

AN AFFAIR OF DISHONOUR

A quarrel between brothers over their inheritance divided them. One heir mismanaged his estate through greed, the other through foolishness. One had a daughter who married a merchant and tried to run her estate from the city, the other had a son whose sons quarrelled again, redividing the divided land. By the time the girl called Dragonfly was born, the domain of Iria, though still one of the loveliest regions of hill and field and meadow in all Earthsea, was a battleground of feuds and litigations. Farmlands went to weeds, farmsteads went unroofed, milking sheds stood unused, and shepherds followed their flocks over the mountain to better pastures. The old house that had been the centre of the domain was half in ruins on its hill among the oaks..kill you for it. Keep it hid. And keep away from great people and their crafty men!". "Nais. . . how is it. . . ?" I stammered. "You take a complete stranger and. . .". "Oh, Darkrose," Diamond said, "I love you.". "But you can? Right? You really can? No," she whispered, as if to herself, "you are not.his power was gone, he was not a mage. So presently the Masters of Roke met to choose a new.file:///D:/Documents%20and%20Settings/harry/...0%20LeGuin%20-%20Tales%20From%20Earthsea.txt (101 of 111) [2/5/2004 12:33:32 AM].lands of the Inmost Sea. What he sought might be there. So he went as a weatherworker on the.obey, your majesty." He summoned his wizards, and the mage Early came, bowing low. "Make me walk!".family cautiously imitated their wizard and filled their cups from it and tasted it, it was a."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..despise him for taking such things seriously, maybe knowing they would not understand them.,there's no use trying to conceal anything from me, is there? The wise child loves his father and.you do, either, ever. So go!".and said gently, confidentially, "I'm sure you can find the great lode.".ranges, the murrain's very bad. Maybe the cold weather'll put an end to it.".something she'd always known, while the answers to his questions were things she had never.vertical cliffs, pale, bluish, bastion upon bastion, crystal battlements, chasms -- and this shining.weatherworker who needed training at sea, and Sava, a woman of sixty who had come to Roke with him.pleased with himself. When the ship was launched (and all seemed well with her, for her fault.quick and fierce. "We are to meet to uphold the Rule of Roke. And so to choose an Archmage.". "Well, that won't do," said the stranger pleasantly. "I can't be bringing on a birth untimely. Is there maybe a room above the tavern?".Licky was his master..liking, and her only lust was to learn what he could teach her..Sometimes the word used is alherath, "true-word-beings," "those who say true words," speakers of.business. It has to be cultivated on its own terms, and kept under control -- learned and.Ayeth's stare grew more insolent as he watched Irioth stammer. He began to say something to San.,Tuly shared it with him for a long time, since she could see her son only by lying to her husband, which she found hard to do. She wept to think of Diamond hungry, sleeping hard. Cold nights of autumn were a misery to her. But as time went on and she heard him spoken of as Diamond the sweet singer of the West of Havnor, Diamond who had harped and sung to the great lords in the Tower of the Sword, her heart grew lighter. And once, when Golden was down 'at South Port, she and Tangle took a donkey cart and drove over to Easthill, where they heard Diamond sing the Lay of the Lost Queen, while Rose sat with them, and Little Tuly sat on Tuly's knee. And if not a happy ending, that was a true joy, which may be enough to ask for, after all.. "I forget-I always forget," he said, downcast again. "I forget the walls of the prison. I'm not.protecting individuals, farms, towns, cities, and shipping, until social order was re-established..They had no patience with him either, always at him to hurry up and get done with the job; nor with themselves, their life. When they talked to each other it was always about what they were going to do in town, in Oraby, when they got paid off. He heard a good deal about the whores in Oraby, Daisy and Goldie and the one they called the Burning Bush. He had to sit with the young men because they all needed what warmth there was to be got from the fire, but they did not want him there and he did not want to be there with them. In them he knew was a vague fear of him as a sorcerer, and a jealousy of him, but above all contempt. He was old, other, not one of them. Fear and jealousy he knew and shrank from, and contempt he remembered. He was glad he was not one of them, that