

The Ill-Made Knight

A Musical in Two Acts

by
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Setting

Scottish castles, forests and chapels.

Time

The Dark Ages

Cast of Characters

Angus. 35-45. A tortured man who cannot reconcile his honor with his passions. He is physically strong, but not handsome, with the face of a fighter: it has suffered abuse. He is slow to smile, deliberate in all things.

Elaine. 25-30. A pretty, but not beautiful woman, absolutely steadfast in her devotion to Angus. Her features are wholesome and clean. She has no pretense, and ultimately no defense against Guenevere. She dresses in simple gowns with no particular thought as to whether they fit her, physically or temperamentally. More at ease embroidering a dress than wearing it.

Guenevere. 30-40. Self-centered and passionate, she is strikingly beautiful, sharp aquiline features. There is always a fire just beneath the surface, smoldering, ready to burn or engulf the object of her desire: Lancelot (Angus).

Arthur. 50 or so. Distracted as his plans for chivalry are implemented, he is more mental than emotional, but never cold. He sees and lives in a future that he is devoted to.

Merlin/Grandfather. 40-60. Possibly a dream figure, seen only by Lancelot, and later Dap. Merlin lives in all times, refers to all things. He can use the past to illuminate the future and the future to illuminate the past. He is thin and old, but still erect. Bearded, he has bushy eyebrows and flashing eyes. He wears a Druid's white or blue gown and a dark cloak. No pointed hat. Unlike other principals, he has no accent.

King Pelles. 40-60. Elaine's father, the Fisher King. Thin sickly man, head in the clouds, always dabbling in genealogy and mysticism. Use a crutch and walks in obvious pain.

Dap. 50-60. Lancelot's squire, aged beyond belief. Senile, white-haired, forgetful.

Galahad. 20's. A prick of a boy, too full of God. He does after all see the Grail.

Gawain. 35-45. An elderly knight, second only to Lancelot in stature. An aged fighter, veteran of many campaigns.

Melagran. 20's. An unchivalrous knight.

Linnette. 20's. Elaine's ditsy younger sister.

Cecilia. 20's. Elaine's teasing older sister.

Teenage Girl. 15-18. The archetypal young Elaine.

Perceval. 20's. A friend of, and only slightly less priggish than, Galahad.

Gareth. 20's. Knight in Arthur's court.

Lady Ann. 18-25. Lady at Arthur's court.

Lady Bethany. The same.

Baldrick. 20's. A knight at Carbonek, Pelles' castle.

Sagramore. 20-30. Knight at Arthur's court.

Grummore. 40-60. Saintly knight.

Saint Patrick. 30-50. Himself.

Caradoc. 20-30. Knight.

Dinadan. 20-30. Knight.

Other knights & ladies

Musical Numbers

Act I

I-2
 "The Dark Ages". Chorus
 "Madman On the Loose". Chorus
 "You Can't Run Away From Me". Guenevere
 I-3
 "Home Without a Hero". Elaine, Linnette, Cecilia
 I-4
 "Le Chevalier Mal Fet". Angus
 I-5
 "Is He Really All That Cute?". Linnette, Cecilia
 "The Likes Of Me" - Elaine
 I-6
 "Procession at Carbonek". Processional
 "Fisher King". Chorus
 I-7
 "Drunk on Love". Angus, Pelles, Dap, Baldric
 I-8
 "He Needs Reminding". - Guenevere
 I-9
 "Simple Woman, Simple Things". Angus & Elaine
 I-10
 "Broken Word". Angus

Act II

II-1
 "Blessed Me". Galahad
 "Growing Old, Going Home". Merlin & Dap
 II-2
 "Heaven In Earth". Arthur, Guenevere, Gawain, Angus
 II-3
 "Good God, Galahad!". Galahad & Chorus
 "Grail Quest Procession". Processional
 II-4
 "Nothing To Find". Knights
 "How Long Must I Wait?". Elaine
 II-5
 "Chapel Perlious". Angus, Arthur, Guenevere, Elaine, Chorus
 II-6
 "Once Again". Angus
 "Legend". Merlin, Chorus
 "Once Again *Finale)". Angus, Chorus

Scene Synopsis
Act I

- Scene 1 A modern teenage girl's bedroom.
- Scene 2 The forest outside Camelot, 500 A.D.
- Scene 3 Forest outside Castle Carbonek.
- Scene 4 Tapestry room at Carbonek, some months later.
- Scene 5 Same, a month later.
- Scene 6 Forest outside Carbonek, a week later.
- Scene 7 Tapestry room, that night.
- Scene 8 Forest outside Camelot, two weeks later
- Scene 9 Tapestry room, a week later.
- Scene 10 Melagran castle, a few days later.

Act II

- Scene 1 Courtyard at Camelot, 18-20 years later.
- Scene 2 Arthur's throne room a month later.
- Scene 3 Courtyard at Camelot, soon after.
- Scene 4 The Blanced Land (outside Carbonek), months later.
- Scene 5 Chapel Perilous, shortly after.
- Scene 6 Tapestry room at Carbonek, some months later.

ACT 1

SCENE 1

I.1.0 Overture

A modern bedroom, floor-to-ceiling window in the back. Pictures of knights and ladies-in-waiting adorn the walls. A GIRL of 14-16 years lies on the bed, a book beside her. She is crying quietly, her head propped up on her arm, looking out the window. Her GRANDFATHER (MERLIN) enters, notices the book and sits on the bed beside her.

GRANDFATHER

Why are you weeping, sweetheart?

GIRL

Oh, Grandfather. The boys today are all so awful and boring!

GRANDFATHER

Well, boys have always been awful and boring.

GIRL

But the boys at school are terrible. They only have one thing on their mind!

GRANDFATHER

Oh?

GIRL

Football!

GRANDFATHER

Oh! Sports enthusiasts. Thank God.

GIRL

Why can't they act like knights acted?

Holds up book: Knights of the Round Table

Brave and romantic.

GRANDFATHER

Knights were a bunch of sports nuts, too, you know. They jousting instead of footballing, but it was the same thing. Boring as tree stumps, most of them.

GIRL
That's not true! What about Perceval?

GRANDFATHER
Boring.

GIRL
Gawain then.

GRANDFATHER
Boring.

GIRL
But surely Galahad.

GRANDFATHER
Stifling.

GIRL
Lancelot?

GRANDFATHER
Bor- Now, Lancelot, he was different, he was.

GIRL
See? I told you so. A gallant Frenchman-

GRANDFATHER
Well, they got that wrong. He wasn't French. He was from Scotland. And his name wasn't Lancelot, it was Angus, Angus of the Loch. The French got his name all wrong, and then they had the gall to claim him as one of their own.

(chuckles)
Get it? "Gall".

GIRL
Handsome as anything-

GRANDFATHER
They got that wrong too. Homely as homemade sin, that was Angus. None of this movie matinee foolishness.

GIRL
But, Grandfather, if the book's all wrong, what was Lancelot like?

GRANDFATHER
Well, sweetheart, the history books definitely got two things right. The fact that he wasn't much to look at notwithstanding, the ladies did love him. And he surely was the greatest warrior who ever lived, or ever will live, I reckon.

GIRL

Tell me about him. Tell me about Lancelot.

GRANDFATHER

Angus of the Loch.

GIRL

Angus, then. Tell me about Angus.

GRANDFATHER

The first thing you should know about him is this:
he was mad as a hatter. At least once he went mad.
All for Guenevere.

TRANSITION TO FOREST

I.1.1 Underscore - "Madman On the Loose"

SCENE 2

Forest near Arthur's castle. Two KNIGHTS rush on. They point in opposite directions, run off. ANGUS enters, dressed in a loincloth and draped with branches and leaves. He wildly looks around and then runs into MELAGRAN, knocking him down without effort, then runs off. GAWAIN & GARETH enter, meet ANGUS as he exits. GAWAIN runs after him, GARETH goes to the fallen knight. Other LADIES & KNIGHTS enter. GAWAIN reenters.

GARETH
Did you find him?

GAWAIN
Na, I did not. The man is a horse. I had him wrapped up, but he shook me off like a dishrag.

GARETH
Damn! Arthur will be gravely disappointed.

LADY ANN
(aside to LADY BETHANY)
Not nearly as disappointed as Her Highness.

GAWAIN
(overhears)
Enough of that, Lady Ann. This is no time to be mongering those rumors. What with our chief gone insane, running about the forest like a savage.

MELAGRAN
(rubbing his head)
I'll vouch for that.

GARETH
Aye.

LADY BETHANY
I daresay Guenevere would vouch for it as well.

LADY ANN
I'd give anything to vouch for it.

GARETH
Lady Ann, the man is liable to do anything!

LADY BETHANY

That's why Her Majesty is so taken with him.

General laughter.

GAWAIN

Can you not keep a civil tongue in yer rowdy heads?

MELAGRAN

Oh, do keep still, Gawain.

GAWAIN

That's enough. All this foolishness when the Saxon fiends are lootin' every southern province. I warn you, the old gods will be awakening again. It is a terrible time.

I.2.2 "The Dark Ages"

IT'S ALWAYS DARK IN SCOTLAND ALL THE TIME
THE SUN AND MOON REFUSE TO EVEN SHINE

GARETH

IT'S PARTLY DUE TO HISTORY
THE ROMANS LEFT SO HASTILY

GAWAIN & GARETH

NOW WE'RE JUST BARBARIANS
BLESS US ALL TO KINGDOM COME

CHORUS

GOD HAS TURNED THE LIGHTS OFF
OR ARE WE BLIND?

THE DARK AGES, DARK AGES
DARKER THAN THE BOTTOM OF A DEEP, DARK MINE
THE DARK AGES, DARK AGES
DARKER THAN A DUNGEON ALL THE TIME
IF WE COULD SEE WE'D PROBABLY LOSE OUR MINDS
BUT IT'S TOO DARK TO SEE IN FIVE HUNDRED A.D.
WILL THE LIGHTS EVER START TO SHINE?
OR MUST WE STUMBLE 'ROUND LIKE WE WERE BLIND

MEN

WE ALWAYS FIND A REASON FOR TO FIGHT
WHEN WE TAKE OFFENSE WE HAVE TO SET IT RIGHT
WE NEVER STOP TO ANALYZE
WE NEVER LEARNED TO COMPROMISE

LADIES

NO ONE WOULD CALL THEM VERY SMART
THEY ARE ALWAYS IN THE DARK

ALL

NOW YOU KNOW THE REASON
THEY'RE CALLED KNIGHTS

CHORUS

THE DARK AGES, DARK AGES
DARKER THAN THE BOTTOM OF A DEEP, DARK MINE
THE DARK AGES, DARK AGES
DARKER THAN A DUNGEON ALL THE TIME
IF WE COULD SEE WE'D PROBABLY LOSE OUR MINDS
BUT IT'S TOO DARK TO SEE IN FIVE HUNDRED A.D.
WILL THE LIGHTS ONCE AGAIN START TO SHINE?
OR MUST WE STUMBLE 'ROUND LIKE WE WERE BLIND

THE IRON AGE WAS AS HARD AS NAILS
NOTHING REALLY HAPPENED IN THE BRONZE AGE
THE STONE AGE IS STILL THE AGE
THEY'RE LIVING IN IN WALES
I GUESS THEY JUST FORGOT TO TURN THE PAGE
EVERY AGE OF MAN HAS ITS UPS AND DOWNS
EVERY SEASON COMES WITH ITS SMILES AND FROWNS
BUT THIS AGE SEEMS TO LACK A VITAL SPARK
THE ONLY THING THIS AGE IS- IS DARK!

THE DARK AGES, DARK AGES
DARKER THAN THE BOTTOM OF AN ENDLESS WELL
THE DARK AGES, DARK AGES
DARKER THAN THE LOWEST RUNG OF HELL
IF WE COULD SEE WE'D PROBABLY BE AN AWFUL SIGHT
BUT IT'S TOO DARK TO SEE IN FIVE HUNDRED A.D.
GIVE US A BREAK FROM THIS ENDLESS NIGHT
ALL WE CAN SEE ARE THE NORTHERN LIGHTS

THERE'S DARKNESS HERE IN SCOTLAND ALL THE TIME
THE SUN AND MOON REFUSE TO EVEN SHINE
THE NIGHTS ARE NOT WITHOUT THEIR JOYS
THERE'S LOTS OF FUN FOR GIRLS AND BOYS
BUT NOW AND THEN WE NEED THE SUN
WHAT IS IT WE MIGHT HAVE DONE
FOR GOD TO TURN THE LIGHTS OFF,
OR ARE WE BLIND?

THE DARK AGES, DARK AGES
DARKER THAN THE BOTTOM OF A DEEP, DARK MINE
THE DARK AGES, DARK AGES
DARKER THAN A DUNGEON ALL THE TIME
IF WE COULD SEE WE'D PROBABLY LOSE OUR MINDS
BUT IT'S TOO DARK TO SEE IN FIVE HUNDRED A.D.
WILL THE LIGHTS ONCE AGAIN START TO SHINE?
OR MUST WE STUMBLE 'ROUND LIKE WE WERE BLIND?
STUMBLE IN THE DARK UNTIL THE END OF TIME

ARTHUR & GUENEVERE enter. All bow

GAWAIN
Welcome, my Lord.

ARTHUR
Were you able to gather up Angus, Gawain?

GAWAIN
No, sire. He avoided our best efforts.

ARTHUR
How can one man avoid all the knights of the Table?

GUENEVERE
If there were such a man, he would be our Lancelot.

ANN rolls her eyes at BETHANY

ARTHUR
Indeed. Well, we must not cease searching. He is our champion, and chief at our table. Even more, he is our friend, and we hold him most dear.

GARETH
Sire, we shall not rest until Lord Angus has been returned in honor to yer court.

GAWAIN
And I pray to God that he will be healed of his sickness before we find him.

GUENEVERE
Lancelot will be well again, I am sure of it.

ARTHUR
And back with us.

ANGUS runs back on, knocks down a couple of KNIGHTS, then runs off

LADY BETHANY
Eeek! He's back right now!

ARTHUR
After him!

1.2.3 "Madman on the Loose"

CHORUS
THERE HE GOES! THERE HE GOES!
AFTER HIM, HE'LL GET AWAY AGAIN
RUN AND BRING HIM HERE
HE'S ACTING VERY WEIRD
AFTER HIM, HE'LL GET AWAY AGAIN
HE'S SO MAD! AIN'T IT SAD!

