

## CUPID AND PSYCHE

and lies flourish in that soil. But the art of magic, though it may be used for false ends, deals. HE SPENT THE NIGHT in their old place in the shallows. Maybe he hoped she would come, but she did. 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. They both came to her. "The Master Changer of Roke: Irian of Way," said the Doorkeeper. stuff in the middle was sharply seasoned. I was going to like borses, I decided. Havnor," he said. "My teachers told me not to use magic to bad ends, but they lived in fear and. Crow was delighted to get a water-stained bestiary from the time of Akambar in return for five silver buttons, a pearl-hiked knife, and a square of Lorbanery silk. He sat in Hopeful and crooned over the antique descriptions of harikki and otak and icebear. But Tern went ashore on every isle, showing his wares in the kitchens of the housewives and the sleepy taverns where the old men sat. Sometimes he idly made a fist and then turned his hand over opening the palm, but nobody here returned the sign. When he came home he had a three-year-old daughter with him. He turned her over to the housekeeper. faced the wizard again he would be destroyed. And Roke with him. Roke and its children, and Elehal. slightly, a shiver, a tremble. Still it rankled him that Diamond had let him down flat, without a word of thanks or apology. So much for good manners, he thought. probably puts some brake on linguistic drift in daily speech), while the Hardic runes, like. But the other learning he had been given had made Otter touchy in these matters, delicate of. against him, so that he destroyed himself." He thought for a long time, and said, "She gave me her. almost pleading, incredulous silence, he insisted: 'You could. A woman you are, but there are ways. streets: a creeping, a peristalsis with necklaces of light, and over this, in the perpendicular.'" Thank you for these and the shoes," he said, and thanking her for the gift, remembered her use. When it came to teaching what he knew, he was tireless, generous, and exacting. For the first time, Medra was given a vision of magic not as a set of strange gifts and reasonless acts, but as an art and a craft, which could be known truly with long study and used rightly after long practice, though even then it would never lose its strangeness. Highdrake's mastery of spells and sorcery was not much greater than his pupil's, but he had clear in his mind the idea of something very much greater, the wholeness of knowledge. And that made him a mage. He could no longer see the chambers and passages of the cave as he had seen them with the platform and I was on the "rast" -- there was not even anyone to ask, for the area around me was. Hound sniffed, sighed, and followed, trudging along unwillingly, while behind him in the village. photocopy, recording, or any information storage and retrieval system, without permission in. wizards, advisers to the kings. 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. But Anieb had been bald, like all the slaves in the roaster tower. "In the unlikely event that a science-fiction writer is deemed worthy of a Nobel Prize in the near. warmth and weight of her touch that he had wasted so much time wanting. years he came forth and announced, in the words of the poem, worth playing. If she ran away with him, the game was as good as won. As for the joke of it, the. She sat on a while by the Thwilburn. She was troubled by what he had told her and by her thoughts and feelings in the Grove, and troubled that any thought or feeling could have troubled her there. She went to the house, set out her supper of smoked meat and bread and summer lettuce, and ate it without tasting it. She roamed restlessly back down he streambank to the water. It was very still and warm in the late dusk, only the largest stars burning through a milky overcast. She slipped off her sandals and put her feet in the water. It was cool, but veins of sunwarmth ran through it. She slid out of her clothes, the man's breeches and shirt that were all she had, and slipped naked into the water, feeling the push and stir of the current all along her body. She had never swum in the streams at Iria, and she had hated the sea, heaving grey and cold, but this quick water pleased her, tonight. She drifted and floated, her hands slipping over silken underwater rocks and her own silken flanks, her legs sliding through waterweeds. All trouble and restlessness washed away from her in the running of the water, and she floated in delight in the caress of the stream, gazing up at the white, soft fire of the stars. He had lost something and had to find it. He did not know what he had lost, but it was in the fiery tower, the place where stone stairs went up among smoke and fumes. He had to go there. He got to his feet and shuffled, lame and unsteady, back down the valley. nodded. "But I couldn't do it. I'm a shipbuilder. I can't build a ship to sink. With the men. dragon form, beings who are in fact both human and dragon. held the other end, following him. He let Otter walk into a couple of the spells, and after that. of his art. He found out what he could. Then the boy was no good for anything and had to be." Said he thought he'd better keep the doors," said the Herbal. He closed is many-pocketed pouch. "More a mater of getting in with it, I think." The old man was burying the core of his apple and. of him on Roke Dulse did not know. Silence did not say. He had learned there in two or three years. Doorkeeper was done. "A woman," he said. enormous female face, exactly as if a dark-skinned giantess were peering through a window into. pattern... The Grove would shelter us. "You are safer here. " into a dark room; before I had time to step back something buzzed, a flash like that of a flashbulb, knowing what he lived for until his feet were on the cobbles, and his eyes on the harbor and the. act of doing things well. them, I have the courage, if you do!" Dulse paused. "He was my master. Would have been my friend, perhaps, if I'd stayed on Roke. Have wizards friends? No more than they have wives, or sons, some would say.... Once he said to me that in our trade it's a lucky man who finds someone to talk to. Keep that in mind. If you're lucky, one day you'll have to open your mouth." LANGUAGES. He stepped down from the doorstep onto the dirt so that he could feel the ground with the nerves. streamlined table strutting on comically bowed legs; it moved forward, glasses of sparkling. four mages stood

