

Merlin - Winds of Change  
Part One: The Spark of Life

Episode Two  
An Attack

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Made in Highland

FADE IN

**INT. MERLIN AND ARTHUR'S FLAT**

MERLIN is standing at the stove, he pours an orange liquid into a frying pan from a carton that is *supposed* to be eggs. He's feeling pretty foolish about the way he acted the previous night, he is happy for GWEN's return, that is until she walks into his flat the picture perfect *morning after* - in a pair of Arthur's boxer shorts, t-shirt, and socks, carrying the two mugs from the night before. MERLIN white knuckles the spatula he is holding. GWEN obviously walks towards MERLIN, happier than ever.

GWEN

Merlin! I should have expected to find you awake. Good morning.

GWEN is truly happy to be in his presence again and that makes MERLIN feel even guiltier. GWEN walks over to the sink and places the mugs inside, fiddling with the faucets, trying to figure out how to work them.

MERLIN

Morning. Oh, let me get those!

GWEN turns the water on and adjusts the two faucets to the temperature she wants.

GWEN

Please, Merlin, I think I can manage cleaning some dishes.

MERLIN pushes a sponge and dish soap towards her, jokingly puts his hands up in surrender, confident she will get the hang of it.

MERLIN

Ok, then.

GWEN

(about the water)  
Ooh. It smells strange.

MERLIN

They have to filter out a lot of stuff and pump it with more stuff to make it safe. But I wouldn't drink anything that doesn't come from a bottle.

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GWEN

Arthur's told me how things have been. They seem... I'm certain I'll get used to it.

MERLIN

I'm sure you will.

MERLIN realizes the eggs have begun to smoke, grabbing three plates he transfers some to each. MERLIN and GWEN have their backs turned to each other. After a slightly awkward pause:

GWEN

You look well, Merlin. (*for someone over 1500 years old*)

MERLIN

So do you. (*for someone who has been dead for over 1500 years*)

ARCHIE jumps on the counter in between them, investigating the smells. GWEN jumps slightly.

GWEN

And who is this?

MERLIN

Archie. Well, Archimedes, really.

GWEN

Why Archimedes?

MERLIN

Because I have a great sense of humor.

GWEN doesn't understand the joke, she just looks at MERLIN blankly.

MERLIN

Never mind. I thought we could go into the market today and get you whatever you might need... like some clothes?

GWEN

I would like that. I'd like to see the world for myself, not just hear about it.

(pauses)

Where is Arthur, anyway?

MERLIN

Shower - um... bathing.

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GWEN  
(soft laugh)  
He's up early. I thought he'd  
still be sleeping.

MERLIN stumbles over nothing, nearly dropping the plates.

MERLIN  
(without thinking)  
You didn't sleep together?

GWEN  
(strangely even)  
No? I assumed he came here to  
sleep in his own bed.  
(quickly)  
These look delicious, Merlin.

GWEN grabs two of the plates from MERLIN and carries them over to the small table situated in front of a window and takes a seat. Suddenly GWEN realizes something.

GWEN  
...where do you sleep?

MERLIN stammers trying to come up with anything to say. Suddenly, there is a sound from behind them.

WALLACE  
Knock, knock, knock.

WALLACE is standing in the open door. MERLIN sighs a breath of relief.

WALLACE  
Was hopin' I could go a day  
without seein' your ugly mug.

WALLACE steps into the flat and walks towards them without an invitation, spotting GWEN.

WALLACE  
And, hey, not so ugly mug.  
Guinevere, right?

GWEN  
(politely)  
Gwen, please.

GWEN stands up and reaches out her hand and WALLACE shakes it a little to over-enthusiastically. GWEN glances over to MERLIN for a clue to who he is.

GWEN

It's nice to meet one of Merlin's friends.

WALLACE

Whoa! Yeah, I'm sure it would be!  
Let me know if you find any!

MERLIN

What do you want, Wallace?

WALLACE

Came to return your screaming metal death trap. Parked it out on the curb.

MERLIN

Right, thanks.

MERLIN grabs the keys and pockets them, then reaches for WALLACE's keys from a small bowl on the counter and hands them to him. After an awkward silence.

WALLACE

(hesitant)

So, uh, how you holdin' up, Gwen?

GWEN

(tightly)

Well. Thank you.

WALLACE

Right.

Another awkward silence.

GWEN

So, how do you know each other?

MERLIN

I solve crimes and he gets the credit for it.

WALLACE

Yeah, well, my name looks better in the papers.

GWEN

Of course! Arthur told me a little about what you do. Merlin, I didn't realize you had any close...

MERLIN

Colleagues.

WALLACE

Yeah, well, that's not how we actually met. I'm the guy who got this one a job. He used to stalk my crime scenes.

MERLIN

I did not! I stole a police radio, and you happened to get all the best crime scenes.

(to GWEN)

Wallace's uncle is the boss.

WALLACE

So, he was a stalker and a thief. I almost put a restrainin' order on him. Anyway, one week, I was working this case, right? Some low-life killed his girlfriend, but we didn't have enough evidence to make an arrest. After work, I was walkin' home when the perp comes out of nowhere. Bam! Stabs me right here.

(points to his stomach)

Guy runs off; I'm laying there bleedin' out. And then this one shows up - heals me with his magic. And, not any of that chantin', sacrifice a goat crap. It was instant. I'd never seen anythin' like it! I mean, his friggin' eyes... I'm sure you know how it is. Anyway, I'd be dead if not for him. So, I gave him a job - something low-key so he didn't have to stalk us anymore.

MERLIN

You're forgetting the part when you ran away screaming.

WALLACE

Yeah, whatever. What was that, now? 'Bout five years ago?

ARTHUR walks into the room drying his hair with a towel, he freezes at the sight of the three of them.

ARTHUR

Wallace. I wasn't expecting - .

WALLACE jingles his keys.

WALLACE  
 Wasn't stayin'. Police work.  
 Speakin' of...  
 (to MERLIN)  
 I need that autopsy for Mr.  
 Saylor.

MERLIN  
 He's not going anywhere.

WALLACE  
 That's insensitive. Get it done.

MERLIN  
 Tonight. You can be there, too. I  
 need to get into the system's  
 records.

WALLACE  
 For?

MERLIN  
 She needs to eat, doesn't she? The  
 rations we get won't be enough for  
 three, and she can't get her own  
 until she's a recognized citizen  
 of London.

