

CHAPTER THREE THE WIFE OF BATH'S TALE

Now it was time for the Wife of Bath's story. But before she began, she told us all about her five past husbands. 'My rich old husbands were the best,' she said. 'They did everything for me. Women are more important than their husbands, after all.' Some pilgrims laughed openly when they heard about all her different past lovers, young and old. But when she began her story, we all listened interestedly.

In King Arthur's time, the king and his knights lived in the castle of Camelot. One of Arthur's knights – Tarquin – loved Lucretia, a beautiful young woman with long black hair. But she didn't love him. One day she sat under a tree by the river, when suddenly Tarquin **rode** his horse out of the forest and took her in his arms.

'Help!' cried Lucretia, but Tarquin carried her away quickly on his horse to an old house on a hill far from Camelot. There he put her in a dark room and closed the door behind her.

At once, King Arthur called his knights to him. 'Find Tarquin and Lucretia,' he said, 'and bring them to me.'

They soon brought Tarquin and Lucretia to the king. He was angry with Tarquin. 'When a knight from Camelot **treats** a woman badly, he must die,' said Arthur.

But Queen Guinevere felt sorry for Tarquin. So she asked her husband, 'Can I give a different **punishment** to him?'

ride (past rode)
to go on a horse

treat to do
something to
someone with
good or bad
feelings

punishment
when you do
something bad
to someone after
they do something
bad to you

It took a long time for the war
the duke controls the small town
a good thing to win

'Of course,' said the king. Then she said to Tarquin, 'Tell me the answer to this important question: what do women want most of all?'

Tarquin didn't know. So he said nothing.

Then the queen said, 'Tarquin, you can leave Camelot now, but you must come back in a year with a good answer to my question, or you die.'

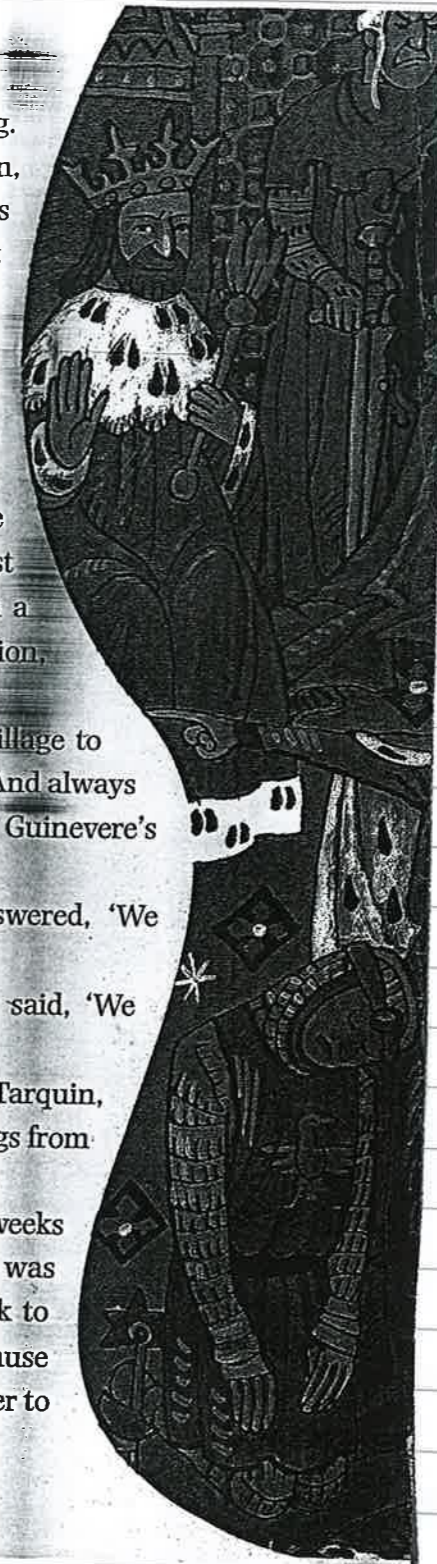
So Tarquin went from village to village and town to town. And always he asked different women Guinevere's question.

