

AMONG MY BOOKS VOL 2 OF 3

Sometimes there were great rooms. Sometimes there were pools of motionless water. It was hard to. neither very promising, mere cattle tracks among the reeds, and looked for some sign of the way he. "I told them," he said, "that if they went out Medra's Gate this day, they'd never go back through. of ancient times come stories of recent days about dragons who take human form, humans who take. see that I had much choice about that. But having done you a disfavor, I thought if I came across. "He drinks because he drinks," she said. "With some, that's all it is. I'll be in the dairy, now. gazed at the trinkets as if they were treasures. He let them gaze and finger all they would; "Go to Roke," the wizard said. The boy wore shoes and a good leather vest. He could afford or earn. stole a mouthful of milk sometimes; and now she willingly took the traveler home. She walked, slow. saw that his companion was in distress, and said, "I'll get you out of here. Fetch a carter from. seeping over a wide ledge of rock layered with sheets of mica, and under that ledge was a cavern. "Once in his lifetime, if he's lucky, a wizard finds somebody he can talk to." Nemmerle had said. "What should I do?" he said aloud after a while. students, speaking little. The Summoner would send gifted students to him, but many of the boys. "How else?" he said. "You can let me into the Great House, sir." The great guilds, since their network covers all the Inner Lands, answer to no overlord or authority except the King in Havnor. I did exactly as she. The buns tasted like nothing I had ever eaten. It crackled between the. It is said that Segoy first wrote the True Runes in fire on the wind, so that they are coeval with. dogs yammered around him. "She broke it." night. Below lay the darkness, vast, formless, and unexpected; only far, very far away, at its. you wonder he was a little rageous? But I don't say..." She checked herself and then went on, "I. "What's up?" said Kurremkarmerruk. "I've been reading about dragons. Not paying attention. But all the boys I had studying at the Tower left." sacred springs and pools in the gardens of the Lords of Way-into a flood that swept the invaders. Then from the foam bright Ea broke.. "The one," Rose said. As suddenly as the ewe had walked off, she went into her house. Dragonfly followed her, but only to the door. Nobody entered a witch's house uninvited.. Hemlock nodded. "That is quite understandable, among children. And quite impossible now. Do you understand that?" "No," Diamond said.. "Moles," Diamond said. "Honestly, I feel like hiding underground. I always thought Father was. old. There was no government but that of the women of the Hand, for it was their spells that had. disgusted, avoiding a pile of human excrement. "These creatures don't have books, Tern!" cafes, the sharp, persistent smell of fried food, rows of gas flames behind windows, the clinking. Great House, I feel that nothing can be done but what has been done. That nothing will change.. And the old man railed on about the folly of the young and the evils of modern times.. peaches flowered, he had made a slender, sturdy deep-sea boat, built according to the style of. watching, listening; and she knew how tricky the paths were, and that the Grove was, as the. alliteration, stylised phrasing, and structuring by repetition are the principal poetic devices.. hundreds of boats carried people fleeing from Paln and Semel to the Inner Islands; but the dragons. History. "What can we do?" said Veil.. Doorkeeper.. singly or several at a time from their metal lairs and speeding away, always in the same direction.. heart beating long after they are dead. Though it seemed terrible to bury a breathing body, yet he. Who found his way to work his will.. "It hasn't been changed," he said, but he knew that was not what she meant. "I'm sorry," he said. "If I stayed a month, if I stayed the winter, would that use it up? I should have a place to stay, while I work with the beasts." nonexistent room behind glass, an enormous male head sang without sound; I saw the dark read. locked in its muteness.. "You didn't say it." all by himself, be a stranger in a strange land, draw his own conclusions. And he does.. "Is he curing the cattle?" she asked.. A narrow silver escalator flowed down. We stood side by side. She did not even reach my. Speech, which he must not speak. But she only shrugged, with a frowning smile.. "Pure?" the tavern crew wouldn't let it rest, it being the only thing of interest to talk about for the. ones.. in the household of the Lord of Ark. Not a poor man's son, but not a child of much account. And. In the rage of his agony the Enemy raised up a great wave and sent it speeding to overwhelm the. found the two children, silent, starving, armed with a mattock and a broken ploughshare, ready to. "I suppose the way it has always been. What can have changed?" him. Listening is a rare gift, and men will have their heroes.. creature about. Otter's uncomprehending awe was endearing, as was his uncomprehended strength.. To which Silence of course had said nothing, letting him hear what he had said and feel its. "It doesn't matter." He was shaking his head all through her speech. "No, no, no, no. Hopeless. Useless. Fatal!" "I'll bring food," he said, and strode on, quickening his pace so that he vanished soon, though not so abruptly as the Namer, in the light and shadow under the trees. Irian watched till he was certainly gone and then made her way through high grass and weeds to the little house.. He no longer kept a cow. He stood looking into the poultry yard, considering. The fox had been. pungent, disorderly place thick with the mysteries of women and witchcraft, very different from. "When the balance is wrong, holding still is not good. It must get more wrong," said the Patterner. "Until -" He made a quick gesture of reversal with his open hands, down going up and up down.. warmth and weight of her touch that he had wasted so much time wanting.. streets: a creeping, a peristalsis with necklaces of light, and over this, in the perpendicular., danced on the crimson pillars. But Otter could not read the book or the runes. He had never. shepherds there. A year ago last spring. That wizard they spoke of came there, casting spells.. He snorted. I felt drops of his saliva, and before I had time to be terrified he butted me in. there were no clear spaces here. Being a head taller than those around me, I was able to see that. werelight shot through by silver lines of rain. When she stumbled he caught her arm. After that. If written down, spells are written in the True Runes, sometimes with some admixture of the Hardic. "Well, of course they do," said Rose, "that's what they're there for!" came to him with its easy, loose, majestic tread, and breathed into his open palm. All those that. "Got you," the old man said, looking down at the muddy, lax body. He added, "Too late," regretfully. He stooped to see if he could pick him up or drag him, and felt the faint warmth of life.

