

This Merlin Episode Transcript provides a full dialogue log off Episode 05 of Season I "Lancelot" 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, Merlin picks mushrooms in the woods. He hears screeching and gets chased by a griffin. Merlin falls and waits for a deadly blow. Lancelot yells and attacks the griffin with a sword. The sword breaks.]

LANCELOT

Run! Run!

[Lancelot grabs Merlin and they run and hide behind a fallen tree. Lancelot holds his wounded side.]

MERLIN

It's gone. You saved my life. I'm Merlin.

LANCELOT

Lancelot.

[They shake hands. Lancelot passes out.]

—

[02:30, INT. KING'S PALACE, PHYSICIAN'S CHAMBERS]

GAIUS

The wound itself is superficial. The fever will pass. He should be fine in the morning.

—

[02:45, Uther and Arthur survey a burning village.]

UTHER

What creature could've done this?

ARTHUR

We found no tracks in or out. What the villagers say must be true: it has wings and...

UTHER

What?

ARTHUR

And it took no livestock, only people. Whatever it is, it has a taste for human flesh.

UTHER

Post centuries in all the outlying villages. Put the lookouts on full alert. If this thing should make for Camelot, we must be ready.

—

[03:16, INT. KING'S PALACE, MERLIN'S CHAMBER]

LANCELOT

Ever since I was a child I've dreamed of coming here. It's my life's ambition to join the knights of Camelot. I know what you're thinking, I...I expect too much. After all, who am I? They have their pick of the best and bravest in the land.

MERLIN

Lancelot.

LANCELOT

Yes?

MERLIN

They are going to love you.

LANCELOT

They are?

MERLIN

I've seen you in action. You could shame the great Arthur himself.

LANCELOT

I hardly think so.

MERLIN

In fact, you know what I'm going to do? I'm going to talk to him right now.

LANCELOT

You know Arthur?

MERLIN

Oh yes.

—

[03:54, EXT. TRAINING GROUNDS - DAY] [A nobleman swings a couple of swords around.]

ARTHUR

Right, you jumped up dung beetle, this is it. The final test. Pass this and you're a knight of Camelot. Fail, and you're no one. You face the most feared of all foes, the ultimate killing machine. You face me. You're challenge to last one minute free combat. Grummond, Second son of Wessex.

[Arthur draws his sword and nods to servant with an hourglass.]

ARTHUR

Your time starts now.

[Grummond swings the swords around while Arthur watches. Grummond goes for the attack and Arthur takes him down in two swift blows. The crowd applauds. Arthur removes Grummond's flag.]

ARTHUR

Take him away.

—

[04:48, EXT. LOWER TOWN - DAY]

ARTHUR

Grummund's the third to fail this month. How am I meant to defend Camelot with rubbish like that?

MERLIN

Well, I think I might be able to help.

ARTHUR

You, Merlin? You haven't the faintest idea what it takes to become a knight. Courage, fortitude, discipline.

MERLIN

No, no, no, of course I don't, but I do know someone who does.

ARTHUR

Yeah?

MERLIN

He saved my life.

ARTHUR

That's blowing it for starters.

MERLIN

No, no, no. He's really good. Honestly.

ARTHUR

That's great, Merlin. I'm sure he's terrific, but you forget the First Code of Camelot.

MERLIN

The what?

ARTHUR

The First Code. Only those of noble blood can serve as knights. So, unless your friend is a nobleman

MERLIN

Oh, er, he-he is a nobleman.

ARTHUR

Is he?

MERLIN
Absolutely.

ARTHUR
Very well. Bring him to the training ground tomorrow. And make sure he brings his seal of nobility.

MERLIN
Thanks, Arthur. You won't regret it.

—
[05:39, Physician's Chambers. Merlin enters.]

LANCELOT
Well? Did you speak to him?

MERLIN
Yeah, I spoke to him.

LANCELOT
And?

MERLIN
And...

[Merlin feigns disappointment.]

LANCELOT
No.

[Lancelot shakes his head, disappointed.]

MERLIN
He said he would like to meet you.

LANCELOT
Yes! Thank you. Thank you!

MERLIN

Hey, really, it was no problem, really. It's nothing. *ahem* You're not a nobleman, by any chance, are you?

