

Arthur

by

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Fade in:

EXT - FOREST CLEARING - DAY

A knight in shining armour is being attacked by a group of 6 soldiers. He parries one blow with his shield while elbowing the man behind him. He is obviously better than those around him but never delivers a killing blow.

NARRATOR (V.O.)

The year is 607 and the Pendragon family has been ruling Camelot for the past 400 years. In that time there has never been a richer, more peaceful kingdom in the entire world. But that is quickly changing. Generation upon generation of inbreeding in the royal family has finally caught up to them in the form of Arthur.

CUT TO:

A small man in lavish clothing sits beside the action with an ancient megaphone.

ARTHUR

Cut cut cut!

The fighting stops and everyone turns to him.

ARTHUR (CONT'D)

Arthur 2?

The knight takes off his helmet.

ARTHUR 2

Yes my lord?

ARTHUR

Is that what you call fighting?

ARTHUR 2

I'm sorry?

ARTHUR

You're representing me out there and you're fighting like a girl.

ARTHUR 2

Ummm...

ARTHUR

(sighing)

Let me show you how it's done.

He walks over to the knight.

ARTHUR (CONT'D)

Give me your sword.

Arthur 2 hands his sword over to Arthur who turns to the closest soldier and stabs him in the stomach. He falls, groaning.

ARTHUR (CONT'D)

You see?

The groans continue.

ARTHUR (CONT'D)

Ah, walk it off.

He goes back to his seat.

ARTHUR (CONT'D)

Let's do it again.

An older man in rich clothing walks slowly towards him, his head bowed.

RINKLEY

My Lord?

ARTHUR

Urgh! Can't you see I'm busy!

RINKLEY

It's just that you promised your citizens a public forum today. They've been waiting for an hour.

ARTHUR

I don't remember saying that.

RINKLEY

You said it last night.

ARTHUR

Was I drunk?

RINKLEY

That's not for me to say.

ARTHUR

(groaning)

Can't you just get one of my knights to do it?

RINKLEY

My lord, you sent them to fight Fortinbras in Norway.

ARTHUR

(shocked)

What? When did I do that?

RINKLEY

Last night.

Arthur groans heavily.

ARTHUR

All I want to do is sit here with a pint of mead, and watch some good old fashion fighting.

RINKLEY

But my lord, the recent breakout of disease has put your people on edge. One small spark and we could have a rebellion on our hands.

Realizing, Arthur stands up.

ARTHUR

Urgh! I hate my people.

RINKLEY

Of course you do, my lord.

They begin walking off. Before they leave Arthur turns to Arthur 2.

ARTHUR (CONT'D)

I'm going for a while. Arthur 2, by the time I come back I don't want any of these people alive.

Arthur 2's face turns to horror.

ARTHUR

(to Rinkly)

Go on then.

They leave.

Arthur 2 slowly lifts his sword out of his sheath, trying not to be noticed.

CUT TO:

INT - ROYAL COURT - DAY

Arthur sits on his throne, bored out of his mind. A peasant speaks to him, but all he sees is his mouth move up and down.

ARTHUR

Mhm. Yeah. Oh, I agree. Mhm.

COMPLAINER

I'm sorry, my lord, are you listening?

ARTHUR

(bored)

Yes: plague, hunger, dying daughters. Anything else?

COMPLAINER

My lord, this disease is killing your people everyday. It starts off slowly. First you sneeze, then you vomit and before you realize, your hair falls out and you die.

Rinkley steps forward

RINKLEY

We hear your plea and I can assure you that His Royal Highness is doing all he can to stop this plague.

COMPLAINER

But-

RINKLEY

Next please!

A soldier marshalls him out. Behind him are 2 women, one has a baby in her arms.

ARTHUR

What's the problem?

WOMAN #1

Pardon me, my lord. This woman and I both had sons in the same week. During the night, this woman's son died because she lay on him. So she got up in the middle of the night and swapped her baby with mine. When I woke up I found the baby next to me dead, but as I took a closer look I realized that it wasn't mine, but hers.

