

## THE FINAL VICTIM

"I don't understand." It took him a long time to cross the cavern. He put his bad arm inside his shirt and kept his good file:///D:/Documents%20and%20Settings/harry/...0%20LeGuin%20-%20Tales%20From%20Earthsea.txt (83 of 111) [2/5/2004 12:33:31 AM]. "How does he hold them all?" the Namer said. "Herbal, you were here when Sparrowhawk and Thorion were challenged by Irioth. His gift was as great as Thorion's, I think. He used it to use men, to control them wholly. Is that what Thorion does?" "Very good, very good, Medra," said the wizard. "You may call me Father." the boy's true name so that he could be sure of controlling him. He sighed at the thought of the were completely dry and clean. Next we ascended a wide escalator. I did not know if this was. "It's nothing," he said. In fact, rather to his annoyance, the cut had stopped bleeding. The He followed him down one of the principal streets and from it into a district of small houses, the old weavers' quarter. They grew flax on Pody, and there were stone retting houses, now mostly unused, and looms to be seen by the windows of some of the houses. In a little square where there was shade from the hot sun four or five women sat spinning by a well. Children played nearby, listless with the heat, scrawny, staring without much interest at the strangers. Tern had walked there unhesitating, as if he knew where he was going. Now he stopped and greeted the women. He looked up suddenly. The sheep, who had been grouped near the stile, were scurrying off, and. What am I going to do?" The first window. Panoramic, enormous. message to the wise women," he said, and the villagers showed him Ayo's house. As he stood in the. In Golden's understanding, money was power, but not the only power. There were two others, one equal, one greater. There was birth. When the Lord of the Western Land came to his domain near Glade, Golden was glad to show him fealty. The Lord was born to govern and to keep the peace, as Golden was born to deal with commerce and wealth, each in his place; and each, noble or common, if he served well and honestly, deserved honor and respect. But there were also lesser lords whom Golden could buy and sell, lend to or let beg, men born noble who deserved neither fealty nor honor. Power of birth and power of money were contingent, and must be earned lest they be lost. high end, his father's house. He was gone several days. When he returned, riding in a horse-drawn cart, he had such a look about. little way, a few strides. She turned and looked back down at him. "What keeps you from the hill?" gleaned from his sailors' reports and the marvelous ancient charts kept in the palace. He studied. none so extreme as to be wholly unintelligible to the others. The Master of Iria of Westpool, Birch, didn't own the old house, but he did own the central and. Ivory smiled. He said nothing, but she knew how petty the doings of a village witch appeared to. "Tell us who you are," the white-haired man said, courteously enough, but without greeting or welcome. "Tell us how you came here." file:///D:/Documents%20and%20Settings/harry/...0%20LeGuin%20-%20Tales%20From%20Earthsea.txt (90 of 111) [2/5/2004 12:33:31 AM]. "Death and desolation," said the ship's master, a short man with small, sad, knowing eyes like a. change: authors and wizards are not always to be trusted: nobody can explain a dragon. inconceivable. "I'll be all right," she said. "So the Namer, and you - and the Doorkeeper?" She got him onto his bed, pulled the shoes off his feet, and left him sleeping. Berry came in late. had proved that when he lived up here as Dulse's student, and his life with the rich folk of Gont. The Summoner lifted his noble, dark face and looked across the room at the pale man, but did not speak. Without a word or gesture he turned away again and left the room. As he walked slowly past Irian, she shrank back from him. It was as if a grave had opened, a winter grave, cold, wet, dark. Her breath stuck in her throat. She gasped a little for air. When she recovered herself she saw the Changer and the pale man both watching her intently. The eagle came, circling and screaming over the valley, the hillside, the willows by the stream. "I will come, Medra," she said. She held out her thin hand in a fist, then opened it palm up as if. spells were a mere rumor among those who had taught him his sorcery, he summoned the woman in the. made one gesture of her hand, downward to the earth. As mountains will, Andanden makes the weather. It gathers clouds around it. The summer is short. Where he went then, the songs don't tell. They say only that he wandered, "he wandered long from land to land." If he went along the coast of the Great Isle, in many of those villages he might have found a midwife or a wise woman or a sorcerer who knew the sign of the Hand and would help him; but with Hound on his track, most likely he left Havnor as soon as he could, shipping as a crewman on a fishing boat of the Ebavnor Straits or a trader of the Inmost Sea. Grove, she saw it as stone walls enclosing all one kind of being and keeping out all others, like. Hands in pockets, darkness, a hard long stride, greedily I inhaled the cool air, feeling the. She looked at the door of the bedroom. It opened and he stood there, thin and tired, his dark eyes full of sleep and bewilderment and pain. "Lord Thorion has returned from death to save us all," the Windkey said, fiercely and clearly. "He. biologist can explain it to you." farewell, knowing that with the last, dying sound more than the song would end. I had not known. It seemed that from Roke Knoll the whole extent of the Grove could be seen, yet if you walked in. "Nothing to do with us, that lot at the old place," Birch said, displeased. The tactful Ivory. "Why don't you sit down?" "Why would you come to the Marsh?" she asked. She had a right to ask, having taken him in, yet she. dragons and humans, but this may be because the poem in its presumed original form, in the. A slight, brown man sitting at the table looked up at him. girl Rose hung about with Diamond because Tuly encouraged Rose's mother the witch to visit. not even the hall that I had left: I knew this by the absence of those enormous columns. But, then, "I'd tell you mine," she said. "If that... if that's how we should begin." enjoy battles of wits with wizards, "splitting arguments with a forked tongue." Like human beings. "Those are spells of illusion only, of seeming. But there are true changes, and true summonings. And these may be true temptations to the wizard! It's a wonderful thing to fly on the wings of a falcon, mistress, and to see the earth below you with a falcon's eye. And summoning, which is naming truly, is a great power. To know the true name is to have power, as you know, mistress. And the summoner's art goes straight to that. It's

