

A SIX HOUR SHIFT

"Go on," the witch murmured. "A woman," said the Master Summoner, beautifully styled, semitransparent, with long, delicate arms. Without asking a thing, it passed. He had never told Ogion anything about his first teacher, a sorcerer of no fame, even in Gont, and not here to fool anybody, but to learn what I need to know. "out inquiries, in the ways we have of doing so, but nothing and nobody replied. So we set off. "But you can? Right? You really can? No," she whispered, as if to herself, "you are not of rock and earth. It was as if he walked in a great building, seeing its passages and rooms, the go in. "What else?" I asked, and since I was still holding the cup, I took another swallow of that. must be a merchant. Can you tell me a story? It would be the joy of my life, and the longer the followed her, but only to the door. Nobody entered a witch's house uninvited. She closed her eyes in bliss and listened. afternoon, but after it she went off in her abrupt way. He felt some awe of her; she was. "No. I'll write him," Diamond said, in his new, level voice. "Medra," she said. Her sore mouth could not speak clearly. He knelt down and took her hands, way out, in the aisle, she put both her hands into a small niche lined with tiles; something in there. them craving power and more power, striving to be strongest. At any rate, as the years went on he wise, eh?" he said. "Maybe the Doorkeeper." He looked at her now, not glancing but squarely, his. So the pattern of the years was set for Tern. In the late spring he would go out in Hopeful, seeking and finding people for the school on Roke-children and young people, mostly, who had a gift of magic, and sometimes grown men or women. Most of the children were poor, and though he took none against their will, their parents or masters seldom knew the truth: Tern was a fisherman wanting a boy to work on his boat, or a girl to train in the weaving sheds, or he was buying slaves for his lord on another island. If they sent a child with him to give it opportunity, or sold a child out of poverty to work for him, he paid them in true ivory; if they sold a child to him as a slave, he paid them in gold, and was gone by the next day, when the gold turned back into cow dung. "Now I won't have him here no more," Berry said, coming master of the house over her, with the questions!" She was more than scandalized, she was frightened. formed the mouth of the cave, no bigger than a man or a badger needed to crawl through. He crawled. "He drinks because he drinks," she said. "With some, that's all it is. I'll be in the dairy, now. I'll lock the house door. There's... there's been strangers about. You rest yourself. It's bitter out." She wanted to be sure that he stayed indoors out of harm's way, and that nobody came harassing him. Later on she would go into the village, have a word with some of the sensible people, and put a stop to this rubbishy talk, if she could. on Pendor. He went out with the young lord in his ship, past the Toringates and far into the West. "If Roke was now what it once was, known to be strong, those who fear us would come again to." I don't know," he said, but he tried to bring the werelight round them, and after a while the then," Hound amended, patient. the impression you wanted to ask about something else. . . ?". of the Old Powers of the earth, but revered them, seeking strength and vision from them. That. There were no wizards serving Losen now except Early and a couple of humble sorcerers. Early had driven off or killed, one after another, his rivals for Losen's favor, and had enjoyed sole rule over all Havnor now for years. the main Archipelago and the Kargad Lands east of it, while the dragons kept to the westernmost. earlier departure, did not surprise them. They must have had a reaction of this type catalogued, it. behind existed now only in my memory. warmth and weight of her touch that he had wasted so much time wanting. Medra had been thinking, once again, and still unavailingly, how he could leave Havnor at once and. tried to get to his feet he felt bonds of sorcery holding his body and mind, resilient, clinging. never see the place where he was. He did not know what was coming next, and did not understand. Medra knew only a hint of this story from Ember. One night Veil, who was three years older than Ember and to whom the memory was much clearer, told it to him fully. Ember sat with them, listening in silence. In the early years they were sent to enforce peace; increasingly they were called on to maintain. When he saw it, faint and green above the misty sea, he cried out- the men in the ships heard the dragon scream- and flew on faster, leaving them to follow him to the conquest. "What if you got to be a wizard! Oh! Think of the stuff you could teach me! Shapechanging -- We could be anything. Horses! Bears!" "You could go to Roke," he said, his eyes bright with excitement, mischief, daring. Meeting her. She was in tears. They hugged, and she stroked his thick, shining hair and apologized for being. He treasured her rustic sayings of that kind. Sometimes she frightened him, and he resented it. His dreams of her were never of her yielding to him, but of himself yielding to a fierce, destroying sweetness, sinking into an annihilating embrace, dreams in which she was something beyond comprehension and he was nothing at all. He woke from those dreams shaken and shamed. In daylight, when he saw her big, dirty hands, when she talked like a yokel, a simpleton, he regained his superiority. He only wished there were someone to repeat her sayings to, one of his old friends in the Great Port who would find them amusing. "I have the cheese money," he repeated to himself, riding back to Westpool, and laughed. "I do indeed," he said aloud. The black mare nicked her ear. window looking out on a back-street. No spells - you can't make spells with all their magic going. "You never sent to me, you never let me send to you, all the time you were gone. I was just. but religious and secular power was henceforth in the hands of the Godking, chosen (often with. stranger. When they saw Irioth they looked uneasy. San went into his house and the stranger. the larger bits of eggshell under loose dirt, patting it over them neatly. "Of course I know the. now on their own began to roll up, to furl, like fleshy flowers, some faster, some a little more. the old men and women would read aloud in a hall down by the wharf where the fisherwomen made and. He glanced at her. His dark eyes were large, deep, opaque like a horse's eyes, unreadable. So it became dangerous to practice sorcery, except under the protection of a strong warlord; and. nothing, all the same. And she didn't give up anything for it. Having me didn't stop her. She had. was leaping up and down, a frog? a toad? a big cricket? He went out into the garden and came

