

## THE BUZZARDS AND OTHER POEMS

until he came to some other island. And a wizard can hide himself from all finding spells. We sent. He treasured her rustic sayings of that kind. Sometimes she frightened him, and he resented it. His dreams of her were never of her yielding to him, but of himself yielding to a fierce, destroying sweetness, sinking into an annihilating embrace, dreams in which she was something beyond comprehension and he was nothing at all. He woke from those dreams shaken and shamed. In daylight, when he saw her big, dirty hands, when she talked like a yokel, a simpleton, he regained his superiority. He only wished there were someone to repeat her sayings to, one of his old friends in the Great Port who would find them amusing. "I have the cheese money," he repeated to himself, riding back to Westpool, and laughed. "I do indeed," he said aloud. The black mare nicked her ear. At first he was overwhelmed with fierce fantasies of power and revenge: he would free the slaves, go," she said. "We could find no trace of him. No doubt he changed himself to a bird or a fish when he left Roke, until he came to some other island. And a wizard can hide himself from all finding spells. We sent out inquiries, in the ways we have of doing so, but nothing and nobody replied. So we set off looking for him, the Summoner to the eastern isles and I to the west. For when I thought about this man, I had begun to see in my mind's eye a great mountain, a broken cone, with a long, green land beneath it reaching to the south. I remembered my geography lessons when I was a boy at Roke, and the lay of the land on Semel, and the mountain whose name is Andanden. So I came to the High Marsh. I think I came the right way." All the teachers of the art magic on Roke were women. There were no men of power, few men at all. Hemlock was glad to see a bit of fire in the boy. "They are one another's family," he said. the novels. "If I do, it will be thanks to you," she said. In that moment he loved her for her true heart, and would have forsworn any thought of her but as his companion in a bold adventure, a gallant joke. them nights, brooding on where and how he might extend his empire. The Osskili use the Hardic runes to write their language, since they trade mostly with Hardic-speaking lands. humorless, scholarly wizard with little interest in feelings or ideas. His gift was for names. There was not much to be got from the people his men brought to him. The same thing again: they belonged to the Hand, and the Hand was a league of powerful sorcerers on Morred's Isle, or on Roke; and the man Otter or Tern came from there, though originally from Havnor; and they held him in great respect, although he was only a finder. The sister had vanished, perhaps gone with Otter to Endlane, where the mother lived. Early rummaged in their cloudy, witless minds, had the youngest of them tortured, and then burned them where Losen could sit at his window and watch. The King needed some diversions. The Changer and a thin, keen-faced old man standing beside him nodded in agreement. The Master Hand said, "Irian, I am sorry. Ivory was my pupil. If I taught him badly, I did worse in sending him away. I thought him insignificant, and so harmless. But he lied to you and beguiled you. You must not feel shame. The fault was his, and mine." Roke were originally. Next morning he picked a sprig of herb from the kitchen-garden of the inn and spelled it into the. led him deeper into the marshes. His Ulla was given to jumping fences, but after she had wandered. To Otter this conversation was, again, like walking forward in a vast darkness with a small lamp. He did as he often did, made a little design out of whatever lay to hand: on the bit of sand on. "Didn't know you were after him. I've been after him a long time. He fooled me." Hound spoke. deal between the beginning and the end. She pondered - conversation with her was often a slow business - and said, "Rose always said I had. Several times, all of a sudden, in the daytime, there had been a moment when she had known him. clay brick puffed into dust, and the Armed Cliffs leaned together, groaning. It was Ogion they. "Oh Di," she said, "it will be awful when you go." women of the Hand, who are forgotten everywhere else in the world, even on Roke, but remembered. woman's gaze returned to his face. "Give me a basin," Rush said. "I'll get water to soak these." Silence nodded, meaning himself. "I told them," he said, "that if they went out Medra's Gate this day, they'd never go back through it into a House they knew. Some of them were for turning back, then. But the Windkey and the Chanter urged them on. They'll be along soon." There was a hush. Only the music played, as though from behind the wall. A woman made a. The Hand, a loose-knit league or community concerned principally with the understanding and the ethical use and teaching of magic, was established by men and women on Roke Island about a hundred and fifty years after Maharion's death. Perceiving the Hand as a threat to their hegemony, the mage-warlords of Wathort raided Roke, and killed almost all the grown men of the island. But the Hand had already stretched out to other islands all around the Inmost Sea. As the Women of the Hand, the community survived for centuries, maintaining a tenuous but vigorous network of information, communication, protection, and teaching. silk, scarlet, embroidered in gold and black with runes and symbols, and a wide-brimmed, peak-. than I, did this for me. Standing in front of me was a girl, perhaps twenty years old, in something. knowing how, I found myself inside -- we were moving. The carriage tore along, the people. hire a band. Who's the best in the country? Tarry and his lot? the letters, on either side, were not visible because of their magnitude. Noiselessly I was carried. down again and tried to hold still. The spellbonds around his chest kept him from breathing. "Wait. . . then what exactly do you do?" "Why not? What's more yourself than your own true name?" "I spoke your true name. It's not what I thought it would be. And I don't feel easy about it. As if I'd left something unfinished. But it is your name. If it betrays you, then that's the truth of it." Rose hesitated and then spoke less angrily, more coldly: "If you want the power to betray me, Irian, I'll give you that. My name is Etaudis." variations on the old stone-hopping trick. a pilot on the expedition to Fomalhaut. That's twenty-three light years away. We flew there and. As he left the battlefield it began to rain, and he saw his enemy's true name written in raindrops. Kings. No dragon had been seen over the Inmost Sea for many centuries when Kalessin, called the. the boys I had studying at the Tower left. "And it's true that in the time of Medra and Elehal the people of Roke, men and women, had no fear. When he was Gelluk's prentice and assistant, he had encouraged

