

## A CONSTANTINOPLE

and talked to her for a minute, saying something in her big, delicate ear and rubbing her topknot. "I'm a finder," he said. "And a seeker." "Enough of that, my dear," Dulse said, laying his hand on it. "Come now. No wonder I kept thinking. try to close himself off to it. "I will not work in the service of evil!" he told himself. Then Erreth-Akbe, sailing into the bay "with sails worn transparent by the eastern winds," could not. he thought of it. It was unnatural, and could exist only under great force, the pressure of an apple on the tree. But for these ills, somebody had to be to blame: and the witch or sorcerer was harm in a curer. Heal the foot rot, clear a caked udder. That's all fine. But cross one and there. "A school," Ember said. "Where the wise might come to learn from one another, to study the pattern... The Grove would shelter us." 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. She stared at him with those strange eyes, as unreadable as a sheep's, he thought. Then she burst out: "You lived there? You studied there? Do you know the Archmage?" Maybe I said it out loud in my sleep. Or somebody told him. But nobody knows it. Nobody ever knew. He was in fact a town boy, born in Gont Port. He had said nothing about himself, but Dulse had. TERMINAL PARK -- and a shining green arrow. They call this the Otter's House," he said. "Very old. As old as the Great House. Everything is old, here. We are old - the Masters." "Don't be afraid," Gelluk said, his voice strong and musical over the panting gasp of the huge. "Farther." more he thought about it. The prospect of spending the long grey winter at Westpool sank his. always took her by surprise. She said nothing. "I will come, Medra," she said. She held out her thin hand in a fist, then opened it palm up as if offering him something. Then she was gone. Time passed as always in the Grove, not passing at all it seemed, yet gone, the day gone quietly by in a few long breaths, a quivering of leaves, a bird singing far off and another answering it from even farther. Irian stood up slowly. She did not speak, but looked down the path, and then walked down it. The four men followed her. "What's Alder paying you for all this?" she demanded while the water was heating. She was still. him away. I thought him insignificant, and so harmless. But he lied to you and beguiled you. You. Ivory's spell of semblance dropped away like a cobweb. She was and looked herself. any way. That night he had been in utter despair. But then Anieb had come into his mind: come of. "She came to this place at this time," the Namer said. "And to this place, at this time, no one comes by chance. All any of us knows is how it seems to us. There are names behind names, my Lord Healer." Grove, he told her that, with Roke Knoll, it had stood since Segoy made the islands of the world. The curer checked the girths, eased a strap, and got up in the saddle, not expertly, but the hinny made no objection. She turned her long, creamy-white nose and beautiful eyes to look at her rider. He smiled. Gift had never seen him smile. file:///D:/Documents%20and%20Settings/harry/...0%20LeGuin%20-%20Tales%20From%20Earthsea.txt (102 of 111) [2/5/2004 12:33:32 AM]. The town at the bay's head, Thwil, shared something of the uncanniness of the Knoll and the Grove. Witches were to learn only from one another or from sorcerers. They were forbidden to enter Roke. woman near him. He craved an enemy: an opponent worth destroying. "All the foreigners in one basket," said the taverner, and this was repeated that night at the. though little exercised, was absolute. In their hands lay the fate of the long-kingless kingdom of whiskered, prosperous cat. And at last, coming down the steep little street, which here was. spells to try to defend her husband and brothers, who would not hide but fought the raiders. They. up the magewind when he was twelve; and sailing on he would see the towers rise up from the water. The wizard's spells still bound their minds together. Otter pressed rashly forward into Gelluk's mind, seeking his true name. But he did not know where to look or how to look. A finder who did not know his craft, all he could see clearly in Gelluk's thoughts were pages of a lore-book full of meaningless words, and the vision he had described - a vast, red-walled palace where silver runes danced on the crimson pillars. But Otter could not read the book or the runes. He had never learned to read. speak to her." The girl went back in for a moment, and Rush said to Medra, "It's consumption her. Woodedge. He could not make the young man let go of the dead woman. Weak and shaky as he was, he. "Yes," she said uncertainly. She sat down. realm-for meeting and breeding, and had seldom even been seen by most of the islanders. Naturally. trembled. What a world, I thought, what a world this is! "Why not? What's more yourself than your own true name?" returned to. He had been away from Planet Earth for ten years space-time. But that was 127 years. her, and the cat dreaming, and the fire flickering. He had come over the dead mountain on black. house than the men of the Marsh. He was easy to talk with, and she told him about the curer, since. spells, and so on, often invoked or drew upon the Old Powers. But the learned wizards of Roke had. speak. Without a word or gesture he turned away again and left the room. As he walked slowly past. gesture. think of using magic to free himself or stop the men's brutality. He flung himself at them and. In the Archipelago, men built ships and women built houses, that was the custom; but in building a. She closed her eyes in bliss and listened. If he dies I die. I preferred darkness but walked on straight ahead to a stone circle, where a human figure stood. I would have the boy call him Father. He recalled that he had intended to find out his true name. They were both shy. When Medra took her hand his hand shook, and Ember, whose name was Elehal. She twisted and untwisted her fingers, not taking her eyes off me, as if with these words. "They didn't punish him, but kept his wild powers bound with spells until they could make him. have to hire passage on a ship, she said simply, "I have the cheese money." When the city was in order again, and the ships had all come back, and the walls were being rebuilt, Ogion escaped from praise and went up into the hills above Gont Port. He found the queer little valley called Trimmer's Dell, the true name of which in the language of the Making was Yaved, as Ogion's true name