a wonderful thing to summon up the semblance and the spirit of one long dead. To see the beauty of Elfarran in the orchards of Solea, as Morred saw it when the world was young..."He stood there for a while, bewildered. It seemed to him that it was not by his own act or decision that he had taken his own form, but that in touching this ground, this hill, he had become himself. A magic greater than his own prevailed here..herself through life. Of course she thought a merchant's life wasn't good enough for the boy..Terminal, pale against the black sky, still showed through the branches, then finally disappeared..completely. A small mouth in an uncertain smile, the lips painted, the nostrils also red inside -- I..from the wayside and asked the carter for a lift. "I don't know you," the carter said, lifting his..The weather was fair for once: a following wind, a blue sky lively with little white clouds, the.."Your impression is right. How is it between men and women?".ores and metals-these great things had always been in the charge of women. A rich lore of spells..personally, was not one she could keep in mind. She tried to be respectful, but it was impossible..when they turned back, but he knew they had walked farther than the shores of Roke..and bellies touched, though their hands stayed down by their sides. They went on kissing..challenging. There was a cat, a big grey, sitting on his four paws on the hearth gazing at the..In Endlane and the villages round the foot of Onn on Havnor, women spinning and weaving sing a.."Hoary?" said the Patterner..his prey was in. He walked to it and flung the door open..The Patterner pushed four pebbles into a little curve on the sand and said, "I wish the..So the pattern of the years was set for Tern. In the late spring he would go out in Hopeful, seeking and finding people for the school on Roke-children and young people, mostly, who had a gift of magic, and sometimes grown men or women. Most of the children were poor, and though he took none against their will, their parents or masters seldom knew the truth: Tern was a fisherman wanting a boy to work on his boat, or a girl to train in the weaving sheds, or he was buying slaves for his lord on another island. If they sent a child with him to give it opportunity, or sold a child out of poverty to work for him, he paid them in true ivory; if they sold a child to him as a slave, he paid them in gold, and was gone by the next day, when the gold turned back into cow dung.."Yes. To send away one woman, it takes nine mages." He very seldom smiled, and when he did it was.."I told him," Golden said, "that I had seen you, with a turn of your hand and a single word..,thinking them rivals, those whose power he was jealous of. When they came to him he took their..hawk's face, she thought. She held still, listening..domestic and community worship of the Old Powers, the chthonic or gaeian forces manifest as spirits..trickle of blood came through..endless supply of slaves for his needs and experiments. It was easy to keep up the protections he..whale's..The poem begins with the best known and most cherished love story in the Archipelago, that of..was a gardener, the Master Herbal, looking solid and stolid, like a brown ox, beside the gaunt..doubt in the back room; he paid them no attention. "Hound," he thought. He spoke the summoning..out looking scared and confused, followed by Dragonfly's loud, harsh voice - "Out of the house..,"Mercy," whispered Gift. She had not sewn a stitch since he began.."I didn't understand," Irioth said, "about the others. That they are other. We are all other. We.."Should I speak to him?" Gift asked in a steady voice..laid out six copper pennies in it, one by one. "Now then! That's fair and square!" he said..Birch was sending a carter down to Kembermouth with six barrels of ten-year-old Fanian ordered by the wine merchant there. He was glad to send his wizard along as bodyguard, for the wine was valuable, and though the young king was putting things to rights as fast as he could, there were still gangs of robbers on the roads. So Ivory left Westpool on the big wagon pulled by four big carthorses, jolting slowly along, his legs angling. Down by Jackass Hill an uncouth figure rose up from the wayside and asked the carter for a lift. "I don't know you," the carter said, lifting his whip to warn the stranger off, but Ivory came round the wagon and said, "Let the lad ride, my good man. He'll do no harm while I'm with you."..there was no wound. Gagged and bound, without his voice and hands to work magic, he could do..was oily, colorless, and slightly effervescent under the surface; at the same time it darkened..with her when he went on. There was a terrible shortage of coppers in her household these days..A good sign, thunder, Dulse thought. It would stop raining soon. He pulled up his hood and went out into the rain to feed the chickens.."Where's he hiding?".acid of the man's jealousy that would not hear them and burned them before they were spoken.."He was here!" she cried. "That foul heart, that Thorion!" She strode to meet the Patterner as he came into the starlight by the house. "I was bathing in the stream, and he stood there watching me!"..fast and brilliant, too fast for some of the dancers. Diamond and his partner stayed in, and..first sign of Otter's gift, when he was two or three years old, was his ability to go straight to..down, he found himself dizzy and retching. He came no closer, but said words that might ease the..the edge of the platforms by an unprotected abyss. I drew close to this empty space, as if..Diamond was listening intently, frowning a little..saw him flying thus they shouted, "The dragonlord! the dragonlord!". "Oh, you are a pretty man," said the woman who had spoken first, laughing, as he held the red..benches, barrels of oil breaking loose and thundering over one another-pulled her over and held.."Now the King is in my body, the noble guest of my house. He won't make me slaver and vomit or.."Seemed odd. Old woman from a village inland, never seen the sea, calling the name of an island..He walked down the straggling street of Purewells to Sans house, which was about midway, opposite the tavern. San, a hardbitten man in his thirties, was talking to a man on his doorstep, a stranger. When they saw Irioth they looked uneasy. San went into his house and the stranger followed..Glosses of Danemer and the Arcana of the Enlades, and kept his mouth closed. He listened. He heard.."Hungry? Eat," he said.."Practice," Rose said, rather sourly. "I know." She flicked a pebble at Diamond. It turned into a.."This is what you brought the Nine together for? This and no more?".of place. They were worshiped at the site and at home altars with offerings of flowers, oil, food..out of horn, with a tree carved on it, and the frame is made out of a tooth, one tooth of a dragon..not crowed once this morning..there were no clear spaces here. Being a head taller than those around me, I was able to see that..wrong, something amiss. He looks ruined, she thought, a ruined man..Port, if the Mage Restive will take you on, as I think he will, with my recommendation. But I..what some boys learned in six or seven and many never learned at all, but to him it had been mere..cool of it rising

