

## WILD INSTINCTS

friends in the Great Port who would find them amusing. "I have the cheese money," he repeated to. It was mere cowardice to keep from Havnor, now-fear for his skin, fear lest he find his people had died, fear lest he recall Anieb too vividly. Sometimes the word used is alherath, "true-word-beings," "those who say true words," speakers of. "Oh, yes, like this," and sailed back down smooth as a cloud on the south wind. Men to own, there was nowhere to stop and nobody would answer questions. A wall-eyed witch took one look at. She thought he was clever and quite handsome, but she didn't think much about him, except for what shepherds there. A year ago last spring. That wizard they spoke of came there, casting spells. He hard-boiled the three new eggs and one already in the larder and put them into a pouch along. file:///D:/Documents%20and%20Settings/harry/...0%20LeGuin%20-%20Tales%20From%20Earthsea.txt (21 of 111) [2/5/2004 12:33:30 AM].go in." What they had they shared. In that it was indeed Morred's Isle. Nobody on Roke starved or went unhoused, though nobody had much more than they needed. Hidden from the rest of the world not only by sea and storm but by their defenses that disguised the island and sent ships astray, they worked and talked and sang the songs, The Winter Carol and The Deed of the Young King. And they had books, the Chronicles of Enlad and the History of the Wise Heroes. From these precious books the old men and women would read aloud in a hall down by the wharf where the fisherwomen made and mended their nets. There was a hearth there, and they would light the fire. People came even from farms across the island to hear the histories read, listening in silence, intent. "Our souls are hungry," Ember said. women of great power raised the Great House on Roke. Its cornerstone was set on a hilltop above. "But she was only a girl like the others, too," Mead said, and hid her face. "A good girl," she whispered. the sky above me again. But my capacity for surprise was pretty well exhausted. I had had. "In the west," he said. the boy's gaze dropped. haired Dune was so eager that Ember said he wanted to start teaching sorcery to every child in. "He's ten times the use and company to me my brother is," she said. "And a kind true man, as I. him home. A wise man, said Otter's mother Rose, surely a wise man. Nothing was too good for such a. and lead the wizard to defeat himself. The Changer absorbed that with a look of real amazement; but he did not question the Doorkeeper. He said only, "But not among the students." galley we're building? Use your head, boy!" He snorted. I felt drops of his saliva, and before I had time to be terrified he butted me in. Hire a carter, buy a mule. I'm old, Azver." protected Roke so long and protected it far more closely now. file:///D:/Documents%20and%20Settings/harry/...0%20LeGuin%20-%20Tales%20From%20Earthsea.txt (10 of 111) [2/5/2004 12:33:30 AM]. their hair. They kissed each other, timidly at first. what she pleased in order to have her do at last what he pleased, and the game, he thought, was. died in childbirth there in the city. on the empty sky. because this was a man of power telling him what power was. "And sometimes witches and sorcerers will say that they've summoned the dead to speak through them. Maybe a child the parents are grieving for. In the witch's hut, in the darkness, they hear it cry, or laugh..." So they sailed south in Hopeful, landing first at malodorous Geath, and then in the guise of peddlers working their way from one islet to the next among the mazy channels. Crow had stocked the boat with better wares than most householders of the Isles were used to seeing, and Tern offered them at fair prices, mostly in barter, since there was little money among the islanders. Their popularity ran ahead of them. It was known that they would trade for books, if the books were old and uncanny. But in the Isles all books were old and all uncanny, what there was of them. It is said that Segoy first wrote the True Runes in fire on the wind, so that they are coeval with the Language of the Making. But this may not be so, since the dragons do not use them, and if they recognise them, do not admit it. digging for the Red Mother, have you? Did you know the Red Mother before you came here? Are you a. That was unusual, though perhaps not so unusual among the wealthy as among common folk. At any. and finally to promise him, swearing on his own true and secret name, that if he learned the. The making from the unmaking. more distracted by whatever it was he sensed in the earth or air, and through him Ogion felt that. carefully and looked around at the others. "But I don't know if he can keep a lid on the ant-. the day he returned to the Great House, agreeing to come back with the Doorkeeper in the morning. The witch listened, unable to resist the lure of secrets revealed and the contagion of passionate desire. great black gash in his forehead, and his eyes like oysters, and his hands juddering. yourself." the roar of the rain on the sea, lessening as the freak wind passed on eastward. Through it one. suitably trained. Have no fear, my son. I know why you led my servants only to the little lode. It grew darker quickly. A haze was coming up from the south, blotting out the sky. Only above the huge, dim bulk of the mountain did stars burn clearly. Wind whistled in the reeds, soft, dismal. He looked from one sister to the other: the one so mild and so immovable, the other, under her. king. The brave and the wise, they came before him as if summoned, as if he had called them to. "Who doesn't? I like the cheese making. There's an interest to it. And I'm strong. All I fear is. visit the Court of the King, I can take you there. But maybe you don't know the King I'm talking." "And no friends?" watched something just out of sight, around the corner, elsewhere. absence of advertising signs, after the orgy of neon at the station, but I had no time for such. After the first outcries and embraces, the servants and his mother sat him right down to. "I do not know my other name," she said. She spoke as he had spoken, as she had spoken to the. influence events in unintended or unexpected ways. the flare and dazzle of the flames. "Evil spirits that work for the King become clean," he said. maintained a hostel there for all who came to worship. "That I'm a fool." "I'd say," she said, her voice thin and reedy, speaking to the curer, "that if Alder's beeves stay afoot through the winter, the cattlemen will be begging you to stay. Though they may not love you." not a shred of power left in me to follow him with. So he got away from Roke. Clean gone. walkways visible in the abyss, above the silver decks of the ever-steadily gliding platforms. Her brother came in. "Come on out," he said to her as soon as he saw the curer dozing on the

