

a funny thing happened on the way to...

CAMELOT

a pantomime

Script Sample

Prologue

The Woods

*(As the **overture** plays (track 9), the whole cast enters, occupying the stage and all spaces in front and to the side. All sing the opening song.)*

Song **Welcome**

*Track 1 - vocal demo
Track 10 - backing track
Lyrics p25*

(As the song finishes, the cast exits the stage and all sit to the sides. Merlin enters, carrying a small table which he places stage right. He puts a bowl on the table top.)

Merlin

Ladies and Gentlemen, boys and girls, I am Merlin. I was King Uther’s magician, before he died of an in-growing toenail, fifteen years ago. Now, King Uther left two young orphans, Prince Arthur and his older sister, Princess Morgana, who upon their father’s death were in mortal danger! An evil knight, Mordred, stole the throne and tried to do away with the two children, so I hid them with a family in a nearby village, to be raised as peasants. Only Morgana knew of her own and Arthur’s real identities and, for their safety, she swore never to tell. Not even their peasant foster-parents knew the two children were of royal blood! Then, using magic, I stuck King Uther’s sword in a large stone and let it be known that only the rightful king could ever pull it out. Arthur, of course, is that rightful king. Now is the time for him to return to Camelot to claim his throne. However, his older sister, Morgana, has other ideas.

*(As the **baddie music** plays (track 11), Morgana enters stage left, carrying a large book. A ‘Boo!’ cue card is held up.)*

All

Boo!

Morgana

(to the booing audience) Oh, give it a rest!

Merlin

Morgana! We meet again after all these years!

Morgana

Out of my way, beardy. I’m on my way to Camelot. As Uther’s eldest child, that throne is mine by right. I shall be queen of all England!

- Merlin** But this is only the 6th century. The firstborn *male* becomes the next monarch. You’ll have to wait a long time for that to change, Morgana.
- Morgana** Well, I refuse to wait, so I have a plan! I have been secretly meeting Mordred, who stole the throne after our father died, and he has fallen in love with me – well, let’s face it, who wouldn’t? He is waiting for me at Camelot, where he’ll marry me and make me his queen! From there, it’ll be easy to bump him off and take the throne myself!
- Merlin** But I hear that Mordred loves Guinevere and plans to make *her* queen.
- Morgana** Guinevere? Who on earth is Guinevere? Well, it doesn’t matter. With a little bit of magic, (*holding up the book*) I’ll soon sort *her* out!
- Merlin** Ah, my book of spells! So it was you who stole it, Morgana. I wondered where that had got to!
- Morgana** Yes. And now I’m an even better magician than you, Merlin. I’ll do anything to become queen and you can’t stop me!
- (*The ‘Boo!’ cue card is held up.*)
- All** Boo!
- Morgana** (*to the booing audience*) Oh, give it a rest!
- (*We hear the **magic sound effect (track 12)**. Merlin waves his hands over his bowl, looking into it.*)
- Merlin** But Morgana, you’re too late. I see Arthur is also on his way to Camelot. Today, with the help of some magic by me, he will pull the sword out of the stone...and become king!
- Morgana** My little brother has no idea who he really is. He thinks he’s a peasant! (*waving the book*) I will use some *dark* magic to make sure it stays that way!
- (*The ‘Boo!’ cue card is held up.*)
- All** Boo!
- Morgana** (*to the booing audience*) Yeah, whatever! Mwa-ha-ha-ha!
- (*Morgana exits with more over-the-top evil laughter.*)
- Merlin** Someone’s late for their over-acting class! Right, it’s time to get this story started with a rhyming magic spell.....(*looking into his magic bowl*)
*Enchanted sword set in the stone,
Arthur comes to take you home.
When he pulls, you must pop out,
So all can see he is...the king!*
- All** But that doesn’t rhyme!
- Merlin** Well, I’m a magician, not a poet! Okay, let’s crack on. I’ll see you later!

(*As **intro music 1** plays (track 13), Merlin exits, taking the table and bowl. The stage is set for the next scene, which begins as the music ends.*)

Scene 1

The Road to Camelot

(A road sign at the side points to 'Camelot'. Centre stage stands the sword in the stone. A chalk board reads 'Pull the sword out of the stone and win the kingdom!' Two peasant couples enter.)

Jed *(excited)* There's the sword I was on about! And no-one's pulled it out yet!