GWEN  
 That can't be legal.

ARTHUR  
 It isn't.

ARTHUR hovers awkwardly, not sure where to go - he has a horrible poker face. WALLACE looks at the three of them, then back to MERLIN his face saying it all (*she doesn't know about the two of you?!).*)

WALLACE  
 Riight... Well, he did tell a  
 police officer he was about to  
 commit a crime, so I guess I can  
 permit it.  
 (to MERLIN)  
 See you tonight.

GWEN  
 You won't stay for breakfast?

WALLACE  
 Nah. Like I said, police work. And  
 fake eggs make me puke.

WALLACE leaves.

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GWEN  
Well, he was certainly...

ARTHUR  
Yes, he *is* certainly.

ARTHUR looks at the plates and then to MERLIN.

ARTHUR  
Breakfast. Good.

ARTHUR sits down across from GWEN. It suddenly doesn't feel right for MERLIN eat a meal with them - the king and queen, and he their manservant. When GWEN and ARTHUR realize MERLIN hasn't sat, ARTHUR pulls out the middle chair for him.

ARTHUR  
Merlin?

MERLIN  
I - I'm going to put the bike in the garage.

MERLIN snatches the keys off the counter and rushes out of the flat. GWEN looks to ARTHUR questioningly, he tries to hide his guilt and just shrugs it off.

FADE TO BLACK

#### **INT. MERLIN'S CAR**

MERLIN, ARTHUR and GWEN are in the car heading into town to get some essentials for GWEN. MERLIN takes a cassette out of the glovebox and pops it in. Music begins and GWEN makes a confused face.

GWEN  
Merlin, how does it work? How does it capture the sound?

MERLIN  
Ahhh... I, ummm, it... well, I'm not sure to be honest.

As they drive MERLIN taps along to the beat on the steering wheel and ARTHUR mouths some of the lyrics. GWEN is shocked when ARTHUR doesn't even blink at the *inappropriate* lyrics.



GWEN turns to look out the window watching the city pass by - some towers that rose up high, but mostly buildings with planks over the doors and windows, signs reading condemned, vandalized with designs and cartoonish words painted in a rainbow of colors, some charred husks with caved in roofs and broken windows. She sees crumbled overpasses and useless bridges with chunks missing, there were few signs of nature but swarms of people everywhere.

GWEN turns back and looks towards MERLIN and ARTHUR, a concerned look on her face, something is different about them but she couldn't pinpoint what. Neither of them so much as glanced towards each other, and ARTHUR was leaning as far away from MERLIN as possible. Suddenly, the car jerks as MERLIN roughly takes a corner. ARTHUR reaches out and grabs MERLIN's hand out of protective instinct; they both jerk away from each other instantly.

ARTHUR

For god's sake, Merlin, slow down!  
Some of us in this car can die!

MERLIN meets GWEN's eyes in the rearview mirror and rolls his eyes, grinning as he pulls the car into a parking space.

MERLIN

We're here.

MERLIN, ARTHUR AND GWEN exit the car and walk towards the marketplace.

### **INT. MARKETPLACE**

The marketplace is in a warehouse with white tiled floors and a ceiling made of glass, the panels fitted together with elaborate iron designs. Two security guards are standing at the entrance doors, and GWEN regards them briefly before turning her gaze up towards the ceiling. Carts and wagons are lined up in rows that sold various assortments of jewelry, delicate glass-blown trinkets, pens and leather bound journals, used novels and outdated encyclopedias, freshly baked breads and sweets. There are performers playing music and juggling, a woman was painting children's faces to resemble animals, and a man is drawing an amusing caricature of a couple. There are storefronts along the walls, but many of them are vacant and dark.

The three of them walk among the carts taking in everything. MERLIN fills the air with small talk about London, the building they were in, anything to avoid meaningful conversation. GWEN tries to sneak in small personal questions but MERLIN deflects and changes the subject each time. Suddenly, MERLIN pulls GWEN towards a cart selling chocolate.

MERLIN

You have to try these!

MERLIN hands one to GWEN and she tentatively takes a small bite, once she realizes how good it is she pops the whole thing in. ARTHUR turns and walks away.

ARTHUR

I have to look for something. I'll catch up later!

MERLIN begins to protest, but ARTHUR is gone. MERLIN and GWEN continue on, arms linked, but as GWEN speaks MERLIN barely answers with nothing more than hums and head nods; he is too distracted trying to find ARTHUR in the crowd. They stop at a vendor selling clothing and GWEN skims through the racks, pulling out a couple pieces, but never satisfied.

MERLIN

You don't like anything?

GWEN

I'm afraid not, there's nothing in there for me.

MERLIN

(looking around)

That's okay! I'm sure there's another clothes vendor somewhere around here.

GWEN

Actually, Merlin, I saw a merchant selling fabrics a few aisles back. Perhaps we can find him again? I can fashion them together myself.

MERLIN

Oh.

(caught off guard)

That sounds like a lot of work. I - um, are you sure you're up to it? I can help you? Put them together, I mean.

GWEN

Thank you, Merlin, but I think I can manage. I was a seamstress, remember?

Something clicks in MERLIN's mind, GWEN sees it on his face.

GWEN

Oh. You didn't remember.

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MERLIN

No! No, it's just – I didn't. I'm sorry, Gwen, I just remember things that were more...

GWEN

What? *Important?*

MERLIN

I didn't say that.

GWEN

But it's what you meant.

MERLIN opens his mouth to reply but doesn't know what to say, deeply ashamed. GWEN takes a calming breath.

GWEN

The most important thing is to remember where we come from, Merlin. Without it, we wouldn't be where we are now.

They walk into a stall selling a variety of fabrics.

GWEN

Come on. Let's find those fabrics. I can make something for you, if you like? A scarf?

MERLIN lets out a small grin directed at the floor. They shop around and GWEN buys two bags worth of fabric. As they walk away ARTHUR reappears.

ARTHUR

Ah, there you are. I've been looking for you.

GWEN unhooks her arm from MERLIN and turns around. ARTHUR has a small box in his hand with a ribbon tied around it.

ARTHUR

Guinevere, I got this for you.

GWEN

(surprised and moved)  
For *me*?

ARTHUR

They told me not to open it in the shop, but I don't think anyone is watching now.

