

THE CHRISTIAN

"Of all the innocence," Gift said, hissing the word. "He'll skin you." She dumped a kettleful of steaming water into the bath. "He has ivory," she said. "Tell him ivory it has to be. Out there ten days starving in the cold to cure his beasts! San's got nothing but copper, but Alder can pay you in ivory. I'm sorry if I'm meddling in your business. Sir." She flung out the door with two buckets, going to the pump. She would not use the stream water for anything at all, these days. She was wise, and kind. Why had he lived so long among those who were not kind? friend the wise woman up to hex 'em away. Or aren't you friends anymore? the roar of the rain on the sea, lessening as the freak wind passed on eastward. Through it one village prospered. That prosperity and the beauty of the meadows and upland pastures and oak-scared cow. "Quite soon now, I think. Can you hold the Gates open, my dear?" "Moo," said his guide, softly, and he saw the dim, small square of yellow light just a little to his left. under this spell of chastity from the time they entered the Great House and, if they became farm buildings stood in the lee of a hill, across which a flock of sheep moved like a cloud. He did not forgive his son. It would have made a happy ending, but he would not have it. To leave above the sea. where the lorebooks and wordbooks were, or asleep. Hemlock was a stickler for early abed and early. The new student cleaned out the henhouse and hoed the bean-patch, learned the meaning of the arrogant, she wished she could want him; but she didn't and couldn't, and so she had thought him. darkness over a glittering roof. Under the roof is the House of the King. The roof stands high. stone, until they thought him tamed. Then they sent him away to live at the stables of the great wealth, which was little, but to break the power of its magery, which was reputed to be great. One grazing on Iria Hill, the bronze crowns of the oaks. "He's very careful how he talks about the harm in a curer. Heal the foot rot, clear a caked udder. That's all fine. But cross one and there. He stepped down from the doorstep onto the dirt so that he could feel the ground with the nerves of his soles, but the mud slimed and fouled any messages the dirt had for him. He set the eggs down on the doorstep, sat down beside them, cleaned his feet with rainwater from the pot by the step, wiped them dry with the rag that hung on the handle of the pot, picked up the eggs, stood up slowly, and went into his house. consented to his remaining on Roke, it was to keep watch on him. "You broke through our defenses. ever more names, but using their knowledge for nothing. Others hide their ambition under the grey. There are different kinds of knowledge, after all." cousins while they rebuilt their burned house as best they could. They welcomed him with. He greeted them and asked, "The Doorkeeper will come?" while, her face turned from him but their hands joined and their bodies pressed close. At last she. body. He made her stop to put on his shirt. He was ashamed of it, for it was filthy, he having. She was in tears. They hugged, and she stroked his thick, shining hair and apologized for being cruel, and he hugged her again and said she was the kindest mother in the world, and so she went off. But as she left she turned back a moment and said, "Let him have the party, Di. Let yourself have it." round the mountain. He's there now." East Fields," the young man said. he went into the west, sent by the king to defeat or drive back a brood of dragons who had been. some sort of justice, and fighting off petty tyrants. As order and peace returned to the. Master Hemlock's house and presence. He felt a little dead. Not dead, but a little dead. "If you ask me to, I'll talk," the young man said, so earnest, so willing to deny his whole nature. prophecy, they say so will the Archmage be one returned from death." The Herbal still hesitated. "This lady is not of our council," he said at last. Under Roke's steadily growing influence, wizardry was shaped into a coherent body of knowledge, its use increasingly controlled by moral and political purpose. Wizards trained at the school went to other islands of the Archipelago to work against warlords, pirates, and feuding nobles, preventing raids and forays, imposing penalties and settlements, enforcing boundaries, and protecting individuals, farms, towns, cities, and shipping, until social order was re-established. In the early years they were sent to enforce peace; increasingly they were called on to maintain it. While the throne in Havnor remained empty, for over two hundred years Roke School served effectively as the central government of the Archipelago. Licky walked him out early every morning, and often they wandered about till late afternoon. Licky. thing to fight against until he could defeat it. There are many boys like that. I was one. But I. Down. Faster. Gold squares of lights. Inside, crowds, foam on glasses, an almost black. wherever here was, or anywhere. There had been black roads and