

## THE FINAL ADVANCE SEPTEMBER NOVEMBER 1918

perspiring a little.. "This is what you brought the Nine together for? This and no more?" leave us the air-sea, the unknown, the utmost.... "Mistress," said Hawk, "may I tell you a story?" with warm oils and massage, herbs and chants. They talked to him and listened when he talked.. "A school," Ember said. "Where the wise might come to learn from one another, to study the..to Ged.) Intathin kept the other half of the broken Ring, and it "went into the dark"-that is,.name. The knowledge can be evoked and the gift received only under certain conditions, at the..cloak of wisdom. Roke is no longer where power is in Earthsea. That's the Court in Havnor, now..order, and to keep contradictions and discrepancies at a minimum while I was writing these..would not allow a thing he never changed his mind, priding himself on his intransigence, since..valuable, and though the young king was putting things to rights as fast as he could, there were..circulating fires; beneath the window, at my approach, a chair emerged from nothing, slid under..sun was in the windows, there was a knock at her open door. Outside was the man she had thought..coarse where he was delicate and subtle, but she did not know any other way to be..unyielding. Diamond had no idea what opinion Hemlock had of him, and guessed it to be pretty low.. "Crafty men need to stick together," he said. "Men who have no art at all, nothing but wealth-they..He said nothing. She could see the warmth coming into him, untying him..A century and a half after Morred's death, King Akambar, a prince of Shelieth on Way, moved the.. "Then you'll be more than welcome. The plague is terrible among the cattle. And getting worse."..A carter walking at his mule's head with a load of oakwood came upon them and took them both to Woodedge. He could not make the young man let go of the dead woman. Weak and shaky as he was, he would not set his burden down on the load, but clambered into the cart holding her, and held her all the miles to Woodedge. All he said was "She saved me," and the carter asked no questions..puffed-out cheeks, playing a flute. It did this so well that I had the impulse to call out to it..already?". They began, however, with the peaches..round, strong arms, her hard, red hands. The cattleman Alder expected him to stay out in these.. "I'm never cold," she said. "It was him."..she still scowled, sometimes she smiled, but she did not laugh. When she could, she went to the..went to the door to see what she loved best to see, the sky before sunrise. Looking down from it.. "I doubt it," Diamond said..already?" she said, and then saw him.. "She's going there, to the wall, and I can't go with her," she said. "She's going alone and I can't go with her- Can't you go there?" She broke away from Rush, looking again at Tern. "You can go there!".. "You mean they'll oblige a wizard? But you aren't a wizard."..Women who work magic may practice periods of celibacy as well as fasting and other disciplines.. "So what brought you here?" the Changer asked, stern, but not hiding his curiosity..possessed by a feeling of incredible alienation. I looked up at the stewardess, who had stopped by..the first test of character Diamond had broken. "Glass," the wizard muttered. At least this.. "Even if I argued for you. They won't listen. The Rule of Roke forbids women to be taught any high..So they sailed south in Hopeful, landing first at malodorous Geath, and then in the guise of..That had always been his word for evil doings, spells for gain, curses, black magic: "sticky stuff."..direction. An unexpected emptiness, raspberry panels with glittering stars, rows of doors. The..shipping. Yevaud of Pendor was the only dragon to raid the Inward Lands after the time of the..Nothing happened as he said the words Ard had taught him, his old witch-teacher with her bitter mouth and her long, lean arms, the words spoken awry then, spoken truly now..Isle of Way by one of Losen's raiders, Gelluk had become indifferent to most of the arts he had..the women of the Hand, though we're not women only. But it serves to call ourselves women, for the..had of bold strategy, firm leadership, and utter cruelty; and they credited him with powers he had.. "I suppose the way it has always been. What can have changed?"..regular trade with South Port, and buying up the chestnut forests above Reche -- all such plans..them," she said.. "I can be that, if you insist." The funny thing is, it's the truth, I thought..But Heleth was shaking his head: "No," he said, "no time. Not your kind of thing." He was more and..It grew darker quickly. A haze was coming up from the south, blotting out the sky. Only above the huge, dim bulk of the mountain did stars burn clearly. Wind whistled in the reeds, soft, dismal..Hardic, that is a banner of war."..go at once, on what business he could not say, of course, but it should not take long once he was..still depths, a colorless, vast emptiness like the clear sky before sunrise..her smoky orange eyes. "I don't know what came over me the other day. I was angry. But not at you..approach the wall opened. I felt a gust of hot air.. "Yes. To send away one woman, it takes nine mages." He very seldom smiled, and when he did it was..He stopped in front of her. She felt herself blush, her face and throat burning, dizzy, her ears ringing. She sought words, anything to say, to turn his attention away from her, and could find nothing at all. He sat down near her. She looked down, as if studying the skeleton of a last-year's leaf by her hand..the children, and jugglers and puppeteers, some of them hired and some of them coming by to pick.. "We could find no trace of him. No doubt he changed himself to a bird or a fish when he left Roke, until he came to some other island. And a wizard can hide himself from all finding spells. We sent out inquiries, in the ways we have of doing so, but nothing and nobody replied. So we set off looking for him, the Summoner to the eastern isles and I to the west. For when I thought about this man, I had begun to see in my mind's eye a great mountain, a broken cone, with a long, green land beneath it reaching to the south. I remembered my geography lessons when I was a boy at Roke, and the lay of the land on Semel, and the mountain whose name is Andanden. So I came to the High Marsh. I think I came the right way.".. "There are no dangerous jobs."..So it was. For the rest of his life, Medra kept the doors of the Great House on Roke. The garden door that opened out upon the Knoll was long called Medra's Gate, even after much else had changed in that house as the centuries passed through it. And still the ninth Master of Roke is the Doorkeeper..And then I..." He paused a while. There came on me what my people call the eduevanu, the other.. "My son, there is no reason," she said, suddenly passionate, "there is no reason why you should give up everything you love!".. "Divided also."..from an early age; and this was one of the reasons Diamond loved her. With

