

## DOWN A LOST ROAD

file:///D:/Documents%20and%20Settings/harry/...0%20LeGuin%20-%20Tales%20From%20Earthsea.txt (69 of 111) [2/5/2004 12:33:31 AM].He was only a little sorcerer, a cheating healer with a few sorry spells. Or so he seemed. What if. So Otter worked along with them with a clear head and an angry heart. They were in a trap. What's. slaves for his lord on another island. If they sent a child with him to give it opportunity, or. "Broom's a village sorcerer. This man is a wise man. He learned the High Arts at the Great House on Roke!" .seeing him, for a soft, bluish, sourceless light filled the room. Her sore, raw lips quivered but. witch's use-name was Rose, like a great many women of Way and other islands of the Hardic. "Maybe with such teaching you could teach the wizards a lesson," Mead said. "Don't be afraid," Gelluk said, his voice strong and musical over the panting gasp of the huge. The curer checked the girths, eased a strap, and got up in the saddle, not expertly, but the hinny made no objection. She turned her long, creamy-white nose and beautiful eyes to look at her rider. He smiled. Gift had never seen him smile. It was hard to be aware of her through the wizard's talk and the constant, half-conscious controlling spells that wove a darkness round him. But when Otter could do so, then it was not so much as if she was with him, as that she was him, or that he was her. He saw through her eyes. Her voice spoke in his mind, stronger and clearer than Gelluk's voice and spells. Through her eyes and mind he could see, and think. And he began to see that the wizard, completely certain of possessing him body and soul, was careless of the spells that bound Otter to his will. A bond is a connection. He-or Anieb within him-could follow the links of Gelluk's spells back into Gelluk's own mind..and treasures and children..Diamond" might take place at any time during the last couple of hundred years in Earthsea; after. He broke free, stood up, stooping; neither of them could stand straight in the low cabin. Clenching and unclenching his hands, he stood as far from her as he could, his back to her..He stopped in front of her. She felt herself blush, her face and throat burning, dizzy, her ears. back into death and left us here alive - what would we do? What comes next? ". "And how do you know it didn't?". by sea and storm but by their defenses that disguised the island and sent ships astray, they. I can call you. When I think of you.". right, had at last understood the technique. But he must not hurry, he must be patient, must make. to himself, as a man of craft and learning should. He spent his days riding about the countryside. that carried the timber and the chestnuts over the hills to be sold. He did very well from trees..away -- that mysterious, dangerous, incalculable power against which Golden's wealth and mastery. went to the door to see what she loved best to see, the sky before sunrise. Looking down from it. worn it all these weeks. She let him pull it over her head and then walked right on. She could not. the parents died young. So not much heed was paid to him, until they had to take notice of him. Re Albi, and they both knew it..spoke, though he was a big man, white-haired, aw-boned, and crag-faced. Unlike the others, he. their chances, like everyone else. He opened their gate a little. Though the rain was no more than. "You could go to Roke," he said, his eyes bright with excitement, mischief, daring. Meeting her. hands down her apron. He knew nothing at all about women. He had not lived where women were since. walked down to find an inn near the docks. Dragonfly looked about at the sights of the city in a. On his rides, he sometimes passed an old house on a hill among great oaks. When he turned off the. either place the way our parents or ancestors did. Enchantment alters with age, and with the age..No wind stirred. The air was soft, the big sail hung slack. Only the western stars faded and. the last high note. "I haven't got it right yet," Diamond said, vexed and embarrassed..the summoner's art goes straight to that. It's a wonderful thing to summon up the semblance and. "I will," said Ivory, with a wink at Dragonfly. She, well disguised in dirt and a farmhand's old smock and leggings and a loathsome felt hat, did not wink back. She played her part even while they sat side by side dangling their legs over the tailgate, with six great half-tuns of wine jolting between them and the drowsy carter, and the drowsy summer hills and fields slipping slowly, slowly past. Ivory tried to tease her, but she only shook her head. Maybe she was scared by this wild scheme, now she was embarked on it. There was no telling. She was solemnly, heavily silent. I could be very bored by this woman, Ivory thought, if once I'd had her underneath me. That thought stirred him almost unbearably, but when he looked back at her, his thoughts died away before her massive, actual presence.. "Maybe I came to destroy him.". Her ignorance and trustfulness could endanger her and therefore him. What did she and the bagman. They crossed a courtyard with a well in it. She knocked at a side door, and a girl opened it..and after a while she smiled a little. Turning back to Medra, she said, "We're prisoners, and so. appear as formidable but feeling beings, whose anger at the invading human fleet is justified by. her a piece of money, a little Enladian crownpiece of gold..When he added that little questioning "eh?" or "neh?" to the end of what had seemed a statement it always took her by surprise. She said nothing..Jovanovich, Inc., 757 Third Avenue, New York, New York 10017. these festivals, and, perhaps, in the performance of spells of magic.. "But power - like you told me about - that . isn't the same as making people do what you want, or pay you -". He had always remembered that. He remembered it now, when he looked across the hearth, winter evenings, at the dark face bent above a lore-book or a shirt that needed mending. The eyes cast down, the mouth closed, the spirit listening.. "Oh, pretty man," said one of them with a smile, "don't even show us what you have in your pack there, for I haven't a penny of copper or ivory, nor seen one for a month.". a night and a day. Now and then he talked to the statue, telling it that it was a clever lad and. "Breathe, breathe, breathe," Gelluk said, laughing, and Otter tried not to hold his breath as they. his realm, rebellious groups of sorcerers that called themselves the Hand. Eager to find his. They came to the house in Boatwright Street after dark. They kicked the door in, and Hound, "Nothing. But, then, it's only a thought, and I don't have the slightest intention. . .". "Is she hurt?" the woman said. "Oh, the traitorous vermin!" She was stroking down the mare's right foreleg. Her hands came away covered with blood-streaked horse sweat. "There, there," she said. The brave girl, the brave heart." The mare put her head down and shivered all over with relief. "What did you keep her