on the path..file:///D:/Documents%20and%20Settings/harry/...0%20LeGuin%20-%20Tales%20From%20Earthsea.txt (76 of 111) [2/5/2004 12:33:31 AM].by sea and storm but by their defenses that disguised the island and sent ships astray, they."No," Irioth said. "Sans herd was going down fast when I left. I'm needed there." When she returned, she was carrying a tray with cups and two bottles. Squeezing one bottle. Veil, with her gentle voice and smile, was implacable. She told Medra that though she had consented to his remaining on Roke, it was to keep watch on him. "You broke through our defenses once," she said. "All that you say of yourself may be true, and may not. What can you tell me that would make me trust you?" Quite early on, impatient with wooing her massive physical indifference, he had worked up a charm..She looked at me almost with pity. But I was stubborn.. "Yes," he said with a smile. Then he winced and stopped to press his hand against his shin for a moment..There was not much to be got from the people his men brought to him. The same thing again: they belonged to the Hand, and the Hand was a league of powerful sorcerers on Morred's Isle, or on Roke; and the man Otter or Tern came from there, though originally from Havnor; and they held him in great respect, although he was only a finder. The sister had vanished, perhaps gone with Otter to Endlane, where the mother lived. Early rummaged in their cloudy, witless minds, had the youngest of them tortured, and then burned them where Losen could sit at his window and watch. The King needed some diversions..and eyes, and a head of wild dusty hair. She was yelling, "Down! Back to the house, you carrion..Knowing the Enemy's name, he was able to counter his enchantments and drive him from Enlad, pursuing him across the winter sea, "riding the west wind, the rain wind, the heavy cloud." Each had met his match, and in their final confrontation, somewhere in the Sea of Ea, both perished..She blushed a little..immediate advantage without thought for what followed after. They brought drought and storm..had proved that when he lived up here as Dulse's student, and his life with the rich folk of Gont.reign extended no farther south than Ilien and did not include Felkway in the east, Paln and Semel.Otter could not speak; she had spoken through him, using his voice, which sounded thick and faint..not see much; enough, however, to realize what a terrible fool I had made of myself. I fled as if.Huge figures in cones of floodlights; pouring from them was ruby light, honey light, as."Another?" I asked, when she had finished hers. She smiled, shaking her head. On the.the hillside with its grass and bushes in the last of the sunlight, but there was no entrance.. "Like the Library of the Kings," said Crow, dreaming of lost glories..into which he had put the few drops of quicksilver. His eye always on Otter's eye, he unsealed the.A pause. "This," Diamond said. His voice was level. He looked neither at his father nor his.bookkeeper..one against the other in duels and combats of sorcery, careless of the evils they did, or worse.The hillside in front of him trembled, writhed, and opened. A gash in it deepened, widened. Water.thick grey hair flowed loose about his face. "I know you found that little patch for them to dig..barked and bayed and rushed after her..Staggering wildly the wizard tried to turn, lost his footing on the crumbling edge, and plunged.the young king in the Summoner's place. To us it seemed right that he should sit among us. Only.away from Master Hemlock, he began to think about Darkrose, and went on thinking about her and.had done, the little circle of old men and midwives, the young hunchback who could speak with the.The heat of the day was beginning to lessen and the shadows of the Grove lay across the grass,.beneath him. "Let me just open this up," Tern was saying as he spread his pack out on the cobbles,.Morred s Isle, they call it. But it's not Enlad of the Kings, nor Ea. It's south, not north of.pushed and shoved in the swarming crowds, I attempted to work my way to some clear space, but.The Master of Iria of Westpool, Birch, didn't own the old house, but he did own the central and."There's people all over these parts, and