

THROUGH THE CLOSET DOOR

Ember usually scowled when he greeted her. She asked him abrupt questions, listened to his answers, and said nothing..could see, behind a small glass pane in the center, the glow of its transistorized heart.."In the west," he said..had whistled, and the young cow had led him through the stream, and Emer had opened the door. He."Not in your father's house, Di."Gelluk's white face had gone whiter; his jaw trembled a little. He stood up, suddenly, as he always did. "Take me there," he said, trying to control himself, but so violently compelling Otter to get up and walk that the young man lurched to his feet and stumbled several steps, almost falling. Then he walked forward, stiff and awkward, trying not to resist the coercive, passionate will that hurried his steps..idly. He was bound for O Port. Ruined lands were all too common. No need to fly to seek them. He.heifer follows him about like a puppy." Whatever he was doing out on the ranges with the beeves,..set in the lid, which seemed a kind and pretty gift to Diamond and his mother. But Golden was a.light a fire or douse it with a word. He could make pots and pans fly through the air. He could."He was here!" she cried. "That foul heart, that Thorion!" She strode to meet the Patterner as he came into the starlight by the house. "I was bathing in the stream, and he stood there watching me!".water. I live with my brother. He's in the village, at the tavern. We keep a dairy. I make cheese..file:///D:/Documents%20and%20Settings/harry/...0%20LeGuin%20-%20Tales%20From%20Earthsea.txt (78 of 111) [2/5/2004 12:33:31 AM].again and choose an Archmage. The king had had no place among us, he said. And "a woman on Gont",."Indeed, for the sailors feared him too, and kept him bound that way all the voyage. When the Doorkeeper of the Great House of Roke saw him, he loosed his hands and freed his tongue. And the first thing the boy did in the Great House, they say, he turned the Long Table of the dining hall upside down, and soured the beer, and a student who tried to stop him got turned into a pig for a bit... But the boy had met his match in the Masters.."Summoned," said the Herbal, drily..at least nominally by hereditary lords and ladies, while the Archipelago entire was governed for."Get back, you black-hearted bitch!" she yelled. "Home, you crawling traitor!" And the dogs fell silent and went sidling back to the house with their tails down.."Master Hand," said the Doorkeeper, "she asked to enter as a student, and I saw no reason to deny.She pondered - conversation with her was often a slow business - and said, "Rose always said I had."He has the advantage," Azver said, very dry..talk about? he asked, and she answered, "What is to become of us."So he cherished his free hours as if they were actual meetings with her. He had always loved her,..wasn't much, but there were some beginnings of the great arts in it; and though he felt uneasy at.skulk. He struck down in broad daylight in the stragging square of Endlane village, infolding his.the fire with the grey cat, while Gift went in and out at her work, offering him food several.Gelluk was used to hearing people say the words he had put in their mouths, if they said anything at all. These were words he wanted but had not expected to hear. He took the young man's arm, putting his face very close to his, and felt him cower away..IV. Irian.or bar not set off from the street. A few people were sitting there. I wanted to go inside and ask.power, but she didn't know what kind. And I ... I know I do, but I don't know what it is."..haste..gift."..go at a carhorse gallop. She followed him through the maze of corridors to a dark-walled room.shadows streaked the hillsides..their courtesy but the words would not come. She nodded stiffly to them, turned round, and strode.get here?". "Thank you, Father," the boy said. Golden embraced him and left, well pleased with him..shadows, trembling with speed and trailing long streaks of flame, their signal lights; then the.gave him his country name; she was a farm woman from Endlane village, around northwest of Mount.parted from the donkey he took the right hand of the crossroad, though it looked as if it would."Why do we quarrel?" he said rather despondently..had noticed that this was how most of the women were made up. She held the back of the chair."What will you do?" she asked quietly..felt nothing, the fountain was without water. After a moment it seemed to me that I smelled."Simply as I protect myself," the wizard said; and after a moment, testily, "The bargain, boy. The.bewilder and entangle a slave trying to escape. Now he felt those spells like strands of cobweb,.it you did not always come out into the fields again. You walked on under the trees. In the inner.name's Hawk.".- but possibly it was not a real tree -- I saw people standing; I approached them, then walked.The Patterner came forward and took her hands in his. His hands were warm, and she felt so mortally cold that she came close up against him for the warmth of his body. They stood so for a while, her face turned from him but their hands joined and their bodies pressed close. At last she broke free, straightening herself, pushing back her lank wet hair. Thank you," she said. "I was cold."..harm in a curer. Heal the foot rot, clear a caked udder. That's all fine. But cross one and there."Aha. It's nothing," I repeated. I couldn't sit any longer. I got up. I nearly leapt, forgetting.he liked to answer a question with a question; but the answers to Rose's questions were always."No. I don't. Rose wouldn't teach me. She said she didn't dare. Because I had power but she didn't.Patterner put it, "bigger inside than outside'. She sat down in a patch of sun-dappled shade and.Gelluk's attention turned entirely away from him then, fixed on the hillside and the vision he saw.Mage Ath. Long ago. Before he went into the west. All my foremothers were wise women. He stayed."Sorry," I muttered and began to pace. Behind the glass a park stretched out in the.II. Ivory.The winter passed by, and the cold early spring, and with the warm late spring came a letter from."The watermetal," Otter said.."Broom's a village sorcerer. This man is a wise man. He learned the High Arts at the Great House on Roke!".forget that. They seem the same as other folk. But they ain't like other folk. Seems there's no."When the balance is wrong, holding still is not good. It must get more wrong," said the.Irian looked down at the ground. After a long time she said, clearing her throat, not looking up, "Is it true I do harm being here?".seen how to get it. She had given it into his hands. Her strength and her willpower were.to choose a sorcerer..side of the long swells. Oared galleys seldom went out of sight of land and seldom rowed through.He ran down from the straggle of huts to the quick, noisy stream he had heard singing through his sleep all his nights in Woodedge. He prayed to it. "Take

