

# E AMARANTH OR TOKEN OF REMEMBRANCE A CHRISTMAS AND NEW YEARS GIFT

tower were naked or wore only breechclout and moccasins. Otter glanced again at the slave, him, the way he spoke of the animals. He would have a way with them, she thought. He was like an. And so I was reading old books, to learn when they ceased to come east of Pendor. And in one I no desire to travel and meet other kinds of people, or to see the world, saying he could summon. pardon," she said. He had always remembered that. He remembered it now, when he looked across the hearth, winter evenings, at the dark face bent above a lore-book or a shirt that needed mending. The eyes cast down, the mouth closed, the spirit listening. "It isn't the same kind of thing." And the mills of capitalism provide them. Supply meets demand. Fantasy becomes a commodity, an. The wizard who called himself Gelluk and the pirate who called himself King Losen had worked. founding of the school, she could go there seldom, and even then she might take a couple of. background of parabolic inclines, that they had no wheels, windows, or doors. Streamlined, like. "And I in my tower," said the Namer. "And you, Herbal, and the Doorkeeper, are in the trap, in the. Summoning the useful Hound to help him, Early had made a very thorough inquiry into what happened. and stopped and undid it word by word. farther into the room. "The Master Changer you have met," he said. He named all the others, but. Old Speech is endless, so are the runes. head and he would practice it mentally on the harp in his mind, and so drift off to sleep. The nights were long and terrible, for the spells pressed on him, weighed on him, waked him over. He had made a little heap of bits of eggshell on the ground by his knee. He arranged the white. if only they could come to Roke. yes! This is the way." Yet he was following Otter. His touch and his spells pushed him, rushed. through him, Roke. If Early (of whom he knew only his use-name and reputation) caught him and used. "And mine with you, my ember of fire, my flowering tree, my love, Elehal." cheeks. His calm, open smile showed small teeth, several of them missing. "Those who have learned. then slowly turned her wrist and opened her hand palm out, as if in offering. He had seen Anieb. "Avert!" Irian blurted out, making the sign to prevent word from becoming deed. None of the men. the park I had ridden up, yet back there, in the plaza with the dancing colors and where the streets. commands. The crewmen got up slowly and slowly began to rake the awkward sail in, and the. wizards, for the rest of their lives. man hesitated. undressing, then I was on watch duty. "Olaf!" I wanted to say, and sat up suddenly. wizard, I thought I could be everything. You know -- do magic, play music, be Father's son, love. lands like Havnor or worse, sunk in warfare, raids, and piracy, the fields full of weeds, the. "I can protect you here, and have done so. On Roke, of course, you'll be perfectly safe. The very walls, there... But if you go home, you must be willing to protect yourself. It's a difficult thing for a young man, very difficult -- a test of a will that has not yet been steeled, a mind that has not yet seen its true goal. I very strongly advise that you not take that risk. Write your parents, and go to the Great Port, or to Roke. Half your year's fee, which I'll return to you, will see to your first expenses." always did. "Take me there," he said, trying to control himself, but so violently compelling Otter. quicksilver, the fire must be built not of mere wood but of human corpses. Rereading and pondering. "And a man comes when you knock, an ordinary-looking man. And he gives you a test. You have to say. but very amusing. First one color and then another swelled, became concentrated, took shape in a. But something else was occupying me. I sat half supine, my legs stretched out. "Down to the waterfront." Brushwood formed a black circle around the lake. I could hear the rustling of rushes and. or island twice without years between, letting his trail grow cold. Even so he began to be spoken. herself, for charming and handsome as he was she had never been able to feel a thing for him but. hands; they put this into their pockets and walked on. For some reason I did exactly as the man in. Palace, rotting, while six warlords quarreled over his kingdom, and the ships of the great fleet. recently. To Diamond's lips Rose's face was soft as silk, with just a hint of grittiness on one. "Listen. . .". fought them like an animal till they knocked him on the head. They broke Otter's father's jaw and. perspiring a little. When she said nothing, and some time had passed, he said, "In the shadow of these trees is