

This Merlin Episode Transcript provides a full dialogue log off Episode 08 of Season I “The Beginning of the End” of the [BBC series Merlin](#).

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Transcript

KILGHARRAH

In a land of myth and a time of magic, the destiny of a great kingdom rests on the shoulders of a young boy. His name: Merlin.

—

[00:10, EXT. LOWER TOWN, MARKET - DAY] [Mordred walks through the market with his father, Cerdan.]

CERDAN

Do you have my supplies ready? We must leave the city without delay.

STALLHOLDER

Everything you asked for, it's all here. I'm sorry.

[Guards approach. Mordred and his father duck under the merchant's table to run through the market.]

GUARD

Seize him! Stop there!

[Mordred and Cerdan are forced to run into the palace grounds. A guard jumps at them and slashes Mordred. Merlin hears Mordred's telepathic scream.]

CERDAN

spell

[The spell throws the guard into the rampart wall. Mordred can't run far, so he and his father are stuck on the drawbridge.]

CERDAN
Abannan áití.

[The spell shuts the drawbridge gates.]

CERDAN
Run! Run, run!

[Mordred runs through the gates before they close. Cerdan allows himself to be caught.]

—
[02:41, INT. KING'S PALACE, CENTRAL CORRIDOR - DAY] [Merlin walks down the corridor.]

MORDRED (telepathy)
Help!

[Merlin stops to look for the owner of the voice. Merlin enters the Square.]

MORDRED (telepathy)
Help me! Please.

[Merlin stops to look around again and sees Mordred sitting by a stone ledge, looking at him.]

MORDRED (telepathy)
Please. You have to help me.

[Merlin realises the boy is using telepathy.]

MORDRED (telepathy)
Help me.

[Merlin sees the guards enter the Square.]

GUARD
Search in there. Take the other side. You, did you see a boy run in here?

MORDRED (telepathy)
They're searching for me.

MERLIN (telepathy)
Why are they after you?

MORDRED (telepathy)
They're going to kill me.

GUARD
Guards! In here!

[Merlin runs to a side door, looks at the guards, and then nods to Mordred.]

MERLIN (telepathy)
This way. Run. Run!

[Mordred runs to Merlin, holding his wounded arm.]

GUARD
Hey. There he is! Alert the rest of the guards!

[Merlin grabs Mordred's hand and they run up the Griffin Stairway.]

GUARD
In there. Quick, down there. We've got 'im.

[Merlin and Mordred run up the curved stairs.]

—
[04:18, INT. KING'S PALACE, MORGANA'S CHAMBERS] [Merlin bursts in with Mordred.]

MORGANA
Have you forgotten how to knock, Merlin?!

MERLIN
The guards are after him. I didn't know what to do.

GUARD (knocks)
My Lady? (knocks) My Lady?

MORGANA

In there.

[Morgana waits until Merlin and Mordred are behind the curtain to open the door.]

GUARD

I'm sorry to disturb you, My Lady.

[Mordred collapses into Merlin's arms.]

GUARD

We're searching for a young Druid boy. We believe he came this way.

MORGANA

I haven't seen anyone. It's just me and my maid.

GUARD

Best keep the door locked till we find him.

MORGANA

Of course. Thank you.

[Morgana closes the door and runs to check on Mordred. Merlin's hand is covered in Mordred's blood.]

—

[05:13, INT. KING'S PALACE, COUNCIL CHAMBER OF DOOM]

ARTHUR

The Druid was only in Camelot to collect supplies. He meant no harm. Is it necessary to execute him?

UTHER

Absolutely necessary. Those who use magic cannot be tolerated.

ARTHUR

The Druids are a peaceful people.

UTHER

Given the chance, they would return magic to the kingdom. They preach peace, but conspire

against me. We cannot appear weak.

ARTHUR

Showing mercy can be a sign of strength.

UTHER

Our enemies will not see it that way. We have a responsibility to protect this kingdom. Executing the Druid will send out a clear message. Find the boy. Search every inch of the city.

—

[05:56, INT. KING'S PALACE, MORGANA'S CHAMBERS - DAY] [Mordred lies awake. Morgana and Merlin watch the Square below as Cerdan is waiting to be executed. Uther and Arthur stand on the balcony.]