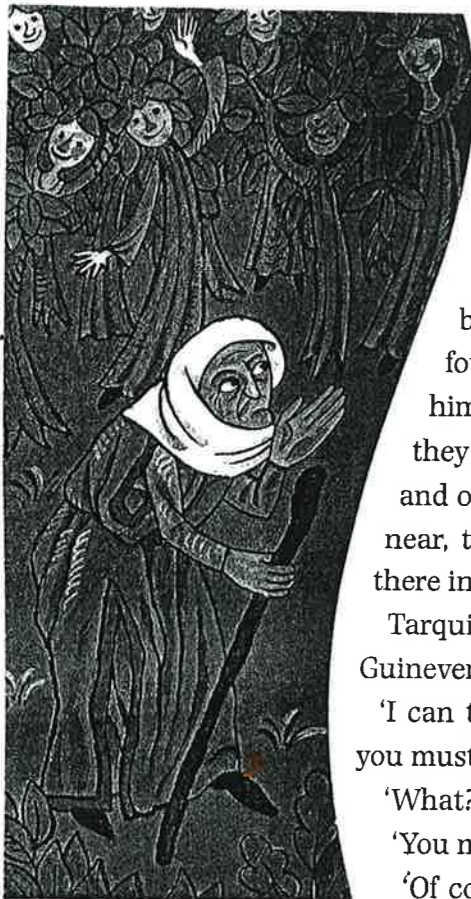
In one village they answered, 'We want money.'

In the next village they said, 'We want to be happy.'

In one town, they told Tarquin, 'We want to hear nice things from our lovers.'

Days became weeks, and weeks became months. Soon it was time for Tarquin to go back to Camelot. He felt bad because he didn't have a good answer to Guinevere's question.





On the road to Camelot, Tarquin rode his horse through a forest. It was dark and not easy to see there. After some time, he got off his horse and began to walk. Just then, he saw twenty-four beautiful young women in front of him. They were all in green dresses, and they sang beautifully, laughed, and moved in and out of the trees. But when Tarquin came near, they suddenly left – and the only thing there in front of him was an **ugly** old woman.

Tarquin told his story to her, and asked her Guinevere's question.

'I can tell you the answer,' she said. 'But first you must promise me something.'

'What?' asked Tarquin.

'You must **pay me back** later for my help.'

'Of course, old woman,' laughed Tarquin.

to promise - megigela
-ed

Summary of the story

The wife of Bath
to Canterbury.

this story to the other pilgrims on the way

There was a knight in King Arthur's court. His name was Tarquin. He loved a beautiful young woman, Guinevere, but she didn't love him. Tarquin took Guinevere in his arms and made to an old house far from Camelot.

ugly not beautiful

pay back (past paid) to do something good or give money to someone after they do something good to you

rule to tell someone or the people in a country what they must or mustn't do

In Camelot, Tarquin went at once to the queen. 'What do women want most of all?' asked Guinevere. 'To **rule** their husbands,' answered Tarquin. Guinevere asked the women in the room, 'Is that right?' 'Yes,' they all said. 'Tarquin, you're a free man,' said Guinevere. Just then, the ugly old woman from the forest came into the room. 'Wait!' she cried. 'That young man's answer came from me!' 'It's true,' said Tarquin. 'And now you must pay me back,' said the old woman.

to kiss her
to marry her
to sleep with her
to serve her
to marry her daughter
to kiss a frog
money

'How much money do you want?' asked Tarquin. 'I don't want money,' she said. 'You must marry me!' So Tarquin married the old woman that afternoon. That night, before they went to bed, his new wife was sad. 'What's the matter, husband?' she asked. 'Why don't you look at me?' 'Wife,' he said. 'I feel ill when I see your face.' 'But my ugly face is a good thing,' she answered. 'No man is going to want to take me to bed, and so I'm always going to be **faithful** to you. What do you want – a quiet, faithful but ugly wife, or a beautiful but not faithful wife?'

faithful - huisege

delvasni!

to send, send = kildeni

King Arthur sent his knights after Tarquin and Lucretia. The knight brought them back to the court. Arthur told Tarquin: you must die. But Queen Guinevere gave him a different punishment. She asked him a question: "What do women want most of all?" And she gave Tarquin one year to find out the answer to this question.

