

Arthuriana 2016

TABLES DES MATIÈRES

Arthuriana	p 2
The Quest for the Hidden Treasures	p 9
Once Upon A Grail	p 15
The tales of King Arthur and his Knights through Fiction Island.....	p 22
Crime in Camelot	p 29
A Journey to the Centre of Fiction Island: An Arthurian Chronicle	p 34

ARTHURIANA

Children's fiction

Once upon a time, there were three little boys named Gawain, Lancelot and Galahad. The sun was shining, but they got bored. They didn't know what to do because they had already done all that was possible in their huge castle: played hide and seek; ate the most flying sheep; played dragons' races etc...

Fortunately, Lancelot found a new game, but they had to be four to play it. They started thinking and decided to play with Arthur. But he lived far away from them and the way was quite complicated to remember for young kids. So, they were really disappointed, but they remembered that Arthur had given them a map if they wanted to play with him. They ran to get the map, took all their toys and good shoes, ready to join Arthur. After a few minutes walking, they smelled a good perfume made of chocolate and sugar. They were really hungry because they had woken up late and skipped breakfast. They stopped walking, cut the map into three equal parts, then the map finished in their stomach. Full-up but lost, they continued their way without any particular direction...

They made a decision and split their group. Each one of them would take a different way in order to have more chances to arrive at Arthur's house. Gawain went to the north, Lancelot to the south and Galahad to the west. Unfortunately, it started to get windy and it began to be difficult for them to walk.

Gawain decided to go to the forest. A very deep forest. There were a lot of colours into the forest and he was very impressed about colours and nature. There were beautiful butterflies. Gawain didn't want to go on without having eaten something else because it was tea-time. He took some marshmallows from his backpack which burned thanks to a flamethrower, as he had been taught in summer camp. Then, he continued in the deep forest.

Lancelot, on the other hand, walked to the beach. But seeing this big and this gigantic blue world that moved in all directions, Lancelot decided to put his swimsuit and to play in the ocean. He made new friends and they went to play in the sand with buckets and shovels. With these new friends, they succeeded to make a sand castle. But these new friends couldn't replace Arthur. He decided to continue looking for his friend. It was very hot, so Lancelot decided to have a water fight with his water gun when he would have found Arthur.

In the countryside, Galahad saw a wonderful and incredible amusement park. He saw cotton candy, toffee apples. An amazing smile appeared on Galahad's face, he was in paradise with so many sweets, chocolates, but also a big merry-go-round! At that moment, he saw a magic wand for his mother because it was her dream to have this thing.

With this magic wand, Galahad decided to make Gawain and Lancelot appear. He was very proud of himself. All three were happy and they decided to enjoy this amusement park. They decided to go into Russian mountains but because of their size, they couldn't climb on this ride. Galahad decided to use his magic wand to make them become adults. They spent all day in this amusement park and finally, after this wonderful day together, they decided to go to the east because they saw a butterfly, with beautiful colours, going in that direction.

Of course they did not see the sign warning them of danger.

You see, if these three little boys hadn't been impatient and eaten the map, they would have known what was east. Besides, it is very bad to eat maps before breakfast.

Horror

After these adventures, Lancelot, Galahad and I arrive in a really dark place. We are surrounded by enormous trees reaching the sky. The sun is setting and we can't see anything because of the fog. We are barely able to walk. It becomes very cold. I've seen Galahad shuddering but that is rather because of fear. I don't feel much better and Lancelot seems desperate. None of us wants to admit that we are lost. Lost in the wild and the darkness. We slowly progress. Galahad is walking faster than us, he seems nervous. We are certainly far, far away from our initial destination. I think we've made a huge mistake...

Suddenly, we hear somebody let out a cry of pain. We run in the direction of the scream. It's Galahad, he tripped over something. Lancelot picks up Galahad who is terrified. A body is lying on the floor. It seems to be a man. He doesn't move, we call him, no reaction. We approach a bit closer to him. His body is covered with wounds, cuts and teeth marks, just rotting flesh. His clothes are torn and stained with blood. Abruptly, he starts wheezing. His fingers begin to move. Carefully, we step backwards. His back stands up, his head turns in our direction. He's watching us. His eyes are full of small veins, his cheeks are ravaged, we are paralysed, we can't move, he comes closer to us, faster and faster. My pulse speeds up, my heart beats intensely, he's quite near, I close my eyes. I'm thrown on the ground. I can smell the bad breath of the revenant. Just at this moment I open my eyes and I see the awful face of this...monster. Lancelot unsheathes his sword and runs through the corpse from top to bottom. Stomach and blood cover the ground, the body collapses.

I am getting up. I see a strange mark on Galahad's arm. His face is very pale, I see small veins in his eyes. I wonder if that is because of the fear. He doesn't seem like he used to be. When the zombie attacked me, he didn't move. He just looks at me as if he doesn't understand what is happening. I am worried:

"Are you ok?"

Galahad nods.

I look at the dead body one last time. So sinister. I just want to leave this place as soon as possible.

All of a sudden, we hear the voice of a little girl. She needs help. This forest seems really creepy. We are searching for her so as to rescue this poor girl. I see her: she calmly sits on a branch of a tree, really high. We call her but she doesn't answer. We come nearer. I don't understand, she looks like King Arthur's sister. "M...Morgana?"

Abruptly she climbs down the tree and pounces on Lancelot; she catches him with her hand, thrusts her nails on his throat. He shouts from the pain and falls down, his head is torn apart. His eyes are staring at me with a horrible look! When I try to protect him, I am projected on the floor. I suffer but I keep my eyes open. The eyes of Morgana are white like a monster's. She is possessed. It's insane...

"My dear fellows...You are not welcome here" she whispers.

"We are lost...We don't ...want to bother you. Please... let us go!"

"Liars! Human beings must all die. One day, some of them captured me and tried to burn me alive. I survived and killed them one by one. I transformed them into an army of zombies to protect myself. This territory is mine. You shall suffer."

"Please... let us go! You already killed one of us."

I get up and have a look at Lancelot but I immediately feel bad. I realize that we are surrounded by dozens of zombies. They are all staring at me. They are hungry. Morgana goes to Galahad and whispers something in his ear. I see his horrible wound, full of yellowish pus and dirty-grey liquid. I feel like vomiting. He is looking at me. I'm scared. "Galahad..?" I don't have time to react. He energetically pounces on me and tries to bite me but I tear myself off with a violent kick. "That's enough, I want to kill him by myself." Morgana catches Galahad and rips his neck off. I have to go. I run away and slalom between the trees.

"You can't escape me, knight!"

I don't listen to this awful voice, remembering my companions, their blood...I focus on my breath. But I realize that dozens of zombies are following me. I run and run like I've never run before. They follow me, I know that because of the putrid smell and growls emanating from behind me. I hear the laughs from this horrible witch, my heart beats as if it wants to leave my body. Tree branches scratch my face, I don't know where I am. They are near. I am terrified. I want this to stop. I see a river far away. I run in this direction and plunge into this river. All of them plunge too. I try to forget this pressure which is invading me and I begin to swim really fast. The water is freezing, I feel their presence behind me...My only wish is to stay alive. I have to survive. I manage to reach the bank. I am alive. The landscape around me has changed. The sky is white. Finally, I faint, exhausted.

Fantasy

This new landscape was totally different. There were large meadows with grass that was fresh and green. There were also some unicorn herds which were drinking in the shining lake water, and other giant animals flying around white and green trees. Some blue and yellow frogs were flying from stone to stone. The sky was wonderful: it was as white as snow with some blue and green clouds that were as fluffy as sheep. Dragons of many colours could be admired, some red, some yellow and white, which lived in mountain caves. There were many strong beasts there. Their shouts were so loud that it shook the trees. It was a delirious and incredible landscape.

In this world lived a very old man with a strong nature. He was the master of this wonderful place. He controlled everything and knew all the magic books that existed throughout the different kingdoms.

One day, while he was gathering some mushrooms, he found an inanimate body close to the river. With his magic wand, the old man woke him up. The holy knight felt panicked and distraught. However, he stood up with all his bravery and took his sword out of his scabbard to defend himself. The old man calmly told him :

"I'm Merlin, the wizard. You're Gawain, aren't you?"

"Yes... Yes, I'm Gawain. P-p-please, help me, whoever you are! All my sword mates are dead! Lancelot, Galahad, everybody is dead! The monsters have killed everybody!"

"Breathe! Calm down! What exactly has happened to you?"

"It was a very strange kingdom, it was dark and it smelled so bad. Oh! Do you think you could help me, wise Merlin?"

"Of course I will help you! I know Horror land is a traumatic and dangerous place to be. But you're safe in here, do not worry. Thanks to the oracle, who warned me about your arrival, I've finished gathering all the ingredients we need for the curse. Now, I'm going to need your help."

"Oh God! Thank you so much sir! I will do whatever you want me to do if it can save my friends."

"We have to go now. We don't have much time..."

Gawain and Merlin jumped on a centaur-sheep and flew through the hills to Merlin's hut in the clouds. They entered the wood hut and Merlin explained to Gawain the

process of resurrection. Gawain looked anxious but he knew that he didn't have any choice. The spell was simple; they both had to recite a magic incantation at the same time: "Horror lands spirits! Please, listen to our call. By an unfair death, the strong Lancelot and the loyal Galahad were taken from us. Now, let magic work and give them their soul back, for everyone's happiness." Merlin put every ingredient he needed in a big pot and told Gawain to stir while they were saying the spell. The smell of the mixture was absolutely awful; they cast the spell and a gigantic portal opened in the ground under the clouds. A blue and pink light appeared, and Gawain saw Lancelot and Galahad come out of the portal. They were so glad and relieved that they had succeeded! But there was a problem... Galahad was a bit different...

"We're back!" voiced Galahad with a feminine and cute voice "What's that voice?? Is it like a side effect? I can't keep that voice!"

"Unfortunately, I'm afraid we can't do anything." declared Merlin

After a few minutes of hesitation, Merlin kindly explained to the knights that if they wanted to be on their way, they needed to hurry because a dragon's migration was coming and it was a dangerous event as dragons had to feed before leaving. He showed them a magic portal, and explained that they only had to jump into it to be transported to another realm. He didn't even have time to finish his explanation that Lancelot had jumped into the portal. Galahad followed him after a few seconds hesitation. A fairy informed Gawain that Galahad had been send to the west, and Lancelot to the south.

Gawain was ready to leave too, but Merlin held his arm.

"Wait... You have to fix your mistake."

"Which mistake?"

"You said "lovely Galahad" instead of "loyal Galahad". It disturbed the process" answered Merlin. "Now, I have the duty to train you in magic, my child."

So, they stayed together and Merlin taught the secrets of magic to the clumsy Gawain.

Women's fiction

Extract from Galahad's diary – Day 1

Something strange had happened. I had to go to the West to find Arthur and Gawain had told me "you have to go to the west to find out the important thing". I didn't know what it was and I was really disturbed by this declaration. During the journey, I asked myself lots of questions about this supposedly important thing. Maybe something amazing would happen or maybe something terrible!? I was really confused because I didn't remember what had happened to me the other night when Gawain saved us.

Suddenly I felt a pain in my chest. I hid where no one could see me, and I started to take off my armour. Then I discovered what was happening to my body. My fat and muscles had reduced dramatically and I saw a pair of female breasts. I ran quickly to the river and looked at my appearance in the water: So it was real, it wasn't a dream, I was definitely a woman. I was disoriented, even lost... I had to pull myself together and find a place to sleep. The next day, I would look for Arthur again.

Extract from Galahad's diary – Day 2

I was walking when a knight arrived on his white horse. He was really strong and impressive. "Hey beauty, are you lost? If you want, I can take you on my horse. It's rare to meet beautiful women here!" I was really surprised. I answered: "No thank you, it's very nice but I want to be alone. Can you tell me where I can find a little house in order to sleep?" The knight said: "Normally, nobody can resist my beautiful smile, you are different and mysterious. I love it! You know I'm the heir of a very rich king. That is why I'm really popular. I have an enormous castle and about thirty horses. You will be pampered. If you follow me, you will just have to do the housework, to cook, you will amuse me when I want, and have lots of children." I simply replied: "I'm not the woman you're looking for and I don't want to be your slave." He came closer to me and grabbed my arms. He pushed me against a tree, I couldn't move, I was totally trapped. Suddenly, I remembered my reflexes and I head-butted him. After that I fled from there quickly, all I could think about was to be away from him. I realized that as a woman I had to be careful with people, particularly with men. How could a man speak like that?! I felt like an animal, he had shown me no respect. I didn't understand how a woman can deal with that.

Two hours later, I found a little inn where an old man welcomed me. When I was alone, I stared at my body: I was small and slim. I had women's curves. I had a

delicate and a milky-white face. My cheeks were rosy and my mouth was voluptuous. My hair was blond and curly. I had larger eyes and longer eyelashes just emphasizing my femininity. I decided to go to sleep but the old man knocked at the door.

