

TWIN SNIPERS

A woman of power, she knew what he was. Had she called him there? Staggering wildly the wizard tried to turn, lost his footing on the crumbling edge, and plunged. It was a sleepy southern island with a pretty old port town, Telio, built of rosy sandstone, and fields and orchards that should have been fertile. But the lords of Wathort had ruled it for a century, taxing and slave taking and wearing the land and people down. The sunny streets of Telio were sad and dirty. People lived in them as in the wilderness, in tents and lean-tos made of scraps, or shelterless. "Oh, this won't do," Crow said, disgusted, avoiding a pile of human excrement. "These creatures don't have books, Tern!" she said. "There's a gash, but if you'll wash it with warm salt water, drink from it eagerly yet warily, as if long unaccustomed to hot soup." She had never seen where he lived. He slept wherever he chose to, she imagined, in these warm summer nights. She asked him where the food they ate came from; what the School did not supply for itself, he said, the farmers round about provided, considering themselves well recompensed by the protections the Masters set on their flocks and fields and orchards. That made sense to her. On Way, "a wizard without his porridge" meant something unprecedented, unheard-of. But she was no wizard, and so, thinking to earn her porridge, she did her best to repair the Otter's House, borrowing tools from a farmer and buying nails and plaster in Thwil Town, for she still had half the cheese money. Gelluk had never met a man he feared. A few wizards had crossed his path strong enough to make him wary of them, but he had never known one with skill and power equal to his own. They credited him with the powers he had. Losen, an old habit now, and well learned. They were challenged by Irioth. His gift was as great as Thorion's, I think. He used it to use men, to. The mage said, "Majesty, as you know, my poor skill has not availed, but I have sent for the greatest healer of all Earthsea, who lives in far Narveduen, and when he comes, your highness will surely walk again, yes, and dance the Long Dance." She left. In the air, right before my face, against the background of the seat in front of me. "Is it in the earth?" School. Her face was windburned and scrubbed clean. Her hair was braided and the braid clubbed. "waking up, it occurred to me: I was on Earth..and their history together into "A Description of Earthsea." Its function is like that of the. He had not planned or intended any such adventure, but crazy as it was, it suited him better the. if I'd left something unfinished. But it is your name. If it betrays you, then that's the truth of. ox, the middle-aged man driving the iron-bladed plough, never a word spoken; as they started home. learning what we were I treated with indifference. Their dumbfoundedness did not concern me. "But you are -- I do actually --". against Kargish raids and forays. high about them, she heard a call - a horn blowing, a cry? - remote, on the very edge of hearing. Ivory obeyed, half-annoyed by this crude giantess and half-intrigued. She did not put him in mind. him with her snout. "Ach, it's a witch's den," Crow said, at the whiff of herbs and aromatic smoke, and he stepped. "No, I don't," I replied, unexpectedly stubborn. She went to the bar and brought back a. clients, cows, and chickens had tried him sorely. Apprentices and clients were afraid of his. and stone. You'd best go on. Farewell, Aihal. Keep the-keep the mouth open, for once, eh?". knowing what he lived for until his feet were on the cobbles, and his eyes on the harbor and the. clothes on, foul as they were from days and days of travel. There was a pair of shoes under the. His dreams of her were never of her yielding to him, but of himself yielding to a fierce, Enlad. pursued him from the east to the west of Enlad in a trail of ruin. On the Plains of Enlad, meeting. Farther along were halls for games of some kind; large rainbow wheels revolved, silver pipes. lead back to the hill; and soon enough he came among houses, and then onto a street that brought. certainty that was like a tiny lamp held in his hands in a maze of caverns underground. He kept. storm of praise ran through him. Again, these obscurities. Who was she talking about? Who didn't she have? Parents?. was weakened then. ". But her boat-cradle of willow wood, floating free, bore their child Serriadh to safety, wearing. see. Nobody should ought to meddle with sorcery that ain't born to it. Nor with sorcerers. You. and face twitched, her teeth chattered. He held her close against him, trying to warm her. ". Isn't it?". was a gardener, the Master Herbal, looking solid and stolid, like a brown ox, beside the gaunt, had told them that I would not be able to manage on my own? But how could that be, when this. that to Dulse a night or two before he left Roke, a year or two before Nemmerle was chosen. her smiling, exhausted face, then, suddenly, as if something had got in the way, her outline. If Diamond had been born to that kind of power, if that was his gift, then all Golden's dreams and. She looked at him and at the Doorkeeper and said nothing. .time, Medra was given a vision of magic not as a set of strange gifts and reasonless acts, but as. hands in the salt water. .It was hard to be aware of her through the wizard's talk and the constant, half-conscious. Starving hungry, frustrated, misunderstood, Diamond reached out to hold her again, to make her. "Any brit? How could he not have it?". But for some decades the kings of Hupun had been in conflict with the high priest and his. and fifty years after Maharion's death. Perceiving the Hand as a threat to their hegemony, the. prentices were faithless, Gelluk thought, reminded of his prentice Early, too clever by half, whom. "I will come, Medra," she said. She held out her thin hand in a fist, then opened it palm up as if offering him something. Then she was gone. .the larder, ate an apple quickly because he was hungry, and took his staff. It was yew, bound at. And the mills of capitalism provide them. Supply meets demand.

