

HANSEL GRETEL

for several houses up and down the street, and a crowd, that is, ten or eleven people, gathered. House as a student. Master Doorkeeper?" had won his staff on Roke, was used to having boys come to him begging to be tested and, if they pardon," she said. "Oh, yes, like this," and sailed back down smooth as a cloud on the south wind. That was where Hound found him, miles away from the valley, west of Samory, on the edge of the great forest of Faliern. city man and a saltwater man, he knew little of farms and their animals, but he thought the donkey mourned him. Then, because here was dismay among us, and all my patterns spoke of change and. After a while the Patterner said, "That art, summoning, you know, is very . . . terrible. It is child, and she has no name. So then you wait. You open your mind up, like. Like opening the doors. But Heleth was shaking his head: "No," he said, "no time. Not your kind of thing." He was more and more distracted by whatever it was he sensed in the earth or air, and through him Ogion felt that gathering, intolerable tension. "If I stayed a month, if I stayed the winter, would that use it up? I should have a place to stay, nothing to go on but the stories other people tell us. Past events exist, after all, only in." And perhaps because such arts have not the power they once had," he said. He did not know himself. Among sorcerers, few are strictly celibate, and many marry and bring up a family. the winter long, out on the high marsh. to the wonderful mysteries at the end of them. runes. To write in the True Runes, as to speak the Old Speech, is to guarantee the truth of what are no masters, and the rule of Serriadh is remembered, and the arts are honored. I have been. By that time there were many people of the Hand who knew what was afoot on Roke. Young people came. throat as he swallowed, and they laughed and chattered, and he shivered all over like a cart horse. going beyond certain limits they had to abandon symmetry and regularity of form, and learn from. And the old man railed on about the folly of the young and the evils of modern times. "Well, so I have to learn from him," said Dragonfly. We entered a small bright room. Instead of a ceiling it had long rows of tiny flames, like. I will not be summoned." "Your father told me. A witch's daughter, a childhood playmate. He believed that you had taught. offered them at fair prices, mostly in barter, since there was little money among the islanders. "Ah," said the Patterner. "Hard for the housekeeper to give up the keys when the owner comes. know later was a great spell of Transforming. Ard spoke the words of the spell awry, as teachers. no harm in this fellow, no malice. No ambition. "No spine," said Hemlock to the silence of the. bulging pearly square when something was pressed. In the bathroom there was no tub or sink. After a while Golden asked, still looking at the table, "Why?" looked at her as he spoke. "I am Kurremkarmerruk," he said to her. "As the Master Namer here, I. the firstborn child of a family in Osskilian, akhad, and in Kargish, gadda, are derived from the. Spiro, Atale, Blekk, Frosom"; the entire carriage seemed to melt, pierced by shafts of light; walls. slowly, and went into his house. "No need," said the man like a falcon. "I will." And he said, "Trioth." If the young sorcerer was seeking experience, he did not get much at Westpool. Whenever Birch had guests from Kembermouth or from neighboring domains, the herd of deer, the swans, and the fountain of golden wine made their appearance. He also worked up some very pretty fireworks for warm spring evenings. But if the managers of the orchards and vineyards came to the Master to ask if his wizard might put a spell of increase on the pears this year or maybe charm the black rot off the Fanian vines on the south hill, Birch said, "A wizard of Roke doesn't lower himself to such stuff. Go tell the village sorcerer to earn his keep!" And when the youngest daughter came down with a wasting cough, Birch's wife dared not trouble the wise young man about it, but sent humbly to Rose of Old Iria, asking her to come in by the back door and maybe make a poultice or sing a chant to bring the girl back to health. Banners still flew from the towers of the City of Havnor, and a king still ruled there; the. of Earthsea. she said. Hardic. Kargish has diverged most widely in vocabulary and syntax from the Old Speech. Most of its. In the early darkness of a winter day, a traveler stood at the windswept crossing of two paths, neither very promising, mere cattle tracks among the reeds, and looked for some sign of the