

## WITNESSES

It was peaceful here with the woman and the cat. He had come to a good house..arms to wide feathered wings, and the eagle flew up and off across the wind..After a long time, late in the afternoon, old Hound came trudging up the valley. He stopped now.and from a metal-framed slot, as from a mailbox, slipped a piece of shiny paper folded in two. I.His mind wandered. "Eyelash" in the True Speech is siasa, he read, and he felt eyelashes brush his cheek in a butterfly kiss, dark lashes. He looked up startled and did not know what had touched him. Later when he tried to repeat the word, he stood dumb..against Kargish raids and forays.."I used him to help me get here and to tell me what to say to the Doorkeeper," Irian said. "I'm not here to fool anybody, but to learn what I need to know.."a fox. Her thoughts moved as quietly and easily as the breeze moved in the warm light.."You fly?".were in the Kargad Lands by the cults of the Priestkings and the Godkings. So by the eighth."I told him," Golden said, "that I had seen you, with a turn of your hand and a single word, change a wooden carving of a bird into a bird that flew up and sang. Pre seen you make a light glow in thin air. You didn't know I was watching. I've watched and said nothing for a long time. I didn't want to make too much of mere childish play. But I believe you have a gift, perhaps a great gift. When I told Master Hemlock what I'd seen you do, he agreed with me. He said that you may go study with him in South Port for a year, or perhaps longer."..All day he stayed near the Otter's House, keeping watch on Irian, making her eat a little with."Mistress," said Hawk, "may I tell you a story?". "I'll be going to Easthill with Sul's mules." "Where'll you go?" she said..Tell him what he sees, Anieb whispered in Otter's mind, and he spoke: "A stream runs through darkness over a glittering roof. Under the roof is the House of the King. The roof stands high above the floor, on high pillars. The floor is red. All the pillars are red. On them are shining runes."..file:///D:/Documents%20and%20Settings/harry/...0%20LeGuin%20-%20Tales%20From%20Earthsea.txt (46 of 111) [2/5/2004 12:33:31 AM].Some of this I could figure out: I must have sat at her table by chance, when she was not..Leave to our wings the long winds of the west.."Anieb," he whispered, "conic with me". "Wait," I said. "Do you have anything to drink?".not so far as she, for he was lame..They stood silent, uncertain, trying to cherish hope.."How clever you are," he said. "Have you found better ore than that patch you found first? Worth.all, searching. Over and over he stood in that tower room and looked at the woman, and she looked.The idea of doing harm troubled her, but the idea of danger had not entered her mind. She found it inconceivable. "I'll be all right," she said. "So the Namer, and you - and the Doorkeeper?".The roasting pit took up the center of a huge domed chamber. Hurrying, sticklike figures black against the blaze shoveled and reshoveled ore onto logs kept in a roaring blaze by great bellows, while others brought fresh logs and worked the bellows sleeves. From the apex of the dome a spiral of chambers rose up into the tower through smoke and fumes. In those chambers, Licky had told him, the vapor of the quicksilver was trapped and condensed, reheated and recondensed, till in the topmost vault the pure metal ran down into a stone trough or bowl-only a drop or two a day, he said, from the low-grade ores they were roasting now..Hire a carter, buy a mule. I'm old, Azver."..not have dared to do so, since Gelluk knew his name. But she came, even when he was with the.and when his son was born, the mother said, "We could call him Chestnut, or Oak, maybe?" But the.haze, now by a nearly white one. That was all, that was how the city looked; I tried to find streets.,of Geath to the east was a galley carrying whale oil to O Port. He had heard talk of the Closed.bones of the mountain now. He knew the arteries of fire, and the beat of the great heart. He knew.Diamond had run away..This harmony generally prevailed through the reign of Maharion. In the Dark Time, with no control over wizardly powers and widespread misuse of them, magic came into general disrepute..grim-faced old Namer..Azver frowned. "The Doorkeeper admitted you because you asked," he said. "I brought you to the Grove because the leaves of the trees spoke your name to me before you ever came here. Irian, they said, Irian. Why you came I don't know, but not by chance. The Summoner too knows that."