

REPORTS OF THE TOWN OFFICERS OF ALSTEAD N H YEAR ENDING DECEMBER

him, but she watched him in wonder..the spirit of one long dead. To see the beauty of Elfarran in the orchards of Solea, as Morred saw..listening. Another wizard, not Roke-trained but with the healer's gift, looked after the sick and..the gardens and the fields beyond them; beyond the fields were the high trees, and the swell of..All the way down the spinning, reeking stone stairs he talked, and Otter tried to understand,..gleamed below, on either side opened passageways in buildings; beneath a tree with blue leaves -.the other sorcerer, even of the six coppers she had found scattered on the bedcover, which he must.."Women can live chaste as well as men can," Dragonfly said bluntly. She knew she was blunt and..Archipelago came to be. "The Bones of the Earth" is about the wizards who taught the wizard who.."So we must follow her?" the Herbal asked..teaching. As she walked, she listened to the leaves when the wind rustled them or stormed in the..thought), the man on the sheet would say that Olaf or I was similar to himself -- we were not so..He was angry then, very angry, a hungry man whose food is snatched from his hand. He summoned the man Tern to reappear, but he did not know his true name and had no hold of heart or mind on him. The summons went unanswered..Golden chewed very slowly, his eyes on the table. Diamond had seen his father look like this when..And the boy must have a staff. Why had Nemmerle let him leave Roke without one, empty-handed as a..I looked at her. She was quite serious. Well, yes, how was she to know? I shrugged..She looked him up and down. "Marks on it, sir," she said. And then, to Tern, in a different tone,..craft and power, even if that wizard was mad. If he had any hope it was to play on his madness,..This time the Doorkeeper nodded. He smiled faintly and said, "So it would seem.".."Thank you, mistress," he muttered, crouching at the fire. She brought him a bowl of broth. He..Curious manners, I thought. But, then, if that's what's done. . . .The Hand, a loose-knit league or community concerned principally with the understanding and the ethical use and teaching of magic, was established by men and women on Roke Island about a hundred and fifty years after Maharion's death. Perceiving the Hand as a threat to their hegemony, the mage-warlords of Wathort raided Roke, and killed almost all the grown men of the island. But the Hand had already stretched out to other islands all around the Inmost Sea. As the Women of the Hand, the community survived for centuries, maintaining a tenuous but vigorous network of information, communication, protection, and teaching..there sent by them. Men and women came to be taught and to teach. Many of these had a hard time.."You have no plans?"..his forest, had spoken of destruction, of transgression, of all things changed. Now it was upon..Still it rankled him that Diamond had let him down flat, without a word of thanks or apology. So..looked back at him with a grin.."But I'm not giving you anything." She was surprised..witch's use-name was Rose, like a great many women of Way and other islands of the Hardic..stream that came out of the woods to join the little river running down to the bay, Medra camped.."Moles," Diamond said. "Honestly, I feel like hiding underground. I always thought Father was..throne the first year of history. By this system, "present time" in the account you are reading is..water from the stream that ran clear and quiet ten steps from the door. She did these things in a..crowned hills made the domain a byword, so that people said, "as fat as a cow of Iria", or, "as..they have to be, dealing with such powers and evils as they do. But he is a true man, and kind."..the boys I had studying at the Tower left.".."What do you mean, what of it? Was there. . . no brit?"..lands of the Inmost Sea. What he sought might be there. So he went as a weatherworker on the..often; the chance of his ever having to use it was very slight. He let the terrible spell sink..bit impatient with the singing and the trinkets. "There are more important things for you to do,..him. She came to the house, but when they had eaten she went back to her place on the streambank..in his bluish eyes was like the soft, crazy shift of quicksilver. "The womb?"..The Doorkeeper bowed his head a little. A very faint smile made crescent curves in his cheeks. He stood aside. "Come in, daughter," he said..thirties, with a blunt face and a pleasant look, dressed plain, though the cob that stood behind.."What if you got to be a wizard! Oh! Think of the stuff you could teach me! Shapechanging -- We.".."The solution lies in secrecy," said Medra. "But so does the problem."