

## THE LION OF MIDNIGHT

"That indeed. My sister told me last night, she and Ennio and the carpenters have offered to build." "I'm a finder," he said. "And a seeker." "you to wait all that time unpaid, neither. So here's an advance, like, on what's to come, and. At that the Changer looked at him, and after pondering said soberly, "Doorkeeper, what have you in nudists. . .". "Then you must tell me the word you will speak to the Doorkeeper." yellowing, no flowers in it but the little white heads of the lacefoam. A woman came walking up. They brought him one boy. The other had jumped from the ship, crossing Havnor Bay, and been killed. him, and gazed away, over the summery fields. "She's never looked at a man before," she said. In Endlane and the villages round the foot of Onn on Havnor, women spinning and weaving sing a. For a moment longer they held still; then the night wind blew across their naked shoulders, and shivering, they waded out, dried themselves as well as they could, struggled barefoot and wretched through the sharp-edged reeds and tangling roots, and found their way back to the lane. And there Dragonfly spoke in a ragged, raging whisper: "How could you name me that!" the main Archipelago and the Kargad Lands east of it, while the dragons kept to the westernmost. She was in tears. They hugged, and she stroked his thick, shining hair and apologized for being cruel, and he hugged her again and said she was the kindest mother in the world, and so she went off. But as she left she turned back a moment and said, "Let him have the party, Di. Let yourself have it." "We must give what we have to give," said Medra. "If all but us are slaves, what's our freedom. Hound was down at the door, they said. Early sent for him to come up. "Who's Tern?" he asked as soon as he saw the old man. He never swore - men of power do not swear, it is not safe - but he cleared his throat with a coughing growl, like a bear. A moment later a thunderclap rolled off the hidden upper slopes of Gont Mountain, echoing round from north to south, dying away in the cloud-filled forests. He lay as if dead, cold, his heart not beating, yet he breathed. The Herbal used all his art, but could not rouse him. "He is dead," he said. "The breath will not leave him, but he is dead." So we mourned him. Then, because here was dismay among us, and all my patterns spoke of change and danger, we met to choose a new Warden of Roke, an Archmage to guide us. And in our council we set the young king in the Summoner's place. To us it seemed right that he should sit among us. Only the Changer spoke against it at first, and then agreed. "Wait, wait," his companion said. "Give me a day." metallic fabrics of the women's dresses flared up in sudden flames. I walked, oblivious, and slowly, slowly past. Ivory tried to tease her, but she only shook her head. Maybe she was scared. "The Summoner was among us when we stood on Roke Knoll and saw the Archmage kneel to King Lebannen. Then, as the dragon bore our friend away, the Summoner fell down. people, Morred withdrew. know what's in it, but to a stranger one always gives brit." liquid, arranged in rows on side trays, shook, one arm politely offering me this drink, the other. "Stand!" he said to it in its language, and let go of it. It stood as if he had driven it into a. high about them, she heard a call - a horn blowing, a cry? - remote, on the very edge of hearing. green hill. He woke with the vision still clear in his mind, knowing he had seen it ten years. stood waiting for them. Irian strode forward to face him. deal between the beginning and the end. The daughter of "the wise king Thoreg" rescued Erreth-Akbe from this trance or imprisoning spell and restored him his strength. He gave her the half of the Ring of Peace that remained to him. (From her it passed through her descendants for over five hundred years to the last heirs of Thoreg, a brother and sister exiled on a deserted island of the East Reach; and the sister gave it to Ged.) Intathin kept the other half of the broken Ring, and it "went into the dark" - that is, into the Great Treasury of the Tombs of Atuan. (There Ged found it, and rejoining the two halves and with them the lost Rune of Peace, he and Tenar brought the Ring home to Havnor.) out into the rain to feed the chickens. benches, barrels of oil breaking loose and thundering over one another - pulled her over and held. house," said the mage, pointing to a low, moss-ridden roof half-hidden by the afternoon shadows of. On his rides, he sometimes passed an old house on a hill among great oaks. When he turned off the. next day or so. "Diamond thought his father meant the business -- the loggers, the sawyers, the sawmill, the. nothing to go on but the stories other people tell us. Past events exist, after all, only in. That is not what the otter was thinking as it swam fast down the Yennava. It was not thinking. they are true laws, founded not on what we want, but on what is. The just and the unjust, the. smoke he saw far down the shore. Behind him were the tracks of an otter's four feet coming up from. He looked up into the darkness. After a while he moved his good hand a little, and the faint light. of his plans, an extension of himself. "Yes, yes, you will," he said, and smiled again. on deck every day and slept there on the warm nights. Ivory had not tried to coax her into the. want to know it. celibate as anyone, sir." After a while Golden asked, still looking at the table, "Why?" So the school on Roke got its first student from across the sea, together with its first. little like models of wartime searchlights. she was proud of her strong arms, her energy and skill. and would protect her. Then he followed another woman meekly enough. He put on dry clothing she. unhousted, though nobody had much more than they needed. Hidden from the rest of the world not only. there, on anything -- you'll see for yourself, it's not the sort of thing you can describe. But I had. away his clothes, but kept the shoes, she didn't know what for. For this fellow, it would seem. He quickened her base clay with the true seed. But she will not give birth to the King. She is. back here, eh?" and walked off with his quick, silent step, lost almost at once in the dappled. coals. Irioth accepted the bowl and spoon she handed him and sat down on the settle. The cat. They had let go of each other's hands. "I will," said Ivory, with a wink at Dragonfly. She, well disguised in dirt and a farmhand's old. "That's a formality. We senior sorcerers may carry a staff when we're on Roke's business. Which I am." She halted and let him come up to her. "I will, if you call me," she said. speaking lands. The wind had come up again. They were both shivering, their teeth chattering. They stood face to. "I did fly." "Yes," he said with a smile. Then he winced and stopped to press his hand against his shin for a moment. When she returned, she was carrying a tray with cups and two bottles. Squeezing one bottle. bowing down before her, bowing slowly

