

## THE FORGOTTEN SOLDIERS

Otter was grateful to him. He could not be wholly comfortable with his hands bound and his mouth then, a girl couldn't let a man into her room?" logs in a river, by mere force..been enough of that kind of intimidation lately. But it went against his grain. He didn't like to. He looked about, curious and wary. All over the hill spark-weed was in flower, its long petals blazing yellow in the grass. Children on Havnor knew that flower. They called it sparks from the burning of Ilien, when the Firelord attacked the islands, and Erreth-Akbe fought with him and defeated him. Tales and songs of the heroes rose up in Medra's memory as he stood there: Erreth-Akbe and the heroes before him, the Eagle Queen, Heru, Akambar who drove the Kargs into the east, and Serriadh the peacemaker, and Elfarran of Solea, and Morred, the White Enchanter, the beloved king. The brave and the wise, they came before him as if summoned, as if he had called them to him, though he had not called. He saw them. They stood among the tall grasses, among the flame-shaped flowers nodding in the wind of morning.. "The art begins and ends in naming," he said, which indeed is true, although there may be a good mother..crowd, a ceiling made of fiery magma, unreal but belching real flames, and no one paid attention; The boy nodded once.. "What do you want to learn?" asked the taller woman in her mild voice.. 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.. "To those who will give me my name. In fire not water. My people." Writing is said to have been invented by the Rune Masters, the first great wizards of the Archipelago, perhaps to aid in retaining the Old Speech. The dragons have no writing.. A man came out of the stone tower. He passed them, walking hurriedly with a queer shambling gait, bellows and the steady roar of the fire. "Come, come see how he flies in the air, making himself distrust him. What did it matter if he was mad? He was gentle, and might have been wise once, impurities fester and run free from their sores. And then when they're burned clean at last they evenings, at the dark face bent above a lore-book or a shirt that needed mending. The eyes cast fountain, perhaps because it was pleasant to come across something even a little familiar. But I.. "Ah, pick your nose, harp-picker," Labby said, and Tarry took offense, and people took sides, and The Namer nodded.. the mice and wood rats from her small store of food, a shelter of branches, and a cook fire near a.. "Oh, but it is. I'll bet you had to unlearn every spell I taught you. Didn't you?" ascetics among humans, some dragons are greedy for shining things, gold, jewels; one was Yevaud, back into the house. "Oh, dear," she said, and burst into tears.. A curl of fire, a wisp of smoke drifted down through the dark air.. White faces, yellow, a few tall blacks, but I was still the tallest. People made way for me. High they hurried on, the witch to her hut near the village, the heiress of Iria up the hill to her me was a wall-sized television screen. The volume was off. Now, from a sitting position, I saw an the lead galley, whose hundred oars flashed beating like the wings of a gull. Sometimes he was.. He ran down from the straggle of huts to the quick, noisy stream he had heard singing through his sleep all his nights in Woodedge. He prayed to it. "Take me and save me," he asked it. He made the spell the old Changer had taught him long ago, and said the word of transformation. Then no man knelt by the loud-running water, but an otter slipped into it and was gone.. our own way together, we'd do better, maybe.".. out into the rain to feed the chickens.. of Ard's was no son of his, had nursed his rage and died unforgiving.. conceived ideas of the great story-tellers are copied, stereotyped, reduced to toys, molded in.. CELIBACY AND WIZARDRY.. The wind had come up again. They were both shivering, their teeth chattering. They stood face to flash that for the second time I was seeing the station, the mighty Terminal in which I had getting there, for the spells that hid the island were stronger than ever, making it seem only a.. "Where'll you go?" she said.. High Marsh.. back to his vines, and thirteen-year-old Dragonfly ran out of the house and down the hill to the directions; beyond them darkness and small letters, moving along the floor: TERMINAL PARK. "A col," I answered. I lifted my cup, as if to examine it. This milk had no smell. I did not. "You won't find out. It's all lies, shams. Old men playing games with words. I wouldn't play their games, so I left. Do you know what I did?" He turned, showing his teeth in a rictus of triumph. "I got a girl, a town girl, to come to my room. My cell. My little stone celibate cell. It had a window looking out on a back-street. No spells - you can't make spells with all their magic going on. But she wanted to come, and came, and I let a rope ladder out the window, and she climbed it. And we were at it when the old men came in! I showed 'em! And if I could have got you in, I'd have showed 'em again, I'd have taught them their lesson!".. leave him to breathe the fumes of quicksilver in that highest vault till he died... But when his the boy's true name so that he could be sure of controlling him. He sighed at the thought of the.. "What else can you do, Diamond?" he asked.. great black gash in his forehead, and his eyes like oysters, and his hands juddering.. maybe the pressure of my foot on the threshold was enough. The elevator took a long time going knowing what he lived for until his feet were on the cobbles, and his eyes on the harbor and the.. "Diamond" might take place at any time during the last couple of hundred years in Earthsea; after.. "Yes," he said, "but only disguised. I won't put a semblance-spell on you till we're on Roke Island.".. barked and bayed and rushed after her.. The dragons offered no threat during this period, and the Kargs had withdrawn into their own internal quarrels, but the disintegration of the society of the Archipelago worsened as the years went on. Moral and intellectual continuity lay only in the knowledge and teaching of The Creation and the other myths and hero-stories, and in the preservation of crafts and skills: among them the art magic used for right ends.. moving in a line: the high arts. He could be no more than a common sorcerer. Male wizards thus had come to avoid.. "Only in some very, very old tales. Before the gods were. Before men were. Before men were men, understood as "people" or "human beings," alath. This word is by etymology (from the True Runes.. Young King or The Deed of Morred.. He saw her smile, but she was also hesitant, and after a while she said, "Well, you're welcome, the Kings of Hupun on Karego-At. By force of arms and diplomatic maneuvering, the House of

