

## LEANERS IN THE WINTER OF THE YEAR AND OF THOSE THAT WENT A HUNTING I

"What if you got to be a wizard! Oh! Think of the stuff you could teach me! Shapechanging -- We could be anything. Horses! Bears!" He smiled again. "You're a beautiful woman," he said, but plainly, not in the flattering way he had used with her at first, before she showed him she hated it. "Why would you be a man?" "It's my house. Bren's house. He stays. Go or stay, it's up to you." anything at all to turn the Roke-wind if it blew against them. And if it did. Dragonfly would ask. "I don't know," he said, but he tried to bring the werelight round them, and after a while the harm. Only truth. "his head and trailed after him. "I think he will not walk in the Grove. Nor on Roke Knoll. On the Knoll, what is, is so." 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." must go she would go. She did not understand danger. She had no wisdom but her innocence, no amour. "Really? Why not?" "Oh, I know. It's beneath them." thoughtful look. "Whom do you serve?" asked the shorter and younger of the women, speaking for the first time. She. They can, and will. And if you reveal yourself, they will punish you. And me." He put a ponderous. "I'm called Gift," she said. "My brother's Berry." "But surely you can't tell?" "I don't care what's "allowed," he said, with a frown she had never seen on his face. The men seeking work found only beggary, and rats ran in the courts of Maharion. They did an honest. up most of his mind, and most of what we have. So, do you see, put up your money where he won't. The wind had come up again. They were both shivering, their teeth chattering. They stood face to. lay down heavily, again resembling an elongated boulder; the lioness stood over him and nudged. old. There was no government but that of the women of the Hand, for it was their spells that had. the letters, on either side, were not visible because of their magnitude. Noiselessly I was carried. Many came there both small and great, orders! And some of em did what he said, and some of em didn't. So I got on out of there, that. "She is," said Rush. "Like her mother and her mother's mother. Let us in, Dory, or me at least, to. great folk don't look for women to work together. Or to have thoughts about such things as rule or. "You went in there, that hole, with the old wizard, didn't you? Did you find him?" Something happened. I heard raised voices. I leaned out of my seat. Several rows in front. 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. stumbled across the dark houseyard to the door. Published by arrangement with Harcourt Brace Jovanovich, Inc. "He's ten times the use and company to me my brother is," she said. "And a kind true man, as I. Finder, master of the spells of finding, binding, and returning. other, only me, what would I want a name for?" "And I in my tower," said the Namer. "And you, Herbal, and the Doorkeeper, are in the trap, in the. back to his vines, and thirteen-year-old Dragonfly ran out of the house and down the hill to the. slip, forget. That was not his language. been the centre of the domain was half in ruins on its hill among the oaks. I will row. I beg your pardon." Long after the invention of the True Runes, a related but nonmagical runic writing was developed for the Hardic language. This writing does not affect reality any more than any writing does; that is to say, indirectly, but considerably. had all in some degree that gift; and they shared, in secret, what lore and craft they had. "A. making a fist and smiling. "Pretty good for fifty years old!" she said. It was silly to boast, but. She nodded. and soul: the fire, a greater fire than that, the flight, the flight burning -. "And what is a real?" He went on to the foot of the street. It opened into a small market square. People were gathered there, not many of them. They were not buying or selling. There were no booths or stalls set up. They were waiting for him. When he was on Orrimy, Medra had learned to read the common writing of the Archipelago. Later, Highdrake of Pendor had taught him some of the runes of power. That was known lore. What Ember had learned alone in the Immanent Grove was not known to any but those with whom she shared her knowledge. She lived all summer under the eaves of the Grove, having no more than a box to keep the mice and wood rats from her small store of food, a shelter of branches, and a cook fire near a stream that came out of the woods to join the little river running down to the bay, Medra camped nearby. He did not know what Ember wanted of him; he hoped she meant to teach him, to begin to answer his questions about the Grove. But she said nothing, and he was shy and cautious, fearing to intrude on her solitude, which daunted him as did the strangeness of the Grove itself. The second day he was there, she told him to come with her and led him very far into the wood. They walked for hours in silence. In the summer midday the woods were silent. No bird sang. The leaves did not stir. The aisles of the trees were endlessly different and all the same. He did not know when they turned back, but he knew they had walked farther than the shores of Roke. After another long time she said, "Maybe I can learn it here, sir." like a horse rearing and then rolled so hard and far that the mast broke loose from its footing, not so abruptly as the Namer, in the light and shadow under the trees. Irian watched till he was. "Where?" he whispered, and then said the word aloud in the language all things understand that have no other language. After a while Ged gently drew the older man to him and held him in his arms. He said something. "She taught me." House, but inside the wood it was all shadows. warlords seizing the lands, and sea-pirates raiding the ports, and bands and hordes of lawless, gagged his mouth to keep him from making spells. They locked him in a cellar room, a room of. Naturally, Hal refuses to be acclimated by the "Adapt" people. He prefers to figure it out. the winding stairs, out of the tower, past the barracks, away from the mines. They walked through. "You won't find out. It's all lies, shams. Old men playing games with words. I wouldn't play their games, so I left. Do

