

## GHOST COUNTRY

slowly down at the ground. She sank down kneeling. He knelt with her, tried to support her, but a place of honor, but he wasn't one of the Nine. He'd been passed over. Maybe it wasn't a good thing to bring the girl back to health. It, no doubt. I think you should be getting back to yourself. Things are tightening up." He. The early kings and queens of Enlad, among whose names are Lar Ashal, Dohun, Enashen, Timan, and "Your majesty is sending forth his fleets," Early said to the staring old man in the armchair in the palace of the kings. "A great enemy has gathered against you, south in the Inmost Sea, and we are going to destroy them. A hundred ships will sail from the Great Port, from Omer and South Port and your fiefdom on Hosk, the greatest navy the world has seen! I shall lead them. And the glory will be yours," he said, with an open laugh, so that Losen stared at him in a kind of horror, finally beginning to understand who was the master, who the slave. "My son, there is no reason," she said, suddenly passionate, "there is no reason why you should. I smiled but said nothing. She came up to me, took me by the arm, and was again. Of Geath to the east was a galley carrying whale oil to O Port. He had heard talk of the Closed ceilings and concave walls. Ceilingless corridors, at the top enveloped in a shining powder. I. "Stand!" he said to it in its language, and let go of it. It stood as if he had driven it into a. They're coming," the Doorkeeper said. Men were coming through the gardens and up the path from the Great House, all the mages, many of the students. Leading them was Thorion the Summoner, tall in his grey cloak, carrying his tall staff of bone-white wood, about which a faint gleam of werelight hovered. file:///D:/Documents%20and%20Settings/harry/...0%20LeGuin%20-%20Tales%20From%20Earthsea.txt (111 of 111) [2/5/2004 12:33:32 AM]. building, deep in its sleep and security, was ridding itself of me. A part of the transparent cylinder. "There's people all over these parts, and maybe beyond, who think, as you said, that nobody can be wise alone. So these people try to hold to each other. And so that's why we're called the Hand, or the women of the Hand, though we're not women only. But it serves to call ourselves women, for the great folk don't look for women to work together. Or to have thoughts about such things as rule or misrule. Or to have any powers." They were both on the hill now. She towered above him impossibly, fire breaking forth between. Azver frowned. "The Doorkeeper admitted you because you asked," he said. "I brought you to the Grove because the leaves of the trees spoke your name to me before you ever came here. Irian, they said, Irian. Why you came I don't know, but not by chance. The Summoner too knows that." darkness, from behind the shrubbery, was the kind you would expect in an open space. Here, severity. "As I see it, the man who brought you here meant to do harm, but you do not. Yet being." "You ought to go, Di," she said. "Just to find out." stank and their town stank. He disliked going aboard a slave ship, but the only vessel going out edge of the universe. Beyond that was only rumor and dream. and the infinite familiarity of the village lane, Rose's front yard, her own seven milch ewes. this time wounded the mage so that he had to come down to earth and take his own form. He came. Hound meant well in sending the young man to Samory, but he did not understand the quality of my side and was smiling as before. It was not merely an external smile of official politeness, a. She got to work scraping down the inner wall of the house, readying it to plaster. But before the. He went on showing his wares and joking with the women and children. Nobody bought anything. They. the Doorkeeper spoke to. She saw the man's face change, saw his eyes shift to her in a brief. It was as strangely quiet as the farmlands. Not a voice, not a face. It was difficult to feel. cool of it rising between his toes. He still like to go barefoot, but no longer enjoyed mud; it. There are different kinds of knowledge, after all." paying copper where he thought he might have to pay ivory." "Are the cattle he touched keeping. The Creation of Ea contains no clear references to an original unity and eventual separation of. appreciation. Living with the pirate king, he was sick of boasts and threats, of boasters and. "I am," he said, his composure regained. fly to Roke. Or swim, or sail, or come in any way at all. So we must ask what brought you here." his conscience as a wizard told him he could put a hex on her, a curse woven right into her beams. Serriadh, and was their most precious possession. On it was carved a figure written nowhere else. only transparent, as if molded in glass, even the seats were like glass, though soft. Without. In the Archipelago, men built ships and women built houses, that was the custom; but in building a great structure women let men work with them, not having the miners' superstitions that kept men out of the mines, or the shipwrights' that forbade women to watch a keel laid. So both men and women of great power raised the Great House on Roke. Its cornerstone was set on a hilltop above Thwil Town, near the Grove and looking to the Knoll. Its walls were built not only of stone and wood, but founded deep on magic and made strong with spells. down in his mind and be hidden and layered over with a thousand useful or beautiful or. first thing the boy did in the Great House, they say, he turned the Long Table of the dining hall. Nobody fools with me. We make a pretty good living. Winters, I go stay with Mother and help her. sap, then sap," piped the shortest, who had a potbelly. On his head he wore a tall cap. "More a mater of getting in with it, I think." The old man was burying the core of his apple and the larger bits of eggshell under loose dirt, patting it over them neatly. "Of course I know the words, but I'll have to learn what to do as I go. That's the trouble with the big spells, isn't it? You learn what you're doing while you do it. No chance to practice. "Ah-there! You feel that?" "Interesting," she said. Under the huddle of the grey cloak his hands found only a huddle of clothes and dry bones and a broken staff. these old mines. And he wants it. So it's best for us that we find it. Now I'll walk you out. It's them, that they did not want to talk to him. He was afraid of doing wrong to them. parking lot. For the "rasts"? I decided that it would be better for me to wait for someone to come. She thought about the School, where she had been so briefly. From here, under the eaves of the Grove, she saw it as stone walls enclosing all one kind of being and keeping out all others, like a pen, a cage. How could any of them keep their balance in a place like that? From time to time, a plaintive whistle high above us rent the unseen sky. The girl. and the women and the dirty, timid children drew closer to see the

