

Prince Valiant

IN THE DAYS OF KING ARTHUR
by Harold R. Foster

Synopsis: SO DESPONDENT IS ARF OVER HIS SHATTERED DREAM THAT PRINCE VALIANT HAS TO TELL HIM THAT HE NEVER WOULD HAVE BECOME A GREAT WARRIOR. THEN TWO PASSENGERS BOARD THE SHIP.

.... AND VAL MAKES HASTE TO INTRODUCE HIMSELF, FOR HERE IS SOMEONE WHO COULD EASILY MAKE A YOUNG MAN FORGET HIS TROUBLES.

"WE HAVE A LONG JOURNEY AHEAD OF US ACROSS WINTRY SEAS. PERHAPS MY YOUNG SQUIRE CAN HELP YOU WHILE AWAY THE LONELY HOURS."

ARF IS PRESENTED TO FAIR ADELE AND IMMEDIATELY BECOMES TONGUE-TIED. HE REMEMBERS THAT HIS HAIR IS UNCOMBED, HIS TUNIC RUMPLED.

VAL HAS COMMANDED THAT HE ENTERTAIN THE GIRL, SO, IN THE COURSE OF DUTY, HE READS TO HER THE ACCOUNT OF THEIR TRAVELS FROM THULE TO ROME.

"SPLENDID!" SHE CRIES, "SO ROMANTIC! IT IS LIKE AN EPIC POEM! WHO WROTE IT?"

"OH, IT'S JUST SOMETHING I DASHED OFF FOR THE KING OF THULE," HE ANSWERS MODESTLY.

IN THE DAYS HE ASPIRED TO BE A GREAT WARRIOR ARF HAD DISDAINED MUSIC. BUT NOW (STILL IN THE COURSE OF DUTY) HE FINDS IT A PLEASANT WAY TO ENTERTAIN.

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HIS EVENINGS ARE SPENT COMPOSING BALLADS (ISN'T THIS CARRYING DUTY TOO FAR?) AND WRITING SONNETS FOR THE AMUSEMENT OF ONE SMALL GIRL.

NEXT WEEK - Pirates!

HAL FOSTER

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