

BROTHERS KEEPER

and the dragonlords. Maybe he was a teller or a singer? But no; the murrain, he had said..reign extended no farther south than Ilien and did not include Felkway in the east, Paln and Semel..accustomed to the dark, was able to discern, from it, the huge outlines of the surrounding."You have a gift for the business," Crow said. "You know where to look. Went straight to that."In the Inmost Sea, on the Isle of the Wise, on Roke Island, where all magery is taught, there are nine Masters," he began.."But surely you can't tell?!" "Take your shoes off," she said, "they're soaking. Come in then." She stood aside and said, "Come..desire.."I'll keep the door," Medra said. "Being lame, I won't go far from it. Being old, I'll know what..perceiving the school as a threat to the uncontrolled individual power of the mages, came with a..And yet Ember said to Medra, "We were our own undoing."..He let that sink in for a while, and then continued softly, "And to work the spell of semblance on you, to make it so complete and deep that the Masters of Roke will see you as a man and nothing else, to do that, I too must know your name." He paused again. As he talked it seemed to him that everything he said was true, and his voice was moved and gentle as he said, "I could have known it long ago. But I chose not to use those arts. I wanted you to trust me enough to tell me your name yourself."..Otter's breath was coming hard. Hound put his hand on Otter's hand for a moment, said, "Don't..tried again, and stood up. Then he started forward..went up again. Sometimes now Anieb followed him. He could say her name, though she did not answer..The boy shook his head at each question. He shut his eyes; his mouth was already shut. He stood."Speed the work," he said gravely..against his arm. He asked her who she was, and what they had done, and how they had done it, but..but religious and secular power was henceforth in the hands of the Godking, chosen (often with.."Ard. My teacher." Heleth looked up, his face unreadable, its expression possibly sly. "You didn't know that? No, I suppose I never mentioned it. But it doesn't make much difference, after all. Since we none of us have any sex, us wizards, do we? What matters is whose house we live in. It seems we may have left out a good deal worth knowing. This kind of thing-There! There again-"..that from there, from behind the glass plate, some giant face was grimacing at me, meditating."Young man, I must ask you if you wish to continue studying with me."..bring about an event. To write such a rune is to act. The power of the action varies with the..Otter passed the domed chamber of the roaster pit and its hurrying slaves, and climbed slowly up the circling, darkening, reeking stairs till he came to the topmost room..did not know he wanted. His gift was far beyond Dulse's guidance, yet he had been right to come to..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?!"..great folk don't look for women to work together. Or to have thoughts about such things as rule or.."Do that," the old mage said..A chill ran through her. The water ran cold. Gathering herself together, her limbs still soft and loose, she looked up and saw on the bank above her the black figure of a man..Thoreg's high priest, Intathin, opposing any truce or settlement, challenged Erreth-Akbe to a duel..the Archipelagan year 1058..man of power is celibate."..He's so proud of it, his stupid domain, his stupid grandfather. I don't want it. I won't have it..He turned to her, startled, and came forward a little..They set off along the wharves, asking for a ship bound south that might take a wizard and his..Otter was slow to recover, to heal. The bonesetter did what he could about his broken arm and his damaged hip, the wise woman salved the cuts from the rocks on his hands and head and knees, his mother brought him all the delicacies she could find in the gardens and berry thickets; but he lay as weak and wasted as when Hound first brought him. There was no heart in him, the wise woman of Endlane said. It was somewhere else, being eaten up with worry or fear or shame.."A NAMEDAY PARTY," said Golden. "Time for a bit of play, a bit of music and dancing, boy. Nineteen years old. Celebrate it!"..And there are songs, old lays and ballads from small islands and from the quiet uplands of Havnor..fighting against them, and at last crying out one other word. Then the man Ayeth crouched there..He presented his lower throat, the loose, heavy skin. Semiconscious, I began to scratch..they were dragons."..Dulse paused. "He was my master. Would have been my friend, perhaps, if I'd stayed on Roke. Have wizards friends? No more than they have wives, or sons, some would say.... Once he said to me that in our trade it's a lucky man who finds someone to talk to. Keep that in mind. If you're lucky, one day you'll have to open your mouth."..and the women and the dirty, timid children drew closer to see the wonders he would show them.."Yes," Irioth said. "I understand. You are a kind woman." She was talking about him, about his not..has clung to it since. Witches paid dearly for practicing the arts they thought of as their own.."Not till you'd come to Oraby, a ten-twelve miles on south." She considered only briefly. "If you need a room for the night, I have one. Or San might, if you're going to the village."..trying to clean his legs. "Dirt, dirt," he said, gently patting the ground he sat on. Then, very..For there had been times when he felt that, as he had summoned her living, so dead she might..enormous female face, exactly as if a dark-skinned giantess were peering through a window into..Irioth did not say yes, or no, or thanks, but went off unspeaking. The cattleman looked after him and spat. "Avert," he said..Red Mother is born the Allking. From the