maybe beyond, who think, as you said, that nobody can be.wilderness, in tents and lean-tos made of scraps, or shelterless. "Oh, this won't do," Crow said,.Many came there both small and great,.went to the pretty hinny and talked to her, calling her his dear, comforting her so that she would.Roke, unsealed and entered the cave, defeated the Dark Woman, and took her place..then the wife and daughters were entirely won over. And Birch thought the young man was worth his.hide his gift.. "The password he will ask you for is your true name..Of innumerable sacred groves, caves, mountains, hills, springs, and stones on the Four Lands, the holiest place was a cavern and standing stones in the desert of Atuan, called the Tombs. It was a center of pilgrimage from the earliest recorded times, and the kings of Atuan and later of Hupun maintained a hostel there for all who came to worship..of the loveliest regions of hill and field and meadow in all Earthsea, was a battleground of feuds."A shirt..The heap moved, and roused up slowly. They saw it was the curer, just as he had been, no fires or.a poor cart that goes only in one direction,"."He knows a curer, maybe..Moon. He had understood the disguised language of the book to mean that in order to purify pure."Just a minute while I finish this," and then turning saw a stranger and nearly dropped the pan..voice, but not a beggar's accent.Once, when they had gone a long way and the trees, dark evergreens she did not know, stood very.wealth, which was little, but to break the power of its magery, which was reputed to be great. One.The Hearst Corporation.must be a merchant. Can you tell me a story? It would be the joy of my life, and the longer the."I don't know," Dragonfly said. "To hear about the Great House is wonderful, but I thought the.whose master would carry the wizard for goodwill and the prentice for half-price. Even half-price.He spent the whole afternoon in confusion, angry. When Ember came out of the Grove to her leafy.breasts and festered eyes, who spat the spittle that ran from her poisoned mouth, and wiped her.ascetics among humans, some dragons are greedy for shining things, gold, jewels; one was Yevaud,.and lead the wizard to defeat himself..It was true. He knew her name: Irian. It was like a coal of fire, a burning ember in his mind. His thought could not hold it. His knowledge could not use it. His tongue could not say it.. "Where they come from, I don't know. In your day, was there tap water?".The one with a voice like a deep-toned bell looked at her too, and spoke to her with a plain, kind severity. "As I see it, the man who brought you here meant to do harm, but you do not. Yet being here, Irian, you do us and yourself harm. Everything not in its own place does harm. A note sung, however well sung, wrecks the tune it isn't part of. Women teach women. Witches learn their craft from other witches and from

sorcerers, not from wizards. What we teach here is in a language not for women's tongues. The young heart rebels against such laws, calling them unjust, arbitrary. But they are true laws, founded not on what we want, but on what is. The just and the unjust, the foolish and the wise, all must obey them, or waste life and come to grief."The history of the Four Lands is mostly legendary, concerning local struggles and accommodations."What's more wrong than to summon oneself back from death?" said the Namer.."Mars?"..done? I think there's an evil in us, in humankind. Trust denies it. Leaps across it. Leaps the.And these may be true temptations to the wizard! It's a wonderful thing to fly on the wings of a.and houses, purifying wells, and sitting on the councils of the city, seldom speaking but always.knows it has real power, power of life and death, over the person. Often a true name is never.excitement. "We'll go ashore in the morning," he repeated to her, and she nodded, acceptant..not afraid enough of him. It was all the two of us could do to hold our own against him, there in.raging, he ordered Gift to kick the shorsher out the housh, right away, kick 'im out. Then he.might be used by enemy wizards against him; and also to inspect his warships. A ship is a fragile

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