Camelot

The Knights of The Square Table

By

Richard Coleman

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Characters

Narrator

Merlin

King Arthur

Lady Guinevere

Guard

The Black Knight (Female.)

Woodcutter

Dragon

Daisy (Servant to the Black Knight.)

Props Man (voice offstage.)

Sir Cumference

Sir Veillance

Sir Roundsound

Sir Render

Sir Cumnavigate

Sir Loinsteak

Sir Kitraining

Sir Lancelot

Sir Cuit-bored (sic.)

Camelot

The Knights of The Square Table

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Camelot

Scene One – The Court of King Arthur

(Enter Narrator.)

**Narrator:** Dear friends, I welcome you to Court

 Upon this special night,

 You see before you Camelot

 It’s not a pretty sight.

 For this kingdom that was once

 So vibrant, good and happy.

 Has been attacked by the Black Knight,

 Who’s not a pleasant chappy.

 But with you here, I’m confident

 That we can soon ensure,

 Our Camelot has once again

 The strength it had before.

 But to this end, it must rely

 Upon these few strange sights,

 That enter over there, dear friends,

 The company of Knights.

(Enter Sir Kitraining, Sir Cumference, Sir Veillance, Sir Roundsound, Sir Loinsteak, Sir Render, Guard.)

**Kitraining:** My name is Sir Kitraining,

 I try to stay quite slim,

 It’s due to all the exercise

 I do within the gym.

**Cumference:** My name is brave Sir Cumference

 My friends have always found,

 I eat the most at parties

 That’s why my stomach’s round.

**Veillance** I’m known as good Sir Veillance,

 My eyesight is so strong,

 I’ll spot a foe at fifty yards

 I’m very rarely wrong.

**Loinsteak:** My name is strong Sir Loinsteak,

 I don’t know if you care,

 But I’m the only one called this

 Because I’m very rare.

**Render** Oops… I am sweet Sir Render

 I think that I just might

 Avoid a range of different things,

 I never like to fight.

**Roundsound** Sir Render shouldn’t be a Knight

 There’s no one who is meeker.

 I am of course Sir Roundsound

 And if you need a speaker

 Come to me - my job is to enable,

 Victory!

 For know us as

 The Knights of the Round Table.

**Narrator:** I’m most impressed but I must say

 If you look over there,

(Points to table.)

**Narrator:** The table that is in this Court

 Appears to be quite square.

**Veillance** A slight mistake, our Props Master

 Has recently retired.

**Narrator:** It seems that his replacement

 Is close to getting fired.

 Surely, Knights for Camelot,

 The table must be round?

 So all opinions can be heard,

 What say you Sir Roundsound?

**Roundsound** I do agree but there’s no time,

 To change it now you know.

 This isn’t like an episode

 Of the ‘Antiques Roadshow’.

 We must move on, for it is clear

 That we have work to do.

 Have you seen Sir Lancelot?

**Narrator:** I thought he was with you.

**Loinsteak:** He’s gone to see sweet Guinevere,

 I think he’s lost his heart.

**Cumference:** There is no time to wait for him,

 Let’s sit down here and start

 The meeting to decide how we

 Defeat the Black Knight’s heart.

 He’s threatened Arthur’s reign, you know.

**Cumference:** Correct!

**Veillance** Yes that is true.

**Loinsteak:** We need the help of Merlin.

**Veillance** You’re right, of course we do.

**Kitraining:** So call him to the Castle now

To help us in this fight.

**Roundsound** Call him guard, we want his help,

We only have tonight.

(Exit Guard.)

**Narrator:** **(To Audience.)** Now Merlin is a strange old man,

 He wears a battered gown,

 And lives his life by magic,

 An ancient Derren Brown.

 He always seems excited,

 Will rush from here to there.

 He’s always losing something,

 A trait I cannot bear.

 But look, I see the man appear.

(Enter Merlin.)

**Narrator:** He seems quite in a state

**Merlin:** I hope you haven’t started yet,

 Even though I’m late.

 I’ve had a very trying day.

**Narrator:** Oh please, don’t start to moan.

 Where’s King Arthur’s sword tonight?

**Merlin:** It’s stuck within a stone.

**Loinsteak:** It’s stuck you say?

 How can that be?

 He’ll need that sword to fight.

**Merlin:** It’s just too bad for it is clear

 He won’t have it tonight.

 Now where’s the King?

 We must discuss,

 The danger to our land.

 There is a threat to Camelot.

**Narrator:** Pray help us understand.

**Merlin:** If the Black Knight kills the king

 To me it will be clear,

 Democracy and human rights,

 Will quickly disappear.

 So Arthur must be firm and strong,

 And face this awful foe,

 In mortal combat

**Render** What a fight?

**Merlin:** Of course!

 Go toe to toe.

