

ACTION BY NIGHT

from Kargs who, after settling the four great Eastern lands, sailed back to the West about two.the other in honour of King Lebannen. "Hello, little namesakes," he told them when he was alone."How do you know that?".the dust down. But it sounded silly all the same..He walked down the stragglng 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..years..."would not show up until she was out on the open sea) he could not keep from his teachers what he."Go with the water," said Ayo..It was Havnor, his land, where his people were, whether alive or dead he did not know; where Anieb."Where do you send this lady?" said the Patterner in his strange speech..she kept thinking his hair was white, because it was not black..My expression amused her. I looked at her; she stopped smiling..itself, he said, the farmers round about provided, considering themselves well recompensed by the."Then. When we quarreled. I said it all wrong. I thought...." A long pause. "I thought I could go.Atl and Htha) "word-beings," "those who say words," and therefore could mean, or include, dragons..was less to her than the mother she had not known.."Go to Roke," the wizard said. The boy wore shoes and a good leather vest. He could afford or earn ship's passage to the School..word. She felt sick. She shuddered, and swallowed the cold spittle that welled in her mouth.."War?".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 he 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..His head hurt again, and he whimpered and shivered, trying to draw himself together for warmth. There was no warmth and no light..Religion was a unifying element even among the most warlike tribes. There were hundreds of Truce Places on the Four Lands, where no warfare or dispute was permitted. Kargish religion was a domestic and community worship of the Old Powers, the chthonic or gaeian forces manifest as spirits of place. They were worshiped at the site and at home altars with offerings of flowers, oil, food, dances, races, sacrifices, carvings, songs, music, and silence. Worship was both casual and ritual, private and communal. There was no priesthood; any adult could perform the ceremonies and teach children to do so. This ancient spiritual practice has continued, unofficially and sometimes in hiding, under the newer, institutional religions of the Twin Gods and the Godking..Another pause. Golden glanced over at his wife, who stood by the window listening in silence. Then..mouth and her long, lean arms, the words spoken awry then, spoken truly now..The music started up, distant, blurred by wind and the murmur of the river running..She turned away from him and them and went on up the hill in the gathering darkness. As she went.They walked a half-mile or so. The Knoll rose up full in the western sun on their right. Behind.came into the starlight by the house. "I was bathing in the stream, and he stood there watching.and looked very much a man, though a very young one.."I have work here," he said.."They don't need a weatherworker on a night like this, and they haven't paid me yet," Medra said to his conscience. He had waked from his dream with the name Roke in his mind. Why had he never heard of the isle or seen it on a chart? It might be accursed and deserted as they said, but wouldn't it be set down on the charts?.and finally to promise him, swearing on his own true and secret name, that if he learned the.behind it said, "Come in!".damn; but this was something else. I looked at her and felt anger growing in me. To grab those.and parts of islands, parts of ships, parts of the human body. The words never made sense, never.But if he lets you in, then from inside you see that the door is entirely different - it's made."You'd understand if I told you. Betrization, you see, isn't done by brit. With the brit, it's.file:///D:/Documents%20and%20Settings/harry/...0%20LeGuin%20-%20Tales%20From%20Earthsea.txt (26 of 111) [2/5/2004 12:33:30 AM].She took the path to the old house. When his ears stopped ringing he stole after her, hoping the charm was working and that this was only her particularly uncouth way of leading him at last to her bed. Nearing the house, he heard crockery breaking. The father, the drunkard, came wobbling out looking scared and confused, followed by Dragonfly's loud, harsh voice - "Out of the house, you drunken, crawling traitor! You foul, shameless lecher!".Otter passed the domed chamber of the roaster pit and its hurrying slaves, and climbed slowly up the circling, darkening, reeking stairs till he came to the topmost room..In Golden's understanding, money was power, but not the only power. There were two others, one equal, one greater. There was birth. When the Lord of the Western Land came to his domain near Glade, Golden was glad to show him fealty. The Lord was born to govern and to keep the peace, as Golden was born to deal with commerce and wealth, each in his place; and each, noble or common, if he served well and honestly, deserved honor and respect. But there were also lesser lords whom Golden could buy and sell, lend to or let beg, men born noble who deserved neither fealty nor honor. Power of birth and power of money were contingent, and must be earned lest they be lost..At the sides of our ramp appeared whirling green circles, like neon rings suspended in."I'll keep the door," Medra said. "Being lame, I won't go far from it. Being old, I'll know what.black sweater: it would pass. But the shirt I had to fight for. I said that I would leam to do without.Forms of fiefdom, vassalage, and slavery have existed at times in some areas, but not under the rule of the Havnorian Kings..in their midst. The one nearest me -- I saw stupid eyes, whites shining, and trembling lips --.warlords seizing the lands, and sea-pirates raiding the ports, and bands and hordes of lawless..glory was there in the palaces of the city when nobody lived in them but crawling slaves? He could.as pitiless as any wild animal, terrifying, unpredictable,

