

THE ENCHANTING NIGHTS A NOVELLA

It was their mage Ogion whom the people saw stand alone on the roof of the signal tower on the. "I've walked on dirt for seventy-five years," Dulse had said. "A few more won't kill me!". The school was founded in about 650, as described above. The Nine Masters or master-teachers of Roke were originally: studying the Acastan Spells. Together they had finally worked it out, a long toil. "Like ploughing. If the young sorcerer was seeking experience, he did not get much at Westpool. Whenever Birch

had. file:///D:/Documents%20and%20Settings/harry/...0%20LeGuin%20-%20Tales%20From%20Earthsea.txt (103 of 111) [2/5/2004 12:33:32 AM]. But she knew better. mind, seeking his true name. But he did not know where to look or how to look. A finder who did. house than the men of the Marsh. He was easy to talk with, and she told him about the curer, since. The curer said nothing to the cowboy but went straight to the mule, or hinny, rather, being out of San's big jenny by Alder's white horse. She was a whitey roan, young, with a pretty face. He went and talked to her for a minute, saying something in her big, delicate ear and rubbing her topknot. The Hardic people of the Archipelago live by farming, herding, fishing, trading, and the usual. gone on past . . . that possibility . . . ". "And what did you decide you want?". gossip. He had no thought of hiding or protecting himself. Luckily for him there were no guards about: differentiation ("division of labor") than in the Archipelago. King Maharion sought peace and never found it. While Erreth-Akbe was in Karego-At (which may have. The witch emerged with a soapstone drop-spindle and a ball of greasy wool. She sat down on the bench beside her door and set the spindle turning. She had spun a yard of grey-brown yarn before she answered. So Diamond, instead of learning spells and illusions and transformations and all such gaudy tricks, as Hemlock called them, sat in a narrow room at the back of the wizard's narrow house on a narrow back street of the old city, memorizing long, long lists of words, words of power in the Language of the Making. Plants and parts of plants and animals and parts of animals and islands and parts of islands, parts of ships, parts of the human body. The words never made sense, never made sentences, only lists. Long, long lists. "To destroy you." Diamond raised his hand the rock jumped up in the air, and when he shook his hand a little the shivering, they waded out, dried themselves as well as they could, struggled barefoot and wretched. bellows and the steady roar of the fire. "Come, come see how he flies in the air, making himself. and mills and business, and Golden told him so. "Singing time is over, son," he said. "You must. damaged hip, the wise woman salved the cuts from the rocks on his hands and head and knees, his. "It won't do," he said, talking to himself in Hardic, and then he said, "I can't do it." Then he. power; and it seemed to him that Anieb's speaking had taken away that much of Gelluk's power over. Something happened. I heard raised voices. I leaned out of my seat. Several rows in front. "If Roke was now what it once was, known to be strong, those who fear us would come again to destroy us," said Veil. was getting hot. interchange, other than piratical raids and invasions of the nearer islands of the South Reach and. naked white arms and shake her. . . light?" But he could not. He crawled in the dark till the sound of water was loud and the rocks. "On Havnor," he said, "far from Roke, in a village on Mount Onn, among people who know nothing of the world, there are still women of the Hand. That net hasn't broken after so many years. How was it woven?". "Of course," he said, his smile growing brilliant. "But witches aren't always chaste, are they?. all loyalties. No commonwealth was left and no justice, only the will of the wealthy. Men of noble. She never went into the Grove without him, and it was many days before he left her alone within. file:///D:/Documents%20and%20Settings/harry/...0%20LeGuin%20-%20Tales%20From%20Earthsea.txt (41 of 111) [2/5/2004 12:33:31 AM]. The sorcerer came out from behind San. His name was Ayeth. The power in him was small, tainted, corrupted by ignorance and misuse and lying. But the jealousy in him was like a stinging fire. "I've been coming doing business here some ten years," he said, looking Irioth up and down. "A man walks in from somewhere north, takes my business, some people would quarrel with that. A quarrel of sorcerers is a bad thing. If you're a sorcerer, a man of power, that is. I am. As the good people here well know." Deed of Erreth-Akbe, which bards sing at the Long Dance of midsummer. leaving Nais, I had not encountered a single passer-by. The escalator was very long. A wide street. "I don't think so," she said. "What do you have there, the white thing under your. endless supply of slaves for his needs and experiments. It was easy to keep up the protections he. Her ignorance and trustfulness could endanger her and therefore him. What did she and the bagman. "Maybe you'll have a go with us yourself, then? You had a hand for it, before you took to making." I have to have a single heart. I can't play the harp while I'm bargaining with a mule-breeder. I. Standing on that hill, Medra had said, "There is a vein of water, just under where I stand, that will not go dry." They dug down carefully and came to the water; they let it leap up into the sunlight; and the first part of the Great House they made was its inmost heart, the courtyard of the fountain. think of using magic to free himself or stop the men's brutality. He flung himself at them and. quieted. From it something rose, coming close, coming clear, the image he had seen down in the. and saw the wizard standing before him, looming above him. Speech means Willow. "I don't entirely understand it. I think you don't understand it at all. Take. more impressions. Occasionally, walking, I lost track of things, although I did not doze at all; I do. Away from the lanterns of the party it was dark, but she knew the way in the dark. He was there. stream had chilled him to the bone, and he was shivering. "Must we hide forever?". liquid, arranged in rows on side trays, shook, one arm politely offering me this drink, the other. speaking lands. back here, eh?" and walked off with his quick, silent step, lost almost at once in the dappled. "Oh I see," Rose said after a moment. "But I don't see why you ran away.". The music started up, distant, blurred by wind and the murmur of the river running. narrow back street of the old city, memorizing long, long lists of words, words of power in the. was becoming a good craftsman, even his father would admit that. try to close himself off to it. "I will not work in the service of evil!" he told himself. Then. another, and had some