 That isn’t all the bad news though.

**Narrator:** There surely can’t be more?

**Merlin:** A man I met just earlier,

 Said to me, he was sure,

 He’d heard a dragon in the hills.

**Loinsteak:** That news is pretty bad.

 If it’s confirmed,

 We’ll have to go

 And fight it!

**Narrator:** Are you mad?

**Cumference:** Now we need Sir Lancelot,

 I hope he’s on his way.

**Veillance** If it’s Guinevere he’s with,

 We won’t see him today.

(Enter Sir Lancelot.)

**Lancelot:** Never fear, dear Knights it’s me

 The hero of the hour.

(Looks into his Vanity mirror, and kisses his reflection.)

**Cumference:** Guinevere has chucked him out

 That’s why he looks so sour.

**Lancelot:** I’m known to all as Lancelot

 I ride a tall white horse.

 **(To Audience.)**

 Ladies, if you need a man,

 Then come to me, of course.

 I’ve broken many ladies’ hearts,

 It’s my good looks you see.

 Whenever I am in a room,

 They gravitate to me.

**Narrator:** **(To Audience.)**

 You see how arrogant he is?

 How boastful he can be?

 If he continues to show off,

 He’ll need some surgery.

(Enter Guard.)

**Guard:** The King is here.

**Narrator:** **(To Audience.)** We all must stand,

 It’s reverent you know.

 King Arthur rules in Camelot.

(Enter King Arthur as Narrator directs Audience to stand.)

**Arthur:** Dear Knights, I’m here to show,

 We must defeat the Knight in black,

 Who tries to take my crown.

 **(To Merlin.)** What’s wrong with that,

 My learned man?

 There is no need to frown.

**Merlin:** It’s not just him who’s on your case,

 That news is bad enough.

 You’ve got a dragon in the hills.

**Arthur:** Oh dear!

**Merlin**: Yes, life is tough.

 Troubles always seem to strike

 Together, you will find.

**Arthur:** I need your help dear Merlin,

 So tax your wizard mind.

**Merlin:** There’s one thing that you need to do,

 Before the quest is set,

 Get your sword Excalibur.

**Arthur:** Yes, I’ll be in the debt

 Of any knight, who lifts my sword,

 That lies within a rock.

 You only have tonight of course,

 You’re up against the clock.

**Lancelot:** Leave this minor task to me,

 I’ll soon release your blade.

 Where can I find Excalibur?

**Merlin:** Within a leafy glade.

**Lancelot:** I’ll go at once.

**The Knights: (All together.)** Can we come too?

**Merlin:** There’s nothing you may fear.

**Lancelot:** If that’s the case,

 Then it is plain

 I’ll take sweet Guinevere.

**Arthur:** The rest of you stay here I pray,

 For I have had a thought,

 If the dragon leaves the hills

 You must protect the court.

 **(To Sir Lancelot.)** Right, follow me. I’ll show the way

 There can be no delay.

 We must try to save Camelot,

 Before the break of day.

**Lancelot:** No sire, I think you should remain

 For danger might lurk there.

 The Knights here will protect you.

**Arthur:** Oh very well, take care.

(Exit Lancelot.)

**Narrator:** So off he goes.

 The Knights remain,

 King Arthur’s very proud.

 For Lancelot is his best Knight,

 Though I find him quite loud.

Scene Two – The Woodland Glade

**Narrator:** Now let us go into the woods

 To find King Arthur’s sword,

 We need a bit more action,

 To stop you getting bored.

 Look, who’s that within the trees?

 I think that it just might,

 Be the foe of our dear king,

 The sly, cunning, Black Knight. **(Enter Black Knight with Daisy.)**

**Black Knight:** Daisy come with me at once,

 I’ve heard that somewhere near

 This glade we’ll find Excalibur,

 So hurry please, draw near.

 I think it’s set within a stone,

 We’ll try to pull it out.

 For with the power it gives to us,

 King Arthur we can flout.

 We’ll then control all Camelot,

 I’ll be upon the throne.

 When I succeed I’ll be quite proud,

 I did it on my own.

(Black Knight tries to pull sword from stone.)

**Black Knight:** The sword is stuck it will not move,

I can’t release the blade,

 I will not be defeated,

 Within this leafy glade.

 I need some magic that is true

 For then you’ll surely see

 The power in the Kingdom

 Will be my alchemy.

**Daisy:** But Knight, I know that you are good,

 You’ve won many a fight.

 Will you reveal your secret now,

 To everyone tonight?

**Black Knight:** No, I won’t and I know that

 You think I’m being shady.

 But Arthur mustn’t ever know **(Removes helmet.)**

 That the Black Knight’s a lady.

