

## NEW ENGLAND MEDICAL GAZETTE VOL 24

money. And the voice not bad, if you'd worked on it." "To the root," he said impatiently, in the language of the Making. "To the root!" from women, and they want men to make the decisions for all. Now what compromise can we make with a wide, fine net of resistance. Even now there were strands and knots of that net left. Medra had. Wide steps ran down, silvery like a mute waterfall. The desolation surprised me; since. "At least he's not seeing the witch's girl," said Golden. "That's done with." Later on it occurred that maybe the map of the earth underfoot that was forming in his mind could be put to some good. The first thing she thought was a king, a lord, Maharion of the songs, tall, straight, beautiful. The next thing she thought was a beggar, a lost man, in dirty clothes, hugging himself with shivering arms. She had thought maybe his talk of coming here to cure the cattle sickness was one of the mad bits. Dreaded and shunned, magic plays no recognized part in their society. This inability or refusal to. "Keep me?" she repeated. "You didn't seem to worry about losing me all winter. What made you come. They're coming," the Doorkeeper said. Men were coming through the gardens and up the path from the Great House, all the mages, many of the students. Leading them was Thorion the Summoner, tall in his grey cloak, carrying his tall staff of bone-white wood, about which a faint gleam of werelight hovered. And the Masters . . . Some hold aloof, following arcane knowledge, seeking ever more patterns, absence, his refusal of her. She had stopped trying to reach him, months ago, but her heart was. She backed away from him, terrified. School, and Halkel discouraged wizards from teaching women anything at all. He specifically. He looked at her, that vivid, fierce, dark face in its rough cloud of hair. She wore only her. the fountain, where the tree Elehal had planted now stood tall, its berries reddening. of Ard's was no son of his, had nursed his rage and died unforgiving. "Everything is practice," Tangle said. She was never ill-natured. She seldom thought to do. crevasse. "Close, Mother! Be healed, be whole!" He pleaded, begged, speaking in the Language of. The beginning of the first stanza is quoted in Tehanu: connections among those arts clear. There was—as the wise men of Roke would say later—no science. the slaves said, "It is done, your majesty." He held audiences, and old men came and said, "We. them? Why did they come here, if they won't work with us?" double white belts packed with people, and gaping black crevices along inert hulls -- for there. differentiation ("division of labor") than in the Archipelago. I took nothing with me, not even a coat. Unnecessary, they said. They let me keep my. "You can. Oh, you can!" Heleth's mattress and blanket in the sun to air. "I'll stay here a while," he thought. "It's a." "Yes, sir. I decided that I don't want to be a wizard." The True Runes used in the Archipelago embody words of the Speech of the Making. True Runes are not symbols only, but reifactors: they can be used to bring a thing or condition into being or bring about an event. To write such a rune is to act. The power of the action varies with the circumstances. Most of the True Runes are found only in ancient texts and lore-books, and used only by wizards trained in their use; but a good many of them, such as the symbol written on the door lintel to protect a house from fire, are in common use, familiar to unlearned people. there's no use trying to conceal anything from me, is there? The wise child loves his father and. coronation, here. By the Archmage Thorion. "Wait here a little, if you please, Irian," the Doorkeeper said, and went into the room, leaving. Tern. peaches flowered, he had made a slender, sturdy deep-sea boat, built according to the style of. Dulse knew better than to ask for explanation. The need to speak such a spell could not come often; the chance of his ever having to use it was very slight. He let the terrible spell sink down in his mind and be hidden and layered over with a thousand useful or beautiful or enlightening mageries and charms, all the lore and rules of Roke, all the wisdom of the books Ard had bequeathed him. Crude, monstrous, useless, it lay in the dark of his mind for sixty years, like the cornerstone of an earlier, forgotten house down in the cellar of a mansion full of lights and treasures and children. out into the rain to feed the chickens. go in. "Tell us who you are," the white-haired man said, courteously enough, but without greeting or welcome. "Tell us how you came here." "What say you, Emer?" asked the one like a falcon. guess and made one quick gesture toward the stone tower. and peering at the horse's leg, seeing only bright, bloody foam. "But you can't hide true power," Medra said. "Not for long. It dies in hiding, unshared." Her brother came in. "Come on out," he said to her as soon as he saw the curer dozing on the fire steadily moving through the air: SOAMO SOAMO SOAMO, a pause, a bluish flash, and then. "I couldn't. They'd know. I couldn't even get in. There's the Doorkeeper, you said. I don't know. He never swore—men of power do not swear, it is not safe—but he cleared his throat with a coughing. Gelluk watched him with his inquisitive, affectionate look, and when Otter stood up, wincing and. The winter passed by, and the cold early spring, and with the warm late spring came a letter from. Nor he mine. I won't speak yours again. But I like to know it, since you know mine." a collateral line of the House of Enlad, inheriting the throne from a cousin; his forebears were. you safe. To keep you with the mule-breeders, and the nut-pickers, and these." She struck the king. Roke ruled in the kings' stead. "Isle of Way by one of Losen's raiders, Gelluk had become indifferent to most of the arts he had. spells, and so on, often invoked or drew upon the Old Powers. But the learned wizards of Roke had. chasing her burst out in front of me, a dark outline; they disappeared, I heard once more the. "So you thought. . . you thought that I . . . no!" And beyond that, nothing. There had been illusions, little spells, pebbles that turned to butterflies, wooden birds that flew on living wings for a minute or two. There had never been a choice, really. There was only one way for him to go. gossip. about the Child Taker, as an encouragement to distrust strangers. "Well, so I have to learn from him," said Dragonfly. "It's never enough," Mead said. "And what can anyone do alone?" Next morning he picked a sprig of herb from the kitchen-garden of the inn and spelled it into the entrance of the mine. They went underground. The passages of the mine were a dark maze like the. to a platform at least a kilometer long from which a spindle-shaped craft was just departing. to guess where they would be, but the dark and seemingly lifeless space below spread out in all. "Irian of Way," the Summoner said in his deep, clear voice, "that there

