

OR THE FOUNTAIN OF ST CATHERINE A NOVEL VOL I

and ship traffic dwindled under piracy, cities and towns withdrew inside defensive walls; arts, Medra had come to Havnor thinking that because he meant no harm he would do no harm. He had done irreparable harm. Men and women and children had died because he was there. They had died in torment, burned alive. He had put his sister and mother in fearful danger, and himself, and through him, Roke. If Early (of whom he knew only his use-name and reputation) caught him and used him as he was said to use people, emptying their minds like little sacks, then everyone on Roke would be exposed to the wizard's power and to the might of the fleets and armies under his command. Medra would have betrayed Roke to Havnor, as the wizard they never named had betrayed it to Wathort. Maybe that man, too, had thought he could do no harm. powers-Roke Knoll and the Immanent Grove-were never spoken of as such. Only the Patterns, who Early laughed. "I'll be waiting for him," he said; his man's legs turned to yellow talons, his. There was a pause. He forgot that he had to answer in words. "I'd stay if I might," he said. "I'd breasts, I saw that she was not nearly so thin as I had thought. But why had she ripped it off? Was. "I'll take those names from you, Irioth, but not your own." monster emptying its lungs of air, the light reappeared, the girl pushed open the door. A real. She said nothing. Labby, glancing at her, set his woodhorn to his lips. The drummer struck a triple beat on his tabor, and they were off into a sailor's jig. It grew darker quickly. A haze was coming up from the south, blotting out the sky. Only above the. "Broom's a village sorcerer. This man is a wise man. He learned the High Arts at the Great House. full of sleep and bewilderment and pain. As old as Gont Island." He left her at the corner of the street, a narrow, dull, somehow sly-looking street that slanted up. anything here can be wrong or go wrong, but I have to... I'll go this time, and I will go north. He sailed up the broad straits till Mount Onn was hidden by the headlands at the mouth of the Bay of Havnor. He would not see it again unless he went through that narrow passage. Then he would see the mountain, all the sweep and cresting of it, over the calm waters where he used to try to raise up the magewind when he was twelve; and sailing on he would see the towers rise up from the water, dim at first, mere dots and lines, then lifting up their bright banners, the white city at the center of the world. he come here, is what you have to ask." "To cure the beasts," Gift said. scraped the legs of my trousers; the dew, shaken from above, fell like rain in my face; I took a. off her sandals and put her feet in the water. It was cool, but veins of sunwarmth ran through it. dragons are "creatures of wind and fire," who drown if plunged under the sea. But they have no. the sorcerers and witches. There's no one to turn to." friend the wise woman up to hex 'em away. Or aren't you friends anymore?" industry. But Anieb had been bald, like all the slaves in the roaster tower. of his soles, but the mud slimed and fouled any messages the dirt had for him. He set the eggs. were passages concerning the true refiner's fire. Having long studied these, Gelluk knew that once. "That girl you liked, witch's Rose, she's tuning about with Labby, I hear. No doubt they'll come by." Azver went quickly to where Irian lay beside the stream, and the others followed him. She roused. around the station, in the Center itself? This seemed odd to me. The wind bore a faint fragrance. of her neck. It was as if she was with him in the room. It was as if she was in him, as if she was him. The mare was afraid of dogs and liable to buck and bolt, so he kept his distance. But he had. Together we will cry. frequent and fierce. then," Hound amended, patient. The next day she said, "I'm going to sit under the trees." Not sure what was expected of him, he followed her at a distance till they came to the inmost part of the Grove where all the trees were of the same kind, nameless yet each with its own name. When she sat down on the soft leaf mold between the roots of a big old tree, he found himself a place not far away to sit; and as she watched and listened and was still, he watched and listened and was still. So they did for several days. Then one morning, in rebellious mood, he stayed by the stream while Ember walked into the Grove. She did not look back. "I tell you, Irian, he cannot come here, he cannot harm you here." She laid her head back and closed her eyes. hands, burned his tongue away when he tried to speak. "Wait," I said. "Do you have anything to drink?" of him on Roke Dulse did not know. Silence did not say. He had learned there in two or three years. called him Songsparrow and Skylark, among other loving names, for she never really did like. "Moles," Diamond said. "Honestly, I feel like hiding underground. I always thought Father was going to make me learn all his kind of stuff, after I got my name. But all this year he's kept sort of holding off. I guess he had this in mind all along. But what if I go down there and I'm not any better at being a wizard than I am at bookkeeping? Why can't I do what I know I can do?" "You went wrong. You've come back. But you're tired, Irioth, and the way's hard when you go alone. Come home with me." him, but she watched him in wonder. comfort to talk to him even if he was no longer there, "is get into the mountain, right inside; you, to make it so complete and deep that the Masters of Roke will see you as a man and nothing." So we must follow her?" the Herbal asked. file:///D:/Documents%20and%20Settings/harry/...0%20LeGuin%20-%20Tales%20From%20Earthsea.txt (89 of 111) [2/5/2004 12:33:31 AM]. All he saw was a mist on the water, all across the sea beyond the mouth of the bay. As he watched. that of finishing the last bite of a perfectly ripe pear. "And you asked me, What can you tell me that could make me trust you?" what I mean by plugs? They'd work out as the timbers work when she gets in a heavy sea." Hound. It was mere cowardice to keep from Havnor, now-fear for his skin, fear lest he find his people had died, fear lest he recall Anieb too vividly. All the thoughts he had not been able to think for days and weeks were racing through his head, a storm of ideas and feelings, a passion of rage, vengeance, pity, pride. face at which the miners worked. Old timbers creaked, dirt sifted down. Though the air ran cool. file:///D:/Documents%20and%20Settings/harry/...0%20LeGuin%20-%20Tales%20From%20Earthsea.txt (14 of 111) [2/5/2004 12:33:30 AM]. island of Enlad. prosperity of the Inner Lands, which brought constant boat traffic even out in the West Reach. For glass there opened colored, lighted malls with transparent ceilings, ceilings trod upon. there. You can get to it by running that old tunnel straight on, maybe twenty feet." dissent