LANCELOT

A nobleman? No.

[Lancelot laughs.]

LANCELOT

Good lord, no. Why do you ask?

MERLIN

It's just that there's this...

GAIUS

The First Code of Camelot states that only those of noble blood can serve as a knight. Uther created the knights to protect this kingdom from those who wished to destroy it. He knew he would have to trust each of his knights with his life. So he chose them from the families that had sworn allegiance to him.

MERLIN

The nobility.

GAIUS

And thus the First Code of Camelot was born, and ever since that day, only the sons of noble families have served as knights.

MERLIN

But that is not fair.

GAIUS

Fair or unfair, that's the way it is. I'm sorry, Lancelot. Truly, I am.

—

[06:52, INT. KING'S PALACE, MERLIN'S CHAMBER]

MERLIN

Why do you want to be a knight so much?

LANCELOT

When I was a boy, my village was attacked by raiders from the northern plains. They were slaughtered where they stood, my father, my mother. Everyone. I alone escaped. I vowed that day that never again would I be helpless in the face of tyranny. I made sword craft my life. Every waking hour since that day, I devoted to the art of combat, and when I was ready, I set forth for Camelot. And now, it seems, my journey ends. Everything I fought for, wasted.

MERLIN

I give you my word, whatever it takes, I will make this right.

—

[07:49, INT. KING'S PALACE, HALL OF RECORDS] [Merlin searches for a book. Geoffrey of Monmouth watches him. Merlin takes a book.]

MERLIN

Homework.

[Merlin opens book to a page of Northumbrian nobility and pulls out a piece of parchment.]

MERLIN

Ic us bisen hræd tán hwanon.

[Merlin copies the page. Geoffrey wanders over.]

GEOFFREY

Ahem.

[Merlin hands Geoffrey the book.]

MERLIN

It's a...real page turner.

[Geoffrey looks at the title.]

—

[09:04, INT. KING'S PALACE, PHYSICIAN'S CHAMBERS] [Merlin enters and holds up the parchment.]

LANCELOT

What's that?

MERLIN

This is your seal of nobility.

LANCELOT

I don't understand.

MERLIN

Ladies and gentlemen, I give you Lancelot, fifth son of Lord Eldred of Northumbria.

LANCELOT

No, Merlin. No.

MERLIN

Oh, right. So you don't want to be a knight, then.

LANCELOT

Of course I do!

MERLIN

Well...the rules don't allow it. Damn the rules! The rules are wrong!

LANCELOT

But it's a lie. It's against everything the knights stand for.

MERLIN

You have as much right to be a knight as any man. I know it.

LANCELOT

But the rules, Merlin.

MERLIN

We're not breaking the rules. We're bending them, that's all. You get your foot in the door. But after that you will be judged on your merit alone. And if you succeed - if they make you a knight - it'll be because you earned it, noble or not. I can't change the way things are done around here, but you can...if you let me help you.

—

[09:56, INT. GWEN'S HOUSE - DAY] [Gwen takes Lancelot's measurements.]

LANCELOT

Thi...*ahem* This is very kind of you, er...

GWEN
Gwen.

LANCELOT
Gwen.

GWEN
Short for Guinevere.

LANCELOT
Ah. Then thank you, Guinevere.

GWEN
Don't thank me. Thank Merlin. Merlin would do anything for anyone, wouldn't you, Merlin? Sorry, can you raise your arms? Thank you. Sorry. I think it's great that Merlin's got you this chance. We need men like you.

LANCELOT
You do?

GWEN
Well, not me personally, but you know...Camelot. Camelot needs knights. Not just Arthur and his kind, but ordinary people like you and me.

LANCELOT
Well, I'm not a knight yet, My Lady.

GWEN
And I'm not a lady.

[Gwen giggles.]

LANCELOT
Sorry, my...

GWEN
Okay, we're done. Erm...I should have these ready in no time. It's nice to meet you Lancelot.

[Gwen reaches out to shake hands. Lancelot takes her hand and kisses it. Merlin and Lancelot leave.]

—
[11:12, INT. KING'S PALACE, COURTYARD CORRIDOR - DAY] [Merlin and Lancelot walk down the Courtyard Corridor.]

LANCELOT
She seems lovely. Guinevere.