He told me that a ball was organized that night, where the kings from all kingdoms would come. He kindly gave me an amazing dress. It was the dress of his wife who had died ten years ago. It was so beautiful, with diamonds and silk. I felt that I couldn't breathe because I had to wear a corset. How could women bear it? Upon arriving at the ball, everyone fixed their eyes on me; I was looking for Arthur when a charming boy appeared. He was tall and strong, his hair was brown and was perfectly curled and his green eyes were mesmerizing. He was wearing a mask and elegant clothes. My heart was beating very fast. I couldn't take my eyes off him, he was really graceful. I went out to breathe when the mysterious man showed up. He told me: "I saw you a little while ago, you were looking at me, weren't you?" I was embarrassed and shy. He continued: "If you don't want to speak to me, just tell me so and I will leave." I answered: "Oh no please just stay, I like having you here. I... I'm..." I took a deep breath: "When I saw you it was love at first sight... I fell in love with you, I know it is weird because we have just met, but it is the first time I have had this feeling". He smiled and said: "It is the first time a woman has flirted with me and told me how she felt. Normally its men who do that, you're suprising. I have to admit you are wonderful" He touched my hair and then he caressed my cheek and my mouth softly. I was in paradise... He brought me into his castle. "It

is the first time I have brought a woman here, my heart sings when I look upon you.” He took my face in his gentle hands and he kissed me. We were utterly in love.

Extract from Galahad’s diary – Day 10

He broke my heart, I was blinded by my love for him and I didn’t see the truth. I promised myself that I would never fall in love again. I felt betrayed and depressed...

Women are naïve, their hearts are fragile and men like to play with them. Men have all the power; they can do whatever they want. Women are oppressed, they have many obligations. They have to be polite, friendly, smiling... This lifestyle is too difficult for me. In this society, I want to be a man so I will disguise myself...

Thriller

During this time, Lancelot woke up on an island, completely disoriented. “Where am I?” In front of him, there was a blood-red sealed letter on which his name was written. Lancelot took it and opened it. The words “Give up” were written on a single page. No name, no signature. All of a sudden, Lancelot felt a hand pressing a tissue on his mouth, and fainted.

“What is happening...? Who did this? ...Why?” This little voice, whispering in his head, woke him up. He was in a bright, blue enclosed space. Suddenly, he felt a gaze on him, and saw a woman staring at him intensely. She was tall, thin, and she was wearing a black suit; her face was hidden by a mask. “Welcome to my private submarine, Lancelot. I suppose that you don’t know what you are doing here, do you?” Lancelot shook his head negatively, so she continued: “Well, in this case, I am going to explain to you. You were brought to the North and here because I want you to rescue Galahad, Gawain and Arthur, and bring them back to the submarine.” She disappeared as quickly as she had come when two men arrived. “We are your instructors, let’s start your training.”

Ten days later, he was ready for departure. But before he left, one of the spies turned up. “There is a letter for you, Lancelot”, he declared. Without saying a word, the knight took the envelope. He had already recognized it. He opened the letter, and read the message: “Give up before it is too late.” Lancelot stared at him questioningly but the man shrugged and pointed at the door. It was time to leave.

First, they had to infiltrate the nearest airport. Secondly, they had to steal a helicopter and to leave in a hurry so as to rescue Gawain. Lancelot was really stressed because it was his first mission: his hands were shaking and he felt a drop of sweat rolling down his neck. Seconds seemed hours to him. When they finally got close enough from the helicopter, the knight took a deep breath, ran, got into the helicopter and they took off. During the flight, Percival, one of the spies, taught Lancelot how to pilot and before they knew it, they were landing.

After fighting starving dragons, they succeeded in bringing an unconscious Gawain to the helicopter: the third step of their mission was completed. Now, Lancelot began to wonder how they would find Galahad. Furthermore, before taking off, he saw a red paper shining in a corner of the cabin and read it aloud: “You will suffer...” “Why is someone after us? Who is he? The letters were on the island... on the copter...But only Perce and I have the helicopter’s key! What if... if this “somebody” could easily access the helicopter? And if this “somebody” was Perce?” Lancelot felt overwhelmed with questions without answers. “I have to talk to the boss as soon as possible.” Lancelot looked at the window of the helicopter and realized they were

about to arrive. This time, Lancelot took a weapon and the key with him. Once he was in the city with Gawain, Lancelot got away from Perce so as to call the boss. But, at the same time, someone screamed his name. It was... Galahad. But Galahad looking feminine in spite of his men's clothes. Gawain tried to explain the situation to Lancelot but at the same time, the mysterious woman picked up and Lancelot said:

"We got away from Perce, I think tha-

"I know! I found out a few minutes ago! You have to return to the submarine with your friends as quickly as possible! You are in mortal danger!"

"And Arthur? We cannot forget him; we have to find him first!"

"No! You have to follow my order, and my order is to return to the submarine with your friends! Understood?!"

Gawain, Lancelot and Galahad moved on.

One hour later, they landed close to the submarine. The boss was waiting for them. Then, she ordered the knights to enter. Lancelot replied:

"I won't enter until you tell me who you are. I can't continue without knowing anything about you! Why does someone threaten me?! Why did you help me to find my friends?! Who are you really?" The boss looked daggers at Lancelot and took off her mask: blue eyes, blond and long hair, pink cheekbones... Lancelot whispered:

"Gui... Guinevere? After all this time... it was... you?"

"Yes it was. Now, I order you to enter."

Finally, the submarine left the harbour. Lancelot sat next to Guinevere and said:

"Now I understand, but why did you give up Arthur? He is still out there..."

"Because... I understood that he had given up the St Grahal's mission. He had decided to blackmail you into giving up by using threatening letters..."

"That is impossible! All this time, I never saw him!"

"You did not see him because he has his own men: Perce was one of his spies. But everything is fine, now. We are safe."

Suddenly, Lancelot saw an envelope on the floor. "The quest of the Holy Grail is over for you." Before anyone could react, the lights turned red: no more oxygen. Guinevere then declared: "Apparently, there are still traitors among us..."

THE QUEST FOR THE HIDDEN TREASURES

Women's fiction

After a separation between the five knights, Lancelot took the direction of the North-West in order to search for the Holy Grail. He left with his fabulous horse called Storm and galloped off. He disappeared into the forest and met a lot of little wild animals like birds, squirrels and rabbits. During this quest, he didn't lose sight of his aim which was the most important thing in his life at this moment. He looked everywhere, in the tree leaves, the tree stumps so as not to miss the Grail. He was captivated by his mission, however the rain started to fall, the poor knight was soaking but he didn't give up. There were a lot of obstacles, stones and tree roots, in addition the rain made the ground slippery. Sometimes the horse slipped but he got up each time until finally he fell because of a tree trunk blocking the way. Lancelot rolled in the mud and hit his head on a rock. His head was cut open and the blood fell on his cheek. It was impossible for him to continue his mission so he started walking to find someone who could help him. He realized that it would be difficult because the forest was huge and night was falling. He was totally desperate, he sat down and spent a moment thinking about how he could get out of this nightmare. Lost in his thoughts, he lifted his head and saw a little light at the bottom of the forest. In a ray of hope he took Storm and walked towards the light. He moved with difficulty and was so tired that he began to be in bad shape. Late at night he arrived at the door of the little house from where the light came. At the end of his tether and in a final effort he fainted. Sometime after, he woke up, dazed, he didn't know where he was. He looked around and realized that he was in a room which was really girly, pink and purple. He also had a bandage on his head where he had injured himself. Lancelot got up, sat down on the bed and saw the back of an attractive woman. She was folding the laundry and when she turned round Lancelot looked into her beautiful blue eyes. They looked at each other for a long time then she gave him some food and tended to his wound. They began to talk, this woman was called Guinevere and she took care of Lancelot. Little by little they fell in love. Lancelot was totally under her charm as they got to know each other. After two days however, Lancelot began to think about his mission again. He didn't want to leave, he wanted to stay with this beautiful woman. She was in love with him and she found his mission too dangerous. She was worried and afraid she would not see him again. Before leaving Guinevere, they promised to meet again, just after his mission and he said that he wanted to marry her and live with her. So the separation was very hard. They were both crying but Lancelot took Storm who had been looked after and fed by Guinevere, and they set off.

Comedy

After days of travelling, searching for Galahad, Sir Gawain arrived in a town named « Not so funny town » ; no need to say that our protagonist was already lost...The doughty knight arrived at a little house which looked a lot like an inn, because of the style of it : it was just rocks and brickspiled on top of one another...and this description is not to make this story longer, not at all...The knight wanted some sleep after his exhausting journey, and also because it was mid-knight

“Knock knock” yelled Gawain. “Who’s there?” a youthful voice was heard behind the wooden door. « Doris » answered the knight. “Doris who?” “Doris locked, that’s why I had to knock”.

Then a young boy opened the door to see a dirty and sweaty man in armor, who asked for a bed: “I’m asking for a bed and some rest please”. Then the child answered “You’re...a knight, right?” “Why, yes I am!” Exclaimed Gawain, proudly. “Sorry, I thought you were just a loser dressed in aluminium foil...anyway, come in!” The young boy greeted the knight, while Gawain related his wonderful tales. He then asked if the little child had seen something like a large container which was old and sacred and which was called a Cornucopia. ‘No, sorry, I haven’t seen what you’re talking about...’ answered the boy. He followed with “I live alone with my mom, I don’t know my dad. Actually, my mom left for work, or something like that. Oh, by the way, my name is Toby!”. Well, it looks like our hero wasn’t paying attention to the conversation, because he pointed to the TV and demanded “Prithee, good sir, I have a question: What is this ?!”. Toby answered, “I...think it's the TV !...How about a lil' joke to chill out the mood ? Ok, I'll start, who is the roundest sir of all the knights of the round table?” “ OH I know ! It's probably Gaheris, he has eaten a lot these days and...” replied Gawain. “IT'S SIR CUMFERENCE !! Hahaha...ha..ok that wasn't that good but...anyway, d’you wanna drink something ?” concluded the boy , “Some wine, prithee, young child!” demanded our protagonist. “You're sure?” “Asked the young boy. “ Sir...tain”...a silence...then Toby added “ Yes...that was a good one ! Well played!” Then the bold knight wondered “So, thou claimed that thy mother left on a mission, is that right? By what sort of mission is she concerned exactly?” “

Eh,...she's an important member of a council but I don't understand what she does exactly. All I know for the moment is that she must find a solution to a problem... “.

Comedy

“What sort of problem?” asked Gawain.

“Well, let me explain the situation. A worldwide survey was conducted by the UN-funny land. The only question asked was: "Would you please give your honest opinion about solutions to the food shortage in the rest of the world?" The survey was a huge failure. In A-poor country they didn't know what "food" meant. In the Political state they didn't know what "honest" meant. In Veryrich land they didn't know what "shortage" meant. In Royalty Kingdom, they didn't know what "opinion" meant. In the Middle East they didn't know what "solution" meant. And in Burger-kingdom, they didn't know what "the rest of the world" meant.” Then Toby added “But my mom said that I was a very brave boy! For example: A lot of people cry when they cut an onion. The trick is not to form an emotional bond...”

The young child poured some wine into a cup that looked like a horn. “OH MY!” yelled Gawain. “That's it! Meseemeth that thing is the Cornucopia!”. “ NO! That's a trophy of a game I won about a year ago!” Toby protested. “Nearly a year ago, my companions and I lost what we call the thirteen treasures of the British Isles. Let me explain: According to a legend, approximately two thousand years ago, there existed an incredible and magical collection of objects, powerful enough to control the whole kingdom; their name? The thirteen treasures of Britain. It is said that to use, and to protect these treasures is the fate of man. This mission (of my fellow knights and myself) is to collect them and prove that we are worthy enough to protect the Grail. Then the wizard today known as Merlin will become known in history as the greatest wizard of all time...but now, these treasures have been used to protect the Holy Grail.

And it is our mission to collect them and prove, my fellow knights and myself, that we are worthy enough to protect the Grail.”

Toby waited, then added “Aw, Merlin, yeah, I know her, isn't she that girl who is known for the scene where her dress lifts up when she goes over a subway entrance...that.. Merlin Monroe, right?”.....No need to hide the fact that Gawain did not understand. “Eh, whatever. I'll give you this coconutpia, or whatever it is. It's a gift for you, because I have spent the best evening ever!” “I wit ye well, dear boy ! I forthinketh that I have to leave. Gramercy to thee.”

The knight opened the door, and asked “Wilt thou forget me?” The boy responded “I swear, I will never forget you!” . Toby closed the door. Then two knocks resounded behind the wooden door. “Knock knock!”, “Who's there?” answered Toby. “You said you wouldn't forget me but you already have!” Then Gawain left like in the scene at the end of Lucky Luke, with the sunset behind him and all...

Adventure

Galahad travelled many miles to a little town, Proudclod. He rested in a busy inn, The Tired Hammer, full of happy and crazy drinkers. Then, he ordered a bottle of mead and a plate of cheese from the innkeeper. He sat alone at a table, drank and ate. Suddenly, a man in armor came to his table, a beer in his hand. He carried the emblem of Lowden. Sir Galahad raised his head and recognized the son of the King Loth, Sir Agravain.

“Good day, Sir Galahad, isn't it?” Asked the knight.

“What a surprise Sir Agravain! What are you doing here my friend?”

“I'm on a quest and when I saw you, I wanted your help,” answered Agravain.

“Yes, I'll help of course. What does this quest entail?”

