

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

Episode Four
A Quest

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FADE IN

INT. MERLIN AND ARTHUR'S FLAT

GWEN stands at the window in the kitchen, watching MERLIN and LANCELOT exit the building and walk to the motorbike parked on the curb. MERLIN hands LANCELOT ARTHUR'S bright red helmet, who places it on his head after some instruction from MERLIN and fumbles with the straps. MERLIN laughs and connects the two pieces for him. GWEN sighs and smiles out the window, she senses a presence to her side and turns slightly to find GAIUS.

GAIUS

He'll return soon, Gwen. Do not worry about him.

GWEN

I worry for them all. Even Merlin.

GAIUS

He is more than capable of taking care of himself.

GWEN

Yes, he certainly thinks so, which is why we must worry. He's changed. Though I can't say I wonder why. Fifteen hundred years...

GWEN lets out a sad sigh.

GWEN

It appears he and Arthur have grown very close as of late.

GAIUS shuffles slightly.

GAIUS

(evenly)

They have always been close, my lady.

GWEN fully turns to GAIUS, demanding his full attention.

GWEN

There is something between them.

GAIUS

(sighs)

It is not for me to say.

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GWEN nods and turns back to the window, just in time to see LANCELOT get on the back of the motorbike, he glances up at the building as they zoom off. GWEN bites her lower lip and smiles.

INT. NIGEL CYRUS' OFFICES

One of CYRUS' assistants leads MORGANA, MORGAUSE, MORDRED and CENRED down a hall towards study where CYRUS awaits. Outside the door MORGAUSE turns to CENRED.

MORGAUSE
(hisses)
Stay out here.

CENRED narrows his eyes at her in offense.

CENRED
I think not. I will be present,
should yourself and the Lady
Morgana need protection.

MORGAUSE
We would find a more skilled guard
in a field mouse.

MORGANA tries to hide her grin. CENRED glares at MORGAUSE angrily.

MORGAUSE
Remain here and ensure we are not
disturbed.

The assistant opens the door to reveal the study. Large windows overlook the training grounds, stag heads mounted on the walls, and antique furniture situated around lavish rugs. A dining table is been set up in the centre of the study with four places set. At the far end CYRUS pretends to read a document. The assistant announces their arrival and CYRUS looks up.

CYRUS
Come in, come in!

They enter the room, and the assistant closes the door behind them, CENRED glaring in as it closes. CYRUS gets up and walks towards the group. CYRUS eyes MORGANA up and down taking in her beauty.

CYRUS
Morgana Pendragon.

MORGANA works hard to control herself.

CYRUS

I have been waiting a long time to meet you.

MORGANA

Lord Cyrus.

MORGANA extends her hand for him to kiss, but he shakes it.

CYRUS

Please, call me Nigel.

MORGANA forces a fake smile.

MORGANA

Nigel, of course. I've heard so much about you.

CYRUS

I'm sure you have. Please, sit.

CYRUS pulls out the chair opposite his and MORGANA sits. MORGAUSE and MORDRED are left to seat themselves. CYRUS returns to his seat, lifts a bell at his side and instantly a door opens in the corner of the room. Two servants enter pushing a cart with four covered dishes. They stop at each seat, place a dish on the table and remove the cover. As they approach MORGANA she notices they both have black iron collars around their necks.

CYRUS

I must say, when Mordred told me about you, I wasn't expecting someone so beautiful. Maybe I should have, if your sister is anything to go by.

MORDRED glares at CYRUS, MORGAUSE remains neutral. MORGANA plasters a wide, fake smile on her face, this was going to be to easy.

MORGANA

You flatter me. It means a great deal coming from a leader such as yourself. I have seen your army train, and I am impressed.

CYRUS

We're the most powerful army in Britain. The five provinces have come to fear me because of it. Even the tribes up in Scotland are scared of me.

MORGANA

I'm certain they are. Tell me, what lands have you under your control?

CYRUS

I control the entire north regions of what was once England, all the way from Yorkshire and Humber, and up into the Scottish Lowlands.

MORGANA holds up her hand to silence him.

MORGANA

I do not speak of the territory you claimed after the War, but since then. You claim each of the five provinces bows to you. Surely, you've taken lands from them?

CYRUS

(panicked)

Of course! We have embassies in every province. It is important to keep an eye on their governments.

MORGANA

(unimpressed)

Embassies?

CYRUS

Oh! I'm sorry! An embassy is an office for my representatives, so that my interests are seen to in the other provinces. I can't be everywhere at once.

CYRUS laughs at his own joke and the servants, who stand at the wall behind him, force out pitiful chuckles.

MORGANA

Yes, I am aware of what an embassy is. But I speak of lands forcibly taken and claimed for your own.

CYRUS

The provinces are already under my control. For now, I don't see a point in going to war with them, as long as they stay in line.

MORGAUSE

With an army of this magnitude,
you should easily be able to crush
any opponents?

MORGAUSE raises an eyebrow in a challenge.

MORGANA

Now, sister, come. Nigel is right
in his reasoning. There is little
point in risking his soldiers. Let
them continue their training. They
must keep their strength for the
resistance brewing.

CYRUS

Resistance?

MORGANA

Well, not yet. But it's only a
matter of time. Such things happen
when you become too lenient with
your subjects.

CYRUS

Trust me, I am far from *lenient*.
In fact, all of Britain will know
my strength soon enough. It's why
you're here.

MORGANA

(thin smile)

I was wondering when we'd get to
that. Tell me, why *am* I here?

CYRUS pauses for dramatics and leans in to divulge.

CYRUS

It's for a special project we've
been working on — of my own
design. We're making a bomb.

MORGANA blinks at him. MORDRED clears his throat.

MORDRED

A weapon that causes an explosion.

CYRUS

Yes, that's right! But *bigger*!
This bomb will have two hundred
times the power of the *Lewinsky*!

(pause)

Uh, the nuke the Americans dropped
on Iraq.

(MORE)

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CYRUS (CONT'D)

It wiped out everything in fifty kilometers.

MORGANA tilts her head in impatience.

CYRUS

But my bomb will do more than that! It will wipe out entire cities, and *only* target the non-magic users.

MORGANA sits up straight to show her interest.

MORDRED

How could you achieve such a thing?

CYRUS

The bomb isn't made with science, but with magic. It feeds off magic, making it stronger. All we need is for every Neo-Druid to direct their spells and rituals to the creation of the bomb.

MORGAUSE

I take it you've tested this weapon? This isn't just a theory?

CYRUS

It's no theory. We *have* tested it on multiple occasions. You were present at the last one –
(gestures towards MORDRED)
– at the marketplace in London. We've been looking for the right way to detonate it.

MORGANA

And how many people did your bomb kill at this marketplace?

CYRUS

(proud)

The bomb was able to target four non-magicals. Fifteen more were killed or wounded by the blast.

MORGANA

(skeptical)

Nineteen people? Is that all? Your weapon doesn't seem very powerful.

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CYRUS

Not yet! But Mordred and Morgause here have told me your power of the Old Religion is unparalleled.

MORGANA

I don't deny it.

CYRUS

That is what I need to strengthen my bomb! You are the key to our success! With your power, the bomb would be perfected! It would destroy anyone in its path! Your will alone would detonate it!

MORGANA

My will?

CYRUS

Well.

(shrugs)

You would not be able to detonate without my express permission.

MORGANA raises an eyebrow.

MORGANA

So, I would be working for you?

