



# The Sword in the Stone

by Emily Bush & Carrie Ingram-Gettins

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## **Characters**

Arthur Dozen

Merlin

Dame Abbie Cadabra

Princess Guinevere (Gwen)

Catrina

Morgana

Lady of the Lake

King Uther Pendragon

Lancelot

Percival

Gwaine

### **ENSEMBLE**

Goblins Dance troop

Goblin Ant

Goblin Dec

Villagers

Courtiers

Town Crier

Knights

1. Sir Tificate
2. Sir Fice
3. Sir Cumference
4. Sir Prize
5. Sir Pose

## **Act I**

### **Scene i:**

*Enter Lady of the Lake, stage right, in the spotlight. She bows to the audience and gives a little wave of her staff*

**LOTL:** Ladies and Gentlemen, boys and girls

Welcome to the most wonderful land in the world  
Magic and music in a big melting pot  
I'm talking, of course, of my dear Camelot  
But something is wrong with this perfect scene  
For the king is ageing and he has no queen  
Only a daughter who he holds so dear  
Beautiful and charming Princess Guinevere  
To give our good king lasting peace of mind  
A husband for his daughter he has decided to find  
But his sister, Morgana, has an evil plan  
She believes, you see, she should rule this land  
Her magic is dark, her heart darker still  
She would bend poor Camelot to her wicked will  
So we need a hero, who is brave and true  
With the heart of a knight, though his blood isn't blue  
And then there is me, the Lady of the Lake  
And I'll be your guide through this story of fate  
Now I'll cast my spell and we'll be off on our way  
To the kingdom of Camelot on this special day

*Exit Lady of the Lake*

## **Scene ii - Exterior Camelot**

*Stage opens to Arthur and villagers going about their daily lives.*

**Group opening song with choreographed dance around village.**

*Arthur mingles with the villagers, Merlin enters stage left*

**MERLIN:** Oh hi Boys and girls, wow Camelot is busy today! I should probably introduce myself. My name is Merlin and I live up in the castle with my mum. She's the Royal Cook. She does all the cooking for the King, she does all the cleaning for the King, actually she does everything for the King. And me, I am the WIZARD TO THE ROYAL COURT. Or I will be when I can get these tricks to work properly. Want to see a magic trick boys and girls? **(Insert simple magic trick that goes wrong)** See I told you I wasn't very good at magic, but one day I will surprise them all. You see boys and girls, I spend so much time in the castle, my mum doesn't think I have any friends, well I've got friends.

Hey, you could be my friends. Will you be my friends, boys and girls? **(waits for response)** Great, I've always wanted a big group of friends, we should have a special hand shake, or a special greeting, Oh I know! Every time I come on, I'm gonna shout, "Hiya Magic Mates" and you need to shout back, as loud as you can "Hiya Merlin". Shall we give it a try? **(practise one or two times)** That was awesome! Now that we're friends, can I ask you a favour? We have a baddy in this pantomime, a real nasty piece of work. Her name is Morgana, and she wants to get rid of the King and rule Camelot, we can't let that happen. So if you see her can you boo as loud as you can?

You'll know it's her because wherever she is around you'll hear this music.

**[Morgana evil music plays]**

**MERLIN:** Brilliant! Oh, I almost forgot, I've come down into the town today because tonight the King wants burgers for dinner, but we haven't got any bread rolls, mum ordered some from the baker and I've come to get them from the baker's son Arthur, have you seen him boys and girls?

**(cue, hopefully "he's behind you" gag)**

**ARTHUR:** Hiya Merlin, were you looking for me?

**MERLIN:** I was, mum wants to know if the bread rolls are ready?

**ARTHUR:** No not yet, they are still in the oven. I'll bring them to the Castle when they're done.

**MERLIN:** Okay then. Hey Arthur did you know my uncle used to be a baker in the army?

**ARTHUR:** Oh really?

**MERLIN:** Yeah, he went in all buns glazing.

**ARTHUR:** Whatever happened to your uncle?

**MERLIN:** My aunt left him, said he was too kneady.

**ARTHUR:** Are we done with the baker jokes yet?

**MERLIN:** No but I do knead to stop.

**ARTHUR:** MERLIN!

**MERLIN:** Sorry Arthur, I'll try and rise above it.

***Enter the Town Crier. They walk to the front and centre of the stage.***

**MERLIN:** Hey Arthur, who is that?

**ARTHUR:** I think that's the Town Crier

**MERLIN:** I don't know, he looks pretty happy to me.

**ARTHUR:** No Merlin, The Town Crier is someone who announces important things to the town.

**MERLIN:** **(to crier)** Oi Mate, what important things have you got to tell us today?

**CRIER:** I have a proclamation.

**MERLIN:** You could probably get some cream for that

**CRIER:** No a Royal Proclamation

**MERLIN:** Oh sorry, I'm sure you could get some Royal cream for that.

**CRIER:** Do you mind?

**MERLIN:** Not at all, carry on.

**CRIER:** Hear ye! Hear ye!

***The villagers keep talking in the background. Enter Morgana, stage left, she is disguised as an old woman, bent over and leaning on an old staff. She stands at the edge of the stage and watches.***