“King Arthur asked me to get one of the thirteen treasures of the British Isles: The Cauldron of Dyrnwch the Giant. This cauldron, which belonged to the Welsh god Dyrnwch, will quickly boil meat placed in it by a brave man. The meat placed in it by a coward, however, will never boil. Thus, the cauldron will reveal who is brave and who is cowardly.”

“What an interesting quest! What are we waiting for?” Answered Galahad, impatient.

After a restful night, both knights left the inn, hoping to have marvellous adventures. They walked for two days in the direction of a mythical cavern under a very high mountain. They were on a path in thick oak woods when eight men came suddenly through the bushes.

“Hola adventurers! I am the incredible and spectacular Marvel”, shouted the leader of the troop. “And I have just stolen the coat of Arthur Pendragon, our king. You seem to be knights of the Round Table, so get ready to die, rascals!”

Seven warriors armed with swords, axes and knives flew upon the heroes with rage. The battle began. Being the glorious knight he was, Galahad cut the first one from the shoulder to the liver. Then, a splatter of blood came to blind a second warrior. Galahad slashed his throat without any problem. He blocked one attack and then a second. All at once, he stabbed a third with his beautiful sword. The last one stopped when he saw his fellows as dead as dogs. He looked at Galahad and, with an ultimate hope, rushed at him. Galahad evaded the man on the right, cut the sinew of his knee and when the enemy was kneeling down, he pushed his blade into his neck. However, he was not able to celebrate his victory when he saw Marvel butchering Sir Agravain. The criminals' leader was the only survivor and he fled like a coward.

Sir Galahad ran to his friend's body and prayed for his soul. Then, he promised to finish their quest. He went out the forest and set off towards the high mountains.

He arrived in front of a gigantic door in black stone with strange symbols inscribed on it. Next to it was a human-sized door which was open. Galahad was suspicious and on his guard. He walked into an enormous cave plunged into darkness with ancient stones all around. Suddenly, he saw the Cauldron. It shone ahead of him but there was a cleft between the hero and his reward. He couldn't jump and the hole seemed to be very deep. All of a sudden, a deep and hoarse voice resounded in all the mountain:

"If you are really brave you will be able to answer my three riddles correctly!"

"Are you the legendary giant, Dyrnwch?" Asked the knight.

"Yes I am, but if you answer wrongly or if you are cowardly, you will not escape alive from this place."

"I am listening Giant!"

"I amuse you with my stories without ever being paid. I distract you in the evening but, alas, at dawn, you will have forgotten me. Who am I?"

"A dream!" Shouted Galahad without hesitation.

"Correct! I am your companion of always, I escort you under the sun, I cover your backs, I never talk but I always follow you. Who am I?"

Galahad thought for a moment and finally said: "A shadow!"

"Correct!" Approved the giant "Invisible and nevertheless known to all, lighter than the wind, sharper than a blade, born from nothing and able to defeat the biggest armies. Who am I?"

The knight said nothing for a few minutes, looked at Dyrnwch and then answered self-assuredly: "Hunger!". The giant laughed a lot and said: "I knew that you were brave, knight! Take my cauldron and give it to the King!"

Sir Galahad took the treasure, thanked the giant and went back victorious, once more, to Camelot.

Spy

On his side, Lancelot went back to the king's castle to rest. He had just arrived when the king entrusted him with an affair of espionage. He was proud to be asked by the king to spy on a weird man who had just arrived in the Dismal Woods. The king found it strange that the man, named Marvel, had decided to live far away from civilisation. Moreover, a precious object had been stolen from Arthur and the king had the intuition that Marvel had taken it.

Taking this to heart, he planned to spend three weeks in the woods to try to find him. However he got lost and wasn't able to find his way for days. Starting to think that he would fail in his mission, he was upset.

One night, as he wanted to sleep, he lay down under a tree. He closed his eyes, but, as he was falling asleep, he heard a strange noise. The full moon lit up the landscape, so it was easy to figure out what was around him. He was panic-stricken and, after a few minutes, which seemed like an eternity, he saw a corpse which was lying on his left. He got up, and walked through greenery to reach it. A gash was across his neck, and his legs were broken. His bloody clothes showed that he was just a poor peasant.

Lancelot was certain that Marvel had something to do with this murder. Knowing that innocent people had been killed, he regained his motivation and continued to search for the murderer.

He had been looking for the house for days when he finally found it. It was made of wood, with mould on its facade. The roof was damaged. It seemed dusty and uninhabited for a long time. Running around the house, he finally managed to see Marvel through the window. From his stature, he knew he was the man he was looking for.

He stayed around his house, watching his every move. The more he saw, the more he understood. Marvel was hiding something from the population. Our hero understood that it was the coat Gwenn which belonged to Arthur. This coat was precious to him because it made the wearer invisible. The thief was anxious and, seeing how he was always outside, looking around with worried looks, Lancelot knew that he was discovered.

Finally, Lancelot decided to take action. In the middle of the night, he entered the house. There was no noise, and the atmosphere was tense. The house sounded empty but Lancelot hadn't seen Marvel going out for days so he had to be there. After ten minutes, he heard something hitting the floor on his right. He quickly understood that Marvel had put on the coat. As fast as he could, he hit him and the coat fell off. Lancelot was face to face with Marvel. They looked at each other and Lancelot hit him one last time. Marvel fainted.

When he finally arrived at the king's castle with the unconscious thief, he could not be anything but proud of himself. Arthur, who was more than happy to have his coat back, thanked Lancelot many times.

Marvel was finally judged by the Court and was executed by Arthur himself.

Horror

Sir Gawain decided to go back to Camelot. On the road, he saw a knight sleeping on a rock, beside the path. This knight wore the colours of King Arthur's knights. Gawain approached him and recognized his friend Sir Galahad.

"What a surprise Galahad! Why are you here?" He shouted. Sir Galahad woke up and answered, "I'm going back to Camelot. Look at the treasure I found!" He pointed out a cauldron near him. "A giant gave it to me after I answered three riddles!"

"Wonderful! I have a treasure too- the Cornucopia, I can drink all I want with it. A child gave it to me but I don't know where he found it."

After this meeting, they went together to Camelot. But, the more they travelled, the more the towns and people were dark and sad. The sun disappeared behind black clouds and shadows appeared everywhere. They arrived in the city around the castle but nobody was there. It was the first time that they had seen the place so empty. Both knights, intrigued, moved along the road but the gates of Camelot were closed. At that moment, night fell and the moon rose illuminating the world with a pasty light. The atmosphere became creepy but the heroes remained brave.

Suddenly, a man, as white as a sheet, rushed with rage towards Gawain. He fell on the warrior and dribbled on his face like a furious hound. Gawain tried to hold back this insane crook but Galahad lifted him by the neck and threw him against a wall breaking his nose. But, the man turned back and attacked them again. Galahad took his sword out of its scabbard and slashed his head in two. This assault frightened Gawain.

All of a sudden, among the shadows, a very old,evil-looking woman with a hooked nose and a hood appeared. The knights couldn't move. She said with a demonic voice from hell:

“You stole the Cornucopia and dare to defy me! Camelot will fall to a skeleton army! Now, give me back my treasure or here will finish your adventure!”

“This horn belongs to King Arthur, not to a demon like you!” replied Gawain.

“Abandon your souls and die by of my ghouls!”she yelled furiously.

She rose in the air with a strident scream. Her purple eyes sparkled and hundreds of ghouls encircled the heroes.

They ran into a little street hoping to find an escape but a 15-foot stone wall blocked their passage. They had no chance of survival.

“Climb on my shoulders Galahad!” Ordered Sir Gawain.

“Oh no, I won't do that! I am a knight of the Round Table like you! I can't do that, my values won't allow it!” He replied.

“Galahad, one of us can survive and the legend chose you to find the Holy Grail, so hurry up!”

Sir Galahad obeyed reluctantly and climbed over the wall. He turned his head and saw a wave of ghouls dive into the street. It was horrific because, behind the wall, he heard Gawain's screams and eating noises. He found a secret door to go in the castle and he started to look for other knights. He was very determined because enough people had died already. He went through the castle, meeting ghouls who he slayed without pity and found the throne room.

The door was barricaded but Sir Galahad shouted his name to the survivors inside. Sir Lancelot answered him and opened the door. King Arthur and Queen Guinevere were with him. “It's Sir Galahad my king!” Said Lancelot.

“Wait, we don't know that he's not... “. At the same moment, the witch appeared with a crash and attacked the King. But Arthur was stronger and cut off her arm in one perfect movement. The witch fell on the ground, encircled by the knights. “It's not over,” she whispered.

“Oh yes it is demon!” Answered King Arthur, taking Excalibur. He beheaded the woman with the magic fire of his sword. The corpse burnt and returned to hell. Sir Lancelot and Queen Guinevere went outside and saw that Camelot had become peaceful again and its citizens were saved. In the throne room, King Arthur said to Sir Galahad, “Fortunately, the witch came, otherwise, there would have been nothing to show that you were really you.”“Absolutely nothing”, Galahad answered while his eyes became purple.....

ONCE UPON A GRAIL

Human drama

Galahad, Gawain and Lancelot were determined to find the Holy Grail and to take it back to Camelot as a proof of their loyalty to King Arthur. In Human Drama, they decided to take separate ways, in order to be more efficient in their quest. Gawain took the southern trail to Dickens. Lancelot took the northern route to Brontë. As for Galahad, he rode to the west until he reached Austen.

Sir Gawain arrived at Dickens where he met Pip, who unreasonably derived from Gawain's demeanour that he could narrate his adventures himself..

MY FRIEND'S FAMILY NAME BEING GINGALAIN, and his Arthurian name Gawain, my infant tongue could make of both names nothing longer or more explicit than Gin. So, I called him Gin, and he came to be called Gin. As I never saw his father or his mother, and never saw any likeness of neither of them (for their days were long before the days of photographs) my first fancies were regarding what they were like. His father might have been tall and fat. His mother might have been a beautiful blond woman. The shape of the letters on Gawain's coat of arms gave me an odd idea that the Holy Grail was a dish, a plate, a stone, or a cup. I drew a childish conclusion that it had special powers, and was designed to provide happiness, eternal youth and food in infinite abundance.

Meanwhile, Lancelot had headed for Brontë...

"Dear journal,

Today was a very rainy day in Brontë. Most of the time, people associate rainy days with sadness but not for me. A rainy day would mean that I don't have to make up an excuse for why I am not playing outside or am not being friendly with the other children. The truth is I would much rather stay in my room and read one of my favourite books. I was about to climb up the stairs to go to my room when I heard Mrs. Reed shout from the kitchen in a terrifying man's voice, 'CHILDREN! Come down immediately! Don't make me ask again!'

We all went running down the stairs with scared looks on our faces except for John, because no matter what we could have done he's the only one that would never be punished because he always has been Mrs. Reed's favourite.

'Don't make me come up there!' shouted Mrs. Reed.

'Yes right away!' we all cried at once.

"What took you so long you little brats. I have lots of things to do today before our guest comes tonight and if you get in my way, you'll be grounded for a month or maybe two. Tonight is a big night, well at least for me it is. I expect you to behave very well.

'Who are we accommodating?' John said.

'Now I was going to get to that if only you'd let me finish. It's one of King Arthur's knights, Sir Lancelot. He's not staying very long but he's staying for the night. He was sent on a mission far away from the kingdom. He warned me that he has to take off early in the morning but I don't think he mentioned why. I guess I'll have to ask him tonight.'

Sir Lancelot arrived in his all red armour. It was time to eat dinner so everyone went to the table. John kept begging Sir Lancelot to explain his mission. He told us he was looking for the Holy Grail to take it back to King Arthur's court to prove his loyalty. Mrs. Reed at one point

insisted that he stay a little longer. He told us it wasn't possible. He was really in a hurry, there was silence after he said this and suddenly we heard knocking at the door.

Mrs. Reed was fuming, 'Who knocks on the door at dinner time? This is unacceptable!'

She opened the door and shouted, 'Yes yes what do you want?'

'Sorry to bother you but I believe Sir Lancelot is here. Would you mind giving this to him? It's a letter from the King,' said the little man who was beside himself with excitement.

'The King? Oh it must be important!' said Mrs. Reed while slamming the door in the poor man's face.

She immediately handed Sir Lancelot the red envelope. Sir Lancelot opened it and told us that the King needed him in Children's fiction."

As soon as the news of Galahad's arrival in Austen had spread, Mrs Bennet could not resist the temptation.

'My dear Mr Bennet, have you heard of the arrival of this new man?' said the lady to her husband, who sighed but did not answer.

'It seems that he is a knight! And you know, knights are brave and beautiful!' returned she.

Mr Bennet did not answer again.

'Do not you want to know who this knight is?' cried the lady, impatiently.

'You mistake me, my dear. And I can hear your desire to tell me from here, so keep going.'

This answer was enough for Mrs Bennet to continue, 'He's one of The Round Table!'

'What is his name?'

'Galahad.'

Mr Bennet pretended to be interested, 'Is he married or single?'

"Oh! Single, my dear, to be sure! A single man of a large fortune. What a fine thing for our girls!'