CYRUS

(chuckles)

Morgana. Everyone in Britain works for me.

MORGANA gives him a look.

MORGANA

Please, call me Lady Morgana.

CYRUS' expression drops but he controls himself.

CYRUS

Lady Morgana.

(a beat)

I believe we have the same values. We both wish to live in a world that is peaceful for we who practice magic. No longer, can we allow the non-magicals to oppress our people. If they will not join our new, better world, they must be destroyed. I believe, together, we can achieve that goal.

MORGANA looks to MORGAUSE, then MORDRED, pretending to silently confer with them.

MORGANA

I would be happy to do all I can to help you achieve your better world.

CYRUS

Excellent. *Excellent!*

MORGANA tosses her napkin on her plate.

MORGANA

Now that we're in agreement, take me to see this bomb.

CYRUS

Yes! Absolutely! But first, I need to make sure you're as powerful as they say.

MORGANA's hands ball into fists under the table.

MORGANA

Of course.

MORGANA's eyes glow gold, and nothing appears to happen. Suddenly, one of the servants begins to cough, his face illuminating red from within and veins visibly black. The other servant gasps with tears in their eyes but does nothing to help. MORGAUSE does not look up from sipping her drink, smirking around the rim of the cup. MORDRED watches on with a neutral expression. The servant doubles over and begins to cough up blood, he collapses. The light fades leaving behind a charred corpse. CYRUS turns to MORGANA barely masking his fear with forced humor.

MORGANA

Shall I show you again?

The second servant yelps and instantly clamps their hands over their mouth.

CYRUS

No, no, I think I've seen all I need to.

CYRUS gets up and walks to MORGANA, offering his arm.

CYRUS

If you'll follow me?

MORGANA gets up and links their arms. CYRUS leads MORGANA towards the door, MORDRED and MORGAUSE get up and follow.

INT. BOMB ROOM

The group approaches a locked door, guarded by two armed soldiers. They both greet CYRUS with curt "SIRs" and one of them produces a key, unlocks the door and holds it open for them to enter. In the center of the room is a lone pedestal, a glowing white orb floats slightly off the surface.

CYRUS
Here she is.

MORGANA
It is beautiful.

MORGAUSE
It is, sister.

MORDRED
It is *magic*. Not a catalyst, pure magic.

CYRUS
It is *power*. Soon, everyone will see it. Thanks to you. I want you to detonate one tomorrow. I'll come with you, and we'll bring as many of my soldiers as you see fit. We will show the world how powerful we are.

MORGANA
I will do as you ask but I have one condition. I am to pick the location.

CYRUS
(hesitant)
Yes! Just make sure we have an audience.

MORGANA
Oh, don't worry. we will have all the witnesses we need.

MORGAUSE
What is it you're planning?

MORGANA
You already know. When I use that weapon I want Arthur and Emrys to bear witness. Mordred, go to London. Speak to your spies.

(MORE)

MORGANA (CONT'D)

We need to know everywhere my dear brother goes if we are to detonate the weapon in his presence.

MORDRED

Do you think it's wise to seek him out? If he sees you, he may try to kill you.

MORGAUSE

No, he will not. He'll be too distracted.

(TO MORGANA)

I will go to Avalon at once, sister.

MORGANA

Take Cenred with you. He can do the heavy lifting.

MORGAUSE

(smirks)

It is all he is useful for.

MORGAUSE turns and leaves.

MORDRED

She shouldn't take Cenred. I don't trust him. You said Morgause was the one who killed him. What if he seeks revenge?

MORGANA

Oh, don't fret, Mordred

MORGANA takes MORDRED's hands in her's.

MORGANA

Cenred has always followed her around like a lovesick puppy. She could kill him a thousand times, and it would not change a thing. He is obedient. He is no threat, I assure you.

MORDRED still appears uncertain.

MORGANA

Don't worry about him. We have bigger concerns. Arthur and Emrys. Go, we will meet again shortly.

MORDRED doesn't want to leave her side. MORGANA cups MORDRED's cheek to comfort him.

MORGANA

We will. Go, Mordred. I will await
your return.

MORDRED smiles at MORGANA, offers a small bow and turns to leave. MORGANA turns back to the bomb, a wicked smile on her face.

FADE TO BLACK

EXT. LONDON - MORNING

MERLIN pulls the motorbike to the curb, turns it off and jumps off in one swift move. LANCELOT attempts the same, but struggles almost falling to the ground. MERLIN catches him and helps stabilize him.

MERLIN

We should walk the rest of the
way, I don't want my bike getting
stolen were we are going.

LANCELOT

Is it dangerous?! I don't have my
sword.

MERLIN

Nah, just the bad part of town.
Well, one of them, anyway.

MERLIN starts down the pavement, LANCELOT attempts to follow through the masses, his senses assaulted with the unfamiliar - foul smells, carriage wheels creaking and bells tinkling on simpler versions of Merlin's motorbike, the ground shook and smoke rose from manholes. A beggar sitting on the pavement holds out his arms beseechingly, but no one acknowledges him. On the other side of the road, a group of people are shouting and holding up crude cardboard signs reading *Repent* and *Jesus Saves*. LANCELOT nearly walks into a rack of dresses outside a storefront.

STORE OWNER

Hello! Come check out our specials
today -
(pointing to the rack)
- why not pick one out for the
special girl in your life?

LANCELOT

(overly polite)
Thank you, I don't have a woman in
my life however. I am on a quest
right now but I'll gladly return -

MERLIN grabs LANCELOT by the arm and pulls him away.

MERLIN
Just ignore them. Ignore *everyone*.

LANCELOT
Sorry.

MERLIN continues on his way, expertly dodging the crowds, never touching anyone. LANCELOT struggles to keep up, fumbling around people and mumbling apologies that no one acknowledges. Periodically MERLIN glances over his shoulder and notices LANCELOT struggling to keep up and slows down, only to speed up again shortly after - he wasn't used to having company.

As they continue on their way the crowds thin. MERLIN turns a corner and LANCELOT follows, the area very different then were they had started - desolate and in ruin, rubbish and broken glass littered the torn-up streets, there were bars on every window, and metal gates with damaged locks on the doors. LANCELOT quickens his pace to stay close to MERLIN's side.

LANCELOT
What is this place?

He glances around, not finding many signs of life. A homeless woman is asleep in a the doorway of an abandoned shop, she grunts and turns away.

MERLIN
Like I said. The bad part of town.

Ahead of them a man turned a corner and limped towards them. His head hung low and one foot dragged behind him, matted hair and deep purple veins crawled up his neck, both arms hung limply at his sides, one of his hands was severely discolored - a mix of red and black, looking as though it was filled with blood and the flesh of his other arm was mangled and greying. The same discoloration spotting his cheeks, a scar ran down his forehead and cheek, his bloodshot eyes gaped at them as he passed. LANCELOT looked away.

LANCELOT
(whisper)
What happened to him?

MERLIN
He did it to himself. It's a drug. Lapis. It's been around since the turn of the nineties, but it's only become popular over the last few years, and the police are having trouble finding out who's trafficking it into the city.

(MORE)

MERLIN (CONT'D)

Their best guess is the Neos. Lapis has magical properties. The high gives different users different low-grade abilities – telekinesis, the ability to fly, physic powers, astral projection. The list goes on. There was even one report of a girl turning her father into a rat while high, and then she couldn't turn him back. The high is very temporary, but highly addictive.

LANCELOT

Who would do such a thing to themselves?

