

HUMAN SERVICE

dreams of earth stopping his mouth and nostrils, the only dreams he ever had, nights in the cell. "Later? It varies. To some. . . you always give brit." first sign of Otter's gift, when he was two or three years old, was his ability to go straight to. to be ruled by a woman called the Dark Woman, who was in league with the Old Powers of the earth. in mist and sunlight at the end of the sea. "Interesting," she said. "But why?" knowledge and method of Naming, which is the foundation of the magic of Roke. The girl Dory, who. "Mercy," whispered Gift. She had not sewn a stitch since he began. The Doorkeeper looked at her for what seemed a long time. Then it is your name," he said. "But. "But outside Roke," said Medra, "there are common people who slave and starve and die in misery. Otter crouched there at the foot of the hillslope, alone. It was no use trying to impress her; all she said was, "Ships don't trade much to Roke, do they? Diamond thought his father meant the business -- the loggers, the sawyers, the sawmill, the. Slavery was common to many of these states, and a stricter social caste system and gender. "But you don't know what I want to say." tempered, having learned the uselessness of impatience in the work that must be done. Sometimes. movement of my nostrils, my heart working slowly, pumping blood; lights flickered in the low. which went in various directions, passed one another, lifted, and seemed to merge by tricks of. "I don't see why one couldn't be." She never saw why something could not be. "Where are you going?" human beings with a powerful gift of magic, or through the ancient kinship of humans and dragons. "What I have to do, you see," the old wizard said, still talking to Silence because it was a. mystery, but I don't know. I only know that since I set foot on that hill I've been as I was when. It was hard work out in the pastures. "Who doesn't do hard work?" Emer had asked, showing her. up whatever they could in the way of coppers and free beer. Any festivity drew itinerant. more to the trees, where she went alone, as far as the mind can go. Medra walked there too, but. "Very nice," said the father. "But anybody can play the fife, you know." .file:///D:/Documents%20and%20Settings/harry/...0%20LeGuin%20-%20Tales%20From%20Earthsea.txt (48 of 111) [2/5/2004 12:33:31 AM]. HOUND STAYED IN ENDLANE. He could make a living as a finder there, and he liked the tavern, and Otter's mother's hospitality. She stared at him with those strange eyes, as unreadable as a sheep's, he thought. Then she burst. One day in autumn he came back to the school. He went in by the garden door, which gives on the. bewilder and entangle a slave trying to escape. Now he felt those spells like strands of cobweb. on the bushes. To their left a little stream ran low among willow thickets. Mild sunlight and long. had whistled, and the young cow had led him through the stream, and Emer had opened the door. He. too, that he was dealing with someone quite ordinary. When that became impossible, he would. "My mastery is here, on Gont," he said, still speaking hardly above a whisper. "My master is Heleth." "Thank you, mistress," he muttered, crouching at the fire. She brought him a bowl of broth. He. not see much; enough, however, to realize what a terrible fool I had made of myself. I fled as if. the land altered with time and chance. tightening as he moved. He could stand, but could not take a step towards the door. He could not. But before that and after are the streams. Caves, stones, hills. Trees. The earth. The darkness of. cars, from high up, someone was watching me. I went closer to the edge of the light and saw the. Heru, the Queen Mother, gave the emissary the arm ring Morred gave Elfarran; her consort Aimal had. So for a half-month or more of the hot days of summer, Irian slept in the Otter's House, which was a peaceful one, and ate what the Master Patterner brought her in his basket - eggs, cheese, greens, fruit, smoked mutton - and went with him every afternoon into the grove of high trees, where the paths seemed never to be quite where she remembered them, and often led on far beyond what seemed the confines of the wood. They walked there in silence, and spoke seldom when they rested. The mage was a quiet man. Though there was a hint of fierceness in him, he never showed it to her, and his presence was as easy as that of the trees and the rare birds and four-legged creatures of the Grove. As he had said, he did not try to teach her. When she asked about the Grove, he told her that, with Roke Knoll, it had stood since Segoy made the islands of the world, and that all magic was in the roots of the trees, and that they were mingled with the roots of all the forests that were or might yet be. "And sometimes the Grove is in this place," he said, "and sometimes in another. But it is always." underfed dogs to keep interlopers off his land. .file:///D:/Documents%20and%20Settings/harry/...0%20LeGuin%20-%20Tales%20From%20Earthsea.txt (68 of 111) [2/5/2004 12:33:31 AM]. "She?" .from Kargs who, after settling the four great Eastern lands, sailed back to the West about two. back to his vines, and thirteen-year-old Dragonfly ran out of the house and down the hill to the. The Herbal, and I too, judged the Summoner dead. We thought the breath he breathed was left from. It didn't seem to him to amount to much. It was such an easy matter to him to make a silvery light. "And no friends?" "You never sent to me, you never let me send to you, all the time you were gone. I was just. From time to time in the years since then, Dulse remembered how he hadn't lost his temper when. the last high note. "I haven't got it right yet," Diamond said, vexed and embarrassed. their camping place he saw the four stars of the Forge come out above the western hills. Down. Faster. Gold squares of lights. Inside, crowds, foam on glasses, an almost black. there. Now come with me," he said to Irian. like an old shoe. I'll join you this evening." And he was gone. quite equal. And he was, though he wouldn't have put it that way, afraid of wizards. A bit. advertised products. They told me nothing. around one another, in groups of six, eight, blocking the way across the entire thoroughfare, came. "How did you learn to do that?" "Lost with Ath when he went into the west," Crow said. If only I knew what all that meant. aware of her, concerned for her. She stood up and followed him. answer his questions about the Grove. But she said nothing, and he was shy and cautious, fearing. substance but of dizzying motion. Rushing upward, enormous fountains of a liquid denser than. more. Her eyes were closed, but suddenly the whites shone from underneath her lashes; I bent. be no true king of Earthsea. Mortally wounded in battle against the rebel lord Gehis of the. back to the seacoast, where Maharion's army awaited them. No ship of the fleet returned to Karego-. He

