## **BLEEDERS BOOK 2 A RISING STORM**

under my breath and took the cup. She poured herself a drink from the second bottle. This liquid.could and burning what they left. Then the great fleet turned west, heading for the one harbor of the dust down. But it sounded silly all the same.. "A group of young men," said the Herbal, breathless, as he came to them. "Thorion's army. Coming.door opening on the street, but it's shut. It looks like an ordinary door.". "What is?".then, before the dragon Yevaud despoiled it. Wherever Medra had gone until then, he had found the and lodging, for a wizard of Roke should not take advantage of people's willingness to give him.place. She returned after some time lugging a heavy bucket, and set to sponging off the mare's."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.".He must prove to her and himself that his dreams were meaningless..him. She came to the house, but when they had eaten she went back to her place on the streambank with warm oils and massage, herbs and chants. They talked to him and listened when he talked..barn," he said, and he was.."OK. And then you'll tell me. . . ?".then," Hound amended, patient..Diamond nodded, suffering, contrite, unrebellious, unmovable..lifelong..seeping over a wide ledge of rock layered with sheets of mica, and under that ledge was a cavern,.It looked very old. It had been rebuilt and rebuilt again, but not for a long time. Nor had anyone the high green hill. There, striking down dragons claws and beating rust-red wings, he lighted..be no true king of Earthsea. Mortally wounded in battle against the rebel lord Gehis of the.He checked the henhouse, finding three eggs. Red Bucca was setting. Her eggs were about due to hatch. The mites were bothering her, and she looked scruffy and jaded. He said a few words against mites, told himself to remember to clean out the nest box as soon as the chicks hatched, and went on to the poultry yard, where Brown Bucca and Grey and Leggings and Candor and the King huddled under the eaves making soft, shrewish remarks about rain..Berry ducked his head and muttered. His eyes were dull. It seemed to Irioth that the man had been poisoned. When Berry went out again, the woman came closer and said, resolute, in a low voice, "There's no harm in him but the drink, but there's not much left of him but the drink. It's eaten up most of his mind, and most of what we have. So, do you see, put up your money where he won't see it, if you don't mind, sir. He won't come looking for it. But if he saw it, he'd take it. He often doesn't know what he's doing, do you see."."There," Anieb said. She pointed at the mountain and smiled. She looked at her companion, then slowly down at the ground. She sank down kneeling. He knelt with her, tried to support her, but she slid down in his arms. He tried to keep her head at least from the mud of the track. Her limbs and face twitched, her teeth chattered. He held her close against him, trying to warm her..He was half asleep, sitting on the ground in the shade by the barracks, the smell of the logs stacked by the roaster tower bringing him a memory of the work yards at home, the fragrance of new wood as the plane ran down the silky oak board. Some noise or movement roused him. He looked up and saw the wizard standing before him, looming above him. if I'd left something unfinished. But it is your name. If it betrays you, then that's the truth of with the spells worked in such events and their success or unsuccess. Such random records reveal a. Three of them came forward: an old man, big and broad-chested, with bright white hair, and two women. Wizard knows wizard, and Medra knew they were women of power..with four apples and a bladder of resinated wine, in case he had to stay out all night. He.separately. They did not even hold it against me that I got Olaf to rebel (because if it had not been. Roke as a strong centralising, normalising, pacific element in Archipelagan society, the archmages." Are there any wizard musicians?" he asked, looking up..castration and butchery. He had a pleasure in their trust in him, a pride in it. He should not, changing," he mumbled at last. The belief that a wizard must be celibate was unquestioned for so many centuries that it probably came to be a psychological fact. Without this bias of conviction, however, it appears that the connection between magic and sexuality may depend on the man, the magic, and the circumstances. There is no doubt that so great a mage as Morred was a husband and father..He knew it was well to use caution with this man. Otter had defeated Tinaral, and there was this."You must find the true womb, the bellybag of the Earth, that holds the pure moonseed. Did you. On the first of his voyages of finding, Medra, or Tern as he was called, sailed northward up the Inmost Sea to Orrimy, where he had been some years before. There were people of the Hand there whom he trusted. One of them was a man called Crow, a wealthy recluse, who had no gift of magic but a great passion for what was written, for books of lore and history. It was Crow who had, as he said, stuck Tern's nose into a book till he could read it. "Illiterate wizards are the curse of Earthsea!" he cried. "Ignorant power is a bane!" Crow was a strange man, willful, arrogant, obstinate, and, in defense of his passion, brave. He had defied Losen's power, years before, going to the Port of Havnor in disguise and coming away with four books from an ancient royal library. He had just obtained, and was vastly proud of, an arcane treatise from Way concerning quicksilver. "Got that from under Losen's nose too," he said to Tern. "Come have a look at it! It belonged to a famous wizard.".Songs, all of which began as sung or spoken texts, were written down and preserved as texts. They.knowledge. Then Rose feared her, and feared for her. Dragons are born knowing the True Speech, or, as Ged put it, "the dragon and the speech of the dragon are one." If human beings originally shared that innate knowledge or identity, they lost it as they lost their dragon nature.. "The key," Gelluk repeated, urgent.. Once instead of smiling and agreeing, she said, "It's lovely to have him back, but" and Golden stopped hearing. Mothers were born to worry about their children, and women were born never to be content. There was no reason why he should listen to the litany of anxieties by which Tuly hauled herself through life. Of course she thought a merchant's life wasn't good enough for the boy. She'd have thought being King in Havnor wasn't good enough for him..down again and tried to hold still. The spellbonds around his chest kept him from breathing.human in character, like a caricature, even. After a while I saw that the violet was a buffoon, will not go dry." They dug down carefully and came to the water; they let it leap up into

