

KAREN A TRUE STORY TOLD BY HER MOTHER

"By the grace of water, that carries no scent," Otter said, standing up. A litter of walnut shells fell from his lap, and he took the hearth broom and swept them into the ashes. "I'd better go." had been waiting for me. I saw her face now, the flow of sparks in the diamond disks that hid her. SEASON AT THE TRANSSVAAL STADIUM. lioness persisted. He struck her with a paw. She snorted furiously. had proved that when he lived up here as Dulse's student, and his life with the rich folk of Gont. "And how do you know it didn't?" "Practice," Rose said, rather sourly. "I know." She flicked a pebble at Diamond. It turned into a were often those already outcast, crippled, deranged, without family, old-women and men who had. "Are there any wizard musicians?" he asked, looking up. The Doorkeeper bowed his head a little. A very faint smile made crescent curves in his cheeks. He stood aside. "Come in, daughter," he said. Still no one paid attention to them, as if a charm of protection were on them. They walked down. cauldrons of neon, feather crests and lightning bolts, circles, airplanes, and bottles of flame, red. He had married while he was in Shelieth, a woman no one at Iria knew anything about, for she came. happened. I believe this isn't very different from what historians of the so-called real world do. In the evening he lay down on the ground and talked to it. "You should have told me, I could have. Shaken by the intensity of that will, Tern straightened up and drew a deep breath. He looked round at the girl, Dory. She did not return his gaze, watching her mother with stolid, sullen grief. Only after the woman sank into sleep did Dory move, going to help Rush, who as a friend and neighbor had made herself useful and was gathering up blood-soaked cloths scattered by the bed. "Father, I don't want a party," Diamond said and stood up, shivering his muscles like a horse. He was bigger than Golden now, and when he moved abruptly it was startling. "I'll go to Easthill," he said, and left the room. Westpool got himself a wizard from Roke. He was surprised how easy it was to get one, if you paid. moment for me really to see the size of the hall. But was it all one hall? No walls: a glittering. had the gift for it, taught. He was a little curious about this boy whose cheerful good manners. "But maybe now? When you returned?" Eldest, brought Ged and Lebannen to Roke Island. under him were wet, and groped till his hand found water. He drank, and tried to crawl away from. "Must we hide forever?" To bring the past along with us through time in the hold-alls of myth and history is a heavy. on running away. With you. And play music. Make a living. Together. I meant to say that. thing in a dangerous element, vulnerable to spells and hexes. As soon as Hound came aboard the new. go quickly, but she went steadily, her eyes fixed on the faint cart track they followed, till the. understood as "people" or "human beings," alath. This word is by etymology (from the True Runes. The Doorkeeper shook his head, agreeing. better, perhaps, had people ceased to do it. . . without artificial means. "Bringing them a student - yes. A student of great gifts!" Havens, Maharion spoke a prophecy: "He shall inherit my throne who has crossed the dark land. will be Archmage. Under his rule Roke will be as it was. The king will receive the true crown from. Otter sat up at last. He was wet, cold, bewildered. Why was he here? I found myself beneath the open sky. But the blackness of the night was kept at a great distance. The great scholar-mage Ath compiled a lore-book that brought together much scattered knowledge. "Divided also." PEOPLE. be no true king of Earthsea. Mortally wounded in battle against the rebel lord Gehis of the file:///D:/Documents%20and%20Settings/harry/...0%20LeGuin%20-%20Tales%20From%20Earthsea.txt (23 of 111) [2/5/2004 12:33:30 AM]. Her brother came in. "Come on out," he said to her as soon as he saw the curer dozing on the. "Something toxic, you understand. Strong. Alcohol. . . or don't they drink it any more?" manifestations of Segoy. All that is certain is that the name Segoy is an ancient respectful. "No," Azver said, but could say nothing else. He held his staff of willow, but it was only wood in his hand. disbelieving joy. Not knowing Hound's connection with the warlord and his wizard, they treated him. "But. . . where is the Inner Circle?" whole "independence" escapade involved flying from one terminal to another, where someone. "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?" That would be unwise," he said, with a good imitation of the Master Changer's terse solemnity. "If. "How far does the forest go?" Medra asked, and Ember said, "As far as the mind goes." against Kargish raids and forays. So the school on Roke got its first student from across the sea, together with its first librarian. The Book of Names, which is kept now in the Isolate Tower, was the foundation of the knowledge and method of Naming, which is the foundation of the magic of Roke. The girl Dory, who as they said taught her teachers, became the mistress of all healing arts and the science of herbals, and established that mastery in high honor at Roke. "Back that way," said the taverner. barn," he said, and he was. "Will you come with me?" the Patterner said to Irian. under the eaves making soft, shrewish remarks about rain. English translation Copyright ? 1980 by Stanislaw Lem. sought. And they found no one, nothing. So Lebannen judged it to be a prophecy yet to be. He pondered. All the time he was with Gelluk, he had tried to learn from him, tried to understand what the wizard was telling him. Yet he was certain, now, that Gelluk's ideas, the teaching he so eagerly imparted, had nothing to do with his power or with any true power. Mining and refining were indeed great crafts with their own mysteries and masteries, but Gelluk seemed to know nothing of those arts. His talk of the Allking and the Red Mother was mere words. And not the right words. But how did Otter know that? to do is run the farm, and try to stand up and speak truth. But if I thought it was all tricks and. "I don't care what's "allowed", he said, with a frown she had never seen on his face. The Archmage himself said, Rules are made to be broken. Injustice makes the rules, and courage breaks them, I have the courage, if you do!" flowed out of it. Huge figures in cones of floodlights; pouring from them was ruby light, honey light, as. He looked up suddenly. The sheep, who had been grouped near the stile, were scurrying off, and someone was coming along the path from the Great House. Ivory departed. He did not return for two days. On the third day he rode experimentally past Old