After that, the conversation soon ended and Mr Bennet had no choice but to invite Galahad to dinner in their humble abode. During the meal, Mrs Bennet introduced each of her daughters, but much to her disappointment, Galahad seemed interested only in the Holy Grail. 'Lizzy could help you with your quest,' Mrs Bennet attempted, but Galahad declined. So, at the end of the day, Galahad had not found anything interesting about the Holy Grail. Nobody knew anything. Neither Mr and Mrs Bennet, nor their four daughters.

Children's fiction

Each of the three knights had received a letter from King Arthur. He needed their help in Children's Fiction:

'Dear Knight,

You have to go to Children's Fiction. You will know the reason as soon as you are there. It is really important.

King Arthur.'

Lancelot, Gawain and Galahad gathered at the entrance of Children's Fiction forest. They walked through a pink universe of lollipops, with some candy-flosses instead of trees, many rivers full of chocolate instead of water, and many clouds of whipped cream. They were amazed.

'Do you have news about the Holy Grail?' said Galahad.

'No, nothing really interesting,' the others replied, disappointed.

'Neither do I, said Galahad. Maybe we will find it here, in the forest. Keep looking.'

As they came into the forest, the air became gentler. The forest seemed like the summer although it was autumn. Life seemed sweeter in this place. Beautiful butterflies flew with flies. The sun shone. After a few minutes' walk, the three fellow travellers heard a strange sound. They looked at a bush which was next to them. It moved. The knights pulled their swords and got near the bush. Suddenly, a cute little rabbit came from behind the bush. It wasn't a normal rabbit. Because he was pink, like a pig! The three knights began to laugh.

'Oh, it was only a small rabbit, guys!' said jokingly Galahad.

'Yeah, we had nothing to fear.' Lancelot replied.

They were in a huge and colourful forest where the trees touched the sky. They were impressed by this beautiful world. Suddenly a sheep who rode a bike appeared. He said, 'Hello, my friends can I help you?'

Galahad answered, 'Yeah sure! We are looking for Arthur.'

The sheep shouted, 'Arthuuuuuuuuuuur! Follow me!'

He dropped his bike and ran toward a pink castle. It was very high and it smelt of chocolate everywhere. The knights followed him into the castle.

King Arthur was already there waiting with his assistant Tinker Bell. Tinker Bell was holding a piece of paper that continuously changed colours. She had a hard time holding it because she was so small. She immediately gave it to one of the knights. King Arthur smiled at them and said, 'I have gathered you here today for an important mission. Here is a map to lead you to the Sword-and-Sorcery forest where you will find Merlin for further instructions and remember, don't ever look back.'

As soon as he finished speaking, King Arthur and his assistant disappeared in fairy dust. The three knights looked at each other and then at the map to find out where they needed to go first. The map started to SPEAK: 'First stop...Cloud Kingdom.'

The map told them to go to their right and then take a left when they saw a magic chocolate tree. As soon as they walked a little deeper into the forest, their horses transformed into flying unicorns with butterfly wings. Once they saw the magic chocolate tree they noticed a sign was placed next to it. The sign said, 'Fly this way to Cloud Kingdom' with letters written in fudge. The sign indicated a path going upwards. They flew so high they reached clouds made out of cotton candy. Once the knights arrived at the top of the clouds there was a huge door made out of candy right in front of them. They got off their flying unicorns, so they could get closer and knock on the door. An enormous raccoon opened the door and asked,

'Yes? Who are you, may I ask?'

'Hello sir. We have been asked to find Merlin.' said Galahad.

'Password please?' said the giant raccoon.

'I am afraid that we don't have one for you my friend, could you just let us in?'

'Oh I'm sorry, I can't let you in if you don't give me the password... There is maybe a way for you to get in but you have to give me an answer to my riddle.'

'Alright, we'll try to answer.'

'Okay here is my riddle, I am very hot. I live in the sky. I am bright. Don't look straight at me. I disappear in the night. Who am I?'

'Mmmh.. I think that there is only one thing that fulfills this criteria... Is it the sun?' said Galahad after consulting the other knights.

‘Oh I’m afraid that you are right... You may come in.’

All three of the knights hopped on their rides and galloped through the Cloud Kingdom. What an incredible sight to see, there were candy trees everywhere and sometimes gumdrops would even fall from up above. The unicorns were going very fast when all of a sudden they stopped. They heard something that sounded like a strong water current. Their magical creatures were immediately frightened and ran off in the opposite direction. The three knights walked and walked until the magical map started beeping and repeating itself in a robotic voice, ‘You have almost reached your destination. You have almost reached your destination...’

Fantasy

As they kept moving forward the sound got louder and louder. Right in front of them was a chocolate bridge that led to nowhere. Underneath was a marshmallow river. They decided to cross the bridge anyway because King Arthur had specifically told them to never look back. They were not even halfway through the chocolate bridge when it started to collapse. The knights fell into the river and got carried away by the current leading them to a marshmallowfall. Lucky for them just in time their magical creatures came to save them. They flew and flew until they reached a new destination. They decided to stop when they saw a strange forest ahead of them. The seven first trees they saw spelled out "Fantasy". They saw a little guy with a long beard and pointy hat waiting for them with a cauldron. Arthur was next to him.

‘Sirs, you finally arrived at the Sword-&-Sorcery place. I’ve protected all the outline by a magical power. Anything which is inhuman would be destroyed.’

‘Merlin!! Here you are!’ Gawain screamed.

‘So are you. Take these four flasks, it will be essential for your quest. But don’t leave now. The nooks of this place are hazardous, the night isn’t sure for you. Tomorrow it will be safer. Good night.’

The day after, they left Sword-&-Sorcery early; Merlin was already awake so they could thank him.

They had walked for hours and hours without any problem, except some brambles and big roots. They succeeded in avoiding shifting sands and bayous.

The four nights continued in a forest which looked as magical as terrifying. They came in this huge kingdom of trees, and they walked during a long time, without seeing the end of the journey. Gahalad proposed to find a place to camp. Gawain and Lancelot, exhausted, agreed. Gawain discovered a hole under a giant rock, it was large enough for them. Night fell, therefore the three knights lighted up a fire. Lancelot told that they had to be careful because creatures lived in the wood, and poor humans like them were not welcome. The men fell asleep, but they forgot to put out the fire, which caught the attention of some curious, the Olgwenns.

These monsters were kind of small ogres, with tall ears, and purplish rough skin. They cruelly reigned on the forest, by killing anyone who blocked their path. And at this moment, it was the four knights who disturbed the beasts. So they started to attach the humans’ feet with lianas, but it had awakened the knights.

Gahalad screamed ‘Oh no, Olgwenns!’ and tried to liberate himself, but a creature hit him, and he lost consciousness. When he woke up, he saw his friends held prisoners by all the tribe of Olgwenns, happy for their future feast.

Galahad heard a voice, he searched around him and saw a cage full of little women, 'Fairies!'

He asked the tiny girls why they were here, one of them answered that the Olgwenns captured them years ago for their magic dust, and destroyed their town. A fairy named Lona said, 'We are too small to combat the ogres, but you, you can overcome them. We are going to help you, we know these beasts by heart, all their weaknesses.' her companions acquiesced.

Together, they developed a plan to smash the horrid villains. Lancelot looked around and posed his eyes on their saviour, the sword. With it, he could cut the lianas and rescue the fairies, as well as themselves.

And while the fairies took a look at the Olgwenns, he swiftly cut the links.

They had to be fast, because the ogres were already preparing the giant cooking pot which was waiting for human flesh. Galahad got up, and looked for the cage's key, in vain. But he could break it himself, it was weak. At last, fairies knew freedom, could fly and move. Then, they approached discreetly the Olgwenns who did not suspect anything, and the fairies flew above them and threw dust to blind them. Which allowed the knights to plant their sword in the monster's backs. Their bloody body collapsed on the floor. Glad of this victory, the little women thanked Galahad, Arthur, Lancelot and Gawain for their help. Finally, the four men resumed their travel, with the fear of falling on other beasts. Fortunately, they just met a herd of unicorns, the most beautiful creatures of the world according to them.

After a while they arrived at a place called Here-Be-Dragons. It was a cute place in the forest. Everything was good until they were in front of a giant dragon. He was higher than two houses. How could four simple men fight this monster? They moved forward cautiously but the dragon spat two enormous flames. It wouldn't be long before they would be reduced to ashes, and their poor swords were useless.

Horror

Our four knights had to escape from the dragon. They watched everywhere around them, tried to find somewhere in security. Moreover the sun was going down. By chance they saw near them a tomb wide open. Now they had to let their horses go and they hid in the tomb. They were surprised when they discovered that the tomb was enormous and they walked in without their horses, tired and hungry. The path was dark, narrow and seemed never-ending to them. They decided to take a short nap in this unwelcoming but rather safe place.

After hours confined in the tomb, the four men woke up and saw a dark light. Their hiding place was open and they went out one by one. At this moment there, their looks crossed and from the first second they understood in which world they found themselves, Horror Land... They decided to continue their quest in search of the Holy Grail in this new place, and after several minutes of walking they fell on a small and strange hut. Arthur decided to adventure himself inside on the condition that the others continued their way. The front door being closed, Arthur made the turn and fell on a small subterranean trapdoor, he entered and immediately the trapdoor closed behind him. Inside he discovered a normal housing environment, a lit fireplace and a pleasant atmosphere. Intrigued, he opened a door. He discovered a normal bedroom but he spotted a box under the bed which looked suspect... He opened it... The box was full of hermetic jars; each contained a different part of the body: ears, toes..., others were full of human eyes.

Arthur ran, ran, ran away, without ever stopping.

The three other knights heard Arthur scream; they followed their king's lamentations which led them straight to him.

The four men resumed their journey and arrived at a horrible place called Nightmares. This place was dark, with big scary leafless trees. The knights were careful, because they felt something strange... The more they were sinking into this city, the more the atmosphere was worrying. Nightmares was known to realise the worst nightmares of its visitors. Suddenly, through the thick fog, the three knights saw a cemetery.

It was a dark and dismal place. They saw calcined trees and corpses strewn on the ground. Just after passing the entrance to the cemetery, the four men came across a group of six vampires. They were ugly, white, with big and horrible teeth, and were filled with rage when seeing the four knights. They began to smile evilly and started running toward the four men. Lancelot brandished his sword and violently beheaded the first vampire. He fell to the floor, picked up his head calmly and pressed it back on his neck. Full of rage, he approached Lancelot and wanted to plant his fangs. Lancelot took his courage in both hands and stuck his hand into the vampire's breast and tore his heart. The monster fell to the ground and remained inert.

Our knights took the opportunity to flee away from the massacre. They ran off thinking never be found, unfortunately for them. They were pursued. Sir Gawain stumbled on a grave and smashed his skull to the ground. He called his colleagues for help. This forced the knights to turn around. When suddenly the vampires caught Gawain by his feet, trailed him on the floor where he was living a nightmare. Nails, pieces of glass and thorns were dug into his flesh. His head hit the ground so abruptly that he lost a lot of blood. This blood excited the vampires who put him up as a puppet and before the eyes of his friends, tore out his fingernails and then cut off his toes. Gawain was screaming to death while the vampires continued to take pleasure in torturing. They tore his eyes... He suffered so much that he scared his friends away from this country. The vampires gave the fatal blow and broke the neck of Gawain who fell to the ground.

Seeing the disaster and the inert body of their friend, the knights ran off until they found a river.

They jumped into the river, exhausted, and let their bodies be carried away by the stream. They later learnt that it was named the Na No Wri Mo River, and that it had saved their lives by taking them downstream to Comedy Land.

Comedy

When they reached the river bank they saw big white letters planted in the soil. They said: 'S I T C O M S'. Lancelot like his companions looked more like a poor wet dog trying to swim than a brave knight. They all had reed branches in their hair. When a young man came to rescue them he couldn't help taking a selfie to immortalize the moment and share it on Snapchat. The three knights also needed a change of clothes since theirs were torn and wet and they looked half-naked. Upon which the young man offered to take them to H&M in the nearest town, called Mothers-In-Law. He told them how they could steal clothes in the changing rooms by tearing off the tags. Arthur, after a moment of reflection, chose a suit and a pink tie. Galahad took a pair of jeans but he was unsatisfied because they were torn at the knees. Lancelot wanted to look different, so he chose shorts with a flower pattern and a big

pendant in the shape of a \$. The knight didn't know what this talisman was, but it was gold and it said \$ like \$ir Lancelot.

The young man started to feel awkward with the three men who took themselves for knights, but he knew they had swords and apparent strength. He pretended to have something very important to do and before leaving he gave them his smartphone and all the money he had, out of pity.

The three knight felt very hungry. Arthur spotted an inn sign, KFC, and assumed it meant 'the Kingdom's Fabulous Cooking', so they all went in and ate the weirdest chicken wings they had ever tasted. Arthur did not really like the appearance of the place. 'I prefer round tables to square tables,' he said. In the tavern, a song was on but the female singer was nowhere to be seen... It was strange. The song went, 'Hello from the other siiiide...' and it made him think of Guinevere. Suddenly, the song changed; it was now a male voice but still no singer around. Arthur asked the waiter who informed him that the bizarre song was "Sad But True" by Metallica'. He did not know this fellow, but judging by his name and the music he made, he must have a strong armour.

Suddenly, something vibrated in Arthur's suit pocket. It was the little machine the young man had given them. When he looked, a text message appeared which said, 'Hi! 1 riddle just 4U: who slept the most w/ Ur wife??? Clue: not U! LOL ☹️' It was signed, 'Morgan'.

