



## COVERAGE REPORT

**Title:** [REDACTED]

**Author(s):** [REDACTED]

**Form:** Feature Screenplay

**Circa:** Medieval Times

**Received:** 11/1/2020

**Locale:** England

**Date:** 6/8/2021

**Genre:** Sci-Fi/Action-Adventure

**Pages:** 108

**Budget:** High

**Prepared by:** Deidra S J

**Logline:** Young Arthur learns through love, betrayal, and triumph how to be a good king.

**Recommendation:**  Recommend  Consider  Pass

**Comment Summary:** THE FIRST ROUND TABLE has a good plot and fair character arcs. There is also a good structure and all-around good writing. The characterization is very busy which weakens the storyline.

	Excellent	Good	Fair	Needs Work
Premise			X	
Storyline			X	
Characterization				X
Dialogue		X		
Structure		X		
Writing		X		
Originality			X	

**Story:** In THE FIRST ROUND TABLE, the Caste Tintagel is under siege by the SAXONS. They are led by VORTIGERN, a ruthless man in pursuit of the throne. YOUNG ARTHUR(16) and YOUNG GUINEVERE (16) are in the throne room and in love. Their moment is interrupted by KING UTHUR who gets Arthur and Guinevere to safety. Guinevere is sent with her father LEODEGRANCE under the protection of SIR

AGGRAVAINE. Guinevere leaves a beautifully embroidered handkerchief with Arthur as assurance they will see each other again. Arthur is placed in the trust of YOUNG KAY who safely leads him outside the castle. Unfortunately, Guinevere and Leodegrance are lead by Sir Aggravaine straight to a room full of bloodthirsty Saxons. Uther and Vortigern face off in the throne room. MERLIN, the wizard, appears and controls the RED DRAGON. Uther becomes privy to Merlin's betrayal, then Vortigern kills him shortly after.

Meanwhile, LANCELOT(22), a fierce and fearless knight, fights with bravery and courage alongside PERCIVAL(30s), more battle-worn and weaker. Percival loses courage and flees along with some of the other knights at the sight of the Red Dragon. Lancelot stays and fights without blinking in the courtyard of Saxons. Lancelot loses one of his arms but continues to fight. He spins and makes the kill. "Is this all you've got?" he confidently says.

Two years later, Merlin is by Vortigern's side in the throne room. Guinevere, a lady in Vortigern's court and killer for him, is also present. In return, Vortigern prizes her by giving her a gift given to him by the impoverished people who remain in the kingdom. Guinevere returns to her chambers to find a playful BLACK PUPPY she reports that she has killed Young Kay. It changes into a BLACK CROW and gives her parchment paper with a new name. She retrieves the name.

Arthur is in a graveyard where he confronts Sir Aggravaine and kills him. Arthur returns the sword to the stone and Sir Aggravaine's name disappears. In red letters, appears "Lady Guinevere". Arthur is hesitant as he grabs the embroidered handkerchief from his side. GAWAIN, a brave knight for king Uther and now Arthur, finds him and the two travel swiftly through the forest. They come under attack by Lancelot and he lures them into a trap. Arthur gets them out and brings Lancelot back to the REBEL CAMP to imprison him. Arthur soon after leaves the camp again. Meanwhile, Guinevere visits an OLD WOMAN known as the HEALER to inquire about her healing Lancelot.

The Old Woman says what she knows and Guinevere departs. Guinevere encounters Arthur, who reluctantly attempts to kill her but she averts his attempts. Guinevere tricks him and rides off. Arthur quickly recovers with his excellent swordsmen skills and catches up to her. The two now fight against a BURST OF FLAME that has come to kill Arthur because he has not fulfilled the desire of the stone. Arthur overcomes the Flame with Guinevere's help. Arthur brings her back to the Rebel Camp and places her in the cave prison with Lancelot. Gawain learns the magic behind the writing on the stone wall and he visits Merlin. Merlin uses his magic on Gawain.

Meanwhile, Lancelot is taken with Guinevere and tries to get her to be with him. Guinevere seems to yield to him until she reveals she is only getting close to kill him. The Rebel Camp armory blows up and Guinevere and Lancelot are free. Arthur, Guinevere, and Lancelot begin to fight against each other. Their all masters in their fighting. Arthur manages to be the voice of reason and proposes they stop. He also points out there is a reason they all have been brought together. Arthur, Guinevere, and Lancelot all go into the camp's mess hall and sit at a small ROUND TABLE. They all

learn they have been listening to different forms of the same magic. They decided they must kill Merlin to kill Vortigern. Gawain dies in the cottage while protecting Arthur.

At Castle Tintagel, another battle begins. Guinevere returns to get her father. Vortigern places her and Leodegrance on piles of wood to be burned. The Rebels along with Arthur blast through the courtyard's wall and go to battle with the bloodthirsty Saxons. Percival fights with courage and the Rebels make significant progress. Soon, Merlin shows up and so does the Red Dragon. Arthur, Guinevere, Vortigern, and Merlin square off in the throne room.

Lancelot shows up with the WHITE DRAGON and defeats the Red Dragon. Arthur kills Vortigern where Vortigern killed Uther. The throne is split in two and so is Merlin's staff. Merlin disappears. Arthur and Guinevere reunite. Lancelot is the greatest knight that ever lived and the one who kills the Red Dragon.

In the decimated throne room, the Old Woman who's name is MORGANA, gets the split staff, puts the pieces together, and asks for her youth back. Suddenly, she is made young.

### **Comments:**

THE FIRST ROUND TABLE has good structure and plot. There is also a nice comedic element to the story through the dialogue. The story does good in pointing out the reason the round table exist is because Arthur, Guinevere, and Lancelot do not trust each other.

The subplots of each character; Arthur being led by the writing on the stone, Guinevere being led by names from a shape-shifting creature, and Lancelot receiving a letter with Uther's signature after he has died, all works well to draw out the passion behind their motives but also reveals their vulnerability and personal challenges.

The story begins with great action at Castle Tintagel and there also is a nice cliffhanger at the end with Morgana.

Although the structure and plot are good, who the story is about gets a little muddy. Too much information are in these pages. There are three characters being focused on at once. However, Arthur gets the most attention throughout the story. Each character is connected to Arthur in some way. Merlin reveals what each character has gone through has in some way been to prepare Arthur to be a great king. The story is about Arthur and the other characters are supporting Arthur's plot. Centering the other plots around Arthur, may help the story be more cohesive.

Arthur and Guinevere's love story is the B-story, but in its current state it does not live up to its potential of being a strong subplot. It is equal to the stories of Guinevere and her father and Lancelot being known as the greatest knight who ever lived. It comes

across as not as important but is there. The scene where the two of them fight the fire does reveal Arthur's care for Guinevere but very little if anything of Guinevere's love for Arthur. Her affection is only seen in the beginning when she gives him her handkerchief. Showing more of the two being torn by how the plights their lives have taken them from each other will strengthen this subplot and progress the main story.

Bringing the focus to Arthur and strengthening his and Guinevere's love story, will make for a more solid script that does not have an overwhelming feeling of characters.

**Evaluation:**

THE FIRST ROUND TABLE is written well. There are comedic moments, good character arcs, and story-driving action. It is a pass only because of it's current busyness of characters.