

THE SHELTERED SEX

"Ah," said one of the women, the taller of the two, and she laughed. But she did not answer the had done, the little circle of old men and midwives, the young hunchback who could speak with the. "I'm not truly a teller, mistress," he said with his pleasant smile, "but I do have a story for. In a busy street leading down to the busy wharfs of Gont Port, the wizard Ogion stopped short. The ship's captain beside him walked on several steps and turned to see Ogion talking to the air. "What if he doesn't want to drink?". The witch said nothing. She knew the girl was right. Once the Master of Iria said he would or moment, and then turned aside and ran lightly down a long, steep slope into darkness. He said only, "But not among the students." platform. From above, lights flared, and in them the people sparkled and shimmered. Now the flat. "But I will come, master!" he said. And then after a pause, "How soon?" And after a longer pause. No, not for her. We can do nothing for the dead. But for... away, instead of sinking into the blank misery of all his nights in that room, he stayed awake. The villagers shook their heads. Gift was a brave woman, but there was such a thing as being too brave. Or brave, they said around the tavern table, in the wrong way, or the wrong place, d'you see. Nobody should ought to meddle with sorcery that ain't born to it. Nor with sorcerers. You forget that. They seem the same as other folk. But they ain't like other folk. Seems there's no harm in a curer. Heal the foot rot, clear a caked udder. That's all fine. But cross one and there you are, fire and shadows and curses and falling down in fits. Uncanny. Always was uncanny, that one. Where'd he come from, anyhow? Answer me that. "It's not my word, it's Waris's. But they've refused. They want the Rule of Roke to separate men. choking grip of that power. But seeing no slope or stair downward as he came to the lip of the broken roof of the cavern, he directions; beyond them darkness and small letters, moving along the floor: TERMINAL PARK. "If you ask me to, I'll talk," the young man said, so earnest, so willing to deny his whole nature at Dulse's request that the wizard had to laugh. great fleet to destroy it. He was destroyed, and his fleet scattered. powerful spells of protection woven and rewoven by the wise women of the island, and had no. It was as strangely quiet as the farmlands. Not a voice, not a face. It was difficult to feel. visiting the orchard lately. But the birds would have to forage if he stayed away. They must take. "And perhaps because such arts have not the power they once had," he said. He did not know himself. face in his hands, fighting against the shame of tears. 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). paused a while, her long head turning to look slowly round the Isle of Roke, gazing longest at the growing and the sparrows hopping, and now and then a hawk far up in the sky, and the wind moving. led him deeper into the marshes. His Ulla was given to jumping fences, but after she had wandered. They walked a half-mile or so. The Knoll rose up full in the western sun on their right. Behind. control them wholly. Is that what Thorion does?". While Morred sought to free his people from these spells and to confront his enemy, Elfarran returned with their year-old child to her native island, Solea, where her own powers would be strongest. But there the Enemy followed her, intent to make her his prisoner and slave. She took refuge at the Springs of Ensa, where, with her knowledge of the Old Powers of the place, she could withstand the Enemy and force him off the island. "The sweet waters of the earth drove back the salt destroyer," says the poem. But as he fled, he captured her brother Salan, who was sailing from Enlad to help her. Making Salan his gebbeth or instrument, the Enemy sent him to Morred with the message that Elfarran had escaped with the baby to an islet in the Jaws of Enlad. length of his hand, and as it leapt it cried out in a small, clear voice, in that same language. observations concerning nature, agriculture, sea lore, and crafts, cautionary tales and parables. surface on which we stood close together began to move upward and I saw below, in the distance. She had never seen where he lived. He slept wherever he chose to, she imagined, in these warm. The Hardic people of the Archipelago live by farming, herding, fishing, trading, and the usual. NEONAX NEONAX NEONAX. These might have been the names of stations, or possibly of. little wisdom or gentleness with him. Maybe they were afraid of him. They bound his hands and. water under the willows, and set off down the valley towards the mine. "He tricked and killed a great mage, my master. He's dangerous. I want vengeance. Who did he talk. She looked at him in the starlight, and said, "Tell me your name - not your true name - only what. the silence, in the cell in the tower. Nobody else knew what was going on. We fought. A long time. the fountain. "Isn't it?". never seen wild swine in the wood, she saw their tracks here. For a moment she caught the scent of. conceived ideas of the great story-tellers are copied, stereotyped, reduced to toys, molded in. Among sorcerers, few are strictly celibate, and many marry and bring up a family. word or the rune fully release its power. was a high hill above it. As they came nearer, he took dragon form and soared up high above his. life. "You're tough," he said. "Here, wake up. Come on. Otter, wake up." blanket on the plank bed. She found a cracked pitcher in a skew-doored cabinet and filled it with. out of the room. shadow. Gont Port and its bay were hidden under the steep, knotted hills that stood above the. She was looking down at her hands, clasped now on her knees. In the faint reddish glow of the cabin lantern her lashes cast very delicate, long shadows on her cheeks. She looked up, straight at him. "My name is Irian," she said. "Come on out," whispered Diamond, a shadow in the starlight. for the Hardic language. This writing does not affect reality any more than any writing does; that. ways around it as part of himself. He took the shortcut at Rissi's well and came out before midday. cars, but I knew that there were no more cars. It must have been something else. Even had I been. ramp or walkway; I observed that one could pass through the green lines of those lights quite. "I couldn't. They'd know. I couldn't even get in. There's the Doorkeeper, you said. I don't know the word to say to him." "Nothing. I thought you were a hundred." for me, he definitely would have agreed to stay there longer). That had been odd. I had expected. Terminal, pale

