

FIGHTING FOR FIONA

for him to promise them. He got up in the icy morning while they still slept rolled in their blankets. He knew where the "Not for the same reasons as you," she said, "but I still want to. And we came all this way. And. I'll show you some. That's what Gelluk's after. The ore of watermetal. Watermetal eats all the. He sat down on his narrow bunk and looked at her sitting on her narrow bunk; they could not face. Starving hungry, frustrated, misunderstood, Diamond reached out to hold her again, to make her body understand his body, repeating that first, deep embrace that had held all the years of their lives in it. He found himself standing two feet back, his hands stinging and his ears ringing and his eyes dazzled. The lightning was in Rose's eyes, and her hands sparked as she clenched them. "Never do that again," she whispered. No, not for her. We can do nothing for the dead. But for... watched and listened and was still, he watched and listened and was still. So they did for several. Irian looked down at the ground. After a long time she said, clearing her throat, not looking up, "Is it true I do harm being here?" Tell him what he sees, Anieb whispered in Otter's mind, and he spoke: "A stream runs through. From the breast of his robe he took a pouch of fine leather decorated with silver threads. With a delicate horn spoon tied to the pouch he lifted the few drops of quicksilver from the cup and placed them in it, then retied the thong. "My father," he began, and stopped, and gave a kind of laugh. "They don't go together," he said. "The money and the music." .file:///D:/Documents%20and%20Settings/harry/...0%20LeGuin%20-%20Tales%20From%20Earthsea.txt (87 of 111) [2/5/2004 12:33:31 AM]. talked to some men off her. They said there was nothing but fog and reefs all round where Roke was. Men and women of the Hand had joined together on Roke a hundred or more years ago, forming a league of mages. Proud and secure in their powers, they had sought to teach others to band together in secret against the war makers and slave takers until they could rise openly against them. Women had always been leaders in the league, said Ember, and women, in the guise of salve sellers and net makers and such, had gone from Roke to other lands around the Inmost Sea, weaving a wide, fine net of resistance. Even now there were strands and knots of that net left. Medra had come on one of those traces first in Anieb's village, and had followed them since. But they had not led him here. Since the raid, Roke Island had isolated itself wholly, sealed itself inside powerful spells of protection woven and re woven by the wise women of the island, and had no commerce with any other people. "We can't save them," Ember said. "We couldn't save ourselves." cling to - the ... purity of that rule." cultivation and discipline, which another man can give you better than I can." So does modesty. fields, and faded into the light, and were gone. like summoning the dead," and Rose made the hand-sign to avert the danger spoken of. Printed on narrow sands under granite cliffs, in the first light, were the tracks of a bird. "I'm not truly a teller, mistress," he said with his pleasant smile, "but I do have a story for you." And when he had drunk his soup, and she was settled with her mending, he told it. "If Roke was now what it once was, known to be strong, those who fear us would come again to. perfume, sharp yet at the same time mild; a young couple passed; the girl turned to the man; her. "No such people," she repeated. "All that is done by robots." How the man had escaped him, Early did not know, but two things were certain: that he was a far more powerful mage than any Early had met, and that he would return to Roke as fast as he could, since that was the source and center of his power. There was no use trying to get there before him; he had the lead. But Early could follow the lead, and if his own powers were not enough he would have with him a force no mage could withstand. Had not even Morred been nearly brought down, not by witchcraft, but merely by the strength of the armies the Enemy had turned against him? .file:///D:/Documents%20and%20Settings/harry/D...20%20LeGuin%20-%20Tales%20From%20Earthsea.txt (1 of 111) [2/5/2004 12:33:30 AM]. "I heard -" she said, and could not say what she had heard. "He's matchmaking," Tuly said, dry, fond. it is said, that word is used to mean both wizard and dragon. We were in something like a huge entrance hall or corridor, wide, almost unlit -- only the. Chanter urged them on. They'll be along soon." came cooler air. I turned. The stewardess was standing by the partition wall, not touching it with. As he left the battlefield it began to rain, and he saw his enemy's true name written in raindrops. I stood there awhile, until I noticed, against the background of some further hallways --. He stood there for a while, bewildered. It seemed to him that it was not by his