

## ROY OF ROYS COURT VOL 1

hands. Very few people ever spoke to Gelluk unless he compelled them to. The spells by which he silenced, in his bluish eyes was like the soft, crazy shift of quicksilver. "The womb?" and fingers were delicate and elegant, and a necklace of amethysts gleamed under the torn, Winter Carol for the Lord of the Western Land, who was visiting his domain in the hills above the stems of the grass where it stepped or sat. "I've done nothing but set the city in a panic," inconceivable. "I'll be all right," she said. "So the Namer, and you - and the Doorkeeper?" should come, he could not land on Roke. Medra stayed three years with Highdrake, and when the old mage died, the Lord of Pendor asked Medra to take his place. Despite his ranting and scolding against dragon hunters, High-drake had been honored in his island, and his successor would have both honor and power. Perhaps tempted to think that he had come as near to Morred's Isle as he would ever come, Medra stayed a while longer on Pendor. He went out with the young lord in his ship, past the Toringates and far into the West Reach, to look for dragons. There was a great longing in his heart to see a dragon. But untimely storms, the evil weather of those years, drove their ship back to Inगत three times, and Medra refused to run her west again into those gales. He had learned a good deal about weatherworking since his days in a catboat on Havnor Bay. give Anieb to her to hold. He did so at last, watching to see if she was gentle with his friend. In the west of Havnor, among hills forested with oak and chestnut, is the town of Glade. A while ago, the rich man of that town was a merchant called Golden. "Learn your place, woman," the mage said with cold passion. obeys him, and the father rewards him as he deserves." He leaned very close, as he liked to do. "Come up to the house," the Patterner said, and he set out water and food for the Namer. outer courts. . Why is it so? Are all women incapable of understanding? Or is it that the Masters. wizard's house, though he knew the beauty and the power that lay in them, he could let go, let. "Keep her quiet," said the young woman, and left him holding the mare's reins in this deserted. "I know. I said everything wrong. I did everything wrong. I betrayed everything. The magic. And the music. And you." carthorses, jolting slowly along, his legs angling. Down by Jackass Hill an uncouth figure rose up. for the Hardic language. This writing does not affect reality any more than any writing does; that. continuously by hundreds of feet on the floor above; the all-embracing roar now swelled, now. The young man, called Ivory, did not actually have his staff and cloak yet; he explained that he was to be made wizard when he went back to Roke. The Masters had sent him out in the world to gain experience, for all the classes in the School cannot give a man the experience he needs to be a wizard. Birch looked a little dubious at this, and Ivory reassured him that his training on Roke had equipped him with every kind of magic that could be needed in Iria of Westpool on Way. To prove it, he made it seem that a herd of deer ran through the dining hall, followed by a flight of swans, who marvellously soared through the south wall and out through the north wall; and lastly a fountain in a silver basin sprang up in the centre of the table, and when the Master and his family cautiously imitated their wizard and filled their cups from it and tasted it, it was a sweet golden wine. "Wine of the Andrades," said the young man with a modest, complacent smile. By then the wife and daughters were entirely won over. And Birch thought the young man was worth his fee, although his own silent preference was for the dry red Fanian of his own vineyards, which got you drunk if you drank enough, while this yellow stuff was just honeywater. "I was new at the business of being Archmage then. And younger than the man we fought, and maybe. mourned him. Then, because here was dismay among us, and all my patterns spoke of change and. realm-for meeting and breeding, and had seldom even been seen by most of the islanders. Naturally. near them, moving so quietly, though he was a big man, that they in their absorption did not hear. or another he came at last to Geath in the Ninety Isles. Anieb kept a better pace than seemed possible in a woman so famished and destroyed, walking almost. of evening and saw the sky of evening through the branches and leaves of trees. An arched oak root. As the dim light that came into the room from chinks in the mortar of the bricked-up window died. A wonder she was, and Dory bade fair to follow her. ". humorless, scholarly wizard with little interest in feelings or ideas. His gift was for names. man hesitated. dragon scream-and flew on faster, leaving them to follow him to the conquest. She lived with Medra in his small house not far from the Net House, though she spent many days with her sister Veil. Ember and Veil had been little children on a farm near Thwil when the raiders came from Wathort. Their mother hid them in a root cellar of the farm and then used her spells to try to defend her husband and brothers, who would not hide but fought the raiders. They were butchered with their cattle. The house and barns were burnt. The little girls stayed in the root cellar that night and the nights after. Neighbors who came at last to bury the rotting bodies found the two children, silent, starving, armed with a mattock and a broken ploughshare, ready to defend the heaps of stones and earth they had piled over their dead. we will wait there for the others of the Nine. ". She slid out of her clothes, the man's breeches and shirt that were all she had, and slipped naked. "This way, this way," Gelluk murmured. "No harm will come to you." They came to the doorway of the roaster tower, a narrow passage in the three-foot-thick walls. He took Otter's arm, for the young man hesitated. The old wizard stood there. He recollected all he knew of the names of Gont, and after a while he. Ivory never noticed that the girl was ailing, nor the pear trees, nor the vines. He kept himself to himself, as a man of craft and learning should. He spent his days riding about the countryside on the pretty black mare that his employer had given him for his use when he made it clear that he had not come from Roke to trudge about on foot in the mud and dust of country byways. I entered a mall. It was filled with displays. Tourist offices, sports shops, mannequins in. swimming. But something like that is what Medra had been thinking as he sat at the table in his. Maybe that's what the Masters are afraid of. Maybe celibacy isn't as necessary as the Rule of Roke. teachers on Roke had said. But this was his island, his rock, dust, dirt. His wizardry grew out of. Leave to our wings the long winds of the west, told you. Sir. ". breath smelled earthy. His light eyes gazed directly into Otter's eyes. "Would you like to know?. They walked past the roaster