Tarquin went from village to village and from town to town and asked the women this question. He got different answers: money, happiness, love. But he didn't find the real answer.

On the road to Camelot Tarquin met an ugly old woman. He told her his story. She knew the answer to Queen Guinevere's question. She told Tarquin: I tell you the answer but you must pay me back for it.

Then they went to Camelot. "What do women want most of all?" asked the Queen. "To rule their husbands" answered Tarquin. This was the correct answer so Tarquin was free again. Then the ugly old woman told him: "Now you must marry me" And they got married that afternoon.

Tarquin was sad because his wife was old and ugly. She told him: "You can choose: do you want an ugly and faithful wife or a beautiful and not faithful wife?" Tarquin said: "I don't know. You choose for me." He kissed her and she became young and beautiful. And they lived happily ever after.

'I don't know,' said Tarquin. 'You **choose** for me.'

When she heard this, the old woman felt happy. She now ruled her husband.

'**Kiss** me,' she said. 'I'm going to be your faithful and beautiful wife.'

So Tarquin kissed the ugly old woman, and at once she became young and beautiful.

And after that, Tarquin lived very happily with his beautiful, faithful wife for many years.

faithful true to your husband or wife and not having lovers

choose (past chose) to think which thing, of a number of things, you want

kiss to touch lovingly with your mouth



CHAPTER SIX
THE FRANKLIN'S TALE

Before the Franklin began his story, he said: 'I never learnt much from books because I didn't go to a good school. My story's about a husband and wife, too. But – for me – when a man and woman marry, the two of them must rule in their home – differently, of course – for it to be a happy one.' And, with that, he began:

Arveragus was a good, rich knight. He lived in a castle on a black hill near the sea in Brittany in France. One day he decided to marry.

He chose for his wife a beautiful young woman, Dorigen. Before the wedding he said to her, 'When we are husband and wife, I'm always going to think well of you, and I'm never going to be angry when you say or do foolish things. Can you promise me this, too?'

'Of course,' said Dorigen, and she promised.

Soon after the wedding, Arveragus went away to a different country. Dorigen felt **lonely**. She often went down to watch the sea. It hit the black **rocks** for hours. Dorigen watched it sadly, and waited for her husband to come home.

A rich man, Aurelius, lived near Arveragus's castle. Day after day he saw Dorigen from his window, and he fell in love with her. He began to go for walks by the sea. One day he spoke to Dorigen.

'Would you like to come to my castle for dinner?'

'I'm sorry,' said the faithful Dorigen, 'I can't. I'm waiting for my husband.'

lonely unhappy because you are alone

rock a very big stone

Day after day Dorigen watched the sea. Day after day Aurelius came and spoke to her.

'Would you like a drink?'

'Would you like to meet my friends?'

Always Dorigen's answer was, 'No.'

But one morning in May, Aurelius said, 'Dorigen, would you like to come on a **picnic**?'

And this time Dorigen said, 'Yes.'

Aurelius ran home at once. He put lots of good things to eat in a picnic box, took it back to Dorigen, and opened it.

He gave a red apple to Dorigen. She sat on a little rock near him and ate it.

picnic a meal that people eat outside in the country, often sitting on the ground

