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## **Characters**

<b>Queen Freda (F)</b>	– Queen of the realm and mother of Arthur and Perceval
<b>Prince Arthur (M/F)</b>	– Gallant Prince and twin brother of Perceval
<b>Prince Perceval (M)</b>	– Evil Prince and twin brother of Arthur
<b>Merlin the Wizard (M)</b>	– The Royal Wizard
<b>Ancient Spirit of Yore (M/F)</b>	– Disembodied voice, powerful magic spirit
<b>Old Mother Trott (M)</b>	– The dame, wife of Sir Galahad
<b>Guinevere Trott (F)</b>	– Daughter of Old Mother Trott and Sir Galahad
<b>Sir Galahad Trott (M)</b>	– Knight of the realm
<b>Falstaff (M)</b>	– A cowardly, overweight Knight
<b>Peter Pan (M/F)</b>	– A Knight of the pantomime table
<b>Robin Hood (M/F)</b>	– A Knight of the pantomime table
<b>Sleeping Beauty (F)</b>	– A Knight of the pantomime table

## Act 1

### Scene 1 – Camelot

(The tabs open to rousing medieval style music, the type you'd expect to hear at the beginning of a jousting contest. The stage is adorned with large standards bearing the family crest and various grand looking Royal paraphernalia. The rousing music comes to an abrupt end with the sound of a needle scratching across vinyl.)

**Queen:** (Off stage) Who left that record player on? I hate that sort of music. Arthur!! Arthur?? Perceval? Perceval?? (The Queen, a fussy old woman in half-moon spectacles and a large crown, enters and looks out into the audience) Ooh, hello boys and girls! (Audience React) Hello mums and dads (Audience react) My name is Queen Freda the nineteenth, what's yours? Never mind, you haven't seen my twin sons Arthur and Perceval anywhere have you? (Audience react) Their tea is on the table and I can't find them anywhere.

(Merlin enters fussing and muttering to himself)

**Queen:** Ah, Merlin; just the fellow. Have you seen –

**Merlin:** (Shushing the Queen) Shh – I came in here for something but I can't... (looking around and pointing things out hoping to jog his memory) audience... no... lights... no... Queen... possibly.

**Queen:** (Impatiently) Merlin, what are you doing?

**Merlin:** I came in here for something but I can't remember what it was. I'll tell you what, if I go back upstairs into my tower and read that telegram I got from Sir Galahad again I'll probably remember – wait there...

(Merlin exits)

**Queen:** What a strange man. (To audience) That's the Royal wizard Merlin. He's a bit absent minded as you can see but he is a *faithful* royal servant. He protects the kingdom from Dragons, Goblins and Hoodies but most importantly of all, he makes my hair look lovely with that curling-tong spell he does.

(Merlin enters once more)

**Merlin:** I've remembered!

**Queen:** I'm surprised you managed to get dressed this morning to be honest, but do go on.

**Merlin:** I got a telegram from Sir Galahad! That was it. That's what I came to tell you.

**Queen:** (Excited) Sir Galahad? Oh joy! He's away at the crusades with my husband King Barry! What did it say?

**Merlin:** What did *what* say?

**Queen:** The telegram.

**Merlin:** And what telegram would that be then?

**Queen:** The telegram you got from Sir Galahad.

**Merlin:** Oh *that* telegram. Well, it said **(thinks)** I can't remember; wait there a moment would you?

**(Merlin exits once more)**

**Queen:** He's getting worse that Wizard, he really is. He'd forget his beard if it wasn't glued on.

**(Prince Arthur enters)**

**Queen:** There you are Arthur, your tea is on the table getting cold. Where have you been?

**Arthur:** Sorry Mother, this morning I saved [*neighbouring town*] from a dragon, donated all my pocket money to 'Save the Hamster' and then checked in on the charity I set up which makes wigs for Bald Eagles.

**Queen:** Oh Arthur, you are so noble and pure of heart.

**Arthur:** **(Modestly)** All in a day's work really.

**Queen:** Have you seen your twin brother Percy anywhere?

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**(Percy enters reading a magazine)**

**Percy:** What's for tea then? I hope it's not sausages again. If it's sausages I will definitely have a tantrum; just giving you the heads-up.

**Queen:** I made you turkey dinosaurs and chicken crocodiles with chips.

**Percy:** **(Considering)** Hmm... this is acceptable. I shall put the tantrum on hold until I find out what's for dessert.

**Queen:** There won't be any dessert unless you get your dinner eaten and it's getting cold. Where have you been all morning?

**Percy:** I have been in my room all day reading a magazine.

**Queen:** Did you clean the bathroom like I asked?

**Percy:** No. I'm a Prince – why would I clean the bathroom? Arthur never has to clean the bathroom.

**Queen:** Arthur has been out fighting dragons.

**Percy:** I swatted a fly this morning, so what?

**Queen:** Arthur has set up many charities.

**Percy:** I got this magazine from a charity shop, so I've done my bit. Ten pence this cost me. That'll help loads of good causes. Anyway, having a brother who is such a 'goody-two shoes' is soooo annoying. No matter what I do, he always does something more worthwhile.

**Queen:** Well that's because he's pure of heart. **(Beaming with pride)** That's why last week we had national Prince Arthur day.

**(The Queen pinches Arthur's cheek)**

**Percy:** And why don't we have a national Prince Percy day?

**Queen:** You could have a day named after you if you'd only go out and help the community in some way.

**Percy:** It wouldn't matter if I did; you'd never do anything like that for me. Even when my birthday comes around, I have to share it with him. Is it too much to ask to have a day that's all about me for once? Is it too much to ask to have just a little bit of praise and attention once in a while?

**Queen:** You were born on the same day, you can't have separate birthdays.

**Percy:** **(Sighing)** Always with the details.

**(Percy turns his back on the Queen and Arthur and starts reading his magazine once more. Merlin enters.)**

**Merlin:** Ah, my Queen I've got the telegram.

**Queen:** At last, what does it say?

**Merlin:** It says that your husband King Barry the thirtieth has decided to stay out in Turkey. The crusades have finished but because they won, he's now got all the Turkish delight he can eat, all the Turkish apple tea he can drink and all the Turkish baths he can bathe in, so there's no need for him to come home. Sir Galahad is coming home though and he says he will be back later today. You know what this means? We'll need a new King.

**Percy:** I'll do it. I'll be a great King.

**(The Queen takes the telegram from Merlin and reads it.)**

**Arthur:** Percy, didn't you hear? Our Father isn't coming home!

**Percy:** I know, isn't it great?? It means I can be King!! Merlin, where do I sign?

**Queen:** **(Reading and Wailing)** Oh no! My little Barry-warry-kins. Whatever will I do without him? **(Back to normal immediately)** Well, can't be helped. Plenty more fish in the sea as they say.

**Merlin:** – and in Tesco!

**Percy:** Mum, I want to be King right now or I'll... I'll have a tantrum!

**Queen:** Settle down Perceval, you can't be King.

**Percy:** Why not? I'll stamp my foot!

**(Perceval lifts his foot as if about to stamp it)**

**Queen:** Don't do that Perceval dear, you'll hurt yourself.

**(Perceval lowers his foot reluctantly)**

**Queen:** You and Arthur are twins. Usually it's the first born who is the heir to the throne but you're both the same age and you can't *both* be King.

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**Percy:** **(Stroppily)** Oooh, it's SO unfair!! It's always the same round here. It's because he helps old ladies across the road isn't it? Remember last week when Arthur got some new shoes and I didn't?

**Queen:** That's because his old ones had holes in and yours are fine.

**Percy:** Well, he always gets more sprouts than me for dinner!

**Queen:** That's because you don't like sprouts.

**Percy:** Details!! Even Old Mother Trott's daughter Guinevere likes Arthur more than me and I'm *far* better looking. Look, his nose is a funny shape!!

**(Arthur feels his nose self-consciously)**

**Percy:** So, fairs fair; he gets the girl, new shoes and all the sprouts he can eat and I get to be King. What do you say? Deal?

**(Percy holds out his hand, awaiting the Queen's acceptance that doesn't come.)**

**Queen:** Look, you're getting yourself all excited and you know what happened last time. It took three days for the swelling to go down. Anyway, we're going to have to think of a fair way we can decide which of you would be the better King. Some kind of trial or something. In the meantime, you boys run along and get your tea – it's getting cold.

**Arthur:** Yes mum.

**(Arthur leaves)**

**Percy:** But –

**Queen:** No buts, run along!

**Percy:** **(To audience)** It's SO unfair. I'd make a much better king than Arthur. I'm sick of him having all the attention and all the fun. I never have fun. In fact, if I become King, I'll ban fun altogether so they know what it feels like. **(Smiles wickedly)** Yes, a ban on all fun so nobody can have any at all! That would teach them.

**(As Perceval exits he glances over his shoulder with a cheeky expression. He exits and then re-enters downstage tip-toeing comically (unbeknownst to the Queen and Merlin) and hides behind a table or large box down-stage.)**

**Queen:** Merlin?

**Merlin:** Yes my Queen?

**Queen:** How are we ever going to choose which of my boys will become King?

**Merlin:** Well there's no contest really. It's obvious who the new King should be isn't it?

**Queen:** Is it?

**Merlin:** Of course it is. We all know who should be King don't we boys and girls?

**(Audience reaction)**

**Queen:** How do they know? Who is it Merlin? Who should be King? Do tell.

**Merlin:** Boys and girls, tell the Queen who should be King after three. One, two, three.

**(The audience shout 'Arthur')**

**Queen:** Arthur? Are you sure?

**Merlin:** Of course. He'd make a much better King.

**Queen:** I think we should make Perceval the King personally.

**(Percy pops up from his hiding place and nods furiously.)**

**Queen:** Give him a bit of responsibility; it might make him start acting more mature. In fact, I'm sure it would.

**Merlin:** Oh no it wouldn't.

**Queen:** Oh yes it would.

**Merlin:** **(With audience)** Oh no it wouldn't.

**Queen:** Would!

**Merlin:** **(With audience)** Wouldn't.

**Queen:** Anyway, it doesn't matter because it's not up to me. We need to choose fairly.

**(Perceval looks intrigued. He takes out a notebook and pen and begins to write down what is being said.)**

**Merlin:** Well I think it should be Arthur. No matter how much responsibility we give Perceval, a chicken never changes its spots

**Queen:** – Leopard

**Merlin:** Leopard, yes. Well, I know of one way we can come up with a fair contest to find out who should be King – I could consult the ancient spirits of Yore.

**Queen:** The ancient spirits of *my* what?

**Merlin:** No, of Yore – you know... Yore! As in a long long time ago – like last Tuesday.

**Queen:** Oh, those spirits. Yes, they do come in quite handy from time to time. Remember when I couldn't find my car keys? They knew exactly where they were.

**Merlin:** Hang on then – In order to contact them I need to go into a trance.

**Queen:** Ah, so you're going to watch an episode of *Britain's got talent*?

**Merlin:** No, I don't need to do that anymore *and* I can do it without falling asleep, watch this.

**(Merlin goes into a trance by mumbling strange words)**

**Merlin:** Umdum, Bing-bong, la-la-la, whoooo - Oh spirits of Yore, oh oracle of fortune, oh George of Asda.

**Spirit:** **(OS. Spookily)** Merlin, the spirit of Yore hears your voice. **(Normal voice)** How are you, you old goat? Haven't spoken to you for ages! How's the ingrown toenail?

**Merlin:** **(Still in a trance)** It is fine now, since I stopped wearing those curly shoes. I seek your help oh ancient phantom of the – erm – ancients.

**Spirit:** Anything, just name it. Anything for my old wizardy chum Merlin.

**Merlin:** We need to appoint a new King for *[local town]* but we cannot think of a fair way to choose between Prince Perceval and Prince Arthur.

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**Spirit:** Well, that's easy. You know the forest of Barlow?

**Merlin:** Is that the forest next to the mountains of Minogue?

**Spirit:** That's the one. In that forest you will find a stone, a very large stone – you'll know which one because it's got a massive sword sticking out of it.

**Merlin:** And what shall we do with it oh great prehistoric ghoul of the olden days long ago in the past?

**Spirit:** Only one with the purest heart may draw the sword from the stone. Then you shall know your King.

**(Perceval narrows his eyes and grins whilst writing it all down. He then disappears into his hiding place once more)**

**Merlin:** Thank you oh elderly ghost of yesteryear. You have been most helpful.

**Spirit:** No problem, any time Merlin. Got to go, got tickets for the Justin Bieber concert tonight. Bye.

**(Merlin, still with his eyes closed starts to snore loudly. Queen nudges him and he wakes up with a start.)**

**Merlin:** Who? When?

**Queen:** You fell asleep!

**Merlin:** Who did? Oh, did the spirit tell us how to choose a King?

**Queen:** He did – and it's perfect.

**Merlin:** Well I suppose we have to be thankful for small chickens.

**Queen:** Mercies –

**Merlin:** Mercies, yes.

**Queen:** We must tell the townsfolk that we are to crown a new ruler. Come on Merlin.

**(The Queen links Merlin's arm and exits with him stage left. As they leave, Perceval emerges from his hiding place and addresses the audience)**

**Percy:** Only one who has a pure heart can draw the sword from the stone eh? Well, we'll just have to see about that won't we boys and girls; and then I can ban fun!

