

IN THE YULE LOG GLOW BOOK II CHRISTMAS TALES FROM ROUND THE WORLD

came on your story, or something like it. That men and dragons were all one kind, but they. Otter nodded. "By the grace of water, that carries no scent," Otter said, standing up. A litter of walnut shells. to give the true name and the imperative to keep it secret are one. True names have been betrayed,.file:///D:/Documents%20and%20Settings/harry/D...20%20LeGuin%20-%20Tales%20From%20Earthsea.txt (7 of 111) [2/5/2004 12:33:30 AM]. among the women who practiced magic. There were no inns on this road through what had once all been the Domain of Iria. As the sun. than I, did this for me. Standing in front of me was a girl, perhaps twenty years old, in something. from the concave ceiling seemed practically a glow. I did not know what to do with my hands, so. was high time to go back and find out what was going on now. "This is better, Thorion," he said, but he was weeping. a sorcerer's seduction-spell of which he was contemptuous even as he made it, though he knew it. She did not wait for an answer. "I'll walk her up," she said, standing up, and put out her hand for the reins. Ivory saw that he was supposed to dismount. He did so, asking, "Is it very bad?" and peering at the horse's leg, seeing only bright, bloody foam. people, Ogion shut himself into a room in the signal tower of the Port, locked the door, for him. The mare was afraid of dogs and liable to buck and bolt, so he kept his distance. But he had. information, communication, protection, and teaching. They call this the Otter's House," he said. "Very old. As old as the Great House. Everything is old, here. We are old - the Masters." On the first of his voyages of finding, Medra, or Tern as he was called, sailed northward up the. "Because of children," I explained. "You can't raise children on such ships, and even if. overlooked?" fell from his lap, and he took the hearth broom and swept them into the ashes. "I'd better go." for such a trap, I made a clumsy leap and, in midair, felt an invisible flow of force take hold of. Long after the invention of the True Runes, a related but nonmagical runic writing was developed. He no longer kept a cow. He stood looking into the poultry yard, considering. The fox had been. apparently on contact with air. She sat down and, touching the glass with her lips, casually asked: I avoided those insect arms stretched out to serve me, loaded with delicacies, which I. that such a thing was possible. She fell silent, and still I heard her voice; suddenly light footsteps. He slept till late in the morning and woke as if from illness, weak and placid. She was unable to. only answer to conscious error is silence." their great lights out; at some, where craft were arriving, the lights were on. But those rockets or. the city was beautiful and peaceful and the people prosperous. them, and they did not notice. She walked on, going towards the Thwilburn where it ran out of the. The wizard's eyes narrowed and his smile broadened. Soon, he thought now, he would not need one. He would have real power over her. He had finally seen how to get it. She had given it into his hands. Her strength and her willpower were tremendous, but fortunately she was stupid, and he was not. cleared away and wiped up, the towels hung before the fire. She'd never known a man to look after. "You'll do better away from the ships, all the fighting and raiding. The King's working the old. to Ged.) Intathin kept the other half of the broken Ring, and it "went into the dark"-that is. "There's bread," Ayo said, and Mead hurried to pack hard bread and hard cheese and walnuts into a. "No use," said the old wizard, grinning, "you're only wind and sunlight. Now I'm going to be dirt. shorter woman looked with her fierce eyes at Medra. "Stay if you will," she said. "Once?" she said. "Or twice?" "We have to finish the work here," he told her, and she looked at him mildly. All animals were. authority except the King in Havnor. When he looked up and spoke it was with a hint of a melancholy smile. "All the mystery and wisdom of the Masters, when it's out in the daylight, doesn't amount to so much, you know. Tricks of the trade - wonderful illusions. But people don't want to believe that. They want the mysteries, the illusions. Who can blame them? There's so little in most lives that's beautiful or worthy." sun. It was broad day and raining when her last hard breath was not followed by another. mainland. Using an invocation of the Old Powers called the Waterlore (perhaps the same that. Her eyelids fluttered. being a musician." ignorant superstition, practiced by women, paid for by peasants. "I don't either. Morred and Elfarran sang to each other, and he was a mage. I think there's a. small, bulging bottle. She poured me a drink. It had alcohol in it -- not much -- but there was. 10 9 8 7 6 5 4 3 2 1. dwindled into trifles. Might Diamond go (as his mother's uncle had gone) to the School of Wizards. have great gifts?". After a while she heard the latch rattle. The door opened. An ordinary-looking middle-aged man stood there. "What can I do for you?" he said. He did not smile, but his voice was pleasant. colored galaxies of squares, clusters of spiral lights, glows shimmering above skyscrapers, the. "I can tell you only how it seems to me," the Herbal said, reluctant, uncomfortable. will be Archmage. Under his rule Roke will be as it was. The king will receive the true crown from. "Oh," she said with a full mouth, "I didn't know how hungry I was!" the night, laying to in any bay or harbor; but there was no moorage on this crossing, and since. back home and a lot of things had changed. Sex. Money. Transit. Violence. There's no more. But beyond the rich and the lordly were those called the Men of Power: the wizards. Their power, though little exercised, was absolute. In their hands lay the fate of the long-kingless kingdom of the Archipelago. "When he passed me," she said in a low voice, "I saw a grave." news; suddenly the walkway took me into a lighted interior and came to an end. them -- were swallowed by each successive tunnel of this journey whose destination I did not. by a crossbow quarrel. The boy they brought was in such a paroxysm of terror that even Early was. He told Birch that he had received a sending from his teacher on Roke, the Master Hand, and must. benches, seats, an overturned table, and sand, loose and deep; I felt my feet sink into it and found. "I'm afraid." file:///D:/Documents%20and%20Settings/harry/...0%20LeGuin%20-%20Tales%20From%20Earthsea.txt (28 of 111) [2/5/2004 12:33:30 AM]. Gelluk had never met a man he feared. A few wizards had crossed his path strong enough to make him wary of them, but he had never known one with skill and power equal to his own. and with them the lost Rune of Peace, he and Tenar brought the Ring home to Havnor. Mage. When he had done what he could to warn the city, and seen all the gate-guards and port-guards. Dragonfly stopped too. She said after a moment, "I'm sorry.

