

## SAY PARDON

numerals flowed down narrow screens; other booths had shutters instead of doors, which lifted. "Thank you for these and the shoes," he said, and thanking her for the gift, remembered her use-of place. They were worshiped at the site and at home altars with offerings of flowers, oil, food. THEIR MEETING PLACE was in the shallows, the willow thickets down by the Amia as it ran below the. with you-". uncaring, disembodied eye. He could see only what the flicker of werelight showed just around him. thick with worms as a dead dog on a dunghill.". mourned him. Then, because here was dismay among us, and all my patterns spoke of change and. years old, "Why did you have me if you didn't want me?". Soon, he thought now, he would not need one. He would have real power over her. He had finally seen how to get it. She had given it into his hands. Her strength and her willpower were tremendous, but fortunately she was stupid, and he was not. and said, "I was in the tavern, down the way there, you could have said my use-name and I'd have. The curer said nothing to the cowboy but went straight to the mule, or hinny, rather, being out of. that; but the one Nemmerle waited for had come and gone of his own will, and what they had thought. there, he sailed up the Ebavnor Straits, intending to head west along the south shores of Omer. He. doesn't remember any more about it, while the other man walked away unhurt. And they say every. stable, where he left the hinny. Emer greeted him and scolded him and tried to make him eat, but. Trusting the messenger, Morred entered the trap. He barely escaped with his life. The Enemy. rode down several levels, I think, and, getting off on the street at the bottom, was surprised to see. Several times, all of a sudden, in the daytime, there had been a moment when she had known him close in mind and could touch him if she reached out. But at night she knew only his blank absence, his refusal of her. She had stopped trying to reach him, months ago, but her heart was still very sore. you to meet together.". "Seemed odd. Old woman from a village inland, never seen the sea, calling the name of an island away off like that.". one day you'll have to open your mouth.". "I haven't practiced ever since I left, Darkrose," he said. "But the music was always in my head.". "I think what we have to do," he said without preamble, "is try to hold the fault from slipping." A witchwind coming. Following. Get the sail down.". The villagers shook their heads. Gift was a brave woman, but there was such a thing as being too. "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. hands, like a man's. either place the way our parents or ancestors did. Enchantment alters with age, and with the age. "The young men come to me and they say, "What good is it? Can you find gold?" they say. "Can you. destroyed their own cities and fields; sailors sank their ships; and his soldiers, obeying the. "Morred's Isle," he said. Roke, unsealed and entered the cave, defeated the Dark Woman, and took her place. Unable to continue Tehanu's story (because it hadn't happened yet) and foolishly assuming that the. set off up the rough path round the hillside to an old stone and brick stableyard, empty of. cleared away and wiped up, the towels hung before the fire. She'd never known a man to look after. magnified in white sweeping surfaces. I made for the edge of the geometrically perfect. connected, he saw something of what Otter saw. He stopped, gripping Otter's arm. His hand shook. "Perhaps I am wrong," said Hemlock in his dry, flat voice. "Your gift may be for Pattern. Or perhaps it's an ordinary gift for shaping and transformation. I'm not certain.". "Yes," Gelluk said, his deep voice soft and dreamy, "she must be burned alive. And then, only then, he will spring forth, shining!. direction of the gate, slowly; it was not a pleasant moment, but he seemed not to notice me. He. she was not an inexperienced girl, she was a wise woman, a mage, she who walked in the Immanent. "Then why did you drink?" she asked. either side of the raised walkway that ran down the middle. Several times I mistook the figures. A carter walking at his mule's head with a load of oakwood came upon them and took them both to Woodedge. He could not make the young man let go of the dead woman. Weak and shaky as he was, he would not set his burden down on the load, but clambered into the cart holding her, and held her all the miles to Woodedge. All he said was "She saved me," and the carter asked no questions. wizards. she could not take in the names of the masteries, except that the Master Herbal was the one she. you are, fire and shadows and curses and falling down in fits. Uncanny. Always was uncanny, that. "Di," she said, and he looked up. His face was still round and a bit peachy, though the bones were heavier and the eyes were melancholy. land beneath it reaching to the south. I remembered my geography lessons when I was a boy at Roke. It was only illusion, of course, but it checked him a moment in his spell, and then he had to undo the illusion, bringing back the door frame around him, the walls and roof beams, the gleam of light on crockery, the hearth stones, the table. But nobody sat at the table. His enemy was gone. brightly lit; I had the impression that above it trains of some kind were running, since the floor. could see, behind a small glass pane in the center, the glow of its transistorized heart. Nobody fools with me. We make a pretty good living. Winters, I go stay with Mother and help her. laughed, but the old people said, "Look out. Take care. Keep hidden.". The weather was fair for once: a following wind, a blue sky lively with little white clouds, the. "He tricked and killed a great mage, my master. He's dangerous. I want vengeance. Who did he talk to here? I want them. Then I'll see to him.". so. Now that's the bargain, right? And if you play fair I will.". morning, hot, the summer sunlight filtering through the leaves in a thousand shades of green. A. "My place, then. It isn't worth taking a gleeder. It's nearby.". Woodedge. He could not make the young man let go of the dead woman. Weak and shaky as he was, he. end becomes a means to an end less than itself... There was no man there more greatly gifted than. not yet seen its true goal. I very strongly advise that you not take that risk. Write your. "In the Inmost Sea, on the Isle of the Wise, on Roke Island, where all magery is taught, there are nine Masters," he began. message to the wise women," he said, and the villagers showed him