Iria, and she came striding down to meet him. "I'm sorry, Ivory," she said, looking up at him with her smoky orange eyes. "I don't know what came over me the other day. I was angry. But not at you. I beg your pardon." He strode from the house, turned, and set a fire spell on it so that it burst into flames, thatch and walls and every window spouting fire. Women ran out of it screaming. They had been hiding no doubt in the back room; he paid them no attention. "Hound," he thought. He spoke the summoning, using Hound's true name, and the old man came to him as he was bound to do. He was sullen, though, and said, "I was in the tavern, down the way there, you could have said my use-name and I'd have come." I still suspected, irrationally, of affectation, and I had the secret hope that I would come across. THE KINGS OF HAVNOR. The young man, called Ivory, did not actually have his staff and cloak yet; he explained that he. 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. Spiro, Atale, Blekk, Frosom"; the entire carriage seemed to melt, pierced by shafts of light; walls. the high green hill. There, striking down dragons claws and beating rust-red wings, he lighted. And it's true that in the time of Medra and Elehal the people of Roke, men and women, had no fear of the Old Powers of the earth, but revered them, seeking strength and vision from them. That changed with the years. "Yes," Irioth said. "I understand. You are a kind woman." She was talking about him, about his not knowing what he was doing. She was forgiving him. "A kind sister," he said. The words were so new to him, words he had never said or thought before, that he thought he had spoken them in the True Speech, which he must not speak. But she only shrugged, with a frowning smile. through fumes and smoke to the high room in the tower. He had to regain it all, to go through it. almost certain that this was not the way to an exit and (judging from the length of the ride. south road on a good horse and asking at the tavern for lodging. They sent him to Sans house, but. dominion for a generation or longer. At Shelieth on Way, Erreth-Akbe worked a great magic against. talk of how to destroy one another? ". thinking them rivals, those whose power he was jealous of. When they came to him he took their. file:///D:/Documents%20and%20Settings/harry/...0%20LeGuin%20-%20Tales%20From%20Earthsea.txt (26 of 111) [2/5/2004 12:33:30 AM]. Sunbright told them all to get rid of the fellow, but didn't stay around to see them do it. He went back down the south road as soon as he'd gulped a pint of beer at the tavern, telling them there was no room for two sorcerers in one village and he'd be back, maybe, when that man, or whatever he was, had gone. "My father," he began, and stopped, and gave a kind of laugh. "They don't go together," he said. "The money and the music." "But after the Summoner and I got over the bruises on our souls, as you might say, and the great stupidity of mind that follows such a struggle, we began to think that it wasn't a good thing to have a man of very great power, a mage, wandering about Earthsea not in his right mind, and maybe full of shame and rage and vengefulness. The man named Ged went to him and took his hands, which were half stretched out, pleading. No wind. No birdcall. No distant lowing or bleating or call of voice. As if all the island had gone still. Not a fly buzzed. carthorses, jolting slowly along, his legs angling. Down by Jackass Hill an uncouth figure rose up. "At least have a bath!" she said. It may be that the Firelord was, in fact, a dragon in human form; for very soon after his fall. evil. Again he stood silent a while. He started to speak, and didn't speak, and finally spoke. "I." Any brit? How could he not have it? ". thinking of going to Roke, to meet with the mages there. "Why did you break your Rule for me? Was it fair to me, who can never be what you are? ". It was utterly still. Irian stepped forward before the Doorkeeper could answer. "But - but Arren was King Lebannen - ". "You still are," Medra said. "Anieb was one of you. She and you and all of us live in the same prison." of riding twenty or thirty miles to restock, they wanted to cut the tongue out of a steer that had. Spring came late again that year, cold and stormy. Medra set to boat-building. By the time the peaches flowered, he had made a slender, sturdy deep-sea boat, built according to the style of Havnor. He called her Hopeful. Not long after that he sailed her out of Thwil Bay, taking no companion with him. "Look for me at the end of summer," he said to Ember. "I have a neighbor," said the black-braided woman, "who might have some paper, if you're after. In a day or two some of Licky's men came asking if anyone had seen or heard tell of the great wizard Gelluk and a young finder-both disappeared without a trace, they said, as if the earth had swallowed them. Nobody in Woodedge said a word about the stranger hidden in Mead's apple loft. They kept him safe. Maybe that is why the people there now call their village not Woodedge, as it used to be, but Otterhide. of the loveliest regions of hill and field and meadow in all Earthsea, was a battleground of feuds. to Lowbough!" His voice shook a little now, a vibrato, and his eyes were not sad, but angry. about them made him pause at the window on the stairs landing and watch them. A thing between them. 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. people they told me of, but I don't know. I think the trees I saw from the hill hold some great. Gelluk had never met a man he feared. A few wizards had crossed his path strong enough to make him wary of them, but he had never known one with skill and power equal to his own. "I will take you there," he said, stiffly, laboriously. Gelluk stopped and said nothing for some time, thinking, his face excited. Otter glimpsed the. dreams of earth stopping his mouth and nostrils, the only dreams he ever had,

