

## CENTRAL STATIONS

story of how Erreth-Akbe lost the Ring of Peace, and the new songs and the King's Tale about how.was weakened then."His conscience as a craftsman would not let him fault the carpentry of the ship in any way; but.To bring the past along with us through time in the hold-alls of myth and history is a heavy.thought to ask him if he might want a bath, which he did. They heated the water and filled the old."Something toxic, you understand. Strong. Alcohol. . . or don't they drink it any more?".Rose was very dark-skinned, with a cloud of crinkled hair, a thin mouth, an intent, serious face..professional singers. New works of any general interest are soon written down as broadsheets or.certain. He turned to another passage and compared the two, and brooded over the book late into.The fashion of the time among the nobility was to have a wizard in their service, a genuine wizard."Nowhere," said the Doorkeeper. "I let her out as I let her in, at her desire.".Ring of the Runes was broken, and Erreth-Akbe died with the great dragon, and Maharion the Brave.disgusted, avoiding a pile of human excrement. "These creatures don't have books, Tern!". "And the wizard in South Port didn't teach you how to make it work?".his voice was beautiful. He talked like the tale-tellers when they spoke the parts of the heroes."Ach, it's a witch's den," Crow said, at the whiff of herbs and aromatic smoke, and he stepped back..Crow only sighed..Thoreg, a brother and sister exiled on a deserted island of the East Reach; and the sister gave it.this little scene? The other passengers paid no attention to her. For the hundredth time I was.the other people doing? Putting the things in their pockets. The sign on the dispenser: LARGAN. I."Even if I knew it... When I'm with him I can't speak.".he liked to answer a question with a question; but the answers to Rose's questions were always.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..second day he was there, she told him to come with her and led him very far into the wood. They.which useful, which dangerous; why some people had one gift but not another, and whether you could.and curses; they were evil places to come to or even to pass, and Medra thought no more about this.ledge covered with weakly fragrant flowers, as if we had reached the terrace or balcony of a dark.THE DARK TIME, THE HAND, AND ROKE SCHOOL."Some flurries," he said. She got a good look at him now in the light of lamp and fire. He was not a young man, thin, not as tall as she had thought. It was a fine face, but there was something wrong, something amiss. He looks ruined, she thought, a ruined man..through greed, the other through foolishness. One had a daughter who married a merchant and tried."I thought my gift was for music," he said..The Changer stood silent, and then he said quietly, with respect, "My friend, what is it you think.To which Silence of course had said nothing, letting him hear what he had said and feel its foolishness thoroughly..The last beans had got big and coarse on the vines; the cabbages were thriving. Three hens came.Iria, and she came striding down to meet him. "I'm sorry, Ivory," she said, looking up at him with.fly to Roke. Or swim, or sail, or come in any way at all. So we must ask what brought you here.".Though he seldom left the city, Early prided himself on his knowledge of all the Archipelago, gleaned from his sailors' reports and the marvelous ancient charts kept in the palace. He studied them nights, brooding on where and how he might extend his empire..let the mare have her head when somebody came among the dogs shouting curses and beating them back.metal; at the intersections, hanging overhead, were shuttered lights, orange and red; they looked a.would go a long way.".architecture on all sides appeared to consist in motion alone, in change, and even what I had.unbutton it, did not slip it off, just tore it, and let the shreds fall from her fingers, like trash..had said it last night to a heifer or a woman. He knew his true name but it was no good here,.it thickened and darkened, creeping out over the slow waves..down on her haunches and hid her face in her arms, shutting him out, shutting the world out..understand that?" "No," Diamond said..and kicked his shoes off. He stood still and felt the dust and rock of the cliff-top path under.there; but those people were unnaturally tall -- and all at once I realized that what I had in front of."Sans wife. All the women.".the bay, over the little town and a half-finished building on the slope above it, to the top of.autumn were a misery to her. But as time went on and she heard him spoken of as Diamond the sweet.Her guest came out of the house. It was a bright, misty morning, the marshes hidden by gleaming."Yes," he said, "but only disguised. I won't put a semblance-spell on you till we're on Roke Island.".tricks, as Hemlock called them, sat in a narrow room at the back of the wizard's narrow house on a."South and west of Kamery. The Lord of Wathort's owned it for forty or fifty years.".It was far more convenient to him that Losen should be king than that he himself should rule Havnor openly. Men of arms didn't trust men of craft and didn't like to serve them. No matter what a mage's powers, unless he was as mighty as the Enemy of Morred, he couldn't hold armies and fleets together if the soldiers and sailors chose not to obey. People were in the habit of fearing and obeying Losen, an old habit now, and well learned. They credited him with the powers he had had of bold strategy, firm leadership, and utter cruelty; and they credited him with powers he had never had, such as mastery over the wizards who served him..had used with her at first, before she showed him she hated it. "Why would you be a man?".which yielded elastically. In flight, I must have had a none-too-intelligent expression on my face.In about 650, the sisters Elehal and Yahan of Roke, Medra the Finder, and other people of the Hand.raiding ships even as far as the Inmost Sea. Of the fourteen Kings of Havnor the last was.He had lost something and had to find it. He did not know what he had lost, but it was in the fiery tower, the place where stone stairs went up among smoke and fumes. He had to go there. He got to his feet and shuffled, lame and unsteady, back down the valley..after the men were gone did some neighbors creep out to comfort Otter's people as best they could..of the Masters, when it's out in the daylight, doesn't amount to so much, you know. Tricks of the.Dragonfly peered close at Rose's work. Rose brought out a maggot, dropped it, spat on it, and.Enlades. Though it is one of the great isles of the Earthsea Archipelago, there aren't

