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The Faerie Queene, Book One (Hackett Classics) (Bk. 1)



Synopsis

Framed in Spenser's distinctive, opulent stanza and in some of the trappings of epic, Book One of Spenser's *The Faerie Queene* consists of a chivalric romance that has been made to a typical recipe--fierce warres and faithfull loves--but that has been Christianized in both overt and subtle ways. The physical and moral wanderings of the Redcrosse Knight dramatize his effort to find the proper proportion of human to divine contributions to salvation--a key issue between Protestants and Catholics. Fantastic elements like alien humans, humanoids, and monsters and their respective dwelling places are vividly described.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

While nearly all Spenser scholars will point you to the Longman edition for the best edition of the *FAERIE QUEENE* (even the editors of this edition), what makes this book (and the subsequent edition for each individual book) worth while is that it comes with a Book specific introduction, and is easy to carry around, along with copious notes--not overdone, though, just enough for good understanding of Spenser's complex allegory. But making the *FAERIE QUEENE* portable and easier to take with you and understand is what makes me recommend this edition. The poem itself is a testament to imaginative poetry, and a must read for serious students of Literature or the Elizabethan era.

Of all of the classic English literature that I have read, *The Faerie Queene* by Edmund Spenser is

among my favorites. The funny thing is, I don't have that much love for reading poetry (I can appreciate it for its merits, but it's normally not my cup of tea,) but I thoroughly enjoyed this book length poem. The main story is of the Redcrosse Knight and his lady love Una, a princess who has asked her betrothed to rid the kingdom of a terrible dragon. Along the way they must face many challenges (and much allegory,) which makes for quite an entertaining tale. My favorite part of the story is the Redcrosse Knight's experiences in the House of Pride. Overall, this is a rich allegorical tale full of knights, princesses, and evil creatures of myth and legend all written in a beautifully constructed verse that flows wonderfully. I haven't read any of the other books of the Faerie Queene, but Book 1 was fantastic.

Hooray for Hackett. Hamilton is more authoritative, but the decision to retain the "v"/"u" spelling throughout is a pain; the Norton is worthy but incomplete; the Penguin has the notes at the back, and not at the foot. This edition is clean and well edited, and just a pleasure. As they used to say: collect them all!!

Perfect quality and fast arrival.

Great book

While my professor does not enjoy digital text books, she allowed me to try downloading this for my iPad and it worked very well. Sometimes the words got a little fuzzy but overall, this book worked like a charm.

I know this is a classic and mandatory for probably every English major in the Anglophone world, but it is misogynistic, puerile, lacking in internal logic, and not very interesting. Chaucer and Shakespeare are everything Spenser is not, but it is unlikely you will not be forced to read it if you seek higher education. I will definitely be selling mine.

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