MERLIN stops and turns to LANCELOT, motioning to the world around them.

MERLIN

(bitterly)

Do you blame them?

LANCELOT stops and looks at MERLIN in shock. The MERLIN he knew would never have such a negative viewpoint.

MERLIN

Anyway. There's a dealer – er, someone who sells it – that lives around here. He's been arrested a few times, but they can't make it stick. That's who we're going to see.

LANCELOT

(in shock)

You want to *purchase* such a thing?

MERLIN

No.

LANCELOT

Then, why are we here?

MERLIN

(teasing)

You're the one who wanted to come.

MERLIN stops short in front of a dilapidated house, walks up to the door and knocks hard.

MERLIN

You should stay out here.

MERLIN shakes out his whole body like he was preparing for a fight - or put on show.

LANCELOT
What? Merlin -

The door cracks open and an eye appears.

JUNKIE
The fuck are you?

MERLIN fidgets excessively, he scratches his beard and bites the side of his cheek, his eyes darting wildly around, his whole body swaying slightly. In a voice very different than his own:

MERLIN
(skittish)
I'm - uh - lookin' for Reggie. He
in?

LANCELOT narrows his eyes in confusion.

JUNKIE
Who's askin'?

MERLIN bounces up and down slightly and glances over his shoulder in a display of paranoia.

MERLIN
Look, he don't know me. I'm a new
- uh - *new customer*.

No response from within.

MERLIN
Someone told me I could find
Reggie here. Look - just. I need
to see him.
(begging)
Please.

JUNKIE
Nah, Reggie ain't 'ere. Don't know
any Reggie.

The door begins to close but Merlin quickly stops it with his foot.

MERLIN
Wait! Wait! Look! I got - I got
somethin' for him.

MERLIN holds out his palms in a gesture of peace, he looks down and his eyes briefly glow. He reaches into his pocket and pulls out a wad of cash.

MERLIN
Look? See?

JUNKIE
Alright. Who's 'e?

MERLIN
He's my - uh - I *hired* him.

LANCELOT tries to keep his expression neutral but he's sure the embarrassment is evident.

JUNKIE
Alright. Pretty boy stays out 'ere. You, come in.

MERLIN
Right.

The door closes and after a moment reopens fully and MERLIN enters and closes behind him. LANCELOT watches the door for a moment, not sure what to do. Slowly he turns around and takes in the street around him - no one was around, everything was quiet, all the windows were darkened, and the lights hanging from cables over the street didn't flash red, green, and yellow, like they had only a few streets over. After a few minutes LANCELOT hears a sound coming from the alley next to the house.

MERLIN
(hisses)
Lancelot.

MERLIN pokes his head around the corner and motions LANCELOT over.

LANCELOT
(concerned)
What happened in there?

MERLIN
Got what I needed.

MERLIN grins wide and opens his jacket to show LANCELOT the brown paper bag he held inside, he slips off his backpack and puts the bag inside.

MERLIN
But we'd better get out of here.
(MORE)

MERLIN (CONT'D)

They think I'm in the toilet shooting up. I escaped out the window.

LANCELOT

Shooting up - ? Merlin, what are you planning? Don't lie to me.

MERLIN

Don't worry so much! It's nothing bad - just some stuff I needed for the ritual. It's not exactly like there are shops selling ingredients to magic potions anymore. Hence, the seediness. Now, c'mon! Before they notice I'm gone.

MERLIN grins, turns away and walks back the way they came.

BACK ON THE BUSY MAIN STREET

MERLIN continues on his way back towards his bike, LANCELOT following behind, he glances at MERLIN contemplating if he should bring it up. His curiosity wins out.

LANCELOT

You and Arthur... how - ? If you don't mind me asking, that is.

MERLIN's face softens with a small smile.

MERLIN

How did it happen?

LANCELOT nods.

MERLIN

I'm not really sure. It was about half a year after he returned. He was trying to make tea, and he -
 (small laugh)
 - is *still* complete and total rubbish at it. I told him so, and he got angry. He said he was a king and he should have people to do things like make tea for him. And I said, too bad because I'm all he has now and I'm certainly not doing it anymore. And he...

MERLIN pauses and stops walking, LANCELOT does the same. People glare at them as they shove past.

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MERLIN

We just...

MERLIN's expression is that of aw, like he still can't believe it.

LANCELOT

He must have been very grateful for you.

MERLIN's expression drops.

MERLIN

Grateful, yeah.

LANCELOT

Merlin?

MERLIN

What if he loved me *because* I was the only one he had?

LANCELOT

I don't believe that. I saw you together, remember? Arthur appeared very smitten, and you're not all he has now, are you?

MERLIN

Maybe.

After a beat MERLIN perks up and looks around, realizing were they are.

MERLIN

Hang on. I've just got one more thing to do and then we can go back.

MERLIN shoots off into the crowd losing LANCELOT. LANCELOT panics looking in every direction for MERLIN, after a moment he finds him kneeling in front of the homeless man from earlier. MERLIN says a few words and the man nods and smiles. MERLIN pulls his backpack to his front and produces the sandwich, hands it to the man, he looks at it and then to MERLIN unbelievably. LANCELOT makes out the man saying "Bless you" and take it, begin to unwrap it. MERLIN smiles at him and touches his shoulder before walking back to LANCELOT.

LANCELOT can't help the smile that appears on his face. He had thought MERLIN had truly changed - he looked and acted the part of a vagrant, callous and hollow, but he realizes it was because he had to. He still cared for everything deeply, even after all this time.

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MERLIN

What? Lancelot?

LANCELOT shakes his head out of his thoughts.

LANCELOT

It's nothing. I... I just thought food was scarce these days.

MERLIN

Thanks to the Neos, yeah. Arthur and I try to stretch out our rations when we can so those who can't afford food can eat. It's better than giving them money. Some of them just use that to get alcohol, or they end up at a place like where we just came from.

LANCELOT

That is very kind of you.

MERLIN

Well, who else is going to do it?
(gesturing to the group of
Jesus freaks across the
street)
Them?

MERLIN starts off back down the street. LANCELOT looks after him with a smile, unable to contain how glad he was to see a glimpse of the Merlin he once knew and follows after him.

INT. APARTMENT BUILDING HALL

MERLIN AND LANCELOT walk down the hall towards the staircase leading to their floor.

LANCELOT

Where is everyone, doesn't anyone else live here, Merlin?

MERLIN

(chuckles)

No, it was abandoned after the bombs went off. When I came back to the city I found it and moved into the flat. I enchanted the whole building so people would look right past it and not even notice it.

(MORE)

MERLIN (CONT'D)

(sadly)

I guess I just wanted to be by myself back then.

(perks up, to LANCELOT)

Guess it's a good thing for us know, huh?

Just as they are about to start climbing the stairs, a loud bang is heard from somewhere below them in the building. MERLIN instantly goes on the offensive, pushing LANCELOT behind him.

LANCELOT

What was that?

MERLIN

This way.

They walk cautiously towards a door off to the side that leads to the basement. They stand on either side of it, LANCELOT nods to MERLIN and pulls the door open. LANCELOT jumps through with his fists wielded and MERLIN follows behind. They look around looking for a culprit before MERLIN realizes the sound is from a pipe that had burst. Torrents are pouring from it and a pool has begun to form on the floor.

MERLIN

It's alright. This building is old and the pipes are rusted. It happens sometimes.

