

# THE END OF THE WORLD A COMIC FANTASY NOVEL SET IN THE NOT TOO DISTANT

chest -- and his coat filled out and lit up again. . .end to. He was determined now not to win her, but to defeat her. He could not let her defeat him..She backed away from him, terrified..The last beans had got big and coarse on the vines; the cabbages were thriving. Three hens came.sun was in the windows, there was a knock at her open door. Outside was the man she had thought.voice spoke in his mind, stronger and clearer than Gelluk's voice and spells. Through her eyes and.sleep with on a cold night. I'll be glad to pay you, mistress, if two coppers would suit, and my.PEOPLES AND LANGUAGES.Golden owned the mill that cut the oak boards for the ships they built in Havnor South Port and.the other sorcerer, even of the six coppers she had found scattered on the bedcover, which he must.cheek, which she had rubbed with a dirty hand. They moved a little closer so that their breasts.wrong, something amiss. He looks ruined, she thought, a ruined man..Otter's breath was coming hard. Hound put his hand on Otter's hand for a moment, said, "Don't worry," and got to his feet. "Rest easy," he said.."I'll show you some. That's what Gelluk's after. The ore of watermetal. Watermetal eats all the.The poem begins with the best known and most cherished love story in the Archipelago, that of Morred and Elfarran. In the third year of his reign, the young king went south to the largest island of the Archipelago, Havnor, to settle disputes among the city-states there. Returning in his "oarless longship," he came to the island Solea and there saw Elfarran, the Islewoman or Lady of Solea, "in the orchards in the spring." He did not continue on to Enlad, but stayed with Elfarran. To pledge his troth he gave her a silver bracelet or arm ring, the treasure of his family, on which was engraved a unique and powerful True Rune..Ayo closed her hand and opened it palm up, a fleeting sketch of a gesture, of a sign..some kind. This happened so suddenly that I froze..would hear that cough, this time? He smiled at young Rose, and the mother's heart lifted. Surely."He fooled you, young woman. Made a fool of you by trying to make fools of us."..Very slowly they made him understand that one of the women was Anieb's mother, and that he should give Anieb to her to hold. He did so at last, watching to see if she was gentle with his friend and would protect her. Then he followed another woman meekly enough. He put on dry clothing she gave him to put on, and ate a little food she gave him to eat, and lay down on the pallet she led him to, and sobbed in weariness, and slept.."I'm never cold," she said. "It was him."..Gammer's ox-team; he laid the floor and polished it the next day, while the old wizard was up at.She put her hand on his knee. It was the first time she had ever touched him. He endured it, the warmth and weight of her touch that he had wasted so much time wanting..forests. Dulse was not a tireless walker like Silence, who would have spent his life wandering in.Early did not punish Hound for his failure, but he remembered it. He was not used to failures and did not like them. He did not like what Hound told him about this boy, Otter, and he remembered it..have been seven or eight; the mother was a cook at a waterfront inn. At twelve the boy had got.They met in the lane under Iria Hill in the dark of night, long after sunset, long before dawn. Rose made a dim glow of werelight so that they could find their way through the marshy ground around the spring without falling in a sinkhole among the reeds. In the cold darkness under a few stars and the black curve of the hill, they stripped and waded into the shallow water, their feet sinking deep in velvet mud. The witch touched the girl's hand, saying, "I take your name, child. You are no child. You have no name."..Elehal. But when I come back I'll stay. What I need to find I'll find here. Haven't I found it.Diamond's head and sang themselves over and over: knowledge, or-der, and contro-----.....He had made a little heap of bits of eggshell on the ground by his knee. He arranged the white.he said, "what I'll be doing. I wish now I'd thought about it more. Passed it on to you. But it."We knew there was a great gift in her," Ayo said, and then fell silent for a while. "We didn't know how to teach her. There are no teachers left on the mountain. King Losen's wizards destroy the sorcerers and witches. There's no one to turn to."..I was just talking, just to talk, it had no. . ."..He left her at the corner of the street, a narrow, dull, somehow sly-looking street that slanted up between featureless walls to a wooden door in a higher wall. He had put his spell on her, and she looked like a man, though she did not feel like one. She and Ivory took each other in their arms, because after all they had been friends, companions, and he had done all this for her. "Courage!" he said, and let her go. She walked up the street and stood before the door. She looked back then, but he was gone..prison shut. The spells were gone, but the people in the tower did not know it, working on under.the topmost room. Gelluk said to the single slave crouching at the rim of the shaft, "Show me the.thin woodlands towards the foothills that hid Mount Onn from the lowlands of Samory..none of that was new to Irian. She found a bald broom and swept out a bit. She unrolled her.He spent the whole afternoon in confusion, angry. When Ember came out of the Grove to her leafy bower upstream, he went there, carrying Veil's basket as an excuse. "May I talk to you?" he said..I avoided those insect arms stretched out to serve me, loaded with delicacies, which I.He knew that, knew it absolutely, though still he tried to say spells, and raised his arms in the.of Havnor had been burnt to the ground. The king's wizards had spell-caught and killed several.highly strung, and worn out, having walked forty miles in sixteen hours without food..She nodded shortly, frowning her black brows..He had given her a little warmth when she was cold. He had nothing else to give her. Where she.sound. She adjusted the back of it, gave me a smile, and left. I sat down. The cushions were.the limited habitable land available to them. Famine is unknown and poverty seldom acute..was a behavior pattern characteristic of a stalwart such as myself, assigned an appropriate serial."Oh, pretty man," said one of them with a smile, "don't even show us what you have in your pack there, for I haven't a penny of copper or ivory, nor seen one for a month."..killed the people who worked in the tower. Otter had never entered it nor seen Licky enter it. He.circumstances. Most of the True Runes are found only in ancient texts and lore-books, and used.chests and clothes-presses against an infestation of moths, he said, "Seems like you'd have your.She looked up at him, her sharp, strong face softened by the shadowy lantern-light. "If it was.grew immensely wealthy..We have inhabited both the actual and the imaginary

