

MERLIN: Good people of Camelot. The king wanted me to thank you for your concern and your loyalty to him over the years. But it is with great sadness that I tell you all that the king has passed away quietly in his sleep tonight.

A gasp of sadness from the knights and townsfolk

LADY GUINEVERE: But who will rule over us now?

TOWNSPERSON 1: Yes, the king didn't have a wife or any children.

TOWNSPERSON 2: Oh, what are we going to do? Who will keep us safe from the dragon and the evil witch Morgana?

***Song I Help!* by the Beatles, sung by the chorus
(Suggestion only) See production notes for suggested lyrics.**

MERLIN: Good citizens I will look after Camelot, with the help of the knights until a king is found.

TOWNSPERSON 1: Oh, great and powerful wizard, will you choose the king for Camelot?

TOWNSPERSON 2: Yes, we trust your judgement Merlin. Don't worry Lady Guinevere!

LADY GUINEVERE: We know you will choose the right king for Camelot.

MERLIN: Good people of Camelot it is late. Go to your homes and sleep. I will start looking for the new king tomorrow.

THE TOWNSPEOPLE exit. Suddenly the big booming voice of the DRAGON can be heard off stage and a shadow falls on the stage

DRAGON: Merlin. Give me back the sword of Avalon. I will bum Camelot to a pile of ashes if you don't.

MERLIN: You are never getting it, not while I'm alive. Be off with you. **(Waving His wand into the air)** DRAGO BANISHO!

There is a flash of lights and a clap of thunder

DRAGON: **(Screams in pain)** Ahhh! I'll be back, Merlin. You may be powerful, but you won't keep me away for ever.

MERLIN:

Oh dear. I will have to do something about that dragon soon. I can't have him burning down Camelot. If only I could remember where I put that blasted sword. **(Notices the audience)** Oh hello you lot. Have you come to see Arthur become king? **(Waits for audience reaction)** I said have you come to witness history in the making? **(Audience says yes)** Oh good. Well let me fill you in so far. Our king, a great and just man, Uther Pendragon has died. He defeated the Saxons, the dragon and the evil witch Morgana and has kept Camelot safe for over thirty years. But now he is dead, and he has no heir to take his place, it looks like I am going to have to choose his successor. **(Moves to the very front of the stage and stage whispers)** But if the enemies of Camelot find out we have no king they will try to take Camelot for themselves. Especially, that evil witch Morgana. Which reminds me. Which, witch. Did you see what I did then. Oh, please yourselves. If you do see her boys and girls, you will boo and hiss at her? **(Audience says yes)** Oh brilliant. Let me hear you boo and hiss. Can you do that boys and girls? **(Audience say yes)** OK then after three. One, two, three. **(Audience will boo and hiss)** Well that wasn't loud, enough was it? You'll have to be much louder than that because I'm a little deaf. Ready One, two, three. **(Audience boo and hiss)** That was fantastic. Oh, she is pure evil. Just boo and hiss as loud as you can; let her know we don't like her. Right, well I'm off to think about who I shall make king. See you later boys and girls.

MERLIN exits stage left. Enter MORGANA stage right. The audience boos and hisses

MORGANA:

Oh, shut up you lot. **(Assertive)** Silence or I'll turn you all into dragon food. So, the king is dead is he. Well good riddance to him. Camelot should have been mine in the first place and now king Uther is dead, maybe Camelot will be mine after all. That stupid old wizard Merlin will probably use his feeble magic to make the right choice for king, but maybe I can thwart his plans and get Camelot for myself. Ha, ha, ha, ha. **(Audience will boo and hiss again)** Oh shut up peasants! Now I must go and talk to my magic ball and make some evil potions. I'll see you later dragon food. Ha, ha, ha.

Exit MORGANA stage right. The audience will boo and hiss. Enter MERLIN stage left

MERLIN:

Was she here? **(Audience reaction)** She was. Are you all OK? **(Audience reaction)** Oh thank goodness for that. I told you she was nasty, didn't I? **(Nervously looking around)** Has she gone now? **(Audience reaction)** oh, good. Well if she has gone and you are all safe, that is all that matters. Phew, I think I better go and have a cider to steady my nerves and think about the new king while I'm there. Mrs Glass at the Dragons inn has the best cider and bacon butties in the kingdom. Do you want to see? **(Audience reaction)** Come on then, I'll show

you. **MERLIN exits stage left**