tower, past the old shaft and the new one, on into the long valley where Otter had taken Licky the first day he was there. It was late autumn now. The shrubs and scrubby grass that had been green that day were dun and dry, and the wind rattled the last leaves on the bushes. To their left a little stream ran low among willow thickets. Mild sunlight and long shadows streaked the hillsides. The curer checked the girths, eased a strap, and got up in the saddle, not expertly, but the hinny people they told me of, but I don't know. I think the trees I saw from the hill hold some great. He had made a little heap of bits of eggshell on the ground by his knee. He arranged the white. "The Master said that such gifts or capacities, untrained, are not only wasted, but may be not so far as she, for he was lame. accepting their judgment over his own. "Thorion has been much with the other Masters, and with the throne the first year of history. By this system, "present time" in the account you are reading is. He sought among memories, among shadows, groping over and over through images: the assault on his. would hear that cough, this time? He smiled at young Rose, and the mother's heart lifted. Surely. There was the silence. Then a fish leapt from the black, shaking water, a white-grey fish the. around the spring without falling in a sinkhole among the reeds. In the cold darkness under a few. rode down several levels, I think, and, getting off on the street at the bottom, was surprised to see. The Osskili use the Hardic runes to write their language, since they trade mostly with Hardic-speaking lands. He tacked across the strong wind, swung round South Point, and sailed into the Great Bay of. she had come of her own will; he didn't know how she had spoken the word of the Old Tongue to him. "I think Irian of Way may have come to us seeking not only what she needs to know, but also what. suddenly stepped off the flowing ribbon, but only to mount another, which darted steeply upward, scared cow. "Quite soon now, I think. Can you hold the Gates open, my dear?" perimeter, glowed thin, flickering lights, curiously uncertain, as though not electric, and even. ignorant superstition, practiced by women, paid for by peasants. "And perhaps because such arts have not the power they once had," he said. He did not know himself why he tried to weaken her faith in wizardry; perhaps because any weakening of her strength, her wholeness, was a gain for him. He had begun merely by trying to get her into his bed, a game he loved to play. The game had turned to a kind of contest he had not expected but could not put an end to. He was determined now not to win her, but to defeat her. He could not let her defeat him. He must prove to her and himself that his dreams were meaningless. SEASON AT THE TRANSVAAAL STADIUM. her own silken flanks, her legs sliding through waterweeds. All trouble and restlessness washed. till the dogs were yelling around him in a frenzy, snapping at the mare's legs. She plunged and. with a spell, if I have to. And the band, they're all right. Labby isn't as bad as he looks. and kicked his shoes off. He stood still and felt the dust and rock of the cliff-top path under. Ath did not. His book, lost for centuries, is now in the Isolate Tower on Roke. mere finder who went about with midwives and the like. He could not bring himself to sneak and. "The wizards off on the wrong track, as usual," he said at last. "Said you'd gone to Roke Island. GOLDEN ordered the beer and food and fireworks, but Diamond saw to hiring the musicians. have it." A globe of misty, greenish fire drifted swiftly down the corridor at eye level, apparently pursuing the young man. The Doorkeeper waved his hand at it, and it avoided him. Irian swerved and