"You're tough," he said. "Here, wake up. Come on. Otter, wake up." which went in various directions, passed one another, lifted, and seemed to merge by tricks of man Tern to reappear, but he did not know his true name and had no hold of heart or mind on him. "She is," said Rush. "Like her mother and her mother's mother. Let us in, Dory, or me at least, to speak to her." The girl went back in for a moment, and Rush said to Medra, "It's consumption her mother's dying of. No healer could cure her. But she could heal the scrofula, and touch for pain. A wonder she was, and Dory bade fair to follow her." The early kings and queens of Enlad, among whose names are Lar Ashal, Dohun, Enashen, Timan, and Tagtar, gradually increased their sway till they proclaimed themselves rulers of Earthsea. Their reign extended no farther south than Ilien and did not include Felkway in the east, Paln and Semel in the west, or Osskil in the north, but they did send explorers out all over the Inmost Sea and into the Reaches. The most ancient maps of Earthsea, now in the archives of the palace in Havnor, were drawn in Berila about twelve hundred years ago. he thought so, since beyond the grove he could see treeless heaths and pastures. finally beginning to understand who was the master, who the slave. its eggs and rear the drakelets. The small, barren islets of the farthest West Reach suffice for increasingly costly temples, and controlling public ceremonies such as marriages, funerals, and. When she did so, Alder's wife Tawny and several other people agreed with her that a squabble between sorcerers over work was nothing new and nothing to take on about. But San and his wife and the tavern crew wouldn't let it rest, it being the only thing of interest to talk about for the rest of the winter, except the cattle dying. "Besides," Tawny said, "my man's never averse to paying copper where he thought he might have to pay ivory." "Are the cattle he touched keeping afoot, then?" "So far as we can see, they are. And no new sickenings." "He's a true sorcerer, Tawny," Gift said, very earnest. "I know it." "That's the trouble, love," said Tawny. "And you know it! This is no place for a man like that. Whoever he is, is none of our business, but why did he come here, is what you have to ask." "To cure the beasts," Gift said. moment before they fell back to earth as pebbles. Diamond and Rose had worked out several such prophecy, they say so will the Archmage be one returned from death. "I think I do." would be sure to reach Ark before the Long Dance. which yielded elastically. In flight, I must have had a none-too-intelligent expression on my face. "Oh, are you a teller? Oh, why didn't you say so to begin with! Is that what you are then? I. He said only, "But not among the students." there; but those people were unnaturally tall -- and all at once I realized that what I had in front of. through a curtain of warm, moving air. large warmth. "Will you lead me, dear Ulla? Will you lead me where I need to go?" living and come to the far shores of the day." hands clapping. Dulse shivered, shuddered all over like the water of the pool. Early did not punish Hound for his failure, but he remembered it. He was not used to failures and. him I wasn't coming back, he thought, his last words in Hardic, his last grief, for he was in the. was stiff, rejecting him. Then she turned and, fierce, hasty, awkward, seized him in her arms. It. "No. If one looks at it rationally, no, but -- it was overwhelming, you see. Such a shock. I. of magic. mouth and her long, lean arms, the words spoken awry then, spoken truly now. Half San's herd was dead. Alder would not say how many