

Tapescript Video 1 - Arthur and Merlin



(scene 1)

Arthur: What's going on? Mother? Father?

Ector: He's here.

(*Merlin chuckles*)

Merlin: So you're the boy.

Arthur: I'm Arthur. Who are you?

Arthur's mother: His name is Merlin and he is not welcome here.

Kay: Then he'll be on his way.

Ector: Put down your sword, Kay. Do as you're told, boy!

Arthur: Could someone explain what is happening here?

Merlin: The King is dead, murdered.

Arthur: So?

Merlin: Uther died with no legitimate son.

Arthur: What's that got to do with us?

Merlin: Not them. You... ...are Uther's son.

Arthur: No. My parents are standing here. Tell him... Tell him.

Ector: He's telling the truth, Arthur.

Arthur: He can't be. How can he be?

Ector: Merlin brought you to us when you were less than a week old. We swore to look after you.

Arthur: What?

Merlin: The King is dead. Long live the King.

Arthur: Take your lies and get out!

Ector: Arthur! Arthur, give me the blade. Give me the blade. Now...

(to Merlin) You tell him how this happened. You tell him the story of his birth.

Merlin: The details aren't important.

Ector: They are to him!

(to Arthur) Arthur, I should have told you before. I'm... I'm so sorry, son.

Merlin: Rest tonight. Tomorrow, we leave.

(scene 2)

Arthur: Come near me and I'll kill you.

Merlin: Don't issue empty threats.

Arthur: Who are you?

Merlin: I knew Uther Pendragon. I was at his side when he died. The King's will, signed by his own hand, bearing his seal, attesting to your birth. This was your father's. Take it.

When you were born, I took you and brought you here. You may be of king's blood but Uther was a barbarian. Placing you here made you so much more.

I told Ector how to raise and educate you. He swore to keep you safe. They raised you well. Perhaps too well.

Arthur : Why? Why do you need me?

Merlin: Everything in time.

(scene 3)

Kay: I sometimes wondered why they doted more on you. You always got away with so much.

Arthur: - It was never like that.

Kay: It's always been like that. You've just never seen it. You're used to the world falling at your feet the moment you smile. But it's all right. This makes sense of it. They treated you like you were special. Because you are.

Arthur: At last you finally admit it. Hey, this doesn't change anything. You're still my brother.

Kay: And you're still infuriating.

Arthur: What do I do? I can't just leave. This is my home. This is what I know, here.

Kay: But what you're being offered is better. Going to battle, leading the land. It's what every man dreams of.

Arthur: No, it's what you dream of. The rest of us dream about girls.

Kay: You think a leader won't get his choice of girls? Why shouldn't it be your destiny? If it was me, I'd go, in an instant.

(scene 4)

Merlin: So, you're coming.

Arthur: I'm not saying I believe you. It's just I want to see it for myself.

Kay: You're ready.

Arthur: Why didn't you tell me?

Arthur's mother: I was afraid of losing you. Because you are my son.

Arthur: You'll always be my mother.

Arthur's mother : I place him in your care. You keep him safe.

Merlin: You have my word.

Ector: It's what you were born for. It's what we've guided you for. You remember what I taught you.

When you make decisions, you use...this in conjunction with this. And you never use that!

Arthur: I'll try and remember that. No son ever had a better father. I want you to know...

Ector: I know, I know, I know. I love you.

Arthur: You've given me everything my entire life and I feel guilty for asking for anything more, but...

I need Kay. I want him with me.

Arthur's mother: Yes. Yes!

Arthur: Whatever this is, I can't do it without you.

Ector : Oh, well, he thought you'd never ask. Together, you're stronger.

Merlin: It's time.

(scene 5)

Arthur : If you were responsible for my birth, I deserve to know who you are.
Merlin: Stop asking about me and think about who you are.

Arthur: Are you really a sorcerer?

Merlin: I can do things others believe impossible.

Arthur: Is that sorcery? Well, go on then. Show me. Prove it to me. You pull me from one coast to the other and you tell me nothing!

Merlin: You asked me why I need you. I had a vision of what was to come.

Arthur: What sort of vision?

Merlin: The darkness of man. I won't let it happen again.

Arthur : And you had this vision before I was conceived?

Merlin: The past doesn't matter. Define yourself in the present and you might rule in the future.

(scene 6)

(Flies buzzing)

Kay: Dear God.

Merlin : It's already begun.

Arthur: What?

Merlin: Without a king, there will be carnage across the land. What are you doing?

Kay: Whoever these men are, they deserve a Christian burial.

Merlin: They're long past saving.

Kay: Arthur, tell him.

Merlin: If we stay here, we're a target for whoever did this. Stop worrying about the dead. The living need us more.

Arthur: Merlin's right. We need to keep moving. We can't help them now. Go! Let's move!

(scene 7)

Merlin: We rest here.

Kay: This village? Is that wise?

Merlin: We'll find out.

Man: Stay on your horses and ride on through.

Merlin : We are on our way to the coast. Fear spreads like plague. We were hoping for shelter tonight.

Man: There's no welcome here.

Merlin: Not even for an old friend?

Man: Merlin, is that you?

Merlin: That's more like it.

Man: It's been too long.

Merlin: It's people like these that will be next to the slaughter if you don't fulfil your destiny.

Arthur: What would you have done if I'd said no?

Merlin: A stranger says you're the future king. Maybe it takes a night, maybe it takes a year, but in the end

you're too curious not to come.

Arthur: You think you know me that well?

Merlin: I watched you since you were a child.

Arthur: Tell me about my birth.

Merlin: Your father, Uther, desired a woman named Igraine who belonged to a rival warlord, the Duke of Cornwall. Unable to best his forces, Uther...changed tactics. And summoned me.

Arthur: To do what?

Merlin: To change Uther to resemble Cornwall so he could have Igraine for just one night.

Arthur: Am I to believe I'm the product of sorcery and rape?

Merlin: You were conceived that night.

Arthur: Merlin, I want the truth, not some story to make me believe in magic.

Merlin: I don't care what you believe. But I've sworn off those powers a long time ago.

Arthur: Why?

Merlin: Because they cost.

Arthur: Cost how?

Merlin: Do you want me to finish or not?

Arthur: So Uther gave me to you.

Merlin: You...were my payment.

Arthur: Why would you take a child as payment?

Merlin: This realm needs a leader, better than any who has come before. With Uther's bloodline and Ector's guidance, that can be you. I know you've got questions, but I will be at your side and we will find the answers together. We are going to build a land full of hope and honour where fear is extinguished to which people will flock from far and wide, seeking out our beacon of light. Tomorrow we ride to an ancient seat of power. You can be the greatest of men in the greatest of lands. Trust me, Arthur.