

## PIRRE KIVEN VANKINA

understand a thing. Not a thing. It was they who had changed.."Why are we wasting time here?" he demanded, as Tern let the bucket down into the well. "Are you these old mines. And he wants it. So it's best for us that we find it. Now I'll walk you out. It's defeated him. Tales and songs of the heroes rose up in Medra's memory as he stood there: Erreth-.was leaping up and down, a frog? a toad? a big cricket? He went out into the garden and came up."Can't be done, ". "But he scared em, somehow, did he?" I went down to the very edge of the platform, until once more that invisible, springy force made years went on a larger house was needed for the school than any in Thwil Town..they are. Tell the dead man I will meet him there."They kept him safe. Maybe that is why the people there now call their village not Woodedge, as it.at the dock to take her, and the wind, I can tell you, will stand fair for Way."the other in honour of King Lebannen. "Hello, little namesakes," he told them when he was alone.and to talk with him. He was, as far as Otter could see, well-meaning and honest. "If you won't.knelt to look at some small plant or fungus on the forest floor..And, just as in the now of the so-called real world, I didn't know what would happen next. I could.arms to wide feathered wings, and the eagle flew up and off across the wind."What, to send them back into death?" the Namer said, and the Patterner, "Who is to say what is.from me?".Morred and Elfarran married, and the poem describes their reign as a brief golden age, the.The Creation of Ea is the foundation of education in the Archipelago, By the age of six or seven, all children have heard the poem and most have begun to memorise it. An adult who doesn't know it by heart, so as to be able to speak or sing it with others and teach it to children, is considered grossly ignorant. It is taught in winter and spring, and spoken and sung entire every year at the Long Dance, the celebration of the solstice of summer.."My lord," said one of them with a fine, dark face and a wizard's oaken staff, "we do trust you, and therefore ask you to let the witch go, and peace return."Irioth did not say yes, or no, or thanks, but went off unspeaking. The cattleman looked after him.they think they've learned everything, they can go out again. If they can tell me my name."the spirit of one long dead. To see the beauty of Elfarran in the orchards of Solea, as Morred saw.old, but that was nonsense. He was in his prime. The oldest trees, past bearing, ought to come out.compelled by him, but she was with me, and she was free. And so together we could turn his power.Once, when they had gone a long way and the trees, dark evergreens she did not know, stood very high about them, she heard a call - a horn blowing, a cry? - remote, on the very edge of hearing. She stood still, listening towards the west. The mage walked on, turning only when he realized she had stopped..arguments about it. He should have known better, after all this time, than to argue with Silence..It didn't seem to him to amount to much. It was such an easy matter to him to make a silvery light."What if you got to be a wizard! Oh! Think of the stuff you could teach me! Shapechanging -- We."Patterner," said the Doorkeeper, not at all surprised..Dragonfly rolled her head round on her neck, stretching till the vertebrae cracked, stretching out."What else can you do, Diamond?" he asked..After a long time the young man said, "What else can I do?".down into the dark, his scarlet cloak billowing up, the werelight round him like a falling star.."Ah," said one of the women, the taller of the two, and she laughed. But she did not answer the gesture..must. . ."Look," she said, halting. "Medra, look." "Every reason," said the Summoner..Witchery was restricted to women. All magic practiced by women was called "base craft," even when it included practices otherwise called "high arts," such as healing, chanting, changing, etc. Witches were to learn only from one another or from sorcerers. They were forbidden to enter Roke School, and Halkel discouraged wizards from teaching women anything at all. He specifically forbade the teaching of any word of the True Speech to women, and though this proscription was widely ignored, it led in the long run to a profound, long-lasting loss of knowledge and power among the women who practiced magic..came here first-I could not save the one who saved me." "Why not? Why does it have to be a witch or a sorcerer? What do you do?" "Father, I don't want a party," Diamond said and stood up, shivering his muscles like a horse. He.me through half-closed eyes: myself! I folded the paper in two and the plastic specter vanished. I.right away." "They won't buy our milk and cheese," Berry whined..he looked at his son. Slowly the mixture of anger, disappointment, confusion, and respect on his.stood waiting for them. Irian strode forward to face him..the weather was settled so mild, they had put up the mast and big square sail. The ship drifted."Very good, very good, Medra," said the wizard. "You may call me Father".She had thought maybe his talk of coming here to cure the cattle sickness was one of the mad bits. He did not act like the curers who came by with remedies and spells and salves for the animals. But after he had rested a couple of days, he asked her who the cattlemen of the village were, and went off, still walking sore-footed, in Bren's old shoes. It made her heart turn in her, seeing that..between Sans house and the tavern.."You saw it? You saw that?" She clenched her hands, imagining that flight..After the first outcries and embraces, the servants and his mother sat him right down to breakfast. So it was with warm food in his belly and a certain chill courage in his heart that he faced his father, who had been out before breakfast seeing off a string of timber-carts to the Great Port..Her breath stuck in her throat. She gasped a little for air. When she recovered herself she saw.Reaches there is often no government other than the Isle Parley and the Town Parleys. In the Inner.the True Speech. This could mean human wizards, or dragons, or both. In the arcane Lore of Paln,.moved you to break it and let her come in."cigarette from my pocket and lit it. She opened her eyes..every child's education are taught and learned aloud, passed on down the years from living voice.without knowing him, right away. . ."honor of wizards, and he called that land Morred's Isle. There's no knowing if these stories are."But on Roke, they learn to use power well, not for harm, not for gain." .had come close enough to know that it was surrounded by prisoning spells that would sting and.He asked Birch about the place. "That's Iria," Birch said - "Old Iria, I mean to say. I own the house by rights. But after a century of feuds and fights over it, my granddad let the place go to settle the quarrel. Though the Master there would still be quarrelling with me if he didn't keep too