WOMAN #2

She's lying. This baby's mine.

Rinkley steps forward.

ARTHUR

No, I know what to do. Since both of you claim this baby is yours, we will cut the child in 2 and give half to each.

WOMAN #2

That seems fair.

WOMAN #1

Please, my lord, give her the living baby. Don't kill him!

Rinkley smiles.

ARTHUR
(to woman #1)
I see the love you have for this
baby. But fair is fair. Now, what
would you prefer: hotdog or
hamburger?

A soldier comes with a sword.

GAWAIN
(in the distance)
My lord! My lord!

Arthur turns to see a man in chainmail running towards him.
The frame freezes on the man's face.

NARRATOR (V.O.)
This is Gawain. His father is also
his cousin and his mother's the
sister of his father's cousin.
Whatever that means.

He unfreezes and runs to Arthur.

GAWAIN
My lord!

ARTHUR
What is it?

GAWAIN
A deer has just been spotted.

ARTHUR
Can't you see I'm busy?

GAWAIN
But my lord, it's the biggest one
I've ever seen.

ARTHUR
How big?

GAWAIN
You remember the one we saw on
Midsummer's night?

ARTHUR
Yeah.

GAWAIN
Almost as big as that one.

ARTHUR
That is big. Alright, take me
there.

RINKLEY
But my lord, what about this?

ARTHUR
Ah, you deal with it.

Rinkley breathes a sigh of relief.

ARTHUR
(to Gawain)
Go on then.

They leave.

CUT TO:

EXT - FOREST OUTSKIRT - DAY

Gawain leads Arthur to the edge of a forest with a pasture behind it.

GAWAIN
This is where I spotted it.

Arthur sits down and breathes the fresh air.

ARTHUR
Now this is what being king is all about.

GAWAIN
Mhm.

ARTHUR
Wait, aren't you suppose to be in Norway with the other knights?

GAWAIN
(frantically)
There it is!

He points to a small brown figure in the clearing.

ARTHUR
That is big.

CUT TO:

EXT - PASTURE - DAY

Instead of the small figure being a deer it is in fact two men dressed up as one. They walk around clumsily, struggling to move.

BACK
This is stupid. Why are we doing this?

FRONT
Hey, if Sir Gawain want to pay us 20 duckets a day to dress up and walk around, let him do it.

BACK
Says the guy in the front.

CUT TO:

EXT - FOREST OUTSKIRT - DAY

Gawain takes out a bow and offers it to Arthur.

GAWAIN
Will you take the first shot?

ARTHUR
The king always takes the first
shot.

He grabs the bow and gets into position. As he does this he
breaks a twig, creating a loud noise.

CUT TO:

EXT - PASTURE - DAY

The deer stops.

BACK
What was that?

They both listen for a moment.

FRONT
It was nothing.

As he says this the sound of an arrow flying is heard and it
hits the front person in the chest. He falls with a sigh.

BACK
What was that?

The Front doesn't answer.

BACK (CONT'D)
Thomas?

The sound of another arrow is heard and then the back person
is also hit. He falls beside his friend.

CUT TO:

EXT - FOREST OUTSKIRT - DAY

Arthur smiles, laying down the bow.

GAWAIN
What a shot!

ARTHUR
That's going to be good in a stew.

GAWAIN

Uh, right.

ARTHUR

Now, take it to the castle and have it brought to my chambers after I finish my afternoon executions. You know how hungry I get after some good old beheadings.

GAWAIN

Yes my lord.

Arthur starts to walk away.

ARTHUR

Oh, and make sure they cook it right. Last time it tasted like pork.

GAWAIN

Will do my lord.

FADE OUT

INT - KING'S CHAMBERS - EVENING

Arthur is sitting in a chair with a large axe, sharpening it. He's in a good mood.

ARTHUR

(singing to the tune of
99 bottles of beer)
99 prisoners chained to the block,
99 prisoners chained.
Axe swings down, head rolls around,
98 prisoners chained to the block.

He takes a breath.

