

## LA CHARITI POIME

on the edge of twilight, a low wall of stones. And as he looked he thought he saw a woman walking. patrols south of Omer, running a stolen fishing boat with the magewind. The patrol caught them. passage. house and an old plum tree was a wash line, the clothes pinned on it flapping in the sunny breeze. eyes. If there were any spells woven about that hill or the bay he now saw opening before it, they. and therefore ask you to let the witch go, and peace return. Still no one paid attention to them, as if a charm of protection were on them. They walked down. Isle of Way by one of Losen's raiders, Gelluk had become indifferent to most of the arts he had. and banish darkness from the islands forever. The Firelord took dragon form to fight Erreth-Akbe. "Thank you, Father," the boy said. Golden embraced him and left, well pleased with him. young men. Secret meetings, inner circles. Rumors, whispers. The younger students are frightened. Scattered references and tales from Gont and the Reaches, passages of sacred history in the Kargad Lands and of arcane mystery in the Lore of Paln, long ignored by the scholars of Roke, relate that in the earliest days dragons and human beings were all one kind. Eventually these dragon-people separated into two kinds of being, incompatible in their habits and desires. Perhaps a long geographical separation caused a gradual natural divergence, a differentiation of species. The Pelnish Lore and the Kargish legends maintain that the separation was deliberate, made by an agreement known as *verw nadan*, *Vedurnan*, the Division. looked up at her face. No thought was clear in her mind, but words repeated themselves: I could go. "Another?" I asked, when she had finished hers. She smiled, shaking her head. On the. He asked her to stay, he did not tell her to. All she could do was nod. deep shadows. Low armchairs, a black liquid with green foam in glasses, lanterns that spilled tiny. a little afraid of him. But Otter's distress was too great and his training too slight for him to. "Ran away! Why?" those they hired were in truth slaves, having only their masters to safeguard them from rival. crown to their son Maharion. In a whisper the witch said, "Woman, be named. You are Irian." file:///D:/Documents%20and%20Settings/harry/...0%20LeGuin%20-%20Tales%20From%20Earthsea.txt (62 of 111) [2/5/2004 12:33:31 AM]. Only the Doorkeeper answered. He said, "I think we should go to our House, and open its doors." "Nais. How old are you?" them, he knew. It had come with her. could not find one and did not even attempt to look. I lay down on the foamy carpet and. The tall man in his tall hat suddenly sat down on the dirt beside Otter, quite close to him. His breath smelled earthy. His light eyes gazed directly into Otter's eyes. "Would you like to know? You can know anything you like. I need have no secrets from you. Nor you from me," and he laughed, not threateningly, but with pleasure. He gazed at Otter again, his large, white face smooth and thoughtful. "Powers you have, yes, all kinds of little traits and tricks. A clever lad. But not too clever; that's good. Not too clever to learn, like some... I'll teach you, if you like. Do you like learning? Do you like knowledge? Would you like to know the name we call the King when he's all alone in his brightness in his courts of stone? His name is *Turres*. Do you know that name? It's a word in the language of the *Alking*. His own name in his own language. In our base tongue we would say *Semen*." He smiled again and patted Otter's hand. "For he is the seed and fructifier. The seed and source of might and right. You'll see. You'll see. Come along! Come along! Let's go see the King flying among his subjects, gathering himself from them!" And he stood up, supple and sudden, taking Otter's hand in his and pulling him to his feet with startling strength. He was laughing with excitement. The wind rattled the dry leaves on the scrub-oak bushes. The sun was behind the hill, and clouds. the Language of the Making. But this may not be so, since the dragons do not use them, and if they. "But why-?" "Not by chance." "It hasn't been changed," he said, but he knew that was not what she meant. "I'm sorry," he said. "If I stayed a month, if I stayed the winter, would that use it up? I should have a place to stay, while I work with the beasts." regret her rash invitation, and I wanted to make things easy for her. "Years back. Plague, black sorcery. The waters all round it are cursed." The *Patterner* never came to her much before noon, so she had the mornings free. She was used to. glass there opened colored, lighted malls with transparent ceilings, ceilings trod upon. in front of large, glowing windows and the fiery letters *ALCARON HOTEL*. "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." I. Iria. What we know is the doorway between them. "Simply as I protect myself," the wizard said; and after a moment, testily, "The bargain, boy. The. "No, I'm sorry, there's my lodger, and my brother, and me. Maybe *San*, in the village-". Early did not punish *Hound* for his failure, but he remembered it. He was not used to failures and did not like them. He did not like what *Hound* told him about this boy, Otter, and he remembered it. It was as strangely quiet as the farmlands. Not a voice, not a face. It was difficult to feel. He drew back, staring, and made a fierce motion of his hand that brushed away the stream in a. "First we must settle the matter that divides us," said the *Windkey*. to be in one place on the isle and sometimes in another, were the oldest trees in the world, and. won't as can't. I thought of making plugs in the planking of that galley, near the keel-you know. you are, fire and shadows and curses and falling down in fits. Uncanny. Always was uncanny, that. He did not ask if Otter was picking up any sign of the ore; he did not ask whether he was seeking the ore or pretending to seek it. Otter himself could not have answered the question. In these aimless wanderings the knowledge of the underground would enter him as it used to do, and he would try to close himself off to it. "I will not work in the service of evil!" he told himself. Then the summer air and light would soften him, and his tough, bare soles would feel the dry grass under them, and he would know that under the roots of the grass a stream crept through dark earth, seeping over a wide ledge of rock layered with sheets of mica, and under that ledge was a cavern, and in its walls were thin, crimson, crumbling beds of *cinnabar*... He made no sign. He thought that maybe the map of the earth underfoot that was forming in his mind could be put to some good use, if he could find how to do it. "Dragons have been seen flying above the *Inmost Sea*. *Roke* has no *Archmage*, and the

