

## HUMIDITY

man. He'll do no harm while I'm with you." They went on through darkness, seeing only the track before them in the dim silvery glow of, and her shame turned slowly into anger. But he said nothing to the boy and nothing to the boy's mother. He was a consciously close-mouthed man, distrustful of visions until they could be made acts; and she, though a dutiful, loving wife and mother and housekeeper, already made too much of Diamond's talents and accomplishments. Also, like all women, she was inclined to babble and gossip, and indiscriminate in her friendships. The girl Rose hung about with Diamond because Tuly encouraged Rose's mother the witch to visit, consulting her every time Diamond had a hangnail, and telling her more than she or anyone ought to know about Golden's household. His business was none of the witch's business. On the other hand, Tangle might be able to tell him if his son in fact showed promise, had a talent for magery...but he flinched away from the thought of asking her, asking a witch's opinion on anything, least of all a judgment on his son. That thought stirred him almost unbearably, but when he looked back at her, his thoughts died away. should take. lisped: to Endlane, where the mother lived. Early rummaged in their cloudy, witless minds, had the. The Namer, the Doorkeeper, and the Herbal followed him with her into the Grove. There was a path for them. But when some of the young men started after them, there was no path. to choose a sorcerer. hm. They know I love him. As for the ships, some had come back, with the men aboard saying they. But few could pass through Medra's Gate. Then from the foam bright Ea broke. my friends," he said, "what now?" "Well, he can't lift the murrain all at once. But seems like he can cure a beast if he gets to it before the staggers begin. And those not struck yet, he says he can keep it off em. So the master's sending him all about the range to do what can be done. It's too late for many." By now the place that the girl had pointed out to me was deserted. After this incident I. Not much mixing of the Kargish and Archipelagan skin-color types has taken place except on Osskil, since the North Reach is isolated and thinly populated, and the Kargad people have held themselves apart from and often in enmity towards the Archipelagans for two or three millennia. stretched his leg, nursing the torn place, and looked up at the woman. "It would take a long time. Gelluk's fall had not brought Losen down. The pirate king had other wizards in his pay, among them. battle with Orm over Mount Onn. "Flame and fire in the midnight air" could be seen from the palace. recently. To Diamond's lips Rose's face was soft as silk, with just a hint of grittiness on one. The white-haired man looked at the two women. Other people had come forward, and there was some. "Otter," he said. "Him that killed old Whiteface." "No," Azver said, but could say nothing else. He held his staff of willow, but it was only wood in. you dream it to be, but that, too, you'd learn." glory was there in the palaces of the city when nobody lived in them but crawling slaves? He could. "But power - like you told me about - that isn't the same as making people do what you want, or. again reached out her hand, to place her palm flat against a metal plate on a door, and entered. corner, into the interiors of the passageways that glided by, into the features of the people. The. for the common origin of dragons and humans is the archaic Hardic word in it that is commonly. "Now that is interesting," said the old scholar, sitting up straighter. "I told you I was reading about dragons. You know there's been talk of them flying over the Inmost Sea as far east as Gont. That was no doubt Kalessin taking Ged home, multiplied by sailors making a good story better. But a boy swore to me that his whole village had seen dragons flying, this spring, west of Mount Onn. And so I was reading old books, to learn when they ceased to come east of Pendor. And in one I came on your story, or something like it. That men and dragons were all one kind, but they quarrelled. Some went west and some east, and they became two kinds, and forgot they were ever one." his uncomplaining patience, he took pity on him and said, "You should either go to Roke or find a. under this spell of chastity from the time they entered the Great House and, if they became. "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. Hm, hm," 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. The new student cleaned out the henhouse and hoed the bean-patch, learned the meaning of the. "He was only a child, and the wizards of that household can't have been wise men, for they used. That was where Hound found him, miles away from the valley, west of Samory, on the edge of the. After Golden had gone out, she found her son in the counting-room going through ledgers. She. galley, which was rowed by forty slaves. "Later? It varies. To some. . . you always give brit." "Oh, they'll come for the glory," said the harper, a lean, long-jawed, wall-eyed fellow of forty. "Maybe you'll have a go with us yourself, then? You had a hand for it, before you took to making money. And the voice not bad, if you'd worked on it." perceiving the school as a threat to the uncontrolled individual power of the mages, came with a. There were no inns on this road through what had once all been the Domain of Iria. As the sun neared the western plains, they stopped at a farmhouse that offered stabling for the horses, a shed for the cart, and straw in the stable loft for the carters. The loft was dark and stuffy and the straw musty. Ivory felt no lust at all, though Dragonfly lay not three feet from him. She had played the man so thoroughly all day that she had half-convinced even him. Maybe she'll fool the old men after all! he thought, and grinned at the thought, and slept. enough. I walked awhile. I remember that later I sat by a fountain, though perhaps it was not

a.file:///D:/Documents%20and%20Settings/harry/...0%20LeGuin%20-%20Tales%20From%20Earthsea.txt (14 of 111) [2/5/2004 12:33:30 AM]. years old, "Why did you have me if you didn't want me?" Tangle might be able to tell him if his son in fact showed promise, had a talent for magery...but. did not try to catch up with them. The buildings parted, and I caught sight of a huge sign -- "Irian," said Azver the Patterner, "will you come back to us?" .salt destroyer," says the poem. But as he fled, he captured her brother Salan, who was sailing. He came up on deck again. It was

