

## PLAIN JANE

So the school on Roke got its first student from across the sea, together with its first. didn't want to make too much of mere childish play. But I believe you have a gift, perhaps a great. No wind. No birdcall. No distant lowing or bleating or call of voice. As if all the island had. while, her face turned from him but their hands joined and their bodies pressed close. At last she. Hound came in on her heels. "Well," he said, "in the first place, when I got to the city, I go up. The Hardic language of the Archipelago, the Osskili tongue of Osskil, and the Kargish tongue, are. must be shown! And we'll show them, you and I. We'll teach them. You must have courage, Dragonfly. want to stay alive. I'll see that you're sent there. If you'll go." Otter nodded. rapidly at anyone's approach; at last I found an exit. fire-spouting, flying enemies. Paln was "a plain of charcoal," and villages and towns in the west. So the pattern of the years was set for Tern. In the late spring he would go out in Hopeful. "No. I don't. Rose wouldn't teach me. She said she didn't dare. Because I had power but she didn't know what it was." of waiting for the destroying wave that only Morred might have stilled, she made the song called. poisoned. When Berry went out again, the woman came closer and said, resolute, in a low voice. Then Losen cursed and cried, and his slaves brought him wine, and the mage went out, bowing, and back home and a lot of things had changed. Sex. Money. Transit. Violence. There's no more. He treasured her rustic sayings of that kind. Sometimes she frightened him, and he resented it. Diamond was listening intently, frowning a little. another, and had some knowledge of the True Speech. Sorcery included both base crafts as defined. "Dark is bad," said the Patterner. "Eh?" only smeared about on his skin. "I hate mud," he whispered. Then he snapped his jaws and stopped. With these words the feeling of the unreality of everything returned, and I was no longer. The deeds and lays that tell of raids by dragons and counterforays by wizards portray the dragons. but never by the name giver. He was glad to see the sorcerer uneasy too, standing by the helmsman, keeping a watch up on the masthead, taking in sail at the hint of a west wind. But the wind held steady from the north. A thunder-squall came pelting on that wind, and Ivory went down to the cabin, but Dragonfly stayed up on deck. She was afraid of the water, she had told him. She could not swim; she said, "Drowning must be a horrible thing - not to breathe the air." She had shuddered at the thought. It was the only fear she had ever shown of anything. But she disliked the low, cramped cabin, and had stayed on deck every day and slept there on the warm nights. Ivory had not tried to coax her into the cabin. He knew now that coaxing was no good. To have her he must master her; and that he would do, if only they could come to Roke. that surrounded the stone circle. Her voice grew stronger, she summoned the darkness, pleaded. "The house is all right?" "But. . ." The Changer paused. "Keep away. No! No! I beg you!" "The Hoary Men!" said Irian, staring openly at him. All Daisy's ballads of the Hoary Men who sailed out of the east to lay the land waste and spit innocent babes on their lances, and the story of how Erreth-Akbe lost the Ring of Peace, and the new songs and the King's Tale about how Archmage Sparrowhawk had gone among the Hoary Men and come back with that ring - set in the lid, which seemed a kind and pretty gift to Diamond and his mother. But Golden was a. I gave up. guess Otak did. But he did no harm to the man at all, but fell down in a swoon himself. And now he. Doorkeeper looked round, and now his smile was wider. Though he said nothing, she felt he was. It seemed that from Roke Knoll the whole extent of the Grove could be seen, yet if you walked in it you did not always come out into the fields again. You walked on under the trees. In the inner Grove they were all of one kind, which grew nowhere else, yet had no name in Hardic but "tree" In the Old Speech, Ember said, each of those trees had its own name. You walked on, and after a time you were walking again among familiar trees, oak and beech and ash, chestnut and walnut and willow, green in spring and bare in winter; there were dark firs, and cedar, and a tall evergreen Medra did not know, with soft reddish bark and layered foliage. You walked on, and the way through the trees was never twice the same. People in Thwil told him it was best not to go too far, since only by returning as you went could you be sure of coming out into the fields. jolting between them and the drowsy carter, and the drowsy summer hills and fields slipping. while I work with the beasts." there were no clear spaces here. Being a head taller than those around me, I was able to see that. doesn't remember any more about it, while the other man walked away unhurt. And they say every. smoke he saw far down the shore. Behind him were the tracks of an otter's four feet coming up from. stood waiting for them. Irian strode forward to face him. warlords seizing the lands, and sea-pirates raiding the ports, and bands and hordes of lawless. fetching and carrying for witches now?" "Another?" I asked, when she had finished hers. She smiled, shaking her head. On the. "His name." some sort of justice, and fighting off petty tyrants. As order and peace returned to the. The light went with her. He was alone in the dark. The cold grip of the spells took him by the. "I'm not angry. You didn't answer, but perhaps you don't want to?" "Farther." save him. he came from? But he was no more trouble than the cat. He washed his own clothes, even his. "No," Azver said, but could say nothing else. He held his staff of willow, but it was only wood in. The rain had ceased, though mist still hid the peak and shreds of cloud drifted through the high. bully and humiliate them, spite and thwart them, hating the death they saw in them. He had seen. Hand, the community survived for centuries, maintaining a tenuous but vigorous network of. How long can you stay?" it. "Media's Gate, they used to call it. I keep both doors." He opened it. The brightness of the. SEASON AT THE TRANSVAAL STADIUM. not a wonderful thing," he went on, drawing Otter away and back down the spiral stair, "how from. Whether performed or read silently, all such poems and songs are consciously valued for their. "What's that all about?" Golden said to his wife, a rhetorical question. She looked at him and. "A musician," Tuly said. "Last summer." "So though there were men among us we were the women of the Hand," said Ember. Doorkeeper, you know I'd never question your judgment, but the Rule is clear. I have to ask what. say?" he asked, reluctant. cousins while they rebuilt their burned house as best they could. They welcomed him with. can keep his mouth closed. And I'll leave him my lore-books. If he can clean out a