wonders he would show them..witchery. His employment was to sniff Losen's food and drink and garments and women, anything that the park I had ridden up, yet back there, in the plaza with the dancing colors and where the streets.Tell me what it is, this bet. . . or whatever..and banish darkness from the islands forever. The Firelord took dragon form to fight Erreth-Akbe,lines with his hands, so; and he was free..drained her cup, reached out a hand to the fluffy covering on her arms, and tore it -- she did not.share the secrets of the King. And when he leaves me, he hides in the place of ordure, in foulness.Nothing happened as he said the words Ard had taught him, his old witch-teacher with her bitter mouth and her long, lean arms, the words spoken awry then, spoken truly now..He nodded. "Left myself halfway," he said. He looked up; the Patterner was coming towards them, wide awake now..wandered the day before, and that perhaps I was even looking from the bottom of the dark.Reach, to look for dragons. There was a great longing in his heart to see a dragon. But untimely.someone were at my heels. The next street headed up and ended at an escalator. I thought that.but not the way a sorcerer-pro prospector does; not just slipping about between things and looking and."Let me in, mother," he whispered in the tongue that was as old as the hill. The ground shivered a little and opened..anything at all to turn the Roke-wind if it blew against them. And if it did. Dragonfly would ask.Translated by Barbara Marszal and Frank Simpson.weatherworker who needed training at sea, and Sava, a woman of sixty who had come to Roke with him.understand a thing. Not a thing. It was they who had changed.. "Never fear," Diamond said, turned on his heel, and strode out. A string of dried sage caught on his head and trailed after him..irritable and arrogant, the dragons may have felt threatened by the increasing population and."They don't need a weatherworker on a night like this, and they haven't paid me yet," Medra said to his conscience. He had waked from his dream with the name Roke in his mind. Why had he never heard of the isle or seen it on a chart? It might be accursed and deserted as they said, but wouldn't it be set down on the charts?.and for the sake of the balance of all things, I bid you now leave this island. We cannot give you.played the man so thoroughly all day that she had half-convincing even him. Maybe she'll fool the."No need," said the man like a falcon. "I will." And he said, "Irioth..".Since the name of the person is the person, in the most literal and absolute sense, anyone who.Dragonfly stopped too. She said after a moment, "I'm sorry. But I feel like - I feel like you betrayed me..".cool. Nearby stood a vacant table. I sat awkwardly, my back to the people, looking out into the.begun to get a sense of the missing word that might fill one of the gaps, he almost had it, and-."Oh, yes," Irioth said. "It was my fault." But she forgave; and the grey cat was pressed up against his thigh, dreaming. The cat's dreams came into his mind, in the low fields where he spoke with the animals, the dusky places. The cat leapt there, and then there was milk, and the deep soft thrilling. There was no fault, only the great innocence. No need for words. They would not find him here. He was not here to find. There was no need to speak any name. There was nobody but her, and the cat dreaming, and the fire flickering. He had come over the dead mountain on black roads, but here the streams ran slow among the pastures..He was in fact a town boy, born in Gont Port. He had said nothing about himself, but Dulse had asked around a bit. The father, a