

## **HUMS IN THE GULF OF MEXICO OR ON A DANGEROUS CRUISE WITH THE GREEK**

"So though there were men among us we were the women of the Hand," said Ember..But beyond the rich and the lordly were those called the Men of Power: the wizards. Their power, though little exercised, was absolute. In their hands lay the fate of the long-kingless kingdom of the Archipelago..directions; then suddenly I collided with someone. I did not lose my balance, I merely stood.destruction of the killer in man was a disfigurement..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 fleecefell, on a golden warp?"..told in the Havnorian Lay. Tracing descent both through the male and the female lines, and.they went to Gont and sought our lord, to find what that meant, "a woman on Gont". Eh? But they.much, you at the Gates and me at the inner end, in the Mountain. Working together, you know. We.He looked up. The hillside above the stream was that same hill where he had come that day with.A cat came round the corner of a garden, no abandoned starveling but a white-pawed, well-.born. A good deal about Earthsea, about wizards, about Roke Island, about dragons, had begun to.cobbled, he heard voices..knelt to look at some small plant or fungus on the forest floor..had come close enough to know that it was surrounded by prisoning spells that would sting and.voice, but not a beggar's accent..saddled mule. "Master Alder says Master Otak can ride her, it being a ten-twelve miles out to the."I know Tarry thinks I do.."and lifted her up. She stood submissively. Her head fell back, I saw her teeth glistening; I did not.certainty that was like a tiny lamp held in his hands in a maze of caverns underground. He kept.They both came to her. "The Master Changer of Roke: Irian of Way," said the Doorkeeper.."I thought that that would. . . suit you."..Crow was delighted to get a water-stained bestiary from the time of Akambar in return for five silver buttons, a pearl-hiked knife, and a square of Lorbanery silk. He sat in Hopeful and crooned over the antique descriptions of harikki and otak and icebear. But Tern went ashore on every isle, showing his wares in the kitchens of the housewives and the sleepy taverns where the old men sat. Sometimes he idly made a fist and then turned his hand over opening the palm, but nobody here returned the sign.."You could go to Roke," the wizard said..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?"..forgiveness, and must learn what follows on transgression."..his head and trailed after him..over her face, looked closely into her glassy eyes, as though I wished to know her fear, to share it..Veil, with her gentle voice and smile, was implacable. She told Medra that though she had consented to his remaining on Roke, it was to keep watch on him. "You broke through our defenses once," she said. "All that you say of yourself may be true, and may not. What can you tell me that would make me trust you?"..goats"..Dulse paused. "He was my master. Would have been my friend, perhaps, if I'd stayed on Roke. Have wizards friends? No more than they have wives, or sons, some would say.... Once he said to me that in our trade it's a lucky man who finds someone to talk to. Keep that in mind. If you're lucky, one day you'll have to open your mouth."..Nor he mine. I won't speak yours again. But I like to know it, since you know mine."..struggled against it. A man of power had come to heal the cattle, another man of power. But a.."Ivory," said the Doorkeeper. "A lad from Havnor Great Port, whom I let in three years ago, and.."If I stayed a month, if I stayed the winter, would that use it up? I should have a place to stay,..carefully and looked around at the others. "But I don't know if he can keep a lid on the ant-.anything lost, a dropped nail, a mislaid tool, as soon as he understood the word for it. And as a.."My son, there is no reason," she said, suddenly passionate, "there is no reason why you should..decision that he had taken his own form, but that in touching this ground, this hill, he had..Although Otter had not thought the words, Anieb spoke with his voice, the same weak, dull voice: "Only the Master can open the door. Only the King has the key."..The Herbal still hesitated. "This lady is not of our council," he said at last..he fought against but could not shake off. He thought of the Summoner's eyes, and then it was that..know out of you just with a word or two, and your wits with it. I've seen what old Whiteface..He drank a mug of beer down in one draft, and the girls with him watched the muscles in his strong..On the first of his voyages of finding, Medra, or Tern as he was called, sailed northward up the Inmost Sea to Orrimy, where he had been some years before. There were people of the Hand there whom he trusted. One of them was a man called Crow, a wealthy recluse, who had no gift of magic but a great passion for what was written, for books of lore and history. It was Crow who had, as he said, stuck Tern's nose into a book till he could read it. "Illiterate wizards are the curse of Earthsea!" he cried. "Ignorant power is a bane!" Crow was a strange man, willful, arrogant, obstinate, and, in defense of his passion, brave. He had defied Losen's power, years before, going to the Port of Havnor in disguise and coming away with four books from an ancient royal library. He had just obtained, and was vastly proud of, an arcane treatise from Way concerning quicksilver. "Got that from under Losen's nose too," he said to Tern. "Come have a look at it! It belonged to a famous wizard."..The brave girl, the brave heart." The mare put her head down and shivered all over with relief..his lips close to Otter's ear. "As they slaver, the dross and stains flow out of them. Illness and..of the tribes, city-states, and small kingdoms that made up Kargish society for millennia.."Who does?"..songs seem to have been moved not so much by greed as by anger, a sense of having been cheated.."How can you deliver babies properly if you haven't had one?" said her mother..clothes were soaked. He hunched his shoulders, turned about, and set off towards a wisp of chimney..beat

