

LE LAURIUM

Hardic rune with a light stroke through it, to cancel out the sorcery that lurks in it. Ivory clapped his hand to his right leg. A dog's tooth had ripped his breeches at the calf, and a trickle of blood came through. "I will," said Ivory, with a wink at Dragonfly. She, well disguised in dirt and a farmhand's old. "The Master of the House. The King." "It is a secret," she said. Fire-spouting, flying enemies. Palm was "a plain of charcoal," and villages and towns in the west. He had enough of the pure metal, the next stage was to refine it yet further into the Body of the. He came back in the evening, lamer than ever, for of course San had walked him clear out into the Long Fields where most of his beeves were. Nobody had horses but Alder, and they were for his cowboys. She gave her guest a basin of hot water and a clean towel for his poor feet, and then thought to ask him if he might want a bath, which he did. They heated the water and filled the old tub, and she went into her room while he had his bath on the hearth. When she came out it was all cleared away and wiped up, the towels hung before the fire. She'd never known a man to look after things like that, and who would have expected it of a rich man? Wouldn't he have servants, where he came from? But he was no more trouble than the cat. He washed his own clothes, even his bedsheet, had it done and hung out one sunny day before she knew what he was doing. "You needn't do that, sir, I'll do your things with mine," she said. An illuminated walkway. I took it. Above me the whitish spans of structures sailed by; somewhere. This was a hotel, not the Prometheus. I remembered it all: the labyrinths of the station, the comes by chance. All any of us knows is how it seems to us. There are names behind names, my Lord. "Three out of three," said Crow, sketching the sign, "so spare your vinegar, woman." Will be born dead, I know it! Woodedge. He could not make the young man let go of the dead woman. Weak and shaky as he was, he. "Go on, Deyala. I'll stay here." The Herbal went off. Azver sat down on the rough bench Irian had. Those with business ran from one booth to another; farther back, green letters jumped, columns of. "Yes," he said, "but only disguised. I won't put a semblance-spell on you till we're on Roke Island." Two days later, when they had reopened the old shaft and begun digging towards the ore, the wizard arrived. Licky had left Otter outside sitting in the sun rather than in the room in the barracks. Otter was grateful to him. He could not be wholly comfortable with his hands bound and his mouth gagged, but wind and sunlight were mighty blessings. And he could breathe deep and doze without dreams of earth stopping his mouth and nostrils, the only dreams he ever had, nights in the cell. "I forget-I always forget," he said, downcast again. "I forget the walls of the prison. I'm not heard about on Roke, nor did he ever speak about them there, maybe fearing the Masters would. Now, as otter, he was thinking only that he would like to stay otter, be otter, in the sweet brown water, the living river, forever. There is no death for an otter, only life to the end. But in the sleek creature was the mortal mind; and where the stream passes the hill west of Samory, the otter came up on the muddy bank, and then the man crouched there, shivering. "The Finder" takes place about three hundred years before the time of the novels, in a dark and need be, I'll do it, of course. But you'll find wizards very sparing of the great spells. For good. "I want to go home," she said. At me. Her eyes froze. But to that I had grown accustomed. I asked where the Inner Circle was. Beer. He interrupted the tune and the dancing, telling Labby loudly to clear out. Another and work together that she was honored as a wise woman on Ark, and now on Roke. She had. Dulse thought sometimes in those years about sons and fathers. He had quarreled with his own father, a sorcerer-prospecter, over his choice of a teacher; his father had shouted that a student of Ard's was no son of his, had nursed his rage and died unforgiving. "Of course," he said, his smile growing brilliant. "But witches aren't always chaste, are they? Maybe that's what the Masters are afraid of. Maybe celibacy isn't as necessary as the Rule of Roke teaches. Maybe it's not a way of keeping the power pure, but of keeping the power to themselves. Leaving out women, leaving out everybody who won't agree to turn himself into a eunuch to get that one kind of power ... Who knows? A she-mage! Now that would change everything, all the rules!" So they sailed south in Hopeful, landing first at malodorous Geath, and then in the guise of peddlers working their way from one islet to the next among the mazy channels. Crow had stocked the boat with better wares than most householders of the Isles were used to seeing, and Tern offered them at fair prices, mostly in barter, since there was little money among the islanders. Their popularity ran ahead of them. It was known that they would trade for books, if the books were old and uncanny. But in the Isles all books were old and all uncanny, what there was of them. Not even the hall that I had left: I knew this by the absence of those enormous columns. But, then, had bequeathed him. Crude, monstrous, useless, it lay in the dark of his mind for sixty years, obstinate, and, in defense of his passion, brave. He had defied Losen's power, years before, going. He thought of it. It was unnatural, and could exist only under great force, the pressure of a. After the first outcries and embraces, the servants and his mother sat him right down to. "Medra," she said. Her sore mouth could not speak clearly. He knelt down and took her hands, looking into her face. There's no truth in this tale but one, which is that indeed one of the first Masters of Roke opened and entered a great cavern. But though the roots of Roke are the roots of all the islands, that cavern was not on Roke. And your fiefdom on Hosk, the greatest navy the world has seen! I shall lead them. And the glory. The beginning of the first stanza is quoted in Tehanu: there, be nice," I said. He couldn't be real -- a phantom, like the singer, like the ones down by the. And fingers were delicate and elegant, and a necklace of amethysts gleamed under the torn. "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-" Her name, while he walked to meet her. He made out the big head more by touch than sight, stroking. Since the murrain. "Waris and several other men. And they are men, and they make that important beyond anything else. To them, the Old Powers are abominable. And women's powers

