

CAMBION

Written by

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Based on Arthurian Legend

FADE IN:

INT. CAMELOT THRONE ROOM - DAY

King UTHER Pendragon, tall, muscular and handsome, stands on a dais before two thrones. The doors at the end of the room open. A petite, beautiful blonde enters on her father's arm.

YGRAINE de Bois climbs the steps onto the dais beside Uther. Her father takes his place in the crowd. Uther and Ygraine turn to a short, overweight man, GERALD.

GERALD

King Uther Pendragon, do you take
this woman to be your lawfully
wedded wife?

UTHER

I do.

GERALD

Ygraine de Bois, do you take this
man to be your lawful wedded
husband to love, honour and obey
for as long as you both live?

YGRAINE

I do.

She and Uther take the rings from a man behind them, holding a cushion. They put the rings on each others fingers.

GERALD

Then by the sacred laws of Camelot,
I pronounce you husband and wife.

Ygraine and Uther kiss. The crowd claps and cheers as Uther and Ygraine raise their hands to show off their rings.

In the front row, LOTH, tall, thin and red haired with strangely golden eyes, watches Ygraine lustfully. Beside him is his petite, dark haired wife, ANNA le Fay. Although beautiful to look at, her smile is as cold as her dark eyes.

INT. ROYAL BED CHAMBER - DAY

Ygraine lies in bed and screams while the court physician KENT, small, thin and starting to grey, helps her give birth. Uther, Ygraine's father and several courtiers are with them.

YGRAINE

Look away.

The courtiers obey but Uther does not. A baby cries as Ygraine gasps and slumps. Kent washes the infant, wraps him in a cloth and holds him out to Ygraine.

KENT

You have a son, my Lady.

Ygraine smiles tiredly and takes the infant.

UTHER

We shall call him Arthur.

Ygraine nods and Uther takes ARTHUR, who is still crying, and shows him to the assembled courtiers.

UTHER (CONT'D)

My friends, welcome you're future king, Arthur Pendragon.

INT. PHYSICIANS CHAMBER - NIGHT

Kent covers a young woman with a sheet. Beside him stands a man, holding a tiny baby girl.

ALIENA'S FATHER

I'm sorry, Kent.

KENT

It's not your fault. This is always a risk in childbirth. At least she lives on in my granddaughter.

ALIENA'S FATHER

Mary and I agreed to call her Aliena. You approve?

KENT

I do. And I can offer you a home here in Camelot.

ALIENA'S FATHER

Thank you but I would rather not live where my wife died. Aliena will grow up knowing you though.

EXT. FOREST ROAD - DAY

Ygraine travels on horseback with several knights, including Sir BALDOR, a middle aged warrior. Anna stands on a cliff, overlooking the road while her men hide among the trees at the top of the slope opposite. Anna's eyes glow bright green.

BALDOR

Watch out.

A tree tumbles down in front of the lead horse in Ygraine's escort. The horse whinnies and rears up. At the same time arrows come shooting from the bows of the archers who emerge from the trees above. Men die and the horses panic.

BALDOR (CONT'D)

Flee, my Lady.

Anna's eyes glow green again and a tree falls behind Ygraine and the remaining guards who draw their crossbows and, using their own horses as shields, fire back at the archers.

Anna saunters along the cliff, looking bored as her warriors descend to engage the surviving knights at close range. Soon only Baldor, his sword covered in blood, and Ygraine remain.

ANNA

Enough.

Her warriors step back as she glides towards the survivors.

BALDOR

Lady Anna le Fay.

ANNA

Greetings, Sir Baldor. Tell Uther that his wife is being taken to my husband. Loth will negotiate the ransom with him personally.

Baldor points his sword at her. She looks amused.

BALDOR

Your husband is a very rich man.

ANNA

And a very greedy one.

YGRAINE

Sir Baldor, do as she says. You can't help me if you're dead.

Baldor looks at her, then at Anna before sheathing his sword.

ANNA

And one more thing. Bring an army. My dear husband doesn't only have money on his mind.

She disappears in a swirl of black robes. Baldor looks back at Ygraine who tries to smile despite looking terrified.

EXT. CAMELOT COURTYARD - DAY

Uther stands on a balcony overlooking his courtyard as Baldor strides through the front gates, still covered in blood.

INT. LOTH'S DUNGEON - NIGHT

Two guards throw Ygraine into the filthy dungeon then close and lock the door. Ygraine struggles to her feet and goes to the tiny window. She looks out at the bloody sky.

EXT. CAMELOT COURTYARD - NIGHT

The knights of Camelot stand in the courtyard as Uther stands on the balcony above. From a window even higher up and on the right, a wet nurse watches.

UTHER

Knights of Camelot, our queen has
been taken. We are going to war.

He draws his sword and holds it up. The knights do so too and a chorus of battle cries echo around the courtyard.

In the room that the wet nurse is in, Arthur starts to cry. The wet nurse disappears from the window to tend to him.

INT. LOTH'S DUNGEON - NIGHT

The door shrieks as it is opened. Ygraine gasps as a human sized monster with wings, a long, barbed tail with a razor sharp tip, massive clawed hands and a face with yellow eyes and sharp teeth, enters the cell. The only part of the creature that identifies him as Loth is his blood red hair.

YGRAINE

What the hell are you?

The creature licks its lips, leaps on her, and she screams.

EXT. LARGE HILL - DAY

Uther's army arrive at the bottom of a rocky hill. Warriors stand on the top. Uther, sitting astride a black warhorse, draws his sword.

UTHER

Forward.

The infantry cover themselves in a shell of shields and climb the hill. Their opponents fire arrows at them. Uther and the knights, who are also on horses, wait until the infantry are at the top and engaging the enemy in close combat.

UTHER (CONT'D)

With me.

He leads the knights up the hill. Due to the rocky surface the horses cannot run at full speed but the infantry keeps their foes busy until Uther and the knights reach the top.

The infantry split and stand aside to let Uther and the knights take over. Loth's men are driven the other side of the hill where they lose ground rapidly.

INT. LOTH'S DUNGEON - NIGHT

Ygraine sits on the floor, shaking violently. The door opens and a mouldy piece of bread is tossed in. Ygraine picks it up, looks at it, and hurls it at the wall. She starts to cry.

EXT. LARGE HILL - NIGHT

Uther sits on a slab of rock as Baldor approaches.

BALDOR

Sire, you should get some sleep.

Uther looks up at the knight, rises and claps his shoulder before walking away to the edge of the hill.

NIMUEH (V.O.)

Uther.

Uther looks around. His knights and their horses are there but NIMUEH is not.

NIMUEH (V.O.)

Go east for a day and you will find a lake. I have a weapon you need.

UTHER

Lady Nimueh? You're dead.

He moves out of his knights' earshot, speaking quietly.

NIMUEH (V.O.)

I have not moved on. You need a sword that can slay an Incubus.

UTHER

How can I know this isn't a trick?

NIMUEH (V.O.)

You can't. But Loth cannot be slain
by mortal weapons.

UTHER

I'll take my chances.

The disembodied voice gives an exasperated sigh and goes silent. Uther returns to the camp.

INT. LOTH'S DUNGEON - NIGHT

A key rattles in the lock and the door opens with a screech. Ygraine cowers as Anna enters. She holds out a fresh piece of bread. Ygraine stops cowering but looks suspicious. Anna bites, chews and swallows before offering it again.

YGRAINE

Thank you.

Anna squats so that they are at eye level.

ANNA

Uther's army is over the border.

Ygraine watches her warily.

ANNA (CONT'D)

I know how you feel.

YGRAINE

You kidnapped me.

ANNA

It was necessary. Uther would have
no reason to kill Loth otherwise.

YGRAINE

Why not do it yourself?

ANNA

Incubi are impossible for a woman
to kill. It's part of their magic.
They feed off our presence.

She straightens and scowls.

ANNA (CONT'D)

Loth is bored of me. After I had my
son...

YGRAINE

Jealousy is not attractive.

Anna smiles coldly.

ANNA

My dear, I've wanted him dead since the day we got married. I just couldn't find time to arrange it.

EXT. LOTH'S CASTLE - NIGHT

Uther and his army reach the gates. Loth's castle is at the base of a cliff so large that his home seems small. Archers stand on the battlements as Uther draws his sword.

UTHER

We enter, rescue Ygraine, kill Loth, and leave.

Warriors with a battering ram advance, shielded by the infantry as the archers on the battlements fire. Many men die but Uther's archers return fire. The men with the battering ram slam it repeatedly against the gates.

EXT. LOTH'S COURTYARD - CONTINUOUS

The gates smash open. The men with the battering ram drop it and draw their weapons as Uther charges in on his horse.

UTHER

Charge.

The battle becomes bloody chaos. While the knights fight all over the courtyard, Uther's horse heads for the castle's front doors. Before he reaches them, they burst open.

Loth emerges in his Incubus form, spreads his wings and lunges. Uther's horse rears, blocking Loth's claws with its own body and throwing Uther off as it perishes. He rolls and turns to face Loth, who licks his lips.

LOTH

She's a fine specimen.

Uther stabs him in the chest. Loth laughs and slashes out Uther's left eye. The king falls with a roar.

BALDOR

Sire.

He slashes off both of Loth's hands. The Incubus just looks annoyed as the hands disintegrate from their place on the ground and regenerate back onto his wrists.

Loth's long, sharp tail flicks out. It lands in Baldor's throat and he is dead before he hits the ground. Uther scrambles and grabs his sword.

YOUNG KNIGHT

Sir Baldor.

He lunges, accompanied by several more. Loth slashes, bites, flicks his tail and sweeps the knights away with his wings. Any injury he receives regenerates within seconds.

Anna materializes beside Uther. He swings at her but she blocks him with the magnificent sword she is holding.

ANNA

You'll need this.

Uther hesitates but Loth is tearing his knights apart, so he takes the sword. Loth's yellow eyes notice the sword, then his wife. For a moment, he looks frightened, then enraged.

LOTH

Traitor.

He lunges but Anna vanishes in a swirl of her cloak. Uther swings at Loth who blocks the blow with his massive claws. Uther's remaining knights start forwards as the king wipes blood from his ruined left eye.

UTHER

Back. The beast is mine.

He and Loth duel. Loth's tail flicks out but at Uther's right side. The king severs it and it does not regenerate.

Uther lunges. Loth parries and swipes but the king ducks and slices him from groin to head. As Loth's two halves separate, they burst into flame and disintegrate. His tail remains.

ANNA

Congratulations.

She has materialized with Ygraine by her side. Ygraine steps cautiously into her husband's arms. She looks up and touches the bloody skin beneath Uther's lost eye. Uther kisses her but she flinches. He glares at Anna with his remaining eye.

ANNA (CONT'D)

You're welcome.

UTHER

This would never have happened if not for you.

ANNA

I wanted him dead.

UTHER

And you couldn't kill him yourself?

YGRAINE

She couldn't. It's part of Loth's magic.

UTHER

You believe that?

ANNA

You saw how close to invincible he was. What could a fragile woman such as myself do?

UTHER

I'm sure a witch could come up with something.

Anna looks at him, then at everybody else. Except Ygraine, every living person in the courtyard is glaring at her.

UTHER (CONT'D)

Your reward is your life.

Anna gives him a cold smile and a mocking bow.

ANNA

Consider Excalibur a gift.

She disappears. Uther turns and raises the sword. Everybody in the courtyard, friend and foe alike, bows. The only exception is the tallest and most muscular warrior in Loth's army, HENGIST. He spits at Uther.

HENGIST

You are not my king.

UTHER

Cut out his tongue.

A pair of knights seize Hengist who struggles and roars. Ygraine turns away but Uther watches in grim silence. Once the deed is done, he picks up Loth's tail.

INT. BED CHAMBER - NIGHT

MORDRED, a small, black haired boy, looks down at the courtyard. Anna materializes in his dark room.

MORDRED
That was messy.

ANNA
You shouldn't have been watching.

MORDRED
It was entertaining.

Anna looks disturbed for a moment. Then she reaches out.

ANNA
We can't stay here, Mordred.

MORDRED
Were will we go?

ANNA
I don't know. But Uther will pay
for his ingratitude.

Mordred smirks and takes her hand. Anna teleports them away.

INT. PHYSICIANS CHAMBER - DAY

Kent speaks to Uther while Ygraine lies on a bed. The room is messy with a table in the middle on which there is a half finished potion.

KENT
Physically, she is exhausted,
dehydrated and half starved but she
will recover.

UTHER
She is cautious about allowing me
to touch her. Do you think Loth...

