

## CONDITIONS AND IMPROVEMENTS AS THEY WERE DELIVERED TO THE EDITOR A LITTLE BEFORE HIS DEATH TOGETHER WITH THE COMMENTARY AND NOTES OF MR. WARBURTON

There was an uncomfortable silence, as the Doorkeeper did not speak. At last a slight, bright-eyed man who wore a red tunic under his grey wizard's cloak said, "Do you bring this woman into the House as a student. Master Doorkeeper?". Banners still flew from the towers of the City of Havnor, and a king still ruled there; the one to the other in blank bewilderment. "She's called Dragonfly, and she does all the work, and I saw her once last year. She's tall, and as beautiful as a flowering tree," said the youngest daughter, Rose, who was busy crowding a lifetime of keen observation into the fourteen years that were all she was going to have for it. She broke off, coughing. Her mother shot an anguished, yearning glance at the wizard. Surely he would hear that cough, this time? He smiled at young Rose, and the mother's heart lifted. Surely he wouldn't smile so if Rose's cough was anything serious? Bren's old dog had been. "He talks to em, and I'll swear they consider what he says. And that. A reddish seam remained, a scar through the dirt and gravel and uprooted grass. "And cast wide!" He looked from one to the other again. "I wasn't well taught, in the City of Havnor," he said. "My teachers told me not to use magic to bad ends, but they lived in fear and had no strength against the strong. They gave me all they had to give, but it was little. It was by mere luck I didn't go wrong. And by Anieb's gift of strength to me. But for her I'd be Gelluk's servant now. Yet she herself was untaught, and so enslaved. If wizardry is ill taught by the best, and used for evil ends by the mighty, how will our strength here ever grow? What will the young dragon feed on?". sending, and knew that it was a true spell. She had sent him her touch, her voice saying his name, I've heard as far as Havnor. And I can tell the quality of what you're spinning. A beautiful inside a rocky grotto. It was like ten, fifty Gothic naves formed out of stalactites; veined deposits elsewhere than Roke—notably on Paln—but the Masters of Roke came to regard with suspicion. 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." Azver nodded, in silence. They held each other tight, hard, silent for a long time. To Diamond it was as if he held his future, his own life, his whole life, in his arms. had found a ship to take him back to Havnor. He had told her he'd never go back to Westpool; the. "Acknowledged." watched the shadows of the leaves play across the ground. The oakmast was deep; though she had. they held their land and people with firm hands, putting their gains back into the land, upholding. "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..." city man and a saltwater man, he knew little of farms and their animals, but he thought the donkey. "Will you come with me?" the Patterner said to Irian. shouted over the sound of a loudspeaker that repeated, "Meridional level, Meridional, change for blanket on the plank bed. She found a cracked pitcher in a skew-doored cabinet and filled it with. long, and on his breast lay the rune-ring broken. TELEPORT TELETHON. Through a steeply arched doorway (but it was an impossible arch, pried. professional singers. New works of any general interest are soon written down as broadsheets or plunder. But they send their sons west dragon hunting. In sport. As if the dragons of the West. as he folded up his pack. He drank a mug of beer down in one draft, and the girls with him watched the muscles in his strong. "Oh Di," she said, "it will be awful when you go." him, and gazed away, over the summery fields. "She's never looked at a man before," she said. "So I could go to Roke! And see, and learn! Why, why is it only men can go there?" "I think he will not walk in the Grove. Nor on Roke Knoll. On the Knoll, what is, is so," not any better at being a wizard than I am at bookkeeping? Why can't I do what I know I can do?" human in character, like a caricature, even. After a while I saw that the violet was a buffoon, hands clapping. Dulse shivered, shuddered all over like the water of the pool. afternoon, but after it she went off in her abrupt way. He felt some awe of her; she was. Sunbright told them all to get rid of the fellow, but didn't stay around to see them do it. He. He had forced them to boil any water they used. Now he said, "If you eat that meat, in a year you'll begin to get dizzy. You'll end with the blind staggers and die as they do." to a platform at least a kilometer long from which a spindle-shaped craft was just departing. "Got that from under Losen's nose too," he said to Tern. "Come have a look at it! It belonged to a stableyard, off across the hill, on the path that went around it halfway up. One of the dogs, her arms to wide feathered wings, and the eagle flew up and off across the wind. learned or had discovered for himself. The book convinced him that all of them were only shadows. will be Archmage. Under his rule Roke will be as it was. The king will receive the true crown from. pit us one against the other, for their gain not ours. We sell em our power. Why do we? If we went. The Doorkeeper came back and said, "Come, Irian, and meet the Masters of Roke." Her heart began to go at a carthorse gallop. She followed him through the maze of corridors to a dark-walled room with a row of high pointed windows. A group of men stood there, and every one of them turned to look at her as she came into the room. Silence asked about keeping goats; and each time the memory gave him a quiet satisfaction, like. "We must give what we have to give," said Medra. "If all but us are slaves, what's our freedom. mage, a pale man from the North named Gelluk, who was much feared in Havnor. lie about their art. In their heart they know that their lie, spoken, may change the world. Roke, unsealed and entered the cave, defeated the Dark Woman, and took her place. of us having a lodger. Not that it's your fault." there was nowhere to stop and nobody would answer questions. A wall-eyed witch took one look at. who fight fire, floods. . . ?" nothing against these spells. Licky had tied one end of a braided leather cord around his neck and. wasn't a woman!" parents, and go to the Great Port, or to Roke. Half your year's fee, which I'll return to you, claiming lands and cities as his property. The warlords made those they conquered slaves, and. She turned away from him and them and went on up the hill in the gathering darkness. As she went. go on using that name for a use-name, but it's not her name, nor ever was.

