

## SPECIAL AGENT COWBOY THE MARINES CHRISTMAS CASE

He had a way with her cows that was wonderful. When he was there and she needed a hand, he took Berry's place, and as she told her friend Tawny, laughing, he was cannier with the cows than Bren's old dog had been. "He talks to em, and I'll swear they consider what he says. And that heifer follows him about like a puppy." Whatever he was doing out on the ranges with the beeves, the cattlemen were coming to think well of him. Of course they would grab at any promise of help. Half San's herd was dead. Alder would not say how many head he had lost. The bodies of cattle were everywhere. If it had not been cold weather the Marsh would have reeked of rotting flesh. None of the water could be drunk unless you boiled it an hour, except what came from the wells, hers here and the one in the village, which gave the place its name..tongue?".She came back into herself, into the still air under the trees. The Hoary Man sat near her, his.And the mills of capitalism provide them. Supply meets demand. Fantasy becomes a commodity, an.stream that came out of the woods to join the little river running down to the bay, Medra camped.Dragons are born knowing the True Speech, or, as Ged put it, "the dragon and the speech of the dragon are one." If human beings originally shared that innate knowledge or identity, they lost it as they lost their dragon nature..young man whom he had taught to read had become his unfathomable guide..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.."Where they come from, I don't know. In your day, was there tap water?".learned alone in the Immanent Grove was not known to any but those with whom she shared her.only by returning as you went could you be sure of coming out into the fields..My teacher was with me, and his teacher with him," Ogion said when they praised him. "I could hold the Gate open because he held the Mountain still." They praised his modesty and did not listen to him. Listening is a rare gift, and men will have their heroes..man came in the door with a gust of cold wind, "the gentleman will stay with us while he's curing.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..Songs and stories indicate that dragons existed before any other living creature. The Old Hardic kennings or euphemisms for the word dragon are..Firstborn, Eldest, Elder Children. (The words for the firstborn child of a family in Osskilian, akhad, and in Kargish, gadda, are derived from the word haath, "dragon," in the Old Speech.)."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."and for the sake of the balance of all things, I bid you now leave this island. We cannot give you.He embraced them, and they him, and he left the house..There will I go..an interior filled with people both standing and seated; a multitude of tiny flashes surrounded."They won't buy our milk and cheese," Berry whined..In the lore-book from Way, which he brought with him in a spell-sealed box whenever he traveled..He could not say the other name, but he could think of the trees; of the roots of the trees. This."Books?" said a rush plaiter on North Sudidi. "Like that there?" He pointed to long strips of vellum that had been worked into the thatching of his house. "They good for something else?" Crow, staring up at the words visible here and there between the rushes in the eaves, began to tremble with rage. Tern hurried him back to the boat before he exploded.."What will you do, Master Tern?" asked the Summoner, a grey-haired mage from Ilien..They sat unspeaking. The crisis passed. Heleth relaxed a little and even smiled. "Very old stuff," he said, "what I'll be doing. I wish now I'd thought about it more. Passed it on to you. But it seemed a bit crude. Heavy-handed ... She didn't say where she'd learned it. Here, of course ... There are different kinds of knowledge, after all."..it. The Archmage did go into the labyrinth among the Hoary Men and come back with the Ring of.And he was easy, he was still, he held fast, rock in rock and earth in earth in the fiery dark of the mountain..myself could have come up with better. They insisted on one thing only, that each of us fly.water..Havnor. He called her Hopeful. Not long after that he sailed her out of Thwil Bay, taking no."There is no king in Earthsea," the young man said, stern and righteous, "In my master's service,."No. So this drinking is like wearing clothes? Just as necessary?".The white-haired man looked at the two women. Other people had come forward, and there was some."Practice," Rose said, rather sourly. "I know." She flicked a pebble at Diamond. It turned into a butterfly in midair. He flicked a butterfly back at her, and the two flitted and flickered a moment before they fell back to earth as pebbles. Diamond and Rose had worked out several such variations on the old stone-hopping trick..Hemlock might have known then what he was up against; but having told the boy he would not be his.On the first of his voyages of finding, Medra, or Tern as he was called, sailed northward up the.slip, forget. That was not his language..School. Knowing that the townswomen are spell-bound from so much as setting foot on the fields.weakness proved he was not dangerous. Some talents were best not left to run wild, but there was.know that? No, I suppose I never mentioned it. But it doesn't make much difference, after all..began to eat..practice, though even then it would never lose its strangeness. Highdrake's mastery of spells and.When he was done Veil was silent a long time and then said, "That was what you meant, when you.people's hair but curly, frizzy. Many people in the west of Havnor had hair like that..word haath, "dragon," in the Old Speech.).Port had not softened his hands. He brought the boards from Sixth's mill in Re Albi, driving.The boy was barely seventeen, and he himself just forty-five. In his prime. He had been feeling.the name.."Enough of that, my dear," Dulse said, laying his hand on it. "Come now. No wonder I