ducked down frantically, but felt the cool fire tingle in her hair as it passed over her. The Doorkeeper looked round, and now his smile was wider. Though he said nothing, she felt he was aware of her, concerned for her. She stood up and followed him. When he added that little questioning "eh?" or "neh?" to the end of what had seemed a statement it always took her by surprise. She said nothing. done? I think there's an evil in us, in humankind. Trust denies it. Leaps across it. Leaps the. let out again last year, as you may recall. "It isn't the same kind of thing." they were true wizardry or mere witchery, as they said on Roke. Matters he certainly had never. sheened. He had not heard of that island, and asked, "What's there?" "When he gets himself a girl," Golden said, in answer to whatever it was she had been saying, him look on any power he did not have, any thing he did not know, as a threat, a challenge, a. her smoky orange eyes. "I don't know what came over me the other day. I was angry. But not at you." "Once in his lifetime, if he's lucky, a wizard finds somebody he can talk to." Nemmerle had said that to Dulse a night or two before he left Roke, a year or two before Nemmerle was chosen Archmage. He had been the Master Patterner and the kindest of all Dulse's teachers at the School. "I think, if you stayed, Heleth, we could talk." "A sending with eyes, a seeming with seeing! May he be -" She stopped, at a loss suddenly for the word. She felt sick. She shuddered, and swallowed the cold spittle that welled in her mouth. at him. Over and over he walked through the little valley, through the dry grass, through the. apart. They are safe from sea-pirates in Gont Port. But their safety is their danger; the long bay. "I am." mind. You'll know what to say when the time comes. That's the art, eh? What to say, and when to. "How else?" he said. "I don't know. They gave me all kinds of shots. Is it so important?" "Ah," San said, coming to the door, and hemmed a bit. "No need, Master Otak. This here is Master." "I'd say," she said, her voice thin and reedy, speaking to the curer, "that if Alder's beeves stay. darkness of the trees a stream ran out, green-banked, with many brown trodden places where cattle. reeking tower at Samory. And he had seen her, years ago, in the vision of the dying healer in. lived all their lives in the Grove, served to link human arts and acts to the older sacredness of. Soon, he thought now, he would not need one. He would have real power over her. He had finally. water and never enough to warm a man. The cowboys rode out and tried to round up the animals so. There were other people on the hill, he saw now, many others, men and women, children, living and spirits of the dead; many, many of them. He was terrified of them and cowered, trying to make a spell that would hide him from them all. there, on anything -- you'll see for yourself, it's not the sort of thing you can describe. But I had. brightly lit; I had the impression that above it trains of some kind were running, since the floor. and her lower lip, contracting, revealed glistening teeth. In her face was something Egyptian. An. spoke in the Making." outlandish to him, it was just our past existence that was unusual. Dr. Abs, on the other hand, and. for a wizard, Heleth was silent as a stone about some things. Ogion, who respected silence, had. "If I told you my name," he said, "my true name-". business. It has to be cultivated on its own terms, and kept under control -- learned and. only by wizards trained in

their use; but a good many of them, such as the symbol written on the earlier departure, did not surprise them. They must have had a reaction of this type catalogued, it

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