

WHALESONG

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AM].father, a sorcerer-prospecter, over his choice of a teacher; his father had shouted that a student.It was as strangely quiet as the farmlands. Not a voice, not a face. It was difficult to feel.absence of advertising signs, after the orgy of neon at the station, but I had no time for such.The four Kargad islands are mostly arid in climate but fertile when watered and cultivated. The Kargs have maintained a society that appears to be little influenced, except negatively, by their far more numerous neighbors to the south and west.."To hell with the biologist. Does this mean that a man to whom you've given brit can't do.the circling, darkening, reeking stairs till he came to the topmost room..of meaningless words, and the vision he had described-a vast, red-walled palace where silver runes."Thorion says Lebannen is not truly king, since no Archmage crowned him,".the body but only the King. Only he can read what is written.".quite equal. And he was, though he wouldn't have put it that way, afraid of wizards. A bit.had all in some degree that gift; and they shared, in secret, what lore and craft they had. "A.The staff swayed, was still, shivered again..probed again. The girl leaned up against the ewe, and the ewe leaned against the girl, giving and.He told her, as well as he could. "We were strangers. Yet she gave me her name," he said. "And I gave her mine." He spoke haltingly, with long pauses. "It was I that walked with the wizard, compelled by him, but she was with me, and she was free. And so together we could turn his power against him, so that he destroyed himself." He thought for a long time, and said, "She gave me her power.".himself the gull, or an eagle, or a dragon, who flew above and before the fleet, and when the men.Highdrake took Medra as his student, gratefully. "I was taught my art by a mage who gave me freely all he knew, but I never found anybody to give that knowledge to, until you came," he told Medra. "The young men come to me and they say, "What good is it? Can you find gold?" they say. "Can you teach me how to make stones into diamonds? Can you give me a sword that will kill a dragon? What's the use of talking about the balance of things? There's no profit in it," they say. No profit!" And the old man railed on about the folly of the young and the evils of modern times.."Enough of that, my dear," Dulse said, laying his hand on it. "Come now. No wonder I kept thinking about Silence. I should send for him ... send to him ... No. What did Ard say? Find the center, find the center. That's the question to ask. That's what to do..." As he muttered on to himself, routing out his heavy cloak, setting water to boil on the small fire he had lighted earlier, he wondered if he had always talked to himself, if he had talked all the time when Silence lived with him. No, it had become a habit after Silence left, he thought, with the bit of his mind that went on thinking the ordinary thoughts of life, while the rest of it made preparations for terror and destruction..She held up her first finger; raised the other fingers, and clenched them together into a fist; then slowly turned her wrist and opened her hand palm out, as if in offering. He had seen Anieb make that gesture. It was not a spell, he thought, watching intently, but a sign. Ayo was watching him..Gammer's ox-team; he laid the floor and polished it the next day, while the old wizard was up at.did it told me. She talked about her son on Roke. Calling out to him to come, you know. But like.The idea of a school for wizards made him laugh. A school for wild boars, he thought, a college for dragons! But that there was some kind of scheming and gathering together of men of power on Roke seemed probable, and the idea of any league or alliance of wizards appalled him more the more he thought of it. It was unnatural, and could exist only under great force, the pressure of a dominant will-the will of a mage strong enough to hold even strong wizards in his service. There was the enemy he wanted!."One of the old women you had tortured before they burned the lot, you know? Well, the fellow who.in space, because it was certainty, not a guess..."Maybe I came to destroy Roke.".set off up the rough path round the hillside to an old stone and brick stableyard, empty of."Better stay here..".She was silent..Yaved, as Ogion's true name was Aihal. He walked about there all one day, as if seeking something..".You saw it? You saw that?" She clenched her hands, imagining that flight..lore a wizard or his prentice might record a plague, a famine, a raid, a change of masters, along.Again there was silence between them. The leaves of the willows stirred..wizards friends? No more than they have wives, or sons, some would say.... Once he said to me that.Iria fell into a screaming rage. "A village witch? A hex-hag to give Irian's daughter her true.then, scratching up the earth a bit, he neatly and delicately buried them. He dusted off his."Master Hemlock said I, said he thought I had, I might have a, a gift, a talent for--?". "Pure?".mine, shadowy yet distinct: the slave in the high vault of the tower, that woman with empty."South and west of Kamery. The Lord of Wathort's owned it for forty or fifty years..".Even if we are present at some historic event, do we comprehend it-can we even remember it-until."Before the dragon came, the Summoner too had returned from death, where he can go, where his art."I can take her to those who can..".his forest, had spoken of destruction, of transgression, of all things changed. Now it was upon.border of stone, old, covered with a yellowish lichen, and there I felt, at last, a real wind, clean,..No. There had been a thunderclap, a while ago. This was not thunder. He had had this queer feeling."I'll stay if you want, Elehal..".gathering, intolerable tension..A melodious voice. I shook my head. I wanted to say something nice to her, but all I.constant effort to understand the simplest conversation or situation turned that tension into a.When he came home he had a three-year-old daughter with him. He turned her over to the housekeeper and forgot about her. When he was drunk sometimes he remembered her. If he could find her, he made her stand by his chair or sit on his knees and listen to all the wrongs that had been done to him and to the house of Iria. He cursed and cried and drank and made her drink, too, pledging to honour her inheritance and be true to Iria. She drank the wine, but she hated the curses and pledges and tears and the slobbered caresses that followed them. She escaped, if she could, and went down to the dogs and the horses and the cattle, and swore to them that she would be loyal to her mother, whom nobody knew or honoured or was true to, except herself..He was grateful to see Kurremkarmerruk coming slowly down the bank of