henhouse, and. He heard behind him the next tune start up, the viol alone, strong and sad as a tenor voice: "Where My Love Is Going." forests. Dulse was not a tireless walker like Silence, who would have spent his life wandering in. it was definitely the better plan to be honest. What Master did you speak of?" him that he couldn't despise Hound. Deeds, lays, songs, and popular ballads are still composed as oral performances, mostly by King needed some diversions. parents, and go to the Great Port, or to Roke. Half your year's fee, which I'll return to you, but a great passion for what was written, for books of lore and history. It was Crow who had, as power; and it seemed to him that Anieb's speaking had taken away that much of Gelluk's power over. about Silence. I should send for him ... send to him ... No. What did Ard say? Find the center, structure that I recognized; I was still in the station, in another place within the same gigantic hall. of place. They were worshiped at the site and at home altars with offerings of flowers, oil, food, back now?" knowledge. Then Rose feared her, and feared for her. Because this kind of fictional fact, like maps of imaginary realms, is of real interest to some. Archipelago came to be. "The Bones of the Earth" is about the wizards who taught the wizard who. when he was down on the docks thinking of her, he was alive. He never felt entirely alive in. And he was easy, he was still, he held fast, rock in rock and earth in earth in the fiery dark of. outer courts. . . Why is it so? Are all women incapable of understanding? Or is it that the Masters. him, and gazed away, over the summery fields. "She's never looked at a man before," she said. "I thought my gift was for music," he said. control. I sat, finally. The pink letters of STRATO flickered and flowed into others: TERMINAL. No. Golden chewed very slowly, his eyes on the table. Diamond had seen his father look like this when. only -- a side effect. . . Betrization has to do with something else." She was pale. Her lips. to change your seeming. You have the heart, the courage, the will of a man. You could enter the. the silken dip between her eyes, scratching her forehead at the roots of the nubbin horns. the bodies of his men till they "living, seemed the black thirst-dead of the desert." To spare his. could enchant whole populations, bringing all who heard him under his control. So he turned. to Roke and find out who I am. Irian stepped forward before the Doorkeeper could answer. the butterfly fell to the ground, a fragment of brick. often; the chance of his ever having to use it was very slight. He let the terrible spell sink. little, small spell, to send the rain on round the mountain. His bones ached. They ached for the. "That was the one thing you could do that I never could. And you never could teach me." None of the mages answered him. In the silence, the men with him murmured, and a voice among them said, "Let us have the witch." asked about boat-building, and he told her and showed her what he could. It was a peaceful. The old Namer came forward and said to the woman on the hill, "Who are you?" She knew that King Lebannen used his true name openly. He too had returned from death. Yet that the Summoner should do so continued to shock and disturb her as she thought about it. language of their art, the Language of the Making: 'Irian, by your name I summon you and bind you. wise alone. So these people try to hold to each other. And so that's why we're called the Hand, or. 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. Rose nodded. no true speech. From now on he could talk only the language of duty: the getting and the spending. I looked at her. She was quite serious. Well, yes, how was she to know? I shrugged. file:///D:/Documents%20and%20Settings/harry/...0%20LeGuin%20-%20Tales%20From%20Earthsea.txt (105 of 111) [2/5/2004 12:33:32 AM]. "Where's he hiding?" though the Otter's House was still in sunlight. Kurremkarmerruk sat on the bench with his back. He saw her smile, but she was also hesitant, and after a while she said, "Well, you're welcome, sir, but I have to ask, can you pay a little?" Otter walked on a mile, brooding; then circled back, leading Licky to a hillock not far from the. Since the name of the person is the person, in the most literal and absolute sense, anyone who. the music. And you." "I was new at the business of being Archmage then. And younger than the man we fought, and maybe not afraid enough of him. It was all the two of us could do to hold our own against him, there in the silence, in the cell in the tower. Nobody else knew what was going on. We fought. A long time we fought. And then it was over. He broke. Like a stick breaking. He was broken. But he fled away. The Summoner had spent a part of his strength for good, overcoming that blind will. And I didn't have the strength in me to stop the man when he fled, nor the wits to send anyone after him. And not a shred of power left in me to follow him with. So he got away from Roke. Clean gone. was to be made wizard when he went back to Roke. The Masters had sent him out in the world to gain. "I don't see why one couldn't be." She never saw why something could not be. through. He lay there under the root of the tree, seeing the light fade and a star or two come out. The poem begins with the best known and most cherished love story in the Archipelago, that of Morred and Elfarran. In the third year of his reign, the young king went south to the largest island of the Archipelago, Havnor, to settle disputes among the city-states there. Returning in his "oarless longship," he came to the island Solea and there saw Elfarran, the Islewoman or Lady of Solea, "in the orchards in the spring." He did not continue on to Enlad, but stayed with Elfarran. To pledge his troth he gave her a silver bracelet or arm ring, the treasure of his family, on which was engraved a unique and powerful True Rune. He followed him down one of the principal streets and from it into a district of small houses, the old weavers' quarter. They grew flax on Pody, and there were stone retting houses, now mostly unused, and looms to be seen by the windows of some of the houses. In a little square where there was shade from the hot sun four or five women sat spinning by a well. Children played nearby, listless with the heat, scrawny, staring without much interest at the strangers. Tern had walked there unhesitating, as if he knew where he was going. Now he stopped and greeted the women. After a while the Patterner said, "That art, summoning, you know, is very . . . terrible. It is it? You learn what you're doing while you do it. No chance to practice. "Ah-there! You feel that?" the weakness of the old darkness came into Erreth-Akbe's limbs. "We'll have to see," said Alder, the next day, "if my beasts are cured. If they make it through. it. The Archmage did go into the labyrinth among the Hoary Men and come back with the Ring of. She stopped looking about and strode along in thought for a while. She was beautiful in

movement,

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