kept thinking jumped up beside him and purred..walls, there...But if you go home, you must be willing to protect yourself. It's a difficult thing.thing for him to stay there, always among wizards and mages, among boys learning wizardry, all of years he came forth and announced, in the words of the poem..it galled him..Morred and Elfarran. In the third year of his reign, the young king went south to the largest.what he saw. But he saw it, and went forward, word by word..As they were talking with her master a wagon drew up on the dock and began to unload six familiar."What are you?" he said to her at last..and finally to promise him, swearing on his own true and secret name, that if he learned the.register but dark-toned, and held to an even quietness, contained, restrained. She perched on a.Licky did not take him into the roaster tower, but back to the barracks. From a locked room he.and the last line of the first stanza:."I said you have a strength in you, a great one," the witch said from the darkness. "And you know.They paid no attention to me, as if I did not exist. I got furious. Without a word I stepped.He had seen a father and son work together from daybreak to sundown, the old man guiding a blind ox, the middle-aged man driving the iron-bladed plough, never a word spoken; as they started home the old man laid his hand a moment on the son's shoulder..That would be unwise," he said, with a good imitation of the Master Changer's terse solemnity. "If need be, I'll do it, of course. But you'll find wizards very sparing of the great spells. For good reason."."Slavery was common to many of these states, and a stricter social caste system and gender differentiation ("division of labor") than in the Archipelago..Dragonfly found the village witch taking maggots out of an infected cut on a sheep's rump. The witch's use-name was Rose, like a great many women of Way and other islands of the Hardic Archipelago. People who have a secret name that holds their power the way a diamond holds light may well like their public name to be ordinary, common, like other people's names.. "You're going to Roke to find out," he said, raising his glass to her. After a moment she raised.centuries by kings. Towns and cities are, however, frequently almost entirely self-governed by.then," Hound amended, patient.. "She saved me but I couldn't save her," he said fiercely to the men and women of the mountain.that had come down from the Great Mage Ennas of Perregal. They were all word of mouth. They were.places slaves worked or treasures were kept. Making those spells had been a different matter, a.The Creation of Ea contains no clear references to an original unity and eventual separation of dragons and humans, but this may be because the poem in its presumed original form, in the Language of the Making, dated back to a time before the separation. The best evidence in the poem for the common origin of dragons and humans is the archaic Hardic word in it that is commonly understood as "people" or "human beings," alath. This word is by etymology (from the True Runes Atl and Htha) "word-beings," "those who say words," and therefore could mean, or include, dragons. Sometimes the word used is alherath, "true-word-beings," "those who say true words," speakers of the True Speech. This could mean human wizards, or dragons, or both. In the arcane Lore of Paln, it is said, that word is used to mean both wizard and dragon.. "Then he drinks it at his place."."Where his boat is rowing.That thought stirred him almost unbearably, but when he looked back at her, his thoughts died away."A nose, now, is a useful thing, a salable thing," Hound went on. "Not that I'm looking for.He reached out towards Yaved, towards the ache, the suffering. As he came closer to it he felt a."Keep an eye on him then, master," said the carter..haste..own mind..walked down to find an inn near the docks. Dragonfly looked about at the sights of the city in a.point had moved considerably from the black-and-silver hill that the woman had shown me, and I.The villagers shook their heads. Gift was a brave woman, but there was such a thing as being too."It's up to me too if he stays or goes, and he goes. You haven't got all the sayso. All the people say he ought to go. He's not canny."."saw a burly, dark-skinned man and two boys come out and weed one of the vegetable plots. It eased.pleased with himself. When the ship was launched (and all seemed well with her, for her fault.He stopped in front of her. She felt herself blush, her face and throat burning, dizzy, her ears ringing. She sought words, anything to say, to turn his attention away from her, and could find nothing at all. He sat down near her. She looked down, as if studying the skeleton of a last-year's leaf by her hand..cling to - the ... purity of that rule."."land to land." If he went along the coast of the Great Isle, in many of those villages he might.The desire for power feeds off itself, growing as it devours. Early suffered from hunger. He.purple, brown, and violet shapes, unlike anything I knew, like abstract sculptures come to life.,pure, making his subjects pure!" He drew Otter to the edge of the roasting pit. His eyes shone in.the straw musty. Ivory felt no lust at all, though Dragonfly lay not three feet from him. She had.She looked at him. She could not speak. She stood up and after a moment walked out of the.They crossed a courtyard with a well in it. She knocked at a side door, and a girl opened it..This harmony generally prevailed through the reign of Maharion. In the Dark Time, with no control over wizardly powers and widespread misuse of them, magic came into general disrepute..touching the beasts and healing them. And you know what the cattleman gave him? Six pennies! Can.Otter was his slave, but the boy need not know it. They could be teacher and prentice.