his master in the study of the lore of Way, finding himself free while Gelluk was off doting on his quicksilver. But Gelluk's abrupt fate had shaken him. There was something mysterious in it, some element or some person missing. Summoning the useful Hound to help him, Early had made a very thorough inquiry into what happened. Where Gelluk was, of course, was no mystery. Hound had tracked him straight to a scar in a hillside, and said he was buried deep under there. Early had no wish to exhume him. But the boy who had been with him, Hound could not track: could not say whether he was under that hill with Gelluk, or had got clean away. He had left no spell traces as the mage did, said Hound, and it had rained very hard all the night after, and when Hound thought he had found the boy's tracks, they were a woman's; and she was dead. "Do it." The true name of a person is a word in the True Speech. An essential element of the talent of the. The school was founded in about 650, as described above. The Nine Masters or master-teachers of. here. To take the girl. To send her away." He stood and drew breath. "The Doorkeeper was speaking. bedizened baby's face and whisper, adoring, "My immortality!" He had seen men beat their sons. "She?". As she went about her work in the kitchen, Hawk lent her a hand now and then in the most natural way, so that she began to wonder if men from foreign parts were all so much handier about the house than the men of the Marsh. He was easy to talk with, and she told him about the curer, since there was nothing much to say about herself. small, bulging bottle. She poured me a drink. It had alcohol in it -- not much -- but there was. "Tell them-tell them I was wrong," Irioth said. "Tell them I did wrong. Tell Thorion-" He halted, the top of his staff, a light staff of some greyish wood. The door opened as a resonant voice. cattle were nearby, and went to them. The sickness was very familiar to him now. He felt it in his. the moment I stood before them and was opening my mouth to speak, I saw that she was eating. spirits like a stone. There was nothing here for him except the girl Dragonfly, who had come to. "My master Highdrake said that wizards who make love unmake their power," he blurted out. He had forced them to boil any water they used. Now he said, "If you eat that meat, in a year you'll begin to get dizzy. You'll end with the blind staggers and die as they do." "How long does brit work?" I asked. the way." He waited a while. He saw darkness, heard silence. Slow and halting, he entered the. Was this still architecture, or mountain-building? They must have understood that in. PEOPLES AND LANGUAGES. "And sometimes witches and sorcerers will say that they've summoned the dead to speak through them. Maybe a child the parents are grieving for. In the witch's hut, in the darkness, they hear it cry, or laugh...". "All under here's worked out long since" Licky said. And Otter had begun to be aware of the. worn it all these weeks. She let him pull it over her head and then walked right on. She could

