

## LOUIS BESIDE HIMSELF

There was a pause. He forgot that he had to answer in words. "I'd stay if I might," he said. "I'd stay here." He had given her a little warmth when she was cold. He had nothing else to give her. Where she and looked at me. I stopped in front of him. The smile froze on his half-open mouth. I stood still..shrugged arthritically into his heavy cloak, took up his staff, told the fire to go out, and left..He told her, as well as he could. "We were strangers. Yet she gave me her name," he said. "And I gave her mine." He spoke haltingly, with long pauses. "It was I that walked with the wizard, compelled by him, but she was with me, and she was free. And so together we could turn his power against him, so that he destroyed himself." He thought for a long time, and said, "She gave me her power."..salt destroyer," says the poem. But as he fled, he captured her brother Salan, who was sailing.His spies had been coming to him for a year or more muttering about a secret insurgency all across his realm, rebellious groups of sorcerers that called themselves the Hand. Eager to find his enemy, he had one such group investigated. They turned out to be a lot of old women, midwives, carpenters, a ditchdigger, a tinsmith's prentice, a couple of little boys. Humiliated and enraged, Early had them put to death along with the man who reported them to him. It was a public execution, in Losen's name, for the crime of conspiracy against the King. There had perhaps not been enough of that kind of intimidation lately. But it went against his grain. He didn't like to make a public spectacle of fools who had tricked him into fearing them. He would rather have dealt with them in his own way, in his own time. To be nourishing, fear must be immediate; he needed to see people afraid of him, hear their terror, smell it, taste it. But since he ruled in Losen's name, it was Losen who must be feared by the armies and the peoples, and he himself must keep in the background, making do with slaves and prentices..wasn't a woman!".The deeds and lays that tell of raids by dragons and counterforays by wizards portray the dragons as pitiless as any wild animal, terrifying, unpredictable, yet intelligent, sometimes wiser than the wizards. Though they speak the True Speech, they are endlessly devious. Some of them clearly enjoy battles of wits with wizards, "splitting arguments with a forked tongue." Like human beings, all but the greatest of them conceal their true names. In the lay Hasa's Voyage, the dragons appear as formidable but feeling beings, whose anger at the invading human fleet is justified by their love of their own desolate domain. They address the hero: "Maybe I ought to go now?" I asked. I still held my untouched drink..Now, as otter, he was thinking only that he would like to stay otter, be otter, in the sweet brown water, the living river, forever. There is no death for an otter, only life to the end. But in the sleek creature was the mortal mind; and where the stream passes the hill west of Samory, the otter came up on the muddy bank, and then the man crouched there, shivering..The music started up, distant, blurred by wind and the murmur of the river running.."Are you hurt too?".With you there to vouch for me - to say even if I am a woman, I have some gift - and I'd promise.half tun barrels. That's ours," Ivory said, and the ship's master said, "Bound for Hort Town," and..How long can you stay?".Dragonfly said softly, "From Iria."."What is that?".to him that neither was his wife seeing the witch anymore. For years they'd been thick as thieves.,gift. She and some men and women like her, people of no fame and some of questionable reputation.,him I'd retire" he said. "I think I'll do that myself."..too much. The counterarguments that I heard from him and from Abs were unconvincing -- I..So the school on Roke got its first student from across the sea, together with its first librarian. The Book of Names, which is kept now in the Isolate Tower, was the foundation of the knowledge and method of Naming, which is the foundation of the magic of Roke. The girl Dory, who as they said taught her teachers, became the mistress of all healing arts and the science of herbals, and established that mastery in high honor at Roke..Ember was on the dock to meet him. Lame and very thin, he came to her and took her hands, but he could not lift his face to hers. He said, "I have too many deaths on my heart, Elehal."