

2 KINGS 2 CHRONICLES STANDING FIRMLY AGAINST THE WORLDS TIDES

hundreds of boats carried people fleeing from Paln and Semel to the Inner Islands; but the dragons looked at him kindly..to Pody if you like. And then back to Orrimy. I've had about enough." irony was a feeble effort; it came from the constant amazement, from the feeling of unreality of."They say," said Ayo from the shadows, "that there's an island where the rule of justice is kept." "Is there an inn?"..took none against their will, their parents or masters seldom knew the truth: Tern was a fisherman.were performing the same scene over and over again, and I would have liked to stop and see what.broke free, straightening herself, pushing back her lank wet hair. Thank you," she said. "I was.However the Division came about, from the beginning of historical time human beings have lived in the main Archipelago and the Kargad Lands east of it, while the dragons kept to the westernmost isles-and beyond. People have puzzled at their choosing the empty sea for their domain, since dragons are "creatures of wind and fire," who drown if plunged under the sea. But they have no need to touch down either on water or on earth; they live on the wing, aloft in air, sunlight, starlight. The only use a dragon has for the ground is some kind of rocky place where it can lay its eggs and rear the drakelets. The small, barren islets of the farthest West Reach suffice for this.."Which level?".Go tell the village sorcerer to earn his keep!" And when the youngest daughter came down with a.I had thought, upon entering, that the wall opposite the door was of glass, and that through."Where old Early went with the great fleet. I see. Friends there. Well, I know one of the ships is."That's right, little servant, well done," Gelluk said to her in his tender voice. "Give your.When in 730 the first Archmage of Roke, Halkel of Way, excluded women from the school, among his Nine Masters only the Patterner and the Doorkeeper protested; they were overruled. For more than three centuries, no woman taught or studied at the school on Roke. During those centuries, wizardry was an honored art, conferring status and power, while witchery was an unclean and ignorant superstition, practiced by women, paid for by peasants..Knowledge of these places and powers was the heart of religion in the Kargad Realm. In the."Must we hide forever?". "Darkrose," he breathed in her ear, his secret name for her..Labby, a light-skinned, flashy-looking fellow, played the double-reed woodhorn..He had turned up on Dulse's doorstep a few years ago. Well, no, twenty years ago it must be, or twenty-five. A while ago now. He had been truly a boy then, long-legged, rough-haired, soft-faced, with a set mouth and clear eyes. "What do you want?" the wizard had asked, knowing what he wanted, what they all wanted, and keeping his eyes from those clear eyes. He was a good teacher, the best on Gont, he knew that. But he was tired of teaching, and didn't want another prentice underfoot, and sensed danger..make a public spectacle of fools who had tricked him into fearing them. He would rather have dealt..she answered.."Only the Master can open the door. Only the King has the key.".The Patterner came forward and took her hands in his. His hands were warm, and she felt so.She pondered - conversation with her was often a slow business - and said, "Rose always said I had."She saved me but I couldn't save her," he said fiercely to the men and women of the mountain."The father and the witch-girl," said Darkrose..to himself, as a man of craft and learning should. He spent his days riding about the countryside.myself. She flinched..of magery. When he was a little boy, Golden himself had been able to make his own shadow shine and.there, not many of them. They were not buying or selling. There were no booths or stalls set up..Ember was on the dock to meet him. Lame and very thin, he came to her and took her hands, but he.poisoned. When Berry went out again, the woman came closer and said, resolute, in a low voice,.But after he had rested a couple of days, he asked her who the cattlemen of the village were, and.never had, such as mastery over the wizards who served him..Thoreg's daughter. As an old woman she gave this to the young wizard Ged, shipwrecked on her."What Master?". "Yes," she said. "I'm sorry." Her hand was still on his knee. She said, "We can make love if you.been a period of years), the depredations of the dragons increased. The Inward Isles were troubled.It was Golden's grandest party yet, with a dancing floor built on the town green down the way from.When he was done Veil was silent a long time and then said, "That was what you meant, when you came here first-I could not save the one who saved me"..not have dared to do so, since Gelluk knew his name. But she came, even when he was with the.chasm. But it's there. And everything we do finally serves evil, because that's what we are. Greed."Once?" she said. "Or twice?".immensely dangerous. Ordinary people-and dragons-keep their true name secret; wizards hide and.Hound nodded, as if its location was all that had interested him in Roke..unless there was a sorcerer aboard who knew how to turn that wind. Still they came, and as the."No, thank you..". "No, I don't," I replied, unexpectedly stubborn. She went to the bar and brought back a.I found myself beneath the open sky. But the blackness of the night was kept at a great distance,.He nodded. "Left myself halfway," he said. He looked up; the Patterner was coming towards them, wide awake now..young men. Secret meetings, inner circles. Rumors, whispers. The younger students are frightened..(From her it passed through her descendants for over five hundred years to the last heirs of.Gont Port lies at the inner end of a long narrow bay between steep shores. Its entrance from the.staring up at the words visible here and there between the rushes in the eaves, began to tremble.There were no inns on this road through what had once all been the Domain of Iria. As the sun."And?". "Not if I carry a staff," he said..the parents died young. So not much heed was paid to him, until they had to take notice of him.knelt to look at some small plant or fungus on the forest floor..The wizard who called himself Gelluk and the pirate who called himself King Losen had worked.among those silent, sunlit roads and fields and in the kitchens by the hearths where housewives.Ordinary Hardic, for matters of government or business or personal messages or to record history,.and sheep went down to drink or to cross over. They had come through the stile from a pasture.Bog Lake gathering simples. When Dulse came home there it was, shining like a dark lake itself..The voices of the mages talking were like the voices of the stream running. The stream said its words and they said theirs, but none of them were the right words..and had no strength left at all..three centuries, no woman taught or studied at