Gwyneth *(reading the board)* 'Pull the sword out of the stone and win the kingdom!' Ha! That's your get-rich-quick idea, is it Jed? Go on then, impress me!

Jed *(straining to pull the sword)* I'm trying, Gwyneth, but it won't budge!

Derwa You 'ave a go, Kendrick. Go on, make our dreams come true!

Kendrick *(taking over and pulling)* Ooooooh! He's right, Derwa, it's stuck fast!

Gwyneth Honestly! You pair are useless. What did you say to us...*(mimicking)* "We'll win you the kingdom. We'll be rich!" What a load o' rubbish!

Jed *(thinking)* 'Ang on, I've got an idea to make us all a bit of cash. We'll stand 'ere and charge folks a penny-a-go to try and pull that sword out of the stone. They'll be queuing up to win the kingdom!

(He scrawls in chalk at the bottom of the board 'A PENNY-A-GO!')

Kendrick Good idea, Jed. That should do it. And look, 'ere be our first customers!

(A gang of farm workers enters.)

Jed Good morrow, good people. And where are you off to on this fine day?

Farm Worker #1 We be going to Camelot to see if they got any farmin' jobs.

Gwyneth *(grabbing Farm Worker #2's arm)* Look at the biceps on this one, Derwa!

Derwa Oooh! I bet you work out! Why don't you 'ave a try at this. A penny a go!

Farm Worker #2 Don't 'ave a penny.

Derwa Well, check your pockets. You never know what you might find in there.

Farm Worker #2 *(pulling a brown lump from a pocket)* Well, I 'ave some 'orse manure. It's fresh.

Kendrick *(excited)* Fresh 'orse manure, you say? You can have two goes for that!

(Farm Worker #2 hands over the manure and steps up to the stone, spitting on his hands.)

Farm Worker #2 One...two...threeeeeee.....

(He grabs the sword and pulls with all his strength. The sword doesn't budge.)

Farm Worker #3 'Ere. Let me have your second go.

(He grabs the sword and pulls with all his strength. Again, the sword doesn't budge.)

Farm Worker #2 Bah! We've been tricked! I wants me manure back.

Farm Worker #3 There ain't nobody can pull that there sword out of that there stone.

Gwyneth Ah, but the legend says that one person can do it, and that they are the rightful ruler of all England!

(Lancelot, tall and scruffy, Arthur, short and scruffy, and his mum, our dame, enter.)

Lancelot *(to the audience)* Hello all. My name is Lancelot. This is my bestie, Arthur, and this is his mum. Well, she's his foster mum really – I'm sure you've been filled in on the details. We're off to Camelot to find a job.

Derwa Why not try this first, Sir? Only a penny a go! Pull the sword out of the stone and become the rightful king of England!

Mum *(pushing in front of Lancelot with a penny)* What about the rightful queen?

Derwa Queen? King? *(snatching the coin)* Don't s'pose it makes much difference.

Mum Then stand back and prepare to meet your new queen.

(Mum pulls the sword with all her strength, trying various funny poses. She strains particularly hard at one point and we hear an 'amusing' sound effect (track 14)! The sword doesn't budge. Lancelot joins in, but even both of them can't shift it.)

Kendrick Oi! You can't 'elp 'er! That's cheating. And you owe us another penny!

Arthur Look, here's tuppence. I might as well have a go too.

Jed What? You? Ha ha! You're not really 'king' material, are you?

Mum Don't talk to my boy like that. He may be small, but size isn't everything.

Arthur Mum, shush! You're embarrassing me.

Lancelot *(patting Arthur on the back, knocking him forward)* Go on, titch. Give it a try.

(Arthur stands up straight, marches over to the stone and grabs the sword handle.)

Arthur One...two...threeeeeee.....

(Arthur pulls the sword out. To a fanfare (track 15), he stands in a heroic pose, the sword held aloft. Everyone looks on, open-mouthed. More peasants enter and look in awe at Arthur.)

Gwyneth All 'ail.....what's 'is name again?

Mum *(proudly)* Arthur! And you young lady, show some respect. Don't go dropping your aitches when you talk about 'im...I mean *him*.

Gwyneth Oh, sorry! Ahem...all *hail* Arthur, king of England!

All ALL HAIL KING ARTHUR!

