



King Arthur and His Knights: Selected Tales

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Thomas Malory, knight, adventurer, and soldier, was born in the early years of the fifteenth century and died on March 14, 1471, having spent much of the last twenty years of his life in prison. It was there that he wrote most, if not all, of his works, completing the last in about 1470. Some fifteen years later William Caxton published the entire collection of his tales in one volume, "Le Morte Darthur."

King Arthur and His Knights: Selected Tales Details

Date : Published March 27th 1975 by Oxford University Press, USA (first published 1860)

ISBN : 9780195019056

Author : Thomas Malory , Eugène Vinaver (Editor)

Format : Paperback 272 pages

Genre : Classics, Fantasy, Fiction, Historical, Historical Fiction, Literature

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From Reader Review King Arthur and His Knights: Selected Tales for online ebook

Kristi-Joy says

I am really glad to be familiar with the original English-language Arthur myths. However, they were not what I was expecting. Still, well worth reading.

Ann says

I was amazed at how often everyone "smote" one another. I like the Arthur stories, but it can be a bit repetitive after a while. A lot of damsels wandering through the forest and then of course the "smiting".

Genevieve says

Ok, ok, I know this is classic literature but I just could not get myself through it. I can only take so much of nobility having their honor offended and self righteously smiting each other down. Which, by the way, does not always mean they die. At least I learned that much. Maybe I'll try it again at a later point in my life.

Elizabeth McNair says

As a little girl, my dad would read to me from this book. I have find memories of the stories of King Arthur and his knights.

Mark Adderley says

This is Malory's Le Morte Darthur, but separated into separate stories and, in the case of one tale (The Knight of the Cart) actually re-located to a different point in the story. The Grail story is so heavily abridged that it would be incomprehensible to someone who hadn't already read the Morte. There are much better texts of Malory thann this!

Ami Samsuri says

I did not like this at all. too much jousting and slaying and knighting and too less emotion. Are knights supposed to be hot-tempered and without a conscience?

Mary Overton says

Sir Thomas Malory (d. 1471) spent much of his final 20 years in prison. During those decades he translated into English and rewrote the French Arthurian romances. Stories of Grail quests, lovelorn knights, and the Round Table had been wildly popular literature in the 12th and 13th centuries.

Eugene Vinaver writes in the 'Introduction' that Malory was 'a man bred up in arms who valued the dignity of knighthood above all else. Most of his knights are men of brief speech and unsophisticated behaviour. They engage in extraordinary adventures, but their motives admit of no sentimental refinement; they are first and foremost men of action.... [They live in:] a world where vice is punished and injured men redress with their own hands the wrongs done to their honour.' (xv)

From the story "The Poisoned Apple": Queen Guinevere, accused of adultery, is about to be burned at the stake because no knight will fight in her defense. Her guilt or innocence is to be determined by the winning knight. If her champion wins, she will be proved innocent. If Sir Mador, her accuser, wins then she is guilty and will die. Suddenly a disguised knight (Sir Lancelot, her lover) "came from a wood there ... driving all that his horse might run." (123) The two knights battle.

"And then they rode to the lists' end, and there they couched their spears and ran together with all their might. And anon Sir Mador's spear brake all to pieces, but the other's spear held and bare Sir Mador's horse and all backwards to the earth a great fall. But mightily and deliverly he avoided his horse from him [freed himself from his horse:] and put his shield before him and drew his sword and bade the other knight alight and do battle with him on foot.

"Then that knight descended down from his horse and put his shield before him and drew his sword. And so they came eagerly unto battle, and either gave other many sad [heavy:] strokes, tracing and traversing and foining together with their swords as it were wild boars, thus fighting nigh an hour; for this Sir Mador was a strong knight But at the last this knight smote Sir Mador grovelling upon the earth, and the knight stepped near him to have pulled Sir Mador flatling upon the ground; and therewith Sir Mador arose, and in his rising he smote that knight through the thick of the thighs, that the blood brast out fiercely.

"And when he felt himself so wounded and saw his blood, he let him arise upon his feet, and then he gave him such a buffet upon the helm that he fell to the earth flatling. And therewith he strode to him to have pulled off his helm off his head. And so Sir Mador prayed that knight to save his life. And so he yielded him as overcome, and released the queen of his quarrel [accusation:]." (124-5)

Nonethousand Oberrhein says

Just a glimpse of knighthood

The revised (with modernized syntax) text of Sir Malory still has the power to transport any reader to the world of errant knights, damsels in distress, and incredible portents. However, as the myth unfolds page after page, the presence of Editor R.T. Davies, arbitrary selecting excerpts and cutting out five sixth (as declared in the Introduction) of the original work, becomes cumbersome and somewhat annoying when entire secondary quests are redacted and summarized in unfulfilling notes a couple of lines long. While understanding the Editor's goal to keep the reader focused on the most notorious arthurian characters, the errant knights enthusiasts are left longing for more.

Anilecia says

I understand how people could have trouble reading this book. I almost put it down after the first couple of stories because it was incredibly boring, but those are the tales of secondary character knights (Sir Galahad, etc.). Once you get to the stories of principal characters, it becomes much more interesting.

Melissa says

This was not my favorite. I can't figure out if it was the language or just that I thought the stories were toned down from the French original. It is interesting though the differences that were made between this one and The Death of King Arthur.

Jeffrey says

Hey, it's the Malster. The Malster! King Arthur and his knights. Chivalry! Maidens in distress! Magic! Wizards! What else do you need? Classic!

Jordan says

This was a fun read. It wasn't what I was expecting; there wasn't much Arthur and it needed more Merlin. He was hardly present at all, just briefly in the beginning. There must be other stories or books with more Merlin because there didn't seem to be enough here to account for all the stories behind him. Still, I enjoyed it.

Nebuchanezer says

As much as i wanted to enjoy this book, i found it mostly to be very repetitive. The majority of the book seems to consist of good knight sees damsel in distress from bad knight, knights fight, good knight wins repeat ad infinitum. Only the improvement towards the end (quest for the Holy Grail onwards) saved this book from being truly dull

Kyrie says

Required reading about King Arthur didn't feel like required reading. I enjoy the stories and this is one of the earlier compiled versions, I think.

Iván says

—He sido yo quien ha conducido mi fraternal amistad por el rey Arturo hacia los escollos de la ruina y la muerte... Por lo tanto, soy indigno de orar aquí.

De pronto el recinto se iluminó con brillante luz y una suave melodía se escuchó en su ámbito, sugiriendo un armonioso coro de voces angelicales.

—¿Veis la luz? ¿Escucháis la música? —inquirió Percival asombrado.

Sin embargo, para Lancelot el salón se hallaba sumido en el silencio y las tinieblas.