MERLIN
Oh, yeah. Yeah, she is. And the best seamstress in Camelot, I promise.

LANCELOT
Are you two...you know.

[Merlin laughs.]

MERLIN
No, no. Just friends.

[Merlin gives Lancelot a sideways look.]

—
[11:30, EXT. TRAINING GROUNDS - DAY] [Arthur trains recruits. Merlin and Gwen fix Lancelot's knight costume.]

ARTHUR
One. Two. Three. Four. One. Two. Three. Four.

MERLIN
Well...you certainly look the part.

LANCELOT
Doesn't he just?

MERLIN
I don't feel it.

ARTHUR

Okay, that'll do for today. Well done.

MERLIN

Here's your chance. Go for it.

[Arthur puts a sword in the sword rack. Lancelot approaches him.]

ARTHUR

Yes?

LANCELOT

Lancelot, 5th son of Lord Eldred of Northumbria.

ARTHUR

Lance...a lot? My servant mentioned you. Got your seal?

[Lancelot bows as he presents the fake seal to Arthur.]

LANCELOT

Sire.

[Arthur smacks him. Lancelot falls down.]

ARTHUR

Sluggish reactions. In a battle field you'd be dead by now. Come back when you're ready.

[Arthur walks off. Lancelot gets up and places his hand on his sword.]

LANCELOT

I'm ready now, Sire.

[Arthur turns back around.]

ARTHUR

You are, are you? Fine. You can start by cleaning out the stables.

[Onlookers laugh. Lancelot looks uncertainly at Merlin who gives him two thumbs up.]

—

[12:44, INY. KING'S PALACE, PHYSICIAN'S CHAMBERS]

GAIUS

I'm sorry about Lancelot. I see you were upset.

MERLIN

Oh. You know...that's life. You win some, you lose some.

GAIUS

You're taking it very well, I have to say. Very mature.

MERLIN

Thank you, Gaius.

[Lancelot enters covered in...dirt.]

MERLIN

How'd it go?

LANCELOT

Ugh.

[Lancelot goes to Merlin's Chamber. Gaius gives Merlin a look.]

MERLIN

He found work at the stables.

GAIUS

I see. And the truth before I lose my temper?

MERLIN

He's er...trying out for the knights.

GAIUS

The First Code of Camelot has never been broken for any man. What've you done, Merlin?

MERLIN

Okay, I bent the rules a little, but the rules are wrong. They're unfair.

GAIUS

You bent the rules? Using magic?

MERLIN

It was nothing, honestly. It was more of a trick than actual magic.

GAIUS

Your magic is not a toy, Merlin. It's not for you to use or abuse as you see fit.

MERLIN

I know. I know.

GAIUS

Then why'd you do it?

MERLIN

I owe Lancelot my life. I am paying for that debt the only way I can by giving him the opportunity he deserves. If you want to punish me for it, go ahead.

—

[14:01, EXT. LOWER TOWN - DAY] [Arthur and a few guards approach Lancelot. Lancelot continues to sharpen swords. Arthur takes a nearby broom and tosses it at Lancelot. Lancelot looks up suddenly and catches it.]

ARTHUR

Not bad.

[Lancelot stands and bows to Arthur.]

LANCELOT

Would you like me to sweep the guardhouse again, Sire?

ARTHUR

It certainly needs sweeping. But first,

[Arthur picks up a broom and removes the bristles.]

ARTHUR

I'd like you to kill me.

LANCELOT

Sire?

ARTHUR

Come on. Don't pretend you don't want to.

[Lancelot removes the bristles on his broom.]

ARTHUR

Hell, if I were you, I'd want to. Come on.

[A fight ensues.]

ARTHUR

Come on, Lancelot, you're not beating a carpet.

[They continue fighting. Arthur hits Lancelot in the gut.]

ARTHUR

Congratulations, Lancelot.

[Arthur tosses the stick to Lancelot.]

ARTHUR

You just made basic training.

[Warning bells toll. Arthur runs toward the screams.]

—

[15:41, Merlin helps an injured woman to sit near Gaius in the Square.]

MERLIN

You're safe now, I promise.

[Gaius tends another woman.]

MERLIN

How is she?

GAIUS

Okay.

[Lancelot runs into the Square.]

LANCELOT

What happened to these people?

