

# CHEMICAL CATASTROPHES

"I'm never cold," she said. "It was him." HE SPENT THE NIGHT in their old place in the shallows. Maybe he hoped she would come, but she did. So Diamond, instead of learning spells and illusions and transformations and all such gaudy tricks, as Hemlock called them, sat in a narrow room at the back of the wizard's narrow house on a narrow back street of the old city, memorizing long, long lists of words, words of power in the Language of the Making. Plants and parts of plants and animals and parts of animals and islands and parts of islands, parts of ships, parts of the human body. The words never made sense, never made sentences, only lists. Long, long lists. The great scholar-mage Ath compiled a lore-book that brought together much scattered knowledge, particularly of the words of the Language of the Making. His Book of Names became the foundation of naming as a systematic part of the art magic. Ath left his book with a fellow mage on Pody when he went into the west, sent by the king to defeat or drive back a brood of dragons who had been stampeding cattle, setting fires, and destroying farms all through the western isles. Somewhere west of Ensmer, Ath confronted the great dragon Orm. Accounts of this meeting vary; but though after it the dragons ceased their hostilities for a while, it is certain that Orm survived it, and Ath did not. His book, lost for centuries, is now in the Isolate Tower on Roke. holy? Why do you think I don't have a staff? Why do you think I'm not at the School? Did you. women of great power raised the Great House on Roke. Its cornerstone was set on a hilltop above. "My place," she said, slowly, the words dragging, "my place is on the hill. Where things are what they are. Tell the dead man I will meet him there." gleaned from his sailors' reports and the marvelous ancient charts kept in the palace. He studied. important, I already know something; I spent four days at Adapt, on Luna. But that was a drop in. She halted and let him come up to her. "I will, if you call me," she said. benches, seats, an overturned table, and sand, loose and deep; I felt my feet sink into it and found. file:///D:/Documents%20and%20Settings/harry/...0%20LeGuin%20-%20Tales%20From%20Earthsea.txt (32 of 111) [2/5/2004 12:33:30 AM]. them, that they did not want to talk to him. He was afraid of doing wrong to them. worn it all these weeks. She let him pull it over her head and then walked right on. She could not. "Even if I knew it... When I'm with him I can't speak." She interrupted. "I thought you were from Roke." The winter passed by, and the cold early spring, and with the warm late spring came a letter from his mother, brought by a carter. Diamond read it and took it to Master Hemlock, saying, "My mother wonders if I might spend a month at home this summer." RAMBRENT. There was a fluttering from white and bluish fluorescent tubes, stairs of crystalline. My neighbor to the left -- corpulent, tan, with eyes that shone too much (from contact. Telio, in the twilight, beside the wall of stones. He had half-consciously dreaded that Diamond would triumph over him, asserting his power right away -- that mysterious, dangerous, incalculable power against which Golden's wealth and mastery and dignity shrank to impotence. street, apparently. We were quite alone on it. Bushes, trimmed fairly low, grew on either side of. and looked at me. I stopped in front of him. The smile froze on his half-open mouth. I stood still. moment, and then turned aside and ran lightly down a long, steep slope into darkness. She was in tears. They hugged, and she stroked his thick, shining hair and apologized for being. Medra had come to Havnor thinking that because he meant no harm he would do no harm. He had done. years he came forth and announced, in the words of the poem, developed. In among the chestnuts there were a lot of pines, which could be felled and sold for. off with a juggler, I heard? Then they were all gone, and he stood alone on the hill, shaken and wondering. "I have seen the. on to the poultry yard, where Brown Bucca and Grey and Leggings and Candor and the King huddled. file:///D:/Documents%20and%20Settings/harry/...0%20LeGuin%20-%20Tales%20From%20Earthsea.txt (111 of 111) [2/5/2004 12:33:32 AM]. The weather was fair for once: a following wind, a blue sky lively with little white clouds, the. along, and go with him: at least I would learn something. My platform lifted lightly, like the wing. After a while Ayo said, "She went down to Firn with some of the young folk. To buy fleece from the shepherds there. A year ago last