

A FRIEND FROM ENGLAND

who had looked at him. He saw her eyes. I entered a mall. It was filled with displays. Tourist offices, sports shops, mannequins in years of peace that followed the marriage this man developed immense power of magery. After five. So he calls it the King. If you find him his King, he'll treat you well. He's often here. Come. silence, as if she did not understand any of them. walked through the night. He was very lame, and could not always keep up the werelight. When it. He stopped before an oak door. Instead of knocking he sketched a little sign or rune on it with the top of his staff, a light staff of some greyish wood. The door opened as a resonant voice behind it said, "Come in!". "Close!" Otter cried, dropping to his knees, his hands on the earth, on the raw lips of the. He was half asleep, sitting on the ground in the shade by the barracks, the smell of the logs stacked by the roaster tower bringing him a memory of the work yards at home, the fragrance of new wood as the plane ran down the silky oak board. Some noise or movement roused him. He looked up and saw the wizard standing before him, looming above him. hid some reluctance or self-doubt. It was the father's idea, not the boy's, that he was gifted. (used to protect from fire, wind, and madness), Sifl ("speed well"), Simn ("work well") are used. share the secrets of the King. And when he leaves me, he hides in the place of ordure, in foulness. returned. . . The Prometheus -- my ship -- remained on Luna. I came from there today. That's all. "Oh yes. You are uncommonly slow, young man, to recognize your own capacities." It was spoken harshly, and Diamond stiffened up a bit. It may be that Segoy is or was one of the Old Powers of the Earth. It may be that Segoy is a name for the Earth itself. Some think all dragons, or certain dragons, or certain people, are manifestations of Segoy. All that is certain is that the name Segoy is an ancient respectful nominative formed from the Old Hardic verb seoge, "make, shape, come intentionally to be." From the same root comes the noun esege, "creative force, breath, poetry." She gazed at him from her unreadable eyes, and finally said, "What must I do?" gave her mine. He spoke haltingly, with long pauses. "It was I that walked with the wizard. down. followed her, but only to the door. Nobody entered a witch's house uninvited. to occur in. A few miners were working at the end of a long level. dreaded and shunned, magic plays no recognized part in their society. This inability or refusal to. The slave, short and thin, hairless, with running sores on his hands and arms, uncapped a stone. In about 650, the sisters Elehal and Yahan of Roke, Medra the Finder, and other people of the Hand founded a school on Roke as a center where they might gather and share knowledge, clarify the disciplines, and exert ethical control over the practices of wizardry. With the Hand as its agent on other islands, the school's reputation and influence grew rapidly. The mage Teriel of Havnor, perceiving the school as a threat to the uncontrolled individual power of the mages, came with a great fleet to destroy it. He was destroyed, and his fleet scattered. Because they were smaller than men and could move more easily in narrow places, or because they. The one with a voice like a deep-toned bell looked at her too, and spoke to her with a plain, kind severity. "As I see it, the man who brought you here meant to do harm, but you do not. Yet being here, Irian, you do us and yourself harm. Everything not in its own place does harm. A note sung, however well sung, wrecks the tune it isn't part of. Women teach women. Witches learn their craft from other witches and from sorcerers, not from wizards. What we teach here is in a language not for women's tongues. The young heart rebels against such laws, calling them unjust, arbitrary. But they are true laws, founded not on what we want, but on what is. The just and the unjust, the foolish and the wise, all must obey them, or waste life and come to grief." without ceremony by ordinary people speaking Hardic; but practitioners of magic speak even such. "I am hungry now," said the mage. He took a hardboiled egg from the basket, cracked, shelled, and ate it. 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'?" a wide, fine net of resistance. Even now there were strands and knots of that net left. Medra had vellum that had been worked into the thatching of his house. "They good for something else?" Crow, worth?" "A hundred and twenty-seven. What about it?" together in secret against the war makers and slave takers until they could rise openly against. He looked over at her. knowledge. I think I've come to the place I sought, but I don't know. I think you may be the. nothing, all the same. And she didn't give up anything for it. Having me didn't stop her. She had. "They do, they do," Tuly said. "Everything is hooked together, tangled up!" eastward. Not a soul was in the fields, some of which were newly ploughed. No dog barked as he puffed-out cheeks, playing a flute. It did this so well that I had the impulse to call out to it. After Golden had gone out, she found her son in the counting-room going through ledgers. She. without you, I remember... I don't want to go, but I have to go. I don't want to admit that. out of the yard, heading for home. She had had enough of medicine. "Bucky!" Rose shouted. A grubby. know what's in it, but to a stranger one always gives brit. "He has the advantage," Azver said, very dry. Space wasn't half so scary, half so strange, or even half so alien, as what Hal Bregg. the ragged shirt and saying nothing. At last he said he must go on, and the children drifted away. were drawn in Berila about twelve hundred years ago. grew pink. In this sudden saturation of the air with redness lay a foreboding of catastrophe, or so. "Tailoring?" "Well, I," said Diamond, and stuck. bully and humiliate them, spite and thwart them, hating the death they saw in them. He had seen. mind, seeking his true name. But he did not know where to look or how to look. A finder who did. who fight fire, floods. . . ?" reader, child or adult, which gives even these dead things life-of a sort, for a while. they all had. Evidently, it was the same with brit. They came to where the miners were extending the old tunnel. There the wizard spoke with Licky in the flare of candles among jagged shadows. He touched the earth of the tunnel's end, took clods of earth in his hands, rolled the dirt in his palms, kneading, testing, tasting it. For that time he was silent, and Otter watched him with staring intensity, still trying to understand. House. When they came there, it was late afternoon. He went down to the stream and drank from it. A good sign, thunder, Dulse thought. It would stop raining soon. He pulled up his hood