AFTER HIM, HIS MIND HAS GONE ASTRAY
ALAS AND ALACK!
WE'VE GOT TO GET HIM BACK
AFTER HIM, DON'T LET HIM GET AWAY

HERE HE COMES! HE'S ON THE RUN!
STOP HIM OR HE'LL GET AWAY AGAIN
MADMAN ON THE LOOSE
SLIPPERY AS A GOOSE
WE CANNOT CATCH THIS MOST ELUSIVE MAN

COULDN'T CATCH HIM IF HE WERE
ALL TIED UP IN KNOTS
COULDN'T CATCH HIM IF HE WERE
LOCKED UP IN A BOX
HE'S A MAD, MAD, MAD, MAD, MAD, MAD MAN
A MADMAN LOOSE UPON THE LAND
MADMAN ON THE LOOSE UPON THE LAND

During music, following takes place: ANGUS runs behind a row of LADIES who screech. KNIGHTS leap on him with a net, they struggle. They untangle, he is gone. He appears underneath LADY ANN's skirts, raises her on his shoulders, she faints into the arms of two KNIGHTS who have rushed to her aid, ANGUS runs off. DAP goes off after him.

THERE HE GOES! THERE HE GOES!
AFTER HIM, HE'S GOT AWAY AGAIN
HURRY, MEN, BRING HIM BACK
HE GAVE THE QUEEN A HEART ATTACK
AFTER HIM, HE'S GOT AWAY AGAIN
THERE HE GOES! THERE HE GOES!
HIS MIND IS REALLY SICK
BUT HE'S JUST SO DOGGONE QUICK
HE'S A MAD, MAD, MAD MAN
LOOSE UPON THE LAND
MADMAN LOOSE UPON THE LAND

KNIGHTS and LADIES exit, leaving GAWAIN, MELAGRAN, LADY BETHANY, ARTHUR, & GUENEVERE

GUENEVERE
How in the name of Heaven did he manage to elude every one of you? Are you not men?

MELAGRAN
(rubbing his head)
I assure you, yer Majesty, we're all men. But by my faith, that man's an ox.

BETHANY

Come, you poor dear. You need tender care.

MELAGRAN

Then there's some good to be had from all this.

He pats BETHANY's behind, she giggles and they exit

GAWAIN

My pardons for that scoundrel, sire. Melagran ignores the manners of the court.

GUENEVERE

I should say so! Arthur, these knights act more like the Saxons you fight than devout Christians.

ARTHUR

They've only been knights for a wee bit, and Christians even less. I hope for too much too soon.

GAWAIN

Sire, the old dogs find it harder to behave than anyone. We're just too old to get into trouble.

GUENEVERE

You can get into as much trouble as you wish, Gawain.

ARTHUR

You will always be a good friend and yer counsel is sound. We shall talk and see if there is some way to bend the fire in these young bucks. There's much good in their excess, if we can but tame it.

GAWAIN

There is that hope. Sire, yer Highness.

He bows and exits

GUENEVERE

Arthur, you know I care less for all these wayward knights than I do for Lancelot.

ARTHUR

We mustn't despair. There's no man alive can take care of himself better, insane or no.

GUENEVERE

I know, my love. Still, I canna help but worry.

ARTHUR

God will see for him. Merlin always said that God has a special favor for the truly mad. Holy men live in the forest. Someone will give him aid.

GUENEVERE

There are also brigands and murderers in the forest.

ARTHUR

He will come back to us. Let us return to the castle.

GUENEVERE

In a moment, my liege.

She curtsies coyly

ARTHUR

As you wish. 'Ware the brigands.

He gives her a kiss and exits

GUENEVERE

You may be assured he will return. Lancelot, how dare you do this to me? Do you think ye've fooled me, who loves you so deeply that I'd rather die than face life without you? Do you think I believe you to be mad? 'Tis me that deserves to be mad, left to ache, left to yearn, left with a longing emptiness. Still, I'd forgive you everything if you were to come back right this moment, back to my arms.

Closes her eyes, holding out her arms; then she peeks into the forest, and stamps her foot

So! Faithless as always! You're a heartless brute, a willful sinner! A sly fox, running away.

1.2.4 "You Can't Run Away From Me"

YOU CAN RUN BUT NOT FOREVER
YOU CAN'T RUN AWAY FROM ME
YOU MAY THINK THAT THIS IS CLEVER
MAKING UP THIS MAD ENDEAVOR
PRETENDING TO BE MAD
ACTING LIKE CAD
BUT YOU WILL NEVER EVER
RUN AWAY FROM ME

YOU CAN LEAVE BUT I WON'T WAVER
YOU CAN'T RUN AWAY FROM ME
I SEE THROUGH YOUR BAD BEHAVIOR
YOU SHOULD DO YOURSELF A FAVOR
TURN YOURSELF AROUND
DON'T PLAY AT FOX AND HOUND
'CAUSE YOU WILL NEVER EVER
RUN AWAY FROM ME
RUN AWAY FROM ME

YOU'RE NOT FOOLING ME, YOU KNOW
THIS IS NOTHING BUT A SHOW
AN EXCUSE FOR YOU TO GO
WELL YOU CAN GO BUT YOU CAN NEVER STAY
YOU CAN GO BUT YOU CAN'T STAY AWAY
NOT AS LONG AS I STILL LOVE YOU SO

YOU CAN RUN BUT I WILL FIND YOU
YOU CAN'T RUN AWAY FROM ME
I'LL BE RIGHT THERE BEHIND YOU
MY MEMORY WILL REMIND YOU
OF WHAT YOU LEFT BEHIND
I'LL BE THERE IN YOUR MIND
NO, YOU WILL NEVER EVER
RUN AWAY FROM ME
RUN AWAY FROM ME

BLACKOUT

1.2.4A Scene Change - "You Can't Run Away From Me"

SCENE 3

Castle Carbonek courtyard. A CROWD of people are watching ANGUS as he raves around courtyard, then comes face to face with ELAINE. Seeing something very calming in her face, he comes to a full stop. Then he slowly raises his hand to her face. The CROWD takes a breath. He touches her face gently. KNIGHTS come and lead him off, he still looking back at ELAINE.

ELAINE
Father, who was that man?

CECILIA
He was naked!

ELAINE
Hush, Cecilia. He wore clothes.

CECILIA
Skins and leaves, if you call those clothes.

ELAINE
I do. Who was he, Father?

LINNETTE
(whispering)
That's Lancelot. I saw him once in a tournament at King Arthur's court. He had more clothes on then.
(titters)
I bet no one recognized him, as wild as he was.

PELLES
(squinting where ANGUS left)
I believe it is the Angus, my dears. And madder than chickens. I wonder how he came to such a state?

ELAINE
Perhaps his heart is broken. For the love of a maid.

LINNETTE
(teasing)
Perhaps his heart is broken. For the love of a maid.

CECILIA
Elaine wishes it were her.

PELLES
Angus of the Loch? I doubt it. Strictly a man's man.

ELAINE

(raises an eyebrow)

Whatever do you mean by that?

PELLES

I mean a man for doing manly things. Hunting and jousting. Making war, you know. No time for the women. Hell-bent on making a name for himself. Trouble is, he seems to have mainly forgotten his name.

ELAINE

And everything else. We must take him in, Father. He's such a lovely man, so soulful about the eyes. It breaks my heart to see a great man brought low.

PELLES

Lovely? Elaine, darling Elaine. No one could call the Angus lovely. Even when he wasn't a complete lunatic.

He exits, leaning on his crutch

ELAINE

But he is lovely. And if the world has driven him mad, then Elaine must bring him back to his senses. And he has such beautiful eyes.

**DAP, ancient squire to ANGUS,
wanders on, obviously quite unaware
of where he is or what he is doing**

DAP

Excuse me for being a bother, but I'm on the trail of a peculiar fellow. A knightly fellow you might say. I believe I am supposed to be his squire.

All laugh.

BALDRIC

Who is this knight you seek, good Sir Squire?

DAP

(drawing himself up, mysteriously)

His enemies are legion, his friends rank in the highest. He goes by many names...

(collapses slightly)

None of which I can remember at the moment. He may be acting a bit oddly.

LINNETTE

More so than you?

DAP

Oh much more so. And another thing: he's as strong as an ox. Ugly as one, too. He's probably naked. Ye'd have noticed that, surely?

LINETTE **giggles.**

ELAINE

Good sir squire, I believe the one you seek is indeed here. Baldric will take you to him. But I'm afraid yer laird is not well. He needs mending.

DAP

And I suppose I look like I've been on holiday? That boy will be the death of me. What's his name? A squire's should remember the name of the fellow he's squiring. Angus! That's it! Angus of the Loch.

Murmurs from the CROWD.

ELAINE

We'll be glad to give you rest, squire- you are?

DAP

I'm called Dap. Can't imagine why.

ELAINE

We'll give you rest, Squire Dap, but I do believe I must be mistaken after all. None so famous as Angus of the Loch would ever visit Castle Carbonek.

CECILIA

But, Elaine, Linnette said-

ELAINE

Linnette said we should care for all our Christian brethren. And so we shall. Starting with Squire Dap-
(winks at assemblage)

Who is the *squire* to the King's champion, Angus of the Loch. Of course he is.

DAP

(nodding agreement)

That I be.

ELAINE

That he be. Baldric?

BALDRIC

Milady.

He escorts DAP off, CROWD follows

LINNETTE

What did you mean, Elaine? That was too Lancelot.

ELAINE

He needs rest. If this crowd thought the famous man were at Carbonek, he'd never be left alone.

CECILIA

Nor you alone with him.

ELAINE

Well, yes. I mean, Carbonek is such a boring place.

CECILIA

The only thing we have to talk about is father's horrible wound.

LINNETTE

Please. Can't we talk about something else?

ELAINE

My point exactly. A hero like Sir Lancelot would liven up the place.

1.3.5 "Home Without a Hero"

WHAT'S A HOME WITHOUT A HERO?
A HOMELY LITTLE HERO OF MY OWN?
IT'S NOT A HOME WITHOUT A HERO
SOMEONE VERY FAMOUS AND WELL-KNOWN

ELAINE, CECILIA, LINNETTE

HE COULD HANG ABOUT THE PLACE
'TIL WE NEED SOMEONE TO SAVE US FROM MARAUDERS
HE'D BE THERE SO HE COULD CHASE
ANYONE WHO WOULD THREATEN ALL US DAUGHTERS

ELAINE

IT'S NOT A HOME WITHOUT A HERO
A HERO I CAN CALL MY OWN

WHAT'S A CASTLE WITHOUT A CHAMP?
SOMEONE THEREUPON WE CAN DEPEND
IT'S JUST A PLACE THAT'S COLD AND DAMP
UNLESS YOU'VE GOT A CHAMPION THEREIN

ELAINE, CECILIA, LINNETTE

IF TROUBLE WERE TO COME
IN THE SHAPE OF A FIRE BREATHING DRAGON
LESSER MEN WOULD SUCK THEIR THUMB
BUT HE WOULD CALMLY KICK THE DRAGON'S WAGON
WHAT'S A HOME WITHOUT A HERO?
SOMEONE WHOM OUR HONOR WOULD DEFEND

LINETTE & CECILIA
EVERY HEARTH AND HOME SHOULD HAVE A HERO
THEY'RE AS HANDY AND AS WHOLESOME
AS A MAN CAN BE
THEY'RE A JOY TO HAVE AROUND
EVEN BETTER THAN A CLOWN
AND THEY HARDLY MAKE A SOUND
'TILL THE VILLAINS COME AROUND
THEN JUST YOU WAIT AND SEE

ELAINE, CECILIA, LINNETTE
YES, IT'S MIGHTY NICE TO HAVE A HERO
WHEN A HERO IS THE THING YOU REALLY NEED

WHAT'S A HOUSE WITHOUT A HERO?
A BORING LITTLE PLACE WHERE YOU LIVE
NOT A MOUSE, BUT A HERO
WILLING TO GIVE ALL HE HAS TO GIVE

IF THE SAXONS WERE TO ATTACK

LINNETTE
"Oh my!"

HE'D DEFEAT THEM ALL WITHOUT STRAINING
IF THERE'S SOMETHING IN THE KITCHEN THAT YOU LACK
HE'LL GLADLY RIDE TO TOWN WITH NO COMPLAINING

WHAT'S A HOME WITHOUT A HERO?
A HERO OF OUR OWN
WHOSE NAME IS ETCHED IN STONE
WE'D LOVE TO HAVE A LEGENDARY HERO
A HERO IN OUR HOME!

BLACKOUT

1.3.5A Scene Change - "Home Without a Hero"

SCENE 4

The Tapestry Room in Carbonek. The only furniture are two chairs. A pedestal containing a large book is prominent. ELAINE sits working on a tapestry, Some chests are at the side. A floor length mirror is to one side. ANGUS enters.

ANGUS

Pardon, milady. I dinna mean to intrude.

He starts to leave

ELAINE

No, sir knight, you have not intruded. These are not my rooms. This is father's tapestry room. Only he has no tapestries yet.

ANGUS

Yes, I can see that. Still, you are busy.

He starts to go. ELAINE puts down her work and crosses to him

ELAINE

Not at all. It's only a little thing. My sisters are the weavers in our family.

ELAINE covers her work

Are you feeling better, milord?

ANGUS

Much. I am in your debt, milady.

ELAINE

My father's hospitality is well known.

ANGUS

Perhaps. But my memory is of your face, tending me.

ELAINE

It is only what any Christian would do.

ANGUS

There are many who call themselves Christians who would have kept me for their fool. I am thankful that you took me in. It is good to get away from the court, someplace where no one knows me.

ELAINE

Yer welcome at Carbonek as long as you like, milord. You may rest assured that if you want no one to know you're here, no one shall.

ANGUS

Carbonek, and you, have brought me back from madness. I am in your debt.

ELAINE

I am glad- we are all glad that you are healing. But Carbonek is not exactly a place for healing.

ANGUS

Not a place for healing?

ELAINE

It's my father, King Pelles. He has a terrible wound that willna heal.

ANGUS

A wound?

ELAINE

A terrible wound. It's awful, it's...

She whispers in ANGUS's ear. He winces and looks over his shoulder

ANGUS

Thank God my sickness was only of the mind. I don't think I could stand such a life.

ELAINE

Considering the wound, he hasn't much choice about the standing. But you, Sir Lancelot-

ANGUS

Dinna call me by that name!

ELAINE

But I thought that was how you were called at court.

ANGUS

None may call me that. I am Angus!

(seeing her embarrassment)

I dinna mean to shout.

ELAINE

A man's name is his own. I respect yer wishes, Laird- Angus.

ANGUS

A man has only his name. And his honor. Nothing else matters.

ELAINE

But surely your family is important.

