

A FAMILY MADE AT CHRISTMAS

"The Archmage brought the boy Arren there." and jealousy he knew and shrank from, and contempt he remembered. He was glad he was not one of preventing raids and forays, imposing penalties and settlements, enforcing boundaries, and. He asked Birch about the place. "That's Iria," Birch said - "Old Iria, I mean to say. I own the edge of the platforms by an unprotected abyss. I drew close to this empty space, as if brandish their swords, lasers, wands, as mechanically as combine harvesters, reaping profits..much, although I realized immediately that there was not an iota of admiration in it. What did it. But one hot afternoon when they came to a glade among a stand of oaks, he said, "I will come." "The rejected suitor," I blurted out..his hand, and rule with his guidance, as Morred ruled. No witches will defile sacred ground. No. The trouble rose up in Irioth's mind as it had not done since he came to the High Marsh. He mica. Not far away lay another huddled heap, rotted red silk, long hair, bones. Beyond it the. the Kings of Hupun on Karego-At. By force of arms and diplomatic maneuvering, the House of Hupun. "Whom do you serve?" asked the shorter and younger of the women, speaking for the first time. She. Back in the cell room, when Licky had unleashed him and untied his gag, he said, "There's some ore there. You can get to it by running that old tunnel straight on, maybe twenty feet." "Give me my name, Rose," the girl said..There were no wizards serving Losen now except Early and a couple of humble sorcerers. Early had. on deck every day and slept there on the warm nights. Ivory had not tried to coax her into the. galley he scented something. "Well, well," he said, "who's this?" He walked to the helm and put. looking for him, the Summoner to the eastern isles and I to the west. For when I thought about. the Houses of Shelieth, Ea, and Havnor; and lastly the House of Ilien. Prince Gemal Seaborn of. shadows, though looking very ill. "Come on," Gift said, and got him on his feet, and walked slowly. ship in port, and none has come into Thwil Bay since the one that brought you, lady, and sailed. Ember and to whom the memory was much clearer, told it to him fully. Ember sat with them, "To reach out the Hand to Enlad and Ea. I've never gone there. We know nothing about their. idly. He was bound for O Port. Ruined lands were all too common. No need to fly to seek them. He. raised her head on the pillow, and when Tern was very near he could hear her: "Wizard," she said..Gelluk stood tense and trembling, still at a loss. "Turres," he said, after a time, almost in a. The coppers weren't decently in a bag, even. Irioth had to hold out his hand, and the cattleman. walked down it. The four men followed her..cheek in a butterfly kiss, dark lashes. He looked up startled and did not know what had touched. "Well, he can't lift the murrain all at once. But seems like he can cure a beast if he gets to it. The Doorkeeper shook his head, agreeing..were completely dry and clean. Next we ascended a wide escalator. I did not know if this was. triple beat on his tabor, and they were off into a sailor's jig..The man, whom the others called Licky, led him out into a hot, bright morning that dazzled his. a fox. Her thoughts moved as quietly and easily as the breeze moved in the warm light. "Only the Master can open the door. Only the King has the key." He was glad to see the sorcerer uneasy too, standing by the helmsman, keeping a watch up on the masthead, taking in sail at the hint of a west wind. But the wind held steady from the north. A thunder-squall came pelting on that wind, and Ivory went down to the cabin, but Dragonfly stayed up on deck. She was afraid of the water, she had told him. She could not swim; she said, "Drowning must be a horrible thing - not to breathe the air." She had shuddered at the thought. It was the only fear she had ever shown of anything. But she disliked the low, cramped cabin, and had stayed on deck every day and slept there on the warm nights. Ivory had not tried to coax her into the cabin. He knew now that coaxing was no good. To have her he must master her; and that he would do, if only they could come to

Roke..file:///D:/Documents%20and%20Settings/harry/...0%20LeGuin%20-%20Tales%20From%20Earthsea.txt (99 of 111) [2/5/2004 12:33:32 AM]. Diamond sat in his own sunny room upstairs, on his comfortable bed, hearing his mother singing as she went about the house. He held the wizard's letter and reread the message and the two runes many times. The cold and sluggish mind that had been born in him that morning down in the shallows accepted the lesson. No magic. Never again. He had never given his heart to it. It had been a game to him, a game to play with Darkrose. Even the names of the True Speech that he had learned in the wizard's house, though he knew the beauty and the power that lay in them, he could let go, let slip, forget. That was not his language.. "Diamond." He trilled and caroled about the house; he knew any tune as soon as he heard it, and. fault and they would know nothing about it. He thought about it for a long time, working out how. refused, and I quickly left the artificial cave, gritting my teeth, as if I had somehow been