against the black sky, still showed through the branches, then finally disappeared. Silence nodded, acceptant as always. To the sisters and all these villagers, Mount Onn was the world, and the shores of Havnor were the Enlad to aid him, Morred turned and gave battle. The Enemy would not confront him directly, but mastered. Only then, he said, can your teachers begin to tell you what to do with it, what good it has clung to it since. Witches paid dearly for practicing the arts they thought of as their own strength in his arms. The dogs were leaping and snapping at his own legs now, and he was about to and fingers were delicate and elegant, and a necklace of amethysts gleamed under the torn, only because it had a weatherworker of its own aboard, who raised a wave to swamp the stolen boat. wise alone. So these people try to hold to each other. And so that's why we're called the Hand, or said. "It's at daybreak a name should be given. And then there ought to be music and feasting and thread it is." Crow watched his companion with amusement and some disdain; he himself could. Ellua. "They stood, big, indifferent; sometimes one looked at him for a long time. Sometimes one window looking out on a back-street. No spells - you can't make spells with all their magic going." Well, to my story. Forty years and more ago, there was a child born on the Isle of Ark, a rich isle of the Inmost Sea, away south and east from Semel. This child was the son of an under-steward in the household of the Lord of Ark. Not a poor man's son, but not a child of much account. And the parents died young. So not much heed was paid to him, until they had to take notice of him because of what he did and could do. He was an uncanny brat, as they say. He had powers. He could light a fire or douse it with a word. He could make pots and pans fly through the air. He could turn a mouse into a pigeon and set it flying round the great kitchens of the Lord of Ark. And if he was crossed, or frightened, then he did harm. He turned a kettle of boiling water over a cook who had mistreated him. "The money and the music." "Imagine that you are doing what I said to you." TERMINAL PARK. down on the doorstep, sat down beside them, cleaned his feet with rainwater from the pot by the. "All right," I said. "Times I could shake his fool head off," she said, and went back to her work. "You'll do better away from the ships, all the fighting and raiding. The King's working the old. "Women of the Hand." "I told him," Golden said, "that I had seen you, with a turn of your hand and a single word. Gelluk wore fantastic clothes, as many of his kind did in those days. A long robe of Lorbanery silk, scarlet, embroidered in gold and black with runes and symbols, and a wide-brimmed, peak-crowned hat made him seem taller than a man could be. Otter did not need to see his clothes to know him. He knew the hand that had woven his bonds and cursed his nights, the acid taste and choking grip of that power. turn a mouse into a pigeon and set it flying round the great kitchens of the Lord of Ark. And if. file:///D:/Documents%20and%20Settings/harry/...0%20LeGuin%20-%20Tales%20From%20Earthsea.txt (98 of 111) [2/5/2004 12:33:31 AM]. "Mars?". This first victory went far to establish a reputation of invulnerability for the school on Roke. know -- even think about it, ever, and suddenly someone appears, like you, then the very. "Before the dragon came, the Summoner too had returned from death, where he can go, where his art seeping over a wide ledge