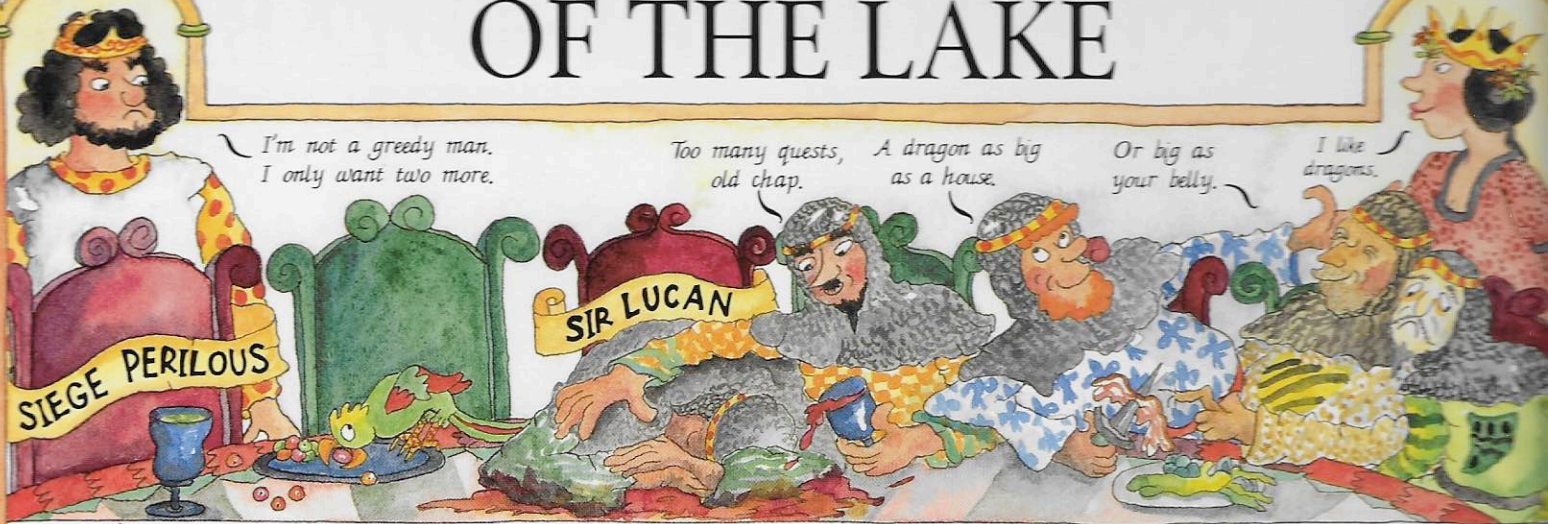
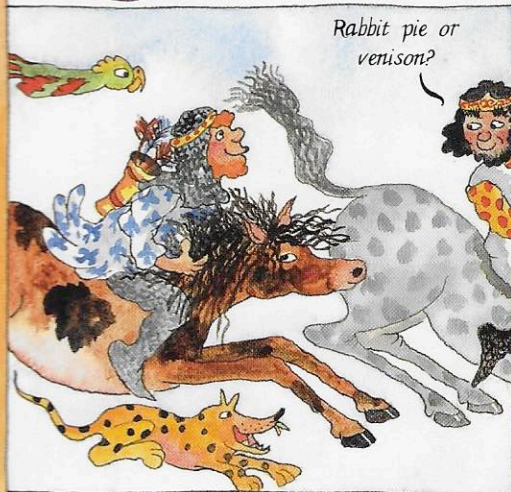


