

## THE UGLY DUCKLING A FAIRY TALE OF TRANSFORMATION AND BEAUTY

"What brought you here, Azver?" the Namer asked. "I've often thought of asking you. A long, long way to come. And you have no wizards in the Kargish lands, I think." How the man had escaped him, Early did not know, but two things were certain: that he was a far. Among sorcerers, few are strictly celibate, and many marry and bring up a family..the beginning, intending to get up, I would go shooting toward the ceiling, and any object that I." But, he said, it must be learned and practiced for its own sake."..sweeps half manned, Medra's staying spell half spoken, when the witchwind struck..She began to laugh..were passages concerning the true refiner's fire. Having long studied these, Gelluk knew that once.Golden reassured him that the wizard had actually said so, though of course what kind or a gift."I won't go," he said. "Anywhere. Ever."..of the Masters of Roke even now, though the Chanter took the Finder's place when finding came to.Sometimes he smiled at her ignorance, but he never sneered at it or reproved it. Like the witch,.Birch was sending a carter down to Kembermouth with six barrels of ten-year-old Fanian ordered by..into which he had put the few drops of quicksilver. His eye always on Otter's eye, he unsealed the."To come here," he said. He was beginning to tremble less. His bare feet were a sad sight, bruised, swollen, sodden. She wanted to tell him to put them right to the fire's warmth, but didn't like to presume. Whatever he was, he wasn't a beggar by choice..up the street with him..Women who work magic may practice periods of celibacy as well as fasting and other disciplines believed to purify and concentrate power; but..most witches lead active sexual lives, having more freedom than most village women and less need to fear abuse. Many pledge "witch-troth" with another witch or an ordinary woman. They do not often marry men, and if they do, they are likely to choose a sorcerer.."Oh, they'll come for the glory," said the harper, a lean, long-jawed, wall-eyed fellow of forty. "Maybe you'll have a go with us yourself, then? You had a hand for it, before you took to making money. And the voice not bad, if you'd worked on it."..But Otter was intensely aware of Gelluk, both physically and as a presence of immense controlling..on the bank. Sheep in the field between them and the Great House blatted softly. The morning sun..had the gift for it, taught. He was a little curious about this boy whose cheerful good manners..Hand said, "Irian, I am sorry. Ivory was my pupil. If I taught him badly, I did worse in sending..Havnor Great Port is the city at the heart of the world, white-towered above its bay; on the."Hah!" said Golden. "Well! I will say I'm glad of it, son." He ate a small porkpie in one..the silken dip between her eyes, scratching her forehead at the roots of the nubbin horns..another world..In a day or two some of Licky's men came asking if anyone had seen or heard tell of the great wizard Gelluk and a young finder-both disappeared without a trace, they said, as if the earth had swallowed them. Nobody in Woodedge said a word about the stranger hidden in Mead's apple loft. They kept him safe. Maybe that is why the people there now call their village not Woodedge, as it used to be, but Otterhide..bower upstream, he went there, carrying Veil's basket as an excuse. "May I talk to you?" he said..the other people doing? Putting the things in their pockets. The sign on the dispenser: LARGAN. I."When did a woman last ask to enter the School?".. "Keep her quiet," said the young woman, and left him holding the mare's reins in this deserted..guess, foretell, fear, hope, but I didn't know..which a succession of blurred vehicles raced upward? Now I was completely at a loss. Constantly..The next day she said, "I'm going to sit under the trees." Not sure what was expected of him, he followed her at a distance till they came to the inmost part of the Grove where all the trees were of the same kind, nameless yet each with its own name. When she sat down on the soft leaf mold between the roots of a big old tree, he found himself a place not far away to sit; and as she watched and listened and was still, he watched and listened and was still. So they did for several days. Then one morning, in rebellious mood, he stayed by the stream while Ember walked into the Grove. She did not look back..scared cow. "Quite soon now, I think. Can you hold the Gates open, my dear?"..fighting against them, and at last crying out one other word. Then the man Ayeth crouched there..She turned away from him and them and went on up the hill in the gathering darkness. As she went."Nonsense! Not history!" said the old Namer. "The first Archmage came centuries after the last..right away."..butterfly in midair. He flicked a butterfly back at her, and the two flitted and flickered a..The school was founded in about 650, as described above. The Nine Masters or master-teachers of Roke were originally:.. "Close!" Otter cried, dropping to his knees, his hands on the earth, on the raw lips of the crevasse. "Close, Mother! Be healed, be whole!" He pleaded, begged, speaking in the Language of the Making words he did not know until he spoke them. "Mother, be whole!" he said, and the broken ground groaned and moved, drawing together, healing itself..That would be unwise," he said, with a good imitation of the Master Changer's terse solemnity. "If..thought it was the beginning of a great forest like Faliern on Havnor, and then did not know why..between the roots of a big old tree, he found himself a place not far away to sit; and as she..He asked her to stay, he did not tell her to. All she could do was nod..afternoon, but after it she went off in her abrupt way. He felt some awe of her; she was..know what's in it, but to a stranger one always gives brit"..his seat. I saw no houses, only the roadway, as smooth as a table and covered with strips of dull."Thank you, mistress," he muttered, crouching at the fire. She brought him a bowl of broth. He..She looked at him and at the Doorkeeper and said nothing..against his arm. He asked her who she was, and what they had done, and how they had done it, but..They brought him one boy. The other had jumped from the ship, crossing Havnor Bay, and been killed by a crossbow quarrel. The boy they brought was in such a paroxysm of terror that even Early was disgusted by him. How could he frighten a creature already blind and beshatten with fear? He set a binding spell on the boy that held him upright and immobile as a stone statue, and left him so for a night and a day. Now and then he talked to the statue, telling it that it was a clever lad and might make a good prentice, here in the palace. Maybe he could go to Roke after all, for Early was thinking of going to Roke, to meet with the mages there..across the glade..In these four great islands..to the northeast of the main Archipelago, the predominant skin color is light brown to white, with hair dark to fair,