**(The audience boo)**

**Percy:** Oh be quiet, you're just jealous. You might want to keep some of that booing back for later because when I'm King. I'll be doing plenty of things you'll want to boo!  
**(He laughs wickedly)**

**(Perceval skips from the stage clapping his hands and laughing an evil laugh. Tabs close.)**



## Scene 2 - The Trotts' house

**(Old Mother Trott enters front of tabs reading a book and giggling)**

**Mother:** Ooh, hello boys and girls. **(Response)** I was just reading my new book, 'fifty shades of greyhound'. It's *really* racy! **(Pauses and looks incredulous)** – because there's loads of greyhounds in it having races. Anyway, allow me to introduce myself. My name is Old Mother Trott –

**(Guinevere enters with the back of her hand at her forehead, staggering dramatically across the stage, clearly overcome with emotion. She interrupts Old Mother Trott with her entrance.)**

**Guinevere:** Oh future and fate; Oh providence and doom; Oh Cheese and Onion. Who will save me from this wretched life? Who will come and rescue me?

**Mother:** **(To audience)** That's my daughter Guinevere Trott – complete drama queen she is. She goes over the top about everything. **(To Guinevere)** What's the matter with you now; the last time you were like this it was because you couldn't get the lid off the toothpaste.

**Guinevere:** Oh, I'm so tired of sitting in that pokey little west wing of the castle day after day. Watching my cinema size plasma TV with all the latest movies. Playing on all the latest consoles and eating an endless supply of Ice Cream.

**(Mother Trott feels Guinevere's forehead for a temperature)**

**Mother:** It's the fizzy cola bottles isn't it? You know what you get like when you eat sweets before bed.

**Guinevere:** Oh Mother, when is a Knight in shining armour going to come and rescue me? **(Thinks)** A Knight in dirty armour even. **(Dejectedly)** A Knight with a pulse would do.

**Mother:** What about Prince Arthur?

**Guinevere:** Well yes, he's good looking but he's not a Knight is he?

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**Mother:** He's a prince though which means he'll be King one day – isn't that enough?

**Guinevere:** No – I don't want to be married to a King who sits around all day eating grapes and watching Jesters. I want a swashbuckling adventurer. Where are all the Knights anyway, I haven't seen any for ages.

**Mother:** They're all at the crusades along with your father, Sir Galahad.

**Guinevere:** I suppose Arthur will have to do then. Why doesn't he just swing through an open window on a burning rope and scoop me up in his arms and rescue me from this boring life of just sitting around getting my nails and hair done all day?

**Mother:** You can only be rescued from a Dragon's lair or if you've been kidnapped by an evil witch. Why would someone come and rescue you from a life of luxury where you've got a lifetime supply of shoes and handbags?

**Guinevere:** I'm bored. I want to go out and see the world. I want to climb mountains. I want to swim seas. I want to compare Meerkats. I want to fight dragons and trolls.

**Mother:** **(Misty eyed)** Hmm... You've got a point you know Guinevere. It's been about twenty years since your father rescued me from that evil Wizard. I miss those days. **(Lost in a vision)** The thrill of the chase, the adventure, the excitement of not knowing which monster would kidnap you next. Which tower you'd be locked in. Then you'd eat a poisoned apple, fall asleep for one thousand years, let down your hair and be home in time for tea and crumpets. Good times.

**Guinevere:** **(Excitedly)** That's it, why don't we become Knights and join my father at the crusades?

**Mother:** We can't do that.

**Guinevere:** Why not? You just said you miss the thrill of the chase and the excitement of adventure.

**Mother:** Yes but the crusades have finished. Your father is on his way home right now. I got a telegram this morning; he should be here any minute.

**(SFX. A horse neighs)**

**Mother:** Ooh, that'll be him now.

**(Sir Galahad limps onto the stage looking tired and bedraggled.)**

**Guinevere:** Daddy!!

**Galahad:** I'm absolutely shattered! I've had to carry that horse all the way home from Turkey.

**(Guinevere hugs Galahad and then looks puzzled as she breaks off.)**

**Guinevere:** Isn't the horse supposed to carry you?

**Galahad:** Hmm, yes... that does sound easier.

**Mother:** Sir Galahad Trott! Is that really you?

**Galahad:** **(Patting himself)** it was the last time I checked.

**(Mother Trott leaps at Galahad in an overly affectionate manner possibly with exuberant kissing sound effects.)**

**Mother:** Oh I've missed your fuzzy face so much! I've missed the smell of your feet, how you always get bits of food in your beard and the way I always used to wake up in the morning with one of your socks on my face. **(Her expression turns from one of content contemplation to a grimace as she remembers the sock incident.)**

**Guinevere:** Daddy, you simply must tell me all about your adventures. Did you fight dragons and witches?

**Galahad:** I didn't actually. It was one of my more quiet trips. I'm getting on a bit now you know; it's about time I retired from all this travelling.

**Guinevere:** Yes, yes but what were the crusades like?

**Galahad:** Awful. First of all they had the finalists from X-factor entertaining the troops. I've only just got my hearing back.

**Mother:** What about the crusade itself?

**Galahad:** Oh that, well as you know, we went over to Eastern Europe to find the Holy Grail.

**Mother:** And did you find it?

**Galahad:** We did but it was a bit pointless really. It was holy you see, so every time we filled it with wine, it just leaked onto the floor. I told them we should have gone looking for a grail that didn't have holes in it.

**Guinevere:** Oh Daddy, that all sounds so exciting. Will you train me how to be a Knight so I can go travel the world looking for cups with holes in and fighting dragons?

**Mother:** (To Galahad) She's obsessed with Dragons right now. It's just a phase, it'll pass.

**Guinevere:** Can we go and fight a dragon Daddy? Can we? Please?

(Galahad looks at Mother Trott for help, unsure of what he should say.)

**Galahad:** Erm... well...

**Mother:** Stop pestering your father, he's only just got back. (To Galahad) I'll go run you a bath, make you a cup of tea and we'll hear all about your exploits.

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**Galahad:** My exploits? You don't want to hear about them, and anyway, they should clear up as soon as I get out of these armoured trousers. Oh, I nearly forgot, there's some troubling news. King Barry isn't coming home so there's going to be a new King crowned tomorrow.

**Guinevere:** Finally, something exciting is going to happen in *[local town]*.

**Galahad:** It's not exciting at all. It actually spells trouble for *[local town]* and everyone in it!

**Mother:** How so, my brave yet slightly whiffy husband?

**Galahad:** Well, the heirs to the throne are the King's sons, Prince Arthur and Prince Perceval.

**Mother:** What's troubling about that? Arthur is brave and kind and wise for his age whereas Perceval is lazy and greedy and selfish. They're bound to choose Arthur.

**Galahad:** Well that's just it. Usually, when twins are heirs to the throne, they must perform a trial in order to decide which one should be King. We could end up with Perceval as King and that would be bad. That would be very bad. That would be as bad as my exploits.

**Mother:** Quite. Well, come on then, I'll run your bath and you can tell me all about your adventures.

**(Galahad and Mother exit. SFX. Knock on the door.)**

**Guinevere:** **(Hearing the knock)** Oh, please be a dragon or a witch. Please!

**(She answers the door)**

**Guinevere:** Arthur!

**(Arthur enters)**

**Guinevere:** Just the man. Have you come to take me away to far off lands and battle against evil sheep and restore order to the galaxy?

**Arthur:** Strangely, that didn't cross my mind but I have even better news.

**Guinevere:** Do tell, oh dishy prince.

**Arthur:** Either my brother or I will be crowned King tomorrow.

**Guinevere:** Well obviously it'll be you. You're gallant and brave and I've heard you're a bit handy with your sword.

**Arthur:** Who told you that? Never mind. We're going to have to perform a trial, one that proves we are worthy to become King. I hope it's something like rescuing a cat from a tree, I'm great at that sort of thing.

**Guinevere:** **(Dismissive)** Yes, this all sounds very exciting but once you're King are we going to go on lots of adventures?

**Arthur:** You bet! We'll go looking for the lost fleece of chintata, go in search of the fabled beast of chandignol in the mountains of flantooty, near the lake of Abooba.

**Guinevere:** **(Overcome with excitement)** Let's get married straight away!!

**(Mother enters boisterously)**

**Mother:** Ooh, what's this I hear? You two engaged? Ooh, the wedding of the century. When you're made King tomorrow I'll be the Queen Mother! **(Overly excited)** Show me the ring! Show me the ring!

**Arthur:** **(Flustered)** I haven't got one...

**Mother:** Haven't got one? You can't get engaged without a ring. Oh, Guinevere, after the coronation tomorrow we'll go ring shopping and wedding dress shopping. How are you going to have your hair for the wedding? Up or down?

**(Guinevere claps excitedly along as Mother Trott chats excitedly about her wedding plans. Arthur looks on in bewilderment.)**

**Mother:** **(To Arthur)** Where is the wedding going to be then?

**Arthur:** Don't you think we should wait to see if I'm made King first?

**Guinevere:** You're bound to be made King; it's in the title of the show! Anyway, we're going on adventures – you promised!! Whatever the trial is you'll outwit your awful brother.

**Arthur:** If Percy becomes King and it's a fair contest, I don't mind as long as he is a rational and sensible King.

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**Mother:** Oooh, I'm soooo excited!! I'm going to buy loads of wedding magazines!

**(Mother Trott and Guinevere jump up and down excitedly centre stage. Arthur tries to speak but just shakes his head and exits.)**

**Guinevere:** I can see my dress now, white with crystals.

**(Tabs close as Mother Trott and Guinevere exit down stage, chattering)**

**Mother:** **(Suddenly has an idea)** Ooh, do you need a corsage?

**Guinevere:** No, I always walk like this.

**(Tabs closed. Lights off)**

### Scene 3 - Merlin's Tower

**(Percy enters front of tabs, laughing an evil laugh)**

**Percy:** Ha ha ha ha ha... by the way, this is the same laugh as the one I was doing at the end of scene 1. I've been back there laughing all the way through scene 2; nothing to do with the script obviously. I'm laughing because I'm going to be crowned king tomorrow and you will all have to do as I say!

**(The audience boo)**

**Percy:** Anyway, shush because I'm off to see that dopey wizard and ask him to teach me how to do magic. It'll help me get the sword out of that stone so I can fulfil my destiny! **(He laughs manically)**

**(The audience boo)**

**Percy:** There's that sound again. **(To audience)** Are you lot alright?

**(Tabs open to reveal Merlin's tower. It is adorned with shelves of books and tables with curious artefacts on them. There is a pedestal holding a spell book stage left. The half-tabs are closed and in the middle stands the summoning cabinet. Various characters will enter the stage through the cabinet so it should have a false back covered by a black curtain to allow the characters to pass through the half-tabs, into the cabinet and then out of the door at the front. Merlin is asleep in a large chair.)**

**Percy:** Ah, the old Wizard is asleep. I'm sure to find something useful in here –

**(Percy walks over to the spell book)**

**Percy:** **(He mumbles as he reads)** blah blah... this spell will give you the purest of all hearts. What a stroke of luck. One bat wing...

**(Percy takes out a pen and paper then copies down the spell. As Percy steps down from the pedestal, Merlin wakes up.)**

**Merlin:** I was just drinking my cocoa and I must have dozed off. **(Noticing Percy)** Percy, what are you doing my lad?

**Percy:** Ah, Gandalf! How are you?

**Merlin:** Merlin.

**Percy:** Whatever –

**Merlin:** What were you doing near my spell book?

**Percy:** Well, Dumbledore... Merlin whatever, I so want to learn magic and become an all-powerful Wizard like you.

**Merlin:** You know I'm not allowed to teach you magic. You're not old enough. I'd get thrown out of the magic circle and I'm the chicken that holds it all together.

**Percy:** Glue

**Merlin:** Glue, yes.

**Percy:** Ok, you don't have to teach me any magic spells but you can at least tell me a little bit about how magic works.

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**Merlin:** **(Unsure)** hmm... I don't know. **(To audience)** Do you think I should teach Percy about Magic?

**(Audience react)**

**Merlin:** They don't think I should and we should listen to their opinion. They've paid.

**Percy:** Just teach me some basics, stuff that I couldn't possibly use; like **(Percy approaches the summoning cabinet)** you could tell me what this is and how it works.

**Merlin:** That? Oh, that's just my summoning cabinet. You can summon anyone from anywhere, in the blink of an eye. All you need do is either describe the person you want to summon or just speak their name while waving my magic wand. This one is broken though; it's never worked since I got it. I'll have to get a man in.

**Percy:** I see, so what about magic spells? You're excellent at them aren't you? Really brilliant.

**Merlin:** **(Flattered)** Well, yes I am rather. You see there are two types of spell. For the first I summon the ancient spirits of yore.

**Percy:** The ancient spirits of *my* what?

**Merlin:** No – of Yore... never mind. And the second type of spell you need ingredients for.

**Percy:** Show me! Show me!

**Merlin:** I've already told you too much. You really should run along now Percy.

**Percy:** But you're soooo brilliant at Magic. I'll be sooooo impressed!!

**Merlin:** **(Unsure)** Well... erm...

**Percy:** **(Excited)** Make a potion! Make a potion!

**Merlin:** Erm... ok. We'll make a potion to cure acne shall we?

**Percy:** **(Evilly)** Excellent!

**Merlin:** **(Speaking mysteriously)** Hubba bubba, cauldron bubble, leg of... erm... what are those long things called again?