SIR LANCELOT OF THE LAKE

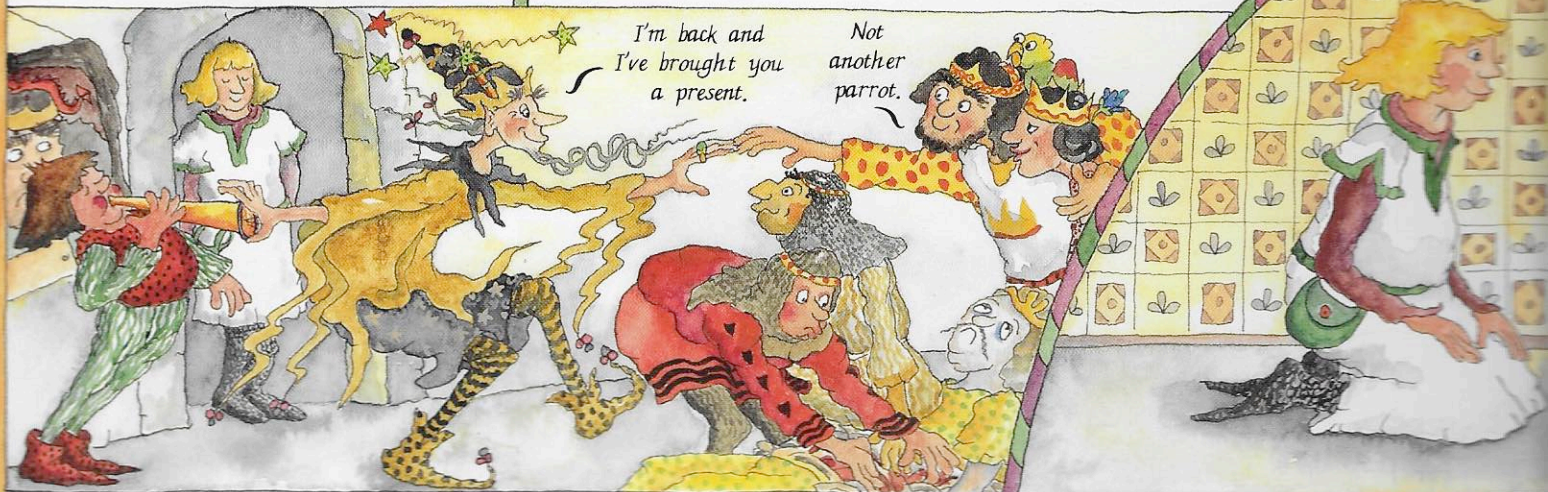


Over the following years many quests were undertaken by King Arthur and the Knights of the Round Table. Once a year, at Whitsun, the Knights would return to Camelot to tell of their adventures and reaffirm their vows. Yet always the two seats remained empty.



One year, on the day before Whitsun, King Arthur was out hunting with a friend.

Before the pair had ridden far they met a wounded knight, carried on a litter. The knight was seeking King Arthur's court, where Merlin predicted that the bravest knight in Britain would heal his wound.



The next day, as each Knight renewed his vow, he laid a hand on the wounded stranger. But none could heal him. Then a trumpet sounded, the great doors opened and in came Merlin, followed by a squire clad in white.

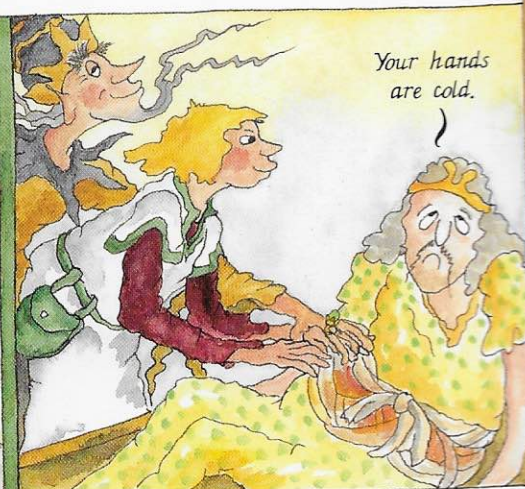
LANCELOT



Merlin introduced the young squire as Lancelot of the Lake, so-called because the Lady of the Lake had adopted him. So handsome was this squire that every lady in court lost her heart to him, including the Queen. Queen Guinevere exchanged loving glances with the new knight and Lancelot, looking into her eyes, swore to himself never to serve another lady.



Then Merlin asked King Arthur to make Lancelot a Knight of the Round Table. As Excalibur touched Lancelot's shoulders his name appeared upon the empty, unmarked seat.



Then Merlin placed Sir Lancelot's hand on the wounded knight and miraculously the wound was healed.



King Arthur, who had not yet noticed the attention his Queen was paying Sir Lancelot, was delighted to have one more seat filled. The King was charmed by Lancelot who seemed destined to be a brave and loyal Knight of the Round Table.