



Prince Valiant
 IN THE DAYS OF KING ARTHUR
 BY HAROLD R. FOSTER

Synopsis: EVEN SUCH A HARDY EXPLORER AS ARN, SON OF PRINCE VALIANT, FINDS IT NICE TO SHARE THE WARMTH OF A PEASANT HUT, ESPECIALLY ON SUCH A VERY DARK AND SCARY NIGHT.



HE IS ABLE TO FINISH OFF A LARGE-SIZED DINNER. THEN, BOWING TO HIS HOSTESS, SAYS: "I FEEL SORT OF SLEEPY, LADY. WILL YOU SHOW ME TO MY ROOM?"



THERE ARE NO LONG, COLD HALLS TO TRAVEL TO HIS BED. HE MUST REMEMBER TO TELL HIS MOTHER HOW MUCH NICER IT WOULD BE IF THEY ALL SLEPT TOGETHER ON THE FLOOR, BEFORE THE KITCHEN FIRE!



ON THE WAY HOME A WONDERFUL THING HAPPENS. THEY MEET A SPLENDID KNIGHT, MOUNTED ON A GREAT CHARGER. IN ALL THULE ONLY PRINCE VALIANT, KNIGHT OF THE ROUND TABLE, IS SO MOUNTED AND ARMED!



THE KNIGHT OFFERS HIM A RIDE, AND PRINCE ARN TELLS HIM HIS SIRE IS A WARRIOR PRINCE OF GREAT RENOWN, BUT HIS MOTHER IS A SORCERESS WHO CAN CAST A SPELL JUST BY DOING TRICKS WITH HER EYES. "THEN MY SIRE BECOMES PLAYFUL, JUST LIKE SIR GAWAIN HERE," SAYS ARN, POINTING TO HIS DOG.



THE KNIGHT LOOKS AT ARN'S PACK OF HUNTING DOG AND SHUDDERS. "WHY DO YOU CALL HIM SIR GAWAIN?" "BECAUSE HE IS NOT VERY SMART AND LOVES TO PLAY. BUT HE HAS A GREAT HEART AND IS BRAVER THAN BRAVE, SO MY SIRE SAYS."



"I MUST SPEAK TO YOUR FATHER ABOUT HIS POWERS OF DESCRIPTION," MUTTERS THE KNIGHT DARKLY. "I FEAR IT TAKES A STRONGER BRAIN THAN HIS TO BRIDLE A RUNAWAY TONGUE."



PRINCE ARN, BACK FROM A PERILOUS QUEST, AND BRINGING WITH HIM A GALLANT KNIGHT, IS SURPRISED THAT ONLY HIS DOG IS WELCOMED! EVEN HIS FATHER IS WAVING HIS ARMS AND SHOUTING: "SIR GAWAIN! SIR GAWAIN! WELCOME, SIR GAWAIN!"

NEXT WEEK—The Assault.



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