

## THE PRINCESS AND THE CLOWN

of sorcerers is a bad thing. If you're a sorcerer, a man of power, that is. I am. As the good. On his rides, he sometimes passed an old house on a hill among great oaks. When he turned off the village lane up the hill, a pack of scrawny, evil-mouthed dogs came pelting and bellowing down at him. The mare was afraid of dogs and liable to buck and bolt, so he kept his distance. But he had an eye for beauty, and liked to look at the old house dreaming away in the dappled light of the early summer afternoons. "Speak when I let you," the wizard said. "Where is the man?" "Everything's for gain some way, I'd say. People have to live. But what do I know? I make my living doing what I know how to do. But I don't meddle with the great arts, the perilous crafts, like summoning the dead," and Rose made the hand-sign to avert the danger spoken of. To bond the two kingdoms was broken. He heard behind him the next tune start up, the viol alone, strong and sad as a tenor voice: crows are flying early and the hound's after the otter," he said. THE BEGINNINGS. irony was a feeble effort; it came from the constant amazement, from the feeling of unreality of. They met in the lane under Iria Hill in the dark of night, long after sunset, long before dawn. the limited habitable land available to them. Famine is unknown and poverty seldom acute. "That's Roke Knoll, lad," the weatherworker said to Dragonfly, who stood beside him at the rail, "We're coming into Thwil Bay now. Where there's no wind but the wind they want." now what it once was- if we had more people of the true art gathered here, teaching and learning. file:///D:/Documents%20and%20Settings/harry/...0%20LeGuin%20-%20Tales%20From%20Earthsea.txt (60 of 111) [2/5/2004 12:33:31 AM]. heifer follows him about like a puppy." Whatever he was doing out on the ranges with the beeves, "Any brit? How could he not have it?" One morning one of Alder's cowboys turned up in the front yard riding a horse and leading a. the source and center of magic. "What's wrong?" she asked. The gentleness of her deep, husky voice unmanned him, and he hid his face in his hands, fighting against the shame of tears. It was Havnor, his land, where his people were, whether alive or dead he did not know; where Anieb. woke, always cold, always in pain, always thirsty, and when he could make a glimmer of the light. "So," he said, "now he makes you his reason for our meeting. But I will not go to the Great House. I will not be summoned." bracelets and bangles that flashed and crashed when she flicked out an impatient spell. At times. "Probably we can't," said the Herbal. "If the Windkey locks the winds against us ..." visiting the orchard lately. But the birds would have to forage if he stayed away. They must take shipping. Yevaud of Pendor was the only dragon to raid the Inward Lands after the time of the. have any woman he wanted, but women would drain his power, suck away his strength. He wanted no. Hound nodded, as if its location was all that had interested him in Roke. escaped him. "Oh I see," Rose said after a moment. "But I don't see why you ran away." "How long does brit work?" I asked. the way and was wandering without heed. He talked, turning sometimes to Otter to guide him or warn. halfway out the door. I went to put my foot on a step, but there was no step. Between the metal. He came through the halls and stone corridors to the inmost place, the marble-paved courtyard of. know him. He knew the hand that had woven his bonds and cursed his nights, the acid taste and. "Young man, I must ask you if you wish to continue studying with me." Early laughed. "I'll be waiting for him," he said; his man's legs turned to yellow talons, his trickle of blood came through. their pack, but it might be they'd pay a bit of ivory for what they want. Is it so?" She turned. 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. He sat up, sat still. directions, not illuminated by a single spark. because they all needed what warmth there was to be got from the fire, but they did not want him. 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. the greater spell of hopelessness. Archipelagan scholars are aware of it, but most Kargs would deny it, since they have confused. "There's people all over these parts, and maybe beyond, who think, as you said, that nobody can be wise alone. So these people try to hold to each other. And so that's why we're called the Hand, or the women of the Hand, though we're not women only. But it serves to call ourselves women, for the great folk don't look for women to work together. Or to have thoughts about such things as rule or misrule. Or to have any powers." It was milk after all. At this time of day, in such circumstances! My surprise was such that. news; suddenly the walkway took me into a lighted interior and came to an end. All this took only two days, and all the time Early was looking and probing toward Endlane. Again there was silence between them. The leaves of the willows stirred. That had been their signal, summer nights, when they sneaked out to meet in the willow grove down. the veins of water underground, the lodes and knots of ore, the lay and interfolding of the kinds. the first test of character Diamond had broken. "Glass," the wizard muttered. At least this. "Dragons have been seen flying above the Inmost Sea. Roke has no Archmage, and the islands no true-. Summoning the useful Hound to help him, Early had made a very thorough inquiry into what happened. "My name's myself. True. But what's a name, then? It's what another calls me. If there was no. Witchery was restricted to women. All magic practiced by women was called "base craft," even when. Berry ducked his head and muttered. His eyes were dull. It seemed to Irioth that the man had been. Gelluk caught his breath. Presently he said, very softly, "Can you read the runes?" The music started up, distant, blurred by wind and the murmur of the river running. "So the vulgar call it, or quicksilver, or the water of weight. But those who serve him call him. RAMBRENT. There was a fluttering from white and bluish fluorescent tubes, stairs of crystalline. palace with fire. by this wild scheme, now she was embarked on it. There was no telling. She was solemnly, heavily. "What if you got to be a wizard! Oh! Think of the stuff you could teach me! Shapechanging -- We. visit the Court of the King, I can take you there. But maybe you don't know the King I'm talking. shoulder. She had a catlike head, black hair with a blue sheen, a profile that was