**Daisy:** But why not tell him, for I’m sure,

 The reason he will see.

 You’re fighting for your place at Court,

**Black Knight:** It’s called equality.

 The Knights that sit around him are

 Not really very able,

 I want a female section of

 The Knights of his Round Table.

**Narrator:** I hate to butt in here Black Knight,

 I don’t know if you care?

 The table that is in this play,

 Is definitely square.

 We had a problem with the props,

 No table could be found,

 In time to put upon the stage,

 So it is square not round.

**Black Knight:** Ridiculous! But never mind,

 I’ve better things to do.

 Than listen to a list of props,

 Recounted here by you.

 Hark! I hear someone approach,

 I think that we must hide.

 Within the branches of this tree,

**Daisy:** Yes quickly,

**Narrator:** She replied.

(The Black Knight and Daisy conceal themselves within the tree.)

**Narrator:** They climbed the tree,

 The branch was strong.

 It was a sturdy oak,

(Enter Sir Lancelot, Merlin, and Lady Guinevere.)

**Narrator:** As Lancelot and Guinevere

 Came in, and then he spoke,

 To Merlin, who was there as well,

**Lancelot:** We need some special magic.

**Merlin:** If I get all this wrong of course,

 The results could be tragic.

 You know my tricks don’t always work,

 I have been rather bold,

 Trying to change boring lead

 Into new shining gold.

 With no success I have to say,

 So surely I can see,

 The only way to profit

 Is to win the lottery.

**Narrator: (To Audience.)** History is present here,

 So now you all have got,

 The reason that the lottery

 Is run by Camelot.

**Lancelot:** Look! The sword is over there

 It’s trapped within the stone,

 Whoever can release it will

 Soon end up on the throne.

**Narrator:** Actually that’s not quite right,

 For Arthur’s King today.

 It simply means if it’s released

 You might be King one day.

**Merlin:** Perhaps dear lady, you could try?

 I feel it is your duty,

 To see if sorcery can be

 Just overcome with beauty.

**Guinevere:** But I might ruin my hands Merlin,

 I’m sure that I would fail,

 I might chip off my nail varnish,

 Or even break a nail.

**Narrator:** Nail varnish in Arthur’s time?

**Merlin:** Yes can I make it clear?

 That Guinevere was seen as quite,

 A fashion pioneer.

**Lancelot:** **(Crosses to stone and pulls sword.)** The sword is stuck within this stone,

 What do we need to do?

 For time is running out quite fast,

 Merlin it’s up to you.

 We need your magic it is true,

 For I can really tell,

 The sword will stay within this rock.

**Guinevere:** We need a magic spell.

**Merlin:** Very well I’ll need your help,

 Can you find me some wood?

 It must be oak and very old,

 For then I think I should

 Be able to enchant the sword.

**Lancelot:** There is an oak tree here.

**Merlin:** Yes, but can you chop it down

 It is quite large I fear?

**Narrator:** If they attack that tree it’s clear,

 They’ll have a massive fright.

 For we know that the old oak tree,

 Conceals our friend the Knight.

**Lancelot:** I’ll take this branch it seems quite loose

 I’ll break it right away.

(Enter Woodcutter.)

**Woodcutter:** Hold on, dear sir, what on earth

 Are you up to today?

**Lancelot:** I am a Knight, so bold and true,

 You must, of course, know me.

**Woodcutter:** I don’t care if you are the King,

 Get off my precious tree.

 We can’t have Knights from near and far,

 Attacking all this green.

 The forest is quite precious,

 Unless the King and Queen,

 Grant you permission, for this act

 Then you must stay your hand.

 You cannot take that branch my friend,

**Lancelot:** No, you don’t understand.

 We need the wood to aid a spell,

 That Merlin must create,

 It’s part of saving Camelot

 Before it is too late.

**Woodcutter:** Oh Merlin, I have heard of you

 Do you work for the King?

**Merlin:** Indeed I do, and Lance is right,

**Lancelot:** So can I take a swing

 With your large axe you carry there?

 I only need that bit.

 Then we can put it in the pot,

 I’m sure that it would fit.

**Woodcutter:** I’m sorry but my job is clear

 You cannot chop that tree.

 Protecting woodland is my job,

 It’s worth a lot to me.

(Aside.)

**Black Knight:** A close escape Daisy, no doubt.

 We must try to stay hidden

 To find out all the plans they have

**Narrator:** **(To Black Knight.)** Eavesdropping is forbidden.

**Black Knight:** Don’t worry sir, I mean no harm,

 For you will surely see

 That really I am on your side

 So please protect this tree.

**Narrator:** **(To Audience.)** It’s seems that the Black Knight is safe

 He will not be revealed.

