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B00WSFAKW842 pages | File size: 45.Mb

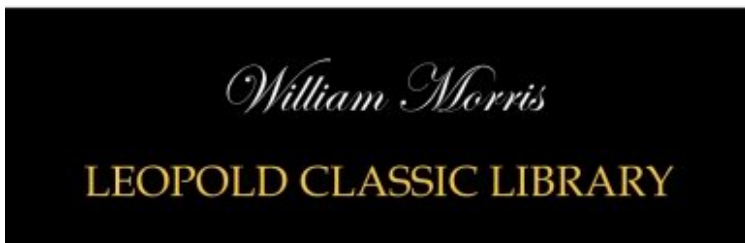


William Morris

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this is a significant literary work, which deserves to be brought back into print after many decades. While some publishers have applied optical character recognition (OCR), this approach has its own drawbacks, which include formatting errors, misspelt words, or the presence of inappropriate characters. Our philosophy has been guided by a desire to provide the reader with an experience that is as close as possible to ownership of the original work. We hope that you will enjoy this wonderful classic book, and that the occasional imperfection that it might contain will not detract from the experience.

About the Author William Morris (1834-1896) was an accomplished writer, textile designer and artist. A utopian socialist, he was associated with the Pre-Raphaelite Brotherhood and the English Arts and Craft Movement, and was a founding member of the Socialist League in Britain. Greatly influenced by the medieval period, Morris helped establish the modern fantasy genre through his works *The Defence of Guenevere and Other Poems*, *A Dream of John Ball*, and *The Well at the World's End*. Authors like J.R.R. Tolkien and C.S. Lewis were greatly influenced by works like *The House of the Wolfings*, *The Roots of the Mountains*, and *The Wood Beyond the World*. Morris was also an accomplished publisher, founding the Kelmscott Press in 1891, whose 1896 edition of the *Works of Geoffrey Chaucer* is considered a masterpiece of book design.