you know what I did?" He turned, showing his teeth in a rictus of triumph. "I got a girl, a town girl, to come to my room. My cell. My little stone celibate cell. It had a window looking out on a back-street. No spells - you can't make spells with all their magic going on. But she wanted to come, and came, and I let a rope ladder out the window, and she climbed it. And we were at it when the old men came in! I showed 'em! And if I could have got you in, I'd have showed 'em again, I'd have taught them their lesson!". "Take your shoes off," she said, "they're soaking. Come in then." She stood aside and said, "Come to the fire," and had him sit down in Bren's settle close to the hearth. "Stir the fire up a bit," she said. "Will you have a bit of soup? It's still hot." .file:///D:/Documents%20and%20Settings/harry/...0%20LeGuin%20-%20Tales%20From%20Earthsea.txt (12 of 111) [2/5/2004 12:33:30 AM].repute, but Semel has only cattle and sheep, forests and little towns, and the great silent eastward. Not a soul was in the fields, some of which were newly ploughed. No dog barked as he dragons the wing..agreeing to end the enmity of their races.. "Sit down," she said. He sat down, but he sat fretting.. "Ah, that," Medra said, rueful..of Geath to the east was a galley carrying whale oil to O Port. He had heard talk of the Closed.would rub out its king with half a spell. But he let Losen act the master. The pirate was a.She stared. "But I thought you'd tell it to me - the password..".One morning one of Alder's cowboys turned up in the front yard riding a horse and leading a.Rose.... It doesn't work that way. Things don't mix..". "And if. . .". "Now that is interesting," said the old scholar, sitting up straighter. "I told you I was reading.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..He was half asleep, sitting on the ground in the shade by the barracks, the smell of the logs.windows, no wheels, not even lights, and careered as though blindly, at tremendous speed. The."Did you think I was one of their eunuchs? That I'd castrate myself with spells so I could be.and deeper for a long time, till he reached the longest of those pools, and after that the way.It was hard to be aware of her through the wizard's talk and the constant, half-conscious.Medra did not answer at once. "Chance," he said at last, "favoring long desire. Not art. Not knowledge. I think I've come to the place I sought, but I don't know. I think you may be the people they told me of, but I don't know. I think the trees I saw from the hill hold some great mystery, but I don't know. I only know that since I set foot on that hill I've been as I was when I was a child and first heard The Deed of Enlad sung. I am lost among wonders..".man. He'll do no harm while I'm with you..".to call a truce and withdraw from the occupied Hardic islands if Maharion would seek no reprisal..lead the rites. Without suppressing the worship of the Old Powers, the priests of the Twin Gods.was nothing to fear. There was no harm..".A good bit of it?".After a while Ged gently drew the older man to him and held him in his arms. He said something quietly to him and let him go. Irioth drew a deep breath..for me, he definitely would have agreed to stay there longer). That had been odd. I had expected.she went about the house. He held the wizard's letter and reread the message and the two runes."We should find shelter and rest," he said..When he came home he had a three-year-old daughter with him. He turned her over to the housekeeper.not know his craft, all he could see clearly in Gelluk's thoughts were pages of a lore-book full.The first window. Panoramic, enormous..file:///D:/Documents%20and%20Settings/harry/...0%20LeGuin%20-%20Tales%20From%20Earthsea.txt (60 of 111) [2/5/2004 12:33:31 AM].direction south. Central level -- gleeders, red local, white express, A, B, and V. Ulder level,.as a flowering tree. She was very tall, very sweaty, with big hands and feet and mouth and nose.stories, I became (somewhat) more systematic and methodical, and put my knowledge of the peoples."I'm not a col. . ." I began. She leaned on the table with her elbows and moved her hand.arms and breasts were submerged in a fluffy cloud; she entered his embrace; they danced. They.probably puts some brake on linguistic drift in daily speech), while the Hardic runes, like.in the distance, above the black edges of the buildings, tripped the steadily shining letters of the."The man's a wizard, or nearly," said Rose the witch, "a Roke wizard! You must not ask him."In the unlikely event that a science-fiction writer is deemed worthy of a Nobel Prize in the near."But we met, we sat, and we could not choose. We said this and said that, but no name was spoken. And then I..." He paused a while. There came on me what my people call the eduevanu, the other breath. Words came to me and I spoke them. I said, Hama Gondun! And Kurremkarmerruk told them this in Hardic: "A woman on Gont." But when I came back to my own wits, I could not tell them what that meant. And so we parted with no Archmage chosen..They had no patience with him either, always at him to hurry up and get done with the job; nor with themselves, their life. When they talked to each other it was always about what they were going to do in town, in Oraby, when they got paid off. He heard a good deal about the whores in Oraby, Daisy and Goldie and the one they called the Burning Bush. He had to sit with the young men because they all needed what warmth there was to be got from the fire, but they did not want him there and he did not want to be there with them. In them he knew was a vague fear of him as a sorcerer, and a jealousy of him, but above all contempt. He was old, other, not one of them. Fear and jealousy he knew and shrank from, and contempt he remembered. He was glad he was not one of them, that they did not want to talk to him. He was afraid of doing wrong to them.. "I'll stay here if I may," he said in that princely way, with his teeth chattering, holding on to.She thought he was clever and quite handsome, but she didn't think much about him, except for what.seeing him, for a soft, bluish, sourceless light filled the room. Her sore, raw lips quivered but.file:///D:/Documents%20and%20Settings/harry/...0%20LeGuin%20-%20Tales%20From%20Earthsea.txt (76 of 111) [2/5/2004 12:33:31 AM]. "How long does brit work?" I asked..You must not weaken, and not think, "Oh, if I just beg them to let me in, they can't refuse me..". "Why not? Why does it have to be a witch or a sorcerer? What do you do?".something? I was numb from the strain of trying not to do anything wrong. This, for four days.ones..Starving hungry, frustrated, misunderstood, Diamond reached out to hold her again, to make her body understand his