ARTHUR hands the box to GWEN.

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GWEN

Thank you.

GWEN carefully unties the ribbon and opens the box, lets out a small gasp. Inside is a mirrored steel dagger with serrations and a hooked tip. The handle carved from dark wood, a spiraling ivy pattern etched into it.

GWEN

I don't know what to say. It's beautiful, Arthur.

ARTHUR is beaming and GWEN can't look away from him. After a moment she turns to show MERLIN, but he has drifted away intensely looking at plastic cars at a children's toy vendor. Suddenly, there is a scream from across the market. ARTHUR pushes GWEN behind him and MERLIN is at their side as they spot a cart across the room on fire, being pushed towards the crowd by one of the security guards.

GUARD

You will burn, as you have burned us for generations!

ARTHUR reflexively reaches for his sword but nothing is there.

ARTHUR

Dammit. Merlin!

GWEN

(handing ARTHUR the dagger)  
Take this!

GUARD

You will burn, as you have burned us for generations!

The security guard pulls something out of his jacket, it is a white orb, glowing with pure magic and tosses it at the cart. ARTHUR races towards the man.

MERLIN

Arthur, wait!

MERLIN lunges towards ARTHUR. There is a loud bang, the orb comes in contact with the fire and explodes throwing everyone within range back, the glass ceiling shatters and rains down on the panicking crowd.

ARTHUR

Gwen! Guinevere! Are you alright?

ARTHUR is dirty and bloodied.

GWEN  
I'm fine.

ARTHUR  
(panicked)  
*Merlin!*

MERLIN is a few feet away, doubled over coughing into his hands. He is dirtied but otherwise unscathed. ARTHUR keeps one hand on GWEN's shoulder and reaches towards MERLIN. MERLIN looks at the chaos around him, then raises his palms to the ceiling, his eyes glow as the sky darkens and rain begins to fall putting out the fires. MERLIN sways but ARTHUR catches him and grabs hold of ARTHUR's shirt. ARTHUR leans in and says something into MERLIN's ear, causing MERLIN to close his eyes and take a deep breath. MERLIN opens his eyes and catches sight of something, hatred instantly in his eyes, ARTHUR and GWEN spin around to see MORDRED standing against the wall on the other side of the room watching them. After a moment MORDRED sprints towards a door. ARTHUR is after him without a second thought, MERLIN gets up and helps GWEN to her feet.

MERLIN  
Hurry! Hurry!

They follow him through the door and down a delivery corridor. MORDRED exits through a door at the end of the hall. ARTHUR slams into the door after him, it jerks open slightly but closes again. ARTHUR tries his best to open it but some force is keeping it closed, each time it cracks slightly a strong wind blows down the hall. Suddenly, the wind is gone and ARTHUR falls through the door, GWEN and MERLIN right behind him. They look down both directions of the alley but there is no one to be found.

ARTHUR  
Where is he?!

GWEN grabs MERLIN's arm and points to a body slumped against the wall. MERLIN leans down and checks his pulse.

MERLIN  
He's dead.

GWEN  
Dead?

MERLIN  
Mordred did this.

ARTHUR  
Where the hell is is?

MERLIN  
 (to a puddle)  
 Did you see what happened?  
 Anything?

GWEN and ARTHUR are taken back, confused.

MERLIN  
 Freya!

ARTHUR  
 Who the hell is Freya?

MERLIN  
 Obviously someone who's giving me  
 a taste of my own medicine. Freya!

ARTHUR kicks the puddle.

ARTHUR  
 Would you stop yelling at the  
 ground? Tell me how Mordred got  
 away! *Magic?*

MERLIN  
 How do you think he did it? By  
 flying?

ARTHUR  
 Don't be ridiculous! Couldn't he –  
*transport* himself or something?

MERLIN  
 No. That's not possible. Not with  
 Druid magic.

ARTHUR  
 Then how did he get away.

GWEN braces herself, ARTHUR looks like he is about to loose his temper and punch the wall, but he stops himself, placing his hand against the wall instead – thinking.

ARTHUR  
 Wallace said he's working with  
 someone! They could have magic,  
 too. They could have done this.

MERLIN  
 They can't have.

ARTHUR  
 Why not?

MERLIN

Because no one practices the Old Religion anymore! Transporting yourself, let alone two people, takes *immense* magic. The only people who could do it were *some* of the High Priestesses and *some* of the Catha, and they're all dead. It's powerful magic, and it takes decades to master.

ARTHUR

Can you do it?

MERLIN

(scoffs)

I've never tried! It's dangerous!

ARTHUR

In other words, you were scared?

MERLIN

Yes, I was scared! I'd rather drive. That way, I know I won't lose any limbs.

ARTHUR

Well, with the way you drive...

MERLIN

Like you're *such* a better driver!

ARTHUR

I am *such* a better driver.

MERLIN

Oh, right, you just don't do it because it's a servant's job, *sire*.

Sirens are going off in the distance and crowd has begun to form at the end of the alley, outside of the marketplace. GWEN notices a plume of pitch black smoke is rising behind a dumpster.

GWEN

(whispered)

Arthur, Merlin.

ARTHUR

Don't start *that* again! Focus on what we've learned today instead.

(MORE)

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ARTHUR (CONT'D)

Mordred's accomplice doesn't drive a car, and they're a lot braver than you, Mer-lin. That certainly doesn't narrow down the list.

The smoke vanishes, a pair of legs sticking out from behind the dumpster.

MERLIN

Oh my god! You are such a wanker! Could you just, for once, listen to what I'm - !

GWEN

(shouts)  
Arthur!  
(composes herself)  
He wasn't there before. I'm sure of it.

ARTHUR

Stay here.

ARTHUR takes out the dagger and begins to slowly walk towards the body. MERLIN stands by GWEN's side, ready to jump into action. ARTHUR rounds on the dumpster, and lets out a small gasp. He drops his hands to his sides.

GWEN

Arthur? What is it?

ARTHUR

I think we'll need to pull the car around.

GWEN and MERLIN share a perplexed look and walk towards ARTHUR. On the ground lies GAIUS, unconscious.

MERLIN

(choked)  
Gaius?

GWEN fights to hold back tears, she looks to ARTHUR who reaches out and clasps her hand in his.

FADE TO BLACK

**INT. NIGEL CYRUS'S OFFICE**

NIGEL CYRUS, a bald man in his mid-forties, is seated at his desk. MORDRED towers over him.