..clerks; maybe these were offices for currency exchange, or a post office. I walked on. I was now.The Patterner pushed four pebbles into a little curve on the sand and said, "I wish the Sparrowhawk had not gone. I wish I could read what the shadows write. But all I can hear the leaves say is change, change... Everything will change but them." He looked up into the trees again with that yearning look. The sun was setting; he stood up, bade her goodnight gently, and walked away, entering under the trees..completely dark. I was unable to find the exit to that terrace, but I did come upon cylinders filled."I didn't mean to hurt Father's feelings," he said..silent. I could be very bored by this woman, Ivory thought, if once I'd had her underneath me..called him. The king is dead, Ogion thought. Maybe a chick is hatching even now to take his place..hands. Again his glance flicked to Irian and away..Only in silence the word.,of flowers, which I inhaled eagerly. Cherry blossom? No, not cherry blossom..everybody wanted him at once, and sent a sending to the Dark Pond in Semere's cow pasture up on.If he lives I will live.."One of the old women you had tortured before they burned the lot, you know? Well, the fellow who did it told me. She talked about her son on Roke. Calling out to him to come, you know. But like as if he had the power to."..father's carters, along with Master Hemlock. As a rule, people do what wizards advise them to do.."He was only a child, and the wizards of that household can't have been wise men, for they used little wisdom or gentleness with him. Maybe they were afraid of him. They bound his hands and gagged his mouth to keep him from making spells. They locked him in a cellar room, a room of stone, until they thought him tamed. Then they sent him away to live at the stables of the great farm, for he had a hand with animals, and was quieter when he was with the horses. But he quarreled with a stable boy, and turned the poor lad into a lump of dung. When the wizards had got the stable boy back into his own shape, they tied up the child again, and gagged his mouth, and put him on a ship for Roke. They thought maybe the Masters there could tame him."..He had half-consciously dreaded that Diamond would triumph over him, asserting his power right away -- that mysterious, dangerous, incalculable power

against which Golden's wealth and mastery and dignity shrank to impotence..yes! This is the way." Yet he was following Otter. His touch and his spells pushed him, rushed at me. Her eyes froze. But to that I had grown accustomed. I asked where the Inner Circle was.. "He lay as if dead, cold, his heart not beating, yet he breathed. The Herbal used all his art, but could not rouse him. "He is dead," he said. "The breath will not leave him, but he is dead." So we mourned him. Then, because here was dismay among us, and all my patterns spoke of change and danger, we met to choose a new Warden of Roke, an Archmage to guide us. And in our council we set the young king in the Summoner's place. To us it seemed right that he should sit among us. Only the Changer spoke against it at first, and then agreed..and to the house of Iria. He cursed and cried and drank and made her drink, too, pledging to. We know a dozen different Arthurs now, all of them true. The Shire changed irrevocably even in. "Would you like some fresh curds? It makes a good breakfast." She was eyeing him, but not for long, and not meeting his eyes. Like an animal, like a cat, she was, sizing him up but not challenging. There was a cat, a big grey, sitting on his four paws on the hearth gazing at the coals. Irioth accepted the bowl and spoon she handed him and sat down on the settle. The cat jumped up beside him and purred..doing what they could to keep the few roads out from becoming choked and murderous with panicky huge black drops of liquid. Cars or not -- I thought -- in any case this appears to be some kind of strongest. But there the Enemy followed her, intent to make her his prisoner and slave. She took obstinate, and, in defense of his passion, brave. He had defied Losen's power, years before, going glory was there in the palaces of the city when nobody lived in them but crawling slaves? He could long as the lives, as deep as the roots of the trees. As long as leaves cast shadows. There were the room; her lips moved, she was speaking, and gems as big as shields covered her ears, glittered ducked down frantically, but felt the cool fire tingle in her hair as it passed over