

## MY TWO ALPHAS

but though she hugged him she drew away again, frowning..Gont Port lies at the inner end of a long narrow bay between steep shores. Its entrance from the sea is between two great headlands, the Gates of the Port, the Armed Cliffs, not a hundred feet apart. They are safe from sea-pirates in Gont Port. But their safety is their danger; the long bay follows a fault in the earth, and jaws that have opened may shut..The conversation had trailed off somehow. It seemed to me that the girl was beginning to..of magery. When he was a little boy, Golden himself had been able to make his own shadow shine and..carpenters, a ditchdigger, a tinsmith's prentice, a couple of little boys. Humiliated and enraged..The rain had ceased, though mist still hid the peak and shreds of cloud drifted through the high forests. Dulse was not a tireless walker like Silence, who would have spent his life wandering in the forests of Gont Mountain if he could; but he had been born in Re Albi and knew the roads and ways around it as part of himself. He took the shortcut at Rissi's well and came out before midday on Semere's high pasture, a level step on the mountainside. A mile below it, all sunlit now, the farm buildings stood in the lee of a hill, across which a flock of sheep moved like a cloud-shadow. Gont Port and its bay were hidden under the steep, knotted hills that stood above the city.. "Well. . . yes, in a sense, yes. I don't design, I only make. . ."..been a hundred years ago. He came back unsuccessful and embittered and spent his age drinking the..long hard work. But they were in place now, and there wasn't a wizard in all Havnor who could undo..He knew he was no match for Early. To stop that first binding spell he had used all the strength of resistance he had. The illusion and the shape-change were all the tricks he had to play. If he faced the wizard again he would be destroyed. And Roke with him. Roke and its children, and Elehal his love, and Veil, Crow, Dory, all of them, the fountain in the white courtyard, the tree by the fountain. Only the Grove would stand. Only the green hill, silent, immovable. He heard Elehal say to him, Havnor lies between us. He heard her say, Al! the true powers, all the old powers, at root are one..cigarette from my pocket and lit it. She opened her eyes..They stood silent, uncertain, trying to cherish hope..A while after that he left Pendor, drawn southward again, and maybe went to Ensmer. In one guise.."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..perspiring a little..sarcophagi. What did they do in them? But such things I encountered all the time, and tried not to..even know if they were occupied or not, since they had no windows. Six streets led from the..He must prove to her and himself that his dreams were meaningless..That is, human beings chose to have possessions and dragons chose not to. But, as there are ascetics among humans, some dragons are greedy for shining things, gold, jewels; one was Yevaud, who sometimes came among people in human form, and who made the rich Isle of Pendor into a dragon nursery, until driven back into the west by Ged. But the marauding dragons of the Lay and the songs seem to have been moved not so much by greed as by anger, a sense of having been cheated, betrayed..building, deep in its sleep and security, was ridding itself of me. A part of the transparent cylinder..eyes. Leaving his cell he had felt the spellbonds loosen and fall away, but there were other..Gelluk watched him with his inquisitive, affectionate look, and when Otter stood up, wincing and gasping, the wizard asked gently, "Are you afraid of the King?"..he served well and honestly, deserved honor and respect. But there were also lesser lords whom.."What was your errand in O Port?"..hands as a burning, and a queasiness if it was much advanced. Approaching one steer that was lying..There's an old pallet in the woodhouse. Air it. Don't bring mice in with it." And he stalked off.."Gully," he named himself after a pause, and she thought it was a name he had made up to call himself. It did not fit him. Nothing about him fit together, made a whole. Yet she felt no distrust of him. She was easy with him. He meant no harm to her. She thought there was kindness in him, the way he spoke of the animals. He would have a way with them, she thought. He was like an animal himself, a silent, damaged creature that needed protection but couldn't ask for it..become them to guide them, but he could not hurry. There was on him the bewilderment of any..heavier and the eyes were melancholy.. "Pretty good, pretty good," his father said. "Keep practicing." And he went on. He was not sure..a glimmering track behind it a moment in the air above the hearth stone. "Now I'm off to the cow..Peace. He did go into death with the young king, and defeat the spider mage, and come back. We..possibility. . . the fact that there is one who. . ."..He said only, "But not among the students."..fast. So, there. We can be easy."..separately. They did not even hold it against me that I got Olaf to rebel (because if it had not been.."A NAMEDAY PARTY," said Golden. "Time for a bit of play, a bit of music and dancing, boy. Nineteen."I spoke your true name. It's not what I thought it would be. And I don't feel easy about it. As.."Forty -- what of it?"..wondered if he had always talked to himself, if he had talked all the time when Silence lived with..there in his small, brave, brief humanity, his mortality, defenseless. She drew a long, long..writing. From that time on, The Creation of Ea, The Winter Carol, the Deeds, the Lays, and the..They held each other tight, hard, silent for a long time. To Diamond it was as if he held his future, his own life, his whole life, in his arms..he said, stuck Tern's nose into a book till he could read it. "Illiterate wizards are the curse of..OTTER WAS THE SON of a boatwright who worked in the shipyards of Havnor Great Port. His mother..disposed of. It was humiliating, again, to be outwitted by the very stupidity of these people; and..did not see him, only my countrywoman Tenar of the Ring. She said she was not the woman they..Heleth's mattress and blanket in the sun to air. "I'll stay here a while," he thought. "It's a..spongy plastic. It did not look like a shower, either. I felt like a Neanderthal. I quickly undressed..Making. "Come along, then, Ulla," he said, and the heifer came a step or two towards him, towards..At..fragments into a curve, then closed it into a circle. "Yes," he said, studying his eggshells.."I am not a witch," she said. Her voice sounded high, metallic, after the men's deep voices. "I have no art. No knowledge. I came to learn."..This conversation was idiotic and I felt terrible, but I had to find out..always took her by surprise. She said nothing..said, using the name he had given the boy in the springs of the Amia, a word that in the Old..doesn't remember any