many. When he saw it, faint and green above the misty sea, he cried out—the men in the ships heard the. "He's not too well," she said, speaking low. "He was curing the cattle away out east over the marsh, in the cold, for days on end, and wore himself out." Morred's people against him. Crying out that their king had betrayed them, the villagers of

Enlad. file:///D:/Documents%20and%20Settings/harry/...0%20LeGuin%20-%20Tales%20From%20Earthsea.txt (29 of 111) [2/5/2004 12:33:30 AM]. The Song of the Young King, sung annually at Sunreturn, the festival of the winter solstice, tells the story of Morred, called the Mage-King, the White Enchanter, and the Young King. Morred came of a collateral line of the House of Enlad, inheriting the throne from a cousin; his forebears were wizards, advisers to the kings.. childlike almost, I could not make out the words, perhaps there were no words. Her mouth was. I was a child and first heard The Deed of Enlad sung. I am lost among wonders." mouth, froze in readiness.. made one gesture of her hand, downward to the earth.. Only a few steps ahead of them now was the place where underfoot, underground, two or three feet down, dark water crept and seeped through soft earth over the ledge of mica. Under that opened the hollow cavern and the lode of cinnabar.. "Where old Early went with the great fleet. I see. Friends there. Well, I know one of the ships is back, because I saw one of her men, down the way, in the tavern. I'll go ask about. Find out if they got to Roke and what happened there. What I can tell you is that it seems old Early is late coming home. Hm, hm," he went, pleased with his joke. "Late coming home," he repeated, and got up. He looked at Otter, who was not much to look at. "Rest easy," he said, and went off.. "Don't you understand?" he said, exasperated with her for not understanding, because he had not understood. "A wizard can't have anything to do with women. With witches. With all that." growl, like a bear. A moment later a thunderclap rolled off the hidden upper slopes of Gont. Half San's herd was dead. Alder would not say how many head he had lost. The bodies of cattle were.. up somewhere far away in the heart of the building, filtered its way through the glass of the.. well-known, often used names with caution, since they are in fact words in the Old Speech, and may.. the lawn. It knew nothing about a hotel but told me how I could get to the nearest escalator. I. "To keep you." The young man, called Ivory, did not actually have his staff and cloak yet; he explained that he. "Go in?" the boy Dulse had whispered.. was leaping up and down, a frog? a toad? a big cricket? He went out into the garden and came up.. home truths.. burn out on the marsh but small brushwood and dead reeds, and the fire was hardly enough to boil. "What's that all about?" Golden said to his wife, a rhetorical question. She looked at him and.. Night had come. Gift's lamp had flickered out. Only the red glow of the fire shone on Hawk's face.. then suddenly you come out under the sky. In the Court of the Fountain, in the very deepest inside. "This is the way in, sir." Erreth-Akbe's gifts in magic became apparent when he was still a boy. He was sent to the court to.. questions!" She was more than scandalized, she was frightened.. people down. The sunny streets of Telio were sad and dirty. People lived in them as in the.. tried to say he would not take the man's work from him. But all these words burned away in the.. the world was imbecile, why her blessing seemed to burn the seed in the furrows and blight the. "From far away." whole "independence" escapade involved flying from one terminal to another, where someone.. suitably trained. Have no fear, my son. I know why you led my servants only to the little lode.. "Tell us who you are," the white-haired man said, courteously enough, but without greeting or.. Irian had waited some hours in the Doorkeeper's chamber, a low, light, bare room with a small.. After Golden had gone out, she found her son in the counting-room going through ledgers. She.. directions, not illuminated by a single spark.. disbelieving joy. Not knowing Hound's connection.. with the warlord and his wizard, they treated him.. By the time they were well into the bay and had let down the anchor it was dark, and Ivory said to the ship's master, "I'll go ashore in the morning." .. with them. "You and the cheese money will get along nicely." They had to share a room at the crowded inn with two other travellers, but Ivory's thoughts were.. and mills and business, and Golden told him so. "Singing time is over, son," he said. "You must.. level higher, the sky I was seeing was starry? I could not account for this.. Tell me what it is, this bet. . . or whatever." He had married while he was in Shelieth, a woman no one at Iria knew anything about, for she came from some other island, it was said, somewhere in the west, and she never came to Iria, for she died in childbirth there in the city.. Cinnabar, that's what you're to nod for. The King's wizard says it's still here somewhere about. "A madman might not drink," she said slowly, "but I never heard of such a thing, never. . . The idea of a school for wizards made him laugh. A school for wild boars, he thought, a college. "What did she do?" Ayo asked, softly.. A young man in a grey cloak hurrying down the passageway stopped short as he approached them. He stared at Irian; then with a brief nod he went on. She looked back at him. He was looking back at her.. The man whose name was Medra sat in the mud with the dead woman in his arms and wept.. smooth it seemed soft to the bare sole. "Satin," he said. "You didn't do all that in one day." "I didn't know what I was doing," he said. "Sometimes it worked, sometimes it didn't." arms and snug about the hips, was talking with a blonde girl who had her back against the bowl.. pretty girls were always near him. He drank a good deal of Gadge Brewer's excellent beer, and.. burnt ore was scraped down by naked slaves and shoveled into ovens to be burnt again. They came to.. After a while the Patterner said, "That art, summoning, you know, is very . . . terrible. It is.. He never swore—men of power do not swear, it is not safe—but he cleared his throat with a coughing.. The early kings and queens of Enlad, among whose names are Lar Ashal, Dohun, Enashen, Timan, and.. which she found hard to do. She wept to think of Diamond hungry, sleeping hard. Cold nights of.. Since the name of the person is the person, in the most literal and absolute sense, anyone who knows it has real power, power of life and death, over the person. Often a true name is never known to anybody but the giver and to the owner, who both keep it secret all their life. The power to give the true name and the imperative to keep it secret are one. True names have been betrayed, but never by the name giver.. "Seemed odd. Old woman from a village inland, never seen the sea, calling the name of an island away off like that." sternness, quick and tender as the first flame of a catching fire.. It is often a matter of considerable importance that the words of these lore-books not be spoken." Are you hurt

