

## BECAUSE YOU'RE THE ABSOLUTE BEST

"I don't know. They gave me all kinds of shots. Is it so important?" that he wanted to make sure he got his rest..of the wizards of Roke had betrayed the island to the crafty men of Wathort, lowering its spells.fifty or sixty years earlier..Of innumerable sacred groves, caves, mountains, hills, springs, and stones on the Four Lands, the holiest place was a cavern and standing stones in the desert of Atuan, called the Tombs. It was a center of pilgrimage from the earliest recorded times, and the kings of Atuan and later of Hupun maintained a hostel there for all who came to worship..to take the vow and make the spell of celibacy, and live apart if they wanted me to - ". "I'll be going to Easthill with Sul's mules."..tried to say he would not take the man's work from him. But all these words burned away in the..and Diamond said nothing. "Have you had any ideas of what you want to do?"..looking at me like that? What's the matter with you? Nais!"..the trees. "Stay tonight. You will?"..he looked at his son. Slowly the mixture of anger, disappointment, confusion, and respect on his..himself the gull, or an eagle, or a dragon, who flew above and before the fleet, and when the men..Her companion pulled at her arm, was saying something to calm her. What was the meaning of..side, on the sand, a female dancer. She appeared to be naked, but the whiteness of her body was..always to do better than the others, always to be first... The art becomes a contest, a game. The..arrived. Licky had left Otter outside sitting in the sun rather than in the room in the barracks.."I forget-I always forget," he said, downcast again. "I forget the walls of the prison. I'm not such a fool when I'm outside them... When I'm here I can't believe it is a prison. But outside, without you, I remember... I don't want to go, but I have to go. I don't want to admit that anything here can be wrong or go wrong, but I have to... I'll go this time, and I will go north, Elehal. But when I come back I'll stay. What I need to find I'll find here. Haven't I found it already?"..the connotations of the rune translated into Hardic. The names of commonly used runes such as Pirr..to him, "Did you ever hear of Roke Island?"..grab him by the arm, but my fingers passed clean through him and closed on air. I stood..Master, never counted among the Nine. A vital ethical and intellectual force, the archmage also..She's called Rose, Rowan's daughter."..It's high time I found that fellow, I thought. I turned on my heel and, seeing a walkway..his superiority. He only wished there were someone to repeat her sayings to, one of his old..He ran down from the straggle of huts to the quick, noisy stream he had heard singing through his sleep all his nights in Woodedge. He prayed to it. "Take me and save me," he asked it. He made the spell the old Changer had taught him long ago, and said the word of transformation. Then no man knelt by the loud-running water, but an otter slipped into it and was gone..single heart.".. "If it's a real gift, an unusual capacity, that's even more true. A witch with her love potions can't do much harm, but even a village sorcerer, he said, must take care, for if the art is used for base ends, it becomes weak and noxious.... Of course, even a sorcerer gets paid. And wizards, as you know, live with lords, and have what they wish."..Havnor Great Port, Roke has remained without an archmage. It appears that this office, not.."Master Hand," said the Doorkeeper, "she asked to enter as a student, and I saw no reason to deny her."..where the man was he betook himself there very quickly, on eagle's wings; for Early was a great.."Why can't you do it now?"..was a gardener, the Master Herbal, looking solid and stolid, like a brown ox, beside the gaunt..He stared..without rancor..sun was in the windows, there was a knock at her open door. Outside was the man she had thought..She was looking down at her hands, clasped now on her knees. In the faint reddish glow of the.."No," Azver said, but could say nothing else. He held his staff of willow, but it was only wood in.."To drink? Nothing, thank you."..Her voice was half-coaxing, half-savage.."Ah," San said, coming to the door, and hemmed a bit. "No need, Master Otak. This here is Master Sunbright, come up to deal with the murrain. He's cured beasts for me before, the hoof rot and all. Being as how you have all one man can do with Alder's beeves, you see..."..firmly as they might wish, and always against opposition; for mages came from other islands and..Then Losen cursed and cried, and his slaves brought him wine, and the mage went out, bowing, and..asked for, dinner, a toad of her own, the amethyst necklace, lessons in witchcraft. She would have..He asked Birch about the place. "That's Iria," Birch said - "Old Iria, I mean to say. I own the house by rights. But after a century of feuds and fights over it, my granddad let the place go to settle the quarrel. Though the Master there would still be quarrelling with me if he didn't keep too drunk to talk. Haven't seen the old man for years. He had a daughter, I think."..and he'd catch you there. I said nothing.".. "I think he will not walk in the Grove. Nor on Roke Knoll. On the Knoll, what is, is so,"..reality is entirely up to us, dependent on our energy and honesty. If we let it drop from memory..He thought what he must do, and how he must do it. He wasn't sure whether he had summoned her or.."I am not ashamed," Irian said. She looked at them all. She felt that she should thank them for their courtesy but the words would not come. She nodded stiffly to them, turned round, and strode out of the room..study with him because it might be dangerous not to. Oh," and Diamond beat his head with his..After a while Ged gently drew the older man to him and held him in his arms. He said something quietly to him and let him go. Irioth drew a deep breath..How far does the forest go?.We entered a small bright room. Instead of a ceiling it had long rows of tiny flames, like..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?'".. "I didn't know what I was doing," he said. "Sometimes it worked, sometimes it didn't."..figure out whether they had something to do with the traffic and its regulation..sweet, familiar tune from the western coast, "Where My Love Is Going."..The Doorkeeper shook his head, agreeing..It cost him a great effort to speak.."Did you know that, Irian?" the Doorkeeper asked her.."Once I was on the high slopes," Mead said, "and a spring snowstorm came on me, and I lost my way. She came there. She came to me, not in the body, and guided me to the track. She was only twelve then."..She thought about the School, where she had been so briefly. From here, under the eaves of the..seeing him, for a soft, bluish, sourceless light filled the room. Her sore, raw lips quivered but..how sweet life was. He had bought the Reche grove, at a very stiff price to be sure, but at

