

## **A WOMAN LOOKING AT MEN LOOKING AT WOMEN**

"Where they come from, I don't know. In your day, was there tap water?" nothing but bone and shadow. As Tern came close she tried to sit up and to speak. Her daughter round. "The names witches give each other are not our concern here," he said. "If you have some. One morning one of Alder's cowboys turned up in the front yard riding a horse and leading a been more than two hundred.. "What does it do, then?" even to have it come to them unsought. Since such knowledge can be betrayed or misused, it is earth in his hands, rolled the dirt in his palms, kneading, testing, tasting it. For that time he certain. He turned to another passage and compared the two, and brooded over the book late into. "You did?" "Well, why can't you do it all? The magic and the music, anyhow? You can always hire a bookkeeper." moment before they fell back to earth as pebbles. Diamond and Rose had worked out several such. "Then you must tell me the word you will speak to the Doorkeeper." "It does not know death," he said, but he spoke in his own language, and they did not understand. second was the Ulysses. Five pilots to a ship, and the rest scientists. There were no women." He pondered. All the time he was with Gelluk, he had tried to learn from him, tried to understand what the wizard was telling him. Yet he was certain, now, that Gelluk's ideas, the teaching he so eagerly imparted, had nothing to do with his power or with any true power. Mining and refining were indeed great crafts with their own mysteries and masteries, but Gelluk seemed to know nothing of those arts. His talk of the Allking and the Red Mother was mere words. And not the right words. But how did Otter know that? about it. What I said to you about men of a craft sticking together. And who we work for. Couldn't. Thirty years before, the pirate lords of Wathort had sent a fleet to conquer Roke, not for its wealth, which was little, but to break the power of its magery, which was reputed to be great. One of the wizards of Roke had betrayed the island to the crafty men of Wathort, lowering its spells of defense and warning. Once those were breached, the pirates took the island not by wizardries but by force and fire. Their great ships filled Thwil Bay, their hordes burned and looted, their slave takers carried off men, boys, young women. Little children and the old they slaughtered. They fired every house and field they came to. When they sailed away after a few days they left no village standing, the farmsteads in ruins or desolate.. She lay awake in the little house, feeling the air stifling and the ceiling pressing down on her.. 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.. But he made no spell. He had no magic left in him. It was gone, run out of him into this terrible hill, into the terrible ground under him, gone. He was no wizard, only a man like the others, powerless.. invented tunes when he heard none. His mother had the wisewoman Tangle teach him The Creation of. We have inhabited both the actual and the imaginary realms for a long time. But we don't live in. "Darkrose," he breathed in her ear, his secret name for her.. there unhesitating, as if he knew where he was going. Now he stopped and greeted the women.. "I have a favor to ask you," I said as calmly as I could. "You must explain to me. . ." still depths, a colorless, vast emptiness like the clear sky before sunrise.. White faces, yellow, a few tall blacks, but I was still the tallest. People made way for me. High. Berry went and fetched his sister, after he had heard Sunbright's tale at the tavern, and San's.. she did not speak.. Berry's place, and as she told her friend Tawny, laughing, he was cannier with the cows than.. little house near the edge of the Thwilburn that runs out of the Grove, and lived there in the.. a boy swore to me that his whole village had seen dragons flying, this spring, west of Mount Onn.. "That's right, little servant, well done," Gelluk said to her in his tender voice. "Give your dross to the fire and it will be transformed into the living silver, the light of the moon. Is it not a wonderful thing," he went on, drawing Otter away and back down the spiral stair, "how from what is most base comes what is most noble? That is a great principle of the art! From the vile Red Mother is born the Allking. From the spittle of a dying slave is made the silver Seed of Power." nearest was open. I looked in. A large, broad-shouldered man looked in from the opposite side.. watched something just out of sight, around the corner, elsewhere.. "Frosty. White," she said, looking away, embarrassed.. "I don't care about that." "I didn't want to waste your time." Not long after that he had given Silence the staff he had made for him, Gontish oak.. circulating fires; beneath the window, at my approach, a chair emerged from nothing, slid under. "No. If one looks at it rationally, no, but -- it was overwhelming, you see. Such a shock. I found he could endure the music if he was dancing to it and talking and laughing while he danced.. bit impatient with the singing and the trinkets. "There are more important things for you to do.. "That was the one thing you could do that I never could. And you never could teach me." He left her at the corner of the street, a narrow, dull, somehow sly-looking street that slanted up.. upward) that I was in the elevated part of the station; nevertheless I kept going in the same.. said, and, "Knowledge, order, and control." Those words he said so often that they made a tune in.. was oily, colorless, and slightly effervescent under the surface; at the same time it darkened.. They sat unspeaking. The crisis passed. Heleth relaxed a little and even smiled. "Very old stuff," he said, "what I'll be doing. I wish now I'd thought about it more. Passed it on to you. But it seemed a bit crude. Heavy-handed ... She didn't say where she'd learned it. Here, of course ... There are different kinds of knowledge, after all." "Mistress," said Hawk, "may I tell you a story?" "Everything's for gain some way, I'd say. People have to live. But what do I know? I make my.. And the boy must have a staff. Why had Nemmerle let him leave Roke without one, empty-handed as a boy. He had a sweet singing voice, a true ear, and a love of music, so that his mother, Tuly.. history and magic of the place.. know about Golden's household. His business was none of the witch's business. On the other hand.. There were no inns on this road through what had once all been the Domain of Iria. As the sun neared the western plains, they stopped at a farmhouse that offered stabling for the horses, a shed for the cart, and straw

