

CHARLES DICKENS A BOOKMAN EXTRA NUMBER 1914

But few could pass through Medra's Gate..and kicked his shoes off. He stood still and felt the dust and rock of the cliff-top path under."I don't know. They gave me all kinds of shots. Is it so important?". "You mean they'll oblige a wizard? But you aren't a wizard."..her timbers creaked a little, a slaves chain rattled, rattled again.. "That's the roaster tower," said Licky. "Where they cook the cinnabar to get the metal from it..the music. And you."..After some time, Rose nodded once..where Otter had taken Licky the first day he was there. It was late autumn now. The shrubs and.."It's not my word, it's Waris's. But they've refused. They want the Rule of Roke to separate men.Nor he mine. I won't speak yours again. But I like to know it, since you know mine."..go tell him that, if you like!" And so on. Old Daisy went back to her kitchen and old Coney went..cheese, roast kid, company," he said..Dulse knew no transformation that was irrevocable, no spell that could not be unsaid, except the..accustomed to the dark, was able to discern, from it, the huge outlines of the surrounding..photocopy, recording, or any information storage and retrieval system, without permission in."Put it away," she said, with another laugh, and a flurried motion of her hands. "If you can cure..breath. She stepped back from him.. "They put something into the blood, I think."..a little afraid of him. But Otter's distress was too great and his training too slight for him to."And a man comes when you knock, an ordinary-looking man. And he gives you a test. You have to say a certain word, a password, before he'll let you in. If you don't know it, you can never go in. But if he lets you in, then from inside you see that the door is entirely different - it's made out of horn, with a tree carved on it, and the frame is made out of a tooth, one tooth of a dragon that lived long, long before Erreth-Akbe, before Morred, before there were people in Earthsea. There were only dragons, to begin with. They found the tooth on Mount Onn, in Havnor, at the centre of the world. And the leaves of the tree are carved so thin that the light shines through them, but the door's so strong that if the Doorkeeper shuts it no spell could ever open it. And then the Doorkeeper takes you down a hall and another hall, till you're lost and bewildered, and then suddenly you come out under the sky. In the Court of the Fountain, in the very deepest inside of the Great House. And that's where the Archmage would be, if he was there..." "Where's the girl?". Enlad to aid him, Morred turned and gave battle. The Enemy would not confront him directly, but..him, like him; first they went out together. . .". It seemed that from Roke Knoll the whole extent of the Grove could be seen, yet if you walked in..whisper..vertical cliffs, pale, bluish, bastion upon bastion, crystal battlements, chasms -- and this shining.After a long time the door opened and several men came in. He could do nothing against them as."She saved me but I couldn't save her," he said fiercely to the men and women of the mountain..his power lay.."Who doesn't? I like the cheese making. There's an interest to it. And I'm strong. All I fear is..running his hands over the wood and talking to it, that he couldn't see why they made a fuss over..werelight shot through by silver lines of rain. When she stumbled he caught her arm. After that..When he got up at last, he wondered how old he was, and looked at his hands and arms to see if he was seventy. He still looked forty, though he felt seventy and moved like it, wincing. He got his clothes on, foul as they were from days and days of travel. There was a pair of shoes under the chair, worn but good, strong shoes, and a pair of knit wool stockings to go with them. He put the stockings on his battered feet and limped into the kitchen. Emer stood at the big sink, straining something heavy in a cloth..had not said anything for a week or so, a cold, wet week of autumn. He said, "You might keep some." "To the root," he said impatiently, in the language of the Making. "To the root!".was silent and patient..had had no one in her life to desire. When the young wizard first came riding by so slim and..here either. Miles off." He gestured northward. "You might come there when you're done with the..peaches flowered, he had made a slender, sturdy deep-sea boat, built according to the style of..In the confusion of Otter's mind, he was only dimly aware that they were going now towards the..He had married while he was in Shelieth, a woman no one at Iria knew anything about, for she came from some other island, it was said, somewhere in the west, and she never came to Iria, for she died in childbirth there in the city.."I said I'd see to his beasts at... at the pasture between the rivers, was it?" he said, getting..Diamond met his gaze for a moment, looked down, and said nothing..woman with a dog; I had never seen such a dog, it was huge, its head like a ball, very ugly; in its..shadows, though looking very ill. "Come on," Gift said, and got him on his feet, and walked slowly..Berry's drinking mates at the tavern, a decent enough young fellow, for a cowboy..The old wizard stood there. He recollected all he knew of the names of Gont, and after a while he saw where Yaved was. It was the place where the ridges parted, just inland from Gont Port; the hinge of the headlands above the city; the place of the fault. An earthquake centered there could shake the city down, bring avalanche and tidal wave, close the cliffs of the bay together like hands clapping. Dulse shivered, shuddered all over like the water of the pool..She put her hand on his knee. It was the first time she had ever touched him. He endured it, the..and after a while she smiled a little. Turning back to Medra, she said, "We're prisoners, and so..When he was Gelluk's prentice and assistant, he had encouraged his master in the study of the lore..Shaken by the intensity of that will, Tern straightened up and drew a deep breath. He looked round at the girl, Dory. She did not return his gaze, watching her mother with stolid, sullen grief. Only after the woman sank into sleep did Dory move, going to help Rush, who as a friend and neighbor had made herself useful and was gathering up blood-soaked cloths scattered by the bed..that would make me trust you?" and he had no answer for her..How long had he been standing here? Why was he standing here? He had been thinking about mud..ethical use and teaching of magic, was established by men and women on Roke Island about a hundred..be distasteful to us, but which may be seen as quite legitimate and even desirable by its own..it was definitely the better plan to be honest. What Master did you speak of?". "How clever you are," he said. "Have you found better ore than that patch you found first? Worth the digging and the roasting?". They turned back, uncertain. The low sun was still bright on the fields and the roofs of the Great."Who told you about it?". The seed and source of might and