KENT
He was an Incubus, Sire. He
certainly did.

UTHER
I should have captured him alive.

KENT
Ygraine wouldn't want that.

UTHER
Could she be expecting a child?

Kent hesitates.

UTHER (CONT'D)
Kent, tell me.

KENT
It is possible.

Uther knocks the potion off the table before leaving. Kent ignores the mess and turns to Ygraine who sleeps fitfully.

INT. ROYAL BED CHAMBER - DAY

Ygraine is sick into a bucket. Her belly has a bump and Uther holds her hair, so she does not cover it in vomit.

UTHER
We must get rid of it.

YGRAINE
No.

UTHER
You cannot possibly want to give birth to a monster.

YGRAINE
I don't but I have a life growing inside me.

UTHER
As the king and your husband, I command you to...

YGRAINE
You will not command me to do anything, Uther Pendragon. It's not the child's fault that Loth was a monster.

Uther looks into her determined face for a long moment.

UTHER
Then we'll send it away. I will not have the beast in this castle.

Ygraine opens her mouth to protest.

UTHER (CONT'D)
 Even if I wanted to, as king and
 queen, we cannot raise an
 illegitimate son.

INT. PHYSICIANS CHAMBER - DAY

Only Kent and Uther are present at the birth. Ygraine screams as Kent helps her deliver. The baby is quiet but Kent notices something that disturbs him as he cleans the child and wraps him in a cloth.

KENT
 It is a boy.

UTHER
 Is he dead?

Kent gives the baby to Ygraine. Ygraine gasps when she sees the fiery yellow color in his eyes. Then they turn blue and the baby smiles innocently.

KENT
 What is his name?

YGRAINE
 Merlin.

Uther scowls but Ygraine ignores him as she kisses MERLIN's forehead. She gives him back to Kent.

YGRAINE (CONT'D)
 Make sure he has a good home.

EXT. LAKE OF AVALON - NIGHT

Kent's horse arrives at the beautiful lake. Merlin is fast asleep in a sling on his back. Kent gets off the horse and takes Merlin to the lake.

KENT
 Nimueh.

A short, slender, beautiful woman with long dark hair, apparently in her thirties despite her eyes conveying a far greater age, rises gracefully out of the lake.

NIMUEH
 My love.

She steps to the edge of the lake but does not, cannot, leave the water. Kent holds out Merlin to her. Nimueh does not look surprised as she takes the baby.

NIMUEH (CONT'D)
 So this will be my ward? How fortunate that he has Queen Ygraine's genes.

She looks back at Kent and her eyes sadden.

NIMUEH (CONT'D)
 You look old, Kent.

KENT
 You have not aged a day.

A flicker of sorrowful amusement crosses Nimueh's face.

NIMUEH
 I know.

Her brown eyes glow green. She sinks into the lake. Kent watches with a wistful expression then mounts his horse.

I/E. AVALON CITY - NIGHT

Beneath the lake is a city, contained within a huge magical dome. Nimueh swims through the bubble like barrier, flips over gracefully and lands on her feet. Merlin is still fast asleep and breathes normally.

Around Nimueh are tiny houses, only big enough for baby sized creatures, made from silver and bronze. The Water Spirits, baby sized, water like humanoids with fairy like wings, emerge from the houses. TOBIAS flutters towards her.

TOBIAS
 This is the child, my Lady?

NIMUEH
 My ward, Merlin.

She carries Merlin through the crowd of Water Spirits to a small but beautiful golden palace, no bigger than a human house but vast compared to the Water Spirits' homes.

INT. AVALON PALACE - CONTINUOUS

The entrance hall is small but beautiful. Merlin opens his eyes, which do not glow yellow this time. Nimueh smiles.

INT. MERLIN'S BEDROOM - DAY

Nimueh watches Merlin crawl along the floor. Merlin gurgles excitedly as she kneels to pick him up when he reaches her.

I/E. AVALON CITY - DAY

Merlin is now about 5 and holds Nimueh's hand as she walks through the city. A Water Spirit flutters in front of him. Merlin grabs her wing. The Water Spirit gasps in pain.

NIMUEH

No boy. Her wings are very delicate.

Merlin lets go. The Water Spirit looks annoyed but when she sees his guilty expression, she softens and smiles at him. Merlin smiles back and the Water Spirit flutters away.

INT. MERLIN'S BEDROOM - NIGHT

Nimueh is telling 7 year old Merlin a story.

NIMUEH

So the young man watched as the woman he loved became one with the water. And he took comfort in the fact that, though they could never truly be together, she would watch over him from her new home.

MERLIN

And that woman was you, wasn't she Nimueh?

Nimueh smiles and taps his nose affectionately. Then she stands and leaves the room as Merlin snuggles into his bed.

EXT. LAKE OF AVALON - DAY

Merlin is 10 and has learned to swim. Nimueh stands on the surface of the water and watches him.

EXT. LAKE OF AVALON - DAY (LATER)

Merlin, now 13 years old, makes a huge leap out of the water, somersaults and lands on the shore. He is a skinny boy with green eyes and short red hair. Nimueh emerges behind him.

NIMUEH

If anyone else were watching, I'd think you were showing off.

MERLIN

Sorry Nimueh. But Avalon's gotten kind of boring.

NIMUEH

Try spending 4 decades here.

Merlin glances back at her, looking guilty for a moment.

MERLIN

Sorry, I forgot.

NIMUEH

Don't be. I'm glad that you can leave the lake. Just don't go beyond the edge of the forest. I'll be watching.

She sinks back into the lake as Merlin goes exploring.

EXT. FOREST - CONTINUOUS

Merlin looks around at the birds chirping in the trees. He smiles as one descends and lands on his hand. The bird looks up at him for a moment.

MERLIN

Hello, little guy.

The bird chirps and flies away. Merlin walks on, then stops. A white unicorn is standing in front of him. Merlin steps forward in awe as the unicorn sniffs the air. Its eyes widen and it rears up.

MERLIN (CONT'D)

What's wrong?

The unicorn whinnies and charges. Merlin dodges the horn. The unicorn rears and Merlin falls, trying to scramble away.

Suddenly a tail shoots out of Merlin's backside and stabs the unicorn in the chest. It falls with a scream.

MERLIN (CONT'D)

No. What?

He stares at his bloodstained tail in horror as it withdraws. Merlin stumbles towards the dying unicorn. He strokes its main until it relaxes and dies. Then he touches his bottom.

INT. AVALON THRONE ROOM - DAY

The room is long with golden pillars. The unique throne is a swivel chair and a golden archway with a pure white interior is behind it. Nimueh is on the swivel throne looking grimly at the empty archway, then turns as Merlin bursts in.

MERLIN

Nimueh. Nimueh, something happened to me. I killed a unicorn. I grew a tail. I didn't know...

NIMUEH

Merlin, calm down. Speak slowly.

MERLIN

I was walking in the forest and found a unicorn. It sniffed me and attacked. Then I...

He stops and looks at the archway.

MERLIN (CONT'D)

Oh. You were watching.

NIMUEH

I was afraid of this.

MERLIN

What's the matter with me?

NIMUEH

It's not you. It's your father. He was an Incubus, a creature that can take human form and has a unique diet.

MERLIN

What?

NIMUEH

You're too young to know.

MERLIN

I'm 13.

NIMUEH

Still a child. I'll explain when you're a man.

MERLIN

But what if something like that happens again? If I'm a monster...

Numueh puts her hands on his shoulders.

NIMUEH
You're not.

MERLIN
But killing a unicorn is 7 years of
bad luck.

NIMUEH
It is. But we'll handle it.

She hugs him.

INT. AVALON THRONE ROOM - NIGHT (LATER)

Tobias flutters back and forth in front of Nimueh.

TOBIAS
My Lady, killing a unicorn is a
grave offence. We should send
Merlin out to be eaten by the
wyvern.

NIMUEH
You know I won't allow that,
Tobias.

TOBIAS
Have you told Merlin about his
mother?

NIMUEH
Not everything. He must come to
terms with being a Cambion first.

EXT. VILLAGE - NIGHT (DREAM)

Merlin is a full Incubus and attacking women and girls.
However, there is one woman, Ygraine, whom he leaves alone.
Ygraine watches in horror and shame as the Incubus rampages.

(END OF DREAM)

INT. MERLIN'S BEDROOM - NIGHT

Merlin wakes with a yell. Nimueh sweeps into the room.

NIMUEH
Another bad dream?

MERLIN

What if I become a full Incubus?

NIMUEH

You won't. Incubi are full demons
but Cambions can live normal lives.

She smiles and taps his nose affectionately.

MERLIN

There was a woman in the dream. I
was attacking all other women and
girls but I ignored her.

Nimueh hesitates, glancing back at him from the door.

NIMUEH

Try to sleep, Merlin.

INT. AVALON THRONE ROOM - DAY

Nimueh sits in her swivelling throne staring into the arch
which shows the forest around the lake. Wyvern, creatures
that look like a cross between bats and dragons, prowl
through the forest. Merlin enters and Nimueh turns her chair.

MERLIN

I'm sorry I caused them to come.

NIMUEH

The wyvern will leave when the
unicorn's egg hatches.

A large, white egg at the base of a tree appears in the
archway. A wyvern is guarding it.

MERLIN

Why does it take 7 years to hatch?

NIMUEH

Why does human pregnancy last 9
months?

MERLIN

Well unicorn's shouldn't be laying
eggs anyway. They're mammals.

NIMUEH

They're also magical creatures. And
you're not here to talk about
unicorns are you?

MERLIN

It's my dreams. They used to just be about turning into a demon and attacking women but now there's always one that I leave alone. She was a small blonde with green eyes.

NIMUEH

Merlin, I've always tried, perhaps unsuccessfully, to think of you as my ward instead of my son.

MERLIN

I know. But what does my real mother have to do with this?

NIMUEH

Well, if the woman in your dreams is who I think she is, your subconscious has been projecting her into your conscious mind.

MERLIN

You said she abandoned me.

NIMUEH

I said she gave you up. Her husband wouldn't have let her keep you.

MERLIN

I want to find her.

NIMUEH

I know. But you must wait until the wyvern leave.

MERLIN

That'll take 6 and a half years.

NIMUEH

Merlin, I have people on the surface world I want to be with. I've spent 40 years watching their lives from afar. Without magic, they can only truly join me when they die and most choose the afterlife. 6 and a half years isn't a very long wait.

EXT. LAKE OF AVALON - DAY

Merlin emerges and swims to the shore. He looks back guiltily before slipping into the forest.

EXT. FOREST - CONTINUOUS

Merlin hears a growl. He spins as a wyvern appears.

MERLIN

Leave me alone. I didn't mean to.

The wyvern snarls and leaps at him, spreading its wings to glide. It is terrifyingly graceful.

MERLIN (CONT'D)

Electisis.

He blasts a bolt of lightning out of his fingers and it slams the wyvern into a tree but several more arrive. Merlin runs back towards the lake but they surround him.

MERLIN (CONT'D)

Shwawe Keumae.

A shock wave explodes from his body and the wyvern go flying. He sprints towards the lake but has to pass one in order to get there. It bites his leg. Merlin's tail flicks out and stabs the wyvern in the skull but now he has to crawl.

EXT. LAKE OF AVALON - CONTINUOUS

Merlin, covered in blood, reaches the lake. Wyvern swarm him and his barbed tail thrashes, trying to fend them off.

A massive stream of water erupts from the lake. It shields Merlin and more streams shoot out knocking the wyvern out of the air. Nimueh stands on the water, her eyes dark with rage and glowing green whenever she silently casts a spell.

MERLIN

Lungvista.

He slips into the water and it becomes bloody. Nimueh sweeps across the surface of the lake, grabs him and sinks under the water, leaving the furious wyvern behind.

INT. AVALON RESTORATION STONE ROOM - DAY

Nimueh bursts into the room, carrying the unconscious Merlin. The golden Restoration Stone is the only thing in the room. It lacks the luster of real gold and is lumpy and uneven.

NIMUEH

Don't you dare die, boy. Don't you dare.

She lays him beside the Restoration Stone and puts his hand on it. The dull golden rock glows with brilliant golden light which fills the tiny chamber. Merlin's wounds heal.

INT. MERLIN'S BEDROOM - NIGHT

Merlin finds Nimueh sitting beside him. He sits up moving without pain. Nimueh's beautiful face is contorted with rage.

MERLIN

I didn't survive the wyvern just so that you could kill me.

NIMUEH

This isn't funny. How could you be so stupid, boy? If you died, the Restoration Stone could only bring you half way back.

