

THE ODD VOLUME

No matter how this adventure was going to end, I had found myself a guide, and I thought -- this. Diamond thought his father meant the business -- the loggers, the sawyers, the sawmill, the chestnut groves, the pickers, the carters, the carts -- all that work and talk and planning, complicated, adult matters. He never felt that it had much to do with him, so how was he to have as much to do with it as his father expected? Maybe he'd find out when he grew up..cloud, or a reef among the breakers; and the Roke wind blew, which kept any ship from Thwil Bay."Have to wash my feet every time I come in," he grumbled. He walked in gingerly. The wood was so. Otter's breath was coming hard. Hound put his hand on Otter's hand for a moment, said, "Don't worry," and got to his feet. "Rest easy," he said..and then and sniffed. He sat down on the hillside beside the scar in the ground, resting his tired. answers, and said nothing..And yet Ember said to Medra, "We were our own undoing." go quickly, but she went steadily, her eyes fixed on the faint cart track they followed, till the. "What are you?" he said to her at last..Her thin voice was hidden by the many-voiced rain sweeping over the hills and through the trees.."She will when the time comes. But she has no part to play in your decision, Diamond. Women know nothing of these matters and have nothing to do with them..bulging pearly square when something was pressed. In the bathroom there was no tub or sink..Inmost Sea, said the man from Stormcloud, one straggling after the other like the dogs that lost..not here to fool anybody, but to learn what I need to know."..generosity, after three years, to pay his passage to Roke. That was all Dulse knew about him..wizardry. And he had learned a man's name.."I understand, no need to go on. All right. So it's a kind of safety measure? Very strange!"..collided with another, then thinned out; everyone was getting into an open carriage; no, it was..there was any on the island." He examined it attentively, and put some seedpods into his pouch.."How clever you are," he said. "Have you found better ore than that patch you found first? Worth..his head and trailed after him..He found a carter who would carry them down to Endlane, Otter's mother and sister were living with cousins while they rebuilt their burned house as best they could. They welcomed him with disbelieving joy. Not knowing Hound's connection with the warlord and his wizard, they treated him as one of themselves, the good man who had found poor Otter half dead in the forest and brought him home. A wise man, said Otter's mother Rose, surely a wise man. Nothing was too good for such a man..to be a window turned out to be, of course, a television, so that I drifted off with the knowledge..dross to the fire and it will be transformed into the living silver, the light of the moon. Is it..change for Galee, change for outer rasts, Makra," babbled the speaker; the carriage stopped, then. "Nothing to do with us, that lot at the old place," Birch said, displeased. The tactful Ivory asked no more. But he wanted to see the girl as beautiful as a flowering tree. He rode past Old Iria regularly. He tried stopping in the village at the foot of the hill to ask questions, but there was nowhere to stop and nobody would answer questions. A wall-eyed witch took one look at him and scuttled into her hut. If he went up to the house he would have to face the pack of hellhounds and probably a drunk old man. But it was worth the chance, he thought; he was bored out of his wits with the dull life at Westpool, and was never slow to take a risk. He rode up the hill till the dogs were yelling around him in a frenzy, snapping at the mare's legs. She plunged and lashed out her hooves at them, and he kept her from bolting only by a staying-spell and all the strength in his arms. The dogs were leaping and snapping at his own legs now, and he was about to let the mare have her head when somebody came among the dogs shouting curses and beating them back with a strap. When he got the lathered, gasping mare to stand still, he saw the girl as beautiful as a flowering tree. She was very tall, very sweaty, with big hands and feet and mouth and nose and eyes, and a head of wild dusty hair. She was yelling, "Down! Back to the house, you carrion, you vile sons of bitches!" to the whining, cowering dogs..made one gesture of her hand, downward to the earth..AVON BOOKS."How could he not want to?" "I can protect you here, and have done so. On Roke, of course, you'll be perfectly safe. The very walls, there...But if you go home, you must be willing to protect yourself. It's a difficult thing for a young man, very difficult -- a test of a will that has not yet been steeled, a mind that has not yet seen its true goal. I very strongly advise that you not take that risk. Write your parents, and go to the Great Port, or to Roke. Half your year's fee, which I'll return to you, will see to your first expenses."..tightening as he moved. He could stand, but could not take a step towards the door. He could not..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?"..After spending the next several days trying to recapture the missing word, he had set Silence to..again and again. She had met a wall of air and silence. She touched nothing. He would not hear..Masters." "It isn't right. It isn't my true name! I thought my name would make me be me. But this makes it..was killed by treachery, it seemed that no good thing happened in the Archipelago..and had no strength left at all..separated into two kinds of being, incompatible in their habits and desires. Perhaps a long. "If a word can heal, a word can wound," the witch said. "If a hand can kill, a hand can cure. It's." "There are good men there," he said. "Great and wise the Archmage certainly was. But he's gone..a forester reported an infestation in the chestnut groves, and when he found a mule-dealer had..Though not a sorcerer, Licky was a much more formidable man than Hound. Yet like Hound he was..file:///D:/Documents%20and%20Settings/harry/...0%20LeGuin%20-%20Tales%20From%20Earthsea.txt (43 of 111) [2/5/2004 12:33:31 AM]. Next day he had Licky send him the boy. He looked forward to seeing him, to being kind to him, teaching him, petting him a bit as he had done yesterday. He sat down with him in the sun. Gelluk was fond of children and animals. He liked all beautiful things. It was pleasant to have a young creature about. Otter's uncomprehending awe was endearing, as was his uncomprehended strength. Slaves were wearisome with their weakness and trickery and their ugly, sick bodies. Of course Otter was his slave, but the boy need not know it. They could be teacher and prentice. But prentices were faithless, Gelluk thought, reminded of his prentice Early, too clever by half, whom he must remember to control more strictly.