MERLIN takes the few steps down into the basement and groans as his shoes and lower legs are submerged, he walks towards the broken pipe becoming fully soaked through from the falling water. He raises his hands to shield his face, his eyes glow and the pipe repairs itself.

MERLIN

That should hold for now.

MERLIN turns back towards LANCELOT who had remained at the top of the steps and starts to wade back.

LANCELOT

I see indoor plumbing has its disadvantages.

MERLIN shrugs and lets his arms fall back to his sides making a wet smacking sound.

MERLIN

I can't argue with you there.

LANCELOT lets out a laugh and slaps MERLIN on the shoulder as he joins him on the landing.

FREYA (O.S.)

Merlin.

MERLIN spins around searching for the source of the voice but can't find it. He looks down and finds FREYA looking up at him from the pool of water.

MERLIN

(startled)

Jesus, Freya!

FREYA

I'm sorry. I did not mean to frighten you.

LANCELOT leans in to get a closer look, astonished at the girl in the pool.

MERLIN

You didn't.

FREYA

You certainly looked afraid.

MERLIN opens his mouth to respond but before he can LANCELOT cuts in.

LANCELOT

I know I was. I am Lancelot.

FREYA

(warmly)

I know.

MERLIN

This is Freya.

FREYA

I'm sorry for the mess, Merlin.
but I *have* been trying to reach you

MERLIN

(guiltily)

Sorry. I've been - um - busy?

(realizing)

Hold on, you burst the pipe?

FREYA

(nods)

What I have to tell you is urgent.
It concerns Arthur.

MERLIN

What is it?

FREYA

When he returned from Avalon, he did not come alone. When the gates of Avalon opened, they permitted another through. This, you already know.

MERLIN

Lots of people have come through Avalon since then.

(gestures to LANCELOT)

Case in point. Mordred's been resurrecting them. Avalon has been quite busy recently.

FREYA

No, Merlin. I am speaking of the day Arthur returned. When he crossed through, he brought Mordred with him.

MERLIN loses his sense of balance and grabs a hold of LANCELOT to keep steady.

MERLIN

What?

FREYA

Arthur and Mordred's fates are bound together.

MERLIN

(softly to himself)

Aino's prophecy...

LANCELOT

Bound?

FREYA

They killed each other with blades forged in magic. From that moment on, their fates were joined. That is why you could not save Arthur the first time. Mordred had died, so Arthur had to as well. And, when Arthur was resurrected, Mordred followed.

MERLIN

(whispered)

If Mordred dies again, so does Arthur?

FREYA

I'm afraid so. But, Merlin, there is more. The Gates of Avalon are still open. Mordred has used the breach to pull more souls from the afterlife.

MERLIN

How? That power is beyond him. You must have seen how he's taking the souls.

FREYA

I'm sorry, but I haven't. Bringing a life forth when it is not meant to pass through the gates takes powerful magic. It draws power from all of Avalon, even me. In those moments, my spirit cannot be sustained. I don't exist. Arthur's return was different. The Old Religion had been gaining power so that it may bring him back on the appointed time of his destiny.

MERLIN

"Arthur will unite the lands of Albion and bring magic back to the land." And he has...

FREYA

I saw him pass through. It's how I saw Mordred return with him. Merlin, only a certain amount of magic was meant to return to the world. What Mordred has done has endangered everyone. With each soul that crosses through Avalon's gates, the gap widens. More things are allowed through.

MERLIN

The creatures of magic. That's why they've returned, and how their numbers have grown.

FREYA

(nods)

You must close the gates.

MERLIN

How?

FREYA
(sadly)
It requires a mortal sacrifice to
Avalon.

MERLIN glances at LANCELOT out of the corner of his eye.

FREYA
I have told you all I know. If I
learn anything else, I will
attempt to contact you, Merlin.

MERLIN
(guiltily)
Thank you, Freya.

FREYA
Of course. It was good to see you
again, Merlin.

FREYA vanishes from the pool. LANCELOT turns and begins to
hurry towards the flat.

LANCELOT
We must to tell the others.

MERLIN grabs LANCELOT's arm and pulls him back.

MERLIN
No! We can't tell Arthur. If he
must die when Mordred does, it
means the reverse is also true.
The *last* thing we want is for
Arthur to sacrifice himself to
kill Mordred. And you know he
would if it came to it, the noble
git.

LANCELOT
What if we meet Mordred again and
Arthur tries to kill him?

MERLIN
(a beat)
We'll cross that bridge when we
come to it. Just, please,
Lancelot. I need to think this
over first. Promise me you won't
tell Arthur.

LANCELOT
(reluctant)
I won't tell anyone.

MERLIN

Thank you. Now, come on. We should be getting back. I'll clean up this mess later.

FADE TO BLACK

INT. MERLIN AND ARTHUR'S FLAT - MORNING

GAIUS is at the stove working on the potion, ARTHUR paces impatiently, while GWEN sits at the counter flipping through the ancient book GAIUS got the potion from. The knights sit around the TV in the living room beyond. The door flies open and ARTHUR instantly spins expecting MERLIN and LANCELOT.

ARTHUR

Fina-

WALLACE walks in and drops a duffle bag on the counter which makes loud clanking sounds. The knights all stand at attention at the intruder.

ARTHUR

Wallace, this is a - a surprise.

WALLACE

Yeah, well, this isn't a social call. Came to drop the rest of these off.

WALLACE drops several cards on the counter - IDs for the knights. He then unzips the duffle bag revealing several swords within.

WALLACE

Also, what with everything going on, I thought it was a good idea your boys here have a way of protecting themselves.

(towards the knights)

I'm guessing you all know how to use these?

GWAINÉ jumps up, eager to be the first to pick.

GWAINÉ

I think we'll manage.

The rest of the knights follow, crowding around the table. WALLACE backs away and put his hands up in surrender.

WALLACE

Have at it, I guess.

(MORE)

Made in Highland

WALLACE (CONT'D)

Just don't carry them around in the city, all right? That shit might fly in the other provinces, but not here.

ARTHUR

I don't know how to thank you, Wallace.

WALLACE

You can start by telling me where Merlin is.

(agitated)

I've been trying to reach him on the comms all morning.

ARTHUR

He's not here. Why, what's happened?

Everyone stops what they're doing to pay attention, GWEN appears at ARTHUR side.

WALLACE

There's another crime scene. It must have happened at least three days ago. None of the neighbors noticed until the smell started up.

GWEN makes a repulsed face.

ARTHUR

Mordred?

WALLACE

Dunno. That's why I need my medical examiner to examine the bodies.

GWEN

Bod-ies?

WALLACE

Yeah. One of them fits Mordred's pattern. The other one looks like she died of a stab wound, but that could just be Mordred trying to throw us off. I won't know until Merlin determines a cause of death.

ARTHUR
(under his breath)
Shit.

MERLIN and LANCELOT open the door and all eyes turn to them.

ARTHUR
What the hell happened to you?

MERLIN
Burst pipe in the basement.
(gestures to WALLACE)
What's he doing here?

WALLACE
He's here to tell you to do your
damn job!

ARTHUR
There's been another murder. There
are two victims this time.

MERLIN
(a beat as he processes)
Have the lab put them on ice until
I can get there.

MERLIN places his backpack on the counter and begins ruffling through it.

WALLACE
On ice? What, you busy or
somethin'? What's more important
than finding out how they died?

MERLIN
I am trying to find that out.
Only, this way, we can stop
Mordred from killing anyone else.

MERLIN pulls out the paperbag from his backpack and dumps the contents on the counter - four plastic bags with different earthy substances in each.

