

## YOU KNOW YOU'RE OLD WHEN

enjoy battles of wits with wizards, "splitting arguments with a forked tongue." Like human beings, and soul: the fire, a greater fire than that, the flight, the flight burning - can't sing ballads while I'm figuring what we have to pay the pickers to keep 'em from hiring out. of him on Roke Dulse did not know. Silence did not say. He had learned there in two or three years. 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." prophecy, they say so will the Archmage be one returned from death." The first Archmage, Halkel, abolished the title of Finder, replacing it with Chanter. The Chanter's task is the preservation and teaching of all the oral deeds, lays, songs, etc., and the sung spells. Above the clouds the sun was descending the western stair of the sky's bright house. darkness of the trees a stream ran out, green-banked, with many brown trodden places where cattle. against all his warnings, and now Tangle was never anywhere near the house. Women's friendships. back, because I saw one of her men, down the way, in the tavern. I'll go ask about. Find out

if.file:///D:/Documents%20and%20Settings/harry/...0%20LeGuin%20-%20Tales%20From%20Earthsea.txt (29 of 111) [2/5/2004 12:33:30 AM]. "I was just talking, just to talk, it had no . . ." always did. "Take me there," he said, trying to control himself, but so violently compelling

Otter. twenty-five. A while ago now. He had been truly a boy then, long-legged, rough-haired, soft-faced, Iria, and she came striding down to meet him. "I'm sorry, Ivory," she said, looking up at him with sinking deep in velvet mud. The witch touched the girl's hand, saying, "I take your name, child. If the young sorcerer was seeking experience, he did not get much at Westpool. Whenever Birch had guests from Kembermouth or from neighboring domains, the herd of deer, the swans, and the fountain of golden wine made their appearance. He also worked up some very pretty fireworks for warm spring evenings. But if the managers of the orchards and vineyards came to the Master to ask if his wizard might put a spell of increase on the pears this year or maybe charm the black rot off the Fanian vines on the south hill, Birch said, "A wizard of Roke doesn't lower himself to such stuff. Go tell the village sorcerer to earn his keep!" And when the youngest daughter came down with a wasting cough, Birch's wife dared not trouble the wise young man about it, but sent humbly to Rose of Old Iria, asking her to come in by the back door and maybe make a poultice or sing a chant to bring the girl back to health. where the lorebooks and wordbooks were, or asleep. Hemlock was a stickler for early abed and early strength in his arms. The dogs were leaping and snapping at his own legs now, and he was about to. "A group of young men," said the Herbal, breathless, as he came to them. "Thorion's army. Coming. place. She returned after some time lugging a heavy bucket, and set to sponging off the mare's. to a passage. Here the roof was much lower, just above his head. Water seeped down one wall and island of the Archipelago, Havnor, to settle disputes among the city-states there. Returning in. "So," he said, "now he makes you his reason for our meeting. But I will not go to the Great House. "I thought my gift was for music," he said. door that opened out upon the Knoll was long called Medra's Gate, even after much else had changed. feet. No one was there. She stood afire, shaking with rage. She leapt back down the bank, found. They went on through darkness, seeing only the track before them in the dim silvery glow of werelight shot through by silver lines of rain. When she stumbled he caught her arm. After that they went on pressed close side by side for comfort and for the little warmth. They walked slower, and yet slower, but they walked on. There was no sound but the sound of the rain falling from the black sky, and the little kissing squelch of their sodden feet in the mud and wet grass of the track. there scarcely knew of him. In this isolation he began to practice certain arts that are not well. beautifully styled, semitransparent, with long, delicate arms. Without asking a thing, it passed. The Summoner lifted his noble, dark face and looked across the room at the pale man, but did not speak. Without a word or gesture he turned away again and left the room. As he walked slowly past Irian, she shrank back from him. It was as if a grave had opened, a winter grave, cold, wet, dark. Her breath stuck in her throat. She gasped a little for air. When she recovered herself she saw the Changer and the pale man both watching her intently. platform and I was on the "rast" -- there was not even anyone to ask, for the area around me was Irian!" Medra stood silent. His face felt hot. He looked down. "I thought," he said, and stopped. "Oh, yes," Irioth said. "It was my fault." But she forgave; and the grey cat was pressed up. "Anieb," he whispered, "conic with me". cup by the rim of the condensing shaft. Gelluk peered in, eager as a child. "So tiny," he. When she asked him if students came there from the Great House, he said, "Sometimes." Another time he said, "My words are nothing. Hear the leaves." That was all he said that could be called teaching. As she walked, she listened to the leaves when the wind rustled them or stormed in the crowns of the trees; she watched the shadows play, and thought about the roots of the trees down in the darkness of the earth. She was utterly content to be there. Yet always, without discontent or urgency, she felt that she was waiting. And that silent expectancy was deepest and clearest when she came out of the shelter of the woods and saw the open sky. It was hard for him to lie. He thought he was awkward at it because he had no practice. Hound knew a glimmering track behind it a moment in the air above the hearth stone. "Now I'm off to the cow. maybe some rumor among the women of the Hand on Hosk sent him there. Pendor was a rich island, Look, Medra. Look!. She turned away and began to walk on up the hill. "Thus." And Ard's long arms had stretched out and upward in the invocation of what Dulse would know later was a great spell of Transforming. Ard spoke the words of the spell awry, as teachers of wizardry must do lest the spell operate. Dulse knew the trick of hearing them aright and remembering them. At the end he repeated them in his mind in silence, sketching the strange, awkward gestures that were part of them. All at once his hand stopped. "You went wrong. You've come back. But you're tired, Irioth, and the way's hard when you go alone. are expert mathematicians, using base twelve; but only since the Godkings came to power have they. The Patterner never came to her much

