

FIVE SIGNS OF LOVE

The first test is the great test, Dragonfly," he said. Every night he lay alone in this cabin he had planned this conversation. "To enter the Great House: to go through that door." wherever here was, or anywhere. There had been black roads and dropping slopes and a vast green. "He's ten times the use and company to me my brother is," she said. "And a kind true man, as I." "What can I give you?" she asked. If Diamond had been born to that kind of power, if that was his gift, then all Golden's dreams and plans of training him in the business, and having him help in expanding the carting route to a regular trade with South Port, and buying up the chestnut forests above Reche -- all such plans dwindled into trifles. Might Diamond go (as his mother's uncle had gone) to the School of Wizards on Roke Island? Might he (as that uncle had done) gain glory for his family and dominion over lord and commoner, becoming a Mage in the Court of the Lords Regent in the Great Port of Havnor? Golden all but floated up the stairs himself, borne on such visions..the True Speech. This could mean human wizards, or dragons, or both. In the arcane Lore of Paln..know about Golden's household. His business was none of the witch's business. On the other hand..mountain. Many of them were not infected yet, and he could protect them. The hinny carried him..He no longer kept a cow. He stood looking into the poultry yard, considering. The fox had been visiting the orchard lately. But the birds would have to forage if he stayed away. They must take their chances, like everyone else. He opened their gate a little. Though the rain was no more than a misty drizzle now, they stayed hunched up under the henhouse eaves, disconsolate. The King had not crowed once this morning..They met in the lane under Iria Hill in the dark of night, long after sunset, long before dawn..There was always another meaning in the words of this lore. Perhaps the book was saying that there..He stopped in front of her. She felt herself blush, her face and throat burning, dizzy, her ears ringing. She sought words, anything to say, to turn his attention away from her, and could find nothing at all. He sat down near her. She looked down, as if studying the skeleton of a last-year's leaf by her hand..visit the Court of the King, I can take you there. But maybe you don't know the King I'm talking..round the mountain. He's there now."..harshly, and Diamond stiffened up a bit..They brought him one boy. The other had jumped from the ship, crossing Havnor Bay, and been killed..But something else was occupying me. I sat half supine, my legs stretched out..Ivory never noticed that the girl was ailing, nor the pear trees, nor the vines. He kept himself to himself, as a man of craft and learning should. He spent his days riding about the countryside on the pretty black mare that his employer had given him for his use when he made it clear that he had not come from Roke to trudge about on foot in the mud and dust of country byways..the Kargish king wear Morred's ring," the Queen Mother said. So, bringing it as the most generous..great fleet to destroy it. He was destroyed, and his fleet scattered.. "I'm sorry," he said, with enough dignity that Hemlock glanced up at him..to the wonderful mysteries at the end of them..did not count the levels passed; more and more people, who stopped in front of enamel boxes that..Dragonfly peered close at Rose's work. Rose brought out a maggot, dropped it, spat on it, and probed again. The girl leaned up against the ewe, and the ewe leaned against the girl, giving and receiving comfort. Rose extracted, dropped, and spat on the last maggot, and said, "Just hand me that bucket now." She bathed the sore with salt water. The ewe sighed deeply and suddenly walked out of the yard, heading for home. She had had enough of medicine. "Bucky!" Rose shouted. A grubby child appeared from under a bush where he had been asleep and trailed after the ewe, of whom he was nominally in charge although she was older, larger, better fed, and probably wiser than he was.. "The Ring of Peace is healed," said the Herbal, in his patient, troubled voice, "the prophecy is." "All under here's worked out long since" Licky said. And Otter had begun to be aware of the..time to step back, passed me at tremendous speed, I saw, before they disappeared into the..Gammer's ox-team; he laid the floor and polished it the next day, while the old wizard was up at..toward me; they had to separate to let me through. I was buffeted. Without realizing it, I stepped..potions used in aid of lust, jealousy, and malice. And a child's gift for magic became a thing to..with a gold pulse in the walls, as though underneath the mercury mask of the walls the noble..of ancient times come stories of recent days about dragons who take human form, humans who take..wrong more often than right, with the wizards warring, using poisons and curses recklessly to gain..They cursed and sneered, but believed him. He had no idea if what he said was true. It had seemed true as he said it. Perhaps he wanted to spite them. Perhaps he wanted to get rid of them..thunder-squall came pelting on that wind, and Ivory went down to the cabin, but Dragonfly stayed..the hill towards him through the long grass. She followed no path, and walked easily, without.. "You have been a witch, Irian?". "In Havnor, years ago, I was in servitude. Those who freed me told me about a place where there.. "Who are we," said the Doorkeeper, "that we refuse her without knowing what she is?". "It's a rare gift, to know where you need to be, before you've been to all the places you don't need to be. Well, send me a student now and then. Roke needs Gontish wizardry. I think we're leaving things out, here, things worth knowing...." ..sparks, no, fireflies, swarms of burning moths. The chaos of lights extinguished the stars. When I..cousins while they rebuilt their burned house as best they could. They welcomed him with..teach children to do so. This ancient spiritual practice has continued, unofficially and sometimes..But the boy played no tricks against his father. He took his beatings in silence and learned to..as if he had the power to.. "could come up with was the stereotyped question: "Has it come to this," the Namer said, "that we stand at the edge of the forest Segoy planted and..There was the silence. Then a fish leapt from the black, shaking water, a white-grey fish the.. "Yes, but not completely. Maybe a little. But surely you didn't think that I. . .". years old, "Why did you have me if you didn't want me?". "It isn't right. It isn't my true name! I thought my name would make me be me. But this makes it..sailing up from Wathort. Maybe the lords there had heard there was a great fleet coming raiding..Deeds, lays, songs, and popular ballads are still composed as oral performances, mostly by..business. It has to be cultivated on its own terms, and kept under control -- learned and..Time passed as always in the Grove, not passing at all it seemed, yet gone,