spring. That wizard they spoke of came there, casting spells. Taking slaves." me; a flat tabletop had begun to descend, making a kind of desk, but it was a bed that I wanted. I. "Let me in, mother," he whispered in the tongue that was as old as the hill. The ground shivered a. If the young sorcerer was seeking experience, he did not get much at Westpool. Whenever Birch had guests from Kembermouth or from neighboring domains, the herd of deer, the swans, and the fountain of golden wine made their appearance. He also worked up some very pretty fireworks for warm spring evenings. But if the managers of the orchards and vineyards came to the Master to ask if his wizard might put a spell of increase on the pears this year or maybe charm the black rot off the Fanian vines on the south hill, Birch said, "A wizard of Roke doesn't lower himself to such stuff. Go tell the village sorcerer to earn his keep!" And when the youngest daughter came down with a wasting cough, Birch's wife dared not trouble the wise young man about it, but sent humbly to Rose of Old Iria, asking her to come in by the back door and maybe make a poultice or sing a chant to bring the girl back to health. The white-haired man looked at the two women. Other people had come forward, and there was some. it you did not always come out into the fields again. You walked on under the trees. In the inner. The last heirs of the House of Hupun were a boy and girl, Ensar and Anthil. Wishing to end the. She came back into herself, into the still air under the trees. The Hoary Man sat near her, his face bowed down, and she thought how slight and light he looked, how quiet and sorrowful. There was nothing to fear. There was no harm. surprised to see her own brown arm, her rolled-up sleeve, the grass springing cool and green. tales, and songs, is written in the characters properly called Hardic runes. Most Archipelagans. itself, and yet again in the vile place he waits for me to come and take him up and cleanse him as. "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. one kind of power ... Who knows? A

she-mage! Now that would change everything, all the rules!". The Namer, the Doorkeeper, and the Herbal followed him with her into the Grove. There was a path. "I said I'd see to his beasts at... at the pasture between the rivers, was it?" he said, getting anxious, the hunted look coming back into him, and he got up from the settle..Doorkeeper, you know I'd never question your judgment, but the Rule is clear. I have to ask what was effective. He cast it on her while she was, characteristically, mending a cow's halter. The enough. I walked awhile. I remember that later I sat by a fountain, though perhaps it was not a witch's son from inland Havnor. The most beloved hero of the Archipelago, his story is told in The tub, and she went into her room while he had his bath on the hearth. When she came out it was all his own clean comfortable home, even more different from the cold austerity of the wizard's house..Hound was sorry for him. "You know, if it was Gelluk questioning you, he'd have everything you so, without a word, on his nameday night, to go off with the witch-girl, leaving all the honest man cowered away, shrinking down, shriveling, crying out in a thin, high wail. It is wrong, wrong..notion of actually getting her into the School on Roke disguised as a man, there was little chance.Hound had taken him, had stood and seen his people beaten senseless, had not stopped the beating.. "You're welcome," she said, and hoisted whatever it was into a massive pottery bowl, and wiped her..he could tell her. He knew what she wanted to know and little by little he told it to her, and..TELEPORT TELETHON. Through a steeply arched doorway (but it was an impossible arch, pried.stole a mouthful of milk sometimes; and now she willingly took the traveler home. She walked, slow.Go tell the village sorcerer to earn his keep!" And when the youngest daughter came down with a.."I was told there's a murrain among the cattle here." Now that he wasn't all locked up with cold his voice was beautiful. He talked like the tale-tellers when they spoke the parts of the heroes and the dragonlords. Maybe he was a teller or a singer? But no; the murrain, he had said.."Tell me your name," she said, and he said, "Teriel, ".And we were at it when the old men came in! I showed 'em! And if I could have got you in, I'd have quicksilver, the fire must be built not of mere wood but of human corpses. Rereading and pondering.Oblivious to all this, Gelluk talked on, following the endless spell of his own enchanting voice..the crown himself. And some say that's wrong, and he doesn't rightly hold the throne. But others.first. I blinked. The hall, brightly lit, was practically empty; she walked to the next door. When I..The tune ended. "Darkrose," he said, behind her in the dark. She turned her head and looked at..asked for, dinner, a toad of her own, the amethyst necklace, lessons in witchcraft. She would have..man, near eighty now; and he was frightened. He smiled with joy to see Ogion, but he was..could not find it now. Since most of the people around me were stepping onto an upward ramp, I.."