

# EXCALIBUR



King Arthur made his court at Camelot and, aided by Merlin, reigned over a peaceful and prosperous land. Arthur was as brave as any knight, always ready to risk his life for justice.



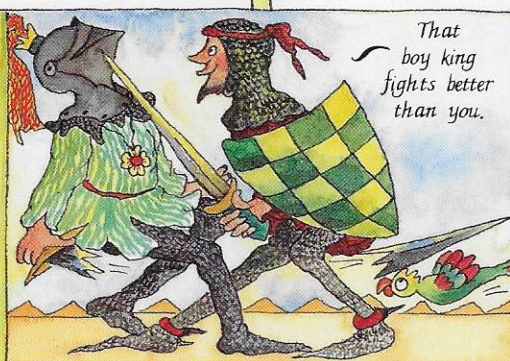
When King Arthur heard that Sir Pellinore was attacking travellers on the road to Camelot, he hid his identity behind a visor and galloped off.



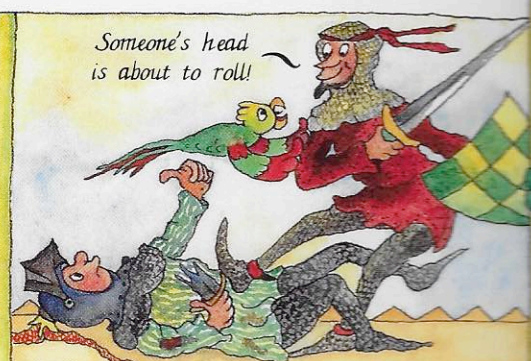
Arthur challenged Sir Pellinore to give up his sinful ways or stand and fight. Arrogant Sir Pellinore just laughed, charging at his unknown adversary.



The two men struck each other so fiercely that both fell from their horses.



They fought hand to hand, their swords clashing, until Arthur's sword broke.



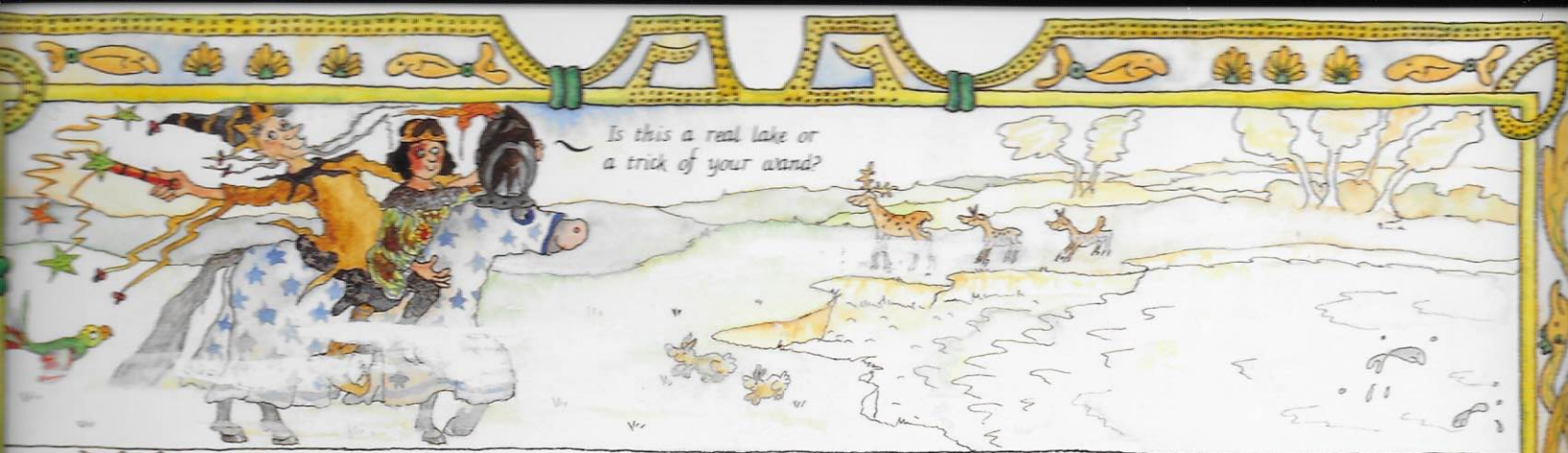
Knocking Arthur to the ground, Sir Pellinore raised his sword to strike off his head.



But, just in time, Merlin the Magician appeared. He touched the knight's brow, making him fall down in a trance.

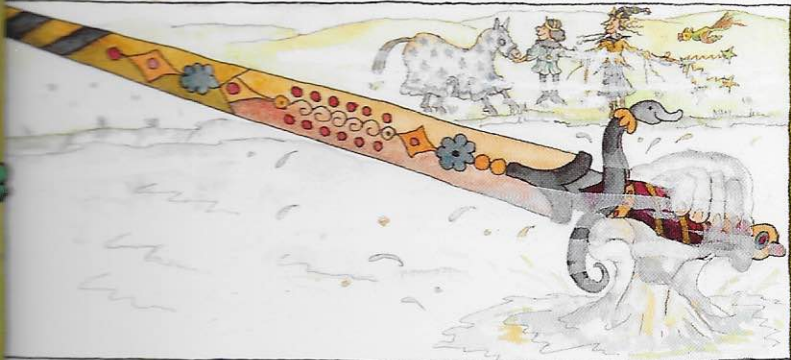


As Merlin helped a battered Arthur onto his horse, the King bemoaned the loss of the sword he had drawn from the stone.



Is this a real lake or a trick of your wand?

Merlin told King Arthur not to worry, as that sword had served its purpose. They were now on their way to fetch a finer sword, called Excalibur, crafted on the mystical Isle of Avalon. The pair rode on until they came to a lake.



Out of the lake rose an arm clothed in white silk and holding aloft the sword Excalibur in a glittering, jewelled scabbard.

Then from the mist drifted the Lady of the Lake. She took Arthur's hand and helped him into a boat which glided, as if enchanted, towards the sword.



I will be Queen.  
Pay attention, Arthur, this is the real treasure.

As King Arthur grasped the sword, the Lady of the Lake mysteriously vanished. Returning to the bank, Arthur showed Excalibur to Merlin who told him that, although the sword would never break, it was the scabbard he should treasure, for while he had it at his side not a drop of his blood would be shed.



Scabbard! Excalibur!

Then Arthur and Merlin went home to Camelot where everyone rejoiced at the safe return of their brave King.

CAMELOT

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