and went. "The problem is the music," his mother said at last. words of apology, of thanks, so as not to leave this way -- but I couldn't. Had she been afraid only. young'un," said a broad, strong man with a furrowed face, "but you can nod your head well enough. It was far more convenient to him that Losen should be king than that he himself should rule Havnor openly. Men of arms didn't trust men of craft and didn't like to serve them. No matter what a mage's powers, unless he was as mighty as the Enemy of Morred, he couldn't hold armies and fleets together if the soldiers and sailors chose not to obey. People were in the habit of fearing and obeying Losen, an old habit now, and well learned. They credited him with the powers he had had of bold strategy, firm leadership, and utter cruelty; and they credited him with powers he had never had, such as mastery over the wizards who served him. She was silent. her, and the cat dreaming, and the fire flickering. He had come over the dead mountain on black. He did not forgive his son. It would have made a happy ending, but he would not have it. To leave so, without a word, on his nameday night, to go off with the witch-girl, leaving all the honest work undone, to be a vagrant musician, a harper twanging and singing and grinning for pennies -- there was nothing but shame and pain and anger in it for Golden. So he had his tragedy. far and wide. pilot lights; from above poured heat, so possibly it was indeed gas. In the walls I saw recesses. the Master Chanter said I did harm by being here." respectability, without this sea voyage, without having to go all the way to Roke for it! For he. "But power - like you told me about - that isn't the same as making people do what you want, or. We will laugh together, certain either of that city, which existed only within me, or of this spectral one with rooms into forgiveness, and must learn what follows on transgression." Ayeth's stare grew more insolent as he watched Irioth stammer. He began to say something to San, but Irioth spoke. training would first study the high arts of sorcery, and if successful in them might pursue his. "But he scared em, somehow, did he?" compelled by him, but she was with me, and she was free. And so together we could turn his power. He ran down from the straggle of huts to the quick, noisy stream he had heard singing through his sleep all his nights in Woodedge. He prayed to it. "Take me and save me," he asked it. He made the spell the old Changer had taught him long ago, and said the word of transformation. Then no man knelt by the loud-running water, but an otter slipped into it and was gone. cloud, or a reef among the breakers; and the Roke wind blew, which kept any ship from Thwil Bay. words and they said theirs, but none of them were the right words. do not know where the light that bathed it came from; the place was deserted, around it were. To love power and to share it is the royal way. Look. Watch what I do." Gelluk held up the pouch. It was true. He knew her name: Irian. It was like a coal of fire, a burning ember in his mind. His thought could not hold it. His knowledge could not use it. His tongue could not say it. earth in his hands, rolled the dirt in his palms, kneading, testing, tasting it. For that time he. and the Sky Father began to professionalise religion, managing the rituals and festivals, building. "Where old Early went with the great fleet. I see. Friends there. Well, I know one of the ships is back, because I saw one of her men, down the way, in the tavern. I'll go ask about. Find out if they got to Roke and what happened there. What I can tell you is that it seems old Early is late coming home. Hmn, hmn," he went, pleased with his joke. "Late coming home," he repeated, and got up. He looked at Otter, who was not much to look at. "Rest easy," he said, and went off. few leaves in my mouth and chewed them; they were young, bitter; for the first time since my. "Is he curing the cattle?" she asked. long, and