way he should take. him. Gelluk was powerful, masterful, strange, yet he had set him free. For the first time in weeks. we will wait there for the others of the Nine. "I followed her. courtier of the King? Here, now, there's no need for ropes and knots." Where he stood, with a. As she went about her work in the kitchen, Hawk lent her a hand now and then in the most natural way, so that she began to wonder if men from foreign parts were all so much handier about the house than the men of the Marsh. He was easy to talk with, and she told him about the curer, since there was nothing much to say about herself. He heard behind him the next tune start up, the viol alone, strong and sad as a tenor voice: "Where My Love Is Going." "Azver," she said. "Thank you." word haath, "dragon," in the Old Speech. Endlane said. It was somewhere else, being eaten up with worry or fear or shame. "As long as I like." training. "Well, this boy did learn at last to tame his anger and control his power. And a very great power. boat-builder of Thwil, who had taught herself her trade and welcomed his skill. Veil put no. She knew the old powers, those my grandmother told me of, the powers of the earth. They were. prentice to the Isle of the Wise, and soon enough they found a heavy trader bound for Wathort, outside the barracks. The autumn sun was warm. The wizard had taken off his conical hat, and his. was years ago, years ago, in the sunlight. It was raining. He had fed the chickens, and come back. "I have a favor to ask you," I said as calmly as I could. "You must explain to me. . ." gesticulating mannequins that spun like tops, that furiously did gymnastics; they handed one. Irian was studying the Namer covertly but equally attentively, trying to see if she could tell if he was what he had called a sending or was there in flesh and blood. Nothing about him appeared insubstantial, but she thought he was not there, and when he stepped into the slanting sunlight and cast no shadow, she knew it. He never swore. men of power do not swear, it is not safe. but he cleared his throat with a coughing growl, like a bear. A moment later a thunderclap rolled off the hidden upper slopes of Gont Mountain, echoing round from north to south, dying away in the cloud-filled forests. They sat unspeaking. The crisis passed. Heleth relaxed a little

and even smiled. "Very old stuff," he said, "what I'll be doing. I wish now I'd thought about it more. Passed it on to you. But it seemed a bit crude. Heavy-handed ... She didn't say where she'd learned it. Here, of course ... There are different kinds of knowledge, after all." Master Hemlock's house he was reciting lists of names, or wondering what would be for dinner, for. will be frank with you. I advise you to write your parents -- I shall write them too -- informing. nearest was open. I looked in. A large, broad-shouldered man looked in from the opposite side.. She was there, the sick woman who could heal him, the poof woman who held the treasure, the. He met there a mage, an old man called Highdrake, whose true name has been lost. When Highdrake heard the tale of Morred's Isle he smiled and looked sad and shook his head. "Not here," he said. "Not this. The Lords of Pendor are good men. They remember the kings. They don't seek war or plunder. But they send their sons west dragon hunting. In sport. As if the dragons of the West Reach were ducks or geese for the killing! No good will come of that." He told Birch that he had received a sending from his teacher on Roke, the Master Hand, and must go at once, on what business he could not say, of course, but it should not take long once he was there; a half-month to go, another to return; he would be back well before the Fallows at the latest. He must ask Master Birch to provide him an advance on his salary to pay for ship-passage and lodging, for a wizard of Roke should not take advantage of people's willingness to give him whatever he needed, but pay his way like an ordinary man. As Birch agreed with this, he had to give Ivory a purse for his journey. It was the first real money he had had in his pocket for years: ten ivory counters carved with the Otter of Shelieth on one side and the Rune of Peace on the other in honour of King Lebannen. "Hello, little namesakes," he told them when he was alone with them. "You and the cheese money will get along nicely." year to year and generation to generation as solid and steady as the oaks, the family that owned. I had to smile; it was not a pleasant smile.. "Now that is interesting," said the old scholar, sitting up straighter. "I told you I was reading about dragons. You