

## RED FOXES

ox, the middle-aged man driving the iron-bladed plough, never a word spoken; as they started home.wondered."sad. His way of speaking was harsh, quick, dry, peaceable. The men of the Isle are not always."How do you know that?".to occur in. A few miners were working at the end of a long level..been honored in his island, and his successor would have both honor and power. Perhaps tempted to.up the magewind when he was twelve; and sailing on he would see the towers rise up from the water,.poor and powerless might learn what power is..The Patterner pushed four pebbles into a little curve on the sand and said, "I wish the Sparrowhawk had not gone. I wish I could read what the shadows write. But all I can hear the leaves say is change, change... Everything will change but them." He looked up into the trees again with that yearning look. The sun was setting; he stood up, bade her goodnight gently, and walked away, entering under the trees..the parents died young. So not much heed was paid to him, until they had to take notice of him.fleet on the sea, and the slaves were near rebelling, so the master brought her home as quick as.file:///D:/Documents%20and%20Settings/harry/D...20%20LeGuin%20-%20Tales%20From%20Earthsea.txt (9 of 111) [2/5/2004 12:33:30 AM].now what it once was- if we had more people of the true art gathered here, teaching and learning.Hound smiled. "They haven't undone what you did yet, either," he said. "Old Whiteface was crawling.The Creation of Ea contains no clear references to an original unity and eventual separation of.yellowing, no flowers in it but the little white heads of the lacefoam. A woman came walking up."Must we hide forever?".And they talked about that, all the wise women of the island: what was the true art of magic, and where did it turn false; how the balance of things was kept or lost; what crafts were needful, which useful, which dangerous; why some people had one gift but not another, and whether you could learn an art you had no native gift for. In such discussions they worked out the names that ever since have been given to the masteries: finding, weather-working, changing, healing, summoning, patterning, naming, and the crafts of illusion, and the knowledge of the songs. Those are the arts of the Masters of Roke even now, though the Chanter took the Finder's place when finding came to be considered a merely useful craft unworthy of a mage..Looking for the bathroom, I accidentally found the bed; it was in a wall and fell in a.looking for that place, that island, seven years."The Equilibrium," she said, accepting all he said in its simplest sense, as always..all darkness. But in his body, not in his mind, burned a knowledge he could not name any more, a.He drew back, staring, and made a fierce motion of his hand that brushed away the stream in a spray like a fountain blown by the wind. The gash in the earth grew deeper, revealing the ledge of mica. With a sharp rending crack the glittering stone split apart. Under it was darkness..sentience. At the wizards touch he did not feel the horror of the spellbond, but rather a gift of.mind?".chasing her burst out in front of me, a dark outline; they disappeared, I heard once more the.still the station but preferred not to ask. She led me to a small cabin inside a wall, not very.softly in the tops of tall trees, on beyond the gardens..Medra nodded.."Yes," said Ember. "We must hide, and forever if need be. Because there's nothing left but being.witch's use-name was Rose, like a great many women of Way and other islands of the Hardic.Yet as Dory spoke he saw what the girl saw: a long hill going down into darkness, and across it,.could not rouse him. "He is dead," he said. "The breath will not leave him, but he is dead." So we."Destroy us? Destroy this hill? The trees there?" She looked down to a grove of trees not far from.anxious, the hunted look coming back into him, and he got up from the settle..His old master was sitting in the grass near the pond, eating an apple. Bits of eggshell flecked the ground near his legs, which were caked with drying mud. When he looked up and saw Ogion's sending he smiled a wide, sweet smile. But he looked old. He had never looked so old. Ogion had not seen him for over a year, having been busy; he was always busy in Gont Port, doing the business of the lords and people, never a chance to walk in the forests on the mountainside or to come sit with Heleth in the little house at Re Albi and listen and be still. Heleth was an old man, near eighty now; and he was frightened. He smiled with joy to see Ogion, but he was frightened..Irian stepped forward before the Doorkeeper could answer..wet, cold time, and firewood was one thing they had plenty of, here on the mountain..Money was a problem. The girl thought, of course, that he as a great wizard would snap his fingers and waft them over the sea in a magic boat flying before the magewind. But when he told her they'd have to hire passage on a ship, she said simply, "I have the cheese money.".A pause. "This," Diamond said. His voice was level. He looked neither at his father nor his.pattern...The Grove would shelter us.".gesticulating mannequins that spun like tops, that furiously did gymnastics; they handed one."A mage called Highdrake told me that when Ath stayed in Pendor, he told a wizard there that he'd."It hasn't been changed," he said, but he knew that was not what she meant. "I'm sorry," he said..Come home with me.".Silence before. There was a very long pause..But she knew better..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..Golden did not like the child. She was both outspoken and defensive, both rash and timid. She was a girl, and a year younger than Diamond, and a witch's daughter. He wished his son would play with boys his own age, his own sort, from the respectable families of Glade. Tuly insisted on calling the witch "the wisewoman," but a witch was a witch and her daughter was no fit companion for Diamond. It tickled him a little, though, to see his boy teaching tricks to the witch-child..a lighter; for an instant I was seized by a blind rage; I set my jaw, narrowed my eyes, and,.not there. A bumblebee buzzed heavily through the air where he had been..She stood up, almost as tall as he, and as straight. She said nothing for a minute and then spoke.file:///D:/Documents%20and%20Settings/harry/...0%20LeGuin%20-%20Tales%20From%20Earthsea.txt (43 of 111) [2/5/2004 12:33:31 AM].unless there was a sorcerer aboard who knew how to turn that wind. Still they came, and as the."I have work here," he said..We cherish the old stories for their changelessness. Arthur dreams eternally in Avalon. Bilbo can."What did you keep her standing there in the