Arthur wondered if it was a joke. Lancelot and Galahad devoured their meal but the message cut Arthur's appetite. Two minutes later, the same informer sent another message, 'Lancelot stole Ur wife, man. Go check on Instagram.' He didn't know what Instagram was. Instantly, a picture appeared on the machine. Guinevere was on the image with a man. Arthur couldn't see his whole face but he recognized Lancelot's hair. The picture dated from four or five months ago because it was snowing.

Arthur turned to Lancelot, 'I am going to make you eat your potatoes by the nose! I'm going to break a chair on your head! How could you do this to me, you swine! I trusted you! You were like a brother to me!'

'I can explain,' replied Lancelot.

'Explain this, then.' fumed Arthur.

'Would you like coffee, honey?' interrupted the waitress.

Arthur exploded, 'Go away with your kofi! We have other problems to solve here!'

Galahad interrupted, 'I can't take this anymore, Dad! Why? Why do you always fall in love with married women? I'll leave the two of you deal with your important troubles!'

Before leaving, he placed a shiny cup adorned with jewels on the square table.

Then he confessed, 'Since the beginning I have been cheating on you, Dad. I had the Holy Grail with me all along. I just wanted to spend more time with you; I miss the old times. But apparently you're not worth it.'

Galahad disappeared, and the two other knights had no other choice but to continue their journey together, in the quest of Galahad this time. Arthur was in a bad mood all along, 'We need our horses back! We're too slow!'

They had found two little ponies and had to content themselves with that. They knew that they were ridiculous on ponies that were smaller than them but they kept riding. At least they didn't have to be ashamed for one thing: they had the Grail.

They slowly disappeared into the horizon...

THE TALES OF KING ARTHUR AND HIS KNIGHTS THROUGH FICTION ISLAND

Fantasy world

King Arthur was travelling alone, without his knights. To join them in the next county, he had to succeed in crossing this mysterious county. When he arrived in front of the entrance of this county, he discovered a lost forest. He was surprised to notice this forest was full of odd and very strange creatures and decided to penetrate this fascinating forest. After a while he became very much surprised to see the trees and their blue leaves, inhabited by fluorescent purple birds which seemed to flutter peacefully up in the sky, and this unearthly multi-coloured ground. On this ground were speaking heart-shaped flowers, but King Arthur didn't actually see their mouths. He was totally amazed by it. Captivated by the beauty of this place that he had never encountered previously, Arthur crossed the path which took him right into this marvellous but queer forest.

Suddenly, he drew his horse to a stop when he saw a beautiful woman who really looked like a fairy. He was dazed by her exquisite beauty. Her hair was very long with beads on the tips. She wore a long white dress which shone so brightly that the sun's light wasn't needed in this mystical world. Arthur wondered if the sun truly existed here. Then, his gaze met the fairy's big black beautiful eyes. He had never seen a woman of such beauty. All her features were fine and pure. She was the epitome of purity. For a brief instant he completely forgot Guinevere his wife. The pretty lady was talking with the strange flowers on the floor. He approached her. When she discovered him, she smiled.

All of a sudden, an ogre appeared from nowhere. He was running towards the delicate fairy. She was afraid and fell to the ground. Tiny sequins dripped from her body. Unfortunately, the dress hitched a stone similar to a diamond. She could not move anymore. King Arthur instantly drew Excalibur from his scabbard and stood between the ogre and the fairy. He pointed his sword towards the ogre and threatened him but the creature appeared not to care. Arthur remarked that the ogre plucked many evil little dwarves from his pocket and threw them at Arthur. King Arthur recognized these small creatures. To destroy a human or whatever looks like a human, these creatures have one goal: to sting its body. If the targeted creature is too badly stung, then it can become an ogre! Arthur tried to protect himself from these creatures which were starting to climb up his body. The ugly and vile ogre watched the scene. It gave him a very special delight to see Arthur fighting with these tiny but clever creatures. Fortunately, Arthur had a potion which he had won in another county. He had hidden it in his shoe throughout his excursion. The potion was such a relief for Arthur as it had the power of blinding guilty enemies. With some difficulty he grabbed it and splashed the dwarves' faces, if we can call them faces. The ogre was not amused as he had been confident of victory.

With his well-known bravery, King Arthur vanquished these little nasty dwarves helped by his ever loyal sword Excalibur. The ogre was outraged to survey this battle in which King Arthur shall certainly soon triumph. These awful creatures, these petty monsters, the ogre's much-loved dwarves were now quite definitely dead. Angered and raging, the ogre said to Arthur, with something in his voice that we can almost call 'feelings':

"You have destroyed them and destroyed my reason for living. If you want to continue on your way, you will have to fight against me! You have no choice".

"An ugly ogre like you will not stop me," murmured King Arthur.

"If you win, little knight, I will give you the sacred diamond that I keep and protect because it has been passed down my ogre family. The bearer of this diamond commands powers over whichever county he is visiting".

"Right, I'm ready ogre" said Arthur.

Thanks to Excalibur's power and to Arthur's niceness, the ogre died and went to join his lovely dwarfs up there in the land where calm and peace reign forever. Then King Arthur approached to the ogre's body and claimed the diamond which was hidden in his trouser pocket. The fairy, who had witnessed the scene was terrified but she sighed and looked up at King Arthur.

"How can I thank you enough, sir? Should I call you "Your Majesty? asked the fairy. "Previously every human, every creature, every friend and neighbour, every enemy and other unknown monster of this county was undoubtedly terrified by this creature. Today, thanks to you, this county is free! Free, we are free! But...who are you dear stranger?"

"Don't worry, it was pleasure to help you and your mysterious county. I am the King of the North, the King of the well-known lands in the West, the King of the coral sea in the South and the King of my faithful knights and community. Actually I must meet up with my knights and that is why I must cross your beautiful county".

"Let me thank you once again, your Majesty, for giving us a period of peace". The fairy unhooked one of these beads from her long hair and gave it to Arthur. "Keep it with you always and everything will be well, for sure" said the fairy.

With these words, she disappeared. King Arthur went away from this mystical forest. Around a clearing he spotted an odd and brightly-coloured fence. He went off on his way through a lollipop-lined gateway.

Children's fiction

The trapped cake

Once upon a time in Sweetland, a small village run only by children, King Arthur met up with the other Knights of the Round Table. They were exhausted, hungry and dirty from their adventures.

While they were riding along on their tired black horses, wearing huge cloaks that hid their faces, Lancelot suddenly smelled the delicious fragrance of a chocolate cake. "My friends, can you smell that heavenly chocolate?" said Lancelot.

Galahad complained: "I'm starving! I could eat anything in this place."

Percival replied "I don't know I think we're just hallucinating because we're so tired, it can't be true."

"My companions, Lancelot is right, let's look in the basket on the table over there, maybe there's something to eat!"

The brave knight hesitated a bit but they were really hungry, so they went to see what was on the table. What a surprise! A huge chocolate cake! They were so happy they couldn't think about anything but eating.

So they sat around the low little table, they wondered why the table and the chairs were so little. They understood quickly when about twenty kids appeared screaming and shouting at

them. The children surrounded them, each child armed with little candy weapon. They bound the intruders with liquorice rolls to a tree. The knights started to argue and the children began to talk with their special language unfamiliar to Arthur and his companions. The day was passing, they tried to find a solution to escape but found none.

During the night the kids held a meeting in the woods when suddenly their dog Clifford told them that they were in danger but the kids took no notice. Some minutes later a pair of evil gnomes appeared in front of them. Those two gnomes live in a dark spooky cave in Horrorland and were notorious for robbing other villages and scaring children. The kids panicked and tried to escape running to hide wherever they could but the nasty creatures picked up three of them under their arms before leaving the village through the dismal woods.

The kids were very frightened. They cried and cried and called Clifford to help them find their kidnapped friends. But Clifford was no foolish doggy; he didn't follow the creatures into the woods but trotted over to where the Knights of the Round Table were held captive.

Clifford freed the knights by nibbling through the liquorice bonds. The knights were so happy and grateful, but the happiness was short-lived because they saw what had happened to the youngsters and understood why the dog had freed them. So they galloped off on their horses to rescue the victims. The brave knights arrived just in time to see the wicked gnomes crossing the river borders of Horrorland. Brave King Arthur once again unsheathed Excalibur and the monsters were immediately scared by the power of the shining blade they threw down the children and ran away back to their filthy dark cave. The knights comforted the three children, lifted them up onto their big horses and rode them home.

On their return to Sweetland, they were given a warm welcome from Clifford and the other children who began screaming and running all over the place. All the children were safe and sound.

Later that afternoon, just after tuck, one young kiddie moved a step closer and gave the knights a special candy to make them understand their special language. At first the knight were dubious about taking the candies because the kids had behaved badly with them but after all, kids will be kids! When they had eaten the candy, they suddenly realised they could understand what the little rascals were saying and tried to communicate with them.

"Well my little pupils, do you understand our language?" asked King Arthur.

The kids answered: "Yes we do! That's why we gave you the special candy to tell you all about our village."

"Thank you. We want to explain that we ate your delicious cake because we were starving and tired, we hadn't eaten for three days." Lancelot tried to justify himself.

"We are sorry for what we've done. The cake was a trick set to trap the two evil gnomes, because they are always bothering us and our friends in the other villages," explained one of the children.

"We were so annoyed we didn't pay enough attention to your situation!" Arthur admitted to the children.

The kids had a good idea; they wanted to make a cake and eat it all together with the Knights of the Round Table to thank them for what they had done.

"Well we'd love to share your delicious cake! We are so hungry! Thank you children!" King Arthur said gratefully. The brave knights and the kiddies sat down together and enjoyed the delicious chocolate-and-M&M's cake before saying farewell and wishing each other good luck.

Arthur realised he had crossed the county on wit alone, without the help of his magic diamond. Pondering these thoughts, he noticed a division in the path and the group struck off in different directions to spread their chivalrous presence over the Kingdom. Gawain, Galahad and Lancelot trotted forward to new adventures across a funny suspension bridge shaped like a bouncy castle.

Comedy

They crossed the rickety bridge and found themselves in front of a door. It was a small door framed by ducks each sitting on a perch. When the three Knights approached the ducks, the birds burst into song whose melody was the air of their dance. It amused the three Knights so much that they kept moving backwards and forwards to hear the ducks singing. But after a while they became bored so they banged the door-knocker shaped like a wide-mouthed frog. A furtive voice giggled:

"Knock knock!"

The Knights looked at each other and Gawain answered: "Who's there?"

"Isabelle!"

"Isabelle who?"

"Is a bell necessary on a bicycle?"

A chorus of laughter rang out, the door opened and the three Knights read the words Welcome to the Comic World! on a rainbow flag. Pink smoke billowed across and at that moment they started to laugh so much that they couldn't stop. They did not know what had happened to them but they believed they hear a parrot that squawked "get out quickly or you'll laugh yourselves to death!" They were laughing so hard that they had stomach aches. They did not take the bird seriously, his voice seemed too funny.

Suddenly, a leprechaun appeared. He had very big feet, which made him walk slowly, his round belly gave the impression of an over-indulged life, but the funniest thing about him was his face: he had a round face, large round bulging eyes, a small pointed nose when he moved and he had a great and wide mouth with sharp teeth small that displayed time length of a smile. As they saw it, they could only laugh because the leprechaun looked so full of fun.

He was laughing as much as the three Knights. He looked at the three Knights and said to them with a big smile on his odd face:

"I have a joke! Listen to me! There was this chap who used to take his dog to school every day, but one day he had to stop."

"How come?"

"Because the dog graduated!"

They were in the hall. They continued chuckling and walking down the long hall. Then they saw a something strange ahead of them. They advanced slowly. The corridor was dimly-lit, everything around them was dark.

Galahad saw a strange box when suddenly a clown sprang out of the box and at this moment the three knights laughed more and more. There were thousands of clowns. Their heads were on bouncy springs in a box, they swayed from side to side and they were singing with a silly smile.

The three knights were laughing so hard they had difficulty finding the door to go outside. Furthermore the boxes blocked the knights, they were laughing louder and louder and even in the house next to them the neighbours could hear their laughter. The neighbours'

window opened and Mr Bean's head popped out, he was having tea with the Mad Hatter. Now it was Lancelot's turn to tell a joke:

"Knock knock!"

"Who's there?" Galahad answered, now wearing a red nose.

"Obama," quipped Lancelot.

"Obama who?"

"Obaaa Maaaa Seeeelf!"

They fell to the floor laughing so hard that they couldn't speak. They were bent over holding their sides. Rapidly they understood that the pink smoke wasn't helping matters in this strange world where they were supposed to be searching for the Holy Grail.

"Come on! Let's get out of here! We're on a mission" Gawain whooped.

They were all thinking the same thing: it was time to move on. So the three knights gathered all their efforts to rouse themselves and get going. Outside this strange house and this strange hall, they saw a tree. At the top of it they was no pink smoke so they climbed the highest possible. At the top they was an apple. The three night were so hungry so they shared it, immediately a firework display broke out in the sky lighting the way forward on the westward front. They mounted their horses and cantered toward the setting sun to pitch camp preparing to sleep off their hilarity when lo and behold! They chanced upon the other members of their crew who were already roasting venison on the campfire. They shared the tales of their adventures.