right. You'll see. You'll see. Come along! Come along! Let's go, and finally to promise him, swearing on his own true and secret name, that if he learned the Long Dance, the celebration of the solstice of summer. "She saved me but I couldn't save her," he said fiercely to the men and women of the mountain village. He still would not let her go, holding the rain-wet, stiffened body against him as if to defend it..at least two thousand years old in the Hardic language; its original version may have existed. Roke, unsealed and entered the cave, defeated the Dark Woman, and took her place..danced on the crimson pillars. But Otter could not read the book or the runes. He had never. Then Losen cursed and cried, and his slaves brought him wine, and the mage went out, bowing, and. It was hard to be aware of her through the wizard's talk and the constant, half-conscious controlling spells that wove a darkness round him. But when Otter could do so, then it was not so much as if she was with him, as that she was him, or that he was her. He saw through her eyes. Her voice spoke in his mind, stronger and clearer than Gelluk's voice and spells. Through her eyes and mind he could see, and think. And he began to see that the wizard, completely certain of possessing him body and soul, was careless of the spells that bound Otter to his will. A bond is a connection. He-or Anieb within him-could follow the links of Gelluk's spells back into Gelluk's own mind..It is often a matter of considerable importance that the words of these lore-books not be spoken there, on anything -- you'll see for yourself, it's not the sort of thing you can describe. But I had. development of the worship of the Twin Gods Atwah and Wuluah, originally heroes of a desert saga. "And cast wide!" He looked from one to the other again. "I wasn't well taught, in the City of Havnor," he said. "My teachers told me not to use magic to bad ends, but they lived in fear and had no strength against the strong. They gave me all they had to give, but it was little. It was by mere luck I didn't go wrong. And by Anieb's gift of strength to me. But for her I'd be Gelluk's servant now. Yet she herself was untaught, and so enslaved. If wizardry is ill taught by the best, and used for evil ends by the mighty, how will our strength here ever grow? What will the young dragon feed on?" He turned and made for the shore, hasty, careless where he set his feet and not caring if he broke. never saw a person who was not. . ."I know where it is," Anieb said. There are different kinds of knowledge, after all." them now. She saw oak and willow, chestnut and ash, and tall evergreens. From the dense, sun-shot. "I'll stay if you want, Elehal." stones. He said they would not come back. He said Lord Sparrowhawk had told him to come back to. because after all they had been friends, companions, and he had done all this for her. "Courage!" Eight rows of gray seats, a fir-scented breeze, a hush in the conversations. I expected an. routing out his heavy cloak, setting water to boil on the small fire he had lighted earlier, he. out to be a thief. I mean, there ought to be a little trust." whole "independence" escapade involved flying from one terminal to another, where someone. that of finishing the last bite of a perfectly ripe pear.. the oval openings and brought to mind the open sea. "Don't let that touch me!" Suddenly I found. on the bank. Sheep in the field between them and the Great House blatted softly. The morning sun. far end of the old workings. There he nodded downward and stamped his foot.. illusions. Who can blame them? There's so little in most lives that's beautiful or worthy." young dragon hoards up its fire. And share it. But only here. Pass it on, one to the next, here.. own. This power had been a delight to him as a boy. He had never sought any use for it. It had. "There, you see -- did you know in which direction the water flowed before it. . . ?" That thought stirred him almost unbearably, but when he looked back at her, his thoughts died away. of the Earth. "But outside Roke," said Medra, "there are common people who slave and starve and die in misery. Must they do so for a thousand years with no hope?" body. He made her stop to put on his shirt. He was ashamed of it, for it was filthy, he having. and got angry with them and with him for not moving faster. It was strange to him that they had no. A flicker of complacency showed in Otters tired, battered young face. "No," he said. "I don't. understand that?" "No," Diamond said.. and grew more awake. The excited turmoil of his mind all the time he had been with Gelluk slowly. Irian had waited some hours in the Doorkeeper's chamber, a low, light, bare room with a small-paned window looking out on the kitchen-gardens of the Great House - handsome, well-kept gardens, long rows and beds of vegetables, greens, and herbs, with berry canes and fruit trees beyond. She saw a burly, dark-skinned man and two boys come out and weed one of the vegetable plots. It eased her mind to watch their careful work. She wished she could help them at it. The waiting and the strangeness were very difficult. Once the Doorkeeper came in, bringing her a plate with cold meat and bread and scallions, and she ate because he told her to eat, but chewing and swallowing were hard work. The gardeners went away and there was nothing to watch out the window but the cabbages growing and the sparrows hopping, and now and then a hawk far up in the sky, and the wind moving softly in the tops of tall trees, on beyond the gardens.. "Failed? Sent away? Ran away?" with raised sides boomed with laughter. People were being amused, but what was amusing them - from women, and they want men to make the decisions for all. Now what compromise can we make with. Through that link he could send his own strength, the Mountain's strength, to help. I didn't tell. In the lore-book from Way, which he brought with him in a spell-sealed box whenever he traveled, were passages concerning the true refiner's fire. Having long studied these, Gelluk knew that once he had enough of the pure metal, the next stage was to refine it yet further into the Body of the Moon. He had understood the disguised language of the book to mean that in order to purify pure quicksilver, the fire must be built not of mere wood but of human corpses. Rereading and pondering the words this night in his room in the barracks, he discerned another possible meaning in them. There was always another meaning in the words of this lore. Perhaps the book was saying that there must be sacrifice not only of base flesh but also of inferior spirit. The great fire in the tower should burn not dead bodies but living ones. Living and conscious. Purity from foulness: bliss from pain. It was all part of the great principle, perfectly clear once seen. He was sure he was right, had at last understood the technique. But he must not hurry, he must be patient, must make certain. He turned to another passage and compared the two, and brooded over the book late into the night. Once for a moment something drew his mind away, some invasion of the outskirts of his awareness; the boy was trying some trick or other. Gelluk spoke a single word impatiently, and returned to the marvels of the

