

Prince Valiant

IN THE DAYS OF KING ARTHUR
by Harold R. Foster

Synopsis: TURMOIL AND STRIFE MAKE THE COAST ROAD TO ROME IMPASSABLE, SO PRINCE VALIANT AND HIS COMPANIONS MUST FIND A WAY TO CROSS THE ALPS. THE PASS CALLED PETIT ST. BERNARD IS NEAREST.



LOOKING BACK THEY CAN SEE THE VALLEY OF THE ISÈRE WINDING INTO THE DISTANCE, ABOVE THEM THE ETERNAL SNOWS.

MAN AND BEAST CLIMB, PANTING IN THE THIN AIR. A MISTY SUN BURNS IN THE SKY.



"THERE WILL BE A CHANGE IN THE WEATHER," SAYS PAUL. "I HOPE IT COMES QUICKLY, FOR ALREADY THE SUN'S HEAT HAS LOOSENED THE SNOW!"



OCCASIONALLY THEY HEAR THE ROAR OF A DISTANT AVALANCHE. THEN ARF LOOKS UPWARD AND SCREAMS: "LOOK OUT!"



HIGH UP THE MOUNTAINSIDE THEY SEE THE AVALANCHE START, AND SEEK WHAT SHELTER THEY CAN FIND. THE WHITE HORROR THUNDERS DOWNWARD, VEILING EVERYTHING IN SWIRLING SNOW.



THE ROAR CEASES, THE AIR CLEARS AND THERE, RIGHT ACROSS THE PASS, IS A HUGE WALL OF SNOW THROUGH WHICH THEIR MOUNTS CANNOT FLOUNDER.



THE DAYLIGHT FADES AND WITH THE DARKNESS COMES A BITTER WIND. THE STARS GLITTER LIKE FROST CRYSTALS, AND PAUL SAYS: "IF WE SURVIVE THE NIGHT, THE SNOW MAY FREEZE AND BEAR OUR WEIGHT BY MORNING."

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