

This Merlin Episode Transcript provides a full dialogue log off Episode 03 of Season I “The Mark of Nimueh” 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.

—

[00:12, INT. CAVE - DAY]

NIMUEH

\*spell\*

[Nimueh places a magic egg into water. it travels through underground waterways to a manmade cavern. Nimueh watches Camelot from her water basin.]

NIMUEH

\*spell\*

—

[02:01, EXT. LOWER TOWN - DAY] [Gaius and Merlin look over corpse in the street.]

MERLIN

Aren't you sacred?

GAIUS

Of what?

MERLIN

That you might catch whatever it is.

GAIUS

I'm the court physician, Merlin. This is part of my job. Most of the time there's nothing really to be scared of.

[Gaius turns over corps to reveal white skinned, white eyed face.]

MERLIN

You were saying?

GAIUS

People mustn't see this. They'll panic.

—

[02:36, INT. GWEN'S HOUSE - DAY] [Gwen and her father get ready at home.]

GWEN

Dad, here's your sandwich.

TOM

Ooh. Mmm, what's in it?

GWEN

It's smoked pigeon. But I'd say there's more smoke than pigeon.

TOM (laughs)

You're such a good girl to me.

GWEN

And I've done you some watercress soup tonight.

TOM

Don't tell me, with more water in it than cress?

[Gwen laughs and they hug.]

GWEN

I'll see you later.

TOM  
K. Bye.

—  
[03:03, EXT. KING'S PALACE, DRAWBRIDGE - DAY] [Merlin and Gaius wheel the body over the castle drawbridge. Gwen approaches carrying the flowers she had at home.]

GWEN  
What are you doing?

MERLIN  
Er...just moving something.

GAIUS  
Looks heavy.

MERLIN  
Er, it's nothing really. Er...someone got you flowers?

GWEN  
Oh! No. \*giggle\* Would you like one? A purple one. Purple suits you. Not that I'm saying red doesn't suit you.

MERLIN  
Thanks. Well, er...

[Merlin sticks the flower in his scarf.]

GWEN  
Aww.

MERLIN  
Er...see you.

GWEN  
Bye.

—  
[03:45, INT. KING'S PALACE, MORGANA'S CHAMBERS - DAY] [Gwen enters with flowers.]

MORGANA

You look happy.

GWEN

I picked these for you.

MORGANA

Oh, that's so sweet.

GWEN

Something to cheer you up. I know you're not sleeping well.

MORGANA

You cheer me up.

GWEN

Would you like me to put them in water for you?

—

[04:05, INT. KING'S PALACE, PHYSICIAN'S CHAMBERS - DAY] [Merlin and Gaius looking at body with magnifying glass.]

GAIUS

I've never seen anything like this before.

MERLIN

Do you think it could be some kind of plague?

GAIUS

No. I fear that something like this could never come from nature. But who has this kind of power?

MERLIN

You think it's caused by magic?

ARTHUR

Merlin!

[Merlin opens door before Arthur can come in and see the body.]

MERLIN

Erm...I'm on my way. Sorry I'm late.

ARTHUR

Don't worry. I'm getting used to it.

[Arthur furrows his eyebrows when he sees the flower in Merlin's scarf. Merlin looks down at it.]

MERLIN Oh, er...Gwen, she gave it to me.

ARTHUR

Tell Gaius my father wants to see him now.

MERLIN

Okay.

[Merlin closes the door.]

MERLIN

Gaius...

GAIUS

I heard.

MERLIN

Wait, why couldn't he just tell you himself?

GAIUS

'Cause that's the way it is. You're a servant.

MERLIN

Wha...if he knew who I was, what I've done...

GAIUS

You'd be a dead servant. Right, get this covered up.

MERLIN

Hey, I'm not your servant.

GAIUS

No, you're my dogsbody. Come on, hurry up.

—

[04:58, INT. KING'S PALACE, COUNCIL CHAMBER OF DOOM - DAY] [Gaius examines a magically dead servant on the floor.]

UTHER

What's happened to him?

GAIUS

I don't know, Sire. It's the second case I've seen today.

UTHER

Why didn't you report it to me?

GAIUS

I was attempting to find the cause.

UTHER

What did you conclude?

GAIUS

I don't think it's time to hurry to conclusions. A scientific process is a long one.

UTHER

What are you concealing from me?

GAIUS

Sire, I have seen nothing like it. The victims are dying in 24 hours, and it's spreading fast.

