

ROADS TAKEN

They had to share a room at the crowded inn with two other travellers, but Ivory's thoughts were perfectly chaste, though he laughed at himself a little for it..I paced the room. She followed me with her eyes, as if I were. . . as if she stood in a cage..whiskered, prosperous cat. And at last, coming down the steep little street, which here was.The clouds darkened. Rain passed through the little valley, falling on the dirt and the grass..And the boy must have a staff. Why had Nemmerle let him leave Roke without one, empty-handed as a. asked around a bit. The father, a longshoreman, had died in the big earthquake, when Silence would."He was only a child, and the wizards of that household can't have been wise men, for they used little wisdom or gentleness with him. Maybe they were afraid of him. They bound his hands and gagged his mouth to keep him from making spells. They locked him in a cellar room, a room of stone, until they thought him tamed. Then they sent him away to live at the stables of the great farm, for he had a hand with animals, and was quieter when he was with the horses. But he quarreled with a stable boy, and turned the poor lad into a lump of dung. When the wizards had got the stable boy back into his own shape, they tied up the child again, and gagged his mouth, and put him on a ship for Roke. They thought maybe the Masters there could tame him."..up. Unthinking, Ogion held out his hand to help him..For a moment longer they held still; then the night wind blew across their naked shoulders, and..He looked about, curious and wary. All over the hill spark-weed was in flower, its long petals blazing yellow in the grass. Children on Havnor knew that flower. They called it sparks from the burning of Ilien, when the Firelord attacked the islands, and Erreth-Akbe fought with him and defeated him. Tales and songs of the heroes rose up in Medra's memory as he stood there: Erreth-Akbe and the heroes before him, the Eagle Queen, Heru, Akambar who drove the Kargs into the east, and Serriadh the peacemaker, and Elfarran of Solea, and Morred, the White Enchanter, the beloved king. The brave and the wise, they came before him as if summoned, as if he had called them to him, though he had not called. He saw them. They stood among the tall grasses, among the flame-shaped flowers nodding in the wind of morning..In Losen's service was a man who called himself Hound, because, as he said, he had a nose for."Because there are more of us! Gather twenty or thirty people of power in a room, they'll each."Master Hand," said the Doorkeeper, "she asked to enter as a student, and I saw no reason to deny..Medra bowed his head, standing there. "Anieb," he said, "can you come back this far? I don't know..letters: REAL AMMO REAL AMMO..I did not know in which direction to go. I considered what to do, but by this time my transfer..summon them, in spirit or in flesh, to come to us. Only the dead may we summon. Only the shadows.."Well, of course they do," said Rose, "that's what they're there for!".. "I am hungry now," said the mage. He took a hardboiled egg from the basket, cracked, shelled, and..smithy. As soon as Rose got there, Diamond said, "He wants me to go study with Master Hemlock!.haste.."In the unlikely event that a science-fiction writer is deemed worthy of a Nobel Prize in the near."His name."..Irioth's head drooped as if in utter weariness. All tension and passion had gone out of his body..Island was, they told him, the heart of Earthsea. The first land Segoy raised from the waters in..and after a while she smiled a little. Turning back to Medra, she said, "We're prisoners, and so..Golden reassured him that the wizard had actually said so, though of course what kind or a gift remained to be seen. The boy's modesty was a great relief to him..to tell you what Roke is like," he said. "But it would be my pleasure"..crowd, a ceiling made of fiery magma, unreal but belching real flames, and no one paid attention;.your horse up and see to him. There's the pump, there's plenty of hay. Come on in the house after..come."..a few spells of illusion; and when the boy was fifteen or so, the old man took him out into the..The tall man in his tall hat suddenly sat down on the dirt beside Otter, quite close to him. His breath smelled earthy. His light eyes gazed directly into Otter's eyes. "Would you like to know? You can know anything you like. I need have no secrets from you. Nor you from me," and he laughed, not threateningly, but with pleasure. He gazed at Otter again, his large, white face smooth and thoughtful. "Powers you have, yes, all kinds of little traits and tricks. A clever lad. But not too clever; that's good. Not too clever to learn, like some... I'll teach you, if you like. Do you like learning? Do you like knowledge? Would you like to know the name we call the King when he's all alone in his brightness in his courts of stone? His name is Turre. Do you know that name? It's a word in the language of the Allking. His own name in his own language. In our base tongue we would say Semen." He smiled again and patted Otter's hand. "For he is the seed and fructifier. The seed and source of might and right. You'll see. You'll see. Come along! Come along! Let's go see the King flying among his subjects, gathering himself from them!" And he stood up, supple and sudden, taking Otter's hand in his and pulling him to his feet with startling strength. He was laughing with excitement..Archmage. He had been the Master Patterner and the kindest of all Dulse's teachers at the School..running his hands over the wood and talking to it, that he couldn't see why they made a fuss over."Don't you understand?" he said, exasperated with her for not understanding, because he had not understood. "A wizard can't have anything to do with women. With witches. With all that."..While he himself went west to fight dragons, he sent Erreth-Akbe east to try to establish peace..would be exposed to the wizards power and to the might of the fleets and armies under his command..the door wide open behind him. She could see bookshelves and books, a table piled with more books..He walked down the straggling street of Purewells to Sans house, which was about midway, opposite the tavern. San, a hardbitten man in his thirties, was talking to a man on his doorstep, a stranger. When they saw Irioth they looked uneasy. San went into his house and the stranger followed..some of their beliefs are closer to Kargish than to Hardic. These far Northerners probably descend..Kings, lords, and Islemen charged with defending the islands of the Archipelago came to rely..was years ago, years ago, in the sunlight. It was raining. He had fed the chickens, and come back."Worm eaters."..realm-for meeting and breeding, and had seldom even been seen by most of the islanders. Naturally..the East and South Reaches people tend to be taller, heavier boned, and darker. Many Southerners..There was a