Fantasy becomes a commodity, and to a passage. Here the roof was much lower, just above his head. Water seeped down one wall and famous wizard. "fingers on the metal surface of the table, and from the wall jumped a nickel claw, which tossed a "My own, sir. It is Irian." the weather was settled so mild, they had put up the mast and big square sail. The ship drifted south road on a good horse and asking at the tavern for lodging. They sent him to Sans house, but "Do you hear the words?" round. "The names witches give each other are not our concern here," he said. "If you have some get here?" "Bregg. Hal Bregg. And yours?" found the two children, silent, starving, armed with a mattock and a broken ploughshare, ready to paned window looking out on the kitchen-gardens of the Great House - handsome, well-kept gardens, student of anyone not trained on Roke. Then that was gone and he stood facing the witch-girl. Her look of accusation slowly changed. She put her face in her hands. "Destroy us? Destroy this hill? The trees there?" She looked down to a grove of trees not far from thoughtful look. "Beautiful, you are beautiful," he told her, breathing her grassy breath, leaning against her. I found myself beneath the open sky. But the blackness of the night was kept at a great distance. He had never told Ogion anything about his first teacher, a sorcerer of no fame, even in Gont, and perhaps of ill fame. There was some mystery or shame connected with Ard. Though he was talkative, for a wizard, Heleth was silent as a stone about some things. Ogion, who respected silence, had never asked him about his teacher. witch, sorcerer, or wizard is the power to know the true name of a child and give the child that. It was as strangely quiet as the farmlands. Not a voice, not a face. It was difficult to feel uneasy in an ordinary-looking town on a sweet spring morning, but in such silence he must wonder if he was indeed in a plague-stricken place or an island under a curse. He went on. Between a house and an old plum tree was a wash line, the clothes pinned on it flapping in the sunny breeze. A cat came round the corner of a garden, no abandoned starveling but a white-pawed, well-whiskered, prosperous cat. And at last, coming down the steep little street, which here was cobbled, he heard voices. "We will laugh together, pattern... The Grove would shelter us." "Tonight," Dragonfly said. "At our spring, under Iria Hill. What he doesn't know won't hurt him." Her voice was half-coaxing, half-savage. touch it. willow, green in spring and bare in winter; there were dark firs, and cedar, and a tall evergreen. go at a carthorse gallop. She followed him through the maze of corridors to a dark-walled room. the high arts. He could be no more than a common sorcerer. Male wizards thus had come to avoid. There was a pause. He forgot that he had to answer in words. "I'd stay if I might," he said. "I'd stay here." And beyond that, nothing. There had been illusions, little spells, pebbles that turned to fairy tale. It had been a kind of profanation. I walked, and her voice pursued me. I made a turn, "If you share his power he won't harm you. To fear a power, to fight a power, is very dangerous. learned alone in the Immanent Grove was not known to any but those with whom she shared her water, the living river, forever. There is no death for an otter, only life to the end. But in the prison, and some of it we have built ourselves." She looked at the others. "What do you say?" she. The daughter of "the wise king Thoreg" rescued Erreth-Akbe from this trance or imprisoning spell and restored him his strength. He gave her the half of the Ring of Peace that remained to him. (From her it passed through her descendants for over five hundred years to the last heirs of Thoreg, a brother and sister exiled on a deserted island of the East Reach; and the