MERLIN

I know. I'm sorry. I just wanted...

NIMUEH

To find your mother, I know. But if you're dead, you'll never be able to leave. From now on, you will stay in Avalon until the curse lifts.

MERLIN

I thought I could handle the wyvern.

Nimueh takes a deep breath and puts a hand on his shoulder. She still looks angry but speaks softly.

NIMUEH

Merlin, I know you're frustrated and I know you feel trapped. But you're going to have to deal with it. Promise me that until the egg hatches and the wyvern leave, you won't leave the lake.

MERLIN

I promise.

EXT. LAKE OF AVALON - DAY

Merlin, now a 20 year old man with a tall, thin body, rises from the lake and walks across its surface. He steps onto dry land. Nimueh rises out of the water and stops at the edge.

NIMUEH
Goodbye Merlin. Be careful.

MERLIN
I'll come back. Don't move into the
afterlife before I do.

Numueh smiles and they hug. Merlin leaves.

EXT. DRUID CAMP - NIGHT

Merlin stops outside a ring of tents around a large fire in a forest clearing. He watches the druids pray and start eating. LEELA, a pretty but scrawny girl with long blonde hair appears behind him.

LEELA
What are you doing here?

Merlin whirls around as Leela leans on the tree, tossing and catching a knife whilst watching him with calculating eyes.

MERLIN
I was curious. You're druids,
right?

LEELA
If you're a spy for a group of
bandits...

MERLIN
I'm not. I found you by accident.

LEELA
Don't lie to me, pretty boy.

CRION (O.S.)
Leela, who is this?

CRION is bald and black skinned. Leela sheathes her knife.

MERLIN
I'm Merlin. I just stumbled across
the camp. I'll leave if it'll make
you feel better.

LEELA
It won't.

CRION
Well, it is midnight, so we'll
provide you with a place to sleep.

EXT. DRUID CAMP - DAY (LATER)

Merlin emerges from a tent as the druids eat breakfast. Leela looks up and suddenly throws an apple at him. Merlin draws it telekinetically into his hand.

LEELA

Good reflexes.

Merlin sits beside her and she winks at him before offering a slice of bread. Merlin blushes as he accepts it.

EXT. DRUID CAMP - DAY (LATER)

Merlin sits on a tree stump on the edge of the camp with a group of children.

LITTLE GIRL

Where do you come from, Mr Merlin?

MERLIN

Avalon.

LITTLE BOY

The magical lake? Could you take us there?

MERLIN

I'll have to ask Nimueh.

LITTLE GIRL

So you lived with a Lady? Why didn't you stay?

MERLIN

I wanted to explore the world.

Leela emerges from the trees.

LEELA

Time for lunch, kids.

The children scamper away. Leela steps towards Merlin, swaying her hips slightly.

MERLIN

Leela, what are you doing?

LEELA

What does it look like, pretty boy?

She leans close and whispers something in his ear.

MERLIN

Leela.

LEELA

You up for it?

MERLIN

I've never done it before.

LEELA

That makes it more exciting.

EXT. FOREST CLEARING - DAY

Leela leads Merlin to a clearing, then turns and kisses him. Merlin pushes her back and she pouts slightly.

MERLIN

We barely know each other.

LEELA

You can't go through the rest of your life a virgin. You'd really be missing out.

She starts to take off her dress.

MERLIN

I'm an Incubus.

Leela stops and slowly lowers the skirts of her dress.

LEELA

What?

MERLIN

Well, technically half-Incubus. A Cambion.

His tail emerges and he shows it to her. Leela stares with shock. Merlin's eyes turn yellow and his teeth sharpen into fangs. He looks frightening. Leela draws her knife.

MERLIN (CONT'D)

I just thought you should...

LEELA

Monster. Demon. Devil.

She slashes Merlin's arm with her knife. He yells and his tail lashes out at her but she dodges it. Crion and several other druids arrive.

CRION

Begone.

The druids start throwing whatever happens to be within reach at Merlin including stones, sticks and even mud. Leela hurls her knife after him and it buries itself in a tree, narrowly missing Merlin's ear as he flees.

EXT. FOREST STREAM - DAY

Merlin collapses beside a stream. He looks at his cut, then washes it in the water. He glares at his tail until it retracts then turns his glare towards the bright, sunny sky.

EXT. FOREST CLEARING - NIGHT

Merlin is sitting on a log and warming himself by a small fire. His arm has no trace of an injury. He looks miserable but suddenly becomes alert.

MERLIN

Electisis.

He whirls as two werewolves, black and huge, emerge from the trees. One is blasted away by the bolt and the other bares its fangs. Merlin does the same and his tail lashes out as a third werewolf emerges from the other side of the fire.

MERLIN (CONT'D)

No. I'm not a demon.

The werewolf he electrocuted is back on its feet. Merlin forces his tail to retract into his backside.

MERLIN (CONT'D)

Shwawe Keumae.

He uses a shock wave but the werewolves are only shoved back. The largest leaps at him and he dodges, panicking as his tail lashes out. Another werewolf bites his arm.

MERLIN (CONT'D)

Fisticus.

His free hand forms a fist that glows orange and he punches the werewolf with such force that it flies across the clearing. Merlin looks at his shredded and bloody arm as the other werewolves dart towards him. He ducks around the fire.

ALIENA (O.S.)

Flareburn.

The fire erupts and Merlin stumbles while one of the werewolves leaps into it. The fire sets its fur alight and it howls in agony before rolling away. ALIENA sprints into the clearing, pointing to the fire again.

ALIENA (CONT'D)

Flareburn.

This time the fire doesn't just blaze but shoots towards one of the unburned werewolves. Merlin leaps to his feet and points at the other as it tries to sneak up on Aliena.

MERLIN

Electisis.

The werewolf is electrocuted. Aliena notices and redirects the fire towards the werewolf. It collapses from both burns and electricity and starts crawling away. The only uninjured werewolf leaps at Aliena but Merlin telekinetically catches it in midair and smashes it into a tree. It growls and flees.

ALIENA

Thank the gods it's not a full moon
or they'd be unstoppable.

She turns, her long, dark hair swirling behind her. In the firelight, her blue eyes are sparking until they fall on Merlin's injured arm.

ALIENA (CONT'D)

Damn it. Hang on.

She hurries to the edge of a clearing and grabs a bag. She returns to Merlin and pulls a cloth out of the bag.

ALIENA (CONT'D)

This'll hurt.

She takes a water skin from the bag and pours water over the cloth. Then she gently presses it to his arm. He hisses as Aliena cleans his wound.

MERLIN

I heard werewolf bites are fatal at
best and turn you into one at
worst.

ALIENA

Only during a full moon. In a half
moon, they're just very big and
very strong wolves.

She takes a strip of cloth from her bag and wraps it around Merlin's arm. When she finishes, she sits on the log.

MERLIN
Thanks. Who are you?

ALIENA
Aliena. You?

MERLIN
Merlin.

ALIENA
Well, rest that arm, Merlin. I'll
keep watch.

EXT. FOREST CLEARING - DAY (LATER)

When Merlin wakes, Aliena is kneeling by a pot on the fire.

ALIENA
I hope you like broth.

She holds out a spoon of the stuff. Merlin takes and eats it.

MERLIN
Thank you.

ALIENA
I've only got one spoon.

MERLIN
So?

ALIENA
It's been in your mouth.

She shrugs, takes the spoon back, and has some of the broth.

ALIENA (CONT'D)
How's your arm?

MERLIN
Better.

ALIENA
Let's have a look.

She holds his arm, gently unwraps the bandage and stares in amazement. Apart from faint tooth marks the arm has healed.

ALIENA (CONT'D)
How did you heal so fast?

MERLIN

Magic. So what are you doing out here?

ALIENA

I was wondering when you'd ask that. I'm going to Camelot to learn healing from Grandfather. You?

MERLIN

Just travelling.

ALIENA

I can't stand doing that without a destination in mind.

Merlin is quiet. Aliena shrugs.

ALIENA (CONT'D)

Well, I'm going now. Good luck.

MERLIN

You too.

He watches Aliena throw her bag over her shoulder and leave.

EXT. CAMELOT MEADOW - DAY

Aliena stops between Camelot and the forest and admires the castle. There is a town outside the castle wall. Aliena turns at the sound of horses and a group of knights join her led by Sir REUBER, a tall, muscular man with black hair.

REUBER

What's a beautiful woman like you doing out here alone?

ALIENA

I'm visiting Grandfather. He's the court physician.

REUBER

I don't think he will be for much longer. The king's looking for his replacement.

He notices Aliena's horrified expression.

REUBER (CONT'D)

He's not dying. But as I'm sure you know, he's 75 years old.

ALIENA

76 actually. Maybe I could be his replacement.

A couple of knights chuckle. Reuber smiles condescendingly. They gallop away and Aliena looks hurt as she follows.

INT. PHYSICIANS CHAMBER - DAY

Kent is old and hunched. His hair is now white. He sits on a chair and makes no attempt to rise even when he hears a knock on the door. Beside his chair is a walking stick.

KENT

Enter.

Aliena does so.

ALIENA

Hello, Grandfather.

Kent looks stunned, then his face breaks into a smile. He grabs his walking stick and pushes himself up to hug her.

KENT

Aliena. My goodness, you've grown. It seems like yesterday that you were a scrawny little girl.

ALIENA

Thank you for giving Father and I some money.

KENT

Where is he?

ALIENA

He's dead. It happened a weak ago.

KENT

I'm sorry.

ALIENA

I couldn't do anything and he was too ill to travel. I was hoping that you could teach me to be a physician.

KENT

Ali...

Aliena's hopeful look fades. She doesn't look angry, just disappointed.

ALIENA

It's because I'm a woman, isn't it?

KENT

Uther will not approve. But I will train you. Now let's get you settled in. You can have the patients' bed.

EXT. CRYSTAL CAVE CLEARING - DAY

Merlin arrives in a clearing containing a large cave. He looks at it, then at the setting sun before entering.

INT. CRYSTAL CAVE - CONTINUOUS

The tunnel is dark but a light shines around the corner. Merlin steps into a huge chamber filled with crystals of many different sizes, shapes and colours. There is a pool of water in the middle of the cave, reflecting the shining crystals.

MERLIN

Wow.

He kneels beside the pool and splashes water onto his face. He goes to a crystal and touches it. Then he frowns as an image of Camelot appears in the crystal. The image disappears quickly and Merlin stares at the now empty crystal.

INT. CAMELOT CORRIDOR - DAY

Aliena walks carrying a bottle with her hair tied in a braid. She turns a corner and bumps into Reubur.

ALIENA

Sorry.

REUBER

Don't be sorry, my dear. It was a lovely surprise.

He winks at her. Aliena tries to step around him.

ALIENA

Excuse me, I need to get this potion to Sir Pellinore.

REUBER

I'm sure Kent will cure him. He's not dead yet.

ALIENA
Grandfather is not dying. You said
it yourself.

REUBER
You remembered. I'm flattered.

He bows to her with his condescending smile. He doesn't notice a man behind him.

ARTHUR
Back off, Reuber. What kind of
knight are you?

Prince Arthur, tall, muscular and handsome with sharp eyes, strides towards them. Reuber straightens.

REUBER
Apologies, Sire.

ARTHUR
It's not me you should be
apologizing to.

ALIENA
It's fine. Now please stand aside.

REUBER
Do you realize who you are speaking
to, girl?

ARTHUR
Get out of here, Reuber.

The knight bows, without any of the condescension he showed Aliena, and leaves.

ARTHUR (CONT'D)
I'm sorry about him. He has no idea
how to treat a lady.

ALIENA
So, am I speaking to Prince Arthur?

ARTHUR
You are. But the Prince part is
unnecessary. You're Kent's
granddaughter, correct?

ALIENA
Aliena.

She holds out her free hand. Arthur looks surprised then shakes it.

ARTHUR
Almost as firm as a man's.

ALIENA
Thanks. I think.

EXT. CAMELOT MARKET - DAY

Aliena wanders through the crowded market place with a basket. She sees Ygraine, who has aged well in the last 20 years, moving through the crowd wearing a simple cloak and examining the stools like a common citizen.

SHOPKEEPER
Your Majesty, thank you for
returning to our humble shop.

Ygraine smiles graciously at the shopkeeper. She gives him a coin and turns away.

CITIZEN
No, bad dog.

A massive dog bounds across the street with a man rushing after it. The dog slams into Ygraine with such force that she stumbles and lands awkwardly. The dog flees with its owner sprinting after it.

SHOPKEEPER
My Lady?

