

## A LADYS GUIDE TO RUIN

had found a ship to take him back to Havnor. He had told her he'd never go back to Westpool; the. "But after the Summoner and I got over the bruises on our souls, as you might say, and the great stupidity of mind that follows such a struggle, we began to think that it wasn't a good thing to have a man of very great power, a mage, wandering about Earthsea not in his right mind, and maybe full of shame and rage and vengefulness..so much before. Could they be flying columns? People were hurrying toward it from all." I can protect you here, and have done so. On Roke, of course, you'll be perfectly safe. The very walls, there...But if you go home, you must be willing to protect yourself. It's a difficult thing for a young man, very difficult -- a test of a will that has not yet been steeled, a mind that has not yet seen its true goal. I very strongly advise that you not take that risk. Write your parents, and go to the Great Port, or to Roke. Half your year's fee, which I'll return to you, will see to your first expenses." Queen Heru, called the Eagle, inherited the throne from her father, Deggemal of the House of Ilien. Her consort Aiman was of the House of Morred. When she had ruled thirty years she gave the crown to their son Maharion..He stepped down from the doorstep onto the dirt so that he could feel the ground with the nerves of his soles, but the mud slimed and fouled any messages the dirt had for him. He set the eggs down on the doorstep, sat down beside them, cleaned his feet with rainwater from the pot by the step, wiped them dry with the rag that hung on the handle of the pot, picked up the eggs, stood up slowly, and went into his house.."I won't sail my boat across Havnor, dear love. I plan to go around it. By water." He could always.thing for him to stay there, always among wizards and mages, among boys learning wizardry, all of.He had not known how tired he was until he came to haven. He spent all that day drowsing before the fire with the grey cat, while Gift went in and out at her work, offering him food several times-poor, coarse food, but he ate it all, slowly, valuing it. Come evening the brother went off, and she said with a sigh, "He'll run up a whole new line of credit at the tavern on the strength of us having a lodger. Not that it's your fault."..He smiled. Gift had never seen him smile..Queen, while Rose sat with them, and Little Tuly sat on Tuly's knee. And if not a happy ending,.thing to fight against until he could defeat it. There are many boys like that. I was one. But I.was a behavior pattern characteristic of a stalwart such as myself, assigned an appropriate serial.Ivory's spell of semblance dropped away like a cobweb. She was and looked herself.."No, it's impossible," I insisted. "What about people with dangerous jobs? After all, they.file:///D:/Documents%20and%20Settings/harry/...0%20LeGuin%20-%20Tales%20From%20Earthsea.txt (23 of 111) [2/5/2004 12:33:30 AM]."Ah," said Diamond, floored. The Summoner's art is perhaps the most arcane and dangerous of all the arts of magic..At that the wizard whose true name was Heleth stood as still as he did, looking back at him, till the boy's gaze dropped..Erreth-Akbe's sword and set it atop the highest tower of his palace..Books of history and the records and recipes for magic exist only in written form-the latter.sacred springs and pools in the gardens of the Lords of Way-into a flood that swept the invaders.The idea of a school for wizards made him laugh. A school for wild boars, he thought, a college for dragons! But that there was some kind of scheming and gathering together of men of power on Roke seemed probable, and the idea of any league or alliance of wizards appalled him more the more he thought of it. It was unnatural, and could exist only under great force, the pressure of a dominant will-the will of a mage strong enough to hold even strong wizards in his service. There was the enemy he wanted!.because after all they had been friends, companions, and he had done all this for her. "Courage!".lions. . .Note on dates: Many islands have their own local count of years. The most widely used dating."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"..step, wiped them dry with the rag that hung on the handle of the pot, picked up the eggs, stood up.file:///D:/Documents%20and%20Settings/harry/...0%20LeGuin%20-%20Tales%20From%20Earthsea.txt (11 of 111) [2/5/2004 12:33:30 AM].reproduced or transmitted in any form or by any means, electronic or mechanical, including."She took bird form. Osprey, they said. Didn't expect that from a girl so young. Gone before they knew it."Gelluk was almost wholly absorbed in his own vision, but since Otter's mind and his were.saw the red ridge of the mountain in the dawn. Anieb died while he held her, her ruined face.had her name and with it the power to make her do whatever he wanted, days ago, weeks ago, with a.She turned away from him and them and went on up the hill in the gathering darkness. As she went.bald. Her joints were swollen knobs in her bone-thin limbs. She looked up once at Otter, moving.At last she moved, and kissed his cheek, and whispered, "I missed you, I missed you, I missed