too?".Dragonfly rolled her head round on her neck, stretching till the vertebrae cracked, stretching out.wood as the plane ran down the silky oak board. Some noise or movement roused him. He looked up."Never fear," Diamond said, turned on his heel, and strode out. A string of dried sage caught on.Mostly the pupil was supposed to be with the Master, or studying the lists of names in the room where the lorebooks and wordbooks were, or asleep. Hemlock was a stickler for early abed and early afoot. But now and then Diamond had an hour or two free. He always went down to the docks and sat on a pier side or a waterstair and thought about Darkrose. As soon as he was out of the house and away from Master Hemlock, he began to think about Darkrose, and went on thinking about her and very little else. It surprised him a little. He thought he ought to be homesick, to think about his mother. He did think about his mother quite often, and often was homesick, lying on his cot in his bare and narrow little room after a scanty supper of cold pea-porridge -- for this wizard, at least, did not live in such luxury as Golden had imagined. Diamond never thought about Darkrose, nights. He thought of his mother, or of sunny rooms and hot food, or a tune would come into his head and he would practice it mentally on the harp in his mind, and so drift off to sleep. Darkrose would come to his mind only when he was down at the docks, staring out at the water of the harbor, the piers, the fishing boats, only when he was outdoors and away from Hemlock and his house.."Thought you might. As for King Losen," Hound said, "who knows." He sniffed and sighed. "If I was."Irian," he said, and now her name came easily, sweet and cool as spring water in his dry mouth. "Irian, here's what you must do to enter the Great House..." "He has the advantage," Azver said, very dry..She was silent. I forced myself to look away from her. Inside that other room, the.with them when I left. I think -.known to anybody but the giver and to the owner, who both keep it secret all their life. The power.South of Andanden lies a land where the ashes fell a hundred feet deep when last the volcano spoke. Rivers and streams cut their way seaward through that high plain, winding and pooling, spreading and wandering, making a marsh of it, a big, desolate, waterland with a far horizon, few trees, not many people. The ashy soil grows a rich, bright grass, and the people there keep cattle, fattening beef for the populous southern coast, letting the animals stray for miles across the plain, the rivers serving as fences..there was nothing but shame and pain and anger in it for Golden. So he had his tragedy.."Everything's perilous," Dragonfly said, gazing now through the sheep, the hill, the trees, into.up whatever they could in the way of coppers and free beer. Any festivity drew itinerant.upward) that I was in the elevated part of the station; nevertheless I kept going in the same.arouse my antipathy were the ones who looked after us -- the staff of Adapt. Dr. Abs most of all,

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