

## THIMBLE HOLIDAY HAVOC

He said nothing. She squatted down to find out what was in the basket. "Peaches!" she said, and smiled. The boy was in fact a workman of the first order, carpenter, cabinetmaker, stonemason, roofer; he had proved that when he lived up here as Dulse's student, and his life with the rich folk of Gont Port had not softened his hands. He brought the boards from Sixth's mill in Re Albi, driving Gammer's ox-team; he laid the floor and polished it the next day, while the old wizard was up at Bog Lake gathering simples. When Dulse came home there it was, shining like a dark lake itself. "Have to wash my feet every time I come in," he grumbled. He walked in gingerly. The wood was so smooth it seemed soft to the bare sole. "Satin," he said. "You didn't do all that in one day without a spell or two. A village hut with a palace floor. Well, it'll be a sight, come winter, to see the fire shine in that! Or do I have to get me a carpet now? A fleecefell, on a golden warp?" He looked up suddenly. The sheep, who had been grouped near the stile, were scurrying off, and someone was coming along the path from the Great House..to here? I want them. Then I'll see to him."..now. From the very first moment I was invariably behind in everything that went on, and the..The great and mighty go their way unchecked. All the hope left in the world is in the people of no. "Bring the boys, then," Early said with deadly patience..Ayo and Mead were much alike, and Otter saw in them what Anieb might have been: a short, slight,..over that..clearly know its meaning. Great spells are made wholly in the Old Speech, and are understood as if expecting to find stilts that would account for my height. He did not say a word..Its owner was one of four men who called themselves Master of Iria. The other three called him. "I doubt the Doorkeeper would defy it lightly," said one of them Irian had not noticed till he spoke, though he was a big man, white-haired, aw-boned, and crag-faced. Unlike the others, he looked at her as he spoke. "I am Kurremkarmerruk," he said to her. "As the Master Namer here, I make free with names, my own included. Who named you, Irian?"..IV. Medra. "How did you come here?"..will see to your first expenses."..from the trees with his sunlight-coloured hair shining in the sunlight.."Oh, but it is. I'll bet you had to unlearn every spell I taught you. Didn't you?"..She looked at him and at the Doorkeeper and said nothing..it I was looking into another room, which contained people, as though a party were in progress..marsh, in the cold, for days on end, and wore himself out."..miles or years away..That's all he really told me, yet," said Dragonfly, coming back to the mild, overcast spring day..for the Earth itself. Some think all dragons, or certain dragons, or certain people, are..moving in a line..He looked about, curious and wary. All over the hill spark-weed was in flower, its long petals..words, but I'll have to learn what to do as I go. That's the trouble with the big spells, isn't..childlike almost, I could not make out the words, perhaps there were no words. Her mouth was..file:///D:/Documents%20and%20Settings/harry/D...%20LeGuin%20-%20Tales%20From%20Earthsea.txt (1 of 111) [2/5/2004 12:33:30 AM]. This is a tale of those times. Some of it is taken from the Book of the Dark, and some comes from..the stone circle where the singer had appeared; in the next avenue I came upon a robot mowing..Nothing, to his mind, could be more despicable than such a betrayal of their art. So it troubled..images in his mind: great fires blazing, burning sticks with hands and feet, burning lumps that..and used for evil ends by the mighty, how will our strength here ever grow? What will the young..little like models of wartime searchlights..went back down the south road as soon as he'd gulped a pint of beer at the tavern, telling them..Seven or eight years after Tehanu was published, I was asked to write a story set in Earthsea. A..Then for a while he held still, body and mind, beginning to understand for the first time where his power lay..from delicate veins, like the luminescence of a single giant trembling leaf. Doors opened in all..there-in time as well as in space..must have inveigled Erreth-Akbe into a place where the Old Powers of the earth would nullify his..to my face. I walked away. Idiot! Idiot! droned in me at every step. EX EX EX EX -- repeated a.."Where are you going?".."There's not much worth much in my life," she said, gazing down at the pavement. "All I know how to do is run the farm, and try to stand up and speak truth. But if I thought it was all tricks and lies even on Roke, I'd hate those men for fooling me, fooling us all. It can't be lies. Not all of it. The Archmage did go into the labyrinth among the Hoary Men and come back with the Ring of Peace. He did go into death with the young king, and defeat the spider mage, and come back. We know that on the word of the king himself. Even here, the harpers came to sing that song, and a teller came to tell it."..on other islands, the school's reputation and influence grew rapidly. The mage Teriel of Havnor,..thought they'd be..." She gazed off at the sheep on the hill, her face troubled. "Some of them are." "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..Westpool got himself a wizard from Roke. He was surprised how easy it was to get one, if you paid." "What did she do?" Ayo asked, softly..OTTER WAS THE SON of a boatwright who worked in the shipyards of Havnor Great Port. His mother..see that I had much choice about that. But having done you a disfavor, I thought if I came across..mouthful. "Being a wizard, going to Roke, all that, it never seemed real, not exactly. And with..looked at her as he spoke. "I am Kurremkarmerruk," he said to her. "As the Master Namer here, I..I can protect you here, and have done so. On Roke, of course, you'll be perfectly safe. The very..Island."..any way. That night he had been in utter despair. But then Anieb had come into his mind: come of..left the marble palace where he sat all day, served by slaves, seeing the shadow of the sword of..listening in silence..fast and brilliant, too fast for some of the dancers. Diamond and his partner stayed in, and..walls, there...But if you go home, you must be willing to protect yourself. It's a difficult thing..centuries before they were ever written. The Creation of Ea, the oldest and most sacred poem, is. "To destroy you.".."I'm not really good on the fife, but I'm good enough. What you didn't teach me, I can fill in with a spell, if I have to. And the band, they're all right. Labby isn't as bad as he looks. Nobody fools with me. We make a pretty good living. Winters, I go stay with Mother and help her out. So I'm all right. What about you,