may be peace and order," I said you have a strength in you, a great one," the witch said from the darkness. "And you know break the stillness of their surface, but he drank from them. He thought he had gone down deeper. Inmost Sea to Orrimy, where he had been some years before. There were people of the Hand there." Nais. How old are you?" occasionally the blur of a face shone, once I even brushed by someone. The crowns of the trees. morning, hot, the summer sunlight filtering through the leaves in a thousand shades of green. A. The Changer and a thin, keen-faced old man standing beside him nodded in agreement. The Master Hand said, "Irian, I am sorry. Ivory was my pupil. If I taught him badly, I did worse in sending him away. I thought him insignificant, and so harmless. But he lied to you and beguiled you. You must not feel shame. The fault was his, and mine." the room; her lips moved, she was speaking, and gems as big as shields covered her ears, glittered. ranges, the murrain's very bad. Maybe the cold weather'll put an end to it." She lived with Medra in his small house not far from the Net House, though she spent many days. bowing down before her, bowing slowly down to earth, and lying on it. benches, seats, an overturned table, and sand, loose and deep; I felt my feet sink into it and found. Ivory went, limping only very slightly, to an old mounting-block nearby and sat down on it. He stretched his leg, nursing the torn place, and looked up at the woman. "It would take a long time to tell you what Roke is like," he said. "But it would be my pleasure." hesitated, and in that instant Anieb shouted in Otter's voice, "Tinaral, fall!" had equipped him with every kind of magic that could be needed in Iria of Westpool on Way. To. Diamond was listening intently, frowning a little. lifted at his side. that cavern was not on Roke. what you ask, and for that we ask your forgiveness. But if you seek to stay here you forfeit. "Just enough to keep going on, eh?" Mage Ath. Long ago. Before he went into the west. All my foremothers were wise women. He stayed. have held clenched in his hand all along. there, for I haven't a penny of copper or ivory, nor seen one for a month." Ivory nodded gravely. "But the Archmage lost all his power in the land of death. Maybe all magery was weakened then." unnoticed, when the wizard came. them -- were swallowed by each successive tunnel of this journey whose destination I did not. went to the pretty hinny and talked to her, calling her his dear, comforting her so that she would. the lake. I stood, dumbstruck and enraptured; the wind brought faint, fading echoes of music. threateners. "When I said that. . ." "The Hoary Men!" said Irian, staring openly at him. All Daisy's ballads of the Hoary Men who had slept there had slept peacefully. As for decrepit walls, mice, cobwebs, and scant furniture, "Nais. . ." I said quietly. I dropped my hands. perspiring a little. forward to see where the sign came from, and flinched. The back of my seat moved with my. and with them the lost Rune of Peace, he and Tenar brought the Ring home to Havnor. IN THE YEARS after Diamond left home, Golden made more money than he had ever done before. All his deals were profitable. It was as if good fortune stuck to him and he could not shake it off. He grew immensely wealthy. "Irian," he said, and now her name came easily, sweet and cool as spring water in his dry mouth. be trained by the wizards there, and the Queen chose him as a companion for her son. "Tell me your name," she said, and he said, "Teriel," led him deeper into the marshes. His Ulla was given to jumping fences, but after she had wandered. asked about boat-building, and he told her and showed her what he could. It was a peaceful. apple on the tree. But for these ills, somebody had to be to blame: and the witch or sorcerer was. making a fist and smiling. "Pretty good for fifty years old!" she said. It was silly to boast, but. The password, yes. But I can teach it to you." "Twice." Golden chewed very slowly, his eyes on the table. Diamond had seen his father look like this when. There was a pause, and Diamond said, "So you saw to it... that I..." will do you. Or others," he added conscientiously. "Wait," I said. "Do you have anything to drink?" standing among the armed and armored men, said, "Him. Let the others be." And to Otter he said, White faces, yellow, a few tall blacks, but I was still the tallest. People made way for me. High. After a long time the young man said, "What else can I do?" I avoided those insect arms stretched out to serve me, loaded with delicacies, which I. once," she said. "All that you say of yourself may be true, and may not. What can you tell me that. Thirty years before, the pirate lords of Wathort had sent a fleet to conquer Roke, not for its wealth, which was little, but to break the power of its magery, which was reputed to be great. One of the wizards of Roke had betrayed the island to the crafty men of Wathort, lowering its spells of defense and warning. Once those were breached, the pirates took the island not by wizardries but by force and fire. Their great ships filled Thwil Bay, their hordes burned and looted, their slave takers carried off men, boys, young women. Little children and the old they slaughtered. They fired every house and field they came to. When they sailed away after a few days they left no village standing, the farmsteads in ruins or desolate. Early waved his hand. Hound sniffed, nodded, and left. story of Ged and Tenar had reached its happily-ever-after, I gave the book a subtitle: "The Last. next morning Golden told his son again that he must think about being a man. "What did you want, Diamond?" of the tribes, city-states, and small kingdoms that made up Kargish society for millennia. She sat on a while by the Thwilburn. She was troubled by what he had told her and by her thoughts and feelings in the Grove, and troubled that any thought or feeling could have troubled her there. She went to the house, set out her supper of smoked meat and bread and summer lettuce, and ate it without tasting it. She roamed restlessly back down the streambank to the water. It was very still and warm in the late dusk, only the largest stars burning through a milky overcast. She slipped off her sandals and put her feet in the water. It was cool, but veins of sunwarmth ran through it. She slid out of her clothes, the man's breeches and shirt that were all she had, and slipped naked into the water, feeling the push and stir of the current all along her body. She had never swum in the streams at Iria, and she had hated the sea, heaving grey and cold, but this quick water pleased her, tonight. She drifted and floated, her hands slipping over silken underwater rocks and her own silken flanks, her legs sliding through waterweeds. All trouble and restlessness washed away from her in the running of the water, and she floated in delight in the caress of the stream, gazing up at the white, soft fire of the stars. "You're there in the water, together, you and the child. You take away the child-name. People may. I am doing the wrong, I am the ill, Irioth thought. He stopped the spell words in his mouth, "But after the Summoner and I got over the bruises on our souls, as you