ARTHUR (CONT'D)

98 prisoners chained to the block-

His door knocks and he stops singing.

ARTHUR (CONT'D)

What is it?

CUT TO:

INT - OUTSIDE KING'S CHAMBERS - EVENING

A servant is standing outside the door with a tray holding a bowl of stew. His eyes are puffy and he is sweating.

SERVANT

I have brought you your stew, my lord.

ARTHUR
 (from next room)
 Ah, good.

Before he enters the servant pauses and then sneezes heavily into the stew. He looks around and then into the stew.

ARTHUR
 (from next room)
 C'mon then.

Not knowing what to do, the servant opens the door and enters.

CUT TO:

INT - KING'S CHAMBERS - EVENING

The servant walks to the table Arthur is sitting on and hands him the bowl. He leaves. Before he eats, Arthur bows his head in prayer.

ARTHUR (CONT'D)
 Almighty Father I thank you for gifting me with the natural born talent to hunt. I also pray for those people who were executed today, that you'll condemn them to Hell because they're traitors. Amen.

He takes a sip of the stew.

ARTHUR (CONT'D)
 Ah, that's more like it.

CUT TO:

EXT - CAMELOT - NIGHT

Wide shot of Camelot in darkness. Camera pans up to the moon and stars. The stars then fade into different positions. The camera pans back down.

EXT - NORWAY - NIGHT

A wide shot of a military camp in a snowy and cold field. A chyron reads "Kdslfjasdiofsd, Norway".

CUT TO:

INT - COMMANDER'S TENT - NIGHT

A knight walks into his candlelit tent and a servant takes his fur cloak. The only other man in the tent is a general.

LANCELOT

It is freezing out there. Why Norway? Why not Spain? Only idiots live here.

The frame freezes on Lancelot.

NARRATOR (V.O.)

This is Lancelot, the smartest knight but the most cowardly.

The frame unfreezes and he takes no time going to the fire.

LANCELOT

(sighing)

Ah, the fire, a soldier's best friend. How are we doing out there?

GENERAL

Your soldiers are cold and hungry. The plague is also starting to show up.

LANCELOT

Arthur doesn't tend to think of logistics when he points his finger. No matter, we'll be out of here within a week.

He looks deeply into the fire.

LANCELOT (CONT'D)

I just wish Arthur was here with me. I remember when we were best friends. Now he just hangs out with that numbhead Gawain. It's lonely being a knight. It's hard to find a friend that won't pee in you cup when you're not looking.

He picks up a cup to drink it and then puts back.

LANCELOT (CONT'D)

Wait, where is that numbhead?

GENERAL MASON

He said he was sick.

LANCELOT

Of course he did. Nevermind, we'll be back soon. The Norse are a pathetic people. We'll root them out from their caves in no time.

SOLDIER

(in the distance)

Sire, sire!

A soldier barges into the tent.

LANCELOT
What is it?

SOLDIER
We've found a scout!

LANCELOT
Is he alive?

SOLDIER
Yes!

LANCELOT
Well bring him in here. Let's have
a look at these terrible excuses
for humans.

The servant leaves and comes back again, this time with a
6'8" bohemoth whose arms are bigger than his blonde head.

Lancelot jumps behind the general.

LANCELOT (CONT'D)
Oh wow! I was not expecting that.

SOLDIER
He says he wants to speak to the
leader.

LANCELOT
Um, yes, that's me. Hi.

He has no idea what to say.

LANCELOT (CONT'D)
Cup of tea?

CUT TO:

INT - COMMANDER'S TENT - LATER

Both Lancelot and the giant are sipping tea around the fire.
The Norse's cup looks like it came from a child's tea set.

LANCELOT
(fumbling)
What's your name?

NORSE
(in a thick Scandanavian
accent)
Bjor.

LANCELOT
Ah. My name is Lancelot.

There's an awkward silence.

LANCELOT (CONT'D)

So...are all you people as big as you?

BJOR

Bigger. I'm a...what would you call it? A little puppy.

LANCELOT

I see.

