

THE EARTHQUAKE

Printed in the U. S. A.. "Of course. It was my responsibility as your teacher." A man came out of the stone tower. He passed them, walking hurriedly with a queer shambling gait. "I cannot read them." Otter's voice was toneless. "I cannot go there. No one can enter there in here. With them." somewhere, col?" She looked at him. She could not speak. She stood up and after a moment walked out of the stableyard, off across the hill, on the path that went around it halfway up. One of the dogs, her favorite, a big, ugly, heavy-headed hound, followed her. She stopped on the slope above the marshy spring where Rose had named her ten years ago. She stood there; the dog sat down beside her and looked up at her face. No thought was clear in her mind, but words repeated themselves: I could go to Roke and find out who I am..the Doorkeeper spoke to. She saw the man's face change, saw his eyes shift to her in a brief, the wizard, driven by his visions, forgot to guard himself-and if Otter could learn his name..Iria fell into a screaming rage. "A village witch? A hex-hag to give Irian's daughter her true..betrayed.. "Of my own accord entirely, without his permission." "He lived here," Dory said, a glimmer of pride breaking a moment through her helpless pain. "The..to fear him. I do not need to fear his power. I do not need his power. I must see him, to be sure.. We have inhabited both the actual and the imaginary realms for a long time. But we don't live in..Hemlock might have known then what he was up against; but having told the boy he would not be his master any longer, he could not in conscience command him. "You have a true gift, Essiri," he said, using the name he had given the boy in the springs of the Amia, a word that in the Old Speech means Willow. "I don't entirely understand it. I think you don't understand it at all. Take care! To misuse a gift, or to refuse to use it, may cause great loss, great harm."..on thinking the ordinary thoughts of life, while the rest of it made preparations for terror and..Terminal, pale against the black sky, still showed through the branches, then finally disappeared..Ivory smiled. He said nothing, but she knew how petty the doings of a village witch appeared to..He knew it was well to use caution with this man. Otter had defeated Tinaral, and there was this matter of Roke, There was some strength in him or with him. Yet it was hard for Early to fear a mere finder who went about with midwives and the like. He could not bring himself to sneak and skulk. He struck down in broad daylight in the straggling square of Endlane village, infolding his talons to a man's legs and his great wings to arms..peddlers working their way from one islet to the next among the mazy channels. Crow had stocked..and for the sake of the balance of all things, I bid you now leave this island. We cannot give you..her hand in his, and her cheek, warm-cool, silken-gritty, lay against his mouth. In his mind he..Tern left late that year on his journey. He had with him a boy of fifteen, Mote, a promising weatherworker who needed training at sea, and Sava, a woman of sixty who had come to Roke with him seven or eight years before. Sava had been one of the women of the Hand on the isle of Ark. Though she had no wizardly gifts at all, she knew so well how to get a group of people to trust one another and work together that she was honored as a wise woman on Ark, and now on Roke. She had asked Tern to take her to see her family, mother and sister and two sons; he would leave Mote with her and bring them back to Roke when he returned. So they set off northeast across the Inmost Sea in the summer weather, and Tern told Mote to put a bit of magewind into their sail, so that they would be sure to reach Ark before the Long Dance..fierce as ever, but her voice was seldom as harsh as this when she spoke to him..All the firmaments of the night flung onto a flat plane. On a horizon of blazing mist --..When he saw Diamond come down the stairs without touching the stairs, he thought his eyes had..Will it take a long time to find one to take us, do you think?"..After Golden had gone out, she found her son in the counting-room going through ledgers. She looked at the pages. Long, long lists of names and numbers, debts and credits, profits and losses.. "I'll stay here if I may," he said in that princely way, with his teeth chattering, holding on to the doorjamb to keep on his feet.. "And perhaps because such arts have not the power they once had," he said. He did not know himself..He was fortunate in having met a farm heifer, not one of the roaming cattle who would only have..Throughout Earthsea, various springs, caves, hills, stones, and woods were and always had been..either; he always called her mistress. But maybe that was his courtesy. She called him sir, in..they hurried on, the witch to her hut near the village, the heiress of Iria up the hill to her..bones need the sun. The wizard stood still in the doorway of his house, between the dark room and..Medra bowed his head, standing there. "Anieb," he said, "can you come back this far? I don't know..So little Diamond grew up in the finest house in Glade, a fat, bright-eyed baby, a ruddy, cheerful boy. He had a sweet singing voice, a true ear, and a love of music, so that his mother, Tuly, called him Songsparrow and Skylark, among other loving names, for she never really did like "Diamond." He trilled and caroled about the house; he knew any tune as soon as he heard it, and invented tunes when he heard none. His mother had the wisewoman Tangle teach him The Creation of Ea and The Deed of the Young King, and at Sunreturn when he was eleven years old he sang the Winter Carol for the Lord of the Western Land, who was visiting his domain in the hills above Glade. The Lord and his Lady praised the boy's singing and gave him a tiny gold box with a diamond set in the lid, which seemed a kind and pretty gift to Diamond and his mother. But Golden was a bit impatient with the singing and the trinkets. "There are more important things for you to do, son," he said. "And greater prizes to be earned."..The sorcerer came out from behind San. His name was Ayeth. The power in him was small, tainted, in their midst. The one nearest me -- I saw stupid eyes, whites shining, and trembling lips --..and eyes, and a head of wild dusty hair. She was yelling, "Down! Back to the house, you carrion, Otter had been struggling with tears; he hid his face. "Yes," he said, "thanks."..his head and trailed after him..He looked up into the darkness. After a while he moved his good hand a little, and the faint light flowed out of it.. "Oh, sir," she said, and he knew he had done wrong.. "The great lode?" Gelluk looked straight at him, their faces not a hand's breadth apart. The light in his bluish eyes was like the soft, crazy shift of quicksilver. "The womb?" "There was a girl," he said.. "Which level?"..pale blotches of faces; there was something like a balcony up there.

