

This Merlin Episode Transcript provides a full dialogue log off Episode 03 of Season IV “The Wicked Day” 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 man. His name: Merlin.

—

[00:13, EXT. CAMELOT, MAIN SQUARE - DAY 1] [The square is a hive of activity. A caravan of colourful carts is being unloaded by acrobats, dancers, jugglers, strong men, and jesters. An acrobat back flips into her partner’s arms. Jugglers practice their routine, sending batons high into the air.]

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[00:23, INT/EXT. KING’S PALACE, ARTHUR’S CHAMBERS / CAMELOT, MAIN SQUARE - DAY 1] [Merlin and Arthur look down into the Main Square. Merlin’s impressed, Arthur less so.]

MERLIN

Oh! Did you see that?

ARTHUR

It’s a man throwing sticks in the air.

[Merlin takes in Arthur’s mood.]

MERLIN

What's wrong?

[Arthur pulls a face.]

MERLIN

It's your birthday. A huge feast is being held in your honour. You've got dancers, jugglers and acrobats to entertain you. It must be a terrible burden.

ARTHUR

Perhaps I'm less easily impressed than you.

MERLIN

I'm really looking forward to it.

ARTHUR

Because you have the mind of a child.

[Arthur heads out.]

MERLIN (to himself)

And yet I'm still more intelligent than you.

[Arthur doesn't look round as he calls out...]

ARTHUR

I heard that.

[Merlin grins and exits.]

—

[00:56, INT. KING'S PALACE, BANQUET HALL - DAY 1] [Two acrobats have set up a circular board, divided into brightly coloured segments. The Gleeman passes through the Banquet Hall, casting a critical eye over the preparations, checking everything is as it should be. He hears a sound and looks round to see objects flying out of a deep trunk.]

THE GLEEMAN

You have misplaced something Geldred?

[A head appears, peering out over the rim of the trunk. This is Geldred.]

GELDRED

Our special gift to the Prince. I cannot find it anywhere.

[Geldred starts to search again...]

THE GLEEMAN

Geldred...

[The Gleeman fixes him with a piercing stare. It is suddenly apparent that The Gleeman is a man to be feared. He pulls slim box from his tunic...]

THE GLEEMAN

I took the liberty of ensuring their safe passage myself.

[The Gleeman opens the box to reveal three sharp throwing daggers...]

THE GLEEMAN

We must make sure this is a celebration the young Prince will never forget.

[The Gleeman throws one of the knives through the air. It pierces the centre of the board with Terrifying precision.]

[TITLES]

—

[01:55, INT. KING'S PALACE (UTHER'S CHAMBERS) - DAY 1] [Uther appears weak and withdrawn. Reveal Arthur seated by him. Arthur launches into his usual routine...]

ARTHUR

The Court discussed the annual levy this morning. The council has suggested we raise it, but I feel the people are already overburdened...

UTHER

We should not talk about matters of court today.

[Arthur's surprised by Uther's response. Uther fixes Arthur with an emotional look. Arthur's increasingly concerned...]

ARTHUR

Father?

[Uther smiles softly...]

UTHER

You think I would ever forget that today is the anniversary of your birth?

[Arthur's both relieved and touched.]

UTHER

I take it there are plans for suitable celebrations this evening?

ARTHUR

A feast, and, erm, some entertainment. I'll tell you all about it tomorrow.

UTHER

Nonsense. You think I would miss my son's anniversary?

[Arthur's surprised and touched. Uther gives him a small smile.]

—

[02:43, INT. KING'S PALACE (BANQUET HALL) - NIGHT 1] [The Banquet Hall is packed. Knights and courtiers are tucking into a feast. The Hall is filled with entertainment... Everyone's enjoying the show, wowed by the skills of the performers. Arthur takes in Uther smiling. He catches his eye. Uther raises his goblet. Arthur returns the gesture with a smile. He's thrilled to see his father in such good spirits... In the midst of the performers, stands The Gleeman. He bows at the end of the act. All eyes focus on The Gleeman as a hush descends over the Hall. The Gleeman looks out over the Hall.]

THE GLEEMAN

I require a volunteer...

[The Gleeman's steps forward and sets his eyes on Arthur...]

THE GLEEMAN

Prince Arthur. What better or more fitting occasion for you to demonstrate your legendary bravery?

[Arthur's caught out, put on the spot.]

THE GLEEMAN

Do you accept the challenge?

[Arthur feels the eyes of the courtiers and knights awaiting his decision. Arthur stands...]

ARTHUR
Of course.

[There's a round of applause as Arthur makes his way through the Hall. Merlin intercepts Arthur. They have a whispered exchange...]

MERLIN
Is this safe...?

ARTHUR
It's knife throwing, Merlin. Of course it's not safe. I could hardly refuse his challenge.

[Arthur sees that the eyes of the entire room are upon them and takes off his cloak and jacket, giving them to Merlin, making an excuse to cover the true nature of their exchange...]

[Arthur heads over to the circular board where The Gleeman waits for him. Arthur smiles at the crowd, reassuring. Arthur places himself against the board. The Gleeman and Geldred strap Arthur's ankles and wrists to the restraints on the board. Arthur shoots a slightly nervous glance at The Gleeman.]

THE GLEEMAN
Do not fear, my Lord. I never miss my target.

ARTHUR
Good. Glad to hear it.

[The Gleeman pulls out an apple and turns to Arthur...]

THE GLEEMAN
May I?

ARTHUR
What?