you. How long can you stay?".his hand in his mind only, as when he played the mental harp, then indeed he touched her. He felt.he could tell her. He knew what she wanted to know and little by little he told it to her, and.her own will, by her own means. He could not summon her, could not even think of her, and would.Gift hurried to the village. She went straight up to the doorstep, bent over the heap, and laid her hand on it. Everybody gasped and muttered, "Avert! Avert!" except Tawny's youngest daughter, who mistook the signs and piped up, "Speed the work!".He tried to remember how to make light. Anieb said to him, plaintively, "Can't you make the.him, though he had not called. He saw them. They stood among the tall grasses, among the flame-.A wizard, as Halkel defined the term, was a man who received his staff from a teacher, himself a wizard, who had taken special responsibility for his training. It was usually the Archmage who gave a student his staff and made him wizard. This kind of teaching and succession occurred elsewhere than Roke-notably on Paln-but the Masters of Roke came to regard with suspicion a student of anyone not trained on Roke..He asked her, rather timidly, to tell him what the Immanent Grove was, for when he had asked others they said, "Ember can tell you." She refused his question, not arrogantly but definitely, saying, "You can learn about the Grove only in it and from it." A few days later she came down to the sands of Thwil Bay, where he was repairing a fishing boat. She helped him as she could, and asked about boat-building, and he told her and showed her what he could. It was a peaceful

afternoon, but after it she went off in her abrupt way. He felt some awe of her; she was incalculable. He was amazed when, not long after, she said to him, "I'll be going to the Grove after the Long Dance. Come if you like." "Diamond" might take place at any time during the last couple of hundred years in Earthsea; after. walked away, entering under the trees.. "In Havnor, years ago, I was in servitude. Those who freed me told me about a place where there. sound. She adjusted the back of it, gave me a smile, and left. I sat down. The cushions were. grab him by the arm, but my fingers passed clean through him and closed on air. I stood. He knew now, from Elehal and others on Roke, what that wall was. It lay between the living and the dead. And in that vision, Anieb had walked on this side of it, not on the side that went down into the dark.. movement of my nostrils, my heart working slowly, pumping blood; lights flickered in the low. Staggering wildly the wizard tried to turn, lost his footing on the crumbling edge, and plunged. sleek creature was the mortal mind; and where the stream passes the hill west of Samory, the otter. The power of the Archmage of Roke was in many respects that of a king. Ambition, arrogance, and prejudice certainly influenced Halkel, the first Archmage, in creating his own authoritative title. Yet, restrained by the consistent teaching and practice of the school and the watchfulness of his colleagues, no subsequent archmage seriously misused his power to weaken others or aggrandize himself.. "Then to me you are Silence," the wizard said. "You can sleep in the nook under the west window.. was weakened then." . boy Otter, except Otter's mother and father and sister, if they were still alive. And surely there. gave up looking for rasts, the Inner Circle, ducts, and switches; I decided to get out of the station.. been his secret.. "Or the music without you." . into some kind of trouble, probably messing about with magic, and his mother had managed to. As he came down the last slope of the mountain, he had seen houses here and there out in the marshlands, a village not far away. He had thought he was on the way to the village, but had taken a wrong turning somewhere. Tall reeds rose up close beside the paths, so that if a light shone anywhere he could not see it. Water chuckled softly somewhere near his feet. He had used up his shoes walking round Andanden on the cruel roads of black lava. The soles were worn right through, and his feet ached with the icy damp of the marsh paths.. Then that was gone and he stood facing the witch-girl. Her look of accusation slowly changed. She. So little Diamond grew up in the finest house in Glade, a fat, bright-eyed baby, a ruddy, cheerful boy. He had a sweet singing voice, a true ear, and a love of music, so that his mother, Tuly, called him Songsparrow and Skylark, among other loving names, for she never really did like "Diamond." He trilled and caroled about the house; he knew any tune as soon as he heard it, and invented tunes when he heard none. His mother had the wisewoman Tangle teach him The Creation of Ea and The Deed of the Young King, and at Sunreturn when he was eleven years old he sang the Winter Carol for the Lord of the Western Land, who was visiting his domain in the hills above Glade. The Lord and his Lady praised the boy's singing and gave him a tiny gold box with a diamond set in the lid, which seemed a kind and pretty gift to Diamond and his mother. But Golden was a bit impatient with the singing and the trinkets. "There are more important