perhaps too. breath smelled earthy. His light eyes gazed directly into Otter's eyes. "Would you like to know?" "I'll see you then," said Diamond, looking big and handsome and indifferent, and walked off. "Never do that again," she whispered. "I am not, after all, a wild animal. Don't be angry, but. . . it seems to me that you've all." "What does that mean, 'really'?" Biologically I'm forty, but by Earth clocks, one hundred. So it became dangerous to practice sorcery, except under the protection of a strong warlord; and. "Have to wash my feet every time I come in," he grumbled. He walked in gingerly. The wood was so. He thought he caught a whiff of fox from the little orchard behind the house. "freedom is a thing we study. You came here through the walls of our prison. Seeking freedom, you. something? I was numb from the strain of trying not to do anything wrong. This, for four days. could not rouse him. "He is dead," he said. "The breath will not leave him, but he is dead." So we. The early kings and queens of Enlad, among whose names are Lar Ashal, Dohun, Enashen, Timan, and. from an early age; and this was one of the reasons Diamond loved her. With her, he knew what. Diamond was listening intently, frowning a little. no mark of distinction but only a barrier to communication, to the simplest exchange of words. An escalator began in the space between the buildings, suddenly entered a tunnel, silver. It was right. Nothing was wrong. But something in him ached, not the sharp body pain, a long ache. The faintest little sighing tremor ran over the slow, smooth swells. fly to Roke. Or swim, or sail, or come in any way at all. So we must ask what brought you here." The Patterner never came to her much before noon, so she had the mornings free. She was used to. having by both wizardry and scholarship discovered Yevaud's true name under centuries of false. mage-warlords of Wathort raided Roke, and killed almost all the grown men of the island. But the. anywhere he could not see it. Water chuckled softly somewhere near his feet. He had used up his. Diamond had been given his truename at the springs of the Amia in the hills above Glade. The wizard Hemlock, who had known his great-uncle the Mage, came up from South Port to name him. And Hemlock was invited to his nameday party the year after, a big party, beer and food for all, and new clothes, a shirt or skirt or shift for every child, which was an old custom in the West of Havnor, and dancing on the village green in the warm autumn evening. Diamond had many friends, all the boys his age in town and all the girls too. The young people danced, and some of them had a bit too much beer, but nobody misbehaved very badly, and it was a merry and memorable night. The next morning Golden told his son again that he must think about being a man. of the Masters of Roke even now, though the Chanter took the Finder's place when finding came to. "I'm called Gift," she said. "My brother's Berry." higher levels. Thundering, fluttering the hair of those who were standing with strong gusts of. "I cannot read them." Otter's voice was toneless. "I cannot go there. No one can enter there in the body but only the King. Only he can read what is written." overlooked? among us, Medra. They must be settled, and they can't be settled easily. Though a little goodwill. Serriadh, and was their most precious possession. On it was carved a figure written nowhere else. it. He went down to the stream in which he had been named. He drank, washed his hands and face. Tarry came back with his band in an hour or so, ungrateful for the respite and much the worse for beer. He interrupted the tune and the dancing, telling Labby loudly to clear out. "We could find no trace of him. No doubt he changed himself to a bird or a fish when he left Roke. A melodious voice. I shook my head. I wanted to say something nice to her, but all I. they were doing, but the girl hurried along, her slippers clicking, until, at the sight of a neon face. "Do you know the way in?" His almond-shaped eyes were attentive, yet seemed to look at her from miles or years away. something Dulse could teach him: what went deeper than mastery. What he had learned here, on Gont. file:///D:/Documents%20and%20Settings/harry/...0%20LeGuin%20-%20Tales%20From%20Earthsea.txt (16 of 111) [2/5/2004 12:33:30 AM]. At the stream Serrenen, where it runs within the north wall of the city, the midwife gave Otter. "Ah," said the Patterner. Terrenon Stone in Osskil), the Old Powers were inherently sacral and pre-ethical. During and after. like learning? Do you like knowledge? Would you like to know the name we call the King when he's. directions; beyond them darkness and small letters, moving along the floor: TERMINAL PARK. In about 650, the sisters Elehal and Yahan of Roke, Medra the Finder, and other people of the Hand. "He cannot harm me anywhere," she said, the fire running through her veins again. "If he tries to, I'll destroy him." tale, the mounted figures that walked through bright mist across the vague dun of the winter

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