

THE TRAITORS GIRL

"Set a price?" he flashed out. Then he remembered who he was not, and spoke humbly. "No. I didn't." Permissions Department, Harcourt, Inc., 6277 Sea Harbor Drive, Orlando, Florida
32887-6777..file:///D:/Documents%20and%20Settings/harry/...0%20LeGuin%20-%20Tales%20From%20Earthsea.txt (100 of 111) [2/5/2004 12:33:32 AM].we fought. And then it was over. He broke. Like a stick breaking. He was broken. But he fled away..a night and a day. Now and then he talked to the statue, telling it that it was a clever lad and."Master," Medra said, afoot, "wake up.". "I can find it," said Otter..given him for his twelfth birthday. He put it to his lips, his fingers danced, and he played a.In there he knew he should hurry, that the bones of the earth ached to move, and that he must.went off, still walking sore-footed, in Bren's old shoes. It made her heart turn in her, seeing.In there he knew he should hurry, that the bones of the earth ached to move, and that he must become them to guide them, but he could not hurry. There was on him the bewilderment of any transformation. He had in his day been fox, and bull, and dragonfly, and knew what it was to change being. But this was different, this slow enlargement. I am vastening, he thought..of his wits with the dull life at Westpool, and was never slow to take a risk. He rode up the hill.not threateningly, but with pleasure. He gazed at Otter again, his large, white face smooth and."Wait. . . then what exactly do you do?".She backed away from him, terrified..Thirty years before, the pirate lords of Wathort had sent a fleet to conquer Roke, not for its wealth, which was little, but to break the power of its magery, which was reputed to be great. One of the wizards of Roke had betrayed the island to the crafty men of Wathort, lowering its spells of defense and warning. Once those were breached, the pirates took the island not by wizardries but by force and fire. Their great ships filled Thwil Bay, their hordes burned and looted, their slave takers carried off men, boys, young women. Little children and the old they slaughtered. They fired every house and field they came to. When they sailed away after a few days they left no village standing, the farmsteads in ruins or desolate.."You won't bring her into the Council Room?" the Changer said in disbelief.."I do want you to stay. But don't stay! You're a finder, you have to go find. It's only that."How clever you are," he said. "Have you found better ore than that patch you found first? Worth the digging and the roasting?".His humble teachers had taught him all the words they knew of the Language of the Making. Among.She had no wish to explore for herself. The peacefulness of the place called for stillness, watching, listening; and she knew how tricky the paths were, and that the Grove was, as the Patterner put it, "bigger inside than outside'. She sat down in a patch of sun-dappled shade and watched the shadows of the leaves play across the ground. The oakmast was deep; though she had never seen wild swine in the wood, she saw their tracks here. For a moment she caught the scent of a fox. Her thoughts moved as quietly and easily as the breeze moved in the warm light..mine, shadowy yet distinct: the slave in the high vault of the tower, that woman with empty.shoulders and clung to them elastically. I knew already that furniture accommodated every.He had married while he was in Shelieth, a woman no one at Iria knew anything about, for she came.After a little silence Otter said, "Thanks." And he looked up at Hound, one brief, questioning..Crow only sighed..By the beginning of autumn, Losen was hanging by a rope round his feet from a window of the New Palace, rotting, while six warlords quarreled over his kingdom, and the ships of the great fleet chased and fought one another across the Straits and the wizard-troubled sea..something heavy in a cloth..walks in from somewhere north, takes my business, some people would quarrel with that. A quarrel."They show me what I should do," Irioth said, "and who I am. They know my name. But they never say it.".So it was. For the rest of his life, Medra kept the doors of the Great House on Roke. The garden.Great House, I feel that nothing can be done but what has been done. That nothing will change..The art begins and ends in naming. But that's not your gift. You have a poor memory for words. You.immediately realize that it was addressed to me. I started to turn around, but the chair, quicker.years old. Celebrate it!".wouldn't it be set down on the charts?.could be anything. Horses! Bears!". "Women can live chaste as well as men can," Dragonfly said bluntly. She knew she was blunt and.where Otter had taken Licky the first day he was there. It was late autumn now. The shrubs and.sellers and net makers and such, had gone from Roke to other lands around the Inmost Sea, weaving."Got in?". "To Roke?".often have brown or even blond hair and light eyes; the men are often bearded. Their language and.file:///D:/Documents%20and%20Settings/harry/...0%20LeGuin%20-%20Tales%20From%20Earthsea.txt (106 of 111) [2/5/2004 12:33:32 AM]."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..Berry's place, and as she told her friend Tawny, laughing, he was cannier with the cows than.year to year and generation to generation as solid and steady as the oaks, the family that owned."She walked with the dead, sometimes," Ayo said very low. "In the forest, down towards Faliern..After this struggle, the line of the Kargish kings continued in Hupun, nominally honored but powerless. The Four Lands were governed from Awabath. The high priests of the Twin Gods became Priestkings, In the year 840 of the Archipelagan count, one of the two Priest-kings poisoned the other and declared himself to be the incarnation of the Sky Father, the Godking, to be worshiped in the flesh. Worship of the Twin Gods continued, as did the popular worship of the Old Powers; but religious and secular power was henceforth in the hands of the Godking, chosen (often with more or less concealed violence) and deified by the priests of Awabath. The Four Lands were declared to be the Empire of the Sky and the Godkings official title was All-Emperor..weatherworker who needed training at sea, and Sava, a woman of sixty who had come to Roke with him.Tuly shared it with him for a long time, since she could see her son only by lying to her husband, which she found hard to do. She wept to think of Diamond hungry, sleeping hard. Cold nights of autumn were a misery to her. But as time went on and she heard him

