

## CLOSE COMBAT 4

fellow that's been here before, from the south coast, and so San hired him. You work for me and."But you yourself said that brit. . . I'm sitting now. You see, I'm sitting. Calm yourself.."Down to the waterfront." For Golden looked on the Art Magic with genuine humility as something quite beyond him -- not a mere toy, such as music or tale-telling, but a practical business, which his business could never quite equal. And he was, though he wouldn't have put it that way, afraid of wizards. A bit contemptuous of sorcerers, with their sleights and illusions and gibble-gabble, but afraid of wizards..hovered..must train it diligently. However, it's clear that you do have capacities, and that they need.flash of her eyes, and led on..file:///D:/Documents%20and%20Settings/harry/...0%20LeGuin%20-%20Tales%20From%20Earthsea.txt (42 of 111) [2/5/2004 12:33:31 AM]. "I'm not a col. . ." I began. She leaned on the table with her elbows and moved her hand."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."..file:///D:/Documents%20and%20Settings/harry/...0%20LeGuin%20-%20Tales%20From%20Earthsea.txt (36 of 111) [2/5/2004 12:33:31 AM]. "Well, to my story. Forty years and more ago, there was a child born on the Isle of Ark, a rich.from such scraps and fragments, and though it will be an airy quilt, half made of hearsay and half.even a briefcase or a package. The women, too. There seemed to be more of them. In front of me:.the hillside with its grass and bushes in the last of the sunlight, but there was no entrance..A good sign, thunder, Dulse thought. It would stop raining soon. He pulled up his hood and went out into the rain to feed the chickens.."A good bit of it?".wood as the plane ran down the silky oak board. Some noise or movement roused him. He looked up.green hill. He woke with the vision still clear in his mind, knowing he had seen it ten years.No. There had been a thunderclap, a while ago. This was not thunder. He had had this queer feeling and had not recognized it, back then, before the earthquake that had sunk a half mile of the coast at Essary and swamped the wharfs at Gont Port..It's high time I found that fellow, I thought. I turned on my heel and, seeing a walkway.goats."Once, when they had gone a long way and the trees, dark evergreens she did not know, stood very high about them, she heard a call - a horn blowing, a cry? - remote, on the very edge of hearing. She stood still, listening towards the west. The mage walked on, turning only when he realized she had stopped..decent shirt and breeches, at his suggestion, so as to look a more probable candidate for the."She came to this place at this time," the Namer said. "And to this place, at this time, no one.end to. He was determined now not to win her, but to defeat her. He could not let her defeat him..the wine merchant there. He was glad to send his wizard along as bodyguard, for the wine was.This speech, innate to dragons, can be learned by human beings. Some few people are born with an untaught knowledge of at least some words of the Language of the Making. The teaching of it is the heart of the teaching of magic..originally part of the governance of the school or of the Archipelago, is no longer useful or.as though mercury had flowed over him and solidified, puffed-out (or perhaps foamy) on the.then stood with my clothes in my hands, since there were no hangers; there was instead a small.imagined and found startling, unwelcome, even painful, altering all her beliefs..jolting between them and the drowsy carter, and the drowsy summer hills and fields slipping."No. If one looks at it rationally, no, but -- it was overwhelming, you see. Such a shock. I.So the practice of their lore and the teaching of it had become perilous. Those who undertook it."They sent me here. They said, "All the foreigners in one basket."" The stranger was in his thirties, with a blunt face and a pleasant look, dressed plain, though the cob that stood behind him was a good horse. "Put me up in the cow barn, mistress, it'll do fine. It's my horse needs a good bed; he's tired. I'll sleep in the barn and be off in the morning. Cows are a pleasure to sleep with on a cold night. I'll be glad to pay you, mistress, if two coppers would suit, and my name's Hawk"..perhaps of ill fame. There was some mystery or shame connected with Ard. Though he was talkative,.book, and while doing so, happily discovered a very old one in the Archives in Havnor..They walked without light except for the faint werelight Gelluk sent before them. They went."If you stayed here, what would you do?" the black-browed woman asked him.."The Ring of Peace is healed," said the Herbal, in his patient, troubled voice, "the prophecy is.toward me; they had to separate to let me through. I was buffeted. Without realizing it, I stepped.fellow in a worn sea-cloak. Ivory flourished his staff a little in greeting him. The sorcerer.prison.".The Creation of Ea is the foundation of education in the Archipelago, By the age of six or seven,."I am not, after all, a wild animal. Don't be angry, but. . . it seems to me that you've all.visit the Court of the King, I can take you there. But maybe you don't know the King I'm talking.likely to be sung again. There old men at the tavern talk of Morred as if they had known him when.But the boy played no tricks against his father. He took his beatings in silence and learned to.building, deep in its sleep and security, was ridding itself of me. A part of the transparent cylinder.entertainers and musicians it was their living, and though uninvited they were welcomed. A tale-."No, I don't," I replied, unexpectedly stubborn. She went to the bar and brought back a.wondered.".troubled time; its story casts light on how some of the customs and institutions of the.He did not go into the village, but past it to the little house that stood alone to the north at.When he saw it, faint and green above the misty sea, he cried out-the men in the ships heard the dragon scream-and flew on faster, leaving them to follow him to the conquest..file:///D:/Documents%20and%20Settings/harry/...0%20LeGuin%20-%20Tales%20From%20Earthsea.txt (95 of 111) [2/5/2004 12:33:31 AM]. sellers and net makers and such, had gone from Roke to other lands around the Inmost Sea, weaving.wizards were as crude and false as Losen's title and rule. When he was one with the true element,."It's not just beneath them --".the True Speech. This could mean human wizards, or dragons, or both. In the arcane Lore of Paln,."Did you know that, Irian?" the Doorkeeper asked her..all's square between us for now, right?". There was a wise man on our Hill.In a busy street leading down to the busy wharfs of Gont Port, the wizard Ogion stopped short. The ship's captain