ANGUS

My father and mother are dead. I am all that's left of our bloodline. My family's blood, and my name, written in deeds, written in blood and war and death-
(beginning to go mad again)

I said I was better, Elaine. But I am not healed. I have nightmares. Horrible visions of vanishing from the world, leaving no trace, no son, no name, no inkling that I ever existed.

ELAINE becomes frightened and exits as he becomes wrought up

Does life mean anything when you're gone? Is there anything beyond breath? Beyond a name etched in blood? What will the world think of me when I'm dust?

MERLIN enters through the mirror

MERLIN

For one thing, they'll think you're French.

ANGUS

Elaine? You're not Elaine.

MERLIN

Thank you for noticing.

ANGUS

Merlin?

He shakes his head, rubs his eyes

Merlin? I must be mad.

MERLIN

I think that's been well established.

ANGUS

What the devil?! You can't be here. That witch Nimue shut you up in a cave. You're dead!

MERLIN

So? I'm dead and you're certifiably as crazy as a bedbug. It's a brilliant arrangement. Be thankful it's me you're seeing, and not something worse.

ANGUS

What did you say just then? About my being a french?

MERLIN

We still call them Franks. In Gaul?

ANGUS

Those heathen? Hardly a decent Christian among them.

MERLIN

There will be. Christians end up everywhere.

ANGUS

Is that what I should do to make my name? Convert the Franks to worship Holy Christ? That would make me French, I wager, like they say Patrick is Irish.

MERLIN

(quietly)

The Grail is your quest.

ANGUS

The grail? I dinna know any grail, Merlin.

MERLIN

I'm not surprised you don't know it. Arthur hasn't concocted it yet. He will one day. He'll need a ruse to keep the knights from fighting amongst themselves. So he invents the Quest of the Holy Grail.

ANGUS

Arthur sends knights on a false quest? I don't believe it!

MERLIN

Neither does Arthur. Believe it's false, that is. He thinks it's real, and it is. In a way, it's more real than anything else. Its very idea lights a fire in the hearts of all who hear about it.

ANGUS

Then what is the Grail- Father Blaise?

MERLIN

(startled)

So, you call me by one of my true names, do you? Then by the old laws, I am beholden to speak truth in answer. What is the Grail? In truth: no man knows.

ANGUS

Though surely you are more than man.

MERLIN

And still be less than a god. But mayhap I do understand more than most mortal men.

ANGUS

So what is this Grail?

MERLIN

Holy Grail. Some say 'tis the cup from the Last Supper. Some say 'tis the sword the Roman centurion used to pierce the side of Jesus. Some rave about a magical stone that fell from the sky.

ANGUS

Is that the Holy Grail? Cups and swords and stones?

MERLIN

There's a bit of truth in all of it. And more than a bit of moonshine. The real truth lies in here, Sir Lancelot, Angus of the Loch.

He taps ANGUS' heart

You do not find the Grail. The Grail finds you. You must know without knowing. You must start from your heart. Have you looked in your heart, Angus? That's where you'll find the Grail.

ANGUS

My heart is dark. Not the heart of a true warrior.

MERLIN

The Grail is your Quest, if you'll have it. Still-

ANGUS

Still what?

MERLIN turns away.

Then ye've seen my heart. You know the truth of my shame. I am a warrior badly made, Merlin. Who's betrayed his laird and his love. If the Grail is in my heart, then it lies in a place I can never see.

MERLIN

(to himself)

You speak your own doom. I am sorry for it.

ANGUS

(after a moment)

You said the future claims me to be a Frank?

MERLIN

Aye, lad. They know no better.

ANGUS

How would you say it in the Frankish tongue, Merlin?
How would you call me a "knight badly made".

MERLIN

They would say, *le chevalier mal fet*.

ANGUS

Le chevalier mal fet. It sounds almost beautiful.

MERLIN

There's beauty in every flaw. It's necessary.

He leaves through the mirror

ANGUS

There's na beauty in me.

1.4.6 "Le Chevalier Mal Fet"

IN A DARKENED ROOM, WHERE THE MIRRORS HANG
IN A DUSTY DEN, THERE THE DEVIL SANG
SANG A TUNE, FULL OF EVIL PRAYER
I CAN SEE MYSELF, I'M AT HOME IN THERE

A TWISTED FACE HIDES A TWISTED SOUL
A TWIST OF FATE MIGHT HAVE MADE ME WHOLE
BUT NO, LIFE DID NOT GO THAT WAY
POUR LE CHEVALIER MAL FET
A DARKENED SHROUD HIDES A DARKER HEART
THAT BEATS SO PROUD TILL IT BURSTS APART
BUT OH, HIS FEET ARE MADE OF CLAY
THIS, LE CHEVALIER MAL FET

IN THE SPAN OF YEARS THAT A MAN IS DEALT
THERE ARE MANY THINGS THAT HE SHOULD HAVE FELT
IF YOUR SOUL IS DARK AS THE ENDLESS SEA
YOU MISS THOSE THINGS ETERNALLY
TORMENTED IN AN INNER HELL
YOUR LIFE IS BUT AN EMPTY SHELL
WHERE NOTHING GOOD CAN EVER DWELL

THE DEVIL'S SPAWN IS THE WAY I FEEL
AN DESPERATE LIFE FULL OF DEATH AND STEEL
NO GOOD WILL EVER COME OR STAY
POUR LE CHEVALIER MAL FET

MY TWISTED FACE HIDES MY DEEPEST FEAR
THAT MY DEEP DISGRACE WILL ONE DAY BE CLEAR
BUT NO, NOT YET HAS COME THAT DAY
POUR LE CHEVALIER, POUR LE CHEVALIER
POUR LE CHEVALIER MAL FET

BLACKOUT

1.4.6A Scene Change - "Le Chevalier Mal Fet"

SCENE 5

The Tapestry Room. ELAINE works on her tapestry. CECILIA reads a book. LINNETTE crosses to ELAINE

LINNETTE

Oh, isn't this sweet? Come and see how much she's done, Cecilia.

ELAINE ignores them as they tease.

CECILIA

It's beautiful! The charging horse, the blue and silver banners, ladies languishing about the field.

They study the tapestry a moment.

Why is there a monkey riding the horse?

ELAINE

That's no monkey, you simpleton! It's Lancelot.

(adjusts the material)

He's defeated every knight who besmirched the honor of the maid wearing the veil.

LINNETTE

Now, I wonder who that could be?

CECILIA

Let's play twenty questions.

LINNETTE

That'll be fun. Let's see. Is it animal, vegetable, mineral- or Elaine?

They both laugh

ELAINE

You are both horrid. And completely wrong. The maiden is a Mystery. She is inscrutable.

CECILIA

That does eliminate you, Elaine. You're an open book, anyone can read it.

LINNETTE

It still looks like a monkey.

ELAINE

Linnette, stop saying that, or- or-

LINNETTE

Or what?

CECILIA

Sounds like a veiled threat to me.

LINNETTE

From a veiled maiden.

CECILIA

A mysterious, veiled maiden.

LINNETTE

Who has an inscrutable attraction to monkeys.

1.5.7 "Is He Really All That Cute?"

YE'VE NEVER SEEN SUCH A MAN!

CECILIA

OR IS IT A MONK?

LINNETTE

OR IS IT A MONKEY?

BOTH

YE'D DIE IF HE EVER TOOK YOUR HAND.
COULD YER HEART HAVE SUNK
FOR SUCH A FLUNKY?
DON'T YOU SIGH WHEN HE WALKS YER WAY?
WON'T YOU DIE IF YOU THOUGHT HE MAY?
BUT WHY DOES HE HAVE TO LOOK THAT WAY?

ALL

IS HE REALLY ALL THAT CUTE?
NO, NO, YOU GOTTA SAY NO
IS HE REALLY SUCH A BEAUT?
NO, YOU GOTTA SAY NO.

LINNETTE

JUST TO LOOK AT HIM MAKES YOU KIND OF GRIM
HE LOOKS LIKE HE'S BEEN BEAT ABOUT THE HEAD

CECILIA

BEST TO LOOK AT HIM WHEN THE LIGHTS ARE DIM
YE'D SCREAM IF HE SURPRISED YOU IN YER BED

BOTH

IS HE REALLY ALL THAT CUTE?
NO, NO, YOU GOTTA SAY NO
IS HE REALLY SUCH A BEAUT?
NO, YOU GOTTA SAY NO.

IF YOU WANT TO TASTE HIS STRONG EMBRACE

LINETTE

A PROSPECT THAT IS TEMPTING, ONE ADMITS

BOTH

PUT A BAG IN PLACE TO HIDE HIS FACE
SO YOU WON'T BE SCARED OUT OF YOUR WITS

IS HE REALLY ALL THAT CUTE?
NO, NO, YOU GOTTA SAY NO
IS HE REALLY SUCH A BEAUT?
NO, YOU GOTTA SAY NO.

AS STRONG AS AN OX, HE CAN POUND THE ROCKS
'TIL A PILE OF SAND IS ALL YE'VE GOT
IF YOU WANT TO GET RID OF A BRATTY KID
HIS PICTURE OUGHT TO REALLY HELP A LOT

IS HE REALLY ALL THAT CUTE?
NO, NO, YOU GOTTA SAY NO
IS HE REALLY SUCH A BEAUT?
NO, YOU GOTTA SAY NO

(slower)

CECILIA

STILL, HE'S STRONG AND SUCH A FIGHTER...

LINETTE

AND NOTHING'S WRONG WITH BEING FAMOUS

BOTH

IF WE FELL FOR SUCH A BLIGHTER
ALL IN ALL, YOU COULDN'T BLAME US
BUT-

(a tempo)

IS HE REALLY ALL THAT CUTE?
NO, NO, YOU GOTTA SAY NO
IS HE REALLY SUCH A BEAUT?
NO, YOU GOTTA SAY NO.
IS HE REALLY ALL THAT CUTE?
NO, NO, YOU GOTTA SAY NO
IS HE REALLY SUCH A BEAUT?
NO, YOU GOTTA SAY NO.
NO, NO, YOU GOTTA SAY NO

KING PELLEES enters

ELAINE

Father, make them stop teasing me.

PELLES

Don't tease your sister, that's a good girl.

LINETTE makes a face at ELAINE.

Daughters, gather 'round. I have news.

CECILIA

What news, father?

PELLES

Well, it's not new news, it's a bit of old news, really. You may have forgotten, but it's time once again for the annual family ritual.

LINETTE

Oh, no, not already.

ELAINE

Of course we forgot. It's too horrible to remember.

He goes to a large book on stand

PELLES

Aye, but it's our destiny. And our doom, descended as we are but five degrees from Joseph of Arimathea. The Lord has seen fit to bless us with this cursed wound.

(winces)

The one- well, you know.

(looks over his shoulder at his rear)

CECILIA

But, father, it's not just yer horrible wound. It's all those silly knights and hermits and saints. Every year, they troop into Carbonek, thinking they might be the one who will cure you.

LINETTE

And every year they trudge off again, none holy enough to perform a simple little miracle.

ELAINE

Of course not. It's all part of the prophecy. Only the truest and best knight in the world can cure-
(stops, thinking the obvious thought)

LINETTE

What is it, Elaine?

CECILIA

The best knight in the world-

ELAINE

The truest knight that ever lived. And he's here at Carbonek now.

PELLES

Now, now, my dears. We cannot expect Angus to attempt this deed. He is, after all, our guest. It would be improper even to ask. Still-

(wincing)

If the great man were so kind as to try-

ELAINE

I know he will, father. I'm sure he would do it without asking, if he only knew about it.

CECILIA

He can hardly fail to know about it, Elaine, what with legions of people tramping about the place and it such a huge event.

PELLES goes to book, rifling through pages

PELLES

He could do it if anyone could. According to my studies, Angus of the Loch is, let's see...

(stabs the entry with his finger)

Yes! Only six degrees removed from our Lord Jesus Christ Himself! Quite a pedigree. Quite up to any kind of a miracle.

ELAINE

And he is the truest and best knight in the world.

LINNETTE

And the ugliest.

ELAINE

Linnette!

CECILIA, LINNETTE & PELLEES exit.

ELAINE

He *is* the truest knight. And far beyond the likes of me.

1.5.8 "The Likes Of Me"

I'M A GIRL WHO KNOWS HER PLACE
AND THAT PLACE IS FINE WITH ME
MILES FROM WHERE THE LIGHTS SHINE BRIGHTEST
SOMEWHERE THERE IS NOT THE SLIGHTEST
CHANCE OF NOTORIETY

WHERE TIME ITSELF STANDS ALMOST STILL
LIKE I'M DEEP WITHIN A DREAM
IT'S PEACEFUL AND I CAN'T DENY IT
IT'S SO STILL AND CALM AND QUIET
IT ALMOST MAKES ME WANT TO SCREAM

HE COULD NEVER TAKE AN INTEREST
IN A GIRL THE LIKES OF ME
A GIRL WHO ONLY KNOWS A WORLD
AS DULL AS DULL CAN BE

HE WOULD NEVER REALLY NOTICE
A GIRL WHO IS THE WAY I AM
NAIVE WITH NOTHING UP HER SLEEVE
AS INNOCENT AS A LAMB

HOW COULD HE LIKE THE LIKES OF ME?
THERE'S NOTHING I CAN OFFER
WHAT'S THERE TO LIKE IN THE LIKES OF ME?
NO DIAMOND IN THE ROUGH COULD BE MUCH ROUGHER
I DON'T HAVE WHAT HE NEEDS
OF THAT I'M GUARANTEED
NO, HE'D NEVER, EVER LOVE
A GIRL THE LIKES OF ME

THERE IS NOTHING MUCH TO NOTICE
IN A GIRL THE LIKES OF ME
ONE THING THAT I SURELY KNOW IS
THERE'S NOT MUCH HERE TO SEE

NOT MUCH HERE TO SPARK OR KINDLE
AN ALL-CONSUMING FIRE
THERE IS NOTHING MONUMENTAL
IN ME TO ROUSE HIS DESIRE

HIS WORLD IS FULL OF GLORY AND FAME
IT'S A WONDER HE REMEMBERS MY NAME
HOW I WISH I COULD SHINE SOMEHOW
IN SOME WAY THAT MIGHT ALLOW
A MAN LIKE HIM TO LOVE THE LIKES OF ME
TO LOVE THE LIKES OF ME

BLACKOUT

1.5.7A Scene Change - "Procession March"

SCENE 6

A festive atmosphere outside Castle Carbonek: banners, pennants, jugglers, etc. Upstage is a tent. SOUND: FANFARE. PELLAS enters, waving at crowd, who heartily cheer him. He enters tent. More cheers

ANGUS

Elaine, is there na way I might avoid this?