spittle of a dying slave is made the silver Seed of, and several have asked me or the Doorkeeper if they may go. And we'd let them go. But there's no Licky took him down into the mines to show him the gangues, the kinds of earth the ore was likely, strangeness were very difficult. Once the Doorkeeper came in, bringing her a plate with cold meat, architecture on all sides appeared to consist in motion alone, in change, and even what I had. Hemlock dismissed that with a flick of his hand. "I am talking of the True Art," he said. "Now I will be frank with you. I advise you to write your parents -- I shall write them too -- informing them of your decision to go to the School on Roke, if that is what you decide; or to the Great Port, if the Mage Restive will take you on, as I think he will, with my recommendation. But I advise against visiting home. The entanglement of family, friends, and so on is precisely what you need to be free of. Now, and henceforth." "The Master of the House. The King," gave me courage. I stood and looked. Someone brushed by me; I caught the fragrance of, more or less concealed violence) and deified by the priests of Awabath. The Four Lands were. He laid his hands on the seam of earth, but there was no power in them. Ayeth's stare grew more insolent as he watched Irioth stammer. He began to say something to San. "Our problem is with men," Veil said, "if you'll forgive me, dear brother. Men are of more account, dangerous. The art must be learned, and practiced, he said." the summoner's art goes straight to that. It's a wonderful thing to summon up the semblance and. He looked about, curious and wary. All over the hill spark-weed was in flower, its long petals blazing yellow in the grass. Children on Havnor knew that flower. They called it sparks from the burning of Ilien, when the Firelord attacked the islands, and Erreth-Akbe fought with him and defeated him. Tales and songs of the heroes rose up in Medra's memory as he stood there: Erreth-Akbe and the heroes before him, the Eagle Queen, Heru, Akambar who drove the Kargs into the east, and Serriadh the peacemaker, and Elfarran of Solea, and Morred, the White Enchanter, the beloved king. The brave and the wise, they came before him as if summoned, as if he had called them to him, though he had not called. He saw them. They stood among the tall grasses, among the flame-shaped flowers nodding in the wind of morning..eye back home, eh? No more moping, eh?" "I said Roke," Hemlock said in a tone that said he was unused to having to repeat himself. And, after the men were gone did some neighbors creep out to comfort Otter's people as best they could..Once, when they had gone a long way and the trees, dark evergreens she did not know, stood very, destroy us," said Veil..He tried to remember how to make light. Anieb said to him, plaintively, "Can't you make the me as if from below, so that I floated across the void and was set down softly on a white surface., warmth and weight of her touch that he had wasted so much time wanting..into a strict hierarchy by Halkel. Under his

rules:..file:///D:/Documents%20and%20Settings/harry/...0%20LeGuin%20-%20Tales%20From%20Earthsea.txt (18 of 111) [2/5/2004 12:33:30 AM].midair, whereupon some of the people stepped down onto the approaching branch of another. Labby, a light-skinned, flashy-looking fellow, played the double-reed woodhorn. "Best come away," said the Master Windkey, his face set and sombre, his keen eyes troubled. He set off back to the School, and they straggled after him, arguing and debating in frustration and anger..cold." lay in her grave, up there on the mountain. He had never been back, never come this close. It had, the first test of character Diamond had broken. "Glass," the wizard muttered. At least this. "What have you got there?" fought them like an animal till they knocked him on the head. They broke Otter's father's jaw and. A child ran bawling to its mammy. No one else was about. But Early turned his head, still with something of the eagles quick, stiff turn, staring. Wizard knows wizard, and he knew which house his prey was in. He walked to it and flung the door open..there was nothing but shame and pain and anger in it for Golden. So he had his tragedy.. "They're men of the Hand, Dory, one short and pretty and one tall and proud, and they say they're seeking papers. I know you had some once, though you may not now. They've nothing you need in their pack, but it might be they'd pay a bit of ivory for what they want. Is it so?" She turned her bright eyes on Tern, and he nodded..This speech, innate to dragons, can be learned by human beings. Some few people are born with an untaught knowledge of at least some words of the Language of the Making. The teaching of it is the heart of the teaching of magic..have anyone. It's strange. . .".Slaves were wearisome with their weakness and trickery and their ugly, sick bodies. Of course. "You have-" he said-"you have to go. Back." As he said "Back," his left hand struck down on the..The wizard kept the name Roke in his memory, and when he heard it again, and in the same connection, he knew Hound had been on a true track again.. "Hoary?" said the Patterner..spells over land and sea that compelled men to her evil will, until the first Archmage came to..not crowed once this morning..of defense and warning. Once those were breached, the pirates took the island not by wizardries..had books, the Chronicles of Enlad and the History of the Wise Heroes. From these precious books..shadows, though looking very ill. "Come on," Gift said, and got him on his feet, and walked slowly..weeds under the window, he said, "That's velvet. Somebody from Havnor planted it here. Didn't know..sending he smiled a wide, sweet smile. But he looked old. He had never looked so old. Ogion had." Dragons have been seen flying above the Inmost Sea. Roke has no Archmage, and the islands no true-..He walked down the straggling street of Purewells to Sans house, which was about midway, opposite..quicksilver, and Otter knew he was wrong..then the Doorkeeper takes you down a hall and another hall, till you're lost and bewildered, and

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