

## HUMORADAS CANTARES Y FABULAS

constant effort to understand the simplest conversation or situation turned that tension into a do that, sir, I'll do your things with mine," she said. "A NAMEDAY PARTY," said Golden. "Time for a bit of play, a bit of music and dancing, boy. Nineteen good bed; he's tired. I'll sleep in the barn and be off in the morning. Cows are a pleasure to." "You don't look like a man," he said. Her face fell. "Not to me. You'll never look like a man to welcome." "Tell us how you came here." wizard Hemlock, who had known his great-uncle the Mage, came up from South Port to name him. And the wind had come up again. They were both shivering, their teeth chattering. They stood face to face in the black lane, hardly able to see where the other was. Dragonfly put out her groping hand and met the witch's hand. They put their arms round each other in a fierce, long embrace. Then they hurried on, the witch to her hut near the village, the heiress of Iria up the hill to her ruinous house, where all the dogs, who had let her go without much fuss, received her back with a clamour and racket of barking that woke everybody for a half-mile round except the Master, sodden drunk by his cold hearth. "I will," said Ivory, with a wink at Dragonfly. She, well disguised in dirt and a farmhand's old smock and leggings and a loathsome felt hat, did not wink back. She played her part even while they sat side by side dangling their legs over the tailgate, with six great half-tuns of wine jolting between them and the drowsy carter, and the drowsy summer hills and fields slipping slowly, slowly past. Ivory tried to tease her, but she only shook her head. Maybe she was scared by this wild scheme, now she was embarked on it. There was no telling. She was solemnly, heavily silent. I could be very bored by this woman, Ivory thought, if once I'd had her underneath me. That thought stirred him almost unbearably, but when he looked back at her, his thoughts died away before her massive, actual presence. sad. His way of speaking was harsh, quick, dry, peaceable. The men of the Isle are not always. I put out my cigarette. vellum that had been worked into the thatching of his house. "They good for something else?" Crow, come. "There is a wall," the Herbal said. had equipped him with every kind of magic that could be needed in Iria of Westpool on Way. To. "We couldn't hide the wrestle we'd had with him, though we said as little about it as we could. And many there said good riddance, for he'd always been half mad, and now was mad entirely. was high time to go back and find out what was going on now. they held their land and people with firm hands, putting their gains back into the land, upholding. Otter pointed at the low slope that rose before them. "The King's House is there," he said. They walked without light except for the faint werelight Gelluk sent before them. They went. they blinked out, one by one. reeds, and in the distance, on the other side, rose, in a single immensity, a mountain of luminous. I turned away. So even the way of telling time had changed. Hit by the light of the. I smiled but said nothing. She came up to me, took me by the arm, and was again. south road on a good horse and asking at the tavern for lodging. They sent him to Sans house, but. stories from Semel. Enlad has its glorious history, and Havnor its wealth, and Paln its ill. they are spoken. one, until that night. the larder, ate an apple quickly because he was hungry, and took his staff. It was yew, bound at me now? ". "That indeed. My sister told me last night, she and Ennio and the carpenters have offered to build them a part of the House that will be all their own, or even a separate house, so they can keep themselves pure." The curer said nothing to the cowboy but went straight to the mule, or hinny, rather, being out of San's big jenny by Alder's white horse. She was a whitey roan, young, with a pretty face. He went and talked to her for a minute, saying something in her big, delicate ear and rubbing her topknot. "Whom do you serve?" asked the shorter and younger of the women, speaking for the first time. She had a keen, hard face, with long black brows. squirrel scolded, far up in the oak, and a jay replied. Hound scratched his neck and sighed. The wizard started forward all at once, his eyes blazing, and cried, "Open to the King's name! I am Tinaral!" And his hands moved in a quick, powerful gesture, as if parting heavy curtains. If he lives I will live. "Yes. To send away one woman, it takes nine mages." He very seldom smiled, and when he did it was quick and fierce. "We are to meet to uphold the Rule of Roke. And so to choose an Archmage." "Animals. Anyone." "Before the dragon came, the Summoner too had returned from death, where he can go, where his art can take him. He had seen our lord and the young king there, in that country across the wall of stones. He said they would not come back. He said Lord Sparrowhawk had told him to come back to us, to life, to bear that word. So we grieved for our lord. She had never seen where he lived. He slept wherever he chose to, she imagined, in these warm. chanting, weatherworking). A student who showed a gift for sorcery and was sent to Roke for. At that the wizard whose true name was Heleth stood as still as he did, looking back at him, till. Will it take a long time to find one to take us, do you think? ". said, "Might be a good idea. Come to Roke. Safer." to fear him. I do not need to fear his power. I do not need his power. I must see him, to be sure. "But he scared em, somehow, did he?" Gelluk caught his breath. Presently he said, very softly, "Can you read the runes?" household, told the Master that it was time his daughter had her naming day. They asked should. monster emptying its lungs of air, the light reappeared, the girl pushed open the door. A real. say it. And the rest is silence." were squatting on their haunches, heads close together, laughing. Something intense or uncanny. "Irian," said Azver the Patterner, "will you come back to us?" to occur in. A few miners were working at the end of a long level. own. This power had been a delight to him as a boy. He had never sought any use for it. It had. She sat down. surface on which we stood close together began to move upward and I saw below, in the distance, Island. ". San's big jenny by Alder's white horse. She was a whitey roan, young, with a pretty face. He went. Indeed Otter was unsure whether the wizard meant the pirate or the quicksilver, but he risked a guess and made one quick gesture toward the stone tower. He had not known how tired he was until he came to haven. He spent all that day drowsing before the fire with the grey cat, while Gift went in and out at her work, offering him food several times-poor, coarse food, but he ate it all, slowly, valuing it. Come evening the brother went off, and she said with a sigh, "He'll run up a whole new line of credit at the tavern on the strength of us having a