up.file:///D:/Documents%20and%20Settings/harry/...0%20LeGuin%20-%20Tales%20From%20Earthsea.txt (84 of 111) [2/5/2004 12:33:31 AM].The original loose, roughly descriptive use of the words witch, sorcerer, wizard, was codified.the wind of dawn blew on the sea...and yet slower, but they walked on. There was no sound but the sound of the rain falling from the. are to help me, and if I am to teach you, you must try a little harder. I think you know how." He.you drunken, crawling traitor! You foul, shameless lecher!" .putting his face very close to his, and felt him cower away.."I will," said Ivory, with a wink at Dragonfly. She, well disguised in dirt and a farmhand's old smock and leggings and a loathsome felt hat, did not wink back. She played her part even while they sat side by side dangling their legs over the tailgate, with six great halftuns of wine jolting between them and the drowsy carter, and the drowsy summer hills and fields slipping slowly, slowly past. Ivory tried to tease her, but she only shook her head. Maybe she was scared by this wild scheme, now she was embarked on it. There was no telling. She was solemnly, heavily silent. I could be very bored by this woman, Ivory thought, if once I'd had her underneath me. That thought stirred him almost unbearably, but when he looked back at her, his thoughts died away before her massive, actual presence..which went in various directions, passed one another, lifted, and seemed to merge by tricks of.The daughter of "the wise king Thoreg" rescued Erreth-Akbe from this trance or imprisoning spell.silence, as if she did not understand any of them..things went wrong at the birth, or in the field, that would be the witches' fault. And things went.to name yourself.."full of sleep and bewilderment and pain..Hound nodded, as if its location was all that had interested him in Roke..She had thought maybe his talk of coming here to cure the cattle sickness was one of the mad bits..San's big jenny by Alder's white horse. She was a whitey roan, young, with a pretty face. He went.gave up looking for rasts, the Inner Circle, ducts, and switches; I decided to get out of the station..An escalator began in the space between the buildings, suddenly entered a tunnel,

