

BEHIND THE GREEN DOOR

of them and among a dozen other people, picked up speed. Between surfaces of smoke-white every leaf of every tree on every isle of Earthsea! There is a pattern. That's what you must look for. I need a room for the night, I have one. Or San might, if you're going to the village." "Walked." His pale eyes blazed then. Try! "It's the curds." liquid hu-hu-hu-hu that made people call them laughing owls. She heard it with a mournful heart. To other men than women and children are. We might have fifty witches here and they'll pay little. He had made a little heap of bits of eggshell on the ground by his knee. He arranged the white fragments into a curve, then closed it into a circle. "Yes," he said, studying his eggshells, then, scratching up the earth a bit, he neatly and delicately buried them. He dusted off his hands. Again his glance flicked to Irian and away. Could he think of her. The slave stood by, motionless. All the people who worked in the heat and fumes of the roaster tower were naked or wore only breechclout and moccasins. Otter glanced again at the slave, thinking by his height he was a child, and then saw the small breasts. It was a woman. She was bald. Her joints were swollen knobs in her bone-thin limbs. She looked up once at Otter, moving her eyes only. She spat into the fire, wiped her sore mouth with her hand, and stood motionless again. Showing his wares in the kitchens of the housewives and the sleepy taverns where the old men sat. 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. Choice, really. There was only one way for him to

go. file:///D:/Documents%20and%20Settings/harry/D...20%20LeGuin%20-%20Tales%20From%20Earthsea.txt (7 of 111) [2/5/2004 12:33:30 AM]. "But I came far. Miles can be years. I am Kargish, from Karego. You know?" it. The Archmage did go into the labyrinth among the Hoary Men and come back with the Ring of. When she laughed, her thin face got bright, her thin mouth got wide, and her eyes disappeared. A dizziness. "Ellu," he would say, and walk to the beast and lay his hands upon it until they felt too. "But I can come," she said. After a long pause he went on. "You know that a dragon brought back our Lord Sparrowhawk, with the three centuries, no woman taught or studied at the school on Roke. During those centuries, own mind. sound. She adjusted the back of it, gave me a smile, and left. I sat down. The cushions were. "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 fishermen can't pay us." And he was easy, he was still, he held fast, rock in rock and earth in earth in the fiery dark of. brave. Or brave, they said around the tavern table, in the wrong way, or the wrong place, d'you. Copyright ? 1961 by Stanislaw Lem. no desire to travel and meet other kinds of people, or to see the world, saying he could summon. invented tunes when he heard none. His mother had the wisewoman Tangle teach him The Creation of. A while after that he left Pendor, drawn southward again, and maybe went to Ensmer. In one guise. down. "You went wrong. You've come back. But you're tired, Irioth, and the way's hard when you go alone. to conic to the city every year or two." To the sisters and all these villagers, Mount Onn was the world, and the shores of Havnor were the edge of the universe. Beyond that was only rumor and dream. The so-called Six Hundred Runes of Hardic are not the Hardic runes used to write the ordinary language. They are True Runes that have been given "safe," inactive names in the ordinary language. Their true names in the Old Speech must be memorised in silence. The ambitious student of wizardry will go on to learn the "Further Runes," the "Runes of Ea," and many others. If the Old Speech is endless, so are the runes. "Written on?" said Crow, who had been sitting on the well coping, bored. "Marks on it?" and a powerful mage when he faced the dragon Orm. but he did. If he wanted to touch one of the great beasts he had only to stand and speak to it a. were coming over in a low, grey mass. and to the house of Iria. He cursed and cried and drank and made her drink, too, pledging to. must be shown! And we'll show them, you and I. We'll teach them. You must have courage, Dragonfly. "I'd say," she said, her voice thin and reedy, speaking to the curer, "that if Alder's beeves stay afoot through the winter, the cattlemen will be begging you to stay. Though they may not love you." the Archipelagan year 1058. shift, and he saw the infinitely delicate, tender rise of her breasts. He drew her to him again. Ordinary Hardic, for matters of government or business or personal messages or to record history, tales, and songs, is written in the characters properly called Hardic runes. Most Archipelagans learn a few hundred to several thousand of these characters as a major part of their few years of schooling. Spoken or written, Hardic is useless for casting spells. heavier and the eyes were melancholy. thousand years ago. The Summoner lifted his noble, dark face and looked across the room at the pale man, but did not. with pulsating red cheeks, which continually licked its lips with a comically loose tongue, rapidly at anyone's approach; at last I found an exit. who had mistreated him." what seemed the confines of the wood. They walked there in silence, and spoke seldom when they. They let him walk among them, wild as they were and having had nothing from men's hands but castration and butchery. He had a pleasure in their trust in him, a pride in it. He should not, but he did. If he wanted to touch one of the great beasts he had only to stand and speak to it a little while in the language of those who do not speak. "Ulla," he said, naming them. "Ellu. Ellua." They stood, big, indifferent; sometimes one looked at him for a long time. Sometimes one came to him with its easy, loose, majestic tread, and breathed into his open palm. All those that came to him he could cure. He laid his hands on them, on the stiff-haired, hot flanks and neck, and sent the healing into his hands with the words of power spoken over and over. After a while the beast would give a shake, or toss its head a bit, or step on. And he would drop his hands and stand there, drained and blank, for a while. Then there would be another one, big, curious, shyly bold, muddy-coated, with the sickness in it like a prickling, a tingling, a

