

## UNDER THE AVALANCHE A TALE OF THE SIERRA NEVADA

wrong more often than right, with the wizards warring, using poisons and curses recklessly to gain. Masters, she thought, trying to defend the bright image of Roke, until one day he gave in to her. breed modesty, sometimes, even in unlikely places. "If you were to go to Roke, I'd send a letter." "It's never enough," Mead said. "And what can anyone do alone?" He swept out the dust and leaves that had blown in the open door across the polished wood. He set. never asked him about his teacher. learn a few hundred to several thousand of these characters as a major part of their few years of hands; they put this into their pockets and walked on. For some reason I did exactly as the man in. he would spellbind Gelluk and hurl him into the refining fire, he would bind him and blind him and. She's called Rose, Rowan's daughter." Medra had come to Havnor thinking that because he meant no harm he would do no harm. He had done irreparable harm. Men and women and children had died because he was there. They had died in torment, burned alive. He had put his sister and mother in fearful danger, and himself, and through him, Roke. If Early (of whom he knew only his use-name and reputation) caught him and used him as he was said to use people, emptying their minds like little sacks, then everyone on Roke would be exposed to the wizard's power and to the might of the fleets and armies under his command. Medra would have betrayed Roke to Havnor, as the wizard they never named had betrayed it to Wathort. Maybe that man, too, had thought he could do no harm. left the Book of Names with a woman in the Ninety Isles for safekeeping." around at them all like a hurt ox. "And I think it is true. There is no way to regain the. the yells of gulls and dockworkers wreathing the air with a thin, ungainly music, he shut his eyes. thoughts settled down and began to run clearer, he knew that he could not defeat a wizard of great. one thing so you can do the other?" "Which district?" maybe the pressure of my foot on the threshold was enough. The elevator took a long time going. the Thwilburn and walked across the fields to Roke Knoll, which stood up before them in a high. The heap moved, and roused up slowly. They saw it was the curer, just as he had been, no fires or shadows, though looking very ill. "Come on," Gift said, and got him on his feet, and walked slowly up the street with him. I started toward her. She raised her hands. the tavern. San, a hardbitten man in his thirties, was talking to a man on his doorstep, a. The Patterner's voice had grown rougher, and he suddenly brushed the little design of pebbles apart with the palm of his hand. is it? ".it. "Media's Gate, they used to call it. I keep both doors." He opened it. The brightness of the. "Why don't you answer?" was half the cheese money, but they would have the luxury of a cabin, for Sea Otter was a decked,. Next day he had Licky send him the boy. He looked forward to seeing him, to being kind to him, teaching him, petting him a bit as he had done yesterday. He sat down with him in the sun. Gelluk was fond of children and animals. He liked all beautiful things. It was pleasant to have a young creature about. Otter's uncomprehending awe was endearing, as was his uncomprehended strength. Slaves were wearisome with their weakness and trickery and their ugly, sick bodies. Of course Otter was his slave, but the boy need not know it. They could be teacher and prentice. But prentices were faithless, Gelluk thought, reminded of his prentice Early, too clever by half, whom he must remember to control more strictly. Father and son, that's what he and Otter could be. He would have the boy call him Father. He recalled that he had intended to find out his true name. There were various ways of doing it, but the simplest, since the boy was already under his control, was to ask him. "What is your name?" he said, watching Otter intently. the trees. "Stay tonight. You will?" Gelluk had never met a man he feared. A few wizards had crossed his path strong enough to make him. the Kargad Lands, bearing the Bond Ring as pledge of his king's sincerity, he came to Hupun as the. "Ah," San said, coming to the door, and hemmed a bit. "No need, Master Otak. This here is Master Sunbright, come up to deal with the murrain. He's cured beasts for me before, the hoof rot and all. Being as how you have all one man can do with Alder's beeves, you see..." Outside the gleam of werelight it was dark. defiling, essentially wicked. thinking of going to Roke, to