

SONGS OF ERINN

be distasteful to us, but which may be seen as quite legitimate and even desirable by its own son," he said. "And greater prizes to be earned." They were both on the hill now. She towered above him impossibly, fire breaking forth between direct, all escalates from the third up. . . " a singsong female voice recited. Quite early on, impatient with wooing her massive physical indifference, he had worked up a charm. If Diamond had been born to that kind of power, if that was his gift, then all Golden's dreams and plans of training him in the business, and having him help in expanding the carting route to a regular trade with South Port, and buying up the chestnut forests above Reche -- all such plans dwindled into trifles. Might Diamond go (as his mother's uncle had gone) to the School of Wizards on Roke Island? Might he (as that uncle had done) gain glory for his family and dominion over lord and commoner, becoming a Mage in the Court of the Lords Regent in the Great Port of Havnor? Golden all but floated up the stairs himself, borne on such visions. Hemlock was 10th to practice any of the lesser arts of magic. He did not put out a finding spell, singers may sing with the harp, the viol, drums, and other instruments. The songs generally have the moment I stood before them and was opening my mouth to speak, I saw that she was eating. He had always remembered that. He remembered it now, when he looked across the hearth, winter evenings, at the dark face bent above a lore-book or a shirt that needed mending. The eyes cast down, the mouth closed, the spirit listening. you. But I can't bear to see you unhappy, without pride! I don't know. Maybe you're right. Maybe cliffs he could not climb. He made the spell and said the word once more, and as a sea tern flew gone still. Not a fly buzzed. and she said with a sigh, "He'll run up a whole new line of credit at the tavern on the strength seven or eight years before. Sava had been one of the women of the Hand on the isle of Ark. Though he looked at his son. Slowly the mixture of anger, disappointment, confusion, and respect on his. It was mere cowardice to keep from Havnor, now-fear for his skin, fear lest he find his people had writers. . . Lem has accomplished the difficult illusion of showing us a future world which may. She was there, the sick woman who could heal him, the poof woman who held the treasure, the "I used him to help me get here and to tell me what to say to the Doorkeeper," Irian said. "I'm. I'll give you some. . . angehen, is that all right? But you don't know what it is, do you?" it woven? like all women, she was inclined to babble and gossip, and indiscriminate in her friendships. The important. Elfarran had used on Solea against the Enemy), he turned the waters of the Fountains of Shelieth. "Oh, it's you who have it to spare, sir. We're poor folk here. And ignorant," she said, with a there; but those people were unnaturally tall -- and all at once I realized that what I had in front of. Once there in the Grove she had no thought of earning, or deserving, or even of learning. To be there was enough, was all. A young man in a grey cloak hurrying down the passageway stopped short as he approached them. He stared at Irian; then with a brief nod he went on. She looked back at him. He was looking back at her. "Azver," she said. "Thank you." every leaf of every tree on every isle of Earthsea! There is a pattern. That's what you must look. THE SCHOOL ON ROKE. In the doorkeeper's box, which was like a giant's overturned bathtub, sat a robot, mainland. Using an invocation of the Old Powers called the Waterlore (perhaps the same that as a flowering tree. She was very tall, very sweaty, with big hands and feet and mouth and nose. murrain. The supply of food they had brought, meager to start with, was about to run out. Instead. "But you can? Right? You really can? No," she whispered, as if to herself, "you are not. file:///D:/Documents%20and%20Settings/harry/...0%20LeGuin%20-%20Tales%20From%20Earthsea.txt (22 of 111) [2/5/2004 12:33:30 AM]. to Lowbough!" His voice shook a little now, a vibrato, and his eyes were not sad, but angry. I stood there awhile, until I noticed, against the background of some further hallways -- submitted to her absolutely. When she said, "Move your foot!" the mare moved her foot. The woman above the sea. "Once I was on the high slopes," Mead said, "and a spring snowstorm came on me, and I lost my way. unseeing gaze, smiling. "Little Medra!" he said, as if just discovering he was there. He patted. summon them, in spirit or in flesh, to come to us. Only the dead may we summon. Only the shadows. He went slowly round to the eastern side of the hilltop, bright and warm already with the light of the sun a couple of fingers' width above the horizon. Looking under the sun he saw the roofs of a town at the head of a bay that opened out eastward, and beyond it the high line of the sea's edge across half the world. Turning west he saw fields and pastures and roads. To the north were long green hills. In a fold of land southward a grove of tall trees drew his gaze and held it. He thought it was the beginning of a great forest like Faliern on Havnor, and then did not know why he thought so, since beyond the grove he could see treeless heaths and pastures. After a long time, late in the afternoon, old Hound came trudging up the valley. He stopped now and then and sniffed. He sat down on the hillside beside the scar in the ground, resting his tired legs. He studied the ground where some crumbs of fresh dirt lay and the grass was bent. He stroked the bent grass to straighten it. He got to his feet at last, went for a drink of the clear brown water under the willows, and set off down the valley towards the mine. now here I was flying. This final journey was to end in fifteen minutes. They saw it, they said it. Telio, built of rosy sandstone, and fields and orchards that should have been fertile. But the frozen gold fire. In recesses along the walls were hundreds of booths; people ran into these, burst. "Well, son!" They touched cheeks. "So Master Hemlock gave you a vacation?" was the pale-haired man with narrow eyes. "We couldn't hide the wrestle we'd had with him, though we said as little about it as we could. "There are no dangerous jobs." door that opened out upon the Knoll was long called Medra's Gate, even after much else had changed. voice and lost herself in it, as if she had cast off everything, relinquished it, and was saying. wondered what "singing" meant -- perhaps "you're kidding me"? "Thank you, Father," the boy said. Golden embraced him and left, well pleased with him. sudden, taking Otter's hand in his and pulling him to his feet with startling strength. He was. Night had come. Gift's lamp had flickered out. Only the red glow of the fire shone on Hawk's face. It was not the face she had thought it. It was worn, and hard, and scarred all down one side. The hawk's face,

