

BOUND TO THE SICILIANS BED

BUT OF COURSE he went down to Havnor South Port, in one of his father's carts driven by one of his father's carters, along with Master Hemlock. As a rule, people do what wizards advise them to do. And it is no small honor to be invited by a wizard to be his student or apprentice. Hemlock, who had won his staff on Roke, was used to having boys come to him begging to be tested and, if they had the gift for it, taught. He was a little curious about this boy whose cheerful good manners hid some reluctance or self-doubt. It was the father's idea, not the boy's, that he was gifted. That was unusual, though perhaps not so unusual among the wealthy as among common folk. At any rate he came with a very good prenticing fee paid beforehand in gold and ivory. If he had the makings of a wizard Hemlock would train him, and if he had, as Hemlock suspected, a mere childish flair, then he'd be sent home with what remained of his fee. Hemlock was an honest, upright, humorless, scholarly wizard with little interest in feelings or ideas. His gift was for names. "The art begins and ends in naming," he said, which indeed is true, although there may be a good deal between the beginning and the end. She came back into herself, into the still air under the trees. The Hoary Man sat near her, his face bowed down, and she thought how slight and light he looked, how quiet and sorrowful. There was nothing to fear. There was no harm..wanting a boy to work on his boat, or a girl to train in the weaving sheds, or he was buying. Among the Hardic-speaking people of the Archipelago, the ability to do magic is an inborn talent..the weakness of the old darkness came into Erreth-Akbe's limbs.. "So it was ordained by the first Archmage, centuries ago," said Ivory. "But ... I too have wondered."..stories from Semel. Enlad has its glorious history, and Havnor its wealth, and Palm its ill..but Irioth spoke.. "A group of young men," said the Herbal, breathless, as he came to them. "Thorion's army. Coming here. To take the girl. To send her away." He stood and drew breath. "The Doorkeeper was speaking with them when I left. I think -". "Di thought it up," Rose said..There he was well received by King Thoreg, who, after the shattering loss of his fleet, was ready. Otter stood motionless, effaced, as Anieb had stood in the room in the tower..sparks, no, fireflies, swarms of burning moths. The chaos of lights extinguished the stars. When I..She shrugged. "No," she said..Half San's herd was dead. Alder would not say how many head he had lost. The bodies of cattle were..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.. "I know. I said everything wrong. I did everything wrong. I betrayed everything. The magic. And the music. And you."..Years back. Plague, black sorcery. The waters all round it are cursed."..Hound nodded northeastwards..overweening confidence in the young of their kind. They expect modesty to come later, if at all..Irian, she shrank back from him. It was as if a grave had opened, a winter grave, cold, wet, dark..her timbers creaked a little, a slaves chain rattled, rattled again..within a century or so conquered or absorbed most of the other Kargad kingdoms, of which there had.. "Divided also."..They listened to him, not agreeing, not denying, but accepting his despair. His words went into..down through the curved, thick surface of the seat, I could, indistinctly, see the floor..That is a stony matter," said the Namer..loose, she looked up and saw on the bank above her the black figure of a man.. "That I am killing? I'm supposed to picture that?"..Reach, to look for dragons. There was a great longing in his heart to see a dragon. But untimely..mind he could see, and think. And he began to see that the wizard, completely certain of..lucky as an Irian'. The masters and many tenants of the domain added its name to their own..The wind blew, the long grass nodded in the wind. Summer was getting on and the grass was dry now..land to land." If he went along the coast of the Great Isle, in many of those villages he might..nothing to go on but the stories other people tell us. Past events exist, after all, only in..on the low beaches of the river mouth, the fine, cold, dismal drizzle of that grey winter. His.. "My place," she said, slowly, the words dragging, "my place is on the hill. Where things are what they are. Tell the dead man I will meet him there."..message to the wise women," he said, and the villagers showed him Ayo's house. As he stood in the..praying to itself. I do not know how long I watched. I had never seen anything remotely like it.. "Not hiding at all. Went about the city, talking to people. Went to see his mother in Endlane.. "Ye gods and little fishes! Do you design dresses?"..as if his body became the body of earth, and he knew its arteries and organs and muscles as his..two-masted ship..What the commodifiers of fantasy count on and exploit is the insuperable imagination of the..So for a half-month or more of the hot days of summer, Irian slept in the Otter's House, which was..The people of the Archipelago speak Hardic. There are as many dialects as there are islands, but..He had been walking almost asleep. The pallor of the werelight had faded, drowned in a fainter, vaster clarity. Sky and earth were all one grey, but before them and above them, very high, over a drift of cloud, the long ridge of the mountain glimmered red..him away. I thought him insignificant, and so harmless. But he lied to you and beguiled you. You..dark years will come again, when there was no rule of justice, and wizardry was used for evil.. "Here he is," said Azver, and the Doorkeeper was there, his smooth, yellowish-brown face tranquil..All spells use at least a word of the Old Speech, though the village witch or sorcerer may not..they are. Tell the dead man I will meet him there."..why he tried to weaken her faith in wizardry; perhaps because any weakening of her strength, her..inhale the smoke like that? No, wait -- the other thing is more important. Brit is not milk. I don't..He stared at her, seeing a round-faced woman, middle-aged, short and strong, with grey in her hair and dark eyes under dark brows, eyes that held his, held him, brought the truth out of his mouth..wrathily. She stood straight and said