**CRIER:** Oi! I said hear ye! **(the villagers all hush)**. Honestly! Can't get the chorus these days! **(he clears his throat loudly)**. His Majesty, King Uther Pendragon, has decreed that whosoever shall pull the sword from the stone...

**VILLAGER 1:** What stone?

**MERLIN:** Just a guess, but I'm gonna say the one with the sword in it

**CRIER:** **(glaring at Merlin)** Whosoever shall pull the sword Excalibur...

**MERLIN:** **(interrupting)** Ohhhh the sword has a name, must be important to the plot

**CRIER:** **(glaring at Merlin again)** Whosoever pulls Excalibur...from the stone shall win the hand of the Princess Guinevere in marriage, and become heir to the throne of Camelot. **(speaking faster)**. See bottom of scroll for terms and conditions. Peasants and village idiots need not apply.

**General hubbub and muttering ensues as the Town Crier rolls up the scroll and exits, followed by the rest of the village.**

**ARTHUR:** Did you hear that Merlin? Whoever pulls the sword from the stone gets to marry the Princess.

**MERLIN:** Well you've got no chance then, you're a peasant AND a village idiot

**ARTHUR:** You're right Merlin **(panicked outcry)** CRUMBS

**MERLIN:** What's the matter?

**ARTHUR:** The bread rolls, they're still in the oven, I've gotta go!!!! **(exits)**

**MERLIN:** If you burn those rolls Arthur you'll be toast! See you later Magic Mates! **(exits)**

***Morgana is the only character on stage. Evil music plays as she throws open her cloak and stands up straight, now just holding her staff.***

**MORGANA:** Well, well, well. My dear brother, the king, thinks he will find someone to pull Excalibur from the stone, eh? Well, nobody has managed that in over two hundred years!

***(Morgana seems to think for a moment and an idea comes to her, she smiles wickedly)***

Maybe I can use this to my advantage. I'll bide my time and if anyone does manage to pull the sword from the stone, I'll simply take it from them. For the laws of Camelot state that he... or she who possesses Excalibur will rule Camelot. Yes my evil plan sounds perfect and no one, and not even you horrid lot **(points at audience)** will be able to stop me now.

***Morgana exits, laughing maniacally***

### **Scene iii**

***Interior Camelot kitchens, there's a counter with various items on top, up stage centre. Clunking off stage and noises by Dame Abbie Cadabra. She walks on carrying some kitchen utensil***

**DAME:**       ***(turns startled by audience cheer)*** Oh you scared me, I almost lost my drawers. Forgive me for not looking my best right now, I would normally give The Princess of Wales a run for her money, but today I am so busy.

Do you want to know why I am so busy boys and girls? I am so busy because as well as cooking for the King and cleaning for the King, Princess Guinevere has just asked me to ***(puts on a sweet voice)*** "prepare a picnic as the weather is so nice I should like to take a walk". Now don't get me wrong boys and girls, she's lovely and she's not had it easy oh no, but I am up to my elbows in it and my good for nothing son is nowhere to be seen. Oh I should probably introduce myself, I mean we can work and chat I suppose. My name is Abbie Cadabra and I have worked for the King since I was a wee girl so only about 10 years give or take 20. When I first started I was just the cook but since the King lost his wife, I now do pretty much anything and everything he asks. You know, it feels like I'm always working. Every day, 9 to 5...

***Dame solo – Energetic number***

***[Merlin enters stage left and joins in the final chorus.]***

**DAME:** Well if it isn't my mostly useless son, Merlin...

**MERLIN:** Hi Mum, Hiya Magic Mates (*wait for audience response*)  
Brilliant, you're getting really good at that already.

**DAME:** And where exactly have you been? I sent you to town to get the bread rolls ages ago

**MERLIN:** Yes you did

**DAME:** And here you are

**MERLIN:** Yes I am,

**DAME:** Aren't you forgetting something

**MERLIN:** Am I?

**DAME:** (*hits Merlin around the head*) THE BREAD ROLLS

**MERLIN:** Ouch. They aren't ready yet, Arthurs gonna bring them soon

**DAME:** If he doesn't hurry up I'll give up on cooking and the King can go to (**local bakery**) instead!

**MERLIN:** He'll be here soon I promise,

**DAME:** Well don't think you can sit and be lazy all day, there's a picnic that needs picking, fries that need frying and spread that needs spreading.