[Before Arthur can object, The Gleeman places the apple in Arthur's mouth. The Gleeman nods to Geldred. He gives the wheel a push and it starts to spin. The court makes "ooh" sounds. Arthur spins on the board. It makes him feel dizzy, and a little nauseous. Another

dwarf presents the case of knives to The Gleeman. The Gleeman holds the blade up for the crowd to see. Without even stopping to take aim, The Gleeman suddenly turns and throws the knife at Arthur. It thuds into the board, centimeters from Arthur's face. A huge gasp goes up, followed by a round of applause. As he spins, Arthur eyes the knife warily. Uther is very impressed. Gwen lets out a breath and does a *facepalm*... The Gleeman takes the next knife from the case. The tension builds, and suddenly The Gleeman throws the knife. It flies through the air and thuds into the board on the other side of Arthur's head. Another round of applause. The Gleeman takes the final knife from the case. Gwen closes her eyes and turns her head away for a moment in relief. Uther applauds gleefully. The Gleeman waves the final knife at Uther. Uther nods permission for him to throw it. Gwen bites her nails and looks nervously toward Arthur. Arthur's eyes go wide as The Gleeman prepares to throw the final knife. Tension as he takes aim... Merlin looks on. He's poised, ready to intervene magically... We go into Merlin Time as The Gleeman throws the knife. It spins through the air in slow motion... We hear the blade slice into something not wood and the crowd gasps and holds its breath for a moment. The wheel slows to a stop and we see the knife stuck straight into the apple. The hall erupts in applause. Arthur opens his eyes. Gwen breathes a huge sigh of relief and joins the applause. Arthur sighs in relief as well. The Gleeman takes a bow and a circus man helps Arthur down from the Wheel of Death. Arthur tosses the apple and catches it, then shrugs back into his jacket with Merlin's help.]

ARTHUR

See, Merlin? Nothing to worry about.

[Arthur takes a bite of the apple. Merlin chuckles as Arthur saunters off. The Gleeman has a quiet word with Geldred...]

THE GLEEMAN (an aside)

In a few hours, the sedative on the apple will begin to take effect. The Prince will be defenceless. Then we will strike.

[The Gleeman and Geldred watch Arthur chewing the mouthful of apple as he celebrates with his knights.]

—

[05:25, INT. KING'S PALACE, ARTHUR'S CHAMBERS - NIGHT] [The door flies open. Arthur staggers in, followed by Merlin. The sedative is starting to take effect. Arthur's very drowsy and unsteady on his feet...]

MERLIN

You're telling me you weren't even a little bit scared?

ARTHUR

Of course I wasn't. I am a warrior. You learn to control your fear. To channel it...

[Arthur runs into a column, staggers. Merlin catches him, stops him from falling over. Arthur rights himself and continues walking.]

MERLIN

You looked scared...

[Arthur starts to undress.]

ARTHUR

It's good to see my father enjoying himself.

[A worrying thought occurs]

ARTHUR

He looked a little quiet towards the end, though. Perhaps I should go and see him.

MERLIN

Are you sure that's a good idea? You can barely stand up.

ARTHUR

Are you saying I'm drunk?

MERLIN

No, I'm just saying I don't think you should be wandering around the palace.

ARTHUR

And why is that?

MERLIN

You're not wearing any trousers.

[Arthur looks down and sees that he is indeed not wearing trousers, then looks back at Merlin...]

ARTHUR

Good point.

[Arthur hitches up his trousers on his way out the door.]

—

[06:07, INT. KING'S PALACE, PHOENIX CORRIDOR - NIGHT 1] [Arthur lets out an enormous yawn, struggling to keep his eyes open as he passes the two guards outside the doors to Uther's chambers. The Gleeman watches Arthur disappear round the corner as Arthur heads inside.]

—

[06:21, INT. KING'S PALACE (UTHER'S CHAMBERS) - NIGHT 1] [Uther sits in his chair, sleeping peacefully. Arthur takes the goblet from his hand and puts it on the table. He sinks into a chair. He fights the tiredness he feels sweeping over him, but it's a losing battle.]

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[06:40, INT. KING'S PALACE (PHOENIX CORRIDOR) - NIGHT 1] [The Gleeman steps over the two guards that he just took out and draws one of their swords before heading inside.]

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[06:48, INT. KING'S PALACE (UTHER'S CHAMBERS) - NIGHT 1] [Arthur is drifting into sleep, struggling to focus on Uther. His head lolls. Behind Arthur, we see The Gleeman slip into the room. Arthur's oblivious... The Gleeman creeps toward Arthur, sword drawn. Arthur catches a glimpse of The Gleeman in the wine pitcher. Arthur draws his sword and parries the blow as The Gleeman strikes. Arthur spills out of the chair and staggers backwards. He's sleepy and disorientated, tries to call out, but his voice is weak...]

ARTHUR

Guards...! Guards!

[The Gleeman attacks. Arthur barely manages to fight off the attack. His sword is knocked out of his hand and thrown across the room. Arthur collapses to his knees. The Gleeman stands over Arthur.]

THE GLEEMAN

Goodbye, Arthur Pendragon.

[The Gleeman raises his sword, ready to strike. Arthur is powerless, fears this is the end. But as The Gleeman strikes, the blow is blocked by a sword. Arthur and The Gleeman sees Uther standing there, Arthur's sword in his hand...]

UTHER

It will take more than a coward like you to kill my son.

[The Gleeman strikes. Uther blocks the blow. They trade a series of ferocious blows. But The Gleeman is skilled and Uther rusty. Uther is beaten back, and only narrowly avoids being killed. Arthur tries to get to his feet to go to Uther's aid, but he's too drowsy, collapses back on the floor. Uther attacks, and again The Gleeman easily deflects the blows. He's cruelly toying with Uther, taunting him.]

THE GLEEMAN

Have you anything to say to your son before I kill him?

[Uther looks at Arthur, kneeling, helpless. Uther's paternal instincts kick in. He attacks with a new ferocity, taking The Gleeman by surprise. Uther rains blow after blow down on The Gleeman, forcing him back. The Gleeman's sword is knocked from his hand. Uther prepares to deliver a fatal blow. The Gleeman suddenly draws a knife, lunges at Uther. Uther thrusts his sword. Arthur looks on, hugely relieved. But Uther doesn't respond. He looks weak and confused. His legs buckle.]

ARTHUR

Father?

