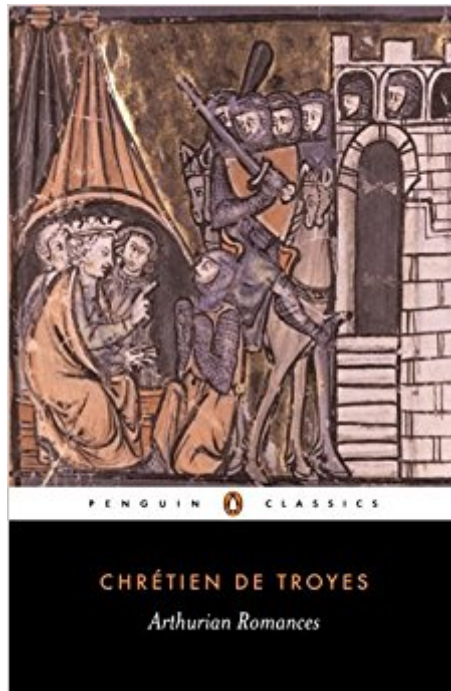




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Arthurian Romances (Penguin Classics)



Synopsis

Fantastic adventures abound in these courtly romances: *Erec and Enide*, *Cligès*, *The Knight of the Cart*, *The Knight with the Lion*, and *The Story of the Grail*. For more than seventy years, Penguin has been the leading publisher of classic literature in the English-speaking world. With more than 1,700 titles, Penguin Classics represents a global bookshelf of the best works throughout history and across genres and disciplines. Readers trust the series to provide authoritative texts enhanced by introductions and notes by distinguished scholars and contemporary authors, as well as up-to-date translations by award-winning translators.

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Customer Reviews

Text: English (translation)

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these great texts with beautiful contemporary works of art. But the best feature must be Everyman's uniquely low price. Each Everyman title offers these extensive materials at a price that competes with the most inexpensive editions on the market-but Everyman Paperbacks have durable binding, quality paper, and the highest editorial and scholarly standards. --This text refers to an out of print or unavailable edition of this title.

I've been through this text now several times for private reading and for teaching classes on Arthur specifically and medieval studies generally. This book affords very good prose translations of Chretien's romances, from which both I and my students profited. The notes and introduction are quite sound. But something is clearly lost when verse is lost. I understand full well that there are serious complications when translating from the verse of another language into English (which has its own maddening complications, starting with its bizarre irregularities), but I sense something is lost, terribly lost, when the stories are not presented in verse. While they will cost you a good bit more than this volume, there are very fine verse translations available both from the U.Ga. press and from the Yale U. press. So a sensible strategy for the Arthurian seeker or scholar would be to start with this modestly priced volume and then move on to the verse translations.

This collection is one of the most important primary texts that informs Arthurian lore. The translation feels more contemporary but doesn't sacrifice essential material that makes the original text so important to Arthurian studies. One also gets very unique judgments of round table figures. Chretien's account of Lancelot is probably the most damning retelling of Arthur's most famous knight's fall from his king's favor. The book is worth it for the chronicling of the Lancelot/Guinevere episode, perhaps the most intricate detailing and morally focussed interpretation of the legend, whose judgmental tone continues to inform new incarnations of the affair portion of Arthurian mythos. In addition to the important Lancelot story, Chretien's stories provide a very lucid glimpse of both artistic and broadly cultural views of these staple romances, along with a crucial view into the changing nature of written accounts of legendary material that was in flux soon after the tales were put to paper. The writing is particularly subtle, in the spirit of Sir Gawain's romance. On a personal note, I used to be quite involved in tales about Arthur but felt I lost my fire for the subject. Chretien de Troyes reignited that fire for me.

Having never read Chretien de Troyes before, I found that I was delighted with the work which is a delightful, swift moving presentation of Arthurian materials.

Chretien of Troyes wrote four complete Arthurian Romances that are translated into readable texts in this book. It does not cover the Grail story. If you are interested in how the art of courtly love was actually portrayed in twelfth century France, these romance stories are for you.

"Arthurian Romances" is a recent translation of five of the medieval writer Chretien de Troyes' stories about King Arthur's court. The stories are Erec and Enide, Cligès, The Knight of the Cart (Lancelot), The Knight with the Lion (Yvain), and The Story of the Grail (Perceval). The book also has an appendix of Continuations of the Grail Stories, a Medieval glossary, and a good Notes section. I bought it as I was studying 'The Knight of the Cart' for a course on Magic in the Middle Ages. I found this translation more readable than some of the previous ones I tried. The Notes and Glossary were also helpful as was the Introduction. It's written in a modern style yet keeps the flavour of knighthood, battles and ladies who need rescuing but may also be enchanted. I would recommend this book to anybody studying this period in literature, or to anybody interested in King Arthur and the Knights of the Round Table, or if you enjoy tales of adventure, romance and magic.

I love medieval literature, and this book is one of my favorites. Here you will find the stories of four of Arthur's knights. Erec, Ivain, Cliges and Lancelot.

Beautiful in many ways and these stories carry lessons and sorrows people need to think about. The historic influence of these is undisputed except by political zealots pushing agendas of course.

Like that the book was new and there wasn't any writing in it!! for class use not for personal satisfaction

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