realms for a long time. But we don't live in. Listening to him, Medra thought of how he and Anieb had walked in the dark and rain by the faint, heavier and the eyes were melancholy..frightened..register but dark-toned, and held to an even quietness, contained, restrained. She perched on a. At that the Summoner ran up towards her, reaching out, lunging at her as if to seize and hold her. They were both on the hill now. She towered above him impossibly, fire breaking forth between them, a flare of red flame in the dusk air, a gleam of red-gold scales, of vast wings - then that was gone, and there was nothing there but the woman standing on the hill path and the tall man bowing down before her, bowing slowly down to earth, and lying on it..He had not planned or intended any such adventure, but crazy as it was, it suited him better the more he thought about it. The prospect of spending the long grey winter at Westpool sank his spirits like a stone. There was nothing here for him except the girl Dragonfly, who had come to fill his thoughts. Her massive, innocent strength had defeated him absolutely so far, but he did what she pleased in order to have her do at last what he pleased, and the game, he thought, was worth playing. If she ran away with him, the game was as good as won. As for the joke of it, the notion of actually getting her into the School on Roke disguised as a man, there was little chance of pulling it off, but it pleased him as a gesture of disrespect to all the piety and pomposity of the Masters and their toadies. And if somehow it succeeded, if he could actually get a woman through that door, even for a moment, what a sweet revenge it would be!.Not much mixing of the Kargish and Archipelagan skin-color types has taken place except on Osskil, since the North Reach is isolated and thinly populated, and the Kargad people have held themselves apart from and often in enmity towards the Archipelagans for two or three millennia..decent shirt and breeches, at his suggestion, so as to look a more probable candidate for the."Is it true I do harm being here?".He knew now, from Elehal and others on Roke, what that wall was. It lay between the living and the dead. And in that vision, Anieb had walked on this side of it, not on the side that went down into the dark..when he was seven or eight he had lost the hang of it and never could do it again.. "A summoner grows used to bidding spirits and shadows to come at his will and go at his word..with women, only women. It did not appear to me to be a powder room, but I had no way of.the bucket. What do you do when you aren't working?".ledge covered with weakly fragrant flowers, as if we had reached the terrace or balcony of a dark.cling to - the ... purity of that rule.. "If I went away -" She saw him shake his head. "I could go to the Namer -".better! But drink your soup first, and let me sit down to hear..."file:///D:/Documents%20and%20Settings/harry/D...%20LeGuin%20-%20Tales%20From%20Earthsea.txt (5 of 111) [2/5/2004 12:33:30 AM].routing out his heavy cloak, setting water to boil on the small fire he had lighted earlier, he.green hill. He woke with the vision still clear in his mind, knowing he had seen it ten years."Where am I, donkey?" he said to it. "How do I get to the town I saw?".Berry went and fetched his sister, after he had heard Sunbright's tale at the tavern, and San's version of it, and several other versions already current. In the best of them, Otak had towered up ten feet tall and struck Sunbright into a lump of coal with lightning, before foaming at the mouth, turning blue, and collapsing in a heap..there. Now come with me," he said to Irian.. "You have been a witch, Irian?".gazing up at the white, soft fire of the stars..there was no wound. Gagged and bound, without his voice and hands to work magic, he could do.commerce with any other people. "We can't save them," Ember said. "We couldn't save ourselves..Where the two paths met and joined to wind up to the heights of the Knoll, Thorion stopped and stood waiting for them. Irian strode forward to face him..lightly, she filled me a cup to the brim with a liquid that looked exactly like milk.. "Why are we wasting time here?" he demanded, as Tern let the bucket down into the well. "Are you fetching and carrying for witches now?".and grew more awake. The excited turmoil of his mind all the time he had been with Gelluk slowly.thin, with a sullen, steady gaze..corners of the walls shone, brightened by streaks of luminous paint. In the darkest place the girl.with an attenuated bluish light -- elevators. The one I approached was already on its way up;.comes by chance. All any of us knows is how it seems to us. There are names behind names, my Lord.The Patterner pushed four pebbles into a little curve on the sand and said, "I wish the.The old Namer came forward and said to the woman on the hill, "Who are you?".Kings, lords, and Islemen charged with defending the islands of the Archipelago came to rely.she said..Enlad: "Not till you'd come to Oraby, a ten-twelve miles on south." She considered only briefly. "If you need a room for the night, I have one. Or San might, if you're going to the village..He was grateful to see Kurremkarmerruk coming slowly down the bank of the Thwilburn from the.me, from out of my chest -- came a shrill cry:.earth in his hands, rolled the dirt in his palms, kneading, testing, tasting it. For that time he.Maharion's mage-counselor and inseparable friend was a commoner and "fatherless man," a village witch's son from inland Havnor. The most beloved hero of the Archipelago, his story is told in The Deed of Erreth-Akbe, which bards sing at the Long Dance of midsummer..I practically fled. It was no window. A television screen. I quickened my pace. I was.monster emptying its lungs of air, the light reappeared, the girl pushed open the door. A real."Where?" he whispered, and then said the word aloud in the language all things understand that have no other language..distrust him. What did it matter if he was mad? He was gentle, and might have been wise once,.went to the pretty hinny and talked to her, calling her his dear, comforting her so that she would."On the polyduct," said the man. "Which is your switch?".All the rumors of Roke had said that it was spell-defended and charm-hidden, invisible to ordinary.gleamed below, on either side opened passageways in buildings; beneath a tree with blue leaves -.At the sides of our ramp appeared whirling green circles, like neon rings suspended in.Otter knew that a moment was coming when he might get free of Gelluk: of that he had been sure.by mere luck I didn't go wrong. And by Anieb's gift of strength to me. But for her I'd be Gelluk's.his hand, and rule with his guidance, as Morred ruled. No witches will defile sacred ground. No.image of Anieb as he had first seen her, a dying woman standing alone in the tower room, was.again. But he could not get up to walk to the wall, and presently the pain came back very sharp in.ceilings, of those mysterious columns, and was reflected by the silver surfaces; it bled into every.palace with fire..when he was down on the docks thinking of her, he was alive. He never felt entirely alive in.dragons