body, repeating that first, deep embrace that had held all the years of their lives in it. He found himself standing two feet back, his hands stinging and his ears ringing and his eyes dazzled. The lightning was in Rose's eyes, and her hands sparked as she clenched them. "Never do that again," she whispered..courtesy, and because neither Gully or Otak seemed names well suited to him. An otak, she had herself, for charming and handsome as he was she had never been able to feel a thing for him but misery, she leaped out of bed and opened the shutters..craft. Medra had been the Master Finder, until he went to the Grove. A young woman now taught that.of Havnor had been burnt to the ground. The king's wizards had spell-caught and killed several.The shrubbery parted. A winding path. Gravel crunched beneath my feet, shining faintly;.Two long curves appeared on the Doorkeeper's cheeks, enclosing the slow upturn of his smile. The Changer's face remained stern, but he blinked, and after a little thought said, "I'm sure - yes - it was definitely the better plan to be honest. What Master did you speak of?".betrayed..ropes of dark mist, giving way to the wizard who had made them..At last she moved, and kissed his cheek, and whispered, "I missed you, I missed you, I missed you..Though not a sorcerer, Licky was a much more formidable man than Hound. Yet like Hound he was.be afraid of him. She found that he had no memory at all of what had happened in the village, of.years...".something more. I spared him that, turning away as if I had not noticed anything, and went up the.He was angry then, very angry, a hungry man whose food is snatched from his hand. He summoned the."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!".He was still shaken, appalled, by the ease with which Gelluk had forced him to say his name, which gave the wizard immediate and ultimate power over him. Now he had no hope of resisting Gelluk in any way. That night he had been in utter despair. But then Anieb had come into his mind: come of her own will, by her own means. He could not summon her, could not even think of her, and would not have dared to do so, since Gelluk knew his name. But she came, even when he was with the wizard, not in apparition but as a presence in his mind..as they lost their dragon nature..have the strength in me to stop the man when he fled, nor the wits to send anyone after him. And.there; walking with Licky; sitting with Gelluk; the slaves, the fire, the stone stairs winding up."The young men come to me and they say, "What good is it? Can you find gold?" they say. "Can you.The daughter of "the wise king Thoreg" rescued Erreth-Akbe from this trance or imprisoning spell.all the world to come to him-which was true. Maybe that's where the danger of that art lies..It was true. He knew her name: Irian. It was like a coal of fire, a burning ember in his mind. His."So I could go to Roke! And see, and learn! Why, why is it only men can go there?".own mind..sea, until in a final terrible flight they passed the Dragon's Run and came to the last island of

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