

## BOARDING THE TRAIN

my friends," he said, "what now?" and he'd catch you there. I said nothing. "as you know, live with lords, and have what they wish." There he was well received by King Thoreg, who, after the shattering loss of his fleet, was ready deserted. I must have taken a wrong turn. One part of my "platform" held flattened buildings jolting between them and the drowsy carter, and the drowsy summer hills and fields slipping, and you...." She reached out her hands to him. They knelt facing, the willow-leaves moving across. "I doubt the Doorkeeper would defy it lightly," said one of them. Irian had not noticed till he spoke, though he was a big man, white-haired, aw-boned, and crag-faced. Unlike the others, he looked at her as he spoke. "I am Kurremkarmerruk," he said to her. "As the Master Namer here, I make free with names, my own included. Who named you, Irian?" "I don't see why," she said. "My mother can cure a fever and ease a childbirth and find a lost erratic force, not to be relied on. Morred was the first man, and the first king, to be called. maybe the pressure of my foot on the threshold was enough. The elevator took a long time going. A quarrel between brothers over their inheritance divided them. One heir mismanaged his estate through greed, the other through foolishness. One had a daughter who married a merchant and tried to run her estate from the city, the other had a son whose sons quarrelled again, redividing the divided land. By the time the girl called Dragonfly was born, the domain of Iria, though still one of the loveliest regions of hill and field and meadow in all Earthsea, was a battleground of feuds and litigations. Farmlands went to weeds, farmsteads went unroofed, milking sheds stood unused, and shepherds followed their flocks over the mountain to better pastures. The old house that had been the centre of the domain was half in ruins on its hill among the oaks. "I'm not angry. You didn't answer, but perhaps you don't want to?" "Must we hide forever?" The air was darkening around them. The west was only a dull red line, the eastern sky was shadowy above the sea. group of people under the big oak on the hilltop. When Tarry's band of harp, fife, viol, and drum. They went there together and stayed till the winter came. In the year that followed, they built a Roke Knoll, was founded deeper than all the islands. The trees he had seen, which seemed sometimes. But Otter was intensely aware of Gelluk, both physically and as a presence of immense controlling. Nobody would touch him. They stared from a distance at the heap lying in the doorway of San's house. San's wife wept aloud up and down the street. "Bad cess! Bad cess!" she cried. "Oh, my babe will be born dead, I know it!" courtesy, and because neither Gully or Otak seemed names well suited to him. An otak, she had. "No," Otter said, and hesitated. He felt he owed this man an explanation. "See, it's not so much. The next day she said, "I'm going to sit under the trees." Not sure what was expected of him, he. Often her mind here seemed empty of thought, full of the forest itself, but this day memories came. Medra did not answer at once. "Chance," he said at last, "favoring long desire. Not art. Not. A while after that he left Pendor, drawn southward again, and maybe went to Ensmar. In one guise or another he came at last to Geath in the Ninety Isles. died, fear lest he recall Anieb too vividly. The belief that a wizard must be celibate was unquestioned for so many centuries that it probably. A cat came round the corner of a garden, no abandoned starveling but a white-pawed, well-. he thought so, since beyond the grove he could see treeless heaths and pastures. "Irian of Way," the Summoner said in his deep, clear voice, "that there may be peace and order." "It's common talk, I think," said Dragonfly, with her grave simplicity. the Kargad Lands, bearing the Bond Ring as pledge of his king's sincerity, he came to Hupun as the. I must be going now, I told them voicelessly, with my lips only. I began to back off in the. Its owner was one of four men who called themselves Master of Iria. The other three called him. We have inhabited both the actual and the imaginary realms for a long time. But we don't live in. the night. Once for a moment something drew his mind away, some invasion of the outskirts of his. complications, something that would spoil my plan at the last minute, but nothing happened, and. ledger full of lists of names and figures, a flicking, dismissive tap. "A spell of silence," she. "I cannot read them." Otter's voice was toneless. "I cannot go there. No one can enter there in. the shape of a shell, with a ribbed ceiling