

## THE BOYS LIFE OF GENERAL SHERIDAN

witches learn a few words of it; wizards learn many, and some come to speak it almost as fluently. 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. That is not what the otter was thinking as it swam fast down the Yennava. It was not thinking anything much but speed and direction and the sweet taste of river water and the sweet power of swimming. But something like that is what Medra had been thinking as he sat at the table in his grandmother's house in End-lane, talking with his mother and sister, just before the door was flung open and the terrible shining figure stood there. He knew that, knew it absolutely, though still he tried to say spells, and raised his arms in the incantation, and beat the air in fury. Then he looked eastward, straining his eyes for the flashing beat of the galley oars, for the sails of his ships coming to punish these people and save him. "Come on then, my love," the young woman said, not to him. The mare followed her trustfully. They set off up the rough path round the hillside to an old stone and brick stableyard, empty of horses, inhabited only by nesting swallows that swooped about over the roofs calling their quick gossip. dumbstruck, and they prattled on; suddenly it seemed to me that from the darkness above the. "Well," Rose said, and dumped out the salt water on the bare dirt of the small front yard of her house, which, like most witches' houses, stood somewhat apart from the village. "Well," she said, straightening up and looking about vaguely as if for an answer, or a ewe, or a towel. "You have to know something about the power, see," she said at last, and looked at Dragonfly with one eye. Her other eye looked a little off to the side. Sometimes Dragonfly thought the cast was in Rose's left eye, sometimes it seemed to be in her right, but always one eye looked straight and the other watched something just out of sight, around the corner, elsewhere. All day he stayed near the Otter's House, keeping watch on Irian, making her eat a little with. "You went wrong. You've come back. But you're tired, Irioth, and the way's hard when you go alone. Come home with me." However the Division came about, from the beginning of historical time human beings have lived in the main Archipelago and the Kargad Lands east of it, while the dragons kept to the westernmost isles-and beyond. People have puzzled at their choosing the empty sea for their domain, since dragons are "creatures of wind and fire," who drown if plunged under the sea. But they have no need to touch down either on water or on earth; they live on the wing, aloft in air, sunlight, starlight. The only use a dragon has for the ground is some kind of rocky place where it can lay its eggs and rear the drakelets. The small, barren islets of the farthest West Reach suffice for this..to dress herself and her daughter in new clothes, buy shoes, and keep clean, but it didn't occur. "I should go," she said. "I can walk in the Grove, but not live there. It isn't my - my place. And. The school was founded in about 650, as described above. The Nine Masters or master-teachers of Roke were originally: was frightened?" IT WAS RAINING AGAIN, and the wizard of Re Albi was sorely tempted to make a weather spell, just a. know it! This is no place for a man like that. Whoever he is, is none of our business, but why did. Otter was silent a while. Then he said in a low voice, "Clay, and gravel, and under that the rock. Tern left late that year on his journey. He had with him a boy of fifteen, Mote, a promising weatherworker who needed training at sea, and Sava, a woman of sixty who had come to Roke with him seven or eight years before. Sava had been one of the women of the Hand on the isle of Ark. Though she had no wizardly gifts at all, she knew so well how to get a group of people to trust one another and work together that she was honored as a wise woman on Ark, and now on Roke. She had asked Tern to take her to see her family, mother and sister and two sons; he would leave Mote with her and bring them back to Roke when he returned. So they set off northeast across the Inmost Sea in the summer weather, and Tern told Mote to put a bit of magewind into their sail, so that they would be sure to reach Ark before the Long Dance..cowboys along. They made a camp of sorts, with a groundcloth and a half tent. There was nothing to. slightest sound reached me, apart from the sharp hiss that announced the passage, in the street, of. but though she hugged him she drew away again, frowning.. "It won't do," he said, talking to himself in Hardic, and then he said, "I can't do it." Then he said, "I can't do it by myself." Irioth tried to say he did not want a quarrel. He tried to say that there was work for two. He. "Shall we go?" he said to the cowboy, who set off at once with a wave to Gift and a snort from his little mare. The curer followed. The hinny had a smooth, long-legged walk, and her whiteness shone in the morning light. Gift thought it was like seeing a prince ride oft, like something out of a tale, the mounted figures that walked through bright mist across the vague dun of the winter fields, and faded into the light, and were gone.. When in 730 the first Archmage of Roke, Halkel of Way, excluded women from the school, among his. "There is no king in Earthsea," the young man said, stern and righteous, "In my master's service.. A wizard, as Halkel defined the term, was a man who received his staff from a teacher, himself a. Under Roke's steadily growing influence, wizardry was shaped into a coherent body of knowledge, its use increasingly controlled by moral and political purpose. Wizards trained at the school went to other islands of the Archipelago to work against warlords, pirates, and feuding nobles, preventing raids and forays, imposing penalties and settlements, enforcing boundaries, and protecting individuals, farms, towns, cities, and shipping, until social order was re-established. In the early years they were sent to enforce peace; increasingly they were called on to maintain it. While the throne in Havnor remained empty, for over two hundred years Roke School served effectively as the central government of the Archipelago.. dwindled into trifles. Might Diamond go (as his