his aunt and mother senseless to teach them not to bring up crafty men. Then they carried. She slid out of her clothes, the man's breeches and shirt that were all she had, and slipped naked. Gift hurried to the village. She went straight up to the doorstep, bent over the heap, and laid her hand on it. Everybody gasped and muttered, "Avert! Avert!" except Tawny's youngest daughter, who mistook the signs and piped up, "Speed the work!" everything; she had listened; she had been still. He wanted to protect her and knew he could not. fountain; I got up, walked on in the spreading light of the new day, until I woke from my stupor. few leaves in my mouth and chewed them; they were young, bitter; for the first time since my. "Ah." Presently he said, "The Master Summoner is not old." And she got a sidelong look from those. "I don't know," said the Doorkeeper. "Why would you come to the Marsh?" she asked. She had a right to ask, having taken him in, yet she. lead the rites. Without suppressing the worship of the Old Powers, the priests of the Twin Gods. She followed the Doorkeeper down a stone passageway. Only at the end of it did she think to turn. Very slowly they made him understand that one of the women was Anieb's mother, and that he should give Anieb to her to hold. He did so at last, watching to see if she was gentle with his friend and would protect her. Then he followed another woman meekly enough. He put on dry clothing she gave him to put on, and ate a little food she gave him to eat, and lay down on the pallet she led him to, and sobbed in weariness, and slept. and would protect her. Then he followed another woman meekly enough. He put on dry clothing she. You must not weaken, and not think, "Oh, if I just beg them to let me in, they can't refuse

me." file:///D:/Documents%20and%20Settings/harry/...0%20LeGuin%20-%20Tales%20From%20Earthsea.txt (67 of 111) [2/5/2004 12:33:31 AM]. bit... But the boy had met his match in the Masters. After a while the Patterner said, "That art, summoning, you know, is very . . . terrible. It is . . . always danger. Here," and he looked up into the green-gold darkness of the trees, "here is no summoning. No bringing back across the wall. No wall." Once instead of smiling and agreeing, she said, "It's lovely to have him back, but" and Golden. strong in her fear and willful in her vileness. She holds him back and hides him deep, fearing to. "Master Hemlock said I, said he thought I had, I might have a, a gift, a talent for--?" He broke free, stood up, stooping; neither of them could stand straight in the low cabin. "A shirt." He was in fact a town boy, born in Gont Port. He had said nothing about himself, but Dulse had asked around a bit. The father, a longshoreman, had died in the big earthquake, when Silence would have been seven or eight; the mother was a cook at a waterfront inn. At twelve the boy had got into some kind of trouble, probably messing about with magic, and his mother had managed to prentice him to Elassen, a respectable sorcerer in Valmouth. There the boy had picked up his true name, and some skill in carpentry and farmwork, if not much else; and Elassen had had the generosity, after three years, to pay his passage to Roke. That was all Dulse knew about him. Inmost Sea to Orrimy, where he had been some years before. There were people of the Hand there. Westpool got himself a wizard from Roke. He was surprised how easy it was to get one, if you paid. Diamond sat upright and still. He had been getting some of his father's height and girth lately. "I don't know. I'm after bigger prey." Diamond. It tickled him a little, though, to see his boy teaching tricks to the witch-child. drew back a little. She drew back. They sat back on their ankles. prove it, he made it seem that a herd of deer ran through the dining hall, followed by a flight of. By now the place that the girl had pointed out to me was deserted. After this incident I. That is a stony matter," said the Namer. In Endlane and the villages round the foot of Onn on Havnor, women spinning and weaving sing a while, her face turned from him but their hands joined and their bodies pressed close. At last she. Medra knew only a hint of this story from Ember. One night Veil, who was three years older than. The school was founded in about 650, as described above. The Nine Masters or master-teachers of. He finished his soup, and she took the bowl. She sat down in her place, the stool by the oil lamp. years of peace that followed the marriage this man developed immense power of magery. After five. Nothing will grow. That no matter what cures I use, the sickness will end in death." He looked. or shore a timber. "Suits me," Licky said. four mages stood on the path. "Master Hand," said the Doorkeeper, "she asked to enter as a student, and I saw no reason to deny her." another and work together that she was honored as a wise woman on Ark, and now on Roke. She had. "They say," said Ayo from the shadows, "that there's an island where the rule of justice is kept. They brought him one boy. The other had jumped from the ship, crossing Havnor Bay, and been killed by a crossbow quarrel. The boy they brought was in such a paroxysm of terror that even Early was disgusted by him. How could he frighten a creature already blind and beshatten with fear? He set a binding spell on the boy that held him upright and immobile as a stone statue, and left him so for a night and a day. Now and then he talked to the statue, telling it that it was a clever lad and might make a good prentice, here in the palace. Maybe he could go to Roke after all, for Early was thinking of going to Roke, to meet with the mages there. city, in these latter days, men and women of the islands speak with dragons, in sign of change. "When the balance is wrong, holding still is not good. It must get more wrong," said the Patterner. "Until -" He made a quick gesture of reversal with his open hands, down going up and up down. "Close!" Otter cried, dropping to his knees, his hands on the earth, on the raw lips of the. When he unbound him, the boy tried to pretend he was still stone, and would not speak. Early had to go into his mind, in the way he had learned from Gelluk long ago, when Gelluk was a true master of his art. He found out what he could. Then the boy was no good for anything and had to be disposed of. It was humiliating, again, to be outwitted by the very stupidity of these people; and all he had learned about Roke was that the Hand was there, and a school where they taught wizardry. And he had learned a man's name. confused. silent and went sidling back to the house with their tails down. Dulse considered himself a wordy, impatient man with a short temper. The necessity of not swearing. house. "Let him crawl home to his mother." He was half asleep, sitting on the ground in the shade by the barracks, the smell of the logs stacked by the roaster tower bringing him a memory of the work yards at home, the fragrance of new wood as the plane ran down the silky oak board. Some noise or movement roused him. He looked up and saw the wizard standing before him, looming above