WALLACE
Whoa! What the fuck are those?

MERLIN
(pointing at each bag)
Peyote, magic mushrooms,
marijuana, jimsonweed, and - oh!

MERLIN reaches into his bag and pulls out a pack of cigarettes.

Made in Highland

MERLIN

Tobacco.

ARTHUR looks at MERLIN shocked, then to GWEN, GAIUS and lands on LANCELOT. LANCELOT merely shrugs.

WALLACE

Yeah, I can see *that*. Wanna tell me where you got those? Or how long this has been going on?

(to ARTHUR)

How long has this been going on?

ARTHUR stammers in response, still in shock.

WALLACE

You know I'm a *cop*, right?

MERLIN

So, arrest me!

MERLIN breaks the cigarettes in half and pours the tobacco in a mound on the counter then begins crumbling up the contents of each bag and adding to the pile.

MERLIN

Gaius, find a wooden bowl and get these things out of the pantry. Ready? Sage, sweetgrass, yarrow, juniper, lavender oil, and mugwort. How's the potion coming along?

GAIUS nods and turns to the cabinets to gather the herbs, and begins pouring them into the bowl. WALLACE throws his hands up.

WALLACE

No, you know what? I don't care!

MERLIN

Oh, what's the matter, Wallace? I thought you *liked* living outside the law?

MERLIN begins dividing the mixture onto two rolling papers.

WALLACE

Not when it could *kill* you!

Merlin cocks his head to the side, silently expressing how stupid Wallace sounds.

WALLACE

You know what I mean! Whatever.

(MORE)

Made in Highland

WALLACE (CONT'D)
 I don't know what all this is
 about, and I don't care! I was
 never here, got it? I'm leaving!

MERLIN doesn't look up and begins rolling the first joint.

MERLIN
 Bye.

WALLACE doesn't leave.

MERLIN
 Gaius, where are those herbs?

GAIUS
 Merlin, are you certain you know
 what you're doing?

MERLIN shrugs.

MERLIN
 Yeah?

ARTHUR snaps out of his daze finally.

ARTHUR
That sounded reassuring. Merlin,
 Hunith was a wonderful woman,
 which is why I forgive her for
repeatedly dropping you on the
 head as an infant. But, in case
 you've forgotten, you won't be the
 only one taking those drugs!

MERLIN
 Then don't come on the vision
 quest with me.

ARTHUR glares at MERLIN for a moment then turns to GAIUS, with
 a dismissive wave.

ARTHUR
 Get him whatever he needs.

GWEN
 Arthur!

ARTHUR
 You're the one who said you
 trusted he knew what he was doing.

GWEN
 (a beat - weakly)
 I do.

ARTHUR
It's decided, then. Merlin, hurry
up.

MERLIN moves onto rolling up the second joint.

ARTHUR
You're *rather good* at that,
Merlin.

GWAINÉ lets out a laugh at that and throws his arm around
MERLIN's shoulders.

GWAINÉ
Learned from the best!

MERLIN
Who, Percival?

GAIUS
Is that where all my herbs used to
go?

ELYAN
Quiet, before we get in trouble!

GWEN
Elyan!

ARTHUR watches this play out with his mouth agape, unbelieving
what he is hearing.

ARTHUR
I'm so glad Camelot's citizens
relied on all of you for
protection.

LEON
Sire, I assure you, I never took
part in such things.

LANCELOT
Yes, if I recall correctly you
preferred wine as your substance
of choice.

GWAINÉ, ELYAN, PERCIVAL
(rowdy laughter)
Ohhhhh!

LEON's face turns several shades redder, LANCELOT looking
pretty proud of himself. WALLACE gives in and joins the knights
in their laughter. ARTHUR tries very hard not to laugh but a
small smile escapes him.

ARTHUR

Enough!

He means to sound serious but a bit of humor escapes.

ARTHUR

It's time we get this over with.

MERLIN picks up the joints and hands one to ARTHUR, who looks at it with an uneasy expression before gathering his courage and grabbing it.

ARTHUR

Here goes nothing.

ARTHUR puts the end to his lips and as MERLIN's eyes glow it begins to smoke. ARTHUR inhales deeply and coughs it back up.

MERLIN

Finish it.

ARTHUR

You seem to have the hang of it.

MERLIN blows smoke into ARTHUR's face playfully.

MERLIN

I went to Woodstock.

Once they finish the joints they sit cross-legged on the floor in the living room, facing each other. The rest gather around the couch and chairs to watch. GAIUS hands them each a cup filled with the potion.

GAIUS

Its effects will be immediate and should last the rest of the day.

They both shoot the potion back and instantly pull faces at the foul taste.

MERLIN

Okay.

MERLIN hands GAIUS a journal opened to the correct page.

MERLIN

Repeat this chant until we're unconscious.

GAIUS hands MERLIN the bowl of herbs he had asked for, his eyes glow and they begin to smoke. He places it on the floor in between them and begins wafting the smoke towards their faces.

Suddenly they are standing on the surface of the Lake of Avalon facing each other. The colors aren't right, too vibrant and slightly off, the sky begins to twist into a kaleidoscope. ARTHUR reaches out to touch MERLIN.

ARTHUR

Merlin...

Suddenly ARTHUR is seeing from MERLIN's perspective, seeing himself reaching out. His eyes fall closed. The scene twists and turns together, ARTHUR and MERLIN becoming one. When he reopens them he has settled back into himself.

INT. ARTHUR'S ROOMS, CAMELOT

ARTHUR opens his eyes, sunlight shining through the stained glass windows, a fire burning in the fireplace. He settles deeper into his pillows, the deep red blankets pulled around him. Suddenly, ARTHUR realizes where he is and shoots up out of bed and takes in the sight before him. He looks back at the bed and finds MERLIN still asleep on his side. ARTHUR takes a deep breath at the sight. Finally, unable to contain his excitement, he rips the blankets off of MERLIN.

ARTHUR

Merlin! Merlin, wake up!

MERLIN sits straight up with a start and looks around wildly.

ARTHUR

Get that stupid look off your face, Merlin, you'll catch flies!

ARTHUR is in full chainmail. MERLIN in his old Camelot servant's outfit, thinner and lankier than normal and without his beard. They look years younger.

MERLIN

These are your chambers.

ARTHUR

I know! We're back! We're in Camelot!

ARTHUR playfully flicks the red neckerchief around MERLIN's neck. ARTHUR can't contain his excitement, a wide smile on his face. ARTHUR walks around the room examining his old things. He turns around to face MERLIN, who has a mixture of emotions - confusion, relief, nostalgia, anger, sadness - on his face.

MERLIN

No, we aren't. It's the trance state, remember?

(MORE)

Made in Highland

MERLIN (CONT'D)

This must be from your mind. It has to be.

(looking around)

I didn't remember it this well.

ARTHUR

I don't care. We're back, Merlin!
Look! Look! It's the courtyard,
just the same as it's always - .

ARTHUR bounds to the window to take in the familiar scene, however what he sees makes his breath catch. The courtyard is full with neatly lined white sheets in varying sizes, human sized bumps visible underneath, there are hundreds. Suddenly they are standing amongst the sheets.

ARTHUR

What is this?

ARTHUR follows the line of sheets down the courtyard and over the drawbridge, towards the training pitch. Where the lower town should have been is nothing but rubble and ash, the sky a blank void.

MERLIN (O.S.)

Arthur!