**Percy:** Worms?

**Merlin:** No, they've got legs

**Percy:** A chaise longue?

**Merlin:** No, they're scaly

**Percy:** Newt?

**Merlin:** That's it – leg of newt and hair of... erm... what do you call that thing with the awful screechy voice?

**Percy:** Rhianna?

**Merlin:** No, it's a wailing spirit.

**Percy:** Still Rhianna.

**Merlin:** No, It's a type of Irish ghost.

**Percy:** Oh, a Banshee?

**Merlin:** That's the one.

**Percy:** I'll go and get those ingredients for you Voldemort.

**Merlin:** Merlin

**Percy:** Whatever.

**(Percy wrings his hands together in a sly manner. He takes out the note he wrote earlier and selects a few bottles from the cabinet. Putting the note away he returns to the cauldron and tips the bottles in. There is a flash.)**

**Merlin:** Are you sure that was erm...

**Percy:** Essence of newt leg and hair of banshee!

**Merlin:** Yes.

**Percy:** Absolutely sure!

**Merlin:** Ok.

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**(Merlin removes a magic wand from his pocket and waves it over the cauldron. There is another flash. Merlin reaches into the cauldron and takes out a small bottle of liquid.)**



**Merlin:** There you go, a cure for acne.

**Percy:** **(Taking the bottle)** Excellent. I'll let you know if it works. Why don't you have a sit down? You look tired after all that magic.

**Merlin:** Well, yes I am rather.

**(Merlin sits on his chair)**

**Percy:** Get some more of this cocoa down you as well, you look thirsty.

**Merlin:** Well, my mouth is a little dry.

**(Percy lifts the cocoa cup to Merlin's mouth and makes him drink. Merlin soon falls asleep and starts snoring. Percy takes his wand.)**

**Percy:** Ha. Who knew becoming King would be so easy?

**(Audience Boo)**

**Percy:** Summoning cabinet eh? The wicked witch of the east over here said you need to describe someone or speak their name. **(Addressing the cabinet)** Well Mr. Cabinet, I'm going to need a brave warrior. A Knight of the realm; someone loyal who has achieved great deeds over his career. That's who I need to be my body guard once I'm King.

**(Percy waves the wand and there is a flash. The cupboard shakes for a moment and then the door creaks open. Out steps Falstaff. He is rather rotund and out of shape.)**

**Percy:** Who are you?

**Falstaff:** **(Offended)** Who am I? Who am I?

**Percy:** That's what I asked.

**Falstaff:** How dare you sir. I am the world's most bravest, most decorated Knight of all time ever, me. Honest. My name is Falstaff. Surely you've heard of me?

**Percy:** Nope.

**Falstaff:** I've liberated entire civilisations single-handedly. I've battled with fierce monsters and swam oceans. I won a gold medal at the Olympics etcetera.

**Percy:** You haven't have you?

**Falstaff:** No. But I will one day. You wait and see. I'm great at Kung Fu as well. I can stun a man with my bare feet. **(Aside)** They stink!

**(SFX. Falstaff's stomach grumbles)**

**Falstaff:** Pardon me. You don't happen to have any cake around here do you?

**(Falstaff checks about the stage for cake)**

**Percy:** **(To audience)** Well, fuzzy-beard wasn't joking when he said the cabinet was on the blink was he? **(To Falstaff)** There's no cake.

**(Falstaff looks dejected)**

**Percy:** I wanted a brave warrior as a bodyguard but I suppose you'll have to do. You will be the official royal bodyguard when I'm made King tomorrow. Then, you will be head of the Fun Police when I ban fun. Imagine that, a world where nobody is allowed to have fun. That brother of mine will be sobbing... in fact, I want Arthur to be **(pointing the wand to accentuate his point)** sobbin' good!

**(SFX. There is a flash and smoke. The cabinet door opens and out steps Robin Hood)**

**Robin:** Hello, did someone call?

**Percy:** Eh? No. Who are you?

**Falstaff:** Ah, when you waved your wand you said 'Robin Hood'.

**Percy:** No, I said 'Sobbin' good'.

**Robin:** **(Heroically)** Yes, for it is I, Robin Hood. Leader of men. Soldier of fortune. Friend of the trees. **(Conversationally)** So you didn't want me then?

**Percy:** Why would I want you? Look at you, you're wearing tights for a start! Only the very best warriors and soldiers can join my staff.

**Robin:** **(Pointing at Falstaff)** And *he* works for you does he?

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**Percy:** **(Hesitantly)** He's... erm... the exception that *proves* the rule... or something.

**Robin:** Whatever. I demand to be sent back to Sherwood Forest immediately. I was about to kiss Maid Marian and defeat the evil Sherriff of Nottingham.

**Percy:** Erm... **(He looks at the cabinet and then at the wand)** I.. erm... don't want to. Now get out, I can't have you in here while I'm making secret plans to become King. Go on, shoo!

**Robin:** You'll be hearing from my solicitor about this! And these are *hose*, not tights.

**(Robin exits in a disgruntled fashion)**

**Percy:** Did he say his friends were all trees? What an odd man. Anyway, where was I?

**Falstaff:** Sobbin' good

**Percy:** Ah yes. I want everyone to be really upset that they're not allowed to have fun anymore. If anyone does have fun I want you to lock them in the cold cold dungeon.

**Falstaff:** Cold cold dungeon, got it.

**Percy:** Talking of cold dungeons, it's a bit chilly in here don't you think?

**Falstaff:** It is now you mention it.

**Percy:** I bet the heating's on the blink again. **(Getting agitated and pointing the wand assertively)** I've told my mother several times about this, I'm always saying that we need to call the heater man.

**(SFX. There is a flash and smoke and the cabinet door opens. Out steps Peter Pan looking bewildered.)**

**Percy:** Not another one. Who are you?

**Peter:** **(Standing heroically)** My name is Peter Pan.

**Percy:** Seriously, what is it about green tights? Are they on sale at the moment?

**Peter:** Eh? I think they're rather fetching.

**Percy:** Yes, they're 'fetching' my breakfast back up. Anyway, **(To the cabinet)** I said 'Heater man' not 'Peter Pan'.

**Peter:** I was just flying through the trees in Neverland, minding my own business, fighting Captain Hook and a crocodile, as per usual, when I suddenly found myself in that cupboard. Now I'm here, what can I do for you?

**Percy:** I don't need you to do anything. Now get out, I'm trying to make secret plans to become King tomorrow.

**Peter:** In that case, send me back to my own Pantomime this instant sir.

**Percy:** **(Hesitant)** No, I will not. I don't want to – it's not that I don't know *how* to, I just don't *want* to. See him to the door Falstaff.

**Falstaff:** Yes sir. Right away sir.

**(Falstaff walks Peter Pan to the exit)**

**Peter:** Get off me. I'll set Tinkerbell on you!

**Falstaff:** **(Sarcastically)** Ooh, I'm scared. What a terrifying name, Tinkerbell. Who else are you going to set on me? Sparkletoes and Glitterfluff?

**(Peter exits and Falstaff returns.)**

**Percy:** Ah, it seems you are useful after all. Where was I, oh yes... not only will you be head of the Fun Police you'll have a lot of other duties too. You'll have work to do in the

sculleries like polishing duties, you'll have washing up duties, you'll have a **(Pointing the wand)** sweeping duty...

**(SFX. There is a flash and smoke and the cabinet door opens. Out slumps Sleeping Beauty onto the floor. She starts snoring loudly.)**

**Falstaff:** Sir, I think you should put that wand down. We're going to be up to our eyes in Pantomime characters before long.

**Percy:** Eh? Well who have I summoned now?

**Falstaff:** I assume, because she's fast asleep on the floor that when you said 'sweeping duty', the cabinet thought you said Sleeping Beauty.

**(Percy puts the wand in the sleeping Merlin's hand)**

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**Percy:** This whole magic thing is too dangerous. I'd better leave it to the experts.

**(Sleeping Beauty snorts as she wakes up and clambers to her feet.)**

**Beauty:** Eh? Is it Christmas already? Oh, hang on – I was dreaming I was Santa Clause. **(To audience, indicating Falstaff)** Cor, Prince Charming's let himself go a bit hasn't he?

**Falstaff:** Ahem, I'm not Prince Charming – my name is Falstaff and I'll have you know that I'm not fat I'm just short for my weight.

**Beauty:** **(Suspiciously)** Right. Where is Prince Charming then? He was supposed to wake me up with true love's kiss. **(To Percy)** You're not him either, you're far too young. Who are you and where am I?

**Percy:** **(Frustratedly)** Look, I accidentally summoned you with magic and you just fell out of the cupboard.

**Beauty:** Ok, keep your tabard on. Calm yourself before you harm yourself; I only asked. You need to send me back to my own Pantomime immediately. If I'm not there when Prince Charming cuts through all the brambles round the castle he's going to be pretty irritated and I'm not going to get that snog he promised me.

**Percy:** Look, I don't know how... erm... I mean no, I don't want to send you back – just, get out. I can't make secret plans with people falling out of my cupboard every few minutes can I?

**Beauty:** **(To Falstaff)** I think you need to stop his Haribo. He's so highly strung you could play *Yankee doodle dandy* on his tendons. **(Yawning)** Anyway, I need a lie down, I'm so tired. This way out is it?

**(Falstaff nods)**

**Beauty:** **(Noticing the audience)** Oh, hello boys and girls, didn't see you there.

**(Audience react)**

**Percy:** **(Desperately)** Out!! Get out!!

**Beauty:** Alright, alright – keep your wig on. I'm going. **(To audience)** Someone needs to calm down I reckon.

**(Beauty leaves)**

**Percy:** Come on, let's do our secret plotting somewhere else.

**Falstaff:** Erm, sir. You don't suppose that lot out there heard what you were saying about taking over as King and secret plots and things?

**Percy:** It doesn't matter – as soon as I'm King **(He shakes the bottle of potion he obtained earlier)** I'll have them all arrested if they so much as crack a smile. Come on Full-bath.

**Falstaff:** That's Falstaff sir.

**Percy:** Whatever.

**(Percy and Falstaff exit. Tabs close.)**

#### **Scene 4 – A forest clearing**

**(The Queen and Old Mother Trott enter front of tabs.)**

**Queen:** Oh I know; bright red it was.

**Mother:** I don't understand why he had to have two pairs of glasses on though?

**Queen:** Something to do with parsley I think.

**Mother:** Makes sense I suppose. **(Noticing the audience)** Oh hello boys and girls.

**(Audience react)**

**Mother:** Are you looking forward to finding out who the new King is going to be?

**(Audience react)**

**Mother:** **(To Queen)** What's the trial by the way? Do they have to eat worms or put yellow stars covered in ants into a bag while hanging upside down in a tank of crocodiles?

**Queen:** No, nothing like that. In the forest there is a stone with a sword sticking out of it. Merlin spoke to the ancient spirits and they said it can only be removed by one who is pure of heart. We thought it the best way to decide who should be King between Arthur and Perceval.

**Mother:** Well, that sounds like it should all go to plan doesn't it?

**Queen:** My thoughts exactly.

**Mother:** Come on then, or we'll be late for the trials.

**(The tabs open to a forest scene. There is a large stone centre stage with a sword embedded in it. The sword should be a small, plastic toy sword (in keeping with the fun-nature of Panto), possibly one that lights up and plays a tune. Falstaff is standing stage right trying to look inconspicuous by feigning interest in the flora adorning the stage.)**

**Queen:** **(Stage whisper whilst pointing at Falstaff)** Look, what do you suppose that is over there?

**Mother:** I don't know. Unusual shape isn't it? I wouldn't know *what* to call it.

**Queen:** Do you think we should call it a Knight?

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**Mother:** Ok then, see you in the morning.

**(Mother Trott motions to leave the stage.)**

**Queen:** No, I mean do you think he is a Knight of the realm

**Mother:** Oh I see. Well they're all back from the crusades now aren't they? By the looks of him he's had his fair share of Turkish Delight while he was away!

**(Merlin, Galahad and Arthur enter.)**

**Queen:** Ah, Merlin. Are we ready for the trial to start?

**Merlin:** What trial is that then?

**Queen:** The trial to find out who the next King will be.

**Merlin:** Oh yes, I remember now. I wondered why I was in the forest. We're ready to start. Are we all here?

**Arthur:** I can't see Percy anywhere. It looks like he's not here yet.

**Galahad:** Good. If he doesn't turn up then Arthur here will win by default and we will have a fair and just King to rule *[local town]*.

**(Percy enters)**

**Percy:** Careful Sir Galahad, that sounds like treason.

**Galahad:** It is not treason to want a fit and proper person to rule the kingdom, not a bounder and a cad like you, Percy.

**Percy:** I can't wait to see your face when I become King. It'll be like *'awkward!!'*

**Queen:** Ok, shall we get this thing started then? Come on boys, this is so exciting.

**(Percy and Arthur stand next to the stone. Merlin stands on the opposite side.)**

**Merlin:** **(He goes into a trance)** Oh ancient spirits, allow only he who is purest of heart to remove the sword from the stone. Then we shall know our rightful King.

