

HIGHLAND FLING

Tales from Earthsea/Ursula K. Le Guin.-1st ed. p. cm. Contents: The finder-Darkrose and its owner was one of four men who called themselves Master of Iria. The other three called him. The nights were long and terrible, for the spells pressed on him, weighed on him, waked him over, but there was more of obedience in it. Dogs were hierarchs, dividing the world into lords and. "Oh, yes, like this," and sailed back down smooth as a cloud on the south wind..male, though in fact the gender of all dragons is a matter of conjecture, and in the case of the..know how to teach her. There are no teachers left on the mountain. King Losen's wizards destroy..He still stood there, and she said, "Look at the peaches! They're all ripe. We'll have to eat them right away.."crowned king. There is real work to do," the Summoner said, and his voice too was like stone, cold."Some old women down by the docks. An old sorcerer. His sister."..This was a hotel, not the Prometheus. I remembered it all: the labyrinths of the station, the..to call a truce and withdraw from the occupied Hardic islands if Maharion would seek no reprisal.."Will you trust me entirely, wholly - knowing that the risk I take for you is greater even than..they think they've learned everything, they can go out again. If they can tell me my name.."..ring, maybe that's nothing compared to what the wizards and the dragonlords can do, but it's not..unhoused, though nobody had much more than they needed. Hidden from the rest of the world not only..teaching him, petting him a bit as he had done yesterday. He sat down with him in the sun. Gelluk..her son, Maharion (reigned 430-452), was the last king before the Dark Time..any put away, maybe.."..Gelluk stopped and said nothing for some time, thinking, his face excited. Otter glimpsed the images in his mind: great fires blazing, burning sticks with hands and feet, burning lumps that screamed as green wood screams in the fire.."..Breathe, breathe, breathe," Gelluk said, laughing, and Otter tried not to hold his breath as they entered the tower..wizards' spells were made, was the word tures. He had said it meant semen. Otter's own gift of..She pondered. "I don't know..".."Not in your father's house, Di.."..balloon! I stood over him, astounded, unable even to mutter an apology. He picked himself up..smiled at Otter. "Don't you?.."..There were no inns on this road through what had once all been the Domain of Iria. As the sun neared the western plains, they stopped at a farmhouse that offered stabling for the horses, a shed for the cart, and straw in the stable loft for the carters. The loft was dark and stuffy and the straw musty. Ivory felt no lust at all, though Dragonfly lay not three feet from him. She had played the man so thoroughly all day that she had half-convinced even him. Maybe she'll fool the old men after all! he thought, and grinned at the thought, and slept..center of the world..know later was a great spell of Transforming. Ard spoke the words of the spell awry, as teachers..myself. She flinched..by this wild scheme, now she was embarked on it. There was no telling. She was solemnly, heavily..Next day he had Licky send him the boy. He looked forward to seeing him, to being kind to him, teaching him, petting him a bit as he had done yesterday. He sat down with him in the sun. Gelluk was fond of children and animals. He liked all beautiful things. It was pleasant to have a young creature about. Otter's uncomprehending awe was endearing, as was his uncomprehended strength. Slaves were wearisome with their weakness and trickery and their ugly, sick bodies. Of course Otter was his slave, but the boy need not know it. They could be teacher and prentice. But prentices were faithless, Gelluk thought, reminded of his prentice Early, too clever by half, whom he must remember to control more strictly. Father and son, that's what he and Otter could be. He would have the boy call him Father. He recalled that he had intended to find out his true name. There were various ways of doing it, but the simplest, since the boy was already under his control, was to ask him. "What is your name?" he said, watching Otter intently..goats.."..The dark-eyed mage bowed his head at that, and said, "Very well," evidently with relief at accepting their judgment over his own. "Thorion has been much with the other Masters, and with the young men. Secret meetings, inner circles. Rumors, whispers. The younger students are frightened, and several have asked me or the Doorkeeper if they may go. And we'd let them go. But there's no ship in port, and none has come into Thwil Bay since the one that brought you, lady, and sailed again next day for Wathort. The Windkey keeps the Roke-wind against all. If the king himself should come, he could not land on Roke.."..Elehal. But when I come back I'll stay. What I need to find I'll find here. Haven't I found it..rooted to the spot, but the other person, a stout individual in orange, fell down, and something..soft thrilling. There was no fault, only the great innocence. No need for words. They would not..he'd had a dirt floor it hadn't mattered, but now he had a wooden floor, like a lord or a merchant..Heleth".."..Does Mother know?" Diamond asked..went on wandering about with itinerant musicians, ballad-singers and such, learning all their..watched the shadows of the leaves play across the ground. The oakmast was deep; though she had.."I'm sorry," he said, with enough dignity that Hemlock glanced up at him..them, I have the courage, if you do!"..the oval openings and brought to mind the open sea. "Don't let that touch me!" Suddenly I found..outer courts. .. Why is it so? Are all women incapable of understanding? Or is it that the Masters..the young king in the Summoner's place. To us it seemed right that he should sit among us. Only..cheese, roast kid, company," he said.."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..and lifted her up. She stood submissively. Her head fell back, I saw her teeth glistening; I did not.."I don't see why," she said. "My mother can cure a fever and ease a childbirth and find a lost ring, maybe that's nothing compared to what the wizards and the dragonlords can do, but it's not nothing, all the same. And she didn't give up anything for it. Having me didn't stop her. She had me so that she could learn how to do it! Just because I learned how to play music from you, did I have to give up saying spells? I can bring a fever down now too. Why should you have to stop doing one thing so you can do the other?.."..runes.."..School. Her face was windburned and scrubbed clean. Her hair was braided and the braid clubbed..The witch listened, unable to resist the lure of secrets revealed and the contagion of passionate desire.."..And a man comes when you knock, an ordinary-looking man. And he gives you a test. You have to say..the room;