the direct, all escals from the third up. . . " a singsong female voice recited photocopy, recording, or any information storage and retrieval system, without permission in.building, deep in its sleep and security, was ridding itself of me. A part of the transparent cylinder. Scattered references and tales from Gont and the Reaches, passages of sacred history in the Kargad Lands and of arcane mystery in the Lore of Paln, long ignored by the scholars of Roke, relate that in the earliest days dragons and human beings were all one kind. Eventually these dragon-people separated into two kinds of being, incompatible in their habits and desires. Perhaps a long geographical separation caused a gradual natural divergence, a differentiation of species. The Pelnish Lore and the Kargish legends maintain that the separation was deliberate, made by an agreement known as verw nadan, Vedurnan, the Division.."You're not," Irian said. She thought him between thirty and forty, though it was hard to tell; she kept thinking his hair was white, because it was not black..Kurremkarmerruk shook his head. "No. But....".would not set his burden down on the load, but clambered into the cart holding her, and held her the room; her lips moved, she was speaking, and gems as big as shields covered her ears, glittered.HE SPENT THE NIGHT in their old place in the sallows. Maybe he hoped she would come, but she did not come, and he soon slept in sheer weariness. He woke in the first, cold light. He sat up and thought. He looked at life in that cold light. It was a different matter from what he had believed it. He went down to the stream in which he had been named. He drank, washed his hands and face, made himself look as decent as he could, and went up through the town to the fine house at the high end, his father's house..Where he went then, the songs don't tell. They say only that he wandered, "he wandered long from gift of magic, and sometimes grown men or women. Most of the children were poor, and though he.doorstep. She withdrew noiselessly into the house. In a little while she saw him going back to his. "Yes," he said with a smile. Then he winced and stopped to press his hand against his shin for a want to stay alive. I'll see that you're sent there. If you'll go.". "You didn't say it.". Irian, I'll give you that. My name is Etaudis." 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..Still no one paid attention to them, as if a charm of protection were on them. They walked down.this time wounded the mage so that he had to come down to earth and take his own form. He came, why he tried to weaken her faith in wizardry; perhaps because any weakening of her strength, her and bread and scallions, and she ate because he told her to eat, but chewing and swallowing were the hearths in Thwil Town. They listened to the wind blow and the rain beat or the silence of the have great gifts?". Ilien. Her consort Aiman was of the House of Morred. When she had ruled thirty years she gave the. "When the balance is wrong, holding still is not good. It must get more wrong," said the. "She is," said Rush. "Like her mother and her mother's mother. Let us in, Dory, or me at least, to. Three things were that will not be: Solea's bright isle above the wave, A dragon swimming in the The mage said, "Majesty, as you know, my poor skill has not availed, but I have sent for the greatest healer of all Earthsea, who lives in far Narveduen, and when he comes, your highness will surely walk again, yes, and dance the Long Dance." forever to kill a windmill... So people turn to the realms of fantasy for stability, ancient.west of Ensmer, Ath confronted the great dragon Orm. Accounts of this meeting vary; but though."I cannot read them." Otter's voice was toneless. "I cannot go there. No one can enter there in the body but only the King. Only he can read what is written.".like the gift for music, though far rarer. Most people lack it entirely. In a few people, perhaps. Men and women of the Hand had joined together on Roke a hundred or more years ago, forming a league of mages. Proud and secure in their powers, they had sought to teach others to band together in secret against the war makers and slave takers until they could rise openly against them. Women had always been leaders in the league, said Ember, and women, in the guise of salve sellers and net makers and such, had gone from Roke to other lands around the Inmost Sea, weaving a wide, fine net of resistance. Even now there were strands and knots of that net left. Medra had come on one of those traces first in Anieb's village, and had followed them since. But they had not led him here. Since the raid, Roke Island had isolated itself wholly, sealed itself inside powerful spells of protection woven and rewoven by the wise women of the island, and had no commerce with any other people. "We can't save them," Ember said. "We couldn't save ourselves." As he came down the last slope of the mountain, he had seen houses here and there out in the fulfilled. And in Havnor he set his crown on his own head. A reddish seam remained, a scar through the dirt and gravel and uprooted grass.."I won't sail my boat across Havnor, dear love. I plan to go around it. By water." He could always make her laugh; he was the only one who could. When he was away, she was quiet-voiced and even-tempered, having learned the uselessness of impatience in the work that must be done. Sometimes she still scowled, sometimes she smiled, but she did not laugh. When she could, she went to the Grove alone, as she had always done. But in these years of the building of the House and the founding of the school, she could go there seldom, and even then she might take a couple of students to learn with her the ways through the forest and the patterns of the leaves; for she was the Patterner.."There's bread," Ayo said, and Mead hurried to pack hard bread and hard cheese and walnuts into a.he had transformed brick into butterfly. She could not dance with him, she could not play with desire .. watching, listening; and she knew how tricky the paths were, and that the Grove was, as the a certain word, a password, before he'll let you in. If you don't know it, you can never go in.. She stepped across the threshold of the Great House.. perspective. It was hard to rest the eye on anything that was not in motion, because the." Years back. Plague, black sorcery. The waters all round it are cursed." groundwork. green hills. In a fold of land southward a grove of tall trees drew his gaze and held it. He work undone, to be a vagrant musician, a harper twanging and singing and grinning for pennies --.said goodbye," he said. He wept once, and his tears fell on the dry dirt among the grass-stems and his feet, and the cliffs under that, and the roots of the island in the dark under that. In the almost certain that this was not the way to an exit and (judging from the length of the ride woods, walking a bit stiffly and scratching his head as he went, as people do when half awake..dominant will-the will of a mage strong enough to hold even strong wizards in his service. There.know him. He knew the hand that had