UTHER

What is the cause?

GAIUS

I think you should say that the cause, the most likely cause, is sorcery.

[Uther pulls Arthur aside.]

UTHER

We must find who did this.

ARTHUR

I will, father.

UTHER (scared whisper)

Conduct door to door searches. Increase your presence in the town. Double the guards on all the gates. And lend the physician your servant.

ARTHUR

Merlin? But...

UTHER

I'm going to need Gaius to find a cure. He needs all the help we can give him. If Gaius is right, believe me, this city will be wiped out. This is the kind of magic that undermines our authority, challenges all we've done. If we cannot control this plague, people will turn to magic for a cure. We have to find this sorcerer, and quickly.

ARTHUR

Yes, father.

—

[06:24,

[Arthur and guards search the city. Merlin and Gaius walk through town. Merlin sees a sick person]

MERLIN

Gaius? Gaius. He's still alive.

GAIUS

I'm afraid there's nothing we can do for him.

MERLIN

But we haven't tried.

GAIUS

If we don't know what a disease is, then how can we cure him?

MERLIN

With magic.

GAIUS

Have a look. They're suspicious of everyone.

MERLIN

This is not the time to be using magic. Science will lead us to the source of the disease.

—

[07:04, INT. KING'S PALACE, PHYSICIAN'S CHAMBERS] [Gaius heats a vial of liquid.]

MERLIN

What are you doing?

GAIUS

I'm examining the contents of that man's stomach.

MERLIN

Will that tell you who did it?

GAIUS

No, but it might tell us how it's spread. One thing I do know, this is magic of the darkest kind.

MERLIN

Why would someone use magic like that?

GAIUS

Magic corrupts. People use it for their own ends.

MERLIN

But not all magic is bad. I know it isn't.

GAIUS

It's neither good nor bad. It's how you use it.

[Arthur and guards burst in]

ARTHUR (to Guard)

Over there. (to Gaius) Sorry Gaius, we're searching every room in town.

GAIUS



What for?

ARTHUR  
A sorcerer.

GAIUS  
But why would he be here?

ARTHUR  
I'm just doing my job.

GAIUS  
We've nothing to hide. Go on, then. Search.

ARTHUR  
All these books and papers?

GAIUS  
My life's work, dedicated to the understanding of science. You are quite welcome to read through them if you wish.

ARTHUR  
What's this room up here?

MERLIN  
Er, it's mine.

GAIUS  
And what do you expect to find in there?

ARTHUR  
I'm looking for material or evidence suggesting the use of enchantments.

GAIUS  
What've you done with the magic book I gave you?

[Merlin looks worried. Arthur enters his room.]

ARTHUR  
Merlin, come here. Look what I found.

[Merlin goes in.]

ARTHUR

I found a place where you can put things. It's called a cupboard.

[Merlin spots book on the floor and magically covers it with his bed sheet. Arthur looks under the bed, but misses the book and exits Merlin's room.]

ARTHUR

How long do you think it may be before you find a cure?

GAIUS

It depends on how many interruptions I get.

ARTHUR

Of course, I'm sorry. (to Guards) We're finished here.

[They exit. Gaius closes the door.]

GAIUS

We have to hide that book.

MERLIN

No. We must use it.

GAIUS

Don't be stupid.

MERLIN

If I have this legacy then what is it for? You keep telling me it's not for playing tricks.

GAIUS

You want to practice magic when the King is hunting for sorcerers? Are you mad? Merlin, your life is destined for more important things.

MERLIN

But if I don't practice, then how will I get to be this great warlock?!

GAIUS

There will come a time when your skills will be recognised.

MERLIN

When?! How long do I have to wait?

GAIUS

Patience is a virtue, Merlin.

MERLIN

Sitting by and doing nothing, that's a virtue?

GAIUS

Your time will come.

MERLIN

I could cure that man we saw.

GAIUS

I know it's tempting to use the way you find easiest, Merlin...

MERLIN

It is when it would save a life.

GAIUS

It's no good just saving one person. We have to discover how this illness is spreading.

MERLIN

Arthur is out there right now looking for the sorcerer!

GAIUS

A sorcerer who's powerful enough to do this will never be found searching the town.

MERLIN (sigh)

So what can we do?

GAIUS

Hope that science can find the answer before it kills us all.

—

[10:43, INT. CAVE - DAY] [Nimueh watches the Afanc in her stone basin. a woman draws water from the spout in the Lower Town. covered bodies are lined up in the courtyard.]