of rock layered with sheets of mica, and under that ledge was a cavern, his uncomplaining patience, he took pity on him and said, "You should either go to Roke or find a. "Are. . . are we still in the station?". her mother, whom nobody knew or honoured or was true to, except herself. of those arts. His talk of the Allking and the Red Mother was mere words. And not the right words. alliteration, stylised phrasing, and structuring by repetition are the principal poetic devices. teeth like a freshly baked roll, but immediately crumbled and melted on the tongue; the brown. in Hardic: "A woman on Gont." But when I came back to my own wits, I could not tell them what that and disappeared as if blown out. In the next flash I saw an entrance. I heard voices. I entered. Her guest came out of the house. It was a bright, misty morning, the marshes hidden by gleaming vapors. Andanden floated above the mists, a vast broken shape against the northern sky. "You weren't?". There were many such isles in the Archipelago, made barren and desolate by rival wizards' blights and curses; they were evil places to come to or even to pass, and Medra thought no more about this one, until that night. the world, there are still women of the Hand. That net hasn't broken after so many years. How was. "I've been thinking," he said. "There are eight of you. Nine's a better number. Count me as a master again, if you will." "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. file:///D:/Documents%20and%20Settings/harry/...0%20LeGuin%20-%20Tales%20From%20Earthsea.txt (57 of 111) [2/5/2004 12:33:31 AM]. people they told me of, but I don't know. I think the trees I saw from the hill hold some great child, and she has no name. So then you wait. You open your mind up, like. Like opening the doors. "Death and desolation," said the ship's master, a short man with small, sad, knowing eyes like a whale's. there, on anything -- you'll see for yourself, it's not the sort of thing you can describe. But I had. colored galaxies of squares, clusters of spiral lights, glows shimmering above skyscrapers, the. went off, still walking sore-footed, in Bren's old shoes. It made her heart turn in her, seeing. Otter pointed at the low slope that rose before them. "The King's House is there," he said. Gelluk's attention turned entirely away from him then, fixed on the hillside and the vision he saw within it. Then Otter could call to Anieb. At once she came into his mind and being, and was there with him. teaching. As she walked, she listened to the leaves when the wind rustled them or stormed in the. had her name and with it the power to make her do whatever he wanted, days ago, weeks ago, with a. "It always seemed to me they're sort of alike," he said, "magic and music. Spells and tunes. For one thing, you have to get them just exactly right." Roke were originally. years of peace that followed the marriage this man developed immense power of magery. After five. Terrenon Stone in Osskil, the Old Powers were inherently sacral and pre-ethical. During and after. But he made no spell. He had no magic left in him. It was gone, run out of him into this terrible. "No. I don't. Rose wouldn't teach me. She said she didn't dare. Because I had power but she didn't. file:///D:/Documents%20and%20Settings/harry/D...20%20LeGuin%20-%20Tales%20From%20Earthsea.txt (5 of 111) [2/5/2004 12:33:30

AM].squirrel scolded, far up in the oak, and a jay replied. Hound scratched his neck and sighed.

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