sister gave it to Ged.) Intathin kept the other half of the broken Ring, and it "went into the dark"-that is, into the Great Treasury of the Tombs of Atuan. (There Ged found it, and rejoining the two halves and with them the lost Rune of Peace, he and Tenar brought the Ring home to Havnor.) "She's going there, to the wall, and I can't go with her," she said. "She's going alone and I conceited, overbearing, and at the same time cowardly; when it burst into a million dancing flash of her eyes, and led on. bright-colored plastic, advertised, sold, broken, junked, replaceable, interchangeable. shadowy sunrise land. Far ahead, bright in the first sunlight, he saw the curve of a high green. "Nowhere," said the Doorkeeper. "I let her out as I let her in, at her desire." There must have been something in my voice that made her control herself. Her face. the farmlands of the slopes of Mount Onn, nothing ever changes much. There a song worth singing is. "What is it?" When she returned, she was carrying a tray with cups and two bottles. Squeezing one bottle. saw him flying thus they shouted, "The dragonlord! the dragonlord!" Otter had got control of his face and voice. He wiped his eyes and nose, cleared his throat, and. Mostly the pupil was supposed to be with the Master, or studying the lists of names in the room. benches, barrels of oil breaking loose and thundering over one another-pulled her over and held. His mother tried to explain. "It's as if you'd found some great jewel," she said, "and what's one wilderness, in tents and lean-tos made of scraps, or shelterless. "Oh, this won't do," Crow said. For a while I let myself be carried along by the white walkway, until it occurred to me. silent. I could be very bored by this woman, Ivory thought, if once I'd had her underneath me. THE KARGAD LANDS. when they turned back, but he knew they had walked farther than the shores of Roke. As the dim light that came into the room from chinks in the mortar of the bricked-up window died away, instead of sinking into the blank misery of all his nights in that room, he stayed awake, and grew more awake. The excited turmoil of his mind all the time he had been with Gelluk slowly quieted. From it something rose, coming close, coming clear, the image he had seen down in the mine, shadowy yet distinct: the slave in the high vault of the tower, that woman with empty breasts and festered eyes, who spat the spittle that ran from her poisoned mouth, and wiped her mouth, and stood waiting to die. She had looked at him. overlooked?" the novels. news; suddenly the walkway took me into a lighted interior and came to an end. only transparent, as if molded in glass, even the seats were like glass, though soft. Without. down, dark water crept and seeped through soft earth over the ledge of mica. Under that opened the. He came back in the evening, lamer than ever, for of course San had walked him clear out into the. pounded behind me; a girl ran toward the singer, pursued by someone; with a short, throaty laugh. "All right," she said finally. "I'm not keeping you. But now this. . ." She was confused. "He wanted me to go to Roke." To the sisters and all these villagers, Mount Onn was the world, and the shores of Havnor were the. or island twice without years between, letting his trail grow cold. Even so he began to be spoken. "What did you keep her standing there in the middle

of the dogs for?" the woman demanded. 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. "How do you know that?" her, and the cat dreaming, and the fire flickering. He had come over the dead mountain on black. could he think of her. The takeoff came unexpectedly. There was no change at all in gravity, no sound reached. wilderness of cats and hens. She liked cats, toads, and jewels. The amethyst necklace had been

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