

PERUSAL SCRIPT



Newport, Maine

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Once Upon A Candlemas In Arthur's Court

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CAST OF CHARACTERS

Liz, an American girl, age 13
Robin, her brother, age 14
Jenny, her best friend, age 12-13
King Arthur
Gwenevere
Robin Hood
Maid Marian
Bettris (BET-ris)
Queen Boudicca (BOU-di-ka)
Queen Elizabeth
William Shakespeare
Burd Janet

ADDITIONAL ROLES

Ensemble can take on multiple roles, or these may be played by additional actors.

2 Roman Soldiers
Roman General
Roman Financier
Boudicca's Elder Daughter
Boudicca's Younger Daughter
Sir Belleus (BEL-lee-us)
Sir Bedivere (BED-i-veer)
Sir Gaheris (Gah-HAIR-is)
Lady Grace
Tamlane (TAM-lan)
Elf Queen
Little John
Will Scarlet

Unit Set. Inside a room in an old museum, near Carleon in Wales.

NOTE: *Once Upon a Candlemas in King Arthur's Court* deals with themes suitable for mature students in Grades 6 and above.

Scene 1 – In the Castle -- *Lights up downstage. Rest of the stage still in darkness. LIZ and JENNY enter).*

LIZ: Isn't this incredible, Jenny? I just love exploring old places!

JENNY: It's great you get so excited by all this history stuff, Liz. The Roman ruins were pretty cool, but as far as I'm concerned, you've seen one castle, you've seen 'em all. Dark and gloomy.

LIZ: Well, that's because you've been to so many places. This is my first trip to Europe. I've wanted to go to the UK ever since I was a little girl.

JENNY: Well, I am glad your father let me come along.

LIZ: Me, too. Too bad Robin didn't bring a friend with him. Maybe then he wouldn't be so obnoxious.

ROBIN: (*singing as he enters*) Oh, the castle walls fell down and then

The place was filled with bloody men
Who chopped off everybody's head
And made sure all the kids were dead...

LIZ: Robin, shut up! That is disgusting!

JENNY: How do you come up with these depressing ditties?

ROBIN: They just spring into my head. Because I'm going crazy from spending my entire February vacation with two stupid girls in stupid depressing rain and stupid old castles...

LIZ: You could have gone with Mom and the step-sibs to Disney World.

ROBIN: I could have gone snowboarding with all my friends. I could have been trying out my new superhero video game. I could have been anywhere but this stupid castle with you two...

LIZ: Oh, shut it, Robin. I get so sick of listening to you whine...

JENNY: OK, guys, don't start bickering again.

LIZ: Right. Come on, Robin, we're in the land of King Arthur. In an amazing old castle. Let's go exploring.

ROBIN: I've been over the whole place already. It's boring. Let's find Dad and go back to the B&B.

JENNY: I can't believe you've seen absolutely everything! What about that door down the hall? The one with the rope across it?

ROBIN: You're right, I missed that. Let's go check it out.

LIZ: But I don't think we're supposed to go in there, Robin.

ROBIN: OK, History Girl, are you gonna let a little rope keep you from exploring? There's nobody around to stop us. Let's go check it out.

JENNY: Maybe it's haunted. Maybe something really bad happened in there.

ROBIN: Wow, that would be cool. Ghosts!

LIZ: I don't know if this is a good idea, guys...

ROBIN: Aw, are you afraid of ghosts, little sister? Don't worry, I'll protect you. Come on!

(Laughing ghoulishly, ROBIN heads offstage toward the door. JENNY and LIZ look at each other, then follow him off).

Scene 2 – The Room of Portraits -- *Lights up on entire stage. A room with six life-size portraits illustrating: King ARTHUR & Queen GWENEVERE – ROBIN HOOD, Maid MARIAN & BETTRIS – Queen ELIZABETH & SHAKESPEARE – Burd JANET – and QUEEN BOUDICCA. Assorted chairs and benches. A small table with a candle or lantern. JENNY, ROBIN and LIZ enter the room, and look around.*

ROBIN: Great, just another dusty old room with stupid paintings.

