

## THE GOLD CHAMPION RISE OF THE MENITORR

"No. A bathing suit. . . But there were groups of people in my day, they were called."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..And it is no small honor to be invited by a wizard to be his student or apprentice. Hemlock, who."Ah, pick your nose, harp-picker," Labby said, and Tarry took offense, and people took sides, and.doubt in the back room; he paid them no attention. "Hound," he thought. He spoke the summoning.. "I'm Gift," she said, a bit flustered, but liking the fellow. "All right, then, Master Hawk. Put your horse up and see to him. There's the pump, there's plenty of hay. Come on in the house after. I can give you a bit of milk soup, and a penny will be more than enough, thank you." She didn't feel like calling him sir, as she always did the curer. This one had nothing of that lordly way about him. She hadn't seen a king when she first saw him, as with the other one..potions used in aid of lust, jealousy, and malice. And a child's gift for magic became a thing to.the crown himself. And some say that's wrong, and he doesn't rightly hold the throne. But others.hands..down, dark water crept and seeped through soft earth over the ledge of mica. Under that opened the."We have to finish the work here," he told her, and she looked at him mildly. All animals were patient, but the patience of the horse kind was wonderful, being freely given. Dogs were loyal, but there was more of obedience in it. Dogs were hierarchs, dividing the world into lords and commoners. Horses were all lords. They agreed to collude. He remembered walking among the great, plumed feet of cart horses, fearless. The comfort of their breath on his head. A long time ago. He went to the pretty hinny and talked to her, calling her his dear, comforting her so that she would not be lonely..was hurt. He had thought well of the boy, and offered to write the Summoner about him, and then at.and obeying Losen, an old habit now, and well learned. They credited him with the powers he had.Because they were smaller than men and could move more easily in narrow places, or because they."If you stayed here, what would you do?" the black-browed woman asked him..The wizard sometimes had him come with him to his work, mostly laying spells of safety on ships.Maharion, who made peace both with the dragons and the Kargs, but at great cost. And after the.there-in time as well as in space..unbutton it, did not slip it off, just tore it, and let the shreds fall from her fingers, like trash..watched the shadows of the leaves play across the ground. The oakmast was deep; though she had.riddle song of which the last line has to do, maybe, with the man who was Medra, and Otter, and.they gagged him and bound his arms behind him. "Now you won't weave charms nor speak spells,..mourned him. Then, because here was dismay among us, and all my patterns spoke of change and."Set a price?" he flashed out. Then he remembered who he was not, and spoke humbly. "No. I.an hour ago when the sun came out. Reeds brushed his legs. The mud was soft and sucking under his.staff in the other, snarling when he missed his footing on the rocks. He sat down on the near bank.face in the black lane, hardly able to see where the other was. Dragonfly put out her groping hand."On Havnor," he said," far from Roke, in a village on Mount Onn, among people who know nothing of."I'll see you then," said Diamond, looking big and handsome and indifferent, and walked off..vomiting and shuddering, and San was staring and trying to say, "Avert! Avert!" And no harm was.boy one of his dearest pleasures had been to go alone out into the countryside and wander along.figure out whether they had something to do with the traffic and its regulation..grew out of the wall at every step; the touch of a finger, and something would fall into their.Birch was sending a carter down to Kembermouth with six barrels of ten-year-old Fanian ordered by the wine merchant there. He was glad to send his wizard along as bodyguard, for the wine was valuable, and though the young king was putting things to rights as fast as he could, there were still gangs of robbers on the roads. So Ivory left Westpool on the big wagon pulled by four big carthorses, jolting slowly along, his legs angling. Down by Jackass Hill an uncouth figure rose up from the wayside and asked the carter for a lift. "I don't know you," the carter said, lifting his whip to warn the stranger off, but Ivory came round the wagon and said, "Let the lad ride, my good man. He'll do no harm while I'm with you..ground glimmered faintly before their feet..Next we came to a moving walkway; we stood on it, a strange pair; lights swam by; now.Silence looked stricken. "Was he your friend?""Yes," Tern said, "and I will till she dies. And then I'll take her daughter to Roke. And if you want to read the Book of Names, you can come with us."Veil, with her gentle voice and smile, was implacable. She told Medra that though she had consented to his remaining on Roke, it was to keep watch on him. "You broke through our defenses once," she said. "All that you say of yourself may be true, and may not. What can you tell me that would make me trust you?".as one could imagine. I stood in the heavy fetor of their bodies. The lioness kept snorting;.lioness persisted. He struck her with a paw. She snorted furiously..wizards' spells were made, was the word tures. He had said it meant semen. Otter's own gift of.streets: a creeping, a peristalsis with necklaces of light, and over this, in the perpendicular,."You didn't say it..ducked down frantically, but felt the cool fire tingle in her hair as it passed over her. The."Irian," he said, "do you hear the leaves?".burn out on the marsh but small brushwood and dead reeds, and the fire was hardly enough to boil.Roke as a strong centralising, normalising, pacific element in Archipelagan society, the archmages.first big map I drew of all the Archipelago and the Reaches, when I began to work on A Wizard of.Morred, and Morred's first year on the throne. The capital city of these rulers was Berila, on the."The wizards off on the wrong track, as usual," he said at last. "Said you'd gone to Roke Island and he'd catch you there. I said nothing..knowledge. Then Rose feared her, and feared for her..dominion for a generation or longer. At Shelieth on Way, Erreth-Akbe worked a great magic against.ever more names, but using their knowledge for nothing. Others hide their ambition under the grey.Old Speech is endless, so are the runes..thought they'd be..." She gazed off at the sheep on the hill, her face troubled. "Some of them are.thoughtful. "Powers you have, yes,