UTHER

People of Camelot, the man before you is guilty of using enchantments and magic. Under our law, the sentence for this crime is death. We're still searching for his accomplice. Anyone found harbouring the boy is guilty of conspiracy, and will be executed as a traitor. Let this serve as a warning to your people.

CERDAN

You have let your fear of magic turn to hate. I pity you.

MORGANA

I can't watch this.

[Morgana leaves the window and sits down on the floor, cradling Mordred. Uther signals for Cerdan to be executed.]

MORDRED (telepathy)

No!

[Morgana's mirror breaks.]

—

[07:10, INT. KING'S PALACE, PHYSICIAN'S CHAMBERS]

MERLIN

Do you know much about the Druids?

GAIUS

Very little. They're very secretive people. Especially now they're being hunted by Uther. Merlin, please tell me you haven't got yourself mixed up in this.

MERLIN

Me? No. Mixed up in what?

GAIUS

For someone with such a big secret, you are a terrible liar.

MERLIN

Well, I haven't done anything.

GAIUS

Merlin...

MERLIN

I heard the boy calling out. He was nowhere to be seen, but I could hear him... like he was inside my mind.

GAIUS

Yes, I've heard of this ability. The Druids look for children with such gifts to serve as apprentices. While they're searching for this boy, you must be especially careful otherwise it'll be your head on the chopping block.

MERLIN

I'm always careful. You know me.

GAIUS

Yes, Merlin, unfortunately I do.

—

[08:28, EXT. LOWER TOWN] [Merlin sees the guards poking their pole arms through a hay cart.]

—

[08:40, INT. KING'S PALACE, MORGANA'S CHAMBERS]

MERLIN

How is he?

MORGANA

He's sleeping. He's very pale. I worry he may have lost a lot of blood.

MERLIN

Has he said anything at all?

MORGANA

Nothing. He won't even tell me his name.

MERLIN

You know, er, for a moment there earlier, I- I thought you were going to hand us over to the guards.

MORGANA

I'm glad you have so much faith in me, Merlin.

MERLIN

No, no, sorry. Erm, I meant, you're the King's ward. You're taking a huge risk helping the boy.

MORGANA

I wouldn't see an innocent child executed. What harm has he ever done anyone?

MERLIN

Uther believes he has magic, and that makes him guilty.

MORGANA

Uther's wrong.

MERLIN

You believe that?

MORGANA

What if magic isn't something you choose? What if it chooses you? Why are you looking at me like that?

MERLIN

Nothing.

MORGANA

Why are you helping him?

MERLIN

It was a spur of the moment decision. What do you think we should do with him? He can't stay here.

MORGANA

We have to find a way to get him back to his people.

—

[10:07, INT. KING'S PALACE, COUNCIL CHAMBER OF DOOM - NIGHT] [Morgana dining with Uther.]

UTHER

You seem troubled, Morgana. Is something wrong?

MORGANA

No, My Lord. I'm sorry I'm not better company.

UTHER

I'm merely concerned for your welfare, that's all.

MORGANA

Thank you, My Lord. All is well.

[Arthur enters.]

UTHER

What news of the hunt for the Druid boy?

ARTHUR

We have conducted an extensive search. The boy is nowhere to be found.

UTHER

You mean you failed to find him?

ARTHUR

Perhaps he's already left the city.

UTHER

You're telling me that a wounded boy is able to evade the guards and escape the city? Nonsense, someone's hiding him. I want him found.

ARTHUR

He's just a boy. What harm can he do?

UTHER

He is a Druid, and that makes him dangerous.

MORGANA

The Druids would see your father's kingdom destroyed.

ARTHUR

I had no idea you were such an authority on Druids.

UTHER

Morgana is right. Double your efforts.

ARTHUR

Yes, father.

UTHER

Keep searching until you find him.

—

[11:11, INT. KING'S PALACE, MORGANA'S CHAMBERS] [Merlin checks on Mordred.]

MERLIN

He's burning up. How long has he been like this?

MORGANA

Since early this morning. I think his wound may be infected. We need Gaius before it gets any worse.