JENNY: So why do you think the rope was across the door?

ROBIN: Who cares? Let's go.

(ROBIN starts to exit, then stops when the OTHERS don't follow)

LIZ: *(looking at portraits)* But look at these cool paintings. They're all people from stories. Here's King Arthur! And Robin Hood...

JENNY: *(looking as well)* Not just stories – here's Queen Elizabeth and William Shakespeare. Weren't they real people in history?

LIZ: Actually, King Arthur and Robin Hood were supposedly real, too, they just had lots of stories written about them.

JENNY: And some of them I've never heard of. Burd Janet? That's a weird name.

LIZ: Check this one out.

(JENNY & LIZ stare at Queen Boudicca's painting. ROBIN reluctantly joins them).

ROBIN: Who the heck is Queen Bo-Dick-Ah?

(A bell begins tolling.)

LIZ: What's that?

(A recorded voice with bored British accent is heard. Bell continues to toll.)

VOICE: Ladies and gentlemen, the castle will be closing in precisely two minutes. Please proceed to the great hall for immediate exit. Thank you.

ROBIN: Finally, I'm free. Let's go.

(ROBIN exits.)

LIZ: I like this room, Jenny. I wish we had found it sooner.

JENNY: Yeah, maybe your Dad would bring us back here tomorrow.

LIZ: I feel like there's something here, something different.

JENNY: *(eagerly)* Ghosts? Can you feel them?

LIZ: *(tries to feel for a moment)* No. Just a mystery of some kind.

ROBIN: *(calling from offstage)* Houston, we have a problem!

LIZ: What now, Robin?

ROBIN: *(entering)* The door won't open.

JENNY: What do you mean?

ROBIN: I mean the door won't open. It's locked from the outside.

LIZ: Well, that's ridiculous. It opened this way.

ROBIN: Look for yourself.

(LIZ and JENNY exit, followed by ROBIN.)

VOICE: The castle is officially closed. Thank you.

(The bell stops tolling. Silence. KIDS enter).

ROBIN: *(Glumly)* Great. We're stuck here for the whole night.

LIZ: Oh, don't be silly. We can't spend the night in here. I'll just call Daddy.

ROBIN: And how do you propose to call him?

LIZ: On my phone, idiot.

(LIZ pulls out her cell phone)

JENNY: Liz, I don't think your cell will work over here.

LIZ: Yes, it will. We had it programmed just in case...

(Trails off as phone is obviously not working)

...something like this happened.

JENNY: So what's the problem?

LIZ: No signal. Nothing, absolutely nothing.

ROBIN: *(pointing upward)* Big, thick stones, dimwit. Most castles were built before cell phones were a part of daily life.

LIZ: *(putting phone away)* Okay, okay. We have to think.

(There is a moment of silence as they all realize their situation.)

ROBIN: I'm hungry.

JENNY & LIZ: Shut up!

ROBIN: I'm just saying I'm hungry. It's gonna be a long night.

(Mysterious MUSIC begins. KIDS look around.)

JENNY: Okay, now I am starting to get officially creeped out.

Scene 3 – King Arthur's Court -- *LIGHTING change as MUSIC continues. Portraits start to come alive. The three KIDS huddle in one corner of the stage. As music builds, the figures in the portraits step out of their frames and bring benches and chairs to gather in a semi-circle. King ARTHUR solemnly lights the candle/lantern and then sits. Queen GWENEVERE sits beside him. Others sit or stand at director's discretion. MUSIC fades.)*

GWENEVERE: King Arthur's annual Court of Candlemas is now in session.

BOUDICCA: *(pointing to KIDS)* We have visitors this year.

ROBIN HOOD: Strangers, kindly present yourselves to the court.

(The KIDS, bewildered, cross into the light. The COURT inspects them in silence.)

ARTHUR: *(speaking very formally)* Who art thou, strangers?

(Silence. The three KIDS look at each other in confusion.)

Do not fear. We shall not hurt thee. Who art thou?

ROBIN: We're... uh, tourists. We were exploring the castle and got locked in here.

QUEEN QUEEN ELIZABETH: Tourists? What are tourists?

