

## THE OLD GREY CITY BY THE SEA

At that Dulse looked him over again. No cloak, no staff. Ever since he had walked on the green hill above the town and had seen the bright shadows in the violence. Everyone gets it "betriated" out of them in childhood. And that's just the beginning. . . . "Pretty good, pretty good," his father said. "Keep practicing." And he went on. He was not sure. died, fear lest he recall Anieb too vividly. . . moments. Nothing in him was whole, not even his madness. He couldn't remember the name he had told. place, a kind of bower deep in the willows, where they could hear the stream running over the. either side of the raised walkway that ran down the middle. Several times I mistook the figures. My teacher was with me, and his teacher with him," Ogion said when they praised him. "I could hold. Ogion, obedient, bringing himself back to himself in the stuffy, tapestried room in Gont Port, did not understand the old man's joke until he turned to the window and saw the Armed Cliffs down at the end of the long bay, the jaws ready to snap shut. "I will," he said, and set to it. "Oh, pretty man," said one of them with a smile, "don't even show us what you have in your pack there, for I haven't a penny of copper or ivory, nor seen one for a month." "No. If one looks at it rationally, no, but -- it was overwhelming, you see. Such a shock. I hand, she struck him away with a blow to the head that left him dizzy. He saw her stand up and. She brought them to a house at the end of a lane. It had been a handsome place once, two stories built of stone, but was half empty, defaced, window frames and facing stones pulled out of it. They crossed a courtyard with a well in it. She knocked at a side door, and a girl opened it. "Everything's perilous," Dragonfly said, gazing now through the sheep, the hill, the trees, into still depths, a colorless, vast emptiness like the clear sky before sunrise. "What if you got to be a wizard! Oh! Think of the stuff you could teach me! Shapechanging -- We. occasionally the blur of a face shone, once I even brushed by someone. The crowns of the trees. the predominant body type is short, slender, small-boned, but fairly muscular and well-fleshed. In. "Oh, yes," he said, confused, and got up and limped back to the bedroom for his pouch. He brought her a piece of money, a little Enladian crownpiece of gold. The wind blew, the long grass nodded in the wind. Summer was getting on and the grass was dry now. On the island of Ark, and in Orrimy on Hosk, and down among the Ninety Isles, there are tales about a man who came seeking for a land where people remembered the justice of the kings and the honor of wizards, and he called that land Morred's Isle. There's no knowing if these stories are about Medra, since he went under many names, seldom if ever calling himself Otter any more. Gelluk's fall had not brought Losen down. The pirate king had other wizards in his pay, among them a man called Early, who would have liked to find the young upstart who defeated his master Gelluk. And Early had a good chance of tracing him. Losen's power stretched all across Havnor and the north of the Inmost Sea, growing with the years; and the Hound's nose was as keen as ever. Nothing happened, and he had time to regret the sunlight and the seawind, and to doubt the spell, and to doubt himself, before the earth rose up around him, dry, warm, and dark. always led them, sooner or later, out of the wood to the clearing by the Thwilburn and the Otter's. to take. "This way," he said, falling into step beside her, and after a while, "This way," and so. Hemlock might have known then what he was up against; but having told the boy he would not be his. anxious, the hunted look coming back into him, and he got up from the settle. at him. "My name is Irian," she said. of his soles, but the mud slimed and fouled any messages the dirt had for him. He set the eggs. felt nothing, the fountain was without water. After a moment it seemed to me that I smelled. After the first outcries and embraces, the servants and his mother sat him right down to breakfast. So it was with warm food in his belly and a certain chill courage in his heart that he faced his father, who had been out before breakfast seeing off a string of timber-carts to the Great Port. gazed at the trinkets as if they were treasures. He let them gaze and finger all they would; centuries before they were ever written. The Creation of Ea, the oldest and most sacred poem, is. bold and graceful, her head carried high. "Oh, it's you who have it to spare, sir. We're poor folk here. And ignorant," she said, with a flash of her eyes, and led on. "Anyone can make a fist and show a palm," said the tall woman, pleasantly. "But not everyone can fly to Roke. Or swim, or sail, or come in any way at all. So we must ask what brought you here." but Irioth spoke. "Every spell depends on every other spell," said Highdrake. "Every motion of a single leaf moves every leaf of every tree on every isle of Earthsea! There is a pattern. That's what you must look for and look to. Nothing goes right but as part of the pattern. Only in it is freedom." haze, now by a nearly white one. That was all, that was how the city looked; I tried to find streets. No wind stirred. The air was soft, the big sail hung slack. Only the western stars faded and vanished in a silent blackness that rose slowly higher. The master looked at that. "Witchwind, you say?" he asked, reluctant. "I can't," he said, and stopped, and went on, "I really don't want to have any dancing." wondered if he had always talked to himself, if he had talked all the time when Silence lived with. "He cannot harm me anywhere," she said, the fire running through her veins again. "If he tries to, cabin. He knew now that coaxing was no good. To have her he must master her; and that he would do, nothing, all the same. And she didn't give up anything for it. Having me didn't stop her. She had to name yourself." him as he was said to use people, emptying their minds like little sacks, then everyone on Roke. own mind. "Is it in the earth?" A narrow silver escalator flowed down. We stood side by side. She did not even reach my court for the general good and to study the ethical bases and constraints of their practice. All this took only two days, and all the time Early was looking and probing toward Endlane village, sending Hound there before him, sending his own presentment there to watch. When he knew where the man was he betook himself there very quickly, on eagle's wings; for Early was a great shape-changer, so fearless that he would take even dragon form. And beyond that, nothing. There had been illusions, little spells, pebbles that turned to butterflies, wooden birds that flew on living wings for a minute or two. There had never been a choice, really. There was only one way for him to go. file:///D:/Documents%20and%20Settings/harry/...0%20LeGuin%20-%20Tales%20From%20Earthsea.txt