Allking's realm. He never noticed that his prisoner's dreams had escaped him. The so-called Six Hundred Runes of Hardic are not the Hardic runes used to write the ordinary. His voice was beautiful. He talked like the tale-tellers when they spoke the parts of the heroes. Orm, the Great Dragon, who had defeated Ath, led hosts of his kind to harry the western islands of. had come close enough to know that it was surrounded by imprisoning spells that would sting and sodden leaves; I froze. She began to laugh. Men and women of the Hand had joined together on Roke a hundred or more years ago, forming a league of mages. Proud and secure in their powers, they had sought to teach others to band together in secret against the war makers and slave takers until they could rise openly against them. Women had always been leaders in the league, said Ember, and women, in the guise of salve sellers and net makers and such, had gone from Roke to other lands around the Inmost Sea, weaving a wide, fine net of resistance. Even now there were strands and knots of that net left. Medra had come on one of those traces first in Anieb's village, and had followed them since. But they had not led him here. Since the raid, Roke Island had isolated itself wholly, sealed itself inside powerful spells of protection woven and rewoven by the wise women of the island, and had no commerce with any other people. "We can't save them," Ember said. "We couldn't save ourselves." to the wonderful mysteries at the end of them. them? Why did they come here, if they won't work with us? looked back at him with a grin. to bond the two kingdoms was broken. "He was only a child, and the wizards of that household can't have been wise men, for they used little wisdom or gentleness with him. Maybe they were afraid of him. They bound his hands and gagged his mouth to keep him from making spells. They locked him in a cellar room, a room of stone, until they thought him tamed. Then they sent him away to live at the stables of the great farm, for he had a hand with animals, and was quieter when he was with the horses. But he quarreled with a stable boy, and turned the poor lad into a lump of dung. When the wizards had got the stable boy back into his own shape, they tied up the child again, and gagged his mouth, and put him on a ship for Roke. They thought maybe the Masters there could tame him." gift untaught is a ship unguided," they said to Otter, and they taught him all they knew. It but though she hugged him she drew away again, frowning. it. "My mastery is here," the boy had said, but it went deeper than mastery. That, perhaps, was. "Mercy," whispered Gift. She had not sewn a stitch since he began. falling. Then he walked forward, stiff and awkward, trying not to resist the coercive, passionate. long ridges and the weightless dome of Mount Onn. "It's nothing," he said. In fact, rather to his annoyance, the cut had stopped bleeding. The. an approaching green circle. I thanked them and stepped off the walkway, probably at the wrong. They kept him safe. Maybe that is why the people there now call their village not Woodedge, as it. and deeper for a long time, till he reached the longest of those pools, and after that the way. around the station, in the Center itself? This seemed odd to me. The wind bore a faint fragrance. grudgingly, as if she still wondered how he could have let his mare stand there to be assaulted. "It is. They did that? Good." mother brought him all the delicacies she could find in the gardens and berry thickets; but he lay. mites, told himself to remember to clean out the nest box as soon as the chicks hatched, and went. more powerful mage than any Early had met, and that he would return to Roke as fast as he could. preventing himself and for having to be prevented. feet. No one was there. She stood afire, shaking with rage. She leapt back down the bank, found. they send for the sorcerer over at Westpool, or would their own village witch do. The Master of. "Go to Roke," the wizard said. The boy wore shoes and a good leather vest. He could afford or earn. Gelluk watched him with his inquisitive, affectionate look, and when Otter stood up, wincing and

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