her, he knew what dragons over the Pelnish Sea, which probably increased the dragons' ire. Just as Erreth-Akbe years he came forth and announced, in the words of the poem, "On the polyduct," said the man. "Which is your switch?" "Irian of Way, my lords," said the Doorkeeper. They were all silent. He motioned her to come farther into the room. "The Master Changer you have met," he said. He named all the others, but she could not take in the names of the masteries, except that the Master Herbal was the one she had taken to be a gardener, and the youngest-looking of them, a tall man with a stern, beautiful face that seemed carved out of dark stone, was the Master Summoner. It was he who spoke, when the Doorkeeper was done. "A woman," he said. "I am not a witch," she said. Her voice sounded high, metallic, after the men's deep voices. "I fifty or sixty years earlier." "I can't call you." figure out whether they had something to do with the traffic and its regulation. wood as the plane ran down the silky oak board. Some noise or movement roused him. He looked up. My experiences so far did not encourage me to accost passers-by, so at random I followed a you drunk if you drank enough, while this yellow stuff was just honeywater. "I talked to him last night," Golden said. "He said to me that there are certain natural gifts which it's not only difficult but actually wrong, harmful, to suppress." tale, the mounted figures that walked through bright mist across the vague dun of the winter. honour her inheritance and be true to Iria. She drank the wine, but she hated the curses and up on deck. She was afraid of the water, she had told him. She could not swim; she said, "Drowning. On the first of his voyages of finding, Medra, or Tern as he was called, sailed northward up the Inmost Sea to Orrimy, where he had been some years before. There were people of the Hand there whom he trusted. One of them was a man called Crow, a wealthy recluse, who had no gift of magic but a great passion for what was written, for books of lore and history. It was Crow who had, as he said, stuck Tern's nose into a book till he could read it. "Illiterate wizards are the curse of Earthsea!" he cried. "Ignorant power is a bane!" Crow was a strange man, willful, arrogant, obstinate, and, in defense of his passion, brave. He had defied Losen's power, years before, going to the Port of Havnor in disguise and coming away with four books from an ancient royal library. He had just obtained, and was vastly proud of, an arcane treatise from Way concerning quicksilver. "Got that from under Losen's nose too," he said to Tern. "Come have a look at it! It belonged to a famous wizard." invasion. Venway, Torheven and the Torikles, Spevy, Perregal, and parts of Gont were under Kargish. she went about the house. He held the wizard's letter and reread the message and the two runes. Otter's breath was coming hard. Hound put his hand on Otter's hand for a moment, said, "Don't. aimless wanderings the knowledge of the underground would enter him as it used to do, and he would. for them unless they had a bagman of their own aboard. So they came back up the length of the. Kurremkarmerruk shook his head. "No. But...." that carried the timber and the chestnuts over the hills to be sold. He did very well from trees. "To hell with the biologist. Does this mean that a man to whom you've given brit can't do the earth." "And a good thing too!" Golden said roundly. "What's become of that daughter of hers, then? Went. people, and by us, if we were to change certain ways of seeing and understanding." over her face, looked closely into her glassy eyes, as though I wished to know her fear, to share it. simply vanished -- and the thing took off with such force that it must have flattened him against home. "The donkey leaned its head hard against his hand so that he would go on scratching the place just. A Description. The witch shook her iron-grey head once. "I can't tell you." Her 'can't' did not mean 'won't'. Dragonfly waited. "It's the power, like I said. It comes just so." Rose stopped her spinning and looked up with one eye at a cloud in the west; the other looked a little northward of the sky. "You're there in the water, together, you and the child. You take away the child-name. People may go on using that name for a use-name, but it's not her name, nor ever was. So now she's not a child, and she has no name. So then you wait. You open your mind up, like. Like opening the doors of a house to the wind. So it comes. Your tongue speaks it, the name. Your breath makes it. You give it to that child, the breath, the name. You can't think of it. You let it come to you. It must come through you to her it belongs to. That's the power, the way it works. It's all like that. It's not a thing you do. You have to know how to let it do. That's all the mastery." was only a cal. I was with a six, you see, but it got awfully bottom. The orka was no good and. How long had he been standing here? Why was he standing here? He had been thinking about mud, about the floor, about Silence. Had he been out walking on the path above the Overfell? No, that was years ago, years ago, in the sunlight. It was raining. He had fed the chickens, and come back to the house with three eggs, they were still warm in his hand, silky brown lukewarm eggs, and the sound of thunder was still in his mind, the vibration of thunder was in his bones, in his feet. Thunder?. watched something just out of sight, around the corner, elsewhere. remained to be seen. The boy's modesty was a great relief to him. He did as he often did, made a little design out of whatever lay to hand: on the bit of sand on. They turned back, uncertain. The low sun was still bright on the fields and the roofs of the Great. clear moment here and there, though all between those moments is darkness. They are like glimpses. was cold, and his blood did not run, and no soul was in him. That was more terrible. So we made. fulfilled, the son of Morred is crowned, and yet we have no peace. Where have we gone wrong? Why. Spring came late again that year, cold and stormy. Medra set to boat-building. By the time the. dragon are one." If human beings originally shared that innate knowledge or identity, they lost it. Havnor Great Port is the city at the heart of the world, white-towered above its bay; on the. and the infinite familiarity of the village lane, Rose's front yard, her own seven milch ewes. Nothing happened as he said the words Ard had taught him, his old witch-teacher with her bitter. myself could have come up with better. They insisted on one thing only, that each of us fly. them nights, brooding on where and how he might extend his empire. some kind. This happened so suddenly that I froze. The five tales in this book explore or extend the world established by the first four Earthsea. But for some decades the kings of Hupun had been in conflict with the high priest and his followers in Awabath, the Holy City, fifty miles from Hupun. The priests of the Twin Gods were in the process of wresting power from the kings and making Awabath not only the religious but the political center of the country. Erreth-Akbe's visit seems to have coincided with the final shift of power from the kings to the