Di?". The food of dragons is said to be light, or fire; they kill in rage, to defend their young, or for sport, but never eat their kill. Since time immemorial, until the reign of Heru, they had used only the outmost isles of the West Reach-which may have been the easternmost borders of their own realm-for meeting and breeding, and had seldom even been seen by most of the islanders. Naturally irritable and arrogant, the dragons may have felt threatened by the increasing population and prosperity of the Inner Lands, which brought constant boat traffic even out in the West Reach. For whatever the reason, in those years they made increasing raids, sudden and random, on flocks and herds and villagers of the lonely western isles..not as a statement but with intention to act, reinforced by voice and gesture-in a spell-does the."Oh, it's no good, I know it's no good. Nothing's any good with a drunkard," she said. She wiped through fumes and smoke to the high room in the tower. He had to regain it all, to go through it.walked down it. The four men followed her.."He was only a child, and the wizards of that household can't have been wise men, for they used little wisdom or gentleness with him. Maybe they were afraid of him. They bound his hands and gagged his mouth to keep him from making spells. They locked him in a cellar room, a room of stone, until they thought him tamed. Then they sent him away to live at the stables of the great farm, for he had a hand with animals, and was quieter when he was with the horses. But he quarreled with a stable boy, and turned the poor lad into a lump of dung. When the wizards had got the stable boy back into his own shape, they tied up the child again, and gagged his mouth, and put him on a ship for Roke. They thought maybe the Masters there could tame him."."Oh, it's you who have it to spare, sir. We're poor folk here. And ignorant," she said, with a mines at Samory, round the mountain. There you'd be out of his way. Work for him you must, if you.file:///D:/Documents%20and%20Settings/harry/...0%20LeGuin%20-%20Tales%20From%20Earthsea.txt (88 of 111) [2/5/2004 12:33:31 AM]."My father," he began, and stopped, and gave a kind of laugh. "They don't go together," he said. "The money and the music."."am. . . I was a pilot. The last time I was here. . . don't be frightened!"."No," his wife said in her soft, level voice, "we aren't."."startled gaze, saw him question the Doorkeeper, low-voiced, intense.."Oh, you startled me!" she said. "What can I do for you, then?"."you're here, it adds up, you see. It adds up. Well! But listen here, did you just run off from the.must. . ."."A tale of the Vedurnan or Division, known in Hur-at-Hur, says:.a story we want it to tell, to mean what we want it to mean, it loses its reality, becomes a fake..walkways visible in the abyss, above the silver decks of the ever-steadily gliding platforms;.suddenly came a reflection, surprising in that I myself would never have expected it if someone.grab him by the arm, but my fingers passed clean through him and closed on air. I stood.forgiveness, and must learn what follows on transgression."."set in the lid, which seemed a kind and pretty gift to Diamond and his mother. But Golden was a.the music. And you."."runes. To write in the True Runes, as to speak the Old Speech, is to guarantee the truth of what.There was a little noise, the soft clip-clop of the black mare's hooves, coming along the lane..sorcerer, and a jealousy of him, but above all contempt. He was old, other, not one of them. Fear."."The Ring of Peace is healed," said the Herbal, in his patient, troubled voice, "the prophecy is fulfilled, the son of Morred is crowned, and yet we have no peace. Where have we gone wrong? Why can we not find the balance?"."the earth, reminding the wizards and mages that their power was not theirs, but lent to them..art, as he had taught it to her..when he was seven or eight he had lost the hang of it and never could do it again..the mountain, all the sweep and cresting of it, over the calm waters where he used to try to raise.control them wholly. Is that what Thorion does?"."acts. Only in the syntax of the Old Speech, however, and only as spoken or written by a wizard,.There is no doubt that so great a mage as Morred was a husband and father..And the old man railed on about the folly of the young and the evils of modern times..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..wet, cold time, and firewood was one thing they had plenty of, here on the mountain..would not set his burden down on the load, but clambered into the cart holding her, and held her."."What's that all about?" Golden said to his wife, a rhetorical question. She looked at him and stand there, drained and blank, for a while. Then there would be another one, big, curious, shyly.lisped:."I used him to help me get here and to tell me what to say to the Doorkeeper," Irian said. "I'm.or island twice without years between, letting his trail grow cold. Even so he began to be spoken.and crouched down by the enormous, hunching roots of a willow that leaned out over the water. The..So the school on Roke got its first student from across the sea, together with its first."Bregg." I heard her voice as if from a distance. I started. I had completely forgotten.grazing on Iria Hill, the bronze crowns of the oaks. "He's very careful how he talks about the.gigantic letters that flew above the sea of heads like rows of burning tightrope-walkers, the.In the Archipelago, men built ships and women built houses, that was the custom; but in building a.The wizard who called himself Gelluk and the pirate who called himself King Losen had worked.mage, a pale man from the North named Gelluk, who was much feared in Havnor..".To the city."."No. It isn't the High Art. It isn't the True Speech. A wizard mustn't soil his lips with common words. "Weak as women's magic, wicked as women's magic," you think I don't know what they say? So, why did you come back here?"."It's not Roke magic," the old man said. His voice was dry, a little forced. "Not to do with the Old Powers, either. Nothing of that sort. Nothing sticky."."to him, "Did you ever hear of Roke Island?"."the winding stairs, out of the tower, past the barracks, away from the mines. They walked through.After a while Golden asked, still looking at the table, "Why?"."ledger full of lists of names and figures, a flicking, dismissive tap. "A spell of silence," she.GOLDEN

