

THE BLEAK AND EMPTY SEA

About *The Bleak and Empty Sea*—*The Tristram and Isolde Story* A Merlin Mystery

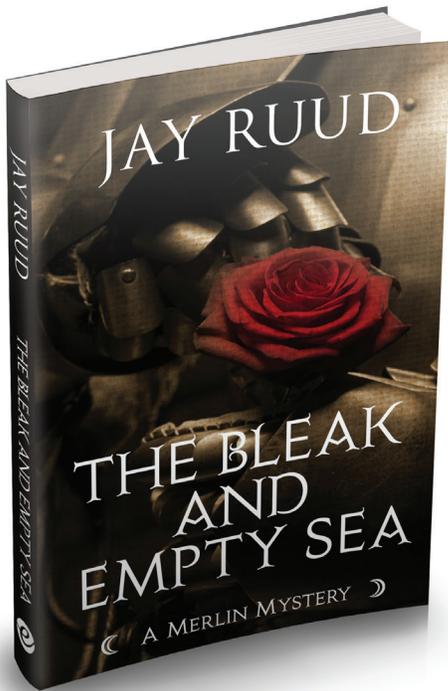
When word comes to Camelot that Sir Tristram has died in Brittany of wounds suffered in a skirmish, and that his longtime mistress, La Belle Isolde, Queen of Cornwall, has subsequently died herself of a broken heart, Queen Guinevere and her trusted lady Rosemounde immediately suspect that there is more to the story of the lovers' deaths than they are being told. It is up to Merlin and his faithful assistant, Gildas of Cornwall, to find the truth behind the myths and half-truths surrounding these untimely deaths. By the time they are finally able to uncover the truth, Gildas and Merlin have lost one companion and are in danger of losing their own lives.

"Fans of medieval mysteries and Arthurian legends will enjoy this imaginative tale of gallant knights"

—Library Journal

"It's ingenious how Ruud is able to both stick close to a kind of scholarly outline of the period (he sets his story in the high Middle Ages, when the legend of Arthur circulated so widely) and of the court, and at the same time draw such lively, fun characters . . . It's all good fun, a fantastic read that will barely take you any time at all. And I can guarantee you won't be able to guess who did it"

—John Vanderslice, author of *Island Fog*, on Goodreads



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Jay Ruud is the retired Chair of the English Department at the University of Central Arkansas and former Dean of the College of Arts and Sciences at Northern State University. His Ph.D. in medieval literature turned him into an avid fan of the legends of King Arthur, and kindled a passion in him for retelling those stories in his own way. He has an awesome wife, two grownup children of whom he is unspeakably proud, and four spectacular grandchildren to match his four unruly dogs. He loves Chaucer, Dante, and Tolkien. In addition to all of this, he is a lifetime Cubs fan who finally lived to see a world series, he hopes one day to visit Antarctica, has played Ebenezer Scrooge and Lady Bracknell on stage, and believes that Lee Harvey Oswald acted alone.