Arthur
and
Guinevere

by
Steven Fogell

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STORY OF THE PLAY

The magic of Merlin can't last forever, but with the help of the fairy Nimue, Merlin is soon transported back in time to remember the young boy Arthur, who was scared to become a knight; the young girl Guinevere, who was bored as a royal princess; and the young peasant girl Elyzabel, who dreamed of life in the King's castle.

These three meet in the enchanted forest and their fates are suddenly changed by the evil magic of Mordrid and his twin sister, Morgana.

In this charming tale you soon find out what happens when you get the wish you wish for and how it may not always bring the happiest of results. An enchanted owl and an evil raven are included on this journey of time and love.

This delightful tale is full of Arthurian legend and magic, guaranteed to bring enchantment to all.

SYNOPSIS OF SCENES

ACT I

Scene 1: The enchanted woods.
Scene 2: The castle.
Scene 3: Knights' school.
Scene 4: Peasants' village.
Scene 5: The enchanted woods.
Scene 6: Peasants' village under the spell.
Scene 7: Knights' school under the spell.
Scene 8: The castle under the spell.

ACT II

Scene 1: The enchanted woods.
Scene 2: The castle, the knights' tournament.
Scene 3: The enchanted woods.
Scene 4: The castle celebration.

CAST OF CHARACTERS

(14 m, 15 w, 4 flexible. Doubling possible.)

ENCHANTED
MERLIN: Great Sorcerer.
ARCHIMEDES: Merlin's magical owl (m/f).
MORGANA: Dark fairy.
MORDRID: Her twin brother, also a dark fairy.
NIMUE: Fairy, entertained by humans' lives.
BAN: Crow, works with the dark fairies (m/f).
FLAUGE: Woodland shape-shifter, blends in to forest (m/f).
ROOT: A voice only.

CASTLE COURT
KING PELLINORE: King.
QUEEN DESDEMONA: Queen.
LADY GUINEVERE: Princess who will be Queen.
LADY LUCILLE: Her sister.
LADY ROCHELLE: Another sister.
LADY SABINE: Another sister.
LADY PENELOPE: Another sister.
KAILOKEN: Court jester (m/f).
CLAUDETTE: Castle maid.
NADINE: Another maid.

KNIGHTS
ARTHUR: Knight-in-training; will be king one day.
LANCELOT: Knight-in-training, has French accent.
GAND: Knight-in-training.
VALMONT: Another knight-in-training.
BALDOLF: Another knight-in-training.
DRUDWYN: Another knight-in-training..
MIRANDA: Girl who disguises as a boy to attend knight's training.
MARROK: Knight master.

PEASANTS
RAYLEND: Peasant farmer.
ELYZABEL: His daughter; becomes Mysteria, the Lady of the Lake.
FIONA: Village laundress and maid, daughter of Raylend.
IGRAINE: Another daughter of Raylend.
GARETH: Village farmer.
MATILDA: Village baker.
CLIVE: Village peddler.
EWAN: Another villager.

PRODUCTION NOTES

Wall of Branches

Flauge pulls up a wall of branches (from out of set) to cover Merlin and Archimedes. The branches are strung together beforehand and are placed onstage ready to be used.

Mordrid and Morgana Become a Tree

In the original production Mordrid and Morgana walked to the top of the cliff and walked into an unseen ring (large hula-hoop) on the floor that had fishing line attached to it. When they were being transformed the hula-hoop was lifted. It was covered with a sheer nylon see-through fabric that was painted like tree bark. A light was shined from above the hoop to illuminate the actors. Once it reached the curtain teaser, the light was turned off from above and the tube of fabric looked like a large tree truck going into the lighting grid. The actors just sat down inside the tube, now unseen by audience, till the end of the show. Flauge then just sat by the tree of fabric in last scene.

The Stone That Will Hold the Sword

Made of wood and foam covered in gauze and painted, on the upstage side of the rock there was a pocket built into it, unseen be audience. When she rams the sword in, she just slides the sword into pocket and from the audience side it looked as if it went into the rock and handle stays above rock edge.

Costume

Flauge's costume should be a dark camouflage outfit. She should blend in with the forest set.

ACT I
Scene 1

(AT RISE: A single LIGHT shines on MERLIN, as an old man nearing death. He sits sleeping by a tree. We hear the enchanted voice of NIMUE in the distance.)

NIMUE: Merlin? Merlin? Merlin, wake up ... it is I.
MERLIN: *(Still asleep.)* Leave me alone; let me die in peace.
NIMUE: Die? Why would you say such a thing?
MERLIN: Because I am a very old man, that is why! I'm tired! I'm ready to die. I have outlived all my friends, and it is time for me to have my own peace. Now go away!
NIMUE: *(Laughs.)* I cannot go away, you know that. I am always here, always about, for you Merlin.
MERLIN: What? Where are you? Who can this be that bothers old Merlin? You sound as a child might. Show yourself! Or be gone! Do not pester one as old as I.
NIMUE: Merlin, Merlin, I am the age you once believed yourself to be. I sound as the winds of time, I look as I want to look, and I feel for you the same as I have felt for thousands of years.
MERLIN: Nonsense! This is all nonsense! This is but a dream! Good night and goodbye! *(Rolls over.)*
NIMUE: Merlin, Merlin it is I ....
MERLIN: I am a tired old man. I do not have the life in me for such games! Go away!
NIMUE: Think, Merlin, think deeply; you know my name. Think it and I shall appear. Feel it and rise as you once were; say it and be with me once more.
MERLIN: What? Well, you do sound a little familiar. You sound like ... but that can't be! That time is gone! Gone forever!
NIMUE: Gone only because you do not believe in it anymore! Believe again, Merlin, believe and set me free. I can take you back -- you know I can. Only I.

MERLIN: Back? There is no forward or back! Only now! And now is the time of my end. I have no feelings anymore, no wants, no desires. I am empty! Do you hear me? Empty! So even you, Nimue, cannot -- *(NIMUE appears as a vision.)* Nimue? Is it really you? Can it be?

NIMUE: Yes, Merlin, it is I .... You said my name! I have never left you, you have left me.

MERLIN: But how? I remember ….

NIMUE: Do you remember? Tell Nimue what you remember.

MERLIN: It must be my eyes! Or my insanity! My memory has been dead for centuries! It must ... but the visions are here, the visions of so long ago. They are flooding my head!

NIMUE: Yes, tell me more. More memories! Tell me of long ago.

MERLIN: I was young and you and I, and Arthur. Dear Arthur, he was but a boy then. And sweet Guinevere, she was so pretty.

NIMUE: Take my hand, Merlin. You can return. Return to it all.

MERLIN: *(Reaches for HER, pulls back.)* No! I don't want to remember. It will be too hard to return here again. My life is over, do you hear?! They are all gone. All gone!

NIMUE: No one is gone, Merlin, if you believe them to be here. Take my hand, take my hand and trust me.

MERLIN: Trust you? Why? Can I ever trust another? Ever?

NIMUE: *(Moves towards HIM.)* You can trust me, Merlin, for I am the one that truly loves you. Come with me, come to your memories, they shall save you. Come ….

(As NIMUE moves towards MERLIN and touches him, his old clothes are dropped to new fresh ones underneath. There is a LIGHT flash and Merlin has become a young man.)

MERLIN: Nimue!?

NIMUE: Yes, Merlin?

MERLIN: I remember! I remember it all! *(BLACKOUT.)*

End of Scene 1

End of Freeview

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