

## STARLIGHT IN NEW YORK THE STARLIGHT DINER SERIES BOOK 1

"Are you there, my dear?" said the traveler. He spoke in the Old Speech, the Language of the student of anyone not trained on Roke. "Very well, then. Irioth, my dear companion, teacher, rival, friend, farewell. Emer, brave woman, my honor and thanks to you. May your heart and hearth know peace," and he made a gesture that left a glimmering track behind it a moment in the air above the hearth stone. "Now I'm off to the cow barn," he said, and he was. Anieb kept a better pace than seemed possible in a woman so famished and destroyed, walking almost naked in the chill of the rain. All her will was aimed on walking forward; she had nothing else in her mind, not him, not anything. But she was there bodily with him, and he felt her presence as keenly and strangely as when she had come to his summoning. The rain ran down her naked head and body. He made her stop to put on his shirt. He was ashamed of it, for it was filthy, he having worn it all these weeks. She let him pull it over her head and then walked right on. She could not go quickly, but she went steadily, her eyes fixed on the faint cart track they followed, till the night came early under the rain clouds, and they could not see where to set their feet. He stood tongue-tied. After a while she looked up at him. "No," she said in a soft, quiet voice, "said that to make love is to unmake power." He was half asleep, sitting on the ground in the shade by the barracks, the smell of the logs. As if to illustrate what he was saying, he had picked up a bit of brick from the broken pavement. "Ged," he said. He bowed his head. After a while he looked up and asked, "Will you take my name. things went wrong at the birth, or in the field, that would be the witches' fault. And things went. saw that his companion was in distress, and said, "I'll get you out of here. Fetch a carter from. All the way down the spinning, reeking stone stairs he talked, and Otter tried to understand. them, not keeping them secret each to himself, as the wizards do." "I'll be going to Easthill with Sul's mules." IN THE ORATORIUM TO THE MEMORY OF RAPPER KERX POLITR. TERMINAL NEWS BULLETIN. Unfortunately the king's wizards, enraged at the attack on the heart of the kingdom and heartened. high end, his father's house. can we not find the balance?" "Never fear," Diamond said, turned on his heel, and strode out. A string of dried sage caught on his head and trailed after him. wherever here was, or anywhere. There had been black roads and dropping slopes and a vast green. The one with a voice like a deep-toned bell looked at her too, and spoke to her with a plain, kind. Many came there both small and great. Thwil. Once Ember had come to believe that Roke's freedom lay in offering others freedom, she set. with women, only women. It did not appear to me to be a powder room, but I had no way of. wise alone. So these people try to hold to each other. And so that's why we're called the Hand, or. The idea of doing harm troubled her, but the idea of danger had not entered her mind. She found it inconceivable. "I'll be all right," she said. "So the Namer, and you - and the Doorkeeper?" the Changer and the pale man both watching her intently. hand pressed to his hip joint, which made it a little easier to walk. The walls narrowed gradually. Chinese characters, can accommodate widely varying pronunciations and shifts of meaning. His sudden tension and immobility, the strained face and inward look, were like those of a woman in labor when her womb contracts. That was Ogion's thought, even as he said, "What did you mean, "in the Mountain?" somewhere, col?" werelight shot through by silver lines of rain. When she stumbled he caught her arm. After that. glass, and inside the semitransparent material swarms of fireflies circulated freely, sometimes. women of the Hand, who are forgotten everywhere else in the world, even on Roke, but remembered. below them. "I'll go in, try to keep things from sliding around, eh? I'll find out when I'm doing. dreams of earth stopping his mouth and nostrils, the only dreams he ever had, nights in the cell. brought out a small, soft, thick, leather bag that weighed heavy in his hands. He opened it to. "And you asked me, What can you tell me that could make me trust you?" He was grateful to see Kurremkarmerruk coming slowly down the bank of the Thwilburn from the north. The old man waded through the stream barefoot, holding his shoes in one hand and his tall staff in the other, snarling when he missed his footing on the rocks. He sat down on the near bank to dry his feet and put his shoes back on. "When I go back to the Tower," he said, "I'll ride. Hire a carter, buy a mule. I'm old, Azver." and charms to ensure the good outcome of such undertakings was shared among the witches. But when. Staggering wildly the wizard tried to turn, lost his footing on the crumbling edge, and plunged down into the dark, his scarlet cloak billowing up, the werelight round him like a falling star. crown to their son Maharion. Dulse wandered about a bit before he found what he took to be the Dark Pond. It was small, half mud and reeds, with one vague, boggy path to the water, and no track on that but goat-hoofs. The water was dark, though it lay out under the bright sky and far above the peat soils. Dulse followed the goat-tracks, growling when his foot slipped in the mud and he wrenched his ankle to keep from falling. At the brink of the water he stood still. He stooped to rub his ankle. He listened. him with her snout. "Come on then, my love," the young woman said, not to him. The mare followed her trustfully. They set off up the rough path round the hillside to an old stone and brick stableyard, empty of horses, inhabited only by nesting swallows that swooped about over the roofs calling their quick gossip. "But I came far. Miles can be years. I am Kargish, from Karego. You know?" "Where? Near here?" She looked at me almost with pity. But I was stubborn. old, but that was nonsense. He was in his prime. The oldest trees, past bearing, ought to come out. They had to share a room at the crowded inn with two other travellers, but Ivory's thoughts were perfectly chaste, though he laughed at himself a little for it. news; suddenly the walkway took me into a lighted interior and came to an end. twenty-five. A while ago now. He had been truly a boy then, long-legged, rough-haired, soft-faced. There are some who say that the school had its beginnings far differently. They say that Roke used to be ruled by a woman called the Dark Woman, who was in league with the Old Powers of the earth. They say she lived in a cave under Roke Knoll, never coming into the daylight, but weaving vast spells over land and sea that compelled men to her evil will, until the first Archmage came to Roke, unsealed and entered the cave, defeated the Dark Woman, and took her place. "Dragons have been seen flying above the Inmost Sea. Roke

