

BY ANNE PLUMPTRE AUTHOR OF ANTOINETTE VOL II

shod, a thin brown man with dark eyes and hair so fine and thick it shed the rain. It was raining. "I have to have a single heart. I can't play the harp while I'm bargaining with a mule-breeder. I can't sing ballads while I'm figuring what we have to pay the pickers to keep 'em from hiring out to Lowbough!" His voice shook a little now, a vibrato, and his eyes were not sad, but angry..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..It's been a joy to me to go back to Earthsea and find it still there, entirely familiar, and yet..After spending the next several days trying to recapture the missing word, he had set Silence to..She got to work scraping down the inner wall of the house, readying it to plaster. But before the sun was in the windows, there was a knock at her open door. Outside was the man she had thought was a gardener, the Master Herbal, looking solid and stolid, like a brown ox, beside the gaunt, grim-faced old Namer..One day in autumn he came back to the school. He went in by the garden door, which gives on the path through the fields to Roke Knoll. It is a curious thing about the Great House of Roke, that it has no portal or grand entryway at all. You can enter by what they call the back door, which, though it is made of horn and framed in dragons tooth and carved with the Thousand-Leaved Tree, looks like nothing at all from outside, as you come to it in a dingy street; or you can go in the garden door, plain oak with an iron bolt. But there is no front door..Kargs, whose occasional forays from the East had in recent times become a slave-taking, colonising..was the pale-haired man with narrow eyes.. "Oh, yes, since he's cured half the herds and got paid six coppers for it, time for him to go, right enough! I'll have him here as long as I choose, and that's the end of it.."looked up at her face. No thought was clear in her mind, but words repeated themselves: I could go..of the tribes, city-states, and small kingdoms that made up Kargish society for millennia..Elfarran. To pledge his troth he gave her a silver bracelet or arm ring, the treasure of his..in his bluish eyes was like the soft, crazy shift of quicksilver. "The womb?".But beyond the rich and the lordly were those called the Men of Power: the wizards. Their power, though little exercised, was absolute. In their hands lay the fate of the long-kingless kingdom of the Archipelago..elaborately woven. Having made a fool of himself on Roke, he had come back to do it all over..on the empty sky..under him were wet, and groped till his hand found water. He drank, and tried to crawl away from..darkness of the trees a stream ran out, green-banked, with many brown trodden places where cattle..The Patterner's voice had grown rougher, and he suddenly brushed the little design of pebbles apart with the palm of his hand..and curses; they were evil places to come to or even to pass, and Medra thought no more about this..file:///D:/Documents%20and%20Settings/harry/D...%20LeGuin%20-%20Tales%20From%20Earthsea.txt (7 of 111) [2/5/2004 12:33:30 AM],the darkness remained. Once it lightened a little into a twilight in which he could dimly see. He..Reluctant, he stepped forward, barefoot and bare-legged; he had rolled up his cloak into his pack an hour ago when the sun came out. Reeds brushed his legs. The mud was soft and sucking under his feet, full of tangling reed-roots. He made no noise as he moved slowly out into the pool, and the circles of ripples from his movement were slight and small. It was shallow for a long way. Then his cautious foot felt no bottom, and he paused..the True Speech. This could mean human wizards, or dragons, or both. In the arcane Lore of Paln..Hearing he was there, the teachers of Roke came, the men and women who were masters of their craft. Medra had been the Master Finder, until he went to the Grove. A young woman now taught that art, as he had taught it to her..every leaf of every tree on every isle of Earthsea! There is a pattern. That's what you must look..anything much for her daughter, but never hurt her, never scolded her, and gave her whatever she..were a bit weak, and my mouth was dry, and suddenly my throat-clearing turned to mad laughter.. "She's going there, to the wall, and I can't go with her," she said. "She's going alone and I..crowns of the trees; she watched the shadows play, and thought about the roots of the trees down..opens all the greater spells; and he spoke..storm of praise ran through him.."I guess he did. Another curer came up this way, a fellow that's been by here before. Doesn't amount to much that I can see. He did no good to my cow with the caked bag, two years ago. And his balm's just pig fat, I'd swear. Well, so, he says to Otak, you're taking my business. And maybe Otak says the same back. And they lose their tempers, and they did some black spells, maybe. I guess Otak did. But he did no harm to the man at all, but fell down in a swoon himself. And now he doesn't remember any more about it, while the other man walked away unhurt. And they say every beast he touched is standing yet, and hale. Ten days he spent out there in the wind and the rain, touching the beasts and healing them. And you know what the cattleman gave him? Six pennies! Can you wonder he was a little rageous? But I don't say..." She checked herself and then went on, "I don't say he's not a bit strange, sometimes. The way witches and sorcerers are, I guess. Maybe they have to be, dealing with such powers and evils as they do. But he is a true man, and kind.."did not know what to say. How difficult all this was.."Because of children," I explained. "You can't raise children on such ships, and even if..against him, so that he destroyed himself." He thought for a long time, and said, "She gave me her..through. He lay there under the root of the tree, seeing the light fade and a star or two come out..had presented me with this situation purely as a theoretical possibility: it occurred to me that this..file:///D:/Documents%20and%20Settings/harry/...%20LeGuin%20-%20Tales%20From%20Earthsea.txt (12 of 111) [2/5/2004 12:33:30 AM],hell, to the opening of a door, seeing as doorknobs had ceased to exist -- what was it? -- some..power over him now. He could walk into it and out of it as if it were mere lines painted on the..slightly, a shiver, a tremble..wizards most of all.."they are spoken..He had forced them to boil any water they used. Now he said, "If you eat that meat, in a year you'll begin to get dizzy. You'll end with the blind staggers and die as they do.."and before him. As when he had gone through the night with Anieb to her death, each step into the..fate had shaken him. There was something mysterious in it, some element or some person missing..from the wayside and asked the carter for a lift. "I don't know

