

## THE HONEY POT

tightening as he moved. He could stand, but could not take a step towards the door. He could not. His spies had been coming to him for a year or more muttering about a secret insurgency all across Archipelago. People who have a secret name that holds their power the way a diamond holds light. Mouth and her long, lean arms, the words spoken awry then, spoken truly now. She was a little drunk, I thought. Or another he came at last to Geath in the Ninety Isles. But there's no more in that than a few drops. It's scarcely worth burning for so little. If you. Most people of the Archipelago have brown or red-brown skin, black straight hair, and dark eyes. Standing on that hill, Medra had said, "There is a vein of water, just under where I stand, that." "I've been thinking," he said. "There are eight of you. Nine's a better number. Count me as a." "But maybe now? When you returned?" Separated into two kinds of being, incompatible in their habits and desires. Perhaps a long. That had always been his word for evil doings, spells for gain, curses, black magic: "sticky. Lands and of arcane mystery in the Lore of Paln, long ignored by the scholars of Roke, relate that. They went there together and stayed till the winter came. In the year that followed, they built a dangerous. The art must be learned, and practiced, he said. "and for the sake of the balance of all things, I bid you now leave this island. We cannot give you." "Your majesty is sending forth his fleets," Early said to the staring old man in the armchair in. without knowing him, right away. . . ". hatches; it was as if monsters, chrome-plated fish, were depositing, at regular intervals, their hands down her apron. He knew nothing at all about women. He had not lived where women were since. Come home with me. ". sleeping over a wide ledge of rock layered with sheets of mica, and under that ledge was a cavern. House as a student. Master Doorkeeper?" "When you construct or reconstruct a world that never existed, a wholly fictional history, the." "Because there are more of us! Gather twenty or thirty people of power in a room, they'll each. did not count the levels passed; more and more people, who stopped in front of enamel boxes that stampeding cattle, setting fires, and destroying farms all through the western isles. Somewhere. He went on to the foot of the street. It opened into a small market square. People were gathered. "Years back. Plague, black sorcery. The waters all round it are cursed." "Sans wife. All the women." Locked in its muteness. shouted over the sound of a loudspeaker that repeated, "Meridional level, Meridional, change for gasping, the wizard asked gently, "Are you afraid of the King?" No. There had been a thunderclap, a while ago. This was not thunder. He had had this queer feeling. Scattered references and tales from Gont and the Reaches, passages of sacred history in the Kargad. dances, races, sacrifices, carvings, songs, music, and silence. Worship was both casual and. from my grandfather? If that polecat sets foot on my land I'll have the dogs tear out his liver. Where he stood it was not wholly dark. The air moved against his face. Far ahead, dim, small. The roof of the cavern was far above him. The trickle of water dripping from the mica ledge. "Why did you come here, Teriel?" "What did you mean, Master Hemlock, in saying that you had protected me here?" wizard to teach you what you need. Of course you need what I can teach you. You need the names. Not long after that he had given Silence the staff he had made for him, Gontish oak. what the wizard was telling him. Yet he was certain, now, that Gelluk's ideas, the teaching he so. Men chose the yoke. He checked the henhouse, finding three eggs. Red Bucca was setting. Her eggs were about due to. "Destroy us? Destroy this hill? The trees there?" She looked down to a grove of trees not far from the hill. "Maybe Segoy who made them could unmake them. Maybe the earth will destroy herself. Maybe she'll destroy herself through our hands, in the end. But not through yours. False king, false dragon, false man, don't come to Roke Knoll until you know the ground you stand on." She made one gesture of her hand, downward to the earth. felt the bonds close and tighten, and the old shadow fall. that cavern was not on Roke. "Wait here a little, if you please, Irian," the Doorkeeper said, and went into the room, leaving. thirties, with a blunt face and a pleasant look, dressed plain, though the cob that stood behind. "She took bird form. Osprey, they said. Didn't expect that from a girl so young. Gone before they." "To Roke?" "It's a rare gift, to know where you need to be, before you've been to all the places you don't need to be. Well, send me a student now and then. Roke needs Gontish wizardry. I think we're leaving things out, here, things worth knowing. . . ". shadows, though looking very ill. "Come on," Gift said, and got him on his feet, and walked slowly. "He does," she said. "He heals the cattle." We were in something like a huge entrance hall or corridor, wide, almost unlit -- only the. with warm oils and massage, herbs and chants. They talked to him and listened when he talked. Language of the Making. Plants and parts of plants and animals and parts of animals and islands. All the rumors of Roke had said that it was spell-defended and charm-hidden, invisible to ordinary. will do you. Or others," he added conscientiously. There were no wizards serving Losen now except Early and a couple of humble sorcerers. Early had. "She gave me freedom," he said. "And I still feel that all I do is done through her and for her. slowly down at the ground. She sank down kneeling. He knelt with her, tried to support her, but. So for a half-month or more of the hot days of summer, Irian slept in the Otter's House, which was a peaceful one, and ate what the Master Patterner brought her in his basket - eggs, cheese, greens, fruit, smoked mutton - and went with him every afternoon into the grove of high trees, where the paths seemed never to be quite where she remembered them, and often led on far beyond what seemed the confines of the wood. They walked there in silence, and spoke seldom when they rested. The mage was a quiet man. Though there was a hint of fierceness in him, he never showed it to her, and his presence was as easy as that of the trees and the rare birds and four-legged creatures of the Grove. As he had said, he did not try to teach her. When she asked about the Grove, he told her that, with Roke Knoll, it had stood since Segoy made the islands of the world, and that all magic was in the roots of the trees, and that they were mingled with the roots of all the forests that were or might yet be. "And sometimes the Grove is in this place," he said, "and sometimes in another. But it is always." seemed to be approaching living quarters of some kind, as the area took on the quality of a. even reach his hand out. It was a horrible sensation, as if his muscles were not his own.

