

OLD MAN SEA

of thirty usually have children. And there were. . . other considerations." Anieb kept a better pace than seemed possible in a woman so famished and destroyed, walking almost naked in the chill of the rain. All her will was aimed on walking forward; she had nothing else in her mind, not him, not anything. But she was there bodily with him, and he felt her presence as keenly and strangely as when she had come to his summoning. The rain ran down her naked head and body. He made her stop to put on his shirt. He was ashamed of it, for it was filthy, he having worn it all these weeks. She let him pull it over her head and then walked right on. She could not go quickly, but she went steadily, her eyes fixed on the faint cart track they followed, till the night came early under the rain clouds, and they could not see where to set their feet.

file:///D:/Documents%20and%20Settings/harry/...0%20LeGuin%20-%20Tales%20From%20Earthsea.txt (67 of 111) [2/5/2004 12:33:31 AM].second was the Ulysses. Five pilots to a ship, and the rest scientists. There were no women." moment. "The whole village together couldn't change that!" she said, and laughed. It was all. But Hopeful, sailed and steered by two young sorcerers from the Hand of Havnor, brought Medra safe down the Inmost Sea to Roke. It was hard work out in the pastures. "Who doesn't do hard work?" Emer had asked, showing her round, strong arms, her hard, red hands. The cattleman Alder expected him to stay out in these meadows until he had touched every living beast of the great herds there. Alder had sent two cowboys along. They made a camp of sorts, with a groundcloth and a half tent. There was nothing to burn out on the marsh but small brushwood and dead reeds, and the fire was hardly enough to boil water and never enough to warm a man. The cowboys rode out and tried to round up the animals so that he could come among them in a herd, instead of going to them one by one as they scattered out foraging in the pastures of dry, frosty grass. They could not keep the cattle bunched for long, and got angry with them and with him for not moving faster. It was strange to him that they had no patience with the animals, which they treated as things, handling them as a log rafter handles logs in a river, by mere force. "Written on?" said Crow, who had been sitting on the well coping, bored. "Marks on it?" He knew he was no match for Early. To stop that first binding spell he had used all the strength of resistance he had. The illusion and the shape-change were all the tricks he had to play. If he faced the wizard again he would be destroyed. And Roke with him. Roke and its children, and Elehal his love, and Veil, Crow, Dory, all of them, the fountain in the white courtyard, the tree by the fountain. Only the Grove would stand. Only the green hill, silent, immovable. He heard Elehal say to him, Havnor lies between us. He heard her say, Al! the true powers, all the old powers, at root are one. down, dark water crept and seeped through soft earth over the ledge of mica. Under that opened the. "Edran," said the Namer promptly, and laughed. "Drake. Dragon..." He got to his knees, and thought then to whisper, "Thank you, mother." He got to his feet, and fell, because his left hip gave way with a pain that made him cry out aloud. After a while he tried again, and stood up. Then he started forward.

www.harcourt.com "Darkrose and Diamond" first appeared in The Magazine of Fantasy and Science. thought. He was used to being listened to, not to listening. Serene in his strength and obsessed. miserable men dispossessed of their living, driven by hunger to raid and rob. leaves behind when he asks questions. Listen, can you work with the wind at all?" She was in tears. They hugged, and she stroked his thick, shining hair and apologized for being. "She's called Dragonfly, and she does all the work, and I saw her once last year. She's tall, and Havnor like an arrow of fire." (Dragons are generally referred to both in Hardic and Kargish as him. The thing that was hopping up and down on the grass between their bare toes was a rock. When 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. She turned away from him and them and went on up the hill in the gathering darkness. As she went. "And who is Irian?" "It's a custom," I said, at a loss. Actually, they had told me at Adapt to stop dressing in the. was shade from the hot sun four or five women sat spinning by a well. Children played nearby. "Yes," she said uncertainly. "Mother," he said, on his knees there, "Mother, open to me." The early kings and queens of Enlad, among whose names are Lar Ashal, Dohun, Enashen, Timan, and Tagtar, gradually increased their sway till they proclaimed themselves rulers of Earthsea. Their reign extended no farther south than Ilien and did not include Felkway in the east, Paln and Semel in the west, or Osskil in the north, but they did send explorers out all over the Inmost Sea and into the Reaches. The most ancient maps of Earthsea, now in the archives of the palace in Havnor, were drawn in Berila about twelve hundred years ago. were not doing as much damage as the Kargs, and Maharion judged the urgent danger lay in the east. "What do you think?" Looking for the bathroom, I accidentally found the bed; it was in a wall and fell in a. shoulders and clung to them elastically. I knew already that furniture accommodated every. village, hurling her father's curses at the dogs, who, crazy with excitement at his shouting, lashed out her hooves at them, and he kept her from bolting only by a staying-spell and all the. His sudden tension and immobility, the strained face and inward look, were like those of a woman in labor when her womb contracts. That was Ogion's thought, even as he said, "What did you mean, "in the Mountain'?" "I don't live in this House. In any house," the Patterner said. "I live there. The Grove - ah," he said, turning suddenly. The big, white-haired man, Kurremkarmerruk the Namer, was standing just down the path. He had not been standing there until the other mage said 'Ah." Irian stared from one to the other in blank bewilderment. "Where?" The Namer, the Doorkeeper, and the Herbal followed him with her into the Grove. There was a path. vapors. Andanden floated above the mists, a vast broken shape against the northern sky. "A col," I answered. I lifted my cup, as if to examine it. This milk had no smell. I did not. city and all the east and south of Havnor. Exacting tribute from that rich domain, he spent it to. She said, "I know." was hurt. He had thought well of the boy, and offered to write the Summoner about him, and then at. aloud. particularly of the words of the Language of the Making. His Book of Names became the foundation. in the darkness of the earth. She was utterly content to be there. Yet always,

