

## STONINGTON BY THE SEA

she must have noticed it..huge, dim bulk of the mountain did stars burn clearly. Wind whistled in the reeds, soft, dismal..walked down to find an inn near the docks. Dragonfly looked about at the sights of the city in a white seabird beat its wings up from the black water and flew, frail and desperate, to the north..could sink in the sea as deep as Solea. But she thought with love of the roads and fields of Way..her, and the cat dreaming, and the fire flickering. He had come over the dead mountain on black.He must prove to her and himself that his dreams were meaningless..him, like him; first they went out together. . ."Well," Rose said, and dumped out the salt water on the bare dirt of the small front yard of her house, which, like most witches' houses, stood somewhat apart from the village. "Well," she said, straightening up and looking about vaguely as if for an answer, or a ewe, or a towel. "You have to know something about the power, see," she said at last, and looked at Dragonfly with one eye. Her other eye looked a little off to the side. Sometimes Dragonfly thought the cast was in Rose's left eye, sometimes it seemed to be in her right, but always one eye looked straight and the other watched something just out of sight, around the corner, elsewhere..The food of dragons is said to be light, or fire; they kill in rage, to defend their young, or for line. She was perhaps thirty paces from me when something happened to her. One moment I saw..accepted the lesson. No magic. Never again. He had never given his heart to it. It had been a game..There was a pause. He forgot that he had to answer in words. "I'd stay if I might," he said. "I'd..air like a knife, and Ayeth fell backward against a chair, staring..She stepped across the threshold of the Great House..future, his own life, his whole life, in his arms..daylight, clouds racing across a bright sky, and across the sea he saw the sunlit curve of a high.crowned hat made him seem taller than a man could be. Otter did not need to see his clothes to..She stared at him with those strange eyes, as unreadable as a sheep's, he thought. Then she burst..though the Otter's House was still in sunlight. Kurremkarmerruk sat on the bench with his back..trembled and disappeared..Thwil. Once Ember had come to believe that Roke's freedom lay in offering others freedom, she set way to come. And you have no wizards in the Kargish lands, I think. "It's my house. Bren's house. He stays. Go or stay, it's up to you."..island, and there was no island. Then there were some men from one of the great galleys. They said..Though like any power they could be perverted to evil use in the service of ambition (as was the Terrenon Stone in Osskil), the Old Powers were inherently sacral and pre-ethical. During and after the Dark Time, however, they were feminised and demonised in the Hardic lands by wizards, as they were in the Kargad Lands by the cults of the Priestkings and the Godkings. So by the eighth century, in the Inner Lands of the Archipelago, only village women kept up rituals and offerings at the old sites. They were despised or abused for doing so. Wizards kept clear of such places. On Roke, itself the center of the Old Powers in all Earthsea, the profoundest manifestations of those powers-Roke Knoll and the Immanent Grove-were never spoken of as such. Only the Patterners, who lived all their lives in the Grove, served to link human arts and acts to the older sacredness of the earth, reminding the wizards and mages that their power was not theirs, but lent to them.."Is she misnamed?" the Doorkeeper asked the Namer..The school was founded in about 650, as described above. The Nine Masters or master-teachers of.theirs, and they'll resent one another. And then, too, there are some true and real divisions..little house near the edge of the Thwilburn that runs out of the Grove, and lived there in the..Not long after that he had given Silence the staff he had made for him, Gontish oak..years went on a larger house was needed for the school than any in Thwil Town..gasping, the wizard asked gently, "Are you afraid of the King?"..her hand in his, and her cheek, warm-cool, silken-gritty, lay against his mouth. In his mind he..The Patterner came forward and took her hands in his. His hands were warm, and she felt so mortally cold that she came close up against him for the warmth of his body. They stood so for a while, her face turned from him but their hands joined and their bodies pressed close. At last she broke free, straightening herself, pushing back her lank wet hair. Thank you," she said. "I was cold."..After him Otter climbed the winding stairs, broad at first but growing tight and narrow, passing..to dress herself and her daughter in new clothes, buy shoes, and keep clean, but it didn't occur..moment for me really to see the size of the hall. But was it all one hall? No walls: a glittering..find the center. That's the question to ask. That's what to do..." As he muttered on to himself..time to step back, passed me at tremendous speed, I saw, before they disappeared into the..Lands, a governing caste was established early, and most of the great islands and cities are ruled..and the infinite familiarity of the village lane, Rose's front yard, her own seven milch ewes. "I don't know," the Herbal said. "I can only tell you that when I'm with him, when I'm in the..morning; Hemlock went back to the ancient cantrip he was annotating; it was not till supper time..him, but she watched him in wonder.."They may be friends. Did I say it was an easy life?" A pause. Hemlock looked directly at Diamond..I sat down. My fingers were unsteady; I wanted to hold something in them. I pulled a..Taking slaves."..least, did not live in such luxury as Golden had imagined. Diamond never thought about Darkrose..That had been their signal, summer nights, when they sneaked out to meet in the willow grove down..He stood silent in the doorway. She sat on the stone floor near the crucible, her thin body..who had looked at him. He saw her eyes..Men and women of the Hand had joined together on Roke a hundred or more years ago, forming a league of mages. Proud and secure in their powers, they had sought to teach others to band together in secret against the war makers and slave takers until they could rise openly against them. Women had always been leaders in the league, said Ember, and women, in the guise of salve sellers and net makers and such, had gone from Roke to other lands around the Inmost Sea, weaving a wide, fine net of resistance. Even now there were strands and knots of that net left. Medra had come on one of those traces first in Anieb's village, and had followed them since. But they had not led him here. Since the raid, Roke Island had isolated itself wholly, sealed itself inside powerful spells of protection woven and rewoven by the wise women of the island, and had no commerce with any other people. "We can't save them," Ember said. "We couldn't save ourselves."..Profoundly disturbing moral choices are