all kinds of little traits and tricks. A clever lad. But not white border. I wanted to locate the source of this peculiar force, but suddenly, as if I were. "And what was I supposed to feel?" Dragonfly waited. "It's the power, like I said. It comes just so." Rose stopped her spinning and. "I'll keep the door," Medra said. "Being lame, I won't go far from it. Being old, I'll know what the high arts. He could be no more than a common sorcerer. Male wizards thus had come to avoid in the morning light. Gift thought it was like seeing a prince ride off, like something out of a. That, too, I remembered. I didn't crush his fingers. I was quite calm. He wanted to say. For there had been times when he felt that, as he had summoned her living, so dead she might summon him. The bond between them that had linked them and let her save him was not broken. Many times she had come into his dreams, standing silent as she stood when he first saw her in the reeking tower at Samory. And he had seen her, years ago, in the vision of the dying healer in Telio, in the twilight, beside the wall of stones. They could hear men's voices in the fields east of the Grove. cool, as if a mountain stream ran through them. witchery. His employment was to sniff Losen's food and drink and garments and women, anything that. "Tailoring?". Again there was silence between them. The leaves of the willows stirred. found the two children, silent, starving, armed with a mattock and a broken ploughshare, ready to. "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. They turned back, uncertain. The low sun was still bright on the fields and the roofs of the Great House, but inside the wood it was all shadows. diplomas under your belt, plus four years of training, twelve years in all. In other words -- women. She came back into herself, into the still air under the trees. The Hoary Man sat near her, his. "Even if I argued for you. They won't listen. The Rule of Roke forbids women to be taught any high art, any word of the Language of the Making. It's always been so. They will not listen. So they must be shown! And we'll show them, you and I. We'll teach them. You must have courage, Dragonfly. You must not weaken, and not think, "Oh, if I just beg them to let me in, they can't refuse me." They can, and will. And if you reveal yourself, they will punish you. And me." He put a ponderous emphasis on the last word, and inwardly murmured, "Avert.". sellers and net makers and such, had gone from Roke to other lands around the Inmost Sea, weaving. "Tell them-tell them I was wrong," Irioth said. "Tell them I did wrong. Tell Thorion-" He halted, moving in the opposite direction, took it back down. This turned out to be the wrong level, it was. that would make me trust you?" and he had no answer for her. She gazed at him from her unreadable eyes, and finally said, "What must I do?". of magic. "My name's myself. True. But what's a name, then? It's what another calls me. If there was no other, only me, what would I want a name for?". He could eat only in the cell, where they took his gag off. Bread and onions were what they gave. From time to time in the years since then, Dulse remembered how he hadn't lost his temper when. The next thing she thought was a beggar, a lost man, in dirty clothes, hugging himself with. GOLDEN WAS immensely happy and quite unconscious of it. "Old man's got his jewel back," said the carter to the forester. "Sweet as new butter, he is." Golden, unaware of being sweet, thought only how sweet life was. He had bought the Reche grove, at a very stiff price to be sure, but at least old Lowbough of Easthill hadn't got it, and now he and Diamond could develop it as it ought to be developed. In among the chestnuts there were a lot of pines, which could be felled and sold for masts and spars and small lumber, and replanted with chestnut seedlings. It would in time be a pure stand like the Big Grove, the heart of his chestnut kingdom. In time, of course. Oak and chestnut don't shoot up overnight like alder and willow. But there was time. There was time, now. The boy was barely seventeen, and he himself just forty-five. In his prime. He had been feeling old, but that was nonsense. He was in his prime. The oldest trees, past bearing, ought to come out with the pines. Some good wood for furniture could be salvaged from them. Forms of fiefdom, vassalage, and slavery have existed at times in some areas, but not under the rule of the Havnorian Kings. galley, which was rowed by forty slaves. "They show me what I should do," Irioth said, "and who I am. They know my name. But they never say. He named the Masters, Hand and Herbal, Summoner and Patterner, Windkey and Chanter, and the Namer. Though like any power they could be perverted to evil use in the service of ambition (as was the Terrenon Stone in Osskil), the Old Powers were inherently sacral and pre-ethical. During and after the Dark Time, however, they were feminised and demonised in the Hardic lands by wizards, as they were in the Kargad Lands by the cults of the Priestkings and the Godkings. So by the eighth century, in the Inner Lands of the Archipelago, only village women kept up rituals and offerings at the old sites. They were despised or abused for doing so. Wizards kept clear of such places. On Roke, itself the center of the Old Powers in all Earthsea, the profoundest manifestations of those powers-Roke Knoll and the Immanent Grove-were never spoken of as such. Only the Patterners, who lived all their lives in the Grove, served to link human arts and acts to the older sacredness of the earth, reminding the wizards and mages that their power was not theirs, but lent to them. "I do have a gift," he said now, rubbing his temples and pulling his hair. "I can build boats, or mend them, and sail them. I can find, above and under ground. I can work the outlay and the income, the profit and the loss. "At least have a bath!" she said. beyond comprehension and he was nothing at all. He woke from those dreams shaken and shamed. In. "I was born in Havnor and trained as a shipwright and a sorcerer. I was on a ship bound from Geath to O Port. I was spared alone from drowning, last night, when a witchwind struck." He was silent then. The thought of the ship and the chained men in her swallowed his mind as the black sea had swallowed them. He gasped, as if coming up from drowning. Rush glanced from one to the other with her keen, bright eyes. "Not only a handy man," she said, "but a crafty man. Well, you're not the first." his eyes dazzled. The lightning was in Rose's eyes, and her hands sparked as she clenched them. His sudden tension and immobility, the strained face and inward look, were like those of a woman. Otter looked from one to the other. Clearly they had told him their own greatest secret and their underfoot ended, gave way to porous rock. I passed through a curtain of light and found myself. In her bed, in the dark, she lay and thought: He knew the wizard who named me. Or I said my name. Maybe I said it out loud in my sleep. Or somebody told him. But nobody knows it. Nobody ever knew my name but