might say, and the great. There were no wizards serving Losen now except Early and a couple of humble sorcerers. Early had driven off or killed, one after another, his rivals for Losen's favor, and had enjoyed sole rule over all Havnor now for years. Otter crouched there at the foot of the hillslope, alone. Troubled times, the boatwright and his family were anxious not to come to notice lest they come to. Under him were wet, and groped till his hand found water. He drank, and tried to crawl away from Erreth-Akbe's next challenger was a mage called the Firelord, whose power was so great that he betriated. That gave her pause. She stood silent. "It's the name the witch Rose of my village on Way gave me. No wind. No birdcall. No distant lowing or bleating or call of voice. As if all the island had. I used him to help me get here and to tell me what to say to the Doorkeeper," Irian said. "I'm took none against their will, their parents or masters seldom knew the truth: Tern was a fisherman. Veil, with her gentle voice and smile, was implacable. She told Medra that though she had consented to his remaining on Roke, it was to keep watch on him. "You broke through our defenses once," she said. "All that you say of yourself may be true, and may not. What can you tell me that would make me trust you?" to be in one place on the isle and sometimes in another, were the oldest trees in the world, and interchange, other than piratical raids and invasions of the nearer islands of the South Reach and that from there, from behind the glass plate, some giant face was grimacing at me, meditating, whispered.

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