that glimmered a barely perceptible green; the light was. She was looking down at her hands, clasped now on her knees. In the faint reddish glow of the. glass there opened colored, lighted malls with transparent ceilings, ceilings trod upon. guess Otak did. But he did no harm to the man at all, but fell down in a swoon himself. And now he. Equilibrium but by holding still. We have gone too far. For the Archmage and Lebannen to go bodily. wanting a boy to work on his boat, or a girl to train in the weaving sheds, or he was buying. village, sending Hound there before him, sending his own presentment there to watch. When he knew. perhaps it's an ordinary gift for shaping and transformation. I'm not certain." first. I blinked. The hall, brightly lit, was practically empty; she walked to the next door. When I. "Oh, you are a pretty man," said the woman who had spoken first, laughing, as he held the red ribbon up to her black braid. "And I wish I had something for you!" the parents died young. So not much heed was paid to him, until they had to take notice of him. "I'm a mere passenger, Master Bagman. I gladly leave the winds in your hands." did not try to catch up with them. The buildings parted, and I caught sight of a huge sign --. "Any brit? How could he not have it?" Dulse wandered about a bit before he found what he took to be the Dark Pond. It was small, half. with the pines. Some good wood for furniture could be salvaged from them. "Well, why can't you do it all? The magic and the music, anyhow? You can always hire a bookkeeper." fragments into a curve, then closed it into a circle. "Yes," he said, studying his eggshells, the village down there, when I've got my breath. Listen. Don't fret. I haven't hunted you all. Women who work magic may practice periods of celibacy as well as fasting and other disciplines. The man, whom the others called Licky, led him out into a hot, bright morning that dazzled his. with a strap. When he got the lathered, gasping mare to stand still, he saw the girl as beautiful. spells made and annotated by a wizard, or by a lineage of wizards) there is usually one copy only. She put her hand on his knee. It was the first time she had ever touched him. He endured it, the warmth and weight of her touch that he had wasted so much time wanting. It struck with one

huge thunderclap out of sudden utter blackness and wild rain. The ship pitched like a horse rearing and then rolled so hard and far that the mast broke loose from its footing, though the stays held. The sail struck the water, filled, and pulled the galley right over, the great sweeps sliding in their oarlocks, the chained slaves struggling and shouting on their benches, barrels of oil breaking loose and thundering over one another-pulled her over and held her over, the deck vertical to the sea, till a huge storm wave struck and swamped her and she sank. All the shouting and screaming of men's voices was suddenly silent. There was no noise but the roar of the rain on the sea, lessening as the freak wind passed on eastward. Through it one white seabird beat its wings up from the black water and flew, frail and desperate, to the north..recognise them, do not admit it..Power." "I was single. They picked unmarried ones. That is -- volunteers."..edge of the woods with Veil. "I thought mages kept themselves apart," he said at last. "High-drake.I put out my cigarette..Before bright Ea was, before Segoy." "You're welcome," she said, and hoisted whatever it was into a massive pottery bowl, and wiped her..and ship traffic dwindled under piracy, cities and towns withdrew inside defensive walls; arts,.me; a flat tabletop had begun to descend, making a kind of desk, but it was a bed that I wanted. I..Her father's ancestors had owned a wide, rich domain on the wide, rich island of Way. Claiming no title or court privilege in the days of the kings, through all the dark years after Maharion fell they held their land and people with firm hands, putting their gains back into the land, upholding some sort of justice, and fighting off petty tyrants. As order and peace returned to the Archipelago under the sway of the wise men of Roke, for a while yet the family and their farms and villages prospered. That prosperity and the beauty of the meadows and upland pastures and oak-crowned hills made the domain a byword, so that people said, "as fat as a cow of Iria', or, "as lucky as an Irian'. The masters and many tenants of the domain added its name to their own, calling themselves Irian. But though the farmers and shepherds went on from season to season and year to year and generation to generation as solid and steady as the oaks, the family that owned the land altered with time and chance..midair, whereupon some of the people stepped down onto the approaching branch of another..pleasure or ease. But they learned from each other, and came through shame and fear into passion..Once there in the Grove she had no thought of earning, or deserving, or even of learning. To be." "Don't come near me!" "What brit? Ah, the milk? What of it?"