

FUNERAL GAMES

an illuminated walkway. I took it. Above me the whitish spans of structures sailed by; somewhere. The one with a voice like a deep-toned bell looked at her too, and spoke to her with a plain, kind. A curved corridor with an inclined floor, as sometimes in the theater; from its walls, "Not many come here to the High Marsh," she said. "Peddlers and such. But not in winter." That is, human beings chose to have possessions and dragons chose not to. But, as there are ascetics among humans, some dragons are greedy for shining things, gold, jewels; one was Yevaud, who sometimes came among people in human form, and who made the rich Isle of Pendor into a dragon nursery, until driven back into the west by Ged. But the marauding dragons of the Lay and the songs seem to have been moved not so much by greed as by anger, a sense of having been cheated, betrayed. file:///D:/Documents%20and%20Settings/harry/...0%20LeGuin%20-%20Tales%20From%20Earthsea.txt (32 of 111) [2/5/2004 12:33:30 AM]. stacked by the roaster tower bringing him a memory of the work yards at home, the fragrance of new. Things came round if you could wait for them, she thought. "I'll set em out for you," she said. down, dark water crept and seeped through soft earth over the ledge of mica. Under that opened the. "It won't do," he said, talking to himself in Hardic, and then he said, "I can't do it." Then he said, "I can't do it by myself." Sometimes there were great rooms. Sometimes there were pools of motionless water. It was hard to. Her voice was half-coaxing, half-savage. "Why did you come here, Teriel?" What she had on was all in large eyes, peacock eyes, and the eyes blinked. It was no illusion --. prentices were faithless, Gelluk thought, reminded of his prentice Early, too clever by half, whom. times-poor, coarse food, but he ate it all, slowly, valuing it. Come evening the brother went off. know later was a great spell of Transforming. Ard spoke the words of the spell awry, as teachers. Yet as Dory spoke he saw what the girl saw: a long hill going down into darkness, and across it, on the edge of twilight, a low wall of stones. And as he looked he thought he saw a woman walking along beside the wall, very thin, insubstantial, bone, shadow. But she was not the dying woman in the bed. She was Anieb. "Keep an eye on him then, master," said the carter. "It can do it by itself," Diamond said, and held out the fife away from his lips. His fingers danced on the stops, and the fife played a short jig. It hit several false notes and squealed on the last high note. "I haven't got it right yet," Diamond said, vexed and embarrassed. On the first of his voyages of finding, Medra, or Tern as he was called, sailed northward up the. building by a conveyor belt set against the wall. The girl entered this loggia, and I, my eyes now. "You weren't?" "The witch Rose of our village, lord," she answered, standing straight, though her voice came out. Soon, he thought now, he would not need one. He would have real power over her. He had finally seen how to get it. She had given it into his hands. Her strength and her willpower were tremendous, but fortunately she was stupid, and he was not. out inquiries, in the ways we have of doing so, but nothing and nobody replied. So we set off. She led me toward a dark gold wall, to a mark on it, a little like a treble clef, lit up. At our. The history of the Fourteen Kings of Havnor (actually six kings and eight queens, ~150-400) is. think that he had come as near to Morred's Isle as he would ever come, Medra stayed a while longer. in great respect, although he was only a finder. The sister had vanished, perhaps gone with Otter. did not see him, only my countrywoman Tenar of the Ring. She said she was not the woman they. choppy seas, but never a storm or a troublesome wind. They put off and took on cargo at ports on. glass, and inside the semitransparent material swarms of fireflies circulated freely, sometimes. a wide, fine net of resistance. Even now there were strands and knots of that net left. Medra had. He looked up into the darkness. After a while he moved his good hand a little, and the faint light. Suddenly she looked at me, her cheeks darkened, it was a blush. "He drinks because he drinks," she said. "With some, that's all it is. I'll be in the dairy, now. I'll lock the house door. There's... there's been strangers about. You rest yourself. It's bitter out." She wanted to be sure that he stayed indoors out of harm's way, and that nobody came harassing him. Later on she would go into the village, have a word with some of the sensible people, and put a stop to this rubbishy talk, if she could. The wizard started forward all at once, his eyes blazing, and cried, "Open to the King's name! I." We couldn't hide the wrestle we'd had with him, though we said as little about it as we could. Hemlock was glad to see a bit of fire in the boy. "They are one another's family," he said. Hemlock might have known then what he was up against; but having told the boy he would not be his master any longer, he could not in conscience command him. "You have a true gift, Essiri," he said, using the name he had given the boy in the springs of the Amia, a word that in the Old Speech means Willow. "I don't entirely understand it. I think you don't understand it at all. Take care! To misuse a gift, or to refuse to use it, may cause great loss, great harm." Crafty men used weather as a weapon, sending hail to blight an enemy's crops or a gale to sink his. of ancient times come stories of recent days about dragons who take human form, humans who take. her thin hand, the green nails dug into my heavy sweater. I had to smile at the thought of where. Slaves were wearisome with their weakness and trickery and their ugly, sick bodies. Of course. Oh, it's time, and past time. We must deliver the King. We must find the great lode. It is here. Speech, which he must not speak. But she only shrugged, with a frowning smile. on other islands, the school's reputation and influence grew rapidly. The mage Teriel of Havnor, thriving. The spring wind blew strong, seaward, off Roke Knoll, blowing the water of the fountain. oarmaster, after asking several questions of the master and Medra, began to roar at the slaves and. wharf, when the streets ran up and down in waves, the cobbles bursting out of them, and walls of. Tinaral's vision, mystic silvery runes on high branching columns. It was only the earth, only. to the house with three eggs, they were still warm in his hand, silky brown lukewarm eggs, and the. And they study there just to get richer. Or to get power." lions. . . He traveled far in the Archipelago, even out into the East Reach. He never went to the same town or island twice without years between, letting his trail grow cold. Even so he began to be spoken of. The Child Taker, they called him, a dreaded sorcerer who carried children to his island in the icy north and there sucked their blood. In villages on Way and Feikway they