GAIUS

Their village was attacked by a winged monster.

[Merlin and Lancelot exchange a look.]

—

[16:10, INT. KING'S PALACE, UPPER CORRIDOR] [Uther and Arthur look down at the Square.]

ARTHUR

I'd hunt this thing down if I could, but I cannot track a creature through the air.

UTHER

You don't have to track it. First Greenwood, then Willowdale. The creature's heading south, towards the mouth of the valley.

ARTHUR

To Camelot.

UTHER

You must prepare your knights, Arthur.

ARTHUR

Have faith, Father. We'll be ready.

—

[16:29, INT. KING'S PALACE, PHYSICIAN'S CHAMBERS] [Gaius flips through a book of monsters.]

GAIUS

The wings of an eagle and the body of a lion. The wings of an eagle and the body of a lion.

—

[16:50, EXT. KING'S PALACE, MAIN SQUARE - DAY] [Arthur speaks to the knights of Camelot.]

ARTHUR

The beast is heading for Camelot. It's fast and agile, but big enough to hit and hit hard. Starting today your training routines will concentrate on an attack strategy. We don't have much time. Dismissed.

[Lancelot approaches Arthur and bows.]

ARTHUR

Yes, Lancelot?

LANCELOT

Is there anything I can do, Sire? It's just...I know that in the event of battle, only a knight may serve.

ARTHUR

That's correct, Lancelot. And you are not yet a knight. Which is why I'm bringing your test forward. You'll face me in the morning.

—

[17:36, EXT. TRAINING GROUNDS - DAY] [Arthur and Lancelot are dressed in full armour.]

ARTHUR

Well, here we are. Your final challenge. Succeed and you join the elite. Fail and your journey ends here. Lancelot, fifth son of Lord Eldred of Northumbria...

[Arthur nods to the timekeeper.]

ARTHUR

Your time starts now.

[Arthur and Lancelot put on their helmets. They fight. Lancelot swings and misses Arthur. Gwen grabs Merlin's shirt in her anxiety.]

GWEN

Oh, sorry.

[Arthur punches Lancelot. Lancelot falls back, his helmet askew. Arthur puts his sword in the ground, removes his helmet and goes to remove Lancelot's flag.]

ARTHUR

Shame.

[Lancelot gets up, knocks Arthur off his feet and puts him at sword point.]

LANCELOT

Do you submit, Sire?

[Guards restrain Lancelot. Arthur gets up, apparently angry, and grabs his sword.]

ARTHUR

On your knees!

[Guards force Lancelot to his knees. Arthur puts the sword to Lancelot's chest.]

—

[19:33, INT. KING'S PALACE, THRONE ROOM - NIGHT] [Lancelot kneels, a sword to his chest.]

UTHER

Arise, Sir Lancelot, Knight of Camelot.

[Applause.]

MORGANA

Who is this man? He seems to have come out of nowhere.

GWEN

I know. It's been a bit of a surprise to all of us.

UTHER

You do us a great honour, Sir Lancelot. The knighthood is the very foundation of Camelot.

LANCELOT

The honour is all mine, Sire.

UTHER

Your father would be very proud.

LANCELOT

Yes, Sire.

UTHER

I have not seen Lord Eldred for many years. Longer than I'd imagined, it seems. Last time I saw him, he only had four sons

LANCELOT

Well...here I am.

UTHER

Indeed you are. And I've kept you too long already. Enjoy the celebrations.

LANCELOT

Sire.

[Lancelot bows. Knights approach him and shake his hand. Uther opens Lancelot's seal and addresses a lady of the court.]

UTHER

Take this seal to Geoffrey of Monmouth, the Court Genealogist.

[The knights walk out, Arthur's arm around Lancelot's shoulders.]

UTHER

I want his opinion by morning.

—

[20:48, INT. KING'S PALACE, HALL OF CEREMONIES - NIGHT] [Arthur and Lancelot sit on table with their drinks. Merlin stands with Gaius.]

MERLIN

Look at him, Gaius. Does not Lancelot deserve this moment?

GAIUS

I never said he didn't. But destiny and desserts are not the same thing. You played God, Merlin. You set him on a path of your choosing. Tonight you brought him triumph, but who knows what the future may hold.