ARTHUR turns around and sees MERLIN standing further down the pitch, staring at something. As he gets closer he realizes a giant hole had been dug into the ground - a mass grave.

ARTHUR

(whispered)

Is this what happened? When the Saxons... Is this what they did?

MERLIN

I don't know.

ARTHUR

What do you mean, you don't know?
You didn't stick around long
enough to find out?

MERLIN winces and looks away. ARTHUR lets out a breath, places a hand on MERLIN's shoulder and turns away, unable to look anymore.

MERLIN

Arthur, look at their clothes.
They're in jeans and t-shirts,
short dresses and jackets.

ARTHUR turns back and glances into the hole.

ARTHUR
I don't recognize any of them.

MERLIN
It's a warning. It's what will happen if we don't stop Mordred.

ARTHUR
Stop him from what? What the hell sort of useless magic trick is this, Merlin?

A shadow moves by on the ground in front of them, before MERLIN can respond, ARTHUR reflexively reaches for his sword. A white dragon, hideous and deformed, flies into view and lands.

MERLIN
Put the sword away.

MERLIN puts his hand on ARTHUR'S forearm and lowers his weapon.

MERLIN
You don't have to be afraid. You can trust her.

ARTHUR
Trust? That's Morgana's dragon!

MERLIN
No. Camelot is your memory. She's mine. She's my spirit guide.

MERLIN slowly walks towards the dragon, arm outstretched.

MERLIN
(sadly)
Aithusa.

MERLIN reaches out her hand for her.

MERLIN
It's me. What is it? What have you come to tell us?

AITHUSA flaps her wings and takes off.

MERLIN
She wants to show us something.

AITHUSA flies back towards the castle, MERLIN and ARTHUR follow. She lands in the courtyard and walks up the the door, scratching at it. MERLIN opens it and she walks inside and up the stairs and to the throne room. In the center of the room on a pedestal sits The Cup of Life.

ARTHUR and MERLIN walk up to it and find it full of fresh blood. ARTHUR reaches out to grab it.

MERLIN
Arthur, no!

A sudden flash of white light as an invisible force flings ARTHUR and MERLIN back. They both shoot upright, gasping for breath, back in the flat.

INT. MERLIN AND ARTHUR'S FLAT - NIGHT

GWEN
They're awake!

MERLIN and ARTHUR blink back into reality as everyone - GWEN, LANCELOT, GAIUS, WALLACE, GWAIN, LEON, PERCIVAL and ELYAN gather around them.

GAIUS
Merlin, what happened? Did it work? What did you see?

MERLIN
It's the Cup of Life.

WALLACE
Wait, like, the Holy Grail? That thing really exists?

MERLIN
It did once. It was lost thousands of years ago.

MERLIN struggles to his feet.

GAIUS
Are you certain it's the Cup, Merlin? The Cup of Life can only save someone on the brink of death. A person must drink from the chalice if they are to be saved.

MERLIN
No, no, he's found a way to reverse its effects by taking a life to bring someone back. I saw it! We both did!

ARTHUR is still seated in a daze.

GWEN
Arthur?

ARTHUR stirs and jumps to action.

ARTHUR

Mordred means to build another immortal army out of the Neo-Druids. He wants Morgana to command them. It's why he's found the Cup, and why he's resurrected you all. He was looking for her.

MERLIN

We said Mordred couldn't control who he brought back, but we *thought* the relic was resurrecting everyone he knew from Camelot but Mordred had nothing to do with it. It was the Cup. It was bringing back everyone who was there the last time it was used. That's why you're all young again. It returned you to the same way you were then.

LANCELOT

The stab wound in my back. I got one just like it while fighting Morgana's army in Camelot.

ELYAN

I dislocated my shoulder that day. For weeks, it bothered me while Mordred held us prisoner.

GWEN

Arthur, Morgana's immortal army was nearly impossible to destroy the first time. The Neo-Druids are magic users. They control the whole of Britain. That kind of power makes them - .

ARTHUR AND MERLIN

Unstoppable.

ARTHUR's brows scrunch together and he looks over to MERLIN in confusion but decides there are more important things to figure out right now.

ARTHUR

What became of the Cup after Camelot fell? Did the Saxons take it?

GWEN

I do not know what became of it.
It was not in the city when it
fell.

ARTHUR AND MERLIN

...what?

GAIUS

The Cup was given to the Druids
shortly after your death, sire.

ARTHUR

(livid)

The *Druids*? Who was the *idiot* who
did that?

All eyes fall to MERLIN, who winces and makes a small smile in
an attempt to look innocent. ARTHUR opens his mouth but is cut
off by GWEN.

GWEN

I allowed him do it, Arthur!

ARTHUR AND MERLIN

Why? You know how dangerous that
thing is in wrong hands,
Guinevere! You *both* did! How could
either of you do something like
this?

MERLIN

Does it matter? Obviously, the
Druids never used it!

ARTHUR

And why give them that chance? The
safest place for it was in
Camelot's vaults!

MERLIN

Not with me!

ARTHUR

(a beat)

What the hell are you - ?

MERLIN

You were dead! So, yes, I trusted
the Druids with it more than I
trusted myself.

ARTHUR's anger deflates, he just stares at MERLIN feeling all
the sadness that MERLIN once felt after his death - they still
have a lingering connection from the potion.

GAIUS
Sire.

ARTHUR AND MERLIN
WHAT?

ARTHUR
I'm sorry, Gaius. What is it?

GAIUS
It's just that, the Cup of Life is the most powerful object the Old Religion has produced. The way Mordred is using it would require extraordinarily powerful magic, even for the Cup. If it has been used anywhere in the city, Merlin *should* have been able to sense its power.

ARTHUR's eyes snap back to MERLIN, who looks away meekly.

ARTHUR
Did you?

GAIUS
You must have, Merlin. Perhaps you were not focusing hard enough?

WALLACE
Yeah, I can take you to the new crime scene. You can see if you feel any mumbo jumbo.

MERLIN
No, it won't work.

ARTHUR
It *has* to! If you can sense it, it will bring us to Mordred. We *have* to find him, Merlin! He has my father.

All heads snap to ARTHUR, questions erupting from everyone.

GWAINÉ
How to do you know?

LEON
Sire?

LANCELOT
Did you see him during the vision quest?

GWEN
Your father?

GWEN lightly touches ARTHUR's arm.

GWEN
Arthur, how can you be certain?

ARTHUR
Wallace said there were two
victims during the last murder.

WALLACE
Hey, whoa, I also said one of them
was stabbed.

ARTHUR
You *also* said that could have been
Mordred trying to trick us!

ARTHUR whips around to face MERLIN.

ARTHUR
We must find him, Merlin. I will
not let him suffer at Mordred's
hand.

GAIUS
Merlin you must focus, my boy. You
can do this.

MERLIN
No, I really can't! I can't sense
it! It's not because I wasn't
focusing. I don't -

MERLIN drops his shoulders in defeat.

MERLIN
I don't have that power anymore. I
gave it to someone else.

ARTHUR looks at MERLIN in confusion, then to GAIUS questionably
but he is just as confused.

WALLACE
What, did you lose it in a game of
poker? Does it work like that?

MERLIN
What? No.

MERLIN waves a dismissive hand towards WALLACE, then turns to
him. It was easier to confess to him than ARTHUR.

MERLIN

It was in the mid 90s, at Maudsley Hospital.

WALLACE

The mental institution? I didn't know you were a doctor there.

MERLIN

I wasn't.