- Mum** My Arthur! Who’d have thought that scrawny lad I took in all those years ago was actually the king of England?! I’m that swollen with pride, I’m about to pop my corset!
- Arthur** *(still in that heroic pose)* Mum! What do I do now?
- Mum** Just act all royal and do...you know... king stuff.
- Arthur** How? I’ve never been a king before.

Song A Funny Thing Happened On The Way To Camelot

*Track 2 - vocal demo
Track 16 - backing track
Lyrics p26*

(During the song, the peasants pamper and dress Arthur as described in the lyrics. At the end of the song he wears a simple, makeshift crown. All admire him, though he looks a little awkward!)

All ALL HAIL KING ARTHUR!

(Two delivery men, dressed in overalls and flat caps, wheel on a round table, with ‘ROUND TABLE’ written on it. They huff and puff as they do it, while everyone watches.)

D/Man #1 *(gasping)* Special delivery for a...*(looking at label)*...King Arfa?

D/Man #2 *(gasping)* Where d’you want it?

All NOT NOW! CLEAR OFF!

(The delivery men turn round and wheel the table off, clearly demoralised.)

Arthur To Camelot!

All TO CAMELOT!

*(As the **intro music 2** plays (track 17), Arthur marches off and everyone follows. The stage is set for the next scene.)*

Scene 2

Back in the woods

*(As the **baddie music** plays (track 18), Morgana, holding the book and a stick, enters with five witches. They gather centre stage, round a cauldron. The ‘Boo!’ cue card is held up.)*

All Boo!

Morgana *(to the booing audience and cast)* Oh, come on! I’m more evil than that!

All Boooo!

Morgana *(encouraging the audience)* I'm even more evil than *that!*

All BOOOOOOOOO!

Morgana Alright! I'm not *that* evil. *(to the witches)* Sisters, it's bad news. Arthur has pulled the sword from the stone and now thinks he is the rightful king.

Witches *(talking at once)* Never! How dare he! What a cheek! Who does he think he is? etc

Morgana So, you know what must be done!

Witches *(talking at once)* Ooh yes! But of course. Absolutely. Definitely. Well, no.....not really!

Morgana *(tutting)* We need an evil plan to stop Arthur getting to Camelot!

Witch #1 & #2 Ooh yes, an evil plan!

Witch #3 & #4 *(cackling)* A cunning plan!

Witch #5 *(hard of hearing)* We need a what?

Morgana *(louder)* We need an evil plan to stop Arthur getting to Camelot!

Witch #5 Yes, I like ham quite a lot, too.

Morgana Give me strength! Right. Are you all with me? *(pointing at the witches in turn)* Tilda Cheesefoot? Morwenna Hogsbreath? Karensa Wartnose? Delilah Bogbucket? Defessa* Doorpost? * *pronounced 'deaf-as-a'*

Witches #1, #2, #3 & #4 Yes, oh mistress.

Morgana Defessa Doorpost?

Witch #5 Eh?

Morgana Oh, never mind! Right Look at this map, sisters. *(drawing on the ground with a stick)* Camelot is here. Arthur is over here. In order to get to Camelot, Arthur must go through the village of Itchy Bottom.

Witch #1 A pleasant place to visit, I hear. Friendly locals.

Morgana Past the Good Knight Inn...

Witch #2 Ooh, I've had the salmon en crouete there. Very nice.

Morgana *(getting impatient)* Through the Gloomy Wood...

Witch #3 A lovely spot for a romantic picnic.

Morgana *(getting more impatient)* Across the Gurgling River...

- Witch #4** You know, that’s one of my favourite...
- Morgana** *(interrupting)* Will you lot pack it in! We’re supposed to be *evil* witches.
- Witch #2** Evil, oh yes! Okay, so how about we make a pigeon poop on his head?
- Witch #3** Or tie his laces together?
- Witch #4** Yes! So he falls over!
- Witch #1** I’ve got it! Let’s make him sneeze uncontrollably for a whole minute!

(The four witches cackle uncontrollably. Witch #5 clearly doesn’t know why.)

- Witch #5** Eh?
- Morgana** What’s wrong with you all? They’re terrible ideas. We need to be *wicked!* Right, join me round the cauldron and let’s cast an evil spell?

