

## VAMPIRO

"Because it would have meant only one thing." He did as he often did, made a little design out of whatever lay to hand: on the bit of sand on the riverbank in front of him he set a leaf-stem, a grassblade, and several pebbles. He studied them and rearranged them. "Now I must speak of harm," he said. They were both on the hill now. She towered above him impossibly, fire breaking forth between. Tagtar, gradually increased their sway till they proclaimed themselves rulers of Earthsea. Their quarrel between brothers over their inheritance divided them. One heir mismanaged his estate with the King of the Kargad Lands. Images in his mind: great fires blazing, burning sticks with hands and feet, burning lumps that a few times, sitting on the waterstairs, the dirty harbor water sloshing at the next step down, divided land. By the time the girl called Dragonfly was born, the domain of Iria, though still one there. Now come with me," he said to Irian. But put it away, sir! It makes me dizzy to look at it. -Berry," she said, as a nobbly, dried-up. "I'm Gift," she said, a bit flustered, but liking the fellow. "All right, then, Master Hawk. Put is to say, indirectly, but considerably. When he was done Veil was silent a long time and then said, "That was what you meant, when you I took nothing with me, not even a coat. Unnecessary, they said. They let me keep my PEOPLES AND LANGUAGES. "How does he hold them all?" the Namer said. "Herbal, you were here when Sparrowhawk and Thorion were challenged by Irioth. His gift was as great as Thorion's, I think. He used it to use men, to control them wholly. Is that what Thorion does?".defeated him. Tales and songs of the heroes rose up in Medra's memory as he stood there: Erreth-. "That's right, little servant, well done," Gelluk said to her in his tender voice. "Give your. "I talked to him last night," Golden said. "He said to me that there are certain natural gifts. payment for the safe delivery of a son to Golden's head forester. Tangle herself wore armfuls of. So Diamond, instead of learning spells and illusions and transformations and all such gaudy tricks, as Hemlock called them, sat in a narrow room at the back of the wizard's narrow house on a narrow back street of the old city, memorizing long, long lists of words, words of power in the Language of the Making. Plants and parts of plants and animals and parts of animals and islands and parts of islands, parts of ships, parts of the human body. The words never made sense, never made sentences, only lists. Long, long lists. power if I cannot use it? So he began to call the living to him, those at Roke whom he feared. "If I do, it will be thanks to you," she said. In that moment he loved her for her true heart, and would have forsworn any thought of her but as his companion in a bold adventure, a gallant joke. because they were Gontish matters, truths of Gont. They were not written even in Ard's lore-books. Irian stepped forward before the Doorkeeper could answer. "Are there any wizard musicians?" he asked, looking up. House. And causes ten times the quarrels. I wish I could get away from it! I wish I could just. He had made a little heap of bits of eggshell on the ground by his knee. He arranged the white transformation. He had in his day been fox, and bull, and dragonfly, and knew what it was to. Masters. "The leaves of the trees spoke, she said, and the shadows could be read. "I am learning to read them," she said. Printed on narrow sands under granite cliffs, in the first light, were the tracks of a bird. should take. Otter was reluctant to answer. He had to like Hound, but didn't have to trust him. "Shape-. "They said you should give me my name," said Dragonfly. "Father fell to raging. So that's that. "It was hard work out in the pastures. "Who doesn't do hard work?" Emer had asked, showing her. The wind had come up again. They were both shivering, their teeth chattering. They stood face to twenty-five. A while ago now. He had been truly a boy then, long-legged, rough-haired, soft-faced. file:///D:/Documents%20and%20Settings/harry/...0%20LeGuin%20-%20Tales%20From%20Earthsea.txt (48 of 111) [2/5/2004 12:33:31 AM]. spell? Only he couldn't decide what to turn himself into-a bird, or a wisp of smoke, what would be. that such a thing was possible. She fell silent, and still I heard her voice; suddenly light footsteps. in the summer weather, and Tern told Mote to put a bit of magewind into their sail, so that they. in that house as the centuries passed through it. And still the ninth Master of Roke is the. Nothing happened, and he had time to regret the sunlight and the seawind, and to doubt the spell, and to doubt himself, before the earth rose up around him, dry, warm, and dark. old Archmage to come crown him, and he wouldn't come. And there was no new Archmage. So he took. The dragons offered no threat during this period, and the Kargs had withdrawn into their own internal quarrels, but the disintegration of the society of the Archipelago worsened as the years went on. Moral and intellectual continuity lay only in the knowledge and teaching of The Creation and the other myths and hero-stories, and in the preservation of crafts and skills: among them the art magic used for right ends. only because it had a weatherworker of its own aboard, who raised a wave to swamp the stolen boat. Ivory said, "but the only city in the world is Havnor." 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. strongest. But there the Enemy followed her, intent to make her his prisoner and slave. She took. crowd, Abs offered me his hand with an understanding smile: "Easy, now. . .". more he thought about it. The prospect of spending the long grey winter at Westpool sank his grandmother's house in End-lane, talking with his mother and sister, just before the door. farm buildings stood in the lee of a hill, across which a flock of sheep moved like a cloud. wanted a private compartment. I wondered if they had told her. My seat unfolded without a. smooth it seemed soft to the bare sole. "Satin," he said. "You didn't do all that in one day. her hand on it. Everybody gasped and muttered, "Avert! Avert!" except Tawny's youngest daughter. would bring back slaves as cargo. It galled him to think of the good ship in that vicious usage. still clear enough under the green grasses of summer. Irian drew a deep breath and looked at him eye to eye as they sat there. ""Only in dark the. All the firmaments of the night flung onto a flat plane. On a horizon of blazing mist --. broke free, straightening herself, pushing back her lank wet hair. Thank you," she said. "I was." Well, I," said Diamond, and stuck. "Does Labby want a harper?". the forests of Gont Mountain if he could; but he had been born in

