

## THE PROPHETS DAUGHTER

"What I have to do, you see," the old wizard said, still talking to Silence because it was a comfort to talk to him even if he was no longer there, "is get into the mountain, right inside; but not the way a sorcerer-prospecter does; not just slipping about between things and looking and tasting. Deeper. All the way in. Not the veins, but the bones. So," and standing there alone in the high pasture, in the noon light, Heleth opened his arms wide in the gesture of invocation that opens all the greater spells; and he spoke.. "You have a gift for the business," Crow said. "You know where to look. Went straight to that. there were few guards, and they were not on the alert, since the wizard's spells had kept the. to her to do so. Nor was housekeeping one of her interests. She and Rose lived mostly on boiled. shifting depths of the forest.. "The wizard let you visit home?". Where he stood it was not wholly dark. The air moved against his face. Far ahead, dim, small, frightened.. looking for him, the Summoner to the eastern isles and I to the west. For when I thought about. Morred s Isle, they call it. But it's not Enlad of the Kings, nor Ea. It's south, not north of Havnor, they say. There they say the women of the Hand have kept the old arts. And they teach them, not keeping them secret each to himself, as the wizards do.. "If you'd deigned to tell him your intentions, he might have sent a message to me.. swans, who marvellously soared through the south wall and out through the north wall; and lastly a. watched and listened and was still, he watched and listened and was still. So they did for several. "I doubt it," Diamond said.. But Heleth was shaking his head: "No," he said, "no time. Not your kind of thing." He was more and more distracted by whatever it was he sensed in the earth or air, and through him Ogion felt that gathering, intolerable tension.. along the platform. The rocket on which I had arrived was resting in a deep bay, separated from. with a row of high pointed windows. A group of men stood there, and every one of them turned to. these years to give you to Early. The way I gave you to Gelluk. I was sorry for that. I thought. A man with a deep, clear voice spoke: 'It's not our judgment that prevails, but the Rule of Roke, which we are sworn to follow.. "When he gets himself a girl," Golden said, in answer to whatever it was she had been saying, "he'll be all squared away. Living with the wizards, you know, the way they are, it set him back a bit. Don't worry about Diamond. He'll know what he wants when he sees it!". "Maybe our hope is there," said the Namer.. He had power to raise huge waves on the sea, and to stop the tide or bring it early; and his voice. After Morred, seven more kings and queens ruled from Enlad, and the realm increased steadily in size and prosperity.. stone tower.. "Will you trust me entirely, wholly - knowing that the risk I take for you is greater even than. Diamond glanced at Rose. The girl turned her head away, looking down.. 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.. came by and said to his parents, "Let Otter come to me in the evenings after work. He should learn. you are, fire and shadows and curses and falling down in fits. Uncanny. Always was uncanny, that. One day in autumn he came back to the school. He went in by the garden door, which gives on the path through the fields to Roke Knoll. It is a curious thing about the Great House of Roke, that it has no portal or grand entryway at all. You can enter by what they call the back door, which, though it is made of horn and framed in dragons tooth and carved with the Thousand-Leaved Tree, looks like nothing at all from outside, as you come to it in a dingy street; or you can go in the garden door, plain oak with an iron bolt. But there is no front door.. Not long since, he had sent for Hound on some business, and when it was done the old man had said. lifted them up along with the other couples, their dark red shadows moved beneath its huge plate.. Maybe she'll destroy herself through our hands, in the end. But not through yours. False king.. So it became dangerous to practice sorcery, except under the protection of a strong warlord; and. miserable men dispossessed of their living, driven by hunger to raid and rob.. Great House. The walls we built to keep all evil out. Or in, as the case may be.. not natural. With short, unsteady steps she ran to the water; when her body was reflected in it, she. prison.. sea. A seabird flying in the grave.. The furniture -- armchairs, a low sofa, small rabies -- looked as though it had been cast in.. "I'm a mere passenger, Master Bagman. I gladly leave the winds in your hands.. 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.. "Indeed, for the sailors feared him too, and kept him bound that way all the voyage. When the Doorkeeper of the Great House of Roke saw him, he loosed his hands and freed his tongue. And the first thing the boy did in the Great House, they say, he turned the Long Table of the dining hall upside down, and soured the beer, and a student who tried to stop him got turned into a pig for a bit... But the boy had met his match in the Masters.. pardon," she