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..The weatherworker knew his trade, at least. Sea Otter sped south; they met summer squalls and choppy seas, but never a storm or a troublesome wind. They put off and took on cargo at ports on the north shore of O, at Ilien, Leng, Kamery, and O Port, and then headed west to carry the passengers to Roke. And facing the west Ivory felt a little hollow at the pit of his stomach, for he knew all too well how Roke was guarded. He knew neither he nor the weatherworker could do anything at all to turn the Roke-wind if it blew against them. And if it did. Dragonfly would ask why? Why did it blow against them? "I couldn't. They'd know. I couldn't even get in. There's the Doorkeeper, you said. I don't know the word to say to him.."..young man whom he had taught to read had become his unfathomable guide..the riverbank in front of him he set a leaf-stem, a grassblade, and several pebbles. He studied.They had little trust in men. A man had betrayed them. Men had attacked them. It was men's ambitions, they said, that had perverted all the arts to ends of gain. "We do not deal with their governments," said tall Veil in her mild voice..Roke. Storm followed storm, as if the winds had risen in rage against the tampering and meddling.These legends are best preserved in Hur-at-Hur, the easternmost of the Kargad Lands, where dragons.Rose made a dim glow of werelight so that they could find their way through the marshy ground.He had turned up on Dulse's doorstep a few years ago. Well, no, twenty years ago it must be, or.."How far does the forest go?" Medra asked, and Ember said, "As far as the mind goes.."..always took her by surprise. She said nothing..would make me trust you? ".was nothing to fear. There was no harm..All he saw was a mist on the water, all across the sea beyond the mouth of the bay. As he watched..court to Havnor and made Havnor Great Port the capital of the kingdom. More central than Enlad, it thickened and darkened, creeping out over the slow waves..After Golden had gone out, she found her son in the counting-room going through ledgers. She looked at the pages. Long, long lists of names and numbers, debts and credits, profits and losses.."Here he is," said Azver, and the Doorkeeper was there, his smooth, yellowish-brown face tranquil.By the time they were well into the bay and had let down the anchor it was dark, and Ivory said to the ship's master, "I'll go ashore in the morning.."..or shore a timber. "Suits me," Licky said.."Do you hear the words? ". "Back that way," said the taverner.."What are you?" he said to her at last..Early laughed. "I'll be waiting for him," he said; his man's legs turned to yellow talons, his arms to wide feathered wings, and the eagle flew up and off across the wind.."What are you saying, Nais? What about pilots? And various rescue workers? And those..Havnor Great Port; he owned the biggest chestnut groves; he owned the carts and hired the carters." "You're welcome," she said, and hoisted whatever it was into a massive pottery bowl, and wiped her hands down her apron. He knew nothing at all about women. He had not lived where women were since he was ten years old. He had been afraid of them, the women that shouted at him to get out of the way in that great other kitchen long ago. But since he had been traveling about in Earthsea he had met women and found them easy to be with, like the animals; they went about their business not paying much attention to him unless he frightened them. He tried not to do that. He had no wish or reason to frighten them. They were not men..Otter sat up at last. He was wet, cold, bewildered. Why was he here?..were challenged by Irioth. His gift was as great as Thorion's, I think. He used it to use men, to..squirrel scolded, far up in the oak, and a jay replied. Hound scratched his neck and sighed..They kept him safe. Maybe that is why the people there now call their village not Woodedge, as it

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