they did not want to talk to him. He was afraid of doing wrong to them..He said nothing. In fact he was at a loss. If he had known it would be this easy, he could have had her name and with it the power to make her do whatever he wanted, days ago, weeks ago, with a mere pretence at this crazy scheme - without giving up his salary and his precarious respectability, without this sea voyage, without having to go all the way to Roke for it! For he saw the whole plan now was folly. There was no way he could disguise her that would fool the Doorkeeper for a moment. All his notions of humiliating the Masters as they had humiliated him were moonshine. Obsessed with tricking the girl, he had fallen into the trap he laid for her. Bitterly he recognized that he was always believing his own lies, caught in nets he had elaborately woven. Having made a fool of himself on Roke, he had come back to do it all over again. A great, desolate anger swelled up in him. There was no good, no good in anything..The Changer and a thin, keen-faced old man standing beside him nodded in agreement. The Master Hand said, "Irian, I am sorry. Ivory was my pupil. If I taught him badly, I did worse in sending him away. I thought him insignificant, and so harmless. But he lied to you and beguiled you. You must not feel shame. The fault was his, and mine.".far and wide..as much to do with it as his father expected? Maybe he'd find out when he grew up..the oval openings and brought to mind the open sea.

"Don't let that touch me!" Suddenly I found. After a long time, Azver said, "I have no idea." give it to that child, the breath, the name. You can't think of it. You let it come to you. It. "I think he will not walk in the Grove. Nor on Roke Knoll. On the Knoll, what is, is so,". now. From the very first moment I was invariably behind in everything that went on, and the bestiary in the barn loft... But there's nothing much to look for here. Nothing of importance. Ath. opened and entered a great cavern. But though the roots of Roke are the roots of all the islands, gagged his mouth to keep him from making spells. They locked him in a cellar room, a room of. Tern left late that year on his journey. He had with him a boy of fifteen, Mote, a promising weatherworker who needed training at sea, and Sava, a woman of sixty who had come to Roke with him seven or eight years before. Sava had been one of the women of the Hand on the isle of Ark. Though she had no wizardly gifts at all, she knew so well how to get a group of people to trust one another and work together that she was honored as a wise woman on Ark, and now on Roke. She had asked Tern to take her to see her family, mother and sister and two sons; he would leave Mote with her and bring them back to Roke when he returned. So they set off northeast across the Inmost Sea in the summer weather, and Tern told Mote to put a bit of magewind into their sail, so that they would be sure to reach Ark before the Long Dance.. "Ah, that," Medra said, rueful.. triple beat on his tabor, and they were off into a sailor's jig.. But when they came out into the daylight again his head kept on spinning in the dark, and after a few steps he doubled over and vomited on the ground.. But her boat-cradle of willow wood, floating free, bore their child Serriadh to safety, wearing.. not even the hall that I had left: I knew this by the absence of those enormous columns. But, then, Knowledge of these places and powers was the heart of religion in the Kargad Realm. In the.. felt nothing, the fountain was without water. After a moment it seemed to me that I smelled.. After him Otter climbed the winding stairs, broad at first but growing tight and narrow, passing.. file:///D:/Documents%20and%20Settings/harry/...0%20LeGuin%20-%20Tales%20From%20Earthsea.txt (108 of 111) [2/5/2004 12:33:32 AM]. "My father," he began, and stopped, and gave a kind of laugh. "They don't go together," he said.. The winter passed by, and the cold early spring, and with the warm late spring came a letter from.. There was a little struggle in the mind, but the mouth opened and the tongue moved: "Medra.." and lifted her up. She stood submissively. Her head fell back, I saw her teeth glistening; I did not.. "Only in some very, very old tales. Before the gods were. Before men were. Before men were men, they were dragons.." After a bit Otter nodded left, away from the grey stone tower. They walked on towards a long.. honor. Power of birth and power of money were contingent, and must be earned lest they be lost.. It took him six more days to get through the big herds in the eastern marshes. The last two days he spent riding out to scattered groups of cattle that had wandered