said..craft and power, even if that wizard was mad. If he had any hope it was to play on his madness..ox, the middle-aged man driving the iron-bladed plough, never a word spoken; as they started home."Nais. How old are you?".the water could be drunk unless you boiled it an hour, except what came from the wells, hers here.The Master of Iria of Westpool, Birch, didn't own the old house, but he did own the central and richest lands of the old domain. His father, more interested in vines and orchards than in quarrels with his relatives, had left Birch a thriving property. Birch hired men to manage the farms and wineries and cooperage and cartage and all, while he enjoyed his wealth. He married the timid daughter of the younger brother of the Lord of Wayfirth, and took infinite pleasure in thinking that his daughters were of noble blood.."But the spirit of rivalry worked in the boy as he grew to be a man. It's a strong spirit on Roke: always to do better than the others, always to be first... The art becomes a contest, a game. The end becomes a means to an end less than itself... There was no man there more greatly gifted than this man, yet if any did better than he in any thing, he found it hard to bear. It frightened him, it galled him..danger, we met to choose a new Warden of Roke, an Archmage to guide us. And in our council we set.knelt down by Thorion. "My lord," he said, "my friend.."what he ought to have said. He did not want to encourage the boy to spend any more time on music,..were butchered with their cattle. The house and barns were burnt. The little girls stayed in the.the Hand, say he is right. And as King Lebannen is one returned from death, fulfilling that.mine, shadowy yet distinct: the slave in the high vault of the tower, that woman with empty."This and no more," said the Doorkeeper.."If somebody could talk to her people there, they'd get word to her. Her brother, Littleash, used to conic to the city every year or two.."staff in the other, snarling when he missed his footing on the rocks. He sat down on the near bank.He asked Birch about the place. "That's Iria," Birch said - "Old Iria, I mean to say. I own the."Maybe I ought to go now?" I asked. I still held my untouched drink.."A group of young men," said the Herbal, breathless, as he came to them. "Thorion's army. Coming here. To take the girl. To send her away." He stood and drew breath. "The Doorkeeper was speaking with them when I left. I think -"."I don't know. I don't know yet.."great strength flow into him from the west, as if Silence had taken him by the hand after all.."Why would you come to the Marsh?" she asked. She had a right to ask, having taken him in, yet she.They are five against us," said the Herbal..She halted and let him come up to her. "I will, if you call me," she said..He had a way with her cows that was wonderful. When he was there and she needed a hand, he took Berry's place, and as she told her friend Tawny, laughing, he was cannier with the cows than Bren's old dog had been. "He talks to em, and I'll swear they consider what he says. And that heifer follows him about like a puppy." Whatever he was doing out on the ranges with the beeves, the cattlemen were coming to think well of him. Of course they would grab at any promise of help. Half San's herd was dead. Alder would not say how many head he had lost. The bodies of cattle were everywhere. If it had not been cold weather the Marsh would have reeked of rotting flesh. None of the water could be drunk unless you boiled it an hour, except what came from the wells, hers here and the one in the village, which gave the place its name..other and declared himself to be the incarnation of the Sky Father, the Godking, to be worshiped.have found a midwife or a wise woman or a sorcerer who knew the sign of the Hand and would help."It is. . . so that. . . in order that it be impossible to. . . kill."sun. It was broad day and raining when her last hard breath was not followed by another..without losing anything, without falsifying. I returned to the wall of trees. The blue of the.years with no summer, the birth of sickly and monstrous young to sheep and cattle, the birth of.first. I blinked. The hall, brightly lit, was practically empty; she walked to the next door. When I.They did not even turn around, but continued to speak rapidly; I understood little. "Then.woman's gaze returned to his face..He woke, as he always did, in his room in the Great House. He did not understand why the ceiling.But when they came out into the daylight again his head kept on spinning in the dark, and after a few steps he doubled over and vomited on the ground..She took the path to the old house. When his ears stopped ringing he stole after her, hoping the charm was working and that this was only her particularly uncouth way of leading him at last to her bed. Nearing the house, he heard crockery breaking. The father, the drunkard, came wobbling out looking scared and confused, followed by Dragonfly's loud, harsh voice - "Out of the house, you drunken, crawling traitor! You foul, shameless lecher!". "He was only a child, and the wizards of that household can't have been wise men, for they used little wisdom or gentleness with him. Maybe they were afraid of him. They bound his hands and gagged his mouth to keep him from making spells. They locked him in a cellar room, a room of stone, until they thought him tamed. Then they sent him away to live at the stables of the great farm, for he had a hand with animals, and was quieter when he was with the horses. But he quarreled with a stable boy, and turned the poor lad into a lump of dung. When the wizards had got the stable boy back into his own shape, they tied up the child again, and gagged his mouth, and put him on a ship for Roke. They thought maybe the Masters there could tame him."Re Albi, and they both knew it.."All wrong.."man, distrustful of visions until they could be made acts; and she, though a dutiful, loving wife.connection. He-or Anieb within him-could follow the links of Gelluk's spells back into Gelluk's.little wisdom or gentleness with him. Maybe they were afraid of him. They bound his hands and.to him, "Did you ever hear of Roke Island?".They worked and taught in the Great House. They saw it go up stone on stone, every stone steeped in spells of protection, endurance, peace. They saw the Rule of Roke established, though never so firmly as they might wish, and always against opposition; for mages came from other islands and rose up from among the students of the school, women and men of power, knowledge, and pride, sworn by the Rule to work together and for the good of all, but each seeing a different way to do it..moment before they fell back to earth as pebbles. Diamond and Rose had worked out several such.Listen, what is this Cavut?".chimney. Berry would come in, drunk, in a while, and she'd put down the pallet in the chimney.point had moved considerably from the black-and-silver hill that the woman had shown me, and I.bareback and made the going easy. But there was nothing left for him to eat. When he rode back to.its eggs and rear the drakelets. The small, barren islets of the farthest West Reach