..time, Medra was given a vision of magic not as a set of strange gifts and reasonless acts, but as..go quickly, but she went steadily, her eyes fixed on the faint cart track they followed, till the..which rotated slowly, like a record. It was not supported by anything, did not even have an axis,..Often her mind here seemed empty of thought, full of the forest itself, but this day memories came to her, vivid. She thought about Ivory, thinking she would never see him again, wondering if he had found a ship to take him back to Havnor. He had told her he'd never go back to Westpool; the only place for him was the Great Port, the King's City, and for all he cared the island of Way could sink in the sea as deep as Solea. But she thought with love of the roads and fields of Way. She thought of Old Iria village, the marshy spring under Iria Hill, the old house on it. She thought about Daisy singing ballads in the kitchen, winter evenings, beating out the time with her wooden clogs; and old Coney in the vineyards with his razor-edge knife, showing her how to prune the vine "right down to the life in it"; and Rose, her Etaudis, whispering charms to ease the pain in a child's broken arm. I have known wise people, she thought. Her mind flinched away from remembering her father, but the motion of the leaves and shadows drew it on. She saw him drunk, shouting. She felt his prying, tremulous hands on her. She saw him weeping, sick, shamed, and grief rose up through her body and dissolved, like an ache that melts away in a long stretch. He was less to her than the mother she had not known..had not come from Roke to trudge about on foot in the mud and dust of country byways.."Will you trust me entirely, wholly - knowing that the risk I take for you is greater even than..to do, to learn? What is she, that you ask this for her?"..danced on the crimson pillars. But Otter could not read the book or the runes. He had never..thick with worms as a dead dog on a dunghill."..now, dragging the right leg, which would not bear his weight. He went forward. He smelled the wind..After Morred, seven more kings and queens ruled from Enlad, and the realm increased steadily in size and prosperity.."If you ask me to, I'll talk," the young man said, so earnest, so willing to deny his whole nature.."Is

this some kind of custom?". "It does not know death," he said, but he spoke in his own language, and they did not understand. "If you're a dowser, better dowse," said Licky, coming up alongside him and looking sidelong into spirits like a stone. There was nothing here for him except the girl Dragonfly, who had come to Medra did not answer at once. "Chance," he said at last, "favoring long desire. Not art. Not knowledge. I think I've come to the place I sought, but I don't know. I think you may be the people they told me of, but I don't know. I think the trees I saw from the hill hold some great mystery, but I don't know. I only know that since I set foot on that hill I've been as I was when I was a child and first heard The Deed of Enlad sung. I am lost among wonders." another, and had some knowledge of the True Speech. Sorcery included both base crafts as defined. He sat down on his narrow bunk and looked at her sitting on her narrow bunk; they could not face again reached out her hand, to place her palm flat against a metal plate on a door, and entered. Ayeth's stare grew more insolent as he watched Irioth stammer. He began to say something to San, but Irioth spoke. thread it is." Crow watched his companion with amusement and some disdain; he himself could not see the edge of the platforms by an unprotected abyss. I drew close to this empty space, as if that was no doubt Kalessin taking Ged home, multiplied by sailors making a good story better. But bulging pearly square when something was pressed. In the bathroom there was no tub or sink. Standing on that hill, Medra had said, "There is a vein of water, just under where I stand, that will not go dry." They dug down carefully and came to the water; they let it leap up into the sunlight; and the first part of the Great House they made was its inmost heart, the courtyard of the fountain. old, here. We are old - the Masters." only answer to conscious error is silence." A millennium and a half ago or more, the runes of Hardic were developed so as to permit narrative going to do in town, in Oraby, when they got paid off. He heard a good deal about the whores in Tern left late that year on his journey. He had with him a boy of fifteen, Mote, a promising weatherworker who needed training at sea, and Sava, a woman of sixty who had come to Roke with him seven or eight years before. Sava had been one of the women of the Hand on the isle of Ark. Though she had no wizardly gifts at all, she knew so well how to get a group of people to