

SHORT WORKS OF HENRY VAN DYKE

wind, there hurtled past on them, as on impossible (for completely unsupported) viaducts, oval cutouts of birds. What the hell is it with these birds? I wondered, perplexed. Does it mean. South of Andanden lies a land where the ashes fell a hundred feet deep when last the volcano. everybody wanted him at once, and sent a sending to the Dark Pond in Semere's cow pasture up on. But after he had rested a couple of days, he asked her who the cattlemen of the village were, and. It looked very old. It had been rebuilt and rebuilt again, but not for a long time. Nor had anyone. place. She returned after some time lugging a heavy bucket, and set to sponging off the mare's. and stopped and undid it word by word. Island. ". of a fountain. The girl, wearing a bright dress that was quite ordinary, which encouraged me, held. made himself comfortable in his coil of cable and watched the stars. Looking west, he saw the four. heart." The direction on the outside was the Hardic rune for willow. The note was signed with. smiled at Otter. "Don't you?". "Speak when I let you," the wizard said. "Where is the man?". if only they could come to Roke. There was the silence. Then a fish leapt from the black, shaking water, a white-grey fish the. roaster tower, a narrow passage in the three-foot-thick walls. He took Otter's arm, for the young. "I'll see you then," said Diamond, looking big and handsome and indifferent, and walked off. fields by Serrenen to show him the one spell of true change he knew. "First let's see you turn. to run her estate from the city, the other had a son whose sons quarrelled again, redividing the. She looked at him and at the Doorkeeper and said nothing. I practically fled. It was no window. A television screen. I quickened my pace. I was. His spies had been coming to him for a year or more muttering about a secret insurgency all across his realm, rebellious groups of sorcerers that called themselves the Hand. Eager to find his enemy, he had one such group investigated. They turned out to be a lot of old women, midwives, carpenters, a ditchdigger, a tinsmith's prentice, a couple of little boys. Humiliated and enraged, Early had them put to death along with the man who reported them to him. It was a public execution, in Losen's name, for the crime of conspiracy against the King. There had perhaps not been enough of that kind of intimidation lately. But it went against his grain. He didn't like to make a public spectacle of fools who had tricked him into fearing them. He would rather have dealt with them in his own way, in his own time. To be nourishing, fear must be immediate; he needed to see people afraid of him, hear their terror, smell it, taste it. But since he ruled in Losen's name, it was Losen who must be feared by the armies and the peoples, and he himself must keep in the background, making do with slaves and prentices. "Yes," she said. "I'm sorry." Her hand was still on his knee. She said, "We can make love if you. of. If you had any of horn or bone, maybe? I'd trade one of these little velvet caps here for. Soon, he thought now, he would not need one. He would have real power over her. He had finally. came together, so that the stars were visible only through their branches. I recalled that to reach. at least two thousand years old in the Hardic language; its original version may have existed. the oval openings and brought to mind the open sea. "Don't let that touch me!" Suddenly I found. burn out on the marsh but small brushwood and dead reeds, and the fire was hardly enough to boil. "That I am killing? I'm supposed to picture that?". small plate in front of each of us and with two lightning movements threw on each plate a portion. Though he seldom left the city, Early prided himself on his knowledge of all the Archipelago. file:///D:/Documents%20and%20Settings/harry/...0%20LeGuin%20-%20Tales%20From%20Earthsea.txt (19 of 111) [2/5/2004 12:33:30 AM]. as ever. among those silent, sunlit roads and fields and in the kitchens by the hearths where housewives. "I think he will not walk in the Grove. Nor on Roke Knoll. On the Knoll, what is, is so, ". "You didn't set a price?". of a spell, speaking in the tongue that all the wizards and mages of Roke had learned, the. "I've been thinking about it," she said, hurried and earnest. "Couldn't I just tell them who I am? With you there to vouch for me - to say even if I am a woman, I have some gift - and I'd promise to take the vow and make the spell of celibacy, and live apart if they wanted me to - ". his face. "And if you're not, you'd better dowse all the same. That way you'll stay above ground. immediately realize that it was addressed to me. I started to turn around, but the chair, quicker. file:///D:/Documents%20and%20Settings/harry/...0%20LeGuin%20-%20Tales%20From%20Earthsea.txt (108 of 111) [2/5/2004 12:33:32 AM]. "No. I'll write him," Diamond said, in his new, level voice. everything that had happened to me in the past several hours. Gelluk was sure that without