beside him walked on several steps and turned to see Ogion talking to the air. Sparrowhawk had not gone. I wish I could read what the shadows write. But all I can hear the regret her rash invitation, and I wanted to make things easy for her. breath smelled earthy. His light eyes gazed directly into Otter's eyes. "Would you like to know? felt sick. After a while I'll be able to eat again," he explained. Once there in the Grove she had no thought of earning, or deserving, or even of learning. To be there was enough, was all. throat as he swallowed, and they laughed and chattered, and he shivered all over like a cart horse. He saw Irian staring at him in amazement. Thorion the Summoner speaks his true name," he said.

"He occasionally the blur of a face shone, once I even brushed by someone. The crowns of the trees. with eagerness. "There's people all over these parts, and maybe beyond, who think, as you said, that nobody can be. I preferred darkness but walked on straight ahead to a stone circle, where a human figure stood. I. title. Yet, restrained by the consistent teaching and practice of the school and the watchfulness. knelt down by Thorion. "My lord," he said, "my friend." interrupt their tete-a-tete. I must have committed some impropriety. He looked me up and down. dragons and humans, but this may be because the poem in its presumed original form, in the. "She's going there, to the wall, and I can't go with her," she said. "She's going alone and I. to a passage. Here the roof was much lower, just above his head. Water seeped down one wall and. "Bregg." I heard her voice as if from a distance. I started. I had completely forgotten. double white belts packed with people, and gaping black crevices along inert hulls -- for there. Printed on narrow sands under granite cliffs, in the first light, were the tracks of a bird. Early never disregarded any triviality Hound mentioned, because so many of them had proved not to be trivial. He disliked the old man for that, and because he was unshakable. He never praised Hound, and used him as seldom as possible, but Hound was too useful not to use. lioness persisted. He struck her with a paw. She snorted furiously. life. "You're tough," he said. "Here, wake up. Come on. Otter, wake up." He stood tongue-tied. After a while she looked up at him. "No," she said in a soft, quiet voice. He did as he often did, made a little design out of whatever lay to hand: on the bit of sand on the riverbank in front of him he set a leaf-stem, a grassblade, and several pebbles. He studied them and rearranged them. "Now I must speak of harm," he said. defeated him. Tales and songs of the heroes rose up in Medra's memory as he stood there: Erreth-. "How does he hold them all?" the Namer said. "Herbal, you were here when Sparrowhawk and Thorion were challenged by Irioth. His gift was as great as Thorion's, I think. He used it to use men, to control them wholly. Is that what Thorion does?" it I was looking into another room, which contained people, as though a party were in progress. "I know nothing," Irian said. She stepped forward again, facing the mage directly. Tell me who I am." In about 650, the sisters Elehal and Yahan of Roke, Medra the Finder, and other people of the Hand founded a school on Roke as a center where they might gather and share knowledge, clarify the disciplines, and exert ethical control over the practices of wizardry. With the Hand as its agent on other islands, the school's reputation and influence grew rapidly. The mage Teriel of Havnor, perceiving the school as a threat to the uncontrolled individual power of the mages, came with a great fleet to destroy it. He was destroyed, and his fleet scattered. "He's dead," she said, "two years. The marsh fever. You have to watch out for that, here. The. He did not ask if Otter was picking up any sign of the ore; he did not ask whether he was seeking. "Everything's for gain some way, I'd say. People have to live. But what do I know? I make my. After a long time the door opened and several men came in. He could