SHAKESPEARE: I believe they are travelers, your Majesty.

LIZ: Yes, that's right. We're from the U.S.

BETTRIS: The Ewe Ess?

GWENEVERE: Perhaps they are Saxons.

JENNY: No, we're Americans.

ARTHUR: *(to Gwenevere, excited)* The New World, Jenny, I believe they're from the New World!

JENNY: How did you know my name?

ARTHUR: *(puzzled)* I was speaking to my wife, Queen Gwenevere. Jenny is my pet name for her.

JENNY: Oh. That's my name, too.

GWENEVERE: Is it? How wonderful to know that my name is still known!

JENNY: Oh, lots of girls have Jenny as a nickname. But my real name is plain Jennifer, nothing fancy like Gwenevere.

JANET: And I am simply Janet. But they all mean the same thing: a white wave, shining and beautiful.

JENNY: *(stunned)* Really? Shining and beautiful?

GWENEVERE & JANET: Oh yes.

ARTHUR: *(to LIZ and ROBIN)* And what are your names?

LIZ: I'm Liz, short for Elizabeth. And this is my brother Robin.

QUEEN ELIZABETH: *(delighted)* Elizabeth! A royal and majestic name, my dear.

ROBIN: Yeah, they're named after queens and I'm named after some stupid fairy in a stupid play.

SHAKESPEARE: *(shocked)* Do you mean Robin Goodfellow, one of the most beloved characters I ever wrote?

ROBIN: Are you the guy that wrote those plays with all the weird words?

SHAKESPEARE: *(to QUEEN ELIZABETH)* Your Majesty, methinks I shall be ill.

MARIAN: Perhaps you are forgetting the other Robin in English history, one of the greatest heroes of all time.

ROBIN HOOD: Ah, Marian, you do exaggerate.

ROBIN: Don't tell me you're supposed to be Robin Hood?

ROBIN HOOD: *(bowing)* Indeed, I am. At your service, sirrah.

ROBIN: Cool! Can you teach me how to fight with those big sticks? And shoot arrows at people?

LIZ: Robin, all you ever think about is fighting and killing. You are sick!

ROBIN: That's what guys do, Liz. It's just for fun. Don't you know how to have fun!

(A silence settles.)

BOUDICCA: Interesting. The exact issue we were going to discuss this year. Perhaps we should invite these children to join us. It will be fascinating to hear opinions from those who live in this time.

ARTHUR: I agree. Children, will you sit and join us?

(KIDS all answer at the same time.)

LIZ: Oh yes!

JENNY: Okay?

ROBIN: Unnhh, sure ... why not?

(Benches are brought up and space made for the KIDS, ad lib as needed.)

GWENEVERE: King Arthur's annual Court of Candlemas is now in session.

ARTHUR: Queen Gwenevere, will you please read the first topic of discussion?

GWENEVERE: Our First Topic...

LIZ: Wait, I have a question.

GWENEVERE: Yes?

LIZ: Well, why do you keep saying the Court of Candlemas? Isn't it... wasn't it... the court of Camelot?

QUEEN ELIZABETH: Camelot has not existed for centuries, child.

BOUDICCA: None of us have existed for centuries. Except once a year, in this room.

JANET: At Candlemas.

JENNY: What's Candlemas?

ARTHUR: February First.

(Pointing to candle)

Traditionally, the candle burns from dawn to dusk on this day. But here, in this room, it burns from dusk to dawn.

GWENEVERE: During that time, these brief hours, we all exist again for one night each year.

QUEEN ELIZABETH: We discuss matters of state.

ROBIN HOOD: Matters of history.

MARIAN: Matters of myth.

BETTRIS: Matters of legend.

JANET: Matters of magic.

SHAKESPEARE: Matters of truth.

ARTHUR: This room is all that is left of King Arthur's court.

ROBIN: Is that all you do? Talk? Sounds pretty boring to me.

(Another silence as all look at ROBIN).

BOUDICCA: *(dismissing ROBIN as unimportant)* The candle burns. Let us begin. Gwenevere, the first topic?