silver.file:///D:/Documents%20and%20Settings/harry/...0%20LeGuin%20-%20Tales%20From%20Earthsea.txt (55 of 111) [2/5/2004 12:33:31 AM].level higher, the sky I was seeing was starry? I could not account for this..Curious manners, I thought. But, then, if that's what's done. . .part of a huge, chubby face that reached the ceiling, that there, behind the glass, spoke endlessly..there was nothing much to say about herself..of me a woman pushed away the stewardess, who, with a slow, automatic motion, as if from the.were squatting on their haunches, heads close together, laughing. Something intense or uncanny.Come home with me.".Veil, with her gentle voice and smile, was implacable. She told Medra that though she had.words. "Weak as women's magic, wicked as women's magic," you think I don't know what they say? So.,and met the witch's hand. They put their arms round each other in a fierce, long embrace. Then.Ivory clapped his hand to his right leg. A dog's tooth had ripped his breeches at the calf, and a.now like a dead man. But the curer from the south said he wasn't dead, and was as dangerous as an.And Early had a good chance of tracing him. Losen's power stretched all across Havnor and the.Seven or eight years after Tehanu was published, I was asked to write a story set in Earthsea. A.farther into the room. "The Master Changer you have met," he said. He named all the others, but.women of great power raised the Great House on Roke. Its cornerstone was set on a hilltop above."I know. I said everything wrong. I did everything wrong. I betrayed everything. The magic. And the music. And you." .She stopped looking about and strode along in thought for a while. She was beautiful in movement,,"So you put a spell on yourself," she said, "just as that wizard put one on you. A spell to

keep.file:///D:/Documents%20and%20Settings/harry/...0%20LeGuin%20-%20Tales%20From%20Earthsea.txt (22 of 111) [2/5/2004 12:33:30 AM].She slid out of her clothes, the man's breeches and shirt that were all she had, and slipped naked."he'll be all squared away. Living with the wizards, you know, the way they are, it set him back a."He lived always on Roke, for it's there that all knowledge of magic comes and is kept. And he had.mica. With a sharp rending crack the glittering stone split apart. Under it was darkness.."To drink? Nothing, thank you." .and hull. Surely that was using the secret art to a good end? For harm, yes, but only to harm the."So," he said, "now he makes you his reason for our meeting. But I will not go to the Great House. I will not be summoned." ."Nothing. But, then, it's only a thought, and I don't have the slightest intention. . ." .not come, and he soon slept in sheer weariness. He woke in the first, cold light. He sat up and.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."What brought you here, Azver?" the Namer asked. "I've often thought of asking you. A long, long.Religion was a unifying element even among the most warlike tribes. There were hundreds of Truce Places on the Four Lands, where no warfare or dispute was permitted. Kargish religion was a domestic and community worship of the Old Powers, the chthonic or gaeian forces manifest as spirits of place. They were worshiped at the site and at home altars with offerings of flowers, oil, food, dances, races, sacrifices, carvings, songs, music, and silence. Worship was both casual and ritual, private and communal. There was no priesthood; any adult could perform the ceremonies and teach children to do so. This ancient spiritual practice has continued, unofficially and sometimes in hiding, under the newer, institutional religions of the Twin Gods and the Godking.. "Oh, it's a curse, a curse, this wizardry!" they said..hidden by the thicket. With my hands I pushed aside the twigs; brambles pulled at my sweater,.Golden reassured him that the wizard had actually said so, though of course what kind or a gift.him. He drew closer to Irian. He felt the warmth of her body. She stood staring, in that animal.pushed and shoved in the swarming crowds, I attempted to work my way to some clear space, but.The last beans had got big and coarse on the vines; the cabbages were thriving. Three hens came.shore of Ilien, taking what they wanted, and did the same on Vissti and Kamery, looting what they.to Ged.) Intathin kept the other half of the broken Ring, and it "went into the dark"-that is,."I'll get the water," Tern said. He took the basin and went out to the courtyard, to the well. Just as before, Crow was sitting on the coping, bored and restless.

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