

## WOLFVILLE

"Trust," the young man said. "Yes. But against- Against them?- Gelluk's gone. Maybe Losen will." "Didn't know you were after him. I've been after him a long time. He fooled me." Hound spoke without rancor. "We knew there was a great gift in her," Ayo said, and then fell silent for a while. "We didn't. His power was gone, he was not a mage. So presently the Masters of Roke met to choose a new hand on it. Everybody gasped and muttered, "Avert! Avert!" except Tawny's youngest daughter. He sat up. The dark sea was so quiet that the stars were reflected here and there on the sleek lee. "There is a wall," the Herbal said. "While we talk behind her back?" They call this the Otter's House," he said. "Very old. As old as the Great House. Everything is old, here. We are old - the Masters." "It's nothing," he said. In fact, rather to his annoyance, the cut had stopped bleeding. The famous wizard. Sometimes he idly made a fist and then turned his hand over opening the palm, but nobody here. A tale of the Vedurnan or Division, known in Hur-at-Hur, says: These legends are best preserved in Hur-at-Hur, the easternmost of the Kargad Lands, where dragons. "I'm sorry," he said, with enough dignity that Hemlock glanced up at him. sarcophagi. What did they do in them? But such things I encountered all the time, and tried not to. and from a metal-framed slot, as from a mailbox, slipped a piece of shiny paper folded in two. I. dangerous. The art must be learned, and practiced, he said. given him for his twelfth birthday. He put it to his lips, his fingers danced, and he played a. only because it had a weatherworker of its own aboard, who raised a wave to swamp the stolen boat. firmly as they might wish, and always against opposition; for mages came from other islands and. The witch still said nothing. They walked along in the darkness side by side. At last, in a. announcement about takeoff, signals of some sort, the warning to fasten seat belts, but nothing. two-masted ship. trembling, like a hound that wants to chase but cannot find the scent. He was at a loss. There was. Great House. The walls we built to keep all evil out. Or in, as the case may be. great forest of Faliern. speakers (like most Hardic speakers) do not realise that their languages have a common ancestry. the True Speech. This could mean human wizards, or dragons, or both. In the arcane Lore of Paln, thinking them rivals, those whose power he was jealous of. When they came to him he took their. When he was done Veil was silent a long time and then said, "That was what you meant, when you came here first- I could not save the one who saved me." court for the general good and to study the ethical bases and constraints of their practice. "Yes," Gelluk said, his deep voice soft and dreamy, "she must be burned alive. And then, only. He had been stowed in a storeroom of one of the old palaces that Losen had appropriated. It had no. "He's not too well," she said, speaking low. "He was curing the cattle away out east over the awareness; the boy was trying some trick or other. Gelluk spoke a single word impatiently, and. queens and kings of Earthsea," he thought, "and they are only the grass that grows on this hill." She asked nothing and he said no more. Presently he got up, and she followed him to the path that always led them, sooner or later, out of the wood to the clearing by the Thwilburn and the Otter's House. When they came there, it was late afternoon. He went down to the stream and drank from it where it left the wood, above all the crossings. She did the same. Then sitting in the cool, long grass of the bank, he began to speak. "And we're out of buttons," Tern said. He was cheerful; as soon as he had thought of Pody he knew. "Well, to my story. Forty years and more ago, there was a child born on the Isle of Ark, a rich. "They sent me here. They said, "All the foreigners in one basket." The stranger was in his thirties, with a blunt face and a pleasant look, dressed plain, though the cob that stood behind him was a good horse. "Put me up in the cow barn, mistress, it'll do fine. It's my horse needs a good bed; he's tired. I'll sleep in the barn and be off in the morning. Cows are a pleasure to sleep with on a cold night. I'll be glad to pay you, mistress, if two coppers would suit, and my name's Hawk." among the leaves. The spasm passed; Heleth answered, "Inside it. There at Yaved." He pointed to the knotted hills below them. "I'll go in, try to keep things from sliding around, eh? I'll find out when I'm doing it, no doubt. I think you should be getting back to yourself. Things are tightening up." He stopped again, looking as if he were in intense pain, hunched and clenched. He struggled to stand up. Unthinking, Ogion held out his hand to help him. onto a moving walkway. Quite close to me, a pair of startled eyes flashed by -- a lovely dark girl. Each True Rune has a significance, a connotation or area of meaning, which can be more or less. file:///D:/Documents%20and%20Settings/harry/...0%20LeGuin%20-%20Tales%20From%20Earthsea.txt (49 of 111) [2/5/2004 12:33:31 AM]. have no art. No knowledge. I came to learn." execution, in Losen's name, for the crime of conspiracy against the King. There had perhaps not. came to him with its easy, loose, majestic tread, and breathed into his open palm. All those that. fault and they would know nothing about it. He thought about it for a long time, working out how. Very few people ever spoke to Gelluk unless he compelled them to. The spells by which he silenced, weakened, and controlled all who approached him were so habitual to him that he gave them no thought. He was used to being listened to, not to listening. Serene in his strength and obsessed with his ideas, he had no thought beyond them. He was not aware of Otter at all except as a part of his plans, an extension of himself. "Yes, yes, you will," he said, and smiled again. choice, really. There was only one way for him to go. inertia had been annulled. How was this possible? I checked, bending my knees slightly, at three. "The man's a wizard, or nearly," said Rose the witch, "a Roke wizard! You must not ask him. only by returning as you went could you be sure of coming out into the fields. strength in his arms. The dogs were leaping and snapping at his own legs now, and he was about to. Once there in the Grove she had no thought of earning, or deserving, or even of learning. To be there was enough, was all. for several houses up and down the street, and a crowd, that is, ten or eleven people, gathered. Erreth-Akbe slip like the shadow of a great sundial across the roofs below. He gave orders, and. in the flesh. Worship of the Twin Gods continued, as did the popular worship of the Old Powers; so much before. Could they be flying columns? People were hurrying toward it from all. servant now. Yet she herself was untaught, and so enslaved. If wizardry is ill taught by the best. They had little trust in men. A man had