 By hiding in that ancient oak,

 He will stay well concealed.

 **(To Lancelot.)** I think that what he says is true,

 So look upon the ground,

 To see if there are twigs about.

**Woodcutter:** Now that idea is sound.

**Lancelot:** Oh very well.

**Guinevere:** I have some here.

**Merlin:** Please put them in this pot.

 I mix in herbs and magic dust,

 And other things I’ve got.

 There’s eye of toad and leg of newt

 With tongue of lark, as well.

**Lancelot:** It may work but I have to say,

 It’s not a pleasant smell.

**Merlin:** Now quiet please, I must recount

 The magic words

**Lancelot:** I know.

 Just get on with it, will you please?

 **(To Audience.)** Before they have to go.

**Merlin:** Sword I beg you in the stone,

 My magic will release.

**Lancelot:** It still feels pretty firm to me.

**Guinevere:** Why don’t you try some grease?

**Merlin:** Eye of toad and leg of newt

 Potions from the sea.

 Work your magic on this rock

 Excalibur be free.

(Lancelot pulls on the sword and it comes free.)

**Guinevere:** Hurrah it’s free,

**Merlin:** But not for long

 The spell that I have spun

 Will only last the hours ‘til dawn

 For when the rising sun

 Strikes on the metal cold and grey

 The sword will return here.

 In that time the dragon must

 Be found and killed, I fear.

**Lancelot:** A quest then, now I have the sword.

 I’ll head off for his lair.

**Guinevere:** Please be careful Lancelot,

 You know that I will share,

 Fear for your safe return this day,

 The outcome may be bad,

 If anything happened to you,

 The King would be quite sad.

**Narrator:** Now I will digress a bit,

 Explain about this pair.

 For Guinevere is Arthur’s wife,

 But she of course can care

 For Lancelot, but please be sure,

 She loves her husband dear.

 We’ll have no ‘hanky-panky’,

 Within this play, I fear.

 Though she spends time with Lancelot,

 I know she’s always been

 True to her husband Arthur,

 She’s acted like a Queen.

**Lancelot:** Farewell dear friends. **(Exit Lancelot.)**

**Narrator:** The brave knight leaves.

 Be careful if you find

 The dragon, living in his cave,

 I think that he might mind

 A knight, with just one thought, to kill,

 Then cut out his dark heart.

 Just to defeat him, you will have

 To show you’re pretty smart.

**(Exit Merlin and Guinevere.)**

(The Black Knight and Daisy appear from the concealment in the tree.)

**Black Knight:** So Lancelot has got the sword.

**Daisy:** That must be hard to swallow.

**Black Knight:** I’m just not into magic tricks,

 Come on, we’ll have to follow,

 To see where Lancelot ends up,

**Daisy:** The dragon’s lair - he said.

**Black Knight:** I hope that he is careful,

 Or else he’ll end up dead.

**(Exit Black Knight and Daisy.)**

**Narrator:** How very strange to see that knight

 Perturbed about Sir Lance.

 I thought he was her enemy,

 But she’s taking a chance

 And following him to the hills,

 Shall we go and see,

 How this tale unfolds to us,

 As we approach Scene Three.

Scene Three- The Court of King Arthur

**Narrator:** Before we go into the hills

 To follow on his quest.

 I know that trouble brews in court

 I think that it is best,

 We go and see what’s going on

 The knights are ‘round the table.

 Another argument ensues.

 I think they are unable,

 To sort out any differences

 They seem to disagree,

 What constitutes good manners

 Known then as chivalry.

 Some want to fight,

 Some want to make,

 Their fortune in a day,

 ‘Noblesse oblige’ does not exist

 I am afraid to say.

(Enter Knights who take their seats at the table.)

**Kitraining:** The issue’s very plain to me

 I think our king is weak.

**Veillance** Be careful what you say dear Knight.

**Roundsound** What is it that you speak?

**Kitraining:** If he can not get back his sword

 Or kill the dragon too,

 Is he worthy to be king?

**Cumference:** Who’ll take his place?

**Loinsteak:** Not you!

**Render** To replace Arthur would be mad,

 You’d need a special reason,

 Can’t you see how it would look?

 We’d be committing treason.

**Kitraining:** His sword is stuck within a stone,

 The dragon’s on his way.

 If Lancelot fails in his quest,

 Then friends I have to say

 I do not like the dragon’s breath,

 Though we would try to hinder

 His destruction of our town.

 I’m sure he’d turn to cinder

 The Camelot that we hold dear

 Is that what you desire?

 To lose our homes and families

 Destroyed by dragon fire.

**Loinsteak:** I’m sure there is another way,

 We need to help the king.

