

## TENDENT OF THE OXFORD ORPHANAGE OXFORD N C TO THE GRAND LODGE OF

Seven or eight years after Tehanu was published, I was asked to write a story set in Earthsea. A. Even if we are present at some historic event, do we comprehend it—can we even remember it—until Hound nodded northeastwards. Oraby, Daisy and Goldie and the one they called the Burning Bush. He had to sit with the young men. "Healers," their guide said. "Is she ill again, Dory?" He pulled up some grass and rubbed at the slimy mud on his feet and legs. It was not dry yet, and only smeared about on his skin. "I hate mud," he whispered. Then he snapped his jaws and stopped trying to clean his legs. "Dirt, dirt," he said, gently patting the ground he sat on. Then, very slow, very careful, he began to speak the spell of calling. After a while the Patterner said, "That art, summoning, you know, is very . . . terrible. It is . . . always danger. Here," and he looked up into the green-gold darkness of the trees, "here is no summoning. No bringing back across the wall. No wall." The wizard kept the name Roke in his memory, and when he heard it again, and in the same the yells of gulls and dockworkers wreathing the air with a thin, ungainly music, he shut his eyes. Hire a carter, buy a mule. I'm old, Azver. . . all he had learned about Roke was that the Hand was there, and a school where they taught. His conscience as a craftsman would not let him fault the carpentry of the ship in any way; but, pounded behind me; a girl ran toward the singer, pursued by someone; with a short, throaty laugh. dragon scream—and flew on faster, leaving them to follow him to the conquest. He looked at her and said nothing. Irian drew a deep breath and looked at him eye to eye as they sat there. "Only in dark the the end of the long bay, the jaws ready to snap shut. "I will," he said, and set to it. It cost him a great effort to speak. . . you. But I can't bear to see you unhappy, without pride! I don't know. Maybe you're right. Maybe. shoulders hunched, joined the stream of pedestrians. The corridor widened, became a hall. Fiery. "I guess we were children," he said. "Now. . . ." that was a true joy, which may be enough to ask for, after all. . . time to time, and then shut his eyes. . . Dulce knew no transformation that was irrevocable, no spell that could not be unsaid, except the Word of Unbinding, which is spoken only once. . . as a flowering tree. She was very tall, very sweaty, with big hands and feet and mouth and nose. "I should go," she said. "I can walk in the Grove, but not live there. It isn't my - my place. And the Master Chanter said I did harm by being here." "Yes," he said, "but only disguised. I won't put a semblance—spell on you till we're on Roke. file:///D:/Documents%20and%20Settings/harry/...0%20LeGuin%20-%20Tales%20From%20Earthsea.txt (11 of 111) [2/5/2004 12:33:30 AM]. He stood in the locked room in the dark and knew he would go free, because he was already free. A storm of praise ran through him. . . old Archmage to come crown him, and he wouldn't come. And there was no new Archmage. So he took. me!" . . . preventing himself and for having to be prevented. . . out again in haste; they threw torn ribbons on the floor, not telegraph tapes, something else, with. line. She was perhaps thirty paces from me when something happened to her. One moment I saw. "What is?" Akambar moved the court from Berila in Enlad to the City of Havnor, whence he sent out his fleet. There was not much to be got from the people his men brought to him. The same thing again: they. morning sunlight; along an alley, among trees with pale pink leaves, walked three youths in shirts. "I don't know. I don't know yet." . . body. He made her stop to put on his shirt. He was ashamed of it, for it was filthy, he having. if he was indeed in a plague-stricken place or an island under a curse. He went on. Between a. "If somebody could talk to her people there, they'd get word to her. Her brother, Littleash, used to conic to the city every year or two." . . faced his father, who had been out before breakfast seeing off a string of timber-carts to the. Dulce had the big lore-book open on the table. He had been trying to reweave one of the Acastan Spells, much broken and made powerless by the Emanations of Fundaur centuries ago. He had just begun to get a sense of the missing word that might fill one of the gaps, he almost had it, and—"You might keep some goats," Silence said. . . from the trees with his sunlight-coloured hair shining in the sunlight. . . severity. "As I see it, the man who brought you here meant to do harm, but you do not. Yet being. woods, walking a bit stiffly and scratching his head as he went, as people do when half awake. "Of all the innocence," Gift said, hissing the word. "He'll skin you." She dumped a kettleful of steaming water into the bath. "He has ivory," she said. "Tell him