betrayed them. Men had attacked them. It was men's, so, without a word, on his nameday night, to go off with the witch-girl, leaving all the honest who had mistreated him." under the eaves making soft, shrewish remarks about rain. "I don't see why one couldn't be." She never saw why something could not be. "Completely?" she asked with sudden interest. 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?" "What, to send them back into death?" the Namer said, and the Patterner, "Who is to say what is." "I can protect you here, and have done so. On Roke, of course, you'll be perfectly safe. The very. It was true. He knew her name: Irian. It was like a coal of fire, a burning ember in his mind. His. But as he went back up the streets of South Port he lost her. He swore to keep her with him, to think of her, to think of her that night, but she faded away. By the time he opened the door of Master Hemlock's house he was reciting lists of names, or wondering what would be for dinner, for he was hungry most of the time. Not till he could take an hour and run back down to the docks could he think of her. piratic warlords, all trying to increase their wealth and extend or defend their borders. Trade bellows and the steady roar of the fire. "Come, come see how he flies in the air, making himself. It was hard to be aware of her through the wizard's talk and the constant, half-conscious controlling spells that wove a darkness round him. But when Otter could do so, then it was not so much as if she was with him, as that she was him, or that he was her. He saw through her eyes. Her voice spoke in his mind, stronger and clearer than Gelluk's voice and spells. Through her eyes and mind he could see, and think. And he began to see that the wizard, completely certain of possessing him body and soul, was careless of the spells that bound Otter to his will. A bond is a connection. He-or Anieb within him-could follow the links of Gelluk's spells back into Gelluk's own mind. on Gont, he knew that. But he was tired of teaching, and didn't want another prentice underfoot. "And you feel nothing?" All the firmaments of the night flung onto a flat plane. On a horizon of blazing mist --. writing. From that time on, The Creation of Ea, The Winter Carol, the Deeds, the Lays, and the. the distance several people were walking; I was not sure, however, that they were not dolls, and. "Tell us who you are," the white-haired man said, courteously enough, but without greeting or welcome. "Tell us how you came here." "He cannot harm me anywhere," she said, the fire running through her veins again. "If he tries to, I'll destroy him." .file:///D:/Documents%20and%20Settings/harry/...0%20LeGuin%20-%20Tales%20From%20Earthsea.txt (54 of 111) [2/5/2004 12:33:31 AM]. amount to much that I can see. He did no good to my cow with the caked bag, two years ago. And his. supposed to wait until you got tired of playing wizard. Well, I got tired of waiting." Her voice. "Naturally." .them. Maybe a child the parents are grieving for. In the witch's hut, in the darkness, they hear. it seemed to me, but no one paid the least attention to the change, and I could not even say when. "Later? It varies. To some. . . you always give brit." "Put your feet up to the fire," she said abruptly. "I have some old shoes of my husbands." It cost her something to say that, yet when she had said it she felt released, untied too. What was she keeping Bren's shoes for, anyhow? They were too small for Berry and too big for her. She'd given away his clothes, but kept the shoes, she didn't know what for. For this fellow, it would seem. Things came round if you could wait for them, she thought. "I'll set em out for you," she said. "Yours are perished." .speak. Without a word or gesture he turned away again and left the room. As he walked slowly past. away from her in the running of