—

[INT. KING'S PALACE, COUNCIL CHAMBER OF DOOM - DAY] [Arthur enters . Uther is waiting.]

ARTHUR

We searched everywhere, the entire city.

UTHER

Nothing?

ARTHUR

I don't know where else to look.

UTHER

I want you to impose a curfew. No one is to be allowed onto the streets after the great bell.

ARTHUR

Father?

UTHER

And cordon off the lower town.

ARTHUR

Why?

UTHER

Because that's where most of the victims are. Let's isolate it, stop this disease from spreading.

ARTHUR

What about the people who live there?

UTHER

Don't you think I haven't considered it? What else can I do? I have to protect the rest of the city.

[Arthur bows and exits.]

—

[11:39, INT. KING'S PALACE, PHYSICIAN'S CHAMBERS] [Gaius and Merlin examine

another corpse.]

GAIUS

What's different about this victim?

MERLIN

Er...she's a woman.

GAIUS

Sometimes I do wonder whether your magical talents were given to the right person. Anything else?

MERLIN

Erm...she's a courtier.

GAIUS

Ah.

MERLIN

How does that help us?

GAIUS

Courtiers seldom go down to the lower town. So what does that mean?

MERLIN

Erm...that, that she hasn't spoken to any townspeople.

[Gaius looks pained.]

GAIUS

Yes, it suggests that the disease is not spread by contact.

MERLIN

Oh, and they probably ate different food.

GAIUS

Good. Anything else?

MERLIN

Erm...I doubt they breathe the same air.

GAIUS

So what's the only thing they do share?

MERLIN

Water. Water? You think the disease is spread through water?

GAIUS

Merlin, you're a prodigy.

[Gaius hands Merlin a bucket. Merlin walks to Lower Town well.]

—

[12:37, INT. GWEN'S HOUSE - DAY] [Gwen ties her cloak.]

GWEN

It's time to get up, Dad. Dad?

[She turns him over.]

TOM

Gwen.

[Tom is magically sick. Gwen panics and runs to the castle crying, passing Merlin at the well.]

MERLIN

Gwen? Gwen!

[Merlin grabs bucket of water and runs after her.]

—

[13:07, INT. KING'S PALACE, PHYSICIAN'S CHAMBERS - DAY] [Gwen enters.]

GAIUS

Gwen!

GWEN

Gaius.

GAIUS

You have the sickness?

[Gwen shakes her head.]

GWEN

My father! Please, Gaius, he's all I have.

GAIUS

Gwen, I have no cure.

GWEN

I am begging you!

GAIUS

I wish there was something, anything, but so far the remedy is beyond what I can achieve.

[Gaius takes her hand.]

GAIUS

I'm sorry, Gwen.

[Gwen runs out of the room.]

MERLIN

There must be something we can do.

GAIUS

My best. Let's hope that this can provide some answers.

MERLIN

But that'll be too late for Gwen's father.

GAIUS

I fear you may be right.

[Gaius puts some of the water in a jar, and places a flower in it. Merlin goes to his room.]

—

[13:53, INT. KING'S PALACE, PHYSICIAN'S CHAMBERS - NIGHT] [Merlin checks on snoring Gaius, pulls out his magic book, and sneaks past the guards.]

GUARD 1

What about over...in there?

GUARD 2

Certainly, sir.

[Guards poke spears into haystacks. A guard approaches Merlin's hiding spot.]

MERLIN (whisper)

Onstyrian, onbregdan.

[The door across the street creaks open. A guard nears and the door hits him in the face. Merlin goes to Gwen's house. Gwen and Tom are sleeping. Merlin puts a poultice under Tom's pillow.]

MERLIN

þu fornimst adl fram guman.

[Merlin exits and watches them outside the door. Tom wakes and touches Gwen's head, which is resting on his bedside.]

GWEN

Father?

TOM

Gwen.

GWEN

What's happened? I can't believe it!

[Gwen hugs her father.]

—

[16:38, more covered bodies are laid out in the Square. Nimueh continues watching in her stone basin]

—

[16:48, INT. KING'S PALACE, COUNCIL CHAMBER OF DOOM - DAY] [Arthur reaches for glass vial with the tainted water and flower in it.]



GAIUS

Don't touch it. I had this in the water for no more than a few hours.

UTHER

Where's the water from?

GAIUS

The pump from where the people take their daily supply.

ARTHUR

We have to stop the people from using it.

