

This Merlin Episode Transcript provides a full dialogue log off Episode 05 of Season IV “His Father’s Son” of the [BBC series Merlin](#).

All other information you need connected to this particular Episode can be found in the [Merlin Episode Guides s04e05](#).

Besides the Merlin Episode Guides there are also Image Galleries for each episode.

For Screenshot galleries of this episode check out the [Merlin Episode Captures s04e05](#).

For High resolution Promotional Stills of every episode check out the [Merlin Episode Stills s04e05](#).

## 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. FIELD - DAY] [Merlin runs through a field dressed as a knight, chased by a band of armed men. Merlin heads into the woods and falls to the ground as an axe lands between his legs. He picks up the axe and runs further into the dead end. He stops and turns to face his pursuers, who are now strolling in to meet him. Merlin raises the throwing axe.]

KING CAERLEON

Trapped, are we?

[An arrow hits one of Caerleon’s men in the back. Merlin’s pursuers look up to find themselves surrounded by the Knights of Camelot. Merlin smiles.]

MERLIN

That’s the idea.

ARTHUR

On me!

[Arthur jumps down into the pit and topples one of the men.]

[OPENING TITLES]

—

[01:47, EXT. FOREST - DAY] [Agravaïne drags along the leader of the prisoners.]

AGRAVAÏNE

Your Majesty. Look what we have here.

KING ARTHUR

He comes with us. We'll deal with the prisoners when we get back to Camelot.

AGRAVAÏNE

I fear this is no ordinary prisoner, Your Highness.

[Agravaïne rips the necklace from Caerleon's neck and hands it to Arthur.]

KING ARTHUR

Well, well.

MERLIN

What is it?

KING ARTHUR

This, Merlin, is the royal crest of Caerleon. Is it not...Your Highness?

—

[02:19, EXT. FOREST, CAMPFIRE - NIGHT]

KING ARTHUR

This is not the first time he's trespassed on our lands.

AGRAVAÏNE

No, sire. Only last week he seized the village of Stonedown on the western borders.

KING ARTHUR

We're not on the borders now, Agravaïne. This is the heart of the kingdom. He took a grave risk coming here.

AGRAVAÏNE

Perhaps he doesn't see it that way. I fear it's no coincidence that all this has happened since

Uther's death.

KING ARTHUR  
What do you mean?

AGRAVAINE  
Arthur, your father was a strong king. His enemies feared and respected that strength.

KING ARTHUR  
Are you saying I'm not worthy of that respect?

AGRAVAINE  
No, sire, not at all. There isn't a citizen of Camelot who would not lay down their life for you. But your enemies...to the enemies of Camelot, you are still untested as a king. You must send a clear message that any action against Camelot will be met without mercy.

KING ARTHUR  
Did we not achieve that here today?

AGRAVAINE  
No, sire. Not enough.

[Merlin listens in while he does cooks dinner.]

AGRAVAINE  
Not enough to deter the likes of Odin and Bayard and the countless others who covet Camelot's wealth.

KING ARTHUR  
Well, what do you suggest?

AGRAVAINE  
I suggest... I suggest that we force him to accept a treaty on our terms. He must withdraw his men from our land, return our territories us. He must surrender Everwick.

KING ARTHUR  
He'd rather die than agree to such terms.

AGRAVAINE  
Then you are left with no choice.

KING ARTHUR

I can't just kill a man in cold blood.

AGRAVAINE

Arthur, you must do what you need to do to assert your authority on this land.

KING ARTHUR

Well, there must be another way.

AGRAVAINE

There's no other way. Think on it. Decide by tomorrow.

[Agravaire leaves Arthur to mull over his terrible advice.]

MERLIN

Arthur...

KING ARTHUR

Not now, Merlin.

—

[04:22, EXT. FOREST - DAY] [Merlin wakes and brings a glass to Arthur, who is still seriously contemplating his uncle's suggestion.]

MERLIN

Arthur? Arthur. Here.

[Arthur takes the drink.]

KING ARTHUR

Thank you.

MERLIN

You must be cold.

[Merlin kneels by the fire.]

MERLIN

Have you not slept at all?

KING ARTHUR

Been thinking.

MERLIN

About what Agravaine said?

[Arthur nods.]

MERLIN

So, what are you going to do?

KING ARTHUR

My father was a great king, but I don't have his wisdom or his conviction. I can only follow his example and do what he would've done.

MERLIN

You're going to draw up this treaty?

KING ARTHUR (nods)

I have to show my strength. Show that I'm worthy of my father's name.