 For now it is his darkest hour

**Cumference:** Perhaps Sir Lance will bring,

 The dragon’s heart upon a plate

 Then Camelot would be

 Returned once more to happiness,

**Render** He will succeed. You’ll see!

(Enter King Arthur.)

**Arthur:** Knights, my friends, the news is good,

 Excalibur is free.

 Merlin and his magic

 Released the sword for me.

 When Lancelot completes his quest

 All of us will see,

 If honour, trust and bravery,

**Loinsteak:** Can conquer vanity.

**Veillance** Yes it’s true that knight is vain.

**Render** I think that is unfair.

**Cumference:** No, before a battle

 He always does his hair.

 Last time we had a jousting day,

 He came an hour late,

 His armour only half done up

 He didn’t look too great.

 I asked the reason he was late,

 ‘Why are you in a rush?’

 ‘Forgot my sword,’ came the reply.

 He’d brought his old hair brush.

(Enter Merlin.)

**Merlin:** Knights I think the time has come

 To ready for a fight.

 For if Sir Lance fails in his task,

 I know that we just might

 Have to defend our homes from an,

 Old dragon, breathing fire.

**Veillance** Sounds a piece of good advice

 What is it you desire?

**Merlin:** We need some water ‘round the town,

 To douse the flames that burn.

 For I have heard that water

 Can give a funny turn,

 To any dragon it will help

 The people to rebuff

 The flames that he will spout at us,

 To make us all hot stuff.

**Narrator:** So we will leave them to their plans,

 They’ve done this all before,

 It’s time to meet the dragon

 As we approach Scene Four.

Scene Four – The Dragon’s Lair

**Narrator:** Ah yes we see the dragon,

 He’s sitting on a chair

 Rather strange I have to say,

 But please friends be aware

 I’ve heard his temper can be fierce

 But I think he looks sad.

 Let’s see if he will talk to us,

 Without him getting mad.

 Hello Dragon sorry to

 Intrude upon your night.

 I have to say you do not seem

 To be inclined to fight.

**Dragon:** You’re all the same, you never learn,

 Tonight I’m feeling stressed.

**Narrator:** Surely you’re not feeling down.

**Dragon:** I am. I’m quite depressed.

 For everyone I ever meet,

 Thinks I just want to burn

 But sometimes it is only when

 I have a funny turn.

**Narrator:** But that is true, you are quite right,

 They see you as a threat,

 They think you’ll fry them to a crisp,

**Dragon:** I’ve never done it yet.

 The tales you’ve heard are all untrue.

 You see I’m just not brave,

 That’s why I spend most of my days

 Just hiding in this cave.

 They run away, they think I’m fierce,

**Narrator:** Can I make a suggestion?

 Tell them when you’re feeling ill.

**Dragon:** I blame the indigestion.

 You see I like all kinds of food

 I love hot chilli powder.

**Narrator:** You’ll have to tell them you’re no threat.

**Dragon:** I do.

**Narrator:** So say it louder.

 What constitutes a day of food?

**Dragon:** I’ll start with ginger beer.

 The fiery stuff, then red hot sauce,

**Narrator:** Then it is very clear

 Your diet will cause you all this pain,

 You must become a veggie

 Give up all the spicy food

 Then you won’t feel so edgy.

**Dragon:** Now that is quite ridiculous,

 I cannot just eat greens,

 Or survive on celery,

 And cucumber, and beans.

 Beans do not agree with me,

 I find them very tart,

 What is worse when I’ve had them

 I always want to…

**Narrator:** …START! To think that my idea

 Would change your attitude.

 You wouldn’t be so grumpy,

 You wouldn’t be so rude.

 Instead you could have lots of friends,

 For all of them would see

 A dragon who was very good,

 And not so fiery.

 I have here a cooking book **(Produces Cooking Book.)**

**Narrator:** With recipes within

 Especially for dragons

 Who have a scaly skin.

 Written by an expert chef,

 Delia is her name.

 You’ll see that her ideas in time

 Will earn her praise and fame.

 There is a special section here,

 That deals with food that’s hot.

 Removes the fire,

 Retains the taste,

 Within the cooking pot.

**Dragon:** Thanks for that but let’s get on,

 For this lot out there know,

 They’ve come to see a rhyming play.

 It’s not a cooking show.

 What you say makes perfect sense

 But lately I have heard

 A Knight is on his way to me

 To slay me, I must gird

 My loins to face this threat,

 So what am I to do?

 Burn him to a cinder?

 I need advice from you.

**Narrator:** You’re right his name is Lancelot,

 A very special Knight

 But he has got a weakness that

 You could exploit. All right?

 He is the vainest of the Knights,

 Puts cleanser on his face,

 When he goes into battle

 There’s no hair out of place.

