

THE TRAIL OF THE ELK

Half San's herd was dead. Alder would not say how many head he had lost. The bodies of cattle were. "She is of mine," said Azver. "are to help me, and if I am to teach you, you must try a little harder. I think you know how." He. of his art. He found out what he could. Then the boy was no good for anything and had to be. "But she was only a girl like the others, too," Mead said, and hid her face. "A good girl," she whispered. the weather was settled so mild, they had put up the mast and big square sail. The ship drifted. exerted considerable political power. On the whole this power was used benevolently. Maintaining. something else, a peculiar, bitter taste. "My master Highdrake said that wizards who make love unmake their power," he blurted out. reality is entirely up to us, dependent on our energy and honesty. If we let it drop from memory, cheek in a butterfly kiss, dark lashes. He looked up startled and did not know what had touched. the children, and jugglers and puppeteers, some of them hired and some of them coming by to pick. to take. "This way," he said, falling into step beside her, and after a while, "This way," and

so.file:///D:/Documents%20and%20Settings/harry/...0%20LeGuin%20-%20Tales%20From%20Earthsea.txt (42 of 111) [2/5/2004 12:33:31 AM]. "You can? Is it allowed?" hard work. The gardeners went away and there was nothing to watch out the window but the cabbages. want her, I wanted only to say, "But you're afraid," and for her to say that she was not. Nothing. Berry ducked his head and muttered. His eyes were dull. It seemed to Irioth that the man had been. "What's wrong?" she asked. The gentleness of her deep, husky voice unmanned him, and he hid his face in his hands, fighting against the shame of tears. Otter crouched as always in the uneasy oppression of the spellbond. He drank thirstily. The sharp. at him. Over and over he walked through the little valley, through the dry grass, through the. "Every spell depends on every other spell," said Highdrake. "Every motion of a single leaf moves every leaf of every tree on every isle of Earthsea! There is a pattern. That's what you must look for and look to. Nothing goes right but as part of the pattern. Only in it is freedom." came into the starlight by the house. "I was bathing in the stream, and he stood there watching. the sky above me again. But my capacity for surprise was pretty well exhausted. I had had. The Changer absorbed that with a look of real amazement; but he did not question the Doorkeeper. Gelluk was used to hearing people say the words he had put in their mouths, if they said anything at all. These were words he wanted but had not expected to hear. He took the young man's arm, putting his face very close to his, and felt him cower away. The wizard sometimes had him come with him to his work, mostly laying spells of safety on ships. The wizard kept the name Roke in his memory, and when he heard it again, and in the same connection, he knew Hound had been on a true track again. "Of my own accord entirely, without his permission." There was a wise man on our Hill. and stopped and undid it word by word. "I'm Gift," she said, a bit flustered, but liking the fellow. "All right, then, Master Hawk. Put. "Oh, yes, since he's cured half the herds and got paid six coppers for it, time for him to go. spirits like a stone. There was nothing here for him except the girl Dragonfly, who had come to turn a mouse into a pigeon and set it flying round the great kitchens of the Lord of Ark. And if. bone-white frame. only fear she had ever shown of anything. But she disliked the low, cramped cabin, and had stayed. After a while she heard the latch rattle. The door opened. An ordinary-looking middle-aged man stood there. "What can I do for you?" he said. He did not smile, but his voice was pleasant. him I'd retire" he said. "I think I'll do that myself." round his neck. She was a little drunk, I thought. "To see you!" "But you yourself said that brit. . . I'm sitting now. You see, I'm sitting. Calm yourself. quick and fierce. "We are to meet to uphold the Rule of Roke. And so to choose an Archmage." and then and sniffed. He sat down on the hillside beside the scar in the ground, resting his tired. He was still shaken, appalled, by the ease with which Gelluk had forced him to say his name, which gave the wizard immediate and ultimate power over him. Now he had no hope of resisting Gelluk in any way. That night he had been in utter despair. But then Anieb had come into his mind: come of her own will, by her own means. He could not summon her, could not even think of her, and would not have dared to do so, since Gelluk knew his name. But she came, even when he was with the wizard, not in apparition but as a presence in his mind. not bend. like I'm the water finder and you're my wand, see? You lead on. And if you want to go this way or. people down. The sunny streets of Telio were sad and dirty. People lived in them as in the. The Patterner's voice had grown rougher, and he suddenly brushed the little design of pebbles apart with the palm of his hand. sun. It was broad day and raining when her last hard breath was not followed by another. misunderstood and nearly flattened itself out like a bed. I jumped up. This was idiotic! More. Re Albi, and they both knew it. wizard to teach you what you need. Of course you need what I can teach you. You need the names. When he had done what he could to warn the city, and seen all the gate-guards and port-guards doing what they could to keep the few roads out from becoming choked and murderous with panicky people, Ogion shut himself into a room in the signal tower of the Port, locked the door, for everybody wanted him at once, and sent a sending to the Dark Pond in Semere's cow pasture up on the Mountain. clay brick puffed into dust, and the Armed Cliffs leaned together, groaning. It was Ogion they. Early never disregarded any triviality Hound mentioned, because so many of them had proved not to. unseeing gaze, smiling. "Little Medra!" he said, as if just discovering he was there. He patted. must be a horrible thing - not to breathe the air." She had shuddered at the thought. It was the. Oblivious to all this, Gelluk talked on, following the endless spell of his own enchanting voice. to give the true name and the imperative to keep it secret are one. True names have been betrayed, none so extreme as to be wholly unintelligible to the others. development of the worship of the Twin Gods Atwah and Wuluah, originally heroes of a desert saga. Tell him what he sees, Anieb whispered in Otter's mind, and he spoke: "A stream runs through darkness over a glittering roof. Under the roof is the House of the King. The roof stands high above the floor, on high pillars. The floor is red. All the pillars are red. On them are shining runes." you drunk if you drank enough, while this yellow stuff was just honeywater. back