GWENEVERE: *(reading from a scroll)* The First Topic of Discussion: Force Majeur, the Rule of Might. Is one justified in using violence to fight those who live by violence?

ARTHUR: Who will begin?

BOUDICCA: I will begin. I, Queen Boudicca of the Iceni, declare that the only way to defeat those who live by violence is by using greater force against them.

LIZ: What do you mean?

BOUDICCA: Those who live by the sword must die by the sword. They understand nothing else.

ROBIN: Sounds good to me.

LIZ: But there has to be some other way. You can try talking to them, negotiating. What about using money?

BOUDICCA: *(with great bitterness)* Child, you have lived a sheltered and protected life. You understand nothing of the world.

ROBIN: I tell her that every day.

JENNY: Robin, will you shut up?!

LIZ: Queen Boudicca, please explain why you feel this way.

BOUDICCA: Are you certain you want to know?

LIZ: *(uncertain, but brave)* Yes, I-I'm certain.

Scene 4 – Boudicca's Story -- *BOUDICCA gestures. MUSIC. Scene change into tableau. BOUDICCA is held prisoner by two Roman SOLDIERS. A Roman GENERAL holds a whip, and a Roman FINANCIER holds papers. MUSIC fades.*)

GENERAL: *(bored)* Is that the last of it?

FINANCIER: Yes, all of the loans that were called in have been paid.

BOUDICCA: Roman thieves! My husband's estate was sufficient to continue re-payment of the debts on the agreed terms.

FINANCIER: Your husband is dead. There is no one to pay back the loans.

BOUDICCA: I will re-pay the loans. Prasutagus left the kingdom to me and our daughters.

FINANCIER: Roman law does not recognize *daughters* as heirs. This kingdom is forfeit to the Empire.

BOUDICCA: This kingdom belongs to me! I am queen of the Iceni people. We have never accepted Roman rule.

GENERAL: You are queen of nothing.

(GENERAL lifts his whip as Boudicca's DAUGHTERS enter and rush to their mother. The YOUNGER Daughter weeps, the ELDER Daughter stands in silent despair.)

YOUNGER: Mother, oh Mother, they have hurt us, oh, they have hurt us so!

BOUDICCA: My daughters, my beautiful daughters, what have they done to you?

ELDER: We have been violated, Mother. We are no longer worthy of marriage.

BOUDICCA: *(raging)* You animals! How dare you! All of you, ALL OF YOU, will pay for this!

GENERAL: *(laughing)* Will we indeed?

(To the Soldiers)

Hold her still.

(GENERAL lifts his whip again as LIGHTS fade to darkness. MUSIC. Scene returns to the castle room. LIZ is close to tears.)

Scene 5 – Back to the Court

LIZ: That is terrible, they were so cruel. What... what did you do?

BOUDICCA: I led a revolt against the Romans. My Iceni warriors and the Trinovantes tribes. We destroyed three of their cities, including London, and slaughtered over 70,000 people.

ROBIN: Wow, 70,000 soldiers? That is totally sick!

SHAKESPEARE: She was not ill when this occurred, peasant.

ROBIN: No, "sick" as in awesome, amazing, incredibly rad....

BOUDICCA: *(interrupting)* We killed 70,000 people, not only soldiers. Every Roman was our enemy.

JENNY: But that doesn't seem fair...

BOUDICCA: Fair? Fair? You saw what they did to me and my daughters!

ROBIN: And you killed all those Romans in revenge!

BOUDICCA: My warriors fought the Roman Empire, and we triumphed... for one year. With all their legions, their javelins and chariots and heavy war equipment... they eventually destroyed us. But I made them suffer, for awhile. Emperor Nero even considered withdrawing Roman troops from Britain because of me. Force Majeur, the Rule of Might. That is all any invading empire understands.

ROBIN: I like that... The Rule of Might.

(A silence.)

GWENEVERE: Does anyone wish to speak on the opposing view?

JENNY: Wait, I have one more question.

BOUDICCA: Yes?

JENNY: Your name – what does it mean?

BOUDICCA: Boudicca is from *bouda*, the Celtic word for victory.