GAIUS

The city cannot survive without water.

UTHER

We have to find this sorcerer!

ARTHUR

I don't believe that they're inside Camelot.

UTHER

Then extend the search to the villages!

ARTHUR

We've started, but I can't search the entire kingdom.

UTHER

And I can't stand by and watch our people dying.

[Arthur nods and exits]

—

[17:17, INT. KING'S PALACE, MORGANA'S CHAMBERS - DAY] [Merlin enters. Gwen hums as she gathers Morgana's clothes.]

MERLIN

How's your father? Is he feeling better?

GWEN

Yeah, it's incredible. It's a miracle.

MERLIN

His skin's clear, back to normal?

GWEN

Yes.

MERLIN

Great.

[Merlin beams and turns to leave.]

GWEN

You don't seem surprised.

MERLIN

No, no, I am. It's a miracle.

GWEN

But how did you know he was well?

MERLIN

Er...because you're smiling.

GWEN

That's really weird because I haven't told anyone, but you know. How could you know?

MERLIN

Yeah. Alright. You finally found out, I'll tell you. \*swallows\* I'm psychic.

GWEN (giggle)

No you're not.

MERLIN

It's true.

GWEN

Alright, what am I thinking?

MERLIN

That I'm not psychic.

GWEN (giggle)

You're strange. I, I don't mean that in a nasty way. You're just funny. I like that.

MERLIN

Erm, er, I 'm pleased for you.

GWEN

Thank you.

MERLIN

What for?

GWEN

Don't know, just for asking.

MERLIN

I didn't like to see you upset. I have to...get on.

[Merlin waves awkwardly. Gwen waves back. Merlin leaves. Gwen smiles.]

—

[18:41, INT. BLACKSMITH'S - DAY] [Tom works at his forge. Townspeople watch him. Arthur approaches with guards.]

ARTHUR

The story is you were sick.

TOM

Not anymore.

ARTHUR

Perhaps you were suffering from some other ailment?

TOM

Oh, you're joking. I felt like death itself, not enough strength in me to stir the air.

ARTHUR

Then...what happened?

TOM

Oh, I don't know. Suddenly it was gone. I'm fitter than I was before.

ARTHUR

That's remarkable. Was anybody with you when all this happened?

TOM

Just my daughter, Gwen.

[Arthur leaves and Tom goes back to work. Arthur and guards search Gwen and Tom's house. Guard finds glowing poultice.]

—

[20:01, INT. KING'S PALACE, MORGANA'S CHAMBERS - DAY] [Gwen hums as she carries away a vase full of dead flowers. Arthur and guards enter.]

ARTHUR

Seize her.

GWEN

No.

ARTHUR

Guinevere, I'm arresting you for crimes and contraventions of the laws of Camelot, that you did practice enchantments.

[Morgana enters.]

MORGANA

Gwen?

GWEN

But what have I done? I haven't done anything! Help me, please!

MORGANA

What are you doing?

ARTHUR

I found a magic poultice in her house.

MORGANA

Oh, that's ridiculous.

ARTHUR

Then how else do you explain her father's recovery?

MORGANA

Well, she's innocent! I know she's innocent.

ARTHUR

What can I do? I can't turn a blind eye!

[Arthur exits and Morgana scoffs.]

—

[20:35, INT. KING'S PALACE, UPPER CORRIDOR - DAY] [Arthur and guards drag Gwen down the corridor.]

GWEN

No, please. You've got to listen to me! Please, I haven't done anything wrong! You have to listen to me, please! I am innocent, I swear! Let me go! I swear to you!

[Gwen turns her head and sees Merlin approaching her.]

GWEN

Merlin! Merlin, please help me! (to guards) Why won't you listen to me?!

[Gaius takes Merlin's arm and escorts him out.]

GWEN

Please listen to me!

—

[21:00, INT. KING'S PALACE, PHYSICIAN'S CHAMBERS - DAY] [Merlin and Gaius enter and Gaius slams the door.]

GAIUS

What've you done?!

MERLIN

What?

GAIUS

I warned you! Oh, I understand. You thought you were doing good.

MERLIN

I couldn't let her father die knowing I could cure him.

GAIUS

Didn't you think it might look a bit suspicious, the curing of one man?

MERLIN

Well then, all I have to do is...I'll cure everyone! No one will ever have to know it was magic.

GAIUS

It's too late! They think Gwen's a sorceress! They think she caused the disease!

MERLIN

But she didn't!

