

# SIR GAWAIN and the *GREEN* KNIGHT



**(An English Musical Fable in Two Acts)**

**Book and Lyrics**

**By**

**Sidney Goldberg**

**Music**

**By**

**Paul Wilson**

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**Please Contact:**

**Sidney Goldberg  
20 W Palisade Avenue #3120  
Englewood, NJ 07631  
201 567-6533  
Sidneyg6@gmail.com  
www.SidneyGoldbergWriter.com**

# SIR GAWAIN and the *GREEN* KNIGHT



## Cast

**SIR GAWAIN.....20ish.**

**KING ARTHUR.....60 years old.**

**MERLIN.....70 years old.**

**SIR LANCELOT.....20ish.**

**SIR PERCEVAL.....20ish.**

**LADY (Loretta).....40 years old, Baron's wife,  
Sex maniac, funny. Like  
Mae West.**

**BARON.....45 years old.**

# **GREEN KNIGHT**

## Songs 🎵

The MAGICIAN (King).....	1-1-4
The KING'S FAVORITE (Lancelot, Perceval, Gawain).....	1-1-5
The KING'S FAVORITE (Underscoring).....	1-1-6
The CHALLENGE (Green Knight).....	1-1-9
BELIEVE (King).....	1-2-12
I SEEK SHELTER FROM THE STORM (Gawain).....	1-3-14
IF I HAD MY WAY (Old lady).....	14,15,16
THERE WAS A TIME (Merlin and Lady).....	1-4-20
CARE TO EXPLAIN? (Gawain).....	1-5-22
WHY WAS I BORN? (King).....	I1-1-25
The MAGICIAN (Underscoring).....	I1-1-26
I AM MERLIN (Merlin).....	I1-1 28
THERE WAS A TIME (Underscoring).....	I1-2-29
PIGGYBACK (Lady).....	1-2-31
I'M NOT A PROFESSIONAL (Gawain).....	I1-2-32
This HIDEOUS FACE (Lancelot).....	11-3-34
SHE TOOK ME TO A STABLE (Perceval).....	11-3-36
WHAT CAME BETWEEN US (Gawain).....	11-4-37
KING of CAMELOT (Merlin and King).....	11-4-40
THERE WAS A TIME (Underscoring).....	11-5-42
GREEN GIRDLE (Gawain and Lady).....	11-5-46
WHERE IS CHIVALRY (Gawain).....	11-6 -48
IT IS I WHO MUST PAY THE PRICE (Gawain).....	11-7-50
I TRY, LORD HOW I TRY (Green Knight).....	11-7-51

# **GREEN KNIGHT**

## **Act I**

### **Scene 1**

**Old England.  
New Years Eve.**

**King Arthur's round table. The King  
is speaking to MERLIN who is old and  
has a long white beard.**

#### **KING**

On this New Years Eve I must tell ye how grateful I am to have ye as my benefactor and close friend, Merlin. Ye and thy magical powers have been my salvation.

#### **MERLIN**

As I have told ye King Arthur, it is not of my doing. I am the son of a nun of royal birth, engendered by a demon from whence my magical powers cometh from, of who shall go unnamed. At birth I was given the name Emrys, changed by those Roman bastards who were swayed by my magical power and dubbed me Merlin the Magician much to my dismay. I much prefer my given name, Emrys, but so be it, for what is a lilac but a lilac by any other name? I was the illegitimate son of a monastic Royal Prince of Dyfed. He was a supposed angel, but was really the devil in disguise, who, visited a Royal nun, my mother and left her with child. My enemies claimed my father was really an incubus, an evil spirit that had intercourse with misguided women. He used many women, but all that ever concerned me, was my disillusioned mother. The truth be spoken.

#### **KING**

I know, for ye have told me many times of thy heartfelt story. After my birth, my foster father, Sir Ector, who was called the Fair Bearded by many who knew him well, chose ye to become my tutor as I grew up. To say I have been blessed by thy appointment would be an understatement, Merlin, to ye I will forever be grateful!

#### **MERLIN**

A most fortuitous appointment, I remember it well: It was soon after that I met the mystic and most beautiful Lady of the Lake and I persuaded her to present ye with my magical sword, the Excalibur. I managed to deceive her into doing many other things of which I am not proud of.

**KING**

And no one is more grateful of ye and thy magical sword, Excalibur, for it was ye that arranged that sword-in-the-stone contest by which I became king and am still to this day. Thanks to ye, it has become a fairytale that has been told near and far and I have been accorded accolades that deservedly should have been thine.

**MERLIN**

I only gave what was given to me, Sire, the gift of magic, from whom it comes I dare not say, for if I do I will be punished, not that I haven't punished myself enough, my lord.

**KING**

And I shall never forget how ye created the Knights of the Round Table and the kingdom of Camelot, for which I and all of the British empire are so beholdingly.

**(MERLIN bows and sings 🎭)**

**MERLIN**

**The MAGICIAN**

I am a seer.  
Who knows no fear.  
It is quite clear,  
I may disappear before THY eyes.

I may predict,  
Who will be sick.  
My magic stick,  
Will do the trick, ye'll be surprised.

I am Merlin the magician.  
No twerlin,' curlin' beautician.  
Don't believe in superstition.  
Merely Merlin, Merlin, the magician.

A daredevil.  
On the level,  
Who's disheveled.  
With distraction I hypnotize.

My attraction.  
Through distraction.  
Satisfaction.  
Stupefaction I disguise.

I am Merlin the magician.  
 No twerlin,' curlin' beautician.  
 Don't believe in superstition.  
 Merely Merlin, Merlin, the magician.

**(Rubs head as he predicts.)**

I believe I see and hear Sir Lancelot and Sir Perceval about to enter, my lord. They've come to come to wish ye a happy New Year... Wait, I see Sir Gawain is not far behind.

**(After a beat, LANCELOT and PERCEVAL enter. A moment later GAWAIN appears.)**

**KING**

And what brings my most trusted knights to come before this tired old king who is truly not worthy of thy presence?

**ALL**

TO WISH YE HAPPY NEW YEAR! HAPPY NEW YEAR HAPPY NEW YEAR!

**KING**

I thank ye all for coming to celebrate with me; Sir Lancelot, I am humbled by thy dedication and caring. I offer the same declaration of homage to ye, Sir Perceval, for there is no one more dedicated than the both of ye, for which as ye know I am truly grateful. But most of all, it is with great honor and privilege to make this ubiquitous and most heart felt toast to my nephew, Sir Gawain, who also is as dedicated and whose parents, Lot of Orkney and Anna in Geoffrey of Monmouth who are of my own blood, hath come to be with me to celebrate this most glorious New Years Eve! Lets us all make merry and I toast and wish ye all a happy New Years, especially Sir Gawain.

**(Lancelot and Perceval do not toast.)**

**MERLIN**

Sir Lancelot, Sir Perceval, may I ask why ye do not join in celebrating and wishing the good Sir Gawain, our king's nephew a most happy New Year?

**(LANCELOT, PERCEVAL and GAWAIN sing.)**

**The KING'S FAVORITE**

**(Sings 🎵 operatic.)**

**LANCELOT**

Perhaps I look not with favor on the King's favorite.  
 For I feel the King's favorite is but a counterfeit.  
 Forgive me but I can no longer hide my displeasure.  
 Gawain is nothing more than an immature amateur .

**PERCEVAL**

I, who have given ye, my allegiance, my very best.  
And it doth look like only thy Gawain has passed the test.  
This reaction to my dissatisfaction is over do.  
Doesn't have a thing to do, with my allegiance to you.

**LANCELOT and PERCEVAL**

We feel like a second rated citizen,  
Abiding in thy prison.  
Merely two denizen,  
Who hath arisen.

**GAWAIN**

All this time I thought that we were brothers under the skin.  
I was wrong, brothers under the skin feels like a cave –in.  
How little fools know, looks like I'm the biggest fool of all.  
I applaud thy catcall, most of all I applaud thy gall.

This slap that ye have given me is more than backhanded.  
I deceived myself into believing ye were always candid.  
Ye've aroused my anxiety and have aroused my dander.  
I have lost all respect for ye and trust not THY candor.

**LANCELOT and PERCEVAL**

We feel like a second rated citizen,  
Abiding in thy prison.  
Merely two denizen,  
Who hath arisen.

**PERCEVAL**

I have always felt ye give favor to Gawain my lord? Am I not meritorious as well?

**LANCELOT**

For ye trust Gawain and have omitted thy rewards which ye hath given him and not I.

**PERCEVAL and LANCELOT**

And we both feel neglected, sire.