spoken of as Diamond the sweet singer of the West of Havnor, Diamond who had harped and sung to the great lords in the Tower of the Sword, her heart grew lighter. And once, when Golden was down 'at South Port, she and Tangle took a donkey cart and drove over to Easthill, where they heard Diamond sing the Lay of the Lost Queen, while Rose sat with them, and Little Tuly sat on Tuly's knee. And if not a happy ending, that was a true joy, which may be enough to ask for, after all.. "If he wants a party, he'll have it," she said. Their voices were alike, being in the higher register but dark-toned, and held to an even quietness, contained, restrained. She perched on a stool beside his at the high desk..of the Masters, when it's out in the daylight, doesn't amount to so much, you know. Tricks of the.HE SPENT THE NIGHT in their old place in the shallows. Maybe he hoped she would come, but she did.did not stir. The aisles of the trees were endlessly different and all the same. He did not know.hundreds of boats carried people fleeing from Paln and Semel to the Inner Islands; but the dragons.Sleeping out on deck with the starlight on his face, he had a simple, vivid dream: it was."Why not? Why does it have to be a witch or a sorcerer? What do you do?".a wide, fine net of resistance. Even now there were strands and knots of that net left. Medra had."And cast wide!" He looked from one to the other again. "I wasn't well taught, in the City of."The rejected suitor," I blurted out..they think they've learned everything, they can go out again. If they can tell me my name.".Roke as a strong centralising, normalising, pacific element in Archipelagan society, the archmages."One of the old women you had tortured before they burned the lot, you know? Well, the fellow who.She had thought maybe his talk of coming here to cure the cattle sickness was one of the mad bits. He did not act like the curers who came by with remedies and spells and salves for the animals. But after he had rested a couple of days, he asked her who the cattlemen of the village were, and went off, still walking sore-footed, in Bren's old shoes. It made her heart turn in her, seeing that..teach me how to make stones into diamonds? Can you give me a sword that will kill a dragon? What's."Of all of us. Of Way, and Felkway, and Havnor, and Wathort, and Roke. All the people of the islands. He says that when King Lebannen was to be crowned, last autumn, he sent to Gont for the old Archmage to come crown him, and he wouldn't come. And there was no new Archmage. So he took the crown himself. And some say that's wrong, and he doesn't rightly hold the throne. But others say the king himself is the new Archmage. But he isn't a wizard, only a king. So others say the dark years will come again, when there was no rule of justice, and wizardry was used for evil ends.".wealth, which was little, but to break the power of its magery, which was reputed to be great. One..she had no wizardly gifts at all, she knew so well how to get a group of people to trust one.but her anger. Who are you, Irian? he said to her, watching her crouched there like an animal.Tuly shared it with him for a long time, since she could see her son only by lying to her husband.,quite equal. And he was, though he wouldn't have put it that way, afraid of wizards. A bit.Diamond sat in his own sunny room upstairs, on his comfortable bed, hearing his mother singing as she went about the house. He held the wizard's letter and reread the message and the two runes many times. The cold and sluggish mind that had been born in him that morning down in the shallows accepted the lesson. No magic. Never again. He had never given his heart to it. It had been a game to him, a game to play with Darkrose. Even the names of the True Speech that he had learned in the wizard's house, though he knew the beauty and the power that lay in them, he could let go, let slip, forget. That was not his language..beast he touched is standing yet, and hale. Ten days he spent out there in the wind and the rain.,refused to run her west again into those gales. He had learned a good deal about weatherworking."I know. I said everything wrong. I did everything wrong. I betrayed everything. The magic. And the music. And you.".he was hungry most of the time. Not till he could take an hour and run back down to the docks.And they talked about that, all the wise women of the island: what was the true art of magic, and where did it turn false; how the balance of things was kept or lost; what crafts were needful, which useful, which dangerous; why some people had one gift but not another, and whether you could learn an art you had no native gift for. In such discussions they worked out the names that ever since have been given to the masteries: finding, weather-working, changing, healing, summoning, patterning, naming, and the crafts of illusion, and the knowledge of the songs. Those are the arts of the Masters of Roke even now, though the Chanter took the Finder's place when finding came to be considered a merely useful craft unworthy of a mage..No. There had been a thunderclap, a while ago. This was not thunder. He had had this queer feeling.prove it, he made it seem that a herd of deer ran through the dining hall, followed by a flight of.Havnor," he said. "My teachers told me not to use magic to bad ends, but they lived in fear and..high-pitched and rough..cliffs he could not climb. He made the spell and said the word once more, and as a sea tern flew."Irian?". "But outside Roke," said Medra, "there are common people who slave and starve and die in misery. Must they do so for a thousand years with no hope?".that would make me trust you?" and he had no answer for her..The winter passed by, and the cold early spring, and with the warm late spring came a letter from his mother, brought by a carter. Diamond read it and took it to Master Hemlock, saying, "My mother wonders if I might spend a month at home this summer.".glassy rock, a translucent massif above the plains of the night; spectral radiance issued from the."The money and the music.".what she pleased in order to have her do at last what he pleased, and the game, he thought, was.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..terrible long way down to the sea, surely. With this wizard on your scent, how are you to go.outside the barracks. The autumn sun was warm. The wizard had taken off his conical hat, and his..like diamonds..thriving. The spring wind blew strong, seaward, off Roke Knoll, blowing the water of the fountain.chestnut groves, the pickers, the carters, the carts -- all that work and talk and planning..That is, human beings chose to have possessions and dragons chose not to. But, as there are ascetics among humans, some dragons are greedy for shining things, gold, jewels; one was Yevaud, who sometimes came among

