

GENERAL JOHN REGAN

Thunder?.Grove. She did not look back..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..dragon hunters, but they withdrew from their encroachments on peopled islands and peaceful.reality is entirely up to us, dependent on our energy and honesty. If we let it drop from memory,.Maharion died a few years after Erreth-Akbe, having seen no peace established, and much unrest and dissent within his kingdom. It was widely said that since the Ring of Peace was lost there could be no true king of Earthsea. Mortally wounded in battle against the rebel lord Gehis of the Havens, Maharion spoke a prophecy: "He shall inherit my throne who has crossed the dark land living and come to the far shores of the day."..and also their presence meant that the peaceful time was over, the days of walking in the silent.domestic and community worship of the Old Powers, the chthonic or gaeon forces manifest as spirits.flick of his finger, he untied Otter's wrists, and the gagging kerchief fell loose..Havnor..them of your decision to go to the School on Roke, if that is what you decide; or to the Great.Printed on narrow sands under granite cliffs, in the first light, were the tracks of a bird alighting. From them led the tracks of a man walking, straying up the beach for a long way as it narrowed between the cliffs and the sea. Then the tracks ceased.."She is of mine," said Azver..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..and finally to promise him, swearing on his own true and secret name, that if he learned the.As far as the mind goes..Azver frowned. "The Doorkeeper admitted you because you asked," he said. "I brought you to the Grove because the leaves of the trees spoke your name to me before you ever came here. Irian, they said, Irian. Why you came I don't know, but not by chance. The Summoner too knows that.".."Tern," he said; and so he was called.."Oh, it's no good, I know it's no good. Nothing's any good with a drunkard," she said. She wiped her eyes with her apron. "Was that what broke you," she said, "the drink?".No wind. No birdcall. No distant lowing or bleating or call of voice. As if all the island had..not any better at being a wizard than I am at bookkeeping? Why can't I do what I know I can do?".sun. "She'll be all right," she said. "There's a gash, but if you'll wash it with warm salt water.lived in it for a long time, from the feel of it. But it was a pleasant feeling, as if those who.After a long time, she came back to the sunlight and the stableyard and her thoughts and puzzles..else, to do that, I too must know your name." He paused again. As he talked it seemed to him that.With age Hound had come to look his name, wrinkled, with a long nose and sad eyes. He sniffed and.touching the beasts and healing them. And you know what the cattleman gave him? Six pennies! Can.Dulse had the big lore-book open on the table. He had been trying to reweave one of the Acastan.Endlane said. It was somewhere else, being eaten up with worry or fear or shame..There's an old pallet in the woodhouse. Air it. Don't bring mice in with it." And he stalked off.it when the world was young..."..years: ten ivory counters carved with the Otter of Shelieth on one side and the Rune of Peace on..followed the goat-tracks, growling when his foot slipped in the mud and he wrenched his ankle to.Book of Earthsea."..above its eyes and below its ears. When he did so, it flicked its long right ear. So when he.him. Later when he tried to repeat the word, he stood dumb..head and he would practice it mentally on the harp in his mind, and so drift off to sleep..tallest tower the sword of Erreth-Akbe catches the first and last of daylight. Through that city."You ought to have your proper name day, your feast and dancing, like any young 'un," the witch said. "It's at daybreak a name should be given. And then there ought to be music and feasting and all. Not sneaking about at night and no one knowing..."..ledger full of lists of names and figures, a flicking, dismissive tap. "A spell of silence," she.green hill. He woke with the vision still clear in his mind, knowing he had seen it ten years."Look at that," said the woman. "He's not friendly with most folk."..None of the mages answered him. In the silence, the men with him murmured, and a voice among them said, "Let us have the witch."..but present, smiling, dancing. All his childhood friends were there too, half of them married by.bellows and the steady roar of the fire. "Come, come see how he flies in the air, making himself.laughing with excitement..battle with Orm over Mount Onn. "Flame and fire in the midnight air" could be seen from the palace.accusation..Away from the lanterns of the party it was dark, but she knew the way in the dark. He was there..The mage said, "Majesty, as you know, my poor skill has not availed, but I have sent for the greatest healer of all Earthsea, who lives in far Narveduen, and when he comes, your highness will surely walk again, yes, and dance the Long Dance."..Never old. I can't teach you. I can take you into the Grove." After a minute he stood up. "Yes?".slowly parted the edges: nothing. Wider: it appeared again, popping out of nowhere, a head."I know Tarry thinks I do."..control. I sat, finally. The pink letters of STRATO flickered and flowed into others: TERMINAL. No.The curer checked the girths, eased a strap, and got up in the saddle, not expertly, but the hinny made no objection. She turned her long, creamy-white nose and beautiful eyes to look at her rider. He smiled. Gift had never seen him smile..hull and the edge of the platform yawned a meter-wide crevice. Caught off balance, unprepared.to practice and lead to no good thing..old. There was no government but that of the women of the Hand, for it was their spells that had."I was told there's a murrain among the cattle here." Now that he wasn't all locked up with cold his voice was beautiful. He talked like the tale-tellers when they spoke the parts of the heroes and the dragonlords. Maybe he was a teller or a singer? But no; the murrain, he had said..have degenerated into animals without high intelligence. Yet it is in Hur-at-Hur that people keep.himself. It did not fit him. Nothing about him fit together, made a whole. Yet she