***Spend some time doing a menial kitchen task***

**MERLIN:** Gods this is sooooo boring

**DAME:** Well if you practiced your magic more you could do something to help your poor mumsie

**MERLIN:** That's a good point, hang on

***(rushes off stage to get his Magic Book)***

I'm sure there was something in here that could help. Should I give it a go boys and girls?

**DAME:** I don't think that would be a good idea, just last week he gave the court librarian donkey ears.

**MERLIN:** Well, not technically my fault, she was behaving like a... *(Dame slaps him round the head before he can finish)* Sorry.... But I've been practicing just let me give it a go.

How does a self-cleaning mop sound?

**DAME:** Sounds like you're trying to get out of more work

**MERLIN:** ***(Merlin clears his throat and picks up hat and wand)***

"Double Double, toil and trouble, Help us clean up on the double" ***(Merlin grabs something very un-useful and definitely not a mop from the hat)***. Okay we can all agree that didn't go to plan, but let me try just once more. ***(clears throat)***

"Abra Cadabra, alakazam, make this kitchen clean and glam!"

***(spell goes wrong and sounds of crockery smashing off stage)***

**DAME:** ***(glares at Merlin as she walks over and slams the book shut)***  
You're done!

**MERLIN:** I should probably clean that up. ***(walks sheepishly behind counter, ducks out of sight as cleaning up the mess)***

**DAME:** I honestly have no idea what I am going to do with that boy.  
**(Off stage a doorbell sounds, Abbie Cadabra reacts)** I didn't realise the Castle had a doorbell, COME IN.

**From stage left Arthur walks in carrying a tray with a vast array of different breads**

**ARTHUR:** Oooo that mess looks expensive, Merlin been doing magic again?

**DAME:** **(sarcastic)** How ever did you guess that?

**ARTHUR:** I'm guessing he was only trying to help

**DAME:** The only thing he is trying is my patience

**MERLIN:** **(pops head up from counter)**

OI I HEARD THAT!

**DAME:** I should hope so dear, I wasn't talking quietly.

**MERLIN:** **(walking back round to front of stage)** Nothing about you is quiet. Hi Arthur

**ARTHUR:** Hey Merlin, I have your order here.

**Guinevere and Catrina enter stage right**

**ARTHUR:** *(staring at Guinevere)* Merlin who is that?

**MERLIN:** *(looks over at girls)* That my dear friend is the amazing, talented, beautiful, and charming lady-in-waiting to the Princess, Catrina.

**ARTHUR:** Oh they let ladies in waiting wear tiaras now?

**MERLIN:** Oh no that's Princess Guinevere *(Arthur doesn't listen and walks towards Gwen in a sort of trance)* Oh you've gone.

*Arthur walks over and just stares at the girls, not saying anything, Merlin joins them,*

**GWEN:** *(to Arthur)* Hello...are you okay? *(Arthur tries to speak but no words come out)* Merlin, um... is this man with you?

**MERLIN:** Sorry Gwen, Allow me to introduce, Arthur Dozen, the bakers' son

**DAME:** More like Arthur Brain, Alright Guinevere love, and you Catrina?

**CATRINA:** Morning Abbie, Hi Merlin.

**MERLIN:** This is for you *(Merlin giggles, waves and attempts to pull a rose from his magic hat, but pulls a fish, hands to Catrina who takes it)*

**CATRINA:** Thank you...

**GWEN:** So you're Arthur, nice buns

**ARTHUR:** And nice baps... as well, we have nice baps as well, and baguettes too, really any bread for your bread wanting needs.

**DAME:** Well now that we have determined that Arthur has all the bread may I have mine please! Guinevere love, your picnic will be ready as soon as I get my...

**ARTHUR:** Buns! Here you go just as ordered. **(Takes tray and puts on counter and goes back to Gwen. Merlin and Catrina join Dame and all three listening intently)** So... come here often?

