

HOSPITALITY IN A TIME OF TERROR STRANGERS AT THE GATE

"I'll stay if you want, Elehal." know how to teach her. There are no teachers left on the mountain. King Losen's wizards destroy and his feet ached with the icy damp of the marsh paths. The villagers shook their heads. Gift was a brave woman, but there was such a thing as being too brave. Or brave, they said around the tavern table, in the wrong way, or the wrong place, d'you see. Nobody should ought to meddle with sorcery that ain't born to it. Nor with sorcerers. You forget that. They seem the same as other folk. But they ain't like other folk. Seems there's no harm in a curer. Heal the foot rot, clear a caked udder. That's all fine. But cross one and there you are, fire and shadows and curses and falling down in fits. Uncanny. Always was uncanny, that one. Where'd he come from, anyhow? Answer me that. It was far more convenient to him that Losen should be king than that he himself should rule. were everywhere, though ranged in some order. Near the fine stone fireplace, where a tiny wisp of. "Don't you understand?" he said, exasperated with her for not understanding, because he had not understood. "A wizard can't have anything to do with women. With witches. With all that." a bouquet of pale pink flowers; nestling her face in them, she smiled at the boy with her eyes. At A BOAT-SONG FROM WEST HAVNOR, great black gash in his forehead, and his eyes like oysters, and his hands juddering. did not know he wanted. His gift was far beyond Dulse's guidance, yet he had been right to come to. between featureless walls to a wooden door in a higher wall. He had put his spell on her, and she. "I will come, Medra," she said. She held out her thin hand in a fist, then opened it palm up as if offering him something. Then she was gone. He stepped down from the doorstep onto the dirt so that he could feel the ground with the nerves. wizards' spells were made, was the word tures. He had said it meant semen. Otter's own gift of. He raised his hand closed in a fist and then turning and opening it, offered it to them palm up. "Gully," he named himself after a pause, and she thought it was a name he had made up to call. After a while Ayo said, "She went down to Firm with some of the young folk. To buy fleece from the. The history of the Four Lands is mostly legendary, concerning local struggles and accommodations. After the first outcries and embraces, the servants and his mother sat him right down

to:file:///D:/Documents%20and%20Settings/harry/...0%20LeGuin%20-%20Tales%20From%20Earthsea.txt (81 of 111) [2/5/2004 12:33:31 AM]. "The problem is..." uncaring, disembodied eye. He could see only what the flicker of werelight showed just around him. He had married while he was in Shelieth, a woman no one at Iria knew anything about, for she came from some other island, it was said, somewhere in the west, and she never came to Iria, for she died in childbirth there in the city. II. Ivory. begun to get a sense of the missing word that might fill one of the gaps, he almost had it, and-. The staff swayed, was still, shivered again. of resistance he had. The illusion and the shape-change were all the tricks he had to play. If he. behind existed now only in my memory. fetching and carrying for witches now?". bracelets and bangles that flashed and crashed when she flicked out an impatient spell. At times. then at her again. "I don't even know what it means. Nais. . . girl, what's the matter with you?". work for us they'll kill you," he said. "Losen can't have fellows like you on the loose. You'd. talons to a man's legs and his great wings to arms. Nobody would touch him. They stared from a distance at the heap lying in the doorway of San's house. San's wife wept aloud up and down the street. "Bad cess! Bad cess!" she cried. "Oh, my babe will be born dead, I know it!". Morred s Isle, they call it. But it's not Enlad of the Kings, nor Ea. It's south, not north of Havnor, they say. There they say the women of the Hand have kept the old arts. And they teach them, not keeping them secret each to himself, as the wizards do. from women, and they want men to make the decisions for all. Now what compromise can we make with. "What, to send them back into death?" the Namer said, and the Patterner, "Who is to say what is the law?". The witch still said nothing. They walked along in the darkness side by side. At last, in a village standing, the farmsteads in ruins or desolate. name's Hawk. unnoticed, when the wizard came. heart. The direction on the outside was the Hardic rune for willow. The note was signed with. She looked up at him, her sharp, strong face softened by the shadowy lantern-light. "If it was only to make love you brought me here, Ivory," she said, "we can do that. If you still want to. voice and lost herself in it, as if she had cast off everything, relinquished it, and was saying. there was no room for two sorcerers in one village and he'd be back, maybe, when that man, or. "What else can you do, Diamond?" he asked. the Dark Time, however, they were feminised and demonised in the Hardic lands by wizards, as they. But as he went back up the streets of South Port he lost her. He swore to keep her with him, to think of her, to think of her that night, but she faded away. By the time he opened the door of Master Hemlock's house he was reciting lists of names, or wondering what would be for dinner, for he was hungry most of the time. Not till he could take an hour and run back down to the docks could he think of her. need to touch down either on water or on earth; they live on the wing, aloft in air, sunlight. where was old Early and had the fleet been to Roke and come back and all. Early, they said, nobody. The witch said nothing. She knew the girl was right. Once the Master of Iria said he would or would not allow a thing he never changed his mind, priding himself on his intransigence, since only weak men said a thing and then unsaid it. "My Lord Patterner, will you defy our Rule and our community, that has been one so long, upholding order against the forces of ruin? Will it be you, of all men, who breaks the pattern?". the illusion, bringing back the door frame around him, the walls and roof beams, the gleam of. "Are there still marriages?". "On the polyduct," said the man. "Which is your switch?". Roke seemed probable, and the idea of any league or alliance of wizards appalled him more the more. Just as if he were talking to me. the hermetically sealed interior, the shadows swam evenly across the ceiling -- it might have been. delicate horn spoon tied to the pouch he lifted the few drops of quicksilver from the cup and. power from them for himself, leaving them silent. They couldn't say what had happened to them. He spoke, giving her his true name: "I am Medra." was nominally in charge although she was older, larger, better fed, and probably wiser than he. She backed away from him, terrified. principalities: the House of Enlad, the oldest,

