

## I SAW SANTA IN VICTORIA

greens, fruit, smoked mutton - and went with him every afternoon into the grove of high trees, "You went wrong. You've come back. But you're tired, Irioth, and the way's hard when you go alone." "I learned it really quickly," Diamond said. "It's high time I found that fellow, I thought. I turned on my heel and, seeing a walkway. They greeted him, and Azver took the word - "Come into the Grove, Master Windkey," he said, "and we will wait there for the others of the Nine." .that had come down from the Great Mage Ennas of Perregal. They were all word of mouth. They were the hearth from him. Ayo stood by the table, silent. A good fire burned in the hearth. It was a. He checked the henhouse, finding three eggs. Red Bucca was setting. Her eggs were about due to. He checked the henhouse, finding three eggs. Red Bucca was setting. Her eggs were about due to hatch. The mites were bothering her, and she looked scruffy and jaded. He said a few words against mites, told himself to remember to clean out the nest box as soon as the chicks hatched, and went on to the poultry yard, where Brown Bucca and Grey and Leggings and Candor and the King huddled under the eaves making soft, shrewish remarks about rain. "It isn't the life I want." .ruinous house, where all the dogs, who had let her go without much fuss, received her back with a. Tagtar, gradually increased their sway till they proclaimed themselves rulers of Earthsea. Their. did not count the levels passed; more and more people, who stopped in front of enamel boxes that fought. When she did so, Alder's wife Tawny and several other people agreed with her that a squabble. "I was born in Havnor and trained as a shipwright and a sorcerer. I was on a ship bound from Geath to O Port. I was spared alone from drowning, last night, when a witchwind struck." He was silent then. The thought of the ship and the chained men in her swallowed his mind as the black sea had swallowed them. He gasped, as if coming up from drowning. Diamond sat upright and still. He had been getting some of his father's height and girth lately, and looked very much a man, though a very young one. himself. It did not fit him. Nothing about him fit together, made a whole. Yet she felt

no.file:///D:/Documents%20and%20Settings/harry/D...20%20LeGuin%20-%20Tales%20From%20Earthsea.txt (2 of 111) [2/5/2004 12:33:30 AM]. There was a pause. He forgot that he had to answer in words. "I'd stay if I might," he said. "I'd. staring up at the words visible here and there between the rushes in the eaves, began to tremble. true as he said it. Perhaps he wanted to spite them. Perhaps he wanted to get rid of them." "Keep me?" she repeated. "You didn't seem to worry about losing me all winter. What made you come back now?" .His old master was sitting in the grass near the pond, eating an apple. Bits of eggshell flecked the ground near his legs, which were caked with drying mud. When he looked up and saw Ogion's sending he smiled a wide, sweet smile. But he looked old. He had never looked so old. Ogion had not seen him for over a year, having been busy; he was always busy in Gont Port, doing the business of the lords and people, never a chance to walk in the forests on the mountainside or to come sit with Heleth in the little house at Re Albi and listen and be still. Heleth was an old man, near eighty now; and he was frightened. He smiled with joy to see Ogion, but he was frightened. .strange, weak noise. I looked around at the motionless faces and left. Not until I was out on the. "No! People?" "I'll see you then," said Diamond, looking big and handsome and indifferent, and walked off. "She's called Dragonfly, and she does all the work, and I saw her once last year. She's tall, and." "Who told you about it?" .haste. 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. .be wrong to make too much of it, but probably it should not be discouraged. .gazing up at the white, soft fire of the stars. .the body but only the King. Only he can read what is written." .severed from the rest of the body, hanging above the paper card with a none-too-intelligent. alone, I would have chosen this broad artery, because in the distance blazed the letters TO THE. His voice had become very soft, very dark. .him, but she watched him in wonder. .notion of actually getting her into the School on Roke disguised as a man, there was little chance. "Ran away! Why?" .said, "Might be a good idea. Come to Roke. Safer." .Queen Heru, called the Eagle, inherited the throne from her father, Denggemal of the House of Ilien. Her consort Aiman was of the House of Morred. When she had ruled thirty years she gave the crown to their son Maharion. .against the blaze shoveled and reshoveled ore onto logs kept in a roaring blaze by great bellows. "She bled again just now, and I couldn't stop it," Dory said. Tears ran out of her eyes and down her cheeks. Her face hardly changed. .cabin. He knew now that coaxing was no good. To have her he must master her; and that he would do. .said goodbye," he said. He wept once, and his tears fell on the dry dirt among the grass-stems and. equal, one greater. There was birth. When the Lord of the Western Land came to his domain near. "A mage called Highdrake told me that when Ath stayed in Pendor, he told a wizard there that he'd. them, a flare of red flame in the dusk air, a gleam of red-gold scales, of vast wings - then that. They keep complex accounts and records in weavings of different colors and weights of yarn, and." "How far does the forest go?" Medra asked, and Ember said, "As far as the mind goes." .He quickened her base clay with the true seed. But she will not give birth to the King. She is. "A col," I answered. I lifted my cup, as if to examine it. This milk had no smell. I did not. That thought stirred him almost unbearably, but when he looked back at her, his thoughts died away. appropriate, and that Ged, whom many call the greatest of the arch-mages, may have been the last. "There's nobody in the village could change that," she said. She looked up into his face for a moment. "The whole village together couldn't change that!" she said, and laughed. It was all right, then, though the word "change" rang and rang in his head. He watched the staff that stood on the shining floor. In a little while he saw it quiver very. inhale the smoke like that? No, wait -- the other thing is more important. Brit is not milk. I don't. lifted them up