[Arthur realises something is very wrong. Arthur catches Uther as he sinks to the floor by the bed. Arthur's horrified to see blood staining Uther's robes. Both Arthur and Uther have to fight to stay conscious.]

ARTHUR

No... Guards!... I'll go get help...

[Arthur goes to stand...]

UTHER

Stay with me...

ARTHUR (to Uther)

I'm here, Father... (beat, calling out) Guards! Someone! We need help!

UTHER

It is my time...

ARTHUR

No... You can't die...

UTHER

I know you will make me proud, as you always have. You will be a great King...

ARTHUR

I'm not ready...

UTHER

You- you've been ready for some time, Arthur...

ARTHUR

No. I need you...

UTHER

I know I've not been a...a good father. I put my duty to Camelot first. I'm sorry.

ARTHUR

Don't say that...

[Uther grips Arthur's hand with all his remaining strength.]

UTHER

But know this one thing. I always loved you...

[With that, Uther's eyes slowly close as he loses consciousness. Arthur's horrified...]

ARTHUR

No... Father... Father!

[Arthur's appalled, but barely able to focus.]

ARTHUR

No...

—

[09:36, EXT. CAMELOT - DAY 2] [The sun rises over Camelot.]

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[09:39, INT. KING'S PALACE (UTHER'S CHAMBERS) - DAY 2] [Gaius is tending to Uther. He's unconscious, very weak - close to death. Arthur and Gwen look on, deeply concerned. Arthur fixes Gaius with a desperate look...]

ARTHUR

Gaius. Can you treat him?

GAIUS

The blade has touched his heart. He's bleeding inside.

ARTHUR

There must be something... there must be something you can do. Please, Gaius.

[Gaius shakes his head.]

GAIUS

It is just a matter of time, I'm afraid. I'm sorry, Arthur.

[Arthur can't accept that. Arthur stares at Uther, struggling to accept that he is going to die.]

—

[10:07, INT. KING'S PALACE (COUNCIL CHAMBERS) - DAY 2] [Sir Leon and Agravaire are reporting to Arthur, who just stares blankly, traumatised...]

AGRAVAINE

We traced the assassin to the town of Wenham. It's in Odin's land. It seems he hired him to kill you to avenge the death of his son.

[Arthur barely responds as he takes this in.]

SIR LEON

We believe he had an accomplice among the performers, but he has fled the city. We have doubled the guard, should there be another attempt on your life.

[Again, Arthur barely responds. Agravaire takes in Arthur's despondent mood. He places a comforting hand on Arthur's shoulder...]

AGRAVAINE

Everyone's thoughts are with you, Arthur. But, er, if there's anything I can do...

ARTHUR

Your support means a great deal to me. Thank you.

[Agravaire and Sir Leon head out, passing Merlin as he enters. Arthur immediately responds to Merlin's arrival...]

ARTHUR (to Merlin)

What news of my father?

MERLIN

There is no change.

[Arthur snaps.]

ARTHUR

Well, why isn't Gaius doing something, then?

[Merlin treads softly...]

MERLIN

Because there is nothing he can do.

[Arthur knows that's true, and that is what pains him.]

—

[10:54, EXT. FOREST - DAY 2] [Agravaire rides through the forest...]

—

[11:00, INT. MORGANA'S HUT - DAY 2] [Agravaire bursts through the door, taking Morgana by surprise. She instinctively spins, drawing a dagger and stands poised, ready to plunge it into Agravaire...]

AGRAVAIRE

Now, is that any way to greet an old friend...?

[He gives a sly smile. Morgana lowers the dagger.]

MORGANA

I wasn't expecting you today...

AGRAVAINE

I had to see you. I bring good news. Better than we could have hoped for.

[Morgana reacts, curious.]

MORGANA

What is it?

AGRAVAINE

Uther has been mortally wounded. He's on his deathbed. Gaius says he only has days to live.

[Morgana smiles.]

MORGANA

I hope the image of my face haunts him. (a sudden thought occurs) How is Arthur?

AGRAVAINE

Devastated. Poor boy can't think straight.

[Morgana smiles at this news.]

MORGANA

Then we must strike while he's vulnerable.

[Morgana turns, but Agravaire grabs her arm.]

AGRAVAINE

When Uther dies, the Kingdom will be weak.

[Morgana looks pointedly down at her arm in his grabs and Agravaire lets go.]

AGRAVAINE

We must choose our moments carefully. Who knows what opportunities the coming weeks will hold.

[They share a smile.]

—

[11:58, INT. KING'S PALACE (UTHER'S CHAMBERS) - DAY 2] [Arthur holds a vigil beside Uther's bed. He just stands there, staring at Uther intensely. Gwen crosses over to the bed.]

She changes the dressing on Uther's wound through the following.]

ARTHUR

I appreciate your kindness, everything you're doing for him.

GWEN

I do it for you.

[Arthur's touched. It tips him over the edge. He looks away from Gwen. She is pained to see his hurt.]

GWEN

Oh, Arthur.

ARTHUR

I can't watch him die...There's still so much I want to say to him... He cannot die.

[Arthur exits, leaving Gwen deeply concerned for him.]

—

[12:46, INT/EXT. KING'S PALACE (ARTHUR'S CHAMBERS) / CAMELOT (MAIN SQUARE) - NIGHT 2] [Townspople hold a candle-lit vigil in the Main Square. Merlin stands at the window, staring down at them. Arthur enters, crosses over and looks out of the window...]

ARTHUR

What's going on?

MERLIN

It's a vigil for your Father. The people wish to share their grief.

[Arthur frowns, unsettled...]

ARTHUR

Why are they behaving like he's already dead when there's still life in his body?

MERLIN

They're preparing themselves for the worst.

[Arthur steels himself.]

ARTHUR

They can give up hope, but I won't.

MERLIN

I know. It's hard to accept, and I wish it wasn't so...There really is nothing that can be done.

[Arthur looks thoughtful, then...]

ARTHUR

There is a way to heal my father.

MERLIN

How?