ELAINE

You are a free knight, milord.

ANGUS

I don't mean to be ungrateful. But I am not worthy of the attempt.

ELAINE

Sir Angus, you are the finest knight at Arthur's table. I canna believe you would refuse any adventure, however insignificant.

ANGUS

But this is na insignificant deed. It is a miracle.

ELAINE

That can only be achieved by the best and truest knight in the world.

ANGUS

Elaine, I owe you my life and more. If it be yer will that I make this attempt, then I shall. But truly, milady, I am not yer man.

ELAINE

(emphatically)

You are *indeed* my man!

Embarrassed at the sense of her words, she hides her face and goes to her sisters. SOUND: FANFARE

BALDRIC

Hear ye! Hear ye! King Pellas makes known his intention to receive supplicants. The world gathers again at Castle Carbonek to try and end the suffering caused by his magickal wound, which is too horrible to describe. Hear ye! Let those who would, make the attempt.

1.6.9 "The Fisher King"

CHORUS

HE'S HURTING, IT'S HORRIBLE
HIS WOUND IS JUST SO TERRIBLE
IT'S SIMPLY NOT ENDURABLE
WE NEED SOMEONE WHO'S GREAT
TO HEAL OUR POTENTATE
WE'RE ALL THANKFUL IN THE CASTLE
EVERY NOBLE, KNIGHT AND VASSAL
WITH THIS OVERWHELMING PASSLE
OF HOLY MEN WHO'LL TRY
TO HEAL OUR ROYAL GUY

SIR GRUMMORE, HE'S A CHAMP
HE'S KNOWN FOR DOING WONDERS
HE DON'T KNOW WHERE HE'S AT
GREAT TRUTH IS WHAT HE PONDERES
HE SHOULD BE JUST THE THING
TO HEAL THE FISHER KING
GO RIGHT IN!
SHOW THAT FINE AND HOLY MAN RIGHT IN.
NO SIN! NOT HIM!
NOT A BLEMISH ON THIS KNIGHT WHO HAS NO SIN

GRUMMORE goes in PELLE'S tent.

HOW'S HE DOING, HOW'S IT GOING?
IS THERE ANY WAY OF KNOWING?
IS THERE ANY WAY TO TELL
IF THE KING IS DOING WELL?
HOW'D HE DO? HOW'D IT GO?
IS THE KING STILL HURTING SO?

GRUMMORE exits tent, nods yes

OH!

SAINT PATRICK, WHAT A GUY!
JUST ASK HIM, HE WILL SAY SO
HIS HEAD IS IN THE SKY
YOU CAN ALMOST SEE HIS HALO
IT'S OF THEE WE SING
PLEASE HEAL OUR FISHER KING
GO RIGHT IN!
SHOW THAT FINE AND HOLY MAN RIGHT IN
NO SIN! NOT HIM!
NOT A TARNISH ON THIS SAINT WHO HAS NO SIN.

PATRICK goes in PELLE'S tent

WHAT'S HE SAYING? IS HE PRAYING?
SHOULD THE TRUMPETS START TO BRAYING?
IS THERE ANY WAY TO SEE
IF HE'S WORTH HIS PEDIGREE?

WHAT SCORE DID HE GET?
HAS HE HEALED OUR GOOD KING YET?

PATRICK exits, shakes his head

NO!

HE'S HURTING, IT'S TERRIBLE
HIS WOUND IS JUST UNBEARABLE
IT'S SIMPLY NOT ENDURABLE
WE NEED SOMEONE TO BRING
HEALING TO OUR KING
WE'RE DISGUSTED IN THE CASTLE
EVERY NOBLE, KNIGHT AND VASSAL
WITH THIS UNDERWHELMING PASSLE
OF HOLY MEN WHO DON'T
HAVE A CLUE TO WHAT WE WANT

ANGUS walks slowly to the tent

WHO IS THIS, THE MAN IS MAD
A RENEGADE WHO'S GONE INSANE
THE DEMONS IN HIS HEAD HAVE MADE HIM MAD
HE SHOULD NOT BE HERE, THAT IS PLAIN
THIS LUNATIC WILL BRING
DISHONOR TO OUR KING

ELAINE

Let him pass. None may be refused the attempt. Is
that not the rule, Baldric?

BALDRIC

That is the rule, Lady Elaine, but this madman-

ELAINE

-will be given the chance the others had. Go in, sir.

ANGUS enters the tent

1.6.10 "The Fisher King (Tag)"

CHORUS

HOW COULD SHE LET THIS HAPPEN
HAS SHE NO SENSE OF SHAME!
WHAT COULD SHE BE THINKING,
OUR GOOD AND SWEET ELAINE?
THE MAN IS JUST A TRAMP
A WILD MAN FROM THE WOOD
TO LET HIM TRY AND
HEAL THE KING
AS IF HE EVER COULD
IS AN INSULT TO HIS MAJESTY
IT SHOULD BE UNDERSTOOD
TO LET HIM TRY AND
HEAL THE KING

CHORUS

WHO IS THIS, THE MAN IS MAD
A RENEGADE WHO'S GONE INSANE
THE DEMONS IN HIS HEAD
HAVE MADE HIM MAD
HE SHOULD NOT BE HERE
THAT IS PLAIN
THIS LUNATIC WILL BRING
DISHONOR TO OUR KING

HE SHOULD NOT BE HERE
WON'T COME TO ANY GOOD
TO LET HIM TRY AND
HEAL THE KING-

ANGUS, PELLEES emerge, PELLEES smiling broadly. He raises his crutch over his head, then throws it away. CROWD recognizes ANGUS

CROWD

The King is healed! It's a miracle. Why, that's the Angus! Lancelot. Angus of the Loch! I recognize him. How did I miss that?

PELLES

Thank you, Sir Knight. Who has done this deed?

ANGUS hesitates.

Go on, laddie. You must answer in the language of chivalry.

ANGUS still fails to speak.

What name have thee?

DAP

He's Angus! Greatest knight in the world!

CROWD

The greatest knight in the world!

Cheers. Crowd carries PELLEES off.

ELAINE

Thank you! Oh, thank you!

ANGUS

(looking heavenward)

Thank You. You know well I dinna deserve this.

ELAINE

Come, Angus! The whole of Carbonek wants to thank you.

They begin to exit. MERLIN enters.

MERLIN

This is not the path you are meant to tread.

ANGUS stops

The Grail is yer quest. It will not be denied.

ELAINE

Is there something wrong, milord?

ANGUS

(to the air above her head)

I have this moment. I have this place. I am content.

ELAINE

Angus?

MERLIN

Some souls are not meant to be content.

ANGUS

I am!

MERLIN

Some souls will never have a home.

ANGUS

I do!

ELAINE

Milord, are you become ill again?

MERLIN

Some souls cannot find peace.

ANGUS drags ELAINE off

ANGUS

Mine will! Mine will! I will! I will! I will!

MERLIN

Aye, lad. But only if you find the Grail.

BLACKOUT

1.6.9A Scene Change - "Le Chevalier Mal Fet"

SCENE 7

Tapestry Room at Carbonek, that evening. PELLEES & DAP enter

DAP

Let me try and understand this.

PELLES

No small feat.

DAP

You want to get Angus smashing drunk.

PELLES

Yes.

DAP

And then lead him off to a tryst with Elaine.

PELLES

That's right.

DAP

And Angus will go because we're going to convince him that he'll really be trysting with Guenevere.

PELLES

Whom Linnette tells me the lad's head over heels in love with.

(smugly)

It's common knowledge at Arthur's court.

DAP

Seems a bit complicated. And low-handed.

PELLES

Positively! We're going to have this boy in the Pelles' family, what? Son-in-law, begetting a grandson only seven degrees removed from Jesus Christ. Perfect matchup.

DAP

Doesn't seem to fit well with King Arthur's notion of chivalry, deceiving the boy. Especially using your own daughter as the bait.

PELLES

Now see here! Chivalry or no, if a King can't arrange for his own daughter to be wed to someone of his choosing, then it's a fine howdy-do.

ANGUS & BALDRIC enter, drinking.

Absolutely stunning work, Angus! Have some port.

ANGUS

Don't mind if I do.

DAP

Don't mind if I do, either.

He intercepts drink, PELLEES glares.

ANGUS

(drinking)

What's a miracle among friends. A bit more, Baldric.

BALDRIC pours.

I have done my life's desire. A miracle from God, it's all I ever wanted. Except maybe one minor, little, tiny thing.

PELLES

I can guess. What any red-blooded champion would want, after a hard day doing miracles.

1.7.11 "Drunk On Love"

ALL

LOVE AND WINE WOULD BE SO FINE
SERVED IN QUANTITIES HUGE
LOVE AND WINE ARE ON MY MIND
IN THEM I TAKE REFUGE
LOVE IS SWEET AND SO IS WINE
I'D LOVE TO DRINK MY FILL
WINE AND DINE THE LASS OF MINE
IF SHE WERE HERE I'D PROBABLY WILL

LOVE! LOVE! LOVE!
MAKE ME DRUNK ON THE WINE OF LOVE
WINE! WINE! WINE! LOVE TO DRINK FROM THE MAGIC VINE

LOVE WOULD WEAVE A MAGIC SPELL
SPIN ME TILL I DON'T KNOW WHAT
WINE WOULD SPIN ME JUST AS WELL
AND THIS GLASS OF WINE IS ALL I'VE GOT!
WINE AND LOVE, GREAT GOD ABOVE,
YOU MADE THESE TREASURES SWEET
GREAT QUANTITIES OF WINE AND LOVE
WOULD BE A VERY LOVELY TREAT

I'D LOVE TO HAVE A LOVE SO SWEET
IT MAKES THE WORLD GO 'ROUND
THE FRUITS OF LOVE JUST CAN'T BE BEAT
I'D LOVE TO LAY HER DOWN

LOVE TRUMPS WINE, IT WINS HANDS DOWN

WINE CAN FREE ME FROM MY WOE
IT FILLS THE VOID FOR UNLOVED SOTS
LOVE WOULD FILL THAT VOID BUT NO-
THIS GLASS OF WINE IS ALL WE'VE GOT!

LOVE! LOVE! LOVE!
(MAKE ME DRUNK) MAKE ME DRUNK ON THE WINE OF LOVE
WINE! WINE! WINE!
(LOVE TO DRINK) LOVE TO DRINK FROM THE MAGIC VINE

WE'D DEARLY LOVE TO HAVE SOME LOVE
FROM DOWN BELOW OR UP ABOVE
WE'D LOVE TO HAVE A LOVE SO FINE
BUT LOOK AT US, WE'VE GOT THIS WINE

BALDRIC
WHAT DO WE LOVE A LOT?

ALL
LOVE! LOVE! LOVE!

DAP
WHAT'S NOT HALF AS BAD?

ALL
WINE! WINE! WINE!

PELLES
WHAT DO WE WISH WE HAD?

ALL
LOVE! LOVE! LOVE!

ANGUS
BUT WHAT IS IT WE'VE GOT?

They pause, look at each other

ALL
WINE! WINE! WINE! WINE! WINE!

ANGUS
(drunkenly)
What's the use in miracles? Worth nothing to nobody.

PELLES
Was worth a bit to me.

Slaps his backside, and does a jig

ANGUS

Apologies, King-o, me bucko. Present company excepted, of course. I mean that without the one you love, it don't mean nothing. Nor all this fightin' around foolishness, waging war and what not.

BALDRIC

Some more port?

ANGUS

Not for me.

BALDRIC

Of course.

He pours the goblet full

ANGUS

Thankee. But there's things better than wine.

DAP

Guenevere?

ANGUS

Yes, by all the saints!

PELLES

If she were here, you'd have your way?

ANGUS

With a will.

BALDRIC offers port.

No thanks.

BALDRIC pours anyway.

Thanks.

PELLES

She is, you know.

ANGUS

Who?

BALDRIC

Guenevere.

ANGUS

What?

DAP

Near.

ANGUS

Where?

PELLES

Here. In the castle. Popped in for a visit, I think.

ANGUS

By God, I'll visit her, I will. Take me to her.

DAP

Who?

ANGUS

Who was it again?

PELLES

Guenevere.

ANGUS

Right! Just take me to her, I'll show her a think or two. Miracle, huh? I'll show her a miracle.

He winks lewdly, a ghastly sight

PELLES

My Lord, what are you thinking?

ANGUS

Romance!

PELLES

Hard to tell. Might've been indigestion.

ANGUS

Now where is the wench?

PELLES

Right this way, then. Mind yer feet. It's quite dark.

ANGUS

What luck! I'm at my best in the dark.

ANGUS & PELLES exit.

BALDRIC

With that face, I don't doubt it.

BLACKOUT

1.7.10A Scene Change - "Drunk On Love"

SCENE 8

**In the forest near Arthur's castle.
MELAGRAN & LADY ANN sit, he
whispers to her, she giggles.**

LADY ANN
Melagran, you know how to tickle a girl's funny bone.

MELAGRAN
I'd rather tickle you in places that are, shall we
say, more fun and less funny.

LADY ANN
You have but one thing on yer mind, Sir knight. And
it's not chivalry.

MELAGRAN
Tis only to lie in the sun with a lovely lady.

LADY ANN
What of the lady's honor?

MELAGRAN
I'd rather have her heart.

LADY ANN
Her heart and what else?

**They embrace. GUENEVERE enters and
they leap up.**

LADY ANN
My queen! Forgive us, we didn't see you.

GUENEVERE
Some things, Lady Ann, are more obvious than others.
Good day, Sir Melagran.

MELAGRAN
You are looking especially lovely today, yer
highness, if you don't mind the compliment.

GUENEVERE
A compliment from you, Melagran, is best ignored.

MELAGRAN
Ahem. Then I must be off. Lady Ann, until tomorrow?

LADY ANN
Perhaps. I may be indisposed tomorrow.

MELAGRAN

Then until whenever you are disposed. Ladies.

He exits

GUENEVERE

What do you see in that lout, Lady Ann?

LADY ANN

Well, he's humorous. And he has a devilish handsome face.

GUENEVERE

I can see the devil.

LADY ANN

Of course, he's nothing like Lancelot.

GUENEVERE

No. Lancelot is strong, Lancelot is honorable. Lancelot is-

LADY ANN

Away.

GUENEVERE

(sighs)

Yes, mainly, he's away. Where has he got to? I know he's alive. He's not the sort to just die on you.

LADY ANN

Milady, there has been a rumor-

GUENEVERE

Rumor? What rumor?

LADY ANN

Probably nothing.

