

# Prince Valiant

IN THE DAYS OF KING ARTHUR  
BY HAROLD R. FOSTER



**Our Story:** THESE MEN SCHEME TO MAKE THE LOVELY MISTY ISLES A WARLIKE POWER; ONLY THE SMALL QUEEN STANDS IN THEIR WAY AND LAWS ARE PASSED TO RENDER HER HELPLESS. ALETA ORDERS A GREAT SHIP MADE READY FOR SEA, COMMANDS A REVIEW OF THE TROOPS AND HIRES A COMPANY OF COMEDIANS.



QUEEN ALETA REVIEWS THE TROOPS IN THE UNIFORM OF COMMANDER-IN-CHIEF. "ALL SOLDIERS WHO WERE NOT BORN IN THE MISTY ISLES TAKE THREE STEPS FORWARD AND PLACE SHIELDS AND SPEARS ON THE GROUND!" SHE COMMANDS, AND FULL HALF THE ARMY STEPS FORWARD!



THEN SHE READS THE NEW LAW, PASSED TO DEPRIVE HER OF HER VIKING GUARDS: "NO RULER MAY HIRE MERCENARIES OR SOLDIERS OF A FOREIGN LAND." THERE IS A MOMENT'S SILENCE, THEN: "MARCH THE FOREIGN SOLDIERS TO THE WAITING SHIP!"



WHITE WITH RAGE, HER BROTHER-IN-LAW STEPS FIERCELY TOWARD HER, BUT WITHOUT EVEN LOOKING AT HIM ALETA CONTINUES: "DIONSEUS, I MAKE YOU COMMANDER OF THE ARMY!" THE LOOK OF TRIUMPH ON HIS FACE FADES AT HER NEXT WORDS: "YOU ARE NOW A SOLDIER. .... BUT YOU WERE BORN ON THE ISLAND OF SAMOS. BOARD THE SHIP WITH THE OTHER MERCENARIES!"



DIONSEUS STANDS IRRESOLUTE; HE CONTROLS THE SENATE AND THE COUNCIL OF ELDERS, HE HAS POWERFUL FRIENDS, BUT DARE HE TAKE THE RISK OF OPEN REVOLT? A VOICE FROM THE CROWD YELLS: "IT MUST BE A GOOD LAW, DIONSEUS; YOU MADE IT!"



LAUGHTER FOLLOWS, GROWING IN VOLUME AS ALETA'S COMEDIANS LEAD THE PEOPLE ON WITH QUIP AND JEST. DIONSEUS TURNS TOWARD THE SHIP, BUT ERE HE REACHES IT THE MOST POWERFUL MAN IN THE KINGDOM HAS BECOME A THING OF RIDICULE!



THE FOSTER

THE SHIP SAILS AND DIONSEUS, SICK WITH RAGE, VOWS TO RETURN, FOR TO HIS HUNGER FOR POWER HAS BEEN ADDED THE THIRST FOR VENGEANCE. AND HE HAS HALF THE ARMY WITH HIM!

NEXT WEEK—Helene.