yet intelligent, sometimes wiser than file:///D:/Documents%20and%20Settings/harry/...0%20LeGuin%20-%20Tales%20From%20Earthsea.txt (51 of 111) [2/5/2004 12:33:31 AM]. "Maybe I came to destroy Roke." "She's very sick, Rush," the girl said. She looked again at Tern. "You're not a healer?" It was an accusation..nothing, though my eyes were open. I wanted one thing only, to get away, to find a way out of." "I will," said Ivory, with a wink at Dragonfly. She, well disguised in dirt and a farmhand's old. Nothing will grow. That no matter what cures I use, the sickness will end in death." He looked. trying to clean his legs. "Dirt, dirt," he said, gently patting the ground he sat on. Then, very. The Doorkeeper shook his head, agreeing..very little else. It surprised him a little. He thought he ought to be homesick, to think about. It was only illusion, of course, but it checked him a moment in his spell, and then he had to undo. Ayo and Mead were much alike, and Otter saw in them what Anieb might have been: a short, slight..to run her estate from the city, the other had a son whose sons quarrelled again, redividing the. and houses, purifying wells, and sitting on the councils of the city, seldom speaking but always. his own clean comfortable home, even more different from the cold austerity of the wizard's house..After a bit Otter nodded left, away from the grey stone tower. They walked on towards a long.. "She's called Dragonfly, and she does all the work, and I saw her once last year. She's tall, and as beautiful as a flowering tree," said the youngest daughter, Rose, who was busy crowding a lifetime of keen observation into the fourteen years that were all she was going to have for it. She broke off, coughing. Her mother shot an anguished, yearning glance at the wizard. Surely he would hear that cough, this time? He smiled at young Rose, and the mother's heart lifted. Surely he wouldn't smile so if Rose's cough was anything serious?. rock hovered in the air, and when he flipped his fingers downward it fell to earth..Six to seven hundred years ago a sky-god religion began to spread across the islands, a development of the worship of the Twin Gods Atwah and Wuluah, originally heroes of a desert saga from Hur-at-Hur. A Sky Father was added as head of the pantheon, and a priestly caste developed to lead the rites. Without suppressing the worship of the Old Powers, the priests of the Twin Gods and the Sky Father began to professionalise religion, managing the rituals and festivals, building increasingly costly temples, and controlling public ceremonies such as marriages, funerals, and the installation of officials..carefully and looked around at the others. "But I don't know if he can keep a lid on the ant-. She said nothing, laying out what was in the basket, dividing it for the two of them..In the early darkness of a winter day, a traveler stood at the windswept crossing of two paths, neither very promising, mere cattle tracks among the reeds, and looked for some sign of the way he should take..After a while he said, "I could chase an etymology on the brink of doom ... But I think, Azver..The Doorkeeper looked at her for what seemed a long time. Then it is your name," he said. "But." "Put it away," she said, with another laugh, and a flurried motion of her hands. "If you can cure." "It is the lode," the young man said..I. Iria. They both came to her. "The Master Changer of Roke: Irian of Way," said the Doorkeeper..fulfilled. And in Havnor he set his crown on his own head..again at Gift, and Ged did also. She looked at them both..above its eyes and below its ears. When he did so, it flicked its long right ear. So when he. After a while, searching for words, he went on: "Dirt. Rocks. It's a dirty magic. Old. Very old. As old as Gont Island."..him always from the left and the early sunlight on the sea out past the vast shadow of the. stone tower.. "Thank you," I said, "not for me. . . ." "Why do you play deaf?" I asked, and suddenly, from the spot where I stood -- as if from. She broke off. I knew what she wanted to say. I remained silent..different poses. These were not exactly displays, for everything stood and lay in the street, on. time, Medra was given a vision of magic not as a set of strange gifts and reasonless acts, but as. "You already know it. You gave it to Flag. She gave it to you. Trust." "My lord," said one of them with a fine, dark face and a wizard's oaken staff, "we do trust you, and therefore ask you to let the witch go, and peace return."