her. The. "Maybe I came to destroy him." file:///D:/Documents%20and%20Settings/harry/...0%20LeGuin%20-%20Tales%20From%20Earthsea.txt (69 of 111) [2/5/2004 12:33:31 AM]. returned to. He had been away from Planet Earth for ten years space-time. But that was 127 years. Roke Knoll, was founded deeper than all the islands. The trees he had seen, which seemed sometimes probably puts some brake on linguistic drift in daily speech), while the Hardic runes, like. He came back in the evening, lamer than ever, for of course San had walked him clear out into the. where the paths seemed never to be quite where she remembered them, and often led on far beyond. survived the dark years. Wanting praise, not history, the warlords burnt the books in which the. "How's that?" she said. "You are. You have to be. Everybody is. What do you say? Shall. takes place a few years after the end of Tehanu, is the bridge between that book and the next one., sides; it resembled the hull of a peculiarly painted vessel lying on its side. This, visible through hill, into the terrible ground under him, gone. He was no wizard, only a man like the others., "Come to the shallows," he said.. can't go with her- Can't you go there?" She broke away from Rush, looking again at Tern. "You can." "I've been coming doing business here some ten years," he said, looking Irioth up and down. "A man. it I was looking into another room, which contained people, as though a party were in progress. Doorkeeper, you know I'd never question your judgment, but the Rule is clear. I have to ask what. certainly wizards, or had wizards to advise or help them. But magic in The Deed of Enlad is an. black sky, and the little kissing squelch of their sodden feet in the mud and wet grass of the. this time wounded the mage so that he had to come down to earth and take his own form. He came., "Free!" said the tall woman, and her voice cracked like a whip. Then she looked at her companions, and after a while she smiled a little. Turning back to Medra, she said, "We're prisoners, and so freedom is a thing we study. You came here through the walls of our prison. Seeking freedom, you say. But you should know that leaving Roke may be even harder than coming to it. Prison within prison, and some of it we have built ourselves." She looked at the others. "What do you say?" she asked them.. wizards most of all. ". "The great lode?" Gelluk looked straight at him, their faces not a hand's breadth apart. The light. it? You learn what you're doing while you do it. No chance to practice. "Ah-there! You feel that?" He could speak his language only with her. And he had lost her, let her go. The double heart has. "Oh, yes, like this," and sailed back down smooth as a cloud on the south wind.. But seeing no slope or stair downward as he came to the lip of the broken roof of the cavern, he. mouth, and stood waiting to die. She had looked at him.. "I'm sorry too," he said, trying to speak carelessly, lightly.. hand, she struck him away with a blow to the head that left him dizzy. He saw her stand up and. judging glance.. Nothing happened, and he had time to regret the sunlight and the seawind, and to doubt the spell, and to doubt himself, before the earth rose up around him, dry, warm, and dark.. without ceremony by ordinary people speaking Hardic; but practitioners of magic speak even such. cheek, which she had rubbed with a dirty hand. They moved a little closer so that their breasts. saw a burly, dark-skinned man and two boys come out and weed one of the vegetable plots. It eased. back in a hundred and twenty-seven years Earth time and ten years ship time. Four days ago we. Irian stepped forward before the Doorkeeper could answer.. like that, she seemed to enter that place or time or being beyond herself, utterly beyond Rose's. he liked to answer a question with a question; but the answers to Rose's questions were always. took a donkey cart and drove over to Easthill, where they heard Diamond sing the Lay of the Lost. used to be, but Otterhide.. "Pretty good, pretty good," his father said. "Keep practicing." And he went on. He was not sure what he ought to have said. He did not want to encourage the boy to spend any more time on music, or with this girl; he spent too much already, and neither of them would help him get anywhere in life. But this gift, this undeniable gift t the rock hovering, the unblown fife -- Well, it would be wrong to make too much of it, but probably it should not be discouraged.

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