Crime country

The following morning at sunrise the chivalrous quest continued as the group rode westwards.

King Arthur hesitated as he saw two signposts in front of him which indicated two different ways. Percival and the King both felt that given all Arthur had already overcome, wherever he went, nothing would frighten him anymore. They therefore took a path to an unknown county.

When they came about this new county, Percival, Lancelot and King Arthur were surprised by this lively town. Knights remarked only women were outside here. These beautiful ladies were chatting and laughing together.

They were very elegant and gracefully clothed with lovely and charming dresses.

"We will like it, for sure" said Lancelot in a merry voice.

"Be on your guard" said the King, "remember that every single thing can hide a flaw".

Percival chuckled as he heard such a philosophical sentence.

As women looked at each man of their group, Percival wondered where the local men were and Arthur answered him that he thought he knew. King Arthur led his knights to the little town's only pub to and there they found many men. If they could be called men. Nasty humans with a pint of beer in each hand, how disrespectful! Such wretched specimens of humanity!

"Let's take a look inside" said Arthur. The Knights followed him.

After many unkind jokes and taunting lies from the town's dwellers about the "King", his Knights and their ridiculous names, they all eventually had a pint of beer too.

Later, no one could distinguish one person from the next and the noble Knights themselves could not tell anything as everybody in this little room was on the floor, just too

drunk to move. The chivalrous quest had met the vile world of debauchery. However, a little group of people succeeded to go to their bedrooms. One of them was King Arthur, little did he suspect what was waiting for him.

Although he was the most noble of us all, the King screamed like no one had ever screamed before. A woman's dead body lay across his bed. He drew near to the body and saw his sword Excalibur impaled in the body's stomach. Arthur was stunned and his face took on a worse complexion every second, his eyes would have fallen to the floor if he had not closed them so often, as if to protect himself from the hideous scene he had in front of him. The woman's members were spread all around the room and blood was everywhere, mostly on the windows. Arthur thought her heart might have been stolen as he could not see it.

The King kept his cool and called his knights. They were still very drunk so they could not see the dreadful reality in front of their eyes. Arthur investigated and saw no blood on the bed. A strand of blond hair was jammed in the door's lock and some soil which obviously came from outside was on the floor. "How strange!" thought King Arthur. He could not imagine a wonderful blond-haired woman with a shovel or a wheelbarrow, it was just out of his mind. Nevertheless with all of these clues he thus suspected the ghastly scene had taken place elsewhere.

Leaving his knights in the henceforth grim pub, he went outside and walked to the forest, resolved to investigate and discover who the murderer was. It didn't take him too long to jot down a list of witnesses, suspects with or without alibis, clues and motives from the behaviour he had observed amongst the pub's motley crew.

At first, on entering the forest, Arthur was surprised by the beauty of the place, utterly the opposite of what he had seen a little earlier. Then he saw the gorgeous blond-haired woman and took a few footsteps to her in the attractive and enchanted vibrant nature, but he already knew it was too late to turn back.

Indeed, Arthur henceforward did not know who he was, could not say anything but not too later he received a blow to his head and swooned to death. But...he felt the pain, and heard this unpleasant murmur and thereafter Arthur heard something. He heard a voice! He was alive! Not so much yet actually.

When the King opened his eyes and saw Percival face to face, he knew he had had a nightmare, the most hideous and shocking nightmare he would never had.

Later, Arthur told Knights his nightmare and they all promised to each other to never drink beer anymore. Or at least not this local brew. With these words of wisdom the company rode down to Sherlock Holmes bay where a large wooden raft awaited them ready to row themselves and their horses over the sea. From far away they were surprised to see a large white flag bearing a large pink circle trimmed below with a cross; in the centre of the circle was a raised pink fist.

Women's fiction

King or Queen?

The merry crew rode on to a new county, undaunted as ever. The new land was most pleasant, the valiant company established themselves there behaving with exemplary morality as dictated by their code.

It was a beautiful sunny day when King Arthur decided to ask Merlin about his future. Merlin was the greatest magician of the country, and had a true friendship with King Arthur.

After quite a calm afternoon, King Arthur and his wife Guinevere took their carriage to visit Merlin. When they arrived, they knocked at the door of Merlin's house. When he opened the door, he invited King Arthur to enter, but not Guinevere. Both of them were shocked at the wizard's lack of politeness, but Guinevere waited in the carriage. It took one minute for Merlin to tell King Arthur that his life was about to change rapidly.

"What are you talking about?" asked Arthur.

"Your existence and your body are going to change, be careful." answered Merlin.

Arthur was intrigued but he went out without saying a word. He entered the carriage and ordered the coachman to go home.

Some time later, Arthur was lying still in his bed when he felt something strange. He woke up and went into the bathroom like every morning to wash his face in a bowl of spring water. He first glanced quickly in the mirror and didn't see anything strange but when he looked again in detail he had a shock. He saw long straight hair falling on his shoulders, a thin nose and luscious lips but the most shocking thing was an imposing breast which had replaced his muscular chest. He was panicked and hurried, he ran to his wife's room and woke her up with his screaming. Guinevere recognized her husband's voice, but when she opened her eyes, she thought she was still dreaming. She looked at this strange woman and felt something weird: she had exactly the same blue eyes as her husband.

After a long discussion and many days to accept this change, Arthur who became Arthura, was confronted with the difficult life which is a woman's life. The worst thing was the day when he was courted by one of his knights. He tried to tell him that he was King Arthur but he only received mockeries.

Since this day, he decided to go to Merlin's house and asked him to save his life. King Arthur also wanted to know why all of this had happened to him. Merlin answered that it was because despite the code of respect and chivalry, women felt they were mistreated and a radical batch of magic was the only solution. Given that he was the King, he had to be used as a guinea pig. Arthura thought about society's mistakes and swore that apologies would be made.

Arthura and the Knights sat around the table with Guinevere and a wide variety of ladies from all over the land and drew up a new constitution respectful of everyone's needs, and they all lived happily ever after.

CRIME IN CAMELOT

Crime

Crime in Camelot

The celebration of the union of King Arthur and Lady Guinevere drew to a close. The ceremony was attended by several hundred people at Camelot, Merlin the Wizard, Morgan La Fay, Arthur's sister, Uther Pendragon, Arthur's father and legendary King of Brittany, Igraine, Arthur's mother, Vivien, the Lady of the Lake, the three loyal knights of King Arthur, Lancelot, Gawain and Galahad, the knights of the Round Table and many people from all over the country. Everything went well, for once, or almost.

Like every Thursday King Arthur gathered his knights around the Round Table. The one hundred and fifty knights were present, for nothing in the world a brave knight would miss a council. Today Arthur decided to question his knights because since few weeks the kingdom had a metallic aspect and many of them had brought to the castle metallic debris whose the origin was unknown. It is true that the progress advanced in the kingdom but that kind of particle was from nowhere, at least not from the Kingdom of King Arthur. The council was always very convivial; knights and King Arthur sat around a divine banquet. They ate as they pleased, and drank wine. Today they drank one last time in honor of the union of King Arthur and Lady Guinevere. It is a drink that passed difficulty for Lamorak. The knight turned as white as a dead man, and choked while everyone became agitated. Lancelot slapped his back to try to fix the situation and calm Lamorak. But Lamorak fell to the ground. Arthur called his guards who brought out all the knights of the room. A doctor arrived and remained a long moment to examine the body. He came out and announced the death of Lamorak. He said that Lamorak had been poisoned. Nobody in the castle could have poisoned one of the best knights. Metallic debris had been found and these were probably the cause of the blocking of the breathing and the death of the knight.

The next day, rumors were running about the sudden death of Lamorak, Arthur ordered an emergency council where he officially announced to all his loyal knights Lamorak's death. While they were debating about the source of the metal debris found on either side of the kingdom and also near the body of Lamorak, a servant entered the room and gave a letter to the King. Arthur opened the letter and read aloud:

"The damage has begun. This is only the beginning my friends. I will take possession of the whole kingdom and all the countries. I'll be the ruler of the world. No matter how, as you have seen. See you soon maybe.

Your favourite scientist. "

The surprise was total. Why a scientist would take possession of the kingdom? But first, what does a scientist do in Arthur's kingdom? It was said that scientists were findable in some remote area but not in Arthur's kingdom. On these words Arthur ordered to three of his knights to go in search of this mad scientist.

Galahad, Gawain and Lancelot left the kingdom illuminated by the apparition of the sun and rode into the adjoining forest. The forest was dark and black because almost no light could pass through the branches. Cold drafts crossed these woods as if the wind wanted to guide Lancelot, Gawain and Galahad. The morning dew had filed a thick fog coat which made the road less noticeable. The huge trees seemed to watch them, their branches moved just like

robot arms. The valiant knights were attentive to each detail, each motion. They did not know where this scientist was but in any case the wrongdoer had to be found. After long minutes, to the horses' hooves clacking on the cold paved ground, Gawain, Lancelot and Galahad reached the edge of the woods. In order to be more efficient, the three knights decided to separate:

"Gawain will take the southern trail..." said Galahad.

"And you, the northern route, Lancelot!" answered Gawain.

"Galahad rides to the west!" finished Lancelot.

On these words the three brave knights of King Arthur guided by their horses left Arthur's kingdom for a new country in search of the evil scientist...

Spy

Sharkman

The knights were now each on their own determined to neutralize this mad scientist. Hours went by and neither Lancelot nor Galahad or Gawain had found any track except a piece of glass with fingerprints. The three brave men have set themselves not to enter another country and if anyone found nothing, they met on the cliffs. The day began to fade and Galahad reached the cliffs. He saw his two companions disembark in the distance. They exchanged a few words, but their quest was unsuccessful.

"We must not disappoint King Arthur, this is the life of the kingdom which is involved." said Gawain

"Arthur has provided us a ship, in case we need to move!" reminded Galahad.

On these words, the three came to an agreement and sailed to a new country. The skies were in favor of the knights, the sea was bit hectic despite the sky sprinkled with gray. The trip has not been long, in short time the foam coming and going on the dark and wet sand was visible and the smell of the salt was perceptible. Lancelot dropped the anchor and the three knights went on the track of the wrongdoer.

The knights rode their horses and hurtled an absolutely deserted field. Only a figure seemed to stand out. They then accelerate the pace in order to ask their way to that shadow that seemed rather high. Lancelot, Gawain and Galahad tied their horses to a stake which was certainly here for this purpose. They had no time to question the man who turned around and bit the shoulder of Gawain. It was not the scientist but one of his emissaries. He was very tall, it was unusual for a human and his jaw was robotic, bristled with sharp steel teeth like a shark jaw. Gawain was down, unconscious or asleep; the bite had injected him a dose of a sleep aid product. The fight was now two against one; it was announced difficult for both knights. How could they fight a species like this, a creation of the evil scientist? Lancelot pulled his sword and slid his sharp blade through the back of this emissary it broke the sort of mesh that covered his bust, but this one did not seem to reach it and he turned and took Lancelot by his arm and propelled him to the earth. The head of Lancelot smote on a rock breaking his skull open. He must not move to avoid aggravating the wound. Galahad was therefore alone against the emissary. He made himself no more illusions, it was the end. It was the end, indeed but for the emissary who began to tremble, and became insane. Its members were agitating, and his mechanized back began to eject sparks. Gawain woke up and made good use of the water he had left in his flask. The shark man short-circuited and burst into flames. The knights took care to take Lancelot to the nearest lake. The water had the ability to heal his wounds.

The night was full, the knights returned to the ship to spend the night there. A reflection caught the look of Gawain. He approached the water, dipped his feet and bent down to grab the object. He removed of the salt water a piece of steel arm. No doubts it was from the scientist, according to the provenance of the waves the island was south east. The knights had to be quick because the evil scientist began to invade the kingdom even by the sea...

Vanity

Pride

The journey lasted four long days, and the knights were exhausted by the trip and the severe weather. It has been four days of rain, storm and thunderbolt. The weather was very dark; the falling water was almost gray, dyeing the sea of dark shades. More the knights approached the coast, darker was the water. A dome-shaped house was visible from the coast. It was as if the knights were in the future, in another world. They penetrated the strange new land, the atmosphere was electric. There was no nature, no tree, no flower, no river, no mountain, nothing like that. There was only a cold brown ground where screws and bolts were sprinkled. Lancelot, Gawain and Galahad reached the dome and began to explore it. All the windows, the doors were mechanized; it was really futuristic for the three brave knights. There were a lot of mirrors on the walls, as if someone was obstinate by his reflection. A huge door creaked and someone said:

“Welcome to my laboratory, the new centre of the new kingdom governed by the new king, me.”

The face of the scientist was not unfamiliar to the knights; it was Kenstein the son of Morgan le Fay and her own son Mordred. Not surprising that he was evil. He had messy hair, an eye in less and a burnt arm. It was probably the result of a failed experience. All around the room there were machines. The scientist made strange movements, agitated his left arm before his right leg.

“You’ve nothing to say?” said once again Kenstein.

“What are you doing now?” replied Lancelot.

“Since I was born I have been considered as illegitimate, so I will destroy everyone and change humans into robots that will love and admire me. I will be the King of my new kingdom and robots will be my servitors. Hahahaaa!” screamed the devil.