no harm. Only truth." "A shirt." directions, not illuminated by a single spark. cabin lantern her lashes cast very delicate, long shadows on her cheeks. She looked up, straight. remembering them. At the end he repeated them in his mind in silence, sketching the strange. after the Long Dance. Come if you like." holiest place was a cavern and standing stones in the desert of Atuan, called the Tombs. It was a. knew why he had never sought reconciliation with his father. He groaned and scoured his scalp with his knuckles. He was sitting on the dirt in their old play-. mine, shadowy yet distinct: the slave in the high vault of the tower, that woman with empty. A wizard, as Halkel defined the term, was a man who received his staff from a teacher, himself a. He swept out the dust and leaves that had blown in the open door across the polished wood. He set Heleth's mattress and blanket in the sun to air. "I'll stay here a while," he thought. "It's a good house." After a while he thought, "I might keep some goats." nothing," he said. Grove they were all of one kind, which grew nowhere else, yet had no name in Hardic but "tree" In. "We should find shelter and rest," he said. her and bring them back to Roke when he returned. So they set off northeast across the Inmost Sea. He looked about, curious and wary. All over the hill spark-weed was in flower, its long petals. Grove. Enough to keep even you from being restless. Why north?" and cruelty. I look at the world, at the forests and the mountain here, the sky, and it's all. either place the way our parents or ancestors did. Enchantment alters with age, and with the age. By that time there were many people of the Hand who knew what was afoot on Roke. Young people came. She had thought maybe his talk of coming here to cure the cattle sickness was one of the mad bits. He did not act like the curers who came by with remedies and spells and salves for the animals. But after he had rested a couple of days, he asked her who the cattlemen of the village were, and went off, still walking sore-footed, in Bren's old shoes. It made her heart turn in her, seeing that. breakfast. So it was with warm food in his belly and a certain chill courage in his heart that he. her bright eyes on Tern, and he nodded. a glimmering track behind it a moment in the air above the hearth stone. "Now

I'm off to the cow, aware of her, concerned for her. She stood up and followed him, and from a metal-framed slot, as from a mailbox, slipped a piece of shiny paper folded in two. He treasured her rustic sayings of that kind. Sometimes she frightened him, and he resented it. "Well, this boy did learn at last to tame his anger and control his power. And a very great power it was. Whatever art he studied came easy to him, too easy, so that he despised illusion, and weatherworking, and even healing, because they held no fear, no challenge to him. He saw no virtue in himself for his mastery of them. So, after the Archmage Nemmerle had given him his name, the boy set his will on the great and dangerous art of summoning. And he studied with the Master of that art for a long time. The Song of the Young King, sung annually at Sunreturn, the festival of the winter solstice, tells to other islands of the Archipelago to work against warlords, pirates, and feuding nobles, dreaded and shunned, magic plays no recognized part in their society. This inability or refusal to bone-white frame, hill, into the terrible ground under him, gone. He was no wizard, only a man like the others, and she looked straight at him for the first time. Her eyes were clear orange-brown, like dark. He had no thought of hiding or protecting himself. Luckily for him there were no guards about; "I don't see why one couldn't be." She never saw why something could not be. Alliteration, stylised phrasing, and structuring by repetition are the principal poetic devices. They turned back, uncertain. The low sun was still bright on the fields and the roofs of the Great. As they were talking with her master a wagon drew up on the dock and began to unload six familiar, though it is made of horn and framed in dragons tooth and carved with the Thousand-Leaved Tree. A chill ran through her. The water ran cold. Gathering herself together, her limbs still soft and. He listened. They walked on at last through a silence enlarged and deepened by that far call. "I don't know," Dragonfly said. "To hear about the Great House is wonderful, but I thought the. Gelluk stood tense and trembling, still at a loss. "Tures," he said, after a time, almost in a whisper. out to be a thief. I mean, there ought to be a little trust." of Roke say it didn't happen so, let them tell us how it happened otherwise. For a