up towards the feet of the mountain. Many of them were not infected yet, and he could protect them. The hinny carried him bareback and made the going easy. But there was nothing left for him to eat. When he rode back to the village he was light-headed and weak-kneed. He took a long time getting home from Alder's stable, where he left the hinny. Emer greeted him and scolded him and tried to make him eat, but he explained that he could not eat yet. "As I stayed there in the sickness, in the sick fields, I felt sick. After a while I'll be able to eat again," he explained.. played the man so thoroughly all day that she had half-convincing even him. Maybe she'll fool the.. "What does that mean?".. THE ISLAND OF SEMEL lies north and west across the Pelnish Sea from Havnor, south and west of the.. He did not forgive his son. It would have made a happy ending, but he would not have it. To leave.. I looked at her, silent. The language had not changed so very much, and yet I didn't.. They came out again among the ploughlands and pastures in the warm evening. As they walked back to.. Hearing he was there, the teachers of Roke came, the men and women who were masters of their.. "And cast wide!" He looked from one to the other again. "I wasn't well taught, in the City of Havnor," he said. "My teachers told me not to use magic to bad ends, but they lived in fear and had no strength against the strong. They gave me all they had to give, but it was little. It was by mere luck I didn't go wrong. And by Anieb's gift of strength to me. But for her I'd be Gelluk's servant now. Yet she herself was untaught, and so enslaved. If wizardry is ill taught by the best, and used for evil ends by the mighty, how will our strength here ever grow? What will the young dragon feed on?".. to Endlane, where the mother lived. Early rummaged in their cloudy, witless minds, had the.. mended their nets. There was a hearth there, and they would light the fire. People came even from.. Ayo closed her hand and opened it palm up, a fleeting sketch of a gesture, of a sign.. Sunreturn and the Long Dance, in the speaking and singing of the traditional songs and epics at.. need to be. Well, send me a student now and then. Roke needs Gontish wizardry. I think we're.. exerted considerable political power. On the whole this power was used benevolently. Maintaining.. Medra knew the danger of repeatedly taking any form but his own, but he was shaken and weakened by.. and parts of islands, parts of ships, parts of the human body. The words never made sense, never.. Though like any power they could be perverted to evil use in the service of ambition (as was the Terrenon Stone in Osskil), the Old Powers were inherently sacral and pre-ethical. During and after the Dark Time, however, they were feminised and demonised in the Hardic lands by wizards, as they were in the Kargad Lands by the cults of the Priestkings and the Godkings. So by the eighth century, in the Inner Lands of the Archipelago, only village women kept up rituals and offerings at the old sites. They were despised or abused for doing so. Wizards kept clear of such places. On Roke, itself the center of the Old Powers in all Earthsea, the profoundest manifestations of those powers-Roke Knoll and the Immanent Grove-were never spoken of as such. Only the Patterners, who lived all their lives in the Grove, served to link human arts and acts to the older sacredness of the earth, reminding the wizards and mages that their power was not theirs, but lent to them.. his own wits, which seldom let him down if he was given a fair chance to use them. The girl asked.. weatherworker had a bag, a great long sack or a little pouch.. consulting her every time Diamond had a hangnail, and telling her more than she or anyone ought to.. are no gods, no cults, no formal worship of any kind. Ritual occurs only in traditional offerings.. These legends are best preserved in Hur-at-Hur, the easternmost of the Kargad Lands, where dragons have degenerated into animals without high intelligence. Yet it is in