**Spirit:** You got it Merlin; in your own time.

**(Merlin snaps out of his trance and steps back)**

**Percy:** Arthur, I'll let you go first.

**(Arthur shrugs, approaches the sword and pulls it. It doesn't move.)**

**Galahad:** Go on Arthur, give it a good old yank!

**Arthur:** I'm yanking, I'm yanking!

**(Arthur struggles some more to no avail. He finally gives up and looks at his hands as if in pain.)**

**Arthur:** It's no good, it won't budge.

**Spirit:** The sword will not move for you Arthur. There is one who is purer of heart.

**Galahad:** No one is purer of heart than Arthur. Not even Britney Spears!

**Merlin:** I don't think that's right you know Spirit. Arthur should be able to pull the sword out. Can you check your notes again?

**Spirit:** Yes, sure. Hang on a moment (**pauses**) no, I was right. There is definitely one who is purer of heart.

**Percy:** Are you all quite finished? I think you'll find it's my turn.

**(Percy grabs the sword and slides it out of the stone with ease. The music to the Hallelujah chorus sounds for a moment.)**

**Percy:** **(Mockingly, to Arthur's face)** One – nil! Step forward everyone who is a King – not so fast there Arthur. In your face. Who's the Daddy? I think you'll find it's me! Who's not the King? Oh, that would be you!

**Queen:** Perceval dear, don't speak to your brother like that. You won fairly, be gracious about it.

**Percy:** Gracious? This is the first good thing that's ever happened to me. Ever!

**Galahad:** This isn't good - and to think, I was just one day away from retirement.

**Percy:** **(Snapping his fingers)** Right, give me the crown. Come on...

**(The Queen takes the crown off and places it on Percy's head)**

**Percy:** Right, my first duty as King is to introduce you to a new member of the Royal guard. False-laugh.

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**Falstaff:** That's Falstaff sir.

**Percy:** Whatever. He's going to be head of the Fun Police – you see as of now, I'm banning fun. Anyone caught having fun will be locked in the castle dungeon.

**Arthur:** You can't do that

**Percy:** Oh yes I can!

**Arthur:** **(With audience)** Oh no you can't

**Percy:** Watch me! Mother, you can live in a small ramshackle hut in the castle grounds. Arthur, I'm banning you from the Kingdom altogether.



**(The audience boo)**

**Arthur:** You can't do that

**Percy:** Oh yes I can.

**Arthur:** **(With audience)** Oh no you can't.

**Percy:** **(Matter of factly)** I can. It's in the constitution.

**Galahad:** This is an outrage!

**Mother:** **(Acting faint)** In all my days.

**Queen:** Perceval, you can't do any of that.

**Percy:** Erm... I think I can. I'm like, the King. **(Pointing to his crown)** Hello?

**Queen:** Oh, I knew when I got out of the wrong side of bed this morning and stubbed my toe on the radiator today wasn't going to be great.

**Galahad:** You've tricked the spirits somehow. There's no way you're purer of heart than Arthur. You're a tricky trickster. He's trickier than Tricky McPloy the winner of last year's dodgy swindler of the year award.

**Percy:** Prove it! **(Pauses)** See, you can't. Looks like I'm still King and none of you are which makes me in charge. All those in favour of my rule come and stand next to me.

**(Falstaff stands to Percy's left and Merlin walks over and stands to his right)**

**Queen:** Merlin?

**Merlin:** I'm sorry my Queen, erm.. ex-Queen. I am the Royal Wizard and I have sworn to serve the monarch; whoever it is.

**Arthur:** Hang on, you can't ban fun. I don't mind you being King but you can't ban fun. That's just not – fun.

**Percy:** Watch me. I'm going to build a fun-o-meter. No more fun for *[local town]*.

**Arthur:** – and you can't ban me from the Kingdom. I'm your brother.

**Percy:** Reality to Arthur, hello, have you not been watching for the last five minutes? I'm King. I can do what I want. You're always getting all the attention. Now it's my turn and I don't want you hanging around spoiling it.

**Arthur:** Then I will stop you. I will form an army, a group of people who will fight to stop you banning fun.

**Percy:** **(Concerned)** You can't form an army. Riff-raff, do something.

**Falstaff:** That's 'Falstaff' sir. Do something? Like what?

**Percy:** I don't know. Galahad, I forbid you to be part of Arthur's army. You are a royal Knight.

**Galahad:** I no longer serve the crown while it sits upon your head.

**Queen:** Percy dear you're going to have to calm down, you'll have one of your funny turns. You're acting like this because you're not getting your five a day aren't you? I've told you, you should try those pizza slices, they'd get you eating vegetables.

**Percy:** Mother, you're embarrassing me in front of my men.

**Arthur:** Sir Galahad Trott, are you with me?

**Galahad:** Yes I am. **(He thrusts his plastic sword in the air)**

**Arthur:** Mother Trott, are you with me?

**Mother:** You bet! **(she swings her handbag in the air)**

**Arthur:** You might have Merlin and a massively overweight Knight on your side but I've got the Trotts. **(Indicating Galahad and Mother Trott)** hang on, that didn't come out right **(grimacing)** neither did that. Anyway, I will form a band of rebels who will fight your ban on fun. Are you with me boys and girls?

**(Audience react)**

**Arthur:** **(Rousingly)** A day will come when fun will come to an end – but it is not this day! Today we will fight for justice, for freedom and the right to enjoy ourselves. From this day forward we shall be known as the group against no fun and freedom rebel Knights... erm... the anti-anti-fun-league... look, I'll work on the name but essentially we will form a group who will ignore your reign as King and fight to restore fun to the Kingdom.

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**Percy:** You can't form a group. I'll ban groups! No groups. **(To Falstaff)** Bar-graph, arrest them before they form a group!

**Falstaff:** With all due respect my master, I know that I'm brave and strong and agile and good at Zumba and all that, but I can't arrest them all by myself.

**Percy:** **(To Merlin)** Beard-face, magic them or something!

**Merlin:** I'm not allowed to do magic on *people* Percy, you know that.

**Percy:** Why aren't there more people on *my* side?

**Merlin:** Let's face it Percy. You're not exactly a barrel of chickens.

**Percy:** Laughs

**Merlin:** Laughs, yes.

**Percy:** None of this matters, I will be the world's greatest King, the world's most evil King and you know what boys and girls?

### **Song 1**

**(Percy sings 'Trouble' by Elvis. He taunts Arthur, Galahad and Mother Trott as he does so.)**

**Percy:** Come on, we're going back to Camelot to think up a plan to make you lot respect my authority. **(To Merlin)** Are you with me?

**Merlin:** I've got no choice

**Percy:** **(To Falstaff)** Are you with me?

**Falstaff:** As long as there's cake!

**Percy:** **(To Audience)** – and I'll work out how to deal with you lot later.

**(Audience boo. Percy, Falstaff and Merlin exit)**

**Queen:** Perceval dear, now don't do anything rash, which reminds me, have you got the cream the doctor gave you?

**(The Queen chases after Percy and exits.)**

**Mother:** Oh Guinevere will be so upset. There won't be a wedding or adventures or anything.

**Galahad:** Ah, well that's where you're wrong.

**Arthur:** She is?

**Galahad:** Let's all go back to *Chateaux De Trott* and see if we can't plan to overturn the ban on fun and have a bit of adventure thrown into the bargain! Who's with me?

**All:** We are!

**Galahad:** Are you with me boys and girls?

**(Audience react)**

**Galahad:** I can't hear you. If you're with me say 'aye'.

**(Audience react)**

**Galahad:** If you're with me say 'aye aye'

**(Audience say 'aye aye')**

**Galahad:** If you're with me say 'eye eye nose and mouth'

**(Audience say 'eye eye nose and mouth')**

**Galahad:** Then we ride for *Chateaux De Trott!* Who's got the coconuts?

**Mother:** Not me, I always stand like this.

**Arthur:** I've got them.

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**(Arthur takes out two empty halves of coconut shell. Galahad raises his sword and trots off on an imaginary horse. Arthur follows behind banging the coconut halves together to emulate horses' hooves. They all follow and exit. Tabs close.)**

## Scene 5 – Somewhere in the woods

**(Robin Hood enters front of tabs accompanied by the ‘twang’ of an arrow being fired from a bow.)**

**Robin:** **(He sings the sound of a fanfare to mark his entrance)** It is I, Robin Hood. Master of archery, friend of foliage, protector of men. **(Drinking in his surroundings)** Ahh, the trees, the squirrels, the sound of a nearby stream trickling by, lots of people staring at me... **(shocked)** lots and lots of people, just sitting there... staring at me. **(Tentatively)** Hello?

**(Audience react)**

**Robin:** Ah, well you seem friendly enough. Do you know the way to Sherwood Forest? **(Audience react)** I’m going to have to walk as I don’t have any money for bus fare. I was just practicing my archery **(He holds up his bow)**. Quite good I am, maybe I can earn a bit of money for the bus doing that?

**(Peter Pan enters. He has an arrow with a sucker on the front, stuck to his forehead)**

**Peter:** Is this your arrow?

**Robin:** Erm... no. What makes you think it’s mine?

**Peter:** The bow in your right hand and the fact you’ve just said you’re good at archery.

**Robin:** Right, yes. Sorry. It won’t happen again.

**(Peter pulls the arrow off his head with a pop and hands it to Robin)**

**Robin:** The name’s Hood, Robin Hood. Licensed to – actually, I’m not licensed to do anything, I am an outlaw you see. I am a wanted man in over two counties. I see you share the same taste in clothes? Green is so hot right now isn’t it?

**Peter:** This isn’t a fashion statement, it’s a costume. I’m Peter Pan, from the Pantomime ‘Pan’s People’; are you from the Pantomime ‘Robin Hood : men in trees’?

**Robin:** No, I’m not a Pantomime character; I’m the *real* Robin Hood. I’m trying to get back to Sherwood Forest so I can kiss Maid Marian and defeat the evil Sheriff of Nottingham.

**Peter:** Right. So how did you end up here?

**Robin:** I fell out of a cupboard.

**Peter:** OMG! Really? That’s how I got here. I fell out of a cupboard and there was this shouty man there and this overweight Knight. He said he was making plans to take over as King and told me to get out.

**Robin:** OMG! Me too.

**Peter:** I really need to get back to my own Pantomime so I can find the lost boys.

**Robin:** Right. Where are they?

**Peter:** Well they wouldn't be lost boys if I knew where they were. **(He offers his hand to Robin)** Anyway, pleased to meet you.

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**(Robin and Peter shake hands. A snoring sound comes from behind the tabs. They open to reveal Sleeping Beauty asleep on a park bench or on the floor. Her face is covered by a newspaper which rises each time she breathes out. There are banners stage left and right with the word 'Fun' on them but the word has a red circle around it with a red line across its diameter. It signals that fun has been banned.)**

**Robin:** What's that noise?

**Peter:** I don't know. Odd though isn't it?

**Robin:** Can you hear that boys and girls?

**(Audience react)**

**Peter:** Where is it coming from?

**(The audience shout 'behind you'.)**

**Robin:** I beg your pardon, that sound is not coming from behind me.

**Peter:** **(Wafting a hand in front of his face)** Are you sure?

**Robin:** **(Looks confused)** Listen, I think it's coming from over here.

**(Robin notices Sleeping Beauty. He takes the newspaper from her face.)**

**Peter:** Don't tell me... Sleeping Beauty.

**Robin:** How do you know that?

**(Sleeping Beauty snorts loudly and she wakes up.)**

**Beauty:** **(Shouting)** Rip Van Winkel!! **(She looks around for a moment)** Oh, I was having the scrummiest dream about cupcakes. **(To Robin)** Who are you?

**Robin:** I, fair maiden, am Robin Hood.

**Beauty:** **(Sarcastically)** Fair maiden? What century are *you* from?

**Robin:** One where beds have been invented.

**Beauty:** **(Looking embarrassed)** Ah, right. **(She gets to her feet)** I just needed forty winks.

**Robin:** How many did you have?

**Beauty:** Thirty-nine. I was this close! **(She indicates a small distance using her thumb and forefinger)** Anyway Robin, aren't you going to introduce me to your twin brother?

**Peter:** Oh, I'm not his brother.

**Beauty:** Well that's embarrassing, turning up in the same outfit.

**Robin:** It's not the same actually. He's wearing tights, these **(pointing to his legs)** are hose.

**Beauty:** **(Sarcastically)** Right, because they're different aren't they?

**Robin:** Well, yes. Hose are manly and they allow me to slap my thigh in a wholly masculine manner. **(He slaps his thigh)**

**Beauty:** You do realise that you woke me up for this?

**Peter:** Yes, sorry about that. We're just trying to find a way home because we both fell out of a wardrobe at that big castle on the hill and we're miles away from anywhere.

**Beauty:** Hang on, you too?

**Robin:** What? You didn't –

**Beauty:** Wardrobe, shouty man, fat Knight –

**Peter:** That's the one.

**Beauty:** How depressing.

**Robin:** So you're trying to get home as well then?

**Beauty:** Yes, I'm trying to get back to Pantoland – in between spells of deep sleep, snoozes and naps you understand. You?

**Peter:** Neverland.

**Robin:** Sherwood Forest.

**Beauty:** Oh, well the *[local well known bus service]* goes to all of those places. We just need to earn some money for the bus fare. Does that paper have a jobs column?