[Arthur hesitates, then fixes Merlin with a poignant look.]

ARTHUR

With magic.

[Merlin's stunned as he takes this in.]

—

[13:56, INT. GAIUS' CHAMBERS - NIGHT 2] [Merlin has just informed Gaius of Arthur's plan. Gaius looks concerned.]

GAIUS

Arthur's planning on using magic?

MERLIN

He's desperate. He knows it's his only hope of healing Uther.

[Gaius fixes Merlin with a look.]

GAIUS

Merlin, please tell me you're not going to do this.

MERLIN

I'd be lying if I said 'no'.

GAIUS

You can't risk exposing yourself like this. It's too dangerous.

MERLIN

Arthur didn't recognise me last time when I was eighty years old. There's no reason why he should this time.

GAIUS

Need I remind you the last time you used an ageing spell, you nearly had yourself burnt at the stake.

MERLIN

It's worth the risk.

GAIUS

Do you think Uther is going to thank you for healing him with magic? He's more likely to have you hanged.

MERLIN

Uther will never change his attitude towards magic. I know that. But if Arthur allows it to be used to heal his father, his attitude will be changed forever. He will see that magic can be a force for good.

GAIUS

You of all people should know that the use of powerful magic is fraught with danger.

MERLIN

If it works, I won't have to hide any more.

GAIUS

And if it doesn't? I can't stand by and watch you do this Merlin.

MERLIN

Well, don't try and stop me, because...you can't.

[Tension Gaius and Merlin trade a poignant look...]

GAIUS

You're playing a dangerous game, Merlin.

MERLIN

I've been playing a dangerous game since the first time I set foot in Camelot. Maybe this is my chance to change that.

—

[15:15, INT. KING'S PALACE (ARTHUR'S CHAMBERS) - NIGHT 2] [Merlin enters. Arthur's waiting impatiently.]

ARTHUR

Well? What did Gaius say? Did he have any information?

MERLIN

He didn't know much. But he has heard of a sorcerer. An old man. He lives in the Forest of Glaestig. Gaius thinks he may be able to help you.

ARTHUR

Will he lead me to him?

MERLIN

No, he's told me all that he knows. We will have to find him ourselves.

[Arthur takes this in and is suddenly daunted by the prospect of what he is about to do.]

ARTHUR

If you were me, it was your father, would you use magic to save his life?

[Merlin seizes the moment, looks Arthur in the eye.]

MERLIN

Yes, I would. I would do whatever it took.

[Arthur's persuaded.]

ARTHUR

Prepare the horses. Gather supplies. We ride at first light.

—

[16:21, INT. KING'S PALACE (AGRAVAINE'S CHAMBERS) - NIGHT 2] [Agravaime is reading something. The door opens. Arthur enters.]

AGRAVAINE

Arthur. What news of your father's health?

ARTHUR

No improvement, I'm afraid.

[Arthur hesitates, unsure how to express what he needs to say. Agravaïne detects Arthur's hesitation.]

AGRAVAÏNE

Something's on your mind.

ARTHUR

I didn't want to go behind your back. I have decided to use magic to heal my father.

[Agravaïne's shocked - knows he must do what he can to dissuade him.]

AGRAVAÏNE

I would strongly advise against such a course of action.

ARTHUR

There is no other way...

AGRAVAÏNE

Magic caused your mother's death, Arthur. If you respect her memory, you cannot do this.

[Arthur's moved by the argument. He's torn...]

ARTHUR

Would you see my father die?

[Agravaïne's put on the spot, but of course cannot reveal his true desires...]

AGRAVAÏNE

Perhaps it is his time.

[Arthur cannot accept that...]

ARTHUR

Look, I know we've both suffered because of magic, but I can't stand by and let my father die. My mind's made up.

—
[17:15, EXT. CHARCOAL-MAKER'S HUT - DAY 3] [Merlin and Arthur ride up to a hut off the path (it is the same charcoal maker's hut we saw in episode 2). Arthur and Merlin dismount. Arthur eyes the hut curiously.]

ARTHUR

Are you sure this is the right place? It looks like a charcoal maker's hut.

MERLIN

The old man can hardly make a living practising magic. I think that a lot of sorcerers are in the charcoal business.

[Arthur doesn't look entirely convinced by this as he walks up to the front door. Merlin looks round, wondering how he's going to work the deception. Arthur realises Merlin hasn't followed him.]

ARTHUR

Are you joining me?

MERLIN

We don't want to overwhelm him. He probably doesn't get many visitors. I'll stay out here and watch the horses.

ARTHUR

I have never met anyone who is so scared so often. Scream like a big girl if there's any trouble.

MERLIN

Don't worry. You'll hear me.

[Arthur turns and knocks on the door.]

—
[18:11, INT. CHARCOAL-MAKER'S HUT - DAY 3] [Arthur opens the door and peers in.]

ARTHUR

Hello...?

[Arthur looks round the hut. There's no one there.]

—
[18:24, EXT. CHARCOAL-MAKER'S HUT - DAY 3] [Merlin's hurrying into the trees when Arthur re-emerges from the hut.]

ARTHUR

There's no one here. Are you sure this is the right place?

MERLIN

I'm absolutely certain of it. I'm sure he'll be back soon.

ARTHUR

Well, how d'you know when he'll be back?

MERLIN

He's a dodderly old man. He can't have gone far. If you want his help, you'll have to just wait for him inside.

[Arthur suddenly takes in that Merlin was heading off into the trees.]

ARTHUR

Where are you sneaking off to?

[Merlin's put on the spot, thinks on his feet.]

MERLIN

I have to pee.

[Arthur's disturbed by the revelation.]

MERLIN

So unless you want to come and watch me, you should wait for him inside.

ARTHUR

Why would I want to watch you?

[Merlin gestures toward the hut. Merlin reacts, exasperated.]

MERLIN

There's the hut. I have to... Make yourself at home.