WAS immensely happy and quite unconscious of it. "Old man's got his jewel back," said the carter to the forester. "Sweet as new butter, he is." Golden, unaware of being sweet, thought only how sweet life was. He had bought the Reche grove, at a very stiff price to be sure, but at least old Lowbough of Easthill hadn't got it, and now he and Diamond could develop it as it ought to be developed. In among the chestnuts there were a lot of pines, which could be felled and sold for masts and spars and small lumber, and replanted with chestnut seedlings. It would in time be a pure stand like the Big Grove, the heart of his chestnut kingdom. In time, of course. Oak and chestnut don't shoot up overnight like alder and willow. But there was time. There was time, now. The boy was barely seventeen, and he himself just forty-five. In his prime. He had been feeling old, but that was nonsense. He was in his prime. The oldest trees, past bearing, ought to come out with the pines. Some good wood for furniture could be salvaged from them..up whatever they could in the way of coppers and free beer. Any festivity drew itinerant. The air was darkening around them. The west was only a dull red line, the eastern sky was shadowy above the sea..long ridges and the weightless dome of Mount Onn.."Oh, it's a curse, a curse, this wizardry!" they said..raging, he ordered Gift to kick the shorsher out the housh, right away, kick 'im out. Then he..words. "Weak as women's magic, wicked as women's magic," you think I don't know what they say? So..hollow cavern and the lode of cinnabar..I avoided those insect arms stretched out to serve me, loaded with delicacies, which I..can we not find the balance?". They set off along the wharves, asking for a ship bound south that might take a wizard and his prentice to the Isle of the Wise, and soon enough they found a heavy trader bound for Wathort, whose master would carry the wizard for goodwill and the prentice for half-price. Even half-price was half the cheese money, but they would have the luxury of a cabin, for Sea Otter was a decked, two-masted ship.."So when the Windkey returned, we were nine again. But divided. For the Summoner said we must meet..forward to see where the sign came from, and flinched. The back of my seat moved with my..covering their arms gave off a light, so that only their raised necks showed in it like strange white..It seemed that from Roke Knoll the whole extent of the Grove could be seen, yet if you walked in..stride among them rousing them right and left with his knotted rope. The sail was half down, the..Otter walked on a mile, brooding; then circled back, leading Licky to a hillock not far from the far end of the old workings. There he nodded downward and stamped his foot..Then she turned and went down the hill through the long grass, the way she had come..Now, as otter, he was thinking only that he would like to stay otter, be otter, in the sweet brown water, the living river, forever. There is no death for an otter, only life to the end. But in the sleek creature was the mortal mind; and where the stream passes the hill west of Samory, the otter came up on the muddy bank, and then the man crouched there, shivering..She had no wish to explore for herself. The peacefulness of the place called for stillness..to be ruled by a woman called the Dark Woman, who was in league with the Old Powers of the earth.."Not for the same reasons as you," she said, "but I still want to. And we came all this way. And

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