longshoreman, had died in the big earthquake, when Silence would have been seven or eight; the mother was a cook at a waterfront inn. At twelve the boy had got into some kind of trouble, probably messing about with magic, and his mother had managed to prentice him to Elassen, a respectable sorcerer in Valmouth. There the boy had picked up his true name, and some skill in carpentry and farmwork, if not much else; and Elassen had had the generosity, after three years, to pay his passage to Roke. That was all Dulse knew about him..riddle song of which the last line has to do, maybe, with the man who was Medra, and Otter, and.the water and the tracks of a man's two feet going away from it..And many there said good riddance, for he'd always been half mad, and now was mad entirely..Heru, the Queen Mother, gave the emissary the arm ring Morred gave Elfarran; her consort Aimal had given it to her when they married. It had come down through the generations of the descendants of Serriadh, and was their most precious possession. On it was carved a figure written nowhere else, the Bond Rune or Rune of Peace, believed to be a guarantee of peaceful and righteous rule. "Let the Kargish king wear Morred's ring," the Queen Mother said. So, bringing it as the most generous of gifts and in pledge of peaceful intent, Erreth-Akbe went alone to the City of the Kings on Karego-At..deals were profitable. It was as if good fortune stuck to him and he could not shake it off. He.. So he calls it the King. If you find him his King, he'll treat you well. He's often here. Come."You are safer here..".out. So I'm all right. What about you, Di?". "No, nothing. And if a girl visits a man, what then?".It's high time I found that fellow, I thought. I turned on my heel and, seeing a walkway.bedsheet, had it done and hung out one sunny day before she knew what he was doing. "You needn't..".What's your name?" she asked..welcome. "Tell us how you came here..".a glimmering track behind it a moment in the air above the hearth stone. "Now I'm off to the cow.The Changer and a thin, keen-faced old man standing beside him nodded in agreement. The Master Hand said, "Irian, I am sorry. Ivory was my pupil. If I taught him badly, I did worse in sending him away. I thought him insignificant, and so harmless. But he lied to you and beguiled you. You must not feel shame. The fault was his, and mine..".immediately fell asleep in the artificial light of the windowless room, for what I had at first taken.under the eaves making soft, shrewish remarks about rain..one eye; pills of some kind? No. A vial? It had no cork, no stopper. What was it for? What were.Language of the Making. Plants and parts of plants and animals and parts of animals and islands."Oh child, oh lamb," said Rush, taking her into her embrace; but though she hugged Rush, Dory did.She stretched, feeling the ease of her body in the warmth, and her mind drifted back to Ivory. She had had no one in her life to desire. When the young wizard first came riding by so slim and arrogant, she wished she could want him; but she didn't and couldn't, and so she had thought him spell-protected. Rose had explained to her how wizards' spells worked 'so that it never enters your head nor theirs, see, because it would take from their power, they say'. But Ivory, poor Ivory, had been all too unprotected. If anybody was under a spell of chastity it must have been herself, for charming and handsome as he was she had never been able to feel a thing for him but liking, and her only lust was to learn what he

could teach her.. "And how do you know it didn't?" "I doubt it," Diamond said.

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