**(WE hear "The King's Favorite" Underscoring as the Green Knight enters perhaps riding a horse, dismounts and bangs his huge axe on the round table.)**

**GREEN KNIGHT**

Ho ho hum and a bottle of rum, I smell the blood of an *Englishman*. Where is this great leader of this motley lot? I'd be pleased if he came forward and shook my hand and traded a few words with this humble servant, and where are those in hiding that boast of pride and valor and victory? Show me thy face! I demand ye come before me!

**ARTHUR**

Well, kind sir that is quite a dispirited oration. Ye are more than welcome to sit with my brave knights, and whatever be thy wish I am most certain I will learn of it shortly.

**GREEN KNIGHT**

I am asking for no trouble my Lord. Beside there is no one here except these boys of ye who are no match for me. Allow me my good King Arthur to wish ye and all of thy brave knights a most glorious New Year, especially thy supposed fearless nephew!

**(Laughs.)**

Ye don't look that fearless to me, Sir Gawain. But if any of ye twerps have the heart and daring to strike one blow for another, let him come forth and I shall give him the gift of this battle worn battle axe and be it I am of bare neck allow him to strike the first blow.

**LANCELOT**

And whom may I ask are ye, dressed in green attire to have the audacity to barge in uninvited to King Arthur's Knights of the Roundtable? How darest thou ye rogue?

**PERCEVAL**

I SAY WE DO AWAY WITH THIS SCUM OF THE EARTH!

**MERLIN**

**(Whispers.)**

Do not react to him, for he is the devil incarnate and will bring ye no good.

**GREEN KNIGHT**

For thy edification kind sirs, I am the Green Knight, the bravest and most fearless knight in all of Camelot! To come here was not my plan at all, but *HIS* as I have been ordered by the Almighty, who reigns in the high heaven to come before ye because thy name, thy castle and knights who are called the bravest in all the Lord's Kingdom; I come to

**(Looks at Lancelot and Perceval.)**

ask anyone of ye to join me in sport, a game I pray ye will find most intriguing. And just what do ye two twerps have to say for thyself? Speak up speak up!

**LANCELOT**

Did he just call me a twerp? I guess that's better than being called chopped goose liver?

**(ALL laugh.)**



**GREEN KNIGHT**

**(Bangs axe.)**

That, ye may become in due time with the humble assistance of this mighty axe.

**PERCEVAL**

With his green attire he looks more like a fruit salad.

**LANCELOT**

A rotten fruit salad, if I may add?

**(ALL laugh.)**

**GREEN KNIGHT (Cont'd)**

Laugh as ye may, but who is brave enough to accept who ye call me thy rotten fruit salad's challenge? Stand before me and show me thy unworthy scowl! Are ye, King Arthur brave enough? Or are any of thy knighted representatives brave enough to play a mere game, a child's game...? Come, who is as fearless as the Green Knight to play a game with him...? If anyone thinks he is so brave as to trade strokes with the mighty Green Knight, I will give him this axe as a gift to use as he sees fit, and I will take the first blow on this naked neck and merely smile in return, on condition that the challenger vow to the Almighty to find me in exactly one year and a day, no matter where I shall be,

**(Laughs.)**

to receive the blow that I shall befall and return with favor on his scrawny neck. I'm waiting, I am waiting. So, who shall play this game with me? How many times must I repeat myself? Speak up speak up, ye namby pamby twerps, speak up!

**(There is a pause as KING ARTHUR who is annoyed, hesitates.)**

**GREEN KNIGHT (Cont'd)**

And so the great, fearless King Arthur appears as I thought to be nothing more than a timid mouse. What say there timid mouse, how goes it? Would the timid mouse like a piece of cheese?

**(The KING is stunned and so are the knights.)**

**GREEN KNIGHT (Cont'd)**

What is the reason for thy silence, my liege; could it be thou hath no desire or gumption to accept my challenge? I pity all of ye for having such a weakling for a king or should

**(Laughs.)**

I say queen? LONG LIVE THE QUEEN LONG LIVE THE QUEEN!

**(Outraged, the KING goes to grab the GREEN KNIGHT'S axe. )**

**GAWAIN**

Surely my sire, it does not seem fit to undertake this challenge when there are so many brave knights sworn to thy allegiance. By birth I am thy nephew, for THY blood runneth through my veins. Though it appears I am the weakest and feeblest of wit, let my life be offered and allow my body to save thine, for I believe that be my bidding for I am

**(Bows.)**

but thy humble servant, my lord.

**ALL**

HUMBLE SERVANT! AYE, AYE, AYE! HUMBLE SERVANT! AYE, AYE, AYE!

**(GAWAIN KNEELS BEFORE THE KING and takes the axe as the KING blesses HIM.)**

**ARTHUR**

Take heed my beloved nephew. Make certain when ye wield his bedeviled axe, ye will strike him a justly blow and I pray eliminate the one he has planned for ye.

**ALL**

HUMBLE SERVANT! AYE, AYE, AYE! HUMBLE SERVANT! AYE, AYE, AYE!

**GREEN KNIGHT**

**(To Gawain.)**

Before we play the game, may I ask why ye wish to sacrifice thy life, ye humble twerp?

**GAWAIN**

Because, I am indebted to my King Arthur: Now I will swing THY axe and in 12 months and a day, I swear before the Almighty I will allow ye to do the same to me. Now tell me thy name and where ye shall be before I bid thee *adieu, auf veider zein*, ta ta.

**GREEN KNIGHT**

My name is not necessary but in time ye will find it out as ye will find out where I shall be. Just remember the Green Chapel shall be thy destiny when ye cometh to thy bitter end. As ye have vowed to the Almighty, ye must go to the Green Chapel to receive the blow which I hath promised. This mighty blow will be forth coming on New Year's morn. I am known as the Green Knight of the Green Chapel, and if ye ask ye will

**(Laughs.)**

surely find me, ye who stands in for the THY cowardly king, or should I say queen? I much prefer to play a game with the King Arthur instead of his twerps.

**GAWAIN**

Ye, who call thyself the Green Knight, I demand ye leave my benevolent King Arthur out of it! I accept thy challenge ye knave of the misbegotten! NOW TAKE THIS!!!

**(In an instant, GAWAIN leaps up and grabs the axe. GAWAIN swings the axe and cuts the GREEN KNIGHT'S head off. To the amazement of the court, the now headless GREEN KNIGHT picks up His severed head, puts it in place and sings, as he mounts his horse as the Underscoring ends)**

**GREEN KNIGHT**

**(Sings ♫ Operatic.)**

**The CHALLENGE**

Be it ye have accepted my challenge,  
Mister Gawain.  
Disdain Birdbrain.  
Ye make light that I shall have my revenge,  
Ye must seek me in a year and a day.  
As I have said.  
Ye will be dead!  
Once ye're on the road ye will find THY way.

I am the lord of my manor.  
And it is I who will decide.  
Yes I will fly my banner.  
The day, ye commit suicide.

Now laugh and call me the headless horseman.  
Alas ennui.  
Yes we shall see.  
Ye who called me fruit salad say Amen.

Thy future as I see is dark and bleak.  
Mine is so bright.  
To ye good night!  
Remember it is I that ye must seek.

I am the lord of my manor.  
And it is I who will decide.  
Yes I will fly my banner.  
The day, ye commit suicide.

**(ALL stare as the GREEN KNIGHT jumps on his horse and rides away.)**

**PERCEVAL**

I saw the headless Green Knight rise to his feet and lift his fallen head as if that were an everyday occurrence. How can that be how can that be?

**LANCELOT**

He set his head in place and his eyes flesh and lips moved again as if that were an everyday occurrence. How can that be how can that be?

**PERCEVAL**

What is this dark, black magic? How can that be how can that be?

**MERLIN**

It is the black magic of the Devil, Satan, Lucifer. When ye cry he laughs and when ye laugh he cries. That is how The Devil says it must be.

**LANCELOT**

I do not know my lord. I saw the head fall to earth myself and his eyes were weird and ghostly as if that were an everyday occurrence. How can that be how can that be?

**MERLIN**

His eyes are the eyes of... And according to the Devil, that is how it must be.

**(There is thunder as lights flicker and curtain falls.)**

**End of Scene 1**

# **GREEN** KNIGHT

## ACT I

### Scene 2

**Time passes, it is autumn.  
Day of ALL Saints.**

**Putting on armor GAWAIN speaks to  
KING ARTHUR, MERLIN and  
LANCELOT and PERCEVAL. There are  
card board figures of various knights in  
various poses, walking, sitting, etc. around  
the round table.**

#### GAWAIN

I must leave *the* my good King Arthur and ye Merlin, Sir Lancelot, Sir Perceval, Sir Iwain, Sir Doodenale, Sir Erik and the rest of my brave fellow knights, for, it is time I fulfill my obligation to that bedeviled, Satanic Green Knight. I pray that Jesus will protect me.

#### KING

When and where shall ye go, Sir Gawain?