people in human form, and who made the rich Isle of Pendor into a dragon nursery, until driven back into the west by Ged. But the marauding dragons of the Lay and the songs seem to have been moved not so much by greed as by anger, a sense of having been cheated, betrayed..city man and a saltwater man, he knew little of farms and their animals, but he thought the donkey.the crown himself. And some say that's wrong, and he doesn't rightly hold the throne. But others.shouting. She felt his prying, tremulous hands on her. She saw him weeping, sick, shamed, and.With age Hound had come to look his name, wrinkled, with a long nose and sad eyes. He sniffed and.Gelluk had made him foreman over the miners, Licky said, but he did no work in the mine; the.She was a little drunk, I thought..the hill towards him through the long grass. She followed no path, and walked easily, without.glass there opened colored, lighted malls with transparent ceilings, ceilings trod upon.to be certain. If he does what I do here there is no harm. We can work together. If I do what he."The watermetal," Otter said.."Why do we quarrel?" he said rather despondently..She looked at him. She could not speak. She stood up and after a moment walked out of the stableyard, off across the hill, on the path that went around it halfway up. One of the dogs, her favorite, a big, ugly, heavy-headed hound, followed her. She stopped on the slope above the marshy spring where Rose had named her ten years ago. She stood there; the dog sat down beside her and looked up at her face. No thought was clear in her mind, but words repeated themselves: I could go to Roke and find out who I am..Leashed like a dog, he walked along, sullen and shivering with sickness and rage. He stared around

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