MERLIN

No. We can't involve Gaius. It's too dangerous. Besides, if he finds out about this, he'll execute me himself.

MORGANA

We need to get him out of Camelot, and we can't do that while he's sick. We need a

physician.

MERLIN

I'll treat him.

MORGANA

Merlin, do you know how to treat an infected wound?

MERLIN

Not exactly, but I'm a fast learner.

[footsteps and knocking at the door. Morgana closes the curtain and goes to open the door.]

MORGANA

Arthur! To what do I owe this pleasure?

ARTHUR

Don't get all excited. It's not a social call. I'm looking for the Druid boy. I'm afraid I'm going to have to search your chambers.

MORGANA

You're not searching my chambers.

ARTHUR

Don't take it personally. I have to search the entire castle. Only take a few minutes.

MORGANA

I'm not having you mess up my things.

ARTHUR

I'm not interested in your things, I'm just looking for any evidence that the Druid boy's in the castle.

[Merlin peeks through the curtain and sees Mordred's boots sitting out in plain sight.]

MORGANA

Perhaps the Druid boy's hiding in your chambers. They're usually such a mess, you'd never know.

ARTHUR

It's hardly my fault I have such a lazy idiot for a servant.

MERLIN (whisper)
Bestepe 'scós.

[The boots tiptoe towards Merlin.]

MORGANA
If you can't even find your own servant, what hope do you have of finding the boy?

MERLIN (whisper)
Gestælle scós.

[The boots hide behind a column.]

ARTHUR
Really, I'm touched by the confidence you have in my abilities. And, as much as I'd love to stay and talk, the sooner we get started, the sooner we'll be finished.

MERLIN (whisper)
Ástýre scós.

[The boots tiptoe to Merlin behind the curtain.]

MORGANA
Well, I'll save you the trouble.

ARTHUR
Trust me, if I could find him, I would.

MORGANA
The Druid boy's hiding behind the screen. I'm sure your father would love to know how you wasted your time by rifling through my things. Go on.

ARTHUR
So you can have the satisfaction of making me look a fool?

MORGANA
In my experience, you don't need any help looking like a fool. What are you waiting for?
Take a look.

ARTHUR

Why don't you go back to brushing your hair, or whatever it is that you do all day?

MORGANA

Bye, Arthur. Good luck with the search!

—

[13:36, INT. KING'S PALACE, PHYSICIAN'S CHAMBERS] [Merlin searching through books.]

MERLIN

Bites, bruises, burns, wounds... Infections...

[Merlin grabs a few bottles and some herbs.]

GAIUS

Ah, there you are. I need you to pick some heather for me.

MERLIN

Er, can I do it later? I was just going out.

GAIUS

Who set this book out?

MERLIN

It was me. I was doing some reading.

GAIUS

Oh? I'd given up hoping you might take more of an interest in my work.

MERLIN

No. It's fascinating.

GAIUS

Merlin, you are riddle wrapped up in a mystery.

MERLIN

That's me. I was just getting some cleaning supplies. Arthur's been complaining about the state of his chambers.

GAIUS

I think Arthur's chambers can wait. I'm not missing the chance to begin your education.

MERLIN

Really. I should go.

GAIUS

Sit! We'll start with some basic anatomy...

[Gaius pulls out a giant volume.]

—

[14:47, INT. KING'S PALACE, MORGANA'S CHAMBERS] [Morgana opens the door for Merlin to enter.]

MORGANA

What took you so long?

MERLIN

Sorry. Once Gaius gets talking about anatomy, there's no stopping him.

[Merlin begins treating Mordred.]

MORGANA

Are you sure you know what you're doing?

MERLIN

I'm doing my best.

MORGANA

I'll get you some more water.

MORDRED (telepathy)

Thank you, Emrys.

Merlin (telepathy)

Emrys? Why do you call me that?

MORDRED (telepathy)

Among my people, that is your name.

MERLIN (telepathy)
You know who I am. How?

MERLIN
Speak to me.

MORGANA
I don't know if he can't speak, or... he's just too scared to.

—
[15:44, INT. KING'S PALACE, TUNNELS/DRAGON'S CAVE] [Merlin sees the guards continuing to search the castle as he goes down the Tunnel Corridor to the Dragon's Cave.]

