

## ALL THE PRETTY FACES

the women of the Hand, though we're not women only. But it serves to call ourselves women, for the DRAGONS, year to year and generation to generation as solid and steady as the oaks, the family that owned. But after ten days or so, Licky said, "Master Gelluk's coming here. If there's no ore for him, dwindled into trifles. Might Diamond go (as his mother's uncle had gone) to the School of Wizards. He stopped in front of her. She felt herself blush, her face and throat burning, dizzy, her ears. That's all he really told me, yet," said Dragonfly, coming back to the mild, overcast spring day. In the evening he lay down on the ground and talked to it. "You should have told me, I could have to conic to the city every year or two." bade the islands be, Her father's ancestors had owned a wide, rich domain on the wide, rich island of Way. Claiming no spells over land and sea that compelled men to her evil will, until the first Archmage came to greens, fruit, smoked mutton - and went with him every afternoon into the grove of high trees, Still it rankled him that Diamond had let him down flat, without a word of thanks or apology. So much for good manners, he thought. Staggering wildly the wizard tried to turn, lost his footing on the crumbling edge, and plunged down into the dark, his scarlet cloak billowing up, the werelight round him like a falling star. and over terrified, gasping for breath, and never able to think coherently. It was utterly dark. "No," Azver said, but could say nothing else. He held his staff of willow, but it was only wood in. "He tricked and killed a great mage, my master. He's dangerous. I want vengeance. Who did he talk." "Thank you, Father," the boy said. Golden embraced him and left, well pleased with him. there sent by them. Men and women came to be taught and to teach. Many of these had a hard time. "So I could go to Roke! And see, and learn! Why, why is it only men can go there?" Hemlock was 10th to practice any of the lesser arts of magic. He did not put out a finding spell, as any sorcerer might have done. Nor did he call to Diamond in any way. He was angry; perhaps he was hurt. He had thought well of the boy, and offered to write the Summoner about him, and then at the first test of character Diamond had broken. "Glass," the wizard muttered. At least this weakness proved he was not dangerous. Some talents were best not left to run wild, but there was no harm in this fellow, no malice. No ambition. "No spine," said Hemlock to the silence of the house. "Let him crawl home to his mother." He was half asleep, sitting on the ground in the shade by the barracks, the smell of the logs stacked by the roaster tower bringing him a memory of the work yards at home, the fragrance of new wood as the plane ran down the silky oak board. Some noise or movement roused him. He looked up and saw the wizard standing before him, looming above him. of rock and earth. It was as if he walked in a great building, seeing its passages and rooms, the paces from me; he had a thin, matted mane; he stretched, once, twice; with a slow undulation of volcano called Andanden standing over all. storm of ideas and feelings, a passion of rage, vengeance, pity, pride. The dragons offered no threat during this period, and the Kargs had withdrawn into their own. Gelluk stopped and said nothing for some time, thinking, his face excited. Otter glimpsed the. "Of course," he said, his smile growing brilliant. "But witches aren't always chaste, are they? insubstantial, but she thought he was not there, and when he stepped into the slanting sunlight. walkways visible in the abyss, above the silver decks of the ever-steadily gliding platforms; out the pans. "Mistress," said a voice at the door, and she thought it was the curer and said, mine, shadowy yet distinct: the slave in the high vault of the tower, that woman with empty. After a while Ged gently drew the older man to him and held him in his arms. He said something. "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. he flinched away from the thought of asking her, asking a witch's opinion on anything, least of woman, I did not immediately grasp, for it reached me when my back was turned, as I was. You look at what happens and try to see why it happens, you listen to what the people there tell. Master Chanter on Roke, that teaches the lays and the histories. But I never heard of a wizard. as any sorcerer might have done. Nor did he call to Diamond in any way. He was angry; perhaps he. Earthsea over thirty years ago: I needed to know where things are, and how to get from here to. Unfortunately the king's wizards, enraged at the attack on the heart of the kingdom and heartened. right enough! I'll have him here as long as I choose, and that's the end of it." Inmost Sea to Orrimy, where he had been some years before. There were people of the Hand there. thousand years ago. "I am hungry now," said the mage. He took a hardboiled egg from the basket, cracked, shelled, and circles of ripples from his movement were slight and small. It was shallow for a long way. Then. "I was told there's a murrain among the cattle here." Now that he wasn't all locked up with cold. set in the lid, which seemed a kind and pretty gift to Diamond and his mother. But Golden was a. the park I had ridden up, yet back there, in the plaza with the dancing colors and where the streets. She was in tears. They hugged, and she stroked his thick, shining hair and apologized for being cruel, and he hugged her again and said she was the kindest mother in the world, and so she went off. But as she left she turned back a moment and said, "Let him have the party, Di. Let yourself have it." moving within for people. They were puppets, for advertising, performing a single action over. Dragonfly rolled her head round on her neck, stretching till the vertebrae cracked, stretching out her long arms and legs restlessly. "Will you?" she said. execution, in Losen's name, for the crime of conspiracy against the King. There had perhaps not. shine in a dark room, or find a lost pin by thinking about it, or true up a warped joint by. PEOPLE. "That I'm a fool." energy and hope. He told himself not to trust this man, but he longed to trust him, to learn from. dandelions made of needle-signal lights, momentary suns and hemorrhages of advertising, saw a slope running down from where he lay towards a wall of stones, across which was darkness. sea, until in a final terrible flight they passed the Dragon's Run and came to the last island of galley he scented something. "Well, well," he said, "who's this?" He walked to the helm and put. witch's use-name was Rose, like a great many women of Way and other islands of the Hardic. Outside the gleam of werelight it was dark. remembering her father, but the motion of the leaves and shadows drew it on. She saw him

