

**LAYS OF THE ROUND  
TABLE: AND OTHER  
LYRIC ROMANCES**

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Lays of the Round Table: And Other Lyric Romances by Ernest Rhys

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**ERNEST RHYS**

**LAYS OF THE ROUND  
TABLE: AND OTHER  
LYRIC ROMANCES**



**LAYS OF THE ROUND TABLE**

*Uniform with this Volume*

**GWENEVERE**

A LYRIC PLAY

*BY THE SAME AUTHOR*

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[Written in concert with Mr Vincent  
Thomas's music, and played at the  
Coronet Theatre, Nov. 13th, 1905]

LAYS  
OF THE  
ROUND TABLE  
AND OTHER LYRIC ROMANCES

BY  
ERNEST RHYS



1905  
LONDON  
J. M. DENT & CO.  
29 & 30 BEDFORD STREET, W.C.

## DEDICATION

TO GRANIA, WITH THE ROSE OF OLD ROMANCE

*Dearest of women,—if this Rose be grown  
Red in late autumn, claim it for your own!  
This is the flower that breathed on Camelot  
Undying perfume; whose fine arrows, shot  
Across the vacant dark and gape of time,  
Found the White Doe there in her faerie clime;  
And this the Rose whose blood fulfilled the Grail,  
Whose thorns were sharp, whose stem encased in mail  
Was Arthur's,—armed his purple crest with fear,  
And with one petal made all Gwenevere.  
If it be said, the blossoms of that tree  
Their summer past, have no eternity,  
It is not true. Great Love, imperilled, is  
Still a knight errant on the hills and seas,  
And you, whose guerdon now, these three years gone—  
Dire years,—I won in fear, and still warred on,  
Know how the Tree of Arthur and its flower  
Were still my solace in the insatiate hour;—  
Know how we too sustained the Dolorous Stroke,*



## DEDICATION

*Met the fell wind that full on Barendown broke,  
With Columbe died, fought at the Peron stone  
And at the last, when all our wars were done  
And we left wounded, sailed to Avalon.  
What more of hope and woe made red this Rose,  
None but the secret dream of Grania knows,  
That drained the Cup of Trembling, and renewed  
With woman's sorrow Avalon's magic rood,  
And from the piteous dust long buried there  
Lifted this flower, to live and bloom for her.*

*September 24, 1905*

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