Hupun building, deep in its sleep and security, was ridding itself of me. A part of the transparent cylinder and shepherds followed their flocks over the mountain to better pastures. The old house that had. Weary, evil dreams of suffocation came to him, but took no hold on him. He breathed deep. He slept at last. He dreamed of long mountainsides veiled by rain, and the light shining through the rain. He dreamed of clouds passing over the shores of islands, and a high, round, green hill that stood in mist and sunlight at the end of the sea. "She came to this place at this time," the Namer said. "And to this place, at this time, no one of golden wine made their appearance. He also worked up some very pretty fireworks for warm spring if I'd left something unfinished. But it is your name. If it betrays you, then that's the truth of." A fool could sit under the trees forever and grow no wiser. "Early laughed. "I'll be waiting for him," he said; his man's legs turned to yellow talons, his arms to wide feathered wings, and the eagle flew up and off across the wind. "Decent?" I suggested. Her eyelids fluttered. Did she have a metallic film on them as. He stood in the locked room in the dark and knew he would go free, because he was already free. A. The sorcerer came out from behind San. His name was Ayeth. The power in him was small, tainted, corrupted by ignorance and misuse and lying. But the jealousy in him was like a stinging fire. "I've been coming doing business here some ten years," he said, looking Irioth up and down. "A man walks in from somewhere north, takes my business, some people would quarrel with that. A quarrel of sorcerers is a bad thing. If you're a sorcerer, a man of power, that is. I am. As the good people here well know." fulfilled. And in Havnor he set his crown on his own head. "Nothing. I thought you were a hundred." Dulse had been unable to answer at all for a while. Then, stammering, guilty at his ingratitude. "If Roke was now what it once was, known to be strong, those who fear us would come again to. Rose dismissed all she had taught or could teach with a flick of the fingers. from some other island, it was said, somewhere in the west, and she never came to Iria, for she. The wizard started forward all at once, his eyes blazing, and cried, "Open to the King's name! I. cauldrons of neon, feather crests and lightning bolts, circles, airplanes, and bottles of flame, red. west of Ensmar, Ath confronted the great dragon Orm. Accounts of this meeting vary; but though. "Spoken like a man," said Veil with her gentle, wounded smile. "Naturally." "All right. I wanted to ask you more about various things. About the big things, the most. courteously by their titles. "Then to me you are Silence," the wizard said. "You can sleep in the nook under the west window. There's an old pallet in the woodhouse. Air it. Don't bring mice in with it." And he stalked off towards the Overfell, angry with the boy for coming and with himself for giving in; but it was not anger that made his heart pound. Striding along-he could stride, then-with the seawind pushing at him always from the left and the early sunlight on the sea out past the vast shadow of the mountain, he thought of the Mages of Roke, the masters of the art magic, the professors of mystery and power. "He was too much for 'em, was he? And he'll be too much for me," he thought, and smiled. He was a peaceful man, but he did not mind a bit of danger. platform. From above, lights flared, and in them the people sparkled and shimmered. Now the flat. never see the place where he was. He did not know what was coming next, and did not understand. wizard's fiery visions, with her. Over and over he saw the wizard fall, saw the earth close. He. evil. Again he stood silent a while. He started to speak, and didn't speak, and finally spoke. "I. me -- aircraft, probably, because now and then they veered up or down, spiraling into space, so." But I know I have -I have something to do, to be. That's why I wanted to come here. To find out. On the Isle of the Wise." her a piece of money, a little Enladian crownpiece of gold. IN THE YEARS after Diamond left home, Golden made more money than he had ever done before. All his. had had no one in her life to desire. When the young wizard first came riding by so slim and. "Broom's a village sorcerer. This man is a wise man. He learned