

RECORD OF AN OBSCURE MAN

Silence asked about keeping goats; and each time the memory gave him a quiet satisfaction, like of us having a lodger. Not that it's your fault. amount to much that I can see. He did no good to my cow with the caked bag, two years ago. And his. "When do we land?". "And when he doesn't have any?". "In Havnor, years ago, I was in servitude. Those who freed me told me about a place where there are no masters, and the rule of Serriadh is remembered, and the arts are honored. I have been looking for that place, that island, seven years." and the last line of the first stanza: It took him six more days to get through the big herds in the eastern marshes. The last two days he spent riding out to scattered groups of cattle that had wandered up towards the feet of the mountain. Many of them were not infected yet, and he could protect them. The hinny carried him bareback and made the going easy. But there was nothing left for him to eat. When he rode back to the village he was light-headed and weak-kneed. He took a long time getting home from Alder's stable, where he left the hinny. Emer greeted him and scolded him and tried to make him eat, but he explained that he could not eat yet. "As I stayed there in the sickness, in the sick fields, I felt sick. After a while I'll be able to eat again," he explained. buttonless jacket. Her mother, Tangle, made a good living by curing and healing, bone-knitting and ascetics among humans, some dragons are greedy for shining things, gold, jewels; one was Yevaud. "We have to finish the work here," he told her, and she looked at him mildly. All animals were patient, but the patience of the horse kind was wonderful, being freely given. Dogs were loyal, but there was more of obedience in it. Dogs were hierarchs, dividing the world into lords and commoners. Horses were all lords. They agreed to collude. He remembered walking among the great, plumed feet of cart horses, fearless. The comfort of their breath on his head. A long time ago. He went to the pretty hinny and talked to her, calling her his dear, comforting her so that she would not be lonely. Away from the lanterns of the party it was dark, but she knew the way in the dark. He was there. The willows had grown, these two years. There was only a little space to sit among the green shoots and the long, falling leaves. in himself for his mastery of them. So, after the Archmage Nemmerle had given him his name, the Old Speech, or Language of the Making, with which Segoy created the islands of Earthsea at the beginning of time, is presumably an infinite language, as it names all things. My teacher had no staff, Dulse thought, and at the same moment thought, He wants his staff from me. Gontish oak, from the hands of a Gontish wizard. Well, if he earns it I'll make him one. If he can keep his mouth closed. And I'll leave him my lore-books. If he can clean out a henhouse, and understand the Glosses of Danemer, and keep his mouth closed. 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. pure stand like the Big Grove, the heart of his chestnut kingdom. In time, of course. Oak and in Gont Port, and Dulse had sent Silence down instead, and there he had stayed. "Well, that won't do," said the stranger pleasantly. "I can't be bringing on a birth untimely. Is." She took bird form. Osprey, they said. Didn't expect that from a girl so young. Gone before they knew it. again reached out her hand, to place her palm flat against a metal plate on a door, and entered. asked around a bit. The father, a longshoreman, had died in the big earthquake, when Silence would of his wits with the dull life at Westpool, and was never slow to take a risk. He rode up the hill. "What's up?" said Kurrenkarmerruk. "I've been reading about dragons. Not paying attention. But all was leaping up and down, a frog? a toad? a big cricket? He went out into the garden and came up. behind them emerged majestically slow, huge surfaces filled with people, like flying stations. As he left the battlefield it began to rain, and he saw his enemy's true name written in raindrops. bade the islands be. "Hu-hu-hu," said the owl, under her window, and then it said, "Darkrose!" Startled from her. "Irian of Way," the Summoner said in his deep, clear voice, "that there may be peace and order.," "The wizard let you visit home?". There are different kinds of knowledge, after all. immediate advantage without thought for what followed after. They brought drought and storm. but by force and fire. Their great ships filled Thwil Bay, their hordes burned and looted, their. "Speak when I let you," the wizard said. "Where is the man?". He had never told Ogion anything about his first teacher, a sorcerer of no fame, even in Gont, and perhaps of ill fame. There was some mystery or shame connected with Ard. Though he was talkative, for a wizard, Heleth was silent as a stone about some things. Ogion, who respected silence, had never asked him about his teacher. bright-colored plastic, advertised, sold, broken, junked, replaceable, interchangeable. King needed some diversions. The Patterner never came to her much before noon, so she had the mornings free. She was used to way in that great other kitchen long ago. But since he had been traveling about in Earthsea he had in magic. Since the Kargs did not practice wizardry as the Hardic peoples understood it, Intathin. "If you ask me to, I'll talk," the young man said, so earnest, so willing to deny his whole nature. these festivals, and, perhaps, in the performance of spells of magic. "What brought you here, Azver?" the Namer asked. "I've often thought of asking you. A long, long king. Roke ruled in the kings' stead." He had not planned or intended any such adventure, but crazy as it was, it suited him better the more he thought about it. The prospect of spending the long grey winter at Westpool sank his spirits like a stone. There was nothing here for him except the girl Dragonfly, who had come to fill his thoughts. Her massive, innocent strength had defeated him absolutely so far, but he did what she pleased in order to have her do at last what he pleased, and the game, he thought, was worth playing. If she ran away with him, the game was as good as won. As for the joke of it, the notion of actually getting her into the School on Roke disguised as a man, there was little chance of pulling it off, but it pleased him as a gesture of disrespect to all the piety and pomposity of the Masters and their toadies. And if somehow it succeeded, if he could actually get a woman through that door, even for a moment, what a sweet revenge it would be! The Doorkeeper bowed his head a little. A very faint smile made crescent curves in his cheeks. He stood aside. "Come in, daughter," he said. But something else was occupying me. I sat half supine, my legs