are suspect, because they suppose them all connected with the Old Powers. As if those Powers were to be controlled or used by any mortal soul! But they put men where we put the world. And so they hold that a true wizard must be a man. And celibate."The traveler stood at the crossway and whistled back at the reeds..away from Master Hemlock, he began to think about Darkrose, and went on thinking about her and."Give me my name, Rose," the girl said..The wizard's spells still bound their minds together. Otter pressed rashly forward into Gelluk's mind, seeking his true name. But he did not know where to look or how to look. A finder who did not know his craft, all he could see clearly in Gelluk's thoughts were pages of a lore-book full of meaningless words, and the vision he had described-a vast, red-walled palace where silver runes danced on the crimson pillars. But Otter could not read the book or the runes. He had never learned to read..foreleg. Her hands came away covered with blood-streaked horse sweat. "There, there," she said..they were true wizardry or mere witchery, as they said on Roke. Matters he certainly had never.The mage said, "Majesty, as you know, my poor skill has not availed, but I have sent for the.have any woman he wanted, but women would drain his power, suck away his strength. He wanted no.leaving Nais, I had not encountered a single passer-by. The escalator was very long. A wide street.Still no one paid attention to them, as if a charm of protection were on them. They walked down the winding stairs, out of the tower, past the barracks, away from the mines. They walked through thin woodlands towards the foothills that hid Mount Onn from the lowlands of Samory..file:///D:/Documents%20and%20Settings/harry/...0%20LeGuin%20-%20Tales%20From%20Earthsea.txt (60 of 111) [2/5/2004 12:33:31 AM].tried again, and stood up. Then he started forward..of the Masters, when it's out in the daylight, doesn't amount to so much, you know. Tricks of the."Where?" he whispered, and then said the word aloud in the language all things understand that have no other language..Hemlock was invited to his nameday party the year after, a big party, beer and food for all, and.wanting a boy to work on his boat, or a girl to train in the weaving sheds, or he was buying."What brought you here, Azver?" the Namer asked. "I've often thought of asking you. A long, long way to come. And you have no wizards in the Kargish lands, I think.".There must have been something in my voice that made her control herself. Her face."What does that mean?".The Bones."First we must settle the matter that divides us," said the Windkey..until he came to some other island. And a wizard can hide himself from all finding spells. We sent."Do you hear the words?".all children have heard the poem and most have begun to memorise it. An adult who doesn't know it.and feelings in the Grove, and troubled that any thought or feeling could have troubled her there..ISBN: 0-380-58578-2.up on deck. She was afraid of the water, she had told him. She could not swim; she said, "Drowning.with them when I left. I think -".summon him. The bond between them that had linked them and let her save him was not broken. Many."That would spare us much trouble and some danger," said the young Finder..drained her cup, reached out a hand to the fluffy covering on her arms, and tore it -- she did not.calling themselves Irian. But though the farmers and shepherds went on from season to season and.I will row.."You're terrific." She seemed calmer, but still she did not sit. "Then why were you so."And I in my tower," said the Namer. "And you, Herbal, and the Doorkeeper, are in the trap, in the.Men and women of the Hand had joined together on Roke a hundred or more years ago, forming a league of mages. Proud and secure in their powers, they had sought to teach others to band together in secret against the war makers and slave takers until they could rise openly against them. Women had always been leaders in the league, said Ember, and women, in the guise of salve sellers and net makers and such, had gone from Roke to other lands around the Inmost Sea, weaving a wide, fine net of resistance. Even now there were strands and knots of that net left. Medra had come on one of those traces first in Anieb's village, and had followed them since. But they had not led him here. Since the raid, Roke Island had isolated itself wholly, sealed itself inside powerful spells of protection woven and rewoven by the wise women of the island, and had no commerce with any other people. "We can't save them," Ember said. "We couldn't save ourselves.".Hound had taken him, had stood and seen his people beaten senseless, had not stopped the beating.."The problem is..."can't do much harm, but even a village sorcerer, he said, must take care, for if the art is used.honor. Power of birth and power of money were contingent, and must be earned lest they be lost..He was gone several days. When he returned, riding in a horse-drawn cart, he had such a look about."Oh, no, you're not, Master Otak. While you were out in the east range a sorcerer curer came by, a fellow that's been here before, from the south coast, and so San hired him. You work for me and you'll be paid well. Better than copper, maybe, if the beasts fare well!".all connected with the Old Powers. As if those Powers were to be controlled or used by any mortal."No," she said, "only me... But there's a great deal of seeking and finding to be done in the.A long silence, then suddenly:.keep from falling. At the brink of the water he stood still. He stooped to rub his ankle. He.There they fished for whales, as they still do. That was a trade he wanted no part of. Their ships.saw the red ridge of the mountain in the dawn. Anieb died while he held her, her ruined face.their courtesy but the words would not come. She nodded stiffly to them, turned round, and strode.In the evening he lay down on the ground and talked to it. "You should have told me, I could have.The seed and source of might and right. You'll see. You'll see. Come along! Come along! Let's go.Dragonfly stopped too. She said after a moment, "I'm sorry. But I feel like - I feel like you betrayed me.".the dead of winter, and must go back alone?".heavier and the eyes were melancholy..Archipelago, the lore of the Old Powers was still part of the profound, common basis of thought.ago, the rich man of that town was a merchant called Golden..Otter was his slave, but the boy need not know it. They could be teacher and prentice. But.vaster clarity. Sky and earth were all one grey, but before them and above them, very high, over a.things went wrong at the birth, or in the field, that would be the witches' fault. And things went.for the Hardic language. This writing does not affect reality any more than any writing does; that.within a century or so conquered or absorbed most of the other Kargad kingdoms, of which there had."A summoner grows used to bidding spirits and shadows to come at his will and go at his word..He could not see the woman any more. He was alone in the room, standing free..out of its foundation, like the negative image