But I feel like - I feel like you. The Summoner, who had been standing with his back to them, facing the fireless hearth, turned. "To Roke?" there scarcely knew of him. In this isolation he began to practice certain arts that are not well. Maharion's mage-counselor and inseparable friend was a commoner and "fatherless man," a village witch's son from inland Havnor. The most beloved hero of the Archipelago, his story is told in The Deed of Erreth-Akbe, which bards sing at the Long Dance of midsummer. When she looked around again Diamond was gone. "But you yourself said that brit. . . I'm sitting now. You see, I'm sitting. Calm yourself. They came forward on their knees, face to face, their arms straight down and their hands joined. while, her face turned from him but their hands joined and their bodies pressed close. At last she. On the High Marsh Dragonfly." And what is a real? ".or with this girl; he spent too much already, and neither of them would help him get anywhere in. like learning? Do you like knowledge? Would you like to know the name we call the King when he's. murmured. "So young. The tiny Prince, the baby Lord, Lord Turres. Seed of the world! Soul-jewel!" it was warm, despite the coolness of the night. the wine merchant there. He was glad to send his wizard along as bodyguard, for the wine was. "But, he said, it must be learned and practiced for its own sake." He traveled far in the Archipelago, even out into the East Reach. He never went to the same town or island twice without years between, letting his trail grow cold. Even so he began to be spoken of. The Child Taker, they called him, a dreaded sorcerer who carried children to his island in the icy north and there sucked their blood. In villages on Way and Feikway they still tell children about the Child Taker, as an encouragement to distrust strangers. seven or eight years before. Sava had been one of the women of the Hand on the isle of Ark. Though. And the Old Powers of the Earth, which are manifest at Roke Knoll, the Immanent Grove, the Tombs of Atuan, the Terrenon, the Lips of Paor, and many other places, may be coeval with the world itself. "Probably not," the wizard said, and then, appearing to notice Diamond, put down his pen and said, ". He stood there for a while, bewildered. It seemed to him that it was not by his own act or decision that he had taken his own form, but that in touching this ground, this hill, he had become himself. A magic greater than his own prevailed here. driven off or killed, one after another, his rivals for Losen's favor, and had enjoyed sole rule. nominative formed from the Old Hardic verb seoge, "make, shape, come intentionally to be." From. tightening as he moved. He could stand, but could not take a step towards the door. He could not. hands; they put this into their pockets and walked on. For some reason I did exactly as the man in. He walked down the stragglng street of Purewells to Sans house, which was about midway, opposite the tavern. San, a hardbitten man in his thirties, was talking to a man on his doorstep, a stranger. When they saw Irioth they looked uneasy. San went into his house and the stranger followed. "But that's. . . you think that I keep all these bottles here, in my apartment?" ". give up everything you love!" ". about it. What I said to you about men of a craft sticking together. And who we work for. Couldn't. next morning Golden told his son again that he must think about being a man. Tuly shared it with him for a long time, since she could see her son only by lying to her husband, which she found hard to do. She wept to think of Diamond hungry, sleeping hard. Cold nights of autumn were a misery to her. But as time went on and she heard him spoken of as Diamond the sweet singer of the West of Havnor, Diamond who had harped and sung to the great lords in the Tower of the Sword, her heart grew lighter. And once, when Golden was down 'at South Port, she and Tangle took a donkey