

## OF THE CORPORATION OF FOREIGN BONHOLDERS INCORPORATED ON THE FIR

Osskili, spoken in Osskil and two islands northwest of it, has more affinities to Kargish than to. But beyond the rich and the lordly were those called the Men of Power: the wizards. Their power, though little exercised, was absolute. In their hands lay the fate of the long-kingless kingdom of the Archipelago. "Trust," the young man said. "Yes. But against- Against them?- Gelluk's gone. Maybe Losen will fall now. Will it make any difference? Will the slaves go free? Will beggars eat? Will justice be done? I think there's an evil in us, in humankind. Trust denies it. Leaps across it. Leaps the chasm. But it's there. And everything we do finally serves evil, because that's what we are. Greed and cruelty. I look at the world, at the forests and the mountain here, the sky, and it's all right, as it should be. But we aren't. People aren't. We're wrong. We do wrong. No animal does wrong. How could they? But we can, and we do. And we never stop." regret her rash invitation, and I wanted to make things easy for her. "What do you want to learn?" asked the taller woman in her mild voice. The ocean, however, is older than the islands; so say the songs. a boat but a drifting log; for pirates and Losen's slave takers were thick in these waters. thunder-squall came pelting on that wind, and Ivory went down to the cabin, but Dragonfly stayed. A chill ran through her. The water ran cold. Gathering herself together, her limbs still soft and loose, she looked up and saw on the bank above her the black figure of a man. Morred, and Morred's first year on the throne. The capital city of these rulers was Berila, on the. "If it's a real gift, an unusual capacity, that's even more true. A witch with her love potions can't do much harm, but even a village sorcerer, he said, must take care, for if the art is used for base ends, it becomes weak and noxious.... Of course, even a sorcerer gets paid. And wizards, as you know, live with lords, and have what they wish." Otter pointed at the low slope that rose before them. "The King's House is there," he said. Gelluk's attention turned entirely away from him then, fixed on the hillside and the vision he saw within it. Then Otter could call to Anieb. At once she came into his mind and being, and was there with him. knowing what he lived for until his feet were on the cobbles, and his eyes on the harbor and the. Hound sniffed, sighed, and followed, trudging along unwillingly, while behind him in the village. paying much attention to him unless he frightened them. He tried not to do that. He had no wish or. "The wizards off on the wrong track, as usual," he said at last. "Said you'd gone to Roke Island. hull and the edge of the platform yawned a meter-wide crevice. Caught off balance, unprepared. had not come from Roke to trudge about on foot in the mud and dust of country byways. "Magic won't die on Roke," said Veil. "On Roke all spells are strong. So said Ath himself. And you have walked under the trees... Our job must be to keep that strength. Hide it, yes. Hoard it, as a young dragon hoards up its fire. And share it. But only here. Pass it on, one to the next, here, where it's safe, and where the great robbers and killers would least look for it, since no one here is of any account. And one day the dragon will come into its strength. If it takes a thousand years...". bald. Her joints were swollen knobs in her bone-thin limbs. She looked up once at Otter, moving. Gelluk pressed close beside him, often taking his arm. "This way," he said several times. "Yes. other metals, even gold, see. dragon scream-and flew on faster, leaving them to follow him to the conquest. "Fragments," Crow said, dismissing his life's work. "Remnants!". off back to the School, and they straggled after him, arguing and debating in frustration and. lashed out her hooves at them, and he kept her from bolting only by a staying-spell and all the. Thirst: and with it pain. Thirst, and the sound of water running. "The women," she whispered, "the hand. Ask them. In the village. I did see the Mountain." Azver frowned. "The Doorkeeper admitted you because you asked," he said. "I brought you to the. One day in autumn he came back to the school. He went in by the garden door, which gives on the path through the fields to Roke Knoll. It is a curious thing about the Great House of Roke, that it has no portal or grand entryway at all. You can enter by what they call the back door, which, though it is made of horn and framed in dragons tooth and carved with the Thousand-Leaved Tree, looks like nothing at all from outside, as you come to it in a dingy street; or you can go in the garden door, plain oak with an iron bolt. But there is no front door. "I know Tarry thinks I do." me, from out of my chest -- came a shrill cry: ten days starving in the cold to cure his beasts! San's got nothing but copper, but Alder can pay. novels. Each is a story in its own right, but they will profit by being read after, not before. "Never fear," Diamond said, turned on his heel, and strode out. A string of dried sage caught on. be trained by the wizards there, and the Queen chose him as a companion for her son. School, and Halkel discouraged wizards from teaching women anything at all. He specifically. librarian. The Book of Names, which is kept now in the Isolate Tower, was the foundation of the. It took him six more days to get through the big herds in the eastern marshes. The last two days he spent riding out to scattered groups of cattle that had wandered up towards the feet of the mountain. Many of them were not infected yet, and he could protect them. The hinny carried him bareback and made the going easy. But there was nothing left for him to eat. When he rode back to the village he was light-headed and weak-kneed. He took a long time getting home from Alder's stable, where he left the hinny. Emer greeted him and scolded him and tried to make him eat, but he explained that he could not eat yet. "As I stayed there in the sickness, in the sick fields, I felt sick. After a while I'll be able to eat again," he explained. "Nais. How old are you?" She began to laugh. the limited habitable land available to them. Famine is unknown and poverty seldom acute. divided land. By the time the girl called Dragonfly was born, the domain of Iria, though still one. "And cast wide!" He looked from one to the other again. "I wasn't well taught, in the City of. He had not planned or intended any such adventure, but crazy as it was, it suited him better the more he thought about it. The prospect of spending the long grey winter at Westpool sank his spirits like a stone. There was nothing here for him except the girl Dragonfly, who had come to fill his thoughts. Her massive, innocent strength had defeated him absolutely so far, but he did what she pleased in order to have her do at last what he pleased, and the game, he thought, was worth playing. If she ran away with him, the game was as good as won. As for the joke of it, the notion of actually getting her into the School on Roke

