

THE HIDDEN TRUTH

the fountain. "He does," she said. "He heals the cattle." And the old man railed on about the folly of the young and the evils of modern times. miserable men dispossessed of their living, driven by hunger to raid and rob. Hemlock was glad to see a bit of fire in the boy. "They are one another's family," he said. and litigations. Farmlands went to weeds, farmsteads went unroofed, milking sheds stood unused. Hound, and used him as seldom as possible, but Hound was too useful not to use. He slept till late in the morning and woke as if from illness, weak and placid. She was unable to. histories, partial biographies, and garbled legends. But it's the best of the records that. How long had he been standing here? Why was he standing here? He had been thinking about mud. Grove and understood the patterns of the shadows! "I don't know," he said, but he tried to bring the werelight round them, and after a while the. in Ember's hair. evenings, at the dark face bent above a lore-book or a shirt that needed mending. The eyes cast. the Summoner should do so continued to shock and disturb her as she thought about it. and mills and business, and Golden told him so. "Singing time is over, son," he said. "You must. During the voyage, however, he talked several times with Dragonfly, which made Ivory a bit uneasy. watched something just out of sight, around the corner, elsewhere. That is not what the otter was thinking as it swam fast down the Yennava. It was not thinking anything much but speed and direction and the sweet taste of river water and the sweet power of swimming. But something like that is what Medra had been thinking as he sat at the table in his grandmother's house in End-lane, talking with his mother and sister, just before the door was flung open and the terrible shining figure stood there. around the other one, Otak, like a wavering fire, and shadows jumping, and his voice not like any. "I hope so," said Tuly. Havnor. coals. Irioth accepted the bowl and spoon she handed him and sat down on the settle. The cat. He stood tongue-tied. After a while she looked up at him. "No," she said in a soft, quiet voice, "I don't think it's true. I think all the true powers, all the old powers, at root are one." The Kargish version of the story, told as a sacred recital by the priesthood, says that Intathin. He woke, as he always did, in his room in the Great House. He did not understand why the ceiling. the path continued, I saw faintly gleaming hedges, wet bunches of leaves hung over a metal gate. Back Cover. gagged his mouth to keep him from making spells. They locked him in a cellar room, a room of. "You're not," Irian said. She thought him between thirty and forty, though it was hard to tell; she kept thinking his hair was white, because it was not black. "My place, then. It isn't worth taking a gleeder. It's nearby." After Maharion's death in 452, several claimants contested the throne; none prevailed. Within a. Its owner was one of four men who called themselves Master of Iria. The other three called him Master of Old Iria. He spent his youth and what remained of his inheritance in law courts and the anterooms of the Lords of Way in Shelieth, trying to prove his right to the whole domain as it had been a hundred years ago. He came back unsuccessful and embittered and spent his age drinking the hard red wine from his last vineyard and walking his boundaries with a troop of ill-treated, underfed dogs to keep interlopers off his land. time to step back, passed me at tremendous speed, I saw, before they disappeared into the. other was his servant. bottom, as I had thought; I was actually high up, about forty floors above the bands of the. Only a few steps ahead of them now was the place where underfoot, underground, two or three feet. morning, hot, the summer sunlight filtering through the leaves in a thousand shades of green. A. The Doorkeeper looked at her for what seemed a long time. Then it is your name," he said. "But maybe not all your name. I think you have another." This conversation was idiotic and I felt terrible, but I had to find out. Great House, all the mages, many of the students. Leading them was Thorion the Summoner, tall in. "How goes it, col?" he flinched away from the thought of asking her, asking a witch's opinion on anything, least of. "I don't see why one couldn't be." She never saw why something could not be. would, swum as the otter would swim. But only in his own form could he think as a man, hide. Medra woke in pain, in darkness. For a long time that was all there was. The pain came and went. was gone, and there was nothing there but the woman standing on the hill path and the tall man. One day in autumn he came back to the school. He went in by the garden door, which gives on the path through the fields to Roke Knoll. It is a curious thing about the Great House of Roke, that it has no portal or grand entryway at all. You can enter by what they call the back door, which, though it is made of horn and framed in dragons tooth and carved with the Thousand-Leaved Tree, looks like nothing at all from outside, as you come to it in a dingy street; or you can go in the garden door, plain oak with an iron bolt. But there is no front door. Through love, respect, and trust, Dragonfly would never disregard a warning from Rose; but she was unable to see Ivory as perilous. She didn't understand him, but the idea of fearing him, him personally, was not one she could keep in mind. She tried to be respectful, but it was impossible. She thought he was clever and quite handsome, but she didn't think much about him, except for what he could tell her. He knew what she wanted to know and little by little he told it to her, and then it was not really what she had wanted to know, but she wanted to know more. He was patient with her, and she was grateful to him for his patience, knowing he was much quicker than she. Sometimes he smiled at her ignorance, but he never sneered at it or reproved it. Like the witch, he liked to answer a question with a question; but the answers to Rose's questions were always something she'd always known, while the answers to his questions were things she had never imagined and found startling, unwelcome, even painful, altering all her beliefs. know another such. And more than that, more than that, the King enters into my seed. He is my. "Not till you'd come to Oraby, a ten-twelve miles on south." She considered only briefly. "If you." I think they fear them too," said Veil. once," she said. "All that you say of yourself may be true, and may not. What can you tell me that. She blushed a little. the first test of character Diamond had broken. "Glass," the wizard muttered. At least this. return, I felt that I no longer desired, was looking for, was in need of a single thing; it was enough. Dulse had seen young men weep for joy at the birth of a first son. He had seen poor men pay. smiled at Otter. "Don't you?" here. With them." chicken and fried eggs, as she was often paid in

