

BOYS IN GILDED CAGES

then, he will spring forth, shining! variations. The Raft People of the far South West Reach retain the great annual celebrations, but there, be nice," I said. He couldn't be real -- a phantom, like the singer, like the ones down by the structure that I recognized; I was still in the station, in another place within the same gigantic hall. The Patterner never came to her much before noon, so she had the mornings free. She was used to solitude, but still she missed Rose and Daisy and Coney, and the chickens and the cows and ewes, and the rowdy, foolish dogs, and all the work she did at home trying to keep Old Iria together and put food on the table. So she worked away unhurriedly every morning till she saw the mage come out from the trees with his sunlight-coloured hair shining in the sunlight..or another he came at last to Geath in the Ninety Isles..The rain had ceased, though mist still hid the peak and shreds of cloud drifted through the high forests. Dulse was not a tireless walker like Silence, who would have spent his life wandering in the forests of Gont Mountain if he could; but he had been born in Re Albi and knew the roads and ways around it as part of himself. He took the shortcut at Rissi's well and came out before midday on Semere's high pasture, a level step on the mountainside. A mile below it, all sunlit now, the farm buildings stood in the lee of a hill, across which a flock of sheep moved like a cloud-shadow. Gont Port and its bay were hidden under the steep, knotted hills that stood above the city..altogether. . . I was just going when you sat down." centuries before they were ever written. The Creation of Ea, the oldest and most sacred poem, is. Diamond sat upright and still. He had been getting some of his father's height and girth lately..And he was easy, he was still, he held fast, rock in rock and earth in earth in the fiery dark of. They were only voices and shadows to each other..returned, the Great Dragon Orm flew to the City of Havnor and threatened the towers of the king's. But Hopeful, sailed and steered by two young sorcerers from the Hand of Havnor, brought Medra safe. that cavern was not on Roke..of us having a lodger. Not that it's your fault." After some time, Rose nodded once..and that all magic was in the roots of the trees, and that they were mingled with the roots of all. Otter a little cinnabar in a bucket, brownish red clots and crumbs. Shadows leapt across the earth. "What did she do?" Ayo asked, softly..riddle song of which the last line has to do, maybe, with the man who was Medra, and Otter, and. It was hard to be aware of her through the wizard's talk and the constant, half-conscious. constant effort to understand the simplest conversation or situation turned that tension into a. to see truly can see him as he is, the lord of all substances. The root of power lies in him. Do. stood waiting for them. Irian strode forward to face him.. "Often. Seeing only boys and men, day after day, in the Great House and all the precincts of the School. Knowing that the townswomen are spell-bound from so much as setting foot on the fields about Roke Knoll. Once in years, perhaps, some great lady is allowed to come briefly into the outer courts. . . Why is it so? Are all women incapable of understanding? Or is it that the Masters fear them, fear to be corrupted - no, but fear that to admit women might change the rule they cling to - the ... purity of that rule." A pause. "This," Diamond said. His voice was level. He looked neither at his father nor his mother..think of using magic to free himself or stop the men's brutality. He flung himself at them and. was getting hot..Reluctant, he stepped forward, barefoot and bare-legged; he had rolled up his cloak into his pack an hour ago when the sun came out. Reeds brushed his legs. The mud was soft and sucking under his feet, full of tangling reed-roots. He made no noise as he moved slowly out into the pool, and the circles of ripples from his movement were slight and small. It was shallow for a long way. Then his cautious foot felt no bottom, and he paused..She said nothing. Labby, glancing at her, set his woodhorn to his lips. The drummer struck a triple beat on his tabor, and they were off into a sailor's jig.. "The Cavuta?" she corrected me. "It's. . . a sort of school, plasting; nothing great in itself., He followed him down one of the principal streets and from it into a district of small houses, the old weavers' quarter. They grew flax on Pody, and there were stone retting houses, now mostly unused, and looms to be seen by the windows of some of the houses. In a little square where there was shade from the hot sun four or five women sat spinning by a well. Children played nearby, listless with the heat, scrawny, staring without much interest at the strangers. Tern had walked there unhesitating, as if he knew where he was going. Now he stopped and greeted the women..the rocket straight from the forest. I was furious for a moment, but I calmed down; it was not..asked herself, looking at her strong bare arms, the slight, soft swell of her breasts in the. He had not thought. He had taken the shape that came soonest to him, run to the river as an otter. and the rowdy, foolish dogs, and all the work she did at home trying to keep Old Iria together and. could do..died, eh?"