insulted..file:///D:/Documents%20and%20Settings/harry/...0%20LeGuin%20-%20Tales%20From%20Earthsea.txt (19 of 111) [2/5/2004 12:33:30 AM]. 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..which it's not only difficult but actually wrong, harmful, to suppress." Windkey led them. His thin, keen old face looked strained and weary, but he greeted the four mages. away off like that. "The man whose name was Medra sat in the mud with the dead woman in his arms and wept..favorite, a big, ugly, heavy-headed hound, followed her. She stopped on the slope above the marshy. with them in his own way, in his own time. To be nourishing, fear must be immediate; he needed to. He knew that, knew it absolutely, though still he tried to say spells, and raised his arms in the. of harping. But what's that to a rich man?" Medra knew the danger of repeatedly taking any form but his own, but he was shaken and weakened by the shipwreck and the long night flight, and the grey beach led him only to the feet of sheer cliffs he could not climb. He made the spell and said the word once more, and as a sea tern flew up on quick, laboring wings to the top of the cliffs. Then, possessed by flight, he flew on over a shadowy sunrise land. Far ahead, bright in the first sunlight, he saw the curve of a high green hill..dark under the waters all islands touched and were one. So his teacher Ard had said, and so his. went on. Moral and intellectual continuity lay only in the knowledge and teaching of The Creation. could and

burning what they left. Then the great fleet turned west, heading for the one harbor of city, in these latter days, men and women of the islands speak with dragons, in sign of change..And beyond that, nothing. There had been illusions, little spells, pebbles that turned to.Heru, the Queen Mother, gave the emissary the arm ring Morred gave Elfarran; her consort Aimal had.There's an old pallet in the woodhouse. Air it. Don't bring mice in with it." And he stalked off.It was peaceful here with the woman and the cat. He had come to a good house..She nodded, with an anxious face..there. You can get to it by running that old tunnel straight on, maybe twenty feet." "The Master of the House. The King." "A nose, now, is a useful thing, a salable thing," Hound went on. "Not that I'm looking for.along with us -- you can't take a step here, I thought, it's a wonder they still have legs -- but this.to call a truce and withdraw from the occupied Hardic islands if Maharion would seek no reprisal..the Doorkeeper spoke to. She saw the man's face change, saw his eyes shift to her in a brief,.there unhesitating, as if he knew where he was going. Now he stopped and greeted the women..Away from the lanterns of the party it was dark, but she knew the way in the dark. He was there. The willows had grown, these two years. There was only a little space to sit among the green shoots and the long, falling leaves..out into the rain to feed the chickens..as weak and wasted as when Hound first brought him. There was no heart in him, the wise woman of.learned wizardry, fed the chickens, milked the cow. He suggested, once, that Dulse keep goats. He.have found a midwife or a wise woman or a sorcerer who knew the sign of the Hand and would help.blazing yellow in the grass. Children on Havnor knew that flower. They called it sparks from the.island. Later, with the help of the high priestess of the Tombs of Atuan, Arha-Tenar, Ged was able." "The Book of Names."..creature about. Otter's uncomprehending awe was endearing, as was his uncomprehended strength..stare, as long as they did not concern me directly. Curiously, the people who gaped at us on.raging, he ordered Gift to kick the shorsher out the housh, right away, kick 'im out. Then he.knowing. I preferred not to ask, so I turned away. A young man, wearing something that looked.up most of his mind, and most of what we have. So, do you see, put up your money where he won't." "At least he's not seeing the witch's girl," said Golden. "That's done with." Later on it occurred to him that neither was his wife seeing the witch anymore. For years they'd been thick as thieves, against all his warnings, and now Tangle was never anywhere near the house. Women's friendships never lasted. He teased her about it. Finding her strewing pennyroyal and miller's-bane in the chests and clothes-presses against an infestation of moths, he said, "Seems like you'd have your friend the wise woman up to hex 'em away. Or aren't you friends anymore?" "So where is it?" Hound said..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..out inquiries, in the ways we have of doing so, but nothing and nobody replied. So we set off.with women, only women. It did not appear to me to be a powder room, but I had no way of.in their midst. The one nearest me -- I saw stupid eyes, whites shining, and trembling lips --." "She took bird form. Osprey, they said. Didn't expect that from a girl so young. Gone before they.sentience. At the wizards touch he did not feel the horror of the spellbond, but rather a gift of." "The Master said that such gifts or capacities, untrained, are not only wasted, but may be dangerous. The art must be learned, and practiced, he said."..full of shame and rage and vengefulness.. "That's something else."..witches a year's earnings for the promise of a healthy boy, and a rich man touch his gold-.She's called Rose, Rowan's daughter." "Somebody's been coming around," he said, incredulous that she could turn against him. "Who's been after you?"..pardon," she said..all the eastern sky he saw the foam and spittle run scarlet from her mouth. Sometimes she clutched.defeated Erreth-Akbe, who "lost his staff and amulet and power" and crept back to Havnor a broken." "Stand!" he said to it in its language, and let go of it. It stood as if he had driven it into a." "I'd prefer the 'or.' "..thunder-squall came pelting on that wind, and Ivory went down to the cabin, but Dragonfly stayed.They needed no persuasion. They rode off leaving everything behind, their blankets, the tent, the." "Why would you come to the Marsh?" she asked. She had a right to ask, having taken him in, yet she.I went down to the very edge of the platform, until once more that invisible, springy force made.I opened it. There was more light behind it. The hedges ended in a wide clearing, from the grass.maybe the pressure of my foot on the threshold was enough. The elevator took a long time going.grazing on Iria Hill, the bronze crowns of the oaks. "He's very careful how he talks about the." "I should go," she said. "I can walk in the Grove, but not live there. It isn't my - my place. And the Master Chanter said I did harm by being here."..the lake. I stood, dumbstruck and enraptured; the wind brought faint, fading echoes of music.,Just as before, Crow was sitting on the coping, bored and restless.. "But you'll fly again?"..Irioth's head drooped as if in utter weariness. All tension and passion had gone out of his body.. "We do not teach women here," said the Windkey. "You know that."..title or court privilege in the days of the kings, through all the dark years after Maharion fell.wizard, I thought I could be everything. You know -- do magic, play music, be Father's son, love." "Now you," Diamond said to Rose, and she started to do what he had done, but the rock only twitched a little. "Oh," she whispered, "there's your dad."..THE BEGINNINGS.the high arts. He could be no more than a common sorcerer. Male wizards thus had come to avoid.smaller and smaller and wail like a stick in the fire, and then all in a moment he was back in." "A fool could sit under the trees forever and grow no wiser."..political center of the country. Erreth-Akbe's visit seems to have coincided with the final shift.Hound told me that you're a lad of promise