..nursery, until driven back into the west by Ged. But the marauding dragons of the Lay and the..make free with names, my own included. Who named you, Irian?". "Oh, sir," she said, and he knew he had done wrong.."I was just talking, just to talk, it had no. . .".with an attenuated bluish light -- elevators. The one I approached was already on its way up;"I said Roke," Hemlock said in a tone that said he was unused to having to repeat himself. And.."Books?" said a rush plaiter on North Sudidi. "Like that there?" He pointed to long strips of vellum that had been worked into the thatching of his house. "They good for something else?" Crow, staring up at the words visible here and there between the rushes in the eaves, began to tremble with rage. Tern hurried him back to the boat before he exploded..town at the head of a bay that opened out eastward, and beyond it the high line of the sea's edge.the hillside with its grass and bushes in the last of the sunlight, but there was no entrance..Golden's house, and a tent for the old folks to eat and drink and gossip in, and new clothes for.The Windkey stood silent, but the group of men muttered, angry, and some of them moved forward..Oblivious to all this, Gelluk talked on, following the endless spell of his own enchanting voice..on Pendor. He went out with the young lord in his ship, past the Toringates and far into the West.Irian, she shrank back from him. It was as if a grave had opened, a winter grave, cold, wet, dark.."Didn't know you were after him. I've been after him a long time. He fooled me." Hound spoke without rancor..That would be unwise," he said, with a good imitation of the Master Changer's terse solemnity. "If..not understand the old man's joke until he turned to the window and saw the Armed Cliffs down at..after her. Then she plodded gently on. He pressed against her flank and clung to her, for the..He had forced them to boil any water they used. Now he said, "If you eat that meat, in a year..believe everything I said?".students learning how to do tricks of illusion from the sorcerer Hega of O; Master Hand, they..his power was gone, he was not a mage. So presently the Masters of Roke met to choose a new.."Wherever you like."."I am Anieb," she whispered.."Why can't you do it now?".Maybe she'll destroy herself through our hands, in the end. But not through yours. False king..Moles," Diamond said. "Honestly, I feel like hiding underground. I always thought Father was going to make me learn all his kind of stuff, after I got my name. But all this year he's kept sort of holding off. I guess

he had this in mind all along. But what if I go down there and I'm not any better at being a wizard than I am at bookkeeping? Why can't I do what I know I can do?".been a hundred years ago. He came back unsuccessful and embittered and spent his age drinking the."Nonsense! Not history!" said the old Namer. "The first Archmage came centuries after the last king. Roke ruled in the kings' stead."."What did you want, Diamond?". "Have to wash my feet every time I come in," he grumbled. He walked in gingerly. The wood was so.didn't know why her charm of healing caused the wound to gangrene, why the child she brought into."Irian of Way, my lords," said the Doorkeeper. They were all silent. He motioned her to come."Which level?".speak. Without a word or gesture he turned away again and left the room. As he walked slowly past.breath smelled earthy. His light eyes gazed directly into Otter's eyes. "Would you like to know?.was empty, clear. She stood still and her soul seemed to go into that sky and be gone, gone out of.Dulse thought sometimes in those years about sons and fathers. He had quarreled with his own father, a sorcerer-prospecter, over his choice of a teacher; his father had shouted that a student of Ard's was no son of his, had nursed his rage and died unforgiving..He sat down on his narrow bunk and looked at her sitting on her narrow bunk; they could not face.showed 'em again, I'd have taught them their lesson!".I found myself in a forest of fountains; farther along I came upon a white-pink room filled.himself, riding back to Westpool, and laughed. "I do indeed," he said aloud. The black mare nicked.is it?".smaller and smaller and wail like a stick in the fire, and then all in a moment he was back in.A red stripe passed across her face.. "Yes," he said, "but only disguised. I won't put a semblance-spell on you till we're on Roke.After a long time, she came back to the sunlight and the stableyard and her thoughts and puzzles. "But even if he's gone," she said, "surely some of the Masters are truly wise?".Her eyes were wild..grew out of the wall at every step; the touch of a finger, and something would fall into their.of the Dragonlords, as the tale goes on, the names and exploits of these wizards begin to eclipse.desire..white high-held explosion of unbelievable wings; between them, columns, made not of any.fault and they would know nothing about it. He thought about it for a long time, working out how.go quickly, but she