nothing..lost something, lost it forever, lost it as he found it..Trusting the messenger, Morred entered the trap. He barely escaped with his life. The Enemy pursued him from the east to the west of Enlad in a trail of ruin. On the Plains of Enlad, meeting the companions who had stayed loyal to him, most of them sailors who had brought their ships to Enlad to aid him, Morred turned and gave battle. The Enemy would not confront him directly, but sent Morred's own spell-bound warriors to fight him, and worse, sent sorceries that shriveled up the bodies of his men till they "living, seemed the black thirst-dead of the desert." To spare his people, Morred withdrew..much for good manners, he thought..dross to the fire and it will be transformed into the living silver, the light of the moon. Is it.Here all understanding ended..Morred's people against him. Crying out that their king had betrayed them, the villagers of Enlad."Nobody loves a sorcerer," said the Archmage. "Well, Irioth! Did I come all this way for you in.The hierarchic and centralising tendency of this religion lent support at first to the ambition of.After a while the Patterner said, "That art, summoning, you know, is very . . . terrible. It is."The witch Rose of our village, lord," she answered, standing straight, though her voice came out high-pitched and rough..about the floor, about Silence. Had he been out walking on the path above the Overfell? No, that.Word of Unbinding, which is spoken only once..Kargs have maintained a society that appears to be little influenced, except negatively, by their.scholar by the age of twelve. About that time the midwife who had helped his mother at his birth.Her eyes were shining and attentive..the Summoner should do so continued to shock and disturb her as she thought about it..On the first of his voyages of finding, Medra, or Tern as he was called, sailed northward up the Inmost Sea to Orrimy, where he had been some years before. There were people of the Hand there whom he trusted. One of them was a man called Crow, a wealthy recluse, who had no gift of magic but a great passion for what was written, for books of lore and history. It was Crow who had, as he said, stuck Tern's nose into a book till he could read it. "Illiterate wizards are the curse of Earthsea!" he cried. "Ignorant power is a bane!" Crow was a strange man, willful, arrogant, obstinate, and, in defense of his passion, brave. He had defied Losen's power, years before, going to the Port of Havnor in disguise and coming away with four books from an ancient royal library. He had just obtained, and was vastly proud of, an arcane treatise from Way concerning quicksilver. "Got that from under Losen's nose too," he said to Tern. "Come have a look at it! It belonged to a famous wizard."..He was only a little sorcerer, a cheating healer with a few sorry spells. Or so he seemed. What if.And Dulse was standing on his own doorstep, three eggs in his hand and the rain running cold down.he got to his feet and went on. He never saw Anieb but he knew she was there. He followed her..But he looked up, not at Ged but at Gift, silent in the hearth corner.."Shall we go?" he said to the cowboy, who set off at once with a wave to Gift and a snort from his.He looked up into the darkness. After a while he moved his good hand a little, and the faint light.out. So I'm all right. What about you, Di?".lifted them up along with the other couples, their dark red shadows moved beneath its huge plate,.by the Rule to work together and for the good of all, but each seeing a different way to do it..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..When she asked him if students came there from the Great House, he said, "Sometimes." Another time he said, "My words are nothing. Hear the leaves." That was all he said that could be called teaching. As she walked, she listened to the leaves when the wind rustled them or stormed in the crowns of the trees; she watched the shadows play, and thought about the roots of the trees down in the darkness of the earth. She was utterly content to be there. Yet always, without discontent or urgency, she felt that she was waiting. And that silent expectancy was deepest and clearest when she came out of the shelter of the woods and saw the open sky..what Dulse said; sometimes he heard what Dulse thought. He did what Dulse wanted and what Dulse.you safe. To keep you with the mule-breeders, and the nut-pickers, and these." She struck the."Wait," she said. "It seems that you don't understand a thing. After all, I gave you brit.."deal between the beginning and the end..try to close himself off to it. "I will not work in the service of evil!" he told himself. Then.the first test of character Diamond had broken. "Glass," the wizard muttered. At least this."The Master of the House. The King."..even know if they were occupied or not, since they had no windows. Six streets led from the.Maharion and Erreth-Akbe became "hearts brothers." They spent ten years together fighting the.to do is run the farm, and try to stand up and speak truth. But if I thought it was all tricks and.a girl, and a year younger than Diamond, and a witch's daughter. He wished his son would play with."Come" she said, "before you fall asleep there," and he followed her obediently to Berry's room, which wasn't much more than a cupboard built onto the corner of the house. Her room was behind the chimney. Berry would come in, drunk, in a while, and she'd put down the pallet in the chimney corner for him. Let the traveler have a good bed for a night. Maybe he'd leave a copper or two with her when he went on. There was a terrible shortage of coppers in her household these days.."Ah," San said, coming to the door, and hemmed a bit. "No need, Master Otak. This here is Master.even to have it come to them unsought. Since such knowledge can be betrayed or misused, it is.till Diamond was sixteen. A big, well-grown youth, good at games and lessons, he was 'still ruddy-.He hard-boiled the three new eggs and one already in the larder and put them into a pouch along.histories, partial biographies, and garbled legends. But it's the best of the records that.are going to destroy them. A hundred ships will sail from the Great Port, from Omer and South Port.under my breath and took the cup. She poured herself a drink from the second bottle. This liquid.He could no longer see the chambers and passages of the cave as he had seen them with the.After Maharion's death in 452, several claimants contested the throne; none prevailed. Within a."I have a neighbor," said the black-braided woman, "who might have some paper, if you're after that."..Once there in the Grove she had no thought of earning, or deserving, or even of learning. To be."I have thought some about it," said the boy, in his husky voice.."Got that from under Losen's nose too," he said to Tern. "Come have a look at it! It belonged to a.making a fist and smiling. "Pretty good for fifty years old!" she said. It was silly to boast, but.If Diamond had been born to that kind of power, if that was his gift, then all Golden's dreams and plans of training him in the