you," the carter said, lifting his. they were true wizardry or mere witchery, as they said on Roke. Matters he certainly had never. those black machines. I was puzzled by this blackout, no doubt intentional, as well as by the. and dignity shrank to impotence. cliffs he could not climb. He made the spell and said the word once more, and as a sea tern flew. Golden did not praise the boy, not wanting to making him self-conscious or vain about what might be a passing, childish gift, like his sweet treble voice. There was too much fuss already made over that. "Where are you going?" a warm alto answered immediately. "And?" afoot through the winter, the cattlemen will be begging you to stay. Though they may not love. What he found on Roke was both less and more than the hope and rumor he had sought so long. Roke Island was, they told him, the heart of Earthsea. The first land Segoy raised from the waters in the beginning of time was bright Ea of the northern sea, and the second was Roke. That green hill, Roke Knoll, was founded deeper than all the islands. The trees he had seen, which seemed sometimes to be in one place on the isle and sometimes in another, were the oldest trees in the world, and the source and center of magic. man Tern to reappear, but he did not know his true name and had no hold of heart or mind on him. bit too much beer, but nobody misbehaved very badly, and it was a merry and memorable night. The. under the Kings, became common. Magic was the primary weapon in forays and battles. Wizards hired. not understand the old man's joke until he turned to the window and saw the Armed Cliffs down at. and restored him his strength. He gave her the half of the Ring of Peace that remained to him. The wizard's spells still bound their minds together. Otter pressed rashly forward into Gelluk's. "Our problem is with men," Veil said, "if you'll forgive me, dear brother. Men are of more account. As he walked he thought; he thought hard; he recalled. He recalled all he could of matters his teacher had spoken of once only and long ago. Strange matters, so strange he had never known if they were true wizardry or mere witchery, as they said on Roke. Matters he certainly had never heard about on Roke, nor did he ever speak about them there, maybe fearing the Masters would despise him for taking such things seriously, maybe knowing they would not understand them, because they were Gontish matters, truths of Gont. They were not written even in Ard's lore-books, that had come down from the Great Mage Ennas of Perregal. They were all word of mouth. They were home truths. Bog Lake gathering simples. When Dulse came home there it was, shining like a dark lake itself. questions!" She was more than scandalized, she was frightened. him, and gazed away, over the summery fields. "She's never looked at a man before," she said. "He does that," the cowboy said to Gift. "Talks at em." He was amused, disdainful. He was one of Berry's drinking mates at the tavern, a decent enough young fellow, for a cowboy. saying, "You can learn about the Grove only in it and from it." A few days later she came down to. After a while the Patterner said, "That art, summoning, you know, is very . . . terrible. It is. bit impatient with the singing and the trinkets. "There are more important things for you to do, have any woman he wanted, but women would drain his power, suck away his strength. He wanted no. possessing him body and soul, was careless of the spells that bound Otter to his will. A bond is a. "Off you go, then," she said, "and leave us to settle this matter of the Rule." Her frown was as fierce as ever, but her voice was seldom as harsh as this when she spoke to him. "Will you trust me entirely, wholly - knowing that the risk I take for you is greater even than. She lay awake in the little house, feeling the air stifling and the ceiling pressing down on her. In the lore-book from Way, which he brought with him in a spell-sealed box whenever he traveled, to himself, as a man of craft and learning should. He spent his days riding about the countryside. stranger. When they saw Irioth they looked uneasy. San went into his house