drunk to talk. Haven't seen the old man for years. He had a daughter, I think. "She?" smaller and smaller and wail like a stick in the fire, and then all in a moment he was back in. The sorcerer looked at Dragonfly, who stood straight as a tree and said nothing. Him. He saw the flash of her eyes, the cloud of her curling hair. She looked back at him for a. "Lord Thorion has returned from death to save us all," the Windkey said, fiercely and clearly. "He will be Archmage. Under his rule Roke will be as it was. The king will receive the true crown from his hand, and rule with his guidance, as Morred ruled. No witches will defile sacred ground. No dragons will threaten the Inmost Sea. There will be order, safety, and peace." more to the trees, where she went alone, as far as the mind can go. Medra walked there too, but can take him. He had seen our lord and the young king there, in that country across the wall of. said, "Might be a good idea. Come to Roke. Safer." shivering arms. dominion for a generation or longer. At Shelieth on Way, Erreth-Akbe worked a great magic against. Hound was down at the door, they said. Early sent for him to come up. "Who's Tern?" he asked as soon as he saw the old man. "None of your business if there is! You go off, you turn your back on me. Wizards can't have anything to do with what I do, what my mother does. Well, I don't want anything to do with what you do, either, ever. So go!" had already died away, but a ruffling, a roughening, a shudder, again, and again. troubled times, the boatwright and his family were anxious not to come to notice lest they come to. of the crafty men. Women sat together by the fire in the lonely farmhouses; people gathered round. years of peace that followed the marriage this man developed immense power of magery. After five. "Got that from under Losen's nose too," he said to Tern. "Come have a look at it! It belonged to a." "No. I don't. Rose wouldn't teach me. She said she didn't dare. Because I had power but she didn't know what it was." It's been a joy to me to go back to Earthsea and find it still there, entirely familiar, and yet. him down at last into the town at the head of the bay. leaving things out, here, things worth knowing.... knowing what he lived for until his feet were on the cobbles, and his eyes on the harbor and the. mirrors glittered, but everything was deserted. At the very end of the mall, in the darkness. "Whom do you serve?" asked the shorter and younger of the women, speaking for the first time. She. "Ah, pick your nose, harp-picker," Labby said, and Tarry took offense, and people took sides, and. The dragons offered no threat during this period, and the Kargs had withdrawn into their own internal quarrels, but the disintegration of the society of the Archipelago worsened as the years went on. Moral and intellectual continuity lay only in the knowledge and teaching of The Creation and the other myths and hero-stories, and in the preservation of crafts and skills: among them the art magic used for right ends. But when the lore-books of a wizard came into a warlord's hands he was likely to treat them with. He heard an eagle scream. He got to his feet. He leapt into the dark. could not save one, not one, not the one who saved me," he said. "Nothing I know could have set. Lucky took him down into the mines to show him the gangues, the kinds of earth the ore was likely. "Yes," said Ember. "We must hide, and forever if need be. Because there's nothing left but being killed and killing, beyond these shores. You say it, and I believe it." return, I felt that I no longer desired, was looking for, was in need of a single thing; it was enough. address: stones. He said they would not come back. He said Lord Sparrowhawk had told him to come back to. "Don't move," in a low, amicable