When an Irish knight dies mysteriously at a banquet she is hosting, Queen Guenivere is charged with murder and faces death at the stake if found guilty. Her loyal page, Gildas, rushes to the woods to track down Merlin and convince him to take up the investigation and save the queen.

Fatal Feast is a fast-paced murder mystery set in the legendary court of Camelot, imagined as it might have existed in the high Middle Ages, with Sir Gawain, Sir Gareth, and Sir Lancelot in pivotal roles, and the young Gildas, enamored of the queen’s young lady-in-waiting Rosemounde, an unlikely courtly lover focused on saving the queen and impressing his Rosemounde — not necessarily in that order.

Excerpt from Fatal Feast:

When all others had left and the room was empty save for the queen and me alone, her poise finally gave way and she collapsed, sobbing onto the table. With a great inarticulate wail of pain she raised her streaming eyes to the sky and then, seeing me close by her chair, my own tears pouring from my eyes, she gripped the front of my tunic and, with pleading red eyes, asked me hoarsely, “My God, Gildas, my God, what is going to become of me now?”

Jay Ruud is a professor of English at the University of Central Arkansas in Conway, where he teaches courses in medieval literature, a subject in which he has a Ph.D. from the University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee. He has published books on Chaucer, Dante, and Tolkien, and is also the author of an Encyclopedia of Medieval Literature. He has an awesome wife, two more or less adult children, four spectacular grandchildren, three very friendly dogs, and a cat who resents them. He is also a long-suffering Chicago Cubs fan, has not yet visited Antarctica, has played Ebenezer Scrooge and Lady Bracknell on stage, and believes that Lee Harvey Oswald acted alone.