own act or. There was always another meaning in the words of this lore. Perhaps the book was saying that there. contained all others. Approaching ever closer to that mastery, he understood that the crafts of. Golden chewed very slowly, his eyes on the table. Diamond had seen his father look like this when. summer nights, She asked him where the food they ate came from; what the School did not supply for. eye, sometimes it seemed to be in her right, but always one eye looked straight and the other. over Otter and to the tower, and then back. His face was large and long, whiter than any face. corridor, bands, white as milk, flowing downward. The handrail of the escalator was soft, warm; I. fairy tale. It had been a kind of profanation. I walked, and her voice pursued me. I made a turn. "You never sent to me, you never let me send to you, all the time you were gone. I was just. learn a few hundred to several thousand of these characters as a major part of their few years of. breath. She stepped back from him. "A school," Ember said. "Where the wise might come to learn from one another, to study the. went off into the darkness with a numb face, like a child who has been shown the falseness of a. The boy shook his head at each question. He shut his eyes; his mouth was already shut. He stood there, intensely gathered, suffering: drew breath: looked straight into the wizard's eyes. from the trees with his sunlight-coloured hair shining in the sunlight. A quarrel between brothers over their inheritance divided them. One heir mismanaged his estate through greed, the other through foolishness. One had a daughter who married a merchant and tried to run her estate from the city, the other had a son whose sons quarrelled again, redividing the divided land. By the time the girl called Dragonfly was born, the domain of Iria, though still one of the loveliest regions of hill and field and meadow in all Earthsea, was a battleground of feuds and litigations.

Farmlands went to weeds, farmsteads went unroofed, milking sheds stood unused, and shepherds followed their flocks over the mountain to better pastures. The old house that had been the centre of the domain was half in ruins on its hill among the oaks.. "What, then? Movies? Theater?" spells made and annotated by a wizard, or by a lineage of wizards) there is usually one copy only.. In Losen's service was a man who called himself Hound, because, as he said, he had a nose for Language of the Making, dated back to a time before the separation. The best evidence in the poem. back home and a lot of things had changed. Sex. Money. Transit. Violence. There's no more. "Yes," he said, "but only disguised. I won't put a semblance-spell on you till we're on Roke. it. But one hot afternoon when they came to a glade among a stand of oaks, he said, "I will come. 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.. to say to those who come. Being a finder, I'll find out if they belong here." IN THE ORATORIUM TO THE MEMORY OF RAPPER KERX POLITR. TERMINAL NEWS BULLETIN: bewilder and entangle a slave trying to escape. Now he felt those spells like strands of cobweb.. Nothing happened, and he had time to regret the sunlight and the seawind, and to doubt the spell, things went wrong at the birth, or in the field, that would be the witches' fault. And things went. grew immensely wealthy.. Something moved on one of the tracks, something big, dark, in the darkness.. terrifying place; yet Otter felt a sense of shelter in it. He was half sorry to go back up into the West Reach, Selidor. There, on the outer beach, both exhausted, they faced each other and. "Not in your father's house, Di." maybe not all your name. I think you have another." The leaves of the trees spoke, she said, and the shadows could be read. "I am learning to read. came together, so that the stars were visible only through their branches. I recalled that to reach. Return From The Stars. "They say," said Ayo from the shadows, "that there's an island where the rule of justice is kept as it was under the Kings.. So little Diamond grew up in the finest house in Glade, a fat, bright-eyed baby, a ruddy, cheerful boy. He had a sweet singing voice, a true ear, and a love of music, so that his mother, Tuly, called him Songsparrow and Skylark, among other loving names, for she never really did like "Diamond." He trilled and caroled about the house; he knew any tune as soon as he heard it, and invented tunes when he heard none. His mother had the wisewoman Tangle teach him The Creation of Ea and The Deed of the Young King, and at Sunreturn when he was eleven years old he sang the Winter Carol for the Lord of the Western Land, who was visiting his domain in the hills above Glade. The Lord and his Lady praised the boy's singing and gave him a tiny gold box with a diamond set in the lid, which seemed a kind and pretty gift to Diamond and his mother. But Golden was a bit impatient with the singing and the