Hur-at-Hur that people keep the most vivid conviction of the original kinship of human and dragon kind. And with these tales of ancient times come stories of recent days about dragons who take human form, humans who take dragon form, beings who are in fact both human and dragon..it? You learn what you're doing while you do it. No chance to practice. "Ah-there! You feel that?".Her eyelids fluttered..palace with fire.. "I cannot read them." Otter's voice was toneless. "I cannot go there. No one can enter there in.it galled him..Ayo and Mead were much alike, and Otter saw in them what Anieb might have been: a short, slight,.fleet on the sea, and the slaves were near rebelling, so the master brought her home as quick as.moving in a line:."A good bit of it?".turned away scowling. Then she touched his hand very lightly. When he stroked the sleek black flow.ends.".They call this the Otter's House," he said. "Very old. As old as the Great House. Everything is.reason.".him. He saw the flash of her eyes, the cloud of her curling hair. She looked back at him for a."Get them here. Take my men.".but though she hugged him she drew away again, frowning..And Dulse was standing on his own doorstep, three eggs in his hand and the rain running cold down his back..For a moment longer they held still; then the night wind blew across their naked shoulders, and shivering, they waded out, dried themselves as well as they could, struggled barefoot and wretched through the sharp-edged reeds and tangling roots, and found their way back to the lane. And there Dragonfly spoke in a ragged, raging whisper: 'How could you name me that!'.but present, smiling, dancing. All his childhood friends were there too, half of them married by.at the dock to take her, and the wind, I can tell you, will stand fair for Way.".him; he had the lead. But Early could follow the lead, and if his own powers were not enough he.powerless..My neighbor to the left -- corpulent, tan, with eyes that shone too much (from contact.She said nothing, but breathed very warm in his ear, and he moaned. His hands clenched hers. He.cause sores on my body; no, for I don't fear him, but invite him, and so he enters into my veins.horses, inhabited only by nesting swallows that swooped about over the roofs calling their quick."They didn't punish him, but kept his wild powers bound with spells until they could make him listen and begin to learn. It took them a long time. There was a rivalrous spirit in him that made him look on any power he did not have, any thing he did not know, as a threat, a challenge, a thing to fight against until he could defeat it. There are many boys like that. I was one. But I was lucky. I learned my lesson young.. "Simply as I protect myself," the wizard said; and after a moment, testily, "The bargain, boy. The.when she came out of the shelter of the woods and saw the open sky..his uncomplaining patience, he took pity on him and said, "You should either go to Roke or find a.But Otter was intensely aware of Gelluk, both physically and as a presence of immense controlling power; and it seemed to him that Anieb's speaking had taken away that much of Gelluk's power over him, gaining him a place to stand, a foothold. Even with Gelluk so close to him, fearfully close, he managed to speak..stood still..A carter walking at his mule's head with a load of oakwood came upon them and took them both to.You must make your choice alone, as a man. Do you understand that?" Golden was earnest, seeing his.benches, barrels of oil breaking loose and thundering over one another-pulled her over and held.know it! This is no place for a man like that. Whoever he is, is none of our business, but why did.dogs yammered around him. "She broke it.".ten days starving in the cold to cure his beasts! San's got nothing but copper, but Alder can pay.the trees. "Stay tonight. You will?".It was hard work out in the pastures. "Who doesn't do hard work?" Emer had asked, showing her round, strong arms, her hard, red hands. The cattleman Alder expected him to stay out in these meadows until he had touched every living beast of the great herds there. Alder had sent two cowboys along. They made a camp of sorts, with a groundcloth and a half tent. There was nothing to burn out on the marsh but small brushwood and dead reeds, and the fire was hardly enough to boil water and never enough to warm a man. The cowboys rode out and tried to round up the animals so that he could come among them in a herd, instead of going to them one by one as they scattered out foraging in the pastures of dry, frosty grass. They could not keep the cattle bunched for long, and got angry with them and with him for not moving faster. It was strange to him that they had no patience with the animals, which they treated as things, handling them as a log rafter handles logs in a river, by mere force..everybody wanted him at once, and sent a sending to the Dark Pond in Semere's cow pasture up on.throat as he swallowed, and they laughed and chattered, and he shivered all over like a cart horse.the hearths in Thwil Town. They listened to the wind blow and the rain beat or the silence of the.file:///D:/Documents%20and%20Settings/harry/...0%20LeGuin%20-%20Tales%20From%20Earthsea.txt (70 of 111) [2/5/2004 12:33:31 AM]. "Down to the waterfront."

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