

**The Naked Truth, or Why in *Le Morte Darthur* La Beale Isode May Be Naked but Queen Gwenyvere May Not (summary)**

In Sir Thomas Malory's *Le Morte Darthur*, two love triangles dominate the plot: the love triangle between King Arthur--Queen Gwenyvere--Lancelot, and the one between King Mark--La Beale Isode--Trystram. These triangles share many common points. In fact, throughout *Le Morte Darthur* we have the impression that those triangles are meant to reflect one another in order to emphasize the differences between them. The article shows that the main difference between the lovers' relationships in the love triangles of *Le Morte Darthur* is in Malory's attitude towards the question of their sexual behavior. Malory is usually circumspect about Gwenyvere and Lancelot, trying to convince us that nothing sexual happened between them, yet in the case of Trystram and Isode, he is quite frank about their relationship being sexual. In this article the author tries to give an explanation to this different approach. By focusing on the departure scene of Isode and Trystram the author proves that it contains mutual oaths and an exchange of rings, which makes it some sort of marriage ceremony – a fact that may explain Malory's tolerance toward Isode and Trystram's sexuality.

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