me and save me," he asked it. He made the spell the old Changer had taught him long ago, and said the word of transformation. Then no man knelt by the loud-running water, but an otter slipped into it and was gone..He slept till late in the morning and woke as if from illness, weak and placid. She was unable to.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..sign that was rising, bordered by a lemon haze. Exit? A way out?.with women. As I walked by I put my hand, without thinking, into the jet of an illuminated.king. The brave and the wise, they came before him as if summoned, as if he had called them to.divided land. By the time the girl called Dragonfly was born, the domain of Iria, though still one.Gelluk wore fantastic clothes, as many of his kind did in those days. A long robe of Lorbanery.you!" She sprang up the bank, pulling herself up by the tough bunchgrass, and scrambled to her.water and never enough to warm a man. The cowboys rode out and tried to round up the animals so.your head nor theirs, see, because it would take from their power, they say'. But Ivory, poor.Her father's ancestors had owned a wide, rich domain on the wide, rich island of Way. Claiming no title or court privilege in the days of the kings, through all the dark years after Maharion fell they held their land and people with firm hands, putting their gains back into the land, upholding some sort of justice, and fighting off petty tyrants. As order and peace returned to the Archipelago under the sway of the wise men of Roke, for a while yet the family and their farms and villages prospered. That prosperity and the beauty of the meadows and upland pastures and oak-crowned hills made the domain a byword, so that people said, "as fat as a cow of Iria', or, "as lucky as an Irian'. The masters and many tenants of the domain added its name to their own, calling themselves Irian. But though the farmers and shepherds went on from season to season and year to year and generation to generation as solid and steady as the oaks, the family that owned the land altered with time and chance..In the rage of his agony the Enemy raised up a great wave and sent it speeding to overwhelm the island of Solea. Elfarran knew this, as she knew the moment of Morred's death. She bade her people take to their boats; then, the poem says, "She took her small harp in her hands," and in the hour of waiting for the destroying wave that only Morred might have stilled, she made the song called The Lament for the White Enchanter. The island was drowned beneath the sea, and Elfarran with it. But her boat-cradle of willow wood, floating free, bore their child Serriadh to safety, wearing Morred's pledge, the ring that bore the Rune of Peace..once," she said. "All that you say of yourself may be true, and may not. What can you tell me that.I will unmake the islands, the white waves will whelm all..Of the four of them, only the Doorkeeper moved and spoke. He took a step forward, looking from one."Look at all the stuff you can do," she said. "You couldn't do any of it if you didn't have a gift."..think of her, to think of her that night, but she faded away. By the time he opened the door.of.It is said that Segoy first wrote the True Runes in fire on the wind, so that they are coeval with.feeling was agreeable. There must have been a number of people in the park: I heard whispers..and stone. You'd best go on. Farewell, Aihal. Keep the-keep the mouth open, for once, eh?".flash of her eyes, and led on..I wanted to ask you to go away with me," he said..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..I doubt the Doorkeeper would defy it lightly," said one of them Irian had not noticed till he.face bowed down, and she thought how slight and light he looked, how quiet and sorrowful. There.Then they were all gone, and he stood alone on the hill, shaken and wondering. "I have seen.the.moving in the opposite direction, took it back down. This turned out to be the wrong level, it was."This way, this way," Gelluk murmured. "No harm will come to you." They came to the doorway of the.A young man in a grey cloak hurrying down the passageway stopped short as he approached them. He stared at Irian; then with a brief nod he went on. She looked back at him. He was looking back at her..on deck every day and slept there on the warm nights. Ivory had not tried to coax her into the.(used to protect from fire, wind, and madness), Sifl ("speed well"), Simn ("work well") are used.the slaves said, "It is done, your majesty." He held audiences, and old men came and said, "We.She held up her first finger; raised the other fingers, and clenched them together into a fist; then slowly turned her wrist and opened her hand palm out, as if in offering. He had seen Anieb make that gesture. It was not a spell, he thought, watching intently, but a sign. Ayo was watching him..with themselves, their life. When they talked to each other it was always about what they were.the city was beautiful and peaceful and the people prosperous..So, to be blunt about it, if you have this gift, Diamond, it's of no use, directly, to our business. It has to be cultivated on its own terms, and kept under control -- learned and mastered. Only then, he said, can your teachers begin to tell you what to do with it, what good it will do you. Or others," he added conscientiously..long ago. But I chose not to use those arts. I wanted you to trust me enough to tell me your name."What's there?".what he saw. But he saw it, and went forward, word by word..Hemlock was glad to see a bit of fire in the boy. "They are one another's family," he said..Earth in her turning to the sun makes the days and nights, but within her there are no days. Medra.The rain had ceased, though mist still hid the peak and shreds of cloud drifted through the high.it is said, that word is used to mean both wizard and dragon..I told them," he said, "that if they went out Medra's Gate this day, they'd never go back through it into a House they knew. Some of them were for turning back, then. But the Windkey and the Chanter urged them on. They'll be along soon."..In the confusion of Otter's mind, he was only dimly aware that they were going now towards the entrance of the mine. They went underground. The passages of the mine were a dark maze like the wizard's words. Otter stumbled on, trying to understand. He saw the slave in the tower, the woman who had looked at him. He saw her eyes..room with the spellbonds upon him he could hardly swallow the food. It tasted of metal, of ash..brave. Or brave, they said around the tavern table, in the wrong way, or the wrong place, d'you."But you'll fly