**(Robin hands the paper to Beauty. She scans it.)**

**Beauty:** Gardener? **(To Robin)** Well, you've already got the hose.

**(Robin looks confused)**

**Beauty:** Too much like hard work – ah, look at this. **(Reads)** Are you skint?

**(Peter and Robin nod.)**

**Beauty:** Need money for bus fare to get home?

**(Peter and Robin nod.)**

**Beauty:** Like having fun?

**(Peter and Robin nod.)**

**Beauty:** Then join Prince Arthur in his crusade to end the ban on fun in *[local town]*. Ring 4889 after six and ask for Gary.

**Robin:** Then what are we waiting for?

**Peter:** See you later boys and girls.

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**(Audience react. Robin, Beauty and Peter leave. Tabs close.)**



## Scene 6 – Outside Galahad's Castle

**(Percy and Falstaff enter front of tabs. Falstaff is wearing a cloak that is too small for him, a wholly unconvincing false moustache and sunglasses.)**

**Percy:** We need to find out what Arthur is up to, it's the only way.

**Falstaff:** And you don't think I'll be recognised?

**Percy:** Just try not to talk too much and try to look brave or whatever.

**Falstaff:** Well, that bit comes naturally. Did I ever tell you about the time I saved a cow from up a tree?

**Percy:** You can tell your boring stories later, here –

**(Percy hands Falstaff a newspaper)**

**Falstaff:** Half price burgers!?

**Percy:** No, the advert at the bottom. Arthur is forming some kind of organisation that wants to end the ban on fun. I need to know what is going on. So part one of the plan is to find out *their* plan and then I want you to put part two of the plan into action.

**Falstaff:** Ok, I'll just recap. You want me to do part one of the plan?

**Percy:** Yes.

**Falstaff:** – and then you want me to do part two of the plan?

**Percy:** Yes

**Falstaff:** So – part one and then part two?

**Percy:** **(Frustrated)** Yes

**Falstaff:** **(Looking confused)** Have you got a pen? I might need to make a note –

**Percy:** Just go!

**Falstaff:** Yes sir, right away sir.

**(Falstaff and Percy leave on opposite sides. Tabs open to reveal Galahad's house. Galahad and Arthur are centre stage. The banners showing that fun is banned are still stage left and right. Galahad is holding an unrolled scroll, scanning it.)**

**Galahad:** We haven't had a great response to that advert in the paper I must say. People are terrified of Percy now he's King because he has Merlin on his side.

**Arthur:** Don't worry about that. People normally just turn up to these things don't they?

**Galahad:** Well, I've got a few Knights here for you to interview.

**Arthur:** (**Looking offstage**) Who's that Knight who keeps looking over here and then looking away?

**Galahad:** That's Sir Glance-a-lot

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**Arthur:** (**Pointing offstage**) And who's that with the antlers sticking out of his helmet?

**Galahad:** That's Stag Knight

**(Arthur and Galahad look offstage right and follow an unseen something that rushes past them until they're both looking offstage left.)**

**Arthur:** Was that – ?

**Galahad:** (**Nodding**) Fly-by-Knight

**Arthur:** None of these are any good. Show in some of the other applicants.

**Galahad:** Yes sir.

**(Galahad exits. Arthur sits on a grand chair stage left. Galahad enters with Old Mother Trott and Guinevere.)**

**Arthur:** Old Mother Trott? Guinevere?

**Mother:** Ready for duty sir! (**She salutes**)

**Guinevere:** All present and correct!

**Arthur:** Erm – I don't think...

**Mother:** If you're forming an army against that awful Percy, we want to be part of it. (**Reminiscing**) Oh I remember the days Galahad and I would ride off into the mountains with nothing but a change of pants and a bag of sandwiches to look for treasure and fight goblins.

**Galahad:** That was many years ago dear

**Mother:** Guinevere was telling me how much she would love to go on a quest and it brought it all back to me. I've still got it you know.

**Guinevere:** It never went away did it Mother?

**Arthur:** What do you think Sir Galahad?

**Galahad:** Well, if they want to join –

**Mother:** Oh, how exciting!! Can I be Pink Ranger??

**Arthur:** We're Knights, not Power Rangers.

**Mother:** **(Looking disappointed)** Can I still wear Pink lycra?

**Arthur:** Erm...

**(Galahad grimaces, shakes his head and mouths the word 'no'. Mother gazes at Arthur excitedly, awaiting his answer.)**

**Arthur:** We'll look into that and let you know.

**Guinevere:** Can I have a Pony?

**Galahad:** How will that help in the fight against Percy?

**Guinevere:** It won't. I just want a Pony.

**Arthur:** Again, we'll look into it. Who's next Sir Galahad?

**(Mother Trott and Guinevere move down stage and chatter excitedly to each other silently. Galahad exits and returns with Robin Hood, Sleeping Beauty and Peter Pan. They stand in a line awaiting interview. Falstaff enters furtively and hangs around extreme stage left, barely visible to those on stage but making himself known to the audience. He listens in whilst attempting to remain inconspicuous.)**

**Arthur:** You don't look much like Knights to me?

**Robin:** What you see before you are the very best warriors in the land.

**(Sleeping Beauty lets her head fall on Peter Pan's shoulder and falls asleep.)**

**Arthur:** Are you sure about that?

**Robin:** Absolutely. My name is Robin Hood.

**Arthur:** Ah yes, I've heard of you. You met a big bad wolf with big eyes and big teeth!

**Robin:** No, that was my sister, Little Red Riding Hood.

**Arthur:** Right, and the rest of you?

**Peter:** My name is Peter Pan.

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**(Peter Pan nudges Sleeping Beauty awake. She awakens with a start and a loud snort.)**

**Beauty:** Bedtime Bear!! **(Realises where she is)** Is it tired in here or is it just me?

**Arthur:** And your name?

**Beauty:** I'm Sleeping Beauty. **(Confused)** Did we win?

**Robin:** You've only been asleep for five seconds, we haven't joined the group yet.

**Arthur:** Do any of you have any special skills that might be useful in our fight against the ban on fun?

**Robin:** I'm a dab hand at archery. **(He holds up his bow)**

**Peter:** I'm a whizz with a fencing sword.

**(Peter Pan takes out a very short fencing sword from the scabbard on his belt and waves it about at an imaginary foe. Arthur looks at Sleeping Beauty, awaiting her claim.)**

**Beauty:** Erm – I do a mean cross stitch. If we're going to form a group, we'll need a uniform. I'll just have to be careful not to jab that needle into my finger again and fall asleep for a hundred years, which is what I was doing before I fell out of the cupboard at the castle.

**Galahad:** **(Suddenly interested)** Hang on. What castle?

**Beauty:** The one on the hill.

**Arthur:** Camelot?

**Beauty:** No, that was the first time I'd been there.

**Arthur:** No, I mean Castle Camelot.

**Galahad:** Do you think the cupboard she fell out of was Merlin the Wizard's summoning cabinet? He must have got it working.

**Robin:** No, that shouty man said it was broken – that's why we're here. He didn't mean to summon us.

**Galahad:** Shouty man?

**Arthur:** Percy! He must have tried to use the cabinet.

**Galahad:** If he was messing around with the cabinet, that explains how he tricked the sword in the stone.

**Arthur:** Yes, he used magic somehow! We need to tell Merlin.

**Beauty:** When you're quite done with your Sherlock Holmes impressions, can we join your gang – army – group or whatever. We really need some money so we can get the bus home.

**Arthur:** I can do better than that. If you join my gang – army – group whatever and help me overturn the ban on fun, I'll get Merlin to magic you back home so you don't need to get the bus. Galahad, we need a name for our group.

**Galahad:** Well, when we followed your Father to the crusades we called ourselves 'The Knights of the Round Table'. **(To Mother)** Do we have a round table anywhere dear?

**(Mother and Guinevere move upstage)**

**Mother:** We've got an oblong dining table.

**Galahad:** No, we can't be the Knights of the oblong dining table.

**Guinevere:** We can go and get a round table from IKEA?

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**Mother:** **(Excited)** We could get one of those ones that extend, just in case any more people join so they'll have somewhere to sit?

**Guinevere:** Well, they're all pantomime characters **(Indicating Peter, Robin and Sleeping Beauty)** so why don't we call it, King Arthur **(Aside)** because he is the rightful King, and the Knights of the Pantomime table?

**Robin:** **(Raising a hand apologetically)** Erm – I'm not a pantomime character; I'm the *real* Robin Hood.

**Mother:** The Knights of the Pantomime Table – I like that. Can we get t-shirts printed?

**Guinevere:** **(To Mother)** Ooh, yes or a nice fleece with it embroidered on back?

**Arthur:** **(Noticing Falstaff)** Hello? Are you here for the interview?

**Falstaff:** **(Using a comedy accent)** Me? No – I was just checking for – ferrets, M'Laud, erm – Sire.

**Galahad:** Ferrets?

**Falstaff:** I mean, I'm lost and I've just found out I'm allergic to castles etcetera. Sorry to bother you, bye.

**(Falstaff exits)**

**Arthur:** He was strangely familiar.

**Galahad:** Never mind. Knights, you know what to do?

**Guinevere:** I'll get the table.

**Arthur:** I'll get the chairs.

**Robin:** I'll get some paper.

**Beauty:** I'll get some pens.

**Peter:** I'll get the drinks.

**Mother:** I'll get the lycra.

**Galahad:** **(Concerned)** I'll get the shoe horn. This will probably take about fifteen minutes.  
See you in Act 2 boys and girls!

**(They all leave in different directions. Tabs Close. Lights Off.)**

**End of Act 1**

## ACT 2

### Scene 1 – Camelot

(Tabs open to reveal the castle with a ‘fun-o-meter’ on the back wall. The needle is pointing to 5%. There should be a stagehand behind the prop operating the needle – making it rise where instructed in the script. Merlin is sitting looking at the wall as the tabs open.)

**Merlin:** (Sleepily) It must be dry by now... (Noticing audience) Oh, hello boys and girls. (Audience react) Did you enjoy the interval? (Audience say yes. Merlin shushes the audience) Shush, you mustn’t let King Percy know that. He’ll have you all arrested for having fun. I think that’s him now. Shhh.

(Merlin runs back to his chair and continues looking at the wall. Percy enters.)

**Percy:** Merlot?

**Merlin:** That’s Merlin, Sire.

**Percy:** (Pointing at the fun-o-meter) Whatever, what’s the meaning of this?

**Merlin:** (Walks over to the fun-o-meter) It’s a fun-o-meter Sire. It shows how much fun the people in the Kingdom are having.

**Percy:** I know that; why is it not pointing to zero? Is it broken?

**Merlin:** No Sire, someone must be having fun somewhere.

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**Percy:** You know what this means don’t you?

**Merlin:** Lots of shouting and tantrums?

**Percy:** Exactly. You don’t get anywhere unless you shout, shout and shout again. It’s the only language people understand.

**Merlin:** Have you ever tried asking nicely for something?

**Percy:** Nope. Doesn’t work.

**Merlin:** How do you know if you’ve never tried?

**Percy:** Because (desperately searching for an answer) –

**Merlin:** Because you’re the King?

**Percy:** Exactly. Look it says 10% now!! Were you just having fun there behind my back?

**Merlin:** No Sire, I watched a glass of water evaporate and then watched that paint dry over there, just like you said.

**Percy:** **(Suspiciously)** Hmm... are you sure that's not the remains of a smile I can see through your beard?

**Merlin:** Definitely not sir. It might be a piece of carrot? Oh before I forget, now you're ruler of the Kingdom I have made a list of tasks for you to complete.

**Percy:** Tasks? Nobody mentioned tasks?

**Merlin:** **(Taking a clipboard from the table)** Yes, there are a few things you have to take care of.

**Percy:** Such as?

**Merlin:** You have to give speeches, fill in paperwork, set taxes, fight dragons, organise jousting tournaments –

**Percy:** Hang on – what?

**Merlin:** Organise Jousting tournaments

**Percy:** No before that

**Merlin:** Fight dragons

**Percy:** I thought that was what you said. **(Shouting off stage)** False-laugh!

**(Falstaff enters, attempting to run but finding it difficult due to his size and armour. He is carrying a notebook.)**

**Falstaff:** Yes my lord?

**Percy:** I need you to go fight a dragon.

**Falstaff:** Sorry?

**Percy:** As my royal bodyguard, I expect you to fight dragons on my behalf.

**Falstaff:** **(Worried)** Right. **(Looking around cagily)** Where is it?

**Merlin:** There are no Dragons in the Kingdom at the moment Sire, there's no need to panic.

**Percy:** Panic? I wasn't panicking. **(To Falstaff)** We're you panicking?

**Falstaff:** Me? No – I don't panic sire, I act!

**Percy:** Is that what you call it?

**Falstaff:** I have today's fun report for you.



**Percy:** Good good, fire away.

**Falstaff:** (**Reading from his notebook**) Mr and Mrs Jones were caught this morning dancing to the song 'Footloose'.

**Percy:** Arrest them and ban dancing.

**Falstaff:** (**Ticking his book**) Mr Banton sniggered at eight fifteen this morning when someone tripped over their own trouser-leg outside the post office.

**Percy:** Arrest him! Ban amusing accidents.

**Falstaff:** Got it. (**Ticks his notebook**) Mr Walters told a joke at half ten and it caused his friend Mr Orpington to fire a weak jet of air out of his nostrils.