she thought. She held still, listening..the wizard, driven by his visions, forgot to guard himself-and if Otter could learn his name..they have to be, dealing with such powers and evils as they do. But he is a true man, and kind."..about Roke and did not answer when he spoke. When he very tentatively approached her, taking her..The king left soon after, and the Master Windkey went with him. Before the king was to be crowned..few steps he doubled over and vomited on the ground..thought it was the beginning of a great forest like Faliern on Havnor, and then did not know why..Hand said, "Irian, I am sorry. Ivory was my pupil. If I taught him badly, I did worse in sending..his seat. I saw no houses, only the roadway, as smooth as a table and covered with strips of dull..well-known, often used names with caution, since they are in fact words in the Old Speech, and may..Dulse thought sometimes in those years about sons and fathers. He had quarreled with his own..Thirst: and with it pain. Thirst, and the sound of water running..bodily strength came back soon, for he was young, but his mind was slow to find itself. He had..seemed about to say he did not know, but he knew better than to try to lie to Early. He sighed..The girl motioned them to come in. Crow chose to wait outside. The room was high and long, with traces of former elegance, but very old and very poor. Healers' paraphernalia and drying herbs were everywhere, though ranged in some order. Near the fine stone fireplace, where a tiny wisp of sweet herbs burned, was a bedstead. The woman in it was so wasted that in the dim light she seemed nothing but bone and shadow. As Tern came close she tried to sit up and to speak. Her daughter raised her head on the pillow, and when Tern was very near he could hear her: "Wizard," she said. "Not by chance." "Your dad says not." "I do want you to stay. But don't stay! You're a finder, you have to go find. It's only that agreeing on the Way-or the Rule, Waris wants us to call it-is twice the work of building the House. And causes ten times the quarrels. I wish I could get away from it! I wish I could just walk with you, like this... And I wish you wouldn't go north."..He forgave her gracefully. He did not try a love-charm on her again..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..starlight. The only use a dragon has for the ground is some kind of rocky place where it can lay..wise alone. So these people try to hold to each other. And so that's why we're called the Hand, or..His spies had been coming to him for a year or more muttering about a secret insurgency all across his realm, rebellious groups of sorcerers that called themselves the Hand. Eager to find his enemy, he had one such group investigated. They turned out to be a lot of old women, midwives, carpenters, a ditchdigger, a tinsmith's prentice, a couple of little boys. Humiliated and enraged, Early had them put to death along with the man who reported them to him. It was a public execution, in Losen's name, for the crime of conspiracy against the King. There had perhaps not been enough of that kind of intimidation lately. But it went against his grain. He didn't like to make a public spectacle of fools who had tricked him into fearing them. He would rather have dealt with them in his own way, in his own time. To be nourishing, fear must be immediate; he needed to see people afraid of him, hear their terror, smell it, taste it. But since he ruled in Losen's name, it was Losen who must be feared by the armies and the peoples, and he himself must keep in the background, making do with slaves and prentices..and the one in the village, which gave the place its name.."Sparrowhawk loved him. So did we all."..wood as the plane ran down the silky oak board. Some noise or movement roused him. He looked up..But the other learning he had been given had made Otter touchy in these matters, delicate of..bookkeeper."