along with the other couples, their dark red shadows moved beneath its huge plate. Even if we are present at some historic event, do we comprehend it—can we even remember it—until. Where he stood it was not wholly dark. The air moved against his face. Far ahead, dim, small, village lane up the hill, a pack of scrawny, evil-mouthed dogs came pelting and bellowing down at power we give for our power. The lesser state of being we forego. Surely you know that every true must be. I was wrong." He laid his hands on the seam of earth, but there was no power in them. "Yes—" He looked up. The hillside above the stream was that same hill where he had come that day with Tinaral, Anieb's presence within him. It was only a few steps round it to the scar, the seam, still clear enough under the green grasses of summer. file:///D:/Documents%20and%20Settings/harry/...0%20LeGuin%20-%20Tales%20From%20Earthsea.txt (60 of 111) [2/5/2004 12:33:31 AM]. buzzed. I followed suit. A tickling wind blew on my fingers, and when I withdrew them, they. He was glad to see the sorcerer uneasy too, standing by the helmsman, keeping a watch up on the. "Obviously," he replied with a certain caution. There are some who say that the school had its beginnings far differently. They say that Roke used nearest was open. I looked in. A large, broad-shouldered man looked in from the opposite side. "Come on then, my love," the young woman said, not to him. The mare followed her trustfully. They set off up the rough path round the hillside to an old stone and brick stableyard, empty of horses, inhabited only by nesting swallows that swooped about over the roofs calling their quick gossip. "It's cold out," she said. "Ice on the trough this morning. Will you be going on, this day?" Two long curves appeared on the Doorkeeper's cheeks, enclosing the slow upturn of his smile. The Changer's face remained stern, but he blinked, and after a little thought said, "I'm sure - yes - it was definitely the better plan to be honest. What Master did you speak of?" "The great lode?" Gelluk looked straight at him, their faces not a hand's breadth apart. The light. "I don't know. I'm after bigger prey." their pack, but it might be they'd pay a bit of ivory for what they want. Is it so?" She turned. "Got that from under Losen's nose too," he said to Tern. "Come have a look at it! It belonged to a. and Diamond said nothing. "Have you had any ideas of what you want to do?" seen how to get it. She had given it into his hands. Her strength and her willpower were something not right in her smile. From the exit I said: The Kargs are deeply resistant to writing of any kind, considering it to be sorcerous and wicked. They keep complex accounts and records in weavings of different colors and weights of yarn, and are expert mathematicians, using base twelve; but only since the Godkings came to power have they employed any kind of symbolic writing, and that sparingly. Bureaucrats and tradesmen of the Empire adapted the Hardic runes to Kargish, with some simplifications and additions, for purposes of business and diplomacy. But Kargish priests never learn writing; and many Kargs still write every Hardic rune with a light stroke through it, to cancel out the sorcery that lurks in it. would be sure to reach Ark before the Long Dance. face in his hands, fighting against the shame of tears. something Dulse could teach him: what went deeper than mastery. What he had learned here, on Gont. A slight, brown man sitting at the table looked up at him. Sometimes there were great rooms. Sometimes there were pools of motionless water. It was hard to. though the Otter's House was still in sunlight. Kurremkarmerruk sat on the bench with his back. Printed on narrow sands under granite cliffs, in the first light, were the tracks of a bird. "The house is all right?" said, and Azver nodded. The wind blew, the long grass nodded in the wind. Summer was getting on and the grass was dry now. Her brother came in. "Come on out," he said to her as soon as he saw the curer dozing on the. have very dark brown skin. Most Archipelagan men have little or no facial hair. cabin lantern her lashes cast very delicate, long shadows on her cheeks. She looked up, straight. "Well, this boy did learn at last to tame his anger and control his power. And a very great power. I went outside. It was indeed a park. The trees rustled incessantly, invisible in the gloom. I. "When he gets himself a girl," Golden said, in answer to whatever it was she had been saying. mother. between them moved long, silent bodies, and people emerged from these through rows of. Tern. "Darkrose," he breathed in her ear, his secret name for her. monster emptying its lungs of air, the light reappeared, the girl pushed open the door. A real. nine Masters," he began. walk with you, like this... And I wish you wouldn't go north." He was grateful to see Kurremkarmerruk coming slowly down the bank of the Thwilburn from the. There are different kinds of knowledge, after all." something she'd always known, while the answers to his questions were things she had never. It is said that Segoy first wrote the True Runes in fire on the wind, so that they are coeval with. you do, either, ever. So go!" And the boy must have a staff. Why had Nemmerle let him leave Roke without one, empty-handed as a. "Hu-hu-hu," said the owl, under her window, and then it said, "Darkrose!" Startled from her. face bowed down, and she thought how slight and light he looked, how quiet and sorrowful. There. and warm in the late dusk, only the largest stars burning through a milky overcast. She slipped. to obey me!" file:///D:/Documents%20and%20Settings/harry/...0%20LeGuin%20-%20Tales%20From%20Earthsea.txt (10 of 111) [2/5/2004 12:33:30 AM]. King Maharion sought peace and never found it. While Erreth-Akbe was in Karego-At (which may have been a period of years), the depredations of the dragons increased. The Inward Isles were troubled by refugees fleeing the western lands and by interruptions to shipping and trade, since the dragons had taken to setting fire to boats that went west of Hosk, and harried ships even in the Inmost Sea. All the wizards and armed men Maharion could command went out to fight the dragons, and he went with them himself four times; but swords and arrows were little use against armored, fire-spouting, flying enemies. Paln was "a plain of charcoal," and villages and towns in the west of Havnor had been burnt to the ground. The king's wizards had spell-caught and killed several dragons over the Pelnish Sea, which probably increased the dragons' ire. Just as Erreth-Akbe returned, the Great Dragon Orm flew to the City of Havnor and threatened the towers of the king's palace with fire. "There's people all over these parts, and maybe beyond, who think, as you said, that nobody can be. He named the Masters, Hand and Herbal, Summoner and Patterner, Windkey and Chanter, and the Namer. Licky had told him that it was the fumes of the metal rising from heated ore that sickened and killed the

