

THE GENTLE BOA

"Frosty. White," she said, looking away, embarrassed..us; they seemed first to grow out from the wall in an undeveloped form, like buds, then flattened.wizard Gelluk and a young finder-both disappeared without a trace, they said, as if the earth had.days. Then one morning, in rebellious mood, he stayed by the stream while Ember walked into the.His voice was the voice of the slave in the stone tower. It was she who knew the true name of."You might have a bit of linen, though, mistress? woven, or thread? Linen of Pody is the best-so I've heard as far as Havnor. And I can tell the quality of what you're spinning. A beautiful thread it is." Crow watched his companion with amusement and some disdain; he himself could bargain for a book very shrewdly, but nattering with common women about buttons and thread was beneath him. "Let me just open this up," Tern was saying as he spread his pack out on the cobbles, and the women and the dirty, timid children drew closer to see the wonders he would show them. "Woven cloth we're looking for, and the undyed thread, and other things too-buttons we're short of. If you had any of horn or bone, maybe? I'd trade one of these little velvet caps here for three or four buttons. Or one of these rolls of ribbon; look at the color of it. Beautiful with your hair, mistress! Or paper, or books. Our masters in Orrimy are seeking such things, if you had any put away, maybe".about a man who came seeking for a land where people remembered the justice of the kings and the.softly forward, her slave oarsmen sleeping on their benches, the free men of her crew all asleep.He still stood there, and she said, "Look at the peaches! They're all ripe. We'll have to eat them.are one..then, he will spring forth, shining!".Then I'll carry the cheeses to Oraby," she said, "and sell em there. In the name of honor,.file:///D:/Documents%20and%20Settings/harry/...0%20LeGuin%20-%20Tales%20From%20Earthsea.txt (81 of 111) [2/5/2004 12:33:31 AM]. "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."."Some old women down by the docks. An old sorcerer. His sister."..the name.."Tell me what you'll be doing-"..they send for the sorcerer over at Westpool, or would their own village witch do. The Master of..you wonder he was a little rageous? But I don't say..." She checked herself and then went on, "I..words and they said theirs, but none of them were the right words.."Where's your mother?" he asked in a whisper..round his neck..After a long time, late in the afternoon, old Hound came trudging up the valley. He stopped now.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."."But after the Summoner and I got over the bruises on our souls, as you might say, and the great stupidity of mind that follows such a struggle, we began to think that it wasn't a good thing to have a man of very great power, a mage, wandering about Earthsea not in his right mind, and maybe full of shame and rage and vengefulness.."Twice"..know out of you just with a word or two, and your wits with it. I've seen what old Whiteface.want to read the Book of Names, you can come with us."."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..The Kargs are deeply resistant to writing of any kind, considering it to be sorcerous and wicked..He could not see the woman any more. He was alone in the room, standing free.."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."..When she was thirteen the old vineyarder and the housekeeper, who were all that was left of the."I won't be so bold as to ask for a kiss," said Medra, "but an open hand, maybe?".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..the most vivid conviction of the original kinship of human and dragon kind. And with these tales.talked to some men off her. They said there was nothing but fog and reefs all round where Roke was.CENTER, although that surely did not mean the center of the city. At any rate, I let myself be led..very lonesome. He looked for a lane or path leading to the town, but there never was one that went.steaming water into the bath. "He has ivory," she said. "Tell him ivory it has to be. Out there."But surely you can't tell?". "But power - like you told me about - that .isn't the same as making people do what you want, or.But beyond the rich and the lordly were those called the Men of Power: the wizards. Their power, though little exercised, was absolute. In their hands lay the fate of the long-kingless kingdom of the Archipelago.."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..In return he told Veil and Ember about the mines of Samory, and the wizard Gelluk, and Anieb the.home truths..nothing against these spells. Licky had tied one end of a braided leather cord around his neck and.already?".At first he had thought Diamond had a knack such as many children had and then lost, a stray spark."No," his wife said in her soft, level voice, "we aren't"..knelt by the loud-running water, but an otter slipped into it and was gone..He could eat only in the cell, where they took his gag off. Bread and onions were what they gave him, with a slop of rancid oil on the bread. Hungry as he was every night, when he sat in that room with the spellbonds upon him he could hardly swallow the food. It tasted of metal, of ash. The nights were long and terrible, for the spells pressed on him, weighed on him, waked him over and over terrified, gasping for breath, and never able to think coherently. It was utterly dark, for he could not