**GWEN:** Um...yes, I live here

**ARTHUR:** Cool, cool, yeah I don't

**GWEN:** I know

**ARTHUR:** Yeah, I live at the bakery

**GWEN:** Because you're the

**ARTHUR:** The bakers' son yeah...

**(Dame tuts and Merlin and Catrina look at each other and laugh)**

**DAME:** This is tragic, like watching a cart crash. Catrina, the picnic is ready. **(Catrina goes and gets basket)**

**ARTHUR:** So you're going on a picnic, lovely day for a picnic, very picnicky weather

**GWEN:** That's what we were thinking

**CATRINA:** We're ready to go now Princess.

***As they turn to leave something falls from the basket and Arthur and Gwen both go to grab it at the same time. Their hands touch, they look into each other's eyes.***

**Arthur and Gwen duet – Love song suggested**

**CATRINA:** **(to Gwen)** We should probably get going?

**ARTHUR:** Will I see you again Princess?

**GWEN:** I'd love that, but my father has already promised my hand in marriage to whoever pulls the sword out of the stone.

**ARTHUR:** If it means we could be together then that's just what I'll do!

***Catrina and Gwen leave stage right, Gwen not taking her eyes off Arthur***

**MERLIN:** Um... Arthur there is a slight flaw to your otherwise brilliant plan

**ARTHUR:** What? I'm going to pull the sword from the stone, easy, and then take it to the king, again easy, then he'll give his blessing for me to marry his daughter!

**DAME:** Arthur, are you a Knight?

**ARTHUR:** No

**MERLIN:** Are you an Earl?

**ARTHUR:** No

**DAME:** Are you a duke, lord or viscount?

**ARTHUR:** No...

**DAME:** Do you see where we are going with this?

**ARTHUR:** No

**MERLIN:** *(puts arm around Arthur)* Well my simple friend, don't you remember what the Town Crier said? Peasants and village idiots need not apply and you are both so the King will never allow it.

**ARTHUR:** But I love her, and she loves me!

**DAME:** Well unless you're planning on becoming a knight overnight you'd better hope you can pull the sword from the stone!

**MERLIN:** Mum, say that again!

**DAME:** You'd better hope you can pull the sword from the stone!

**MERLIN:** No!!! The other bit!

**DAME:** Alright, keep your pointy little hat on! Now what did I say....Oh that's it... Unless you're planning on becoming a Knight overnight!

**MERLIN:** I'VE GOT IT!

**DAME:** Well keep it to yourself, I don't want your germs!

**MERLIN:** *(Merlin gets his magic book and opens it)* Maybe there is something we can do.

**ARTHUR:** *(excitedly)* There is!

**DAME:** *(hesitantly)* There is?

**MERLIN:** I could use my magic to make you look like a Knight, we could give you the armor and helmet and no-one would know who you are!

**DAME:** *(pulls Merlin to one side)* I don't think this is a good idea, you smashed my pantry and now, only 10 minutes later you think you can pull a Prince and the Pauper?

**MERLIN:** Mum, it'll be fine!

**DAME:** How can you be so sure!

**MERLIN:** I've read the next part of the script!

**DAME:** Well if you end up blowing Arthur into a million pieces don't come crying to me!

**ARTHUR:** Um... I can hear you, you know. I understand you're worried but I want Merlin to do this, I trust him.

**DAME:** Yeah and people trusted the government, look where that got us *(Boris Impression)* "It'll only be a three week lockdown"!

**MERLIN:** What have you got to lose?

**DAME:** His life?

**ARTHUR:** Merlin is right, I have nothing to lose and everything to gain. Go on take your shot...

**MERLIN:**     *(clears throat)*  
Magic spirits I need you  
To help me in this work I do  
There are two in love and pure of heart  
But their love needs help to get its start  
So help me, please, to get  
this right And turn this  
peasant into a knight

**Arthur emerges in armour, vest and helmet, Dame shocked, Merlin celebrates**

**MERLIN:**     I did it! I actually did it, mum did you see, I DID IT!

**DAME:**       Well done son, I never doubted you for one second **(gives audience a knowing look)!**

**MERLIN:**     Step forward Sir Arthur of... **(local town)!**

**DAME:**       **(sarcastic)** Very creative!

**ARTHUR:**    Wow Merlin, you did it. Thank you so much, now I have just one favor to ask... will you come with me? In case we need your expertise again?

**MERLIN:**     Merlin the COURT WIZARD will join you on this quest!

**ARTHUR/MERLIN:** **(doing superhero pose)** TO THE STONE!

**ARTHUR:**    I've got a sword to pull!

**MERLIN:**     See you later Magic Mates!

**Arthur and Merlin run off stage left.**

**DAME:** Oh yeah, don't worry about me, I'll just stay here and do all this work on my own! Kids these days!

**(exits)**

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- **Scene iv**

***Enter Lady of the Lake, stage right, in the spotlight, gives a little wave of her staff. Pretty bit of music contrasting the evil music for Morgana***

**LOTL:**

Oh boys and girls, I've come back  
To keep this little tale on track  
And help our wizard with his spell