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MORDRED

We had a deal.

CYRUS

Yeah, and I honored the deal.

MORDRED

Your men were early. I didn't have time to finish my task. I said I would help you carry out the attack, but only after my business was done.

CYRUS

Everything was in position. We couldn't wait. Voodoo mind control only lasts for so long.

MORDRED balls his fists at his side, fighting to control his rage.

MORDRED

This will not happen again. Our arrangement is clear: You and your men give me whatever I need, and I will bring you one with more power than you've ever dreamed. Today, I did not have what I needed. That is your fault.

CYRUS

(leaning forward)

Watch your tone with me. I *have* given you everything you've needed. I've done it since the night your sniveling arse came begging to me two years ago. My men damn near ripped apart this whole bloody island searching for *what you needed!* Well, you have it. And what have you got to show for it? Nothing useful! So, yeah, I couldn't wait today. I'm tired of waiting on you.

MORDRED

In time.

CYRUS

(dismisses with a wave)

I need Old Religion magic, not your empty promises, boy.

That was the last straw. MORDRED's eyes glow and CYRUS is thrown against the wall, he clutches at his throat fighting for breathe. His eyes are bloodshot and he begins to turn purple.

MORGAUSE (O.S.)

That is enough.

(places a hand on his wrist)

He is still useful to us.

MORDRED releases his grip on CYRUS, who slides down the wall gasping. He looks down at the hand, then behind him at MORGAUSE.

MORGAUSE

You will adhere to our terms from now on. We shall hold up our end of the bargain, but you must be patient. And you must give Mordred free rein. He will no longer take part in your suicide missions.

(nodding toward MORDRED)

He has far more important things to worry about.

(back to CYRUS)

You will get what is coming to you, I assure you that. Until then, you and your men will stay out of Mordred's way. Are we clear?

CYRUS nods rapidly. MORGAUSE turns to MORDRED.

MORGAUSE

Come, now, we have work to do. And we mustn't leave Cenred alone too long with the prisoners. They may overpower him.

(walks out)

He always was weak.

MORDRED turns and follows her out.

FADE TO BLACK

#### **INT. MERLIN AND ARTHUR'S FLAT**

ARTHUR sits at the breakfast table, chin resting on his entwined fingers, deep in thought about the earlier events. GWEN enters the room and stands by the counter, arms crossed and head slightly tilted as she sizes him up.

GWEN

You're worried about Gaius.

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ARTHUR sits up straighter under her scrutiny.

ARTHUR  
(guiltily)  
It's not Gaius that worries me.

GWEN walks over to the breakfast table and twists her hands around the back of the chair across from ARTHUR.

ARTHUR  
He's still out there.

GWEN  
We will find him, Arthur.

GWEN walks around the table and stands at his back, her palms slip beneath the collar of his shirt, she presses her cheek into his temple, and quickly replaces it with her lips. ARTHUR freezes, he is about to open his mouth and confess until the door opens and MERLIN walks in. ARTHUR jumps up and away from GWEN, guilt all over his face. GWEN turns to MERLIN.

GWEN  
How is he?

MERLIN  
Still resting.

ARTHUR  
*Still?!* Shouldn't you wake him?

MERLIN  
Not yet. I think we should talk first.

ARTHUR looks up at MERLIN wide eyed.

MERLIN  
About Mordred. He's brought back Gwen and now Gaius, and I don't think they're the only ones.

ARTHUR  
That unconscious man Mordred was dragging on the CCTV footage. You think - ?

GWEN  
He may be someone from Camelot. All those people he's killed, he did it so he could bring someone back?

ARTHUR

(shaking his head)

There are rules to magic, a life for a life. If this is true, he's brought back eight people, including Gaius.

GWEN

Maybe more that we don't know about.

ARTHUR

If he's resurrecting those he knew from Camelot, my men could be back. Leon. Percival.

GWEN

(breathless)

Elyan.

MERLIN

(whispered)

Gwaine.

ARTHUR

(angrily)

Then, why are we standing around doing nothing? Mordred could be keeping them prisoner somewhere!

GWEN

You must think of the consequences, Arthur. What reason has Mordred for doing this? He knows you're alive. He may want you to go looking for them. He knows you'd never leave your friends to suffer. You mustn't play into his hands.

MERLIN

That can't be the only reason.

(crosses his arms)

He went through a lot of trouble for these resurrections. He killed eight people for it. There are easier ways of setting a trap.

(shrugs)

Unless he can't control who he brings back.

ARTHUR

Then, why bring anyone back at all if he doesn't know who he'll get? There's no point.

MERLIN

There's a point if he's trying to bring back someone specific.

ARTHUR

You don't you think he's brought back - ?

MERLIN

I think -  
(carefully)  
- we'd know if he did.

ARTHUR

Then who are the last three?

ARTHUR rubs his eyes in exhaustion and MERLIN hangs his head equally exhausted.

GWEN

The first may have been Mordred himself. If he really is working with someone, they may have resurrected him.

ARTHUR

Who would want to resurrect *Mordred*?

GWEN

The Druids - The Neo-Druids. The ones who attacked the marketplace today. Mordred's being there couldn't have been a coincidence.

ARTHUR

That's right! Merlin, you said they don't practice the Old Religion. They may have needed someone who does.

MERLIN

I don't think so...

ARTHUR

Who *else* could have brought him back? They're an organization of magic users! It *has* to do with them!

MERLIN doesn't respond.

ARTHUR

If you have a better guess, you should share, *Mer-lin*. You're the one meant to be the expert on *magic*.

GWEN

Arthur.

ARTHUR closes his eyes and pinches the bridge of his nose. After a moment.

GWEN

Who is Freya?

ARTHUR's eyes snap open and to MERLIN.

MERLIN

She was someone I knew in Camelot.

GWEN

(perplexed)  
I don't remember her.

MERLIN

(looking down)  
She wasn't a citizen. A bounty hunter brought her into the city.

ARTHUR

(vaguely remembering)  
She was a sorceress.

MERLIN

She was... something else.

GWEN

(knowingly)  
You loved her.

MERLIN

I barely knew her. But yes. I almost ran away with her.

ARTHUR pushes off his chair angrily and paces away from them, his back turned to MERLIN. MERLIN and GWEN look at him in confusion.