#### GAWAIN

I shall head to North Wales on the morrow. I know I must stay to the right of the Isle of Anglesy, wade over Holghead and come ashore to the forest of Wirral and hopefully come to the Green Chapel.

#### LANCELOT

Let him go. Thy nephew volunteered to play the game with the Green Knight, did he not?

#### PERCEVAL

He cut head off did he not? He promised to return in a year and a day, did he not?

#### LANCELOT

What's fair is fair! Did he not did he not?

#### PERCEVAL

Let him go! Did he not did he not?

**PERCEVAL and LANCELOT**

DID HE NOT DID HE NOT?

**MERLIN**

**(Rubs head as if seeing into the future.)**

I see that thy journey will be long and treacherous, for there are all sorts of beasts, dragons, mad wolves, bears and at times savage boars and evil giants, and unfortunately, hunger and cold that await ye will be thy sole companion Sir Gawain. Make certain thy trusted horse Gringolet takes ye away from all that terror that waits ye.

**LANCELOT**

**(Almost laughs.)**

Too bad, ye know what I mean, too bad. I'm sure ye know what the head said rolling down the hill, which I am certain, once ye come before the Green Knight will become thy mantra, Sir Gawain.

**PERCEVAL and LANCELOT**

**(Laughs.)**

I ain't got no body.

**(Underscoring ends.)**

**KING**

**(Sings ♪)**

Ye may laugh, but come Christmas day...

**BELIEVE**

I pray that ye will find a place to say mass,  
Gather solace, thy troubles will surely pass.  
Believe in Jesus Christ and ye will succeed.  
For the Lord will always give ye what ye need.

Believe and give all ye have.  
Let His spirit be thy salve.  
Then, comfort the lonely child.  
And feed what is called the wild.

**MERLIN**

Trouble may befall ye still ye must believe.  
Laughter may be missing but ye must conceive.  
And in time the sun will surly shine again.  
Remember the King and Merlin are thy friend.

Believe and give all ye have.  
Let His spirit be thy salve.  
Then, comfort the lonely child.  
And feed what is called the wild.

**GAWAIN**

Have no fear for I do not fear the Green Knight.  
I believe what's meant to be will be alright.  
I believe my destiny is meant to be.  
Far as I'm concerned the blind will one day see.

**GAWAIN**

Believe and give all ye have.  
Let His spirit be thy salve.  
Then, comfort the lonely child.  
And feed what is called the wild.

**ALL**

Believe and give all ye have.  
Let His spirit be thy salve.  
Then, comfort the lonely child.  
And feed what is called the wild.

**GAWAIN**

I beseech thee my dear Lord Jesus Christ, Saint Julian that I may soon hear and say mass  
in thy holiest of places, Thy church, Amen. I must take leave for my appointment with  
fate awaits me, my Lord. Pray for my well being.

**End of Scene 2**

# **GREEN** KNIGHT

## ACT I

### Scene 3

**A castle.**

**GAWAIN knocks on the door and the  
BARON of the castle welcomes HIM.)**

**BARON**

Welcome kind sir, what bring ye to my castle on such an inhospitable evening?

**GAWAIN**

(Sings 🎵)

### **I SEEK SHELTER FROM THE STORM**

I seek shelter from the storm.  
And remove my uniform  
A place to rest my head.  
Food to fill my pouch.  
A nice and cozy bed.  
A comfortable couch.  
A fire that is warm.  
I seek shelter from the storm.

I seek shelter from the storm.  
And remove my uniform  
Yea these feet need to rest.  
My eyes they long to close.  
This heart that ye may test.  
Questions that ye may pose.  
A fire that is warm.  
I seek shelter from the storm.

Alas humility.  
I seek tranquility.  
I hail civility.  
I praise nobility.



I seek shelter from the storm.  
And remove my uniform  
The night is oh so dark.  
The sun will surely shine.  
Like Noah and his ark,  
We too must drink sweet wine.  
A fire that is warm.  
I seek shelter from the storm.

Alas humility.  
I seek tranquility.  
I hail civility.  
I praise nobility.  
May I please come in my lord?

**BARON**

Yes ye may enter my humble abode and what may be thy name, kind sir?

**GAWAIN**

Thank ye and my name is Sir Gawain, sir.

**BARON**

Ah, I believe I've heard of a Sir Gawain. Ye must be that most trusted knight of King Arthur's Knights of the Round Table that I've heard some much about? Yes, please come in.

**(GAWAIN enters and is amazed by its affluence.)**

**GAWAIN**

My lord Baron, I am most impressed with this most impressive display of wealth which is fit for a king. Thy silks of Toulouse, thy fine carpets and Turkistan wall coverings are the finest I have ever seen.

**BARON**

Thank ye for thy keen observations, Sir Gawain, and now feast thine eyes on my two most treasured possessions, Lady Loretta who I feel is equally as beautiful King Arthur's magnificent, lady Guinevere and...

**GAWAIN**

The honor shall be all mine and I will tell the good king of thy benevolence.

**BARON**

Ladies, if ye please...?

**(The BARON'S LADY and an old woman step forth.)**

**BARON (Cont'd)**

Ladies, allow me to introduce this handsome young man, Sir Gawain, of King Arthur's Knights of the Round Table, who at my pleasure will be spending a few days with us, is that not right, Sir Gawain?

**GAWAIN**

Well, I don't know if I should stay for a few days...

**LADY**

...But the weather has been so horrible and where will ye go? Please stay.

**GAWAIN**

I really don't want to impose...

**OLD LADY**

**(Sings ♪)**

**IF I HAD MY WAY**

Let him go.  
Who invited him, anyhow?  
All I know,  
He isn't holier-than-thou.

And his hair,  
Why it's even longer than mine.  
I don't care,  
Go ahead and give him some wine.

What the heck.  
He's probably hungry and cold.  
No respect.  
Think he cares that I'm old.

If I had my way.  
Hair wouldn't be gray.  
And he wouldn't stay.  
What else can I say?

**BARON**

I invited him, so please be have some decorum, madam

**LADY**

And since he's lord of this castle which is His...

**OLD LADY**

And ye can tell this intruder it is thy castle too. Ye are married to the Baron, aren't

(Sings 🎵)

ye, ye? Money grubbing wench!

**IF I HAD MY WAY**

So speak up!

Do ye want him to steal THY clothes?

That's enough.

And I'm opposed to his big nose.

Makes no sense.

How can ye invite a stranger?

Are ye dense?

To me this stranger means danger.

Disaster,

I see nothing but doom and gloom.

Whore master.

Just don't let him come near my room

If I had my way.

Hair wouldn't be gray.

And he wouldn't stay.

What else can I say?

**LADY**

Oh please stay, Sir Gawain. We rarely have any overnight guests, won't ye please stay...

**BARON**

I say, Sir Gawain, I shall propose a deal which will become quite advantageous to ye, and the only way ye may receive my generosity is if ye stay to receive it.

**GAWAIN**

And what deal might be so advantageous that will make me stay for more than a fourth night, my lord? Do tell.

**BARON**

I will go out hunting with my men as I usually do everyday, and when I return in the evening, I will exchanged part of my prize booty for anything ye manage to acquire by staying behind in my castle. But remember the trade depends on what ye acquire.

S. Goldberg

Sir GAWAIN

1-1-19

...Well...

**GAWAIN**

**LADY**

Please, pretty please.

**OLD LADY**

(Sings 🎵)

**IF I HAD MY WAY**

So speak up!  
Do ye want him to steal THY clothes?  
That's enough.  
And I'm opposed to his big nose.

Makes no sense.  
How can ye invite a stranger?  
Are ye dense?  
To me a stranger means danger.

Disaster,  
I see nothing but doom and gloom.  
Whore master.  
Just don't let him come near my room

If I had my way.  
Hair wouldn't be gray.  
And he wouldn't stay.  
What else can I say?

**GAWAIN**

I will be honored to stay at such a beautiful and luxurious castle, my lord and I humbly accept thy most generous proposal. The pleasure will be all mine to stay with thy most beautiful wife, sir, the pleasure will most definitely be all mine.

**LADY**

(Flirtatious.)

It most certainly will, I promise, it most certainly will.

**End of Scene 3**

# **GREEN** KNIGHT

## ACT I

### Scene 4

**The following day.**

**GAWAIN is sleeping. MERLIN stands over GAWAIN and speaks to Him.**

**MERLIN**

Soon, I shall see if, gold, jewels and lust be more important than the Glory of G-d and the Holy Grail. Beware of temptation Gawain, it has been the downfall of many a man. I know I could not resist and have fallen many times much to my dismay.

**(After a beat the BARON'S wife sneaks into his chambers and wants to seduce GAWAIN and is surprised to find MERLIN there.)**

**LADY**

MERLIN, ye old rascal, what are ye doing here?