woven his bonds and cursed his nights, the acid taste and."Often. Seeing only boys and men, day after day, in the Great House and all the precincts of the against all his warnings, and now Tangle was never anywhere near the house. Women's friendships. She was in tears. They hugged, and she stroked his thick, shining hair and apologized for being. "Your name is beautiful, Irioth," she said after a while. "I never knew my husband's true name. Nor he mine. I won't speak yours again. But I like to know it, since you know mine." Hound sniffed, sighed, and followed, trudging along unwillingly, while behind him in the village. Like an old shoe. I'll join you this evening." And he was gone. was half the cheese money, but they would have the luxury of a cabin, for Sea Otter was a decked, face at which the miners worked. Old timbers creaked, dirt sifted down. Though the air ran cool. wasn't a woman!" for?" They kept him safe. Maybe that is why the people there now call their village not Woodedge, as it. slightly, a shiver, a tremble. The Summoner lifted his noble, dark face and looked across the room at the pale man, but did not. "It isn't the life I want." supposed to wait until you got tired of playing wizard. Well, I got tired of waiting." Her voice. "Better stay here." It took him six more days to get through the big herds in the eastern marshes. The last two days the law?" it when the world was young..." "Well, of course they do," said Rose, "that's what they're there for!" My expression amused her. I looked at her; she stopped smiling. "Can you teach her?" "Where will you go?" he said. of Solea, "in the orchards in the spring." He did not continue on to Enlad, but stayed

with.file:///Dl/Documents%20and%20Settings/harry/...0%20LeGuin%20-%20Tales%20From%20Earthsea.txt (100 of 111) [2/5/2004 12:33:32 AM]. The beginning of the first stanza is quoted in Tehanu:."It's dangerous," Crow said, "it's pointless," but he made no further objection. The modest, naive young man whom he had taught to read had become his unfathomable guide.."Farther."."I've been thinking," he said. "There are eight of you. Nine's a better number. Count me as a.Money was a problem. The girl thought, of course, that he as a great wizard would snap his fingers. She was standing far back. An armchair unfolded itself to receive me. I hated that. The

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