islands no true-crowned king. There is real work to do," the Summoner said, and his voice too was like stone, cold and heavy. "When will we do it?" Hound told me that you're a lad of promise and might go far with a proper guide. If you'd like to. "Do you?" asked the man in the red tunic, smiling a little. He was glad to see the sorcerer uneasy too, standing by the helmsman, keeping a watch up on the masthead, taking in sail at the hint of a west wind. But the wind held steady from the north. A thunder-squall came pelting on that wind, and Ivory went down to the cabin, but Dragonfly stayed up on deck. She was afraid of the water, she had told him. She could not swim; she said, "Drowning must be a horrible thing - not to breathe the air." She had shuddered at the thought. It was the only fear she had ever shown of anything. But she disliked the low, cramped cabin, and had stayed on deck every day and slept there on the warm nights. Ivory had not tried to coax her into the cabin. He knew now that coaxing was no good. To have her he must master her; and that he would do, if only they could come to Roke. have been seven or eight; the mother was a cook at a waterfront inn. At twelve the boy had got people, Morred withdrew. A tale of the Vedurnan or Division, known in Hur-at-Hur, says: slip, forget. That was not his language. say there's been snow." save him. up and got to her feet, looking dull and dazed. They were standing around her, a kind of guard. After him Otter climbed the winding stairs, broad at first but growing tight and narrow, passing vapor chambers with red-hot ovens whose vents led up to refining rooms where the soot from the burnt ore was scraped down by naked slaves and shoveled into ovens to be burnt again. They came to the topmost room. Gelluk said to the single slave crouching at the rim of the shaft, "Show me the King!" her hand in his, and her cheek, warm-cool, silken-gritty, lay against his mouth. In his mind he. Doorkeeper for a moment. All his notions of humiliating the Masters as they had humiliated him. sweet golden wine. "Wine of the Andrades," said the young man with a modest, complacent smile. By. in the household of the Lord of Ark. Not a poor man's son, but not a child of much account. And. "All under here's worked out long since" Licky said. And Otter had begun to be aware of the. it. "Rose hesitated and then spoke less angrily, more coldly: 'If you want the power to betray me, "Master Hand," said the Doorkeeper, "she asked to enter as a student, and I saw no reason to deny her." earth in his hands, rolled the dirt in his palms, kneading, testing, tasting it. For that time he. could see, behind a small glass pane in the center, the glow of its transistorized heart. "Not hiding at all. Went about the city, talking to people. Went to see his mother in Endlane, round the mountain. He's there now." and fifty-seven. . . ". Printed on narrow sands under granite cliffs, in the first light, were the tracks of a bird alighting. From them led the tracks of a man walking, straying up the beach for a long way as it narrowed between the cliffs and the sea. Then the tracks ceased. darkness over a glittering roof. Under the roof is the House of the King. The roof stands high. Gelluk was standing still, but his shaking hands were clenched, his whole tall body twitching and trembling, like a hound that wants to chase but cannot find the scent. He was at a loss. There was the hillside with its grass and bushes in the last of the sunlight, but there was no entrance. Grass growing out of gravelly dirt; the seamless earth. Tarry came back with his band in an hour or so, ungrateful for the respite and much the worse for. far and wide. before what happened to him happened. And he wasn't so mad as all that. Mad in patches, mad at. he said. "And send the ships out of the bay. What is it you feel? How do you feel it?" expression. "Emer," he said, and closed his eyes again. him away. I thought him insignificant, and so harmless. But he lied to you and beguiled you. You. before her massive, actual presence. for the Hardic language. This writing does not affect reality any more than any writing does; that. "I thought that that would. . . suit you." He slept there, on the ground. At sunrise he got up and walked by the high road over to Re Albi. He did not go into the village, but past it to the little house that stood alone to the north at the beginning of the Overfell. The door of the house stood open. "What, then? Movies? Theater?" He nodded. "Left myself halfway," he said. He looked up; the Patterner was coming towards them. looks like nothing at all from outside, as you come to it in a dingy street; or you can go in the. then lit up, as if by a momentary dawn. Farther on, long, low silhouettes sailed past, much like. bench beside her door and set the spindle turning. She had spun a yard of grey-brown yarn before. Diamond thought his father meant the business -- the loggers, the sawyers, the sawmill, the. you'll be paid well. Better than copper, maybe, if the beasts fare well!" outer courts. . . Why is it so? Are all women incapable of understanding? Or is it that the Masters. all he had learned about Roke was that the Hand was there, and a school where they taught. cultivation and discipline, which another man can give you better than I can." So does modesty. "In the Inmost Sea, on the Isle of the Wise, on Roke Island, where all magery is taught, there are. know how to teach her. There are no teachers left on the mountain. King Losen's wizards destroy. and lodging, for a wizard of Roke should not take advantage of people's willingness to give him. Great House. I know it." Next we came to a moving walkway; we stood on it, a strange pair; lights swam by; now. hers and smiled at him, a smile so tender and radiant that he said spontaneously, "And may what." As long as I like." The wizard started forward all at once, his eyes blazing, and cried, "Open to the King's name! I." And no friends?" He swept out the dust and leaves that had blown in the open door across the polished wood. He set Heleth's mattress and blanket in the sun to air. "I'll stay here a while," he thought. "It's a good house." After a while he thought, "I might keep some goats." Havnor, they say. There they say the women of the Hand have kept the old arts. And they teach. "Mages can do more than that," the girl said. Slavery was common to many of these states, and a stricter social caste system and gender. cool of it rising between his toes. He still like to go barefoot, but no longer enjoyed mud; it. thoughtful. "Powers you have, yes, all kinds of little traits and tricks. A clever lad. But not

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