**MERLIN**

I came to look after Sir Gawain.

**LADY**

**(Sexy.)**

Ye are not the only one

**MERLIN**

I know what ye want to do with Sir Gawain and that is why I came to forewarn him.

**LADY**

And tell me what is it that ye came to forewarn Sir Gawain?

**MERLIN**

Must I be so *gosh?* thy sexuality was the reason I... I thought ye were wearing the...?

**(HE holds and looks into HER face as HE Sings 🎵)**

**THERE WAS A TIME**

**MERLIN**

There was I time I thought that ye were my beloved.  
But Satan told me that ye I must not covet.  
I couldn't sleep I felt that ye were meant for me.  
Wasn't meant to be, were not part of my destiny.

I once gave ye my heart.  
My soul belonged to him.  
Magic became my art.  
Like him I live in sin.

**LADY**

Was a time that thy smile, was all that I lived for.  
I was thy slave and ye were my own matador.  
Before we made love I felt I was a no body.  
And when ye left my heart broke and I felt shoddy

Why did ye have to go?  
What did I do to ye?  
I guess I'll never know.  
What I'm supposed to do.

**MERLIN**

I still bemoan that ye did not become my wife.  
Yes that is why I gave that gift to save thy life.  
And since that day I have turned away from thy love.  
I rue the day that I called ye my turtledove.

I once gave ye my heart.  
My soul belonged to him.  
Magic became my art.  
Like him I live in sin.

**LADY**

Ye pulled a rabbit out of the air, I would sing.  
I'd make a wish, and ye would give me everything.  
Ye squeezed two grapes and then I smiled, as we drank champagne.  
Because I liked the sun, ye didn't let it rain.

Why did ye have to go?  
What did I do to ye?  
I guess I'll never know.  
What I'm supposed to do.

**(MERLIN embraces the LADY.)**

**MERLIN**

Ye will always have a special place in my heart, and I shall never forget ye, Loretta.

**LADY**

How could ye, because I got what it takes, remember? Now get out of here, I have some unfinished business I have to attend to!

**(The lights flicker, we hear thunder and MERLIN is gone. GAWAIN sees the LADY and slinks under the cover and feigns sleeping)**

**LADY (cont'd)**

**(Whispers, then pushes Gawain.)**

I thought that old goat would never leave. Gawain, Gawain, wake up ye sleepy head, wake up!

**GAWAIN**

Oh, I thought I was dreaming, it's, it's ye.

**LADY**

**(Coy.)**

I hope ye were dreaming about making love to me?

**GAWAIN**

No, that is more than I could ever hope to attain and is most flattering, but forgive me, I am not the man ye have in mind, my lady.

**LADY**

**(Tries to kiss him but he turns away.)**

Why not, I was dreaming about making love to ye, handsome.

**GAWAIN**

Please don't do that.

**LADY**

Why not, big boy? How can someone so handsome, so courteous and daring, so respected in every house of the lords, be so opposed to the act of making love with yours truly?

**GAWAIN**

Because of my covenant with my Lord Jesus Christ, I am sworn to celibacy until I wed.

**(SHE gyrates sexily and shakes her breasts. GAWAIN, about to give in to temptation, goes to fondle her breast but catches himself.)**

**GAWAIN (cont'd)**

Lead me not unto temptation dear Lord and I pray ye deliver me from my sexual impulses.

**LADY**

I'll deliver ye from thy impulses, mister... Well have it thy way handsome, but I'll be

**(Sort of sings to 'Whatever Lolo Wants.)**

back, because "*Whatever Loretta want, Loretta gets,*" I always get what I want and I

**(SHE kisses GAWAIN and readies to leave.)**

want ye, do I want ye.

**End of Scene 4**



# **GREEN** KNIGHT

## ACT I

### Scene 5

**The following evening.  
Living room.**

**GAWAIN is walking and admiring  
furnishings as the BARON enters.  
THEY sing 🎵 operatic aria.**

### CARE TO EXPLAIN?

#### BARON

Ah Sir Gawain,  
Care to explain?  
I hope thy day was as inviting and exciting as mine.

#### GAWAIN

On this cold December,  
It is more than I care to remember.  
For I pray it was not equal to thine.

#### BARON

Splendid, and would ye like to share thy excitement?  
As a non resident, I pray ye not misrepresent.  
Now do tell, for I surely wish ye well.

#### GAWAIN

I prefer not to my lord,  
For ye will be bored,  
Out of thy gourd.  
Lest it will befell.

#### BARON

So be it Sir Gawain.  
Would ye like me to explain,  
My most bountiful day?

#### GAWAIN

I am most eager my lord.  
Please lead the way,  
I pray, do say.

**BARON**

My men came upon a herd of the most splendid deer.  
And with bow and arrow it became quite clear.  
Soon most deer will disappear.  
It is preordained.

**GAWAIN**

And how many deer did ye slay?  
May I ask, and please do say.  
Be it preordained,  
I will surely be pained.

**BARON**

The record was six, need ye ask?  
But I slew eight and that was some task.  
My hands and arrows were so bloodstained  
Be it my strength is never restrained

**(BARON gives venison to GAWAIN.)**

And as promised my good Sir Gawain, I hunted a herd of succulent does and here is the most delicious venison ye will ever eat. And what may I ask have ye to give me in return?

**(GAWAIN steps forth and kisses the BARON smack on the lips much to the BARON'S astonishment he steps back as his legs buckle.)**

**End of Act 1**

# **GREEN** KNIGHT

## ACT II

### Scene 1

**The next day.**

**The lights are dim. A spot lights the  
the KING, who remorsefully lifts HIS  
Head, and rises and sings 🎵.**

### WHY WAS I BORN?

Why was I born?  
I'm so forlorn.  
I pray that ye,  
Protect my nephew, Sir Gawain.

He saved my life,  
Now filled with strife.  
Tormented sole,  
Who feels old and cold, racked with pain.

He is Merlin the magician.  
Who hath achieved recognition.  
Jesus I beg absolution.  
G-d, please free my constitution.  
And grant me thy resolution.

I try to run away.  
Afraid to ever say,  
The truth be my secret.  
How I tried too forget.  
What I call my secret.

My Guinevere  
Who is sincere,  
She loves me so,  
But she'll never know what's inside.

Time and again.  
Merlin my friend.  
He understands  
I am but a man filled with pride.

He is Merlin the magician.  
Who has achieved recognition.  
Jesus I beg absolution.  
G-d, please free my constitution.  
And grant me thy resolution.

I try to run away.  
Afraid to ever say,  
The truth be my secret.  
How I tried too forget.  
What I call my secret.

**KING**

Merlin, I was hoping ye would come.

**MERLIN**

**(Smiles.)**

I know, that's why I came  
**(WE hear "The Magician" Underscore.)**

**KING**

Thy presence is much appreciated.

**MERLIN**

I know, that's why I came and I also know how concerned ye are for Sir Gawain. To say thy fear is unfounded is not quite unfounded. Thy nephew is also quite concerned for his safety and that too is not unfounded. Pardon the unfounded pun my Lord.

**KING**

**(Smiles.)**

I know, this is no time to make jest, but this sadness is too debilitating. It's haunting my every moment... I'm sure you know I have not slept since that dreaded moment.

**MERLIN**

**(Smiles.)**

I know, that's why I came.

**KING**

I've had this recurring dream about my Lady Igraine.

**MERLIN****(Smiles.)**

I know, that's why I came. Allow me to help ye recall thy pragmatic history which regretfully I have been part and parcel to... Ye see, when I became acquainted with whom ye call the Devil, I found myself doing things which I regret to this day and which Satan still applauds with such enthusiasm. One of the first dastardly acts I was made to perform was to disguise thy father and help him seduce the Duke of Cornwall's young and beautiful wife, Thy mother, Lady Igraine... Morgan le Fay, thy half sister, for some reason became thy adversary. In a moment of weakness I gave her the Excalibur, which she gave to her lover, Accolon to slay ye. When that failed, he was quite inept in his attempt as ye may recall and out of disgust, she laughed at me as she threw my magical Excalibur in the deepest part of the lake. Morgan le Fay, thy half sister was the first of nine sisters who rules the Isle of Apples and she was thought of as a healer. It is to this island that Morgan tried to seduce ye, thy own sister and be it ye had a proclivity for promiscuity like her, gave into her wanton lust of which ye have never forgiven thyself... Perhaps that is why she got Accolon to try and slay ye?

**KING**

She was the Devil, and thanks to Satan I have never forgiven myself!