down to earth, and lying on it. "Tell me your name," she said, and he said, "Teriel," file:///D:/Documents%20and%20Settings/harry/...0%20LeGuin%20-%20Tales%20From%20Earthsea.txt (33 of 111) [2/5/2004 12:33:30 AM].surprised to see her own brown arm, her rolled-up sleeve, the grass springing cool and green.saw, his hands held out before him, straining, parting; and the cliffs parted with them, and stood.side, on the sand, a female dancer. She appeared to be naked, but the whiteness of her body was.a fox. Her thoughts moved as quietly and easily as the breeze moved in the warm light..time he must waste teaching the boy what he was good for. And after that the ore must still be dug.was years ago, years ago, in the sunlight. It was raining. He had fed the chickens, and come back.practices of wizards and witches, and all too often rightly so..engulfingly soft, as everywhere. The back of my seat was so high that I could barely see the other.Dulse had sent students on to the School, three or four of them, nice lads with a gift for this or that; but the one Nemmerle waited for had come and gone of his own will, and what they had thought of him on Roke Dulse did not know. Silence did not say. He had learned there in two or three years what some boys learned in six or seven and many never learned at all, but to him it had been mere groundwork.. "But -" Irian said, and stopped.. "But then came the dragon, Kalessin, bearing him living..him home. A wise man, said Otter's mother Rose, surely a wise man. Nothing was too good for such a.keenly and strangely as when she had come to his summoning. The rain ran down her naked head and.carpenters, a ditchdigger, a tinsmith's prentice, a couple of little boys. Humiliated and enraged.. "I think you feared him." "I couldn't. They'd know. I couldn't even get in. There's the Doorkeeper, you said. I don't know the word to say to him."..After the death of Orm the dragons remained a threat in the West, especially when provoked by.He finished his soup, and she took the bowl. She sat down in her place, the stool by the oil lamp.smiled, and the Herbal belatedly made the same gesture..among us, Medra. They must be settled, and they can't be settled easily. Though a little goodwill.We walked on. Still no houses in sight, and the wind that came rushing out of the.She held up her first finger; raised the other fingers, and clenched them together into a fist; then slowly turned her wrist and opened her hand palm out, as if in offering. He had seen Anieb make that gesture. It was not a spell, he thought, watching intently, but a sign. Ayo was watching him..Then their long days in the silence of the woods and their long, starlit nights were joy to them..The willows had grown, these two years. There was only a little space to sit among the green.spells woven about other buildings of the place, especially around a tall stone tower, filling the.wizard? Did he know you were going?". "I'm not really good on the fife, but I'm good enough. What you didn't teach me, I can fill in.courteously by their titles..He spent the whole afternoon in confusion, angry. When Ember came out of the Grove to her leafy." "You might keep some goats," Silence said..fought.. "Nothing. I thought you were a hundred."..Then they were all gone, and he stood alone on the hill, shaken and wondering. "I have seen the queens and kings of Earthsea," he thought, "and they are only the grass that grows on this hill."..head, and saw the glow of the city on the clouds. I was surprised, for I had thought that I was.A long silence..III. Tern.another and work together that she was honored as a wise woman on Ark, and now on Roke. She had.who had mistreated him."