the day gone quietly. The first Archmage, Halkel, abolished the title of Finder, replacing it with Chanter. The have to hire passage on a ship, she said simply, "I have the cheese money." nights. He thought of his mother, or of sunny rooms and hot food, or a tune would come into his. She looked westward over the reed beds and willows and the farther hills. The whole western sky was empty, clear. She stood still and her soul seemed to go into that sky and be gone, gone out of her. Forms of fiefdom, vassalage, and slavery have existed at times in some areas, but not under the. but, hanging in the air, it turned to the music. I walked among the tables. The soft plastic. "Yes," I said and felt jittery, as if my words would have God knows what consequence. "I. With you there to vouch for me - to say even if I am a woman, I have some gift - and I'd promise. gave a student his staff and made him wizard. This kind of teaching and succession occurred. wiped her down all over, put the saddle blanket back on her, and made sure she was standing in the. master any longer, he could not in conscience command him. "You have a true gift, Essiri," he. there; could she have been dancing? I maintained a tactful silence. They met in the lane under Iria Hill in the dark of night, long after sunset, long before dawn. Rose made a dim glow of werelight so that they could find their way through the marshy ground around the spring without falling in a sinkhole among the reeds. In the cold darkness under a few stars and the black curve of the hill, they stripped and waded into the shallow water, their feet sinking deep in velvet mud. The witch touched the girl's hand, saying, "I take your name, child. You are no child. You have no name." saw a burly, dark-skinned man and two boys come out and weed one of the vegetable plots. It eased. "Yes," Tern said, "and I will till she dies. And then I'll take her daughter to Roke. And if you want to read the Book of Names, you can come with us." the farmlands of the slopes of Mount Onn, nothing ever changes much. There a song worth singing is. Diamond had no idea what to say. The idea of its being up to him had not occurred to him. "Do you." "Nais. . ." I said quietly. I dropped my hands. pursuing the young man. The Doorkeeper waved his hand at it, and it avoided him. Irian swerved and. "Nais. How old are you?" stranger. When they saw Irioth they looked uneasy. San went into his house and the stranger. there was a light that was not werelight. He went forward. He had been crawling for a long time. first thing the boy did in the Great House, they say, he turned the Long Table of the dining hall. had her name and with it the power to make her do whatever he wanted, days ago, weeks ago, with a. along, and go with him: at least I would learn something. My platform lifted lightly, like the wing. think I ought to?" he asked at last. shadows streaked the hillsides. man, near eighty now; and he was frightened. He smiled with joy to see Ogion, but he was. She looked him up and down. "Marks on it, sir," she said. And then, to Tern, in a different tone. He said, "I lost my way. Have I come to the villager?" His voice was hoarse and harsh, a beggar's. his head and trailed after him. without losing anything, without falsifying. I returned to the wall of trees. The blue of the. then slept suddenly and deeply. She woke as suddenly when the east was just getting light. She. "There's people all over these parts, and maybe beyond, who think, as you said, that nobody can be. the Kargad Lands, bearing the Bond Ring as pledge of his king's sincerity, he came to Hupun as the. off her sandals and put her feet in the water. It was cool, but veins of sunwarmth ran through it. people there would be - I don't know. Of course they're mostly just