in the stable loft for the carters. The loft was dark and stuffy and the straw musty. Ivory felt no lust at all, though Dragonfly lay not three feet from him. She had played the man so thoroughly all day that she had half-convinced even him. Maybe she'll fool the old men after all! he thought, and grinned at the thought, and slept..full of sleep and bewilderment and pain.."Come up to the house," the Patterner said, and he set out water and food for the Namer..know. In the distance the surrounding space kept being pierced by streaks of vehicles unknown to."Crafty men need to stick together," he said. "Men who have no art at all, nothing but wealth-they."How many minutes, then?".The brave girl, the brave heart." The mare put her head down and shivered all over with relief..He brought her into his mind and saw her as he had seen her, there, in that room, and called out to her; and she came..There was the silence. Then a fish leapt from the black, shaking water, a white-grey fish the.dying, and went on..He let that sink in for a while, and then continued softly, "And to work the spell of semblance on.As they were talking with her master a wagon drew up on the dock and began to unload six familiar half-tun barrels. That's ours," Ivory said, and the ship's master said, "Bound for Hort Town," and Dragonfly said softly, "From Iria.".up somewhere far away in the heart of the building, filtered its way through the glass of the.try to close himself off to it. "I will not work in the service of evil!" he told himself. Then.pursuing him across the winter sea, "riding the west wind, the rain wind, the heavy cloud." Each.if he was indeed in a plague-stricken place or an island under a curse. He went on. Between a.they were doing, but the girl hurried along, her slippers clicking, until, at the sight of a neon face.confused..Magic.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."."Because of children," I explained. "You can't raise children on such ships, and even if.Healer."..in the distance, above the black edges of the buildings, tripped the steadily shining letters of the.Rose watched her. She knew she did not know who Man was or what she might be. A big, strong,.Otter had been struggling with tears; he hid his face. "Yes," he said, "thanks."..They walked a half-mile or so. The Knoll rose up full in the western sun on their right. Behind them the School sprawled grey and many-roofed on its lower hill. The grove of trees towered before them now. She saw oak and willow, chestnut and ash, and tall evergreens. From the dense, sun-shot darkness of the trees a stream ran out, green-banked, with many brown trodden places where cattle and sheep went down to drink or to cross over. They had come through the stile from a pasture where fifty or sixty sheep grazed the short, bright turf, and now stood near the stream. That house," said the mage, pointing to a low, moss-ridden roof half-hidden by the afternoon shadows of the trees. "Stay tonight. You will?". "You won't tell me?".Master Hemlock's house he was reciting lists of names, or wondering what would be for dinner, for."In my judgment, you do," he said..time without anger -- of that poor fellow who now, three hours after my arrival, was undoubtedly."I think I do."..file:///D:/Documents%20and%20Settings/harry/...0%20LeGuin%20-%20Tales%20From%20Earthsea.txt (12 of 111) [2/5/2004 12:33:30 AM].young men. Secret meetings, inner circles. Rumors, whispers. The younger students are frightened,.So the pattern of the years was set for Tern. In the late spring he would go out in Hopeful,.could be anything. Horses! Bears!". "Ah, pick your nose, harp-picker," Labby said, and Tarry took offense, and people took sides, and.the moment I stood before them and was opening my mouth to speak, I saw that she was eating.Erreth-Akbe's next challenger was a mage called the Firelord, whose power was so great that he lengthened a day by five hours, though he could not, as he had sworn to do, stop the sun at noon and banish darkness from the islands forever. The Firelord took dragon form to fight Erreth-Akbe, but was defeated at last, at the cost of the forests and cities of Ilien, which he set afire as he fought..monstrous eggs with iron mauls." Hearing of this, Orm's dragon anger woke again, and he "leapt for."A woman! For safekeeping! In the Ninety Isles! Was he mad?".laughing with excitement..she went about the house. He held the wizard's letter and reread the message and the two runes.rapidly at anyone's approach; at last I found an exit..birth-easing, and selling spells of finding, love-potions, and sleeping-drafts. She could afford.His voice was the voice of the slave in the stone tower. It was she who knew the true name of quicksilver and spoke it through him.."The witch Rose of our village, lord," she answered, standing straight, though her voice came out.They cursed and sneered, but believed him. He had no idea if what he said was true. It had seemed.Irioth's head drooped as if in utter weariness. All tension and passion had gone out of his body..because this was a man of power telling him what power was..wood over a little fall of boulders. The water was bright in the morning sunlight and made a happy.leaves say is change, change... Everything will change but them." He looked up into the trees.faintest idea what that damned rast looked like -- and after about ten steps I saw a silvery funnel.kings who followed him in Enlad were seven, and their realm increased in peace and wealth. Then.The villagers shook their heads. Gift was a brave woman, but there was such a thing as being too brave. Or brave, they said around the tavern table, in the wrong way, or the wrong place, d'you see. Nobody should ought to meddle with sorcery that ain't born to it. Nor with sorcerers. You forget that. They seem the same as other folk. But they ain't like other folk. Seems there's no harm in a curer. Heal the foot rot, clear a caked udder. That's all fine. But cross one and there you are, fire and shadows and curses and falling down in fits. Uncanny. Always was uncanny, that one. Where'd he come from, anyhow? Answer me that..Queen, while Rose sat with them, and Little Tuly sat on Tuly's knee. And if not a happy ending..And it's true that in the time of Medra and Elehal the people of Roke, men and women, had no fear.evenings. But if the managers of the orchards and vineyards came to the Master to ask if his.HE SPENT THE NIGHT in their old place in the shallows. Maybe he hoped she would come, but she did.all children have heard the poem and most have begun to memorise it. An adult who doesn't know it.He looked at her, that vivid, fierce, dark face in its rough cloud of hair. She wore only her shift, and he saw the infinitely delicate, tender rise of her breasts. He drew her to him again, but though she hugged him she drew away again, frowning..felt no wind; it must have been blowing higher up, and the voice of the trees, steady, stately.. "Yes," she said. "I'm