without discontent. He did as he often did, made a little design out of whatever lay to hand: on the bit of sand on the riverbank in front of him he set a leaf-stem, a grassblade, and several pebbles. He studied them and rearranged them. "Now I must speak of harm," he said. "You mean they'll oblige a wizard? But you aren't a wizard." The willows had grown, these two years. There was only a little space to sit among the green and hull. Surely that was using the secret art to a good end? For harm, yes, but only to harm the one to name yourself. Wizardry. And he had learned a man's name..not see much; enough, however, to realize what a terrible fool I had made of myself. I fled as if. "The password he will ask you for is your true name." He had always remembered that. He remembered it now, when he looked across the hearth, winter. "He can keep me poor and stupid and worthless, but he can't keep me nameless!" with the dragon now following him, to the Old Island, Ea, the first land Segoy raised from the go tell him that, if you like!" And so on. Old Daisy went back to her kitchen and old Coney went out into the rain to feed the chickens.. "Yes," Tern said, "and I will till she dies. And then I'll take her daughter to Roke. And if you." "I will come, Medra," she said. She held out her thin hand in a fist, then opened it palm up as if offering him something. Then she was gone.. "Which level?" Most people of the Archipelago have brown or red-brown skin, black straight hair, and dark eyes; the predominant body type is short, slender, small-boned, but fairly muscular and well-fleshed. In the East and South Reaches people tend to be taller, heavier boned, and darker. Many Southerners have very dark brown skin. Most Archipelagan men have little or no facial hair.. She tried to smile.. Although Otter had not thought the words, Anieb spoke with his voice, the same weak, dull voice: Otter pointed at the low slope that rose before them. "The King's House is there," he said.. He went on showing his wares and joking with the women and children. Nobody bought anything. They..not crowd once this morning.. "Then should we go to Gont?" said the Herbal, caught in Azver's passion. "Sparrowhawk is there." Earth in her turning to the sun makes the days and nights, but within her there are no days. Medra walked through the night. He was very lame, and could not always keep up the werelight. When it failed he had to stop and sit down and sleep. The sleep was never death, as he thought it was. He woke, always cold, always in pain, always thirsty, and when he could make a glimmer of the light he got to his feet and went on. He never saw Anieb but he knew she was there. He followed her. Sometimes there were great rooms. Sometimes there were pools of motionless water. It was hard to break the stillness of their surface, but he drank from them. He thought he had gone down deeper and deeper for a long time, till he reached the longest of those pools, and after that the way went up again. Sometimes now Anieb followed him. He could say her name, though she did not answer. He could not say the other name, but he could think of the trees; of the roots of the trees. This was the kingdom of the roots of the trees. How far does the forest go? As far as forests go. As long as the lives, as deep as the roots of the trees. As long as leaves cast shadows. There were no shadows here, only the dark, but he went forward, and went forward, until he saw Anieb before him. He saw the flash of her eyes, the cloud of her curling hair. She looked back at him for a moment, and then turned aside and ran lightly down a long, steep slope into darkness.. her eyes only. She spat into the fire, wiped her sore mouth with her hand, and stood motionless. Never old. I can't teach you. I can take you into the Grove." After a minute he stood up. "Yes?" He recognized Hound, though he could not sit up and could barely speak. The old man put his own jacket around his shoulders and gave him water from his flask. Then he squatted beside him, his back against the immense trunk of the oak, and stared into the forest for a while. It was late morning, hot, the summer sunlight filtering through the leaves in a thousand shades of green. A squirrel scolded, far up in the oak, and a jay replied. Hound scratched his neck and sighed.. RAMBRENT. There was a fluttering from white and bluish fluorescent tubes, stairs of crystalline. the eldest, the Doorkeeper, Segoy.... She hesitated; she laughed. "If he wants a fife-player," she said.. though it meant he would have his hands tied behind him and his mouth gagged and a leash buckled.. and leaned its head out, craving company. Medra stopped to stroke the grey-brown, bony face. A. Irioth tried to say he did not want a quarrel. He tried to say that there was work for two. He tried to say he would not take the man's work from him. But all these words burned away in the acid of the man's jealousy that would not hear them and burned them before they were spoken.. Archipelago. People who have a secret name that holds their power the way a diamond holds light.. were a bit weak, and my mouth was dry, and suddenly my throat-clearing turned to mad laughter.. faintest idea what that damned rast looked like -- and after about ten steps I saw a silvery funnel. Roke lives on its great past, defended by a thousand spells against the present day. And inside. Ogion shook his head. He let his sending sit down in the grass near Heleth, though it did not bend. woman near him. He craved an enemy: an opponent worth destroying.. like the cornerstone of an earlier, forgotten house down in the cellar of a mansion full of lights. the flowers -- and my voice failed me. She was calmly chewing the delicate petals. She looked up. "If it's a real gift, an unusual capacity, that's even more true. A witch with her love potions. He was fortunate in having met a farm heifer, not one of the roaming cattle who would only have led him deeper into the marshes. His Ulla was given to jumping fences, but after she had wandered a while she would begin to have fond thoughts of the cow barn and the mother from whom she still stole a mouthful of milk sometimes; and now she willingly took the traveler home. She walked, slow but purposeful, down one of the tracks, and he went with her, a hand on her hip when the way was wide enough. When she waded a knee-deep stream, he held on to her tail. She scrambled up the low, muddy bank and flicked her tail loose, but she waited for him to scramble even more awkwardly after her. Then she plodded gently on. He pressed against her flank and clung to her, for the stream had chilled him to the bone, and he was shivering.. could stab her with.. Mead looked at her sister. "Then it's time we talked a bit to you," she said, sitting down across.. not have dared to do so, since Gelluk knew his name. But she came, even when he was with the. "Many claimed Maharion's throne, but none could keep it, and the quarrels of the claimants divided." "I tell you, Irian, he cannot come here, he cannot harm you here." We walked on. Still no houses in sight, and the wind that came rushing out of the. Gelluk's fall had not brought Losen down. The pirate king had other wizards in his pay, among them.. and with them the lost Rune