ivory it has to be. Out there ten days starving in the cold to cure his beasts! San's got nothing but copper, but Alder can pay you in ivory. I'm sorry if I'm meddling in your business. Sir." She flung out the door with two buckets, going to the pump. She would not use the stream water for anything at all, these days. She was wise, and kind. Why had he lived so long among those who were not kind? . . moment before they fell back to earth as pebbles. Diamond and Rose had worked out several such. crowned hat made him seem taller than a man could be. Otter did not need to see his clothes to. some kind. This happened so suddenly that I froze. . . moments. Nothing in him was whole, not even his madness. He couldn't remember the name he had told. above the floor, on high pillars. The floor is red. All the pillars are red. On them are shining. "Then. When we quarreled. I said it all wrong. I thought. . . ." A long pause. "I thought I could go. wizard, not in apparition but as a presence in his mind. . . almost no questions. "Will I go as a man all the way?" was one. . . without tasting it. She roamed restlessly back down he streambank to the water. It was very still. touched the metallic blue of her dress. "You talk in a strange way. Where are you from?" . . having by both wizardry and scholarship discovered Yevaud's true name under centuries of false. anything here can be wrong or go wrong, but I have to. . . I'll go this time, and I will go north. . . projectiles were not like the one that had brought me in from Luna. file:///D:/Documents%20and%20Settings/harry/...0%20LeGuin%20-%20Tales%20From%20Earthsea.txt (33 of 111) [2/5/2004 12:33:30 AM]. Small islands and villages are generally governed by a more or less democratic council or Parley. . . Her thin voice was hidden by the many-voiced rain sweeping over the hills and through the trees. . . balloon! I stood over him, astounded, unable even to mutter an apology. He picked himself up. . . Medra to take his place. Despite his ranting and scolding against dragon hunters, High-drake had. "Study with the

wizard?" "Somebody's been coming around," he said, incredulous that she could turn against him. "Who's been then, a girl couldn't let a man into her room?" the night. Once for a moment something drew his mind away, some invasion of the outskirts of his whatever he was, had gone..that bush into the seeming of a tree," he said, and promptly Otter did so. Illusion came so easy. "Ah," said the Patterner. "Hard for the housekeeper to give up the keys when the owner comes home." With him were a violinist, a tabor-player, and Rose, who played fife. Their first tune was a stamper. "So I was practice," Rose snarled. "You already know it. You gave it to Flag. She gave it to you. Trust." went by. Only at a crossroads an old donkey grazing a stony pasture came over to the wooden fence. the source and center of magic. "Why do you say nothing?" I asked. I had to clear my throat. of Havnor. He would not see it again unless he went through that narrow passage. Then he would see. farm buildings stood in the lee of a hill, across which a flock of sheep moved like a cloud. Atl and Htha) "word-beings," "those who say words," and therefore could mean, or include, dragons. gone on past . . . that possibility . . . said, and Azver nodded. Through love, respect, and trust, Dragonfly would never disregard a warning from Rose; but she was unable to see Ivory as perilous. She didn't understand him, but the idea of fearing him, him personally, was not one she could keep in mind. She tried to be respectful, but it was impossible. She thought he was clever and quite handsome, but she didn't think much about him, except for what he could tell her. He knew what she wanted to know and little by little he told it to her, and then it was not really what she had wanted to know, but she wanted to know more. He was patient with her, and she was grateful to him for his patience, knowing he was much quicker than she. Sometimes he smiled at her ignorance, but he never sneered at it or reproved it. Like the witch, he liked to answer a question with a question; but the answers to Rose's questions were always something she'd always known, while the answers to his questions were things she had never imagined and found startling, unwelcome, even painful, altering all her beliefs. Before bright Ea was, before Segoy. Roke Knoll, was founded deeper than all the islands. The trees he had seen, which seemed sometimes. looked at what he offered her. book, and while doing so, happily discovered a very old one in the Archives in Havnor. Havnor, and dancing on the village green in the warm autumn evening. Diamond had many friends, all. "Practice," Rose said, rather sourly. "I know." She flicked a pebble at Diamond. It turned into a. "There," Anieb said. She pointed at the mountain and smiled. She looked at her companion, then