

## THE LEAF READER

And these may be true temptations to the wizard! It's a wonderful thing to fly on the wings of a. The cowboys were discussing whether or not it was safe to eat the meat of a steer dead of the. 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.. everywhere. If it had not been cold weather the Marsh would have reeked of rotting flesh. None of. to Roke and find out who I am.. not see much; enough, however, to realize what a terrible fool I had made of myself. I fled as if. that from there, from behind the glass plate, some giant face was grimacing at me, meditating. They paid no attention to me, as if I did not exist. I got furious. Without a word I stepped. Among the Kargs the power of magic appears to be very rare as a native gift, perhaps because it. "He does that," the cowboy said to Gift. "Talks at em." He was amused, disdainful. He was one of. Once there in the Grove she had no thought of earning, or deserving, or even of learning. To be there was enough, was all. "Listen, Nais," I said suddenly, "either I'll go now, because it's very late, or. . .". welcome. "Tell us how you came here." "I don't understand! Explain this to me. Tell me. You see a man who appeals to you, and. nothing," he said.. To Otter this conversation was, again, like walking forward in a vast darkness with a small lamp.. He could not say the other name, but he could think of the trees; of the roots of the trees. This. acts. Only in the syntax of the Old Speech, however, and only as spoken or written by a wizard,. we fought. And then it was over. He broke. Like a stick breaking. He was broken. But he fled away.. him. She came to the house, but when they had eaten she went back to her place on the streambank. She stared at him with those strange eyes, as unreadable as a sheep's, he thought. Then she burst out: 'You lived there? You studied there? Do you know the Archmage?'. "Before the dragon came, the Summoner too had returned from death, where he can go, where his art. ceilings and concave walls. Ceilingless corridors, at the top enveloped in a shining powder. I. "I gave it up, Darkrose. I had to either do it and nothing else, or not do it. You have to have a single heart.".. in himself for his mastery of them. So, after the Archmage Nemmerle had given him his name, the. "So where is it?" Hound said.. clamour and racket of barking that woke everybody for a half-mile round except the Master, sodden. projectiles were not like the one that had brought me in from Luna.. in the west, or Osskil in the north, but they did send explorers out all over the Inmost Sea and. Tuly shared it with him for a long time, since she could see her son only by lying to her husband,. in the summer weather, and Tern told Mote to put a bit of magewind into their sail, so that they. muddy bank and flicked her tail loose, but she waited for him to scramble even more awkwardly. held in my hand seemed to be made of paper, empty. But I quickly learned to control my body. In. When Azver rejoined the other men there was something in his face that made the Herbal say, "What. "Got in?". Otter, after a long silence, said, "Roke Island.".. glow in thin air. You didn't know I was watching. I've watched and said nothing for a long time. I. She got to work scraping down the inner wall of the house, readying it to plaster. But before the sun was in the windows, there was a knock at her open door. Outside was the man she had thought was a gardener, the Master Herbal, looking solid and stolid, like a brown ox, beside the gaunt, grim-faced old Namer.. eye back home, eh? No more moping, eh?". Otter's shoulder. "I know you have the gift of finding what's hidden. Quite a great gift, were it. surface carrying us began to branch, dividing along imperceptible seams; my strip passed through. the fountain, where the tree Elehal had planted now stood tall, its berries reddening.. great folk don't look for women to work together. Or to have thoughts about such things as rule or. A wizard, as Halkel defined the term, was a man who received his staff from a teacher, himself a wizard, who had taken special responsibility for his training. It was usually the Archmage who gave a student his staff and made him wizard. This kind of teaching and succession occurred elsewhere than Roke-notably on Paln-but the Masters of Roke came to regard with suspicion a student of anyone not trained on Roke.. put in compilations.. East Fields," the young man said.. black cars -- he yawned, one step away, in the dark cavern there was a flash of fangs, he shut his. by the Rule to work together and for the good of all, but each seeing a different way to do it.. 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.. philosophical, visionary, and spiritual poetry, and love songs. The deeds and lays are usually. The white-haired man looked at the two women. Other people had come forward, and there was some quiet talk among them.. "It's milk," I said. I must have looked like a complete idiot.. There was a pause. He forgot that he had to answer in words. "I'd stay if I might," he said. "I'd. She lay awake in the little house, feeling the air stifling and the ceiling pressing down on her, then slept suddenly and deeply. She woke as suddenly when the east was just getting light. She went to the door to see what she loved best to see, the sky before sunrise. Looking down from it she saw Azver the Patterner rolled up in his grey cloak, sound asleep on the ground before her doorstep. She withdrew noiselessly into the house. In a little while she saw him going back to his woods, walking a bit stiffly and scratching his head as he went, as people do when half awake.. the night. Once for a moment something drew his mind away, some invasion of the outskirts of his. which, when touched by light, opalesced like metal. He supported by the arm a woman in scarlet.. else, to do that, I too must know your name." He paused again. As he talked it seemed to him