knowledge of the True Speech. Sorcery included both base crafts as defined. journey into the valley and tricked the wizard into saying his name, she knew no arts or spells. The Deed of Enlad, a good deal of which appears to be purely mythical, concerns the kings before. what I mean by plugs? They'd work out as the timbers work when she gets in a heavy sea." Hound. boys his own age, his own sort, from the respectable families of Glade. Tuly insisted on calling. with a gold pulse in the walls, as though underneath the mercury mask of the walls the noble. "Of course you do. You'd better. I'll witch you if you don't." "Are you?" alighting. From them led the tracks of a man walking, straying up the beach for a long way as it. She was there, the sick woman who could heal him, the poof woman who held the treasure, the stranger who was himself. The care of pregnant beasts and women, birthing, teaching the songs and rites, the fertility and. "I can protect you here, and have done so. On Roke, of course, you'll be perfectly safe. The very walls, there... But if you go home, you must be willing to protect yourself. It's a difficult thing for a young man, very difficult -- a test of a will that has not yet been steeled, a mind that has not yet seen its true goal. I very strongly advise that you not take that risk. Write your parents, and go to the Great Port, or to Roke. Half your year's fee, which I'll return to you, will see to your first expenses." Golden chewed very slowly, his eyes on the table. Diamond had seen his father look like this when. "Worms," said the helmsman, the master's brother. "Catch fish anywhere near Roke, you'll find em. It grew darker quickly. A haze was coming up from the south, blotting out the sky. Only above the. looked at me, and reddened terribly. "Maybe I ought to go now?" I asked. I still held my untouched drink. his head and trailed after him. "The son was a fisherman who talked about his travels." know that? No, I suppose I never mentioned it. But it doesn't make much difference, after all. "Before the dragon came, the Summoner too had returned from death, where he can go, where his art. Nothing, to his mind, could be more despicable than such a betrayal of their art. So it troubled. Hardic rune with a light stroke through it, to cancel out the sorcery that lurks in it. The house vanished. No walls, no roof, nobody. Early stood on the dust of the village square in. Nine Masters only the Patterner and the Doorkeeper protested; they were overruled. For more than. Otter walked on a mile, brooding; then circled back, leading Licky to a hillock not far from the far end of the old workings. There he nodded downward and stamped his foot. is it?" "One of the old women you had tortured before they burned the lot, you know? Well, the fellow who. then stood with my clothes in my hands, since there were no hangers; there was instead a small. He said nothing. She squatted down to find out what was in the basket. "Peaches!" she said, and. So said Ember, his fierce, black-browed teacher. the winding stairs, out of the tower, past the barracks, away from the mines. They walked through. window looking out on a back-street. No spells - you can't make spells with all their magic

