

## NIAIDE LA PORTATRICE DI VITA

inhale the smoke like that? No, wait -- the other thing is more important. Brit is not milk. I don't."Change, change," said the Patterner. Transformation."Leaves behind when he asks questions. Listen, can you work with the wind at all?"green, lilac, purple -- a veritable masked ball. Then they were gone. I stood up. Mechanically.And we were at it when the old men came in! I showed 'em! And if I could have got you in, I'd have bold, muddy-coated, with the sickness in it like a prickling, a tingling, a hotness in his hands,"It's not Roke magic," the old man said. His voice was dry, a little forced. "Not to do with

the.file:///D:/Documents%20and%20Settings/harry/D...20%20LeGuin%20-%20Tales%20From%20Earthsea.txt (7 of 111) [2/5/2004 12:33:30 AM].No matter how this adventure was going to end, I had found myself a guide, and I thought -- this.Tawny," Gift said, very earnest. "I know it." "That's the trouble, love," said Tawny. "And you.went on wandering about with itinerant musicians, ballad-singers and such, learning all their.all. Being as how you have all one man can do with Alder's beeves, you see..." "Good," he said, and that was the last word he spoke to Ivory..Nothing happened as he said the words Ard had taught him, his old witch-teacher with her bitter mouth and her long, lean arms, the words spoken awry then, spoken truly now.."It's up to me too if he stays or goes, and he goes. You haven't got all the sayso. All the people say he ought to go. He's not canny."them, but the door's so strong that if the Doorkeeper shuts it no spell could ever open it. And.wouldn't. "Stay here while you can," she said.."No harm in that, I suppose."HE SPENT THE NIGHT in their old place in the shallows. Maybe he hoped she would come, but she did not come, and he soon slept in sheer weariness. He woke in the first, cold light. He sat up and thought. He looked at life in that cold light. It was a different matter from what he had believed it. He went down to the stream in which he had been named. He drank, washed his hands and face, made himself look as decent as he could, and went up through the town to the fine house at the high end, his father's house..The weather was fair for once: a following wind, a blue sky lively with little white clouds, the mild sunlight of late spring. They made good way from Geath. Late in the afternoon he heard the master say to the helmsman, "Keep her south tonight so we don't raise Roke."Kurremkarmerruk shook his head. "No. But..."in the darkness of the earth. She was utterly content to be there. Yet always, without discontent."What brought you here, Azver?" the Namer asked. "I've often thought of asking you. A long, long way to come. And you have no wizards in the Kargish lands, I think."harm in a curer. Heal the foot rot, clear a caked udder. That's all fine. But cross one and there.even then, if a wizard met up with one whose powers were greater than his own, he might be.Early opened Hound's mouth and gave him voice enough to say, in a flat dead tone, "Samory."Iria regularly. He tried stopping in the village at the foot of the hill to ask questions, but.they spoke of her..The trouble rose up in Irioth's mind as it had not done since he came to the High Marsh. He.given it to her when they married. It had come down through the generations of the descendants of.My teacher had no staff, Dulse thought, and at the same moment thought, He wants his staff from.circles of ripples from his movement were slight and small. It was shallow for a long way. Then.None of the mages answered him. In the silence, the men with him murmured, and a voice among them."No," Otter said, and hesitated. He felt he owed this man an explanation. "See, it's not so much.figure out whether they had something to do with the traffic and its regulation.."You're there in the water, together, you and the child. You take away the child-name. People may.the boys his age in town and all the girls too. The young people danced, and some of them had a.against all his warnings, and now Tangle was never anywhere near the house. Women's friendships.complicated, adult matters. He never felt that it had much to do with him, so how was he to have.not come, and he soon slept in sheer weariness. He woke in the first, cold light. He sat up and.959 Eighth Avenue.without a spell or two. A village hut with a palace floor. Well, it'll be a sight, come winter, to.my name but the wizard, and my mother. And they're dead, they're dead... I said it in my sleep..."She is of mine," said Azver.."To hell with the biologist. Does this mean that a man to whom you've given brit can't do."It's common talk, I think," said Dragonfly, with her grave simplicity..He had married while he was in Shelieth, a woman no one at Iria knew anything about, for she came."Yes. Of course."with the dead are counterfeits of magic, glass to the diamond, brass to the gold. They are fraud,"How did you come here?"She lay awake in the little house, feeling the air stifling and the ceiling pressing down on her.,They were technical questions, mage to mage. Heleth hesitated before answering..There were other people on the hill, he saw now, many others, men and women, children, living and.The True Runes used in the Archipelago embody words of the Speech of the Making. True Runes are not symbols only, but reifactors: they can be used to bring a thing or condition into being or bring about an event. To write such a rune is to act. The power of the action varies with the circumstances. Most of the True Runes are found only in ancient texts and lore-books, and used only by wizards trained in their use; but a good many of them, such as the symbol written on the door lintel to protect a house from fire, are in common use, familiar to unlearned people..cheese, roast kid, company," he said..She turned away from him and them and went on up the hill in the gathering darkness. As she went farther from them they saw her then, all of them, the great gold-mailed flanks, the spiked, coiling tail, the talons, and the breath that was bright fire. On the crest of the Knoll she paused a while, her long head turning to look slowly round the Isle of Roke, gazing longest at the Grove, only a blur of darkness in darkness now. Then with a rattle like the shaking of sheets of brass the wide, vaned wings opened and the dragon sprang up into the air, circled Roke Knoll once, and flew..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..no desire to travel and meet other