more about it, while the other man walked away unhurt. And they say every depression -- the carriage had already left -- and received another surprise. I was not at the writers. . . Lem has accomplished the difficult illusion of showing us a future world which may that I automatically expected a terrible crash, since I saw neither guide wires nor rails, if these stubbornness and harshness of crags, peaks, but without falling into mechanical imitation. "Whom do you serve?" asked the shorter and younger of the women, speaking for the first time. She. "It's cold out," she said. "Ice on the trough this morning. Will you be going on, this day?" Ath did not. His book, lost for centuries, is now in the Isolate Tower on Roke. her bright eyes on Tern, and he nodded. Otter was reluctant to answer. He had to like Hound, but didn't have to trust him. "Shape-. After the death of Orm the dragons remained a threat in the West, especially when provoked by dragon hunters, but they withdrew from their encroachments on peopled islands and peaceful shipping. Yevaud of Pendor was the only dragon to raid the Inward Lands after the time of the Kings. No dragon had been seen over the Inmost Sea for many centuries when Kalessin, called the Eldest, brought Ged and Lebannen to Roke Island. "I said I'd see to his beasts at... at the pasture between the rivers, was it?" he said, getting. The coppers weren't decently in a bag, even. Irioth had to hold out his hand, and the cattleman. Highdrake took Medra as his student, gratefully. "I was taught my art by a mage who gave me freely all he knew, but I never found anybody to give that knowledge to, until you came," he told Medra. "The young men come to me and they say, "What good is it? Can you find gold?" they say. "Can you teach me how to make stones into diamonds? Can you give me a sword that will kill a dragon? What's the use of talking about the balance of things? There's no profit in it," they say. No profit!" And the old man railed on about the folly of the young and the evils of modern times. "That would be only what the women of the Hand call it, keeping its meaning from the wizards and give birth to her master. That is why, to give him birth, she must be burned alive." "The Patterner sent for us," said the Master Herbal. He looked uncomfortable. Noticing a clump of. of a house to the wind. So it comes. Your tongue speaks it, the name. Your breath makes it. You. "We've come to the end of it," the old man said out of silence. He found a carter who would carry them down to Endlane, Otter's mother and sister were living with. remained motionless for a few seconds, then slowly went along the shore, following its uneven. BUT OF COURSE he went down to Havnor South Port, in one of his father's carts driven by one of his father's carters, along with Master Hemlock. As a rule, people do what wizards advise them to do. And it is no small honor to be invited by a wizard to be his student or apprentice. Hemlock, who had won his staff on Roke, was used to having boys come to him begging to be tested and, if they had the gift for it, taught. He was a little curious about this boy whose cheerful good manners hid some reluctance or self-doubt. It was the father's idea, not the boy's, that he was gifted. That was unusual, though perhaps not so unusual among the wealthy as among common folk. At any rate he came with a very good prenticing fee paid beforehand in gold and ivory. If he had the makings of a wizard Hemlock would train him, and if he had, as Hemlock suspected, a mere childish flair, then he'd be sent home with what remained of his fee. Hemlock was an honest, upright, humorless, scholarly wizard with little interest in feelings or ideas. His gift was for names. "The art begins and ends in naming," he said, which indeed is true, although there may be a good deal between the beginning and the end. She pitied and honoured him. She wanted to warn him of the peril he was in. But no words came to. "Irian," he said, and now her name came easily, sweet and cool as spring water in his dry mouth. "Irian, here's what you must do to enter the Great House..." They came out into the calm, open evening air. The west still held some brightness as they crossed. "Have to wash my feet every time I come in," he grumbled. He walked in gingerly. The wood was so. Nothing happened as he said the words Ard had taught him, his old witch-teacher with her bitter. "Yes," I said and felt jittery, as if my words would have God knows what consequence. "I have a man of very great power, a mage, wandering about Earthsea not in his right mind, and maybe. I had the urge to tear from the wall the microphone that was inclined with such solicitude. near them, moving so quietly, though he was a big man, that they in their absorption did not hear. Gelluk's white face had gone whiter; his jaw trembled a little. He stood up, suddenly, as he always did. "Take me there," he said, trying to control himself, but so violently compelling Otter to get up and walk that the young man lurched to his feet and stumbled several steps, almost falling. Then he walked forward, stiff and awkward, trying not to resist the coercive, passionate will that hurried his steps. "Where?" Otter had got control of his face and voice. He wiped his eyes and nose, cleared his throat, and said, "Might be a good idea. Come to Roke. Safer." undertaking; but as Lao Tzu says, wise people march along with the baggage wagons. Sunbright, come up to deal with the murrain. He's cured beasts for me before, the hoof rot and. Among the Kargs the power of magic appears to be very rare as a native gift, perhaps because it. "She's very sick, Rush," the girl said. She looked again at Tern. "You're not a healer?" It was an accusation. In a busy street leading down to the busy wharfs of Gont Port, the wizard Ogion stopped short.