joke to say things that are not serious, or are funny

Food

fruit: apple, orange, pear

Drink

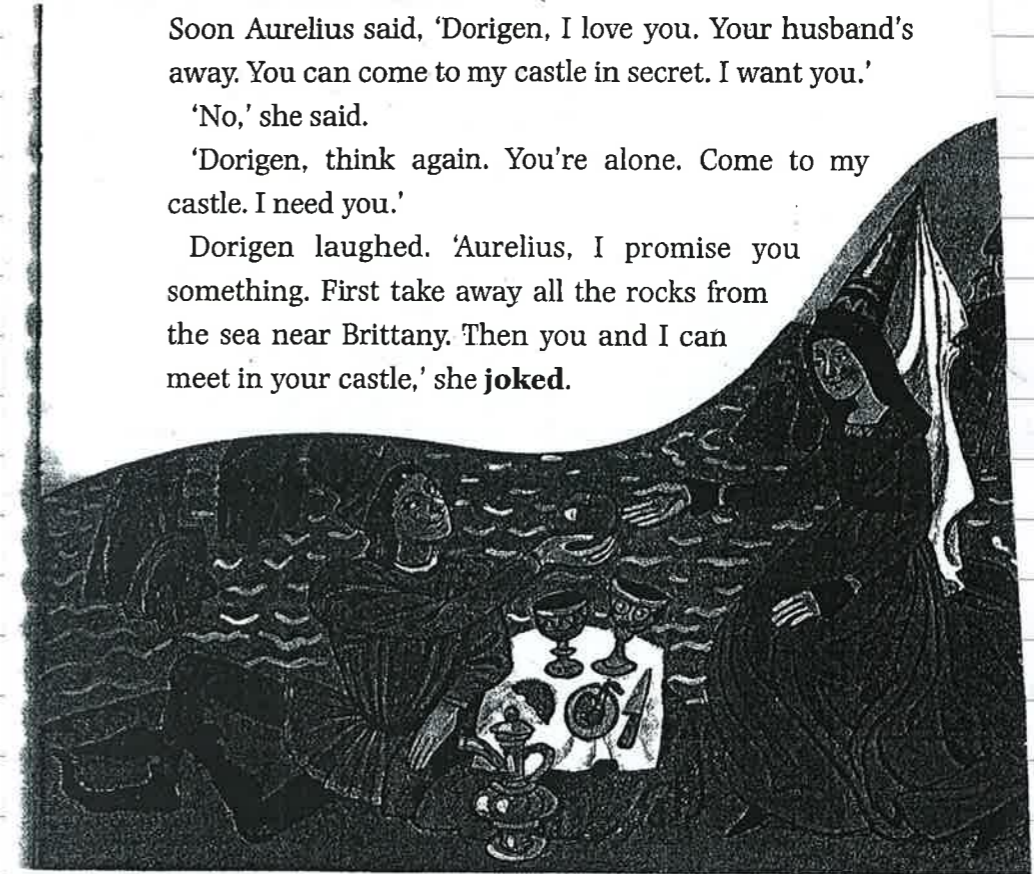
water, wine, coffee, tea, beer

Soon Aurelius said, 'Dorigen, I love you. Your husband's away. You can come to my castle in secret. I want you.'

'No,' she said.

'Dorigen, think again. You're alone. Come to my castle. I need you.'

Dorigen laughed. 'Aurelius, I promise you something. First take away all the rocks from the sea near Brittany. Then you and I can meet in your castle,' she **joked**.



After the picnic, Aurelius went home to his castle, and Dorigen stayed and watched the sea.

One day, Arveragus came home after many months. He and Dorigen hugged and kissed when they met.

'I'm happy to be back,' he said.

'I'm happy to have you here again,' said Dorigen.

But on that day – at the same time – Aurelius met a **magician**. He told the man about Dorigen's promise.

'For £1,000 I can take away all the rocks from the sea near Brittany,' the magician said.

'Do it, and I can give you the money the day after tomorrow,' said Aurelius.

Chapter 50X
The Franklin's tale

to decide, -ed - eldönt, elhatározt
 a wedding - esküvés
 to promise, ed - megígért
 foolish - buta, bolondos
 such - hasonlóan
 lonely - magányos
 alone - egyedül
 loneliness - magányosság

I like sitting on my own.

