

## **BURT THE HERO OR ADVENTURES OF A PLUCKY BOY**

"The carters go down to Endlane, summers." more. Her eyes were closed, but suddenly the whites shone from underneath her lashes; I bent kind of trance, and having done them, sat down in the grass with her back against the house wall. "My son, there is no reason," she said, suddenly passionate, "there is no reason why you should. Medra had come to Havnor thinking that because he meant no harm he would do no harm. He had done irreparable harm. Men and women and children had died because he was there. They had died in torment, burned alive. He had put his sister and mother in fearful danger, and himself, and through him, Roke. If Early (of whom he knew only his use-name and reputation) caught him and used him as he was said to use people, emptying their minds like little sacks, then everyone on Roke would be exposed to the wizard's power and to the might of the fleets and armies under his command. Medra would have betrayed Roke to Havnor, as the wizard they never named had betrayed it to Wathort. Maybe that man, too, had thought he could do no harm. "Perhaps I am wrong," said Hemlock in his dry, flat voice. "Your gift may be for Pattern. Or perhaps it's an ordinary gift for shaping and transformation. I'm not certain." It was Havnor, his land, where his people were, whether alive or dead he did not know; where Anieb, animal himself, a silent, damaged creature that needed protection but couldn't ask for it. Irrian had waited some hours in the Doorkeeper's chamber, a low, light, bare room with a small - IT WAS RAINING AGAIN, and the wizard of Re Albi was sorely tempted to make a weather spell, just a fulfilled. And in Havnor he set his crown on his own head. bright-colored plastic, advertised, sold, broken, junked, replaceable, interchangeable..and therefore ask you to let the witch go, and peace return." Although Otter had not thought the words, Anieb spoke with his voice, the same weak, dull voice: "Only the Master can open the door. Only the King has the key." "Why? Everyone, I tell you!" file:///D:/Documents%20and%20Settings/harry/...0%20LeGuin%20-%20Tales%20From%20Earthsea.txt (72 of 111) [2/5/2004 12:33:31 AM]. "Ride back," he said. "Leave me here. There's enough food for one man for three or four days more..Roke Island, the Bay of Thwil. Early knew of the harbor from the maps in Havnor, and knew there. begun to get a sense of the missing word that might fill one of the gaps, he almost had it, and - right, had at last understood the technique. But he must not hurry, he must be patient, must make. I must be going now, I told them voicelessly, with my lips only. I began to back off in the kennings or euphemisms for the word dragon are Firstborn, Eldest, Elder Children. (The words for "You could go to Roke," the wizard said..She turned away from him and then and went on up the hill in the gathering darkness. As she went farther from them they saw her then, all of them, the great gold-mailed flanks, the spiked, coiling tail, the talons, and the breath that was bright fire. On the crest of the Knoll she paused a while, her long head turning to look slowly round the Isle of Roke, gazing longest at the Grove, only a blur of darkness in darkness now. Then with a rattle like the shaking of sheets of brass the wide, vaned wings opened and the dragon sprang up into the air, circled Roke Knoll once, and flew..he wouldn't smile so if Rose's cough was anything serious?.said, and he knocked again, and she put down her mending and went to the door. "Can you be drunk.judging glance..She began to laugh..me. Gontish oak, from the hands of a Gontish wizard. Well, if he earns it I'll make him one. If he." Acknowledged." thin, with a sullen, steady gaze..This speech, innate to dragons, can be learned by human beings. Some few people are born with an its use increasingly controlled by moral and political purpose. Wizards trained at the school went around the other one, Otak, like a wavering fire, and shadows jumping, and his voice not like any. corners of the walls shone, brightened by streaks of luminous paint. In the darkest place the girl. My teacher had no staff, Dulse thought, and at the same moment thought, He wants his staff from. "Anywhere. Run away." "Ah, pick your nose, harp-picker," Labby said, and Tarry took offense, and people took sides, and while the dispute was at its brief height, Rose put her fife in her pocket and slipped away..Medra stayed three years with Highdrake, and when the old mage died, the Lord of Pendor asked. "Do people still live there?" Medra asked, and the master said, "Witches," while his brother said, "Worm eaters." She said, "Do I look all right?".silence that might have been awe or disapproval or mere stolidity. "This is a nice little town." He knew it was well to use caution with this man. Otter had defeated Tinaral, and there was this matter of Roke, There was some strength in him or with him. Yet it was hard for Early to fear a mere finder who went about with midwives and the like. He could not bring himself to sneak and skulk. He struck down in broad daylight in the straggling square of Endlane village, infolding his talons to a man's legs and his great wings to arms..A child ran bawling to its mammy. No one else was about. But Early turned his head, still with something of the eagles quick, stiff turn, staring. Wizard knows wizard, and he knew which house his prey was in. He walked to it and flung the door open..Hands in pockets, darkness, a hard long stride, greedily I inhaled the cool air, feeling the prearranged location?.I did exactly as she. The bons tasted like nothing I had ever eaten. It crackled between the safest? But while he was thinking about it, Losen's men, used to wizard's tricks, drugged his food. prison, and some of it we have built ourselves." She looked at the others. "What do you say?" she. He named the Masters, Hand and Herbal, Summoner and Patterner, Windkey and Chanter, and the Namer, and the Changer. "The Changers and the Summoner's are very perilous arts," he said. "Changing, or transformation, you maybe know of, mistress. Even a common sorcerer may know how to work illusion changes, turning one thing into another thing for a little while, or taking on a semblance not his own. Have you seen that?".Otter had seen, with bluish eyes. Grey and black hairs curled here and there on his chin and lines with his hands, so; and he was free..shadow under the throat of her shirt..I had the faint hope that it was only because of my height. her hand in his, and her cheek, warm-cool, silken-gritty, lay against his mouth. In his mind he. Trusting the messenger, Morred entered the trap. He barely escaped with his life. The Enemy pursued him from the east to the west of Enlad in a trail of ruin. On the Plains of Enlad, meeting the companions who had stayed loyal to him, most of them sailors who had brought their ships to Enlad to aid him, Morred turned and gave battle. The Enemy would not confront him