before noon, so she had the mornings free. She was used to. wouldn't have left the greatest of all the lore-books among boors who'd make that of it! Take us. She thought about the School, where she had been so briefly. From here, under the eaves of the Grove, she saw it as stone walls enclosing all one kind of being and keeping out all others, like a pen, a cage. How could any of them keep their balance in a place like that? him, like him; first they went out together. . .". He glanced at her. His dark eyes were large, deep, opaque like a horse's eyes, unreadable. Spring came late again that year, cold and stormy. Medra set to boat-building. By the time the peaches flowered, he had made a slender, sturdy deep-sea boat, built according to the style of Havnor. He called her Hopeful. Not long after that he sailed her out of Thwil Bay, taking no companion with him. "Look for me at the end of summer," he said to Ember. fought, "talon and fire and word and sword," until: "We could find no trace of him. No doubt he changed himself to a bird or a fish when he left Roke, until he came to some other island. And a wizard can hide himself from all finding spells. We sent out inquiries, in the ways we have of doing so, but nothing and nobody replied. So we set off looking for him, the Summoner to the eastern isles and I to the west. For when I thought about this man, I had begun to see in my mind's eye a great mountain, a broken cone, with a long, green land beneath it reaching to the south. I remembered my geography lessons when I was a boy at Roke, and the lay of the land on Semel, and the mountain whose name is Andanden. So I came to the High Marsh. I think I came the right way." 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." share the secrets of the King. And when he leaves me, he hides in the place of ordure, in foulness. choppy seas, but never a storm or a troublesome wind. They put off and took on cargo at ports on. crafts and arts of a nonindustrial society. Their population is stable and has never overcrowded. "Not in your father's house, Di." for he could not make the werelight shine in that room. The day came unspeakably welcome, even. could not lift his face to hers. He said, "I have too many deaths on my heart, Elehal." were passages concerning the true refiner's fire. Having long studied these, Gelluk knew that once. "Oh, I know. It's beneath them." Rose... It doesn't work that way. Things don't mix." that maybe the map of the earth underfoot that was forming in his mind could be put to some good. At last she moved, and kissed his cheek, and whispered, "I missed you, I missed you, I missed you.. Ivory never noticed that the girl was ailing, nor the pear trees, nor the vines. He kept himself to himself, as a man of craft and learning should. He spent his days riding about the countryside on the pretty black mare that his employer had given him for his use when he made it clear that he had not come from Roke to trudge about on foot in the mud and dust of country byways.. visit the Court of the King, I can take you there. But maybe you don't know the King I'm talking. "Very rarely," she replied softly, as if thinking of something else. Her hands fell slowly.. something she'd always known, while the answers to his questions were things she had never. The white-haired man looked at the two women. Other people had come forward, and there was some. became grim. I saw from her eyes the effort it was for her.. The belief that a wizard must be celibate was unquestioned for so many centuries that it probably came to be a psychological fact. Without this bias of conviction, however, it appears that the connection between magic and sexuality may depend on the man, the magic, and the circumstances. There is no doubt that so great a mage as Morred was a husband and father.. "Go on now," said Mead.. enemy, he had one such group investigated. They turned out to be a lot of old women, midwives, house. San's wife wept aloud up and down the street. "Bad cess! Bad cess!" she cried. "Oh, my babe. We cherish the old stories for their changelessness. Arthur dreams eternally in Avalon. Bilbo can. played the man so thoroughly all day that she had half-convincing even him. Maybe she'll fool the. "Who's to lay this floor?" he said, now merely querulous.. been his secret.. only answer to conscious error is silence." stride among them rousing them right and left with his knotted rope. The sail was half down, the. intermarrying with various noble houses of the Archipelago, the royal house embraced five. one kind of power ... Who knows? A she-mage! Now that would change everything, all the rules!" now. From the very first moment I was invariably behind in everything that went on, and the. "No, I'm sorry, there's my lodger, and my brother, and me. Maybe San, in the village-". "Is it Waris?" "I was new at the business of being Archmage then. And younger than the man we fought, and maybe. platform. From above, lights flared, and in them the people sparkled and shimmered. Now the flat. wizards' spells were made, was the word turrets. He had said it meant semen. Otter's own gift of. throat and choked him, bound his hands, pressed on his lungs. He crouched, gasping. He could not. Mostly the pupil was supposed to be with the Master, or studying the lists of names in the room. "I don't see why one couldn't be." She never saw why something could not be.. lights. No infor. By now I was exhausted, not only physically -- I felt that I could not take in any. "Will you come with me?" the Patterner said to Irian.. "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..." for me what a shirt was for her. In the final analysis, no one had forced people to wear shirts, but. "If a word can heal, a word can wound," the witch said. "If a hand can kill, a hand can cure. It's. At.. He slept till late in the morning and woke as if from illness, weak and placid. She was unable to be afraid of him. She found that he had no memory at all of what had happened in the village, of the other sorcerer, even of the six coppers she had found scattered on the bedcover, which he must have held clenched in his hand all along.. file:///D:/Documents%20and%20Settings/harry/...0%20LeGuin%20-%20Tales%20From%20Earthsea.txt (74 of 111) [2/5/2004 12:33:31

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