MERLIN

Caerleon won't sign it. You know that?

KING ARTHUR

Caerleon brought this upon himself.

MERLIN

Arthur. You've always shown mercy in battle. You've never sought to humiliate your enemy in this way. This isn't like you. This isn't who you are.

KING ARTHUR

You have no idea what it is to make these decisions. Decisions that will shape the future of this land.

MERLIN

Arthur-

KING ARTHUR

So, please...stick to what you do know.

[Arthur gets up and leaves.]

—  
[05:58, EXT. FOREST - DAY] [The knights assemble and Agravaine presents King Caerleon with the treaty scroll.]

KING CAERLEON  
What is this?

[Caerleon doesn't take the scroll, so Agravaine hands it to Sir Leon, who opens it.]

KING CAERLEON  
You expect me to sign this? To humiliate myself before you?

AGRAVAINE  
You invaded our kingdom and took what did not belong to you.

KING CAERLEON  
And if I do not sign?

AGRAVAINE  
Then you will pay with your life.

KING CAERLEON (scoffs)  
And who makes these terms?

KING ARTHUR  
Arthur Pendragon...

[Arthur walks forward.]

KING ARTHUR  
King of Camelot.

[Caerleon pushes Leon's arm aside and steps forward.]

KING CAERLEON  
Very well.

[Caerleon shoves off Percival.]

KING CAERLEON  
Then make it quick.

[Caerleon kneels.]

KING ARTHUR  
Think what you're doing, Caerleon. This treaty could seal a truce between us. There would be peace. Like there was between your father and mine.

KING CAERLEON  
I am not my father. And you are not Uther. Do you really have the guts to kill me?

KING ARTHUR  
You leave me no choice.

KING CAERLEON  
You do not choose anything, boy. It is I who choose to die, and I alone. Now, get on with it.

[Caerleon bows his head down to Arthur to give him clear aim at his neck.]

KING ARTHUR  
So be it.

[Agravaire smirks. Merlin shakes his head.]

—  
[07:35, EXT/INT. MAIN SQUARE/KING'S PALACE, CORRIDOR - DAY] [Gaius watches Arthur, Merlin, and the knights dismount in the square.]

—  
[07:48, INT. KING'S PALACE, ARTHUR'S CORRIDOR - DAY] [Agravaire walks with Arthur to his chambers.]

AGRAVAINE  
Your resolve has already earned the respect of both the council and the people alike. Your father would be proud of you.

KING ARTHUR  
Thank you, Uncle. I don't know what I'd have done without your support and counsel.

[Arthur enters his chambers where Gwen is waiting for him. They hug and Agravaine grimaces. Merlin enters with Arthur's travel pack.]

KING ARTHUR  
Did you miss me?

GWEN  
Yes.

—

[08:14, INT. KING'S PALACE, ARTHUR'S CHAMBERS - DAY] [Merlin unpacks while Arthur washes up.]

MERLIN  
Can't have been easy having a man killed like that.

KING ARTHUR  
I had no choice. Show of strength was necessary.

MERLIN  
Don't you think compassion can also show strength?

KING ARTHUR  
Not for the likes of Caerleon, no. No, an example had to be made for the good of the kingdom.

MERLIN  
So, you don't regret what you did?

KING ARTHUR  
My conscience is clean, Merlin, which is more than I can say for my room. So, just do your job, will you?

MERLIN  
Look, I'm just saying, if there's something bothering you, you can talk to me. You shouldn't push your friends away, you know? Not now. Not when you need them the most.

KING ARTHUR  
You're wrong, Merlin. I don't need anyone. I can't afford that luxury.

[Merlin is clearly upset.]

KING ARTHUR

The kingdom's my responsibility now. Mine to bear alone. And you must learn to accept that.

[Merlin nods, trying to mask his disappointment.]

—

[09:13, EXT. CAERLEON'S CASTLE - DAY] [King Caerleon's men bear his body to his castle. His wife, Queen Annis pulls back the sheet to see his body. She is disturbed by what she finds.]

QUEEN ANNIS

This...this is no battle wound. This is the work of cowards!

[Annis whips the sheet back over her husband's face.]

QUEEN ANNIS

Arthur will pay for this, by God! The whole of Camelot will pay for this!

—

[09:48, INT. KING'S PALACE, COUNCIL CHAMBER - NIGHT] [Arthur sits alone at the table looking over court documents. Someone knocks on the door.]

KING ARTHUR

Come.

[Agravaine enters.]