MERLIN
Hello?

[The dragon climbs around a corner and roars. Merlin sighs.]

MERLIN
Do you have to do that? You scared the life out of me.

KILGHARRAH
The young warlock. No doubt you're here about the Druid boy.

MERLIN
How did you know?

KILGHARRAH
Like you, I hear him speak.

MERLIN
Why does he call me Emrys?

KILGHARRAH
Because that is your name.

MERLIN
I'm pretty sure my name's Merlin, always has been.

KILGHARRAH

You have many names.

MERLIN

Do I? How does the boy know who I am? I've never even met any Druids.

KILGHARRAH

There is much written about you that you have yet to read. You should not protect this boy.

MERLIN

Why? He has magic. He's just like me.

KILGHARRAH

You and the boy are as different as day and night.

MERLIN

What do you mean?

KILGHARRAH

Heed my words, Merlin.

MERLIN

Why should I not protect him?

[The dragon flies off.]

—

[16:57, INT. KING'S PALACE, MORGANA'S CHAMBERS - DAY] [Morgana tends the feverish Mordred.]

GWEN

Let me care for him for a while. You need to sleep. You'll make yourself sick if you go on like this.

MORGANA

His fever's getting worse.

MORDRED (telepathy)

Morgana.

MORGANA

Did you hear that?

GWEN
What?

MORGANA
He said my name.

GWEN
Did he? I didn't hear anything.

[A knock on the door.]

MERLIN
It's Merlin.

[Gwen opens the door.]

MERLIN
How is he?

MORGANA
He's getting weaker. Whatever you did yesterday, it hasn't worked. We have to ask Gaius for his help. After all you've done, you can't give up now! Please! If he doesn't receive treatment, he'll die!

MERLIN
OK.

—
[18:00, INT. KING'S PALACE, PHYSICIAN'S CHAMBERS]

GAIUS
The search for this Druid boy is becoming a real nuisance. With all the extra security around the castle, it's taking me twice as long to do my round. Is that everything?

MERLIN
Morgana's hiding the Druid boy in her chambers.

GAIUS

When you say that Morgana's hiding the Druid boy, I take that means that you're helping her?

MERLIN
Sort of.

GAIUS
Merlin, you promised me that you wouldn't get involved.

MERLIN
I know. I'm sorry. I had no choice.

GAIUS
Every guard in Camelot is searching for this boy, and you're harbouring him under their very noses. Can't you see how dangerous that is? What were you thinking of?

MERLIN
Was I supposed to hand him over to the guards to be executed?

GAIUS
You think you can save this boy? What happens if you're caught? Who's going to save you?

MERLIN
You're saying it's wrong to harbour a young magician?

GAIUS
The difference is, Merlin, that your magic is still secret. Though it's a wonder how, considering how careless you are.

MERLIN
The boy's hurt. He's really sick. I've tried to treat him. We need your help.

GAIUS
So, now you want me to risk my neck, too? I wish the boy no harm, but it's too dangerous.

MERLIN
But if you don't, we may as well hand him over to the guards, because he'll die anyway. You didn't turn your back on me. Please don't turn your back on him.

—

[19:33, INT. KING'S PALACE, MORGANA'S CHAMBERS] [Gaius examines Mordred.]

GAIUS

I will treat the boy, but as soon as he's well, you must get him out of Camelot. And woe betide anyone caught helping him. Well, one thing we know for certain.

MERLIN

What's that?

GAIUS

You're no physician.

—

[20:13, EXT. LOWER TOWN, MARKET - DAY] [Morgana, Merlin, and Gwen watch the guards.]

GUARD

Halt there.

[The guards stop a man pulling a cart out through the gate.]

GWEN

The guards are searching everyone leaving the town.

MERLIN

There is another way out. There's a secret door in the armoury. It leads to the lower town. I'll take the boy out that way.

MORGANA

No. It's too dangerous. I'll do it.

MERLIN

But I-I'm good with secret doors and things.

MORGANA

If you are caught, Uther will execute you. The boy's my responsibility. I'll smuggle him out of the castle.

MERLIN

Well, you'll need a key for the door.

MORGANA
Who has it?