poultry. The yard of their two-room house was a her stand by his chair or sit on his knees and listen to all the wrongs that had been done to him. trying to clean his legs. "Dirt, dirt," he said, gently patting the ground he sat on. Then, very encompassed me in an invisible arch. For the first time I felt alone, but not as in a crowd, for the. They came ashore in Ilien for water and food. Setting a host of many hundreds of men on its way so quickly had left little time for provisioning the ships. They overran the towns along the west shore of Ilien, taking what they wanted, and did the same on Vissti and Kamery, looting what they could and burning what they left. Then the great fleet turned west, heading for the one harbor of Roke Island, the Bay of Thwil. Early knew of the harbor from the maps in Havnor, and knew there was a high hill above it. As they came nearer, he took dragon form and soared up high above his ships, leading them, gazing into the west for the sight of that hill. paying copper where he thought he might have to pay ivory." "Are the cattle he touched keeping cool of it rising between his toes. He still like to go barefoot, but no longer enjoyed mud; it." Frosty. White," she said, looking away, embarrassed. said nothing, a non-rhetorical answer. stories, I became (somewhat) more systematic and methodical, and put my knowledge of the peoples. ordered these children to be stranded on a desert island. Among her clothes and toys the princess. Rose watched her. She knew she did not know who Man was or what she might be. A big, strong, awkward, ignorant, innocent, angry woman, yes. But ever since she was a child Rose had seen something more in her, something beyond what she was. And when Irian looked away from the world like that, she seemed to enter that place or time or being beyond herself, utterly beyond Rose's knowledge. Then Rose feared her, and feared for her. We know a dozen different Arthurs now, all of them true. The Shire changed irrevocably even in. think about being a man." "To talk." with the King of the Kargad Lands. The Doorkeeper shook his head, agreeing. a pilot on the expedition to Fomalhaut. That's twenty-three light years away. We flew there and. "Keep me?" she repeated. "You didn't seem to worry about losing me all winter. What made you come. Things came round if you could wait for them, she thought. "I'll set em out for you," she said. hungry," Ember said. kennings or euphemisms for the word dragon are Firstborn, Eldest, Elder Children. (The words for. small plate in front of each of us and with two lightning movements threw on each plate a portion. "That's a formality. We senior sorcerers may carry a staff when we're on Roke's business. Which I. Her use-name had been Flag, the blue iris of the springs. Her mother and aunt called her Flag when. name but said only, "mistress." continuously by hundreds of feet on the floor above; the all-embracing roar now swelled, now. you again I'd do you a favor, if I could. As one finder to the other, see?". Once there in the Grove she had no thought of earning, or deserving, or even of learning. To be there was enough, was all. Medra did not know, with soft reddish bark and layered foliage. You walked on, and the way through. Oh, it's time, and past time. We must deliver the King. We must find the great lode. It is here; galley, which was rowed by forty slaves. Oh, it's time, and past time. We must deliver the King. We must find the great lode. It is here; there is no doubt of that: "The womb of the Mother lies under Samory." By that time there were many people of the Hand who knew what was afoot on Roke. Young people came there sent by them. Men and women came to be taught and to teach. Many of these had a hard time getting there, for the spells that hid the island were stronger than ever, making it seem only a cloud, or a reef among the breakers; and the Roke wind blew, which kept any ship from Thwil Bay unless there was a sorcerer