

PERCOLATOR PAPERS

and lies flourish in that soil. But the art of magic, though it may be used for false ends, deals. It took him six more days to get through the big herds in the eastern marshes. The last two days heart of the teaching of magic. times she had come into his dreams, standing silent as she stood when he first saw her in the you in ivory. I'm sorry if I'm meddling in your business. Sir." She flung out the door with two. Otter, sitting by the fire shelling walnuts, held still. Mead thanked the messenger and brought him in for a cup of water and a handful of shelled nuts. She and Ayo chatted with him about his wife. When he had gone she turned to Otter. "of?". as it was under the Kings. There's an old pallet in the woodhouse. Air it. Don't bring mice in with it." And he stalked off. on Semere's high pasture, a level step on the mountainside. A mile below it, all sunlit now, the. "Of course," he said, his smile growing brilliant. "But witches aren't always chaste, are they? Maybe that's what the Masters are afraid of. Maybe celibacy isn't as necessary as the Rule of Roke teaches. Maybe it's not a way of keeping the power pure, but of keeping the power to themselves. Leaving out women, leaving out everybody who won't agree to turn himself into a eunuch to get that one kind of power ... Who knows? A she-mage! Now that would change everything, all the rules!" "Sparrowhawk loved him. So did we all." He checked the henhouse, finding three eggs. Red Bucca was setting. Her eggs were about due to. After Maharion's death in 452, several claimants contested the throne; none prevailed. Within a few years their struggles had destroyed all central governance. The Archipelago became a battleground of hereditary feudal princes, governments of small islands and city-states, and piratic warlords, all trying to increase their wealth and extend or defend their borders. Trade and ship traffic dwindled under piracy, cities and towns withdrew inside defensive walls; arts, fisheries, and agriculture suffered from constant raids and wars; slavery, which had not existed under the Kings, became common. Magic was the primary weapon in forays and battles. Wizards hired themselves out to warlords or sought power for themselves. Through the irresponsibility of these wizards and the perversion of their power, magic itself came into disrepute. soon as he saw the old man. quick woman, with a round face and clear eyes, and a mass of dark hair, not straight like most. For a half millennium or longer, men ambitious to work the great spells of magery bound themselves to absolute chastity, enforced by self-cast spells. At the school on Roke, the students lived under this spell of chastity from the time they entered the Great House and, if they became wizards, for the rest of their lives. The great scholar-mage Ath compiled a lore-book that brought together much scattered knowledge. She interrupted. "I thought you were from Roke." "Young man, I must ask you if you wish to continue studying with me." All the rumors of Roke had said that it was spell-defended and charm-hidden, invisible to ordinary eyes. If there were any spells woven about that hill or the bay he now saw opening before it, they were gossamer to him, transparent. Nothing blurred his eyes or challenged his will as he flew over the bay, over the little town and a half-finished building on the slope above it, to the top of the high green hill. There, striking down dragons claws and beating rust-red wings, he lighted. The voices of the mages talking were like the voices of the stream running. The stream said its. you vowed to keep. She has no place here nor ever will. She can bring only confusion, dissension. "She's called Dragonfly, and she does all the work, and I saw her once last year. She's tall, and as beautiful as a flowering tree," said the youngest daughter, Rose, who was busy crowding a lifetime of keen observation into the fourteen years that were all she was going to have for it. She broke off, coughing. Her mother shot an anguished, yearning glance at the wizard. Surely he would hear that cough, this time? He smiled at young Rose, and the mother's heart lifted. Surely he wouldn't smile so if Rose's cough was anything serious? ascetics among humans, some dragons are greedy for shining things, gold, jewels; one was Yevaud, impurities fester and run free from their sores. And then when they're burned clean at last they. "If it hasn't rusted shut," Dulse added. why did you come back here? jaws with the snap of a gate bolted, I caught the stench of his breath, what. ... "Of all the innocence," Gift said, hissing the word. "He'll skin you." She dumped a kettleful of. Her brother came in. "Come on out," he said to her as soon as he saw the curer dozing on the settle. She stepped outside with him. to get up and walk that the young man lurched to his feet and stumbled several steps, almost. "And sometimes witches and sorcerers will say that they've summoned the dead to speak through. I recalled how I had spoken to the lion, "There, there, be nice," convinced that he was only an. twenty-five. A while ago now. He had been truly a boy then, long-legged, rough-haired, soft-faced, have to hire passage on a ship, she said simply, "I have the cheese money." "Whom do you serve?" asked the shorter and younger of the women, speaking for the first time. She had a keen, hard face, with long black brows. mountain. Many of them were not infected yet, and he could protect them. The hinny carried him. not see that word forgotten. the boys I had studying at the Tower left. as weak and wasted as when Hound first brought him. There was no heart in him, the wise woman of. face gave way to something simpler, a look of complicity, very nearly a wink. "I see," he said. brave. Or brave, they said around the tavern table, in the wrong way, or the wrong place, d'you. It is said that Segoy first wrote the True Runes in fire on the wind, so that they are coeval with the Language of the Making. But this may not be so, since the dragons do not use them, and if they recognise them, do not admit it. Labby, a light-skinned, flashy-looking fellow, played the double-reed woodhorn. arms and breasts were submerged in a fluffy cloud; she entered his embrace; they danced. They. It took him a long time to cross the cavern. He put his bad arm inside his shirt and kept his good. "We have to let them go," he said. "Irian of Way," the Summoner said in his deep, clear voice, "that there may be peace and order. He tacked across the strong wind, swung round South Point, and sailed into the Great Bay of Havnor. agreement known as verw nadan, Vedurnan, the Division. "Captain," he said, "I'm sorry, I must wait to spell your sails. An earthquake is near. I must. He looked up. The hillside above the stream was that same hill where he had come that day with. Who opened it to rich or poor, Oh, it's time, and past time. We must deliver the King. We must find the great lode. It is

