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## Allan Taylor "The Boy And Mantle"

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In the third month of May to Carleile did come A gentle and a courteous child that knew much wisdom A tunic and a mantle this young child had on With broaches and ringers full richly bedone He had a suit of eastern silk about his middle drawn And if he lacked in courteousy, he thought of it much shame

God speed thee, King Arthur, sitting at thy meet And the goodly Queen Guinevere, I cannot her forget

I have with me a mantle, no lady can resist But it shall ne'er become that wife that hath once done amiss

For if she be unfaithful, in tatters it shall fall And if she be but honest, she'll brighten any hall

And first there came Queen Guinevere, for she should lead the way

And she was surely in great doubt, although she would not say

And then she took the mantle as if she'd been a maid And suddenly from top to toe, it loosely fell in shreds And then it coloured brightest red, and then it coloured green

And then it coloured darkest black, so ill did her beseem

And then I've spoke King Arthur and angrier he grew By all the knights of England, I think thou be not true And she threw down the mantle for all the court to see And blushed as red as roses and to her room did flee

Sir Kay called forth his lady and bade her to come near And said if thou be guilty, I pray thee hold thee there And so forth came his lady, so bold she did appear And likewise was embarrassed and cried for all to hear And likewise all the gentle knights who thought their wives most true

Commanded them to try it on and bitterly did rue

And then there came a faded knight, Sir Craddocke was his name And all the knights of Arthurs court, of him had sport and game And when this mantle lady and it shall all be thine And if thou ever did amiss, the shame is there for mine His lady took the mantle and cast it her about Bow down to me good mantle and shame me not for nowt For once I did part one amiss, I'll tell thee certainly For once I lay in Craddockes bed before he married me When she had made confession and all her sins are told The mantle stood about her, in bright array she stood So seemly of colour and glittering of gold Then all the knights of Arthurs court, her beauty did behold So Craddocke stood in glory, his lady groomed and true And all the knights of Arthurs court, have surely got their due

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