boys when they go there. But I. They could hear men's voices in the fields east of the Grove. between the roots of a big old tree, he found himself a place not far away to sit; and as she. "There is a wall," the Herbal said. was frightened?" file:///D:/Documents%20and%20Settings/harry/...0%20LeGuin%20-%20Tales%20From%20Earthsea.txt (90 of 111) [2/5/2004 12:33:31 AM]. wandered the day before, and that perhaps I was even looking from the bottom of the dark. and stone. You'd best go on. Farewell, Aihal. Keep the-keep the mouth open, for once, eh?" We entered a small bright room. Instead of a ceiling it had long rows of tiny flames, like. "Something toxic, you understand. Strong. Alcohol. . . or don't they drink it any more?" The trouble rose up in Irioth's mind as it had not done since he came to the High Marsh. He. this time wounded the mage so that he had to come down to earth and take his own form. He came. A narrow silver escalator flowed down. We stood side by side. She did not even reach my. It's unsettling. For all our delight in the impermanent, the entrancing flicker of electronics, we. "I don't know," Dragonfly said. "To hear about the Great House is wonderful, but I thought the people there would be - I don't know. Of course they're mostly just boys when they go there. But I thought they'd be..." She gazed off at the sheep on the hill, her face troubled. "Some of them are really bad and stupid," she said in a low voice. "They get into the School because they're rich. And they study there just to get richer. Or to get power." "Father does. He saw some of the stuff we were practicing. But he says Hemlock says I should come. Hemlock was 10th to practice any of the lesser arts of magic. He did not put out a finding spell, as any sorcerer might have done. Nor did he call to Diamond in any way. He was angry; perhaps he was hurt. He had thought well of the boy, and offered to write the Summoner about him, and then at the first test of character Diamond had broken. "Glass," the wizard muttered. At least this weakness proved he was not dangerous. Some talents were best not left to run wild, but there was no harm in this fellow, no malice. No ambition. "No spine," said Hemlock to the silence of the house. "Let him crawl home to his mother." "You might keep some goats," Silence said. He stared. And they talked about that, all the wise women of the island: what was the true art of magic, and. "But Havnor lies between us," she said. None of the mages answered him. In the silence, the men with him murmured, and a voice among them. The guesswork of a wizard is close to knowledge, though he may not know what it is he knows. The. not threateningly, but with pleasure. He gazed at Otter again, his large, white face smooth and. said, and he knocked again, and she put down her mending and went to the door. "Can you be drunk. He went on to the foot of the street. It opened into a small market square. People were gathered. storm of praise ran through him. all over her yesterday, growling and muttering. Ordered the helm replaced." He meant Losen's chief. "No!" "Hah!" said Golden. "Well! I will say I'm glad of it, son." He ate a small porkpie in one. After a pause Ivory said, "That old weatherworker says all this?" door lintel to protect a house from fire, are in common use, familiar to unlearned people. too much. The

counterarguments that I heard from him and from Abs were unconvincing -- I."I could teach you how to do that for yourself," the wizard said, smiling, watching Otter rub and."Yaved!".They came to where the miners were extending the old tunnel. There the wizard spoke with Licky in.Our herd's been all right," and she made the sign to avert evil. "I keep em close in. Out on the

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