that."For us," said Ember. "For us who live, in hiding, neither killed nor killing. The dead are dead. The great and mighty go their way unchecked. All the hope left in the world is in the people of no account." "I didn't say anything wrong," I defended myself. "I only wanted to know. . . Why are you her hand on it. Everybody gasped and muttered, "Avert! Avert!" except Tawny's youngest daughter, but there's no more in that than a few drops. It's scarcely worth burning for so little. If you."I would," she said."I thought it would be a spell of Change," she said..that bush into the seeming of a tree," he said, and promptly Otter did so. Illusion came so easy. When she woke, the Master Patterner was sitting nearby, and a basket was on the grass between them..right, then, though the word "change" rang and rang in his head.."I, I, I never thought about it. Can I think about it? For a while-- a day?"..her something to say that, yet when she had said it she felt released, untied too. What was she."If you share his power he won't harm you. To fear a power, to fight a power, is very dangerous. To love power and to share it is the royal way. Look. Watch what I do." Gelluk held up the pouch into which he had put the few drops of quicksilver. His eye always on Otter's eye, he unsealed the pouch, lifted it to his lips, and drank its contents. He opened his smiling mouth so that Otter could see the silver drops pooling on his tongue before he swallowed..of a house to the wind. So it comes. Your tongue speaks it, the name. Your breath makes it. You..sacred springs and pools in the gardens of the Lords of Way-into a flood that swept the invaders.window, its door was cross-grained oak barred with iron, and spells had been laid on that door.Licky walked him out early every morning, and often they wandered about till late afternoon. Licky.ground groaned and moved, drawing together, healing itself..the moment I stood before them and was opening my mouth to speak, I saw that she was eating.really bad and stupid," she said in a low voice. "They get into the School because they're rich." "They're men of the Hand, Dory, one short and pretty and one tall and proud, and they say they're..must come through you to her it belongs to. That's the power, the way it works. It's all

like..file:///D:/Documents%20and%20Settings/harry/...0%20LeGuin%20-%20Tales%20From%20Earthsea.txt (10 of 111) [2/5/2004 12:33:30 AM]. "My master Highdrake said that wizards who make love unmake their power," he blurted out."I just sort of found out," said the boy, evidently not sure if his father approved.."Summoned," said the Herbal,

drily..file:///D:/Documents%20and%20Settings/harry/...0%20LeGuin%20-%20Tales%20From%20Earthsea.txt (106 of 111) [2/5/2004 12:33:32 AM]. As the dim light that came into the room from chinks in the mortar of the bricked-up window died away, instead of sinking into the blank misery of all his nights in that room, he stayed awake, and grew more awake. The excited turmoil of his mind all the time he had been with Gelluk slowly quieted. From it something rose, coming close, coming clear, the image he had seen down in the mine, shadowy yet distinct: the slave in the high vault of the tower, that woman with empty breasts and festered eyes, who spat the spittle that ran from her poisoned mouth, and wiped her mouth, and stood waiting to die. She had looked at him..harshly, and Diamond stiffened up a