[Merlin rushes to leave.]

GAIUS

Oh, and how are you going to prove that?!

[Merlin stops to think, then leaves.]

—

[21:37, INT. KING'S PALACE, COUNCIL CHAMBER OF DOOM - DAY] [Arthur enters and guards drag Gwen in behind him.]

GWEN

Please listen to me I have done nothing, please! I swear I haven't done anything!

[Guards drop her on the floor.]

Uther (to Arthur)

Well done.

GWEN

Why will no one believe me?! He got better, he just recovered. I didn't do anything!

[Morgana enters.]

MORGANA

I believe you. Perhaps this is a disease that is not always fatal. Have you thought of that? Perhaps he recovered naturally.

UTHER

And what of this poultice that was found?

GWEN

What poultice? I don't know anything about a poultice!

UTHER

It was found in your house. Undo this enchantment. Put an end to this contagion.

GWEN

I can't!

UTHER

I will show you no mercy.

GWEN

I am not a witch. I don't know how to stop the illness!

UTHER

If you will not undo your sorcery, you force my hand and I must find you guilty...

GWEN

But I told you, I...

UTHER

It is therefore my duty to pronounce judgment. And under the circumstance I have no choice but to sentence you to death.

GWEN

No.

UTHER

I can only hope that when you die, this evil plague dies with you.

GWEN

No! No!

UTHER

Take her away.

[Guards drag Gwen backwards out of the room.]

GWEN

Please, no! I'm innocent! Please, please, no! Please help me! Please, I beg you! No!

[The courtiers leave. Morgana watches Gwen get dragged off, then turns to Uther.]

MORGANA

I know Gwen, she's my maidservant, not an enchantress.

UTHER

Have you ever seen an enchantress? Believe me, they bear no sign, no mark. There is no sense of evil in the eye.

MORGANA

I've seen the way the girl works. Her fingers are worn, her nails are broken. If she was a sorceress, why would she do this? Why would she kneel on a cold stone floor morning after morning when she could make these things happen with a snap of her fingers? Like an idle king!

UTHER

You have no right!

MORGANA

You have a right to cast a judgment on that girl!

UTHER

I have a responsibility to take care of this kingdom! I take no pleasure in this!

MORGANA

But you're sentencing the wrong person!



ARTHUR

She's right, Father. You hear the word magic, you no longer listen.

UTHER

You saw it for yourself. She used enchantments.

ARTHUR

Yes, maybe. But to save her dying father, that doesn't make her guilty of creating a plague. One's the act of, of kindness, of love, the other of evil. I don't believe evil's in this girl's heart.

UTHER

I have witnessed what witchcraft can do. I have suffered at its hand. I cannot take that chance. If there is the slightest doubt about this girl, she must die or the whole kingdom may perish.

ARTHUR

I understand that.

UTHER

One day you may become King. Then you will understand. Such decisions must be made. There are dark forces that threaten this kingdom.

ARTHUR

I know. Witchcraft is an evil, father. So is injustice. Yes, I am yet to be King, and I don't know what kind of king I will be, but I do have a sense of the kind of Camelot I would wish to live in. It would be where the punishment fits the crime.

UTHER

I fear you're right. She's played with fire, and sadly she must die by fire.

[Morgana leaves. Arthur paces the Council Chamber.]

—

[24:44, INT. KING'S PALACE, PHYSICIAN'S CHAMBERS]

MERLIN

I thought I was doing good and that curing Gwen's father would help her. I thought I was saving a life. It seemed so simple.

GAIUS

An easy solution is like a light in a storm, Merlin. Rush for it at your peril, for it may not always lead you to a safe harbour.

MERLIN

I can see that now.

GAIUS

How many times have I warned you about the responsibilities of being a warlock?

MERLIN

I must see her.

—

[INT. KING'S PALACE, DUNGEONS] [Merlin leaves, goes down stairs to the dungeon, passes a weeping Morgana on Wrought Iron Stairway.]

MERLIN

Gwen.

[Gwen tries to get to the cell door, but her chains don't stretch that far. She's been crying.]

GWEN

Thank you.

MERLIN

What for?

GWEN

For coming to see me.

MERLIN

I'm sorry.

GWEN

It's not your fault.

MERLIN

Well...

GWEN

It's alright. Don't worry about me. There's no point crying about it. I mean...I mean, I'm not saying that you were going to cry about me. Obviously I don't think that.

MERLIN

Oh, Gwen. I can't have this happen.