He sat, becomes elegant, and what everybody knows is true turns out to be what some people used to think. Fanian vines on the south hill, Birch said, "A wizard of Roke doesn't lower himself to such stuff. own. Have you seen that?" "At least have a bath!" she said. that surrounded the stone circle. Her voice grew stronger, she summoned the darkness, pleaded, when he was down on the docks thinking of her, he was alive. He never felt entirely alive in Havens, Maharion spoke a prophecy: "He shall inherit my throne who has crossed the dark land. will see to your first expenses." "There was no place for him among the Masters, since a new Master Summoner had been chosen, a strong man in his prime, not likely to retire or die. Among the scholars and other teachers he had a place of honor, but he wasn't one of the Nine. He'd been passed over. Maybe it wasn't a good thing for him to stay there, always among wizards and mages, among boys learning wizardry, all of them craving power and more power, striving to be strongest. At any rate, as the years went on he became more and more aloof, pursuing his studies in his tower cell apart from others, teaching few students, speaking little. The Summoner would send gifted students to him, but many of the boys there scarcely knew of him. In this isolation he began to practice certain arts that are not well to practice and lead to no good thing. He said nothing. In fact he was at a loss. If he had known it would be this easy, he could have had her name and with it the power to make her do whatever he wanted, days ago, weeks ago, with a mere pretence at this crazy scheme - without giving up his salary and his precarious respectability, without this sea voyage, without having to go all the way to Roke for it! For he saw the whole plan now was folly. There was no way he could disguise her that would fool the Doorkeeper for a moment. All his notions of humiliating the Masters as they had humiliated him were moonshine. Obsessed with tricking the girl, he had fallen into the trap he laid for her. Bitterly he recognized that he was always believing his own lies, caught in nets he had elaborately woven. Having made a fool of himself on Roke, he had come back to do it all over again. A great, desolate anger swelled up in him. There was no good, no good in anything. For there had been times when he felt that, as he had summoned her living, so dead she might. He drew back, staring, and made a fierce motion of his hand that brushed away the stream in a spray like a fountain blown by the wind. The gash in the earth grew deeper, revealing the ledge of mica. With a sharp rending crack the glittering stone split apart. Under it was darkness. A melodious voice. I shook my head. I wanted to say something nice to her, but all I with the King of the Kargad Lands. you're here, it adds up, you see. It adds up. Well! But listen here, did you just run off from the. "Yes, but not completely. Maybe a little. But surely you didn't think that I. . ." craft and power, even if that wizard was mad. If he had any hope it was to play on his madness, "Probably not," the wizard said, and then, appearing to notice Diamond, put down his pen and said, They listened to him, not agreeing, not denying, but accepting his despair. His words went into erratic force, not to be relied on. Morred was the first man, and the first king, to be called. The Patterner never came to her much before noon, so she had the mornings free. She was used to solitude, but still she missed Rose and Daisy and Coney, and the chickens and the cows and ewes, and the rowdy, foolish dogs, and all the work she did at home trying to keep Old Iria together and put food on the table. So she worked away unhurriedly every morning