GUENEVERE

Tell me! Instantly!

LADY ANN

Only that at Carbonek just recently, a man was supposed to have done the most extraordinary deed.

GUENEVERE

Carbonek? That insane Pelles? What sort of deed?

LADY ANN

A man performed a miracle. He healed King Pelles.

(in a rush to reveal it)

They say it was Sir Angus that did it.

GUENEVERE

Then he *is* alive! But why hasn't he come home?

LADY ANN

There is some talk. About Pelle's daughter. Elaine.

GUENEVERE

Elaine! Who is this Elaine?

LADY ANN

I meant nothing, my queen. Only what I heard. That he is at Carbonek, that he is perfectly happy there.

GUENEVERE

Perfectly happy! Perfectly happy? He should be perfectly miserable. I don't care what the rumors say! He'll come back here, to me. He will! He will!

LADY ANN

Of course he will, milady.

GUENEVERE

(calming herself)

Of course he will. He only needs to be reminded of his place here. With me. He needs to be reminded.

LADY ANN

Yes, milady.

GUENEVERE

(suddenly inspired)

Lady Ann, yer ungentlemanly friend, Melagran?

LADY ANN

Yes, milady?

GUENEVERE

He is such a lowly cad.

LADY ANN

No one is lower.

GUENEVERE

Arrange for him to dine with me this evening. It may be interesting to see such a specimen up close.

LADY ANN

Like when you're fascinated with a scab.

GUENEVERE

Exactly! A kind of scientific investigation.

LADY ANN

He's surely tried to investigate every part of me.

GUENEVERE

Ugh! Still, one must keep an open mind. I want you to help me pick out something to wear. Something, oh, I don't know, almost inviting.

LADY ANN

Inviting to what, milady?

GUENEVERE

Just part of the experiment. Yes, he needs reminding.

LADY ANN

Melagran? You needn't remind him of anything.

GUENEVERE

Melagran? Oh, you are so funny, Lady Ann.

LADY ANN

That's what Melagran says.

She exits.

GUENEVERE

Out of sight, out of mind, Lancelot? That can be mended.

1.8.11 "He Needs Reminding"

HE THINKS HE'S FOUND A BETTER LOVE
HE JUST NEEDS REMINDING
OF WHO HE'S FONDEST OF
AND WHEN HE SEES ME ONCE AGAIN
HE WILL REMEMBER THERE AND THEN
MY LOVE, OUR LOVE

THERE IS NOTHING THAT CAN KEEP
HIM FROM COMING BACK TO ME
TO THE FIRE IN MY HEART
HE WILL FEEL MY LOVE SO DEEP
THAT I KNOW THAT HE WILL SEE
WE WERE MEANT TO BE AS ONE
NO MATTER WHERE HE MIGHT HAVE GONE
WE WILL NEVER BE APART

AND WHEN I HAVE HIM BACK WITH ME
HE'LL NOT GO CRAZY
OR LOSE HIS SANITY
AND BECAUSE HE'S HONOR-BOUND
HE'S SURE TO STAY AROUND WITH ME
WITH ME
WITH ME

BLACKOUT

1.8.11A Scene Change - "Crazy Like a Fox"

SCENE 9

The tapestry room at Carbonek.
ELAINE is excited, going back & forth from the tapestry that hangs on the wall to the door, looking out. She sees someone approaching, and stands by the tapestry. **ANGUS, CECILIA, LINNETTE** enter, **ANGUS** blindfolded, the girls giggling.

ANGUS

All right, you two. What is this? I'll paddle you both if you don't unbind my eyes right now!

LINNETTE

Only a moment more, Sir Angus.

They face him towards the tapestry, then, at a signal from ELAINE, remove his blindfold.

ANGUS

Why, it's magnificent!

CECILIA

She's been working on it since you arrived.

ELAINE

Hardly that long. Really, it's only a little thing.

ANGUS

Elaine, it's the most wonderful thing anyone has ever done for me.

He kisses her

LINNETTE

He certainly knows how to say thank you.

They exit.

ANGUS

I mean it Elaine. After all ye've done for me, and now this. I am the happiest of men.

ELAINE

Even after the way father tricked you into my bed?

ANGUS

Elaine, I want you to know something about me. All my life I've wanted to do a miracle.

It's the only thing I ever really wanted. I've never believed I was capable of it, though.

ELAINE
Not capable! Why not?

ANGUS
It's my face.

ELAINE
Yer face is beautiful, my love.

ANGUS
My face is the face of a monster.

ELAINE
But-

ANGUS
Let me finish. Such a face must reflect something wrong inside of me. God would not tack this ugliness onto a pure heart. I know that my heart must be evil. And an evil heart canna do miracles, Elaine.

ELAINE
But you did just that. So yer heart is pure.

ANGUS
Na, tis not. I think God gave me the miracle for reasons only He knows. But I do believe this: whatever purity I gave up after the miracle was worth it.

He embraces her

And perhaps being pure in body was enough.

ELAINE
Pure in body! But you canna mean that you never before-

ANGUS shakes his head.

But surely with all the ladies of the court at yer beck and call- Even Queen Guenevere-

ANGUS
The Queen. Please don't mention the Queen.

ELAINE
Then- then you still love her. Like Linnette said.

ANGUS

No. Not anymore. I admit, it was for love of Guenevere that I went mad. But now I'm not mad, Elaine. Now I am happy. I wonder who tricked who. I'm not as gullible as your father might believe.

ELAINE

Oh, but I am. I'm such a simple woman. Nothing like the women you've known. Things are so dull here at Carbonek. I know it's a burden for you to stay.

ANGUS

Elaine, I've never been happier than I am at this moment. I want to stay here forever. In Carbonek, doing simple things with you.

1.9.12 "Simple Life"

SIMPLE LIFE, SIMPLE THINGS
A COMMON LIFE THAT'S NOT LIKE KINGS
NOT LIKE QUEENS OR FANCY STUFF
A SIMPLE LIFE IS QUITE ENOUGH

ELAINE

SIMPLE THINGS FOR SIMPLE ME
NOTHING CRAZY, THAT'S THE KEY
A SIMPLE LIFE IN A QUIET PLACE
SIMPLE FOLK WITH SIMPLE TASTES

BOTH

DOES A LIFE REQUIRE THAT WE REACH EVER HIGHER?
CAN'T WE FIND SALVATION IN THE SMALLEST OF DESIRE?
WOULD SOME COMPLICATION BE A BETTER EDUCATION
THAN THE ONE THAT WE RECEIVE FROM A HOME WE NEVER LEAVE?

ELAINE

SIMPLE PERSON, QUIET LIFE

ANGUS

HAPPY CHILDREN, HAPPY WIFE

BOTH

HAPPY HEARTH AND A HAPPY HOME
THERE'S NO REASON FOR TO ROAM

SHOULD WE BE AMAZED BY THE NEWEST, LATEST CRAZE?
WE DON'T NEED TO WANDER ROUND IN A HOPELESS DAZE
IN THIS LITTLE CORNER OF THE WORLD THERE EXISTS
THE KEY TO HAPPINESS AND ECSTASY AND BLISS

ANGUS

SIMPLE LIFE, SIMPLE THINGS
A COMMON LIFE THAT'S NOT LIKE KINGS

NOT LIKE QUEENS OR FANCY STUFF
A SIMPLE WOMAN'S QUITE ENOUGH

ELAINE
A SIMPLE LIFE IN A QUIET PLACE
JUST A STEADY, EASY PACE

BOTH
SIMPLY HAPPY, THAT'S THE KEY
TO HAVE A HAPPY LIFE
YOU BE SIMPLY YOU
AND I'LL BE SIMPLY ME

DAP enters in a rush.

DAP
Milord! Terrible news. Horrible news! We must away!

ANGUS
What is the matter, Dap?

DAP
Treachery! Armageddon and Purgatory and the Devil
himself, loosed on the world.

ANGUS
Dap! Calm down. Tell me your news.

DAP
News? What news?

ANGUS
Whatever you were raving about. Dap, perhaps we ought
to consider yer retiring.

DAP
(suddenly remembering)
He's stolen the Queen.

ANGUS
What? Who's stolen the Queen?

DAP
That mouse of a rat, Melagran. They say he's madly in
love with her. Or just plain mad. Whatever he is,
he's stolen Queen Guenevere and taken her for ransom
to his little mouse hole of a castle.

ANGUS turns to gather his arms. His face is set like stone. He doesn't acknowledge anyone. PELLEES enters, MERLIN enters thru mirror.

PELLES

What's happened? Has he heard?

ELAINE nods mutely.

I tried to stop that fool of a Dap. Angus, listen. It's not necessary for you to go.

MERLIN

Don't do this. Not for her. It's not your Quest, lad.

ANGUS ignores them.

PELLES

The King's men will rescue Guenevere.

MERLIN

Angus of the Loch, do not do this thing.

PELLES

Why won't he listen to reason?

ELAINE

It's the Queen. He must save her. I understand.

MERLIN

And I do not. Neither understand, nor permit.

ANGUS & DAP begin to exit.

Angus, I cannot allow this. You cannot go! It's the Grail, not the girl! For the love of Christ, do not go!

ANGUS

(stops, but does not look back)

If Lord Jesus Christ Himself were hanging on His cross, and I could save him by staying, I could no more do that than I could keep my dark heart from beating. This is not a choice, Merlin.

They exit.

BLACKOUT

1.9.12A Scene Change - "Le Chevalier Mal Fet"

SCENE 10

MELAGRAN's castle. He paces the room, GUENEVERE sits at the fire.

GUENEVERE

You've seen to yer confession then, Melagran?

MELAGRAN

(extremely nervous)

Confession? What confession?

GUENEVERE

To a priest. You know, the usual things: robbing the poor, cheating on yer taxes. Molesting queens.

MELAGRAN

Molest? It was you that practically invited yerself here. On my honor, I have na touched you!

GUENEVERE

Honor! Ye'll have na time to plead yer honor when my Lancelot arrives. Just

Makes a sword thrust

and

Makes a neck cutting motion

and off to the undertaker. Best see to confessing.

MELAGRAN

What makes you think Lancelot will save you?

GUENEVERE

Because he is as good as his word. It's what he believes in more than anything. Oh, he'll be here.

MELAGRAN

Good as his word, eh? We'll see.

He nervously unsheathes his sword

Any given day, any two knights. It's a tossup.

GUENEVERE

There'll be a tossup all right. Best call yer priest.

ANGUS enters.

ANGUS

I'll serve as yer priest, you thieving knight. Priest and executioner.

GUENEVERE

Lancelot!

MELAGRAN grabs a shield, and brings his sword to the ready

ANGUS

The price for treachery is death. Prepare to pay it.

They fight. Eventually MELAGRAN is down, ANGUS' sword to his throat

As much as I loathe it, I must ask you to yield.

GUENEVERE

I told you he was better than his word.

MELAGRAN

His filthy word. What honor has he? Aye, I stole you from Arthur. But he makes a mockery of honor, lying with the King's wife in the King's house.

ANGUS

Take back yer sword.

MELAGRAN

I will not. I yield! I yield!

ANGUS

Take the sword. I'll not kill an unarmed man.

MELAGRAN

I yield. You heard me yield, milady.

GUENEVERE turns her back on him.

You canna kill me, I yield.

ANGUS

Take it. I'll use only my dagger. No shield.

He drops his sword and shield.

Take it.

MELAGRAN

Al right, then. On any given day, in a fair fight!

A brief struggle, ANGUS kills him.

GUENEVERE

Lancelot! You had to come back to me.

ANGUS

I had to come back.

GUENEVERE

And ye'll never leave me.

She squeezes his hand, then steps away. Lights dim, leaving ANGUS in a spotlight downstage.

1.10.13 "Broken Word"

ANGUS

THERE IS A STORM INSIDE MY HEAD
THERE'S A DAGGER IN MY HEART
THROWN MY HONOR TO THE DOGS
AND RIPPED MY SOUL APART
I CAN'T PRETEND I HAVE NO SHAME
I HAVE NO STRENGTH TO DO WHAT'S RIGHT
MY WORST DESIRES MUST BE OBEYED
I'M WEAK AND ILL-PREPARED
TO FACE THE FATE I'VE MADE
I'VE GOT NO ONE BUT MYSELF TO BLAME

EVERY VOW THAT I HAVE SPOKEN
NOW HAS BEEN BROKEN
WHAT ELSE CAN YOU EXPECT
IF YOU LIVE BY BLOOD AND DIE BY THE SWORD
I THREW MY LOVE AWAY
AND THERE WILL NEVER COME A DAY
WHEN I WILL RECLAIM
WHAT I HAVE LOST FOREVER
LOST BY MY BROKEN WORD

I PROMISED MY LIFE WAS HERS TO KEEP
AND I SWORE I'D NEVER LEAVE
SHE WAS INNOCENT AND PURE
AND COULD NOT BUT BELIEVE ME
AND LEFT HERSELF WITH NO DEFENSE
BUT THEN I HEARD A SIREN CALL
I COULD NOT STAY AWAY
I BROKE HER FRAGILE HEART
WHEN I WOULD NOT STAY
THERE'S NO WAY TO ATONE FOR THAT OFFENSE

TAKE AWAY THE SHOUTS OF PRAISE
THEY'RE JUST HOLLOW SOUNDS
FORGET MY GLORY DAYS
BURY THE PAST BENEATH THE GROUND
SHE WILL NEVER UNDERSTAND
WHAT I'VE DONE SEEMS SO ABSURD

THE ONLY THING THAT'S LEFT
FROM WHEN IT ALL BEGAN
IS THE EMPTY SOUND OF MY BROKEN WORD

EVERY VOW THAT I HAVE SPOKEN
NOW HAS BEEN BROKEN
WHAT ELSE CAN YOU EXPECT
IF YOU LIVE BY BLOOD AND DIE BY THE SWORD
I THREW MY LOVE AWAY
AND THERE WILL NEVER COME A DAY
WHEN I WILL RECLAIM
WHAT I HAVE LOST FOREVER
LOST BY MY BROKEN WORD
LOST BY MY BROKEN WORD

1.10.A "Ill-Made Knight" - underscore

CURTAIN

ACT 2

SCENE 1

2.1.13A "Entr'Acte"

Arthur's courtyard. SAGRAMORE, GARETH and other KNIGHTS are rowdying around. GALAHAD & PERCEVAL haughtily enter.

SAGRAMORE
More ale for you, my good knight?

He pours some ale

GARETH
Good night?! More likely "Nighty-night". Drink enough of this swill, and ye'll sleep all night, no mistake.