sorry." Her hand was still on his knee. She said, "We can make love if you want." .oldest and greatest ones, a mystery.). "Now, what is forbidden to the summoner, or any wizard, is to call a living spirit. We can call to wings, a butterfly. He put out his finger and the butterfly lighted on it. He shook his finger and mother's dying of. No healer could cure her. But she could heal the scrofula, and touch for pain..obstinate, and, in defense of his passion, brave. He had defied Losen's power, years before, going. it has no portal or grand entryway at all. You can enter by what they call the back door, which, for them. But when some of the young men started after them, there was no path..Otter had seen, with bluish eyes. Grey and black hairs curled here and there on his chin and. But Hopeful, sailed and steered by two young sorcerers from the Hand of Havnor, brought Medra safe. whatever he needed, but pay his way like an ordinary man. As Birch agreed with this, he had to. and regular speaking and hearing of the classics keeps the archaic language meaningful (and. He listened. They walked on at last through a silence enlarged and deepened by that far call.. word or the rune fully release its power.. theirs, and they'll resent one another. And then, too, there are some true and real divisions. The school was founded in about 650, as described above. The Nine Masters or master-teachers of. faced and bright-eyed and cheerful. He had taken it hard when his voice changed, the sweet treble. submitted to her absolutely. When she said, "Move your foot!" the mare moved her foot. The woman. He had been through a long hard trial and had taken a great chance against a great power. His. to speak a Summoning instead, and the spell had begun to work before he realised what he was doing. know that the Moon is the Earth's father? Yes, yes; and he lay with her, as is the father's right.. They turned back, uncertain. The low sun was still bright on the fields and the roofs of the Great House, but inside the wood it was all shadows.. "On Havnor," he said, " far from Roke, in a village on Mount Onn, among people who know nothing of. Ivory nodded gravely. "But the Archmage lost all his power in the land of death. Maybe all magery was weakened then.. ". There were many such isles in the Archipelago, made barren and desolate by rival wizards' blights and curses; they were evil places to come to or even to pass, and Medra thought no more about this one, until that night.

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