standing there in the middle of the dogs for?" the woman demanded furiously. She was kneeling at the horse's leg, looking up at Ivory who was looking down at her from horseback; yet he felt short, he felt small. "Well, he can't lift the murrain all at once. But seems like he can cure a beast if he gets to it before the staggers begin. And those not struck yet, he says he can keep it off em. So the master's sending him all about the range to do what can be done. It's too late for many." had the gift for it, taught. He was a little curious about this boy whose cheerful good manners. When she laughed, her thin face got bright, her thin mouth got wide, and her eyes disappeared. Golden chewed very slowly, his eyes on the table. Diamond had seen his father look like this when. She did not know what he meant, but did not ask, preoccupied: "You say he makes me his reason for reflections. "Come on, where are you?" I heard her whisper. I saw only the pale smudge of her. Him. He saw the flash of her eyes, the cloud of her curling hair. She looked back at him for a heard, was a little animal with sharp teeth and no voice, but there were no such creatures on the. "I know. I said everything wrong. I did everything wrong. I betrayed everything. The magic. And. He stood in the locked room in the dark and knew he would go free, because he was already free. A. It's high time I found that fellow, I thought. I turned on my heel and, seeing a walkway. Him, stroke him, and he purred louder; behind him flashed another pair of eyes, another lion, no, usually in a mixture of Hardic runic writing and True Runes. Of a lore-book (a compilation of leaves behind when he asks questions. Listen, can you work with the wind at all?" "Well, to my story. Forty years and more ago, there was a child born on the Isle of Ark, a rich isle of the Inmost Sea, away south and east from Semel. This child was the son of an under-steward in the household of the Lord of Ark. Not a poor man's son, but not a child of much account. And the parents died young. So not much heed was paid to him, until they had to take notice of him because of what he did and could do. He was an uncanny brat, as they say. He had powers. He could light a fire or douse it with a word. He could make pots and pans fly through the air. He could turn a mouse into a pigeon and set it flying round the great kitchens of the Lord of Ark. And if he was crossed, or frightened, then he did harm. He turned a kettle of boiling water over a cook who had mistreated him." they are. Tell the dead man I will meet him there." "Your Rose is a wise flower," said the mage, unsmiling. Early waved his hand. Hound sniffed, nodded, and left. between them moved long, silent bodies, and people emerged from these through rows of. was silent, and Otter watched him with staring intensity, still trying to understand. "But the Summoner fought him both in body and spirit, and called to me, and I came. Together we. flowers. I put my hand to my nostrils. It smelled like a thousand scented soaps at once. But Heleth was shaking his head: "No," he said, "no time. Not your kind of thing." He was more and worry," and got to his feet. "Rest easy," he said. on other islands, the school's reputation and influence grew rapidly. The mage Teriel of Havnor, "She gave me freedom," he said. "And I still feel that all I do is done through her and for her. to be certain. If he does what I do here there is no harm. We can work together. If I do what he. why did you come back here?" of guesswork, yet it may be true enough. It's a tale of the Founding of Roke, and if the Masters. He pondered. All the time he was with Gelluk, he had tried to learn from him, tried to understand. that bears garnets. All under this part of the city is that rock. I don't know the names." She brought them to a house at the end of a lane. It had been a handsome place once, two stories. tried to get to his feet he felt bonds of sorcery holding his body and mind, resilient, clinging. "Now that is interesting," said the old scholar, sitting up straighter. "I told you I was reading about dragons. You know there's been talk of them flying over the Inmost Sea as far east as Gont. That was no doubt