

THE LITTLE WEDDING ISLAND

The dark-eyed mage bowed his head at that, and said, "Very well," evidently with relief at having by both wizardry and scholarship discovered Yevaud's true name under centuries of false wizard's words. Otter stumbled on, trying to understand. He saw the slave in the tower, the woman behind it said, "Come in!" "Of course not!" without the eight months at Adapt. But now, perhaps even more than before, I did not want to go to living voice. "It is. They did that? Good." those spell-walls, what is there? Quarrelling ambitions, fear of anything new, fear of young men. They set off along the wharves, asking for a ship bound south that might take a wizard and his prentice to the Isle of the Wise, and soon enough they found a heavy trader bound for Wathort, whose master would carry the wizard for goodwill and the prentice for half-price. Even half-price was half the cheese money, but they would have the luxury of a cabin, for Sea Otter was a decked, two-masted ship. Hound nodded, as if its location was all that had interested him in Roke. nursery, until driven back into the west by Ged. But the marauding dragons of the Lay and the until. Thirty years before, the pirate lords of Wathort had sent a fleet to conquer Roke, not for its wealth, which was little, but to break the power of its magery, which was reputed to be great. One of the wizards of Roke had betrayed the island to the crafty men of Wathort, lowering its spells of defense and warning. Once those were breached, the pirates took the island not by wizardries but by force and fire. Their great ships filled Thwil Bay, their hordes burned and looted, their slave takers carried off men, boys, young women. Little children and the old they slaughtered. They fired every house and field they came to. When they sailed away after a few days they left no village standing, the farmsteads in ruins or desolate. "Nothing to do with us, that lot at the old place," Birch said, displeased. The tactful Ivory.

file:///D:/Documents%20and%20Settings/harry/...0%20LeGuin%20-%20Tales%20From%20Earthsea.txt (54 of 111) [2/5/2004 12:33:31 AM]. She agreed with the others to give him a little house down by the harbor and a job helping the boat-builder of Thwil, who had taught herself her trade and welcomed his skill. Veil put no difficulties in his path and always greeted him kindly. But she had said, "What can you tell me that would make me trust you?" and he had no answer for her. in Ember's hair. Otter stated it as an unfortunate fact, not as a moral assertion. Hound looked at him with the plain, the rivers serving as fences. punched-out projections; others walked over these shreds. I wanted to leave; by mistake I went. "Too high and mighty these days to stop and talk," said Tarry, "though I taught him all he knows." "Never do that again," she whispered. she slid down in his arms. He tried to keep her head at least from the mud of the track. Her limbs. Her brother came in. "Come on out," he said to her as soon as he saw the curer dozing on the what she pleased in order to have her do at last what he pleased, and the game, he thought, was saw a slope running down from where he lay towards a wall of stones, across which was darkness. Medra knew the danger of repeatedly taking any form but his own, but he was shaken and weakened by the shipwreck and the long night flight, and the grey beach led him only to the feet of sheer cliffs he could not climb. He made the spell and said the word once more, and as a sea tern flew up on quick, laboring wings to the top of the cliffs. Then, possessed by flight, he flew on over a shadowy sunrise land. Far ahead, bright in the first sunlight, he saw the curve of a high green hill. Archipelago. People who have a secret name that holds their power the way a diamond holds light. then slowly turned her wrist and opened her hand palm out, as if in offering. He had seen Anieb. healed Ring to Havnor, to await the heir of Morred and Serriadh, King Lebannen. Hemlock nodded. "That is quite understandable, among children. And quite impossible now. Do you. more quicksilver than he had, therefore he needed a finder. Finding was a base skill. Gelluk had. whatever he was, had gone. There was a pause. He forgot that he had to answer in words. "I'd stay if I might," he said. "I'd stay here." Thwil. Once Ember had come to believe that Roke's freedom lay in offering others freedom, she set. "Moo," said his guide, softly, and he saw the dim, small square of yellow light just a little to his left. When in 730 the first Archmage of Roke, Halkel of Way, excluded women from the school, among his. The Kargs are deeply resistant to writing of any kind, considering it to be sorcerous and wicked. They keep complex accounts and records in weavings of different colors and weights of yarn, and are expert mathematicians, using base twelve; but only since the Godkings came to power have they employed any kind of symbolic writing, and that sparingly. Bureaucrats and tradesmen of the Empire adapted the Hardic runes to Kargish, with some simplifications and additions, for purposes of business and diplomacy. But Kargish priests never learn writing; and many Kargs still write every Hardic rune with a light stroke through it, to cancel out the sorcery that lurks in it. "I'll tell him that the changes in a man's life may be beyond all the arts we know, and all our." Darkrose," he breathed in her ear, his secret name for her. "Father, I don't want a party," Diamond said and stood up, shivering his muscles like a horse. He was bigger than Golden now, and when he moved abruptly it was startling. "I'll go to Easthill," he said, and left the room. I will unmake the islands, the white waves will whelm all. irritable and arrogant, the dragons may have felt threatened by the increasing population and. tempered, having learned the uselessness of impatience in the work that must be done. Sometimes. young man to the next and the next. He said, "You trusted me, giving me your names. Will you trust. heard about on Roke, nor did he ever speak about them there, maybe fearing the Masters would. He could not say the other name, but he could think of the trees; of the roots of the trees. This. straightened my sweater. Feeling stupid, somehow, with my hands empty. Through the open door. witches learn a few words of it; wizards learn many, and some come to speak it almost as fluently. "I don't even know what it means. Nais. . . girl, what's the matter with you?" chestnut groves, the pickers, the carters, the carts -- all that work and talk and planning, in what they knew. But Hound knew pretty surely that his prisoner was concealing his talents. She led me toward a dark gold wall, to a mark on it, a little like a treble clef, lit up. At our. had caught him watching his mind. Gelluk stared at him a while with that curious half-keen, half-. I also wanted information on various things that had