of Peace, he and Tenar brought the Ring home to Havnor.)he'd had a dirt floor it hadn't mattered, but now he had a wooden floor, like a lord or a merchant.mere toy, such as music or tale-telling, but a practical business, which his business could never.when he was down on the docks thinking of her, he was alive. He never felt entirely alive in.After a while Ayo said, "She went down to Firm with some of the young folk. To buy fleece from the.right enough! I'll have him here as long as I choose, and that's the end of it."."I'm afraid.".file:///D:/Documents%20and%20Settings/harry/...0%20LeGuin%20-%20Tales%20From%20Earthsea.txt (40 of 111) [2/5/2004 12:33:31 AM]. "I have a favor to ask you," I said as calmly as I could. "You must explain to me. . .".She stared at my legs..her free. I know nothing. If you know how to be free, I beg you, teach me!". "He thinks I have this huge great talent. For magic.". "One can do a heap of things," she said. "One can travel, actually or by moot. One can.Medra had been thinking, once again, and still unavailingly, how he could leave Havnor at once and.ONE.Tern..The boy was barely seventeen, and he himself just forty-five. In his prime. He had been feeling.white high-held explosion of unbelievable wings; between them, columns, made not of any.the fountain.. "I asked you not to," he said, "and it's not my need I spoke of. I talk enough for two. Never mind. You'll know what to say when the time comes. That's the art, eh? What to say, and when to say it. And the rest is silence.".Maharion and Erreth-Akbe became "hearts brothers." They spent ten years together fighting the Kargs, whose occasional forays from the East had in recent times become a slave-taking, colonising invasion. Venway, Torheven and the Torikles, Spevy, Perregal, and parts of Gont were under Kargish dominion for a generation or longer. At Shelieth on Way, Erreth-Akbe worked a great magic against the Kargish forces, who had landed in "a thousand ships" on Waymarsh and were swarming across the mainland. Using an invocation of the Old Powers called the Waterlore (perhaps the same that Elfarran had used on Solea against the Enemy), he turned the waters of the Fountains of Shelieth-sacred springs and pools in the gardens of the Lords of Way-into a flood that swept the invaders back to the seacoast, where Maharion's army awaited them. No ship of the fleet returned to Karego-At..the stable boy back into his own shape, they tied up the child again, and gagged his mouth, and.took a donkey cart and drove over to Easthill, where they heard Diamond sing the Lay of the Lost.her clothes, and pulled them on, still swearing - "You coward wizard! You traitorous son of a.rained very hard all the night after, and when Hound thought he had found the boy's tracks, they."It's boring here," she continued after a moment. "Don't you think so? Shall we take off.soon as he saw the old man..Magic.A globe of misty, greenish fire drifted swiftly down the corridor at eye level, apparently.or bar not set off from the street. A few people were sitting there. I wanted to go inside and ask.butterfly in midair. He flicked a butterfly back at her, and the two flitted and flickered a

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