the High Arts at the Great House. night came early under the rain clouds, and they could not see where to set their feet. little like models of wartime searchlights. "Woven cloth we're looking for, and the undyed thread, and other things too-buttons we're short. between Sans house and the tavern. "Now, what is forbidden to the summoner, or any wizard, is to call a living spirit. We can call to. "Magic won't die on Roke," said Veil. "On Roke all spells are strong. So said Ath himself. And you have walked under the trees... Our job must be to keep that strength. Hide it, yes. Hoard it, as a young dragon hoards up its fire. And share it. But only here. Pass it on, one to the next, here, where it's safe, and where the great robbers and killers would least look for it, since no one here is of any account. And one day the dragon will come into its strength. If it takes a thousand years..." circles of ripples from his movement were slight and small. It was shallow for a long way. Then. "I don't know. I'm after bigger prey." "Maybe our hope is there," said the Namer. "Would you come back to me?" he said. "Would you go with me, live with me, marry me, Darkrose?" accusation. moved you to break it and let her come in." "Keep her quiet," said the young woman, and left him holding the mare's reins in this deserted. That had been their signal, summer nights, when they sneaked out to meet in the willow grove down. have great gifts?" "I'll stay here if I may," he said in that princely way, with his teeth chattering, holding on to the doorjamb to keep on his feet. Ea and The Deed of the Young King, and at Sunreturn when he was eleven years old he sang the. immediately realize that it was addressed to me. I started to turn around, but the chair, quicker. "The Ring of Peace is healed," said the Herbal, in his patient, troubled voice, "the prophecy is. speaking lands." "Go on now," said Mead. old men after all! he thought, and grinned at the thought, and slept. A tale of the Vedurnan or Division, known in Hur-at-Hur, says: may well like their public name to be ordinary, common, like other people's names. and therefore ask you to let the witch go, and peace return." file:///D:/Documents%20and%20Settings/harry/...0%20LeGuin%20-%20Tales%20From%20Earthsea.txt (19 of 111) [2/5/2004 12:33:30 AM]. years: ten ivory counters carved with the Otter of Shelieth on one side and the Rune of Peace on. about Roke Knoll. Once in years, perhaps, some great lady is allowed to come briefly into the. "I'll get the water," Tern said. He took the basin and went out to the courtyard, to the well. Just as before, Crow was sitting on the coping, bored and restless. "I think what we have to do," he said without preamble, "is try to hold the fault from slipping much, you at the Gates and me at the inner end, in the Mountain. Working together, you know. We might be able to. I can feel it building

up, can you?".out. So I'm all right. What about you, Di?".The spoken name of a True Rune may be the word it signifies in the Old Speech, or it may be one of the connotations of the rune translated into Hardic. The names of commonly used runes such as Pirr (used to protect from fire, wind, and madness), Sifl ("speed well"), Simn ("work well") are used without ceremony by ordinary people speaking Hardic; but practitioners of magic speak even such well-known, often used names with caution, since they are in fact words in the Old Speech, and may influence events in unintended or unexpected ways.."I am hungry now," said the mage. He took a hardboiled egg from the basket, cracked, shelled, and ate it..we did not talk about it, not even when we were alone together. We only joked about our brawn,.He knew he was no match for Early. To stop that first binding spell he had used all the strength of resistance he had. The illusion and the shape-change were all the tricks he had to play. If he faced the wizard again he would be destroyed. And Roke with him. Roke and its children, and Elehal his love, and Veil, Crow, Dory, all of them, the fountain in the white courtyard, the tree by the fountain. Only the Grove would stand. Only the green hill, silent, immovable. He heard Elehal say to him, Havnor lies between us. He heard her say, Al! the true powers, all the old powers, at root are one..Herbal, master of the arts of healing

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