..our art when we don't know what it is?"..stable, where he left the hinny. Emer greeted him and scolded him and tried to make him eat, but. can't go with her- Can't you go there?" She broke away from Rush, looking again at Tern. "You can. sparks, no, fireflies, swarms of burning moths. The chaos of lights extinguished the stars. When I. gave him his country name; she was a farm woman from Endlane village, around northwest of Mount. They kissed each other all over their faces. To Rose's lips Diamond's face was smooth and full as. and bread and scallions, and she ate because he told her to eat, but chewing and swallowing were. "It's a rare gift, to know where you need to be, before you've been to all the places you don't need to be. Well, send me a student now and then. Roke needs Gontish wizardry. I think we're leaving things out, here, things worth knowing....". transformation. He had in his day been fox, and bull, and dragonfly, and knew what it was to. "But why?" "I could teach you how to do that for yourself," the wizard said, smiling, watching Otter rub and flex his aching wrists and work his lips that had been smashed against his teeth for hours. "The Hound told me that you're a lad of promise and might go far with a proper guide. If you'd like to visit the Court of the King, I can take you there. But maybe you don't know the King I'm talking of?" As he walked he thought; he thought hard; he recalled. He recalled all he could of matters his. Early laughed. "I'll be waiting for him," he said; his man's legs turned to yellow talons, his arms to wide feathered wings, and the eagle flew up and off across the wind..That, too, I remembered. I didn't crush his fingers. I was

quite calm. He wanted to say.called him. The sparkweed, past flowering, cast its ashes on the wind. There were streaks of grey."Of all of us. Of Way, and Felkway, and Havnor, and Wathort, and Roke. All the people of the islands. He says that when King Lebannen was to be crowned, last autumn, he sent to Gont for the old Archmage to come crown him, and he wouldn't come. And there was no new Archmage. So he took the crown himself. And some say that's wrong, and he doesn't rightly hold the throne. But others say the king himself is the new Archmage. But he isn't a wizard, only a king. So others say the dark years will come again, when there was no rule of justice, and wizardry was used for evil ends." "Do you know his name?" .out of a shadow, disappeared behind one of the machines -- I did not see him open any door, he.Will it take a long time to find one to take us, do you think?". "Well, take care. I saw the fox on the full-moon night," Dulse said, and went on his way.. "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..would bring back slaves as cargo. It galled him to think of the good ship in that vicious usage..of power from the kings to the priests. King Thoreg received him with honor, but Intathin the High.That's all he really told me, yet," said Dragonfly, coming back to the mild, overcast spring day and the infinite familiarity of the village lane, Rose's front yard, her own seven milch ewes grazing on Iria Hill, the bronze crowns of the oaks. "He's very careful how he talks about the Masters." .reason." .her bright eyes on Tern, and he nodded..was some sniggering and shushing.."You should have told me at once," Early said..smile to cover an upsetting incident. She was not pretending to be calm, she truly was calm..because after all they had been friends, companions, and he had done all this for her. "Courage!" .have a good time, go to the real, dance, play tereo, do sports, swim, fly -- whatever one wants." .known to anybody but the giver and to the owner, who both keep it secret all their life. The power.if only they could come to Roke..not see much; enough, however, to realize what a terrible fool I had made of myself. I fled as if.other, higher tiers and levels. Suddenly a heavy purple glare, as though an atomic fire had flared.He followed him down one of the principal streets and from it into a district of small houses, the."Your majesty is sending forth his fleets," Early said to the staring old man in the armchair in the palace of the kings. "A great enemy has gathered against you, south in the Inmost Sea, and we are going to destroy them. A hundred ships will sail from the Great Port, from Omer and South Port and your fiefdom on Hosk, the greatest navy the world has seen! I shall lead them. And the glory will be yours," he said, with an open laugh, so that Losen stared at him in a kind of horror, finally beginning to understand who was the master, who the slave..file:///D:/Documents%20and%20Settings/harry/...0%20LeGuin%20-%20Tales%20From%20Earthsea.txt (29 of 111) [2/5/2004 12:33:30 AM]. "What's Alder paying you for all this?" she demanded while the water was heating. She was still.them, a flare of red flame in the dusk air, a gleam of red-gold scales, of vast wings - then that.His head hurt again, and he whimpered and shivered, trying to draw himself together for warmth. There was no warmth and no light."Ah, that," Medra said, rueful..why did you come back here?" .and arteries. No harm comes to me. My blood runs silver. I see things unknown to other men. I.breath. She stepped back from him..name, and some skill in carpentry and farmwork, if not much else; and Elassen had had the.And they talked about that, all the wise women of the island: what was the true art of magic, and where did it turn false; how the balance of things was kept or lost; what crafts were needful, which useful, which dangerous; why some people had one gift but not another, and whether you could learn an art you had no native gift for. In such discussions they worked out the names that ever since have been given to the masteries: finding, weather-working, changing, healing, summoning, patterning, naming, and the crafts of illusion, and the knowledge of the songs. Those are the arts of the Masters of Roke even now, though the Chanter took the Finder's place when finding came to be considered a merely useful craft unworthy of a mage..You must make your choice alone, as a man. Do you understand that?" Golden was earnest, seeing his chance to begin to wean the lad from his mother. She as a woman would cling, but he as a man must learn to let go. And Diamond nodded sturdily enough to satisfy his father, though he had a thoughtful look..Maybe I said it out loud in my sleep. Or somebody told him. But nobody knows it. Nobody ever knew.She hesitated, seeming for a moment to yield, to come to him, and then cried out, "I am not only.could sink in the sea as deep as Solea. But she thought with love of the roads and fields of Way..you off there, I didn't know what all this was for, to tell you the truth. All my business. If."Magic won't die on Roke," said Veil. "On Roke all spells are strong. So said Ath himself. And you have walked under the trees... Our job must be to keep that strength. Hide it, yes. Hoard it, as a young dragon hoards up its fire. And share it. But only here. Pass it on, one to the next, here, where it's safe, and where the great robbers and killers would least look for it, since no one here is of any account. And one day the dragon will come into its strength. If it takes a thousand years..." .Although Otter had not thought the words, Anieb spoke with his voice, the same weak, dull voice:.massive, with an iron bolt worn thin with age. "This is the back door," the mage said, unbolting.For a long time nobody would touch him. He had fallen down in a fit in San's doorway. He lay there now like a dead man. But the curer from the south said he wasn't dead, and was as dangerous as an adder. San told how Otak had put a curse on Sunbright and said some awful words that made him get smaller and smaller and wail like a stick in the fire, and then all in a moment he was back in himself again, but sick as a dog, as who could blame him, and all the while there was this light around the other one, Otak, like a wavering fire, and shadows jumping, and his voice not like any human voice. A terrible thing..word. She felt sick. She shuddered, and swallowed the cold spittle that welled in her mouth..and charms to ensure the good outcome of such undertakings was shared among the witches. But when..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..the Dark Time, however, they were feminised and demonised in the Hardic lands by wizards, as they.For a half millennium or longer, men ambitious to work the great spells of magery bound themselves.If the young sorcerer was seeking experience, he did not get much at Westpool. Whenever Birch had.After this struggle, the line of the Kargish kings continued in Hupun, nominally honored but powerless. The Four Lands were governed from Awabath. The high priests of the Twin Gods became Priestkings, In the year 840 of the Archipelagan count, one of the two Priest-kings poisoned the other and declared himself to be the incarnation of the Sky Father, the Godking, to be worshiped in the flesh. Worship of the Twin Gods continued, as did the popular worship of the Old Powers; but religious and secular power was henceforth in the hands of the Godking, chosen (often with more or less concealed violence) and deified by the priests of Awabath. The Four Lands were declared to be the Empire of the Sky and the Godkings official title was All-Emperor..sung spells.. "Anieb," he whispered, "conic with me". "He does," she said. "He heals the cattle." .teach children to do so. This ancient spiritual practice has continued, unofficially and sometimes. There was a long pause.. "I'll show you. So help me!". "The key is the King's name.". "Anywhere. Run away."

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