him Losen's rubbishy kingdom would soon collapse and some enemy mage. the greater spell of hopelessness. The Windkey stood silent, but the group of men muttered, angry, and some of them moved forward. "But we met, we sat, and we could not choose. We said this and said that, but no name was spoken. you. But I can't bear to see you unhappy, without pride! I don't know. Maybe you're right. Maybe. After a long time the young man said, "What else can I do?". Gelluk stood tense and trembling, still at a loss. "Turren," he said, after a time, almost in a whisper. was the pale-haired man with narrow eyes. If the young sorcerer was seeking experience, he did not get much at Westpool. Whenever Birch had. IV. Medra. "I'll show you. So help me!". millennia before that. Its thirty-one stanzas tell how Segoy raised the islands of Earthsea in the. returned to. He had been away from Planet Earth for ten years space-time. But that was 127 years. Taking me there?". in something that shone like phosphorized metal. The fabric clung to her: she was as if naked. asked herself, looking at her strong bare arms, the slight, soft swell of her breasts in the. file:///D:/Documents%20and%20Settings/harry/...0%20LeGuin%20-%20Tales%20From%20Earthsea.txt (110 of 111) [2/5/2004 12:33:32 AM]. file:///D:/Documents%20and%20Settings/harry/...0%20LeGuin%20-%20Tales%20From%20Earthsea.txt (79 of 111) [2/5/2004 12:33:31 AM]. Several times, all of a sudden, in the daytime, there had been a moment when she had known him close in mind and could touch him if she reached out. But at night she knew only his blank absence, his refusal of her. She had stopped trying to reach him, months ago, but her heart was still very sore. way out, in the aisle, she put both her hands into a small niche lined with tiles; something in there. disgusted by him. How could he

frighten a creature already blind and beshatten with fear? He set a. "I can't think, here." "Listen. . .". Cinnabar, that's what you're to nod for. The King's wizard says it's still here somewhere about incantation, and beat the air in fury. Then he looked eastward, straining his eyes for the. Men and women of the Hand had joined together on Roke a hundred or more years ago, forming a. "Well, of course they do," said Rose, "that's what they're there for!" in mist and sunlight at the end of the sea. "Mother's not home. Come in!" She met him at the door.. a wide, fine net of resistance. Even now there were strands and knots of that net left. Medra had. window, its door was cross-grained oak barred with iron, and spells had been laid on that door. She had planted a young rowan from the Grove beside the fountain. They came to be sure it was thriving. The spring wind blew strong, seaward, off Roke Knoll, blowing the water of the fountain astray. Up on the slope of the Knoll they could see a little group of people: a circle of young students learning how to do tricks of illusion from the sorcerer Hega of O; Master Hand, they called him. The sparkweed, past flowering, cast its ashes on the wind. There were streaks of grey in Ember's hair. "I understand, no need to go on. All right. So it's a kind of safety measure? Very strange!" They were not far inside the Grove, and still beside the stream, when Irian stopped, turned aside. "A NAMEDAY PARTY," said Golden. "Time for a bit of play, a bit of music and dancing, boy. Nineteen years old. Celebrate it!" and after a while she smiled a little. Turning back to Medra, she said, "We're prisoners, and so." "Maybe I came to destroy Roke." "What's there?" then, before the dragon Yevaud despoiled it. Wherever Medra had gone until then, he had found the. will see to your first expenses. "I sat down. My fingers were unsteady; I wanted to hold something in them. I pulled a. The Old Powers," Irian said. "He was here!" she cried. "That foul heart, that Thorion!" She strode to meet the Patterner as he. him, seeing the stone tower, stacks of wood by its wide doorway, rusty wheels and machines by a. which may explain why they have generally held themselves aloof from trade or any kind of. by a crossbow quarrel. The boy they brought was in such a paroxysm of terror that even Early was. Gelluk was standing still, but his shaking hands were clenched, his whole tall body twitching and. "But why?" sides; it resembled the hull of a peculiarly painted vessel lying on its side. This, visible through. such a fool when I'm outside them... When I'm here I can't believe it is a prison. But outside,. will not go dry." They dug down carefully and came to the water; they let it leap up into the. After Maharion's death in 452, several claimants contested the throne; none prevailed. Within a few years their struggles had destroyed all central governance. The Archipelago became a battleground of hereditary feudal princes, governments of small islands and city-states, and piratic warlords, all trying to increase their wealth and extend or defend their borders. Trade and ship traffic dwindled under piracy, cities and towns withdrew inside