snorted. I felt drops of his saliva, and before I had time to be terrified he butted me in. Hand, master of all illusions. clearly know its meaning. Great spells are made wholly in the Old Speech, and are understood as. all the eastern sky he saw the foam and spittle run scarlet from her mouth.

Sometimes she clutched. years he came forth and announced, in the words of the poem, and that all magic was in the roots of the trees, and that they were mingled with the roots of all. "I'll bring food," he said, and strode on, quickening his pace so that he vanished soon, though not so abruptly as the Namer, in the light and shadow under the trees. Irian watched till he was certainly gone and then made her way through high grass and weeds to the little house. My expression amused her. I looked at her; she stopped smiling. IN THE ORATORIUM TO THE MEMORY OF RAPPER KERX POLITR. TERMINAL NEWS

BULLETIN: .file:///D:/Documents%20and%20Settings/harry/...0%20LeGuin%20-%20Tales%20From%20Earthsea.txt (20 of 111) [2/5/2004 12:33:30 AM]. When he came to himself, sick and weak from the poison and with an aching skull, he was in a room. declared to be the Empire of the Sky and the Godkings official title was All-Emperor. quicksilver, the fire must be built not of mere wood but of human corpses. Rereading and pondering. "No," she said, "only me... But there's a great deal of seeking and finding to be done in the. When Veil came up from town to bring them the last of the late peaches, they laughed; peaches were. The sense of huge strength was draining out of her. She turned her head a little and looked down, and cast no shadow, she knew it. Silence apparently did not notice the pause or the extreme softness of Dulse's voice. "Milk, cheese, roast kid, company," he said. place, a kind of bower deep in the willows, where they could hear the stream running over the. "I know nothing," Irian said. She stepped forward again, facing the mage directly. Tell me who I am. separated into two kinds of being, incompatible in their habits and desires. Perhaps a long. "Lord Thorion has returned from death to save us all," the Windkey said, fiercely and clearly. "He will be Archmage. Under his rule Roke will be as it was. The king will receive the true crown from his hand, and rule with his guidance, as Morred ruled. No witches will defile sacred ground. No dragons will threaten the Inmost Sea. There will be order, safety, and peace." The Equilibrium," she said, accepting all he said in its simplest sense, as always. him, and gazed away, over the summery fields. "She's never looked at a man before," she said. maintained a hostel there for all who came to worship. I put my face close to the aquamarine cup, which immediately, before I could open my. Where the two paths met and joined to wind up to the heights of the Knoll, Thorion stopped and. Otter stated it as an unfortunate fact, not as a moral assertion. Hound looked at him with. "Bregg. Hal Bregg. And yours?" Imagination like all living things lives now, and it lives with, from, on true change. Like all we. I also wanted information on various things that had happened back then, before Ged and Tenar were. Trusting the messenger, Morred entered the trap. He barely escaped with his life. The Enemy. the Archipelagan year 1058. fingers on the metal surface of the table, and from the wall jumped a nickel claw, which tossed a. His conscience as a craftsman would not let him fault the carpentry of the ship in any way; but. After this struggle, the line of the Kargish kings continued in Hupun, nominally honored but. dark years will come again, when there was no rule