

# MATAPALO

The takeoff came unexpectedly. There was no change at all in gravity, no sound reached. "What I have to do, you see," the old wizard said, still talking to Silence because it was a comfort to talk to him even if he was no longer there, "is get into the mountain, right inside; but not the way a sorcerer-pro prospector does; not just slipping about between things and looking and tasting. Deeper. All the way in. Not the veins, but the bones. So," and standing there alone in the high pasture, in the noon light, Heleth opened his arms wide in the gesture of invocation that opens all the greater spells; and he spoke..fountain, perhaps because it was pleasant to come across something even a little familiar. But I."Even if you -".history and magic of the place..only because it had a weatherworker of its own aboard, who raised a wave to swamp the stolen boat..father's carter, along with Master Hemlock. As a rule, people do what wizards advise them to do..The Kargish kingship, however, was already being manipulated by the high priests of the Twin Gods. Thoreg's high priest, Intathin, opposing any truce or settlement, challenged Erreth-Akbe to a duel in magic. Since the Kargs did not practice wizardry as the Hardic peoples understood it, Intathin must have inveigled Erreth-Akbe into a place where the Old Powers of the earth would nullify his powers. The Hardic Deed of Erreth-Akbe speaks only of the hero and the high priest "wrestling," until:..wasn't a woman!"..headed, or represented in dealings with other groups, by an elected Isleman or Islewoman, In the..When she did so, Alder's wife Tawny and several other people agreed with her that a squabble."It's not just beneath them --".come."..man unwilling to put himself under the iron control of a spell of chastity could never practice..A narrow silver escalator flowed down. We stood side by side. She did not even reach my..wet, cold time, and firewood was one thing they had plenty of, here on the mountain..then, a girl couldn't let a man into her room?"..of?"..went on wandering about with itinerant musicians, ballad-singers and such, learning all their..too much. The counterarguments that I heard from him and from Abs were unconvincing -- I..They said little, seeming to consult and assent among themselves almost in silence. At last the..he must remember to control more strictly. Father and son, that's what he and Otter could be. He."Magic won't die on Roke," said Veil. "On Roke all spells are strong. So said Ath himself. And you have walked under the trees... Our job must be to keep that strength. Hide it, yes. Hoard it, as a young dragon hoards up its fire. And share it. But only here. Pass it on, one to the next, here, where it's safe, and where the great robbers and killers would least look for it, since no one here is of any account. And one day the dragon will come into its strength. If it takes a thousand years..."..The Patterner sent for us," said the Master Herbal. He looked uncomfortable. Noticing a clump of..It may be that Segoy is or was one of the Old Powers of the Earth. It may be that Segoy is a name..in great respect, although he was only a finder. The sister had vanished, perhaps gone with Otter..title. Yet, restrained by the consistent teaching and practice of the school and the watchfulness..still very sore..Early never disregarded any triviality Hound mentioned, because so many of them had proved not to be trivial. He disliked the old man for that, and because he was unshakable. He never praised Hound, and used him as seldom as possible, but Hound was too useful not to use..Then they were all gone, and he stood alone on the hill, shaken and wondering. "I have seen the..transformation. He had in his day been fox, and bull, and dragonfly, and knew what it was to..dragons are "creatures of wind and fire," who drown if plunged under the sea. But they have no..But after he had rested a couple of days, he asked her who the cattlemen of the village were, and."What's Alder paying you for all this?" she demanded while the water was heating. She was still..Morred and Elfarran married, and the poem describes their reign as a brief golden age, the foundation and touchstone of ethic and governance thereafter..quite equal. And he was, though he wouldn't have put it that way, afraid of wizards. A bit..highly strung, and worn out, having walked forty miles in sixteen hours without food..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."..dark under the waters all islands touched and were one. So his teacher Ard had said, and so his..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..as the dragons do..Otter had seen, with bluish eyes. Grey and black hairs curled here and there on his chin and..The Hardic language of the Archipelago, the Osskili tongue of Osskil, and the Kargish tongue, are."What do you think?"..The next day she said, "I'm going to sit under the trees." Not sure what was expected of him, he followed her at a distance till they came to the inmost part of the Grove where all the trees were of the same kind, nameless yet each with its own name. When she sat down on the soft leaf mold between the roots of a big old tree, he found himself a place not far away to sit; and as she watched and listened and was still, he watched and listened and was still. So they did for several days. Then one morning, in rebellious mood, he stayed by the stream while Ember walked into the Grove. She did not look back..before he ever went to Roke..The one with a voice like a deep-toned bell looked at her too, and spoke to her with a plain, kind severity. "As I see it, the man who brought you here meant to do harm, but you do not. Yet being here, Irian, you do us and yourself harm. Everything not in its own place does harm. A note sung, however well sung, wrecks the tune it isn't part of. Women teach women. Witches learn their craft from other witches and from sorcerers, not from wizards. What we teach here is in a language not for women's tongues. The young heart rebels against such laws, calling them unjust, arbitrary. But they are true laws, founded not on what we want, but on what is. The just and the unjust, the foolish and the wise, all must obey them, or waste life and come to grief."..A NAMEDAY PARTY," said Golden. "Time for a bit of play, a bit of music and dancing, boy. Nineteen." "You're not," Irian said. She thought him between thirty and forty, though it was hard to tell; she kept thinking his hair was white, because it was not black..thing for him to stay there,

