

Sir Amadas
A 15th century English chivalric romance

Sir Amadas (sometimes spelled *Amadace*) is an unusual chivalric romance as it has no known French version. Most of the chivalric romances in English are later translation of French originals, but this one exists in English only.

There are two surviving manuscripts, the *Advocates* and the *Ireland* Manuscripts, and both miss the beginning. (*Advocates* 19.3.1 (formerly Jac V.7.27), at the Advocates Library, Edinburgh. Fols. 68r-84r. [1475-1500. 778 lines.] *Ireland* Blackburn, at Robert H. Taylor Collection, Princeton University Libraries (Taylor MS. 9). Fols. 16r-34v. [1450-60. 852 lines.])

Despite the chivalric embellishments, it is, at its core, a fairy tale (type 508, *spendthrift knight*), centered around the *grateful dead* folklore motif, reminiscent of many other tales such as Andersen's *Traveling Companion*, and Perrault's *Puss in Boots*.

The original romance is in verse, and, if you'd like, can be read here:
<http://d.lib.rochester.edu/teams/text/foster-sir-amadace>

I am choosing to retell this story as a prose fairy tale, adapting it to my location and my audience as needed, based on the period *composition in performance* storytelling technique.

If you would like additional information on the technique itself or on the grateful dead stories, I have attached copies of my research.

References:

Edward F. Foster, *Sir Amadas: Introduction*
<http://d.lib.rochester.edu/teams/text/foster-sir-amadace-introduction>

Sir Amadas
Early English Romances: Done Into Modern English by Edith Rickert: Romances of Friendship, Chatto and Windus: London, Duffield & Co.: London, 1908; pp. 49-67, 174-175. <http://elfinspell.com/EER2Amadas.html#toprefnote>

Stith Thompson, *The Folktale*, University of California Press, 1977

Gordon Hall Gerould, *The Grateful Dead, The History of a Folk Story*, University of Illinois Press, 2000.