MERLIN
Arthur.

—
[20:52, INT. KING'S PALACE, ARTHUR'S CHAMBERS - NIGHT] [Arthur dines on soup.]

MERLIN
Inbringe, cume mec.

[The spell floats the keys off of Arthur's belt.]

ARTHUR
Is there any bread?

[The keys jangle as Merlin floats them behind Arthur's head as he turns.]

ARTHUR
What was that?

MERLIN
What?

ARTHUR
There was a sound.

MERLIN
Was there?

[Merlin continues floating the keys behind Arthur's head as he stands up to search for the sound.]

ARTHUR
What is that? Can't you hear it?!

MERLIN
I can't hear anything.

ARTHUR

Are you deaf? It's like a...jangling sound.

[Arthur walks towards Merlin.]

MERLIN

There!

[Merlin points behind Arthur.]

ARTHUR

What?

MERLIN

I thought I saw something.

[Arthur moves to where Merlin pointed. Merlin drops the keys into the soup.]

ARTHUR

What was that?

MERLIN

What was what?

ARTHUR

A different sound, like a...like a splash.

[Merlin picks up some bread from the table.]

MERLIN

Bread?

[Arthur leaves, checking his hearing on the way out. Merlin grabs the keys from the soup.]

—

[22:21, INT. KING'S PALACE, MORGANA'S CHAMBERS] [Morgana dresses in Gwen's clothes.]

MORGANA

It'll have to do.

[Morgana sighs.]

MORGANA

I feel I've put you in danger without ever stopping to ask how you feel about it. I'm sorry.

GWEN

I know how it feels to face the threat of execution. And I wouldn't wish that on anyone.

[Knocking.]

MERLIN

It's Merlin.

[Gwen goes to open the door. Morgana goes to Mordred.]

MORGANA

We're going to get you out of Camelot. I won't let anything bad happen to you. I promise.

MERLIN

Are you ready?

[Morgana nods.]

MORGANA

Did you get the keys?

MERLIN

Yeah. Er, the door is behind the shield at the far end of the armoury.

GWEN

I'll pack you some food and water for the journey. Be careful.

—

[23:16, INT. KING'S PALACE - NIGHT] [Guards march through the Griffin Landing as Morgana peeks over the edge of the curved stairs and descends with Mordred. A serving girl sees them sneaking off through the corridor at the bottom of the Spiral Stairway. They sneak out through the door behind the shield in the armoury.]

—

[24:08, INT. GWEN'S HOUSE - NIGHT] [Gwen prepares some travel supplies.]

GWEN

I hope they're OK. Morgana really cares about the boy. I've never seen her this way with anyone.

MERLIN

I'm sure she just wants to protect him.

GWEN

Hmm.

—

[24:25, INT. KING'S PALACE, ARMOURY - NIGHT] [Arthur walks through the armoury with a guard.]

GUARD

A servant saw someone entering. They had a boy with them.

[Arthur sees the revealed door and checks his key ring, but the key is missing.]

ARTHUR

Sound the warning bell.

—

[24:48, INT. GWEN'S HOUSE - NIGHT] [Merlin looks out the window as the warning bells sound.]

MERLIN

They're coming.

[Morgana and Mordred enter.]

GWEN

There's enough food for three days.

MERLIN

Your horse is fed and watered. I'll take you to it.

MORGANA

No. There's no point in all of us risking our lives.

MERLIN

What about you?

MORGANA

I'm the King's ward. I'll take my chances.

GWEN

Morgana!

MORGANA

I couldn't live with myself if anything happened to either of you. We must go.

MORDRED (telepathy)

Goodbye, Emrys.

—

[25:20, EXT. LOWER TOWN] [Morgana and Mordred try to run, but Arthur and the guards approach through their exit. Morgana and Mordred hide in a nearby building. Arthur enters.]

ARTHUR

Fan out.

[Morgana and Mordred make a break for it, but they run across a guard and Arthur blocks the other side of the path. Arthur draws his sword and places it at Morgana's back.]

ARTHUR

Halt, or I'll run you through. Show yourself.

[Morgana turns around. Arthur is shocked.]

MORGANA

Let him go. I beg you. He's just a child.