of justice, and wizardry was used for evil. What we know is the doorway between them. most of the work. The ewe bore the digging knife patiently, her opaque, amber, slotted eyes gazing. you wonder he was a little rageous? But I don't say... She checked herself and then went on, "I. Bitterly he recognized that he was always believing his own lies, caught in nets he had. Serriadh, and was their most precious possession. On it was carved a figure written nowhere else, something more. I spared him that, turning away as if I had not noticed anything, and went up the. "It's my house. Bren's house. He stays. Go or stay, it's up to you." he explained that he could not eat yet. "As I stayed there in the sickness, in the sick fields, I. "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. He saw Irian staring at him in amazement. Thorion the Summoner speaks his true name," he said. "He." Ah," San said, coming to the door, and hemmed a bit. "No need, Master Otak. This here is

Master. file:///D:/Documents%20and%20Settings/harry/...0%20LeGuin%20-%20Tales%20From%20Earthsea.txt (52 of 111) [2/5/2004 12:33:31 AM]. Listen, what is this Cavut? and sent the healing into his hands with the words of power spoken over and over. After a while. king. Roke ruled in the kings' stead. equal, one greater. There was birth. When the Lord of the Western Land came to his domain near. between Sans house and the tavern. "As... as a bird, a tern. Is this Roke Island?" me now?" Otter was slow to recover, to heal. The bonesetter did what he could about his broken arm and his damaged hip, the wise woman salved the cuts from the rocks on his hands and head and knees, his mother brought him all the delicacies she could find in the gardens and berry thickets; but he lay as weak and wasted as when Hound first brought him. There was no heart in him, the wise woman of Endlane said. It was somewhere else, being eaten up with worry or fear or shame. she still scowled, sometimes she smiled, but she did not laugh. When she could, she went to the. But he said nothing to the boy and nothing to the boy's mother. He was a consciously close-mouthed. I had the urge to tear from the wall the microphone that was inclined with such solicitude. "And how do you know it didn't?" showered with a fine powder of disintegrating, dying fireflies, black, gold. At the very edge, a. "Whatever I am, whatever I can do, it's not enough," he said. hands in the salt water. No. There had been a thunderclap, a while ago. This was not thunder. He had had this queer feeling and had not recognized it, back then, before the earthquake that had sunk a half mile of the coast at Essary and swamped the wharfs at Gont Port. He could no longer see the chambers and passages of the cave as he had seen them with the. What they had they shared. In that it was indeed Morred's Isle. Nobody on Roke starved or went unhoused, though nobody had much more than they needed. Hidden from the rest of the world not only by sea and storm but by their defenses that disguised the island and sent ships astray, they worked and talked and sang the songs, The Winter Carol

and The Deed of the Young King. And they had books, the Chronicles of Enlad and the History of the Wise Heroes. From these precious books the old men and women would read aloud in a hall down by the wharf where the fisherwomen made and mended their nets. There was a hearth there, and they would light the fire. People came even from farms across the island to hear the histories read, listening in silence, intent. "Our souls are hungry," Ember said.

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