stretched out,.Her use-name had been Flag, the blue iris of the springs. Her mother and aunt called her Flag when.he fought against but could not shake off. He thought of the Summoner's eyes, and then it was that.He told Birch that he had received a sending from his teacher on Roke, the Master Hand, and must go at once, on what business he could not say, of course, but it should not take long once he was there; a half-month to go, another to return; he would be back well before the Fallows at the latest. He must ask Master Birch to provide him an advance on his salary to pay for ship-passage and lodging, for a wizard of Roke should not take advantage of people's willingness to give him whatever he needed, but pay his way like an ordinary man. As Birch agreed with this, he had to give Ivory a purse for his journey. It was the first real money he had had in his pocket for years: ten ivory counters carved with the Otter of Shelieth on one side and the Rune of Peace on the other in honour of King Lebannen. "Hello, little namesakes," he told them when he was alone with them. "You and the cheese money will get along nicely."..strong in her fear and willful in her vileness. She holds him back and hides him deep, fearing to."You must find the true womb, the bellybag of the Earth, that holds the pure moonseed. Did you.life. But this gift, this undeniable gift t the rock hovering, the unblown fife -- Well, it would."I should sap? Sap yourself!"..He did not ask if Otter was picking up any sign of the ore; he did not ask whether he was seeking the ore or pretending to seek it. Otter himself could not have answered the question. In these aimless wanderings the knowledge of the underground would enter him as it used to do, and he would try to close himself off to it. "I will not work in the service of evil!" he told himself. Then the summer air and light would soften him, and his tough, bare soles would feel the dry grass under them, and he would know that under the roots of the grass a stream crept through dark earth, seeping over a wide ledge of rock layered with sheets of mica, and under that ledge was a cavern, and in its walls were thin, crimson, crumbling beds of cinnabar... He made no sign. He thought that maybe the map of the earth underfoot that was forming in his mind could be put to some good use, if he could find how to do it..moving lights blazed out of narrow vertical apertures hanging low above the ground. I could not.ONE.to the Port of Havnor in disguise and coming away with four books from an ancient royal library.. "Di thought it up," Rose said.."Best come away," said the Master Windkey, his face set and sombre, his keen eyes troubled. He set off back to the School, and they straggled after him, arguing and debating in frustration and anger.."This way, this way," Gelluk murmured. "No harm will come to you." They came to the doorway of the roaster tower, a narrow passage in the three-foot-thick walls. He took Otter's arm, for the young man hesitated..file:///D:/Documents%20and%20Settings/harry/...0%20LeGuin%20-%20Tales%20From%20Earthsea.txt (67 of 111) [2/5/2004 12:33:31 AM].they sat side by side dangling their legs over the tailgate, with six great halftuns of wine.ate it..was years ago, years ago, in the sunlight. It was raining. He had fed the chickens, and come back.of place. They were worshiped at the site and at home altars with offerings of flowers, oil, food.,changing," he mumbled at last.."Come on then, my love," the young woman said, not to him. The mare followed her trustfully. They set off up the rough path round the hillside to an old stone and brick stableyard, empty of horses, inhabited only by nesting swallows that swooped about over the roofs calling their quick gossip..to walk blindly forward through this darkness, in the rustling brash. Had I imagined it thus, ten."I swear that. . ."..Mostly the pupil was supposed to be with the Master, or studying the lists of names in the room where the lorebooks and wordbooks were, or asleep. Hemlock was a stickler for early abed and early afoot. But now and then Diamond had an hour or two free. He always went down to the docks and sat on a pierside or a waterstair and thought about Darkrose. As soon as he was out of the house and away from Master Hemlock, he began to think about Darkrose, and went on thinking about her and very little else. It surprised him a little. He thought he ought to be homesick, to think about his mother. He did think about his mother quite often, and often was homesick, lying on his cot in his bare and narrow little room after a scanty supper of cold pea-porridge -- for this wizard, at least, did not live in such luxury as Golden had imagined. Diamond never thought about Darkrose, nights. He thought of his mother, or of sunny rooms and hot food, or a tune would come into his head and he would practice it mentally on the harp in his mind, and so drift off to sleep. Darkrose would come to his mind only when he was down at the docks, staring out at the water of the harbor, the piers, the fishing boats, only when he was outdoors and away from Hemlock and his house..Note on dates: Many islands have their own local count of years. The most widely used dating.She said nothing, laying out what was in the basket, dividing it for the two of them..THE KINGS OF HAVNOR.commerce with any other people. "We can't save them," Ember said. "We couldn't save ourselves."..quick and fierce. "We are to meet to uphold the Rule of Roke. And so to choose an Archmage."..Instinctively I rubbed my hand on my trousers. Now I was standing in front of that room filled.over me, laughing, chattering, babbling. . . I was delivered by a sleep like death; in it, even time.voice spoke in his mind, stronger and clearer than Gelluk's voice and spells. Through her eyes and.passengers to Roke. And facing the west Ivory felt a little hollow at the pit of his stomach, for.another world..this little scene? The other passengers paid no attention to her. For the hundredth time I was.to take. "This way," he said, falling into step beside her, and after a while, "This way," and so.hands, burned his tongue away when he tried to speak.."And I in my tower," said the Namer. "And you, Herbal, and the Doorkeeper, are in the trap, in the.At the stream Serrenen, where it runs within the north wall of the city, the midwife gave Otter.the law?"..to other men than women and children are. We might have fifty witches here and they'll pay little.This was a contest, then, a foe worth fighting! Early took a step backward and then, smiling, raised both his arms outward and up, very slowly but steadily, unstayed by anything the other man could do..The idea of doing harm troubled her, but the idea of danger had not entered her mind. She found it inconceivable. "I'll be all right," she said. "So the Namer, and you - and the Doorkeeper?"..old. There was no government but that of the women of the Hand, for it was their spells that had."The lords of war despise scholars and schoolmasters," said Medra..family cautiously imitated their wizard and filled their cups from it and tasted it, it was a.defend the heaps of stones and earth they had piled over their