has no Archmage, and the islands no true-beginning of time, is presumably an infinite language, as it names all things..lives in it. He found himself standing two feet back, his hands stinging and his ears ringing and.Hound came in on her heels. "Well," he said, "in the first place, when I got to the city, I go up.protected by armed men and spells of defense. Sorcerers and witches were drowned in the poisoned.village lane up the hill, a pack of scrawny, evil-mouthed dogs came pelting and bellowing down at."And the ... the students?". "Very well, then. Irioth, my dear companion, teacher, rival, friend, farewell. Emer, brave woman,.Karego-At..now here I was flying. This final journey was to end in fifteen minutes.."I don't know, my dear. I do want you to be safe. I do love to see your father happy and proud of.give Anieb to her to hold. He did so at last, watching to see if she was gentle with his friend.One morning one of Alder's cowboys turned up in the front yard riding a horse and leading a saddled mule. "Master Alder says Master Otak can ride her, it being a ten-twelve miles out to the East Fields," the young man said..grass, his heart had been easy. He was expectant, full of a sense of great strangeness, but not.Once instead of smiling and agreeing, she said, "It's lovely to have him back, but" and Golden stopped hearing. Mothers were born to worry about their children, and women were born never to be content. There was no reason why he should listen to the litany of anxieties by which Tuly hauled herself through life. Of course she thought a merchant's life wasn't good enough for the boy. She'd have thought being King in Havnor wasn't good enough for him..So it proved. Indeed, to Golden's amazement, Master Hemlock sent back a scrupulous two-fifths of.he said this. It was not what he had meant to say..was years ago, years ago, in the sunlight. It was raining. He had fed the chickens, and come back.a girl, and a year younger than Diamond, and a witch's daughter. He wished his son would play with.shake the city down, bring avalanche and tidal wave, close the cliffs of the bay together like.King Maharion himself, the story says, journeyed to Selidor to "weep by the sea." He retrieved.bones of the mountain now. He knew the arteries of fire, and the beat of the great heart. He knew.curious promenade went on; in the dark passages, the headless silhouettes of women: the fluff."And how do you know it didn't?". "A mage called Highdrake told me that when Ath stayed in Pendor, he told a wizard there that he'd."I am hungry now," said the mage. He took a hardboiled egg from the basket, cracked, shelled, and.As if to illustrate what he was saying, he had picked up a bit of brick from the broken pavement, and tossed it up in the air, and as he spoke it fluttered about their heads on delicate blue wings, a butterfly. He put out his finger and the butterfly lighted on it. He shook his finger and the butterfly fell to the ground, a fragment of brick.."The witch Rose of our village, lord," she answered, standing straight, though her voice came out high-pitched and rough..talk of how to destroy one another?".corners of the walls shone, brightened by streaks of luminous paint. In the darkest place the girl.there scarcely knew of him. In this isolation he began to practice certain arts that are not well."Well, to my story. Forty years and more ago, there was a child born on the Isle of Ark, a rich isle of the Inmost Sea, away south and east from Semel. This child was the son of an under-steward in the household of the Lord of Ark. Not a poor man's son, but not a child of much account. And the parents died young. So not much heed was paid to him, until they had to take notice of him because of what he did and could do. He was an uncanny brat, as they say. He had powers. He could light a fire or douse it with a word. He could make pots and pans fly through the air. He could turn a mouse into a pigeon and set it flying round the great kitchens of the Lord of Ark. And if he was crossed, or frightened, then he did harm. He turned a kettle of boiling water over a cook who had mistreated him."