AGRAVAINE

I am sorry to disturb you, my lord.

KING ARTHUR

Something the matter, Uncle?

AGRAVAINE

I dare to hope that my advice has been of some use these past months.

KING ARTHUR

Of course it has, you know that.

AGRAVAINE

There is something I wish to discuss with you. But...it is a delicate matter.

KING ARTHUR

Yes?

AGRAVAINE

It concerns Guinevere.

KING ARTHUR

What about her?

AGRAVAINE

She's a beautiful woman, sire, and possessed of many fine qualities, I have no doubt. But she is a servant.

KING ARTHUR

That doesn't matter to me.

AGRAVAINE (hastily)

Nor to me. I assure you. No, it's your people that concern me.

[Arthur stirs uncomfortably.]

KING ARTHUR

Well, surely as king, I can do as I see fit.

AGRAVAINE

No, sire, you cannot. You must do what is expected of you. You must present yourself in an appropriate manner. The people...your people do not wish to see their king with the daughter of a blacksmith.

KING ARTHUR

This isn't a matter of state. This is a matter of the heart.

AGRAVAINE

You cannot rule the kingdom with your heart, Arthur. Your father understood that.

[Arthur stirs even more uncomfortably. Agravaime takes the chair next to Arthur.]

AGRAVAINE

You didn't want to kill Caerleon, I know that. But you were strong. You didn't let those emotions cloud your judgement. You rule with your head like a strong king must.

KING ARTHUR

Yes.

AGRAVAINE

And now you must show that strength again. Set aside your personal feelings for the good of your kingdom.

KING ARTHUR

Set aside my feelings for Guinevere?

AGRAVAINE

I'm afraid so, my lord.

[Arthur considers the advice unhappily.]

—

[12:04, EXT. CAMELOT - DAY] [A messenger rides to Camelot.]

—

[12:15, TRAINING GROUNDS - DAY] [Merlin steadies the punching bag for Arthur.]

MERLIN

You seem tense.

KING ARTHUR

What do you mean "tense"?

MERLIN

You know...agitated. On edge. Angry.

KING ARTHUR

This is not anger, Merlin. This is controlled aggression!

[Arthur punches the bag off of the hanger and Merlin falls to the ground with it.]

MERLIN

Great. I'm glad we cleared that up.

[Leon arrives.]

SIR LEON

Sire. A messenger this minute arrived.

KING ARTHUR

What is it?

SIR LEON

An army. They crossed our border at first light.

KING ARTHUR

An army? Whose army?

SIR LEON

Caerleon's queen.

—

[12:45, KING'S PALACE, COUNCIL CHAMBER - DAY]

KING ARTHUR

At a forced march, Caerleon's men will reach Camelot by sundown tomorrow, which means we have no choice. We must intercept them before they reach the ridge of [?]. That way, we hold the high ground. The knights of Camelot make ready as I speak. We ride at dawn.

AGRAVAINE

Long live the king!

ALL

Long live the king! Long live the king! Long live the king!

[Merlin looks on unhappily. Agravaine smirks.]

—

[13:14, EXT/INT. CAERLEON'S CASTLE, TUNNELS - NIGHT] [Morgana arrives outside Caerleon's castle. She magically opens a door to the tunnels and heads inside. A guard spots her.]

GUARD

Halt!

[Another guard steps in her path and she is surrounded.]

MORGANA

Please. I mean you know harm. I wish only to speak with your queen.

—

[13:48, INT. CAERLEON'S CASTLE, THRONE ROOM - NIGHT] [The guards escort Morgana into the throne room and pull off her hood.]

QUEEN ANNIS

Morgana Pendragon. Stealing into my castle in the dead of night. You must have a death wish.

MORGANA

Sorry for the interruption, Your Majesty, but I've come on urgent business.

QUEEN ANNIS

What business could you possibly have with me, witch?

MORGANA

I come in the name of my father.

QUEEN ANNIS

Is that so? When last I heard, you and he were—

MORGANA

I speak not of Uther, but of Gorlois.

QUEEN ANNIS

Gorlois?

MORGANA

Uther is my father by blood alone. Gorlois raised me as a child. He made me who I am

QUEEN ANNIS

I remember him well. He was a good man. An honourable man.

MORGANA

He was, Your Highness. And his sole reward was death, betrayed by his king.

QUEEN ANNIS

Well, then. It seems we have both lost something at the hands of a Pendragon.

[Annis stands and approaches Morgana.]

QUEEN ANNIS

Now, for the last time, what are you doing here?

