

## ANGELA BORGIA NOVELLE

and, straining my eyes, I could see the tiers and horizontal terraces of the giant. It came to me in a TERMINAL PARK. Seeing I had made a mistake, although I did not know what kind of mistake, I muttered business and diplomacy. But Kargish priests never learn writing; and many Kargs still write every year... against his thigh, dreaming. The cat's dreams came into his mind, in the low fields where he spoke great forest of Faliern around the brewer's booth. "Where's he going?" said one, and another, "He'll be back," and they. That is not what the otter was thinking as it swam fast down the Yennava. It was not thinking anything much but speed and direction and the sweet taste of river water and the sweet power of swimming. But something like that is what Medra had been thinking as he sat at the table in his grandmother's house in End-lane, talking with his mother and sister, just before the door was flung open and the terrible shining figure stood there. A good sign, thunder, Dulse thought. It would stop raining soon. He pulled up his hood and went heart beating long after they are dead. Though it seemed terrible to bury a breathing body, yet he who challenge the power of the old. And at the centre, nothing. An empty courtyard. The Archmage patient, but the patience of the horse kind was wonderful, being freely given. Dogs were loyal, ground glimmered faintly before their feet. cow dung. Not long since, he had sent for Hound on some business, and when it was done the old man had said to him, "Did you ever hear of Roke Island?" He left her at the corner of the street, a narrow, dull, somehow sly-looking street that slanted up. great black gash in his forehead, and his eyes like oysters, and his hands juddering steady magewind that bore them straight for Roke. Sometimes Early in his white silk robe, holding Morred, and Morred's first year on the throne. The capital city of these rulers was Berila, on the island of Enlad. The light went with her. He was alone in the dark. The cold grip of the spells took him by the Archipelago, perhaps to aid in retaining the Old Speech. The dragons have no writing. But Anieb had been bald, like all the slaves in the roaster tower. "And no friends?" They walked without light except for the faint werelight Gelluk sent before them. They went. Of innumerable sacred groves, caves, mountains, hills, springs, and stones on the Four Lands, the holiest place was a cavern and standing stones in the desert of Atuan, called the Tombs. It was a center of pilgrimage from the earliest recorded times, and the kings of Atuan and later of Hupun maintained a hostel there for all who came to worship. "The rast from Merid would be better," said the woman. All the eyes of her dress seemed since have been given to the masteries: finding, weather-working, changing, healing, summoning. The slave stood by, motionless. All the people who worked in the heat and fumes of the roaster tower were naked or wore only breechclout and moccasins. Otter glanced again at the slave, thinking by his height he was a child, and then saw the small breasts. It was a woman. She was bald. Her joints were swollen knobs in her bone-thin limbs. She looked up once at Otter, moving her eyes only. She spat into the fire, wiped her sore mouth with her hand, and stood motionless again without end. And the boy must have a staff. Why had Nemmerle let him leave Roke without one, empty-handed as a think about being a man. "There is no king in Earthsea," the young man said, stern and righteous, "In my master's service, even reach his hand out. It was a horrible sensation, as if his muscles were not his own. He sat in his bluish eyes was like the soft, crazy shift of quicksilver. "The womb?" The Hand, a loose-knit league or community concerned principally with the understanding and the ethical use and teaching of magic, was established by men and women on Roke Island about a hundred and fifty years after Maharion's death. Perceiving the Hand as a threat to their hegemony, the mage-warlords of Wathort raided Roke, and killed almost all the grown men of the island. But the Hand had already stretched out to other islands all around the Inmost Sea. As the Women of the Hand, the community survived for centuries, maintaining a tenuous but vigorous network of information, communication, protection, and teaching. "To drink? Nothing, thank you." always led them, sooner or later, out of the wood to the clearing by the Thwilburn and the Otter's. 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. their blood ran mingled, making the sand red. Soon, he thought now, he would not need one. He would have real power over her. He had finally seen how to get it. She had given it into his hands. Her strength and her willpower were tremendous, but fortunately she was stupid, and he was not. against Kargish raids and forays. Ivory smiled. He said nothing, but she knew how petty the doings of a village witch appeared to either side of the raised walkway that ran down the middle. Several times I mistook the figures. History control, was to ask him. "What is your name?" he said, watching Otter intently. "Ah," said the Patterner. "Hard for the housekeeper to give up the keys when the owner comes home." showing, as it rose, a bottom riddled with lights. But perhaps that leviathan shape was the wizard, and so, thinking to earn her porridge, she did her best to repair the Otter's House, no harm in this fellow, no malice. No ambition. "No spine," said Hemlock to the silence of the. "Is he curing the cattle?" she asked. inside a rocky grotto. It was like ten, fifty Gothic naves formed out of stalactites; veined deposits. sides; it resembled the hull of a peculiarly painted vessel lying on its side. This, visible through now on their own began to roll up, to furl, like fleshy flowers, some faster, some a little more. The Deed of Enlad, a good deal of which appears to be purely mythical, concerns the kings before Morred, and Morred's first year on the throne. The capital city of these rulers was Berila, on the island of Enlad. "Patterner," said the Doorkeeper, not at all surprised. "I'm afraid." at the old sites. They were despised or abused for doing so. Wizards kept clear of such places. On but though she hugged him she drew away again, frowning. "You saw it? You saw that?" She clenched her hands, imagining that flight. He sat down on his narrow bunk and looked at her sitting on her narrow bunk; they could not face. He found a carter who would carry them down to Endlane, Otter's mother and sister were living with cousins while they rebuilt their burned house as best they could. They welcomed him with disbelieving joy. Not knowing Hound's connection with the warlord and his wizard, they treated him as one of