LIZ: But you weren't victorious, were you?

(A silence.)

BOUDICCA: *(bowing her head)* No.

GWENEVERE: I ask one last time: does anyone wish to present an opposing view?

ARTHUR: Yes, I wish to speak. I have always believed that there has to be a different way than Might is Right. That is why I formed the original Round Table. I sent my knights throughout England to bring down the bullies who believed that they could hurt anybody they wanted to, simply because they were stronger.

LIZ: Well, did it work?

(ARTHUR and GWENEVERE look at each other.)

ARTHUR: Almost.

GWENEVERE: *(sighing)* It was a noble gesture, but love got in the way.

ROBIN: Oh yeah, you got it on with that Lancelot guy, right?

GWENEVERE: No! Well... yes. But not in the way that everyone thinks. I love Arthur; I always will. But our marriage was a political one.

ARTHUR: It's complicated.

ROBIN: Heard that one before.

LIZ: Robin, just let them tell us what happened!

GWENEVERE: Well, Lancelot left Camelot because he was a good man, and we were trying to avoid a scandal.

ARTHUR: He went all over the country rescuing damsels and villagers and other knights, defeating giants and dragons, doing everything I asked him to do.

GWENEVERE: But he sent them all to me instead of to Arthur.

Scene 5 – Arthur & Gwenevere's Story -- *MUSIC. Scene change into tableau. ARTHUR and GWENEVERE sit in state.*

ARTHUR: Lords and ladies of the court, as is our custom at Pentecost, we will receive all of those who have been assisted or defeated by the questing Knights of the Round Table. Will the first witness stand forth?

BELLEUS: *(stepping forward)* Queen Gwenevere, I present myself to you. I am Sir Belleus. I was rescued from a giant by Sir Lancelot.

GWENEVERE: Oh, thank you. Welcome, Sir Belleus.

BEDIVERE: *(stepping forward)* Queen Gwenevere, I am Sir Bedivere, your humble servant.

GWENEVERE: And you yielded to whom, Sir Bedivere?

BEDIVERE: I yielded to Sir Lancelot.

GRACE: *(stepping forward)* Your Majesty, Queen Gwenevere, I am Lady Grace and I present myself to you in thanks for Sir Lancelot fighting in a tournament to assist my aged father.

ARTHUR: Is there anyone here who wishes to present themselves to the *King*?

(A silence)

Well then. Sir Gaheris, who are all these knights with you?

GAHERIS: There are 64 of us, sire, all rescued from a magic castle by Sir Lancelot. Queen Gwenevere, we are all your champions.

GWENEVERE: Oh dear.

(ARTHUR & GWENEVERE look at each other).

Scene 6 – Back to Court -- *MUSIC. Scene returns to the castle room.*

ROBIN: Sounds like Lancelot rocked it as a champion!

JENNY: So all those people were presents from Sir Lancelot?

GWENEVERE: Yes, that is exactly what they were.

ARTHUR: And it was not looked at with appreciation by the other knights. They were jealous and angry, and the seeds of treachery were planted. My Round Table, my beautiful vision of peace, was never truly successful because of it.

ROBIN: So let me get this straight. You say you wanted peace for your country.

ARTHUR: Yes, that was my dream, to unite us all in peace.

ROBIN: But your Knights were still beating up the bad guys, right? They were still warriors and fighters.

ARTHUR: *(sighing)* Oh you are quite right, my son. Which is why I tried to turn them toward more spiritual pursuits with the quest for the Holy Grail. But they still fought and competed over that. So many died. My dream was an imperfect one.

BOUDICCA: So I win that round, eh? There is no way to defeat bullies except by fighting back.

GWENEVERE: Is there any more discussion on our First Topic?

QUEEN ELIZABETH: Well, yes, there is. I wish to speak.

ARTHUR: The court acknowledges Queen Elizabeth.

QUEEN ELIZABETH: I admit, Boudicca, that I felt much the same as you for many years. But this man
(*Pointing to SHAKESPEARE*)

showed me that there is sometimes another way.

ROBIN: He did?

SHAKESPEARE: I did?