[Arthur debates, looking at the guards around him.]

ARTHUR

Restrain them.

—

[27:03, INT. KING'S PALACE, COUNCIL CHAMBER OF DOOM]

UTHER

All this time, you've been hiding the boy in my own palace. How could you betray me like this?

MORGANA

I would not see him executed.

UTHER

I've treated you like a daughter. Is this how you repay me?

MORGANA

I did what I thought was right.

UTHER

You think it's right to conspire with my enemies against me?

MORGANA

How can this child be your enemy? He's just a boy.

UTHER

He is a Druid.

MORGANA

Is that such a crime?

UTHER

His kind would see me dead and this kingdom returned to anarchy and you would help them.

MORGANA

Then punish me... but spare the boy. I beg you.

UTHER

Make arrangements for the boy to be executed tomorrow morning.

MORGANA

No! Please. He's done nothing.

UTHER

Let this be a lesson to you.

MORGANA

You don't have to do this.

UTHER

Do you hear me? I want him executed at dawn.

ARTHUR

Yes, Father.

MORGANA

What have these people done to you? Why are you so full of hate?

[Morgana marches towards Uther and grabs his arm. Uther grabs her throat and presses her against a chair back.]

UTHER

Enough! I will not hear another word! Do not speak to me until you are ready to apologise for what you've done.

[Uther leaves, Arthur follows him.]

—

[28:09, INT. KING'S PALACE, MORGANA'S CHAMBERS]

MORGANA

I promised that I wouldn't let anything bad happen.

MERLIN

You can't blame yourself. You tried your best.

MORGANA

It's not enough.

MERLIN

He's in jail now. There's nothing more we can do.

MORGANA

I will not let him die. Can I count on your help?

[Merlin nods.]

MORGANA

Thank you.

—

[28:52, INT. KING'S PALACE, COURTYARD CORRIDOR] [Arthur follows Uther down the corridor.]

ARTHUR

Perhaps imprisonment is a more suitable punishment for the boy. I mean, he's so young.

UTHER

It would allow him to grow more powerful, more dangerous, until he strikes against us.

ARTHUR

We don't know he's gonna strike against us. He's yet to do anything.

UTHER

It is enough that his people conspire to overthrow me. This is harsh, but necessary. I take no pleasure in killing the boy.

ARTHUR

Well, then spare him for Morgana's sake. She's clearly grown attached to the boy, and if you execute him I fear she will never forgive you.

[Uther stops and rounds on Arthur.]

UTHER

I do not seek her forgiveness! She has betrayed me!

ARTHUR

Yet you're sparing her.

UTHER

She has the promise I made her father to thank for that. The boy enjoys no such privilege. He will be executed at dawn. Is that clear?

—
[29:43, INT. KING'S PALACE, ARTHUR'S CHAMBERS - NIGHT] [Arthur enters. Morgana is waiting for him.]

ARTHUR
Make yourself at home.

MORGANA
You can't let your father execute the boy.

ARTHUR
You're lucky he's not executing you. Are you telling me he really was behind the screen when I came to search your chambers?

[Morgana nods.]

MORGANA
I know you believe your father's wrong to execute him.

ARTHUR
What I believe doesn't matter. My father's made up his mind. He won't be talked out of it. I tried.

MORGANA
Then the time for talking is over.

ARTHUR
Whatever you're thinking, it's not going to happen.

MORGANA
We have to get the boy back to his people.

ARTHUR
No. Forget it.

MORGANA
I can't believe you'd let an innocent child die!

ARTHUR
It's too late. He's been caught. I have no choice.

MORGANA

And is this how you will rule when you are King? You're not like your father.

ARTHUR

I will not betray him.

MORGANA

If I know you at all, you won't stand by and let this happen. Please. If you won't do this for the boy, then do it for me.

—

[31:00, INT. KING'S PALACE, MAIN SQUARE - NIGHT] [Merlin watches the executioner sharpen his axe.]

—

[31: 16, INT. KING'S PALACE, ARTHUR'S CHAMBERS - NIGHT] [Merlin enters. Morgana and Arthur look at him.]

MERLIN

Sorry. Was I interrupting something?