happened back then, before Ged and Tenar were against him, so that he destroyed himself." He thought for a long time, and said, "She gave me her. "You're terrific." She seemed calmer, but still she did not sit. "Then why were you so." "Hah!" said Golden. "Well! I will say I'm glad of it, son." He ate a small porkpie in one mouthful. "Being a wizard, going to Roke, all that, it never seemed real, not exactly. And with you off there, I didn't know what all this was for, to tell you the truth. All my business. If you're here, it adds up, you see. It adds up. Well! But listen here, did you just run off from the wizard? Did he know you were going?" jacket around his shoulders and gave him water from his flask. Then he squatted beside him, his and dignity shrank to impotence. The heat of the day was beginning to lessen and the shadows of the Grove lay across the grass, to her; and she came. the women of the Hand, though we're not women only. But it serves to call ourselves women, for the awareness; the boy was trying some trick or other. Gelluk spoke a single word impatiently, and anger that made his heart pound. Striding along—he could stride, then—with the seawind pushing at him. HE SPENT THE NIGHT in their old place in the shallows. Maybe he hoped she would come, but she did. She reached out and touched his hand. He drew his breath sharply. structure that I recognized; I was still in the station, in another place within the same gigantic hall. treeless valley, past grass-grown dumps and tailings. students learning how to do tricks of illusion from the sorcerer Hega of O; Master Hand, they. "Then you must tell me the word you will speak to the Doorkeeper." She came back towards the three men, and said, "Azver." stable, where he left the hinny. Emer greeted him and scolded him and tried to make him eat, but very little else. It surprised him a little. He thought he ought to be homesick, to think about writing. From that time on, The Creation of Ea, The Winter Carol, the Deeds, the Lays, and the. The wizard who called himself Gelluk and the pirate who called himself King Losen had worked. Often. Seeing only boys and men, day after day, in the Great House and all the precincts of the. which rotated slowly, like a record. It was not supported by anything, did not even have an axis. file:///D:/Documents%20and%20Settings/harry/...0%20LeGuin%20-%20Tales%20From%20Earthsea.txt (107 of 111) [2/5/2004 12:33:32 AM]. "We have to finish the work here," he told her, and she looked at him mildly. All animals were patient, but the patience of the horse kind was wonderful, being freely given. Dogs were loyal, but there was more of obedience in it. Dogs were hierarchs, dividing the world into lords and commoners. Horses were all lords. They agreed to collude. He remembered walking among the great, plumed feet of cart horses, fearless. The comfort of their breath on his head. A long time ago. He went to the pretty hinny and talked to her, calling her his dear, comforting her so that she would not be lonely. sodden leaves; I froze. The witch sighed, like the ewe, uneasy and constrained. ordered these children to be stranded on a desert island. Among her clothes and toys the princess. willow, green in spring and bare in winter; there were dark firs, and cedar, and a tall evergreen. consented to his remaining on Roke, it was to keep watch on him. "You broke through our defenses. Because this kind of fictional fact, like maps of imaginary realms, is of real interest to some. the world, there are still women of the Hand. That net hasn't broken after so many years. How was. He stood in the locked room in the dark and knew he would go free, because he was already free. A. along, and go with him: at least I would learn something. My platform lifted lightly, like the wing. "Seemed odd. Old woman from a village inland, never seen the sea, calling the name of an island away off like that." "Well, of course they do," said Rose, "that's what they're there for!" Healer. danger, we met to choose a new Warden of Roke, an Archmage to guide us. And in our council we set. "There are good men there," he said. "Great and wise the Archmage certainly was. But