



Knight's Tale

Geoffrey Chaucer

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Knight's Tale Details

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Author : Geoffrey Chaucer

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From Reader Review Knight's Tale for online ebook

Lee 🦆 says

The narrator read excellently in the original Middle English! I actually really liked this tale, I just wish Emelye was more of a character.

Kaci says

I knew the book would be different from the movie, but wow.

Alannah Clarke says

Not a bad tale which captures the idea of courtly love in the middle ages. I loved how the main theme of the tale was the idea that that joy and suffering are not that far from each other when it comes to human emotions and how good fortune is connected to bad fortune.

This is the second tale that I have read from The Canterbury's Tale but I have to say that so far I prefer the Pardoner's Tale.

Micah says

It was funny how the two cousins fell so quickly in love with Emily. It only took a second. Kind of... humorous.

Abby (Miss Abigail) says

Not my favourite of the Canterbury tales, but it does have that satirical social criticism that we Chaucerian nerds love so much, so I won't complain!

Braeden Giaconi says

The Knight's Tale is the first (and possibly the best) of the Canterbury Tales. The story deals with the themes of fortune (a la Boethius), the precarious nature of human existence, and love.

If you don't read the Knight's Tale for the literary allegory, it's still really entertaining!!

Miriam Joy says

Here's one for 'Academic Wednesdays'...

Okay, I didn't actually read this in an edition of its own, but as part of the huge and monumental 'Riverside Chaucer', which is just... SO HEAVY. But it took me like two hours to read, so I figured I deserved to be able to count it as a book (that's around the same length of time it'd take me to read a lot of YA novels).

Anyway. I've never read any Chaucer before. I'm taking a paper this year from the English Faculty, and because it's a 3rd year paper, they expect you to know how to read Middle English -- because they teach it in first year. But I don't do English, I do ASNaC, so I've never even read Chaucer before and... it's all a struggle. Plus I have no idea what my supervisor will want me to do or what kind of thing I'm expected to discuss about the text.

That said, this wasn't too difficult to read. I found myself skimming in places and had to force myself to pay a bit more attention and actually check the footnotes for things I didn't understand, but it was easier than some of the other Middle English we were asked to read (presumably that stuff was earlier / less well-edited). It was also an interesting story, which helped.

I hadn't realised how much Chaucer drew on Classical material, but a considerable amount of this story is about Theseus, which is interesting. It was also super weird to read a medieval text that wasn't, like, overtly Christian. Even medieval Irish adaptations of Classical texts don't feel Classical -- the gods are ignored as much as possible and fudged into something approximate where they're unavoidable. Here, though, the gods are firmly in the story, shaping events and being prayed to and so on, which was kind of weird to adjust to. I guess that's what happens when you go a few hundred years later and stuff isn't only being written in monasteries.

I also have to admit that, insofar as I was rooting for either character, I was rather rooting for Palamon, so I was kind of pleased with how things turned out? Though I still wish Emily could've just run off into the woods and been a devotee of Diana like she wanted to. That would have been a much better ending.

Samuel Zucca says

I was going to read the translated edition of this but my english teacher said the original wouldn't be too much trouble and gave a copy of the prologue. It was nicely written and all but it's really just a list of characters with their descriptions, so when I finished it I decided to move onto the first story, 'The Knight's Tale'.

If you're into Greek myths I'd really recommend this, or at least a translated version of it (there are many out there) since it has the same style of story to something like the Trojan Horse, in fact one of the main characters is Theseus (who fought the Minotaur) only later in his life.

The story follows Palamon and Arcita, these two knights and cousins who are imprisoned by Theseus. They fall in love with his sister, Emelye, who they view from their window, and the rest of the story follows as they both attempt to escape, and also fight over her to win her courtship.

What really struck me was that, although it obviously came from a time where people would have had different values and ideas, the story is still something that feels quite real. You can understand the characters Chaucer writes, as they go through love and jealousy and grief in the same way we would - there's an honesty to it. Particularly it's ending, I was expecting a happy ending to be honest and it surprised me by how bittersweet it was.

Other highlights are two really great monologues that are in the second half of the story. One made by Saturn (the god) is chilling and almost disturbing, the other is made by Theseus - called the First Mover - and is about the nature of life and humanity, something you can imagine Shakespeare would have drawn on.

If you wanna read it then give the original text a go if you're feeling brave, otherwise if you want to seek it out in one of the multitudes of different adaptations or translations out there, it's worth it just for the story.

Carlie says

hilariously unrealistic!

Elijah Porter says

I have only read the first and second parts of this tale. The start of the tale was interesting in the way the characters developed. It didn't just start right into the action of the story. Instead it seemed as if the story started a page and a half earlier than most stories do. It wasn't a bad thing, just interesting.

At the end of part two, all I could make from the reading was the hardships of forbidden love. I enjoyed that it wasn't the typically Romeo and Juliet story or guy meets girl. Instead, it was the medieval struggle of winning the women with bravery and the will to fight. In my book, the will to fight for what you want is a much better way of proving love than turning her into a vampire or any other 21st century methods.

I would recommend this tale to students and adults looking to reconnect with the roots of English writing as we know it. It is more genuine, original, and flows better than books these days, which I think try too hard.

Vaishali says

Warning: if you're reading *Canterbury Tales* to ingest all things medieval, skip this one. The Knight's Tale is Greek! Skimmed with SparkNotes because Coghill's translation is tedious and melodramatic. Since this is Chaucer's first and longest Tale - he never completed *Canterbury Tales* - perhaps he misappropriated too much time on this one?

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Nelli SilveryMoon says

Cheated and read the modern English translation version because I don't understand shit when I looked at the

middle English. Otherwise, big love to the story!

Skye says

I feel it's cheating a bit to add this individually, but it's the longest text I've read in Middle English so far.

Phil says

Part 2 of my occasional journey through The Canterbury Tales. The Knight's Tale is the first tale proper after the prologue and is an example of the Courtly Romance that was popular at the time (think the legends of King Arthur and that kind of stuff. These are the sort of tales that drove Don Quixote slightly mad. The story of Arcite and Palamon is an adaptation from an episode in Boccaccio's Decameron and was an example of why Chaucer's idea of the tales was so inspired, in that this was a story written years before (mentioned in the prologue to his Legend of Good Women) and able to be reused in the voice of one of his many characters. The story itself is interesting enough - it starts well, but once the tournament starts it bogs down in description of armour and swords rather than telling the story - so three quarters of it are very good and one quarter is tiresome description. So good, but not one of the best tales.

Meredith says

I think that had I been listening to this while having the Middle English in front of me, it would have worked well. However, having no background in ME, so I only understood one out of five phrases. Bebb does have a voice that's pleasant enough that I pressed on through. But my comprehension was minimal.