He takes a deep breath.

LANCELOT (CONT'D)

My people say you're a scout?

BJOR

No.

LANCELOT

You're not?

BJOR

No.

LANCELOT

Then why are you hiding in the woods?

BJOR

I was running away. The Earl has a price on my head.

LANCELOT

So why did you run here?

BJOR

I want you to take me back to England.

LANCELOT

You want us to take you back with us? Why would I do that?

BJOR

Because I will show you how to win this war.

Lancelot's eyes gleam.

END OF ACT 1.

FADE IN:

INT - ROYAL COURT - MORNING

Gawain is sitting at a table eating his breakfast. Arthur walks in, pale and stuffy. He sneezes as he sits down.

GAWAIN
My lord, you look awful.

ARTHUR
I think it was something I ate.

GAWAIN
Well, I ate the same peasant so...

ARTHUR
What?

GAWAIN
Pheasant! I ate the same pheasant as you.

ARTHUR
I thought it was deer.

GAWAIN
It was diseased. We had pheasant instead.

ARTHUR
Oh. Well, maybe I should just eat some food. What's for breakfast?

A servant approaches with a bowl on a tray, although a different servant from the night before.

SERVANT
Ye olde porridge.

Arthur looks at the bowl in front of him and cringes. He looks up at Gawain and proceeds to throwing up all over the table.

GAWAIN
Oh my.

He grabs Arthur from the chair and helps him back to his room.

GAWAIN (CONT'D)
(to servant)
You go get Rinkley and bring him to the king's chambers.

He servant does as he is asked.

CUT TO:

EXT - CAMELOT - MORNING

A wide shot showing Camelot in all its glory.

RINKLEY (V.O.)

Open wide.

CUT TO:

INT - KING'S CHAMBERS - MORNING

Arthur is lying on top of his bed with his back arched up by a pile of pillows. Rinkley is looking into his mouth as Gawain paces around anxiously.

RINKLEY (CONT'D)

I have bad news, my lord. It seems you have come down with the plague.

ARTHUR

How? I'm not even a peasant?

RINKLEY

Disease is not prejudice, my lord.

GAWAIN

When will he be better?

RINKLEY

(sighing)

It's the plague, good knight. I'm afraid I don't have a cure.

ARTHUR

(coughing)

How long do I have?

RINKLEY

Without help, 4 or 5 days.

GAWAIN

Is there nothing we can do?

RINKLEY

Let me think.

He thinks to himself for a moment.

RINKLEY (CONT'D)

There is one thing, but it's dangerous.

GAWAIN

What?

RINKLEY

I have heard rumours that there is a wizard, Merlin, who lives in Inglewood. He may be able to help you.

GAWAIN

Inglewood? But that's in Rickard's land. He'll kill us if we step over.

RINKLEY

That is why you must sneak there. No big armies. Just you.

GAWAIN

Don't worry Arthur, you can count on me.

ARTHUR

Where are my other knights?

RINKLEY

They're still in Norway, my lord.

ARTHUR

What about Arthur 2?

RINKLEY

He was brought to my surgery today. He had no head.

ARTHUR

Urgh! Fine, Gawain, go and bring Merlin to me.

RINKLEY

My lord, Inglewood is 3 days journey from here. It'll take too long to bring him back. You will have to go with him.

ARTHUR

This is the worst day in the universe.

RINKLEY

I have brought some herbs for you to eat. These should make you feel normal for at least a couple of days.

Arthur sighs.

ARTHUR

Alright then, Gawain, go pack our things and meet me in the cart in 1 hour.

GAWAIN

We're going to have so much fun.

Arthur grimaces. We hear hard knocking at a door.

CUT TO:

EXT - SMALL COTTAGE - DAY

4 soldiers are standing at the doorway of a small cottage. On the side of the house is a sign that states "Merlin's Potions". The captain continues to bang on the door.

CAPTAIN

Open up! We know you're in there!

CUT TO:

INT - SMALL COTTAGE - DAY

The banging continues. In the house is a beautiful young woman who is hiding behind a wall. She is obviously in distress. The frame freezes on her face.