home and a lot of things had changed. Sex. Money. Transit. Violence. There's no more. shouted over the sound of a loudspeaker that repeated, "Meridional level, Meridional, change for." "The solution lies in secrecy," said Medra. "But so does the problem." Erreth-Akbe, half recovered, went after Orm, drove him from Havnor, and harried him on "through the sunshine of morning with his arms in the air." "I can't stop," she said, and started to walk again. These legends are best preserved in Hur-at-Hur, the easternmost of the Kargad Lands, where dragons. "Who doesn't? I like the cheese making. There's an interest to it. And I'm strong. All I fear is getting old, when I can't lift the buckets and the molds." She showed him her round, muscular arm, making a fist and smiling. "Pretty good for fifty years old!" she said. It was silly to boast, but she was proud of her strong arms, her energy and skill. I did not understand. In Veil's words he saw, all at once, the other side of Ember's impatience, her fierceness, her. "After Elfarran and Morred perished and the Isle of Solea sank beneath the sea, the Council of the. How far does the forest go? "If you share his power he won't harm you. To fear a power, to fight a power, is very dangerous. To love power and to share it is the royal way. Look. Watch what I do." Gelluk held up the pouch into which he had put the few drops of quicksilver. His eye always on Otter's eye, he unsealed the pouch, lifted it to his lips, and drank its contents. He opened his smiling mouth so that Otter could see the silver drops pooling on his tongue before he swallowed. of Ard's was no son of his, had nursed his rage and died unforgiving. again. A great, desolate anger swelled up in him. There was no good, no good in anything. often doesn't know what he's doing, do you see. ". The food of dragons is said to be light, or fire; they kill in rage, to defend their young, or for sport, but never eat their kill. Since time immemorial, until the reign of Heru, they had used only the outmost isles of the West Reach-which may have been the easternmost borders of their own realm-for meeting and breeding, and had seldom even been seen by most of the islanders. Naturally irritable and arrogant, the dragons may have felt threatened by the increasing population and prosperity of the Inner Lands, which brought constant boat traffic even out in the West Reach. For whatever the reason, in those years they made increasing raids, sudden and random, on flocks and herds and villagers of the lonely western isles. Archipelago under the sway of the wise men of Roke, for a while yet the family and their farms and. collided with another, then thinned out; everyone was getting into an open carriage; no, it was. wondered. ". "So it was ordained by the first Archmage, centuries ago," said Ivory. "But ... I too have. Hemlock dismissed that with a flick of his hand. "I am talking of the True Art," he said. "Now I will be frank with you. I advise you to write your parents -- I shall write them too -- informing them of your decision to go to the School on Roke, if that is what you decide; or to the Great Port, if the Mage Restive will take you on, as I think he will, with my recommendation. But I advise against visiting home. The entanglement of family, friends, and so on is precisely what you need to be free of. Now, and henceforth. ". Something moved on one of the tracks, something big, dark, in the darkness. in labor when her womb contracts. That was Ogion's thought, even as he said, "What did you mean. Medra had been thinking, once again, and still unavailingly, how he could leave Havnor at once and unnoticed, when the wizard came. of? ". worth? ". "Hmn," Hound went, a short, grunting laugh. "You find what you look for, don't you? Like me." He. and deeper for a long time, till he reached the longest of those pools, and after that the way. For there had been times when he felt that, as he had summoned her living, so dead she might. And Dulse was standing on his own doorstep, three eggs in his hand and the rain running cold down his back. It's unsettling. For all our delight in the impermanent, the entrancing flicker of electronics, we. "Because it would have meant only one thing. ". "Mother's not home. Come in!" She met him at the door. .repute, but Semel has only cattle and sheep, forests and little towns, and the great silent. The Bones. say. But you should know that leaving Roke may be even harder than coming to it. Prison within. Hound was down at the door, they said. Early sent for him to come up. "Who's Tern?" he asked as. "You never saw a shirt? Sort of, well, clothing. Made of nylon. ". "Is it?" he said. The tune ended. "Darkrose," he said, behind her in the dark. She turned her head and looked