**MERLIN**

I know him well... In my youth, sex was also my driving force, it ruled my life and I used to sleep with, four, five, six woman in a day and still want more. I once slept with the magnificent Lady of the Lake. I used and abused her as I did all the beautiful women I entrapped. I was so tormented by my lustful demeanor that when I looked in the mirror, I hated what I saw and wanted to kill myself more times than I care to remember. I turned to the Church; I asked G-d and Jesus for guidance and forgiveness... No answer. I fornicated even more. I even slept with many nuns, using my gift of gab to persuade them. Again I asked Jesus for help. Again no answer. Hopeless and desperate I turned to the Devil who laughed when I asked for his help. The Devil said *"I will gladly help ye. I will give ye magical powers that will astound the world. I will make thy proclivity toward sexual favors disappear, by giving ye a green girdle that I must always wear. This green girdle will not only make ye celibate, but it will protect ye and who ever wears it from any harm. All I had ye have do is forsake my G-d, Jesus Christ and the holy church, and worship and pay homage to my dark, mysterious and evil underworld that ye call HELL."* Tormented, with no one else to turn to, I became a Devil worshipper until I met the Baron's wife, who Sir Gawain just met and who tried to seduce him.

**KING**

HE DIDN'T!!

**(Underscoring ends.)**

**MERLIN**

No, he believes too much in the Father, the Son and the Holy Ghost. The Baron's wife, Loretta was as tormented as I and I felt sorry for her... She was sleeping with every Tom Dick and Winston and like me never had enough. She broke my heart when she tried to kill herself before my eyes. Trying to save her, I disregarded my vow to Satan and I took off the green girdle and gave it to her. I told her as long as she wore it, her lust for men would abate and no harm would come to her. Unfortunately she must have stopped wearing it. I asked and begged forgiveness and Jesus welcomed me with open arms.

(Sings 🎵)

**I AM MERLIN**

I doth achieve,  
Fame and fortune with my magic.  
Yet I believe,  
I must call black magic tragic.

Pulled a rabbit,  
And a boy laughed, out of his ear.  
It's a habbit,  
I clap my hands and disappear.

I am Merlin the magician.  
Who has achieved recognition.  
Jesus I beg absolution.  
Please fill me with resolution.

To ye my Lord,  
I must admit my chagrin.  
Went overboard,  
I'm a sinner that couldn't swim.

The moon will smile.  
I must make all the children laugh.  
I'm versatile.  
Now do you want my autograph?

I am Merlin the magician.  
Who has achieved recognition.  
Jesus I beg absolution.  
Please fill me with resolution.

**End of Scene 1**

# **GREEN** KNIGHT

## ACT II

### Scene 2

**Two mornings later.**

**GAWAIN is asleep. Once again MERLIN is looking at him, waving his hands and saying, "abra cadabra, I pray he not become a cadaver." The LADY sneaks in carrying a rope, and once again is amazed to find MERLIN there. WE hear "There Was A Time" Underscoring.**

**LADY**

I see we meet again.

**MERLIN**

Ye are late.

**LADY**

Ye would think that rich and helpless sonofabitch husband of mine, the Baron would learn after all these years that he's just not my type. Ye would think after six years that he would get the message. This morning, while I was fast asleep, that sonofabitch climbed on top of me and started screaming, "*Ride, I want to ride ye!*" the fool keeps on trying, but once again, thy present, which had served me well, put an end to his unwanted shenanigans.

**MERLIN**

Ye mean...

**LADY and MERLIN**

...THE GREEN GIRDLE!

**LADY**

Tell ye the truth, he didn't have what ye had and he never turned me on like ye. The only reason I married him was for his money. So, what do ye say handsome, wanna take a ride for ols times sake?

**MERLIN**

I had to leave ye because of the... I'm afraid our riding together must remain a pleasant memory, and what happened to the green girdle?

**LADY**

Forget about the green girdle, will ye please, I'm in the mood for a little action.

**MERLIN**

If ye insist.

**(Underscoring ends. As before, MERLIN snaps his fingers, there is thunder and lightning and HE disappears. The LADY stares and drools for SHE obviously wants GAWAIN. Unable to control her urge, SHE starts to feel him up, which awakens Him and he sighs as he rubs his eyes.)**

**LADY**

Good morning my love. The sun is at its apex. How can ye sleep on such a glorious morn?

**GAWAIN**

**(Rubs eyes.)**

What...?

**LADY**

Good morning sleepy head. It appears ye are a careless sleeper, how lucky can a dame get?

**GAWAIN**

**(Sleepy.)**

What...?

**LADY**

Ye left thy door unlocked and if I wanted, I could bind ye and keep ye as my love slave. In fact that's a hell of an idea, I like it.

**GAWAIN**

Did ye say love slave? And good morning fair lady, and please grant me this grace and allow thy love slave to rise and wash his face.

**LADY**

**(SHE takes rope and ties Gawain up.)**

Nay fair sir, ye shall not riseth up, for I will ride ye and ye will ride me until I will not want to be ridden any longer. For I know that the world worships and adores all ye have ridden, is that not so? And I need to be ridden until my blood curls and I scream. Are ye ready for some action cowboy? Are ye ready to make me scream?

**GAWAIN**

Pray dear lady but I am not that good in the saddle. If I were truly blessed, it would give me great pleasure to ride ye my fair lady, because ye are most desirable.



**LADY**

**(Gently kisses Gawain.)**

Do ye really think I'm so ravishing, well do ye?

**GAWAIN**

Aye, thank ye, for thy lips are so tender, but because of my covenant with Jesus concerning my celibacy until I marry, I'm afraid I have not done the kind of riding ye are

**(Aside.)**

in need of. Should I accept her warmth or should I refuse and offend and betray the benevolent Baron who hath given me shelter from the storm?

**(Lady gyrates and Sings ♪)**

**PIGGYBACK**

Ride, I want to be ridden 'til I bleed.  
Making love is all I need.  
I want to close my eyes and scream.  
I'm a woman that's got a dream.

Love, that's the only thing that I think of.  
Feel his hand like a silk glove.  
I want to feel his chest on mine.  
And I want to do it all the time.

When I take an aphrodisiac  
Then I like to do it piggyback.  
Ye are a hypochondriac  
Just don't call me a sex maniac.

Purr, Hey I've never been an introvert.  
Got to have it for desert.  
Want a man with morality  
That has originality.

When I take an aphrodisiac  
Then I like to do it piggyback.  
Ye are a hypochondriac  
Just don't call me a sex maniac.

**GAWAIN**

Are ye through?

**LADY**

Did ye like it, sexy?

S. Goldberg

Sir GAWAIN

1-1-33

**GAWAIN**

Would ye please untie me?

**LADY**

On one condition, ye can't tell that old fuddy duddy.

**GAWAIN**

Ye mean the old lady? What about thy husband?

**LADY**

What do ye think ye are the first midnight rider? I had a million of them.

**GAWAIN**

I won't tell either of them if ye untie me.

**LADY**

**(Removes ropes.)**

All right, ye weren't any fun anyway. But I shall return.

**(Rubs wrists and arms.)**

**GAWAIN**

I know, because ye always get what ye want.

**LADY**

How'd ye guess?

**GAWAIN**

A little birdie told me. And now I shall depart.

**LADY**

**(Kisses Gawain passionately twice, as Underscoring ends.)**

Not before ye...

**GAWAIN**

That was the most passionate kiss I've ever gotten.

**LADY**

That was two kisses, Sir Galahad.

**GAWAIN**

**(Sings 🎵)**

It's Sir Gawain and yes those were two kisses I shall never forget.

**I'M NOT A PROFESSIONAL**

If only I could, guess I would.  
For surely ye enchant.  
Thy kisses sure felt good.  
If only I could but I can't.

Ye have a beautiful breast.  
Thy breast I shall never wrest.  
I need a confessional..  
I'm not a professional.

I'm not the type to meander.  
Ye aroused my dander.  
Yes ye certainly take the cake.  
And I understand thy heartache.

Ye have a beautiful breast.  
Thy breast I shall never wrest.  
I need a confessional..  
I'm not a professional.

And ye seem to be overripe.  
No I'm just not thy type.  
Ye are looking for that big thrill.  
It seems I don't fit the bill.

Ye have a beautiful breast.  
Thy breast I shall never wrest.  
I need a confessional.  
I'm not a professional.

**LADY**

I'm sure we'll meet again, but before we part, here is a most treasured ring with a magnificent ruby as a token of my affection, handsome.

**GAWAIN**

I cannot take anything, for I have nothing to give in return.

**LADY**

**(The LADY kisses GAWAIN twice passionately.**  
Well, if that's the case, take this!

**(Lights.)**

**End of Scene 2**

# **GREEN** KNIGHT

## ACT II

### Scene 3

**Two days later.**

**LANCELOT is pacing and talking  
to himself.**

#### LANCELOT

How can I feel sorry for a man that grew up as the son of a Roman Emperor? He grew up as a member of the Roman aristocracy, and received an education of Roman nobility, and he had everything, including his good looks, while I feel lonely and look like this... **((Sings 🎵))**

#### **This HIDEOUS FACE**

My childhood was spent in seclusion.  
My ugliness was not an illusion  
I never played with any children.  
Three years in a room became my playpen.