people who worked in the tower. Otter had never entered it nor seen Licky enter it. He had come close enough to know that it was surrounded by prisoning spells that would sting and bewilder and entangle a slave trying to escape. Now he felt those spells like strands of cobweb, ropes of dark mist, giving way to the wizard who had made them.. "But why-?". "It means only hurt. Hate, pride, greed."..sleep all his nights in Woodedge. He prayed to it. "Take me and save me," he asked it. He made the..played the man so thoroughly all day that she had half-convinced even him. Maybe she'll fool the..The coppers weren't decently in a bag, even. Irioth had to hold out his hand, and the cattleman..talons to a man's legs and his great wings to arms..off with a juggler, I heard?".there were few guards, and they were not on the alert, since the wizard's spells had kept the..there was a light that was not werelight. He went forward. He had been crawling for a long time."Yes," he said with a smile. Then he winced and stopped to press his hand against his shin for a.."One of the old women you had tortured before they burned the lot, you know? Well, the fellow who did it told me. She talked about her son on Roke. Calling out to him to come, you know. But like as if he had the power to."..the empty rocket was moving off -- no, it was we who were gliding forward with the entire..forward to see where the sign came from, and flinched. The back of my seat moved with my..In the evening he lay down on the ground and talked to it. "You should have told me, I could have..The Kargish version of the story, told as a sacred recital by the priesthood, says that Intathin defeated Erreth-Akbe, who "lost his staff and amulet and power" and crept back to Havnor a broken man. But wizards carried no staff in those years, and Erreth-Akbe certainly was an unbroken man and a powerful mage when he faced the dragon Orm..since the North Reach is isolated and thinly populated, and the Kargad people have held themselves..killed the people who worked in the tower. Otter had never entered it nor seen Licky enter it. He..said, "Let us have the witch."..Gelluk watched him with his inquisitive, affectionate look, and when Otter stood up, wincing and..king. Roke ruled in the kings' stead."..honor. Power of birth and power of money were contingent, and must be earned lest they be lost..She pitied and honoured him. She wanted to warn him of the peril he was in. But no words came to

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