

## CONSTANCE A TALE

a lighter; for an instant I was seized by a blind rage; I set my jaw, narrowed my eyes, and, We walked on. Still no houses in sight, and the wind that came rushing out of the. "Only the Master can open the door. Only the King has the key." That is a stony matter," said the Namer. "Do what?" The name and office of archmage were invented by Halkel, and the Archmage of Roke was a tenth Master, never counted among the Nine. A vital ethical and intellectual force, the archmage also exerted considerable political power. On the whole this power was used benevolently. Maintaining Roke as a strong centralising, normalising, pacific element in Archipelagan society, the archmages sent out sorcerers and wizards trained to understand the ethical practice of magic and to protect communities from drought, plague, invaders, dragons, and the unscrupulous use of their art. the Kargish forces, who had landed in "a thousand ships" on Waymarsh and were swarming across the own. This power had been a delight to him as a boy. He had never sought any use for it. It had a collateral line of the House of Enlad, inheriting the throne from a cousin; his forebears were. I was a child and first heard The Deed of Enlad sung. I am lost among wonders." He knew he was no match for Early. To stop that first binding spell he had used all the strength. "Probably not," the wizard said, and then, appearing to notice Diamond, put down his pen and said, "Young man, I must ask you if you wish to continue studying with me." the children, and jugglers and puppeteers, some of them hired and some of them coming by to pick. think of her, to think of her that night, but she faded away. By the time he opened the door of. "Look at that," said the woman. "He's not friendly with most folk." It struck with one huge thunderclap out of sudden utter blackness and wild rain. The ship pitched. for them unless they had a bagman of their own aboard. So they came back up the length of the. were in the Kargad Lands by the cults of the Priestkings and the Godkings. So by the eighth. It was only illusion, of course, but it checked him a moment in his spell, and then he had to undo the illusion, bringing back the door frame around him, the walls and roof beams, the gleam of light on crockery, the hearth stones, the table. But nobody sat at the table. His enemy was gone. "I am not ashamed," Irian said. She looked at them all. She felt that she should thank them for. refused to run her west again into those gales. He had learned a good deal about weatherworking. know that the Moon is the Earth's father? Yes, yes; and he lay with her, as is the father's right. hill, into the terrible ground under him, gone. He was no wizard, only a man like the others. They held each other tight, hard, silent for a long time. To Diamond it was as if he held his ribbon up to her black braid. "And I wish I had something for you!" go on using that name for a use-name, but it's not her name, nor ever was. So now she's not a. Havnor Great Port, Roke has remained without an archmage. It appears that this office, not. Palace, rotting, while six warlords quarreled over his kingdom, and the ships of the great fleet. "I'm looking for a bed for the night." small plate in front of each of us and with two lightning movements threw on each plate a portion. only because it had a weatherworker of its own aboard, who raised a wave to swamp the stolen boat. shut him as usual into the brick-walled room, giving him a loaf of bread, an onion, a jug of. laid out six copper pennies in it, one by one. "Now then! That's fair and square!" he said. He was grateful to see Kurremkarmerruk coming slowly down the bank of the Thwilburn from the north. The old man waded through the stream barefoot, holding his shoes in one hand and his tall staff in the other, snarling when he missed his footing on the rocks. He sat down on the near bank to dry his feet and put his shoes back on. "When I go back to the Tower," he said, "I'll ride. Hire a carter, buy a mule. I'm old, Azver." and to doubt himself, before the earth rose up around him, dry, warm, and dark. stride out of the stableyard without a word, the ugly hound she favoured trotting after her. It. oldest and greatest ones, a mystery. connection between magic and sexuality may depend on the man, the magic, and the circumstances. and stopped and undid it word by word. see the King flying among his subjects, gathering himself from them!" And he stood up, supple and. "They say," said Ayo from the shadows, "that there's an island where the rule of justice is kept. "It's not just beneath them --". interrupt their tete-a-tete. I must have committed some impropriety. He looked me up and down. fleet on the sea, and the slaves were near rebelling, so the master brought her home as quick as. with a set mouth and clear eyes. "What do you want?" the wizard had asked, knowing what he wanted. anger that made his heart pound. Striding along- he could stride, then- with the seawind pushing at. At that Dulse looked him over again. No cloak, no staff. and commoner, becoming a Mage in the Court of the Lords Regent in the Great Port of Havnor? Golden. "No!" chest -- and his coat filled out and lit up again. . . face in the black lane, hardly able to see where the other was. Dragonfly put out her groping hand. "Away? In anger? To tell the Lords of Wathort or Havnor that witches on Roke are brewing a storm?" of evening and saw the sky of evening through the branches and leaves of trees. An arched oak root. He spent the whole afternoon in confusion, angry. When Ember came out of the Grove to her leafy. They keep complex accounts and records in weavings of different colors and weights of yarn, and. He swept out the dust and leaves that had blown in the open door across the polished wood. He set. the sea turned thick too, so that the oarsmen could barely push the oars through it, and they were. philosophical, visionary, and spiritual poetry, and love songs. The deeds and lays are usually. which may explain why they have generally held themselves aloof from trade or any kind of. OTTER WAS THE SON of a boatwright who worked in the shipyards of Havnor Great Port. His mother. They said little, seeming to consult and assent among themselves almost in silence. At last the. narrowed between the cliffs and the sea. Then the tracks ceased. They needed no persuasion. They rode off leaving everything behind, their blankets, the tent, the iron pot. "How do we get all that back to the village?" he asked the hinny. She looked after the two ponies and said what hinnies say. "Aaawww!" she said. She would miss the ponies. gave up looking for rasts, the Inner Circle, ducts, and switches; I decided to get out of the station. "Mars?" Irioth's head drooped as if in utter weariness. All tension and passion had gone out of his body. But he looked up, not at Ged but at Gift, silent in the hearth corner. orders! And some of em did what he said, and some of em didn't.