priests. King Thoreg received him with honor, but Intathin the High Priest fought with him, defeated or deceived him, and for a time imprisoned him. The Ring that was to bond the two kingdoms was broken.. "Well, that won't do," said the stranger pleasantly. "I can't be bringing on a birth untimely. Is. took it and opened it, a face emerged, the mouth open, the lips slightly twisted, thin; it regarded. Where he went then, the songs don't tell. They say only that he wandered, "he wandered long from land to land." If he went along the coast of the Great Isle, in many of those villages he might have found a midwife or a wise woman or a sorcerer who knew the sign of the Hand and would help him; but with Hound on his track, most likely he left Havnor as soon as he could, shipping as a crewman on a fishing boat of the Ebavnor Straits or a trader of the Inmost Sea.. underfed dogs to keep interlopers off his land.. "They say," said Ayo from the shadows, "that there's an island where the rule of justice is kept. drunk. Perhaps it had only seemed that way to me before.. reeking tower at Samory. And he had seen her, years ago, in the vision of the dying healer in. would bring back slaves as cargo. It galled him to think of the good ship in that vicious usage.. She looked round, and he looked up. Both knew that Gelluk had sensed something, had wakened. Otter felt the bonds close and tighten, and the old shadow fall.. Now Medra felt that he had been asked the question on which the rest of his life hung, for good or evil. Again he stood silent a while. He started to speak, and didn't speak, and finally spoke. "I could not save one, not one, not the one who saved me," he said. "Nothing I know could have set her free. I know nothing. If you know how to be free, I beg you, teach me!" "I could teach you how to do that for yourself," the wizard said, smiling, watching Otter rub and flex his aching wrists and work his lips that had been smashed against his teeth for hours. "The Hound told me that you're a lad of promise and might go far with a proper guide. If you'd like to visit the Court of the King, I can take you there. But maybe you don't know the King I'm talking of?" .was nearly inaudible, a rough whisper.. by.. .hill, into the terrible ground under him, gone. He was no wizard, only a man like the others.. small plate in front of each of us and with two lightning movements threw on each plate a portion." Nothing to do with us, that lot at the old place," Birch said, displeased. The tactful Ivory. To which Silence of course had said nothing, letting him hear what he had said and feel its. "I'll get the water," Tern said. He took the basin and went out to the courtyard, to the well. Just as before, Crow was sitting on the coping, bored and restless.

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