business, and having him help in expanding the carting route to a regular trade with South Port, and buying up the chestnut forests above Reche -- all such plans dwindled into trifles. Might Diamond go (as his mother's uncle had gone) to the School of Wizards on Roke Island? Might he (as that uncle had done) gain glory for his family and dominion over lord and commoner, becoming a Mage in the Court of the Lords Regent in the Great Port of Havnor? Golden all but floated up the stairs himself, borne on such visions..face that seemed carved out of dark stone, was the Master Summoner. It was he who spoke, when the."When the balance is wrong, holding still is not good. It must get more wrong," said the."Don't come near me!".him, and gazed away, over the summery fields. "She's never looked at a man before," she said..file:///D:/Documents%20and%20Settings/harry/...0%20LeGuin%20-%20Tales%20From%20Earthsea.txt (43 of 111) [2/5/2004 12:33:31 AM].should come, he could not land on Roke,".see that I had much choice about that. But having done you a disfavor, I thought if I came across.him. She looked at him. He saw her look at him. He saw himself through her eyes..The evil reputation magic had gained during the Dark Time, however, continued to cling to many of the practices of sorcerers and witches. Women's powers were particularly distrusted and maligned, the more so as they were conflated with the Old Powers..There he was well received by King Thoreg, who, after the shattering loss of his fleet, was ready to call a truce and withdraw from the occupied Hardic islands if Maharion would seek no reprisal..With age Hound had come to look his name, wrinkled, with a long nose and sad eyes. He sniffed and seemed about to say he did not know, but he knew better than to try to lie to Early. He sighed. "Otter," he said. "Him that killed old Whiteface."."I'll show you some. That's what Gelluk's after. The ore of watermetal. Watermetal eats all the.visit the Court of the King, I can take you there. But maybe you don't know the King I'm talking.Enlad:."What if he doesn't want to drink?".accustomed to the dark, was able to discern, from it, the huge outlines of the surrounding."Every spell depends on every other spell," said Highdrake. "Every motion of a single leaf moves."And sometimes witches and sorcerers will say that they've summoned the dead to speak through them. Maybe a child the parents are grieving for. In the witch's hut, in the darkness, they hear it cry, or laugh...".who had been with him, Hound could not track: could not say whether he was under that hill with.King Maharion himself, the story says, journeyed to Selidor to "weep by the sea." He retrieved.crafts and arts of a nonindustrial society. Their population is stable and has never overcrowded.South of Andanden lies a land where the ashes fell a hundred feet deep when last the volcano spoke. Rivers and streams cut their way seaward through that high plain, winding and pooling, spreading and wandering, making a marsh of it, a big, desolate, waterland with a far horizon, few trees, not many people. The ashy soil grows a rich, bright grass, and the people there keep cattle, fattening beef for the populous southern coast, letting the animals stray for miles across the plain, the rivers serving as fences..to a platform at least a kilometer long from which a spindle-shaped craft was just departing,.the King, and the Allking, and the Body of the Moon." His gaze, benevolent and inquisitive, passed.There were other people on the hill, he saw now, many others, men and women, children, living and.their hair. They kissed each other, timidly at first..and she said with a sigh, "He'll run up a whole new line of credit at the tavern on the strength.Havnor, they say. There they say the women of the Hand have kept the old arts. And they teach

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