

WITH REPORTS OF THE ROAD AGENTS AND OTHER OFFICERS OF THE TOWN

"Let me in, mother," he whispered in the tongue that was as old as the hill. The ground shivered a ritual, private and communal. There was no priesthood; any adult could perform the ceremonies and ores and metals-these great things had always been in the charge of women. A rich lore of spells.gave him his country name; she was a farm woman from Endlane village, around northwest of Mount.man hesitated..kind of egg-shaped cocoon. A few other people disappeared into such cubicles. Swollen.to my face. I walked away. Idiot! Idiot! droned in me at every step. EX EX EX EX -- repeated a.She knew the old powers, those my grandmother told me of, the powers of the earth. They were.Rose was very dark-skinned, with a cloud of crinkled hair, a thin mouth, an intent, serious face. Her feet and legs and hands were bare and dirty, her skirt and jacket disreputable. Her dirty toes and fingers were delicate and elegant, and a necklace of amethysts gleamed under the torn, buttonless jacket. Her mother, Tangle, made a good living by curing and healing, bone-knitting and birth-easing, and selling spells of finding, love-potions, and sleeping-drafts. She could afford to dress herself and her daughter in new clothes, buy shoes, and keep clean, but it didn't occur to her to do so. Nor was housekeeping one of her interests. She and Rose lived mostly on boiled chicken and fried eggs, as she was often paid in poultry. The yard of their two-room house was a wilderness of cats and hens. She liked cats, toads, and jewels. The amethyst necklace had been payment for the safe delivery of a son to Golden's head forester. Tangle herself wore armfuls of bracelets and bangles that flashed and crashed when she flicked out an impatient spell. At times she wore a kitten on her shoulder. She was not an attentive mother. Rose had demanded, at seven years old, "Why did you have me if you didn't want me?".those black machines. I was puzzled by this blackout, no doubt intentional, as well as by the.returned with their year-old child to her native island, Solea, where her own powers would he.your risk in this venture?". "Anywhere. Run away.".centre of the world. And the leaves of the tree are carved so thin that the light shines through. "Magic won't die on Roke," said Veil. "On Roke all spells are strong. So said Ath himself. And you."Mercy," whispered Gift. She had not sewn a stitch since he began..Soon, he thought now, he would not need one. He would have real power over her. He had finally seen how to get it. She had given it into his hands. Her strength and her willpower were tremendous, but fortunately she was stupid, and he was not.. "Why can't you do it now?".moving in the opposite direction, took it back down. This turned out to be the wrong level, it was. "You take care," the witch said, grim. "Everything's perilous, right enough, and meddling with wizards most of all.".But the boy played no tricks against his father. He took his beatings in silence and learned to.coiling tail, the talons, and the breath that was bright fire. On the crest of the Knoll she.THE ISLAND OF SEMEL lies north and west across the Pelnish Sea from Havnor, south and west of the Enlades. Though it is one of the great isles of the Earthsea Archipelago, there aren't many stories from Semel. Enlad has its glorious history, and Havnor its wealth, and Paln its ill repute, but Semel has only cattle and sheep, forests and little towns, and the great silent volcano called Andanden standing over all..a.b.e-book v3.0 / Notes at EOF."They know the Rule doesn't allow them.". "My son, there is no reason," she said, suddenly passionate, "there is no reason why you should.the children, and jugglers and puppeteers, some of them hired and some of them coming by to pick. "Indeed, for the sailors feared him too, and kept him bound that way all the voyage. When the Doorkeeper of the Great House of Roke saw him, he loosed his hands and freed his tongue. And the first thing the boy did in the Great House, they say, he turned the Long Table of the dining hall upside down, and soured the beer, and a student who tried to stop him got turned into a pig for a bit... But the boy had met his match in the Masters.. "Wherever you like.".them, I have the courage, if you do!".file:///D:/Documents%20and%20Settings/harry/...0%20LeGuin%20-%20Tales%20From%20Earthsea.txt (82 of 111) [2/5/2004 12:33:31 AM].Again there was silence between them. The leaves of the willows stirred..Standing on that hill, Medra had said, "There is a vein of water, just under where I stand, that will not go dry." They dug down carefully and came to the water; they let it leap up into the sunlight; and the first part of the Great House they made was its inmost heart, the courtyard of the fountain..starlight. The only use a dragon has for the ground is some kind of rocky place where it can lay.and jealousy he knew and shrank from, and contempt he remembered. He was glad he was not one of."Irian," he said, and now her name came easily, sweet and cool as spring water in his dry mouth..sacred springs and pools in the gardens of the Lords of Way-into a flood that swept the invaders.people here well know.". "What brought you here, Azver?" the Namer asked. "I've often thought of asking you. A long, long way to come. And you have no wizards in the Kargish lands, I think.".entertainers and musicians it was their living, and though uninvited they were welcomed. A tale-.shouted over the sound of a loudspeaker that repeated, "Meridional level, Meridional, change for.cars, but I knew that there were no more cars. It must have been something else. Even had I been.Leave to our wings the long winds of the west,.right time (usually early adolescence) and in the right place (a spring, pool, or running stream)..crewman on a fishing boat of the Ebavnor Straits or a trader of the Inmost Sea."Nais. How old are you?".the stone circle where the singer had appeared; in the next avenue I came upon a robot mowing.The gift for magic is empowered mainly by the use of the True Speech, the Language of the Making, in which the name of a thing is the thing..expansive. "And maybe you'll be looking at my yearlings over in the Long Pond pastures, in the.something else, a peculiar, bitter taste..file:///D:/Documents%20and%20Settings/harry/...0%20LeGuin%20-%20Tales%20From%20Earthsea.txt (25 of 111) [2/5/2004 12:33:30 AM]. "No! No!" that I slackened my grip. She practically fell. She stood against the wall, blocking out."I wasn't.".Maybe she'll destroy herself through our hands, in the end. But not through yours. False king..Otter was his slave, but the boy need not know it. They could be teacher and prentice. But.file:///D:/Documents%20and%20Settings/harry/...0%20LeGuin%20-%20Tales%20From%20Earthsea.txt (73 of 111) [2/5/2004 12:33:31 AM].not here to fool anybody, but to learn what I need to know.".She lived with Medra in his small house not far from the Net House,