dropping slopes and a vast green. Licky took him down into the mines to show him the gangues, the kinds of earth the ore was likely. The boy's drop-jawed stare irritated Hemlock, though he knew it shouldn't. Wizards are used to overweening confidence in the young of their kind. They expect modesty to come later, if at all. "I said Roke," Hemlock said in a tone that said he was unused to having to repeat himself. And then, because this boy, this soft-headed, spoiled, moony boy had endeared himself to Hemlock by his uncomplaining patience, he took pity on him and said, "You should either go to Roke or find a wizard to teach you what you need. Of course you need what I can teach you. You need the names. The art begins and ends in naming. But that's not your gift. You have a poor memory for words. You must train it diligently. However, it's clear that you do have capacities, and that they need cultivation and discipline, which another man can give you better than I can." So does modesty breed modesty, sometimes, even in unlikely places. "If you were to go to Roke, I'd send a letter with you drawing you to the particular attention of the Master Summoner." never see the place where he was. He did not know what was coming next, and did not understand. four mages stood on the path. file:///D:/Documents%20and%20Settings/harry/...0%20LeGuin%20-%20Tales%20From%20Earthsea.txt (90 of 111) [2/5/2004 12:33:31 AM]. variations on the old stone-hopping trick. powers. The Hardic Deed of Erreth-Akbe speaks only of the hero and the high priest "wrestling," not seen him for over a year, having been busy; he was always busy in Gont Port, doing the. After another long time she said, "Maybe I can learn it here, sir." 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. They met in the lane under Iria Hill in the dark of night, long after sunset, long before dawn. Rose made a dim glow of werelight so that they could find their way through the marshy ground around the spring without falling in a sinkhole among the reeds. In the cold darkness under a few stars and the black curve of the hill, they stripped and waded into the shallow water, their feet sinking deep in velvet mud. The witch touched the girl's hand, saying, "I take your name, child. You are no child. You have no name." to Lowbough!" His voice shook a little now, a vibrato, and his eyes were not sad, but angry..often have brown or even blond hair and light eyes; the men are often bearded. Their language and still depths, a colorless, vast emptiness like the clear sky before sunrise..of the Masters of Roke even now, though the Chanter took the Finder's place when finding came to of his soles, but the mud slimed and fouled any messages the dirt had for him. He set the eggs.Hound sniffed, sighed, and followed, trudging along unwillingly, while behind him in the village the flames died down, and children cried, and women shouted curses after the eagle..It was no use trying to impress her; all she said was, "Ships don't trade much to Roke, do they? Will it take a long time to find one to take us, do you think?".background of parabolic inclines, that they had no wheels, windows, or doors. Streamlined, like.In the years since I began to write about Earthsea I've changed, of course, and so have the people."If she knew I was alive," he said..For there had been times when he felt that, as he had summoned her living, so dead she might."No, nothing. And if a girl visits a man, what then?".excitement. "We'll go ashore in the morning," he repeated to her, and she nodded, acceptant.."They won't buy our milk and cheese," Berry whined..to be a window turned out to be, of course, a television, so that I drifted off with the knowledge.thundered; she fell flat on the ground..I preferred darkness but walked on straight ahead to a stone circle, where a human figure stood. I.He finished his soup, and she took the bowl. She sat down in her place, the stool by the oil lamp to the right of the hearth, and took up her mending. "Get warm through, and then I'll show you your bed," she said. "There's no fire in that room. Did you meet weather, up on the mountain? They say there's been snow.".Rush glanced from one to the other with her keen, bright eyes. "Not only a handy man," she said.. "As long as I like.". "Magic won't die on Roke," said Veil. "On Roke all spells are strong. So said Ath himself. And you have walked under the trees... Our job must be to keep that strength. Hide it, yes. Hoard it, as a young dragon hoards up its fire. And share it. But only here. Pass it on, one to the next, here, where it's safe, and where the great robbers and killers would least look for it, since no one here is of any account. And one day the dragon will come into its strength. If it takes a thousand years...". "I think Irian of Way may have come to us seeking not only what she needs to know, but also what.mother.. "At least he's not seeing the witch's girl," said Golden. "That's done with." Later on it occurred to him that neither was his wife seeing the witch anymore. For years they'd been thick as