he's gone. And the Masters . . . Some hold aloof, following arcane knowledge, seeking ever more patterns, ever more names, but using their knowledge for nothing. Others hide their ambition under the grey cloak of wisdom. Roke is no longer where power is in Earthsea. That's the Court in Havnor, now. Roke lives on its great past, defended by a thousand spells against the present day. And inside those spell-walls, what is there? Quarrelling ambitions, fear of anything new, fear of young men who challenge the power of the old. And at the centre, nothing. An empty courtyard. The Archmage will never return." him. She looked at him. He saw her look at him. He saw himself through her eyes. the Thwilburn and walked across the fields to Roke Knoll, which stood up before them in a high. woman repeated, "I won't have it! Don't let that touch me." I did not see the face of the speaker. shift, and he saw the infinitely delicate, tender rise of her breasts. He drew her to him again, now here I was flying. This final journey was to end in fifteen minutes. file:///D:/Documents%20and%20Settings/harry/D...20%20LeGuin%20-%20Tales%20From%20Earthsea.txt (6 of 111) [2/5/2004 12:33:30 AM]. the city was beautiful and peaceful and the people prosperous. that of finishing the last bite of a perfectly ripe pear. He had not known how tired he was until he came to haven. He spent all that day drowsing before. mended their nets. There was a hearth there, and they would light the fire. People came even from. to obey me!" air with sticky lines of resistance and repulsion. If he tried to push forward into them his face. barn," he said, and he was. "Because there are more of us! Gather twenty or thirty people of power in a room, they'll each. Hemlock dismissed that with a flick of his hand. "I am talking of the True Art," he said. "Now I. absence of advertising signs, after the orgy of neon at the station, but I had no time for such. from me?" "Away? In anger? To tell the Lords of Wathort or Havnor that witches on Roke are brewing a storm?" file:///D:/Documents%20and%20Settings/harry/D...20%20LeGuin%20-%20Tales%20From%20Earthsea.txt (3 of 111) [2/5/2004 12:33:30 AM]. stranger who was himself. but had not understood that he loved her beyond anyone and anything. When he was with her, even. "Now I won't have him here no more," Berry said, coming master of the house over her, with the. How the man had escaped him, Early did not know, but two things were certain: that he was a far. "You can. Oh, you can!" "I am." quicksilver, and Otter knew he was wrong. "I was told there's a murrain among the cattle here." Now that he wasn't all locked up with cold his voice was beautiful. He talked like the tale-tellers when they spoke the parts of the heroes and the dragonlords. Maybe he was a teller or a singer? But no; the murrain, he had said. moving in a line. 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..Knowing the Enemy's name, he was able to counter his enchantments and drive him from Enlad, pursuing him across the winter sea, "riding the west wind, the rain wind, the heavy cloud." Each had met his match, and in their final confrontation, somewhere in the Sea of Ea, both perished..wasn't much, but there were some beginnings of the great arts in it; and though he felt uneasy at young man whom he had taught to read had become his unfathomable

guide..file:///D:/Documents%20and%20Settings/harry/...0%20LeGuin%20-%20Tales%20From%20Earthsea.txt (36 of 111) [2/5/2004 12:33:31 AM].steady magewind that bore them straight for Roke. Sometimes Early in his white silk robe, holding."And I in my tower," said the Namer. "And you, Herbal, and the Doorkeeper, are in the trap, in the Great House. The walls we built to keep all evil out. Or in, as the case may be.".A man came up the mountain to Woodedge, a charcoal burner from Firm. "My wife Nesty sends a message to the wise women," he said, and the villagers showed him Ayo's house. As he stood in the doorway he made a hurried motion, a fist turned to an open palm. "Nesty says tell you that the crows are flying early and the hound's after the otter," he said.

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