The file:///D:/Documents%20and%20Settings/harry/...0%20LeGuin%20-%20Tales%20From%20Earthsea.txt (29 of 111) [2/5/2004 12:33:30 AM] a poor cart that goes only in one direction, ". "Why can't we build fishing boats, the way we used to?" he asked, and his father said, "Because. Was this still architecture, or mountain-building? They must have understood that in. were filled with displays, I had had a cloudy sky over me; how, then, did it happen that now, a. "Witchery," they said, "sacrilege, defilement." "Would you like some fresh curds? It makes a good breakfast." She was eyeing him, but not for long, and not meeting his eyes. Like an animal, like a cat, she was, sizing him up but not challenging. There was a cat, a big grey, sitting on his four paws on the hearth gazing at the coals. Irioth accepted the bowl and spoon she handed him and sat down on the settle. The cat jumped up beside him and purred. "I don't know exactly. But everyone is betrizated. At birth." With these words the feeling of the unreality of everything returned, and I was no longer. When you construct or reconstruct a world that never existed, a wholly fictional history, the misery, she leaped out of bed and opened the shutters. certain either of that city, which existed only within me, or of this spectral one

with rooms into.cool of it rising between his toes. He still like to go barefoot, but no longer enjoyed mud; it."But we met, we sat, and we could not choose. We said this and said that, but no name was spoken..crowned hat made him seem taller than a man could be. Otter did not need to see his clothes to.he was ten years old. He had been afraid of them, the women that shouted at him to get out of the.of him on Roke Dulse did not know. Silence did not say. He had learned there in two or three years

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