To make sure that their plan goes well  
His heart is good, his magic is not  
So he's going to need my help a lot  
But there needs to be a lesson learned  
Before the final prize is earned

The magic spell is just a start  
A hero's strength is in his heart  
But Morgana wants her wicked way  
To bring about a darker day  
I believe her blackened soul  
Will do anything to reach her goal

So we must help our hero fair  
To find the power already there  
To take her on and win the fight  
For true love and all that's right

***Exit stage right with pretty music***

## **Scene v**

***Exterior woods near Camelot. Enter Merlin, stage right.***

**MERLIN:** Hiya Magic Mates! (**audience response**) Wow it's been a busy day, hasn't it! (**audience agree**) and it's not over yet. Doesn't Arthur look good as a Knight! I knew one day I'd be able to successfully work out a spell. Soon every spell will be right.

Know why? Because.... [**Song Begins**]

**Merlin solo – Magical Song**

***Song finishes. Heroic music sounds and in walks Arthur from stage right, strutting in his armor like he thinks he should. Merlin watches him, confused.***

**ARTHUR:** What ho, Merlin! How goeth thy day, good wizard?

**MERLIN:** Why are you talking like that? And why are you walking like that? Are your trousers too tight?

**ARTHUR:** Be'est this not how a knight must talk, forsooth?

**MERLIN:** If they've been hit round the head, sure...

***Arthur visibly relaxes and starts to talk like himself again***

**ARTHUR:** Oh phew, that was exhausting! All the thees, thys and thous, and what does forsooth even mean?

**MERLIN:** Not a clue!

**ARTHUR:** Oh no, it's no good! I may be dressed as a knight but that doesn't mean I know how to act like a knight!

**MERLIN:** Stop panicking Arthur, I will help you!

**ARTHUR:** Really Merlin, how?

**MERLIN:** Well, me and mum work in the castle...

**ARTHUR:** Ok...

**MERLIN:** Who else works in the castle?

**ARTHUR:** The King!

**MERLIN:** No..

**ARTHUR:** He does, he's got a big throne and everything!

**MERLIN:** KNIGHTS! Knights also work in the castle!

**ARTHUR:** Oh, yeah that makes sense!

**MERLIN:** Me and mum are always serving them banquets, we spend so much time just standing around watching them be all "Knighty"!

**ARTHUR:** And you think you could teach me to act like one of them!

**MERLIN:** Oh yes, Once you've graduated from "Merlin's Knight School" you'll practically be a Knight!

**ARTHUR:** Fantastic, See ya later then! **(starts to exit)**

**MERLIN:** *(stopping him)* Where are you going?

**ARTHUR:** Don't worry, I'll be back when it's dark!

**MERLIN:** What?

**ARTHUR:** Merlins "NIGHT" School!

**MERLIN:** Wow, you really are a few crumbs short of a bread basket aren't you Arthur? It's Knight School, with a K, as in "The Kings Knights"!

**ARTHUR:** Oh, I guess that also makes sense! Now, are you going to help me or not?

**MERLIN:** Okay, okay. First things first, the walk. Knights always seem to be going places quickly, so don't walk... stride. Show me your best stride. **(Arthur strides in a silly fashion across the stage).** See, now you just look like you need the toilet.

**ARTHUR:** Why don't you show me then?

**Merlin starts to stride across the stage, again looking silly. Enter Dame Abbie Cadabra, stage right, stopping short as she sees Merlin.**

**DAME:** Merlin, are you quite alright?

**MERLIN:** I'm trying to teach him how to walk like a knight

**DAME:** I once dated a knight of the round table you know?

**MERLIN:** Really?

**DAME:** Yeah, we had such a good time, we ate at all the best restaurants, oof, he was a large man.

**MERLIN:** Sir Cumfrence?

**DAME:** No, his name was Steve!

**MERLIN:** Why did you leave Steve?

**DAME:** I met a man who loved a good steak!

**MERLIN:** Oh, what was his name!

**DAME:** Sir Loin!

**ARTHUR:** Can we get back to my training please?

**MERLIN:** Fine. How about we work on your sword skills instead. Now stand up straight, legs a shoulder's width apart and draw with a flourish! **(Merlin demonstrates)**

**Arthur copies Merlin but as he goes to draw his sword, it's stuck.**

**ARTHUR:** It's stuck! Merlin! I can't get it out.

**DAME:** **(to one audience member)** Come on sir, get your mind out of the gutter!

**Merlin tries to pull the sword but is very stuck. They struggle for a few seconds and then they pull apart, with Merlin nearly falling over. He looks at the sword and sees it is very clearly fake**