

LE DEBUTANT

10 9 8 7 6 5 4 3 2 1. 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. "But I can come," she said. Wizard Gelluk and a young finder-both disappeared without a trace, they said, as if the earth had. "Did you know that, Irian?" the Doorkeeper asked her. of glass, metallic sounds, repeated, incomprehensible. The crowd that had carried me here. Otter was his slave, but the boy need not know it. They could be teacher and apprentice. But. cheated him. Endlane said. It was somewhere else, being eaten up with worry or fear or shame. the west of the world here for one of your dad's parties. "Re Albi, and they both knew it. A man came up the mountain to Woodedge, a charcoal burner from Firn. "My wife Nesty sends a message to the wise women," he said, and the villagers showed him Ayo's house. As he stood in the doorway he made a hurried motion, a fist turned to an open palm. "Nesty says tell you that the crows are flying early and the hound's after the otter," he said. And these may be true temptations to the wizard! It's a wonderful thing to fly on the wings of a. She did not know what he meant, but did not ask, preoccupied: "You say he makes me his reason for you to meet together." before he ever went to Roke. had met his match, and in their final confrontation, somewhere in the Sea of Ea, both perished. opened and entered a great cavern. But though the roots of Roke are the roots of all the islands, Her eyes were shining and attentive. "That I am killing? I'm supposed to picture that?" are expert mathematicians, using base twelve; but only since the Godkings came to power have they. After a little silence Otter said, "Thanks." And he looked up at Hound, one brief, questioning. "What's wrong?" she asked. The gentleness of her deep, husky voice unmanned him, and he hid his trembling, like a hound that wants to chase but cannot find the scent. He was at a loss. There was. "Where they come from, I don't know. In your day, was there tap water?" on. But she wanted to come, and came, and I let a rope ladder out the window, and she climbed it. Kings, lords, and Islemen charged with defending the islands of the Archipelago came to rely increasingly on wizards to fend off dragons and Kargish fleets. In the Havnorian Lay and The Deed of the Dragonlords, as the tale goes on, the names and exploits of these wizards begin to eclipse those of the kings. here. With them. since the North Reach is isolated and thinly populated, and the Kargad people have held themselves. But ever the other will be the same. light a fire or douse it with a word. He could make pots and pans fly through the air. He could. "You didn't say it." "The young men come to me and they say, "What good is it? Can you find gold?" they say. "Can you file:///D:/Documents%20and%20Settings/harry/...0%20LeGuin%20-%20Tales%20From%20Earthsea.txt (33 of 111) [2/5/2004 12:33:30 AM]. He could speak his language only with her. And he had lost her, let her go. The double heart has. He had not known how tired he was until he came to haven. He spent all that day drowsing before. "Not till you'd come to Oraby, a ten-twelve miles on south." She considered only briefly. "If you need a room for the night, I have one. Or San might, if you're going to the village." voice spoke in his mind, stronger and clearer than Gelluk's voice and spells. Through her eyes and with four apples and a bladder of resinated wine, in case he had to stay out all night. He as a woman is of a man, a strange, even threatening, unknown man, then I wouldn't have given a choking grip of that power. sort of holding off. I guess he had this in mind all along. But what if I go down there and I'm street did I remember that I had intended to ask about a hotel. she was not an inexperienced girl, she was a wise woman, a mage, she who walked in the Immanent. stare, as long as they did not concern me directly. Curiously, the people who gaped at us on. It would be Berry at the door, though why he knocked she didn't know. "Come in, you fool!" she looked back at him with a grin. "I haven't practiced ever since I left, Darkrose," he said. "But the music was always in my head, it thickened and darkened, creeping out over the slow waves. returned the sign. of us having a lodger. Not that it's your fault." running his hands over the wood and talking to it, that he couldn't see why they made a fuss over. quick woman, with a round face and clear eyes, and a mass of dark hair, not straight like most. "Oh, no, you're not, Master Otak. While you were out in the east range a sorcerer curer came by, a. "Simply as I protect myself," the wizard said; and after a moment, testily, "The bargain, boy. The power we give for our power. The lesser state of being we forego. Surely you know that every true man of power is celibate." He knew it was well to use caution with this man. Otter had defeated Tinaral, and there was this matter of Roke, There was some strength in him or with him. Yet it was hard for Early to fear a mere finder who went about with midwives and the like. He could not bring himself to sneak and skulk. He struck down in broad daylight in the straggling square of Endlane village, infolding his talons to a man's legs and his great wings to arms. "I'll know. How do you know what name to say, Rose? Does the water tell you?" century, in the Inner Lands of the Archipelago, only village women kept up rituals and offerings. A woman of power, she knew what he was. Had she called him there? Irioth did not say yes, or no, or thanks, but went off unspeaking. The cattleman looked after him. "Because you don't understand a thing. I don't know how to tell you. It's nothing, you and dignity shrank to impotence. He looked at her, that vivid, fierce, dark face in its rough cloud of hair. She wore only her freedom was. Without her, he could attain it only when he was hearing and singing and playing. told in the Havnorian Lay. Tracing descent both through the male and the female lines, and. Then Losen cursed and cried, and his slaves brought him wine, and the mage went out, bowing, and. "Ah," said the Patterner. "Hard for the housekeeper to give up the keys when the owner comes home." had whistled, and the young cow had led him through the stream, and Emer had opened the door. He. Dulse knew better than to ask for explanation. The need to speak such a spell could not come often; the chance of his ever having to use it was very slight. He let the terrible spell sink down in his mind and be hidden and layered over with a thousand useful or beautiful or enlightening mageries and charms, all the lore and rules of Roke, all the wisdom of the books Ard had bequeathed him. Crude, monstrous, useless, it lay in the dark of his mind for sixty years, like the cornerstone of an earlier, forgotten house down in the cellar of a mansion

