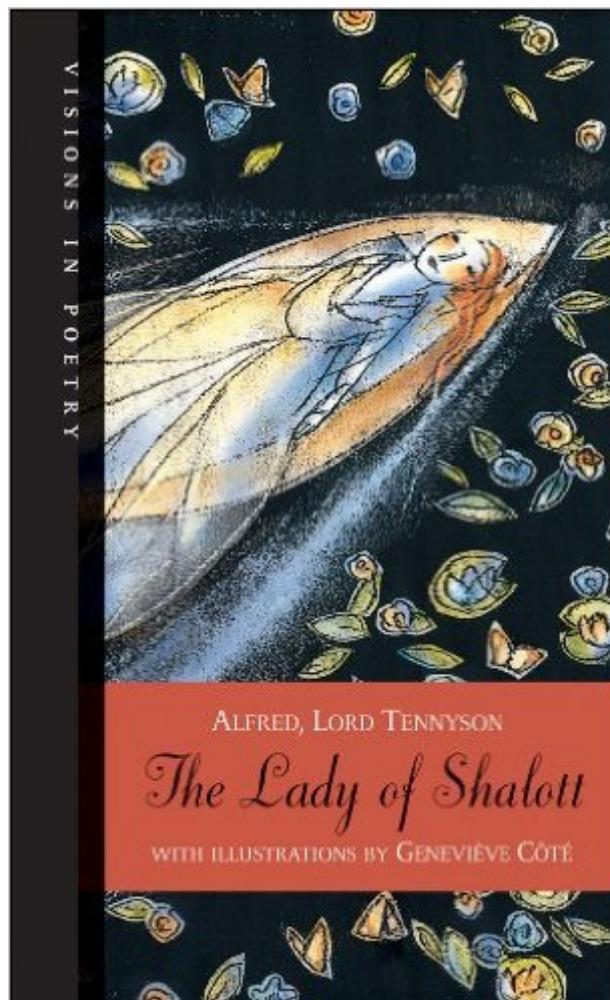


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# The Lady Of Shalott (Visions In Poetry)



## Synopsis

The Lady of Shalott is the third book in *Visions in Poetry*, an award-winning series of classic poems illustrated by outstanding contemporary artists in stunning hardcover editions. Tennyson's beautiful and enigmatic poem of unrequited love, set in Arthurian England, has enthralled artists for well over a century. With her luminous illustrations, Genevieve Cotes weaves a refreshingly modern interpretation of this beloved poem -- one that will enchant readers of all ages.

## Book Information

Series: *Visions in Poetry*

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Average Customer Review: 4.3 out of 5 stars See all reviews (9 customer reviews)

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## Customer Reviews

When I opened my copy of the *Visions in Poetry* edition of Tennyson's "The Lady of Shalott," I was first astounded and then bewildered by Genevieve Cotes' illustrations of the Tennyson poem. The purpose of pictorial content is to support the text. That's what I expected and thus my criticism of this edition. The poem is given in its entirety, its flights of fancy as beautiful and poignant as ever: the poem itself is impeachable. The illustrations, however, show little regard for the subject matter or chronology of the poem. With Ms. Cotes it seems the artwork is what's important here and not the text. Didn't she read the poem? Cotes' illustrations are anachronisms and this is the problem. The setting appears to be France, Camelot depicted as an early twentieth century French city. (I know the character of Lancelot is a French contribution to the Arthurian Legend, but Cotes' interpretation is ridiculous!) The first illustration presents what appears to be a Parisian couple dressed in 1920's couture. In the background one sees an auto on a bridge and a city skyline hardly medieval. Tennyson's poem, composed between the years of 1832-42, drew its inspiration from Sir

Thomas Malory's "Le Morte Darthur," a compilation of Arthurian romances printed by William Caxton in 1485, in particular the romance "The Fair Maid of Astolat" in which a summary states: "(And, as the booke sayth, she keste such a love unto sir Launcelot that she cowde never withdraw hir loove, wherefore she dyed. And her name was Elayne le Blanke.)" Tennyson takes the story of Elaine and Lancelot and restructures it ("Lancelot and Elaine") in blank verse in his "Idylls of the King.

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