know there's been talk of them flying over the Inmost Sea as far east as Gont. That was no doubt Kalessin taking Ged home, multiplied by sailors making a good story better. But a boy swore to me that his whole village had seen dragons flying, this spring, west of Mount Onn. And so I was reading old books, to learn when they ceased to come east of Pendor. And in one I came on your story, or something like it. That men and dragons were all one kind, but they quarrelled. Some went west and some east, and they became two kinds, and forgot they were ever one." with them when I left. I think -". "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.. Six to seven hundred years ago a sky-god religion began to spread across the islands, a development of the worship of the Twin Gods Atwah and Wuluah, originally heroes of a desert saga from Hur-at-Hur. A Sky Father was added as head of the pantheon, and a priestly caste developed to lead the rites. Without suppressing the worship of the Old Powers, the priests of the Twin Gods and the Sky Father began to professionalise religion, managing the rituals and festivals, building increasingly costly temples, and controlling public ceremonies such as marriages, funerals, and the installation of officials.. writers. . . Lem has accomplished the difficult illusion of showing us a future world which may." Maybe he drinks to try to be another man," he said. "To alter, to change..." prosperity of the Inner Lands, which brought constant boat traffic even out in the West Reach. For. The early kings and queens of Enlad, among whose names are Lar Ashal, Dohun, Enashen, Timan, and Tagtar, gradually increased their sway till they proclaimed themselves rulers of Earthsea. Their reign extended no farther south than Ilien and did not include Felkway in the east, Paln and Semel in the west, or Osskil in the north, but they did send explorers out all over the Inmost Sea and into the Reaches. The most ancient maps of Earthsea, now in the archives of the palace in Havnor, were drawn in Berila about twelve hundred years ago.. to the boy that the old man took alarm. Otter had to beg and wheedle him for any further teaching. clamour and racket of barking that woke everybody for a half-mile round except the Master, sodden. to O Port. I was spared alone from drowning, last night, when a witchwind struck." He was silent. He sat down on his narrow bunk and looked at her sitting on her narrow bunk; they could not face. The tune ended. "Darkrose," he said, behind her in the dark. She turned her head and looked at. They walked without light except for the faint werelight Gelluk sent before them. They went through long-disused levels, yet the wizard seemed to know every step, or perhaps he did not know the way and was wandering without heed. He talked, turning sometimes to Otter to guide him or warn him, then going on, talking on.. was a behavior pattern characteristic of a stalwart such as myself, assigned an appropriate serial." It isn't right. It isn't my true name! I thought my name would make me be me. But this makes it worse. You got it wrong. You're only a witch. You did it wrong. It's his name. He can have it. He's so proud of it, his stupid domain, his stupid grandfather. I don't want it. I won't have it. It isn't me. I still don't know who I am. I'm not Irian!" She fell silent abruptly, having spoken the name.. After Golden had gone out, she found her son in the counting-room going through ledgers. She. It may be that Segoy is or was one of the Old Powers of the Earth. It may be that Segoy is a name for the Earth itself. Some think all dragons, or certain dragons, or certain people, are manifestations of Segoy. All that is certain is that the name Segoy is an ancient respectful nominative formed from the Old Hardic verb seoge, "make, shape, come intentionally to be." From the same root comes the noun esege, "creative force, breath, poetry." With age Hound had come to look his name, wrinkled, with a long nose and sad eyes. He sniffed and. the West Reach, Selidor. There, on the outer beach, both exhausted, they faced each other and. I still suspected, irrationally, of affectation, and I had the secret hope that I would come across. raiding ships even as far as the Inmost Sea. Of the fourteen Kings of Havnor the last was. and also their presence meant that the peaceful time was over, the days of walking in the silent. and jealousy he knew and shrank from, and contempt he remembered. He was glad he was not one of. "Why? Everyone, I tell you!" "Do you trust me, Dragonfly?".. So he calls it the King. If you find him his King, he'll treat you well. He's often here. Come. founding of the school, she could go there seldom, and even then she might take a couple of. "Magic won't die on Roke," said Veil. "On Roke all spells are strong. So said Ath himself. And you. A millennium and a half ago or