ROBIN: OK, hold on, I'm not buying this. We studied some of his stuff in school and there's plenty of violence in it. What about that Scottish guy who murdered his best friend? And that one where everybody dies at the end, with the poison sword and poison cup? Spamlet or something?

SHAKESPEARE: Your Majesty, this child is insufferable! I should not be subjected to such ignorance!

QUEEN ELIZABETH: Oh, calm yourself, William, this discourtesy in you is most unseemly.

JENNY: Unseemly?

ROBIN: He's acting like a drama queen.

SHAKESPEARE: Your Majesty, I beg you to chastise this varlet!

QUEEN ELIZABETH: (*to ROBIN, commanding*) Young man, approach me.

(*ROBIN crosses to QUEEN ELIZABETH, hesitating*).

It is customary to kneel before a queen!

(*ROBIN looks around at everyone else, then kneels*).

Now listen carefully to what I have to say. The play you spoke of so lightly, Hamlet, Prince of Denmark, is one of the greatest masterpieces in English literature. It is still being studied and performed four hundred years after William wrote it. Why do you think that is so?

ROBIN: Um, um...I don't know.

QUEEN ELIZABETH: Would either of you young ladies care to enlighten him?

JENNY: I haven't studied it in school yet.

LIZ: I kind of know the story.

(*Speaking very quickly*)

There's this prince, Hamlet. His father dies, and his mother marries his uncle. He sees his father's ghost who tells him that he was murdered by the uncle. Hamlet pretends to be crazy so he can find out what happened and then he accidentally kills his girlfriend's father, and so she kills herself by drowning. Her brother wants revenge and they have a big swordfight and there's something about a poison cup, and they all end up dying. Or something like that.

JENNY: (*admiringly*) Wow, how do you remember all that stuff?

LIZ: I told you I like history.

QUEEN ELIZABETH: Well remembered, young Elizabeth.

SHAKESPEARE: But your Majesty, why do you say that my work made you see things differently?

QUEEN ELIZABETH: Because, despite everything that happens to Hamlet, he still thinks about his actions and his choices. We watch him struggle with every choice he makes:

"To be, or not to be; that is the question:

Whether 'tis nobler in the mind to suffer

The slings and arrows of outrageous fortune,

Or to take arms against a sea of troubles,
And, by opposing, end them.”

Your plays, William, make us think. And if we can stop to think, then perhaps we can find other ways than fighting to settle disagreements.

BOUDICCA: (*sarcastically*) So I was supposed to write poetry to the Romans?

QUEEN ELIZABETH: No, sometimes we have no choice except to fight those who are trying to harm us. But drama, indeed all art, helps us understand why we are doing certain things, and helps us remember that history needn't always repeat itself.

SHAKESPEARE: Queen Elizabeth, you do me great honor. How can I ever thank you? How can I ever express my deep appreciation? My sovereign, my queen, my patroness, most amazing of women...

QUEEN ELIZABETH: Perhaps, William, you might do well to remember your own words: “Give every man thine ear, but few thy voice.”

SHAKESPEARE: Yes, certainly, certainly, thank you for that... reminder.

GWENEVERE: The candle is burning down. Perhaps we should move on to the next Topic of Discussion.

ROBIN: Uh, your Majesty?

GWENEVERE/ARTHUR/BOUDICCA/QUEEN ELIZABETH: Yes?

ROBIN: Can I get up now?

QUEEN ELIZABETH: Have you thought about my words?

ROBIN: Uh, yeah. Sure.

QUEEN ELIZABETH: Then please rise.

(ROBIN sits again, rubbing his knees).

BOUDICCA: The night wanes. Gwenevere, what is our next Topic of Discussion?

GWENEVERE: (*reading*) The Second Topic of Discussion: Surrender. Should one continue to fight even when the odds are overwhelming, or should one surrender with grace?

BOUDICCA: I do not see any point in discussing that. The Romans did whatever they wanted with me and my daughters. Surrendering would have made no difference. In matters of honor, one must never give up – ever!

ROBIN HOOD: Boudicca, we all know how you feel about the subject.