GWEN

Please, one thing. You, you don't have to, but...

MERLIN

What?

GWEN

Remember me.

MERLIN

You're not going to die. I'm not going to let this happen.

[Merlin leaves, rushing up the Wrought Iron Stairway.]

—

[26:37, INT. KING'S PALACE, COUNCIL CHAMBER OF DOOM] [Uther consulting his advisors.]

UTHER

What if burning this witch doesn't stop the poison? How do I protect my people? My men have closed down the water pumps.

GAIUS

But the emergency supply won't last for much longer. We have to find a way of cleansing the water of the disease.

UTHER

But how?

GAIUS

Well...

[The doors open and Merlin bursts in.]

MERLIN

It was me! It was me who used magic to cure Gwen's father!

[The council stares at him.]

MERLIN

Gwen is not the sorcerer. I am!

[Gaius stands up.]

GAIUS

Merlin! Are you mad?

MERLIN

I cannot let her die for me. (to Uther) I place myself at your mercy.

GAIUS

He doesn't know what he's talking about.

MERLIN

I do.

UTHER

Then arrest him.

ARTHUR

Father, please! I can't allow this! This is madness! There's no way Merlin is a sorcerer.

UTHER

Did you not hear him?

ARTHUR

Yes.

UTHER

He admitted it.

ARTHUR

He saved my life, remember.

UTHER

Why should he fabricate such a story.

ARTHUR

As Gaius said, he's got a...grave mental disease.

UTHER

Really?

ARTHUR

He's in love.

MERLIN

What?

ARTHUR

With Gwen.

[Uther grins.]

MERLIN

I am not.

ARTHUR

Yes, you are.

MERLIN

No way.

ARTHUR

I saw yesterday with that flower she'd given you.

MERLIN

I'm not in love with her.

[Arthur puts his arm around Merlin.]

ARTHUR

It's all right. You can admit it.

MERLIN

I don't even think of her like that!

UTHER

Perhaps she cast a spell on you.

[Arthur looks at his father worriedly. Uther snickers. Other council members snicker, and Arthur smiles in relief.]

ARTHUR

Merlin is a wonder, but the wonder is that he's such an idiot. There's no way he's a sorcerer.

UTHER

Don't waste my time again. Let him go.

—

[28:21, INT. KING'S PALACE, PHYSICIAN'S CHAMBERS]

MERLIN

Arthur's the idiot.

GAIUS

No. He was right to do what he did. And, thankfully, he saved you from your own stupidity.

MERLIN

What else could I do? It's my fault Gwen's going to die.

GAIUS

Yes, but you don't prove her innocence by offering to jump into the flames. You do it by finding out what's causing the disease!

MERLIN

Well, whatever it is, one thing's for sure: Arthur isn't going to find it. He thinks he is so sharp! But even when I told him I was a wizard, he still couldn't see it.

GAIUS

Sometimes they're pretty hard to spot.

MERLIN

Well, maybe I should go around wearing a pointy hat.

GAIUS

I don't think you'll find one big enough. Anyway, forget that. If we're going to save Gwen, we have to find out what's contaminating the water.

—

[29:04, INT. TUNNEL WATER SUPPLY] [Gaius and Merlin go to the underground entrance to the water supply. Nimueh's watching in her stone basin]

GAIUS

The water from here supplies the whole town. Take a sample.

[Merlin puts bottle in the water.]

GAIUS

Let's take it back and examine it.

[An Afanc rears up out of the water.]

MERLIN

What the hell was that?

[Gaius takes Merlin's arm and they leave.]

—

[30:25, Physician's Chambers.

[Gaius and Merlin look at a book.]

GAIUS

Here. It was an Afanc.

MERLIN

An...a what?

GAIUS

A beast born of clay, and conjured up only by the most powerful sorcerer. Now we have to find a way to defeat it. But where?

[Gaius looks at shelves of books.]

MERLIN

That could take days. Gwen'll be dead by then.

GAIUS

Have you got a better idea?

[Merlin sees pyre being built in the Square on his way to the dungeons. sees Gwen lying on the cell floor.]

MERLIN

Gwen? I'm going to get you out. I will.

[Merlin leaves.]

—

[31:36, INT. KING'S PALACE, DRAGON'S CAVE]

MERLIN

Hello?

KILGHARRAH

Hello.

[The Great Dragon flies down.]

KILGHARRAH

The great warlock returns, as I knew he would.

MERLIN

I need to know how to defeat an Afanc.