(a beat)

Do you remember all those natural disasters around that time?

WALLACE nods.

MERLIN

That was due to magic. The Old Religion was returning too quickly for the earth to handle. It wasn't used to that much power after so long. That was partly my fault. It would have returned with or without my help, but I quickened the process. I had learned to let the Old Religion use me as a catalyst to spread out to the rest of the world. I was in the centre of it all. I felt... *all* of it.

ARTHUR watches MERLIN intently, still effected by the potion, he *remembers* this.

MERLIN

I checked myself into hospital in hopes I could get away from it, but I couldn't. It was too much. It was like... have you ever put a knife in a blender? It was like that inside of me. I had to get rid of it.

WALLACE steps closer to MERLIN and places a gentle hand on his shoulder.

WALLACE

No need to explain, Merlin. I get it, all right?

MERLIN angrily shakes his head and backs away from WALLACE.

MERLIN

No. You don't. There's only one other person who does.

(MORE)

Made in Highland

MERLIN (CONT'D)

He was... he was my doctor -
Simon. I *tried* to give him my
magic. All of it. But his body
couldn't handle it. It came back
to me, but some of it stayed
inside of him. He got the part
that can sense magic. I left the
hospital after that. It was over.
I didn't feel the Old Religion
anymore. I still can't.

MERLIN turns to ARTHUR, guilt and sadness and anger written all
over his face.

MERLIN

I can't find the Cup.

GWAIN

So, let me get this straight...
this Simon person has magic now
because of you?

MERLIN

It's still my magic. He's just...
holding it for me. I don't even
know if he can control it.

GWEN

We understand, but, if there's any
way he can help us, I believe it's
worth speaking with him.

MERLIN looks into GWEN's eyes, deep sadness on his face.

MERLIN

I don't want to pull him into
this.

ARTHUR

(angrily)

You already have! We're to pay him
a visit, Merlin. That's final.
Where is he?

MERLIN looks down at the ground.

MERLIN

(quietly)

I didn't keep track of him. But,
the last time I checked, he was
still at the hospital.

WALLACE

As a doctor?

MERLIN

No.

There is a heavy pause at the realization of MERLIN's words hits everyone.

ARTHUR

Then, there's no time to waste. We'll talk to him tomorrow. First thing in the morning, we figure out the best way to get us into this Maudsley Hospital undetected. We don't want Mordred finding out about Simon. And, Wallace, if we mean to stop the Neos before Morgana can make them immortal, we'll need all the help we can get. I think it's time I spoke with your uncle. Get me a meeting with him.

WALLACE opens his mouth to speak but ARTHUR raises his hand to stop him.

ARTHUR

In the meantime, Merlin will conduct your autopsy.
(to everyone else)
The rest of you, get some sleep.
It's late.

Everyone turns and begins to leave for their own flats, sending small pitying looks at MERLIN as they pass. GWEN softly squeezes MERLIN's shoulder and leaves.

GAIUS

Merlin?

GAIUS reaches out to touch MERLIN's arm but he jerks away.

MERLIN

I'm fine!
(steadying himself)
I'm alright, Gaius.

GAIUS looks at MERLIN for a moment, unsure, then turns and leaves. ARTHUR and MERLIN are left alone in their living room.

MERLIN

(whispered)
I'm sorry. I never meant for Simon to...

ARTHUR

I know, Merlin.

ARTHUR slaps a hand to MERLIN's shoulder, after a moment he realizes it's not enough, MERLIN isn't one of his knights after all, and pulls him into a tight hug.

INT. MORGANA'S BEDROOM

MORGANA sits at her vanity, idly brushing her hair, lost in thought. Suddenly there is movement outside her window. She gasps and jumps up to investigate, but sees nothing in the dark outside. She leaves her room and walks towards the entrance to the building. A figure that could be mistaken for MERLIN is standing outside the door visible as a silhouette, backlit from the streetlight, through the floor to ceiling window adjacent to it. MORGANA flings herself against the wall around the corner, fear apparent on her face.

MORGANA

No!

MORGANA pulls herself together, her fear turning to anger. She would not let this happen again! She storms to the door and rips it open, gripping him tightly around the neck with his magic. The man lets out a startle sound, drops the cigarette he had been holding and gasps for breath. It is not MERLIN. MORGANA drops her hold on him and he falls to his knees, choking.

MORGANA

What do you want?

MALCOLM

I'm - I'm sorry, my Queen.

MALCOLM struggles to his feet, his breath evening out.

MALCOLM

I didn't mean to startle you. I was sent here to look after you.

MORGANA

Look after me? Who sent you?

MALCOLM

Sir Mordred. He wanted to make sure you were safe while he was away.

MORGANA

I don't need protection.

MALCOLM

Of course! I'm sorry. I didn't mean to offend you. I'll leave.

Made in Highland

MALCOLM bows his head and turns to leave.

MORGANA
Wait. What is your name?

MALCOLM
Malcolm, my Queen.

MORGANA
Malcolm.

MORGANA's lips curve into a wicked smile.

MORGANA
Come in, Malcolm.

MALCOLM hesitates for a moment, then enters the building.

MORGANA
You must be a very skilled soldier
if Mordred chose you as my
personal guard in his absence.

MALCOLM
I know my way around any weapon,
my Queen. And I've studied magic
since I was a kid. I've mastered
ten forms of magical arts.

MORGANA
Impressive.

MALCOLM
My parents didn't think so. They
sent me to the camps when I was
twenty-three. I've been with the
Neo-Druids since they liberated
me.

MORGANA
Then, I would think your loyalties
lie with Cyrus.

MALCOLM
Cyrus gives us nothing but empty
promises. He's not strong enough
to lead us into a better world,
but you... you have a power I'll
follow.

MORGANA takes a step closer to MALCOLM, running a finger up his arm. MALCOLM swallows hard.

MALCOLM
I'm sure you can teach me a lot.

MORGANA

I'm sure I can.

MORGANA reaches up and runs her finger along his jaw, MALCOLM leans into the touch.

MORGANA

Mordred may approve of you, but I will need to judge for myself whether you're fit to be my personal guard.

MALCOLM

Do whatever you need to, my Queen.

MORGANA grabs MALCOLM's hand and leads him back down the hall towards her bedroom. She looks over her shoulder with a wicked grin.

MORGANA

Oh, I plan to.

FADE TO BLACK

INT. MERLIN AND ARTHUR'S FLAT

The door opens and MERLIN walks in, not expecting to find ARTHUR in the kitchen with a steaming cup in his hands, dressed for bed.

MERLIN

Still up? And you made your own tea?

ARTHUR

(eye roll)

I think I can manage some tea. I think the *real* miracle is how observant you are this evening.

MERLIN just stares at ARTHUR for a moment. The realization that ARTHUR no longer views him as a servant, that he can take care of himself - even if it's just making a *horrible* cup of tea - hits him.

ARTHUR

What?

MERLIN

Nothing. It's just - I could get used to this. Relaxing. I could stay in bed while you do all the work.

Made in Highland

ARTHUR

As if you ever did anything else!
Your laziness made you the worst
servant in the world, remember?

MERLIN

(mock offended)

I never slept at all! While you
were getting your beauty rest, I
was off god-knows-where saving
your sorry arse.

ARTHUR

Is *that* why you were always late
with breakfast? There wasn't much
use saving me if I died of
starvation.

MERLIN

I should have let you starve.
Then, you wouldn't be so doughy
around the sides.

