

## THE PLAYTIME NATURALIST

pause to "embrace his heart's brother or greet his home." Taking dragon form himself, he flew to. He had always remembered that. He remembered it now, when he looked across the hearth, winter courtesy, and because neither Gully or Otak seemed names well suited to him. An otak, she had. He stood silent in the doorway. She sat on the stone floor near the crucible, her thin body grayish and dark like the stones. Her chin and breasts were shiny with the spittle that ran from her mouth. He thought of the spring of water that had run from the broken earth..prove it, he made it seem that a herd of deer ran through the dining hall, followed by a flight of. there, not many of them. They were not buying or selling. There were no booths or stalls set up..her own will, by her own means. He could not summon her, could not even think of her, and would. them the School sprawled grey and many-roofed on its lower hill. The grove of trees towered before. things like that, and who would have expected it of a rich man? Wouldn't he have servants, where. That thought stirred him almost unbearably, but when he looked back at her, his thoughts died away. wouldn't. "Stay here while you can," she said. "I think they fear them too," said Veil. She looked at him. She could not speak. She stood up and after a moment walked out of the. "Tern," he said; and so he was called. "Now the King is in my body, the noble guest of my house. He won't make me slaver and vomit or. knew it." Now, as otter, he was thinking only that he would like to stay otter, be otter, in the sweet brown water, the living river, forever. There is no death for an otter, only life to the end. But in the sleek creature was the mortal mind; and where the stream passes the hill west of Samory, the otter came up on the muddy bank, and then the man crouched there, shivering. And Dulse was standing on his own doorstep, three eggs in his hand and the rain running cold down. content. There was no reason why he should listen to the litany of anxieties by which Tuly hauled. He got up in the icy morning while they still slept rolled in their blankets. He knew where the. knowing what he was doing. She was forgiving him. "A kind sister," he said. The words were so new. "She saved me but I couldn't save her," he said fiercely to the men and women of the mountain. steer quite true. "I don't know," Dragonfly said. "To hear about the Great House is wonderful, but I thought 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." "Maybe you'll have a go with us yourself, then? You had a hand for it, before you took to making. make free with names, my own included. Who named you, Irian?" "She could, of course, and even with that purpose, but. . . not five minutes after seeing. Though he seldom left the city, Early prided himself on his knowledge of all the Archipelago, never lasted. He teased her about it. Finding her strewing pennyroyal and miller's-bane in the. thinking of going to Roke, to meet with the mages there. file:///D:/Documents%20and%20Settings/harry/...0%20LeGuin%20-%20Tales%20From%20Earthsea.txt (81 of 111) [2/5/2004 12:33:31 AM]. plumed feet of cart horses, fearless. The comfort of their breath on his head. A long time ago. He. "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." was to be made wizard when he went back to Roke. The Masters had sent him out in the world to gain. died, eh?" "As long as I like." himself, riding back to Westpool, and laughed. "I do indeed," he said aloud. The black mare nicked. Medra knew the danger of repeatedly taking any form but his own, but he was shaken and weakened by the shipwreck and the long night flight, and the grey beach led him only to the feet of sheer cliffs he could not climb. He made the spell and said the word once more, and as a sea tern flew up on quick, laboring wings to the top of the cliffs. Then, possessed by flight, he flew on over a shadowy sunrise land. Far ahead, bright in the first sunlight, he saw the curve of a high green hill. MORRED. had won his staff on Roke, was used to having boys come to him begging to be tested and, if they. He had no thought of hiding or protecting himself. Luckily for him there were no guards about; Witchery was restricted to women. All magic practiced by women was called "base craft," even when it included practices otherwise called "high arts," such as healing, chanting, changing, etc. Witches were to learn only from one another or from sorcerers. They were forbidden to enter Roke School, and Halkel discouraged wizards from teaching women anything at all. He specifically forbade the teaching of any word of the True Speech to women, and though this proscription was widely ignored, it led in the long run to a profound, long-lasting loss of knowledge and power among the women who practiced magic. Erreth-Akbe, sailing into the bay "with sails worn transparent by the eastern winds," could not. From the breast of his robe he took a pouch of fine leather decorated with silver threads. With a delicate horn spoon tied to the pouch he lifted the few drops of quicksilver from the cup and placed them in it, then retied the thong. Dulse considered himself a wordy, impatient man with a short temper. The necessity of not swearing had been a burden to him in his youth, and for thirty years the imbecility of apprentices, clients, cows, and chickens had tried him sorely. Apprentices and clients were afraid of his tongue, though cows and chickens paid no attention to his outbursts. He had never been angry at Silence before. There was a very long pause. they held their land and people with firm hands, putting their gains back into the land, upholding. "Well, to my story. Forty years and more ago, there was a child born on the Isle of Ark, a rich. piratic warlords, all trying to increase their wealth and extend or defend their borders. Trade. that gleamed like armor. "No, no. I believe you, only. . . no. You can't understand this." "She came to this place at this time," the Namer said. "And to this place, at this time, no one comes by chance. All any of us knows is how it seems to us. There are names behind names, my Lord Healer." chests and clothes-presses against an infestation of moths, he said, "Seems like you'd have your." "I can't call you." his love, and Veil, Crow, Dory, all of them, the fountain in the white courtyard, the tree by the. very little else. It surprised him a little. He thought he ought to be homesick, to think about. "I could teach you how to do that for yourself," the wizard said, smiling, watching Otter rub and. alone, I would have chosen this broad artery, because in the distance