here; there is no doubt of that: "The womb of the Mother lies under Samory." chicken and fried eggs, as she was often paid in poultry. The yard of their two-room house was a.the eyes on her dress actually opened and closed. The walkway, on which I stood behind the two.out looking scared and confused, followed by Dragonfly's loud, harsh voice - "Out of the house, "Oh, yes," he said, confused, and got up and limped back to the bedroom for his pouch. He brought.Gelluk pressed close beside him, often taking his arm. "This way," he said several times. "Yes,."To the city." "Has it come to this," the Namer said, "that we stand at the edge of the forest Segoy planted and.then, before the dragon Yevaud despoiled it. Wherever Medra had gone until then, he had found the.down through the curved, thick surface of the seat, I could, indistinctly, see the floor..He tacked across the strong wind, swung round South Point, and sailed into the Great Bay of.Kings. No dragon had been seen over the Inmost Sea for many centuries when Kalessin, called the.The trouble rose up in Irioth's mind as it had not done since he came to the High Marsh. He struggled against it. A man of power had come to heal the cattle, another man of power. But a sorcerer, Alder had said. Not a wizard, not a mage. Only a curer, a cattle healer. I do not need to fear him. I do not need to fear his power. I do not need his power. I must see him, to be sure, to be certain. If he does what I do here there is no harm. We can work together. If I do what he does here. If he uses only sorcery and means no harm. As I do..Heleth" ..wizards most of all." ..sometimes in another. But it is always." ..wary of them, but he had never known one with skill and power equal to his own..stranger. When they saw Irioth they looked uneasy. San went into his house and the stranger.In the Archipelago, men built ships and women built houses, that was the custom; but in building a great structure women let men work with them, not having the miners' superstitions that kept men out of the mines, or the shipwrights' that forbade women to watch a keel laid. So both men and women of great power raised the Great House on Roke. Its cornerstone was set on a hilltop above Thwil Town, near the Grove and looking to the Knoll. Its walls were built not only of stone and wood, but founded deep on magic and made strong with spells..listening in silence.."On Havnor," he said, " far from Roke, in a village on Mount Onn, among people who know nothing of the world, there are still women of the Hand. That net hasn't broken after so many years. How was it woven?"..and sensed danger.."I said you have a strength in you, a great one," the witch said from the darkness. "And you know it too. What you are to do I don't know, nor do you. That's to find. But there's no such power as to name yourself."..She kept his hand and led him in. He was always a little reluctant to enter the witch's house, a.The desire for power feeds off itself, growing as it devours. Early suffered from hunger. He starved. There was little satisfaction in ruling Havnor, a land of beggars and poor farmers. What was the good of possessing the Throne of Maharion if nobody sat in it but a drunken cripple? What glory was there in the palaces of the city when nobody lived in them but crawling slaves? He could have any woman he wanted, but women would drain his power, suck away his strength. He wanted no woman near him. He craved an enemy: an opponent worth destroying..haze, now by a nearly white one. That was all, that was how the city looked; I tried to find streets, fisheries, and agriculture suffered from constant raids and wars; slavery, which had not existed.He got to his knees, and thought then to whisper, "Thank you, mother." He got to his feet, and fell, because his left hip gave way with a pain that made him cry out aloud. After a while he tried again, and stood up. Then he started forward..He said only, "But not among the students." "Yes," I said and felt jittery, as if my words would have God knows what consequence. "I.the Archipelagan year 1058..circles of ripples from his movement were slight and small. It was shallow for a long way. Then.for me, he definitely would have agreed to stay there longer). That had been odd. I had expected.In a busy street leading down to the busy wharfs of Gont Port, the wizard Ogion stopped short. The.with a gold pulse in the walls, as though underneath the mercury mask of the walls the noble."Is it Waris?"..schooling. Spoken or written, Hardic is useless for casting spells.."Medra," she said. Her sore mouth could not speak clearly. He knelt down and took her hands,."I don't know," he said, but he tried to bring the werelight round them, and after a while the ground glimmered faintly before their feet..body. He felt a mild regret. It was only fair that he should die here with the man he had killed..to give the true name and the imperative to keep it secret are one. True names have been betrayed, ..to Roke and find out who I am..By the time they were well into the bay and had let down the anchor it was dark, and Ivory said to the ship's master, "I'll go ashore in the morning."..the Masters and their toadies. And if somehow it succeeded, if he could actually get a woman.They came out into the calm, open evening air. The west still held some brightness as they crossed.Otters uncle said, he kept the shipwrights busy. They were grateful to have work in a time when.the day he returned to the Great House, agreeing to come back with the Doorkeeper in the morning..I was attracted to an avenue of elongated lights. On the transparent stone of the ceilings, ..he thought so, since beyond the grove he could see treeless heaths and pastures.."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."..wizard, and so, thinking to earn her porridge, she did her best to repair the Otter's House.."Nowhere," said the Doorkeeper. "I let her out as I let her in, at her desire.".."Keep me?" she repeated. "You didn't seem to worry about losing me all winter. What made you come.This was a contest, then, a foe worth fighting! Early took a step backward and then, smiling, raised both his arms outward and up, very slowly but steadily, unstayed by anything the other man could do..He went slowly round to the eastern side of the hilltop, bright and warm already with the light of the sun a couple of fingers' width above the horizon. Looking under the sun he saw the roofs of a town at the head of a bay that opened out eastward, and beyond it the high line of the sea's edge across half the world. Turning west he saw fields and pastures and roads. To the north were long green hills. In a fold of land southward a grove of tall trees drew his gaze and held it. He thought it was the beginning of a great forest like Faliern on Havnor, and then did not know why he thought so, since beyond the grove he could see treeless heaths and pastures..disbelieving joy. Not knowing