MERLIN walks over to ARTHUR and playfully pokes his gut to
drive the point home.

ARTHUR

Oh, you - ! 'll show you how fit I
am!

ARTHUR puts his tea down on the counter and launches himself at
MERLIN, grabbing him and pushing him against the edge of the
counter. MERLIN leans away and pushes ARTHUR off playfully.

MERLIN

No, Arthur!

MERLIN stops fighting after a moment and looks ARTHUR in the
eyes. ARTHUR's glance lowers to his lips and lingers for a
moment before returning to his eyes.

ARTHUR

Ever since that vision quest I
keep thinking I'm...

MERLIN

Missing something. Empty.

ARTHUR

Yes.

MERLIN swallows hard and looks away. ARTHUR pushes off of
MERLIN, stays close but doesn't touch.

MERLIN

It's the side effects of the
potion. Our minds were joined. Our
— um, souls. We filled in all the
tiny spaces no one knows are
there. Now the connection's
broken, and we're aware of them.
We just have to get used to it
again. It'll wear off.

ARTHUR narrows his eyes at MERLIN.

ARTHUR

Have you ever used that potion
before?

MERLIN

No.

ARTHUR

Then, how could you know? What if
it never wears off?

MERLIN

(scoffs)

I think they have a name for that.
Love.

MERLIN hadn't meant for the moment to be so heavy but it is.
ARTHUR watches MERLIN like he can't quite figure him out.
MERLIN clears his throat.

MERLIN

Forget it. It's nothing — just an
old Greek myth.

ARTHUR's expression changes to humor, he gestures forward.

ARTHUR

Tell me.

MERLIN

(sighs)

When humans were first created,
they had two of everything —
faces, pair of legs and arms. And
the gods began to fear us, so in
order to prevent us from gaining
too much power, they split us in
half. It was to distract us from
rising against them. They made
sure people spent their whole
lives searching for the one who
completes them.

MERLIN looks away, slightly blushing. Saying it out loud seems foolish in hindsight.

ARTHUR

That's why people have sex. It's our way of trying to put ourselves back together.

ARTHUR continues to watch MERLIN, the tension is thick in the silence.

ARTHUR

Well it's certainly an interesting theory. I'll keep that in mind.

MERLIN

For what?

ARTHUR presses hard against MERLIN pushing him against the counter again, leaning in for a passionate kiss. ARTHUR's hands begin to roam MERLIN's body. MERLIN breaks the kiss to breath, pressing his forehead to ARTHUR's. He spots ARTHUR's cup of tea from the corner of his eye and smirks.

MERLIN

I think your tea's gone cold.

ARTHUR

What?

MERLIN

Your tea.

MERLIN picks up the cup and takes a small sip, making disgusted face.

MERLIN

Yup. Cold. And horribly made.

MERLIN hands the cup to ARTHUR who also takes a small sip and frowns.

ARTHUR

Well, you'll just have to make me another.

ARTHUR puts the cup back down on the counter.

MERLIN

That whole rest and relaxation thing was nice while it lasted.

ARTHUR
 (grinning)
 I'll never give you a moment's
 peace.

MERLIN
 And here I thought my luck was
 turning.

ARTHUR
 Well, you *are* about to get lucky!
 Get into bed before I bend you
 over this counter.

MERLIN
 (smirking)
 Wouldn't be the first time.

ARTHUR
 I just thought you'd be more
 comfortable in bed.

MERLIN
 How thoughtful.

ARTHUR rolls his eyes and leans in for another kiss, he undoes the buckle on MERLIN's belt and pulls it off in one motion. He backs away, a mischievous look on his face. ARTHUR loops a finger through a belt loop and pulls MERLIN forward.

ARTHUR
 Let's go.

INT. MERLIN AND ARTHUR'S BEDROOM - NIGHT

MERLIN and ARTHUR are in bed together.

ARTHUR
 Let's not wait so long to do *that*
 again.

MERLIN
 It's not even been a week.

ARTHUR
 Like I said...

MERLIN
 Works for me. How long are you
 thinking?

ARTHUR lets out a loud, dramatic breath.

ARTHUR
Give me five minutes to catch my
breath.

MERLIN
(chuckles)
Do what you have to.

MERLIN sits up, about to get out of bed. ARTHUR won't allow that and launches himself at MERLIN, pulling him back in. Unable to control his laughter as MERLIN tries to escape, ARTHUR ends up on top of him.

ARTHUR
Where do you think you're going?
I'm not done with you.

MERLIN
(eye roll)
I thought you'd want me to get our
pants off the kitchen floor before
someone walks in, but that's my
mistake. Go on, ravage me.

ARTHUR reluctantly lets MERLIN go. MERLIN gets out of the bed and throws an oversized t-shirt on, leaves the room. After a moment he returns, carrying their clothes in a ball, he goes to the dresser and begins folding them inside.

MERLIN
You're staring at me.

ARTHUR
I'm trying to, but that shirt is
in the way. Leave those for later.
Come back here.

MERLIN ignores ARTHUR and continues his work. Once the clothes are away he gets back in bed and cuddles up to ARTHUR, who absentmindedly plays with his hair.

ARTHUR
This is getting long.

MERLIN
Is that a complaint?

ARTHUR
No, I like it.

ARTHUR gives MERLIN's hair a light, playful tug.

MERLIN
Ow!

ARTHUR
This, on the other hand -

ARTHUR brushes his hand against MERLIN's beard.

ARTHUR
- is annoying.

MERLIN
Good. I live to annoy you.

ARTHUR
You succeed.

ARTHUR huffs and rolls his eyes.

ARTHUR
Seriously, Merlin, I don't know
why you insist on keeping it.

MERLIN
Does it make you love me less?

ARTHUR
No! Nothing could lessen my
feelings for you.

Suddenly, MERLIN goes very still against ARTHUR. His eyes close
and he lets out a stuttering breath.

MERLIN
(whispered to himself)
We'll see about that...

ARTHUR pulls MERLIN in closer.

FADE TO BLACK

EXT. LONDON

MORDRED stands on the street corner watching the hustle and
bustle around him, he rolls his eyes at a group of Jesus
Freaks across the street. Something shuffles behind a trash
barrel behind MORDRED, who spins around and point his sword
towards the sound. A homeless junkie stumbles forward - the
same man LANCELOT and MERLIN saw earlier. MORDRED lowers his
sword.

MORDRED
I was told you have news for me.

JUNKIE
Saw one'a your gents, I did. Not
too far from 'ere.

MORDRED

Which one?

JUNKIE

Dark 'aired one. Watched 'im get
 inta Reggie's flat m'self. 'E was
 wif some oth'r bloke, too. Pretty
 boy. Tall.

MORDRED

You're certain it was him?

JUNKIE

Got me a good look.

MORDRED

Which way did they go from there?

JUNKIE

Came back round 'ere. Got on one
 of them motorbikes an' rode off
 t'wards Spitalfields. Got some
 oth'rs to keep look out for 'em.
 Ellie heard the blon' one talkin'
 'bout some 'ospital.

MORDRED

What hospital?

JUNKIE

Maudsley!

MORDRED

Good work.

JUNKIE

Hang on! gave you good info, I
 did! You gotta give me some 'fin',
 too.

MORDRED

Of course. I remember our bargain.

MORDRED produces two plastic baggies from his pocket, filled
 with sparkling blue powder, and tosses them to the JUNKIE, who
 catches them eagerly and stumbles back into the shadows.

FADE OUT

Made in Highland