

## A NEST OF VIPERS

house. San's wife wept aloud up and down the street. "Bad cess! Bad cess!" she cried. "Oh, my babe. first thing the boy did in the Great House, they say, he turned the Long Table of the dining hall. Hand had already stretched out to other islands all around the Inmost Sea. As the Women of the. The roasting pit took up the center of a huge domed chamber. Hurrying, sticklike figures black against the blaze shoveled and reshoveled ore onto logs kept in a roaring blaze by great bellows, while others brought fresh logs and worked the bellows sleeves. From the apex of the dome a spiral of chambers rose up into the tower through smoke and fumes. In those chambers, Licky had told him, the vapor of the quicksilver was trapped and condensed, reheated and recondensed, till in the topmost vault the pure metal ran down into a stone trough or bowl—only a drop or two a day, he said, from the low-grade ores they were roasting now..YORK TIMES. And FANTASY & SCIENCE FICTION writes, "One of the world's finest. To them, the Old Powers are abominable. And women's powers are suspect, because they suppose them. see the King flying among his subjects, gathering himself from them!" And he stood up, supple and. misrule. Or to have any powers..Irian looked from one to the other.. This harmony generally prevailed through the reign of Maharion. In the Dark Time, with no control. It was only illusion, of course, but it checked him a moment in his spell, and then he had to undo. increasingly on wizards to fend off dragons and Kargish fleets. In the Havnorian Lay and The Deed. stableyard, off across the hill, on the path that went around it halfway up. One of the dogs, her. "The key," Gelluk said.. "And a good thing too!" Golden said roundly. "What's become of that daughter of hers, then? Went. isles-and beyond. People have puzzled at their choosing the empty sea for their domain, since. saying, "You can learn about the Grove only in it and from it." A few days later she came down to. Morred's pledge, the ring that bore the Rune of Peace.. "Why can't you do it now?" "In the Grove is no harm," said the Patterner. "Come on. There is an old house, a hut. Old, dirty.. mended their nets. There was a hearth there, and they would light the fire. People came even from. There they fished for whales, as they still do. That was a trade he wanted no part of. Their ships stank and their town stank. He disliked going aboard a slave ship, but the only vessel going out of Geath to the east was a galley carrying whale oil to O Port. He had heard talk of the Closed Sea, south and east of O, where there were rich isles, little known, that had no commerce with the lands of the Inmost Sea. What he sought might be there. So he went as a weatherworker on the galley, which was rowed by forty slaves.. they were doing, but the girl hurried along, her slippers clicking, until, at the sight of a neon face. guess and made one quick gesture toward the stone tower.. centers, like fat on muscle, they passed upward, I lost count of them; the elevator fell, fell, it was. you drunk if you drank enough, while this yellow stuff was just honeywater.. Songs, all of which began as sung or spoken texts, were written down and preserved as texts. They. "You talk in a strange way. Where are you from?".. chasing her burst out in front of me, a dark outline; they disappeared, I heard once more the. tightening as he moved. He could stand, but could not take a step towards the door. He could not. within it. Then Otter could call to Anieb. At once she came into his mind and being, and was there. "What, it's bad?".. would make me trust you?".. the very emblem of their happiness. They tried to make her stay and eat supper with them, but she. "Thank you," he said, opening the gate for the heifer, who went to greet her mother, while he. He said nothing. In fact he was at a loss. If he had known it would be this easy, he could have. It is often a matter of considerable importance that the words of these lore-books not be spoken. Magic was a wild talent before the time of Morred, who as both king and mage established. destroyed. And if a wizard let down his guard among the common folk, they too might destroy him if. Mouth. Then seeking further he heard in his mind a name spoken; but he did not speak it.. the forests of Gont Mountain if he could; but he had been born in Re Albi and knew the roads and. "Then I'll carry the cheeses to Oraby," she said, "and sell em there. In the name of honor, brother, go wash out that cut, and change your shirt. You stink of the pothouse." And she went back into the house. "Oh, dear," she said, and burst into tears.. own. This power had been a delight to him as a boy. He had never sought any use for it. It had. Tuly shared it with him for a long time, since she could see her son only by lying to her husband.. But Heleth was shaking his head: "No," he said, "no time. Not your kind of thing." He was more and more distracted by whatever it was he sensed in the earth or air, and through him Ogion felt that gathering, intolerable tension.. first taught Ged, and shows that it takes more than one mage to stop an earthquake. "Darkrose and. "Now I won't have him here no more," Berry said, coming master of the house over her, with the great black gash in his forehead, and his eyes like oysters, and his hands juddering.. "Once in his lifetime, if he's lucky, a wizard finds somebody he can talk to." Nemmerle had said. inside a rocky grotto. It was like ten, fifty Gothic naves formed out of stalactites; veined deposits. "I know where it is," Anieb said.. Dulse had sent students on to the School, three or four of them, nice lads with a gift for this or. no true speech. From now on he could talk only the language of duty: the getting and the spending.. me there. I decided not to go.. Gift was in the dairy, having finished the evening milking. She was straining the milk and setting out the pans. "Mistress," said a voice at the door, and she thought it was the curer and said, "Just a minute while I finish this," and then turning saw a stranger and nearly dropped the pan. "Oh, you startled me!" she said. "What can I do for you, then?".. spreading and wandering, making a marsh of it, a big, desolate, waterland with a far horizon, few. moment. "The whole village together couldn't change that!" she said, and laughed. It was all. gone on past . . . that possibility . . . clients, cows, and chickens had tried him sorely. Apprentices and clients were afraid of his. "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.. "I can tell you only how it seems to me," the Herbal said, reluctant, uncomfortable.. fields, and faded into the light, and were gone.. refused to run her west again into those gales. He had learned a good deal about weatherworking. "The young men come to me and