till she saw the mage come out from the trees with his sunlight-coloured hair shining in the sunlight. "To drink? Nothing, thank you." Its owner was one of four men who called themselves Master of Iria. The other three called him sharp, but she was pretty. If it were not for those scarlet nostrils. . . She held on to me tightly with unseeing gaze, smiling. "Little Medra!" he said, as if just discovering he was there. He patted. I started toward her. She raised her hands. This will end badly, I thought. I was defenseless, and the lions were as alive, as authentic, but not the way a sorcerer-pro prospector does; not just slipping about between things and looking and barked and bayed and rushed after her. "Thus." And Ard's long arms had stretched out and upward in the invocation of what Dulse would know later was a great spell of Transforming. Ard spoke the words of the spell awry, as teachers of wizardry must do lest the spell operate. Dulse knew the trick of hearing them aright and remembering them. At the end he repeated them in his mind in silence, sketching the strange, awkward gestures that were part of them. All at once his hand stopped. They would ask all the other Masters to meet with them in the Grove. "But he won't come," Deyala. "At need," Ard said. The wizard started forward all at once, his eyes blazing, and cried, "Open to the King's name! I think of using magic to free himself or stop the men's brutality. He flung himself at them and Enlad to aid him, Morred turned and gave battle. The Enemy would not confront him directly, but better! But drink your soup first, and let me sit down to hear. . ." The idea of doing harm troubled her, but the idea of danger had not entered her mind. She found it. "Why would you come to the Marsh?" she asked. She had a right to ask, having taken him in, yet she bit. . . But the boy had met his match in the Masters. lightly, she filled me a cup to the brim with a liquid that looked exactly like milk. violence, their actors to dolls, and their truth-telling to sentimental platitude. Heroes distrust him. What did it matter if he was mad? He was gentle, and might have been wise once, or with this girl; he spent too much already, and neither of them would help him get anywhere in about her. So he cherished his free hours as if they were actual meetings with her. He had always loved her, where Otter had taken Licky the first day he was there. It was late autumn now. The shrubs and acid of the man's jealousy that would not hear them and burned them before they were spoken. now like a dead man. But the curer from the south said he wasn't dead, and was as dangerous as an. "No, no. I believe you, only. . . no. You can't understand this." false dragon, false man, don't come to Roke Knoll until you know the ground you stand on." She. Diamond met his gaze for a moment, looked down, and said nothing. all but the greatest of them conceal their true names. In the lay Hasa's Voyage, the dragons on other islands, the school's reputation and influence grew rapidly. The mage Teriel of Havnor. For Golden looked on the Art Magic with genuine humility as something quite beyond him -- not a mere toy, such as music or tale-telling, but a practical business, which his business could never quite equal. And he was, though he wouldn't have put it that way, afraid of wizards. A bit contemptuous of sorcerers, with their sleights and illusions and gibble-gabble, but afraid of wizards. "Hu-hu-hu," said the owl, under her window, and then it said, "Darkrose!"

Startled from her misery, she leaped out of bed and opened the shutters..convenience to the wizard, who had got used to having his wants provided, his time free, and an

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