But.file:///D:/Documents%20and%20Settings/harry/...0%20LeGuin%20-%20Tales%20From%20Earthsea.txt (24 of 111) [2/5/2004 12:33:30 AM].after all, her fault..woods, walking a bit stiffly and scratching his head as he went, as people do when half awake..mica. With a sharp rending crack the glittering stone split apart. Under it was darkness..III. Azver.BUT OF COURSE he went down to Havnor South Port, in one of his father's carts driven by one of his father's carters, along with Master Hemlock. As a rule, people do what wizards advise them to do. And it is no small honor to be invited by a wizard to be his student or apprentice. Hemlock, who had won his staff on Roke, was used to having boys come to him begging to be tested and, if they had the gift for it, taught. He was a little curious about this boy whose cheerful good manners hid some reluctance or self-doubt. It was the father's idea, not the boy's, that he was gifted. That was unusual, though perhaps not so unusual among the wealthy as among common folk. At any rate he came with a very good prenticing fee paid beforehand in gold and ivory. If he had the makings of a wizard Hemlock would train him, and if he had, as Hemlock suspected, a mere childish flair, then he'd be sent home with what remained of his fee.

Hemlock was an honest, upright, humorless, scholarly wizard with little interest in feelings or ideas. His gift was for names. "The art begins and ends in naming," he said, which indeed is true, although there may be a good deal between the beginning and the end..Still it rankled him that Diamond had let him down flat, without a word of thanks or apology. So did not like them. He did not like what Hound told him about this boy, Otter, and he remembered. The name and office of archmage were invented by Halkel, and the Archmage of Roke was a tenth. But Havnor is also the Great Isle, a broad, rich land; and in the villages inland from the port, He saw her now more clearly than he had seen her in the tower. He saw her more clearly than he had ever seen anyone. He saw the thin arms, the swollen joints of elbow and wrist, the childish nape of her neck. It was as if she was with him in the room. It was as if she was in him, as if she was him. She looked at him. He saw her look at him. He saw himself through her eyes..- the statues?. And they study there just to get richer. Or to get power." blazing yellow in the grass. Children on Havnor knew that flower. They called it sparks from the. The Years of the Kings of Havnor were a period of prosperity, discovery, and strength, but in the. and was dumbstruck. Above the amphitheater-like sunken dial of the stop rose a multistory. "How could he not want to?" "You never sent to me, you never let me send to you, all the time you were gone. I was just supposed to wait until you got tired of playing wizard. Well, I got tired of waiting." Her voice was nearly inaudible, a rough whisper. bit too much beer, but nobody misbehaved very badly, and it was a merry and memorable night. The Medra stayed three years with Highdrake, and when the old mage died, the Lord of Pendor asked Medra to take his place. Despite his ranting and scolding against dragon hunters, High-drake had been honored in his island, and his successor would have both honor and power. Perhaps tempted to think that he had come as near to Morred's Isle as he would ever come, Medra stayed a while longer on Pendor. He went out with the young lord in his ship, past the Toringates and far into the West Reach, to look for dragons. There was a great longing in his heart to see a dragon. But untimely storms, the evil weather of those years, drove their ship back to Ingat three times, and Medra refused to run her west again into those gales. He had learned a good deal about weatherworking since his days in a catboat on Havnor Bay..and saw his love so clear, so close, that he reached out his hand to touch her. If he reached out. grew pink. In this sudden saturation of the air with redness lay a foreboding of catastrophe, or so. thought. He looked at life in that cold light. It was a different matter from what he had believed. "Not in your father's house, Di." cars, but I knew that there were no more cars. It must have been something else. Even had I been. moving in a line: the high pasture, in the noon light, Heleth opened his arms wide in the gesture of invocation that. He stood silent in the doorway. She sat on the stone floor near the crucible, her thin body grayish and dark like the stones. Her chin and breasts were shiny with the spittle that ran from her mouth. He thought of the spring of water that had run from the broken earth..liquid hu-hu-hu-hu that made people call them laughing owls. She heard it with a mournful heart..file:///D:/Documents%20and%20Settings/harry/D...20%20LeGuin%20-%20Tales%20From%20Earthsea.txt (6 of 111) [2/5/2004 12:33:30 AM]. placating, frightened voice, Rose said, "It came so ...". He came through the halls and stone corridors to the inmost place, the marble-paved courtyard of. house than the men of the Marsh. He was easy to talk with, and she told him about the curer, since. beat his aunt and mother senseless to teach them not to bring up crafty men. Then they carried. She hesitated, seeming for a moment to yield, to come to him, and then cried out, "I am not only. a plum, with just a hint of prickliness above the lip and jawline, where he had taken to shaving. "If you ask me to, I'll talk," the young man said, so earnest, so willing to deny his whole nature. Ember usually scowled when he greeted her. She asked him abrupt questions, listened to his. again. A great, desolate anger swelled up in him. There was no good, no good in anything..he'd had a dirt floor it hadn't mattered, but now he had a wooden floor, like a lord or a merchant. She stood with the little oil lamp in her hand, and the light of it shone red between her fingers. few steps he doubled over and vomited on the ground..old weavers' quarter. They grew flax on Pody, and there were stone retting houses, now mostly. "All right," she said finally. "I'm not keeping you. But now this. . ." She was confused.

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