they say, "What good is it? Can you find gold?" they say. "Can you." "Oh, bonses! Do you want a bons?" but present, smiling, dancing. All his childhood friends were there too, half of them married by.....". mica. Not far away lay another huddled heap, rotted red silk, long hair, bones. Beyond it the. to her; and she came..died, fear lest he recall Anieb too vividly..Old Speech is endless, so are the runes..reeds, and in the distance, on the other side, rose, in a single immensity, a mountain of luminous,.A pause. "This," Diamond said. His voice was level. He looked neither at his father nor his.business of the lords and people, never a chance to walk in the forests on the mountainside or to.He no longer kept a cow. He stood looking into the poultry yard, considering. The fox had been.She was looking down at her hands, clasped now on her knees. In the faint reddish glow of the cabin lantern her lashes cast very delicate, long shadows on her cheeks. She looked up, straight at him. "My name is Irian," she said..caution, locking them away to keep them harmless or giving them to a wizard in his hire to do with.After a long pause he went on. "You know that a dragon brought back our Lord Sparrowhawk, with the.Veil came from Thwil Town that morning, bringing them a basket of bread, cheese, milk curds,.He told Birch that he had received a sending from his teacher on Roke, the Master Hand, and must go at once, on what business he could not say, of course, but it should not take long once he was there; a half-month to go, another to return; he would be back well before the Fallows at the latest. He must ask Master Birch to provide him an advance on his salary to pay for ship-passage and lodging, for a wizard of Roke should not take advantage of people's willingness to give him whatever he needed, but pay his way like an ordinary man. As Birch agreed with this, he had to give Ivory a purse for his journey. It was the first real money he had had in his pocket for years: ten ivory counters carved with the Otter of Shelieth on one side and the Rune of Peace on the other in honour of King Lebannen. "Hello, little namesakes," he told them when he was alone with them. "You and the cheese money will get along nicely.".house," said the mage, pointing to a low, moss-ridden roof half-hidden by the afternoon shadows of.group of people under the big oak on the hilltop. When Tarry's band of harp, fife, viol, and drum.was becoming a good craftsman, even his father would admit that.. "Maybe with such teaching you could teach the wizards a lesson," Mead said..dumbstruck, and they prattled on; suddenly it seemed to me that from the darkness above the.The Changer stared openly at her. He was not as tall as she was. He stared at the Doorkeeper, and.the True Speech. This could mean human wizards, or dragons, or both. In the arcane Lore of Paln..She had planted a young rowan from the Grove beside the fountain. They came to be sure it was.Book of Earthsea." the main Archipelago and the Kargad Lands east of it, while the dragons kept to the westernmost.stubbornness and harshness of crags, peaks, but without falling into mechanical imitation,.When I closed the gate behind me, it was all I could do to keep from running. My knees.teachers. "It will do you no harm if you never use it for harm," they told him, and that was easy.Elfarran had used on Solea against the Enemy), he turned the waters of the Fountains of Shelieth.. "Bring the boys, then," Early said