**Percy:** Arrest him! Ban mild amusement and all forms of gentle comedy!

**Falstaff:** Are you sure Sire? That does mean writing a new script?

**Percy:** True. Just deal with the people on the list first. We need to find out where this 15% is coming from – (**Realises**) it's gone up to 15%!! Lock them all up!!! People will soon get the message.

**Falstaff:** You can't lock *everyone* in the Kingdom in the dungeon.

**Percy:** Oh yes I can!

**Merlin:** (**With audience**) Oh no you can't

**Percy:** I can. I'll just build another dungeon. I'll convert the rooms we don't use at the castle into cells.

**Merlin:** You're very unpopular with the townsfolk you know Percy. You've taken over from Terry the Traffic Warden as the most unpopular man in the Kingdom.

**Percy:** (**A little taken aback**) Really? (**Stuttering**) Well, it's – not a popularity contest is it? It's about me getting all the attention and things. (**Unsure**) Isn't it? Anyway, (**To Falstaff**) what do you have to report from that meeting you sneaked into at Galahad's castle?

**Falstaff:** Ah, well it seems that those Pantomime characters you summoned with the cabinet have joined Arthur's army.

**Merlin:** Summoning cabinet? You didn't use that did you? It's broken. I told you it was broken.

**Percy:** Yes, but I didn't listen did I?

**Merlin:** That's your problem Percy, you never do. You'll never be a great King or achieve great things because you just don't concentrate on – **(Distracted)** oh look, a butterfly.

**(Percy stares at Merlin with a confused expression whilst Merlin follows an imaginary butterfly around the stage.)**

**Percy:** **(To Falstaff)** Anyway, you were saying?

**Falstaff:** Yes, they've joined Arthur. They're calling themselves the Knights of the Pantomime table.

**Percy:** Right, well – **(Defiantly)** I'm going to be a Knight of my *own* table. We shall be called King Percy and the Knights of the **(Looks around the stage and notices a coffee table stage left)** coffee table.

**Merlin:** Not as catchy as their title is it?

**Falstaff:** - and it's just us three. A shouty man – no offence, an old man – no offence and a fat man. **(Sarcastically)** That'll have them shaking in their sabatons.

**Percy:** We'll just summon some more Knights with the cabinet.

**Merlin:** You can't use the cabinet. You'll end up summoning someone like Abanazer the evil Egyptian Wizard or The Snow Queen who will make it snow forever! They won't want to join your army; they'll just lock *you* in the dungeon. Remember, fools rush in where chickens fear to tread.

**Percy:** Angels

**Merlin:** Angels, yes.

**Percy:** You're right. I bet that 25% fun is being had by Arthur and his Knights. **(Realises)** 25%?? What is going on? I'm going to have to get Wizard-face over here to invent a fun detector or a fun alarm or something.

**Falstaff:** The royal guards you turned into Fun Police are already over-worked as it is Sire.

**Percy:** Never mind that, I've got a plan and it's as sly as some pastry filled with currants. First, you shall arrest Arthur's girlfriend Guinevere; any reason, just make one up if you have to.

**Falstaff:** Right, **(Writes this down in his notebook)** Which one is she again?

**Percy:** It's the girl that hangs around Arthur all the time.

**Falstaff:** Oh yes, I did see a girl there when I went to the meeting at the castle.

**Percy:** After you arrest her I will announce a grand tournament as a way for Arthur to buy her freedom. We'll have fencing, archery, jousting, ludo, quoits, pin the tail on the donkey –

**Falstaff:** **(Clapping his hands)** I *love* pin the tail on the donkey!!

**(Merlin slyly shakes his head at Falstaff behind Percy's back. Percy glares at Falstaff.)**

**Falstaff:** Which is what I imagine they'll be saying. **(Dramatically)** I hate it me, hate it. Boring!

**Percy:** **(Allowing Falstaff's outburst to pass)** Anyway, we'll let them win all the games but then the final showdown shall be a decider – a sword fight between Arthur and me. I will proclaim that if he wins, he can be King, Guinevere will be set free and he'll never hear from me again. But, if I win, Guinevere shall remain in the tower and he is to be banished from the Kingdom forever! **(He laughs wickedly)**

**Falstaff:** **(Interrupting)** But what if Arthur wins?

**Percy:** He can't win. I have the most powerful sword in the world. Excalibur! It can't be defeated.

**Falstaff:** Your sword has a name?

**Percy:** Of course; your sword *has* to have a name.

**Falstaff:** Does it?

**Percy:** Yes, doesn't yours?

**Falstaff:** **(Lying)** Yes.

**Percy:** What is it called then?

**Falstaff:** **(Stalling)** Gareth. **(He takes out his small plastic sword and holds it aloft)**

**Percy:** Gareth?

**Falstaff:** Yeah, it's a real man's name that.

**Percy:** If you say so. Well, off you go and arrest Guinevere. Meryl, you are going to do some of your magic stuff and invent me a 'fun alarm'.

**Merlin:** Am I?

**Percy:** Yes – now shoo!

**(He shoos Falstaff and Merlin from the stage. Merlin and Falstaff exit.)**

**Percy:** Today *[local town]*, tomorrow the world! **(He laughs manically)**

**(Audience Boo. Percy exits down stage as tabs close. Lights off.)**

## Scene 2 – A Forest Clearing

**(Arthur enters front of tabs with Sir Galahad. They both have leaves and twigs on their headwear, jackets and trousers as a form of forest camouflage. Galahad is reading from a clipboard.)**

**Arthur:** So, Sir Galahad. How is the crusade going?

**Galahad:** Good news and bad news sire.

**Arthur:** How so?

**Galahad:** The good news is that we've taken down twenty anti-fun banners.

**Arthur:** And the bad news?

**Galahad:** They've put another thirty up. Good news though; I've tickled forty people today, did funny dances for another fifty and handed out all of the joke books we had.

**Arthur:** That's excellent; we're spreading fun like butter on a crumpet! The bad news?

**Galahad:** Each time someone had fun, an alarm went off, lights started flashing, the Fun Police turned up, arrested them and took them away. By spreading fun, we're technically getting people locked in the dungeon and making them more miserable than they were in the first place. It's not quite going to plan. Look, I've got loads of sweets left. I dare not give them out in case the people I give them to have too much fun and they set the alarms off. I don't know what to do with them?

**Arthur:** I don't know. What do you think we should do with all these sweets boys and girls?

**(Audience hopefully say 'throw them into the audience')**

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**Galahad:** What if we set the alarms off?

**Arthur:** I think they're pretty adamant that they want the sweets!

**(Arthur and Galahad throw sweets into the audience. Once all of the sweets have been thrown, an alarm sounds and the lights flash on and off. Falstaff enters.)**

**Falstaff:** 'Ello 'Ello 'Ello. What's going on 'ere then?

**(Galahad and Arthur stand still, hoping their camouflage will hide them.)**

**Falstaff:** **(To audience)** Were you lot having fun?

**(Audience say no)**

**Falstaff:** Well something set the alarms off. Hmm... if you lot weren't having fun and those two trees over there (**pointing at Arthur and Galahad**) weren't having fun then the alarm mustn't be working properly yet. I'll let you off this time but don't let me catch you having fun again!

**(Falstaff exits)**

**Arthur:** Phew, that was close. Come on then, we must get back to our forest hideout and think of another plan. It was handy getting that Robin Hood to join our crusade; he knows exactly how to make people invisible amongst the trees.

**Galahad:** Yes, but you have to be careful when you sit down!

**(Galahad reaches behind him and 'releases' a twig. He shows it to Arthur who grimaces. They walk stage left. Robin Hood and Guinevere enter until they meet Arthur and Galahad centre stage.)**

**Robin:** Arthur! Galahad! Terrible news!

**Arthur:** Does it involve a change of tights? If it does, I don't want to know.

**Robin:** No, worse than even that. Here –

**(Robin hands a note to Arthur. Arthur opens it and reads.)**

**Arthur:** It's from Percy. His handwriting is terrible so bear with me. **(Struggling to read)** Dear Amber **(Looking more closely)** Arthur, I have arrested **(shows the letter to Galahad)** What's that word there?

**Galahad:** Guinevere

**Arthur:** I have arrested Guinevere –

**Guinevere:** Oh, how exciting! **(To Arthur)** Now you can rescue me and we can ride off on the back of a winged stallion into the clouds!

**Arthur:** No, it says he's arrested you already.

**Guinevere:** Oh. Eh? That doesn't make sense.

**Arthur:** **(Reading)** If you want to see her again you will have to compete and win in my tournament.

**(Peter Pan enters)**

**Peter:** **(Standing and speaking heroically)** Bad news chaps!

**Galahad:** More bad news?

**Peter:** Sleeping Beauty has been arrested!

**Arthur:** How? Why?

**Peter:** We were giving out joke books to the townsfolk to spread the fun like you said.

**Arthur:** And what happened?

**Peter:** Well, we just passed that overweight Knight Falstaff and he demanded to know what she was doing. Said he had to check there was no fun going on. He didn't even wait for an explanation; he just arrested her and took her to Camelot. There was nothing I could do! I'm only 8 years old.

**Guinevere:** Are you sure you're the boy who never grew up?

**Peter:** Absolutely.

**Guinevere:** Right. Exactly how hard *was* your paper round?

**(Peter glares at Guinevere grouchily.)**

**Galahad:** Percy must have sent Falstaff to arrest Guinevere. **(To Guinevere)** He must have thought Sleeping Beauty was you.

**Guinevere:** The cheek! I look nothing like her. You can see her roots for a start.

**Galahad:** How does he say we can get Guinevere – erm, Sleeping Beauty back?

**Arthur:** **(Reading)** – compete and win in my tournament. Details to follow. **(He checks the back of the note to no avail.)**

**Galahad:** Do you think he'll send Falstaff back to try and arrest Guinevere when he realises he's got the wrong person?

**Arthur:** Possibly; all we can do is be vigilant, wait for details of the tournament and hope to win.

**Guinevere:** I don't mind being arrested, it means you can finally prove your love for me. You could fight your way into the castle, sneak past the guards, break the cell door down and we can jump out of the window into the moat and swim to freedom!

**Arthur:** Well we don't have the budget for all that so it looks like we're going to have to win the tournament.

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**Robin:** We'd better get practicing then. See you later boys and girls.

**(They all exit. Lights off.)**

### Scene 3 – Merlin’s tower

**(The tabs open and lights rise to reveal Merlin’s tower as it was in Act 1. He is standing over his cauldron, seemingly in a trance.)**

**Merlin:** Ibble, wibble, wobble, wibble, hamster dribble and crayon scribble. **(He opens one eye and looks into the cauldron in hope but is quickly deflated. He tries again, waving a hand across the top of the cauldron as he does so)** Wobble wibble, mice that nibble and **(pauses)** bananas.

**(Merlin looks into the cauldron once more to realise his spell has failed.)**

**Merlin:** **(Noticing audience)** Oh hello there boys and girls.

**(Audience react.)**

**Merlin:** I’m trying to invent a new spell to stop me getting my sleeves caught on the castle’s door-handles. It’s not going well.

**(SFX. Knock at the door)**

**Merlin:** Who could that be?

**(He exits. SFX. Door opening. Mother Trott yells from off stage, speaking slowly and deliberately.)**

**Mother:** Hello there fuzzy-face. I’m from rent-a-scrubber, I’ve come to clean your room as per the contract that we set up with the old King.

**(Merlin enters followed by Mother Trott. She is carrying a mop, wearing a head-scarf and glasses, possibly wearing pink lycra leggings under her dress.)**

**Merlin:** Oh, well you’d better come in. The place is looking a little shabby I must say. **(Suspiciously)** Who did you say you were again?

**(Mother Trott gets as close to Merlin’s face as she can and lifts up her glasses)**

**Mother:** Shh! It is I, Old Mother Trott!

**Merlin:** **(Panicking)** What are you doing here? If Percy finds you here you’ll be in trouble.

**Mother:** That’s what I needed to see you about. We’ve formed a secret army and we’re on a mission to bring fun back to *[local town]*.

**Merlin:** Well be careful, Percy made me cast a spell that makes an alarm go off every time someone has fun so he can track them down and arrest them.

**Mother:** Will do. It seems that Percy used one of your magic bits and pieces when you weren’t looking and well, we reckon he used magic to trick the sword in the stone into thinking his heart was pure.

**Merlin:** No.

**Mother:** Yes.

**Merlin:** Can't have.

**Mother:** Can have.

**Merlin:** Impossible.

**Mother:** Possible.

**Merlin:** I thought he was being a bit suspicious when he came in asking about magic spells and then he... Cocoa!

**Mother:** Eh?

**Merlin:** I went cocoa-loco! He fed me my favourite bedtime drink. My Achilles heel. My one weakness. I'll have to contact the ancient spirits of Yore and ask for their help.

**Mother:** Do you need to do an incantation?

**Merlin:** No, I always stand like this.

**Mother:** I mean a magic spell.

**Merlin:** Oh, yes. Bear with me a moment.

**Mother:** **(Looking around nervously)** You've got a bear with you??

**Merlin:** Oh ripened phantom of the ancients, oh withering essence of yonder-gone-days.

**Spirit:** **(OS)** Ah, Merlin. How's tricks?

**Merlin:** Fine fine. I seek your knowledge oh mature phantasm of the bygone eras.

**Spirit:** Fire away oh fuzzy-faced one.

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**Merlin:** We have reason to believe that Percy used magic to remove the sword from the stone.