YGRAINE
I'm not as agile as I once was.

She straightens and grimaces, putting her weight on one side.

ALIENA
Your Majesty, that looked painful.

Ygraine glances at her as she approaches.

YGRAINE
I'm fine.

She heads back towards the castle but is limping. Aliena keeps pace with her.

ALIENA
No offence, but I imagined a queen
would walk more gracefully.

YGRAINE

You haven't met any queens then,
have you?

She smiles then winces and glances down at her ankle.

ALIENA

I think you might have sprained it.
That was a big dog. What are you
doing down here anyway?

YGRAINE

Mingling with normal people. My
husband thinks we're above them but
I disagree.

INT. PHYSICIANS CHAMBER - DAY

Aliena helps Ygraine lie on the bed then hurries away and
returns with long strips of cloth which she wraps around her
leg. Ygraine winces.

ALIENA

Sorry, but you shouldn't have
insisted on walking back without
help. For the next few days, you
should just do light exercise,
nothing strenuous.

YGRAINE

Thank you, Aliena.

ALIENA

I wish I could do this as a
physician.

YGRAINE

I beg your pardon?

ALIENA

It doesn't matter.

YGRAINE

Tell me. Please.

Aliena looks surprised.

ALIENA

I just wish women could become
physicians, that's all.

YGRAINE

Well, I can't offer that without Uther's approval but maybe this will do. My last maid was a thief. As Kent's granddaughter, I'm sure you are trustworthy, so would you like to replace her?

ALIENA

What happened to her?

YGRAINE

She was executed.

ALIENA

Oh. Well, at least you're honest. Okay, I accept.

INT. CRYSTAL CAVE - DAY

Merlin drinks from the pool. The water reflects an image of Aliena in a crystal behind him. Merlin turns to look at the real crystal and sees himself with her. They look very happy.

Merlin smiles but his smile fades as he extends his tail tentatively. The image in the crystal disappears. Merlin's tail retracts. He looks at the tunnel that leads outside.

EXT. FOREST RIVER - DAY

Aliena walks beside the river with a basket and hears the rustling of bushes. Merlin emerges, looking tired and dirty. His expression lights up in a nervous smile when he sees her.

ALIENA

Merlin?

MERLIN

Hello, Aliena. I've been looking for Camelot for days. What are you doing?

ALIENA

I stumbled into a job as the queen's maid. Not sure how I did it to be honest, but she loves blackberries. Where have you been?

MERLIN

Living in a cave full of crystals.

ALIENA

The Crystal Cave? Father told me about it. Apparently the crystals can see through time.

MERLIN

I brought one for you.

He holds out a crystal which is about the size of Alena's fist. She looks at it but does not take it.

MERLIN (CONT'D)

Don't you like it.

ALIENA

It's beautiful. I'm just not used to receiving gifts from strangers.

MERLIN

Oh. Sorry.

He pockets the crystal and there is an awkward silence.

ALIENA

Do you have anywhere to sleep?

MERLIN

No but I come from a city made of bronze, silver and gold.

Aliena raises an eyebrow.

MERLIN (CONT'D)

Seriously, I do. My former guardian insisted that I bring some with me.

He takes a pile of gold, silver and bronze coins out of his pocket and shows them to her. Aliena looks astonished.

ALIENA

Merlin, do you realize how rich you are?

MERLIN

No. Back home we never needed money. We helped each other out of kindness.

ALIENA

I wish the rest of the world was like that. Well the tavern's always got empty rooms but that's mainly because nobody likes staying there.

MERLIN

That's good enough for me.

INT. TAVERN - DAY

The tavern is full of drunk men and a few women, mostly barmaids. As Aliena leads Merlin to the bar, several men whistle at her. One man smacks her bottom.

ALIENA

Fisticus.

She punches the man hard enough to knock him off his feet. Everyone stares in shock.

MERLIN

Nice punch.

Aliena grins at him as they approach the bartender, BARTHOLOMEW.

BARTHOLOMEW

A sorceress, huh? No way a woman could punch that hard without magic.

ALIENA

My friend needs a place to stay for a while. Potentially months.

BARTHOLOMEW

That's gonna be costly.

Merlin shows him a piece of gold.

ALIENA

Don't give him too much. He may not pay you back.

Bartholomew lays a hand on his heart in mock horror.

BARTHOLOMEW

Young lady, I'm offended that you see a dishonest man.

Then he grins at Merlin.

BARTHOLOMEW (CONT'D)

But you really should watch out, lad. There are a lot of greedy people around here.

MERLIN

Well, have you got a room?

BARTHOLOMEW

Yep. Pay me a silver coin every month and you can stay as long as you like. I'll make sure it doesn't smell too strongly of booze or sex. Or both.

Merlin and Aliena both look uncomfortable as Merlin pays him.

INT. ROYAL LIBRARY - DAY

Arthur is reading in the corner of the large library. Aliena comes to the library and wanders among the tall bookcases.

ARTHUR

Good morning, Aliena.

ALIENA

Oh. Hello, Sire.

ARTHUR

Arthur. You learned to read?

ALIENA

Yep. A perk of being the court physician's granddaughter. What are you reading?

ARTHUR

History. People can learn a lot from it.

Uther, who's hair is going grey now, enters the library. He sees Arthur and Aliena conversing.

UTHER

Arthur, you have duties to attend to.

Arthur stands and gives the book to Aliena.

ALIENA

Maybe you'll learn something.

He winks at her and goes to leave. Uther frowns.

UTHER

A maid, Arthur.

ARTHUR

I know.

They leave as Aliena sits where Arthur was and reads.

INT. TAVERN BEDROOM - DAY

Merlin is looking out of the window at the sunset when somebody knocks.

MERLIN

Come in.

Aliena enters with the book under her arm.

MERLIN (CONT'D)

Hello, Aliena. I was just thinking about my old home.

ALIENA

Well, I'm sure it's nicer than this hovel. I brought something for you.

She shows him the book.

MERLIN

Thanks but I can't read. Back home, we passed down stories verbally.

ALIENA

That's not a great way of preserving them.

MERLIN

It is when you live with immortals.

ALIENA

Well, I was thinking that if you can't read, I could teach you.

They sit on the bed together and Aliena opens the book.

EXT. CAMELOT STREETS - DAY

Aliena and Kent walk past the tavern. Merlin looks out of the window. He smiles and waves to Alena. She looks up, smiles and waves back. Kent glances up, then turns to Aliena.

ALIENA

He's a friend.

Kent nods and they leave. Merlin watches Kent and frowns.

INT. PHYSICIANS CHAMBER - DAY

Kent is examining a wounded knight, Sir ALINOR. Aliena is watching closely.

KENT

This shoulder is dislocated. Ali.

Aliena resets the man's arm. Alinor moves it experimentally.

ALINOR

Excellent.

ALIENA

Good luck tomorrow.

Alinor gives her a respectful nod as he rises.

INT. TAVERN BEDROOM - NIGHT

Merlin is struggling to read on his bed when Aliena enters, stroking her braid and looking nervous.

MERLIN

Hello. What's wrong?

ALIENA

Nothing.

She sits beside him and points at a paragraph.

MERLIN

The k-night...

ALIENA

Knight. The K is silent.

MERLIN

Then why's it there?

ALIENA

Probably so it doesn't get mixed up with night.

She gestures to the dark sky outside the window.

MERLIN

I see. The knight and the dragon fight. The dragon breath-es...

ALIENA

Breathes.

MERLIN

Thanks. The dragon breathes fire
but the knight's shield absorbs the
flames. The knight lun-guess...

ALIENA

Lunges.

MERLIN

Lunges and slays the dragon.

ALIENA

Good.

Merlin smiles at her. Aliena shifts nervously.

ALIENA (CONT'D)

I came to tell you there's a
tournament tomorrow. You should
come.

MERLIN

Where?

ALIENA

I'll fetch you. You can meet
Grandfather.

INT. PHYSICIANS TENT - DAY

Aliena leads Merlin into the tent where Kent is laying out
his healing equipment.

ALIENA

Grandfather.

KENT

Ah, you're here.

He looks at Merlin. Aliena looks between them nervously.

MERLIN

Hello. I'm Merlin.

Kent eyes him suspiciously but shakes his hand.

EXT. TOURNAMENT ARENA - DAY

The crowd cheers as the knights appear, led by Uther and
Arthur. There are also warriors from outside Camelot. Most
have swords and shields but some have maces, flails, battle
axes, knives and spears.

Aliena, Kent and Merlin stand at the edge of the arena. Aliena and Merlin look excited but Kent looks worried. Ygraine stands in the royal spectators' box.

YGRAINE

Brave warriors, it's an honour to welcome you to Camelot. The next three days will test your skill and bravery. Be wary when facing my husband and Excalibur.

Uther raises Excalibur into the air and the crowd cheers.

YGRAINE (CONT'D)

Men die in this event. Anyone who wishes to withdraw may do so.

No one does. Some look insulted. Ygraine is not surprised.

YGRAINE (CONT'D)

Let the tournament begin.

Uther, wielding Excalibur and a shield, faces a man with two long daggers. They fight but Uther parries each blow easily, turns and slams his foe with his shield to knock him down.

Arthur, wielding only a sword, fights Sir Alinor who also wields only a sword. Both men are about the same size but Arthur is faster and more precise. He inflicts a minor wound in Alinor's side before using an uppercut to disarm him.

ALIENA

Guess I didn't set his shoulder right.

KENT

You did.

As the day continues the wounds get worse. Kent and Aliena work on the wounded in the tents behind the stands. Merlin is getting more disturbed with every round that passes.

Uther fights a MAN who wields twin swords. Uther cuts him on the arm. The crowd gasps. Uther smiles grimly.

MAN

A scratch.

He continues fighting but his life is fading. Uther trips him. He falls. Uther has won but kills him anyway. Merlin and Aliena look shocked while Kent just looks sad.

ALIENA

Why?

KENT
Excalibur's magic can kill an
Incubus. One cut is fatal.

Merlin looks at the sword with terror as Uther holds it up.

ALIENA
Well, that's a very unfair
advantage.

Merlin laughs nervously.

INT. TAVERN BEDROOM - DAY

Merlin enters the bedroom with Aliena behind him. Both of
them sit on the bed.

ALIENA
I knew people died in this
tournament but I assumed they were
accidents.

MERLIN
At least the prince hasn't killed
anybody.

There is a short silence. Then Aliena laughs hysterically.

ALIENA
Thank the gods women aren't allowed
to fight.

MERLIN
Do you still want to be a
physician.

ALIENA
More than ever.

EXT. FOREST - NIGHT (DREAM SEQUENCE)

Merlin attacks Aliena in the form of an Incubus using his
tail to stab her leg. She falls and he advances but stops as
Ygraine runs towards them.

YGRAINE
Stop.

Aliena crawls away as the Incubus turns to Ygraine looking
like a scolded child.

(END OF DREAM)

INT. TAVERN BEDROOM - NIGHT

Merlin wakes looking both excited and terrified. He lies back down and stares at the ceiling.

EXT. TOURNAMENT ARENA - DAY

Arthur defeats his semifinal opponent but receives a shoulder injury. The crowd cheers but Uther looks worried.

INT. PHYSICIANS TENT - DAY

Kent and Merlin watch Aliena bandage Arthur's shoulder.

ALIENA
If Uther even cuts you...

ARTHUR
He won't.

Uther enters. Kent and Merlin bow, Aliena curtsies but Uther does not acknowledge them.

UTHER
Arthur, I want you to withdraw.

ARTHUR
Not a chance. Afraid you'll lose,
old man?

Uther is silent then leaves.

ALIENA
Don't get cocky just because he's
your father.

EXT. TOURNAMENT ARENA - DAY

Ygraine watches anxiously from the stands as Arthur and Uther duel. Arthur tries to stay on his father's left side, so Uther has difficulty seeing him with his remaining eye.

Arthur slips past Uther's guard and cuts the straps attaching his shield to his arm, leaving a scratch as the shield falls.

UTHER
Excellent strike.

They continue dueling. The tip of Excalibur slices the chainmail protecting Arthur's side. Uther falters. The crowd gasps. Arthur examines his side. There is no blood.

ARTHUR

You missed.

He slams the back of Uther's hand with the flat of his sword. Uther drops Excalibur and Arthur's blade is at his throat. The crowd cheers and Ygraine relaxes, subtly punching the air while nobody is looking.

INT. PHYSICIANS CHAMBER - NIGHT

Aliena takes Merlin to Kent's chamber. Merlin looks around at the shelves, the table and the unmade bed.

MERLIN

This place is almost as messy as the tavern.