middle of the dogs for?" the woman demanded. He could no longer see the chambers and passages of the cave as he had seen them with the. refused to run her west again into those gales. He had learned a good deal about weatherworking. digging for the Red Mother, have you? Did you know the Red Mother before you came here? Are you a. who had been with him, Hound could not track: could not say whether he was under that hill with wholeness, was a gain for him. He had begun merely by trying to get her into his bed, a game he. "Where do you send this lady?" said the Patterner in his strange speech. file:///D:/Documents%20and%20Settings/harry/...0%20LeGuin%20-%20Tales%20From%20Earthsea.txt (100 of 111) [2/5/2004 12:33:32 AM]. gesticulated heatedly, as if quarreling. I went up to them. "You should have told me at once," Early said. the children, and jugglers and puppeteers, some of them hired and some of them coming by to pick. "You talk in a strange way. Where are you from?" boy set his will on the great and dangerous art of summoning. And he studied with the Master of. unable to see Ivory as perilous. She didn't understand him, but the idea of fearing him, him. the King sits, having returned after the healing of the Ring, in sign of healing. And in that. through that door, even for a moment, what a sweet revenge it would be! stay on after we land. ". given him for his twelfth birthday. He put it to his lips, his fingers danced, and he played a. part of a huge, chubby face that reached the ceiling, that there, behind the glass, spoke endlessly. "She can lodge in the town," the Changer said, with some relief. A curved corridor with an inclined floor, as sometimes in the theater; from its walls, sunlight; and the first part of the Great House they made was its inmost heart, the courtyard of. farm, for he had a hand with animals, and was quieter when he was with the horses. But he. "Even if I argued for you. They won't listen. The Rule of Roke forbids women to be taught any high art, any word of the Language of the Making. It's always been so. They will not listen. So they must be shown! And we'll show them, you and I. We'll teach them. You must have courage, Dragonfly. You must not weaken, and not think, "Oh, if I just beg them to let me in, they can't refuse me." They can, and will. And if you reveal yourself, they will punish you. And me." He put a ponderous emphasis on the last word, and inwardly murmured, "Avert." ones. kennings or euphemisms for the word dragon are Firstborn, Eldest, Elder Children. (The words for. crowned hills made the domain a byword, so that people said, "as fat as a cow of Iria', or, "as. 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." and litigations. Farmlands went to weeds, farmsteads went unroofed, milking sheds stood unused. All rights reserved, which includes the right to reproduce this book or. A red stripe passed across her face. Neither of them had any doubt but that he was a man of great power. He denied this. "I could have. were passages concerning the true refiner's fire. Having long studied these, Gelluk knew that once. wouldn't. "Stay here while you can," she said. Medra had come to Havnor thinking that because he meant no harm he would do no harm. He had done. ready to bury him. And then, by his grave, his eyes opened. He moved, and spoke. He said, "I have. stubbornness and harshness of crags, peaks, but without falling into mechanical imitation, prearranged location? ". "The wizard let you visit home?" friends in the Great Port who would find them amusing. ""I have the cheese money,"" he repeated to. as they lost their dragon nature. man's legs ached and his feet hurt. But it was a good bed, a feather bed, warm, and he need not. "Set a price?" he flashed out. Then he remembered who he was not, and spoke humbly. "No. I. away his clothes, but kept the shoes, she didn't know what for. For this fellow, it would seem. To the sisters and all these villagers, Mount Onn was the world, and the shores of Havnor were the edge of the universe. Beyond that was only rumor and dream. A long shudder went through her as she stood facing him. She felt herself larger than he was, larger than she was, enormously larger. She could reach out one finger and destroy him. He stood there in his small, brave, brief humanity, his mortality, defenseless. She drew a long, long breath. She stepped back from him. Golden was born to deal with commerce and wealth, each in his place; and each, noble or common, if. killed and killing, beyond these shores. You say it, and I believe it." full of sleep and bewilderment and pain. "You still are," Medra said. "Anieb was one of you. She and you and all of us live in the same prison." perfume, sharp yet at the same time mild; a young couple passed; the girl turned to the man; her. Licky came back to the barracks with them. Gelluk bade Otter goodnight in his soft voice. Licky shut him as usual into the brick-walled room, giving him a loaf of bread, an onion, a jug of water. matter of Roke, There was some strength in him or with him. Yet it was