 When he approaches just make sure

 You take away his sword

 Then you can have a chat with him

 You cannot be ignored.

**Dragon:** A good idea. It’s sound advice

 I hear the Knight approaching,

(Sound Effect :- Two coconuts placed together to resemble horses hooves.)

 Riding on two coconuts

 A subject I’ll be broaching

 With the props man, for I see

 The Knight he has no horse.

**Narrator:** Our ticket sales are really bad,

 We’re short of funds, of course.

 The props man must be thinking that

 When asked to do this show.

 He should have taken a way out

 And simply answered ‘No.’

(Voice from Wings - Props Man.)

**Props Man:** You’re right I’m getting quite fed up,

 I do not think it is funny,

 Having to equip this show,

 Without some proper money.

 I had to use two coconuts,

 But please admit to me

 The sound is quite authentic,

 I’ve improvised you see.

(Enter Sir Lancelot, carrying the two coconuts.)

**Lancelot:** So Dragon it is time to face

 Sir Lancelot the Bold.

**Dragon:** If you’re from the Round Table

 You don’t look very old.

 I’ve heard of quite a few of them,

 Sir Plus and sweet Sir Render

 Sir Veillance who has good eyesight,

 Sir Loin I’ve heard is tender.

 But I have never heard of you,

**Lancelot:** Don’t worry for you’ll see

 I am a Knight who’s famous for

 His innate bravery.

**Dragon:** Before we start our final fight,

 Can you recount to me,

 How Merlin is?

**Lancelot:** You know him well?

**Dragon:** Oh yes. He comes to see

 Me nearly every week,

 He always loves to tell

 Tales from court and all the news

 That he recounts so well.

 He told me only yesterday

 That he would set a test

 To the Knights of King Arthur

 To find which one was best.

 He said that he would warn them all,

 A dragon might attack,

 To just see their reaction,

**Narrator:** They were taken aback.

**Lancelot:** So aren’t you off to burn the town?

 Where villagers reside?

**Dragon:** No I quite like Camelot

 I’m really good inside.

**Lancelot:** I must admit I’m quite confused,

 You really don’t seem bad,

 Or vicious, just as I was told.

**Dragon:** No I think that is sad.

**Lancelot:** So this night was just a chance

 To see how we behaved.

**Dragon:** Yes King Arthur wanted this

 To see how the Knights saved

 The village, for it would be plain,

 If treason did exist,

 Within his own Square Table,

 Treason he could resist.

 We Dragon’s never have good press

 The stories always say

 We burn, and scorch, rampage about,

 That’s how we spend our day.

**Lancelot:** But now I’m in a quandary

 For I was on a quest,

 To kill the dragon, that is you,

 Or I will fail the test.

 But if you say that Merlin knows

 You well and is your friend

 I think that I must let you live,

 And I will just pretend

 We fought a battle, you escaped,

 Now Camelot is free.

 For I just did not realise

 How good dragons could be.

**Dragon:** A good idea I think it sound,

 But problems there just might

 Be on their way,

 For over there

 Is standing the Black Knight.

**Black Knight:** I heard the tale you have been told

 And I am quite confused

 It seems so sad that I believe,

 That we have both, been used.

 You to kill the dragon here,

 Me to fight you too.

 Merlin’s freed Excalibur

**Lancelot:** Well, that as much is true.

 But if this has been just a test

 Linked to our loyalty,

 I think your helmet must come off

 To show your face, to me.

 I have been told so many tales,

 Concerning the Black Knight

 How vicious, cruel and strong you are,

**Black Knight:** I don’t think that is right. **(Removes helmet.)**

 You see I am a maiden fair,

**Lancelot:** ‘Tis true you’re not a man

 That means of course I cannot fight,

 For I have been a fan

 Of womanhood and it is plain,

 You do seem quite a cutie.

**Dragon:** Oh no it seems that Lancelot

 Is smitten by her beauty.

**Black Knight:** Now Lancelot you have to learn

 That ‘cutie’ will not do,

 I’ve always fought for equal rights,

 I must convince you too

 That ladies can be bold and brave

**Lancelot:** But really, *Equal Rights?*

**Black Knight:** Yes tonight I want to join

 The company of Knights.

**Lancelot:** Arthur will have none of that,

 Nor will Queen Guinevere,

**Black Knight:** I think she will, for realise,

 That her young sister’s here.

 For we were broken up at birth

 And I was sent away

 Now I have returned.

**Lancelot:** We’ll see,

 What Arthur has to say.

**Narrator:** I suggest you go to court.

**Dragon:** I’ll follow in the morning

 For your quest should be complete

 You see the day is dawning.

**Narrator:** We’ll go back now to Arthur’s Court

 To settle this confusion.

