

ONCE UPON CAMELOT

By Craig Sodaro

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1993 FIRST PLACE WINNER

*Columbia Entertainment Company's
Jackie White Memorial
National Children's Play Writing Contest*

THE STORY

All the luck in Camelot has been bad lately, and the Brotherhood of Peasants, Serfs and City Scum expect King Arthur to do something about it or else! Merlin has become a fly, and Morgan Le Fey and her minions waste no time in turning Arthur's three most loyal knights into a frog, a rock, and a grasshopper. It takes Threadbare, a lowly weaver, to turn the tables on Morgan in this hilarious romp through a Camelot that never was.

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CAST

(approx. 14 m, 14 w, 2 flexible)

LUCKLESS.....The troubadour.
ARTHUR.....King of Camelot.
GUINEVERE.....Queen of Camelot.
BELINDA.....A servant.
SIR CUSS.....Loyal knight of the Round Table.
SIR LOIN.....Another.
SIR TIN.....Another.
LADY TILLY.....Lady of the court.
LADY LILLY.....Another.
LADY WILLY.....Another (with a sense of humor).
JEEPERS.....The jester.
NIPP.....Representative of the peasants.
TUCK.....Another.
MORGAN LE FEY.....Arthur's evil half-sister.
THREADBARE.....The weaver who saves the day.
FIONA.....A servant.
MERLIN.....Beleaguered magician.
WELLMA.....Witch in the well.
LADY GRAVEL....."Lady" behind a rock.
TREE ONE.....A talking tree.
TREE TWO.....Another.
OLD HAG.....Lives in the forest.
DORA.....The delivery person.
GUARD ONE.....Comes under Morgan's powers.
GUARD TWO.....Another.
GRETA.....A gargoyle.
LOCK (ROGER).....Citizen turned into a rock!
STOCK (MOLLY).....Another.
BARREL (AUNT ROSA).....Another.
GIGANTISAURUS.....Dragon who guards Gossamer Glen.

SYNOPSIS OF SCENES

ACT I

Sc 1: Camelot's throne room.

Sc 2: The Forbidden Forest.

Sc 3: The throne room.

ACT II

Sc 1: The Forbidden Forest.

Sc 2: Deeper in the forest, following day.

Sc 3: The throne room.

SOUND EFFECTS

Fly buzzing (not necessary, but nice), thunder, crash, animal "tittering," tinkling (wind chime works well), drum beating.

LIGHTING EFFECTS

Flashing lights, as indicated.

ACT I
Scene 1

(AT RISE: LUCKLESS steps before the curtain.)

LUCKLESS: Fair ladies and good knights,
I'm afraid I must confess
'Tis my duty to relate a tale
Though I have been dubbed Luckless.
You see, I have a penchant
For mixing up the plot
For sometimes switching names
And being confused a lot.
But I've been told tonight
That mercy will be mine
If I can relate this tale
Without forgetting a line.
So perhaps you'd lend a hand
And help me along the way...
If YOU remember what's said
Then tell me what to say.
And now you understand
My fate hangs in the balance
I'll spin my tale of treachery
With all my special talents.
Now, if it pleases you
Back into time we'll dive
To Camelot in the western hills
When Arthur was alive.

(The CURTAIN opens to reveal the throne room of Camelot where a banner hangs over two royal chairs. Seated on the thrones are a despondent ARTHUR and even more despondent GUINEVERE.)

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LUCKLESS: *(Cont.)* No joy, you say? Where is it?
What could have gone awry?
Why do Arthur and Guinevere
Look as though they'll cry?

*(BELINDA races in SL carrying a tray with a bottle on top.
LUCKLESS exits SR quietly.)*

BELINDA: 'Ere you go, your majesty. Some nice Bipto
Pesmal will make your royal tummy feel jolly once again!

GUINEVERE: *(Picking up bottle.)* This pink goo will make
me feel better?

ARTHUR: Might as well try it, Winny. Nothing else seems
to work!

GUINEVERE: I know. Did you ever think when we started
this kingdom we'd end up like this?

BELINDA: Oh, go on, your highnesses! Camelot's still a
whole lot better than most of the kingdoms around. I
mean, we got the finest flowers bloomin' in the realm, the
best bagels shillings can buy, and the strongest, bravest
knights under the sun!

*(SIRS CUSS, LOIN, and TIN enter SR, bedraggled. LADIES
TILLY, LILLY, and WILLY also follow.)*

SIR CUSS: Sir Cuss reporting from the east.

LADY TILLY: Oh, my brave knight!

SIR LOIN: Sir Loin reporting from the south.

LADY LILLY: Praise be, you've returned!

SIR TIN: Sir Tin reporting from the north.

LADY WILLY: Shucks, I knew you couldn't stay away from
me!

ARTHUR: And what news have you brought, brave knights
of the Round Table?

SIR CUSS: Your highness, as far as the eye can see in the
east the people are revolting.

GUINEVERE: That's an awful thing to say, Sir Cuss. I've
always thought Easterners are charming!

End of Freeview

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