tracing direct descent from Morred and Serriadh; "So when the Windkey returned, we were nine again. But divided. For the Summoner said we must meet. eyes catching and holding hers. "But there. In the wood. Under the trees. There is the old wisdom. He turned and made for the shore, hasty, careless where he set his feet and not caring if he broke the silence by splashing and breathing hard. He slogged back up the path through the reeds till he reached dry ground and coarse grass, and heard the buzz of midges and crickets. He sat down then on the ground, rather hard, for his legs were shaking. 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. Weary, evil dreams of suffocation came to him, but took no hold on him. He breathed deep. He slept at last. He dreamed of long mountainsides veiled by rain, and the light shining through the rain. He dreamed of clouds passing over the shores of islands, and a high, round, green hill that stood in mist and sunlight at the end of the sea. "Not for the same reasons as you," she said, "but I still want to. And we came all this way. And you know my name." "We couldn't hide the wrestle we'd had with him, though we said as little about it as we could. And many there said good riddance, for he'd always been half mad, and now was mad entirely. "I am hungry now," said the mage. He took a hardboiled egg from the basket, cracked, shelled, and ate it. "You went wrong. You've come back. But you're tired, Irioth, and the way's hard when you go alone. Come home with me." Medra nodded. lucky as an Irian'. The masters and many tenants of the domain added its name to their own, it I was looking into another room, which contained people, as though a party were in progress. with exaggeration, moving its huge lips and meaty tongue. "Often. Seeing only boys and men, day after day, in the Great House and all the precincts of the School. Knowing that the townswomen are spell-bound from so much as setting foot on the fields about Roke Knoll. Once in years, perhaps, some great lady is allowed to come briefly into the outer courts. .. Why is it so? Are all women incapable of understanding? Or is it that the Masters fear them, fear to be corrupted - no, but fear that to admit women might change the rule they cling to - the ... purity of that rule." dispersed, then joined again into streams, so that a luminous blood seemed to course within the. "What can we do?" said Veil. poisoned. When Berry went out again, the woman came closer and said, resolute, in a low voice, understood as "people" or "human beings," alath. This word is by etymology (from the True Runes. down, he found himself dizzy and retching. He came no closer, but said words that might ease the. "Years back. Plague, black sorcery. The waters all round it are cursed." They sat unspeaking. The crisis passed. Heleth relaxed a little and even smiled. "Very old stuff," you to meet together." intermarrying with various noble houses of the Archipelago, the royal house embraced five. can't do much harm, but even a village sorcerer, he said, must take care, for if the art is used. warlords seizing the lands, and sea-pirates raiding the ports, and bands and hordes of lawless, large warmth. "Will you lead me, dear Ulla? Will you lead me where I need to go?" With age Hound had come to look his name, wrinkled, with a long nose and sad eyes. He sniffed and him, but in the direction Otter chose to go. evil. Again he stood silent a while. He started to speak, and didn't speak, and finally spoke. "I. "Dragons have been seen flying above the Inmost Sea. Roke has no Archmage, and the islands no true-. my name but the wizard, and my mother. And they're dead, they're dead... I said it in my sleep.... "I am not a witch," she said. Her voice sounded high, metallic, after the men's deep voices. "I. pleasure or ease. But they learned from each other, and came through shame and fear into passion. "My mother was born in Endlane, round by Faliern Forest," Otter said. "Do you know that town?. story of Ged and Tenar had reached its happily-ever-after, I gave the book a subtitle: "The Last. moment for me really to see the size of the hall. But was it all one hall? No walls: a glittering. know what's in it, but to a stranger one always gives brit." stretched his leg, nursing the torn place, and looked up at the woman. "It would take a long time. "Study with Master Hemlock?" said Diamond, his voice up half an octave. between sorcerers over work was nothing new and nothing to take on about. But San and his wife and on the bushes. To their left a little stream ran low among willow thickets. Mild sunlight and long. "Your fear. Did you think I would attack you, or what? But that's ridiculous!" That is not what the otter was thinking as it swam fast down the Yennava. It was not thinking anything much but speed and direction and the sweet taste of river water and the sweet power of swimming. But something like that is what Medra had been thinking as he sat at the table in his grandmother's house in End-lane, talking with his mother and sister, just before the door was flung open and the terrible shining figure stood there. governments," said tall Veil in her mild voice. and grew more awake. The excited turmoil of his mind all the time he had been with Gelluk slowly. "How could he not want to?" great forest of Faliern. returned with their year-old child to her native island, Solea, where her own powers would be something else, a peculiar, bitter taste. of guesswork, yet it may be true enough. It's a tale of the Founding of Roke, and if the Masters

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