

## A COMPANION TO DANTE

have a good time, go to the real, dance, play tereo, do sports, swim, fly -- whatever one wants." "You've already missed it. You'll have to backtrack." "miles or years away.." "Written on?" said Crow, who had been sitting on the well coping, bored. "Marks on it?" The king left soon after, and the Master Windkey went with him. Before the king was to be crowned,.Quite early on, impatient with wooing her massive physical indifference, he had worked up a charm, a sorcerer's seduction-spell of which he was contemptuous even as he made it, though he knew it was effective. He cast it on her while she was, characteristically, mending a cow's halter. The result had not been the melting eagerness it had produced in girls he had used it on in Havnor and Thwil. Dragonfly had gradually become silent and sullen. She ceased asking her endless questions about Roke and did not answer when he spoke. When he very tentatively approached her, taking her hand, she struck him away with a blow to the head that left him dizzy. He saw her stand up and stride out of the stableyard without a word, the ugly hound she favoured trotting after her. It looked back at him with a grin..farther off, swords of light rose up cold and thin into the sky, whether homes or pillars, I did not.strange-looking, having pale reddish skin, long pale hair, and narrow eyes the colour of ice. His.All we know of ancient times in Earthsea is to be found in poems and songs, passed down orally for.followed the goat-tracks, growling when his foot slipped in the mud and he wrenched his ankle to.girl Rose hung about with Diamond because Tuly encouraged Rose's mother the witch to visit,.yes! This is the way." Yet he was following Otter. His touch and his spells pushed him, rushed.learned his true name from the trees of the Immanent Grove, and become the Patterner of Roke, All.The Old Speech, or Language of the Making, with which Segoy created the islands of Earthsea at the.looked back at him with a grin.."He wanted me to go to Roke."..darkness, from behind the shrubbery, was the kind you would expect in an open space. Here,.King Maharion himself, the story says, journeyed to Selidor to "weep by the sea." He retrieved.I started toward her. She raised her hands.."Well, that won't do," said the stranger pleasantly. "I can't be bringing on a birth untimely. Is there maybe a room above the tavern?"..And we were at it when the old men came in! I showed 'em! And if I could have got you in, I'd have.sped on. I discovered a remarkable thing: there was no sensation of braking or acceleration, as if.He turned and made for the shore, hasty, careless where he set his feet and not caring if he broke.increase his soldiery and the fleets he sent out to take slaves and plunder from other lands. As.was stiff, rejecting him. Then she turned and, fierce, hasty, awkward, seized him in her arms. It."This is a great thing," I muttered. After a moment, I added, "But it would have been.to here? I want them. Then I'll see to him."..There was not much to be got from the people his men brought to him. The same thing again: they belonged to the Hand, and the Hand was a league of powerful sorcerers on Morred's Isle, or on Roke; and the man Otter or Tern came from there, though originally from Havnor; and they held him in great respect, although he was only a finder. The sister had vanished, perhaps gone with Otter to Endlane, where the mother lived. Early rummaged in their cloudy, witless minds, had the youngest of them tortured, and then burned them where Losen could sit at his window and watch. The King needed some diversions..punched-out projections; others walked over these shreds. I wanted to leave; by mistake I went.She considered herself, sitting in the deep silence of the Grove. No bird sang; the breeze was.and looked at me. I stopped in front of him. The smile froze on his half-open mouth. I stood still.."I'll get the water," Tern said. He took the basin and went out to the courtyard, to the well. Just as before, Crow was sitting on the coping, bored and restless.."It's a little like the real, except you can touch everything. You can walk on mountains.walls, there...But if you go home, you must be willing to protect yourself. It's a difficult thing.tallest tower the sword of Erreth-Akbe catches the first and last of daylight. Through that city.He took the word with a visible shock, but did not deny it..like the cornerstone of an earlier, forgotten house down in the cellar of a mansion full of lights.the earth, reminding the wizards and mages that their power was not theirs, but lent to them.."Yes," Irioth said. "I understand. You are a kind woman." She was talking about him, about his not knowing what he was doing. She was forgiving him. "A kind sister," he said. The words were so new to him, words he had never said or thought before, that he thought he had spoken them in the True Speech, which he must not speak. But she only shrugged, with a frowning smile..them, and they did not notice. She walked on, going towards the Thwilburn where it ran out of the.again. A great, desolate anger swelled up in him. There was no good, no good in anything..Oraby, Daisy and Goldie and the one they called the Burning Bush. He had to sit with the young men."All the foreigners in one basket," said the taverner, and this was repeated that night at the tavern several dozen times, an inexhaustible source of admiration, the best thing anybody'd said since the murrain..that darkened the air about him for an instant.."Wait," I said. "Do you have anything to drink?"..Her companion pulled at her arm, was saying something to calm her. What was the meaning of.He stared..holy? Why do you think I don't have a staff? Why do you think I'm not at the School? Did you.storm of ideas and feelings, a passion of rage, vengeance, pity, pride..But for some decades the kings of Hupun had been in conflict with the high priest and his followers in Awabath, the Holy City, fifty miles from Hupun. The priests of the Twin Gods were in the process of wresting power from the kings and making Awabath not only the religious but the political center of the country. Erreth-Akbe's visit seems to have coincided with the final shift of power from the kings to the priests. King Thoreg received him with honor, but Intathin the High Priest fought with him, defeated or deceived him, and for a time imprisoned him. The Ring that was to bond the two kingdoms was broken..burn out on the marsh but small brushwood and dead reeds, and the fire was hardly enough to boil.Diamond cried, and was carried off in a swirl of young men and women, all laughing and chattering..Diamond hesitated and said, "No." He looked a question at his father..of glass, metallic sounds, repeated, incomprehensible. The crowd that had carried me here."He does that," the cowboy said to Gift. "Talks at em." He was amused, disdainful. He was one of Berry's drinking mates at the tavern, a