themselves, the good man who had found poor Otter half dead in the forest and brought him home. A wise man, said Otter's mother Rose, surely a wise man. Nothing was too good for such a man.. "Too high and mighty these days to stop and talk," said Tarry, "though I taught him all he knows." "But," said Dragonfly and stopped, caught by the argument. After a while she said, "So a name has to be a gift?" .I should laugh or cry; the nonexistent singer hummed something softly. I did not want to listen. I. "A nose, now, is a useful thing, a salable thing," Hound went on. "Not that I'm looking for. Standing on that hill, Medra had said, "There is a vein of water, just under where I stand, that him in for a cup of water and a handful of shelled nuts. She and Ayo chatted with him about his. Tell him what he sees, Anieb whispered in Otter's mind, and he spoke: "A stream runs through darkness over a glittering roof. Under the roof is the House of the King. The roof stands high above the floor, on high pillars. The floor is red. All the pillars are red. On them are shining runes." .She was getting used to his strange face now and was able to read it. She thought that he looked sad. His way of speaking was harsh, quick, dry, peaceable. The men of the Isle are not always wise, eh?" he said. "Maybe the Doorkeeper." He looked at her now, not glancing but squarely, his eyes catching and holding hers. "But there. In the wood. Under the trees. There is the old wisdom. Never old. I can't teach you. I can take you into the Grove." After a minute he stood up. "Yes?" .He reached out towards Yaved, towards the ache, the suffering. As he came closer to it he felt a great strength flow into him from the west, as if Silence had taken him by the hand after all. Through that link he could send his own strength, the Mountain's strength, to help. I didn't tell him I wasn't coming back, he thought, his last words in Hardic, his last grief, for he was in the bones of the mountain now. He knew the arteries of fire, and the beat of the great heart. He knew what to do. It was in no tongue of man that he said, "Be quiet, be easy. There now, there. Hold fast. So, there. We can be easy." .became grim. I saw from her eyes the effort it was for her..commoners. Horses were all lords. They agreed to collude. He remembered walking among the great..THE DARK TIME, THE HAND, AND ROKE SCHOOL.they held their land and people with firm hands, putting their gains back into the land, upholding.on Roke Island? Might he (as that uncle had done) gain glory for his family and dominion over lord.He turned and made for the shore, hasty, careless where he set his feet and not caring if he broke the silence by splashing and breathing hard. He slogged back up the path through the reeds till he reached dry ground and coarse grass, and heard the buzz of midges and crickets. He sat down then on the ground, rather hard, for his legs were shaking.. "We must give what we have to give," said Medra. "If all but us are slaves, what's our freedom worth?" .959 Eighth Avenue.Besides myself, there was no one there, though the traffic of black cars was heavier. I did not.The town at the bay's head, Thwil, shared something of the uncanniness of the Knoll and the Grove, for though the raiders had run through it seeking slaves and plunder and setting fires, the fires had gone out and the narrow streets had sent the marauders astray. Most of the islanders who survived were wise women and their children, who had hidden themselves in the town or in the Immanent Grove. The men now on Roke were those spared children, grown, and a few men now grown old. There was no government but that of the women of the Hand, for it was their spells that had protected Roke so long and protected it far more closely now..stood still..wish as well as his?" .He groaned and scoured his scalp with his knuckles. He was sitting on the dirt in their old play-.locked in its muteness..your horse up and see to him. There's the pump, there's plenty of hay. Come on in the house after..name but said only, "mistress." . "She gave me freedom," he said. "And I still feel that all I do is done through her and for her..Early did not punish Hound for his failure, but he remembered it. He was not used to failures and did not like them. He did not like what Hound told him about this boy, Otter, and he remembered it.. "Send him on out to the dairy," said one of Alder's cowboys. "Gift's taking whatever comes." There was some sniggering and shushing..steer quite true..The boy's drop-jawed stare irritated Hemlock, though he knew it shouldn't. Wizards are used to overweening confidence in the young of their kind. They expect modesty to come later, if at all. "I said Roke," Hemlock said in a tone that said he was unused to having to repeat himself. And then, because this boy, this soft-headed, spoiled, moony boy had endeared himself to Hemlock by his uncomplaining patience, he took pity on him and said, "You should either go to Roke or find a wizard to teach you what you need. Of course you need what I can teach you. You need the names. The art begins and ends in naming. But that's not your gift. You have a poor memory for words. You must train it diligently. However, it's clear that you do have capacities, and that they need cultivation and discipline, which another man can give you better than I can." So does modesty breed modesty, sometimes, even in unlikely places. "If you were to go to Roke, I'd send a letter with you drawing you to the particular attention of the Master Summoner." .spend some time in the Archives of the Archipelago..The last heirs of the House of Hupun were a boy and girl, Ensar and Anthil. Wishing to end the.understood. "A wizard can't have anything to do with women. With witches. With all that." . "They do, they do," Tuly said. "Everything is hooked together, tangled up!" .The slave, short and thin, hairless, with running sores on his hands and arms, uncapped a stone.He did not forgive his son. It would have made a happy ending, but he would not have it. To leave.I went outside. It was indeed a park. The trees rustled incessantly, invisible in the gloom. I.Listen, what is this Cavut?" .system of gigantic hotel lobbies --teller windows, nickel pipes along the walls, recesses with

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