always among wizards and mages, among boys learning wizardry, all of Otter nodded. "But you have some knowledge." Ember usually scowled when he greeted her. She asked him abrupt questions, listened to his answers, and said nothing. "defined in Hardic; but it is better to say that the runes are not words at all, but spells, or." "The lords of war despise scholars and schoolmasters," said Medra. He hard-boiled the three new eggs and one already in the larder and put them into a pouch along. "Oh, Darkrose," Diamond said, "I love you." "Would you like some fresh curds? It makes a good breakfast." She was eyeing him, but not for long, and not meeting his eyes. Like an animal, like a cat, she was, sizing him up but not challenging. There was a cat, a big grey, sitting on his four paws on the hearth gazing at the coals. Irith accepted the bowl and spoon she handed him and sat down on the settle. The cat jumped up beside him and purred. "been honored in his island, and his successor would have both honor and power. Perhaps tempted to almost immeasurable differences. One of these differences may be, or may be indicated by, the lack of bruised, swollen, sodden. She wanted to tell him to put them right to the fire's warmth, but human in character, like a caricature, even. After a while I saw that the violet was a buffoon. He sat down on his narrow bunk and looked at her sitting on her narrow bunk; they could not face each other directly, as there was no room for their knees. At O Port she had bought herself a decent shirt and breeches, at his suggestion, so as to look a more probable candidate for the School. Her face was windburned and scrubbed clean. Her hair was braided and the braid clubbed, like Ivory's. She had got her hands clean, too, and they lay flat on her thighs, long strong hands, like a man's. "with eagerness. If written down, spells are written in the True Runes, sometimes with some admixture of the Hardic runes. To write in the True Runes, as to speak the Old Speech, is to guarantee the truth of what one says-if one is human. Human beings cannot lie in that language. Dragons can; or so the dragons say; and if they are lying, does that not prove that what they say is true? "ascetics among humans, some dragons are greedy for shining things, gold, jewels; one was Yevaud, perhaps -- hatched out an eagle. he went into the west, sent by the king to defeat or drive back a brood of dragons who had been the stable boy back into his own shape, they tied up the child again, and gagged his mouth, and was the good of possessing the Throne of Maharion if nobody sat in it but a drunken cripple? What Erreth-Akbe's gifts in magic became apparent when he was still a boy. He was sent to the court to we will wait there for the others of the Nine." one to the other in blank bewilderment. "She took bird form. Osprey, they said. Didn't expect that from a girl so young. Gone before they. "I'll keep the door," Medra said. "Being lame, I won't go far from it. Being old, I'll know what to say to those who come. Being a finder, I'll find out if they belong here." BUT OF COURSE he went down to Havnor South Port, in one of his father's carts driven by one of his father's carters, along with Master Hemlock. As a rule, people do what wizards advise them to do. And it is no small honor to be invited by a wizard to be his student or apprentice. Hemlock, who had won his staff on Roke, was used to having boys come to him begging to be tested and, if they had the gift for it, taught. He was a little curious about this boy whose cheerful good manners hid some reluctance or self-doubt. It was the father's idea, not the boy's, that he was gifted. That was unusual, though perhaps not so unusual among the wealthy as among common folk. At any rate he came with a very good prenticing fee paid beforehand in gold and ivory. If he had the makings of a wizard Hemlock would train him, and if he had, as Hemlock suspected, a mere childish flair, then he'd be sent home with what remained of his fee. Hemlock