MERLIN

It was a long time ago. I had to hide who I was, and I had to bear the weight of my destiny. She understood what that meant.

(MORE)

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MERLIN (CONT'D)

She knew what it meant to be afraid and different. I had never met someone like me before. I was young.

ARTHUR

So, now you go around naming puddles after her?

It was easier for ARTHUR to be angry than feel guilty.

MERLIN

No. She's dead, but her spirit lives on. She's helped me through the years. She's been my link to Avalon. To me, she can reveal herself in all waters, not just Avalon's. I thought she'd seen how Mordred had gotten away. Usually, she answers me. I don't know why she didn't this time.

ARTHUR

Why haven't you told me this?

MERLIN

It's in my journals.

ARTHUR

For god's — You know I don't read your journals, Merlin!

(angry)

What else aren't you telling me?

MERLIN flinches as if he'd been hit. Now it was easier to feel guilty than be angry.

GWEN

Arthur!

ARTHUR

This is getting us nowhere. We need answers.

MERLIN stares at ARTHUR for a moment.

MERLIN

(with a curt nod)

Right.

MERLIN turns around and walks to the bedroom.

ARTHUR

Where are you going?

MERLIN returns with a small velvet pouch.

ARTHUR  
(groaning)  
Not this again.

MERLIN unknots the string on the pouch and pulls out an old deck of cards.

MERLIN  
You *asked* for answers.

ARTHUR  
I didn't ask for *those*!

MERLIN  
Well, this is what we've got for now. Sit down.

GWEN  
What are they?

GWEN sits down at MERLIN's side and watches him shuffle the cards.

MERLIN  
Tarot cards. Mystics have used them for centuries to interpret events and guide decision making.  
(fondly)  
I got them in Salem in the late 1600s from a skilled Wiccan, she taught me all kinds of incantations, charms and potions - and how to read the cards.

MERLIN sets the deck down in front of him and taps the top twice to cleanse them.

GWEN  
(skeptical)  
They predict the future?

MERLIN opens his mouth to respond but ARTHUR beats him to it, repeating what he's heard a thousand times before.

ARTHUR  
(droning with an eye roll)  
They give insights, not answers.

GWEN looks impressed. MERLIN looks smug.



MERLIN  
They're supposed to reveal hidden  
truths. It's all about  
perspective.  
(nods to the floor)  
Arthur.

ARTHUR rolls his eyes and sits down cross-legged opposite  
MERLIN.

MERLIN  
You know the drill.

ARTHUR puts his hand on top of the deck.

MERLIN  
Gwen?

GWEN tentatively places her hand on top of ARTHUR's. MERLIN  
puts his hand on top of her's, his eyes glow for a brief  
moment.

MERLIN  
An extra helping of magic never  
hurt anyone.  
(to ARTHUR)  
Ask a question.

ARTHUR  
How should I know? You're the one  
— .

MERLIN  
Arthur.

ARTHUR  
Fine. What's Mordred's plan?

MERLIN  
Too impersonal.

ARTHUR  
What does Mordred's plan have to  
do with..?

MERLIN  
(smirking)  
You're destiny?

ARTHUR  
Merlin!

MERLIN

That's the question we're going with.

They remove their hands from the deck and MERLIN draws five cards, arranging them in a simple top-down spread, all facing down. MERLIN flips over the first card - *Six of Cups*.

MERLIN

(smiling to GWEN)

There's a reunion. But I think we already knew that.

(his smile fades, to ARTHUR)

Don't let the past cloud your judgment. It's a new world out there, remember?

MERLIN flips over the second card - *The Lovers*. MERLIN looks at ARTHUR with a broken look in his eyes.

MERLIN

There's a choice to be made and someone is going to be left behind.

MERLIN looks down and rapidly blinks, ARTHUR clears his throat. MERLIN flips over the third card and gasps - *The Ten of Swords*. MERLIN swallows hard and flips over the next card with a shaking hand - *The Magician, reversed*. MERLIN shakily lets out the breath he was holding.

ARTHUR

Merlin! Say something!

GWEN

Merlin, what are they telling you?

GWEN reaches out to touch MERLIN's arm in comfort but he pulls away. MERLIN flips over the last card - *The Wheel of Fortune*.

ARTHUR

Merlin, what does it mean?

MERLIN

Change is coming.

FADE TO BLACK

**INT. MERLIN AND ARTHUR'S BEDROOM**

MERLIN is on the floor with the tarot cards spread in front of him, he looks exhausted.

Made in Highland

ARTHUR  
Anything interesting?

MERLIN is startled, looks up at ARTHUR and runs his hand through his hair then back down at the cards.

MERLIN  
Not sure.

ARTHUR walks over to MERLIN and sits down behind him, stretching his legs into a V around him, pulling MERLIN against his chest and placing his chin on MERLIN's shoulder.

ARTHUR  
You should take a break.

MERLIN settles against ARTHUR and closes his eyes.

MERLIN  
Maybe for a minute.

ARTHUR  
For more than a minute. Get some sleep. The future isn't going to change over night.  
(pause)  
You seemed spooked earlier. What did the cards mean?

MERLIN  
They could mean a lot of things.

ARTHUR  
You said you always knew in your gut what they were trying to say.

MERLIN  
I'm not so sure this time.

ARTHUR goes quiet for a moment, deep in thought. He reaches forward and searches through the cards until he finds the one he is looking for - *The Lovers*. MERLIN freezes.

ARTHUR  
Is this what's really worrying you? I made vows to you, Merlin. I meant them.

MERLIN  
(sarcastically)  
Is that what's holding you back? You're too honorable to break a promise?

ARTHUR

That's right. If not for that, I'd drop you in a minute.

He wraps his arms tightly around MERLIN and places a kiss to his neck. After a moment MERLIN lets out a deep breath.

MERLIN

Maybe you're sure of your feelings now, but that could change. It belongs to the Major Arcana, which means whatever decision is made is permanent.

(with realizing it)

Do you still love her?

ARTHUR stiffens.

ARTHUR

(warning)

Merlin.

MERLIN

Do you? I'll understand.

MERLIN turns his neck to look at ARTHUR.

ARTHUR

I'm trying to figure that out myself. Merlin, you must know how hard this is. But I would never leave you behind. Not after all you've done.

MERLIN turns forward, looking angrily at the cards.

MERLIN

You don't owe me anything.