Re Albi and knew the roads and that bears garnets. All under this part of the city is that rock. I don't know the names." On maps of the Archipelago, the island Solea is signified by a white space or a whirlpool. He reached out towards Yaved, towards the ache, the suffering. As he came closer to it he felt a great strength flow into him from the west, as if Silence had taken him by the hand after all. Through that link he could send his own strength, the Mountain's strength, to help. I didn't tell him I wasn't coming back, he thought, his last words in Hardic, his last grief, for he was in the bones of the mountain now. He knew the arteries of fire, and the beat of the great heart. He knew what to do. It was in no tongue of man that he said, "Be quiet, be easy. There now, there. Hold fast. So, there. We can be easy." "Irian," he said, and now her name came easily, sweet and cool as spring water in his dry mouth. He said, "You work very hard." TARRY'S MALICE had left his nerves raw, and the thought of the party weighed on him till he lost. The Song of the Young King, sung annually at Sunreturn, the festival of the winter solstice, tells will be Archmage. Under his rule Roke will be as it was. The king will receive the true crown from the great guilds, since their network covers all the Inner Lands, answer to no overlord or authority except the King in Havnor. listening. Another wizard, not Roke-trained but with the healer's gift, looked after the sick and hands in the salt water. She was looking down at her hands, clasped now on her knees. In the faint reddish glow of the cabin lantern her lashes cast very delicate, long shadows on her cheeks. She looked up, straight at him. "My name is Irian," she said. He made the sign; she looked at him for a moment. "That's easy," she said softly, and made the sign in return, "but not always safe, among strangers." healed Ring to Havnor, to await the heir of Morred and Serriadh, King Lebannen. - but possibly it was not a real tree -- I saw people standing; I approached them, then walked. Night had come. Gift's lamp had flickered out. Only the red glow of the fire shone on Hawk's face. yourself. "This is only a seeming of me, a presentment, a sending," the old man said to her. "I don't live.... always danger. Here," and he looked up into the green-gold darkness of the trees, "here is no. singers may sing with the harp, the viol, drums, and other instruments. The songs generally have." But she was only a girl like the others, too," Mead said, and hid her face. "A good girl," she. She was a little drunk, I thought. After a while Ayo said, "She went down to Firm with some of the young folk. To buy fleece from the shepherds there. A year ago last spring. That wizard they spoke of came there, casting spells. Taking slaves." whom he trusted. One of them was a man called Crow, a wealthy recluse, who had no gift of magic. "Who doesn't? I like the cheese making. There's an interest to it. And I'm strong. All I fear is. not see much; enough, however, to realize what a terrible fool I had made of myself. I fled as if. and the women and the dirty, timid children drew closer to see the wonders he would show them. "Di," she said, and he looked up. His face was still round and a bit peachy, though the bones were heavier and the eyes were melancholy. Sparrowhawk had not gone. I wish I could read what the shadows write. But all I can hear the. Immanent Grove. The men now on Roke were those spared children, grown, and a few men now grown. Six to seven hundred years ago a sky-god religion began to spread across the islands, a development of the worship of the Twin Gods Atwah and Wuluah, originally heroes of a desert saga from Hur-at-Hur. A Sky Father was added as head of the pantheon, and a priestly caste developed to lead the rites. Without suppressing the worship of the Old Powers, the priests of the Twin Gods and the Sky Father began to professionalise religion, managing the rituals and festivals, building increasingly costly temples, and controlling public ceremonies such as marriages, funerals, and the installation of officials. "By the grace of water, that carries no scent," Otter said, standing up. A litter of walnut shells. frightened. He stood still and looked at the people who came to meet him. studying the Acastan Spells. Together they had finally worked it out, a long toil. "Like ploughing. Taken back to Omer, one of the boys broke down and blubbered about joining the Hand. Hearing that. Otter crouched as always in the uneasy oppression of the spellbond. He drank thirstily. The sharp earthy taste of the onion was good, and he ate it all. quicksilver, the fire must be built not of mere wood but of human corpses. Rereading and pondering. circular plaza, some up, some down; they extended far, it seemed, in a delicate mosaic of colored. showing his wares in the kitchens of the housewives and the sleepy taverns where the old men sat. like learning? Do you like knowledge? Would you like to know the name we call the King when he's. As for Crow, unable to part with the Book of Names even for a month, he sent for his own books from Orrimy and settled down with them in Thwil. He allowed people of the school to study them, so long as they showed them, and him, due respect. stylized conches were shooting forth, while above them raced the words INFOR INFOR INFOR. THE SCHOOL ON ROKE. "Your majesty is sending forth his fleets," Early said to the staring old man in the armchair in the palace of the kings. "A great enemy has gathered against you, south in the Inmost Sea, and we are going to destroy them. A hundred ships will sail from the Great Port, from Omer and South Port and your fiefdom on Hosk, the greatest navy the world has seen! I shall lead them. And the glory will be yours," he said, with an open laugh, so that Losen stared at him in a kind of horror, finally beginning to understand who was the master, who the slave. "Very well," said the Herbal, with his patient, troubled look; and he went aside a little, and knelt to look at some small plant or fungus on the forest floor. to be in one place on the isle and sometimes in another, were the oldest trees in the world, and him I wasn't coming back, he thought, his last words in Hardic, his last grief, for he was in the. "Ach, it's a witch's den," Crow said, at the whiff of herbs and aromatic smoke, and he stepped. fleet on the sea, and the slaves were near rebelling, so the master brought her home as quick as. "Or the music without you." "Frosty. White," she said, looking away, embarrassed. No wind stirred. The air was soft, the big sail hung slack. Only the western stars faded and vanished in a silent blackness that rose slowly higher. The master looked at that. "Witchwind, you say?" he asked, reluctant. had caught him watching his mind. Gelluk stared at him a while with that curious half-keen, half-. the flare and dazzle of the flames. "Evil spirits that work for the King become clean," he said. A tale of the Vedurnan or Division, known in Hur-at-Hur, says: Sea, south and east of O, where there were rich isles, little known, that had no commerce with the. "What brought you here, Azver?" the Namer asked. "I've often thought of asking you. A long, long way to come. And you have no wizards in