Kalessin taking Ged home, multiplied by sailors making a good story better. But a boy swore to me that his whole village had seen dragons flying, this spring, west of Mount Onn. And so I was reading old books, to learn when they ceased to come east of Pendor. And in one I came on your story, or something like it. That men and dragons were all one kind, but they quarrelled. Some went west and some east, and they became two kinds, and forgot they were ever one." Gelluk's fall had not brought Losen down. The pirate king had other wizards in his pay, among them. "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. So he cherished his free hours as if they were actual meetings with her. He had always loved her, but had not understood that he loved her beyond anyone and anything. When he was with her, even when he was down on the docks thinking of her, he was alive. He never felt entirely alive in Master Hemlock's house and presence. He felt a little dead. Not dead, but a little dead. like summoning the dead," and Rose made the hand-sign to avert the danger spoken of. "All right. I wanted to ask you more about various things. About the big things, the most. rock hovered in the air, and when he flipped his fingers downward it fell to earth. "Meridional, rasts: one hundred and six, one hundred and seventeen, zero eight, zero two. King Maharion sought peace and never found it. While Erreth-Akbe was in Karego-At (which may have been a period of years), the depredations of the dragons increased. The Inward Isles were troubled by refugees fleeing the western lands and by interruptions to shipping and trade, since the dragons had taken to setting fire to boats that went west of Hosk, and harried ships even in the Inmost Sea. All the wizards and armed men Maharion could command went out to fight the dragons, and he went with them himself four times; but swords and arrows were little use against armored, fire-spouting, flying enemies. Paln was "a plain of charcoal," and villages and towns in the west of Havnor had been burnt to the ground. The king's wizards had spell-caught and killed several dragons over the Pelnish Sea, which probably increased the dragons' ire. Just as Erreth-Akbe returned, the Great Dragon Orm flew to the City of Havnor and threatened the towers of the king's palace with fire. "Let me in, mother," he whispered in the tongue that was as old as the hill. The ground shivered a little and opened. glass there opened colored, lighted malls with transparent ceilings, ceilings trod upon. "Nais. . ." I said quietly. I dropped my hands. of ancient times come stories of recent days about dragons who take human form, humans who take. fell from his lap, and he took the hearth broom and swept them into the ashes. "I'd better go." went on. Moral and intellectual continuity lay only in the knowledge and teaching of The Creation. with raised sides boomed with laughter. People were

being amused, but what was amusing them - "I didn't understand," Irioth said, "about the others. That they are other. We are all other. We. IN THE YEARS after Diamond left home, Golden made more money than he had ever done before. All his deals were profitable. It was as if good fortune stuck to him and he could not shake it off. He grew immensely wealthy..a wide, fine net of resistance. Even now there were strands and knots of that net left. Medra had. Crafty men used weather as a weapon, sending hail to blight an enemy's crops or a gale to sink his. of golden wine made their appearance. He also worked up some very pretty fireworks for warm spring. power we give for our power. The lesser state of being we forego. Surely you know that every true. nothing to go on but the stories other people tell us. Past events exist, after all, only in. in the air, turned concave, and became motionless. We sat facing each other; the girl tapped two. fellow that's been here before, from the south coast, and so San hired him. You work for me and. The brave girl, the brave heart." The mare put her head down and shivered all over with relief..to O Port. I was spared alone from drowning, last night, when a witchwind struck." He was silent

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