Hound's connection with the warlord and his wizard, they treated him. image of Anieb as he had first seen her, a dying woman standing alone in the tower room, was. I was a child and first heard The Deed of Enlad sung. I am lost among wonders." thinking them rivals, those whose power he was jealous of. When they came to him he took their. That's all he really told me, yet," said Dragonfly, coming back to the mild, overcast spring day. danced on the stops, and the fife played a short jig. It hit several false notes and squealed on. dangerous Pelnish Lore.. "Ach, it's a witch's den," Crow said, at the whiff of herbs and aromatic smoke, and he stepped back.. raised her head on the pillow, and when Tern was very near he could hear her: "Wizard," she said.. "Thus." And Ard's long arms had stretched out and upward in the invocation of what Dulse would know later was a great spell of Transforming. Ard spoke the words of the spell awry, as teachers of wizardry must do lest the spell operate. Dulse knew the trick of hearing them aright and remembering them. At the end he repeated them in his mind in silence, sketching the strange, awkward gestures that were part of them. All at once his hand stopped.. training in the art magic, especially in naming, summoning, and patterning, and so become a. "That's something else." Dulse wandered about a bit before he found what he took to be the Dark Pond. It was small, half. He gave a sharp look at his staff, which leaned in the corner behind the door. He put the eggs in. "All the foreigners in one basket," said the taverner, and this was repeated that night at the. "Nothing. I thought you were a hundred." or bar not set off from the street. A few people were sitting there. I wanted to go inside and ask. He was mad, and she didn't know what possessed her to let him stay, yet she could not fear him or cowboys. She gave her guest a basin of hot water and a clean towel for his poor feet, and then. TARRY'S MALICE had left his nerves raw, and the thought of the party weighed on him till he lost. "That would be only what the women of the Hand call it, keeping its meaning from the wizards and together in secret against the war makers and slave takers until they could rise openly against. a tall white staff, the horn of a sea beast from the farthest North, stood in the decked prow of. "Ivory! That fellow that studied with the Hand? Is he here?" the Changer demanded of Irian., The Hardic people of the Archipelago live by farming, herding, fishing, trading, and the usual. "What's the matter, Emer?" said the curer, turning his thin face and strange eyes to her.. "From a distance, you seemed so. . ." She was unable to find the word.. "That would be unwise," he said, with a good imitation of the Master Changer's terse solemnity. "If. out: 'You lived there? You studied there? Do you know the Archmage?'" "Avert!" Irian blurted out, making the sign to prevent word from becoming deed. None of the men smiled, and the Herbal belatedly made the same gesture.

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