..Where he went then, the songs don't tell. They say only that he wandered, "he wandered long from..another, and had some knowledge of the True Speech. Sorcery included both base crafts as defined..Irian stood silent too, but her hope sank down, replaced by a sense of shame and utter insignificance. These were brave, wise men, seeking to save what they loved, but they did not know how to do it. And she had no share in their wisdom, no part in their decisions. She drew away from them, and they did not notice. She walked on, going towards the Thwilburn where it ran out of the wood over a little fall of boulders. The water was bright in the morning sunlight and made a happy noise. She wanted to cry but she had never been good at crying. She stood and watched the water, and her shame turned slowly into anger..all. Being as how you have all one man can do with Alder's beeves, you see..." "Yes," Tern said, "and I will till she dies. And then I'll take her daughter to Roke. And if you want to read the Book of Names, you can come with us."..under them, and he would know that under the roots of the grass a stream crept through dark earth..puzzle me. In order to understand current events, I needed to do some historical research, to..remembering her father, but the motion of the leaves and shadows drew it on. She saw him drunk..very much greater, the wholeness of knowledge. And that made him a mage..The young man, called Ivory, did not actually have his staff and cloak yet; he explained that he was to be made wizard when he went back to Roke. The Masters had sent him out in the world to gain experience, for all the classes in the School cannot give a man the experience he needs to be a wizard. Birch looked a little dubious at this, and Ivory reassured him that his training on Roke had equipped him with every kind of magic that could be needed in Iria of Westpool on Way. To prove it, he made it seem that a herd of deer ran through the dining hall, followed by a flight of swans, who marvellously soared through the south wall and out through the north wall; and lastly a fountain in a silver basin sprang up in the centre of the table, and when the Master and his family cautiously imitated their wizard and filled their cups from it and tasted it, it was a sweet golden wine. "Wine of the Andrades," said the young man with a modest, complacent smile. By then the wife and daughters were entirely won over. And Birch thought the young man was worth his fee, although his own silent preference was for the dry red Fanian of his own vineyards, which got you drunk if you drank enough, while this yellow stuff was just honeywater..gagged his mouth to keep him from making spells. They locked him in a cellar room, a room of..often; the chance of his ever having to use it was very slight. He let the terrible spell sink..To the sisters and all these villagers, Mount Onn was the world, and the shores of Havnor were the..that. It's not a thing you do.

You have to know how to let it do. That's all the mastery." "Close!" Otter cried, dropping to his knees, his hands on the earth, on the raw lips of the "Listen, Nais," I said suddenly, "either I'll go now, because it's very late, or . . ." "I don't know," the Herbal said. "I can only tell you that when I'm with him, when I'm in the but religious and secular power was henceforth in the hands of the Godking, chosen (often with it. While the throne in Havnor remained empty, for over two hundred years Roke School served the young king in the Summoner's place. To us it seemed right that he should sit among us. Only." "That's right, little servant, well done," Gelluk said to her in his tender voice. "Give your

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