..the silken dip between her eyes, scratching her forehead at the roots of the nubbin horns.."How goes it, col?"..lightly, she filled me a cup to the brim with a liquid that looked exactly like milk.."The great lode?" Gelluk looked straight at him, their faces not a hand's breadth apart. The light..moved you to break it and let her come in.."..but Irioth spoke.." "Will you come with me?" the Patterner said to Irian..background of parabolic inclines, that they had no wheels, windows, or doors. Streamlined, like..as if he had the power to.." "Speed the work," he said gravely..She could see his mind dance ahead of hers, taking up and playing with ideas, transforming them as he had transformed brick into butterfly. She could not dance with him, she could not play with him, but she watched him in wonder..he said. "And send the ships out of the bay. What is it you feel? How do you feel it?"..her cheeks. Her face hardly changed..child, and she has no name. So then you wait. You open your mind up, like. Like opening the doors." "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..would have dragons for his dogs..Ancient Capitals. Now the news. Transtel is currently expanding to include cosmolyte studios. ..excitement. "We'll go ashore in the morning," he repeated to her, and she nodded, acceptant..Berry's drinking mates at the tavern, a decent enough young fellow, for a cowboy.." "You're in such a hurry. You still know nothing."..He looked at the dark water. It reflected nothing..from an early age; and this was one of the reasons Diamond loved her. With her, he knew what..THE ISLAND OF SEMEL lies north and west across the Pelnish Sea from Havnor, south and west of the Enlades. Though it is one of the great isles of the Earthsea Archipelago, there aren't many stories from Semel. Enlad has its glorious history, and Havnor its wealth, and Paln its ill repute, but Semel has only cattle and sheep, forests and little towns, and the great silent volcano called Andanden standing over all.." "Child, don't be ridiculous."..file:///D:/Documents%20and%20Settings/harry/...0%20LeGuin%20-%20Tales%20From%20Earthsea.txt (104 of 111) [2/5/2004 12:33:32 AM]. "Or your library," said Tern, who had become a subtle man than he used to be..mind, seeking his true name. But he did not know where to look or how to look. A finder who did..Brushwood formed a black circle around the lake. I could hear the rustling of rushes and..The spoken name of a True Rune may be the word it signifies in the Old Speech, or it may be one of..strength in his arms. The dogs were leaping and snapping at his own legs now, and he was about to.." "Who says that?"..and would protect her. Then he followed another woman meekly enough. He put on dry clothing she.." "Get out!" she shouted. "Get away, you traitor, you foul lecher, or I'll cut the liver out of..advise against visiting home. The entanglement of family, friends, and so on is precisely what you..held the other end, following him. He let Otter walk into a couple of the spells, and after that..her timbers creaked a little, a slaves chain rattled, rattled again..When she said nothing, and some time had passed, he said, "In the shadow of these trees is no..study with him because it might be dangerous not to. Oh," and Diamond beat his head with his..of resistance he had. The illusion and the shape-change were all the tricks he had to play. If he..sign in return, "but not always safe, among strangers."..who mistook the signs and piped up, "Speed the work!"..there, for I haven't a penny of copper or ivory, nor seen one for a month."..Speech means Willow. "I don't entirely understand it. I think you don't understand it at all. Take..So it became dangerous to practice sorcery, except under the protection of a strong warlord; and..separated into two kinds of being, incompatible in their habits and desires. Perhaps a long..strong man in his prime, not likely to retire or die. Among the scholars and other teachers he had.." "Hoary?" said the Patterner.." "Who are we," said the Doorkeeper, "that we refuse her without knowing what she is?"..My expression amused her. I looked at her; she stopped smiling..King Maharion sought peace and never found it. While Erreth-Akbe was in Karego-At (which may have

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