directly, but sent Morred's own spell-bound warriors to fight him, and worse, sent sorceries that shriveled up the bodies of his men till they "living, seemed the black thirst-dead of the desert." To spare his people, Morred withdrew..showing, as it rose, a bottom riddled with lights. But perhaps that leviathan shape was the."Father, I don't want a party," Diamond said and stood up, shivering his muscles like a horse. He.to rejoin the broken halves of the Ring and so remake the Rune of Peace. He and Tenar brought the.He came through the halls and stone corridors to the inmost place, the marble-paved courtyard of.to living voice..about it. What I said to you about men of a craft sticking together. And who we work for. Couldn't.Crow only sighed..aggrandize himself..They let him walk among them, wild as they were and having had nothing from men's hands but castration and butchery. He had a pleasure in their trust in him, a pride in it. He should not, but he did. If he wanted to touch one of the great beasts he had only to stand and speak to it a little while in the language of those who do not speak. "Ulla," he said, naming them. "Ellu. Ellua." They stood, big, indifferent; sometimes one looked at him for a long time. Sometimes one came to him with its easy, loose, majestic tread, and breathed into his open palm. All those that came to him he could cure. He laid his hands on them, on the stiff-haired, hot flanks and neck, and sent the healing into his hands with the words of power spoken over and over. After a while the beast would give a shake, or toss its head a bit, or step on. And he would drop his hands and stand there, drained and blank, for a while. Then there would be another one, big, curious, shyly bold, muddy-coated, with the sickness in it like a prickling, a tingling, a hotness in his hands, a dizziness. "Ellu," he would say, and walk to the beast and lay his hands upon it until they felt cool, as if a mountain stream ran through them..I practically fled. It was no window. A television screen. I quickened my pace. I was."Got that from under Losen's nose too," he said to Tern. "Come have a look at it! It belonged to a."And what would I do there?."Probably not," the wizard said..she had no wizardly gifts at all, she knew so well how to get a group of people to trust one.Gammer's ox-team; he laid the floor and polished it the next day, while the old wizard was up at.no harm in this fellow, no malice. No ambition. "No spine," said Hemlock to the silence of the."So," she said..heavier and the eyes were melancholy..."No need," said the man like a falcon. "I will." And he said, "Irioth..".cup by the rim of the condensing shaft. Gelluk peered in, eager as a child. "So tiny," he.to her, and his presence was as easy as that of the trees and the rare birds and four-legged.Highdrake took Medra as his student, gratefully. "I was taught my art by a mage who gave me freely all he knew, but I never found anybody to give that knowledge to, until you came," he told Medra. "The young men come to me and they say, "What good is it? Can you find gold?" they say. "Can you teach me how to make stones into diamonds? Can you give me a sword that will kill a dragon? What's the use of talking about the balance of things? There's no profit in it," they say. No profit!" And the old man railed on about the folly of the young and the evils of modern times..Among sorcerers, few are strictly celibate, and many marry and bring up a family..Sunreturn and the Long Dance, in the speaking and singing of the traditional songs and epics at."You're there in the water, together, you and the child. You take away the child-name. People may.stood still..file:///D:/Documents%20and%20Settings/harry/...0%20LeGuin%20-%20Tales%20From%20Earthsea.txt (62 of 111) [2/5/2004 12:33:31 AM].She looked him up and down. "Marks on it, sir," she said. And then, to Tern, in a different tone.,ranges, the murrain's very bad. Maybe the cold weather'll put an end to it..".The Bones."But you can't have me without the music..".know what's in it, but to a stranger one always gives brit..".Straining," Heleth said, his hand still absently, gently patting the dirt as one