

Prince Valiant

IN THE DAYS OF KING ARTHUR
by Harold R. Foster



Our Story: BECAUSE PRINCE VALIANT SOLVED MERLIN'S "RIDDLE OF THE STIRRUPS," KING ARTHUR'S KNIGHTS HAVE BEEN ABLE TO MEET AND DESTROY THE FIERCE SAXON CAVALRY THAT HAD RAVISHED BRITAIN. VAL LIMPS INTO CAMELOT.



THE KING IS WATCHING THE ROUT FROM A TOWER WHEN VAL IS HELPED IN. AND HE NEEDS HELP, FOR HIS TREATMENT AT THE HANDS OF THE SAXONS DURING HIS CAPTIVITY HAS BEEN FAR FROM GENTLE.



"SIRE, DO NOT BE OVERCONFIDENT OF THIS VICTORY," CRIES VAL SERIOUSLY. "FOR BEYOND THE HILLS THE FOOT SOLDIERS WAIT TO ATTACK!" THE KING LAUGHS:—"WE KNOW, SIR VALIANT, FOR YOUR SCOUTS HAVE KEPT US INFORMED."



THEN THE KING PUTS HIS ARM AROUND HIS GALLANT KNIGHT AND SUPPORTS HIM WHILE THEY WATCH THEIR COMRADES RETURN, SHOUTING THE VICTORY CHANT. SWIFTLY THEY CHANGE THEIR LIGHT LEATHERN JERKINS FOR IRON HELMETS AND CHAIN MAIL, AND, MOUNTED AFRESH ON THEIR GREAT WAR HORSES, SALLY FORTH.



AT DAYS END BRITAIN IS AGAIN SAFE, AND THE FEW SURVIVORS OF THE GREAT INVADING HORDE SCATTER IN A VAIN ATTEMPT TO REACH THEIR SHIPS AND THE SAFETY OF THE OPEN SEA.



A FEAST IS HELD TO CELEBRATE THE VICTORY, AND FROM AMONG ALL THE GALLANT KNIGHTS SIR VALIANT IS SINGLED OUT BY THE KING. AND ARTHUR TELLS HOW VAL HAD SUFFERED ALMOST UNTO DEATH, BUT HAD YET TRICKED THE SAXON INTO A FATAL BLUNDER. IN THE ROAR OF ACCLAIM, VAL MOST FORGETS THE PAIN OF HIS WOUNDS.



AND NOW HE AWAITS THE RETURN OF HIS STRENGTH SO HE CAN FOLLOW HIS HEART, ONCE AGAIN TO SEE THE BREATHLESS LOVELINESS OF ALETA.

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