ARTHUR

I owe you everything. Take some credit for once in your life.

After a long moment, ARTHUR get's up and offers his hand to help MERLIN up.

ARTHUR

Rest, Merlin.

MERLIN shakes his head and walks towards the door.

MERLIN

I'm going to sit with Gaius.

(MORE)

MERLIN (CONT'D)  
He shouldn't wake up without me  
being there.

FADE TO BLACK

**INT. GAIUS' BEDROOM**

GAIUS is laying in bed, MERLIN asleep at the bottom edge, his back against the bed frame.

GAIUS  
Merlin? Merlin, my boy, wake up.

GAIUS shakes MERLIN by the shoulder, who grunts in response.

GAIUS  
Merlin.

MERLIN  
Fivemoreminutes, Gaius.

MERLIN's eyes shoot open and he shoots up off the bed.

MERLIN  
Gaius!

GAIUS  
Where on earth are we, Merlin? And  
what's that thing on your face?

MERLIN  
My face - ?

MERLIN reaches up to touch his face, not sure what to expect, only finds his beard. Realizing that is what GAIUS is talking about, lets out a laugh. ARTHUR appears in the door.

ARTHUR  
Merlin, have you seen my - Gaius!  
You're awake!

GAIUS' looks at ARTHUR wide-eyed in shock.

GAIUS  
Arthur... how?

GAIUS turns back to MERLIN, glaring like he had done something dangerously wrong.

ARTHUR  
I could ask you the same.  
(MORE)

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ARTHUR (CONT'D)  
It's good to have you back with  
us, Gaius.

GAIUS  
Back with you?

ARTHUR  
We'll explain, but first,  
Guinevere will want to know you're  
awake.

ARTHUR leaves. GAIUS turns to MERLIN.

GAIUS  
Merlin? What have you done?

MERLIN looks down at his hands. GAIUS narrows his eyes at  
MERLIN, then looks around the room taking in everything.

GAIUS  
Merlin. How long did you wait?

MERLIN's eyes start to shine, he blinks fast to prevent the  
tears from falling. GAIUS lets out a breath.

GAIUS  
That long?

MERLIN  
Longer, much longer.

MERLIN can't hold the tears in any longer.

MERLIN  
I missed you.

GAIUS  
Come here, my boy.

GAIUS reaches to MERLIN and takes him in his arms, MERLIN's  
tears falling freely.

GAIUS  
I know, Merlin. I know.

FADE TO BLACK

**INT. MERLIN AND ARTHUR'S FLAT**

MERLIN, ARTHUR, GWEN and GAIUS are all sitting in the living  
room, having just finished recounting everything to GAIUS.

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GAIUS

Well, what have you all be doing,  
sitting around? What are we going  
to do about it?

ARTHUR

*Finally!*

GAIUS

Merlin, get out every book on  
magic you have. We have to figure  
out how Mordred brought you all  
back.

ARTHUR groans.

GAIUS

We cannot go in blindly, Arthur.  
*Think!*

GWEN picks up several books and takes them to sit down at the  
kitchen counter. ARTHUR grabs a grimoire and plops back into  
the couch.

30 MINUTES LATER

GWEN looks over to ARTHUR and tries to give him an encouraging  
smile, but her eyes trail down to ARTHUR's feet that he had  
tucked under MERLIN, who was seated on the floor in front of  
him, idly stroking ARTHUR's leg seemingly unaware he was doing  
it. GWEN's eyebrows pull together. Suddenly MERLIN jolts into  
an upright position.

GAIUS

Merlin, have you found something?

MERLIN

I think so.

MERLIN puts the ancient book down on the coffee table and  
rushes over to a bookshelf, rummaging through the books until  
he found the one he was looking for. He returned with a small  
paperback book - *London A-Z* - and an out of date atlas, he  
opens a map from within both.

MERLIN

The earth is covered by these  
mystical- um, call them pathways.  
They're how magic flows through  
the world. They're straight lines,  
mostly, traveling across lands and  
oceans and everything, but a lot  
of them have offshoots that feed  
into the larger lines. Like canals  
to a river.

GWEN

Or a river to an ocean?

GAIUS

You're speaking of the ley lines. The first High Priestesses and Sorcerers of the Old Religion built monuments to mark the lines' progression. It is said the Great Stones of Nemeton are one such marker.

MERLIN

Stonehenge, right. And markings like churches or carvings in the hills.

MERLIN draws two perpendicular lines through the map of the UK.

MERLIN

Britain has two major lines, St. Michael's and Canterbury.

MERLIN points to where the two lines meet.

MERLIN

This is where the Crystal Cave was before it disappeared. It's where all the ley lines derive their energy.

ARTHUR

(pointing to the map)  
The Canterbury line goes through London.

MERLIN

(beaming)  
That's right!

MERLIN puts the map of London on top of the other and draws one straight line to represent Canterbury, and two triangles intercepting the line.

MERLIN

These are the lines offshoots in the city. And these -

MERLIN draws several small circles on the map.

MERLIN

- are where the murders took place.



GWEN

They all took place on the lines?

GAIUS

You're suggesting Mordred is drawing power from the lines for a resurrection spell. That may very well be the case. The Canterbury line intersects with St. Michael's, and look.

GAIUS pulls the UK map back to the top.

GAIUS

Avalon rests along St. Michael's line.

ARTHUR

Glastonbury. That's where I was brought back.

GAIUS

Because Avalon called you forth, Arthur. It was Mordred who brought us back, not destiny. You are a different case.

MERLIN

Glastonbury is the strongest point on the line. The other great point of magical energy is one of its offshoots - here. Winchester.

GWEN AND ARTHUR

Camelot.

MERLIN

Camelot. It's a hotspot for magical energy. I think it's why the creatures of magic have overrun it since their return. They come through Avalon, and they're drawn from one major point to the other.

ARTHUR

But if London isn't a strong point, why has Mordred picked it for the resurrections? Wouldn't it be easier to take them directly from Avalon?

MERLIN scratches the back of his head.

MERLIN

A greater population, maybe?

GAIUS

Or he may be influenced by these Neo-Druids you believe him to be working with? Perhaps they have him based here in the city.

GWEN

He wouldn't dare be so close!

ARTHUR

Unless he's taunting us.

GAIUS

Well, there's one way to find out. Mordred is not strong enough to draw such immense power from the ley lines. He'd need a catalyst — a powerful relic of the Old Religion.