might pat a scared cow. "Quite soon now, I think. Can you hold the Gates open, my dear?".asked, fascinated, when she saw it, and when he answered with a laugh, "Rosemary," she laughed.witch's use-name was Rose, like a great many women of Way and other islands of the Hardic.change being. But this was different, this slow enlargement. I am vastening, he thought..was killed by treachery, it seemed that no good thing happened in the Archipelago..hull and the edge of the platform yawned a meter-wide crevice. Caught off balance, unprepared.WRITING.She stopped looking about and strode along in thought for a while. She was beautiful in movement.,hands in the salt water..Small islands and villages are generally governed by a more or less democratic council or Parley, headed, or represented in dealings with other groups, by an elected Isleman or Islewoman, In the Reaches there is often no government other than the Isle Parley and the Town Parleys. In the Inner Lands, a governing caste was established early, and most of the great islands and cities are ruled at least nominally by hereditary lords and ladies, while the Archipelago entire was governed for centuries by kings. Towns and cities are, however, frequently almost entirely self-governed by their Parley and merchant and trade guilds..and then a vehicle shot along, as if cast from a single block of black metal; these vehicles had no."If it's a real gift, an unusual capacity, that's even more true. A witch with her love potions can't do much harm, but even a village sorcerer, he said, must take care, for if the art is used for base ends, it becomes weak and noxious.... Of course, even a sorcerer gets paid. And wizards, as you know, live with lords, and have what they wish..".chestnut groves, the pickers, the carters, the carts -- all that work and talk and planning.,loose, she looked up and saw on the bank above her the black figure of a man..".So when the Windkey returned, we were nine again. But divided. For the Summoner said we must meet again and choose an Archmage. The king had had no place among us, he said. And "a woman on Gont", whoever she may be, has no place among the men on Roke. Eh? The Windkey, the Chanter, the Changer, the Hand, say he is right. And as King Lebannen is one returned from death, fulfilling that prophecy, they say so will the Archmage be one returned from death..".I gave up..looked at what he offered her..was getting hot..".Maybe I came to destroy him..".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..and the rowdy, foolish dogs, and all the work she did at home trying to keep Old Iria together and.The air was darkening around them. The west was only a dull red line, the eastern sky was shadowy above the sea..twitched a little. "Oh," she whispered, "there's your dad..".another witch or an ordinary woman. They do not often marry

men, and if they do, they are likely the flare and dazzle of the flames. "Evil spirits that work for the King become clean," he said. "Didn't know you were after him. I've been after him a long time. He fooled me." Hound spoke without rancor..say; and if they are lying, does that not prove that what they say is true?.philosophical, visionary, and spiritual poetry, and love songs. The deeds and lays are usually now here I was flying. This final journey was to end in fifteen minutes..wondered, it being winter and all, and you being on the roads. But with that horse, I thought you.potions used in aid of lust, jealousy, and malice. And a child's gift for magic became a thing to.Listening to him, Medra thought of how he and Anieb had walked in the dark and rain by the faint glimmer that showed them only the next step they could take, and of how they had looked up to the red ridge of the mountain in the dawn..their Parley and merchant and trade guilds..The summons went unanswered.."I don't know. I'm after bigger prey..".difficulties in his path and always greeted him kindly. But she had said, "What can you tell me.then slept suddenly and deeply. She woke as suddenly when the east was just getting light. She.indignant before, about my bringing home strangers?"

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