I prayed that I'd become a knight,  
I had to escape this hideous face.  
Herculean tasks and I'd be polite.  
I would pray to G-d, and live by His grace.

Thought I was an evil person.  
Running away from I immersed in.  
Lived with a fiery old man.  
In a single room did the best I can.

I prayed that I'd become a knight,  
I had to escape this hideous face.  
Herculean tasks and I'd be polite.  
I would pray to G-d, and live by His grace.

A knight's not measured by looks alone.  
The round table will be my home.  
The best knight everyone will see.  
They will not see that I'm ugly.

I prayed that I'd become a knight,  
 I had to escape this hideous face.  
 Herculean tasks and I'd be polite.  
 I would pray to G-d, and live by His grace.

**(Looks up.)**

Dear Lord Jesus Christ, why was I born so ugly that no woman will kiss or become my wife? While ye made Sir Gawain so handsome and he has found true love, while I know not what it is to be loved? Through purity and excellence, be it I pray I am pure of heart, ye are my salvation, allow me to perform a miracle to help the needy and misfortunate...

**(After a beat, PERCEVAL enters.)**

**PERCEVAL**

So there ye are. I've been looking all over for ye, Sir Lancelot. How goes it?

**LANCELOT**

I dare say, once again I am hopelessly forlorn, Sir Perceval.

**PERCEVAL**

Care to share what is troubling ye my friend?

**LANCELOT**

With this face of mine, I find I dislike myself more than ever and I wish nothing more than Sir Gawain have the misfortune of having a face like mine.

**PERCEVAL**

Hey, if I remember correctly, ye have never liked thyself and that's because ye think ye

**(Laughs.)**

are ugly, right...?

**(LANCELOT does not respond.)**

**PERCEVAL (Cont'd)**

Well, let me tell ye, looks are not everything. Ye have told me ye wanted to become the best knight and ye sure have, and as far as thy impoverished upbringing, let me tell ye, I was Percival de Gales, the fourth son of King Pellinore, his son by my gracious mother, the Queen of the Isles. My father was murdered by the Orkney clan, and let me tell ye, going from rags to riches isn't easy. That doesn't sound right, does it? As ye, I never knew the schooling in warfare, that my both brothers enjoyed, nor my magnificent father, and came despise my brothers with a passion. My mother, the former Queen of the Isles spent hours schooling my sister Amide and I in the virtues of Christianity. Rather than growing up in a regal court, I grew up in a rural, impoverished lifestyle. Did I say from rags to riches?

**((Sings 🎵))**

That's a twist.

**SHE TOOK ME TO A STABLE**

The only contact I had with the outside world,  
Was a deaf mute, who brought us clothes and provisions.  
While I thought my existence, be the netherworld.  
For Amide and I, mother made all decisions.

Years passed when I spied a knight walking through a glade.  
I told my mother about meeting a knight.  
If that be my wish then I should not be afraid.  
Listen to the Lord and the wrong will turn out right.

She took me to a stable,  
And bequeath an old horse.  
This may sound like a fable.  
This discourse's the truth of course.

I wove a suit of armor and thought I looked grand.  
When all the people saw me all they did was laugh.  
Went and told my mother, I didn't understand.  
Why none of the people asked for my autograph.

She took me to a stable,  
And bequeath an old horse.  
This may sound like a fable.  
This discourse's the truth of course.

As ye know, our friendship is not dependent on good looks alone...

**LANCELOT**

...Don't I know...

**PERCEVAL**

...But honesty, trust and valor, and there is no one I trust more than ye. And as far as feeling sorry for Sir Gawain, it was he, not ye or I or any of the other knights, but he. Personally I think he was grandstanding, looking for King Arthur to give him favor once again.

**LANCELOT**

I think ye are right. I think he was trying to pay back the King for giving him Gringolet, the fastest and finest horse, an Arabian thorough bred. He didn't give ye or me a horse, did he? The only one he gives anything to is his damn nephew!

**(The lights dim and stage right, GAWAIN, is in the bedroom of the BARON'S castle as HE speaks to himself.)**

**GAWAIN**

My future looks bleak, my Lord, for I must face the Green Knight and his demonic axe.  
What I think of as I near my end is my best friend, Agrippa how he was never jealous but  
applauded my many tournament wins. The only thing that came between us was his love  
for Rachel who...

(Sings 🎵)

**WHAT CAME BETWEEN US**

Agrippa asked Rachel for her sleeve.  
In his coming bout he would wear.  
He questioned his strength he believed.  
He truly loved her long black hair.

Agrippa would face Sir Bedivere.  
Thrown off his horse his chest was shattered.  
He was bruised still he did not fear.  
Rachel's love was all that mattered.

He dreamed of commanding an army.  
But still he must win her love somehow.  
His daydreaming made him barmy.  
Thought not he was holier-than-thou.

Then I saw Rachel too.  
And I knew what I must do.  
Love is the driving force.  
This force became my course.

Asked for a token in my quest.  
And she said yes to my surprise.  
With Rachel's love I did my best.  
My sword pierced the opponent's eyes.

Tormented and with broken heart,  
Agrippa then confronted me.  
He argued Rachel was his sweetheart  
And he would have no part of me.

The tournament began as the king.  
Arrived as I charged forth with my spear.  
Upon many knights I would spring.  
I never knew the word called fear.

Then I saw Rachel too.  
And I knew what I must do.  
Love is the driving force.  
This force became my course.

**(The lights dim and we are back with LANCELOT and PERCEVAL.)**

**PERCEVAL**

And not only did he con the King into giving him Gringolet, I hear, one time he stole Agrippa, his best friend's girl friend, Rachel.

**LANCELOT**

Ye are kidding.

**PERCEVAL**

**(Laughs and hugs Lancelot.)**  
Would I kid ye, ugly?

**End of Scene 3**



# **GREEN** KNIGHT

## ACT II

### Scene 4

**That night.**

**The spot lights King Arthur's throne. Lights come on and we see MERLIN looking enviously at throne. HE walks up to it, sits and stands, sits and stands then sits regally as if he were the king.**

#### MERLIN

If it were not for me, Arthur would not be king. It was I who brought him to the lady of the lake who gave him *MY* Excalibur, the magical sword with the unbreakable blade which I vowed would protect him as long as he wore it. Alas, I see the King about to enter, I must stand before he sees me and makes note of my insidiousness..

**(Quickly stands as the KING enters.)**

My Lord, how are ye feeling? I trust better.

#### KING

Still disturbed, for my thoughts and prayers are with Gawain. I pray for his safety.

#### MERLIN

Yes I know, that's why I came.

#### KING

As I was walking, I began thinking how ye once saved my life that time when my sword broke in two during my fight with Lord Pellinore. I saw ye blink thy eyes four times, snap thy fingers, and suddenly there was thunder and lightning and miraculously ye cast a spell of enchantment on the mighty Pellinore and my life was spared. Ye must spare Gawain's life, Merlin, I implore ye! Please save his life. PLEASE!

#### MERLIN

I have no control of what is preordained, thy highness.

**KING**

Are ye not the prophet who predicted the death of Aurelius Ambrosius? Did ye not transport the Giant's Ring from Ireland to the place now known as Stonehenge, just because ye willed it? Did not these stones come originally from Africa and did ye not have giants erect them upon Mount Killaraus just because ye willed it? Surely saving my nephew's life should be an easy task compared to all thy other notable feats.

**MERLIN**

Sire, nothing would make me happier than saving Gawain's life, but...

**KING**

BUT NOTHING! Is it not true that each stone had medicinal properties just because ye willed it? Water poured upon the stones could be collected for baths that would cure illness or heal wounds just because ye willed it? Why, I myself have been healed by these magical stones just because ye willed it? I beg ye I beseech ye, please will that Gawain will be saved! YOU MUST WILL IT, I DEMAND!

(**MERLIN turns away fro the KING and sing ♫**)

**MERLIN****KING OF CAMELOT**

Only loons think that magic happens just like that.  
He thinks I can pull a rabbit out of his hat.  
I dare not tell him he is but a fool.  
An old fool that should dwell in Liverpool.

I want to throw up when I call him sire.  
I can't wait for the day he doth retire.  
And when I call Guinevere thy highness.  
To me they both are less than a minus.

I am filled with tension.  
Call it apprehension.  
Wish I had a pension.  
Then I would retire.

(**KING sings.**)

**KING**

All these years he comes off like a dreamer.  
As far as I'm concerned he's a blasphemer.  
And he pretends that he is a soothsayer.  
Beneath it all there lies a betrayer.

