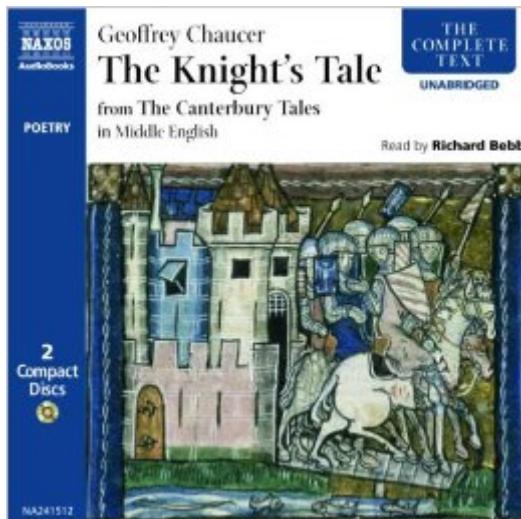


The book was found

Knight's Tale (Complete Classics)



Synopsis

The Knight's Tale of medieval wars and chivalry is the first tale told to the pilgrims as they set out to Canterbury. It concerns Theseus, returning from fighting at Thebes, two brother knights Palamon and Arcite, imprisoned but yearning for their loves. But the real hero of this recording is Richard Bebb who, with the help of Professor Derek Brewer, the leading expert on Chaucerian pronunciation, make the original Middle English not only comprehensible to the modern ear, but exciting.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

The Purpose of The Knight's TaleGeoffrey Chaucer has satirised the social values and mindset of his time through his story, The Knight's Tale. In The Knight's Tale, Chaucer ridicules the code of chivalry, mainly of the irrationalities presented in the codes and mindsets of people at that time. Throughout the text, we can see Chaucer's opinion and thought on many matters that differentiates from what others thought in medieval Europe. The story opens with the story of Theseus who has conquered the s and married their queen, immediately presenting us an inversion of the code of chivalry, where the victorious side gets all and the loser has to obey, where the conquered woman, Hippolyta, must submit to a male conqueror. Theseus then responds a group of Theban women who were grieved by the disrespect of the King of Thebes to their husbands who perished in battle 'We who are making all this lamentation, Have each of us lost husbands in that town ... our husbands who were killed, And dragged them all together in a heap; And he will neither vouchsafe

nor permit Either their burial or burning,' according to the codes of chivalry. A knight is expected to respond to the pleas of the weak. But Theseus' response is absurd in that he destroys Thebes including the women and children of Thebes and the home of the supplicants. In this phase of the story, Chaucer is questioning the rationality of the code by making Theseus take totally irrational actions. To add to the absurdity, Theseus by takes a pair of prisoners Arcite and Palamon, who by chance are cousins; he rescues them from death, "seeing their coat of arms, the heralds said/that they were cousins of the royal blood". He imprisons them as hostages but as Thebes is destroyed, and Creon slain, there is no one to pay their ransom.

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