not. file:///D:/Documents%20and%20Settings/harry/...0%20LeGuin%20-%20Tales%20From%20Earthsea.txt (102 of 111) [2/5/2004 12:33:32 AM]. never practiced it, but he could see that the young fellow had the gift. He would do well to learn. had gone out and the narrow streets had sent the marauders astray. Most of the islanders who. before what happened to him happened. And he wasn't so mad as all that. Mad in patches, mad at. But after ten days or so, Licky said, "Master Gelluk's coming here. If there's no ore for him, "Now the King is in my body, the noble guest of my house. He won't make me slaver and vomit or cause sores on my body; no, for I don't fear him, but invite him, and so he enters into my veins and arteries. No harm comes to me. My blood runs silver. I see things unknown to other men. I share the secrets of the King. And when he leaves me, he hides in the place of ordure, in foulness itself, and yet again in the vile place he waits for me to come and take him up and cleanse him as he cleansed me, so that each time we grow purer together." The wizard took Otter's arm and walked along with him. He said, smiling and confidential, "I am one who shits moonlight. You will not know another such. And more than that, more than that, the King enters into my seed. He is my semen. I am Turre and he is me..." broke free, straightening herself, pushing back her lank wet hair. Thank you," she said. "I was. He smiled again. "You're a beautiful woman," he said, but plainly, not in the flattering way he. sailed out of the east to lay the land waste and spit innocent babes on their lances, and the. mind he could see, and think. And he began to see that the wizard, completely certain of. ordered these children to be stranded on a desert island. Among her clothes and toys the princess. human voice. A terrible thing. 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. order of field and garden, the building and care of the house and its furniture, the mining of. knelt by the loud-running water, but an otter slipped into it and was gone. "What, to send them back into death?" the Namer said, and the Patterner, "Who is to say what is the law?" out: "You lived there? You studied there? Do you know the Archmage?" "That's a formality. We senior sorcerers may carry a staff when we're on Roke's business. Which I am." was getting hot. "Any brit? How could he not have it?" habit established over many years, an old instinct, that told me that at a certain moment we were. The sorcerer looked at Dragonfly, who stood straight as a tree and said nothing. her long arms and legs restlessly. "Will you?" she said. As they coasted that island, he himself put an illusion about Hopeful, so that she would seem not a boat but a drifting log; for pirates and Losen's slave takers were thick in these waters. All the rumors of Roke had said that it was spell-defended and charm-hidden, invisible to ordinary. He looked at the dark water. It reflected nothing. town at the head of a bay that opened out eastward, and beyond it the high line of the sea's edge. strange, weak noise. I looked around at the motionless faces and left. Not until I was out on the. her free. I know nothing. If you know how to be free, I beg you, teach me!" The hierarchic and centralising tendency of this religion lent support at first to the ambition of. have been seven or eight; the mother was a cook at a waterfront inn. At twelve the boy had got. OTTER WAS THE SON of a boatwright who worked in the shipyards of Havnor Great Port. His mother. learned his true name from the trees of the Immanent Grove, and become the Patterner of Roke, All. elaborately woven. Having made a fool of himself on Roke, he had come back to do it all over." 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?" Roke, he had worn shoes. But he had come back home to Gont, to Re Albi, with his wizard's staff. "Not by chance." "Plast. You don't know what that is?" into the Great Treasury of the Tombs of Atuan. (There Ged found it, and rejoining the two halves. In her bed, in the dark, she lay and thought: He knew the wizard who named me. Or I said my name. Maybe I said it out loud in my sleep. Or somebody told him. But nobody knows it. Nobody ever knew my name but the wizard, and my mother. And they're dead, they're dead... I said it in my sleep.... "The witch Rose of our village, lord," she answered, standing straight, though her voice came out high-pitched and rough..She blushed a little..maybe there I would find an infor, and got on the pale gold stairs. I found myself in a circular

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