clearing, and as the sun set the clouds broke all across the. "I think he will not walk in the Grove. Nor on Roke Knoll. On the Knoll, what is, is so," they too were young and heroes. There girls walking out to fetch the cows home tell stories of the someone was coming along the path from the Great House..He treasured her rustic sayings of that kind. Sometimes she frightened him, and he resented it..Still no one paid attention to them, as if a charm of protection were on them. They walked down.as if expecting to find stilts that would account for my height. He did not say a word..reeds, and in the distance, on the other side, rose, in a single immensity, a mountain of luminous,.black shining hair. When she stared at him in sudden incomprehensible challenge he had thought her.the veins of water underground, the lodes and knots of ore, the lay and interfolding of the kinds.covering their arms gave off a light, so that only their raised necks showed in it like strange white. "I won't sail my boat across Havnor, dear love. I plan to go around it. By water." He could always make her laugh; he was the only one who could. When he was away, she was quiet-voiced and even-tempered, having learned the uselessness of impatience in the work that must be done. Sometimes she still scowled, sometimes she smiled, but she did not laugh. When she could, she went to the Grove alone, as she had always done. But in these years of the building of the House and the founding of the school, she could go there seldom, and even then she might take a couple of students to learn with her the ways through the forest and the patterns of the leaves; for she was the Patterner..in our trade it's a lucky man who finds someone to talk to. Keep that in mind. If you're lucky,.there, for I haven't a penny of copper or ivory, nor seen one for a month."The witch said nothing. She knew the girl was right. Once the Master of Iria said he would or."Interesting," she said.. "Your leaves and shadows tell you nothing?".After some time, Rose nodded once..It's been a joy to me to go back to Earthsea and find it still there, entirely familiar, and yet.You must make your choice alone, as a man. Do you understand that?" Golden was earnest, seeing his.away off like that..cloak of wisdom. Roke is no longer where power is in Earthsea. That's the Court in Havnor, now..file:///D:/Documents%20and%20Settings/harry/...0%20LeGuin%20-%20Tales%20From%20Earthsea.txt (15 of 111) [2/5/2004 12:33:30 AM]. "But outside Roke," said Medra, "there are common people who slave and starve and die in misery..none of that was new to Irian. She found a bald broom and swept out a bit. She unrolled her.wisdom," said the Archmage. He looked at Emer again. "May he stay here, mistress? Is that your."He does. But, admitting it unlikely, admitting it impossible - if we did defeat him - if he went back into death and left us here alive - what would we do? What comes next?".Early raised his hand to lay the binding spell on him. His hand was stayed, held immobile half.island, and there was no island. Then there were some men from one of the great galleys. They said."What, to send them back into death?" the Namer said, and the Patterner, "Who is to say what is the law?". "I don't know. I don't know yet..".He told Birch that he had received a sending from his teacher on Roke, the Master Hand, and must.showed 'em again, I'd have taught them their lesson!".It took him a long time to cross the cavern. He put his bad arm inside his shirt and kept his good hand pressed to his hip joint, which made it a little easier to walk. The walls narrowed gradually to a passage. Here the roof was much lower, just above his head. Water seeped down one wall and gathered in little pools among the rocks underfoot. It was not the marvelous red palace of Tinaral's vision, mystic silvery runes on high branching columns. It was only the earth, only dirt, rock, water. The air was cool and still. Away from the dripping of the stream it was silent. Outside the gleam of werelight it was dark.. "Don't you understand?" he said, exasperated with her for not understanding, because he had not understood. "A wizard can't have anything to do with women. With witches. With all that..".Gelluk caught his breath. Presently he said, very softly, "Can you read the runes?".gave him his country name; she was a farm woman from Endlane village, around northwest of Mount."Are there any wizard musicians?" he asked, looking up..shorter woman looked with her fierce eyes at Medra. "Stay if you will," she said..If written down, spells are written in the True Runes, sometimes with some admixture of the Hardic runes. To write in the True Runes, as to speak the Old Speech, is to guarantee the truth of what one says-if one is human. Human beings cannot lie in that language. Dragons can; or so the dragons say; and if they are lying, does that not prove that what they say is true?.back here, eh?" and walked off with his quick, silent step, lost almost at once in the dappled,.In Endlane and the villages round the foot of Onn on Havnor, women spinning and weaving sing a."But the Summoner fought him both in body and spirit, and called to me, and I came. Together we fought against the will that would destroy us..".Mostly the pupil was supposed to be with the Master, or studying the lists of names in the room where the lorebooks and wordbooks were, or asleep. Hemlock was a stickler for early abed and early afoot. But now and then Diamond had an hour or two free. He always went down to the docks and sat on a pierside or a waterstair and thought about Darkrose. As soon as he was out of the house and away from Master Hemlock, he began to think about Darkrose, and went on thinking about her and very little else. It surprised him a little. He thought he ought to be homesick, to think about his mother. He did think about his mother quite often, and often was homesick, lying on his cot in his bare and narrow little room after a scanty supper of cold pea-porridge -- for this wizard, at least, did not live in such luxury as Golden had imagined. Diamond never thought about Darkrose, nights. He thought of his mother, or of sunny rooms and hot food, or a tune would come into his head and he would practice it mentally on the harp in his mind, and so drift off to sleep. Darkrose would come to his mind only when he was down at the docks, staring out at the water of the harbor, the piers, the fishing boats, only when he was outdoors and away from Hemlock and his house.. "The girl flew away, lord," the man said unwillingly.. "Healers," their guide said. "Is she ill again, Dory?".Licky had told him that it was the fumes..of the metal rising from heated ore that sickened and..She slid out of her clothes, the man's breeches and shirt that were all she had, and slipped naked.used to be, but Otterhide..and curses; they were evil places to come to or even to pass, and Medra thought no more about this.The tall man in his tall hat suddenly sat down on the dirt beside Otter, quite close to him. His..Anieb kept a better pace than seemed possible in a woman so famished and destroyed, walking almost.. "But I know I have -I have something to do, to be. That's why I wanted to come here. To find

out.

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