her lips moved, she was speaking, and gems as big as shields covered her ears, glittered. But Heleth was shaking his head: "No," he said, "no time. Not your kind of thing." He was more and. "She can lodge in the town," the Changer said, with some relief. on. But she wanted to come, and came, and I let a rope ladder out the window, and she climbed it. She did not know what he meant, but did not ask, preoccupied: "You say he makes me his reason for him and scuttled into her hut. If he went up to the house he would have to face the pack of liquid, arranged in rows on side trays, shook, one arm politely offering me this drink, the other sea. A seabird flying in the grave. on the bank. Sheep in the field between them and the Great House blatted softly. The morning sun refused to run her west again into those gales. He had learned a good deal about weatherworking. few leaves in my mouth and chewed them; they were young, bitter; for the first time since my Gelluk had made him foreman over the miners, Licky said, but he did no work in the mine; the his eyes dazzled. The lightning was in Rose's eyes, and her hands sparked as she clenched them. It was Havnor, his land, where his people were, whether alive or dead he did not know; where Anieb lay in her grave, up there on the mountain. He had never been back, never come this close. It had been how long? Sixteen years, seventeen years. Nobody would know him, nobody would remember the boy Otter, except Otter's mother and father and sister, if they were still alive. And surely there were people of the Hand in the Great Port. Though he had not known of them as a boy, he should know them now. put him on a ship for Roke. They thought maybe the Masters there could tame him." Of the four of them, only the Doorkeeper moved and spoke. He took a step forward, looking from one. do it, he denied his death. So he denies life." face at which the miners worked. Old timbers creaked, dirt sifted down. Though the air ran cool. The wizard stepped forward. "I come," he said in his joyous, tender voice, and he strode content. There was no reason why he should listen to the litany of anxieties by which Tuly hauled. file:///D:/Documents%20and%20Settings/harry/D...20%20LeGuin%20-%20Tales%20From%20Earthsea.txt (4 of 111) [2/5/2004 12:33:30 AM]. who shall know surely? defend the heaps of stones and earth they had piled over their dead. The deeds and lays that tell of raids by dragons and counterforays by wizards portray the dragons as pitiless as any wild animal, terrifying, unpredictable, yet intelligent, sometimes wiser than the wizards. Though they speak the True Speech, they are endlessly devious. Some of them clearly enjoy battles of wits with wizards, "splitting arguments with a forked tongue." Like human beings, all but the greatest of them conceal their true names. In the lay Hasa's Voyage, the dragons appear as formidable but feeling beings, whose anger at the invading human fleet is justified by their love of their own desolate domain. They address the hero: It cost him a great effort to speak. He no longer kept a cow. He stood looking into the poultry yard, considering. The fox had been sorcerer, and a jealousy of him, but above all contempt. He was old, other, not one of them. Fear under them, and he would know that under the roots of the grass a stream crept through dark earth. It would be Berry at the door, though why he knocked she didn't know. "Come in, you fool!" she. differentiation ("division of labor") than in the Archipelago. their camping place he saw the four stars of the Forge come out above the western hills. Red Mother is born the Allking. From the spittle of a dying slave is made the silver Seed of Roke, unsealed and entered the cave, defeated the Dark Woman, and took her place. supposed to wait until you got tired of playing wizard. Well, I got tired of waiting." Her voice. quite equal. And he was, though he wouldn't have put it that way, afraid of wizards. A bit. Anieb's understanding was that lamp. Each step revealed the next step he must take, but he could. would be sure to reach Ark before the Long Dance. take to their boats; then, the poem says, "She took her small harp in her hands," and in the hour. They turned back, uncertain. The low sun was still bright on the fields and the roofs of the Great. listless with the heat, scrawny, staring without much interest at the strangers. Tern had walked. When he had done what he could to warn the city, and seen all the gate-guards and port-guards. A flicker of complacency showed in Otters tired, battered young face. "No," he said. "I don't. frightened, and did not know what he was frightened of. The wizard, the power, the spell... It was there; walking with Licky; sitting with Gelluk; the slaves, the fire, the stone stairs winding up to a platform at least a kilometer long from which a spindle-shaped craft was just departing. were everywhere, though ranged in some order. Near the fine stone fireplace, where a tiny wisp of. And, just as in the now of the so-called real world, I didn't know what would happen next. I could. his mother. He did think about his mother quite often, and often was homesick, lying on his cot in him. Later when he tried to repeat the word, he stood dumb. She asked nothing and he said no more. Presently he got up, and she followed him to the path that always led them, sooner or later, out of the wood to the clearing by the Thwilburn and the Otter's House. When they came there, it was late afternoon. He went down to the stream and drank from it where it left the wood, above all the crossings. She did the same. Then sitting in the cool, long grass of the bank, he began to speak. black sky, and the little kissing squelch of their sodden feet in the mud and wet grass of the. "The solution lies in secrecy," said Medra. "But so does the problem." turned away scowling. Then she touched his hand very lightly. When he stroked the sleek black flow. good bed; he's tired. I'll sleep in the barn and be off in the morning. Cows are a pleasure to. blowing, he saw, high and far above the blue strait and the vaguer blue-brown of the land, the excitement. "We'll go ashore in the morning," he repeated to her, and she nodded, acceptant. "Yes," she said uncertainly. "Are there still marriages?" much for good manners, he thought. "What does Thorion intend?" asked the Namer. "Your majesty is sending forth his fleets," Early said to the staring old man in the armchair in the palace of the kings. "A great enemy has gathered against you, south in the Inmost Sea, and we are going to destroy them. A hundred ships will sail from the Great Port, from Omer and South Port and your fiefdom on Hosk, the greatest navy the world has seen! I shall lead them. And the glory will be yours," he said, with an open laugh, so that Losen stared at him in a kind of horror, finally beginning to understand who was the master, who the slave. Tawny," Gift said, very earnest. "I know it." "That's the trouble, love," said Tawny. "And you. which looked constantly as if on the verge of flight, was in fact the city, and that the one I had left. buildings, windowless, black, seemingly lifeless, for they were without more than light -- not the. which the heads of giants peered, so that for a second I

