



The Story of King Arthur and His Knights (Signet Classics)

Howard Pyle

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In these wonderfully illustrated tales, renowned storyteller Howard Pyle carries us back to the enchanting world of King Arthur and his Round Table. The book chronicles the adventures of Arthur as he draws the sword Excalibur from the anvil, proving his right to the throne, and as he courts and wins the heart of Guinevere. Later he suffers the treachery of the wicked Morgana le Fay and witnesses the tragic fate of the Enchanter Merlin. In Pyle's classic retelling, the legends come alive in unsurpassed vividness. More powerful than any of Merlin's spells, **The Story of King Arthur and His Knights** has enthralled and delighted generations of readers fascinated by chivalry, magic, and the unforgettable drama of medieval times.

The Story of King Arthur and His Knights (Signet Classics) Details

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Author : Howard Pyle

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Molino says

4,4999999...

Alexandria Steele says

Whew! I finally finished this book. I've been trudging through for over 4 months. I HATED reading this book. I thought that it was boring and the language was hard to understand. I gave it 3 stars because, although I didn't like reading it, I like having read it. The legend of King Arthur is such a big part of our literary heritage, and I'm glad to learn a little more about the character of Arthur.

Each chapter is more or less a story on its own. The beginning of each chapter started out so boring! Some night would ride off on some ridiculous quest and get into duels because someone insulted his knighthood or said their lady was more beautiful than his. For me, the story started picking up about halfway through each chapter and I got interested. But then as soon as that chapter was over, the next chapter would start and it would be boring again.

One thing I loved about this book was the illustrations. I think they were ink drawings and they were incredibly detailed and beautiful.

All, in all, good book. I'm glad that I read it, and I'm glad that I'm done reading it.

Kyle Leon Henderson says

This is a classic epic that generation upon generation has been introduced to in one way or another. This book by Howard Pyle is the most complete glimpse into the world of King Arthur and the Knights of the Round Table. It is a bit dated in Pyle's writing style, despite the fact that it was written in the 20th century, however, I suspect, it is a well executed attempt at writing in the style of Middle English. The stories are compelling. The characters are fresh yet familiar. Something I recommend for anyone who loves adventure.

Lady Clementina ffinch-ffarowmore says

What I liked most about Pyle's Arthur stories was that despite being a young persons' or children's book, it doesn't ever read like he's writing down to children-the stories have 'morals' too, like children's books but they are only the tiniest bit preachy not too much (like some others). I enjoyed reading these but couldn't help thinking about how even entertainment or a search for adventure involved things like jousting in which someone invariably got hurt and quite badly, at times.

Katherine Sas says

Pyle's retelling is delightful, although I can't help but be struck by the feeling that it's his pseudo-medieval prose, more than anyone's, that the Monty Python team are spoofing in *The Holy Grail*, which is kind of odd since he's an illustrator from Delaware.

Myla says

I was curious and it was available...it was fine. They didn't have much regard for women and as for the knights, they were kind of a twisted type of chivalry...all mixed up with pride and a quick temper.

Judah says

I Finished!!!!

It only took almost a year but a finished.

I've attempted to read Pyle before, but his 'Robin Hood' was rather dry and I moved on to other things (AKA I'll have to catch up on Robin Hood later).

Pyle really seems to get into his element with Arthur and it shows. Nearly everything is fun. Pyle pops in with notes here and there explaining moral and his prayers for the reader, which makes me want so badly to learn about him. Interestingly I noticed Pyle has a thing for raven haired, black eyed women with coral lips-- nearly all the beautiful women of note are described this way.

While not a straight narrative of the Arthurian saga, Pyle presents different stories in arches. I want to say he almost does them like fairy tales, but there is too much intertwining and continuity between them for that to be an apt description. Some things are out of the usual order (Merlin's death for example), which I'm not sure is intentional or not seeing Pyle continued his saga in 4 sequels (how 'Robin Hood' is his best known book I haven't a clue, since he spent much more time on Arthur).