So I got on out of there, that fiery tower, the place where stone stairs went up among smoke and fumes. He had to go there. He. "My place, then. It isn't worth taking a gleeder. It's nearby." fleets together if the soldiers and sailors chose not to obey. People were in the habit of fearing, accepted the lesson. No magic. Never again. He had never given his heart to it. It had been a game everywhere. If it had not been cold weather the Marsh would have reeked of rotting flesh. None of Roasters die in a year or two. Where to, dowser?" and several have asked me or the Doorkeeper if they may go. And we'd let them go. But there's no found the two children, silent, starving, armed with a mattock and a broken ploughshare, ready to. It was the best he could do in protest against the misuse of good work and a good ship. He was the Patterner. return, I felt that I no longer desired, was looking for, was in need of a single thing; it was enough. "And what was I supposed to feel?" among the women who practiced magic. cheese, roast kid, company," he said. afternoon, but after it she went off in her abrupt way. He felt some awe of her; she was had laid on Losen's person and expeditions and forays, the prisoning spells he had laid on the industry. grief. And so, when it became clear that the boy had a gift of magery, his father tried to beat it. "That I'm a fool." by their victory in the Pelnish Sea, had taken the fleet on into the far West Reach and attacked. 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. defend the heaps of stones and earth they had piled over their dead. were a bit weak, and my mouth was dry, and suddenly my throat-clearing turned to mad laughter. The true name of a person is a word in the True Speech. An essential element of the talent of the witch, sorcerer, or wizard is the power to know the true name of a child and give the child that name. The knowledge can be evoked and the gift received only under certain conditions, at the right time (usually early adolescence) and in the right place (a spring, pool, or running stream). Listening to him, Medra thought of how he and Anieb had walked in the dark and rain by the faint glimmer that showed them only the next step they could take, and of how they had looked up to the red ridge of the mountain in the dawn. He looked up into the darkness. After a while he moved his good hand a little, and the faint light flowed out of it. he had enough of the pure metal, the next stage was to refine it yet further into the Body of the. "All right," I said. not see much; enough, however, to realize what a terrible fool I had made of myself. I fled as if. "Then he drinks it at his place." My eyes still closed, I touched my chest; I had my sweater on; if I'd fallen asleep without. stung by flies. He said, "Oh! I can't --!" He bolted off into the dusk beyond the lanterns hanging to the Port of Havnor in disguise and coming away with four books from an ancient royal library. "Thank you, Father," the boy said. Golden embraced him and left, well pleased with him. said, and Azver nodded. at Essary and swamped the wharfs at Gont Port. high-pitched and rough. file:///D:/Documents%20and%20Settings/harry/...0%20LeGuin%20-%20Tales%20From%20Earthsea.txt (24 of 111) [2/5/2004 12:33:30 AM]. He had not thought. He had taken the shape that came soonest to him, run to the river as an otter would, swum as the otter would swim. But only in his own form could he think as a man, hide, decide, act as a man or as a wizard against the wizard who hunted him. "Has it come to this," the Namer said, "that we stand at the edge of the forest Segoy planted and. She looked westward over the reed beds and willows and the farther hills. The whole western sky. suddenly the lion tore his rough shag from my hands, turned his enormous head toward her, and. "It's a rare gift, to know where you need to be, before you've been to all the places you don't. "I don't know," Dragonfly said. "To hear about the Great House is wonderful, but I thought the people there would be - I don't know. Of course they're mostly just boys when they go there. But I thought they'd be..." She gazed off at the sheep on the hill, her face troubled. "Some of them are really bad and stupid," she said in a low voice. "They get into the School because they're rich. And they study there just to get richer. Or to get power." when he was seven or eight he had lost the hang of it and never could do it again. disciplines, and exert ethical control over the practices of wizardry. With the Hand as its agent. Egyptian cat. Hair blacker than black, and when she pulled the furry fluff from her arms and. Soon, he thought now, he would not need one. He would have real power over her. He had finally. I should laugh or cry; the nonexistent singer hummed something softly. I did not want to listen. I. "Is it Waris?" "Excuse me." I touched the arm of the man in fur. "Where are we?" isle of the Inmost Sea, away south and east from Semel. This child was the son of an under-steward. "If you ask me to, I'll talk," the young man said, so earnest, so willing to deny his whole nature. that the working of any spell would rouse Gelluk. But at last, rashly, and in dread, for such. Doorkeeper, master of the entering and leaving of the Great House. "It was a hundred and twenty-seven years ago. I was thirty then. The expedition. . . I was. some kind. This happened so suddenly that I froze. "She is of mine," said Azver. butterfly in midair. He flicked a butterfly back at her, and the two flitted and flickered a. with three warm eggs. When he was a child he had liked to walk in mud. He remembered enjoying the. "I'm afraid."

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