MERLIN

Yeah, I don't know what it said on your invitation, but on mine it said celebration.

[Gaius chuckles.]

GAIUS

Point taken. Don't come back too late.

MERLIN

All right.

—

[21:23, INT. KING'S PALACE, HALL OF RECORDS] [Geoffrey of Monmouth looks over court records. Geoffrey finds the page of Lord Eldred of Northumbria and looks displeased.]

—

[21:24, INT. KING'S PALACE, HALL OF CEREMONIES - NIGHT] [Arthur watches Gwen and Morgana while he and Lancelot sit on a table, drinks in their hands.]

ARTHUR

Here's trouble. Tell me, do you think her...beautiful?

[Arthur watches Morgana. Lancelot's eyes follow Gwen as she goes to stand by Merlin.]

LANCELOT

Yes, Sire. I do.

ARTHUR

Yeah. I suppose she is.

[Morgana notices Arthur's gaze.]

MERLIN

You know what? I think our Sir Lancelot might have eyes for you, Gwen.

GWEN

Don't be silly.

MERLIN

What? So what if he did? Would that really be so bad?

[Gwen sighs.]

GWEN

He's not really my type.

MERLIN

Oh, well, there's a surprise. Sometimes, Guinevere, I wonder if you'd know what your type was if he was standing right next to you.

[Gwen looks wistfully at Merlin.]

GWEN

You're probably right.

[Merlin grabs another drink from a passing servant.]

MERLIN

So, come on. Just for the sake of argument. If you had to, Arthur or Lancelot.

GWEN

But I don't have to and I never will.

MERLIN

Oh, you are no fun, Gwen.

[Arthur pounds on the table.]

ARTHUR

Ladies and gentlemen, please join me in a toast to our new recruit, our new knight of Camelot, Sir Lancelot.

[The crowd applauds. Lancelot and Arthur toast.]

—

[23:07, INT. KING'S PALACE, PHYSICIAN'S CHAMBERS - DAY] [Merlin and Lancelot come out of Merlin's Chamber with hangovers.]

LANCELOT

Argh. Two yards of ale? Two miles, more like it.

GAIUS

Good morning, gentlemen.

[Gaius holds out two fizzing drinks.]

GAIUS

Don't look at it, don't smell it, just down it in one.

LANCELOT

Argh.

GAIUS

Better? Good. Can't have you nodding off first day on the job, Lancelot.

MERLIN

That's Sir Lancelot, if you don't mind.

[They laugh. Guards enter.]

MERLIN

What are you doing?

GUARD

King's orders.

[The guards grab Lancelot and escort him out.]

MERLIN

Stop!

—

[23:45, INT. KING'S PALACE, COUNCIL CHAMBER OF DOOM - DAY] [Lancelot on his knees before the court.]

UTHER

Tell him what you told me.

GEOFFREY

These credentials are faked. The seal itself is faultless, forgery of the highest possible standard, but a forgery it must be. There is no record of the fifth son of Lord Eldred of Northumbria. Therefore he...

UTHER

Lied. Do you deny it?

LANCELOT

No, Sire.

UTHER

You've broken the First Code of Camelot. You've brought shame upon yourself and upon us. You are not worthy of the knighthood bestowed upon you. You never were. And you never will be. Get him out of my sight.

[Guards escort Lancelot out.]

ARTHUR

Sire.

UTHER

Do you contest my judgment?

ARTHUR

His deception was inexcusable. But he meant no harm, Sire, I'm sure of it. He only wished to serve.

UTHER

The First Code is a sacred bond of trust. It is what binds the knights together. How can you trust a man who's lied to you?

—

[24:50, INT. KING'S PALACE, DUNGEONS] [Merlin visits Lancelot's cell.]

MERLIN

I don't know what to say to you, Lancelot.

LANCELOT

You're not to blame.

MERLIN

Yes, I am. I pushed you. I made you lie.

LANCELOT

The choice was mine. My punishment is mine to bear, and mine to bear alone.

MERLIN

I wish there was something I could do.

LANCELOT

There is. You can stop blaming yourself.

—

[25:20, INT. KING'S PALACE, PHYSICIAN'S CHAMBERS]

GAIUS

Merlin?

MERLIN

Whatever you do, don't say, "I told you so."