**Spirit:** No?

**Merlin:** Yes

**Spirit:** He couldn't.

**Merlin:** He could. Could you look into it for me?



**Spirit:** Hang on, I'll just check the CCTV. **(Pauses)** Oh yes, when you thought you were making a potion to cure acne, Percy gave you the ingredients for a potion that temporarily gave him a pure heart. Fancy that!

**Merlin:** You have been most helpful oh knocking-on wispy-thing of Thursday last.

**Spirit:** Anytime, got to go – kettles on. Bye!

**Merlin:** **(Snapping out of his trance)** Well that's a turn up for the books!

**Mother:** Hope not. I hate turnip.

**Merlin:** Well, I've got a plan to catch him out and it's as hot as my cauldron!

**Mother:** Oh, do tell!

**Merlin:** No need, actions speak louder than chickens.

**Mother:** Words.

**Merlin:** Words, yes.

**(Merlin quickly scribbles on a piece of paper, grabs a pamphlet from a table and hands the note and pamphlet to Mother Trott)**

**Merlin:** Make sure Arthur gets these. His brilliant brain will be able to come up with a way of using this information and making sure Percy's reign as King comes to an abrupt end!

**Mother:** I'm on my way. Did you want anything polished while I'm here?

**Merlin:** **(Coyly)** Maybe later.

**Mother:** OK, see you later. Bye boys and girls!

**(Audience react. Mother Trott exits. Tabs closed. Lights off.)**

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## Scene 4 – Camelot

**(The Queen enters front of tabs)**

**Queen:** **(Dramatically)** Woe is me! Woe is me! **(Normal)** Oh hello boys and girls. **(Audience reaction)** I'm really very sad. **(Encourages audience sympathy)** My son Percy has thrown me out of my own Castle and forced me to live in a cold and damp wooden hut in the castle grounds. I just hope the big bad wolf doesn't come past, I heard he blew a little piggy's straw house in yesterday. He only has to *look* at my house and it'll fall down.

**(Percy enters)**

**Percy:** Hello Mother. Out for a wander? Lovely day isn't it?

**Queen:** No it isn't. It's the middle of winter and I've got holes in the roof of my shed. **(She encourages more sympathy from the audience)**

**Percy:** **(To audience)** Who asked you lot to join in? **(To Queen)** Holes? The estate agent described it as 'well ventilated' and 'close to nature'.

**Queen:** Well it's a little too close to nature. My slippers bit me this morning. Turns out I was trying to put my left foot into a badger.

**Percy:** Do you want some new slippers? Is that what you're getting at?

**Queen:** No Percy, I want to move back into the Castle where it's nice and warm.

**Percy:** Well you can't. I've had to convert all the rooms into prison cells. Far too many people having fun these days. I've had to lock up most of the townsfolk. It's the only way they'll learn. Oh, this new fun alarm I got Wizard-face to make is great. At the first sniff of fun it goes off and my Fun Police rush to the scene and arrest the little funsters.

**Queen:** Language Percy!

**Percy:** No, I said funsters. You know, the people having fun.

**Queen:** Oh I see. Well, could I at least have my roof fixed?

**Percy:** I'll look into it. **(He laughs)** Because I'll be up in the tower and you've got a hole in the roof. I'll be able to look into your hut. Get it?

**(The Queen looks sad)**

**Percy:** No sense of humour some people.

**(Falstaff enters, leading Sleeping Beauty by the hand. Sleeping Beauty is sleep-walking.)**

**Falstaff:** Here you go sire. Guinevere Trott, just as you commanded.

**Percy:** That's not Guinevere you twerp!

**Falstaff:** Eh?

**Percy:** You've arrested the wrong woman. She's one of the Pantomime characters that fell out of the summoning cabinet.

**(Sleeping Beauty wakes up with a start.)**

**Beauty:** Horlicks! **(Looking around)** Hey, what's going on? Why have I got handcuffs on?

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**Percy:** Fully-daft here has arrested you instead of Guinevere but no matter. I'm sure Arthur will accept my invitation to the tournament anyway. Lock her in the dungeon until we can arrest the right woman.

**Beauty:** Hang on.

**Percy:** What?

**Beauty:** Is there a bed in there?

**Percy:** Yes why?

**Beauty:** **(Excited)** At last! Somewhere to sleep where I won't be disturbed!!

**Percy:** You're not supposed to enjoy being locked in the dungeon.

**Beauty:** Wake me up in about 80 years won't you? Night Night!

**(Beauty skips from the stage. Falstaff follows behind in a confused manner and they both exit.)**

**Percy:** **(Shouting after Falstaff)** Once you've locked her up, go back and arrest Guinevere. That's G – W – I, erm – **(to Queen)** how do you spell... never mind.

**Queen:** We'll that's not very nice is it?

**Percy:** What isn't?

**Queen:** Locking people up and stopping people having fun. Is this because you didn't that train set for your birthday?

**Percy:** **(Reflectively)** Well, I think it all started when you said we could go to the beach and then Arthur suggested setting up a charity that helps lost puppies find their way home instead. Then you said we could go to *[local theme park]* but Arthur went and saved *[local village]* from a Troll instead. **(Jealously)** It's all very noble but why doesn't he switch off now and again and let us all have some fun??

**Queen:** Because you've made it illegal!

**Percy:** Ha! I know. Isn't it great?? I'm so evil. I am the ruiner of dreams, the destroyer of hope, I don't even say 'ahh' when I see a newborn kitten.

**(Audience boo)**

**Percy:** Quiet you lot, soon there will be no fun left in the world. Isn't it great?

**Queen:** Not really, no.

**Percy:** Come on, I'll get you some kitchen roll to put over the holes in your roof. That'll keep the rain out. Then you can help me work out a schedule for the tournament.

**(Percy exits laughing.)**

**Queen:** See you later boys and girls... hopefully.

**(Queen exits. Lights off.)**

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## Scene 5 – A Forest Clearing

**(Tabs open, half-tabs closed. There is an archery target in the corner with some arrows sticking out of it and some royal coats-of-arms hanging about the place along with the familiar anti-fun banners. Guinevere and Robin Hood enter.)**

**Guinevere:** Looks like this is where the archery contest is taking place then? Maybe we should play a game to limber up before you get some practice in for the Archery contest?

**Robin:** A sterling plan Guinevere. Maybe some of the girls and boys could help us?

**Guinevere:** Do you want to play a game to help us prepare for the tournament girls and boys?

**(A game can be entered here with a medieval theme; something which involves three to four teams consisting of a child and parent. Once the game is over and the teams are on their way back to their seats in the theatre, an alarm sounds and the lights flash on and off. Percy and Falstaff enter stage right.)**

**Percy:** What do we have here then?

**(Robin draws his thin fencing sword and waves it about in Percy and Falstaff's direction so it wobbles comically)**

**Robin:** If you're here to arrest Guinevere you'll have to go through me first. Peter Pan taught me a thing or two with this sword.

**Percy:** **(To Falstaff)** Get him!

**Falstaff:** **(Hesitantly)** Erm –

**Percy:** Sometime today would be helpful.

**(Falstaff edges towards Robin and his waving wobbly sword nervously, in a pseudo-Karate stance. He eventually gives up and edges back to where Percy is standing.)**

**Falstaff:** Erm – about that whole arresting Guinevere thing. Maybe it's not such a good idea.

**Percy:** I want her arrested otherwise Arthur won't come to the tournament.

**Falstaff:** But he's wobbling his sword about. He'll have someone's eye out.

**Percy:** Never mind that, arrest them both!

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**Falstaff:** **(Edging towards Robin once more)** Erm – Guinevere, could you come over here, I've got something to show you.

**Guinevere:** **(Interested)** Really? What is it?

**Falstaff:** **(He takes out a catalogue)** It's a catalogue full of handbags and some vouchers for free shoes and some coupons for buy one get two free on all ranges of eyeshadow.

**Guinevere:** **(Excited)** Let me at it!!

**(Guinevere starts to skip over to Falstaff. Robin blocks her path.)**

**Robin:** No – it's a trap.

**Guinevere:** What if it's not though? Did you hear what he said? Buy one get *two* free!

**Percy:** **(Desperately)** Stop messing around and arrest them!

**Falstaff:** I don't know if you've noticed but I'm a complete coward and that over there is Robin Hood, as in 'brave brave Sir Robin'. And he's waving a pointy stick around.

**Percy:** **(Concerned)** Is that the Robin Hood who steals from the rich and gives to the poor?

**Falstaff:** Yes

**Percy:** The legendary sword-fighting brave and gallant hero in green?

**Falstaff:** That's him.

**Percy:** **(Losing confidence)** Ah, there seems to have been some mistake here your Robin Hood-ness.

**(Percy and Falstaff back away.)**

**Percy:** I think I've left the toaster on and my shoes have exploded – give this to Arthur won't you?

**(Percy throws a note onto the stage before he and Falstaff turn and exit quickly.)**

**Guinevere:** Oh brave brave Sir Robin, you are my absolute hero!

**Robin:** **(Putting his sword away and picking up the note)** Well, one aims to please.

**Guinevere:** Are you single?

**Robin:** Alas, my heart is sworn to Maid Marian.

**Guinevere:** Pity.

**(Arthur, Peter Pan and Galahad enter.)**

**Arthur:** Is everyone alright? We heard the alarms and came as quickly as we could.

**Robin:** Yes, all is well. I have repelled the danger and the day is saved once again.

**Guinevere:** Arthur, you should start wearing tights you know. Much more manly than those things you've got on.

**(Arthur looks at his trousers in a confused manner.)**

**Robin:** Percy told me to give you this.

**(Robin hands Arthur the note. Arthur opens it and reads, struggling as he did last time.)**

**Arthur:** **(Reading)** I have either arrested Sleeping Beauty, Guinevere or both by the time you read this so if you want to see either one or both again you will come to the tournament and compete. If you win, you can be King and you will never see me again. But if you lose, you must leave the Kingdom and never come back! P.S. You will never win because I am great and you are a big **(showing the letter to Galahad)** is that an 'A' or an 'I'?

**Galahad:** An 'a'

**Arthur:** Wally. **(Turning the letter over)** There's a schedule on the back. Half ten, fencing.

**Peter:** **(Confidently)** I'll win that easily **(Slapping his thigh)**

**Arthur:** Eleven o'clock, Archery.

**Robin:** They've got no chance. I'm the greatest bowman in the world.

**Arthur:** Biggest beard competition

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**Galahad:** Consider that won **(He strokes his long beard)**

**Arthur:** Jousting. Anyone good with a lance?

**Guinevere:** Mother lanced a boil on her bum once. Does that count?

**Arthur:** It might. **(Reading)** The final showdown; Percy versus Arthur in a sword fight. I can't fight my own brother.

**Guinevere:** Why not?

**Arthur:** Chivalry.

**Guinevere:** Well wear a coat then.

**Arthur:** No, chivalry – not shivery.

**(Old Mother Trott enters.)**

**Mother:** **(Excited)** Ooh Arthur, you must fight Percy. You must!

**Arthur:** Old Mother Trott. Where have you been?

**Mother:** I went to see Merlin like you said. I disguised myself as a scrubber and sneaked into Camelot.

**Robin:** Good disguise!

**Mother:** I'm not wearing it right now.

**Robin:** Aren't you?

**Mother:** No, anyway, I told him what you said; that Percy must have tricked the sword in the stone with magic.

**Arthur:** And?

**Mother:** He checked with the ancient spirits of *my*, and then told me to give you this; page thirteen.

**(Mother Trott hands a pamphlet to Arthur)**

**Mother:** And this note.

**(She hands Arthur a note which Arthur reads silently.)**

**Mother:** **(To Galahad)** Ooh, it's very exciting. Are you excited? I'm excited.

**Galahad:** A little I suppose. What's the pamphlet?

**Arthur:** **(Reading the front of the pamphlet)** 'Everything you wanted to know about enchanted swords but were afraid to ask'. **(Opening the booklet and reading)** This is interesting. This is very interesting. Come on everybody, we have a tournament to prepare for!

**(They all exit)**

**Guinevere:** **(To Arthur)** Is there a fighting dragons competition?

**(Tabs closed. Lights off.)**



## Scene 6 – Outside Camelot

**(Percy and Merlin enter front of tabs.)**

**Percy:** You lot better not be having fun in here!

**Merlin:** There's no chance of that is there.

**Percy:** Why?

**Merlin:** Well you're in the room for a start. Nobody ever has fun when you're in the room.

**Percy:** Yes they do. I'm fun. I'm funny. I'm like a ray of sunshine on a rainy day me.

**Merlin:** Oh no you're not.

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**Percy:** Oh yes I am.