Lancelot was asking himself how someone could be as crazy as Kenstein. The knights exchanged a look in order to know what to do. Gawain jumped onto the evil scientist and stabbed Kenstein with his silver sword. Falling to the ground Kenstein lowered a handle and a loud sound from the outside resounded. Kenstein activated the machine which launched a meteorite that was about to explode above Arthur’s Kingdom and cause a radioactive rain, changing humans into robots.

Science fiction

The count-down

The last thing the knights heard was a whisper from Keinstein:

“You have only two hours.”

The countdown began. Following the direction of the tip of the dome, the meteorite would arrive on the east of Arthur’s Kingdom but the knights would not have the time to reach the kingdom by coming back by the sea. They had to find a solution.

“There must be something in this laboratory which could take us to the kingdom.” announced Galahad.

The three began to try the new technologies which surrounded them, nothing happened until Gawain turned on one of these futuristic machines.

A black hole brought them to a strange country. It was Arthur’s kingdom but the effects of the high technology were already apparent. The woods had disappeared; the light water of the steams had been replaced by a radioactive black fluid. Some giant mechanized eagles were flying around there leaving behind them . Now that Lancelot, Gawain and Galahad were in the kingdom they had to find a second solution, stop the meteorite or protect the kingdom of the radioactive rain. Who could be able to foil this catastrophe? A wizard maybe? They had to warn Merlin of the situation.

They had one hour.

It was too dangerous to tell Arthur and other knights of the Round Table to come here, the meteorite was going to explode above. Lancelot had an idea:

“If we use the eagles, it would take us to Merlin no?”

“It’s our last chance.” replied Galahad.

Gawain pressed a button of a remote control found on the cold ground. An eagle came immediately to the feet of Gawain, Lancelot and Galahad.

The journey was a little big long to them; Lancelot, Gawain and Galahad were in Camelot fifty minutes later.

Ten minutes left.

The three fearless knights ran to the castle, and crossed all the rooms of it to find Arthur and Merlin.

Five minutes left.

They entered the velvet room and find Merlin with several of his wizards. Merlin could not invoke enough forces himself. They formed a circle around a gold ring embroidered with moonstone. They repeated again and again a formula that the knights did not understand. Nothing happened, time was about to run out.

Time stopped, a large flashlight appeared.

Human Drama

Epilogue

The meteorite exploded above Arthur’s kingdom. It was a deluge. A radioactive rain was falling. The sun was invisible and the weather was almost black. Iron wire, screws, bolts were scattered everywhere. The meteorite divided into millions of pieces catching fire and propelled to every corner, ending their path in the sea. The Earth could disappear. It was apocalyptic.

Fortunately to the Kingdom, the great Merlin and his fabulous wizards had just the time to enunciate for the tenth time the formula. They protected the country by creating a transparent infallible dome thanks to their powers. The dome had served as a shield, rejecting all of the clinking debris which saved the whole kingdom from a real end.

Thanks to our knights; Lancelot, Gawain and Galahad, the enemy had been killed and the worst avoided. The deluge lasted six days, after this the sky became lighter than before, the rivers clearer and the people happier. The adventure of Gawain, Galahad and Lancelot will stay in mind. Everyone felt safe, protected by the knights of the Round Table. Our three knights

became the three best knights of the Round Table and of the kingdom thanks to this misadventure. They received the title of the bravest knights. The entire kingdom continued to live, the flowers started to grow again and the sun, to shine. The next mission of our three knights had been to destroy the Castle of Keinstein and eradicate every form of technology. The King divided this now pure land into three parts and gave each part to one of the knights, King Arthur made build a castle for each one of the trinomial and established three secondary kingdoms.

Like before this trek, King Arthur continued to gather every Thursdays all his loyal knights of the Round Table. The council following the catastrophe was still really convivial, Arthur surrounded by all his brave knights sat around a divine banquet where they ate as they pleased and drank the best wine of the country. They conversed in memory to Lamorak who has been the casualty, was now considered as a martyr. They drank in honour of a new nature, world and life.

JOURNEY TO THE CENTRE OF FICTION ISLAND: AN ARTHURIAN CHRONICLE

Fantasy

Galahad, Gawain and Lancelot had just found the Holy Grail and they had decided to take separate ways to go back to Camelot, in order to confuse the issue and be less vulnerable to thieves. So Gawain took the southern trail to Superheroes. Lancelot took the north to Here-Be-Dragons. As for Galahad, he rode to the west until he reached Tolkien.

Gawain arrived in Superheroes. He was tired by his walk so he decided to rest. Walking alone was a little boring and he was missing his companions. In an alley, he saw an inn sign. He entered and ordered a beer. The room was crowded, people were laughing and Gawain felt better. He was drinking when a mysterious man came to sit next to him. He was wearing a long purple cape and a pair of half-moon-shaped glasses. A hood was hiding his face but Gawain felt like he knew him. The man ordered a drink and the knight recognized his voice. He was Merlin! What was he doing in this place? He was supposed to stay in Camelot to defend the castle! He had come to give him a superpower that no one ever had, it was the power of invisibility. Gawain was very thankful. The superheroes of the city were quickly in known of that power and to counterattack, they held a meeting. Their plan was to fight Gawain out of town. When Gawain arrived in the High Street on the next day, Iron Man, Captain America and Hulk ran against him but he jumped in front of Hulk and gave him a majestic uppercut on his neck and the green giant fell, knocked out. Iron Man fired laser but Gawain dodged it easily and destroyed the helmet of Iron Man with one punch and gave a quick on his stomach which pushed him very far. Suddenly, Gawain remembered the power Merlin had just given him. He ran behind a tree and became invisible, leaving the superheroes powerless. He fled to Men's Health where the three knights had agreed to meet if their separate-way strategy did not work.

Meanwhile, Lancelot had taken the northern route to Here-Be-Dragons. He crept along on the sinuous road, when his horse reared without warning and he saw a black shadow in front of him. He felt his heart accelerating and began to be scared. The animal roared. He heard a howling and the flapping of wings. He raised his head and he had a cry when the dragon landed. No doubt: he was in Here-Be-Dragons! Instinctively, he brandished his sword, ready to confront the Dragon. While his horse ran away, Lancelot threw himself wholeheartedly into the battle. His sword bounced up against the strong skin of the dragon. But Lancelot didn't run away. He was determined to prove to his companions that he was the bravest man of all the Knights of the Round Table and he prepared himself to cross the village under these giant creatures' reptile looking. The atmosphere was stinking of sulphur and a thundering noise informed him of the landing of a second dragon. It was huge and covered with hundreds of sharp dark scales and it beat wings so hardly that Lancelot got messy hair. The Knight drew his sword off his sheath when he suddenly heard a female voice screaming, 'Hey! Stranger! What are you doing in my town? Don't you know that Drogon loves the flesh of Lannister's spies?' Lancelot, dumbfounded, saw that the voice came from the shoulder of the dragon on which a young woman was sitting. 'Milady, excuse me, I...'

'Shut up, silly boy, you can't address your Kaleesi as if you were talking to a farmer girl! I am Daenerys Stormborn of the House Targaryen, the First of the Name, the Unburnt, Queen of

Meereen, Queen of the Andals, the Rhoynar and the First Men, Lady Regnant of the Seven Kingdoms, Protector of the Realm, Kaleesi of the Great Grass Sea, Breaker of Chains and Mother of Dragons!

Lancelot was impressed by the strength of the dragon and, especially, by the beauty of the blond-haired young woman whose bright purple eyes pierced him. He felt his heart jump in his chest. 'I must save that damsel in distress,' he said to himself. The knight gathered his courage, 'Kalazi, let me save you from this big bad dragon who kidnapped you!' he said, raising his sword very high. The girl looked at him with disdain and ordered her dragon, 'Dracarys!' The creature opened its mouth and exposed huge teeth, made a long roaring and poured a torrent of fire on Lancelot. Fortunately, he was hiding behind his shield so he was just gently burnt and, courageously, he made a large whirl with his sword and attacked a tree trunk that he took for the dragon. Dismayed, Daenerys ordered Drogon to take off, leaving Lancelot trust in a victory 'by surrender', that he would never be tired to relate...

As for Galahad, he had arrived in the town of Tolkien, in a district called "Hobbiton". It was a very nice place with a lot of greenery and surrounded by a forest and a beautiful river.

When he came into the village, he heard music. It was festive music. A funny little creature came to greet him. Galahad smiled as he saw the pointed ears and the long blond curls of his interlocutor. A second creature, bigger than the first one, told him that it was a very special day. Curious, the knight asked why this day was so special for the residents of the village. The creature, named Frodo, answered him that it was Bilbo's 111th birthday party. Galahad didn't know this person, but when he noticed a man laughing in large bursts, drinking a strange brew and wearing a crown, he knew it could only be the famous Bilbo. Someone gave the same brew to the knight, who sat among the villagers around a large table. The rest of the evening was very nice to Galahad. He drank and ate as he'd never done before. The next day, Galahad came to say goodbye to the villagers, who gave him food for his journey, and he went back on his journey, hoping he would live another experience like this one with his friends.

Science fiction

The three knights had agreed to meet in Men's Health to decide if their separate-way strategy was the best way to bring the Grail to Camelot safely. Actually they were happy to see their friends again, mainly because each was eager to boast about his exploits.

Gawain, who had remained invisible since his episode in Superheroes, came out of nowhere in Men's Health. He had crushed on the ground and as he looked up he saw Lancelot's sollarrets. His mouth was full of mud and as he was spitting it, he saw Galahad holding his hand to help him to get up. He also saw that Lancelot was admiring his reflection in the stream next to him. After they had finished to tell one another what matters they had been in, a huge storm burst. They took shelter in a cave, near the stream, which was very small. They groped their way forward in the darkness, step by step, more and more bent because of the rock face. Lancelot could not feel any more the rock under his hands and when he realized that he was falling, it was too late to stop his fall. Galahad and Gawain decided to follow him - actually, they had no choice.

They emerged in the middle of a village where metal things with wheels were flying in the sky. Everything was immense and a giant sign said, 'Happy New Year 2090!' The three knights felt totally lost and entered into what seemed to be a safe place, fleeing the noise and all these strange machines. On one of the room doors it read, 'Laboratory of Dr Mordred.'

'Where are we?' asked Galahad, who was hangover after the Bilbo Baggins's 111th Birthday.

'I don't know, Galahad', answered Gawain.

'Come and see this!' offered Lancelot who was looking through the glass door.

They went into the big room where there were lots of strange machines which smoked and vibrated and tubes which were full of green fluid. In the centre of the room, there were three chairs of white leather. Lots of rats were in a vivarium. Suddenly, a man arrived dressed in white. He had opaque round things that covered his eyes. The man who wore a long white coat had shiny black gloves. A strange clothing for a knight. The man laughed and activated some lever on his strange machine. Lancelot, Galahad and Gawain hid behind one and observed this mad man.

'My plan is perfect, I'm going to be able to go back in time to take revenge and kill this stupid royal Pendragons family and take the power again, AHAHAHAHAHA!! I am so clever and devilish!'

'Oh my God, we are in the future! He is the descendent of Mordred, we must stop him!' whispered Gawain, 'If he succeeds, Arthur will die!' Suddenly, the man turned quickly his head in the direction of the three knights.

'WHO ARE YOU AND WHAT ARE YOU DOING HERE?!' Shouted the man.

The knights started. 'Nothing... we are just simple knights looking for an exit.' said Gawain.

'Knights? Did you say KNIGHTS?' shouted the scientist, I have always hated knights!'

'We would have suspected that,' mumbled Galahad, 'It's time to beat the hell out of you!'

And the three knights started destroying the machines in the lab with their swords.

'No, stop! You're going to wreck my plan!' begged the scientist.

Galahad looked at him with disdain, 'You are like your ancestors, always to complain.'

He turned to the others: 'Now, we must find a way to leave this place and go back in time.'

Dr Mordred was now holding a mysterious weapon in his hand. 'This, dummy knight,' said Mordred, 'is a gun. Before, guns were made of iron and they fired lead bullets but now they are in platinum and they fire a blue laser which can pierce anything.'

Gawain was not impressed, 'Get out of our way, now!' ordered the knight.

'I don't think so' said the man calmly. 'See, I searched for years. Then, I heard that three brave men had arrived in Men's Health. I was told that these men were in possession of a famous cup, so I set up a plan to capture you, but it looks like you jumped in the lion's den!'

Dr Mordred snapped his fingers and two men-like metal beings appeared in the room. The humanoids came forward and tried to kill the knights. They defended themselves with their swords, but their weapons weren't powerful enough against their enemies' technology. Lancelot caught a pipe which poured some water, and aimed it at his enemy. Suddenly, sparks sprang from the metal body of the adversary and the latter fell on the ground, apparently out of order. Lancelot did the same thing with the second metal knight, while Galahad tried to stop Dr Mordred. He knocked him out by giving him a punch, and the three knights started out of the monstrous room.