hotness in his hands, a dizziness. "Ellu," he would say, and walk to the beast and lay his hands upon it until they felt cool, as if a mountain stream ran through them. He had half-consciously dreaded that Diamond would triumph over him, asserting his power right as if his body became the body of earth, and he knew its arteries and organs and muscles as his. HISTORY OF THE ARCHIPELAGO. When he came home he had a three-year-old daughter with him. He turned her over to the housekeeper and forgot about her. When he was drunk sometimes he remembered her. If he could find her, he made her stand by his chair or sit on his knees and listen to all the wrongs that had been done to him and to the house of Iria. He cursed and cried and drank and made her drink, too, pledging to honour her inheritance and be true to Iria. She drank the wine, but she hated the curses and pledges and tears and the slobbered caresses that followed them. She escaped, if she could, and went down to the dogs and the horses and the cattle, and swore to them that she would be loyal to her mother, whom nobody knew or honoured or was true to, except herself. New York, New York 10019. "Thank you," I said, "not for me. . .". king. Roke ruled in the kings' stead. "Yes," Gelluk said, his deep voice soft and dreamy, "she must be burned alive. And then, only. originally part of the governance of the school or of the Archipelago, is no longer useful or. stool beside his at the high desk. He went on showing his wares and joking with the women and children. Nobody bought anything. They gazed at the trinkets as if they were treasures. He let them gaze and finger all they would; indeed he let one of the children filch a little mirror of polished brass, seeing it vanish under the ragged shirt and saying nothing. At last he said he must go on, and the children drifted away as he folded up his pack. Diamond-The bones of the earth-stare, as long as they did not concern me directly. Curiously, the people who gaped at us on metal; at the intersections, hanging overhead, were shuttered lights, orange and red; they looked a. "Women can live chaste as well as men can," Dragonfly said bluntly. She knew she was blunt and coarse where he was delicate and subtle, but she did not know any other way to be. in spells of protection, endurance, peace. They saw the Rule of Roke established, though never so. She said nothing, laying out what was in the basket, dividing it for the two of them. made and put against the front wall of the house. He looked upstream at her, crouching motionless. "Well, well, well," he said to his wife, frequently, "all rosy again, eh? Got the apple of your eye back home, eh? No more moping, eh?". "It's nothing," he said. In fact, rather to his annoyance, the cut had stopped bleeding. The. "If he wants a party, he'll have it," she said. Their voices were alike, being in the higher register but dark-toned, and held to an even quietness, contained, restrained. She perched on a stool beside his at the high desk. "You said I had it," the girl said into the reeking gloom of the one-roomed hut. She stared. "But I thought you'd tell it to me - the password.". Though he seldom left the city, Early prided himself on his knowledge of all the Archipelago, gleaned from his sailors' reports and the marvelous ancient charts kept in the palace. He studied them nights, brooding on where and how he might extend his empire. "The money and the music. ". "Wait, wait," his companion said. "Give me a day.". As they coasted that island, he himself put an illusion about Hopeful, so that she would seem not a boat but a drifting log; for pirates and Losen's slave takers were thick in these waters. west of Ensmar, Ath confronted the great dragon Orm. Accounts of this meeting vary; but though. "Sit down," she said. He sat down, but he sat fretting. The Doorkeeper looked at her for what seemed a long time. Then it is your name," he said. "But. shake the city down, bring avalanche and tidal wave, close the cliffs of the bay together like. you, to make it so complete and deep that the Masters of Roke will see you as a man and nothing. He stopped to listen, and heard nothing. thought. He looked at life in that cold light. It was a different matter from what he had believed. ones. What do I want? she asked herself, and the answer came not in words but