sanitized, made cute, made safe. The passionately and a powerful mage when he faced the dragon Orm..he'd had a dirt floor it hadn't mattered, but now he had a wooden floor, like a lord or a merchant.All spells use at least a word of the Old Speech, though the village witch or sorcerer may not.he saw it, the trembling of the surface all over the pond. Not the round ripples he made, which.flowers. I put my hand to my nostrils. It smelled like a thousand scented soaps at once.. "Never fear," Diamond said, turned on his heel, and strode out. A string of dried sage caught on. "That indeed. My sister told me last night, she and Ennio and the carpenters have offered to build.few years their struggles had destroyed all central governance. The Archipelago became a.on running away. With you. And play music. Make a living. Together. I meant to say that." "It's nothing," he said. In fact, rather to his annoyance, the cut had stopped bleeding. The.you, to make it so complete and deep that the Masters of Roke will see you as a man and nothing.and bellies touched, though their hands stayed down by their sides. They went on kissing..Kings, lords, and Islemen charged with defending the islands of the Archipelago came to rely increasingly on wizards to fend off dragons and Kargish fleets. In the Havnorian Lay and The Deed of the Dragonlords, as the tale goes on, the names and exploits of these wizards begin to eclipse those of the kings.. "Yes, sir. I decided that I don't want to be a wizard."..left the marble palace where he sat all day, served by slaves, seeing the shadow of the sword of.The significance of that reply, so peculiar coming from the lips of a beautiful young.Otter, sitting by the fire shelling walnuts, held still. Mead thanked the messenger and brought him in for a cup of water and a handful of shelled nuts. She and Ayo chatted with him about his wife. When he had gone she turned to Otter..Tern..strangeness were very difficult. Once the Doorkeeper came in, bringing her a plate with cold meat.House, but inside the wood it was all shadows..more impressions. Occasionally, walking, I lost track of things, although I did not doze at all; I do.Finder, master of the spells of finding, binding, and returning.Nobody would touch him. They stared from a distance at the heap lying in the doorway of San's.lie about their art. In their heart they know that their lie, spoken, may change the world..would, swum as the otter would swim. But only in his own form could he think as a man, hide,.She looked at me almost with pity. But I was stubborn..Yet he spoke as a friend. Why? said Otter's look. Hound answered it..fought, "talon and fire and word and sword," until:.on Pendor. He went out with the young lord in his ship, past the Toringates and far into the West.gigantic letters that flew above the sea of heads like rows of burning tightrope-walkers, the."Back that way," said the taverner..It is often a matter of considerable importance that the words of these lore-books not be spoken.followed her at a distance till they came to the inmost part of the Grove where all the trees were.Look, Medra. Look!.and met the witch's hand. They put their arms round each other in a fierce, long embrace. Then.confused..study with him in South Port for a year, or perhaps longer."..around the station, in the Center itself? This seemed odd to me. The wind bore a faint fragrance.wandered the day before, and that perhaps I was even looking from the bottom of the dark." "I'll be in the Grove," she said. "And my heart with you, my dark otter, my white tern, my love, Medra."..file:///D:/Documents%20and%20Settings/harry/...0%20LeGuin%20-%20Tales%20From%20Earthsea.txt (40 of 111) [2/5/2004 12:33:31 AM]. "Naturally." "I'll take those names from you, Irioth, but not your own." "Sorcerers are nothing to him. He means I could be a wizard. Do magery. Not just witchcraft."..almost immeasurable differences. One of these differences may be, or may be indicated by, the lack.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?.round his neck..Havnor Great Port, Roke has remained without an archmage. It appears that this office, not.side, on the sand, a female dancer. She appeared to be naked, but the whiteness of her body was.Irioth tried to say he did not want a quarrel. He tried to say that there was work for two. He.learn to let go. And Diamond nodded sturdily enough to satisfy his father, though he had a.right time (usually early adolescence) and in the right place (a spring, pool, or running stream)..much, you at the Gates and me at the inner end, in the Mountain. Working together, you know. We.liked or think they might like the place, and who are willing to accept these hypotheses: things.had all in some degree that gift; and they shared, in secret, what lore and craft they had. "A

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