S. Goldberg

Sir GAWAIN

**1-1-42**

He thinks I don't know he'd like to be king.  
But I am the king and I wear this ring.  
Fortunate I was born aristocratic.  
Wish I had the nerve to be dramatic.

I'm King of Camelot.  
So please forget me not.  
I am not a crack pot.  
Because I perspire.

**KING**

I'm King of Camelot.  
So please forget me not.  
I am not a crack pot.  
Because I perspire.

**MERLIN**

I am filled with tension.  
Call it apprehension.  
Wish I had a pension.  
Then I would retire.

**End of Scene 4**

# **GREEN** KNIGHT

## ACT II

### Scene 5

**A couple of day later.**

**GAWAIN is sleeping. MERLIN stands over GAWAIN and speaks to Him. WE hear, "There Was a Time," Underscoring.**

#### MERLIN

As ye sleep Sir Gawain, to say I love and care for ye hath occurred the moment I set eyes upon thy beautiful face and watched as ye accepted my guidance with open arms. Ye have and become the most respected and humble Knight of thy King Arthur's Round Table. I admit this to ye because ye are asleep, but I should be King, for that should be my destiny and not that old codger who is King because I mistakenly made him one.

**(The LADY enters in a huff.)**

#### LADY

What is it with ye, Merlin? Don't ye have anything to do besides haunt my every move?

#### MERLIN

I have much to do but I came before Sir Gawain to pray for his safety.

#### LADY

PRAY FOR HIS SAFETY PRAY FOR HIS SAFETY? What kind of nonsense is that? Why he is the most handsome, the strongest and most bravest knight there is. What kind of pray for his safety?

#### MERLIN

It is a long story, Loretta.

#### LADY

Take thy time, I'm not going anywhere, mister.

#### MERLIN

Last New Years Eve, we were all gathered around King Arthur.

#### LADY

We, meaning...?

**MERLIN**

Sir Gawain, Sir Lancelot, Sir Perceval, Sir Iwain, Sir Doodenale, Sir Erik and all the rest of the sirs. We were all eating, drinking and making merry for it was New Years Eve.

**LADY**

Ye said that already ye said that already. Get on with it will ye please? I have some unfinished business to attend to so get on with it.

**MERLIN**

We shall see about thy *unfinished* business. In any event, this giant of a man who called himself the Green Knight burst in unannounced, slammed his huge axe on the round table which left a dastardly mark on it then challenges *THY* King to play a game with him

**LADY**

Wait a minute wait a minute, ye said *THY* king, isn't *THY* King *THY* King too?

**MERLIN**

Must ye remind me?

**LADY**

Get on with it get on with it will ye please? And tell me about this Green Knight. Does he have a rough voice, is he about six feet-five and are his eyes green?

**MERLIN**

Yea, he was quite tall, his voice was unusually rough but I did not see his eyes. Why do ye ask?

**LADY**

Just wondering, so what happened with his game? Did King Arthur play?

**MERLIN**

It was a game of life or death and *THY* King was about to accept the Green Knight's challenge when Sir Gawain rushed forth, grabbed the axe and in one felt swoop cut the Green Knights head off.

**LADY**

Sir Gawain cut his head off? I don't believe it! I'm not trying to be funny, but I just

**(Sort of sings 🎶)**

heard this almost humorous pun: "*Ye know what the head said rolling down the hill? 'I ain't got no body.'*" Is that a hoot or is that a hoot?

**(MERLIN does not respond.)**

**LADY (Cont'd)**

Not funny, huh?

**MERLIN**

It wasn't funny the first time I heard it either. In any event, prior to the beheading of the Green Knight, Sir Gawain swore to the Almighty Father and the Green Knight that he would find him and allow him to do to what he did in return.

**LADY**

Ye mean cut his head off?

**(MERLIN sadly nods yes.)**

**LADY (Cont'd)**

Well we'll see about that, won't we Mister Magician? Remember what ye said about the green girdle?

**MERLIN**

I do in deed.

**LADY**

Now get out of her, I have some unfinished business I have to attend to.

**MERLIN**

I know, thy unfinished business is one of the reasons why I came.

**(MERLIN snaps HIS finger, there is thunder and lightning and HE is gone. The Underscoring ends. After a beat, WE hear the UNDERSCORING of "Piggyback." Once again the LADY drools over GAWAIN, for SHE wants to sleep with HIM. HE opens HIS eyes and slinks under the covers feigning sleep. SHE tries to take his pajamas off and HE pushes her away.)**

**LADY**

So, ye are awake, aren't ye big boy?

**GAWAIN**

Oh, it's ye, I was just dreaming about...

**LADY**

...Making love to me I hope?

**GAWAIN**

No, that ye lost thy rope.

**LADY**

Damn it, I knew I forgot something! Anyway, how about a little ride cowboy?

**GAWAIN**

As I have told ye my lady, I am not the cowboy *THY* are in need of, for I have no *RIDING*, experience, other than on my trusted stallion, Gringolet. Besides, there is much troubling me.

**LADY**

I know all about the Green Knight, his game that ye played and how ye beheaded him and how he's going to return the favor.

**GAWAIN**

How did ye find out, who told ye?

**LADY**

**(WE hear a bird tweet.)**

A little birdie told me.

**GAWAIN**

Did ye hear that? Was Merlin just here?

**LADY**

**(Smiles.)**

I said a little birdie told me, didn't I? Now, if ye give me little, meaning ye hop on top of me and ride me like the wind, I just might have something that that little birdie gave me that will save thy life. What do ye say cowboy?

**GAWAIN**

I wish I could ride as ye so desire my lady, but alas, because of my inexperience in the saddle, I am just not thy everyday cowboy, and thanks for thy wanting to save this innocuous life but it is hopeless.

**LADY**

Be it ye refuse my token of affection, ye leave me no choice but to give ye my magical green girdle, which was given to me by someone ye know quite well; but who shall

**(WE hear bird tweet.)**

remain anonymous. Remember that little birdie? And let me tell ye the man was a regular cowboy. He used to giddyap and ride me four, five times a night. He was so good that I never had enough and neither did he. And for some strange reason he suddenly wanted no more of me, but made me promise to wear his green girdle. He said as long as I wore it nothing could ever harm me and my sexual proclivity would be in

**(Gives green girdle.)**

abeyance. Put this green girdle on and ye will have nothing to fear from the Green

(Sings.)

Knight, for **THY** life will be spared. But just remember, "*whatever Loretta wants, Loretta gets.*"

(THEY sing  a duet.)

**GAWAIN**

**GREEN GIRDLE**

I shall put on thy green girdle,  
Pray I overcome the hurdle.  
For I await,  
What is my fate?  
I have a date.  
With the Lord's help I shall curdle,  
When I doth wear thy green girdle.

I am racked with strife.  
Thy light fills the sun.  
Lord, please save my life.  
May thy will be done.

**LADY**

When, ye put on this green girdle.  
Ye will overcome thy hurdle.  
Ye are distraught.  
And overwrought.  
It's not for naught.  
With the Lord's help ye shall curdle.  
Soon as ye put on this green girdle.

Ye son-of-a-gun.  
My lover ye're not.  
It could have been fun.  
Ye're no Lancelot.

**GAWAIN**

I am racked with strife.  
**THY** light fills the sun.  
Lord, please save my life.  
May thy will be done.

**LADY**

Ye son-of-a-gun.  
My lover ye're not.  
It could have been fun.  
Ye're no Lancelot.

(Birds begin to sing as the **LADY** gives **GAWAIN** three amorous kisses and **HE** faints.)

(Curtain falls.)

End of Scene 5



# **GREEN** KNIGHT

## ACT II

### Scene 6

**The next day.**

**GAWAIN in examining a Greek statue.**

**GAWAIN**

I wonder what he's going to bring me today, and do I dare kiss him three times, for that is all I acquired. I hope he doesn't misinterpret the gesture and think I'm a... I am not a, I never was a...

**(The BARON enters with much enthusiasm carrying a dead fox.)**

**BARON**

How are ye handsome, gee, ye look quite handsome, in fact ye look better every time I see ye.

**GAWAIN**

**(Aside.)**

I hope he's not a... No how could he be? He's married to Loretta and she said he constantly wants to ride her. No he couldn't be a... He just couldn't be effeminate.

**BARON**

**(Touches, Gawain's face and gives him the fox.)**

Here it is handsome, perhaps the greatest kill I've ever made, a silver fox. Wear it well when you have it made into a scarf and gloves, good looking.

**GAWAIN**

**(Is repulsed and does not take it.)**

I, I really don't like foxes and it has blood all over it. Thank ye for thy kind offer but I

**(sing 🎵)**

must resist, sir.