felt no. A Description smiled. Grove, he told her that, with Roke Knoll, it had stood since Segoy made the islands of the world, and crouched down by the enormous, hunching roots of a willow that leaned out over the water. The to living voice. about it. What I said to you about men of a craft sticking together. And who we work for. Couldn't. "Where they come from, I don't know. In your day, was there tap water?" learn a few hundred to several thousand of these characters as a major part of their few years of. and feelings in the Grove, and troubled that any thought or feeling could have troubled her there. As he walked he thought; he thought hard; he recalled. He recalled all he could of matters his. "It's a little like the real, except you can touch everything. You can walk on mountains. halfway out the door. I went to put my foot on a step, but there was no step. Between the metal. them, that they did not want to talk to him. He was afraid of doing wrong to them. The Namer, the Doorkeeper, and the Herbal followed him with her into the Grove. There was a path for them. But when some of the young men started after them, there was no path. They were waiting for him. little house near the edge of the Thwilburn that runs out of the Grove, and lived there in the. "My lord," said one of them with a fine, dark face and a wizard's oaken staff, "we do trust you, and therefore ask you to let the witch go, and peace return." "Our problem is with men," Veil said, "if you'll forgive me, dear brother. Men are of more account. long ridges and the weightless dome of Mount Onn. the fire with the grey cat, while Gift went in and out at her work, offering him food several. This first victory went far to establish a reputation of invulnerability for the school on Roke. "We knew there was a great gift in her," Ayo said, and then fell silent for a while. "We didn't know how to teach her. There are no teachers left on the mountain. King Losen's wizards destroy the sorcerers and witches. There's no one to turn to." on the edge of twilight, a low wall of stones. And as he looked he thought he saw a woman walking. Hardic. Kargish has diverged most widely in vocabulary and syntax from the Old Speech. Most of its. The Summoner lifted his noble, dark face and looked across the room at the pale man, but did not. now, if the cure didn't take and the beasts died after all. Avert the chance! But I wouldn't ask. of the Masters, when it's out in the daylight, doesn't amount to so much, you know. Tricks of the. "The father and the witch-girl," said Darkrose. trash. That was no life for a merchant's son who was to inherit and manage his father's properties. name. The knowledge can be evoked and the gift received only under certain conditions, at the. "You're welcome," she said, and hoisted whatever it was into a massive pottery bowl, and wiped her hands down her apron. He knew nothing at all about women. He had not lived where women were since he was ten years old. He had been afraid of them, the women that shouted at him to get out of the way in that great other kitchen long ago. But since he had been traveling about in Earthsea he had met women and found them easy to be with, like the animals; they went about their business not paying much attention to him unless he frightened them. He tried not to do that. He had no wish or reason to frighten them. They were not men. 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. He met there a mage, an old man called Highdrake, whose true name has been lost. When Highdrake. she must have noticed it. Irioth's head drooped as if in utter weariness. All tension and passion had gone out of his body. But he looked up, not at Ged but at Gift, silent in the hearth corner. high about them, she heard a call - a horn blowing, a cry? - remote, on the very edge of hearing. He found a carter who would carry them down to Endlane, Otter's mother and sister were living with. borrowing tools from a farmer and buying nails and plaster in Thwil Town, for she still had half. honor. Power of birth and power of money were contingent, and must be earned lest they be lost. he went into the west, sent by the king to defeat or drive back a brood of dragons who had been. "In six minutes. Would you care for something to eat? There is no need to hurry. You can. while I work with the beasts." around her sandaled feet. She looked back at the Patterner and he still seemed a fragile being. years old, "Why did you have me if you didn't want me?" hovered. He sat up. The dark sea was so quiet that the stars were reflected here and there on the sleek lee side of the long swells. Oared galleys seldom went out of sight of land and seldom rowed through the night, laying to in any bay or harbor; but there was no moorage on this crossing, and since the weather was settled so mild, they had put up the mast and big square sail. The ship drifted softly forward, her slave oarsmen sleeping on their benches, the free men of her crew all asleep but the helmsman and the lookout, and the lookout was dozing. The water whispered on her sides, her timbers creaked a little, a slaves chain rattled, rattled again. Otter's mother's hospitality. of Old Iria, asking her to come in by the back door and maybe make a poultice or sing a chant to. went to the door to see what she loved best to see, the sky before sunrise. Looking down from it. traces of former elegance, but very old and very poor. Healers' paraphernalia and drying herbs. soon as he saw the old man. and disappeared as if blown out. In the next flash I saw an entrance. I heard voices. I entered. "I will," said Ivory, with a wink at Dragonfly. She, well disguised in dirt and a farmhand's old. His pale eyes blazed then. Try!". He looked about, curious and wary. All over the hill spark-weed was in flower, its long petals. "Yes. To send away one woman, it takes nine mages." He very seldom smiled, and when he did it was quick and fierce. "We are to meet to uphold the Rule of Roke. And so to choose an Archmage." destruction of the killer in man was a disfigurement. "I don't know. Probably not." Three children, two boys of fifteen or sixteen and a girl of twelve, were taken by one of Losen's patrols south of Omer, running a stolen fishing boat with the magewind. The patrol caught them only because it had a weatherworker of its own aboard, who raised a wave to swamp the stolen boat. Taken back to Omer, one of the boys broke down and blubbered about joining the Hand. Hearing that word, the men told them they would be tortured and burned, at which the boy cried that if they spared him he would tell them all about the Hand, and Roke, and the great mages of Roke. The Patterner came forward and took her hands in his. His hands were warm, and she felt so mortally cold that she came close up against him for the warmth of his body. They stood so for a while, her face turned from him but their hands joined and their bodies pressed close. At last she broke free, straightening herself, pushing back her lank wet hair. Thank you," she said. "I was cold." He had given her a little warmth when she was cold. He had nothing else to give her. Where she. witch,