**Merlin:** **(With audience)** Oh no you're not.

**Percy:** Yes I am and to prove it, I'll tell you a joke. What do you call a deer with no eyes?

**Merlin:** No idea

**Percy:** Me neither; I've forgotten the punch line. Never mind, just take my word for it; I'm loads and loads of fun.

**Merlin:** But you've banned fun.

**Percy:** **(Frustrated)** Always with the details, seriously Myrtle.

**Merlin:** Merlin.

**Percy:** Whatever.

**(Falstaff enters)**

**Percy:** Ah, there you are. Do you have an update on the tournament?

**Falstaff:** Yes sire. All is going to plan.

**Percy:** Good, Arthur will soon be banished from *[local town]* and the word 'fun' will be removed from the dictionary forever.

**(The audience boo. The curtains open. Percy, Merlin and Falstaff make their way onto the stage, talking as they go. Mother Trott and Robin Hood are on stage talking.)**

**Percy:** (To Falstaff) They keep doing that. Why do they keep doing that?

**Falstaff:** It means they don't like you sire.

**Percy:** I don't get it. What's not to like?

**Mother:** Oh Percy. You used to be such a nice boy. Now you're King, you're like a fly in the ointment. You're like a Dad dancing at a party. You're like a suspicious hair on a pizza. You're a tear on the face of the world.

**Percy:** Flattery won't help you to win the tournament, you know that don't you?

**Mother:** You should set up a company called *Fun Busters*. You could drive around town 'busting' fun in a big beige Volvo. You used to like having fun, what happened?

**Percy:** I still do, I just don't like it when everyone else is having fun and I'm not.

**Mother:** Well, have you had any fun at all since you became King?

**Percy:** Not really, I've had to fill in forms and pay bills and sort out the back garden because all the Castle staff said they didn't like me and quit their jobs.

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**Robin:** Then why don't you just let Arthur be the King? He's fair and gallant and he'd let you have as much fun as you wanted.

**Percy:** Because he's such a goody-goody. I never get any attention because people love him and dislike me for some baffling reason. Anyway, I've already challenged him to a duel to decide who the rightful King should be so I can't cancel it.

**(Arthur, Galahad, Merlin, Peter Pan and the Queen enter.)**

**Arthur:** Then why don't we share the throne? We can both be King, you on Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays and –

**Percy:** Enough! Let's finish this tournament. **(To Merlin)** Carry on, Merlene.

**(Percy steps back)**

**Merlin:** **(Reading from a scroll)** The penultimate event of the tournament is the Archery. Competitors will be the brave brave Sir Robin Hood and Falstaff **(Hesitantly)** the erm – brave. Ok chaps, you know the rules. Closest to the Bullseye wins. Falstaff, you can go first.

**(Falstaff takes out his bow and fires an imaginary arrow stage left. SFX. The sound of an arrow being fired.)**

**Merlin:** Not bad. However, the target is over there **(Merlin points stage right)** Ok, brave brave Sir Robin, it's your turn.

**Galahad:** Go on Robin!

**Mother:** We believe in you!

**Arthur:** You can do it!

**Peter:** Give it your best shot!

**Queen:** I like tomato soup!

**Arthur:** Pardon?

**Queen:** **(Embarrassed)** I don't know. Everyone was yelling, I just got swept along.

**Merlin:** Ok brave brave Sir Robin. To win you just have to fire the arrow in the right direction.

**(Robin fires an imaginary arrow stage right. SFX. The sound of an arrow being fired and hitting a target. Everyone cheers and celebrates except Percy who notices Falstaff clapping and giving Arthur a hi-five.)**

**Percy:** **(To Falstaff)** What are you doing?

**Falstaff:** That was a good shot, don't you think?

**(Percy accepts Falstaff's point and gestures that he agrees until he realises and tries to stop Falstaff clapping. Merlin moves upstage and reads from the scroll once again.)**

**Merlin:** The score so far. Galahad won the biggest beard competition. Peter Pan won the fencing, Old Mother Trott won the jousting and Robin Hood won the archery. That's four nil to the Knights of the Pantomime Table. The final contest is a sword fight between Prince Arthur and King Percy. The winner shall receive five points and as such, wins the contest. If Arthur wins, he will be the new King and Percy will be banished from *[local town]*, however if Percy wins then it will be Arthur who is sent into exile.

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**Queen:** Oh boys, couldn't you just toss a coin or something?

**Percy:** Shush Mother, don't embarrass me.

**Merlin:** So please welcome, in the blue corner, weighing in at lighter than a donkey, Prince Arthur.

**(All on stage applaud as the theme tune from 'Rocky' plays. Arthur, holding a small plastic toy sword takes a position centre stage. Every other character forms a semi-circle around him.)**

**Merlin:** In the red corner, weighing in at heavier than a small goat, King Percy!

**(The tune 'Yackety Sax' plays, or similarly comedic and inappropriate music accompanies Percy's walk to the centre of the stage. He removes Excalibur from his scabbard.)**

**Falstaff:** Seconds out, round one!

**Percy:** On guard.

**(Percy's sword suddenly gains a mind of its own, dragging his hand around erratically and then drags him away from where Arthur is standing. He finally gains control of it.)**

**Percy:** Sorry about that, I don't know what –

**(Percy holds the sword towards Arthur once more and again Excalibur drags Percy away physically to the other side of the stage.)**

**Percy:** I don't know what's going on. I'll be with you in a moment.

**(Percy checks the sword, looking along its length and twanging at the pointy end as if he knows what he's doing. He removes a small screwdriver from his belt and makes some adjustments to the handle.)**

**Percy:** Right, that should do it.

**(Percy joins a now bemused Arthur centre stage once more.)**

**Percy:** On guard!

**(The sword once again acts erratically and drags Percy across to the opposite side of the stage)**

**Percy:** Myrtle, what's going on?

**Merlin:** **(Smugly)** You'll like this everyone. **(Going into a trance)** Oh primeval spirit of yore, oh elderly specter of yester-month, oh apparition of destiny, it is I, Merlin.

**Spirit:** **(O.S.)** Ah Merlin you old devil, how are you?

**Merlin:** I'm good thanks. I have a most perplexing riddle for you to solve.

**Spirit:** It's not a Sudoku is it? I hate them.

**Merlin:** No but it's just as tricky. Remember when Percy removed the sword from the stone?

**Spirit:** Those were the days eh?

**Merlin:** It was said only he who is pure of heart could take Excalibur and wield its power.

**Spirit:** This is a true story. Carry on.

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**Merlin:** Percy took the sword but he is unable to wield its power. Pray tell everyone how this is so.

**Spirit:** When Percy removed the sword from the stone he did so because he had used a magic potion to make his heart appear to be pure.

**(Everyone on stage recoils in shock)**

**Percy:** **(Incredulous)** What? I used my initiative. I'm resourceful.

**Spirit:** However, that potion has now worn off and Excalibur will not yield to Percy's will.

**Merlin:** What must we do then, oh aged ghoul of far-flung history?

**Spirit:** The sword must be place into the stone once more and the trial shall be replayed.

**Percy:** Replayed? Maybe I can win on aggregate?

**(The half-tabs open to reveal the stone downstage.)**

**Merlin:** **(Opening one eye and looking at Percy)** Go on –

**Percy:** **(Reluctantly)** Fine

**(Percy replaces the sword and a spotlight illuminates the stone.)**

**Mother:** **(To Galahad)** I literally can't take the excitement! Did you bring any spare trousers?

**Guinevere:** Oh Arthur, if you can take the sword from the stone will we go on all those adventures your promised?

**Arthur:** Better than that. We'll go to *[local theme park]*.

**Guinevere:** Seriously? You're the best fiancée ever!!

**(Guinevere hugs Arthur excitedly)**

**Percy:** I'll go first this time because obviously it's still me who should be King.

**Merlin:** Remember Percy, don't count your eggs before they're hatched.

**Percy:** Chickens

**Merlin:** Chickens, yes.

**(Percy tugs at the sword but he cannot remove it.)**

**Robin:** **(To Arthur)** Can I have a go?

**Arthur:** Be my guest, you'd make a great King.

**(Robin tugs at the sword but he cannot remove it)**

**Robin:** Worth a go.

**Mother:** Me me me! Can I have a go?

**Arthur:** Erm... ok

**(Arthur looks at Galahad for advice. Galahad shrugs a submissive shrug. Mother spits on both of her hands, rubs them together and then grabs the sword. She tugs but it won't come out.)**

**Spirit:** You do realise we're looking for someone with a pure heart?

**Mother:** My heart is as pure as a new born hamster.

**Spirit:** It's not is it?

**Mother:** No.

**(Mother steps back in line. Peter Pan and Robin Hood exit sneakily.)**

**Queen:** Arthur, it's your turn.

**Arthur:** Before I try and take the sword from the stone, I have something I'd like to say to Percy.

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**Percy:** Go on, gloat. Tell me how you're the best brother and you should have been King all along.

**Arthur:** No, because that's not true. We were born equal and we still are. That's why our father formed the Knights of the Round Table, so there was nobody at the head. Everyone was just as important as each other. So, Percy – brother, I have one thing to say to you...

**Percy:** What?

**Arthur:** **(Singing)** Happy Birthday to you –

**All:** Happy Birthday to you –

**(Peter Pan enters with a birthday cake, covered in candles. Robin enters carrying a small throne. Robin sets the throne down centre stage and encourages Percy to sit. Peter then presents him with the birthday cake)**

**All:** Happy Birthday dear Percy, Happy birthday to you!

**Percy:** (**Blowing out the candles**) But, it's your birthday today too Arthur.

**Arthur:** That doesn't matter. I'm throwing you the birthday party you always wished for – one of your very own. One you'll never forget. We'll have parlour games, musical statues, musical chairs and a CD called *now that's what I call musicals*.

**Percy:** (**Getting excited**) I love musicals! Will there be party sausages and mini-pizzas?

**Arthur:** Absolutely.

**Percy:** Can we watch cartoons?

**Arthur:** Of course!

**Percy:** Oh, I'm having so much FUN!

(**The alarm sounds and the lights flash on and off.**)

**Falstaff:** I'm sorry Sire but I'm going to have to arrest you. It appears you were having – (**Confused**) fun?

**Percy:** Oh, so I was. Well who invented that law, it's stupid!

**Falstaff:** You did.

**Percy:** Alright, no need to rub it in. (**Apologetically**) Oh Arthur, don't arrest me. I really want to have my birthday party.

**Arthur:** Well, it's up to you Percy. You can either apologise to the boys and girls and to all the townsfolk you locked up and then we can rule the Kingdom together and have your birthday party *or* I can lock you in the tower forever.

**Percy:** (**Meekly**) Apology and a party please. (**To the rest of the cast**) I'm sorry for banning fun everyone. (**To audience**) I'm really sorry for banning fun boys and girls.

**Arthur:** Shall we forgive him boys and girls?

(**The audience will probably shout 'no' so Arthur should ad lib and encourage them to forgive Percy.**)

**Arthur:** Look at his little lip trembling. I think he really *is* sorry. Shall we forgive him boys and girls?

(**The audience shout yes**)

**Percy:** Thank you Arthur.

**Arthur:** Merlin, will you be able to send Peter Pan, Sleeping Beauty and Robin Hood back to their own pantomimes?

**Merlin:** Is the pope Scottish?

**Arthur:** Erm –

**Robin:** (To Merlin) I'm not from a pantomime. I'm from Sherwood Forest.

**Arthur:** Merlin will get you home, no worries.

**Falstaff:** I need to get back too, but I can't remember if I was in Henry the fourth or the merry wives of Windsor –

**Merlin:** We'll work that out later.

**Percy:** Being King wasn't what I thought it would be you know Arthur. It was a bit like pulling a Christmas cracker. It starts with an exciting bang but then you find out that the toy is broken, the little paper hat is ripped and the joke isn't funny.

**Arthur:** Well Percy, we shall rule [*local town*] together and it will be a much happier place where everyone can party as much as they like. Ok boys and girls are you ready for a party?

**(Audience say yes. Music starts, lights flash and the cast exit. Cast walkdown singing a rousing song such as 'Footloose (Kenny Loggins)', 'Celebration (Kool and the Gang)', 'Get the party started (Pink)' or 'I got a feelin' (Black Eyed Peas)'. The song ends and the tabs close. Percy then enters through the curtains.)**

**Percy:** I'm so happy. Look, I'm now pure of heart (**Wickedly**) or am I? (**Pauses**) Well, you've got to leave it open for a sequel haven't you?

**(Lights off. Percy exits through the curtains. The music starts once more and the curtains open. The cast sing one last reprise. Arthur now has Excalibur which he waves in the air along with the song. The song ends. Lights off. Curtains close.)**

## **THE END**

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## **Song 1 – Trouble**

If you're looking for trouble  
You came to the right place  
If you're looking for trouble  
Just look right in my face  
I was born in a castle  
I didn't make the grade  
I was jealous of Arthur,  
So evil plans I made

Because I'm evil, my middle name is dysentery  
Well I'm evil, so don't you mess around with me

I've never looked for trouble  
But I've never ran  
I don't take no orders  
From my mum or my nan  
So now I'm the King  
And my brother is gone  
I'll have so much laughter  
While you lot have none

Because I'm evil, my middle name is celery  
Well I'm evil, so don't you mess around with me

I'm evil, naughty, wayward, as can be  
I'm evil, impish, cheeky, as can be

So don't mess around  
Don't play around  
Don't mess around with me  
I'm evil, I'm evil, evil, evil  
So don't mess around,  
don't mess around with me  
I'm evil, I tell you I'm so naughty  
So don't mess around with me  
Yeah!