SAGRAMORE
That's a good 'un, that is. Good nights for bad knights, and bad ale for everybody!

Slap at each other, a fight ensues

GALAHAD
I say, that's a bit rowdy for knights of the Round Table, don't you think Perceval? Wait a minute. I made a bit of a joke, didn't I?

PERCEVAL
"Rowdy for the round table." Galahad, you do have a sweet way with words.

SAGRAMORE
Gad, what kind of name is Galahad.

GARETH
(mocking)
Sagramore, you do have a sweet way with words!

They all laugh.

GALAHAD
The name is Galahad. Sir Galahad.

SAGRAMORE
"Gal-ahad". He looks like a gal, don't he Gareth?

GARETH
Gad, what a gal.

More laughter.

GALAHAD

I think these ruffians need to be taught a lesson.

PERCEVAL

I say, Galahad, is there any need for me in this?

GALAHAD

I should hope not, Percy. Have a sit and study the Good Book. And, Perceval?

PERCEVAL

Yes?

GALAHAD

Be a stout lad, and pour me a cup of twig tea.

SAGRAMORE

Twig tea? What rot.

He drinks from mug

GALAHAD

Take a care with that ale, old chap. It depletes the constitution. Deflates the ego, drains the will.

SAGRAMORE

I'll drain yer will, by thunder, and deflate yer whole pompous body!

A fight ensues. GALAHAD absently fights the KNIGHTS with one hand, reading the Bible with the other, PERCEVAL hands him his tea, which he exchanges for the Bible.

GALAHAD

That's a dear boy. Here, read this passage. "Blessed are the meek for they shall inherit the earth." I don't know what I should do with the whole earth.

2.1.14 "Blessed Me"

BLESSED ARE THE MEEK, AND BLESSED ARE THE WEAK
AND BLESSED ARE THE CHILDREN, THAT MAY BE
BLESSING, BLESSING, BLESSING, BLESSING, BLESSING
BUT THE BEST OF THE BLESSED IS BLESSED ME
BLESSED IS THE TIE THAT BINDS THIS MORTAL GUY
TO A LIFE OF VIRTUE SO WHOLEHEARTEDLY
BLESS YOU, BLESS THEM, BLESS US
AND THE ONE WHO GIVES THE BLESSING
IS BLESSED ME

BLESSED ARE THE SAINTS AND THE ONES WHO MAYBE AIN'T
AND BLESSED ARE THEY WHO ON THE WATER WALK
BLESSING, BLESSING, BLESSING, BLESSING, BLESSING
HOW BLESSED YOU ARE TO LISTEN TO ME TALK
BLESSED ARE THOSE WHO TRY TO BE AS GOOD AS I
EVEN THOUGH THERE IS NO POSSIBILITY
BLESS YOU, BLESS THEM, BLESS US
AND THE ONE WHO GIVES THE BLESSING
IS BLESSED ME

GALAHAD AND PERCEVAL
IT'S A BLESSING TO BE ABLE TO SHARE
OUR BLESSED LIVES WITH EVERYBODY HERE
YOU'RE ALL WELCOME FOR THIS CHANCE TO FINALLY SEE
HOW A BLESSED SAINT BEHAVES AMONG LESSER COMPANY

BLESSED ARE THE POOR AND THOSE WHO DISLIKE WAR
AT LEAST THEY HAVE US TO REITERATE:
BLESSING, BLESSING, BLESSING, BLESSING, BLESSING
THEY'RE LUCKY WE'RE AROUND TO SET THINGS STRAIGHT
BLESSED ONES ARE WE WHO ARE PRIVILEGED TO BE
IN THE PRESENCE OF A MAN WHO EMBODIES SANCTITY
BLESS YOU, BLESS THEM, BLESS US
(BLESSING, BLESSING, BLESSING, BLESSING)
AND THE ONE WHO GIVES THE BLESSING

GALAHAD
IS BLESSED ME

**KNIGHTS all pick themselves up and
achingly exit. ANGUS enters.**

ANGUS
What in the name of heaven happened here?

GALAHAD
Please, sir, don't use profanity in my presence. It
distresses me so. I should hate to have to dispatch
you as I did these other poor excuses.

ANGUS
I think ye'd do well to watch yer willful tongue.
Even if you did "dispatch" those louts, know that you
now face Angus of the Loch, Chief at Arthur's Table.
It would not go well with you to be so hasty.

PERCEVAL
Angus? The one they call Lancelot?

ANGUS
Some women have used that name, 'tis true.

GALAHAD
Then I would not smite you, sir.

ANGUS

Tis well-advised. You know who you're facing, then.

GALAHAD

Aye, and the Good Book says to honor thy father.
'Twould be a sin for me to smite you to the ground.

ANGUS

Father? Who do you claim as father?

GALAHAD

Why, you of course, since I must. I have but one,
although sometimes I do wonder...

ANGUS

And I have but one son that I ever did know of, by
the Lady Elaine of Carbonek.

PERCEVAL

Who is his mother.

GALAHAD

I have but one of those as well.

ANGUS

What was yer name, lad?

PERCEVAL

This is Galahad, called Gallant of the Loch, son of
Elaine of Carbonek and Angus of the Loch.

GALAHAD

Who is sometimes called by mother, "Lancelot." You.

ANGUS

Why, this is news! My son. Quite the handsome son,
and, by the looks of things, quite the fighter.

GALAHAD

Nay, father. I fight only when God tells me I must,
and then I hate it.

ANGUS

Then why do you?

GALAHAD

I have na choice. God directs my hand. I'm only a
perfect vessel to do His will.

He bows his head

ANGUS

I see. Be that as it may, you have certainly done his will today. He must have wanted a few extra prayers from those bruised knights.

GALAHAD

If that be His Will.

PERCEVAL

Amen.

GALAHAD

I am only a perfect vessel-

ANGUS

Yes, yes. Well come along, Galahad. And yer friend?

PERCEVAL

Perceval, son of Will Sinclair, Lord of Rossllyn, and Lady Ann, Mary Magdalene's many-great-grand daughter.

ANGUS

Yes. Well, that's just astounding. Come along lads.

They exit, several KNIGHTS and LADIES pass, and DAP enters.

LADY BETHANY

Watch yer step, old man. Pardon me, Squire Dap. I dinna see 'twas you.

DAP

Dinna see t'was me? Then yer bloody well not looking.

A hooded FIGURE swirls from among the CROWD, which moves on, leaves the figure standing behind DAP.

Not a bit of respect among any of these young rascals. Not like the old days, is it, Merlin?

FIGURE starts, removes his hood

MERLIN

Dap, how is that you can see me, when I know well that I am actually in the spirit world, and not here?

DAP

Well, I be halfway in the grave meself, and most would contend that I'm not all here, neither. So there, you old spectre.

MERLIN

There's some sense in that.

DAP

I have more sense than most. It's the reward for living longer than yer children. You are supposed to be wise. Dinna know that?

MERLIN

I know almost all of what I know, and even a little of what I don't. That's the penalty for growing younger all the time. The thing is, after Nimue sealed me in that cave, I get a little restless sometimes. Need to have a walkabout, see what the fools have gotten themselves into.

DAP

More than they can get themselves out of, most of the time. Better to head back home to yer cave.

MERLIN

Better to grow old into yer daftness.

2.1.15 "Growing Old, Going Home"

DAP

GROWING OLD

MERLIN

GOING HOME

BOTH

AND GROWING OLD
SO FAST

DAP

GOING HOME

MERLIN

GROWING OLD

BOTH

AND GOING HOME
AT LAST

DAP

IT'S A WASTE, YOUTH IS WASTED ON THE YOUNG
NOT A TRACE OF RESPECT FROM ANYONE

MERLIN

SO MY HOME MAYBE AIN'T A HOME SO GRAND

DAP

It's a cave.

I'M ALONE, BUT AT LEAST I UNDERSTAND
WHO I AM

BOTH

GROWING OLD, GOING HOME AND GROWING OLD TOO FAST
GOING HOME, GROWING OLD AND GOING HOME AT LAST

MERLIN

IN MY CAVE, IT'S AS BRIGHT AS NOONDAY SUN
NOT AFRAID, NOT OF NOTHING NOR NO ONE

DAP

EVEN THOUGH I MAY GET AROUND QUITE SLOW
GIVEN TIME, I CAN GET WHERE I NEED TO GO
EVEN THOUGH (I'M)

BOTH

GROWING OLD, GOING HOME AND GROWING OLD TOO FAST
GOING HOME, GROWING OLD AND GOING HOME AT LAST

MERLIN

(slower)

STILL, IT WOULDN'T HURT MY FEELINGS
IF I FOUND SOMEBODY NEW
WAITING WHEN I COME BACK HOME TO STAY,
A DIFFERENT FACE

DAP

STILL, TO TELL THE TRUTH I'D REALLY
LIKE A LITTLE MORE TO DO
WHEN I WAKE UP TO BEGIN ANOTHER DAY
JUST A TASTE

BOTH

OF SOMETHING NEW

GROWING OLD, GOING HOME AND GROWING OLD.
GOING HOME, GROWING OLD AND GOING HOME.
GROWING OLD, GOING HOME AND GROWING OLD.
GOING HOME, GROWING OLD AND GOING HOME.

BLACKOUT

2.1.15A Scene Change - "Growing Old, Going Home"

SCENE 2

**ARTHUR's throne room. ARTHUR,
ANGUS, GUENEVERE, & GAWAIN sit**

ARTHUR

It's just not working. It will never work.

GUENEVERE

It's the knights. They're too ignorant to understand.

GAWAIN clears his throat.

Oh, not you, Gawain.

GAWAIN

No, milady, you're right. I've never truly understood Arthur's vision. I've only tried to live by it.

ARTHUR

You are a fine knight, Gawain.

ANGUS

You are a great knight. It's these children that have come to us, Arthur. They call themselves knights, but none of them comprehend honor. They respect nothing.

ARTHUR

I'm afraid yer right, Angus. And yet, they're all we have to work with. You and Gawain have single-handedly managed to kill off most of the old guard.

GUENEVERE

Good riddance! Nothing but hooligans with armor. Take that scoundrel Melagran, for instance.

ARTHUR

Thank Providence Angus came to save you.

GUENEVERE

I thank Providence daily. Still, he wasn't the only bad apple. They called themselves noble, but they were only criminals with swords.

ANGUS

She has a point, Arthur. This new lot may not be chivalrous, but at least they have grown up with the idea. They just need something noble to do.

ARTHUR

It's odd you should say that, Angus. I was just going to tell you all of an idea that's been rattling around my brain. I don't know if it has any merit.

GAWAIN

What's yer notion, sire?

ARTHUR

It will sound absurd, I know, but somehow we need to instill something greater than mere chivalry in these knights. Honor by itself hasn't been enough. I think-

ANGUS

Sire?

ARTHUR

I think we must put God into them.

Questioning looks from others

I have talked with learned men, religious men. They tell me there is a thing, a relic. No one knows where it is, or exactly what it is, but it was connected to Christ. It's called the Grail.

ANGUS starts at the word

GAWAIN

What is a grail?

ARTHUR

Not a grail, Gawain, but-

ANGUS

(remembering)

The Grail. The Holy Grail. A cup, a lance, a stone. A quest.

ARTHUR

Yes, that's it.

GUENEVERE

How did you know of this Grail, Lancelot?

ANGUS

When I was mad, Merlin told me of it.

GUENEVERE

But when you were mad, Merlin was already dead.

ANGUS

That's what I said, but he wouldna listen.

ARTHUR

How very like the old rascal!

ANGUS

There was something else he told me. About where to look for the Grail, though I can't remember where it was.

GUENEVERE

Well, after all, you were insane.

ANGUS

But I do remember this, Arthur: he said you would do this thing. He said the Grail would help to keep the knights from fighting among themselves.

GAWAIN

Nothing can keep these lads from fighting.

ARTHUR

But that's the whole point! Don't you see? If the knights could be convinced that there was a quest that promised salvation. If it wasn't their honor they were trying to save, but their immortal souls.

All begin to be inspired

2.2.16 "Heaven In the Earth"

GUENEVERE

FINDING HEAVEN IN THE EARTH

GAWAIN

THAT GIVES A BODY PAUSE

ARTHUR

TO SEE WHAT GOD HAD SEEN

ANGUS

TO TOUCH THE THINGS OF GOD

ARTHUR

IT'S THE GREATEST QUEST A KNIGHT CAN DO

GUENEVERE

IF THEY SEE THE THINGS OF GOD

GAWAIN

THERE'LL BE NO ROOM FOR PETTY FIGHTS

ANGUS

IT'S THE FINEST GOAL A MAN COULD HAVE
WITH HEAVEN IN THEIR REACH

ALL

THEY'LL STRIVE TO REACH THE GREATEST HEIGHTS

THE PRICE TO PAY FOR SEARCHING FOR THIS GOAL
IS HEART AND BRAIN AND HOPE AND BLOOD AND SOUL
REACHING UP TO HEAVEN WILL MAKE THEM STRAIN
REACHING OUT TO GOD WILL MAKE IT PLAIN
THAT THEIR QUARRELS HAVE NO MEANING AND NO WORTH
THE RICHEST PRIZE TO WIN IS
FINDING HEAVEN IN THE EARTH

DESTINY IS NOT A THING ABSURD
DEATH WILL NEVER BE THE FINAL WORD
THEY WILL NEVER FALL INTO BETRAYAL
IF THEY ALWAYS SEEK THE HOLY GRAIL
GIVE THEM JUST A TASTE OF WHAT IT'S WORTH
THE RICHEST PRIZE TO WIN IS
FINDING HEAVEN IN THE EARTH

FINDING HEAVEN IN THE EARTH
THAT'S ALL THEY NEED KNOW
AND WHEN THEY ALL SET FORTH
THEY'LL FIND THE WAY TO GO

THE WISH TO CONQUER DEATH WILL MEAN REBIRTH
AND THE RICHEST PRIZE TO WIN IS
FINDING HEAVEN IN THE EARTH
HEAVEN IN THE EARTH
HEAVEN IN THE EARTH

ANGUS starts to exit.

ARTHUR

Where are you going, Angus?

ANGUS

To gather my arms and rouse Dap. The Grail. There's
no reason to hesitate. Eternity is waiting.

He exits

BLACKOUT

2.2.16A - Scene Change - "Heaven In the Earth"

SCENE 3

Arthur's courtyard. KNIGHTS are preparing to leave. High spirits, it's a grand time.

GARETH

This is going to be a regular picnic.

SAGRAMORE

Too dangerous before. Had to go about saving damsels.

DINADAN

And fighting dragons.

CARADOC

And tilting each other.