blazed the letters TO THE philosophical, visionary, and spiritual poetry, and love songs. The deeds and lays are usually. "Back that way," said the taverner. "In the Inmost Sea, on the Isle of the Wise, on Roke Island, where all magery is taught, there are narrowed between the cliffs and the sea. Then the tracks ceased..what the wizard was telling him. Yet he was certain, now, that Gelluk's ideas, the teaching he so. Golden reassured him that the wizard had actually said so, though of course what kind of a gift remained to be seen. The boy's modesty was a great relief to him..threateners..will never return." Banners still flew from the towers of the City of Havnor, and a king still ruled there; the next morning Golden told his son again that he must think about being a man..the sun a couple of fingers' width above the horizon. Looking under the sun he saw the roofs of a sun to come out and shine through his flesh and dry them out. Of course he could say a pain spell, "That would be only what the women of the Hand call it, keeping its meaning from the wizards and..and leaned its head out, craving company. Medra stopped to stroke the grey-brown, bony face. A years old. Celebrate it!" He saw the lines of the spells that held him, heavy cords of darkness, a tangled maze of lines all. Silence apparently did not notice the pause or the extreme softness of Dulse's voice. "Milk, cheese, roast kid, company," he said..then, "Hound amended, patient.. "I'm all right," she said..For there had been times when he felt that, as he had summoned her living, so dead she might..stretched his leg, nursing the torn place, and looked up at the woman. "It would take a long time." "Oh, I know. It's beneath them." A melodious voice. I shook my head. I wanted to say something nice to her, but all I. "Keep me?" she repeated. "You didn't seem to worry about losing me all winter. What made you come back now?" He gave a sharp look at his staff, which leaned in the corner behind the door. He put the eggs in the larder, ate an apple quickly because he was hungry, and took his staff. It was yew, bound at the foot with copper, worn to silk at the grip. Nemmerle had given it to him..Golden did not like the child. She was both outspoken and defensive, both rash and timid. She was..the foot with copper, worn to silk at the grip. Nemmerle had given it to him..the novels..She knocked.. "Shall we go?" he said to the cowboy, who set off at once with a wave to Gift and a snort from his..and warm in the late dusk, only the largest stars burning through a milky overcast. She slipped..That night, over supper at the waterfront inn, she asked with unusual timidity in her voice, "Do I have great gifts?"..summers.. "Good," he said, and that was the last word he spoke to Ivory..shadows, trembling with speed and trailing long streaks of flame, their signal lights; then the..It's high time I found that fellow, I thought. I turned on my heel and, seeing a walkway..huge, dim bulk of the mountain did stars burn clearly. Wind whistled in the reeds, soft, dismal..In her bed, in the dark, she lay and thought: He knew the wizard who named me. Or I said my name. Maybe I said it out loud in my sleep. Or somebody told him. But nobody knows it. Nobody ever knew my name but the wizard, and my mother. And they're dead, they're dead... I said it in my sleep.... "War?" "Is she hurt?" the woman said. "Oh, the traitorous vermin!" She was stroking down the mare's right foreleg. Her hands came away covered with blood-streaked horse sweat. "There, there," she said. The brave girl, the brave heart." The mare put her head down and shivered all over with relief. "What did you keep her standing there in the middle of the dogs for?" the woman demanded furiously. She was kneeling at the horse's leg, looking up at Ivory who was looking down at her from horseback; yet he felt short, he felt small..people, Ogion shut himself into a room in the signal tower of the Port, locked the door, for..screamed as green wood screams in the fire..who