ARTHUR

Nothing you need concern yourself with. Go make yourself useful, muck out my horses.

MORGANA

I trust Merlin.

[Arthur motions for Merlin to enter.]

ARTHUR

We're going to break the Druid boy out of the dungeons.

MERLIN

You can't do that.

MORGANA

We have to. Uther's going to execute him at dawn.

MERLIN

I mean... it's too dangerous. You've already been caught once, and if the King catches you a

second time he'll never forgive you.

MORGANA

I'm not worried for myself.

ARTHUR

Merlin's right. When my father finds out the boy's escaped, he will suspect you being involved.

MERLIN

It's suicide.

ARTHUR

You must go to my father and apologise. Dine with him, he cannot hold you responsible if you're with him when the boy escapes.

MORGANA

You need me if the plan's to work. You can't do this on your own.

ARTHUR

Merlin will take your place.

MERLIN

Me?

ARTHUR

I'm going to take the boy out through the burial vaults. There's a tunnel that leads beyond the city walls. Get my horse from the stables and meet me there. There's a grate that covers the entrance to the tunnel. Bring a rope and a grappling hook to pull it off.

MERLIN

No- no, I can't...

ARTHUR

Merlin. Do you understand? If you're not there to meet us, we'll surely be caught.

[Merlin nods.]

—

[32:50, INT. KING'S PALACE, DRAGON'S CAVE]

MERLIN

I need to know why you told me not to protect the boy.

KILGHARRAH

You seek my counsel and yet you choose to ignore it.

MERLIN

Just tell me why.

KILGHARRAH

If the boy lives, you cannot fulfil your destiny.

MERLIN

What's he got to do with my destiny? You said it's my destiny to protect Arthur.

KILGHARRAH

Then you have the answer you seek.

MERLIN

You're telling me that little boy is going to kill Arthur?

KILGHARRAH

It seems that is up to you.

MERLIN

No. You can't know that for certain.

KILGHARRAH

You have it in your power to prevent a great evil.

MERLIN

There must be another way! The future isn't set in stone!

KILGHARRAH

You must let the boy die.

—

[33:42, INT. KING'S PALACE, PHYSICIAN'S CHAMBERS - NIGHT]

GAIUS

I assume it's the plight of the Druid boy that's causing your forehead to wrinkle like a lizard's elbow.

MERLIN

Would you let something terrible happen if it meant you'd stop something even worse happening in the future?

GAIUS

I suppose it depends on what the 'terrible' and 'even worse' things were.

MERLIN

One of them's bad, really bad. And the other, it's...unthinkable.

GAIUS

It sounds as if you've already made your decision. You can only do what you believe to be right, Merlin. I just hope it doesn't involve you putting yourself in terrible danger.

MERLIN

For once, you don't have to worry. I'm going to do nothing.

—

[34:42, INT. KING'S PALACE, MORGANA'S CHAMBERS - NIGHT] [Gwen helps Morgana dress for dinner.]

MORGANA

Thank you.

[Morgana turns around and sees Gwen's expression.]

MORGANA

What is it? What's wrong?

GWEN

You're risking so much for this boy. You don't know anything about him. You don't even know his name.

MORGANA

There's a bond between us.

GWEN

Stronger than the bond you have with Uther?

MORGANA

It's like nothing I've ever felt before. Perhaps I was always meant to help him.

GWEN

How can that be?

MORGANA

I don't know. I can't explain it.

[Gwen sighs and shakes her head.]

MORGANA

I must go to Uther.

GWEN

Good luck.

—

[35:46, INT. KING'S PALACE, COUNCIL CHAMBER OF DOOM - NIGHT] [Uther dines as Morgana enters with tear stained cheeks.]

MORGANA

I have come to apologise, My Lord. You have been generous and kind and fair. And I owe you everything. I truly don't know what came over me. I acted without thinking of the consequence. My behaviour was unforgivable. *gasp*

UTHER

I am glad you've seen sense. Dine with me. Let's put this *ahem* unfortunate incident behind us.

—

[36:37, INT. KING'S PALACE, DUNGEONS - NIGHT] [Arthur descends the Wrought Iron Stairway. He stops halfway and drops a smoking bag down to the guards, who cough and pass out. Arthur grabs their keys and opens Mordred's cell.]