ALIENA

Grandfather's too old to do much cleaning anymore and I don't have time.

She shows Merlin around. Merlin goes to Kent's bedroom. He looks back at Aliena before opening the door, not noticing Kent enter the chamber from the other side.

MERLIN

It smells old in here.

KENT

I heard that. What do you expect from a 76 year old man?

Merlin whips around. Kent leans on his walking stick and smiles before shuffling to a chair and slumping down.

KENT (CONT'D)

I didn't expect to live long enough to see Ali become a woman. So Merlin, we have yet to get properly acquainted. Where are you from?

MERLIN

Avalon.

Kent goes very still. There is a long silence.

ALIENA

Grandfather?

KENT

Apologies. I zoned out for a moment. Old age.

MERLIN

Well, it's getting late. I should
get going.

He gives Aliena a wave and Kent a curious look at he goes.

INT. CAMELOT CORRIDOR - NIGHT

Merlin bumps into Ygraine and bows hastily upon seeing her.

MERLIN

Oh, I'm sorry. My Lady.

YGRAINE

No need. I saw you with Aliena and
Kent during the tournament.

MERLIN

Aliena invited me.

YGRAINE

She's a lovely girl.

Aliena joins them and curtsies.

ALIENA

Good evening, my Lady.

Ygraine smiles and steps aside, allowing Aliena to lead the
way. Merlin looks like he wants to say something but cannot.

INT. PHYSICIANS BED CHAMBER - NIGHT

Kent lies in his small bed. He reaches for his walking stick,
gets out of bed and opens the door slightly. Aliena is asleep
in the patient's bed. Kent looks at her with love and a hint
of concern, then closes the door.

INT. PHYSICIANS CHAMBER - DAY

Kent is sitting at his table. Aliena puts two bowls of
porridge on the table and sits opposite him.

ALIENA

What's wrong, grandfather?

KENT

Ali, how well do you know Merlin?

ALIENA

Well enough to know he's a good person.

She starts to eat her porridge. Kent watches her for a moment then starts eating his own breakfast.

EXT. CAMELOT STOCKS - DAY

Merlin watches sympathetically as a boy is pelted by fruit and vegetables in the stocks while people laugh and jeer. Kent joins him, leaning on his walking stick.

KENT

I must talk to you in private.

INT. PHYSICIANS CHAMBER - DAY

Kent sits on his chair and gestures for Merlin to sit on a stool. Merlin does so, looking nervous.

KENT

I have not seen you since you were a baby.

MERLIN

Oh. That explains the deja vu.

KENT

Probably a magical memory. Or a Cambion ability.

Merlin leaps to his feet but Kent stays where he is.

KENT (CONT'D)

Your mother will be happy to see you.

Merlin watches him warily.

MERLIN

Who is she?

KENT

You already know.

INT. TAVERN BEDROOM - DAY

Merlin sits by the window and stares at Camelot as the sun sets behind the castle. Bartholomew enters the room.

BARTHOLOMEW
Time to pay up, lad.

Merlin tosses a silver coin at him.

BARTHOLOMEW (CONT'D)
Much obliged.

He leaves the room, looking at the shiny silver coin. Merlin continues to stare at the castle. Then he jumps to his feet and runs out of the room.

INT. CAMELOT GREAT HALL - NIGHT

Ygraine, Uther and Arthur are eating dinner when there is a commotion outside. Arthur hurries to the door and opens it.

INT. CAMELOT CORRIDOR - CONTINUOUS

Two guards are holding a struggling Merlin.

MERLIN
I must speak to the queen.

He looks up at Arthur.

ARTHUR
I know you. You were hanging around with Aliena.

MERLIN
Arth... Your Highness. I need to speak with your mother.

Ygraine rises from the table.

YGRAINE
Release him. I'll here him out.

The guards release Merlin. Ygraine joins Merlin, dismissing Arthur and the guards with a nod. Merlin looks terrified.

MERLIN
Your Majesty... I know you gave birth 20 years ago.

YGRAINE
22 years actually.

MERLIN
To your first son. I'm so sorry for what my father did to you.

Ygraine is silent for a very long moment. Then, without warning, she starts to cry.

MERLIN (CONT'D)
Moth... My Lady. I'm sorry. I
didn't mean to...

YGRAINE
It's not you. I just... it's
everything else. I tried to forget.

Merlin waits for Ygraine to regain her composure before stepping forwards. Ygraine gently pushes him back.

YGRAINE (CONT'D)
I'm sorry. I can't.

She returns to the great hall. Merlin looks devastated.

EXT. CAMELOT MEADOW - DAY

Merlin is leaving. Aliena rushes after him.

ALIENA
Merlin, wait. Where are you going?

MERLIN
Home.

ALIENA
You were going to leave without
saying goodbye?

MERLIN
I thought it would be easier. How
did you know I was leaving anyway?

ALIENA
Magic.

She hesitates, then steps forwards and tentatively kisses him on the lips. Merlin stiffens and stares at her.

ALIENA (CONT'D)
Sorry.

They smile tentatively at each other.

MERLIN
Okay. I'll stay a little longer.

INT. PHYSICIANS CHAMBER - DAY

Merlin and Aliena enter the chamber. Aliena goes to the door at the other end to check on her grandfather.

MERLIN
Is he okay?

ALIENA
He's fine.

MERLIN
Good. Aliena, I need to tell you something. You may not believe me but Kent can confirm it.

Aliena closes the door and sits on Kent's chair.

ALIENA
Okay, what is it?

MERLIN
I left home because the woman who raised me isn't my mother.

ALIENA
So your real mother abandoned you?

MERLIN
Kent said she'd be happy to see me. But I suppose being illegitimate and fathered by...

Aliena watches him with no judgement, only curiosity.

ALIENA
So your father was a very nasty piece of work.

MERLIN
That's putting it kindly.

ALIENA
Well, did you find your mother?

MERLIN
Yes. She's the queen.

Aliena stares at him then glances at Kent's bedroom.

MERLIN (CONT'D)
Ask him. He'll confirm it.

Aliena stands up, goes to a cupboard and takes out 3 bowls.

ALIENA
He'll be up soon. Do you like porridge?

MERLIN
You don't believe me.

ALIENA
I do. I just need the confirmation.

The porridge is ready when Kent shuffles out of his room.

MERLIN
Morning, Kent.

KENT
Merlin.

Aliena is already eating. Kent frowns at Merlin.

KENT (CONT'D)
What has happened?

Merlin is silent as Aliena finishes her mouthful.

ALIENA
He told me.

Kent's hand tightens on his stick as Aliena eyes him.

KENT
Which part?

ALIENA
Some of it. Is the queen really...?

KENT
She is.

ALIENA
And his father?

KENT
He was a beast.

Aliena rises and gives the third bowl of porridge to Kent.

ALIENA
I need to get to work.

She walks past Merlin but hesitates. She gives him a quick kiss on the cheek and hurries out of the room.

MERLIN

I didn't tell her the Cambion part.

KENT

She likes you. Tell her when you're ready.

MERLIN

You trust me?

KENT

I trust Nimueh. She knew how to raise a child while she was alive. I doubt death has changed that.

EXT. CAMELOT STREETS - DAY

Aliena gives an apple to a homeless boy. Merlin kisses her cheek. Arthur, wearing a brown cloak instead of his princely garments, watches with a jealous expression. He tosses a silver coin at a beggar then goes back towards the castle.

INT. ROYAL BED CHAMBER - DAY

Aliena is cleaning when there is a knock on the door.

ALIENA

My Lady?

ARTHUR

No, it's me.

ALIENA

Oh. Come in, Sire.

Arthur enters and looks around.

ARTHUR

Where's your boyfriend.

ALIENA

Surely you have better things to do than ask about my love life, Sire.

ARTHUR

I keep telling you to call me Arthur.

ALIENA

Is that an order or a request? I'm a maid. You're a prince. The hierarchy is very clear.

ARTHUR
Hierarchies can change.

ALIENA
Not while your father's on the
throne. And even if it does, I'm
not going to lead you on.

ARTHUR
That's unusual for a woman.

ALIENA
Is that a compliment or an insult?

ARTHUR
Interpret it however you want,
Aliena.

He strides out of the room. Aliena returns to cleaning.

INT. PHYSICIANS CHAMBER - NIGHT

Merlin is reading when Aliena enters the room. Kent is
sleeping in his chair.

MERLIN
Ali, I can't read this word.

He points to the book and Aliena leans over to read it.

ALIENA
Phenomenon. It means someone or
something extraordinary.

MERLIN
Why does it start with PH?

ALIENA
I have absolutely no idea.

She goes to Kent and sits with him. Merlin joins them.

MERLIN
He's not dead yet. And death's not
so bad.

ALIENA
Well, Uther's probably chosen a
replacement.

MERLIN
I'm fairly sure people will prefer
somebody they're familiar with.

He smiles at her.

ALIENA
Women can't be physicians.

Merlin's smile fades.

MERLIN
Well, that's not fair.

ALIENA
Tell me about it. Anyway, I spoke
to Arthur today. I think you should
tell him you're his half-brother.

MERLIN
That didn't go well with the queen.

ALIENA
You understand the position she's
in, right?

Merlin is silent.

ALIENA (CONT'D)
Well, first she was traumatized by
your father. Then she had to give
birth which I've heard is very
painful. Then she had to give you
up for being an illegitimate child.
Then she spent 20 years trying to
move on. It's a lot to process.
Arthur doesn't have all that
emotional baggage.

EXT. CAMELOT TRAINING GROUNDS - DAY

Merlin watches Arthur spar with a knight. Arthur disarms his
opponent. The other knights cheer as Arthur steps to the edge
of the training ground. Merlin cautiously approaches.

MERLIN
Hello, Arthur.

Arthur gives him a cold look.

ARTHUR
Merlin, correct?

MERLIN
That's right.

ARTHUR

I hope you treat Aliena well.

Merlin looks at him curiously.

MERLIN

Are you jealous?

ARTHUR

Not at all. She's just a serving wench.

Merlin glares at him.

MERLIN

She's a physician in training and a powerful sorceress.

ARTHUR

She can use magic? Then she should stick to being a witch.

Merlin punches Arthur in the jaw. They roll around on the ground until the knights pull them apart.

INT. CAMELOT DUNGEON - DAY

Merlin is locked in a cell. Aliena and Kent visit, both looking worried.

ALIENA

Merlin, what happened?

MERLIN

Arthur insulted you, so I punched him.

KENT

Were there witnesses?

MERLIN

A group of knights.

KENT

And they know Arthur provoked you?

Merlin nods.

KENT (CONT'D)

In that case, Uther might be talked out of a hanging.

MERLIN

A hanging.

ALIENA

You can't just punch the king's son
and expect to get away with it.
Lucky you're his half-brother.

MERLIN

He doesn't know that.

ALIENA

No but the queen does.

She smiles shakily.

INT. CAMELOT THRONE ROOM - DAY

Loth's tail hangs on the wall behind the thrones. Merlin is
in chains. Uther looks grim while Ygraine looks both worried
and annoyed. Arthur stands beside them. Aliena and Kent stand
on one side of the chamber with some knights.

YGRAINE

The chains aren't necessary.

Uther ignores her as he rises from his throne.

UTHER

Boy, I have been informed that you
attacked my son.

MERLIN

That is true, Sire. I did it
because he insulted my girlfriend.

UTHER

Assaulting a prince is a far
greater crime than insulting a
maid.

ARTHUR

We must be fair, Father. It was a
fight, not an assassination
attempt. And it's true that I share
some of the blame for it.

ALIENA

Also how is it any different...

KENT

Aliena, be quiet.

ALIENA

From a knight challenging Arthur to
a duel?

Uther gives her a very dangerous look, scaring her.

UTHER

It is not your place to speak.

Ygraine rises from her own throne.

YGRAINE

But it is mine. And I say they
could have talked it out like men
but chose to be boys. You're
blowing this out of proportion,
Uther.

Uther looks at his wife and his gaze softens.

UTHER

Very well. Boy, you will spend a
day in the stocks.

EXT. CAMELOT STOCKS - DAY

Merlin has his head and hands locked in the stocks as people
pelt him with fruit and vegetables.

INT. PHYSICIANS CHAMBER - DAY

Merlin stumbles in and finds Kent.

KENT

How was it?

MERLIN

Humiliating.

Kent pushes himself up on his walking stick.

KENT

In my youth, that happened to me
all the time.

Aliena enters with a crude, wooden bath tub which floats in
the air. She releases her telekinetic hold.