[Arthur eyes Merlin suspiciously, then turns and heads back inside the hut. Merlin hurries behind a tree, then focuses as he starts to incant the transformation spell...]

MERLIN

Miht dadena, bepecce me. Adeaglie pisne gast min freondum ond min feondum!

[Merlin's eyes glow.]

—

[19:16, INT. CHARCOAL-MAKER'S HUT - DAY 3] [Arthur pokes around at a few dusty old bottles and pots on the table. In doing so, he knocks over a bottle, which in turn knocks a pot off the table. It falls to the floor and smashes. Arthur grimaces. Oops. He quickly kicks the pieces of broken pottery under the table to conceal them. Arthur tenses as the door opens. Arthur reacts, stunned as Old Merlin enters...]

ARTHUR

You.

[Old Merlin looks back at Arthur...]

OLD MERLIN

So we meet again, Arthur Pendragon.

[Arthur instinctively reaches for the hilt of his sword. Old Merlin reacts to the move...]

OLD MERLIN

You have come to kill me?

[Arthur eyes Old Merlin warily, uncertain how to proceed.]

ARTHUR

No. That wasn't my intention.

[Old Merlin walks forward and hears a crunch as he steps on some broken pot. He looks down at it. Arthur grimaces...]

ARTHUR

I broke a pot.

OLD MERLIN

You always were a clumsy fool.

[Old Merlin hands Arthur a broom.]

ARTHUR
Excuse me?

OLD MERLIN
So if you haven't come all this way to kill me, why have you come here? I take it you didn't come all this way just to smash my favourite pot?

ARTHUR
If I'd known who you were, I would not have come at all.

[Arthur begins to walk away. Seeing how difficult this is for Arthur, Old Merlin helps him out.]

OLD MERLIN
I thought you may have come to ask me to use magic to heal your father?

[Arthur's taken aback.]

ARTHUR
How did you know?

OLD MERLIN
I know more than you could possibly comprehend.

ARTHUR
Well, given your hatred for my father and everything he stands for, I've clearly had a wasted journey.

OLD MERLIN
Do not suppose that you know my mind.

[Arthur fixes Old Merlin with a desperate look.]

ARTHUR
Will you help me?

OLD MERLIN

You are asking me to save the life of a man that would have me executed.

ARTHUR

I know what I am asking of you, and you have no reason to help me. But... You're my father's only hope. I'll give you anything you ask for. Land, gold - name your price.

OLD MERLIN

I do not want your gold! All I have ever wanted is that people like me can live in peace. That those who practice magic are accepted, rather than hunted. That is all I ask.

[Arthur's unsure he can meet the demand.]

OLD MERLIN

That is the price. Your father's life.

[Arthur rises to the moment.]

ARTHUR

I give you my solemn word. When I am King, things will be different. You won't have to live in fear.

[Old Merlin takes this in, moved by the declaration.]

OLD MERLIN

Then I will help you.

[Arthur's suddenly filled with hope. Old Merlin beams and shakes Arthur's hand.]

ARTHUR

There's no time to waste. We must ride for Camelot immediately.

[Old Merlin's caught out.]

OLD MERLIN

Now?

ARTHUR

My father weakens by the hour.

[Old Merlin blusters, searching for an excuse.]

OLD MERLIN
But I have...no horse.

ARTHUR
You can use Merlin's. He'll just have to walk back.

[Old Merlin's outraged.]

OLD MERLIN
You would make your servant walk back to Camelot? I have a good mind not to help you.

ARTHUR
I don't care whose horse you use. We have to get to Camelot before it's too late.

OLD MERLIN (thinking on his feet)
First, I must gather some rare herbs. They are an essential part of the cure. I will come to Camelot at nightfall. If you want my help, that is how it needs to be.

[Arthur feels he can't push any further.]

ARTHUR
I will meet you at the lower gate outside the town... Give me your word you'll be there.

OLD MERLIN
You have my word.

[Old Merlin pauses as he attempts to figure out how to handle the transformation back into his youthful self without being caught.]

OLD MERLIN
Now just wait here one moment.

ARTHUR
Why?

OLD MERLIN
Questions. So many questions. For once in your life, would you just do what your told?

[Old Merlin hurries out the front door. Arthur feels chastised.]

ARTHUR
All right.

—

[23:00, EXT. CHARCOAL-MAKER'S HUT - DAY 3] [Old Merlin emerges from the hut and hurries into the trees.]

—

[23:03, INT. CHARCOAL-MAKER'S HUT - DAY 3] [Arthur sniffs at a cup, puts it down and almost drops it.]

—

[23:11, EXT. CHARCOAL-MAKER'S HUT - DAY 3] [Old Merlin hides behind the same tree as before and takes out a vial of liquid... Arthur soon grows impatient of waiting. He emerges from the hut and looks round. There's no sign of Merlin, or Old Merlin.]

ARTHUR
Merlin...?

[Silence. A crack of twigs. Arthur grows uneasy and reaches for the hilt of his sword as he scans the trees. Merlin emerges from behind the tree, once again his youthful self. Arthur's suspicious.]

ARTHUR
What were you doing?

[Merlin's put on the spot.]

MERLIN
Peeing.

ARTHUR (disturbed)
You mean to say you were peeing all the time I was in there?

[Merlin's forced to nod.]

MERLIN
I really had to go.

ARTHUR

There is definitely something very wrong with you.

—

[23:57, EXT. CAMELOT] [Arthur and Merlin ride back to Camelot.]

—

[24:02, INT. GAIUS' CHAMBERS - DAY 3] [Merlin enters. Gaius is relieved to see him.]

GAIUS

Merlin. I was worried. I thought something had happened.

[Merlin starts to search the shelves, taking various books down.]

MERLIN

Well, apart from Arthur thinking there's something very wrong with my bladder, everything went to plan.

[Gaius looks on with concern.]

GAIUS

I take it that this means you're going through with it?

MERLIN

If I can heal Uther, Arthur has given me his word that when he is King, magic will no longer be outlawed. This could change everything.