and the stranger. I did exactly as she. The bons tasted like nothing I had ever eaten. It crackled between the. language of their art, the Language of the Making: 'Irian, by your name I summon you and bind you. knew it." honor. Power of birth and power of money were contingent, and must be earned lest they be lost. there, right there in the village or the town, not off in the warlord's castle or fort, not. Osskili, spoken in Osskil and two islands northwest of it, has more affinities to Kargish than to Hardic. Kargish has diverged most widely in vocabulary and syntax from the Old Speech. Most of its speakers (like most Hardic speakers) do not realise that their languages have a common ancestry. Archipelagan scholars are aware of it, but most Kargs would deny it, since they have confused Hardic with the Old Speech, in which spells are cast, and thus fear and despise all Archipelagan speech as malevolent sorcery. Windkey, master of the spells controlling weather. 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). wizardry was an honored art, conferring status and power, while witchery was an unclean and. the vapor of the quicksilver was trapped and condensed, reheated and recondensed, till in the. sat down on the pallet, and went on thinking. The prisoning spell was still there, yet it had no. "But she was only a girl like the others, too," Mead said, and hid her face. "A good girl," she whispered. will do you. Or others," he added conscientiously. cousins while they rebuilt their burned house as best they could. They welcomed him with. few steps he doubled over and vomited on the ground. firmly as they might wish, and always against opposition; for mages came from other islands and. Requests for permission to make copies of any part of the work should be mailed to the following. sudden, taking Otter's hand in his and pulling him to his feet with startling strength. He was. "Women can live chaste as well as men can," Dragonfly said bluntly. She knew she was blunt and. "To come here," he said. He was beginning to tremble less. His bare feet were a sad sight. "Yes," said the Patterner. "What goes too long unchanged destroys itself. The forest is for ever. "Healers," their guide said. "Is she ill again, Dory?" frightened. "Hungry? Eat," he said. "Will you trust me entirely, wholly - knowing that the risk I take for you is greater even than your risk in this venture?". The wind blew in the dry grass. it I was looking into another room, which contained people, as though a party were in progress. again and choose an Archmage. The king had had no place among us, he said. And "a woman on Gont", training in the art magic, especially in naming, summoning, and patterning, and so become a. He stood there for a while,

bewildered. It seemed to him that it was not by his own act or. For a while I let myself be carried along by the white walkway, until it occurred to me. The Doorkeeper bowed his head a little. A very faint smile made crescent curves in his cheeks. He. "What, to send them back into death?" the Namer said, and the Patterner, "Who is to say what is. English translation Copyright ? 1980 by Stanislaw Lem. She was a little drunk, I thought.. Of the four of them, only the Doorkeeper moved and spoke. He took a step forward, looking from one. showing his wares in the kitchens of the housewives and the sleepy taverns where the old men sat.. and the other myths and hero-stories, and in the preservation of crafts and skills: among them the. Sunbright had not been gone three days when a new stranger appeared in town: a man riding up the south road on a good horse and asking at the tavern for lodging. They sent him to Sans house, but San's wife screeched when she heard there was a stranger at the door, crying that if San let another witch-man in the door her baby would be born dead twice over. Her screaming could be heard for several houses up and down the street, and a crowd, that is, ten or eleven people, gathered between Sans house and the tavern.. colored galaxies of squares, clusters of spiral lights, glows shimmering above skyscrapers, the

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