

Sir Gawain and the Green Knight (Penguin Classics)

By Anonymous

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‘Be prepared to perform what you promised, Gawain;
Seek faithfully till you find me …’

A New Year’s feast at King Arthur’s court is interrupted by the appearance of a gigantic Green Knight, resplendent on horseback. He challenges any one of Arthur’s men to behead him, provided that if he survives he can return the blow a year later. Sir Gawain accepts the challenge and decapitates the knight – but the mysterious warrior cheats death and vanishes, bearing his head with him. The following winter Gawain sets out to find the Knight in the wild Northern lands and to keep his side of the bargain. One of the great masterpieces of Middle English poetry, **Sir Gawain and the Green Knight** magically combines elements of fairy tale and heroic sagas with the pageantry, chivalry and courtly love of medieval Romance.

Brian Stone’s evocative translation is accompanied by an introduction that examines the Romance genre, and the poem’s epic and pagan sources. This edition also includes essays discussing the central characters and themes, theories about authorship and Arthurian legends, and suggestions for further reading and notes.

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Editorial Review

Review
Dual text on facing pages, now revised and updated. Critically acclaimed translation now in its twenty fifth year. Extensive notes, glossary and introduction .

Language Notes
Text: English (translation)

About the Author
Bernard O'Donoghue is a Fellow in English at Wadham College and a noted Irish poet.

Users Review

From reader reviews:

Joan Stump:

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