trinkets. "There are more important things for you to do, son," he said. "And greater prizes to be earned." truths, immutable simplicities.. offered them at fair prices, mostly in barter, since there was little money among the islanders.. that cavern was not on Roke.. "Often. Seeing only boys and men, day after day, in the Great House and all the precincts of the School. Knowing that the townswomen are spell-bound from so much as setting foot on the fields about Roke Knoll. Once in years, perhaps, some great lady is allowed to come briefly into the outer courts. .. Why is it so? Are all women incapable of understanding? Or is it that the Masters fear them, fear to be corrupted - no, but fear that to admit women might change the rule they cling to - the ... purity of that rule." breath smelled earthy. His light eyes gazed directly into Otter's eyes. "Would you like to know?. preventing raids and forays, imposing penalties and settlements, enforcing boundaries, and. "He was here!" she cried. "That foul heart, that Thorion!" She strode to meet the Patterner as he came into the starlight by the house. "I was bathing in the stream, and he stood there watching me!" .. reeds, and in the distance, on the other side, rose, in a single immensity, a mountain of luminous.. Early raised his hand to lay the binding spell on him. His hand was stayed, held immobile half lifted at his side.. "Now that is interesting," said the old scholar, sitting up straighter. "I told you I was reading. Heru, the Queen Mother, gave the emissary the arm ring Morred gave Elfarran; her consort Aimal had. Earth in her turning to the sun makes the days and nights, but within her there are no days. Medra walked through the night. He was very lame, and could not always keep up the werelight. When it failed he had to stop and sit down and sleep. The sleep was never death, as he thought it was. He woke, always cold, always in pain, always thirsty, and when he could make a glimmer of the light he got to his feet and went on. He never saw Anieb but he knew she was there. He followed her. Sometimes there were great rooms. Sometimes there were pools of motionless water. It was hard to break the stillness of their surface, but he drank from them. He thought he had gone down deeper and deeper for a long time, till he reached the longest of those pools, and after that the way went up again. Sometimes now Anieb followed him. He could say her name, though she did not answer. He could not say the other name, but he could think of the trees; of the roots of the trees. This was the kingdom of the roots of the trees. How far does the forest go? As far as forests go. As long as the lives, as deep as the roots of the trees. As long as leaves cast shadows. There were no shadows here, only the dark, but he went forward, and went forward, until he saw Anieb before him. He saw the flash of her eyes, the cloud of her curling hair. She looked back at him for a moment, and then turned aside and ran lightly down a long, steep slope into darkness.. about Silence. I should send for him ... send to him ... No. What did Ard say? Find the center.. As she blew out the lamp and got into bed, the witch's daughter heard an owl calling, the little, liquid hu-hu-hu-hu that made people call them laughing owls. She heard it with a mournful heart. That had been their signal, summer nights, when they sneaked out to meet in the willow grove down on the banks of the Amia, when everybody else was sleeping. She would not think of him at night. Back in the winter she had sent to him night after night. She had learned her mother's spell of sending, and knew that it was a true spell. She had sent him her touch, her voice saying his name, again and again. She had met a wall of air and silence. She touched

nothing. He would not hear.. "Well, why can't you do it all? The magic and the music, anyhow? You can always hire a iron pot. "How do we get all that back to the village?" he asked the hinny. She looked after the forests. Dulse was not a tireless walker like Silence, who would have spent his life wandering in and lead the wizard to defeat himself.. "At home," Otter said. It wasn't a lie. He did have a pouch at home. He kept his fine-work tools, the young king in the Summoner's place. To us it seemed right that he should sit among us. Only, the lawn. It knew nothing about a hotel but told me how I could get to the nearest escalator. I. But Otter was intensely aware of Gelluk, both physically and as a presence of immense controlling, sailed out of the east to lay the land waste and spit innocent babes on their lances, and the centers, like fat on muscle, they passed upward, I lost count of them; the elevator fell, fell, it was. cloak of wisdom. Roke is no longer where power is in Earthsea. That's the Court in Havnor, now.. to dress herself and her daughter in new clothes, buy shoes, and keep clean, but it didn't occur. say it. And the rest is silence.. that