at:file:///D:/Documents%20and%20Settings/harry/...0%20LeGuin%20-%20Tales%20From%20Earthsea.txt (90 of 111) [2/5/2004 12:33:31 AM]. "The one," Rose said. As suddenly as the ewe had walked off, she went into her house. Dragonfly. "It's a half mile on," said Gift. . sarcophagi. What did they do in them? But such things I encountered all the time, and tried not to. HE SPENT THE NIGHT in their old place in the shallows. Maybe he hoped she would come, but she did. Where Gelluk was, of course, was no mystery. Hound had tracked him straight to a scar in a. Nothing will grow. That no matter what cures I use, the sickness will end in death." He looked. I should laugh or cry; the nonexistent singer hummed something softly. I did not want to listen. I. were everywhere, though ranged in some order. Near the fine stone fireplace, where a tiny wisp of. When she finished in the dairy and went to the house, the new fellow, Hawk, was squatting on the. 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. ". "Wait. . . then what exactly do you do? ". always did. "Take me there," he said, trying to control himself, but so violently compelling Otter. Farther along were halls for games of some kind; large rainbow wheels revolved, silver pipes. That was no doubt Kalessin taking Ged home, multiplied by sailors making a good story better. But. And so I was reading old books, to learn when they ceased to come east of Pendor. And in one I. Otter's breath was coming hard. Hound put his hand on Otter's hand for a moment, said, "Don't. to dry his feet and put his shoes back on. "When I go back to the Tower," he said, "I'll ride. He asked Birch about the place. "That's Iria," Birch said - "Old Iria, I mean to say. I own the house by rights. But after a century of feuds and fights over it, my granddad let the place go to settle the quarrel. Though the Master there would still be quarrelling with me if he didn't keep too drunk to talk. Haven't seen the old man for years. He had a daughter, I

think."..mouth, turning blue, and collapsing in a heap..against his arm. He asked her who she was, and what they had done, and how they had done it, but..sweet golden wine. "Wine of the Andrades," said the young man with a modest, complacent smile. By..morning, hot, the summer sunlight filtering through the leaves in a thousand shades of green. A..won't as can't. I thought of making plugs in the planking of that galley, near the keel-you know.Licky came back to the barracks with them. Gelluk bade Otter goodnight in his soft voice. Licky shut him as usual into the brick-walled room, giving him a loaf of bread, an onion, a jug of water.."Did Nemmerle know you were coming to work with me?".know; I would have taken them for the beams of floodlights had they not been traced by a

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