GAIUS

And what if something goes wrong? What of Arthur's attitude to magic then?

[Merlin stops and looks at Gaius.]

MERLIN

I live with the risk of being exposed every day. If I don't take this opportunity, maybe I'll spend the rest of my life having to hide who I really am. Everyone's always telling me I have this great destiny. Maybe this is it. I have to try.

[Gaius can't bring himself to argue. Merlin gathers up the books and heads into his room. Gaius looks thoughtful as he stares after him.]

—
[24:39, INT. MORGANA'S HUT - DAY 3] [Agravaine gives the news to Morgana.]

AGRAVAINE

Arthur has gone to consult with a sorcerer. He intends to use magic to heal Uther.

[A determined expression comes over Morgana's face.]

MORGANA

Then we must see to it that he fails.

[Open on a small fire. Morgana sits next to it. In her hands she holds a tiny silver charm. She casts it into the fire and she incants a spell.]

MORGANA

Seolforpræd apringe winstra, apringe wip ealle gode cræfte.

[Suddenly, the flames flare, the firelight dances in her eyes. Agravaine looks on, in awe. Morgana takes a pair of tongs and pulls the charm from the raging fire. She turns to Agravaine and drops the charm into his hand. He instinctively reaches out and catches it, before realizing the danger of what he has just done. He reacts with surprise...]

AGRAVAINE

It's cold...

MORGANA

I have bound it to the left hand path.

[He looks at the charm, impressed.]

MORGANA

You must place the charm around Uther's neck.

AGRAVAINE

What will it do to him?

MORGANA

The force of any healing magic will be reversed, and magnified tenfold. By trying to cure his father,
Arthur will seal his fate.

[Agravaire looks grave as he takes this in.]

AGRAVAINE

Arthur will never forgive himself. He'll be destroyed.

MORGANA

And a broken Prince will make a terrible King.

[Agravaire smiles.]

—

[25:49, INT. GAIUS' CHAMBERS (MERLIN'S ROOM) - DAY 3] [Merlin looks through several books at once, but fails to find what he's looking for. Merlin looks frustrated.]

MERLIN

I promised Arthur I could heal Uther and I can't even find the right spell.

GAIUS

That's because you're reading the wrong books. Here...

[Gaius holds out a small leather tome, which Merlin takes.]

GAIUS

Gwillem of Cambria was as mad as a coot, but there has never been a better healer.

[Merlin smiles. This means a lot to him. Merlin rushes out.]

MERLIN

Gaius. Thank you.

—

[26:07, INT. KING'S PALACE (UTHER'S CHAMBERS) - NIGHT 3] [Gwen finishes tending to Uther and gasps when she turns to find standing there.]

AGRAVAINE

It was cold today. Perhaps it's a good idea to start a fire.

GWEN

Of course.

[Gwen leaves with the medicine tray. Agravaire waits until Gwen she leaves. He takes out the tiny silver charm, then quickly and carefully places the charm around Uther's neck. He ensures it is carefully tucked out of sight in Uther's robes.]

AGRAVAINE (sotto)

Finally, you will get all that you deserve, old friend.

[Agravaire looks down at Uther for a poignant beat, then heads out. Go out on Uther, lying in bed.]

—

[INT. GAIUS' CHAMBERS - NIGHT 3. UK. 44] [Gaius reads the healing spell again.]

GAIUS

You must only four drops. Any more could be dangerous.

MERLIN

Let's hope I can remember the spell.

GAIUS

You must trust your abilities, Merlin.

ARTHUR (O.S.)

Merlin!?

[Gaius and Merlin exchange a worried look.]

MERLIN (low)

You have to get rid of him.

ARTHUR (O.S.)

Merlin!?

[Arthur enters. Gaius picks up the healing book, pretending to be in the middle of reading.]

GAIUS

Arthur...

ARTHUR

Gaius, have you seen my useless toad of a servant?

GAIUS

I'm afraid not.

ARTHUR

Well, where on earth is he?

[Gaius is put on the spot.]

GAIUS

Have you tried the tavern?

[Arthur's enraged.]

ARTHUR

The tavern. Of course. I'm going to make him wish he was never born.

[Arthur heads out and closes the door, revealing Merlin holding some herbs. He fixes Gaius with a look of outrage.]

MERLIN

Why did you tell him I was in the tavern?

GAIUS

It was the first thing that popped into my head.

MERLIN

Well, next time, go for the second, or the third thing that pops into your head. Just anywhere but the tavern.

[Merlin opens the door a crack and checks the corridor, then looks back at Gaius.]

GAIUS

Good luck, Merlin.

[Merlin and Gaius share a poignant look, then Merlin heads out.]

—

[27:35, EXT. CAMELOT (STREET) - NIGHT 3] [Arthur waits impatiently by the lower gate. He hears a sound and turns round to see Old Merlin emerging from the darkness.]

ARTHUR

I'd started to think you weren't coming.

OLD MERLIN

I gave you my word. And here I am.

ARTHUR

Good. We must hurry.

[Arthur heads off, away from the palace, taking Old Merlin by surprise.]

OLD MERLIN

I am led to believe that the King's Palace is that way?

ARTHUR

I can hardly be seen walking through the main gate with a known sorcerer.

OLD MERLIN

So you are already going back on your word. You promised that I would no longer have to live in fear.

ARTHUR

You're forgetting that you're yet to heal my father. When you have, I'll give you all that I promised.

[Old Merlin takes this in. He nods. They head off.]

—

[28:19,, INT. CAMELOT (TUNNELS) - NIGHT 3] [Arthur hurries through the dark, damp passage. He turns to see Old Merlin lagging behind and reacts with frustration. Arthur waits for Old Merlin to catch up. When he arrives, Old Merlin is out of breath.]

ARTHUR

Is this really as fast as you can walk?

OLD MERLIN

When you are as old as I, we will see how fast you can walk. I need to rest a moment.

ARTHUR

There's no time.