hard for Early to fear a. "You'd understand if I told you. Betritization, you see, isn't done by brit. With the brit, it's. ground glimmered faintly before their feet. gift. She and some men and women like her, people of no fame and some of questionable reputation, Ordinary Hardic, for matters of government or business or personal messages or to record history. "You're not," Irian said. She thought him between thirty and forty, though it was hard to tell; she kept thinking his hair was white, because it was not black. did not like them. He did not like what Hound told him about this boy, Otter, and he remembered. "Now I won't have him here no more," Berry said, coming master of the house over her, with the. "You have a gift for the business," Crow said. "You know where to look. Went straight to that bestiary in the barn loft... But there's nothing much to look for here. Nothing of importance. Ath wouldn't have left the greatest of all the lore-books among boors who'd make that of it! Take us to Pody if you like. And then back to Orrimy. I've had about enough." The hillside in front of him trembled, writhed, and opened. A gash in it deepened, widened. Water sprang up out of it and ran across the wizard's feet. 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..He gave a sharp look at his staff, which leaned in the corner behind the door. He put the eggs in the larder, ate an apple quickly because he was hungry, and took his staff. It was yew, bound at the foot with copper, worn to silk at the grip. Nemmerle had given it to him..They had no patience with him either, always at him to hurry up and get done with the job; nor with themselves, their life. When they talked to each other it was always about what they were going to do in town, in Oraby, when they got paid off. He heard a good deal about the whores in Oraby, Daisy and Goldie and the one they called the Burning Bush. He had to sit with the young men because they all needed what warmth there was to be got from the fire, but they did not want him there and he did not want to be there with them. In them he knew was a vague fear of him as a sorcerer, and a jealousy of him, but above all contempt. He was old, other, not one of them. Fear and jealousy he knew and shrank from, and contempt he remembered. He was glad he was not one of them, that they did not want to talk to him. He was afraid of doing wrong to them..She sat on a while by the Thwilburn. She was troubled by what he had told her and by her thoughts and feelings in the Grove, and troubled that any thought or feeling could have troubled her there. She went to the house, set out her supper of smoked meat and bread and summer lettuce, and ate it without tasting it. She roamed restlessly back down the streambank to the water. It was very still and warm in the late dusk, only the largest stars burning through a milky overcast. She slipped off her sandals and put her feet in the water. It was cool, but veins of sunwarmth ran through it. She slid out of her clothes, the man's breeches and shirt that were all she had, and slipped naked into the water, feeling the push and stir of the current all along her body. She had never swum in the streams at Iria, and she had hated the sea, heaving grey and cold, but this quick water pleased her, tonight. She drifted and floated, her hands slipping over silken underwater rocks and her own silken flanks, her legs sliding through waterweeds. All trouble and restlessness washed away from her in the running of the water, and she floated in delight in the caress of the stream, gazing up at the white, soft fire of the stars..whatever he was, had gone..kill you for it. Keep it hid. And keep away from great people and their crafty men!".all, a love story can happen at any time, anywhere. "On the High Marsh" is a story from the brief.Master Chanter on Roke, that teaches the lays and the histories. But I never heard of a wizard.have great gifts?".He was half asleep, sitting on the ground in the shade by the barracks, the smell of the logs stacked by the roaster tower bringing him a memory of the work yards at home, the fragrance of new wood as the plane ran down the silky oak board. Some noise or movement roused him. He looked up and saw the wizard standing before him, looming above him..where it's safe, and where the great robbers and killers would least look for it, since no one.were at home with the earth, or most likely because it was the custom, women had always worked the.ambitions, they said, that had perverted all the arts to ends of gain. "We do not deal with their.but there's no more in that than a few drops. It's scarcely worth burning for so little. If you.Pelnish Lore and the Kargish legends maintain that the separation was deliberate, made by an."Give me a basin," Rush said. "I'll get water to soak these..".Your name is beautiful, Irioth," she said after a while. "I never knew my husband's true name. Nor he mine. I won't speak yours again. But I like to know it, since you know mine..".they send for the sorcerer over at Westpool, or would their own village witch do. The Master of.thought. He was used to being listened to, not to listening. Serene in his strength and obsessed.thing in a dangerous element, vulnerable to spells and hexes. As soon as Hound came aboard the new."He wanted me to go to the College on Roke to study with the Master Summoner. He was going to send.but there was more of obedience in it. Dogs were hierarchs, dividing the world into lords and."So you thought. . . you thought that I . . . no!".CENTER, although that surely did not mean the center of the city. At any rate, I let myself be led..the other people doing? Putting the things in their pockets. The sign on the dispenser: LARGAN. I.great folk don't look for women to work together. Or to have thoughts about such things as rule or

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