KILGHARRAH

Yes, I suppose you do.

MERLIN

Will you help me?

KILGHARRAH

Trust the elements that are at your command.



MERLIN

Elements? But what is it I have to do?

KILGHARRAH

You cannot do this alone. You are but one side of a coin. Arthur is the other.

MERLIN

I- I don't understand. Just tell me what it is I have to do.

[Kilgharrah flies off.]

MERLIN

No! Please, help me!

KILGHARRAH

I have.

[Kilgharrah laughs.]

MERLIN

Oh, yeah, right. Thanks.

—

[32:32, INT. KING'S PALACE, COUNCIL CHAMBER OF DOOM - DAY] [Arthur enters.]

UTHER

Have you found anything more?

ARTHUR

I've tried. I can keep looking.

UTHER

People are dying, we can't delay any longer. We must kill the witch. Bring her execution forward to tonight.

[Arthur bows his head and exits.]

—

[33:03, INT. KING'S PALACE, PHYSICIAN'S CHAMBERS - DAY] [Merlin frantically searches through books. Gaius enters.]

GAIUS

Merlin, what are you doing?

MERLIN

Looking for a book.

GAIUS

You going to tell me which one?

MERLIN

A book on elements.

GAIUS

Elements?

MERLIN

Yes. Which one would I find them in?

GAIUS

Well, most of them. The study of base elements is at the very heart of the scientific process.

MERLIN

But how would they help me kill the Afanc?

GAIUS

Well, the Afanc is a creature made from earth and water. That's two of the four base elements.

MERLIN

What about the other two?

GAIUS

Well, perhaps they will destroy it. You want fire. Wind and fire. How did you find this out?

MERLIN

Erm...I just knew, you know? One of my powers.

GAIUS

What else do your powers tell you?

MERLIN

That I am only one side of a coin. The brighter side, obviously.

GAIUS

And who's the other side?

MERLIN

I think that might be Arthur.

MORGANA

They're bringing forward the execution. We have to prove Gwen's innocence.

GAIUS

We're trying.

MORGANA

Please, just tell me what I can do to help.

MERLIN

We need Arthur.

MORGANA

Arthur?

MERLIN

There's a monster, an Afanc, in the water supply. That's what's causing the plague.

MORGANA

Well, we must tell Uther.

GAIUS

The Afanc's a creature forged by magic. Telling Uther wouldn't save Gwen. He'd just blame her for conjuring it.

MORGANA

So, what are we to do?

MERLIN

We need to destroy it. Then the plague will stop and Uther may see sense.

MORGANA

And that's why you need Arthur.

MERLIN

He's our best chance. But he won't want to disobey the King.

MORGANA

Leave that to me.

[Morgana exits. Gaius gives Merlin the keys to the water supply tunnels.]

—

[34:34, INT. KING'S PALACE, ARTHUR'S CHAMBERS - DAY] [Arthur enters. Morgana is waiting for him.]

ARTHUR

You alright? Sorry about all this [indicated the mess on the table.]. Merlin's not been in today.

MORGANA

Poor Merlin.

ARTHUR

Yeah.

MORGANA

To offer to give up his life to save Gwen's. I certainly can't imagine any man loving me so much.

ARTHUR

No, I certainly can't imagine that either.

[Morgana smirks.]

MORGANA

That's because you're not like Merlin. He's a lover.

ARTHUR

Yeah, maybe that's because I haven't found the right person to love.

MORGANA

Sadly the age of gallantry seems to be dead. You look around and all you see are small men, not big enough to fill their armour. There's not one of them that's able to stand up for what is right.

[Arthur smirks at Morgana's obvious manipulative insult.]

ARTHUR

What do you want me to do?

—

[35:15, EXT/INT. KING'S PALACE, MAIN SQUARE/WATER TUNNEL - DAY] [Morgana and Arthur walk into the Square where Merlin meets them. Arthur draws his sword. They open tunnel door and Arthur lights a torch before they descend.]

ARTHUR

You'd better be right about this, Merlin.

[They hear low growl. Morgana gasps.]

ARTHUR

You should stay here.

MORGANA

I'm coming with you.

ARTHUR

No.

MORGANA

Scared I'll show you up?

ARTHUR

Father will slam us both in chains if he knew I'd endangered you.

MORGANA

Well good thing he doesn't know about it then.

ARTHUR

I'm telling you, Morgana, turn back. You could get hurt.