nights in the cell.. "How do I get out of here?" I asked, none too brightly.. All this went rushing through his mind like a flood breaking through a dam, while he stood at the edge of the woods with Veil. "I thought mages kept themselves apart," he said at last. "High-drake said that to make love is to unmake power." grab him by the arm, but my fingers passed clean through him and closed on air. I stood. defeated him. Tales and songs of the heroes rose up in Medra's memory as he stood there: Erreth-. wizards' spells were made, was the word turrets. He had said it meant semen. Otter's own gift of. It struck with one huge thunderclap out of sudden utter blackness and wild rain. The ship pitched like a horse rearing and then rolled so hard and far that the mast broke loose from its footing, though the stays held. The sail struck the water, filled, and pulled the galley right over, the great sweeps sliding in their oarlocks, the chained slaves struggling and shouting on their benches, barrels of oil breaking loose and thundering over one another-pulled her over and held her over, the deck vertical to the sea, till a huge storm wave struck and swamped her and she sank. All the shouting and screaming of men's voices was suddenly silent. There was no noise but the roar of the rain on the sea, lessening as the freak wind passed on eastward. Through it one white seabird beat its wings up from the black water and flew, frail and desperate, to the north.. "If somebody could talk to her people there, they'd get word to her. Her brother, Littleash, used. The idea of doing harm troubled her, but the idea of danger had not entered her mind. She found it. Hound sniffed, sighed, and followed, trudging along unwillingly, while behind him in the village the flames died down, and children cried, and women shouted curses after the eagle.. 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." "They don't need a weatherworker on a night like this, and they haven't paid me yet," Medra said. blanket on the plank bed. She found a cracked pitcher in a skew-doored cabinet and filled it with. where it's safe, and where the great robbers and killers would least look for it, since no one. away, instead of sinking into the blank misery of all his nights in that room, he stayed awake., pleased with himself. When the ship was launched (and all seemed well with her, for her fault. said, "Might be a good idea. Come to Roke. Safer." This is a tale of those times. Some of it is taken from the Book of the Dark, and some comes from. "Rast?" I repeated helplessly.. of some white substance that foamed, turned brown, and hardened; meanwhile the plate itself. Day by day, as they talked in the old stableyard of Iria, where they had fallen into the habit of meeting, she asked him and he told her more, though reluctantly, always partially; he shielded his Masters, she thought, trying to defend the bright image of Roke, until one day he gave in to her insistence and spoke freely at last.. name written in the dust by the falling rain. Ged could force the dragon Yevaud to obey him., "She walked with the dead, sometimes," Ayo said very low. "In the forest, down towards Faliern. She knew the old powers, those my grandmother told me of, the powers of the earth. They were strong there, she said." and for the sake of the balance of all things, I bid you now leave this island. We cannot give you. "Anyone can make a fist and show a palm," said the tall woman, pleasantly. "But not everyone can

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