still tell children about the Child Taker, as an encouragement to distrust strangers.. "To bring Lebannen here," said the Herbal. "The young men talk of "the true crown". A second. "A woman," said the Master Summoner. "There was," I said glumly. There might not have been. Sure! I could have climbed into. His sudden tension and immobility, the strained face and inward look, were like those of a woman. file:///D:/Documents%20and%20Settings/harry/...0%20LeGuin%20-%20Tales%20From%20Earthsea.txt (46 of 111) [2/5/2004 12:33:31 AM]. no shadows here, only the dark, but he went forward, and went forward, until he saw Anieb before. puzzle me. In order to understand current events, I needed to do some historical research, to. perspective. It was hard to rest the eye on anything that was not in motion, because the. alighting. From them led the tracks of a man walking, straying up the beach for a long way as it. nothing at all. He sat down near her. She looked down, as if studying the skeleton of a last- file:///D:/Documents%20and%20Settings/harry/...0%20LeGuin%20-%20Tales%20From%20Earthsea.txt (87 of 111) [2/5/2004 12:33:31 AM]. him, who had seen great deeds and powers. She sighed and spoke from her heart - "Oh, if only I. as if he had the power to." then. The thought of the ship and the chained men in her swallowed his mind as the black sea had. among the leaves.. Permissions Department, Harcourt, Inc., 6277 Sea Harbor Drive, Orlando, Florida 32887-6777.. "It was only a beast healer's manual," Crow admitted, when they were sailing on and he had calmed. THEIR MEETING PLACE was in the shallows, the willow thickets down by the Amia as it ran below the smithy. As soon as Rose got there, Diamond said, "He wants me to go study with Master Hemlock! What am I going to do?". metal truly flowed; I felt a hot gust, everything went out -- I stood in a glass pavilion. It was in. They were both shy. When Medra took her hand his hand shook, and Ember, whose name was Elehal, turned away scowling. Then she touched his hand very lightly. When he stroked the sleek black flow of her hair she seemed only to endure his touch, and he stopped. When he tried to embrace her she was stiff, rejecting him. Then she turned and, fierce, hasty, awkward, seized him in her arms. It wasn't the first night, nor the first nights, they passed together that gave either of them much pleasure or ease. But they learned from each other, and came through shame and fear into passion. Then their long days in the silence of the woods and their long, starlit nights were joy to them.. "I was told there's a murrain among the cattle here." Now that he wasn't all locked up with cold his voice was beautiful. He talked like the tale-tellers when they spoke the parts of the heroes and the dragonlords. Maybe he was a teller or a singer? But no; the murrain, he had said.. And it's true that in the time of Medra and Elehal the people of Roke, men and women, had no fear of the Old Powers of the earth, but revered them, seeking strength and vision from them. That changed with the years.. In the Archipelago, men built ships and women built houses, that was the custom; but in building a. Knowledge of these places and powers was the heart of religion in the Kargad Realm. In the. She laid her head back and closed her eyes.. The light had come back into Diamond's dark eyes.. her bright eyes on Tern, and he nodded.. his shoulders he approached me, not making the slightest sound. But I had recovered. "There.. Witches were to learn only from one another or from sorcerers. They were forbidden to enter Roke. But how did Otter know that?". "You ought to have your proper name day, your feast and dancing, like any young 'un," the witch said. "It's at daybreak a name should be given. And then there ought to be music and feasting and all. Not sneaking about at night and no one knowing..." miserable men dispossessed of their living, driven by hunger to raid and rob." would make me trust you?". Sometimes he idly made a fist and then turned his hand over opening the palm, but nobody here. "But. . ." The Changer paused.. "Any brit? How could he not have it?". A cat came round the corner of a garden, no abandoned starveling but a white-pawed, well-. Where his boat is rowing. "Are you there, my dear?" said the traveler. He spoke in the Old Speech, the Language of the. be afraid of him. She found that he had no memory at all of what had happened in the village, of. My teacher was with me, and his teacher with him," Ogion said when they praised him. "I could hold the Gate open because he held the Mountain still." They praised his modesty and did not listen to him. Listening is a rare gift, and men will have their heroes.. showered with a fine powder of disintegrating, dying fireflies, black, gold. At the very edge, a. He watched the staff that stood on the shining floor. In a little while he saw it quiver very. and treasures and children.. a while she would begin to have fond thoughts of the cow barn and the mother from whom she still. Triduct, level AF, AG, AC, circuit M levels twelve, sixteen, the nadir level leads to every. can't go with her- Can't you go there?" She broke away from Rush, looking again at Tern. "You can." "No," he said. "I don't know the way." nearest was open. I looked in. A large, broad-shouldered man looked in from the opposite side.. him in for a cup of water and a handful of shelled nuts. She and Ayo chatted with him about his. "Why do we quarrel?" he said rather despondently.. near them, moving so quietly, though he was a big man, that they in their absorption did not hear. friends in the Great Port who would find them amusing. ""I have the cheese money,"" he repeated to. "It's a custom," I said, at a loss. Actually, they had told me at Adapt to stop dressing in the. stuff in the middle was sharply seasoned. I was going to like bonses, I decided.. hard work. The gardeners went away and there was nothing to watch out the window but the cabbages. The Pattern came forward and took her hands in his. His hands were warm, and she felt so. How long had he been standing here? Why was he standing here? He had been thinking about mud, about the floor, about Silence. Had he been out walking on the path above the Overfell? No, that was years ago, years ago, in the sunlight. It was raining. He had fed the chickens, and come back to the house with three eggs, they were still warm in his hand, silky brown lukewarm eggs, and the sound of thunder was still in his mind, the vibration of thunder was in his bones, in his feet. Thunder?. wizard, I thought I could be everything. You know -- do magic, play music, be Father's son, love. dim at first, mere dots and lines, then lifting up their bright banners, the white city at the. Tern left late that year on his journey. He had with him a boy of fifteen, Mote, a promising weatherworker who needed training at sea, and Sava, a woman of sixty who had come to Roke with him seven or eight years before. Sava had been one of the women of the Hand on the isle of Ark. Though she had no wizardly gifts at all, she knew so well how to get a group of people to trust one another and work together that she was honored as a wise woman on Ark,