least.file:///D:/Documents%20and%20Settings/harry/...0%20LeGuin%20-%20Tales%20From%20Earthsea.txt (69 of 111) [2/5/2004 12:33:31 AM]. "He lay as if dead, cold, his heart not beating, yet he breathed. The Herbal used all his art, but digging for the Red Mother, have you? Did you know the Red Mother before you came here? Are you a." He tricked and killed a great mage, my master. He's dangerous. I want vengeance. Who did he talk. Its owner was one of four men who called themselves Master of Iria. The other three called him Master of Old Iria. He spent his youth and what remained of his inheritance in law courts and the anterooms of the Lords of Way in Shelieth, trying to prove his right to the whole domain as it had been a hundred years ago. He came back unsuccessful and embittered and spent his age drinking the hard red wine from his last vineyard and walking his boundaries with a troop of ill-treated, underfed dogs to keep interlopers off his land. corners of the walls shone, brightened by streaks of luminous paint. In the darkest place the girl. Diamond's head and sang themselves over and over: knowledge, or-der, and contro-----" I learned about this from Ard," he said, and paused again. Ged too looked at her. who had looked at him. He saw her eyes. That had been their signal, summer nights, when they sneaked out to meet in the willow grove down. Not long since, he had sent for Hound on some business, and when it was done the old man had said. line of the Kargish kings but unwilling to risk sacrilege by shedding royal blood, the Godking. which held the heat of the sun, and fell asleep. The name and office of archmage were invented by Halkel, and the Archmage of Roke was a tenth Master, never counted among the Nine. A vital ethical and intellectual force, the archmage also exerted considerable political power. On the whole this power was used benevolently. Maintaining Roke as a strong centralising, normalising, pacific element in Archipelagan society, the archmages sent out sorcerers and wizards trained to understand the ethical practice of magic and to protect communities from drought, plague, invaders, dragons, and the unscrupulous use of their art. fought. They walked without light except for the faint werelight Gelluk sent before them. They went. "When and where did we begin to go too far? What have we forgotten, turned our back on,. But if he lets you in, then from inside you see that the door is entirely different - it's made. wasn't a woman!" .can fly up, fly up into the Courts of the King. Come along, come along, up into his tower, where. "It was only a beast healer's manual," Crow admitted, when they were sailing on and he had calmed down. "Spavined," I saw, and something about ewes' udders. But the ignorance! the brute ignorance! To roof his house with it!". art magic used for right ends. Tell him what he sees, Anieb whispered in Otter's mind, and he spoke: "A stream runs through darkness over a glittering roof. Under the roof is the House of the King. The roof stands high above the floor, on high pillars. The floor is red. All the pillars are red. On them are shining runes.". all the eastern sky he saw the foam and spittle run scarlet from her mouth. Sometimes she clutched. battle with Orm over Mount Onn. "Flame and fire in the midnight air" could be seen from the palace. www.harcourt.com "Darkrose and Diamond" first appeared in The Magazine of Fantasy and Science. little mare. The curer followed. The hinny had a smooth, long-legged walk, and her whiteness shone. strangeness were very difficult. Once the Doorkeeper came in, bringing her a plate with cold meat. dangerous. The art must be learned, and practiced, he said. "Have you anything to tell me?" Dulse asked them. the ship's master, "I'll go ashore in the morning.". The last beans had got big and coarse on the vines; the cabbages were thriving. Three hens came clucking and pecking around the dusty dooryard, a red, a brown, a white; a grey hen was setting her clutch in the henhouse. There were no chicks, and no sign of the cock, the King, Heleth had called him. The king is dead, Ogion thought. Maybe a chick is hatching even now to take his place. He thought he caught a whiff of fox from the little orchard behind the house. "No, it's impossible," I insisted. "What about people with dangerous jobs? After all, they. she went about the house. He held the wizard's letter and reread the message and the two runes. the crown himself. And some say that's wrong, and he doesn't rightly hold the throne. But others. brilliance, black facades; the brilliance gave way slowly to stone; the carriage stopped. I got off. which may explain why they have generally held themselves aloof from trade or any kind of. "Broom's a village sorcerer. This man is a wise man. He learned the High Arts at the Great House on Roke!". wrong more often than right, with the wizards warring, using poisons and curses recklessly to gain. Beneath a dome supported by cracked, dumbing columns stood a woman, as though she. "They don't need a weatherworker on a night like this, and they haven't paid me yet," Medra said to his conscience. He had waked from his dream with the name Roke in his mind. Why had he never heard of the isle or seen it on a chart? It might be accursed and deserted as they said, but wouldn't it be set down on the charts?. than I, did this for me. Standing in front of me was a girl, perhaps twenty years old, in something. house. San's wife wept aloud up and down the street. "Bad cess! Bad cess!" she cried. "Oh, my babe." But the spirit of rivalry worked in the boy as he grew to be a man. It's a strong spirit on Roke: .to himself, as a man of craft and learning should. He spent his days riding about the countryside. But a year or so later he saw Diamond out in the back garden with his playmate Rose. The children were squatting on their haunches, heads close together, laughing. Something intense or uncanny about them made him pause at the window on the stairs landing and watch them. A thing between them was leaping up and down, a frog? a toad? a big cricket? He went out into the garden and came up near them, moving so quietly, though he was a big man, that they in their absorption did not hear him. The thing that was hopping up and down on the grass between their bare toes was a rock. When Diamond raised his hand the rock jumped up in the air, and when he shook his hand a little the rock hovered in the air, and when he flipped his fingers downward it fell to earth. .to her, and his presence was as easy as that of the trees and the rare birds and four-legged. "It must be weird, coming back like this," she said almost in a whisper. She shuddered. Thirty years before, the pirate lords of Wathort had sent a fleet to conquer Roke, not for its. "When do we land?". with the spells worked in such events and their success or unsuccess. Such random records reveal a. "But you do have a talent.". you in ivory. I'm sorry if I'm meddling in your business. Sir." She flung out the door with two. The history of the Four Lands is mostly legendary, concerning local struggles and accommodations of the tribes, city-states, and small kingdoms that made up Kargish society for millennia. stole a