with deadly patience..I looked at her, silent. The language had not changed so very much, and yet I didn't.They're coming," the Doorkeeper said. Men were coming through the gardens and up the path from the Great House, all the mages, many of the students. Leading them was Thorion the Summoner, tall in his grey cloak, carrying his tall staff of bone-white wood, about which a faint gleam of werelight hovered..young man to the next and the next. He said, "You trusted me, giving me your names. Will you trust.Gelluk's fall had not brought Losen down. The pirate king had other wizards in his pay, among them.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..the winter, see, we'll know your cures all took, that they're sound, like. Not that I doubt it,.hovered..witch's son from inland Havnor. The most beloved hero of the Archipelago, his story is told in The." "Thank you, mistress," he muttered, crouching at the fire. She brought him a bowl of broth. He drank from it eagerly yet warily, as if long unaccustomed to hot soup.. "I'm all right," she said..Mead looked at her sister. "Then it's time we talked a bit to you," she said, sitting down across the hearth from him. Ayo stood by the table, silent. A good fire burned in the hearth. It was a wet, cold time, and firewood was one thing they had plenty of, here on the mountain.. "I can build boats, or mend them, and sail them. I can find, above and under ground. I can work weather, if you have any need of that. And I'll learn the art from any who will teach me." .have a good time, go to the real, dance, play tereo, do sports, swim, fly -- whatever one wants." "The rejected suitor," I blurted out.. "No! People?".she slid down in his arms. He tried to keep her head at least from the mud of the track. Her limbs.protecting individuals, farms, towns, cities, and shipping, until social order was re-established..wizard Gelluk and a young finder-both disappeared without a trace, they said, as if the earth had.farms across the island to hear the histories read, listening in silence, intent. "Our souls are.over Otter and to the tower, and then back. His face was large and long, whiter than any face.Dragonfly waited. "It's the power, like I said. It comes just so." Rose stopped her spinning and.She's called Rose, Rowan's daughter." "I don't know," he said, but he tried to bring the werelight round them, and after a while

the.file:///D:/Documents%20and%20Settings/harry/...0%20LeGuin%20-%20Tales%20From%20Earthsea.txt (23 of 111) [2/5/2004 12:33:30 AM]. "Thorion was the best of us all - a brave heart, a noble mind." The Herbal spoke almost in anger. "Sparrowhawk loved him. So did we all." softly in the tops of tall trees, on beyond the gardens..Hemlock nodded. "That is quite understandable, among children. And quite impossible now. Do you understand that?" "No," Diamond said..She halted and let him come up to her. "I will, if you call me," she said..So he came to feel that those hours were true meetings with her, and he lived for them, without.to go into his mind, in the way he had learned from Gelluk long ago, when Gelluk was a true master.employed any kind of symbolic writing, and that sparingly. Bureaucrats and tradesmen of the Empire." Dragons have been seen flying above the Inmost Sea. Roke has no Archmage, and the islands no true-.Ivory nodded gravely. "But the Archmage lost all his

power in the land of death. Maybe all magery

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