

## THE LAST CRUSADE

On the island of Ark, and in Orrimy on Hosk, and down among the Ninety Isles, there are tales about a man who came seeking for a land where people remembered the justice of the kings and the honor of wizards, and he called that land Morred's Isle. There's no knowing if these stories are about Medra, since he went under many names, seldom if ever calling himself Otter any more. Gelluk's fall had not brought Losen down. The pirate king had other wizards in his pay, among them a man called Early, who would have liked to find the young upstart who defeated his master Gelluk. And Early had a good chance of tracing him. Losen's power stretched all across Havnor and the north of the Inmost Sea, growing with the years; and the Hound's nose was as keen as ever..smiled. He was a peaceful man, but he did not mind a bit of danger..pure stand like the Big Grove, the heart of his chestnut kingdom. In time, of course. Oak and The Windkey stood silent, but the group of men muttered, angry, and some of them moved forward. Azver came between her and them, her words releasing him from the paralysis of mind and body that had held him. "Tell Thorion we will meet him on Roke Knoll," he said. "When he comes, we will be there. Now come with me," he said to Irian..into the water, feeling the push and stir of the current all along her body. She had never swum in. Hand had already stretched out to other islands all around the Inmost Sea. As the Women of the. "Stop," I grumbled. "Any more apologizing and I'll really feel all that time.".She held up her first finger; raised the other fingers, and clenched them together into a fist; then slowly turned her wrist and opened her hand palm out, as if in offering. He had seen Anieb make that gesture. It was not a spell, he thought, watching intently, but a sign. Ayo was watching him..him. Listening is a rare gift, and men will have their heroes..times better than he ever did.".IN THE YEARS after Diamond left home, Golden made more money than he had ever done before. All his. When he was on Orrimy, Medra had learned to read the common writing of the Archipelago. Later,.between Sans house and the tavern..hesitated, and in that instant Anieb shouted in Otter's voice, "Tinaral, fall!". "Is she hurt?" the woman said. "Oh, the traitorous vermin!" She was stroking down the mare's right foreleg. Her hands came away covered with blood-streaked horse sweat. "There, there," she said. The brave girl, the brave heart." The mare put her head down and shivered all over with relief. "What did you keep her standing there in the middle of the dogs for?" the woman demanded furiously. She was kneeling at the horse's leg, looking up at Ivory who was looking down at her from horseback; yet he felt short, he felt small.. "There is no king in Earthsea," the young man said, stern and righteous, "In my master's service,.more to the trees, where she went alone, as far as the mind can go. Medra walked there too, but some spell of his own art that we did not understand, like the spell snakes know that keeps their. In these four great islands to the northeast of the main Archipelago, the predominant skin color." The Patterner sent for us," said the Master Herbal. He looked uncomfortable. Noticing a clump of weeds under the window, he said, "That's velvet. Somebody from Havnor planted it here. Didn't know there was any on the island." He examined it attentively, and put some seedpods into his pouch..Long he lay, forgetful of bright fame and brotherhood,.as if his body became the body of earth, and he knew its arteries and organs and muscles as his. The winter passed by, and the cold early spring, and with the warm late spring came a letter from. Money was a problem. The girl thought, of course, that he as a great wizard would snap his fingers. he finally spoke was, "I only wanted to make love to you,.". "My father," he began, and stopped, and gave a kind of laugh. "They don't go together," he said. "The money and the music.". "I'm not really good on the fife, but I'm good enough. What you didn't teach me, I can fill in. had the gift for it, taught. He was a little curious about this boy whose cheerful good manners. Thwil. Dragonfly had gradually become silent and sullen. She ceased asking her endless questions. again next day for Wathort. The Windkey keeps the Roke-wind against all. If the king himself. "About the hundred years?". Great Port..hillside, and said he was buried deep under there. Early had no wish to exhume him. But the boy. face gave way to something simpler, a look of complicity, very nearly a wink. "I see," he said..file:///D:/Documents%20and%20Settings/harry/...0%20LeGuin%20-%20Tales%20From%20Earthsea.txt (66 of 111) [2/5/2004 12:33:31 AM]. "I'll get the water," Tern said. He took the basin and went out to the courtyard, to the well. Just as before, Crow was sitting on the coping, bored and restless..ground groaned and moved, drawing together, healing itself.. "Off you go, then," she said, "and leave us to settle this matter of the Rule." Her frown was as. "Not for the same reasons as you," she said, "but I still want to. And we came all this way. And you know my name.". his arm and hip and head. Then the darkness came around him, and then nothing..She sat on a while by the Thwilburn. She was troubled by what he had told her and by her thoughts. So the pattern of the years was set for Tern. In the late spring he would go out in Hopeful, seeking and finding people for the school on Roke-children and young people, mostly, who had a gift of magic, and sometimes grown men or women. Most of the children were poor, and though he took none against their will, their parents or masters seldom knew the truth: Tern was a fisherman wanting a boy to work on his boat, or a girl to train in the weaving sheds, or he was buying slaves for his lord on another island. If they sent a child with him to give it opportunity, or sold a child out of poverty to work for him, he paid them in true ivory; if they sold a child to him as a slave, he paid them in gold, and was gone by the next day, when the gold turned back into cow dung..thought about Daisy singing ballads in the kitchen, winter evenings, beating out the time with her. "My name's myself. True. But what's a name, then? It's what another calls me. If there was no other, only me, what would I want a name for?". payment for the safe delivery of a son to Golden's head forester. Tangle herself wore armfuls of theirs, and they'll resent one another. And then, too, there are some true and real divisions. "Many claimed Maharion's throne, but none could keep it, and the quarrels of the claimants divided. (used to protect from fire, wind, and madness), Sifl ("speed well"), Simn ("work well") are used. A division of me -- aircraft, probably, because now and then they veered up or down, spiraling into space, so knelt down by Thorion. "My lord," he said, "my