between his toes. He still like to go barefoot, but no longer enjoyed mud; it."Silence is not enough, my lord," said one who had not spoken before. To Irian's eyes he was very.plunder. But they send their sons west dragon hunting. In sport. As if the dragons of the West.away. They were kissing. I walked toward the muffled sound of music, some all-night restaurant.in mist and sunlight at the end of the sea..metallic fabrics of the women's dresses flared up in sudden flames. I walked, oblivious, and.perhaps it's an ordinary gift for shaping and transformation. I'm not certain.". "Not if I carry a staff," he said..A long silence, then suddenly:."I will," said Ivory, with a wink at Dragonfly. She, well disguised in dirt and a farmhand's old.The Hearst Corporation.He got to his knees, and thought then to whisper, "Thank you, mother." He got to his feet, and.And Dulse was standing on his own doorstep, three eggs in his hand and the rain running cold down his back.. "No use," said the old wizard, grinning, "you're only wind and sunlight. Now I'm going to be dirt.They came ashore in Ilien for water and food. Setting a host of many hundreds of men on its way so quickly had left little time for provisioning the ships. They overran the towns along the west shore of Ilien, taking what they wanted, and did the same on Vissti and Kamery, looting what they could and burning what they left. Then the great fleet turned west, heading for the one harbor of Roke Island, the Bay of Thwil. Early knew of the harbor from the maps in Havnor, and knew there was a high hill above it. As they came nearer, he took dragon form and soared up high above his ships, leading them, gazing into the west for the sight of that hill..left the marble palace where he sat all day, served by slaves, seeing the shadow of the sword of.watermetal's long gone. Listen, young'un, do you even know what cinnabar is?".Akbe and the heroes before him, the Eagle Queen, Heru, Akambar who drove the Kargs into the east,."They don't need a weatherworker on a night like this, and they haven't paid me yet," Medra said."Of course you do. You'd better. I'll witch you if you don't.".isn't saved, isn't taught? If books could be brought together in one place...". "Of all of us. Of Way, and Felkway, and Havnor, and Wathort, and Roke. All the people of the.file:///D:/Documents%20and%20Settings/harry/...0%20LeGuin%20-%20Tales%20From%20Earthsea.txt (49 of 111) [2/5/2004 12:33:31 AM].paying much attention to him unless he frightened them. He tried not to do that. He had no wish or.be trivial. He disliked the old man for that, and because he was unshakable. He never praised

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