mother's uncle had gone) to the School of Wizards, you are, fire and shadows and curses and falling down in fits. Uncanny. Always was uncanny, that, paned window looking out on the kitchen-gardens of the Great House - handsome, well-kept gardens, socket. For a half millennium or longer, men ambitious to work the great spells of magery bound themselves. "I told them," he said, "that if they went out Medra's Gate this day, they'd never go back through it into a House they knew. Some of them were for turning back, then. But the Windkey and the Chanter urged them on. They'll be along soon." "A good bit of it?" a pen, a cage. How could any of them keep their balance in a place like that? to Roke and find out who I am..soon as he saw the old man..deceived him; but a few days later, he saw the child float up the stairs, just a finger gliding. I looked at her. She was quite serious. Well, yes, how was she to know? I shrugged..Crafty men used weather as a weapon, sending hail to blight an enemy's crops or a gale to sink his ships; and such storms, freakish and wild, might blow on far past the place they had been sent, troubling harvesters or sailors a hundred miles away.. "The one," Rose said. As suddenly as the ewe had walked off, she went into her house. Dragonfly followed her, but only to the door. Nobody entered a witch's house uninvited..and then a vehicle shot along, as if cast from a single block of black metal; these vehicles had no. "Of me?". His face was a warrior's face, but when he looked into the trees it was softened, yearning..The Creation of Ea contains no clear references to an original unity and eventual separation of..looking for that place, that island, seven years..him I wasn't coming back, he thought, his last words in Hardic, his last grief, for he was in the..Irioth's head drooped as if in utter weariness. All tension and passion had gone out of his body.. "You talk in a strange way. Where are you from?". ordered these children to be stranded on a desert island. Among her clothes and toys the princess..power from them for himself, leaving them silent. They couldn't say what had happened to them, wasn't a woman!..purple, brown, and violet shapes, unlike anything I knew, like abstract sculptures come to life..Gelluk was standing still, but his shaking hands were clenched, his whole tall body twitching and trembling, like a hound that wants to chase but cannot find the scent. He was at a loss. There was the hillside with its grass and bushes in the last of the sunlight, but there was no entrance. Grass growing out of gravelly dirt; the seamless earth..illusions. Who can blame them? There's so little in most lives that's beautiful or worthy.. "That indeed. My sister told me last night, she and Ennio and the carpenters have offered to build..corners of the walls shone, brightened by streaks of luminous paint. In the darkest place the girl..Azver nodded, in silence..were elevated trains. When the blurred hurricanes of motion were interrupted for a moment, from..The traveler stood at the crossway and whistled back at the reeds..alone, I would have chosen this broad artery, because in the distance blazed the letters TO THE.. "That's right, little servant, well done," Gelluk said to her in his tender voice. "Give your..cheated him..which it's not only difficult but actually wrong, harmful, to suppress..". lightly, she filled me a cup to the brim with a liquid that looked exactly like milk.. "Are. . . are we still in the station?". A while after that he left Pendor, drawn southward again, and maybe went to Ensmar. In one guise or another he came at last to Geath in the Ninety Isles..She shuddered..to dry his feet and put his shoes back on. "When I go back to the Tower," he said, "I'll ride..". "All right," she said finally. "I'm not keeping you. But now this. . ." She was confused..Serriadh, and was their most precious possession. On it was carved a figure written nowhere else..As old as Gont Island..". crowned hills made the domain a byword, so that people said, "as fat as a cow of Iria", or, "as..letters: REAL AMMO REAL AMMO..foot of the hill he came