MORGANA

Your Highness...

[Morgana shoves off the guard holding her, walks up to Queen Annis, and bows down to her knees.]

MORGANA

Your Highness, Uther was a curse upon this land, as is his son. I seek revenge for wounds they have inflicted, as do you. If you will accept it, I've come to offer my help.

—

[15:24, INT. KING'S PALACE, ARTHUR'S CHAMBERS - NIGHT] [Merlin prepares Arthur's bed while Arthur puts on a cloak.]

MERLIN

Off again? Another weak in the wilderness. Eating weird animals, being eaten by weird animals. No hot water, no baths. This will be the last time either of us get to sleep in a proper bed.

KING ARTHUR

Merlin, I'm prepared to face all manner of horrors in this world, but if you think I'm sharing this bed with you...

MERLIN (laughs)

What? No, that's not what I meant.

KING ARTHUR

Right. Good. Comfort to know.

MERLIN

Where are you going?

KING ARTHUR

That's my business. And Merlin, don't be here when I come back.

[Merlin shakes his head.]

—

[16:02, LOWER TOWN - NIGHT] [Arthur walks to Gwen's with the hood pulled up on his cloak. A guard spots him.]

GUARD

Halt! Declare yourself!

[Arthur stops, irritated. He turns around and pulls off the hood. The guard is shocked.]

GUARD

I'm sorry, sire. Forgive me.

KING ARTHUR

No harm done.

[The guard bows and turns back to continue his patrol. Arthur waits for the guard to leave, then continues on to Gwen's and knocks on her door. Gwen opens the door and smiles.]

GWEN

Arthur.

KING ARTHUR

May I come in?

GWEN

Of course.

—

[16:44, GWEN'S HOUSE - NIGHT]

GWEN

Can I get you anything? Something to eat?

KING ARTHUR  
I'm fine, thanks.

[Arthur closes the door and turns to face her.]

KING ARTHUR  
I won't be staying long.

GWEN  
Oh.

[Arthur stands awkwardly and Gwen waits with a smile.]

KING ARTHUR  
Guinevere...please believe me when I say that you've done nothing wrong.

[Gwen furrows her eyebrows.]

KING ARTHUR  
And that none of this...has anything to do with you.

GWEN (confused)  
None of what? I don't understand.

KING ARTHUR  
Things have changed for me. With my father gone, it falls to me to rule this land.

GWEN  
I know what a responsibility that must be.

KING ARTHUR  
And now that I'm king...it's no longer relevant what I may or may not want for myself.

[Gwen is beginning to understand.]

KING ARTHUR  
My only duty is to the people of this land. I'll be judged by my actions. Who I'm seen with.

GWEN (surprised and hurt)  
You're ashamed to be seen with me?

KING ARTHUR

No.

[Arthur shakes his head, beginning to have difficulty keeping his composure.]

KING ARTHUR

No. But now that I'm king, it's not appropriate.

GWEN (more surprised and hurt)

I'm not appropriate?

KING ARTHUR

It seems not.

[Gwen walks up to Arthur, disbelieving what she's hearing.]

GWEN

Arthur...listen to yourself. This doesn't sound like the man I know. You've been talked into this, haven't you?

KING ARTHUR

I haven't been talked into anything. I'm my own man. I make my own decisions.

GWEN (beginning to cry)

And you decided we can't be together?

KING ARTHUR

Yes.

GWEN

I see.

[Gwen looks at Arthur, not hiding her tears or pain.]

KING ARTHUR

I'm sorry, Guinevere. It's just the way it has to be.

[Arthur turns to leave.]

GWEN

Arthur.

[Arthur stops with his hand on the door handle and looks at her.]

GWEN

Don't let anyone tell you what to do. You said you are your own man. You have a good heart. Be true to it. Only then will you be the king you want to be.

[Arthur considers her for a moment, then exits.]

—

[19:12, EXT. KING'S PALACE, MAIN SQUARE/CORRIDOR - DAY] [Arthur descends the steps to his assembled army. They ride out of the city. Gwen and Gaius watch from the a corridor window.]

GAIUS

Don't worry, Gwen. They'll be back soon, I'm sure.

GUINEVERE

It's different this time, though, isn't it? Arthur's king now. The fate of Camelot rests on shoulders alone.

GAIUS

Oh, he's not alone, Gwen. You above all people should know that.

GUINEVERE

I do know that, but I'm not sure he does.

—

[19:58, EXT. CAMELOT, RIDGE - DAY] [Arthur stands alone on the edge of the cliff, looking out at the enemy's army. Agravaire steps up beside him.]