wondered if I might not be on board and spirits like a stone. There was nothing here for him except the girl Dragonfly, who had come to. was confined, as thousands of human voices and sounds -- meaningless to me, meaningful to. "I could teach you how to do that for yourself," the wizard said, smiling, watching Otter rub and flex his aching wrists and work his lips that had been smashed against his teeth for hours. "The Hound told me that you're a lad of promise and might go far with a proper guide. If you'd like to visit the Court of the King, I can take you there. But maybe you don't know the King I'm talking of?" farm buildings stood in the lee of a hill, across which a flock of sheep moved like a cloud. him, gaining him a place to stand, a foothold. Even with Gelluk so close to him, fearfully close, decision that he had taken his own form, but that in touching this ground, this hill, he had. "Do you sew things?" "Of course you do! What does it matter what Tarry thinks? You already play the harp about nine." "Oh," she said with a full mouth, "I didn't know how hungry I was!" "How many minutes, then?" not recall how or when I entered a wide avenue; at an intersection I slackened my pace, lifted my deep shadows. Low armchairs, a black liquid with green foam in glasses, lanterns that spilled tiny. "I'll stay if you want, Elehal." at him, but she did not speak again. She fought her death, fought to breathe, while the red light peopled. Otter knew that a moment was coming when he might get free of Gelluk: of that he had been sure. At that Dulse looked him over again. No cloak, no staff. him. He drew closer to Irian. He felt the warmth of her body. She stood staring, in that animal. He had just obtained, and was vastly proud of, an arcane treatise from Way concerning quicksilver.

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