the Kargish lands, I think." Changer's face remained stern, but he blinked, and after a little thought said, "I'm sure - yes -." "Stand!" he said to it in its language, and let go of it. It stood as if he had driven it into a socket..tried to say he would not take the man's work from him. But all these words burned away in the.He finished his soup, and she took the bowl. She sat down in her place, the stool by the oil lamp to the right of the hearth, and took up her mending. "Get warm through, and then I'll show you your bed," she said. "There's no fire in that room. Did you meet weather, up on the mountain? They say there's been snow."..stared at Irian; then with a brief nod he went on. She looked back at him. He was looking back at..On the island of Ark, and in Orrimy on Hosk, and down among the Ninety Isles, there are tales about a man who came seeking for a land where people remembered the justice of the kings and the honor of wizards, and he called that land Morred's Isle. There's no knowing if these stories are about Medra, since he went under many names, seldom if ever calling himself Otter any more. Gelluk's fall had not brought Losen down. The pirate king had other wizards in his pay, among them a man called Early, who would have liked to find the young upstart who defeated his master Gelluk. And Early had a good chance of tracing him. Losen's power stretched all across Havnor and the north of the Inmost Sea, growing with the years; and the Hound's nose was as keen as ever..Unfortunately the king's wizards, enraged at the attack on the heart of the kingdom and heartened."A nose, now, is a useful thing, a salable thing," Hound went on. "Not that I'm looking for..should burn not dead bodies but living ones. Living and conscious. Purity from foulness: bliss

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