KING ARTHUR

Make sure the men have everything they need. They must be well rested by morning.

AGRAVAINE

I'll see to it, sire.

KING ARTHUR

The battle commences at first light.

[Agravaire smirks and walks off.]

—

[20:34, EXT. CAMELOT CAMP - NIGHT] [Arthur watches his Round Table from his tent as they talk around the campfire. Leon tussles Merlin's hair and the knights chuckle.]

SIR ELYAN

...an army.

[Percival and Elyan toast their tankards. He clearly longs for their camaraderie. Merlin notices Arthur watching and his smile fades slightly. The others notice and look over. Arthur is caught and tries to cover.]

KING ARTHUR

We should all get some sleep.

[Arthur turns back into his tent.]

SIR GWAINED

Is he all right?

MERLIN

He's our king. If anything were to happen to any of us, he'll hold himself responsible.

[Gwaine nods as the all take in Merlin's words.]

—

[21:17, CAMELOT CAMP, ARTHUR'S TENT - NIGHT] [Arthur is contemplative while Merlin tends to Arthur's spare armour. Elyan leads the Round Table Knights as they enter purposefully.]

KING ARTHUR

Elyan?

SIR ELYAN

Sire.

[Elyan looks at the other knights.]

KING ARTHUR

Well?

SIR ELYAN

We just want you to know there isn't a man among us who would not die for you. We made our pledge, and we wear the Pendragon crest with pride. Tomorrow, we fight in your name, sire. For freedom and justice in this land.

[Arthur is touched.]

KING ARTHUR

Thank you, Elyan. Thank you all.

[They all nod and exit. Arthur seems disturbed.]

MERLIN

They mean it, sire. Every word.

KING ARTHUR

I've never once questioned their loyalty. I do wonder if I deserve it.

MERLIN

No one could care more for their men than you do. To send them into battle is not a decision that you would make lightly, and they know that.

KING ARTHUR

But was it the right decision?

MERLIN

If there was any other way out of this situation, you would take it. But you must defend Camelot. You have no choice.

KING ARTHUR

I had a choice...to let Caerleon live or die. I made the wrong decision. And now I've brought this war upon Camelot myself.

MERLIN

Arthur...no one is prepared to sacrifice more for the sake of this kingdom than you. Your decision was made in the best interests of Camelot.

KING ARTHUR

Maybe. Now my men must pay for it with their lives.

—

[23:16, EXT. CAMELOT CAMP - NIGHT] [Arthur exits his tent, dressed in a shabby brown cloak, and walks past his sleeping men. Merlin wakes and sees him heading off somewhere. Merlin gets up to follow. He trips over someone's foot and stumbles into a tent. Arthur hears the noise and turns around. Merlin peeks out of the tent, waits for Arthur to continue, then follows. Arthur walks down to the sentry's stationed at the enemy camp.]

SENTRY

Halt!

[Arthur opens his cloak. Merlin watches from above.]

KING ARTHUR

I'm unarmed.

[Arthur pulls off the cloak and drops it on the ground.]

KING ARTHUR

You know who I am. Take me to your queen.

[Merlin watches Arthur allows himself to be taken into the enemy camp. He follows.]

—

[24:36, INT. ENEMY CAMP, QUEEN ANNIS'S TENT - NIGHT] [The sentries bring Arthur into the tent.]

QUEEN ANNIS

What is the meaning of this?

KING ARTHUR

Your Highness, I'm here to-

[Annis slaps him.]

KING ARTHUR

Your Highness, I know that you feel nothing but contempt for me. You feel I've done you a grievous wrong, and you would be right.

[Merlin peeks through the tent seam.]

KING ARTHUR

I'm ashamed of what I did. It was cowardly, it was unjust, and I am deeply sorry.

QUEEN ANNIS

Sorry does not bring back my husband. Sorry does not give my people back their king.

KING ARTHUR

I realise that. I know there's nothing I can do to repair that loss.

QUEEN ANNIS

Then what are you doing here, Arthur Pendragon?

KING ARTHUR

I want to call off the battle.

QUEEN ANNIS

It's a little too late for that.

KING ARTHUR

I don't propose a truce, but an alternative. I invoke the right of single combat. Two champions to settle this matter between them.

QUEEN ANNIS

And why should I grant you this favour?

KING ARTHUR

There's been bloodshed enough already, Your Highness. Many hundreds of lives will be saved this way.

