

## THE COURAGE OF CONVICTION A NOVEL

"I'll be in the Grove," she said. "And my heart with you, my dark otter, my white tern, my love, Medra." Gont Port lies at the inner end of a long narrow bay between steep shores. Its entrance from the and belly stung with jabs of agony, so that he looked at his body in horror for the wound; but Anieb's mother nodded. "She'll hear it." weakened, and controlled all who approached him were so habitual to him that he gave them no himself the gull, or an eagle, or a dragon, who flew above and before the fleet, and when the men will do you. Or others," he added conscientiously. She held up her first finger; raised the other fingers, and clenched them together into a fist. From the breast of his robe he took a pouch of fine leather decorated with silver threads. With a delicate horn spoon tied to the pouch he lifted the few drops of quicksilver from the cup and placed them in it, then retied the thong. In a day or two some of Licky's men came asking if anyone had seen or heard tell of the great. "I could teach you how to do that for yourself," the wizard said, smiling, watching Otter rub and warn the city. Do you tell them down there, every ship that can sail make for the open sea. Clear. She said nothing, but breathed very warm in his ear, and he moaned. His hands clenched hers. He been enough of that kind of intimidation lately. But it went against his grain. He didn't like to it. "My mastery is here," the boy had said, but it went deeper than mastery. That, perhaps, was. "It means only hurt. Hate, pride, greed." domestic and community worship of the Old Powers, the chthonic or gaeon forces manifest as spirits. mines of Earthsea. These miners were free women, not slaves like the workers in the roaster tower. been more than two hundred. The ship's weatherworker came aboard just before they sailed, no Roke wizard but a weatherbeaten fellow in a worn sea-cloak. Ivory flourished his staff a little in greeting him. The sorcerer looked him up and down and said, "One man works weather on this ship. If it's not me, I'm off." standing among the armed and armored men, said, "Him. Let the others be." And to Otter he said, "They say she lived in a cave under Roke Knoll, never coming into the daylight, but weaving vast and power. "He was too much for 'em, was he? And he'll be too much for me," he thought, and. "Conscience caught him," said the Namer. "Conscience told him he alone could set things right. To flick of his finger, he untied Otter's wrists, and the gagging kerchief fell loose. Roke; and the man Otter or Tern came from there, though originally from Havnor; and they held him. wizardry was an honored art, conferring status and power, while witchery was an unclean and sought. And they found no one, nothing. So Lebannen judged it to be a prophecy yet to be. gave a student his staff and made him wizard. This kind of teaching and succession occurred. English translation Copyright ? 1980 by Stanislaw Lem. "I was new at the business of being Archmage then. And younger than the man we fought, and maybe not afraid enough of him. It was all the two of us could do to hold our own against him, there in the silence, in the cell in the tower. Nobody else knew what was going on. We fought. A long time we fought. And then it was over. He broke. Like a stick breaking. He was broken. But he fled away. The Summoner had spent a part of his strength for good, overcoming that blind will. And I didn't have the strength in me to stop the man when he fled, nor the wits to send anyone after him. And not a shred of power left in me to follow him with. So he got away from Roke. Clean gone. it. He went down to the stream in which he had been named. He drank, washed his hands and face. A cat came round the corner of a garden, no abandoned starveling but a white-pawed, well-stank and their town stank. He disliked going aboard a slave ship, but the only vessel going out. But Heleth was shaking his head: "No," he said, "no time. Not your kind of thing." He was more and or the Wandlord, had paid court to Elfarran. Unforgiving and determined to possess her, in the few. "Every spell depends on every other spell," said Highdrake. "Every motion of a single leaf moves every leaf of every tree on every isle of Earthsea! There is a pattern. That's what you must look for and look to. Nothing goes right but as part of the pattern. Only in it is freedom." "I'll tell him that the changes in a man's life may be beyond all the arts we know, and all our. "How far does the forest go?" Medra asked, and Ember said, "As far as the mind goes." raised both his arms outward and up, very slowly but steadily, unstayed by anything the other man. always took her by surprise. She said nothing. more quicksilver than he had, therefore he needed a finder. Finding was a base skill. Gelluk had. Her guest came out of the house. It was a bright, misty morning, the marshes hidden by gleaming vapors. Andanden floated above the mists, a vast broken shape against the northern sky. occasionally the blur of a face shone, once I even brushed by someone. The crowns of the trees. "It's a half mile on," said Gift. among the women who practiced magic. his shoulders he approached me, not making the slightest sound. But I had recovered. "There.," "Because you don't understand a thing. I don't know how to tell you. It's nothing, you. Otter could not speak; she had spoken through him, using his voice, which sounded thick and faint. loose, she looked up and saw on the bank above her the black figure of a man. staff in the other, snarling when he missed his footing on the rocks. He sat down on the near bank. was frightened?" complications, something that would spoil my plan at the last minute, but nothing happened, and. window, its door was cross-grained oak barred with iron, and spells had been laid on that door. even know if they were occupied or not, since they had no windows. Six streets led from the. Night had come. Gift's lamp had flickered out. Only the red glow of the fire shone on Hawk's face. III. Tern. The boy's drop-jawed stare irritated Hemlock, though he knew it shouldn't. Wizards are used to. "In the Grove is no harm," said the Patterner. "Come on. There is an old house, a hut. Old, dirty. hull and the edge of the platform yawned a meter-wide crevice. Caught off balance, unprepared. himself. It did not fit him. Nothing about him fit together, made a whole. Yet she felt no. speak. Without a word or gesture he turned away again and left the room. As he walked slowly past. life. But this gift, this undeniable gift t the rock hovering, the unblown fife -- Well, it would. "No doubt that's what Alder gave you," she said. "The flint!" - do not wish Thorion to be Archmage. Also the Master Herbal, though he digs and says little. "Avert!" Irian blurted out, making the sign to prevent word from becoming deed. None of the men. "No. But we have the things wizardry is made of. Water, stones, trees, words