OLD MERLIN

Then perhaps you should carry me?

ARTHUR

Fine. If it means we get there quicker, I will carry you.

[Arthur turns.]

ARTHUR

Come on.

[Old Merlin hops onto his back. Arthur heads off. Old Merlin kicks him with his heels, as you would a horse. Arthur stops, outraged...]

ARTHUR

Did you just kick me?

OLD MERLIN

Now who's wasting time? Ya!

[Arthur staggers on, disgruntled. Old Merlin kicks Arthur again, enjoying himself...]

OLD MERLIN

Faster. Faster.

—

[29:04, INT. KING'S PALACE (GRIFFIN CORRIDOR) - NIGHT 3] [Arthur approaches the guards outside Uther's chambers.]

ARTHUR

You're dismissed.

[The guards hesitate, surprised by the order.]

GUARD

But, Sire. We were instructed not to leave our post.

ARTHUR

And I said you are dismissed.

GUARD

Yes, my Lord.

[The guard's head off. Arthur waits until they've disappeared round the corner, then clears his throat. Old Merlin hobbles out of the shadows. Arthur ushers Old Merlin into Uther's chambers, then follows him inside.

—

[29:27, INT. KING'S PALACE (UTHER'S CHAMBERS) - NIGHT 3] [Uther lies in bed, barely breathing. Arthur grows increasingly anxious as he watches Old Merlin placing four drops of hogswart on Uther's lips. Old Merlin takes a branch of sage and holds it over Uther. Old Merlin psyches himself up. His eyes start to glow. Arthur cracks...]

ARTHUR

Wait!

[Old Merlin stands down, looks at Arthur.]

OLD MERLIN

Is something wrong?

ARTHUR

My father has taught me never to trust magic, and now I am using it to save him.

OLD MERLIN

Your own life has been saved using magic more times than you can possibly imagine.

ARTHUR

What on earth are you talking about?

[Old Merlin realises it would be dangerous to elaborate.]

OLD MERLIN

I merely mean to say that magic is all around you. It is woven into the very fabric of the world.

[Arthur's unsettled.]

ARTHUR

How can I be sure it's the right thing to do?

OLD MERLIN

I know you have suffered because of magic, as many have. But not all magic, and not all sorcerers are the same. I wish only to show you that magic can be used for good. I hope one day you'll see me in a different light.

[Arthur's moved by the argument. Arthur and Old Merlin trade stares for a poignant beat, then Arthur nods and steps back. Old Merlin turns to Uther, psyches himself up then holds up the sage branch. Old Merlin's eyes glow. The sage branch begins to smoke. Old Merlin wafts the incense over Uther and begins to chant, with increasing intensity...]

OLD MERLIN

Efencume ætgædre, eala gastas cræftige: gestricie pis lic forod.

[Old Merlin completes the spell and his eyes glow. Silence. The tension rises as ARTHUR looks at Uther, desperately hoping to see some signs of life. For a moment, it looks like the spell has failed. Old Merlin grows anxious. Suddenly, Uther's eyes snap open. Arthur's thrilled.]

ARTHUR

Father... Father?

[Arthur and Uther clench hands. Uther manages a weak smile.]

UTHER

Arthur...

[Arthur laughs in relief. Old Merlin allows himself a smile, overcome with relief. But as Uther looks up at Arthur, his expression suddenly contorts in pain. His breath starts to fail. Arthur reacts, alarmed.]

ARTHUR

What's happening!?

[Old Merlin's equally alarmed.]

OLD MERLIN

I don't know...

[Uther's fading fast.]

ARTHUR

Do something!

[Uther goes still. Old Merlin feels for a pulse. There isn't one. Old Merlin reels.]

OLD MERLIN

He's dead.

[Arthur struggles to accept this...]

ARTHUR

No... He can't be... (shaking Uther) Father... Father!?!...

[Arthur realises the futility of his actions. He gives up, stares at Uther, his mind swimming. He suddenly turns on Old Merlin, more hurt and angry than we have ever seen him. All Old Merlin can do is look on, horrified.]

ARTHUR

What have you done?

OLD MERLIN

This was not supposed to happen.

ARTHUR

You gave me your word. You- you have killed him... You killed him!

OLD MERLIN

No...

[Arthur draws his sword and advances on Old Merlin.]

ARTHUR

You'll die for what you've done!

[Old Merlin's eyes flash as he thrusts his hand out.]

OLD MERLIN

Hleap on bæc!

[Arthur flies backwards and falls to the floor, momentarily stunned. Old Merlin flees. Arthur

takes a moment to come to his senses.]

—

[33:20, INT. KING'S PALACE (GRIFFIN CORRIDOR) - NIGHT 3] [Old Merlin ducks behind a column, in shock from what just happened. He hears guards approaching, takes out a little bottle of potion and downs it.]

—

[33:37, INT. KING'S PALACE (UTHER'S CHAMBERS) - NIGHT 3] [Gaius closes Uther's eyes. Merlin hurries in. He sees Gaius standing over the bed, and Arthur and Gwen looking on, traumatised. Merlin struggles to accept what he's seeing.]

GAIUS

I'm sorry, Arthur... The King is dead.

[Arthur is still unable to accept this, tears streaming down his face. Merlin looks on, horrified. Gaius covers Uther's face with the sheet.]

—

[34:14, INT. GAIUS' CHAMBERS - NIGHT 3] [Merlin and Gaius enter Gaius' chambers.]

MERLIN

The spell was working. I'm sure of it. I did everything right. I don't know what happened.

GAIUS

I think I do.

[Gaius opens his hand to reveal the small silver charm.]

GAIUS

I found it round Uther's neck. It's been enchanted and such an enchantment would reverse the effects of your healing spell. Uther didn't stand a chance.

[Merlin suddenly suspects who is responsible.]

MERLIN

Morgana...

GAIUS

I believe so.

—
[35:08, INT. MORGANA'S HUT - DAY 4] [Agravaire enters and finds Morgana curled up in bed. Morgana speaks before Agravaire can deliver his exciting news.]