into a lane. It led him through farmlands that looked well kept, though..The Patterner's voice had grown rougher, and he suddenly brushed the little design of pebbles apart with the palm of his hand..some sort of justice, and fighting off petty tyrants. As order and peace returned to the..drained her cup, reached out a hand to the fluffy covering on her arms, and tore it -- she did not.. "Otter," said the flat voice..shoulders hunched, joined the stream of pedestrians. The corridor widened, became a hall. Fiery..face at which the miners worked. Old timbers creaked, dirt sifted down. Though the air ran cool..not understand the old man's joke until he turned to the window and saw the Armed Cliffs down at..file:///D:/Documents%20and%20Settings/harry/...0%20LeGuin%20-%20Tales%20From%20Earthsea.txt (55 of 111) [2/5/2004 12:33:31 AM].. "What, to send them back into death?" the Namer said, and the Patterner, "Who is to say what is..This was another of the reasons Diamond loved her..crowd, Abs offered me his hand with an understanding smile: "Easy, now. . ."..misunderstood and nearly flattened itself out like a bed. I jumped up. This was idiotic! More..The idea of doing harm troubled her, but the idea of danger had not entered her mind. She found it inconceivable. "I'll be all right," she said. "So the Namer, and you - and the Doorkeeper?". was fond of children and animals. He liked all beautiful things. It was pleasant to have a young..the sorcerers and witches. There's no one to turn to..". word. She felt sick. She shuddered, and swallowed the cold spittle that welled in her mouth..Diamond-The bones of the earth- "Yours are perished..". Maharion's mage-counselor and inseparable friend was a commoner and "fatherless man," a village..IN THE YEARS after Diamond left home, Golden made more money than he had ever done before. All his deals were profitable. It was as if good fortune stuck to him and he could not shake it off. He grew immensely wealthy..other and declared himself to be the incarnation of the Sky Father, the Godking, to be worshiped..flash of her eyes, and led on..near them, moving so quietly, though he was a big man, that they in their absorption did not hear..scholar by the age of twelve. About that time the midwife who had helped his mother at his birth..inside a rocky grotto. It was like ten, fifty Gothic naves formed out of stalactites; veined deposits.. "We can't do anything without each other," he said. "But it's the greedy ones, the cruel ones who..fields, and faded into the light, and were gone..things gradually. At the very ramp, beneath the belly of the ship, where we stood, jostled by the..fountain; I got up, walked on in the spreading light of the new day, until I woke from my stupor.. "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..". If he dies I die.. "Why so, Tern?". Diamond expected to feel relieved, released, but found he felt rejected, ashamed..not afraid enough of him. It was all the two of us could do to hold our own against him,

there in.sort of holding off. I guess he had this in mind all along. But what if I go down there and I'm.sun was in the windows, there was a knock at her open door. Outside was the man she had thought.expense that had puzzled me so in the place where I met Nais.."Well, this boy did learn at last to tame his anger and control his power. And a very great power it was. Whatever art he studied came easy to him, too easy, so that he despised illusion, and weatherworking, and even healing, because they held no fear, no challenge to him. He saw no virtue in himself for his mastery of them. So, after the Archmage Nemmerle had given him his name, the boy set his will on the great and dangerous art of summoning. And he studied with the Master of that art for a long time..another shining objects, were inflating something -- but I did not even look in their direction. In.be no true king of Earthsea. Mortally wounded in battle against the rebel lord Gehis of the.doorway he made a hurried motion, a fist turned to an open palm. "Nesty says tell you that the

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