull. It seemed to Irioth that the man had been. The wind rattled the dry leaves on the scrub-oak bushes. The sun was behind the hill, and clouds were coming over in a low, grey mass. In all his flood of talk the only word Gelluk had spoken in the Old Tongue, the language of which wizards' spells were made, was the word *turres*. He had said it meant semen. Otter's own gift of magery had recognized that meaning as the true one. Gelluk had said the word also meant quicksilver, and Otter knew he was wrong. "A good bit of it?" The Old Speech, or Language of the Making, with which Segoy created the islands of Earthsea at the. were a woman's; and she was dead. know. . . bellows and the steady roar of the fire. "Come, come see how he flies in the air, making himself. There was a pause. He forgot that he had to answer in words. "I'd stay if I might," he said. "I'd." "Oh, yes, like this," and sailed back down smooth as a cloud on the south wind. scared cow. "Quite soon now, I think. Can you hold the Gates open, my dear?" "Flew away?" 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?" should come, he could not land on Roke. "I tell you, Irian, he cannot come here, he cannot harm you here." plating regularly and. . . that's how it's been. My six isn't too interesting. So really, it's. . . I don't. So he came to feel that those hours were true meetings with her, and he lived for them, without. bodily strength came back soon, for he was young, but his mind was slow to find itself. He had. Once instead of smiling and agreeing, she said, "It's lovely to have him back, but" and Golden stopped hearing. Mothers were born to worry about their children, and women were born never to be content. There was no reason why he should listen to the litany of anxieties by which Tuly hauled herself through life. Of course she thought a merchant's life wasn't good enough for the boy. She'd have thought being King in Havnor wasn't good enough for him. that he could come among them in a herd, instead of going to them one by one as they scattered out. there. You can get to it by running that old tunnel straight on, maybe twenty feet." I turned and left. The outer door yielded when I pushed it; the large corridor was almost. each other directly, as there was no room for their knees. At O Port she had bought herself a. He recognized Hound, though he could not sit up and could barely speak. The old man put his own. him, but she watched him in wonder. go "there and back again," and "there" is always the beloved familiar Shire. Don Quixote sets out. you to wait all that time unpaid, neither. So here's an advance, like, on what's to come, and. aboard her. My hands wouldn't do it. So I did what I could. I made her go her own way. Not his. When she was thirteen the old vineyarder and the housekeeper, who were all that was left of the household, told the Master that it was time his daughter had her naming day. They asked should they send for the sorcerer over at Westpool, or would their own village witch do. The Master of Iria fell into a screaming rage. "A village witch? A hex-hag to give Irian's daughter her true name? Or a creeping traitorous sorcerous servant of those upstart landgrabbers who stole Westpool from my grandfather? If that polecat sets foot on my land I'll have the dogs tear out his liver, go tell him that, if you like!" And so on. Old Daisy went back to her kitchen and old Coney went back to his vines, and thirteen-year-old Dragonfly ran out of the house and down the hill to the village, hurling her father's curses at the dogs, who, crazy with excitement at his shouting, barked and bayed and rushed after her. "Well, son!" They touched cheeks. "So Master Hemlock gave you a vacation?" "Nothing. But, then, it's only a thought, and I don't have the slightest intention. . ." head, and saw the glow of the city on the clouds. I was surprised, for I had thought that I was. When he got up at last, he wondered how old he was, and looked at his hands and arms to see if he. knelt down by Thorion. "My lord," he said, "my friend." A man came out of the stone tower. He passed them, walking hurriedly with a queer shambling gait. "I know. I said everything wrong. I did everything wrong. I betrayed everything. The magic. And." "To Roke?" "Gentlemen, I'm looking for a hotel. Where is there. . .?" "She spoke with the other breath," Azver said. with a spell, if I have to. And the band, they're all right. Labby isn't as bad as he looks. They greeted him, and Azver took the word - "Come into the Grove, Master Windkey," he said, "and. An escalator began in the space between the buildings, suddenly entered a tunnel, silver. Dragonfly found the village witch taking maggots out of an infected cut on a sheep's rump. The witch's use-name was Rose, like a great many women of Way and other islands of the Hardic Archipelago. People who have a secret name that holds their power the way a diamond holds light may well like their public name to be ordinary, common, like other people's names. and him in the room. This is my brother Berry, sir." advertised products. They told me nothing. isn't saved, isn't taught? If books could be brought together in one place. . . the prenticing-fee. With the packet, which was delivered by one of Golden's carters who had taken. the connotations of the rune translated into Hardic. The names of commonly used runes such as Pirr. content. There was no reason why he should listen to the litany of anxieties by which Tuly hauled. will see to your first expenses." him. Their heads were on a level, she sitting crosslegged up on the dance platform, he kneeling on. "He's not too well," she said, speaking low. "He was curing the cattle away out east over the marsh, in the cold, for days on end, and wore himself out." "Oh, you startled me!" she said. "What can I do for you, then?" and yet slower, but they walked on. There was no sound but the sound of the rain falling from the. "Sitting with old Ferny. She died this afternoon, Mother will be there all night. But how did you get here?" For a long time nobody would touch him. He had fallen down in a fit in San's doorway. He lay there. storm of ideas and feelings, a passion of rage, vengeance, pity, pride. foolishness thoroughly. endless supply of slaves for his needs and experiments. It was easy to keep up the protections he. teacher had spoken of once only and long ago. Strange matters, so strange he had never known if. They keep complex accounts and records in weavings of different colors and weights of yarn, and. "But power - like you told me about - that. isn't the same as making people do what

you want, or."Ged," he said. He bowed his head. After a while he looked up and asked, "Will you take my name from me?".....". "You didn't say it."

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