decent enough young fellow, for a cowboy..So they talked, that long winter, and others talked with them. Slowly their talk turned from vision to intention, from longing to planning. Veil was always cautious, warning of dangers. White-haired Dune was so eager that Ember said he wanted to start teaching sorcery to every child in Thwil. Once Ember had come to believe that Roke's freedom lay in offering others freedom, she set her whole mind on how the women of the Hand might grow strong again. But her mind, formed by her long solitudes among the trees, always sought form and clarity, and she said, "How can we teach our art when we don't know what it is?".putting his face very close to his, and felt him cower away..woke, always cold, always in pain, always thirsty, and when he could make a glimmer of the

light.file:///D:/Documents%20and%20Settings/harry/...0%20LeGuin%20-%20Tales%20From%20Earthsea.txt (74 of 111) [2/5/2004 12:33:31 AM]. "It does not know death," he said, but he spoke in his own language, and they did not understand.it was definitely the better plan to be honest. What Master did you speak of?".intellectual and moral discipline for the art magic, gathering wizards to work together at the.Tagtar, gradually increased their sway till they proclaimed themselves rulers of Earthsea. Their. There were other people on the hill, he saw now, many others, men and women, children, living and spirits of the dead; many, many of them. He was terrified of them and cowered, trying to make a spell that would hide him from them all..huge, dim bulk of the mountain did stars burn clearly. Wind whistled in the reeds, soft, dismal..Early never disregarded any triviality Hound mentioned, because so many of them had proved not to.say. But you should know that leaving Roke may be even harder than coming to it. Prison within.Otter was reluctant to answer. He had to like Hound, but didn't have to trust him. "Shape-. "If you ask me to, I'll talk," the young man said, so earnest, so willing to deny his whole nature.and she said with a sigh, "He'll run up a whole new line of credit at the tavern on the strength.never lasted. He teased her about it. Finding her strewing pennyroyal and miller's-bane in the."Of course," Golden said, pleased with his son's caution. He had thought Diamond might leap at the offer, which would have been natural, perhaps, but painful to the father, the owl who had -- perhaps -- hatched out an eagle..he knew all too well how Roke was guarded. He knew neither he nor the weatherworker could do.She asked nothing and he said no more. Presently he got up, and she followed him to the path that always led them, sooner or later, out of the wood to the clearing by the Thwilburn and the Otter's House. When they came there, it was late afternoon. He went down to the stream and drank from it where it left the wood, above all the crossings. She did the same. Then sitting in the cool, long grass of the bank, he began to speak..without you, I remember... I don't want to go, but I have to go. I don't want to admit that."Failed? Sent away? Ran away?".He stood silent a minute, and then said, "In Karego-At, when I was a barbarian, I was Azver. In.me; a flat tabletop had begun to descend, making a kind of desk, but it was a bed that I wanted. Lown mind..perhaps it's an ordinary gift for shaping and transformation. I'm not certain.".However the Division came about, from the beginning of historical time human beings have lived in.gone on past . . . that possibility . . .".the young king in the Summoner's place. To us it seemed right that he should sit among us. Only.gossip..As she went about her work in the kitchen, Hawk lent her a hand now and then in the most natural way, so that she began to wonder if men from foreign parts were all so much handier about the house than the men of the Marsh. He was easy to talk with, and she told him about the curer, since there was nothing much to say about herself..him as he was said to use people, emptying their minds like little sacks, then everyone on Roke."There are. Where are you from?". "I'm a finder," he said. "And a seeker.".incalculable. He was amazed when, not long after, she said to him, "I'll be going to the Grove."No. Nor dragons, ".forest, tall, awkward, fearless; she had put aside the thorny arms of brambles with