and humans, but this may be because the poem in its presumed original form, in the. Otter nodded.. "I've often wondered why I let the boy in," said the Doorkeeper. "Now I begin to understand,". memory, which is a form of imagination. The event is real now, but once it's then, its continuing, gone a little mad. This brit. . . well, it's like handcuffing everyone because someone might turn." "There are. Where are you from?" "How do you know?" she whispered.. dispersed, then joined again into streams, so that a luminous blood seemed to course within the. "I should sap? Sap yourself!" .file:///D:/Documents%20and%20Settings/harry/...0%20LeGuin%20-%20Tales%20From%20Earthsea.txt (101 of 111) [2/5/2004 12:33:32 AM]. that he thought about his pupil, and not until he had eaten supper alone that he admitted that. he must remember to control more strictly. Father and son, that's what he and Otter could be. He. The original loose, roughly descriptive use of the words witch, sorcerer, wizard, was codified into a strict hierarchy by Halkel. Under his rules: .work and talk.. It was utterly still.. "The Master said that such gifts or capacities, untrained, are not only wasted, but may be. "There was," I said glumly. There might not have been. Sure! I could have climbed into. training in the art magic, especially in naming, summoning, and patterning, and so become a. "The young men come to me and they say, "What good is it? Can you find gold?" they say. "Can you. his true name, by which he is remembered in islands far from Havnor.. before the staggers begin. And those not struck yet, he says he can keep it off em. So the. suitably trained. Have no fear, my son. I know why you led my servants only to the little lode.. After a long time, she came back to the sunlight and the stableyard and her thoughts and puzzles. "But even if he's gone," she said, "surely some of the Masters are truly wise?" .Hand had already stretched out to other islands all around the Inmost Sea. As the Women of the

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