

ARTHUR:
THE SCABBARD

By
Jay Martin

Page 1

****The first 4 panels of this page are very small and in tight close up.*

P1, Close up of Arthurs hands, bound together at the wrist. He is hanging from them and they are above his head, a ragged cave wall behind them. There is a smacking noise from off panes as he is punched.

P2, Close up of Arthur's head. We can't see his face as he is hanging limp from the wall of a cave. We are looking from the front and can see the top of his head as it looks towards the floor, blood drips down from his face.

MORDRED, OFF PANEL

"It may be for naught, but I am very much enjoying beating on you, old friend."

P3, Same view as in the previous panel, but this time a black gloved hand is lifting his head up by the hair to look at it. We can see his face is battered and bleeding.

P4, Same view as in P3, Arthur's head is being held up still, but this time we can see that all of the wounds on Arthur's face have healed.

MORDRED, OFF PANEL

"Though I do admit to a little frustration that none of them seem to take."

P5, Slightly wider view of the same scene. Arthur hangs from the wall of a cave, strung up by his wrists. He is topless and blood stained, but has no wounds, they have healed. Mordred stands slightly to the side, still holding Arthur's head up by the hair. He is looking at him and holding his free hand out to the side, palm up and open, as if questioning what is going on.

MORDRED (SHOUTING TO SOMEONE OFF PANEL)

"WHY IS HE HEALING?"

P6, Even wider view of the same scene. What we saw in P5 on this page can be seen in the background of the panel. In the foreground of the panel stands the evil Sorcerous Morgana with Excalibur. The powerful sword is still in its scabbard as it floats in the air, it is clear that Morgana is levitating the sword in front of her as she studies the weapon.

MORGANA

"It is a mystery my Lord Mordred, as is our inability to remove the sword from the scabbard. My theory is that the two are connected."

MORDRED

"I want that sword Morgana. Do whatever you need to."

MORGANA

"It is a powerful magic. But everything has a weekness..."

Page 2

P1, A knight's helmet smashes against an ornate stone wall inside Camelot.

MORGANA, CAPTION

... We just have to find it.

P2, Lancelot smashes his gauntleted hand on the round table in anger. Galahad is stood to the side of him, trying to calm him. A number of other round table knights stand around them. All are muddied and blooded in the aftermath of a battle.

LANCELOT

"How, how on earth could we let this happen?"

GALAHAD

"Easy father, calm yourself. Your anger serves no one. We WILL get Arthur back."

LANCELOT

"For all we know, he is already dead. Did no one see what happened?"

P3, Lancelot and Galahad continue to face off against one another next to the roundtable. In the foreground of the panel Merlin can be seen to be sat on the table in a meditative pose and looks to be casting a spell, trying to find Arthur's location.

GALAHAD

"No one saw. They planned well, distracting and separating before they struck. Though I am sure He lives still."

LANCELOT

"You don't know that..."

MERLIN

"He may not know, but I do. And if you could keep it down and allow me to concentrate, I will be able to discover his whereabouts."

P4, Zoomed in view of a knife as it cuts Arthur's forearm collecting some of the blood on the blade.

MORGANA, OFF PANEL

"Now, if my theory is correct, we'll need a bit of this..."

P5, Lancelot and Galahad stand to either side of Merlin. The wizard is still in the same meditative pose as the three talking to one another.

MERLIN

"There must be some powerful warding around where Arthur is being held."

LANCELOT

"Is there anything we can do?"

MERLIN

"I will find him, it will just take time. Be ready."

Page 3

P1, Back in the cave, Morgana stands with Excalibur still floating in front of her. She is casting a spell on the sword using the blood from the dagger that we saw cutting Arthur's arm on the previous page. The blood is leaving the knife blade and floating towards the scabbard of the sword.

P2, Close up view of Excalibur. It still floats in the same space only this time the magical scabbard that surrounds the sword blade is visibly disintegrating as the blood touches it thanks to the spell cast on it by Morgana.

P3, Close in view of Arthur's face as his eyes opened wide in shock as he feels the destruction of the scabbard.

P4, Close up view of the lady of the lake's face wearing the same shocked expression as Arthur and she also feels the destruction of the scabbard.

P5, Close-up view of Merlin's face, he is also wearing the same shocked expression.

P6, Arthur still hangs from the cave wall and is screaming in pain as Mordred twists a dagger into his side.

MORDRED

"Ah, now that is more like it."

P7, This is a dreamy panel that shows the faces of both the lady of the lake and Merlin as they have a mental conversation from two different locations, communicating purely by telepathy. Both have their eyes closed as if in meditation.

NIMUË

"Merlin, the Scabbard!"

MERLIN

"Yes, I felt it too."

NIMUË

"You must hurry. Arthur is in grave danger, and if Mordred strikes him down with the sword, its power will pass to him, and all will be lost."

MERLIN

"Between us we can locate the release of that much magical energy. That should lead us to Arthur."

Page 4

P1, Close up of Merlin's face, his eyes are now open, yet he still looks calm.

MERLIN

"I have him. We need to go. NOW!"