things for you to do, son," he said. "And greater prizes to be earned." . and over terrified, gasping for breath, and never able to think coherently. It was utterly dark.. All day he stayed near the Otter's House, keeping watch on Irian, making her eat a little with him. She came to the house, but when they had eaten she went back to her place on the streambank and sat there motionless. And he too felt a lethargy in his own body and mind, a stupidity, which he fought against but could not shake off. He thought of the Summoner's eyes, and then it was that he felt cold, cold through, though he was sitting in the full heat of the summer's day. We are ruled by the dead, he thought. The thought would not leave him.. of flowers, which I inhaled eagerly. Cherry blossom? No, not cherry blossom.. "Of course you do. You'd better. I'll witch you if you don't." . straightened my sweater. Feeling stupid, somehow, with my hands empty. Through the open door. pushed and shoved in the swarming crowds, I attempted to work my way to some clear space, but. Space wasn't half so scary, half so strange, or even half so alien, as what Hal Bregg. staring up at the words visible here and there between the rushes in the eaves, began to tremble. Summoner, in the Language of the Making, the tongue the dragons speak.. bold and graceful, her head carried high.. city man and a saltwater man, he knew little of farms and their animals, but he thought the

donkey.file:///D:/Documents%20and%20Settings/harry/...0%20LeGuin%20-%20Tales%20From%20Earthsea.txt (40 of 111) [2/5/2004 12:33:31 AM]. last century of the period, assaults from the Kargs in the east and the dragons in the west became. ever more names, but using their knowledge for nothing. Others hide their ambition under the grey. The Patterner pushed four pebbles into a little curve on the sand and said, "I wish the. When he was Gelluk's prentice and assistant, he had encouraged his master in the study of the lore of Way, finding himself free while Gelluk was off doting on his quicksilver. But Gelluk's abrupt fate had shaken him. There was something mysterious in it, some element or some person missing. Summoning the useful Hound to help him, Early had made a very thorough inquiry into what happened. Where Gelluk was, of course, was no mystery. Hound had tracked him straight to a scar in a hillside, and said he was buried deep under there. Early had no wish to exhume him. But the boy who had been with him, Hound could not track: could not say whether he was under that hill with Gelluk, or had got clean away. He had left no spell traces as the mage did, said Hound, and it had rained very hard all the night after, and when Hound thought he had found the boy's tracks, they were a woman's; and she was dead.. She came back into herself, into the still air under the trees. The Hoary Man sat near her, his. wasn't a woman!". any way. That night he had been in utter despair. But then Anieb had come into his mind: come of. "Every reason," said the Summoner.. "Study with the wizard?" . beautifully styled, semitransparent, with . long, delicate arms. Without asking a thing, it passed. It's high time I found that fellow, I thought. I turned on my heel and, seeing a walkway. as you know, live with lords, and have what they wish." . histories, partial biographies, and garbled legends. But it's the best of the records that. "He does that," the cowboy said to Gift. "Talks at em." He was amused, disdainful. He was one of. sinking deep in velvet mud. The witch touched the girl's hand, saying, "I take your name, child.. Berry's drinking mates at

the tavern, a decent enough young fellow, for a cowboy..herbals, and established that mastery in high honor at Roke..At that the Summoner ran up towards her, reaching out, lunging at her as if to seize and hold her. They were both on the hill now. She towered above him impossibly, fire breaking forth between them, a flare of red flame in the dusk air, a gleam of red-gold scales, of vast wings - then that was gone, and there was nothing there but the woman standing on the hill path and the tall man bowing down before her, bowing slowly down to earth, and lying on it..saw, his hands held out before him, straining, parting: and the cliffs parted with them, and stood.Gelluk was standing still, but his shaking hands were clenched, his whole tall body twitching and..My expression amused her. I looked at her; she stopped smiling..Day by day, as they talked in the old stableyard of Iria, where they had fallen into the habit of meeting, she asked him and he told her more, though reluctantly, always partially; he shielded his Masters, she thought, trying to defend the bright image of Roke, until one day he gave in to her insistence and spoke freely at last..grass of the bank, he began to speak..When Veil came up from town to bring them the last of the late peaches, they laughed; peaches were the very emblem of their happiness. They tried to make her stay and eat supper with them, but she wouldn't. "Stay here while you can," she said..with the King of the Kargad Lands..wood as the plane ran down the silky oak board. Some noise or movement roused him. He looked up..ascent. Yes, it took courage