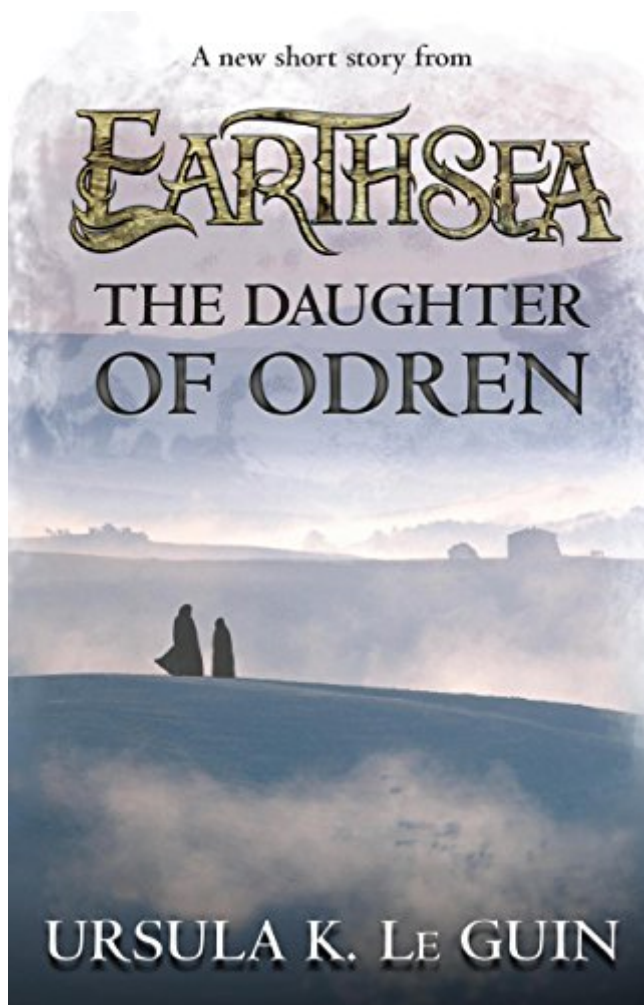


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The Daughter Of Odren (Kindle Single)



Synopsis

For fourteen years, Weed, as she is called, the daughter of Lord Garnet, has brought offerings to the standing stone. Alone in a shallow valley, she implores the stone not to forget her. To remember who he is and the life he led. To wait until the day he will be avenged. Now the day has finally arrived. After fourteen long years of waiting, he will have his revenge and she will have her father back. Or will she? Master storyteller Ursula LeGuin takes readers back to Earthsea with this hauntingly beautiful tale of betrayal and revenge.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

Ursula K. Le Guin has said several times that she's done with Earthsea, but she keeps returning to the archipelago. In Daughter of Odren, Weed, the titular daughter of Odren, wants to rescue her father from the spell of a corrupt wizard and her mother. In the hands of any other author, the plot itself would have been a simple revenge tale. Le Guin takes this simple concept in a darker and far more interesting direction. The Daughter of Odren is more about the telling than about the tale. Le Guin buries the story under multiple layers, as characters tell other characters what they

know about Odren's fate. At times, the accounts conflict subtly. It's an interesting narrative technique as it gives the sense that the events we see had already become local legend. It's also an effective way to convey the large amount of background material necessary to understand the plot. The Daughter of Odren is set in the world of Earthsea, but does not feature any of the major characters from Le Guin's other Earthsea novels. However, the story does assume some familiarity with the Earthsea system of magic, so it does not stand entirely on its own. I suggest reading at least A Wizard of Earthsea before attempting this novel. Daughter of Odren a worthy trip back to Earthsea. It doesn't have a major impact on the Earthsea mythos, and it's a short story (about 31 pages), but nevertheless enjoyable.

One of the biggest problems with stories about revenge is that there is always, or at least usually, a clarity of purpose. An act of evil was done, and it generates a sore that festers until an act of vengeance cleanses the wound. But what happens when two people view the same act of evil with completely different interpretations? Not just the perpetrator and victim, but two victims. Le Guin offers a fascinating glimpse into how males and females view events from different perspectives and how victims see crimes through the lens that society has given them. Le Guin uses her usual prose to narrate a clean, sparse story that touches places deep within the reader that resonant long after the book is finished. The story is no exception. It is as subtle and heart-felt as anything she has written and is as timeless as the struggle for anyone to understand the motivations of someone else.

Though the story starts out slowly and often confusingly, The Daughter of Odren gains the power of nightmare in this tale of grown children haunted by a parent's betrayal, the power struggle created by the children's warring vision of the past, and the tragedy they create in their quest for revenge. In the end, this tale of children's warped vision of adult events and two siblings' warped and tangled desires for revenge becomes as vicious and vivid as any Inuit legend, and the confusions of the initial narrative structure are more than forgiven.

As a huge fan of Ursula Le Guin, I was delighted to discover this new story set in Earthsea among Kindle singles. It has all of Le Guin's signature powerful, lyrical writing. Weed, the daughter of feudal lord Odren, leaves home after her mother conspires with the evil wizard Ash (whom we also encounter in Le Guin's other Earthsea stories) to imprison her father in a standing stone. For years, she plots revenge, until the return of her brother from Roke's academy of magic finally allows her to put her plan into place. The results, however, are not as she expected. The story reads quickly and

flows well, but is not as compelling as the author's other Earthsea tales, and the ending is a bit predictable. Still, it's always a pleasure to return to Earthsea for a visit.

Le Guin's Earthsea novels have been among my favorites for years. This new short story is another facet in that same world, with fantasy and magic bound up in an intensely human narrative. If you have read Earthsea before, buy it. If you have not, buy it. It's an excellent introduction to Le Guin's work.

In my personal opinion, there is no fantasy series as well written as the original earthsea trilogy. and the author has never let the quality decline. Good twist at the ending too.

I love Ursula Le Guin, so I will be surprised if there is ever any of her work I do not like. This is a short, stand alone story, that fleshes out some of her other fantasy. I love the imaginary lands she creates. The story, as usual is compelling and enjoyable. Definitely recommended.

Although I'm a fan of Le Guin work, this short story did not leave its impression on me. Unlike her latest book in the Earthsea universe, "The Other Wind" does not bear a sense of the writer and her vision and of Earthsea. It could happen in any fantasy world. It's a nice reading, but not amazing.

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