For parents, there is some heavy violence carried over from the legend, but mostly it's kept to a tasteful level (the worst is short descriptions of swords cleaving through helms into the skull). Magic is present but minimal, Merlin is a wizard/sorcerer but makes ample mention of God (so he's not a pagan here), Morgan is also one but presented here as one boiling with vengeance. The Lady of the Lake and other Fae are presented as magical creatures who use 'white magic' but all in a sort of heavenly/fairy tale way.

God is extolled in the best ways, and Pyle even illustrates the book himself. Though he has this weird habit of drawing Arthur (even in stories from his peach-fuzz youth) as a sort of grizzled 45 year old man. In fact almost all the knights are portrayed in this fashion even though they mostly fall in the 20-39 year old age range.

The only thing I dislike, is the Gawain chapters at the end of the book seem overly rushed and lack Pyle's usual attention to detail. One part has Gawain lose his temper (AGAIN) and strike a knight so hard that his sword cuts past the skull, leaving the man gargling for mercy on the ground. After his temper leads him to shamefully smack the man's wife into a bleeding blackout, he carries the man to rest (because he feels guilty) and...

Later they have dinner together and chat.

what?

Sir did you forget the gapping wound in your head with the probably swelling brain?

Anyone?

Unusually sloppy.

Of course when Gwen hears what a pompous jerk Gawain is being again, she says he's putting his calling to shame.

Course he hears her and presumably before they start fighting again, Pyle tells us Gawain will prove his noble nature and gentleness in the last chapter.

OK.

So King Arthur has this plot, and the end of it he gets saved by a particularly ugly but nice old lady. He promised her she'd get to pick a knight from his court to marry.

Of course she picks Gawain because (no really these are her reasons): he's got an air of nobility, a gold circlet and an attitude.

XD

Everyone seems depressed because Gawain's has to marry her, and when he does he spends the day after the service in his chambers having a pity party. Eventually that night he realizes that he should probably do his husbandly duty and guiltily visits her in the dark. She of course is in no mood for that since he's been a jerk, and he apoloizes and goes to fetch the light she requests.

When he comes back, surprise! She's a smoking hot woman. She tells him she has to spend half the day as a hag and half the day as a hottie, and asks him how he'd like it?

Of course being an arrogant male, he says he wants her hottie side at night to himself.

Wrong answer, try again.

So he tries again.

Surprise I'm hot all the time and was just testing you!

What????;???????????

It would be the worst story ever had Pyle not included a lengthy note about how a man should take his duty as he would marriage. I see what he was aiming for, but he promised Gawaine would learn not to be a jerk. Something tells me his editor gave him a page limit, and that's why Gwaine shorts out here. My brother tells me that Gwaine resurfaces in the sequels so hopefully the breaking of Gawaine happens then.

Otherwise, best book of the year!!!!

I need to find book 2 now....

Gustavo Carvalho says

What can I say about this book?

First of all, I'm a non-native speaker so, in the beginning, I found the book difficult to read because of the old English words: thee, art, thou, hath etc. But I got some help with some of those words and the other ones you

can simply figure it out in the context. After some time I was reading a "modern English" book. Second, I really enjoy reading it and was involved with the stories of King Arthur, Merlin, Sir Pellias and Sir Gwaine. The story, at the beginning, was all about describing scenarios and that can get you bored but if you give the book a chance it will hook you.

If you like medieval stories and Arthurian characters I recommend this book for you.

Salem says

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Reem Ghabbany says

to be honest I struggled with this
read some passages absentmindedly just because I wanted to be done with it.
the story is good and might be enjoyable for some.

Samantha says

Note: this book inspires brave deeds and noble speech.

I was so surprised at how much I enjoyed this book. It was written in the 1800's, yet the feel and pace of this book was so modernly refreshing. I finished it in less than a week. It's not as complicated as Shakespeare to read, and I found myself gasping aloud when something happened that I had not expected- there are countless plot twists. Each chapter had me engrossed more and more. And, I feel compelled to say that the Catholicism found throughout this medieval world was so delightful to read. Unlike *Ivanhoe*, this book has the Church present but it doesn't bash her.