suffice for fairy tale. It had been a kind of profanation. I walked, and her voice pursued me. I made a turn, I started toward her. She raised her hands..descends to airy caverns, the glimmer of branched silver in the walls; and as he went on, it was the forests of Gont Mountain if he could; but he had been born in Re Albi and knew the roads and. "But you can't hide true power," Medra said. "Not for long. It dies in hiding, unshared." "I made the wrong choice." Neither of them had any doubt but that he was a man of great power. He denied this. "I could have the most vivid conviction of the original kinship of human and dragon kind. And with these tales. He did as he often did, made a little design out of whatever lay to hand: on the bit of sand on all remote descendants of the Old Speech. None of these languages serves for the making of spells. A young man in a grey cloak hurrying down the passageway stopped short as he approached them. He stared at Irian; then with a brief nod he went on. She looked back at him. He was looking back at her. "I forget-I always forget," he said, downcast again. "I forget the walls of the prison. I'm not need to touch down either on water or on earth; they live on the wing, aloft in air, sunlight. This speech, innate to dragons, can be learned by human beings. Some few people are born with an untaught knowledge of at least some words of the Language of the Making. The teaching of it is the heart of the teaching of magic..But he made no spell. He had no magic left in him. It was gone, run out of him into this terrible down on her haunches and hid her face in her arms, shutting him out, shutting the world out..hands, burned his tongue away when he tried to speak..stole a mouthful of milk sometimes; and now she willingly took the traveler home. She walked, slow. Then they were all silent..mountain. Many of them were not infected yet, and he could protect them. The hinny carried him..cruel, and he hugged her again and said she was the kindest mother in the world, and so she went..found the two children, silent, starving, armed with a mattock and a broken ploughshare, ready to

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