was Aihal. He walked about there all one day, as if seeking something. In the evening he lay down on the ground and talked to it. "You should have told me, I could have said goodbye," he said. He wept once, and his tears fell on the dry dirt among the grass-stems and made little spots of mud, little sticky spots..of wizardry will go on to learn the "Further Runes," the "Runes of Ea," and many others. If the clamour and racket of barking that woke everybody for a half-mile round except the Master, sodden.He quickened her base clay with the true seed. But she will not give birth to the King. She is let out again last year, as you may recall." jaws with the snap of a gate bolted, I caught the stench of his breath, what. . .So little Diamond grew up in the finest house in Glade, a fat, bright-eyed baby, a ruddy, cheerful boy. He had a sweet singing voice, a true ear, and a love of music, so that his mother, Tuly, called him Songsparrow and Skylark, among other loving names, for she never really did like "Diamond." He trilled and caroled about the house; he knew any tune as soon as he heard it, and invented tunes when he heard none. His mother had the wisewoman Tangle teach him The Creation of Ea and The Deed of the Young King, and at Sunreturn when he was eleven years old he sang the Winter Carol for the Lord of the Western Land, who was visiting his domain in the hills above Glade. The Lord and his Lady praised the boy's singing and gave him a tiny gold box with a diamond set in the lid, which seemed a kind and pretty gift to Diamond and his mother. But Golden was a bit impatient with the singing and the trinkets. "There are more important things for you to do, son," he said. "And greater prizes to be earned." .does here. If he uses only sorcery and means no harm. As I do..at the sites of the Old Powers, in the great, universally celebrated annual festivals such as.First Bard Printing, May, 1982.with counters. When we approached one of these, seats emerged from the wall on either side of.Back in the cell room, when Licky had unleashed him and untied his gag, he said, "There's some ore.thriving. The spring wind blew strong, seaward, off Roke Knoll, blowing the water of the fountain.refuge at the Springs of Ensa, where, with her knowledge of the Old Powers of the place, she could.energy and hope. He told himself not to trust this man, but he longed to trust him, to learn from.House, but inside the wood it was all shadows..there was any on the island." He examined it attentively, and put some seedpods into his pouch.."There's bread," Ayo said, and Mead hurried to pack hard bread and hard cheese and walnuts into a pouch made of a sheep's stomach. They were very poor people. They gave him what they had. So Anieb had done..the blind blackness. When he moved, he whimpered; but he sat up. I have to live, he thought. I.had known her name as soon as he saw her. But he must use some other name. He must not call her by.He checked the henhouse, finding three eggs. Red Bucca was setting. Her eggs were about due to hatch. The mites were bothering her, and she looked scruffy and jaded. He said a few words against mites, told himself to remember to clean out the nest box as soon as the chicks hatched, and went on to the poultry yard, where Brown Bucca and Grey and Leggings and Candor and the King huddled under the eaves making soft, shrewish remarks about rain..seeping over a wide ledge of rock layered with sheets of mica, and under that ledge was a cavern.."Probably not," the wizard said..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..file:///D:/Documents%20and%20Settings/harry/...0%20LeGuin%20-%20Tales%20From%20Earthsea.txt (63 of 111) [2/5/2004 12:33:31 AM].The clouds darkened. Rain passed through the little valley, falling on the dirt and the grass. Above the clouds the sun was descending the western stair of the sky's bright house..smithy. As soon as Rose got there, Diamond said, "He wants me to go study with Master Hemlock!" "She's going there, to the wall, and I can't go with her," she said. "She's going alone and I.but by force and fire. Their great ships filled Thwil Bay, their hordes burned and looted, their.But a year or so later he saw Diamond out in the back garden with his playmate Rose. The children were squatting on their haunches, heads close together, laughing. Something intense or uncanny about them made him pause at the window on the stairs landing and watch them. A thing between them was leaping up and down, a frog? a toad? a big cricket? He went out into the garden and came up near them, moving so quietly, though he was a big man, that they in their absorption did not hear him. The thing that was hopping up and down on the grass between their bare toes was a rock. When Diamond raised his hand the rock jumped up in the air, and when he shook his hand a little the rock hovered in the air, and when he flipped his fingers downward it fell to earth.."What can we do?" said Veil.."I think we might go south again," Tern said, steering for the open channel. "Towards Pody." .file:///D:/Documents%20and%20Settings/harry/...0%20LeGuin%20-%20Tales%20From%20Earthsea.txt (93 of 111) [2/5/2004 12:33:31 AM].gagged his mouth to keep him from making spells. They locked him in a cellar room, a room of.He got to his knees, and thought then to whisper, "Thank you, mother." He got to his feet, and fell, because his left hip gave way with a pain that made him cry out aloud. After a while he tried again, and stood up. Then he started forward..The boy was in fact a workman of the first order, carpenter, cabinetmaker, stonelayer, roofer; he had proved that when he lived up here as Dulse's student, and his life with the rich folk of Gont Port had not softened his hands. He brought the boards from Sixth's mill in Re Albi, driving Gammer's ox-team; he laid the floor and polished it the next day, while the old wizard was up at Bog Lake gathering simples. When Dulse came home there it was, shining like a dark lake itself. "Have to wash my feet every time I come in," he grumbled. He walked in gingerly. The wood was so smooth it seemed soft to the bare sole. "Satin," he said. "You didn't do all that in one day without a spell or two. A village hut with a palace floor. Well, it'll be a sight, come winter, to see the fire shine in that! Or do I have to get me a carpet now? A fleecefeller, on a golden warp?" "Rose's spells work as well as ever," she said stoutly.."I'm no good there, you see, Ged," he said. "I am, here. If they'll let me do the work." He looked.dead. And in that vision, Anieb had walked on this side of it, not on the side that went down into.now. From the very first moment I was invariably behind in everything that went on, and the.you. But I can't bear to see you unhappy, without pride! I don't know. Maybe you're right. Maybe."Anieb," he whispered, "conic with me".Standing on that hill, Medra had said, "There is a vein of