P2, The Knights of the round table ride towards us through a forest on their way to save Arthur. Lancelot is in the lead with Merlin and Galahad flanking him, followed by all the others.

P3, Mordred picks up Excalibur and eyes the sword greedily.

MORDRED

"At long last, Arthur, you keep me from my destiny no longer."

P4, Mordred holds the point of Excalibur's blade under the chin of the still restrained Arthur. Arthur is lifting his head as Mordred applies pressure, but he looks defiantly back at the other man. Arthur's face is blooded and bruised as he can now be hurt after the destruction of the magical scabbard.

MORDRED

"Good. It seems that whatever spell released the sword to me also robbed you of your ability to heal. And once I have finished you, your Kingdom, and your precious Camelot too will be mine."

P5, Extreme close up of the blade of Excalibur as Mordred swings it back, ready to strike down Arthur where he hangs.

MORDRED, OFF PANEL

"Goodbye, King Arthur."

P6, View of the mouth of the cave, surrounded by a lot of Mordred's soldiers. The view is as if the entrance is being looked at from a little far off, as if being scouted.

LANCELOT, OFF PANEL

"This is definitely the place. Plenty of guards."

GALAHAD, OFF PANEL

"Good. The men are spoiling for a fight. What are you thinking?"

LANCELOT, OFF PANEL

"Time is crucial, so we go straight in the front, clear a path and Merlin makes directly for Arthur."

GALAHAD, OFF PANEL

"Agreed."

P7, The Knights of the round table walk meaningfully towards us. They are all in full armour and have weapons drawn, they are about to attack the guards outside the cave. Lancelot leads them and is once again flanked Merlin and Galahad with the other Knights, all ready to throw down.

LANCELOT

"To arms men. For the King and for Camelot!"

Page 5

P1, Close up view of Arthur's bound hands as the bindings are struck by a spell shot by Merlin and are breaking, releasing him.

P2, Mordred swings Excalibur to finish Arthur, but he is dropping from his bindings and the blade is sailing safely over his head.

P3, View from behind Merlin as he walks into the cavern where Arthur is being held. He holds his staff up and is ready for battle. Morgana looks back at him from inside the cavern, also ready for a fight. In the background of the panel we can see Arthur is tackling Mordred to the ground and the sword is flying from his hand.

MORGANA

"Cursed Wizard! Always showing up where you are least wanted."

MERLIN

"On the contrary my dear Morgana, I think I am exactly where I am meant to be."

P4, The same scene is unfolding, but from a different perspective. In the foreground of the panel, we can see Arthur and Mordred on the floor, struggling with each other to be the first to retrieve Excalibur. In the background of the panel, a magical battle takes place, as Merlin and Morgana fire spells at one another.

P5, An extreme close view of a hand closing around the hilt of Excalibur. It is unclear whose hand it is at this point.

Page 6

P1, Arthur stands over Mordred, who is still on the floor, with the point of Excalibur extended towards him.

ARTHUR

“You are beaten, submit or die.”

MORDRED

“Ha, submit? I knew you’d never have the courage to finish me.”

ARTHUR

“Do not mistake my compassion for weakness, Mordred. That is what...”

P2, Both Arthur and Mordred fly backwards as a spell strikes the wall of the cave between them. Rock, sparks and smoke fly in all directions as the pair fly away from one another and the wall behind them is blown to pieces.

P3, Merlin kneels beside Arthur in the rubble caused by the explosion. He is helping the king to his feet. In the background of the panel we can see the hole in the wall that was caused by the spell, leading to the outside. Mordred and Morgana can be seen escaping through the hole.

MERLIN

“Up my old friend, that was close, but the fight is not over yet.”

ARTHUR

“Yes, a little too close. Merlin, how did..”

MERLIN

“A tale for later. As for now our enemies flee, and we must do the same. The cave is coming down.”

P4, Merlin and Arthur are walking side by side as they exit the cave through the main entrance that he saw so well guarded on the previous page.

ARTHUR

“It seems that I owe you my life once more, and once more you have my gratitude.”

MERLIN

“As always, it is my duty and my privilege. But I didn’t do it alone...”

Page 7

P1, Outside the cave, Merlin and Arthur join the large battle that is already in progress. Arthur is still shirtless as he fights. Merlin fires spells from his staff. The rest of the knights of the round table, all in full armour, have formed up around the pair as the fight off the remaining guards.

P2, Merlin and the lady of the lake walk side by side in conversation. We can only see them from the waste up.

TITLE

Later

MERLIN

"... we almost lost everything."

NIMUË

"It was indeed a bold move on their part. And now I fear that the loss of the scabbard will only embolden them further."

MERLIN

"I agree, a most unfortunate turn of events, the loss of such an important protection at such an important time."

P3, Zoomed out view of the same scene of Merlin and Nimuë as they walk together while talking. It is only now that we can see that the pair are actually walking across the surface of the lake, walking on the water.

NIMUË

"Our next move is crucial if we are to help Arthur fulfil his destiny now that the healing power of the scabbard has gone."

MERLIN

"Well, my dear Lady of the Lake, a certain item has come to my attention that may serve us very well on that front..."

The End