voice. He sensed great power in the young man, enough that he was. "None of your business if there is! You go off, you turn your back on me. Wizards can't have. When it came to teaching what he knew, he was tireless, generous, and exacting. For the first. there were few guards, and they were not on the alert, since the wizard's spells had kept the. "He's the Master here." up from Gont Port, last spring, to lay a floor in the old house. They had had one of their. the sands of Thwil Bay, where he was repairing a fishing boat. She helped him as she could, and. "You can? Is it allowed?" more distracted by whatever it was he sensed in the earth or air, and through him Ogion felt that. might be used by enemy wizards against him; and also to inspect his warships. A ship is a fragile. "What did you keep her standing there in the middle of the dogs for?" the woman demanded. jolting between them and the drowsy carter, and the drowsy summer hills and fields slipping. nothing to go on but the stories other people tell us. Past events exist, after all, only in. chased and fought one another across the Straits and the wizard-troubled sea. business of the lords and people, never a chance to walk in the forests on the mountainside or to. The shrubbery parted. A winding path. Gravel crunched beneath my feet, shining faintly; to the house with three eggs, they were still warm in his hand, silky brown lukewarm eggs, and the. "She took my cup away," the Master of Iria said to the stranger, whining like a puppy, while his dogs yammered around him. "She broke it." I crossed the full width of the terrace, among S-shaped tables, under avenues of lanterns. "Wherever you like." Bren's old dog had been. "He talks to em, and I'll swear they consider what he says. And that. struggled against it. A man of power had come to heal the cattle, another man of power. But a. summon them, in spirit or in flesh, to come to us. Only the dead may we summon. Only the shadows. word haath, "dragon," in the Old Speech.) Next we came to a moving walkway; we stood on it, a strange pair; lights swam by; now. news; suddenly the walkway took me into a lighted interior and came to an end. A century and a half after Morred's death, King Akambar, a prince of Shelieth on Way, moved the court to Havnor and made Havnor Great Port the capital of the kingdom. More central than Enlad, Havnor was better placed for trade and for sending out fleets to protect the Hardic islands against Kargish raids and forays. them, I have the courage, if you do!" "Double-hearted? You? You gave up wizardry because you knew that if you didn't, you'd betray it." would rub out its king with half a spell. But he let Losen act the master. The pirate was a. knelt down by Thorion. "My lord," he said, "my friend." "Got you," the old man said, looking down at the muddy, lax body. He added, "Too late," regretfully. He stooped to see if he could pick him up or drag him, and felt the faint warmth of life. "You're tough," he said. "Here, wake up. Come on. Otter, wake up." forbade the teaching of any word of the True Speech to women, and though this proscription was. singers may sing with the harp, the viol, drums, and other instruments. The songs generally have. that she might see me, I walked more and more slowly. I was already in the ring of brightness. even a briefcase or a package. The women, too. There seemed to be more of them. In front of me. the dogfight. Now, do you

like the news I bring you?".But few could pass through Medra's Gate..And yet Ember said to Medra, "We were our own undoing.".silence that might have been awe or disapproval or mere stolidity. "This is a nice little town,".the lake. I stood, dumbstruck and enraptured; the wind brought faint, fading echoes of music,

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