to hit, hit, hit - ütött

at once - azonnal, mindjárt

to faint, -ed - elájult

to bite, bit - harap

to kidnap, kidnapped - elrabolt, elrabolt

to realise - rájött, valóságra

the apple stuck in her throat

he/she/it rolled/fell into the sea

a dwarf - törpe

to save, -d - megment

Her hair and teeth fell out and she became ugly

deaf - süket

unfaithful - hűtlen

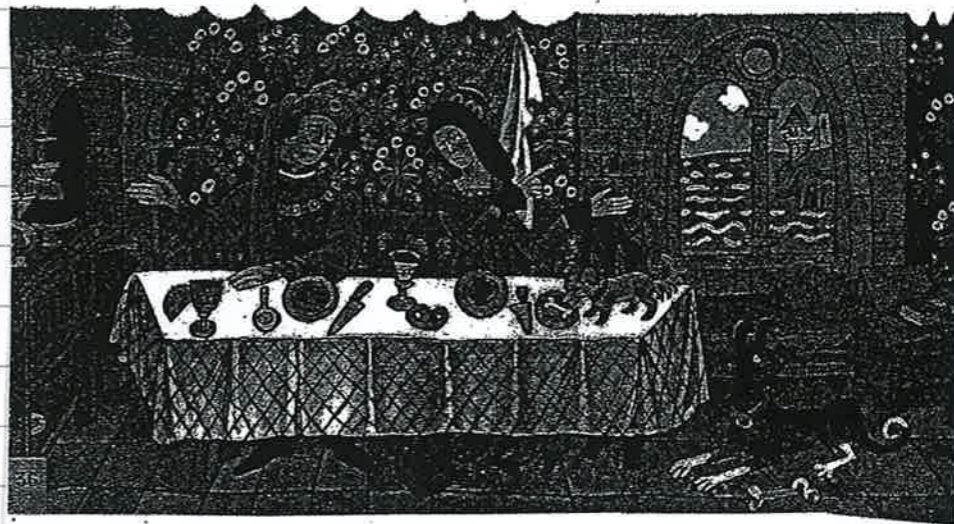
magician
 somebody that
 makes things
 happen in a way
 that you don't
 understand

Early the next morning the rocks weren't there. Aurelius came at once to see Dorigen.

'Remember your promise. I'm waiting for you tonight,' he said. Then he went back to his castle.

Dorigen remembered her foolish joke and felt sad.

'What's the matter?' asked Arveragus at breakfast.



Dorigen told him all about the picnic and her foolish promise.

Arveragus said, 'Dorigen, I'm sorry. It was a joke, I know, but a promise is a promise. It's going to hurt me a lot, but there are no rocks in the sea today. So you must go to Aurelius tonight.'

to disappear - eltűnik

locked

after all - végülis

to visit, -ed - meglátogat

tomb - sír

tombstone

Aurelius smiled when he opened his door to Dorigen that night. But then he saw her sad face. 'What did your husband say?' he asked.

When Dorigen told him, Aurelius said, 'Your husband's a very good man, and I feel very bad. A joke's a joke after all. Look, I'm going to bed, and you must go back to Arveragus!'

So Dorigen went home to her husband.

The next day, the magician visited Aurelius.

'Where's my money?' he said. 'And what happened with Dorigen?'

Aurelius told him about the night before.

'You poor man!' said the magician. 'After all that, you didn't get the girl. Well, Arveragus is a good husband, Dorigen's a good wife, and I'm a good magician. So let's forget the £1,000.'

'Thank you very much, my friend,' said Aurelius.

In the end, after all these interesting stories and more - we pilgrims arrived in Canterbury. There we visited Saint Thomas's tomb and said our 'thank yous' to God. But things didn't finish there, because we told lots more stories on the road back from Canterbury, too.

05.20

	City	Country	Population	Places of interest to visit	Parks	Rivers
1.	London	England UK	8 M	Big Ben Buckingham Palace London Eye British Museum	Hyde Park St James Park Greenwich Park	Thames
2.	Edinburgh	Scotland	480,000	Edinburgh Castle Royal Mile St Giles Cathedral	Business Street garden	-
3.	Belfast	Northern Ireland	280,000	Victoria Square Cathedral Quadrant	Botanic garden	Lagan
4.	Cardiff	Wales	320,000	.	Roath Park Llantrisant Park Butte Park	Tafel