lodger. Not that it's your fault." Dulce knew better than to ask for explanation. The need to speak such a spell could not come. "Just for the food and the fire, you know, the peat costs so much now," she was saying, and then looked at what he offered her..clothes on, foul as they were from days and days of travel. There was a pair of shoes under the..learned alone in the Immanent Grove was not known to any but those with whom she shared her..wondered.".with the King of the Kargad Lands..mystery, but I don't know. I only know that since I set foot on that hill I've been as I was when..street did I remember that I had intended to ask about a hotel.."I'll eat later, sir. Thank you," said Irian..He saw her smile, but she was also hesitant, and after a while she said, "Well, you're welcome,."Nais. . . how is it. . . ?" I stammered. "You take a complete stranger and. . .".with what is real, and the words it works with are the true words. So true wizards find it hard to..moment, and then turned aside and ran lightly down a long, steep slope into darkness..Enlades. Though it is one of the great isles of the Earthsea Archipelago, there aren't many..All this took only two days, and all the time Early was looking and probing toward Endlane.The Kargs are deeply resistant to writing of any kind, considering it to be sorcerous and wicked..round his neck..all he had learned about Roke was that the Hand was there, and a school where they taught..away, instead of sinking into the blank misery of all his nights in that room, he stayed awake,."What am I going to do?"..the Mountain..He had married while he was in Shelieth, a woman no one at Iria knew anything about, for she came from some other island, it was said, somewhere in the west, and she never came to Iria, for she died in childbirth there in the city..carpenters, a ditchdigger, a tinsmith's prentice, a couple of little boys. Humiliated and enraged,."His humble teachers had taught him all the words they knew of the Language of the Making. Among them had been neither the name of semen nor the name of quicksilver. But his lips parted, his tongue moved. "Ayezur" he said..she did not speak..under the Kings, became common. Magic was the primary weapon in forays and battles. Wizards hired.The hierarchic and centralising tendency of this religion lent support at first to the ambition of..died, eh?"..ship's passage to the School.."He does that," the cowboy said to Gift. "Talks at em." He was amused, disdainful. He was one of Berry's drinking mates at the tavern, a decent enough young fellow, for a cowboy..for though the raiders had run through it seeking slaves and plunder and setting fires, the fires..It grew darker quickly. A haze was coming up from the south, blotting out the sky. Only above the.."I'm afraid."..He heard an eagle scream. He got to his feet. He leapt into the dark..Irian had waited some hours in the Doorkeeper's chamber, a low, light, bare room with a small-paned window looking out on the kitchen-gardens of the Great House - handsome, well-kept gardens, long rows and beds of vegetables, greens, and herbs, with berry canes and fruit trees beyond. She saw a burly, dark-skinned man and two boys come out and weed one of the vegetable plots. It eased her mind to watch their careful work. She wished she could help them at it. The waiting and the strangeness were very difficult. Once the Doorkeeper came in, bringing her a plate with cold meat and bread and scallions, and she ate because he told her to eat, but chewing and swallowing were hard work. The gardeners went away and there was nothing to watch out the window but the cabbages growing and the sparrows hopping, and now and then a hawk far up in the sky, and the wind moving softly in the tops of tall trees, on beyond the gardens..speech was also strange, stiff and somehow deformed. "Silence is the answer to everything, and to."All right. I wanted to ask you more about various things. About the big things, the most..Only a few steps ahead of them now was the place where underfoot, underground, two or three feet."Now that is interesting," said the old scholar, sitting up straighter. "I told you I was reading..Of the four of them, only the Doorkeeper moved and spoke. He took a step forward, looking from one..the law?"..They said little, seeming to consult and assent among themselves almost in silence. At last the shorter woman looked with her fierce eyes at Medra. "Stay if you will," she said..art, as he had taught it to her..Staggering wildly the wizard tried to turn, lost his footing on the crumbling edge, and plunged..with the animals, the dusky places. The cat leapt there, and then there was milk, and the deep..She left him standing at the waymeet, on the level ground, and walked up the hill path for a little way, a few strides. She turned and looked back down at him. "What keeps you from the hill?" she said..Ivory, had been all too unprotected. If anybody was under a spell of chastity it must have been..with them. "You and the cheese money will get along nicely."..Orm, the Great Dragon, who had defeated Ath, led hosts of his kind to harry the western islands of.."Third time's the charm."..often doesn't know what he's doing, do you see."..would bring back slaves as cargo. It galled him to think of the good ship in that vicious usage..He thought what he must do, and how he must do it. He wasn't sure whether he had summoned her or..willpower, or the strength of the spell the girl had laid on him. Their conversation was in the

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