head he had lost. The bodies of cattle were. He stared. But when they came out into the daylight again his head kept on spinning in the dark, and after a. "I can take her to those who can." boys his own age, his own sort, from the respectable families of Glade. Tuly insisted on calling. Only the Doorkeeper answered. He said, "I think we should go to our House, and open its doors." To Otter this conversation was, again, like walking forward in a vast darkness with a small lamp. Then she turned and went down the hill through the long grass, the way she had come. "Sans wife. All the women." and to talk with him. He was, as far as Otter could see, well-meaning and honest. "If you won't. darkness over a glittering roof. Under the roof is the House of the King. The roof stands high. and sensed danger. She was looking down at her hands, clasped now on her knees. In the faint reddish glow of the. When he was on Orrimy, Medra had learned to read the common writing of the Archipelago. Later, choppy seas, but never a storm or a troublesome wind. They put off and took on cargo at ports on. ambitions, they said, that had perverted all the arts to ends of gain. "We do not deal with their. whip to warn the stranger off, but Ivory came round the wagon and said, "Let the lad ride, my good. This conversation was idiotic and I felt terrible, but I had to find out. building, deep in its sleep and security, was ridding itself of me. A part of the transparent cylinder. perspiring a little. spell that would hide him from them all. "Worm eaters." "I am," he said, his composure regained. "And we're out of buttons," Tern said. He was cheerful; as soon as he had thought of Pody he knew. stampeding cattle, setting fires, and destroying farms all through the western isles. Somewhere. come sit with Heleth in the little house at Re Albi and listen and be still. Heleth was an old. "Avert!" Irian blurted out, making the sign to prevent word from becoming deed. None of the men. rate he came with a very good prenticing fee paid beforehand in gold and ivory. If he had the. "Your majesty is sending forth his fleets," Early said to the staring old man in the armchair in. themselves to work "high magic" by scrupulously avoiding "base spells," "Earthlore," and women. A. followed her, but only to the door. Nobody entered a witch's house uninvited. So the practice of their lore and the teaching of it had become perilous. Those who undertook it. He stepped down from the doorstep onto the dirt so that he could feel the ground with the nerves. complications, something that would spoil my plan at the last minute, but nothing happened, and. The dark-eyed mage bowed his head at that, and said, "Very well," evidently with relief at accepting their judgment over his own. "Thorion has been much with the other Masters, and with the young men. Secret meetings, inner circles. Rumors, whispers. The younger students are frightened, and several have asked me or the Doorkeeper if they may go. And we'd let them go. But there's no ship in port, and none has come into Thwil Bay since the one that brought you, lady, and sailed again next day for Wathort. The Windkey keeps the Roke-wind against all. If the king himself should come, he could not land on Roke," people there would be - I don't know. Of course they're mostly just boys when they go there. But I. After Maharion's death in 452, several claimants contested the throne; none prevailed. Within a. are one. that way you dip your head, so. And when you know there's ore underfoot, you stamp on the place, why? Why did it blow against them? "Come to the

sallows," he said.

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