the school on Roke. During those centuries, Published by arrangement with Harcourt Brace Jovanovich, Inc. learned alone in the Immanent Grove was not known to any but those with whom she shared her. Thoreg, a brother and sister exiled on a deserted island of the East Reach; and the sister gave it. putting his face very close to his, and felt him cower away. aren't who-or what-I thought they were, and I lose my way on islands I thought I knew by heart. and stopped and undid it word by word. One day in autumn he came back to the school. He went in by the garden door, which gives on the path through the fields to Roke Knoll. It is a curious thing about the Great House of Roke, that it has no portal or grand entryway at all. You can enter by what they call the back door, which, though it is made of horn and framed in dragons tooth and carved with the Thousand-Leaved Tree, looks like nothing at all from outside, as you come to it in a dingy street; or you can go in the garden door, plain oak with an iron bolt. But there is no front door. As he walked he thought; he thought hard; he recalled. He recalled all he could of matters his teacher had spoken of once only and long ago. Strange matters, so strange he had never known if they were true wizardry or mere witchery, as they said on Roke. Matters he certainly had never heard about on Roke, nor did he ever speak about them there, maybe fearing the Masters would despise him for taking such things seriously, maybe knowing they would not understand them, because they were Gontish matters, truths of Gont. They were not written even in Ard's lore-books, that had come down from the Great Mage Ennas of Perregal. They were all word of mouth. They were home truths. and said gently, confidentially, "I'm sure you can find the great lode." After Morred, seven more kings and queens ruled from Enlad, and the realm increased steadily in size and prosperity. metallic fabrics of the women's dresses flared up in sudden flames. I walked, oblivious, and. Come home with me. "You're singing," she said and lightly tugged at me. We walked among the tables and I. Their breath ceased. Their bodies by the loud sea. look at her as she came into the room. "The lords of war despise scholars and schoolmasters," said Medra. Though not a sorcerer, Licky was a much more formidable man than Hound. Yet like Hound he was. while I work with the beasts. ".name's Hawk.". To it he flew, and on it landed, and as he touched the earth he was a man again. "I'd like to walk under your trees a bit, Azver," the Herbal said, with a long sigh. "Ivory," said the Doorkeeper. "A lad from Havnor Great Port, whom I let in three years ago, and. but her anger. Who are you, Irian? he said to her, watching her crouched there like an animal. title. Yet, restrained by the consistent teaching and practice of the school and the watchfulness. "Of course," Golden said, pleased with his son's caution. He had thought Diamond might leap at the offer, which would have been natural, perhaps, but painful to the father, the owl who had -- perhaps -- hatched out an eagle. "I can take her to those who can." In the rage of his agony the Enemy raised up a great wave and sent it speeding to overwhelm the island of Solea. Elfarran knew this, as she knew the moment of Morred's death. She bade her people take to their boats; then, the poem says, "She took her small harp in her hands," and in the hour of waiting for the destroying wave that only Morred might have stilled, she made the song called The Lament for the White Enchanter. The island was drowned beneath the sea, and Elfarran with it. But her boat-cradle of willow wood, floating free, bore their child Serriadh to safety, wearing Morred's pledge, the ring that bore the Rune of Peace. there. Now come with me," he said to Irian. breed modesty, sometimes, even in unlikely places. "If you were to go to Roke, I'd send a letter. Half San's herd was dead. Alder would not say how many head he had lost. The bodies of cattle were. find the center. That's the question to ask. That's what to do.." As he muttered on to himself, hard red wine from his last vineyard and walking his boundaries with a troop of ill-treated, startled gaze, saw him question the Doorkeeper, low-voiced, intense. wizards friends? No more than they have wives, or sons, some would say.... Once he said to me that. But Otter was intensely aware of Gelluk, both physically and as a presence of immense controlling power; and it seemed to him that Anieb's speaking had taken away that much of Gelluk's power over him, gaining him a place to stand, a foothold. Even with Gelluk so close to him, fearfully close, he managed to speak. Dulse knew better than to ask for explanation. The need to speak such a spell could not come. Diamond hesitated and said, "No." He looked a question at his father. habit established over many years, an old instinct, that told me that at a certain moment we were. the outlay and the income, the profit and the loss. Otter was reluctant to answer. He had to like Hound, but didn't have to trust him. "Shape-. dying of South Port. Hemlock was glad to let him do so. His own pleasure was in studying and, as. He was half asleep, sitting on the ground in the shade by the barracks, the smell of the logs. of her hair she seemed only to endure his touch, and he stopped. When he tried to embrace her she. After this struggle, the line of the Kargish kings continued in Hupun, nominally honored but. Among these people was an old man whom they called, among themselves, the Changer. He showed Otter. without losing anything, without falsifying. I returned to the wall of trees. The blue of the. That, too, I remembered. I didn't crush his fingers. I was quite calm. He wanted to say. "Of course you do. You'd better. I'll witch you if you don't.". butterflies, wooden birds that flew on living wings for a minute or two. There had never been a. can we not find the balance? ". a tall white staff, the horn of a sea beast from the farthest North, stood in the decked prow of. "Listen, what I said before, that was just a joke, really. . .". "Where?" he whispered, and then said the word aloud in the language all things understand that. At first he was overwhelmed with fierce fantasies of power and revenge: he would free the slaves, followed her, but only to the door. Nobody entered a witch's house uninvited. "They didn't punish him, but kept his wild powers bound with spells until they could make him listen and begin to learn. It took them a long time. There was a rivalrous spirit in him that made him look on any power he did not have, any thing he did not know, as a threat, a challenge, a thing to fight against until he could defeat it. There are many boys like that. I was one. But I was lucky. I learned my lesson young.

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