SAGRAMORE

A bit much, if you ask me.

GARETH

Nobody did, Sagramore. And anyway you were never any great shakes at tilting.

GALAHAD and PERCEVAL enter.

SAGRAMORE

I beg yer pardon.

GARETH

Ye'd be the one to beg, no doubt.

They start to fight.

GALAHAD

Will you stop squabbling? Yer supposed to be readying yerselves to go and find God, not to go at each other. You should be in the chapel, praying.

PERCEVAL

They probably don't even know where the chapel is.

GARETH

How insulting.

SAGRAMORE

Of course we know where the bloody chapel is.

All point in different directions, look at each other, then point again in different directions.

GARETH

We go to different chapels together.

GALAHAD

You will all go to different hells together.

GARETH

Galahad, according to you, everything we do is an invitation to eternal damnation.

GALAHAD

Not everything, milord.

SAGRAMORE

Oh?

GALAHAD

When you do what I do, you do no sin.

GARETH

But you do nothing!

GALAHAD

Precisely.

SAGRAMORE

Well, then, nothing is a sin!

Starts to dance with LADY ANN

GALAHAD

No! No! No! That's a sin!

LADY ANN

Dancing is fun! That can't be a sin, can it?

2.3.17 "Good God, Galahad"

SAGRAMORE

WHAT OF FUN?

GALAHAD

IT'S A SIN

ANN

WHAT OF WINE?

GALAHAD

OH, THAT'S A SIN!

BETHANY

WHAT OF HUSBANDS AND THEIR WIVES?

GALAHAD
THEY LIVE IN SIN

GARETH
WHAT OF SONG?

GALAHAD
IT'S A SIN

GRUMMORE
WHAT OF DANCE?

GALAHAD
YES, THAT'S A SIN

CROWD
WHAT OF PEOPLE IN THEIR ORDINARY LIVES?

GALAHAD
ALL IN SIN

CROWD
IF WE SAVE A DAMSEL IN DISTRESS
DON'T LEAVE HER IN A LURCH

GALAHAD
IF SHE'S NOT WITH CHILD, THAT'S A SIN

CROWD
IF TODAY IS SUNDAY AND WE ALL GO DOWN TO CHURCH?

GALAHAD
WITHOUT ME AT THE ALTAR, THEY WOULDN'T LET YOU IN

CROWD
GOOD GOD, GALAHAD, YOU REALLY MAKE ME SICK!
GOOD GOD, GALAHAD, YOU'RE NOTHING BUT A PR-- (SLURS TO)
--ICELESS EXAMPLE OF A MANHOOD - HA!
THAT NEVER HAD THE CHANCE TO BE A MAN
A PERSON YOU DON'T WANT TO BE
CAUGHT WITH IN THE HAY
IF YOU DID GET LAID BY HIM,
ALL HE'LL DO IS LAY
HE'S AS BORING AS THEY COME
AND WE WISH HE'D GO AWAY
GOOD GOD, GALAHAD, GOOD GOD!

GARETH & SAGRAMORE
ASK THE LAD TO TAKE A DRINK
HE'LL TELL YOU WHERE TO START TO TOE THE LINE

BETHANY & ANN
IF YOU'RE DYING OF THIRST,
AND CANNOT FIND THE SINK

ALL

HE'D NEVER CHANGE THE WATER INTO WINE

GOOD GOD, GALAHAD, HOW CAN YOU BE SO THICK?
GOOD GOD, GALAHAD, YOU'RE NOTHING BUT A PR-- (SLURS TO)
--ETTY BOY, WITH SUCH A PRETTY FACE
A SORRY SHOWCASE FOR THE HUMAN RACE
THE KIND OF BOY WHO'D CERTAINLY
TURN IN ALL HIS FRIENDS
WITH A TWELVE PAGE WRITEUP
DESCRIBING ALL THEIR SINS
IT WAS NICE BEFORE YOU CAME,
WON'T YOU GO AWAY AGAIN?
GOOD GOD, GALAHAD, GOOD GOD!
YOU'D MAKE A GOOD GOD, GALAHAD

GALAHAD

PLEASE DON'T MAKE ME BLUSH

CHORUS

YOU'D MAKE A GOOD GOD, GALAHAD

GALAHAD

IF YOU INSIST, I MUST

CHORUS

GOOD GOD, GALAHAD, GOOD GOD!
GOOD GOD, GALAHAD, GOOD GOD!

**ARTHUR, GAWAIN, ANGUS, GUENEVERE
enter**

GAWAIN

Be it known to all Knights of the Round Table. Today
we commence the Quest for the Holy Grail.

ARTHUR

All who will, let them cleanse their souls and
embrace this holy ideal. No one knows what the Grail
is, nor where it lies. Let the righteous be victors.
Let those who are blemished be washed. Go now, good
knights, and go with God.

2.3.18 "Procession March"

**KNIGHTS march out. Music continues
into next scene**

BLACKOUT

SCENE 4

The Blanched Land: a neutral gray is everywhere. KNIGHTS trudge across "Procession" music continues but becomes more and more ghastly, as do the KNIGHTS.

GARETH

What a bloody hell this place is.

SAGRAMORE

Whoever claimed there was something holy to find out here was out of his mind.

PERCEVAL

King Arthur said it.

SAGRAMORE

Oh. Still, this is no place for some holy relic.

GALAHAD

You simply lack the soul to see.

GARETH

Galahad, so help me God, another word from you-

GALAHAD

Come, Perceval. We will never find the Grail surrounded by these fools.

They exit.

GARETH

(lunging after them)

Why you sanctimonious pile of-!

SAGRAMORE

Let him go, Gareth. Good riddance to bad rubbish.

GARETH

You're right. But it's us that should say goodbye. Goodbye to this godforsaken quest.

2.4.19 "Nothing To Find"

ALL

THERE'S NOTHING IN THIS TRACKLESS WASTE
BUT DUST AND EMPTY SKY
THERE'S NO SALVATION FOR THE SOUL
IT'S JUST A PLACE TO DIE
THERE IS NO GRAIL, THERE IS NO HOPE

JUST MADNESS FOR THE MIND
WE'RE FOOLS TO FOLLOW FAIRY TALES
THERE'S NOTHING HERE TO FIND

NOTHING HERE TO FIND, NOTHING HERE TO FIND
THERE'S NOTHING IS THIS BARREN LAND
THERE'S NOTHING HERE TO FIND

WE'VE TRAVELLED OVER ROCK AND STONE
FOR NOTHING BUT A MYTH
AN EMPTY PROMISE THAT REQUIRES
MORE THAN WE CAN GIVE
THIRST AND HUNGER, BLOOD AND TOIL
WHILE LOOKING FOR A SIGN
BUT THERE'S NO SIGN WE'LL EVER SEE
THERE'S NOTHING HERE TO FIND

NOTHING HERE TO FIND, NOTHING HERE TO FIND
THERE'S NOTHING IS THIS BARREN LAND
THERE'S NOTHING HERE TO FIND
THERE'S NOTHING IN THIS QUEST
IT'S ALL IN ARTHUR'S MIND
WE GAVE IT OUR BEST
BUT THERE'S NOTHING HERE TO FIND
NOTHING HERE TO FIND

SAGRAMORE

I say back to the castle. Ale and women, that's
what we need!

ALL exit. ANGUS, DAP, GAWAIN enter

DAP

There's something familiar about this place, milord.
We've been here before.

ANGUS

It does tug at my memory, I'll grant you that. But
whatever this place is, it's not our quest.

GAWAIN

This is na quest. This is naught but a waking hell. I
do not ken why Arthur had us pursue this fantasy.

ANGUS

It's na fantasy, Gawain.

GAWAIN

How can you be sure, Angus? Did an angel come to you,
or is it yer own mind speaking, to keep hope alive?

ANGUS

Na dream, and na hope. Only that Arthur said it
exists, and Merlin before him.

GAWAIN

Merlin. Bah!

DAP

Merlin. A fine old gentlemen, even if he were dead.

ANGUS

He told me how to look, but I canna remember his words.

DAP

Merlin. You saw him at Carbonek. That's what this desolation reminds me of.

ANGUS

If Carbonek had been stripped and left to rot, I think ye'd be right. The mind plays tricks. This endless search has been too much strain for us.

GAWAIN

If there is a Grail. Only an fool would think he'd be able to see it. Especially after the life I've lived.

ANGUS

Ye've lived a better life than any of Arthur's knights, Gawain. Yer years give you wisdom. Maybe that's what you need to see the Grail.

ELAINE enters.

GAWAIN

If I need wisdom, first I need eyes, and mine have failed me completely.

DAP

Tricks of the mind, indeed!

GAWAIN

Only blindness and madness could bring the sight of such a lady to this desolation.

ANGUS

(turning to see ELAINE)

Then we are all blind and mad. Elaine, can it be you?

ELAINE

It is, Lancelot- Laird Angus. I have found you, as it seems I was meant to. Hello, Dap.

GAWAIN

Come, Dap. It's as plain as the nose on God's face that we should be somewhere else.

They exit.

ANGUS

Elaine, what are you doing in this dreadful place?

ELAINE

Carbonek? Dreadful?

ANGUS

This can't be Carbonek, can it?

ELAINE

Boring, I'll grant you. Even lonely.

(looks at him, then quickly away)

But Carbonek is far from dreadful.

ANGUS

This is Carbonek? But the desolation, the silence...

ELAINE

I dinna know what you mean. Carbonek never changes. It looks as ever it did since you went away.

ANGUS

Perhaps it's the quest that's changed me.

ELAINE

The quest?

ANGUS

For the Holy Grail. The King has sent the entire Round Table to find it. The search has taken a terrible toll, and now I believe it has affected my mind. None of this looks like Carbonek, Elaine. It looks like a nightmare.

ELAINE

I've lived a nightmare since you left. Then our son left to follow you. I stay here until you both return.

ANGUS

(embarrassed)

How is your father?

ELAINE

Still counting pedigrees and calculating how closely Galahad is related to Christ. According to father, the whole family is practically guaranteed a spot at the right hand of the Almighty.

ANGUS

Galahad made a, uh, huge impression when he arrived.

ELAINE

I can imagine. He only reads one book and he only thinks about one thing: God. His pedigree, you know.

ANGUS

If anyone should find the Grail, it ought to be him.

ELAINE

He probably thinks he used it as a baby bottle.

They laugh.

ANGUS

(stepping away from her)

I canna stay, Elaine. I have the quest before me.

ELAINE

And me behind you. Always. I know you canna stay, Lancelot. You have yer adventures.

ANGUS

It's not just an adventure. It's the quest for the grail. The quest for my soul. The quest for God.

ELAINE

You must look for God? You dinna have him already? God is all around us, in us. Between father and Galahad and you, I practically breathe God night and day. Isn't that enough for yer God?

She cries a little. ANGUS moves to comfort her, but cannot bring himself to put his arms around her

Get on with yer quest. Take yer friends and yer God and go away.

ANGUS

Elaine, please understand.

ELAINE

Understand? I understand nothing about you except that you leave and I wait. So leave. Damn you, leave!

ANGUS looks at her, turns and exits

2.4.20 "How Long Must I Wait?"

Carbonek. You have walls that keep me here. Can't you keep him out? Or at least keep out his memory?

THE CLOCK ON THE WALL, THE SUN ON THE DIAL
THE INCHING OF MOMENTS OF TIME
THE CLOUDS ON A DAY

WHEN THE WIND NEVER BLOWS
THE ENDLESS REPEATING OF RHYME
A NIGHT WITHOUT SLEEP IS A NIGHT WITHOUT END
WAITING TO SEE THE SUN RISE
WHILE I WAIT FOR A MAN
WHO NEVER RETURNS
TO THE OASIS OF TEARS IN MY EYES

WATCHING THE POT, THE WATER WON'T BOIL
STAND BY THE FIRE IN THE HEARTH
ONCE WAS A FIRE BURNED IN MY SOUL
NOW JUST A GLOW IN MY HEART

A SHIP FROM THE SHORE
SEEMS TO ALMOST STAND STILL
NEVER TO MOVE WITH THE WAVE
AS STILL AS A MAID WHO HAS WAITED HER LIFE
WASTED HER WHOLE LIFE AWAY

PROMISES MADE, PROMISES KEPT
PROMISES YOU COULD NOT SAY
I PROMISE YOU THIS I'LL ALWAYS BE HERE
BUT MY LOVE MAY BE SLIPPING AWAY

WATCHING THE POT, THE WATER WON'T BOIL
STAND BY THE FIRE IN THE HEARTH
ONCE WAS A FIRE BURNED IN MY SOUL
NOW JUST A GLOW IN MY HEART

PROMISES MADE, PROMISES KEPT
PROMISES YOU WOULDN'T SAY
I PROMISE YOU THIS I'LL ALWAYS BE HERE
BUT MY LOVE MAY BE SLIPPING AWAY
I PROMISE YOU THIS I'LL ALWAYS BE HERE
BUT MY LOVE MAY BE SLIPPING AWAY

BLACKOUT

2.4.20A Scene Change - "How Long Do I Wait?"

SCENE 5

2.5.21 "Chapel Perilous"

The Blanched Land. SOUND: A wind can be heard, occasionally growing to a howl, but mainly just a constant presence. ANGUS enters alone, staggering with weakness. His weapons gone, his clothes tattered. He meets a robed and hooded figure (MERLIN) who carries a chalice. He passes ANGUS without pausing, stops at ANGUS'S words, but does not turn around

ANGUS

Stay. I have wandered this blasted heath until I am nearly blind. And I thirst, God, I thirst. Have you no wine or water for a weary knight?

FIGURE slowly turns, approaches ANGUS, then waits.

What? Must I beg?

FIGURE points into the distance

Where do you point? There's nothing- What?

He rubs his eyes

That chapel was not there before. Is this some sorcery?

FIGURE holds out the goblet

So now I may drink. Then by my faith, I shall. I have never thirsted so.