NARRATOR (V.O.)

This isn't Merlin. This is Mel.

The frame unfreezes.

MEL

What do you want?

CUT TO:

EXT - SMALL COTTAGE - DAY

CAPTAIN

Your father owes the crown a lot of money, witch.

He pauses.

CAPTAIN (CONT'D)

He was a gambler, you know. And a terrible one at that.

Camera changes from inside to outside with each character's lines.

MEL

I don't have any money.

CAPTAIN

You know king Rickard puts a price on anyone who owes debts to the crown.

MEL

But I don't owe him anything.

CAPTAIN

You're Merlin's next of kin. You
assume his debts.

Mel puts her face in her hands.

CAPTAIN (CONT'D)

Tell you what, I'll give you 3
days. 3 days to find the 3000
duckets owed. If I'm back and you
don't have it, I'll torch this
place with you still in it.

He pauses.

CAPTAIN (CONT'D)

By the way, we found this in his
pocket. We tried to read it but
it's in code.

He slips a letter under the door.

CAPTAIN (CONT'D)

Oh, and one more thing.

MEL

What?

CAPTAIN

I love you.

She doesn't know what to say.

CAPTAIN (CONT'D)

I love you and I want to marry you.

MEL

Y-you just threatened to put me on
fire!

CAPTAIN

Baby, you put me on fire every time
I see you. What do you say?

Mel is speechless.

MEL

NO!

CAPTAIN

(coldly)

Fine then. You have 3 days.

The 4 soldiers turn and walk to their horses. One of them
chuckles uncontrollably and the captain hits him in the
head.

Mel has the letter. She opens it and reads it. The same
voice of the narrator can be heard as the letter is read.

MERLIN (V.O.)

To my beloved Mel, if you're reading this it means I'm dead. I know right now it seems that I haven't left you with much. But don't worry, that isn't the case. Hidden under one of the gravestones in the garden, it seems I have forgotten which one, is the source of the treasure I have kept since you were born.

Relief floods through Mel and she takes no time to grab a shovel.

CUT TO:

EXT - FOREST ROAD - DAY

Arthur is sitting in a shaded chariot eating dates while Gawain is the one pulling him. They run across the screen.

GAWAIN

How are you feeling, my lord?

ARTHUR

Much better. Those herbs I ate are great. What are they called again?

GAWAIN

Marijuana, my lord.

ARTHUR

Ah. Make sure we have in thick supply when we return. Now, where's the map?

Gawain's eyes widen and he stops the cart. They are seen running back across the screen going the other way and then back again.

The journey continues.

ARTHUR

(reminiscing)

I remember these forests as a kid. You couldn't go through them without facing bandits. Times have changed, though, and we haven't seen bandits in years.

As he says this 6 men in bandit clothing approach. The looks of "oh crap" can be seen with Arthur. Gawain stops the chariot.

GAWAIN

Ah, bandits.

The leader steps forward.

JULIO

(in a Spanish accent)

We are not just bandits. We are the El Banditos, and we are here to relieve you of your things.

He smiles slyly.

ARTHUR

Before you do this I'll have you know that I am your king and what you're about to do is treason.

JULIO

A king, you say? Then where are your knights?

GAWAIN

Norway.

Arthur throws a date at the back of Gawain's head.

ARTHUR

I don't need my knights. I can take you all on by myself. Pass me my sword, Gawain.

Gawain's eyes widen and he indicates that he forgot it.

CUT TO:

EXT - FOREST - DAY

In a snowy forest walks Lancelot, Bjor, General Mason and 2 soldiers. A chyron reads, "Skdjfaowiefj, Norway".

LANCELOT

Why did you bring me here?

BJOR

You cannot beat the Norse.

LANCELOT

You said we could! If you're lying to me-

Lancelot reaches for his sword but it's stuck.

BJOR

The frost. Sometimes it makes the blade stick.

Lancelot's eyes widen.

BJOR (CONT'D)

Here, let me help.