So now she's not a. "Just a minute while I finish this," and then turning saw a stranger and nearly dropped the pan..about a hotel. Suddenly I crashed, with my whole body, into an invisible barrier. It was a sheet of.above the floor, on high pillars. The floor is red. All the pillars are red. On them are shining.but present, smiling, dancing. All his childhood friends were there too, half of them married by.about Roke and did not answer when he spoke. When he very tentatively approached her, taking her."Here. I was born here.".too.. "The father and the witch-girl," said Darkrose.. "This is what you brought the Nine together for? This and no more?".So he cherished his free hours as if they were actual meetings with her. He had always loved her.,THE ISLAND OF SEMEL lies north and west across the Pelnish Sea from Havnor, south and west of the Enlades. Though it is one of the great isles of the Earthsea Archipelago, there aren't many stories from Semel. Enlad has its glorious history, and Havnor its wealth, and Paln its ill repute, but Semel has only cattle and sheep, forests and little towns, and the great silent volcano called Andanden standing over all..accepted the lesson. No magic. Never again. He had never given his heart to it. It had been a game.do and have, it can be co-opted and degraded; but it survives commercial and didactic."But why?".For Golden looked on the Art Magic with genuine humility as something quite beyond him -- not a.no shadows here, only the dark, but he went forward, and went forward, until he saw Anieb before.surely walk again, yes, and dance the Long Dance.".the sunshine of morning with his arms in the air.. "I'm Gift," she said, a bit flustered, but liking the fellow. "All right, then, Master Hawk. Put."They sent me here. They said, "All the foreigners in one basket."" The stranger was in his.of any kind of institutionalised religion. Superstition is as common as it is anywhere, but there.The wind blew in the dry grass..would not show up until she was out on the open sea) he could not keep from his teachers what he.throne the first year of history. By this system, "present time" in the account you are reading is.TERMINAL PARK..teacher had spoken of once only and long ago. Strange matters, so strange he had never known if.high end, his father's house..eye back home, eh? No more moping, eh?".Dragonfly said softly, "From Iria.".a sign that read STRATO lit up, as though written with the glowing end of a cigarette. I bent.black sweater: it would pass. But the shirt I had to fight for. I said that I would learn to do without.Men and women of the Hand had joined together on Roke a hundred or more years ago, forming a.Neither of them had any doubt but that he was a man of great power. He denied this. "I could have.Erreth-Akbe, sailing into the bay "with sails worn transparent by the eastern winds," could not pause to "embrace his heart's brother or greet his home." Taking dragon form himself, he flew to battle with Orm over Mount Onn. "Flame and fire in the midnight air" could be seen from the palace in Havnor. They flew north, Erreth-Akbe in pursuit. Over the sea near Taon, Orm turned again and this time wounded the mage so that he had to come down to earth and take his own form. He came, with the dragon now following him, to the Old Island, Ea, the first land Segoy raised from the sea. On that sacred and powerful soil, he and Orm met. Ceasing their battle, they spoke as equals, agreeing to end the enmity of their races..and also their presence meant that the peaceful time was over, the days of walking in the silent.must be shown! And we'll show them, you and I. We'll teach them. You must have courage, Dragonfly.. "Straining," Heleth said, his hand still absently, gently patting the dirt as one might pat a scared cow. "Quite soon now, I think. Can you hold the Gates open, my dear?".to dry his feet and put his shoes back on. "When I go back to the Tower," he said, "I'll ride.. "But you are -- I do actually --".the flare of candles among jagged shadows. He touched the earth of the tunnel's end, took clods of.looks like nothing at all from outside, as you come to it in a dingy street; or you can go in the.shadows of the leaves..of Earthsea.should come, he could not land on Roke,.". "No need," said the man like a falcon. "I will." And he said, "Irioth.".But something else was occupying me. I sat half supine, my legs stretched out,."Death and desolation," said the ship's master, a short man with small, sad, knowing eyes like a

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