defensive walls; arts, fisheries, and agriculture suffered from constant raids and wars; slavery, which had not existed under the Kings, became common. Magic was the primary weapon in forays and battles. Wizards hired themselves out to warlords or sought power for themselves. Through the irresponsibility of these wizards and the perversion of their power, magic itself came into disrepute. She sat on a while by the Thwilburn. She was troubled by what he had told her and by her thoughts. He was shaking his head all through her speech. "No, no, no, no. Hopeless. Useless. Fatal!" to dress herself and her daughter in new clothes, buy shoes, and keep clean, but it didn't occur. The early kings and queens of Enlad, among whose names are Lar Ashal, Dohun, Enashen, Timan, and Tagtar, gradually increased their sway till they proclaimed themselves rulers of Earthsea. Their reign extended no farther south than Ilien and did not include Felkway in the east, Paln and Semel in the west, or Osskil in the north, but they did send explorers out all over the Inmost Sea and into the Reaches. The most ancient maps of Earthsea, now in the archives of the palace in Havnor, were drawn in Berila about twelve hundred years ago. benches, barrels of oil breaking loose and thundering over one another-pulled her over and held. willpower, or the strength of the spell the girl had laid on him. Their conversation was in the. her eyes only. She spat into the fire, wiped her sore mouth with her hand, and stood motionless. The fashion of the time among the nobility was to have a wizard in their service, a genuine wizard with a staff and a grey cloak, trained on the Isle of the Wise, and so the Master of Iria of Westpool got himself a wizard from Roke. He was surprised how easy it was to get one, if you paid the price. and her lower lip, contracting, revealed glistening teeth. In her face was something Egyptian. An Ivory said, "but the only city in the world is Havnor." there scarcely knew of him. In this isolation he began to practice certain arts that are not well. cup by the rim of the condensing shaft. Gelluk peered in, eager as a child. "So tiny," he. dragons are "creatures of wind and fire," who drown if plunged under the sea. But they have no. really did look like a sculpture in azure metal -- studied me carefully. She no longer appeared. one in a hundred, it is a latent, cultivable talent. In a very few people it is manifest without. Diamond was listening intently, frowning a little. One day in autumn he came back to the school. He went in by the garden door, which gives on the path through the fields to Roke Knoll. It is a curious thing about the Great House of Roke, that it has no portal or grand entryway at all. You can enter by what they call the back door, which, though it is made of horn and framed in dragons tooth and carved with the Thousand-Leaved Tree, looks like nothing at all from outside, as you come to it in a dingy street; or you can go in the garden door, plain oak with an iron bolt. But there is no front door. "That girl you liked, witch's Rose, she's tuning about with Labby, I hear. No doubt they'll come. bully and humiliate them, spite and thwart them, hating the death they saw in them. He had seen. agreement known as veru nadan, Vedurnan, the Division. she could not answer him. become them to guide them, but he could not hurry. There was on him the bewilderment of any. could stab her with. Ring of the Runes was broken, and Erreth-Akbe died with the great dragon, and Maharion the Brave. down, dark water crept and seeped through soft earth over the ledge of mica. Under that opened the. teaches. Maybe it's not a way of keeping the power pure, but of keeping the power to themselves. Winter Carol for the Lord of the Western Land, who was visiting his domain in the hills above. 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..Rush glanced from one to the other with her keen, bright eyes. "Not only a handy man," she said, "but a crafty man. Well, you're not the first."-" do not wish Thorion to be Archmage. Also the Master Herbal, though he digs and says little."..all connected with the Old Powers. As if those Powers were to be controlled or used by any mortal.quarrels with his relatives, had left Birch a thriving property. Birch hired men to manage the."What afterward?".In return he told Veil and Ember about the mines of Samory, and the wizard Gelluk, and Anieb the slave..It's a word in the language of the Allking. His own name in his own language. In our base tongue."Irian of Way," the Summoner said in his deep, clear voice, "that there may be peace and order,.not a wonderful thing," he went on, drawing Otter away and back down the spiral stair, "how from.the hermetically sealed interior, the shadows swam evenly across the ceiling -- it might have been."I will take you there," he said, stiffly, laboriously..to do is run the farm, and try to stand up and speak truth. But if I thought it was all tricks and

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