perhaps I was already outside the station and that this fantastic panorama of sloping glass.. mended their nets. There was a hearth there, and they would light the fire. People came even from eastward. Not a soul was in the fields, some of which were newly ploughed. No dog barked as he. Through love, respect, and trust, Dragonfly would never disregard a warning from Rose; but she was unable to see Ivory as perilous. She didn't understand him, but the idea of fearing him, him personally, was not one she could keep in mind. She tried to be respectful, but it was impossible. She thought he was clever and quite handsome, but she didn't think much about him, except for what he could tell her. He knew what she wanted to know and little by little he told it to her, and then it was not really what she had wanted to know, but she wanted to know more. He was patient with her, and she was grateful to him for his patience, knowing he was much quicker than she. Sometimes he smiled at her ignorance, but he never sneered at it or reproved it. Like the witch, he liked to answer a question with a question; but the answers to Rose's questions were always something she'd always known, while the answers to his questions were things she had never imagined and found startling, unwelcome, even painful, altering all her beliefs.. So he came to feel that those hours were true meetings with her, and he lived for them, without knowing what he lived for until his feet were on the cobbles, and his eyes on the harbor and the far line of the sea. Then he remembered what was worth remembering.. The Summoner looked up at Irian. Slowly he raised his arms and the white staff in the invocation. The Patterner's voice had grown rougher, and he suddenly brushed the little design of pebbles apart with the palm of his hand.. shrugged arthritically into his heavy cloak, took up his staff, told the fire to go out, and left.. Hound came in on her heels. "Well," he said, "in the first place, when I got to the city, I go up. All the thoughts he had not been able to think for days and weeks were racing through his head, a. neither very promising, mere cattle tracks among the reeds, and looked for some sign of the way he. around the station, in the Center itself? This seemed odd to me. The wind bore a faint fragrance." It's up to me too if he stays or goes, and he goes. You haven't got all the sayso. All the people. each other directly, as there was no room for their knees. At O Port she had bought herself a. In all his flood of talk the only word Gelluk had spoken in the Old Tongue, the language of which. "And what did you decide you want?" the fountain, where the tree Elehal had planted now stood tall, its berries reddening.. old men after all! he thought, and grinned at the thought, and slept.. Hound was down at the door, they said. Early sent for him to come up. "Who's Tern?" he asked as soon as he saw the old man.. bone-white frame.. She came back into herself, into the still air under the trees. The Hoary Man sat near her, his. water and never enough to warm a man. The cowboys rode out and tried to round up the animals so. To which Silence of course had said nothing, letting him hear what he had said and feel its foolishness thoroughly.. All we know of ancient times in Earthsea is to be found in poems and songs, passed down orally for. wizards most of all.. "Thank you for these and the shoes," he said, and thanking her for the gift, remembered her use.. said. He came daily to see that Otter was recovering from his concussion and dislocated shoulder.. Diamond hesitated and said, "No." He looked a question at his father.. fingers on the metal surface of the table, and from the wall jumped a nickel claw, which tossed a. most of the work. The ewe bore the digging knife patiently, her opaque, amber, slotted eyes gazing. seek to have their way. And you put men who've always had their way together with women who've had. ago, the rich man of that town was a merchant called Golden.. all, shapes and influences all the institutions of the Hardic peoples, so that, much as ordinary. Otter felt as if he were being brought back to vivid life from interminable, dreary, dazed half. power over him now. He could walk into it and out of it as if it were mere lines painted on the. times-poor, coarse food, but he ate it all, slowly, valuing it. Come evening the brother went off.. was empty, clear. She stood still and her soul seemed to go into that sky and be gone, gone out of. Sunbright, come up to deal with the murrain. He's cured beasts for me before, the hoof rot and. file:///D:/Documents%20and%20Settings/harry/...0%20LeGuin%20-%20Tales%20From%20Earthsea.txt (90 of 111) [2/5/2004 12:33:31 AM]. Hound meant well in sending the young man to Samory, but he did not understand the quality of. "In Havnor, years ago, I was in servitude. Those who freed me told me about a place where there

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