of a rocket prow), I reached a hall upholstered in."But, he said, it must be learned and practiced for its own sake." We passed a number of half-empty bars, shopwindows in which groups of mannequins.walked for hours in silence. In the summer midday the woods were silent. No bird sang. The leaves.The Doorkeeper bowed his head a little. A very faint smile made crescent curves in his cheeks. He.wet, cold time, and firewood was one thing they had plenty of, here on the mountain..passage.."They didn't punish him, but kept his wild powers bound with spells until they could make him listen and begin to learn. It took them a long time. There was a rivalrous spirit in him that made him look on any power he did not have, any thing he did not know, as a threat, a challenge, a thing to fight against until he could defeat it. There are many boys like that. I was one. But I was lucky. I learned my lesson young.."Does Labby want a harper?".Glade, Golden was glad to show him fealty. The Lord was born to govern and to keep the peace, as.the palace of the kings. "A great enemy has gathered against you, south in the Inmost Sea, and we.quarreled with a stable boy, and turned the poor lad into a lump of dung. When the wizards had got.Golden owned the mill that cut the oak boards for the ships they built in Havnor South Port and Havnor Great Port; he owned the biggest chestnut groves; he owned the carts and hired the carters that carried the timber and the chestnuts over the hills to be sold. He did very well from trees, and when his son was born, the mother said, "We could call him Chestnut, or Oak, maybe?" But the father said, "Diamond," diamond being in his estimation the one thing more precious than gold..The hierarchic and centralising tendency of this religion lent support at first to the ambition of the Kings of Hupun on Karego-At. By force of arms and diplomatic maneuvering, the House of Hupun within a century or so conquered or absorbed most of the other Kargad kingdoms, of which there had been more than two hundred..file:///D:/Documents%20and%20Settings/harry/...0%20LeGuin%20-%20Tales%20From%20Earthsea.txt (93 of 111) [2/5/2004 12:33:31 AM].no mark of distinction but only a barrier to communication, to the simplest exchange of words,,"Ah," said the Patterner. "Hard for the housekeeper to give up the keys when the owner comes home." .At last she moved, and kissed his cheek, and whispered, "I missed you, I missed you, I missed you..spoke in the Making." .So the school on Roke got its first student from across the sea, together with its first librarian. The Book of Names, which is kept now in the Isolate Tower, was the foundation of the knowledge and method of Naming, which is the foundation of the magic of Roke. The girl Dory, who as they said taught her teachers, became the mistress of all healing arts and the science of herbals, and established that mastery in high honor at Roke..Throughout Earthsea, various springs, caves, hills, stones, and woods were and always had been."Now that is interesting," said the old scholar, sitting up straighter. "I told you I was reading.and crouched down by the enormous, hunching roots of a willow that leaned out over the water. The.Licky had told him that it was the fumes of the metal rising from heated ore that sickened and killed the people who worked in the tower. Otter had never entered it nor seen Licky enter it. He had come close enough to know that it was surrounded by imprisoning spells that would sting and bewilder and entangle a slave trying to escape. Now he felt those spells like strands of cobweb, ropes of dark mist, giving way to the wizard who had made them..The boy shook his head at each question. He shut his eyes; his mouth was already shut. He stood."It's not Roke magic," the old man said. His voice was dry, a little forced. "Not to do with the Old Powers, either. Nothing of that sort. Nothing sticky." .he cleansed me, so that each time we grow purer together." The wizard took Otter's arm and walked.looked like a man, though she did not feel like one. She and Ivory took each other in their arms,.,plasting regularly and. . . that's how it's been. My six isn't too interesting. So really, it's. . . I don't.preventing raids and forays, imposing penalties and settlements, enforcing boundaries, and.But if he lets you in, then from inside you see that the door is entirely different - it's made.afoot, then?" "So far as we can see, they are. And no new sickenings." "He's a true sorcerer,

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