pause. He forgot that he had to answer in words. "I'd stay if I might," he said. "I'd." "Here he is," said Azver, and the Doorkeeper was there, his smooth, yellowish-brown face tranquil. "Broom's a village sorcerer. This man is a wise man. He learned the High Arts at the Great House. At first he had thought Diamond had a knack such as many children had and then lost, a stray spark nearby. He did not know what Ember wanted of him; he hoped she meant to teach him, to begin to sweet herbs burned, was a bedstead. The woman in it was so wasted that in the dim light she seemed. "Too high and mighty these days to stop and talk," said Tarry, "though I taught him all he knows of harping. But what's that to a rich man?" "Best come away," said the Master Windkey, his face set and sombre, his keen eyes troubled. He set evil. Again he stood silent a while. He started to speak, and didn't speak, and finally spoke. "I. Otter crouched as always in the uneasy oppression of the spellbond. He drank thirstily. The sharp. "Listen. . .". He wanted to hurt her, to shock her out of her terrible, ignorant kindness, but what he said when. "What if he doesn't want to drink?" "But. . ." The Changer paused. . . set in the lid, which seemed a kind and pretty gift to Diamond and his mother. But Golden was a. these years to give you to Early. The way I gave you to Gelluk. I was sorry for that. I thought. The Master of Iria of Westpool, Birch, didn't own the old house, but he did own the central and. "You changed yourself?" large warmth. "Will you lead me, dear Ulla? Will you lead me where I need to go?" Otter nodded. . . there sent by them. Men and women came to be taught and to teach. Many of these had a hard time. "You won't bring her into the Council Room?" the Changer said in disbelief. The Herbal still hesitated. "This lady is not of our council," he said at last. If written down, spells are written in the True Runes, sometimes with some admixture of the Hardic. "She took bird form. Osprey, they said. Didn't expect that from a girl so young. Gone before they knew it." "Has it come to this," the Namer said, "that we stand at the edge of the forest Segoy planted and talk of how to destroy one another?" They brought him one boy. The other had jumped from the ship, crossing Havnor Bay, and been killed. "Who doesn't? I like the cheese making. There's an interest to it. And I'm strong. All I fear is. more he thought about it. The prospect of spending the long grey winter at Westpool sank his. the tavern crew wouldn't let it rest, it being the only thing of interest to talk about for the. other was his servant. . quietly to him and let him go. Irioth drew a deep breath. Trusting the messenger, Morred entered the trap. He barely escaped with his life. The Enemy. scared cow. "Quite soon now, I think. Can you hold the Gates open, my dear?" breath. She stepped back from him. delicate horn spoon tied to the pouch he lifted the few drops of quicksilver from the cup and. Looking for the bathroom, I accidentally found the bed; it was in a wall and fell in a. Gelluk, or had got clean away. He had left no spell traces as the mage did, said Hound, and it had. things went wrong at the birth, or in the field, that would be the witches' fault. And things went. Veil, with her gentle voice and smile, was implacable. She told Medra that though she had consented to his remaining on Roke, it was to keep watch on him. "You broke through our defenses once," she said. "All that you say of yourself may be true, and may not. What can you tell me that would make me trust you?" "No harm in that, I suppose." LANGUAGES. "Dragons have been seen flying above the Inmost Sea. Roke has no Archmage, and the islands no true-crowned king. There is real work to do," the Summoner said, and his voice too was like stone, cold and heavy. "When will we do it?" "What is that?" He reached out towards Yaved, towards the ache, the suffering. As he came closer to it he felt a great strength flow into him from the west, as if Silence had taken him by the hand after all. Through that link he could send his own strength, the Mountain's strength, to help. I didn't tell him I wasn't coming back, he thought, his last words in Hardic, his last grief, for he was in the bones of the mountain now. He knew the arteries of fire, and the beat of the great heart. He knew what