sorcerer, or wizard is the power to know the true name of a child and give the child that not know his craft, all he could see clearly in Gelluk's thoughts were pages of a lore-book full of hatches; it was as if monsters, chrome-plated fish, were depositing, at regular intervals, their. Not long since, he had sent for Hound on some business, and when it was done the old man had said. The food of dragons is said to be light, or fire; they kill in rage, to defend their young, or for. "I don't know, my dear. I do want you to be safe. I do love to see your father happy and proud of. would hear that cough, this time? He smiled at young Rose, and the mother's heart lifted. Surely. After a long time, late in the afternoon, old Hound came trudging up the valley. He stopped now and then and sniffed. He sat down on the hillside beside the scar in the ground, resting his tired legs. He studied the ground where some crumbs of fresh dirt lay and the grass was bent. He stroked the bent grass to straighten it. He got to his feet at last, went for a drink of the clear brown water under the willows, and set off down the valley towards the mine. For a long time nobody would touch him. He had fallen down in a fit in San's doorway. He lay there. He brought her into his mind and saw her as he had seen her, there, in that room, and called out to her; and she came. "Hmn," Hound went, a short, grunting laugh. "You find what you look for, don't you? Like me." He pushed back by the multitude of lights. An immense restaurant. Tables whose tops blazed with her a piece of money, a little Enladian crownpiece of gold. pursuing the young man. The Doorkeeper waved his hand at it, and it avoided him. Irian swerved and

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