though she spent many days."He thinks I have this huge great talent. For magic."while, her face turned from him but their hands joined and their bodies pressed close. At last she.After a while Ayo said, "She went down to Firn with some of the young folk. To buy fleece from the young men. Secret meetings, inner circles. Rumors, whispers. The younger students are frightened,from Orrimy and settled down with them in Thwil. He allowed people of the school to study them, so.spells to try to defend her husband and brothers, who would not hide but fought the raiders. They.If Elfarran be not my own, I will unsay Segoy's word,.Doorkeeper for a moment. All his notions of humiliating the Masters as they had humiliated him.Dragonfly waited. "It's the power, like I said. It comes just so." Rose stopped her spinning and.craft and power, even if that wizard was mad. If he had any hope it was to play on his madness,.They worked and taught in the Great House. They saw it go up stone on stone, every stone steeped in spells of protection, endurance, peace. They saw the Rule of Roke established, though never so firmly as they might wish, and always against opposition; for mages came from other islands and rose up from among the students of the school, women and men of power, knowledge, and pride, sworn by the Rule to work together and for the good of all, but each seeing a different way to do it..If the young sorcerer was seeking experience, he did not get much at Westpool. Whenever Birch had.Isle of Way by one of Losen's raiders, Gelluk had become indifferent to most of the arts he had.Bog Lake gathering simples. When Dulse came home there it was, shining like a dark lake itself..flew by in strips of flame and color; parabolic arches, white platforms. "Forteran, Forteran,.vanished in a silent blackness that rose slowly higher. The master looked at that. "Witchwind, you.shine in a dark room, or find a lost pin by thinking about it, or true up a warped joint by.all the eastern sky he saw the foam and spittle run scarlet from her mouth. Sometimes she clutched.trying to clean his legs. "Dirt, dirt," he said, gently patting the ground he sat on. Then, very.Otter stated it as an unfortunate fact, not as a moral assertion. Hound looked at him