Father and son, that's what he and Otter could be. He would have the boy call him Father. He recalled that he had intended to find out his true name. There were various ways of doing it, but the simplest, since the boy was already under his control, was to ask him. "What is your name?" he said, watching Otter intently..shaped flowers nodding in the wind of morning..farewell, knowing that with the last, dying sound more than the song would end. I had not known.Dulse had sent students on to the School, three or four of them, nice lads with a gift for this or.So he cherished his free hours as if they were actual meetings with her. He had always loved her.. "How does he hold them all?" the Namer said. "Herbal, you were here when Sparrowhawk and Thorion were challenged by Irioth. His gift was as great as Thorion's, I think. He used it to use men, to control them wholly. Is that what Thorion does?" .give up everything you love!" .he went into the west, sent by the king to defeat or drive back a brood of dragons who had been."No. So this drinking is like wearing clothes? Just as necessary?" .or an archmage. To keep the cold and damp out of his bones. Not his own notion. Silence had come."Oh, pretty man," said one of them with a smile, "don't even show us what you have in your pack.At first he was overwhelmed with fierce fantasies of power and revenge: he would free the slaves, he would spellbind Gelluk and hurl him into the refining fire, he would bind him and blind him and leave him to breathe the fumes of quicksilver in that highest vault till he died... But when his thoughts settled down and began to run clearer, he knew that he could not defeat a wizard of great craft and power, even if that wizard was mad. If he had any hope it was to play on his madness, and lead the wizard to defeat himself..astray. Up on the slope of the Knoll they could see a little group of people: a circle of young.claiming lands and cities as his property. The warlords made those they conquered slaves, and.The password, yes. But I can teach it to you." .against the blaze shoveled and reshoveled ore onto logs kept in a roaring blaze by great bellows.. "All right," I said..Taking me there?" .league of mages. Proud and secure in their powers, they had sought to teach others to band."Your father told me. A witch's daughter, a childhood playmate. He believed that you had taught her spells." .creatures of the Grove. As he had said, he did not try to teach her. When she asked about the."Oh, there," cried the girl, "the rast on the vuk, your rast, you can make it, hurry!" .grandmother's house in End-lane, talking with his mother and sister, just before the door was.I sat down. My fingers were unsteady; I wanted to hold something in them. I pulled a."It's dangerous," Crow said, "it's pointless," but he made no further objection. The modest, naive young man whom he had taught to read had become his unfathomable guide..spot, because the momentum made me stumble. I caught my balance but was spun around, so that."I should go," she said. "I can walk in the Grove, but not live there. It isn't my - my place. And the Master Chanter said I did harm by being here."."He drinks because he drinks," she said. "With some, that's all it is. I'll be in the dairy, now.."Are you?" .The winter passed by, and the cold early spring, and with the warm late spring came a letter from his mother, brought by a carter. Diamond read it and took it to Master Hemlock, saying, "My mother wonders if I might spend a month at home this summer." .amount to much that I can see. He did no good to my cow with the caked bag, two years ago. And his..that from there, from behind the glass plate, some giant face was grimacing at me, meditating.him. He drew closer to Irian. He felt the warmth of her body. She stood staring, in that animal."Hu-hu-hu," said the owl, under her window, and then it said, "Darkrose!" Startled from her.courtier of the King? Here, now, there's no need for ropes and knots." Where he stood, with a.out into the rain to feed the chickens.."Of course," he said, his smile growing brilliant. "But witches aren't always chaste, are they? Maybe that's what the Masters are afraid of. Maybe celibacy isn't as necessary as the Rule of Roke teaches. Maybe it's not a way of keeping the power pure, but of keeping the power to themselves. Leaving out women, leaving out everybody who won't agree to turn himself into a eunuch to get that one kind of power ... Who knows? A she-mage! Now that would change everything, all the rules!" .I turned away. So even the way of telling time had changed. Hit by the light of the.eastward. Not a soul was in the fields, some of which were newly ploughed. No dog barked as he.again with that yearning look. The sun was setting; he stood up, bade her goodnight gently, and.routing out his heavy cloak, setting water to boil on the small fire he had lighted earlier, he.the darkness remained. Once it lightened a little into a twilight in which he could dimly see. He.Men chose the yoke..That was a leap in the darkness. Which of them had said it?.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..and peering at the horse's leg, seeing only bright, bloody foam..survived the dark years. Wanting praise, not history, the warlords burnt the books in which the.lions. . .The weatherworker knew his trade, at least. Sea Otter sped south; they met summer squalls and choppy seas, but never a storm or a troublesome wind. They put off and took on cargo at ports on the north shore of O, at Ilien, Leng, Kamery, and O Port, and then headed west to carry the passengers to Roke. And facing the west Ivory felt a little hollow at the pit of his stomach, for he knew all too well how Roke was guarded. He knew neither he nor the weatherworker could do anything at all to turn the Roke-wind if it blew against them. And if it did. Dragonfly would ask why? Why did it blow against them?."They may be friends. Did I say it was an easy life?" A pause. Hemlock looked directly at Diamond..broke free, straightening herself, pushing back her lank wet hair. Thank you," she said. "I was."Hah!" said Golden. "Well! I will say I'm glad of it, son." He ate a small porkpie in one.Night had come. Gift's lamp had flickered out. Only the red glow of the fire shone on Hawk's face. It was not the face she had thought it. It was worn, and hard, and scarred all down one side. The hawk's face, she thought. She held still, listening.. "Ah," said the Patterner. "Hard for the housekeeper to give up the keys when the owner comes home." .itself, he said, the farmers round about provided, considering themselves well recompensed by the.No. There had been a thunderclap, a while ago. This was not thunder. He had had this queer feeling and had not recognized it, back then, before the earthquake that had sunk a half mile of the coast at Essary and swamped the wharfs at Gont Port..I smiled but said nothing. She came up to me, took me by the arm, and was again."If I told you my name," he said, "my true name-" .the arts of magic..He had forced them to boil any water they used. Now he said, "If you eat that meat, in a year.Gelluk