aboard who knew how to turn that wind. Still they came, and as the years went on a larger house was needed for the school than any in Thwil Town. "Everything's for gain some way, I'd say. People have to live. But what do I know? I make my." If you share his power he won't harm you. To fear a power, to fight a power, is very dangerous. The two earliest surviving epic or historical texts are The Deed of Enlad, and The Song of the Young King or The Deed of Morred. She was standing far back. An armchair unfolded itself to receive me. I hated that. The. anything here can be wrong or go wrong, but I have to... I'll go this time, and I will go north. He could no longer see the chambers and passages of the cave as he had seen them with the. shouted over the sound of a loudspeaker that repeated, "Meridional level, Meridional, change for. witchery. His employment was to sniff Losen's food and drink and garments and women, anything that. for?". That is, human beings chose to have possessions and dragons chose not to. But, as there are. He brought her into his mind and saw her as he had seen her, there, in that room, and called out. "Sans wife. All the women." message to the wise women," he said, and the villagers showed him Ayo's house. As he stood in the. After spending the next several days trying to recapture the missing word, he had set Silence to. safest? But while he was thinking about it, Losen's men, used to wizard's tricks, drugged his food. "Look at that," said the woman. "He's not friendly with most folk." black sky, and the little kissing squelch of their sodden feet in the mud and wet grass of the. "She's going there, to the wall, and I can't go with her," she said. "She's going alone and I can't go with her- Can't you go there?" She broke away from Rush, looking again at Tern. "You can go there!". He asked her, rather timidly, to tell him what the Immanent Grove was, for when he had asked others they said, "Ember can tell you." She refused his question, not arrogantly but definitely, saying, "You can learn about the Grove only in it and from it." A few days later she came down to the sands of Thwil Bay, where he was repairing a fishing boat. She helped him as she could, and asked about boat-building, and he told her and showed her what he could. It was a peaceful afternoon, but after it she went off in her abrupt way. He felt some awe of her; she was incalculable. He was amazed when, not long after, she said to him, "I'll be going to the Grove after the Long Dance. Come if you like." "Ivory! That fellow that studied with the Hand? Is he here?" the Changer demanded of Irian. He changed his shape, he changed his name, favorite, a big, ugly, heavy-headed hound, followed her. She stopped on the slope above the marshy. water from the stream that ran clear and quiet ten steps from the door. She did these things in a. wizards, for the rest of their lives. hawk's face, she thought. She held still, listening. said, "Might be a good idea. Come to Roke. Safer." shifting depths of the forest. "Of course," Golden said, pleased with his son's caution. He had thought Diamond might leap at the offer, which would have been natural, perhaps, but painful to the father, the owl who had -- perhaps -- hatched out an eagle. immediately fell asleep in the

artificial light of the windowless room, for what I had at first taken. "Was that the Archmage? Truly?" "Do you?" I asked..So Diamond, instead of learning spells and illusions and transformations and all such gaudy.A long silence.."The Patterner sent for us," said the Master Herbal. He looked uncomfortable. Noticing a clump of weeds under the window, he said, "That's velvet. Somebody from Havnor planted it here. Didn't know there was any on the island." He examined it attentively, and put some seedpods into his pouch..Dragons are born knowing the True Speech, or, as Ged put it, "the dragon and the speech of the

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