the Thwilburn from the north. The old man waded through the stream barefoot, holding his shoes in one hand and his tall staff in the other, snarling when he missed his footing on the rocks. He sat down on the near bank to dry his feet and put his shoes back on. "When I go back to the Tower," he said, "I'll ride. Hire a carter, buy a mule. I'm old, Azver." .to give the true name and the imperative to keep it secret are one. True names have been betrayed, completely. A small mouth in an uncertain smile, the lips painted, the nostrils also red inside -- I. Medra took her hand and put his forehead against it. Telling his story he had kept back tears. He. along with us -- you can't take a step here, I thought, it's a wonder they still have legs -- but this. on the banks of the Amia, when everybody else was sleeping. She would not think of him at night. "Where?" he whispered, and then said the word aloud in the language all things understand that have no other language. .and fingers were delicate and elegant, and a necklace of amethysts gleamed under the torn. The Doorkeeper came back and said, "Come, Irian, and meet the Masters of Roke." Her heart began to. He did not forgive his son. It would have made a happy ending, but he would not have it. To leave. black sweater: it would pass. But the shirt I had to fight for. I said that I would learn to do without. after the Long Dance. Come if you like. ". Once there in the Grove she had no thought of earning, or deserving, or even of learning. To be. He still stood there, and she said, "Look at the peaches! They're all ripe. We'll have to eat them right away. ". "I learned it really quickly," Diamond said. .was stiff, rejecting him. Then she turned and, fierce, hasty, awkward, seized him in her arms. It. too. .spell that would hide him from them all. ". "All right," I said. .Her eyes were shining and attentive. .file:///D:/Documents%20and%20Settings/harry/...0%20LeGuin%20-%20Tales%20From%20Earthsea.txt (29 of 111) [2/5/2004 12:33:30 AM]. "Ivory! That fellow that studied with the Hand? Is he here?" the Changer demanded of Irian. .Hound sniffed, sighed, and followed, trudging along unwillingly, while behind him in the village the flames died down, and children cried, and women shouted curses after the eagle. .when the group of thirty or more men came past the little house and approached them. They were. and for the sake of the balance of all things, I bid you now leave this island. We cannot give you. Roke. Storm followed storm, as if the winds had risen in rage against the tampering and meddling. Though not a sorcerer, Licky was a much more formidable man than Hound. Yet like Hound he was. HE SPENT THE NIGHT in their old place in the shallows. Maybe he hoped she would come, but she did. screamed as green wood screams in the fire. ". "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. ". "You didn't say it. ". She reached out and touched his hand. He drew his breath sharply. ". "What if you got to be a wizard! Oh! Think of the stuff you could teach me! Shapechanging -- We could be anything. Horses! Bears! ". "Seemed odd. Old woman from a village inland, never seen the sea, calling the name of an island. ". "No, nothing. And if a girl visits a man, what then? ". the world, there are still women of the Hand. That net hasn't broken after so many years. How was. He looked over at her. ". That would be unwise," he said, with a good imitation of the Master Changer's terse solemnity. "If need be, I'll do it, of course. But you'll find wizards very sparing of the great spells. For good reason. ". she could not take in the names of the masteries, except that the Master Herbal was the one she. Throughout Earthsea, various springs, caves, hills, stones, and woods were and always had been sites of concentrated power and sacredness. All were locally feared or venerated; some were known far and wide. ". "How long does brit work?" I asked. .He no longer kept a cow. He stood looking into the poultry yard, considering. The fox had been. never asked him about his teacher. .his head and trailed after him. .then. The thought of the ship and the chained men in her swallowed his mind as the black sea had. not led him here. Since the raid, Roke Island had isolated itself wholly, sealed itself inside. quicksilver, and Otter knew he was wrong. .harm. Only truth. ". battleground of hereditary feudal princes, governments of small islands and city-states, and. She looked at him without regret, or reproach, or shame. .wise alone. So these people try to hold to each other. And so that's why we're called the Hand, or. Dulse knew no transformation that was irrevocable, no spell that could not be unsaid, except the Word of Unbinding, which is spoken only once. ". "Then he drinks it at his place. ". She was standing far back. An armchair unfolded itself to receive me. I hated that. The. in the darkness of the earth. She was utterly content to be there. Yet always, without discontent. as much to do with it as his father expected? Maybe he'd find out when he grew up. .file:///D:/Documents%20and%20Settings/harry/...0%20LeGuin%20-%20Tales%20From%20Earthsea.txt (99 of 111) [2/5/2004 12:33:32 AM]. Irioth tried to say he did not want a quarrel. He tried to say that there was work for two. He tried to say he would not take the man's work from him. But all these words burned away in the acid of the man's jealousy that would not hear them and burned them before they were spoken. ". "There's no harm in him but the drink, but there's not much left of him but the drink. It's eaten. smooth it seemed soft to the bare sole. "Satin," he said. "You didn't do all that in one day. THE SCHOOL ON ROKE. Speech, which he must not speak. But she only shrugged, with a frowning smile. .After another long time she said, "Maybe I can learn it here, sir. ". They saw it, they said it. .The idea of a school for wizards made him laugh. A school for wild boars, he thought, a college. only weak men said a thing and then unsaid it. Gelluk watched him with his inquisitive, affectionate look, and when Otter stood up, wincing and. In the lore-book from Way, which he brought with him in a spell-sealed box whenever he traveled. .You must make your choice alone, as a man. Do you understand that?" Golden was earnest, seeing his chance to begin to wean the lad from his mother. She as a woman would cling, but he as a man must learn to let go. And Diamond nodded sturdily enough to satisfy his father, though he had a thoughtful look. .personally, was not one she could keep in mind. She tried to be respectful, but it was impossible. ". "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?"

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