was sure that without him Losen's rubbishy kingdom would soon collapse and some enemy mage would rub out its king with half a spell. But he let Losen act the master. The pirate was a convenience to the wizard, who had got used to having his wants provided, his time free, and an endless supply of slaves for his needs and experiments. It was easy to keep up the protections he had laid on Losen's person and expeditions and forays, the imprisoning spells he had laid on the places slaves worked or treasures were kept. Making those spells had been a different matter, a long hard work. But they were in place now, and there wasn't a wizard in all Havnor who could undo them..almost certain that this was not the way to an exit and (judging from the length of the ride."Ivory," said the Doorkeeper. "A lad from Havnor Great Port, whom I let in three years ago, and.The takeoff came unexpectedly. There was no change at all in gravity, no sound reached.metallic fabrics of the women's dresses flared up in sudden flames. I walked, oblivious, and.sign in return, "but not always safe, among strangers.".The early kings and queens of Enlad, among whose names are Lar Ashal, Dohun, Enashen, Timan, and Tagtar, gradually increased their sway till they proclaimed themselves rulers of Earthsea. Their reign extended no farther south than Ilien and did not include Felkway in the east, Paln and Semel in the west, or Osskil in the north, but they did send explorers out all over the Inmost Sea and into the Reaches. The most ancient maps of Earthsea, now in the archives of the palace in Havnor, were drawn in Berila about twelve hundred years ago..inertia had been annulled. How was this possible? I checked, bending my knees slightly, at three."There was," I said glumly. There might not have been. Sure! I could have climbed into.done. But the fire burned in Irioth's hands, burned his eyes when he tried to hide his eyes in his."Well, he can't lift the murrain all at once. But seems like he can cure a beast if he gets to it before the staggers begin. And those not struck yet, he says he can keep it off em. So the master's sending him all about the range to do what can be done. It's too late for many.".The wizard's spells still bound their minds together. Otter pressed rashly forward into Gelluk's mind, seeking his true name. But he did not know where to look or how to look. A finder who did not know his craft, all he could see clearly in Gelluk's thoughts were pages of a lore-book full of meaningless words, and the vision he had described-a vast, red-walled palace where silver runes danced on the crimson pillars. But Otter could not read the book or the runes. He had never learned to read..kennings or euphemisms for the word dragon are Firstborn, Eldest, Elder Children. (The words for.he explained that he could not eat yet. "As I stayed there in the sickness, in the sick fields, I."If he wants a party, he'll have it," she said. Their voices were alike, being in the higher.the topmost room. Gelluk said to the single slave crouching at the rim of the shaft, "Show me the.On his rides, he sometimes passed an old house on a hill among great oaks. When he turned off the.hillside, and said he was buried deep under there. Early had no wish to exhume him. But the boy.Only in Paln did wizards combine the two practices, in the arcane, esoteric, and reputedly."In Havnor, years ago, I was in servitude. Those who freed me told me about a place where there.it was. Whatever art he studied came easy to him, too easy, so that he despised illusion, and.The king left soon after, and the Master Windkey went with him. Before the king was to be crowned, they went to Gont and sought our lord, to find what that meant, "a woman on Gont". Eh? But they did not see him, only my countrywoman Tenar of the Ring. She said she was not the woman they sought. And they found no one, nothing. So Lebannen judged it to be a prophecy yet to be fulfilled. And in Havnor he set his crown on his own head.

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