 Scene Five approaches, it’s our last,

 A suitable conclusion.

Scene Five – King Arthur’s Court

**Narrator:** A new Knight seated on the chair

 Is cleaning Arthur’s sword,

 He seems to be quite weary

 He’s known as ‘Sir Cuit-bored.’

 When Lance returns Excalibur,

 The King will feel complete

 Oh look he comes with all the Knights

 **(To Audience.)**

**Narrator:** Now quickly, on your feet.

 You know you have to show respect,

 When Kings or Queens are greeted,

 That’s enough, I’m happy so

 Now you can all be seated.

**Arthur:** Sir Cuit-bored how goes the last task,

 I set you here tonight?

 To clean the sword I had to use.

**Cuit-bored:** It just did not feel right,

 For you should have Excalibur.

**Arthur:** Don’t worry for I know,

 Today it will come home to me,

 With Lancelot, and so

 Please tell me Knights what do you think

 About our friend the dragon?

 When he attacks will all of you

 Get in the nearest waggon?

 To hide away from all his flames

 Until he’s burnt the town.

 I’ll fight him by myself so I can

 Just protect my crown.

 So, dear friends it’s time to leave,

**Knights:** No, we’ll stay by your side,

**Arthur:** Your reaction, I must say,

 Just fills my heart with pride.

**Roundsound** Our aim is to protect our King.

**Render** Queen Guinevere as well.

**Arthur:** I am pleased to hear you speak,

 For now it’s time to tell

 You, that the threat I have outlined,

 Will not take place tonight.

 For the dragon is our friend,

 I think that he just might,

 Come down to court to meet you all

 For it was just a test.

 To see if I could trust you all,

 This outcome is the best

 Result, I could have had,

 So I must thank you all.

 We need to wait for Lancelot,

 Who went beyond the call

 Of duty, for his King,

 But Merlin will have shown

 No harm will come to him at all

 When he was on his own.

**Merlin:** That much is true, Excalibur

 Was treated with a spell.

 To keep Sir Lancelot quite safe

 And I can always tell,

 If what I’ve done has gained success

 No blood was spilt tonight

 Sir Lancelot is back in court

(Enter Sir Lancelot and the Black Knight - helmeted.)

**Narrator:** Then you’ve got something right.

**Arthur:** But who is this that’s by your side

 In armour that is black?

 I think it is our enemy

 Sir Render please attack.

**Render** Oh Arthur, do I have to for

 I feel under the weather

 I don’t think I can harm the Knight

 With this my trusty feather.

(Sir Render produces Feather duster.)

**Arthur:** Sir Roundsound fight this knight at once.

**Narrator:** Though he is quite a speaker,

(Sir Roundsound goes forward - the Black Knight knocks him down.)

**Narrator:** The Black Knight knocks him down at once,

 It seems that he was weaker.

**Arthur:** Sir Veillance look upon this task,

 Take on this Knight today.

(Sir Veillance goes forward and trips over the Black Knight’s outstretched foot.)

**Narrator:** Oh dear, he’s tripped he should have seen

 That foot was in his way.

**Arthur:** Sir Cumference draw your sword.

**Narrator:** Oh no, I think he is too fat.

 To fight the Knight

**Cumference:** I must admit I quite agree with that.

 To fight the Knight might seem to you

 To just be child’s play.

 But I think I’d feel more at home

 At a finger buffet.

**Arthur:** Sir Loinsteak please enter the fray,

 The Black Knight must be battered.

(Sir Loinsteak moves forward and there is a short swordfight, whilst next three lines are said.)

**Black Knight:** I’m not a fish I have to say,

**Loinsteak:** You’re good.

**Black Knight:** Oh thanks, I’m flattered.

**Narrator:** The Black Knight gains the upper hand,

 Sir Loin just cannot make

 The breakthrough and his sword is lost

(Sir Loinsteak loses his sword.)

 He’s now just a mis -‘steak’.

**Narrator:** Sir Cumnavigate arrives

 But I’m afraid to say

 That in a sword fight he is lost

 He won’t win this today.

(The Black Knight runs around Sir Cumnavigate and spins him off stage.)

**Arthur:** Training it is up to you.

 This Knight must be defeated.

**Kitraining:** That is very difficult.

**Black Knight:** Do you suggest I’ve cheated?

 Though you may be very fit,

 You see that I am slim.

(Sir Kitraining and the Black Knight have a swordfight.)

**Kitraining:** He’s right he’s very agile.

 He must go to the gym.

**Narrator:** Finally the fight is won.

 The Black Knight wins the day.

**Arthur:** You have defeated all my Knights

 I don’t know what to say.

