

# SIR GAWAIN and the **GREEN** KNIGHT



(A Movie adapted from the Musical)

Book and Lyrics

By

Sidney Goldberg

Music

By

Please Contact:

Sidney Goldberg

20 W. Palisade Ave #3120

Englewood, NJ 07631

201 567-6533

Sidneyg6@gmail.com

[www.SidneyGoldbergWriter.com](http://www.SidneyGoldbergWriter.com)

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# 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.**

# Sir GAWAIN and the **GREEN** KNIGHT

## Songs

The MAGICIAN (King)

The KING'S FAVORITE (Lancelot, Perceval, Gawain)

The KING'S FAVORITE (Underscoring)

The CHALLENGE (Green Knight)

BELIEVE (King)

I SEEK SHELTER FROM THE STORM (Gawain)

IF I HAD MY WAY (Old lady)

THERE WAS A TIME (Merlin and Lady)

CARE TO EXPLAIN? (Gawain)

WHY WAS I BORN? (King)

The MAGICIAN (Underscoring)

I AM MERLIN (Merlin).

THERE WAS A TIME (Underscoring)

PIGGYBACK (Lady)

I'M NOT A PROFESSIONAL (Gawain)

This HIDEOUS FACE (Lancelot)

SHE TOOK ME TO A STABLE (Perceval)

WHAT CAME BETWEEN US (Gawain)

KING of CAMELOT (Merlin and King)

THERE WAS A TIME (Underscoring)

GREEN GIRDLE (Gawain and Lady)

WHERE IS CHIVALRY (Gawain)

IT IS I WHO MUST PAY THE PRICE (Gawain)

I TRY, LORD HOW I TRY (Green Knight)

## Sir GAWAIN and the **GREEN** KNIGHT

INT. 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.

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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.

(MORE)

KING (Cont'd)

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 beholdng.

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.  
Stupefaction 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.

(Sings  operatic.)

The KING'S FAVORITE

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,  
We who, hath been living in a dank prison  
Surviving, nothing more than a denizen,  
Goodbye purgatory, now we've 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,  
We who, hath been living in a dank prison  
Surviving, nothing more than a denizen,  
Goodbye purgatory, now we've 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  
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  
(MORE)

GREEN KNIGHT (Cont'd)  
I pray ye will find most intriguing. And just  
what do ye two twerps have to say for  
thyselves? 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  
That, ye may become in due time with the  
(Bangs axe.)  
humble assistance of this mighty axe.

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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  
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

(MORE)

GREEN KNIGHT (Cont'd)

challenger vow to the Almighty to find me  
in exactly one year and a day, no matter  
where I shall be, to receive the blow that I

(Laughs.)

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

(MORE)

GAWAIN (Cont'd)

(Bows.)

for I am 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

(MORE)

GREEN KNIGHT (Cont'd)

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.

CUT: Time passes, it is autumn - Day of ALL Saints. 2  
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

Too bad, ye know what I mean, too bad.

(Almost laughs.)

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.

CUT: A castle.

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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.

GAWAIN

...Well...

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.

CUT: 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 Lola 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.

CUT: Living room. -The following evening.

5

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.

CUT: The next day.

KING, who remorsefully lifts HIS Head, and rises and sings 🎵

6

### 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" Underscoring.

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

(MORE)

MERLIN (Cont'd)

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!!

(Underscore 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  
(MORE)

MERLIN (Cont'd)

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  
(Sings 🎵)  
and Jesus welcomed me with open arms.

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.

Two mornings later.

8

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 old 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

(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

(MORE)

LADY (Cont'd)

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

(Aside.)

are 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?

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.

GAWAIN

(Rubs wrists and arms.)

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

It's Sir Gawain and yes those were two  
(Sings 🎵)  
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!

CUT: Two days later.

10

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 ((Sings 🎵)) like this...



## 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  
(MORE)

PERCEVAL (Cont'd)

(Sings 🎶)

raggs to riches? 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  
(Sings ♪)  
love for Rachel who...

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.

CUT: We are back with LANCELOT and PERCEVAL.

11

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?

CUT: That night.

12

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.

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.  
I am filled with tension.  
So please forget me not.  
Call it apprehension.  
I am not a crack pot.  
Wish I had a pension.  
Because I perspire.  
Then I would retire.

CUT: A couple of day later.

13

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

WE hear bird tweet.

shall 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

(Gives green girdle.)

in abeyance. Put this green girdle on and ye will have nothing to fear from the Green Knight, for THY life will be spared. But

(Sings.)

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 HE faints.

CUT: 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.

CUT: The next day. GAWAIN stops outside the Baron's Castle. WE the 15  
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 would accept my punishment willingly. Jesus, I pray ye are with me and

Knocks on the door.

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, *adieu, auf veider zein*, ta ta. Ye

(Laughs heartily. )

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'd)

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 and sings 🎵

I TRY LORD HOW I TRY  
 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

(Laughs.)

any more. Hey that's funny ye won't a headache anymore because ye won't have a head Hey, ye know what the head said

(Laughs.)

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, calm down, will ye please?

(Raises axe.)

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.

The End.