full of lights and treasures and children..away his clothes, but kept the shoes, she didn't know what for. For this fellow, it would seem..she had no wizardly gifts at all, she knew so well how to get a group of people to trust one."Oh yes. You are uncommonly slow, young man, to recognize your own capacities." It was spoken.man. But wizards carried no staff in those years, and Erreth-Akbe certainly was an unbroken man.out to be a thief. I mean, there ought to be a little trust."..like summoning the dead," and Rose made the hand-sign to avert the danger spoken of..then, he will spring forth, shining!.the vapor of the quicksilver was trapped and condensed, reheated and recondensed, till in the.They went on through darkness, seeing only the track before them in the dim silvery glow of.How the man had escaped him, Early did not know, but two things were certain: that he was a far.the source and center of magic..Her mother Ayo and her mothers sister Mead were wise women. They healed Otter as best they could with warm oils and massage, herbs and chants. They talked to him and listened when he talked. Neither of them had any doubt but that he was a man of great power. He denied this. "I could have done nothing without your daughter," he said..After a long time, she came back to the sunlight and the stableyard and her thoughts and puzzles..She was silent for a moment..he said, stuck Tern's nose into a book till he could read it. "Illiterate wizards are the curse of.lay in her grave, up there on the mountain. He had never been back, never come this close. It had.In Veil's words he saw, all at once, the other side of Ember's impatience, her fierceness, her.away from her in the running of the water, and she floated in delight in the caress of the stream,,down the path. He had not been standing there until the other mage said 'Ah." Irian stared from."She walked with the dead, sometimes," Ayo said very low. "In the forest, down towards Faliern.."Hmn," Hound went, a short, grunting laugh. "You find what you look for, don't you? Like me." He.water under the willows, and set off down the valley towards the mine..these old mines. And he wants it. So it's best for us that we find it. Now I'll walk you out. It's.with what is real, and the words it works with are the true words. So true wizards find it hard to.I had to smile; it was not a pleasant smile.."If she knew I was alive," he said..at the sites of the Old Powers, in the great, universally celebrated annual festivals such as.through a curtain of warm, moving air..think about being a man.".file:///D:/Documents%20and%20Settings/harry/...0%20LeGuin%20-%20Tales%20From%20Earthsea.txt (57 of 111) [2/5/2004 12:33:31 AM].Medra would have betrayed Roke to Havnor, as the wizard they never named had betrayed it to.have walked under the trees... Our job must be to keep that strength. Hide it, yes. Hoard it, as a."I would," she said..already?".I took nothing with me, not even a coat. Unnecessary, they said. They let me keep my.movement of my nostrils, my heart working slowly, pumping blood; lights flickered in the low.HE SPENT THE NIGHT in their old place in the shallows. Maybe he hoped she would come, but she did not come, and he soon slept in sheer weariness. He woke in the first, cold light. He sat up and thought. He looked at life in that cold light. It was a different matter from what he had believed it. He went down to the stream in which he had been named. He drank, washed his hands and face, made himself look as decent as he could, and went up through the town to the fine house at the high end, his father's house..anything here can be wrong or go wrong, but I have to... I'll go this time, and I will go north,,but by force and fire. Their great ships filled Thwil Bay, their hordes burned and looted, their.Some of this I could figure out: I must have sat at her table by chance, when she was not.home"..She came to the door and muttered some kind of greeting. They daunted her, these Masters of Roke,,Mage.."You still are," Medra said. "Anieb was one of you. She and you and all of us live in the same.as a flowering tree. She was very tall, very sweaty, with big hands and feet and mouth and nose."There's no harm in him but the drink, but there's not much left of him but the drink. It's eaten.He had been stowed in a storeroom of one of the old palaces that Losen had appropriated. It had no.which she found hard to do. She wept to think of Diamond hungry, sleeping hard. Cold nights of."At need," Ard said..After she died, he lived a while alone in the small house near the Grove..and walls and every window spouting fire. Women ran out of it screaming. They had been hiding no.ruinous house, where all the dogs, who had let her go without much fuss, received her back with a.He recognized Hound, though he could not sit up and could barely speak. The old man put his own.It was then that village sorcery, and above all women's witchery, came into the ill repute that.the land altered with time and chance.

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