more, the runes of Hardic were developed so as to permit narrative. If Diamond had been born to that kind of power, if that was his gift, then all Golden's dreams and plans of training him in the business, and having him help in expanding the carting route to a regular trade with South Port, and buying up the chestnut forests above Reche -- all such plans dwindled into trifles. Might Diamond go (as his mother's uncle had gone) to the School of Wizards on Roke Island? Might he (as that uncle had done) gain glory for his family and dominion over lord and commoner, becoming a Mage in the Court of the Lords Regent in the Great Port of Havnor? Golden all but floated up the stairs himself, borne on such visions.. "They don't need a weatherworker on a night like this, and they haven't paid me yet," Medra said to his conscience. He had waked from his dream with the name Roke in his mind. Why had he never heard of the isle or seen it on a chart? It might be accursed and deserted as they said, but wouldn't it be set down on the charts? "I'm no good there, you see, Ged," he said. "I am, here. If they'll let me do the work." He looked again at Gift, and Ged did also. She looked at them both.. The boy was barely seventeen, and he himself just forty-five. In his prime. He had been feeling ceilings, of those mysterious columns, and was reflected by the silver surfaces; it bled into every. There will I go.. He knew that, knew it absolutely, though still he tried to say spells, and raised his arms in the. "The Archmage of the world," she said. "In my cow barn. He should have my bed-". Doorkeeper.. He pulled up some grass and rubbed at the slimy mud on his feet and legs. It was not dry yet, and. "If it's a real gift, an unusual capacity, that's even more true. A witch with her love potions. used to be, but Otterhide.. Next morning he picked a sprig of herb from the kitchen-garden of the inn and spelled it into the. unseeing gaze, smiling. "Little Medra!" he said, as if just discovering he was there. He patted. he went into the west, sent by the king to defeat or drive back a brood of dragons who had been. shape-changer, so fearless that he would take even dragon form.. "Thank you," he said, opening the gate for the heifer, who went to greet her mother, while he. The wizard sometimes had him come with him to his work, mostly laying spells of safety on ships. was some sniggering and shushing.. hands. Again his glance flicked to Irian and away.. The Old Speech, or Language of the Making, with which Segoy created the islands of Earthsea at the. Long after the invention of the True Runes, a related but nonmagical runic writing was developed. which we are sworn to follow.. throne the first year of history. By this system, "present time" in the account you are reading is. If he lives I will live.. "How could he not want to?" "We should find shelter and rest," he said.. Old Powers, either. Nothing of that sort. Nothing sticky.. gift. She and some men and women like her, people of no fame and some of questionable reputation.. daylight, when he saw her big, dirty hands, when she talked like a yokel, a simpleton, he regained. wizard.. indeed he let one of the children filch a little mirror of polished brass, seeing it vanish under. dominion for a generation or longer. At Shelieth on Way, Erreth-Akbe worked a great magic against. again. But he could not get up to walk to the wall, and presently the pain came back very sharp in. Our herd's been all right," and she made the sign to avert evil. "I keep em close in. Out on the. Taking slaves.. feet, full of tangling reed-roots. He made no noise as he moved slowly out into the pool, and the. The slow stiff words carried great weight.. He turned and made for the shore, hasty, careless where he set his feet and not caring if he broke the silence by splashing and breathing hard. He slogged back up the path through the reeds till he reached dry ground and coarse grass, and heard the buzz of midges and crickets. He sat down then on the ground, rather hard, for his legs were shaking.. beginning of time, is presumably an infinite language, as it names all things.. end to. He was determined now not to win her, but to defeat her. He could not let her defeat him.. The leaves of the trees spoke, she said, and the shadows could be read. "I am learning to read

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