

Prince Valiant

IN THE DAYS OF KING ARTHUR
by HAROLD R. FOSTER

Synopsis: PRINCE VALIANT PERFORMS MANY FEATS OF MYSTERY AND WONDER WHILE HE MUTTERS A PRAYER OF THANKS THAT HE LEARNED SO WELL THE MAGIC OF MERLIN AND THE TRICKERY OF HIS FRIEND SLITH, THE JUGGLER.

EVEN AS VAL PLAYS HIS ROLE OF WANDERING MINSTREL, THE KING PLOTS TREACHERY WITH THE SAXON INVADER. THEN AN INSPIRATION COMES AND VAL SINGS A VIKING BALLAD

IT IS A FUNNY SONG THAT ALWAYS BROUGHT ROARS OF LAUGHTER FROM THE MEN OF THULE, BUT NOW ONLY THE SAXON LAUGHS. SO, HE IS THE ONLY ONE WHO UNDERSTANDS THE VIKING LANGUAGE!

VAL SINGS ANOTHER CHORUS, BUT THE WORDS ARE CHANGED....."TRUST NOT THE CORNISH KINGS. THEY PLAN TREACHERY TO THE SAXON!"

NIGHT FALLS AND THE SAXON SENDS FOR THE MINSTREL: "WHAT IS THE MEANING OF YOUR WORDS?" HE DEMANDS. "A WARNING," ANSWERS VAL. "KING ARTHUR IS AT TINTAGEL THIS VERY MINUTE WITH ONE HUNDRED KNIGHTS. DO YOU THINK HE WOULD BRING SO SMALL A FORCE TO FACE THE SAXONS IF HE WERE NOT SURE OF HELP FROM THE KINGS OF CORNWALL?"

FOR THREE DAYS VAL LIES HIDDEN IN THE BRACKEN. HE SEES THE SAXON SCOUTS RETURN FROM SPYING ON TINTAGEL, SEES THE SAXON ARMY COME SWARMING UP THE VALLEY AND THE FIERCE ATTACK ON THE HILL-FORT OF RESTORMAL.

THE SAXONS PAY A GHASTLY PRICE FOR VENGEANCE ERE THE CASTLE FALLS. VAL HAS ACHIEVED TWO THINGS: NOT ONLY HAS HE CREATED DEADLY ENMITY BETWEEN THE INVADERS AND THEIR ALLIES, BUT HE KNOWS THEIR STRENGTH, AND THAT THEIR FLEET LIES IN FOWEY BAY.

THEN HE MOUNTS AND SETS OFF ACROSS THE WILD MOORS TO HIS NEXT CALL

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