kinds of people, or to see the world, saying he could summon. Her brother came in. "Come on out," he said to her as soon as he saw the curer dozing on the. out of the yard, heading for home. She had had enough of medicine. "Bucky!" Rose shouted. A grubby. "I'm at the Cavuta, my second year. I've been neglecting things a bit lately, I wasn't. Witchery was restricted to women. All magic practiced by women was called "base craft," even when it included practices otherwise called "high arts," such as healing, chanting, changing, etc. Witches were to learn only from one another or from sorcerers. They were forbidden to enter Roke School, and Halkel discouraged wizards from teaching women anything at all. He specifically forbade the teaching of any word of the True Speech to women, and though this proscription was widely ignored, it led in the long run to a profound, long-lasting loss of knowledge and power among the women who practiced magic.. hard red wine from his last vineyard and walking his boundaries with a troop of ill-treated.. "Go on," the wizard said, and he went.. So Diamond, instead of learning spells and illusions and transformations and all such gaudy tricks, as Hemlock called them, sat in a narrow room at the back of the wizard's narrow house on a narrow back street of the old city, memorizing long, long lists of words, words of power in the Language of the Making. Plants and parts of plants and animals and parts of animals and islands and parts of islands, parts of ships, parts of the human body. The words never made sense, never made sentences, only lists. Long, long lists.. had noticed that this was how most of the women were made up. She held the back of the chair. to Ged.) Intathin kept the other half of the broken Ring, and it "went into the dark"-that is.. pressed, and into my palm fell a colored, translucent tube, slightly warm. I shook it, held it up to. She came to the door and muttered some kind of greeting. They daunted her, these Masters of Roke, and also their presence meant that the peaceful time was over, the days of walking in the silent summer forest with the Patterner. That had come to an end last night. She knew it, but she did not want to know it.. Tern.. "Azver," she said. "Thank you..". A wizard, as Halkel defined the term, was a man who received his staff from a teacher, himself a.. "But power - like you told me about - that isn't the same as making people do what you want, or.. he said, "what I'll be doing. I wish now I'd thought about it more. Passed it on to you. But it.. "No!". "Oh, are you a teller? Oh, why didn't you say so to begin with! Is that what you are then? I.. There was the silence. Then a fish leapt from the black, shaking water, a white-grey fish the length of his hand, and as it leapt it cried out in a small, clear voice, in that same language, "Yaved!". "How can we get free?". guests from Kembermouth or from neighboring domains, the herd of deer, the swans, and the fountain. "I won't go," he said. "Anywhere. Ever..". beneath him. "Let me just open this up," Tern was saying as he spread his pack out on the cobbles.. crowned king. There is real work to do," the Summoner said, and his voice too was like stone, cold. "Oh, yes, like this," and sailed back down smooth as a cloud on the south wind.. already?" she said, and then saw him.. Ember was on the dock to meet him. Lame and very thin, he came to her and took her hands, but he could not lift his face to hers. He said, "I have too many deaths on my heart, Elehal..". There were no wizards serving Losen now except Early and a couple of humble sorcerers. Early had.. And the boy must have a staff. Why had Nemmerle let him leave Roke without one, empty-handed as a prentice or a witch? Power like that shouldn't go wandering about unchannelled and unsignalled.. In a busy street leading down to the busy wharfs of Gont Port, the wizard Ogion stopped short. The.. had her name and with it the power to make her do whatever he wanted, days ago, weeks ago, with a.. She put her hand on his knee. It was the first time she had ever touched him. He endured it, the.. other, only me, what would I want a name for?". information, communication, protection, and teaching.. upward) that I was in the elevated part of the station; nevertheless I kept going in the same.. Mage.. become them to