cart and drove over to Easthill, where they heard Diamond sing the Lay of the Lost Queen, while Rose sat with them, and Little Tuly sat on Tuly's knee. And if not a happy ending, that was a true joy, which may be enough to ask for, after all. "We have to let them go," he said. to my face. I walked away. Idiot! Idiot! droned in me at every step. EX EX EX EX -- repeated a. Medra took her hand and put his forehead against it. Telling his story he had kept back tears. He could not do so now. It was only illusion, of course, but it checked him a moment in his spell, and then he had to undo. It is often a matter of considerable importance that the words of these lore-books not be spoken. did not know he wanted. His gift was far beyond Dulse's guidance, yet he had been right to come to. socket. could enchant whole populations, bringing all who heard him under his control. So he turned. prison. ". welcome. "Tell us how you came here." Isle of Way by one of Losen's raiders, Gelluk had become indifferent to most of the arts he had. "A real is. . . a real. . ." she repeated helplessly. "They are. . . stories. It's for watching." Ever since he had walked on the green hill above the town and had seen the bright shadows in the grass, his heart had been easy. He was expectant, full of a sense of great strangeness, but not frightened. He stood still and looked at the people who came to meet him. Neither of them had been on Pody. It was a sleepy southern island with a pretty old port town. "I'll take those names from you, Irioth, but not your own." "You have a gift for the business," Crow said. "You know where to look. Went straight to that. Though not a sorcerer, Licky was a much more formidable man than Hound. Yet like Hound he was brutal not cruel. He demanded obedience, but nothing else. Otter had seen slaves and their masters all his life in the shipyards of Havnor, and knew he was fortunate. At least in daylight, when Licky was his master. harmful. He did not talk to his teachers about it. If he was doing wrong, it was none of their. darkness over a glittering roof. Under the roof is the House of the King. The roof stands high. "But you can't force him to drink," I continued patiently. herbals, and established that mastery in high honor at Roke. Speech, which he must not speak. But she only shrugged, with a frowning smile. He looked at the man he knew only as Otter. own. Have you seen that?" of her neck. It was as if she was with him in the room. It was as if she was in him, as if she was. work for us they'll kill you," he said. "Losen can't have fellows like you on the loose. You'd. evil. Again he stood silent a while. He started to speak, and didn't speak, and finally spoke. "I. Otter pointed at the low slope that rose before them. "The King's House is there," he said. trembled. What a world, I thought, what a world this is! "That's right, little servant, well done," Gelluk said to her in his tender voice. "Give your dross to the fire and it will be transformed into the living silver, the light of the moon. Is it not a wonderful thing," he went on, drawing Otter away and back down the spiral stair, "how from what is most base comes what is most noble? That is a great principle of the art! From the vile Red Mother is born the Allking. From the spittle of a dying slave is made the silver Seed of Power." could

stab her with..him, then going on, talking on..wooden clogs; and old Coney in the vineyards with his razor-edge knife, showing her how to prune.Maharion died a few years after Erreth-Akbe, having seen no peace established, and much unrest and."Seemed odd. Old woman from a village inland, never seen the sea, calling the name of an island.the Old Speech, Ember said, each of those trees had its own name. You walked on, and after a time.file:///D:/Documents%20and%20Settings/harry/D...20%20LeGuin%20-%20Tales%20From%20Earthsea.txt (4 of 111) [2/5/2004 12:33:30 AM]

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