ANGUS drinks. LIGHTS: red and shadows, The Chapel Perilous is revealed, on two levels: lower is a gate, above an empty table. Grail symbols flash in sequence: lance, doves, cup, stone, ark, sword, etc. HOODED FIGURES enter

CHORUS

WHO COMES THIS WAY MUST FACE THE TEST
WHO DARES THE GRAIL FORSAKES THE REST
WHO WALKS THIS PATH SURRENDERS ALL
THEY WIN THE PRIZE OR ELSE THEY FALL
THERE IS NO IN BETWEEN
NO WHAT MAY BE OR WHAT HAS BEEN

YOU MUST REVEAL WHAT'S DEEP INSIDE
YOUR THOUGHTS, YOUR LOVE, YOUR SINS, YOUR PRIDE
THE GRAIL REQUIRES YOUR VERY SOUL
A SOUL THAT MUST BE GIVEN WHOLE
THERE IS NO HOLDING BACK
THERE'S NO DEFENSE IT WILL NOT CRACK
YOUR HEART WILL TEAR APART AND OPEN WIDE

ANGUS

I HAVE NOTHING LEFT THAT I CAN GIVE
IT'S ALL BEEN STRIPPED AWAY
I HAVE LIVED THE LIFE I HAD TO LIVE
IT'S LED ME TO THIS DAY
TO THIS GATE AND TO THIS DOOR
WHAT AM I WAITING FOR?
CAN SOMEONE HERE PLEASE SHOW ME THE WAY?

**ANGUS starts to enter the castle.
ARTHUR, GUENEVERE, ELAINE stop him**

ARTHUR, GUENEVERE, ELAINE

YOU CANNOT PASS, LORD ANGUS
YOU CANNOT ENTER IN
THE WAY IS SHUT, THE GATE IS BARRED
YOU CANNOT GO WITHIN
YOU CANNOT PASS LORD ANGUS
BEYOND THESE WALLS OF STONE
YOU'RE NOT A WORTHY KNIGHT
AS YOU HAVE ALWAYS KNOWN

LIGHTS: green/sea-blue.

CHORUS

A SPEAR! A SPEAR THAT PIERCED HIS SIDE

Carried by GALAHAD

A SWORD! A SWORD! A KING MAY WIELD THE SWORD

Carried by ARTHUR

A CUP! A CUP! A LADY BEARS THE CUP

**Covered by a cloth, carried on a
platter by ELAINE. The chalice
shines beneath the cloth**

ALL THESE THINGS POINT TOWARD: THE GRAIL!

LIGHTS: Red and yellow.

A HEART BLEEDS, BLOOD FLOWS
FROM DARK DEEDS A SPIRIT GROWS
THE AIR'S A HURRICANE
THE GROUND IS GROANING LOUD

THE RIVERS LEAVE THEIR BANKS
LIGHTNING STREAKS THE CLOUDS

CHORUS 1

THE AIR'S A HURRICANE
THE GROUND IS GROANING LOUD
RIVERS LEAVE THEIR BANKS
LIGHTNING STREAKS THE CLOUDS

CHORUS 2

A SPEAR THAT PIERCED HIS SIDE
A LADY BEARS THE CUP
THESE THINGS POINT TOWARD
ALL THESE THINGS POINT TOWARD
THE GRAIL!

**LIGHTS: Spielberg columns of light.
The drawbridge becomes a bridge of
swords. Participants march in**

GLORY, GLORY, ALL HAIL THE HOLY GRAIL
GLORY, GLORY, ALL HAIL THE HOLY GRAIL
MAKE WAY FOR THE GLORY
MAKE A PATH, MAKE A ROAD
TELL EVERY ONE THE STORY
'TIL EVERY MORTAL HAS BEEN TOLD
LET TRUMPETS RING ANNOUNCEMENT
LET THE RIGHTEOUS KNEEL AND PRAY
SINNERS HIDE THEIR COUNTENANCE
THE GRAIL HAS COME TODAY
THE HOLY GRAIL COMES THIS WAY TODAY

**At the last portal, a HOODED FIGURE
(MERLIN) appears.**

MERLIN

Look upon these things, but you may not enter.

**MERLIN bars his way. ANGUS stands
humbly**

ANGUS

I KNOW I CANNOT ENTER HERE
I'VE KNOWN IT ALL ALONG
THIS IS NO PLACE FOR ME
WHOSE SOUL WAS MADE SO WRONG
I KNOW I CANNOT SEEK THE GRAIL
NOT WORTHY OF ITS SIGHT
BUT MUST I LIVE IN HELL?
IS THIS THE FATE OF THE ILL-MADE KNIGHT?

**A POOR MONK approaches the Grail
castle, shuffling, in great pain.
He appears to be carrying a great
burden. ANGUS watches him in pity.**

CHORUS

GLORY, GLORY, ALL HAIL THE HOLY GRAIL
GLORY, GLORY, ALL HAIL THE HOLY GRAIL
MAKE WAY FOR THE GLORY

MAKE A PATH, MAKE A ROAD
TELL EVERY ONE THE STORY
'TIL EVERY MORTAL HAS BEEN TOLD

CHORUS

LET TRUMPETS
RING ANNOUNCEMENT
ALL HAIL THE HOLY GRAIL
LET THE RIGHTEOUS
KNEEL AND PRAY
SINNERS HIDE
THEIR COUNTENANCE
THE GRAIL HAS COME TODAY
GLORY! GLORY!
UNTIL THE END OF TIME

ANGUS

WHO IS THIS POOR
AND INJURED MAN?
A BATTERED SOUL
WHO NEEDS MY HAND
HOW DID THIS
UNINVITED MAN
MAKE HIS WAY
INTO THIS LAND?
HE NEEDS MY
HELP TO STAND

**ANGUS tries to help, man looks up.
Seeing his face, ANGUS falls back.
The cloth is lifted, Grail is
revealed on platter. LIGHTS:
incandescent. Gate closes in a
brilliant flash, ANGUS is thrown
across stage**

CHORUS

GLORY, GLORY, ALL HAIL THE HOLY GRAIL
GLORY, GLORY, ALL HAIL THE HOLY GRAIL
ALL HAIL THE HOLY GRAIL

BLACKOUT

2.5.21A Scene Change - "Chapel Perilous"

SCENE 6

Tapestry Room at Carbonek. ANGUS sits, his sword, shield, and arms lie in disarray. Lancelot tapestry hangs center. LIGHT: golden autumn light. DAP enters.

DAP

Angus, we must leave. We canna defend ourselves here at Carbonek. Perhaps across the Channel, in Gaul-

ANGUS

Not now, Dap. Leave me.

DAP

Milord, Arthur's table has split, the knights are at war with one another. Our lives are in jeopardy. We must flee this place!

ANGUS

I no longer care about the table, nor my life. The battle will wait. Leave me be, Dap!

DAP exits. ANGUS closes his eyes. After a moment, ELAINE enters.

ELAINE

I see you make ready to leave once again.

ANGUS

Elaine. I'm glad ye've come.

ELAINE

I've only come to say goodbye. Dap says you must go.

ANGUS

Another senseless battle. A matter of "honor". Once, a matter of honor was decided by combat between two champions. Now we pit armies against each other.

ELAINE

Honor.

ANGUS

It seems an empty word. I have tried to be an honorable man. But something within me twists my words and my honor until I have neither. Only battle.

ELAINE

Battle. I don't understand all that. Battle and armies and honor. I am too simple.

ANGUS

You are not simple, Elaine. You are simply you. The truest and finest love I ever knew.

ANGUS starts to take ELAINE into his arms, but she moves away.

ELAINE

No, Angus. It's too late. I loved you for an eternity, I gave birth to yer son, I sent him to you. Now my son is with God, and you are leaving again. And I'm still waiting. And so weary.

She closes her eyes

But one thing I do know. I canna hold you, nor weep for you. All ye've let me do for all these years is to wait for you. Waiting is all I know how to do.

ANGUS

Won't you come with me? Can't we try to be together?

ELAINE

We are together. We will always be together, you and I. You trying to find yer soul, and me waiting until you find it. But that's all there can be for us. My dearest Angus. You see, I can bear yer honor,

She strokes his face and smiles

I can bear yer face. I can bear yer son. But I canna bear yer soul. It's too heavy for the likes of me.

She kisses ANGUS's hand, passes her hand over the tapestry, then exits

ANGUS

Elaine! Elaine, wait!

ANGUS crosses to the door, looks out, then crosses back to center

2.6.22 "Once Again"

ONCE UPON A TIME I LAY DREAMING
ONCE UPON A TIME LONG AGO
ONCE UPON A TIME I WAS DREAMING
I THOUGHT I HEARD YOU CALLING
I COULD SWEAR I HEARD YOU CALLING
HOW I WISH THAT YOU'D BEEN CALLING SOFT AND LOW

ONCE UPON A TIME WE WERE LOVERS
ONCE UPON A TIME WE WERE FRIENDS
ONCE WE DIDN'T NEED ANY OTHER

NOW THE DAYS ARE ALL SO WEARY
SO ENDLESS AND SO DREARY
IF YOU WERE ONLY NEAR ME ONCE AGAIN

ONCE THERE WAS A TIME THAT I KNEW YOU
THERE MUST HAVE BEEN A TIME IT WAS CLEAR
THEN THERE CAME A TIME WHEN YOU FLEW TOO CLOSE
TO WHERE I WANTED NO ONE NEAR

ONCE UPON A TIME WE WERE STRANGERS
LEARNING HOW OUR LOVE WOULD BEGIN
ONCE WE CAME SO CLOSE WE COULD TOUCH IT
NOW, YOU ACT LIKE A STRANGER
I ACT LIKE A STRANGER
HOW DID WE BECOME STRANGERS ONCE AGAIN?

CAN A POEM RHYME WITH NO MEANING?
A LOVER LEAVE WITH NARY A TEAR?
CAN TOMORROW COME SOMEHOW SEEMING LIKE
YESTERDAY HAD NOT BEEN HERE?

ONCE UPON A TIME WE WERE PARTNERS
PART OF SOMETHING WE NEVER PLANNED
ONCE UPON A TIME WE WERE DREAMERS
I WISH THAT WE WERE DREAMING
HOW I WISH WE COULD BE DREAMING
GOD, IF WE WERE ONLY DREAMING
DREAMING, ONCE AGAIN

ANGUS

How have I been so blind? Oh, God! Why did you
make a twisted thing like me?

MERLIN enters through the mirror

MERLIN

It's not as bad as all that, is it?

ANGUS

Merlin. I must be mad again.

MERLIN

You seem a bit low, lad.

ANGUS

Aye. I have ruined everything I ever touched. I
loved Elaine, but I left her for Guenevere. I
thought I loved Guenevere, but that was not love.
It was blindness.

MERLIN

The Creator made the heart too complicated. It's
impossible to fathom.

ANGUS

Is it? It just seems that I was weak and a fool.

MERLIN

That may be.

ANGUS

Now I fight a battle that will destroy Arthur's dream. I could not see the Grail, Merlin. Do you know that? I only wanted to help that poor priest.

MERLIN

Aye, Sir Angus. All that I know.

ANGUS

What will history say of me, Merlin?

MERLIN

History will say nothing of you, Angus. Your name will be written in legend.

ANGUS

What are you babbling about?

MERLIN

You once told me I was more than man.

ANGUS

Aye.

2.6.23 "Legend"

MERLIN

My soul lives in the past as well as the future. Because of this, I have the curse of prophecy. I will tell you what the ages think of you, Angus.

IS YOUR STORY TRUTH, OR SOMETHING MORE?
WHAT'S MORE THAN TRUTH, MORE THAN HISTORY?
MYTH AND LEGEND ARE MUCH STRONGER
MYTH AND LEGEND LAST MUCH LONGER
YOUR LEGEND CASTS A SHADOW THROUGH ALL ETERNITY

YOUR LEGEND LIVES LONGER THAN YOUR LIFE
THE NAME YOU FRET ABOUT WILL NEVER FADE
YOU ARE PART OF SOMETHING BIGGER THAN YOURSELF
SOMETHING BIGGER THAN THE PART YOU MIGHT HAVE PLAYED

DO MEMORIES OF YOUR DEEDS EVEN MATTER
OR ARE THEY MERELY OUTLINES OF YOUR LASTING PEDIGREE
MYTH AND LEGEND ARE MUCH STRONGER
MYTH AND LEGEND LAST MUCH LONGER
YOUR LEGEND CASTS A SHADOW TO THE ENDS OF ETERNITY

YOUR LIFE HAD ITS SHARE OF MORTAL FLAWS
BUT THE FUTURE WILL FORGIVE ALL YOUR MISTAKES
THE MEN WILL ADMIRE YOUR COURAGE AND YOUR DEEDS
LADIES WILL ALWAYS LOVE ANGUS OF THE LAKE

THEY RECALL THE MAN THEY BELIEVE YOU WERE
THE HERO WHO ENDURED ALL YOU WENT THROUGH
THERE'S NO ROOM FOR AN ILL-MADE KNIGHT TO LIVE
IN THE LEGEND THAT THE WORLD HAS BUILT FOR YOU

IS YOUR STORY TRUTH, OR SOMETHING MORE?
WHAT'S MORE THAN THE TRUTH, MORE THAN HISTORY?
MYTH AND LEGEND ARE MUCH STRONGER
MYTH AND LEGEND LAST MUCH LONGER
YOUR LEGEND CASTS A SHADOW THROUGH ALL ETERNITY
YOUR LEGEND LASTS BEYOND THE MISTS OF TIME
BEYOND THE REACH OF THIS WORLD'S MEMORY

MERLIN

They remember you as the finest knight who ever lived. The love they would have before all others. Your life will always shine, a beacon for those who dream of something better when a dull world suffocates the spirit. And your life was necessary. Only you could father Galahad, and only he was worthy of the Grail.

ANGUS

But it's not the same as having the Grail, is it?

MERLIN

No, it's not.

ANGUS

And all those women who believe those things of me. None of them is Elaine.

MERLIN

No, Angus. They're not. But in eternity, what they believe is what you become. Be content. It is more than most men ever dream to be. Arthur is immortal in truth. You are immortal in legend. Now, you have one more battle to fight. Elaine will always love you. Elaine will always wait. But Fate will not.

He starts to exit through mirror

ANGUS

I was a great warrior, wasn't I, Merlin?

MERLIN

(pausing, and looking off)

Sir Angus of the Loch, in the whole of the world, there has never been a one like unto you.

In the whole of the world to come, there will never be another like unto you. Aye, lad. You are indeed the greatest warrior who ever lived.

MERLIN exits. ANGUS takes a breath. DAP enters and helps him with his armor. When ANGUS has his sword and shield, he stands upright, proud and exultant.

DAP

Milord Angus! Why do you tarry? We must hurry!

ANGUS

There's no need to hurry. We have eternity to dream.

2.6.24 "Once Again Reprise" - Finale Ultimo

ONCE UPON A TIME THERE WERE HEROES
KINGS, WARRIORS, LOVERS AND FRIENDS

ANGUS & CHORUS

ONCE THE WORLD WAS MADE BY THE DREAMERS
THE WORLD WILL DREAM THEM ALL AGAIN!

2.6.25 Curtain Calls

CURTAIN & CURTAIN CALLS