ALIENA

Ygraine offered her bath but I didn't think you'd want to slouch through half of the castle to get there. Let's get you cleaned up.

Merlin looks at her, then at the bath.

MERLIN

Wait, are you going to bathe me?

ALIENA

Yep.

She winks. Kent shakes his head and shuffles away to his own room as Merlin gets undressed.

INT. ARTHUR'S CHAMBER - DAY

Arthur's chamber is of average size with a bed, wardrobe and fireplace. A window is on one side of the bed, behind a desk. Arthur is reading at the desk. There is a knock on the door.

ARTHUR

Enter.

Merlin enters and Arthur closes the book, looking surprised.

MERLIN

Sir Alinor directed me here. I wanted to apologize properly.

ARTHUR

No need. I didn't act like a prince and I'd rather a man stand up to me than grovel at my feet.

MERLIN

Well, I'm sorry anyway.

He holds out a hand. Arthur shakes it.

EXT. FOREST RIVER - DAY

Aliena and Merlin are having a magical duel.

ALIENA

Flareburn.

She summons fire balls in her bare hands and throws them.

MERLIN

Hydrosen.

Water from the river shoots out and forms a liquid barrier which absorbs both fire balls before shooting at Aliena.

ALIENA

Shwave Keumea.

She blasts out a shock wave which blows the water away and continues towards Merlin.

MERLIN

Blokus.

He forms a transparent barrier which absorbs the shock wave. Merlin shoots at Aliena with impossible speed and tackles her. She pouts up at him as he pins her down.

ALIENA

You didn't say the incantation.

MERLIN

Learn to read minds then. I thought you'd be better at that.

ALIENA

Casting spells and reading minds at the same time isn't easy.

MERLIN

And being a sore loser isn't attractive.

Aliena rolls her eyes and shifts underneath him. Merlin stiffens and Aliena smiles flirtatiously.

ALIENA

How's that for attractive?

Merlin quickly stands up and Aliena sits with a saucy grin.

MERLIN

Well, I've got 4 wins to 1 now.

ALIENA

Okay, I admit it. You're better at magic than I am.

Merlin helps her up. Aliena's eyes flick down and he blushes.

MERLIN

Sorry.

ALIENA

Don't be. Now I can call it a tie.

Merlin shoves her playfully and she laughs.

INT. CAMELOT CORRIDOR - DAY

Merlin and Aliena are holding hands. Ygraine finds them.

ALIENA

Hello, my Lady. I'm on it.

She kisses Merlin's cheek and leaves.

YGRAINE

Merlin, walk with me.

She takes him down the corridor to a door.

INT. DESERTED CHAMBER - CONTINUOUS

Ygraine and Merlin enter the chamber. Ygraine closes and locks the door behind them. This room is, in comparison to the rest of the castle, rather bland.

YGRAINE

Have you told her?

MERLIN

That you're my mother? Yes.

YGRAINE

What about the other secret.

Merlin watches her warily. Ygraine sighs.

YGRAINE (CONT'D)

Merlin, you can't hide it from her forever.

MERLIN

You hid my existence for over 20 years.

YGRAINE

I had to.

MERLIN

Then you must know why I can't tell Aliena.

YGRAINE

My husband knew. He didn't approve but our marriage succeeded in spite of that. Trust is the foundation of any relationship, Merlin.

MERLIN

Aliena trusts me.

YGRAINE

Do you trust her?

Merlin is silent. After a moment, his tail flicks out and Ygraine takes a sharp breath.

MERLIN

Last time I showed it to someone, I got a knife thrown at my head.

Somebody bumps the door. Merlin quickly withdraws his tail as Ygraine goes to it. She glances back before unlocking it. Sir Reuber stands outside with a serving girl on his arm.

REUBER

My Lady.

He quickly shrugs off the serving girl and bows.

YGRAINE

Sir Reuber, get married for heaven's sake.

She stands aside and lets Reuber and the embarrassed serving girl into the chamber.

MERLIN

Wait, you're just going to let them?

YGRAINE

It's not a crime. Now go to your woman and remember what we talked about.

INT. PHYSICIANS CHAMBER - NIGHT

Aliena looks exhausted and surprised when she finds Merlin.

ALIENA

Oh hello. I thought you'd gone back to the tavern.

MERLIN

There's something I need to show you. And I'll never be ready to do it, so I want to get it over with.

ALIENA

Has something happened?

MERLIN

Well, my mother's finally speaking to me.

ALIENA

That's great.

Her smile fades when she sees how scared Merlin looks.

ALIENA (CONT'D)

Merlin, whatever it is, you can tell me.

MERLIN

Well, my father wasn't just an evil man. He was literally a demon.

ALIENA

But he's dead, isn't he?

MERLIN

Yes. But I'm still here. And I'm half demon.

Aliena gasps as his tail flicks out, his eyes turn yellow and his teeth sharpen. She stands very still for a long moment then shakily steps forwards. She reaches towards his tail.

MERLIN (CONT'D)

It's sharp.

Aliena grips the tail gently, examining the barbed spikes and sharp tip. She lets go and steps back.

ALIENA

You thought I'd reject you.

Merlin watches her silently as she touches his cheek.

ALIENA (CONT'D)

Those teeth are pretty scary. I love the eyes though.

MERLIN

Ali, don't...

ALIENA

I'm serious. Flareburn.

A fire ball bursts into her hand and she holds it up comparing it to Merlin's yellow eyes.

ALIENA (CONT'D)

In case you haven't figured it out Merlin, I'm a bit of a pyromaniac.

She grins and extinguishes the flame.

MERLIN

Ali, Incubi feed on women. On sex. But I'm only a Cambion so...

ALIENA

Fine with me.

MERLIN

Seriously?

ALIENA

Just retract the teeth, be careful with the tail and we're in business. Keep the eyes though.

Merlin retracts his teeth and his tail flicks uncertainly. Aliena kisses him, then locks the main door. She goes to the door that leads to Kent's bedroom, looks in and locks it too.

MERLIN

I wasn't lying when I said I've never done it before.

ALIENA

I know. I'll lead.

She pulls him gently towards the bed. They start to undress.

EXT. FOREST RIVER - DAY

Aliena sits by the river while Merlin stands in the water holding his tail. He suddenly jabs the tail into the water and pulls it out with a dying fish on the end.

MERLIN

The Water Spirits never approved of fishing but they don't need food.

He gets out of the river and sits beside her, putting the fish in her basket. His tail carefully coils around her waist. Aliena leans her head on his shoulder.

ALIENA
You could slice me in half with it,
couldn't you?

MERLIN
Ali.

ALIENA
What? You could.

She kisses his cheek. Neither of them notice Arthur riding by on his horse. He sees Merlin's tail, gets off his horse, and draws his sword. Merlin's tail releases Aliena as he turns.

MERLIN
Arthur.

ARTHUR
Aliena, step away from him.

Aliena moves slightly in front of Merlin.

ALIENA
Sire, I know what this looks like.

ARTHUR
It looks like a beast that could
kill you.

ALIENA
He could. But he won't. He's only a
Cambion.

ARTHUR
A Cambion? Like the one who
assaulted my mother?

MERLIN
No, not like that. You're getting
Incubi and Cambions mixed up. I
don't feed on women.

ARTHUR
Then why are you with her?

ALIENA
Arthur, he's not forcing me. I'm
with him by choice.

Arthur grabs her arm and thrusts her behind him.

ARTHUR
Cambions are monsters, Aliena.

MERLIN

Arthur, do you think I chose to be like this?

ARTHUR

I've read about your kind. Undying bloodlust towards men, an insatiable desire for women and you come from another world.

Merlin looks uncomfortable.

ARTHUR (CONT'D)

So I'm right, aren't I?

ALIENA

Arthur, Merlin was born in this world.

MERLIN

I did live most of my life in another but I left to find my real family. And I found them.

ARTHUR

Then go to them.

MERLIN

Well, one of them is pointing a sword at me.

Arthur stares at him in disbelief. Then he snarls and swings his sword. Merlin dodges but doesn't try to fight back as Arthur storms after him.

ALIENA

Arthur no. You're brothers.

ARTHUR

This thing is no brother of mine.

He slashes and stabs. Merlin moves with supernatural speed but still doesn't try to strike. Aliena leaps between them.

ALIENA

Enough. We'll leave.

MERLIN

Ali, your Grandfather.

Aliena glances at him, then at Arthur.

ALIENA

Just let me say goodbye to him.
Then we'll go.

Arthur glares at the pair of them, then sheathes his sword.

ARTHUR

You can go back. But this thing
isn't setting foot in Camelot
again.

Merlin bares his fangs. Aliena touches his arm.

ALIENA

Don't. Just don't kill each other
before I get back.

She runs off with impossible speed. Merlin's teeth retract.

MERLIN

No incantation.

ARTHUR

What?

MERLIN

She struggles to cast spells
without an incantation.

Arthur glares at him and Merlin's expression hardens.

MERLIN (CONT'D)

Yes, she's a witch. And she worked
hard for every spell.

INT. PHYSICIANS CHAMBER - DAY

Kent is working when Aliena rushes into the room.

KENT

Ali, you're back early.

Aliena swallows as she looks at her frail grandfather shuffle
around on his walking stick.

ALIENA

Grandfather, I... I love you.

Kent turns to her, looking both bewildered and concerned.

KENT

And I love you. What's wrong?

ALIENA

You'll need to find another apprentice. I can't stay. Merlin and I need to leave Camelot.

KENT

Somebody saw him, didn't they?

ALIENA

Arthur. He tried to kill him. After learning they're half-brothers.

KENT

Uther told him what Loth did to Ygraine. He shouldn't have done so. Arthur's been looking for a chance to kill an Incubus or their offspring ever since.

ALIENA

He agreed to let us leave. I came to say goodbye.

Kent smiles sadly and opens his arms. Aliena steps into them and starts crying.

KENT

Ali, don't. If I die before you return, I have someone to look forward to.

ALIENA

The Lady of the Lake?

KENT

She tethered me to her permanently in preparation. Don't worry about me. Go and live your life.

He kisses her forehead. Aliena smiles tearfully, then leaves.

EXT. CRYSTAL CAVE CLEARING - DAY

Aliena and Merlin arrive outside the cave, hand in hand.

ALIENA

So this is it?

MERLIN

Wait until you see the inside.

He leads her into the cave.

INT. CRYSTAL CAVE - CONTINUOUS

Aliena stares around and touches a small crystal.

ALIENA

This place is beautiful. I should have brought back our crystal.

MERLIN

Well, it's a good place to stay for the night. I'll take you to meet your grandmother tomorrow.

ALIENA

I don't think Grandfather actually married her.

MERLIN

Does that matter?

Aliena sees something in one of the crystals. It is a bloody battle which is taking place in Camelot.

ALIENA

Merlin, look.

She sees Arthur duelling with Mordred, now a fully grown and seasoned warrior. Uther duels Hengist, who is as intimidating and muscular as he was 20 years earlier. The image fades.

MERLIN

The crystals often do that.

ALIENA

Can they really see into the future?

MERLIN

They can see into A future. I don't know if it's definitive.

ALIENA

Well, we need to go back if it is.

MERLIN

I'm a dead man if I do. And I'll bet Arthur told Uther that you ran off with a Cambion.

INT. CAMELOT THRONE ROOM - DAY

Uther and Ygraine sit upon their thrones as Arthur stands before them with Kent.

UTHER
So you let them go?

ARTHUR
I did. With a warning.

Uther glares at Kent.

UTHER
Did you know?

KENT
I did, Sire.

YGRAINE
So did I.

UTHER
And you both kept it from the king.

YGRAINE
He's my son, Uther.

Arthur and Uther both twitch in disgust. The chamber doors open and Sir Alinor enters looking agitated.

ALINOR
Sire. We've received reports that the warlord Hengist has entered our territory.

Uther's angry expression is replaced by one of worry.

UTHER
I knew he'd come eventually. I'm surprised it took so long.

YGRAINE
Well, it can't be easy to build an army when you have no tongue.

EXT. LAKE OF AVALON - DAY

Merlin and Aliena reach the lake and gaze out at the water. Nimueh emerges and glides across the lake. Merlin steps onto the water to meet her.

MERLIN
Nimueh.

They hug. Nimueh pulls back to look at him.

NIMUEH
You found your mother.

MERLIN
Yes.

NIMUEH
And my granddaughter. I knew you'd
like her.

She taps his nose before gliding to the edge of the lake.

NIMUEH (CONT'D)
Aliena, I watched you grow up. I
would have visited but I'm bound to
the lake.