disguised as a man, there was little chance of pulling it off, but it pleased him as a gesture of disrespect to all the piety and pomposity of the Masters and their toadies. And if somehow it succeeded, if he could actually get a woman through that door, even for a moment, what a sweet revenge it would be! "In Havnor, years ago, I was in servitude. Those who freed me told me about a place where there." "They put something into the blood, I think." She did not know what he meant, but did not ask, preoccupied: "You say he makes me his reason for. the same root comes the noun esege, "creative force, breath, poetry." "Keep away. No! No! I beg you!" "Just enough to keep going on, eh?" "Mother's not home. Come in!" She met him at the door. "My master Highdrake said that wizards who make love unmake their power," he blurted out. "Every reason," said the Summoner. "not crowd once this morning. hire a band. Who's the best in the country? Tarry and his lot?" "patient, but the patience of the horse kind was wonderful, being freely given. Dogs were loyal, down. I saw alternating layers of darkness, and the cross sections of ceilings; white with reddish. Rose was muttering a rote spell, but it was her hands and her little short sharp knife that did most of the work. The ewe bore the digging knife patiently, her opaque, amber, slotted eyes gazing into silence; only she stamped her small left front foot now and then, and sighed. her timbers creaked a little, a slaves chain rattled, rattled again. "Why of course not?" sign in return, "but not always safe, among strangers." "I did fly." It would be Berry at the door, though why he knocked she didn't know. "Come in, you fool!" she said, and he knocked again, and she put down her mending and went to the door. "Can you be drunk already?" she said, and then saw him. which held the heat of the sun, and fell asleep. He could speak his language only with her. And he had lost her, let her go. The double heart has no true speech. From now on he could talk only the language of duty: the getting and the spending, the outlay and the income, the profit and the loss. peaches flowered, he had made a slender, sturdy deep-sea boat, built according to the style of window, its door was cross-grained oak barred with iron, and spells had been laid on that door. simply vanished -- and the thing took off with such force that it must have flattened him against. grim-faced old Namer. making a fist and smiling. "Pretty good for fifty years old!" she said. It was silly to boast, but. from them, and not all did. All this time they had no word from Early, and no weather was worked. little, small spell, to send the rain on round the mountain. His bones ached. They ached for the. Silence nodded, meaning himself. him to, and sobbed in weariness, and slept. "I have to have a single heart. I can't play the harp while I'm bargaining with a mule-breeder. I. file:///D:/Documents%20and%20Settings/harry/...0%20LeGuin%20-%20Tales%20From%20Earthsea.txt (68 of 111) [2/5/2004 12:33:31 AM]. When he saw it, faint and green above the misty sea, he cried out--the men in the ships heard the dragon scream--and flew on faster, leaving them to follow him to the conquest. "Acknowledged." And celibate. "passengers to Roke. And facing the west Ivory felt a little hollow at the pit of his stomach, for. But how did Otter know that? "Go on, Deyala. I'll stay here." The Herbal went off. Azver sat down on the rough bench Irian had made and put against the front wall of the house. He looked upstream at her, crouching motionless on the bank. Sheep in the field between them and the Great House blatted softly. The morning sun was getting hot. file:///D:/Documents%20and%20Settings/harry/...0%20LeGuin%20-%20Tales%20From%20Earthsea.txt (101 of 111) [2/5/2004 12:33:32 AM]. Who opened it to rich or poor, ears, the white -- in the shadow, silvery -- dress. This was not possible. A dream? I was still a few. "What will you do?" she asked quietly. wizardry. And he had learned a man's name. topaz or amber. They were strange eyes, right on a level with his own. it was warm, despite the coolness of the night. THE HARDIC LANDS. halfway out the door. I went to put my foot on a step, but there was no step. Between the metal. Not a door opened in the narrow street. Nobody looked out to see what the noise was. Not till long. how to do it. And she had no share in their wisdom, no part in their decisions. She drew away from. words and they said theirs, but none of them were the right words. Spells, much broken and made powerless by the Emanations of Fundaur centuries ago. He had just. The first Archmage, Halkel, abolished the title of Finder, replacing it with Chanter. The. now to the other half, it seemed, but there was still plenty of flirting going on, and several. crowned hills made the domain a byword, so that people said, "as fat as a cow of Iria", or, "as. They went there together and stayed till the winter came. In the year that followed, they built a little house near the edge of the Thwilburn that runs out of the Grove, and lived there in the summers. "Why? Everyone, I tell you!" That would be unwise," he said, with a good imitation of the Master Changer's terse solemnity. "If. Erreth-Akbe's next challenger was a mage called the Firelord, whose power was so great that he. "Pure?" bright stars of the Forge, low over the sea. They were a little blurred, and as he watched them. fast and brilliant, too fast for some of the dancers. Diamond and his partner stayed in, and. The new student cleaned out the henhouse and hoed the bean-patch, learned the meaning of the face. She put her hand to the door and it opened, but not into an apartment; the floor moved softly. founded a school on Roke as a center where they might gather and share knowledge, clarify the. All the teachers of the art magic on Roke were women. There were no men of power, few men at all, on the island.

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