GAIUS

I have no wish to gloat, Merlin. What's done is done. Here. Come and take a look at this. I realised my mistake. I've been looking for the creature in the wrong place, in the records of all known living things in the kingdom. And then I thought, but what about creatures only recorded in legend? In myth? Then I discovered this.

MERLIN

That is it. That's the monster.

[Warning bells sound. Merlin and Gaius go to the window. People run wildly around the Square, screaming as the griffin swoops down overhead.]

ARTHUR

On me! On me!

[Knights surround Arthur in a defence pattern.]

ARTHUR

Defend!

[The knights crouch down. The griffin attacks. Lancelot rushes to the bars of his cell.]

LANCELOT

What's happening?!

[The knights get up and reform attack pattern. The griffin lands in the Square.]

ARTHUR

Charge! On me!

[Arthur strikes the griffin in the chest with a spear. The spear breaks. Arthur freaks and falls backwards. A guard tosses him a torch. Arthur waves the torch at the griffin and it takes off making really annoying hissing sounds.]

—

[28:56, INT. KING'S PALACE, COUNCIL CHAMBER OF DOOM] [Arthur and Uther enter with their entourage.]

UTHER

You said your knights were the best in the land. You proved that today.

ARTHUR

All I know is it's still out there.

UTHER

Let's not wait for it. The kingdom has been menaced by this creature for too long. We finish this now.

GAIUS

Sire, if I may.

UTHER

Gaius?

GAIUS

I've been researching this creature, Sire. I believe it to be a griffin.

UTHER

A griffin? What's in a name?

GAIUS

The griffin is a creature of magic.

UTHER

I don't have time for this, physician.

GAIUS

It is born of magic, Sire, and it can only be killed by magic.

UTHER

You are mistaken. It's a creature of flesh and blood like any other. Arthur proved that today.

ARTHUR

I'm not so sure, Father. I think there may be some truth in what he says.

UTHER

What truth?

ARTHUR

The griffin was unharmed, Sire. Our weapons seemed useless against it.

UTHER

Useless? I think not. No, it's tasted our steel once, the next time will be its last. When will your knights be ready to ride again?

ARTHUR

An hour. Maybe two.

UTHER

Good. We finish this tonight.

—

[30:07, INT. KING'S PALACE, PHYSICIAN'S CHAMBERS] [Merlin and Gaius enter.]

MERLIN

Is it true? The griffin can only be killed by magic?

GAIUS

Yes, Merlin. I'm certain of it. If Arthur rides out against it, he'll die.

MERLIN

Then he must be stopped. Uther must see reason.

GAIUS

Where magic is concerned, our King is blind to reason. And yet...magic is our only hope.

MERLIN

You're not suggesting...

GAIUS

It is your destiny, Merlin. The true purpose of your magic.

MERLIN

You saw it, Gaius. I can't go up against that thing.

GAIUS

But if you do not, then Arthur will surely perish.

MERLIN

No...this is madness. I don't have magic that powerful. There must be another way.

GAIUS

This is the only way.

MERLIN

Do you even care what happens to me? Oh, just do this, Merlin. Do that, Merlin. Go and kill the griffin, Merlin. I'll just sit here and warm my feet by the fire.

GAIUS

Merlin! Merlin, you are the only thing I care about in all this world. I would give my life for you without a thought. But for what? I cannot save Arthur. It is not my destiny. You know.

MERLIN

I'm sorry.

GAIUS

I don't know what else I can say.

MERLIN

I'll say it for you. We have two hours to find a way to kill that thing.

—

[31:39, INT. KING'S PALACE, DUNGEONS] [Arthur enters Lancelot's cell.]

ARTHUR

I should've known. How could I have been so stupid?! You don't sound like a knight, you don't even look like a knight!

LANCELOT

I'm sorry.

ARTHUR

I'm sorry, too. Because, Lancelot, you fight like a knight. And I need...Camelot needs...

LANCELOT

The creature?

ARTHUR

We could not kill it. I've never faced its like.

LANCELOT

I faced it myself, Sire. Some days past. I struck it full square. I wondered how it endured.

ARTHUR

There are those that believe this creature, this...griffin, is a creature of magic, that only magic can destroy it.

LANCELOT

Do you believe this?