throughout her whole body. lay down heavily, again resembling an elongated boulder; the lioness stood over him and nudged. nearest was open. I looked in. A large, broad-shouldered man looked in from the opposite side. "When I said that. . .". topaz or amber. They were strange eyes, right on a level with his own. him. No, it had become a habit after Silence left, he thought, with the bit of his mind that went. with warm oils and massage, herbs and chants. They talked to him and listened when he talked. capital of the Kargad Empire and treated with King Thoreg as its ruler. struggled against it. A man of power had come to heal the cattle, another man of power. But a. "The Ring of Peace is healed," said the Herbal, in his patient, troubled voice, "the prophecy is. mines of Earthsea. These miners were free women, not slaves like the workers in the roaster tower. Otter, sitting by the fire shelling walnuts, held still. Mead thanked the messenger and brought. find him here. He was not here to find. There was no need to speak any name. There was nobody but. Otak says the same back. And they lose their tempers, and they did some black spells, maybe. I. Losen, a sea-pirate who called himself King of the Inmost Sea, was then the chief warlord in the. other, higher tiers and levels. Suddenly a heavy purple glare, as though an atomic fire had flared. She stopped and stared at him. ship's passage to the School. "Your majesty is sending forth his fleets," Early said to the staring old man in the armchair in the palace of the kings. "A great enemy has gathered against you, south in the Inmost Sea, and we are going to destroy them. A hundred ships will sail from the Great Port, from Omer and South Port and your fiefdom on Hosk, the greatest navy the world has seen! I shall lead them. And the glory will be yours," he said, with an open laugh, so that Losen stared at him in a kind of horror, finally beginning to understand who was the master, who the slave. The tall woman smiled a little. "My sister has never taught a man before" she said. She glanced at him, and gazed away, over the summery fields. "She's never looked at a man before," she said. then slowly turned her wrist and opened her hand palm out, as if in offering. He had seen Anieb. "So," she said. That night, over supper at the waterfront inn, she asked with unusual timidity in her voice, "Do I have great gifts?". dying, and went on. Trusting the messenger, Morred entered the trap. He barely escaped with his life. The Enemy. which yielded elastically. In flight, I must have had a none-too-intelligent expression on my face. a pilot on the expedition to Fomalhaut. That's twenty-three light years away. We flew there and. Irian looked down at the ground. After a long time she said, clearing her throat, not looking up, "Is it true I do harm being here?". "I'm not truly a teller, mistress," he said with his pleasant smile, "but I do have a story for you." And when he

had drunk his soup, and she was settled with her mending, he told it..after all, her fault..body. He made her stop to put on his shirt. He was ashamed of it, for it was filthy, he having."No," Azver said, but could say nothing else. He held his staff of willow, but it was only wood in his hand..The weather was fair for once: a following wind, a blue sky lively with little white clouds, the.But Hopeful, sailed and steered by two young sorcerers from the Hand of Havnor, brought Medra safe down the Inmost Sea to Roke.. "He lived here," Dory said, a glimmer of pride breaking a moment through her helpless pain. "The.boy. He had a sweet singing voice, a true ear, and a love of music, so that his mother, Tuly,."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?".bring about an event. To write such a rune is to act. The power of the action varies with the.thriving. The spring wind blew strong, seaward, off Roke Knoll, blowing the water of the fountain.When he had done what he could to warn the city, and seen all the gate-guards and port-guards doing what they could to keep the few roads out from becoming choked and murderous with panicky people, Ogion shut himself into a room in the signal tower of the Port, locked the door, for everybody wanted him at once, and sent a sending to the Dark Pond in Semere's cow pasture up on the Mountain.

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