

Prince Valiant

By HAROLD R. FOSTER

Synopsis: LONG AFTERWARDS, WHEN ERIC TOLD HIS FRIEND, PRINCE VALIANT OF THAT DAY'S ADVENTURES, HE WAS STILL PUZZLED. INGRID, A GIRL HE HAD NEVER EVEN NOTICED BEFORE, HAD DELIBERATELY OFFENDED HIM. THEN A LARGE VASE MYSTERIOUSLY FELL ON HIS HEAD AND INGRID HAD BOUND HIS WOUNDS. WHEN HE WAS THROWN VIOLENTLY OFF A CLIFF IT WAS INGRID WHO, DESPITE HER DISLIKE, PULLED HIM ASHORE.



ERIC COVERS THE BLUSHING MAID WITH HIS CLOAK. HE DOESN'T HURRY, HE ADMITTED LATER, FOR THE SCENERY AT THAT TIME WAS LOVELY.



SHE THANKS HIM PRETTILY AND ERIC GIGGLES ALL OVER. IN FACT, THESE TWO SEEM TO BE GETTING OVER THEIR DISLIKE FOR EACH OTHER.



AS THEY BRUSH BY A TIPSY YOKEL, INGRID GIVES A SCREAM. "TAKE YOUR HANDS OFF ME! HOW DARE YOU SEIZE A POOR, HELPLESS GIRL!"



ERIC SELLS THE BEWILDERED FELLOW WITH A LUSTY BLOW AND WOULD HAVE PUNISHED HIM FURTHER HAD NOT INGRID THROWN HER WHITE ARMS AROUND HIS NECK.



"OH, YOU BRAVE, SPLENDID ANIMAL!" SHE COOS, CLINGING VERY, VERY CLOSE TO HER NOW GIDDY PROTECTOR.



"TWICE THIS DAY HAVE I BEEN OF SERVICE TO YOU AND NOW YOUR MANLY STRENGTH HAS PROTECTED LITTLE ME... OH, HOW MUCH WE NEED EACH OTHER!"



"I CAN'T LIVE ANOTHER MOMENT WITHOUT YOU!" ERIC FAIRLY ROARS. THEN SADLY: "BUT I AM ONLY A PENNILESS SOLDIER-OF-FORTUNE." "I'LL CHANGE THAT," INGRID ASSURES HIM. "WAIT HERE."



SHE CALMLY INTERRUPTS A KING, AND THAT KING WOULD HAVE BEEN VERY ANGRY AT THIS IMPERTINENCE HAD HE NOT AN APPRECIATIVE EYE FOR BEAUTY.

NEXT WEEK - Swindled.



AMURATH

THAGNAR

LAUNCELOT

SIR GAWAIN

PRINCE VALIANT

KING ARTHUR

QUEEN GUINEVERE

WISE MERLIN

MORGAN LE FEY

RAMUD