 Take off your helmet please reveal

 Your face my precious Knight

 For you must join my special group

 If you can always fight

 Like that and win for you must be

 The best that I have seen

 What do you think Sir Lancelot?

 **(To Guinevere.)** Do you agree, my Queen?

**Guinevere:** Yes Arthur that is very true,

 A noble Knight indeed.

**Black Knight:** Can I join your Square Table?

**Arthur:** Yes Knight that is agreed.

**Narrator:** The Knight takes off her helmet

 There are gasps within the court.

**Arthur:** My dear you are a lady!

**Narrator:** So will you still support

 Her wish to join this set of Knights?

**Arthur:** I always keep my word.

 To take away this privilege

 Would surely be absurd.

 She’s proved herself within a fight

**Guinevere:** But tell me what’s your name?

**Black Knight:** I am the Lady Charlotte

 Our mother was the same

 Lady that gave birth to us,

 Then I was sent away.

**Guinevere:** You are the sister that I lost,

 Oh what a joyous day.

**Narrator:** Of course the story’s not complete

 Without some true romance

 And Lancelot is now in love

 Though led a merry dance,

 By the Black Knight who I must say

 Quite fancies our Lance too.

**Lancelot:** Will you marry me today?

**Black Knight:** Of course I’ll marry you.

 But have I earned the right tonight

 To take my seat right here?

**Arthur:** It seems you have.

**Loinsteak:** You’re very brave.

**Veillance** You do not seem to fear

 Any foe that may approach.

**Cumference:** We welcome you. Please sit.

**Roundsound** Having a young lady here

 Just does not seem to fit

 With our ideals but I suppose

 That times will always change.

**Arthur:** You’re right of course, and now Merlin

 I think you can arrange

 The marriage of this love-struck pair,

 I’ll leave it up to you.

**Guinevere:** It will be such a lovely day

 When they both say ‘I do’.

(Enter Dragon.)

**Dragon:** I hope I’ll get an invite to

 The wedding that is planned.

 I’ll have to watch my diet

 My food is now so bland.

 I cannot eat raw chillies now,

 Nor curried chicken too.

 I’ve lost my fire,

 The flames have died,

 My breath will not harm you.

 I don’t want to engulf the bride

 In multitudes of flame.

 Ruining all the wedding plans

 I’d have to take the blame.

**Arthur:** So that’s decided we can see

 The wedding of the year.

**Lancelot:** I’ll sell the photos to ‘*Hello*’

**Guinevere:** You won’t!

**Narrator:** Said Guinevere.

**Merlin:** Of course you’re welcome one and all

 The nuptials they are pending,

 Ladies, gentlemen good night,

 I love a happy ending.

(Curtain.)

Production Notes

Characters

Any of the knights could be played by females.

Properties

**Scene One – The Court of King Arthur**

Large book (Narrator.) Carried at all times (Personal prop.)

Chair for Narrator (If required –set to side of stage, for duration of performance.)

Square Table (Set at back of stage.)

8 Chairs around table for each Knight (Set around table.)

A Shield for each Knight, that could include individual designs representing their names.

(8 in total personal prop.)

Sword for each Knight (8 in total personal prop.)

Feather duster (Sir Render instead of sword.)

Magic wand (Merlin.)

Different ridiculous objects that Merlin can carry in his gown. (Merlin.)

Vanity mirror (Sir Lancelot.) personal prop

**Scene Two– The Woodland Glade**

Tree to hide in for Black Knight and Daisy (Set at back of stage.)

Sword (Black Knight.) personal prop

Helmet (Black Knight.) personal prop

Oak twigs/branches upon ground (Set under tree on stage.)

Pot and fire for Merlin’s spell (Set at one side of stage.)

2 Ingredient bottles for Merlin labelled :- Eye of toad, and leg of newt. (Merlin, Personal prop.)

Sword in stone that can be released (Set in middle of stage.)

**Scene Three- The Court of King Arthur**

Square Table (Set at back of stage.)

Eight chairs for each Knight (Set on stage.)

Throne for King Arthur (Set on stage.)

Hair brush (Sir Cumference – personal prop.)

**Scene Four – The Dragon’s Lair**

The Dragon’s Chair

Excalibur (Personal Prop Lancelot.)

A Book with Cover Page :- ‘Delia’s Book of Non-Hot Food for Dragons’ (Narrator personal prop.)

Two coconut halves. (Personal prop Lancelot.)

**Scene Five – The Court of King Arthur**

Square Table (Set at back of stage.)

Eight chairs for each Knight (Set on stage.)

Two thrones – for Arthur and Guinevere (Set on stage.)

Feather duster – (Personal Prop Sir Render.)

Excalibur (Personal prop Sir Lancelot.)

Swords (Personal props all the Knights.)