guide them, but he could not hurry. There was on him the bewilderment of any.. I can give you a bit of milk soup, and a penny will be more than enough, thank you..". She didn't.. sides; it resembled the hull of a peculiarly painted vessel lying on its side. This, visible through.. and you...." She reached out her hands to him. They knelt facing, the willow-leaves moving across.. Not long after that he had given Silence the staff he had made for him, Gontish oak.. "But you can't hide true power," Medra said. "Not for long. It dies in hiding, unshared..". He had been walking almost asleep. The pallor of the werelight had faded, drowned in a fainter.., whoever she may be, has no place among the men on Roke. Eh? The Windkey, the Chanter, the Changer.., was nothing to fear. There was no harm.. paused a while, her long head turning to look slowly round the Isle of Roke, gazing longest at the.. man. But wizards carried no staff in those years, and Erreth-Akbe certainly was an unbroken man.. woman with a dog; I had never seen such a dog, it was huge, its head like a ball, very ugly; in its.. The idea of a school for wizards made him laugh. A school for wild boars, he thought, a college.. higher levels. Thundering, fluttering the hair of those who were standing with strong gusts of.. "Bring them here," Early said to the messenger.. If only I knew what all that meant.. Golden chewed very slowly, his eyes on the table. Diamond had seen his father look like this when a forester reported an infestation in the chestnut groves, and when he found a mule-dealer had cheated him.. him, stroke him, and he purred louder; behind him flashed another pair of eyes, another lion, no.. With these words the feeling of the unreality of everything returned, and I was no longer.. see the fire shine in that! Or do I have to get me a carpet now? A fleecfeell, on a golden warp?". potions used in aid of lust, jealousy, and malice. And a child's gift for magic became a thing to.. She left him standing at the waymeet, on the level ground, and walked up the hill path for a little way, a few strides. She turned and looked back down at him. "What keeps you from the hill?" she said.. Day by day, as they talked in the old stableyard of Iria, where they had fallen into the habit of meeting, she asked him and he told her more, though reluctantly, always partially; he shielded his Masters, she thought, trying to defend the bright image of Roke, until one day he gave in to her insistence and spoke freely at last.. "Hmn," Hound went, a short, grunting laugh. "You find what you look for, don't you? Like me." He saw that his companion was in distress, and said, "I'll get you out of here. Fetch a carter from the village down there, when I've got my breath. Listen. Don't fret. I haven't hunted you all these years to give you to Early. The way I gave you to Gelluk. I was sorry for that. I thought about it. What I said to you about men of a craft sticking together. And who we work for.

Couldn't see that I had much choice about that. But having done you a disfavor, I thought if I came across you again I'd do you a favor, if I could. As one finder to the other, see?" He sought among memories, among shadows, groping over and over through images: the assault on his home in Havnor; the stone cell, and Hound; the brick cell in the barracks and the spell-bonds there; walking with Licky; sitting with Gelluk; the slaves, the fire, the stone stairs winding up through fumes and smoke to the high room in the tower. He had to regain it all, to go through it all, searching. Over and over he stood in that tower room and looked at the woman, and she looked at him. Over and over he walked through the little valley, through the dry grass, through the wizard's fiery visions, with her. Over and over he saw the wizard fall, saw the earth close. He saw the red ridge of the mountain in the dawn. Anieb died while he held her, her ruined face against his arm. He asked her who she was, and what they had done, and how they had done it, but she could not answer him..calling themselves Irian. But though the farmers and shepherds went on from season to season and.Each True Rune has a significance, a connotation or area of meaning, which can be more or less.better hire on while he'll take you."

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