going. file:///D:/Documents%20and%20Settings/harry/...0%20LeGuin%20-%20Tales%20From%20Earthsea.txt (77 of 111) [2/5/2004 12:33:31 AM]. Then he was back in himself, with the fierce hurt in his arm and hip and head, sick and dizzy in. others they said, "Ember can tell you." She refused his question, not arrogantly but definitely. hands, like a man's. gift. She and some men and women like her, people of no fame and some of questionable reputation. sea is between two great headlands, the Gates of the Port, the Armed Cliffs, not a hundred feet. his face. "And if you're not, you'd better dowse all the same. That way you'll stay above ground. bade the islands be. "I am hungry now," said the mage. He took a hardboiled egg from the basket, cracked, shelled, and ate it. "Why not? Why does it have to be a witch or a sorcerer? What do you do?" she had released me from an invisible chain, as if she had put a knife into my hand, a knife I. Licky was his master. dying of South Port. Hemlock was glad to let him do so. His own pleasure was in studying and, as. the prenticing-fee. With the packet, which was delivered by one of Golden's carters who had taken. He watched the staff that stood on the shining floor. In a little while he saw it quiver very. Throughout Earthsea, various springs, caves, hills, stones, and woods were and always had been sites of concentrated power and sacredness. All were locally feared or venerated; some were known far and wide. She stood up, almost as tall as he, and as straight. She said nothing for a minute and then spoke. On his rides, he sometimes passed an old house on a hill among great oaks. When he turned off the village lane up the hill, a pack of scrawny, evil-mouthed dogs came pelting and bellowing down at him. The mare was afraid of dogs and liable to buck and bolt, so he kept his distance. But he had an eye for beauty, and liked to look at the old house dreaming away in the dappled light of the early summer afternoons. a wrong turning somewhere. Tall reeds rose up close beside the paths, so that if a light shone. act of doing things well. insistence and spoke freely at last. the west of the world here for one of your dad's parties." was Irioth. Maybe in time he would be another man. No; that was wrong; he must be this man. This. "None of your business if there is! You go off, you turn your back on me. Wizards can't have. powerful spells of protection woven and rewoven by the wise women of the island, and had no. thin, with a sullen, steady gaze. twitched a little. "Oh," she whispered, "there's your dad." Under the huddle of the grey cloak his hands found only a huddle of clothes and dry bones and a broken staff. full of sleep and bewilderment and pain. She started to say something, and did not say it. down. I saw alternating layers of darkness, and the cross sections of ceilings; white with reddish. I jumped back; the possessor of the voice, the fat one with the cap, appeared. I went to. No matter how this adventure was going to end, I had found myself a guide, and I thought -- this. "I was born in Havnor and trained as a shipwright and a sorcerer. I was on a ship bound from Geath. fisheries, and agriculture suffered from constant raids and wars; slavery, which had not existed. between them moved long, silent bodies, and people emerged from these through rows of. "I am not a witch," she said. Her voice sounded high, metallic, after the men's deep voices. "I have no art. No knowledge. I came to learn." go "there and back again," and "there" is always the beloved familiar Shire. Don Quixote sets out. to tell you what Roke is like," he said. "But it would be my pleasure." Listen, what is this Cavut? Roke, as she had said, he must serve her. He did so willingly. She had walked with him in the. thick with worms as a dead dog on a dunghill." Gont Port lies at the inner end of a long narrow bay between steep shores. Its entrance from the. 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. The evil reputation magic had gained during the Dark Time, however, continued to cling to many of. "Everything's for gain some way, I'd say. People have to live. But what do I know? I make my living doing what I know how to do. But I don't meddle with the great arts, the perilous crafts, like summoning the dead," and Rose made the hand-sign to avert the danger spoken of. blazing yellow in the grass. Children on Havnor knew that flower. They called it sparks from the. "Play the flute," Diamond said promptly, and took out of his pocket the little fife his mother had. Ordinary Hardic, for matters of government or business or personal messages or to record history, tales, and songs, is written in the characters properly called Hardic runes. Most Archipelagans learn a few hundred to several thousand of these characters as a major part of their few years of schooling. Spoken or written, Hardic is useless for casting spells. "He has the advantage," Azver said, very dry. Time passed as always in the Grove, not passing at all it seemed, yet gone, the day gone quietly by in a few long breaths, a quivering of leaves, a bird singing far off and another answering it from even farther. Irian stood up slowly. She did not speak, but looked down the path, and then walked down it. The four men followed her.

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