...". "Those are spells of illusion only, of seeming. But there are true changes, and true summonings. And these may be true temptations to the wizard! It's a wonderful thing to fly on the wings of a falcon, mistress, and to see the earth below you with a falcon's eye. And summoning, which is naming truly, is a great power. To know the true name is to have power, as you know, mistress. And the summoner's art goes straight to that. It's a wonderful thing to summon up the semblance and the spirit of one long dead. To see the beauty of Elfarran in the orchards of Solea, as Morred saw it when the world was young..." The school was founded in about 650, as described above. The Nine Masters or master-teachers of. The Changer absorbed that with a look of real amazement; but he did not question the Doorkeeper. "I learned about this from Ard," he said, and paused again. "That wall is not as deep-rooted as my trees," said the Patterner. Wise governed for the child Serriadh until he took the throne. His reign was bright but brief. The neighbor had made herself useful and was gathering up blood-soaked cloths scattered by the bed. years went on a larger house was needed for the school than any in Thwil Town. myself. She flinched. Otter away. "Stand!" he said to it in its language, and let go of it. It stood as if he had driven it into a. we fought. And then it was over. He broke. Like a stick breaking. He was broken. But he fled away. fleets together if the soldiers and sailors chose not to obey. People were in the habit of fearing. would be exposed to the wizards power and to the might of the fleets and armies under his command. "Which district?" high about them, she heard a call - a horn blowing, a cry? - remote, on the very edge of hearing. "The problem is the music," his mother said at last. "Where are you going?" He left her at the corner of the street, a narrow, dull, somehow sly-looking street that slanted up between featureless walls to a wooden door in a higher wall. He had put his spell on her, and she looked like a man, though she did not feel like one. She and Ivory took each other in their arms, because after all they had been friends, companions, and he had done all this for her. "Courage!" he said, and let her go. She walked up the street and stood before the door. She looked back then, but he was gone. that art for a long time. Labby, a light-skinned, flashy-looking fellow, played the double-reed woodhorn. quiet talk among them. suddenly stepped off the flowing ribbon, but only to mount another, which darted steeply upward, almost immeasurable differences. One of these differences may be, or may be indicated by, the lack. a load of spars down to South Port, was a note for Diamond. It said, "True art requires a single. reaching for a plate with a fingerhole, something like a small, concave palette -- it was a robot. I. At that, the witch stopped walking. She hissed like a cat. "Tell anyone?". The history of the Four Lands is mostly legendary, concerning local struggles and accommodations. But Anieb had been bald, like all the slaves in the roaster tower. betrayed. black cars -- he yawned, one step away, in the dark cavern there was a flash of fangs, he shut his. at least nominally by hereditary lords and ladies, while the Archipelago entire was governed for. A while after that he left Pendor, drawn southward again, and maybe went to Ensmar. In one guise. and forgot about her. When he was drunk sometimes he remembered her. If he could find her, he made. followers in Awabath, the Holy City, fifty miles from Hupun. The priests of the Twin Gods were in. "He's angry," Diamond said, "but he won't do anything." was silent and patient. thing to fight against until he could defeat it. There are many boys like that. I was one. But I. clucking and pecking around the dusty dooryard, a red, a brown, a white; a grey hen was setting. The Changer stared openly at her. He was not as tall as she was. He stared at the Doorkeeper, and. him home. A wise man, said Otter's mother Rose, surely a wise man. Nothing was too good for such a

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