Song **Dark Magic**

*Track 3 - vocal demo
Track 19 - backing track
Lyrics p27*

- Morgana** We’ll put a spell on the Gloomy Wood, to make the trees come alive and entangle Arthur and his little friends in their branches, making them disappear... forever! *(she reads from the book)*
*‘When Arthur reaches the Gloomy Wood,
Darkness comes to do no good.
And though they may look all around,
A clear way out cannot be found.
The trees will come to life, and thus,
Crush their bodies into dust!’*

*(The **thunder sound effect** plays (track 20). Merlin dramatically enters.)*

- Merlin** Stop right there, Morgana!
- Morgana** You’re too late, Merlin! The spell is cast and Arthur’s fate is sealed!
- Merlin** No, Morgana! Good always triumphs over evil. You will not win.
- Morgana** I already have, Merlin, you sentimental old fool! Mwa-ha-ha-ha!

(Morgana and the witches exit, cackling.)

- Merlin** You know, she used to be such a pleasant child. Funnily enough, it all started going wrong when she hit her teens, which happens a lot so I’m told. But enough reminiscing, I must get to the Gloomy Wood. Arthur needs my help!

*(As the **intro music 3** plays (track 21), Merlin exits. The stage is set for the next scene, which begins as the music ends.)*

Scene 3

Outside the Good Knight Inn

(Customers sit at tables chatting, eating and drinking. Three knights, Galahad, Gawain and Percival, wearing farmers’ smocks over their knightly clothes/armour, sit together at one table. Arthur, Mum and Lancelot enter.)

Mum Oh, my bunions! I’m in agony! A *short* stroll to Camelot, you said! Right, we’ll stop here for a bite to eat, before heading on to the Gloomy Wood.

(The three sit at an empty table. Gobby, a waitress, approaches and hands them menus.)

Gobby Welcome to the Good Knight Inn. So, as well as what’s on the menu, our specials today are...*(taking a deep breath)*...salty seasoned sausages served in a savoury spicy sauce.....pork pie, pickle, potato puree and peppered parsnips.....and chickpea chipolatas with chilli chutney and Cheshire cheesy chips!

(Arthur, Lancelot and Mum scratch their chins, read the menus and consider the options.)

Lancelot Hmm, I’m not sure. Could you repeat those specials, please?

Gobby Our specials today are.....salty seasoned sausages served in a savoury spicy sauce.....pork pie, pickle, potato puree and peppered parsnips..... and chickpea chipolatas with chilli chutney and Cheshire cheesy chips!

Arthur That all sounds fabulous. Mum, what do you fancy?

Mum I think I’ll have....*(to Gobby)*....what were those specials again, my dear?

Gobby Our specials today are...salty seasoned sausages served in a savoury spicy sauce.....pork pie, pickle, potato puree and peppered parsnips..... and chickpea chipolatas with chilli chutney and Cheshire cheesy chips!

Mum *(pointing back at the menu)* Yeah, just three ploughman’s lunches, please!

Gobby What the...! After all that?! Fine! Three ploughman's coming up!

(Gobby exits. We now focus on the conversation between the three disguised knights.)

Galahad But Gawain, Percival, it's been fifteen years now.

Gawain Patience, Galahad. I heard that the rightful king has been found! A young boy pulled Uther’s sword from the stone just yesterday!

Percival So we no longer have to pretend we’re farmers. We’ll be knights again!

Mum *(over-hearing)* Hey, that's my boy, Arthur, you're talking about. This is him. *(pulling Arthur to his feet)*. Show them the sword, Arthur.

(Arthur draws the sword and shows it to the knights.)

Galahad If you truly pulled the sword from the stone, then legend tells you are indeed the rightful king! *(kneeling)* Sir Galahad, at your service.

Gawain *(kneeling)* I am Sir Gawain.

Percival *(kneeling)* And I am Sir Percival.

Mum What's all this 'Sir' business? Are you important or something?

Galahad We were the old King Uther's knights, my lady.

Mum *(to the audience)* Ooh, I say. No one's ever called me 'lady' before. Lots of other things, but never 'lady'.

(The three stand and remove their farmers' smocks to reveal their knightly attire.)

Percival We were banished from Camelot by the evil Mordred when he stole the throne after the old king Uther died. We have been pretending to be farmers ever since, waiting for the next true king to return, so we can help him win back his kingdom.

(Gobby returns with three plates. She notices the farmers' change of clothes.)

Gobby Blimey! What did I miss?