ARTHUR

Don't be scared. I've sent word to your people, I'm taking you to them. You must come with me.

[Arthur takes Mordred's hand and leads him out. They head down a tunnel with a torch.]

ARTHUR

This way.

—

[37:48, INT. KING'S PALACE, DUNGEONS - NIGHT] [The guards wake.]

GUARD

It's the Druid boy. He's escaped!

—

[37:53, INT. KING'S PALACE, TUNNELS - NIGHT] [Arthur and Mordred reach the gate at the end of the tunnel. Merlin is nowhere in sight.]

ARTHUR (whisper)

Merlin! Merlin! Don't worry, he'll be here.

—

[38:14, INT. KING'S PALACE, MERLIN'S CHAMBER - NIGHT] [Merlin sits on his bed. The warning bells sound.]

—

[38:19, INT. KING'S PALACE, COUNCIL CHAMBER OF DOOM - NIGHT] [Morgana dines with Uther.]

UTHER

Guard!

[A guard enters.]

UTHER

Find out why they've sounded the warning bell.

GUARD

Yes, My Lord.

—

[38:30, INT. KING'S PALACE, TUNNELS - NIGHT] [Arthur pushes against the gate.]

ARTHUR

Damn it, Merlin!

[Arthur and Mordred hear a door open at the other end of the tunnel. Arthur puts out the torch.] Guard (distant): I think they went that way.

—
[38:49, INT. KING'S PALACE, MERLIN'S CHAMBER/TUNNELS - NIGHT] [Merlin sits in his chamber. Arthur and Mordred wait anxiously.]

MORDRED (telepathy)

Emrys. Emrys. Where are you, Emrys? Emrys. Help us. Please! They're coming.

GUARD 1

Look over there. Look over there. Check in there.

GUARD 2

Yes, sir.

[Arthur draws his sword.]

GUARD 1

But you look down here.

MORDRED (telepathy)

I'm scared, Emrys. They will kill me. Don't do this. Don't ignore me. I know you can hear me. I thought you were my friend. We're the same. I don't want to die. Emrys! Emrys! Emrys!

—
[39:47, EXT. TUNNEL EXIT - NIGHT] [Merlin sneaks past the guards across the drawbridge.]

MERLIN

Hey!

ARTHUR (whisper)

Where the hell have you been?!

MERLIN

I had trouble getting out of the castle.

[Merlin narrows his eyes at Merlin.]

ARTHUR (whisper)

Well, get this grate off, they're coming!

[Merlin attaches the grappling hook and pulls off the grate. Merlin lifts Mordred up onto the horse in front of Arthur.]

ARTHUR

If my father asks where I am, I've gone on a hunting trip. You'd better make yourself scarce, or they'll execute you in his place.

MORDRED (telepathy)

Goodbye, Emrys. I know that someday we will meet again.

—

[40:35, INT. KING'S PALACE, COUNCIL CHAMBER OF DOOM - NIGHT]

GUARD

My Lord. I regret to report that the Druid boy has escaped from the dungeon.

UTHER

What!? How?

GUARD

My Lord, he was assisted by some accomplices. The guards are searching Camelot as we speak.

UTHER

Find him and his accomplices and kill them.

GUARD

Yes, My Lord.

UTHER

If I discover that you were somehow involved in freeing this boy, the consequences will be extremely severe.

MORGANA

My Lord, you know I respect you too much to ever betray you like that.

UTHER

I made a promise to your father that I would protect you. But if you cross me again, I will break that promise without a second thought.

[Uther leaves and Morgana scowls.]

—

[41:40, EXT. FOREST - NIGHT] [Arthur and Mordred meet the Druids in the woods.]

ISELDIR

We are forever indebted to you, Arthur Pendragon, for returning the boy to us.

ARTHUR

You must not let it be known that it was I who brought him to you.

ISELDIR

We will tell no one. You have my word.

[The druids turn to leave.]

ARTHUR

Wait, I don't even know your name! At least tell me your name.

ISELDIR

It's all right.

MORDRED

My name is Mordred.

ARTHUR

Good luck, Mordred.

Source: Transcribed Film and TV Scripts