(94 of 111) [2/5/2004 12:33:31 AM].through the darkness, the drifts and levels were so low and narrow the miners had to stoop and directions; beyond them darkness and small letters, moving along the floor: TERMINAL PARK.encompassed me in an invisible arch. For the first time I felt alone, but not as in a crowd, for the stable, where he left the hinny. Emer greeted him and scolded him and tried to make him eat, but."What's Alder paying you for all this?" she demanded while the water was heating. She was still indignant, speaking more bluntly even than usual..know -- even think about it, ever, and suddenly someone appears, like you, then the very.Most people of the Archipelago have brown or red-brown skin, black straight hair, and dark eyes;.ceilings, of those mysterious columns, and was reflected by the silver surfaces; it bled into every."Thank you," I said, "not for me. . .".There was a pause, and Diamond said, "So you saw to it...that I...".and Diamond said nothing. "Have you had any ideas of what you want to do?".She was looking down at her hands, clasped now on her knees. In the faint reddish glow of the.The last heirs of the House of Hupun were a boy and girl, Ensar and Anthil. Wishing to end the line of the Kargish kings but unwilling to risk sacrilege by shedding royal blood, the Godking ordered these children to be stranded on a desert island. Among her clothes and toys the princess Anthil had the half of the broken Ring brought by Erreth-Akbe, which had descended to her from Thoreg's daughter. As an old woman she gave this to the young wizard Ged, shipwrecked on her island. Later, with the help of the high priestess of the Tombs of Atuan, Arha-Tenar, Ged was able to rejoin the broken halves of the Ring and so remake the Rune of Peace. He and Tenar brought the healed Ring to Havnor, to await the heir of Morred and Serriadh, King Lebannen..galley we're building? Use your head, boy!".file:///D:/Documents%20and%20Settings/harry/...0%20LeGuin%20-%20Tales%20From%20Earthsea.txt (73 of 111) [2/5/2004 12:33:31 AM]."Close!" Otter cried, dropping to his knees, his hands on the earth, on the raw lips of the crevasse. "Close, Mother! Be healed, be whole!" He pleaded, begged, speaking in the Language of the Making words he did not know until he spoke them. "Mother, be whole!" he said, and the broken ground groaned and moved, drawing together, healing itself..had no strength against the strong. They gave me all they had to give, but it was little. It was.him I'd retire" he said. "I think I'll do that myself.".Where my love is going."Avert!" Irian blurted out, making the sign to prevent word from becoming deed. None of the men."What do you want to learn?" asked the taller woman in her mild voice..The next level was done in dark bronze veined with gold exclamation points. Fluid joinings of.to do it, making the spell very carefully. It was the reversal of a finding charm: a losing charm,.at the girl, Dory. She did not return his gaze, watching her mother with stolid, sullen grief..This language is innate to dragons, not to humans, as said above. There are exceptions. A few human beings with a powerful gift of magic, or through the ancient kinship of humans and dragons, know some words of the Old Speech innately. But the very great majority of people must learn the Old Speech. Hardic practitioners of the art magic learn it from their teachers. Sorcerers and witches learn a few words of it; wizards learn many, and some come to speak it almost as fluently as the dragons do.."I just sort of found out," said the boy, evidently not sure if his father approved..All he saw was a mist on the water, all across the sea beyond the mouth of the bay. As he watched it thickened and darkened, creeping out over the slow waves..out of the earth and the metal refined. As always, Gelluk's mind leapt across obstacles and delays.need be, I'll do it, of course. But you'll find wizards very sparing of the great spells. For good."In the Inmost Sea, on the Isle of the Wise, on Roke Island, where all magery is taught, there are."Do you think that's true?" he asked..He spent the whole afternoon in confusion, angry. When Ember came out of the Grove to her leafy bower upstream, he went there, carrying Veil's basket as an excuse. "May I talk to you?" he said..the words this night in his room in the barracks, he discerned another possible meaning in them.."Beginnings," said Tern..long ridges and the weightless dome of Mount Onn..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..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..His voice was the voice of the slave in the stone tower. It was she who knew the true name of quicksilver and spoke it through him..with women, only women. It did not appear to me to be a powder room, but I had no way of."I was single. They picked unmarried ones. That is -- volunteers."..Hand, master of all illusions.She said, "Beyond the west."..and drunker than usual, so that he fell and gashed his forehead on the andiron. Bleeding and."Keep her quiet," said the young woman, and left him holding the mare's reins in this deserted.leave us the air-sea, the unknown, the utmost....the message that Elfarran had escaped with the baby to an islet in the Jaws of Enlad..make a public spectacle of fools who had tricked him into fearing them. He would rather have dealt."Ah," said the Patterner..must come through you to her it belongs to. That's the power, the way it works. It's all like.in front of large, glowing windows and the fiery letters ALCARON HOTEL..Veil came from Thwil Town that morning, bringing them a basket of bread, cheese, milk curds,.root cellar that night and the nights after. Neighbors who came at last to bury the rotting bodies..metal truly flowed; I felt a hot gust, everything went out -- I stood in a glass pavilion. It was in.Otter pointed at the low slope that rose before them. "The King's House is there," he said..fragments into a curve, then closed it into a circle. "Yes," he said, studying his eggshells.. "I don't think it's true. I think all the true powers, all the old powers, at root are one."..wrathily. She stood straight and said nothing..Ogion, obedient, bringing himself back to himself in the stuffy, tapestried room in Gont Port, did."It was only a beast healer's manual," Crow admitted, when they were sailing on and he had calmed

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