He goes over to him and pulls it out. Lancelot holds it at Bjor, but can't stop it from shaking.

BJOR (CONT'D)

Have you ever used that before?

LANCELOT

(ashamed)

No.

BJOR

Then put it away before you hurt yourself.

He does as he's told.

BJOR (CONT'D)

Now, if you attack, they will eat you alive. This is their land, they know how to use it.

LANCELOT

But you said you would show us how to win this war.

BJOR

Yes. The only way to win is to go home and pretend you did.

LANCELOT

A fake victory? There is no honour in that!

BJOR

What would you prefer: honour or your head?

LANCELOT

My head.

Lancelot sighs.

LANCELOT (CONT'D)

But how would we pull it off? Arthur will want evidence. He always makes us bring treasure back.

BJOR

The Norse do not have gold or jewels for you to bring back. But take me and pretend I am your prisoner. When Arthur is happy, let me go. You get what you want and I get what I want.

LANCELOT

That sounds like it would work.

He turns to the general.

LANCELOT (CONT'D)

General Mason, go ahead and tell everyone that I single handedly killed Fortinbras and the war is over.

GENERAL MASON

Yes sire.

They all begin walking back.

LANCELOT

Bjor, I think this is the start of something great.

Bjor looks at him with pity.

LANCELOT (CONT'D)

Wait, I forgot to ask. Why are you on the run?

BJOR

Jeg spiste barn.

CUT TO:

EXT - FOREST ROAD - DAY

Arthur and Lancelot are walking with just their underclothes. Gawain is carrying a paper pad and a quill.

GAWAIN

(reading lyrically)

And the El Banditos came and took our things
and now we're walking because we have no things
because the El Banditos took our things.

ARTHUR

Let me see that.

He passes it over to Arthur who throws it away.

GAWAIN

That took me 2 days to write!

ARTHUR

(stopping)

Look, there it is. The Quicksand River.

He points to a large pool of sand, scattered with debris like carts and pieces of barrels half engulfed.

ARTHUR (CONT'D)

It's the natural border between our land and Rickard's.

GAWAIN

Well, you know, I heard the best way to get across quick sand is to run across it as fast as you can.

ARTHUR

No Gawain, I'm pretty sure that's the worst way.

GAWAIN

Trust me, my lord, I know this.

ARTHUR

Fine. But if you fall in I'm not going to save you.

GAWAIN

Don't worry, Arthur, I won't need your help.

He steps back a couple of steps and starts his run up. As he reaches the pool he jumps and tries to run across it, but he falls unnaturally fast up to his waist.

GAWAIN (CONT'D)

HELP ME ARTHUR!

ARTHUR

I'm not saving you.

At this point he's up to his neck and still going. Arthur doesn't move. The sand goes over his head and he's below completely. He then reaches his hand up from under and opens and closes it, as if it's screaming for help.

Arthur sighs and grabs the closest branch and holds it over to his hand. He hits Gawain, but his hand suddenly holds flat, as if he's asking him to wait. He then motions that he is ready to be rescued.

Pulling hard, Arthur manages to pull Gawain out, who still has one hand in the sand.

GAWAIN

Thanks Arthur.

ARTHUR

What was that about?

GAWAIN

While I was down there I felt a handle, and I heard there's lots of hidden treasure in here.

ARTHUR

Well then bring it out!

He brings out his hand from the sand to reveal a decomposed human. The handle he was holding was what's left of the jaw.

GAWAIN

Nevermind.

Arthur shakes his head.

GAWAIN (CONT'D)

So that's it. We can't get past.

ARTHUR

Well, we can probably use that bridge over there.

He points to a bridge about 50 yards away.

GAWAIN

Oh yeah.

They walk towards it when Arthur sneezes.

ARTHUR

I hope we're getting close.

They cross the bridge and continue their journey.

CUT TO:

EXT - MERLIN'S GARDEN - DAY

Mel is digging a fifth hole. Surrounding her are previous mounds she dug, a mix of dirt and bones. She has been working tirelessly, but it's all worth it at the sound of the "clunk."