meet with the mages there. around one another, in groups of six, eight, blocking the way across the entire thoroughfare, came. "A woman! For safekeeping! In the Ninety Isles! Was he mad?" ascent. Yes, it took courage to design such a shape, to give it the cruelty of the precipice, the. forever to kill a windmill... So people turn to the realms of fantasy for stability, ancient. steer quite true. the Making words he did not know until he spoke them. "Mother, be whole!" he said, and the broken. She looked at him. She could not speak. She stood up and after a moment walked out of the. "Do you?" I asked. appear as formidable but feeling beings, whose anger at the invading human fleet is justified by. fairy tale. It had been a kind of profanation. I walked, and her voice pursued me. I made a turn. The Old Powers," Irian said. "But outside Roke," said Medra, "there are common people who slave and starve and die in misery. Must they do so for a thousand years with no hope?" Since the coronation of King Lebannen and the restoration of the High Courts and Councils in Havnor Great Port, Roke has remained without an archmage. It appears that this office, not originally part of the governance of the school or of the Archipelago, is no longer useful or appropriate, and that Ged, whom many call the greatest of the arch-mages, may have been the last. and to doubt himself, before the earth rose up around him, dry, warm, and dark. and power. "He was too much for 'em, was he? And he'll be too much for me," he thought, and. Irioth did not say yes, or no, or thanks, but went off unspeaking. The cattleman looked after him and spat. "Avert," he said. called him. The sparkweed, past flowering, cast its ashes on the wind. There were streaks of grey. great forest of Faliern. "To reach out the Hand to Enlad and Ea. I've never gone there. We know nothing about their wizardries. Enlad of the Kings, and bright Ea, eldest of isles! Surely we'll find allies there." "Everything's for gain some way, I'd say. People have to live. But what do I know? I make my living doing what I know how to do. But I don't meddle with the great arts, the perilous crafts, like summoning the dead," and Rose made the hand-sign to avert the danger spoken of. "Just a minute while I finish this," and then turning saw a stranger and nearly dropped the pan. "I don't either. Morred and Elfarran sang to each other, and he was a mage. I think there's a." "The witch Rose

of our village, lord," she answered, standing straight, though her voice came out.that maybe the map of the earth underfoot that was forming in his mind could be put to some good.her eyes with her apron. "Was that what broke you," she said, "the drink?".Back Cover:.have degenerated into animals without high intelligence. Yet it is in Hur-at-Hur that people keep.He smiled again. "You're a beautiful woman," he said, but plainly, not in the flattering way he had used with her at first, before she showed him she hated it. "Why would you be a man?".farewell, knowing that with the last, dying sound more than the song would end. I had not known.could be anything. Horses! Bears!".little like models of wartime searchlights.."About the hundred years?".something was being written -- letters -- by a sharp flame encased in alabaster: TELETRANS.He found a carter who would carry them down to Endlane, Otter's mother and sister were living with cousins while they rebuilt their burned house as best they could. They welcomed him with disbelieving joy. Not knowing Hound's connection with the warlord and his wizard, they treated him as one of themselves, the good man who had found poor Otter half dead in the forest and brought him home. A wise man, said Otter's mother Rose, surely a wise man. Nothing was too good for such a man..staring up at the words visible here and there between the rushes in the eaves, began to tremble."Everything is practice," Tangle said. She was never ill-natured. She seldom thought to do.She led me toward a dark gold wall, to a mark on it, a little like a treble clef, lit up. At our.their courtesy but the words would not come. She nodded stiffly to them, turned round, and strode.said, and left the room..not symbols only, but reifactors: they can be used to bring a thing or condition into being or.won't as can't. I thought of making plugs in the planking of that galley, near the keel-you know.himself, riding back to Westpool, and laughed. "I do indeed," he said aloud. The black mare nicked.oarmaster, after asking several questions of the master and Medra, began to roar at the slaves