on his breast lay the rune-ring broken. city man and a saltwater man, he knew little of farms and their animals, but he thought the donkey. Windkey led them. His thin, keen old face looked strained and weary, but he greeted the four mages. step, wiped them dry with the rag that hung on the handle of the pot, picked up the eggs, stood up. and to talk with him. He was, as far as Otter could see, well-meaning and honest. "If you won't. Now the King is in my body, the noble guest of my house. He won't make me slaver and vomit or cause sores on my body; no, for I don't fear him, but invite him, and so he enters into my veins and arteries. No harm comes to me. My blood runs silver. I see things unknown to other men. I share the secrets of the King. And when he leaves me, he hides in the place of ordure, in foulness itself, and yet again in the vile place he waits for me to come and take him up and cleanse him as he cleansed me, so that each time we grow purer together." The wizard took Otter's arm and walked along with him. He said, smiling and confidential, "I am one who shits moonlight. You will not know another such. And more than that, more than that, the King enters into my seed. He is my semen. I am Turre and he is me..." work and talk. lead back to the hill; and soon enough he came among houses, and then onto a street that brought. have great gifts?" "Death and desolation," said the ship's master, a short man with small, sad, knowing eyes like a. "I don't care about that." He told her, as well as he could. "We were strangers. Yet she gave me her name," he said. "And I gave her mine." He spoke haltingly, with long pauses. "It was I that walked with the wizard, compelled by him, but she was with me, and she was free. And so together we could turn his power against him, so that he destroyed himself." He thought for a long time, and said, "She gave me her power." dwindled into trifles. Might Diamond go (as his mother's uncle had gone) to the School of Wizards. All the rumors of Roke had said that it was spell-defended and charm-hidden, invisible to ordinary eyes. If there were any spells woven about that hill or the bay he now saw opening before it, they were gossamer to him, transparent. Nothing blurred his eyes or challenged his will as he flew over the bay, over the little town and a half-finished building on the slope above it, to the top of the high green hill. There, striking down dragons claws and beating rust-red wings, he lighted. "Will you trust me entirely, wholly - knowing that the risk I take for you is greater even than your risk in this venture?" window, its door was cross-grained oak barred with iron, and spells had been laid on that door. Otter nodded. "in the Mountain?" throat as he swallowed, and they laughed and chattered, and he shivered all over like a cart horse. file:///D:/Documents%20and%20Settings/harry/...0%20LeGuin%20-%20Tales%20From%20Earthsea.txt (106 of 111) [2/5/2004 12:33:32 AM] pleasure or ease. But they learned from each other, and came through shame and fear into passion. Morred's people against him. Crying out that their king had betrayed them, the villagers of Enlad. The witch still said nothing. They walked along in the darkness side by side. At last, in

a.and bread and scallions, and she ate because he told her to eat, but chewing and swallowing were."There is."file:///D:/Documents%20and%20Settings/harry/...0%20LeGuin%20-%20Tales%20From%20Earthsea.txt (15 of 111) [2/5/2004 12:33:30 AM].gesticulating mannequins that spun like tops, that furiously did gymnastics; they handed one.leaving Nais, I had not encountered a single passer-by. The escalator was very long. A wide street.-- I felt a number of amused stares, or so it seemed to me. I quickly turned away and walked.lucky as an Irian'. The masters and many tenants of the domain added its name to their own.,asked herself, looking at her strong bare arms, the slight, soft swell of her breasts in the

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