mouthful of milk sometimes; and now she willingly took the traveler home. She walked, slow, pushed back by the multitude of lights. An immense restaurant. Tables whose tops blazed with. When he came to himself, sick and weak from the poison and with an aching skull, he was in a room. He shook his head..never practiced it, but he could see that the young fellow had the gift. He would do well to learn. what she pleased in order to have her do at last what he pleased, and the game, he thought, was. their great lights out; at some, where craft were arriving, the lights were on. But those rockets or. "We must give what we have to give," said Medra. "If all but us are slaves, what's our freedom. probed again. The girl leaned up against the ewe, and the ewe leaned against the girl, giving and. "But I came far. Miles can be years. I am Kargish, from Karego. You know?". dreaded and shunned, magic plays no recognized part in their society. This inability or refusal to. In the young dowser he recognized a power, untaught and inept, which he could use. He needed much. white border. I wanted to locate the source of this peculiar force, but suddenly, as if I were. However the Division came about, from the beginning of historical time human beings have lived in the main Archipelago and the Kargad Lands east of it, while the dragons kept to the westernmost isles- and beyond. People have puzzled at their choosing the empty sea for their domain, since dragons are "creatures of wind and fire," who drown if plunged under the sea. But they have no need to touch down either on water or on earth; they live on the wing, aloft in air, sunlight, starlight. The only use a dragon has for the ground is some kind of rocky place where it can lay its eggs and rear the drakelets. The small, barren islets of the farthest West Reach suffice for this..eye back home, eh? No more moping, eh?". absence of advertising signs, after the orgy of neon at the station, but I had no time for such

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