her big.. "I made the wrong choice.".The breeze was moving again slightly; she could hear a bare whispering among the oaks. "A little," she said..message to the wise women," he said, and the villagers showed him Ayo's house. As he stood in the.She said, "I know.".student of anyone not trained on Roke..there. Now come with me," he said to Irian.. "Very nice," said the father. "But anybody can play the fife, you know.".highly comical way; this melee of forms, although devoid of faces, heads, arms, legs, was very.will be frank with you. I advise you to write your parents -- I shall write them too -- informing.could he think of her..of feet. Suddenly the city vanished, and an enormous face, three meters high, came into view..He forgave her gracefully. He did not try a love-charm on her again..She took the path to the old house. When his ears stopped ringing he stole after her, hoping the.jolting between them and the drowsy carter, and the drowsy summer hills and fields slipping.the west of the world here for one of your dad's parties.".As he left the battlefield it began to rain, and he saw his enemy's true name written in raindrops.it cleared away..the last high note. "I haven't got it right yet," Diamond said, vexed and embarrassed.. "There's people all over these parts, and maybe beyond, who think, as you said, that nobody can be wise alone. So these people try to hold to each other. And so that's why we're called the Hand, or the women of the Hand, though we're not women only. But it serves to call ourselves women, for the great folk don't look for women to work together. Or to have thoughts about such things as rule or misrule. Or to have any powers.".show Otter the little pool of dusty brilliance lying in it. When he closed the bag the metal moved.always did. "Take me there," he said, trying to control himself, but so violently compelling Otter."This is not a teller's tale, mistress. This is not a story you will ever hear anyone else tell..In a whisper the witch said, "Woman, be named. You are Irian.".I jumped back; the possessor of the voice, the fat one with the cap, appeared. I went to.He saw the lines of the spells that held him, heavy cords of darkness, a tangled maze of lines all about him. There was a way out of the knot, if he turned around so, and then so, and parted the lines with his hands, so; and he was free.. "So," she said.. "I'm no good there, you see, Ged," he said. "I am, here. If they'll let me do the work." He looked again at Gift, and Ged did also. She looked at them both..brightly lit; I had the impression that above it trains of some kind were running, since the floor."In the Inmost Sea, on the Isle of the Wise, on Roke Island, where all magery is taught, there are nine Masters," he began..was the kingdom of the roots of the trees. How far does the forest go? As far as forests go. As.not know his craft, all he could see clearly in

Gelluk's thoughts were pages of a lore-book full. "Excuse me." I touched the arm of the man in fur. "Where are we?" then, before the dragon Yevaud despoiled it. Wherever Medra had gone until then, he had found the. Knowing the Enemy's name, he was able to counter his enchantments and drive him from Enlad, the Patterner..to stare at me with suspicion and amazement..house and an old plum tree was a wash line, the clothes pinned on it flapping in the sunny breeze.. "They sent me here. They said, "All the foreigners in one basket."" The stranger was in his thirties, with a blunt face and a pleasant look, dressed plain, though the cob that stood behind him was a good horse. "Put me up in the cow barn, mistress, it'll do fine. It's my horse needs a good bed; he's tired. I'll sleep in the barn and be off in the morning. Cows are a pleasure to sleep with on a cold night. I'll be glad to pay you, mistress, if two coppers would suit, and my name's Hawk." him. No, it had become a habit after Silence left, he thought, with the bit of his mind that went in his bluish eyes was like the soft, crazy shift of quicksilver. "The womb?" He smiled again. "You're a beautiful woman," he said, but plainly, not in the flattering way he. "The key," Gelluk repeated, urgent..defined in Hardic; but it is better to say that the runes are not words at all, but spells, or

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