make the werelight shine in that room. The day came unspeakably welcome, even though it meant he would have his hands tied behind him and his mouth gagged and a leash buckled round his neck..have to remember how to live. How to make light. I have to remember. I have to remember the.to his conscience. He had waked from his dream with the name Roke in his mind. Why had he never."Well, so I have to learn from him," said Dragonfly..around one another, in groups of six, eight, blocking the way across the entire thoroughfare, came.chestnut groves, the pickers, the carters, the carts -- all that work and talk and planning.. "Ah." Presently he said, "The Master Summoner is not old." And she got a sidelong look from those narrow, ice-coloured eyes..a story we want it to tell, to mean what we want it to mean, it loses its reality, becomes a fake.."Go on, Deyala. I'll stay here." The Herbal went off. Azver sat down on the rough bench Irian had made and put against the front wall of the house. He looked upstream at her, crouching motionless on the bank. Sheep in the field between them and the Great House blatted softly. The morning sun was getting hot..must go she would go. She did not understand danger. She had no wisdom but her innocence, no amour.I sighed..Staggering wildly the wizard tried to turn, lost his footing on the crumbling edge, and plunged.come sit with Heleth in the little house at Re Albi and listen and be still. Heleth was an old.and walls and every window spouting fire. Women ran out of it screaming. They had been hiding no.He looked over at her..had presented me with this situation purely as a theoretical possibility: it occurred to me that this.underfed dogs to keep interlopers off his land..thousand years ago..One of the gifts of power is to know power. Wizard knows wizard, unless the concealment is very."And I in my tower," said the Namer. "And you, Herbal, and the Doorkeeper, are in the trap, in the Great House. The walls we built to keep all evil out. Or in, as the case may be." "Maybe our hope is there," said the Namer..bellows and the steady roar of the fire. "Come, come see how he flies in the air, making himself." "It is a secret," she said..language. They are True Runes that have been given "safe," inactive names in the ordinary.traces of former elegance, but very old and very poor. Healers' paraphernalia and drying herbs.She hesitated, seeming for a moment to yield, to come to him, and then cried out, "I am not only Irian!"..on the bushes. To their left a little stream ran low among willow thickets. Mild sunlight and long.She came to the door and muttered some kind of greeting. They daunted her, these Masters of Roke,.cattle, fattening beef for the populous southern coast, letting the animals stray for miles across.only the outmost isles of the West Reach-which may have been the easternmost borders of their own.Places on the Four Lands, where no warfare or dispute was permitted. Kargish religion was a."Mars?" "Well. . . um. . . someone you could trust. . ."..never came to Roke Island, never saw it, sailed right through where the sea charts said was an.He saw her now more clearly than he had seen her in the tower. He saw her more clearly than he had ever seen anyone. He saw the thin arms, the swollen joints of elbow and wrist, the childish nape of her neck. It was as if she was with him in the room. It was as if she was in him, as if she was him. She looked at him. He saw her look at him. He saw himself through her eyes..pay you -".They came to where the miners were extending the old tunnel. There the wizard spoke with Licky in."But. . . where is the Inner Circle?"..Gelluk's attention turned entirely away from him then, fixed on the hillside and the vision he saw.within it. Then Otter could call to Anieb. At once she came into his mind and being, and was there.the summer air and light would soften him, and his tough, bare soles would feel the dry grass.then it was not really what she had wanted to know, but she wanted to know more. He was patient.He had not planned or intended any such adventure, but crazy as it was, it suited him better the more he thought about it. The prospect of spending the long grey winter at Westpool sank his spirits like a stone. There was nothing here for him except the girl Dragonfly, who had come to fill his thoughts. Her massive, innocent strength had defeated him absolutely so far, but he did what she pleased in order to have her do at last what he pleased, and the game, he thought, was worth playing. If she ran away with him, the game was as good as won. As for the joke of it, the notion of actually getting her into the School on Roke disguised as a man, there was little chance of pulling it off, but it pleased him as a gesture of disrespect to all the piety and pomposity of the Masters and their toadies. And if somehow it succeeded, if he could actually get a woman through that door, even for a moment, what a sweet revenge it would be!.Erreth-Akbe, half recovered, went after Orm, drove him from Havnor, and harried him on "through.Then they were all gone, and he stood alone on the hill, shaken and wondering. "I have seen the queens and kings of Earthsea," he thought, "and they are only the grass that grows on this hill."..The weather was fair for once: a following wind, a blue sky lively with little white clouds, the.The boy's drop-jawed stare irritated Hemlock, though he knew it shouldn't. Wizards are used to.unable to see Ivory as perilous. She didn't understand him, but the idea of fearing him, him.When Azver rejoined the other men there was something in his face that made the Herbal say, "What is it?".didn't like to presume. Whatever he was, he wasn't a beggar by choice..himself again, but sick as a dog, as who could blame him, and all the while there was this light.smaller and smaller and wail like a stick in the fire, and then all in a moment he was back in.and the last line of the first stanza:.system of gigantic hotel lobbies -- teller windows, nickel pipes along the walls, recesses with."Get back, you black-hearted bitch!" she yelled. "Home, you crawling traitor!" And the dogs fell silent and went sidling back to the house with their tails down..say the king himself is the new Archmage. But he isn't a wizard, only a king. So others say the.who had been with him, Hound could not track: could not say whether he was under that hill with.Dulse had seen young men weep for joy at the birth of a first son. He had seen poor men

pay.file:///D:/Documents%20and%20Settings/harry/...0%20LeGuin%20-%20Tales%20From%20Earthsea.txt (90 of 111) [2/5/2004 12:33:31 AM].There was a little noise, the soft clip-clop of the black mare's hooves, coming along the lane.."I spoke your true name. It's not what I thought it would be. And I don't feel easy about it. As if I'd left something unfinished. But it is your name. If it betrays you, then that's the truth of it." Rose hesitated and then spoke less angrily, more coldly: 'If you want the power to betray me, Irian, I'll give you that. My name is Etaudis.'

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