went steadily, her eyes fixed on the faint cart track they followed, till the.But he looked up, not at Ged but at Gift, silent in the hearth corner.. "Did you talk at all to Master Hemlock?".dragon are one." If human beings originally shared that innate knowledge or identity, they lost it.My teacher was with me, and his teacher with him," Ogion said when they praised him. "I could hold the Gate open because he held the Mountain still." They praised his modesty and did not listen to him. Listening is a rare gift, and men will have their heroes..fought, "talon and fire and word and sword," until..HE SPENT THE NIGHT in their old place in the shallows. Maybe he hoped she would come, but she did.long ridges and the weightless dome of Mount Onn..mended their nets. There was a hearth there, and they would light the fire. People came even from."It's common talk, I think," said Dragonfly, with her grave simplicity..Queen Heru, called the Eagle, inherited the throne from her father, Denggemal of the House of Ilien. Her consort Aiman was of the House of Morred. When she had ruled thirty years she gave the crown to their son Maharion..glassy rock, a translucent massif above the plains of the night; spectral radiance issued from the.He heard behind him the next tune start up, the viol alone, strong and sad as a tenor voice:.squeeze their way. In places the ceilings had collapsed. Ladders were shaky. The mine was a.arms to wide feathered wings, and the eagle flew up and off across the wind.. "There's the King," Licky said, in a tone that might have been reverence or hatred..and several have asked me or the Doorkeeper if they may go. And we'd let them go. But there's no.He saw the lines of the spells that held him, heavy cords of darkness, a tangled maze of lines all about him. There was a way out of the knot, if he turned around so, and then so, and parted the lines with his hands, so; and he was free..never came to Roke Island, never saw it, sailed right through where the sea charts said was an.in space, because it was certainty, not a guess..at me. Her eyes froze. But to that I had grown accustomed. I asked where the Inner Circle was..In the rage of his agony the Enemy raised up a great wave and sent it speeding to overwhelm the.After a while she heard the latch rattle. The door opened. An ordinary-looking middle-aged man.apertures over the road, covered from time to time by the noiseless machines; there was not one.At first he was overwhelmed with fierce fantasies of power and revenge: he would free the slaves.. "Are there any wizard musicians?" he asked, looking up..built of stone, but was half empty, defaced, window frames and facing stones pulled out of it..he cleansed me, so that each time we grow purer together." The wizard took Otter's arm and walked.She hesitated; she laughed. "If he wants a fife-player," she said..The Patterner's voice had grown rougher, and he suddenly brushed the little design of pebbles."Anyone can make a fist and show a palm," said the tall woman, pleasantly. "But not everyone can.such a fool when I'm outside them... When I'm here I can't believe it is a prison. But outside,.house, which, like most witches' houses, stood somewhat apart from the village. "Well," she said,.Beneath a dome supported by cracked, dumbing columns stood a woman, as though she.where did it turn false; how the balance of things was kept or lost; what crafts were needful,.fields by Serrenen to show him the one spell of true change he knew. "First let's see you turn.and litigations. Farmlands went to weeds, farmsteads went unroofed, milking sheds stood unused..He resolved to wait and watch. Being a patient man with a strong will, he did so for four years..not seen him for over a year, having been busy; he was always busy in Gont Port, doing the."There is no king in Earthsea," the young man said, stern and righteous, "In my master's service.. "A sending - only a seeming of him. It could not hurt you, Irian.. "can fly up, fly up into the Courts of the King. Come along, come along, up into his tower, where.The winter passed by, and the cold early spring, and with the warm late spring came a letter from."I have to have a single heart. I can't play the harp while I'm bargaining with a mule-breeder. I.evenings, at the dark face bent above a lore-book or a shirt that needed mending. The eyes cast."He's not too well," she said, speaking low. "He was curing the cattle away out east over the.dragon feed on?".Thwil Town, near the Grove and looking to the Knoll. Its walls were built not only of stone and.Bitterly he recognized that he was always believing his own lies, caught in nets he had.with exaggeration, moving its huge lips and meaty tongue.

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