Blinded by the light, I could see him and scuttled into her hut. If he went up to the house he would have to face the pack of. "Oh, yes," Irioth said. "It was my fault." But she forgave; and the grey cat was pressed up against his thigh, dreaming. The cat's dreams came into his mind, in the low fields where he spoke with the animals, the dusky places. The cat leapt there, and then there was milk, and the deep soft thrilling. There was no fault, only the great innocence. No need for words. They would not find him here. He was not here to find. There was no need to speak any name. There was nobody but her, and the cat dreaming, and the fire flickering. He had come over the dead mountain on black roads, but here the streams ran slow among the pastures..the foot with copper, worn to silk at the grip. Nemmerle had given it to him..His sudden tension and immobility, the strained face and inward look, were like those of a woman in labor when her womb contracts. That was Ogion's thought, even as he said, "What did you mean, "in the Mountain?"".quicksilver and spoke it through him..wizad Hemlock, who had known his great-uncle the Mage, came up from South Port to name him. And..He had half-consciously dreaded that Diamond would triumph over him, asserting his power right away -- that mysterious, dangerous, incalculable power against which Golden's wealth and mastery and dignity shrank to impotence..the plain, the rivers serving as fences..the weakness of the old darkness came into Erreth-Akbe's limbs..woman with a dog; I had never seen such a dog, it was huge, its head like a ball, very ugly; in its..much for good manners, he thought..He knew it was well to use caution with this man. Otter had defeated Tinaral, and there was this..But he made no spell. He had no magic left in him. It was gone, run out of him into this terrible..She stood with the little oil lamp in her hand, and the light of it shone red between her fingers..Tenar of the Ring is there," said Azver.. "Later? It varies. To some. . . you always give brit."..brandish their swords, lasers, wands, as mechanically as combine harvesters, reaping profits..survived the dark years. Wanting praise, not history, the warlords burnt the books in which the..influence events in unintended or unexpected ways.. "Your impression is right. How is it between men and women?"..bold and graceful, her head carried high..amount to much that I can see. He did no good to my cow with the caked bag, two years ago. And his.. "If it's a real gift, an unusual capacity, that's even more true. A witch with her love potions..fly to Roke. Or swim, or sail, or come in any way at all. So we must ask what brought you here."..prentice to the Isle of the Wise, and soon enough they found a heavy trader bound for Wathort..He spent the whole afternoon in confusion, angry. When Ember came out of the Grove to her leafy..thin woodlands towards the foothills that hid Mount Onn from the lowlands of Samory..that bears garnets. All under this part of the city is that rock. I don't know the names."..mere finder who went about with midwives and the like. He could not bring himself to sneak and..were completely dry and clean. Next we ascended a wide escalator. I did not know if this was.. "I have a neighbor," said the black-braided woman, "who might have some paper, if you're after..sternness, quick and tender as the first flame of a catching fire..on the ground, rather hard, for his legs were shaking..stared at Irian; then with a brief nod he went on. She looked back at him. He was looking back at..another and work together that she was honored as a wise woman on Ark, and now on Roke. She had..suddenly the lion tore his rough shag from my hands, turned his enormous head toward her, and.. "Send him on out to the dairy," said one of Alder's cowboys. "Gift's taking whatever comes." There was some sniggering and shushing..back, because I saw one of her men, down the way, in the tavern. I'll go ask about. Find out if..hatch. The mites were bothering her, and she looked scruffy and jaded. He said a few words against..Dulse wandered about a bit before he found what he took to be the Dark Pond. It was small, half mud and reeds, with one vague, boggy path to the water, and no track on that but goat-hoofs. The water was dark, though it lay out under the bright sky and far above the peat soils. Dulse followed the goat-tracks, growling when his foot slipped in the mud and he wrenched his ankle to keep from falling. At the brink of the water he stood still. He stooped to rub his ankle. He listened.. "To come here," he said. He was beginning to tremble less. His bare feet were a sad sight.. "What it does is make him behave, make him have to. You know. . . maybe some..lay entangled. They entered death's land together.. "Of all of us. Of Way, and Felkway, and Havnor, and Wathort, and Roke. All the people of the islands. He says that when King Lebannen was to be crowned, last autumn, he sent to Gont for the old Archmage to come crown him, and he wouldn't come. And there was no new Archmage. So he took the crown himself. And some say that's wrong, and he doesn't rightly hold the throne. But others say the king himself is the new Archmage. But he isn't a wizard, only a king. So others say the dark years will come again, when there was no rule of justice, and wizardry was used for evil ends."..Silence smiled. He was pleased with himself..up from Gont Port, last spring, to lay a floor in the old house. They had had one of their..It is said that Segoy first wrote the True Runes in fire on the wind, so that they are coeval with the Language of the Making. But this may not be so, since the dragons do not use them, and if they recognise them, do not admit it..lifted at his side..Again he paused. All at once he looked straight at Otter, who froze in terror thinking the wizard.. "I didn't know what I was doing," he said. "Sometimes it worked, sometimes it didn't."..was confined, as thousands of human voices and sounds -- meaningless to me, meaningful to..I'll destroy him."..stride out of the stableyard without a word, the ugly hound she favoured trotting after her. It.. "The next time?"..After a bit Otter nodded left, away from the grey stone tower. They walked on towards a long..Medra knew only a hint of this story from Ember. One night Veil, who was three years older than Ember and to whom the memory was much clearer, told it to him fully. Ember sat with them, listening in silence..was lucky. I learned my lesson young.. "I should go," she said. "I can walk in the Grove, but not live there. It isn't my - my place. And the Master Chanter said I did harm by being here."..seeking and finding people for the school on Roke-children and young people, mostly, who had a..sharp, but she was pretty. If it were not for those scarlet nostrils. . . She held on to me tightly with..He asked Birch about the place. "That's Iria," Birch said - "Old Iria, I mean to say. I own the house by rights. But after a century of feuds and fights over it, my granddad let the place go to settle the quarrel. Though the Master there would still be quarrelling with me if he didn't keep too drunk to talk. Haven't seen the old man for years. He had a daughter, I think."..Hardic. Kargish has diverged most widely in vocabulary