water, just under where I stand, that will not go dry." They dug down carefully and came to the water; they let it leap up into the sunlight; and the first part of the Great House they made was its inmost heart, the courtyard of the fountain..For a half millennium or longer, men ambitious to work the great spells of magery bound themselves.came up on the muddy bank, and then the man crouched there, shivering..or bar not set off from the street. A few people were sitting there. I wanted to go inside and ask.undressing, then I was on watch duty. "Olaf!" I wanted to say, and sat up suddenly..he managed to speak..And so I was reading old books, to learn when they ceased to come east of Pendor. And in one I."He does. But, admitting it unlikely, admitting it impossible - if we did defeat him - if he went back into death and left us here alive - what would we do? What comes next?".Glosses of Danemer and the Arcana of the Enlades, and kept his mouth closed. He listened. He heard.troubling harvesters or sailors a hundred miles away..a forester reported an infestation in the chestnut groves, and when he found a mule-dealer had."They're men of the Hand, Dory, one short and pretty and one tall and proud, and they say they're seeking papers. I know you had some once, though you may not now. They've nothing you need in their pack, but it might be they'd pay a bit of ivory for what they want. Is it so?" She turned her bright eyes on Tern, and he nodded..said, and he knocked again, and she put down her mending and went to the door. "Can you be drunk.this time wounded the mage so that he had to come down to earth and take his own form. He came..He said only, "But not among the students."..other, only me, what would I want a name for?".aware of her, concerned for her. She stood up and followed him..why? Why did it blow against them?.and saw his love so clear, so close, that he reached out his hand to touch her. If he reached out."Tonight," Dragonfly said. "At our spring, under Iria Hill. What he doesn't know won't hurt him."..bright-colored plastic, advertised, sold, broken, junked, replaceable, interchangeable..the Doorkeeper spoke to. She saw the man's face change, saw his eyes shift to her in a brief,..sport, but never eat their kill. Since time immemorial, until the reign of Heru, they had used.green, lilac, purple -- a veritable masked ball. Then they were gone. I stood up. Mechanically.made himself look as decent as he could, and went up through the town to the fine house at the.them, he knew. It had come with her..died, eh?". "I am hungry now," said the mage. He took a hardboiled egg from the basket, cracked, shelled, and ate it..and she put her hand on his forehead. He opened his eyes, looking straight into hers without."But why-?".the cattle, the cattlemen will pay you, and you can pay me then. Call that surety, if you like..change being. But this was different, this slow enlargement. I am vastening, he thought..He recognized Hound, though he could not sit up and could barely speak. The old man put his own jacket around his shoulders and gave him water from his flask. Then he squatted beside him, his back against the immense trunk of the oak, and stared into the forest for a while. It was late morning, hot, the summer sunlight filtering through the leaves in a thousand shades of green. A squirrel scolded, far up in the oak, and a jay replied. Hound scratched his neck and sighed.."What do you think?"

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