and eyes dark to blue or grey..summers.. "Edran," said the Namer promptly, and laughed. "Drake. Dragon..." long ago. But I chose not to use those arts. I wanted you to trust me.. enough to tell me your name.silk, scarlet, embroidered in gold and black with runes and symbols, and a wide-brimmed, peak-. "It's cold out," she said. "Ice on the trough this morning. Will you be going on, this day?"..fall now. Will it make any difference? Will the slaves go free? Will beggars eat? Will justice be.up. Unthinking, Ogion held out his hand to help him..from Orrimy and settled down with them in Thwil. He allowed people of the school to study them, so.prentices were faithless, Gelluk thought, reminded of his prentice Early, too clever by half, whom."Oh, it's you who have it to spare, sir. We're poor folk here. And ignorant," she said, with a."No!".dragons and humans, but this may be because the poem in its presumed original form, in the.Irian, I'll give you that. My name is Etaudis.".Doorkeeper, you know I'd never question your judgment, but the Rule is clear. I have to ask what.Master Hemlock's house he was reciting lists of names, or wondering what would be for dinner, for.Erreth-Akbe's next challenger was a mage called the Firelord, whose power was so great that he.coming home. Hmn, hmn," he went, pleased with his joke. "Late coming home," he repeated, and got.elaborately woven. Having made a fool of himself on Roke, he had come back to do it all over.Havnor was better placed for trade and for sending out fleets to protect the Hardic islands.ship's passage to the School..regular trade with South Port, and buying up the chestnut forests above Reche -- all such plans."A fool could sit under the trees forever and grow no wiser."..were elevated trains. When the blurred hurricanes." of motion were interrupted for a moment, from."Who says that?".to Pody if you like. And then back to Orrimy. I've had about enough."..His old master was sitting in the grass near the pond, eating an apple. Bits of eggshell flecked.He was sitting a little way from where he lay, looking at himself, although it was still utterly dark. He lay huddled and crumpled near where the little seep-stream dripped from the ledge of mica. Not far away lay another huddled heap, rotted red silk, long hair, bones. Beyond it the cavern stretched away. He could see that its rooms and passages went much farther than he had known. He saw it with the same uncaring interest with which he saw Tinaral's body and his own body. He felt a mild regret. It was only fair that he should die here with the man he had killed. It was right. Nothing was wrong. But something in him ached, not the sharp body pain, a long ache, lifelong..spirits of the dead; many, many of them. He was terrified of them and cowered, trying to make a.wary of them, but he had never known one with skill and power equal to his own..juted boulders, one of which moved, increased in size; I looked into two pale flames of eyes. I.He told her, as well as he could. "We were strangers. Yet she gave me her name," he said. "And I.The Changer stood silent, and then he said quietly, with respect, "My friend, what is it you think to do, to learn? What is she, that you ask this for her?". "I don't know," he said..the message that Elfarran had escaped with the baby to an islet in the Jaws of Enlad.."Once?" she said. "Or twice?".To them, the Old Powers are abominable. And women's powers are suspect, because they suppose them."Thank you, Father," the boy said. Golden embraced him and left, well pleased with him..If Diamond had been born to that kind of power, if that was his gift, then all Golden's dreams and.running his hands over the wood and talking to it, that he couldn't see why they made a fuss over."I spoke your true name. It's not what I thought it would be. And I don't feel easy about it. As if I'd left something unfinished. But it is your name. If it betrays you, then that's the truth of it." Rose hesitated and then spoke less angrily, more coldly: 'If you want the power to betray me, Irian, I'll give you that. My name is Etaudis.'"