MORGANA
Uther's dead, isn't he?

AGRAVAINE (confused)
How did you know?

[Morgana sits up.]

MORGANA
I felt it. I felt his pain.

[Agravaire's surprised by Morgana's muted reaction.]

AGRAVAINE
I thought Uther's death would be cause for celebration?

MORGANA
Arthur will replace him. There'll be no celebration until I take my place upon the throne.

AGRAVAINE
That might be sooner than you think. Arthur is young, untested. He will look to his trusted uncle for counsel. And I will ensure that he fails.

—
[36:01, INT. KING'S PALACE (ARTHUR'S CHAMBERS) - NIGHT 4] [Arthur sits in a chair, staring into space, struggling to process his emotions. Merlin enters.]

MERLIN
I am so sorry.

[Arthur absorbs the sympathy. Merlin struggles to express what he's feeling.]

MERLIN
I... I should've... I wish that there was something I could have done.

ARTHUR

Merlin. No one but me is to blame for this.

MERLIN

You are not to blame. This isn't your fault.

ARTHUR

I'm entirely to blame. My father spent twenty years fighting magic. To think I knew better. I was so arrogant. That arrogance has cost my father his life.

MERLIN

You were only doing what you thought was right. I'm sure that that old sorcerer meant no harm. Perhaps the spell went wrong. Uther was dying. Maybe nothing could have saved him...

ARTHUR

We'll never know. All I know for sure is that I've lost both my parents to magic. It is pure evil. I'll never lose sight of that again.

[Someone knocks on the door. Arthur gets up resolutely and leaves.]

—

[38:01, INT. KING'S PALACE (THRONE ROOM) - NIGHT 4] [Arthur enters the mighty room where Uther is lying in state. There is a raised dais in the centre of the space. Uther lies on it, surrounded by candles. Arthur begins the long, lonely walk to Uther's side. Merlin and Gaius close the doors. Arthur reaches the dais.]

—

[38:23, INT. KING'S PALACE (ANTE CHAMBER CORRIDOR) - NIGHT 4] [Gaius sits down next to Merlin.] GAIUS

We must leave him to mourn.

[Gaius takes in Merlin's shell shocked expression.]

GAIUS

Merlin..?

MERLIN

This is all my fault. I killed him.

GAIUS

You did not kill Uther. Morgana did. Uther's spirit died when she broke his heart.

[Merlin takes this in.]

GAIUS

We must look to the future. Uther's death will allow Arthur's progression to the throne. We must hope it brings peace and stability to the land.

MERLIN

Magic will still be outlawed.

[Gaius nods sadly.]

MERLIN

I've turned Arthur against it forever. He'll never know who I really am.

GAIUS

That time will come. I'm sure of it. Arthur will be under even more pressure now that he's King. He will need you more than ever.

[Merlin takes that in. He knows it's true.]

GAIUS

There's nothing more to be done. Let's go and have some supper.

MERLIN

I think I'll wait here.

[Gaius takes this in, touched by Merlin's devotion. Gaius heads off, leaving Merlin to wait with a heavy heart.]

—

[40:10, INT. KING'S PALACE (THRONE ROOM) - DAY 5] [Arthur kisses Uther's forehead. Tears streak down Arthur's face.]

—

[40:28, INT. KING'S PALACE (ANTE CHAMBER) - DAY 5] [Merlin sits on the floor against the stone railing. He stares at the wall opposite the doors. Arthur opens the doors and sunlight streams in through the windows.]

ARTHUR (O.S.)

Merlin?

[Merlin turns his head and sees Arthur standing over him. Arthur has dried his eyes. He is calm and composed, almost serene. They trade stares, Arthur looks at the light flooding in through the window - in a contemplative mood.]

ARTHUR

It is a new day.

[Merlin takes this in, then stands.]

ARTHUR

You been here all night?

MERLIN

I didn't want you to feel that you were alone.

ARTHUR (touched)

You're a loyal friend, Merlin.

[Merlin and Arthur trade a look, then Arthur closes the throne room doors and takes a breath.]

ARTHUR

You must be hungry?

MERLIN

Starving.

ARTHUR

Me too... Come on. You can make us some breakfast.

[Merlin and Arthur head up the spiral staircase.]

—

[41:35, EXT. CAMELOT - DAY 5] [The sun shines over Camelot. The start of a beautiful day. Guards take their positions, villagers head up the palace steps, pages blow their trumpets.]

—

[41:49, INT. KING'S PALACE (THRONE ROOM) - DAY 6] [The Throne Room is packed with courtiers who bow as Arthur walks toward the throne. An air of excitement and anticipation fills the room. We take in the presence of Merlin, Gaius, Gwen, Agravaine, Percival, Sir Leon, Gwaine and Elyan... Arthur kneels. Geoffrey of Monmouth stands next to him with the crown in his hands.]

GEOFFREY OF MONMOUTH

Will you solemnly promise and swear to govern the Peoples of Camelot according to their respective laws and customs?

ARTHUR

I solemnly swear so to do.

GEOFFREY OF MONMOUTH

Will you to your power cause Law and Justice, in Mercy, to be executed in all your judgments?

ARTHUR

I will.

GEOFFREY OF MONMOUTH

Then by the sacred laws vested in me, I pronounce you Arthur, King of Camelot!

[Geoffrey of Monmouth places a crown upon Arthur's head. Arthur stands and looks out over the courtiers.]

AGRAVAINE

Long live the King!

[Everyone joins in the chant...]

ALL

Long live the King! Long live the King! Long live the King!

[Go out on the Knights of the Round Table...]

ALL

Long live the King!

[Gwen...]

ALL

Long live the King!

[Merlin...]

ALL

Long live the king! Long live the King!

[Merlin, shouting - proud, moved by the huge significance of the moment.]

MERLIN/ALL

Long live the King!

Source: Transcribed Film and TV Scripts