dead..lengthened a day by five hours, though he could not, as he had sworn to do, stop the sun at noon."From a distance, you seemed so. . ." She was unable to find the word.."No. I'll write him," Diamond said, in his new, level voice..There are some who say that the school had its beginnings far differently. They say that Roke used to be ruled by a woman called the Dark Woman, who was in league with the Old Powers of the earth. They say she lived in a cave under Roke Knoll, never coming into the daylight, but weaving vast spells over land and sea that compelled men to her evil will, until the first Archmage came to Roke, unsealed and entered the cave, defeated the Dark Woman, and took her place..of Earthsea.control, was to ask him. "What is your name?" he said, watching Otter intently..me through half-closed eyes: myself! I folded the paper in two and the plastic specter vanished. I."Not for the same reasons as you," she said, "but I still want to. And we came all this way. And.then, before the dragon Yevaud despoiled it. Wherever Medra had gone until then, he had found the.from varying widely or from being lost altogether; but the songs and histories that are part of.A few times, sitting on the waterstairs, the dirty harbor water sloshing at the next step down, the yells of gulls and dockworkers wreathing the air with a thin, ungainly music, he shut his eyes and saw his love so clear, so close, that he reached out his hand to touch her. If he reached out his hand in his mind only, as when he played the mental harp, then indeed he touched her. He felt her hand in his, and her cheek, warm-cool, silken-gritty, lay against his mouth. In his mind he spoke to her, and in his mind she answered, her voice, her husky voice saying his name, "Diamond".least, did not live in such luxury as Golden had imagined. Diamond never thought about Darkrose,.Otter a little cinnabar in a bucket, brownish red clots and crumbs. Shadows leapt across the earth.Losen, a sea-pirate who called himself King of the Inmost Sea, was then the chief warlord in the.East Fields," the young man said..becomes elegant, and what everybody knows is true turns out to be what some people used to think..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?".two mulatto women in parrot-green furs, ruffled like feathers -- apparently, that sort of bird style.They came forward on their knees, face to face, their arms straight down and their hands joined. They kissed each other all over their faces. To Rose's lips Diamond's face was smooth and full as a plum, with just a hint of prickliness above the lip and jawline, where he had taken to shaving recently. To Diamond's lips Rose's face was soft as silk, with just a hint of grittiness on one cheek, which she had rubbed with a dirty hand. They moved a little closer so that their breasts and bellies touched, though their hands stayed down by their sides. They went on kissing..shaped flowers nodding in the wind of morning..was becoming a good craftsman, even his father would admit that.. "There is."

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