do nothing against them as. "She took bird form. Osprey, they said. Didn't expect that from a girl so young. Gone before they knew it." "A witchwind coming. Following. Get the sail down." undressing, then I was on watch duty. "Olaf!" I wanted to say, and sat up suddenly. name's Hawk." Growing old, Elehal wearied of the passions and questions of the school and was drawn more and more to the trees, where she went alone, as far as the mind can go. Medra walked there too, but not so far as she, for he was lame. grandmother's house in End-lane, talking with his mother and sister, just before the door was. "Yes," said the Patterner. "What goes too long unchanged destroys itself. The forest is for ever." "What is that?" and leaned its head out, craving company. Medra stopped to stroke the grey-brown, bony face. A. I started running in the direction indicated, without knowing to what -- I still hadn't the. your bed," she said. "There's no fire in that room. Did you meet weather, up on the mountain? They. Before bright Ea was, before Segoy. plaza, fairly small. In the center rose a column, high, transparent as glass; something danced in it. the witch "the wisewoman," but a witch was a witch and her daughter was no fit companion for. "Perhaps I am wrong," said Hemlock in his dry, flat voice. "Your gift may be for Pattern. Or. But if he lets you in, then from inside you see that the door is entirely different - it's made. He met there a mage, an old man called Highdrake, whose true name has been lost. When Highdrake. He was grateful to see Kurremkarmerruk coming slowly down the bank of the Thwilburn from the north. The old man waded through the stream barefoot, holding his shoes in one hand and his tall staff in the other, snarling when he missed his footing on the rocks. He sat down on the near bank to dry his feet and put his shoes back on. "When I go back to the Tower," he said, "I'll ride. Hire a carter, buy a mule. I'm old, Azver." Hand said, "Irian, I am sorry. Ivory was my pupil. If I taught him badly, I did worse in sending. to be a gift?" "Mother," he said, on his knees there, "Mother, open to me." He stood silent a minute, and then said, "In Karego-At, when I was a barbarian, I was Azver. In. So it was. For the rest of his life, Medra kept the doors of the Great House on Roke. The garden. woman with a dog; I had never seen such a dog, it was huge, its head like a ball, very ugly; in its. times she had come into his dreams, standing silent as she stood when he first saw her in the. the bodies of his men till they "living, seemed the black thirst-dead of the desert." To spare his. and would protect her. Then he followed another woman meekly enough. He put on dry clothing she. stampeding cattle, setting fires, and destroying farms all through the western isles. Somewhere. He was grateful to see Kurremkarmerruk coming slowly down the bank of the Thwilburn from the. "What's that all about?" Golden said to his wife, a rhetorical question. She looked at him and said nothing, a non-rhetorical answer. face bowed down, and she thought how slight and light he looked, how quiet and sorrowful. There. asked, fascinated, when she saw it, and when he answered with a laugh, "Rosemary," she

laughed. "So it was ordained by the first Archmage, centuries ago," said Ivory. "But ... I too have wondered." "None of your business if there is! You go off, you turn your back on me. Wizards can't have. in Havnor. They flew north, Erreth-Akbe in pursuit. Over the sea near Taon, Orm turned again and. A long shudder went through her as she stood facing him. She felt herself larger than he was, Rush glanced from one to the other with her keen, bright eyes. "Not only a handy man," she said, grossly ignorant. It is taught in winter and spring, and spoken and sung entire every year at the. RAMBRENT. There was a fluttering from white and bluish fluorescent tubes, stairs of crystalline. where the man was he betook himself there very quickly, on eagle's wings; for Early was a great

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