Lancelot This is Arthur, the rightful king of all England, and these three are banished knights, returned to give him their loyal service in reclaiming the throne at Camelot!

Gobby Your Majesty, do you need any more help? I've always wanted to be a knight in shining armour. Waiting on tables never really floated my boat.

Arthur Well, you seem very bright. What's your name?

Gobby Gobna Gabriella Gladys Gretchen Gloria Gaynor Goodman....but people just call me Gobby.

Mum *(to audience)* Thank goodness for that!

Arthur Then, Gobby, kneel before your king.

(Gobby kneels before Arthur, who touches her on either shoulder with the sword.)

Arthur Arise Gobby, knight of Camelot. And what do you think, Lancelot? Could you too be a knight and my right-hand man?

Lancelot *(kneeling)* I thought you'd never ask.

Arthur *(touching his shoulders with the sword).* Arise Lancelot, knight of Camelot.

(A 'Cheer' cue card is held up, and all cheer!)

Mum Well, isn't this lovely. But we're not at Camelot yet.

Arthur You're right, Mum. We need to leave right away. Are you with me, my bold knights?

Song **Arthur’s Army**

*Track 4 - vocal demo
Track 22 - backing track
Lyrics p28*

(As the song finishes, the two delivery men wheel on the round table, huffing and puffing.)

D/Man #1 *(gasping)* Special delivery for a King Arfa?

D/Man #2 *(gasping)* Where d'you want it?

All NOT NOW! CLEAR OFF!

(The delivery men turn round and wheel the table off, demoralised.)

Arthur To Camelot!

All TO CAMELOT!

*(As the **intro music 4** plays (**track 23**), all exit behind Arthur. The stage is set for the next scene, which begins as the music ends.)*

Scene 4

The Gloomy Wood

(Five trees stand with hands on hips, looking fed up.)

Tree #1 I can't believe it. We're trees again this year!

Tree #2 I know. I had to audition for this part!

Tree #3 Four years of drama lessons, for what?

Tree #4 My parents are here tonight. I didn't have the heart to tell them I'd not got a major acting and singing part. Well, I guess the cat's out of the bag now. *(waving)* Hi Mum! Hi Dad! Yep, I'm a tree!

Tree #5 Well, this is a step up for me! I'm usually doing scenery, so... *(hearing something)*...shhh! Someone's coming. Make like a forest!

(They each adopt tree-like poses. Arthur and the gang enter.)

Mum *(to the audience)* Men! Why can't they just admit when they're lost?

Galahad I'm sure it's this way....isn't it?

Lancelot It's hard to tell. The Gloomy Wood is so dark and, well...gloomy.

Gawain Even though I'm a brave knight, it's making me clench a little bit!

Percival Me too! We really need to be gone from here, but which way do we go?

Gobby Why don't we split up and look for a way out?

Arthur Good idea! Gobby and Mum go that way. Galahad and Gawain, that way. Lancelot and Percival, that way. Meet back here in ten minutes.

(The pairs exit in three different directions. Arthur stands nervously alone in front of the trees.)

Arthur Something's not right. *(to the audience)* I tell you what, if you see anything strange, can you shout out? Now, maybe there's a path over here...

(Arthur starts walking and the trees slowly follow, their branches reaching towards him. Arthur stops and the trees freeze. The audience shouts.)

All Behind you!

Arthur What? Behind me? *(looking behind, but the trees are still)* Are you trying to scare me? Well, stop it. Only shout out if you see anything strange.

(Continue the 'behind you' gag. Repeat as many times as you feel appropriate. Mum then enters.)

Mum Oh, Arthur. I must have gone round in a circle! I say, you look pale! Has something spooked you?

(The trees twitch behind them.)

All Behind you!

Mum Behind us? What's behind us?

(Mum turns to look at the trees. On seeing her face, they throw up their arms/branches!)

Trees *(pointing at her and screaming)* AAAAGH! IT'S HIDEOUS!!!!

(The trees run off, still screaming!)

Mum Charming! *(shouting at the trees)* Don't big-up your part, dear – you're only a tree! *(to audience)* Don't worry. Their bark's worse than their bite!

END OF SCRIPT SAMPLE

Please note, an editable version of the script (MS WORD doc.) is included in the download and CD-ROM formats of this musical. If you buy the book format, the editable version can be emailed to you on request, free-of-charge.