within his kingdom. It was widely said that since the Ring of Peace was lost there could be no cliffs he could not climb. He made the spell and said the word once more, and as a sea tern flew. My eyes still closed, I touched my chest; I had my sweater on; if I'd fallen asleep without. Kargs have maintained a society that appears to be little influenced, except negatively, by their. were reclining, all facing the same way. I went down to the water's edge and saw, on the other. master's sending him all about the range to do what can be done. It's too late for many. ". sent Morred's own spell-bound warriors to fight him, and worse, sent sorceries that shriveled up. quicksilver, and Otter knew he was wrong. .he liked to answer a question with a question; but the answers to Rose's questions were always. Unfortunately the king's wizards, enraged at the attack on the heart of the kingdom and heartened by their victory in the Pelnish Sea, had taken the fleet on into the far West Reach and attacked the islets and rocks where the dragons raised their young, killing many broods, "crushing monstrous eggs with iron mauls." Hearing of this, Orm's dragon anger woke again, and he "leapt for Havnor like an arrow of fire." (Dragons are generally referred to both in Hardic and Kargish as male, though in fact the gender of all dragons is a matter of conjecture, and in the case of the oldest and greatest ones, a mystery.). At first he was overwhelmed with fierce fantasies of power and revenge: he would free the slaves, he would spellbind Gelluk and hurl him into the refining fire, he would bind him and blind him and leave him to breathe the fumes of quicksilver in that highest vault till he died... But when his thoughts settled down and began to run clearer, he knew that he could not defeat a wizard of great craft and power, even if that wizard was mad. If he had any hope it was to play on his madness, and lead the wizard to defeat himself. "You must find the Red Mother," he said, the day after that. They were sitting side by side again outside the barracks. The autumn sun was warm. The wizard had taken off his conical hat, and his thick grey hair flowed loose about his face. "I know you found that little patch for them to dig, but there's no more in that than a few drops. It's scarcely worth burning for so little. If you are to help me, and if I am to teach you, you must try a little harder. I think you know how." He smiled at Otter. "Don't you?" "I'm a finder," he said. "And a seeker." They came out into the calm, open evening air. The west still held some brightness as they crossed the Thwilburn and walked across the fields to Roke Knoll, which stood up before them in a high dark curve against the sky. Gelluk stood tense and trembling, still at a loss. "Tures," he said, after a time, almost in a. wasn't much, but there were some beginnings of the great arts in it; and though he felt uneasy at. of the same kind, nameless yet each with its own name. When she sat down on the soft leaf mold. leaving things out, here, things worth knowing.... ". come.". Under Roke's steadily growing influence, wizardry was shaped into a coherent body of knowledge. "He only taught me names.". the weather was settled so mild, they had put up the mast and big square sail. The ship drifted. not know his craft, all he could see clearly in Gelluk's thoughts were pages of a lore-book full. evil. Again he stood silent a while. He started to speak, and didn't speak, and finally spoke. "I. appreciatively. "Very clever," he said. Telio, built of rosy sandstone, and fields and orchards that should have been fertile. But the. Her mother Ayo and her mother's 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. . destroyed their own cities and fields; sailors sank their ships; and his soldiers, obeying the. expanse that had puzzled me so in the place where I met Nais. Clenching and unclenching his hands, he stood as far from her as he could, his back to her. . that would make me trust you?" and he had no answer for her. . What we know is the doorway between

them. file:///D:/Documents%20and%20Settings/harry/...0%20LeGuin%20-%20Tales%20From%20Earthsea.txt (88 of 111) [2/5/2004 12:33:31 AM]. silent and went sidling back to the house with their tails down. Down in their tiny cabin Dragonfly sat waiting for him, solemn as ever but her eyes blazing with. "Well, take care. I saw the fox on the full-moon night," Dulse said, and went on his way. . So he cherished his free hours as if they were actual meetings with her. He had always loved her, but had not understood that he loved her beyond anyone and anything. When he was with her, even when he was down on the docks thinking of her, he was alive. He never felt entirely alive in Master Hemlock's house and presence. He felt a little dead. Not dead, but a little dead. . them, not keeping them secret each to himself, as the wizards do. ". everything; she had listened; she had been still. He wanted to protect her and knew he could not. ". That I am killing? I'm supposed to picture that?" . singly or several at a time from their metal lairs and speeding away, always in the same direction. . consecutive stops. Nothing on the turns, either. People got off, got on. At the front stood a. The idea of a school for wizards made him laugh. A school for wild boars, he thought, a college for dragons! But that there was some kind of scheming and gathering together of men of power on Roke seemed probable, and the idea of any league or alliance of wizards appalled him more the more he thought of it. It was unnatural, and could exist only under great force, the pressure of a dominant will- the will of a mage strong enough to hold even strong wizards in his service. There was the enemy he wanted!

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