She grabs a small chest and is breathing heavily.

MEL

Yes!

She kisses it, but it makes no noise.

MEL (CONT'D)

No no no no no-

She shakes it, but again there's no noise. She opens it up to reveal a piece of paper.

MEL (CONT'D)

No!

She opens it up and begins reading.

MERLIN (V.O.)

Well done, my child. You have found it! I know what you're thinking: where's the gold? But wisdom comes with age, my dear, and I have come to realize that gold is not the treasure. The real treasure is the

(MORE)

MERLIN (V.O.) (cont'd)
 memories and moments we shared
 together. When you're older you'll
 realize-

She starts ripping up the piece of paper.

MERLIN (V.O.)(CONT'D)
 Hey, what are you doing? This took
 me ages to do.

She throws the pieces to the ground and sits down on the
 edge of the hole. She sits in self pity.

CAPTAIN
 (in the distance)
 Alright Mel, this is your last
 chance. Will you marry me?

She freezes.

CAPTAIN
 Fine then. I'm coming in!

CUT TO:

EXT - SMALL COTTAGE - DAY

The same captain and 3 soldiers stand at her entrance. He
 takes a step back, kicks the door down and enters. The
 others follow.

CUT TO:

INT - SMALL COTTAGE - DAY

They make a quick swoop of the house but realize she's not
 there.

CAPTAIN
 Harrison?

HARRISON
 Yes, captain.

CAPTAIN
 Go check the back.

HARRISON
 Yes sir.

He leaves.

CAPTAIN
 C'mon Mel, I'll be a good husband.
 We can even get a dog.

CUT TO:

EXT - MERLIN'S GARDEN - DAY

The soldier reaches the garden and sees the holes. Mel has gone. He sprints back to meet the other 3 at the entrance.

CUT TO:

EXT - SMALL COTTAGE - DAY

CAPTAIN

Let me guess, she ditched?

HARRISON

Yes. There's 5 of them.

CAPTAIN

What? There's 5 what?

HARRISON

Ditches.

The captain looks at him like he's an idiot. He leaves the cottage and jumps onto his horse, as does the others.

CAPTAIN

Now, Harrison, you take the north road. Ralph, the south. Mickey, you take east and I'll go west.

SOLDIERS

Yes sir.

They split.

CAPTAIN

Nobody touch her. Leave her for me.

CUT TO:

EXT - ROAD - DAY

Gawain and Arthur are walking on the road, tired and hungry.

GAWAIN

Are we there yet?

ARTHUR

(annoyed)

Well I could have told you if you hadn't used the map to wipe your butt!

GAWAIN

I didn't know which leaves make you itchy.

They continue walking but Gawain then suddenly stops.

ARTHUR
Why have you stopped?

GAWAIN
Did you hear that?

ARTHUR
Hear what?

GAWAIN
That.

They both stop and listen. In the background they hear a slight cry.

ARTHUR
What is that?

The sound becomes clearer and they both look to the end of the road. On the horizon is a woman running and screaming towards them.

Time slows down for Gawain. All he sees is the most beautiful girl in the world. His jaw drops. Music starts playing. Light from heaven shines on her face. In the background comes another form, one of a horse.

The captain is catching up. She looks back and begins to scream again. Seeing his missus in danger, Gawain kneels and grabs a big rock from the ground. Arthur moves to the bushes.

As they both approach, the captain takes his spear and gets it ready. Gawain does the same with his rock. They are fifty feet away and closing.

The captain stretches his arm behind him and aims. Knowing it's now or never, Gawain throws his stone.

It flies straight, but it's just a little low. Instead of the captain, he hits Mel square in the face and she falls sideways.

The captain's spear has been loosed, but the rock managed to hit Mel out of the way. The horse sprints past them and turns. Gawain runs to Mel. Seeing the spear on the floor, Arthur grabs it and points to the captain. He stops and recognizes him.

CAPTAIN
King Arthur!?

ARTHUR
You dropped your spear.