the water, and she floated in delight in the caress of the stream, .of Ard's was no son of his, had nursed his rage and died unforgiving. The Patterner never came to her much before noon, so she had the mornings free. She was used to. remembering her father, but the motion of the leaves and shadows drew it on. She saw him drunk. Hemlock nodded. "That is quite understandable, among children. And quite impossible now. Do you understand that?" "No," Diamond said. .good house." After a while he thought, "I might keep some goats." Otters uncle said, he kept the shipwrights busy. They were grateful to have work in a time when. Nothing, to his mind, could be more despicable than such a betrayal of their art. So it troubled. away off like that. .nursery, until driven back into the west by Ged. But the marauding dragons of the Lay and the. after the men were gone did some neighbors creep out to comfort Otter's people as best they could. .dissent within his kingdom. It was widely said that since the Ring of Peace was lost there could. Archmage, here, in the Grove, as always. But not as always. Otter felt as if he were being brought back to vivid life from interminable, dreary, dazed half. wizardry. And he had learned a man's name. He tried to remember how to make light. Anieb said to him, plaintively, "Can't you make the light?" But he could not. He crawled in the dark till the sound of water was loud and the rocks under him were wet, and groped till his hand found water. He drank, and tried to crawl away from the wet rocks afterward, because he was very cold. One arm hurt and had no strength in it. When Veil came up from town to bring them the last of the late peaches, they laughed; peaches were. knowledge. I think I've come to the place I sought, but I don't know. I think you may be the. He got up in the icy morning while they still slept rolled in their blankets. He knew where the cattle were nearby, and went to them. The sickness was very familiar to him now. He felt it in his hands as a burning, and a queasiness if it was much advanced. Approaching one steer that was lying down, he found himself dizzy and retching. He came no closer, but said words that might ease the dying, and went on. Ordinary Hardic, for matters of government or business or personal messages or to record history, tales, and songs, is written in the characters properly called Hardic runes. Most Archipelagans learn a few hundred to several thousand of these characters as a major part of their few years of schooling. Spoken or written, Hardic is useless for casting spells. .file:///D:/Documents%20and%20Settings/harry/...0%20LeGuin%20-%20Tales%20From%20Earthsea.txt (87 of 111) [2/5/2004 12:33:31 AM]. "Of all the innocence," Gift said, hissing the word. "He'll skin you." She dumped a kettleful of. A division of. by Stanislaw Lem. "I don't know," the Herbal said. "I can only tell you that when I'm with him, when I'm in the Great House, I feel that nothing can be done but what has been done. That nothing will change. Nothing will grow. That no matter what cures I use, the sickness will end in death." He looked around at them all like a hurt ox. "And I think it is true. There is no way to regain the Equilibrium but by holding still. We have gone too

far. For the Archmage and Lebannen to go bodily into death, and return - it was not right. They broke a law that must not be broken. It was to restore the law that Thorion returned." There he was well received by King Thoreg, who, after the shattering loss of his fleet, was ready. cafes, the sharp, persistent smell of fried food, rows of gas flames behind windows, the clinking. Something moved on one of the tracks, something big, dark, in the darkness.. "Thank you," he said, opening the gate for the heifer, who went to greet her mother, while he

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