ARTHUR

It doesn't matter what I believe. The use of magic is not permitted. The knights must prevail with steel and sinew alone.

LANCELOT

Sire.

ARTHUR

There's a horse waiting outside

LANCELOT

Thank you. Thank you, Sire.

ARTHUR

Lancelot, take it and never return to this place.

LANCELOT

No. No, please, I...It's not my freedom I seek. I only wish to serve with honour.

ARTHUR

I know.

LANCELOT

Then let me ride with you, Sire.

ARTHUR

I cannot. My father knows nothing of this. I release you myself, but I can do no more. Now go before I change my mind.

[Arthur walks towards the wall so Lancelot can exit the cell behind him.]

—

[33:23, INT. KING'S PALACE, PHYSICIAN'S CHAMBERS] [Gaius and Merlin flipping through a book.]

GAIUS

There. You must do this for Arthur.

MERLIN

I've never cast a spell of enchantment this powerful.

GAIUS

Nothing less will kill it. Here.

[Gaius hands Merlin a rusty dagger.]

GAIUS

Try. You have it within you. I know you do.

MERLIN

Bregdan anweald gafeluec.

[Nothing happens. Merlin and Gaius look at each other.]

GAIUS

Don't worry, Merlin, we have plenty of time.

—

[34:07, INT. GWEN'S HOUSE - NIGHT] [Lancelot knocks on the door and enters.]

LANCELOT

I'm sorry to disturb you, My Lady.

GWEN

Lancelot, what are you doing here?

LANCELOT

I have no time to explain. I need weapons armour and the best you've got.

GWEN

But what's this all about?

LANCELOT

Arthur stands in mortal peril. I must do what I can to protect him. It's my duty. Knight or not.

GWEN

You really believe that, don't you?

LANCELOT

Yes, My Lady.

GWEN

Lancelot, I don't believe I've ever met your like before.

LANCELOT

Guinevere, if I should not return...

GWEN

Don't go, Lancelot. Please.

LANCELOT

But go I must.

[Gwen nods.]

—

[34:47, INT. KING'S PALACE, ARMOURY] [Arthur marches down line of armoured knights.]

ARTHUR

It's time.

[The knights follow him out and ride out of Camelot.]

—

[35:05, INT. KING'S PALACE, PHYSICIAN'S CHAMBERS] [Merlin continues to try the spell.]

GAIUS

Don't worry, Merlin. I know you're trying.

MERLIN

And I'm failing. And if Arthur dies because I'm not good enough...

GAIUS

Merlin!

[Gwen runs in.]

GWEN

Merlin! Lancelot's riding out to kill the griffin!

MERLIN

He's what?

[Gwen shrugs her helplessness. Merlin runs out.]

GAIUS

Merlin?

—

[35:32, EXT. LOWER TOWN - NIGHT] [Merlin runs to Lancelot as Lancelot saddles a horse.]

MERLIN

I'm coming with you.

LANCELOT

No, you're not.

MERLIN

Just try and stop me.

LANCELOT

Merlin, you're not a soldier.

MERLIN

You said it yourself, Lancelot, Arthur needs all the help he can get. Now let's go.

—

[35:50, Mounted knights approach the griffin in the woods. Arthur draws his sword.]

ARTHUR

For Camelot!

[The knights draw their swords.]

KNIGHTS

For Camelot!

[Merlin and Lancelot ride along. They can hear dying men, sword clanging, and the screech/hissing griffin. They reach the fallen knights and dismount.]

MERLIN

Arthur.

[Merlin feels for Arthur's pulse.]

LANCELOT

Well?

MERLIN

He's alive.

[The griffin hisses. Lancelot rides into attack position with a lance and shuts his visor.]

MERLIN

Okay, Merlin, it's now or never.

[Lancelot rears his horse.]

MERLIN

Bregdan anweald gafeluec.

[Nothing happens. Lancelot charges.]

MERLIN

Bregdan anweald gafeluec.

[Nothing happens. Lancelot passes Merlin.]

MERLIN

Bregdan anweald gafeluec!

[The griffin charges.]

MERLIN

Bregdan anweald gafeluec.

[The lance flames blue, hits the griffin, the griffin dies, and the magic glow disappears. Merlin celebrates.]

MERLIN

Yes!

