



Prince Valiant

IN THE DAYS OF
KING ARTHUR
BY
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Synopsis: A VERY CRAFTY HERMIT OFFERS HOSPITALITY TO PRINCE VALIANT AND HIS SQUIRE, THEN TRIES TO MURDER VAL FOR HIS MONEY. VAL PROMPTLY HANGS THE MISCREANT!



THE HERMIT'S UNWHOLESOME FRIENDS BURY HIM. IT IS MIDNIGHT ERE THE TASK IS FINISHED.



THEN THEY LOOT HIS HOVEL AND DEPART. "AN UNLOVELY MESS OF CUT-THROATS; WE WILL FOLLOW, FIND THEIR RAT NEST AND SMOKE THEM OUT," ANNOUNCES VAL.



THAT A JUST FATE HAD OVERTAKEN THEIR FRIEND SEEMS TO WORRY THE OUTLAWS AND THERE IS A LONG DISCUSSION BEFORE THEIR CAVE.



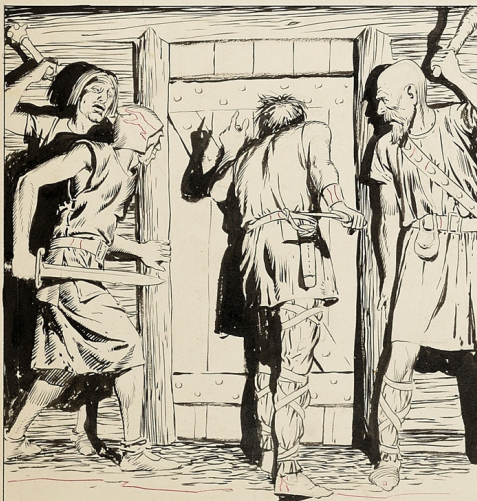
CREEPING CLOSE, VAL HEARS THESE WORDS: "GO TO THE OTHER CAMP AND TELL OUR CHIEFTAIN THE HERMIT HAS BEEN HUNG; THAT JUSTICE HAS REARED ITS UGLY HEAD AND MUST, FOR OUR OWN SAFETY, BE STAMPED OUT!"



"GO UP THE PATH A SHORT WAY, IF THEIR CHIEFTAIN SHOULD COME BEFORE DAYBREAK, CALL TWICE LIKE AN OWL."



TWO HOURS LATER THE CALL COMES. WITH WELL FILLED PURSE AND JEWELLED SWORD IN PLAIN VIEW, VAL THROWS OPEN THE DOOR. "AH! HE CRIES, "HERE I WILL REST FOR THE NIGHT, AS SOON AS I TETHER MY HORSE!"



HE GOES OUT, CLOSING THE DOOR. "DID YOU SEE THE PURSE?" AND, "DID YOU NOTICE THE JEWELLED SWORD?" ALSO, "AND WILL WE GIVE HIM A HEARTY WELCOME WHEN HE RETURNS!"



BUT THE NEXT ONE TO ENTER IS THEIR OWN CHIEFTAIN AND HE RECEIVES THE FATAL WELCOME!



THE MESSENGER SEES HIS CHIEFTAIN FALL AND RACES AWAY. "LET US FIND COMFORTABLE SEATS, BERIC," WHISPERS VAL, "I THINK THERE WILL BE AN ENTERTAINMENT SOON."

NEXT WEEK — Thieves fall out.