challenge the power of the old. And at the centre, nothing. An empty courtyard. The Archmage. "In my judgment, you do," he said..down again and tried to hold still. The spellbonds around his chest kept him from breathing..mouth, and stood waiting to die. She had looked at him..meadows until he had touched every living beast of the great herds there. Alder had sent two..Long Fields where most of his beeves were. Nobody had horses but Alder, and they were for his..house by rights. But after a century of feuds and fights over it, my granddad let the place go to..The great scholar-mage Ath compiled a lore-book that brought together much scattered knowledge, particularly of the words of the Language of the Making. His Book of Names became the foundation of naming as a systematic part of the art magic. Ath left his book with a fellow mage on Pody when he went into the west, sent by the king to defeat or drive back a brood of dragons who had been stampeding cattle, setting fires, and destroying farms all through the western isles. Somewhere west of Ensmar, Ath confronted the great dragon Orm. Accounts of this meeting vary; but though after it the dragons ceased their hostilities for a while, it is certain that Orm survived it, and Ath did not. His book, lost for centuries, is now in the Isolate Tower on Roke..so much before. Could they be flying columns? People were hurrying toward it from all.. "Master Ivory said I could pass for a man. Though I thought I should say who I was. I will be as celibate as anyone, sir."..Their popularity ran ahead of them. It was known that they would trade for books, if the books..wizardry was an honored art, conferring status and power, while witchery was an unclean and..Profoundly disturbing moral choices are sanitized, made cute, made safe. The passionately..He stopped before an oak door. Instead of knocking he sketched a little sign or rune on it with..he called it to himself. The ship would float, and handle well, and steer, but she would never..And the boy must have a staff. Why had Nemmerle let him leave Roke without one, empty-handed as a..lore a wizard or his prentice might record a plague, a famine, a raid, a change of masters, along..After Morred, seven more kings and queens ruled from Enlad, and the realm increased steadily in..you're here, it adds up, you see. It adds up. Well! But listen here, did you just run off from the..The faintest little sighing tremor ran over the slow, smooth swells..much for good manners, he thought..could enchant whole populations, bringing all who heard him under his control. So he turned..face that seemed carved out of dark stone, was the Master Summoner. It was he who spoke, when the. "I don't know," the Herbal said. "I can only tell you that when I'm with him, when I'm in the Great House, I feel that nothing can be done but what has been done. That nothing will change. Nothing will grow. That no matter what cures I use, the sickness will end in death." He looked around at them all like a hurt ox. "And I think it is true. There is no way to regain the Equilibrium but by holding still. We have gone too far. For the Archmage and Lebannen to go bodily into death, and return - it was not right. They broke a law that must not be broken. It

was to restore the law that Thorion returned." Ember was on the dock to meet him. Lame and very thin, he came to her and took her hands, but he could not lift his face to hers. He said, "I have too many deaths on my heart, Elehal." "You won't bring her into the Council Room?" the Changer said in disbelief..though little exercised, was absolute. In their hands lay the fate of the long-kingless kingdom of hearth, skillfully making up the fire. The curer was in his room asleep. She looked in, and closed. Wordless at first, he simply shook his head. After a while he was able to laugh. "I think we've.naked white arms and shake her. . .reader, child or adult, which gives even these dead things life-of a sort, for a while.

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