[Arthur wakes. Merlin runs off. Lancelot removes his helmet.]

ARTHUR

Lancelot.

LANCELOT

Sire.

ARTHUR

You did it. You killed it, Lancelot!

—

[39:02, INT. KING'S PALACE, PHYSICIAN'S CHAMBERS - NIGHT] [Merlin bursts in.]

GAIUS

You did it?!

MERLIN

I did it.

[Gaius and Merlin hug.]

GAIUS

Thank God!

—

[39:12, INT. KING'S PALACE, COUNCIL CHAMBER OF DOOM - NIGHT] [Arthur enters.]

UTHER

You did it, my son. You did it.

ARTHUR

Not I, Father. It was Lancelot.

[Lancelot enters.]

UTHER

What's he doing here?

ARTHUR

Father, I can explain.

UTHER

You! Wait outside.

[Lancelot exits and the guards close the doors.]

UTHER

You had no right to...!

[The doors block out all sound. Merlin rounds the corner.]

MERLIN

What are they doing?

LANCELOT

Deciding my fate.

—
[39:53, INT. KING'S PALACE, COUNCIL CHAMBER OF DOOM - NIGHT] [Uther and Arthur argue.]

ARTHUR

I confess it, Sire. I released him and I'll take the consequences. But surely Lancelot's actions change things?!

UTHER

His actions change nothing. He broke the code!

ARTHUR

He laid down his life for me! He served with honour.

UTHER

I see you feel strongly about this, Arthur. Under the circumstances? A pardon, perhaps.

ARTHUR

No, not good enough, Father. You must restore Lancelot to his rightful place, as a knight of Camelot.

UTHER

Never. The law is the law. The Code bends for no man.

ARTHUR

Then the code is wrong!

—
[40:37, INT. KING'S PALACE, OUTSIDE THE COUNCIL CHAMBER OF DOOM - NIGHT]

MERLIN

They'll restore your knighthood, of course they will. You killed the griffin.

LANCELOT

But I didn't kill the griffin.

[Lancelot walks slightly away from the guards.]

LANCELOT

You did.

MERLIN

That's ridiculous.

LANCELOT

"Bregdan anweald "...I heard you. I saw you.

[Merlin looks worried.]

LANCELOT

Don't worry, your secret's safe with me. But I cannot take the credit for what I did not do. There'll be no more lies, no more deceit.

MERLIN

What are you going to do?

LANCELOT

The only thing I can do.

—

[41:12, INT. KING'S PALACE, COUNCIL CHAMBER OF DOOM - NIGHT] [Lancelot bursts through the doors.]

UTHER

What is this?

[Guards restrain Lancelot.]

LANCELOT

Let me speak!

UTHER

Wait! I'll hear him.

[Guards release Lancelot.]

LANCELOT

Forgive me, Sire. I've come to bid you farewell.

ARTHUR

What is this, Lancelot?

LANCELOT

I lied to you both and now there is conflict between you. I cannot bear that burden, as you should not bear mine. I must start again, far from here. Then maybe one day fate shall grant me another chance to prove myself a worthy knight of Camelot.

ARTHUR

But...Lancelot, you've...already proved that to us.

LANCELOT

But I must prove it to myself. Your Highness.

[Lancelot bows to Uther.]

LANCELOT

Prince Arthur.

[Lancelot bows to Arthur and backs out of the room. Arthur looks crestfallen.]

—

[42:20, INT. KING'S PALACE, MORGANA'S CHAMBERS - DAY] [Gwen stares out the window at Lancelot's retreating figure.]

MORGANA Gwen? Guinevere? Lancelot?

GWEN Oh. Yes.

MORGANA Come, Gwen. We've a busy day ahead.

GWEN Yes, My Lady.

—

[42:43, EXT. KING'S PALACE, THE BATTLEMENTS - DAY] [Merlin and Gaius watch Lancelot ride off.]

MERLIN

Perhaps you were right, Gaius. Perhaps I should have never got involved.

GAIUS

No Merlin, I was wrong. Lancelot needed you and you needed Lancelot. Your destinies were entwined.

MERLIN

Will he ever return?

GAIUS

That I cannot say.

MERLIN

Till next time then, Sir Lancelot.

Source: Transcribed Film and TV Scripts