again?" few years their struggles had destroyed all central governance. The Archipelago became a him, but she watched him in wonder..topaz or amber. They were strange eyes, right on a level with his own..a bouquet of pale pink flowers; nestling her face in them, she smiled at the boy with her eyes. At my side and was smiling as before. It was not merely an external smile of official politeness, a boy swore to me that his whole village had seen dragons flying, this spring, west of Mount Onn..ten days starving in the cold to cure his beasts! San's got nothing but copper, but Alder can pay." At least he's not seeing the witch's girl," said Golden. "That's done with." Later on it occurred. I preferred darkness but walked on straight ahead to a stone circle, where a human figure stood. I. The Changer and a thin, keen-faced old man standing beside him nodded in agreement. The Master Hand said, "Irian, I am sorry. Ivory was my pupil. If I taught him badly, I did worse in sending him away. I thought him insignificant, and so harmless. But he lied to you and beguiled you. You must not feel shame. The fault was his, and mine." "Well, this boy did learn at last to tame his anger and control his power. And a very great power it was. Whatever art he studied came easy to him, too easy, so that he despised illusion, and weatherworking, and even healing, because they held no fear, no challenge to him. He saw no virtue in himself for his mastery of them. So, after the Archmage Nemmerle had given him his name, the boy set his will on the great and dangerous art of summoning. And he studied with the Master of that art for a long time..spongy plastic. It did not look like a shower, either. I felt like a Neanderthal. I quickly undressed, loose, she looked up and saw on the bank above her the black figure of a man..thundered; she fell flat on the ground..and his feet ached with the icy damp of the marsh paths..the loose violet coat in front of me had done; a key with a small depression for the fingertip, I back, penitent, to school..miles or years away.

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