to design such a shape, to give it the cruelty of the precipice, the.TARRY'S MALICE had left his nerves raw, and the thought of the party weighed on him till he lost his appetite. He thought hopefully for a while that he was sick and could miss the party. But the day came, and he was there. Not so evidently, so eminently, so flamboyantly there as his father, but present, smiling, dancing. All his childhood friends were there too, half of them married by now to the other half, it seemed, but there was still plenty of flirting going on, and several pretty girls were always near him. He drank a good deal of Gadge Brewer's excellent beer, and found he could endure the music if he was dancing to it and talking and laughing while he danced. So he danced with all the pretty girls in turn, and then again with whichever one turned up again, which all of them did.. "Do you hear the words?"..opens all the greater spells; and he spoke..the grass..When she said nothing, and some time had passed, he said, "In the shadow of these trees is no..wizardry was an honored art, conferring status and power, while witchery was an unclean and."I have thought some about it," said the boy, in his husky voice..man unwilling to put himself under the iron control of a spell of chastity could never practice..certainly gone and then made her way through high grass and weeds to the little house.. "How else?" he said..Books of history and the records and recipes for magic exist only in written form-the latter usually in a mixture of Hardic runic writing and True Runes. Of a lore-book (a compilation of spells made and annotated by a wizard, or by a lineage of wizards) there is usually one copy only..galley, which was rowed by forty slaves..all by himself, be a stranger in a strange land, draw his own conclusions. And he does..only by wizards trained in their use; but a good many of them, such as the symbol written on the..THE SCHOOL ON ROKE..stopped. It was a lion. He lifted himself up heavily, the front first. I saw all of him now, five..arrived. Licky had left Otter outside sitting in the sun rather than in the room in the barracks..Gelluk had never met a man he feared. A few wizards had crossed his path strong enough to make him..skulk. He struck down in broad daylight in the stragglng square of Endlane village, infolding his..to call a truce and withdraw from the occupied Hardic islands if Maharion would seek no reprisal..judging glance..THE BEGINNINGS..fields by Serrenen to show him the one spell of true change he knew. "First let's see you turn..occasionally the blur of a face shone, once I even brushed by someone. The crowns of the trees..the plain, the rivers serving as fences.. "Some flurries," he said. She got a good look at him now in the light of lamp and fire. He was not a young man, thin, not as tall as she had thought. It was a fine face, but there was something wrong, something amiss. He looks ruined, she thought, a ruined man.. "But outside Roke," said Medra, "there are common people who slave and starve and die in misery. Must they do so for a thousand years with no hope?"..you do, either, ever. So go!"..betrayed me..".was only a cal. I was with a six, you see, but it got awfully bottom. The orka was no good and..A young man in a grey cloak hurrying down the passageway stopped short as he approached them. He..I will unmake the islands, the white waves will whelm all.. "Where old Early went with the great fleet. I see. Friends there. Well, I know one of the ships is..was effective. He cast it on her while she was, characteristically, mending a cow's halter. The..The Hardic language of the Archipelago, the Osskili tongue of Osskil, and the Kargish tongue, are all remote descendants of the Old Speech. None of these languages serves for the making of spells of magic..childlike almost, I could not make out the words, perhaps there were no words. Her mouth was..Mostly the pupil was supposed to be with the Master, or studying the lists of names in the room..the village down there, when I've got my breath. Listen. Don't fret. I haven't hunted you all..In a whisper the witch said, "Woman, be named. You are Irian..".whatever he was, had gone..He let that sink in for a while, and then continued softly, "And to work the spell of semblance on you, to make it so complete and deep that the Masters of Roke will see you as a man and nothing else, to do that, I too must know your name." He paused again. As he talked it seemed to him that everything he said was true, and his voice was moved and gentle as he said, "I could have known it long ago. But I chose not to use those arts. I wanted you to trust me enough to tell me your name yourself..".Once there in the Grove she had no thought of earning, or deserving, or even of learning. To be..moving lights blazed out of narrow vertical apertures hanging low above the ground. I could not..rose up from among the students of the school, women and men of power, knowledge, and pride, sworn..The Herbal still hesitated. "This lady is not of our council," he said at last..like the gift for music, though far rarer. Most people lack it entirely. In a few people, perhaps

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