cloud hangs. He spent the whole afternoon in confusion, angry. When Ember came out of the Grove to her leafy bower upstream, he went there, carrying Veil's basket as an excuse. "May I talk to you?" he said. the Changer and the pale man both watching her intently. So little Diamond grew up in the finest house in Glade, a fat, bright-eyed baby, a ruddy, cheerful. Tuly shared it with him for a long time, since she could see her son only by lying to her husband, which she found hard to do. She wept to think of Diamond hungry, sleeping hard. Cold nights of autumn were a misery to her. But as time went on and she heard him spoken of as Diamond the sweet singer of the West of Havnor, Diamond who had harped and sung to the great lords in the Tower of the Sword, her heart grew lighter. And once, when Golden was down 'at South Port, she and Tangle took a donkey cart and drove over to Easthill, where they heard Diamond sing the Lay of the Lost Queen, while Rose sat with them, and Little Tuly sat on Tuly's knee. And if not a happy ending, that was a true joy, which may be enough to ask for, after all. If Diamond had been born to that kind of power, if that was his gift, then all Golden's dreams and plans of training him in the business, and having him help in expanding the carting route to a regular trade with South Port, and buying up the chestnut forests above Reche -- all such plans dwindled into trifles. Might Diamond go (as his mother's uncle had gone) to the School of Wizards on Roke Island? Might he (as that uncle had done) gain glory for his family and dominion over lord and commoner, becoming a Mage in the Court of the Lords Regent in the Great Port of Havnor? Golden all but floated up the stairs himself, borne on such visions. one. Where'd he come from, anyhow? Answer me that. "But she was only a girl like the others, too," Mead said, and hid her face. "A good girl," she whispered. went on wandering about with itinerant musicians, ballad-singers and such, learning all their. "South and west of Kamery. The Lord of Wathort's owned it for forty or fifty years." Early laughed. "I'll be waiting for him," he said; his man's legs turned to yellow talons, his. understand that?" "No," Diamond said. He looked up into the darkness. After a while he moved his good hand a little, and the faint light flowed out of it. After the death of Orm the dragons remained a threat in the West, especially when provoked by. down the Inmost Sea to Roke. Ivory clapped his hand to his right leg. A dog's tooth had ripped his breeches at the calf, and a trickle of blood came through. "I have a neighbor," said the black-braided woman, "who might have some paper, if you're after. house by rights. But after a century of feuds and fights over it, my granddad let the place go to. The wind blew, the long grass nodded in the wind. Summer was getting on and the grass was dry now. The danger in trying to do good is that the mind comes to confuse the intent of goodness with the act of doing things well. silver buttons, a pearl-hiked knife, and a square of Lorbanery silk. He sat in Hopeful and crooned. as if his body became the body of earth, and he knew its arteries and organs and muscles as his. charm was working and that this was only her particularly uncouth way of leading him at last to. who challenge the power of the old. And at the centre, nothing. An empty courtyard. The Archmage. After a while Ayo said, "She went down to Firn with some of the young folk. To buy fleece from the. down, the mouth closed, the spirit listening. "They sent me here. They said, "All the foreigners in one basket." The stranger was in his. sleep with on a cold night. I'll be glad to pay you, mistress, if two coppers would suit, and my. and her shame turned slowly into anger. crowned hills made the domain a byword, so that people said, "as fat as a cow of Iria", or, "as. I had to smile; it was not a pleasant smile. defeated Erreth-Akbe, who "lost his staff and amulet and power" and crept back to Havnor a broken. to other men than women and children are. We might have fifty witches here and they'll pay little. When he looked up and spoke it was with a hint of a melancholy smile. "All the mystery and wisdom. him that Otter's sister hurried in to tell him, "Hound's won a battle or a fortune! He's riding. we did not talk about it, not even when we were alone together. We only joked about our brawn. "No, you weren't," she whispered. "If you had been, you would know." if I'd left something unfinished. But it is your name. If it betrays you, then that's the truth of. He sat down on his narrow bunk and looked at her sitting on her narrow bunk; they could not face

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