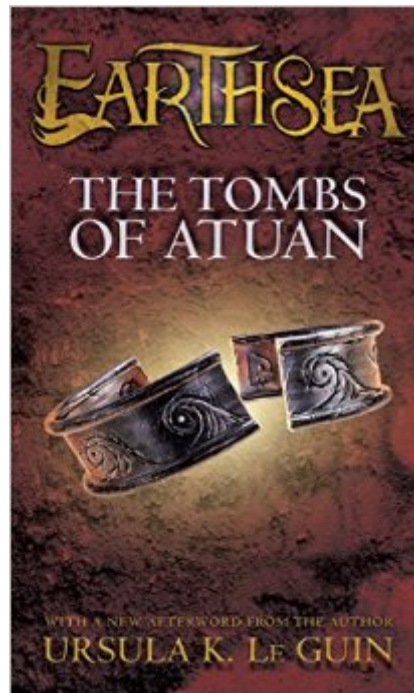


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The Tombs Of Atuan (The Earthsea Cycle, Book 2)



Synopsis

WHEN YOUNG TENAR is chosen as high priestess to the ancient and nameless Powers of the Earth, everything is taken away -- home, family, possessions, even her name. For she is now Arha, the Eaten One, guardian of the ominous Tombs of Atuan. While she is learning her way through the dark labyrinth, a young wizard, Ged, comes to steal the Tombs' greatest hidden treasure, the Ring of Erreth-Akbe. But Ged also brings with him the light of magic, and together, he and Tenar escape from the darkness that has become her domain. With millions of copies sold, Ursula K. Le Guin's Earthsea Cycle has earned a treasured place on the shelves of fantasy lovers everywhere. Complex, innovative, and deeply moral, this quintessential fantasy sequence has been compared with the work of J.R.R. Tolkien and C.S. Lewis, and has helped make Le Guin one of the most distinguished fantasy and science fiction writers of all time. She lives in Portland, Oregon.

Book Information

Lexile Measure: 840 (What's this?)

Series: Earthsea Cycle (Book 2)

Mass Market Paperback: 192 pages

Publisher: Aladdin Paperbacks; Reprint edition (September 1, 2001)

Language: English

ISBN-10: 0689845367

ISBN-13: 978-0689845369

Product Dimensions: 4.2 x 0.7 x 7 inches

Shipping Weight: 3.4 ounces (View shipping rates and policies)

Average Customer Review: 4.4 out of 5 stars [See all reviews](#) (369 customer reviews)

Best Sellers Rank: #31,478 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #110 in [Books > Teens > Literature & Fiction > Classics](#) #127 in [Books > Teens > Science Fiction & Fantasy > Fantasy > Fairy Tales & Folklore](#) #539 in [Books > Children's Books > Classics](#)

Age Range: 12 and up

Grade Level: 7 and up

Customer Reviews

LeGuin's third book in her Earthsea series is her most ambitious. Her thesis: you can only become whole by facing and accepting death, the darkest shadow. Lifted straight from Jungian psychology, this is the hardest and the important part of being whole. Sparrowhawk knows most of this truth already: remember the climax to Wizard of Earthsea. Arren, the young prince who accompanies

Sparrowhawk on the epic voyages of this third book, has not yet learned this harsh lesson. You don't need to know anything about Carl Jung to read and enjoy this book. At one level, this is a children's tale. But this book has many levels. Consider: the last king, Maharrion, had prophesied that there would be no king to succeed him until one appeared who had crossed the farthest shore. I'm not giving anything away by telling you that the farthest shore is physical - the western shore of the westernmost isle of Earthsea and metaphysical - death. And readers of earlier books know that for the wizards of Earthsea, there is a low stone fence that separates the living from the dead. There is another wizard - humiliated by a younger Sparrowhawk - who has both great power and a terror of death. And he has worked a spell that will devastate the world, by denying and avoiding death. But by denying death, he has denied life, and magic, song, joy, reason and even life are draining out of the world. That spell must be undone before it is too late. And that task falls to Sparrowhawk and Arren. Arren must learn to understand and accept that death is necessary. Not just in the abstract but personally. He must cross that low stonewall with no hope of returning. He must cross the final shore. This story has dragons, despair, joy, loss, discovery and marvelous surprises.

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