settle. She stepped outside with him..Nothing, to his mind, could be more despicable than such a betrayal of their art. So it troubled.By now the place that the girl had pointed out to me was deserted. After this incident I.of defense and warning. Once those were breached, the pirates took the island not by wizardries.This language is innate to dragons, not to humans, as said above. There are exceptions. A few.up on deck. She was afraid of the water, she had told him. She could not swim; she said, "Drowning."Will you trust me entirely, wholly - knowing that the risk I take for you is greater even than.stacked by the roaster tower bringing him a memory of the work yards at home, the fragrance of new."My own, sir. It is Irian..".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..Quite early on, impatient with wooing her massive physical indifference, he had worked up a charm.,years old. Celebrate it!"..Ayo and Mead were much alike, and Otter saw in them what Anieb might have been: a short, slight, quick woman, with a round face and clear eyes, and a mass of dark hair, not straight like most people's hair but curly, frizzy. Many people in the west of Havnor had hair like that..".Oh, you startled me!" she said. "What can I do for you, then?".Because they were smaller than men and could move more easily in narrow places, or because they.And celibate..".The wizard kept the name Roke in his memory, and when he heard it again, and in the same connection, he knew Hound had been on a true track again..The weatherworker knew his trade, at least. Sea Otter sped south; they met summer squalls and choppy seas, but never a storm or a troublesome wind. They put off and took on cargo at ports on the north shore of O, at Ilien, Leng, Kamery, and O Port, and then headed west to carry the passengers to Roke. And facing the west Ivory felt a little hollow at the pit of his stomach, for he knew all too well how Roke was guarded. He knew neither he nor the weatherworker could do anything at all to turn the Roke-wind if it blew against them. And if it did. Dragonfly would ask why? Why did it blow against them?.The door closed. It was silent except for the whisper of the fire..thin woodlands towards the foothills that hid Mount Onn from the lowlands of Samory..".Is it Waris?".Curious manners, I thought. But, then, if that's what's done. . .".To those who will give me my name. In fire not water. My people..".the Archipelago..He no longer kept a cow. He stood looking into the poultry yard, considering. The fox had been visiting the orchard lately. But the birds would have to forage if he stayed away. They must take their chances, like everyone else. He opened their gate a little. Though the rain was no more than a misty drizzle now, they stayed hunched up under the henhouse eaves, disconsolate. The King had not crowed once this morning..was effective. He cast it on her while she was, characteristically, mending a cow's halter. The.going to make me learn all his kind of stuff, after I got my name. But all this year he's kept.School. Knowing that the townswomen are spell-bound from so much as setting foot on the fields."You can. Oh, you can!".could not save one, not one, not the one who saved me," he said. "Nothing I know could have set."If I went away -" She saw him shake his head. "I could go to the Namer -".walks in from somewhere north, takes my business, some people would quarrel with that. A quarrel.He had a way with her cows that was wonderful. When he was there and she needed a hand, he took Berry's place, and as she told her friend Tawny, laughing, he was cannier with the cows than Bren's old dog had been. "He talks to em, and I'll swear they consider what he says. And that heifer follows him about like a puppy." Whatever he was doing out on the ranges with the beeves, the cattlemen were coming to think well of him. Of course they would grab at any promise of help. Half San's herd was dead. Alder would not say how many head he had lost. The bodies of cattle were everywhere. If it had not been cold weather the Marsh would have reeked of rotting flesh. None of the water could be drunk unless you boiled it an hour, except what came from the wells, hers here and the one in the village, which gave the place its name..apple on the tree. But for these ills, somebody had to be to blame: and the witch or sorcerer was.He groaned and scoured his scalp with his knuckles. He was sitting on the dirt in their old play-.mica. Not far away lay another huddled heap, rotted red silk, long hair, bones. Beyond it the.coming home. Hmn, hmn," he went, pleased with his joke. "Late coming home," he repeated, and got."It must be weird, coming back like this," she said almost in a whisper. She shuddered..".How clever you are," he said. "Have you found better ore than that patch you found first? Worth.grazing on Iria Hill, the bronze crowns of the oaks. "He's very careful how he talks about the.Come home with me..".Otter's shoulder. "I know you have the gift of finding what's hidden. Quite a great gift, were it.He was in fact a town boy, born in Gont Port. He had said nothing about himself, but Dulse had asked around a bit. The father, a longshoreman, had died in the big earthquake, when Silence would have been seven or eight; the mother was a cook at a waterfront inn. At twelve the boy had got into some kind of trouble, probably messing about with magic, and his mother had managed to prentice him to Elassen, a respectable sorcerer in Valmouth. There the boy had picked up his true name, and some skill in carpentry and farmwork, if not much else; and Elassen had had the generosity, after three years, to pay his passage to Roke. That was all Dulse knew about him..Weary, evil dreams of suffocasion came to him, but took no hold on him. He breathed deep. He slept at last. He dreamed of long mountainsides veiled by rain, and the light shining through the rain. He dreamed of clouds passing over the shores of islands, and a high, round, green hill that stood in mist and sunlight at the end of the sea..She blushed a little..there unhesitating, as if he knew where he was going. Now he stopped and greeted the women..made sentences, only lists. Long, long lists..".But on Roke, they learn to use power well, not for harm, not for gain..".have it..".separately. They did not even hold it against me that I got Olaf to rebel (because if it had not been.the limited habitable land available to them. Famine is unknown and poverty seldom acute..All the people of the Archipelago and the Reaches share the Hardic language and culture with local variations. The Raft People of the far South West Reach retain the great annual celebrations, but little else of Archipelagan culture, having no commerce, no agriculture, and no knowledge of other peoples..lions. . .connection. He-or Anieb within him-could follow the links of Gelluk's spells back into Gelluk's.to rejoin the broken halves of the Ring and so remake the Rune of Peace. He and Tenar brought the."The woman with you defies the Rule

of Roke," the Windkey said. "She must leave. A boat is waiting at the dock to take her, and the wind, I can tell you, will stand fair for Way." 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..there sent by them. Men and women came to be taught and to teach. Many of these had a hard time.for him to promise them.."Anywhere. Run away.".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.."There's bread," Ayo said, and Mead hurried to pack hard bread and hard cheese and walnuts into a pouch made of a sheep's stomach. They were very poor people. They gave him what they had. So Anieb had done..what he saw. But he saw it, and went forward, word by word..The people of the Archipelago speak Hardic. There are as many dialects as there are islands, but.architecture on all sides appeared to consist in motion alone, in change, and even what I had."She will when the time comes. But she has no part to play in your decision, Diamond. Women know nothing of these matters and have nothing to do with them..opened and entered a great cavern. But though the roots of Roke are the roots of all the islands,.comes by chance. All any of us knows is how it seems to us. There are names behind names, my Lord."Mercy," whispered Gift. She had not sewn a stitch since he began..It may be that the Firelord was, in fact, a dragon in human form; for very soon after his fall,.without knowing him, right away. . ."Why didn't you come to me first?" Dulse had demanded. "And then Roke, to put a polish on it?".in hiding, under the newer, institutional religions of the Twin Gods and the Godking.

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