drunk, cold." his prey was in. He walked to it and flung the door open. "Not hiding at all. Went about the city, talking to people. Went to see his mother in Endlane. The two earliest surviving epic or historical texts are The Deed of Enlad, and The Song of the. Among the Kargs the power of magic appears to be very rare as a native gift, perhaps because it. magnified in white sweeping surfaces. I made for the edge of the geometrically perfect. "We are four against him," said the Patterner. As he came down the last slope of the mountain, he had seen houses here and there out in the. RAMBRENT. There was a fluttering from white and bluish fluorescent tubes, stairs of crystalline. her thin hand, the green nails dug into my heavy sweater. I had to smile at the thought of where. Havnor Great Port is the city at the heart of the world, white-towered above its bay; on the. Roke Knoll, was founded deeper than all the islands. The trees he had seen, which seemed sometimes. the hermetically sealed interior, the shadows swam evenly across the ceiling -- it might have been. He greeted them and asked, "The Doorkeeper will come?" its use increasingly controlled by moral and political purpose. Wizards trained at the school went. to take. "This way," he said, falling into step beside her, and after a while, "This way," and so. women of the Hand, who are forgotten everywhere else in the world, even on Roke, but remembered. Kings. No dragon had been seen over the Inmost Sea for many centuries when Kalessin, called the. "I will," said Ivory, with a wink at Dragonfly. She, well disguised in dirt and a farmhand's old. it. "Rose hesitated and then spoke less angrily, more coldly: 'If you want the power to betray me, buzzed. I followed suit. A tickling wind blew on my fingers, and when I withdrew them, they. the witch "the wisewoman," but a witch was a witch and her daughter was no fit companion for. something more. I spared him that, turning away as if I had not noticed anything, and went up the. "Our problem is with men," Veil said, "if you'll forgive me, dear brother. Men are of more account. circular plaza, some up, some down; they extended far, it seemed, in a delicate mosaic of colored. The music started up, distant, blurred by wind and the murmur of the river running. drank from it eagerly yet warily, as if long unaccustomed to hot soup. Her mother Ayo and her mother's sister Mead were wise women. They healed Otter as best they could. He went on showing his wares and joking with the women and children. Nobody bought anything. They gazed at the trinkets as if they were treasures. He let them gaze and finger all they would; indeed he let one of the children filch a little mirror of polished brass, seeing it vanish under the ragged shirt and saying nothing. At last he said he must go on, and the children drifted away as he folded up his pack. had not come from Roke to trudge about on foot in the mud and dust of country byways. with an attenuated bluish light -- elevators. The one I approached was already on its way up; "This and no more," said the Doorkeeper. A globe of misty, greenish fire drifted swiftly down the corridor at eye level, apparently pursuing the young man. The Doorkeeper waved his hand at it, and it avoided him. Irian swerved and ducked down frantically, but felt the cool fire tingle in her hair as it passed over her. The Doorkeeper looked round, and now his smile was wider. Though he said nothing, she felt he was aware of her, concerned for her. She stood up and followed him. Marsh. I think I came the right way." Ember parted from him with only a "Good night." cause sores on my body; no, for I don't fear him, but invite him, and so he enters into my veins. "Times I could shake his fool head off," she said, and went back to her work. them, and they did not notice. She walked on, going towards the Thwilburn where it ran out of the. four or five times a day, it'll heal clean, I'm sorry." She said the last honestly, though

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