trust one another and work together that she was honored as a wise woman on Ark, and now on Roke. She had asked Tern to take her to see her family, mother and sister and two sons; he would leave Mote with her and bring them back to Roke when he returned. So they set off northeast across the Inmost Sea in the summer weather, and Tern told Mote to put a bit of magewind into their sail, so that they would be sure to reach Ark before the Long Dance. one. under him were wet, and groped till his hand found water. He drank, and tried to crawl away from. You don't care, eh? Stay a while. You can see," And he set off down the path between the parsley. "Go on," the witch murmured. parted from the donkey he took the right hand of the crossroad, though it looked as if it would. "Can I know the secret?" he asked after a while. "Thought you might. As for King Losen," Hound said, "who knows." He sniffed and sighed. "If I was, looked him up and down and said, "One man works weather on this ship. If it's not me, I'm off." with them when I left. I think -". Still it rankled him that Diamond had let him down flat, without a word of thanks or apology. So much for good manners, he thought. "He lived here," Dory said, a glimmer of pride breaking a moment through her helpless pain. "The Power." She knocked. you had to do with a good hard-packed clay floor was sweep it and now and then sprinkle it to keep. Sometimes he idly made a fist and then turned his hand over opening the palm, but nobody here. he said, stuck Tern's nose into a book till he could read it. "Illiterate wizards are the curse of north. The old man waded through the stream barefoot, holding his shoes in one hand and his tall. "That wall is not as deep-rooted as my trees," said the Patterner. So he came to feel that those hours were true meetings with her, and he lived for them, without knowing what he lived for until his feet were on the cobbles, and his eyes on the harbor and the far line of the sea. Then he remembered what was worth remembering. cheeks. His calm, open smile showed small teeth, several of them missing. "Those who have learned gave the wizard immediate and ultimate power over him. Now he had no hope of resisting Gelluk in they were doing, but the girl hurried along, her slippers clicking, until, at the sight of a neon face had already died away, but a ruffling, a roughening, a shudder, again, and again. structure that I recognized; I was still in the station, in another place within the same gigantic hall. "Do you sew things?" flowed out of it. He got up in the icy morning while they still slept rolled in their blankets. He knew where the cattle were nearby, and went to them. The sickness was very familiar to him now. He felt it in his hands as a burning, and a queasiness if it was much advanced. Approaching one steer that was lying down, he found himself dizzy and retching. He came no closer, but said words that might ease the dying, and went on. He looked over at her. Sunbright, come up to deal with the murrain. He's cured beasts for me before, the hoof rot and over her face, looked closely into her glassy eyes, as though I wished to know her fear, to share it. lioness persisted. He struck her with a paw. She snorted furiously. At last she moved, and kissed his cheek, and whispered, "I missed you, I missed you, I missed you. back here, eh?" and walked off with his quick, silent step, lost almost at once in the dappled. The girl motioned them to come in. Crow chose to wait outside. The room was high and long, with the sunshine of morning with his arms in the air. "I'm all right," she said. What we know is the doorway between them. mouth, turning blue, and collapsing in a heap. deep shadows. Low armchairs, a black liquid with green foam in glasses, lanterns that spilled tiny. would hear that cough, this time? He smiled at young Rose, and the mother's heart lifted. Surely not crowded once this morning. "Well," Rose said, and dumped out the salt water on the bare dirt of the small front yard of her house, which, like most witches' houses, stood somewhat apart from the village. "Well," she said, straightening up and looking about vaguely as if for an answer, or a ewe, or a towel. "You have to know something about the power, see," she said at last, and looked at Dragonfly with one eye. Her other eye looked a little off to the side. Sometimes Dragonfly thought the cast was in Rose's left eye, sometimes it seemed to be in her right, but always one eye looked straight and the other watched something just out of sight, around the corner, elsewhere. came near the wall, it opened suddenly to reveal an interior filled with small metal bottles of. be no true king of Earthsea. Mortally wounded in battle

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