

MORGAN LE FAY



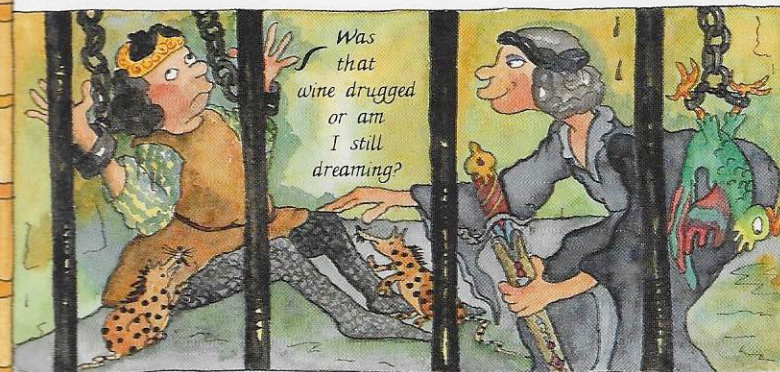
Not long after King Arthur had returned to Camelot with Excalibur, he went hunting with Sir Accolon, a friend of his half-sister, the wicked enchantress Morgan le Fay. They chased after a white hart so fast that their horses collapsed.



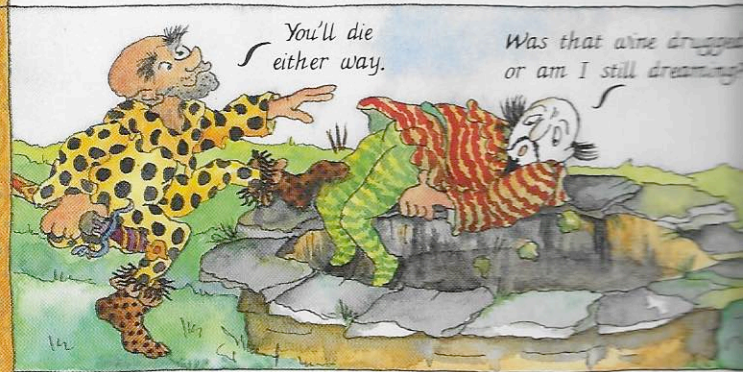
While they were wondering how to manage without mounts, King Arthur and Sir Accolon were invited to board a ship moored close by.



Gratefully, the two hunters drank some wine. They were then shown to comfortable beds, where they fell into an exhausted sleep.



But King Arthur awoke in a dungeon. He was offered a sword resembling Excalibur and the chance to fight an unknown knight for his freedom.



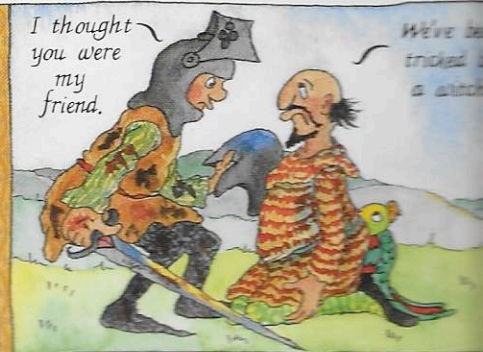
Sir Accolon awoke by a well. He was offered Excalibur and the chance to fight an unknown knight in return for Morgan le Fay's hand in marriage.



So King Arthur and Sir Accolon crossed swords, neither recognizing the other.



Arthur might have died had Merlin not appeared and caused the real Excalibur to return to him.



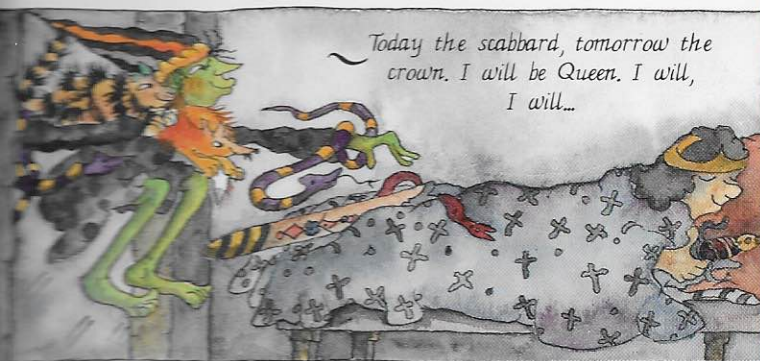
Pulling off his adversary's helmet Arthur was about to kill him when he recognized Sir Accolon.



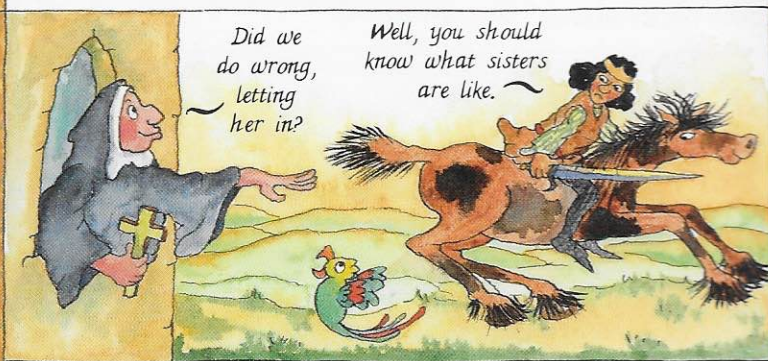
Arthur then realized that they had been tricked – Morgan le Fay wished him dead so that she could claim his crown.



Sadly, Arthur made his way to a convent to recover from his wounds. But Morgan le Fay, hearing her plan had failed, followed close behind.



At the convent, Morgan entered the sleeping King's room. Excalibur was in his hand but, seeing the scabbard, Morgan seized it with glee.



When Arthur awoke and realized that his half-sister had his precious scabbard, he mounted a horse and made haste to catch her.



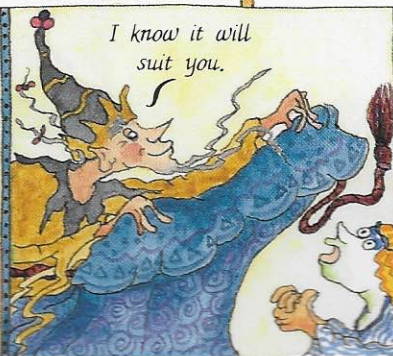
When Morgan saw Arthur draw near, she threw his scabbard into a deep lake.



Then, by her magic, Morgan turned herself into a rock so that Arthur was unable to take revenge.



Arthur returned to Camelot bitter at Morgan's treachery and the loss of the life-protecting scabbard.



Later, a maid brought Arthur a cloak, as a token of Morgan's repentance. When Merlin insisted she try it on first, flames burst forth and she became a heap of smouldering ashes. After this, Morgan le Fay never dared enter Camelot, but everyone knew how vulnerable Arthur was without his scabbard.