Howard Pyle's art at the introduction of each chapter was, alone, something to die for. His artwork flowed

perfectly with his writing.

Five stars. Definitely would reread.

Sarita says

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Lesle says

Extremely detailed, readable, filled with an enchanting, and chivalry version of the story of King Arthur and His Knights. Howard Pyle tells the story starting from the beginning through almost all the notable Knights. You can feel his love for the legends as they come through the pages. The morals are detailed at the end of most of the major books, like making a symbolism of Excalibur and the sheath of truth and faith. The Knights of the Round Table had to prove they were high-minded, honorable, a gentleman, and full of valor. The Knights were the best of the best in King Arthur's Kingdom. All of the Knights swore the Pentecostal Oath that embodied the Code of Chivalry. Which I had lost the words in memory but, realized how much I love the Oath.

We all should take the oath to remind us how to become a better human and how to treat others in our lives:

“ I will develop my life for the greater good. I will place character above riches, and concern for others above personal wealth, I will never boast, but cherish humility instead, I will speak the truth at all times, and forever keep my word, I will defend those who cannot defend themselves, I will honor and respect women, and refute sexism in all its guises, I will uphold justice by being fair to all, I will be faithful in love and loyal in friendship, I will abhor scandals and gossip-neither partake nor delight in them, I will be generous to the poor and to those who need help, I will forgive when asked, that my own mistakes will be forgiven, I will live my life with courtesy and honor from this day forward.”

This was the covenant of their Knighthood. They would be gentle to the weak, courageous to the strong, defend the helpless and all women should be held sacred. They would be merciful to all men, true in friendship, and faithful in love. This was their Oath and each Knight would take the Oath on the Cross of his Sword.

The tales of the dashing King Arthur, Wizard Merlin, Queen Guinevere, and the noble Knights of the Round Table as they battle and romance their way through enchanted Camelot is a thrilling adventure of the glorious age of Chivalry and Honor!

Devin says

The book "King Arthur and his Knights" by Howard Pyle is a very fast read book. The Diction used in the book is not complex at all and the story is fairly easy to follow; If one loses track of the plot at one part in the book they can pick it back up again very quickly because of the format. This book is written to were there is a set of short stories, however there is still an overall plot. I would rate this book four out of five stars because of the format. Each of these short stories are mostly about two knights that are jousting for their honor.

With each of these stories mostly being about honor there are however parts about other things such as love. When King Arthur finds the woman he loves most out of everyone in his kingdom he does everything to receive her affection from spying to see what she likes, to defending her fathers castle. I would recommend this book to anyone who loves mid-eval literature because it takes a short time to read and appears to follow the correct historical aspects.

Amalie says

Due to Howard Pyle being reproduced by multiple people, there might be some confusion. This is called "The Story of King Arthur and His Knights". It's divided into 6 sections.

Arthur and Guinevere
Lancelot
Tristram and Iseult
Elaine the Fair
Sir Galahad
The Passing of Arthur

Each of these sections carries sub-sections/chapters.

This version is certainly the most comprehensive for kids without or less with Arthur-Guinevere-Lancelot triangle and more on the great adventures of the Knights of the Round Table. This contains almost all the Arthurian characters, other than Fisher King. The story of the "Sword in the Stone" repeats here. After Arthur, it was once again done (but not the same sword) by Sir Galahad, the son of Sir Lancelot and Elaine.

I'm so glad this had the story of Tristram and Iseult which has many elements used in the forbidden love story of Lancelot and Guinevere by Sir Thomas Malory.

Really, I think this was never there in Geoffrey of Monmouth's version, the beginning of the tales of Arthur. In other words, perhaps there had never been an affair between Sir Lancelot and Guinevere. This version more favours that legend, though they had been very close, they never committed adultery. It is simply a villainous plot of the Knights, Mordred and Agravain. Then Mordred is not fathered by King Arthur. This books has no incest or adultery mentioned.

Also, there are some beautiful illustrations!