to do. It was in no tongue of man that he said, "Be quiet, be easy. There now, there. Hold fast. So, there. We can be easy." "But why-?" "I told him," Golden said, "that I had seen you, with a turn of your hand and a single word. . mountain, he thought of the Mages of Roke, the masters of the art magic, the professors of mystery. village, hurling her father's curses at the dogs, who, crazy with excitement at his shouting, . vaster clarity. Sky and earth were all one grey, but before them and above them, very high, over a. "Go on," the witch murmured. . was bigger than Golden now, and when he moved abruptly it was startling. "I'll go to Easthill," he. overlooked?" A century and a half after Morred's death, King Akambar, a prince of Shelieth on Way, moved the. watched and listened and was still, he watched and listened and was still. So they did for several. seek to have their way. And you put men who've always had their way together with women who've had. stumbled across the dark houseyard to the door. . constant effort to understand the simplest conversation or situation turned that tension into a. "To reach out the Hand to Enlad and Ea. I've never gone there. We know nothing about their. The Changer and a thin, keen-faced old man standing beside him nodded in agreement. The Master Hand said, "Irian, I am sorry. Ivory was my pupil. If I taught him badly, I did worse in sending him away. I thought him insignificant, and so harmless. But he lied to you and beguiled you. You must not feel shame. The fault was his, and mine." . dreaming yet another particularly vivid nightmare of my return. . sort of holding off. I guess he had this in mind all along. But what if I go down there and I'm. Another pause. Golden glanced over at his wife, who stood by the window listening in silence. Then he looked at his son. Slowly the mixture of anger, disappointment, confusion, and respect on his face gave way to something simpler, a look of complicity, very nearly a wink. "I see," he said. "And what did you decide you want?" "But I know I have - I have something to do, to be. That's why I wanted to come here. To find out. . dozen paces from her when she began to sing. Among the unseen trees her voice was weak. . Otter's shoulder. "I know you have the gift of finding what's hidden. Quite a great gift, were it." "Oh, there," cried the girl, "the rast on the vuk, your rast, you can make it, hurry!" The tall woman smiled a little. "My sister has never taught a man before" she said. She glanced at. bestiary in the barn loft. . But there's nothing much to look for here. Nothing of importance. Ath. The Summoner, who had been standing with his back to them, facing the fireless hearth, turned round. "The names witches give each other are not our concern here," he said. "If you have some interest in this woman, Doorkeeper, it should be pursued outside these walls - outside the door you vowed to keep. She has no place here nor ever

will. She can bring only confusion, dissension, and further weakness among us. I will speak no longer and say nothing else in her presence. The only answer to conscious error is silence." Otter was slow to recover, to heal. The bonesetter did what he could about his broken arm and his born. A good deal about Earthsea, about wizards, about Roke Island, about dragons, had begun to them, he knew. It had come with her. file:///D:/Documents%20and%20Settings/harry/...0%20LeGuin%20-%20Tales%20From%20Earthsea.txt (56 of 111) [2/5/2004 12:33:31 AM]. prejudice certainly influenced Halkel, the first Archmage, in creating his own authoritative. IV. Irian stood still. "Diamond" might take place at any time during the last couple of hundred years in Earthsea; after. "But even if he's gone," she said, "surely some of the Masters are truly wise?". milk. Her eyes grew wide in surprise. Something like a mocking smile touched her lips. She. "We're coming into Thwil Bay now. Where there's no wind but the wind they want." "Rast?" I repeated helplessly. . . "bright stars of the Forge, low over the sea. They were a little blurred, and as he watched them. looks like nothing at all from outside, as you come to it in a dingy street; or you can go in the. as ever. oval doors opened at the end of the aisle, and a hollow, all-embracing roar, like that of the sea,

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