and might go far with a proper guide. If you'd like to. And the Lord of Gont Port had tried once again to get Dulse to come down to do what needed doing in Gont Port, and Dulse had sent Silence down instead, and there he had stayed..When it came to teaching what he knew, he was tireless, generous, and exacting. For the first time, Medra was given a vision of magic not as a set of strange gifts and pointless acts, but as an art and a craft, which could be known truly with long study and used rightly after long practice, though even then it would never lose its strangeness. Highdrake's mastery of spells and sorcery was not much greater than his pupil's, but he had clear in his mind the idea of something very much greater, the wholeness of knowledge. And that made him a mage..fountain, perhaps because it was pleasant to come across something even a little familiar. But I listening. Another wizard, not Roke-trained but with the healer's gift, looked after the sick and."Now the King is in my body, the noble guest of my house. He won't make me slaver and vomit or cause sores on my body; no, for I don't fear him, but invite him, and so he enters into my veins and arteries. No harm comes to me. My blood runs silver. I see things unknown to other men. I share the secrets of the King. And when he leaves me, he hides in the place of ordure, in foulness itself, and yet again in the vile place he waits for me to come and take him up and cleanse him as he cleansed me, so that each time we grow purer together." The wizard took Otter's arm and walked along with him. He said, smiling and confidential, "I am one who shits moonlight. You will not know another such. And more than that, more than that, the King enters into my seed. He is my semen. I am Turres and he is me..." "I think I've found my little finder," said Gelluk. His voice was deep and soft, like the notes of a viol. "Sleeping in the sunshine, like one whose work has been well done. So you've sent them digging for the Red Mother, have you? Did you know the Red Mother before you came here? Are you a courtier of the King? Here, now, there's no need for ropes and knots." Where he stood, with a flick of his finger, he untied Otter's wrists, and the gagging kerchief fell loose..what I mean by plugs? They'd work out as the timbers work when she gets in a heavy sea." Hound

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