GWEN

I thought all the relics were lost?

GAIUS

It's possible the Neos found one.  
(to MERLIN)  
If such a thing has been recently used so close to us, you should be able to sense its power, Merlin. It can lead us to where Mordred is keeping our friends as prisoners.

MERLIN

(deflecting)

Only if Mordred is keeping the relic in the same place.

GAIUS

I see no reason why he shouldn't. He'll want them both somewhere guarded, and close at hand.

ARTHUR

Great! Merlin, get to it! Doing — *whatever* it is you do. Find my men.

MERLIN

(Scoffs)

Arthur, Mordred's used the relic all over the city. It won't be that easy to find where he is! If he's even in London!

GAIUS

Yes, but you must try, Merlin. We have no other way.

MERLIN

I do. I could scry for them.

GAIUS

Scry?

MERLIN

Yeah. It'll give us a more accurate location.

MERLIN gets up and walks to the bookshelf, pulls out a carved wooden box and retrieves a purple crystal hanging at the bottom of a chain, he then smooths out the map of the UK.

MERLIN

If Mordred is using a relic, it will have left a magical signature on those its resurrected. Like a footprint, but invisible. With this I can trace the energy it left in you two back to the source.

GAIUS

I have never heard of such a method in the Old Religion, Merlin.

MERLIN

That's because it isn't the Old Religion. It's Wiccan. Technology's improved since the days of Camelot.

MERLIN grins at his joke, but no one laughs and his face drops. He turns to GWEN and GAIUS.

MERLIN

I'll need something from you first - your blood.

ARTHUR

They're what? Absolutely not! Merlin, you can't be serious!

MERLIN

Just a drop! It's not like a need a gallon or anything. Just enough to make the spell work. It's *Wiccan*, Arthur! They like blood spells; don't ask me why!

ARTHUR

What if it backfires? We don't even know what relic Mordred is using. It may be dangerous. It could harm her!

MERLIN

That's very unlikely.

GAIUS opens his mouth to say something but can't get a word in.

ARTHUR

But it could happen?

GWEN

Arthur, I trust Merlin.

(to MERLIN)

Whatever you need, you may have.

MERLIN nods, then turns to GAIUS who nods in consent, then to ARTHUR. After a moment ARTHUR sighs and waves his hand. MERLIN gets up to find a knife in the kitchen, then returns.

MERLIN

This will only sting a bit.

A small crimson bubble rises to the surface, MERLIN presses her finger to the crystal. MERLIN turns the GAIUS and repeats the action. ARTHUR leans down to GWEN and grabs her hand to inspect as if she had been mortally wounded.

GWEN

I've had worse.

ARTHUR

Of course.

ARTHUR drops her hand. MERLIN dangles the crystal over the map.

MERLIN

Show me what I seek.

They all watch expectantly but nothing happens. Suddenly, the pendant starts to make small circles, growing wider and wider. MERLIN guides the crystal down the map passing London, Camelot, Avalon until it comes to a stop at one of the southern-most points. MERLIN jerks the crystal up and into his palm.

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MERLIN  
Tintagel. That's where Mordred is.

ARTHUR  
That's in the Republic of Exeter -  
Chancellor Brown's territory.

GWEN  
Is that a problem?

ARTHUR  
No.

MERLIN  
Sort of.

GWEN turns to MERLIN, her hands on her hips.

MERLIN  
The Republic doesn't usually let  
outsiders into their borders  
unless they have official  
business. Newcomers are detained  
for hours while their credentials  
are verified. If we want to avoid  
that, we can't go through the  
checkpoints.

ARTHUR  
Then, we'll have to find another  
way. We're going to rescue my men,  
Merlin. I don't care what it  
takes.

GWEN  
If this Chancellor Brown is really  
so adamant with keeping people  
out, he no doubt has patrols  
surveying the areas closest to the  
border. If you're caught, you risk  
Mordred learning you're coming for  
him.

MERLIN  
We'll need to travel with someone  
who can move freely. Someone with  
credentials.

ARTHUR  
Please don't suggest who I think  
you're about to.

MERLIN gets up and walks towards the kitchen to retrieve the  
walkie talkie on the counter.

MERLIN  
 We need him.  
 (into the walkie)  
 Wallace, come in.

WALLACE  
 (through the walkie)  
 Wallace here. Over.

MERLIN  
 Need a favor.

WALLACE  
 Another one? Enough's enough,  
 Merlin. I'm kinda in the middle of  
 doing my job here – you know,  
 keeping the city safe.

ARTHUR  
 (snorts)  
 Good job with that.

WALLACE  
 Why should I drop what I'm doing  
 for you *again*? Over.

MERLIN  
 Because it's dangerous and we'll  
 be breaking half a dozen laws in  
 the process.

WALLACE  
 (after a moment)  
 Well, hell, you should have led  
 with that. Over.

FADE TO BLACK

**INT. TINTAGEL CASTLE HOTEL BASEMENT**

MORDRED walks down a dark hall, holding a gas lantern in one hand. He turns into room, in the dim light of the lantern we see LEON, PERCIVAL, ELYAN AND GWAINÉ in various states of restraint, those who are conscious grimace at the light. MORDRED pulls four half loaves of stale bread from a bag hanging from his wrist and toss one in the general direction of each knight.

ELYAN  
 (croaking)  
 Great, moldy bread again. My  
 favorite.

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MORDRED

There is a feast waiting for you upstairs. I picked up food fresh from the town today. It does not have to be this way.

PERCIVAL

I see no other way.

MORDRED

There is. I have offered it time and time again. You must know I take no pleasure in keeping you like this, but you have given me no reason to trust you. *Please*. We are friends. We must stick together.

ELYAN

From what I've heard, you didn't wish to stick together when you betrayed us.

MORDRED

(fighting to stay calm)  
I was the one who was betrayed. You must believe me. Join me. You have not seen the world outside. It is ripe for the taking. We can live like kings!

LEON

(slowly)  
We have a king.

MORDRED's fist tenses around the bag he is holding.

MORDRED

He is *dead*!

ELYAN

They said the same thing about you.

GWAINÉ lets out a raspy gasp of air surprising MORDRED - he though GWAINÉ was unconscious.

GWAINÉ

And you should have stayed that way.

MORDRED

You do not mean that.