CAPTAIN
This isn't your land.

ARTHUR

Yeah well, we just took a big crap
over there so...

The captain isn't sure how to respond.

CAPTAIN

I'm telling Rickard.

He rides past them back to where he came.

ARTHUR

SNITCH!

Gawain has Mel in his arms. She sits up.

MEL

What happened?

GAWAIN

Don't you remember? I saved you.

MEL

No you didn't. You threw a rock at
my head.

GAWAIN

Not hard enough, I guess.

She looks up and sees Arthur. Surprised, she stands up and
rubs the dust off her.

MEL

King Arthur!? What are you doing
here?

ARTHUR

We're looking for Merlin.

MEL

I'm sorry, but he's dead.

ARTHUR

I see.

He walks to the bushes and starts throwing up.

MEL

Wow, they must have been close
friends.

GAWAIN

Oh no, he has the plague. We came
to see if Merlin had the power to
heal him. Although he probably
can't if he's dead.

MEL

Oh no, the plague is easy. There's a plant that only grows in this land that, with a little treatment, completely heals it.

GAWAIN

Well that's convenient.

MEL

I'll go find some.

She goes into the forest and Gawain walks to Arthur. Sitting on the side of the road, Arthur has his hands on his face and seems to be sobbing.

GAWAIN

My lord, good news. There's a cure.

He hears the sniffing.

GAWAIN (CONT'D)

Are you alright?

Arthur lifts his face out of his hands, but still remaining in his hands is some of his hair.

ARTHUR

I'm ugly!

END OF ACT 2.

Fade in:

INT - ROYAL COURT - EVENING

In the middle of the royal court is the famous round table, except this one has a square at the end where Arthur sits. All 12 seats are full of knights except for the one next to him, which belongs to Gawain.

Arthur and his knights are feasting merrily, with mead and roasted meat being guzzled down. They're all laughing.

LANCELOT

And then I said, "In the name of king Arthur I've come to destroy you." And he ran away.

More roaring laughs.

LANCELOT (CONT'D)

And then-and then I got out my sword and threw it at him and I took his head right off. I walked up to him and said, "Good. Now you can pick on someone your own size."

An uproar of drunken laughs.

ARTHUR

So what have you brought me back?

LANCELOT

Ah yes.

He motions for BJOR on the other side of the room.

LANCELOT (CONT'D)

This is BJOR. He's the last Norse alive. He helped us defeat his people.

ARTHUR

So he's a traitor?

LANCELOT

I guess so.

ARTHUR

I like that. He's big, too. He should be a knight.

LANCELOT

I think that's a great idea!

ARTHUR

There's one problem, though. We only have 12 chairs around this table and they're all accounted for. I guess there's just 1 thing we can do.

He grabs his dinner knife and throws it at a random knight.

ARTHUR (CONT'D)

There you go, a spot just opened.

Bjor pulls the knight of the chair and sits down.

ARTHUR (CONT'D)

Although, now that I think of it, I could have just gotten another chair made. Ah, whatever.

He laughs to himself.

ARTHUR (CONT'D)

You could have even used Gawain's for tonight.

He laughs again.

ARTHUR (CONT'D)

Wait, where is Gawain?

LACELOT

Probably gallavanting somewhere else. He's a terrible excuse for a knight, I'll tell you.

ARTHUR

Alright, Lancelot. He's probably just drunk somewhere else.

FADE TO:

INT - SCRUFFY SHACK - NIGHT

Gawain and Mel are both kneeling beside a poor man's bed.

MEL

Alright, now prop him up for me.

Gawain's hesitant, but manages to lift the man up slightly so that Mel can pour medicine into his mouth.

MEL (CONT'D)

There we go.

He puts the peasant down and a hint of a smile can be seen from Gawain's face.

MEL

Now, what do we say?

GAWAIN

I'm taking your children if you die.

MEL

Ah ah ah. That wasn't it.

GAWAIN

Have a good night.

MEL

That's better.

They both walk out of the shack.

Fade out.

END OF ACT 3.