BETTRIS: It is time to let someone else speak.

JANET: I would like to say something about this Topic.

ARTHUR: The court acknowledges Burd Janet.

JENNY: Wait, I have a question!

ALL: Yes?

(The entire COURT looks at JENNY expectantly)

JENNY: Well, it's not really about the Topic. I just want to know why you're called Bird Janet.

ROBIN: Yeah, do you, like, raise homing pigeons or something?

JANET: (*laughing*) No, no, I am Burd Janet, spelled B-U-R-D. It is a very old poetic word for “Lady” or “Maiden.”

JENNY: Cool, so I'd be Burd Jenny then?

ROBIN: More like Bird-Brain Jenny.

LIZ: Robin, will you knock it off!

SHAKESPEARE: You, sir, have the manners of an unsavory lout. You run this humor out of breath.

ROBIN: Huh?

QUEEN ELIZABETH: Gentlemen, peace! Burd Janet is going to tell us her story.

ARTHUR: Speak, Burd Janet.

Scene 7 – Burd Janet's Story

JANET: I was betrothed to Tamlane, son of Earl Murray. Although our betrothal was arranged, we loved each other dearly. When I became pregnant with Tamlane's child, the wedding plans were finalized. But two weeks before the ceremony, Tamlane disappeared while hunting in Carterhaugh Wood.

LIZ: Oh nice. He got you pregnant and then ran away.

JANET: No, no it wasn't like that, although everyone else thought the same thing. But we both wanted to have a child together, and I knew Tamlane would never forsake me. My parents wanted me to marry someone else, but I refused. Despairing, I went to Carterhaugh Woods myself, trying to find something, anything that would give me a clue to what had happened to him. I was picking yellow broom, imagining it would be for my wedding bouquet, when Tamlane suddenly appeared beside me...

(MUSIC and scene change. TAMLANE is standing beside JANET.)

JANET: Tamlane, my darling! Where have you been? Have you forsaken me?

TAMLANE: My beloved Janet, I have not forsaken you. I was kidnapped by the Queen of Elfland. She has made me one of her Fairy Knights and vowed to keep me beside her forever.

JANET: But you are here with me now.

TAMLANE: You plucked a blossom from the magic broom, freeing me to appear in the human world for a day. But I will have to leave again at dusk.

(TAMLANE embraces JANET.)

Oh my love, how I have missed you.

(MUSIC. TAMLANE is gone.)

LIZ: Well, what happened?

JANET: We met like that every day for a week. And then he told me how to rescue him from the Elven Queen. On All Hallows Eve, when the Fairy Court rode through Scotland, I must wait by Miles Cross and then pull him from his horse as the Court rode by. After that, I just had to hold on.

JENNY: Hold on?

JANET: Hold on for my dear life.

(MUSIC and scene change. JANET has her arms around TAMLANE, as the ELVEN QUEEN watches.)

ELF QUEEN: Burd Janet, you shall not take my favorite knight from me!

JANET: He is my betrothed. I will never let him go.

ELF QUEEN: *(laughing)* Never? Not even when he becomes... a Bear!

(ELF QUEEN gestures. Magic transformation MUSIC. Other ACTORS become a bear with

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TAMLANE at the center. JANET hangs on).

A hawk!

(MUSIC. TAMLANE and ACTORS become a hawk. JANET hangs on)

A serpent!

(MUSIC. TAMLANE and actACTORS become a snake. JANET hangs on)

(furious) A sword red-hot from the forge's fire!

(MUSIC. Other ACTORS become fire.)

JANET: Water, I must find water!

(ACTORS become water. JANET jumps into the water with TAMLANE, still hanging on. They emerge, and he is himself. They stand together. MUSIC fades.)

(triumphant) He is mine now, Queen of the Elves. I have broken your spell of captivity.

ELF QUEEN: Had I but known, Tamlane, Tamlane,

A lady would take thee home,

I'd have taken out thy heart of flesh,

And put in a heart of stone.

Fairies, away!

(MUSIC. FAIRIES and TAMLANE exit. Back at COURT)

9 more pages of script to the end of the play