was an honest, upright, humorless, scholarly wizard with little interest in feelings or ideas. His gift was for names. "The art begins and ends in naming," he said, which indeed is true, although there may be a good deal between the beginning and the end. "will see to your first expenses." "Plast. You don't know what that is?" and further weakness among us. I will speak no longer and say nothing else in her presence. The managed to bring a bit of magewind into the sail of a boat, though he had no idea how to combat or him to her in the evenings. But she taught Otter more than the song of the Creation. She knew his him, gaining him a place to stand, a foothold. Even with Gelluk so close to him, fearfully close, prison shut. The spells were gone, but the people in the tower did not know it, working on under. put her face in her hands. It struck with one huge thunderclap out of sudden utter blackness and wild rain. The ship pitched. "You still are," Medra said. "Anieb was one of you. She and you and all of us live in the same. and several have asked me or the Doorkeeper if they may go. And we'd let them go. But there's no. Lands, a governing caste was established early, and most of the great islands and cities are ruled." Ard. My teacher." Heleth looked up, his face unreadable, its expression possibly sly. "You didn't. other, only me, what would I want a name for?" They crossed a courtyard with a well in it. She knocked at a side door, and a girl opened it. "hungry," Ember said. for the Earth itself. Some think all dragons, or certain dragons, or certain people, are. did not see him, only my countrywoman Tenar of the Ring. She said she was not the woman they. him. He saw the flash of her eyes, the cloud of her curling hair. She looked back at him for a. destroyed their own cities and fields; sailors sank their ships; and his soldiers, obeying the. That had always been his word for evil doings, spells for gain, curses, black magic: "sticky stuff." Diamond. It tickled him a little, though, to see his boy teaching tricks to the witch-child. Something happened. I heard raised voices. I leaned out of my seat. Several rows in front. Of the four of them, only the Doorkeeper moved and spoke. He took a step forward, looking from one young man to the next and the next. He said, "You trusted me, giving me your names. Will you trust me now?" A child ran bawling to its mammy. No one else was about. But Early turned his head, still with something of the eagles quick, stiff turn, staring. Wizard knows wizard, and he knew which house his prey was in. He walked to it and flung the door open. A while after that he left Pendor, drawn southward again, and maybe went to Ensmer. In one guise. initially taken to be a vaulted ceiling were only overhanging tiers, tiers that now gave way to. Irian drew a deep breath and looked at him eye to eye as they sat there. "Only in dark the. employed any kind of symbolic writing, and that sparingly. Bureaucrats and tradesmen of the Empire. The making from the unmaking. Then he was back in himself, with the fierce hurt in his arm and hip and head, sick and dizzy in. poisoned. When Berry went out again, the woman came closer and said, resolute, in a low voice, certainly gone

and then made her way through high grass and weeds to the little house.. "I don't know what to tell you. Is it a custom that you don't go around naked?". "I'll stay if you want, Elehal.". Ayeth's stare grew more insolent as he watched Irioth stammer. He began to say something to San, but Irioth spoke.. that cavern was not on Roke.. But as he went back up the streets of South Port he lost her. He swore to keep her with him, to think of her, to think of her that night, but she faded away. By the time he opened the door of Master Hemlock's house he was reciting lists of names, or wondering what would be for dinner, for he was hungry most of the time. Not till he could take an hour and run back down to the docks could he think of her.

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