[Annis nods for her men to release Arthur's arms.]

QUEEN ANNIS

And your terms?

KING ARTHUR

If my man wins, you must withdraw your army.

QUEEN ANNIS

And if mine is the victor?

KING ARTHUR

Then half of all Camelot is yours.

[A guard brings Merlin into the tent and shoves him to his knees. Arthur is dumbfounded.]

MERLIN

Sorry about this.

QUEEN ANNIS

You know him?

KING ARTHUR

He's my servant, he must've followed me here. I-I knew nothing about it.

QUEEN ANNIS

Kill him.

KING ARTHUR

Wait. Please. Let him go. He's just...a simpleminded fool.

QUEEN ANNIS

That is two favours you've asked of me this night, Arthur Pendragon.

[Queen Annis turns and sits on her throne, considering Merlin. Tension as Arthur waits for her decision.]

QUEEN ANNIS

Very well. You shall have your trial by combat.

[Arthur is relieved.]

QUEEN ANNIS

Announce your champion by noon tomorrow.

[Arthur bows.]

KING ARTHUR

Thank you, Your Highness.

QUEEN ANNIS

And take your fool with you.

[Arthur nods.]

—

[26:45, EXT. CAMELOT CAMP - NIGHT] [Arthur and Merlin return to camp. Arthur is not happy.]

MERLIN

Simpleminded fool?

KING ARTHUR

Oh, I was being kind, believe me. You almost got me killed in there.

MERLIN

Me? You seem to be doing a pretty good job of that yourself.

KING ARTHUR

What is wrong with you? Why can you never just let me be?

MERLIN

I'm your friend! I was looking out for you.

KING ARTHUR

I appreciate that, in your very confused way, you're only trying to help. But, please, don't do it again.

—

[27:13, INT. CAMELOT CAMP, ARTHUR'S TENT - DAY]

SIR LEON

But, sire, we can win this battle. I know we can.

KING ARTHUR

I don't doubt it. But at what cost? How many men will be slaughtered?

SIR ELYAN

And what if we were to lose this trial? We can't give up our land.

KING ARTHUR

That's the deal I've struck. I believe it to be fair, and I'll stand by it.

AGRAVAINE

Well, then. All that remains, my lord, is for you to choose your champion.

[The Round Table Knights all step forward.]

SIR PERCIVAL

It would be a privilege, sire.

[Elyan steps up to take the challenge, too.]

SIR ELYAN

Sire.

KING ARTHUR

There can only be one choice. One choice which is just and honourable. This fight's mine.

[The knights are not pleased by this, but they can't object to their king. Agravaire is very pleased.]

—

[27:52, INT. ENEMY CAMP, QUEEN ANNIS'S TENT - DAY]

QUEEN ANNIS

I don't like it. It must be a trick.

MORGANA

What concerns you, Your Highness?

QUEEN ANNIS

Arthur. Why would he choose himself as the champion?

MORGANA

Because he's Arthur. He'll always risk his own life before those of his men. Trust me, it's no trick. Arthur will fight.

QUEEN ANNIS

It's as if you were pleased, Morgana. Whatever else he is, Arthur is a great warrior. You

have as much to lose as I if he wins. You desire the throne of Camelot, do you not?

MORGANA (enraged)

I don't deny it. It's rightfully mine, after all.

[Annis considers Morgana's emotional response. Morgana calms herself.]

MORGANA

Arthur will not win.

QUEEN ANNIS

How can you possibly know that?

MORGANA

Because I have the power to ensure that he doesn't.

QUEEN ANNIS

Then you must use it.

[Morgana smiles and nods.]

—

[28:50, INT. CAMELOT CAMP, ARTHUR'S TENT - NIGHT] [Agravaine takes Arthur's sword while he sleeps.]

—

[29:05, EXT. FOREST - NIGHT] [Agravaine sneaks through the woods with the sword. He checks for any pursuers, then turns and is surprised to find Morgana standing there.]

AGRAVAINE

Morgana.

MORGANA

Did you get it?

AGRAVAINE

Of course.

[Morgana draws the sword. She kneels down in the middle of three small fires and enchants the sword.]

MORGANA

Efencume ætgædre, eala gastas cræft ige. Hige hefe. Hefe mæst sara. Fornéðe þas, ende hie æra.

[Morgana's eyes glow. She raised the sword by the hilt and the blade bursts into flame.]

MORGANA

Efencume þonne swæs bora!

[Agravaine stands in awe. The flames disappear and Morgana lowers the sword. Agravaine regards her. She smiles.]