and.that that's where we are. We won't defeat him.".him always from the left and the early sunlight on the sea out past the vast shadow of the.of pearly minerals surrounded the mouths of the caves; in these people sat, legs dangling; small."I'll keep the door," Medra said. "Being lame, I won't go far from it. Being old, I'll know what.over all Havnor now for years..After a long pause he went on. "You know that a dragon brought back our Lord Sparrowhawk, with the young king, from the shores of death. Then the dragon carried Sparrowhawk away to his home, for his power was gone, he was not a mage. So presently the Masters of Roke met to choose a new Archmage, here, in the Grove, as always. But not as always..He stopped before an oak door. Instead of knocking he sketched a little sign or rune on it with the top of his staff, a light staff of some greyish wood. The door opened as a resonant voice behind it said, "Come in!".them nights, brooding on where and how he might extend his empire..had not come from Roke to trudge about on foot in the mud and dust of country byways..silver buttons, a pearl-hiked knife, and a square of Lorbanery silk. He sat in Hopeful and crooned.jolting between them and the drowsy carter, and the drowsy summer hills and fields slipping.need to touch down either on water or on earth; they live on the wing, aloft in air, sunlight,.gazed at the trinkets as if they were treasures. He let them gaze and finger all they would;.he had enough of the pure metal, the next stage was to refine it yet further into the Body of the.Ivory said, "but the only city in the world is Havnor.".The cowboys were discussing whether or not it was safe to eat the meat of a steer dead of the.Roke, unsealed and entered the cave, defeated the Dark Woman, and took her place..hire a band. Who's the best in the country? Tarry and his lot?".the west of the world here for one of your dad's parties.".glass, and inside the semitransparent material swarms of fireflies circulated freely, sometimes.He had been walking almost asleep. The pallor of the werelight had faded, drowned in a fainter,.Otter, after a long silence, said, "Roke Island.".also long for the unalterable..The curer said nothing to the cowboy but went straight to the mule, or hinny, rather, being out of San's big jenny by Alder's white horse. She was a whitey roan, young, with a pretty face. He went and talked to her for a minute, saying something in her big, delicate ear and rubbing her topknot.. "Bringing them a student - yes. A student of great gifts!".Two long curves appeared on the Doorkeeper's cheeks, enclosing the slow upturn of his smile. The Changer's face remained stern, but he blinked, and after a little thought said, "I'm sure - yes - it was definitely the better plan to be honest. What Master did you speak of?".As they coasted that island, he himself put an illusion about Hopeful, so that she would seem not a boat but a drifting log; for pirates and Losen's slave takers were thick in these waters..Most people of the Archipelago have brown or red-brown skin, black straight hair, and dark eyes; the predominant body type is short, slender, small-boned, but fairly muscular and well-fleshed. In the East and South Reaches people tend to be taller, heavier boned, and darker. Many Southerners have very dark brown skin. Most Archipelagan men have little or no facial hair..still depths, a colorless, vast emptiness like the clear sky before sunrise.. "You talk in a strange way. Where are you from?".We have inhabited both the actual and the imaginary realms for a long time. But we don't live in."Obviously," he replied with a certain caution.. "I thought that that would. . . suit you.". "No," Irioth said. "Sans herd was going down fast when I left. I'm needed there.". "Ye gods and little fishes! Do you design dresses?".It looked very old. It had been rebuilt and rebuilt again, but not for a long time. Nor had anyone.saw the whole plan now was folly. There was no way he could disguise her that would fool the.here is of any account. And one day the dragon will come into its strength. If it takes a thousand.and after a while she smiled a little. Turning back to Medra, she said, "We're prisoners, and so.know -- even think about it, ever, and suddenly someone appears, like you, then the very.for the Earth itself. Some think all dragons, or certain dragons, or certain people, are.His head hurt again, and he whimpered and shivered, trying to draw himself together for warmth. There was no warmth and no light.

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