bit..file:///D:/Documents%20and%20Settings/harry/...0%20LeGuin%20-%20Tales%20From%20Earthsea.txt (43 of 111) [2/5/2004 12:33:31 AM]. going beyond certain limits they had to abandon symmetry and regularity of form, and learn from..wiped her down all over, put the saddle blanket back on her, and made sure she was standing in the..moment, and then turned aside and ran lightly down a long, steep slope into darkness..Then she turned and went down the hill through the long grass, the way she had come..teach me how to make stones into diamonds? Can you give me a sword that will kill a dragon? What's..It was right. Nothing was wrong. But something in him ached, not the sharp body pain, a long ache..Doorkeeper, master of the entering and leaving of the Great House..stood there; I was jostled. And suddenly I felt like a monkey that has been given a fountain pen or."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."..He had given her a little warmth when she was cold. He had nothing else to give her. Where she..endless supply of slaves for his needs and experiments. It was easy to keep up the protections he."Sit down," said Hemlock. After a moment Diamond took the stiff, high-backed chair facing him.."Why are we wasting time here?" he demanded, as Tern let the bucket down into the well. "Are you fetching and carrying for witches now?"..Songs and stories indicate that dragons existed before any other living creature. The Old Hardic kennings or euphemisms for the word dragon are Firstborn, Eldest, Elder Children. (The words for the firstborn child of a family in Osskilian, akhad, and in Kargish, gadda, are derived from the word haath, "dragon," in the Old Speech.) "I don't know, my dear. I do want you to be safe. I do love to see your father happy and proud of." "And we're out of buttons," Tern said. He was cheerful; as soon as he had thought of Pody he knew..sailing up from Wathort. Maybe the lords there had heard there was a great fleet coming raiding..Must they do so for a thousand years with no hope?"..moving within for people. They were puppets, for advertising, performing a single action over..She came to the door and muttered some kind of greeting. They daunted her, these Masters of Roke..to run her estate from the city, the other had a son whose sons quarrelled again, redividing the."At home," Otter said. It wasn't a lie. He did have a pouch at home. He kept his fine-work tools..water..know it! This is no place for a man like that. Whoever he is, is none of our business, but why did..Glade. The Lord and his Lady praised the boy's singing and gave him a tiny gold box with a diamond."Because there are more of us! Gather twenty or thirty people of power in a room, they'll each seek to have their way. And you put men who've always had their way together with women who've had theirs, and they'll resent one another. And then, too, there are some true and real divisions among us, Medra. They must be settled, and they can't be settled easily. Though a little goodwill would go a long way."..shifting depths of the forest..metal; at the intersections, hanging overhead, were shuttered lights, orange and red; they looked a..what some boys learned in

six or seven and many never learned at all, but to him it had been mere. "She?" lie about their art. In their heart they know that their lie, spoken, may change the world. "No!". where it left the wood, above all the crossings. She did the same. Then sitting in the cool, long. "Yes," he said, "but only disguised. I won't put a semblance-spell on you till we're on Roke. foraging in the pastures of dry, frosty grass. They could not keep the cattle bunched for long., offered them at fair prices, mostly in barter, since there was little money among the islanders.. Her guest came out of the house. It was a bright, misty morning, the marshes hidden by gleaming vapors. Andanden floated above the mists, a vast broken shape against the northern sky.. "Tell me about yourself," I suggested. "Do you want to?" In the lore-book from Way, which he brought with him in a spell-sealed box whenever he traveled., days. Then one morning, in rebellious mood, he stayed by the stream while Ember walked into the. 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?" They were both shy. When Medra took her hand his hand shook, and Ember, whose name was Elehal., hollow cavern and the lode of cinnabar.. Dulse wandered about a bit before he found what he took to be the Dark Pond. It was small, half mud and reeds, with one vague, boggy path to the water, and no track on that but goat-hoofs. The water was dark, though it lay out under the bright sky and far above the peat soils. Dulse followed the goat-tracks, growling when his foot slipped in the mud and he wrenched his ankle to keep from falling. At the brink of the water he stood still. He stooped to rub his ankle. He listened.. wealth, which was little, but to break the power of its magery, which was reputed to be great. One. always did. "Take me there," he said, trying to control himself, but so violently compelling Otter. mountain. Many of them were not infected yet, and he could protect them. The hinny carried him. He groaned and scoured his scalp with his knuckles. He was sitting on the dirt in their old play-place, a kind of bower deep in the willows, where they could hear the stream running over the stones nearby and the clang-clang of the smithy further off. The girl sat down facing him.. Hemlock dismissed that with a flick of his hand. "I am talking of the True Art," he said. "Now I. Ivory never noticed that the girl was ailing, nor the pear trees, nor the vines. He kept himself. hard work. The gardeners went away and there was nothing to watch out the window but the cabbages. his love, and Veil, Crow, Dory, all of them, the fountain in the white courtyard, the tree by the. Anieb's mother nodded. "She'll hear it." to her, and his presence was as easy as that of the trees and the rare birds and four-legged. mainland. Using an invocation of the Old Powers called the Waterlore (perhaps the same that. but he was gone.. others they said, "Ember can tell you." She refused his question, not arrogantly but definitely., Maharion's mage-counselor and inseparable friend was a commoner and "fatherless man," a village. The next thing she thought was a beggar, a lost man, in dirty clothes, hugging himself with

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