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Le Morte Darthur : The Winchester Manuscript (Oxford World's Classics)



Sir Thomas Malory
Le Morte Darthur
The Winchester Manuscript

OXFORD WORLD'S CLASSICS



Synopsis

The greatest English version of the stories of King Arthur, *Le Morte Darthur* was completed in 1469-70 by Sir Thomas Malory, 'knight prisoner'. This generously annotated edition, in a new abridgement by Helen Cooper based on the Winchester manuscript, represents what Malory wrote more closely than the first version printed by William Caxton. - ;The definitive English version of the stories of King Arthur, *Le Morte Darthur* was completed in 1469-70 by Sir Thomas Malory, 'knight-prisoner'. In a resonant prose style, Malory charts the tragic disintegration of the fellowship of the Round Table, destroyed from within by warring factions. Recounting the life of King Arthur, the knightly exploits of Sir Lancelot du Lake, Sir Tristram, Sir Gawain, and the quest for the Holy Grail, *Le Morte Darthur* depicts the contradictions that underscore the Fellowship's chivalric ideals. A pervading tension cumulates in the revelation of Lancelot and Guenivere's illicit passion, and in Arthur's powerlessness to prevent a related outbreak of violence and revenge. This generously annotated edition is based on the authoritative Winchester manuscript and represents what Malory wrote more closely than the first version printed by William Caxton. Intelligently abridged from the original to make a single substantial volume, the translation is supplemented by a fine Introduction, a Glossary, and extensive Notes -

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Customer Reviews

Sir Thomas Malory's *Le Morte Darthur* is one of the better known texts of the Arthurian legends. The text describes in great detail the history of the Arthurian world and expands on Geoffrey of Monmouth's *History of the Kings of Britain* by portraying many of the other characters in the Arthurian legends as well as King Arthur himself. One of the renditions of this tale is the Oxford World Classics edition of the Winchester Manuscript of *Le Morte Darthur* edited by Helen Cooper. This book is an excellent edition of the Malory's work and although the language may be a bit difficult to understand for the modern reader, Cooper does an excellent job of making the language and the ideas of the book understandable for all readers. The book begins with a detailed and informative introduction, which not only presents the many themes that are present in the book, but also describes the biography of Sir Thomas Malory himself and the circumstances in which he wrote the book. For instance Cooper describes the life of Malory and his criminal record as well as presents the major themes of the book ,which include, knighthood, romance and chivalry. The introduction is very clear and provides a helpful overview of Malory's work and the history surrounding *Le Morte Darthur*. In addition to an informative introduction the book also contains several other tools that allow the reader to gain a better sense of understanding of Malory's work. The book has a chronology of Arthurian material as well as a useful glossary of uncommon words that appear frequently in the text.

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