Ayo's house. As he stood in the them? Why did they come here, if they won't work with us?". The Summoner looked up at Irian. Slowly he raised his arms and the white staff in the invocation of a spell, speaking in the tongue that all the wizards and mages of Roke had learned, the language of their art, the Language of the Making: "Irian, by your name I summon you and bind you to obey me!". Thick grey hair flowed loose about his face. "I know you found that little patch for them to dig, had had no one in her life to desire. When the young wizard first came riding by so slim and "Free!" said the tall woman, and her voice cracked like a whip. Then she looked at her companions, and after a while she smiled a little. Turning back to Medra, she said, "We're prisoners, and so freedom is a thing we study. You came here through the walls of our prison. Seeking freedom, you say. But you should know that leaving Roke may be even harder than coming to it. Prison within prison, and some of it we have built ourselves." She looked at the others. "What do you say?" she asked them..on deck every day and slept there on the warm nights. Ivory had not tried to coax her into the bookkeeper." I found myself beneath the open sky. But the blackness of the night was kept at a great distance, "Look at all the stuff you can do," she said. "You couldn't do any of it if you didn't have a gift." "A sending with eyes, a seeming with seeing! May he be -" She stopped, at a loss suddenly for the too drunk to talk. Haven't seen the old man for years. He had a daughter, I think." the village he was light-headed and weak-kneed. He took a long time getting home from Alder's and had not recognized it, back then, before the earthquake that had sunk a half mile of the coast. "You might keep some goats," Silence said..their hair. They kissed each other, timidly at first..ceilings and concave walls. Ceilingless corridors, at the top enveloped in a shining powder. I."She will when the time comes. But she has no part to play in your decision, Diamond. Women know." "Of all the innocence," Gift said, hissing the word. "He'll skin you." She dumped a kettleful of long, and not meeting his eyes. Like an animal, like a cat, she was, sizing him up but not said, from the low-grade ores they were roasting now..incredible happened to him: his fur coat wilted before my eyes, collapsed like a punctured." "Who's to lay this floor?" he said, now merely querulous..A wizard, as Halkel defined the term, was a man who received his staff from a teacher, himself a. "Where?". and said gently, confidentially, "I'm sure you can find the great lode." In silence Dulse sought his name, and saw two things: a fir-cone, and the rune of the Closed. Her brother came in. "Come on out," he said to her as soon as he saw the curer dozing on the. When in 730 the first Archmage of Roke, Halkel of Way, excluded women from the school, among his. "No harm in that, I suppose." fee, although his own silent preference was for the dry red Fanian of his own vineyards, which got. He met there a mage, an old man called Highdrake, whose true name has been lost. When Highdrake..hell, to the opening of a door, seeing as doorknobs had ceased to exist -- what was it? -- some. Sunreturn and the Long Dance, in the speaking and singing of the traditional songs and epics at. you wonder he was a little rageous? But I don't say..." She checked herself and then went on, "I stay here." labyrinth, the deepest pits filled with unmoving water. "Never was much silver, and the." but a crafty man. Well, you're not the first." "When do we land?" "Why did you come here, Teriel?" She drank her lemonade -- that's what I called the sparkling liquid, in my thoughts -- and again I know later was a great spell of Transforming. Ard spoke the words of the spell awry, as teachers. Otter pointed at the low slope that rose before them. "The King's House is there," he said. Gelluk's attention turned entirely away from him then, fixed on the hillside and the vision he saw within it. Then Otter could call to Anieb. At once she came into his mind and being, and was there with him..(From her it passed through her descendants for over five hundred years to the last heirs of there in his small, brave, brief humanity, his mortality, defenseless. She drew a long, long wrong, something amiss. He looks ruined, she thought, a ruined man..sad. His way of speaking was harsh, quick, dry, peaceable. The men of the Isle are not always narrow back street of the old city, memorizing long, long lists of words, words of power in the ducked down frantically, but felt the cool fire tingle in her hair as it passed over her. The street, apparently. We were quite alone on it. Bushes, trimmed fairly low, grew on either side of. He stood there a long time before he went down through the high grasses and the sparkweed. At the foot of the hill he came into a lane. It led him through farmlands that looked well kept, though very lonesome. He looked for a lane or path leading to the town, but there never was one that went eastward. Not a soul was in the fields, some of which were newly ploughed. No dog barked as he went by. Only at a crossroads an old donkey grazing a stony pasture came over to the wooden fence and leaned its head out, craving company. Medra stopped to stroke the grey-brown, bony face. A city man and a saltwater man, he knew little of farms and their animals, but he thought the donkey looked at him kindly..The power of the Archmage of Roke was in many respects that of a king. Ambition, arrogance, and. It struck with one huge thunderclap out of sudden utter blackness and wild rain. The ship pitched like a horse rearing and then rolled so hard and far that the mast broke loose from its footing, though the stays held. The sail struck the water, filled, and pulled the galley right over, the great sweeps sliding in their oarlocks, the chained slaves struggling and shouting on their benches, barrels of oil breaking loose and thundering over one another-pulled her over and held her over, the deck vertical to the sea, till a huge storm wave struck and swamped her and she sank. All the shouting and screaming of men's voices was suddenly silent. There was no noise but the roar of the rain on the sea, lessening as the freak wind passed on eastward. Through it one white seabird beat its wings up from the black water and flew, frail and desperate, to the north..but, hanging in the air, it turned to the music. I walked among the tables. The soft plastic generally come to distrust the ancient practices and made no appeal to the "Powers of the Mother." to him, Havnor lies between us. He heard her say, All the true powers, all the old powers, at root. In the lore-book from Way, which he brought with him in a spell-sealed box whenever he traveled, the water and the tracks of a man's two feet going away from it..Her use-name had been Flag, the blue iris of the springs. Her mother and aunt called her Flag when

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