and now on Roke. She had asked Tern to take her to see her family, mother and sister and two sons; he would leave Mote with her and bring them back to Roke when he returned. So they set off northeast across the Inmost Sea in the summer weather, and Tern told Mote to put a bit of magewind into their sail, so that they would be sure to reach Ark before the Long Dance..brandish their swords, lasers, wands, as mechanically as combine harvesters, reaping profits.. "Death and desolation," said the ship's master, a short man with small, sad, knowing eyes like a whale's.. "Get them here. Take my men." Berry ducked his head and muttered. His eyes were dull. It seemed to Irioth that the man had been.file:///D:/Documents%20and%20Settings/harry/...0%20LeGuin%20-%20Tales%20From%20Earthsea.txt (43 of 111) [2/5/2004 12:33:31 AM].quicksilver, the fire must be built not of mere wood but of human corpses. Rereading and pondering.What he found on Roke was both less and more than the hope and rumor he had sought so long. Roke Island was, they told him, the heart of Earthsea. The first land Segoy raised from the waters in the beginning of time was bright Ea of the northern sea, and the second was Roke. That green hill, Roke Knoll, was founded deeper than all the islands. The trees he had seen, which seemed sometimes to be in one place on the isle and sometimes in another, were the oldest trees in the world, and the source and center of magic..She stood straight up in the water..So he cherished his free hours as if they were actual meetings with her. He had always loved her..First Bard Printing, May, 1982.prison shut. The spells were gone, but the people in the tower did not know it, working on under.file:///D:/Documents%20and%20Settings/harry/...0%20LeGuin%20-%20Tales%20From%20Earthsea.txt (45 of 111) [2/5/2004 12:33:31 AM].made himself comfortable in his coil of cable and watched the stars. Looking west, he saw the four.cool. Nearby stood a vacant table. I sat awkwardly, my back to the people, looking out into the."I do not know my other name," she said. She spoke as he had spoken, as she had spoken to the Summoner, in the Language of the Making, the tongue the dragons speak..But he said nothing to the boy and nothing to the boy's mother. He was a consciously close-mouthed.of power from the kings to the priests. King Thoreg received him with honor, but Intathin the High."You think I can turn the King's order down? You want to see me sent to row with the slaves in the.Her brother came in. "Come on out," he said to her as soon as he saw the curer dozing on the settle. She stepped outside with him..Dragonfly stopped too. She said after a moment, "I'm sorry. But I feel like - I feel like you."Get the sail down," Medra said, peremptory. The master yawned and cursed and began to shout."A NAMEDAY PARTY," said Golden. "Time for a bit of play, a bit of music and dancing, boy. Nineteen years old. Celebrate it!". words. "Weak as women's magic, wicked as women's magic," you think I don't know what they say? So,.blights and fires and sicknesses across the land, and the village witch was punished for them. She.till the dogs were yelling around him in a frenzy, snapping at the mare's legs. She plunged and.dark under the waters all islands touched and were one. So his teacher Ard had said, and so his.there sent by them. Men and women came to be taught and to teach. Many of these had a hard time

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