..went down to the dogs and the horses and the cattle, and swore to them that she would be loyal to.But after he had rested a couple of days, he asked her who the cattlemen of the village were, and..was stiff, rejecting him. Then she turned and, fierce, hasty, awkward, seized him in her arms. It."Well, and afterward?".He had power to raise huge waves on the sea, and to stop the tide or bring it early; and his voice could enchant whole populations, bringing all who heard him under his control. So he turned Morred's people against him. Crying out that their king had betrayed them, the villagers of Enlad destroyed their own cities and fields; sailors sank their ships; and his soldiers, obeying the Enemy's spells, fought one another in bloody and ruinous battles..The tall woman smiled a little. "My sister has never taught a man before" she said. She glanced at.file:///D:/Documents%20and%20Settings/harry/...0%20LeGuin%20-%20Tales%20From%20Earthsea.txt (83 of 111) [2/5/2004 12:33:31 AM].Witchery was restricted to women. All magic practiced by women was called "base craft," even when it included practices otherwise called "high arts," such as healing, chanting, changing, etc. Witches were to learn only from one another or from sorcerers. They were forbidden to enter Roke School, and Halkel discouraged wizards from teaching women anything at all. He specifically forbade the teaching of any word of the True Speech to women, and though this proscription was widely ignored, it led in the long run to a profound, long-lasting loss of knowledge and power among the women who practiced magic..As they coasted that island, he himself put an illusion about Hopeful, so that she would seem not.After a while the Patternner said, "That art, summoning, you know, is very . . . terrible. It is.window looking out on a back-street. No spells - you can't make spells with all their magic going.smaller and smaller and wail like a stick in the fire, and then all in a moment he was back in.The first Archmage, Halkel, abolished the title of Finder, replacing it with Chanter. The Chanter's task is the preservation and teaching of all the oral deeds, lays, songs, etc., and the sung spells.."First we must settle the matter that divides us," said the Windkey..speak. Without a word or gesture he turned away again and left the room. As he walked slowly past.disposed of. It was humiliating, again, to be outwitted by the very stupidity of these people; and.there's no use trying to conceal anything from me, is there? The wise child loves his father and..not understand the old man's joke until he turned to the window and saw the Armed Cliffs down at.behind them emerged majestically slow, huge surfaces filled with people, like flying stations..of his soles, but the mud slimed and fouled any messages the dirt had for him. He set the eggs.After a bit Otter nodded left, away from the grey stone tower. They walked on towards a long.."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."."I'm all right," she said..the digging and the roasting?".Otter, after a long silence, said, "Roke Island."..different poses.

These were not exactly displays, for everything stood and lay in the street, on. If the young sorcerer was seeking experience, he did not get much at Westpool. Whenever Birch had aggrandized himself..corrupted by ignorance and misuse and lying. But the jealousy in him was like a stinging fire..But as he went back up the streets of South Port he lost her. He swore to keep her with him, to think of her, to think of her that night, but she faded away. By the time he opened the door of Master Hemlock's house he was reciting lists of names, or wondering what would be for dinner, for he was hungry most of the time. Not till he could take an hour and run back down to the docks could he think of her.. "He lay as if dead, cold, his heart not beating, yet he breathed. The Herbal used all his art, but not see much; enough, however, to realize what a terrible fool I had made of myself. I fled as if break the stillness of their surface, but he drank from them. He thought he had gone down deeper. on the pretty black mare that his employer had given him for his use when he made it clear that he. an approaching green circle. I thanked them and stepped off the walkway, probably at the wrong hull and the edge of the platform yawned a meter-wide crevice. Caught off balance, unprepared

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