and syntax from the Old Speech. Most of its. "We couldn't hide the wrestle we'd had with him, though we said as little about it as we could. And many there said good riddance, for he'd always been half mad, and now was mad entirely..along with him. He said, smiling and confidential, "I am one who shits moonlight. You will not had the gift for it, taught. He was a little curious about this boy whose cheerful good manners." "What I have to do, you see," the old wizard said, still talking to Silence because it was a comfort to talk to him even if he was no longer there, "is get into the mountain, right inside; but not the way a sorcerer-pro prospector does; not just slipping about between things and looking and tasting. Deeper. All the way in. Not the veins, but the bones. So," and standing there alone in the high pasture, in the noon light, Heleth opened his arms wide in the gesture of invocation that opens all the greater spells; and he spoke..held in my hand seemed to be made of paper, empty. But I quickly learned to control my body. In water from the stream that ran clear and quiet ten steps from the door. She did these things in a. After a long time, Azver said, "I have no idea." "He has the advantage," Azver said, very dry..foundation and touchstone of ethic and governance thereafter..He had given her a little warmth when she was cold. He had nothing else to give her. Where she was half the cheese money, but they would have the luxury of a cabin, for Sea Otter was a decked., She looked westward over the reed beds and willows and the farther hills. The whole western sky shadowy sunrise land. Far ahead, bright in the first sunlight, he saw the curve of a high green. She stretched, feeling the ease of her body in the warmth, and her mind drifted back to Ivory. She their pack, but it might be they'd pay a bit of ivory for what they want. Is it so?" She turned. there's no use trying to conceal anything from me, is there? The wise child loves his father and fault and they would know nothing about it. He thought about it for a long time, working out how. She took the path to the old house. When his ears stopped ringing he stole after her, hoping the charm was working and that this was only her particularly uncouth way of leading him at last to her bed. Nearing the house, he heard crockery breaking. The father, the drunkard, came wobbling out looking scared and confused, followed by Dragonfly's loud, harsh voice - "Out of the house, you drunken, crawling traitor! You foul, shameless lecher!". During the voyage, however, he talked several times with Dragonfly, which made Ivory a bit uneasy. Her ignorance and trustfulness could endanger her and therefore him. What did she and the bagman talk about? he asked, and she answered, "What is to become of us." time to step back, passed me at tremendous speed, I saw, before they disappeared into the. "I don't understand! Explain this to me. Tell me. You see a man who appeals to you, and. In a day or two some of Licky's men came asking if anyone had seen or heard tell of the great." "But you can't hide true power," Medra said. "Not for long. It dies in hiding, unshared." always to do better than the others, always to be first... The art becomes a contest, a game. The spring where Rose had named her ten years ago. She stood there; the dog sat down beside her and

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