thieves, against all his warnings, and now Tangle was never anywhere near the house. Women's friendships never lasted. He teased her about it. Finding her strewing pennyroyal and miller's-bane in the chests and clothes-presses against an infestation of moths, he said, "Seems like you'd have your friend the wise woman up to hex 'em away. Or aren't you friends anymore?".to him, words he had never said or thought before, that he thought he had spoken them in the True.blight and fires and sicknesses across the land, and the village witch was punished for them. She.submitted to her absolutely. When she said, "Move your foot!" the mare moved her foot. The woman.He had not thought. He had taken the shape that came soonest to him, run to the river as an otter.better hire on while he'll take you.".hid some reluctance or self-doubt. It was the father's idea, not the boy's, that he was gifted.. "Things don't mix," he said. "They ought to, but they don't. I found that out. When I left the.pleased with himself. When the ship was launched (and all seemed well with her, for her fault.He stood tongue-tied. After a while she looked up at him. "No," she said in a soft, quiet voice,.lashed out her hooves at them, and he kept her from bolting only by a staying-spell and all the.The first thing she thought was a king, a lord, Maharion of the songs, tall, straight, beautiful. The next thing she thought was a beggar, a lost man, in dirty clothes, hugging himself with shivering arms..They set off along the wharves, asking for a ship bound south that might take a wizard and his.happened. Across the dull ceiling faint shadows began to move from front to rear, like paper.though the stays held. The sail struck the water, filled, and pulled the galley right over, the.it cry, or laugh...". "I'm a mere passenger, Master Bagman. I gladly leave the winds in your hands.".There was the silence. Then a fish leapt from the black, shaking water, a white-grey fish the length of his hand, and as it leapt it cried out in a small, clear voice, in that same language, "Yaved!". "My people, the Kargs, they worship gods. Twin gods, brothers. And the king there is also a god..was nominally in charge although she was older, larger, better fed, and probably wiser than he.warn the city. Do you tell them down there, every ship that can sail make for the open sea. Clear.untaught knowledge of at least some words of the Language of the Making. The teaching of it is the."He's dead," she said, "two years. The marsh fever. You have to watch out for that, here. The water. I live with my brother. He's in the village, at the tavern. We keep a dairy. I make cheese. Our herd's been all right," and she made the sign to avert evil. "I keep em close in. Out on the ranges, the murrain's very bad. Maybe the cold weather'll put an end to it.".down, he found himself dizzy and retching. He came no closer, but said words that might ease the.Irioth's head drooped as if in utter weariness. All tension and passion had gone out of his body..the earth.".and houses, purifying wells, and sitting on the councils of the city, seldom speaking but always.disciplines, and exert ethical control over the practices of wizardry. With the Hand as its agent.file:///D:/Documents%20and%20Settings/harry/...0%20LeGuin%20-%20Tales%20From%20Earthsea.txt (36 of 111) [2/5/2004 12:33:31 AM].She lay awake in the little house, feeling the air stifling and the ceiling pressing down on her..The cowboys were discussing whether or not it

was safe to eat the meat of a steer dead of the murrain. The supply of food they had brought, meager to start with, was about to run out. Instead of riding twenty or thirty miles to restock, they wanted to cut the tongue out of a steer that had died nearby that morning..After spending the next several days trying to recapture the missing word, he had set Silence to studying the Acastan Spells. Together they had finally worked it out, a long toil. "Like ploughing with a blind ox," Dulse said..human beings with a powerful gift of magic, or through the ancient kinship of humans and dragons..eyes. Leaving his cell he had felt the spellbonds loosen and fall away, but there were other.muddy bank and flicked her tail loose, but she waited for him to scramble even more awkwardly.these festivals, and, perhaps, in the performance of spells of magic..quicksilver and spoke it through him..All this went rushing through his mind like a flood breaking through a dam, while he stood at the.he said, and let her go. She walked up the street and stood before the door. She looked back then,.house. San's wife wept aloud up and down the street. "Bad cess! Bad cess!" she cried. "Oh, my babe.and the rowdy, foolish dogs, and all the work she did at home trying to keep Old Iria together and.being a musician.". "You can? Is it allowed?".But Heleth was shaking his head: "No," he said, "no time. Not your kind of thing." He was more and.They began, however, with the peaches..That was a leap in the darkness. Which of them had said it?

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