A strange man stood in the half-open door. 'I'm Dr Mordred's assistant and I have a time machine. It's a TARDIS to be precise, Time And Relative Dimensions in Space. It can travel everywhere so let me help you!' The three knights conferred and accepted. They went into a

box which was, surprisingly, bigger inside. 'Have a nice trip!' said the Doctor while pressing buttons. The TARDIS machine vibrated, but then it made a strange sound and stopped. A female voice made them start when it said, 'You have reached your destination. Welcome to the 19th century. The temperature outside is - 20 degrees Celsius. Your precise landing position is - Dickens'.

Human Drama

When the time machine opened they began to walk in the direction Dickens but they met a boy on their way. Gawain, who liked to talk with children, asked him, 'Hello, what's your name?'

The boy looked at them with a sharp look. It seemed that he was analysing them.

'My name is Pip. Well, my Christian name is Philip and my Father's family name is PIRRIP but there is nothing more explicit than Pip. So, I called myself Pip, and came to be called Pip -- Wait a second, you wear iron! (Certainly an armour...) and swords, like in my book! But I didn't imagine knights like that... more with shining armour and sharpened blade...'

'My name is Gawain, and those persons are my friends, Galahad and Lancelot.'

'Oh, are you the three knights of King Arthur?'

'Yes, we are but how do you know--?'

'Follow me, sirs! A mysterious lady who came from the lake told me to lead you to Brontë!'

'I think he's talking about my mother,' said Lancelot. 'We should follow him.'

They all walked to Brontë and Pip never stopped talking about his life and his parents.

As soon as they arrived in Brontë, Pip went back to Dickens and they felt a strange change of focus... This day was as gorgeous as the others... Mrs Reed and their children went in town to buy John's birthday presents. They came back home and John spent the rest of the day showing me his expensive gifts and did one of his favourite pleasures: he laughed at me, reduced me, and bullied me. So I went hiding myself in the library, the only place in this house where I can feel safe as person.

This was during the evening, I was absorbed in my favourite book, when three men knocked at the door. They looked exhausted, dirty and they were politely asking for hospitality for the night. The sun was setting and Bessie, in spite of Mrs Reed's opinion, let the men enter, 'we cannot let these poor men alone by this wind and this cold!'

Mrs Reed was disgusted by their appearance. They inspired her pity so she filled her host obligations. John Reed, on the other hand, stayed true to himself and as the leader of his group, he pushed his sisters to be real nuisances with the three newcomers. Bessie sent me to prepare a bath for the unknowns while she was making their beds.

I suddenly started to think that those men were reminding me of knights. I had been reading a lot about them in books and here they were! We finished dinner and then, they went to sleep. Obviously, I had to go to bed too. I wanted to stay for a bit longer, like I always did... I knew that I'd just sneak out of my room when they would all be asleep to hide behind the curtains and read. Later that night, when I finally had the perfect opportunity to go downstairs, another person was there too. This man who was spending the night over was there, and it might sound strange or maybe it was a simple coincidence but it happened that he was reading too. At first I got scared and I turned around to go back in my room but he

whispered in a funny tone, 'Don't worry, I just have insomnia'. I sat down next to him and we talked, just talked like two normal people having a conversation about life at 4am in the morning. It's a feeling I had never known before and it felt good. I felt alive. We had things in common, he was fond of literature and poetry just like I was but what was the most fascinating about him was that he wasn't seeing me as a naive little girl but like someone who was worth talking to, someone interesting. He told me about his favourite book as well, the story sounded a little bit bizarre to me but he was touching its red cover as if it was the most precious thing in the world. When I woke up in the morning he was gone and his friends, too. It was as though I had dreamed this parenthesis in my life at Mrs Reed's...

And while Jane Eyre was awaking to this new day, the three knights galloped in direction of the past, to Austen. Lancelot was straight on his horse the eyes toward the horizon. 'There is a woman over there!' he shouted, excited to see finally a person in this world. Galahad and Gawain shouted at the same time, 'Hey Ho Milady!' while moving their arms. The woman was near a house of red bricks and she waved them to come. She presented herself to the three knights, 'My brave men, why are you disguised like knights? You look very tired, you should have some rest in my humble abode. I'm Mrs Bennet.'

Surprized by this woman who looked like an owl, Lancelot answered, 'Milady, we are knights of the Round Table. We have had a long journey and battled with horrible creatures. We are so far from home, and even if yours is very modest, we would be glad to sleep in it.'

Mrs Bennet was a woman of mean understanding but she felt glad she had caught these single men. 'What a fine thing for our girls!' she thought. She said, 'Do come in. You'll see, my daughters are the prettiest girls that have ever been born on this Earth. I guess they can thank me for their beauty'.

The three knights started to feel really uncomfortable but Mrs Bennet kept babbling about how clever her daughters were, how well they cooked and even how well they sang. To get her daughters married was the business of her life, 'Come here my sweet loves! Let me introduce you to these three wonderful knights!'

The knights were now absolutely embarrassed and Lydia's incessant glances got the unease bigger. Even Lancelot who was known to be a heartbreaker at court was confounded behind the apparent idiocy of this giggling girl.

Thriller

Fortunately, a heavy step resounded in the stairs near where all of them were sitting. A man came into the room and yelled, 'This comedy has lasted long enough! Girls, to your bedrooms, quickly! These brave men have borne you long enough and need a good dinner and a warm bed... I'll prepare my horse-drawn coach tomorrow, and take these gentlemen to the inn which is next to the nearest border.'

The next morning, as they entered in the coach, Mr Bennet poured out apologies about the behaviour of his wife and daughters. He offered to pay for the inn to make them totally forgive him, and went back to Austen, not brave enough to venture himself in Thriller...

The three knights knew that Thriller was an unwelcoming place. They did not intend to stay long there, but they were convinced they had to go West to go back in time and reach their dear Camelot.

Once the border of Thriller was crossed, Galahad began to feel bad, he was cold and he trembled as a leaf... But the others two didn't notice this. They walked for a long time until night came.

The atmosphere was heavy; it was dark and they heard regular cracking noises. Each time they looked around them, but nothing... So they continued. They were very tired and they wanted to sleep, but they were very stressed about their Holy Grail. They sat down a moment and they heard the noise of leaves as if a person was running past. Galahad got up with a start, wide-eyed with fright. He looked to the right then to the left but still nothing. Lancelot thought that they should not stay. Gawain took the Holy Grail and kept it with him.

They resumed their walk. Gawain stood between Galahad and Lancelot.

They were very sleepy and anguish began to paralyze them. The night was black and the knights were stunned by the noise of the wind into the trees which seemed like a human whisper. They who were used to the most difficult tests were really impressed by the silence which made them nailed on the spot. Lancelot often swallowed his saliva and Galahad had surges of fright.

The three knights ventured in Conspiracy forest. The air was cold and wet. It struck their lungs and cooled their blood. Lots of brambles blocked their way.

Each felt more and more petrified and tried to find an intimate way of hope in a world of doubt, fear and suspicion.

After long hours of walking, the three knights decided to take a break on the side of a river in the midst of the forest. Carefully and distrustfully they sat down along the water. That one had a greenish aspect and a nauseating smell.

All of a sudden, a very strange figure stepped out from among the trees near Gawain who was dozing off. The sound of its feet was terrifying, the dead leaves and branches cracked like the bones of a decaying corpse. An owl's hoot at this moment startled Lancelot who almost fell in the stream. He elbowed his friends to wake them up; his throat was so tight that no sound would come out of his mouth.

Everything became quiet again, but shaken by the mysterious presence they felt the knights decided to break camp.

The sun was not rising yet.

They arrived at an unoccupied castle. The windows were so small that no light was illuminating the rooms. Also, there were a huge number of rooms which weirdly were all locked...The castle was made of wood so it was constantly cracking and making loud noises when they stepped on the floor. The furniture was all covered of white bed sheets. The castle was pretty old but it was extremely clean, as if someone was dusting and cleaning every day. The mirrors were shiny and dazzling.

While the others were sleeping, Lancelot went downstairs to relieve his bladder. He felt something brushing against his shoulder. He noticed that there was a glass, drinks and food on the table, that was now unveiled.

He heard a noise, as if someone was having a discussion, he heard a voice saying 'the Holy grail is back, we have been waiting for it for so long.' He didn't answer. He stood up, frozen. He was terrified, he first thought that he was dreaming but reassured himself by saying that he was tired and that he needed sleep. He was heading back to the cold room and when he passed through the never-ending hallway a silhouette appeared in the mirror. He immediately ran to the room, fell in the stairs because of the precipitation.

After that, when he had reached the room he heard a terrifying racket. All of the mirrors had fallen to the floor. The windows all opened at the same time too, the wind was incredibly strong. Lancelot woke everyone up in the castle and told them to go downstairs because something was wrong. They didn't believe him until they heard laughs coming out of nowhere... Gawain checked: the Holy Grail was still in his bag. But they were no longer safe here.

When they came out of the castle, at daybreak, they realised that the only escape was to jump on a small boat and row off the coast, westward. They rowed past No Man Island, then, having no strength left, they let their boat drift away and fell asleep. When they woke up, their boat had run aground and they recognized the hand-shaped shores of the Land of Horror. They had landed near Nightmares!

Horror

The atmosphere was very stressful because it was dark, the moon was hid and crows were in the sky. Here the nightmares were kings. Nobody talked, nobody dreamed and nobody smiled. The river was black because the water was dirty, maybe by the human bodies thrown in water.

The three knights decided to take separate ways. The goodbyes were hard because none of them knew if they would come back from their journey in the Land of Horror. Gawain found a horse and rode to Buried-Alive. He was exhausted of his previous adventures and the ride was very unpleasant. Crows were flying in swarms and the ground was swampy. Many times, he felt his horse being caught by an odd frightening hand. He finally arrived in Buried-Alive. The town was quiet. Way too much quiet. He observed the ground and realized that it was covered with bones, human bones. He started to breathe faster but kept on riding. Farther, he saw indistinct stones. He got closer and understood that these "stones" were actually hundreds of thousand graves. He could feel his pulse banging in his temple.

The young knight continued his ride in this terrorizing place. Suddenly, a very small man, with a disgusting face covered with pustules, sprang out of a home and yelled, 'I can offer you dinner and a bed for tonight. You seem to have no strength left, my brave man.'

Gawain, unsuspecting, entered the home. The little man served him a soup with a slice of bread. The knight started eating. As soon as the spoon entered his mouth, he started to whine and to twist himself. Milky cataracts covered his eyes; he was taken by violent convulsions. He was gagging. His breath was heavy. A gassy treble escaped from his mouth. The dwarf burst out in a sadistic laugh when Gawain fell on the ground unconscious. When Gawain woke up, he did not see anything. He panicked and felt that he was locked in a box. He could not do anything. He understood that he was in a coffin and that the only thing he could do was to wait for death to come. And his agony was long...

Galahad had arrived in Exorcism. He heard a weird song and wondered the source of it. He looked around and noticed a little sparkle, far in the forest. He thought that the song could come from nowhere except from this mysterious place. He rode for about an hour and arrived in a small clearing where a priest and a crowd of people were reciting a Latin prayer around a fire camp. He was fascinated by the way the followers were in a trance. He could not stop watching this strange ballet. But the priest turned around and saw him. He shouted, 'This man is heretical! We must burn him to exorcise the devil, until he confesses the last of his sins!'

He had not ended his sentence that a bunch of harpies threw themselves on him. He was tied up on a branch and the fire started to lick the fingertips of his toes. He screamed, 'I'm not possessed by the devil! I am not a heretic! I am just a good knight trying to go home!'

The priest said to his loyal people, 'Do not listen to him! The devil lives inside him!' And then to Galahad, 'Confess, or you will taste, earlier than you would have wanted, the flames of Hell! Confess!'

The fire had reached Galahad's waist and his screams were unbearable, such as pig ones. The smell of burning flesh was awful but the crowd seemed glad to see an exorcism. Suddenly, Galahad's eyes rolled upwards, his hands twisted in an abnormal way and in a last breath he whispered, 'I am not a sinner. Please Gawain, Lancelot, Arthur, forgive me.'

As for Lancelot, he had reached Serial-Killers at dusk. The atmosphere was surreal. His horse had died a few days after his friends and him had taken separate roads.

He continued to walk and noticed blood stains that turned into a trail of blood. He followed it and discovered a disembowelled woman, half-naked. A dozen steps on his right, he noticed another woman in the same state as the first one. On the wall of the home was written in blood 'Jack the Ripper'. Lancelot was not a woman but he started to feel really threatened. He ran away and entered a house. He yelled, 'Is there somebody here? Please help me!'

A shadow appeared on the wall. Lancelot could clearly see that it was a man holding an axe. Desperate, he turned left and locked himself in a room. He could not hear anything but his own breath. And then, suddenly an axe pierced the door. Lancelot was totally panicked and did not know what to do. He tried to find an escape but there was no way to get out of this mousetrap. The door was almost totally broken by the axe when the beats stopped. Lancelot thought it was over, that he was free, but the man put his head in the door's hole and said happily, 'Here's Johnny!'

The knight screamed and stepped back, but it was too late: the mad man had stepped into the room and sliced Lancelot's head with his weapon. He wiped the blood on Lancelot's hair and closed his eyes in satisfaction.

After these terrible murders, the Holy Grail remained a mystery to mankind, maybe lost with Lancelot, buried with Galahad or even burnt with Gawain.

And knowing that the Holy Grail is in Horror Land, in the hands of barbarous creatures, will stop the most curious.