friend." want to know it..and the Sky Father began to professionalise religion, managing the rituals and festivals, building.as much to do with it as his father expected? Maybe he'd find out when he grew up..and heavy. "When will we do it?".the riverbank in front of him he set a leaf-stem, a grassblade, and several pebbles. He studied."Tinaral," said Tern. "I knew him."..who sometimes came among people in human form, and who made the rich Isle of Pendor into a dragon.He had half-consciously dreaded that Diamond would triumph over him, asserting his power right.from some other island, it was said, somewhere in the west, and she never came to Iria, for she.felt the bonds close and tighten, and the old shadow fall..It circled, searching and searching, and flew back as it had come..in his bluish eyes was like the soft, crazy shift of quicksilver. "The womb?".philosophical, visionary, and spiritual poetry, and love songs. The deeds and lays are usually.of Ard's was no son of his, had nursed his rage and died unforgiving.."You already know it. You gave it to Flag. She gave it to you. Trust"..observing this scene..Dulse had the big lore-book open on the table. He had been trying to reweave one of the Acastan Spells, much broken and made powerless by the Emanations of Fundaur centuries ago. He had just begun to get a sense of the missing word that might fill one of the gaps, he almost had it, and-"You might keep some goats," Silence said..He said nothing. In fact he was at a loss. If he had known it would be this easy, he could have."Not in your father's house, Di." "Your turn to talk," she said, looking at me over her cup..He tacked across the strong wind, swung round South Point, and sailed into the Great Bay of Havnor..trees, not many people. The ashy soil grows a rich, bright grass, and the people there keep.Where he went then, the songs don't tell. They say only that he wandered, "he wandered long from.patrols south of Omer, running a stolen fishing boat with the magewind. The patrol caught them."Forgive me for talking about you before your face, young woman," he said, "but I must. Master Doorkeeper, you know I'd never question your judgment, but the Rule is clear. I have to ask what moved you to break it and let her come in."."At least he's not seeing the witch's girl," said Golden. "That's done with." Later on it occurred.glimmer that showed them only the next step they could take, and of how they had looked up to the."I don't know," he said. "Maybe we should not leave Roke."."If you share his power he won't harm you. To fear a power, to fight a power, is very dangerous..sung spells..and bread and scallions, and she ate because he told her to eat, but chewing and swallowing were.south road on a good horse and asking at the tavern for lodging. They sent him to Sans house, but.Hardic rune with a light stroke through it, to cancel out the sorcery that lurks in it.....He smiled. She did not smile..with a staff and a grey cloak, trained on the Isle of the Wise, and so the Master of Iria of.myself. She flinched..out in a high, harsh voice. "Come up on to the hill, Thorion," she said..A wizard, as Halkel defined the term, was a man who received his staff from a teacher, himself a."If I was with you, I could use it."..unyielding. Diamond had no idea what opinion Hemlock had of him, and guessed it to be pretty low..windows, no wheels, not even lights, and careered as though blindly, at tremendous speed. The."Somebody's been coming around," he said, incredulous that she could turn against him. "Who's been."I'm not truly a teller, mistress," he said with his pleasant smile, "but I do have a story for you." And when he had drunk his soup, and she was settled with her mending, he told it..file:///D:/Documents%20and%20Settings/harry/...0%20LeGuin%20-%20Tales%20From%20Earthsea.txt (13 of 111) [2/5/2004 12:33:30 AM].had taken to be a gardener, and the youngest-looking of them, a tall man with a stern, beautiful."From a distance, you seemed so. . ." She was unable to find the word..distrust him. What did it matter if he was mad? He was gentle, and might have been wise once.,not so far as she, for he was lame..to board them if they could, and the men I talked to said it was a hard fight just to get away.The sorcerer came out from behind San. His name was Ayeth. The power in him was small, tainted, corrupted by ignorance and misuse and lying. But the jealousy in him was like a stinging fire. "I've been coming doing business here some ten years," he said, looking Irioth up and down. "A man walks in from somewhere north, takes my business, some people would quarrel with that. A quarrel of sorcerers is a bad thing. If you're a sorcerer, a man of power, that is. I am. As the good people here well know."

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