MORGANA

You could you...if you don't get out of my way.

[Merlin's amused. Arthur rolls his eyes.]

MORGANA

How are we going to find it?

MERLIN

I just hope we do before it finds us.

[Arthur spins around.]

ARTHUR

Stop.

MERLIN

What?

ARTHUR

It's just a shadow.

[They keep moving. the Afanc creeps out of shadows behind them. they reach the water source.]

ARTHUR

Spread out.

[They split up. Arthur hears growl and Afanc swipes at him from behind, then disappears. Morgana rushes to him.]

MORGANA

What is it? Are you alright?

ARTHUR

Yeah.

MERLIN

Did you see it?

ARTHUR

Yes.

MERLIN

What did it look like?

ARTHUR

It-it's quick.

[The Afanc come up in front of Morgana. She screams. Arthur goes for it, but it disappears again.]

ARTHUR

Where is it?

MERLIN

I think it's gone this way!

[They walk. the Afanc creeps slowly out around corner into full view. Arthur swings at it and loses his sword. it also swipes away Morgana's torch. Arthur circles it with torch.]

MERLIN

Arthur, use the torch!

[Arthur swings the torch.]

MERLIN

Lyfte ic þe in balwen ac forhienan.

[Merlin's spell blows flames into the Afanc, incinerating it.]

—

[39:30, INT. CAVE] [Nimueh watches in her stone basin.]

NIMUEH

Merlin. Mah!

[She splashes the water in anger.]

—

[39:36, INT. KING'S PALACE, COUNCIL CHAMBER OF DOOM - DAY] [Uther laughs over some parchment with his advisors.]

UTHER  
It's very good.

GAIUS  
Good news, Sire. There are no new deaths, and those that are sick are recovering.

UTHER  
Good. Strange, I've never heard of an Afanc before.

GAIUS  
It's conjured from clay by powerful magic. The type that can only be invoked by an ancient sorcerer. One that has the power to mirror the spirit of life. I found this at the water source.

[Gaius shows him a cracked egg shell.]

GAIUS  
It bears the mark of Nimueh. We must be vigilant, Sire.

UTHER  
Will I never be rid of her?

GAIUS  
Sire.

UTHER  
Leave me!

[Everyone exits. Uther sits on the throne and mopes.]

—  
[40:38, INT. KING'S PALACE, DUNGEONS - DAY] [Guards open Gwen's cell. Gwen's father, Merlin, and Morgana enters.]

GWEN  
Dad!

[They hug.]



TOM

Oh, my little child!

[Gwen reaches to grasp Morgana's hand.]

GWEN

Thank you!

MORGANA

Don't thank me. It was more Merlin.

GWEN

Really?

MORGANA

He's the real hero here.

GWEN

I don't know what to say.

MERLIN (shrugs)

I didn't do anything.

TOM

I'm- I'm grateful to you all. Come on, Gwen.

[Tom and Gwen leave.]

MORGANA

Merlin. I wanted you to know, your secret's safe with me.

MERLIN

My secret?

MORGANA

Merlin, don't pretend. I know what you did.

MERLIN

You do?

MORGANA

I saw it with my own eyes.

MERLIN

You did?

MORGANA

I understand why you don't anyone to know.

MERLIN

Well, obviously.

MORGANA

But I won't tell anyone. You don't mind me talking to you about it?

MERLIN

Er...no. I- I, it's, er...you have no idea how hard it is to keep this hidden.

MORGANA

Well, you can continue to deny it, but I think Gwen's a very lucky woman.

MERLIN

Gwen?

[Morgana puts her finger to her lips.]

MORGANA

It's our secret.

[Morgana smiles as she leaves. Merlin sighs.]

—

[41:46, INT. KING'S PALACE, PHYSICIAN'S CHAMBERS - NIGHT] [Merlin and Gaius eat dinner.]

MERLIN

This fish didn't come from the water, did it?

GAIUS

Well, where else is it going to come from? The water's fine now. That's not your worry. This

is the work of a very powerful sorcerer. I only hope you didn't come to her attention.

MERLIN

Doubt it. Well no one else seems to appreciate my skills. I just want someone to see me for who I am.

GAIUS

One day, Merlin. One day.

MERLIN

One day what?

GAIUS

One day people won't believe what an idiot you were.

MERLIN

Thanks.

[They toast. Nimueh watches them from her stone basin.]

NIMUEH

Merlin, you will pay for this.

Source: Transcribed Film and TV Scripts