PERCIVAL  
He doesn't? Could have fooled me.

LEON  
We will never join you. We would  
rather die.

MORDRED  
We shall see.

MORDRED turns and leaves the room, taking the light with him.

LEON (O.S.)  
Long live the king!

PERCIVAL and ELYAN join the chant, their voices fading as  
MORDRED walks away.

FADE TO BLACK

**INT. MERLIN AND ARTHUR'S FLAT - SUNSET**

GAIUS stands at the window in the kitchen, his expression  
contemplative and mournful.

MERLIN  
Looking out the window will do  
that. I never do it.

GAIUS  
It takes time to rebuild a city,  
Merlin; much more to rebuild a  
world. You cannot expect it to  
happen on its own.

MERLIN  
Suppose that's up to us, right?  
Caretakers for humanity.

GAIUS  
Well, someone's got to be. It is  
yours and Arthur's destiny.

MERLIN lets out a sound - something between a sigh and a laugh.

GAIUS  
I'm certain you've done your part  
thus far in the rebuilding. What  
happened in the days after the  
War, Merlin?



MERLIN

People had to stay underground for a few months. There was too much radiation in the air. And it was dark all the time – like twilight, for nearly eight months before the dust dissipated. And then even the rain was still black for a time. The dust still comes back every few months, but it's nothing like it was. It's mostly harmless now.

MERLIN makes a bitter sound.

MERLIN

We didn't even get it that bad here. It was worse in other places. At least, here, not everything died. There were still animals and plants that survived the Winter. There are some places... well, there's nothing left of them now.

GAIUS

These places, were they the enemy?

MERLIN

There was no enemy, just people on different sides. By the end of it, there were too many sides to keep track of. None of it matters now, anyway. All they are were poor people who died and all they left behind were people who wish they had.

GAIUS turns to look at MERLIN, sizing him up.

GAIUS

When did the world become so broken?

*(When did you become so broken?)*

MERLIN

The day Arthur died. Everything that happened after that was a direct result.

GAIUS

Now, Merlin, that cannot be true.

MERLIN

No, but it feels like that.

MERLIN blinks, trying to stop the tears. He looks into GAIUS' eyes, guard up - he would not cry.

MERLIN  
The truth is, Gaius, the world  
ended for me a long time before  
the bombs went off.

MERLIN walks away to put some dishes into the sink.

GAIUS  
Arthur and Gwen seem very distant  
with each other.

MERLIN  
Have they? I've not noticed.

GAIUS  
I would have thought they'd be  
happy to be together again.

MERLIN begins aggressively cleaning a pan.

MERLIN  
I'm certain they are.

GAIUS  
Yes, but there's something there,  
Merlin. They're acting like  
blushing children around one  
another, like they did before they  
were married. Surely, you've  
caught on to *that*.

MERLIN huffs and slams the pan into the drying rack next to the sink.

MERLIN  
Maybe they just don't know how to  
act around each other. Anyone  
would be a little awkward in their  
place.

GAIUS  
Their place?

MERLIN won't look at GAIUS, he busies himself looking for a towel to dry his hands on.

MERLIN  
Yeah. Gwen lived a whole life on  
her own after Arthur's death, and  
he's been back for over two years  
now. He's had to adapt quickly.  
(MORE)

MERLIN (CONT'D)

Maybe they don't know where they fit in each other's lives anymore. They're both changed people since their days together.

MERLIN turns back to GAIUS, having run out of things to occupy himself with.

GAIUS

(accusing)

Are you suggesting they no longer love one another?

MERLIN

No! But maybe they're not in love anymore.

GAIUS

Please, Merlin. No one changes *that* much. True love is not something that perishes so easily.

MERLIN looks away, finding it difficult to breath.

GAIUS

(preaching)

They have no reason to be acting in such a way. They're married.

MERLIN

But they're not anymore, are they? The laws of Camelot don't exactly hold up anymore. Legally, they aren't husband and wife. They haven't filled out any documents.

GAIUS

Surely, you know marriage is more than the signing of *documents*, Merlin. It is a union, an unbreakable bond.

MERLIN

Yeah, well, Arthur is now bound to another.

GAIUS is shocked, confused and dismayed - just the reaction MERLIN was sadistically hoping for.

GAIUS

To whom?

MERLIN

Me.

Made in Highland

After a moment, GAIUS tilts his head down slightly.

GAIUS  
Merlin...

MERLIN  
We're married. It'll be a year in  
a couple of months. Can you  
believe it?

GAIUS  
Indeed.

MERLIN  
I take it you don't approve?

GAIUS  
I'm afraid not, Merlin. You have  
severely abused your position.

MERLIN  
My position? What do you see me as  
to Arthur? A bodyguard? A crash  
test dummy? A stepping-stone? Is  
that all I am good for - to  
protect and serve? Am I not  
allowed even a moment of  
happiness, after everything I've  
been through?!

GAIUS  
If destiny had intended you and  
Arthur to be - .

MERLIN cuts GAIUS off shaking his head.

MERLIN  
(raising his voice)  
It's got nothing to do with  
destiny, Gaius! Can I do nothing  
for myself, just once? I love him.  
Not because I'm supposed to or not  
supposed to. Because I do. I've  
loved him for a long time - for as  
long as I can remember.

MERLIN doesn't know how to read the expression on GAIUS' face.

MERLIN  
Did you not know?

GAIUS  
Of course, I knew, Merlin.  
(MORE)

GAIUS (CONT'D)

But I never thought you'd act on such a thing.

MERLIN balls his hands into fists at his sides.

MERLIN

For your information, *he* acted on it *first*. God, what do you think I've done, hypnotized him? Put a love spell on him? He's not a hostage! Is it so implausible that he could love me back? Because he does!

GAIUS

There is no need to get so defensive, my boy. The Merlin *I* know would never use magic for such a thing.

MERLIN

(bitterly)

Am I not the Merlin you know?

GAIUS

I didn't mean - .

MERLIN

No, maybe I'm not.

MERLIN turns to leave the flat.

GAIUS

Does Gwen know?

MERLIN halts, his shoulder tense. He doesn't turn around.

MERLIN

(whisper)

We're trying to find the best way to tell her.

GAIUS

Well, you'd better find it soon. She deserves better than that.

MERLIN

Yeah.

MERLIN leaves.

FADE OUT

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