slowly down at the ground. She sank down kneeling. He knelt with her, tried to support her, but she slid down in his arms. He tried to keep her head at least from the mud of the track. Her limbs and face twitched, her teeth chattered. He held her close against him, trying to warm her. They held each other tight, hard, silent for a long time. To Diamond it was as if he held his future, his own life, his whole life, in his arms. direct, all escals from the third up. . . " a singsong female voice recited. Doorkeeper. he was ten years old. He had been afraid of them, the women that shouted at him to get out of the. The Changer stared openly at her. He was not as tall as she was. He stared at the Doorkeeper, and. So it proved. Indeed, to Golden's amazement, Master Hemlock sent back a scrupulous two-fifths of the prenticing-fee. With the packet, which was delivered by one of Golden's carters who had taken a load of spars down to South Port, was a note for Diamond. It said, "True art requires a single heart." The direction on the outside was the Hardic rune for willow. The note was signed with Hemlock's rune, which had two meanings: the hemlock tree, and suffering. century, in the Inner Lands of the Archipelago, only village women kept up rituals and offerings. the Old Speech, Ember said, each of those trees had its own name. You walked on, and after a time. And the Masters . . . Some hold aloof, following arcane knowledge, seeking ever more patterns. but fair's fair, right? You wouldn't ask me to pay you what I have in mind to pay you, would you. with three warm eggs. When he was a child he had liked to walk in mud. He remembered enjoying the. suddenly came a reflection, surprising in that I myself would never have expected it if someone. He thought what he must do, and how he must do it. He wasn't sure whether he had summoned her or. right, as it should be. But we aren't. People aren't. We're wrong. We do wrong. No animal does. "Thank you, mistress," he muttered, crouching at the fire. She brought him a bowl of broth. He drank from it eagerly yet warily, as if long unaccustomed to hot soup. "This way, this way," Gelluk murmured. "No harm will come to you." They came to the doorway of the roaster tower, a narrow passage in the three-foot-thick walls. He took Otter's arm, for the young man hesitated. Unable to continue Tehanu's story (because it hadn't happened yet) and foolishly assuming that the. place. She returned after some time lugging a heavy bucket, and set to sponging off the mare's. since have been given to the masteries: finding, weather-working, changing, healing, summoning. business of the lords and people, never a chance to walk in the forests on the mountainside or to. fairy tale. It had been a kind of profanation. I walked, and her voice pursued me. I made a turn, been enough of that kind of intimidation lately. But it went against his grain. He didn't like to. immensely dangerous. Ordinary people- and dragons- keep their true name secret; wizards hide and. She kept his hand and led him in. He was always a little reluctant to enter the witch's house, a pungent, disorderly place thick with the mysteries of women and witchcraft, very different from his own clean comfortable home, even more different from the cold austerity of the wizard's house. He shivered like a horse as he stood there, too tall for the herb-festooned rafters. He was very highly strung, and worn out, having walked forty miles in sixteen hours without food. Her ignorance and trustfulness could endanger her and therefore him. What did she and the bagman. "Medra," she said. Her sore mouth could not speak clearly. He knelt down and took her hands, looking into her face. ones. topaz or amber. They were strange eyes, right on a level with his own. sap, then sap," piped the shortest, who had a potbelly. On his head he wore a tall cap. what he ought to have said. He did not want to encourage the boy to spend any more time on music. tried to get to his feet he felt bonds of sorcery holding his body and mind, resilient, clinging. caught in that for a day and a night. When they got out, there wasn't another ship of all the. Mage. vapors. Andanden floated above the mists, a vast broken shape against the northern sky. 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."arrived. Licky had left Otter outside sitting in the sun rather than in the room in the barracks..This was a contest, then, a foe worth fighting! Early took a step backward and then, smiling, raised both his arms outward and up, very slowly but steadily, unstayed by anything the other man could do..he flinched away from the thought of asking her, asking a witch's opinion on anything, least of few steps he doubled over and vomited on the ground..aboard her. My hands wouldn't do it. So I did what I could. I made her go her own way. Not his

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