ALIENA
You're my grandmother?

NIMUEH
I am.

ALIENA
You look incredible.

NIMUEH
I know. Not bad for 83.

ALIENA
83?

NIMUEH
Well, it's hard to keep track in
the lake but I was 33 when I died
and it's been 50 years since then.

MERLIN
51 actually.

NIMUEH
I stand corrected.

ALIENA
So you were several years older
than Grandfather.

NIMUEH
Unusual no? Here's how old I
actually look.

She turns into an old woman. Her dimples still show when she smiles before she goes back to her youthful appearance.

NIMUEH (CONT'D)

I feel comfortable this way. It's an advantage of being half-dead.

A flash of insecurity crosses her face.

NIMUEH (CONT'D)

I never showed Kent my true form.

ALIENA

Then Merlin's braver than you. He showed me his.

MERLIN

Thanks, Ali. Now come on, I want to show you Avalon.

Aliena hesitates. Nimueh watches with gentle amusement.

ALIENA

I can't.

MERLIN

You'll get used to the cold.

ALIENA

No, I mean I can't swim.

Merlin stares at her for a moment, then at Nimueh.

NIMUEH

We'll teach you.

EXT. ROCKY BATTLEFIELD - DAY

Hengist and Mordred are at the front of their army on foot. The rocky landscape has little vegetation and less cover. Uther and Arthur ride horses at the head of their army.

MORDRED

Attack.

He shoots across the battlefield with impossible speed while the rest of the army swarms past a relaxed looking Hengist.

ARTHUR

Forward.

He and Uther charge at the head of their army. Mordred stabs Arthur's horse in the chest and creates a magical barrier to block its flailing legs. Arthur is thrown off but rolls onto his feet. The rest of each army catches up and he loses Mordred in the confusion.

EXT. LAKE OF AVALON - DAY

Nimueh watches with a gentle smile as Aliena eases herself into the lake with Merlin's encouragement.

MERLIN

Come on, Ali. It's just water.

ALIENA

Don't you dare splash me.

EXT. ROCKY BATTLEFIELD - NIGHT

Bodies litter the battlefield. Hengist walks among them with Mordred. Sir Alinor has a bloody hole in his stomach but is still alive. Mordred smiles before casually killing him.

EXT. FOREST CLEARING - NIGHT

Uther, Arthur and the surviving knights have retreated and sit on logs in a huge clearing with several fires. Other fires are visible from smaller clearings among the trees.

ARTHUR

They have a huge advantage with that sorcerer on their side.

UTHER

Well, now we know what we're up against and can plan accordingly.

EXT. LAKE OF AVALON - NIGHT

Aliena and Merlin sit next to a fire on the edge of the lake. Aliena is wrapped in a cloak and her hair is wet.

ALIENA

Why do you call her by her name?

MERLIN

She insisted. She never pretended to be my mother.

ALIENA

You should spend some time with her. I know you've missed her.

Merlin kisses her cheek, goes to the lake and dives in.

EXT. FOREST ROAD - DAY

Uther's knights ambush Hengist's warriors from the trees. They bring two huge trees crashing down with ropes to block the men's path.

ARTHUR

Fire.

Hengist looks annoyed as arrows shoot at his army from the slopes on either side of the path, killing several warriors. One arrow lands in his arm. He wrenches it out.

MORDRED

Blokus Maxima.

A massive barrier appears over the army and blocks the arrows. Hengist nods to Mordred and sees Uther lead a charge from behind. Arthur and the knights attack from the side, slipping underneath the barrier which Mordred drops as soon as the warriors are fighting at close range.

EXT. LAKE OF AVALON - DAY

Aliena swims in shallow water. Merlin swims to the middle of the lake, disappears under water and swims back.

ALIENA

Don't you worry about drowning?

MERLIN

No need. I know a spell for breathing underwater.

ALIENA

You need to teach me.

EXT. GRASSLAND - DAY

Mordred is looking angrily around at his wounded army. Hengist joins him and claps him on the shoulder

MORDRED

They don't even have a sorcerer.

Hengist gestures around at all the men who are still in fighting shape before frowning at Mordred.

MORDRED (CONT'D)

Yes, preserve the forces, I know.

EXT. LAKE OF AVALON - NIGHT

Aliena swims with Merlin beside her. Sometimes, she falters but when she goes under, she bobs back up breathing easily.

MERLIN

I think you've got it.

ALIENA

It helps when you don't need to worry about drowning.

Nimueh emerges looking agitated.

NIMUEH

Merlin, Aliena, I need you both in Avalon right now.

She sinks into the water. Merlin and Aliena dive after her.

INT. AVALON THRONE ROOM - NIGHT

Nimueh and Merlin show the fascinated Aliena the archway.

NIMUEH

By looking into this arch, I can keep an eye on Merlin no matter where he is. I can also see events like this.

A battle in the streets of Camelot fills the archway. Many men on both sides are dead. Women and children flee towards the castle while Arthur, Uther and Camelot's knights struggle to hold the line.

ALIENA

Damn it.

She turns to leave.

MERLIN

Hold on, are you...?

ALIENA

Going back. Yes.

Merlin glances at Nimueh.

NIMUEH

Your destiny won't be fulfilled here. You must return.

MERLIN

If we die there, the Restoration
Stone won't work.

NIMUEH

Come here, both of you.

Aliena and Merlin obey. Nimueh places a hand on their hearts
and closes her eyes. A golden glow radiates around them.

NIMUEH (CONT'D)

Our souls are now linked. If you
die there, you will return to the
lake immediately.

ALIENA

Is that what you did to
Grandfather?

Nimueh nods.

NIMUEH

He will join me very soon. But you
both have more work to do.

EXT. LAKE OF AVALON - NIGHT

Merlin and Aliena swim to the shore. Aliena braces to run.

MERLIN

Speed spells aren't fast enough.
Telepotasia Soleo!

He takes Aliena's hand and they vanish into thin air.

INT. TAVERN BEDROOM - NIGHT

Merlin and Aliena materialize and Aliena clutches her
stomach. Merlin looks queasy too and leans on the wall.

MERLIN

I've never done that before.

They hear the sound of fighting from the street below. Aliena
recovers and runs to the window.

ALIENA

Oh bloody hell.

Her words sum up the bloodbath below. Arthur, Uther and the
knights of Camelot are fighting at the gates. The last of the
women and children sprint past them.

UTHER

Retreat. Regroup in the courtyard.

As the knights retreat, archers appear on the battlements and fire at Hengist's army. They fall back. The gates close. Aliena and Merlin look at the battlements while Hengist's warriors try to smash the gates with a battering ram.

ALIENA

Have you got another teleportation spell in you?

MERLIN

Right into the middle of a battle?
We'd be killed as soon as we materialized. If I were an Incubus, I could fly us over.

Aliena looks down at the street and sees an arrow lodged in a dead warrior. She telekinetically pulls it and a crossbow to the window, fits the arrow into the crossbow and fires it at the castle wall. The arrowhead buries itself in the stone.

ALIENA

There's our way in.

MERLIN

If anybody sees us, we're dead.

ALIENA

Then let's hope they don't.

EXT. CAMELOT STREETS - NIGHT

On the street, Aliena shoots arrows into the wall. Everybody is busy storming the courtyard, so they don't pay attention to them. Merlin and Aliena glance at each other. Merlin takes hold of the first arrow and starts to climb. Aliena follows.

EXT. CAMELOT BATTLEMENTS - CONTINUOUS

Merlin climbs over the battlements. The archers have their backs to him as they fire into the courtyard but one turns. He sees Merlin and aims his bow. The other archers do so too.

MERLIN

Blokus.

A barrier appears in front of him as the archer's fire. Arrows bounce off the force field and fall to the ground. Merlin glances at Aliena before using telekinesis to pull her the rest of the way up. The barrier fades.

ALIENA

Wait, wait, we're on your side.

An arrow hits Merlin in the chest. Aliena grabs him.

ALIENA (CONT'D)

Telepotasia Soleo!

She and Merlin vanish into thin air and arrows land where they just were. One of the archers picks them up and turns his attention to the bloodbath in the courtyard.

INT. PHYSICIANS CHAMBER - NIGHT

When Aliena and Merlin materialize, they both vomit.

ALIENA

Did I do it right?

She turns to Merlin who has lost consciousness. Aliena scrambles over, glances around the room, then pulls the arrow out of his chest. He gasps as she places her hands on him.

ALIENA (CONT'D)

Keep still. Hejarliase.

Merlin gasps and coughs up blood as his injury closes. Finally he relaxes. Aliena checks his pulse.

ALIENA (CONT'D)

Come on. Don't die now. I thought Cambions were tough.

She glances around the room again then presses down on his chest, before breathing into his mouth. She tries again. Merlin coughs, looks up and grins weakly.

MERLIN

That was the most disgusting kiss I've ever had.

Aliena wipes vomit from her mouth, half laughs and half sobs.

EXT. CAMELOT COURTYARD - NIGHT

Weapons clash, blood sprays and limbs and heads go flying. Several of Hengist's warriors enter through the servants entrance while the knights hold the line at the main doors.

Hengist is duelling Uther while Arthur is at the top of the stairs, fighting 2 warriors at once. One kicks him through the unlocked doors.

INT. CAMELOT ENTRANCE HALL - CONTINUOUS

Arthur lies dazed on the floor. The warrior enters and raises his sword but suddenly goes flying into his partner standing in the doorway. Arthur looks up in astonishment as Merlin appears, hand outstretched with Aliena beside him.

ARTHUR

What the hell are you 2 doing here?

MERLIN

Helping.

A pair of knights are killed in the doorway. Their place is taken by 3 of Hengist's warriors.

ALIENA

Flareburn.

MERLIN

Electisis.

A fire ball downs the first warrior, the second is electrocuted and Arthur beheads the third.

ARTHUR

I told you to leave.

MERLIN

You're bloody welcome.

He pushes past Arthur and follows Aliena to the courtyard.

EXT. CAMELOT COURTYARD - CONTINUOUS

Aliena and Merlin stare at the bloodbath in horror.

ALIENA

I thought the tournament was awful.

ARTHUR

Welcome to a real war.

Below them, Uther slashes Hengist's arm. He keeps fighting but Excalibur's magic is taking its toll. Uther finishes him with a thrust to the chest and Hengist glares hatefully as he dies. Arthur slays 3 warriors before reaching Uther.

ARTHUR (CONT'D)

Father, the entrance hall's clear but some warriors entered through the servants entrance. The women and children are hiding in there.

UTHER

Intercept them. I'll handle this.

Arthur darts away and Uther finds himself face to face with Mordred. On top of the stairs, Aliena and Merlin are using small barriers to stop anyone from entering the castle.

MERLIN

Ali, protect the servants
entrance. I'll hold this barrier.
Blokus Maxima.

His barrier expands across the full width of the courtyard, protecting the doors and every window on the ground floor. Aliena edges around the fighting and reaches the servants entrance. She glimpses Arthur darting up the stairs after a few of Hengist's warriors.

ALIENA

Blokus Maxima.

Her barrier is much smaller but any man or weapon that hits it is thrown backwards.

INT. CAMELOT CORRIDOR - NIGHT

Arthur finds 3 knights duelling 5 warriors. Reubur is among them. As Arthur joins the fight, Reubur's allies both fall, each taking a warrior down with them. Arthur slays 2 opponents while Reubur slays the third.

REUBER

Are there any behind you, Sire?

ARTHUR

I don't think so. How many got
past?

REUBER

I didn't count but they were few.
They must be looking for something.

ARTHUR

Father's still got Excalibur and
Hengist is dead. The sorcerer's out
there but the only way to be sure
that Father will stop fighting
is... Mother.

He sprints down the corridor and Reubur follows him.

INT. ROYAL BED CHAMBER - NIGHT

Ygraine lies on the bed with her hands over her ears. The door bursts open and 4 men enter. Ygraine uncovers her ears and gets to her feet, suddenly very calm and dignified.

YGRAINE
Capture or kill?

The warriors advance as Ygraine draws 2 knives from her robes and throws one into a man's throat with astonishing accuracy. One of the others quickly disarms her.

WARRIOR
Excellent throw, my Lady.

Arthur and Reubur arrive. The 3 remaining warriors turn but Arthur kills one before he can raise his sword. The others quickly fall but one does not die immediately.

ARTHUR
Mother?

YGRAINE
I'm fine.

REUBER
Look out.

The half dead warrior grabs one of Ygraine's knives and throws it at her. Reubur pushes her aside and it lands in his chest. Arthur picks up Ygraine's other knife and throws it into the man's skull while Ygraine kneels beside Reubur.