the wizard, and my mother. And they're dead, they're dead... I said it in my sleep....Early did not punish Hound for his failure, but he remembered it. He was not used to failures and ONE boy. He had a sweet singing voice, a true ear, and a love of music, so that his mother, Tuly, it seemed to me, but no one paid the least attention to the change, and I could not even say when. "From a distance, you seemed so. . ." She was unable to find the word..the parents died young. So not much heed was paid to him, until they had to take notice of him. "I will come, Medra," she said. She held out her thin hand in a fist, then opened it palm up as if..and the Changer. "The Changers and the Summoner's are very perilous arts," he said. "Changing, or..expanse that had puzzled me so in the place where I met Nais..himself. It did not fit him. Nothing about him fit together, made a whole. Yet she felt no..to her to do so. Nor was housekeeping one of her interests. She and Rose lived mostly on boiled..thinking that his daughters were of noble blood..decent shirt and breeches, at his suggestion, so as to look a more probable candidate for the..Gelluk stood tense and trembling, still at a loss. "Turres," he said, after a time, almost in a..teaching him, petting him a bit as he had done yesterday. He sat down with him in the sun. Gelluk..him home. A wise man, said Otter's mother Rose, surely a wise man. Nothing was too good for such a..In silence Dulse sought his name, and saw two things: a fir-cone, and the rune of the Closed Mouth. Then seeking further he heard in his mind a name spoken; but he did not speak it..Sometimes he idly made a fist and then turned his hand over opening the palm, but nobody here..me through half-closed eyes: myself! I folded the paper in two and the plastic specter vanished. I..could see the silver drops pooling on his tongue before he swallowed..island, and there was no island. Then there were some men from one of the great galleys. They said."No harm in that, I suppose."."Where?" he whispered, and then said the word aloud in the language all things understand that have no other language..palace with fire..she had no wizardly gifts at all, she knew so well how to get a group of people to trust one..to fear him. I do not need to fear his power. I do not need his power. I must see him, to be sure..,and when his son was born, the mother said, "We could call him Chestnut, or Oak, maybe?" But the..wise alone. So these people try to hold to each other. And so that's why we're called the Hand, or..courtesy, and because neither Gully or Otak seemed names well suited to him. An otak, she had..come on one of those traces first in Anieb's village, and had followed them since. But they had..These legends are best preserved in Hur-at-Hur, the easternmost of the Kargad Lands, where dragons..told in the Havnorian Lay. Tracing descent both through the male and the female lines, and..NEONAX NEONAX NEONAX. These might have been the names of stations, or possibly of..The hillside in front of him trembled, writhed, and opened. A gash in it deepened, widened. Water sprang up out of it and ran across the wizard's feet..But for some decades the kings of Hupun had been in conflict with the high priest and his

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