MORGANA

Arthur's as good as dead.

—

[30:20, INT. CAMELOT CAMP, ARTHUR'S TENT - DAWN] [Merlin helps Arthur with his armour.]

KING ARTHUR

Not too tight, Merlin, you don't want to kill me before I've even started.

MERLIN (chuckle)

Sorry.

[Arthur takes off his left glove and pulls off his ring. He turns to Merlin.]

KING ARTHUR

If this day should prove to be my last, give this to Guinevere.

[Arthur hands Merlin the ring. Merlin up sharply.]

KING ARTHUR

Tell her I'm sorry.

MERLIN (nods)

Of course.

[Arthur puts his glove back on.]

MERLIN

Arthur, do you really think this is worth the risk? You're king now. Camelot needs you. Alive.

KING ARTHUR

I don't know what will happen. But for the first time since I became king, I know in my heart I've made the right decision.

[Arthur smiles.]

MERLIN

Well, whatever happens out there...erm...

KING ARTHUR

You're not about to start crying on me, are you?

MERLIN

No. Just, er, good luck.

[They smile.]

KING ARTHUR

Thank you, old friend.

[They shake hands. Agravaire enters.]

AGRAVAINE

It is time, my lord.

KING ARTHUR

Very well.

[Arthur doesn't move.]

AGRAVAINE

Is all in readiness.

KING ARTHUR

Merlin?

[Arthur stands for Merlin's inspection.]

MERLIN

Ready.

[Arthur nods and draws the now-cursed sword. Agravaine smiles as Arthur inspects it.]

KING ARTHUR

Right, then.

[Arthur and Agravaine exit.]

—

[32:09, INT. ENEMY CAMP, QUEEN ANNIS'S TENT - DAY] [The camera pans up the full length of a mean looking giant.]

QUEEN ANNIS

You have served my husband well, Darian. I know you'll do the same for me.

MORGANA

And Darian, no pity, no quarter. Do not hesitate for one second. Arthur Pendragon must die.

[Darian grins menacingly.]

—

[32:39, EXT. CAMELOT, RIDGE - DAY] [The armies of Camelot and Caerleon face each other. Darian and Arthur walk to the centre of the gap. Arthur looks up at the giant. Darian bears his teeth. Morgana watches from Caerleon's lines. Agravaine grins in Camelot's front line. The fight begins. Darian eventually knocks Arthur to his knees. Arthur rolls out from the blow and slices Darian's cheek. Darian checks for blood and howls, enraged.]

MORGANA

This has gone on long enough.

[Annis turns her head to listen.]

MORGANA

Time to turn the tide. I've enchanted Arthur's sword. It holds the weight of a thousand ages. No one could bear it for long.

[Morgana's eyes glow. Arthur's sword drops like lead behind him. He looks at it, unable to lift it. Darian swings and misses on the down sweep. Arthur punches Darian's face and gets

caught on the upsweep of Darian's sword. He cries out in pain. He tries to lift his sword again. Darian begins to strike, but Merlin's eyes glow and Darian freezes mid-swing. Arthur leaves his sword and rams his shoulder into Darian, knocking him over and falling. Morgana is confused. Darian gets up first and kicks Arthur over. Darian picks up his sword and Merlin panics. Morgana and Agravaire smirk. Annis waits. Arthur lies almost helpless and Darian raises his sword over his head.]

MERLIN

\*spell\*

[The sword drops out of Darian's hands into the ground behind him and he freezes. Arthur rolls up behind Darian, grabs the sword and slices across Darian's back. The giant falls to his knees and Arthur kicks him down. Arthur is poised to strike. He looks up at his men on the ridge. Merlin looks on tensely. Arthur looks down at his fallen enemy and runs the sword into the ground by Darian's head. Arthur's army bursts out cheering.]

SIR PERCIVAL

Long live the king!

[Agravaire is shocked and disappointed as he joins the applause. The Camelot army bursts into.]

KNIGHT

Long live the king!

ARMY

Long live the king! Long live the king! Long live the king!

[Queen Annis heads toward the champions. Morgana turns with a scowl and disappears into Caerleon's army. Annis approaches Arthur.]

QUEEN ANNIS

You are victorious, Arthur Pendragon. And you may rest assured that I shall comply absolutely with the terms of our agreement.

[Arthur holds himself with dignity.]

QUEEN ANNIS

My army will be gone by nightfall.

KING ARTHUR

Thank you, Your Highness.

[Annis holds out her hand and Arthur grasps it.]