YGRAINE
You saved me.

REUBER
What kind of knight would I be if I didn't?

He smiles at her and dies. Ygraine bows her head, then rises. Arthur is at the window, looking down into the courtyard.

YGRAINE
Are we winning or losing?

EXT. CAMELOT COURTYARD - NIGHT

Uther is still fighting Mordred when Arthur joins Merlin who is still shielding the main entrance. Merlin drops the shield and fires electricity from his fingers while Aliena, still at the servants entrance, shoots streams of fire from her palms.

WARRIOR

Retreat.

Hengist's army starts to pull back but before they are out of the courtyard, something sharp and red with blood emerges from Uther's back. He falls but Mordred's sword has no more blood on it than before.

ARTHUR

Father.

MORDRED

Get back, you cowards.

He picks up Excalibur as Arthur charges down the stairs. Grinning psychotically, Mordred sets himself on the knights and they fall all around him. Hengist's army rallies and starts to advance back into the courtyard.

MERLIN

Blokus Maxima.

His shield extends across the courtyard, leaving Mordred on one side and his army on the other.

ARTHUR

Back, all of you.

The knights step back as Arthur approaches Mordred.

ARTHUR (CONT'D)

Who are you?

MORDRED

So glad we can finally talk, Sire.
I am Mordred.

His mocking bow is identical to Anna le Fay's. When he straightens a tail flicks out, his eyes turn yellow and his teeth sharpen.

ARTHUR

Cambion.

He launches himself at Mordred. Aliena sprints to Merlin who looks over his shoulder whilst holding the barrier.

ALIENA

I'll hold it. Blokus Maxima.

She reinforces the barrier as Merlin turns to his duelling half-brothers. Mordred's tail lands in Arthur's arm. He swings Excalibur but Merlin's own tail strikes Mordred's wrist and he drops it. Merlin leaps between him and Arthur.

MORDRED

Interesting.

He flicks out his own tail and compares it to Merlin's. Then he smiles wickedly and vanishes in a swirl of black energy. As soon as the Mordred is gone, the army behind the barrier turns and flees. Aliena drops it, looking tired.

KNIGHT

Sire, the king's still alive.

Arthur turns and sees him kneeling beside Uther. Arthur pushes past the knights and kneels beside his father. Aliena hurries forwards but the knights block her way.

ARTHUR

No, let her through.

They do so and Aliena kneels on Uther's other side.

ALIENA

Hejarliase.

Magic pours from her hands but Uther's wound won't close.

ALIENA (CONT'D)

Hejarliase.

It still doesn't work.

MERLIN

Ali...

ALIENA

Hejarliase.

She is exhausted by the time Merlin pulls her away. Uther gives her a grateful nod before turning to his son.

UTHER

Arthur.

ARTHUR

I'm not ready, Father.

UTHER

Neither was I.

He glances at one of the surrounding knights.

UTHER (CONT'D)

Bring me Excalibur.

The man obeys and Uther holds the sword out, hilt first.

UTHER (CONT'D)
 Make me proud, my son.

Arthur takes the sword. Uther claps his shoulder and dies.

INT. SHACK - NIGHT

Anna le Fay's hair is now mostly grey. She looks into her cauldron, which shows the Camelot courtyard. Mordred disappears in the cauldron and reappears in the shack without looking queasy or bothered by his wounded wrist.

ANNA
 Well done, Mordred.

She goes to a chair, moving as gracefully as she did 20 years ago. As she sits, Mordred goes to the cauldron and looks down at an image of Merlin in Camelot's courtyard.

MORDRED
 We will meet again, brother.

INT. PHYSICIANS CHAMBER - NIGHT

Aliena, Merlin and Arthur enter Kent's chamber. Arthur holds his injured arm. Aliena hurries to get some bandages.

ALIENA
 You'll have to fight with your left hand for a while. I'm not strong enough to heal a magical wound. Just be thankful he didn't cut you with Excalibur.

ARTHUR
 Thank you. Both of you. You didn't have to come back.

MERLIN
 We're family. Whether we like it or not.

Aliena bandages Arthur's arm as he gives Merlin a questioning look.

MERLIN (CONT'D)
 I don't have healing magic. Demon blood, remember?

ALIENA
 I'd better get Grandfather for the survivors that I can't heal.

Arthur glances at Merlin. He looks back and sorrowful understanding appears on his face. Aliena doesn't notice their silent communication as she goes to the bedroom.

INT. PHYSICIANS BED CHAMBER - CONTINUOUS

Aliena finds Kent lying motionless on his bed.

ALIENA
Grandfather. I'm back.

Arthur and Merlin join her as she approaches him.

MERLIN
When?

ARTHUR
Just before the battle.

Aliena checks Kent's pulse.

ALIENA
No. No, no, no.

ARTHUR
It was peaceful. He died in his sleep before the battle began.

Aliena starts to cry. Merlin pulls her into a hug.

EXT. CAMELOT COURTYARD - NIGHT

Uther's funeral pyre is tall and elaborate. Kent's is small and humble. Ygraine lights Uther's pyre and Aliena lights Kent's. They step back to stand with Arthur and Merlin. Knights and citizens are on the other side of the pyres.

Ygraine puts a hand on Arthur's shoulder. He smiles sadly and catches Merlin's eye. Merlin is focussed on Kent rather than Uther but Ygraine puts a hand on his shoulder too.

INT. AVALON THRONE ROOM - NIGHT

Nimueh and Kent gaze into the arch, watching the double funeral.

KENT
How surreal.

Nimueh smiles at him.

NIMUEH
Will you stay?

Kent looks at her lovingly and takes her hand.

NIMUEH (CONT'D)
Even if I look like this?

She transforms into her old lady form. Kent's expression doesn't change.

INT. ARTHUR'S CHAMBER - NIGHT

Arthur and Merlin sit together by the roaring fire.

MERLIN
So, you're really okay with me staying?

ARTHUR
Yes. I'm sorry I sent you away in the first place.

MERLIN
And Mother?

ARTHUR
She wants you here too.

Merlin hesitates, then extends his tail.

MERLIN
This is me. Are you sure you're okay with this?

Arthur is silent for a long moment.

ARTHUR
I'll get used to it. Just don't kill anybody. How's Aliena?

Merlin withdraws his tail.

MERLIN
She's cleaning. She needs to distract herself.

ARTHUR
You're very lucky to have a woman like her.

MERLIN

I know. And Camelot would be very
lucky to have a physician like her.

Arthur looks at him silently for a while.

ARTHUR

That's unprecedented.

MERLIN

You're the king now. Or will be
after the coronation. And do you
honestly have a better candidate?

ARTHUR

I have more experienced candidates.
But none of them can use magic.

MERLIN

Or work so hard.

ARTHUR

Or that.

There is a knock on the door.

ARTHUR (CONT'D)

Enter.

Ygraine enters.

YGRAINE

Are you boys okay?

MERLIN

I think this will take time,
Mother.

YGRAINE

I'm sure it will. But I'm glad
we're all together.

INT. PHYSICIANS CHAMBER - DAY

Aliena is bustling around, putting books on shelves and
potions in cupboards. Merlin enters.

ALIENA

I've never cleared this room
before. I always found time to do
the queen's but never this one.

Merlin watches her silently.

ALIENA (CONT'D)
 Grandfather called me a workaholic.
 He never said it but I know he
 wanted me find a husband.

Merlin fingers something in his pocket but stays silent.

ALIENA (CONT'D)
 I should have stayed. I should have
 been with him. What kind of
 granddaughter...

MERLIN
 Ali. Don't.

Aliena finally looks directly at him.

ALIENA
 You have no idea how I feel.

MERLIN
 He's with Nimueh. She tethered
 their souls, remember?

Aliena is quiet, then sits on the bed.

ALIENA
 I forgot. But he'll never be able
 to leave the lake. Unless he goes
 into the afterlife.

MERLIN
 That's true but at least we know
 there's an afterlife to go to.

He sits beside her.

MERLIN (CONT'D)
 He's probably watching. And I
 really hope he'd approve.

ALIENA
 Of what?

Merlin takes a ring containing a shard from the Crystal Cave
 out of his pocket.

MERLIN
 I've got a matching one. Nobody did
 this in Avalon but I thought
 that... well considering everything
 we've been through...

ALIENA

Merlin. Are you asking me to marry you?

MERLIN

I'm not doing this right, am I?

Aliena grins at him. Her eyes are wet.

ALIENA

No, you're not. By the gods, you're terrible at this.

Merlin starts to put away the ring but Aliena stops him.

ALIENA (CONT'D)

But my answer is yes.

MERLIN

Ali, are you sure that...?

ALIENA

I'm sure.

Merlin beams as she holds out her ring finger. He slips it on and Aliena kisses him. Arthur appears in the doorway.

ARTHUR

Am I intruding?

MERLIN

Definitely.

He and Aliena look over at Arthur who sees the crystal ring.

ARTHUR

Ah. Well, congratulations.

ALIENA

It's fine, Arthur. You're here for a reason, right?

ARTHUR

I am. I'd like to offer you the position of court physician.

Aliena gapes at him, then looks at Merlin who grins at her.

ALIENA

You're serious?

ARTHUR

Merlin and I talked about it. You're the best candidate.

ALIENA

Even though I couldn't save the king?

ARTHUR

I doubt anyone could. Certainly not without magic. And I saw you exhaust yourself trying.

ALIENA

So you'll work me very, very hard.

ARTHUR

Of course.

Aliena looks at him, then at Merlin. She stands and curtsies.

ALIENA

Very well, Sire. I humbly accept.

INT. CAMELOT THRONE ROOM - DAY

Arthur, Merlin and Ygraine stand before a crowd of knights and citizens. Merlin stands beside the steps of the dais on which the thrones are placed. Arthur climbs the steps and kneels before Ygraine, who is holding Uther's crown.

YGRAINE

Arthur Pendragon, as my son and only legitimate heir...

Her eyes flick apologetically to Merlin, who just shrugs.

YGRAINE (CONT'D)

You will rule now that your father has passed. Therefore, in my last act as queen, I crown thee Arthur Pendragon king of Camelot.

She places the crown on his head then removes her own, puts it on the throne beside Arthur's and steps down.

MERLIN

Long live the king.

CROWD

Long live the king. Long live the king. Long live the king.

ARTHUR

Thank you all. But now, I must give away a woman to my brother.

He nods to Merlin who steps up beside him. The doors at the end of the chamber are opened by two knights. Aliena enters in a wedding gown. Arthur sits on the throne and Gerald, now grey haired, steps forwards as Merlin takes Aliena's hand.

GERALD

Do you, Merlin, take this woman to be your lawfully wedded wife?

MERLIN

I do.

GERALD

And do you, Aliena, take this man to be your lawfully wedded husband, to love, honour and obey...

ALIENA

Do we really need the last part?

Gerald frowns at her. Merlin, Arthur and Ygraine all smile.

GERALD

Very well. Do you, Aliena, take this man to be your husband, to love and honour for as long as you live?

ALIENA

I do.

Ygraine gives Merlin a ring and hands the other to Aliena. The pair put the rings on each others fingers.

GERALD

By the sacred laws of Camelot, I pronounce you husband and wife.

Merlin and Aliena kiss. The crowd claps and cheers. Arthur and Ygraine both smile.

INT. PHYSICIANS CHAMBER - DAY

Aliena groans. Merlin holds her hand. Arthur and Ygraine stand next to the bed. At the foot of the bed stands Arthur's old wet nurse, now a grey haired and fat old woman.

MERLIN

Ali, try to relax.

ALIENA

How can I bloody relax? My mother died doing this.

Merlin wipes sweat from her forehead and kisses her hair.
Arthur goes to around to Aliena's other side.

ARTHUR
We're with you.

Finally, Aliena gives another agonized gasp and slumps back.
The wet nurse cleans the baby and Ygraine examines her.

YGRAINE
It's a girl.

Merlin checks his sleeping daughter's bottom. Wet nurse wraps
the baby in a cloth and gives her to Aliena, who smiles,
although she is exhausted. Merlin sits beside his wife.

MERLIN
I don't think she has a tail. Thank
the gods.

ALIENA
Who cares if she has a tail? She's
perfect.

ARTHUR
What's her name.

Merlin and Aliena look at each other, smile and nod.

ALIENA
Ahsoka.

YGRAINE
Beautiful.

MERLIN
We know. Wake up, Ahsoka.

He kisses his daughter's head and Ahsoka yawns. Her eyes open
and glow bright yellow.

FADE OUT:

THE END