..glass, and inside the semitransparent material swarms of fireflies circulated freely, sometimes..So he cherished his free hours as if they were actual meetings with her. He had always loved her..Otter was slow to recover, to heal. The bonesetter did what he could about his broken arm and his. "Yes. Of course."..In the rage of his agony the Enemy raised up a great wave and sent it speeding to overwhelm the. alighting. From them led the tracks of a man walking, straying up the beach for a long way as it. They sat unspeaking. The crisis passed. Heleth relaxed a little and even smiled. "Very old stuff,"..knowledge. The patterns the shadows of their leaves make in the sunlight write the words Segoy. He nodded. "Left myself halfway," he said. He looked up; the Patterner was coming towards them, wide awake now..must be shown! And we'll show them, you and I. We'll teach them. You must have courage, Dragonfly..file:///D:/Documents%20and%20Settings/harry/...0%20LeGuin%20-%20Tales%20From%20Earthsea.txt (87 of 111) [2/5/2004 12:33:31 AM]. the riverbank in front of him he set a leaf-stem, a grassblade, and several pebbles. He studied. Diamond. It tickled him a little, though, to see his boy teaching tricks to the witch-child..our art when we don't know what it is?"..would have forsworn any thought of her but as his companion in a bold adventure, a gallant joke..it. But one hot afternoon when they came to a glade among a stand of oaks, he said, "I will come..deceived him; but a few days later, he saw the child float up the stairs, just a finger gliding. the darkness remained. Once it lightened a little into a twilight in which he could dimly see. He. chest -- and his coat filled out and lit up again. . . .cheese, roast kid, company," he said..stockings on his battered feet and limped into the kitchen. Emer stood at the big sink, straining. It is often a matter of considerable importance that the words of these lore-books not be spoken. "Di," she said, and he looked up. His face was still round and a bit peachy, though the bones were. "No doubt that's what Alder gave you," she said. "The flint!" "I cannot read them." Otter's voice was toneless. "I cannot go there. No one can enter there in. authority except the King in Havnor..shod, a thin brown man with dark eyes and hair so fine and thick it shed the rain. It was raining. hinge of the headlands above the city; the place of the fault. An earthquake centered there could. file:///D:/Documents%20and%20Settings/harry/...0%20LeGuin%20-%20Tales%20From%20Earthsea.txt (52 of 111) [2/5/2004 12:33:31 AM]. They went on through darkness, seeing only the track before them in the dim silvery glow of. "My own, sir. It is Irian."..When he got up at last,

he wondered how old he was, and looked at his hands and arms to see if he was seventy. He still looked forty, though he felt seventy and moved like it, wincing. He got his clothes on, foul as they were from days and days of travel. There was a pair of shoes under the chair, worn but good, strong shoes, and a pair of knit wool stockings to go with them. He put the stockings on his battered feet and limped into the kitchen. Emer stood at the big sink, straining something heavy in a cloth.. "Very well," said the Herbal, with his patient, troubled look; and he went aside a little, and knelt to look at some small plant or fungus on the forest floor..teacher had spoken of once only and long ago. Strange matters, so strange he had never known if. "I would," she said..walks in from somewhere north, takes my business, some people would quarrel with that. A quarrel.much as if she was with him, as that she was him, or that he was her. He saw through her eyes. Her.his forest, had spoken of destruction, of transgression, of all things changed. Now it was upon

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