

Characters:

Narrator 1

Narrator 2

Iseult (princess of Ireland, Queen of Cornwall)

King Mark (King of Cornwall, uncle to Tristan)

Tristan

Queen of Ireland (Iseult's mother)

Brangraine (Iseult's maid)

Lady Iseult (daughter of Duke of Moel of Brittany)

Narrator 1: We start our story in the land of Cornwall.

Narrator 2: That's somewhere in England?

Narrator 1: Right. Mark is the King of Cornwall. He's engaged to be married. Tristan is King Mark's nephew and one of Arthur's knights. Tristan is ordered by King Mark to retrieve the future Queen from Ireland. It's on the trip to Ireland that things get a little tricky. Iseult is a typical princess. Whine, whine, whine. She doesn't want to marry King Mark.

Iseult: I've never even met the man! Why would I want to marry him? He's probably old and smells like Old Spice. Ew!

Narrator 1: The Queen of Ireland is sad for her daughter but knows the duty she must fulfill. To help her daughter get through this, she gives the handmaiden, Brangraine, a magic potion.

Narrator 2: What is a love potion?

Narrator 1: It sure what, but as can be expected, this plan didn't work.

Queen of Ireland: Give this potion to my daughter on the night of her marriage. Do you understand me?

Brangraine: Of course! I'm no idiot!

Narrator 1: Brangraine just had issues with her attention span. As the boat left for Cornwall, she accidentally gave the love potion to Tristan and Iseult.

Narrator 2: So immediately, the two fell in love. This would put a bit of a damper on King Mark's wedding.

Brangraine: I could have sworn the Queen said to give it to you before you got in a *carriage*!

Iseult: How can I marry the King when I've got the hots for this hunk of burnin' love? Can't Brangraine take my place?

Narrator 1: There was no way for Iseult to get out of the wedding. Her daddy would be very angry. She ordered Brangraine to take her place on her wedding night. Iseult formally married the king but continued to have an affair with Tristan.

King Mark: Something is up with my queen. She always has embroidery to do or parties to plan. We haven't had any parties in a long time, and I definitely haven't seen any new pillows on the settee.

Narrator 2: If only King Mark knew the truth!

Narrator 1: That's what began to worry Tristan.

Tristan: My darling Iseult, I fear for our safety. It seems as if my uncle, your husband, is on to us. I must flee. I will go to the land of Brittany.

Narrator 1: While in Brittany, Tristan meets Lady Iseult. Not the new queen of Cornwall, but the daughter of the Duke of Moel.

Tristan: Lady Iseult is beautiful, it's true. But no one is as sweet as my Queen. I shall marry this girl to keep Uncle Mark from being too suspicious. Her name will remind me of my love.

Narrator 1: Little did Tristan know, his conscience would get the best of him. As soon as he arrived back at Cornwall and saw the pleased face of Mark, he confessed everything.

Narrator 2: Well, that was smart. Next thing you know, he'll probably be banned from Cornwall.

King Mark: Tristan – you may never set foot in Cornwall again. If you do, it will cost you your life!

Narrator 1: Tristan left with his new wife and joined the knights of King Arthur's court. It wasn't too long before Tristan grew ill and yearned for Queen Iseult.

Narrator 2: I remember this part. Tristan had this problem before. He had battled Iseult's uncle Morholt and killed him. He lodged his sword in Morholt's skull.

Narrator 1: And Tristan was almost killed. Iseult cured him. He's never forgotten the potency of her magic.

Tristan: Messenger, take this letter to Queen Iseult of Cornwall. I long to see her again. I can only be cured by her hands.

Narrator 1: The messenger delivered to Iseult this short note:

Darling Iseult,

Come to me at once. Bring your husband for a visit to your parents'.

Instruct the messenger. White sails if you can come. Black sails if

You cannot.

Yours, Tristan.

Narrator 2: Tristan waited and watched the horizon for signs of white sails.

Narrator 1: His health continued to decline. His wife, Lady Iseult, was annoyed with him.

Lady Iseult: I may be young, but I'm no fool. I know of his plans with the Queen of Cornwall. I'll show him to cheat on me!

Narrator 1: The ship from Cornwall soon arrived, but Tristan was too ill to watch for the sails.

Tristan: My wife, Lady Iseult, what color are the sails of yon ship?

Lady Iseult: As sure as my eyes, they are black. What does that mean, my lord?

Tristan: It means death for me, my lady. Farewell.

Narrator 1: Tristan was so heartbroken that he passed away quickly.

Narrator 2: Too bad that Iseult couldn't come.

Narrator 1: There's the twist. She could, and she did. Lady Iseult was so jealous that she lied to her husband. Soon, the news of Tristan's death spread. It wasn't long before Queen Iseult heard of this tragic end.

Narrator 2: So what happened to her? Did she go after the messenger? Lady Iseult?

Narrator 1: Nothing so easy. Instead, she died of a broken heart.

Narrator 2: So, Lady Iseult must have been pleased.

Narrator 1: Not quite. When she realized the love the two had for each other, she regretted her actions.

Narrator 2: The moral of the story? If your mistress and your wife have the same name, then you won't use the wrong one at the wrong time!