..had gone out and the narrow streets had sent the marauders astray. Most of the islanders who."Breathe, breathe, breathe," Gelluk said, laughing, and Otter tried not to hold his breath as they."I'm going back to where I am," Kurremkarmerruk said abruptly. "I don't like leaving myself about like an old shoe. I'll join you this evening." And he was gone..He looked up. The hillside above the stream was that same hill where he had come that day with."Speak when I let you," the wizard said. "Where is the man?".family, on which was engraved a unique and powerful True Rune..To it he flew, and on it landed, and as he touched the earth he was a man again..whiskered, prosperous cat. And at last, coming down the steep little street, which here was.Very few people ever spoke to Gelluk unless he compelled them to. The spells by which he silenced, weakened, and controlled all who approached him were so habitual to him that he gave them no thought. He was used to being listened to, not to listening. Serene in his strength and obsessed with his ideas, he had no thought beyond them. He was not aware of Otter at all except as a part of his plans, an extension of himself. "Yes, yes, you will," he said, and smiled again..moments. Nothing in him was whole, not even his madness. He couldn't remember the name he had told.Kurremkarmerruk shook his head. "No. But...". "Wait," she said. "It seems that you don't understand a thing. After all, I gave you brit"..need a room for the night, I have one. Or San might, if you're going to the village"..know something about the power, see," she said at last, and looked at Dragonfly with one eye. Her.Where he went then, the songs don't tell. They say only that he wandered, "he wandered long from land to land." If he went along the coast of the Great Isle, in many of those villages he might have found a midwife or a wise woman or a sorcerer who knew the sign of the Hand and would help him; but with Hound on his track, most likely he left Havnor as soon as he could, shipping as a crewman on a fishing boat of the Ebavnor Straits or a trader of the Inmost Sea..grossly ignorant. It is taught in winter and spring, and spoken and sung entire every year at the.clouds, filled with alternating concave and convex lenses. They must have been incredibly high;file:///D:/Documents%20and%20Settings/harry/...0%20LeGuin%20-%20Tales%20From%20Earthsea.txt (35 of 111) [2/5/2004 12:33:30 AM].shouted over the sound of a loudspeaker that repeated, "Meridional level, Meridional, change for.cattle were nearby, and went to them. The sickness was very familiar to him now. He felt it in his.narrow back street of the old city, memorizing long, long lists of words, words of power in the.with an attenuated bluish light -- elevators. The one I approached was already on its way up;"Where's the girl?". "Well," Rose said, and dumped out the salt water on the bare dirt of the small front yard of her house, which, like most witches' houses, stood somewhat apart from the village. "Well," she said, straightening up and looking about vaguely as if for an answer, or a ewe, or a towel. "You have to know

something about the power, see," she said at last, and looked at Dragonfly with one eye. Her other eye looked a little off to the side. Sometimes Dragonfly thought the cast was in Rose's left eye, sometimes it seemed to be in her right, but always one eye looked straight and the other watched something just out of sight, around the corner, elsewhere..covering their arms gave off a light, so that only their raised necks showed in it like strange white.Dulse wandered about a bit before he found what he took to be the Dark Pond. It was small, half.He was gone several days. When he returned, riding in a horse-drawn cart, he had such a look about him that Otter's sister hurried in to tell him, "Hound's won a battle or a fortune! He's riding behind a city horse, in a city cart, like a prince!".get here?".that he thought about his pupil, and not until he had eaten supper alone that he admitted that

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