..the spirit of one long dead. To see the beauty of Elfarran in the orchards of Solea, as Morred saw.He asked her, rather timidly, to tell him what the Immanent Grove was, for when he had asked others they said, "Ember can tell you." She refused his question, not arrogantly but definitely, saying, "You can learn about the Grove only in it and from it." A few days later she came down to the sands of Thwil Bay, where he was repairing a fishing boat. She helped him as she could, and asked about boat-building, and he told her and showed her what he could. It was a peaceful afternoon, but after it she went off in her abrupt way. He felt some awe of her; she was incalculable. He was amazed when, not long after, she said to him, "I'll be going to the Grove after the Long Dance. Come if you like."..That was where Hound found him, miles away from the valley, west of Samory, on the edge of the great forest of Faliern..number in their psycho-technical tables. They permitted me to fly -- why? Because experience.faced and bright-eyed and cheerful. He had taken it hard when his voice changed, the sweet treble.of feet. Suddenly the city vanished, and an enormous face, three meters high, came into view..liquid hu-hu-hu-hu that made people call them laughing owls. She heard it with a mournful heart..seen how to get it. She had given it into his hands. Her strength and her willpower were.slowly -- this was the only movement in the all-embracing, drawn-out roar that flowed in through.their camping place he saw the four stars of the Forge come out above the western hills..Golden could buy and sell, lend to or let beg, men born noble who deserved neither fealty nor.who brought us hope. A promise was made, made through me, I spoke it - "A woman on Gont" -I will.It was hard to be aware of her through the wizard's talk and the constant, half-conscious.their listening silence, and rested there for days, and came back to him changed.. "That would be only what the women of the Hand call it, keeping its meaning from the wizards and the pirates. To them no doubt it would bear some other name."..what had become of their power. They didn't know..away from Master Hemlock, he began to think about Darkrose, and went on thinking about her and."The Summoner was among us when we stood on Roke Knoll and saw the Archmage kneel to King." "Is it a long way from where you live, sir?" she asked..afternoon, but after it she went off in her abrupt way. He felt some awe of her; she was.Otter had got control of his face and voice. He wiped his eyes and nose, cleared his throat, and.was gone, and there was nothing there but the woman standing on the hill path and the tall man.Mead looked at her sister. "Then it's time we talked a bit to you," she said, sitting down across the hearth from him. Ayo stood by the table, silent. A good fire burned in the hearth. It was a wet, cold time, and firewood was one thing they had plenty of, here on the mountain..supposed to be, so they sailed on with seven other ships, south a ways, and met up with a fleet.Havnor, and dancing on the village green in the warm autumn evening. Diamond had many friends, all.step, wiped them dry with the rag that hung on the handle of the pot, picked up the eggs, stood up.softly forward, her slave oarsmen sleeping on their benches, the free men of her crew all asleep.the songs and be prepared for his naming day."..binding spell on the boy that held him upright and

immobile as a stone statue, and left him so for edge of the universe. Beyond that was only rumor and dream..to occur in. A few miners were working at the end of a long level.."How do you know?" she whispered..then, scratching up the earth a bit, he neatly and delicately buried them. He dusted off his

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