him..file:///D:/Documents%20and%20Settings/harry/...0%20LeGuin%20-%20Tales%20From%20Earthsea.txt (69 of 111) [2/5/2004 12:33:31 AM].of those arts. His talk of the Allking and the Red Mother was mere words. And not the right words..this man, I had begun to see in my mind's eye a great mountain, a broken cone, with a long, green blanket on the plank bed. She found a cracked pitcher in a skew-doored cabinet and filled it with. And the boy must have a staff. Why had Nemmerle let him leave Roke without one, empty-handed as a prentice or a witch? Power like that shouldn't go wandering about unchannelled and unsignalled.. "If it's a real gift, an unusual capacity, that's even more true. A witch with her love potions." "Ye gods and little fishes! Do you design dresses?" "Changer's great spell he would never use it but to save a life, his own or another's..insistence and spoke freely at last..No matter how this adventure was going to end, I had found myself a guide, and I thought -- this.him. .".lives in it. He found himself standing two feet back, his hands stinging and his ears ringing and..without a spell or two. A village hut with a palace floor. Well, it'll be a sight, come winter, to..He had never told Ogion anything about his first teacher, a sorcerer of no fame, even in Gont, and..Although Otter had not thought the words, Anieb spoke with his voice, the same weak, dull voice:..away from her in the running of the water, and she floated in delight in the caress of the stream, "It's not my word, it's Waris's. But they've refused. They want the Rule of Roke to separate men from women, and they want men to make the decisions for all. Now what compromise can we make with them? Why did they come here, if they won't work with us?" "The white-haired man looked at the two women. Other people had come forward, and there was some." "The Summoner was among us when we stood on Roke Knoll and saw the Archmage kneel to King..He spent the whole afternoon in confusion, angry. When Ember came out of the Grove to her leafy bower upstream, he went there, carrying Veil's basket as an excuse. "May I talk to you?" he said..It's a word in the language of the Allking. His own name in his own language. In our base tongue..and you...." She reached out her hands to him. They knelt facing, the willow-leaves moving across..so, without a word, on his nameday night, to go off with the witch-girl, leaving all the honest..Healer..".shepherds there. A year ago last spring. That wizard they spoke of came there, casting spells..would go a long way."..the words this night in his room in the barracks, he discerned another possible meaning in them..else, to do that, I too must know your name." He paused again. As he talked it seemed to him that..kept the illusion spell about his boat. In the brilliant clarity of midsummer, with a north wind..healing, animal husbandry, dousing, mining and metallurgy, planting and growing spells, love..To Otter this conversation was, again, like walking forward in a vast darkness with a small lamp. Anieb's understanding was that lamp. Each step revealed the next step he must take, but he could never see the place where he was. He did not know what was coming next, and did not understand what he saw. But he saw it, and went forward, word by word.. "Trust," the young man said. "Yes. But against- Against them?- Gelluk's gone. Maybe Losen will..She looked westward over the reed beds and willows and the farther hills. The whole western sky..the fountain, where the tree Elehal had planted now stood tall, its berries reddening.." "You didn't set a price?"

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