**GAWAIN**

## WHERE IS CHIVALRY

I hope he isn't,  
But what if he is?  
Must give him a hint,  
Do not want his whiz.

.Don't want his action.  
He will not ride me.  
There's no attraction.  
Where is chivalry?

I wish I could write off.  
What will be my pay off.  
I wish I could cast off,  
Then rake off that show off.

It is so obscene.  
Femininity.  
I am not his queen.  
Masculinity.

I have been knighted.  
Can this rogue not see?  
He is nearsighted.  
He cannot have me.

I wish I could write off.  
What will be my pay off.  
I wish I could cast off,  
Then rake off that show off.

**(Aside.)**

Although I have promised to give what was given to me and I am afraid what the three kisses I must give will do to his proclivity.

**BARON**

Ye can not resist, for we made a deal! I give ye part of my booty and ye give me what ye acquired remember? Now take it and give me what is right fully mine! Okay, enough of this daydreaming take this silver fox and give me what ye have vowed. I DEMAND WHAT IS RIGHTFULLY MINE! GIVE IT TO ME!

**(Hesitant, GAWAIN approaches the GREEN KNIGHT and gives him three kisses, and the BARON embraces GAWAIN and then faints.)**

**End of Scene 10**

# **GREEN KNIGHT**

## **ACT II**

### **Scene 7**

**The next day.**

**GAWAIN stops outside the Baron's Castle. WE the Underscoring of "Shelter From the Storm."**

#### **GAWAIN**

When the gentleman that tended Gringolet in his stable said that the Green Castle was just up ahead, I was stunned when I realized the Baron's castle was the Green Castle. I realized that the Baron was as tall as the Green Knight and when I put two-and two together and realized that his voice was that of the Green Knight I was flabbergasted that the Green knight and the Baron were of the same. How could this snake whose head I cut off and who said he was going to return the favor on this night, New Years Eve be so kind and feed me, offering me shelter from the storm? I dare not tell that his wife wanted my body, kissed me numerous times. Well, I swore to the Almighty and that devil that I

**(Knocks on the door.)**

would accept my punishment willingly. Jesus, I pray ye are with me and take me upon to heaven.

**(Dressed as the GREEN KNIGHT, HE opens the doors and bows graciously.)**

#### **GREEN KNIGHT**

Welcome Sir Gawain, I see ye have kept THY promise and arrived. Please come in, I've been waiting.

**(GAWAIN mopes, entering.)**

#### **GAWAIN**

And I see you now openly admit that you are the Green Knight.

#### **GREEN KNIGHT (Cont'd)**

I never said otherwise. May I offer ye some wine?

#### **GAWAIN**

No thank ye, I prefer to take my punishment immediately and get it over with, as I have vowed before Almighty G-d and ye to do.

**GREEN KNIGHT**

Why the gloom? Remember, that it took ye all of a moment to cut my head off. Why rush, why not have a glass of wine and celebrate this momentous occasion. As I recall,

**(Laughs heartily. - Laughs heartily.)**

*adieu, auf veider zein*, ta ta. Ye know I loved how ye said that, *adieu, auf veider zein*,

**(Laughs heartily.)**

ta ta. I think that's a riot, don't ye? *Adieu, auf veider zein*, ta ta. Come on, say it again, say it again. Please, pretty please...

**(GAWAIN does not respond.)**

**GREEN KNIGHT (Cont'd0**

All right, if that's the way ye want it...? Let me get my trusty battle axe. Don't go

**(Laughs and exits. Underscoring ends.)**

anywhere, I shall return, I won't be long, *adieu, auf veider zein*, ta ta.

**GAWAIN**

**(Sing 🎶)**

**IT IS I WHO MUST PAY THE PRICE**

I hope he doesn't see that well.  
Or else I'll be going to hell.  
Forgive me for saying that word.  
Right now it seems more than absurd.

And so my life comes to an end.  
Goodbye Agrippa my only friend.  
Alas parting is sweet sorrow.  
For there will be no tomorrow.

It is I who must pay the price.  
For King Arthur I did sacrifice.  
I pray his cut will be concise.  
And soon I will join Jesus Christ.

To think I didn't thank Merlin.  
While two knights called me a has been.  
Those two were always suspicious.  
Kissing Rachel was delicious.

What I fear the most is the pain.  
Cut my neck but don't touch my brain.  
Goodbye my trusty Gringolet,  
Sir Gawain is off to Kismet.

It is I who must pay the price.  
 For King Arthur I did sacrifice.  
 I pray his cut will be concise.  
 And soon I will join Jesus Christ.

**(The GREEN KNIGHT happily carries in his huge axe.)**

### I TRY LORD HOW I TRY

**(Sing 🎵)**

Well here it is! Isn't it a beauty?  
 Want to touch it for good luck? Do thy duty.  
 I hope ye said goodbye to those ye love.  
 Especially Rachel thy lady-love.

I hear that she had long shiny black hair.  
 Did ye do it, did ye get anywhere?  
 I am a Baron who has pride.  
 And Loretta won't let me ride.

I try lord how I try.  
 That dame doesn't have class.  
 I try and then I cry,  
 As I fall on my ass.

At my age sex is still important.  
 I try to look she says I squint  
 And when I work up a big sweat.  
 She smiles and goes to the toilet.

I try lord how I try.  
 That dame doesn't have class.  
 I try and then I cry,  
 As I fall on my ass.

She just doesn't want it from me, can ye believe it? I'm bigger than Samson and I got a big one... We used to kiss and touch and she said she'd do it once we got married. We're married six years, and did ye do it? Well I sure as hell didn't, ye know what I mean? Headache, headache, headache, how long can a woman have a headache? Funny, when she's spending my money she doesn't have a headache.

### GAWAIN

Could ye please get it over with? I have a headache.

### GREEN KNIGHT

Ye do?

**(GAWAIN nods yes.)**

**GREEN KNIGHT (Cont'd)**

Well, like bend THY head down and I'll whack it off and ye won't have a headache any  
**(Laughs.)**

more. Hey that's funny ye won't a headache anymore because ye won't have a head.

**(Laughs.)**

Hey, ye know what the head said rolling down the hill? *'I ain't got no body.'* Isn't that funny? I think it's a riot. Oh, I know, I understand; ye think I'm talking about ye, well I am. Soon ye are not going to have a head. I think that's a riot. All right all right,

**(Raises axe.)**

calm down, will ye please? This is no laughing matter. Now bend down and close THY eyes. Ye ready?

**(GAWAIN sadly nods yes.)**

**GREEN KNIGHT (Cont'd)**

**(Swings axe.)**

Here goes!

**GAWAIN**

**(Touches his neck.)**

YE MISSED YE MISSED. YE JUST NICKED MY NECK.

**GREEN KNIGHT**

Hey, that was the first shot.

**GAWAIN**

How many shots do ye want?

**GREEN KNIGHT**

At least three, okay?

**GAWAIN**

Okay, but three is it, okay?

**GREEN KNIGHT**

Three is it three is it. Give me a break will ye please? Now bend down and...

**GAWAIN**

...Close my eyes. I know I know. Will ye please do it already, I'm getting a headache.

**GREEN KNIGHT**

**(Raises axe and swings.)**

Okay, wish me luck, here goes number two!

**GAWAIN**

**(Touches ear.)**

Ye cut my ear ye cut my ear ye weren't supposed to cut my ear.

**GREEN KNIGHT**

Alright I cut ye ear I cut thy ear, so sue me. Anyway, we made a deal.

**GAWAIN**

We did?

**GREEN KNIGHT**

I get three shots remember three shots. Now bend down and don't move.

**GAWAIN**

This is THY last shot so it better be good.

**GREEN KNIGHT**

I know, ye don't have to tell me it's my last shot. Now close ye eyes and don't move!

**(Swings the axe and misses completely.)**

Here comes number three! I missed, how could I miss? Ye have such a big head.

**GAWAIN**

Want to tell me what this is all about?

**GREEN KNIGHT**

I couldn't kill ye. Ye are like a mighty oak and I couldn't chop down a mighty oak, I'm a nature lover. And I know Loretta came on to ye, but like the prince that ye are ye didn't do it. Ye didn't want to betray me and I like that. Wish she came on to me... And I know why she didn't sleep with me all these years. It was because she was wearing that green girdle and I hate green girdles. I hate every green girdle in the world! And I knew she gave it to ye to protect ye from me and I'm glad she did. And since Loretta's not wearing that green girdle, maybe I'll get lucky for a change? And maybe that's why I missed and I'm glad I did, ye know what I mean? But in case she's not in the mood for this cowboy...?

**(The GREEN KNIGHT kisses GAWAIN three times passionately and GAWAIN faints.)**

**(Lights.)**

**(Curtain)**

**The End.**