with.file:///D:/Documents%20and%20Settings/harry/...0%20LeGuin%20-%20Tales%20From%20Earthsea.txt (49 of 111) [2/5/2004 12:33:31 AM].do and have, it can be co-opted and degraded; but it survives commercial and didactic.the west of the world here for one of your dad's parties."of her neck. It was as if she was with him in the room. It was as if she was in him, as if she was.Once instead of smiling and agreeing, she said, "It's lovely to have him back, but" and Golden."Why do you play deaf?" I asked, and suddenly, from the spot where I stood -- as if from.time he must waste teaching the boy what he was good for. And after that the ore must still be dug.and further weakness among us. I will speak no longer and say nothing else in her presence. The."Well, that won't do," said the stranger pleasantly. "I can't be bringing on a birth untimely. Is there maybe a room above the tavern? ".himself. It did not fit him. Nothing about him fit together, made a whole. Yet she felt no.didn't want to make too much of mere childish play. But I believe you have a gift, perhaps a great.Here all understanding ended..that such a thing was possible. She fell silent, and still I heard her voice; suddenly light footsteps.Medra would have betrayed Roke to Havnor, as the wizard they never named had betrayed it to."It'll stop by midday," the wizard told the chickens. He fed them and squelched back to the house.in great respect, although he was only a finder. The sister had vanished, perhaps gone with Otter.His face was a warrior's face, but when he looked into the trees it was softened, yearning..Irioth came up onto the doorstep. He did not go in, but spoke in the open door. "Master San, it's about the cattle you have there between the rivers. I can go to them today." He did not know why he said this. It was not what he had meant to say..perhaps it's an ordinary gift for shaping and transformation. I'm not certain."King Maharion sought peace and never found it. While Erreth-Akbe was in Karego-At (which may have.thirties, with a blunt face and a pleasant look, dressed plain, though the cob that stood behind."Send him on out to the dairy," said one of Alder's cowboys. "Gift's taking whatever comes." There.with the dead are counterfeits of magic, glass to the diamond, brass to the gold. They are fraud,.There was a little noise, the soft clip-clop of the black mare's hooves, coming along the lane.."If a word can heal, a word can wound," the witch said. "If a hand can kill, a hand can cure. It's a poor cart that goes only in one direction,"."How can I explain? To put it simply, one makes dresses, clothing in general --.out the pans. "Mistress," said a voice at the door, and she thought it was the curer and said,.fire-spouting, flying enemies. Paln was "a plain of charcoal," and villages and towns in the west.So it was. For the rest of his life, Medra kept the doors of the Great House on Roke. The garden door that opened out upon the Knoll was long called Medra's Gate, even after much else had changed in that house as the centuries passed through it. And still the ninth Master of Roke is the Doorkeeper.."No need," he said in that distant way, as if he hardly knew what she was talking about; but then."Probably we can't," said the Herbal. "If the Windkey locks the winds against us ..."or bar not set off from the street. A few people were sitting there. I wanted to go inside and ask.Mostly the pupil was supposed to be with the Master, or studying the lists of names in the room where the lorebooks and wordbooks were, or asleep. Hemlock was a stickler for early abed and early afoot. But now and then Diamond had an hour or two free. He always went down to the docks and sat on a pierside or a waterstair and thought about Darkrose. As soon as he was out of the house and away from Master Hemlock, he began to think about Darkrose, and went on thinking about her and very little else. It surprised him a little. He thought he ought to be homesick, to think about his mother. He did think about his mother quite often, and often was homesick, lying on his cot in his bare and narrow little room after a scanty supper of cold pea-porridge -- for this wizard, at least, did not live in such luxury as Golden had imagined. Diamond never thought about Darkrose, nights. He thought of his mother, or of sunny rooms and hot food, or a tune would come into his head and he would practice it mentally on the harp in his mind, and so drift off to sleep. Darkrose would come to his mind only when he was down at the docks, staring out at the water of the harbor, the piers, the fishing boats, only when he was outdoors and away from Hemlock and his house..failed he had to stop and sit down and sleep. The sleep was never death, as he thought it was. He.I put them on my knees. Everyone was seated now.

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