QUEEN ANNIS

Tell me something. You spared my champion. Why?

KING ARTHUR

Because it's not victory I seek. It is peace. I hope that today will mark a new beginning for our kingdoms.

QUEEN ANNIS

There is something about you, Arthur Pendragon. Something which gives me hope for us all.

[She considers him for a moment, then turns to leave.]

—

[37:31, INT. CARLEON'S CAMP, QUEEN ANNIS'S TENT - DAY] [Queen Annis and her men pack up her tent. Morgana enters.]

QUEEN ANNIS

It seems you do not have the power after all, Morgana. Arthur was made of sterner stuff than you imagined.

MORGANA

There will be other opportunities, Your Highness, and next time he won't be so lucky.

QUEEN ANNIS

There won't be a next time. Not for me, anyway.

MORGANA

What are you talking about?

QUEEN ANNIS

I believe I may have misjudged our young king.

MORGANA (scoffs)

Don't be taken in by his fine words.

QUEEN ANNIS

It wasn't Arthur who misled me. It was you. You are consumed by bitterness, Morgana. It spreads within you like a disease. In my grief, I let you infect me with your hate.

MORGANA

That is untrue. Have you forgotten how Arthur killed your husband? Do you not deny that you sought revenge?

QUEEN ANNIS

Yes, I sought revenge. But that does not mean it was the right thing to do.

MORGANA (laughs/scoffs)

You are weak, Annis, as I thought you were. Go ahead. Make peace with Arthur. But I will not rest until all of Camelot bows before me.

[Morgana turns to leave.]

QUEEN ANNIS

Morgana...

[Morgana turns around.]

QUEEN ANNIS

You came to me in the name of Gorlois, but I fear you're more like Uther than you realise.

[Morgana glares at Annis and stalks out of the tent.]

—

[39:04, EXT. CAMELOT, LOWER TOWN - DAY] [Arthur and his knights ride triumphantly into Camelot, bells ringing, streamers hung, flags waving, cheering crowds.]

—

[39:20, EXT. CAMELOT, MAIN SQUARE - DAY]

MERLIN

You're a hero.

KING ARTHUR

Thank you, Merlin.

MERLIN

Not to me. To your people.

KING ARTHUR

Right. You think different?

MERLIN

Maybe I know something they don't.

KING ARTHUR

Which is?

MERLIN

You know. That you're a cabbage head.

[Arthur gives his usual puzzled expression, then considers the insult.]

KING ARTHUR

Maybe. I should've listened to you, Merlin. Just this once, I think you were right. Even if you are the worst servant in the five kingdoms.

[Arthur dismounts and Merlin chuckles. The courtiers applaud as Arthur climbs the steps into the palace.]

—

[39:58, INT. KING'S PALACE, ARTHUR'S CHAMBERS - DAY] [Arthur lies in bed, staring at the ceiling. Someone knocks at the door.]

KING ARTHUR

Come.

[Gwen enters with a pitcher. Arthur pauses when he sees it's her.]

KING ARTHUR

Gwen.

GWEN (nods)

Sire.

[Arthur grabs a bundle of flowers from under a pillow and climbs out of bed.]

KING ARTHUR

These...

[He hurries out to her and presents her with the tiny purple bouquet, which flops limply.]

KING ARTHUR

Are for you.

[She looks at him, looks at the flowers, and takes them ungratefully. Arthur continues cheerfully.]

KING ARTHUR

They're not much, I know. I...picked them by the side of a road.

GWEN

Thank you sire, but...I don't know what they're for.

KING ARTHUR

They're to say, "I'm sorry Guinevere."

GWEN

You don't need to apologize. I understand why things have to be the way they are.

KING ARTHUR (playfully)

Mm. A good king should...respect the traditions of the past, as my father did.

GWEN (morosely)

I know that.

KING ARTHUR

But a good king should also...

[He takes an amorous step towards her.]

KING ARTHUR

Be true to himself...and do as he sees fit...

[He takes another amorous step towards her.]

KING ARTHUR

And be seen with those who he cares for.

[He gives her a significant look. She looks at him hopefully.]

GWEN

Even if they're not...appropriate?

[Arthur grabs her waist and pulls her to him. He kisses her dramatically, then looks down at her, head tilted playfully.]

KING ARTHUR

Does that answer your question?

[Gwen catches his mood and serves it right back.]

GWEN

It's a start.

[The grin at each other, then kiss passionately. Sunlight streams through the windows behind them.]

Source: Transcribed Film and TV Scripts